

*Nova Scotia
Bird Society*



Newsletter

Volume 14, Number 1

April, 1972

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Illustration for The Birds of Cape Sable by GERALD SMITH

Cost of the publication of this
Newsletter is partly borne by
the Nova Scotia Museum.

N O V A S C O T I A B I R D S O C I E T Y

Incorporated 1957

Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer Street
Halifax, N. S.

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Phyllis R. Dobson

Volume 14, Number 1

April, 1972

INTRODUCTION

According to the Annual Meteorological Summary for '71, Maritimes Weather Office, the temperatures for November were generally cold in Nova Scotia, with precipitation above normal and gale force winds on the 26th. In December fifteen days had temperatures below normal, of which "nine were cold, four very cold and two extremely cold". Precipitation was .1 below normal, both as rain and snow. Freezing precipitation accompanied the storms on the 15th., 16th., 28th. and 30th.-31st. In other words, our hard winter set in early. In January and February, the minimum temperature each month was about 5 degrees below normal, and high winds are recorded for 10 days in January, 18 in February. Snow did not accumulate to great depths, was frequently followed by rain and then freezing temperatures, so that walking and driving, except on plowed highways, became very treacherous. During the whole period sunshine was well above normal, but "did little to compensate for the chilly temperature".*

The frost went deep. Lakes and shallow inlets froze over early, and only since March 15 has open water begun to appear again. It is not surprising that perching birds, buffeted by gales, with icy twigs to land on, were seldom seen. Fruit-eating birds, the waxwings, robins and grosbeaks, did quite well; but notably the seed-eaters (Tree Sparrows, Juncos and goldfinches) were rarely found in the inhospitable plowed fields, mostly at feeders. Seabirds could be observed only where open ocean maintained ice-free conditions.

In interpreting the following report, this must be kept in mind; that is, birds observed means both the presence of the bird and of the bird observer, and the winter of 1971-72 was discouraging to both.

Nevertheless the report is surprisingly comprehensive, and the credit of hardier individuals of both categories

* Weather information kindness of the Maritimes Weather Office, Department of the Environment, Canada.

mentioned above, and the number of extraordinary sightings is impressive. The Golden Eagle at Brier Island was an exciting find, and the number of Bald Eagles seen, encouraging. The Clapper Rail, fortuitously discovered at Grand Desert in Halifax County was astonishing, and the number of Virginia Rails at the same place unusual. Both the Snowy Owl and the Northern Shrike came south in greater than usual numbers, although not as a heavy invasion. Why should a Knot and a Black-bellied Plover have appeared at Cape Sable in late February? Where did they come from? Why has a Lesser Black-backed Gull, an European species, chosen to spend the last two winters at Digby? Why did twice as many as usual Western Kingbirds come our way in the late fall? The same thing was observed throughout New England, with 38 of these birds seen the highest total in recent years being 22 there, (American Birds, 1972, vol. 26:35). Similarly our excessive number of Gray Jays was part of a heavy movement noted also in New Brunswick and Maine.

This was a Bohemian Waxwing winter, 300-400 birds seen in scattered flocks over the province; but the species often accompanying them in severe winters, the Common Redpoll and the Tree Sparrow were quite scarce. The Western Willet at Round Bay, the Brewer's Blackbirds near Dartmouth, the Labra Savannah Sparrow, three Grasshopper Sparrows and the Sharp-tailed probably of the James Bay race, bear out Dr. Ian McLaren's contention that many, if not all of our very late fall and winter birds (except the regular winter residents) are out-of-province wanderers.

Thanks to Ian McLaren, Davis Finch and David Christie we are able to reproduce photographs of some of the rare birds in this Newsletter. Grateful thanks are also due to all contributors to the bird report, with special thanks to David Christie for his continuing records from Bay of Fundy crossings to Barry Sabeau and K. McAloney for their annotated list of the birds of Tobacco Island (especially for finding the Fox Sparrow nest); and to Tony Lock for his work on colonial nesting species around Nova Scotia, one aspect of which we are able to include in this issue, the Great Blue Heron colonies. We are particularly grateful to Betty J. Smith for the list of rare birds seen at Cape Sable, and to Gerald Smith for the generous gift of his very beautiful illustration.

WINTER BIRD REPORT 1971 - 1972

When winter sightings of the COMMON LOON are tabulated they provide a fascinating pattern should anyone want to place a statistical value on such small numbers: 45 were seen in November, 2 in the Gulf of St. Lawrence region, 43 in the lower Bay of Fundy and none along the Atlantic Coast. In December there was more general reporting: 24 along the Atlantic coast from Louisbourg to Cape Sable and 1 only from the gulf area, while the mouth of the Bay of Fundy still had

goodly share, with 21 seen between Digby and Pinckney's Point, Yarm. Co. In January only 17 sightings were reported, from the Atlantic coast of mainland Nova Scotia and 12 from the lower Bay of Fundy; while in February the Bay contributed only one bird and the remaining 23 were seen between Halifax and Cape Sable. Up to March 15, 27 Loons have been reported, from the region just east of Halifax and 20 from that region to the west. If these figures mean anything - which is highly questionable - they suggest that one should look for Common Loons in the mouth of the Bay of Fundy in early winter, and up along the Atlantic coast from February on.

The Atlantic coast east of Halifax produced 5 RED-ROATED LOON sightings during the winter; 8 were seen in the lower Bay of Fundy, but only 1 each along the South Shore and the Gulf. Of this total of 15 sightings, 10 were in November, 2 in January and 3 (at Pinckney's Point) in February.

RED-NECKED GREBES first appeared on Nov. 21 at Pinckney's Point, where 4 were seen (MWH). Only 1 other was seen during that month, but in December the number of sightings jumped to 83 because of the Christmas Counts. The total number of reports for the province for the winter up to March 15 was 124, of which 58 were from the South Shore and 44 from the mouth of the Bay of Fundy - 34 of these being seen in one day on the Brier Is. Count. Only 5 reports were from Atlantic Cape Breton, all on Count days, and 1 bird was seen in the Gulf area, Dec. 9 (EH), where, of course, ice reduces the winter seabird population to near zero after December.

HORNED GREBES showed up in November in much larger numbers than the preceding species, with a total of 26, about equally distributed between Atlantic Cape Breton, South Shore and Bay of Fundy. December figures, (100 in all) were again equalled by the numbers logged by the many observers on Christmas Counts. (Note: this situation will, of course, apply to many of the species included in this report and therefore need not be emphasized again.) This species has maintained its position as being somewhat commoner than the Red-necks, with a total of 201 reports, of which 141 were from the South Shore west of Halifax. A PIED-BILLED GREBE was reported from Cranberry Head near Yarmouth on Nov. 27 (MWH,DK,AH) is the only one reported of this usually rather common winter raggler.

A surprising SOOTY SHEARWATER was seen Dec. 2 at Digby by one of our most competent observers, Captain Eric Aldway. GREATER SHEARWATERS were still in the lower Bay of Fundy in good numbers during early November. Eighteen were served during a crossing between Saint John and Digby on Nov. 4, and 3 on the return trip Nov. 6 (DC,HD,MM); while "hundreds" were reported from Brier Is. Nov. 12 (EM). Another Digby crossing Nov. 29 failed to produce any of this species. On Dec. 22 off Northern Point, Brier Is., a small black-and-white Shearwater was not conclusively identified, but was almost certainly a MANX", so considered by the observer, as was a Red-winged Blackbird. Three FULMARS were among the birds seen in the

Bay on the Nov. 4 trip from Saint John to Digby and 1, Dec. at Brier Is. (DWF). A LEACH'S PETREL, apparently exhausted and half-frozen, was found Nov. 6 on the observation platform at Sydney Airport, given shelter overnight, and released next day at Lingan Bay whence it headed out to sea, seemingly recuperated (FR, in the Cape Breton Post).

GANNETS were still passing Cape Sable on Nov. 7 (SS) and several were seen in the open Bay of Fundy between Yarmouth and Maine on Nov. 4 and 6 (HD). A winter stray at Cape Sable on Jan. 1 (SS) is an unusual record for this species. Distinct CORMORANTS in autumn pose a problem in specific identification to the average birder, but when winter sets in all such birds can be called GREATS with reasonable safety, and if identified as such are accepted by the Editor. Reports indicate a fair winter population of this species, chiefly along the South Shore (81 sightings) and the mouth of the Bay of Fundy (220 sightings). Other Greats reported were 19 from the east coast of Cape Breton and 16 from the mainland shore east of Halifax. An immature DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT was definitely identified by competent observers in Yarmouth Harbor on Jan. 13 (AR, MWH).

GREAT BLUE HERONS lingered longest and in greatest numbers (23 sightings) along the Bay of Fundy shore from Amherst to Yarmouth County, the last record being of 2 at Amiraault's Hill on Jan. 22 (MWH,DK,AH). About 10 birds were still at Cole Harbor in early November, but the number had dwindled to 1 by the 28th. and none were seen thereafter (CF, M and RE). The only other winter record is of a single bird on Dec. 12, just west of Halifax (M and SC). Two late fall records of the AMERICAN BITTERN are 1 at Conrad's Beach, Hfx Co., Nov. 6 (EC) and another at Wolfville Nov. 29 (BS).

CANADA GEESE were on their winter feeding grounds in normal numbers: 200+ at Glace Bay Sanctuary in November (RB), about 2,000 at Cole Harbor through December (EC et al.) and about the same number at Melbourne Sanctuary, Yar. Co. through most of January (MWH). From then on the numbers dwindled or the birds disappeared as zero temperatures sealed the shallow inlets. A few remained in the Cole Harbor area however until March 11, when about 350 were seen (CRKA,MWH,DK). There was undoubtedly a large wintering population in Port Joli, Shel. Co., at least during December and January, but no reports are received from this region. A single BRAHMA record is of 6 at Brier Is. on Dec. 21 (ELM).

Reports of MALLARDS as always pose a problem; where did they first see the light of day - in a brood pen, or in wild marsh? Five seen at Blandford on Nov. 27 were uncomfortably close to a farm where waterfowl are raised, and the reporter of 1 at Yarmouth Harbor on Jan. 22 (MWH) mentions that there are tame Mallards within 10-15 miles. A male at Glace Bay Dec. 30 (SM), 2 at Louisbourg the same date (JL) and 1 at Lingan Jan. 5 are labelled by the reporter "feral birds, not park ducks" (RBe). Figures reported for wintering BLACK DUCKS in the five general regions of the province are as follows: Atlantic coast of Cape Breton, 1650; Eastern

ore (to Halifax), 1050; Halifax to Cape Sable (South Shore),
); Bay of Fundy, 3500; Gulf Shore, 70. The last figure
tainly reflects very light reporting, as Blacks are
ndant in the Northumberland Strait marshes until freeze-up.
Interpreting reports on wintering waterfowl, when approxi-
ely the same number of birds is reported in one locality on
sely consecutive dates it has been assumed that this
ulation is temporarily stable, and only the maximum number
any one month has been taken into account.) As with the
se, the Black Duck reports dropped to near zero when the
allow bays and estuaries became ice-locked in January,
ember in the Gulf), and the few hardy birds which remained
e forced in desperation to forage among sea wrack and tidal
als along the exposed coast.

A single AMERICAN WIDGEON was reported at Brier Is.
M), and PINTAILS also were scarce with just three reports
a total of 24 birds: 10 at Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co. on Nov. 2
KA), 7 at nearby Three-Fathom Harbor Nov. 21 (EC), and 7
The Hawk, Shel. Co. Nov. 17 (NC). The hosts of GREEN-
GED TEAL had left by the first of November, but small
bers remained at scattered points throughout the month.
re were 10 at Cole Harbor Nov. 2, 8 on Nov. 6, 1 Nov. 14,
3 near Brooklyn, Hants Co., Nov. 7 (CRKA). Two were re-
ted from Yarmouth Nov. 18 (MWH, DR), and 10 Nov. 11 at
er Is., where the last sighting was made on Dec. 21 (ELM
al).

An excellent identification of 2 REDHEADS was made
Curtis Chipman at Second Peninsula, Lun. Co., Dec. 18.
dheads were formerly raised at the Cyrus Eaton Farm nearby,
e years ago.) Another unusual sighting was a RING-NECKED
K at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, Feb. 26, among the motly
lection there, fed by the townspeople (ECr).

One of the regions where GREATER SCAUP are most abun-
t from late October until freeze-up is the Northumberland
ait shore, particularly near Wallace, but not a single
hting from there has come in. We need reporters for this
a. All other regions report fair numbers except Cape
ton where just 52 were logged on the Christmas Count. Bay
Fundy led with 479 sightings from December through February
H et al), Eastern Shore came next with 324 from November to
-March and the South Shore reported a total of 272 seen in
ember, December and February (EC,M and SC). N.B. If any-
feels inclined to quarrel with "479, 324" etc. as
robably accurate numbers, the Editor wishes to state that
counts are given here and throughout most of this report;
hopes the reader will round off his own figures, giving
credit for an honest reproduction of the records, at least.

Cape Breton led in number of COMMON GOLDENEYES with
ut 470 reported, mostly on Christmas Counts in December,
32 in January at Lingan (RB). This total can be divided
roximately into 400 from Atlantic Cape Breton and 70 from
F Shore and Bras d'Or Lakes. There were no Cape Breton
orts after January. There were about 160 sightings for the

Eastern Shore from November to March 15, 350+ for the South Shore, numbers increasing from November to the end of February and about 400 for the whole Bay of Fundy region, numbers also increasing up to late February. As in the case of the Scaup Goldeneyes which are common along the Gulf Shore of the mainland, are represented by the report of a single bird at Pictou.

BUFFLEHEADS, rather selective as to choice of winter territory, were present in the usual places until severe icicles scattered them far and wide. Cape Breton Christmas Counts produced 3 at Port Hood and 1 at Baddeck, 4 were at Wine Harbour Nov. 29 (GM), the Chezzetcook flock stood at 30+ in November but 7 reappeared in mid-February and were still there on March 11 (CRKA et al). The largest concentration reported was at Joggins Bridge, Digby Co., where 50 were seen in small flocks on Nov. 11 (ELM). Three were at Cape Sable Dec. 24 (SS), and 18 at Digby Jan. 1 (DC et al).

OLDSQUAWS began to arrive in numbers in November, 2 being reported from the Eastern Shore, 1 from the South Shore, 52 from the lower Bay of Fundy and 44 from the Pictou area. In December the number of sightings jumped to 1570, with the largest number (550) being reported from the Eastern Shore. Reports for January and February fell off badly, being 190 and 161 respectively, and were limited to the Atlantic Coast of the mainland and the Bay of Fundy. Reports from the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Cape Breton are limited to those seen on the Christmas Counts, and total 340 birds.

Two HARLEQUIN DUCKS were at Brier Is. for two weeks up to Nov. 11 (ELM), and on Nov. 12 the number had increased to 11. Four remained obligingly to be included in the Christmas Count on Dec. 21 (ELM et al), while another 2 grace the Count at Ingonish (WN et al).

The only COMMON EIDER report for November is of 20 Brier Is. on Nov. 11. December was the high month, with a total of 847, nearly half of which (415) were seen on the Brier Is. Christmas Count (ELM et al). Like the Oldsquaws, numbers fell off drastically during January and February to 1 and 65 respectively. Whether this was due to scarcity of birds or of bird-watchers is anybody's guess, but we suspect the latter. Two KING EIDERS were reported, 1, a magnificent male from Brier Is. Nov. 11 (ELM) and 1, a female or immature at Broad Cove Jan. 2 (J and GE).

Eric Cooke reports Scoters of all three species as being relatively scarce this year in the Cole Harbor-Chezzetcook area, singles only being seen instead of the dozens that were around in the winter of '70-'71. Reports from the rest of the province certainly bear this out; December, because of the Christmas Counts, produced the largest number of sightings - 589 for WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS, 68 for SURFS and 123 for COMMON - surely very low figures for these species considering that the reports came from 13 areas extending from Ingonish to Yarmouth. For the other months (Nov., Jan., Feb.) reports are mostly of singles or several individuals. Exceptions are

flock of 97 White-wings at Evangeline Beach Nov. 21 (CRKA); one of 30 Surfs at Brier Is. Nov. 11 (ELM); one of 16 Commons at Pictou Nov. 27 (EH); 30 Scoter sp. in the Bay Nov. 6 (HD) and 65 of all three species at Green Bay, Lun. Co., Feb. 20 (M and SC).

A flock of RUDDY DUCKS built up at Three-Fathom Harbor from 6 on Oct. 30, 11 Nov. 6, 16 Nov. 11, to 20 Nov. 21 (ELM). Two others, a male and a female, were seen at Amherst Point Sanctuary Nov. 20 (CD); 1 female at Cranberry Head near Yarmouth Nov. 27 (MWH,DK,AH), and another female in the North West Arm at Halifax, very late, Jan. 8 (IM).

Another late sighting is of 2 HCODED MERGANSERS on the Halifax West Christmas Count Dec. 26. COMMON MERGANSERS showed up in two localities in November, 8 in the Cole Harbor-Chezzetcook area Nov. 14 (CRKA) and 11 at Pictou Nov. 15 (EH). Christmas Counts produced 97 birds of this species, 22 from the Atlantic Cape Breton; a few during count period from Cole Harbor-Chezzetcook; 5 for the South Shore; 6+ for Bay of Fundy and 54 for the Gulf region. The only report for January was a flock of 12 in the Kennetcook River on the 8th (CRKA). In the Cole Harbor-Chezzetcook area there is normally a pre-spring incursion of this species, and Greater Scaup, only in February. Eric Cooke and Shirley Cohrs report that the first Common Mergansers appeared there this year on the 10th. Other February records are 10 near Tusket, Yar. Co., on the 11th. (MWM,DK,VK); 10 at Crescent Beach (M and SC) and 1 at Blandford (CRKA) both sightings on the 20th.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were generally common in all coastal areas from November to mid-March, except for the North-land Strait region where just 2 were reported at Pictou Nov. 8 (EH), and in Eastern Cape Breton where 123 showed up on the Christmas Count but none before or after, save 4 at Yarmouth, Feb. 1 (FR).

One or more GOSHAWKS were observed in Annapolis County: 1 Oct. 24 at Round Hill by WEW; and 1 Dec. 3 and again on Dec. 18 at Wilmot (TH). At Glace Bay on Dec. 1, George Griffin saw a Goshawk take a rooster (SM), which is a fairly common occurrence in fall and winter, rare at other times of year, according to Tufts (Birds of Nova Scotia, 1961). One other Goshawk was seen at Grand Desert, Hfx. Co. (DWF,ELM), Dec. 5. One was seen each on the Margaree and Brier Is. Christmas Counts. One was in Yarmouth Co. in January, at Pinckney's Point (MWH,DK,AR), and in Yarmouth town (MWH). The SHARP-SHINNED HAWK is fairly common all winter, and widely distributed, seen frequently at feeders, doing very well. On the morning of Jan. 13, a female Sharpshin, over eager, crashed into a window at Jim Mitchell's, Clayton Park, Halifax; was picked up far from a dead ("full of fierceness"), given to Tony Lock who watched its recovery and released it at the end of the day. The reports of the RED-TAILED HAWK were well spread over the province. The ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was seen only at Yarmouth: 1 on Dec. 27 (DR,MWH) and at Brier Is.: 2 Nov. 12 and 5, and the same or another Dec. 21 (ELM et al).

On Dec. 19 a GOLDEN EAGLE was identified by Davis Finch and Wickerson Lent. This is a real rarity, last seen in Nova Scotia May 13, 1969 (later than mentioned by LBM in the Christmas Count report) at Caribou, from the Wood Island Ferry by Captain Eric Holdway. The Brier Is. bird was very well seen, and is described as having "yellowish sides to the head undersides of wings wholly dark brown, tail dull white at base with a poorly defined dark brown band on outer part." It was diagnosed as a nearly sub-adult bird. Seen first at the Western Light and Pond Cove, the bird has stayed around the island all winter.

A curious sequel occurred in mid-March. A sheep fell over the cliff and was drowned, then washed ashore. Three birds, a Golden Eagle and two Ravens attacked the carcass and slowly demolished it. The Lents watched this process, and became aware that the eagle was not the same bird as the one they had become accustomed to seeing, but a fully adult Golden Eagle, an all-dark bird with a golden mantle. Could this be perhaps, the same bird as before, but now in adult plumage, or an entirely different one? (Two Golden Eagles, an adult and a sub-adult, were seen in Massachusetts, October and November 1971.)

Close to 80 BALD EAGLES have been seen since the end of October, most of them on Cape Breton Island, but at least 20 in mainland Nova Scotia. The largest concentration of Eagles in Cape Breton was around Kingsville, Inv. Co., where some of the farmers were butchering and 18 birds were at the offal (SM). Last year during the gaspereau run, 25 eagles were in the vicinity, quite a sight according to Katherine MacRae, William Dobbin and others reporting to SM. On the mainland, distribution was very general, with a new territory heard from, Green's Creek, on the old road from Brookfield to Truro. Robert Lindsay writes that a place 6 miles towards the mouth of the Shubenacadie is called Eagles Nest Point, which suggests the former presence of these birds in the area.

Wintering MARSH HAWKS were mostly in Cape Breton, 5 of them (in December and January), and 1 Dec. 5 was seen in Halifax Co. (ELM). Twelve reports of the PIGEON HAWK were widely spaced, Glace Bay to Yarmouth, and in each winter month as were the SPARROW HAWKS, more numerous, as usual, about 20 of them; but unlike last winter, hawks were not generally abundant. J.S. Erskine comments that meadow mice were almost absent this year, which could account for the fewer hawks.

A SPRUCE GROUSE, recently killed, was found by the roadside at Wine Harbor Nov. 21 (GM), and 5 were seen during the Christmas Count period: 2 at Louisbourg, 1 at Northport and 2 at Kejimkujik Park. This is more than usual. The RUFFED GROUSE remained scarce on mainland Nova Scotia, only 8 seen during the winter; but they appeared to be relatively abundant in Cape Breton where over 25 were reported, the largest number at Barra Head, 16 seen between Dec. 5 and 11 (George Griffin per SM). At Sydney Forks, 2 came to the R. Blackburn's feeding station, early in March. The only sight:

the GRAY PARTRIDGE reported was of 11 birds March 4 at the Pond Pré (CRKA). The RING-NECKED PHEASANT was seen in good numbers, 20 birds reported, of which 4 were in Cape Breton: Nov. 30 at Lingan (R. Beecher per SM); 1 on the Port Hood Point and 2 around Bras d'Or all winter (D and MB). Except one bird at Pictou Dec. 4 (EH) all of the rest were in Central Nova Scotia (in Truro, Hants County, and the Valley).

On Dec. 5, 1971, Ian McLaren took a party of birders and the "Circuit", Cole Harbor to Chezzetcook, Hfx. Co., a party including Davis Finch (Editor, NE Maritime Region, American Birds), who had been invited to Nova Scotia as guest speaker at the NSBS Annual Meeting; also Ben Doane, Ross Peterson and Eric Mills. At Grand Desert, to Ian's great joyance and embarrassment, his car ran out of gas. As it uttered to a stop and everybody piled out, a CLAPPER RAIL flew from the marsh, and as promptly disappeared. The party according to Eric Mills) deployed and spent an hour crisscrossing a patch of marsh 20 by 50 yards in groups of three or four, trying to put up the Rail. They combed every square yard of the area. As they trailed disconsolately back to the cars, the bird flew up from the very same area so carefully searched, and across the marsh into alder scrub on the south bank. This is, of course, standard practice with rails, but it is astonishing that a bird as large as the Clapper should have been able to elude so many searching legs in such small area.

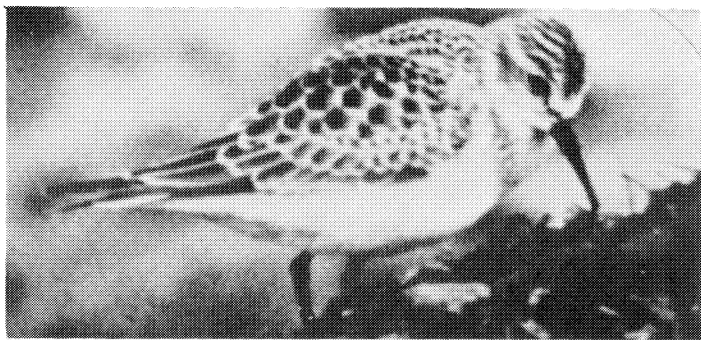
The same day, the same party found a VIRGINIA RAIL, one at Grand Desert and fresh remains of 2 others, and the next day another at West Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co. A third had not been seen at Seal Is. Nov. 9, evidently newly arrived, on open ground, on a freezing day (IM). One of the "circuit" Rails was seen again in the same vicinity on the Halifax East Christmas Count.

Five AMERICAN COOT, not previously reported, were counted at Amherst Point Sanctuary on Oct. 17, by Con Desplanque; three on Seal Is. Nov. 6-10 (IM), and 3 Nov. 6 at Three Fathom Harbor, still there Nov. 11 (EC).

Late records of Shorebirds came in up until Christmas, a few surprising ones since then. Most of the KILLDEERS were in Yarmouth Co.: 2-13 found at Sunday Point Nov. 18 Dec. 19 (MWH et al). Two were seen at Three Fathom Harbor, Hfx. Co. Nov. 6 (EC), 1 or 2 at Cape Sable in late November (LN) and 1 on the Halifax West Count. A GOLDEN PLOVER was counted at Cape Sable Nov. 14, 5 BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER Oct. 31 at the same place, and 1 each Feb. 15, 20 and 21 (S and BS). Other reports of Black-bellies are for late October and November, a movement at Yarmouth clearly indicated by the presence in the harbor of 40 Oct. 27; 78 Oct. 29 and 4 Nov. 2 (H,DR,AG); and another in the Cole Harbor area, Hfx. Co., Nov. 2, 50+ Nov. 6 and 1 Nov. 14 (CRKA). About 40 Plover (S) noted in the Bay of Fundy Nov. 4 were probably Black-bellies, and 1 Nov. 11 at Brier Is. certainly was (ELM). The only other records are from Wine Harbor, Guys. Co., of 1-6 seen

during November (GM). The last migrating RUDDY TURNSTONE were by Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co., Nov. 27 (EC), but the usual small flock (7) has stayed at Louisbourg (JL). At Brier Is., Wickerson Lent reported "the WOODCOCK migration now on" around Nov. 11 (ELM), but 1, very late, was picked up at Louisbourg Dec. 1 "chilled and helpless, thawed out and released" (JL per SM). The COMMON SNIBE was rarely seen this winter, but the 1 or 2 at the County Home swamp, Hfx. Co., could be found there November through March, and 1 at least was seen at the Pigger at Christmas.

According to John Richardson's Radar study (American Birds, 1972, 26:10), migrating shorebirds fly ESE, SE or SSE, high and fast, both day and night; (whereas passerines depart only at night, fly SSE, S or occasionally SSW, more slowly and at lower altitudes). This may account for the frequent "drop outs" of shorebirds on Cape Sable. A WHIMBREL was seen there Nov. 12 (SS). A very late WILLET, Nov. 28 was seen at nearby Round Bay by Ben Doane, who described it as a "Strikingly pale bird, with a different call, typical of a WESTERN". The GREATER and the LESSER YELLOWLEGS left earlier than usual in the fall, very few Greater seen in November, the last report 2 at the Cole Harbor "circuit" Nov. 14 (CRKA) and 2 at Homeville Cape Breton Co. Nov. 23 (GS per SM). The last report of Lesser is Oct. 24 at Gifford Is., Mahone Bay, 1 seen wading and feeding at close range (JT). A KNOT, Dec. 19 at Lawrencetown Lake, should have been the last record (EC) but another Knot appeared on Cape Sable Feb. 21, along with the last Black-bellied Plover (SS). Our regular wintering PURPLE SANDPIPER appeared first on Cape Sable, a small flock of 12 Nov. 21, which built up to 25 and 30 birds through the winter until Feb. 23 (SS). Dec. 11 saw 30 of these sandpipers at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. (EC) and 7 at Port George, Anna. Co. (RL). There were 97 on the Louisbourg Count at Christmas, but the greatest number occurred at Brier Is. Dec. 21, 380+ (ELM et al). Francis Spalding saw 25 Feb. 29, 60+ March 1, at Economy, Col. Co., and has written "first seen feeding on tidal flats shortly after the tide had begun to ebb. The next day a greater number arrived at the same stage of the tide, but remained congregated on drifting ice.....I suggest the bad weather is holding them in an area which does not offer their preferred habitat."



Baird's Sandpiper, feeding on kelp debris. Taken by Ian McLaren on Seal Island, Sept. 3, 1971.

The Baird's Sandpiper here pictured was photographed Seal Is. Sept. 3, 1971, as it fed on kelp debris, which was read by wind and tide over the fields. It was one of the 6 seen daily Aug. 24 to Sept. 6, by Ian McLaren and Davis Finch. n and Gillian Elliott have asked for a correction on their report of a Curlew Sandpiper Oct. 31 (NSBS Newsletter 13:124, 71). Only one Curlew Sandpiper was positively identified, though two others were suspected to have been this species. e properly identified bird was seen at close quarters as scribed, and was not in company with dowitchers. It later ew to join several White-rumped Sandpipers, where the longer gs and larger size were obvious. Three very late DUNLIN re 2 Dec. 7 at Economy (FS) and 1 Dec. 19 at Cole Harbor (ELM).

A LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, Oct. 30 at Three Fathom rbor, was identified by sight and sound, by Eric Cooke, seen ously by Ian McLaren and Dan Welsh. The bird stayed ound until Nov. 11. Six more dowitchers, Nov. 28, watched Petpeswick Inlet were suspected of being the same race RKA). Lingering SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPERS were seen at nday Point, Yarmouth, Oct. 27 (MWH,DR) and at Leitch's eek, Cape Breton Co. Nov. 21 (HH). Very few SANDERLINGS em to have stayed beyond November. Sizable flocks seen ulier (49 Oct. 29 at Yarmouth by MWM and AH, and 26 Oct. 31 Pictou by EH, also "many" at Cape Sable early November) indled to 1's and 2's in December (4 however Dec. 6 at stern Passage, Hfx. Co., DWF and IM), generally distributed, th one lone one seen Jan. 3 at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. and SC). PHALAROPE species were noted in the Bay of Fundy two crossings of the Princess of Acadia, 18 Nov. 4 (HD) and Nov. 29 (DC and MM). At Cherry Hill, Lun. Co., a NORTHERN ALAROPE flew in from the sea, Nov. 21, alighted in a puddle l proceeded to "dabble" right in front of two "astonished" rd-watchers, Sylvia Fullerton and Barbara Hinds.

Reports of GLAUCOUS GULLS suggest that these birds nd to settle in one locality and remain there, at least as ng as the food lasts. Singles and couples were reported from ll up the Bay of Fundy to Brier Is. and Yarmouth, and from e Sydneys to Cape Sable. The largest number seen was 13 at e Sydneys on the Christmas Count. Most of the birds reported re seen repeatedly - if they were the same individuals - from st appearance in November or December until well into ruary.

The first ICELAND GULLS of the season were reported in cly November; 1 at Halifax on the 7th (SF); 1 early in the th in the Gaspereau Valley (JSE) and 3 in the lower Bay of dy Nov. 29 (DC and MM). Cape Breton reported 446 at onish, the Sydneys and Louisbourg on the Atlantic coast, and on the Gulf shore, both during the Christmas Counts, but none any other time. The only sightings for January are of 15 in e lower Bay of Fundy region; and for February, 3 along the th Shore.

The only reports on our two commonest gulls which seem have any significance are those included in the Christmas

Counts, which are given below by regions:

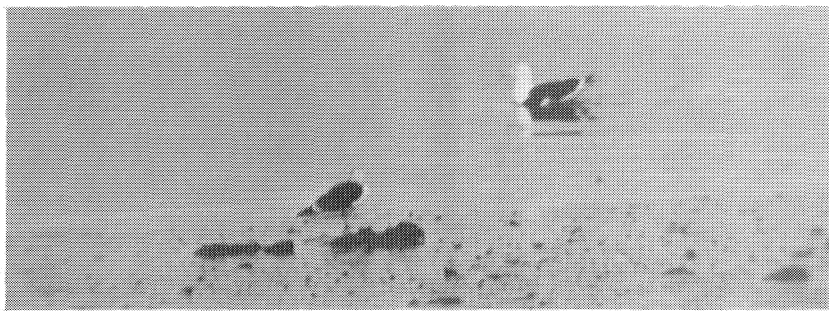
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Atlantic Cape Breton:	1179	(4 counts)
Gulf Shore:	146	(7 counts)
Eastern Shore:	85	(1 count)
South Shore:	1443	(3 counts)
Bay of Fundy:	<u>858</u>	(10 counts)
Total:	3711	

HERRING GULL

Atlantic Cape Breton:	2523	(4 counts)
Gulf Shore:	433	(7 counts)
Eastern Shore:	900	(1 count)
South Shore:	4706	(3 counts)
Bay of Fundy:	<u>3315</u>	(11 counts)
Total:	11877	

The Big Bird of the season is, of course, the LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, first seen in Nova Scotia in March 1971 (DWF). At the time of writing (March 24) this bird is again to be seen where it was before, hanging around the sewer outfall just north of the Old Ferry Wharf at Digby. The accompanying picture was taken there recently by David Christie, and shows a Great Black-backed Gull behind the Lesser, making a good comparison for size.



Lesser and Great Black-backed Gulls, taken by David Christie at Digby, Jan. 1, 1972.

Strange to say, the only RING-BILLED GULLS reported on Christmas Counts were 63 on the Halifax East and 5 on the Halifax West. Other sightings are for the most part in the immediate vicinity of Halifax, but there was one at Cape Sable on Nov. 21 (SS) and one at Annapolis Royal March 5 (F). BLACK-HEADED GULLS were more widespread during the Count period: 3 at the Sydneys, 10 Halifax E., 24 Halifax W. and 10 at Digby. The 12 seen by Davis Finch in Bedford Basin in early December were probably picked up later by the Christmas Counters, and the later sightings in the vicinity of Halifax are apt to be mostly birds seen during the same period, al-

gh the total number of birds in the Basin grew to 22
ng January and February (IM). The only other reports are
few wintering in the Annapolis - Round Hill area (WEW),
of 1, in Yarmouth Dec. 20 (MWH and AR). Marion Hilton
rts the only LAUGHING GULL of the winter, clearly seen as
ircled repeatedly at low altitude over Yarmouth Jan. 16.
ray indeed.

BONAPARTE'S GULLS are stragglers at this season though
nearly so unusual as the preceding species. They showed
n four Christmas counts: 1 at Halifax E., 3 at Halifax
2 at Brier Is. and 1 at Cape Sable. Another bird, or the
, was at Cape Sable on Nov. 14 (S and BS); 11 were seen
igby on Nov. 29 (DC and MM); 1 just east of Halifax on
6 (DWF and IM) and 1 at Sunday Point near Yarmouth
12 (DK, MWH).

The fantastic number of 3,000 KITTIWAKES was recorded
ric Mills and party on the Christmas Count at Brier Is.
21. The only others for the Count period were 5 also
by Eric Mills seen in Halifax Harbor on Dec. 26. The
Brunswickers recorded one bird on Nov. 4 enroute from
t John to Digby and 3 on Nov. 6 on the return trip (HD),
e on Nov. 21, there were 37 on the outward trip and 90 on
return (DC et al). There were also 2 at Cape Sable on
21 and 1 Jan. 11-14, the latter an oiled bird (S and BS).

Observations of alcids have been exceptionally good
last fall and winter. RAZORBILLS have been seen in October
Cape Breton, Lingan area, (R. Beecher per SM); in November
he Bay of Fundy, up to 5 on crossings (DC and MM); in
mber 1 at West Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co. (DWF); 1 at Glace
Sanctuary, an oiled bird but flying although with some
iculty (SM); 5 Dec. 23 at Digby (DWF); 1 in January near
George, Annapolis Co. (RL) and again at Digby (DC et al).
e sightings of the rarer COMMON MURRE were 1 Dec. 20 at
r Is. (ELM); 2 Jan. 1 at Digby (DC et al) and 1 in mid-
ary at Cape Sable, also a badly oiled bird. The THICK-
ED MURRE favored the Atlantic shore, one seen at West
encetown Dec. 6 (DWF); one on the Louisbourg Count Dec. 29;
the extraordinary number of 29 watched off Chebucto Head,
26 (Halifax W. Count) as they flew past in 5's and 6's.
landed in a flock of Great Black-backed Gulls and was
ptly killed and eaten (ELM et al). Others of this species
were 7 Jan. 1 at Digby (DC et al); 2 Jan. 2 on the
sbourg Count (JL); 1 in the Annapolis Basin Jan. 2
nley Hinton per AR); and 8 in Digby Gut that day, seen by
1 Johnston, Jim Wilson and others, reported by DC; 1
20 in the North West Arm, Halifax, an oiled bird (JBH)
1 Feb. 25 at Cape Sable (S and BS). Although this was
a disaster year for the DOVEKIE, a good number of them
blown ashore in the November gales. There were a lot of
about - the Smiths at Cape Sable saw several "in evidence
st daily Nov. 1-19", and that was the day (Nov. 19) that
way reported a flock of 9 at Pictou "after 5 days of NE
s!" One was "strong and healthy" at Economy, Nov. 17 (FS),
on the 19th and thereafter for some time reports came in

from many places of Dovekies close to shore, blown inland, or dead and dying. Such reports came from St. Margaret's Bay (Jim MacKay and Dick Brown); Chezzetcook area (EC); Cornwall River (Andy Hopkins); Weymouth (Albert Main per DC); St. Peter's in Cape Breton Co. where 27 of them were blown ashore Nov. 21-25 and all died; and Nov. 21 near New Waterford 2 were picked up, one dead, one still alive, which was returned to salt water (FR). Robert Lamberton has written "at the beginning of December I had a number of reports from neighbors near Port Lorne of Dovekies found on the mountain, far from shore - it seems one was blown all the way over into the Valley. I picked up a dead one Dec. 12 near the shore, and saw one swimming around near Port George, Jan. 9. Early in December Barry Sabean and Dan Banks saw 3 Dovekies flying along the dykes at Wolfville. Shortly before this, up to 50 were counted on a Princess of Acadia crossing (reported to DC); on Dec. 26, Dan Finch counted 200+ off Northern Point, Brier Is., and 28 were seen on the Ingonish Count, Jan. 2, 1972.

The BLACK GUILLEMOT does not usually come close enough to shore to be observed, although one or two individuals can usually be spotted throughout the winter from such a vantage point as Chebucto Head (CRKA). This last winter great numbers were seen off Brier Is., at Northern Point, 58 Dec. 21, 600+ Dec. 22 (DWF,ELM), and possibly more, as around 1,000 alcids too far out to be identified, could be seen from the same place at the same time. Two were seen on the Halifax W. Count, and a total of 25 on the Cape Breton Christmas Counts (SM). The only COMMON PUFFINS reported this winter were 2 seen Nov. 4 in the Bay of Fundy (HD).

Early November MOURNING DOVES were seen at Wine Harbour Guys. Co. (GM); at Seal and Brier Islands (IM,ELM) and in the Gaspereau Valley (JSE), 8 in all. In December the sightings were 4 Lawrence town area Dec. 5 (DWF et al); 1 Dec. 12 at Economy, Col. Co. (FS); 1 Dec. 20 at Brier Is. (ELM) and 2 Dec. 31 at Wilmot, Anna. Co. (TH). One of these stayed around until the end of January, then disappeared, and the only other record is of 2 of these doves at a feeder in Yarmouth throughout February (HW per MWH).

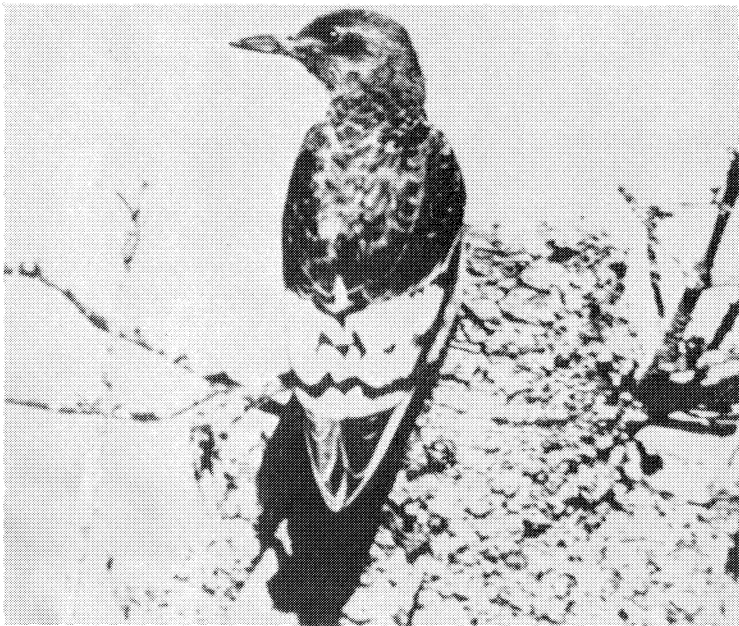
Owl reporting was good: Harry Brennan mentioned the sightings of the GREAT HORNED OWL up in Pictou Co. during late fall and winter, and Rosemary Eaton heard one or more of these owls hooting "in different voices" Feb. 29 at Cole Harbor during that night and the next, no doubt courting calls. The first SNOWY OWL appeared Oct. 25 in Pictou Co. (HB) and 5-6 were seen from then on, well distributed, 1 each at Cape Sable, (S and BS); Cherry Hill, Lun. Co. (SF); Eastern Passage Hfx. Co.; Louisbourg (JL); Salmon River, C.B. (SM) and another late one in February at Cape Sable (the first one there was in November). Four reports of the BARRED OWL were from Sydney (FR) and Halifax Co. (MC) in November, and from Sydney Mines (Mary Hay) in January; Brookside, Hfx. Co. (sitting on the clothes pole early one morning) Jan. 24 (FWD). Several sightings of the LONG-EARED OWL Nov. 17-18 at Cape Sable were probably the same bird (NC). There was a SHORT-EARED OWL at

er Is. Nov. 11 (ELM) seen again there Dec. 19 (DWF) and one Seal Is. Nov. 13 (IM). Another or the same at Brier Dec. 21 and 1 Dec. 29 on the Louisbourg Christmas Count (JL) makes an usual four sightings for this bird in winter. Two reports of SAW-WHET OWL come from opposite ends of the province - 1 r. 1 seen at New Waterford by Linda Diltgens (FR) and 1 r. 20 seen in Yarmouth Co. (DWF et al).

A new one for the "winter" list is a WHIP-POOR-WILL, heard singing most unmistakably the nights of Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 near Wilmot, Anna. Co. by Thelma Hawkins (and no doubt by others).

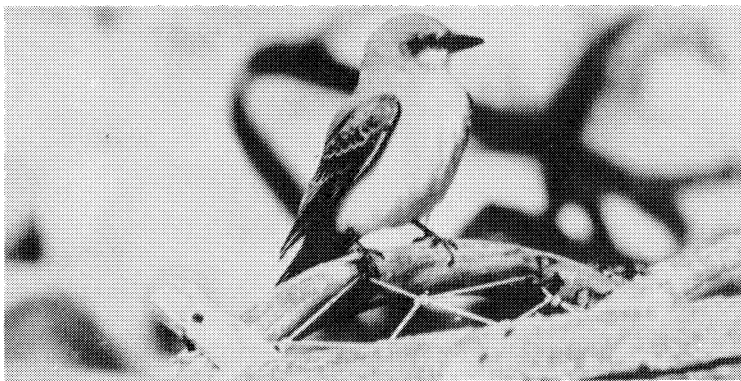
Late reports of the BELTED KINGFISHER, Oct. 27 on at Yarmouth were probably wintering birds, 6 of them, and one at Westport survived the cold weather, seen March 5 near Pubnico, resting on a bridge over a running stream (DB). Other reports for Christmas are for Digby Co. (DC et al); Hfx. Co. (ELM), 1 on Cape Breton Co. (D and MB,SM), 10 birds in all, and none here since the end of January.

The YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER has been seen before on Christmas Counts, but seldom. Four were found this year, by Eric Mills on the Halifax East Count (one had been found by Conrad's Beach on Dec. 5 by DWF et al), and 1 each on the Bad Cove and Yarmouth Counts. The PILEATED WOODPECKER was reported from Annapolis Co., 1 each at West Dalhousie (Frank McKins Jr.) and New Albany (Arthur Nixon) on Nov. 6 (TH) and on the Glace Bay area mid-February (SM). Both the HAIRY WOODPECKER and the DOWNY WOODPECKER were well reported, almost universally present on the Christmas Counts and at most feeders throughout the winter (18 out of 20), the Downy outnumbering the Hairy about 3 to 1. Three sightings of the BLACK-BACKED BLUE-TOED WOODPECKER were noted: 1 Jan. 13 East Side Lake Esplanade, Inv. Co. (Barrie Fraser per FR); 1 Jan. 29, New Waterford (Mrs. Urban Holm per SM) and 1 Feb. 19 at the Reservoir, Truro (RB).



Red-headed Woodpecker, taken by Ian McLaren on Seal Island Oct. 12, 1971.

What should have been the last of the EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS, a TRAILL'S, was seen Oct. 29 at West Cape Woods Pond, Yar. Co. (MWH,AH); another appeared however on the unprecedented date Jan. 24 at Cape Sable (S and BS), which by description was almost certainly a YELLOW-BELLIED. A small invasion of the WESTERN KINGBIRD was marked by 8 or 10 sightings (some may have been the same bird twice over) Oct. 27 to Nov. 10; seen in Guys. Co. (GM and Mrs. M.); in Hfx. Co. (FWD); at Seal Is. (IM et al), at Smith's Cove, Digby Co. (AR); and in Yar. Co. (AH).



Western Kingbird, on old lobster pots, taken by Ian McLaren on Seal Island, Nov. 6, 1971.

The HORNE LARK first made its appearance in flock: Oct. 27, 100 at Cape Sable (S and BS) followed by 40 Nov. 11 Brier Is.(ELM); 10+ Nov. 15 in Yarmouth Co. (MWH,VK) and 4 at Pictou (EH). The Larks thinned out along the coast in Dec. and Jan., but small groups here and there made a cheerful note in the bleak winter landscape and a welcome addition to the pitifully short daily lists. Fair numbers went inland (50+ at the Grand Pré Jan. 15, CRKA), over a hundred (JSE), and they appeared again in Feb. at some of the first-mentioned localities, flocks of 30, Feb. 14 at Cape Sable, 20+ Feb. 10 in Yarmouth Co.

The CORVIDS were faithful to us; GRAY JAYS continued numerous throughout Nov., and 1 or 2 could be expected in suitable habitat from then on. BLUE JAYS were exceptionally abundant all winter, distribution general. "Dozens" are mentioned by various observers, in Halifax (ELM), Grand Pré (CRKA), Kentville (AC), Wilmot (TH), Round Hill (WEW), Annapolis (FB), Bear River (JT), and were regular visitors at feeders throughout the province. Both the COMMON RAVEN and the COMMON CROW maintained normal numbers and distribution, the former seen in large concentrations only near some unusual food supply, for instance, a farmer's slaughter-house where up to 30 ravens could be seen, milling about. Going to the Christmas Counts, LBM has called Shubenacadie the crow capital of N.S., but most observers would vote for the Grand Pré, where 1,000 is often a modest estimate of the numbers to be counted in winter.

The BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, scarcely seen last year, has returned to normal numbers. A possible late return is suggested by the presence of small flocks about at Cape Sable Nov. 6-10 and again Nov. 14 (S and B). In Cape Breton, 156 Black-caps were reported on the Christmas Counts (SM), and 86 BOREAL Chickadees, which have equaled the Black-cap in numbers generally, but have exceeded them in Col. Co. during the winter (FS). Total numbers seen on the Christmas Counts were 803 Black-caps and Boreals. It should be noted that since the first week of Feb. very few chickadees have been seen by any of our observers, and those seen have been only at feeders. It is worth noting that the Boreal Chickadee favors offshore islands. Jean Timpa mentioned it as very common on Gifford Spectacle Islands in late fall; it is the only fall chickadee at Seal Is. as a rule, and the only one found in winter at Busch's Is., Lun. Co., on any reported trips. Is this a general rule or an aspect of migration? The WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH has recently been noted only at feeders, about the usual number, and distribution was general. Live reports of the RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH were half at feeders and half in the wild (41 seen on the Christmas Counts), in or around Halifax, and down the Valley since then (SM, and SC, FWD, TH, JT). The BROWN CREEPER figured in 11 reports, generous total for this inconspicuous bird, but 8 of them were seen in residential areas, which behavior is becoming increasingly common (JL, RB, EH, M and SC, CRKA, AC, ELM). A lateumn gale on Nov. 28 blew a WINTER WREN into town, at New Waterford, where it was picked up and taken to Frank Robertson for identification. Attempts at a photograph received no cooperation from the wren, described as "jet-propelled" by Robertson who wrote up the incident in his column in the Cape Breton Post in his usual delightful style. The bird was later released in nearby woodland. This is a late record.

Four records of the MOCKINGBIRD include the one (presumably 2 were involved?) which nested at George Spencer's Blace Bay and produced at least one chick (SM); the others were seen at Louisbourg (JL), Halifax (Christmas Count), and Amherst Feb. 13 (E and CD). An unusual record of a CATBIRD on Jan. 2, 1972, at a feeder in Sydney Mines by Mary Hay and 7 others including Frank Robertson, comes from SM. One 7 BROWN THRASHER has been observed this winter, on Feb. 15 singing with 2 robins in and under an old apple tree at Indian Point, Hfx. Co. (Mrs. HM). The last abundance of WINS appears to be Nov. 2, 30+ noted around the "circuit", in the Cole Harbor-Chezzetcook area, Hfx. Co. (CRKA). Since 1 robins have been seen regularly in small numbers, generally distributed, with occasional small flocks noted, particularly in the Wolfville area (JSE, JT). The last records of the WIT THRUSH are for Nov. 15-21, one at Grand Lake (FB), one at New Waterford (FR) and one at Cape Sable (S and BS); and a movement of the SWAINSON'S THRUSH, previously unnoted, was from Round Hill, Anna. Co., 5 seen Oct. 14 (WEW). One FERN BLUEBIRD was reported in the last Newsletter, two can be added for 1971, 1 early Sept. at Kentville (GD)

and 1 Oct. 7 at Lower Ohio, Shel. Co. (Mrs. HH per DC).

The GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET remained in fair abundance up until the end of December, with only one mention of it since: Francis Spalding reports it as "common all winter" at Economy, Col. Co. in the woods. The WATER PIPIT has been seen only at Cape Sable, 3 Nov. 25; at Brier Is., 1 Nov. 11 and 2 Dec. 21; and again at Cape Sable 3 Jan. 23 (S and BS,ELM).

During the first week in November, the BOHEMIAN WAXWING made its appearance, 8 in Dartmouth (CMacD); 4 in Wolfville (RL,JSE) and 2 in Shelburne (Mrs. HH per DC). Two weeks later 2 appeared in Glace Bay (EMacL) and 14 in Tusket, Yar. Co.(MH). By Dec. 9 the Tusket flock numbered 22, and shortly thereafter flocks were observed generally over the province, many still around. The "invasion" was sizable; in Cape Breton, 5 at Reserve Mines, 20+ at Sydney River, 6 at St. Peters (E.MacD,BPM,KMacR) and 46 on the Christmas Counts are reported by Sara MacLean; at Pictou, a flock which built up to around 150 has stayed the winter (EH,Mrs.HL); up to 28 at Amherst (CD); 50-100 at New Glasgow (Mrs. HL); 20+ at Truro (RB), who adds that Harry Brennan saw "some" near Springville in January; 7 at Bedford and a few in Halifax (MMcD,WJC,WJM); 9 at Kentville (A and DW); 16 at Wolfville (JT); at least 40 at Digby (RMR,DC) and the Yarmouth flock was up to 30 for the Christmas Count. According to Holdway, the waxwings were feeding on seeds of European Ash, Hawthorn, Siberian Crab and Highbush Cranberry. They have stayed around all winter, finding enough to eat from these and related sources, and have provided a great deal of pleasure in their favored localities. A very few CEDAR WAXWINGS stay the winter, 6 at Yarmouth (MWH); 1 at Little Salmon River Drive, Hfx. Co., seen as late as Feb. 26 (J and GE) and Wayne and Larry Neily saw a Bohemian and a Cedar Waxwing in the same tree, Jan. 8, near Digby.

Fourteen reports of the NORTHERN SHRIKE Nov. 14 through Feb. 12 reminds us of the similar winter of 1968-69, when these birds as well as the Bohemian Waxwings were in evidence more than usual. The Shrikes were distributed Sydney to Yarmouth, 5 on the Christmas Counts (CRKA saw 2 at once on the Halifax West count), 1 at Sydney (KMCC per FR); 1 at the Piggery (ELM), 1 in Halifax city (CWH), 1 near Crystal Crescent (CRKA), 2 at Seaforth and 1 at Cole Harbor (EC), all in Hfx. Co.; 1 in Col. Co. (CRKA) and 1 at Yarmouth (MWH,DK,AH). The last LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE was seen Nov. 11 at Second Peninsula (CC). The STARLING like the crow was noted on every field trip reported during the winter. It is interesting that the count in and near Yarmouth Dec. 19 was 63; at Digby Jan. 1, 65, and WEW says a flock of 50-75 wintered in Annapolis Royal. The Christmas Count at Pictou gave 64 Starlings, but thousands were counted in and around Halifax at that time, and similar high counts occurred at Wolfville and on a few of the Cape Breton censuses.

An interesting sight record of 2 probable YELLOW-THROATED VIREOS Nov. 6, seen at the end of the West Lawrence-

1 Road, Hfx. Co., comes from C.R.K. Allen. The birds were catching in the lower branches of some spruce trees, and on ground beneath, exhibiting warbler-like behavior, and were thought at first to be Chestnut-sided warblers, but these birds with greenish backs, two wing-bars and quite bright yellow on throat and down the breast, and yellowish eye rings. The birds were not as heavy as the Red-eyed Vireo's. The breasts were clear, with no sign of streaking. The birds were observed in a few yards, for about 20 minutes.

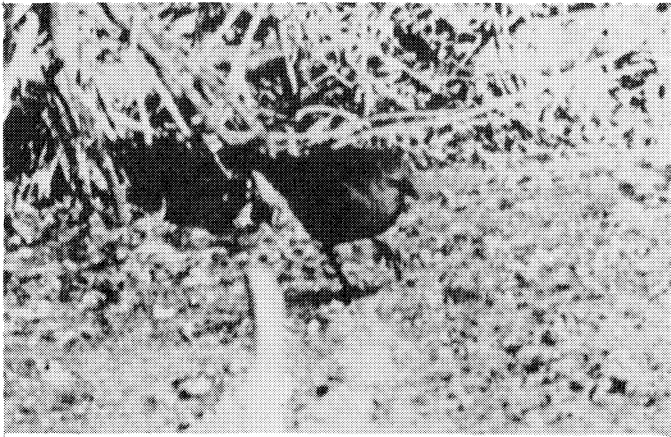
A BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER came to a feeder Jan. 13 at Amherst (E and CD), a most unusual sighting. As usual, the BLUE WARBLER has stayed around, 1 each on the Highlands Park and Eskasoni Counts in Cape Breton; 1 Dec. 19 near east of Halifax (ELM); 1 on the Halifax West Count; 1 at Brier Is. Dec. 21 Count; 1 all winter at Port Mouton (HFT); and groups of 3, 4 and 6 seen in and near Yarmouth Jan. 13 to Feb. 10 (per MWH,MN,DK,AH). Late warblers at Seal Island were a BLUE-BREASTED Nov. 6; a BLACKPOLL Nov. 6; a BLACK-THROATED BLUE Nov. 10 (IM et al) and a Blackpoll Dec. 5 at Brier Is. (P). The PALM WARBLER has not been seen since the end of September but several stayed late: 1 Oct. 26-27 at Round Hill, Lun. Co. (WEW); 1 at Brier Is. Nov. 11 (ELM); 1 Dec. 3-8, with flock of chickadees in south Halifax (AD) and another Dec. 12-13 at least in another Halifax garden (CWH); 1 Dec. 5 in Cole Harbor area near Wedge Is., Hfx. Co., another Dec. 6 at Grand's Beach (DWF et al), and 1 again, or still on Brier Is. Dec. 21 (ELM et al). A late YELLOWTHROAT was also seen in the Cole Harbor area Dec. 6 (DWF et al) and Dec. 19 (ELM). Three BLUE-BREASTED CHATS have been reported, 1 at the Dartmouth Pigery up to Nov. 13; 1 at Waterville Nov. 17-18 (Andy Hopkins); 1 at Yarmouth Nov. 30 (VK) and 1 or the same one at the County Hospital near the Piggery Dec. 6 (DWF,IM). A very late BLUEBONNET'S WARBLER stayed with a flock of chickadees up to Nov. 21 at Wolfville (JSE).

The HOUSE SPARROW is still ubiquitous in flocks of 24 in towns and villages, seen on most winter field trips according to reports. EH in Pictou estimated 150 in residential areas, and in Yarmouth, the somewhat smaller population is observed to diminish, at any rate around feeders, from September on, with the suggestion that the Cowbirds were usurping the food supply.

A few EASTERN MEADOWLARKS brightened the landscape during the colder months: 2 at Seal Is. Nov. 6-10 (IM et al); 1 in the Cole Harbor-Chezzetcook area Nov. 7-13 (EC); 3 at Cry Hill, Lun. Co. Nov. 21, and perhaps the same 3 seen on Broad Cove Christmas Count, 2 of them at Petite Riviere (SF,EC,CRKA,PD); 1 at Grand Pré Dec. 1, around for a week in the dykelands (BS) and 1 again at Chezzetcook Feb. 11-13 (BH,EC). The REDWINGED BLACKBIRD was noted as usual only around feeders, in 2's and 3's, less than a dozen reported from Cape Breton, a few in the Valley and around Halifax, but flocks of 10-12 in Yarmouth (SM,FR,TH,FB,FWD,MWH,VK). An ORCHARD WREN was reported Oct. 31 at Glace Bay (Arthur Spencer per IM reported the BALTIMORE ORIOLE as "scarce this fall"

(1971), only 2 instead of the usual 6-8 in the garden, and not tempted by grapes. SM at Glace Bay said one appeared at her feeder Oct. 31, and numbers built up to 7, all immatures then disappeared (died off?), the last one seen Jan. 7, 1972. One mature male was seen only once there, Dec. 6. A few others were seen, mostly in November, at New Waterford (FR); at Halifax (AD,FWD,CWH); in Yarmouth (MWH,HW,OP), 4-6 in one place; also 1 Dec. 17 at Port Mouton (HFT) and 1, very late, Jan. 22 at Sydney (SGN per FR).

A BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, well authenticated, is a new one for the list. Ian McLaren writes: "Nov. 13, at the Dartmouth Piggery, late in the day I found a female blackbird dull slaty with warmer buffy around the head and slight green gloss on wing feathers. The dark eye made it unmistakable. Also seen by Wayne Stobo, and a photograph taken which has been accepted by Earl Godfrey as the first mainland record of the Brewer's Blackbird (one wintered on Sable Island '69-70). A possible mate for Ian's bird was seen next day at the corner of the West Lawrencetown road (not far from the Piggery). This bird was all black, with a white eye, and when the sun came out it had a definite greenish tinge on the body, no buffy nor rusty. The bird was balancing in a tree by the side of the road, within 50 feet of the observer, C.R.K. All who nevertheless refused to commit himself, as he said he was unfamiliar with the bird, but found it, in both appearance and behavior, unlike a fall male Rusty.



Brewer's Blackbird, watching its step at the Piggery (who wouldn't), taken by Ian McLaren, Nov. 13, 1971. Although a marginal photograph, (the color slide shows lack of rusty, etc.), the dark eye, lighter head region and thin (non-cowbird) bill are diagnostic of the female of this species.

The COMMON GRACKLE, not abundant last summer in a Scotia, appeared in large migratory flocks, undoubtedly -of-province birds up to mid-October. These dwindled idly (slowly at Yarmouth) to a winter population of a few birds, scattered generally about the province, according reports. A small November movement was marked by 20+ birds Brier Is. Nov. 11 and small groups at Cape Sable (3-4) . 9-18. The wintering "Dartmouth flock" seemed to number y 3 birds, about half the usual number. Singles were orted from Amherst (E and CD) and Annapolis (FB), present winter. The BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD came in about the end October, roving flocks of 20-50 moving about from place place, and a few settling at feeding stations, distribution eral. At Yarmouth the flock of 50+ was most unwelcome at feeders, and most persistent. A curious movement of birds and Blue Jays, Jan. 21 at Wilmot, Anna. Co., and in vicinity is described by Thelma Hawkins as an "invasion", 30 jays accompanied by a "great flock" of Cowbirds flutter-around the yard and up against the windows was noted (2 ilar mixed flocks) several miles away, reported by phone the same time. At the Christmas Count period, most of the birds were concentrated in the Valley towns, with the high-number at Wolfville (537), but the next highest, a doubtful tinction, at Yarmouth (262).

A rarity at any time of year, the BLUE GROSBEAK was n Dec. 3 one bird, carefully observed under good conditions, Cape Sable (S and BS). One INDIGO BUNTING was left at 1 Is. Nov. 6 from the "numbers" seen there earlier in the 1 (IM). Fourteen DICKCISSELS have been reported, starting h 3 Nov. 8 at Wine Harbor, Guys. Co. (GM), followed by 1 . 9 in Yarmouth (MN); 3 Nov. 12 at Glace Bay (per SM); 1 . 22 at Pictou (EH); 1 Nov. 27 at Brookside, Hfx. Co. (FWD); ec. 3 at New Waterford (FR); 1 Dec. 21 at Brier Is. (ELM); ec. 31 at Baddeck (Christmas Count) and 1, possibly the e one at Baddeck Jan. 8 (Mrs. MacFarlane per SM).

The EVENING GROSBEAK was seen and heard in small ive flocks in October, particularly around Wolfville and erst, but did not settle down at feeders until late Novem- in most places, even later in Pictou and Halifax, where bers were small until well on in January. Flocks were ller than in previous years, possibly as Sara MacLean has gested because so many people now have feeders. The gros- cs stayed until early in March, and some are still around. se highly decorative birds were universally distributed, are quite naturally our most reported bird in winter. eral albinos showed up, a female in Halifax (CRKA) and one Lake Loon near Dartmouth (R and BT), and a male at the iotts, Little Salmon River Drive, Hfx. Co. These birds c the black pigmentation, so the female is a grayish bird, male a yellow and white bird, very striking. Flocks at ders varied from 10 to 40, for the most part, at the 20 or e feeders described.

Scattered reports of the PURPLE FINCH have come in, amber to March, 16 birds, in 2's and 3's, plus one flock

of 24 in late December at Smith's Cove (A and KR) which made a count of 48 there at Christmas. The only comparable count was at Margaree, with 21 birds. We will be glad to see them back. The PINE GROSBEAK, never heavily reported, was seen fairly frequently in November in suitable habitat, and counted in numbers at Christmas only in wooded areas in Cape Breton (98) and Halifax County (73). A few of these grosbeaks ventured into towns in December, their special attraction there being multiflora rose hedges. The COMMON REDPOLL did not fulfil its early promise of abundance, although anyone frequenting alder thickets from November on was practically sure of putting up a flock, anywhere from 15 to 30 birds. Cape Breton had 128 on the Christmas Count, mainland Nova Scotia 317. This is pretty small compared with the thousands seen in New Brunswick at this time; we were fortunate to have the few we did spill down into our peninsula. No Hoary Redpolls were seen in Nova Scotia this time. Very few PINE SISKINS figure in the winter's reports, 8 only from Cape Breton (JL,GS,KMacR D and MB), and slightly over a hundred from the mainland, 67 of them on Brier Is. (ELM et al,FWD,CRKA,MN,E and CD,WJM). The last observer, Willett Mills, had 6 at his feeder Feb. 17 building up to 16 by March 7. The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH was well reported, distribution general, but numbers small, flocks of 4-12 being the rule, both in the country and at town feeders. The Dobsons at Brookside, Hfx. Co., noted a larger flock of 25 Feb. 15, some of the birds showing signs of spring bright color.

Both the RED CROSSBILL and the WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL have been reported this winter, very few Reds, 2 each on the Halifax East and Halifax West Christmas Counts, a few at Louisbourg at that time, and one at Brier Is. Ten in Cape Breton Highlands is the largest count. The first week in February 6 settled down along the Northwest Arm in Halifax, seen in various places there (JBH,WJC,HM,WJM). The White-wing seemed to be moving south during October and November, when flocks of 15 to 30 were noted at Round Hill and Port George, Anna. Co. (WEW,RL); Brier Is. (ELM); Yarmouth (MWH); and one found dead at Cape Sable Oct. 30. Small flocks stayed around later, seen at Wolfville (JT), at Economy, Col. Co. (FS) and in the Sambro area, Hfx. Co. (CRKA); but the sizable numbers stayed in Cape Breton, 230 reported there mid winter (SM). It is perhaps of interest to note that whereas New Brunswick had many Redpolls in December-January, Nova Scotia had few and none was seen in Newfoundland; The White-winged Crossbill, on the other hand, was relatively scarce in New Brunswick, more plentiful in Nova Scotia, and probably equally so in Newfoundland, the Christmas Count there being 108. Finches are, of course, unpredictable and a law unto themselves, but these reports have uncovered, from time to time, a number of similarities between northern Cape Breton and Newfoundland, in bird population.

The RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE was seen as usual only at feeders during the winter, and for the most part a single bird which stayed in the vicinity: 1 Nov. 6, Seal Is. (IM et al);

Nov. on, Gaspereau Valley (JSE); 1 Nov. on, St. Peter's (CR per FR); 1 Nov. on, Cole Harbor (M and RE); 2 Nov. 25, Halifax south (CWH); 1 Marlboro Woods, Hfx., Dec. 10 (ELM); Dec. on, Florence, C.B. (G. Charlsworth per FR) and 1 Dec. 8-12, Halifax NW (M and SC). One IPSWICH SPARROW at Seal Island remained there from Nov. 6 through December, and another seen in the Lawrencetown area, Hfx. Co., in December (IM). A few SAVANNAH SPARROWS stayed after October, a few seen in November in Halifax, Hants and on the Grand Pré, and one in Waterford, a dark unusual-looking bird, which Frank Peterson identified as a Labrador Savannah (*Passerculus bewickensis labradorius*), which is a spring and fall migrant Nova Scotia (Tufts, *Birds of Nova Scotia*, 1961). The only other Savannahs noted, 12 around the "circuit", Hfx. Co., 12 (ELM), and 1 each on Jan. 16 and Jan. 30 at Cape Sable (not described). The GRASSHOPPER SPARROW is becoming almost regular, 3-5 seen on Seal Is. Nov. 7-10, one caught by hand and photographed (IM). Two were seen on the Christmas Counts, one at Broad Cove, one in Cape Breton. This latter was also photographed, by Wayne Neily. A very late SHARP-TAILED was on Dec. 5, near Halifax (BD et al), and another, possibly of James Bay race, struck by a car near Wolfville Jan. 5 was identified by Barry Sabeau, John Kearney and Ian McLaren (specific identification to follow).

Three November records of the VESPER SPARROW are 1 Nov. 6-10, Seal Is. (IM); 1 Nov. 11, Brier Is. (ELM); 1 Nov. 14, Broad Cove (BH and SF), and a late one was of 1 Dec. 5 at Broad Desert, Hfx. Co. (DWF, WPN). Large flocks of the SLATE-COLOURED JUNCO were noted in the Valley, Round Hill, WEW; Wolfville, JSE; Waterville, A. Hopkins, the end of October, since when reports have been of small scattered flocks (6-12) wintering along roadsides and at town feeders, distribution general. This was as usual our commonest sparrow all winter. The number of the sparrows really could be said to have been common all winter; we had hopes of the TREE SPARROW, which sometimes comes down in good numbers, but although widely distributed, was seldom seen at large, and only in 2's and 3's at feeders. Before Christmas, the largest counts were 12 Jan. 22 at Sluice Point, Yar. Co. (MWH, DK, AH); 9 Feb. 6 at Pictou (EH) and 8 Jan. 11 at the Piggery, Dartmouth Feb. 27 (IM). (The Smiths at Seal Sable noted that their one, around Feb. 25-27, was fond of oatmeal.)

To quote Ian McLaren "Apparently (and oddly enough) the FIELD SPARROW has remained unconfirmed in Nova Scotia, although seen with some regularity. The accompanying photo proves it from the hypothetical list." The bird photographed at Seal Is., Nov. 8, 1971.



Field Sparrow, taken by Ian McLaren at Seal Island, Nov. 8, 1971.

The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW maintained a sparse population, fewer than usual throughout the winter. It was present Glace Bay to Yarmouth, but numbers were very small, mostly 1-3 present at feeders; 5 at Yarmouth (MN) and the 8 found at the Piggery, Dartmouth, from time to time appear to be the largest "concentrations" noted. Over a dozen FOX SPARROWS chose to remain in Nova Scotia, winter '71-72, one only noted from Cape Breton (SM); 1-7 in Halifax city (CWH, CRKA, M and SC); 1-6 around the Cole Harbor area (M and RE, CRKA, DWF et al) and 2 in Yarmouth (MN). Fourteen SWAMP SPARROWS seen since the end of October were all around the "circuit", Hfx. Co. (ELM, IM, CRKA, DWF et al) last seen Feb. 2. The last large count (22) of the SONG SPARROW around the circuit was on Nov. 6, after which only 1-9 could be found in the same area, or for that matter anywhere else in the province. Nov. 5 and 6 brought us our first freezing temperatures in 1971, possibly discouraging to the Song Sparrows. The earliest one heard singing was on Feb. 14, in Yarmouth (MWH). The temperature went up to 45° that day.

A few LAPLAND LONGSPURS were seen, mostly coastwise the largest number Nov. 2, 45 at Three Fathom Harbor, Hfx. Co. (IM); followed by 3 Nov. 21 at the Grand Pré (CRKA); 7 Dec. 23 at Pinckney's Point, Yar. Co. (MWH, SCH); 3 Jan. 9 at Cook's Beach (MWH, DK, DR, AH); 1 Feb. 16, picked up dead, having struck a window at Glace Bay (GS per SM); and 4 March at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. (EC). The SNOW BUNTING was runne up for most reported bird winter '71-72, with large flocks (50-100) about during November through December along the coast (some flocks of 30+ stayed at feeders); then appearing inland in January, and returning to the coast late February. The large flock at Cape Sable, numbering 100+ in November, ar

und all winter, was down to 20 by the end of February, at
ch time the Smiths noted the birds beginning to change
mage.

The above report of the birds of Nova Scotia, fall
winter 1971-72 is compiled from the observations of the
lowing members of the NSBS. Reporters names are unbracketed.
.K. Allen, Philip and Necia Amys, (Ross Anderson), Ross
er, Dan Banks, Fred Barrett, (R. Blackburn), (Harry Brennan),
id and Margaret Burchell, (E. Chant), Curtis Chipman, Alice
sholm, David Christie, Walter J. Chute, Molly Clayden,
hael and Shirley Cohrs and family, Eric Cooke, Ethel Cra-
rne, (Norman Cunningham), Gladys Dakin, (Hank Deichmann),
y and Con Desplanque, (Murdoch Digout), Ben Doane, Fred and
lyn Dobson, Ann Doull, Edria Eaton, Rosemary and Michael
on, Jim and Gillian Elliott, John S. Erskine, Davis W.
ch, Sylvia Fullerton, (George Griffin), J.B. Hardie, (Mrs.
bert Harris), (Mildred Hatfield), Thelma Hawkins, (Mary
, C.W. Helleiner, (Sylvia C. Hilton), Marion W. Hilton,
rbara Hinds), Eric Holdway, Andy Hopkins, (Hedley Hopkins),
le Hurlburt), (John Kearney), Van Killam, (Dorothy Kirk),
ert Lamberton, (D. Wickerson Lent), R.H. Lindsay, (Tony
k), Mrs. H.E. Long, (John Lunn), (Kevin MacCormick), Clive
Donald, (Ethel MacDonald), (May MacDougall), (Mrs. F.
farlane), Ian McLaren, Sara McLean, (Edith MacLeod), Gordon
Leod, L.B. Macpherson, (Katherine MacRae), (B.P. Mahon),
. and Mrs. Majka, Chris and Mark), Mrs. Harry Mathers,
c L. Mills, Willett J. Mills, Emily Mingo, (S.G. Naish),
ry Neily), Wayne P. Neily, (Lovitt Nickerson), Margaret
erson, (Roger Pocklington), (Olive Purdy), (D. Rawlings),
ie and Kelsey Raymond, Frank Robertson, R.M. Rogers, (Alan
f), Barry Sabean, Sidney and Betty J. Smith, Francis
lding, (Arthur Spencer), (George Spencer), (Wayne Stobo),
a Timpa, R. and B. Topple, H.F. Tufts, Marion Tuttle,
son C. Webster, David and Alice Webster, (Dan Welsh), W.E.
tehead, (Hazel Williamson).

(Special thanks to those of you who sent in reports
separate slips of paper for each species, giving number,
e and locality. This has lightened the burden tremendously.
a we can afford to do so, we will send out proper forms.)

REPORTS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE JUNE 15, 1972.

P L E A S E N O T E W E L L ! !

FIELD TRIPS, 1972

Halifax area:

- April 1 Waterfowl Identification. 8:30 a.m.
Shubenacadie Wildlife Park. Leaders - Roger
Pocklington and Eldon Pace.
Ducks of the world; probably Canada's best
collection at their finest; but leave life
lists at home.
- May 10 Kearney Lake Road, at the junction of the
Bicentennial Drive, at 6:30 a.m. Leader -
Eric Mills.
- May 17 Prospect Road, at the junction of Brookside
Road, at 6:15 a.m. Leader - Fred Dobson.
- May 24 Susie Lake, meet at the Armdale Rotary at 6:00
a.m. Leader - Ben Doane.

Provincial:

- May 27 A ramble through Hants County at the height of
the migratory season, for many species, partic-
ularly the warblers. Meet at the railway
crossing at Mount Uniacke on Route #1 at 8:00
a.m. Leader - C.R.K. Allen.
- June 10 A visit to Glace Bay Sanctuary, Cape Breton.
Meet at the Heavy Water Plant, Glace Bay, at
8:30 a.m. Leader - W. Neily.
- July 1 An outing by boat to the Eastern Shore Bird
Islands. Meet at Mushaboom, Halifax County, on
Highway #7 at 8:30 a.m. (Government Dock). In
addition to lunch, it would be advisable to
bring waterproof clothing. Anticipated cost of
boat hire - \$5.00 per person. If possible,
contact Roger Pocklington (leader), Dartmouth,
N.S., phone 463-3483.
- Aug. 5 A field trip at Merigomish Island, Pictou Coun-
ty to see the early shorebirds. Led by Fred and
Margaret Kenney, who suggest meeting at Lester
MacLellan's Irving gas station, on the Trans-
Canada, in Sutherland's River, about 7 miles
past New Glasgow, at 8:00 a.m.
- Sept. 3-4 Labor Day week-end at Brier Island, Digby Coun-
ty which will include a pelagic trip on both

Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting. Cost - \$5.00 per person. If possible, advance notice should be given to Eric Cooke, Halifax, phone 429-2642, so adequate arrangements can be made for boat hiring. Sunday, Sept. 4, will be the President's Field Day. Meet at the graveyard, Peajack Road, on Brier Island at 8:30 a.m. This is a joint excursion with the New Brunswick Field Naturalists' Club.

Visiting bird-watchers, out-of-province or otherwise, are most welcome to attend any or all of these field trips.

Cape Breton:

March 18 Winter Birds and Early Arrivals. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Heavy Water Plant, Glace Bay. Leaders - George Spencer and Tony Erskine.

April 22 Early migrants, Waterfowl. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Post Office, Mabou.

May 7 Geology, Spring Flowers. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Morrison's Restaurant, Cape North. Leader - Ken Greenidge. How the landscape was formed.

June 14 Early Warblers, etc. 6:00 a.m. Meet anywhere. Early morning outings are scheduled in a number of different areas on this date so that we can compare the results from different localities on the same date, and so that no one will have too far to go to get there. How long they last is up to the participants, but 2-3 hours is usual. Six have been arranged; but if there is none for your area, don't hesitate to collect a few friends and have one of your own at the same time as the others. Reports from Cape Breton should be sent to Mrs. Sara MacLean, 52 Catherine Street, Glace Bay, and from the other half of the province to Mrs. Dobson. Scheduled trips are:

Glace Bay area - Mrs. MacLean (849-5362)
Sydney-Waterford - Mrs. Betty Reid (562-4021)
N. Sydney-Sydney Mines - Miss Mary Hay (736-6371)
Ingonish - Wayne Neily (Ingonish 114 or 151)
Baddeck - Mrs. Isabel MacFarlane (295-2407)
St. Peter's - Mrs. Kay MacRae (St. Peter's 44)

Call the indicated number for meeting point or other details.

20-22 Spring Migration, Cape Sable Island. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the intersection of routes 3 and 30. Even we Cape Bretoners must grudgingly admit that

the western extremes of the province are the best areas for birding during migration; and since many of us have not been to Cape Sable, we've scheduled this trip instead of Brier Island this spring. Leaders, the Smiths.

June 3

Cape Breton Migration Peak. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Texaco station near intersection of Cabot Trail and road to Margaree Valley. Leaders - Tom Bellis and Eric Cooke.

July 10

Total Solar Eclipse (Not arranged by the Society but of interest to all naturalists. There will not be another in this region for hundreds of years.

July 15

Green Island, Cape Breton Co. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Gabarouse. Leader - Francis MacKinnon. By reservation only; reservations must be made before July 1 with Mr. MacKinnon, 37 Beaton Avenue, New Waterford. Write earlier for details. A boat cruise only, we do not plan to land on the island, the site of Nova Scotia's newly-discovered Kittiwake colony.

July 29

Plants of Cape Breton Highlands. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at National Park entrance, Ingonish Beach. Leader - John Erskine. A tour that will give us an idea of the commoner species (and more interesting ones) of plants of a part of Canada that may contain more variety for its size than any other.

Aug. 18-20

Shore and off-shore birds. Iles de la Madeleine. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Grindstone Post Office, Caux-Meules. A joint excursion with the Prince Edward Island Natural History Society, each participant must make his own arrangements to get to the islands. To ensure that there will be enough cars available, however, those planning to go are asked to send their names to Wayne Neily (Ingonish Beach, N.S.). There are two flights per day from Charlottetown (about \$30. return) and a car ferry makes one round trip per day from Souris, P.E.I. (leaving Souris at 2:30 p.m. \$17. per car, \$7, per person.).

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society held on the afternoon of December 4, 1971, at the Nova Scotia Museum, Summer Street, Halifax, N.S. Following the business meeting and election of officers, Mr. Davis W. Finch, Northeastern Regional Editor, American Birds, spoke on Bird Identification and Distribution in the Northeast. Mr. Finch rapidly becoming an outstanding authority on bird identification. He believes very rightly in seeing for himself, and generously shared many of his findings with us, illustrating points with color slides of his own taking. These were beautifully designed for the purpose, and for most of us better than a bird in the hand, very difficult for an amateur to reproduce. At the end of the lecture, a lighter note was introduced, with photographs of the rather ludicrous nests built by the Monk's Parakeet, a bird which is spreading rapidly through the Central American states, introduced there by accident. A shipment from Argentina broke open upon arrival, and some of the birds escaped, and have made themselves at home. It seems quite possible that we may see it in Nova Scotia one of these days.

The Executive Officers for the year 1972 are as follows:

Past-President	Dr. Eric L. Mills
President	Mr. Eric Cooke
Vice-President	Dr. Roger Pocklington
Secretary-Treasurer	Dr. Fred W. Dobson
Membership Secretary	Miss Ethel Crathorne
Editor	Mrs. Phyllis Dobson
Cape Breton Representative	Mrs. Betty Reid
Executive Members	Mr. Wayne P. Neily Mrs. Shirley Cohrs Mr. Frank Himsl

The President's Address, delivered at this meeting, follows later in this Newsletter.

We were happy to welcome among us Mr. David Christie, author, Natural History, New Brunswick Museum, Mrs. Mary Ka, Chris Majka and Dr. Eric Tull, distinguished visitors from New Brunswick.

A meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was also held on February 23, 1972, at the Nova Scotia Museum, the President, Mr. Eric Cooke, presiding; when he and Dr. Roger Pocklington outlined the Field Trip Schedule for 1972.

Colony

- 5 Saddle I., Lunenburg Co. 2 nests noted and 3 others suspected. June 9, 1965. T.F. Morland MNR. He suggests this is a new colony.
- 6 Southwest I., Lunenburg Co. 44.30N 64.00W. On May 31, 1971, I counted 6 adults in the tree tops in a Double-crested Cormorant Colony.
- 7 Boot I., Kings Co. 45.08N 64.16W. This colony began about 1964; in that year C. Coldwell (MNR) noted 1 nest. When I visited it on June 25, 1971, 34 adults were counted. They nest among Double-crested Cormorants and it was not possible to decide with certainty which nests were which. But 8 nests were definitely identified and I suspect that 15+ pairs breed there.
- 8 Pinnacle I., Cumberland Co. 45.23N 64.07W. On May 18 I counted 5 adults in the treetops. Inhabitants of the area claim that around six pairs breed there every year.
- 9 MacNab's I., Halifax Co. 44.32N 63.31W. On June 8, 1966, W. Neily noted 19 nests, C. Coldwell on June 30 the same year noted 30+ nests.
- 10 Barren I., Halifax Co. 44.41N 62.39W. On June 12, 1971, I counted 12 to 15 adults and 8 to 10 nests in a colony of Double-crested Cormorants.
- 11 Outer I., Halifax Co. 44.45N. 62.40W. 1 nest seen June 13, 1971.
- 12 Guildford I., Halifax Co. 44.49N 62.31W. R.K. Ross noted 2-4 pairs breeding in 1971.
- 13 Long I., Halifax Co. 44.53N 62.18W. On June 14, 1971, I counted 5 adults in the treetops in a Double-crested Cormorant Colony; 3 or 4 nests were estimated.
- 14 Middle Halibut I., Halifax Co. 44.54N 62.12W. On June 15, 1971, I noted 2 adults in a colony of Double-crested Cormorants. It was not possible to distinguish Heron from Cormorant nests, but I do not doubt that they breed here.
- 15 Tobacco I., Guysborough Co. 45.01N 61.55W. On June 15, 1971, I counted 3 adults in a colony of Double-crested Cormorants. This colony had been noted by F. Payne in 1970 but he did not estimate the number breeding here. K. MacAloney, who worked on the island all summer counted 40 pairs of Herons; obvious a single short visit can give rather misleading results.
- 16 Goose I., Guysborough Co. 45.07N 61.34W. One adult was seen in the middle of a colony of Double-crested

ony

- 6 Cormorants. I could not certainly identify any Heron nests, but I suspect they breed here.
- 7 Westmost Sugar I., Guysborough Co. 45.13N 61.16W. I saw 2 nests (one with large young) and suspected the presence of a third on a visit on June 17, 1971. These nests are in the Middle of a Double-crested Cormorant colony.
- 8 Island South of Winter I. 45.13N 61.15W approx. I counted 8 nests from the air on May 29, 1971.
- 9 Pictou I., Pictou Co. 45.48N 61.15W. E. Holdway (MNR) noted that in 1966 a colony of 30+ pairs moved here from Doctor I. I failed to find any trace of them on a flight over the Island in May of 1971.
- 0 Pomquet I., Antigonish Co. 45.39N 61.45W. 18 adults were counted from the air on May 29, 1971.
- 1 Campbell I., Richmond Co. 45.33N 61.09W. On June 2, 1971, I counted 9 adults and estimated 8 nests in the treetops at the edge of a Double-crested Cormorant colony.
- 2 Birch I., Richmond Co. 45.37N 61.14W. On June 2, 1971, I counted 8 adults in treetops but foliage was so thick that I could not see any nests. I am not absolutely certain that they breed here.
- 3 MacDonald Pond, Inverness Co. 45.56N 61.07W. On July 12, 1963, A.J. Erskine (MNR) counted 15-20 nests and estimated that 30-40 nests were in the colony.
- 4 Little Judique Ponds, Inverness Co. 45.57N 61.30W. In 1963, July 19, A.J. Erskine (MNR) counted 19 nests and estimated at least 25.

Many of these herneries are in Double-crested Cormorant colonies, of which there are 30 in Nova Scotia. If one excludes these colonies with no room for Herons to nest, one is left with 12, in all; but in two of these, herons are known to breed. These two are Little Duck I. in Lunenburg County and Crow I. in Guysborough Co. However, a hernery on Pinnacle I. (8) is associated with a ground-nesting Double-crested Cormorant colony on Egg I. some 200 miles away. Great Blue Herons and other Ciconiiform birds have often been observed to nest with Cormorants and Pelicans but an association as strong as that between Cormorants and Herons in Nova Scotia seems not to have been noted.

I would like to be able to make at least a tentative estimate of the numbers of Great Blues breeding in this province. I would be very happy if anyone would send me information on colonies unknown to me. If, this summer you can make counts of

adults or nests in any of the colonies listed above or if you have data in your old field notes, please send it to me. It would be gratefully received.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

An Executive Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held on December 14, 1971, at the home of Mrs. Phyllis Dobson. Eleven members were present.

The meeting was opened by the new President, Eric Cooke, who welcomed his new Executive, thanked the past Executive and asked that both provide him with the support he will need in "breaking into" such an office.

The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved. The following items arising from the minutes were dealt with:

1. It was decided that the bird reports in the Newsletter should include identification of the individuals who made the sightings, despite the extra page costs involved. It was felt that (a) without the names the reports were much less interesting and that (b) the names were an important source of information to those who might want to use the bird records for scientific purposes.
2. An increase in membership fees was discussed; however a decision was deferred until after the January, 1972 meeting of the N.S. Museum Board of Directors, at which time it would be decided whether or not the Museum would support the entire cost of the Newsletter.
3. Wayne Neily noted that the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests is interested in acquiring tracts of land for conservation purposes, and asked members of the NSBS to let the Department of Lands and Forests know of any such tracts that become available. While on the subject of land, the President noted that in order to save taxes, Hertford Island might be transferred to the Sanctuary and Trust Fund. No action was taken on this matter.
4. Mrs. Dobson requested that those concerned provide her with all information concerning the spring and summer Field Trips well before the March 1972 deadline for the next Newsletter.

5. A wide-ranging discussion was held on ways to increase the involvement of young people in the Society. The course of action chosen was to ask the Secretary to write letters to the Boy Scout/Girl Guide organizations, the N.S. Museum, and the Department of Education indicating the Society's willingness to involve itself in their educational programs and asking for suggestions as to how our objective of obtaining more participation by young people might be met in ways useful to them. The Secretary agreed to do this.
6. Wayne Neily suggested that a copy of the By-laws of the Society should be made available at the N.S. Museum to those who might wish to see them.
7. The President agreed to see how Ross Anderson was faring with his updating of the N.S. Checklist. As soon as the checklist is complete, it was agreed it must replace the one presently in the "Nova Scotia Tour Book".

Business:

1. The new officers signed the papers turning signing authority for funds over to Fred Dobson, the new Secretary-Treasurer. He reminded the meeting that he had undertaken the job on the understanding that action would be taken to split the office, and appoint a Treasurer, and made a motion to that effect. It was seconded by Roger Pocklington, discussed, voted on, and passed. Eric Mills suggested that a pro tem Treasurer should be appointed, and the meeting agreed, instructing Eric Cooke, Roger Pocklington and Fred Dobson to set this up.
2. Eric Cooke brought up the matter of the appeal made at the General Meeting in December by Mr. David Christie of Saint John, N.B., that at the same time the New Brunswick societies were consolidating into a single new unit, the N.S. Bird Society consider the possibility of forming a single society for the Maritimes. After some discussion, it was decided that we should urge them to organize provincially and to share field trips and information, but that it would be best if the societies remained separate while throwing their support in matters of common interest behind the new Canadian Nature Federation.
3. Mrs. P. Dobson asked the meeting to consider buying, through the Trust Fund, Pearl Island in Mahone Bay. Fred Dobson agreed to find out the owner of the deed to the island from Mr. Henry March, town clerk of Bridgewater.
4. Ethel Crathorne announced that a new membership list will appear early in 1972.
5. Eric Mills reported that his plans for co-operating

with the Halifax Parks Board to set up feeders in Point Pleasant Park had come to fruition with the installation of three feeders by the Parks Board in Point Pleasant Park; also, one will apparently be set up in the Halifax Public Gardens by Ross Anderson.

It was moved by Eric Mills and seconded by Fred Dobson that the Society pay up to \$50.00 to defray the costs of buying seed for the feeders, which is to be distributed by Parks Board personnel. Since it will cost more than this to get sufficient seed, donations were welcomed, with the Secretary-Treasurer looking after them. Discussion on the motion followed concern was expressed that the feeders were useful to Halifax residents only, whereas the Society was provincial. Note was taken of the fact that about 80 per cent of the total membership come from three areas Halifax and surroundings (45%), Cape Breton (25%) and Yarmouth County (10%). It was therefore felt that demands for similar arrangements in other parts of the province would not be excessive, and could therefore be borne by the Society in a similar way.

Mrs. Phyllis Dobson was asked to arrange purchase of the seed, Fred Dobson to arrange delivery, and Hazel Carmichael to keep an eye on the feeders for the coming winter. They agreed to do so.

6. It was proposed by Phyllis Dobson that dues notices be sent out separately from the Newsletter and that return-addressed envelopes be included. It was thought that this would catch those who neglected to pay dues because they neglected to see the notice in the Newsletter. A decision was deferred until the next meeting.
7. Roger Pocklington gave a report on plans for the Field Days being planned. Likely sites are Pearl Island and Brier Island, the latter with the New Brunswick Society if possible. He will be forming a committee to aid him in setting up the Field Days.
8. Wayne Neily asked about the possibility of the Society setting up a banding program. He was asked to refer his inquiries to Ross Anderson and W.J. Mills, who have been banding for some time.
9. The Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to send \$10.00 to the Canadian Nature Federation and \$20.00 to the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club as dues for 1972. He was also instructed to write formal letters informing them of the names of the members of the new Executive.
10. It was decided to meet again in the latter half of February. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

An Executive Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society held at 1444 Seymour Street, Halifax, on February 26, 1972, 8:00 p.m. Present were Mrs. P. Dobson, Mrs. B. Reid (delegate from Cape Breton), W. Neily and E.H. Cooke.

Other members of the Executive were unable to attend because of a snowstorm raging in the area. Due to the absence of the Secretary-Treasurer, minutes of the last meeting were not read.

At the last meeting, discussion took place concerning the advisability of separating the functions of Secretary and Treasurer. While the present Secretary-Treasurer has indicated his willingness to continue in the dual role with some assistance being provided, further discussion was postponed until he and other members could be present at the next meeting.

It was reported that at a meeting on February 23, 1972, the Nova Scotia Museum Board of Directors considered our request that they pay for the full cost of printing the Newsletter, estimated at \$1,800.00 in 1972. They were unwilling to pay directly for such a publication without being responsible for its content and having control over it. Instead, they agreed to extend a grant to the N.S. Bird Society. This will be in the form of a matching grant; i.e., for each dollar in dues taken in by the Society, the Museum will give a grant of \$1.00, thus matching the amount collected. Dues for 1972 are estimated at \$1,100.00.

A review of the Society's financial position indicated the necessity for raising additional funds in future if the Society is to fulfil its function in a dynamic manner. Considerable discussion followed concerning additional expenses needed by the Society in future for which funds may be needed, over and above present expenses. These might include:

a. Travel expenses for:

1. Delegates from branches such as the Cape Breton Branch and others which, it is hoped, will be organized. Some compensation should be given to offset the cost of attending Executive Meetings.

3 Delegates (Cape Breton, Yarmouth, Valley) -
4 meetings per year, \$20.00 each.....\$240.
2. Delegates representing the Society to attend meetings of the Canadian Nature Federation...\$200.
3. Executive Members or speakers attending meetings of Society branches, 6 meetings at \$20.00.....\$120.
4. Special speaker at Annual Meeting.....\$150.

Estimated Travel Expenses.....\$710.

- b. Additional publication costs for Newsletter in 1971 were \$1,600.; for 1972, estimated at \$1,800. and for 1973, estimated at \$2,000. The increase is mainly due to higher printing costs and to some extent the addition of more information in the Newsletter.....\$ 200.
- c. Donation to the Canadian Nature Federation.....\$ 250.
- d. Acquisition of a collection of 35mm slides of birds, to be used for proposed training and educational talks to interested organizations; i.e., Scouts, Guides, etc.....\$ 50.
- e. Increased postage. In addition to higher postage rates, it is felt desirable to send out more notices of meetings and field trips. Also, a follow-up letter should be sent to members who are forgetful in payment of dues in order to minimize the loss of such members. 6 mailings...\$ 240.

Estimated total increase in costs, 1973 \$1450.
 versus 1972

The prospect of these increased costs emphasizes the need for an increase in membership dues and it was recommended that consideration be given to raising dues in 1973. The following rates were suggested as a basis for discussion at the next Executive Meeting:

- a. Regular member \$3.00 or \$4.00
- b. Family membership,
 which includes \$5.00 or \$6.00
 children
- c. Student member \$2.00 or \$3.00
- d. Supporting member \$25.00

(Memo:- Based on a membership of 550, an increase to \$4.00 would increase our revenue by \$1,100., plus the Museum's contribution.)

Discussion followed concerning the Canadian Nature Federation and it was agreed that the Society should extend financial support to assist in their work. Because of the Society's present financial situation, this assistance cannot be on a level that would be desirable, but it was felt that some assistance should be given at once. It was moved by Wayne Neily, seconded by B. Reid, that a grant of \$100. be given at this time. Consideration of an additional \$100. grant will be made later in the year when more dues are received and our financial situation may be better known. Motion carried.

It was noted that approximately 40 per cent of the members have paid 1972 dues and also that names of a number of members have been dropped from the latest membership list. It was decided that an appeal for recruitment of new members should be included in the next issue of the Newsletter. Also that a letter be sent to those whose names have been dropped from the membership list, expressing the Society's hope that they have simply overlooked payment but that they will continue their membership in the Society.

A brief submitted to the Minister of Lands and Forests by Mrs. E. Murray, president of the Ladies Branch of the Halifax Wildlife Association, urging certain improvements in the Wildlife Park at Shubenacadie, was reviewed. Mrs. Murray requested the Society's support and expressed the wish that the Society would also submit a brief or write to the Minister expressing similar views. After discussion, it was felt that the investigation of conditions at the Park should be made before the Society takes any stand on this matter. This might be done on the Field Trip scheduled at Shubenacadie on April 1, '72.

Three bird feeders were erected this winter in Point Pleasant Park, Halifax. Feed bills have amounted to \$97.50, of which the Society has paid \$50.00 with approximately \$32.00 collected so far in contributions. It is felt that the Society will find difficulty in lending financial support to this project in future and no commitment for next winter should be made at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In spite of the small attendance, there was a very good reason for holding this meeting on the night in question. It was held at the house of the Editor, and all of the other members present had just arrived from Cape Breton (sic came with Wayne and Betty, having been up visiting the Cape Breton Branch). In extenuation of the Halifax contingent, you will cast your minds back, the night of February 26 saw the worst snowstorm of the season, and traffic in the city and environs was at a standstill. Literally nobody could get his car out of the driveway, and it happens that all of our executive members live at a good distance from the Museum. The Cape Bretoners said that they left that morning on open roads, with the sun shining, and only began to encounter difficulties as they neared Halifax. They left the car at the hotel and walked out to the house, arriving breathless and red-faced, and covered with snow from head to heels. We had a good meeting and got a lot done. In fulfilment of my promise, may I say:

YOU LIKE THIS SOCIETY - HELP IT GROW

Whether you like belonging to the Nova Scotia Bird Society for its role in bird study, or in conservation or just for fun, you are sure to know someone else who shares your interest, and would be glad of an introduction to the rest of us. The Museum obviously feels that we are doing a useful job, and has generously offered to match our income, dollar for dollar. Any effort you make to increase the income goes twice as far, and there will be that much more to further the interests mentioned above. Do you want to keep Nova Scotia clean and beautiful, and full of birds? and full of people interested in birds? This is the best way to do it

CHRISTMAS COUNTS IN NOVA SCOTIA - 1971

Edited by L.B. Macpherson

A December of quite reasonable weather and little snow, combined with growing participation, probably accounts for the record number of 125 species seen in the Province on 27 Counts. That snowy, cold and stormy month last year produced 116 species on 26 Counts. The previous high was 123 species in 1969. However, the variety of birds was not too different from last year and the regular species seemed to be present in average numbers. A feature of the early winter has been Snowy Owls (5 Counts) and Bohemian Waxwings (9 Counts) last seen in any numbers in the winters of 1964/5 and 1968/9 respectively.

Four birds, Fulmar, Golden Eagle, Knot and Lesser Black-backed Gull were added to the Christmas Count list of the Province, bringing it to 163 species in the past 16 years. The sighting of the Lesser Black-backed Gull (a European species) at Digby is an outstanding record - the story of its discovery and identification is told elsewhere in the NEWSLETTER. Although Wickerson Lent regularly sees the Fulmar off Brier Island in appropriate weather, having the circumstances coincide with the Count Period was most fortunate. The Golden Eagle, also from Brier Island, and reported by Davis Finch, is a very rare bird indeed in Nova Scotia. He described it as "a sub-adult, with yellowish sides to the head, banded tail, no white in wings" and Mrs Lent writes (February 11) that it was still there and had been seen by various observers. There are a few old records but the only recent sighting seems to be that of John Lunn, September, 1965, at Louisbourg. The Knot was found by Eric Mills and party on the Halifax (east) Count in the Lawrencetown area. This is by no means a common shorebird in Nova Scotia at any time and there is only one previous winter record.

However, probably the most unexpected occurrence was that of the Grasshopper Sparrow on two Counts - Cape Breton Highlands and Broad Cove. Although once recorded on a Count known from a few recent fall records, the species is still so rare here that any occurrence is notable. Or is it rare? Perhaps because it is such an unobtrusive little bird, so nondescript, it is frequently overlooked. Or has it increased in numbers in the past three or four years? Few more years of observation should tell us if the latter is the case. The Highlands bird was at Murray Stockley's, Bonaville, who kept the bird supplied with hayseed at least as early as early January. Eric Cooke, Sylvia Fullerton and Barbara Adams had a good look at the Broad Cove bird which was nesting at the tide edge, adjacent to the dunes, at Cherry Beach, a typical habitat for recent fall birds.

In the Cape Sable Count is a notation of four small sandpipers which Betty J. Smith believed to be Least Sandpipers but did not wish to be positive about the identification. She is correct to be cautious as a quick review of Audubon Counts for the past few years does not reveal Least Sandpipers north of Cape May, N.J. Nevertheless there have been interesting reports of Western Sandpipers further north on the coast in winter and one authority states that the Western is more likely to be seen on the New Brunswick coast in winter than the Least. As neither species has ever been recorded in Nova Scotia in winter (and the Western only once in any season) from now on every small sandpiper in winter must be very carefully scrutinized.

Other interesting and valuable observations in the records are: Great Blue Heron on 4 Counts; some 2000 Canada Geese on each of 2 Counts (Halifax E. and Yarmouth); presence of many Scaup wintering in the Digby-Weymouth area; Lequin Ducks (Highlands and Brier I.); King Eider (Halifax W. and Broad Cove); Hooded Merganser, 2 (Halifax W.); Osprey on 3 Counts; Sharp-shinned Hawk on 9 Counts; a total of 34 Bald Eagles on 12 Counts, mostly in Cape Breton; Marsh Hawk (Highlands); a number of Sparrow Hawks including 1 on Cape Breton; Killdeer on 5 Counts; Black-bellied Plover, 12 (Cape Sable); Ruddy Turnstone, 7 (Louisbourg, as in previous years); Purple Sandpiper, 381 (Brier I.); Glaucous and 214 Iceland Gulls (Sydneys), and good numbers of other counts as well; an amazing 3000+ Kittiwake (Brier I.); a record by Ed Christie reporting the Razorbill to be the commonest booby alcid in the Bay of Fundy; Thick-billed Murre, 33 (Halifax W.); but Betty J. Smith reporting the Common Murre to be the most abundant murre along the SW coast; Mourning Dove on 10 Counts; Barred Owl, 4 (Halifax W.), and reported on 3 other Counts as well; a few wintering Kingfishers and Flickers; Kinglets on 17 Counts; Ruby-crowned Kinglet on 2 Counts (Brier I. and St. Peters); Myrtles on 7 Counts, Palms on 3, as well as a Yellowthroat and a Chat (both Halifax E.); Chickadee (Brier I.); a selection of all winter finches though in no great numbers.

Halifax (east) with 83 species identified represents by far the highest Christmas Count ever made in the Province. Halifax (west) was not far behind with 78 species. While both are good "birding" areas (many others in the Province are just as good) rarities did not account for these remarkable totals. What these two Counts have is good organizers who planned in advance and enough participants to be able to cover most available parts of the Count areas effectively. Equally remarkable is the one-family Count of the Lunns at Louisbourg with 46 species. In 1956 the Halifax Counts attained only 48 and 38 species. In the intervening years the number of observers available has slowly risen from 5 or 6 to the present 30 or so and the number of species identified to that noted above.

But high totals and unusual species are not the only or even the most important aspects of the Christmas Counts. For instance, the Kejimikujik, Shubenacadie and Salmon River Counts, with 22, 16 and 15 species identified, bear close examination for the reason that they are wholly inland counts. The correspondence between the species seen on each is remarkable and clearly they give a picture of the birds likely to be seen in winter in Nova Scotia, away from the coast. The numbers vary, of course, (plainly Shubenacadie is one of the Crow capitals of the Province) but as far as species are concerned these are the ones the watcher will see on a mid-winter's day. If three duck species are deleted from the Springville Count it also gives a good inland picture.

A unique Count is that from Cape Sable. The Smiths, who keep the Light there, have been good correspondents of the NEWSLETTER for some years - but this is their first Christmas Count. Just reading their list of birds (at 24 species relatively large) and remembering something of the habitat of each, conjures in the mind's eye exactly what the little island is - a rather austere and treeless strip of rock and sand with only a sparse beach vegetation. As most readers will know, Cape Sable is a small island just south of Cape Sable Island, Shelburne County, which, in its turn, is not to be confused with Sable Island, 110-miles SE of Guysborough County. All of which must be confusing to others.

Four reports were received which are not included in the compilation. They either were not done in the Count Period or overlapped established Counts. That from Miss Frances Brown, Sunken Lake, Kings County noted a Pileated Woodpecker.

Summaries of 27 Counts are recorded below in somewhat of a north to south order. Species names bracketed are those seen in the Count Period but not on the Count Day. In order to try to show some consistency in party-hours, no hours for feeder-watching have been included as nearly as could be determined.

HLANDS NATIONAL PARK, Victoria Co., 2 January 1972.
nty-seven observers, 54 party-hours (incl. snowmobile).
ervation conditions: good.

als: 54 species identified; about 1658 individuals.

Common Loon,10; Red-necked Grebe,1; Great Cormorant,6;
llard); Black Duck,7; Common Goldeneye,220;
lequin Duck,2; Oldsquaw,118; Common Eider,28;
te-winged Scoter,43; Common Scoter,3; Common Merganser,9;
-breasted Merganser,57; (Sharp-shinned Hawk);
-tailed Hawk,2; Rough-legged Hawk,1; Bald Eagle,4;
sh Hawk,1; Sparrow Hawk,1; Ruffed Grouse,3;
ple Sandpiper,1; Glaucous Gull,3; Iceland Gull,146;
at Black-backed Gull,50; Herring Gull,74;
ck-billed Murre,2; Dovekie,28; Black Guillemot,6;
ry Woodpecker,2; Downy Woodpecker,10; Gray Jay,12;
e Jay,22; Raven,34; Crow,97; Black-capped Chickadee,49;
eal Chickadee,32; White-breasted Nuthatch,1;
-breasted Nuthatch,26; (Brown Creeper); Robin,1;
len-crowned Kinglet,14; Bohemian Waxwing,8; Starling,107;
le Warbler,1; House Sparrow,34; Common Grackle,3;
wn-headed Cowbird,3; Evening Grosbeak,1; Purple Finch,3;
e Grosbeak,10; Common Redpoll,113; (Pine Siskin);
rican Goldfinch,10; Red Crossbill,10; White-winged
ssbill,205; Grasshopper Sparrow,1; Slate-colored Junco,22;
ee Sparrow); Song Sparrow,1.

Observers: Mary Barker, Irene Gettas, Crystal Hussey,
ette Jackson, Doug Jackson, Isabel MacDonald,
r D.MacDonald, Dave MacEachern, Francis MacKinnon,
an Mann, Betty McGuire, Larry McGuire, Ann Moore, Art Moore,
ry Moore, Larry Neily, Wayne Neily (compiler),
r O'Connell, Betty Reid, Barbara Rochester,
rge Rochester, Lorraine Rochester, Ed Smith, Luella Smith,
el Stockley, Murray Stockley and Frank Westhaver.

AREE, Inverness Co., 27 December 1971.

observers, 16 party-hours.

ervation conditions: medium.

als: 21 species identified; about 349 individuals.

Black Duck,4; Common Goldeneye,11; White-winged
er,3; Common Merganser,7; Goshawk,2; Red-tailed Hawk,2;
l Eagle,1; Iceland Gull,1; Great Black-backed Gull,25;
ring Gull,120; Hairy Woodpecker,1; Downy Woodpecker,1;
r Jay,1; Blue Jay,5; Raven,17; Crow,51; Black-capped
kadee,4; (Boreal Chickadee); Starling,40; House Sparrow,6;
ning Grosbeak); Purple Finch,21; Pine Grosbeak,26;
mon Redpoll).

Observers: Thomas Bellis (compiler), Ben Edwards,
Harding, Brenda Hart, Gerald Hart, Baxter Ingraham,
an Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham and Maxwell Ingraham.

PORT HOOD, Inverness Co., 31 December 1971.

Five observers, 11 party-hours.

Observation conditions: poor.

Totals: 28 species identified; about 399 individuals.

(Canada Goose, Black Duck); Common Goldeneye, 10; Bufflehead, 3; Oldsquaw, 14; Common Eider, 8; White-winged Scoter, 1; Common Merganser, 5; Red-breasted Merganser, 3; Bald Eagle, 2 (1i.); Ruffed Grouse, 3; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Iceland Gull, 5; Great Black-backed Gull, 6; Herring Gull, 2; Blue Jay, 2; Raven, 60; Crow, 145; Black-capped Chickadee, 6; Boreal Chickadee, 2; Robin, 2; Bohemian Waxwing, 2; Starling, 1; House Sparrow, 20; Common Grackle, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 5; Pine Grosbeak, 1; White-winged Crossbill, 23; Slate-colored Junco, 4; sparrow sp., 3.

Observers: J.D. Beaton, Eugene Hawley, Wayne Neily (compiler), John Pond and Gault Smith.

BADDECK, Victoria Co., 31 December 1971.

Fifteen observers, 26 party-hours.

Observation conditions: medium, improving.

Totals: 30 species identified; about 876 individuals.

Black Duck, 47; Common Goldeneye, 10; Bufflehead, 1; Common Merganser, 8; Red-breasted Merganser, 2; Bald Eagle, 3; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 16; Herring Gull, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 10; Blue Jay, 25; Raven, 3; Crow, 107; Black-capped Chickadee, 43; Boreal Chickadee, 43; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Robin, 5; Bohemian Waxwing, 35; Starling, 87; House Sparrow, 9; Common Grackle, 24; Dickcissel, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 108; Pine Grosbeak, 56; Slate-colored Junco, 12; Tree Sparrow, 4; Fox Sparrow, 1.

Observers: William Black, Lal Coleman, Mac Fuller, Queenie Fuller, Juanita MacDermid, Agnes MacDonald, Marilyn MacDonald, Isabel MacFarlane (compiler), Sybil MacLennan, Edith MacPherson, Larry Neily, John Nichol David Smith, Margaret Sollows and Lloyd Stone.

THE SYDNEYS, Cape Breton Co., 18 December 1971.

Fourteen observers, 34 party-hours.

Observation conditions: medium.

Totals: 43 species identified; about 5522 individuals.

Great Cormorant, 8; Black Duck, 271; Greater Scaup, 5; Common Goldeneye, 19; Oldsquaw, 54; White-winged Scoter, 58; Surf Scoter, 1; Common Scoter, 36; Common Merganser, 10; Red-breasted Merganser, 48; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Sanderling, 1; Glaucous Gull, 13; Iceland Gull, 214; Great Black-backed Gull, 698;

ing Gull,1461; Black-headed Gull,3; Thick-billed Murre,6;
kie,1; Belted Kingfisher,2; Hairy Woodpecker,1;
y Woodpecker,4; Gray Jay,1; Blue Jay,54; Raven,35;
7,336; Black-capped Chickadee,36; Boreal Chickadee,7;
in); Golden-crowned Kinglet,7; Bohemian Waxwing,7;
ling,1066; House Sparrow,579; Baltimore Oriole,1;
mon Grackle); Evening Grosbeak,106; Common Redpoll,16;
ican Goldfinch,31; White-winged Crossbill,1; Slate-colored
o,42; Tree Sparrow,7; Song Sparrow,4; Snow Bunting,216.

Observers: Mrs Joseph Aguinaga, Mrs Harold Babcock,
al Dieltgens, William Dobbin, Hedley Hopkins,
ie Long, Angus MacDonald, Francis MacKinnon,
Duncan MacQuarrie, Gordon Naish, Wayne Neily,
O'Connell (compiler), Frank Robertson and Gordon Sutherland.

ESBOURG, Cape Breton Co., 29 December 1971.

Observers, 8½ party-hours.

Observation conditions: good.

Lists: 46 species identified; about 2020 individuals.

Common Loon,2; Red-necked Grebe,4; Horned Grebe,7;
t Cormorant,1; Mallard,2; Black Duck,9;
on Goldeneye,18; Oldsquaw,147; White-winged Scoter,25;
on Scoter,1; Red-breasted Merganser,18; Bald Eagle,2;
row Hawk,1; Spruce Grouse,2; Ruddy Turnstone,7;
rican Woodcock); Purple Sandpiper,97; Sanderling,2;
ous Gull,1; Iceland Gull,86 (50% Kumlien's);
t Black-backed Gull,420; Herring Gull,950;
k-billed Murre,1; Dovekie,4; Black Guillemot,19;
y Owl,1; Short-eared Owl,1; (Downy Woodpecker); Gray Jay,3;
Jay,2; Raven,7; Crow,36; Black-capped Chickadee,2;
al Chickadee,5; Brown Creeper,1; Mockingbird,1;
en-crowned Kinglet,5; (Bohemian Waxwing); Starling,62;
e Sparrow,25; Evening Grosbeak,2; Purple Finch,2;
Grosbeak,3; Common Redpoll,14; Pine Siskin,1;
ican Goldfinch,7; (Red Crossbill); White-winged Crossbill,2;
e-colored Junco,1; Snow Bunting,11.

Observers: Carolyn Lunn, John Lunn (compiler),
n Lunn and Timothy Lunn.

SONI, Cape Breton Co., 19 December 1971.

Observers, 14½ party-miles.

Observation conditions: poor becoming good.

Lists: 29 species identified; about 640 individuals.

Common Loon,1; Black Duck,31; Common Goldeneye,36;
e-winged Scoter,56; Common Merganser,17;
re-breasted Merganser,55; Bald Eagle,6(4a, 2i);
row Hawk,1; Great Black-backed Gull,35; Herring Gull,67;

Belted Kingfisher,1; Downy Woodpecker,1; Gray Jay,1;
Blue Jay,25; Raven,15; Crow,114; Black-capped Chickadee,17;
Boreal Chickadee,7; Red-breasted Nuthatch,1;
Golden-crowned Kinglet,5; Starling,74; Myrtle Warbler,1;
House Sparrow,20; Pine Siskin,3; American Goldfinch,27;
White-throated Sparrow,1; Song Sparrow,1.

Observers: Francis MacKinnon (compiler),
John O'Connell, Betty Reid.

SALMON RIVER, Cape Breton Co., 1 January 1972.

Four observers, 15 party-hours.

Observation conditions: very good.

Totals: 22 species identified; about 358 individuals.

Red-tailed Hawk,1; Bald Eagle,1; Sparrow Hawk,1;
Great Black-backed Gull,8; Herring Gull,35;
Hairy Woodpecker,2; Downy Woodpecker,2; Gray Jay,4;
Blue Jay,24; Raven,4; Crow,56; Black-capped Chickadee,22;
White-breasted Nuthatch,1; Red-breasted Nuthatch,1;
Golden-crowned Kinglet,3; Starling,26; House Sparrow,102;
Brown-headed Cowbird,7; Evening Grosbeak,34;
American Goldfinch,4; Slate-colored Junco,17; Tree Sparrow,2.

Audrey Duchemin, Bertha Hopkins, Hedley Hopkins
(compiler) and Frances Hussey.

ST. PETERS, Richmond Co., 31 December 1971.

Five observers, 9 party-hours.

Observation conditions: medium, improving.

Totals: 22 species; about 442 individuals.

Common Loon,2; Horned Grebe,1; Black Duck,8;
Common Goldeneye,38; Oldsquaw,7; Common Merganser,3;
Great Black-backed Gull,4; Herring Gull,38; Blue Jay,4;
Raven,8; Crow,58; Robin,1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet,1; Starling,10;
House Sparrow,134; Red-winged Blackbird,3; (Common Grackle);
Brown-headed Cowbird,21; Evening Grosbeak,1; Common Redpoll,1;
Slate-colored Junco,2; Tree Sparrow,1; Song Sparrow,2.

Observers: Clarence Digout, M.H.Digout (compiler),
William Digout, A.O.MacLean and A.K.MacRae.

CTOU, Pictou Co., 27 December 1971.

ree observers, 5 party-hours.

ervation conditions: good.

tals: 15 species identified; about 315 individuals.

Common Merganser,26; Red-breasted Merganser,48;
eat Black-backed Gull,7; Herring Gull,21;
wny Woodpecker,1; Blue Jay,4; Crow,5; Black-capped
ickadee,4; White-breasted Nuthatch,1; (Brown Creeper);
hemian Waxwing,34; Starling,64; House Sparrow,82;
ening Grosbeak,13; Tree Sparrow,3; Song Sparrow,2.

Eric Holdway (compiler), Irene Holdway, Hilda Long.

RINGVILLE, Pictou Co., 1 January 1972.

ve observers, 12 party-hours.

ervation conditions: very good.

tals: 24 species identified; about 592 individuals.

Black Duck,19; Common Merganser,1; Red-breasted
rganser,2; (Red-tailed Hawk; Pigeon Hawk); Ruffed Grouse,2;
eat Black-backed Gull,40; Herring Gull,53;
iry Woodpecker,3; Downy Woodpecker,4; Black-backed
ree-toed Woodpecker,1; Gray Jay,3; Blue Jay,20; Raven,20;
ow,66; Black-capped Chickadee,40; Boreal Chickadee,43;
own Creeper,1; (Robin); Golden-crowned Kinglet,12;
hemian Waxwing); Starling,92; House Sparrow,39;
vening Grosbeak); Purple Finch,3; Pine Grosbeak,8;
mmon Redpoll,59; American Goldfinch,6; Slate-colored
nco,55; (White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Snow Bunting).

Observers: Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Kevin
ennan, Fred Kenney (compiler) and Margaret Kenney.

RTHFORT, Cumberland Co., 26 December 1971.

o observers, 4 party-hours.

ervation conditions: good.

tals: 12 species identified; about 438 individuals.

Canada Goose,31; Oldsquaw,48; ducks, unident.,260;
ruce Grouse,1; Ring-necked Pheasant,2; Great Black-backed
ll,9; Herring Gull,43; Hairy Woodpecker,1; Raven,7;
ow,22; Black-capped Chickadee,2; Starling,7; House Sparrow,5.

Observers: Duncan MacNeil, Robert MacNeil (compiler).

AMHERST, Cumberland Co., 29 December 1971.

Nine observers, 11 party-hours.

Observation conditions: very good.

Totals: 23 species identified; about 1322 individuals.

Black Duck,2; (Sharp-shinned Hawk);Rough-legged Hawk
Ruffed Grouse,2; Ring-necked Pheasant,1; Great Black-backed
Gull,353; Herring Gull,363; Snowy Owl,1; Hairy Woodpecker,2;
Downy Woodpecker,4; Horned Lark,5; Gray Jay,7; Blue Jay,13;
Raven,6; Crow,139; Black-capped Chickadee,21;
Boreal Chickadee,18; (White-breasted Nuthatch); Red-breasted
Nuthatch,1; Robin,3; Starling,69; House Sparrow,261;
Common Grackle,1; (Brown-headed Cowbird);Evening Grosbeak,49
(Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll); Tree Sparrow,1.

Observers: Mrs Walter Freeman, Barbara Henniger,
Mary Harrison, Evelyn Lowerison (compiler), Dora Myers,
Mrs Douglas Smith, Alan Smith, Marian Tuttle. (Some addition
observations from a separate report by C.Desplanque are
included as "count period" species.)

ECONOMY, Colchester Co., 2 January 1972.

One observer, 6 hours.

Observation conditions: good.

Totals: 18 species identified; about 306 individuals.

Great Blue Heron,1; Black Duck,15; Sparrow Hawk,1;
Great Black-backed Gull,5; Herring Gull,150; Barred Owl,1;
Gray Jay,1; Blue Jay,5; Raven,10; Crow,20;
(Black-capped Chickadee); Boreal Chickadee,10; Robin,1;
Golden-crowned Kinglet,6; Starling,10; House Sparrow,50;
Common Grackle,2; (Evening Grosbeak); White-winged Crossbill
Tree Sparrow,10; (Song Sparrow).

Observer: Francis L.Spalding, jr.

SHUBENACADIE, Hants Co., 29 December 1971.

Two observers, 8 party-hours.

Observation conditions: good.

Totals: 16 species identified; about 1274 individuals.

(Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk);Ruffed Grouse,1
(Ring-necked Pheasant); Great Black-backed Gull,1; Herring
Gull,1; (Mourning Dove); Downy Woodpecker,1; Blue Jay,8;
Raven,50; Crow,750; Black-capped Chickadee,38;
Boreal Chickadee,16; White-breasted Nuthatch,1;
Golden-crowned Kinglet,14; Starling,175; House Sparrow,35;
Brown-headed Cowbird,100; Evening Grosbeak,25;
Common Redpoll,8; (American Goldfinch).

Observers: Mary Geddes, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler).

FAX (east), Halifax Co., 18 December 1971.

Twenty-two observers, 72 party-hours.

Observation conditions: good.

Lists: 83 species identified; about 9002 individuals.

Common Loon, 17; Red-necked Grebe, 9; Horned Grebe, 18;
Atlantic Cormorant, 1; Canada Goose, 2000; Black Duck, 770;
Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Greater Scaup, 1; Common Goldeneye, 67;
Red-throated Loon, 1; Oldsquaw, 285; Common Eider, 16; White-winged
Grebe, 25; Surf Scoter, 56; Common Scoter, 4; (Common Merganser);
Red-breasted Merganser, 104; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1;
Broad-winged Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1(a);
Hairy Woodpecker, 4; Ruffed Grouse, 7; Virginia Rail, 2; Killdeer, 1;
Common Snipe, 1; Knot, 1; Dunlin, 1; Sanderling, 3;
Common Noddy, 1; Iceland Gull, 3; Great Black-backed Gull, 85;
Ring-billed Gull, 900; Ring-billed Gull, 63; Black-headed Gull, 10;
Herring Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 4; Snowy Owl, 1;
Common Kingfisher, 4; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 2;
Downy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 6; Horned Lark, 4;
Common Jay, 18; Blue Jay, 90; Raven, 120; Crow, 255;
Black-capped Chickadee, 90; Boreal Chickadee, 14;
Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2;
American Crow, 4; Robin, 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 120;
Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Starling, 2550; Myrtle Warbler, 2;
American Warbler, 1; Yellowthroat, 1; Yellow-breasted Chat, 1;
Common Sparrow, 695; Eastern Meadowlark, 2; Red-winged
Blackbird, 2; Rusty Blackbird, 1; (Common Grackle);
Red-headed Cowbird, 89; Evening Grosbeak, 22; Purple Finch, 2;
Common Grosbeak, 21; Common Redpoll, 80; Fine Siskin, 11;
American Goldfinch, 75; Red Crossbill, 2; White-winged
Crossbill, 1; Rufous-sided Towhee, 1; Ipswich Sparrow, 1;
Common Sparrow, 20; Slate-colored Junco, 55; Tree Sparrow, 11;
Red-throated Sparrow, 5; Fox Sparrow, 4; Swamp Sparrow, 2;
Common Sparrow, 16; Lapland Longspur, 2; Snow Bunting, 90.

Observers: C.R.K. Allen, Jean Boulva, Hazel Carmichael,
Mary Clayden, Christopher Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Ethel Crathorne,
Doane (organizer), Evelyn and Fred Dobson, Phyllis Dobson,
Mary Eaton, Gillian and Jim Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton,
Helleiner, Frank Himsl, Barbara Hinds, W.A. Hughes,
Lyn and A.R. Locke, Ian McLaren, L.B. Macpherson (compiler),
Mills, Willett J. Mills, F.J. Mortenson,
Peter Pocklington, R.K. Ross, Mary Sandford, Ross Anderson,
Steve Stobo and Dan Welch.

FAX (west), Halifax Co., 26 December 1971.

Twenty-nine field observers, 80 party-hours including

boat travel, 14 feeder watchers.

Observation conditions: good.

Lists: 78 species identified; about 11,881 individuals.

Common Loon, 36; Red-throated Loon, 2;
Red-necked Grebe, 12; Horned Grebe, 20; Pied-billed Grebe, 1;
Atlantic Cormorant, 94; Black Duck, 145; Greater Scaup, 4;

Common Goldeneye,44; Bufflehead,4; Oldsquaw,220;
 Common Eider,10; King Eider,2; White-winged Scoter,285;
 Common Scoter,71; Hooded Merganser,2; Common Merganser,31;
 Red-breasted Merganser,56; Sharp-shinned Hawk,1;
 Red-tailed Hawk,3; Rough-legged Hawk,3; (Pigeon Hawk);
 Sparrow Hawk,2; Ruffed Grouse,2; Killdeer,1; Common Snipe,1;
 Purple Sandpiper,20; Glaucous Gull,2; Iceland Gull,64, both
 races; Great Black-backed Gull,1150; Herring Gull,3800;
 Ring-billed Gull,5; Black-headed Gull,24; Bonaparte's Gull,3
 Black-legged Kittiwake,3; Thick-billed Murre,33;
 Black Guillemot,8; Barred Owl,4; Belted Kingfisher,1;
 Hairy Woodpecker,6; Downy Woodpecker,21; Gray Jay,8;
 Blue Jay,108; Raven,35; Crow,220; Black-capped Chickadee,195
 Boreal Chickadee,57; White-breasted Nuthatch,7;
 Red-breasted Nuthatch,5; Brown Creeper,4; Mockingbird,1;
 Robin,15; Golden-crowned Kinglet,28; Northern Shrike,2;
 Starling,3500; Myrtle Warbler,1; Palm Warbler,1;
 House Sparrow,750; Red-winged Blackbird,1; Baltimore Oriole,1
 Common Grackle,2; Brown-headed Cowbird,220;
 Evening Grosbeak,150; (Purple Finch); Pine Grosbeak,52;
 Common Redpoll,110; Pine Siskin,1; American Goldfinch,13;
 Red Crossbill,2; White-winged Crossbill,36;
 Rufous-sided Towhee,1; Savannah Sparrow,3; Slate-colored
 Junco,64; Tree Sparrow,25; Chipping Sparrow,1;
 White-throated Sparrow,14; Fox Sparrow,5; Swamp Sparrow,2;
 Song Sparrow,34; Lapland Longspur,6; (Snow Bunting).

Observers: C.R.K.Allen, Mrs T.Anderson,
 Mrs Ray Bowditch, Hazel Carmichael, Mrs P.S.Christie,
 Walter Chute,Chris Cohrs, John and Shirley Cohrs,
 Ethel Crathorne, B.K. and Marg Doane, Fred Dobson, Phyllis
 Dobson,Gillian and Jim Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton,
 Chris Garrett, Dennis Gordon, Mrs Ralph Hebb, C.W. and Mary
 Helleiner, Phyllis and Ward Hemeon, Frank Himsl, Barbara
 Hinds, Mrs Charlotte Jefferies, Ian McLaren,
 L.B.Macpherson (compiler), Ann and Eric Mills (organizer),
 Willett J.Mills, Harding Moffatt, F.J.Mortenson,
 Harold Murch, E.C.Pielow, Patricia and Roger Pocklington,
 Mrs Donald Slaunwhite, Wayne Stobo, Allen Stewart and
 Mrs Pauline Wood.

WOLFVILLE, Kings Co., 27 December 1971.

Thirteen observers, 24 party-hours.

Observation conditions: medium.

Totals: 36 species identified; about 4717 individuals.

Canada Goose,9; Black Duck,168; Green-winged Teal,2
 Common Goldeneye,25; Common Eider,40; Common Merganser,6;
 Goshawk,1; Sharp-shinned Hawk,2; Red-tailed Hawk,9;
 Rough-legged Hawk,3; Bald Eagle,3; Ring-necked Pheasant,8;
 (Iceland Gull); Great Black-backed Gull,129;Herring Gull,72
 Snowy Owl,2; Barred Owl,1; Hairy Woodpecker,3;
 Downy Woodpecker,8; Blue Jay,124; Raven,258; Crow,741;
 Black-capped Chickadee,49; Boreal Chickadee,8;

te-breasted Nuthatch,4; Brown Creeper,2; Robin,3;
rling,1046; House Sparrow,526; Brown-headed Cowbird,537;
ning Grosbeak,86; Purple Finch,1; American Goldfinch,16;
annah Sparrow,6; Slate-colored Junco,149;
g Sparrow,10; Snow Bunting,4.

Observers: P.Austin-Smith, P.J.Austin-Smith,
ustin-Smith, Sherman Bleakney, Curtis Chipman,
il Coldwell, Russell Eagles, A.J.Erskine, J.S.Erskine
mpiler), R.Erskine, Mary Forbes, Harold Forsythe
S.Henderson.

BOSTON, Kings Co., 27 December 1971.

at observers, 15½ party-hours.

ervation conditions: good to medium.

als: 33 species identified; about 949 individuals.

Great Cormorant,1; (Canada Goose); Black Duck,14;
squaw,8; Common Eider,7; White-winged Scoter,35;
non Scoter,7; (Common Merganser); Red-breasted Merganser,5;
rp-shinned Hawk,1; Red-tailed Hawk,2; Ruffed Grouse,2;
ple Sandpiper,3; Great Black-backed Gull,23;
ring Gull,189; Hairy Woodpecker,3; Downy Woodpecker,5;
e Jay,26; Raven,10; Crow,116; Black-capped Chickadee,16;
te-breasted Nuthatch,3; Red-breasted Nuthatch,2; Robin,3;
rling,130; House Sparrow,255; Common Grackle,4;
wn-headed Cowbird,25; Evening Grosbeak,9; Purple Finch,6;
merican Goldfinch); Savannah Sparrow,1;
e-colored Junco,6; Tree Sparrow,1; White-throated Sparrow,1;
v Bunting,20.

Observers: Wayne Bell, Alfred Bent, Murray Bent,
rk Hawkins, Thelma Hawkins, Earle Neily,
y Neily (compiler), Vivian Neily.

ROGETOWN, Annapolis Co., 1 January 1972.

ven observers, 6 party-hours.

ervation conditions: good.

als: 26 species identified; about 1067 individuals.

Common Loon,2; Common Goldeneye,1; Common Eider,2;
e-winged Scoter,1; Surf Scoter,1; (Red-breasted Merganser,
rp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk); Ruffed Grouse,5;
at Black-backed Gull,9; Herring Gull,10; (Razorbill);
y Woodpecker,7; Downy Woodpecker,22; Blue Jay,63;
n,9; Crow,259; Black-capped Chickadee,20;
real Chickadee); White-breasted Nuthatch,4; Robin,13;
rling,146; House Sparrow,218; Red-winged Blackbird,1;
on Grackle,2; Brown-headed Cowbird,145;
ing Grosbeak,119; Pine Grosbeak,1; American Goldfinch,2;
e-colored Junco,4; White-throated Sparrow,1.

Observers: Mr Allen, Mrs Graves, Mr and Mrs Hunter and sons, Terrance Hyson (compiler), Wilford Marshall, Mrs Nickerson, Mrs Ruggles, Jesse Saunders, Mr and Mrs Slaunwhite, Mrs Wade and Roy Whitman.

DIGBY, Digby Co., 2 January 1972.

Eight observers, 8 party-hours.

Observation conditions: medium becoming poor.

Totals: 28 species identified; about 782 individuals.

Black Duck,10; Greater Scaup,225; Oldsquaw,3; Bald Eagle,1; Sparrow Hawk,1; Ring-necked Pheasant,2; Lesser Black-backed Gull,1; Herring Gull,70; Black-headed Gull,10; Hairy Woodpecker,1; Downy Woodpecker,2; Blue Jay,25; Raven,2; Crow,18; Black-capped Chickadee,20; Boreal Chickadee,1; Robin,3; House Sparrow,200; Red-winged Blackbird,3; Common Grackle,2; Brown-headed Cowbird,10; Evening Grosbeak,162; Purple Finch,4; Pine Siskin,1; White-winged Crossbill,1; Slate-colored Junco,5; Tree Sparrow,2; White-throated Sparrow

Observers: Mrs Currie, Miss L. Daley (compiler), Mr and Mrs Harold Emerson, Mrs Gott, Mr and Mrs Harold Sulis Miss Marjorie Tupper.

40 species were noted by David Christie, Dr and Mrs M. Majka, Chris and Mark Majka, in the Digby area on January 2. Among these were the following not recorded on the Digby Count of January 2: Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Horned Grebe, Great Cormorant, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Surf Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Iceland Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwak, Razorbill, Common Murre, Thick-billed Murre, Dovekie, Belted Kingfisher, Bohemian Waxwing, Starling, Common Redpoll, an indication that there were at least 48 species in the Digby area in the Count Period.

WEYMOUTH, Digby Co., 2 January 1972.

(Last year, called Gilbert's Cove count.)

Five observers, 5 1/4 party-hours.

Observation conditions: poor.

Totals: 16 species identified; about 832 individuals.

Common Loon,1; Great Blue Heron,1; Canada Goose,1; Black Duck,75; Greater Scaup,190; Common Goldeneye,38; Bufflehead,3; ducks, unident.,31; Great Black-backed Gull,45; Herring Gull,295; Raven,6; Crow,47; Black-capped Chickadee,1; Starling,90; House Sparrow,4.

Observers: Ann Rogers (compiler), Anna Ruth Rogers, John Rogers, MacLeod Rogers and Rory Rogers.

AD COVE, Lunenburg Co., 2 January 1972.

Observers, 31 party-hours.

Observation conditions: medium becoming poor.

Lists: 58 species identified; about 2497 individuals.

Common Loon, 21; Red-throated Loon, 1;
-necked Grebe, 12; Horned Grebe, 23; Great Cormorant, 6;
Canada Goose, 243; Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 318; Greater Scaup, 201;
Common Goldeneye, 121; Bufflehead, 15; Oldsquaw, 127;
Common Eider, 26; King Eider, 1; White-winged Scoter, 28;
Common Scoter, 5; Common Scoter, 23; Common Merganser, 1;
Red-breasted Merganser, 7; Rough-legged Hawk, 2;
Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Killdeer, 1; Purple Sandpiper, 3;
Lincoln, 1; Glaucous Gull, 1; Iceland Gull, 2; Great Black-backed
Gull, 170; Herring Gull, 500; Thick-billed Murre, 1; Dovekie, 4;
Black Guillemot, 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1; Gray Jay, 9;
Blue Jay, 33; Raven, 29; Crow, 138; Black-capped Chickadee, 44;
Pine Siskin, 10; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 9;
Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 173;
Blue Warbler, 1; House Sparrow, 24; Eastern Meadowlark, 1;
Rusty Blackbird, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 13; Pine Grosbeak, 5;
American Goldfinch, 14; Savannah Sparrow, 3;
Chipping Sparrow, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 28;
House Sparrow, 10; White-throated Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 16;
Canada Longspur, 3; Snow Bunting, 47.

Observers: C.R.K. Allen, Eric Cooke, B.K. Doane,
Ellis Dobson, Gillian and Jim Elliott,
via J. Fullerton (compiler), Barbara Hinds, Ian McLaren.

AMKUIK NATIONAL PARK, Annapolis and Queen's Co.,
24 December 1971.

Observers, 21 party-hours.

Observation conditions: poor.

Lists: 15 species identified; about 186 individuals.

Spruce Grouse, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 3; (Barred Owl);
Rusty Woodpecker, 4; Blue Jay, 9; Raven, 8; Crow, 8;
Black-capped Chickadee, 28; Boreal Chickadee, 7; White-breasted
Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 28;
Kinglet, 8; House Sparrow, 27; (Brown-headed Cowbird);
Common Redpoll, 43; White-winged Crossbill, 7.

Observers: Rene Belliveau, Eric Mullen (compiler),
Nancy and Wayne Neily.

BEVERLY ISLAND, Digby Co., 21 December 1971.

Seven observers, 28 party-hours.

Observation conditions: very good.

Lists: 67 species identified; about 7491 individuals.

Common Loon,20; (Red-throated Loon); Red-necked Grebe,34; Horned Grebe,7; (Fulmar); Great Cormorant,141; Great Blue Heron,4; Canada Goose,7; Brant,6; Black Duck,12; Green-winged Teal,1; Common Goldeneye,65; Bufflehead,1; Oldsquaw,136; Harlequin Duck,4; Common Eider,415; White-winged Scoter,15; Surf Scoter,5; (Common Scoter); Red-breasted Merganser,81; Goshawk,1; Red-tailed Hawk,1; Rough-legged Hawk,5; (Golden Eagle); Pigeon Hawk,1; Sparrow Hawk,2; Purple Sandpiper,381; Sanderling,1; Glaucous Gull,1; Iceland Gull,3; Great Black-backed Gull,495; Herring Gull,830; Bonaparte's Gull,2; Black-legged Kittiwake,3000; Common Murre,1; Dovekie,152; Black Guillemot,58; alcid sp.,1000; Mourning Dove,1; Short-eared Owl,1; Hairy Woodpecker,2; Horned Lark,11; (Gray Jay); Blue Jay,2; Raven,11; Crow,115; Black-capped Chickadee,16; Boreal Chickadee,23; Brown Creeper,2; Robin,12; Golden-crowned Kinglet,29; Ruby-crowned Kinglet,1; Water Pipit,2; Northern Shrike,1; Starling,117; Myrtle Warbler,1; Palm Warbler,1; House Sparrow,37; Red-winged Blackbird,6; (Rusty Blackbird); Common Grackle,30; Brown-headed Cowbird,60; Dickcissel,1; Evening Grosbeak,7; Common Redpoll,17; Pine Siskin,67; American Goldfinch,1; Red Crossbill,1; White-winged Crossbill,4; (Savannah Sparrow); Slate-colored Junco,2; Tree Sparrow,2; Song Sparrow,5; Snow Bunting,15.

Observers: Ross Anderson, Davis Finch,
Eric Mills (compiler), Joe Mortenson and Roger Focklington.

YARMOUTH, Yarmouth Co., 19 December 1971.

Twenty-six observers, 17 party-hours.

Observation conditions: medium to poor.

Totals: 39 species identified; about 5002 individuals.

Common Loon,1; Great Blue Heron,2; Canada Goose,200
Black Duck,1025;

(Greater Scaup); Common Goldeneye,35; Oldsquaw,5; (Common Eider); (Common Merganser); Red-breasted Merganser,47; ducks, unident.,20; Sharp-shinned Hawk,1; Red-tailed Hawk,5; Bald Eagle,1; (Marsh Hawk); Sparrow Hawk,1; Ruffed Grouse,2 (Gray Partridge); Killdeer,2; Great Black-backed Gull,107; Herring Gull,636; (Dovekie, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher); (Yellow-shafted Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker); Horned Lark,7; Gray Jay,2; Blue Jay,47; Raven,9; Crow,125; Black-capped Chickadee,40; Boreal Chickadee,9; (White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch); Robin,55; Bohemian Waxwing,30; Starling,111; Myrtle Warbler,3; (Yellow-breasted Chat); House Sparrow,164; Red-winged Blackbird,26; Baltimore Oriole,1; Common Grackle,36; Brown-headed Cowbird,262; Evening Grosbeak,66; Purple Finch,1; (Common Redpoll); American Goldfinch,4; (Rufous-sided Towhee); Slate-colored Junco,16; Tree Sparrow,14; White-throated Sparrow,10; Fox Sparrow,4; Song Sparrow,4; (Lapland Longspur); Snow Bunting,65.

Observers: Mary Allen, Mrs Earle Cann, Lydia Davison, Fred Hatfield, J.Clark Higby, Mildred Higby, Gordon Hilton (compiler), Adele Hurlbert, Helen Hurlbert, Corie Kenney, Marsdon Kenney, Evangeline Killam, Robert Killam, Dorothy Kirk, William Lent, Mrs Grant Lochart, Neil Murphy, Margaret Nickerson, Israel Pothier (some species on his Dec.18, Wedgeport count, which overlaps the Yarmouth list, are included here as CP species), Olive Purdy, Rankine, Celia Sollows, Edwin Sollows, John Sollows, Sollows, Hazel Williamson and Edith Wyman.

SABLE, Shelburne Co., 27 December 1971.

Observers, 16 party-hours.

Observation conditions: very good.

Lists: 24 species identified; about 1339 individuals.

Common Loon,2; Red-throated Loon,1; Canada Goose,6; King Duck,233; Common Goldeneye,18; Bufflehead,2; Oldsquaw,2; Common Eider,291; White-winged Scoter,4; Red-breasted Merganser,10; Killdeer,1; Black-bellied Plover,12; Greater Sandpiper,5; Sanderling,8; small sandpiper (unident.),5; Least Black-backed Gull,123; Herring Gull,406; Hairy Woodpecker's Gull,1; Common Murre,1; Snowy Owl,1; Red-winged Blackbird,26; Raven,1; Crow,101; Water Pipit,7; American Goldfinch,73.

Observers: Lovitte Nickerson, Betty J. Smith (compiler), Shirley Smith, Locke Smith and Sidney F. Smith.

The following is not an "official" count, i.e., it was not done within a 15-mile diameter circle in Nova Scotia. Nevertheless it is recorded as a very valuable contribution to our knowledge of our adjacent waters.

NOVA SCOTIA (Saint John, N.B. to Digby), 1 January 1972.

Observers, 1.3 party-hours on "Princess of Acadia."

Observation conditions: medium becoming good.

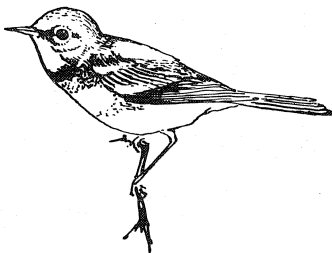
Lists: 9 species identified; about 87 individuals.

Loon sp.,1; Iceland Gull,4; Great Black-backed Gull,4; Ring-billed Gull,3; gull sp., 2; Black-legged Kittiwake,54; Red-tailed Tropicbird,11; Common Murre,1; Thick-billed Murre,1; Herring Gull sp.,5; Dovekie,1.

Observers: David Christie (compiler), Chris, Mark, and M.F. Majka (Saint John, N.B.).

MARITIMFS NEST RECORDS SCHEME

Do you have a pair of Robins nesting in your yard each year? Or is it Tree Swallows or Yellow Warblers? Observing their activities is an interesting pastime, but it can also provide useful information. The Nest Records Scheme is a program which collects nesting information from volunteers throughout the Maritimes. Data that might otherwise be lost accumulates and is available for study. Even if you find only one nest each year, your contribution is welcomed. Write for cards and additional information to the M.N.R.S., c New Brunswick Museum, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B.



PREEDING BIRD SURVEYS

WANTED: Volunteer observers who are: 1) familiar with the songs of the common nesting species of birds and 2) willing to rise a half hour before dawn to count birds for about four hours on a fine day in June. Breeding Bird Survey routes are available in various areas of Nova Scotia. For information write David Christie, 277 Douglas Ave., Saint John, N.B.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1971

by Eric L. Mills

This Society exists to advance all aspects of ornithology in Nova Scotia. From this aspect 1971 has been an excellent year. Our field activities have resulted in an unparalleled volume of observations (note the thickness of the letters!) including such rarities as a Cave Swallow and a White-throated Black-cowled Oriole at Seal Island, the first recorded Black-bird on Nova Scotia (at the infamous Dartmouth pier), and a remarkable count of Manx Shearwaters from the coast of Fundy near Brier Island. New one-day totals for species in Nova Scotia were set both spring and fall at Brierley Bay, and the group attending the President's Field Day there in the Labour Day week-end compiled a one-day list of 106 species. This will surely be hard to beat in future trips of the Society. Other outstanding observations are almost too numerous to list in all our seasons.

No doubt the event bringing the most response during the year was the proposal to change the name (and to some extent the aims) of the Society to make it a more broadly based naturalists' society, without impairing ornithological activities. I received 151 replies to a questionnaire on this subject. Fifty-two favored a change, 91 opposed it, and 8 were neutral. The issue was somewhat complicated by misunderstandings, including the contention by some that there are other ornithological history groups in the Province. This is not the case. In any event, the response by mail shows strong opinions both for and against, and although this is clearly not the time to make changes, we must feel that the new executive of the Society and the members at large should not forget this issue. In this Province, which is relatively less and unconcerned about its resources (especially at government levels, both local and provincial,) naturalists need a strong voice and should be committed to spread an appreciation of organisms and ecosystems through education, example and practical activity.

We have been able to take a step forward in this direction in formal ways, by affiliating with both the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the newly formed national organization, the Canadian Nature Federation. Two of our members have become members of the executive of the C.N.F., Dr. McLaren as a vice-president and Dr. Robie Tufts as director for Nova Scotia. If now we can expand our local activities in education and in influencing sensible decisions on natural resource comments by governments, we will be functioning fully as we should be.

This year we can be very satisfied with other events of long-term significance. The first and major one is the visitation by our Scholarship and Trust Fund of bird islands in the Tusket Islands group. These are important as nesting sites for terns and Leach's Petrels. In addition, we have been able to place bird feeders in three areas of Point

Pleasant Park, thanks to the help of the Point Pleasant Park Commission and its staff. By January birds had found at least two feeders. They will bring pleasure in the future and should be as important an educational device as the very successful feeders operated by the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club near Ottawa.

Our financial situation during 1971 became even more grave than during the previous year. Our Newsletter, which is widely read and respected, consumes most of our money in its production each year. We have asked the Nova Scotia Museum Science to support the Newsletter in full; if this happens our financial situation will improve markedly.

I have talked about our role as naturalists before. In closing, I would like to reiterate that we, as naturalists, have an unusual responsibility to work for the protection and perhaps even improvement of the Nova Scotian environment. This year has seen a threat to Sable Island through oil exploration and the exploitive tendencies of some provincial officials, further damage to Martinique Beach, and the proposal to destroy our last large block of wilderness, between Digby and Shelburne by building a new highway across it. Brush-fire wars they may be, but we must fight them and at the same time try to arouse public awareness about the importance, benefits and positive human advantage of living in harmony with our environment.

To my fellow members of the executive, thank you for your help and companionship in 1971; to the new executive, good luck and a busy year; and to all of us, the best birding yet in 1972!

POINTS OF VIEW

Dear Dr. Mills:

I had intended to write you regarding the activities and change of name of the N.S. Bird Society after the Dec. 1 annual meeting but then decided to await your letter or questionnaire on the subject.

I have only been a member for just over a year and my prime reason for joining was to be able to participate in field trips and thus to learn more about our Nova Scotia birds. However, my amateur interests do extend to other wildlife and I should like to see field trips arranged to learn more about the habitats of other animals, track identification and familiarization with plant life. For example, I thoroughly enjoy the Amherst trip when the ecologist explained about the char-

h and what wrought those changes. Speaking of activities, sh there were some trips throughout the late fall, early ng and even during the winter months.

Regarding the change of name: I am all for the "historicalist" connotation, though the word "history" bothers me. Might it give the impression of a study club and not of the "outdoors-i-ness" of the group? That would be my reservation.

I quite agree with you that a change in name would be a good thing as regards the Society's taking a position on environmental issues, particularly vis-a-vis governments.

And lastly I do not feel that a change in name would necessarily mean less emphasis on birding activities.

In the hope that these comments from a neophyte member may be of some assistance.

fax, N.S.

- Carin Somers

Dr. Mills:

In reply to your recent communication, I personally object against a change in the purpose or name of the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

Speaking as a charter member, a housewife, and person otherwise employed full-time, I must say I would sadly miss this organization that devotes its time to my hobby.

Bird-watching takes no back seat to any sport or time as a recreation. It can brighten one's life for a moment at any time from dawn to dawn, it costs virtually nothing, the whole family can be involved, from youngster to senior. It has been my life-long hobby.

In 1955 the Nova Scotia Bird Society was formed, and it is that we who enjoyed this hobby could share our information and friendship; incidentally, we would also be helping to conserve our environment. This has been the case. Added to these are the days we do the Christmas Count and the nesting survey.

I constantly feel indebted to the founding members, the editor of the Newsletter, and all the members who have helped the work-load. We find the distance is preventing us from helping.

You asked for my opinion and this is it. I hope all other members will send in their opinions and, in the end, we will still have our Nova Scotia Bird Society.

Glasgow, N.S.

- Margaret Kenney

Dear Dr. Mills:

I am writing in reply to your letter regarding a change for the Society. I would very much like to see the changed. This, as you suggested, would allow a more varied newsletter and one which dealt with topics of common interest. I am sure the membership would increase as a result of this move.

The name which you suggested "Nova Scotia Natural History Society" seems appropriate. However, at the same time I believe it is time the largest of the natural history clubs in the Atlantic Provinces (which is no doubt NSBS) should consider a newsletter for all the Atlantic region, similar to the very informative F.O.N. naturalists group or the Canadian Field Naturalists Magazine.

Sackville, N.B.

- Blair F. Stevens

Dear Dr. Mills:

I am replying to your letter of December 19 with reference to the proposed change in the name of the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

I find myself in agreement with Dr. Harrison Lewis' position - that the name should not be changed to The Nova Scotia Natural History Society.

I do not agree wholly with Dr. Lewis' reasoning because there is, in fact, no other organization with a general interest in natural history. The Wildlife Association and Nova Scotia Resources Council are general organizations in the field of conservation but are not interested in natural history per se. I have a sentimental feeling for the name Nova Scotia Bird Society and in spite of the ridicule sometimes attached to it, I would still like to keep it.

Halifax, N.S.

- H. P. Moffatt

Dear Dr. Mills:

With reference to your letter of December 19, 1970 concerning the change of the name of the Nova Scotia Bird Society to a naturalist society, I would like to confirm that I am in complete support of this change. Nearly all the bird societies in the United Kingdom are naturalist societies and I found they give greater scope for members to find additional fields of enjoyment.

I do not think that the main interest in birds will in any way diminish. However, if there is a strong feeling that the name would have this effect, then why not call it Nova Scotia Bird & Naturalist Society or something similar?

I feel that I cannot in any way support Mr. H.F. Mill's contention that it would work to the detriment of the "Bird Society".

I have spoken to a number of the late members of the Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Association of Nova Scotia as you know, they have become inactive. They have a bank account of \$256.00 which they would be delighted to contribute to the Bird Society Sanctuary and Scholarship Fund. I might add that I also would favor the change of name as they feel that a naturalist society would cover some of the ideas which were outlined in the Cora Association.

Amherst, N.S.

- R.V.P. Bowditch

Dr. Mills:

I may never be fortunate enough to visit Nova Scotia, but do wish to express an opinion on a contemplated change of the Society. First, I deplore the trend to the word "bird" from all related organizations. Are we proud of our interest, be it scientific or amateurish? Do we not earn a reputation as "birders" of working for the best environment possible for man, birds, animals and related necessities? Birds are generally the first to feel the effects of deterioration in the ecology of life. Why do we not honor them for giving up their lives?

There are so many organizations with the word naturalists, Natural History, Nature, Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Preserve, Conservation this and that and meaning almost nothing, that one tends to be confused as to which each means what.

Personally, I would not have been interested in joining any society by any of the above names, even though I'm interested in all, but the "Bird Society" did appeal.

Amherst, N.H.

- Vera H. Hebert
Records Editor,
Audubon Society of New Hampshire

Dear Dr. Mills:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of December 19, 1970.

Although I have been a member of the Bird Society but a few months, I have to agree with you that most of the members seem to be naturalists, or very much interested in broad aspects of Nova Scotian natural history. As you say, Society is now, in effect, a natural history society.

I think you have a very good point when you say that a change of the name of our Society to represent what it really is would make our voice more credible to government when commenting on preservation of our natural environment. A good example of this is the recent public hearing on Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

I cannot think of a much better name than the "Nova Scotia Natural History Society", except perhaps we should consider the "Nova Scotia Audubon Society".

The suggestion was briefly discussed at a regular meeting last Friday night of the Sydney Branch, and I got the impression that most of the members were in favor of broadening the scope of the Society to become a natural history group. Like you, I am sure that a change in our Society would not harm the interest of members interested only in birds.

Ingonish, N.S.

- G. Rochester

Dear Dr. Mills:

I would urge as strongly as possible not to change the name of the N.S. Bird Society.

I speak from some experience as the current president of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. Our publication used to be called New Hampshire Bird News. This was changed in 1968 to New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly. Since that time there has been more and more pressure to omit, or drastically cut down, the detailed bird records. More and more, the field birder has made to feel guilty if he has fun looking at birds rather than spending all of the time wringing his hands and crying doom. We have many fine conservation groups in the state but we are in grave danger of losing the only birding organization.

Of course, we are not alone in this problem. The American Bird Association was recently formed to counteract this trend. We have found that there is a great deal of interest in this group. I suspect that nearly all of the rapidly growing membership could be considered "naturalists" and "conservationists". They all have a special interest:

is and want an organization that meets their needs.

May I say how much I have enjoyed your Newsletter. I wish that I had more time to get to Nova Scotia on birding trips. Even with the improved ferry service, it is a long drive from New Hampshire.

My best wishes to you and the Nova Scotia BIRD Society.

Hampton, N.H.

- Robert W. Smart

Dr. Mills:

I have read your letter and the letter from Dr. H.F. Lewis. I have a great deal of respect for Harrison F. Lewis and appreciate his interest and contribution to Natural History and to Birds of N.S. in particular.

However, being president of Middleton Fish and Game for a period of eight years, being involved in the Pheasant Preserve, and being a game hunter, apart from deer and moose, I feel that greater support than is now apparent, is certainly required in the field of conservation, if we are to preserve those species of wildlife that make their home and habitation, although seasonal, in this land of ours.

I am in favor of a change in name if this broader concept can be achieved. Attempts should be made to teach the true meaning of sportsmanship, and this must include hunters, especially in their first few years of hunting. Natural species native to Nova Scotia are seen no more. We forget this. However, we are rich, if not wealthy, in our Natural Resources, our wild life, and for me, that includes song bird.

Middleton, N.S.

- Murray A. Bent, Pres.
Annapolis Valley Pheasant
Preserve Limited

Eric:

Further to yours of the 15th December, which dealt with the proposed name change of the Nova Scotia Bird Society to that of Nova Scotia Natural History Society, I recall having decided, in effect, that I was willing to go along with what was decided was best for all concerned. This, however, is not to be construed as giving approval to the idea.

Since writing you I have given considerable thought to the matter with the result that my deep down feelings have come to the surface, so to speak, and I find myself rather strongly opposed to the idea. It is my opinion that the proposed change would not benefit our Society but, on the other hand, would detract from the popularity it presently enjoys among a large majority of its extensive membership. They have paid their membership fees because their basic interest was BIRDS. To drop that word would be to rob the Society of its identity. At least it would affect me that way.

At the time of the Society's inception I vividly recall that much discussion took place concerning what we were to call it. Under its present caption - a BIRD society - it has prospered as is, apparently, continuing to do so. Why change it?

As for the prospective letter that you mentioned we were to go out to the members at large, it occurs to me that before any such letter is mailed, the wording of it should be examined and approved by the Executive. Probably this would be done in any case. How do matters stand at present?

Wolfville, N.S.

- R. W. Tufts

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF THE BIRDS OF TOBACCO ISLAND

by K. McAloney & B. C. Sabean
Dept. of Biology, Acadia University

Tobacco Island (45 10'N, 61 55'W) is a small wooded island at the mouth of Gegogan Bay, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia. The island, 24 acres in area, contains a 5 acre barrier beach pond and approximately 12 acres of spruce-fir forest. The remaining 7 acres consists primarily of dense patches of raspberry interspersed with tangles of dead trees which were killed by nesting cormorants. Some of the trees are still standing, but most are now on the ground.

The island served as the primary area for a study of the breeding biology of the Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima dresseri*) during the 1970 and 1971 breeding seasons. Keith McAloney resided on the island from April 23 until July 27, 1970, and again from April 13 to June 10, 1971. He visited the island for one day on October 20, 1970. Barry Sabean resided on the island from April 13 to July 28, 1971. The above periods had interruptions which averaged about two days a week.

The following list was compiled from the daily field records kept by both observers:

Red-necked Grebe. <u>Podiceps grisegena</u> . One observed off island May 3, 1971.	Occasional Visitor
Leach's Petrel. <u>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</u> . Heard nightly from May 12 until end of July both years.	Common
Willet. <u>Morus bassanus</u> . One observed flying past island in July of both years.	Occasional Visitor
Double-crested Cormorant. <u>Phalacrocorax auritus</u> . Approximately 200 pairs. First eggs last week of April both years.	Breeds
Great Blue Heron. <u>Ardea herodias</u> . A colony of 40 pairs. First eggs April 20-24. Peak of hatch May 23, 1970; June 5, 1971. Most young fledged by last week of July.	Breeds
Canada Goose. <u>Branta canadensis</u> . 6 observed on April 13 and 1 on April 28, 1971.	Occasional Visitor
Walden Mallard. <u>Anas platyrhynchos</u> . 1 observed on pond Oct. 20, 1970.	Occasional Visitor
Black Duck. <u>Anas rubripes</u> . Flocks of 2 to 100 observed in April and May of both years and 75 observed Oct. 20, 1970.	Common
Walden Pintail. <u>Anas acuta</u> . One pair observed June 10 and June 13, 1971.	Occasional Visitor
Green-winged Teal. <u>Anas carolinensis</u> . 8 observed Oct. 20, 1970.	Occasional Visitor
Walden Golden Plover. <u>Clangula hyemalis</u> . Common until the first week of May. 50 to 150 observed October 20, 1970.	Common
Walden Common Eider. <u>Somateria mollissima dresseri</u> . Approximately 400 pair. 680 nest initiations in 1971. First eggs April 25, 1970; May 3, 1971. Last observed hatchings July 27, both years.	Breed
Walden White-winged Scoter. <u>Melanitta deglandi</u> . Flocks of 5 to 25 observed throughout summer of both years.	Common
Walden Red-breasted Merganser. <u>Mergus serrator</u> . 2 pair in 1970; 3 pair in 1971. Two nests found in 1971, hatching on July 10 and July 19.	Breeds

Osprey. <u>Pandion haliaetus</u> . 1 observed flying over island May 11, 1971.	Occasion Visitor
Pigeon Hawk. <u>Falco columbarius</u> . 1 observed June 12, 1971.	Occasion Visitor
Spotted Sandpiper. <u>Actitis macularia</u> . 2-3 pairs observed late May through July both years. Fledglings observed July 10, 1971.	Breeds
Willet. <u>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</u> . 1 observed June 3, 1971.	Occasion Visitor
Greater Yellowlegs. <u>Totanus melanoleucus</u> . 1 to 4 observed about pond in May, June and July of both years.	Common
Purple Sandpiper. <u>Erolia maritima</u> . 5 to 8 observed in May of both years.	Common Migrant
Least Sandpiper. <u>Erolia minutilla</u> . 1 observed July 27, 1971.	Occasion Visitor
Red Phalarope. <u>Phalaropus fulicarius</u> . 14 observed along island July 22, 1970.	Occasion Visitor
Great Black-backed Gull. <u>Larus marinus</u> . 150-175 pair. First eggs April 19, 1970; April 23, 1971. First young May 22, 1970; May 14, 1971.	Breeds
Herring Gull. <u>Larus argentatus</u> . 150-200 pairs. First eggs May 10-11 both years. First young June 2, 1970.	Breeds
Ruby-throated Hummingbird. <u>Archilochus colubris</u> . 1 observed July 28, 1971.	Occasion Visitor
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. <u>Empidonax flaviventris</u> . 1 present June 10-28, 1971.	Occasion Visitor
Wood Pewee. <u>Contopus virens</u> . 2 present June 9-15, 1971.	Occasion Visitor
Olive-sided Flycatcher. <u>Nuttallornis borealis</u> . 1 present June 2-5, 1970.	Occasion Visitor
Tree Swallow. <u>Iridoprocne bicolor</u> . 12 observed on May 19, 1971.	Occasion Visitor
Barn Swallow. <u>Hirundo rustica</u> . 5 observed on June 10, 1971.	Occasion Visitor
Raven. <u>Corvus corax</u> . 1 pair nested with 2 young being fledged on May 13, 1970.	Bred in

ow. <u>Corvus brachyrhynchos</u> . 1 pair nested with 3 young being fledged on June 29.	Bred in 1971
ack-capped Chickadee. <u>Parus atricapillus</u> . 6 to 10 observed during first week of May, 1970.	Occasional Visitor
real Chickadee. <u>Parus hudsonicus</u> . 10 observed on May 10, 1970.	Occasional Visitor
nter Wren. <u>Troglodytes troglodytes</u> . First observed May 20, 1971. At least 2 pair nested with fledglings seen June 15, 1971.	Breeds
rbird. <u>Dumetella carolinensis</u> . 1 observed May 30, 1971.	Occasional Visitor
oin. <u>Turdus migratorius</u> . 1 observed on May 8 and 9, 1971.	Occasional Visitor
arling. <u>Sturnis vulgaris</u> . 5 observed June 3, 1970; 4 on July 21, 1971.	Occasional Visitor
nessee Warbler. <u>Vermivora peregrina</u> . 1 observed May 10, 1970 and June 3, 1971.	Occasional Visitor
ula Warbler. <u>Parula americana</u> . 1 female observed June 3, 1971.	Occasional Visitor
low Warbler. <u>Dendroica petechia</u> . 1 observed June 9-12, 1971.	Occasional Visitor
gnolia Warbler. <u>Dendroica magnolia</u> . 1 male observed May 29, 1971.	Occasional Visitor
tle Warbler. <u>Dendroica coronata</u> . 1 observed May 12, 1971.	Occasional Visitor
ckpoll Warbler. <u>Dendroica striata</u> . First observed May 30, 1970. 3-5 pair nesting with fledglings observed July 6, 1971.	Breeds
lowthroat. <u>Geothlypis trichas</u> . Male observed May 29 and female May 30, 1971.	Occasional Visitor
son's Warbler. <u>Wilsonia pusilla</u> . 1 pair observed from June 4 to 10, 1970.	Occasional Visitor
rican Redstart. <u>Setophaga ruticilla</u> . 1 female observed May 29 and 30, 1970, and June 2, 1970.	Occasional Visitor
olink. <u>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</u> . 1 female observed May 26, 1971.	Occasional Visitor

- Redwinged Blackbird. Agelaius phoeniceus. Occasional
1 male observed May 30, 1971. Visitor
- Common Grackle. Quiscalus quiscula. Occasional
1 observed June 2, 1970. Visitor
- Evening Grosbeak. Hesperiphona vespertina. Occasional
4 observed May 3, 1971. Visitor
- Ipswich Sparrow. Passerculus princeps. Occasional
4 observed on April 13, 1971. 1 on Visitor
April 27 and 28; and May 3, 1971.
- Savannah Sparrow. Passerculus sandwichensis. Occasional
1 observed on May 29, 1971 and June 2, 1970. Visitor
- White-throated Sparrow. Zonotrichia
albicollis. 1 observed April 30, 1970. Occasional
1 observed May 8-26, 1971. Visitor
- Fox Sparrow.** Passerella iliaca. Observed Breeds
from April through July both years. There
were 4 nesting pairs and fledglings were
first observed June 1, 1971. A nest of 4
newly-hatched young was found on June 29
and destroyed by predators on July 7, 1971.
- Song Sparrow. Melospiza melodia. Approxi- Breeds
mately 15 nesting pairs. Two nests found
in May of 1971.
- ** First nest of the Fox Sparrow actually seen and
authenticated for Nova Scotia.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES OF INTEREST

Color-marked shorebirds. A few of the color-marked Semi-palmated Sandpipers, undergoing migration study, dyed both red and yellow and some tagged, were observed this summer: Nova Scotia: around 15 along the shores of Minas Basin throughout the summer, and at Brier Island the first week of September, by John Kearny. One yellow one was noted at Yarmouth late summer, by M.W. Hilton and A. Hurlburt, who thought for a moment that they had a real rarity. John Kearny reminds us that the yellow dye was used in the Magdalens, the red dye in Sable Island. The birds were appropriately reported.

e electrocuted. "During a family scrabble game last sday evening" (Dec. 2, 1971), "I was attracted by what ared to be several sheets of blue flame - about three r poles' distance from my residence. The electric clock, g with all other power, failed at 7:02 p.m. and the local phone operator was notified. Since the repair crew would arrive for nearly an hour, I decided to walk along the country road and investigate with the aid of a flashlight. No damage was to be found; however, while 'flashing' g the snow-covered ditch, I noticed a dark mass underneath power lines, and found an electrocuted Bald Eagle. The was identified by Miss Evelyn Lowerison and Mrs. Henry s of Amherst, and Wildlife personnel from Sackville, N.B. latter group judged the eagle to be approximately three s old, and when advised that the writer planned to deliver o a taxidermist, requested samples of the flesh for tests the presence of herbicides. For a three-hour period on following day, son Duncan observed a live and larger Bald e apparently waiting for its mate." Robert G. MacNeil.

about eagles. Among the many interesting items included rank Robertson's column in the Cape Breton Post was a story : a pair of Bald Eagles in Florida. The female was shot hunter during the winter, not killed but badly crippled, ng the male alone to brood the eggs. The Florida Audubon ty took over, had the female put in a convalescent home, ving set, and the bird cared for until it was able to itself. Meanwhile fish was airlifted to the male on the (all services including the airplane were donated), and dly sum has been raised as a reward for the hunter's st.

bird from Mars. Another event involving a bird and a lot ople was not so dramatic but rather amusing. Shoppers r Charlotte Street in Sydney during the Christmas rush were than mystified when a Dovekie landed in their midst. It rescued from beneath humming tires and gave rise to con- able excited speculation as to its identity (did Santa drop his turkey?). Finally taken to Professor John nell at Xavier College (President of the Cape Breton h of the NSBS), it was found to be in good shape and was ned to Sydney Harbor, where it made off with competent

FEEDER FUN

Some birds run in families. Winter bird feeding stations brought pleasure to most of us, but a great deal to Van Kill a recent Yarmouth convert to bird-watching, who had the thr of identifying for herself a Yellow-breasted Chat this Dece Mrs. Killam's father, Herbert Leslie, found the first Yello breasted Chat reported in Nova Scotia. The bird was picked dead, Dec. 20, 1951, at Port Mouton and taken to a neighbor Dr. Harold F. Tufts, brother of Dr. Robie Tufts. (It might added that Port Mouton continues to be a favorite spot for winter strays - Dr. H.F. Tufts had a Baltimore Oriole stay late as Feb. 2 last winter at his feeder, and a Myrtle Warb all winter.)

Rare birds. Everyone will be rejoiced to learn that The Bi of Nova Scotia, up-dated by Robie Tufts, will be out in 197 The need for the revised text was pointed up by a long stor which appeared in the New Glasgow Evening News, the clippin sent to us by Mrs. H. E. Long, in which the Bohemian Waxwin was described as a very rare bird, recently seen in the vicinity, "only eight records since 1864, according to Tuft Birds of Nova Scotia". Mrs. Long, aware of our several rec invasions, added that there were about 150 of these birds around New Glasgow this winter, our second "invasion" in th past four years.

The Evening Grosbird. Can anyone identify this bird? Fran Steadman describes it as resembling "an offspring of a Cowb and an Evening Grosbeak - slimmer than a female Grosbeak, b a darker olive color, with black wing feathers (but no whit spots), a patch of yellow under the bill, which is sharper a Grosbeak's, the upper part being black and the under part whitish-yellow. The legs are black, where the Grosbeak's a pink." Please send in your answers.

How bird-watchers are made. Mrs. Steadman should get in to with Gladys Dakin, who "cornered the market on grosbeaks th winter"; having up to 60 Evening Grosbeaks, besides 20 Gold-finches, a Song Sparrow, a Tree Sparrow, 2 Juncos, numerous Chickadees, a Hairy Woodpecker, a White-breasted Nuthatch a 6 Blue Jays to feed. Mrs. Dakin wrote, "I would like to ad that I became interested in bird-watching at a very tender mostly through the enthusiasm of several of my primary sch

hers. Way back then, prizes were given for illustrated sets of birds which we could identify. I still have a set for which I received Honorable Mention. The judge none other than Dr. Robie Tufts. I might have done even better, but in my exuberance, I was sure I had seen and identified a Harris Sparrow!!!"

Elite feeders. Edria Eaton thought she saw a Harris' Crow at her feeder at Kentville this winter. We have a better record of this bird from Cape Sable, and must be on the lookout for it. Mrs. Eaton recommends her new Satellite feeders, of which she sent us some pictures, and which are ingeniously squirrel-proof, very necessary in the wooded surroundings of the Eaton's new Mobile Home, at New Minas. Besides the birds listed at the Kentville feeder described above, it was interesting that here in the woods were added Gray Woodpeckers, White-throated Sparrows, Boreal Chickadees and a Robin.

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BIRDS!

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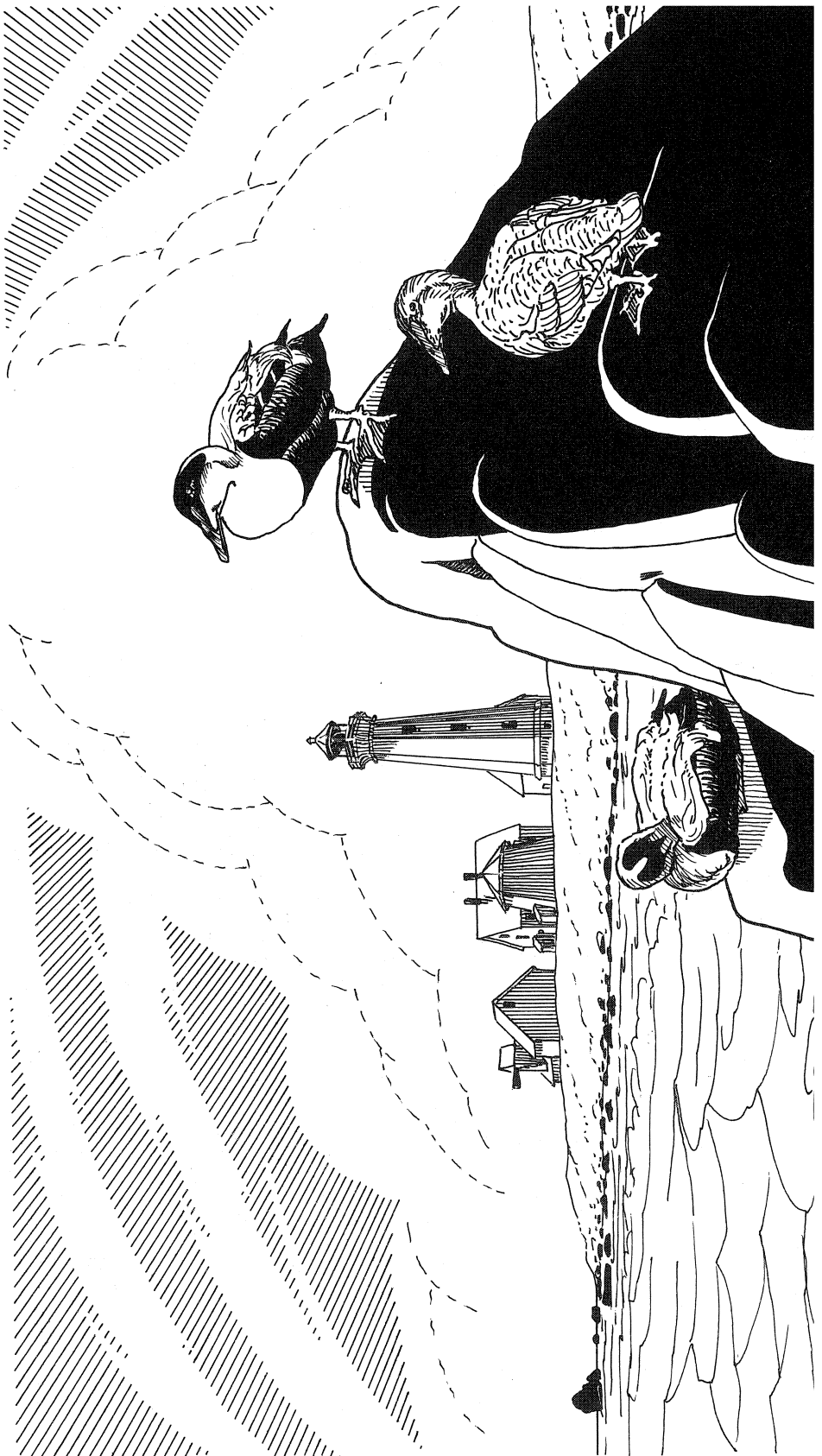
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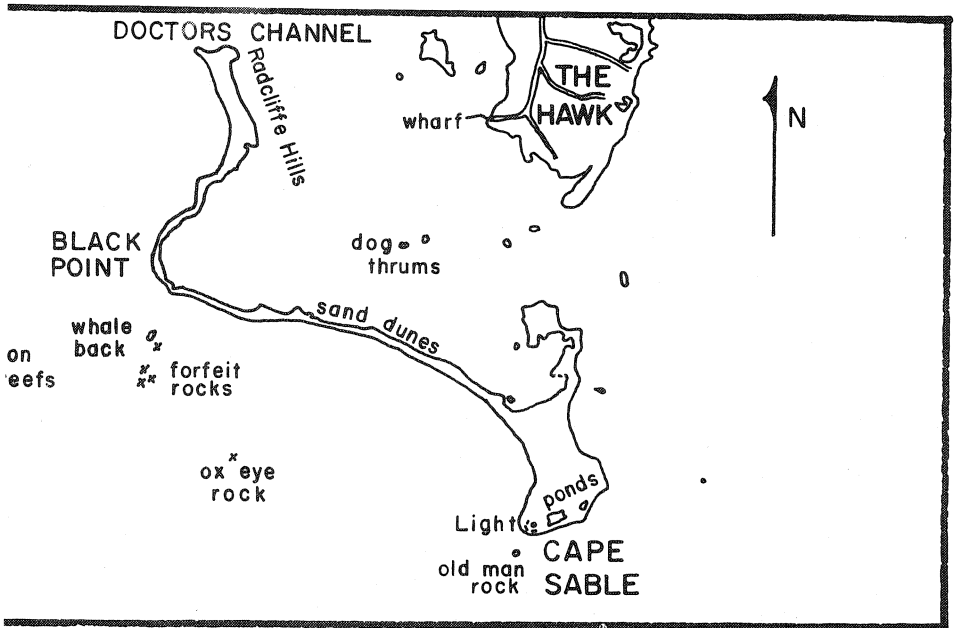
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THE BIRDS OF CAPE SABLE



Cape Sable is a small island, lying about five miles south of Cape Sable Island, and is thus the southern-point in Nova Scotia. It is at present scarcely more than a sandspit, with several small hills of clayey soil and sand, which are "up" at sea level. The Sidney Smiths, who keep the Light, write that the island used to be wooded - but it is now treeless, the dunes covered with marram grass. There are three ponds, Big Pond, about one hundred yards wide and long, Little Pond, about forty yards wide and long, and House Pond, just a puddle in the dry season.

After a storm most of Cape Sable, which is below sea level, is flooded, and the lighthouse station buildings and "other house" are separated by a watery waste. The three ponds join up, and "gulls and ducks go swimming along the shore fence right up to the hen-yard". Around the station there is some pasture land, with field grasses, and in the center of a large rock the Smiths have planted nine spruces, ranging at present from one to four feet in height, set out in an enclosure near the northern Government fence. On the outer slopes, clover can be found (but very scarce) and the Smiths have seeded with some success bayberry, ground juniper, snake-weed, and a few such hardy native plants. In the pasture land

reeds and rushes, Blue Flag, dandelion, buttercup, daisies beach pea and everlasting grow.

This obviously is not a preferred habitat for many birds, nor are birds to be found on Cape Sable in great numbers. The Smiths hasten to warn us that day by day the island does not offer good birding. They maintain a feeding station under the kitchen window, and it is here that they have seen and had ample time to watch and identify the many familiar or strange winged visitors which have come their way; here, on the flooded ponds, or in the shelter of the station buildings, and sometimes of course those unfortunates which have struck the lofty lighthouse itself and killed themselves.

The Smiths are intensely interested in birds, and have chiefly enjoyed watching them in their varied aspects (plumages, activities, etc.), but also have enjoyed the fun of identifying the strangers. Betty June, daughter of the Richardsons and brought up on Bon Portage Island, has been used to this all her life. Since 1952, started by Mr. Ben F. Smith, Sid's father, and continued by Sid and Betty June, a record has been kept of the residents, transients and birds which have come to grief against the Light, at Cape Sable.

The list at present totals two hundred and seventy which is more than half of the birds of Eastern North America as indexed by Roger Tory Peterson. Some of the birds could not be so indexed; they are real exotics, for example the Green-winged Towhee and the White-tailed Tropic Bird. Besides this Towhee, birds for which we have no other Nova Scotia record are the Western Grebe, Black Vulture, Fish Crow, Barn Sparrow and the Chestnut-collared Longspur.

It is in fact much easier to list those few Nova Scotia birds not seen on Cape Sable, than those seen, and it is a curious list. Of our native birds, migrants passing through and "regular rarities", the notable ones missing from the Cape Sable list are: Greater Shearwater, Little Blue Heron, Ring-necked Duck, Broad-winged Hawk, Spruce Grouse, Common Gallinule, Baird's, Stilt and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Whip-poor-will, Crested Flycatcher, both Shrikes, the Tennessee and the Orchard-crowned Warblers. There are of course no trees on Cape Sable but owls are frequently seen, as are woodpeckers, flycatchers and most of the passerines. The Spruce Grouse is an unadvertised bird, and the Broad-winged Hawk seems to have a very narrow flyway. Some of the others may have come and gone or may indeed never have passed that way.

Birds seen at Cape Sable, 1952 - 1972

Rarities are underlined, and number of sightings indicated. "s" means a specimen obtained, "c" means confirmed, usually by Dr. H.F. Lewis. The sightings are only those which the Smiths have identified to their own satisfaction, some

listed, are still under study. Other observers who have listed are Norman Cunningham and Gerald Smith. Anyone wanting further information may write to Mrs. Sidney Smith, Hawk P.O., Cape Sable Light, Shelburne County, Nova Scotia.

Common Loon	Surf Scoter
Red-throated Loon	Common Scoter
<u>Western Grebe</u> (once) (c)	<u>Ruddy Duck</u> (few)
Red-necked Grebe	<u>Hooded Merganser</u> (two)
Horned Grebe	Common Merganser
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-breasted Merganser
Sooty Shearwater	<u>Black Vulture</u> (once)
Fulmar	Goshawk
Leach's Petrel	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Wilson's Petrel	Cooper's Hawk
<u>White-tailed Tropic Bird</u> , (once) (s)	Red-tailed Hawk
Gannet	Rough-legged Hawk
Great Cormorant	Bald Eagle
D-D Cormorant	Marsh Hawk
Great Blue Heron	Osprey
<u>Green Heron</u> (few)	<u>Gyrfalcon</u> (once)
<u>Cattle Egret</u> (once) (c)	Peregrine Falcon
<u>Common Egret</u> (once)	Pigeon Hawk
<u>Snowy Egret</u> (many)	Sparrow Hawk
<u>Black-c Night Heron</u> (many)	Ruffed Grouse
<u>Yellow-c Night Heron</u> (few)	<u>King Rail</u> (once)
American Bittern	<u>Clapper Rail</u> (once)
<u>Glossy Ibis</u> (twice)	Virginia Rail
Canada Goose	Sora
Brant	<u>Purple Gallinule</u> (found dead)
"Black Brant" (twice)	American Coot
<u>Snow Goose</u> (few)	Semi-palmated Plover
Mallard	Piping Plover
Black Duck	Killdeer
Gadwall	Golden Plover
<u>Pintail</u>	Black-bellied Plover
Green-winged Teal	Ruddy Turnstone
Blue-winged Teal	American Woodcock
European Widgeon	Common Snipe
American Widgeon	Whimbrel
Shoveler	Upland Plover
Wood Duck	Spotted Sandpiper
<u>Redhead</u> (once)	Solitary Sandpiper
<u>Canvasback</u> (once)	Willet
Greater Scaup	Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Scaup	Lesser Yellowlegs
Common Goldeneye	Knot
Bufflehead	Purple Sandpiper
Oldsquaw	Pectoral Sandpiper
Harlequin Duck	White-rumped Sandpiper
Common Eider	Least Sandpiper
King Eider (four)	Dunlin
White-winged Scoter	Short-billed Dowitcher
	Semi-palmated Sandpiper

Hudsonian Godwit
 Sanderling
 Red Phalarope
Wilson's Phalarope (once)
 Northern Phalarope
 Parasitic Jaeger
 Glaucous Gull
 Iceland Gull
 Great Black-b Gull
 Herring Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Black-headed Gull
 Laughing Gull
 Bonaparte's Gull
Ivory Gull (few)
 Black-l Kittiwake
 Sabine's Gull (once)
Gull-billed Tern (once)
 Common Tern
 Arctic Tern
Black Tern (once)
Black Skimmer (once)
 Razorbill
 Common Murre
 Thick-billed Murre
 Dovekie
 Black Guillemot
 Common Puffin
 Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Black-billed Cuckoo
 Snowy Owl
 Barred Owl
 Long-eared Owl
 Short-eared Owl
 Saw-whet Owl
 Common Nighthawk
 Chimney Swift
 R-t Hummingbird
 Belted Kingfisher
 Y-s Flicker
Red-headed Woodpecker (once)
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Bl-b Th-t Woodpecker
 Eastern Kingbird
Western Kingbird (few)
 Eastern Phoebe
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
 Traill's Flycatcher
 Least Flycatcher
 E. Wood Pewee
 O-sided Flycatcher
 Northern Horned Lark
 Prairie Horned Lark
 Tree Swallow

Bank Swallow
Rough-winged Swallow (twice)
 (c)
 Barn Swallow
 Cliff Swallow
 Purple Martin
 Gray Jay
 Blue Jay
 Common Raven
 Common Crow
Fish Crow (twice)
 Bl-c Chickadee
 Boreal Chickadee
 White-b Nuthatch
 Red-b Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
House Wren (several)
 Winter Wren
Long-billed Marsh Wren (twice)
 Mockingbird
 Catbird
Brown Thrasher (regular for
 4-5 years spring and
 fall, often, before)
 Robin
Wood Thrush (twice)
 Hermit Thrush
 Swainson's Thrush
 Gray-cheeked Thrush
 Veery
 Eastern Bluebird
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (once)
 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Water Pipit
Bohemian Waxwing (once)
 Cedar Waxwing
 Starling
Yellow-throated Vireo (once)
 Solitary Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo (twice)
Warbling Vireo (once)
 Bl-and-wh Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler (twice)
 (s)
 Nashville Warbler
 Parula Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Magnolia Warbler
 Cape May Warbler
 Bl-t Blue Warbler
 Myrtle Warbler
 Bl-t Green Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler (once)
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Chestnut-s Warbler

Bay-breasted Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Ovenbird
 Northern Waterthrush
Kentucky Warbler (once)
Connecticut Warbler (few)
 Mourning Warbler
 Yellowthroat
Yellow-breasted Chat (often)
Hooded Warbler (often)
 Wilson's Warbler
 Canada Warbler
 American Redstart
 House Sparrow
 Bobolink
 E. Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
 (once)
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Baltimore Oriole
 Rusty Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird (several)
Boat-tailed Grackle
 (several, once)
 Common Grackle
 Br-h Cowbird
Scarlet Tanager (few)
Summer Tanager (twice)
 W-b Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting (few)
Pickcissel (few)
 Evening Grosbeak
 Purple Finch

Pine Grosbeak
 Common Redpoll
 Pine Siskin
 Am. Goldfinch
 Red Crossbill
 W-w Crossbill
Green-tailed Towhee (once)
 (s)
 R-s Towhee
 Ipswich Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow (once)
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Lark Sparrow (several)
 Slate-c Junco
Backman's Sparrow (once)
 Tree Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
Harris' Sparrow (once)
White-crowned Sparrow (often)
White-throated Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lapland Longspur
Chestnut-collared Longspur
 (twice) (s)
 Snow Bunting

