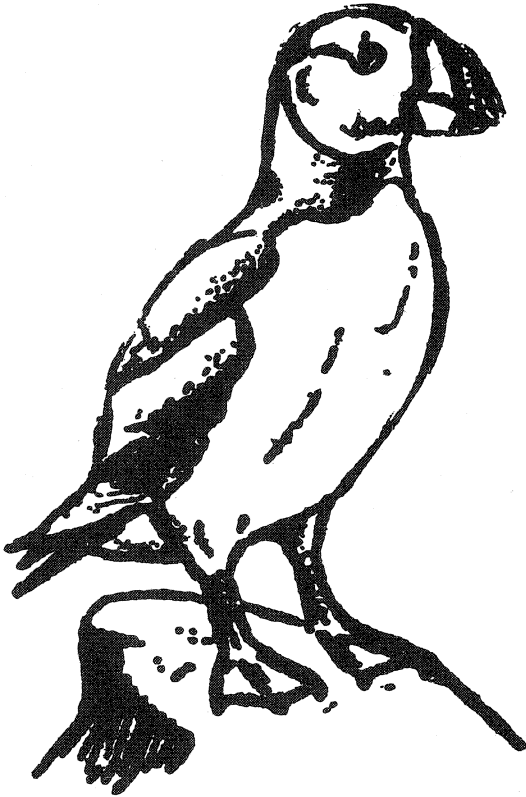


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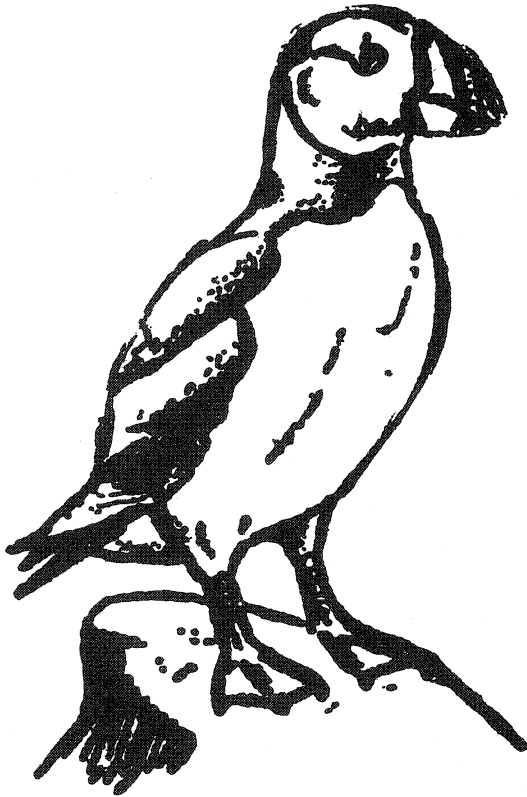


Newsletter

Volume 15, Number 1

April, 1973

*Nova Scotia
Bird Society*



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NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Incorporated 1957

c/o Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer Street
Halifax, N.S., Canada

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Phyllis R. Dobson

Volume 15, Number 1

April, 1973

CHRISTMAS COUNT 1972

edited by L. B. Macpherson

One hundred and twenty species of bird were identified during the Christmas Count period in 1972, 5 less than our all-time high of 125 in 1971. Thirty regulation counts were received this year (twenty-seven in 1971), and, with the occurrence of a Blue-winged Teal, the list of birds on Christmas Counts in Nova Scotia in the past seventeen years is brought to 164.

Birds were present in good numbers in December in spite of a very cold fall; but nothing exceedingly rare or unexpected was reported. The most notable differences from 1971 were: a great increase in Red-breasted Nuthatches (41 on ten counts in 1971, 440 on twenty-one counts in 1972); twice as many Golden-crowned Kinglets and Pine Grosbeaks this year; 15 Northern Shrikes noted on eleven counts, a threefold increase; a great increase in Red Crossbills (15 on five counts in 1971, 292 on seven counts in 1972); half the number of White-winged Crossbills as counted in 1971; four times as many Juncos this year; six times as many White-throated Sparrows. It is gratifying that 41 Bald Eagles were noticed on eighteen counts. Snowy Owls and Bohemian Waxwings were very scarce compared with 1971.

Among the 120 species identified, 24 were seen on one count only and an additional 11 on two counts only. The names of these 35 species are underlined in the count summaries. They are underlined solely on the basis that they were the most infrequently observed species in Nova Scotia in December 1972. They were infrequently observed either because they are usually rather rare here at that time of year or because watchers who exert themselves enough to go where the birds are likely to be are even rarer. There is an element of luck, of course, but those who familiarize themselves with their count area beforehand and who work hard to give the area widespread coverage on the count day are usually the ones who find the unusual species (also the largest number of species).

On the other hand, it is informative to list the most widespread (and probably the most easily recognized) species, here defined as those noted on two-thirds of the counts submitted. They are, in "check-list" order: Black Duck, Common Goldeneye, Bald Eagle, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Hairy Wood-

pecker, Downy Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Blue Jay, Raven, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Boreal Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, House Sparrow, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, Goldfinch and Slate-colored Junco. Numerically the most abundant were the Black Duck, the two large gulls, Crow and Starling.

Note should be taken of the few wholly inland counts where the counters have to work very hard indeed without the expectation and reward of large numbers of species or total numbers of birds, e.g. Eskasoni, Salmon River, Springville, Shubenacadie and particularly Kejimikujik, where there was probably no open water at all. In this latter area, only 36 species have been seen in the winter months over a five-year period, so a count total of 23 species is very respectable.

It is interesting to speculate on the number of species it might be possible to find on a Christmas Count in Nova Scotia. Remember that 164 species have been noted in 17 years, that 115-125 species per year are reported in recent years, and that single counts as high as 80 have been made.

What leads to a high count? For the moment ignoring the weather (hard to do in Nova Scotia) and luck (which we all expect to have in abundance) it seems to me that the most important factors are (1) whether there is a coastal component in the area, (2) the nature of this coast and (3) whether there is a sufficient number of competent observers, efficiently organized to cover the significant parts of the 165 square mile circle adequately.

The coastal area will have sea birds to add to the total but whether it is the precipitous coast of the Highlands National Park or the lower, more varied area about Yarmouth (potentially the "richest" Christmas Count area in the province) makes a considerable difference in whether a number of land species will be wintering there too. The answer, or course, is varied habitat. The greater the variety of habitats (marshes, inlets, beaches, woods, fields, etc.), the greater is the likelihood of a high count.

The Halifax area is reasonably good birding territory but it clearly attains much the highest counts in the province because of the availability of numbers of good observers, their detailed familiarity with each count circle and their careful organization beforehand.

Notwithstanding what was said earlier, the weather in the month prior to count time plays a major role. This is exemplified by the warm, open fall of 1957 following which 62 species were found on the Halifax East count, a number not surpassed for nine years in spite of much improving experience and many more observers taking part in the intervening years.

Considering all of these factors, I would hazard a guess that a large group of ideally competent observers could find 100 species on a Christmas Count in the Yarmouth area following a

very mild fall. In that same year Halifax should have 90 species; Digby, Kingston and Wolfville 75; Highlands Park 70. A purely inland area would still be hard put to it to find 35 species, but a sizable river running in the area might raise the total to 45 or 50. I am sure that the Editor will welcome comments on these speculations.

Limited feeder and backyard reports were received from Mrs. Herbert Harris (Lower Ohio), Mrs. S. E. Lewis (Upper Economy), Ian C. Robertson (Rockingham, noting a Brown Thrasher), Mrs. Theo Robertson (Halifax), F. Wortman (Pictou, noting a Shrike) and from two (unidentified) correspondents from Annapolis.

The summaries of the counts are recorded below, more or less in north to south order, with species seen in the count period but not on the count day bracketed, and the most infrequently noted species underlined.

CABOT STRAIT, Nova Scotia-Newfoundland, 31 December 1972.

Two observers; 1-hr. ferry run, open sea.

Totals: 6 species identified; about 124 individuals.

Fulmar, 2; Iceland Gull, 80; Great Black-backed Gull, 30; Herring Gull, 3; Black-legged Kittiwake, 4; Dovekie, 5.

Observers: Larry Neily, Wayne Neily (compiler).

The following additional species were seen in harbours, not in Count Area: Common Goldeneye, grebe sp., Oldsquaw, Glaucous Gull, Thick-billed Murre, Black Guillemot.

HIGHLANDS NATIONAL PARK, Victoria Co., 26 December 1972.

Twenty-five observers; 74 party-hours.

Totals: 44 species identified; about 1281 individuals.

Common Loon, 3; Red-throated Loon, 1; Red-necked Grebe, 1; Great Cormorant, 1; Black Duck, 18; Common Goldeneye, 142; Bufflehead, 3; Oldsquaw, 137; Harlequin Duck, 2; Common Eider, 27; White-winged Scoter, 23; Surf Scoter, 1; Common Scoter, 13; Common Merganser, 4; Red-breasted Merganser, 59; Bald Eagle, 3; Pigeon Hawk, 1; (Ruffed Grouse); Purple Sandpiper, 16; (Glaucous Gull); Iceland Gull, 5; Great Black-backed Gull, 46; Herring Gull, 78; Thick-billed Murre, 2; Dovekie, 8; Black Guillemot, 6; (Great Horned Owl); Hairy Woodpecker, 9; Downy Woodpecker, 10; Gray Jay, 10; Blue Jay, 48; Raven, 28; Crow, 145; Black-capped Chickadee, 57; Boreal Chickadee, 53; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 33; (Bohemian Waxwing); Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 117; House Sparrow, 10; Common Grackle, 2; (Evening Grosbeak); Pine Grosbeak, 43; Goldfinch, 26; Red Crossbill, 36; White-winged Crossbill, 38; Slate-colored Junco, 10.

Observers: Mary Barker, Frances Donovan, Peter Donovan, Darlene Doucette, Isabel Doucette, Jim Doucette, Irene Gettas, Albert Harvey, Clyde Harvey, Colin Hattie, Hedley Hopkins, John D. MacDonald, Ian MacGregor, Francis MacKinnon, Anne Moore, Art Moore, Ricky Moore, Larry Neily, Wayne Neily (compiler), David Reid, Elizabeth Reid, Murray Stockley, Lloyd Stone, Carson Wade, Lynn Wade.

CHETICAMP, Inverness Co., 1 January 1973.

Four observers; 14 party-hours.

Totals: 21 species identified; about 686 individuals.

Black Duck,36; Common Goldeneye,42; Oldsquaw,1;
White-winged Scoter,4; Red-breasted Merganser,2; (Marsh Hawk);
Bald Eagle,1 a.; Glaucous Gull,5; Iceland Gull,43;
Great Black-backed Gull,89; Herring Gull,74; Thick-billed
Murre,1; Blue Jay,2; Raven,41; Crow,274; Black-capped
Chickadee,2; Golden-crowned Kinglet,11; Northern Shrike,1;
Starling,1; House Sparrow,25; Pine Grosbeak,29;
Snow Bunting,2.

Observers: Larry Neily, Wayne Neily,
Carson Wade (compiler) and Lynn Wade.

MARGAREE, Inverness Co., 29 December 1972.

Seven observers, 17 party-hours.

Totals: 21 species identified; about 538 individuals.

Black Duck,4; Common Goldeneye,7; Oldsquaw,3;
Common Merganser,4; Bald Eagle,4; Great Black-backed Gull,15;
Herring Gull,21; (Great Horned Owl); (Downy Woodpecker);
Horned Lark,1; (Gray Jay); Blue Jay,67; Raven,32; Crow,150;
Black-capped Chickadee,11; Robin,1; Starling,63;
House Sparrow,58; Common Grackle,1; Purple Finch,4;
Pine Grosbeak,27; Common Redpoll,4; (Slate-colored Junco);
Snow Bunting,60.

Observers: Thomas Bellis (compiler), Ben Edwards,
Brenda Hart, Baxter Ingraham, Karen Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham.

THE SYDNEYS, Cape Breton Co., 30 December 1972.

Two observers, 4 party-hours.

Totals: 17 species identified; about 1847 individuals.

(Black Duck); (Common Goldeneye); (Oldsquaw);
White-winged Scoter,112; Common Scoter,30; (Common Merganser);
(Bald Eagle); (Sparrow Hawk); Iceland Gull,19;
Great Black-backed Gull,700; Herring Gull,460;
(Black-headed Gull); Black-legged Kittiwake,4; Gray Jay,2;
Blue Jay,14; Raven,4; Crow,58; Black-capped Chickadee,9;
Starling,120; (Baltimore Oriole); (Rusty Blackbird);
Common Grackle,1; Evening Grosbeak,80; Goldfinch,1;
Slate-colored Junco,33; (Song Sparrow).

Bertha Hopkins, Hedley Hopkins (compiler).

GLACE BAY, Cape Breton Co., 27 December 1972.

Seven observers; 23 party-hours. Plus 4 feeders.

Totals: 40 species identified; about 2878 individuals.

Black Duck,120; Common Goldeneye,62; Bufflehead,4;
Oldsquaw,78; Common Eider,2; White-winged Scoter,2;
Common Merganser,9; Red-breasted Merganser,23; Goshawk,1;
(Sharp-shinned Hawk); Bald Eagle,3; (Ruffed Grouse);
Purple Sandpiper,1; Glaucous Gull,3; Iceland Gull,279;
Great Black-backed Gull,1107; Herring Gull,479;
Black-headed Gull,47; Common Murre,1; Thick-billed Murre,1;
Dovekie,1; (Hairy Woodpecker); Downy Woodpecker,1;
Horned Lark,2; Gray Jay,2; Blue Jay,5; Raven,6; Crow,85;

Black-capped Chickadee,19; Boreal Chickadee,5; Red-breasted Nuthatch,1; Golden-crowned Kinglet,10; Starling,202; House Sparrow,188; Brown-headed Cowbird,3; (Dickcissel); Evening Grosbeak,44; Pine Grosbeak,2; Goldfinch,10; White-winged Crossbill,9; Slate-colored Junco,28; Song Sparrow,3; Lapland Longspur,2; Snow Bunting,27.

Observers: Sara MacLean (compiler), Edith MacLeod, Larry Neily, Wayne Neily, Ann Spencer, Arthur Spencer, George Spencer.

PORT HOOD, Inverness Co., 28 December 1972.

Two observers; 15 party-hours. Plus 4 feeders.

Totals: 58 species identified; about 1355 individuals.

Common Loon,6; Red-throated Loon,1; Horned Grebe,3; Great Blue Heron,1; Canada Goose,3; Black Duck,32; American Widgeon,2; Common Goldeneye,23; Bufflehead,4; Oldsquaw,21; Common Eider,5; White-winged Scoter,5; Common Merganser,7; Red-breasted Merganser,2; Sharp-shinned Hawk,1; Red-tailed Hawk,2; Rough-legged Hawk,1; Bald Eagle,3; Ruffed Grouse,3; Pheasant,2; Common Snipe,2; Iceland Gull,16; Great Black-backed Gull,9; Herring Gull,3; Great Horned Owl,1; Short-eared Owl,1; Kingfisher,3; Pileated Woodpecker,1; Hairy Woodpecker,2; Downy Woodpecker,3; Horned Lark,2; Gray Jay,9; Blue Jay,17; Raven,172; Crow,283; Black-capped Chickadee,39; Boreal Chickadee,69; White-breasted Nuthatch,1; Red-breasted Nuthatch,3; Robin,39; Bohemian Waxwing,7; Starling,279; House Sparrow,73; Common Grackle,3; Brown-headed Cowbird,2; Evening Grosbeak,73; Purple Finch,1; Pine Grosbeak,27; Common Redpoll,9; Pine Siskin,2; Goldfinch,8; Red Crossbill,17; White-winged Crossbill,29; Slate-colored Junco,8; Tree Sparrow,1; Song Sparrow,3; Snow Bunting,11.

Observers: Eugene Hawley (compiler), Sinclair Hawley.

ESKASONI, Cape Breton Co., 29 December 1972.

Four observers; 13 party-hours.

Totals: 29 species identified; about 412 individuals.

Common Loon,1; Black Duck,13; Common Goldeneye,6; White-winged Scoter,6; (Surf Scoter); Common Scoter,1; Common Merganser,4; Red-breasted Merganser,8; Rough-legged Hawk,1; Bald Eagle,5; Great Black-backed Gull,15; Herring Gull,53; Downy Woodpecker,1; Gray Jay,2; Blue Jay,26; Raven,21; Crow,82; Black-capped Chickadee,6; Boreal Chickadee,37; Red-breasted Nuthatch,2; Brown Creeper,1; Golden-crowned Kinglet,8; Northern Shrike,1; Starling,77; House Sparrow,16; Evening Grosbeak,1; Goldfinch,3; Red Crossbill,11; Slate-colored Junco,3; Song Sparrow,1.

Observers: Ian MacGregor, Francis MacKinnon (compiler), Betty Reid, Lloyd Stone.

SALMON RIVER, Cape Breton Co., 29 December 1972.

Six observers, 13 party-hours. Plus 1 feeder.

Totals: 21 species identified; about 502 individuals.

Red-tailed Hawk,2; Bald Eagle,1; Sparrow Hawk,1; Great Black-backed Gull,9; Herring Gull,24; Hairy

Woodpecker,2; Downy Woodpecker,1; Gray Jay,3; Blue Jay,51; Raven,5; Crow,75; Black-capped Chickadee,49; Boreal Chickadee,10; Golden-crowned Kinglet,17; Starling,54; House Sparrow,150; Red-winged Blackbird,1; Evening Grosbeak,78; Pine Grosbeak,4; Goldfinch,12; Slate-colored Junco,53.

Observers: Audrey Duchemin, Bertha Hopkins, Hedley Hopkins (compiler), Frances Hussey, Betty Reid and Lloyd Stone.

ST PETERS, Richmond Co., 31 December 1972.

Five observers; 7 party-hours and 2 feeders.

Totals: 30 species identified; about 296 individuals.

Common Loon,1; Black Duck,1; Common Goldeneye,29; Oldsquaw,15; Common Eider,2; Common Scoter,6; Common Merganser,9; Red-breasted Merganser,12; (Bald Eagle); (Ruffed Grouse); Great Black-backed Gull,2; Herring Gull,22; Ring-billed Gull,1; Common Murre,1; (Thick-billed Murre); Dovekie,1; Hairy Woodpecker,1; Downy Woodpecker,1; Gray Jay,2; Blue Jay,4; Raven,6; Crow,27; Black-capped Chickadee,10; Red-breasted Nuthatch,1; Robin,1; Golden-crowned Kinglet,4; Starling,18; House Sparrow,77; (Common Grackle); Evening Grosbeak,2; Goldfinch,31; Slate-colored Junco,4; Song Sparrow,1; Snow Bunting,4.

Observers: Clarence Digout, Eva Digout, Murdock Digout,(compiler), William Digout, Katherine MacRae.

NORTHPORT, Cumberland Co., 26 December 1972.

Two observers; 5 party-hours.

Totals: 13 species identified; about 89 individuals.

Common Loon,2; Oldsquaw,17; Pheasant,5; Great Black-backed Gull,2; Herring Gull,3; Hairy Woodpecker,1; Blue Jay,13; Raven,3; Crow,21; Black-capped Chickadee,7; Starling,2; House Sparrow,6; Slate-colored Junco,7.

Observers: Duncan MacNeil, R.G.MacNeil.

AMHERST, Cumberland Co., 27 December 1972.

Ten observers, 34 party-hours.

Totals: 27 species identified; about 2919 individuals.

(Goshawk); (Sharp-shinned Hawk); Rough-legged Hawk,3; Ruffed Grouse,1; Pheasant,13; Great Black-backed Gull,557; Herring Gull,520; (Black-headed Gull); (Hairy Woodpecker); Downy Woodpecker,1; Gray Jay,1; Blue Jay,8; Raven,29; Crow,378; Black-capped Chickadee,32; Boreal Chickadee,15; (White-breasted Nuthatch); Red-breasted Nuthatch,1; Robin,5; Golden-crowned Kinglet,6; Northern Shrike,2; Starling,555; House Sparrow,692; Red-winged Blackbird,1; Common Grackle,2; (Brown-headed Cowbird); Evening Grosbeak,39; Pine Grosbeak,7; Common Redpoll,2; White-winged Crossbill,11; (Slate-colored Junco); Tree Sparrow,1; Song Sparrow,1; Snow Bunting,32.

Observers: Roger Burrows, Debby Bowser, Con Desplanque, Mrs Walter Freeman, Mary Harrison, Evelyn Lowerison (compiler), Dora Myers, Ken McAloney, Margaret Smith and Alan Smith.

SPRINGVILLE, Pictou Co., 31 December 1972.

Five observers; 12 party-hours. Plus 1 feeder.

Totals: 26 species identified; about 632 individuals.

Black Duck, 21; Common Merganser, 1; Red-breasted Merganser, 4; (Goshawk); Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; (Red-tailed Hawk); Bald Eagle, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 36; Herring Gull, 68; (Pileated Woodpecker); Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 4; Blue Jay, 39; Raven, 6; Crow, 129; Black-capped Chickadee, 15; Boreal Chickadee, 15; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 12; Northern Shrike, 2; Starling, 163; House Sparrow, 60; Evening Grosbeak, 30; Pine Grosbeak, 5; White-winged Crossbill, 12; Slate-colored Junco, 1.

Observers: Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Fred Kenney (compiler); Margaret Kenney, M.L. Mawdsley.

CANSO, Guysborough Co., 29 December 1972.

Two observers; 6 party-hours.

Totals: 18 species identified; about 494 individuals.

Common Loon, 1; Bald Eagle, 1 imm.; Iceland Gull, 6; Great Black-backed Gull, 33; Herring Gull, 272; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Common Murre, 1; Dovekie, 1; (Hairy Woodpecker); (Gray Jay); Blue Jay, 2; Raven, 31; Crow, 65; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; (Robin); Starling, 42; House Sparrow, 21; (Pine Grosbeak); Goldfinch, 6; Slate-colored Junco, 3; Tree Sparrow, 4; Snow Bunting, 3.

Observers: Eileen Armsworthy and June Jarvis.

ECONOMY, Colchester Co., 2 January 1973.

Two observers; 11 party-hours.

Totals: 22 species identified; about 372 individuals.

(Canada Goose); Black Duck, 60; Common Goldeneye, 6; (Sharp-shinned Hawk); Bald Eagle, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 1; (Gray Partridge); Herring Gull, 80; Black-headed Gull, 9; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 20; Raven, 4; Crow, 25; Black-capped Chickadee, 15; Boreal Chickadee, 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 30; (Northern Shrike); Starling, 25; House Sparrow, 60; Brown-headed Cowbird, 2; Evening Grosbeak, 5; (Purple Finch); Pine Grosbeak, 12; Slate-colored Junco, 5; Tree Sparrow, 2; (Song Sparrow); (Snow Bunting).

Observers: Edgar P. Spalding, Francis L. Spalding.

BASS RIVER, Colchester Co., 24 December 1972.

Three observers; 5 party-hours.

Totals: 17 species identified; about 540 individuals.

Black Duck, 47; Herring Gull, 5; (Pileated Woodpecker); Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 16; Raven, 8; Crow, 41; Black-capped Chickadee, 5; Boreal Chickadee, 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7;

Starling,57; House Sparrow,275; Brown-headed Cowbird,60;
Evening Grosbeak,10.

Observers: Gertrude Gilbert, Phyllis Hemeon,
Ward Hemeon (compiler).

KINGSTON, Kings Co., 23 December 1972.

Eight observers; 12 party-hours. Plus 3 feeders.

Totals: 43 species identified; about 1294 individuals.

Common Loon,1; Horned Grebe,1; Great Blue Heron,1;
Canada Goose,29; Black Duck,17; (Common Goldeneye); Bufflehead,3;
Oldsquaw,4; Common Eider,7; White-winged Scoter,14; Surf
Scoter,4; Red-breasted Merganser,8; Sharp-shinned Hawk,1;
Red-tailed Hawk,1; Ruffed Grouse,9; Pheasant,3; (Woodcock);
(Common Snipe); Purple Sandpiper,9; Great Black-backed Gull,31;
Herring Gull,71; Snowy Owl,1; Hairy Woodpecker,5; Downy
Woodpecker,5; Gray Jay,2; Blue Jay,59; Raven,16; Crow,66;
Black-capped Chickadee,31; White-breasted Nuthatch,2;
Red-breasted Nuthatch,3; Robin,3; Golden-crowned Kinglet,3;
Starling,123; House Sparrow,403; (Red-winged Blackbird);
Brown-headed Cowbird,249; (Dickcissel); Evening Grosbeak,9;
(Pine Grosbeak); Common Redpoll,15; Pine Siskin,20;
Goldfinch,14; Slate-colored Junco,15; Tree Sparrow,2;
Chipping Sparrow,1; White-throated Sparrow,3; Song Sparrow,7;
Snow Bunting,23.

Observers: Wayne Bell, Alfred Bent, Murray Bent, Shirley
Corbin, Frank Hawkins, Thelma Hawkins, Larry Neily (compiler),
Vera Nixon.

WOLFVILLE, Kings Co., 27 December 1972.

Twelve observers; 48 party-hours.

Totals: 37 species identified; about 2850 individuals.

Pied-billed Grebe,1; Mallard,21; Black Duck,24;
Red-breasted Merganser,3; Sharp-shinned Hawk,1;
Red-tailed Hawk,12; Rough-legged Hawk,5; Bald Eagle,10;
Pheasant,39; Gray Partridge,33; Great Black-backed Gull,229;
Herring Gull,488; Yellow-shafted Flicker,1; Hairy Woodpecker,9;
Downy Woodpecker,11; Horned Lark,40; Blue Jay,67; Raven,340;
Crow,1113; Black-capped Chickadee,43; Boreal Chickadee,4;
White-breasted Nuthatch,3; Red-breasted Nuthatch,4; Robin,28;
Northern Shrike,1; (Starling); (House Sparrow); E. Meadowlark,1;
(Baltimore Oriole); Common Grackle,2; Evening Grosbeak,94;
(Purple Finch); Pine Grosbeak,7; Goldfinch,13; Savannah
Sparrow,5; Slate-colored Junco,117; Tree Sparrow,6;
White-throated Sparrow,23; Song Sparrow,34; Snow Bunting,15.

Observers: P. Austen-Smith, Peter Austen-Smith,
Peter Barthouse, Sherman Bleakney, John Carny, Cyril Coldwell,
Russel Eagles, J.S. Erskine (compiler), R. Erskine, M. Forbes,
M.A. Gibson, Robie W. Tufts.

SHUBENACADIE, Hants Co., 29 December 1972.

Three observers, 10 party-hours. Plus 4 feeders.

Totals: 27 species identified; about 1588 individuals.

Canada Goose, 57; Black Duck, 59; Common Merganser, 3; Goshawk, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; (Ruffed Grouse); Pheasant, 3; Great Black-backed Gull, 4; Herring Gull, 22; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 15; Raven, 100; Crow, 569; Black-capped Chickadee, 30; Boreal Chickadee, 16; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 6; (Brown Creeper); Golden-crowned Kinglet, 38; Starling, 436; House Sparrow, 53; Brown-headed Cowbird, 82; (Evening Grosbeak); (Pine Grosbeak); Common Redpoll, 8; Slate-colored Junco, 72; Tree Sparrow, 2.

Observers: Brian Anthony, Mary Geddes,
Roslyn MacPhee (compiler).

DIGBY, Digby Co., 1 January 1973.

Eleven observers; 2 party-hours plus 4 feeders.

Totals: 22 species identified; about 1074 individuals.

Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Pheasant, 3; Herring Gull, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Blue Jay, 31; Raven, 6; Crow, 24; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 3; Starling, 75; House Sparrow, 74; Common Grackle, 28; Brown-headed Cowbird, 397; Evening Grosbeak, 355; Purple Finch, 3; Goldfinch, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 3; Tree Sparrow, 4; White-throated Sparrow, 16; Song Sparrow, 4.

Observers: Mr & Mrs Victor Cardoza, Miss Louise Daley (compiler), Mr William Eldridge, Mr & Mrs Harold Emerson, Mr & Mrs Leigh Everett, Mr & Mrs Harold Sulis, Miss Marjory Tupper.

BRIER ISLAND, Digby Co., 19 December 1972.

Five observers; 18½ party-hours.

Totals: 55 species identified; about 2436 individuals.

Common Loon, 35; (Red-throated Loon); Red-necked Grebe, 26; Horned Grebe, 26; Great Cormorant, 114; Great Blue Heron, 1; Black Duck, 118; Common Goldeneye, 74; Bufflehead, 1; Oldsquaw, 330; Harlequin Duck, 2; Common Eider, 262; White-winged Scoter, 3; Surf Scoter, 1; Common Scoter, 6; Red-breasted Merganser, 87; (Sharp-shinned Hawk); (Red-tailed Hawk); Sparrow Hawk, 1; Purple Sandpiper, 25; Sanderling, 3; Glaucous Gull, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 135; Herring Gull, 411; Black-headed Gull, 1; Bonaparte's Gull, 1; Black-legged Kittiwake, 6; Razorbill, 1; murre sp., 13; Dovekie, 1; Black Guillemot, 163; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Horned Lark, 3; Gray Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 2; Raven, 9; Crow, 97; Black-capped Chickadee, 13; Boreal Chickadee, 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 22; Robin, 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 141; House Sparrow, 37; Common Grackle, 14; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 60; Pine Grosbeak, 9; Common Redpoll, 8; Pine Siskin, 16; Goldfinch, 59; Red Crossbill, 18; White-winged Crossbill, 17; Slate-colored Junco, 3; Tree Sparrow, 7; White-throated Sparrow, 3; Snow Bunting, 26.

Observers: Ross Anderson, Dennis Gordon, Wickerson Lent,
Eric Mills (compiler), Daniel Welch.

KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK, Annapolis-Queens Co., 28 Dec 1972.

Five observers; 23 party-hours.

Totals: 23 species identified; about 166 individuals.

(Sharp-shinned Hawk); Red-tailed Hawk,1;
Ruffed Grouse,2; Pileated Woodpecker,1; Hairy Woodpecker,3;
Downy Woodpecker,5; Gray Jay,1; Blue Jay,10; Raven,12;
Crow,15; Black-capped Chickadee,45; Boreal Chickadee,1;
White-breasted Nuthatch,4; Red-breasted Nuthatch,7;
Brown Creeper,1; Robin,1; Golden-crowned Kinglet,9; House
Sparrow,3; Evening Grosbeak,1; (Pine Grosbeak); Pine
Siskin,15; Red Crossbill,15; Slate-colored Junco,1;
Fox Sparrow,1; Snow Bunting,12.

Observers: Rene Belliveau, Bert Buchanan, Richard
Howie (compiler), William Hussey, Eric Mullen.

CHESTER, Lunenburg Co., 26 December 1972.

Thirteen observers; 12 party-hours. Plus 7 feeders.

Totals: 41 species identified; about 1075 individuals.

Common Loon,2; Red-necked Grebe,4; Horned Grebe,30;
Great Cormorant,26; Canada Goose,2; Greater Scaup,10;
Common Goldeneye,10; Bufflehead,10; Oldsquaw,10; Common
Eider,6; White-winged Scoter,6; Sharp-shinned Hawk,2;
Sparrow Hawk,4; Ruffed Grouse,1; Pheasant,2; Great Black-backed
Gull,5; Herring Gull,100; Thick-billed Murre,5; Dovekie,38;
Black Guillemot, 10; Hairy Woodpecker,1; Downy Woodpecker,5;
Blue Jay,20; Crow,24; Black-capped Chickadee,53; White-breasted
Nuthatch,7; Red-breasted Nuthatch,10; Brown Creeper,1;
Brown Thrasher,1; Robin,5; Golden-crowned Kinglet,2;
Starling,13; House Sparrow,67; Brown-headed Cowbird,159;
Evening Grosbeak,142; Pine Siskin,2; Goldfinch,70;
Slate-colored Junco,133; Tree Sparrow,1; White-throated
Sparrow,22; Song Sparrow,17.

Observers: Nora Bell, Daisy Bond, Mrs E.Cornelius,
Shirley Fowke, Bruce, Florence, Jefferson, Leif and Martin
Haase (compiler), Mrs Frank Michols, Frank Mills, Mrs S.Oberg,
Ruby Pulsifer.

HALIFAX WEST, Halifax Co., 26 December 1972.

Forty-seven observers; 82 party-hours (including boat travel)
plus 14 feeders.

Totals: 77 species (1 additional race); about 10,786 individuals.

Common Loon,36; Red-throated Loon,1; Red-necked
Grebe,17; Horned Grebe,21; Great Cormorant,110; Great Blue
Heron,2; Black Duck,3; Green-winged Teal,3; Blue-winged Teal,1;
Common Goldeneye,32; Oldsquaw,220; Harlequin Duck,3;
Common Eider,155; White-winged Scoter,195; Common Scoter,47;
Common Merganser,16; Red-breasted Merganser,65;
Sharp-shinned Hawk,4; Red-tailed Hawk,1; Rough-legged Hawk,1;
Bald Eagle,1a; Pigeon Hawk,3; Sparrow Hawk,3; Spruce Grouse,1;
Ruffed Grouse,10; Common Snipe,1; Purple Sandpiper,2;
Glaucous Gull,6; Iceland Gull,40 (2 races); Great Black-backed
Gull,1010; Herring Gull,3090; Ring-billed Gull,6;
Black-headed Gull,21; Bonaparte's Gull,3; Razorbill,1;
Common Murre,1; Thick-billed Murre,1; murre sp.,3; Dovekie,13;

Black Guillemot,34; Mourning Dove,1; Kingfisher,2;
Hairy Woodpecker,5; Downy Woodpecker,39; Horned Lark,1;
Gray Jay,18; Blue Jay,140; Raven,17; Crow,375; Black-capped
Chickadee,165; Boreal Chickadee,60; White-breasted Nuthatch,15;
Red-breasted Nuthatch,81; Brown Creeper,11; Robin,8;
Golden-crowned Kinglet,105; Northern Shrike,3; Starling,3250;
Myrtle Warbler,15; House Sparrow,370; Common Grackle,1;
Brown-headed Cowbird,120; Evening Grosbeak,125; Purple Finch,2;
Pine Grosbeak,64; Common Redpoll,20; Pine Siskin,35;
Goldfinch,135; Red Crossbill,24; White-winged Crossbill,3;
Ipswich Sparrow,1; Savannah Sparrow,8; Slate-colored Junco,265;
Oregon Junco,1; Tree Sparrow,16; White-throated Sparrow,41;
Song Sparrow,52; Snow Bunting,9.

Observers: Kay Anderson, Mrs Ray Bowditch, Hazel Carmichael, Barbara Christie, Walter Chute, Chris Cohrs, John and Shirley Cohrs, Ethel Crathorne, Steve Crafts, B.K. and Marg Doane, Fred and Evelyn Dobson, Ann Doull, Elizabeth Doull, Ruth Edsall, Jim and Gillian Elliott, Priscella Evans, Sylvia Fullerton, Jeremy Gay, Mrs James Gray, J.B.Hardie, Mrs Ralph Hebb, C.W.Helleiner, Frank Himsl, Barbara Hinds, Rick Howie, Charlotte Jefferies, Tony and Carolyn Locke, D.S.MacDougall, L.B.Macpherson (compiler), Eric and Ann Mills, Willett J.Mills, Harding Moffatt, Roger Pocklington, Judy Robbins, Karen Somers, Allen Stewart, Margaret Talbot, Dan and Jackie Welch, Pauline Wood.

HALIFAX EAST, Halifax Co., 17 December 1972.

Thirty-one observers; 68 party-hours.

Totals: 75 species identified; about 5345 individuals.

Common Loon,10; Horned Grebe,4; Canada Goose,360;
Black Duck,275; Pintail,2; Wood Duck,5; Ring-necked Duck,1;
Greater Scaup,17; Common Goldeneye,58; Barrow's Goldeneye,1;
Bufflehead,34; Oldsquaw,250; Common Eider,15; King Eider,1;
White-winged Scoter,13; Surf Scoter,2; Common Merganser,1;
Red-breasted Merganser,37; Sharp-shinned Hawk,1; Red-tailed Hawk,3; Bald Eagle,2a; Sparrow Hawk,2; Spruce Grouse,1;
Ruffed Grouse,1; Common Snipe,2; Glaucous Gull,1;
Great Black-backed Gull,130; Herring Gull,875; Ring-billed Gull,14; Black-headed Gull,8; Laughing Gull,1; Black-legged Kittiwake,2; Dovekie,3; Mourning Dove,1; Short-eared Owl,1;
Yellow-shafted Flicker,1; Hairy Woodpecker,6; Downy Woodpecker,10; Horned Lark,16; Gray Jay,8; Blue Jay,57; Raven,57; Crow,280; Black-capped Chickadee,175; Boreal Chickadee,49; White-breasted Nuthatch,4; Red-breasted Nuthatch,26; Brown Creeper,6; Robin,19; Golden-crowned Kinglet,127; Ruby-crowned Kinglet,1; Cedar Waxwing,1;
Northern Shrike,2; Starling,810; Myrtle Warbler,17; House Sparrow,545; Eastern Meadowlark,2; Red-winged Blackbird,1; Rusty Blackbird,2; Brown-headed Cowbird,90; Evening Grosbeak,43; Purple Finch,4; Pine Grosbeak,50; Common Redpoll,38; Pine Siskin,3; Goldfinch,77; Red Crossbill,48; Savannah Sparrow,4; Slate-colored Junco,325; Tree Sparrow,18; White-throated Sparrow,85; Fox Sparrow,2; Swamp Sparrow,6; Song Sparrow,21, Snow Bunting,135.

Observers: Ross and Mary Anderson, Hazel Carmichael, Margaret Clark, Molly Clayden, Chris Cohrs, Carin Comer, Ethel Crathorne, Fred and Evelyn Dobson, Phyllis Dobson, Jim and Gillian Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton, C.W.Helleiner, Frank Hims1, Barbara Hinds, W.A.Hughes, Ann Linton, A.R.Locke, Ian McLaren, L.B.Macpherson (compiler), Dan Mainguy, Eric Mills, Willett J.Mills, Joe Mortenson, Sandra Myers, Roger Pocklington, R.K.Ross, Dan and Jackie Welch.

YARMOUTH, Yarmouth Co., 23 December 1972.

Seventeen observers; 20 party-hours plus 10 feeders.
Totals: 52 species identified; about 7144 individuals.

Common Loon,5; Red-throated Loon,1; Red-necked Grebe,6; Horned Grebe,1; Great Blue Heron,2; Canada Goose,2000; Mallard,2; Black Duck,2500; Common Goldeneye,74; Bufflehead,6; Oldsquaw,115; Common Eider,1; Red-breasted Merganser,8; Sharp-shinned Hawk,1; Red-tailed Hawk,2; (Rough-legged Hawk); Bald Eagle,1; Pigeon Hawk,1; Sparrow Hawk,2; hawk sp.,2; Ruffed Grouse,1; Iceland Gull,2; Great Black-backed Gull,205; Herring Gull,770; Black-headed Gull,8; (Dovekie); (Mourning Dove); Yellow-shafted Flicker,2; Downy Woodpecker,3; Horned Lark,133; Gray Jay,3; Blue Jay,43; Raven,6; Crow,87; Black-capped Chickadee,34; Boreal Chickadee,1; White-breasted Nuthatch,7; Red-breasted Nuthatch,7; Brown Creeper,1; Mockingbird,1; Robin,16; Golden-crowned Kinglet,3; (Northern Shrike); Starling,162; Myrtle Warbler,12; House Sparrow,108; Red-winged Blackbird,11; Baltimore Oriole,1; Common Grackle,39; Brown-headed Cowbird,439; Evening Grosbeak,136; (Pine Grosbeak); (Pine Siskin); Goldfinch,30; Slate-colored Junco,53; Tree Sparrow,12; White-throated Sparrow,58; Fox Sparrow,3; Song Sparrow,17.

Observers: C.R.K.Allen, Hazel Cann, Betty Churchill, Marion W.Hilton (compiler), Sylvia Hilton, Helen Hurlburt, Marjorie Kenney, Marston Kenney, Beatrice Kinsman, Dorothy Kirk, Margaret Nickerson, Olive Purdy, Henry Ross, Edwin Sollows, John Sollows, Vera Sollows, George Wyman.

WEDGEPORT, Yarmouth Co., 23 December 1972.

One observer; 5 hours.

Totals: 26 species identified; about 898 individuals.

Black Duck,500; Greater Scaup,50; Common Goldeneye,20; Oldsquaw,5; Sharp-shinned Hawk,1; Rough-legged Hawk,1; Great Black-backed Gull,50; Herring Gull,100; Yellow-shafted Flicker,1; Gray Jay,2; Blue Jay,10; Raven,5; Crow,30; Black-capped Chickadee,5; White-breasted Nuthatch,1; Golden-crowned Kinglet,1; Starling,20; House Sparrow,20; Common Grackle,3; Brown-headed Cowbird,10; Evening Grosbeak,30; Pine Grosbeak,5; Goldfinch,12; Slate-colored Junco,5; White-throated Sparrow,1; Song Sparrow,10.

Observer: J.Israel Pothier.

BROAD COVE, Lunenburg Co., 30 December 1972.

Eleven observers; 39 party-hours (including boat travel).

Totals: 65 species identified; about 4102 individuals.

Common Loon,47; Red-throated Loon,4; Red-necked Grebe,27;
Horned Grebe,140; Great Cormorant,41; Canada Goose,11;
Black Duck,48; Greater Scaup,401; Common Goldeneye,427;
Bufflehead,10; Oldsquaw,228; Common Eider,165; White-winged
Scoter,42; Surf Scoter,2; Common Scoter,63; Common Merganser,20;
Red-breasted Merganser,75; Sharp-shinned Hawk,5; Red-tailed
Hawk,2; Rough-legged Hawk,2; Bald Eagle,1 imm.; Pigeon
Hawk,1; Spruce Grouse,2; Ruffed Grouse,3; Killdeer,1;
Purple Sandpiper,38; Great Black-backed Gull,108;
Herring Gull,615; murre sp.,1; Dovekie,6; Black Guillemot,30;
Kingfisher,1; Hairy Woodpecker,1; Downy Woodpecker,2;
Horned Lark,7; Gray Jay,18; Blue Jay,50; Raven,54; Crow,253;
Black-capped Chickadee,57; Boreal Chickadee,49;
Red-breasted Nuthatch,122; Brown Creeper,4; Robin,8;
Golden-crowned Kinglet,86; Starling,194; Myrtle Warbler,13;
Palm Warbler,1; House Sparrow,97; E.Meadowlark,1;
Red-winged Blackbird,1; Brown-headed Cowbird,46; Purple Finch,1;
Pine Grosbeak,30; Goldfinch,3; Red Crossbill,138;
Savannah Sparrow,4; Slate-colored Junco,203; Tree Sparrow,11;
White-throated Sparrow,20; Swamp Sparrow,1; Song Sparrow,30;
Lapland Longspur,5; Snow Bunting,14.

Observers: C.R.K.Allen, Ross Anderson, John and
Shirley Cohrs, Phyllis Dobson, Gillian and Jim Elliott,
Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Barbara Hinds, Ian McLaren,
Joe Mortenson.

PORT CLYDE, Shelburne Co., 26 December 1972.

Three observers; 5 party-hours plus 1 feeder.

Totals: 23 species identified; about 249 individuals.

Common Loon,3; Horned Grebe,1; grebe sp.,5;
Great Cormorant,1; Great Blue Heron,3; Canada Goose,50;
Common Goldeneye,40; Bufflehead,10; Red-breasted Merganser,1;
duck sp.,22; (Goshawk); Bald Eagle,1a; hawk sp.,1;
(Spruce Grouse); Great Black-backed Gull,7; Herring Gull,4;
gull sp.,41; (Gray Jay); Blue Jay,7; Raven,12; Crow,1;
Black-capped Chickadee,2; Boreal Chickadee,2; chickadee sp.,8;
Red-breasted Nuthatch,6; Brown Creeper,1; Golden-crowned
Kinglet,5; (Starling); Myrtle Warbler,1; (House Sparrow);
(Brown-headed Cowbird); (Evening Grosbeak); Slate-colored
Junco,7; (Tree Sparrow); White-throated Sparrow,7;
Song Sparrow,1.

Observers: Steve Czapalay, Jim Force (compiler),
Judy Force.

PORT HEBERT, Shelburne Co., 20 December 1972.

One observer; 4 hours.

Totals: 15 species identified; about 217 individuals.

(Common Loon); Horned Grebe,16; (Great Cormorant); Canada Goose,20; (Common Goldeneye); Oldsquaw,6; (Harlequin Duck); Common Eider,8; (White-winged Scoter); (Surf Scoter); (Red-breasted Merganser); Ruffed Grouse,1; Great Black-backed Gull,3; Herring Gull,10; (Dovekie); (Black Guillemot); Gray Jay,8; Crow,3; Black-capped Chickadee,50; Red-breasted Nuthatch,30; Golden-crowned Kinglet,1; Pine Grosbeak,1; Goldfinch,10; Slate-colored Junco,50.

Observer: Ralph S.Widrig.

Owing to unfortunate circumstances, Bridgetown was unable to carry out the annual Christmas Count during the appropriate period. However, not to miss the fun entirely, a count was taken in the area a month later, the end of January. The results, as published in the Bridgetown Monitor, in Bob Lambertson's column "Notes on Nature" are as follows: Three observers; 14½ party hours. Plus seven feeders. Totals: 31 species identified; about 550 individuals. Common Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 18; Great Cormorant, 9; Black Duck, 2; (Common Goldeneye); Oldsquaw, 17; White-winged Scoter, 3; Surf Scoter, 10; Red-breasted Merganser, 5; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Ring-necked Pheasant, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 11; Herring Gull, 24; Dovekie, 1; (Pileated Woodpecker); Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 56; Common Raven, 5; Common Crow, 116; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Robin, 1; Starling, 56; House Sparrow, 137; Common Grackle, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 15; Evening Grosbeak, 26; (Pine Grosbeak); Slate-colored Junco, 6; White-throated Sparrow, 1; (Song Sparrow). Observers: Terrance Hyson (compiler), Bob Lamberton, Amos Lewis, Helen Clark, Deborah Lamberton, Virginia Lee, Armon Lewis, Wilfred Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. George Sarsfield, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Saunders.

Any Photos of Fin Whales?

On our most recent Brier Island Field Day the boats were close to Fin Whales feeding among the shearwater and phalaropes. Dr. Peter Beamish of the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, would be very interested to see any photographs which members might have taken of the whales and is willing to reimburse people for originals or copies. If anyone has such material, would they contact Dr. Beamish either directly or through me.

- Roger Pocklington

SOCIETY NEWS

Minutes, Annual General Meeting, 1972

The Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held at the Nova Scotia Museum on the afternoon of December 9, 1972. Sixty-five members attended. Mr. Eric Cooke, President, was in the chair and called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

The President then presented a review of the activities of the Society during the past year: Field trips were good and well attended; the weather played its usual capricious role, but no spirits were dampened. The President's Field Day at Brier Island was a resounding success, with a total of 112 species being reported on the weekend. It is hoped that yet more members will take part in the coming year. The President strongly recommended that the study of botany be made an integral part of as many field trips as possible. Dr. Phyllis Dobson received the "Puffin of the Year" award for her great contribution to the Society as Editor of the Newsletter. There were three general meetings and six executive meetings during the year. The executive were collectively thanked for their untiring work. Ross Anderson was thanked for his part in the preparation of the new Field Card, which is now available. A brief was presented to the "Man and Resources" Conference of Canadian Environment Ministers. Three main points were dealt with: herbicide spraying, protection of salt marshes, and protection of seabird colonies. Two special projects were completed during the year: Frank Hims1 produced an illustrated 45 minute lecture for young people entitled "Introduction to Birds", which is now in great demand; Roger Pocklington is giving a 10-lecture night school course for the Dartmouth School Board on birds and bird watching. During the coming year the Society will host the annual conference of the Canadian Nature Federation; Dr. H. P. Moffatt has agreed to act as co-ordinator for the operation. The New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists is now a reality, with David Christle of the New Brunswick Museum as its first president.

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read by Fred Dobson, who moved they be accepted as read (seconded by R. Anderson). The motion was passed.

The only business arising from the minutes was a request from Barbara Hinds on what the Executive had done about the trapping and killing of hawks and owls with the sanction of the Department of Agriculture and Marketing. Eric Cooke replied that the Executive had discussed the matter at their first meeting, but had taken no action. He suggested that the matter be taken up by the incoming executive.

Ethel Crathorne presented the Membership Secretary's report: 636 paid-up members made up the Society this year, an increase of 89 over last year. Sixty-six of the 341 charter members of the Society still belong to it. Ethel Crathorne moved that the report be accepted (seconded by M. Clayden). The

motion was passed.

The report from the Cape Breton Branch was read by Mrs. Elizabeth Reid. Eight meetings were held. The most exciting field trips were to the Magdalen Islands and to Cape Sable. Botany study was included as part of all the field trips. Mrs. Reid moved that the report be accepted (seconded by Barbara Hinds); the motion was passed.

Fred Dobson gave the Financial Report. Statements for the Society and its Sanctuary Scholarship Trust Fund have been mailed to all members. He noted that receipts totalled \$3,001.02 and Disbursements \$3,146.14. The receipts included a \$1,500.00 grant from the Nova Scotia Museum, and Disbursements an expenditure of \$837.11 for stationery, printing and postage (vs. \$414.27 in 1971) and \$1,815.51 for the Newsletter (vs. \$1,606.46 last year). He also noted that both the Receipts and Disbursements of the Society had increased eightfold since 1960. F. Dobson moved that the report be accepted (seconded by E. Mills). The motion was passed.

A motion was made by F. Dobson (seconded by S. Fullerton) that the dues for Regular Members be raised from \$2.00 to \$4.00, and that two membership categories be added: a Family Membership for \$6.00, and a Student Membership for \$2.00. He defended his motion by pointing to the inflation rate shown by the Financial Statement, and by predicting that the Society would find itself this year with no money in the bank at all after paying for the Spring Newsletter (last year the low point was \$154.00). No further arguments were made and the motion was passed unanimously.

It was moved by F. Dobson (seconded by Ian McLaren) that the office of the Secretary-Treasurer be split into two separate offices, that of Secretary and that of Treasurer, and that the By-laws of the Society be changed according to the notice mailed to all members, with the following exception: Under the proposed amendments to By-law 14, the last sentence of 14b should read "The books and records of the Society may be inspected by members at all reasonable times." Dr. Dobson defended his motion by saying that the Society's business affairs and membership had now grown sufficiently large that no one individual should be expected to give both jobs the time they needed. He gave special thanks to Miss Hazel Carmichael, who did much of the keeping of the Society's books over the past year. The motion was passed unanimously.

After ascertaining that there was no new business, the President called on the chairman of the Nominating Committee, Dr. Eric Mills, to present his slate of officers for the coming year. Nominated were:

President	Dr. Roger Pocklington
Vice-President	Dr. James A. Elliott
Secretary	Dr. Fred W. Dobson
Treasurer	Miss Hazel Carmichael
Membership Secretary	Miss Ethel Crathorne
Newsletter Editor	Dr. Phyllis Dobson

Dr. H. Moffatt moved nominations cease (seconded by S. Fullerton). The motion was passed and the slate thereby elected. The chairman then asked for nominations from the floor for the remaining members of the Executive. Wayne Neily moved (seconded by E. Reid) that the representative from the Cape Breton Branch be Mr. Archie Long. Mr. Ward Hemeon nominated (seconded by I. McLaren) Dr. Eric Mills, and Miss Barbara Hinds nominated (seconded by Roger Pocklington) Mr. Ross Anderson. Dr. Phyllis Dobson moved (seconded by C.R.K. Allen) that nominations cease. The motion was passed, and all three were declared elected by acclamation.

Eric Cooke announced that Mr. R. A. Kaningsberg had agreed to act again as the Honorary Solicitor of the Society and re-appointed him.

Eric Cooke introduced the new President, and gave him the floor. Roger first thanked Eric for the excellent job he did over the past year, and expressed the regret of everyone in the Society that he was not serving again. Next he mentioned his priorities for the coming year: the support of the Newsletter, increased effort on the Field Trips, and the Society's hosting of the August meeting of the Canadian Nature Federation. He pointed out that the Minister of Mines, the Honorable Glen Bagnell, had cancelled all herbicide spraying for a trial period of one year; he saw it as the duty of every Society member to communicate his or her personal concern to the Minister of Mines or the new Minister of the Environment, and to report any evidence of a recommencement of spraying to the Society at the Nova Scotia Museum. He noted the concern of local residents of Cole Harbor that Flying Point, a prime wintering area for geese, may be taken over by Real Estate Developers, and expressed his support for their cause, which is to have Flying Point declared a Protected Area. The collection of color slides of Nova Scotia birds is growing rapidly, and should be completed sometime in the coming year. Roger closed by again thanking the Past President, Eric Cooke, and turning the meeting back to him.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m., to be followed by an address by Dr. D. H. Pimlott, President of the Canadian Nature Federation, entitled "Naturalists in a changing world".

The speaker was introduced by Dr. Ian McLaren, who described Dr. Pimlott's career in Ecology and Management of Big Game during which he became Chairman of an international group and was known for some time as "Mr. Wolf".

Dr. Pimlott brought us greetings from the Canadian Nature Federation, and then proceeded with his address, based on the problems of Naturalists in a changing world, and illustrated by his own experience and events in his own career.

Dr. Pimlott spoke of his early days as a hunter in the Laurentians, when his first interest in wildlife awakened. He soon became involved in environmental issues, and during his seven years as Director of Wildlife in Newfoundland, and following four years in Ontario, he found how to interest governments

in these issues. However, as a government official, it was impossible to "speak out", so he left this service to become involved in Big Game Management, later the Ontario Federation of Naturalists, finally in Canadian Nature Federation.

Dr. Pimlott's advice is to learn all about an issue you wish to bring up, and "tell it as it is" to the people involved. Cultivate action, not reaction. Forsee situations and act before they occur. Do not wait for problems to develop. Write letters, books, articles - "educate", through schools and the press.

At the end of his address, Dr. Pimlott showed us some of his beautiful color transparencies of wolves in Canada. He gave it as his opinion that the future of wolves is at least as good as the future of people.

Dr. Pimlott was thanked by Roger Pocklington.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred W. Dobson,
Secretary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1972 - 1973

President	Dr. Roger Pocklington 106 Crichton Ave., Dartmouth, N.S.	463-3483
Vice-President	Dr. James A. Elliott No. 15, Little Salmon River Dr. R. R. 1, Dartmouth, N. S.	434-6072
Past President	Mr. Eric Cooke 5713 Victoria Rd., Halifax, N.S.	429-2642
Editor	Dr. Phyllis R. Dobson 1444 Seymour St., Halifax, N.S.	423-3302
Secretary	Dr. Fred W. Dobson Brookside Rd., R.R. 2, Armdale, N.S.	852-3042
Membership Secretary	Miss Ethel Crathorne 150 Ochterloney St., Dartmouth, N.S.	466-3834
Treasurer	Miss Hazel Carmichael 5626 Fenwick St., Halifax, N.S.	423-4848
Cape Breton Representative	Mr. Archie Long (Mr. F.A.) 261 Whitney Ave., Sydney, N.S.	564-5231
Members at Large	Dr. Eric L. Mills 8 Kingfisher Crescent, Halifax, N.S.	455-7674
	Mr. Ross Anderson 90 Victoria Rd., Dartmouth, N.S.	463-4188

Executive Meeting, December 16, 1972

The first meeting of the 1973 Executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held at 6:40 p.m. December 16, 1972, at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Elliott. Present were Dr. R. Pocklington, Dr. J. A. Elliott, Dr. P. R. Dobson, Miss Ethel Crathorne, Dr. F. W. Dobson, Miss H. Carmichael, Mr. Ross Anderson, Dr. E. Mills.

R. Pocklington opened the meeting by welcoming new and former Executive members.

E. Crathorne announced she had had notices printed informing the membership of the revisions in dues made at the Annual General Meeting; they will be mailed out soon.

R. Pocklington announced his priorities for the coming year. They were: 1. The Newsletter 2. Field Trips 3. Other matters, the most important being the hosting by the Society of the annual Canadian Nature Federation Conference in August, 1973.

The editor asked that the program for the coming year's field trips be in to her by the first of March, 1973.

R. Pocklington asked J. Elliott to be in charge of Field Trips for the coming year. J. Elliott agreed to do the job. R. Anderson was asked to look into the question raised at the Annual Meeting by Barbara Hinds of the killing of raptors with the sanction of the N.S. Department of Agriculture. We should have on record the existing Federal and Provincial legislation, what is being done about enforcement, and if the laws are not being enforced, what reasons exist for the lack of it. R. Anderson agreed to obtain a statement on the matter from the authorities concerned.

E. Mills was asked, and agreed, to keep a watching brief on the status of herbicide spraying in the province.

R. Pocklington will look into seabird protection measures in the province. He will ask A. Long, the Cape Breton member, to help him. Included in this will be a continuing study of marshland protection. He suggested a notice in the Newsletter asking for information on local marsh areas which members feel need protection, and a request for information from the Nova Scotia Resources Council.

R. Pocklington suggested that a sub-committee be set up to handle printing and mailing of the Newsletter. The meeting agreed it would be a great help to the editor.

R. Pocklington announced that Dr. H. Moffatt, the Organizer for the Canadian Nature Federation, is short two people for his organizing committee; an Assistant to the Registrar (Sylvia Fullerton) and a Secretary for meetings of the committee. Several names were suggested and the suggested people will be approached by Dr. Pocklington. The people are needed as soon as possible, Dr. Moffatt said.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
F. W. Dobson,
Secretary.

Executive Meeting, February 19, 1973

An Executive Meeting was held at the residence of R. Pocklington on the above date. Present were R. Pocklington, E. Crathorne, F. Dobson, J. Elliott, R. Anderson.

The meeting was begun at 8:30 p.m. E. Crathorne moved (seconded by J. Elliott) that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as distributed. The motion was passed, and business arising from the minutes was then discussed.

1. J. Elliott gave his report on plans for Field Trips during the coming season. A full slate is planned. (See list following this report.)

R. Anderson reported plans for Field Trips for participants in the Canadian Nature Federation conference in August.

1. Brier Island (pelagic)..... August 22
2. Evangeline (shore birds)..... August 25
3. Cape Blomidon area (zoology, botany, geology). August 26
4. Brier Island (pelagic)..... August 26

The deadline for all notices and articles for the Spring Newsletter is March 15, while the deadline for bird reports is March 1.

2. R. Anderson has written to the Canadian Wildlife Service concerning the shooting of raptors with the help of the Department of Agriculture. He has as yet received no reply.

3. R. Pocklington noted that Marshland Protection was becoming a widely-publicised topic; he noted a recent article on the subject by Mrs. R. Eaton in the Nova Scotia Wildlife News.

J. Elliott reported that poaching and illegal hunting was becoming uncomfortably common in Cole Harbor. He said it was hard to stop, and is a continual problem. R. Pocklington said he would see what he could find out about action being taken, if any, to stop it.

4. Some names were discussed as candidates for an Assistant Editor, and F. Dobson explained that the Editor needed someone who could be relied on to take the typescript to the printer, see that it was done on schedule, and get it mailed out as soon as possible after it was printed. R. Pocklington agreed to consult with Mrs. Dobson and approach people who might perform such a service.

5. R. Anderson reported that preparations for the Canadian Nature Federation Conference were proceeding on schedule. F. Dobson has received a cheque for \$700.00 from the C.N.F., to be

used by the organizing committee.

R. Pocklington then asked for reports from executive members. He noted that Dr. P. Beamish of Bedford Institute of Oceanography was interested in whale photographs. He gave a notice on the subject to F. Dobson to be included in the Newsletter. He has a letter from a Quebec resident asking for information on birding trips to Sable Island. He will answer it, saying no trips are planned. R. Pocklington also gave F. Dobson a notice for the Newsletter of slides needed for the collection.

R. Pocklington gave the Treasurer's report for H. Carmichael. It is tabled below.

Income		Disbursements	
Carried over	960.51	Newsletter	677.00
Dues	1052.00	Rebate to C.B.Branch	72.00
Miscellaneous	28.00	Annual Meeting	150.00
	<u>2040.51</u>	Postage, Printing	<u>201.00</u>
			<u>1100.00</u>
Balance	\$940.00		

E. Crathorne, Membership Secretary, reported 224 members have paid their dues so far. She passed around a membership application form to be printed with each Newsletter (with perforations if possible, blank overside); its inclusion was approved.

F. Dobson, Secretary, reported he had some money, donated for feeder supplies for Point Pleasant Park. He planned to use it to restock the supplies held by the Park Maintenance Department. He reported that Talbot's Book Store was interested in selling packets of 20 of our Checklists; the meeting approved and F. Dobson will make some up for a trial. He agreed to have notices to this effect put in the Newsletter and the Canadian Nature Federation publication.

The meeting agreed that we should renew our memberships in the Canadian Nature Federation and the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club.

J. Elliott brought up the subject of displays of the publications the Society receives. He was informed that they went to the Editor first, and were then stored. He agreed to ask the Museum for shelf space for a display of current receipts.

F. Dobson gave the Editor's report. He asked for, and received, enthusiastic approval for, funds to print an updated second edition of "Where to Find the Birds". It should have printed on it: (a) its price, and (b) its address in a conspicuous location. He noted that the deadline for bird reports was March 1, and for notices March 15. E. Crathorne offered a list of Charter Members and R. Pocklington a note on available bird books for Britain, for this Newsletter. This brought the meeting to an end. It was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Charter Members of the Society

The following Charter Members, who joined the Society prior to March 31, 1955, have an unbroken record of membership:

Mr. & Mrs. C. R. K. Allen, Tusket
William P. Beazley, 6 Nivens Avenue, Dartmouth
Mrs. H. L. Bronson, 1154 Studley Avenue, Halifax
Mr. & Mrs. David G. Burchell, R. R. 3, Bras d'Or
A. L. Burke, Cannes, Richmond County
Miss Mary A. Burns, East Margaretsville
Francis C. Carter, Lower Sackville
Miss M. A. Christie, Bedford
Dr. Archibald Cohen, Glace Bay
Miss Ethel Crathorne, 150 Ochterloney Street, Dartmouth
Mrs. Ethel Desborough, Chester
Mrs. Phyllis Dobson, 1444 Seymour Street, Halifax
Mrs. Mary Ann Doucet, Avonport
Mr. & Mrs. John Erskine, Wolfville
Mrs. Mary Forbes, Wolfville
Miss Roxie Ford, Maitland Bridge
W. A. Fox, 198 Victoria Street East, Amherst
Rev. Calder Fraser, Milford Station
Dr. & Mrs. J. R. Gallagher, Barrington
Mr. & Mrs. S. Ward Hemeon, 2420 Quinn Street, Halifax
Mr. & Mrs. David Henry, Arcadia, R. R. 1
Mrs. Cyril H. Horobin, R. R. 1, Hantsport
R. A. Kanigsberg, Q. C., 6137 Inglis Street, Halifax
Mrs. Margaret Kenney, R. R. 2, New Glasgow
F. A. Lane, Kingsford Apartments, Halifax
Dr. Harrison F. Lewis, R. R. 2, Sable River
Miss Anna MacDonald, 1074 Wellington Street, Halifax
Mrs. Murray MacKay, 21 Belvedere Drive, Dartmouth
Mrs. Donald McPhail, Sackville, N. B.
Mrs. Katherine MacRae, St. Peters
Henry A. March, 44 Dawson Street, Bridgewater
Mrs. Lorne Miller, R. R. 1, Musquodoboit Harbour
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Mills, 957 Marlborough Avenue, Halifax
Mrs. S. O. Monies, 12 Kirk Road, Jollimore
Miss Marjorie Pearce, 2643 Fuller Terrace, Halifax
Joseph Israel Pothier, Lower Wedgeport
Mrs. B. T. Pugsley, 196 Victoria Street, Amherst
Mr. & Mrs. A. Roy Putnam, Maitland
Mrs. E. M. Richardson, R. R. 1, Barrington
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Robertson, Shelburne
R. MacLeod Rogers, Digby
Frank M. Rudolf, 183 Creighton Street, Lunenburg
Mrs. A. M. Ryan, Liverpool
Mrs. R. L. Ryer, 8 Fairmount Street, Armdale
D. W. Saunders, Hantsport
Mrs. Morris A. Scovil, 2 Lamy Street, Amherst
Mrs. Otto Schafheitlin, 239 Melrose Avenue, Halifax
Mrs. George Snyder, Crousetown
Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Topple, 20 Lake Loon Crescent, Dartmouth
Dr. H. F. Tufts, Port Mouton
Dr. R. W. Tufts, Wolfville
Mrs. Freda N. Wales, 6264 Payzant Avenue, Halifax

Richard P. Ward, 1069 Beaufort Avenue, Halifax
Mrs. Gladys White, 1521 LeMarchant Street, Halifax
W. E. Whitehead, R. R. 1, Annapolis Royal
L. Roy Whitman, Paradise

Compiled by E. Crathorne,
Membership Secretary

Color Slides Wanted

The collection of color slides of Nova Scotia Birds, to be used in the Himsel and Pocklington lecture series, and to be lent upon request to members for use at meetings, etc., is far from complete. If you have a picture of any of the following, or will take one, please send it to Dr. Roger Pocklington, c/o Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, where it will be copied, and the original returned to you.

Wilson's Petrel	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Glossy Ibis	Black-billed Cuckoo	Solitary Vireo
Green-winged Teal	Great Horned Owl	Red-eyed Vireo
Redhead	Barred Owl	Philadelphia Vireo
Bufflehead	Saw-whet Owl	Warbling Vireo
Oldsquaw	Whip-poor-will	Tennessee Warbler
Harlequin Duck	Common Nighthawk	Nashville Warbler
White-winged Scoter	Chimney Swift	Parula Warbler
Surf Scoter	Belted Kingfisher	Myrtle Warbler
Ruddy Duck	Yellow-shafted Flicker	Black-throated Green
Common Merganser	Pileated Woodpecker	Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Waterthrush
Cooper's Hawk	Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker	Mourning Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk	Northern Three-toed Woodpecker	Yellow-breasted Chat
Rough-legged Hawk	Woodpecker	Hooded Warbler
Golden Eagle	Eastern Kingbird	Wilson's Warbler
Gyr Falcon	Western Kingbird	American Redstart
Sparrow Hawk	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Bobolink
Clapper Rail	Traill's Flycatcher	Orchard Oriole
Virginia Rail	Eastern Wood Pewee	Common Grackle
Yellow Rail	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Summer Tanager
American Woodcock	Cliff Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Upland Plover	Purple Martin	Dickcissel
Greater Yellowlegs	Common Crow	Pine Grosbeak
Lesser Yellowlegs	Boreal Chickadee	Common Redpoll
White-rumped Sandpiper	Brown Creeper	Pine Siskin
Dunlin	House Wren	Red Crossbill
Marbled Godwit	Hermit Thrush	White-winged Crossbill
Roseate Tern	Swainson's Thrush	Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Caspian Tern	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Field Sparrow
Dovekie	Veery	Lincoln's Sparrow
	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Swamp Sparrow

It may take quite a while to get a picture of the Yellow Rail, for instance, but all the more challenge to the photographers.

Bird Books for Britain and Europe

If any of you are planning a trip to Britain and/or Europe this coming summer, for pleasure, or business and pleasure combined, as are some of the Oceanographer members of the NSBS Executive, the following field guides to the birds have been recommended by one of the latter, Roger Pocklington, as the most useful for the purpose, from his collection:

A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe, by Roger Peterson, Guy Mountfort and P.A.D. Hollom; Collins, London.

Birds of Europe, by Bertel Bruun; Golden Press, New York.

The Birds of Britain and Europe, with North Africa and the Middle East, by Hermann Heinzel, Richard Fitter and John Parslow, Collins, London.

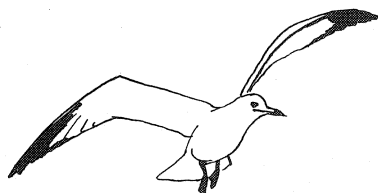
The Hamlyn Guide to Birds of Britain and Europe, by Bertel Bruun, illustrated by Arthur Singer, consultant editor Bruce Campbell, Hamlyn, London, New York, Sydney, Toronto.

Where to Watch Birds, by John Gooders; Sphere Books Ltd., London.

Where to Watch Birds in Britain and Europe, by John Gooders; Andre Deutsch, London.

Shell Nature Lovers' Atlas of England, Scotland and Wales, by James Fisher; Ebury Press and Michael Joseph, London.

In Dr. Pocklington's opinion, the Peterson has the best illustrations for the most part; the Singer (Hamlyn Guide) better for non-passerines and Heinzel just the opposite. All three have maps, variously coded, but those by Parslow most detailed and up-to-date. If any of these books are unobtainable locally, they may be ordered from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy Bedfordshire, England. A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe is also available in a French-language edition.



FIELD TRIPS, 1973

Halifax area:

- May 16 Kearney Lake Road, meet at the junction of the Bicentennial Drive, at 6:30 a.m. Leader - Eric Mills. (Warbler walk)
- May 23 Prospect Road, meet at the junction of Brookside Road, at 6:15 a.m. Leader - Fred Dobson. (Warbler walk)
- May 30 Shubenacadie Canal, meet at the Irving station one mile north of the MicMac Rotary on the Waverley Road, at 6:15 a.m. Leader - Jim Elliott. (Warbler walk)
- June 16 McNab's Island, meet at the Eastern Passage dock at 8:30 a.m. Contact Ian McLaren (leader) about one week ahead to facilitate the boat hire, phone 463-4188.
- Sept. 8 McNab's Island, meet at the Eastern Passage dock at 8:30 a.m. Contact Ross Anderson (leader) about one week ahead to facilitate the boat hire, phone 463-4188.
- Provincial:
- May 26 Spring migration in Hants County, meet at the railway crossing at Mount Uniacke on Route 1 at 8:00 a.m. Leader - C.R.K. Allen.
- June 9 Migration climax in the Baddeck area of Cape Breton Island. Meet at the post office in Baddeck at 8:00 a.m. An all-day trip, including a hike of one mile to the falls at Uisge-Ban. Bring a lunch! Leader - Betty Reid.
- July 1 President's Field Day. An outing by boat to the Halibut Islands. Meet at Necum Teuch, Halifax County, on Highway 7, at 9:00 a.m. Bring a lunch and waterproof clothing. Anticipated cost of boat hire - \$3.00 per person. Contact Roger Pocklington (leader), Dartmouth, N. S., at least two weeks in advance, phone 463-3483. Those wishing to make a week-end of it (Dominion Day Holiday) may also be interested in continuing along the shore to Wine Harbor the same evening (camping available, at Gordon MacLeod's house) for birding in the surrounding area.
- August 11 Early Shore Birds, Kings County. Meet at the Historic Park, Grand Pré, at 8:30 a.m. Leader - John Kearney.

Sept. 1-2 Labor Day Week-end at Brier Island, Digby County - includes a pelagic trip on both Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting, cost - \$5.00 per person. Two weeks advance notice should be given to Eric Mills, Halifax County, phone 424-2493 (day only) or Ross Anderson, Dartmouth, phone 463-4188, so adequate arrangements can be made for boat hiring. Sunday, Sept. 2, will be the Brier Island Field Day. Meet at the graveyard, Peajack Road, on Brier Island, at 8:30 a.m.

Cape Breton Branch:

March 3 Winter Birds. Meet at 9:00 a.m., National Park Headquarters, Ingonish Beach. Leader - Park Naturalist, phone 114.

March 31 Early Arrivals. Meet at 9:00 a.m., Canal Bridge, St. Peters. Leader - Murdock Digout, phone St. Peters 63.

April 21 Early Migrants, Waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 a.m., Heavy Water Plant, Glace Bay. Leader - George Spencer, phone 849-5317.

May 13 Early Warblers. Meet at 6:30 a.m., intersection Trans-Canada Highway and Cabot Trail at South Haven. Leader - Bill Black, phone 295-2349.

May 20 Spring Migration, Brier Island. Meet at 5:00 a.m. - Early Birds and Late Owls OR 8:00 a.m. - Sleepy Heads, Westport Ferry Terminal, Brier Island, Digby County. Leader - Bob Lamberton, Paradise, N. S.

May 27 Warbler Migration. Start anywhere at 6:30 a.m. Early morning outings are scheduled in a number of different areas on this date so that we can compare the results from various localities, 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 to 3 hours is usual. If there is none scheduled in your area, don't hesitate to collect a few friends and have one of your own at the same time as the others. Reports should be sent to Mrs. Sara MacLean, 52 Catherine Street, Glace Bay, N. S. Scheduled trips are:

Glace Bay	Mrs. Sara MacLean	849-5362
Sydney	Betty Reid	562-4021
North Sydney-		
Sydney Mines	William Large	736-9170
Ingonish	Wayne Neily	114
Baddeck	Mrs. Isabel McFarlane	295-2407
St. Peters	Mrs. Katherine MacRae	44

(Phone the indicated number for meeting place or other details.)

- June 3 Late Migrants. Meet at 6:30 a.m., Homeville, Intersection Route 255 and South Head Road. Leader - F. Robertson, phone 862-2126.
- June 9 Provincial Field Day. Meet at 8:00 a.m., Baddeck Post Office. Leader - Betty Reid, phone 562-4021. A hike to beautiful Uisge-Ban Falls is included in this all day trip.
- July 7 Bird Islands. Meet at 8:00 a.m., Mountain View Lodge, Big Bras d'Or. Leader - H. Hopkins. Puffins and Auks on a 3-hour boat trip, plus one-half day on land birds.
- August 11 Shorebirds. Point Michaud Beach and environs. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at "Lighthouse" entrance to Point Michaud Beach. Leader - Francis MacKinnon, phone 862-2208.
- Sept. 15 French Mountain and Cheticamp Island. Meet at 8:00 a.m., National Park Information Bureau, Cheticamp. Leader - Park Naturalist, Ingonish, 114.

For additional information, contact the trip leader or:

Francis MacKinnon	37 Beaton Ave., New Waterford	862-2208
Betty Reid	87 Rigby Road, Sydney	562-4021
Wayne Neily	National Park, Ingonish Beach	114

A Code for Field Trips

Even bird watchers (and we think we're so good) are being told to watch our step, and told pretty sharply too. At the request of our President, Roger Pocklington, Bob Lamberton has written the following:

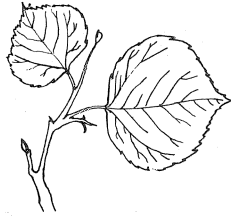
"Thank you for asking me to contribute to the proposed "Code" for field trips - as you know, it is a problem which has bothered me several times. The damage that can be done by a group of birdwatchers may not be great in global terms, but it does seem unnecessary. I can really think of only a single rule that covers it (and that everyone might find acceptable) - in some park or other I saw it expressed in the form:

Leave only footprints; take away only memories.

Most botanizing can certainly be done with the "woodrose on its stalk". The collection of single specimens for identifi-

cation is usually insignificant in terms of damage done....but, when twenty or so people are collecting handfuls of plant material, for bouquets, for attempted replantings or whatever, it's quite depressing. I very much enjoy identifying plants for others on field trips, when I can, but when I see flowers I know will wilt in a few minutes plucked as fast as they are identified, again, it's depressing. But I really don't know how to put it into rules. How about:

Thou shalt not pick any plant material on NSBS field trips (if unable to refrain, then thou shalt pick only parts of woody vines with 3-part compound leaves and white berries, being careful to crush the leaves thoroughly between thy fingers - so shalt thou learn from experience)."



A Swan in the Basin

You never know what you will be called upon to believe in this work, but when Bunny Coffill (Mrs. Arthur Coffill of Rockingham), one of our tried and true reporters, phoned one evening that there was a swan in Bedford Basin, out in front of her house, credibility was stretched to the limit. The Rare Bird Alert went out, and shortly after, a number of us clustered on the shore to observe a sure-enough Mute Swan, sailing gracefully down to the city dump. It is a pity to spoil a good story, but enquiries to Halifax Public Gardens officials revealed that one Swan was missing from the Gardens, had been for several days, a last year's cygnet. The old male had become aggressive, and was making life hard for the young birds, one of which had evidently taken wing, and was enjoying his freedom at large. The problem was to catch the bird, which was unalarmed, but unwilling to be caught. It flew about, but returned by preference to the Coffill's cove; and as days went by, they began to feed it, on bread and lettuce (advice from the Gardens people). The Swan became very tame, and the Coffills became very fond of it, so, it was with great reluctance that they did catch and secure it one night, and it was returned to the Gardens, to safety. The fact was, boys had finally spotted the unusual (and trusting) bird, and were stoning it, and it was only a matter of time before the beautiful creature would be injured or destroyed. When will we ever learn?

WINTER BIRD REPORT, 1972-73

Following the very cold fall mentioned by Lloyd Macpherson in his introduction to the Christmas Counts, we have had a relatively easy winter in 1973. The cold spells were severe, aggravated by searching winds, but the mild spells between lasted longer, particularly in January, with above-freezing temperatures most days during the last three weeks of that month, and, with one short interlude, on into February. Snow came early, but there was little accumulation along the coast until the big storm of February 11-12. Yarmouth got only six inches from that storm, but up the shore to Halifax and on to Pictou we were buried twenty inches deep.

Lakes and inlets froze up early and thereafter remained ice-bound, the ice soggy by now but still many inches thick. At Pictou Eric Holdway writes that all fresh water was frozen over by December 17, the Harbor by December 19. However, "the fish ladder built into the causeway across Pictou Harbor also controls the fresh water level on the West River above the causeway, so there is normally a strong flow of water through the gate. Except during extremely cold weather there is a large patch of open water on the salt water side which attracts various species of diving ducks. Smelt and small mackerel are plentiful in that area." A ringside seat for duck watching, most of us had to use a long-range telescope. Sea ducks and diving birds were plentiful, but hard to see, except in such places where moving water kept the ice from forming.

Until the big snow, berries and cones and weed-seeds were available to birds all winter. It is possible that this accounted to some extent for reported scarcity of birds at some feeders. The usual species were present, but numbers were down. As will be noticed in the feeder reports to follow, this did not apply inland, for example at Amherst and in the Valley, nor in Cape Breton, probably because of greater snow accumulation. Generally, field trips were unrewarding. Perhaps we forget from year to year the lifeless winter countryside, but we were definitely short of "bonus birds" this year - the big flocks of Redpolls, Tree Sparrows, Snow Buntings and Bohemian Waxwings (sometimes) which periodically enliven the bleak landscape. These birds were all here, but few and far between, as were stray out-of-season passerines.

Snowy Owls were scarce, Rough-legged Hawks present in fair numbers, Northern Shrikes frequently seen. Blue Jays, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Juncos were numerous, as were small hawks locally; but these birds stayed near feeders for the most part, as did the Goldfinches, Siskins and Chickadees (mostly Blackcaps, very few Boreals this year). Golden-crowned Kinglets were in good supply but Evening Grosbeaks were down in number and Purple Finches absent.

Sightings of exceptional interest have occurred from time to time, outstanding among them the Hawk Owl in Pictou County, a real rarity to Nova Scotia; the wintering Ruff at

Louisbourg; the Little Gull in Digby Gut and most exciting of all, the rumor of Fieldfares in Cape Breton.

Observations through November to March along the Bay of Fundy and Atlantic shores indicate the presence of normal numbers of our regular winter species of salt-water diving birds.

[Now that the ice is breaking up and the temperatures have stopped plunging to zero (in a high wind) perhaps a backward look would help us to give credit to these observers. Consider the difficulties: If you are lucky, your bird is close to shore, your car windows clear, and a quick look with binoculars suffices. Probably, you must wind down the window, letting in the icy draught, and your glasses fog up. Should the bird be farther out there is nothing for it but to leave the shelter of the car, brave the gale, try to settle the telescope with its feet in a snowbank on a headland, and get a quick look before your eyes start streaming. Usually you get your focus just as the creature dives, or is obscured by a wave or a snow flurry. Incidentally, it is remarkable how quickly under these circumstances you learn to recognize shape and behavior, so your next glimpse is "educated" for definitive markings. (Did the first glimpse show the misty outline of the heavy, horizontal "ocean liner" loon? the rake-funnelled tugboat of a Red-necked Grebe? or the more delicate, lively, yacht-like Horned Grebe?) Silhouettes may do for loons, grebes and cormorants, but are unsafe for duck identification. Ducks are more likely to be in flocks, maybe 3, maybe 30, but chances are some will be up when the rest are down, so eventually you can get the markings. In most cases you will stand on your headland quite a while, the snow blowing down your neck, your feet getting colder, your fingers stiffer - and your determination more stubborn to make dead sure of your bird and get him safely on the list, before moving on to the next headland. Try several hours of this and appreciate those who carried it out all winter.]

According to these observers the COMMON LOON was universally present in good numbers. (The last RED-THROATED LOONS recorded were at Economy Nov. 11 and at Yarmouth Dec. 31.) Both RED-NECKED and HORNED GREBES were plentiful, about twice as many Horned as Red-necks generally. The shores of St. Margaret's Bay are still lined with them, still in winter plumage, March 10. A few PIED-BILLED GREBES were noted: 2 Oct. 28 at Amherst Pt. (CD); 2 Nov. 1 at Homeville, Cape Breton (CF) and 2 at Clyde River, Shel. Co. Jim Force wrote about these: On Jan. 24 a single Pied-billed was noticed swimming below the iron bridge. Identity was uncertain until, as I approached, he sank rather than dove. Thinking I had only imagined the little creature I looked for him daily.....finally saw him again Feb. 19 when I was able to approach within 50 feet, and saw him swimming for several minutes. On Feb. 20 two were seen together in the same location.

On a trip from Port-aux-Basques to North Sydney Oct. 31, Bob Lamberton and party counted 15 FULMARS, 3,000 GREATER SHEARWATERS and 6 SOOTY SHEARWATERS; Wayne Neily also saw 2 Fulmars on Cabot Strait on the Christmas Count. The only other tubenose on record is the LEACH'S PETREL, 2 of which were seen flying

near the shoreline after an easterly gale of several days' duration, on Nov. 11, one at Glace Bay Sanctuary (GS) and the other at Homeville (CS).

CORMORANTS, most of them positively identified as GREAT, have been noted as usual this winter, a large flock passing Cape Sable Feb. 6, several flocks there since, flank patches noticeable by the middle of the month (S & BJS). Most late reports of the GREAT BLUE HERON are for November, the 26th of that month being the last date for Cape Breton. At Amherst, one was killed by a car near the entrance to town Dec. 2 (CD) and at Chezzetcook one last lingerer was seen in a tidal pool Dec. 28 (BS). A few of these large herons stayed the winter in Shelburne and Yarmouth Counties, noted mostly in the vicinity of Barrington Bay (JF,BFS,A.Hopkins,JIP), and at Yarmouth Hbr. (CRKA,MWH).

GEESE have been reported at times in all months since Christmas, flying hither and yon. The big CANADAS were settled in their sanctuaries at Glace Bay, Cole Harbor, Port Joli, Melbourne, etc. by mid-November, but considerable movement takes place apparently, small flocks shifting from one wintering place to another on the principle that far pastures look greener. (A note in Massachusetts Audubon Newsletter, November 1972, mentions a tenfold decline in numbers of Brant, cause unknown, but the possibility is of another shortage of eelgrass, which suffered a collapse in 1972 in SE Massachusetts estuaries. We have had no reports of Brant this season; would be glad to hear if any are sighted.)

Nineteen DUCK species have been identified in Nova Scotia waters November to March: MALLARD, BLACK DUCK, PINTAIL, GREEN-WINGED and BLUE-WINGED TEAL, EUROPEAN WIDGEON, AMERICAN WIDGEON, SCAUP, COMMON GOLDENEYE, BARROW'S GOLDENEYE, BUFFLEHEAD, OLDSQUAW, COMMON EIDER, WHITE-WINGED, SURF and COMMON SCOTER, RUDDY DUCK, COMMON and RED-BREADED MERGANSER. Largest numbers were found for the Black Duck and Common Goldeneye, with Bufflehead, Oldsquaw and the two Mergansers close seconds.

Special note may be taken of:

Five sightings of Mallards, totalling 8 birds, from Oct. 11 to Jan. 23 at Melbourne Sanctuary, Wolfville, Economy, Cheticamp, and Lower Ohio.

Two very late sightings of Blue-winged Teal, 2 Oct. 26 at Cranberry Head, Yarmouth Co., and 20 Oct. 29 at Amherst Pt.

At least 2 male European Widgeon with the American Widgeon at Melbourne Sanctuary, Nov. 9-13 (CRKA,AH,MWH).

Only 2 reports of American Widgeon, 15 at Melbourne Nov. 11 and 1 Oct. 28, 20 Oct. 29 at Amherst Point.

The huge raft of ducks, 800-1,000, half of them identified as Common Goldeneye, Jan. 30 at the Neck, Brass Hill, Barrington.

A Barrow's Goldeneye at Green Cove, inside Cape Breton Highlands

Park Feb. 4 (WN).

At least 70 Common Eider Oct. 26 off the breakwater at Yarmouth (at Cape Sable the Smiths report very few of these and other sea-ducks in that area throughout the winter, as they were constantly disturbed by gunners and fishermen - since Feb. 15 flocks are appearing which fly past or settle in feeding spots near the breakers).

Unusual appearance of 4 Ruddy Ducks Oct. 28-29 at Amherst Point, also 11 Nov. 24 at Abercrombie, Pic. Co., (kindly reported by Angus MacLean of P.E.I. National Park).

The exceptional concentrations of 50+ Common Mergansers Nov. 18 at Eelbrook Lake, Yar. Co., and 400 Red-breasted Mergansers, Dec. 19 at Pictou.

Birds of prey may have had a lean winter in Nova Scotia this year, but were well reported. This could be due to the presence of many near feeding stations. Either food was scarce in field and forest, or the hawks, usually birds of the wild country, have overcome their scruples and settled for a convenient food supply. Four of the 9 GOSHAWKS reported were at feeding stations; 14 of the 25 SHARPSHINS (more than half of them in Yarmouth County) were also found around feeders. (One last sighting of a probable COOPER'S HAWK, Nov. 8, was reported by the Smiths at Cape Sable). Of the lordly RED-TAILED, 5 of the 28 reported were stationed near feeders, probably looking for mice, but two of them struck at Evening Grosbeaks. (The last BROAD-WINGED HAWK seen, Nov. 13, was at Round Hill, WEW.) Ten reports of the ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, probably all different birds, included 1 Nov. 10, right in Yarmouth town (MAN), another at Harmony, Queen's Co., where Rick Howie, Park Naturalist at Keji says none has been recorded before (in this vicinity). The BALD EAGLE was widely reported, adding up to 26 which could be separate individuals, judging by the distance between sightings. Most of these were distributed over mainland Nova Scotia, with the greatest concentration near Wolfville, according to J.S. Erskine, who wrote that Cyril Coldwell counted there 7 mature and 3 immature eagles, sitting on the trees over the rivers. Half of the 8 sightings of the PIGEON HAWK were in the vicinity of feeding stations, but the 15 SPARROW HAWKS reported were all at large. All but 2 of these were in the western end of Nova Scotia (12 in Shel. and Yar. Cos.).

Of the 9 SPRUCE GROUSE seen this winter since Christmas, 1 was right in Rockingham, watched as it cleaned up some apple peelings in the side yard (Ian Robertson). Over 20 RUFFED GROUSE were noted, very generally distributed, but only 4 in Cape Breton. GRAY PARTRIDGE, 33 counted on the Wolfville Christmas Count, were otherwise seen only at Economy (2) early in the winter (FS) and 2 others, Nov. 11 at Clyde River (A.Hopkins). Also outside of Wolfville (39 at Christmas) the RING-NECKED PHEASANT was scarce, 2 only noted in the Valley region, 4 in Yarmouth Co.

The tail-end of the shorebird migration is typical but interesting. The last SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER was noted at Cape

Sable Oct. 26, but 1 was still at Economy Nov. 19 (perhaps hindered by his yellow leg band). Six KILLDEER were counted at Pinkney's Point, Nov. 19, 2 at Cape Sable the same day (2 still there Dec. 21). The last GOLDEN PLOVER were 7 Oct. 24, Cape Sable, and 1 Oct. 26, Economy. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER were last seen at Yarmouth, 4 Oct. 26, 1 at Economy Nov. 4, 1 at Cole Harbor Nov. 5 and 6 at Cape Sable Nov. 19. RUDDY TURNSTONE (except those wintering at Louisbourg), 1 Dec. 24 at Cape Sable.

At Keji, the last AMERICAN WOODCOCK was on Oct. 30; but a very late one was picked up alive at Herring Cove, Hfx. Co., Dec. 6, by A. Canning, who brought it in to the Museum for identification. He said he had noticed the bird in a swamp near at hand, but following the severely cold nights Dec. 4 and 5 found it nearly dead on his lawn, took it in the house, where it revived quickly in the warmth.

The last few of the COMMON SNIPES were seen Nov. 4 and 5 at Cole Harbor, Caledonia and Cranberry Head (1 Dec. 8 at Granite Village was probably here for the winter).

Most of the GREATER YELLOWLEGS flocked out early in Nov.: 54 at Pictou Nov. 2; 50+ Oct. 26 at Yarmouth (10 left there Nov. 13); the last 1 in Cape Breton Nov. 5, at Economy Nov. 12.

One last KNOT was seen at Economy Oct. 30.

PURPLE SANDPIPERS (12-15) arrived Nov. 11, first noted at Cape Sable. Elsewhere they were found at Glace Bay, West Apple River and Pt. George (Fundy shore), the largest flock (21) in the latter area. PECTORAL SANDPIPERS were last seen on Oct. 28, 1 each at both Cape Sable and Economy.

Similarly the WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER reports come from Cape Sable and Economy, 25-30 at Cape Sable Oct. 28, 8 there Nov. 12; 5 at Economy Nov. 4, last one Nov. 17. (A flock of 40+ was noted at Morien, C.B., Nov. 1.) These are, like the Greater Yellowlegs, late in migration.

DUNLIN must keep to the west a bit, the only ones reported were 11 Oct. 27 at Pictou; 15 Nov. 1 at Economy, 25 there Nov. 7-9, 20 Nov. 11, 10 Nov. 14-21 and 4 Nov. 28. Two only were seen in eastern N.S., at Cape Sable, 1 Nov. 23, and 1 Feb. 13, picked up dead.

Although a sizable flock (54) of SEMI-PALMATED SAND-PIPERS was at Pictou Nov. 2, the only other report we have is of 1, the last, Nov. 4, at Economy.

One RUFF, a male in winter plumage, lingered behind, and was found with the wintering flock (about 9) of Ruddy Turnstones at Louisbourg, March 10, by Wayne Neily. Wayne said the Ruff was conspicuous by its size, standing much taller than the Turnstones.

The last large flock of SANDERLINGS (75-90) left Cape

Sable Oct. 28. A small flock (5) was seen along the beach near Apple Island, Ingomar Nov. 1, and the last migrants, 12 at Economy Nov. 28. The only wintering Sanderlings reported were 2 at Cape Sable, "very white, one becoming very brown" (BJS).

On Oct. 28, 2-3 NORTHERN PHALAROPES appeared off Cape Sable, the last seen for the season.

Obviously by late October the great shorebird migration has died down to the merest whisper. A few individuals of about half of our expectable species will still be found in favored spots throughout November, but most flats and beaches will be deserted and lonely - unless you look up or farther out where the gulls are flying.

They are not all the two old familiars, we have a surprising nine species of GULL to report this late fall and winter, brought to that number by two real rarities. As usual, most GLAUCOUS GULLS have been seen in Cape Breton, reported at Glace Bay first Nov. 15, but 1, Feb. 1 and after present at Cape Sable. A very early ICELAND GULL was seen at Cole Harbor Nov. 5 (CRKA, RAK), and 2 were found on the Yarmouth Christmas Count, also a possible 3 in the vicinity of Cape Sable late December and early January; but the large numbers were at Pictou and Glace Bay - 50+ near the ferry docks Dec. 6, some of which hitched a ride on the ferry to P.E.I. according to Con Desplanque; and up to 280 at Glace Bay for the Christmas Count. Sara MacLean has written "These gulls are always about Glace Bay Harbor and the upper reaches. For some reason they were absent from Feb. 1 onwards, possibly due to drift ice being in on the coast. They may have moved out to the ice face to fish....These gulls do not 'scavange', they won't take scraps in the yard as the Herrings and Great Blackbacks do eagerly."

One of our rarities is the LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, still at Digby wharf, hanging around the sewer outlet. We asked for news of this, by now, old friend, and received two replies, one from David Christie, who heard from Cecil Johnston that the gull was at its usual place, Nov. 1; and one from Rick Howie, who saw it there Jan. 28. Someone should think up a name for this gull.

The GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (and, by the way, the A.O.U. gives us "Great" for that, not "GREATER") and the HERRING GULL are with us in usual numbers, about 8-10 times more Herring, according to our reports, except from Glace Bay where the ratio was reversed to nearly 2 to 1 in favor of the Great Blackbacks, at Christmas. There were only two reports of RING-BILLED GULLS for last fall, 7 Nov. 5 at Cole Harbor and 2 Nov. 11 at Wedge Point, Yar. Co. The BLACK-HEADED GULL has been present, but in small numbers, 6 to 12 counted since Christmas in each of only 4 places, Yarmouth Harbor, Halifax Harbor, Caribou and Glace Bay. Late reports of the BONAPARTE'S GULL are 2 Nov. 11 at Chebogue Point, and 1 Nov. 23, Cape Sable.

On Nov. 1, from the "Princess of Acadia", Cecil Johnston saw a LITTLE GULL in Digby Gut, which he reported to David Christie,

who kindly passed on the record to us. This is our second rare gull, and it is of interest that 2-3 of these little birds were seen and carefully identified on P.E.I. during late October by Angus MacLean (Park Naturalist) and visitors Rick Howie and John MacFarlane. We do not yet have full information about the Digby bird.

KITTIWAKES, the BLACK-LEGGED, have not been reported close in (except see Christmas Counts), but Lamberton saw around a thousand on the Port-aux-Basques to North Sydney trip, suggesting no lack of them off shore.

The same thing applies to most of the Alcids. The only RAZORBILLS reported (except on the Christmas Counts, 1 each Hfx. West and Brier Is.), were 2 seen by Lamberton on the above-mentioned trip to North Sydney. The MURRES on the other hand were not seen on that trip, but have been reported within view of the shore (many at Christmas), 2 COMMON and 3 THICK-BILLED in January, only at Glace Bay and Cape Sable, and the birds on Cape Sable (1 Common and 1 Thick-billed) were badly oiled. Another Thick-billed was found dead at Hawk Wharf later, on Feb. 13, and another, in good shape, in Bedford Basin, Feb. 2 (DD,ET). This was not a DOVEKIE year, although singles have been seen at quite a few places. The first for the season at Cape Sable showed up on Oct. 24, and there was one large concentration there, of at least 50, on Dec. 23 (SS). Although there must be many about (163 on the Brier Island Christmas Count alone) the only early BLACK GUILLEMOTS reported were 2 Nov. 23 at Cape Sable, then (the Guillemots) in winter plumage, and 12-15 there Nov. 29. Although good numbers of Murres, Dovekies and Black Guillemots were reported on the Christmas Counts, no COMMON PUFFIN was seen this year, and the only winter record we have is of 2, seen by Lamberton on the trip to North Sydney, Oct. 31.

As mentioned before, small birds were practically non-existent inland this winter. On a trip through the country one could be certain of seeing a Herring Gull drift across the sky, a solitary crow perched in a tree-top and a few starlings squabbling in a backyard, but any other sign of life was pure luck. Cold weather set in early last fall, and the birds which settled in for the winter seem to have had the good sense to gather around feeding stations. We had, for example, at least 30 MOURNING DOVES reported before the Christmas Counts, none at large since. Only 1 YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO came our way, with a stopover at Yarmouth Oct. 29, at the Sollows', long enough for everyone to have a good look at it (VS). The GREAT HORNED OWL was seen on the three Cape Breton Christmas Counts, at Port Hood, Margaree and Highlands National Park. Only 2 SNOWY OWLS seem to have been seen, 1 in a meadow at Port Maitland, Yar. Co., on Nov. 12 (VEM) and 1 on the Kingston Christmas Count.

The big news is the HAWK OWL, just barely allowable in this report, found March 10 perched in a tree in a meadow near the Trans-Canada Highway just short of New Glasgow, by Jim and Gillian Elliott. There was ample time to study and photograph this bird. It may be still around if anyone cares to search. The last record of the Hawk Owl we have is of 3, in the winter of 1962-63, 1 collected at Mooseland and mounted, 1 in the Went-

worth Valley and 1 in Lunenburg County (NSBS Newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 2, June, 1963). Previous to that, there seems to have been no record since 1926.

Only 2 other owls have been reported this winter, the **SHORT-EARED OWL**, seen on the Port Hood and Halifax East Christmas Counts, and one last little owl, the **SAW-WHET**, which "landed under our jeep, and flew into a tree, remained there all day" Feb. 23, at Clyde River, according to Jim Force. Of the half dozen **BELTED KINGFISHERS** observed throughout November in usual (and widely distributed) habitat, 1-3 birds - it is difficult to be sure that the sightings are of one or several birds - have been seen in Jan. and Feb., all in Yar. and Shel. Cos. only (JF, CRKA).

The woodpeckers have afforded us an occasional bright spot in landscape. A few **YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKERS** went through in November, one stayed very late, from Dec. 12 to 24 at the Roy Blackburn's, Sydney Forks, and one apparently all winter (at least until Jan. 24) in Yarmouth town, at the Fred Nickerson's. The **PILEATED WOODPECKER** was recorded on the Port Hood, Springville and Bass River Christmas Counts, one on the Bridgetown "un-Christmas Count", and one at Grafton Lake, Queen's Co. Feb. 14 (RH). An immature **RED-HEADED WOODPECKER** stayed Oct. 28-30 at a feeder at Lower Ohio, identified by Edith Bower and Elizabeth Harris. Both the **HAIRY** and the **DOWNY WOODPECKERS** were recorded on most Christmas Counts, and have been well reported since, 16 Hairys (7 of them at feeders) and 26 Downys (8 at feeders). Five **THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS** have been seen: 1 around in November at Lower Ohio (EH); 2 Dec. 13 near Big Dam Lake, Anna. Co., identified as a **BLACK-BACKED** (RH), another Black-backed at Bass River at Christmas, and 1 Feb. 1-6 at Ingonish, inside the park, first seen by Irene Gettas, later by Wayne Neily, identified as a **NORTHERN**. Wayne was able to get pictures of this one, thereby establishing a first authenticated record for the province.

[Last fall we received notification from Davis Finch (Editor, NE Maritime Region, American Birds) of an extraordinary sighting at Ingonish on Sept. 7, 1972, but it was then too late for inclusion in our Fall Report. Irving Cantor, well-known and experienced birder from New York saw "on the same telephone wire, a Western Kingbird and a Say's Phoebe. I recognized the Kingbird instantly, because I had seen it many times before, both in the East and in the West. I had also seen the Say's Phoebe several times before in Colorado, so it was not a new bird to me. The bird allowed a close approach as it perched on the wire and it was observed at leisure as it was motionless for some time, as fly-catchers often are. Points noted: in direct comparison to the Western Kingbird (and of course it is quite a different looking bird), slightly but noticeably smaller than the Kingbird, grayish brown back, black tail with no white outer feathers, grayish breast with rusty underparts. It did not wag its tail.....we searched for the birds next morning with Wayne Neily but could not locate them."]

HORNED LARKS, flocks in the 100's still around in October, were seen in a few places in November (100+ still at

Wedgeport Nov. 11, and 33 Nov. 2 at Pictou), were seen on the Port Hood, Glace Bay, Springville, both Halifax, Broad Cove, Yarmouth and Brier Island Christmas Counts in small numbers; after that only at Yarmouth, 20+ still at Fish Pt. Feb. 4, and at Cape Sable, 2 of the flock there left by Feb. 22. Our supposedly more reliable winter bird, the GRAY JAY also has deserted the woods for backyards, and of the many reports received, only three placed the birds in wild country. Gray Jays were universally distributed, as were the BLUE JAYS, mentioned by most people as numerous, and regular at feeders, anywhere from 2 to 12 in usual attendance. On winter field trips they were rarely seen in the wild, mostly around towns and villages. The COMMON RAVEN could usually be counted, but very few, except in certain localities, e.g. the Barrington Dump, and Keji Park - an unusual aggregation also mentioned at Caledonia, 40 Ravens all flying in the same direction seen Dec. 18 by Rick Howie, who supposed them to be going to roost. Two rather off beat Ravens were seen at Cape Sable Feb. 5. The COMMON CROW was genuinely common universally all winter, Glace Bay to Cape Sable. One curious observation was of a Crow with white wings, noticed among 20 other (normal) crows at the Halifax city dump, Feb. 14, by Jean Boulva and Robert Gauthier.

The BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, although marked "regularly seen" at Keji, was difficult to call up in the woods this winter. It was abundant at feeders, the flocks mostly 4-6 birds, but 8-12 at Amherst, and 15 counted March 16 at Brookside, Hfx. Co. Lambertson found them definitely scarce in the Annapolis Valley near Paradise, but at Round Hill and Wilmot they were present in "usual numbers" (WEW,TH). BOREALS were scarce everywhere, (reported as so also in New Brunswick). The largest number was seen at Amherst Pt.: 20 Oct. 8; 12 Nov. 2 and 15 Dec. 27 (CD). It was good to have the WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH back with us this year, reported universally at feeders, and actually outnumbered by the RED-BREASTED, many of which seem to have stayed after the huge fall migration - or else these birds are the tail end of the migration and have reached their normal wintering quarters here. The BROWN CREEPER continues to become domesticated, ten reports of regular attendants at feeders received. At least one WINTER WREN stayed with us, present in the woods at the edge of a "slashing" near Round Hill up until Jan. 19 (WEW). The last of the migrants left in November, when one was seen Nov. 11 at Chebogue (CRKA) and one, Nov. 13 at Lr. Ohio (EH).

The MOCKINGBIRD (Oct. 27) at Yarmouth either stayed to be counted at Christmas, or another one came. Besides that one, there was one seen briefly at Middleton, Nov. 9, by Frank Hawkins; and another present through January to Feb. 13 at Ketch Harbor, Hfx. Co., at the R. Bridger's feeder, making an awful nuisance of itself. After it finally left, the other birds came back. (Reported by WJM). Two reports of a BROWN THRASHER by the Les Hefflers at Birch Cove and Ian Robertson, Rockingham, in November could have been of the same bird, but 4 were at Birch Cove by Nov. 15. Another was around at times during the winter at Sherwood Park, reported by Gerald Francis to Eric Cooke; and still another in Halifax (city) at the Helleiners'. This one was consorting with House Sparrows and Blue Jays under the feeder, and

was "trying to crack sunflower seeds by hammering at them on the ground, sometimes jumping into the air to get a harder blow - couldn't tell if he was successful" (CWH). One other of these Thrashers was included in the Chester Christmas Count.

There were hundreds of ROBINS still around in Yarmouth Co. in October, and up to the first week of November. Vera Sollows wrote "It's been many years since I've had the pleasure of seeing so many Robins migrating". Many were still seen, all over the province up until Christmas, in small groups, but true wintering Robins have been reported in only six places: 1 Jan. 3 at Reserve Mines (TM); 5 (flock) Feb. 10, Pictou (EH); 1 Feb. 12, Wolfville (JT); 1 Jan. 3, Yarmouth (MWH); 2 Jan. 12-14, Clyde River (JF); and 2, all winter, still present Mar. 15, 1444 Seymour St., Halifax (PRD). These two birds cleaned the berries from a multiflora rose hedge, all but a few out on the slenderest branches, which they jumped to reach, getting more exercise one would think than the few dried berries would compensate for.

Here is the story on the FIELDFARE. A medical doctor, a bird watcher from New York, reported to Fred Scott at the Provincial Museum in Halifax that he had seen 2 Fieldfares during the month of October, 1971, on the barrens south of Louisbourg. He had seen the birds on four separate occasions. Later, a Canadian Army officer also reported to Fred Scott that he had seen 2 Fieldfares, while on holiday in Cape Breton, in the month of October, 1971, in the same place, the barrens south of Louisbourg. These two people did not know one another, and had had no communication with one another. Last summer, a third individual, a War Veteran, in Halifax for a check-up at Camp Hill Hospital, sought out Fred Scott at the Museum and reported 2 birds, seen in October, 1972, on the barrens south of Louisbourg, which he could not identify. He described the birds, and the description satisfied Mr. Scott that he also had seen two Fieldfares. The description would fit no other bird.

We do not have the names of any of these individuals. Each one promised to write or otherwise communicate with Fred Scott, who trusted them to do so (as I have learned not to do), but no word has been received so far. Admittedly, the credibility of the sightings must have been slight to begin with, but has grown with each incident, and is now reinforced by a well-authenticated Fieldfare, present in a St. John's garden, Jan. 1, 1973, in time to be included in the Newfoundland Christmas Count! Congratulations to Newfoundland. To quote "The Osprey": This is a Robin-sized European thrush (*Turdus pilaris*), whose main characteristics are a gray head and rump, chestnut back and heavily streaked breast. In 1937 the species colonized Greenland, but this seems to be the second Canadian record, and the first for Newfoundland.

One further point in favor of the Cape Breton Fieldfare sightings is the tendency (which I have mentioned before in the Newsletters) for exotic strays in Newfoundland to turn up at the same time in Cape Breton (rather than on Sable Island on mainland Nova Scotia. (Editor's Note)

Back to our bread-and-butter birds, it is a pleasure to report the GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET returned to abundance, and both near feeders and in the woods at large, Glace Bay to Yarmouth. The WATER PIPIT went by quickly as usual, in two waves: 50+ at Pinkney's Point Oct. 26, 200 at Cape Sable Oct. 28; (a few seen at Economy Nov. 1); and 1 Nov. 18 at Glace Bay, 50-60 Nov. 19 at Cape Sable, with 5 stragglers there Dec. 24. The BOHEMIAN WAXWING has not been seen since December, when (and in November) a few small flocks were seen at New Waterford, Port Hood, Highlands National Park and Pictou. One lone CEDAR WAXWING was noted on the Halifax East Christmas Count.

The NORTHERN SHRIKE invaded us in November, seen during that month at Yarmouth town (on a back lawn, being harassed by Blue Jays), at Chebogue Pt., Pinkney's Pt. (one still at nearby Melbourne Sanctuary two weeks later), Cape Sable and in the Wentworth Valley. It is likely these shrikes stayed around and others joined them, as on the Christmas Counts 11 shrikes were found more widely distributed, on seven counts. On Jan. 20 at Lake Ainslie, Barrie Fraser heard a young shrike singing "a very pleasant song" (so reported in Frank Robertson's column in the Cape Breton Post). Not many of us have heard that. Four others were noted in Jan. and Feb., two chasing sparrows at feeders (E. Harris, Lr. Ohio and Margaret Clark, St. Croix); and two at large, in Hall's Harbor (A. Hopkins) and Economy (FS).

The excess of STARLINGS (their own specific calculations presumably) may have moved out of the province around mid-November, when "clouds" of them were seen on the Pinkney's Point road and vicinity Nov. 13, "smaller clouds" the following day (MWH,AH). Shortly after this, on Nov. 26, the first Starlings appeared at Wilmot, at the Hawkins' feeder. They are very generally reported, in flocks of 6-60, but not regular at most feeders; rather they come and go, notably appearing in stormy weather, when they avidly attack suet, if provided. Sara MacLean has reported hers as "uncounted but thriving, except when they provide a meal for the Sharp-shinned Hawk".

Most of the WARBLERS were gone by the end of September, but a few went through in October and later. Vera Sollows, Yarmouth Co., mentions "a large and varied flock which migrated through here Oct. 4", identified among them were YELLOW, MYRTLE, BLACK-THROATED GREEN and YELLOWTHROAT. A PARULA, very late, appeared in the garden Oct. 23 at the Desplanques', in Amherst. Some of the Myrtles have stayed, some seen briefly at Wilmot Oct. 25; at Cape Sable Oct. 26 and Nov. 1; in Yarmouth on all of these dates, and a small flock there for the winter, about 12 birds (MAN,MWH,CRKA). A single female or immature was seen on the sand dunes between Round Bay and the ocean Dec. 26 (JF); and one at least has wintered in Cape Breton, seen at Malagawatch through January and February, by J. McNichol, who told Sara MacLean it "takes seeds and suet at the feeder, eats bayberries and searches the shingles for flies on sunny days". There was a PALM warbler at Tusket Dec. 17 (CRKA) and one seen on the Broad Cove Christmas Count. Late BLACK-THROATED GREEN (Oct. 24), BAY-BREASTED (Oct. 26) and KENTUCKY (Nov. 11) warblers stopped at Cape Sable (SS); and two YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS, Nov. 30,

were noted, 1 at Rockingham, Hfx. Co. (BC) and 1 at Wedgeport (CRKA). An extraordinarily late AMERICAN REDSTART, female or juvenile, was observed in the garden at the Helleiners', Halifax, Dec. 3. The temperature that day was 42°, but dropped that night to 17°. Belated warblers run a risk.

The HOUSE SPARROW does not come and go at feeders, it stays. It has been reported very generally as usually, in flocks of from 10 to 100 around the towns and villages, eating anything it can lay its bill on.

The last of the migrating REDWINGED BLACKBIRDS were noted at Amherst Point, a flock of 20 Nov. 25-26 (CD). Since then singles have been seen from time to time at Economy; Brookside, Hfx. Co.; Wilmot; New Germany, Lun. Co.; Clyde River; a small flock - 4-6 birds, around Yarmouth, in company frequently with cowbirds at feeders. Thirteen BALTIMORE ORIOLES, scattered very generally about the province, made it to Christmas, and two of them were still alive on Jan. 6, reported to Frank Robertson by Thomas O'Leary of Reserve Mines. A female Bullock's Oriole was so identified by Burland Murphy Oct. 28 and 31, seen near Baddeck, and on the second date by Linda Murphy and the Richard McCurdys also. The bird was viewed for 45 seconds at 35 feet, then 60 seconds at 20 feet, on a clear sunny day, as it moved about in a hardwood tree, investigating the undersides of the leaves. Mr. Murphy recognized it as an unusual oriole, and noted the following field marks: elegant body, dark pointed bill, yellow throat and under rump, the yellow fading between throat and rump, dark wings with light wing-bars, olive-colored back, brownish tail and yellow covering a good percentage of the side of the neck to cheek. A photograph was attempted, but without success.

Some of the RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were late in leaving - small flocks seen mid-October between Clyde River and Barrington Passage; and a large flock of 60-70 at Round Hill Oct. 31. Three Rustys were at Amherst Pt. Nov. 25-26; one at Caledonia Dec. 11, and one Dec. 28 at a feeder in Tusket, possibly the one found on the Yarmouth Christmas Count. One was also on the Sydneys Count. An even later and more sizable movement of the COMMON GRACKLE was marked by 25+ at Yarmouth Nov. 5, on which day "hundreds" were seen near Wilmot ("I saw these in local cornfields on my way to and from town", Thelma Hawkins). Part of this flock lingered in the cornfields until Dec. 7, but finally dispersed, ones and twos reported since, through February, in general distribution. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were moving in large flocks by late October, 1000's in the Wedgeport area by the first week in November. At this time they began appearing in numbers at feeders; for example, at one Yarmouth feeder there were 25-40 Nov. 14 to Dec. 22, then 50-75 daily to Jan. 15, 10-12 to Jan. 31 and 2-3 to Feb. 26 (MWH). In Cape Breton and NW Nova Scotia they do not appear to have been so numerous, but flocks of 15 to 300 were feeding on the roadsides, Round Hill to Tupperville, Anna. Co., Jan. 2-3 (WEW); Rick Howie reported them regularly in Queen's Co. and there were 50 at the Harris feeder in December at Lr. Ohio, Shelburne Co....If anything, Cowbirds seem to be on the increase.

The DICKCISSEL was seen again this winter, one each at Yarmouth (VS) and Lr. Ohio, Shelburne Co. (EH), and at least 3 stayed through December and early January: one at Wilmot (TH), one at Sydney Forks (RB) and one at Glace Bay (GS), there for the Christmas Count. EVENING GROSBEEKS came into towns in late October and early November, but with the exception of a few places, flocks stayed small through the winter, 8-20 birds on the average, and somewhat fickle in attendance. John Erskine wrote that these grosbeaks were abundant on the North Mountain and in Shelburne Co. last summer (1972), and could be holding down Spruce Budworm. The only sizable flocks at feeders reported were in Yarmouth, 40+ (MAN), 30+ (MWH); Lake Loon (near Dartmouth), 100-125, an albino among them (BT); Amherst, 30 (CD); Pictou, 30 (EH); Sydney Forks, 70+ (RB); these flocks fairly regular from early December through February, petering out during the last week of that month.

The PURPLE FINCH has been reported absent this winter, and this is almost literally true. A few were seen in November; 12 were found on five Christmas Counts, 1 (female) stayed until Jan. 6 at Glace Bay (SM), and a small flock of 8 Jan. 13-16 at Pine Hill, Halifax (JBH). The next report is of 1, Feb. 12-26, a bright male, at a feeder in Yarmouth (MWH), followed by 3, March 6, at a feeder in Tusket, the first seen there since the fall (CRKA). The PINE GROSBEEK, for a change, has been one of our most reported birds this winter - thirty reports from Glace Bay to Cape Sable included every county except Guysborough (Gordon MacLeod was away!) and Antigonish (where we have no reporter at present), and the astounding total of 240 birds adds up, giving the representative average of 8 per sighting. More than half of these birds were seen in December and January, and there must have been many more around, as care has been taken to avoid overlap, in both date and place - where multiple sightings occurred in one locality, only one (maximum) number was added in.

Although a few flocks of the COMMON REDPOLL were seen up until Christmas, none has been reported since. The PINE SISKIN has stayed, mostly in small flocks, 3-20 birds, the eight reports received all SW coastal regions, except for the flock of 6 at Round Hill, and 3 at Pictou (feeding there on Mock Orange seeds!). The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH was more widespread, and present in larger flocks, mostly at feeders. The flocks numbered 10-30 birds at Yarmouth, Tusket, Lr. Ohio (EB), Brookside, Hfx. Co., Economy, Lingan and Glace Bay, with smaller numbers elsewhere. Both the RED CROSSBILL and the WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL have been seen, the Red in Cape Breton (30+ at Homeville, SM), at Economy and at Keji Park, in all months; the White-winged at Glace Bay, Keji and Clyde River, but only in November and December, according to our reports. With the exception of these Crossbills and some of the Pine Grosbeaks, most of these finches stayed at feeding stations, and were rarely encountered on winter field trips.

The countryside was bare of sparrows too. A few late and/or unusual sightings are as follows: A RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE, present Dec. 12-14 at the Davises, Glace Bay, finally killed itself against a window (reported by E. Chant). Four IPSWICH SPARROWS were found in a small flock of other birds, in the marram grass



Rufous-sided Towhee

Rosemary Eaton

along the beach at Eastern Passage, Hfx. Co., Jan. 13, one still there in late January (JB, RG). Ian McLaren suggests that these came over from Sable Island, where they tend to disappear in winter. A pair of SAVANNAH SPARROWS, Dec. 26 at Sydney Forks, were observed eating rose hips on wild rose bushes, not frequently touched by birds, which has always seemed surprising. Since Christmas, the only other Savannahs noted were 1 Jan. 8 at Cape Sable and 1 Jan. 13 with the Ipswiches at Eastern Passage. The GRASSHOPPER SPARROW first noted Nov. 18 at Economy, was last seen there Dec. 14 (FS). Our latest (and only late) report of a SHARP-TAILED SPARROW is Nov. 18-19-21, also at Economy (FS). An unusual sighting of the VESPER SPARROW in December was of 2, Dec. 8, along Route 7, near Lake Loon. The Topples, who kept an eye on these all day, hoped they would stay for the Christmas Count, but they disappeared next day, unfortunately. One last LARK SPARROW alighted on Cape Sable Oct. 26 (SS).

During the first two weeks of November large flocks of the SLATE-COLORED JUNCO were recorded, for example, 100-125 at Waterville Nov. 6 (A. Hopkins); flocks of 50 or more Nov. 1, 7, 9 at Round Hill (WEW) and 100+ at Pinkney's Pt. Nov. 11 (CRKA). Many more came in later, and these stayed all winter, seen both around feeders and along the roadsides. Flocks were largest in Cape Breton, e.g. 3-30, Dec.-Jan. at Sydney Forks (RB), 40-60 Jan.-Feb. at Homeville (CF). At Clyde River, Jim Force noted "Juncos are an almost daily visitor to our feeder....first to arrive in the morning and last to leave at night.....as winter progressed their number increased to their present level of 20-30 individuals." At The Hawk, Cape Sable Island, 20+ wintered at

the Norman Cunningham property for the first time. In Yarmouth town and county, Juncos remained abundant throughout the winter; but in the Keji region, at Pictou and at Amherst, although the birds were present, flocks were notably smaller, 2-8 as a rule.



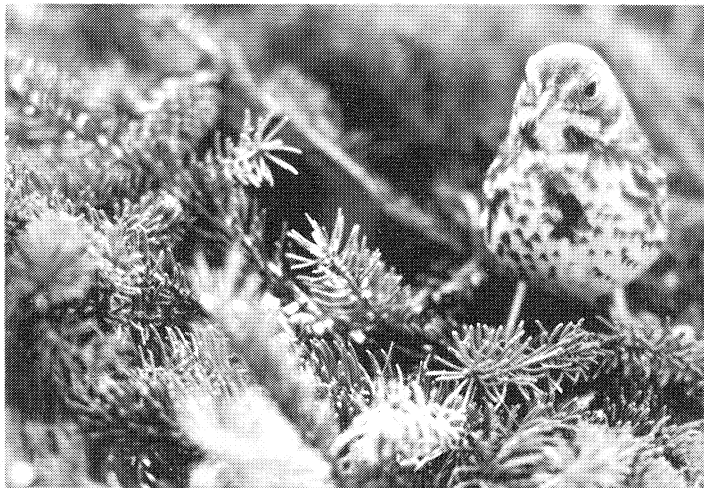
Tree Sparrow

Rosemary Eaton

There were no large flocks of TREE SPARROWS this year, but 1's and 2's were mentioned as "regulars" at most feeders in the province. Late CHIPPING SPARROWS were 10, Oct. 26 at Pinkney's Pt., 2 there Nov. 11; and 3 Dec. 7 at Wilmot, of which one remained to become very tame, until Jan. 5. An interesting observation was of 2-3 FIELD SPARROWS, the last week in October, near Yarmouth. Vera Sollows wrote: "These birds were around for about a week. We noticed the rusty crown, clear breast, no white eye-line, cinnamon shade on breast near shoulders. The crown seemed to have a lighter line.....after seeing the photo of the Field Sparrow in the April/72 Newsletter I feel confident of the identification." One WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW was present at the Sollows at this same time, and another (immature) even later, Nov. 14, at Lr. Ohio (EH).

The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, a year-round resident in SW Nova Scotia, was here in exceptionally good numbers this winter. A few were reported at Amherst and Pictou (none in Cape Breton); but at Halifax, Wolfville, Annapolis, Clyde River and Yarmouth, flocks of 6-12 birds were regular visitors at feeders. About 20 FOX SPARROWS have been reported, 8 of them in Cape Breton, and all as 1's or 2's at feeders, distribution general. This seems to be the usual picture. Also as usual, 2-3 SWAMP SPARROWS managed to winter in N.S., one each on the Broad Cove and Halifax E. Christmas Counts, and one, still present in March at Wilmot - "This bird has a place among pine boughs to spend

most of the day and then feeds on small bird seed in the regular place late in the evening when the other birds have left" (TH). Like the Juncos and Whitethroats, the SONG SPARROW in Nova Scotia is on the edge of its wintering range, and a few do well most years. They were present in small numbers this year, about a third as many as the Whitethroats, and noted in all regions, 1-2 at feeders. On Cape Sable, one arrived (with the Savannah) Jan. 8 and stayed a week or so; and at Hawk Point, 8-10 stayed through Feb., in shrubs with the Juncos, and were heard singing there "fair weather or foul" during that time.



Fox Sparrow

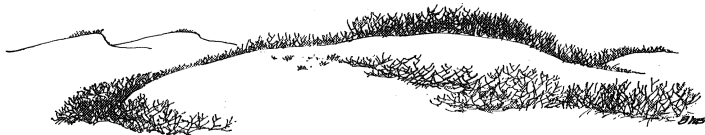
Rosemary Eaton

The LAPLAND LONGSPUR was very scarce, late fall and winter this year, 1, Nov. 5 at Eastern Passage (RK,CRKA); 1, Dec. 10 at Morien Bar (SM) and one each on the Glace Bay and Broad Cove Christmas Counts. The large flocks of SNOW BUNTINGS ("100's" Halifax to Yarmouth Nov. 5-11) diminished during Dec. to 20-40 in these regions, but at Amherst 500+ were seen at the Marsh, 50+ at Tignish Dec. 30. Twenty-seven were counted at Glace Bay at Christmas, 23 at Morien Bar Feb. 9. A few appeared at scattered feeders on through Feb., there was a roadside flock near St. Croix, on Highway 101, Feb. 16 (MC), and one sizable flock of 25 was seen feeding with Cowbirds at Middlefield, Queen's Co., as late as March 4 (RH).

This report has dealt with the presence and some of the activities of the 153 species of bird found in Nova Scotia during the late fall and winter, 1972-73. During the same period in 1971-72, 165 species were found. This included 14 species classed as rare, about twice the number (and quite different

from those) seen this season. There were fewer individual birds this year also, according to our observers, and yet the winter was not so severe as the previous one. Perhaps that is the reason, if we enlarge our geographical area; and consider that birds go (or stay) where food is easiest to obtain. It is difficult to think of Nova Scotia as a refuge and a land of plenty in winter, but it may be just that, when territories to the north and west have even less to offer.

We have, as we had last year, over 100 observers, and wish to thank the following, for making possible this fairly comprehensive report: CRK. Allen, M. Bamford, F. Barrett, R. Beecher, R. and Mrs. R. Blakeburn, J. Boulva, E. Bower, RGB. Brown, B. Buchanan, E. Chant, D. Christie, M. Clark, A. and B. Coffill, C. Coldwell, E. Cooke, E. Crathorne, G. Crowell, S. Crowell, N. Cunningham, L. and G. Dakin, L. Delaney, C. Desplanque, R. Dieltgens, E. and FW. Dobson, B. and E. Eaton, G. and J. Elliott, JS. Erskine, C. Ferguson, C. Foray, J. and J. Force. B. Fraser, R. Gauthier, I. Gettas, R. Gray, JB. Hardie, E. Harris, M. Hatfield, F. and T. Hawkins, K. Hayward, CW. Helleiner, MW. Hilton, E. Holdway, A. Hopkins, H. Hopkins, R. Howie, A. Hurlburt, C. Johnston, R. Kanigsberg, D. Kirk, R. Lamberton, AR. Lock, J. MacKay, Mrs. J. MacLachlan, I. McLaren, AA. MacLean, S. MacLean, E. MacLeod, G. MacLeod, J. McNichol, E. MacRae, T. Marshall, WJ. Mills, V. Moor, E. Mullen, L. and B. Murphy, C. Myers, WP. Neily, MA. Nickerson, R. and P. Pocklington, JI. Pothier, D. Rawlings, A. Raymond, F. Robertson, I. Robertson, B. Roper, M. Rowter, B. Sabean, S. Shirley, V. Sollows, F. and E. Spalding, S. and BJ. Smith, A. Spencer, C. Spencer, G. Spencer, J. and J. Timpa, B. Topple, E. Tull, ER. Waterman, WE. Whitehead, Mrs. C. Whitney.



REPORTS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

DUE

JUNE 15, 1973.

NEW BRUNSWICK FEDERATION OF NATURALISTS

For the naturalists of New Brunswick, November 18 marked the beginning of a new organization. Meeting in Sussex, representatives from five areas of the province formed the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists (Fédération des Naturalistes du N.-B.). The organization was formed to improve communication between local naturalists' clubs and to provide an opportunity for people from all parts of the province to belong to a group representing their interests in nature.

The day-long meeting adopted a constitution outlining the structure and functioning of the Federation. Its objectives are to encourage and develop its members' interest in nature, to promote co-operation and communication between the province's naturalists and nature clubs, to foster a public awareness of the relationships between man and nature, and to represent the naturalist's viewpoint on resource management problems.

The Federation will consist of individual members, federated clubs, and affiliated organizations. Initially accepted as federated clubs were the Fredericton Field Naturalists' Club, the Moncton Naturalists' Club, and the Saint John Naturalists' Club. Affiliated organizations will be ones which have some objectives in common with the Federation.

Elected as officers were the president, David Christie of Saint John; vice-president, Dr. Beverley Schneider, Fredericton; secretary, Henrik Deichmann, Fredericton; and treasurer, Dr. Eric Tull, Moncton. Directors-at-large are Hilaire Chiasson, Lamèque, and Allan Smith, Sackville. Directors representing the federated clubs are Peter Pearce, Fredericton; Mary Majka, Moncton; and Cecil Johnston, Saint John.

During 1973 the federation plans to concentrate on building up an active membership throughout the province by means of a program of meetings and field excursions and through its bi-monthly newsletter, the New Brunswick Naturalist. To promote its views on conservation matters, it plans to support actively the Conservation Council of N. B.

Membership in the federation is open to anyone with an interest in nature - birdwatchers, insect collectors, wildflower photographers, or simply general enthusiasts of the outdoors - all can contribute to and benefit from the federation.

Should you feel that you love and care about nature in New Brunswick, that you would like to know more about the things that live in the wilds, that you would like to voice your opinion on policies affecting their future, you are invited to join the N.B. Federation of Naturalists by sending your dues, \$2.00 for 1973, to Dr. E. Tull, Dept. of Biology, University of Moncton, Moncton. Members of the federated clubs are asked to pay through their local treasurer. Other correspondence can be sent to the Federation at 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, N.B.

FEEDER REPORT

Bird-feeding stations are increasingly popular, and with good reason. Some of the birds attracted are as beautiful as any you could see in an aviary; it is a pleasure to give the comfort of a full stomach to small creatures, especially on a cold and snowy day; and it is fascinating to watch vagaries of behavior.

By human standards, hard to forget entirely, birds do not behave very well - they are quarrelsome, and aggressive, and do not "play fair". To overcome the inequities so produced, we employ different kinds of feeders, and the Dakins in Kentville have invented some clever arrangements:

"Type 1 - lobster buoys with holes bored in them. These we fill with a peanut butter and fat mixture.

Type 2 - a tray with a handle from which we suspend suet balls. (The chickadees, nuthatches and Downy Woodpeckers enjoy the fare at both of these feeders.)

Type 3 - we tie millet seed to a fish net suspended between two posts. The Juncos, Tree Sparrows, our lone Song Sparrow all feed here and we are often hard pressed to keep them supplied with enough millet to satisfy their appetites.

Type 4 - outside the picture window is our large feeder where we place sunflower seeds only. Here the Evening Grosbeaks by the score feed every morning. Goldfinches, Juncos, and Pine Siskins arrive daily after the grosbeaks have left and they then enjoy the "leavings".

Type 5 - this last feeder we have dubbed our "riff-raff tray". Grackles, English sparrows, Cowbirds, Starlings and, of course, our noisy Bluejays, feed on the scratch which we place there."

Even with this care taken, all is not perfect:

"The cowbirds have been a particular nuisance this season and there have been so many of them. They confiscate the millet every chance they get and are aggressive enough to keep the juncos away. We have also been plagued by one very persistent Northern Shrike which may have caused the disappearance of several of our chickadees. Also we've had a Sharp-shinned Hawk which has been near the feeders on several occasions, but we have never seen it inside the back yard. It has, however, sat for long periods of time in an oak tree about thirty yards away."

A great many people have complained about the Cowbirds this winter, especially in the Valley and SW Nova Scotia. The House Sparrow and the Starling, clever and indestructible birds, are always a "nuisance", but do not seem to be on the increase. It becomes a problem of high finance if you have a lot of Cowbirds, unpopular anyway because of their peculiar egg-laying habits. This year the shrikes and hawks have caused concern, for a different

reason, they eat the other birds. Sharpshins were most prevalent, but 3 Pigeon Hawks (at New Waterford, Brookside Rd. and St. Croix), and at least 3 Sparrow Hawks (missed in the preceding main report), one at Economy and 2 in Chester have hung around feeders, doing quite well, from their point of view.

Bob Lamberton and Frank Robertson have entered special pleas for the birds of prey, in their columns in the Bridgetown Monitor and the Cape Breton Post respectively. They are absolutely right, but again, it is hard to adapt one's thinking to the strenuous ways of Mother Nature.

The rewards of feeder watching are, of course, greater than the sorrows and irritations. A treeful of Blue Jays and Evening Grosbeaks in the morning sun is a pattern of color for a tapestry. New-fallen snow makes the woodpeckers and chickadees positively sparkle in their immaculate black-and-white - it seems their natural background. It serves also to enhance the varying reds of the robins, flickers and those shy visitors, the Pine Grosbeaks. Frank Robertson quoted Mrs. Doncaster of Marion Bridge: "The Pine Grosbeaks have been regular visitors this fall, sometimes 8 or 10 of them. They are just beautiful, particularly the raspberry-red males, but they all seem to have a sort of dignity. We have a row of pine trees near the house....they never seem to come to the feeders."

Frequently the presence of birds at a feeder attracts other birds, to give us a close acquaintance with strangers, or a new look at familiars. Margaret Clark wrote, after seeing Snow Buntings along the roadside: "The following morning there were 6 feeding in the yard.....they were a delightful sight to one who had never observed them close at hand before." Sara MacLean was moved to poetry at the sight of a lone Black Duck "sail in at the very last of the daylight just visible against the deep blue evening sky" (Sara's house overlooks a brook where Black Ducks winter, and she has been known to feed them). Mrs. MacNeil of North Sydney was astounded to see, on Dec. 17, a male Ring-necked Pheasant stalk through the snow in her backyard. "He crouched in the snow for at least five minutes with the sun shining on his feathers.....the gorgeous colors seemed to glisten, especially the orange breast.....a sight to remember."

Besides aesthetic delights, bird behavior can bring pleasure. C.R.K. Allen has a chickadee which accompanies him about the garden as he goes about his winter work, the little bird full of cheerful conversation (although he admits it is probably scolding or coaxing to be fed, it is nevertheless companionable). We have all watched birds do "clever" things - sometimes we wish they wouldn't - like Angus Joe MacDonald's Blue Jays which learned this winter to shake up the "jay-proof" chickadee feeder, releasing seed to fall upon the ground. But one really valuable observation was made by Chris Helleiner - a case of learning by imitation, and the birds in question were non-passerines, a Downy and a Hairy Woodpecker. These birds are known to eat seeds and nuts (in lit.) but, in this vicinity at any rate have never been seen doing so. However, it was not the eating of the seeds (sunflower seed) that was remarkable, it

was the method of eating, which was an exact imitation of the method used by the Nuthatches, also present at the feeder throughout the winter. That is, a seed was picked from the feeding tray, carried to an adjacent tree, wedged into a crevice in the bark, and hammered open there, the crevice used as a holder; and it was the same crevice used by the nuthatches. Moreover, if the seed dropped out, the woodpeckers did not return to the feeder for another, but dropped to the ground, as did the nuthatches, to retrieve the seed and replace it in the crevice. This appears to be an observation of unique behavior for this type of bird.

Many people have written of the fewer species and numbers of birds at feeders this winter. Exceptions were the Dakins and the Eatons in Kentville, who had so many birds they had to replenish their supplies three times a day; the Yarmouth County people, and several people in Cape Breton who wrote to Frank Robertson in refutation of a statement of the above-mentioned scarcity. Mr. Robertson's surmise was that there may have been fewer feeders in these areas, and flocks were not split up between them.

It is possible, too, that birds, like people, enjoy supermarket shopping. The C.R.K. Allens likened their feeding station at Tusket to a department store. Since the story of this station more or less epitomizes the winter events at feeders in 1972-73, it is quoted in full as follows:

"Our feeding station officially opened in mid-October, and first customers arrived almost immediately. Several Bluejays showed up on the opening day and must have spread the word for, within a week, there were at least twenty, depleting the stock of sunflower seed at an alarming rate. They seldom took time out to eat, but crammed their gullets with seeds until their beaks could not be closed and then headed for their secret caches in the nearby woods.

Another first day arrival was a White-breasted Nuthatch who appeared minutes after the first "fat log" was hung, and sidled around it inspecting it from all angles, his head darting and weaving like that of a miniature sea-lion.

Such a quick response seemed too good to be true, and so it was; there was a lapse of nearly a week before any new customers arrived. These were five Gray Jays who came drifting across the orchard soaring from tree to tree like gray ghosts. They were apparently a family party for there were still traces of sooty juvenile plumage. They were interested only in the suet bags and a quieter, more well-behaved group could hardly be imagined, as each one waited and took its turn without a sign of squabbling or pushing for first place. Evening grosbeaks, please take note!

From then on business picked up briskly; Juncos, White-throats and Song Sparrows soon discovered the seed on the ground and a flock of Chipping Sparrows used us for several days as a fueling depot before making the flight across the Bay.

A handful of Purple Finches managed to filch a few sunflower seeds from the Blue Jays for several days before being crowded out, but toward the end of the month the Evening Grosbeaks arrived and loudly asserted their rights.

With early November came the real Carriage Trade: a resplendent male Pine Grosbeak accompanied by two modestly plumaged companions dropped in briefly, but found nothing to their liking and quickly departed. With the first light snowfall a hen Pheasant came for several days to the scratch feed, slipping quietly out from the spruce hedge, one cautious step at a time, alert for the slightest sign of danger.

Next our White-breasted Nuthatch was joined by several of his small Red-breasted cousins and, to our delight, a Brown Creeper.

These all became permanent customers and, together with a small flock of Black-capped Chickadees, played a constant game of King in the Castle on the fat logs.

The sparrow contingent was at first quite independent, appearing after a snowfall but reverting to natural food as soon as this melted away. As winter wore on, however, their visits became more frequent and prolonged and they eventually degenerated into shameless free-loaders. Four dozen Juncos, about a third as many White-throats and a smattering of Song Sparrows can eat their way through a 50-pound sack of seed in a disturbingly short time.

Then came the Cowbirds. A flock of nearly two hundred swirled down one day in early December like a black waterspout and for nearly a month they were in faithful attendance from dawn to dusk. They paid no attention either to each other or the other visitors, but shuffled about over the ground, tails pointed heavenward, heads down stuffing their bottomless crops with the food spread for their betters and sending the seed bill to unprecedented heights.

The two last additions to the permanent clientele arrived early in the new year: a flock of fifty-odd Goldfinches and about half that number of Pine Siskins.

Intermittent visitors during early winter were several Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles, and a Tree Sparrow. A Downy Woodpecker also showed up occasionally and eventually became a "regular".

We had placed our feeders strategically so that they would be under surveillance from the two most-used rooms in the house - the kitchen and bathroom. This was probably unwise for during peak feeding periods with nearly two hundred birds of ten or more species coming and going, milling about the feeders and jostling each other on the ground, we spent more time gazing out the windows than attending to the activities normally carried out in these rooms.

Like any other business which caters to the public, we had our share of undesirables. In our case, instead of shoplifters, pickpockets and chisellers, we had equally unwelcome guests. Until winter set in in earnest, we had trouble with raccoons emptying or making off with the suet bags and licking clean the pits in the fat logs. We tried various stratagems, calculated to put these out of reach, but were outsmarted every time, and were finally reduced to bringing bags and logs into the house each evening. Raccoons have apparently not yet learned to pick locks.

Village cats, too, proved to be a minor menace. First attracted by the scraps put out for the Crows, they quickly discovered the bird bonanza and spent much time making elaborate stalks which usually, so far as we could see, ended fruitlessly. Once only did we see a large ginger tom making off with a Cowbird which, after all, could well be spared.

The big trouble was hawks, Sharp-shins, six of them. At first it was a pleasant excitement to see the swift low-level attack and the pirouetting swerves and flares of this small raptore, as it tried to flush a small bird from a dense shrub or hedge. After all, we tritely asked ourselves, what is the real difference between a hawk plucking a chickadee and a grosbeak shucking a sunflower seed? The raids, however, became so frequent and the sight of our small customers being carried off so distressing, that we cast our scientific objectivity to the winter winds and Took Steps.

We were fortunate, I think, in that our emporium attracted only those undesirables whose activities could to some extent be controlled and we could count our blessings: not a single House Sparrow came near us during the whole winter and we had only two visits from a Starling.

There were, on the other hand, some absentees which we would have welcomed. We had fully expected a few Boreal Chickadees and had hoped for more woodpeckers and possibly a visit from a flock of Redpolls. Nevertheless, business on the whole had been good; twenty-seven species had accepted our hospitality and over half of these had liked the food and service well enough to become regulars.

Now, when the winter Song Sparrows begin to tune up and the twisted bonnets of skunk cabbage push up through last year's dead leaves, notice is served that it is time to close up shop for the season, and it seems proper that there should be some final reckoning of profit and loss. It should, I think go something like this:

DEBIT: Cost of 300 lbs. of sunflower seeds and 150 lbs. of small bird seed.

Time spent replenishing feeders and in sweeping snow from same and from the ground below.

Time spent watching the doings of our customers -

time which could have been spent more usefully through duller pursuits.

CREDIT: Healthful exercise in servicing feeders.

A few additions to the store of lore on bird behavior.

Alibi for not tackling constructive jobs.

Opportunity to exercise oneupmanship on proprietors of other feeding stations.

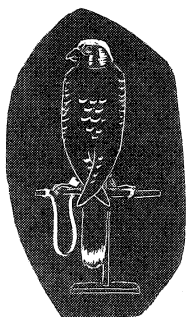
Just how the books balance and whether we have ended in the red or the black is difficult to say. I only know that, come next October, we plan to be back in business.

The feeder reports analysed came from Yarmouth (Marion Hilton, the Fred Nickersons, the C.R.K. Allens); Digby (Annie Raymond); Wilmot (the Frank Hawkins); Kentville (the Lovett Dakins, the Bev. Eatons); St. Croix (Margaret Clark); Halifax-Dartmouth (J.B. Hardie, the C.W. Helleiners, P.R. Dobson, the Roger Pocklingtons, the James Elliotts, the R.W. Topples, the F.W. Dobsons); Amherst (Con Desplanque); Upper Economy (Norma Lewis); Pictou (Eric Holdway); Cape Breton (the Burland Murphys, and many reports in Frank Robertson's "Post" column); Chester (five counts, as sent to L.B. Macpherson for the Christmas Counts); Clyde River (the Jim Forces); Lower Ohio (Edith Bower, Bessie Harris) and Cape Sable (the Sidney Smiths).



Junco

Rosemary Eaton



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor
NSBS Newsletter

In the course of my 1971 Seabird Census I took a boat out to Pumpkin Island (44°49'N 62°23'W) off Sheet Harbor Passage in Halifax County. There were 175 adult Black-backs on the island and 36 Black Guillemots flying out of the rocks on the shore and on the ocean around it. I also saw a Puffin flying around the Island, and as the shoreward side is perfect Puffin nesting habitat I managed to convince myself that there must be a small colony there.

Unfortunately the seas were too rough to allow a landing then. I was out of Nova Scotia all this summer so it was not until Dec. 10, 1972 that I returned, this time accompanied by my wife Carolyn and Deborah Diemand. Unfortunately we found nothing that could be called an undoubted Puffin burrow, though there were several suspicious excavations and rock cracks that will repay another visit in breeding season.

However, we did find Leach's Petrel burrows all over the vegetated part of the Island, and an estimated 100-200 Petrel corpses scattered around. Obviously the breeding Black-backs are really hammering the Petrel population.

On Dec. 1 at the Sedco J oil rig off eastern Newfoundland at 47°½'N and 48°22'W, a Winter Wren flew on board the rig supply ship "Ocean Shore" from which I was doing seabird counts. It stayed there about half-an-hour before leaving for shelter in the maze of pipes and beams below the rig platform.

The captain of the Ocean Shore, Mike Hogan, had been supplying rigs around Sable Island this summer and fall, and he reported that one or more Kestrels lived in the beams below the rig platform, swooping out to take "small yellowbirds". They apparently lived happily for several weeks under the rig.

Tony Lock
Dept. of Biology
Dalhousie University
December 18, 1972

Editor
NSBS Newsletter

I am writing with the hope that I may be able to generate a bit of interest among Nova Scotia bird watchers in erecting Bluebird nest boxes.

For the past three years my wife and I have been erecting small numbers of houses in southern New Brunswick, and so far we've had an encouraging amount of success.

Up until 1969, I had never seen a Bluebird in New Brunswick. That summer, while picking blueberries, my wife and I found a pair of adults in a large area of blueberry plain, in Charlotte County. The area was flat and open, had numerous fenceposts, and looked like the typical Bluebird breeding area that I had read about.

The following spring, we erected two houses at widely separated points, and checked them periodically. On May 30, we found a pair of Bluebirds defending one house against two pairs of Tree Swallows. They built an incomplete nest in the house, but on our next visit, we found that they had moved to a nearby hollow fencepost, where they later successfully raised a brood of four.

The next year, 1971, after making several changes in house design (to approximate more closely the size and shape of the fencepost cavity), we put up five houses within a six-mile circuit in the area. We were extremely fortunate to get three pairs of Bluebirds, and were able to locate a fourth pair nesting in a natural cavity within the same area. These nests raised a total of eighteen young successfully.

This past spring, we erected a total of fourteen houses within a ten-mile circuit in the area, and got six pairs of Bluebirds in the houses. We were also able to locate three additional pairs in natural cavities, and another singing male which quite possibly represented a tenth nest. All other houses were occupied by Tree Swallows.

Next year, we intend to erect a few houses in some other places in southern New Brunswick, as well, and I am hoping that some of these birds will return. Each of these locations is of a similar type of habitat to the Charlotte County area, and I'm hoping that we may have some luck there too.

Enclosed is a house plan which is the same as the one with which we have had success. It should not be considered perfect by any means, but for anyone interested in building a few of their own, it will provide a model to which improvements could be made.

The 1½" hole eliminates Starlings, and the only other species which has used them has been Tree Swallows. I don't know about English Sparrows - there haven't been any in the rural areas in which we have placed houses. However, I think the tall,

narrow shape might discourage them, because of the usual bulky nature of their nests.

I have used a dull brown, or greenish paint on mine, in order to make them rather inconspicuous to possible molesters. We have also made it a point to try to erect them in rather inconspicuous locations, for the same reason. So far, we have only lost one house.

All of our houses are within five feet of the ground. One which was used by Bluebirds was only two and a half feet up.

Raccoons could be a problem in places where they are numerous. One of our houses occupied by a Tree Swallow was robbed last spring. As yet I don't know a satisfactory solution to the problem. Perhaps the house design could be changed.

For anyone interested in erecting Bluebird houses, I would suggest that they should try an area from which there have been previous (preferably recent) spring sightings. The area should be relatively open, preferably with a stub or post on which a house could be placed. If there are no previous sightings, any area which has extensive blueberry plains might be a good bet. This seems to be the preferred habitat in southern New Brunswick.

In southern New Brunswick we have erected our houses about the first week in May. The first egg date so far is May 25, but the majority of nests have not been completed before the second week of June.

From recent reports in the NSBS Newsletter, Digby County sounds a likely place for Bluebird houses, perhaps Brier Island? If any of your readers are interested, and would care to write, I would be very happy to assist in any way that I can.

James G. Wilson
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Kings County, N.B.
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