

*Nova Scotia
Bird Society*



Newsletter

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1

APRIL, 1974

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TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Christmas Counts, 1973	1
Seasonal Bird Report, November-March	19
Notes - Seaside Sparrows, Golden Eagle, Cowbirds, Chester	42
Bird Society News	44
Letters	50
Canadian Beached Bird Survey	54
Nova Scotian Rarities in Perspective. II: Oystercatchers to Owls - by I. A. McLaren..	56
<u>FIELD TRIPS:</u> <u>see centrefold.</u>	

REPORTS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE JUNE 15 1974

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NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER
Volume 16, Number 1
April, 1974

CHRISTMAS COUNTS IN NOVA SCOTIA - 1973

Edited by L. B. Macpherson

It is a pleasure to report that there has been a slow but steady growth in the number of usable Counts over the past 5 years - 21 in 1969, 31 this year. However, as I noted in 1969, among the populous centers, Counts were not done in Truro, New Glasgow, Antigonish, Windsor, Kentville, Liverpool and Bridgewater. This is still the case. As well, a number of Counts that were made are, unfortunately, very non-representative of the areas in question. Organization and co-operation are needed.

Nonetheless, over 102,000 individual birds of 139 species (very much an all-time high) were counted this Christmas season. A remarkable total of 13 species new to our Christmas Count list were identified, bringing to 176 the number of species on such Counts in Nova Scotia in the past 18 years. It is planned that these will be listed in the November NEWSLETTER.

Because of changed rules and changed species designations, adjustments have had to be made in the totals for previous years and thus in the cumulative total. The Rock Dove (common pigeon) has gained official respectability and may now be counted as a species. Its absence on some Counts reflects many years of compilers being told not to include it. 'Oregon Junco' has become a subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco (formerly Slate-colored) and our 'Ipswich Sparrow' has been declared to be a subspecies of the Savannah Sparrow. For those interested in statistics the revised figures for the past 5 years are shown.

(below) Revised Totals, Species Identified in Count Periods

123	116	125	120	139
(1969)	(1970)	(1971)	(1972)	(1973)
156	158	162	163	176

(above) Revised Cumulative N.S. Count Totals (since 1955)

It is hard to decide which of the 13 species is the most remarkable. Rock Doves were the least remarkable - they were here all the time. The others are: Northern Fulmar (49, Cabot Strait, 1, Bay of Fundy), Greater Shearwater (1, Bay of Fundy), Double-crested Cormorant (1, Brier Is.), Clapper Rail (1, Broad Cove), Semipalmated Plover (1, Brier Is.), Semipalmated Sandpiper (6, Cape Sable Is.), Red-headed Woodpecker (1, Digby, 1, Halifax West), Eastern Kingbird (1, Yarmouth), Western Kingbird (1, Cape Sable Is.), Magnolia Warbler (1, Halifax West), Seaside Sparrow (Economy), White-crowned Sparrow (1, Kingston, 1, Bridgetown, Annapolis Royal, 3, Halifax East).

Many of these could be expected to be found here sometime on a Christmas Count as fall survivors or storm born strays. Certainly the most unexpected bird is the Greater Shearwater which should be on or nearing its breeding islands in the South Atlantic at this time of year. Bob Lamberton saw it within 150-feet and noted all distinguishing field marks easily. The Clapper Rail and Magnolia Warbler are definitely unexpected too. Although not the first (Yarmouth in 1969), the Bobolink on the Halifax East Count was far from where it would usually be.

The numbers and widespread occurrence of Killdeer (68 on 7 counts) and Mourning Dove (105 on 11 counts) are notable too. The former seem to have arrived here as the result of a gale on 17/18 December; the latter were remnants of a large flight through here in the fall as were the White-crowned Sparrows. In general there were fewer 'winter finches' this year than last and more shore birds and sparrows (including rare ones) than is usual. Happily, Goshawks were identified on 7 counts. Probably most interesting for the future is the known presence of at least 50 Cardinals in the province in December-January. Digby and Yarmouth recorded a total of 9 on their counts. Hopefully some will survive to breed.

The most widespread species - probably the most easily recognized - here defined as those noted on two-thirds of the accepted counts were, in Check List order: Black Duck, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Blue Jay, Raven, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Robin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, House Sparrow and Evening Grosbeak. In this context I suspect that the Brown Creeper is a more widespread bird than it appears to be but most people clearly do not become aware of them. Certainly I see them only rarely except when certain friends who can find them 'everywhere' point them out to me. Their single call note is so extremely high pitched that presumably most people, including myself, just do not hear it.

Numerically, this year, the 10 most abundant species on these counts were those listed below. They account for 84% of individual birds counted. Thick-billed Murre (20,006), Herring Gull (15,979), Starling (12,915), Great Black-backed Gull (6969), House Sparrow (6149), Crow (5448), Canada Goose (4414), Black-legged Kittiwake (4081), Black Duck (3215), Greater Scaup (2220). Brier Island is the place to see immense concentrations of seabirds in fall and winter.

A few additional feeder, backyard, overlapping or otherwise unacceptably limited counts were received. They were so excessively non-representative of the birds in a 170-sq. mile circle that they could not be used. Any unusual birds noted in them will be reported elsewhere in the NEWSLETTER.

In the summaries of the Counts (recorded below in a more or less north to south order) underlining is for species names that are new on the Nova Scotia Christmas Count list, species that occurred on one Count only this year. Unusual numbers of individuals are underlined as well. The form and spelling of each participant's name is as supplied by the compiler of each Count.



Probable young male Black-headed Grosbeak, Barrington Passage, Nov.15. Unfortunately the black-and-white picture gives no hint of the rich "brandied-peach" hue of the sides and breast of this striking bird.

Photo. Ian McLaren

CABOT STRAIT, N.S. to Nfld, 28 December 1973.

Two observers; 4-hour ferry run, open sea.

Observation conditions: medium.

Totals: 9 species identified; about 1595 individuals.

Northern Fulmar, 49 (3 dark); Glaucous Gull, 2;
Iceland Gull, 72; Great Black-backed Gull, 21; Herring Gull, 12;
Black-legged Kittiwake, 65; Thick-billed Murre, 45;
Dovekie, 1246; Black Guillemot, 1; large alcid sp., 82.

Observers: Davis Finch (240 W 98 St., New York,
N.Y., 10025 - compiler), Richard Howie.

MARGAREE, Inverness Co., 1 January 1974.

Five observers; 13 party-hours plus 1 feeder.

Observation conditions: poor.

Totals: 18 species identified; about 533 individuals.

Black Duck, 8; Com. Goldeneye, 37; White-winged Scoter, 4;
Com. Merganser, 2; Bald Eagle, 2a; Iceland Gull, 23;
Great Black-backed Gull, 13; Herring Gull, 33;
Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 16; Raven, 23; Crow, 95;
Black-capped Chickadee, 2; Starling, 54; House Sparrow, 170;
Evening Grosbeak, 27; (Purple Finch); Pine Grosbeak, 21;
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, 2.

Observers: Thomas Bellis (Margaree Center, Inverness Co.
- compiler), Brenda Hart, Gerald Hart, Baxter Ingraham,
Leslie Ingraham, Sylvia Ingraham.

BADDECK, Victoria Co., 31 December 1973.

Eleven observers; 12 party-hours plus 6 feeders.

Observation conditions: good.

Totals: 29 species identified; about 971 individuals.

Black Duck, 58; Greater Scaup, 13; Com. Goldeneye, 175;
Red-breasted Merganser, 1; Bald Eagle, 9; Great Black-backed
Gull, 18; Herring Gull, 36; Hairy Woodpecker, 2;
Downy Woodpecker, 2; Gray Jay, 5; Blue Jay, 18; Raven, 15;
Crow, 60; Black-capped Chickadee, 26; Boreal Chickadee, 12;
Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 13;
Starling, 94; House Sparrow, 90; Com. Grackle, 1; Brown-headed
Cowbird, 3; Evening Grosbeak, 197; Purple Finch, 18;
Pine Grosbeak, 3; Pine Siskin, 8; Am. Goldfinch, 38;
White-winged Crossbill, 39; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, 15.

Observers: Bill Black, Doris Black, Lal Coleman,
Stewart MacLeod, Edith MacPherson, J.G. Nicholson, Dave Smith,
Marg Sollows, Dale Stone, Lloyd Stone (Box 191, Baddeck -
- compiler), Bob Wheeler.

THE SYDNEYS, Cape Breton Co., 29 December 1973.

Eight observers; 34 party-hours plus 2 feeders.

Observation conditions: very good.

Totals: 37 species identified; about 3769 individuals.

Common Loon,1; Red-throated Loon,1; Great Cormorant,1;
Canada Goose,1; Black Duck,1; Greater Scaup,21; Common
Goldeneye,62; Bufflehead,1; Oldsquaw,64; White-winged
Scoter,212; Surf Scoter,5; Black (Common) Scoter,69;
Red-breasted Merganser,7; Bald Eagle,6a; Glaucous Gull,16;
Iceland Gull,306; Great Black-backed Gull,357; Herring
Gull,876; Ring-billed Gull,1; Black-headed Gull,5;
Thick-billed Murre,1; Blue Jay,52; Raven,20; Crow,245;
Black-capped Chickadee,10; Robin,1; Golden-crowned Kinglet,8;
Starling,583; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler,3; House
Sparrow,250; Red-winged Blackbird,2; Evening Grosbeak,84;
Am. Goldfinch,181; Savannah Sparrow,1; Dark-eyed (Slate-
colored) Junco,10; Song Sparrow,1; Lapland Longspur,1.

Observers: Mary Hay, Bertha Hopkins, Hedley Hopkins,
William Large, Ian MacGregor (248 Newlands Ave., Sydney -
- compiler), Francis MacKinnon, Harry & Norma Strickland.

GLACE BAY, Cape Breton Co., 26 December 1973.

Seven observers; 18 party-hours plus 4 feeders.

Observation conditions: very poor.

Totals: 32 species identified; about 6676 individuals.

Canada Goose,1200+; Black Duck,150;
Blue-winged Teal,1; Greater Scaup,10; Common Goldeneye,19;
Oldsquaw,35; White-winged Scoter,14; Common Merganser,9;
(Sharp-shinned Hawk, Bald Eagle, (Merlin) , (Ruffed Grouse);
Greater Yellowlegs,2; Glaucous Gull,4; Iceland Gull,454;
Great Black-backed Gull,1269; Herring Gull,2503;
Black-headed Gull,58; Black-legged Kittiwake,1; Dovekie,1;
(Belted Kingfisher); Blue Jay,17; Raven,3; Crow,194;
Black-capped Chickadee,1; Mockingbird,2; Robin,12;
Golden-crowned Kinglet,3; Northern Shrike,1; Starling,324;
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler); House Sparrow,256;
(Red-winged Blackbird); Evening Grosbeak,60; Com. Redpoll,30;
(Pine Siskin); Song Sparrow,6; Lapland Longspur,5;
Snow Bunting,1.

Observers: I.Abernathy, R.Beecher, F.MacKinnon,
Sara MacLean (52 Catherine St., Glace Bay - compiler)
E.MacLeod, B.Reid, G.Spencer.

ESKASONI, Cape Breton Co., 23 December 1973.

Three observers; 13 party-hours.

Observation conditions: very good.

Totals: 38 species identified; about 799 individuals.

Red-necked Grebe, 1; Black Duck, 26; Greater Scaup, 1; Common Goldeneye, 12; Oldsquaw, 2; White-winged Scoter, 19; Black (Common) Scoter, 5; Common Merganser, 8; Red-breasted Merganser, 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 10a, 2i; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 24; Herring Gull, 130; Black-headed Gull, 3; Bonaparte's Gull, 22; Thick-billed Murre, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 26; Raven, 16; Crow, 102; Black-capped Chickadee, 7; Boreal Chickadee, 37; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 70; Starling, 86; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, 2; House Sparrow, 12; Evening Grosbeak, 21; Pine Grosbeak, 7; Am. Goldfinch, 101; Red Crossbill, 15; White-winged Crossbill, 7; Savannah Sparrow, 2; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, 9.

Observers: Ian MacGregor, Francis MacKinnon
(3329 Beaton Ave., New Waterford - compiler), Betty Reid.

SALMON RIVER, Cape Breton Co., 22 December 1973.

Five observers; 14 party-hours; plus 2 feeders.

Observation conditions: medium becoming good.

Totals: 22 species identified; about 685 individuals.

Bald Eagle, 2; Pheasant, 2; Great Black-backed Gull, 74; Herring Gull, 122; (Mourning Dove); Gray Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 45; Raven, 3; Crow, 77; Black-capped Chickadee, 32; Boreal Chickadee, 4; Robin, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 33; Starling, 60; House Sparrow, 38; Baltimore Oriole, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 87; Purple Finch, 3; Pine Grosbeak, 3; Am. Goldfinch, 59; Red Crossbill, 6; White-winged Crossbill, 3; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, 34.

Observers: Audrey Duchemin, Bertha Hopkins,
Hedley Hopkins (43 Central St., Sydney - compiler), Frances
Hussey, Darrell Leach, Betty Reid, Lloyd Stone.

ST PETERS, Richmond Co., 1 January 1974.

Four observers; 20 party-hours plus 2 feeders.

Observation conditions: good becoming poor.

Totals: 24 species identified; about 193 individuals.

Black Duck, 2; Common Goldeneye, 8; Oldsquaw, 9; White-winged Scoter, 2; Red-breasted Merganser, 4; (Bald Eagle); Great Black-backed Gull, 6; Herring Gull, 20; Common Murre, 1; Mourning Dove, 2; Gray Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 2; Raven, 5; Crow, 29; Black-capped Chickadee, 12; Boreal Chickadee, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 6; Starling, 11; House Sparrow, 40; Baltimore Oriole, 3; (Evening Grosbeak); Purple Finch, 11; Pine Grosbeak, 2; Pine Siskin, 2; Red Crossbill, 11; Dark-eyed Junco, 1.

Observers: Clarence Digout, Eva & Murdoch (P.O. Box 114,
St. Peters - compiler) Digout, A.O. MacLean.

AMHERST, Cumberland Co., 27 December 1973.

Nine observers; 26 party-hours, 2 feeders.

Observation conditions: good.

Totals: 36 species identified; about 1500 individuals.

Mallard,2; Black Duck,172; (Pintail, Ring-necked Duck);
Com. Goldeneye,2; Com. Merganser,98; (Red-breasted Merganser);
Goshawk,1; Marsh Hawk,5; Rough-legged Hawk,14; (Bald Eagle);
Ruffed Grouse,2; Great Black-backed Gull,49; Herring Gull,158;
Rock Dove,32; Short-eared Owl,3; Hairy Woodpecker,1;
Downy Woodpecker,1; Horned Lark,21; Gray Jay,2; Blue Jay,16;
Raven,46; Crow,87; Black-capped Chickadee,18; Boreal
Chickadee,4; White-breasted Nuthatch,3; Red-breasted
Nuthatch,1; (Robin); Golden-crowned Kinglet,3; (Northern Shrike);
Starling,341; Com. Yellowthroat,1; House Sparrow,135;
Com. Grackle,1; (Brown-headed Cowbird); Evening Grosbeak,144;
Pine Siskin,1; Am. Goldfinch,29; Savannah Sparrow,7;
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco,2; Tree Sparrow,43;
Song Sparrow,5; Snow Bunting,49.

Observers: Evelyn Coates (72 Church St., Amherst -
compiler), Con Desplanque, Sam Donaldson, Barbara Hennigar,
H. Herries, Chris Majka, Dora Myers, Stuart Tingley, Eric Tull.

NORTHPORT, Cumberland Co., 25 December 1973.

Two observers; 6 party-hours, 1 feeder.

Observation conditions: very good.

Totals; 16 species identified; about 414 individuals.

Common Loon,4; Canada Goose,13; Black Duck,74;
Oldsquaw,7; unidentified water birds,88; Ruffed Grouse,2;
Great Black-backed Gull,6; Herring Gull,18;
Pileated Woodpecker,1; Hairy Woodpecker,1; Blue Jay,9;
Raven,16; Crow,46; Black-capped Chickadee,9; Starling,3;
House Sparrow,116; Brown-headed Cowbird,1.

Observers: R.G. MacNeil (RR#4, Amherst), D.S. MacNeil.

PICTOU, Pictou Co., 27 December 1973.

One observer; 4 hours.

Observation conditions: good.

Totals: 15 species identified; about 468 individuals.

Common Merganser,17; (Bald Eagle); Pheasant,1;
Great Black-backed Gull,22; Herring Gull,205;
Downy Woodpecker,1; Blue Jay,8; Crow,44; Black-capped
Chickadee,1; Golden-crowned Kinglet,1; Starling,76;
House Sparrow,62; (Com. Grackle); Evening Grosbeak,24;
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco,3; Tree Sparrow,2,
Song Sparrow,1.

Observer: Eric Holdway (Box 743, Pictou).

ECONOMY, Colchester Co., 1 January 1974.

Two observers; 17 party-hours.

Observation conditions: poor.

Totals: 25 species identified; about 414 individuals.

(Red-throated Loon); Black Duck,90; White-winged Scoter,1; (Surf Scoter); Com. Merganser,2; Bald Eagle,1; (Spruce Grouse); Ruffed Grouse,1; Great Black-backed Gull,15; Herring Gull,50; Mourning Dove,11; (Pileated Woodpecker; Downy Woodpecker; Horned Lark; Gray Jay; Blue Jay;) Raven,20; Crow,30; Black-capped Chickadee,20; (Boreal Chickadee; Red-breasted Nuthatch); Brown Creeper,1; Robin,4; Golden-crowned Kinglet,20; Starling,15; House Sparrow,20; Brown-headed Cowbird,30; (Evening Grosbeak; Purple Finch; Pine Grosbeak); Com. Redpoll,1; Pine Siskin,4; Am. Goldfinch,9; Red Crossbill,30; (White-winged Crossbill); Savannah Sparrow,1; (Seaside Sparrow); Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco,25; Tree Sparrow,12; (Song Sparrow); Snow Bunting,1.

Observers: Edgar Spalding, Francis P.Spalding.

SPRINGVILLE, Pictou Co., 22 December 1973.

Six observers; 10 party-hours.

Observation conditions: very good.

Totals: 19 species identified; about 528 individuals.

Black Duck,13; Red-breasted Merganser,5; (Red-tailed Hawk; Bald Eagle); Spruce Grouse,1; Ruffed Grouse,1; Great Black-backed Gull,52; Herring Gull,180; Rock Dove,27; (Pileated Woodpecker; Downy Woodpecker); Blue Jay,4; Raven,16; Crow,97; Black-capped Chickadee,26; Boreal Chickadee,10; Red-breasted Nuthatch,1; (Robin); Golden-crowned Kinglet,15; Starling,18; House Sparrow,23; Com. Grackle,1; Evening Grosbeak,21; Am. Goldfinch,17; (Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco).

Observers: Jean Brennan, Harry Brennan, Fred Kenney (RR#2, New Glasgow - compiler), Margaret Kenney, Jill Mawdesley, Lee Mawdesley.

KINGSTON, Kings Co., 30 December 1973.

Five observers; 10 party-hours plus 3 feeders.

Observation conditions: poor.

Totals: 25 species identified; about 672 individuals.

Horned Grebe,2; Black Duck,2; Bufflehead,1; Oldsquaw,3; White-winged Scoter,4; Red-breasted Merganser,5; Red-tailed Hawk,1; Pheasant,1; Great Black-backed Gull,9; Herring Gull,47; Black-legged Kittiwake,1; Hairy Woodpecker,2; Downy Woodpecker,4; Blue Jay,5; Raven,1; Crow,71; Black-capped Chickadee,4; Robin,3; Golden-crowned Kinglet,6; Starling,110; House Sparrow,255; (Red-winged Blackbird); Common Grackle,1; Brown-headed Cowbird,130; White-winged Crossbill,3; (Chipping Sparrow); White-crowned Sparrow,1.

Observers: Clare Corbin, Walter Ditmars, Frank Hawkins, Thelma Hawkins, Helen McGloin, Larry Neily (RR#6, Kingston - compiler).

WOLFVILLE, Kings Co., 16 December 1973.

Nineteen observers; 62 party-hours plus 3 feeders.

Observation conditions: very good.

Totals: 50 species identified; about 10,923 individuals.

Red-throated Loon,3; Red-necked Grebe,1; Mallard,11; Black Duck,928; Pintail,2; Green-winged Teal,2; Goshawk,2; Sharp-shinned Hawk,2; Red-tailed Hawk,14; Rough-legged Hawk,14; Bald Eagle,3a,3i; Ruffed Grouse,1; Pheasant,20; Gray Partridge,3; (Iceland Gull); Great Black-backed Gull,387; Herring Gull,980; Rock Dove,405; Mourning Dove,3; (Snowy Owl); Short-eared Owl,2; Common Flicker,1; Hairy Woodpecker,2; Downy Woodpecker,7; Horned Lark,48; Blue Jay,211; Raven,248; Crow,2670; Black-capped Chickadee,89; Boreal Chickadee,5; White-breasted Nuthatch,7; Brown Creeper,4; Mockingbird,1; Robin,42; Golden-crowned Kinglet,12; Starling,1130; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler,5; (Yellow-breasted Chat); House Sparrow,1753; Com. Grackle,3; Brown-headed Cowbird,1284; Evening Grosbeak,117; Purple Finch,9; Pine Grosbeak,3; Pine Siskin,20; Am. Goldfinch,72; Savannah Sparrow,2; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco,284; Tree Sparrow,15; White-throated Sparrow,34; Song Sparrow,53; Snow Bunting,2.

Observers: Peter Austin-Smith, Sherman Bleakney, Curtis Chipman, Cyril Coldwell, Russell Eagles, John Erskine (Box 234, Wolfville - co-compiler), Rachel Erskine, Merritt Gibson, Mary Forbes, Gay Hanson, Bob Lamberton (Box 284, Acadia Univ., Wolfville), Andrew MacInnes, Oscar Morehouse, Ruth Morehouse, Gordon Ringius, Jean Timpa, Lillian Tufts, Robie W. Tufts.

SHUBENACADIE, Hants Co., 29 December 1973.

Three observers; 8 party-hours and 2 feeders.

Observation conditions: good.

Totals: 32 species identified; about 968 individuals.

(Great Blue Heron); Canada Goose,24; Black Duck,28; Goshawk,1; Sharp-shinned Hawk,1; (Red-tailed Hawk); Rough-legged Hawk,1; Bald Eagle,2; Am. Kestrel (Sparrow H.),1; Ruffed Grouse,1; Pheasant,2; Great Black-backed Gull,1; Herring Gull,44; Hairy Woodpecker,2; Downy Woodpecker,1; Gray Jay,5; Blue Jay,13; Raven,30; Crow,150; Black-capped Chickadee,34; White-breasted Nuthatch,1; Brown Creeper,2; (Robin); Golden-crowned Kinglet,9; Starling,400; House Sparrow,150; Com. Grackle,2; Brown-headed Cowbird,2; Evening Grosbeak,18; (Purple Finch); Pine Grosbeak,1; Com. Redpoll,8; Am. Goldfinch,24; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco,6; Tree Sparrow,1; (Fox Sparrow); Song Sparrow,3; (Snow Bunting).

Observers: Brian Anthony, Mary Geddes, Roslyn MacPhee (Shubenacadie, Hants Co. - compiler).

LISCOMB, Guysborough Co., 30 December 1973.

One observer; 4 hours.

Observation conditions: good.

Totals: 13 species identified; about 91 individuals.

Common Loon,1; Horned Grebe,6; Black Duck,1;
Oldsquaw,20; White-winged Scoter,2; Common Merganser,6;
Red-breasted Merganser,8; (Spruce Grouse); Herring Gull,15;
Raven,4; Crow,15; Boreal Chickadee,10; (Robin);
Golden-crowned Kinglet,3; (Palm Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco,
White-throated Sparrow); Fox Sparrow,1; (Swamp Sparrow).

Observer: Margaret Monks (472 Logan St.,
Saint Lambert, Que.)

BRIDGETOWN, Annapolis Co., 15 December 1973.

Thirty-two observers; 28 party-hours, 8 feeders.

Observation conditions: medium.

Totals: 41 species identified; about 1138 individuals.

Common Loon,14; Red-throated Loon,4; Red-necked
Grebe,16; Horned Grebe,5; Great Cormorant,2; Black Duck,2;
Common Goldeneye,2; Bufflehead,7; Oldsquaw,14; Com. Eider,4;
White-winged Scoter,2; Surf Scoter,10; Red-breasted
Merganser,17; (Sharp-shinned Hawk); Red-tailed Hawk,1;
(Rough-legged Hawk); Bald Eagle,1; Marsh Hawk,1; hawk sp.,2;
Pheasant,2; Gray Partridge,22; Purple Sandpiper,10; Great
Black-backed Gull,14; Herring Gull,111; Rock Dove,14;
(Mourning Dove; Snowy Owl); owl sp.,1; (Pileated Woodpecker);
Hairy Woodpecker,11; Downy Woodpecker,12; Gray Jay,1;
Blue Jay,88; Raven,16; Crow,140; Black-capped Chickadee,33;
White-breasted Nuthatch,6; Robin,49; Golden-crowned Kinglet,1;
Starling,93; House Sparrow,399; Baltimore Oriole,1;
Com.Grackle,12; (Brown-headed Cowbird); Am.Goldfinch,1;
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco,1; White-crowned Sparrow,1;
White-throated Sparrow,2; Snow Bunting,1.

Observers: Mable Bent, Don Bowlby, W.E.Chambers,
Helen Clark, J.F.Doig, Sue Goodwin, Merrian Graves,
Doris Hicks, Terrance Hyson (115 Granville St.E., Bridgetown
- compiler), Mrs K.Hyson, Bob Lambertson, Ruth Little,
Dian Long, Mrs Macintosh, Eileen Mack, Mrs Merriam,
Harry Marshall, Wilfred Marshall, Mr & Mrs D.D.McFee,
Hilda Messenger, Eric Moris, Gertrude Newbury, Vivian
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Gorden Ringius, Mr & Mrs A.Slaunwhite, Jesse Saunders,
Marg Smith, Mr & Mrs K.Spicer, Mrs Steed, Marg Stoddart,
Stewart Whitman.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Annapolis Co., 29 December 1973.

Four observers; 16 party-hours plus 4 feeders.

Observation conditions: good.

Totals: 36 species identified; about 513 individuals.

Common Loon,6; Red-throated Loon,2; Red-necked Grebe,5;
Horned Grebe,6; Great Cormorant,7; Black Duck,14; Common
Goldeneye,1; Bufflehead,5; Oldsquaw,19; White-winged
Scoter,18; Surf Scoter,11; Black (Common) Scoter,1;
Com.Merganser,2; Red-breasted Merganser,12;(Red-tailed Hawk);
Ruffed Grouse,1; (Glaucous Gull); Great Black-backed Gull,31;
Herring Gull,96; Thick-billed Murre,11; Dovekie,2;
Rock Dove,11; (Hairy Woodpecker); Downy Woodpecker,1;
Blue Jay,14; Raven,4; Crow,42; Black-capped Chickadee,14;
Boreal Chickadee,1; White-breasted Nuthatch,3; Robin,5;
Golden-crowned Kinglet,3; Starling,49; House Sparrow,87;
(Red-winged Blackbird); Com.Grackle,1; (Brown-headed Cowbird);
Evening Grosbeak,24; White-winged Crossbill,2; (Dark-eyed
(Slate-colored) Junco); (White-crowned Sparrow);
White-throated Sparrow,1; (Swamp Sparrow); Song Sparrow,1.

Observers: Calder Fraser (Box 428, Annapolis Royal -
compiler), Mrs Arthur Kelsall, Mrs Roy Laurence, W.D.Wetmore,
Margaret Wetmore, Mr & Mrs W.E.Whitehead.

BAY OF FUNDY, N.S. to N.B., 18 December 1973.

One observer; 1-hour ferry run, open sea.

Observation conditions: good.

Totals: 6 species identified; about 22 individuals.

Northern Fulmar,1; Greater Shearwater,1; Great
Black-backed Gull,1; Herring Gull,1; Black-legged Kittiwake,13;
Razorbill,3; alcid sp., 2.

Observer: Bob Lamberton (Box 284, Acadia University,
Wolfville).

DIGBY, Digby Co., 31 December 1973.

Nine observers; 8 party-hours plus 6 feeders.

Observation conditions: poor.

Totals: 27 species identified; about 490 individuals.

Common Loon,2; Greater Scaup,200; Com. Goldeneye,2;
Com. Eider,2; Sharp-shinned Hawk,2; Bald Eagle,3;
Herring Gull,15; Pileated Woodpecker,1;
Red-headed Woodpecker,1; Hairy Woodpecker,2; Downy
Woodpecker,1; Blue Jay,18; Crow,9; Black-capped Chickadee,3;
Robin,8; Starling,12; House Sparrow,70; Common Grackle,7;
Brown-headed Cowbird,50; Cardinal,3; Evening Grosbeak,48;
Purple Finch,2; Am.Goldfinch,6; Rufous-sided Towhee,1;
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco,1; White-throated Sparrow,20;
Song Sparrow,1.

Observers: Louise Daley (Box 124, Digby - compiler),
Mr & Mrs H.Emerson, Mr & Mrs K.Harris, Mrs Kelsey Raymond,
Mrs Cecil Raymond, Mr & Mrs Harold Sulis.

WEYMOUTH, Digby Co., 1 January 1974.

Five observers; 4 party-hours.

Observation conditions: poor.

Totals: 18 species identified; about 381 individuals.

Common Loon,13; Black Duck,4; Greater Scaup,128;
Com. Goldeneye,12; Oldsquaw,1; Com. Eider,9; White-winged
Scoter,2; Red-breasted Merganser,1; duck sp.,22;
Sharp-shinned Hawk,1; Woodcock,1; Great Black-backed Gull,40;
Herring Gull,90; Blue Jay,1; Raven,12; Crow,47;
Black-capped Chickadee,5; Brown-headed Cowbird,1;
White-throated Sparrow,1.

Observers: Margaret Grant, Ann Rogers, John Rogers,
Rory Rogers, R. MacLeod Rogers (Box 550, Digby - compiler).

HALIFAX EAST, Halifax Co., 15 December 1973.

Thirty observers; 60 party-hours, 3 feeders.

Observation conditions: poor.

Totals: 74 species identified; about 7137 individuals.

Common Loon,22; Red-necked Grebe,3; Horned Grebe,10;
Great Blue Heron,3; Canada Goose,2350; Black Duck,405;
Greater Scaup,5; Com. Goldeneye,2; Bufflehead,75;
Oldsquaw,167; White-winged Scoter,6; Surf Scoter,4;
Black (Common) Scoter,1; Hooded Merganser,1; Com. Merganser,1;
Red-breasted Merganser,27; Bald Eagle,1a; Am. Kestrel
(Sparrow Hawk),1; Spruce Grouse,1; Ruffed Grouse,10;
Virginia Rail,1; Black-bellied Plover,2; Com. Snipe,2;
Sanderling,1; Iceland Gull,1; Great Black-backed Gull,130;
Herring Gull,580; Ring-billed Gull,41; Black-headed Gull,4;
Rock Dove,36; Mourning Dove,35; Kingfisher,2; Hairy
Woodpecker,2; Horned Lark,19; Gray Jay,7; Blue Jay,70;
Raven,40; Crow,230; Black-capped Chickadee,185;
Boreal Chickadee,60; White-breasted Nuthatch,2; Red-breasted
Nuthatch,7; Brown Creeper,5; Mockingbird,1; Robin,14;
Hermit Thrush,1; Golden-crowned Kinglet,220; Starling,1280;
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler,60; Palm Warbler,1;
Com. Yellowthroat,2; House Sparrow,450; Bobolink,1;
Red-winged Blackbird,1; Com. Grackle,1; Brown-headed
Cowbird,21; Dickcissel,1; Evening Grosbeak,78; Purple Finch,2;
Pine Grosbeak,1; Pine Siskin,6; Am. Goldfinch,71;
Red Crossbill,1; Savannah Sparrow,31; Dark-eyed (Slate-
colored) Junco,92; Tree Sparrow,42; Chipping Sparrow,5;
Field Sparrow,1; White-crowned Sparrow,3; White-throated
Sparrow,110; Fox Sparrow,1; Swamp Sparrow,11;
Song Sparrow,68; Snow Bunting,3.

Observers: Mary & Ross Anderson, Shirley Brothers,
Hazel Carmichael, Margaret Clark, Molly Clayden, Chris,
John and Shirley (organizer) Cohrs, Frances Cook, Eric Cooke,
Ethel Crathorne, B.K. Doane, Sylvia Fullerton, Phyllis Hemeon,
Barbara Hinds, Rick Howie, Robert Jackson, Tony Lock,
Ian MacGregor, Ian McLaren, L.B. Macpherson (6057 Fraser St.,
Halifax - compiler), Bruce Mactavish, Eric Mills,
Sandra Myers, Roger Pocklington and Dan Welch.

HALIFAX WEST, Halifax Co., 23 December 1973.

Forty-five observers; 117 party-hours, 17 feeders.

Observation conditions: good becoming poor.

Totals: 74 species + 2 races; about 14,601 individuals.

Common Loon, 22; Red-throated Loon, 1; Red-necked Grebe, 7; Gannet, 1; Great Cormorant, 73; Black Duck, 1; Bufflehead, 1; Oldsquaw, 41; Harlequin Duck, 1; Com. Eider, 405; White-winged Scoter, 5; Surf Scoter, 2; Red-breasted Merganser, 14; Goshawk, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Merlin (Pigeon Hawk), 1; Spruce Grouse, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 5; Killdeer, 11; Black-bellied Plover, 1; Purple Sandpiper, 28; Iceland Gull, 10 /Kumlein's, 4/; Great Black-backed Gull, 590; Herring Gull, 2900; Ring-billed Gull, 6; Black-headed Gull, 8; Bonaparte's Gull, 2; Black-legged Kittiwake, 1; Thick-billed Murre, 1; Black Guillemot, 21; Rock Dove, 770; Mourning Dove, 7; Great Horned Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 12; Downy Woodpecker, 14; Gray Jay, 21; Blue Jay, 150; Raven, 35; Crow, 370; Black-capped Chickadee, 220; Boreal Chickadee, 65; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Brown Creeper, 1; Mockingbird, 2; Robin, 46; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 82; Starling, 6700; Magnolia Warbler, 1; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, 7; Palm Warbler, 5; Yellow-breasted Chat, 2; House Sparrow, 1350; Northern (Baltimore) Oriole, 3; Com. Grackle, 5; Brown-headed Cowbird, 8; Evening Grosbeak, 210; Purple Finch, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 3; Pine Siskin, 2; Am. Goldfinch, 24; Red Crossbill, 17; Rufous-sided Towhee, 1; Savannah Sparrow, 3 /Ipswich, 1/; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, 136; Tree Sparrow, 8; White-throated Sparrow, 53; Fox Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 56; Snow Bunting, 5.

Observers: Ross Anderson, Mrs S.F. Bedwell, Mrs Ray Bowditch, Roger Burrows, Hazel Carmichael, Walter Chute, Jock Clarkson, Chris, John and Shirley Cohrs, Ethel Crathorne, B.K. and Marg Doane, Evelyn and Fred Dobson, Phyllis Dobson, Ruth Edsall, Gillian and Jim Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton, J.B. Hardie, Mrs Ralph Hebb, Mary Helleiner, Mrs R.H. Helpard, Frank Himsl, Barbara Hinds, Carole and Richard Howie, Charlotte Jefferies, Carolyn Lock, Ian McLaren, L.B. Macpherson (6057 Fraser St., Halifax - compiler), Bruce Mactavish, Ann and Eric (organizer) Mills, Willett J. Mills, Harding Moffatt, Roger Pocklington, Allan and Mrs Stewart, Betty and R.W. Topple, Daniel Welch, Pauline Wood.

CHESTER, Lunenburg Co., 26 December 1973.

Thirteen observers; 8 (est.) party-hours, 4 feeders.

Observation conditions: poor.

Totals: 26 species identified; about 492 individuals.

Common Loon,8; Horned Grebe,3; (Great Cormorant);
Black Duck,16; Oldsquaw,59; Common Merganser,1; hawk sp.,1;
Ruffed Grouse,3; Pheasant,1; Killdeer,1; Great Black-backed
Gull,10; Herring Gull,40; Dovekie,5; Downy Woodpecker,2;
Blue Jay,21; Raven,2; Crow,22; Black-capped Chickadee,53;
White-breasted Nuthatch,4; Robin,25; Starling,10;
House Sparrow,45; (Red-winged Blackbird); Evening Grosbeak,85;
Am. Goldfinch,12; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco,36;
(Tree Sparrow); White-throated Sparrow,20; Song Sparrow,7.

Observers: Margery Bell, Nora Bell, Daisy Bond,
Mrs Tom Cornelius, Shirley Fowke, Bruce, Florence, Jeff
and Leif Haase, Martin Haase (Goat Lake Farm, Chester,
- compiler), Ruby Pulsifer, Mary Smith, Victor Smith.

BRIER ISLAND, Digby Co., 20 December 1973.

Six observers; 17 party-hours.

Observation conditions: very good.

Totals: 49 species identified; about 28,223 individuals.

Common Loon,47; Red-necked Grebe,14; Horned Grebe,8;
Great Cormorant,95; Double-crested Cormorant,1; Great Blue
Heron,1; Black Duck,93; Green-winged Teal,4; Com. Goldeneye,46;
Oldsquaw,204; (Harlequin Duck); Com. Eider,752; White-winged
Scoter,24; Black (Common) Scoter,12; Common Merganser,2;
Red-breasted Merganser,78; (Goshawk); Am. Kestrel (Sparrow
Hawk),1; Semipalmated Plover,1; Killdeer,17; Purple
Sandpiper,150; Glaucous Gull,1; Iceland Gull,1;
Great Black-backed Gull,300; Herring Gull,1000; Ring-billed
Gull,1; Black-legged Kittiwake,4000; Common Murre,2;
Thick-billed Murre,20,000; Dovekie,500; Black Guillemot,500;
Com. Puffin,13; Mourning Dove,1; (Snowy Owl);
Short-eared Owl,1; Saw-whet Owl,1; Horned Lark,20; (Gray Jay);
Blue Jay,10; Raven,17; Crow,114; (Mockingbird); Robin,18;
Golden-crowned Kinglet,1; Water Pipit,25; Starling,113;
House Sparrow,19; Com. Grackle,2; Brown-headed Cowbird,1;
Evening Grosbeak,2; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco,2;
Fox Sparrow,1; Song Sparrow,2; Snow Bunting,5.

Observers: Ross Anderson, Michelle & Pierre Beland,
Wickerson Lent, Bruce Mactavish, Eric Mills (Department of
Oceanography, Dalhousie Univ., Halifax - compiler).

GREENFIELD, Queens Co., 31 December 1973.

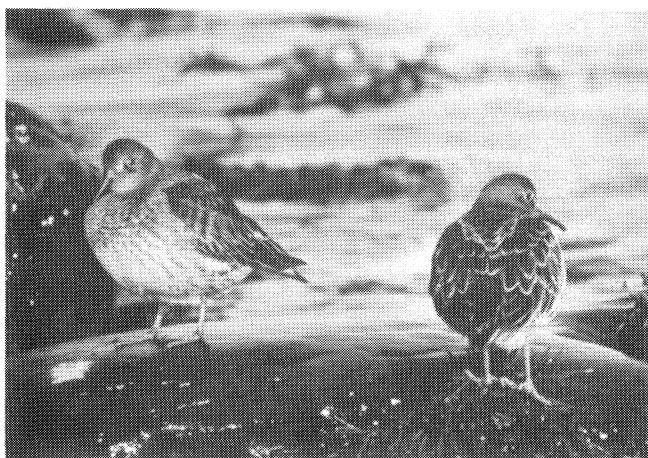
Three observers; 6 party-hours.

Observation conditions: very good.

Totals: 8 species identified; about 50 individuals.

Canada Goose,1; (Black Duck; Common Merganser);
Ruffed Grouse,3; Downy Woodpecker,5; (Gray Jay); Blue Jay,1;
Crow,2; Black-capped Chickadee,3; White-breasted Nuthatch,12;
Golden-crowned Kinglet,23.

Observers: Gary Corbett, Andy McPettridge (PO Box 504,
Wolfville - compiler), Bob Thompson.



Purple Sandpipers, Wedge Island, Halifax Co., Feb.10 1974.

All shore birds except the hardy Purple Sandpipers had deserted the Eastern Shore "bird routes" by February.

Photo. Ian McLaren

KEJIMKUJIK National Park, Queens Co., 19 December 1973.

Five observers; 37 party-hours.

Observation conditions: very good.

Totals: 28 species identified; about 276 individuals.

Black Duck, 7; Goshawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1;
 Spruce Grouse, 1; (Ruffed Grouse); (Great Horned Owl);
 Barred Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Hairy
 Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Gray Jay, 6; Blue Jay, 40;
 Raven, 19; Crow, 19; Black-capped Chickadee, 58;
 Boreal Chickadee, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 7; Red-breasted
 Nuthatch, 2; Brown Creeper, 2; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 5;
 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 31; House Sparrow, 40;
 Evening Grosbeak, 3; Pine Grosbeak, 2; Red Crossbill, 7;
 Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 3;
 Song Sparrow, 2.

Observers: Mac Estabrooks, Richard Howie (Box 45,
 Caledonia, Queens Co. - compiler), Bill Hussey,
 Ben Roper, Fred Wallace.

YARMOUTH, Yarmouth Co., 29 December 1973.

Twenty-eight observers; 49 party-hours plus 11 feeders.

Observation conditions: good.

Totals: 69 species identified; about 10,947 individuals.

Common Loon,5; Red-throated Loon,1; Red-necked Grebe,6;
 Horned Grebe,3; Great Cormorant,1; Great Blue Heron,6;
 Canada Goose,750; Black Duck,1055; Pintail,1; Greater Scaup,16;
 Common Goldeneye,76; Bufflehead,25; Oldsquaw,92; Common Eider,9;
 White-winged Scoter,1; Black (Common) Scoter,2; Red-breasted
 Merganser,32; Sharp-shinned Hawk,2; Red-tailed Hawk,1;
 Marsh Hawk,1; Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk),2; Pheasant,2;
 Gray Partridge,1; Killdeer,3; Glaucous Gull,1; Iceland Gull,8;
 Great Black-backed Gull,3000+; Herring Gull,4000+;
 Ring-billed Gull,15; Black-headed Gull,8; Rock Dove,128;
 Mourning Dove,28; Kingfisher,3; Hairy Woodpecker,1; Downy
 Woodpecker,2; Eastern Kingbird,1; Horned Lark,20; Gray Jay,4;
 Blue Jay,46; Raven,18; Crow,119; Black-capped Chickadee,59;
 Boreal Chickadee,15; (White-breasted Nuthatch); Mockingbird,2;
 Brown Thrasher,1; Robin,15; Golden-crowned Kinglet,17;
Ruby-crowned Kinglet,1; Starling,808; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle)
 Warbler,7; Palm Warbler,2; Com. Yellowthroat,1;
 House Sparrow,186; Red-winged Blackbird,3; Common Grackle,20;
 Brown-headed Cowbird,142; Cardinal,6; Evening Grosbeak,22;
 Pine Grosbeak,1; Am. Goldfinch,12; Red Crossbill,2;
 Savannah Sparrow,2; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco,20;
 (Tree Sparrow); Chipping Sparrow,1; White-throated Sparrow,71;
 Fox Sparrow,6; Swamp Sparrow,1; Song Sparrow,24;
 Snow Bunting,1.

Observers: C.R.K. & M.B.Allen, Mary & Ross Anderson,
 Loran Baker, Hazel Cann, B.K.Doane, Phyllis Dobson,
 Frances Goudey, David & Marie Henry, Marion Hilton, Marjorie
 & Marsden Kenney, Evangeline Killam, Beatrice Kinsman,
 Dorothy Kirk, Jean Morse, Margaret Nickerson, Israel Pothier,
 Frances & James Reside, Hilda Robbins, Henry Ross, Duncan
 Smith, Celia & Vera Sollows. (Compiler: Marion W. Hilton,
 23 Baker St., Yarmouth.)

BROAD COVE, Lunenburg Co., 30 December 1973.

Nineteen observers; 63 party-hours (including boat travel).
Observation conditions: medium.

Totals: 71 species identified; about 3926 individuals.

Common Loon,40; Red-throated Loon,2; Red-necked Grebe,14; Horned Grebe,74; Great Cormorant,16; Great Blue Heron,3; Black Duck,1055; Greater Scaup,326; Common Goldeneye,219; Bufflehead,8; Oldsquaw,136; Harlequin Duck,3; Common Eider,188; White-winged Scoter,14; Surf Scoter,19; Black (Common) Scoter,39; Common Merganser,11; Red-breasted Merganser,103; Goshawk,1; Red-tailed Hawk,1; Rough-legged Hawk,1; Am. Kestrel (Sparrow Hawk),1; Spruce Grouse,1; Ruffed Grouse,4; Pheasant,1; Clapper Rail,1; Virginia Rail,1; Killdeer,9; Black-bellied Plover,2; Purple Sandpiper,3; Dunlin,1; Sanderling,3; Glaucous Gull,1; Iceland Gull,1; Gr. Black-backed Gull,255; Herring Gull,1165; Ring-billed Gull,2; Common Murre,1; Thick-billed Murre,1; Dovekie,4; Rock Dove,16; Mourning Dove,2; Kingfisher,3; Downy Woodpecker,1; Horned Lark,17; Gray Jay,23; Blue Jay,39; Raven,39; Crow,238; Black-capped Chickadee,47; Boreal Chickadee,31; Robin,24; Golden-crowned Kinglet,37; Northern Shrike,1; Starling,356; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler,12; Palm Warbler,3; Com. Yellowthroat,2; House Sparrow,73; E. Meadowlark,1; Brown-headed Cowbird,75; Evening Grosbeak,5; Purple Finch,1; Am. Goldfinch,17; Savannah Sparrow,11; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco,53; Tree Sparrow,7; White-throated Sparrow,4; Song Sparrow,19; Lapland Longspur,29; Snow Bunting,50.

Observers: C.R.K.Allen, Mary & Ross Anderson, Pierre Béland, John & Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Ben Doane, Evelyn & Fred Dobson, Phyllis Dobson, Gillian & Jim Elliott, Jim Force, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler - Apt. 609, 1030 South Park St., Halifax), Barbara Hinds, Ian McLaren, Bruce Mactavish and Dan Welch.

CAPE SABLE ISLAND, Shelburne Co., 16 December 1973.

Eleven observers; 21 party-hours plus 1 feeder.

Observation conditions: good.

Totals: 46 species identified; about 3060 individuals.

Common Loon,15; loon sp.,4; (Red-necked Grebe); Great Cormorant,3; Great Blue Heron,2; (American Bittern); Canada Goose,70; Black Duck,50; Greater Scaup,1500; Common Goldeneye,100; Bufflehead,39; Oldsquaw,9; Common Eider,16; White-winged Scoter,7; Black (Common) Scoter,4; Red-breasted Merganser,2; duck sp., 3; Kestrel (Sparrow hawk),2; Killdeer,4; Black-bellied Plover,20; Dunlin,7; Semipalmated Sandpiper,6; Sanderling,5; white-winged gull sp.1; Great Black-backed Gull,159; Herring Gull,321; gull sp.,183; Black Guillemot,5; Rock Dove,15; Mourning Dove,16; Snowy Owl,1; Western Kingbird,1; Horned Lark,51; (Blue Jay); Crow,72; Black-capped Chickadee,12; Boreal Chickadee,2; Robin,15; Golden-crowned Kinglet,5; (Water Pipit); Northern Shrike,1; Starling,109; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler,17; Palm Warbler,3; House Sparrow,60; Rusty Blackbird,2; Cowbird,72;

Evening Grosbeak,16; Savannah Sparrow,8; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco,3; White-throated Sparrow,3;(Fox Sparrow); Song Sparrow,16; sparrow sp.,12; Snow Bunting,1.

Observers: C.R.K.Allen, Bevla Burman, Debbie Chase, Jim Force (compiler - Clyde River, Shelburne Co.), Bessie & Herbert Harris, June Smith, Virginia Smith, Viola Sperka, Clyde Stanley, Ralph Widrig.

CAPE SABLE, Shelburne Co., 30 December 1973.

Four observers; 9 party-hours.

Observation conditions: good.

Totals: 20 species identified; about 472 individuals.

(This and the previous Count are to be combined in future.)

Common Loon,2; Common Goldeneye,29; Bufflehead,2; Oldsquaw,3; Common Eider,91; White-winged Scoter,7; Common Merganser,3; Red-breasted Merganser,2; Killdeer,23; Black-bellied Plover,7; Sanderling,6; Great Black-backed Gull,115; Herring Gull,231; Snowy Owl,2; Black Guillemot,1; Horned Lark,5; Crow,12; Starling,80; Rusty Blackbird,1; Brown-headed Cowbird,11.

Observers: Beverley Smith, Locke Smith, Sidney Smith, Betty J.Smith (Cape Sable Light, The Hawk P.O.).



Immature Red - headed Woodpecker. Digby, N.S. Photographed at Louise Daley's feeder on January 7, 1974.

Photo. Davis Finch

SEASONAL BIRD REPORT - NOVEMBER TO MARCH

The late fall and winter season, November to March, 1973-74 featured unusual low temperatures in November, followed by a mild, wet December, extended constant cold in January (temperatures hovering around zero) but the last week very mild; no snow to speak of until mid-February when several blizzards made up for lost time. According to the monthly Meteorological Summary, there were strong winds November 1 (SW), December 22 (SW) and storms with peak gusts high throughout most of that month (S, SSW, SW, SSE); also on January 14 and 15 (SSW); and in February exceptional cold, snow, and prevailing winds (NW) reaching gale force on many occasions.

Evidently birds can tolerate severe weather, if sufficient food supplies are available, as they were this winter. Our non-migrants did well, and an extraordinary number of migrants stayed late, some all winter, both native birds and exotic strays, and among the latter were some very interesting and unexpected ones.

The most unexpected were the Cardinals, not one or two Cardinals, but up to 4 dozen, resident throughout the winter in Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens Counties. The big question now is: will they stay? Will they start to breed here? We should have the answer quite soon - spring is just around the corner.

For those of you who were not out in the field, enjoying the excitement, look in the report to follow for these and other rarities: Cattle Egrets, Least Bittern, Whistling Swans, Canvasbacks, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Turkey Vultures, Golden Eagles, Gyr-falcon, Clapper Rails, Hawk Owls, Phoebe-in-February, Red-headed Woodpecker, many very late warblers, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Scarlet Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, White-crowned and Seaside Sparrows.

How did they get here? Why did some stay? We can only guess at the answers to these questions, but we are grateful to them for appearing, to enliven the winter landscape. We are grateful also to the birders who have described them for us, and, of course, to all contributors to the Newsletter account of winter birds in Nova Scotia this year - listed as follows:

Joan Adams, C. R. K. Allen, Ross R. Anderson, Daniel Banks, Roberta Beecher, R. Blakeburn, R. G. B. Brown, Roger Burrows, David Christie, Margaret Clark, the Arthur Coffills, F. Cohen, the Cohrs (John, Shirley, Chris and Lise), Eric Cooke, George

Crowell, Con Desplanque, Benjamin K. Doane, the Fred Dobsons, P. R. Dobson, Rosemary Eaten, Allison Ferguson, Clarence Ferguson, Layton Ferguson, James Force, Calder Fraser, Sylvia Fullerton, J. Roswell Gallagher, Constance D. Gallagher, E. Garside, René Haldane, John B. Hardie, Mildred Hatfield, Thelma Hawkins, C. W. and Mary Helleiner, Marion W. Hilton, Eric Holdway, Andrew C. Hopkins, Hedley Hopkins, Richard R. Howie, Adele Hurlburt, Terry Hyson, Cecil Johnson, R. S. Johnson, Charles Kelsey, Anne Kenney, David Kerr, Evangeline (Van) Killam, Eileen Kingsberry, Dorothy B. Kirk, Robert D. Lamberton, Wickerson Lent, Clive S. MacDonald, Jean MacFadgen, Ian MacGregor, Edgar B. MacKay, Francis MacKinnon, Ian A. McLaren, Sara MacLean, Gordon MacLeod, J. McNicol, Lloyd B. Macpherson, Bruce MacTavish, Marjorie Major, Eric L. Mills, Douglas Moore, Jean and Bill Morse, H. Mosley, Larry Neily, Fred Nicholas, Margaret Nickerson, Olive Purdy, Annie Raymond, Al Reid, Betty Reid, Frank Robertson, Barry Sabeau, Annie L. Saunders, Sydney and Betty J. Smith, Francis Spalding, Arthur Spencer, George Spencer, James Sutton, J. Ternan, the Timpas (John W. and Jean M.), Stuart Tingley, Daniel Welch, W. E. Whitehead, R. S. Widrig, Geraldine Williams, Fred Williamson.

LOONS AND GREBES

The COMMON LOON was still moving out Oct. 23, 2 seen flying over Bear River (JMT). On Nov. 13, Dick Brown on the HUDSON saw 3 loons 50 mi. out, on Sambro Banks, "moving west, unusually far out"; the rest of our reports indicate usual numbers close in up and down the Atlantic shore. The 6 often counted in the NW Arm, Halifax (JBH, IAMcL) are said to be preying for the most part on small flounders. The RED-THROATED LOON was sighted off Brier I. late last August, as reported in the last Newsletter, and appears to have made a sort of progress around the province: Oct. 20 at Amherst Pt. (CD), Oct. 22 and 28 at Catalone Lake and Morien Bar, Cape Breton (RB), early in November at Framboise Cove (IMacG), and at Conrad's Beach (EC), the next day at Yarmouth (MWH) and a week later off Baccaro Lighthouse, Shel. Co. (JR & CDG). Francis Spalding says they reached a maximum of half a dozen or so the 3rd week of November at Economy, the last one seen there Dec. 29, but 3 were still off Pinkney's Pt. near Yarmouth on Jan. 3 (AH & MWH) and 6 at Digby Jan. 7 (DWF). Only 28 birds in all (of this species) were reported in the above sightings. HORNED GREBES, first seen in October at opposite ends of the province (Seal I. and Mira Bay), became plentiful in St. Margaret's Bay by the last week in November. They are

still present in good numbers on the Atlantic shore. The RED-NECKED GREBE (earliest report Oct. 14 at Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary (APBS), 2 seen by (CD) was also noted Nov. 7 in the Bay of Fundy off Digby (CJ); thereafter mostly on the Atlantic side, but 6 at Digby Jan. 7 (DWF). The latest, a February report was off Herring Cove, Hfx. Co. (RB). The PIED-BILLED GREBE, with one exception, was last seen in November: 1 in Glace Bay Sanctuary, 1 at Gabarouse, C.B. Co., 1, newly dead at Cape Sable Nov. 26 (on his way, but failed to make it), and of the 15 present at APBS Oct. 21, 1 remaining by Nov. 12. The exceptional report was of one bird at Melbourne Sanctuary, Yar. Co. Dec. 16. (SM, IMacG, SS & BJS, CD, MWH & DBK).

There were small numbers of NORTHERN FULMARS on the Scotian Shelf between Halifax and Cape Breton on Oct. 15-17 (ELM) and rather fewer on a line from Halifax SE to the edge of the Shelf in late January (RGG). GREATER SHEARWATERS were commonly seen off Halifax, on the Scotian Shelf and in Cabot Strait in mid-October; there was a SOOTY SE of St. Paul on Oct. 17 and a CORY'S SW off Sable I. on Oct. 16 (ELM). There were still a few Greaters on the Shelf, between 50-150 miles SE of Halifax, on Nov. 10-12 (RGG), and a late bird was seen from the "PRINCESS OF ACADIA" in the middle of the Bay of Fundy on Nov. 7 (CJ). There were a few WILSON'S STORM PETRELS near Sable I. in mid-October, but they had gone by early November (ELM, RGG).

Repeated sightings of GANNETS off Cape Sable, Wedge Islands and on the Scotian Shelf in mid-October and mid-November (EC, SS, RGG), most of them heading SW and obviously en route to winter quarters off Florida and in the Gulf of Mexico. GREAT CORMORANT records come from Morein Bay, Cape Breton on Oct. 24 (S. MacL.), Dec. 24 and Feb. 24 from Cape Sable (S.S.), the Halifax Harbour area in December and February (Roger B.) and near Lunenburg in February; this last bird already had the white flank patches of a breeding bird (IAMcL). Sightings of single DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS at Surette's I., Yarmouth Co. on Oct. 21, and Brier I. on Dec. 20 (ELM). An immature bird landed by a ship c. 50 miles SE of Halifax on Nov. 12, unusually far offshore for a cormorant (RGG).

HERONS, EGRETS, BITTERNS

At least 37 GREAT BLUE HERONS still tarried in Nova Scotia in October, and were quite evenly distributed from Glace Bay to Yarmouth. In November the number of sightings dropped to 17, all but one (at Glace Bay) in the southwestern half of the province. Of the 6 on the Yarmouth Christmas Bird Count (CBC), one was still to be seen in the harbor up to Jan. 26 at least. One other very late record is of one at Pictou Jan. 7.

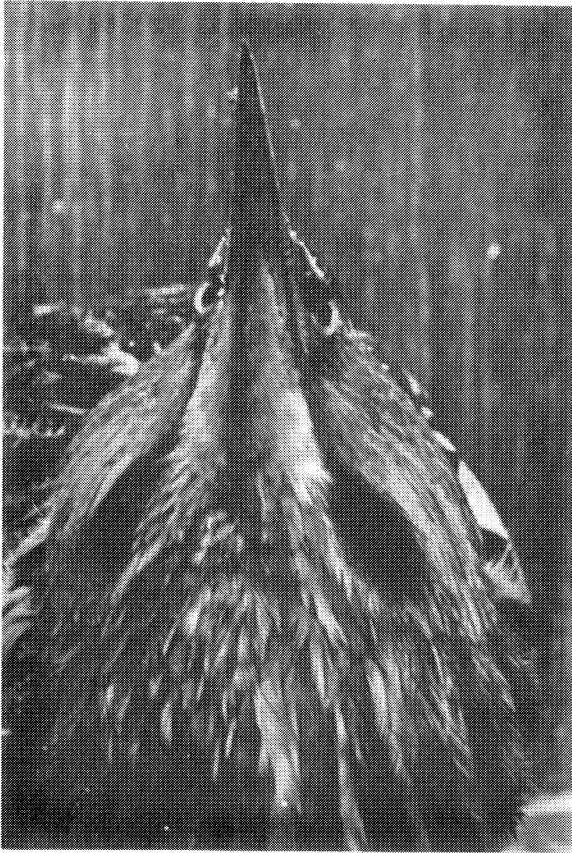


Photo. Peter Frank

WINTER BITTERN AT WOLFFVILLE

The American Bittern pictured above was delivered to the Department of Biology at Acadia University, Wolfville, on the amazingly late date of February 12. The bird had been found at the edge of the dykelands, within a few hundred yards of the centre of town, in a weakened condition. It is presently living on a diet of frogs and smelt, and is doing well. The fierce display shown in Peter Frank's photograph is rarely seen in the wild. Acadia ornithologist Peter Austin-Smith plans to release the bird as soon as conditions are favourable for its survival in the wild.

Four or five CATTLE EGRETS have been reported from widely separated points: one at Homeville, C.B. Nov. 1-4, (René Haldane) and one picked up dead in the woods at Malagawatch, C.B. Nov. 1, (T. McNicol); one near Annapolis Royal Dec. 1, (J. B. Ternan to WEW), and one at Port Hebert Dec. 12 (RSW). It is possible that this is the same one seen on Nov. 2 near Brooklyn, Queen's Co., reported by Geraldine Williams as being present 3-4 days "seen in close association with a small herd of cattle. It went into the woods at night, came out again in the morning".

A LEAST BITTERN was discovered by Roberta Beecher on Nov. 11 at Homeville, C.B., and carefully described. A COMMON BITTERN was seen at Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary (APBS) on Oct. 14, and 2 were still there on Oct. 21. Dr. Robie Tufts in a letter dated Feb. 28 says that a bird of this species was found "almost frozen to death" near Wolfville about mid-February. It was taken to Acadia University where it soon recovered (see picture) on a diet of live frogs mis-appropriated from the Biology Department.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS

WHISTLING SWANS made one of their very rare visits to Nova Scotia this fall when 2 adults and one immature were seen by Eric Mills and Wickerson Lent at Pond Cove on Brier I. Nov. 10.

CANADA GEESE were reported during fall and winter at seven points along the Atlantic coast, southwest from Martinique Beach to Yarmouth, from seven points also in the Bay of Fundy from APBS to Bear River, Anna. Co., and in Cape Breton from the Glace Bay Port Morien area. First report for the fall was of 9, Oct. 7 at the Glace Bay Sanctuary. The largest number from here was 1200+ on Dec. 26 (CBC). Earliest reports from the Bay of Fundy region were of flocks heard flying over at Wolfville and Bear River, Oct. 25, and for the Atlantic coast of mainland N.S. first sighting was of 50 at Crescent Beach, Lunenburg Co. The winter peak for this region was either 1500+ at Martinique Jan. 26 or 1800-2000 at Cole Harbor Mar. 3. The latter figure, however, could include birds which had moved in from other wintering grounds during the pre-spring "restlessness". The 2000-3000 geese at Melbourne Sanctuary (Yar. Co.) on Nov. 10 were almost certainly transients.

The status of BRANT seen in early February is uncertain: are they the far-flung forefront of the spring migration, or

the laggard rearguard of the autumn retreat? A flock seen by Bruce MacTavish at Brier I. on Feb. 2 could fall into either category, with probably odds on the former, as Wickerson Lent gives mid-February as average time for the appearance of spring arrivals (vide R. W. Tufts *Birds of Nova Scotia*).

The SNOW GOOSE seen at Port Joli Sanctuary on Nov. 15 by E. Mills, McLaren and Welsh did however, have no business there at any time of year. Someone must have realized this, since a light and a dark phase Snow Goose were both shot, early in Jan. 1974, in Cole Harbor, reported to Rosemary Eaton by local hunters.

MALLARDS were reported from thirteen localities - one less than those for Black Ducks - and in nearly all cases they were seen in close association with the latter species. Sightings of a single bird in the Amherst Pt. area Oct. 23 - Dec. 23 could have been of the same bird, as are probably the reports of another at Parrsboro on Dec. 29 and Jan. 2. Two at Brier I. (Pond Cove), Nov. 10 complete the records for the Bay of Fundy. Along the Atlantic coast there were seven reports, five of singles, and two of 2 birds, from East Chezzetcook to Cape Sable during the period Nov. 4 - Feb. 10. Cape Breton had four sightings of single birds, totalling at least 3 individuals as these were a male, a female and an immature. In Nova Scotia it is best not to enquire too closely into the ancestry of Mallards, but these were all recognizable as such.

BLACK DUCK sightings nosed out their close relatives above by only one locality, but, needless to say, their numbers ran to three and four figures in many places. These are our only year-round "puddle ducks" and the winter records therefore indicate where ice-free, fresh or brackish water occurred. There were 1000+ at Melbourne Sanctuary on Jan. 26, and 500 at Port Joli Sanctuary a day later. In the Amherst area there were just 24 on Dec. 27, and the number at Glace Bay Sanctuary had shrunk from 200 Dec. 30 to about a dozen in late January and early February. At the time of writing (first week in March) numbers are increasing in the brackish estuaries, which suggests an early northward movement.

The Glace Bay Sanctuary - the GADWALL centre of N.S. - reports 4 of these formerly rare ducks on Oct. 14 and 10 on Oct. 17.

There were 4 PINTAILS at Cape Sable Nov. 5 and 2 at Martinique Beach Jan. 5. At Amherst PBS 100-150 of this species in October dwindled to 50 in early November, and to just 3-5 birds in December. Two were found on the Wolfville

CBC, and one on the Yarmouth CBC. The number of GREEN-WINGED TEAL at APBS increased from 250 on Oct. 14 to a peak of 300 on the 27th-28th. By Nov. 3 and 4 numbers were down to 100 and thereafter fell off sharply until only 2 were seen on Nov. 18. Two were seen on the Wolfville CBC and a bird of this species at Parrsboro on Jan. 2 was apparently attempting to winter. According to Desplanque, BLUE-WINGED TEAL "peaked" from 50 Oct. 14 to 100 Oct. 20-21. Last record was of 50 again on Oct. 38. A very late straggler was included in the Glace Bay CBC Dec. 26.

Ian McLaren reports that a EUROPEAN WIGEON (note new spelling) was found shot, presumably this fall or early winter, at East Petpeswick and donated to the National Museum, Ottawa.

There are only two reports of AMERICAN WIGEON outside the APBS, 3 males Oct. 24 at Glace Bay Sanctuary and one male, well described at Framboise Cove., Rich. Co. Jan. 1 (IMacG).

The only NORTHERN SHOVELERS reported are those observed by Con Desplanque at the APBS, where there were 7 Oct. 20, 4 on the wlst and 3 from then until the last report, Nov. 14.

Encouraging was a sighting of a WOOD DUCK at Petrie's Lake, C.B., Nov. 8 and 2 females or immatures at Head of St. Margaret's Bay Dec. 23.

Three RING-NECKED DUCKS tarried at Amherst Sanctuary until Nov. 17 and one very late straggler was reported from Lusby Marsh in the same general area on Dec. 23. There were also 3 rather late birds at Waverley, Hfx. Co., Nov. 5.

Four CANVASBACKS - 2 males and 2 females - were spotted in a large raft of bay ducks south of Lunenburg on Feb. 24 by Ian and Bernice McLaren (see picture).

GREATER SCAUP were present in good numbers for the CBC's where expectable, and seen since at various localities but the dates and numbers have no particular significance.

COMMON GOLDENEYES were reported from the Glace Bay-Louisbourg region from Nov. 18 to Feb. 25, the maximum numbers being at Louisbourg, 70, on Jan. 7 (and 75+ at Digby on the same date). Along the Atlantic coast they were seen in their normal habitat from Chezzetcook to Yarmouth, the largest numbers reported being 30-40 at Cape Sable Jan. 6, 51 at Liverpool Jan. 27, 85+ at Crescent Beach Dec. 29, and 50+ at Melbourne Sanctuary Dec. 16 - Feb. 20. Four male BARROW'S



Two of three Seaside Sparrows at Conrad Beach, Jan. 14 1974.
The milk carton from a well-known local firm serves to fix
the locale (and is a commentary on our N.S. human habits).

Photos. Ian McLaren



Barrow's Goldeneye,
seen at Pugwash on
February 20th. 1974
by Ian McLaren.

GOLDENEYES and a probable female were discovered at Pugwash Feb. 17 by Stuart Tingley, subsequently photographed by Ian McLaren. This bird is a real puzzler. It is apparently a great rarity in N.S., yet a short distance up the Northumberland Strait shore of N.B. they are sometimes seen in flocks of up to 100. We badly need our whole north shore, from Cape North to the N.B. border watched, and at frequent intervals. Any takers?

BUFFLEHEAD flocks, (20-40 birds) have been observed in their usual wintering places, at Melbourne Sanctuary, Chezzetcook Inlet, Joggin Bridge, APBS, Economy, and Parrsboro. Birds appeared first at Amherst, built up generally in November, and have been noted since whenever ice conditions permitted. The largest concentration noted was 120+ at Digby, Jan. 7 (DWF). The first report of OLDSQUAWS was of 2, Nov. 11 at Amherst PBS. Other sightings from the Glace Bay and Atlantic coast regions, were of normal numbers for the season. Largest number seen was 400+ off Digby, Jan. 7.

Three HARLEQUIN DUCKS at Brier I. Nov. 8-10 (IMcL & ELM) increased to 4 by Nov. 28, seen there by the Gallaghers on that date. Ralph Widrig reported 15 off Lockeport Dec. 10, and 3 were at Green Bay, Lunenburg Co. Dec. 30 (the Cohrs). COMMON EIDERS made their southward flight beyond our view, or were unrecorded. The only sighting of any significance was of 75+ at Pinkney's Pt., Yar. Co. Dec. 16. One male KING EIDER was seen at Brier I. Nov. 30 (JRG & CDG).

It is difficult to separate the three species of scoters, as they consort freely with each other during migration and on their feeding grounds. There are eleven reports of WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS from Cape Breton, the first being of 43 at Glace Bay Sanctuary Oct. 17 and the last, 2 at Gabarouse Feb. 9. The peak in this area may have been about Oct. 21 when scattered flocks totalling several hundred individuals were seen in Mira Bay. Since the December sightings (see CBC's) these birds have been lightly reported both in the Bay of Fundy and along the Atlantic shore. It is interesting to note that, although White-winged Scoters were carefully and consistently reported by the Cape Breton birders during the fall and winter season, there is only a single record of a SURF SCOTER from that area, (5 on the Sydneys CBC). In fact, for the whole province, this is the least commonly reported of the three scoters. On the CBC's numbers ranged from 2-20, seen by observers on the Annapolis, Bridgetown, Economy, Halifax and Broad Cove counts. Since then, the only report is of 2 at Canso Causeway Jan. 6.

Since Christmas, records of BLACK SCOTERS come only

from Cape Breton and the Atlantic coast, the largest number seen in any one place being 100 off Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. Jan. 25; and the most unusual sighting, a female out on the Sambro Banks, "50 mi. SE of Halifax" reported by Dick Brown from the HUDSON.

A female HOODED MERGANSER at Liverpool Nov. 15, and another on the Halifax E CBC are the only records for this species. Small flocks of COMMON MERGANSERS are reported from all areas throughout the fall and winter. Other than the 98 seen on the Amherst CBC, the largest number in any one sighting was 17 at Pictou, Dec. 27. RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were reported from the same areas as the foregoing species, and from many others, and of course in much larger numbers. First appearance on salt water was 5, in the Yarmouth area Oct. 20. Largest numbers seen in Cape Breton were 20, Dec. 26 on the Glace Bay CBC and 30, Feb. 9 at Framboise, Rich. Co. At Yarmouth there were 23 at Cranberry Head Oct 28, but never more than a dozen there in any subsequent report. Twenty-seven on Nov. 19 was the highest number for Pictou, but most surprising is the small number of sightings and of individuals reported since Christmas from the Eastern and South Shores, where normally these birds are abundant. There was a total of 13 in the Halifax Harbour region from Hartlen Pt. to Herring Cove, Feb. 3, one at East Chezzetcook Feb. 10, 5 at Conrad's Beach Jan. 25, 2 at Liverpool and 2 at Port Joli, Jan. 27. And that seems to be all.

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES

Two TURKEY VULTURES are reported for the fall and winter. The first, an immature bird, was well seen by Betty J. Smith at Cape Sable, Oct. 21. At the other end of the Province, an adult was reported in the New Waterford area from Nov. 9 to Jan. 1, and was apparently shot on the latter date, while feeding on the skinned carcass of a trapped beaver (various observers, fide FR, HH). Dan Banks, Wildlife Biologist in Baddeck plans to ship the bird to Acadia University Museum. Measurements taken: wingspan - 52", total length - 27 1/4".

There are 6 GOSHAWK reports for the season, distributed from Yarmouth to Cape Breton. SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS were widely reported as well, often at feeders. A particularly interesting report comes from Arthur Spencer who observed one Dec. 9 chasing Snow Buntings at Morien Bar.

Numerous reports of RED-TAILED HAWKS extend from Oct. to Feb., though some reporters indicated a poor winter for buteos. At Brier Island, there was a report of a RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (WL, fide IMcL), Nov. 23. The editor has no details on this sighting, and it should be noted that, in the absence of a Nova Scotia record confirmed by photograph or specimen, this bird remains on the Provincial "hypothetical" list. Still, this observation, one of several recent ones by experienced observers, deserves attention. One buteo was certainly in evidence this winter: large numbers of ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were seen at their usual haunts (Grand Pré, the border marshes), where mice were abundant. Scattered single birds were reported on coastal CBC's, and a recent report comes from Yarmouth (Feb. 1, MWH).

It is tempting to think that two GOLDEN EAGLE reports, both for Feb. 16, might represent the same bird, but the sites, Riverport, Lunenburg Co., and Cape Sable, are nearly 90 miles apart. I have no details on Charles Symonds' bird at Cape Sable, but Eric Mills' report from Riverport was very complete. He had a Bald Eagle in his telescope field at the same time for comparison. His account of the sighting appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Thirty-one observers reported 61 BALD EAGLES in the period, all but 15 from the mainland. Unfortunately, only about 60% of the reports specified "adult" or "immature". It would be interesting to know if the percentage of immatures in our eagle population changes significantly from season to season and from year to year, and although our reports cannot hope to indicate absolute numbers, they could be useful in indicating the percentage of immatures in a random sample. (33% of the Bald Eagles reported in detail were immatures.)

Generally mild weather and abundant mice spelled a good winter for MARSH HAWKS in the Province. January reports include one at Lingan, Jan. 14 (R. Beecher), a male that same day at the Halifax Co. Hospital (IMcL) and a female at Cape Sable, Jan. 26 (SS). At least one immature was still patrolling the Grand Pré dikelands Feb. 26 (RDL).

On Saturday, Feb. 9, following the first heavy snow, a GYRFALCON was sighted, perched in a clearing in the woods near Broad Cove, by Barbara Hinds and Sulvia Fullerton. The bird was put up, and revealed the silvery gray coloration of the light phase. Another big falcon, the PEREGRINE, was observed in flight, Feb. 16 at St. Patrick's Channel, Vic. Co., by Barry Sabeau, Dan Banks and Fred Williamson.

Ten MERLIN reports include several in the Halifax-Dartmouth area, but Ian McLaren found this and our smaller falcon "fewer in the city this winter". While roughly half the Merlins were in Cape Breton, the 4 AMERICAN KESTREL reports all came from the mainland, the two latest being Jan. 14 at Chebogue, Yarmouth Co. (CRKA) and Jan. 25 at W. Lawrencetown, Halifax Co. (RRH)

GROUSE AND MARSH BIRDS

The 3 post-Christmas reports of SPRUCE GROUSE and 7 of RUFFED GROUSE give little indication of the status of these resident populations. However, W. E. Whitehead comments that, at Round Hill in the Annapolis Valley, Ruffed Grouse are never abundant, "but last fall they seemed to be scarcer than usual". GRAY PARTRIDGE were observed only at Grand Pré (Nov. 26, JRG and CDG, and other observers throughout the period) and Yarmouth Co. (Chegoggin, Dec. 29, MWH et al).

The Rallidae are well represented in this season's reports. A CLAPPER RAIL was rescued at the Dartmouth Railway Yards, where it was found, being "bothered by crows", on Nov. 20, by Ray Melanson. It was picked up alive, and sent to the S.P.C., thence to Willett Mills who turned it over to the Nova Scotia Museum. Another Clapper Rail was discovered in the long beach grass back of Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., by Evelyn Dobson, the day before the Broad Cove CBC, and on that day and the Count Day observed by many others, including the rest of the Dobson family, the Cohrs, I. A. McLaren and CRK Allen. A few VIRGINIA RAILS are predictable stragglers (or fall visitors) in coastal marshes. One was caught and released Nov. 12 by the Smiths at Cape Sable, and another was seen Jan. 20 at the Halifax Co. Hospital (BMacT). A SORA was found in a muskrat trap in the Kaneville Marsh near New Waterford Nov. 23 (CSMacD). This is doubtless a fate which awaits many lingering rails in Nova Scotia marshes. Two COMMON GALLINULES were seen at the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary Oct. 28 (CD), and that sanctuary was also the focus of sightings of AMERICAN COOT for the area. Con Desplanque had a total of 12 coot sightings there from Oct. 14 to Nov. 17, with a peak of 7 individuals, Nov. 14. Other coot reports come from Port Dufferin, Halifax Co., Nov. 11 (B. Sabeau) and Forchu, Richmond Co., Jan. 1 (IMacG), with excellent details for the latter, the season's latest record.

SHOREBIRDS

Most of our shorebirds were still to be seen in October, singles or small flocks, feeding before their final departure. By November, the reports read "one, all alone on the beach" for the few small "peep" left; for example, the SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS, seen Nov. 10 at Crescent, Nov. 21 at Baccaro and Dec. 20 at Brier I. KILLDEER, on the other hand, have been reported more often late in the season, and two concentrations were noted, 17 of this species at Brier I. Dec. 20 and 15 at Cape Sable Dec. 19 which "stayed around the shores through December, gradually diminished to 2, Jan. 18" (SS). Other January Killdeers have been seen in Halifax and Digby Counties, not unusual for them to winter in N.S. The GOLDEN PLOVER left in October, last seen on Cape Sable, but the BLACK-BELLIED stayed two months later, fair numbers around in December, widely scattered. One RUDDY TURNSTONE as usual made a winter visit to Cape Sable, on Jan. 6.

A few AMERICAN WOODCOCK made a delayed departure, seen Oct. 23 at Bear River, Nov. 4 at Cape Sable, Nov. 17 at Digby Neck and Nov. 25 at Barrington Passage. One did not depart, but remained to be seen at the County Hospital, Dartmouth, Jan. 6-26 (IMcL, IMacG, BMacT). A few COMMON SNIPE have been seen in January, which is usual, where suitable habitat exists. WHIMBRELS were gone by October, last seen (3) Oct. 17 at Glace Bay Sanctuary, (Arthur Spencer).

A SPOTTED SANDPIPER on Jan. 1 was most unexpected. It was in winter plumage, found at Framboise Cove by Ian MacGregor. The latest SOLITARY SANDPIPER reported was at Wolfville, Oct. 15 (JMT). WILLETS were long gone by November, but the GREATER YELLOWLEGS again made it to Christmas, for the Glace Bay CBC, Dec. 26, 2 of them. This bird seems always to reverse the usual embarkation route, and the late flocks were seen Nov. 4-10, (1) in Shelburne Co., "a few" at the Halifax Co. circuit, 4 at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co., 4 at Morien Bar, C.B. and 10 at the Amherst Pt. Sanctuary. The last seen LESSER YELLOWLEGS on the other hand were 2, Nov. 7 at Melbourne Sanctuary, Yar. Co. (MWH, AH).

The PURPLE SANDPIPER was present in good numbers this winter, some still to be found, the first seen, 4, Oct. 25 at Cape Sable; large flocks the general rule, 30-60 birds, with two especially good flocks of 93, Dec. 9 at Port George, Anna. Co. and 150, Dec. 20 at Brier. The PECTORAL SANDPIPER was also well noted this year, and stayed late, the flock of

11 at Cherry Hill still there Oct. 20; one seen in a farm pond in the Valley Oct. 28, near Paradise; one still at the Halifax circuit Nov. 3 and one, last seen Nov. 11 at South Bar, C.B. Co. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS were noted at the same times and places as the last-mentioned species, except for the Paradise sighting, but were also seen at Morien Bar and Brier I. and in flocks of 6-12 generally. Eric Cooke appears to have seen the last LEAST SANDPIPER, Nov. 3 at the "circuit". A DUNLIN was at Pictou Oct. 25; 6, Nov. 11, at South Bar. The 5 SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS at Cherry Hill were still there Nov. 11 (Cohrs).

There were 25 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS at Glace Bay Sanctuary Oct. 17, 8, at Pictou Oct. 25 and 24 at Yarmouth Harbour Oct. 28. After this they seem to have disappeared, except for the one last lone lorn one at South Bar which Ian MacGregor found there Nov. 11. It is perhaps interesting to have heard that there were 50 of this species at the Tantramar River, N.B., just over the border, on Nov. 12. Were they leaving from there, or coming our way?

SANDERLINGS have been reported in good numbers, at Homeville, Morien Bar and Glace Bay in Cape Breton; Economy, Pictou, Crescent Beach, Cape Sable and Yarmouth; one to 40, usually about a dozen birds per sighting, in October and November, the largest number (40+) at Yarmouth Harbour (MWH, AH). Two January sightings were one, Jan. 5 at Martinique Beach (James Sutton) and 5, mid-January at Cape Sable.

The last in this group to be mentioned this winter is the RED PHALAROPE. Con Desplanque saw 2 of these Phalaropes land on the water at APBS Oct. 21 (noted the distinct wing stripes); Cecil Johnson saw about 40, Nov. 7, in the Bay of Fundy, when crossing from Saint John to Digby (reported to us by David Christie); Ian McLaren estimated at least 1500 going by Northern Point at Brier I., also on Nov. 7; and one last one was seen on Cape Sable, Dec. 21, by Sidney Smith.

JAEGERS THROUGH AUKS

Small numbers of POMARINE and PARASITIC Jaegers SW of Sable I. in mid-October; Parasitics were also common in southern Cabot Strait at the same time, and 2 Pomarines were seen there as well (ELM). A late dark-phase jaeger (and therefore either Pomarine or Parasitic) was seen outside Halifax Harbour on Nov. 13 (RGBB). SKUAS continue to turn up regularly offshore; there were 2 just north of Sable I.

and 2 more near St. Paul I. on Oct. 16-17(ELM), and 1 on the Scotian Shelf c. 200 miles SE of Halifax on Jan. 30 (RGGB).

There was a remarkable gull concentration on Jan. 6, just west of the Canso Causeway and feeding on something at the surface. Davis Finch and Rick Howie estimated 220 ICELANDS, 10 GREAT BLACKBACKS, 150 HERRINGS, a probable RING-BILLED, 18 BLACK-HEADED, 39 BONAPARTES (a surprisingly large total) and 20 BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES. Apart from these, GLAUCOUS GULLS were present as usual in the Sydney - Glace Bay area, with the first record on Oct. 2 and a peak of 20 on Feb. 28 at the North Sydney fish plant. There were up to 7 birds at the Bedford Basin dump in January and February and singles at Cape Sable on Jan. 15 and Feb. 26, and at Yarmouth on Dec. 2 (JR & CDG, S & BJS, IAMcL, Roger B., SMacL). ICELAND GULLS were commoner, with up to 150 at North Sydney on Feb. 28 (SMacL), small numbers peaking in the Halifax area in early February (IMacL, Roger B.), single birds at Port Williams (RBL: no date given, but his only record this winter in the Wolfville area), at Cape Sable on Dec. 23 and Jan. 12 (S & BJS), and 3 at Louisbourg on Nov. 4 (IMacG). GREAT BLACKBACKS and HERRING GULLS were, as usual, common all winter, while our perennial Digby LESSER BLACKBACK was first seen on Nov. 6 and at press date is still there (IAMcL). RING-BILLED Gulls, mostly singles, were reported from Yarmouth Co. between Oct. 21 and Dec. 16 (MWH, CRKA), and in the Halifax area for most of the winter (Roger B.). There were still 20 in Bedford Basin on Jan. 21, but this fell to 1 or 2 by early February (IAMcL). There were the regular reports of BLACK-HEADED GULLS, with Glace Bay and the Bedford Basin sewer outlet being the most favoured areas (IAMcL, Roger B., SMacL, DWF). Small numbers of BONAPARTES were reported from Pictou (Oct. 21, EH) Economy (Dec. 14, FS), Eskasoni (Christmas count) and Louisbourg (Jan. 7, RaB), and at various times in December and February in the Halifax area (Roger B., TM, DW), but the peak was a flock of 300+ at Pictou on Nov. 19, feeding on the falling tide (EH). There were small numbers of BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES on the Scotian Shelf on Oct. 15-16 and Nov. 10, but with a flock of 50+ off the west end of Sable I. on Nov. 17 (ELM, RGGB). There were also 50+ at Cape Sable on Oct. 19, over 4000 off Brier I. on Dec. 20, 1 at Glace Bay on Dec. 26 and 2 at Louisbourg on Jan. 7 (ELM, RaB, SMacL, S & BJS).

There was a late COMMON TERN at Catelone Gut, Cape Breton Co., on Nov. 4 (IMacG).

There were single RAZORBILLS in the Northwest Arm, Halifax on Nov. 17, and at Port George, Annapolis Co. on Dec. 9 (RBL). These scanty records reflect the scarcity of the

species, but confusion with the much commoner murre can't be ruled out: look out for them! There were at least 20,000 THICK-BILLED MURRES off Brier Island on Dec. 20, but only 2 COMMONS were definitely identified in the same area (EM). The Cohrs had a Common at Green Bay on Dec. 30, and there was a dead bird at Forchu Harbour in February (IMacG). There was no major DOVEKIE wreck this winter, but the usual scattered birds turned up around the coast: in October in Halifax Harbour, Lahave and Shelburne Cos. in November, at Glace Bay and Petit Riviere in December and in Halifax Harbour in February (SS, EC, JRG, CDG, DB, RGG, IAMcL, Cohrs). However, there was a concentration of 500+ off Brier I. on Dec. 20. BLACK GUILLEMOTS were, as usual, reported in small numbers around the province. There were a few probable sightings of PUFFINS near St. Paul I. on Oct. 17 (ELM) and off Big Bras d'Or, Cape Breton, in January (SMacL). 2 birds on the Scotian Shelf, c. 200 miles SE of Halifax, on Jan. 30 (RGG).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

MOURNING DOVE reports have been remarkably numerous this season, and Feb. reports (i.e. 7 at Wilmot, Annapolis Co., Feb. 4, T. Hawkins) are as frequent as earlier ones. Most of our reports are for the western part of the Province, but there were Mourning Doves on two Cape Breton CBC's as well. A large concentration (51+) of these doves is apparently wintering at Sheffield Mills, Kings Co., at a feed-lot operation, counted there Feb. 4, by Barry Sabean.

Two late fall YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS are reported, both for the first week of November: Nov. 2 at Pictou (EH, with excellent details) and Nov. 5 at Port Joli, Queens Co. (CK).

In spite of abundant mice, SNOWY OWL reports were not too common. Snowy Owls were present in December at Cape Sable (SS) and in January at Economy (FS) and Wedge Island, Halifax Co. (EC and the Cohrs). Other reports are single sightings at Brier Island, Nov. 28 (JRG and CDG, WL) and Homeville, Jan. 1 (C. Ferguson). The mice of the Belleisle marsh near Bridgetown attracted the smaller diurnal owls, and two HAWK OWLS were reported there, Jan. 7, with vivid details by Calder Fraser. A single Hawk Owl, presumably one of these two birds, was seen at nearby Round Hill two days later (WEW).

BARRED OWL reports come from Louisbourg, Nov. 30

The Chignecto Naturalists Club holds a regular series of meetings whose topics range from geology and astronomy to botany and nature photography. The following are those of most immediate interest to NSBS members. For further information contact C. Desplanque, 27 Harding Avenue, Amherst (667-3790).

- May 9 Thursday evening: observation of woodcock flight.
- May 19 Sunday, all day: birds of Paunchy Pond area.
- June 1 Saturday, early morning: bird song.
- June 2 Sunday, all day: Maccan wildlife impoundment; migrating wood warblers.
- Aug. 25 Sunday, all day: shorebirds at Cape Jourimain.
- Oct. 27 Sunday, all day: Amherst Point birds.
- Dec. 15- Christmas bird counts.
31

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY PROVINCIAL FIELD TRIPS -- 1974

- MAY 4 -- Broad Cove, Lunenburg Co. Like any early trip, this one will be chancy. But if the weather and the migrants co-operate, the area should be extremely productive. (It is the scene of Nova Scotia's richest Christmas count, after the Halifax counts.) Meet at the Petite Riviere Post Office at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Sylvia Fullerton (423-2254).
- MAY 25 -- Hants Co. This late May walk through the lovely broad-leaved woods of Hants Co. has become an NSBS tradition. In addition to the rich variety of warblers and other woodland birds, this trip offers an opportunity to see the spring flora of this habitat at its best, and such rarities as the Dog-tooth Violet and Bloodroot in bloom. Meet at the railway crossing at Mt. Uniacke on Route 1 at 8:30 a.m. Leader: C. R. K. Allen (Tusket, Yarmouth Co.)
- JUNE 1-2 -- Brier Island. The Cape Breton branch offered a spring Brier trip last year, and 85 species were recorded for the weekend. This year, a pelagic trip will be offered, if there is sufficient interest (cost: approx. \$5/person). Campsites available. Meet at the graveyard, Peajack Rd., Brier Island, at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Ross Anderson (463-4188). Reservations for the pelagic trip should be made in advance.
- JUNE 15-16 -- Cape Breton Highlands National Park. This will be the Cape Breton Branch Provincial Field Day: an exploration of the varied habitats of this most spectacular part of the Province. Saturday's activities include a hike on the Jack Pine Coastal Trail, and an afternoon walk in the Green Cove area. Sunday's hike will take us to the interior of the Park. Campsites are available at Ingonish Beach. Meet Saturday 8:00 a.m. at the Still Brook parking lot, on the Cabot Trail. For Sunday's walk, meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Warren Lake Warden Station. For further information, contact any of the Cape Breton Branch members listed with the Branch field-trips in this issue of the Newsletter.
- JUNE 29 - JULY 1 -- (Dominion Day Weekend) The Border Marshes. This rich birding area in the N.S.-N.B. border region will be new to many. It is the only part of our area where such rarities as Upland Sandpiper, Yellow Rail and Black Tern can be found with any regularity. The

weekend's activities will be under the joint auspices of the NSBS and the Chignecto Naturalists Club, which has kindly invited us to participate in a walk led by H. Harries, entitled "Bogs and their Orchids", Saturday morning. That evening there will be a visit to some of the best spots for listening to the nocturnal rails. On Sunday, Allan Smith of the C.W.S. will lead a walk at Cape Jourimain and Jolicure Wildlife Sanctuary where Ruffs have been seen near midsummer for the past two years. For those who stay until Monday, there will be further excursions to the Missaguash marshes and the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary. Campsites will be available. Meet Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at the gift shop on the Trans-Canada at Aulac, N.B., at the intersection where Rte. 104 branches off to the north toward Tormentine. For the Jourimain trip, Sunday, meet at the same place at 9:00 a.m. For further information, contact Eric Cooke (429-2642).

JULY 13 -- Port Hebert, Shelburne Co. This trip will be centered on the leader's 100 acre private sanctuary. Overnight campsites are available. Meet at the north-east end of Johnston Pond Beach, Port Hebert, at 10:00 a.m. (Directions: Highway 103 to the bridge at the Tom Tigney River, one mile east of Sable River. Turn left (if coming from the Halifax direction) and drive 6 miles to the Port Hebert junction. Turn left again and drive 6 more miles to the end of the road at Johnston Pond Beach.) Leader: Ralph S. Widrig (P.O. Box 72, Lockeport, Shelburne Co.).

AUGUST 10-11 -- Cape Split/Minas Basin. This weekend will include a hike to the tip of spectacular Cape Split, which should be swarming with infuriating fall warblers. We hope to have the help of mycologist Darrell Grund, who will identify some of the fleshy fungi which abound in this rich woodland. Sunday's highlight will be the famous Minas Basin shorebirds, and the leader for this part of the trip will be John Kearney. Private and Provincial Park campsites available. Meet at the gymnasium parking lot, Acadia University, Wolfville, Saturday at 9:00 a.m. (with lunch). Co-ordinator: Bob Lamberton (Box 284, Acadia Univ., Wolfville).

AUGUST 31 - SEPT. 1 -- (Labor Day Weekend). PRESIDENT'S FIELD DAY. returns to Brier Island. The traditional fall migration watch. This year we hope to have Peter Beamish along as consulting cetologist to settle the identity of any whales. Advance reservations for

pelagic trips should be made (cost: approx. \$5/person). Weather permitting pelagic trips will go out both days. Meet at the graveyard, Peajack Road, Brier Island, Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Roger Pocklington (463-3483).

OCTOBER 12-14 -- (Thanksgiving Weekend). Seal Island. This trip is exclusively for the adventurous. A long boatride is involved and there are no guarantee that the weather will permit us to return on schedule. Seal is famed as one of the most exciting fall birding spots in the region. This trip will be limited to 15 participants and reservations should be made with the leader as soon as possible. Priority will be given to those who have not previously had the opportunity to visit Seal Island. Transportation from Barrington Passage to Seal Island will cost approximately \$10.00 per person. Leader: Ian A. McLaren (Dept. of Biology, Dalhousie University).

SCHEDULED TRIPS - CAPE BRETON BRANCH

JUNE 8 -- Early Morning Song. 630 Homeville Intersection, Rt. 255 & South Head Road. Frank Robertson 862-2126.

JUNE 15 (AM) -- Hike and study Flora and Fauna on Jack Pine Coastal Trail.
(PM) -- Flora and Fauna and Geological Formations in Green Cove Area.
Meet 8:00 a.m. Still Brook Parking Lot - Cabot Trail - Park Naturalist. (Camping Ground open at Ingonish Beach).

JUNE 16 -- Hike and study Inland Areas of C.B. Highland National Park. Meet 8:00 am.m. Warren Lake Warden Station - Park Naturalist.

JULY 6 -- Bird Islands 8:00 Mtn View Lodge Big Bras d'Or. Reservation required. H. Hopkins 564-7405.

AUG. 24 -- Shore Birds. Forchu - Framboise. 8:00 Marion Bridge.

SEPT. 28 -- Early Arrivals. Mabou Harbor. 9:00 Mabou P.O.

For additional information contact the trip leader or:

Francis MacKinnon	3329 Beaton Ave., New Waterford	862-2208
Betty Reid	87 Rigby Road, Sydney	562-4021
Walter MacKinnon	176 Columbia St., Sydney	564-9981
Edith MacLeod	20 Currie Street, Glace Bay	849-6301

(GC) and from the Kejimikujik area (4 reports, Nov. through Feb., RRH). A single LONG-EARED OWL performed for this editor (RDL) last Oct. 28 at Berwick bog, hunting the edge of the bog at dusk like a Short-ear, and then allowing approach within 10 ft., at which range it showed all field marks and considerable annoyance. SHORT-EARED OWL sightings are many: two remarkable peaks are represented by 7 birds in sight at once on the Grand Pré dikelands Nov. 28 (B. Sabeau) and 12 or more birds at the Belleisle marsh Jan. 7-8 (J. Ternan, C. Fraser). The two Hawk Owls reported above were seen in the company of this last group of Short-ears. Single Short-ears were reported from Chignecto, Dec. 2 (CD), Brier Island, Dec. 20 (CBC party), and the Port Williams dike near Wolfville, Feb. 14 (RDL). The season's only 2 SAW-WHET OWLS were seen Dec. 20 on the Brier Island CBC AND Jan. 7 one found freshly killed in the road near Weymouth (DWF).

In this season of stragglers, we had rather late fall records for two of our summer birds least prone to linger: a COMMON NIGHTHAWK in Halifax, Oct. 15 (CC) and a RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD at Yarmouth, Oct. 18 (MWH).

BELTED KINGFISHERS took advantage of the mild fall and open lakes and streams. Reports ranged from Oct. 10 at Bear River (JMT) to Feb. 24 at both Point Edward (R. Beecher, EK) and Crescent Beach (IMcL). At Kejimikujik Nat. Pk., Rick Howie had a Kingfisher up to Feb. 1, "a remarkably late date for the interior of the Province".

Several COMMON FLICKERS lingered through November and appeared on CBC's in the Province. One seen in the Gaspereau Valley near Wolfville, Feb. 24 (RDL) apparently managed to winter. There are 9 reports of PILEATED WOODPECKERS, all but one from the mainland (the exception being Boularderie, Oct. 15, R. Beecher). Scattered fall sightings of RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS have become fairly regular in recent years, but one which wintered at Halifax feeders and put in an appearance on the Halifax (west) CBC emerged as an individual personality: "very intolerant, will not tolerate other birds at feeder". (CWH). Other Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported at Digby, at Louise Daley's feeder, Dec. 1 (LD, DWF, JRG and CDG) and Sydney Mines, Nov. 11 (David Kerr, fide FR), the latter a rare Cape Breton record. Finally, there are general reports of HAIRY and DOWNY WOODPECKERS at feeders, with some observers commenting on lower-than-average numbers. One reporter summed up: 'a disappointing winter at the feeder' and others had the same experience, quite possibly because open conditions allowed birds to remain at large, and did not create the concentrations at feeders seen in more severe winters.

FLYCATCHERS TO CORVIDS

One of the most remarkable features of this fall and winter season was the presence of unusual and late lingering flycatchers. An EASTERN KINGBIRD on the Yarmouth CC (MWK, DBK) was seen at Markland Dec. 29, and a WESTERN KINGBIRD, Dec. 13 was spotted at Dalhousie campus, Halifax by Chris Cohrs (seen subsequently by many others). Ian McLaren received from the Allan Richards at Sable a description of a bird corresponding in every particular with a GRAY KINGBIRD, seen at close range Oct. 20-23. Douglas Moore sighted a GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER at Port Williams on the late date of Dec. 1, probably the same one seen repeatedly at a feeder in Bridgetown (the Pitmans) around this time, and described well to Terry Hyson, who reported it to us; and a most amazing PHOEBE wintered at Liverpool, observed there by R. S. Johnson up to Feb. 4 at least. Actually the Phoebe is not so far from its wintering range here, (the Eastern Kingbird winters in South America) but we do not have previous winter records for either of these birds. The Phoebe appeared to be eating small seed at a feeder.

Sizable flocks of HORNED LARKS appeared at Pictou, Cape Sable and Yarmouth late in October and were generally distributed coastwise by mid-November; flocks numbering from 50 to 100 birds, with the largest concentration (270 northerns) at Brier I. Nov. 7-8.

Seven TREE SWALLOWS "way beyond the major flights" made a brief stop at Cape Sable Oct. 17, and 3 more passed by on Oct. 27. A few BARN SWALLOWS were seen in November, the latest recorded Nov. 18 and Nov. 29, one each at Vogler's Cove (EC) and Cape Sable (BJS & SS).

The Corvids, our usual winter birds, remained normal in numbers and distribution, with BLUE JAYS plentiful, particularly in Cape Breton, and the COMMON RAVEN noted pairing off in the Amherst Pt. Sanctuary in December (CD).

CHICKADEES TO SHRIKES

Both chickadees and nuthatches were well in evidence this winter, with BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES quite numerous; BOREALS very scarce in SW Nova Scotia, but increasing in numbers from Halifax to Pictou to Cape Breton, and abundant at Amherst. In reverse order, reports of WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES increased in a southerly direction, although never abundant, but RED-

BREASTED NUTHATCHES were more abundant than usual, and universally present. The BROWN CREEPER continues to be found more often at feeders, and has even been seen eating from the ground beneath, a difficult feat for a Creeper. Late WINTER WRENS were at Cape Sable Oct. 7 (one bird) and 2, Oct. 16. A very late straggler was seen at the Dartmouth Piggery Jan. 13-26 by several observers.

MOCKINGBIRDS were reported from Glace Bay, Amherst, Halifax (one in the city, 2 at Rockingham, Wolfville, Liverpool and Yarmouth. Two BROWN THRASHERS stayed around, one at Kejimkujik Park and one in Halifax, noted by several observers.

A partial albino ROBIN is reported by Jean Timpa at Wolfville, Oct. 23. The bird had a light gray back and a pink tinge on the breast. A last great wave of migrants of this species (from?) went through the province about mid-November, but many wintering birds remained. Singles to several individuals were mentioned by most reporters from Cape Breton to Yarmouth, and one exceptionally large concentration of 60 birds was seen and counted by Ian McLaren in Halifax, Jan. 5, feeding on hawthorn berries. (That is, the robins were).

Two HERMIT THRUSHES survived into January at least, one in Halifax and one at Head of St. Margaret's Bay; but the SWAINSON'S THRUSH appears to have disappeared entirely by the middle of October, last reports being from Boularderie, C.B., one picked up dead, Oct. 15; Cape Sable, one Oct. 9 and Amherst Sanctuary, one last one Oct. 21.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS have remained abundant and universal in appropriate habitat. A few late RUBY-CROWNS were seen at Amherst Dec. 8, Wine Harbor, Dec. 13 and Markland (Yar. Co.) Dec. 29.

WATER PIPITS normally go through quite briskly during late October and early November. Some stayed late this year, noted at Cape Sable, where there were 6 on Jan. 6, and from Brier I. where 25 still lingered on Dec. 20, and one lone survivor on Feb. 2. (To check on the Groundhog perhaps).

This was definitely not a waxwing year. One sighting of a single CEDAR WAXWING is reported from Amherst, Dec. 8, (CD), and one of another "single" at St. Peter's, Rich. Co., Feb. 17 (Murdock Digout)

NORTHERN SHRIKES appeared at widely scattered localities: one at Round Hill Dec. 4, one at Brier I. Nov. 8, a single at APBS Oct. 21 and again Feb. 10, with a sighting of another shrike (species uncertain) Dec. 8.

The representative comment on STARLINGS came from Cape Breton, Sara MacLean's succinct "No shortage".

VIREOS AND WARBLERS

Two late SOLITARY VIREOS were noted at APBS, one Oct. 8 and one Oct. 23 (CD), and one very late one was observed "feeding in an open field (!) with Robins" on Brier I. Nov. 7 (IMaCL).

Every year a certain number of our small passerines fail to leave, possibly because of a defective migratory instinct; they remain behind to become the victims of predators, or to die of starvation. This year, an extraordinary number and variety of Wood Warblers survived up until Christmas and beyond, no doubt due to the continuing presence of insect life throughout November and our very mild snowless December. We had a PARULA at Barrington Passage on Nov. 25 (RRH), a MAGNOLIA on the Halifax West Christmas Count (DW), no less than 60 YELLOW-RUMPED (Myrtle) WARBLERS at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. on the Halifax CBC (ELM, BMacT), which number dwindled to "a few" by early February, but "Myrtles" reported very generally, in small flocks, up to February in Yarmouth County at least. This of course is not unusual in the south of the province. Other very late warblers were: 2 BLACK-THROATED GREENS Nov. 12 at Petite Riviere (Cohrs), a "lively imm. BLACKBURNIAN" at the foot of South St., Halifax, Dec. 1 (IMcL), a BAY-BREASTED Nov. 12 at Petite Riviere (Cohrs), 9 PALM WARBLERS in November and 3 in December, these latter being in Amherst (RB), in Halifax (CWH), Yarmouth (DBK & MWH) and at Broad Cove, Lun. Co. (IMcL & Pierre Beland). This last warbler was described by Ian McLaren as showing "no hint of yellowish on the breast, and thought to be of the western race . . . suspect that many of our fall birds may be from the west". Four COMMON YELLOWTHROATS were found very late, at Petite Riviere Nov. 12 (Cohrs), at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. Dec. 15 (ELM), at Yarmouth on the CBC Dec. 29 (PRD) and at the Dartmouth "Piggery" Jan. 6 (NSBS), one bird seen at each place. Not unexpectedly, 5 YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS have been reported, one in October at Cape Sable (SS), one in November at Brier I. (IMcL), one from Nov. 23 on at a Dartmouth feeder (MC), one from Dec. 13 on at a Halifax feeder (Marjorie Major) and one Jan. 5-6 at Glace Bay (E. Chant) - a wide distribution. A WILSON'S WARBLER, Dec. 12

at Port Hebert (RSW) was most unusual, probably setting a late record for this region.

The HOUSE SPARROW is generally reported as "usual", with small flocks, 3-12 birds at town feeders.

ICTERIDS AND TANAGER

Sightings of species in this group brought us much of interest this winter, and some real surprises. L. B. Macpherson has written of the BOBOLINK on the Halifax CBC, only the second wintering Bobolink on record for N.S. Two observations of the EASTERN MEADOWLARK actually accounted for more than the usual number of these birds, a late November episode, when one Meadowlark appeared at Cape Sable, and a flock of around 20 of these birds invaded the Yarmouth airport (Mrs. James Nickerson, Olive Purdy, M. W. Hilton). It seems highly probable that these records mark a migratory movement. On November 17, the wind shifted from SW to WSW, and on the 18th it was blowing hard from the WNW. On Nov. 20 a strange bird appeared at the George Jackson's feeder in Louisbourg. Carefully described to Frank Robertson, it was confirmed by him as a YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD. Storm-borne or otherwise brought to N.S., this is an exceptionally late record for this rare stray. The REDWINGED BLACKBIRD always leaves a few wintering birds around, as it did this year, small flocks of 3 at Glace Bay, 8 at Amherst and 10 in Yarmouth reported; with evidence of a late movement in November, when 35-40 Redwings appeared at Cape Sable, Nov. 10 (SS).

NORTHERN ORIOLES were almost "common" in late fall, reported very generally in the province, and many stayed until Christmas. Two January records are the last: one, Jan. 4, at a Halifax feeder "eating broken (?) sunflower seed - refused apple placed on feeder" (Mary Helleiner); and a pair, male and female, constant at Ralph Johnson's feeder in Liverpool during the winter, last seen Jan. 19.

Unusual was the number of RUSTY BLACKBIRDS reported late this year; the last big flight may have been marked by the 150-200 seen at Clementsport, Oct. 28 by W. E. Whitehead, but small groups of birds were still leaving in November, for example the 5, Nov. 10 at Cape Sable. Other late Rustys were at Amherst (CD), in the Spryfield area (RB) and at Tusket, Yar. Co., where one has been at the CRK Allen feeder all winter. The COMMON GRACKLE was still leaving in sizable

flocks up to the first week in November, but exceptional numbers of this bird too have wintered in N.S., seen at Glace Bay up to Jan. 19 (SMaL), Amherst, Feb. 17 (CD), Pictou, 4 through Jan. & Feb., Halifax and vicinity Jan. 15 (RB), Waterville Jan. 6 (ACH), Bridgetown (Terry Hyson), Caledonia Feb. 1 (RRH) and Yarmouth Jan. 14. Ian McLaren has written: "The fall-early winter flocks of blackbirds in the Valley are stupendous! I saw several 1000 south of Wolfville on Nov. 9". Some of these may have gone on shortly, as the Smiths at Cape Sable reported small flocks of Redwings, Rustys, Grackles, and over a hundred BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS on the island on Nov. 10. Some reporters found Cowbirds down in number this year, but others found them all too numerous, Mildred Hatfield's report from Tusket was simply "too many". They definitely favor the Valley right down to Yarmouth, where the flocks (30-60) in the surrounding country moved into town towards the end of November, "2-50 daily at the feeder, and black clouds of them swooping around town" (MWH).

On Nov. 5, the Ian McLarens had a SCARLET TANAGER in the backyard, at Halifax.

The big excitement of the winter has been the invasion of the CARDINALS. As reports began to come in, more and more of us took off for the south end of the province, and finally Davis Finch arrived, to see for himself, and did, after some patient (or impatient?) searching - "yes, they were here just a minute ago, right at the feeder, but seem to have gone now" - see a real, bright male Cardinal perched in a real, dark green Nova Scotia spruce tree, at Plymouth, Yar. Co. Briefly, the story as put together by CRK Allen is as follows: "The Cardinals appeared in southwestern Nova Scotia during the fall of 1973. Sightings were reported - approximately 46, equally divided as to sexes - from Digby around through Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queen's Counties, to Liverpool. A breakdown by areas from which birds were reported is:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Yarmouth	14	12
Tusket		2
Pubnico	2	3
Shelburne	1	1
Wedgeport	2	
Barrington	3	3
Liverpool	1	1
Digby		3
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	23	25

Discrepancies in totals (46 cf to 48) are due to guesses as to how many repeats were recorded, especially in Yarmouth. By far the greatest number of first appearances at feeders was during January. Length of stay varied from one visit to a number, still present".

It would be impossible to list all of the Cardinal observers, but Louise Daley has looked after the Digby ones, Marion Hilton and the CRK Allens have received and co-ordinated the reports from what sounds like half the population of Yarmouth town and county, the Gallaghers gathered some of the Shelburne reports, and in Liverpool Ralph Johnson has kept track of the numerous feeders visited by the pair there.

Three ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAKS stayed late, a female at Schooner Cove, St. Margaret's Bay at the Mills' feeder Nov. 11-18, another at Rockingham, Hfx. Co. at the Coffills' feeder all afternoon Dec. 22 and one seen on the Salmon River CBC in Cape Breton, Dec. 27. Perhaps the most extraordinary bird of the season (has that been said of one of the others? or perhaps several?) was the BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK present in Barrington Passage for about two weeks, last seen there Nov. 15, at Beulah Berman's feeder, and confirmed and photographed at that time by Ian McLaren, Eric Mills and Dan Welsh. It is "believed to be an immature male, having a rich ochraceous color below, yellowish on lower breast, darker cinnamon-rusty on upper breast. Only fine stripes on sides, head striped, white eye-stripe and below face patch; but ochraceous on nape and in back stripes. Unfortunately the photos by Jim Force do not reveal the yellow on the lower breast and belly, and are not considered completely clinching by Godfrey." (IMcL).

The 8 DICKISSELS identified this winter were all at feeders, and seen at Digby (LD), Yarmouth (the Nickerson's), Shelburne (the D. Robertson's), Liverpool (Verna Ryan), Halifax, (the Mercer's at Porter's Lake) and Sydney Forks (RB). (There were 2 at the Shelburne feeder).

EVENING GROSBEAKS were plentiful this year, especially in Cape Breton. Sara MacLean said "unprecedented numbers reported from all feeders, and more people than ever are feeding the birds". Flocks appeared in October (20th - 21st) and numbered roughly from 10-30 birds as a rule, with the usual late February build-up, reported from "very few" to 50+ at Economy, from 7 to 35 at Cole Harbor, from 14 to 24 at Pictou, "a few" - up to 50 at Halifax, and from 1-2 Jan. 27-28, to 30, Feb. 21 at Yarmouth. At Maitland, Hants Co., the "chrome yellow" mutant, present there last year returned to the LB Macpherson feeder, in December.

PURPLE FINCHES were practically absent all winter, only one or 2 noted randomly distributed; but there was, as last year, a sudden influx the middle of February. Between Feb. 9 and 18, these finches appeared at Pictou, Amherst, Halifax (city, Porter's Lake, Cole Harbor, Brookside), St. Croix and Yarmouth (town and Tusket). Birds in a flock numbered between 2 and 30, and all were gone by March 1. A few are again appearing, but as singles or pairs. Only four reports of PINE GROSBEAKS have been received, few seen this winter compared with last. They are said to be very scarce in N.B. also. The COMMON REDPOLL too was scarce, as above, small numbers scattered around the province, the only flock of any size reported, one of 50, Dec. 15, at Economy (FS).

The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH was the only regular winter finch this year. They have been universally reported, in good numbers, from October to the present time (1st week of March). Newly fledged feeder-keepers have trouble with goldfinches in their winter plumage, and are puzzled by what look like tiny female Evening Grosbeaks - tiny but fierce, and quite able to do their share of shouting and jostling on the tray.

Five reports of about 50 RED CROSSBILLS (total) and four reports of about 24 WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS place both species well to the NW part of the province, i.e. reports are from Amherst, Economy and Cape Breton, almost exclusively.

Prime sparrow country in Halifax County includes particularly the Dartmouth Piggery, Dorothea Drive sewage plant and the County Hospital seepage area - unsavory to sight and smell, but dear to the hearts of local birders. These places, according to Ian McLaren et al. were teeming with sparrows early last fall, but numbers steadily declined all winter. This was most noticeable with the Whitethroats. At feeders, however, the sparrow population, though not large, remained relatively stable, with increases in spells of severe weather. Many must have survived the winter, some of them no doubt, due to the presence of these feeding stations.

There were 3 RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEES (2 left early via Cape Sable) seen daily at feeders in Marion Bridge, C.B., Halifax and Pinkney's Pt., Yar. Co., this last one very comfortable at night, consorting with Cowbirds in the Kenney barn. The half-dozen SAVANNAHS seen remained at large, all coastwise on the dunes, after October, and at least 3 survived at Cole Harbor into February. The few "IPSWICHES" had gone by late October, only one remaining for the Halifax West CBC.

Unexpected sightings of 4 GRASSHOPPER, 4 SEASIDE and one VESPER SPARROW occurred this fall and winter - one Grasshopper Sparrow found dead at Cape Sable by Beverley Smith Oct. 16, 2; at Brier I. Nov. 7 (IMcL) and one at Forchu Harbor, Nov. 10 (IMacG); one of the Seaside Sparrows at Economy, cherished there by Francis Spalding, who hoped that it would remain around until the Christmas Count period, which it did, to add a new CBC species to our growing list, and the other 3 Seaside Sparrows at Conrad's Beach, Jan. 13-14, discovered there by Sylvia Fullerton, Eric Cooke, Ian and Bernice McLaren. The one Vesper was unusually late for this rare native, seen Nov. 10 in Yar. Co. by CRK Allen.

Large flocks of the DARK-EYED JUNCO stayed well into November, 300+ counted Nov. 10 in Yar. Co., flocks up to 50 in Annapolis and Queens Counties, Nov. 20. By Christmas numbers had dwindled, the few remaining found among the feeder birds thereafter. Although the TREE SPARROW never achieved large numbers in N. S. this winter, there were numerous sightings, the first, of 2 in company with flocks of juncos at Round Hill (WEW), ones and 2's at feeders generally through fall and winter, gradually increasing to 5's and 6's in February, and the only real flock, 15+ birds at Upper Canard, King's Co., Feb. 24, observed there near the dykeland by Barry Sabean. A few CHIPPING SPARROWS were rare but regular at feeders; at least 3 FIELD SPARROWS were seen, one at Maccan Nov. 4 (RB), 2, Feb. 10, at the Mercer feeder at Porter's Lake (RB, IMacG) IMcL; and most unusual of all, several WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS stayed very late, 3 perhaps all winter. The White-crowns were seen at Cape Sable and in Yarmouth Co. in October, at Petite Riviere in November and the last on Jan. 26 at the Dorothea Drive, Dartmouth, by Bruce MacTavish, and for two weeks in February at St. Croix, 2 white-crowns (Margaret Clark). The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW remained regular at feeders, universally present, about 2-8 birds on the average.

Thirteen reports of the FOX SPARROW represent only 20 of this species, seen in N.S. October through February, but very widely scattered, no particular region favored. This is about as usual, as was the presence of a few SWAMP SPARROWS, although the latter were very local, seen only in Halifax Co., at Herring Cove (RB), Nov. 30, at Conrad's Beach (ImcL) in January, and at least 2 still at the Dartmouth Piggery Feb. 10, 3 at Dorothea Drive and 6 at the County Hospital (same time, same observers). Approximately the same numbers of SONG SPARROWS were present in these places at the same times, but Song Sparrows were very general, province-wide, at feeders all winter. One Song Sparrow, a very poor weather prophet,

sang its spring song, in Halifax City on Feb. 8 (CWH).

A few LAPLAND LONGSPURS were seen, usually in company with SNOW BUNTINGS, which were well represented in N.S. this year, the large November flocks (200+ at Glace Bay, 160 at Cole Harbor, 300 at Brier I., 100 at Yarmouth) never entirely dispersed, but were greatly reduced by January. The first ones seen were at Port George, Anna. Co. Oct. 27 (RDL), and a few are still around, early in March.

THE SEASIDE SPARROW - A NEW MIGRANT?

The 'Economy' Seaside Sparrow was first reported in the fall of 1972 (v. NSBS Newsletter v. 14, No. 3, pp 167-168) and again in 1973 (idem. v. 15, No. 3, p. 129) was thereafter noted several times in November and December, 1973. Good photos were obtained Dec. 9 through the kind cooperation of Tony Duke of the N.S. Wildlife Service, my own camera being out of order. During the Count period the bird was sighted Dec. 21, 23 and 29. Tidal conditions have a good deal to do with the dates on which it can be seen at close range. Photos are in my possession, courtesy of Mr. Duke.

--- Francis Spalding ---

A GOLDEN EAGLE SIGHTING AT RIVERPORT (LUNENBURG CO.) FEB. 16

I was watching the gulls at the fish plant, which were resting on the ice of the La Have River. Two or three times the big flock of several hundred gulls went up inexplicably. Finally I realized that something overhead was stirring them up. Far up was a big bird of prey, soaring, shaped much like a Red-tailed Hawk. The tail was light from below, with an emphatic dark terminal band, reminiscent of a Rough-legged Hawk. The body and wings were all dark, though I once glimpsed white at the base of the primaries on the upper surface as the bird wheeled. At first the head, which was short and not very conspicuous, appeared all dark; later, as the sun struck it, it shone silvery or grayish. The wings appeared broad compared to Bald Eagles, and overall the bird was massive. As it soared up over me in the sunlight, an adult Bald Eagle appeared in the telescope field. It appeared more lightly built and lanky than the other eagle, and, to my surprise, swooped down toward it aggressively, coming very close, much as a Raven will attack a Bald Eagle or Red-tailed Hawk. The two eagles disappeared into the sun to the west, somewhere beyond the La Have Islands.

--- Eric Mills ---

COWBIRD EVASIVE ACTION

Recently when our resident Sharp-shin made one of its frequent low-level sweeps over the feeders one male Cowbird hesitated a split second too long and was left on an exposed tray "whence all but he had fled". The usual procedure followed by birds we have observed in similar fix, is to freeze and stay frozen until the chickadees or jays sound the All Clear. The Cowbird, however, tried a - to us - new technique. He dropped straight down from the tray and very gently and unobtrusively pushed and wormed his way beneath the inter-laced stems of a mat of ground myrtle which formed a dense carpet beneath the feeder.

Several questions might be asked about this performance:

Did our bird do a lightning assessment of the concealment potential of the myrtle, or was it reacting mechanically regardless of the type of cover?

I have no clue as to the answers to these questions but can say that on this occasion, for this bird, the trick worked.

--- B. and C. Allen ---

CHESTER

Mrs. Cornelius offered suggestions about guarding bird-feeding stations from depredations by hawks. She and her husband have placed tall wire fencing, of the kind that guards flower-beds in parks, in a circle around the base of a tree where a bird feeding station has been established and where birds are fed on the ground. The fencing also protects the area from cats, but the birds are small enough to be able to escape through the wire fencing if they wish to.

Hawks seem to attack birds by swooping down and catching them in that way. It means that the hawks are forced to catch them where the area is free of obstructions. They cannot swoop down where fencing would impede them on the rise.

Mrs. Cornelius has also placed a sort of umbrella of spruce boughs over the feeding station in the tree. This shelters small birds from the weather and helps to hide them from scouting hawks.

Mrs. Cornelius has a tip to train kittens not to hunt

birds, but she disapproves of keeping a cat if one also attracts and feeds birds. In the past, before she began to feed birds, a kitten that she had acquired brought back a small dead one to her one day. She hung the dead bird, liberally sprinkled with pepper, around the kitten's neck and left it there for ten or twelve hours. Never afterwards did the kitten hunt or kill or molest birds. It used to drool when it watched them but it resisted temptation. This resistance continued throughout the cat's lifetime.

--- Submitted by Shirley Fawke Jan. 6, 1974 ---

BIRD SOCIETY NEWS

The annual general meeting chaired by Dr. Roger Pocklington was held at the Nova Scotia Museum of Science on Summer Street on 1 December, 1973. Sixty-six members attended.

Dr. Eric Tull reported that the New Brunswick Federation had started two new chapters and is publishing a newsletter. He reminded members of the Breeding-bird survey and nest project and thanked the NSBS for the excellent hosting of the Canadian Nature Federation conference.

The Treasurer's report indicated a \$500.00 deficit due to the lack of a grant from the N.S. Museum. The Museum, subsequent to the report, indicated that a grant may be forthcoming.

The President thanked the outgoing executive.

Dr. Phyllis Dobson was thanked for her contribution as sole editor of the newsletter and let us note that her job will now be handled by a committee of 6 more people.

The society has been approached by the Dartmouth Free Press for a weekly column on natural history. Anyone interested in donating a 500 word screed please send to Roger Pocklington.

The society, every active in giving public voice to the need of protection of the environment is preparing a brief in support of maintaining the zoning of Flying Point and Lawrencetown as park and recreational.

A report from Dr. Hardy Moffatt, Co-ordinator of the committee to host the CNF conference, indicated a very successful meeting of more than 300 members. Thanks to the efforts of those

concerned, a gratifying surplus of funds was donated to the CNF from the N.S. Bird Society. Dr. Moffatt was presented with the puffin-of-the-year award for his outstanding contribution to Society activities.

Tony Lock gave his evaluation of the society as it now stands and asked the membership to re-examine its aims and objectives. He suggested a broader based membership including all aspects of natural history. This provoked a lively discussion resulting in (a) a motion passed that the incoming executive is to reconsider a name change; (b) a motion passed that naturalists from other fields of interest be invited on some of the bird trips.

Ray Bowditch informed the society of the pending bounty on raccoons and crows in Halifax Co. Dr. R. Pocklington appealed to the membership to write to their elected representative requesting that the right to put bounties on wildlife be removed.

The slate of officers elected for the coming year is as follows:

President	-	Roger Pocklington
Vice-President	-	Bob Lamberton
Secretary	-	Fred Dobson
Treasurer	-	Hazel Carmichael
Membership Secretary	-	Ethel Crathorne
Editor-in-Chief	-	Phyllis Dobson
Managing Editor	-	Dick Brown
Executive Member	-	James Elliot
" "	-	Ross Anderson

The Cape Breton nominee would be accepted when sent in.

Honorary Auditor	-	Willit J. Mills
Honorary Solicitor	-	R. A. Kanigsberg

The meeting was concluded with a very interesting talk and movies by Al Smith of the Canadian Wildlife Service. Mr. Smith spoke of new legislation, which has put "muscles" in the control of use of land by tracked vehicles, hunters, etc.; of land and particularly wetland management for the benefit of wildlife; research studies on this and on endangered species; of the Hinterland series of illustrated reports on various Canadian species, put out by the CWS, and the television "clips" to bring these to the attention of people at large; of the four Federal Bird Sanctuaries in the Maritimes, which also serve as study areas; enforcement of the Migratory Birds

Protection Act, of which Dr. Robie Tufts was the first Enforcement Officer in the Maritimes; of the history of the Canadian Wildlife Service, founded in 1947, Dr. H. F. Lewis a one time Chief, and George Boyer, author of The Birds of the Border Region, the first "Officer" at the Sackville (Maritimes) Station.

An executive meeting was held on 14 December 1973, 8 members were present.

The society is looking into ways of protecting wildlife from bounties.

The auditor's report recommended that expenditures of over \$100.00 be approved by the executive and that another auditor be found.

E. Crathorne reported 536 paid memberships.

Executive resolved to stimulate active interest in society by (1) having meetings year round with speakers and (2) initiate direct contact between society and local groups with combined field trips, and notices of their trips in our newsletter.

The grant of \$500.00 from the N.S. Museum was received.

Betty Reid reported from Cape Breton branch that it required more speakers and contact with metro area.

The membership is asked for points of view on changing the name and scope of the society.

The vice-president is arranging some field trips which involve other aspects of natural history; the list will be available soon.

EDITORIAL BOARD

A meeting of the newly formed editorial board was held 25 January 1974. The members of this board are as follows:

Editor-in-Chief	- Phyllis Dobson
Managing Editor	- Dick Brown
Associate Editor - Design	- Rosemary Eaton

Associate Editor	
Christmas Count	- Lloyd MacPherson
Assistant Editors:	
Seabirds	- Dick Brown
Land Birds	- Charlie Allen
" "	- Bob Lamberton
NSBS News	- Patricia Pocklington

CAPE BRETON

Cape Breton branch elected a full slate of officers on 25 Jan. 1974 as follows:

President	- Mrs. Edith MacLeod
Vice-President	- Mr. Hedley Hopkins
Secretary-Treasurer	- Mrs. Frank Robertson
Recording Secretary	- Mrs. Sarah MacLean

QUORUM

A short executive meeting was held 25 January, 4 members were present to approve a sum of \$150.00 as expenditure for the museum exhibit.

THANKS

A letter was received from Carin Summers thanking the society for the potted plant. We are all glad to hear that Carin is up and around and looking forward to another birding season.

NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM EXHIBIT

The NSBS participation in societies exhibition at the museum is well underway. The exhibit will be from May 2-15. We still need photos of society members in the field, and volunteers for assembling and dismantling the exhibition.

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTER

"Fine Print", a publication of the EAC was received by the society in February 1974. We were happy to see that a CNF folder was included. The EAC has interesting and well researched articles on recycling, transportation and energy problems. We are made well aware how critical is the misuse of the environment.

FRIENDS OF THE WILD CONSERVATION CLUB

The children sent a note of thanks to the society for taking them to McNabs Island on a field trip. They presented the society with a bird feeder as a token of their appreciation.

HARRISON FLINT LEWIS
1894-1974

Harrison F. Lewis, Doctor of Philosophy (Ornithology), former Chief of the Canadian Wildlife Service and one-time Editor of the Canadian Field Naturalist, died at his home in Sable River January 16, 1974.

After his retirement he moved to Nova Scotia where he had spent most of his youth, and became active in various conservation projects.

He was, more than any other individual, responsible for the founding of the Nova Scotia Bird Society and the Nova Scotia Resources Council.

In his high uncompromising standards, complete honesty and capacity for thorough conscientious work, he had few equals in this or any other time or place.

MEETINGS

General meetings of the society were held in February and March 1974 at the N.S. Museum.

The first held Feb. 1 was chaired by Eric Cooke. Lloyd MacPherson gave a very entertaining talk on Christmas counts, the contents of which is reported elsewhere in the newsletter. The guest speaker was Peter Beamish, a cetologist from Bedford Institute who gave a very interesting talk entitled "Whales, Birds, Dolphins and Porpoises". The talk was well illustrated with many slides from his personal collection as well as some contributed by birders which were taken on the Brier Island field trip. His talk included a potted course on N. Atlantic whale identification. We are now well primed for next Brier Island trip.

The second meeting was held on Friday, March 8th, 1974. The guest speaker was Dr. K. Mann, Chairman of the Biology Department, Dalhousie University. Dr. Mann spoke on the

ecology of salt marshes. Ken has a wonderful ability to communicate sound scientific ideas in a stimulating fashion. We learned that salt marshes are not only places of solitude and beauty but important links in the dynamic cycle of life. His talk was superbly illustrated with Rosemary Eaton's excellent slides, mainly of Cole Harbor and surrounding area.

Roger Pocklington reminded members of the museum exhibition in May and made official the news of the transfer of Outer Bald Island to the society. He paid tribute to the kindness of Mr. Kanigsberg, our Honorary Solicitor, in discharging the legal side of the transfer.

Fred Dobson reviewed the activities at local feeders and Bob Lamberton launched by 1974 list of Field Trips which made us all look forward to spring.

OUTER BALD ISLAND

Outer Bald Island was deeded to the NSBS by the Nature Conservancy of Canada who received the deed from the Nature Conservancy of the United States. This sanctuary to protect nesting terns was given by Mr. Russel Arundel of Warrenton, Virginia in memory of his brother, Earle E. Arundel.

Editor
NSBS Newsletter

Having been a life-long resident of the Border Region, I feel obliged to nominate the areas as the "Where else?" bird capitol of the NS-NB mainland. Following you will find fourteen reasons for my decision.

1. Where else are Pied-billed Grebes more abundant during fall migration?

2. Where else are Pintails more abundant during spring, summer and fall?

3. Where else are American Wigeon more abundant during fall migration?

4. Where else do Shovelers breed more commonly and appear more abundantly during the fall?

5. Where else are Rough-legged Hawks more abundant during the winter?

6. Where else do Virginia Rails breed in higher numbers?

7. Where else can you expect to find Yellow Rails during the summer?

8. Where else can you find a larger Sora breeding population?

9. Where else can you expect to find American Coot breeding and fairly common during the fall?

10. Where else are Common Snipe more abundant during fall migration?

11. Where else are Short-eared Owls more abundant?

12. Where else are more Snowy Owls found during the winter?

13. Where else are Long-billed Marsh Wrens more abundant during the summer?

14. Where else are Short-billed Marsh Wrens more abundant

during the summer:

I am wondering if any other region in the Maritimes can produce a lengthier "Where else?" list (without going down to such things as "Where else was a Yellow-crowned Night Heron seen in 1971" etc.). If so, I would be interested to hear of it.

This is Stuart Tingley from the current "Where else" capital of the Maritimes saying:

'Bye for now.

Sackville, New Brunswick
February 18, 1974.

Editor
NSBS Newsletter

Greetings from Kluane to you and the many other Society friends with whom I have enjoyed birding in Nova Scotia. Although it seems very far away, I enjoy as much as ever (perhaps more) reading the Newsletter through as soon as it arrives, and thrilling to new discoveries made around the province. This perspective merely confirms my opinion that Nova Scotia is one of the best places on the continent for the keen birder.

Although we have only about half as many species of birds as occur on the Nova Scotia list, Kluane National Park lives up to its promise in every way. From the highway, the scenery is spectacular but relatively comprehensible; the Kluane Ranges that parallel the road reaching to 8000-9000 feet, with small glaciers on them, comparable to most areas in the Rockies. Once you get "behind" these ranges however, the scale changes to one that is nearly impossible to grasp - mountains towering up to nearly 20,000 feet and massive glaciers ten or more miles wide and, in some cases, over one hundred miles long.

Written descriptions seem so inadequate for this area - perhaps some of my more vivid impressions of the past seven months would better serve to give you an idea of what it is like.

- For example, awakening one morning at the edge of a mirror-still lake, over a dozen miles from the nearest road, hearing the clear, pure note of the Varied Thrush coming from the opposite wooded shore, while a pair of Arctic Loons rippled the surface less than 100 yards away.

- About 15 miles farther from the road, sitting at the top of a 6000 foot cliff watching a glorious sunset over the mighty Lowell glacier which terminated just across from us, but far below in the Alsek River; every so often a crash would rend the air as a 300' high slab of ice would break off the glacier and splash into the river, momentarily silencing the little collared pikas that scurried around us, but apparently ignored by the old mountain goat scaling the side of a nearby precipice; following the glacier with our eyes back toward the sunset, the distinctive forms of Mts. Kennedy and Hubbard (near the Canada-U.S. border) could be seen, and behind them two massive peaks which towered above all others - they must be Mount Logan, Canada's highest, over 90 miles away! In all this magnificent panorama, not a trace of man's influence - can we keep it that way?

- Near the top of the same mountain, flushing a dozen White-tailed Ptarmigan in a blinding August snowstorm; - investigating unusual bird calls from a lowland marsh, finding several scolding Lesser Yellowlegs and Northern Phalaropes and the cause of the uproar - a splendid wolverine in full view just in front of me;

- Watching a Peregrine (of the nearly extinct anatum race) stooping over a small mountaintop tarn beside my campsite, disturbing, but not taking, a few phalaropes which were on it;

- A Christmas Count at -20°F with only 12 species, but including 5 Northern Tree-toed Woodpeckers and a Hawk Owl; another (south of the border in Alaska) with 634 Bald Eagles along a 3-4 mile stretch of river and highway.

My memories are a kaleidoscope of these and countless other images, and I am currently trying to get the knowledge of this area in some order, find out where the gaps are, and prepare a preliminary interpretive plan.

Wayne Neily

Haines Junction, Y.T.
January 31, 1974.

Editor
N.S.B.S. Newsletter:

How does an amateur bird watcher write an article that a group of professionals might read? Well, here's how.

First I would like to tell of my visit to Amet Island (about 7 miles west of Cape John) with Dr. Ross Mitton (I am an amateur sailor too). When we neared the island, the first to greet us was a baby seal. He kept popping up all around the boat. There were about thirty more basking on a shoal. On the island we saw the nests of the Double-crested Cormorant and the birds in all stages, ready to fly, just hatched, and eggs. Wherever we walked we had to be very careful as baby herring gulls were in the grass and under the rocks everywhere. We also saw teal and mallard ducks, plus more I couldn't identify. (I didn't take along my Peterson's) but I took my camera and it jammed after a few pictures. I also learned you don't go to Amet Island in your bare feet (droppings!)

This spring I got a call from a neighbor on Crichton Avenue asking if I would look after a baby sparrow (I have the only bird cage around here). When the bird was delivered, I realized it was no sparrow and immediately called Roger Pocklington who informed me it was a Black-billed Cuckoo. Now - what to do. I didn't have any tent caterpillars right then, they came later, so I started digging worms and picking bugs out of my vegetable garden. Did you ever try digging worms at eleven at night with a flashlight? I had a hard time getting it to eat so Roger brought up a recording of the B.B. Cuckoo and when he played it, the bird responded, so I kept his recorder and when the bird responded and opened its mouth, I popped a worm in. However the worms were getting scarce, so after speaking with Mr. Mills, I took the bird back to the area where it was found and put it in a Barberry hedge and I would like to think its parents found it, because I couldn't when I went back.

Now I would just like to name the birds I have seen and was able to recognize since Sept. 7, and these are from my

window. Nashville, Wilson's, Yellow, Parula, Yellowthroat, Black-and-White, Palm, Myrtle, warblers, Blue Jays, Juncos, Song, Chipping, White-throated, House (plus 2 I couldn't recognize), sparrows, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, chickadees, nuthatches, Purple Finches, Evening and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Redwinged and Rusty Blackbirds, American Goldfinch, Least Flycatcher, Robins, Flicker, Cat-bird, Cedar Waxwings, Red-eyed Vireos, Tanagers (?), Baltimore Orioles, and many more I could not identify, one of which I will not forget. It looked like a rather small flycatcher, light in front, slate colored back and a tail about 7 or 8 inches long. The wind was blowing hard that day and branches were concealing it, but the tail was what took my eye, it even looked as if it had 2 slim tails.

I might add that in the spring I put out hundreds of pieces of string, cotton wool, kleenex and cat combings, and had the Cedar Waxwings, Baltimore Orioles and Yellow Warblers collect them. I also saw a Great Crested Flycatcher start to build a nest in a pipe clothes pole but he gave it up after 1 week (I think he felt insecure).

I look forward to the newsletter and remain a (maybe divorced, childless) but ardent bird watcher.

Freda Matheson

Summer, 1973
Dartmouth, N. S.

THE CANADIAN BEACHED BIRD SURVEY

It appears that over the next few years we can expect a large increase in the oil traffic in Eastern Canadian waters, and while it is probably alarmist to predict decimation of local water bird populations we shouldn't ignore the possibility that they may suffer some damage. For some years the Europeans have been doing regular counts of dead and oiled birds cast upon beaches and they have, as a result, a fair understanding of the seriousness of chronic oil pollution in their waters.

In Canada we have no objective information on the seriousness

of oil pollution and no good way of deciding if changes in oil traffic are affecting local bird populations. So long is our shoreline, and so sparse our population that we have no hope of ever monitoring all the ocean off our coasts but a beached bird counting scheme has been started in Eastern Canada and if successful will give useful information on the seriousness of oil pollution, on areas of concentration of birds (particularly in winter time), and on the relative vulnerability of North American bird species to spills or changes in the movements of oil cargoes.

The Environmental Protection Service of the Department of the Environment is sponsoring the survey but while many of the counts will be done by D.O.E. employees the scheme will depend, for its success, upon the participation of amateurs. Monthly counts are to be made of a convenient stretch of beach and all dead and debilitated birds are counted. If you live in one of the more remote areas of Nova Scotia and feel enthusiastic enough to regularly perform this slightly dismal but very worthwhile count I would be happy to hear from you. All information gathered is to be freely available and will be published four times a year in a newsletter that will go to all participants. This newsletter will also contain a summary of all known pollution incidents and bird kills in our area since the previous issue and other news items concerning seabirds, particularly with reference to oceanic pollution.

These regular beach counts provide the most valuable data but if you cannot take part in these but can do irregular counts in areas remote from Halifax I would be happy to send you instructions and report cards. Anybody who ever encounters a bird kill (more than 4 birds per mile of beach) would do valuable work by doing a careful count of dead birds on a defined stretch of beach and phoning the results 426-6200 collect. This is the phone number for environmental emergencies and is manned 24 hours a day.

An annual survey of results will be submitted for the Nova Scotia Bird Society Newsletter and to other naturalist societies in our area.

Tony Lock.

Box 2406

Halifax

NOVA SCOTIAN BIRD RARITIES IN PERSPECTIVE

PART II. OYSTERCATCHERS TO OWLS

I have made use of the same general sources mentioned in the introduction to Part I, and in addition have been privileged to have a sneak preview of Robie Tufts' (1973) second edition of the Birds of Nova Scotia, which should be available to all when you read this.

Davis Finch has kindly commented on Part I. He believes that you'll be lucky if you see Cory's Shearwater from the "Bluenose" ferry. Appledore Island is in Maine, not New Hampshire; and there is some doubt about the breeding record of the Little Blue Heron there. He also believes that the term "Scotia shadow" was coined by Will Russell, not Aaron Bagg.

I expect that the present part is also misinformative; let me know.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER. The bird is extending its range northward and has begun nesting in Massachusetts again. It may indeed have once bred in Nova Scotia (Tufts 1973). Our only recent record (1957) may soon be duplicated. The remotely possible European Oystercatcher can be distinguished in the field and in a good photograph, as it has black, not brown, wings and back, and has a more extensive white rump patch.

RINGED PLOVER. The bird nests in the Canadian high arctic and migrates to the Old World, although one has been taken on Barbados. It poses a fearsome problem for field identification, and dead or unseasonable Semipalmated Plovers should always be looked at closely.

WILSON'S PLOVER. The 1971 bird on Sable Island was a stray overshoot, but Ben Doane's birds in September, 1972, and October, 1973, hint at a pattern of autumn wandering.

EURASIAN GOLDEN PLOVER. This bird, at present considered specifically distinct, is larger than ours, and has white, not gray, axillars (not always reliable in young birds). Adults in breeding plumage (such as have occurred in Newfoundland) have a continuous white stripe along the side from forehead to tail. Spring Golden Plovers should be looked at most carefully.

EUROPEAN WOODCOCK. With at least eight North American records, we should feel a bit left out, especially as some of our best friends are woodcock hunters.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW. Our 19th century and 1925 records, although hypothetical, are at least plausible, in view of several records from the American east coast. But observers should remember that the long-billed Eurasian Curlew (white rump) has straggled to New York.

EURASIAN WHIMBREL. Individuals of two white-rumped Eurasian races of Whimbrel have strayed to the New World, one recently to New Jersey. We have an old specimen of the Icelandic race from shipboard near Sable Island. Most records are for spring.

ESKIMO CURLEW. Sightings in Massachusetts in August of 1970 and 1971 should whet the appetite. I have a recurrent bad dream about the last being killed by one of our shorebird gunners.

UPLAND SANDPIPER. Now hardly to be classed as rare, and doubtless soon to be found nesting in the Amherst region.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. Our occasional winter birds, as pointed out some time ago by Lloyd Macpherson, should be scrutinized in case they are (European) Common Sandpipers, which can probably be distinguished in the field, even in winter plumage (Wallace, 1970). The Common has a more dusky, not whitish, throat; it has more weakly barred wing coverts, not contrasting as much with its streaked and warm brown (not grayish) back; its bill is not as dark-tipped. Nevertheless, take care and call for help!

WILLET. The large gray long-legged and long-billed western race has doubtless always occurred in Nova Scotia in autumn, as it has in New England, but has only recently been recognized. It's a nice challenge for the shorebird enthusiast. You can "tune-up" by scrutinizing the families of brownish local birds on our flats and marshes in August. You'll then be in no doubt if a western bird shows up, probably after the locals have disappeared.

GREEN SANDPIPER. Our old, hypothetical record (Tufts 1973) is unaccompanied by any others from North America, and remains dubious. The similar Wood Sandpiper (more like a small yellow-legs) occurs in the Aleutians.

REDSHANK. Our bird (a coup for Lloyd Macpherson and Fred Dobson on January 2, 1960) and one sighted in Texas in 1962 are evidently the only North American sightings. Curiously, the Spotted Redshank (which unlike the Redshank does not breed in "nearby" Iceland) has been found more frequently, with records from North Carolina, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Texas, and more recently from British Columbia and Connecticut. A red-legged "tattler" was seen briefly through the fog at a distance by some of a N.S.B.S. party on Seal Island on October 4, 1970, but did not remain to have its identity sorted out. At least it gives notice of the continuing possibilities.

EURASIAN GODWITS. There are about a dozen records of the Bar-tailed Godwit from eastern North America, mostly in New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts. The Black-tailed Godwit, although it nests in Iceland, has evidently turned up only in Newfoundland (1954), Massachusetts (1967) and New Jersey (1971), in spring or early summer. Both should be kept in mind.

CURLEW SANDPIPER. In spite of the eight or so recent sightings in Nova Scotia, this Old World form (like the Ruff, now regular enough to suggest breeding somewhere in North America) remains hypothetical with us. A photograph would clinch it.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER. Our half-dozen or so recent sightings probably don't reflect a change in status, as the bird has long been known among late dowitchers in New England and there are specimens from the last century for New Brunswick (Pierce and Brown 1969) and Nova Scotia (Tufts 1973). It remains a difficult field problem and is probably not always possible to separate from the Short-billed. The best review of field marks is by Wallace (1968). Large, long-billed birds (probably females, which to me look "chesty", see last Newsletter) seem easy. The reddish underparts and spring barring of adult Long-billed may remain into fall. The fall juvenile Short-billed is said to have a more buffy, more streaked breast and fore-neck, and its darker crown and light throat give a "capped" appearance. In contrast, the young Long-billed has a more grayish crown and underparts, never noticeably spotted; its back is said to be darker. The only plumage distinction among winter birds (which we will rarely see) on which most authors agree is the greater width of the dark tail bands on the Long-billed. All recent authors agree that the voices -- "keek" in the Long-billed -- are distinct.

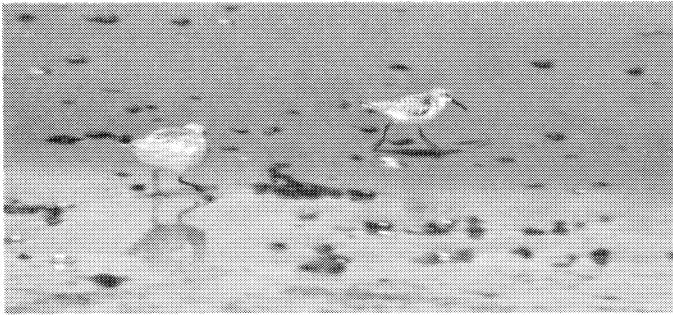
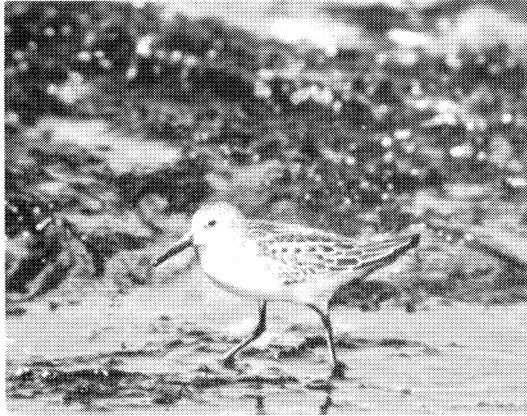
WESTERN SANDPIPER. Another species that has been overlooked in Nova Scotia, the Western is a routine late "peep" in New England. We are probably at the fringe of its normal route to the east coast. (Some other "western" shorebirds, like the Hudsonian Godwit and Buff-breasted Sandpiper have also been seen more frequently of late, but this is doubtless due in part to real recovery from over-hunting). Although Ouellet et al. (1973) have recently cautioned against field identifications, I believe they overstate the problem. It is true that there is considerable bill overlap with Semipalmateds (female Westerns, though, have longer bills than do almost any individual Semipalmateds), but our late-summer and fall birds, both adults and immatures can virtually always be expected to retain some diagnostic russet on the back. The voice distinction is also absolute.

AMERICAN AVOCET. Our 1969 and 1970 records may be part of a pattern of increase on the east coast in recent years.

BLACK-NECKED STILT. Although not on any Nova Scotian list, there is a report of four seen by Nettie Moore at Canning on September 23, 1965 (Audubon Field Notes, vol. 20, p. 18, 1966). A number of southern and western strays were deposited in the region at the time. Recently the bird has begun to extend its range to the Canadian prairies, and there have been increasing numbers of east coast records, including one in New Brunswick in May, 1972.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE. This is becoming a "regular" rarity in Nova Scotia, perhaps connected with its recent sporadic nesting in the east, for example at Sorel near Montreal.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. The *graellsii* race colonized Iceland some fifty years ago, and has been known for some time as a stray in North America. Dick Brown noted them pelagically off south Greenland in spring, 1966 (Brown 1969), and the first Canadian record is from Churchill, Manitoba; this perhaps hinting at their route to inland North America, where numbers have occurred. Birds in general of course have traditional routes and stopping places, and long-lived birds give lots of opportunities for birders. Surely all but the most unkeen have by now seen our Lesser Black-back (very likely the same individual), now in its fifth winter at Digby.



Immature Western Sandpipers.

The reddish back feathers revealed in the original colour slides are unmistakably of Western Sandpipers. Both photos show immatures. Top photo by Davis Finch at Brier Island, August 29 1973. Lower photo by Dan Welch, Sable Island October 24 1973.

THAYER'S GULL. Thayer's Gull has recently been accorded specific status on the American Ornithologists Union Check List. The birding game is played with the A.O.U. list, so it is no surprise that Thayer's Gull has begun to turn up in localities where it was hitherto unsuspected, more generally inland than on the east coast. Rumour has it that an Ottawa birder, familiar with the bird, saw several in the Maritimes on a trip early this winter. Some of us have been looking hard, unsuccessfully. Godfrey (1966) is a good guide to adult characteristics. Some observers feel that immatures are in some ways easier than adults. These may be as dark as some young Herring Gulls, but average smaller, are smaller-billed, and have light primaries, especially the inner webs. They may have a mottled tail band. In seeking the red eye-ring and dark eyes of adults (yellow and pale in the Herring Gull), note that eye color and darkness of primaries are correlated in the "Kumlien's Gull". A very dark-eyed "Kumlien's Gull" would be indistinguishable from a Thayer's Gull except for the former's paler mantle. Good luck!

MEW (COMMON) GULL. To accompany our 1969 sight record from Sable Island, there are recent records from Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Maine and Massachusetts. A specimen from New Brunswick in early May, 1969, was from western North America (Pierce 1971), whereas the 1956 one from Newfoundland was from Europe (Godfrey 1966). Plumage distinctions from the Ring-billed Gull are subtle (see Grant 1973). And note that subadult Mew Gulls may have ringed bills, fine ones sometimes occurring even in adults. The very small bill (plover-like head) should always be evident if comparisons with Ring-bills are possible.

LITTLE GULL. We have seen fewer of these than we deserve. They are fairly regular on the New Brunswick side of the Bay of Fundy, and recently have turned up in P.E.I. Our Pictou and Digby sightings may be part of this pattern, and should alert readers to potential "hot spots".

SABINE'S GULL. Our two sightings of fall migrants are matched by a recent one from New Brunswick and several from New England. Their fall movements are generally well offshore. Lambert (1973) indicates that they arrive off Newfoundland and southern Labrador in late May, and the sighting by the Smiths at Cape Sable on June 12, 1972, fits in.

GULL-BILLED TERN. Our two or three sight records are matched by others from the northeast, including recent ones from New York and Rhode Island, and older specimens from New Brunswick and Maine. The bird could easily be documented by a photograph.

SOOTY TERN. Our few storm-sent records are typical for the northeast coasts, although there appears to be no such "excuse" for the Sable Island bird in summer of 1972. Observers should be aware of the remote possibility of the somewhat similar Bridled Tern, which is regular in the southern Gulf Stream and which has strayed as far north as New Jersey.

BLACK TERN. The bird now seems to occur regularly in small numbers in summer and fall, often well offshore (e.g. Sable Island). It has possibly also already bred in the Nova Scotian side of the Missaquash Marsh. The White-winged Black Tern should always be kept in mind. This European stray has occurred perhaps a half-dozen times in North America, most recently in New Brunswick in 1968 (Morgan and Pearce 1969).

SANDWICH TERN. It seems a blow to provincial pride to note that this southern, coastal species, otherwise recorded as near as Massachusetts, should have occurred only in Ontario.

GROUND DOVE. I predict, not completely out of whimsy, that this bird will turn up on an offshore island of Nova Scotia within the next few years. After all, the Ontario record (first for Canada) on 29 October, 1968, cannot remain unchallenged, and the bird does stray coastally from time to time as far north as New York.

SCREECH OWL. This and the Barn Owl are the only owls whose occurrences here are truly "accidental", as the other rare ones arrive on the fringes of widespread "irruptions". There is only a single old occurrence of the Screech Owl (Tufts 1973). One might also mention the report of a bird killed on Seal Island in the late winter of 1973, and described to me by two different fishermen as a Screech Owl - small, reddish, and with distinct ears.

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