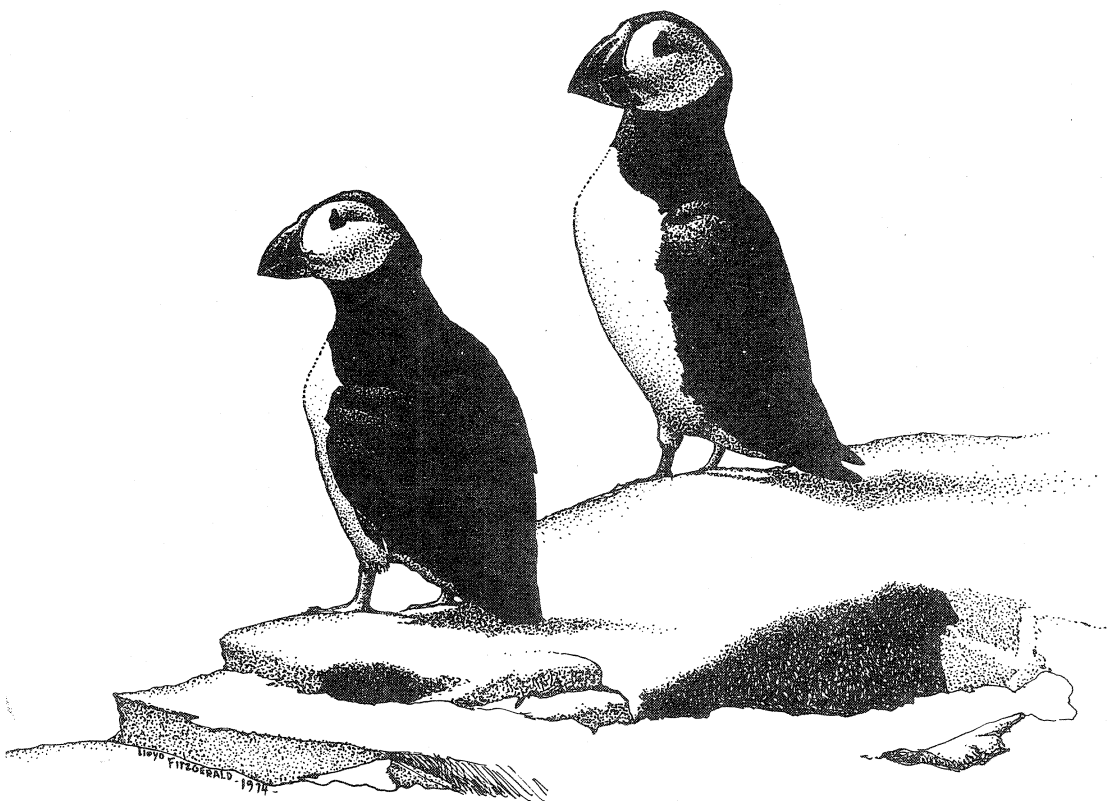


NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1975

VOLUME 17

NUMBER 1

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Winter Birds, 1974-751
Errata	30
Feeder Notes	31
Christmas Counts, 1974	33
Book Review: "Looking Back" by Robie Tufts	51
Reminiscences - by Robie Tufts	51
Comments and Letters	53
Bird Society News	59
Nova Scotian Bird Rarities in Perspective. IV: Warblers to Longspur - by Ian A. McLaren	68

FIELD TRIPS: see pp. 64-68.

REPORTS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE JUNE 30, 1975

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NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

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1747 Summer Street
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Newsletter
Volume 17, Number 1
April 1975

INTRODUCTION

Winter Birds, 1974-75

This new volume of the Newsletter introduces two changes in format. The first is obvious. Our new cover is by Lloyd Fitzgerald, a Halifax artist whose drawings and paintings of birds were a striking feature of our exhibit at the Nova Scotia Museum last summer. It was presented to us by Tony Lock, who commissioned the original drawing.

The second change is one of organisation. Up to now our three issues a year have been dated April, July and November. They dealt, respectively, with Christmas Bird Counts, late fall migration and winter birds; with spring migration; and with summer and early fall birds. This is an awkward arrangement. No single issue deals with fall migration as a whole, and by the time the April issue finally comes out, most people have long lost interest in Christmas Bird Counts.

From now on, the third issue of the year will be dated December and will come out early in the New Year. It will contain the Christmas Bird Counts and all the fall migration records. The July issue will continue to cover spring migration. The April issue will include winter records. We also plan to use it as a "features" issue, containing articles of general interest to members, book reviews and so on. Ian McLaren's "Nova Scotian Rarities in Perspective" is the kind of article we have in mind. We hope to deal with such topics as the birds of Seal Island and birds seen from the "Bluenose" ferry, the field marks of accipiters, and anything else which will help set the scene for the coming season.

In addition to the Newsletter members will also receive two "flyers", in April and October. The main object of these is to announce respectively the summer's field trips and arrangements for Christmas Bird Counts. But we also plan to use them for "Stop Press" information on rarities, and for anything else which may be of interest to members.

Please note the dates for records to be sent in for the Newsletters. We must receive them by March 31st. (April issue), June 30th. (July issue) and November 30th. (December issue). Each issue will have the deadline for the next issue's records printed at the foot of the Table of Contents. Send in "Stop Press" sightings as soon as you record them. Finally, when you submit records, don't forget that they have to be farmed out to the sub-editors who write up the various groups of species. If you just send in a

list, this has to be laboriously unscrambled and transcribed before your records can be sent out to the appropriate sub-editor. Please help us to speed up the Newsletter by sending in your reports for each species on a separate piece of paper.

This issue includes the story of winter birds in Nova Scotia, 1974-75, and late records of fall migrants, 1974, which missed the last Newsletter.

Winter pounced on us in October, 1974, when on the 20th the temperature dropped to freezing, accompanied by heavy snow and damagingly high winds. Although the snow disappeared in a few days from most parts of the province, the month remained cold - the second coldest October in 101 years for the Halifax-Dartmouth area.* November and December were relatively mild, but periodically severe storms swooped down, notably on Nov. 21 and 26 and Dec. 2, on which date the wind reached hurricane force. January brought heavy snows and severe cold on the 17th, 20th and 29th, the last continuing on into February, which averaged 3-4°F below normal throughout the month. In SW Nova Scotia there was thin snow cover during January and February, but in the Valley and on up the province the snowfall was heavy and built up to considerable depth - at Pictou about two feet, according to Eric Holdway, with no bare ground from the October storm until on into March; and in the Valley, 4 foot drifts were still 3 feet deep the first of April.

In spite of the unpleasant wintry conditions, Holdway reported the presence of a flock of Purple Finches, Juncos and Cowbirds throughout the season "for the first time in 20 years" plus the second winter record of a flock of Cedar Waxwings.

Quite generally, birds were numerous at feeders, and field counts about the countryside normal. We had few Rough-legged Hawks and fewer Snowy Owls, but resident hawks and owls were well reported, and it was definitely a Northern Shrike year. The usual few Great Blue Herons, Kingfishers and Flickers survived, as did in some places good numbers of Robins, and where the year's heavy crop of bayberries remained uncovered. Yellow-rumped Warblers (Myrtles) did well. Several Cardinals came through the winter in Yarmouth County; winter finches and grosbeaks were abundant (except siskins and redpolls), and Juncos were exceptionally numerous at feeders, in coastwise regions.

Off the coast, loons and grebes were observed in normal numbers and sea-ducks rode out the high seas with evident success.

In L.B. Macpherson's summary of the Christmas Bird Counts, the relative abundance and occurrence of birds reflects the winter picture accurately, borne out with few exceptions by subsequent reports. The Christmas Counts are full of interest, (see later), bringing us five new species for this period - two of them, a Eurasian Wimbrel and a Red-shouldered Hawk, most exceptional. Other rarities and unusual observations are described in the main body of the report and the Feeder Notes.

* Weather data courtesy of Atmospheric Environment Meteorological Services.

Spring records have begun to come in, which is cheering, since now, the end of March, the weather continues bleak and forbidding. These records are being held for the next issue, the Spring Migration, but meanwhile we may congratulate ourselves on surviving most of another long winter, our spirits in no small part sustained by those lively, colorful and intrepid species, the winter birds in Nova Scotia.

STOP PRESS

FIELD TRIP

August 10: Shorebirds - Tatamagouche to Malagache
Meet 0830, Nelson Camping Park, Tatamagouche
(costs \$1.50 a night).
Contact: Don McDougall, 477-6109



A Red-throated Loon photographed by Ian McLaren
at the Head of St. Margaret's Bay, November 17, 1975.

LOONS AND GREBES

COMMON LOONS, like Water Pipits, tend to pass by quickly in migration so that the spring and autumn movements frequently go unreported. This past fall, however, 11 birds seen at Port Joli on Oct. 11, 10+ at Tidnish on Oct. 27 and 25+ at Brier I. on Nov. 5 may have been part of the southward migration (ST). Wintering Loons are solitary birds and singles were seen along the coasts in normal numbers from November on. Through March birds in partial breeding plumage were noted, and in early April the larger lakes resounded to their wild yodelling wail - "calling up the wind", as the Micmacs used to say.

Bruce Mactavish reports an ARCTIC LOON at West Lawrencetown on Jan. 5. The bird was studied for 15 minutes at 57-100 feet with 10 x 50 binoculars, and the following features were noted: size about that of Red-throated Loon; small, straight bill one-half as thick as a Common Loon's; no eye-ring; solid black back.

Observations in recent years suggest that Northumberland Strait is an important flyway for migrating RED-THROATED LOONS. In support of this are Stuart Tingley's observations of 70+ at Tormentine, N.B., on Oct. 26, and of 10 on Nov. 12 at Tidnish.

The first RED-NECKED GREBES were: one at Seal I. on Oct. 21; and 10 at Tidnish on Oct. 27 (where 30 were seen on Nov. 12) (ST). The 40 birds seen on the Brier I. Christmas count were probably the result of careful "combing" of inshore waters by a party of keen observers on their mettle. During March and April flocks of migrating Red-necks can be found at the same resting places year after year, sleeping between "legs" of their spring journey. The Smiths report one such gathering at Cape Sable on March 17. Other subsequent observations will be mentioned in the Spring Migration issue. Other observations of this species indicate that it was present in normal numbers during the winter.

HORNED GREBES, commonest of our winter divers, were reported in at least normal numbers during the winter. The first record was one at Brier I. on Oct. 24 (WPN & LEN). There were 28 at Tatamagouche on Nov. 12 (ST). The Cohrs saw only 1-2 Horned Grebes in St. Margaret's and Mahone Bays on Nov. 9, but there were 50+ there on the 11th. There were no Bay of Fundy sightings above Margaretsville and no winter reports at all from Cape Breton waters.

There were 10-15 PIED-BILLED GREBES at Amherst Point Sanctuary during October, and there were still 2 there on Nov. 9. (CD & ST). The only other sightings reported were single birds at Seal I. on Oct. 21 (ST), at Three Fathom Harbour on Nov. 10 (IAMcL), and at Wilmot on Feb. 9 (LEN & HJMCG).

FULMARS, SHEARWATERS, PETRELS

The NORTHERN FULMARS which Davis Finch reported off Brier I. in the last Newsletter stayed on into the period covered by this issue. He had 6 there on Oct. 1, and also saw two the next day from the "Bluenose" ferry. The only other reports are of a light-phase bird c.100 miles SW of Sable I. on Jan. 28, and c.7 light and 1 dark birds c.120 miles SW of Sable I. on Feb. 17 (RGBB).

Stuart Tingley saw over 250 GREATER SHEARWATERS in Cabot Strait on Oct. 29, a little late to see so many so far north. Our other record is very odd - a bird which circled Dick Brown's ship on Feb. 17, c.120 miles SW of Sable I. It's hard to say whether this was a very early migrant, or a bird which was over-wintering in the North Atlantic.

GANNETS, CORMORANTS

The southward movement of NORTHERN GANNETS was under way in the last half of October into the first week of November. During this period flocks were seen off Seal and Brier Islands, off Cape Sable and in Cabot Strait. There was a late bird off Port Hebert on Nov. 26 (RSW) and an even later one on the Prospect Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 21. There was also an adult c.150 miles SW of Sable I. on Jan. 28 (RGGB).

We have the usual fall reports of DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS; Stuart Tingley saw at least 150 migrating south past Seal I. on Oct. 19, and he had over 50 birds at Tatamagouche on Oct. 27. A few stayed on; single birds were reported on the Salmon River, Cape Breton, Christmas count, Dec. 14, at Margaretsville, Annapolis Co., Dec. 22 (PH), and at Tiverton, Feb. 23 (LEN & HJMcG). GREAT CORMORANTS were seen all winter; the Smiths note that there were unusually large numbers at Cape Sable during the fall.

HERONS THROUGH BITTERNS

There were so many over-wintering GREAT BLUE HERONS that it is difficult to say when the main body left the province. Numbers at Cole Harbour had however dropped from the 20's and 30's during November to 5 on Dec. 8 (RE) and the last sighting for the Amherst area was one on Nov. 23 at Lusby Marsh (CD). Four on Nov. 25 at Pinckney Point (MWH) may have been the rearguard. Those birds which attempted to winter were seen, often repeatedly, at Lawrencetown, Aylesford, Cambridge, Sable River, Melbourne, Pleasant Lake and Glenwood (EC, EHC, LEN & HLMcG, JWT, RSW, CRKA). With the exception of the Glenwood bird, last seen in mid February, there were no observations after January.

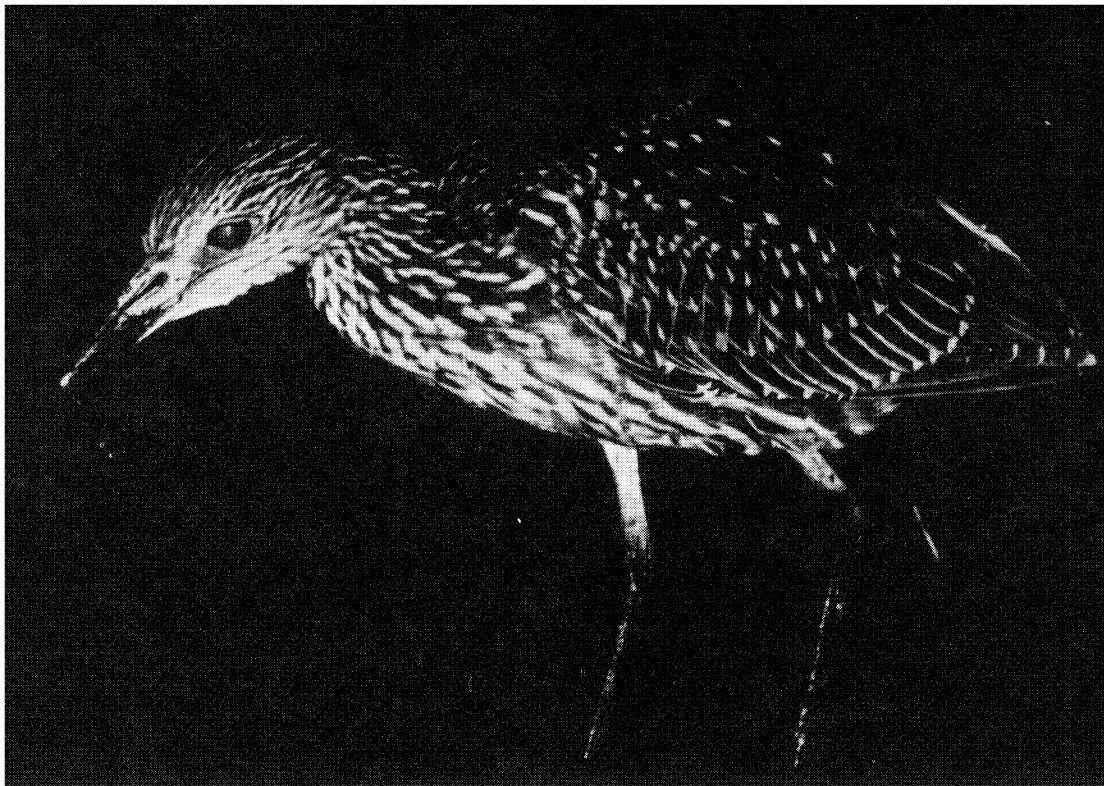
The only CATTLE EGRET for the period was one seen (and well described) by Ralph Widrig at Port Hebert. Ralph says that when last seen the bird was heading for the federal sanctuary where he presumed it would be promptly shot!

An immature YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON was seen at East River, New Glasgow on Oct. 14 by Ethel Crathorne and party, and was photographed by Ralph Connor (see opposite page).

Last reports of AMERICAN BITTERNS are: one, Oct. 19, at Three Fathom Harbour (IAMcL and DW); one, Oct. 23, at Amherst Point (ST); and a very late lingerer, Dec. 1, at Morien sandbar (SMacL).

GEESE AND DUCKS

Movements of CANADA GEESE in winter are governed by several principal factors, among which temperature and hunting pressure are perhaps the



Yellow-Crowned Night Heron

Ralph Connor writes: This immature was found feeding in the marsh grass of the East River estuary, New Glasgow, on Oct. 4, 1974. The bird's eyes are ruby coloured. Unlike the Great Blue Heron this bird permitted an approach to within 12 feet, and wandered as close as 8 feet while foraging for food. The young heron was not disturbed by flash or camera. When my flash ran out of power I slowly retreated without so much as a glance from the heron who continued to find and eat the small fish and shrimp left trapped by the receding tide.

most important in this region. Severe winter conditions result in the freezing over of the shallow tidal feeding grounds and break up the great congregations, sending them to forage along the coast as best they can. Hunting, both legal and illegal, also denies these feeding grounds to the flocks during daylight, forcing them to "raft up" well offshore until darkness gives them some protection.

This year, as usual, reports of the larger concentrations were mostly in the fall before freeze-up and the official opening of the hunting season, and again in early spring when our wintering flocks were probably joined by flocks from farther south. According to reports the first birds did not show up this year until early October: 7 on Oct. 5 at Amherst Point, 76 at Cape Sable on Oct. 6 and 5,000 at Port Joli on Oct. 11 (CD, SS, ST). Rosemary Eaton, who kept close watch on the Cole Harbour population, reported the first flock - 75 - on Oct. 23. Numbers rose to a peak of 900-1,000 on Nov. 30, dropped to 25 on Jan. 10, and up to 175-200 on Jan. 26. Thereafter none were seen or heard until Feb. 28 when there were over 650. The flock then built up during March and on Good Friday there were well over 4,000 - "a marvellous sight" according to Rosemary.

Elsewhere the January and February sightings were mostly of flocks in flight or on the open sea: 8 on Jan. 2 and 27 on Feb. 7-8 at Cape Sable (CS); 500 at Sable River on Feb. 16 (RSW); 500+ (same birds as the Sable River flock?) at Louis Head on Feb. 22 (GDP); 17 at Green Bay on Feb. 26-27 (S & CC); 14 in flight, Pictou, Feb. 27 (EH) and 10 at Vogler's Cove on Jan. 15, reported by Gary Corbett, who says that hunters this year invaded the Port Joli Sanctuary with the result that the population of geese and other waterfowl was definitely reduced. Unemployment and unemployment insurance have, it seems, brought into being a new leisured "sporting" class who are able to pursue their hobby throughout the winter with little interference from the authorities.

What to call a flock of 30 BRANT seen by George Boyd and Charlie Wood at Sandy Cove, Digby Co. on Jan 20? A wintering flock of the vanguard of the northward flight? It's anyone's guess although Brant appear regularly at Brier I. during February. This year there were 40 there on Feb. 10 (the Lents), on which date two were at Cape Sable (BJS) and another flock of 20+ was seen at Freeport, Brier I., on Feb. 23 (LEN & HJMcG). The only autumn record is of 7 off Brier on Oct. 24 (WPN).

Two SNOW GEESE showed up in late autumn: one at Martinique on Nov. 2 (EC and SB) and one at Melbourne Sanctuary with a very large flock of Canadas on Nov. 14 and for several days thereafter (CRKA, MWH et al.)

The MALLARD has now become a fairly common duck in Nova Scotia, in winter at least. From October to March there have been 23 sightings of a total 79 birds by 9 reporters. October: 9 sightings (26 individuals); November: 5 (13); December: 3 (8); January: 2 (24); February: 2 (4); March: 2 (4). The decrease as the season advanced was quite even, except for January when a flock of 20+ was seen at Martinique (GB). Distribution was fairly general, although most sightings were along the Atlantic coast - 11 separate observations with a total of 42 individuals seen. Next came the head of the Bay of Fundy - 10 sightings at Amherst Point and Lusby Marsh,

of a total of 23 birds (ST and CD); there was one bird at Tormentine (ST) and one at Glace Bay (SMaCL).

BLACK DUCK were quite evenly distributed throughout the coastal marshes and estuaries and seemed to be maintaining their numbers. Largest concentrations reported were 1,200+ on Feb. 16 at Musquodoboit Harbour (BM), 1,000+ at Melbourne Sanctuary through November (MWH), 800+ at Port Joli on Oct. 11 (ST), 800 on Dec. 1 at Lusby Marsh (CD) and 300 at Cole Harbour on Feb. 2 (R&ME) - this last being a very low maximum count for that area.

Stuart Tingley reports a GADWALL at Amherst Point on Oct. 16, on Oct. 23 in the same locality he saw a bird with a flock of AMERICAN WIGEON which resembled this latter species except that its crown was bright creamy buff instead of white. He speculates that there was a EUROPEAN WIGEON somewhere in its family tree. Ian McLaren, not to be outdone, produced a 100% European Wigeon at Martinique Beach on Nov. 3, in company with 20+ American Wigeon. There were no less than 400 American Wigeon at Amherst Point from Oct. 5 to 13, and 5 were still there on Nov. 10 (CD). Other reports of this species are: 12 at Martinique on Nov. 2 and 11 (EC & SB); 2 at Melbourne on Nov. 14 (PRD & CRKA); one at Digby on Jan. 11 (LEN & HMJcG) and 4 in Yarmouth harbour on March 29 (MWH).

Col. Bob Sutton of Musquodoboit Harbour writes: "In the past few years there has been a steady increase of PINTAIL (and decrease of Blue-winged Teal) in Martinique Sanctuary. Hunters report a real upsurge this season - a number of pairs and some 'flocks' of up to 20 birds." Still larger flocks were at Amherst Point: 60 on Oct. 13 and 40 on both Oct. 19 and Nov. 9 (CD). A few Pintail were also reported from Three Fathom Harbour and Melbourne Sanctuary (EC, J & SC, CRKA).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL were abundant during October but fell off rapidly during early November. There were still several at Melbourne on Dec. 1, and a single bird there on Dec. 29 (Cohrs). A bird near Whyocamah, Cape Breton, on March 12 is of doubtful status - wintering, or an early spring arrival?

Col. Bob Sutton again (see above): "We have not seen or heard of a BLUE-WINGED TEAL (at Martinique) in the past two years." There were, however, 300 at Amherst Point on Oct. 5 (CD), this number dwindling to 20 by Oct. 26 and to two "holdouts" by Nov. 2. There were a number of other very late records, perhaps because of the mild autumn weather which, in the south western half of the province, lasted until the year's end. There were 6 birds at Cape Sable on Nov. 29 (SS), 2 at Melbourne Sanctuary Nov. 14 (PRD & CRKA), 8 a nearby Pinckney's Point on Dec. 29 (Cohrs) and 2, on the same date, on the Shubenacadie Christmas count.

Several NORTHERN SHOVELERS - 30 to 5 - were at Amherst Point through October, and one WOOD DUCK appeared there on Oct. 5 (CD & ST). Other Wood Duck records are of one at Seal I. on Sept. 24 and two on Sept. 30 (BM); also a female wintering with Black Ducks at McGill Point, Shelburne Co. (SB).

Departing RING-NECKED DUCKS gathered in considerable numbers at Amherst Point Sanctuary during October, peaking at 130+ on Oct. 5. The mild weather may have lured many into lingering past their time, for there were

several very late observations: 4 at Brier I., Nov. 2-5 (ST), one at Ingonish on Dec. 4 (BM) and singles on the Louisbourg Christmas count (Dec. 28) and at Grand Desert on Jan. 17 (ST).

CANVASBACKS appeared at four widely separated points in the province this past winter. There was a male and two females at Pictou Causeway in late December and early January, seen by Fred Kenny and Harry Brennan. Two males and two females were seen by the Cohrs at Bayport, Lunenburg Co., in company with a large flock of Scaup. Bruce Mactavish and Bob Lamberton saw a male at Ingonish on Dec. 4 and, finally, two females were observed at the causeway at Annapolis Royal on Feb. 2 (Peter Hope et al.)

GREATER SCAUP were true to form - on the move long before the first signs of spring. First sighting for the Argyle area, Yarmouth Co., was 6-8 on Jan. 8, increasing to 30+ on Jan. 14 and to 320 on March 14 (CRKA). There were 300+ at Bayport, Lunenburg Co., on Feb. 25, and 400+ at adjacent Risser's Beach the next day (Cohrs). Numbers at the former place had built up to 600 by March 19, and the flock at Crescent and Risser's Beach was still about 200 strong on March 28 (LEN & HMJcG).

The only reports of LESSER SCAUP are from Stuart Tingley, who observed an immature male at Amherst Point on Oct. 25. The next day he found 7 near Cape Tormentine, N.B., and a pair at Amherst Point. He also writes that 7 Scaup seen briefly near Pictou on Jan. 16 were probably Lessers.

COMMON GOLDENEYE appeared to be present in normal numbers this winter. The first record received was of one at Amherst Point on Oct. 5 (CD) and, in the western part of the province, 12 on Oct. 14 near Yarmouth (MWH et al.). Like Scaup, Goldeneyes tend to gather in the estuaries in late winter. At Melbourne Sanctuary there were 200+ by mid March (CRKA).

A BARROW'S GOLDENEYE was seen and well described by several observers during February and March at Annapolis causeway (P & LH, RDL, SL, CF); 4 adult males were at Pugwash on Feb. 2, 9 and 16, and an adult male at the same place on March 25 (ST). Two of this species were also listed in the Broad Cove Christmas count on Dec. 28.

The first BUFFLEHEADS reported were 2 at Amherst Point on Oct. 23 (ST). In other localities the arrival date was early November. Numbers seemed to be normal at the usual wintering grounds and the birds were still present at the deadline time. Annie Raymond says that if you wish to see Buffleheads in winter, they are usually abundant in the Annapolis Basin; try Smith's Cove.

A fairly careful study of the winter distribution of OLDSQUAWS revealed only that their numbers varied directly with the number of birders! The Smiths had the first sighting of this species; there were 20 at Cape Sable on Oct. 20. There was some indication of a build-up in southwestern Nova Scotia during late February and March; towards the end of the latter month some males were in what appeared to be full breeding plumage.

HARLEQUIN DUCKS were at their usual wintering grounds in Lunenburg Co. - 21 on the Broad Cove Christmas count and 8 in the same region on Jan. 18 (ST) - and at Port Hebert, where 8 of the regular wintering flock were

seen on Jan. 10 (RSW). There were also 4 on Nov. 9 at Conrad's Beach and one on Nov. 17 at adjacent Lawrencetown (EC).

Eric Cooke writes that COMMON EIDERS and Common and Surf Scoters were very scarce in the Lawrencetown area up to February. On the other hand there were 800+ - possibly part of the northward migration - at Green Bay on March 14 (Cohrs). Sydney Smith at Cape Sable reported migrant flocks of Eiders passing by as early as Oct. 3, and that the early spring movement was under way by Feb. 21. He also writes that these spring flocks and those which attempt to winter in the Cape Sable area are severely harassed by illegal gunners.

A male KING EIDER seen at Lawrencetown on Jan. 11 may have been one of the pair seen in the same locality 4 days later (EHC). One other report of this species is a first-year male seen at Green Bay Nov. 9-10 by the Cohrs.

A comparison of the numbers of SCOTERS seen during the winter is as follows: WHITE-WINGED 500+; SURF 126; BLACK 296. This would seem to bear out Eric Cooke's statement that all three species were "down" this year. There did not seem to be any pattern as to dates or localities of sightings.

RUDDY DUCKS, according to Stuart Tingley and Con Desplanque, were present at Amherst Point and the surrounding area from Oct. 25 to Nov. 17. Numbers there increased from 4 on the first date to a peak of 30 on Nov. 9, and there were still 15 present on Nov. 24. Other sightings by Stuart Tingley were: 4 on Oct. 27 at Fox Harbour; 2-3 birds at Brier I., Nov. 2-5; 2 at Ketch Harbour on Jan. 19 - these last permitting good photographs to be taken. Observations by other reporters are: up to 4 at Three Fathom Harbour, Nov. 2 and 10 (EHC & IAMcL), 2 at Head St. Margaret's Bay on Nov. 17 (IAMcL) and 6 Nov. 15-17 at Mersey River (GC).

Among the many unusual winter records this year were five sightings of HOODED MERGANSERS. There were singles at Pinckney's Point on Dec. 29 (Cohrs), at Lawrencetown on Jan. 22 (ST) and Feb. 2 and 8 (EHC), and Musquodoboit Harbour on Feb. 16 (BM).

Impressions of a number of birders that COMMON MERGANSERS were unusually abundant this past winter were certainly borne out by the actual records. The birds appeared early on in fair numbers - for example, a flock of 65 at Eel Lake on Nov. 21 (PRD) - and remained in good numbers at their wintering "resorts" until early April. Conservative counts by careful observers give at least 1,200 birds seen in estuaries and ice-free river-rapids, throughout the whole province. The highest number was reported by Stuart Tingley from Pictou causeway on Jan. 16, when a "very cautious count" produced 700+ birds. Eric Cooke writes: "First Common Merganser was one at Rocky Run on Feb. 2. By Feb. 22 they were quite plentiful, with 24 at Conrad's Beach and many others in Cole Harbour and elsewhere."

RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were reported in normal numbers from most areas, although the Smiths at Cape Sable wrote that there were "very few all fall and winter". Stuart Tingley reports the highest count of 200+, between Tidnish and Tatamagouche on Oct. 27. Sarah MacLean describes the frustrations

of a female bird which was repeatedly robbed of its catches by a Herring Gull and an immature Great Blackback, at the Glace Bay Sanctuary on Dec. 27.

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES

Ten GOSHAWK reports and thirty-five SHARP-SHINNED HAWK reports extend throughout the season, indicating good numbers of the two regular accipiters. Sharpies, in fact, may have been exceptionally abundant, though the possibility remains that frequent heavy snows, concentrating the small birds at feeders, may simply have made them appear so.

Many of the reports of sharpies at feeders include fascinating details on diet and behavior. The species reported as falling prey to the marauders include Evening Grosbeaks and Dark-eyed Juncos (PRD) as well as Brown-headed Cowbirds (PRH). Marion Hilton reports several sharpie-inspired "suicides" at her windows in Yarmouth, including Evening Grosbeaks and a Purple Finch. She notes that the grosbeak corpses were ignored by the hawk, and that one was picked up by a crow. A cowbird at the Cohrs' feeder in Halifax did the sharpie one better, slipping into the space between the double windows and leaving the hawk to crash into the glass.

Two of the accipiters observed at feeders this winter are reported as COOPER'S HAWKS (Halifax, Feb. 12, the Cohrs; Round Hill, Annapolis Co., Dec. 11, Feb. 13, March 3, WEW). These reports are somewhat perplexing, since no diagnostic details are included, and accipiters in these conditions are notoriously difficult to separate. Both records are included here on the strength of the observers' reputations, with appropriate cautions. A third report, accompanied by extensive details, almost certainly refers to an immature Goshawk. Hopefully, an extensive review of the field-marks of the three accipiters will appear in a future Newsletter. Suffice it to say for the present that a large female sharpie is close enough in size to a small male Cooper's Hawk that separation is impossible on the basis of size alone. The same is true with regard to large female Cooper's Hawk vs. small male Goshawk. Adult birds are relatively easy to separate, but constitute the minority of those seen: Gos in adult plumage is, of course, unmistakable, and the black cap of adult Cooper's is noticeable in contrast to the gray nape, while the crown and nape of an adult sharpie are fairly uniform slate gray. Immatures cannot, to my knowledge, be separated in the field on plumage characteristics. Ideally (as the field-guides emphasize) sharpies have square or even notched tails, Cooper's Hawks rounded tails, and size is a help in many cases. But the following word to the wise (from Brown & Amadon, Eagles, Hawks and Falcons of the World) may be disturbing to some of those accustomed to relying heavily on the outline of the tail:

There is a slight allometric effect: in the small male Sharp-shinned the tail is slightly forked or square; while in the larger female it is never forked; rather square to slightly rounded. Thus the character is of least use where most needed - in separating female Sharp-shinned from male Cooper's.

Nearly fifty RED-TAILED HAWK sightings indicate that our commonest buteo was widespread and present in good numbers this winter. A number of

observers noted that the species was remarkably abundant in the Annapolis Valley, from Wolfville to Annapolis. However, the Valley by no means had a monopoly on Red-tails: one observer reported 13 sightings between Jan. 5 and Feb. 16, emphasizing that none of these were for that region of the province (BM). The only note regarding the status of a local population through the season comes from Kejimikujik National Park, where a "slight decrease in numbers in mid-winter (February and March)" was noted (PRH). Heavy snow and extreme cold in early February must have taken a toll of the wintering birds throughout. Two rather unusual feeding patterns were noted at that time: Margaret Clark's mother observed their local Red-tail "feeding on the suet in the tree and on the ground" at their feeder (Ste. Croix, Hants Co., Feb. 2), and Jean Timpa in Wolfville reports a Red-tail diving into a flock of House Sparrows, Feb. 13.

A RED-SHOULDERED HAWK on the Brier I. CBC, Dec. 16 (RA,RDL) was perhaps the last observation of this species in the province while it remained on the "hypothetical" list. The confirming specimen obtained in March is reported in a special note on the next page.

Thirty-five ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK records are exceptional in their wide distribution across the western part of the province. In the winter of 1973-4, a heavy flight of Rough-legs were experienced, but the birds remained concentrated in the prime feeding areas at the border marshes and the Grand Pre. This year, the rodent populations seem to have been down at both of those locations, and Rough-legs were widely distributed. Many wintered in the Annapolis Valley with the abundant Red-tails already mentioned, but significant numbers of sightings occurred all along the South Shore, from Halifax to Yarmouth, with a single sighting at Harmony, Queens Co. (PRH), an inland location where the species is "uncommon".

With sightings by reliable observers in 1969, 1971 and February, 1974, the GOLDEN EAGLE is becoming almost regular in these summaries, especially in winter. Eric Cooke had an immature of this species at Port Joli, Dec. 29, and provided details which left no doubt concerning the accuracy of the identification.

It is gratifying to see that my appeal for age designations on BALD EAGLE reports did not fall on deaf ears. A year ago, the "unspecified" eagles represented 40% of the total. For the present reporting period, the "unspecified" birds have fallen to 22%. The percentage of immature birds has been remarkably stable, and remains at 34% for winter 1974-5. Some fifty reports represent at least 68 individuals. At least 7 adults and 1 immature were regular visitors at Cyril Coldwell's renowned eagle-feeder in the Gaspereau Valley near Wolfville, and perhaps the most impressive of all the eagle sightings comes from Sara MacLean, who reports a single adult bird at Whycomagh, Nov. 2, observed from an ambulance which was returning her to her home in Glace Bay. She reports that she is, quite justifiably, "rather proud of this one."

Winter MARSH HAWK reports are confined to the western end of the province. Five sightings are reported for October and 4 for November, and at least one individual remained on Brier Island as late as Jan. 1. A Jan. 5 sighting at Conrad's Beach (EHC,BM) and a bird "hunting over the dunes" at

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, . . . FIRST CONFIRMED RECORD FOR NOVA SCOTIA

This winter has brought long overdue confirmation of the occurrence of the Red-shouldered Hawk in the province. At least five sight records from 1895 to 1966 (Tufts, 1973) and several more recent ones at Brier I., including an adult bird on the Brier I. CBC last December, left little doubt that the species does occasionally visit the province from its range to the south and west. Nevertheless, confirmation in the form of a photograph or specimen was lacking until March 1, 1975, when a specimen was found in a snowbank near a house in Louis Head, Shelburne Co. The specimen was rescued from a dog which had destroyed the bill and the adjacent parts of the face, and brought to G.D. Perry of Lockeport, who forwarded the bird to Fred Scott of the Nova Scotia Museum.

Lloyd Duncanson, who prepared the study skin for the Museum, was kind enough to show me the specimen. It is an adult bird, and Mr. Duncanson's belief that it is a male is supported by the measurements (approx. 18-1/2 in., overall). During the winter months, the reproductive organs of birds become quite inconspicuous, and it is frequently impossible to determine the sex of a specimen when it is dissected.

Mr. Duncanson mentioned that, when the bird was removed from the Museum freezer, large amounts of ice and snow were found beneath the wings and among the feathers. The bird had no fat reserves, and showed no evidence of having been shot. Mr. Duncanson concluded that the bird in all probability died of starvation, and that it may well have been dead for some time before it was dragged out of the snowbank by the dog.

--RDL

Bartlett's Beach, Yarmouth Co., Feb. 3 (CRKA) probably represent attempts at wintering. An adult male at Cape Sable March 16 (SS) may well have been a migrant returning from the south. The last OSPREY sightings for the fall of 1974 fell just within the present reporting period: Oct. 6 at Lawrencetown, Halifax Co. (EHC) and Oct. 6 & 7 at Kejimikujik N.P. (D&MH).

Three GYRFALCON reports representing 4 individuals are surely exceptional. Sylvia Fullerton, who had a Gyr at Broad Cove during February, 1974, had another there, Nov. 24. The Lents on Brier Island, not to be overdone, reported two Gyrfalcons, a light bird Dec. 28, joined by a dark bird, Dec. 29. A final sighting for the season (and accompanied by meticulous and convincing details) was a dark bird chasing Black Ducks, Feb. 16, at Musquodoboit Harbour (BM).

There are four PEREGRINE FALCON reports for the season, as well. One wonders if the bird reported for Cape Sable from Sept. 30 to Oct. 6 (SS) might have been the bird which performed for the NSBS party at Seal Island, Thanksgiving weekend (Newsletter vol. 16, p. 121). Another bird at Kemptville, Yarmouth Co., Nov. 1 (CRKA) is the last in the "usual" migration period, but two exceptionally late records have also been submitted: Dec. 14 at Wine Harbour, Guysborough Co., (GM); Jan. 31 at Lower Wolfville (GB).

Fifteen MERLIN reports and over 30 AMERICAN KESTRELS complete the picture of this exceptional winter for raptors. There are no Merlin reports for March, but at least the 3 latest records probably represent wintering birds: Lower Wedgeport, Yarmouth Co., Feb. 10 (IJP); Grand Pre, Feb. 17 (RDL) and Amherst, Feb. 21 (ST). An unusually late Cape Breton record comes from Sydney Forks, Jan. 30 and Feb. 3 (R. Blakeburn, per SM). There are few American Kestrel reports after January, but the following probably represent wintering birds: Brier Island, Feb. 8 (LEN, HJMcG) Lockeport, Feb. 12 and 17 (RSW); Yarmouth, March 2 (Dot Kirk per MWH).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Hopefully, the lone report of SPRUCE GROUSE for the period reflects only the fact that few of us encounter the bird in winter. A male and a female near Kemptville, Yarmouth Co., Nov. 1 (CRKA) are the only birds reported. The RUFFED GROUSE, on the other hand, is exceptionally well reported. Although W.E. Whitehead reports the species "very scarce last fall" at Round Hill, Annapolis Co., and Stuart Tingley reports only "usual numbers" at the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, the volume of reports seems to suggest a good year overall. GRAY PARTRIDGE reports come from 4 locations: a single bird at Economy, Nov. 3 (FS); 11 individuals on the Wolfville CBC, Dec. 15, and representing the well-known population of the Canning-Grand Pre area (v.o.); a flock of 11 individuals at Ste. Croix, Hants Co., observed during January and February by Margaret Clark; 9 individuals at Belleisle, Annapolis Co., March 22 (LEN, HJMcG) Feb. 8, Margaret Clark and her sister had the unusual pleasure of watching their flock "leave their feeding area (under a spruce tree), fly to a hollow area in the field and settle themselves for the night in their huddled circle area." Seven RINGNECKED PHEASANT reports tell little about the status of the population, though several observers tell of their pleasure at having small groups of pheasants visit their feeders during the severest part of the winter.

Thelma Hawkins of Wilmot, Annapolis Co., reports 2 cocks and 3 hens that visited repeatedly "to eat old apples in snowy weather," and also gives an account of "her" pheasants feeding peacefully in the dooryard with her two Black Bantam hens.

MARSH BIRDS

A single autumn record of VIRGINIA RAIL for St. Peters, Cape Breton (Murdock Digout, per SM) is intriguing, but unfortunately no dates or details are available. Apparently, the bird died and the specimen was preserved. The last reports of COMMON GALLINULES from Amherst Point come from Con Desplanque: Oct. 5 and Oct. 19 (2 birds). From Dec. 3 through Dec. 10, Gayton Cunningham had repeated opportunities to observe a single Common Gallinule at The Hawk, Shelburne Co., a strikingly late but not unprecedented report. AMERICAN COOT records come predominantly from the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, where Con Desplanque and Stuart Tingley (the latter often accompanied by Bruce Mactavish) provide us with continuous information on the fall population. The following totals were observed:

Oct. 5.....	4(ST); 3(CD)
23.....	24(ST)
25.....	31(ST)
26.....	1(CD)
31.....	36(ST)
Nov. 24.....	80(CD) "in one flock feeding"

As Stuart Tingley writes, "the species is rapidly becoming common, at least in the border region." Perhaps the typist's error (v. errata. p. 31), which appeared in this section of last July's Newsletter, indicating huge numbers of Coots during the spring, was prophetic. Coot reports from other parts of the province include a bird at Cape Sable, Sept. 27 (Locke Smith), 3 at Three Fathom Harbour, Nov. 2 (EHC), and one at Seaforth, Nov. 25 (EHC).

SHOREBIRDS

The shorebird observations are chiefly those of approximate departure dates. These are always difficult to pinpoint; but with the number and quality of reporters we now have, we must arrive at a close approximation.

The numbers of SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS (which Francis Spalding found fewer than normal this fall) dwindled rapidly during November. They were last seen at Martinique and Conrad's Beach on Nov. 11 and 10 respectively (EC); at Brier I., Nov. 5; at Cherry Hill Nov. 10; while the last report is of one at Crescent Beach Nov. 23 (Cohrs). A late PIPING PLOVER was at Conrad's Beach on Sept. 22 (EHC).

Hardly a season goes by but a report from one of our wonderful islands - Sable, Seal, Cape Sable, Brier - shatters the editor's calm. This time it was Cape Sable's turn and Betty June Smith's story of the SNOWY PLOVER. She writes: "It was Sunday, Oct. 6, 1974. Weather calm and clear, sun just behind me on Cape Sable inner beach, where I watched a flock of mixed shorebirds -- not more than 50 feet away. I saw a small white plover land.--- I clearly saw a round black eye, dark legs and feet. Several Sand-erlings were nearby - I compared their size (slightly larger) and of course

markings, bills - this was definitely not a Sanderling. It was extremely white; sitting almost without a mark of color - a smudge on its neck... In flight an ashy brown shading of the wing and a thumb-print on the lower tail, were all the markings seen". No mention of head markings, but a sceptic would find it hard to get around those dark legs.

The KILLDEER is now a year-round bird with us, and this year's observations give no indication of any seasonal movement. Singles or up to 9 birds were reported from the SW coastal region for every month from October to March inclusive. Reports of AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER are few and numbers of birds small as the main body passes through in September. There were about 10 at Economy Oct. 4 and 1-2 there Oct. 15 (FS); 2 were at Cape Sable Oct. 13 and another 2 (or the same) were there Nov. 5 (Smiths). Two at Brier I. Oct. 24 (LEN, WPN) may also be the same birds seen there Nov. 2-5 (ST). BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER are later stayers than the Golden and there were numerous reports of from several to over 20, all from the southwestern end of the province, except for 5 at Cape Tormentine, N.B. Nov. 9 (ST); 6 at Martinique Nov. 11 (EC et al.) and 2 at Economy Nov. 28 "after a WSW gale" (FS). Latest records are of 4, Jan. 13 and 5, Jan. 19 at Cape Sable (SS).

All but stragglers RUDDY TURNSTONES have left the area by the end of September in normal years. This past season however at least 2 were seen at Cape Sable on Nov. 5, Dec. 2, Dec. 28 (the Christmas count), Jan. 19 and Feb. 6 (the Smiths). There were also 7 in Louisbourg - their usual wintering place - on Dec. 28 (the Lunns), 5 at Point Aconi, Cape Breton, Dec. 4 (BM&BL) and 2 at Crescent Beach Nov. 23 (J&SC).

H.P. Moffatt, veteran WOODCOCK hunter reports: "At the start of the season (Oct. 1) birds were widely scattered, mostly in places where they breed. Migration began after the first full moon, Oct. 8. Birds left the covers after two very cold nights at the end of the month. There was a movement into the province the first few days of November". The only other report is of 12+ in an alder swamp at the edge of Dartmouth Nov. 3 (Cohrs). The COMMON SNIPE in the fall, like the Woodcock, hopes to avoid being seen by "sitting tight", and is thus found mainly by hunters or by birders who are willing to go bog-slogging in search of it. Thus the number of sightings is no indication of either abundance or of migratory movement. A few Snipe winter each year where there is open fresh water near springs or drains. One such was at Keji Jan. 6 (PH&SL), another at Chain Lake, Halifax Co., Jan. 23 (BS) and 8, presumably in the Tannery Marsh, Wolfville Dec. 15 (NSBS members).

Another high spot in the shorebird story this year was the EURASIAN WHIMBREL at Cherry Hill, first seen Oct. 13 by Sylvia Fullerton, Eric Cooke, Barbara Hinds and Willett Mills. The bird remained in this vicinity for the Christmas Count on Dec. 28 and was seen by many other birders and allowed itself to be photographed. Further details are to be found following the Christmas Count Report.

The last sightings of SPOTTED SANDPIPERS were of two lone birds, one at Cape Sable Oct. 12 (BJS) and one at Seal I. Oct. 19 (ST). GREATER YELLOW-LEGS ran true to schedule this year - numbers tapered off in October and early November, the last definite sightings recorded being 2, Nov. 11 at

Martinique (EC,SB,FC), 2 at Economy Nov. 13 (FS), one at Lusby Marsh Nov. 16 (CD) and 12 on Nov. 20 at Melbourne (MWH & AH). A very late LESSER YELLOWLEGS was at the Glace Bay Sanctuary on Nov. 25 (SM).

Late RED KNOTS were seen Oct. 13 at Liverpool (EGM); Nov. 3 at Martinique (IAMCL) and Economy (FS); Nov. 23 at Cherry Hill (J & SC). At Cape Sable 4 birds, apparently trying to winter, were seen on Jan. 26 and on Feb. 9 and there were still 2 there on Feb. 16 (the Smiths). Unusually large numbers of PURPLE SANDPIPERS have been reported. Distribution was quite even except that there were no sightings along the Northumberland Strait or west Cape Breton shores. They first appeared at McNab's I., Halifax Harbour, Oct. 19, where 5 were seen (J & SC), and at Port George Oct. 27 where there were 30+ (LEN & HJMcG). Some quite large flocks were recorded: 48 on Nov. 21 at Conrad's Beach (EHC), 150 at Port George Jan. 12 (LEN & HJMcG), and 130 in the same place Apr. 4 (RDL), and 50+ at Crescent Beach, where (the Cohrs wrote) the birds did not confine themselves to the weed-draped rocks but were running along the beach at tideline like any other peep.

Reports of PECTORAL SANDPIPERS were simply the tail end of the migration; last seen on the Northumberland Strait shore, at Cape Jourimain, N.B., Tormentine and Wallace on Oct. 6, 26 and 27 respectively (Stuart Tingley, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for his patrolling of the much neglected North Shore last fall) - and the last birds at Economy Oct. 15, 21 and 30 (FS) - last seen anywhere Nov. 10 (IAMCL). Late-staying WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS lingered a bit longer than usual this year. Late November sightings were: one at Lusby on the 24th (CD) and 5 at Cape Sable on the 27th (BJS). A single was seen at Economy on Dec. 2 (FS) and another still at Conrad's Beach Dec. 8 (EHC). Highest numbers seen anywhere during the period were 80 at Martinique Nov. 3 (IAMCL), 65 at Cape Jourimain, N.B., Oct. 6; a total of 75 between Tidnish and Wallace Oct. 27 and 40 at Brier I. Nov. 3 (ST). The flood of LEAST SANDPIPERS had apparently ebbed before the beginning of this report period, as just three records of sightings were received: 11, at Cape Sable Oct. 12 (BJS); 1 at Crescent Nov. 10 (CC), and "a few" at Martinique Nov. 2 (EC, SB).

On Oct. 6 Stuart Tingley estimated over 200 DUNLIN at Jourimain, near the Nova Scotia border. All other sightings are of much smaller numbers, seen in late fall and well into the winter: 10-15 at Crescent Beach and 2-3 at nearby Cherry Hill Nov. 9-10 (the Cohrs); 2, still at Crescent Nov. 23 (Cohrs again); 40, Nov. 12, and 1, Dec. 2 at Economy (FS); 1, Dec. 28 at Louisburg (the Lunns) and 1, Jan. 15, at Vogler's Cove (GC). DOWITCHERS, usually the first to arrive and first to leave, left a few stragglers this year. There were 2 at Cape Sable (BJS) and at Cape Jourimain, N.B. (ST), both on Oct. 6; also 2 at Cook's Beach Oct. 26 (CRKA) and a very late straggler indeed at Glace Bay Sanctuary on Dec. 1 (GS & SmaCL). SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS were common until mid-October and then fell off sharply. From then on, with one exception - 20 at Lusby Marsh Nov. 10 (CD) - there were just 1-3 seen per observation: 3 still at Lusby Nov. 3, 2 at Martinique Nov. 2 (EC,SB), 2-3 at Crescent Nov. 10, and 1 still there, Nov. 23 (the Cohrs).

The last of the HUDSONIAN GODWITS were at Cape Jourimain, N.B. - 5 birds on Oct. 6 and 1 still there Oct. 26 (ST), and 2 at Pinckney's Pt. Nov. 8 (MWH, AH). All SANDERLING reports except for 100 at Cape Sable Oct. 1 (EMR) are quite small. Although these birds often spend the winter, there were no sightings this year after the 5 at Economy Dec. 14 (FS) and the 1 at Martinique Dec. 24 (ST). PHALAROPE reports are scanty indeed. There were 3 REDS Oct. 24 at Western Light, Brier I. (WPN, LEN), a WILSON'S at Three Fathom Harbour Sept. 2 and another or the same at Conrad's Beach Sept. 22 (ECH), and finally

one lone NORTHERN "swimming gaily" at Cape Sable Oct. 6 (BJS).

JAEGERS THROUGH AUKS

A SKUA was seen c.100 miles SW of Sable I. on Jan. 28 (RGG). Our only JAEGER (probably a POMARINE) was seen off Brier I. on Nov. 5 (ST).

The usual reports of HERRING and GREAT BLACKBACKED GULLS from around the province need little comment. There were small numbers of both species on the Tusket River which peaked (to c.100 birds) between Feb. 14-23, coinciding with the smelt run (D & MH). ICELAND GULLS were also commonly reported. The Smiths' first record, from Cape Sable I., was on Oct. 17, and Ian McLaren's, from Eastern Passage, on Oct. 27. Stuart Tingley saw 25 in Cabot Strait on Oct. 29, and they had become numerous in Glace Bay by Nov. 17 (SMacL). Ian McLaren comments: "Has anyone pondered the great size range of this gull? Puzzling." GLAUCOUS GULLS were rather scarce; there were only two this winter on the Halifax dump (IAMcL). However, they were seen far south in the province; the Smiths have several records for Cape Sable, and there was a bird in Yarmouth Harbour on March 31 (MWH and CRKA).

Our LESSER BLACKBACKED GULL is alive and well and living at Digby, where it was seen on Nov. 1 and 10, Jan. 11 and Feb. 23 (ST, LEN & HJMcG).

RING-BILLED GULLS were present all winter in the Halifax area; the largest total was 10 at Conrad's Beach on Jan. 17 (ST). Single birds were also reported from Forchu, Richmond Co. (Mar. 28, IMacG), Lusby Marsh (Nov. 3, CD), Yarmouth Harbour (Feb. 7, CRKA), and Sunday Point (Mar. 18, CRKA). They were commonest at the outlet to Eel Brook Lake, Yarmouth Co., where Phyllis Dobson and Charlie Allen saw an average of a dozen a day (and a peak of 75-80 on Nov. 3) from the beginning of November till freeze-up in late January. They re-appeared in mid-March, when the ice went out.

Northumberland Strait seems to be the place to see BONAPARTE'S GULL, at least in fall and early winter. Stuart Tingley saw over 450 near Cape Tormentine on Oct. 26 and over 50 at Northport next day, and Bob Lamberton had 350 on Dec. 6 at Caribou, Pictou Co. The latest sighting was a single bird on Dec. 26, during the Glace Bay Christmas count. It seems odd that our regular wintering 'hooded' gull should be the BLACK-HEADED, supposedly from Europe. (Or could they be breeding over here - perhaps in some obscure marsh in the backwoods of New Brunswick or Maine?) They were present in small numbers all winter in the Halifax and Glace Bay areas. They stayed at least until Nov. 30 at Northport (ST); Will C. Russell saw one in Yarmouth Harbour on Oct. 2, and Phyllis Dobson had 3 on Mar. 8 at the mouth of Eel Brook. Both at Halifax and Glace Bay the birds seemed to start re-acquiring their black heads in mid-March.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES were reported throughout the winter off the Atlantic and Fundy shores of the province. The most spectacular sighting was the flock of c.25,000 feeding off Tiverton, Long Island, on Nov. 3 (ST). These were probably attracted to food brought to the surface by the tide race through Petite Passage.

We have a few late sightings of terns. Roger Burrows saw 4 COMMON/ ARCTIC TERNS off Cow Bay on Oct. 11. Stuart Tingley saw a Common and an Arctic off Cape Tormentine, N.B., on Oct. 26, and Ian McLaren saw 6 terns next day in Cow Bay, of which two at least were Commons.

DOVEKIES were the most commonly reported auks. These high Arctic birds winter in waters strongly influenced by the Labrador Current, so Nova Scotia is really outside their main winter range. They were only seen twice in any numbers. Stuart Tingley saw over 300 in Cabot Strait on Oct. 30, and Dick Brown had c.75 in an area of upwelling at the edge of the continental shelf, c.120 miles SW of Sable I., on Feb. 17. Several of the reports refer to 'wrecked' birds. The earliest sighting, by the Smiths at Cape Sable, was Oct. 25.

BLACK GUILLEMOTS were as usual present, and were reported all winter, from Cape Breton to Cape Sable. Other auks were scarce. The only ATLANTIC PUFFINS were 9 birds off Brier I. on Oct. 1 (DWF). A RAZORBILL was seen on the Prospect Christmas count on Dec. 21, two were seen from the Digby-Saint John ferry on Jan. 11 (LEN & HMJcG), and a dead one was found on Morien Sandbar on Nov. 25 (SMacL). There were 118 THICK-BILLED and 1 COMMON MURRES on the Brier I. Christmas count on Dec. 16. Apart from these, there were two Thick-bills on the Annapolis Christmas count, Dec. 18, one at West Lawrencetwon Jan. 25 (RB) and one at Forchu, Richmond Co., Mar. 25 (IMacG). Roger Burrows adds single murre (species) at Prospect on Dec. 21, Chebucto Head, on Feb. 3 and Cow Bay on Feb. 4.

PIGEON THROUGH OWLS

Last fall's headliner, the Seal I. BAND-TAILED PIGEON (*Newsletter*, vol. 16, pp. 131-2) was present there "at least to Oct. 19" (ST). Twenty-nine MOURNING DOVE reports, some representing as many as nine sightings, extend from Cape Breton to Yarmouth, but become noticeably more frequent in the western end of the province. Most of the reports are clustered in the earlier part of the winter, and it is quite possible that deep snows and extreme cold in early February took a heavy toll of these ground-feeders.

Bruce Mactavish sends in the only cuckoo records, all of them from Seal I. There was a YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO there on Oct. 10, and a single BLACK-BILLED on Oct. 4 and 19.

Four fall and winter GREAT HORNED OWL reports come from Halifax, Lunenburg, and Annapolis Counties. SNOWY OWLS were reported by 11 observers, roughly half the reports for November, when this year's rather heavy flight seems to have arrived. Sightings ranged from St. Esprit, C.B. (Nov. 19, Dan Banks) to Cape Sable, where Snowy Owls were seen on at least four occasions from November to March (SS, C. Symonds, D. Symonds). A report from Aulac, N.B., just across the border, details the attempts of a Nova Scotia birder (who will remain nameless) to chase a Snowy Owl across the provincial border, in order to add the bird to his Nova Scotia list. As Stuart Tingley reports, "the bird showed a decided preference for New Brunswick soil." Several injured birds were kept through the winter by Cyril Caldwell of Gaspereau, Kings Co., and another was fed for a time and subsequently released by Peter Hope, Chief Naturalist at Kejimikujik National Park.

Six BARRED OWL reports come from the western part of the province, with a predictable concentration at Kejimikujik National Park, where the species is exceptionally abundant, and was heard calling at least as early as Jan. 10 (PRH, SL).

Five LONG-EARED OWL records for the period include one for Brier I.



TWO CITY OWLS

A Saw-whet, Payzant Street, Halifax, Feb. 21, and a Barred Owl,
Cambridge Street, Halifax, March 19, 1975. Photos, Ian McLaren.

(Nov. 3 and 4, ST, BM, 2 individuals), one for North Brookfield, Queens Co. (Jan. 25, Gary Corbett), and 3 for Cape Sable (Oct. 11 and Nov. 1, BJS; Feb. 22, one found dead by Beverley Smith). It would be interesting to know more about these Cape Sable records. Long-eared Owls generally roost in trees, particularly pines, during the day, and are decidedly nocturnal in their activities. For this reason, they are seldom observed. However, a number of records have come from the Smiths and others on Cape Sable in recent years (*Newsletter*, vol. 13, p. 7; vol. 14, p. 14), and it would seem that migrating Long-eared Owls are stranded in treeless situations there with some regularity. The Nova Scotia population of this species is apparently quite small and the indications are that it is largely migratory, but the late record for Queens Co., and the dead bird on Cape Sable, Feb. 22, indicate that stragglers, at least, occur in winter. Nine records of SHORT-EARED OWLS extend from Oct. 19 to Dec. 26. The Nova Scotia population of this species may withdraw in years when rodents are difficult to obtain in winter. This seems to be the case on the Grand Pre meadows, where the species is conspicuous all winter in 'good' mouse years, but is seldom seen when rodents are in scant supply. Records extend from Cape Breton (Glace Bay Sanctuary, Dec. 4 and 8, Smacl) to Brier I. (Nov. 3, ST).

The SAW-WHET OWL reports this winter suggest exceptional numbers, but there remains the possibility that severe weather simply made the birds exceptionally conspicuous. Several reports of weak and apparently starving birds have come in, concentrated in February and March. One particularly interesting report comes from Paul Lohnes at South Milford, Annapolis Co. (per PRH): a Saw-whet Owl tried to take his pet hamster from a cage set just inside the window. The bird was stunned by the impact, picked up, kept for a time, and subsequently released.

CAPRIMULGIDS TO KINGFISHERS

Rosemary Eaton reports a perplexing and fascinating sighting, Oct. 11, at Cole Harbour. The bird was evidently a Caprimulgid, and in all probability either a Whip-poor-will or a Common Nighthawk. Flushed from its roost in a brushy area, "it landed on a rock where it 'disappeared' -- looking exactly like the rock covered with lichens." The date is quite late for either species, and the 'cinnamon' colour reported in the bird's wing suggests that this was indeed our latest precise record for Whip-poor-will. Still, the 'barred' appearance of the breast suggests Common Nighthawk, and (as Davis Finch pointed out to me) the possibility of Chuck-will's-widow cannot be eliminated. Our only other Caprimulgid sighting was a COMMON NIGHTHAWK on Seal I. on Oct. 9 (BM).

A last RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD just caught the beginning of this reporting period: Oct. 4 at Cape Sable (C. Symonds).

There are many reports of late fall and early winter BELTED KINGFISHERS, but these slump off conspicuously after the beginning of February, when extreme cold probably put an end to open fresh water and made it impossible for most of the stragglers to survive. Nevertheless, Barry Sabean reports an individual "all winter" at the Kelly Lake Fish Culture Station, and another individual at Eel Brook, Yarmouth Co., was "still around fishing Apr. 1" (CRKA, PRD).

WOODPECKERS

The latest COMMON FLICKER reports come from Kings, Shelburne and Yarmouth Counties, and must surely represent wintering birds (Feb. 22, Louis Head, Shelburne Co., G.D. Perry; Feb. 26, near Wolfville, Gary Corbett; Mar. 28, Yarmouth, Mag Nickerson per MWH). Nine reports for the earlier part of the period reflect the gradual decline in numbers of the species. One interesting observation comes from G.D. Perry who observed a flicker at Louis Head, Jan. 17, "feeding on bayberries." Fourteen PILEATED WOODPECKER reports are fairly evenly distributed throughout the province, with a predictable concentration of observations at Kejimikujik National Park.

The most noteworthy woodpecker sighting for the period was a RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER at the Cohrs' feeder in Halifax, Nov. 14. A quick glance through recent issues of the *NewsLetter* suggests that this may be the first since 1969 (Tufts, 1973), and one of less than 10 provincial records to date.

HAIRY and DOWNY WOODPECKERS were well reported, visiting feeders throughout the winter and showing a particular appreciation for suet during the extreme cold of February. BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS were reported from 6 locations, the most easterly of which was Halifax (Oct. 27, J.B. Hardie). One record was for Annapolis Co. (Nov. 27, Branch Lake, G.B. Nickerson) and several for Yarmouth Co. (Jan.-Mar., CRKA, D & M Henry). The most noteworthy observations, however, come from the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, where a beautiful mature stand of spruce, attacked by insects and apparently dying, attracted these woodpeckers from near and far. Con Desplanque recorded 13 observations of 1 to 8 birds there, between Oct. 5 and Mar. 22, and Stuart Tingley had the highest single count (9), Nov. 10, noting that 3 or 4 were still present at the end of the period. (Both CD and ST also reported on a similar concentration of the far less common Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, just across the New Brunswick border at Aulac, where 4 to 8 of these birds were present from late December to the end of the reporting period, though they were not seen on the Nova Scotia side of the border.)

FLYCATCHER THROUGH SWALLOWS

It is notable that an EASTERN KINGBIRD was seen on the Halifax East Christmas count. Even more noteworthy is the fact that this is the second consecutive year to have this bird in a Christmas count, Yarmouth Co. having one in 1973. Early October saw two WESTERN KINGBIRDS on Seal I. (BM) and one near Rossway on Digby Neck on Nov. 1 (ST).

A late EASTERN PHOEBE was seen on Brier I. on Oct. 24 by Wayne and Larry Neily. The last EASTERN WOOD PEWEE report was from Seal I. on Oct 18 (ST).

Although the HORNED LARK is seldom encountered in summer, it is, nevertheless, one of our resident birds (see Tufts, 1973, p. 325) and a number of nesting records have appeared in previous *Newsletters*. The report on Horned Larks in N.S.B.S. *NewsLetter*, vol. 16, no. 2, for July 1974 was misinterpreted by a few people to mean that these birds occur here only in winter. This season they began to flock in early October, the first report being from Cape Sable on Oct. 9 (Smiths). A 'peak' occurred Oct. 20-25 and from then on reports are of a steady "usual number" throughout the province. Numbers began to fall off as March progressed with a small wave in the eastern part of

Halifax Co. on Mar. 28 (EHC).

Two late TREE SWALLOWS lingered in the western end of the province - one Oct. 16 on the Hawk Pt. (Smiths) and one on Seal I. Oct. 18 and 19 (ST). One BARN SWALLOW was still at Cape Sable on Nov. 22 (Smiths) and one very late Swallow (?species) hurried by Lower Wedgeport on Nov. 30 (IJP).

CORVIDS THROUGH WRENS

Reports of the Corvids have been heavy from all regions. C.R.K. Allen writes that GREY JAYS, common in the fall in Yarmouth Co., disappeared for most of the winter to re-appear in mid-March. A large migration of BLUE JAYS occurred Oct. 4 on the Hawk (Smiths) and throughout the winter were "very much in evidence" everywhere. COMMON RAVENS were plentiful with 10 together at the Middleton dump during the Christmas bird count (LEN, HJMcG).

The commonest field bird in winter has been the COMMON CROW. The Cape Breton Christmas counts have numbers in the hundreds and the largest reported concentration of crows was at Grand Pre on Feb. 10 when there were 1500 with another 1200 on nearby beaches (IAMcL).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES have been steadily reported from most counties both at feeders and in the woods except for Halifax Co. where they were 'scarce' (EC, RE). BOREAL CHICKADEES kept mostly to the woods to be heard more often than seen in average numbers except for one report from Round Hill, Annapolis Co., where there were "nil" (WEW).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were seen usually singly and never more than two at a time, but came regularly to feeding stations from Cape Breton to Yarmouth Co. The RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH was plentiful in Annapolis Co. (LEN, HJMcG) and Yarmouth Co. (PRD, CRKA) and steady everywhere else.

BROWN CREEPERS were reported in their usual small but widespread numbers throughout the winter. A migration of HOUSE WRENS took place at Seal I. in October where at least 15 passed through from Oct. 1 to 19th. The peak came Oct. 8-10 where 8 to 10 were present together (BM).

There were several late WINTER WRENS this year: 1 on Nov. 13 at Lower Eel Brook, Yarmouth Co. (PRD); 1 on Nov. 24 at Petite Riviere, Lunenburg Co. (Cohrs); 1 on Jan. 4 at First Peninsula, Lunenburg Co. (F. Rudolph); and 1 on Feb. 6 at Lockeport (GDP). Five LONG-BILLED MARSH WRENS, all believed to be different birds, were seen by Bruce Mactavish on Seal I. between Oct. 7-18.

Several birders sighted SHORT-BILLED MARSH WRENS on Seal I. between Sept. 24 and Oct. 7. It is difficult to know how many sightings were of the same birds but it would seem that there were at least 2 and perhaps 4 (SJF, Cohrs, BM).

MIMIDS

MOCKINGBIRDS occurred in Dartmouth, Rockingham and Halifax, Yarmouth, Brier I. and Glace Bay. At Cape Sable they had a BROWN THRASHER on Oct. 1 and 4 and 3 on Oct. 6 (Smiths), the only reports of this bird.

ROBIN THROUGH KINGLETS

A huge migration of ROBINS took place from Oct. 19-24. At McNabs I. on Oct. 19th there were "clouds of robins, approximately 600+" (Cohrs). The same day at Indian Pt. the rowan trees were bent over with hundreds of robins and stripped bare (RE). On the night of Oct. 19-20 there was an early severe snowstorm followed by a thaw on the 22nd and several reports from Yarmouth Co. tell of hundreds of robins "all over" on that day. This preview of the winter to come spawned a second wave on Nov. 3 observed from Wedge Pt., Yarmouth Co., by C.R.K. Allen. There were the usual reports of overwintering robins from all counties and a Christmas robin appeared in Halifax (LAC). Early spring reports come from Halifax Co., Mar. 19 at Pine Hill (JBH), 20th at Lake Loon, and 21st at Cole Harbour (RE).

The October storm also hurried on their way a few lingering HERMIT THRUSHES. Sightings after the storm come from Round Hill, Annapolis Co., Yarmouth town, Upper Wedgeport, Cape Sable, and Brier I. A very late SWAINSONS THRUSH presumably was also hurrying south on Oct. 21st when seen at Round Hill (WEW).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS were abundant as usual up to the end of January when numbers appear to have dropped off sharply. Phyllis Dobson writes that she saw or heard none anywhere after January and only three reporters note any Golden-crowned in February (Halifax Co., RE), March (Yarmouth Co., D & MH), and April (Lunenburg Co., Cohrs).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS lingered long this year especially in southwestern counties. There are many reports for October, November and December (see also Christmas counts) with latest sightings being early January at St. Croix, Hants Co. (MAC), Port Joli Jan. 5 (IAMcL), and Port Hebert, Shelburne Co., on Jan. 10 (RSW).

PIPITS THROUGH STARLINGS

The WATER PIPIT migration took place as usual in mid- and late-October, being over by Nov. 1. Peter Hope counted 13 at Keji on Oct. 13 (a first Park record) and numbers built up to a peak of 125 at Cape Sable Oct. 20 declining thereafter to Nov. 1. Three tardy pipits were counted on Brier I. Dec. 16 (Christmas bird count) and 2 at Cape Sable Dec. 28 (Smiths).

This has not been an abundant year for CEDAR WAXWINGS. Correspondents in Yarmouth Co. saw small flocks in October but after that there is a void until February when single birds were seen in Yarmouth town on the 17th (MWH), Halifax on the 18th (CJC). However, Eric Holdway had a flock of 18 in Pictou town on Feb. 18th. On Feb. 1 two BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS were seen at Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary and "others heard," one also appearing at a feeder in Amherst that day (CD). Feb. 6 saw briefly a male and a female Bohemian Waxwing at a feeder in Chester (Mrs. M.R. Haase).

Waxwings may have been low, but Shrikes were definitely 'up' this year with no fewer than 22 NORTHERN SHRIKES reported. Dates stretch from Oct. 12 to Mar. 28 and areas include Yarmouth, Digby, Shelburne, Halifax, Annapolis, Colchester, Kings, Lunenburg, and Richmond Counties and one at sea off the Strait of Canso where a Northern Shrike stood on the foredeck of CSS *Baffin* enjoying a meal

of Dark-eyed Junco (CJC). Two late LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES were seen, one in Cumberland Co. Oct. 13 (CD) and an extremely late bird at Sydney Forks, C.B., on Nov. 29 (SMacL). Two happy correspondents in Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties (PRD and GDP) write that their feeders have been free of STARLINGS all winter. Judging by other reports they were the exception as they were "more than abundant" everywhere else.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS

Nineteen species of warblers clung to the trees on Seal I. during the Oct. 20 storm, also 2 SOLITARY VIREOS. Migration of these birds must have been still going steadily, as on the night of the 19-20th 4 Red-eyed Vireos, 23 Blackpolls, 8 Yellowrumps, 1 Connecticut Warbler and an American Redstart were among those killed by collision with the Cape Sable Light. Others found dead at the Light following the storm were a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a Rufous-sided Towhee, an immature White-crowned Sparrow, 3 immature White-throated Sparrows, and 1 Swamp Sparrow.

During October, Bruce Mactavish spent a lot of time on Seal I., and with Stuart Tingley has reported quite a number of rarities seen there. A WHITE-EYED VIREO, Oct. 16-17, described as "an immature with a dark eye, yellowish spectacles, greenish head, greenish back, grey wings with white wing-bars and yellowish sides" gave scolding notes unlike our regular vireos; also 2 YELLOW-THROATED VIREOS, Oct. 6, and 1 again Oct. 17; a PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, Oct. 18; 6 individual ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS Oct. 5-18 (3 on the 18th); 2 PINE WARBLERS, a male Oct. 18 and a female Oct. 19; a PRAIRIE WARBLER Sept. 24, 27 and 29 and a YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT Sept. 28, 1 also seen Oct. 10, 2, Oct. 18.

Sightings of some of these rarities were reported by other people: 2 Orange-crowns on Seal I. Oct. 12 (NSBS party), another at Waverley, Halifax Co., Nov. 19 (BM), and a very late one Dec. 23 seen by Ian McLaren on South St. in Halifax; 1 or 2 Pine Warblers, 1, first seen and identified Sept. 28 by J.B. Hardie at Pine Hill, Halifax, that one or another, Dec. 10, at nearby Marlborough Ave., identified by Chris Helleiner. (This last was in all probability the one picked up on the Christmas count at the Walter Chute's, also nearby, on Dec. 26, and photographed then by Ian McLaren.) Of course, this may have been 1, 2 or 3 birds, but judging by the descriptions was probably 2. Seven Yellow-breasted Chats were seen during the fall and winter: 2 at Cape Sable Oct. 1 and Oct. 23 (Smiths); 1 at Brier I. Oct. 1 (DWF); 1 at Halifax Nov. 17 (CWH); 1, and probably a second, Dec. 1 at Halifax (IAMcL), 1 at a Liverpool feeder Jan. 7-18 (RSJ); and 1 at a Herring Cove feeder, Jan. 18 (RB).

The other (native) warblers present on Seal Oct. 18-20, noted by Stuart Tingley, were the BLACK-AND-WHITE, TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE, YELLOW, CAPE MAY, BLACK-THROATED BLUE, YELLOW-RUMPED (over a hundred counted), BAY-BREASTED, BLACKPOLL, PALM (over 200 counted), COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (10) and AMERICAN REDSTART (7-8). The latest dates reported for warblers were either the Oct. 18-20 weekend at Seal I. (if no later appeared) or as follows:

- Black-and-WhiteNov. 30Halifax(CWH)
- NashvilleNov. 17Halifax(Cohrs)
- Black-throated GreenOct. 29 .. seen from the Cabot Strait ferry 4 hours out from North Sydney (ST)

- BlackburnianOct. 29 .. came aboard the North Sydney ferry 1/2 hour out (ST)
- OvenbirdDec. 16 .. found in a garage in Halifax but died 12 hours later (Cohrs)
- Common YellowthroatDec. 24Martinique Beach (ST)
- Wilson'sDec. 12Lockeport (RSW).

Yellow-rumped Warblers stayed the winter in unprecedented numbers from Yarmouth Co. up the South Shore, at the N.S.-N.B. border, and in Cape Breton. The bayberry crop was good, and flocks roved from one stand to another stripping the bushes bare. (This included some used for decorative purposes in window boxes.) Some of the flocks were relatively huge, for example the 40, Dec. 28, at Reiser's Beach, Lunenburg Co. (Cohrs), 60+, Jan. 17 to Mar. 12, seen at different times at Louis Head, Shelburne Co. (GDP, SB, RSW), the "large concentration" Jan. 5 at Lingan, C.B. (reported to FFR); and there were numerous flocks of 6-24 seen frequently in Yarmouth town and county, still on the move by the end of March.

Palm Warblers were seen fairly frequently in November and December, 6 were found on the Christmas count in the Halifax area, and the last date noted is Dec. 28 on Cape Sable (Smiths).

HOUSE SPARROWS

Reports of the HOUSE SPARROW from Sydney, the Annapolis-Cornwallis Valley and Halifax mention flocks of 20-40 at feeders and at large. In SW Nova Scotia flocks, though regular in towns and villages, were 6-12 in size, and many country feeders had none.

ICTERIDS

In this group we have nine species reported, including residents and strays. The last straggling BOBOLINK (a summer resident) was seen Oct. 19 at Seal I. (BM); 9-10 EASTERN MEADOWLARKS (year-round residents, seen most often in the fall and winter) maintained their reputation in this respect, all reports falling within the period Oct. 18 to Jan. 5. These Meadowlarks were seen at Seal I. and Brier I. (ST), Cape Sable (Smiths), Petite Riviere (Cohrs), Second Peninsula (Curtis Chipman), at Prospect and Terrance Bay, Halifax Co. (RB), and on two Halifax beaches (BM), all coast-wise observations, which is contrary to rule (see: Tufts, 2nd ed. *The Birds of Nova Scotia*, p. 446).

A stray YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, a young male, was identified Oct. 22 at Dorothea Drive, Dartmouth, a favoured spot for birds, near the sewage disposal plant (B. McLaren). REDWINGED BLACKBIRDS left in large numbers in both October and November, but many stayed the winter, especially in the Valley - a few strays only, mostly at feeders, in other parts of the province. The big migratory movements were marked by the 800+ at Amherst Pt. Oct. 23 (ST), the 125 at Waterford, Digby Neck, Oct. 24 (LEN, HJMcG), and the 1500-2000 flying over Brier I. Nov. 2 (ST). However, a flock of 65 was observed Feb. 9, feeding in a corn field one mile north of Middleton (RDL).

At least 14 NORTHERN ORIOLES are mentioned in the fall migration period; the largest 'flock' was 6, Oct. 12, at Seal I. (ST). The others seen November to January: 3 on the Christmas counts, a male and a female in Yarmouth town (MWH, MN, Eric Ruff), a male and female at Tusket, Yarmouth Co. (Mildred Hatfield), a male in full plumage at Wedgeport (IJP, D & MH, Reginald Doucette) and 2, at Sydney (H. Hopkins and T. Sullivan). The January (late) birds were in Yarmouth town, last oriole sighting Jan. 15 (MN).

The RUSTY BLACKBIRD, another summer resident, left us in October, three large contingents noted at Round Hill Oct. 14 (100-150), Oct. 17 (300-400), and at Centrelea Oct. 24-25 (in company with Grackles) in flocks of 600-1000 (WEW). A few lingered during the winter, seen in Cape Breton and at the N.S.-N.B. border. On Oct. 13 at Seal I., Bruce Mactavish closely observed what he took to be a male BREWER'S BLACKBIRD, as it had a "purplish sheen on the side of the head and the back of the neck, blackish body, size of a Rusty but the bill noticeably thicker at the base than a Rusty's."

The COMMON GRACKLE gathered in flocks the first of October, and an early flying date for some of them was marked by the 7, Oct. 20, at Cape Sable (Smiths). On Nov. 2, ST saw 100+ fly over Brier I., and the same day MWH watched several flocks of ~ 50 each flying NW over Yarmouth. On Nov. 7 Thelma Hawkins estimated 200 at least at Wilmot, and Grackles continued numerous in the vicinity for weeks - "the corn was not harvested until late this year." An amazing number wintered in the Valley, over 1000 reported on the Kingston Christmas count; and at Halifax the Cohrs had 75+ at their feeder on Oct. 16, and 30+ still around on Dec. 6. From Dec. 1-12 they were seen regularly all winter in various places, from Sydney to Yarmouth. The Grackle was outdone by the BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD on the Kingston Christmas count when 3300 of the latter were estimated. Flocks were large and widespread throughout the winter: at least 10 flocks in Halifax, one numbering 65 (RB), about 2000 present at Middleton dump (LEN & HMJcG), 30+ at Lockeport Feb. 15 (GDP), a maximum of 60 at Upper Wedgeport Jan. 15 (but mostly 1-8 noted there by the Henrys), up to 50 regularly at MWH's feeder in Yarmouth. There were relatively few noted at Sydney, on the N.S.-N.B. border, and along the North Shore. The 6-12 at Cape Sable Oct. 19-20 may have been storm-blown. Stuart Tingley reports an albino Cowbird "all white with a tinge of yellow on the wings" Oct. 23 at Amherst Pt. This must have given him some interesting moments.

SCARLET TANAGER

Only one tanager was reported in the fall of 1974 - an immature SCARLET, Oct. 4 at Cape Sable (Smiths).

FRINGILLIDS

One male CARDINAL remained at the Edgar Hamilton's at Pubnico all winter, as did the pair, male and female, at the MacDonald's just outside of Yarmouth town, near Doctor's Lake. The Pubnico bird is coming into full breeding plumage, and has begun to sing. There is a rumour that there are two other Cardinals in the vicinity - perhaps he will find a mate. On Nov. 10 a Cardinal was sighted on Brier I. by Larry Neily and Helen McGloin.

Our only 'summer resident' grosbeak, the ROSE-BREADED, so far deserves its status. Has anyone ever seen a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Nova Scotia in the

winter? the last one left us on Oct. 13, 1974, noted on Seal I. by Stuart Tingley. Several BLUE GROSBEAKS, one very late, are dated Sept. 22 and 24, Oct. 1 and 3, at Seal I.; at least one male and one female, but probably two of each involved (BM). On Oct. 19, 1 in juvenal plumage was seen at Three Fathom Harbour (IAMcL) and the late one, a female, Jan. 23 at Deep Brook, Digby Co., was observed by Wickerson Lent. INDIGO BUNTINGS were also present last fall: one on Oct. 1 seen on Brier I. (DWF), and 10 (individuals) on Seal I. Oct. 1-19 (BM, ST *et al.*). An unusually large number of DICKCISSELS was observed at Seal I. by the NSBS parties there Sept. 22-Oct. 19, 25 birds in all, according to Bruce Mactavish. During this time, Davis Finch spotted one on Brier I. (Oct. 1), and others came along later - 3, at the Eaton's at Cole Harbour, Halifax Co., Oct. 21 after the storm; 1 on Conrad's Beach, Halifax Co., Nov. 17 (BM); 1, Dec. 14, Halifax East Christmas count and 2 in Cape Breton in December; 1, early in the month at Sydney Mines (reported to Frank Robertson) and another Dec. 28 on the Sydney's Christmas count (SMcL).

It was a good year for winter finches - all expectable species present, most of them well distributed, and Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches and American Goldfinches abundant. Are EVENING GROSBEAKS arriving later than usual? or do we forget from year to year? We still have no clue as to where the majority of them come from, and their movements about the province after arrival appear to be random. Flocks were seen and heard around the countryside early in October, but the first to settle were 20+ at one Yarmouth feeder (MWH) and a few (5) at Amherst (CD). On Oct. 29, 10+ landed on the Cabot Strait ferry several hours out of North Sydney (ST). A widespread movement in November brought them to Halifax (Cohrs, IAMcL, JBH), Annapolis Co. (WEW) and Yarmouth Co. feeders (PRD), one even reaching Cape Sable (Smiths). Nov. 2-5 there were 100+ on Brier I. (ST). The first reported at Pictou (EH) and Cape Breton (SMcL) were in December (but note also the 840 found on 19 Christmas counts!); the first at Cole Harbour, Ste. Croix, Lockeport and Wedgeport were in January, and a big influx came early in February, with flocks doubling and tripling at feeders - and one hyper female heading out to sea, where she landed on CSS *Dawson* Feb. 17, c.120 miles SW of Sable I. (RGG). Generally, maximum flocks at feeders were 50-100 birds at this time, and increases continued into March.

For some years we have had so few PURPLE FINCHES in the winter it has been impossible to note any movements of these birds. This year we have done better. A few acted like normal migrants, leaving from the usual places the last week in October and the first week in November. Two left from Cape Sable Oct. 24; a flock of a dozen, mostly females or immatures was noted at Wilmot Oct. 29, and the same day 5 landed on the ferry 2-3 hours out of Sydney; 2 showed up at Yarmouth Oct. 30 and the last one at Cape Sable was there Oct. 31. In November a few were noticed around about Yarmouth Co. where, on the morning of the 2nd "large flocks of small birds were flying NW over the town, some of which lit briefly in the trees, many Purple Finches among them" (MWH). On the 2nd also, c.50 were counted on Brier I. (ST). In December, 74 Purple Finches were counted on 10 Christmas counts. During January they practically disappeared, until the latter part of the month when a few returned to view, six reports of 65 birds in all from various parts of Yarmouth, Halifax, Pictou, and Cape Breton Counties. In February as usual the mid-month stir occurred in the bird world, and there were 10 reports, Amherst to Yarmouth, received on six of which Purple Finches were noted as "arrived for the first time." At Eel Lake, Yarmouth Co., by Feb. 18 there were at least 4 dozen Purple Finches at a feeder. These soon dropped off to half that number, which stayed through March; but most reporters wrote "steady increase up to the end of March." During this latter month, the finches began to sing.

PINE GROSBEAKS also were back to 'normal,' with 15 reports totalling 676 birds, the largest numbers being the 80+ at Brier I. Nov. 2; the 100+ at Bear River, Digby Co., Dec. 17, and the Christmas counts at Kingston (129), at Kejimkujik (61) and at Louisburg (63). These Grosbeaks were reported feeding not only in pine trees, but on maple seeds (EH) and the buds of Indian Pear (TH). They also have a fondness for old apple trees.

This was not a winter for the COMMON REDPOLL. There were only three reports: 2, Nov. 3, at Brier I. (ST); 1, Jan. 24, at Waverley (BM), and 7, Mar. 12, at Tupperville (WEW). There were very few sightings of the PINE SISKIN this winter, but there were quite large flocks locally, all seen in December - 119 at Kejimkujik, 126 at Louisburg, and 75-100 at Round Hill. Other than that, 1-10 are mentioned in only five other reports, well scattered in place and time. The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH, on the other hand, could be found on any field trip in appropriate habitat, from October to March, and seems to have been universally present at feeders in flocks of 15-30, some larger.

The RED- and the WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL were fairly abundant in circumscribed areas - at Bear River, Keji, in the woods near Kingston and (Reds) in the New Glasgow area (according to Harry Brennan). There were 25+ Reds seen Mar. 17 at Long Beach, C.B., (SMaCL), and 1 bright male watched singing at Crescent Beach, Lunenburg Co., Mar. 14 (Cohrs). A few Whitewings were seen (2-5 per sighting) in Cape Breton (IM), Pictou Co. (ST), Halifax Co. (BS *et al.*) and Yarmouth Co. (CRKA) January through March. See also the Feeder Notes.

SPARROWS

We have fall and winter records of 18 species of sparrows, 12 native and 6 exotic. These latter species are the Rufous-sided Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Clay-coloured Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and the White-crowned Sparrow. This is our first mention of the Le Conte's, the second of the Clay-coloured.

We should emphasize here that the policy of this Newsletter is to publish all observations of rarities, if accompanied by a satisfactory description, but that the status of the species in Nova Scotia remains hypothetical until a diagnostic picture or a specimen is obtained.

The RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE is an old friend, and as usual several went through with the fall migration - 1, Oct. 5 and a pair Oct. 23 at Cape Sable (Smiths); 9, Oct. 18-19 at Seal I. (ST) and 1 male, Nov. 3 at Brier I. (ST). One lingered on into the winter, present Feb. 10-13 at Annapolis Royal at the Fred Barrett's (seen there also by Calder Fraser).

A surprising number of GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS, also old friends, were on Seal I. - 5, Oct. 14 (IAMcL) up to 11+, Oct. 18 down to 3, Oct. 19 (BM, ST *et al.*). One late one was encountered near Pinckney's Pt. on the mainland, Oct. 26 - the little sparrow, an habitual 'skulker,' showed great hardihood in allowing itself to be stalked and identified by C.R.K. Allen, but we assure all old Seal I. buffs that it got away with its life.

"At Seal I. - Oct. 6, 1974 - 1, LE CONTE'S SPARROW" - Bruce Mactavish.
"It was an immature because it had a yellow hind neck and streaks across the front of the breast. The very fine short dark streaks along the sides and across the breast separate it from a Grasshopper Sparrow. Some fall

Grasshopper Sparrows have long dusky grey streaks on the sides of the breast unlike the short dark fine streaks of the Le Conte's, which also cross the breast in immatures. The bird was observed at distances less than three feet by myself, Ross Anderson, and Pierre Béland."

The FIELD SPARROW is not really an exotic (called a 'visitant' by Tufts), but we see fewer of them than of the following species - the White-crowned - and most of them are observed during the fall migration. This year, at Seal I., 1 was seen Oct. 4-5 (BM), 12, Oct. 18 (NSBS Members) and 2, Oct. 19 were at Three Fathom Harbour (IAMcL). A quite amazing Field Sparrow appeared at the PRD feeder at Eel Lake, where it remained all winter, Dec. 5 into April, seen every day in company with a dozen juncos.

As above, we see most of our WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS during the migration periods - we are on one of its legitimate flyways. During October-November about 70 were observed, most of them (50+) on Seal I. (where one, Oct. 13, was noted to be of the *gambelii* race, IAMcL), but 9 were found on Digby Neck, Nov. 10 (LEN & HJMcG). Wayne Neily, on a visit to Nova Scotia, thought the White-crown unusually common for N.S. last fall. White-crowned Sparrows stayed around on Cape Sable, eating wild aster, through most of October, and one immature wintered in the Dartmouth Piggery, noted there at times from Dec 29 to Mar. 1 (IAMcL, BM).

Migration data on our breeding sparrows is not at all complete. We have very little on the SAVANNAH SPARROW, either SABLE I. (ex-Ipswich) or nominate race. The 8 Savannahs, Nov. 14 at Amherst (CD) may mark a last late movement; many, however, wintered here, seen coast-wise from Sydney to Yarmouth (Wedgeport, Chebogue Pt.), and at least 8 were on Conrad's Beach, Halifax Co. in January, plus one "IPSWICH" (IAMcL, LEN & HMJcL) N.B.: A report just received from Roger Burrows mentions 4+ "Ipswich" sparrows Jan. 17 at Eastern Passage, Halifax Co.

The last SHARP-TAILED SPARROW seen was at Martinique Beach Nov. 3 (IAMcL). The VESPER SPARROWS were few as usual - 3, Oct. 18 at Seal I., 1, Nov. 3 at Brier I. (ST), and 1, Nov. 23, at APBS (CD). The DARK-EYED JUNCO stayed with us all winter in good numbers, but during the period Oct. 29-Nov. 3 there was undoubtedly a departure flight: on Oct. 29, 8 hitched a ride on the Cabot Strait ferry, coming aboard about 2 hours out of Sydney; 10-15 came to Cape Sable Oct. 30 (EMR), and on Nov. 1 juncos were "all over the place" in restless flocks around Yarmouth Co. (CRKA). At Brier I. Nov. 2, there were 100 counted, Nov. 3, 200+, Nov. 10, 10 only left. Many people reported flocks of 20-40 around all winter, and down the North Shore, Tidnish to Pictou, Jan. 16, over 200 were counted, feeding along the roadsides, in flocks of 10-25.

Our impression was that TREE SPARROWS were scarce this winter, but this does not appear to be true. They were probably present in fairly good numbers. Where they could forage for themselves, they did not come to feeders, and were seldom encountered on field trips; but where the snow was heavy, flocks were regular at feeders, and not small, about 10-15, so that on the 23 reports received, birds added up to just over 200. Reports were widespread, covering most of the province. The first Tree Sparrows to be noted last fall were 2 on Oct. 14 on Seal I., and 1, Oct. 19 at the Dartmouth Piggery. One reached Kejimikujik in November, to become a first record for the Park (PH). On Oct. 8 at West Lawrencetown, Halifax Co., Roger Burrows saw 10 CHIPPING SPARROWS, no

doubt flocking for migration, but the last date for these birds appears to be Nov. 2-5 when 5 were counted on Brier I. As of recent years, Chipping Sparrows were found once again on the Sydney's Christmas count, 3 of them this year.

Four fall reports of the WHITE-THROATED SPARROW suggest migration flights: 3-4 on Oct. 1 at Cape Sable; 20 on Oct. 5 at Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary (10 usual); 2 on Oct. 19 at Cape Sable, and 15 on Oct. 21 at the Henry's at Upper Wedgeport (6 on Oct. 23 there, 1-3 usual). White-throats remained plentiful throughout the winter, mostly seen at feeders. A very small flight of FOX SPARROWS brushed us in the fall, when 6 were seen at Amherst Point on Oct. 25 (ST). During the winter 7 of these birds were seen, 3 at Brier I. early in November; 1 on Nov. 27-30 at Halifax (SC); 1, Feb. 1-4 at Smith's Cove, Digby Co. (AR), and 2 (an old familiar 'one-legged' and a new 2-legged) Feb. 2-25 at Cole Harbour, Halifax Co. (the Eaton's). The 'peak' day at Seal I. for the LINCOLN'S SPARROW was Oct. 1, 75+ seen (BM). Only three stragglers were found later - 2 on Seal I. Oct. 19 and 1 at the Dartmouth Piggery Oct. 22 (IAMcL). The SWAMP SPARROW 'peaked' at Seal I. Oct. 7, when 40 were counted (BM). Ten-fifteen have been found wintering here, at Petite Riviere (Cohrs), Dartmouth Piggery (ST, RB), Portugese Cove (RB), Long I., Digby Co. (LEN & HMJcG) and at Port Joli (Jeanne Adelson).

The SONG SPARROW departure, thanks again to Bruce Mactavish's report, was marked by the peak of 120, Oct. 9 at Seal I. The winter population was as usual 1-2 at most feeders, plus a few encountered occasionally on field trips, seen flitting across the road or skulking around lobster pots. Stuart Tingley wrote of one that he and Bruce Mactavish saw last September on Brier I., which had a pure white head. For some unaccountable reason, Song Sparrows began to sing in mid-February, long before the weather broke. Could it have to do with the lengthening days?

LONGSPURS AND SNOW BUNTINGS

The first LAPLAND LONGSPURS were seen at opposite ends of the Bay of Fundy - 1, Oct. 16-17 at Economy (FS); 1, Oct. 18 at Seal I. (ST); 5, Oct. 21 at Economy; 4, Oct. 24 at Brier I. (WPN, LEN) and 12-15 Oct. 26 at Cook's Beach, Yarmouth Co. (CRKA), 4 the same day at the N.S.-N.B. border. Thereafter a few were noted on beaches with flocks of Snow Buntings and Horned Larks, but rather large numbers in Cape Breton - 10, Dec. 26 at Glace Bay; 25, Dec. 28 at Morien Bar, 30 there Jan. 1 (SMacL) and on the Grand Pre, c.30 Longspurs were among the 500 Snow Buntings there on Feb. 10 (IAMcL, RDL). There were 62 found on the Christmas counts for the province.

SNOW BUNTINGS were heavily reported, very abundant this winter. They also appeared at both ends of the province in October; 'a few' Oct. 21 at Economy, 15 that day at Seal I., 12, Oct. 24 at Brier I. (WPN, LEN) and 75 there Nov. 2-3 (ST), 25 on Oct. 26 at Cape Sable. Early in November scattered pairs and singles were found inland in Yarmouth Co. (a pair also in Halifax Co. by the Coffills, who say they have found a pair near French Village at this time every year for a long time); but flocks began coming in by the middle of that month, the largest, 400 at the N.S.-N.B. border (CD). There were close to 500 on the Christmas counts; large flocks (up to 100 each) were reported in a few places in January, all noted on the South Shore, but by February there must have been thousands widespread about the province - 500 at the Grand Pre alone (IAMcL). Some of these birds frequented feeders, but most of them found enough to eat in farmers' fields and along the tidewrack on the pebble ridges. The last report of Snow Buntings we have received is 22, seen March 15, at Pictou.

Editors of Seasonal Bird Reports are:

Dick Brown - Oceanic Birds (Fulmars through Cormorants, Gulls and Terns, Alcids).

C.R.K. Allen - Loons and Grebes, Waders, Geese and Ducks, Shorebirds.

Bob Lambertson - Birds of Prey, Gallinaceous Birds, Marsh Birds, Doves through Woodpeckers.

Shirley Cohrs - Passerines (Flycatchers through Starlings).

Phyllis Dobson - Passerines (Vireos through Snow Buntings).

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ERRATA

NSBS *Newsletter*, Volume 16, Nos. 1, 2 and 3, 1974.

No. 1, April 1974

Page 24: The European Wigeon (male) was shot January 9, 1974

ibid. page 34: The observer of the Sable Island Grey Kingbird was Alban Richard (not Allan Richards).

ibid. page 39: Godfrey (*in litt.* to I.A. McLaren) has accepted the Black-headed Grosbeak on the basis of further pictures and descriptions - the first confirmed record for Nova Scotia.

No. 2, July 1974

Page 71: The paragraph beginning 'American Coots' should read only "The American Coots returned to Amherst Point along with the Common Gallinules. Two sightings are reported: May 4, two birds (ST, CD) and a single bird May 6 (ST)." Delete the rest of the paragraph.

No. 3, November 1974

Page 123, paragraph 2: 'WILSON'S PLOVER' should read 'WILSON'S PHALAROPE' (for which species the data given are correct).

ibid., page 125, paragraph 4, line 6: The sentence beginning "Ian McLaren's earliest YELLOWLEGS" should read "Ian McLaren's earliest YELLOWLEGS were flocks amounting to 150 LESSER and 5 GREATER among them."

paragraph 5, line 3: The sentence beginning "Of Ian McLaren's flock of 150 Yellowlegs" should read "Of Ian McLaren's flocks of Yellowlegs at Lawrencetown July 21 noted above, 150 were of this species" (not 100).

ibid, page 129, line 10 should read "One report of LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS is of 2" (not 20) "on Sable Island, September 12."

FEEDER NOTES

Field trips remained productive well into December, 30 species could be found with no trouble on a half-day trip through sufficiently varied habitat (both woods and shorelines). By this time, most people so inclined had feeding stations established, but patronage was poor.

Blue Jays were the first to arrive, 2-12 at many feeders (up to 20 in the Annapolis-Cornwallis Valley and Hants County) and they became steady customers. Then came a few of the ground feeders, mostly Juncos and Song Sparrows, and the Chickadees appeared. Goldfinches flew past, but did not start to feed in many places until February. In some places a few Purple Finches did settle, but again, the large numbers came in February.

Evening Grosbeaks were present in October, and by November most people had some (but many more in January), and in Cape Breton they arrived in force at Christmas time. Flocks varied, the size, perhaps, in direct proportion to the amount of seed supplied, from 10-50.

Whitethroats and Tree Sparrows joined the ground feeders in certain localities -- the Dobsons at Brookside, Halifax County, had 12 Tree Sparrows all season - and the same was true of Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers - present only near their usual type of habitat, usually one or two of each, but the Hawkins at Wilmot had two male Hairys and five Downys, three males and two females. At Port Joli, Jeanne Addelson had a Pileated Woodpecker as a visitor. In similar territory, both species of Nuthatch made their appearance.

Starlings and House Sparrows came, of course, but as usual most of the grumbling was about the Cowbirds, and in southwest Nova Scotia, the Grackles.

Altogether, we seem to have helped to feed nearly 30 species this winter. Among unusual and interesting visitors to feeders (some were must visitors, probably attracted by the presence of the other birds), were the following: 11 Grey Partridges, at the Clark's at Ste. Croix; Pheasants at the Raymond's at Bear River, the Hawkins' at Wilmot, the Morehouse's at Wolfville; Mourning Doves at Jeanne Addelson's, and the Allen's, in Tusket; a Grey Jay at the Zollner's at River Philip; Brown Creepers at quite a number of feeders; a Golden-crowned Kinglet at the Eaton's at New Minas; a Bohemian Waxwing at the Desplanque's at Amherst, Cedar Waxwings at the Holdway's at Pictou; Yellow-rumped Warblers at quite a few Yarmouth County locations; several Yellow-breasted Chats, noted at the Morehouses, at Ralph Johnson's, Liverpool, and at the Helleiner's in Halifax; Redwinged Blackbirds, noted fairly generally; similarly a few Northern Orioles, early in the winter; the Cardinals at the Hamilton's in Pubnico and the MacDonald's in Yarmouth, 6-8 Pine Siskins "very aggressive and hungry" March 9 at Edria Eaton's (these remained regular through March); a Chipping Sparrow at the Zollner's; a Field Sparrow at P.R. Dobson's newly established feeder beside Eel Lake, Yarmouth County; a Fox Sparrow in early April (2 more the next day) at the Eaton's in New Minas, also one at Bear River at the Raymond's, and Snow Buntings at several feeders, mentioned particularly both in Yarmouth County and in Cape Breton.

Kestrels have scarcely been mentioned this winter, and Merlins only in the Valley, but Redtails were numerous - not a real menace at feeders (although Thelma Hawkins feared for the pheasants) - and Sharp-shinned Hawks were a real menace, regularly taking their toll through the hard winter months. About mid-March they left the feeders, and could be seen winging about the countryside -- neither hawk nor beast nor man can live by food alone.

Looking back at the weather in December, the wind direction on the 16th was northerly, on the 17th ESE and on the 18th, west. On the 17th at Bear River, Digby County, the snow cover was 8-10 inches, the temperature 13°F in the morning and rose to 30°F at 3.00 p.m., when the humidity reached 100. These conditions may have contributed to the extraordinary concentration of birds which accumulated at the Kelsey Raymond property that day. This place is situated a mile west of the Bear River, bounded on the north by the Annapolis Basin, on the east by a large grove of trees, pine, spruce, fir, wild apple, and a brook, on the south by hills and farm land and on the west by open fields and a vegetable garden. There are two feeders at the front and rear of the house. On the 17th

Mrs. Annie Raymond received a call from her son, Kelsey Raymond, to come and see the tremendous numbers of birds around his yard "never so many in the twenty years since he had built his house." "The trees were alive with Pine Grosbeaks and Purple Finches, at least a hundred of the Pine Grosbeaks, not quite so many finches - Evening Grosbeaks all over the two feeders and the ground, up to a hundred of them. Trying to get their share were Goldfinches, Song Sparrows, Whitethroats, Tree Sparrows, Juncos and eight Blue Jays. It was difficult to count the birds, they were so active." So wrote Annie Raymond, and added that strangely enough that morning they did not see one House Sparrow, Starling nor Grackle. In the late afternoon the Red-tailed Hawk went over, well attended by noisy Crows.

At other times, more or less regularly, this feeder had a Brown Creeper, Downy Woodpecker, 40 White-winged Crossbills!, 20+ Whitethroats, same number of Robins, 24 Tree Sparrows, Black-capped Chickadees, a hundred or more Goldfinches; (in February) 6 Ring-necked Pheasants (one cock and 5 hens), a Hairy Woodpecker and a Fox Sparrow. Two Bald Eagles, an adult and an immature, frequently fly over, and the numerous ducks in the Basin are usually in full view, the gulls sailing above. A wonderful picture.

Many thanks to Annie Raymond for sharing it with us.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS IN NOVA SCOTIA - 1974

Edited by L.B. Macpherson

Possibly as many as half of the counts this year present a reasonably representative picture of their areas but it is quite apparent that the remainder do not. Although details on miles and hours are not presented in this review because the data supplied was so incomplete, what was reported, as well as the years of experience in editing these counts, convinces me that what we are not doing is walking off the beaten paths enough. If Roslyn MacPhee and Mary Geddes can find 38 species in the Shubenacadie area, if the Kejimikujik group can find 29 species on that inland, winter terrain, or the Smiths can find 29 species on barren, sandy Cape Sable, surely it is not unreasonable to expect at least 50 species to be reported in any coastal area. To me the Golden-crowned Kinglet, an abundant but widespread winter bird, is a good 'indicator species.' It is not usually found in towns or even villages and when no kinglets, or only a few, are reported on a count, it suggests that not much walking in the woods took place, no matter how many walking miles were reported. Thus woodland woodpeckers, the owls, the grouse and most of the winter finches go undiscovered, too. In future years let the watchwords for the counts be - get off the road.

A synopsis of the essential or interesting points about the 1974 counts is set out below.

- 25 counts (we have had over 30).
- 131 species (a record 139 species were identified in 1973).
- 109,000 individual birds were counted.
- 5 species are new to the Nova Scotia counts this year.
- 178 is the cumulative total of different species recorded on 19 years of Christmas counts in Nova Scotia.
- (For a variety of reasons the cumulative total reported last year - 176 - was wrong. It should then have been 173.)

The following species appeared to be the rarest, being reported on ONE count only. Species names new to the N.S. Christmas count are underlined.

Pied-billed Grebe (1) Halifax west
Gannet (1) Halifax west
Blue-winged Teal (2) Shubenacadie - only once before
Barrow's Goldeneye (2) Broad Cove
Harlequin Duck (21) Broad Cove
Red-shouldered Hawk (1) Brier I. (see later note)
Grey Partridge (11) Wolfville
Common Snipe (8) Wolfville
Whimbrel (Eurasian) (1) Broad Cove (see later note)
Knot (3) Cape Sable - once once before
White-rumped Sandpiper (2) Halifax east
Bonaparte's Gull (1) Glace Bay
Eastern Kingbird (1) Halifax east - only once before
Winter Wren (1) Halifax east
Long-billed Marsh Wren (1) Halifax east - only once before
Black-and-white Warbler (1) Halifax west
Orange-crowned Warbler (1) Halifax west - only once before
Pine Warbler (1) Halifax west
Yellowthroat (1) Halifax west
Yellow-breasted Chat (1) Halifax west

Examination of the counts warrants comment on a number of species.

Double-crested Cormorant. Only rarely reported previously, the species was noted on three counts.

Harlequin Duck. 21 birds at Broad Cove is a notable number.

Hooded Merganser. Rarely reported at all, it was seen on 4 counts.

Common Merganser. Much commoner in Cape Breton than the Red-breasted.

Red-breasted Merganser. Much commoner in SW Nova Scotia than the Common.

Goshawk. Rarely reported, but 4 birds on 3 counts this year.

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Widespread - on 11 counts.

Rough-legged Hawk. Not notably abundant this year.

Bald Eagle. A noticeable species, but 25 (including 5 immatures) on 12 counts is gratifying.

Marsh Hawk. More than usual - on 6 counts.

American Kestrel. More than usual - on 9 counts.

Spruce Grouse. The few reported (4) certainly do not reflect the widespread occurrence of this species in Nova Scotia. Rather, it reflects the reluctance of birdwatchers to leave the roads.

Killdeer. 4 on 4 counts, far down from the 68 on 7 counts last year.

Great Black-backed Gull. In Cape Breton this species is reported in about the same numbers as the Herring Gull - about 4000 of each.

Black-legged Kittiwake. Note the amazing 25,000 at Brier I.

Snowy Owl. It was not a year for them - only 2 reported.

Short-eared Owl. If you want to see one, go to the Annpolis count area (Belle Isle marsh).

Pileated Woodpecker. Reported on 6 counts!

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker. The bird with the longest name was found on 4 counts, including 6 birds on the Amherst count.

Boreal Chickadee. Another bird you must usually leave the roads to see.

Nuthatches. Both species were quite common.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Only one per occasional year previously but 13 on 6 counts this year.

Common Grackle. Note the 1000 at Kingston.

Brown-headed Cowbird. Note the 3300 at Kingston.

Cardinal. Absent, after the promise of last year.

Finches. Quite a selection but neither scarce nor abundant.

Chipping Sparrow. Only in occasional years previously but on 4 counts this year.

Fox Sparrow. Notably not reported at all.

The 10 species reported in the greatest number of birds:

Black-legged Kittiwake	25,000+
Starling	16,000
Herring Gull	13,000
Great Black-backed Gull	7,000
Crow	7,000
House Sparrow	6,000
Canada Goose	4,000
Black Duck	4,000
Brown-headed Cowbird	4,000
Rock Dove	3,000

The 10 species most widely reported (of 25 counts):

Crow	* 25 counts
Herring Gull	24
Raven	24
Black-capped Chickadee	24
Starling	24
Blue Jay	23
House Sparrow	23
Black Duck	22
Great Black-backed Gull	21
Dark-eyed Junco	21

* Everybody knows a Crow!

The outstanding birds for this year were certainly Red-shouldered Hawk and Whimbrel, both far from their usual homes.

Red-shouldered Hawk by Ross Anderson and Bob Lamberton at Brier I.

"This bird was well seen by both observers through binoculars and scrutinized through a 20-power scope for a good 10-20 minutes. Size comparison with Red-tailed Hawks showed this bird to be slightly smaller than them, and not a great deal smaller, as a Broad-winged would be. The translucent wing windows were well seen along with the narrow white bands on the tail."

Whimbrel (Eurasian), seen by Eric Cooke, Barbara Hinds, Willet J. Mills and Sylvia Fullerton at Broad Cove. Others saw it the following day. Bird had

been in the same area and seen weekly since Oct. 13. Similar to our Whimbrel, brownish over all colouration, striped crown, but rump and back, in flight, distinctively white. "Relatively poor" photograph was obtained.

In the summaries of the counts (recorded below in a more or less north to south order) the species names underlined are those that were reported on only one or two counts. As well, unusual numbers of birds are underlined. The form and spelling of each participant's name is as supplied by the compilers.

	Cheticamp	Margaree	Baddeck	Sydneys	Glace Bay	Salmon R.	Louisbourg	St. Peters	Amherst	Northport	Economy	Springville	Wolfville	Kingston	Shubie	Halifax W.	Halifax E.	Bridgetown	Annapolis	Chester	Broad Cove	Brier I.	Kejimikujik	Yarmouth	Cape Sable	Counts	Total
Com Loon							1								26	39	4	2	3	28	59		8	4	10	174	
R-t Loon																1	4	1			4	3			7	18	
R-n Grebe							1								7	9	2			2	22	40		3	1	8	86
Ho Grebe								1						2	7	28	2				73	16			1	8	130
F-b Grebe															1											1	1
Gannet															1											1	1
Gr Corm													3	151	2	4		7		16	150		1	3		9	337
GB Heron												1					7	2						3		6	19
C Goose			1000						133		178		23	700						27	9			3		9	
													100										2250			4420	
Mallard				1								11						3			2			2		5	19
B Duck	44	2		148		27		4	40	663	1800	345		135				45	66	2		2		5	22	4361	
						35		113	24		3	153	84	1				1			2		622			2	4
Pintail															2						2					2	3
G-w Teal																1								2		2	2
B-w Teal															2											1	2
R-n Duck						1																				2	3
Gr Scaup	1		5										15	30		16		98								6	165
Com Gold	1	6	12	15	4	56							13	58		2	174	22	7				3	16	478		
																26							79				
Bar Gold																					2					1	2
Buffleh																63	3	14		35	2	24	8			8	149
Oldsquaw			15	5	50	8		34			7		79	15	5	215		5		215			62	1	16		
											10			178			28		298								1010
Harleq																				21						1	21
C Eider	35											11	2	5	1	75							4			9	
																					534		355				1022
W-w Scot	1		56	8	13			1		66		7	82	7		5	13				6					14	503
																226											
S Scot				1	1									192	5		5		3	1						9	255
																47											
Bl Scot											25	16	32			45		9	51	40			3		9	221	

	Cheticamp	Margaree	Baddeck	Sydneys	Glace Bay	Salmon R.	Louisbourg	St. Peters	Amherst	Northport	Economy	Springville	Wolfville	Kingston	Shubie	Halifax W.	Halifax E.	Bridgetown	Annapolis	Chester	Broad Cove	Brier I.	Kejimikujik	Yarmouth	Cape Sable	Counts	Total
H Merg								1								1	1				1					4	4
C Merg	21	15	8	3	18	17		5				2	2			33	39	4			2					12	135
R-b Merg				8	17	4		6			2	1	9			33	12	4			85			16	3	15	376
Goshawk																2	131				45		1			3	4
S-s Hawk					⊕			1	1		⊕	1	3			2	1	1			1	1		⊕	11	11	
R-t Hawk		1	3								2	8	7	1	1		3	1			4	9	5	3	13	48	
R-sh Hawk																						1				1	
R-l Hawk								2				1	3		1	1	3	2			5					8	18
Bald E	1	3	4	3				1				1	3		1	3	1							1	12	23	
Marsh H								⊕				1				2	1							⊕	6	5	
Merlin																1	1		1		1					4	4
Am Kestr					3									1	2	2	1	2	1		7	1				9	20
S Grouse														1		1	1				2					3	4
R Grouse			3					4			4	3	4	3		7		3			6		15	1	11	53	
Pheasant				⊕		3						21				1			⊕		1	2	⊕	⊕		9	28
G Part												11														1	11
Killdeer														⊕			1				1				2	4	4
B-b Plov																1									9	2	10
R Turn						7																			3	2	10
C Snipe													8													1	8
Whimbrel																						1				1	1
Knot																									3	1	3
Purp Sr						3							26	39	12				59	82				⊕	7	221	
W-r Sr																2										1	2
Dunlin						1														2						2	3
Sanderl											⊕													3	2	3	7
Gl Gull	4		2															1								3	7
Ice Gull	23	20				90										7	1							1	7	307	

165

	Cheticamp	Margaree	Baddeck	Sydneys	Glace Bay	Salmon R.	Louisbourg	St. Peters	Amherst	Northport	Economy	Springville	Wolfville	Kingston	Shubie	Halifax W.	Halifax E.	Bridgetown	Annapolis	Chester	Broad Cove	Brier I.	Kejimikujik	Yarmouth	Cape Sable	Counts	Total	
B&W Warb															⊕											1	⊕	
Y-r Warb															20	24				1	53			25				
Pine Warb															3	3						1			⊕	4	7	
Yellowthr															1											1	1	
Y-b Chat															2											1	2	
House Sp	29	80		154		35	388			20	47	987	2002	170	56	70		5								23	6520	
	12		70	57		160						1278	200	414	124						60	102						
Mlark															2						1	1			3	4		
R-w Bb											⊕			7							2	3			6	14		
N Oriole																1	1							1		4	3	
Rusty Bb				⊕								1			⊕							1				4	2	
Grackle			8									1009	3		1	4	⊕				6	38			9	1087		
													18															
Cowbird			1			1				⊕	⊕	3300	376	18	1	100	43						355		16	4541		
												52	150					118				20		6				
Dickcisl			1													1										2	2	
Ev Gros	186		6	10	5						42	26	226	32	24	27	38		⊕	⊕					19	840		
		17	28		56							28	24									65						
P Finch		3	3	19						⊕		25		9	5						3	6	1			10	74	
P Gros		1	2	63	10						⊕	9	2	5	4	5					1	61	6			14	298	
												129																
C Redpl															2					12		2				3	16	
P Siskin					126	1				4	79	1	3	8								7	119	3		10	351	
Gfinch	9		143								⊕	8	172		3	10	55						12		15	664		
		24		11							39	13	149									16						
R Crosbl1	8										28				2						5	15				5	58	
W-w Crsbl												30			5						18	10				5	73	
												10																
Sav Sp					9	⊕						3		6	43		1				13		1			8	76	
"Ips" Sp														1	2											2	3	
D-e Junco	30		9	3	22	3	⊕		30	3	30	289		2	44						1	3	23		21	1109		
	1		40									160	38	151							227							

CHETICAMP, Inverness Co., 15 December 1974.

19 species identified; about 1291 individuals.

Black Duck, 44; Scaup sp. 1; Com. Goldeneye, 1;
White-winged Scoter, 1; Com. Merganser, 21; Bald Eagle, 1a;
Glaucous Gull, 4; Iceland Gull, 23; Gr. B-b. Gull, 723;
Herring Gull, 218; Ring-billed Gull, 10; Snowy Owl, 1;
Raven, 38; Crow, 161; B-c. Chickadee, 9; Starling, 21;
H. Sparrow, 12; Dark-eyed Junco, 1; Snow Bunting, 11.

Yvon Boudreau, Simone Devault, Wayne Chiasson,
Joyce Maclean, Jacques Pleau (compiler), Gerard Porlier.
Georges Theriault, Pat Theriault, Dale Wishart.

MARGAREE, Inverness Co., 1 January 1975.

22 species indentified; about 464 individuals.

Black Duck, 2; Com. Goldeneye, 6; Com. Eider, 35;
Com. Merganser, 15; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 2 a, 1i;
Gr. B-b. Gull, 58; Herring Gull, 24; Dovekie, 10;
Kingfisher, 1; H. Woodpecker, 1; D. Woodpecker, 1;
Gray Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 44; Raven, 35; Crow, 100;
B-c. Chickadee, 28; Red-br. Nuthatch, 5;
Golden-cr. Kinglet, 1; Starling, 55; H. Sparrow, 29;
Red Crossbill, 8.

Observers: Thomas Bellis (compiler), Brenda and
Gerald Hart, Baxter, Leslie and Sylvia Ingraham,
Alex Miller.

BADDECK, Victoria Co., 31 December 1974.

22 species identified; about 678 individuals.

Com. Merganser, 8; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Bald Eagle, 3a,
Ruffed Grouse, 3; Herring Gull, 44; Kingfisher, 1;
H. Woodpecker, 4; D. Woodpecker, 6; Gray Jay, 4; Blue Jay, 20;
Raven, 19; Crow, 78; B-c. Chickadee, 40; Boreal Chickadee, 27;
Red-br. Nuthatch, 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet, 8; Starling, 99;
H. Sparrow, 80, Ev. Grosbeak, 186; Pine Brosbeak, 1;
Goldfinch, 9; Dark-eyed Junco, 30.

Effie Bain, Bill & Doris Black, Harriet Cheverie,
Lal Coleman, Gordon Crowley, Malcolm & Queenie Fuller,
Isobel MacFarlane, Mrs. Sam MacLennan, Edith MacPherson,
Burland Murphy, Dave Smith, Lloyd Stone (compiler), Jan
Wheeler.

THE SYDNEYS, Cape Breton Co., 28 December 1974.

32 species identified; about 3433 individuals.

Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Com. Goldeneye, 12;
Oldsquaw, 15; White-winged Scoter, 56; Com. Merganser, 3;
Red-br. Merganser, 8; Bald Eagle, 2a, 1i; (Pheasant);
Glaucous Gull, 2; Iceland Gull, 20; Gr. B-b Gull, 962;
Herring Gull, 884; Rock Dove, 72; (Kingfisher); H. Wood-
pecker, 2; D. Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 66; Raven, 94;
Crow, 287; B-c. Chickadee, 35; Golden-cr. Kinglet, 3;
Starling, 727; H. Sparrow, 70; Red-winged Blackbird, 1;
(N.Oricle); Grackle, 8; Cowbird, 1; Dickcissel, 1; Ev.
Grosbeak, 17; Purple Finch, 3; Goldfinch, 24; Dark-eyed
Junco, 40; Tree Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 1; Snow Bunting, 1.

George & Mary Hay, Bertha & Headley Hopkins (compiler),
Dave Kerr, William Large, Cheri and Denise MacKeigan, Walter
MacKinnon, Frank Robertson.

GLACE BAY, Cape Breton Co., 26 December 1974.

34 species identified; about 4901 individuals.

Canada Goose, 1000; Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 148;
Gr. Scaup, 5; Com. Goldeneye, 15; (Bufflehead); Oldsquaw, 5;
White-winged Scoter, 8; Surf Scoter, 1; Com. Merganser, 18;
Red-br. Merganser, 17; (Sharp-shinned Hawk); Kestrel, 3;
Iceland Gull, 165; Gr. B-b. Gull, 1840; Herring Gull, 924;
Black-headed Gull, 6; Bonaparte's Gull, 1; B-l. Kittiwake, 1;
(Dovekie); Rock Dove, 16; (Mourning Dove); Short-eared Owl, 2;
D. Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 13; Raven, 17; Crow, 77;
B-c. Chickadee, 9; Boreal Chickadee, 2; Mockingbird, 1;
(Robin); Starling, 352; H. Sparrow, 154; (Rusty Blackbird);
Ev. Grosbeak, 6; Pine Grosbeak, 2; Dark-eyed Junco, 9;
Tree Sparrow, 1; (Song Sparrow); Lapland Longspur, 10;
Snow Bunting, 60.

Shirley Brothers, George Griffin, Bertha and Headly
Hopkins, Sara MacLean (compiler), Edith MacLeod, Frank
Robertson, George Spencer.

SALMON RIVER, Cape Breton Co., 21 December 1974

17 species identified; about 1104 individuals.

Pheasant, 3; Gr. B-b. Gull, 125; Herring Gull, 202;
H. Woodpecker, 2; D. Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 2;
Blue Jay, 42; Raven, 138; Crow, 240; B-c. Chickadee, 26;
(Robin); Golden-cr. Kinglet, 9; Starling, 82; H. Sparrow, 57;
Ev. Grosbeak, 28; Purple Finch, 3; Goldfinch, 143; Dark-eyed
Junco, 3; (Song Sparrow).

Audrey Duchemin, Bertha & Headley Hopkins (compiler),
Frances Hussey, Darrell Leach.

LOUISBOURG, Cape Breton Co., 28 December 1974.

38 species identified; about 3096 individuals.

Com. Loon, 1; Red-necked Grebe, 1; Black Duck, 27;
Ring-necked Duck, 1; Com. Goldeneye, 56; Oldsquaw, 50;
White-winged Scoter, 13; Surf Scoter, 1; Com. Merganser, 17;
Red-br. Merganser, 4; Ruddy Turnstone, 7; Purple Sandpiper, 3;
Dunlin, 1; Iceland Gull, 90; Gr. B-b. Gull, 750; Herring
Gull, 1600; Black-headed Gull, 1; Black Guillemot, 3;
Gray Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 20; Raven, 9; Crow, 34; B.c. Chickadee,
2; Boreal Chickadee, 23; Golden-cr. Kinglet, 3; Northern
Shrike, 1; Starling, 66; H. Sparrow, 35, Ev. Grosbeak, 10;
Purple Finch, 19; Pine Grosbeak, 63; Pine Siskin, 126; Gold-
finch, 11; Savannah Sparrow, 9; Dark-eyed Junco, 22;
Tree Sparrow, 8; Song Sparrow, 2; Lapland Longspur, 5.

Gwen, John (compiler) & Simon Lunn.

ST. PETERS, Richmond Co., 29 December 1974

25 species identified; about 479 individuals.

Horned Grebe, 1; Black Duck, 25; Com. Goldeneye, 4;
Oldsquaw, 8; Hooded Merganser, 1; Red-br. Merganser, 6;
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1a; Gr. B-b Gull, 2;
Herring Gull, 56; Kingfisher, 2; Gray Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 1;
Raven, 84; Crow, 55; B-c Chickadee, 1; Boreal Chickadee, 3;
Goldern-cr. Kinglet, 4; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 50;
H. Sparrow, 160; Cowbird, 1; Ev. Grosbeak, 5; Dark-eyed
Junco, 3; Song Sparrow, 2.

Eva, Murdock (compiler) and William Digout, Katherine
Robertson

AMHERST, Cumberland Co., 29 December 1974,

32 species identified; about 2866 individuals.

Black Duck, 4; (Black Scoter); Com. Merganser, 5;
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 2; (Marsh Hawk);
Ruffed Grouse, 4; Gr. B-b. Gull, 621; Herring Gull, 374;
Rock Dove, 139; (Snowy Owl); Flicker, 1; (Pileated Wood-
pecker); H. Woodpecker, 4; D. Woodpecker, 9; B-backed
3-toed Woodpecker, 6; Gray Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 8; Raven, 50;
Crow, 133; B-c. Chickadee, 94; Boreal Chickadee, 17;
White-br. Nuthatch, 1; Red-br. Nuthatch, 28, Brown Creeper, 1;
Golden-cr. Kinglet, 23; Starling, 584; H-Sparrow, 388;
Ev. Grosbeak, 56; Pine Grosbeak, 10; Pine Siskin, 1;
(Savannah Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco); Tree Sparrow, 11;
Chipping Sparrow, 2; White-thr. Sparrow, 2; Lapland Longspur,
43; Snow Bunting, 243.

Evelyn Coates, Con Desplanque (compiler), Hienrich Harries,
Barbara & Bill Hennigar, Betty & Sam Donaldson, Helen
Keith McAloney.

NORTHPORT, Cumberland Co., 25 December 1974.
13 species identified; about 498 individuals.

Canada Goose, 133, Black Duck, 113;
Oldsquaw, 34; Herring Gull, 31;
Black-headed Gull, 9; Rock Dove, 26;
H. Woodpecker, 2; D. Woodpecker, 1;
Blue Jay, 3; Crow, 119; B-C. Chickadee, 17;
Starling, 3; Snow Bunting, 7.

Observers: Duncan and Robert MacNeil.

ECONOMY, Colchester Co.

23 Species identified; about 610 individuals.

(Red-thr. Loon); Black Duck, 40;
(Com. Goldeneye); White-winged Scoter, 1;
(Surf Scoter); Red-br. Merganser, 2;
(Sharp-shinned Hawk); Ruffed Grouse, 4;
(Sanderling); Gr.B-b.Gull, 4; Herring Gull, 200;
Rock Dove, 3; (Mourning Dove, Short-eared Owl,
Pileated Woodpecker); Horned Lark, 1;
Blue Jay, 12; Raven, 10; Crow, 50;
B-c. Chickadee, 35; Boreal Chickadee, 20;
Red-br. Nuthatch, 8; (Robin, Hermit Thrush);
Golden-cr. Kinglet, 75; Starling, 40;
House Sparrow, 20; (Cowbird, Purple Finch);
Pine Siskin, 4; Dark-eyed Junco, 30;
Tree Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 13;
Song Sparrow, 6; Snow Bunting, 30.

Observers: E. Spalding, F. Spalding (Compiler),
and A. Duke.

SPRINGVILLE, Pictou Co., 14 December 1974.

23 species identified; about 755 individuals.

Black Duck, 24; Red-tailed Hawk, 2;
Bald Eagle, 1a; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Gr. B-b. Gull, 40;
Herring Gull, 133; Rock Dove, 11; Barred Owl, 1;
(Pileated Woodpecker); Hairy Woodpecker, 1;
Downy Woodpecker, 2; (Gray Jay); Blue Jay, 16;
Raven, 15; Crow, 76; B-c. Chickadee, 29;
Boreal Chickadee, 37; White-br. Nuthatch, 2;
Golden-cr. Kinglet, 42; (Northern Shrike);
Starling, 199; House Sparrow, 47;
(Red-winged B'bird, Cowbird); Evening Grosbeak, 42;
(Pine Grosbeak, Goldfinch), Red Crossbill, 28;
Dark-eyed Junco, 3; (Tree Sparrow);
White-thr. Sparrow, 1.

Observers: Harry and Jean Brennan,
Fred Kenney (compiler), Marg Kenney, Lee Mawdsley.

WOLFVILLE, Kings Co., 15 December 1974.

51 species identified; about 9063 individuals.

Great Blue Heron, 1; Canada Goose, 178;
Mallard, 11; Black Duck, 663; Oldsquaw, 7;
Com. Merganser, 2; Red-br. Merganser, 1;
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 8;
Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 2 a, 1 imm;
Marsh Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 4; Pheasant, 21;
Gray Partridge, 11; Com. Snipe, 8; Gr. B-b. Gull, 289;
Herring Gull, 908; Rock Dove, 660; Mourning Dove, 2;
Short-eared Owl, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1;
H. Woodpecker, 4; D. Woodpecker, 6; Horned Lark, 190;
Blue Jay, 139; Raven, 356; Crow, 3085;
B-c. Chickadee, 64; Boreal Chickadee, 1; White-br.
Nuthatch 6; Brown Creeper, 1; Robin, 6; Golden-cr. Kinglet,
67; Ruby-cr. Kinglet, 2; N. Shrike, 1; Starling, 584;
H. Sparrow, 1287; Rusty Blackbird, 1; Cowbird, 52;
Ev. Grosbeak, 28; Purple Finch, 25; Pine Grosbeak, 9;
Pine Siskin, 79; Goldfinch, 39; Savannah Sparrow, 3;
Dark-eyed Junco, 160; Tree Sparrow, 57;
White-thr. Sparrow, 5; Song Sparrow, 13; Snow Bunting, 20.

Observers: P. Austin-Smith, J. S. Bleakney,
Peter Barkhouse, C. H. Chipman, Cyril Coldwell, R. B. Dunlop,
Russell Eagles, John S. Erskine, Rachel Erskine, Mary Forbes,
M. A. Gibson, J. Gibson, R. D. Lamberton (compiler),
Oscar Morehouse, C. J. Scott, Jean M. Timpa,
Lillian B. Tufts, Robie W. Tufts.

KINGSTON, Kings Co., 22 December 1974.

42 species identified; about 7305 individuals.

Horned Grebe, 2; Great Cormorant, 3;
Double-crested Cormorant, 1; Black Duck, 3;
Oldsquaw, 10; Com. Eider, 11;
White-winged Scoter, 66; Black Scoter, 25;
Red-br. Merganser, 9; Duck sp., 2;
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 7;
Rough-legged Hawk, 3; Kestrel, 1; buteo sp., 1;
Ruffed Grouse, 3; Purple Sandpiper, 26;
Gr. B-b. Gull, 6; Herring Gull, 189; Rock Dove, 40;
H. Woodpecker, 7; D. Woodpecker, 13; Blue Jay, 123;
Raven, 34; Crow, 434; B-c. Chickadee, 45;
Boreal Chickadee, 2; White-br. Nuthatch, 4,
Red-br. Nuthatch, 4; (Brown Creeper);
Golden-cr. Kinglet, 18; Northern Shrike, 1;
Starling, 470; House Sparrow, 987;
Red-winged B'bird, 1; Com. Grackle, 1009;
Cowbird, 3300; Ev. Grosbeak, 26;
Pine Grosbeak, 129; Pine Siskin, 1;
Goldfinch, 8; White-winged Crossbill, 30;
Finch sp., 200; Dark-eyed Junco, 30;
(Tree Sparrow); Song Sparrow, 10;
Snow Bunting, 8.

Observers: Norman and Thelma Bowers, Shirley
Corbin, Walter Ditmars, Frank and Thelma Hawkins,
Lorraine and Peter Hope, Darcy and Helen McGloin,
Earle Neily, Larry Neily (compiler), Vivian Neily,
Vera Dixon, Diane Price.

SHUBENACADIE, Hants Co., 29 December 1974.

38 species identified; about 3434 individuals.

Canada Goose, 23; Black Duck, 1800, Pintail, 2;
Blue-winged Teal, 2; (Ring-necked Duck);
Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle 1 a; Kestrel, 2;
Spruce Grouse, 1; (Killdeer); Herring Gull, 1;
Rock Dove, 78; Barred Owl, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 1;
H. Woodpecker, 1; D. Woodpecker, 2; Bl-backed 3-toed Wdpr, 2;
Gray Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 11; Raven, 79; Crow, 280;
B-c. Chickadee, 35; Boreal Chickadee, 18;
White-br. Nuthatch, 3; Red-br. Nuthatch, 17; Brown Creeper, 1;
Golden-cr. Kinglet, 70; (Ruby-cr. Kinglet); Starling, 550;
H. Sparrow, 200; Grackle, 3; Cowbird, 150; Ev. Grosbeak, 24;
Pine Grosbeak, 2; Com. Redpoll, 2; Goldfinch, 13;
White-winged Crossbill, 10; Dark-eyed Junco, 38;
Tree Sparrow, 5; White-thr. Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 2.
Mary Geddes, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler).

HALIFAX WEST, Halifax Co., 21 December 1974.

82 species (+1 race) identified; about 19,539 individuals.

Com. Loon, 26; Red-necked Grebe, 7;
Horned Grebe, 7; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Gannet, 1;
Great Comorant, 151; Canada Goose, 100;
Black Duck, 153; Gr. Scaup, 15; Com. Goldeneye, 13;
Oldsquaw, 79; Com. Eider, 2; White-winged Scoter, 7;
Surf Scoter, 192; Black Scoter, 16; Hooded Merganser, 1;
Red-br. Merganser, 33; Goshawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1;
Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1 1 mm.;
Merlin, 1; Kestrel, 2; Pheasant, 1; Purple Sandpiper, 39;
Iceland Gull, 7; Gr. B-b. Gull, 465; Herring Gull, 2559;
Ring-billed Gull, 3; Black-headed Gull, 8;
Black-legged Kittiwake, 1; Razorbill, 1; Com. Murre, 1;
Dovekie, 4; Black Guillemot, 9; Rock Dove, 1868;
Mourning Dove, 3; Great Horned Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 1;
H. Woodpecker, 13; D. Woodpecker, 29;
Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker, 3; Horned Lark, 1;
Gray Jay, 2; Blue Jay, 215; Raven, 15; Crow, 364;
B-c. Chickadee, 53; Boreal Chickadee, 81;
White-br. Nuthatch, 4; Red-br. Nuthatch, 18;
Brown Creeper, 3; Robin, 22; Hermit Thrush, 1;
Golden-cr. Kinglet, 365; Ruby-cr. Kinglet, 3;
Northern Shrike, 6; Starling, 9269;
Black-and-white Warbler, 1; (Orange Cr. Warbler);
Yellow-rumped Warbler, 20; Pine Warbler, 1;
Palm Warbler, 3; Yellow-throat, 1; Yellow br. Chat, 2;
House Sparrow, 2002; E. Meadowlark, 2;
Red-winged B'bird, 7; (Rusty Blackbird); Com. Grackle, 18;
Cowbird, 376; E. Grosbeak, 226; Pine Grosbeak, 5;
Pine Siskin, 3; Goldfinch, 172;
Savannah Sparrow, 6 (Ipswich, 1); Dark-eyed Junco, 289;
Tree Sparrow, 39; Chipping Sparrow, 1;
White-thr. Sparrow, 47; Swamp Sparrow, 2;
Song Sparrow, 59; Snow Bunting, 6.

Observers: Ross Anderson, Roger Burrows,
Hazel Carmichael, Margaret Clark, Molly Clayden,
John and Chris Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs (compiler),
Ralph Conner, Ethel Crathorne, Ben Doane,
Sylvia Fullerton, David and Linda Gray, Mac and
Mary Gray, Phyllis and Ward Hemcon, Barbara Hinds,
Anne Linton, Ian McLaren, Bruce Mactavish, Harding Moffatt,
Joe Mortenson, Roger Pocklington and 17 others
at feeders.

HALIFAX EAST, Halifax Co., 14 December 1974.

82 species (+1 race) identified; about 6973 individuals.

Com. Loon, 39; Red-thr. Loon, 1;
Red-necked Grebe, 9; Horned Grebe, 28;
Great Comorant, 2; Great Blue Heron, 7;
Canada Goose 700; Black Duck, 345;
Green-winged Teal, 1; Gr. Scaup, 30;
Com. Goldeneye, 58; Bufflehead, 63; Oldsquaw, 178;
White-winged Scoter, 226; Surf Scoter, 5;
Black Scoter, 32; Hooded Merganser, 1;
Com. Merganser, 39; Red-br. Merganser, 131;
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Rough-legged Hawk, 1;
Bald Eagle, 3 a; Marsh Hawk, 2; Merlin, 1;
Kestrel, 1; Spruce Grouse, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 7;
Killdeer, 1; Black-bellied Plover, 1;
Purple Sandpiper, 12; White-rumped Sandpiper, 2;
Iceland Gull, 1 imm; Gr. B-b. Gull, 188; Herring
Gull, 883; Ring-billed Gull, 68; Black-headed Gull; 23;
Dovekie, 1; Rock Dove, 28; Mourning Dove, 3; Kingfisher
3; H. Woodpecker, 3; D. Woodpecker, 11; E. Kingbird, 1;
Horned Lark, 67; Gray Jay, 8; Blue Jay, 100;
Raven, 47; Crow, 298; B-c. Chickadee, 147;
Boreal Chickadee, 73; White-br. Nuthatch, 9;
Red-br. Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 8;
Winter Wren, 1; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Robin, 4;
Golden-cr. Kinglet, 234; Ruby-cr. Kinglet, 4;
Water Pipit, 1; Starling, 1840; Yellow-rumped Warbler,
24; Palm Warbler, 3; House Sparrow, 414;
Northern Oriole, 1; Com. Grackle, 1; Cowbird, 18;
Dickcissel, 1; Ev. Grosbeak, 32; Purple Finch, 9;
Pine Grosbeak, 4; Pine Siskin, 8; Goldfinch, 149;
Red Crossbill, 2; W-w. Crossbill, 5;
Savannah Sparrow, 43 (+2 Ipswich); Dark-eyed Junco, 151;
Tree Sparrow, 28; White-thr. Sparrow, 24; Swamp Sparrow
12; Song Sparrow, 48; Snow Bunting, 1.

Observers: Ross Anderson, Dick Brown,
Shirley Brothers, Roger Burrows, Hazel Carmichael,
Margaret Clark, Molly Clayden, Chris, John and Shirley
Cohrs, Ralph Conner, Frances Cook, Eric Cooke,
Ethel Crathorne, Ben Doane, Sylvia Fullerton,
Bob Lambertson, Ann Linton, Don MacDougall,
Ian McLaren (compiler), Bruce MacTavish, Willet Mills,
~~Joe~~ Mortenson, Sandra Myers, Roger Pocklington,
Blair Stevens.

BRIDGETOWN, Annapolis Co., 17 December 1974.

43 species identified; about 1213 Individuals.

Com. Loon, 4; Red-thr. Loon, 4;
Red-necked Grebe, 2; Horned Grebe, 2; Gr. Cormorant, 4;
G.B. Heron, 2; Mallard, 3, Black Duck, 84;
Com. Goldeneye, 26; Bufflehead, 3; Oldsquaw, 15;
Com. Eider, 5; White-winged Scoter, 82; Surf Scoter, 47;
Black Scoter, 45; Com. Merganser, 4; Red-br. Merganser, 12;
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 3;
Rough-legged Hawk, 3; Bald Eagle, 1 a; Marsh Hawk, 1;
Gr. B-b. Gull, 7; Herring Gull, 92; Rock Dove, 47;
H. Woodpecker, 2; D. Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 63;
Raven, 32; Crow, 240; B-c. Chickadee, 17;
White-br. Nuthatch, 2; Starling, 127; H. Sparrow, 170;
N. Oriole, 1; Grackle, 4; Cowbird, 1; Ev. Grosbeak, 24;
Purple Finch, 5; Pine Grosbeak, 5; Goldfinch, 3;
Dark-eyed Junco, 2; Tree Sparrow, 14.

Observers: Ross Anderson, W. E. Chambers, Helen Clark, Chris Cohrs, J. F. Doig, Sue Goodwin, Marion Graves, Terrance Hyson (compiler) Bob Lamberton, Ruth Little, Bruce Mactavish, Wilfred Marshall, Mrs. D. D. Mcfee, Eric Morris, Mrs. Nickerson, Jesse Saunders.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Annapolis Co., 18 December 1974.

39 Species identified; about 1907 individuals.

Com. Loon, 2; Red-thr. Loon, 1;
Great Cormorant, 7; Black Duck, 135;
Gr. Scaup, 16; Com. Goldeneye, 2; Bufflehead, 14;
Oldsquaw, 5; Com. Eider, 1;
White-winged Scoter, 7; Surf Scoter, 5;
Black Scoter, 9; Rd-br. Merganser, 4;
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1;
Rough-legged Hawk, 2; Merlin, 1; Kestrel, 2;
Ruffed Grouse, 3; (Pheasant): Glaucous Gull, 1;
Gr. B-b. Gull, 32; Herring Gull, 455;
Thick-billed Murre, 2; Rock Dove, 2;
Short-eared Owl, 6; Downy Woodpecker 4;
Gray Jay, 1; Blue Jay, 39; Raven, 48; Crow, 610;
B-c. Chickadee, 9; (Robin); Starling, 215;
House Sparrow, 124; (Com. Grackle); Cowbird, 118;
Com. Redpoll, 12; Savannah Sparrow, 1;
Tree Sparrow, 4; Snow Bunting, 4.

Observers: Calder Fraser (compiler), David Reid,
W.E. Whitehead.

CHESTER, Lunenburg Co., 26 December 1974.

29 species identified; about 440 species.

Com. Loon, 3; Red-necked Grebe, 2;
Black Duck, 1; Oldsquaw, 28; Kestrel, 1;
Gr. B-b. Gull, 2; Herring Gull, 24; Dovekie, 2;
Black Guillemot, 2; Rock Dove, 2; Mourning Dove, 3;
Kingfisher, 1; D. Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 26;
Raven, 2; Crow, 17; B-c. Chickadee, 35; White-br. Nuthatch, 2;
Robin, 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet, 3; Starling, 12;
Yellow-rumped Warbler, 1; H. Sparrow, 56; Cowbird, 100;
Ev. Grosbeak, 27; Goldfinch, 10; Dark-eyed Junco, 44;
White-thr. Sparrow, 26; Song Sparrow, 6.

Observers: Margery Bell, Nora Bell, Mrs. Tom
Cornelius, Miss C. E. Crooks, Shirley Fowke, Bruce,
Florence, Lief and Martin (compiler) Haase, Ruby Pulsifer.

BROAD COVE, Lunenburg Co., 28 December 1974.

75 Species identified; about 3618 individuals.

Com. Loon, 28; Red-thr. Loon, 4;

Red-necked Grebe, 22; Horned Grebe, 73; (G.B.Heron);

Great Cormorant, 16; Canada Loon, 27; Mallard, 2;

Black Duck, 45; Pintail, 2; Greater scaup, 98;

Com. Goldeneye, 174; Barrow's Goldeneye, 2;

Bufflehead, 35; Oldsquaw, 215; Harlequin Duck, 21;

Com. Eider, 75; White-winged Scoter, 5; Surf Scoter, 3;

Black Scoter, 51; Hooded Merganser, 1;

Com. Merganser, 2; Red-br. Merganser, 85; Goshawk, 1;

Red-tailed Hawk, 4; Rough-legged Hawk, 5; Merlin, 1;

Kestrel, 7; Spruce Grouse, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 6; Pheasant, 1;

Killdeer, 1; Whimbrel (European), 1; Purple Sandpiper, 59;

Dunlin, 2; Gr. B-b. Gull, 194; Herring Gull, 1011;

Dovekie, 6; Black Guillemot, 11; Rock Dove, 17;

Great Horned Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 3; (Flicker);

H. Woodpecker, 3; D. Woodpecker, 1; Gray Jay, 3;

Blue Jay, 19; Raven, 40; Crow, 207; B-c. Chickadee, 43;

Boreal Chickadee, 27; Red-br. Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 9;

Robin, 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet, 141; Ruby-cr. Kinglet, 3;

(Northern Shrike); Starling, 157; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 53;

Palm Warbler, 1; H. Sparrow, 70; Cowbird, 43;

Ev. Grosbeak, 38; Purple Finch, 3; Pine Grosbeak, 1;

Pine Siskin, 7; Goldfinch, 55; Red Crossbill, 5;

White-winged Crossbill, 18; Savannah Sparrow, 13;

Dark-eyed Junco, 227; Tree Sparrow, 13; Chipping Sparrow, 1;

White-thr. Sparrow, 26; Swamp Sparrow, 35; Lapland Longspur, 4;

Snow Bunting, 16.

Observers: Chris, John and Shirley Cohrs,

Eric Cooke, B. K. Doane, Matthew Dryden, Sylvia Fullerton

(compiler), Barbara Hinds, Ann Linton, Ian McLaren,

Bruce Mactavish, W. J. Mills, Margaret Monks, Doris Ramey,

Neillie Snyder, Elizabeth and John Thorpe, Stuart Tingley.

BRIER ISLAND, Digby Co., 16 December 1974.

58 Species identified; about 28,414 individuals.

Com. Loon, 59; Red-thr. Loon, 2;
Red-necked Grebe, 40; Horned Grebe, 16;
Great Cormorant, 150; Double-cr. Cormorant, 1;
Canada Goose, 9; Black Duck, 66;
Com. Goldeneye, 22; Bufflehead, 2; Oldsquaw, 298;
Com. Eider, 534; White-winged Scoter, 13;
Surf Scoter, 1; Black Scoter, 40;
Red-br. Merganser, 45; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1;
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 9;
Marsh Hawk, 1; Kestrel, 1; Pheasant, 2;
Purple Sandpiper, 82; Gr. B-b. Gull, 408;
Herring Gull, 755; Black-legged Kittiwake, 25,117;
Razorbill, 2; Com. Murre, 1;
Thick-billed Murre, 118; Dovekie, 8;
Black Guillemot, 65; H. Woodpecker 3;
Horned Lark, 6; Blue Jay, 7; Raven, 9;
Crow, 164; B-c. Chickadee, 3;
Boreal Chickadee, 24; White-br. Nuthatch, 1;
Robin, 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet, 33;
Ruby-cr. Kinglet, 1; Water Pipit, 3;
Starling, 100; House Sparrow, 60;
Eastern Meadowlark, 1; Red-winged B'bird, 2;
Rusty B'bird, 1; Grackle, 6; Cowbird, 20;
Ev. Grosbeak, 65, Purple Finch, 6; Com. Redpoll, 2;
Goldfinch, 16; Dark-eyed Junco, 1; Tree Sparrow 4;
Chipping Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 3.

Observers: Ross Anderson (compiler), Chris Cohrs,
Ralph Conner, Bob Lamberton, Bruce Mactavish.

KEJIMKUJIK National Park, Queens Co., 15 December 1974

29 species identified, about 745 individuals.

(Great Blue Heron); Black Duck, 2;
Com. Goldeneye, 7; Goshawk, 1; accipiter sp., 1;
Red-tailed Hawk, 5; Ruffed Grouse, 15; (Pheasant);
(Barred Owl); Kingfisher, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 2;
H. Woodpecker, 6; D. Woodpecker, 6; (Black-backed 3-toed
Woodpecker) Gray Jay, 3; Blue Jay, 42; Raven, 16;
Crow, 10; B-c. Chickadee, 145; Boreal Chickadee, 26;
White-br. Nuthatch, 7; Red-br. Nuthatch, 12;
Brown Creeper, 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet, 86; Starling, 1;
H. Sparrow, 5; blackbird sp., 3; (Ev. Grosbeak);
Purple Finch, 1; Pine Grosbeak, 61; Pine Siskin, 119;
Red Crossbill, 15; White-W. Crossbill, 10; crossbill sp.40;
finch sp., 74; Dark-eyed Junco, 3; (White-thr. Sparrow);
Snow Bunting, 11.

Observers: Norm Bowers, Thelma Bowers,
Gary Corbett, Mac Estabrooks, Roxie Ford, Lorraine Hope,
Peter Hope (compiler), Bill Hussey, Carolyn Lunn,
Simon Lunn, Larry Neily, Helen McGloin,
Alex McLeod, Marie McLeod, Eric Mullen, Ben Roper.

YARMOUTH, Yarmouth Co., 30 December 1974.

50 species indentified; about 5514 individuals.

Com. Loon, 8; Red-necked Grebe, 3;
Great Cormorant, 1; G.B. Heron, 3; Canada Goose, 2250;
Mallard, 2; Black Duck, 622; Com. Goldeneye, 79;
Bufflehead, 24; Oldsquaw, 62; Com. Eider, 4;
White-winged Scoter, 6; Com. Merganser, 1;
Red-br. Merganser, 16; (Sharp-shinned Hawk);
Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Bald Eagle, 1 a.; (Marsh Hawk);
hawk sp., 2; Ruffed Grouse, 1; (Pheasant);
Gr. B-b. Gull, 315; Herring Gull, 611; Ring-billed Gull, 18;
Black-headed Gull, 7; Rock Dove, 70; (Mourning Dove);
Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 2; Horned Lark, 19; (Gray Jay);
Blue Jay, 23; Raven, 24; Crow, 169; B-c. Chickadee, 35;
Boreal Chickadee, 2; (White-br. Nuthatch);
Red-br. Nuthatch, 3; (Mockingbird); Robin, 4;
Golden-cr. Kinglet, 16; Northern Shrike, 1;
Starling, 422; Yel-rumped Warbler, 25; House Sparrow, 102;
E. Meadowlark, 1; Red-winged B'bird, 3; N. Oriole, 1;
Grackle, 38; Cowbird, 355; (Ev. Grosbeak);
Pine Grosbeak, 6; Pine Siskin, 3; Goldfinch, 12;
Dark-eyed Junco, 23; Tree Sparrow, 1; White-thr. Sparrow, 29;
Song Sparrow, 9; Snow Bunting, 76.

Observers: C.R.K. Allen, M.B. Allen, Elizabeth Baker, Loran Baker, Hazel Cann, Eric Cooke, Edith Crosby, Phyllis Dobson, Bruce Haase, David Henry, Marie Henry, Marion Hilton, (compiler), Sylvia Hilton, Evangeline Killam, Jean Morse, Margaret Nickerson, Henry Ross, Celia Sollows, David Sollows, John Sollows.

CAPE SABLE, Shelburne Co., 28 December 1974.

29 species indentified; about 967 individuals.

Com. Loon, 4; Red-thr. Loon, 1;
Horned Grebe, 1; Gr. Cormorant, 3;
Black Duck, 5; Green-winged Teal, 2;
Com. Goldeneye, 3; Bufflehead, 8; Oldsquaw, 1;
Com. Eider, 355; White-winged Scoter, 12;
Black Scoter, 3; Red-br. Merganser, 3;
Killdeer, 2; Black-bellied Plover, 9;
Ruddy Turnstone, 2; Knot, 3; (Purple Sandpiper);
Sanderling, 3; Iceland Gull, 1 im.;
Gr. B-b. Gull, 102; Herring Gull, 400;
Dovekie, 1; Black Guillemot, 3;
Horned lark, 12; Raven, 1; Crow, 12;
Water Pipit, 2; (Palm Warbler); Cowbird, 6;
Savannah Sparrow, 1.

Observers: Betty J. Smith (compiler) and Beverley, Locke and Sidney Smith.

BOOK REVIEW

R.W. Tufts "Looking Back" Lancelot Press Ltd. (72 pages).

In "Looking Back" Dr. Robie Tufts has selected fifteen incidents in his career as Chief Federal Migratory Birds Officer for the Maritime Provinces. He received his appointment to this position just one year after the signing of the international Migratory Birds Treaty by the U.S.A. and Canada in 1916, and his responsibility was the enforcement of the Treaty's terms.

The majority of people in both the U.S.A. and Canada were at that time blissfully unaware that their countries had emerged from the pioneer era when game, fish and other resources were "limitless," and were already well into the period of diminishing returns. Any attempts to control the use or squandering of these resources was therefore met with fierce resentment and, often, active hostility.

Robie Tufts, young, fearless, conscientious and dedicated to the gospel of conservation, was very much in the front line of the conflict, and the reminiscences he has given us in this small book are vivid miniatures of those exciting days.

He writes frankly of the frustrations and exacerbations he suffered as a government servant, but balances this with flashes of his own delightful humour and colourful word-sketches of the varied characters with whom his work brought him in contact.

"Looking Back" is for anyone who enjoys a good yarn.

C.R.K.A.

It seems fitting to follow this review with Dr. Tufts' own account of how he first became interested in birds.

REMINISCENCES

When asked, as I frequently am, how I became interested in the study of birds, the answer is quite simple; my brother, Harold (Dr. H.F. Tufts, Port Mouton, Nova Scotia) older than I by five years, was my inspiration. But how his interest was awakened is more nebulous. In a recent discussion with him on

the subject he told me that as near as he can recall his interest in birds was first aroused when, as a very small boy, he watched hummingbirds as they came to a flowering shrub in our front yard on Acadia Street, in Wolfville. He told me how he used to be simply enchanted by their beauty, their form and grace of motion as they darted among the blossoms.

During early boyhood the difference of five years in age between brothers is meaningful but it diminishes as birthdays accumulate. Harold had a strong yen for the wide open spaces in which he spent much of his leisure time. I, eager to accompany him, was often allowed to tag along. On one of these hikes he took me over some very rough terrain. The going was difficult for one not far beyond the 'toddler' stage and I complained bitterly, half crying, "why do we have to go over such barren, forsaken places." He chided me good-naturedly and I'm quite sure I never complained thereafter when the going was bad. In later life the foregoing incident has frequently been recalled.

Harold knew the names of all the birds we saw and I was always eager to learn. Bird books in those far-off days were few and far between, but as evidence of paternal encouragement in his bird studies, Harold, at the age of 14, was presented with a copy of *The Land Birds of the United States and Canada*, by Montague Chamberlain. Dog-eared and tattered this volume still occupies a place in my library. But in such matters father wasn't always co-operative as will be revealed by my telling of an incident which occurred on May 3, 1896. Harold saw a strange bird in our garden. It was something brand new to him. He identified it as probably being a Purple Grackle and very much wanted to collect it for a specimen. He had by that time mastered the art of taxidermy. But it so happened that May 3, 1896, fell on a Sunday and the use of guns on the Sabbath, in our family, was not permitted. The bird was not seen thereafter and great was our disappointment. But the following year on April 11 two of them were seen, one of which Harold shot. For years this specimen was listed as 'Purple Grackle.' It was some considerable time later that we learned that it was a Bronzed Grackle.

Though my brother's interest in birds has persisted throughout his long life, its intensity waned when he finished his education at Acadia in 1900 (incidentally, he is the sole survivor of his Class) and left Wolfville soon after.

It was then that I seem to have taken over. He had taught me how to make a scientific bird-skin as well as how to prepare mounted specimens. An old snapshot appears herewith which reveals my first efforts. Aside from the 'famine-stricken' raven, the others, judging from present day standards, aren't too bad. Incidentally, my entire collection of mounted birds which rested in the Museum was lost in the fire which destroyed the old Acadia College Hall building on Nov. 2, 1920.

How I developed the habit of keeping records I do not recall but no doubt the idea was initiated by Harold. I have neglected to mention that as a teenager Harold began a scientifically prepared collection of birds' eggs. This soon became a joint project and was carried on by me long after he left. This collection was acquired by the Nova Scotia Museum about 1956 where it is still (1974) on display. When preparing specimens for such a collection, the matter of recording data for each set of eggs collected is imperative and it may well be that my persistence in keeping records throughout thus had its beginning.

In my late teens, after Harold had left home I received a letter from Harry Piers, Curator of the Provincial Museum in Halifax. He had heard of my interest in birds and invited me to call on him at the first opportunity. That was the beginning of a long and, for me, rewarding friendship. During the latter period of this relationship (Piers died in 1941) I recall that he was strongly of the opinion that I was the one to prepare the MS. for a comprehensive book on the birds of Nova Scotia. He had hoped to do it himself but realized that his general knowledge of the avifauna of Nova Scotia was too limited and his age was against him. In this connection as an encouragement, he promised to make available to me, at his death, his ornithological notes which extended far back and which, I later found, had been prepared most meticulously. The many references to "Piers" in my book (The Birds of Nova Scotia) which first was published in 1962 (2nd. edition, 1973) attest to the volume of the data which he supplied.

And to those beginners in bird study I cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of recording field notes. To do so may seem unimportant at the time but with the passage of years such notes may become invaluable to those who ultimately are in a position to make contributions to the general store of ornithological knowledge.

Robie Tufts

REGIONAL PARK FOR COLE HARBOUR/LAWRENCETOWN?

The Halifax-Dartmouth Regional Development Plan is now in effect. It has been "in the works" since 1970 when this metropolitan area was declared a growth centre. Many detailed plans were done including a "National Environment Survey of greater Halifax and Dartmouth" by wildlife and fishery biologists. Areas of special natural value were examined and recommendations made as to how the best of these places could be preserved as the cities expanded. Seven regional parks were proposed including two of special interest to Bird Society members. These are McNab's Island and a "coastal complete park" for Lawrencetown (Conrad's Beach) and Cole Harbour. The latter were rated unique on a regional or provincial scale - and N.S. Bird Society members would certainly agree. As Phyllis Dobson and Charlie Allen have pointed out in their invaluable booklet "Where to find the Birds in Nova Scotia": "The stretch of coast from Dartmouth to Chezzetcook combines in a small scope practically every kind of habitat found in the province." The easily accessible area would be attractive to the birding enthusiasts from the U.S., who in recent years have written from more than 26 states asking - where to find the birds in Nova Scotia. Somewhere in our metropolitan region we need an outdoor science school for children; Cole Harbour or Lawrencetown seem the obvious places.

The report of the Scientific Advisory Panel for the International Biological Program (1974) recommended, as one of the Ecological Reserves in the Maritimes, that the 86-acre Conrad Beach 'Island' should be preserved. "It is of exceptional interest, being the only known, little disturbed example of sand dune succession in Halifax County". It is also a place of rare beauty.

At a recent public hearing before the N.S. Environment Control Council several groups and individuals spoke up quite forcefully for the preservation of Conrad Beach.



LANDSCAPES AT CONRAD'S BEACH, LAWRENCETOWN.



This area is also of historic interest. On a bluff overlooking the "island" was a palisaded blockhouse, built in 1755 to protect the new settlers of the township of Lawrencetown from the Indians who frequented the area. Charles Morris, the first British surveyor on the scene reported in 1752 the ruins of Acadian dwellings at Lawrencetown. On all counts it seems to be in the public interest that Conrad Beach should be preserved as a natural area. It is extremely vulnerable to development. However the Regional Plan is, as stated in the introduction, "essentially a control document". Implementation lies with the 3 municipalities. This proposed regional park is under the jurisdiction of Halifax County. In order to secure these vital places from development it may be necessary to seek the status of "Open Landscape Conservation District" for them while pressing the government for acquisition.

Conrad Beach is just not expendable. In future Newsletters we hope that members across the province will share with us descriptions of their favourite birding areas. Eric Cook, who knows Conrad Beach so well, has promised to write about it - and its birds.

Rosemary Eaton

SPRING MORNING AT COLE HARBOUR



Cole Harbour's Canada Geese flying above the Halifax County

Hospital lands - designated as 'park' in the Regional Plan.

As far as skiers are concerned it has been a "dream" winter. This morning it was 10° at dawn*. The brilliant spring sunshine is opening up the

* Old style temperature. Celsius had not yet been adopted.

blue waters of Cole Harbour. I went trail ski-ing along the shore where there are all kinds of hidden coves and snow-covered cattail swamps where the warm sun is opening the streams. Last year's rose hips are still scarlet against the snow. Out on the harbour there are now about 2000 Canada Geese, small flocks of Black Duck and a few Mergansers and Goldeneye. The first flock of geese, numbering about 650+, flew in from the south on the last day of February. It was good to hear them again. We have lived beside the harbour for 11 years now, and this was the first early spring that there were no geese left from the winter flock. Until this year we would always hear them when there was a wind from the north. During the last few winters, and this one particularly, the geese were very hard-pressed by night poachers during the hunting season. To the disgust of law-abiding hunters and bird watchers a few poachers made a regular (and lucrative) business of night hunting. Snowmobiles and all-terrain- vehicles are appearing on the harbour ice at night. Urban sprawl is flowing relentlessly over the former agricultural land of Cole Harbour, and onward to Lawrencetown. Development means sewage disposal, siltation from construction and storm sewers - all likely to speed the filling in of the shallow salt marshes. It means possible loss of wildlife habitats and the present values of the harbour for outdoor recreation - which includes bird watching - and hunting. The government has been pressed by many organizations to control heavy development in these sensitive places and to implement the green belt proposed in the Regional Plan. To its great credit the Department of Lands and Forests has already set aside Flying Point in Cole Harbour which will remain a wild area and give some protection to the migrating goose flocks and other waterfowl and wildlife. It is urgent that the rest of the greenbelt be secured.

On this sparkling March morning it was impossible to think of the 100,000 human neighbours predicted for this area by planners. The only sounds to be heard were the murmuring geese, and the call of an occasional Black Duck, crow or gull. Somewhere in the woods a man was using an axe. In the powder snow there were the fresh paw marks of squirrel, rabbit, fox, mink - and the slide marks of an otter. The footprints of a large bird skirted an open spring and the frantic zigzag marks of a mouse traced its efforts to escape its hunter - perhaps an owl? The Bald Eagle was on the "Eagle Tree". It was hard to believe that this Cole Harbour wilderness was only 15 minutes from downtown Dartmouth - what other provincial capital is as fortunate?

Rosemary Eaton

WHAT PRICE WRECK COVE?

The government of Nova Scotia is undertaking a hydroelectric project, to be located on Cape Breton Island, which promises about a five per cent increase in potential energy for the province, at the cost of around a hundred million dollars.

There are those of us in Nova Scotia who believe the cost to be too high, not in dollars, but because of the inevitable disturbance of the interior tableland south of the Highlands National Park. This terrain has intrinsic value due to its primitive nature; and its tundra-like bogs give rise to a number of our most prized rivers and streams.

For any who have not a clear idea of what we may be losing, the following

description of that queen of rivers, the Margaree, is herewith appended. Multiply this by four or five, and think carefully if it is worth the price to say good-bye to this really priceless heritage.

Ed., N.S.B.S.

- - - - -

The Northeast Margaree water was, a few short years ago - and doubtless still is - one of the few truly primitive streams left in Nova Scotia. Its little source brooks and lower tributaries rise in the high tableland, the fir forest and tundra-like country of the interior - virgin territory whose store of cool soil water held in the deep humus of ages, hardly fluctuates with the changes of weather or seasons.

The streamlets that feed and form the young river - the North Branch, the Colum Ruadh, Coinneach, First and Second Forks Brooks, are as cool in August as in May, and so crystal clear that the bottom of the Second Forks Pool, ten feet down seems just knee-deep.

The flow is steady; no summer drought bares gravel bars smudged with streaks of dead water moss, as are seen in those streams where civilization has had its way. No spring floods uproot the riverside trees and shrubs or scour out the spawning beds of the salmon and sea trout.

The river flows between the intersecting teeth of the high tableland, one bank hugging a great rocky cape, the other curving into a small wooded flat where great maples and hemlocks form small sanctuaries of virgin forest.

These flats and capes alternate along the river's course, so that the traveller upstream must continually cross from bank to bank wading the knee-deep icy water of the rapids.

In the clear pools between he can see his quarry - the gray ghostly shapes of salmon hanging poised where the current of the inflow smooths and dies.

It is a gentle river winding between its bluffs and glades. No turbulent rapids nor frothing falls mark its course. It is old as rivers go, and has worn and smoothed its stones through countless ages. But for all its age, it has kept its youth, and its clear cool stream is one of the few reminders we still have of the time when this land was young and fresh and clean and unspoiled.

Charles R.K. Allen

SHOREBIRD COLOUR-MARKING 1975

In 1975, the Canadian Wildlife Service plans to carry out extensive banding and colour-marking of shorebirds in James Bay and possibly the Maritime Provinces in eastern Canada. In addition, ongoing programmes of research involving colour-marking of shorebirds are being carried out by the Manomet Bird Observatory, Massachusetts, and by the National Museum of Canada on Bathurst Island in the Canadian Arctic. Coloured leg bands and feather dyes will be used to mark the birds. Your assistance in looking out for colour-marked birds would

be very much appreciated and would contribute very substantially to the success of these coordinated programmes in elucidating migration routes used by shorebirds on their journey south from the breeding grounds. Observers throughout eastern North America, the Caribbean Islands and northern South America are asked to look out for any such birds and to record details of: species, place, date, details of colour marks or bands - for coloured and standard metal leg bands record which leg the bands were on, the colours involved, and the relative position of the bands if more than one was on a leg (e.g. right leg, red above blue, etc.). For colour-dyed birds, record the colour and area of the bird that was dyed. Details should be sent to Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0H3. Thank you very much for any assistance you can offer us: all reports received will, of course, be fully acknowledged and details of the marking locations and dates sent.

INTERNATIONAL SHOREBIRD SURVEY

In 1974, the Canadian Wildlife Service initiated a Shorebirds Survey to identify and document areas of major importance to shorebirds in eastern North America. They hope to extend the survey in 1975 to cover as much of the eastern coast of North America as possible and are asking for volunteers to participate in the survey. This will involve adopting a good shorebird location or "study area" in which you could count or accurately estimate the numbers and species of shorebirds once every 10 to 14 days from early July until mid October. Areas could be covered on a individual basis or as a group project. If you are willing and able to participate in this survey, please write to:

Dr. R.I.G. Morrison
Canadian Wildlife Service
2721 Highway 31
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H3

LETTERS

Editor
NSBS Newsletter

The Eastern Bird Watcher who goes west very soon meets unfamiliar sights. When something flashes past his office window in Vancouver which is obviously a Blue Jay and equally obviously not a Blue Jay, he wonders - until he discovers the Steller's Jay with its black markings, instead of white. Or when he sees a Grosbeak which looks like the Eastern Evening, but is actually the Black-headed.

Or when walking down a major bus route on the campus of U.B.C, he encounters a pair of Killdeer feeding in the median. Or when he watches gulls which are Glaucous-winged, not Herring.

These are some of the things we encountered in southern B.C. this past summer. Among species we had never before met in the field were the Rufous-sided Towhee (Western race) with his morning call in the huge Western Pine outside the office, the Western Kingbird with his white outer tail feathers, and the Olive-sided Flycatcher with his "Whip Three Beers" call.

Half way between Hope and Princeton lies Manning Provincial Park, which

is Bird-watchers' paradise. A mountain Bluebird nests under the eaves of a park building, and a morning's fishing on the Lightning Lakes yields a Rufous Humming Bird nesting within arm's length of the trail, Orange-crowned Kinglets in profusion, Hermit Thrushes, a Spotted Sandpiper's family, a Pine Grosbeak tame enough to feed only six feet away, and a Western Wood Pewee which refused to be flushed off her nest by our presence. And all this in addition to Mountain and Boreal Chickadees, Oregon Junco and Audubon's and Townsend's Warblers, as well as Horned and Red-Necked Grebes.

The train between Winnipeg and Churchill is less than ideal for bird watching, but the Arctic Loon was unmistakable as was the Bald Eagle, the Stilt Sandpiper, the American Bittern and the Willow Ptarmigan.

We brought back a list of 56 definite identifications, of which 20 were first sightings. Small wonder we're going back to B.C. next summer.

Halifax, Nova Scotia
November 21, 1974

J.B. and A.M. Hardie

Editor
NSBS Newsletter

As you may be aware the Canadian Wildlife Service is continuing the Bald Eagle, Osprey and Peregrine Falcon Survey in the Maritime provinces in 1975. Much of the emphasis this year is to be placed on Nova Scotia. In connection with this, may I ask you kindly to bring this survey to the attention of the N.S.B.S. members through your Newsletter with a request for any information on:

- (1) Bald eagles sightings (with date, locations and maturity)
- (2) Bald eagle nests (with dates, locations and no. of young, if possible)
- (3) Osprey nests (with dates, locations and no. of young, if possible)
- (4) Osprey spring arrival dates

These can be sent to me at the address below. I am principal investigator in this work.

Your assistance in these matters is very much appreciated. Thank you.

The Maritime Forest Ranger School
R.R. #5, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 4X6
April 3, 1975

R.F. Stocek, Program Director
Fish & Wildlife Management

Editor
NSBS Newsletter

In January, as a birthday gift, I was given a membership in the N.S. Bird Society.

I note that the Cumberland area had, I think, one report in the Summer and Early Fall Seasonal Report, so am pleased to tell you of my bird watching.

In November a Long-eared Owl sat on our barnyard fence in broad daylight. Two crows came to harass him, but my (late) husband fired a warning shot at them and the crows flew away. Two Downy Woodpeckers have been busy in our crab-apple and maple trees since February, also the Black-capped Chickadees. Below the house, across the highway, is a coniferous swamp, Golden-crowned Kinglets have been there all winter. One sang on a fine sunny morning in early March. I heard a Song Sparrow on a late March day, but didn't see him. The Starlings returned on March 1st. Snow Buntings were drifting across the fields in February. Common Goldeneye have been in the river at the outlet of our lake, where the water remains open. The Robins have been here for two weeks. I believe they are the Newfoundland, or black-backed Robin because their breast is so very red. This morning the Juncos were busy - the first I've seen since last October. The dates of sightings are listed below:

Common Goldeneye	Jan. 22	Snow Bunting	Feb. 22
Long-eared Owl	Nov. 12	Black-capped Chickadee	Jan. 31
Blue Jay	Jan. 4	Starling	March 1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Jan. 31	Robins	March 23
Downy Woodpecker	Feb. 14	Juncos	April 3
Crows	every day		

Southampton, N.S.
April 4, 1975

Mrs. Harold Fullerton

Ed. We hope that Mrs. Fullerton will continue to send us notes from this oddly neglected part of the province. Members may also be interested and concerned over the practice of clear-cutting on Chignecto Game Sanctuary not far from Southampton. The following is a copy of a letter of protest sent to the Nova Scotia Ministry of Lands & Forests. (See page 60.)

BIRD SOCIETY NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held at the Nova Scotia Museum on December 7th, 1974. Thirty-two members attended. The President, Roger Pocklington, was in the chair.

The Treasurer, Hazel Carmichael, presented the Financial Statement for 1974. It showed a surplus of \$2,305.29, against \$620.90 for 1973; this was because the Society had received Nova Scotia Museum grants for both 1973 and 1974 during the period covered by the Statement.

The Treasurer also presented the Financial Statement for the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund. The assets now stand at \$4,505.85. She noted that donations from Society members in 1974 were three times greater than in 1973 and hoped that this trend would continue. The Trustees (C.R.K. Allen, Dr. L.B. Macpherson and W.J. Mills) were reappointed for another term.

The Membership Secretary, Ethel Crathorne, reported that this year's membership stood at 380 single, 96 family and 31 student subscriptions. 80 of these were new members; on the other hand, 150 people had not renewed their membership for 1974.

Edith MacLeod, President of the Cape Breton Branch, reviewed the Branch's

Wolfville, R.R. #2
Kings County, Nova Scotia
BOP 1X0

March 6, 1975

Dr. M. Delorey
Minister, Lands and Forests
Department of Lands and Forests
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Dr. Delorey:

I am writing you concerning the bowhunting season held at Chignecto, November 1-15. I want to thank your Department for this hunt and as for myself, I had a most enjoyable time there. I hope there will be more in the future.

I consider this to be a great way for the Department of Lands and Forests to increase recreational time with low impact on the wildlife in any area.

One concern I have is the extensive clearcutting being done at Chignecto. There is probably reason for this but at times it is highly dangerous to the wildlife at the Sanctuary. I have hunted at Chignecto since 1969 and have seen most species of wildlife in that time. The only pileated woodpecker I have seen in my travels in Nova Scotia has been at Chignecto where Sparks Brook Road joins the Goodwin Road (see map).

Every season I have travelled this area, sighting the pileated woodpecker and observing it. The problem is the extreme clearcutting being done in this area has reduced its range and environment to a limited space at the back of a 100 acre plus clearcut.

I would ask that your Department curtail cutting in this area until it can be established if future cutting would eliminate the woodpecker in this area. I would be willing to travel to Chignecto to observe the area with any of your biologists at any time to ensure this bird's survival.

I hope this matter can be acted upon before any future cutting is done and the damage is permanent.

Sincerely,

C. Perry Munro

c.c. - Nova Scotia Bird Society
1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia

activities during the past year.

In the absence of Phyllis Dobson, Editor-in-Chief, Dick Brown reported on the current status of the Newsletter and outlined changes in format and timing to be initiated in 1975.

In his report the President noted that new initiatives had been undertaken in broadening the Society's outlook in other aspects of natural history besides birds. He also announced a proposed check by the Society on the quality of the types of bird seed used at feeders. The Nova Scotia Department of Tourism had agreed to print a new check-list of Nova Scotia birds. He said that the Society had approached the Department of Transport for permission for members to visit Sable Island, but that this was still under review. He noted the success of the Society's exhibit in the foyer of the Nova Scotia Museum, and thanked Roger Burrows for the artwork he did for the display. Finally, he thanked the outgoing executive for a job well done in the past year.

The slate of officers for the coming year was presented and elected:

President	Bob Lamberton
Vice President	Tony Lock
Secretary	Margaret Clark
Treasurer	Hazel Carmichael
Membership Secretary	Ethel Crathorne
Editor	Phyllis Dobson (Dick Brown deputed to act in her absence)
Executive Committee members:	Eric Cooke
	Ross Anderson
	Edith MacLeod (Cape Breton member)
Honorary Auditor	Willett Mills
Honorary Solicitor	R.A. Kanigsberg

Bob Lamberton, the new President, then took the chair, and thanked the retiring President for the two years' service he had given to the Society. He hoped the incoming executive would be able to carry on the tasks of the past executive. He felt that the Society should place more emphasis in building a good public image and that he and the new executive should work towards this goal. He also felt that the Society should establish a Conservation Committee with a large representation from non-executive members, and he asked for volunteers to come forward.

The meeting ended with a talk by Dr. R.G.B. Brown of the Canadian Wildlife Service and based at the Bedford Institute. He spoke about the seabirds to be found offshore in Nova Scotian waters and talked about some aspects of their biology. He finished by describing the survey work carried out since 1969 by the PIROP seabird scheme in mapping the distributions of seabirds in the north west Atlantic, soon to be published in atlas form by the Wildlife Service.

A meeting of the local NSBS members was held in the Nova Scotia Museum on January 10th, 1975, with 75 members attending. Bob Lamberton, our new President, opened the meeting with remarks and announcements, and then the 1974 Puffin of the Year Award was presented to Willett Mills by Eric Cooke (see following item). Next came a showing of members' slides - a popular annual event. These were of exceptionally high quality. Most were of birds - some rare, some

common, all interesting - but others were of subjects as diverse as beach grass, spiders, flying squirrels, deer and rock formations. After the President's closing remarks, coffee was served and members socialized.

WILLETT MILLS: 1974 PUFFIN OF THE YEAR AWARD

In presenting the award to Willett Mills, Eric Cooke said:

"The Puffin of the Year Award was established a few years ago to provide a method of honouring members or others outside the Society for outstanding service in the interests of the Society, of the birds of the province, or conservation matters. The 1974 Puffin will be presented to one of our founding members, Mr. Willett Mills.

"In these days when there is a feeling among many of our members that the Society should broaden its range of interests beyond the study of birds to include other facets of nature, it's particularly appropriate that we remember the founders and early members who built the Society into what it is today - an active and respected organisation. Some of the newer members might be interested in a brief review of the Society's origins.

"The founders of the Society were four of the best known and respected birders of the province: Robie Tufts, author of "Birds of Nova Scotia" and other books, who was the first President; Willett Mills, the first Secretary-Treasurer; Harrison Lewis, also a former President, and former head of the Canadian Wildlife Service; and C.R.K. Allen, another former President, now retired and living at Yarmouth but still an active birdwatcher.

"These four arranged the first organisational meeting of the Society on January 26th, 1955 - just 20 years ago; a meeting attended by about 100 people, of which 46 paid their first year's dues (\$1.00 per year) that very night. By the end of March that year, 155 members had paid dues and these were declared Charter Members of the Society. It's interesting to find that about 50 of these are still members, including Phyllis and Ward Hemeon, Ethel Crathorne our Membership Secretary, Mr. Kanigsberg our solicitor, Phyllis Dobson long-time Editor of the Newsletter, Fred Lane, Mrs. Monies, and Calder Fraser - to name just a few. All of the Founders and Charter Members have played a part, each in his or her own way, in building the Society.

"The Society was incorporated in 1957 and continued to grow.

"In 1968, the Society established a Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund to provide a tax-free organisation to control and administer sanctuaries for seabirds, thus offering protection during the nesting and fledging season. Since then the Fund has acquired title through lease or purchase to ten islands along the coast: Hertford Island in Cape Breton, several islands along the Eastern Shore, and others in the Tusket group off Yarmouth County.

"The Society has grown from the original 46 members who paid dues at that first meeting to over 600 members today. During all these years Willett Mills has been an active birder - he was banding birds on Brier Island before most of us had even heard of the place - and served the Society in many ways. He was the first Secretary-Treasurer, he has been on the Board of Trustees of the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund since its beginning, and has served as

Auditor for about eight years. He is also well known throughout the area as one with a keen interest in birds, so he gets many calls at home and at his store from people wanting to report or ask about some bird they've seen, or an injured bird in their garden. One time he was asked to care for a large bird that flew aboard a ship at sea and was brought back to port. If you're ever in the same position and need help, call for Willett Mills. He's the only man I know of who ever carried a Great Blue Heron off a ship. What a picture that would make!

"Willett, would you please come forward and accept this 1974 Puffin of the Year Award."

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meetings were held on January 10th, February 11th, March 14th, and April 8th, 1975. Highlights of the topics discussed were:

- a) Dr. Tony Lock's schedule of proposed field trips for the NSBS during the coming field season.
- b) Increased publicity for the Society, including a proposed poster describing the Society's activities, and the possibility of some kind of information centre, perhaps based on the Museum.
- c) The setting up of the new Conservation Committee (under the chairmanship of Miss Ann Linton) and its first assignment in cooperation with the Ecology Action Centre: a report on the proposed Wreck Cove Hydroelectric Project.
- d) The preparation of a new Nova Scotia checklist by Dr. Roger Pocklington, to be published by the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism.

Current Financial Statement: April 8th, 1975

November 1st, 1974: on hand \$2,144.29

RECEIPTS

Dues	\$1,864.00	
Publications	20.00	
Miscellaneous	7.50	
		<u>\$1,891.50</u>
		\$4,035.79

EXPENDED

2 Newsletters	\$1,436.84	
Postage	188.07	
Affiliation Dues	34.00	
Cape Breton Branch share of dues	49.00	
Advance for Museum exhibit	50.00	
Miscellaneous	51.90	
		<u>\$1,809.81</u>
April 8th, 1975: on hand		\$2,224.98

Current membership status:

240 Single, 77 Family and 14 Student subscriptions.

THE NEW CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

A recent development in the Bird Society has been the setting-up of the Conservation Committee, in early February of this year. The proposed objective of the Committee will be to reflect the Society's interests in matters concerning our wilderness and wildlife, representing as often as possible our primary focus on birds.

The Committee's first publication on the Wreck Cove Hydro Project responded to such an expressed interest. However, it does not set a precedent for the length, format, or subject material of future efforts. It is hoped that Society members will guide the Committee in these matters, so that informative publications can be provided to the members on a variety of subjects of particular interest to them.

What we on the Committee need now (besides more Committee members, which presently number four!) are ideas, suggestions and opinions from you, the members, on subject material for future projects and advice on Committee organization. For instance, some interest has been shown in investigating the effects of growing numbers of Herring Gulls on our seabird colonies, a question which could possibly be researched by the Conservation Committee for the information of the Society's members.

Therefore we would welcome hearing your thoughts on this and other subjects of interest to you which would contribute to the close association between the members and this committee which we feel is most desirable.

Ann Linton
Chairman of Conservation Committee
c/o Department of Biology
Dalhousie University, Halifax

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Oct. 19, 1974: MacNab's Island

On Saturday, October 19th, 22 members of the N.S.B.S. made a field trip to MacNab's Island. Transportation to the island was provided by the Shearwater Yacht Club, in the form of a whaler towed by the Club's safety boat.

It was a fine day and 47 species of birds were found on the island. Highlights were a late Solitary Vireo, an early Purple Sandpiper, hundreds upon hundreds of Robins, Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks, 20+ White-rumped Sandpipers, and the first of the winter flocks of Evening Grosbeaks and American Goldfinches.

Ross Anderson

March 23, 1975: Cyril Coldwell's Eagle Feeder

The weather for this first field trip of the 1975 season was horrible - cold rain and blowing hard. In spite of this, at least 25 people turned up at the Gaspereau River Road, just west of Wolfville, to see Nova Scotia's largest and most unusual bird feeder. Every winter Cyril Coldwell baits the flats at the river's edge with slaughterhouse offal, and attracts Bald Eagles. His winter peak is up to 15 birds, and though they were now beginning to disperse, we had excellent views of four or five. There were also at least 25-30 Ravens, as well as Great Blackbacked Gulls and Crows.

There were two side attractions of considerable interest. Mr. Coldwell has been banding Ravens for the Canadian Wildlife Service for many years, and he showed us his trap in operation. Several of us discovered that a Raven's beak is just as strong as it looks. He also runs a hospital for injured Snowy Owls in his backyard - he was caring for two birds with broken wings which had been shot by hunters last fall, and these were almost ready to be released. They certainly had their appetite back; the contortions they went through in swallowing dead cowbirds whole had to be seen to be believed.

Finally, Mr. Coldwell invited us in to warm up in his kitchen, showed us his impressive taxidermy collection, and described the results of his Raven banding program. In short, an excellent start to the new field season.

Dick Brown

Field Trips - 1975

This year our field trip schedule is fuller than usual and it is our hope that most members will find something of interest on the list. This year is also different in that we have had to limit attendance on some of the trips; if you are interested in any of the limited attendance trips, be sure to register with the contact man as soon as possible. However, if you do reserve a place on one of these trips and find out later that you are unable to go, be sure to cancel your reservation so that another person can go in your place.

We have organized several trips in co-operation with agencies such as the Wildlife Service and the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests. The field plans of these agencies have not yet been finalized and the exact dates and times cannot be set this far in advance. Because of this, a contact man has been appointed for each trip who will have all the latest information on dates and arrangements.

Some people may be deterred from going on trips because of transportation difficulties. If you have no way of getting out, phone the contact and he (or she) may be able to arrange a lift for you. Of course, if you have extra space in your car and are prepared to carry a passenger, tell the contact also.

If you have any problems regarding field trips, please phone:

Tony Lock 477-8135

OR

Ross Anderson

463-4188

March 23: Bald Eagles and Ravens

Leader: Cyril Coldwell. Meet: 10.00 Sunday morning - Gaspereau River Road. Mr. Coldwell has Nova Scotia's most spectacular bird feeder with as many as a dozen eagles and over a thousand ravens in attendance.

April 26: Shubenacadie Wildlife Park

Meet: 08.00 at the park. Waterfowl are the main attraction at the Wildlife Park but, in addition, would-be photographers can gain advice and guidance from Ralph Connor who is leader and contact man.

May 3: Eastern Shore

Leader: Eric Cook. A hunt for migrants with the guidance of a man who knows this area even better than its inhabitants. Meet at Dartmouth Holiday Inn at 08.00.

May 10: Migrants

Leader: Ross Anderson. Route to be decided on May 10 - but will probably be MacNab's Island. If so, there will be a very small boat rental charge. Meet at Dartmouth Holiday Inn at 08.00.

May 31: Ye Olde Hants County Trip

This old standby is now under new management: Margaret Clarke and Ross Anderson. Those who have tried it, swear by it; if you haven't and want to, contact Margaret Clarke at 443-3993. Meet at Mount Uniacke Railway Crossing on Highway #1 at 08.00. Lunch at noon at Smiley's Interval.

Mid-May to Mid-June: Owling with Harry Brennan

At Hopewell near New Glasgow. There will probably be two trips limited to 8-10 people. Mr. Brennan has the happy knack of finding interesting birds' nests; he also maintains several owl nest boxes. Contact Ross Anderson - 463-4188 - 90 Victoria Road, Dartmouth.

Mid-May to Mid-June: Sable Island

Date to be announced. Leaders to be announced. The Ministry of Transport has granted permission for a Bird Society Expedition. It is anticipated that groups of about six people can go for a week at a time for around \$180 (or less) a head. This is the cost of aircraft charter. Living conditions will be rough (very rough) and weather will be wet -- but there are Grey and Harbour

Seals, gulls, terns, migrants, and, of course, the Ipswich in its native haunts. There will probably be another trip or trips in the fall. There is likely to be some competition for seats for this trip -- only members may go. If you are seriously interested, send two stamped addressed envelopes to Heather Harbord, 18 Stephen Street, Dartmouth, who is contact for the Sable trips. If Heather is not available at 463-9115, you can also contact Tony Lock at 477-8135.

June 7: The Birds and Beasts of Kejie

On Saturday, June 7, the Park Naturalists will lead groups on trips through the park -- you freelance on Sunday. Reservations have been made for the group campground for Friday, June 6 - only 25 cents per person. Plan to spend Friday at the Park. If you can't, meet at the group campground at 08.00 on Saturday. Canoes can be rented if you want to make a weekend of it.

Mid-June: St. Paul's Island

There is a strong possibility that the Wildlife Service will be chartering a boat to St. Paul's to carry out a breeding bird survey. Limited accommodation. There is a further possibility of a charter in July -- probably over the long weekend. Details will be available three weeks to one month before each trip. Contact: Peter Eaton 455-2384, 6269 Edinburgh Street, Halifax.

June 12 or June 28: Scatari Island

The Provincial Department of Lands and Forests will be censusing Willow Ptarmigan here in late June and have offered us space on their boat. Needless to say, there is limited accommodation -- so to be sure of a place, contact Roger Pocklington, 196 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth - 469-3656.

Late July or Early August: Shorebird Banding with C.W.S.

The Wildlife Service will be rocket-netting shorebirds on the Bay of Fundy and they will be able to take a limited number of members interested in learning the mysteries of netting and banding shorebirds. C.W.S. will look after your bodily needs on this two-day affair; but it is a working party - not a picnic. Limited to 8 to 10 people. Contact Peter Eaton, 6269 Edinburgh Street, Halifax 455-2384.

August 2 and 3: Gros Morne National Park - Newfoundland

Our President, Bob Lambertson, will be doing bird surveys in the park all summer and is prepared to introduce members to its subtle wonders. Accommodations in the area can be quite cheap; but it is probably worth planning to take a week off to allow time for travel. Shorebirds, terns, and birds of the alpine rock barrens are promised. Contact Bob Lambertson, General Delivery, Rocky Harbour, Newfoundland, AOK 4N0.

August 30-31: President's Field Day

This year at Brier Island again. There will be land birds, of course, but on the pelagic trips, phalaropes, shearwaters, and whales (with luck). The Brier Island trip is one of the Society's most popular events and all who have never been are encouraged to try this year. Group camping at end of Peajack Road or anywhere else you care to pitch a tent. Meet at the cemetery each morning at 08.00. Cost of pelagic trip - about \$5 per person. Contact Ross Anderson 463-4188.

September 21: MacNab's Island Fall Migrants Trip

For transportation arrangements and meeting place, contact Ross Anderson (463-4188) one week in advance.

October 3: Night Duck Banding

Al Smith of the Wildlife Service will be catching ducks at night in the C.W.S. air boat at Louis Lake near Port Joli. If you want to learn the tricks of catching and banding waterfowl, here's your chance. Limit - 6-8 people. Contact Roger Pocklington, 106 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth, 469-3656.

October 19: Another MacNab's Island Trip

Leader and contact is Ross Anderson - 463-4188.

Possibly:

A late summer trip to Sable Island

A July trip to St. Paul's Island

A Thanksgiving trip to Seal Island

Call Tony Lock or Ross Anderson if interested.

CAPE BRETON BRANCH FIELD TRIPS

The Cape Breton Branch of the Nova Scotia Bird Society is planning several field trips this summer, and extends a cordial invitation to mainland members to join them.

May 17: Early Migrants

Meet at the Heavy Water Plant, Glace Bay, at 07.00.
Leader: George Spencer.

May 31: Warblers

Same rendezvous. Leader: Edith MacLeod.

June 7 or 14: Cape Breton Highlands

Along the Jack Pine Coastal Trail in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park. To be led by the Park Naturalist.

June 28: Hertford-Ciboux Bird Islands Boat Trip

Meet at Mountain View Lodge, Little Bras d'Or, at 08.30.
Leader: Hedley Hopkins.

June 19: Baddeck Area

Meet at Baddeck Post Office at 08.00. Leader: Mrs. Isobel McFarlane.

August 23: Framboise and Forchu Area

Meet at Marion Bridge Community Centre at 08.00. Leader: TBA.

September 20: Cheticamp Island

Meet near Armbridge Cabins (1 mile south of Cheticamp) at 09.00.
Leader: Hedley Hopkins.
They are also hoping to repeat the enjoyable field trip they made to the Mabou area last year, but as yet no details are available.
For further information call 862-2126 (New Waterford), 899-6301 (Glace Bay), or 465-7405 (Sydney).

NOVA SCOTIAN BIRD RARITIES IN PERSPECTIVE
PART IV. WARBLERS TO LONGSPUR

by I.A. McLaren

With the last part of this series, it is becoming clearly impossible to keep up-to-date. A few recent publications lend some more perspective to previous Parts. An excellent note by the McIntyres (1974) will help you distinguish Arctic from Common Loons in the field; the former almost never have 'spots before the eyes,' or eye-rings, even on close scrutiny. Wallace's (1974) paper on distinguishing 'stints' (our 'peeps') covers them all, and should help you if any of the four old-world species turns up. Les Tuck's (1974, 1975) opening notes on Newfoundland rarities provide interesting background to our own. He is up to herons in the latest issue, and makes it clear that we don't have a monopoly on interesting birds.

Phyllis Dobson has commented on the unlikelihood of Tufted Titmouse in the southeastern part of the province (see last Part). These mites are loathe to fly across water; so Amherst, eyes up!

Possibly the passerines dealt with in the following account offer more pleasures for the rarity seeker than do any other birds. Some are strikingly beautiful, and others challengingly obscure. I know I have spent many rewarding hours ferreting them out on Sable and Seal Islands and elsewhere.

Southern Warblers. A few of these occur as overshoots in spring, but more generally they appear as a northeast drift in late summer and fall. The PROTHONOTARY WARBLER has by now dazzled a number of Nova Scotian birders. The WORM-EATING WARBLER has been less frequent. In addition to the sighting by the Bells on Sable Island in October 1967, there are two previously unreported records. Chris Cohrs had a good look at one near Petite Riviere in the fall of 1969, and Davis Finch found one sitting in the collections of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The specimen was taken on Sable Island on 3 October 1902 and serves to make the bird 'official' with us. Our single record of SWAINSON'S WARBLER is unlikely to be duplicated soon. It has not otherwise been found closer to us than the vicinity of New York City. BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS are found slightly more often in our records than GOLDEN-WINGED. Please note that there is no photograph or specimen of the latter. I haven't heard of any hybrids to date, although they have been reported elsewhere in the northeast, especially in western Connecticut. The CERULEAN WARBLER has occurred very sparingly here. It is also uncommon as a stray throughout the northeast, where it breeds with regularity only in the Hudson Valley. It has nested in southern Quebec for some time, but evidently moved in along the St. Lawrence valley. YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS are more southern in general, but are also more coastal, which may explain their slightly greater frequency here compared with Ceruleans. Both PINE and PRAIRIE WARBLERS nest as near to us as central Maine, and are quite regular with us, especially the latter. The first Prairie Warbler in Nova Scotia was seen by the Lunnis at Louisburg on 21 September 1964, and well over 50 have been seen since, almost all on Sable and Seal Islands, and none to my knowledge in spring. Surely this indicates a change of status in the Prairie Warbler and not simply more intensive birding. The LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH and the KENTUCKY WARBLER have been seen about equally here. The latter seems to be increasing somewhat in the northeastern part of its breeding range. The YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT has long been the most regular of our southern warblers, and continues to astonish us and brighten our days in early winter. What happens to these birds, and why do they persist in this seemingly maladaptive behaviour? Finally, the HOODED WARBLER is also one of our most regular, and surely one of the most beautiful, of these disoriented southerners.

Western Warblers. Three *Dendroica* species on our list are true westerners: BLACK-THROATED GREY (3 records, 1 photographed), TOWNSEND'S (1 photographed), and "AUDUBON'S" (1 sight record). There are at least four or five records of each from New England in the last decade, and "Audubon's" has made N.B. and P.E.I. It is of interest that all of our records except for one Black-throated Grey on Seal Island in autumn are of spring birds on Sable Island. Furthermore, about one-third of New England records of these three species are also from spring or early summer. The CONNECTICUT WARBLER perhaps qualifies as a midwesterner, at any rate, although it evidently nested as near as northern Vermont in 1968. This skulker is formally hypothetical with us, and poses a nice challenge for one of our photographers some autumn day.

Western Meadowlark should be looked for. A pale bird in fall of 1973 might have been one. Observers should remember the 'chuk' note, sometimes given in fall, as a useful field mark.

Boat-tailed Grackle. It is a pity that none of our three occurrences were documented by photos. The Cape Breton bird in 1969 might even have stood out among the Starlings and Common Grackles with which it associated, in a box camera shot!

Western Blackbirds. The YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD has of course been known as a stray since the turn of the century, but BREWER'S BLACKBIRD is a much more recent addition to our list (2 photographic confirmations). It is true that Brewer's has been extending its range eastward recently, but it is also less easily identified, and may have been regular for some time.

Orioles. Among our NORTHERN ORIOLES, the "BULLOCK'S" has been claimed by some of us. The three or four 'good' female *bullockii* that I have seen have been very cleanly grey-backed, white-bellied, with lemon-yellow upper breasts and undertail coverts, and with no hint of orange on tails or rumps. I have seen other intermediate birds. I even had one very Bullock's-like bird in my garden last spring. Even so, it would be nice to see and photograph a nice adult male, like the one that turned up in April 1972 in Maine. If you're bored with listing ORCHARD ORIOLES you can reponder the apparent BLACK-COWLED ORIOLE seen by Ben Doane on Seal Island on 24 May 1971. This bird has not even occurred in southern U.S.A. To Ben's most admirable account (*Newsletter* 13: 79-82), one might add that his description and sketch fit the Bahamas race; among other West Indian races the black is said to extend farther down the chest (Bond, 1971).

Tanagers. Of our two reasonably regular southerners, the SCARLET Tanager may well be nesting. The SUMMER Tanager presumably never will. The WESTERN Tanager, which has turned up annually in the northeast for some years, has been recorded perhaps four times in Nova Scotia. Readers should be well aware, however, that young male Scarlet Tanagers sometimes have pronounced wingbars. The reliable character is the 'saddle' of the Western (Davis, 1972).

Cardinals are now on our breeding list, but it is too early to tell if they will consolidate their 1973 beachhead.

Black-headed Grosbeaks appear to have occurred four times in our province. The 1973 photographs (see *Newsletter* 16: 3) have been accepted as evidence by Earl Godfrey. It has been fairly regular in the northeast in recent years, with a sprinkling of spring birds, like one of ours. This species hybridizes with the Rose-breasted Grosbeak where their ranges meet, and some Rose-breasted may be quite buffy below. Look for yellow on the lower breast of any plumage and try to photograph this mark if you want to convince others; it is uniquely melanocephaline.

Painted Bunting. Among our southern finches, BLUE GROSBEAKS are fairly regular and INDIGO BUNTINGS more so; in fact, the latter may yet breed. However, we can also claim at least two probable PAINTED BUNTINGS. In addition to Christel Bell's sighting of a male on Sable Island, Charlie Allen has told me about his sighting of a small, all-green finch on Seal Island some years ago. This must surely have been of this species, but Charlie too-modestly held back from 'writing it up.' A few have occurred in southern New England, where they may sometimes be escaped, Mexican-caught cage birds. The only other Canadian record I know of is an alleged sighting in southern Ontario. The western LAZULI BUNTING could conceivably turn up some day; but be careful about wingbars, which may occur at least faintly on autumn Indigos.

House Finch. This westerner is now a thriving import on the Atlantic seaboard of the U.S., and has spread rapidly as far north as Portland, Maine. It should be watched for, and is readily distinguishable in all plumages from the

Purple Finch. So tune up.

Green-tailed Towhee. Our three spring sightings are among the 15 or more sightings from the northeast, almost all from heavily birded Massachusetts.

Lark Buntings, unlike LARK SPARROWS, are redletter birds, of which there seem to have been fewer in the northeast in recent years.

Grassland and Marsh Sparrows. These are often difficult. SEASIDE SPARROWS have become so regular, that enthusiasts might look into the possibilities of speculating about the races they might see; there are several distinct ones. GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS are proving quite regular on Seal Island and elsewhere in fall. Is this a change in status, or just better observing? LE CONTE'S SPARROW is a real news flash, here. It seemed to have earned acceptability, at least as a 'hypothetical,' by the sighting and capture of one (that escaped before being photographed) on Seal Island on October 6 last year by Ross Anderson, Pierre Béland, and Bruce Mactavish (discoverer). And mention could also be made of the sighting by Barbara Hinds of what she believes to have been this species at Broad Cove in September 1973. Certainly, Le Conte's is due. We are not too far from the eastern margin of its breeding range on the Saguenay, and there are records from the eastern seaboard, including a recent one from Massachusetts. HENSLow'S SPARROW, doubtfully recorded from Sable Island at the turn of the century, should be looked for. It has been seen recently in Maine, but has generally become rare as a breeding bird in the northeast.

Aimophila. This genus of tropical origin poses some problems for field identification, evidently. We have BACHMAN'S SPARROW on Betty-June Smith's (1972) Cape Sable list. But last spring's CASSIN'S SPARROW was tentatively identified in the field as Bachman's, only to be revealed in Sylvia ('Telephoto') Fullerton's fine photos as Cassin's. The only other Canadian record of Cassin's known to me was one photographed in southern Ontario some years ago. It may be significant that there was a major movement of this species northward last summer, involving nesting for the first time in Kansas.

Spizella. Among strays of this genus, the FIELD SPARROW has become routine. It has recently nested for the first time in N.B. Might it soon be breeding in some of those fine old-field habitats in the southwest of our province? The CLAY-COLOURED SPARROW has finally been seen - by the Smiths at Cape Sable. It has been fairly regular in parts of the northeast for some years, even in spring. It is just remotely possible (i.e., don't take this one even as hypothetical) that a small, pale, slender *Spizella*-like bird seen all-too-briefly by Eric Cooke and me on Seal Island three years ago was a BREWER'S SPARROW. It has occurred in Massachusetts. On a trip west two years ago, I was struck by the 'spookiness' of Brewer's compared with the more confiding, chippy-like behaviour of the Clay-coloured. Might be a useful alerting character for identification.

Western Zonotrichia. Three sightings, including one photo, of HARRIS'S SPARROW are about par for the northeast. The first was evidently at Evelyn Richardson's feeder in October 1969. The western 'GAMBELL'S' WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW has been seen a half-dozen times, and can add a little fillip to the pleasures of seeing the increasing numbers of white-crowns that have turned up in recent years. Of much greater interest is the far-western GOLDEN-CROWNED

SPARROW. The sighting by the Bells on Sable Island in October 1967 is one of the four or five in the northeast. The rather obscure immatures may slip by if you don't prepare for them from field guides.

Chestnut-collared Longspur. The specimen from Cape Sable and the sighting on Bon Portage Island are both from late May. It is interesting that the only other records from Atlantic Canada - one each from N.B. and Nfld. - are also from this season.

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POSTSCRIPT

To my great pleasure (and shame for being so remiss) I have only discovered Evelyn Richardson's "*Living Island*" (Ryerson, Toronto, 1965) after writing this series. I had read and enjoyed Mrs. Richardson's earlier books, but this one is for birders in general and especially for rarity seekers in particular. The book contains references to many unusual observations on Bon Portage Island, including numbers of provincial 'firsts' from pre-'*Newsletter*' days. Those requiring special mention here are the following. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, whose absence from our list I noted as a bit puzzling, was seen by Morrill Richardson in November, about 1950. Mrs. Richardson can evidently also claim our first (and only other) Grey Kingbird. She reports, not one as indicated by me previously, but two separate Vermillion Flycatchers as spring strays. These were seen by others, but she notes that the observer of the male individual knew his Scarlet Tanagers! Her account of a Bahama Swallow, surely unmistakable although identified by her retrospectively, seems to convert my prophecy of the last issue into a hindsight of sorts. And if you believe the Bahama Swallow, as I do, surely it is tempting to believe, as Mrs. Richardson does, in two reports of Mangrove Cuckoos given to her. Her lovely word for all these is the "Incredibles"; yet such strangers do occur on our offshore islands.

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