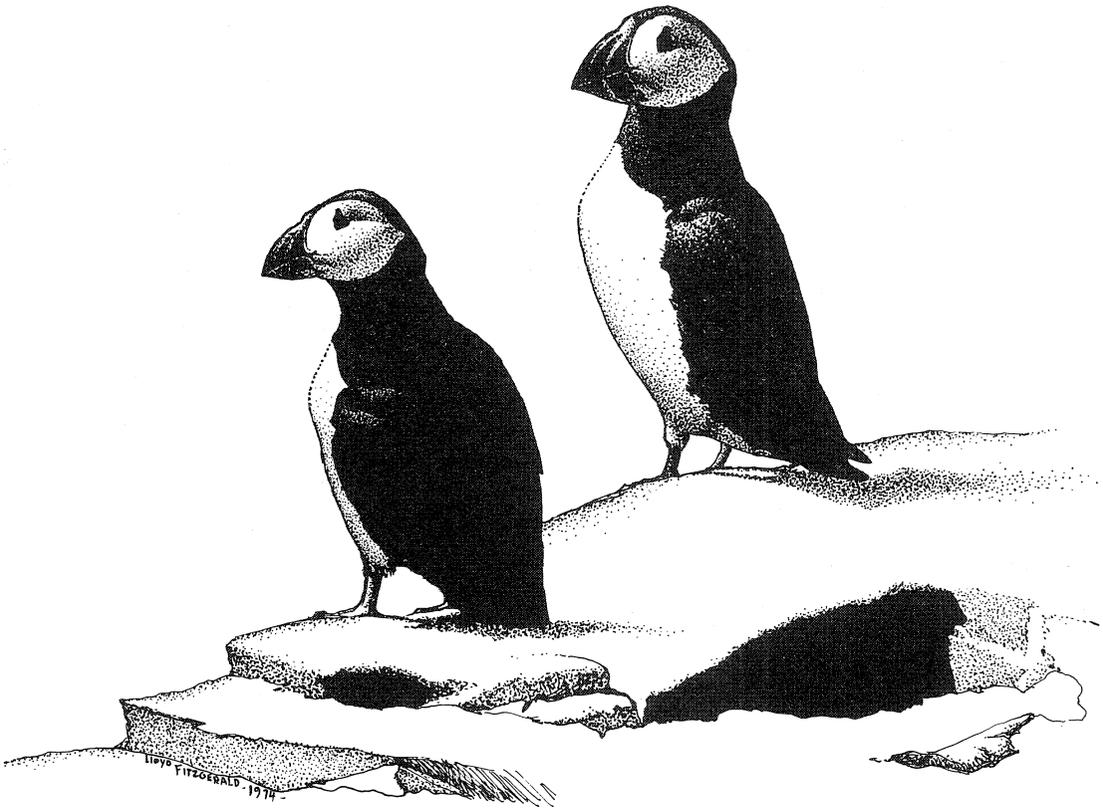


NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1976

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

SOMETHING MISSING.....?

In the past the Newsletter has published three issues in each volume, (i.e. in each calendar year). In 1974 there were only two issues. The third fell victim to a reorganization of publication dates in an attempt to make the Newsletter more topical by having each issue keyed to a major highlight of the birding year. Thus there will be three issues - January, May and July, featuring the Fall Migration, Christmas Counts and winter birds and Spring Migration respectively. In addition they will continue to contain articles, letters and Bird Society news. The deadline dates for all material will be November 30th (January issue), March 30th (May issue) and May 31st (July issue). An information flyer will be mailed out in the Fall, to inform members of upcoming events and early winter programmes.

Letters, comments, articles and items of interest to the membership are invited, including any complaints and criticisms which are aimed at improving N.S.B.S. or the Newsletter.

Please send bird sighting reports directly to Dr. P. R. Dobson, R.R.1, Ste. Anne du Ruisseau, N.S., BOW 2 X 0, and all other correspondence to the Managing Editor, c/o N. S. Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N.S.

DEADLINE FOR MAY ISSUE, - MARCH 30, 1976

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Migration Report Fall, 1975.



It is a good thing that the birds fly south for the winter, otherwise we would have had a very peculiar picture of our Fall migration this year. If our postal service is to remain undependable, the Nova Scotia Bird Society should bestir itself to introduce (and train) Carrier Pigeons. We have done the best we can with the reports which have come in, by one means or another, and have had good co-operation from the individuals which really matter - the birds themselves.

Ian McLaren wrote: "I have never seen a passerine movement in Halifax like this Fall.....in late Sept. - early Oct., hordes of birds, especially Blackpolls and Whitethroats all over town". On Sept. 20, at Wilmot in the Annapolis Valley, Thelma Hawkins began to notice new birds in the area - Sapsuckers, Juncos and Song Sparrows, culminating on Oct. 1 in a "bewildering array of birds which included Great Blue Herons, Black-capped Chickadees, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, White-breasted Nuthatches (feeding on Woolly Bear caterpillars), Palm and Myrtle Warblers and Yellowthroats, Goldfinches, Juncos, White-throated and Song Sparrows. The birds so numerous that I cannot walk about without colliding with them". On Brier Island, the period Aug. 21 - Sept. 1., saw "peaks" of many species of warbler and concentrations of other birds such as Chimney Swifts, Waxwings, Flycatchers and Finches, many of them still present to greet the NSBS on the Labor Day Field Trip. At Bon Portage Island where the Cohrs spent the Thanksgiving weekend, "the whole landscape seemed covered with sparrows.....which, with hundreds of Myrtle Warblers and Pipits, made the island a mass of moving birds". The week of Oct. 5 - 11, a great concourse of birds passed through S.W. Nova Scotia, concentrating at departure points in Yarmouth County (Pinkney's Pt., Wedge Pt., Mackinnon's Neck, including Kestrels, Flickers, Sapsuckers, Horned Larks, Bluejays, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Catbirds, Robins, Kinglets, Pipits, Magnolia, Yellow, Palm, and Yellowthroat Warblers, Goldfinches, Savannah Sparrows, Juncos, Whitethroats, Lincoln's, Swamp and Song Sparrows. Robins went through in the thousands, the last big wave Oct. 16, when every field and

lawn had its quota.

There has been, in fact, every evidence of a successful breeding season, predictable in the spring of the year, with its exceptionally warm, dry weather.

The rains finally came. Hurricane Blanche, July 28, brought good precipitation to parts of the province, damaging winds to central N.S., but no exotic birds (with one exception - a Sooty Tern, at Green Bay in Lunenburg County). The course of the storm remained well out at sea, following the Gulf Stream until it veered inland to strike Nova Scotia approximately from Western Head to Halifax. August brought only two days of heavy rain, remaining warm and sunny for the most part, but in September, on the 3rd, 23rd and 24th, there were very heavy rains, and in October the first three weekends brought high winds and rain, filling wells, brooks and lakes to overflowing. The weather has remained mild well into November.

Food for some birds may be in short supply, since rowans and bayberry are having an off year, but the thorn trees are loaded with berries (already attracting Robins and both species of Waxwing) and weed seed heads are heavy. Fortunately in this White Spruce country, cones are always plentiful.

In the report to follow find our farewell dates for migrating species, with some indication of the numbers leaving, and, of course, the ever-increasing list of rarities, which add to much to the wonder and excitement of this fascinating occupation of bird watching.

Many thanks to the following, who have shared their findings with the rest of us: Jeanne and Herbert Addelson: C.R.K.Allen: Ross R. Anderson:

Edith Bowers: Winnie Cairns: Evelyn E. Coates: the Cohrs (John, Shirley, Chris. J. and Lise A.): Ralph D. Connor: Eric H. Cooke: Con Desplanque: F.W. and Evelyn Dobson, Phyllis R. Dobson: Rosemary and Michael Eaton: Davis W. Finch: Mae Fullerton: Sylvia J. Fullerton: J. Roswell and Connie D. Gallagher: Frances Goudney: Mrs. Martin Haase: Tom and Chris Hanrahan: Bessie and Herbert Harris: Thelma P. Hawkins: Chris. W. Helleiner: Marie and David Henry: Anne Hillis: Marion W. Hilton: Barbara Hinds: Adele Hurlburt: Ralph S. Johnson: M. Kaulbach: Evangeline Killam: Dorothy B. Kirk: Madeline and Wickerson Lent: Anthony R. Lock: Ian MacGregor: Ian. A. McLaren: Bruce Mactavish: David Marshall: Eric L. Mills: Willett J. Mills: Harding P. Moffatt: Burland Murphy: Helen J. and Larry E. Neily: Margaret A. Nickerson: Vera Nixon: Dorothy Rawlins: Frank F. Robertson: Hilda Robbins: Barry Sabean: Al Smith: Norma Smith: Stuart Tingley: W. E. Whitehead: Stewart Whitman: Ralph S. Widrig: Hazel Williamson.

We can only commiserate with those of you who were unable to communicate with us, and if and when we receive further Fall reports will do our best to repair the situation in our next issue

LOONS AND GREBES

COMMON and RED-THROATED LOONS were seen regularly throughout the province during the Fall. Many were seen from Seal I in a large migration to the S.W. (ELM, IAMcL).

Grebes began appearing in the area in early Sept., some still in breeding plumage. Two RED NECKED GREBES were seen Oct. 12 at Brier I (BM). The Cohrs saw 3 HORNED GREBES Sept. 13 at Cherry Hill and noted that the birds were still colourful and almost in breeding plumage. Other observations were: 1, Oct. 7 Brier I (BM) and 2, Nov. 9 at Grand Desert, Hfx.Co. (ELM). Although the PIED BILLED GREBE breeds in Nova Scotia it keeps itself fairly well hidden during the breeding season. Despite this Con Desplanque send reports of many sightings of the elusive grebe in APBS from May through Sept. On July 12 he saw 11 adults and 2 sets of downy young. By August 2 the birds were "too numerous to count with at least 20 adults and 60 homegrown young". Parties at Seal I report 2, Oct. 11,12; 3, Oct.15-17 (MWH et al); 5, Sept.26-29 (ELM et al; and 4, Nov.1-2 (ELM,IAMcL)

F. W. D., ed.

FULMARS, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS

The only NORTHERN FULMARS reported were 2 light-phase birds in Cabot Strait on July 22 (RGGB).

It was a bad August for GREATER SHEARWATERS off Brier I; there were usually tens and hundreds at most, instead of the thousands seen in other years (RGGB). The reason for this was undoubtedly the inaccessibility of the euphausiid shrimps which the birds usually feed on. These normally come all the way up to the surface on the flood tide. But this year they stayed close to the bottom; you could see them on echo-sounders and find them in pollack stomachs, but they never came within reach of the shearwaters. SOOTY SHEARWATERS seemed a little commoner than usual; the daily maximum was 30+ birds between Brier I and Grand Manan on Aug. 25 (ELM, RM,RGGB). But this was more or less their normal density; they stood out through the absence of Greaters. Tsai Yuan-erh saw 30-40 "haglins" (mainly Greaters) about 5 miles southeast of Seal I on Sept. 20, and the same number about 15 miles south of Cape Sable the next day. We have had no reports of MANX SHEARWATERS - perhaps an artefact of the postal strike? On the other hand Dick Brown, sailing northeast from Halifax on July 21-22, notes that this was the first time he had been on the Scotian Shelf in summer without seeing at least one Manx.

By contrast, it was an excellent August for WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS off Brier I. In most years we expect to see a dozen or so a day, but this year they were there in their hundreds (RGGB,ELM). Raymond Thurber, who has been fishing out of Freeport for forty years, says he's never seen so many before. The birds had arrived by Aug. 1, when Eric Mills and John Kearney saw at least 50 from the North Light on Brier, and at least 300 were seen in boat trips off Brier on Aug. 25, 26 and 30 (RGGB,ELM,BM). Their behaviour was as unusual as their abundance. Eric Mills notes: "on August 26 many flocks floating on the water - something I've never seen before in many trips to sea". LEACH'S STORM-PETRELS were present, but much scarcer. Eric Mills saw 10 off Brier on Aug. 25, but thinks he overlooked many more among the abundant Wilson's. Dick Brown saw both species, in ones and twos, in Cabot Strait on July 22. The oddest storm-petrel record is the bird which Barry Sabean saw skimming over Lake Rossignol on July 9. Perhaps this was a storm-driven bird; on the other hand homing experiments carried out by the Bowdoin College group on Kent I., N.B. Leach's Storm-Petrels strongly suggest that the birds will take short-cuts overland if they have to. The latest storm-petrel record is also unusual, both for location and date; A Wilson's at Scots Bay on Nov. 11, "dabbling along 30 ft. offshore in a tearing gale and rough seas" (Cohrs and Andersons).

GANNETS, CORMORANTS

There were occasional GANNETS, mostly subadults or juveniles, off Brier I in late August (RBBB), and the NSBS field party saw 3 on Aug. 30. There was a juvenile off Halifax on July 21 (RBBB). The birds' migration, from the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Newfoundland down to the Gulf of Mexico, is best illustrated by reports from the Seal I area: 12 adults and 13 immatures on Oct. 12, 40 birds on Oct. 13 and 10 per day on Nov. 1-2 (NSBS, IMcL, ELM, IMacG). Eric Mills saw a straggler off Martinique Beach on Nov. 9, and Con Desplanque saw what must have been one of the last birds to leave the Gulf of St. Lawrence, off Cap Jourmain on Nov. 15.

Both GREAT and DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS are well reported from around the province. The most spectacular sightings were of migrating Double-Crested: a total of c.200 birds flying west off Cape St. Mary, Digby Co., on Sept. 1, and over 200 heading south off Cape Cable Island, Shelburne Co., on Oct. 5 (ELM).

RBBB, Ed.

HERONS

The GREAT BLUE HERON is a summer resident of Nova Scotia and can be seen regularly on marshy seashore and sea ponds. The rookery at Cole Harbour continues to produce well and reports from Rosemary Eaton show large numbers present both above and below the bridge. Some counts by her are as follows: 100 birds July 27; 85 Aug. 28; 28 Oct. 27; 21 Nov. 8; 12 Nov. 10. Other areas of the province noted large flocks on the move from midsummer with 40, Aug. 23 at John Lusby (CD), 13 at Barrington Bay, Shel. Co., Aug. 29 (JR & CDG), 26 in Yarmouth Harbour Sept. 11 (CRKA), 20 plus, Hawk Pt. Cape Sable I, Shel. Co., Oct. 5 (EML). November found some stragglers still around. 5 were seen arriving Nov. 1 on Seal I, (ELM and IAMcL), 6 were noted flying around the shore of Yar. Co., where an unusually high tide was covering all the shallow feeding areas (CRKA) Nov. 3-4 and 1 was seen Nov. 18 at Pinkney's Point, Yarmouth Co. (MWH).

A GREEN HERON was seen Aug. 1 in Yar. Co. by the Herbert Addelsons.

A COMMON or GREAT EGRET was reported by Winnie Cairns at Port Joli on Aug. 15.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS were seen throughout the province this Fall. Two immatures were seen on the Lusby Marsh Aug. 1 (CD), 2 were seen on Brier I Aug. 20 (ELM), 1 immature at Brer I Oct. 4 (EM) and 1 on Sable Oct. 15 (I.C.McL).

Reports indicate that 2 YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS were seen over the summer: An immature June 29 at Lusby Marsh (CD) and the other in the Lawrencetown area reported in 3 Fathom Harbour Aug. 10 and 17 (WM) and Aug. 16 (ELM & I.A.McL) and on Conrads Beach Aug. 23 (EO).

The AMERICAN BITTERN was seen and reported by several watchers who know this bird's favourite marshy haunts. They are to be found throughout the province if one hunts them out. An interesting comment from Ian MacGregor, "4 were seen circling Seal I near dusk on Oct. 11. This was the first time I could say that the Bitterns were definitely migrating".

FWD, ed.

GEESE AND DUCKS

CANADA GEESE were either late in coming south this year or else the vanguard slipped by un-noticed. The first report we have is of 9, Oct. 1, in flight near Tusket, Yar. Co. There were up to 100 at Salt Bay (five miles away) by Oct. 11, a flock which swelled to 250+ on the following day (PRD). Melbourne Sanctuary held over 2000 birds by Nov. 10, about the same number still there on the 18th (MWH). The only other county heard from was Halifax - 600+ Canadas at Martinique Game Sanctuary on Nov. 9 (ELM).

The only MALLARD reports we have are of 1-2 regular at the APBS July 1 - Sept. 9, 2-10 regular there Sept.-Oct. (CD); a male at Pond Cove, Brier I, Aug. 23 (ELM), 10 at APBS Nov. 1 (down to 2 there Nov. 16), and 4 at Melbourne Sanctuary Nov. 19 (CRKA).

Fair sized flocks of BLACK DUCKS began to appear in early September in Yarmouth Co., and the first congregation of any numbers was 200-300 feeding at Melbourne Sanctuary Sept. 11. By Nov. 10 the Melbourne flock had grown to over 1000 birds, the maximum number so far reported in N.S.

Three GADWALLS were present at the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary Oct. 4 (CD).

Also at APBS up to 50 PINTAILS were regular July into Sept., down to 30 in Oct., and 4 by Nov. 4 (CD). Other reports are few: 12, Aug. 30 at Brier I (NSBS), 2 at Pond Cove (there) Aug. 27-28, one at Seal I Nov. 1 (ELM).

Two GREEN-WINGED TEAL broods are reported by the J.R. Gallaghers in Shelbourne Co.: one of a single young bird at Middle Ohio July 8 and another with 5 young at Upper Ohio Aug. 15. They also reported 10 adults at Barrington Aug. 18. Elsewhere groups of Greenwings were on the move quite early: there were 2 at Sunday Pt. July 31 and 2, also near Yarmouth Aug. 29. Numbers built up in early September when 50+ were near Cranberry Head on the 9th (MWH) and a number of flocks of this and the next species in the Crescent Beach-Cherry Hill area on Sept. 12-13 (Cohrs). There were "100's" of both Greenwings and Bluewings at the Ducks Unlimited impoundment at the border, Sept. 20 peak for Bluewings, Oct. 4 peak for Greenwings, (CD) and well over 100 Greenwings at Melbourne Nov. 16-19 (CRKA).

A BLUE-WINGED TEAL showed up at Brass Hill, Shel. Co., Aug. 19; there were 3 at the same place Aug. 26 and this number had increased to 10 by the 29th (CD & JRG). There were a few - from 1 to 5 at Pond Cove, Brier I. from Aug. 19 to Sept. 1, 21 at Conrad's Beach, Halifax Co., Sept. 21, up to 20 at Seal I Sept. 28 and one male still there Nov. 2 (ELM). Other sightings are mentioned with the preceding species.

A EUROPEAN WIGEON was seen at Lusby Marsh on June 29 and on several other days up to July 12. It was described as a moulting male with "chestnut head and yellowish 'pate' but the posterior part of the otherwise silvery-gray body becoming the rich chestnut of eclipse plumage". (DWF & CD).

There were two AMERICAN WIGEONS at Brier I Sept. 2 (ELM) and 6 there on Sept. 13 (BM). On Sept. 17 there were good numbers - "10's" - at the NS-NB border (CD). There were still 5 at Melbourne Sanctuary Nov. 16 (CRKA). Breeding records for this species during the past summer are of a brood of 12 at Three-Fathom Harbor June 4 (Willis to IAM) and "a few pairs with young" at Amherst Pt. July 10, where 20-40 adults were regular in July, 60-80 at the John Lusby Marsh - a peak of 300 during Sept.-Oct., down to 16, Nov. 16 (CD).

NORTHERN SHOVELERS were seen at Amherst Pt. and at Brier and Seal Is. There were two birds at the first mentioned location from June 15 to July 1 (OD) and 7 there on Oct. 9 (BM). A female was seen at Seal I. Oct. 17 and again Nov. 1 (ELM et al.), and one at Brier I. Sept. 15 (BM).

WOOD DUCKS are reported only from Seal I. where there were 4 Oct. 15-17 (NSBS) and one Nov. 1 (ELM & IAM), and from Amherst Pt. where from 3 to 7 birds were seen between May 23 and Aug. 2.

Con Desplanque reports "many broods" of RING-NECKED DUCKS at Amherst Pt. Sanctuary July 1st. His other sightings for this species begin April 16, when there was one at Lusby Marsh in the same general area with numbers building up here and at Amherst Pt. through May and June until he found a total of 40 at these two localities on June 15. 4 left by Nov. 8. Migrant flocks were on the move in early October when 12 were seen (Oct. 2) at the head of Eel Lake (PRD & CRKA) and 80 at Amherst Pt. Oct. 9 (BM).

GREATER SCAUP were at Lusby Marsh in 2's and 3's in April, and 8 were observed there on July 1st, 50 Oct. 18 (CD). There was one other summer record - 2, near Barton, Digby Co. Aug. 11 (M.Lent). The only other sightings of this species reported so far are four females at Seal I Nov. 1-2 (ELM & IAM) and two females at Lawrencetown Lake, Halifax Co., Nov. 9 (ELM).

We have, unfortunately, no records from the Northumberland Strait region where Greater Scaup and COMMON GOLDENEYE arrive in numbers early in the Fall, so that our sightings for both of these species are from the south shore where they normally do not become common until late in the winter. A female Goldeneye spent the month of August in Pond Cove on Brier I (ELM) and could have been the same bird seen off the Northern Light Aug. 30 (SC). The only other observations are of 10 at Lawrencetown Lake Nov. 9 (ELM) and of 7 at Melbourne Sanctuary Nov. 16 (CRKA).

A BARROW 'S GOLDENEYE, Nov. 15, at Crescent Beach accompanied 10 of Common species newly arrived (J,S,C & SC).

There was one male BUFFLEHEAD at Seal I, Nov. 1, and a flock of 12 at Lawrencetown Lake Nov. 9 (ELM).

An early OLDSQUAW sighting was of 5 at Seal I Oct. 17 (NSBS) where 3 were also seen on Nov. 1 (ELM & IAM). The only other observation so far is of 4 at Sandford, Yarmouth Co. Nov. 22 (CRKA).

A lone sighting of HARLEQUIN DUCKS was reported from Brier I where there were 2, Oct. 7 (BM).

Norman Smith, one of the Wardens of the NSBS Eastern Shore Sanctuary reported COMMON EIDERS as "plentiful with large broods of young" this past summer. Large numbers have been seen at other localities during summer and fall: 650 summering at Pond Cove, Brier I., with about 200 more elsewhere around the island's shore (ELM). On Sept. 6 there were about 700 off Cadden Beach near Port Joli (W.Cairns) and on July 1 there were 100 off Cape Jourimain near the NS-NB border (CD). On the other hand the first sighting for the fall at Green Bay, Lunenburg Co., was of 5 seen Sept. 27 (SC).

Non-breeding Scoters of all three species may be found off our shores at any time during spring and summer. Five WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS were at Cape Jourimain near the N.S. border on July 1 (CD) and 2 at Green Bay Aug. 23 (SC). Autumn sightings of this species are surprisingly few and of small numbers: 2, at Brier I. Oct. 7 (BM); 5 at Seal I., Oct. 15 (NSBS); 2 at Seal again Nov. 1, and 1 at Martinique Beach Nov. 9 (ELM)

(A last-minute report from CD mentions 40 WHITE-WINGED, 20 "SURF AND BLACK" SCOTERS off Cape Jourimain, NB).

SURF SCOTERS also showed up in very small numbers: 3 at Merigomish, Aug. 18 (ELM & IAM); 2 at Green Bay Aug. 23 (SC); one or two birds seen daily at Seal I. Oct. 11-17 (NSBS) and 4 there Nov. 2 (ELM & IAM). BLACK SCOTERS put on a somewhat better performance although numbers were still rather skimpy for birds of this family. At Cape Jourimain, N.B., there were 20, June 21, dropping to 10, June 26 and down to 8 by July 1 (CD). In the Green Bay (Lun. Co.) area there was a "tight flock" of 14 close to shore July 26, reduced to 6 on Aug. 2 after the hurricane. There were 35 at the head of Green Bay Beach on Aug. 19 and over 40 there by the 23rd. At the same time there was a flock of 30-35 at Crescent Beach (SC). The only other sightings are of 3 to 4 birds at Seal and Brier Is. in late October and early November.

A single RUDDY DUCK was at Seal I Nov. 1 & 2 (ELM & IAM); another was at West Lawrencetown Nov. 9 (same observers), and 3, Oct. 5, at APBS (OD).

An unusually large number of HOODED MERGANSERS has been reported this Fall: 6 imm. females seen at Conrad's Beach on Oct. 11 by Ian McLaren and again Oct. 13 by Bruce Mactavish; 3 at Cherry Hill, Sept. 27 (J & SC); 1, at Seal Oct. 15 (David Marshall), and another or the same bird again on Nov. 1-2 (ELM & IAM).

Summer records of the COMMON MERGANSER are of one with 3 young at Upper Ohio, Shel. Co., July 27 (CD & JRG) and of 40 in family groups in Antigonish Harbor Aug. 8 (ELM & IAM). There were 30 Nov. 9 at Lawrencetown and 7 at Head of St. Margaret's Bay Nov. 10-12 (ELM & IAM). A flock of 30 was watched by Phyllis Dobson flying low and back and forth repeatedly over Eel Lake Nov. 11, apparently scouting for schools of fish. Latest report is of 4, Nov. 22 at Cranberry Head (CRKA). This species usually becomes scarce or absent from the southwestern half of the province after its autumn flight and does not reappear until some time in February, and is regarded by some birders as the earliest herald of spring.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS first arrived at their coastal wintering places in September, when 5 were seen at Cherry Hill on the 13th (J & SC) and 8 were seen coastwise in Guysborough County on the 25th (MWH et al). First for the Yarmouth area was an injured bird, observed at Cook's Beach Nov. 16 (CRKA).

CRKA, Ed.

HAWKS

A TURKEY VULTURE, a rare sight in Nova Scotia, turned up on Oct. 12 at Tiverton, Digby Co., (BM). GOSHAWKS were reported, for the most part during migration, but Norm Bowers noted one female and one immature west of Turtle L., Queen's Co., which vacated a nest on July 27. M. Lent saw one near Barton, Yar. Co., on Aug. 11. They formed part of the hawk flights seen over Brier I. from Aug. 29 - Sept. 1 (1 immature on 29, 31 Aug. (ELM, BM, IAMcL): 12-15 Sept 1 "over Dinty Moore's" on Brier I. (CRKA et al.): B. MacTavish had 1 immature Oct. 4 at Brier.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS were seen in abundance as usual, particularly on the off-shore islands, during migration. ELM reports 2-3 per day at Brier I. from Aug. 19 - Sept. 2. One was seen by CD at "John Lusby" on Sept. 7, and PRD noted the "first one back, looking over the feeders this Fall", on Sept. 19. The NSBS parties on Seal I found 6-10 / day on Sept. 26-29, 15 on both Oct. 11 and 12, and 6, 16, and 40 on Oct. 15, 16 and 17. Bruce MacTavish reports 75 at Brier I on Oct. 4. Seal I gave us our only COOPERS HAWK of the season on Oct. 11 and 12 - a solid identification by IMcG: "A single bird, size would indicate female, and

rusty underside would indicate an adult. Seen in migration with two Sharpies and a MARSH HAWK. The bird was only slightly smaller than the Marsh Hawk, and much larger than the Sharpies. The fact that the tail was rounded could easily be determined".

The number of RED-TAILED HAWKS seems to have been lower this migration - the reports are more scattered than usual. MWH & DK report one on Aug. 29 near New Edinburgh, Yar. Co., and BM reports only scattered sightings from Brier I. "up to Oct. 13". The latest report is of 1 adult at Melbourne, Yar. Co. (ORKA) on Nov. 16. Two sightings of RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS, both carefully documented by seasoned observers and both from Brier I. are remarkable. ELM, BM and IAMcL saw two immatures (see Tufts on the Red-Shouldered Hawk and its resemblance to the immature Red-Tailed) in company with "a small hawk flight of Goshawk (1), immature Red-Tailed Hawk, 2 Sharpshins, 10 + Marsh Hawks, 3 Broad-Winged Hawks, etc. Very long-winged and long-tailed, windows at end of the wings". Bruce MacTavish reports one from Brier on Oct. 4, "seen well soaring overhead with Red-Tailed and Broad-Winged (Hawks). Probably a different one from the 2 seen Aug. 31 on Brier. This one had more conspicuous windows". Four BROAD-WINGED HAWKS were reported (MWH,DK) from New Edinburgh, Yar. Co., on Aug. 29, and four more were seen by the NSBS parties on Brier I on Aug. 30. Bruce MacTavish writes (Oct. 5) "one flock of 60 birds. The day was clear, calm and cool with very light N.E. winds. The wind changed to light S.W. in Mid-afternoon: at 5 p.m. (two hours before dark) I noticed some specks high over the middle of Brier. They were Broadwings, gliding downward from a fantastic height. With my 10-power binoculars I could see them just appear out of the blue sky. They formed a kettle over the S.W. corner of Brier and eventually all landed. The next morning was cloudy with S.W. (20 mph) winds and they all left in a N.E. direction up Digby Neck. Most of them were immatures". He also reports 75 on Oct. 10 but notes that they could include birds seen on the 5th. Two reports of the ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, on Nov. 9 by R. Burrows at the Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary, and on Nov. 11 by Con Desplanque in the same area, are presumably of the same bird.

The BALD EAGLE was well reported, MWH, DK. & AH. saw immature on Sept. 25 in "Cape Breton". The Cohrs report 2 at Cole Harbor, Halifax Co. on Oct. 6 and Nov. 11.

MARSH HAWKS were seen throughout the summer and fall in the province. Con Desplanque had two regulars at the Amherst Pt. Sanctuary and John Lusby from July 1-Sept. 9: MWH and PRD send reports of single birds from the Yarmouth area from July 12 until Sept. 20. ELM et al on Brier I. saw a "regular passage: 4-5 birds were seen on Oct. 11-13 by the NSBS party, but none were reported from the Oct. 16-17 trip. J & H. Addelson report that "this summer OSPREYS were seen regularly in Port Joli, Queen's Co., and in many places between Port Joli and Yarmouth. The most seen at once was 3, but 3 at once was not uncommon". J & C. Gallagher give the same information for Barrington, Shel. Co., with sightings of 1-3 birds between July 8 and Sept. 2. "Probable" pairs were observed by the Gallaghers at Brass Hill - Barrington, Port Clyde, Upper Clyde, McGills, and Wichtown, all in Shel. Co. R. Eaton saw "four in the air at one time" at Cole Harbor on July 16. At Indian Pt., Lun. Co., the Cohrs report that the "Old Nest" had a pair with two young, while the "New Nest" had disappeared entirely. They mention seeing seven fishing on Aug. 14 on their trip from Halifax to Petite Riviere. At Brookside, Hfx. Co., a nest reported on by FWD for some years had interested visitors all summer, but no permanent residents, which is just as well, since it came down on July 28 during Hurricane Blanche. ELM had 2 resident at the Head of St. Margaret's May, Hfx. Co., until the first week in Oct. PRD saw a single bird at Eel Lake, Yar. Co., on Sept. 15 and 17, and ORKA noted one fishing regularly throughout Sept. Single birds were seen at Brier I. on Aug. 31 (NSBS) and Sept. 26 (ELM), and Oct. 16 (MWH at Seal I.)

The GYRFALCON deigned to be added to a few more life lists this Fall. One was reported on Seal I. (NSBS party) on Oct. 11, a dark-phase bird which Ian MacGregor had the luck to compare with a Peregrine. Roger Burrows spotted one on Nov. 9 at the Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary, describing (and drawing) it as "slightly larger than a Goshawk with all gray plumage, light on the underparts, apparently unbarred

in the upper tail; the plumage lacked any obvious features and there was no moustachial stripe. The wings were broad but pointed; the tail was long and rounded. The flight was powerful with "droppy" short wingbeats and glides but quite unlike the hunting flight of the Goshawk. The speed was deceptive". C. Desplanque assumes he saw the same bird after 3 Black Ducks at APBS on Nov. 16.

A few PEREGRINE FALCONS were seen this migration, the first by CRKA on Sept. 21 over the salt marsh at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co., "harrying the peep". One was seen at Seal I. on Sept. 26 and 28 (NSBS - the first bird we saw, the second was a Wheatear!) B. MacTavish saw one on Brier I. Oct. 4 and ELM found one the next day, Oct. 5, at Cape Sable I., Shel. Co. Two were seen by the NSBS party on Seal I. on October 11, 12 and 13 and in the same period (Oct. 11) John and Shirley Cohrs saw a single bird at North Point, Bon Portage I., "the face pattern was very pronounced". Birds seen at Seal (NSBS) on Oct 15 (1) and 16 (2) may be the same as those there on Oct. 11-13. Ian McLaren, Tony Locke and A. Smith report one at Sable I. on Oct. 15.

The Gallaghers report a MERLIN at Brass Hill, Barrington, Shel Co. on Aug. 21. A single sighting was all the Brier I. NSBS Field Day (Aug. 30) could produce. On Sept. 21 Ian MacGregor saw one in South End Halifax. 10-20 per day were over Seal from Sept. 26-29 (NSBS party) "chasing Flickers etc.", 15 on Oct. 11 (I.McG), 16 on Oct. 12, about 10 on Oct. 13, 6+ on Oct. 16, 10 on the 17th and 4 on the 18th.

CRKA reports a single bird from "inland Yar. Co." on Oct. 11. The latest reports are of "none" on Seal I. on Nov. 1-2 (I.A.McL, IMcG) and of a single bird in Dartmouth (near BIO) on Dec. 3 (FWD).

AMERICAN KESTRELS were plentiful this year. The first reports come at the first of Aug.: one on Aug. 2 at Cranberry Hd., Yar. Co. (MWH); by mid-August the migration was under way, with the numbers seen increasing until mid-Sept. ("We saw kestrels all over the place, with a trip along Route 3 or 103 guaranteed to produce several"- J & HA, Aug. 17 - Sept. 10). CRKA reports an apparent movement of birds on Sept. 13 in Yar. Co., and 2-3 per trip were still being seen in the Yarmouth area by the end of Oct. (PRD). Van Killam saw 3 at Melbourne and Cook's Beach, Yar.Co., on Sept. 22. 7-10 per day were observed by the 26-29 Sept., NSBS party on Seal I. and 45 on Oct. 7 on Brier I (BMcT). The migration was almost over by mid Oct., with only 2 being seen on Seal I on Oct. 11, 3 on the 12th and 2 on the 13th (SF). 10 were reported from the Oct. 15-17 Seal trip. The latest reports are from MWH with single sightings from Yar. Co. on Nov. 12 and Nov. 18 at Pinkney Pt.

GROUSE, PHEASANT

The SPRUCE GROUSE is a never-failing source of copy, and this set of reports is no exception. Evelyn E. Coates, Cameron Settlement, Guys Co., sends this report: "As I was driving along the road I saw a female Spruce Grouse with 8 young - they still had their russet down. I had passed them, then backed up to see if there might be more. When I got out of the Scout, the young had just disappeared into the spruce woods, but the female did not use the ruse of feigned injury. On the contrary she was most aggressive, charging towards me with all her reathers ruffed and giving out a rather "hissing" noise. I had never seen this done before." She sent this to Dr. Robie Tufts, who replied, in short, that such was indeed unusual behaviour and that the number of birds in the clutch was unusually large, the more frequent number being 5 or 6. The Gallaghers saw one on July 10 on the road to McGills', Upper Clyde, and 3 on Aug. 28 on the Clyde R. road, near Bloody Creek, both in Shel. Co.

RUFFED GROUSE have been seen in usual numbers this Fall. The earliest record, for 2 birds, is from L. Annis, Yar. Co., on Sept. 18 (MWH). MK sighted 4 at Lower Wentworth on Sept. 28; CRKA saw groups of 3 and 4 in inland Yar. Co. on Oct. 11 and 23, and PRD reports 1-3 from October through November at Eel Brook, Yar. Co. Rosemary Eaton saw 5 "in an Indian Pear tree" at Cole Harbor (she tells us that since, to her great dismay, a neighbour has despatched the tree in favor of a septic tank field!) C. Desplanque sends reports of one or two individuals on various days in late Fall, all in the Amherst area, the last being of a singlebird on Nov. 16.

RING-NECKED PHEASANTS were reported only twice. Once (Aug. 30, NSBS party) from Brier I. - a single individual - and once (Nov. 11, Cohrs, Andersons) from the Grand Pré dykes, where eight were seen in one flock. Also reported from the same trip were 13 GRAY PARTRIDGE on the Grand Pré dykeland.

RAILS, COOTS and GALLINULES

Although records of the CLAPPER RAIL are extremely rare, one was reported from Tom and Chris Hanrahan visiting from Ottawa this summer. The bird was heard on the Tantramar Marsh and answered to an imitated call (the clapping of hands). A VIRGINIA RAIL was seen on Seal I. Oct. 15 (DM) while SORA RAILS were sighted during the late summer from several points in the province. C. Desplanque writes that toward the end of July, many (20-30) were heard in every marshy area in APBS.

The COMMON GALLINULE appears to have established a nesting area in the Amherst area where more than 10 adults produced 3 broods of 6-8 birds each this season (CD). One immature was found in the Hfx. area by W. Mills. It was placed in Point Pleasant Park but was later found dead.

Robie Tufts states that the AMERICAN COOT is a rare Fall visitor which appears in NS more regularly in November. This year was no exception, with 1 on Seal I, Oct. 11-16 (MWH, SF parties) and 4 on Seal Nov. 1-2 (ELM, IAMcL). These same observers saw 10 at Three Fathom Harbor Nov. 9. The Cohrs found 1 Nov. 16 at Broad Cove, Lun. Co. A long list of sightings comes from Con Desplanque at the Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary: this is obviously the place in NS to see a Coot in the Fall. From 4 birds on Oct. 4 the crowd grew to 40 Oct. 18, 70 Nov. 11 and to at least 200 Nov. 16.

FWD, Ed.

SHOREBIRDS

A few SEMI-PALMATED PLOVERS appeared in early July, but normal migratory numbers appeared in the first week of August, with 100 at Lingan, CB. on Aug. 3 (CSM), 150 Aug. 8 at Merigomish Island (ELM & IAM). Numbers peaked about mid-August, the maxima reported being about 250, Aug. 9 and 24 at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co. (CRKA), 152 on Aug. 17 at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co. (SjF) and 250 on Aug. 23 at Cranberry Head, Yar. Co. (MWH et al.) On Brier I., approximately 100 were present continuously from Aug. 19 to Sept. 1 (ELM) and between Aug. 9 and Sept. 24, 20-40 were observed in the John Lusby Marsh, Amherst Co. (CD). The last records at hand are of 6 at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co., Oct. 19 (CRKA).

A study of the breeding biology of the PIPING PLOVER began on a remote beach in Queen's Co., but its results are not immediately available. In other parts of the province most birds had gone by the end of the first week in August. At Cherry Hill the last seen was on Aug. 3 (SJF), and at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. the 4 present to July 30 were reduced to one on Aug. 10 (ELM). There were two unusually late records: one at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co., on Sept. 1 (SJF) and one at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co., on Sept. 21 (CRKA).

KILLDEER were widely reported, but only in northern and western NS, with records from Shelburne, Yarmouth, Digby, Colchester and Cumberland Counties. 2 to 10 were present in the John Lusby Marsh, Amherst Co., between July 5 and Sept. 9 (CD), and 1 to 12 per day were reported on various dates between July 1 and Aug. 23 in Yar. Co. (MWH et al.) A few were seen on all Seal I. trips in Sept., through November 2, and the last record available is of 5 at Melbourne, Yar. Co., Nov. 18 (MWH et al.).

The protracted migration of GOLDEN PLOVER was first observed on Aug. 9 when 5 were seen at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co. (CRKA). There are no further records until late Aug. and after: 1 each on Aug. 30 and 31, Brier I. (EL et al.); 2-5 at Cherry Hill, Sept. 1-13 (SJF); 12 at Lingan, C.B. Sept. 4 (CSM); 30 at Yarmouth Airport on Sept. 11 (PRD) and 20 at Cranberry Head, Yar. Co., Sept. 15 (MWH et al.). The last record is a single bird seen at Grand Pré on Nov. 11 (SC, RA et al.).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER were first recorded on July 14, when 12 were seen at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co. (CRKA). The peak of migration was Aug. 21-24 throughout the province, with 85 on Aug. 21 at Lingan, C.B. (CSM), 170 on Aug. 24 at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co. (CRKA) and 61 the same day at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co. (SJF). Approximately 20 per day were present on Brier Island between Aug. 19 and Sept. 1 (ELM et al.), and on Oct. 5 there were still at least 100 at Hawk Point, Cape Sable Island (ELM). By early November numbers had decreased to 10-20 at most good localities, and the last record available is of 5 at Pinckney's Point Marsh, Yar. Co., on Nov. 15 (CRKA), though no doubt a few will see the winter in throughout the province.

Only two WOODCOCK have been reported this Fall, 1 on Nov. 2 at Amherst Pt. (CD) and 1 at 23 Baker St., Yarmouth, on Oct. 6 (MWH). COMMON SNIPE were also sparsely reported, but some of the records are of striking numbers. 300 "sprang aloft at all angles from every boggy patch" on Bon Portage, Shel. Co. Oct. 11-13 (J & SC). Numbers were also high in the wet spots on Seal I. in Oct. and early Nov., probably no less than a dozen in the West Village on most occasions and suggestions of a peak of 50 or more on Oct. 11 (NSBS).

Like the Golden Plover, WHIMBREL arrived very early and were seen into mid-Fall. The first record was unusually early - a single bird, 30 June, at Three Fathom Harbor, Hfx. Co. (EHC), followed by 9 on July 9 at East Baccaro Beach, Shel. Co. (JRG & CDG). From mid August to Early Sept. 1-2 were seen daily at Brier I. (ELM et al.), and on Sept. 2, 3 arrived there across the sea from the north (KM). The maximum recorded was 8 at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co. on Sept. 7 (CRKA) and our last record is of 4 at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., Oct. 3 (CJC).

Records of the common SPOTTED SANDPIPER were few. The highlights were groups of 20+ at Green Bay, Lun. Co. on July 12, and 30 the same day at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co., and individuals were still being seen Oct. 26 at Green Bay (SC).

Records of SOLITARY SANDPIPERS extend from Aug. 10 at Three Fathom Harbor (EHC) to an individual with navigation problems in the fog, Sept. 2, alongside the highway at Upper Tantallon, Hfx. Co. (ELM). A group of 3 on Aug. 19, at Green Bay, Lun. Co., increased to 5 by the 24th (LAC & SC) and 6 were seen on Brier I. Sept. 6 (BM).

WILLETS were rather poorly reported, although there is evidence of the usual mid-Aug. to late-Aug. buildup, followed by departure. 200+ had concentrated at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., by July 13 (SC), and at Brier I. 5-10 per day were regular between Aug. 19 and Sept. 1, but there was a peak of 31 on Aug. 23. The last record for Cape Breton Island was of 6 at Lingan, Aug. 21 (CSM). Western Willets are sometimes seen after the peak of Easterns has passed, but this year none were reported, late records of the eastern race being: 1 at Three Fathom Harbor, Hfx. Co., Sept. 6 (IAM), and 2 at Seal I. Sept. 26-29 (NSBS). 15 at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co., Sept. 11, and 1 there on October 5 (CRKA) (suspiciously late) were not noted as being out of the ordinary.

YELLOWLEGS show interestingly different patterns of migration. GREATERS are among the first migrants, usually in early July. "Hundrede" at Cole Harbor, Hfx. Co., on July 27 (RE) were matched by 100-200 at Amherst Point and the John Lusby Marsh, July 6 to Sept. 9 (CD), but most records show a peak in mid-Aug., trailing off through the Fall. More than 100 (77 in one flock) were concentrated in a small area of South Side Beach, Cape Sable Island, on Oct. 5 (ELM) and a few were still present in Yarmouth and Halifax Counties in mid-November (CRKA & RE). By contrast, LESSERS showed a two-peaked migration, late July to the first week of August, then a minor increase in the last few days of August. 85 were seen in the Lawrencetown area, Hfx. Co., on July 30, and at least 30 at Merigomish I., Pictou Co., Aug. 8 (ELM,IAM). At Amherst Point and the John Lusby Marsh, 50-100 were said to be regular between July 6 and Sept. 9 (CD). None were reported from Lingan, C.B.I., after Aug. 16. October records were few, but 20 were still present at the John Lusby Marsh on Oct. 20 (CD).

Where were the RUDDY TURNSTONE watchers? Only two observers sent records. A few birds were noted in Yarmouth Co. from late July through Mid-Sept. (MWH et al.), and a flock of 20-50 at Brier I. Aug. 19-Sept. 1 was gone on Sept. 2 (ELM). There were records from Lingan, CBI, after Aug. 16. RED KNOTS were recorded from mid-July to early October, mostly in low numbers. Our first report is of 5 at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co., July 12 (CRKA), and by July 30 there were 25 at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. (ELM). One was found freshly dead at Seal Island Light, Sept. 26 (NSBS) and the last record available is of 4 at Hawk Point, Cape Sable Island, Oct. 5 (ELM). A few non-breeding PURPLE SANDPIPERS summer with us. 6 at Pearl Island, Lun. Co., on July 31 were in this category. We have no other records until November: 2, Nov. 9, Cherry Hill, Lun. Co. (BH & SJF), and 39 on Nov. 15, increasing to 45 on Nov. 23 at Fox Island, Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. (RC).

An early PECTORAL SANDPIPER was reported from Cherry Hill, Lun. Co., on Aug. 8 (SJF). All the remaining records are after late August, the greatest numbers being 50+ on Oct. 5 at South Side Beach, Cape Sable I. (ELM) and 90, Oct. 11, at Amherst Point (CD). 1-2 per day were still being recorded from Seal I. on Nov. 1-2 (IAM,ELM). The two-peaked migration of WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS was evident even from this year's scanty records. The first migrant was seen on Brier I. Aug. 1 (ELM, JK) and by mid-August there were 30+ at Conrad's Beach and 20 at Three Fathom Harbor, Hfx. Co. (IAM,ELM). During the protracted passage after Sept. 1, there were 16 on Sept. 7 at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co. (CRKA) and 3 in partial breeding plumage at Three Fathom Harbor, Sept. 21 (ELM). A few always linger late, the last two reported at Martinique Beach on Nov. 9 (ELM).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER was recorded only twice: one at Three Fathom Harbor, Hfx. Co. on Aug. 16 (IAM,ELM) and one in the species' favorite haunt, Pond Cove, Brier I. 28-31 Aug. (BM,ELM et al.) For a common species, reports on LEAST SANDPIPERS were few. The first Fall migrant was seen at Sunday Point, Yar. Co., on July 12, but numbers did not peak until mid-August, when 60 were at Lingan on Aug. 16 (CSM) and 75 at Brier I. Aug. 19-21 (ELM). At Cherry Hill, Lun. Co., numbers were relatively constant between 12 and 45 throughout July and August and dropped sharply after Sept. 20 (SJF). Our last records are of 50 at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co., Sept. 2 (CRKA)

and 1 on Oct. 5 at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co. (SJF).

DUNLIN were, as usual, latecomers, peaking in mid and late Sept., when 20-30 were at Amherst Point and the John Lusby Marsh (GD). Our first records were on Sept. 7 - 1 at Three Fathom Harbor, Hfx. Co. (ELM,IAM) and Cook's Beach, Yar. Co., (CRKA), and "several" were still present at Pinckney's Point, Yar. Co., on Nov. 16 (CRKA).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS were reported three times this Fall, one Oct. 9 at Amherst Point (BM), 2 at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., Oct. 10-11 (SC et al.) and 1 just outside Nova Scotia at Cape Jourmain, NB., Nov. 15 (GD). Despite one observer's "no doubt on ident.," Longbills are problematic, especially in Fall plumage and when silent. In future, notes on this species should include enough details to properly document the record. Their SHORT-BILLED relatives were nicely recorded from the first, 364 at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co., on July 12 (CRKA) to the last, 1 at Hawk Point, Cape Sable I. on Oct. 5 (ELM).

The migration peaked sharply between July 26 (500+ at Pinckney's Point, Yar. Co. - MWH, AH) and Aug. 2 (60 at Lingan, CBI - GSM; at Cook's Beach a spectacular group of 1100 was counted on July 29 (CRKA).

STILT SANDPIPERS were recorded only from their favorite feeding sites in Halifax Co.; 2 first seen on July 27 at Three Fathom Harbor had increased to 8 by July 30 (11 in the vicinity) and on Oct. 13 one was still present with other shore-birds (EHC,ELM,IAM,SC,BM.)

No-one reported on the spectacular numbers of SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPERS in Minas Basin this year, and the summary following is from sparse records of this dominant species, and the regular records of 3 observers in the Maritimes Shorebirds Survey of the Canadian Wildlife Service. 155 birds at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co. on July 12 were the first reported; they had increased to 2850 on July 29, 2950 on Aug. 3 and decreased to 360 on Aug. 24 (CRKA). Other reports give a similar picture, except that a peak of 400 occurred at Brier I. on Aug. 24 (ELM). A yellow-coloured bird with two leg bands was seen in a flock of 500-1000 others at the John Lusby Marsh on Sept. 6-7, and our last record of the species was also there, 20 Nov. (GD). WESTERN SANDPIPERS were recorded twice: one at Brier I. on Sept. 3 (BM) and one with Semi-palmated Sandpipers at Three Fathom Harbor, Hfx. Co. on Sept. 21 (ELM).

About 14 BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS were seen at five localities between Aug. 23 (3, Three Fathom Harbor, Hfx. Co. - EHC) and Sept. 21 (1 at Brier I. BM.) At Brier I. the maximum was 4 on Aug. 31 (NSBS); the preceding day 3 had been seen at Dan's Head, Cape Sable I. (JRG & CDG). The fine display of shorebirds at Three Fathom Harbor, Hfx. Co., included a HUDSONIAN GODWIT from July 26 to 30 (EHC, IAM, ELM) and a very late pair was seen there Oct. 5 (IAM, IMacG). Our only other record was one at Amherst Point, Aug. 2. (GD).

One of the few Nova Scotian RUFFS, a male, was carefully observed at the John Lusby Marsh, with Yellowlegs and Dowitchers, on July 2 (DWF).

SANDERLINGS were first noted at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co., (46) on July 18 (SJF), but flocks of more than 50 were reported throughout the province only after Aug. 20 through October 5 (200 at South Side Beach, Cape Sable I. - ELM). The last record for Lingan, CBI, was of 15 on October 23 (CSM) but numbers were still being reported from Yarmouth and Lun. Counties in mid-Nov. (CRKA, SC et al.)

This year WILSON'S PHALAROPES were as abundant as Stilt Sandpipers, reflecting the eastward extension of their breeding range (now as close as Ottawa). At least 12 individuals were reported, the first a male at Rosway, Digby Co., Aug. 1-2 (ELM, JK) and the last at Amherst Point on Sept. 14 (GD). Three Fathom Harbor, Hfx. Co. had one on Aug. 9 (EHC), at least 2 from Aug. 16 to Sept. 7 (IAM,ELM) and a peak of 5 on Sept. 10 (SC). 2 were present at Amherst Point from Aug. 31 to Sept. 5 (GD) and 3 at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., on Sept. 7 (RC).

RED PHALAROPES gathered in spectacular flocks on the Bay of Fundy. More than 10,000 (a small fraction of the total) in scattered flocks of 20-1000 were counted along the edge of the deep water west of Brier I., on Aug. 25, and on the following day there were 2000-3000 near Gannet Rock in mid-Bay (ELM). By Aug. 30 the numbers were dropping and restless "towering" flocks were often visible. Nonetheless, 2000- were seen on the NSBS pelagic trip, and 500 were in movement off Northern Point, Brier I., on August 31. At Cook's Beach, Yar. Co., 17 came ashore on Sept. 21 (CRKA). With the Red Phalaropes off Brier, by late August there were a few NORTHERN PHALAROPES, estimated at 100-500 among the tens of thousands of others on Aug. 25 (ELM). On the NSBS pelagic trip 40+ were mixed in small groups with the Reds. The peak of the Northern Phalarope Fall migration appears to be much earlier than that of Reds; our first record us of 60 between East Ironbound and Pearl Islands, Lun. Co., July 31 (ELM,IAM), but a few lingered into September, when 1-2 were seen at the John Lusby Marsh near Amherst between Sept. 10 and 14 (CD).

E.L.M., Ed.

JAEGERS, GULLS, AUKS

There was a repeat of last year's SKUA sighting off Brier I; Bruce Mactavish saw one there on Sept. 4. The only JAEGER reported was a dark-phase bird, probably PARASITIC, just south of Brier on Aug. 28 (RGGB).

HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS need no comment. But we may have lost our LESSER BLACK-BACK. Bruce Mactavish couldn't find it at Digby, either on Aug. 24 or Oct. 10. Bruce had the first ICELAND GULL sighting - a first-year bird at Tiverton, Digby Co., on Oct. 12. There were later reports of 2 on Seal I. on Nov. 1, and 1 the next day, as well as a bird at Grand Desert, Hfx. Co., on Nov. 9 (ELM,IAMcL). There was a RING-BILLED GULL at Brier I. on Aug. 1, and other singles there on Aug. 24 and Nov. 1 (ELM). But these hardly compare with the 65 which Eric Mills and Ian McLaren saw at Chezzetcook on Aug. 16, and the 40 at Grand Desert on Nov. 9. The flock at Eel Brook, Yar. Co., had built up to 60 by Nov. 19 (PRD, CRKA).

There were 4 adult LAUGHING GULLS at Martinique Beach on Nov. 24 (PK). The first BONAPARTE'S were seen at West Lawrencetown on Aug. 23, and numbers there had built up to 25- in mid November. There were 11 at Merigomish on Aug. 8 (ELM, IAMcL). The earliest BLACK-HEADED GULL reports are of a sub-adult at Conrad's Beach on Aug. 3, and of a bird at Dan's Head, Shel. Co., on Aug. 16 (IAMcL, JR and CDG).

An adult BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE was seen in Cabot Strait on July 22 (RGGB). Another adult, seen on the shoals south of Grand Manon on Aug. 26 (RGGB,ELM) perhaps counts as a New Brunswick rather than a Nova Scotian sighting. The NSBS party saw a bird off Seal I. on Oct. 12 and 4 there the next day, and there were c.100 a day off Seal I. on Nov. 1-2 (ELM, IAMcL).

This has been a summer of the unusual tern. Lisè and Shirley Cohrs' SOOTY TERN, in the wake of Hurricane Blanche, has to have the prize. They saw it at Green Bay, Lun. Co., on July 28, at point blank range as it sat on a rock. It was black on the back and with black legs - white underneath and with a white forehead. The only bird it could have been confused with would be an equally hurricane-driven Bridled Tern, but Shirley noted that it lacked the pale neck-ring and pale underwingtips of the Bridled.

Sylvia Fullerton's GULL-BILLED TERN, seen at Cherry Hill Beach on Aug. 17, is almost as unusual. It was flying to and fro feeding on insects, as this species does, and its heavy black bill and the almost pure white appearance of its plumage were well seen.

Compared with these, other tern reports seem almost commonplace. There was a CASPIAN TERN at Cranberry Head, Yar. Co., on July 13, and a probable sighting of this species at Brier I. on Aug. 31 (Henrys, SC). COMMON and ARCTIC TERNS are well reported. The NSBS party saw 11 Commons as late as Aug. 30 at Brier, and the latest record was of 2 "Comics" inland in Yarmouth Co. on Oct. 11 (CRKA). The Gallaghers report about 30 adults and at least 12 young Arctics at the colony on East Baccaro Beach, Shel. Co., on July 26. More worryingly, Ian McLaren found that the Commons and Arctics on Pearl I. were completely unsuccessful, thanks to gull predation. Norman Smith of Necum Teach writes of the Halibut Islands colonies: "I have not seen one island in this eastern part of the sanctuary area where they are hatching this year. The gull population is increasing, especially the black-back gull".

Finally we have a scattering of BLACK TERN reports. There was an immature at Three-Fathom Harbor on July 27, 3 (?age) on July 29 and another the next day (ELM, JK, IAMcL, EHG). Con Desplanque saw several at the Amherst Bird Sanctuary on Aug. 23-24.

Ann Linton reports that the 2 pairs of RAZORBILLS on Pearl I. reared one chick successfully; the 12 pairs of PUFFINS there could also only bring off a total of one chick. Gull predation, perhaps? Single Razorbills were seen off Brier I. on Aug. 30, and off Seal I. on Oct. 13 (ELM, IMacG). There were 5 MURRES (probably common) in Cabot Strait on July 22 (RGG). Auks - probably THICK-BILLED MURRES - were seen in small numbers off Seal I. on Nov. 1-2, and there was a single DOVEKIE there as well (ELM). Small numbers of Puffins were seen north and west of Brier I. in late August; the peak count was of 15 birds (7 of them adults) on Aug. 25 (ELM, RGG). The Cohrs saw a couple in Mahone Bay on Nov. 15. They also report three sightings of single BLACK GUILLEMOTS off Crescent Beach in August and one in Mahone Bay on Nov. 15. The only other record was a single bird in Cabot Strait on July 22 (RGG). But this scarcity of reports must be an artefact, because Black Guillemots are our commonest breeding auks.

R.G.B.B., Ed.

DOVES, CUCKOO

The ROCK DOVE enters our list only long enough to report that 1 was seen (NSBS Free. Field Day) at Brier I. on Aug. 30. MOURNING DOVES were reported often - they are always a "special" bird - mostly during the Fall, in Southern N.S. The earliest report is of 2 seen July 13 at Crab Head, Yar. Co. (MWH). The first "migration" report is of 5 birds seen Sept. 2 at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co. (Cohrs): the migration was in full swing (7-10/day) at Seal I. 26-29 Sept (NSBS party). Six birds were seen at Brier I. on Oct. 6 (B.MacT), 12 were seen at Sable I. on Oct. 15-16 (IAMcL), and another 12 at Broad Cove on Oct. 26 (SJM, BH). The latest reports were 9, Nov. 1; 2 Nov. 2 from Seal I. (ELM, IAMcL) and 1 on Nov. 9 at Grand Desert, Hfx. Co. (ELM).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS were only reported for the fall migration period; 1 at Three Fathom Harbor, Oct. 5 (IAMcL, IMcG); 1 Oct. 16 at Sable I. (IAMcL) and 1 Oct. 11; 1 Oct. 15 and 2 Oct. 16, by the NSBS parties on Seal I. The BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO was reported from two areas in the province: June 15 and July 15, at Round Hill (NEW) and Oct. 10 at Brier I. (B.MacT). The usual birds did not appear this

year at Wilmot, Yar. Co., for their tent caterpillar feast (TPM).

OWLS

OWLS were seen little, once again all in the Fall and all in South N.S. 1 BARRED OWL was seen Oct. 27 at Gr. Pubnico L., Yar. Co. (A&J.Trainor, CRKA, PRD) and 1 at Seal I. on Oct. 11 and 16 (NSBS parties). A SHORT-EARED OWL was seen Oct. 4 and 10 on Brier I. (BMacT), and 2 SAW-WHET OWLS, also on Brier I. on Oct. 10 (B.MacT).

Unfortunately our only report of the WHIP-POOR-WILL is a negative one, from W.J.Mills: a bird "for many years heard at Boulderwood, Hfx. Co. was NOT heard this year". NIGHTHAWKS appeared in their usual abundance with sightings every day until late August at Yarmouth (MWH). They were in full migration for the President's Field Day on Brier I. with counts of from 5 to 30 birds being seen daily from Aug. 28 - Sept. 1 (ELM). 11 were seen on Sept. 7 on Dominic Rd., and 3 on Sept. 18 at Arcadia, both in Yar. Co.

Eight CHIMNEY SWIFTS were "swirling around the Historical Society Museum" on July 3 at Yarmouth (MWH) and more than 100 were seen there on July 31 by the same observer. 1 (of 30 seen that day) was seen on the NSBS Brier I. pelagic trip, Aug. 30, "flying toward the island from the north, about 2 miles from land" (ELM); The last report is of a single bird on Sept. 13 at Petite Riviere, Lun. Co. (Cohrs).

HUMMINGBIRDS, KINGFISHERS

We open our report on the RUBY THROATED HUMMINGBIRD with a quotation from Frank F. Robertson of the Cape Breton Post, who says of Burland Murphy of Baddeck: "He mentioned that he had nursed a Hummingbird back to activity once. He had been feeding it honey-water but noticed that it would be droopy in the mornings and decided that it was missing protein, so he got Gelatin Protein Capsules at the drug store and added a tiny amount to the water with excellent results. I had never heard of them, and must get some and add it to my kit for ailing birds". Our only resident "Hummer" report is from Yarmouth, 1-4 daily through July, all females (Van Killam). 1-2 per day were seen at Brier I. from Aug. 19 to Sept. 2 (ELM), with a maximum count of 10 on the President's Field Day, Aug. 30. The latest reports are of 1 seen Sept. 14 at Nictaux South by Vera Nixon (per TPH) and one on Oct. 12 at Petite Riviere, Lun. Co. (FWD).

The BELTED KINGFISHER is seen on any wire over any tidal pool in summer, but reports of this common bird are not common for some reason. Two were seen on Brier I. on Aug. 30 (NSBS party) and 1-2 on Oct. 15-17 on Seal I. (NSBS party). It was seen in small numbers (2-3) from Sept. until mid-Nov. at Eel Brook and the Roberts I. Causeway, Yar. Co. (PRD).

WOODPECKERS

Seen regularly throughout the province during the summer months, the YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER packed the southern end of the province in the Fall. They were in exceptional numbers about the Yar. Co. countryside through Sept. (CRKA). There appear to have been two peaks in the migration, one in late September - 26-29 Sept. 50+ per day at Seal (ELM) and 75+ on Oct. 4 at Brier I. (B.MacT), and a

second in mid-Oct (40+ per day at Seal, 15-17 Oct. NSBS party).

Pileated woodpeckers have been "usual" at Great Pubnico (J & A.T., per PRD) all spring, summer and fall. This usually shy backwoodsman appears to have been quite evident this year, with sightings reported from all over the province. A nest hole was found on June 4 near Clementsvalle, Ann. Co., with a bird "entering and leaving the nest at dusk" (M.Cheesman, G.N., and T.Potter). The Lents saw one at Weymouth Aug. 11, and other single sightings were: July 27 at Turtle Lake, near Keji Park, Queen's Co., (ELM, NB), Aug. 18 at Somerset Rd., Lun. Co. (Cohrs), Sept. 18 at Nictaux Lake South (Vera Nixon per TPH). All the sightings of the RED-HEADED WOODPECKER were not, as is normally the case, for the Fall: 1 adult was seen on May 11 at Brier I. (LEN, HJM). The next reports are for Oct. 7 - 12 at Brier I. (B.MacT), Oct. 15 at Seal I. (NSBS party), Oct. 19 at Cape Rd., Wedgeport (R.Doucette, per D and MH), and, finally, 1 at Chester on Nov. 6 (Mrs. Haase). It is certainly clear that this bird occurs regularly in the Fall in the southern part of the province, presumably in small numbers.

The YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER appears to have been inordinately shy or rare this year; we have no late spring or summer reports. The first is "from Sept. 20 on" at Wilmot (TPH). From then on the records are all for Yarmouth Co., Seal I. or Brier I. 5 were seen Oct. 5 (B.MacT), one at Yarmouth on each of Oct. 5, 6 and 17 (MWH) and on Oct. 15 at Seal I. (NSBS party). All but one of the reports of the HAIRY WOODPECKER were from the south of the province in the Fall, which probably only bespeaks of the fact that it was common elsewhere in the province during the summer. The one exception is a report of one seen on Sable I. on Oct. 16-17 (I.A.McL. - "rare for Sable".) One was seen on Seal Island on the same dates by a NSBS party. The latest reports come from Yarmouth, Nov. 6 (MWH) and Roberts I., Yar. Co., on Nov. 12 (MWH). The DOWNY WOODPECKER was reported only twice, both times from Seal I: Oct. 15-16, 102 (NSBS party) and Nov. 2, 2 (ELM & IAMcL). It being such a common bird, it can only be concluded that no-one thought to include it in their lists. The two reports of ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS come from Branch L., Ann. Co., (M.Cheesman, N.Bowers, A.Milson, GN) on May 7, and Little Annapolis L. on June 22 (M. Cheesman, GN). Both were of nesting pairs. The first-mentioned pair raised their young and were gone by July 1.

F.W.D., Ed.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

True to form EASTERN KINGBIRDS began to move during the last two weeks of Aug., with large concentrations by Labour Day. On Brier I., Aug. 30-31, there were 50 counted (MWH) with numbers still high generally during the next two weeks, especially in Yar. Co., where there were 12 Sept. 10, 10 on Sept. 13 and "several" at Cape Forchu on Sept. 14 (MWH, CRKA).

Five WESTERN KINGBIRDS reports were received, all of single birds. These were at Brier I., Aug. 29 and Sept. 5 (WL, BM) - perhaps the same bird - at Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co., Sept. 20 (EHC), Seal I., Oct. 15 (MWH) and Sable I. Oct. 16 (IAMcL).

The two GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS seen were at opposite ends of the province. One was at Seal I., Sept. 26-27 (ELM) and the other on Sable I. Oct. 16 (IAMcL)

Single EASTERN PHOEBES were reported from Lun. Co. and From Seal I. Dates are Aug. 16, Green Bay (CJC), Sept. 14, Crescent Beach (JC), Sept. 26 and Oct. 12, both on Seal I. (NSBS).

The EMPIDONAX group of flycatchers were more heavily reported than usual, with evidence of a sizable migration during the last week of August. Eric Mills writes that on Brier I. "...numbers began to increase on Aug. 24, peaked at about 400 Sept. 1. Majority probably Alders but a few certain Leasts and 40+ Yellow-bellied....a truly memorable migration of flycatchers, larger than I've seen before". On Brier at the same time a constant movement of the EASTERN WOOD PEWEE was noted. Numbers built up from Aug. 19 to Sept. 2 and peaked at 15+ on Sept. 1. They were still seen on Seal I., Sept. 26-28 at a rate of 2 a day. Late sightings were made at the Piggery, Dart., Oct. 4 (IAMcl), Brier I. Oct. 5 (BM) and Seal I. Oct. 11 (SJF).

Some evidence of migration of the OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER comes from L & SC., who observed 5 together at Green Bay, Lun. Co., Aug. 22. They were very active and noisy, calling their pip-pip-pip call and flying back and forth amongst the trees. The only other reports of Olive-sides are from Melbourne, Yar. Co., Sept. 11 (CRKA) and Brier I., Sept. 13.

This would appear to be a bumper year for HORNED LARKS. Widely reported, they were first seen at Cape Forchu on Sept. 19 (AH). Throughout October numbers increased in all the usual habitats and by early November flocks were large and widespread. Sylvia Fullerton reports 70+ Nov. 2 and thereafter at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co.

Swallows began to move as usual in August. C.R.K.Allen writes that on Aug. 11 along the last half mile of road leading to Chebogue Point swallows were lined up on the wires in hundreds, about two-thirds Tree and one-third Barn. Eric Mills writes of three waves of TREE SWALLOWS passing through Brier I. in the latter part of August: 100 on the 19th, dropping by the 24th, up to 200 on the 27th, down on the 28th, and another peak Aug. 30. Late dates for Trees are Oct. 12 (Brier) and Oct. 15 (Seal) (BM, IAMcl).

BANK SWALLOW reports are down considerably. This may be due to postal difficulties, although Marion Hilton writes that numbers were low this year in the usual swallow haunts in Yar. Co. On Aug. 23, 100 were seen at APBS (CD). At the same time they peaked at Brier- Aug. 19-23, thereafter declining to 10 by Aug. 31. None remained on Sept. 1. (ELM).

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS, not often encountered in this province, were seen in Hfx. Co., and on Brier I. The Halifax birds, three in number, were seen in company with Barn Swallows at Cow Bay Pond on July 29 (the day after the hurricane). On Aug. 29 one appeared at Pond Cove and 3 at Western Light, Brier I.

BARN SWALLOWS were here in large numbers and stayed later than usual. 30-40 were passing through Brier I., Aug. 19 - Sept. 2, but no obvious peaks were noticed. (ELM). Throughout September relatively large numbers were seen in the western end of the province: 20-25 at Chebogue Pt. Rd., Sept. 11, 20+ at Cape Forchu, Sept. 4 (CRKA). They lingered in Digby Co. until Sept. 26 and 8 were still on Seal I. on Sept. 28. Latest seen was at Seal on Oct. 11 (SJF).

A small migration of CLIFF SWALLOWS is reported from Brier I., Aug. 19 - Sept. 2, with one or two going through each day. The peak of 6 came on Aug. 27 (ELM). A lingering bird was still there on Oct. 12 (BM).

Our star PURPLE MARTIN reporter Evelyn Coates of Amherst has news of three colonies. The Russell Amos colony reported over 30 young, the Martin Rose colony over 50 and Evelyn herself had four nests, three with 3 young and one with 2. The last young bird there left the nest on Aug. 22 and all the Martins had disappeared by Aug. 27. She writes "You might be interested to know that the main food for the

young is not mosquitoes. Every one I have seen carrying in food carried dragonflies, others say the same. But the "hawking" is done at fairly high altitudes above the nesting area, about 500 ft. or so".

CORVIDS THROUGH WRENS

Perhaps this is to become a GREY JAY winter. They emerged early from the woods and have been heavily reported in urban as well as country areas. As early as Sept. 13 they were about in groups of 4-5 throughout Lun. Co. (J & SC). By Oct. they were arriving at feeders, including the Ross Anderson's in downtown Dartmouth. Rosemary Eaton writes of seeing many at Cole Harbor and at her feeders although they had been absent from there for years. Two were feeding on the lawn of the Bedford Institute on Oct. 21 (RGBB) and at Eel Brook they were and are very much in evidence and feeding at the suet feeders (PRD).

BLUE JAYS are abundant as usual in Fall, with several large flocks reported: 54 Sept. 30 at Pt. Maitland, 300+, Oct. 5 at Brier I., and 20+ Oct. 17 at Sable (MWH, BH, IA McL).

COMMON RAVENS and COMMON CROWS maintain average numbers, being much in evidence around the shorelines. A large flock of 750+ crows was seen on Bon Portage I., Oct. 11-13 (J & SC). A spectacular sky-blackening flock of 2500+ swirled over the corn stubble near Grand Pré, Nov. 11 (Andersons and Cohrs).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE reports suggest a migration in late Oct. and early Nov. C.R.K.Allen writes that they were very common and on the move in Yar. Co., then and the Cohrs report a heavy concentration of 500+ in Green Bay and environs Oct. 25. "the bushes heaved with black-caps, very noisy, active and moving".

BOREAL CHICKADEE numbers seemed to be average for late summer. Phyllis Dobson mentions one large concentration and apparent movement Oct. 21-23 in Yar. Co. Highest Seal I. count of 26 was made Oct. 11, dropping sharply to 8 the next day (SJF).

One WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH appeared at Con Desplanque's in Amherst Nov. 2, and on the same day one arrived at the Cohrs' feeder in Halifax, where it has been a daily visitor since. A notable RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH migration was witnessed by NSBS member at Brier I. on the President's Field Day, Aug. 30 - Sept. 1. On Aug. 31 "hundreds" could be seen pouring over the North Head at low altitude - even flying in and out the open windows of parked cars.

BROWN CREEPER reports come mostly from mainland Yar. Co., and Seal I., where they appeared, usually singly, in Oct. and Nov.

HOUSE WREN sightings were confined to Brier and Seal Is. On Seal, from 26-29 Sept. one or two per day were seen (ELM). Two were still there Oct. 16 and three on the 17th (MWH). On Brier a peak occurred Oct. 5 when Bruce MacTavish counted 9.

Two late WINTER WRENS were spotted on Seal I., Nov. 1 (ELM). From Seal I. also comes the only reports of the LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN. One or two were seen Sept. 26-28 and one remained Oct. 17 (ORKA). Two SHORT-BILLED MARSH WRENS were seen and heard singing at S. E. ST., in Yar. Co., July 5 (MWH et al).

An interesting report from C.R.K.Allen on Seal I., Oct. 15, is of 2 CAROLINA WRENS. Still hypothetical in Nova Scotia for lack of "body" or photograph, this is the second sighting. The first, also on Seal I., was on Oct. 6, 1974 (J & SC).

MIMIDS

Most of the MOCKINGBIRDS seen were in Amherst town and Yar. Co. Several adults, and at least 3 imm. were around Amherst in Sept. (OD), while Yar. Co. correspondents write of Mocker nests and fledglings in and around Yarmouth town in summer and fall. From elsewhere two reports have come in: one at the Piggery, Dartmouth, Oct. 19 (IAMcL) and one at Three Fathom Harbor in mid-Nov. (Willis).

A GREY CATBIRD migration was under way Sept. 28 on Seal I. when Eric Mills saw 15. Late birds were seen on Bon Portage 1, Seal 1, and inland Yar. Co., all on Oct. 11 (J & SC, ELM & CRKA).

BROWN THRASHERS, rare but regular, occurred in Halifax Oct. 8 (CWH), Yar. town, Oct. 11 and 15 (MWH) and Seal I. Oct. 12 and 17 (ELM).

ROBIN THROUGH KINGLETS

The AMERICAN ROBIN was very heavily reported. The chokecherries and pincherries were bountiful and huge flocks of Robins found abundant food. Three main "waves" emerge from reports. On Sept. 18-19 Thelma Hawkins saw huge flocks at Wilmot, Anna. Co., and Evelyn Coates in Amherst writes that the blueberry fields and marshes were "teeming with Robins" that week. CRKA saw "many hundreds" in inland Yar. Co. on Oct. 11 and also witnessed a constant flight of "hundreds" moving along the shore at Argyle Sound in a strong easterly gale on the 12th. Latest report of any great concentration comes from Cole Harbor, where Rosemary Eaton saw 40+, Nov. 7. Other thrush reports are sparse with no waves noticed. HERMIT THRUSHES were at Talbot Rd., Yar. Co., Oct. 23, and Seal I. Nov. 1. Ian McLaren saw a late SWAINSONS THRUSH at the Piggery Oct. 4 and on Oct. 11 and 16th they were seen in Yarmouth town and Seal I. respectively (MWH). Only two GREY CHEEKED THRUSHES were seen, both by Bruce McTavish - one at Waverley, Hfx. Co., Sept. 21 and one on Brier I., Oct. 6. The three VEERY reports are: Sept. 1 - one at John Lusby Marsh and one at Brier and one Oct. 11 at APBS (CD).

An exciting GREENLAND WHEATEAR greeted NSBS members landing on Seal Sept. 26 and was seen again (and photographed) on the 27th. The fifth N.S. sighting, it was far from the site of the Wheatear seen last spring on Sable I. (NSBS Newsletter, Vol. 17, No. 1).

At least two and perhaps more BLUE GREY GNATCATCHERS were around this Fall. On Brier I. a single bird was seen Aug. 27, Sept. 1, Sept. 11 (ELM, IAMcL, BM). This may or may not have been the same one. Another was seen on Seal I., Sept. 27 (ELM)

The emergence of GOLDEN CROWNED KINGLETS from the forests coincided as usual with the departure of most of the RUBY CROWNED KINGLETS: on Oct. 5 there were 200 on Brier I. and Oct. 15-17 saw up to 200 on Seal (BM, MWH et al.)

PIPITS THROUGH STARLINGS

The Fall movement of the WATER PIPIT was first noticed by Sylvia Fullerton who saw one at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co. Sept. 13. By Sept. 20 there were 20+ there. The "high" at Seal came on Sept. 26, when there were 75, thereafter dropping to 35 by Sept. 28 and 3 by Oct. 17. Largest concentration of Pipits was at Bon Portage Oct. 11-13, when John and Shirley Cohrs saw 500+ feeding on the kelp all around the shore of the island. CEDAR WAXWINGS were plentiful about the province enjoying the bumper wild berry crop. Con Desplanque noticed a "definite Migratory movement" at Amherst on Sept. 7 and a large flock of 300 were feeding on chokecherries at Crousetown, Lun. Co. on Sept. 27 (Cohrs).

Three **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES** have been seen: one at Cranberry Head Sept. 13 (MWH), one at Head of Chezzetcook, Hfx. Co. on Sept. 14 (WJM) and a very late bird at Eel Brook Nov. 23 (PRD). A single **NORTHERN SHRIKE** (imm.) hunted along the old Greenhead Road, Hfx. Co., Nov. 9 (Andersons & Cohrs).

STARLING numbers build up as usual in Aug. and Sept., especially along the shorelines. A flock of 500 or more sounded "like a heavy shower" as they flew at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co., Sept. 22 (Van Killam).

S. C., Ed.

VIREOS

This Fall, sightings of all six of the eastern vireos have been reported - the two rarest accompanied by good descriptions. Thanks to Ian MacGregor for the following:

WHITE-EYED VIREO. "One bird on Seal I., Oct. 13, 1975. A very nicely marked bird. Smaller than other vireos occurring in the province. It did not have white eyes but the yellow spectacles and yellow of the sides were enough to separate it from Bell's Vireo. Overall identification was made by small size, vireo-like actions, yellow spectacles and sides, and whitish throat. The bird was quite tame. It was studied at close range as it searched a small garden. Seen also by Sylvia Fullerton, Eric Cooke and Willett Mills". Another sighting of this vireo was at Port Hebert, Nov. 1, by Ralph Widrig - "a bright male, all identifying marks visible at 25 ft. in full sunshine.

Ian MacGregor also reports a **YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.** "One bird, Oct. 3, along the railway cutting in the south end of Halifax near Pine Hill. A bright yellow throat and breast, white belly and under tail coverts. The back was green. The yellow from the throat extended onto the head as did the green color of the back, giving the bird's head a yellow-green color. Bright yellow spectacles were superimposed on this yellow-green coloration. The wing-bars were white, the primaries edged with silver". Sightings of Yellow-Throated Vireos were also reported from Brier I., Sept. 13, one seen by Bruce Mactavish, and at Petite Riviere, Oct. 11, one recorded by Chris Cohrs.

Our **SOLITARY VIREO** was last seen Oct. 15 - 3 on Seal I. (NSBS); our **RED-EYED VIREO**, 1-6 per day, Sept. 26-28 at Seal I. (NSBS) and one last one Oct. 11 at Green Bay, Lun. Co. (CJC).

The **PHILADELPHIA VIREO**, which we may almost claim as "ours" was "surprisingly abundant on Brier I," according to Eric Mills, as during the period Aug. 28 - Sept. 14 Bruce Mactavish added up 18 sightings (it is doubtful if all were separate birds), but 5 were found in a day during the August visit (ELM,BM,RSW). Late reports are of 1, Sept. 21, Halifax (good description by Ian MacGregor); 1, Oct. 5, Seal I. (BM); 1, Oct. 11, Yar. Co. (CRKA) and 1, Oct. 16, Sable I. (IAM).

One **WARBLING VIREO** was reported Aug. 29 from Brier I. (ELM,BM,IAM).

WOOD WARBLERS

We have less than half the usual number of records of warblers during the Fall migration this season. This detracts from the interest of our report, but does not seriously affect pertinent information, since the warblers quite regularly leave us from SW Nova Scotia, and we do have comprehensive records from this region. The majority of our native species left around mid-October as usual, and concentrations were up to normal, as seen on field trips (casually in woodlands or formally on the offshore islands), and in the trees around our houses. Mixed flocks with a high

proportion of immatures kept us polishing our binoculars through September; in October there appeared to be more "pure cultures" (all of a kind), notably Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll and Palm Warblers.

Besides our 22 breeders we had reports of 6 rare warblers, seen, with one exception on Brier, Seal and Sable Islands. These were: One BLACK-THROATED GRAY, Sept. 1, Brier I., near the Northern Light 9.00 a.m., in full sun, light behind the observers, Chris and Shirley Cohrs. The bird was described by both observers as having "three broad black stripes interspersed with white, side of head, middle back stripe running through the crown, back of neck and back medium to dark gray, underneath throat, breast, belly and under tail coverts white, two white wingbars, black legs and feet".

Five PRAIRIE WARBLERS, 1-3 per day Sept. 26-28, Seal I., Stuart Tingley et al., 1, Oct. 11-12, Seal I., NSBS party and 1, Oct. 15, Sable I., Ian McLaren.

One KENTUCKY WARBLER, Aug. 27-28, Brier I., Bruce Mactavish. Eight YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS, 1, Aug. 29, Sept. 2 and Sept. 11, Brier I., Bruce Mactavish; 2-5 per day, Sept. 26-28, Sea. I., NSBS party; 1, Oct. 15, Oct. 17, Seal I., NSBS party; 1 Nov. 7, Halifax, Shirley Cohrs.

One HOODED WARBLER (male), Oct. 16, Sable I., Ian McLaren.

For reference, dates of last sightings of our native species are: BLACK-AND-WHITE, Nov. 5, Halifax (SC); TENNESSEE, Oct. 12, Seal I. (there was a sharp migration peak of 100+ Tennessees on Aug. 24 at Brier I., of interest since we have few Fall reports of this warbler); NASHVILLE, Oct. 17, Seal I., PARULA, Oct. 6, Yar. (MWH); YELLOW, Oct. 15, Seal I.; MAGNOLIA, Oct. 17, Seal I.; CAPE MAY, Nov. 1, Seal I. (a peak on Brier I. Aug. 21, another there Aug. 28-29 and on Seal, 4-20 per day Sept. 26-28;); BLACK-THROATED BLUE, Oct. 17, Seal I.; YELLOW-RUMPED, a huge migration by all reports; at Brier I., Aug. 19, there were 3-10 per day until Aug. 28 when the count rose to 30, thereafter declining to the previous level; at Wilmot, Sept. 19, large flocks were noted by Thelma Hawkins; in Yar. Co., "a huge movement began about Oct. 1 and still continues" according to CRKA on Oct. 23; at Seal I. Sept. 26-28 there were 30-50 per day, by Oct. 11, about 200, and by Oct. 15, 250; at Bon Portage I. the Cohrs counted "hundreds - every 70 feet of shoreline yielded 10 or more - flycatching in the swamp, dwarf spruce or kelp, all around the entire island"; during November "Myrtles" have rapidly declined in number in Yar. Co., and are rare now (Nov. 30) - the bayberry crop is poor this year, perhaps few will winter.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN, Nov. 16, Green Bay, Lun. Co. (J,S & LC); BLACKBURNIAN, Oct. 7, Brier I. (BM); CHESNUT-SIDED, Oct. 11, Brier I. BAY-BREASTED, Oct. 12, peak at Brier 25-30 on Aug. 23-28 - Sept. 1, a small peak (top 20) at Seal, Sept. 28; BLACKPOLL, Nov. 5, Seal I., notable peak at Halifax out near Pine Hill Sept. 13-Oct. 3, from 0 birds to 60 on the 20th down to 20 Oct. 3 (IM); PALM, usual ample numbers going through, late August on, noted in Shel. Co., 50, Aug. 28, 65, Aug. 29 (CD & JRG), "flocks" Aug. 30 at Lower Wentworth, Cumb. Co. (M.Kaulbach), still frequent up to Sept. 18 in Yar. Co., and a good peak on Seal I., 12-55-50, Oct. 15-17, finally about 20 per day, Nov. 1-2, most of them of the "western race" according to Ian McLaren and Eric Mills; OVENBIRD, Oct. 15, Seal I., and Sable I.; NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, Oct. 12, Seal I. (a small peak on Brier Aug. 28-Sept. 11, 1 up to 10); MOURNING WARBLERS, Sept. 27, Seal I., a small peak on Brier Aug. 29 - Sept. 6, 1-5-2, leaving Seal Sept. 26 (5), Sept. 27 (1); COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, Oct. 12, Seal I., peaks on Brier, up to 50 Aug. 27, declined, and up to 40 again Aug. 30-31; WILSON'S, Oct. 17, Seal I., small build-up on Brier Aug. 27-30, 1-4 birds; CANADA, Sept. 1 at Brier; AMERICAN REDSTART, Oct. 16, Seal I., peak at Brier Aug. 19-Sept. 2, build-up to 25 per day until Aug. 30, then declining, and a small wave through Yarmouth Town Sept. 19, noted by EK. (Brier I. "peaks" kindness of ELM).

WEAVER FINCHES

As is the case with most fabulous places, myths and legends have arisen about Seal Island. We say "you can expect to find anything on Seal I." and we have also said "there are no House Sparrows on Seal". As a consequence, when we saw some interesting-looking birds around the Lighthouse there this Fall, we stalked them carefully and identified them, first with difficulty, then with considerable chagrin as - HOUSE SPARROWS. It is surprising what a handsome bird a House Sparrow can be, if fat and healthy and very clean. The one bird seen just a few years ago on Seal has somehow become a flock of a dozen or more. We watch its progress with concern. Elsewhere in the province, as far as have heard, the House Sparrow population remains static.

ICTERIDS

BOBOLINKS, scarce in Lun. Co. only a few years ago are now well established there. A "very restless, noisy flock of about 100+, mostly immatures or in Fall plumage" was observed Aug. 2 at Petite Riviere (SC) and far out at East Ironbound I. Ian McLaren watched fledglings being fed by at least three females in a meadow. In Shel. Co. also a relatively new location JR and CD Gallagher noted 12, Aug. 29 at Upper Ohio near John Lake. Slightly farther west, at Southeast St. in Yarmouth a gathering of 7-8 Bobolinks, July 5, had increased to 30+ by Aug. 12, down to 25 Sept. 2 (AH,MWH).

Around 12, seen Sept. 11 at Bunker I. in Yarmouth Hbr. were "on their way" (CRKA) and at Brier I. Aug. 19 - Sept. 2 small numbers increased to 30+, Aug. 30, then declined in number, flocks seen passing over Northern Pt. and heard overhead at night Aug. 31 (ELM).

Reports of the EASTERN MEADOWLARK were all from SW Nova Scotia: 2, July 3-5 at Southeast St. in Yarmouth (reported in our Sept. "Flyer"), 1, Aug. 3 in Yarmouth (Forest St., EK), 1, Oct. 10 at Brier I. (BM), 4, Oct. 16 at Seal I. down to 1, Oct. 11, still there Oct. 17 (NSBS). Lack of up-province reports hampers us particularly with the "blackbirds", most of which leave via the Border. A few REDWINGS did leave from Brier I., 3 there Aug. 24, 10 on Aug. 31, down to 5 Sept. 1 (ELM). Con Desplanque got one report through to us in which he mentioned noticing "a definite migratory movement of REDWINGED BLACKBIRDS near Amherst, Sept. 7, along with Waxwings, Robins and Bluejays. (A later report just received gives 500 REDWINGS Sept. 20 at APBS, 10 there Nov. 1). A very late record was of 10-15 per day, Nov. 1-2 at Seal I. (ELM,IAM). Also at Seal I., Sept. 26-29, an ORCHARD ORIOLE was seen and identified by Bruce Mactavish.

NORTHERN ORIOLES (all "Baltimores") were seen in eight places this summer-fall season, 1975. The only definite breeding records come from Halifax city, oddly enough. Here Chris Cohrs saw an adult feeding 2 young, July 23, near his home on Rosemount Avenue, and Willett Mills (2 orioles in his bird-bath together, Aug. 25) tells us that these birds have been breeding in his section of Halifax (Marlborough Avenue) for the past five years. Ian MacGregor saw three orioles in Halifax near the railway cutting Sept. 11, another one Sept. 20. The Gallaghers had one Aug. 20 at Clyde River Road, Pine Camps, Shelburne Co., and 2-5 were seen on Brier I. Aug. 19 - Sept. 2. Eric Mills also found one at Seaforth, Halifax Co., Sept. 21, and at Seal I. there were 10-15 per day Sept. 26-28, down to 1, Oct. 11, still there Nov. 2 (NSBS). This is a come-down from the 100's we have seen there at these times in previous years.

Small concentrations of RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were noted July 27, 10 at Turtle Lakes, Queen's Co. (near Keji Park) and on Sept. 7, 10 at Dartmouth Piggery, by ELM; also 10-15 per day Sept. 26-28 on Seal I., one only seen there by the NSBS parties of Oct. 11 and Oct. 16.

The COMMON GRACKLE was feeding young early in July, gathering into flocks by the middle of that month, and while most of them disappeared early in Sept., a good number lingered up to the end of October. Once again our reports are inadequate, but Thelma Hawking wrote of "enormous flocks of blackbirds all Fall, mostly Grackles and Starlings; at Wilmot, Annapolis Co., and flocks of Grackles passed through Yar. Co. in the hundreds around the first of Sept., with a later report just received giving 500 REDWINGS, Sept. 20, at APBS, 10 there Nov. 1. There is no mention of them from Brier I. but at Seal there were about 15 present Oct. 17, and in Yarmouth Town a small flock of 5-6 - probably set to "winter" - was still at 23 Baker St. Nov. 18 (MWH).

The BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD is gathering its flocks nearer towns for the winter, but some do seem to migrate, seen in numbers Aug. 30 at Brier I., 3 only Oct. 12 at Seal. Michael and Rosemary Eaton of Bissett Road near Dartmouth sent us a description of an unusual sight - "an adult male Cowbird foraging for his (?) very aggressive young....when they chased him he was obviously upset at their bullying ways and his inability to satisfy them. It was interesting to see an adult Cowbird taking its responsibilities seriously". One had supposed that once fledged, a young Cowbird was on its own.

TANAGERS AND FRINGILLIDS

Bruce Mactavish added up 15 sightings of the SCARLET Tanager on Brier I., Aug. 25 - Sept. 4, and Eric Mills reported a peak of 5 on Aug. 31. Two others, in Fall plumage, were seen: 1, Sept. 12 in southend Halifax near the railway cutting (IM) and 1, Sept. 13 near Crousetown, Lun. Co. eating chokecherries along with some robins (CJC). One CARDINAL, Nov. 27, was seen in a Dartmouth garden "scratching and feeding" by Anne Hillis.

A ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK was feeding 2 young Aug. 14 at Round Hill (WEW) and a month later the first migrating birds were noted: an imm. Sept. 11 at Eel Lake, Yar. Co., one bird Sept. 14 at Brown's Brook, Lun. Co. (CJC), 3, Sept. 16 at Brier, up to 8 by Sept. 28 at Seal (EML) - 1 only imm. male there by Oct. 15-16.

A BLUE GROSBEAK, female, arrived Sept. 28 at Seal I. "just after the wind shifted from S to NW and left towards the N just as fast, calling loudly". (ELM, IAM, ST).

One INDIGO BUNTING in Fall plumage was observed (and accurately described) feeding with goldfinches at the Dartmouth Piggery Oct. 3 (IM), seen there the next day by IAM.

A very few DICKCISSELS returned through N.S. this Fall: 1, Sept. 14 seen at Brier (BM), 1-2 there Sept. 26-28, 2 on Sable Oct. 16 and one that same day at Seal, found feeding with sparrows on the pebble ridge by the Lighthouse (Marie Henry), and one very late one at Halifax, Nov. 4 (SC).

W. E. Whitehead reports a female EVENING GROSBEAK feeding 2 young July 2 at Round Hill. The flocks eating chokecherries Sept. 5 at Lower Wentworth, (35 lining the telephone wires there by the 7th) probably represent the first of our wintering visitors moving in from New Brunswick. They arrived at Bridgetown, Sept. 22 (12-15) - a week earlier than last year according to Stewart Whitman. In Yarmouth Co. the first seen were 8-10 Oct. 5 at Tusket and thereafter a few in the vicinity but unsettled until Nov. 15, when large flocks (up to 30 and 40) were becoming common elsewhere, and coming to feeders. There was a good migration of PURPLE FINCHES, noticeably at Brier, Aug. 19, with a gradual rise of 5 per day up to 50+ by Sept. 1, thereafter small waves observed at Yar. (town and county) on Sept. 8 and 18; on Seal I. Sept. 26-28 there were 10-25 per day, 25 still there to be counted Oct. 16 and by Nov. 2 only 2 left.

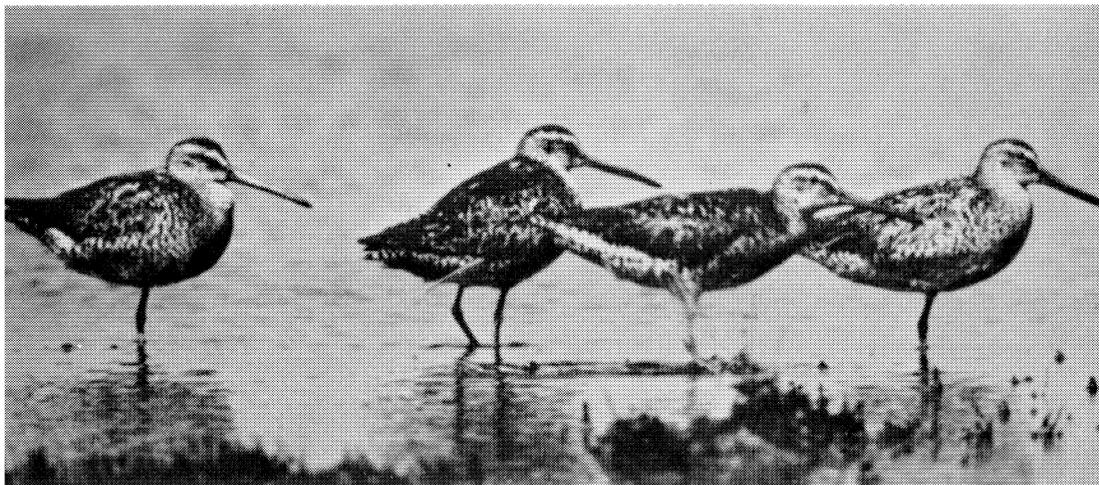
A small movement of PINE GROSBEAKS took place in November, when WEW saw 5 at once (Nov. 1) at Round Hill and 1-2 or more a day were in constant evidence on trips through the Tusket-Quinan area in Yar. Co. (CRKA). There were 10 Nov. 8 at APBS, 3 the same day in Amherst (OD).

REGRET AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We were very sorry to hear of the death this last summer of one of our members - Gladys, Mrs. Lovett Dakin, of Kentville, Nova Scotia. Mrs. Dakin was an ardent bird-watcher and a valued contributor to the Newsletter.

We wish to acknowledge most gratefully the considerable number of cheques recently received from Mrs. Dakin's friends, sent to us in her memory at the request of her family - a very fitting tribute to a true bird-lover.

The contributions have been placed in our Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund.



Four Short-billed Dowitchers seen on a field trip led by Don MacDougall at Tatamagouche, 10. August 1975. Photo by Ralph Connor.



THE BLACK SPOT IS A WREN'S EYE.

Ian McLaren writes: "this is about as much as one ever sees of a Short-billed Marsh Wren on territory. This is one of the two Yarmouth males, with tail cocked, throat bulging with song, but crouched among the marsh grasses with ever-watchful eye."

July 16, 1975.



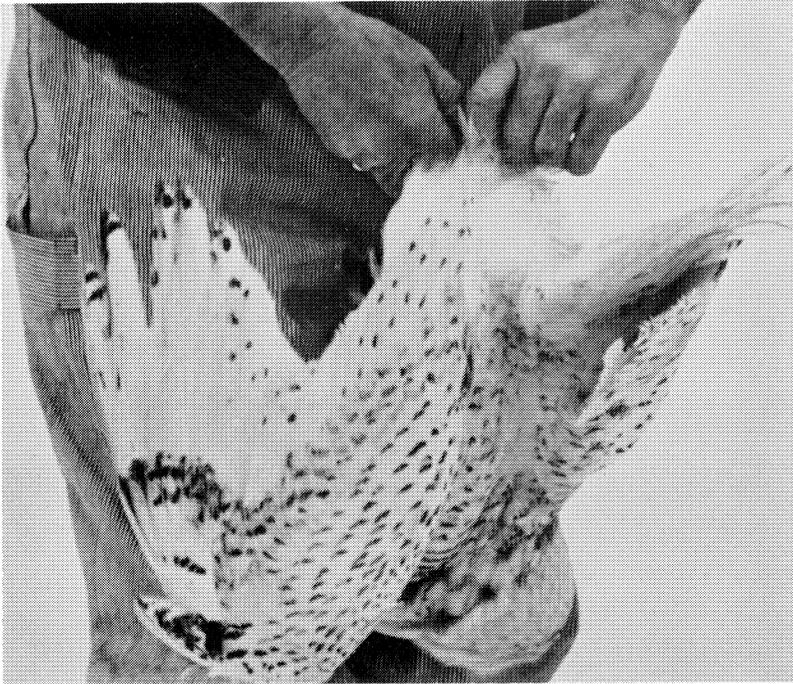
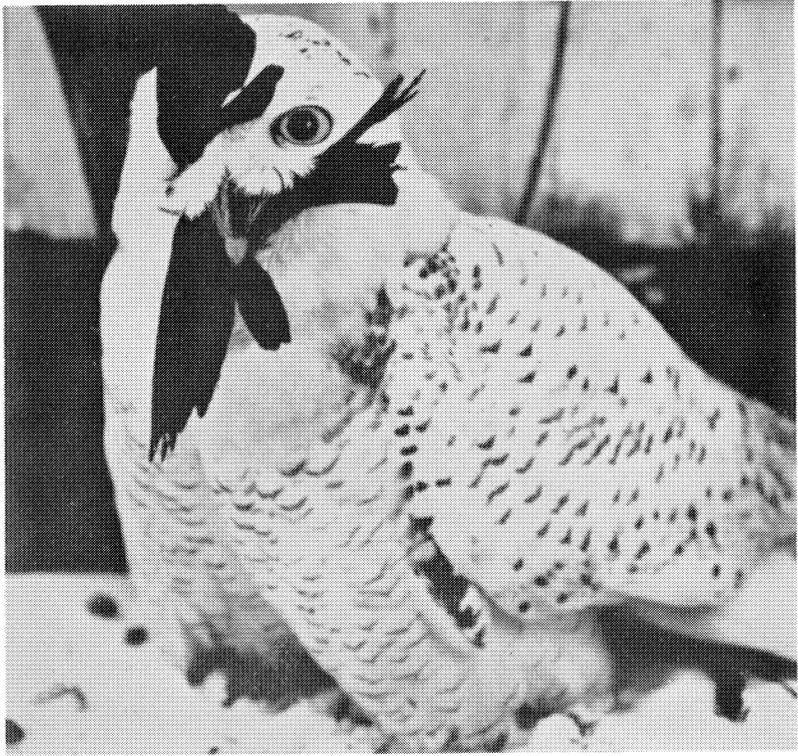
A peg-legged two-toed Hudsonian Godwit photographed by Ralph Connor at the Stanhope section of P.E.I. National Park in August 1975. Ralph did not notice the bird's disabilities until he projected the slide.

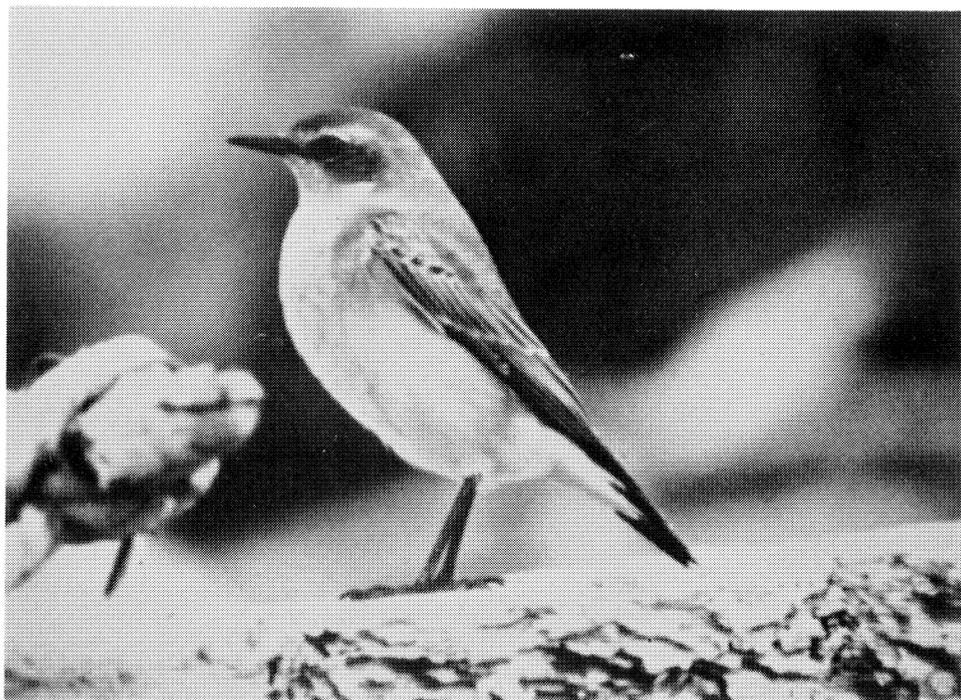


Patient photographer Ralph Connor sat for five hours in a pond wearing waders and camouflage net (etc!) to get this best of many shots of a Wilson's Phalarope. It was one of three of this species feeding behind Crescent Beach. (Sept). The jerky head movements and twirly swimming habits of phalaropes make them particularly hard to photograph.



On the 23. March field trip to Cyril Caldwell's home, members of the N.S.Bird Society had a close look at two Snowy Owls. The owls had both been shot at and had broken wings. Cyril tended these birds, feeding them mostly on Cowbirds. One of the owls was ready for release on 6. April and Ralph Connor went up to try and get photos.. Cyril caught the owl in a net, took it out by the feet with head down as shown. The bird did not struggle while he banded it. He then set it down in the snow. It flew off immediately and settled in the apple orchard where it was mobbed by some thirty ravens and crows. This bird of the treeless tundra had difficulty in perching securely on a branch. It teetered to and fro trying to maintain balance by spreading a wing. Finally the Snowy Owl flew off into some trees. After caring for it for several months Cyril hoped the owl would escape the bold attacks of the ravens and imitative crows.





Nine members had a good look at this Wheatear on Seal Island, Sept. 27, 1975. It is Nova Scotia's fifth, captured at last on film for confirmation. Photo IAMcL.

PHOTOGRAPHS

We would welcome photographs from our readers concerning birds in Nova Scotia:- photos of rare and common birds flying, feeding, wading and otherwise going about their daily business of living. Shots of favourite birding haunts and bird habitats would also be welcome. These could show the type of landscape and vegetation and now and then a favourite birder (in action) could be included! The photos should be sharp and the bird not too small in the frame. 35mm. colour slides (for projection) or black and white glossy prints would be desirable, though smooth-surfaced colour prints can be reproduced. Please print your name and address and identification of subject and where and when photographed on each photo. Slides will be returned and those photos not accepted. We want to keep the standard high, but obviously in the case of rarities, so long as the bird is identifiable a photo of it would be acceptable. If possible please send photos in before the reporting deadline to allow time for printing and layout.

R. EATON.



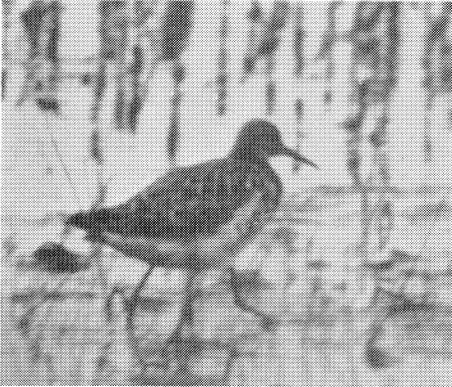
Part of a flight of shorebirds seen August 15. over Grand Pré Beach. Ralph Connor who took the photo says there were several large flocks flying up and down the shore, made up mainly of Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers and Semi-Palmated Plovers. The blurred image gives a lively impression of massed birds in flight - but the camera cannot capture the switching, black/white patterns of wheeling flocks, or the sudden sound of thousands of wings as the waders rise from the beach.

SOME SABLE ISLAND RARITIES

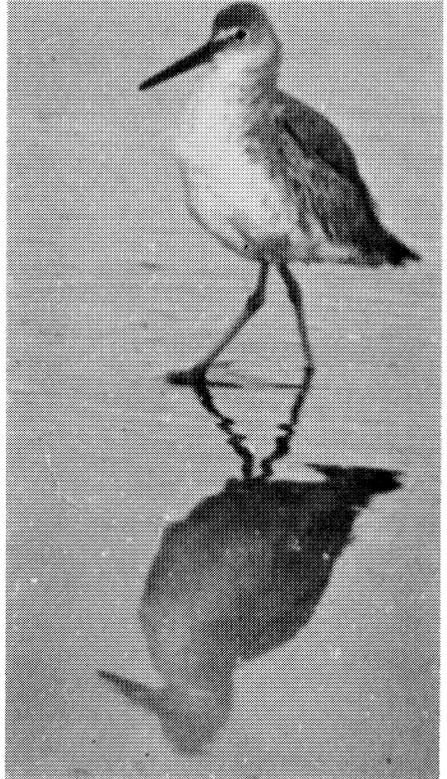
None of these is "portrait" class, but surely even second-rate pictures of first-rate birds are worthwhile.



One of two rather unapproachable Little Gulls over ponds near West Light on June 10, 1975. Note the dark upper-wing stripe, denoting sub-adulthood. This photo by David Finch is our second confirmed N.S. record.



A Ruff snapped in the gloaming by Davis Finch on May 30, 1975. Note the blotchy upper breast, fine head and slender, decurved bill.



This Willet turned up on April 12, 1971, to be photographed by Danny Welsh. No rarity? Look again. This large billed, long legged pale bird is probably a "Western Willet", some of which winter in South-east U.S.A. Have you ever seen a spring Willet like this one?

Sight records of 3 small flocks of COMMON REDPOLLS, unusually early, are reported; one of 4-5 birds accompanying a flock of Purple Finches, Aug. 31, at Brier I. (CJC), one of 6+ birds Nov. 1 on Seal I. (ELM,IAM) and 4, Nov. 16 at APBS (CD).

On Sept. 18 M. Kaulbach observed a flock of PINE SISKINS, about 6, at Lr. Westworth, Cumb. Co., and there seems to have been a movement out, of these erratic travelers - only 1 or 2 on Brier during September, 40 there Oct. 5; on Seal, 10, Sept. 28 and later 20, Nov. 1, down to 10, Nov. 2.

The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH remained common all summer and well into the Fall in flocks of 10-20, and 50+ were counted on a field trip Sept. 13 near Yarmouth. (This was an interesting trip, sponsored by the Yarmouth County Museum under a "Shoulder Grant" from the provincial government, for the benefit of visitors, i.e. tourists, and was well attended and greatly enjoyed by all participants. The Bird of the Day was the Loggerhead Shrike, noted above, which CRKA, leader of the trip, induced to remain in full view long enough and near enough for everyone to get a good look at it - a "first" for many). To return to the Goldfinches, mid-Sept. saw an increase generally, with 50, Sept. 14, at Brier, another influx early in October with 75 at Brier Oct. 5, and many flocks of around 10-12 birds noted in Yar. Co., Oct. 11. At Seal a count of 30 Oct. 1 5-16 rose to 75 on the 17th. Goldfinches almost disappeared after that for several weeks, reappearing in small numbers (half dozens) at feeders by mid-Nov.

The most pleasing news of the finch family concerns the Crossbills. The RED CROSSBILL could almost be called "common" again, at any rate in S.W. Nova Scotia. A flock of 6-12 appeared in the spruce-tops July 29 at Eel Lake, Yar. Co., and returned each day thereafter up to Aug. 6 and occasionally since, to feed noisily on cones. Much larger flocks were to be seen and heard flying any day in the vicinity. On Sept. 2 nearly 100 Reds were counted at Nearby Belleville. Ralph Widrig has reported (by phone) that these crossbills have become regular in Queen's-Shelburne; W. W. Whitehead at Round Hill, Annapolis Co., saw 3, Nov. 10 there and Ian McLaren noted 4, feeding on cones of an ornamental pine on Cambridge St. in Halifax, Nov. 18. There were a few on Brier in Sept. and early Oct., 15 on Seal Oct. 11.

Curiously, on Oct. 7, WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS took over from the Reds in the spruces at Eel Lake. The flock of 12 came thereafter daily for three weeks and is still seen occasionally. During this time small flocks were encountered on field trips inland up to the present (Nov. 30). A few Whitewings have been noted elsewhere, 8, Nov. 9 on the Greenhead Road, Hfx. Co. (Cohrs and Anderson) and 1 Nov. 14 in Halifax City (IM). At Brier I. these Crossbills were "very common in Sept., scarce in October" (BM), flocks numbering 25-45 in early Sept. (ELM). On Seal I., Nov. 1-2, 50 per day were found (ELM,IAM) - the picture is confused, are they coming or going? Time will tell, and finches are always a law unto themselves.

SPARROWS

As mentioned in the Introduction there was a heavy migration of Sparrows this Fall, and we have had records of 19 species, 12 native and 7 exotics. Of the exotics, 5 were seen only on our islands, 2 species (A Grasshopper and some of the Whitecrowns) also ashore. Savannahs, Juncos, Chippies and Whitethroats were notably abundant and generally distributed around the landscape through Sept. and Oct., with big "waves" encountered Sept. 11, 15, 23 and 26, Oct. 2, 10, 16 and 28. Juncos were congregating in August, found in numbers from then throughout October, and flocks of mixed Juncos and Chippies flushed from the roadsides at frequent intervals well into Nov.

The RUFUS-SIDED TOWHEE appeared Oct. 15, 1 at Sable (IAM) and 12 at Seal, down to 6 (still lively and vocal) on the 17th, gone by Nov. 1 (NSBS).

Two "IPSWICH SPARROWS" were seen at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co., Nov. 16 (J,S & LC). Ian McLaren found one nesting with Savannahs on Pearl I. this summer. He has informed us that we may now with the permission of the ACU refer to these sparrows as above (Ipswich with quotes).

SAVANNAHS were still present in "fantastic numbers" around Yar. Co. coastal areas Sept. 11; 200 present on Seal Sept. 26, down to 75 Sept. 27, a few stragglers still seen here and there in early Nov.

Three or more GRASSHOPPER SPARROW sight records are: 1, Aug. 31, Brier I, (J. C & LC); 1, Oct. 12, Seal (it or another there Nov. 1) and 1, Oct. 30 at the Halifax Container Pier (IAM).

There is no concentration of SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS to suggest a migration date, but Sharptails were plentiful in their normal habitat through July-Sept., only a few left by Oct.

The VESPER SPARROW joined the migrants at Seal and Brier, seen there Oct. 4-17, the largest number, 10, Oct. 11 on Brier, and one still on Seal Nov. 1-2.

Four or 5 LARK SPARROWS were seen in Sept., a possible 4 on Brier, Sept. 4, 9 and 13, which Bruce Mactavish says were all different birds; and 1 (imm.) Sept. 26-28 at Seal (NSBS).

Starting with the flock of mostly immatures, Aug. 30 at Lr. Wentworth reports of "Juncos general" Sept. 20 at Wilmot and "flocks up to 50 most days Oct. 4-23 at Round Hill, we add the 600+ counted along the roadsides between New Glasgow and Louisbourg (and almost as many back to Sherbrooke) on a trip Sept. 23-24 (MWH et al), "heavy Fall movement of Juncos" Oct. 11-23 in Yar. Co. (CRKA), 1000+ Oct. 11-13 on Bon Portage I. (J & SC) and 250+ Oct. 16 at Seal (only about 100 there on the 11th, and 10's on Brier) we get the impression of hordes of DARK-EYED JUNCOS making their way through the province, and all funneling out to the SSW in a packed and jostling stream. One might almost suspect a Pied Piper, for there are very, very few of them left. On Oct. 15 at Seal I., CRKA saw a large dark-brown sparrow with "a blank face" which he observed at 30' in a good light, but too briefly to note further details. His impression was that the sparrow was identical with a "Pinewoods" seen at Pt. Pelee, and carefully identified a few years previously. The Pine-woods is now called Bachman's, which is the tentative designation for this latest strange sparrow on Seal.

The TREE SPARROW has appeared quite early in small numbers: 1, Oct. 7 at Brier (BM); 4, Nov. 1-2, at Seal (ELM); 3, Nov. 5 at Round Hill (WEW); 2, Nov. 16 at Green Bay, Lun. Co. (J,S & LC); 1, Nov. 22 in the alders near Bartlett's Beach, Yar. Co. (CRKA) and 4, Nov. 1 at APBS (CD).

An unprecedented number of CHIPPING SPARROWS concentrated in the south end of the province in October in frequent flocks of 12 or more throughout Yar. Co. all of that month (CRKA, MWH, PRD); 75 were at Brier Oct. 5, 200+ along the Digby Neck road Oct. 10 (BM), many on Bon Portage Oct. 11-13, during the Cohrs' visit there, and a build-up from 6 to 30 on Seal, Oct. 15-17.

We have two reports of the CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, possibly of the same bird on Seal I., first seen Sept. 6 (BM), the second sighting Nov. 2 when the bird was well photographed (IAM, ELM).

As usual, the FIELD SPARROW was seen only on Seal I., one there Oct. 13, 5 Oct. 15, 11, Oct. 16, 3, Oct. 17 (NSBS).

The WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW migration was from Oct. 5 (2 at Amherst, CD) and Oct. 10 (one bird on Pearl I., IAM) to Nov. 2, 4 on Seal I. There were about

200 individuals in all counted on Pearl, Brier, Seal and Bon Portage Islands, and one imm. Whitecrow at Ste. Ann's Pt., Yar. Co., Oct. 23 (CRKA). The greatest numbers were at Brier, 100+ on Oct. 11 with a ratio of 20:1, immature to adult (BM, thank you, Bruce), and Bon Portage, 25+ Oct. 11-13 (Cohrs).

The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW was abundant, but not in such vast numbers as the Junco in size of migrating flocks. First noted (immatures) at Lr. Wentworth, Cumb. Co. (M. Kaulbach) Sept. 2; in Annapolis Co. Sept. 1, large flocks there by the 18th (WEW,TPH), "dozens" on Bon Portage Oct. 11-13, 60-100-75 on Seal I. Oct. 15, 16 and 17, and "33 at once" counted at the Eaton's feeder at Cole Harbor, Hfx. Co., on Oct. 8.

At East Ironbound I., Ian McLaren found 3 singing male FOX SPARROWS this summer, and suspects a new range extension. IAM and Eric Mills found 2 on Seal I., Nov. 1, two others reported this Fall at Amherst, 1 Oct. 19 and 1 Nov. 1 at APBS (CD).

Between 30 and 40 LINCOLN'S SPARROWS is a good number of this species in Nova Scotia. These were noted among the other migrants on Brier I., 1, Aug. 19 up to 3, Sept. 1 and 20+ Oct. 5. One was seen Oct. 2 at Tusket, Yar. Co., and 3, Sept. 26 up to 10 the 27th at Seal I., there also 1 on Nov. 1.

The SWAMP SPARROW records we have received with two exceptions are all for October (which is outstandingly "sparrow month"). Numbers were good. In Sept., 100 Swamps were seen on the 27th, 50 the 28th and 25 the 29th. By Oct. 5 the number was up to 40 again, and on that date and during the week following small groups were seen constantly on field trips around Yar. Co. At Seal I., 6 birds on Oct. 15 rose to 25 on the 16th, 40+ on the 17th, and (last date seen in N.S. this Fall) 5 on Nov. 2.

The SONG SPARROW did not exhibit any unusual behavior. It was well and plentifully distributed, and moved at about the same times as the Swamp Sparrow, the peaks recorded being the "dozens" at Bon Portage, Oct. 11-13, and at Seal, 30, Oct. 15, 100 both Oct. 16 and 17. A later movement is marked by a concentration (about 25-30) of these sparrows at the top end of St. Anns' Pt. - the farthest out point of Yar. Co., Oct. 23 - birds flying about very actively, ready to take off. There are as usual quite a few Song Sparrows still with us, probably for the winter.

The LAPLAND LONGSPUR is back early - the first one seen Sept. 20 at Three Fathom Harbor (Anderson and Cohrs), 4 there Oct. 5 (IM). The Cohrs also found 5 at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co., Sept. 27, and 2 were on Seal Sept. 26. Oct. 5 may have been a general arrival date, as that day one was also found at Cape Sable Island (ELM). There were 2 at Seal Oct. 11-12, 20 there Nov. 1, 2 Nov. 9 at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. (ELM, IAM) and 2 Nov. 15 at Cape Jourimain, CB.

The first SNOW BUNTING was seen Oct. 10 at Brier I (BM), the next (10) Nov. 1-2 at Seal I. (ELM, IAM) and the next, one lone one at Robert's I., Yar. Co., Nov. 5 (PRD). The real arrival was from Nov. 2 to 16, when the big flocks blew in. 80 Nov. 2 at the Boarder Marshes (CD). Nov. 7, 100+ at Cole Harbor (R. Eaton), 150-200 next day in that vicinity seen by Ralph Connor. Nov. 9, 300 at Conrad's Beach plus 200 at Grand Desert, Hfx. Co. (ELM, IAM); Nov. 10, 50 at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co., (DBK, FG, MWH); Nov. 11, 150+ at Scot's Bay (Cohrs and Anderson) who also saw many small flocks around King's and Hants counties that day; Nov. 13, 50+ at Halifax on a school ground - Lise Cohrs; Nov. 15, 2 flocks (15, 35) at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co.; Nov. 16, 40- at Pinckney's Point Marsh (CRKA). It snowed, quite hard, on Nov. 24. Winter is here.

P.R.D., Ed.



NOTESTERNS FEEDING ON MAYFLIES

On May 16 last while fishing on Five Island Lake, Hfx. Co., H.P.Moffatt observed a tern feeding on Mayflies in much the same manner as a swallow - that is, by swooping close to the water and picking the flies from the surface.

The Mayfly (*Blasturus fumosa*) "hatches" in tremendous numbers in the lakes along the Atlantic slope of Nova Scotia and provides food for many birds newly arrived from the south during the first three weeks of May. The feast is mostly shared by swallows, warblers and other woodland insectivores, but now and then a wanderer from another habitat turns up.

Such was the tern, and such the female Red Phalarope (in full breeding plumage) noted by Dr. Moffatt a few years ago, also on Five Island Lake, feeding actively on these insects.

WOODCOCK MIGRATION, 1975 by H. P. Moffatt.

The Woodcock migration this year was a little unusual probably because of the exceptionally mild weather during October and the occurrence on the weekends of Oct. 11-13 and 18-21 of strong easterly storms which probably carried off to New Brunswick and New England a good many Woodcock and other migrants.

When the season opened on Oct. 1 Woodcock were found in fair numbers in Colchester and Hants Counties - from 2-5 birds per cover depending on the area. There had apparently been a westward movement in September because at the same time birds were reported as fairly plentiful in Lunenburg, Queens and Western Kings Counties. These same birds stayed on, with the usual attrition by hunting, and no "flights" or concentrations were seen in the Hants-Colchester area at any time in October.

Some concentrations were, however, noted to westward, notably in Lunenburg County, where a group of hunters put up 27 birds in one cover about Oct. 15. If this was a flight from eastern N.S., P.E.I., or N.B., it must have skipped central Nova Scotia.

Birds (Woodcock) continued to be found until the big easterly of Oct. 20. After that they virtually disappeared and an all-day hunt would normally produce only one or two birds, and those in unusual places such as fern patches in open pastures where they had obviously dropped down to rest rather than feed.

Later . . . After the big storm at the first of November Woodcock were found at Bear River in Kings County (Nov. 8) and other reports indicated that they were fairly abundant in Yarmouth County, being found in twos and threes though no great flights with many birds in one cover.

SEAL ISLAND

Five groups of bird-watchers visited Seal. I. this Fall, between Sept. 26 and Nov. 2, courtesy of Mrs. Winnie Hamilton (owner of the island and good friend of bird-watchers). We are very grateful to Mrs. Hamilton and her family for allowing us the privilege of making frequent visits, usually in the Spring or Fall, to Seal, which is a remarkable concentration point for migrating birds.

On Sept. 26, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Bruce Mactavish, Stuart Tingley, four visitors from Montreal and one from New Brunswick, (in Eric Mills' words) "arrived about 11.00, Friday. Peregrine and Wheatear first birds seen". (It is rather a tradition on Seal that some rarity or other always meets the boat).

"Weather overcast with light SE winds. According to Elton Crowell there were few birds there until 2-3 days ago, when they came in on west winds. No apparent arrivals on Saturday, but the Wheatear still present. Heavy storm swell on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Wind into the west early Sunday morning and clearing began about noon bringing immediate arrivals, e.g. Blue Grosbeak and hawks (Kestrels and Merlins). On Monday morning, 6.30, many passerines in movement N along the island, including newly arrived Mockingbird and White-crowned Sparrows. Many hawks, especially Merlins and Kestrels, over the sea, and Flickers abundant flying toward the island. On return to Cape Sable Island - it was alive with hawks on Monday: 3 Redtails, 1 Broadwing, 1 Osprey, dozens of Merlins and Sharp-shinned Hawks all over that island. The total Seal I. list, 121 species. Highlights: Hawk numbers (especially Merlins), Peregrine, Great Crested Flycatcher, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Wheatear, Prairie Warbler, Dickcissel, Lark Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow (Bruce Mactavish), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Philadelphia Vireo (Stuart Tingley), Yellow-Throated Warbler (Tingley), Orchard Oriole (BM), Blue Grosbeak and Mockingbird."

Over Thanksgiving, two parties were on the island and encountered some rough weather, in spite of which (or perhaps because of which) they added up 92 species, including a Red-throated Loon, 15 Sharpshins, a possible Coopers Hawk, 2 Peregrines, 16 Merlins, 9 species of shorebirds, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2 Mockingbirds, a Brown Thrasher, 35 Pipts, 14 species of warbler, including the Prairie, a probable Grasshopper Sparrow, 50 White-crowned Sparrows (and as many White-throats), 2 Lapland Longspurs, a Rufous-sided Towhee and a White-eyed Vireo. Members of the parties were (1) Edith Bower, Jamie and Ralph Connor, Bessie and Herbert Harris, Ian MacGregor and Helen and Larry Neily; (2) Sylvia Fullerton, Eric Cooke, Willett Mills, Barbara Hinds and Ralph Widrig.

Two days later, Oct. 15, six more of us, David and Marie Henry, Marion Hilton, David Marshall (a visitor from New York), Phyllis Dobson and C.R.K.Allen arrived. The weather was cloudy with a strong SE wind blowing, and the morning of Oct. 16 brought heavy rain. Shortly before noon, the wind changed to westerly, the weather cleared and remained fair until our (reluctant) departure Oct. 17 PM. Total species count was 109 for the trip. Compared with the previous trip we had fewer shorebirds, more ducks, e.g. an American Wigeon, Shoveler, (4) (very beautiful) Wood Ducks - in the pond back of the long pebble ridge, the first Oldsquaws of the season (5), on the 17th, 14 Black Scoters and a Hooded Merganser. We had a different selection of warblers, still over 200 Yellowrumps, but many more Palms (up to 55), but failed to find the Prairie. Red-throated Loons went up to 13 on the 17th, and Sharpshins went up to 40 (from 6) in the three days we were there. The 6 Marsh Hawks left the island - only one seen the last day. Bluejays and Robins were coming and going, high upon arrival, low the next day, then high again, jays in the hundreds, robins 40-16-40+. Highlights of the trip were a Gyrfalcon, 2 Peregrines, 2 species of Rail (Virginia and unident.), the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2 in fact, an imm. Red-headed Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, 3 House Wrens, 2 Carolina Wrens, (Bird of the Trip, a first), the Long-billed Marsh Wren, the Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, 200+ Ruby-crowned Kinglets - they were everywhere, trees, ground, lobster pots, one got the impression that every other bird focussed on was a little fat big-eyed Kinglet - a Yellow-breasted Chat, the Dickcissel, 12 Towhees, very vocal, 11 Field and 23 White-crowned Sparrows and the probable Bachman's Sparrow, well observed by C.R.K.Allen. Flickers remained abundant throughout our stay; Pipts and Blackpoll Warblers diminished, Goldfinches and Swamp Sparrows increased greatly in number, the first coming in the 17th, the sparrows on the 16th. Common Grackles arrived on the 17th. The previous party having reported an owl species, we also went "owling" the night of the 16th. It was bright moonlight, but by standing in deep shadow and "calling" (sound effects courtesy David Marshall) we succeeded in receiving one answering call. No owl appeared, but an Osprey did, lighting on the top of a tree nearby, where it posed most nobly for some time, full in the moonlight, literally a "stunning" sight.

The last fall trip to Seal I., Nov. 1-2, Ian McLaren and Eric Mills brought six

students with them, and again in ELM'S words: We had "two days without great change, wind from the west, often strong, throughout. Birds were leaving but few arriving. Finches and sparrows abundant in movement past the island - White-winged Crossbills, Siskins, Goldfinches, Evening Grosbeaks, Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings. High winds brought Kittiwakes unusually close to the island both days. Very fine visible migration of Common and Red-throated Loons moving SW both days. Cranberry Pond very good for ducks because of little shooting for previous month - Scaup, Shoveler, Wood Duck, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, both Teal and a Pied-billed Grebe also. Relatively few land birds - Juncos and sparrows particularly sparse and only one Red-breasted Nuthatch seen. Black-capped Chickadees unusually abundant. Some people have never seen one on Seal I., but there were at least 60 in evidence." (It is true that these chickadees were very rarely seen on Seal formerly, but this year the Oct. 11-13 group found 2, the Oct. 15-17 group found 3 of these - Boreals have always been common, and the Oct. 15-17 group counted 20 this Fall). "Both rare sparrows, the Grasshopper and the Clay-colored were seen at the south end at practically the same spot, but on different days. Total list for the trip, 96 species. Highlights: Loon numbers, Shoveler, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, number of Black-capped Chickadees, Finch migration, Grasshopper Sparrow and Clay-colored Sparrow".

If you wish to witness a bird migration taking place "before your very eyes" write to Mrs. Hamilton, c/o the Clark's Harbor P.O., for permission to land on the island and arrange for boat transportation and housing. Some members of the NSBS "own" a house on Seal. Consult with Dr. Ian McLaren, or Dr. Benjamin Doane, respecting use of the house.

P.R.D., Ed.

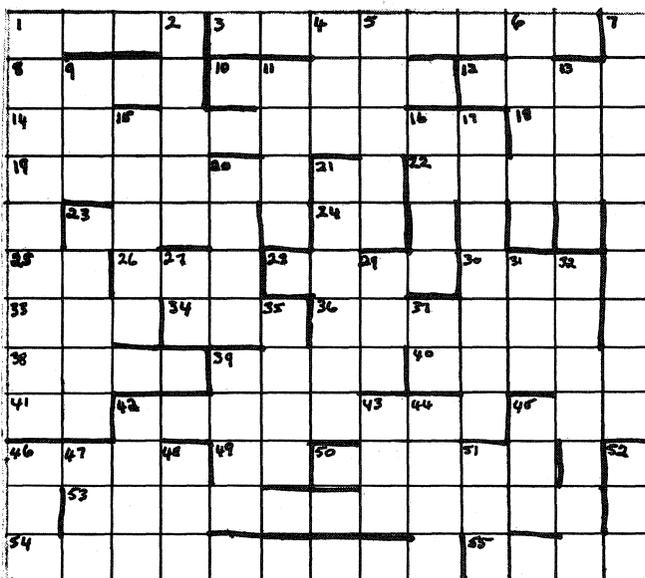
A NOTICE IN THE WOODS



"This is the "Home" of the Black-Backed Three-Toed Woodpecker, RARE in N.S. Please do not disturb".

Photo by G.Nickerson, A nna. Co., May 1975.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES

DOWN

ACROSS

1. Bridge-playing bird?
3. The bird to take on a chat hunt (anag)
8. A neat eruption (anag)
10. Sooty but without water
12. Same but different (anag)
14. Richard on the Bar B.Q.?
- 18 & 29 Down. Shorebird
19. Barely move quickly
21. Italian
22. Roman six also - edible
23. Dried up
24. Beside
25. Place where
26. Knight
28. Beak
30. School organization
33. Added to wit denotes the opposite
34. Distress signal
36. Girl's brother?
38. Bird that isn't
39. Spotted
40. One tenth
41. Same as 37 down
42. Silent dive?
45. Coniferous tree
46. Phoebe
49. Wild flowers without 'us'?
50. Home on the bird areas
53. Anne Murray bird
54. The ultimate in birdie-lib.?
55. Not far

1. Communists thighs?
2. A cooker of bird lists
4. Set backwards
5. Retreat of a startled bird
6. Not bohemian
7. Musical Scot in the dunes
9. Coal or blue
11. Walk
13. They are (Lat.)
15. Blue Jay has one, Grey Jay not
16. Malignant
17. Sappy relatives?
20. Bird dynamics
21. Sacred Egyptian birds
23. Kind of small sandpiper
27. Half of an Egyptian god
29. See 18 across
31. Same as 9 down
32. Spearman of the birds
35. Winter expense for birders
37. Saint (abb)
39. Irish dish
42. Introduced bird in Vancouver
43. Pale
44. Prefix before
45. Country in England for shore birds
46. Yellow bellied sucker
47. - throated Flycatcher
48. The sun (joc)
51. Mother's ruin
52. Old-fashioned power

EXECUTIVE MEETINGSAugust 30th

A meeting of the Executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held at Ross Anderson's cottage on Brier Island, Saturday, Aug. 30, 1975. Present were:

Mr. Robert Lamberton,	Dr. Roger Pocklington;
Dr. Phyllis Dobson,	Mr. Ross Anderson,
Mr. Eric Cooke,	Miss Margaret Clark.

The Vice-President, Dr. Tony Lock, has been transferred to Sackville, N.S. No decision will be made until September's Executive meeting as to that position for the rest of the term.

The Treasurer's statement was presented with approval given to the expenses for the mailing of the Wreck Cove booklets to come under Postage and Printing.

It was moved by Dr. Roger Pocklington, seconded by Mr. Eric Cooke, that the memorial cheques received from the family of the late Mrs. Gladys Dakin be sent to the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund.

Dr. Phyllis Dobson reported two resignations from the Editorial Committee, that of Mrs. Patricia Pocklington and Dr. Richard Brown. It was agreed that the Secretary would send in to Dr. Dobson the following reports:

a summary of Executive meetings,
report of the Annual meetings,
report of any special meetings, and announcements.

It was felt that the leader of each Field Trip should be responsible for sending in a write-up of that Field Trip to the Editor.

It was moved by Dr. Phyllis Dobson, seconded by Mr. Ross Anderson, that Mrs. Shirley Cohrs fill the vacancy on the Editorial Committee recently vacated by Dr. R. Brown. Motion carried.

Mr. Eric Cooke reported that he had reserved the third Thursday of each month at the Auditorium at the Nova Scotia Museum for meetings, as well as Saturday, December 6th, for the Annual Meeting.

Dr. Roger Pocklington reported that the new Nova Scotia Bird Official Field Check List was printed by the Talbot Book Store with 1200 copies presented to the Nova Scotia Bird Society. A copy will be sent out to each member in the next Newsletter.

It was moved by Dr. Phyllis Dobson, seconded by Mr. Ross Anderson that special thanks be extended to both Roger and Patricia Pocklington for preparing and arranging, and to Talbot's Book Store for the publication of the Official Field Check List of the Nova Scotia Bird Society. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned to be continued on Sunday at 2 p.m.

August 31st

The Executive met again at Ross Anderson's cottage on Sunday, August 31st, at 2 p.m.

Present were:

Mr. Robert Lamberton,	Dr. Phyllis Dobson
Mr. Ross Anderson	Dr. Roger Pocklington
	Miss Margaret Clark.

Dr. Roger Pocklington read an article written by Mr. Eric Hamblin which appeared in the August 20th edition of the Dartmouth Free Press on the future of McNab's Island. A number of concerns were expressed by members regarding the suggestions for the proposed development of the Island. It was understood by members that originally the Department of National Defence had given McNab's Island to the twin cities of Halifax and Dartmouth, and the County of Halifax for recreational purposes.

As a result of the discussion, the following motion was passed, having been moved by Mr. Ross Anderson, and seconded by Dr. Phyllis Dobson:

The Executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society feels strongly that development of McNab's Island should be strictly limited to recreational use, and requests the Conservation Committee of the organization to look into proposed development and formulate a position on the matter.

There is concern, likewise, that some sorts of recreational development, such as the introduction of motor vehicles, may be detrimental to the Island and serve as a basis for later "multiple use" or industrial development.

Dr. Roger Pocklington is asked to act as liaison with the Committee to continue his own research and keep the Executive Committee informed.

Dr. Roger Pocklington moved the meeting adjourn.

September 24th

A meeting of the Executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held at the home of Mrs. Shirley Cohrs on Wednesday, September 24, 1975 at 7.30 p.m.
Present were:

Dr. Roger Pocklington,	Mr. Eric Cooks,
Miss Hazel Carmichael,	Miss Ethel Crathorne,
Mrs. Shirley Cohrs,	Miss Margaret Clark.

The Past President, Roger Pocklington, presided.

It was moved by Eric Cooke, seconded by Roger Pocklington, that the minutes of the last Executive meeting be approved as read.

A warm welcome was extended to Mrs. Shirley Cohrs who was attending her first meeting as Managing Editor of the Newsletter.

Although both the President and the Vice-President were now residing in Sackville, N.B., it was agreed that no change in the status of the Executive take place until the Annual Meeting on Dec. 6th.

Eric Cooke reported that the Museum Auditorium was reserved for the fourth Thursday of each month for regular meetings. He suggested that a Hospitality Committee be formed to look after arrangements for refreshments following the monthly meetings. The Secretary was requested to ask Frank and Mary Himsal to be responsible for buying coffee, sugar cookies, etc., submitting a bill for same to the Treasurer.

Roger Pocklington reported that he was still making contact with others who were interested in the McNab Island Development situation. As yet there seems to be no clear indication as to ownership.

It was moved by Hazel Carmichael and seconded by Eric Cooke that the report given by the Treasurer be accepted. Motion carried. The total amount on hand is \$2801.58. A total of \$173 was received in contributions in memory of the late Mrs. Dakin of Kentville. This was forwarded to the Scholarship and Trust Fund.

Ethel Crathorne reported a total membership of 448 with 319 Single, 100 Family, and 29 Student.

The Secretary informed the Executive that she had received from Mr. Willett Mills a copy of the list of documents of value to the Bird Society which were in safekeeping in the Mills Brothers' vault. This list is filed in the Minute Book.

Under New Business, Shirley Cohrs reported from the Editorial Staff of the Newsletter. The next Newsletter is in the hands of the printer. A November Flyer will go out to all members to include the dates of the Christmas Bird Count. The Christmas Bird Count Period is between December 20, 1975 and January 4, 1976. Known dates to this meeting are:

Halifax East	- Dec. 20,
Halifax West	- Dec. 27,
Brier Island	- Dec. 22, and
Kejimikujik	- Dec. 21.

A tentative schedule for the publication of the Newsletter is as follows:

January	- reports of Fall Migration
May	- Christmas Counts and Field Trips
July	- reports of Spring Migration
Fall	- information Flyer

After a discussion of ways to bring about more effective distribution of correspondence, the following motion was passed, having been moved by Eric Cooke and seconded by Shirley Cohrs:

1. A request be sent to membership asking that correspondence be addressed to appropriate offices of the Executive such as President, Membership, Treasurer, Secretary, etc.
2. Any bird sightings, and correspondence regarding bird reports be sent to
 Dr. Phyllis Dobson
 RMB 170
 St. Anne du Ruisseau
 Yarmouth Co., N.S. BOW 2X0.

However, general correspondence pertinent to the Newsletter should be sent to the NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY, c/o The Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, N.S.

3. It is decided that those items of mail addressed to the N.S.B.S. that are not obviously the concern of a particular office be forwarded to Ross Anderson.

Roger Pocklington then read a letter from Mr. Allan Morgan, Executive Vice-President of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, dated Sept. 22, 1975. The letter pertained to a major property in Nova Scotia, presently owned by a non-resident. The letter was an invitation to either the N.S.B.S. or some other Canadian organization to own, share in the use, and participate in the supervision of the property. Eric Cooke, as a member of the Sanctuary and Trust Fund, was given the letter to bring to the attention of the Sanctuary and Trust Fund for consideration.

The next Executive meeting will be held at the home of Ross Anderson on Friday, October 24, at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10.15 p.m.

October 17th

A meeting of the Executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held at the home of Ross Anderson at 7.0 p.m., on October 17, 1975. Present were:

Ross Anderson,
Ethel Crathorne,
Shirley Cohrs,
Bob Lamberton,

Eric Cooke,
Hazel Carmichael,
Tony Locke,
Margaret Clark.

It was moved by Eric Cooke, seconded by Shirley Cohrs, that 2000 check lists be ordered from Allen Print at the quoted price of \$99.17 including tax. Motion carried. These would be sold at 5 cents each per member and 10 cents each for non-members.

Shirley Cohrs, Managing Editor of the Newsletter, again mentioned the deadline dates for the Newsletters:

November 30 for the January Newsletter,
March 30 for the April Newsletter, and
May 31 for the July Newsletter.

It was moved by Tony Locke, seconded by Ethel Crathorne, that Ian McLaren be asked to act as Chairman of the Nominating Committee with Eric Cooke as member. Motion carried.

It was moved by Ross Anderson, seconded by Hazel Carmichael that a Notice of Motion to amend the Constitution at the Annual meeting be as follows: That the amount of money authorized for expenditure by the Executive be increased from the present amount of \$100 to \$250. Motion carried.

It was moved by Hazel Carmichael, seconded by Ross Anderson that the Financial Statement be adopted as read. Motion carried.

Eric Cooke moved that the meeting adjourn.

November 14.

A meeting of the Executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held at the home of the Secretary at 7.30 p.m. on Nov. 14, 1975. Present were:

Roger Pocklington, Ethel Crathorne,
Hazel Carmichael, Shirley Cohrs,
and Margaret Clark.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the Past President chaired the meeting.

It was moved by Ethel Crathorne, seconded by Hazel Carmichael, that the minutes of the last meeting by approved as read. Motion carried.

The Treasurer reported that 2000 check lists had been received from Allen Print and were now in the cabinet in the Society's Room at the Museum. The payment of the bill of \$91.08 was approved.

It is realized, because of the postal strike, that it is impossible to give due notice of the amendment to the constitution as proposed at the October Executive meeting before the Annual Meeting. Therefore the matter is referred to the incoming Executive.

The Treasurer circulated the Financial Statement which will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

A report from the Membership Secretary showed that as of October 31, 1975, there were 336 single, 102 family and 32 student memberships. There were still 220 outstanding from the 1974 membership.

It was agreed to advertise the Annual Meeting in both the Halifax Chronicle Herald and Mail Star.

Ethel Crathorne moved and Shirley Cohrs seconded a motion authorising the Secretary to purchase a minute book. Motion carried.

Despite the continuing postal strike and hence the difficulty of membership to submit bird reports, the Managing Editor reported that the Editorial Staff of the Newsletter intends to meet the publication deadline dates if at all possible.

Meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Margaret A. Clark,
Secretary.

FIELD TRIPS

SUMMER AND FALL, 1975

PRESIDENTS FIELD DAYS
Aug. 30 - Sept. 1.

The traditional President's Field Day on Brier Island met with variable weather and winds, which produced a rich variety of species...many familiar Brier specialties as well as a few surprises. Estimates of the number of birders present on the island Labour Day Weekend ranged from 70 to 80, with visitors from Ontario, Illinois and two ladies from Oregon. The number of species of birds was recorded with rather greater precision: 143.

Since the president was arriving at the last minute from field-work in Newfoundland, Brier veteran Ross Anderson kindly took on the tasks of planning and organizing the pelagic trips. On Saturday morning, we were able to get out among the shearwaters (somewhat less numerous than in the best years) and the large flocks of phalaropes. One of the highlights this year was a series of excellent close views of feeding Wilson's Storm Petrels. The trip planned for Sunday was delayed by high winds.

The species list for the weekend would have been somewhat higher if the rarer passerines seen during the previous week (by Bruce Mactavish *et al*) had stayed for the field trip. Nevertheless, parties led by Ross Anderson, Ian McLaren and Eric Mills (the latter returning to Brier after a long absence), produced respectable lists of passerines, shorebirds (including Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers) and waterfowl. Perhaps the best passerines were Willett Mills' Summer Tanager, Charlie Allen's Hooded Warbler and Shirley Cohrs' Black-throated Grey.

A brief but heavy flight of raptors Sunday was the most exciting event of the weekend for those still on the island. The hawks were seen from the cottages near Pond Cove and later from a rock outcropping on the main road, as they came onto the island from the south, battling stiff north winds. There were a few accipiters, but the flight was dominated by immature buteos...Broad-wings, a few Red-tails, and a considerable number of well-seen "mystery birds" which had the experts muttering into their beards and looking slightly ill-at-ease. The final consensus, later confirmed by Ian McLaren after examining mounted skins, was that not one but several immature Red-shouldered Hawks occurred in that flight.

Bob Lamberton

BAY OF FUNDY (a sailboat crossing).

We left Seal Cove, Grand Manan, on Sept. 1, 1975, at about 8.0 a.m., rounded the southern tip of Dover Island about 4.0 p.m., and tied up at Cape St. Mary about 7.0 p.m. The weather was bright and sunny, with light NE winds. We sailed much of the day, and eventually turned on the engine in the late afternoon. As a result we could easily hear the "chip" note of the phalaropes, as well as the blowing of a whale. The slow progress made for plenty of time to see birds, but the motion of the boat made binoculars very hard to use.

Perhaps the most striking observation was the unevenness of the distribution of birds. Even on as short a passage as this, gulls were almost totally absent away from shore. The pelagic birds were abundant in places where the tide rips disturbed the wake, and very scarce elsewhere.

Petrels: Around 100, all Wilson's so far as I could tell. Two flocks of 20-30 seen sitting on the water, flushed as the boat approached; twos and threes seen much of the time in the Bay of Fundy. Shearwaters: around 40 Greater, 1 Cory's, 1 Sooty. Phalaropes: around 1500; on the few occasions when I could identify them, Northern were in the great majority. Perhaps 10:1 Northern:Red, but this is a rough guess. Mostly in flocks of 10-15, sitting on the water or flying low over it. Occasionally a flock would fly higher and wheel about overhead. The phalaropes seemed not to be afraid of the occasional Great Black-backed Gull sitting among them on the water.

Puffins: 3 sitting on the water off Brier Island.

Land birds: only a single small bird, seen flying westwards, well out to sea.

C. W. Helleiner.

McNAB'S ISLAND,
Sept. 21.

On September 21, 1975, the NSBS made their 25th official visit (not counting Christmas Counts) to McNab's Island. In addition to such stalwarts as Ethel Crathorne (recorder), Eric Cooke, the Andersons, the Cohrs, we were pleased to have Winnie Cairns, Paul and Cathy Keddy and Howard Ross of the Biology Dept. at Dalhousie University with us. The Keddy's keyed out saltmarsh plants, giving additional interest to a total of 67 bird species, (island species total now 160) including such highlights as a Philadelphia Vireo and Great Horned Owl. No English Sparrows or Starlings, (thank goodness!) but there were shorebirds, warblers and chickadees in sufficient if not munificent variety. All in all, another rewarding visit to an island that amply deserves to be a Regional Park.

Roger Pocklington.

As naturalists, we really don't need calendars. The mere fact that there were Black-Bellied Plovers in Fall plumage would have told us that it was September. But even if not a bird has been seen, the blue asters and yellow Goldenrods which covered the road-sides would have given us the same message. It's perhaps a sad comment on our paved and highrise lifestyle today that calendars (at least for the months) are needed at all.

Probably the plants most commented upon were those of the salt marshes. Everyone commented particularly on the bright red bands around the small brackish pools near the lighthouse. This bright red was not flowers, but the stems of a remarkable little plant called Glasswort (Salicornia europaea). In fact, at first glance you might think it was a fungus or a coral, as it has no real leaves, only thin, reddish, finger-like branches reaching upwards.

The flowers, like the leaves, have been very much reduced - all that remains are the essential male and female parts. These remain hidden beneath tiny bracts (reduced leaves) except for a brief period of flowering.

Why does Glasswort circle the small pools in such abundance? It is extremely tolerant of salt in the soil. Pick a piece and taste it - its juicy and as salty as the sea. (Thus the scientific name *Sali-cornia*, or salty horn). Many of the salt-resistant plants of Nova Scotia are similarly juicy (or 'succulent') and contain salt in their tissues. For this reason they are sometimes used fresh in salads.

Growing with the Glasswort were Sea-Blite (*Suaeda maritima*), Goosefoot (*Atriplex patula*) and Beach Sand-Spurrey (*Spergularia marina*). These plants are all salt-tolerant also, but we noted with interest that none could grow as close to the salty water as Glasswort did.

Less obvious, but equally important, was the grass growing around the pools - Cord Grass (*Spartina alterniflora*). This is the dominant plant over large areas of the Nova Scotia coast. It is often completely covered by salt water at high tide, yet exposed to the baking sun only a few hours later at low tide. I wondered how many members stopped to think that while the shorebirds we saw can move about with the tide and choose the conditions best suited to their survival, the plants in the marsh must be tough enough to just sit and take whatever changes occur if they are to survive.

A bright yellow band surrounded the red band of Glasswort at each pool. This, of course, was a goldenrod - a special salt-tolerant species called, appropriately enough, Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago Sempervirens*). Unlike its field and roadside relatives, however, it has the fleshy leaves typical of salt-marsh plants.

Next time you're in a marsh looking for shorebirds, why not take a few minutes to see if you can find these, and the many other plants, which colour Nova Scotia's coast in the Fall?

Paul and Cathy Keddy

(see p. 45 for illustrations)

SABLE ISLAND

Aug. 16-21.

Out of the fifteen or so people who originally showed interest in going only three were left who were willing to pay the \$180 air fare, were prepared to be completely self sufficient and were able to be flexible about departure and return dates. These were Linda Ruffman, Carolyn Lock and Heather Harbord. Carolyn had been before and knew her way around which was a great help. Once there, we met up with another member, Paul Keddy, who are doing a botanical survey, and Bill Ritchie, an enthusiastic non-member, who had been doing dune reclamation work.

It took two attempts before we finally took off for the Island for a two day stay. On arrival, my sleeping bag containing all our meat, bacon and butter promptly took off again for Halifax. The Dept. of Mines very kindly lent me another and fed us a meal which, together with the extra canned food we had brought, saw us through the five days we were there.

The scope was in constant use down by the ponds to watch the shorebirds which frequented them. Although we were not expert birders we had fun identifying birds that were unusual to us. Among these were a black tern and a black-bellied plover on the pond in front of the Barracks where we stayed, a black-and-white warbler which came in the front door, a red-breasted nuthatch and a yellow warbler which flitted about outside, and a little blue heron which was on the shore at East Light. Of course we saw quantities of the Ipswich and were duly impressed. My photographs of birds were disappointing. I had relied on using the attachment for the scope but found it took so long to focus that the bird had long gone by the time I was ready to release the shutter. The seals and the horses were almost as fascinating as the birds. One seal had been partly eaten by a shark. Had we seen it before we went swimming we might not have enjoyed ourselves so much. In addition we were treated to an unusual meteorological phenomenon in the form of a cloud shaped like the Island which convection currents formed above us one hot and otherwise

cloudless day. Apparently this is common in the tropics.

Hints to future travellers: Be able to easily carry everything including an extra three days' food. Take the kind of clothing that you can take off and put on in stages as the weather dictates and have really waterproof storm gear. Be prepared to walk miles sinking 4" into the sand with each step you take. Read the Sable Island Environmental Guide before leaving. Label your sleeping bag!

Heather Harbord.

DUCK BANDING October 3.

On Friday afternoon, October 3, six members of the NSBS traveled to Queen's County, N.S., to assist the Canadian Wildlife Service in the banding of ducks on Lewis Lake.

The group met their hosts at a ranger's cabin not far from the lake. While they waited for nightfall and the start of the banding expedition, the C.W.S. explained to us the method in which the ducks would be captured. They also showed us the records of their previous banding trips on the lake and that recoveries from there had come from all four Atlantic Provinces and practically all the states on the eastern seaboard.

As soon as the western sky was completely black, we drove to the lake, where a banding station was set up in the C.W.S. van. An airboat was launched into the water, and a driver and two net handlers climbed in. The method of capturing the ducks was this. The airboat, which carried two 1500 watt lamps, travelled across the lake, and the ducks were blinded by the light as the boat went past them. The net handlers, using a fish net, reached out and scooped the ducks out of the water. As soon as the capture box on board was filled, the boat returned to shore so that the birds could be banded. There it was explained to us how to identify ducks in the hand, how to determine what sex they were, whether they were immatures or adults, and how to apply the bands on the birds' legs. This sequence of operation was carried out until no more ducks could be caught on the lake.

It was unfortunate that due to low water on the lake, and a bright starry night, the number of ducks caught was low, but, all in all, everyone enjoyed the night, and a special thanks goes from all members of the party to the C.W.S.

Ross Anderson

SEAL ISLAND Oct. 11-13

There are parts of Nova Scotia where one can walk in any direction without encountering hard pavement, automobiles and ringing telephones. In addition the air carries no noticeable dust which makes it fine for poor housekeepers and slide sorters. One such place is Seal Island. On October 11 at 8 a.m. with sunny skies, warm temperatures and sea state zero the following persons sailed out of Clarks Harbour with provisions enough for 40 days and 40 nights: Bessie and Herbert Harris and Edith Bower from Shelburne County, Larry and Helen Neily from the Valley, and Ian MacGregor and Jamie and Ralph Connor from Halifax-Dartmouth.

We landed on the east side of the island. During the walk to our weekend home on the west side we encountered a rowdy convention of Flickers and Sharpshins.

The afternoon activity of the group brought a total of 71 species to the bird

list. Sunday morning was washed out with heavy rain and wind. However, the afternoon was dry and the count for the day was 70. Total species for the two days was 90. Additions for Monday were two in number, giving a total of 92 for the three days.

One unfortunate incident marred the weekend - my twelve year old son was shown a Towhee and a White Eyed Vireo and I am now asked repeatedly why these birds are not on my list.

We left Seal Island at 2.30 p.m. on Monday with high winds and sea state 3-4.

The enjoyment of the experience can best be illustrated by Jamie's question soon after we arrived home: "Dad, can we go back to that island next weekend?" To which I replied, "No, not until I too have seen the White-Eyed Vireo and the Towhee".

Ralph Connor

Plea to Leaders of Field Trips:

Please make sure that an account of your trip reaches the Newsletter, c/o the Museum, by the appropriate deadline for publication in the next issue.

S.G.



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

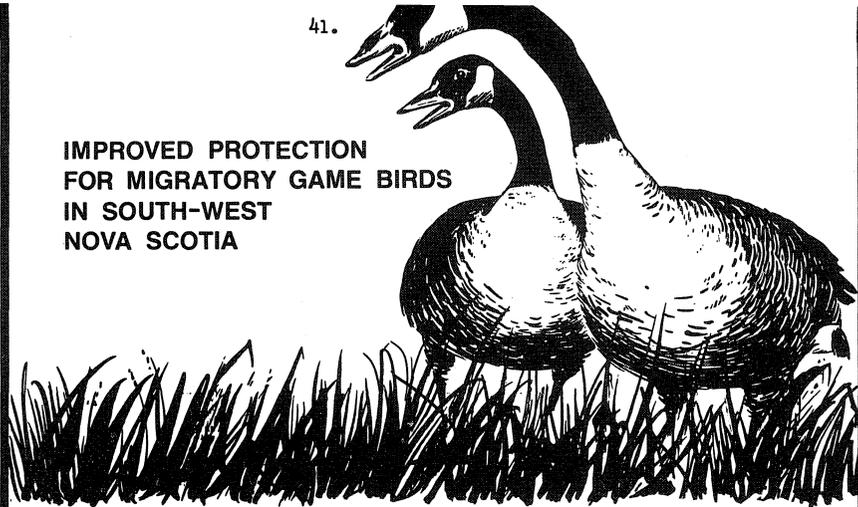
Ross Anderson is in charge of trips for 1976. He has three early outings planned. Dates are as follows:-

- Feb. 21. Annapolis Basin (wintering Ducks).
Leader to be announced.
Meet at the Tourist Bureau at Annapolis Royal, 8.30 a.m.
- March 21. Port Joli (early migrants and wintering ducks and geese.)
Leader Ralph Widrig
Meet in the large parking lot at Liverpool at 8.30 a.m.
(right hand side of the road after crossing Mersey River).
- April 11. Grand Pre (spring migrants).
Leader to be announced.
Meet at the Tourist Bureau along the Evangeline Beach, 8.30 a.m.

Ross's phone number is 463-4188.



IMPROVED PROTECTION FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS IN SOUTH-WEST NOVA SCOTIA



For some time now the federal and provincial wildlife agencies and conservationists in this area have been concerned about the effectiveness of the Port Joli Migratory Bird Sanctuary. There has been considerable expert study and public discussion and various solutions have been proposed. We think it is time to bring the matter to a head and introduce some improvements. Let's look at the situation.

What's a sanctuary for and do we need one?

A sanctuary is one of the oldest wildlife management concepts; and it is still useful, although there are now other ways to accomplish the same ends. Basically, a sanctuary is an area where hunting is banned, and there are other regulations forbidding any disturbance or harassment of the birds: It is sometimes important to have such places where the birds can rest and feed, so as to lessen the stress they are under during hunting season.

Port Joli Sanctuary was established as a federal sanctuary in 1941, mainly to protect wintering populations of geese in southwestern Nova Scotia. It consisted of three separate areas in the Sable River Estuary, Port Hebert, and Port Joli, whose boundaries were defined by high tide. By 1943 complaints were being received of sanctuary violations and enforcement problems have continued until the present time. As to the actual usefulness of the sanctuary, one CWS study showed that between 3,000 and 5,000 geese wintered in the area and about 10,000 stayed there in the fall.

What's wrong with the Port Joli Sanctuary?

The main fault of the sanctuary was its division into three separate zones which made enforcement difficult. Various proposals to modify the boundaries have been considered and there has been much public discussion of them. Part of the problem lies with the sanctuary concept; it is

not a flexible instrument and changes are quite difficult to implement. There may be times when limited hunting in an area or part of it could be beneficial, but sanctuary regulations do not permit this kind of adjustment.

Is there a better way?

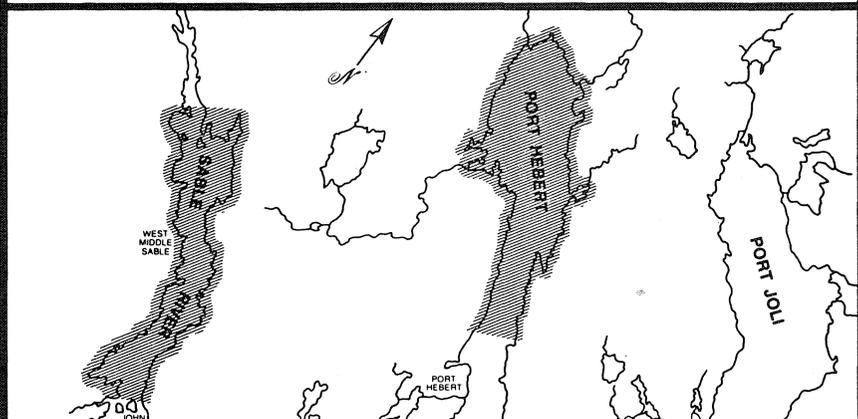
Under Schedule A of the Migratory Birds Regulations, special waterfowl management zones can be created which can accomplish the same ends as a sanctuary and are more versatile. Changes in regulations and boundaries can be readily made, annually if necessary, to reflect fluctuations in waterfowl populations, or habitat changes.

It has been decided, therefore, to abolish the Port Joli Sanctuary and create two new management zones, Port Hebert Inlet and Sable River Estuary. Hunting of migratory game birds will be prohibited in the whole of Port Hebert Inlet, including a fringe of upland 200 yards in width. On the Sable River Estuary hunting will be permitted until January 3.

We believe this proposal to use Schedule A will be superior to the present situation for the following reasons:

- A buffer zone of upland will provide for a more enforceable boundary.
- Zonal boundaries are more easily modified, if in the future it is decided that further changes are necessary.

The Canadian Wildlife Service



Letter to the Editor

Editor, NSBS Newsletter.

Along with my application for membership in the Nova Scotia Bird Society I thought that you might be interested in hearing of the birds that I have observed here this Summer.

I live on an old farm at the top of a hill surrounded by fields and unused woods - a perfect spot for bird-watching. Our Spring really began, as usual, with the return of a pair of COMMON SNIFE that nest on the edge of the woods by the pond. We first know of their return when they begin 'sky-diving', but shortly after their arrival they always pay us a courtesy visit walking sedately side by side across the field to the gate. This year, however, they crossed under the gate, strolled across the lawn, and walked unconcernedly beneath the kitchen window while we stood and watched. This is the first and last that we see of them.

We had a couple of EASTERN KINGBIRDS only this year, and I saw only two male REDWINGED BLACKBIRDS. ROBINS, THRUSHES, JAYS and JUNCOS were around in great numbers. Only one or two male BOBOLINKS were seen, delighting us with their singing, but yesterday I saw a small flock of around 25 of them in Fall plumage feeding in the wheatfield.

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKERS have become unusually numerous. Down in the old orchard a BROWN CREEPER routinely checks the apple trees, and there is at least one pair each of DOWNY and HAIRY WOODPECKERS in the woods. A pair of OVENBIRDS was almost mistaken for thrushes when I saw them searching through the leaves under the trees for insects.

WARBLERS have been around in variety too - MAGNOLIA, MYRTLE, YELLOW and others that I could not positively identify. The BOREAL CHICKADEES were quite numerous, but although I searched, I didn't find any BLACK-CAPPED until about two weeks ago. The RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH and also the WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH inhabit the woods in small groups of about 7 or 8 each.

A pair of ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS was busy taking the berries off the bushes in the backyard in early July. And in the woods a pair of LEAST FLYCATCHERS was observed for several minutes living up to their name, darting out to catch flies with great skill. Also a pair of EASTERN PHOEBES.

The WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were numerous as usual, but haven't been heard from in the last two weeks, although I observed one yesterday. SONG SPARROWS have also been present in good numbers. A pair of FOX SPARROWS have been busy keeping my yard free of insects all summer.

The BARN SWALLOWS are circling plentifully today preparatory to migrating no doubt. HAWKS have been in evidence but always either too high or too far away for positive identification. The exception being a MARSH HAWK which regularly patrols the top meadow.

I hope that the above information has been of a little interest to you - and as I progress in my ability to positively identify the Warblers I hope to be able to keep more accurate records. In the meantime, I am looking forward to doing anything I can to help with the birdcount in this area - and I would like to report if I should see any unusual birds - except that I honestly, at this point, don't quite know which ARE unusual.

Patricia Plant.

Kentville, N.S.,
Aug. 27, 1975.

BIRDS OF PEARL ISLAND

Pearl Island (44 23N, 64 03W) is situated 8 miles south of Blandford, Lunenburg Co., Nova Scotia. It is a small, treeless island, approximately 30 acres in area, its rocky perimeter rising sharply 20-30 ft. on the east side, and gradually sloping into the sea on the north, south and west. The island's terrain offers little variety other than several low-lying areas and a small brackish pond on the west side.

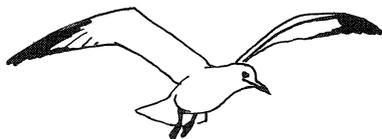
The island served as the major site for a study of the feeding ecology of Leach's Storm Petrel through the breeding seasons of 1974 and 1975. Only short, irregular visits were made to the island from July to October during 1974. However, regular bi-weekly visits of 8-10 days were made in 1975, from May to July and again from August to November. The following is a list of the birds seen either on or near the island during these visits, and was compiled with the help of numerous island enthusiasts, notably Ian McLaren, Tony Lock, Winnifred Cairns, Vicky Glines and Eric Cooke. It is apparent from the list that not only is Pearl Island notable as a breeding site for a variety of seabirds, but also as a stop-over for numerous migrating passerines and shorebirds.

Common Loon	Occasional Visitor
Greater Shearwater	" "
Leach's Storm Petrel	Breeds
Wilson's Storm Petrel	Occasional Visitor
Northern Gannet	" "
Great Cormorant	" "
Double Crested Cormorant	Common
Great Blue Heron	Occasional Visitor
Black duck	Breeds
Old Squaw	Occasional Visitor
Common Eider	Common
White-winged Scoter	Common
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Occasional Visitor
Broad-winged Hawk	" "
Marsh Hawk	" "
Osprey	" "
American Kestrel	" "
Semipalmated Plover	" "
American Golden Plover	" "
Black-bellied Plover	Common Migrant
Whimbrel	Occasional Visitor
Spotted Sandpiper	Breeds
Solitary Sandpiper	Occasional Visitor
Greater Yellowlegs	" "
Ruddy Turnstone	Common Migrant
Purple Sandpiper	Occasional Visitor
White-rumped Sandpiper	" "
Baird's Sandpiper	" "
Least Sandpiper	Common Migrant
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Occasional Visitor
Sanderling	Common Migrant
Northern Phalarope	Occasional Visitor
Glaucus Gull	" "
Great Black-backed Gull	Breeds
Herring Gull	Breeds
Common Tern	Common
Arctic Tern	" "
Razorbill	Breeds
Black Guillemot	" "
Common Puffin	" "
Mourning Dove	Occasional Visitor
Common Flicker	" "
Eastern Phoebe	" "
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	" "
Alder Flycatcher	" "
Horned Lark	" "

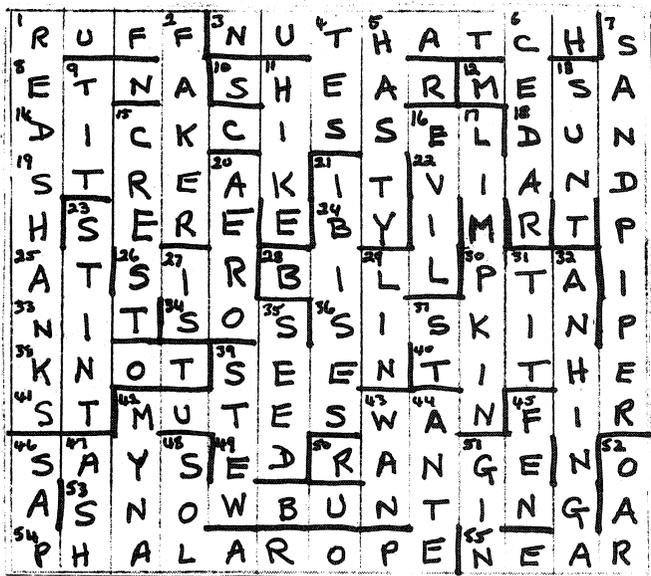
Tree Swallow	Occasional Visitor
Bank Swallow	" "
Barn Swallow	Breeds
Common Crow	Common
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Occasional Visitor
Winter Wren	" "
Gray Catbird	" "
American Robin	" "
Wood Thrush	" "
Veery	" "
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	" "
Water Pipit	" "
Cedar Waxwing	" "
Common Starling	Common
Solitary Vireo	Occasional Visitor
Black and White Warbler	" "
Parula Warbler	" "
Yellow Warbler	" "
Magnolia Warbler	" "
Cape May Warbler	" "
Yellow-rumped Warbler	" "
Black-throated Green Warbler	" "
Blackburnian Warbler	" "
Blackpoll Warbler	" "
Pine Warbler	" "
Prairie Warbler	" "
Palm Warbler	" "
Ovenbird	" "
Common Yellowthroat	" "
American Redstart	" "
Bobolink	" "
Redwinged Blackbird	" "
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	" "
Dickcissel	" "
Savannah Sparrow	Breeds
Sable Island Race	Occasional Visitor
Dark-eyed Junco	" "
Chipping Sparrow	" "
White-crowned Sparrow	" "
White-throated Sparrow	" "
Swamp Sparrow	" "
Song Sparrow	Common
Lapland Longspur	Occasional Visitor

* The vegetation is typical of such exposed areas of the Atlantic coast, being largely made up of Couch-Grass (Agropyron repens), Hair-Grass (Deschampsia flexuosa), Sheep-Sorrel (Rumex acetosella), Large Cranberry (Vaccinium angustifolium), Cinnamon Fern (Osmunda cinnamomea) and Rough Aster (Aster puniceus).

Anne Linton.

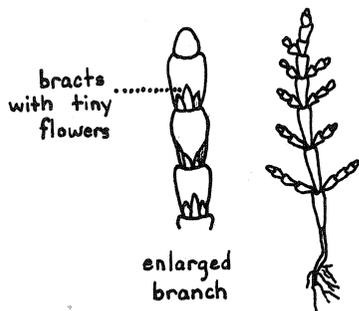
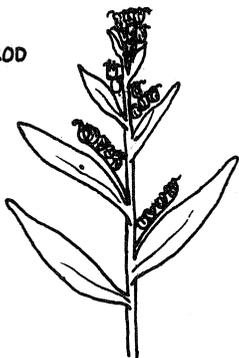


SOLUTION



S.C.

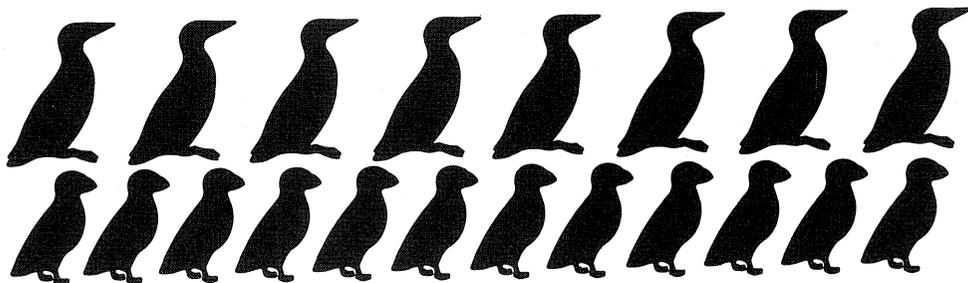
GLASSWORT

SEASIDE
GOLDENRODA NEW SOCIETY - HALIFAX FIELD NATURALISTS

The Halifax Field Naturalists held their first meeting in October. The organization has set education and conservation as its goals, in the hope that both its members and the community at large may come to better appreciate and enjoy the diversity of the natural history of the province. These goals will be approached through field trips to various parts of the province, and monthly meetings featuring guest speakers. To date, trips to Martinique Beach, Cape Split and the Hemlock Ravine have been undertaken. Plans for future outings include winter walks to beach and woodland, a maple sugaring expedition, starwatching and prowling for amphibians. Visiting speakers at meetings have dealt with Canada's Arctic mammals and the proposed regional parks system for the Halifax area; future programs are being planned to include topics such as astronomy, Sable Island, caves, and hardwood forest ecology. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 8.00 p.m. in the fifth floor lounge of the Biology Building on the Dalhousie campus. Membership may be obtained by forwarding your name, address, telephone number and \$2.00 membership fee (per mailing address) to Halifax Field Naturalists, Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer St., Halifax. A newsletter will be mailed to all members. Visitors are welcome at meetings and field trips.

The Canadian Wildlife Service
announces the publication of

ATLAS OF EASTERN CANADIAN SEABIRDS



by
R.G.B. Brown, D.N. Nettleship,
P. Germain, C.E. Tull and T. Davis

This Atlas brings together and summarizes basic information on the ecology and pelagic and breeding distributions for the seabirds of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Atlantic Provinces, the eastern Canadian Arctic and west Greenland. It represents the *first* detailed account of the status and distribution of marine birds in northeastern North America and the western North Atlantic and the *first* comprehensive quantitative treatment of the pelagic distributions of seabirds over a wide geographic area.

The Atlas is divided into six sections. Section 1 presents the background and development of the study of the distribution and number of seabirds in the northwest Atlantic. Section 2 outlines the methods used to collect and analyse the information presented in the breeding and pelagic distribution maps. Section 3 discusses the oceanography of the northwest Atlantic Ocean and the eastern Canadian Arctic while Section 4 reviews factors influencing the breeding ranges of seabirds. Section 5 demonstrates the practical use of the Atlas in environmental impact studies by using, as an example, the impact of oil pollution and showing the areas where seabirds are most vulnerable to oil spills through the annual cycle. The last section presents summaries of the breeding and pelagic distributions for 38 species based almost entirely on information collected between 1967-74 by the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The breeding distribution maps show the location of the breeding sites for the colonial species (e.g. fulmar, gannet, cormorants, kittiwake, murres, dovekie, puffin) and a general indication of breeding range for species which form many small colonies (e.g. *Larus* gulls), which are usually non-colonial (e.g. Black Guillemot), or whose breeding sites are difficult to locate (e.g. Leach's Storm-Petrel). Details of precise colony locations, population sizes and census particulars are given in colony tables for Atlantic Canada, the eastern Canadian Arctic and west Greenland.

The pelagic distribution maps cover the eastern Canadian Arctic and the northwest Atlantic west of 40°W and north of 40°N; they show the geographical and seasonal changes in the pelagic distributions and abundance of seabirds for the species and month in question on the basis of 1°N x 1°W (Atlantic) or 1°N x 2°W (Arctic) blocks of latitude and longitude over the survey area.

The seabird distributions as shown by this survey are discussed in terms of the oceanographic characteristics of the northwest Atlantic. It appears that seabirds, for all their great mobility, are in many cases as zone-specific as the plankton and fish fauna.

Hard paper binding, 8½ x 11"
220 pages
includes 108 pelagic & 21
breeding distribution maps

Information Canada
Ottawa, 1975
Catalogue no. CW66-44 / 1975
Price in Canada \$6.75
Price in other countries \$8.10

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I, hereby apply
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as annual membership dues.

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To:

The Treasurer,
Nova Scotia Bird Society,
c/o Nova Scotia Museum,
1747 Summer Street,
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

