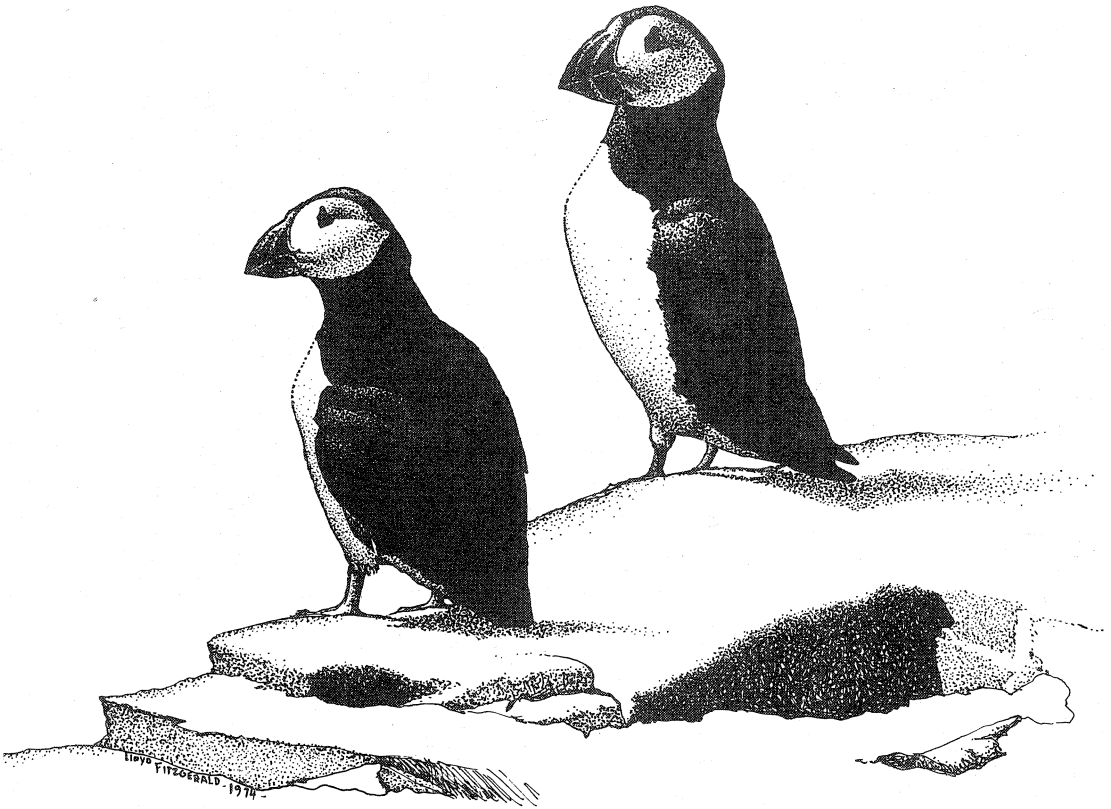


NOVA SCOTIA
BIRD SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

MAY 1976

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 2

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

L A T E F A L L - W I N T E R , 1 9 7 5 - 7 6

November 24 was the first day of winter this year, -7 c on the thermometer, with snow blowing in the afternoon. Up until then the month had been generally mild, though wet. On December 3 the first real snow came, followed by severe cold weather, but by the 10th it was very mild again. Thereafter the winter followed the same pattern - cold a few days, then mild, and although it snowed frequently we never did achieve any depth of cover. Large bodies of water, lakes and harbors, were frozen over by December 30, and remained so until the last week in February, when the ice began to break up.

We were plagued with high winds periodically, culminating in two fierce storms, February 2 and March 17, the first one (SSE-SSW) preceded by a thaw, so that thousands of shallow-rooted evergreens were blown over; and complicated by an excessively high tide, bringing severe damage to shore roads, wharves and vessels along the waterfront.

The birds weathered the storm better than land and water based creatures. Humans lost property (not lives) but cattle were killed when barns blew down in the 90-100 mile "gusts" - prolonged gusts they were - and thousands of lobsters and smelts washed ashore in the high tides and pounding surf. The gulls blew away for a few days, but soon returned, as did the flocks of sea-ducks; land birds remained unaffected. Even the wintering herons seem to have found refuge, and were seen again shortly in their usual wading places.

Birds were not as plentiful as last winter, in particular the sparrows, very few of which stayed with us this year. Many comments have come in to this effect, from many places: from Sara MacLean in Cape Breton, Eric Holdway in Pictou, Francis Spalding at Economy, Ian McLaren and Chris Helleiner in Halifax (who spoke of a "virtual absence of Evening Grosbeaks" there), Thelma Hawkins at Wilmot, several South Shore correspondents and most of the Yarmouth County observers. A striking observation (general) was that feeder birds were irregular in attendance - a flock, e.g. Goldfinches or Grosbeaks - would vary from 40 individuals to 2 perhaps, and would appear briefly or not at all, half of the time. There must have been sufficient food available around the countryside to keep the birds at least partially supplied.

Arctic specials were here, for example Snowy Owls and quite a few ~~rough~~-legged Hawks. Tree Sparrows were present in normal numbers and the flocks of Redpolls were good-sized. Purple Sandpipers were found in good numbers in expectable places, and Snow Buntings arrived in their usual big flocks, over 800 recorded on the Christmas Counts, seen from time to time in smaller numbers. A really large invasion of Bohemian Waxwings became widespread, flocks of 15-80 alighting wherever thorn berries were to be found and soon accounting for the winter's abundant crop.

Sightings of rarities and unusual observations included Arctic Loons in the waters off Halifax County; a Cattle Egret on Cape Sable last November; Whistling Swans at Port Hebert; Brant seen off Pinkney's Point on the Yarmouth Christmas Count; An Osprey February 4th; American Coots wintering at Dartmouth and (in December) at Yarmouth; 119 juvenal Godwits on a beach off Meteghan Centre stumbled upon by Davis Finch and party observing the fall migration; strange gulls seen February 8 (see note to follow); a Tern (Arctic or Common) February 10 at Cape Sable; a Great Gray Owl; a Red-bellied Woodpecker, and a Seaside Sparrow. The most exciting of all was a Fulvous Tree Duck, shot at Shag Harbor in January. A wing of this duck was sent to the Canadian Wildlife Service for identification. Details of this and other sightings are given below.

Of our own birds, winter Hawks and Shrikes were plentiful, Corvids normal, Black-capped Chickadees abundant, Nuthatches seen oftener than usual, but Kinglets practically absent. Great Blue Herons, Robins, Kingfishers and Yellow-rumped Warblers stayed with us in small (but usual) numbers wherever their respective food supplies were available. This applies also to a small number of our blackbirds, mostly Redwings and Grackles. The Finches were more erratic than usual. Siskins were seldom seen and Grosbeaks and Goldfinches came and went, flocks separating and coalescing so that an estimate of true numbers is difficult to make. Purple Finches have been very rarely seen, and have not reappeared, as they usually do in February. House Sparrows, Starlings and Cowbirds were present, the Cowbirds not so troublesome at feeders as they have been other years. For "specials" at feeders, see the report to follow.

Many of the birding areas in Nova Scotia "crop up" regularly in the following reports. To prevent repetition of locations of these areas in the body of the text we include this list for reference.

Yarmouth Co.

Pinkney's Point, Tusket, Cranberry Head, Cook's Beach, Melbourne, Eel Brook.

Shelburne Co.

Cape Sable Island, Barrington Bay, Jones Harbor, Brass Hill, Upper and Lower Ohio, Upper Clyde, Lockeport.

QUEEN'S COUNTY.

Port Joli, Port Hebert.

LUNENBURG CO.

Cherry Hill, Broad Cove, Petite Riviere, Green Bay, Crousetown, Crescent Beach, Bayport.

HALIFAX CO.

Grand Desert, Three Fathom Harbor, Conrad's Beach, Lawrencetown, Martinique Beach, Cole Harbor.

DIGBY CO.

Brier Island,

COLCHESTER CO.

Economy.

ANNAPOLIS CO.

Wilmot, Smiths Cove, Round Hill.

CUMBERLAND CO.

Lusby Marsh

GUYSBOROUGH CO.

Wine Harbor.

A.P.B.S. is Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary.

C.B.C. is Christmas Bird Count.

LOONS, GREBES.

Loons for the most part lead placid uneventful lives during the winter months. Being deep divers they can feed along the shore outside the frozen estuaries and they seem to have few enemies other than "sportsmen" armed with rifles, and Great Black-backed Gulls which sometimes swim in close attendance and try to hi-jack their cargo when they surface from a profitable dive.

Reports of COMMON LOON sightings were very unevenly distributed as to region this past season: 7, from Cape Breton, 20 from the Eastern Shore (all on the Halifax E. Christmas Count), 265 from the South Shore, 46 from the Bay of Fundy (34 of which were seen on the Brier Island CBC) and 2 from the Gulf Shore. This of course does not present a true picture of distribution; the birders and birding expeditions along the coast from Halifax to the Yarmouth-Digby border far outnumbered those in the other regions.

Two ARCTIC LOONS were seen on Jan. 31 at Lawrencetown by Eric Cooke who was able to study them at leisure under perfect conditions and compare them with a nearby Common Loon. A few days later he was also able to consult study skins of this species at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. Shortly after Feb. 8, the Cohrs and the Andersons reported (with a careful description) two of the same species in a nearby locality - almost certainly the same birds.

Reports of RED-THROATED LOONS are distributed by months as follows: 2 sightings each for Nov., Jan., Feb. and Mar., and 7 for December. Most were of singles or 2 or 3 birds but there were 25 just over the border at Cape Jourmain, N.B. on Nov. 15 (SIT); 17 at Cape Sable Dec. 30 (BJS), and 6 Jan. 3 on the Broad Cove Christmas Count.

There is nothing significant in the reports of RED-NECKED GREBES. They were evenly distributed throughout all the coastal waters from Nov. to March - except those of Cape Breton. Largest numbers seen on any one date were expectable on Christmas Count days: 23 at Brier I., Dec 23; 15 at Halifax W. Dec. 27, and 40 at Broad Cove Jan. 3. Like the Red-necks, HORNED GREBES were quite evenly distributed, numbers varying directly with numbers of bird-watchers. Again, none was reported from Cape Breton. The greatest number apart from those seen by the CBC parties was 57 observed by Eric Mills at French Village Cove, Halifax Co., Feb. 7. Eric writes that 45 of these were in a tightly bunched flock, a formation occasionally adopted by this species. When feeding, such a flock usually dives as one bird - the whole little raft disappearing in the twinkling of an eye - producing a startling effect for the observer.

Although outside of the report period a gathering of 30 PIED-BILLED Grebes seen by Stuart Tingley at Amherst Pt. Oct. 4 is worth noting. Three were still there on Nov. 16, and one straggler remained on a small pond on Cape Sable until Nov. 29 (Smiths). The bird seen on the Glace Bay CBC was probably attempting to winter.

FULMARS, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS

Eric Cooke reports 25 NORTHERN FULMARS on the crossing from Port-aux-Basques to North Sydney on Feb. 22, though these were close to the Newfoundland side and so shouldn't, perhaps, be counted here. There were a few FULMARS - both light and dark phases - in the Emerald Bank area south-east of Halifax on Jan. 26, and also farther out, on the edge of the continental shelf, the next day (RGGB). Our only SHEARWATER reports are from early in the fall. The latest come from Brier Island on Sept. 23, when Davis Finch and his field party saw 400 GREATER SHEARWATERS and 4 SOOTY. Not much by Brier standards, but a distinct advance on the Labor Day weekend (see the last issue). It's significant that Davis' birds were feeding on a euphausiid shrimp swarm at the surface; the shrimps weren't reaching the surface in late August.

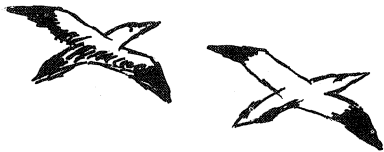
The unusually large numbers of WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS also persisted off Brier. Davis Finch saw 60 there on Sept. 23, and no less than 2000 from the BLUENOSE on Sept. 26. He also had 4 LEACH'S off Brier but the latest report of this bird is from Sydney on Oct. 31. Hedley Hopkins found a bird which had been blown ashore in a storm; he kept it for a couple of days and released it - and it flew off out to sea.

GANNETS, CORMORANTS.

NORTHERN GANNETS seem to have been unusually common off Brier I. in late September. Davis Finch's party saw 60 off North Point on Sept. 22, and 30 on a boat trip the next day. Barry Sabean saw 10 fishing off the Canso Causeway on Oct. 8 and the Smiths had a few off Cape Sable as late as Nov. 29.

We have the usual reports of GREAT CORMORANTS. There were, for example, 2-3 birds to be seen all winter in Yarmouth Harbor (PRD et al; D&MH). George Perry saw two birds at Lockeport on Feb. 28 in breeding plumage. There were 27 DOUBLE-CRESTED at the Pictou Harbor causeway on Oct. 26, and 2 on Nov. 2 (EH). The Smiths saw birds at Cape Sable on Dec. 22 and Jan 20, and 2 on Feb. 7.

R.G.B.B.



HERONS

A few records did not arrive in time for the fall issue of the Newsletter. at Sable Island a GREAT EGRET was captured and released on Nov. 17 (J.Redmond, fide IAMc). In addition to the BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS reported earlier, 3 immatures were present in the John Lusby Marsh, Cumberland Co. on July 3 and one was still there on August 12 (ST). 4 immatures were reported from Louis Head, Shelburn Co., on August 29 (GP).

A "babe bittern" was caught by a cat behind Hirtle Smith's house, Cape Sable Island, sometime during the summer (fide S. & BJS), and an immature BITTERN was seen feeding in a cattail marsh at Pictou, 27 July (EH).

Our only CATTLE EGRET of summer or fall arrived at Cape Sable on November 14 after moderate southerly gales and rain (SS).

During the winter GREAT BLUE HERONS were widely reported, especially in western Nova Scotia. In late December they were seen in ones and twos at Brier Island (IMcG), near Yarmouth (MWH) and on four Christmas Bird Census (in Lunenburg, Queen's and Yarmouth Counties). Our only record from Cape Breton Island was at Orangedale, January 7 (PC). In Yarmouth County a number of wintering birds survived at least until mid-February (CRKA,PRD).

Two GREAT EGRETS were reported December 13 at Fourchu, Richmond County (RH et al).

ELM

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS

Ralph Widrig writes from Lockeport that on Dec. 29 his son saw a flock of 7 large all-white birds (no black wing-tips) with very long necks flying over at a great altitude. He identified these as WHISTLING SWANS.

According to information received after the postal strike, CANADA GEESE arrived at Nova Scotia much earlier than those reported in our January issue. The vanguard was at Port Hebert by Aug. 28 (RT) and at St. Esprit on Sept. 26 (RM). Large flocks poured through the "staging areas" at the head of the Bay of Fundy, Wallace, Morien, Martinique, Grand Pre etc., and by early December the wintering birds had settled at Cole Harbor, Port Hebert, Port Joli and Melbourne. Ice over the shallows drove the flocks out to nearby open water from time to time but less often this year than usual. The mild weather in late February and March seemed to break up the wintering flocks, and reports indicate that these were on the move in all regions. There were 4000+ at Cole Harbor March 23 (RE), 2000 at Plymouth, Yar. Co., same date (MWH) and flocks heard flying over Eel Lake frequently at night from late Feb. on (PRD).

Late autumn BRANT reports are scanty indeed - one at Cape Sable Nov. 5 (SS). The only other record for the period is an unusual winter sighting of 5 off Pinkney's Pt. on the Yarmouth CBC, Dec. 20.

On Jan. 15 the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville, N.B. received

from a Mr. Greenwood in Shag Harbor the wing of a duck shot recently in that area. This on examination turned out to be that of a FULVOUS TREE DUCK, a new species for the Nova Scotia list. See P. 100.

There are seven reports of MALLARDS, all of one or two birds each from the South Shore from Halifax to Yarmouth, and five reports from the Bay of Fundy area, three of which are of from 2-5 birds in the APBS during November, one bird at Tupperville and two at Bear River March 23 (RB). Sara MacLean says that the 2-6 birds which wintered at the Glace Bay Sanctuary could be feral.

No large numbers of BLACK DUCKS are reported from any of their wintering grounds, which incidentally are much more numerous than those of Canada Geese, which like a great deal more room than this species. Upward of 1000 were at Melbourne Sanctuary and Port Hebert in December, but the other flocks numbered 800 or less and all of these were considerably reduced and dispersed during the cold spells of early January. Israel Pothier has written "Regarding the Black Ducks, I find quite a decrease in number from former years.....in 1947-50 when I made the Wildlife Duck Inventory with the aid of an aircraft...from Pubnico Harbor to Yarmouth, the count was from 17,000 to 20,000. Try to find this number now, covering the same area. In Goose Bay and at the mouth of the Tusket small flocks are to be seen compared with the rafts of thousands found years ago. The use of small fast boats carrying lights and with outboard motors, day and night may be the reason for the decline, ducks having moved to safer areas. However since the end of the open season things have been very quiet as far as poachers are concerned, no doubt due to the absence of ducks. If it were not for the sanctuary at Melbourne there probably would be even fewer".

From 1 to 5 GADWALLS were seen at APBS during October (SIT,RB,CD) and a single, well observed was at Martinique Sanctuary Nov. 30 (IAM).

A count of 40 PINTAILS at Lusby Marsh on March 21 might properly belong to our spring migration report in the next issue. Fall and winter records are rather scanty this year" 8 at APBS Nov. 1 (RB) and 3 still there Nov. 22 (CD). There were 5 at Cherry Hill, Lunen. Co., March 20 (Cohrs and Andersons), 4 at Pinkney's Pt. Feb. 23 (ELM et al) and single birds at Port Joli, Cape Sable, Cole Harbour and Chezzetcook during March.

The GREEN-WINGED TEAL migration "peaked" at APBS Oct. 4 (200+) (CD) and dwindled to a single straggler still there Dec. 6 (RB). There were 40 Greenwings at Melbourne in the SW end of the province on Nov. 30 (CRKA) and two good records of wintering birds: 2 at Dartmouth Feb. 14 (ELM,BM) and one at Parrsboro Feb. 28 (FH). A surprising BLUE-WINGED TEAL record is of one at Glace Bay Sanctuary Jan. 2 (SM).

(Report of an EUROPEAN WIDGEON at Lusby Marsh, Cumb. Co., in late June and early July (CD) was held up by the mail strike.) Another, a full-plumaged male was identified at Glace Bay March 17 (SM,GS).

At APBS there were 50 AMERICAN WIDGEONS, remnant of a "peak" of 300 about mid-October. Last report from that locality is of 16 on Nov. 16 (CD). The Cohrs and Andersons saw a pair at Petite Riviere March 20 and the NSBS field trippers had another at Port Joli March 21.

Only reports of NORTHERN SHOVELERS are from APBS where there were up to 10 birds in early November and one still there on Nov. 16 (CD et al).

There were still 16 RING-NECKED DUCKS at Amherst Pt. Nov. 1 where there had been a peak of 100 in early October. Latest record for there was one Nov. 19 (SIT,CD,RB). Wintering records for this species are: 2 at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth and one in Bedford Basin during the entire winter (many observers); one Feb. 5 at Cape Sable (BJS), and one at Eel Lake, Yar. Co., in company with a single Black Duck, Feb. 26 (CRKA).

GREATER SCAUP were quite evenly distributed in the bays and inlets along the North Shore, Cape Breton, Bay of Fundy and South Shore with counts of from several to about 100 birds during Nov.-Jan. The build-up began as usual in February: 110 birds at Annapolis Royal Feb. 21, 200 at Salt Bay, Yar. Co., Feb. 23, increasing to 550 Feb. 27; and in March, 600 (on the 20th) at Bayport, and 150 at Crescent Beach on the same date (ELM,Cohrs,PRD et al.)

A LESSER SCAUP was seen by Ian McLaren and party March 15 in Bedford Basin in company with the wintering Ring-necked Duck (see above). Stuart Tingley and Roger Burrows also saw several of this species - up to 5 - at Amherst Pt. from late October to mid-November.

The distribution pattern for COMMON GOLDENEYE is about the same as for Greater Scaup - they were present in good numbers in all the coastal waters and the pre-spring build-up occurred at the same time. Largest numbers reported were: 150 at Melbourne Sanctuary Feb. 22 (CRKA,PRD), 400+ at Bayport, March 16, and 100 at Crescent Beach the same date (Cohrs).

A male BARROW'S GOLDENEYE was seen throughout the winter at the Annapolis Causeway by a number of observers. Other sightings were 2 males in Pugwash Harbor (Feb. 21 SIT) and in the same area a male seen Dec. 2 and 30 (RB).

BUFFLEHEADS were common to abundant in their usual wintering grounds from December on. There were "huge flocks" in Digby Basin Jan. 11 (A&KR), 60 at Cape Sable Jan. 28, and 50+ at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co. March 20. Smaller flocks were reported at Bear River, Digby Co., Annapolis Royal, Abram's River, Tusket River and Melbourne (last three localities in Yar. Co. (RB,D&MH,CRKA,PRD). Peter Hope reports 1 or possibly 2 Buffleheads at Kejimikujik Park - a most unusual locality to see this little duck, and a first record for the park. The bird (or birds) was first seen Feb. 7 and several times thereafter during March, in the Mersey River.

Gordon MacLeod at Wine Harbor reports firsts OLDSQUAWS arriving there about Nov. 3. Late in the month they appeared in good numbers in Cape Breton, Northumberland Strait and along the South Shore. Greatest numbers reported were: 40, some time in November at Cape Jourimain, N.B. (CD); 60 at Glace Bay Sanctuary Dec. 26 (CBC) at 45 at Cape Sable Dec. 30 (BJS).

HARLEQUIN DUCKS are far from common in Nova Scotia, but can be looked for with confidence in their regular wintering places among the wave-washed ledges close in-shore. The Cherry Hill birds were reported by several observers (EMC,RB et al), from December to March; there were 9 at Port Hebert Jan. 3, with other sightings during February and March (RSW) and 12 at Jones' Harbor March 20 (GDP,FH).

Reports on wintering COMMON EIDERS were very scanty this year and except for 200 on the Brier I. CBC, Dec. 23 and 200-250 at Cape Sable Dec. 26 numbers were low - 2's and 3's up to 40. According to Betty June Smith at Cape Sable the peak of the southward flight was in mid-October, when an estimated 5000 went by within 1/2 mile of shore.

There was a male KING EIDER at Lawrencetown Jan. 18, reported by Eric Cooke who has seen at least one other of this species in the same locality in the past several years. Another was at Freeport, Digby Neck Feb. 22 (ELM et al.) and a probable female at Digby seen by Roger Burrows and Peter Hope, well described by the former.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS led the other two Scoter species in a number of reports and numbers of individuals: 16 reports for a total of about 360 birds from all coastal waters. 5 even SURF SCOTER reports produced over 110 birds, from all waters except Cape Breton; and the nine BLACK SCOTER reports included approximately 120 individuals from everywhere except the Eastern Shore (Canso-Halifax). There was no concentration anywhere, nor any indication that these ducks favored any one of the coastal regions.

RUDDY DUCKS appeared in two of their usual stop-off points in Nov: Cape Jourimain, just over the border in New Brunswick, where 10 were seen on Nov. 15, and 1 Nov. 16 at APBS (CD). There were also 6 at East Lawrencetown, Halifax Co. on Nov. 22 (FC et al.).

HOODED MERGANSER reports continue to be above normal this year (see January issue). There was a female at APBS Nov. 16 (SIT); another shot near Mira, Cape Breton was reported by Rene Haldane; one showed up for the Brier I. CBC, Dec. 22, and another on the Broad Cove CBC Jan. 3. A bird of this species at Abram's River, Yar. Co. Feb. 22 could have been a stray blown north by the Feb. 2 storm.

The COMMON MERGANSER ties with the following species as being the most heavily reported of all the ducks this year: 38 reports from all waters except the Eastern Shore. The South Shore led with 16 records of 151 individuals; next came the Bay of Fundy with ten reports of 42 individuals; Cape Breton produced five reports for a total of 54 birds, and the North Shore, seven reports of 152 birds.

Strange to say not a single RED-BREASTED MERGANSER was reported from the Eastern Shore this winter although that stretch includes the Cole Harbor-Lawrencetown area where this species - and Halifax bird-watchers - usually occur in good numbers. The South Shore again leads with fifteen records totalling over 140 individuals. From the Bay of Fundy came reports of ten sightings of 69 birds. The North Shore had eight sightings with 296 birds, included in which were 170 seen by Eric Holdway at Pictou on Nov. 30. Cape Breton produced five records of 37 individuals.

CRKA

HAWKS, BALD EAGLE

Ten GOSHAWK reports and roughly twice that number of reports of SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS indicate normal numbers for both of the common wintering accipiters. A few late reports (held up by the postal strike) supplement the January Newsletter's data on the movement of sharpies in the western end of the province last September and October: Davis Finch and his party had 12 birds, Sept. 22, on Brier Is., and 40 birds at various locations in Yarmouth Co., Sept. 25. Stuart Tingley had 80 sharpies at Cape Sable, Sept. 29, and 25 the next day at Brier. On Oct. 3, he

reported 60+ sharpies at Brier.

Another delayed report included Stuart Tingley's COOPER'S HAWK, Oct. 1 and 3 at Brier, with the wave of sharpies. The only report of this species for the winter season raises the familiar problems. It comes from Roger Burrows, and describes an accipiter seen at Wile's Lake, near North Brookfield, Queen's Co., March 10. This individual was at the Goshawk end of the size spectrum, and had a clearly rounded tail. Burrows separated it from Goshawk by "lack of white undertail and combination of buff streaking and barring". The presence of a conspicuous, fluffy white crissum is said by some to be a trenchant mark for separating Goshawk and Cooper's Hawk, and it is certainly true that this white area on the underside near the base of the tail is often very striking in Goshawks. Whether, on the other hand, its absence, or inconspicuousness, means that a given individual could not be a Goshawk, is questionable. The other mark noted by Burrows, the "combination of buff streaking and barring" is more convincing. The bird was thought to be a second- or third-year female, a nearly adult bird, with orange iris (the yellow of the immature turns red gradually, at the time of the third molt). Apparently, then, this bird had elements both of the brown streaking of immature accipiters, and of the reddish buff barring of adult sharpies and Cooper's Hawks. Allan Brooks' Sharp-shinned Hawk plate in Alexander Sprunt, Jr.'s North American Birds of Prey shows an immature bird in plumage of this sort. Since adult Goshawks do not have the rusty red underparts of the two other accipiters, this plumage should eliminate Goshawk from the range of possibilities. All in all, Burrows' report is decidedly the most convincing winter Cooper's Hawk record I've seen for Nova Scotia, and the only one accompanied by details which would seem to be decisive.

Twenty-nine sightings of RED-TAILED HAWKS represent a marked decline from nearly fifty in the winter of 1974-5. Oscar Morehouse noted "fewer wintering this year" in the Wolfville area, and this observation seems to have held for the province as a whole.

Delays in the mails held up Stuart Tingley's report of 115 BROAD-WINGED HAWKS at Cape Sable Island, Sept. 29. He had time to examine this large kettle at leisure, as the hawks made repeated abortive movements out over the sea to the south, always returning to land. Passing fishermen expressed interest and surprise, saying they had never seen a flock of "big hawks" before. Whatever ultimately happened to these birds, they must have been part of the same major movement noted on Brier Is., Oct. 5 -10 (Newsletter 18:1, p. 8). Since the Cape Sable birds refused to go out over the open ocean, and Bruce Mactavish witnessed a major movement from Brier, Oct. 6, in a northeasterly direction, "up Digby Neck", it is tempting to believe that the Broad-wings which came to Nova Scotia in the fall are indeed offcourse, and must backtrack to the mainland before resuming their movement southward. A hawk shot at Cedar Lake, Yarmouth Co., early in January, and forwarded in a mutilated condition to the N. S. Museum, may represent an exceptional winter Broad-wing record for the province, but the identification of the specimen is not certain.

A few ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were recorded in the January Newsletter, As Stuart Tingley writes, they were "common on the Tantramar Marshes from mid-October" through the winter, with a marked decrease in sightings during February. At least 3 individuals, probably more, wintered on the Grand Pre dykelands near Wolfville, and Charlie Allen reports "several all winter" in the Chebogue area near Yarmouth. The many Rough-legs that wintered in the Annapolis Valley in 1974-5 did not return, and W. E. Whitehead reports only a single sighting at Round Hill, Feb. 20. Other sightings are scattered throughout the season, and come mainly from coastal areas.

After careful sifting of the BALD EAGLE reports for the winter season, I cannot reduce them beyond 83 separate individuals, divided as follows:

	<u>adult</u>	<u>immature</u>	<u>unspecified</u>	<u>total</u>
Cape Breton Island	10	11	11	32
Kings Co.	--	--	24	24
Yarmouth Co.	2	4	1	7
Digby Co.	3	2	--	5
Halifax Co.	2	3	--	5
Shelburne Co.	2	1	--	3
Lunenburg Co.	1	1	--	2
Queens Co.	2	--	--	2
Antigonish Co.	1	--	--	1
Guysborough Co.	1	--	--	1
Pictou Co.	--	--	1	1

It will be interesting to see to what extent this picture corresponds to the one which will emerge from Peter Austin-Smith's work on wintering eagles in the province. He would appreciate any information you can send on eagles, c/o Wildlife Division, Dept. of Lands and Forests, Kentville.

Of the 46 individuals whose age was specified, 22 (48%) were immatures. In 1973-4 and 1974-5, the percentage of immatures reported in winter remained at approximately 33% of the total. If this statistic proves to correlate positively with nesting success, as determined by more scientific sampling, this correlation might be an indication that our eagle reports, though gathered in a manner which is essentially uncontrolled and random, might nevertheless, in a crude way, indicate the condition of our wintering population, and might be useful in monitoring that population. The major concentrations are, as usual, the Bras d'Or Lakes (including, this year, nearby Lake Ainslie, where R. Beecher (per SM) saw 29 eagles feeding on dead perch, Jan. 7) and the Gaspereau Valley, near Wolfville. Seven individuals, perhaps more, wintered in the Tusket area south of Yarmouth.

MARSH HAWKS that are going to attempt to winter seem to leave the province by October or November at the latest. Wintering success is probably dependent on depth of snow and abundance of small rodents. This season, at least one bird seems to have wintered at Grand Pre (two, Dec. 26, Gary Corbett; one, Jan 24, OM; one, March 14, RWT), and a male seen at Lockeport, Feb. 14, by Russel J. Crosby, probably wintered, as well as an individual seen March 6 near St. Mary's Bay (FWD & ED). There is a gap in Yarmouth Co. records from Jan. 24 (Yarmouth, CRKA) to March 24 (Chegoggin, MWH,DK,AH). This last bird was probably a spring migrant, as a female on the Tantramar Marshes, March 14 (RDL, Tony Locke, S.Rotroff) may have been.

Late OSPREY sightings for fall, 1975, include individuals at Mabou, Oct. 17 (HH per SM) and Round Hill in the Annapolis Valley, Oct. 21 (WEW). A bird Roger Burrows saw "briefly" on the Mersey River, Feb. 4, may represent an exceptional winter sighting, but it was not relocated on subsequent visits to the location, and remains a tantalizing "possible".

Burrows' gray GYRFALCON at Amherst Point (Newsletter 18:1, p.8) remained at least until Nov. 19, and perhaps until Dec. 6, when a fresh kill was found. A gyr seen in Yarmouth during the second week of February, (MWH,DK,AH,DR), is the only other report. Four additional delayed PEREGRINE FALCON sightings are all for the western end of the province, between

Sept. 25 and Oct. 1. The late date for 1975 remains the Oct. 16 bird previously reported. MERLINS are reported by eleven observers. Wintering birds keep close to concentrations of passerines: Gary Corbett reports a Merlin at Sheffield Mills, Kings Co., Dec. 6 (where concentrations of Starlings and Cowbird often occur); Eric Mills, Ian McLaren and Bruce Mactavish watched a Merlin, Feb. 21, at Gaspereau, near Wolfville, harassing a large flock of Starlings. Fourteen period records of AMERICAN KESTRELS suggest that our smallest falcon was relatively common this winter. A few individuals were persistent and conspicuous, including a bird which frequented the Annapolis causeway and the town of Annapolis Royal, and was seen at least until late February by Calder Fraser, Peter and Lorraine Hope, Rogert Burrows and others.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

SPRUCE GROUSE records came from Kejimikujik National Park (RB), nearby Cannon Lake, Queens Co. (PRH & Norm Bowers) and the CBCs at Halifax (east) and Port La Tour. Eighteen winter reports of RUFFED GROUSE represent some 45 to 50 birds, with a strikingly high count of 22 on the Keji CBC. RING-NECKED PHEASANT reports suggest that the hunters are taking good care of their introduced pets: 13 reports represent at least 141 individuals, mainly in the Wolfville-Grand Pre area (85 on the Wolfville CBC), with a number of lesser concentration points, (e.g. 16 birds at Cape Chebogue, M. Nickerson per MWH). GRAY PARTRIDGE reports for the season are confined to the Grand Pre birds, seen by four observers, with a notably high count of 19 on the Wolfville CBC.

MARSH BIRDS

Two late fall VIRGINIA RAILS, one at Malagawatch in mid-December (J. McNicol) and one on the Halifax (east) CBC, Dec. 20, conform to the familiar pattern. A single SORA also occurred on the Halifax (east) CBC, picked up by Eric Mills. A remarkable breeding record comes from Eric Holdway at Pictou, who observed an adult with a downy chick there, July 27. This may well be the first definite breeding evidence for the species in Nova Scotia away from the border region (though at least one other undoubted breeding area is known). The latest record for the border region (where Soras may be heard calling well into September) was Oct. 5 at Amherst Point (LEN, HJM).

Numbers of AMERICAN COOTS at Amherst Point are distinctly higher in Nov. than Oct., dropping conspicuously in the second week of December. Nov. and Dec. birds are tabularized below. In each case, the high count available to me for a given date is used:

Nov. 1	54	(RB)
3	65	(ST)
9	57	(RB)
12	70	(ST)
16	141	(ST)

Nov. 19	<u>53</u>	(RB)
22	<u>100</u>	(CD)
23	<u>71</u>	(RB)
28	<u>12</u>	(ST)
29	<u>50</u>	(CD)
Dec. 6	<u>32+</u>	(RB)
11	<u>7</u>	(ST)
13	<u>1</u>	(CD)

Observers are Roger Burrows, Stuart Tingley and Con Desplanque.

Elsewhere, a single coot was present until a few days before the Christmas Bird Count at Yarmouth (on Milton Road), and a single individual wintered on Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, observed repeatedly by Ethel Crathorne, as well as Lisé and Shirley Cohrs.

RDL



SHOREBIRDS

Many fall records did not arrive until after the deadline for the previous report. A very late PIPING PLOVER was seen at Martinique Beach, Oct. 17, two months after the usual departure (ST). KILLDEERS apparently nested again in Cumberland County (JZ fide PRD). Killdeer were reported in the Sydney area, Sept. 6 (RB and S.MacL) and Davis Finch and party saw 51 in Yarmouth County on September 25: 32 at Cranberry Head, 17 at Yarmouth airport and 2 at Melbourne. 3 were at Melbourne Sanctuary on Nov. 30 (CRKA).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER, as predicted, were still present by Christmas. At Cape Sable there were 5 on Dec. 22 and one on Dec. 26 (S & BJS).

Records of WHIMBREL in Cape Breton Island paralleled those on the mainland: small groups from July 29 to August 24 at Homeville, Morien

and the Glace Bay Sanctuary and a peak of 24 on Sept. 26 at the Sanctuary (LF, S.MacL).

The only UPLAND SANDPIPER of the fall was observed at close range on Sept. 15 at Lockeport (GP).

A few RED KNOT stayed on until the winter. 17 were still at Cape Sable on Nov. 24, 5 on Dec. 22 and 4 on Jan. 29 (S & BJS, NC). A PECTORAL SANDPIPER lingered in the marshes at Port Lawrence, Cumberland Co., Nov. 17 (ST).

Four additional records of BAIRD'S SANDPIPER have come to light. On Cape Sable the Smiths report 6 and 20 (very high numbers) on June 29, 2 on July 6 and 1 on Aug. 12. A late migrant was photographed on Brier I., Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 (ST). We have one additional record of WESTERN SANDPIPER from Cape Sable, where the Smiths found one dead on Sept 26 (fate of specimen not known).

8 GOLDEN PLOVERS and 10 BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS spent several days at West Head, near Lockeport, around Sept. 10 (GP) and another Buff-Breasted, the last of the season, was at Yarmouth airport Sept. 24 (DWF et al). HUDSONIAN GODWITS are sufficiently rare and spectacular to be recorded in detail: 1 at Malagawatch, CBI, July 28 (S.MacL), 8 at Grand Pre on Aug. 10 (LEN,HJM); 6 at Louis Head, Shelburne Co., Aug. 13, and no less than 119 juvenals in a small barachois pond at Meteghan Centre, Digby County, Sept. 24 (DWF et al).

Davis Finch and a party of birders from New England saw 400 RED and 20 NORTHERN PHALAROPES off Brier I. on Sept. 23, only a few days after a number of Reds were seen ashore in Yarmouth County (CRKA - see previous issue).

Winter shorebirds are sparse indeed, except for the cryptic and hardy PURPLE SANDPIPERS on wave-washed rocks where they feed on periwinkles. a number of species stayed far into the winter and by the end of March spring migrants were appearing. The last KILLDEER of the fall were at Lockeport (2) Dec. 12-18 (RJC) and Brier Island (1) Dec. 22-23 (FL). They were on the move again by March 6 at Lawrencetown, Halifax Co. (EHC) and by the end of the month had been seen frequently there and in northern Nova Scotia.

A wintering WOODCOCK was reported on the Brier Island Census, Dec. 23 (CC) and COMMON SNIPE were seen at New Grafton, Annapolis Co., Jan. 1-6 (EM) on the Wolfville ridge (OM) throughout the winter, Amherst in Feb. (C & KD) and 1 was photographed in Dartmouth in early March (RC). 1 at Cape Sable on March 20-21 may have been a spring migrant (S & BJS).

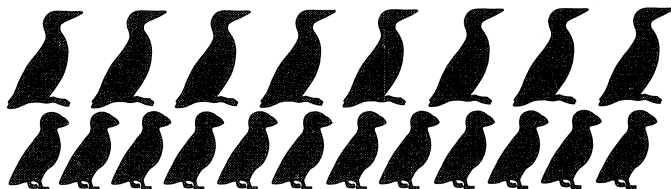
A very early or wintering SPOTTED SANDPIPER was well seen by a warden in Kejimikujik National Park on March 18, more than three weeks before the previous earliest record (fide PH).

PURPLE SANDPIPERS were present in force from mid-November. Representative records are 150+ at Lockeport, Nov. 19 (RW) (at least 40 wintered, fide GP, RJC); at Cape Sable on Dec. 22 with Knot, Sanderlings and Black-bellied Plover (SS); 300 on Gull Rock, Brier Island, Christmas Census Dec. 23 (ELM, IMacG); 10-35 on various Christmas Censuses in Halifax, Queen's, Kings and Annapolis Counties, and 40 at Cherry Hill, Lunenburg Co. in Feb. (RB, EHC).

Cape Sable had more than its share of wintering shorebirds. In addition to the Black-Bellied Plover and Knots noted earlier the Smiths

report single WHITE-RUMPED and SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPERS with 35 SANDERLINGS on Dec. 31 and on Jan. 16 7 Sanderlings were still there. Elsewhere in the province Sanderlings were seen Nov. 30 at Cook's Beach, Yar. Co. (12-CRKA) and at Conrad's Beach, Halifax Co. (1) on New Year's Day (RC).

ELM



JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS AND AUKS

Davis Finch's party saw our only SKUAS: 5 birds from BLUENOSE on Sept. 25 - though as these were well out from Yarmouth they were probably technically Maine sightings. Davis also saw a PARASITIC JAWGER off Brier I. on Sept. 23.

We'll start the Gulls with the highlights: probable sightings of European COMMON and of THAYER'S GULLS. Ian McLaren writes of the Common Gull:

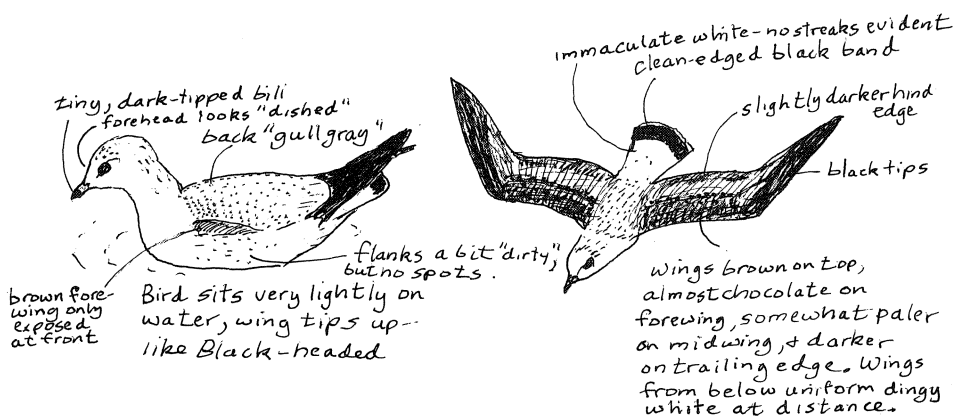
I first saw the bird from my car, in the low, strong light of 3.15 p.m., February 7. It was fluttering over the open channel beyond the railroad bridge at the mouth of Lawrencetown Lake, snatching things from the surface. Right away it struck me as being "wrong" for a young Ring-billed Gull. It then lit on the water and drifted down channel, finally paddling to stand in shallows about 150 yards from me. I wish it had come closer, but the viewing was excellent. I watched it for about a minute with a 25x scope. I then left the car to approach for a photograph. Unfortunately it was "spooky", and paddled away. I got one quick snap and then it flew. Thereafter, for about one-half hour, I watched it as it flew around the estuary and occasionally put down for a minute or two, always at a distance. I took one more photograph of it in flight, unfortunately poor and distant, like the first.

The bill was so very small that I was really quite convinced that I had a young Mew (Common) Gull. Yet the plumage was not at all a good match for the "immature" illustrated in Robbins *et al* (the only guide at hand), I made sketches and notes on the spot, reproduced here. These are, I think, quite convincing evidence that mine was a first-winter bird of the European rather than the western North American race. Grant (1973, *British Birds*, vol. 66, pp.115-118 + plates) has an excellent article on distinguishing the Ring-billed and Common Gulls.

There are two reasons for considering it to be a Mew (Common) Gull rather than a Ring-billed Gull. 1) The tiny bill was really quite impressive. There were two adult ring-bills in the area, and although they refused to get together for a side-by-side comparison, the difference in bill size was marked. 2) The brown wings did not have the characteristic pale gray mid-wing panel (greater coverts and base of secondaries) of the first winter Ring-bill. A week later I saw a young Ring-bill at the head of the Northwest Arm, and this feature was quite evident; its forewings looked paler too. In addition, the W. Lawrencetown bird was intermediate in size between the Ring-bills and a group of Black-headed Gulls. Unfortunately it mingled with these only in flight.

There are two reasons for considering it to be of the European race. 1) The bird was almost unmarked on head and breast. The head streaks were very fine. Illustrations of the first-winter plumage of the western North-American race seem all to indicate much heavier streaking. The field guides though, tend to illustrate first-summer birds. 2) The tail band of my bird was sharply defined, and the tail was otherwise pure white. The immatures of the western race have markedly streaked tails, as illustrated in field guides, and also according to the monograph by Dwight (1925, Bull, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.). Incidentally, its immaculate tail serves to separate it from the young Ring-bill, too, which has an off-white, usually streaked, tail. Here, too, our field guides can mislead.

Since this bird has only been reported once (an adult in 1969 on Sable Island by Christel Bell) before in Nova Scotia, since my photographs are wholly inadequate as confirmation, and since field guides are so misleading, I have thought it worthwhile to document this sighting in full.



Eric Mills writes of his possible (probable?) Thayer's Gull seen at Halifax docks on March 19: "A smallish, Iceland-like gull with pattern like immature Herring Gull but much more pale and underparts and underwing entirely pale. Mantle pearly pale grey. Wing coverts pale ash-brown, secondaries same colour but lighter. Primaries pale brown (darker than coverts) in wedge from tip. Outermost (anterior) primary with a conspicuous white spot near the tip. Tail white at base and tip, with a quite broad diffuse-grey band in between. Head white (with a trace of mottling). Bill dark for about half length, base paler but not flesh colour. Bill small, appeared slightly narrower than bills of first-winter Iceland Gulls. Slightly smaller than Herring Gulls with it; also smaller than accompanying Iceland Gulls. Feeding actions very Ring-bill like - much fluttering over the water and picking from the surface".

For the other gulls, the February storm was the most important event. Charlie Allen describes what happened at Yarmouth: "Prior to the storm of Feb. 2, the gull population of Yarmouth harbour numbered in the tens of thousands. HERRING GULLS predominated, with GREATER BLACK-BACKS present in a ratio of about one to two with the former species. Also included were 20-30 ICELAND KUMLIEN'S, and a scattering of GLAUCOUS, RING-BILLED and BLACK-HEADED GULLS.

"When the storm blew itself out on Feb. 3 the gulls had practically disappeared, a casual trip along the waterfront netting only 2 or 3 individuals of the commoner species.

"Since then there has been a gradual return of the Black-backs and Herring Gulls and at time of writing (March 18) there are a few hundred loafing in the flats and foraging about the fish plant. So far none of the less common species have been noted".

Where did they go to? Eric Mills saw thousands of Herring and Greater Black-backed Gulls on Feb. 22 sheltering in barachois ponds along the French Shore (by Weymouth and Port Maitland) - "despite reports of no gulls at Tiverton, Digby, Yarmouth etc."

Herring and Greater Black-backed Gulls need no further comment. Our LESSER BLACK-BACK is still at Digby. On Sept. 24 "it was right on station at the pipe running out beside the old CP wharf" reports Davis Finch, who adds that he saw a virtually identical adult bird at Castalia, Grand Manan, on Sept. 18. It was seen repeatedly during the winter; Peter Hope's sighting on Feb. 21 is the most recent to reach us.

The first GLAUCOUS GULL sightings were of single birds at Brier I., Dec. 5 (ELM), Cape Sable, Dec. 9 (SS) and on Dec. 20 on the Yarmouth CBC. ICELAND GULLS as usual arrived earlier. Sara MacLean saw two in the Glace Bay area on Oct. 16, and they had become numerous by Nov. 18. A single bird had reached Cape Sable by Oct. 31 (SS).

RING-BILLED GULLS were regularly reported all winter, from around the province. The largest flocks were 100+ at Northport on Oct. 5 (ST) and c.100 at Eel Brook Nov. 30-Dec. 18 (PRD). The Eel Brook birds then disappeared until 25-30 came back on Feb. 20 (CRKA). The Northport Ring-bills were accompanied by 280+ BONAPARTE'S (ST). There were 140 of the latter resting on the beach at Caribou I., Pictou on Sept. 21, but numbers had dwindled to only 14 by Oct. 26 (EH).

The first reported BLACK-HEADED GULL was one at Northport on Oct. 5 (ST) followed by 3 at Glace Bay on Oct. 15 (SMAcL). Sara MacLean heard them calling for the first time and was impressed by the "high mew, nothing like a tern or any other gull". The first sighting of the season - 3+ birds - at Abram's River, Yarmouth Co., was on Nov. 23 (CRKA). Ian McLaren notes that there were very few this winter in Halifax Harbor or Bedford

Basin; however they were always common on the tideflats of Lawrencetown and Coal Harbor - up to 45 noted in the latter in late February. Shirley Cohrs saw several with black heads in that area on March 28; at this season of course, European birds are already back on their breeding colonies. She also saw a bird with a distinct pink flush to its plumage on the Halifax dump on Dec. 28. This is characteristic of birds at the start of the breeding season - though the date seems very early.

Davis Finch saw a BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE off Brier I. on Sept. 23 and Eric Mills has several later records from there, culminating with 2700 birds seen on the CBC on Dec. 23. They were quite common on the continental shelf east of Halifax on Jan. 26-27 (RGGB). There were 4 in Glace Bay Sanctuary on Oct. 22 (HH). Ian McLaren saw 2 immatures among the larger gulls in Halifax Harbor on Feb. 14 and notes that he has never before seen them in the harbour area.

The Smiths' last tern records of 1975 were of 4 COMMON ARCTIC at Cape Sable on Sept. 30. The first for 1976 is exceptionally early; Everett Nickerson (through the Smiths) saw a Common Arctic just south of Cape Sable on Feb. 10. Sara Maclean reports late Common sightings from Cape Breton: 2 at Christmas Island on Sep. 7 and a single bird at Bras d'Or on Oct. 6. George Perry and Robert Turner saw a fall plumage BLACK TERN at Johnson's Pond Beach, Shelburne Co., on Oct. 26.

Everett Nickerson (through the Smiths) saw MURRES, DOVEKIES and BLACK GUILLEMOTS flying offshore from Cape Sable from the last week in October onwards. Dick Brown saw both COMMON and THICK-BILLED MURRES in small numbers and DOVEKIES in larger numbers in the Emerald Bank area on Jan. 26; DOVEKIES were even commoner at the edge of the continental shelf next day, and there were a few COMMON PUFFINS there too. There was a murre (?species) in Lockeport harbour on Feb. 7, blown in by our great gale, (GP, RT). The Smiths report a badly-oiled Thick-bill at Cape Sable on Feb. 10. Roger Burrows reports a Black Guillemot at Point Prim, Digby Co., on Feb. 8. There were 15 Puffins off Brier I. on Sept. 23 (DWF) and 2 there on the CBC 23. Inshore Dovekie records are also best shown by the CBCs: 83 at Brier, 2 at Halifax West + East, 4 at Glace Bay and 14 at Margaree.

No-one reports any live RAZORBILLS, but 3 were seen in an illegal hunter's bag at Clark's Harbor in late October.

RGGB

DOVES THROUGH OWLS

Reports of MOURNING DOVES appear to be down slightly from the winter of 1974-75, but several observers report wintering individuals or flocks at feeders. Barry Sabeau reports 23 birds at Sheffield Mills, March 3, which must have wintered in the area, and Charlie Allen sends details of his feeder flock at Tusket: from a single bird at the end of November, the flock grew to 8 by Dec. 3, and peaked at 11. On March 29, he still had 6 doves visiting. To judge by records on 8 CBCs, the Annapolis Valley (Kingston CBC) and Halifax (Halifax East CBC) have the majority of our wintering Mourning Doves. The single wintering report for Cape Breton is rather special...a dove spent the winter "very happily" in Frank Robertson's greenhouse at New Waterford.

A single, delayed record of YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO at Cape Sable, Aug. 21 (BJS,SS) supplements the others listed in the January Newsletter. An even more interesting record of this species comes from the Meyerowitz family at St. Esprit, Cape Breton...a recently killed specimen, Nov. 15. Cape Breton records of Yellow-billed Cuckoo are relatively uncommon.

Eric Mills reports the only GREAT HORNED OWL of the period, at Lawrencetown, Halifax Co., Jan. 18, being mobbed by crows. The rest of us must have been a little lax in our owling.

SNOWY OWLS are reported exceptionally well, and, with the help of Stuart Tingley's observations in the border marshes, it is possible to piece together an overall picture of southward and northward movement. His earliest snowy was on the Nova Scotia bank of the Missisquoi Nov. 12, and he notes that "about 5 were around Sackville (NB) until early Jan. A few reappeared in late February and early March, probably heading north". On March 27, near Sackville, Stuart and a group of observers had 6 Snowy Owls in sight at once. There seems, then, to be a southbound movement passing through the border region in Nov. and Dec., disappearing (at least this winter) in Jan, followed by a northbound flight in February and March. There are nine records of individuals elsewhere in Nova Scotia, from Nov. through March, with indications that a single snowy wintered at Lockeport (G. Perry). None of the other reports suggests continuity of observations, and, with the exception of an individual at Round Hill in the Annapolis Valley, Jan. 21 (WEW), there are no records for the province between Jan, 6 and March 3.

BARRED OWLS, as usual, are reported primarily from Kejimikujik National Park, which has a large resident population. There was a SINGLE REPORT FOR Dartmouth (Oct. 23, EC), and one for Sable River, Shelburne Co. (Nov. 10, RSW). The Shubenacadie CBC had a single Barred Owl, Dec. 28.

Undoubtedly the best bird of the season was a GREAT GRAY OWL seen March 26 near Berwick in the Annapolis Valley by George R. Boyd, of the Wildlife Division of the Dept. of Lands and Forests (Kentville) along with Robert MacDonald and Peter Purley. The description supplied is entirely convincing. The bird was seen well, for a period of 5 minutes, while it rested in a larch beside the highway, characteristically oblivious to the traffic and to the observers. The yellow irides, as well as all other field marks, were noted. George Boyd had never seen the bird before in his life, but he had often seen a stuffed specimen used in a wildlife training course, and he realized immediately what he was looking at. This would appear to be the third Nova Scotia record, the earlier ones dating to 1882 and 1903. (Tufts, p.279).

SHORT-EARED OWLS seem to have nearly the same status in Nova Scotia in winter as Marsh Hawks: they may be entirely absent in severe winters, especially in low-mouse-population years, and regular, though quite local, during other winters. At least 3 remained on the Grand Pre marshes as late as Dec. 26 (GC) and one of these put in an appearance on the Wolfville CBC the next day. The last sighting for the border region was at the mouth of the Missisquoi River, Nov. 12 (the date and location of the first Snowy Owl sighting (ST). In Cape Breton, the Margaree CBC, Dec. 31, had a single bird. A single Short-eared Owl was seen repeatedly at Cape Sable during the first two weeks of Jan. (SS), and at least one bird must have wintered near Annapolis Royal (Feb. 21, ELM,IAM,BM).

SAW-WHET OWLS were decidedly less conspicuous than during the winter of 1974-5, with only three reports, all from Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties; Jan. 24 at Port Maitland (D. Roy per MWH), Feb. 28 at Eel Brook (PED) and March 5 at Lockeport (RJC).



CAPRIMULGIDS TO KINGFISHER

COMMON NIGHTHAWKS were conspicuously down in numbers across the province in 1975. Sara MacLean reported them "very scarce" in Cape Breton, and Phyllis Dobson writes that they seem to be "scarce everywhere" and "need watching". We may well be seeing the delayed effects of the widespread mortality of nighthawks and swifts in the spring of 1974 (Newsletter 16.2, p.76). There were no conspicuous migratory flocks noted in the fall of 1975, the latest report being of two individuals at Greenwood in the Valley, Dept. 15 (LEN,HJM).

Some movement of CHIMNEY SWIFTS was reported for August, and the reports, delayed by the mail strike, are included here: 15 individuals were seen in the Mira (CB) area by Arthur Spencer (per SM) and 13 at Brier I., Aug. 31 (LEN,HJM). Again, these sparse reports seem to represent a genuinely depleted population.

BELTED KINGFISHERS were present in usual numbers in summer and fall, and scattered individuals seem to have wintered successfully. There are four reports for January, one for February 7 (Rocky Run, Hfx. Co., (EHC) and one for March 6 (Prospect Bay, FWD,ED). Two reporters indicate continuous observations of wintering Kingfishers extending into March: a single bird at the Kelly Lake Fish Culture Station, Hfx. Co., may have been the "same bird as last winter" (B. Sabean), and remained at least until March 9, and two Kingfishers wintered in the Eel Brook-Tusket area, remaining at least until March 8 (PRD,CRKA).

WOODPECKERS

After the migration peaks noted in the last Newsletter, only single COMMON FLICKERS were reported, with the exception of a small concentration near Melburne Sanctuary, Yar. Co., Dec. 7 (8 individuals, CRKA). There are two November reports, 5 for December (including 3 CBC records) and one for January (a flicker at Louis Head, Shelburne Co., seen by G. Perry, Jan. 25, feeding on bayberries). One wonders how long a flicker can last on bayberries...this one was still there Feb. 14. A flicker that was a regular visitor at Eel Brook, Yar. Co., early in the winter disappeared in February (PRD) and an individual was seen, Feb. 7 at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co. (R.B.)

PILEATED WOODPECKER sightings remain more numerous than in past years, and come primarily from the Cobequids and from the southwest part of the province. Kejimikujik National Park has, as usual, the greatest density of sightings, representing at least three resident individuals, and probably more.

A single RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, well seen and described from Brass Hill, near Barrington, Nov. 2, is reported by Viola Sperka.

HAIRY and DOWNY WOODPECKER reports are largely routine feeder birds, reported occurring "in usual numbers" from most areas. The Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, where mature spruces attacked by bark beetles attracted exceptional concentrations of Woodpeckers in the winter of 1974-5, again had striking numbers, but this year Hairy Woodpeckers were by far the most important species, as many as 15 individuals occurring in a few acres of woodland (Feb. 15, CD). Downy Woodpeckers occurred there as well, but only one or two at a time, and no Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen at Amherst Point this season.

BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS are reported only from Kejimikujik National Park (3 sightings) and Economy (Jan. 51, FS). An individual was seen just across the border at Aulac (NB), Dec. 23 and 28 (ST. Trevor Howard). A single, exceptional report of NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER missed the January Newsletter. It was an individual well seen by Sara MacLean and G. Spencer at the Forest Haven Cemetery (near Glace Bay??), Aug. 8. This would appear to be the earliest fall record for the province (although no trenchant field marks are mentioned in the report).

RDL.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

A very late YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER appeared at Cape Sable Sept. 16 1975 and was caught in hand by the Smiths. W. E. Whitehead observed nesting pairs of both TRAILL'S and LEAST FLYCATCHERS last summer at Round Hill.

The HORNED LARK "pattern" was as usual this season with many seen in the fall and early winter, numbers tailing off in January, few or none in February and a spring build-up in March. 100 were at Cape Sable on Nov. 2. The Yarmouth CBC had a high of 70 seen and there were 35 at Wolfville and Broad Cove, 32 at Annapolis and 19 at Brier (all CBC's). During January they were seen at Cape Sable (50 on the 4th), Grand Pre Dykes (30+ each weekend MAC), Conrad's Beach (6 on 10th, R.C.) and Yarmouth Bar (18 on 25th MWH).

There are rarely any Horned Larks seen in February, but one flock of 12 squeezed in this year on the extra day and was seen by Marie Henry on the 29th at Sand Beach, Yarmouth Co. Numbers picked up in early March with a high of 20-25 at Cherry Hill. One of these was of the "Prairie" (praticola) race (SC et al). Thereafter numbers dwindled, but there were still three at Economy on the 26th. (FS).

Two very interesting SWALLOW reports came in. N. Cunningham and Brian Stoddart saw a Swallow which they believed to be a TREE SWALLOW on February 28 at Cape Sable - a most unprecedented event. Storm-blown? If not, what could it have been eating? From Cape Breton R. Meyerowitz writes of a BARN SWALLOW on Nov. 15 at Grand River, the latest he has seen there by a good two months.

CORVIDS THROUGH WRENS

GREY JAYS fulfilled their fall promise (Newsletter Vol. 18, No. 1) and were widely reported at feeders and suet logs, especially in Cape Breton. BLUE JAYS too, wintered well and were seen mostly at feeders and in good numbers. Margaret Clark writes of 25 together at her feeder in Ste. Croix, while all Cape Breton correspondents agree that it was a "Bluejay winter" there.

COMMON RAVENS and COMMON CROWS were seen and heard much as usual, sometimes the only birds seen or heard on a winter's walk. 100 Ravens were at APBS, Nov. 22 (CD) and a flock of 600 + crows could be seen throughout the winter "every afternoon about 4 o'clock" feeding on the beach at Smith's Cove (AR). Rosemary Eaton writes of crows being called in by means of a tape-recorder and then shot at by gunners at Cole Harbour,

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were regular at feeding stations in towns, although PRD reports that they stayed in the woods in country areas, not needing to come to feeders until March. W. E. Whitehead, having tamed to hand-feeding a pair of black-caps last winter (1974-5) at Round Hill was delighted when two birds arrived on Oct. 19 and, without hesitation, fed from his hand. BOREAL CHICKADEE reports vary. Flocks of about 30 were present at APBS throughout the winter months, and Frank Hennessey at Lower Economy saw them "very commonly". However, they were quite scarce in Yar. Co. (PRD), absent at Round Hill (WEW) and other reports are of ones and twos only.

NUTHATCHES have dined on suet in all parts of the province in their usual small numbers. One pair of WHITE-BREASTED has been regular in Halifax from Dec. 13 to date (April 1) and has enjoyed sunflower seeds in addition to suet (Cohrs). CRKA has had two RED-BREASTED regulars at his feeder in Tusket while D & MH at Upper Wedgeport have had one, as has MAC in Rockingham. The Red-breasted Nuthatches at Eel Brook, like the Chickadees, stayed in the woods around the house, only coming in to the fat log in March (PRD).

Sixteen BROWN CREEPERS have been seen in scattered locations on dates from October to March.

WREN reports are not usual during this winter bird period but several previously unreported (mail strike) sightings should be mentioned, a HOUSE WREN was at Cape Sable Oct. 5 (SS) and WINTER WRENS were seen at APBS on

Nov. 1 (2), Nov. 23 (1) and Dec. 6 (1); also at Port Hebert (1) Nov. 8 (RSW). A really Winter Wren appeared Jan. 21 at MacKinnon's Neck, Yar. Co. (CRKA).

MIMIDS

One MOCKING BIRD spent the winter at Lockeport (RJC,GP), another at Yarmouth town (MWH,MH), and a third at Amherst (CD,RB). One was also seen at Westport on Dec. 22 (ELM), one on Glace Bay C BC and one Jan 16 at Liverpool (Terry Wentzell).

A GREY CATBIRD was counted on the Salmon River CBC in Cape Breton.

There is one report of a BROWN THRASHER seen by Ralph Widrig at Port Hebert Nov. 1.

ROBIN THROUGH KINGLETS

Can Halloween affect the AMERICAN ROBIN? During the high winds on Halloween night (Oct. 31) a Robin flew into the window at the Smith's on Cape Sable and another flew into the window at Phyllis Dobson's at Eel Brook! Several Robins overwintered in Yar. Co. - CRKA had six at Tusket all winter and saw 12 on Jan. 24. 20+ were around Wolfville until mid-Jan (OM) and another spent the winter at Wine Harbour (G.McL). They were also about in small numbers at APBS, Keji, Dartmouth at Brookside (CD, RB, EC, FWD). First report of a fat red "new" Robin is from Crousetown, Lun. Co. on March 20, appropriately on the first day of spring (SC, RA et al)

Previously unreported is an immature WOOD THRUSH caught in the hand and closely studied by the Smiths at Cape Sable on Aug.11, 75.

From Cape Sable also comes a report of a male EASTERN BLUEBIRD (fast becoming a "rare" species in N.S.) seen on Nov. 5. It stayed for several days perching on sunny windowsills and clotheslines. Stuart Tingley also saw a bluebird (an adult male) on Digby Neck Sept. 29.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET numbers are definitely down this year. Very few reports were received and many NSBS members have noticed that they were seldom in evidence in their usual haunts. 80% fewer were counted in the CBCs.

PIPITS THROUGH STARLINGS

Three Pipits were spotted over the winter months. One flew along the railway line in the middle of Cole Harbour Dec. 15 (J & SC), one was at Brier Dec. 23 (ELM) and one was seen at Pictou March 21 (EH).

Headlines could read "a bonanza of BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS. Dozens of reports came in from all areas from October to March in numbers ranging from 1 to 131. The largest flocks were as follows: 60 at Wolfville Nov. 22 (OM), 131 on Kingston CBC, 50-100 at Hantsport Jan. 5 (EOH), 100+ at Pictou Jan. 17 and again there 21 (EH, Mrs. H.L.Long), 40 at Glace Bay, Jan. 20 (EMMac L), 81 Ste. Croix Feb. 22 (MAC) and 50 in Halifax March 23. The usually more common CEDAR WAXWINGS were not so much in evidence. There were 150+ in Bridgetown in Dec., and they stayed around for the Christmas Count (Wilfred Marshall). D & MH counted 22 at Arcadia, Yar. Co. on Dec. 22, there were 65 on the Baddeck C.C. and 8+ stayed around Wolfville until late Feb. (OM).

Fifteen NORTHERN SHRIKES were reported, three of them being immature. This is down from last year's unusually high 22. All reports were of single birds with dates ranging from Nov. 6 to March 20 and all come from the "western counties" (Yar. Digby, Shel., Queen's, Anna.) excepting one from Cole Harbour (EC), one from Sydney Forks (RB) and one from Wine Harbour (G.MaCl)

The ubiquitous STARLING is ever with us. Reports show a pattern of large flocks gathering in October, fewer (but still enough) around in Nov.-Feb., with numbers increasing again in March. 1000+ were at Lingan, C.B. on Oct. 12 "in a pasture with a bull. The bull was lying down and the starling perched all over him, horns and all" (S.MaCl). An unusual visitation of 80-90 starlings is mentioned by E.M.MacLeod from Glace Bay on Jan. 20.

SC.



VIREOS, WARBLERS

Mention should be made of two more of the rarer Vireos which missed the fall report: a migrating PHILADELPHIA at Cape Sable, Sept. 17, '75 (BJS) and a WARBLING VIREO, found injured at Sydney Sept. 8, photographed by Hedley Hopkins.

In the last issue of the Newsletter, Jan. 1975, we were reported to have had six rare Warblers, following which only five were described. The one left out was a YELLOW-THROATED, seen at Seal I. on the Sept. 26 trip, by Stuart Tingley.

The reports held up by the postal strike echoed our warbler migration period as indicated, that is, local flocking of these birds in mid-August, with definite movements in September, still in progress throughout October - "many warblers in Light beam at night", Oct. 30 at Cape Sable. A 7th rarity which missed the last report was present on Cape Sable in mid-October, a female CERULEAN WARBLER. This colorful little bird proved to be very tame, allowing close approach, in fact initiating it by entering a window at the Symonds' whenever it was opened. The bird was a "picture specimen" in respect to plumage, and was photographed by Locke Smith).

A very late CAPE MAY WARBLER was seen at Broad Cove Nov. 23 (LEN, HJM); an even later AMERICAN REDSTART in female plumage was present in the McLaren's garden in Halifax Dec. 3. (IAM). We have two wintering YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS, one Dec. 9-20 at Barrington Passage (RB), and one Jan.16-Feb. 4 at Halifax (LAC). Lise writes "presumably the one we had in Nov., not seen since Dec. 8 - now back in its usual haunts in the quince and barberry - likes bread, raisins, apples and loves currants".

Our one true wintering warbler, the YELLOW-RUMPED (Myrtle) was able to find enough bayberries and insects to survive the season in quite good numbers. It was seen, Dec. through March, in Halifax, Lunenburg, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties, most abundant in Shelburne and Yarmouth. In Halifax the latest noted were 20, Dec. 14 on the CBC; in Lunenburg, 7, Feb. 7 at Cherry Hill (R.Burrows); in Shelburne 50+ January-March at Louis Head (G.Perry) and "abundant all winter - flocks averaging about 20 birds - at

Cranberry I. near Lockeport" (RJC); at Yarmouth, 15-20, summer through December in town, at the Nickersons (MAN) and flocks of 20-30 roaming the countryside, seen frequently in all months, December to March (PRD, CRKA) and regular, 8-10 birds, Jan. through March at the Allen window-boxes in Tuskent, which were kept plentifully supplied with bayberries (MBA,CRKA).

Reports of the HOUSE SPARROW range from Glace Bay to Pictou to Amherst to Yarmouth, and all give "numbers as usual", resident flocks of 8-38.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES.

Five records of the EASTERN MEADOWLARK are of singles (except 2 on the Halifax E. CBC) and come from Glace Bay Nov. 3 (AS); Broad Cove CBC; Conrad's Beach area Dec. 20, Halifax E. CBC (one of which was seen again repeatedly January up to March 28, ELM, EHC, IAM); and Economy (FS, ES, F. Hennessey).

A juvenal YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD was observed carefully Feb. 14 at Cape Sable by Norman Cunningham. This was an unexpected stray, but during the first two weeks in February this winter a not unexpected number of odd records of birds has occurred, following the monumental atmospheric disturbance of Feb. 2.

The RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD, last seen in numbers the last of October at Glace Bay (AS) and the first of Nov. at APBS (CD) left a fair number of wintering individuals, particularly in the Annapolis Valley. On the Kingston CBC 57 birds were counted, and at least 50 of these were still in the vicinity on Jan. 17 - at Wilmot (TPH). Others seen were 5 at Westport, Feb. 21 (ELM,IAM,BM); 7 at Sydney and 1 at Glace Bay in January and February (HH,GS); 8 in January at a feeder in Yarmouth (MWH); 8 (males only) in February at Barrington Passage (BB) and 1, male, among the Starlings and Cowbirds at Lockeport, February 28 (GDP, R.Turner).

The NORTHERN ORIOLES migrating from or via Nova Scotia often appear dilatory, and the individuals left here after November seldom winter successfully (unless they find lodging at Louise Daley's comfortable hostel). Around 20 immatures were taking their time Nov. 23 at the Lingan Golf Course outside of Sydney, where John Phalen saw them and described them to Frank Robertson as "looking like golden balls spilled on the green". One other was seen late November at a feeder in Donkin (Mrs. Amadio to SM), and 2 at least of the Cape Breton birds made it to Dec. 20, found on the Salmon River CBC. The only other reports are from S.W.Nova Scotia, 2 birds in Yarmouth Dec. 2 (MAN) and 4, Nov. 19-Jan.12 at Barrington Passage (BB).

We have increasing numbers of reports of the RUSTY BLACKBIRD in winter. The one in the Mira area Nov. 23 (HH) may have been a late lingerer, but another late November bird at Sydney Forks seen by R. Blakeburn was seen again by him in the same vicinity Dec. 6-11. A Rusty was noted at a feeder in Halifax Dec. 27 by John Cohrs, and 4, Jan. 22 at Round Hill, Annapolis Co. (WEW). The one at Keji March 4, observed by R. Burrows, may or may not be a spring arrival.

The COMMON GRACKLE left a few individuals behind for the winter, from the huge flocks (8000-10,000) noted Oct. 25 at Berwick and elsewhere (LEN, HJM et al), which had collected in the fall: seen in 1's and 2's at feeders

in Amherst, Halifax, Wedgeport in November and December and noted by our regular observers; 6 at feeders in Halifax, Brier I. and Yarmouth in December and January, 12 in January at Sydney; 1 at Caledonia in February, up to 6 in March, which were possible spring arrivals. The Grackles were intermittent feeders at "stations", but can live on wild fruits and waste grain so could have done well in this winter of thin snow cover.

The BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD has been present in reduced numbers, or at any rate less frequently observed this season. Sara MacLean of Glace Bay wrote "no summer or fall reports at all, there usually are a few", and the only winter report from Cape Breton was of 7-8 at Sydney in January, noted by H. Hopkins. At Lockeport, George Perry wrote: "unlike last winter only the occasional one or two Cowbirds at my feeder from December through March. except 12, Jan. 1, 1976". One only female was noted at Pictou Jan. 31 (E.Holiday); 4-5 at Wedgeport Dec.-Feb. (the Henrys); 2-35 irregularly at a feeder in Yarmouth Dec. 20-Jan. 17 (MWH), and 10 males and 2 females with the Starlings at LaHave, Lun. Co., Feb. 7 (RB).

(SCARLET TANAGERS which missed our last report were one female, Sept. 8 at Lockeport (GDP); one female Oct. 19 at Barrington Passage (BB), and one immature, dead, Nov. 2 at Cape Sable (SS).)

FINCHES, GROSBEEKS

Our known CARDINAL population now consists of 5 individuals, one male and four females, according to observers at Halifax, Wolfville, Yarmouth and Lockeport. The Halifax bird was at the Helleiner's feeder "having a tough time, not allowed (by the Evening Grosbeaks) to land on the feeder and has to pick up scraps from the ground underneath". It was present Dec. 13-14, and again Dec. 31 (CWH). One Cardinal was seen at Wolfville on the CBC; two are permanent residents in Yarmouth town, a female at the Nickerson's feeder, a male at the McDonalds. The fifth bird was seen Oct. 23 at Jones Harbour, Shel. Co. by Robert Turner, thereafter noted throughout the winter at Lockeport (GDP,RJC).

A ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK, female or immature, wintered Nov. 30 through March at Barrington Passage at Beulah Burman's, where it was watched with interest and some anxiety through the severe weather, great relief and pleasure at its successful survival.

(A BLUE GROSBEEK missed the fall report, present at Brier I. Sept. 22, 1975, where it was observed at the Northern Point by Davis Finch and party.)

A DICKCISSEL was noted the same day (Sept. 22) at the Western Light. Brier I., by the same observers (DWF). One or two other Dickcissels were in the Sydney area in December, one seen by D. Kerr at Sydney Mines, one on the Sydneys CBC. On March 17 in the afternoon following the storm, Anne Mills noted a Dickcissel at Head of St. Margaret's Bay.

Our regular winter grosbeaks and finches have been amply reported, but with a few exceptions the reports are of smaller than usual numbers, particularly at feeders. This is almost surely because of our open winter. Birds

came intermittently to feeders, depending upon the weather. Most complaints were of the Evening Grosbeaks and the Goldfinches, the latter very capricious in appearance at feeders, although good-sized flocks were seen at times about the countryside.

(A report of two very immature Evening Grosbeaks "hardly able to flutter", Aug. 17, at Mira I. by Arthur Spencer is a 2nd breeding record for last summer.)

The fall Evening Grosbeaks came mostly in November, and at first numbers appeared normal, 20-40-80 descending upon the feeding trays. Perhaps the numbers remained normal, but on many days only 1-2 or none came, and they were said to be virtually absent from Halifax city after December. By now, April 1st, most have disappeared, very generally.

The last flock of PURPLE FINCHES of any size reported were the 25 seen at Brier I. Sept. 1 (LEN,HJM), and the 25 at Seal I. Oct. 16. In December we have just three individuals reported, 2 at Amherst and 1 at Truro. Undoubtedly there were a few more around, but since then we have heard of only "a few winterings" at Wolfville (OM) and 5, female or immature in a small flock at Eel Brook Feb. 1 (PRD). Our usual large February invasion passed us by this year.

Our resident PINE GROSBEAKS have been reported in flocks of 3-12 from Cumberland Co. (Mrs. J. Zollner, CD,RB), Colchester Co. (FS), Pictou Co. (MK), Guysborough Co. (G & OM), King's Co. (FKL,OM), Yarmouth Co. (CRKA, PRD, JIP) and Shelburne Co. (GDP); some visiting feeding areas, but only as visitors - mostly around the countryside, often in old orchards. These beautiful, confiding birds are always a pleasure to encounter.

COMMON REDPOLLS came from their colder regions to winter with us in plentiful numbers - about 350 counted at Christmas on 10 CBC's; flocks of 3-50 frequently noted November through March in 11 counties, Cape Breton to Yarmouth; the latest dates March 19 at Crousetown, "28, feeding vociferously on a last year's garden" (Cohrs); March 20, 15 at Lusby March (CD) and March 21, 3 at West Caledonia (N & TB). E. Holdway at Pictou noted them feeding in weed patches on Lamb's Quarters, Goldenrod and barnyard grass.

In the period Sept. 15, '75, to Feb. 27, '76, we have records of about 110 PINE SISKINS, but most of these are in four reports. (Twenty-five left Cape Sable Sept. 15 (SS) so cannot be counted as Nova Scotia winter birds). Approximately 8 in a flock were seen Dec. 15 in company with Redpolls at Turtle Lake, Queen's County, by Norman and TheIma Bowers; 10 were found on the Keji CBC; 9 were seen Feb. 18 at Sydney Forks (RB) and WEW at Round Hill had Siskins quite regularly: 2 Dec. 23; 30 Dec. 24; 2 Jan. 6; 4 Jan.16 and 11 Feb. 27. This has not been one of our better finch winters.

It is difficult to say whether we had fewer AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES than usual this winter, or whether they were here but not often seen. Early in the winter small flocks were frequently encountered on country field trips, but numbers at feeders were pathetic - 1-2 regularly for the most part. There were exceptions - in Cape Breton both Sara MacLean and Edith MacLeod called them "numerous", flocks of 12-50 common"; At the Oscar Morehouse feeder in Wolfville there were "many, as high as 30 at a time", and at Tusket, the Allens had a regular flock of 15-20 until March, seen close at hand in the village when not at their feeder.

RED CROSSBILLS continued to be seen - in lesser numbers than in summer - throughout the fall and winter: 2 Nov. 8 at Amherst Pt (LEN,HJM); 1 each on the Halifax East and Broad Cove Christmas Bird Counts, and 6 on the Keji CBC; 3 at the Cohrs, Dec. 24 in Halifax (LAC); 3 Jan 6 and 20, Jan. 14-15 at Wedgeport (D & MH); 1 male and 1 female Jan. 25 at Rockingham, rising to

12 there (7 females, 5 male) Feb. 15-16, 10 still there Feb. 21, 4 Feb. 22 (MAC and Mrs. Ian Robertson).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS outnumbered the Reds in the winter months; 4 Nov. 16 at APBS (DC); 30 Nov. 16 at Port Hebert (RSW); 1 at Halifax Dec. 13 (SC); 39 on the Halifax East CBC; 34 on the Brier I. CBC, 1 Jan. 12 at Lockeport (RJC); 3 Jan. 2 at MacKinnon's Neck, Yar. Co. (CRKA) and 17 March 4 at Round Hill (WEW). The Lockeport bird "was seen to hide in a snowbank. After five minutes searching the bird was brought out of its hiding...landed a short distance away...shining in bright plumage" - apparently in good shape - did anyone ever see a bird hide in a snowbank before? Curious.

SPARROWS

In spite of their general scarcity, we have sightings of 12 species of wintering sparrows to report, some quite unusual ones, and a few late fall records of note. These latter will be bracketed.

(Four "Ipswich" sparrows missed the last report: 3 Oct. 17 at Martinique (SIT) and 1, Nov. 9 at Conrad's Beach, also in Halifax Co. (EC).) Late SAVANNAH SPARROWS were 2 Dec. 7 and 1 Jan. 20 at Cape Sable (SS); 13 Dec. 20 on the Halifax CBC, one still at Conrad's Beach Jan. 10, seen by Winnie Cairns. Savannahs, 1-2, were also seen from time to time through the winter at Pinkney's and Chebogue Pts., Yarmouth Co. (CRKA).

A most unexpected SHARP-TAILED SPARROW was first found at Conrad's Beach on Jan. 10 (IAM), seen there Jan. 31 and photographed by Ralph Connor and noted there Feb. 14 by E.L. Mills and B. Mactavish. There is little doubt that this was the same bird each time. (Another excellent record of the CLAY-COLORED SPARROW came in too late for our last issue. It was present on Cape Sable Sept. 28, 1975, and is described by Sidney and Betty June Smith: "Observed very near at hand as it fed in the shelter of the engine house near the open door. With binoculars and book in hand we noted: bill color not pink, legs brownish, size very suitable but seemed a bit slimmer than Chipping Sparrow. Head striping very clearly seen above eye and through crown, and brown cheek patch below. Little whisker below cheek perfectly clear. Color more "clay" than that of Chipping or Field, noticeable when one sees the bird. Rump color buffy, tail darker brown, breast clear, slightly tinted with brown".

Another unusual sighting was the SEASIDE SPARROW, carefully identified on the Halifax E. CBC, Dec. 20; also unusual was a VESPER SPARROW seen that same day - another Vesper well seen later in the winter, Jan. 24, at Louis Head, Shelburne Co., found foraging in the sparse grass covering the sandy area behind the beach (George Perry).

The DARK-EYED JUNCO left in its 1000's last fall, and only a comparative handful stayed behind. The previous winter (1974 and 5) some of us fed dozens of Juncos, this year we were lucky to have one or two. This is the word from nine of the only twelve reports we received. The others were: 15 Jan 12, APBS (1 in town) from Con Desplanque; 30-40 regularly all winter at Rockingham, Halifax Co., Margaret Clark, and 14+ in the neighborhood all winter, seen by Oscar Morehouse at Wolfville. On field trips about the country a junco was seen very rarely, one lone little bird flying across the road.

The TREE SPARROW (28 reports) came early, the first reports (last Newsletter) in October. It became widely distributed, 130 counted on eight Christmas Counts, and later 1-2 mentioned as regular at a dozen or so feeders - a welcome addition. Flocks about the countryside were mostly small, but 25 fed regularly Jan.-Feb. in an oatfield at APBS (CD).

Two FIELD SPARROWS stayed into December in this region, but we can claim only one, present a few days at the Allen's feeder in Tusket, early December. (The other one was found on the Cape Tormantine, N.B. CBC by two of our NSBS members, Stuart Tingley and Bob Lamberton.

A WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW stayed the winter at Wolfville, seen by OM Dec. 19 and "still making the rounds of my and neighboring feeders up to March 8".

WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were also seldom seen most of the winter, although present in good numbers at the Christmas Counts. Most people report them as 0-2-4 at feeders, 5 at Pockeport (GDP), 5 at APBS (CD, RB), and the Henrys at Upper Wedgeport had the most, 5-10, December through March. They were almost never encountered on field trips.

FOX SPARROWS, 22 on the CBC's, stayed at nine feeders, 1-2 birds seen irregularly, distribution general. Two SWAMP SPARROWS, Dec. 20, on the Halifax E. CBC were found at Conrad's Beach - none mentioned since.

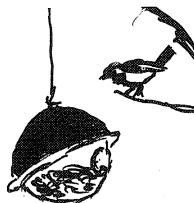
Reports of the SONG SPARROW, December through March mention 1-2 at feeders, 5 regulars at George Perry's at Lockeport. Song Sparrows started to sing March 1. These may well have been spring arrivals, although it was two weeks before an increase in the number seen around became obvious. We have plenty of room for spring arrivals this year.

In the last report we suggested Oct. 5 as a general arrival date for the LAPLAND LONGSPUR. Oct. 25 may be nearer the mark, as 50+ came in that day at South Bar, near Sydney, counted by Hedley Hopkins. (We would like to correct a small but curious error in the last report. We mentioned 2 Lapland Longspurs, Nov. 15, at Cape Jourimain, C.B.- which should of course be N.B. Longspurs were seen, 1-3 at Cape Sable, Grand Pre, APBS and Sydney Forks. They are hard to see and choose inhospitable feeding areas - our sightings probably represent a very small fraction of their actual numbers here in winter.

Flocks of SNOW BUNTINGS came to Nova Scotia in October, and sightings continued through December-March, with a low spot in February, but not as low as usual. Early flocks were large - 50-100-200 in most places, smaller by January, but the 200+ at the Grand Pre remained constant, coming and going as the weather changed (OM), and at Conrad's Beach 50 were seen Jan. 11, 40 Feb. 14 (EHC). Forty were at Louis Head, Shelburne Co. Jan. 1 (GDP); 30+ at Morien Bar, Cape Breton Jan 3 (IA); 50 at APBS Jan. 10 10 at Cape Sable Jan. 20 (BJS); 30 at Wilmot Jan. 23 (TPH); 30 at Crescent Beach Feb. 23 (ELM et al.); 40-50 at Round Hill March 3, 5 there March 11 (WEW). One wandering Snow Bunting was found Jan. 26 at Kelly Lake "9 miles N. of Moser River in mixed wood forest" by Barry Sabean. The Snow Bunting was our most reported bird in this group for the winter, from St. Esprit to Brier I., the Border region to Cape Forchu, and helped in some measure to make up for the dearth of our other small birds. Bon Voyage, Snow Bunting, Come Again.

Contributors to the above report are as follows: I. Abernathy, Jeanne and Herbert Addelson, C.R.K. and M.B.Allen, Mrs. Amadio, Ross and Mary Anderson, Roberta Beecher, the R. Blakeburns, George R. Boyd, Shirley Brothers, Beulah Burman, Roger Burrows, Norman and Thelma Bowers, T.H.R.Byrne, Winnie Cairns, Elizabeth Chant, Margaret A. Clark, the Arthur Coffills, John and Shirley Cohrs, also Chris J. and Lise A. Cohrs, Radlph D. Connor, Eric H. Cooke, Frances Cook, Joe Cooper, Gary Corbett, Ethel Crathorne, Russell J. Crosby, Pauline Crouch, Norman Cunningham, Con Desplanque, the F.W.Dobsons, P.R. Dobson, Rosemary Eaton, Jim and Gillian Elliott, George Fraser, Allison Ferguson, Byron Ferguson, Layton Ferguson, Davis W. Finch, Calder Fraser, Rene Haldane, James S. Harding, Thelma and Frank Hawkins, C.W.Helleiner, Dave and Marie Henry, Frank Hennessey, Marion W. Hilton, S.C.Hilton, Stanley Hinton, Eric Holdway, Stephen Homer, Peter and Lorraine Hope, Hedley Hopkins, Evelyn O. Horobin, Adele Hurlburt, Bill Hussey, F rank and Margaret Kenney, D. Kerr, D.B.Kirk, R.D.Lamberton, F.K.Laurence, Madeline and Nickerson Lent, Mrs. H.E.Long, Robert MacDonald, Don MacDougall, Andrew McFetridge, W. MacKinnon, I.A.McLaren, Sara MacLean, Edith M. MacLeod, G. and O. MacLeod, J. McNichol, E. MacRury, Bruce Mactavish, Reiner, Sandra and Jan Meyerowitz, Ted Miller, Eric L. Mills, W. J. Mills, Oscar Morehouse, Eric Mullen, L. E. and H. J. Neily, Everett Nickerson, Margaret A. Nickerson, George D.Perry, J. Israel Pothier, Peter Purley, Dorothy Rawlins, Annie K. Raymond, Kelsey Raymond, Glenwood R. Rhodenizer, Robin Rhymer, Frank F. Robertson, the

Ian Robertsons, Howard Ross, Miledge Rowter, Barry Sabean, Sid Betty June, Locke and Beverley Smith, Francis Spalding and Edgar Spalding, Ann and Arthur Spencer, George Spencer, Dave and Arlene Steadman, Brian Stoddard, Rick Swain, Stuart I. Tingley, Robie W. Tufts, Robert Turner, Terry Wentzell, W. E. Whitehead, Ralph S. Widrig, Hazel Williamson, Mrs. Joe Zollner. The Davis Finch party included Charles Bernstein, Bob and Olga Chase, Andrew and Gay MacInnis.



FEEDER REPORT

Over 30 feeder reports have come in from all regions with 1-3 reports per county. The same story is repeated almost universally; the usual birds are present, but in small numbers. Notably down are Evening Grosbeaks, Goldfinches, Juncos and other Sparrows - all feeding irregularly - and where are the Purple Finches? Where indeed - we shall have to await reports from other regions, and meanwhile we miss them sorely.

In general, we all had at least a few Evening Grosbeaks and Goldfinches (exception: Goldfinches abundant in Cape Breton, where flocks of 15-20 were common and a regular flock of 30 at a feeder in Wolfville. Blue Jays as usual, plentiful early, then disappearing until early March (except 25 at a St. Croix. Hants Co. feeder Jan 25); Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers 1-5 at country feeders; many Black-capped Chickadees everywhere, more than usual Red-breasted Nuthatches but very few of the White-breasted mentioned' 1-2 Juncos (with two notable exceptions, "many" at Pictou, according to Mrs. H. E. Long, and a big flock, 30-40, regular at Margaret Clark's feeder at Rockingham); 1-2 Tree Sparrows, 2-4 White-throated Sparrows and an occasional Fox and/or Song Sparrow.

Other birds of the field and forest were attracted to feeding stations, or were seen in the close vicinity, e.g. Pheasants at Smith's Cove and Great Village, Ruffed Grouse at Economy and Eel Brook, and Gray Partridge at Economy; Mourning Doves at Great Village (13), Wilmot (11) and Tusket (11); Gray Jays at Collingwood, Cumb. Co., Lower Economy, Port Joli and Eel Brook; Boreal Chickadees at Wedgeport, and at Turtle Lake, Queen's Co. (where they outnumbered the Blackcaps); Yellow-rumped Warblers at Tusket and Eel Brook, a flock or several flocks, about 20-30 seen at a time, a larger-sized flock at Lockeport; a single Red-winged Blackbird here and there, with one large flock at Wilmot 9 building up to 50 the first week of January; small flocks of Pine Grosbeaks (8-12) at Springville, Wine Harbour and Tusket; one only report of Pine Siskins (10-12) at Rockingham; Red Crossbills at Eel Point (10), Rockingham (12) and suburban Halifax (3), a few White-winged Crossbills seen at Halifax and Eel Brook later; 2-4 Snow Buntings at Eel Brook the week following the Feb. 2 storm - their usual pebbleridge seawrack was washed far inland at that time, but not that far inland!

Very exceptional visitors were of course the Cardinals, reported at Halifax, where one, a female, visited the Helleiner feeder Dec. 13 and 14, once again on Dec. 31; one at Lockeport throughout the winter and two, a male and a female, which wintered at Yarmouth, one each side of the harbor. Even more exceptional was a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, the third winter record for Nova Scotia, in fact, only the second all-winter record. This Grosbeak appeared at Beulah Burman's feeder at Barrington Passage Nov. 30 and the latest word is that the bird is still there and in good condition. Word is, from outside visitors to this feeding station, that the bird could not have chosen a better place.

The unintentional feeding of Hawks went on as usual. Red-tailed Hawks, Sharpshins and Kestrels have been reported as haunting feeders, but only Sharpshins in any number. It is difficult to outwit a Sharpshin, but some of us are putting our minds to it. A hawk needs his dinner of course, but he does not need it set up on a plate for him; nor does it seem quite the thing to lure small birds into unusual exposure to the danger of capture. It makes a nice problem.

Reports quoted came from: Sara MacLean and Edith MacLeod in Cape Breton, Olive and Gordon MacLeod in Guysborough Co., Margaret Clark, the Elliotts, Lisë Cohrs, Ian McLaren and Chris Helleiner in Halifax Co., Jeanne Addelson, J.S. Harding and the Bowers in Queen's Co., Russell J. Crosby, Ralph Widrig and Beulah Burman in Shelburne Co., Evangeline Killam, Margaret Nickerson and M.W. Hilton in Yarmouth town, C.R.K. Allen, the Henrys and P.R. Dobson in Yarmouth Co., Annie K. Raymond in Digby Co., W.E. Whitehead, the N.D. Wetmores, TheIma Hawkins in Annapolis Co., Oscar Morehouse in King's Co., Joe Cooper, George Perry and F. Hennessey in Colchester Co., Con Desplanque and Mrs. J. Zollner in Cumberland Co., Mrs. H.E. Long and the Kennays in Pictou Co.

Deadline for receipt of reports for July issue is May 31. Address :

Dr. P. R. Dobson,
RMB 170,
RR1, St. Anne du Ruisseau,
Nova Scotia. BOW 2 x 0

NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1975-76.

December, 1975, saw 200 of our members participate in 27 Christmas counts. The number of species seen stayed the same as last year, 130 plus 1 additional race, but the number of individuals fell to 78,866 from 1974's 109,000. Many observers felt that this was due to the unusual December weather, cold one day, rain the next, and very little snow. The real reason was the drop in the number of Kittiwakes seen on Brier Island from 1974's total of 25,117 to this year's 2700. Other species which declined were Great Black-backed Gull, down 33% to 4461 from last year's 7133 total, Golden-crowned Kinglet, down 80% (1203 to 248), Common Starling, down 29% (16,035 to 13,536), Dark-eyed (slate-coloured) Junco, down 40% (1109 to 672). Species which increased were Common Loon, up 45% (174 to 254), Black-capped Chickadee, up 61% (956 to 1542) and Evening Grosbeak, up 79% (840 to 1510).

Unfortunately, no comparison with party hours versus numbers of birds seen can be made as all count compilers did not receive the proper forms this year due to an error in the November mailing. I must thank everyone who submitted counts this year for the hours they spent tabulating, listing and submitting them to the Society.

The single underlining of a species name denotes an unusual species for the particular count. Underlining of a number denotes an unusual number of that particular species.

AMHERST, DEC. 28: 8.30 a.m. to 3.0 p.m. Temp. -6 c. Six observers in three parties. Total party hours, 15 (10 on foot, 5 by car); total party miles, 68 (18 on foot, 50 by car).

Rough-legged Hawk 4, Great Black-backed Gull 58; Herring Gull 7; Rock Dove 219; Common Flicker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 23; Common Raven 11; Common Crow 81; Black-capped Chickadee 31; Boreal Chickadee 3; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Mockingbird 1; American Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 8; Starling 479; House Sparrow 949; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Evening Grosbeak 141; Purple Finch 1; Pine Grosbeak 6; Common Redpoll 5; American Goldfinch 1; Dark-eyed Junco 12; Tree Sparrow 26; White-throated Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 9.

Total 28 species, about 2092 individuals. (In count area during the count period but not seen on count day: Red-tailed Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Golden-crowned Kinglet) - Roger Burrows, Con, Eric and Kelvin Desplanque, Dora Myers.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL Dec. 30; 8.0 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. Eight observers in three parties, plus four at feeders. Total party hours 34 (10 on foot, 24 by car); total party miles, 53 (9 on foot, 44 by car).

Common Loon 1; Great Cormorant 5; Double-breasted Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 82; Mallard 3; Black Duck 115; Greater Scaup 16; Common Goldeneye 67; Barrow's Goldeneye 2; Bufflehead 3; Oldsquaw 4; Common Eider 5; Black Scoter 6; Common Merganser 13; Red-breasted Merganser 15; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Purple Sandpiper 35; Great Black-backed Gull 1 6; Herring Gull 98; Ring-billed Gull 1;

Common Murre 1; Thick-billed Murre 5; Rock Dove 1; Mourning Dove 6; Downy Woodpecker 3; Horned Lark 32; Blue Jay 41; Common Raven 24; Common Crow 690; Black-capped Chickadee 16; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; Common Starling 135; House Sparrow 114; Red-winged Blackbird 23; Rusty Blackbird 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 195; Evening Grosbeak 6; Common Redpoll 4; Savannah Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Tree Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 8; Song Sparrow 1; Lapland Longspur 3; Snow Bunting 215.

Total 48 species, about 2027 individuals. (In count area during the count period but not seen on count day, Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, American Robin, Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Siskin). Fred Barrett, Calder Fraser (compiler), Jeff McCormick, David Reid, Jeff Turner, Joe Ternan, Bill Wetmore, W.E. Whitehead.

BADDECK, Jan. 4, clear. Temp. -9 to -4 c. Wind 5-10 m.p.h. Twelve observers. Total party hours 18. Total party miles 90 (10 on foot, 80 by car).

Black Duck 6; Common Goldeneye 7; Common Merganser 37; Red-breasted Merganser 16; Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 1a; Great Black-backed Gull 4; Herring Gull 49; Belted Kingfisher 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 9; Blue Jay 77; Common Raven 67; Common Crow 214; Black-capped Chickadee 37; Boreal Chickadee 6; American Robin 4; Bohemian Waxwing 65; Northern Shrike 1; Common Starling 141; House Sparrow 32; Evening Grosbeak 74; Pine Grosbeak 25; American Goldfinch 1; Dark-eyed Junco 1;

Total 27 species; about 780 individuals. Effie Bain, Diana Banks, Dan Banks, Bill Black, Isobel MacFarlane, Edith MacPherson, Burland Murphy, Cathy Popma, John Nicholson, Marg Sallows, Dave Smith, Lloyd Stone (compiler).

BARK IS. - Indian Cove, Lunenburg Co., Dec. 26, 9.0 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. Overcast, snow and rain, temp. -3 to 1 c. Wind S. 20-30 m.p.h. Three observers in one party. Total party hours 7 (on foot).

Common Loon 4; Horned Grebe 40+; Great Cormorant 8; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 31; Black Duck 32; Wood Duck 1; Greater Scaup 100; Common Goldeneye 28; Bufflehead 1; Oldsquaw 38; Common Merganser 45; Bald Eagle 11; Great Black-backed Gull 5; Herring Gull 7; Mourning Dove 5; Belted Kingfisher 1; American Robin 1; Common Starling 75; Savannah Sparrow 2.

Total 20 species, about 436 individuals. Clyde Corbett, Gary Corbitt (compiler), Ian Corbitt.

BRIDGETOWN Jan. 3, 7.45 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Temp. 1 to 2 c. Wind light. Eleven observers. Total party hours 9.5 (4.5 on foot, 5 by car). Total party miles 20.

Common Loon 1; Black Duck 8; Oldsquaw 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 3; Great Black-backed Gull 11; Herring Gull 42; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Downy Woodpecker 3; Blue Jay 81; Common Crow 29; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; American Robin 2; Bohemian Waxwing 40+; Cedar Waxwing 150+; Northern Shrike 4; Common Starling 346+; House Sparrow 305+; Red-winged Blackbird 13; Brown-headed Cowbird 91+; Evening Grosbeak 69; Dark-eyed Junco 4; White-throated Sparrow 4.

Total 25 species; about 1217+ individuals. Helen Clark, Ann Cottenden, J.F.Doig, Sue Goodwin, Marion Graves, Less Hutcherson, Grace Hyson, Terrance Hyson (compiler), Ercill Nickerson, Alan Slaunwhite, Stewart Whitman.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 23; cloudy, snowing. Temp. -1 to -3 c. Wind NNW, 25-30 m.p.h. Snow cover 6 in. Ponds frozen, sea open. Nine observers in four parties. Total party hours 32 (30 on foot, 2 by car). Total party miles 55 (40 by foot, 15 by car).

Common Loon 34; Red-necked Grebe 23; Horned Grebe 4; Great Cormorant 59; Canada Goose 81; Black Duck 18; Greater Scaup 2; Common Goldeneye 122; Bufflehead 8; Oldsquaw 100; Harlequin Duck 1; Common Eider 200; King Eider 1; White-winged Scoter 4; Black Scoter 3; Hooded Merganser 1; Common Merganser 18; Red-breasted Merganser 70; Rough-legged Hawk 1; American Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Killdeer 1; American Woodcock 1; Purple Sandpiper 300; Glaucous Gull 2; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 280; Herring Gull 440; Black-legged Kittiwake 2700; Razorbill 1; Thick-billed Murre 9; Murre sp. 2; Dovekie 83; Black Guillemot 30; Common Puffin 2; Alcid sp. 2; Snowy Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 1; Common Raven 8; Common Crow 165; Black-capped Chickadee 13; Boreal Chickadee 8; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Mockingbird 1; American Robin 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 18; Water Pipit 1; Northern Shrike 1; Common Starling 41; House Sparrow 17; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Rusty Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 11; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Evening Grosbeak 3; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Tree Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 4; Snow Bunting 1.

Total 59 species; about 4920 individuals. (in count area in count period but not seen on count day: Sharp-shinned Hawk). Ross Anderson, Chris Cohrs, Fulton Lavender, Wickerson Lent, Anne Linton, Ann Mills, Eric Mills (compiler), Howard Ross.

BROAD COVE, Jan. 3; 7.30 a.m. to 5.15 p.m. Clear a.m., clouding over late p.m. Temp. -2 to 2 c. Wind 0 to SE 15 m.p.h. Thirty-seven observers in fourteen parties. Total party hours 96 (72 on foot, 20 by car, 4 by boat); total party miles 298 (133 by foot, 156 by car, 9 by boat).

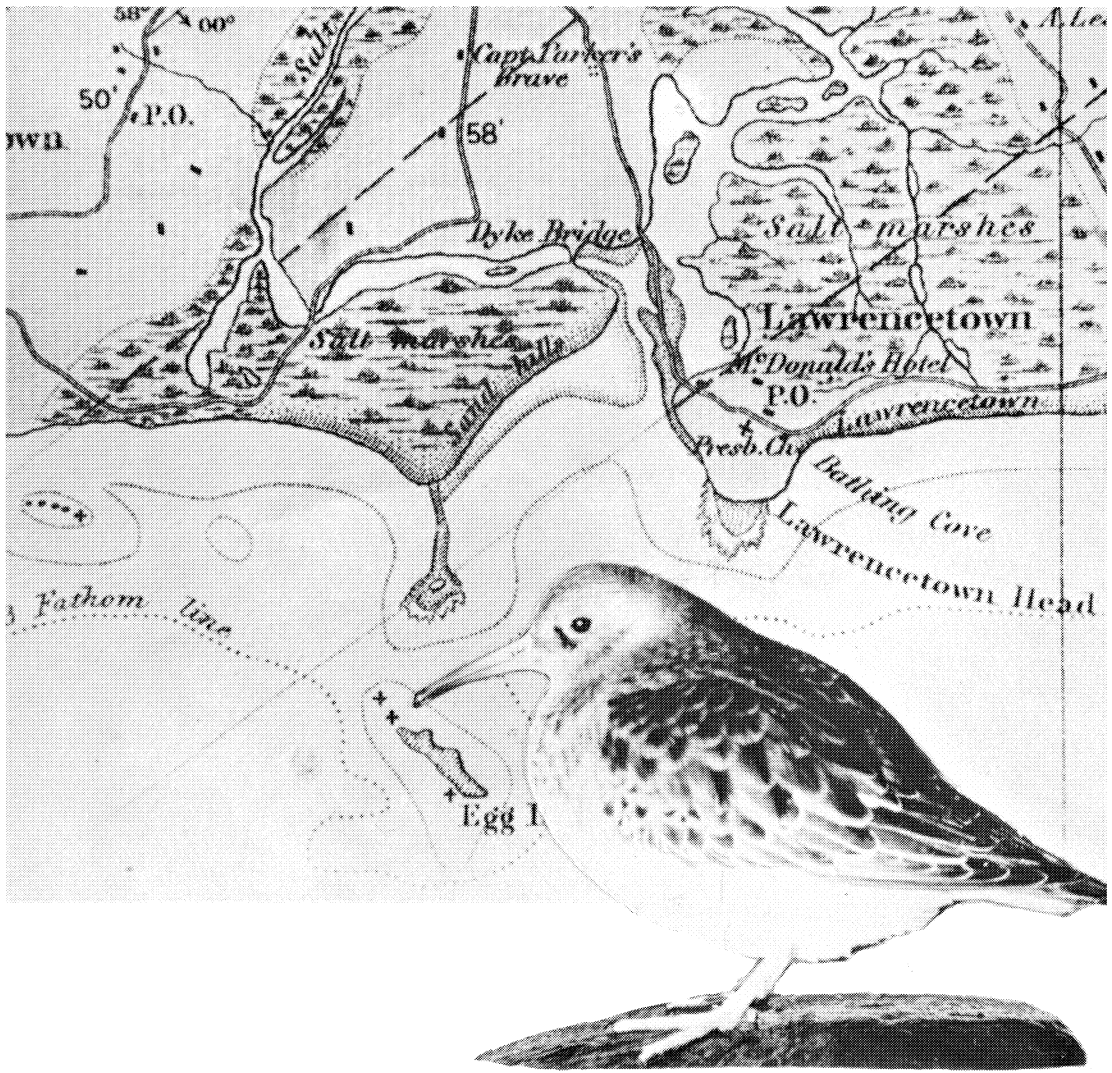
Common Loon 124; Red-throated Loon 6; Red-necked Grebe 40; Horned Grebe 196; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 117; Great Blue Heron 3; Canada Goose 24; Mallard 1; Black Duck 82; Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 178; Common Goldeneye 299; Bufflehead 50; Oldsquaw 443; Harlequin Duck 17;

THE PURPLE SANDPIPERS OF FOX ISLAND

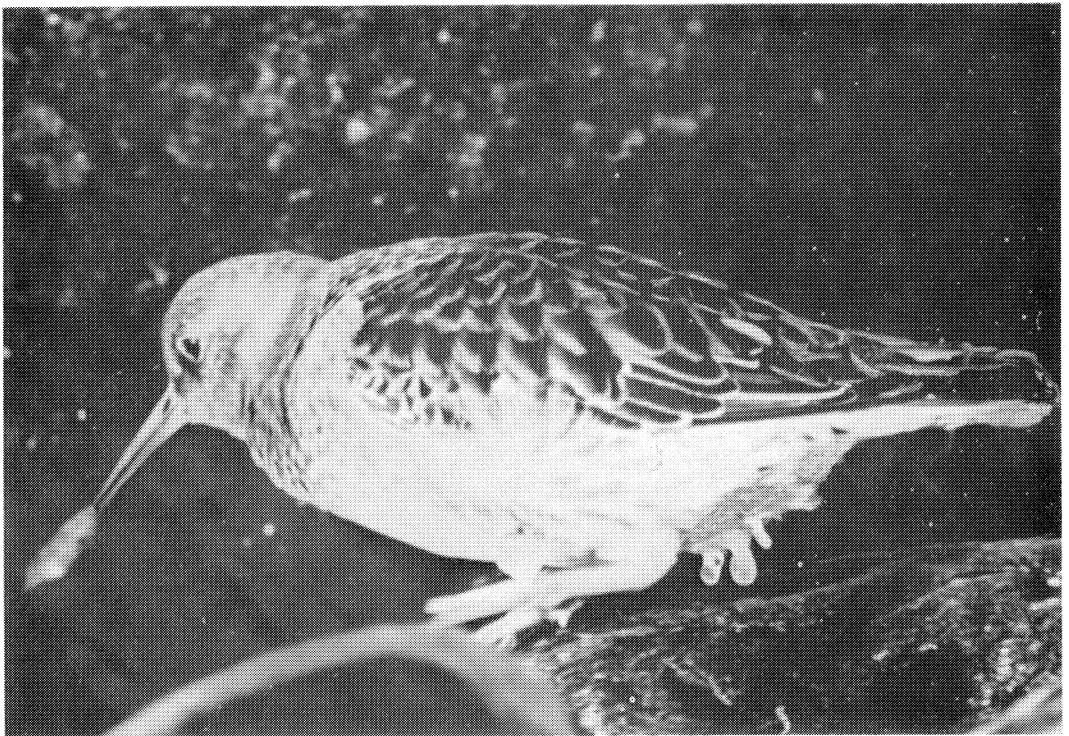
Purple Sandpipers like rocky islands, promontaries and ledges exposed to ocean waves. One of their haunts in the Halifax area is Fox Island at Conrad's Beach, Lawrencetown. As our members know, the sandpipers can often be seen here from mid-November until late March when they take off for the Eastern Arctic to breed. Fox Island is a rocky point on a generally sandy shore. On the map it is not named, but Egg Islet lies just south of it. The map was made by Faribault about 1906 and those who know Conrad's Beach well will notice how the area has changed since then - with the salt marshes now under water and Lawrencetown Head receding.

Bent describes the habitat of these hardy little birds and their habits so well: "Here where the rocks are fringed with rockweed waving in the restless waves, or covered with barnacles and various slimy products of the sea, these sure-footed little birds are quite at home on the slippery rocks.....they show a decided preference for the outer side of the surf-swept ledges, they are not often seen from land. They can swim almost as well as phalaropes." The same writer described a flock he saw on the Maine coast: "It was a cold blustery day; the surf was white with combing breakers, even the hardy seaducks sought the shelter of the ledges; but these plump little birds seemed quite happy and contented as they huddled together in a compact flock on the slimy rocks."

It took many "cold blustery days" for Ralph Connor to get the photographs of Purple Sandpipers on the next few pages. He made 14 visits to Fox Point in November and December. On average there were about 11 birds there. The largest flock he saw was 45, and once there was just one solitary bird. He found that sometimes he could get quite close to the sandpipers, at other times they seemed wary and flew off - at times along the shore or they seemed to head out to Egg Island. Ralph sometimes froze there for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours without getting a photo. His coldest visit was on December 13, 1975 when it felt far icier and more windy than the official -15° Celsius with a 15 m.p.h. N.W. wind. This was the day when ice formed on the under-tail feathers of an unconcerned sandpiper (shown in one of the photos).



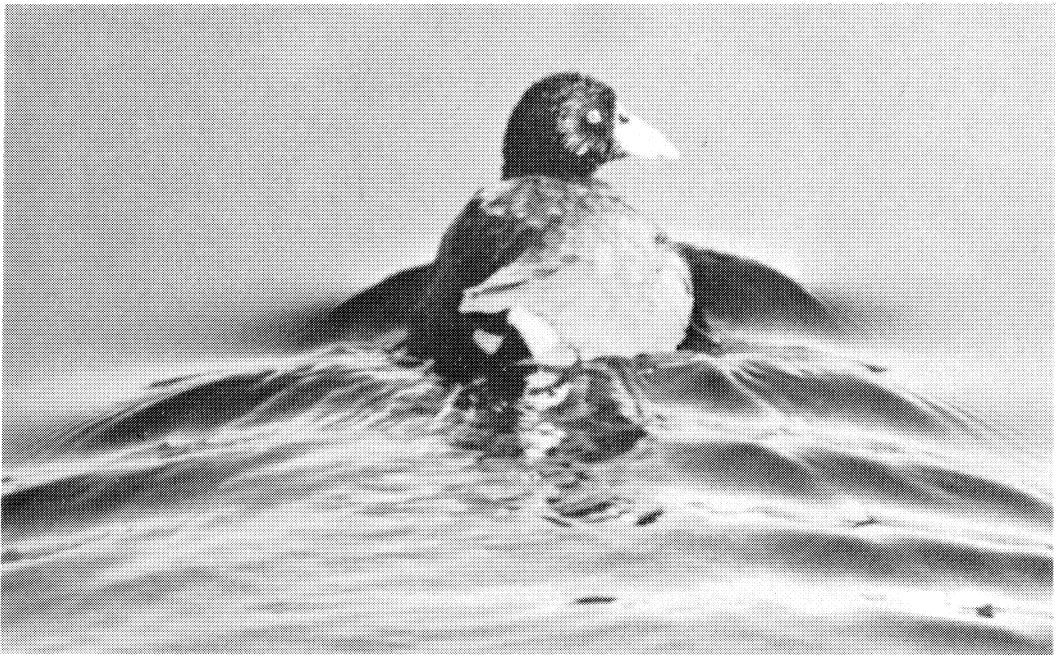
purple sandpipers
of fox island





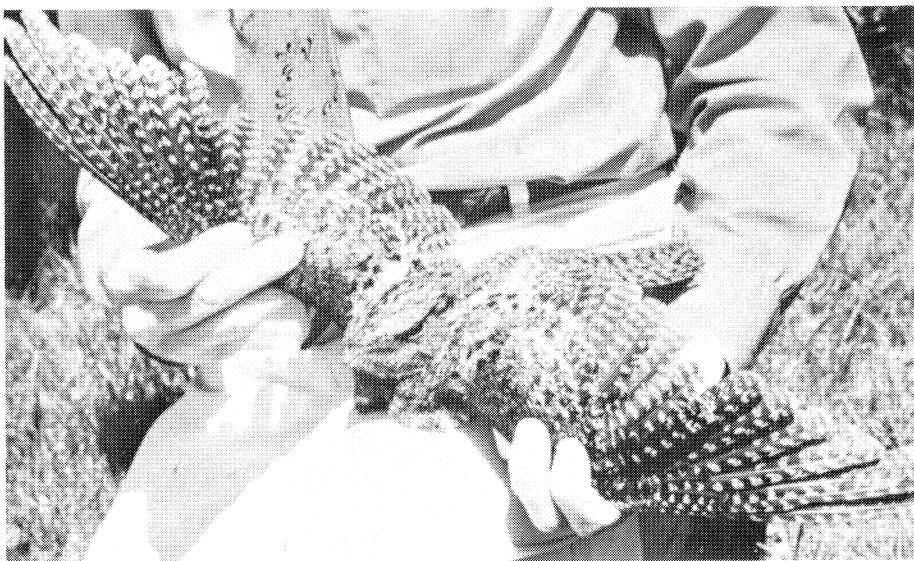


Two photos by W.D.Wetmore of Annapolis Royal. Above is a Killdeer on its nest, below a Short Eared Owllet.

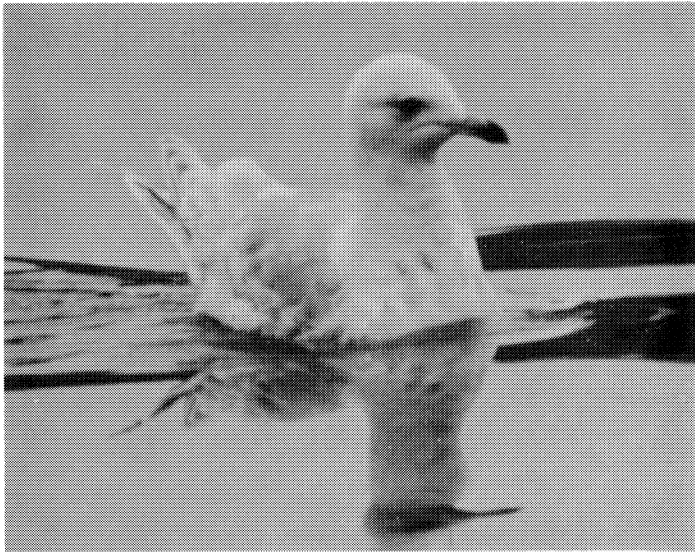
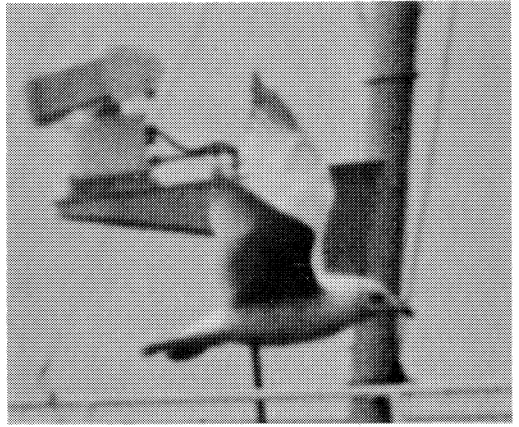
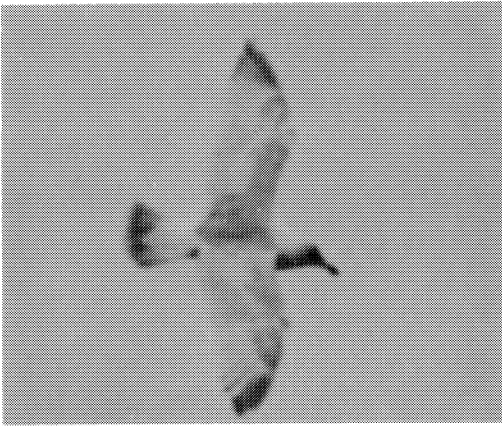


American Coot at Broad Cove, fall 1975.

Photos by John and Shirley Cohrs.

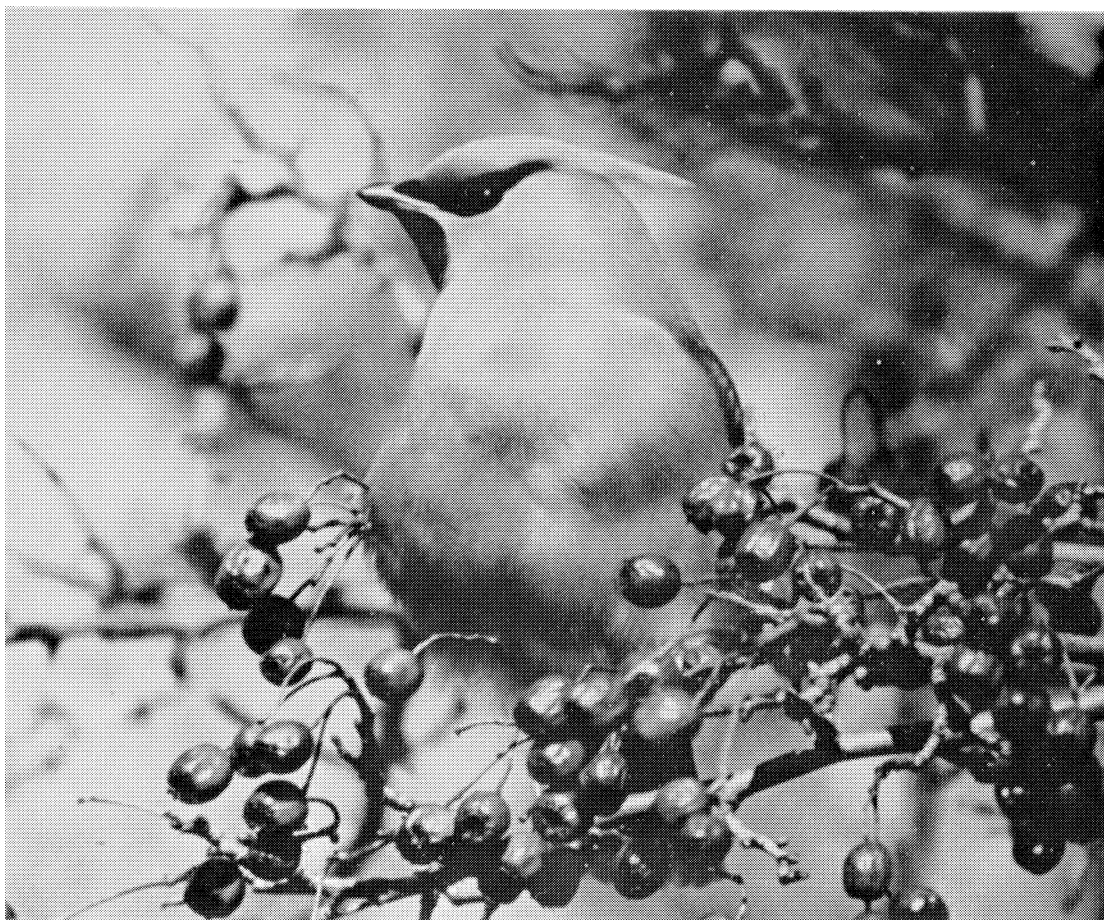


Moribund Chuck-will's-widow picked up by Israel Pothier.



Arctic Gulls. The two shots of a possible second (or third ?) winter Thayer's Gull in flight show the restricted dark primaries (note the "window" in the outermost), light on the underside. The back of this bird appears Herring Gull grey. The tail has a smoky grey band. The swimming bird is a second (or third ?) winter Kumlien's Gull. Note the dark eye.

Photos by I.A.McLaren and E.Mills.



Wandering flocks of Bohemian Waxwings were much more frequent than usual. This one was photographed by Ian A. McLaren on South Street in Halifax, March 22, 1976.

He noted the dark, slatey-grey back but did not see the purplish sheen - which gives the bird its name. It amused him to see the dark-tipped orange bill going like a sewing machine, winking the soft parts out of periwinkles. It was a problem to keep his camera dry and protected from the corrosive salt spray, so Ralph enveloped all but the lens in a plastic bag, and this was taped to the lens. - a 400 mm. telephoto with shoulder stock. Even with gloves he had trouble changing films with stiffened, icy fingers. So you have to be rugged and patient to photograph Purple Sandpipers.

A local resident of Lawrencetown, Mr. Earl Stoddard, (now in his eighties) said that Fox Island used to be much larger; his family told him that one of the early settlers used to walk his cattle **across** the shingle bar at low tide to pasture them on the island. His own grandfather, Charles Conrad, helped a contractor to build the causeway and road out to the island - the ice-covered rocks of the old causeway can be seen in one photo. At one time there were 26 shacks out on Fox Island where the local fishermen kept their gear. In the summer of 1975 someone set fire to some of the few remaining shacks and now only one is left. At one time there were trees on Egg Island and Mr. Stoddard's grandmother used to go out there by boat and pick gooseberries. "There were always foxes out on Fox Island," he said, "and there were always those little birds."

Rosemary Eaton.

Common Eider 469; White-winged Scoter 15; Surf Scoter 56; Black Scoter 112; Hooded Merganser 1; Common Merganser 17; Red-breasted Merganser 140; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 1a; American Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 7; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Purple Sandpiper 91; Sanderling 8; Glaucous Gull 1; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 175; Herring Gull 1105; Ring-billed Gull; Black Guillemot 12; Rock Dove 12; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Common Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Downy Woodpecker 4; Horned Lark 19; Gray Jay 23; Blue Jay 64; Common Raven 39; Common Crow 214; Black_capped Chickadee 225; Boreal Chickadee 27; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; Brown Creeper 5; American Robin 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 29; Northern Shrike 2; Common Starling 816; Yellow-rumped Warbler 25; Palm Warbler 1; House Sparrow 119; Eastern Meadowlark 1; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 6; Brown-headed Cowbird 4; Evening Grosbeak 37; Purple Finch 2; Pine Grosbeak 56; American Goldfinch 25; Red Crossbill 1; White-winged Crossbill 34; Savannah Sparrow 7; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 44; Tree Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 8; Fox Sparrow 15; Song Sparrow 35; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 56.

Total, 78 species (1 additional race), about 5788 individuals. C.R.K.Allen, Mary and Ross Anderson, Norman and Thelma Bowers, Shirley Brothers, David Cairns, Winnie Cairns, Margaret Clark, Chris, John, Lisé and Shirley Cohrs, Frances Cook, Eric Cooke, Jean Dillon, Ben Doane, Evelyn and Fred Dobson, P.R.Dobson, J.A. and G.H.Elliott, Raymond Fielding, Sylvia Fullerton (Compiler), Barbara Hinds, Anne Linton, Ian MacGregor, Ian McLaren, Ann and Eric Mills, Howard Ross, Harriett Rueggeberg, Sheila and Tom Sheppard, Nellie Snyder, Elizabeth Thorpe, Kevin Weaver.

CAPE SABLE, Jan. 1, 10.0 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Overcast, visibility good. Temp. -3 c, wind NE. 15-25 m.p.h. No snow cover, skim ice on small ponds. Four observers. Total party hours 5.5 (all on foot).

Common Loon 3; Red-throated Loon 3; Horned Grebe 4; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Canada Goose 5; Black Duck 18; Pintail 1; Common Goldeneye 36; Bufflehead 8; Oldsquaw 2; Common Eider 131; White-winged Scoter 2; Black Scoter 2; Red-breasted Merganser 7; American Kestrel 2; Black-bellied Plover 5; Red Knot 10; Glaucous Gull 1; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 148; Herring Gull 509; Murre sp. 1; Black Guillemot 9; Horned Lark 35; Common Raven 3; Common Crow 71; American Starling 4; Snow Bunting 72.

Total, 28 species, about 1097 individuals. Betty Smith (compiler), Beverly Smith Locke Smith, Sidney Smith.

COUNTRY HARBOUR. Weather cool. Snow cover 8 in. No ice in harbours.

Common Loon 4; Horned Grebe 1; American Goldeneye 4; Common Eider 5; Scoter sp. 2; Herring Gull 53; Common Crow 3; Common Starling 6; Dark-eyed Junco 7.

Total, 9 species; about 85 individuals. Brian Halleit (compiler).

ECONOMY, Dec. 29, 9.0 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. Temp. -4 c. Wind 1-5 m.p.h. Five observers in five parties. Total party hours 33 (31 on foot, 2 by car). Total party miles 50 (30 by foot, 20 by car).

Canada Goose 1; Black Duck 80; Common Goldeneye 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Great Black-backed Gull 10; Herring Gull 210; Rock Dove 2; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Downy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 5; Common Raven 18; Common Crow 40; Black-capped Chickadee 120; Boreal Chickadee 30; Brown Creeper 1; American Robin 1; Common Starling 30; House Sparrow 20; Pine Grosbeak 20; Common Redpoll 61; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Tree Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 13.

Total, 27 species, about 696 individuals. (in count area during count period but not seen on count day: Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Cowbird, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch). Tony Duke, Ross Hall, Frank Hennessey, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding (compiler).

GLACE BAY, Dec. 26, 7.0 a.m. to 3.0 p.m. Temp. -7 to -1 c. Wind calm. Snow cover light, fresh water frozen, salt water open. Wild food crop poor. Seven observers in four parties. Total party hours 8; total party miles 84 (9 by foot, 75 by car).

Common Loon 3; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Canada Goose 259; Black Duck 322; Greater Scaup 21; American Goldeneye 61; Bufflehead 2; Oldsquaw 60; White-winged Scoter 5; Common Merganser 21; Red-breasted Merganser 9; Bald Eagle 1a; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Iceland Gull 58; Great Black-backed Gull 155; Herring Gull 343; Black-headed Gull 10; Dovekie 4; Rock Dove 12; Blue Jay 22; Common Raven 2; Common Crow 141; Black-capped Chickadee 8; Boreal Chickadee 4; Mockingbird 1; American Robin 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; Common Starling 386; House Sparrow 181; Evening Grosbeak 20; Pine Siskin 4; American Goldfinch 20; Dark-eyed Junco 1; Fox Sparrow 1.

Total, 35 species, about 2142 individuals. (in count area during count period but not seen on count day: Blue-winged Teal, Downy Woodpecker). Bertha Hopkins, Hedley Hopkins, Sara MacLean (compiler), Edith MacLeod, Ann Spencer, Arthur Spencer, George Spencer.

HALIFAX EAST, Dec. 20, 7.0 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. Clear. Temp. -15 to -10 c. Wind WNW 3-18 m.p.h. 3-in. snow cover. Fresh water frozen. Thirty-seven observers, 36 in 17 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party hours 138 (107 on foot, 31 by car) plus 3 at feeders. Total party miles 324 (122 by foot, 202 by car).

Common Loon 18; Red-throated Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 2; Horned Grebe 9; Canada Goose 3220; Black Duck 434; Blue-winged Teal 1; Greater Scaup 9; Common Goldeneye 59; Bufflehead 72; Oldsquaw 174; Common Eider 17; White-winged Scoter 28; Surf Scoter 1; Black Scoter 41; Common Merganser 50; Red-breasted Merganser 70; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 1a; American Kestrel 1; Spruce Grouse 3; Ruffed Grouse 8; Virginia Rail 2; Sora 1; Common Snipe 3; Purple Sandpiper 10; Sanderling 3; Great Black-backed Gull 70; Herring Gull 1070; Ring-billed Gull 71. Black-headed

Gull 13; Black-legged Kittiwake 13; Dovekie 1; Rock Dove 54; Mourning Dove 17; Belted Kingfisher 1; Common Flicker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Horned Lark 1; Gray Jay 12; Blue Jay 58; Common Raven 50; Common Crow 760; Black-capped Chickadee 231; Boreal Chickadee 103; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 12; American Robin 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 61; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; Water Pipit 1; Northern Shrike 1; Common Starling 2050; Yellow-rumped Warbler 27; Palm Warbler 2; Common Yellowthroat 2; House Sparrow 660; Eastern Meadowlark 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 42; Evening Grosbeak 54; Pine Grosbeak 1; Common Redpoll 30; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 11; Red Crossbill 1; White-winged Crossbill 39; Savannah Sparrow 15; Seaside Sparrow 1; Vesper Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 63; Tree Sparrow 21; White-crowned Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 41; Fox Sparrow 3; Swamp Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 30; Snow Bunting 170.

Total, 80 species, about 10,128 individuals. (in count area during count period but not seen on count day: Mockingbird). Mary and Ross Anderson, Debbie Burleson, Winnie Cairns, Margaret Clark, Chris, John and Shirley Cohrs, Ralph Connor, Frances Cook, Eric Cooke, Ethel Crathorne, Ben Doane, Rosemary Eaton, Gillian and Jim Elliot, Sylvia Fullerton, Heather Harbord, Chris Helleiner, Phyllis and Ward Hemeon, Frank Hims1, Barbara Hinds, Fulton Lavender, Anne Linton, Robert and Wendy MacDonald, Ian MacGregor, Ian McLaren (compiler), Eric Mills, Willett Mills, Sandra Myers, Roger Pocklington, Howard Ross, Harriett Rueggeberg, Marcus Waddington.

HALIFAX WEST ~ Dec. 27, 7.0 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. Mostly cloudy. Temp. 11 to 13 c. Wind SSW 0-5 m.p.h. Forty-one observers, 29 in 13 parties, 12 at feeders. Total party hours 100 (82 on foot, 17 by car, 1 by boat). Total party miles 270 (89 by foot, 178 by car, 3 by boat).

Common Loon 36; Red-throated Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 15; Horned Grebe 15; Great Cormorant 64; Canada Goose 4; Black Duck 175; Pintail 2; Green-winged Teal 1; Ring-necked Duck 2; Greater Scaup 2; Common Goldeneye 25; Bufflehead 1; Oldsquaw 76; Harlequin Duck 4; Common Eider 36; White-winged Scoter 55; Surf Scoter 2; Black Scoter 15; Common Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 36; Goshawk 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Merlin 3; American Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 10; American Coot 1; Purple Sandpiper 23; Glaucous Gull 6; Iceland Gull 87; Great Black-backed Gull 547; Herring Gull 2635; Ring-billed Gull 17; Black-headed Gull 26; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Black-legged Kittiwake 2; Thick-billed Murre 1; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 6; Rock Dove 669. Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Downy Woodpecker 14; Gray Jay 12; Blue Jay 160; Common Raven 18; Common Crow 265; Black-capped Chickadee 171; Boreal Chickadee 51; White-breasted Nuthatch 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 2; American Robin 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet 39; Northern Shrike 1; Common Starling 4950; House Sparrow 812; Rusty Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 98; Evening Grosbeak 579; Pine Grosbeak 33; Common Redpoll 7; American Goldfinch 19; Savannah Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed (slate coloured) Junco 34; Tree Sparrow 11; White-throated Sparrow 18; Fox Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 21;

Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 47.

Total, 74 species, about 12,008 individuals. (in count area during count period but not seen on count day: Bohemian Waxwing, Red Crossbill). Kay Anderson, Mary and Ross Anderson, Mrs. S.F. Bedwell, Hazel Carmichael, Mrs. P.S. Christie, Walter Chute, Chris, John, Lisé and Shirley Cohrs (compiler), Ralph Connor, Francis Cook, Ethel Crathorne, Anthony, Bradford, Evelyn and Fred Dobson, Ruth Edsall, Sylvia Fullerton, Mrs. James Gray, Mrs. Ralph Hebb, Chris Helleiner, Mrs. R.H. Helpard, Phyllis and Ward Hemeon, Frank Hims1, Barbara Hinds, Charlotte Jeffries, Fulton Lavender, Anne Linton, Tom and Wendy MacDonald, Ian McLaren, Willett Mills, Hardy Moffatt, Karen Ogden, Harriett Rueggeberg, Jack and Darleen Stone, Betty and Wellsley Topple, Pauleen Wood.

KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK, Dec. 21, 7.40 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. Cloudy, snowing. Temp. -11 to -6. Wind NE 5-15 m.p.h. Snow cover 1 to 9 in. Fresh water partly open. Eighteen observers in 10 parties. Total party hours 51½ (32 on foot, 19½ by car); total party miles 164 (46 by foot, 118 by car).

Merganser sp. 4; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 22; Barred Owl 3; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Downy Woodpecker 12; Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 13; Common Raven 11; Common Crow 8; Black-capped Chickadee 109, Boreal Chickadee 19; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 5; American Robin 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 35; Common Starling 31; Pine Grosbeak 8; Common Redpoll 28; Pine Siskin 10; American Goldfinch 9; Red Crossbill 6; Dark-eyed Junco 2; White-throated Sparrow 1.

Total, 28 species, about 354 individuals. (in count area during count period but not seen on count day: Goshawk, House Sparrow, Evening Grosbeak). Ross Anderson, Norm and Thelma Bowers, Chris Cohrs, Gordon Cullen, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope (compiler), Bill Hussey, Fulton Lavender, Carolyn and Simon Lunn, Larry Neily, Helen McGloin, Eric Mullen, Tom Sheppard, Rick Swain, Fred Wallace.

KINGSTON, Jan. 1, 7.30 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. Overcast, occasional light snow p.m. Temp. -2 to -1 c. Wind NW-N 10-15 m.p.h. Snow cover 0-2 in. Fresh water partly frozen, salt water open. Wild food crop poor. Six observers, 4 in 2 parties plus 2 at feeders. Total party hours 17½ (6 on foot, 11½ by car); total party miles 136½ (2½ by foot, 134 by car).

Red-necked Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 1; Grebe sp. 1; Common Goldeneye 1; Oldsquaw 38; Common Eider 22; White-winged Scoter 99; Black Scoter 6; Red-breasted Merganser 15; Goshawk 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 21; Iceland Gull 1 imm; Great Black-backed Gull 21; Herring Gull 230; Rock Dove 79; Mourning Dove 31; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Blue Jay 82; Common Raven 27; Common Crow 509; Black-capped Chickadee 31; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; American Robin 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; Bohemian Waxwing 131; Common Starling 600; House Sparrow 429; Red-winged Blackbird 57; Common Grackle 11; Brown-headed Cowbird 85; Evening Grosbeak 12; Pine Grosbeak 35. Common Redpoll 80; Pine Siskin 1; Finch sp. 17; Dark-eyed (slate-coloured) Junco 13. Tree Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 75.

Total, 41 species, about 2782 individuals. (in count area during count period but not seen on count day: Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin). Frank and Thelma Hawkins, Lorraine and Peter Hope, Helen McGloin Larry Neily (compiler).

MARGAREE, Dec. 31, 8.0 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. 10 observers. Total party hours 22 (7 on foot, 15 by car); total party miles 97 (16 by foot, 81 by car).

Black Duck 3; Common Goldeneye 2; Common Merganser 3; Bald Eagle 1a; Ruffed Grouse 1; Great Black-backed Gull 2; Herring Gull 4; Dovekie 14. Downy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 36; Common Raven 16; Common Crow 118; Black-capped Chickadee 5; Boreal Chickadee 5; Common Starling 41; House Sparrow 66; Snow Bunting 22; Short-eared Owl 1.

Total 19 species, about 344 individuals. (in count area during count period but not seen on count day: Canada Goose). Thomas Bellis (compiler).

NORTHPORT, Dec. 26. Overcast. Temp. -7 c. Snow cover 2 to 3 in. 2 observers in 1 party. Total party hours 8½.

Mallard 1; Duck sp. 5; Rock Dove 16; Mourning Dove 8; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 42; Common Raven 4; Common Crow 103; Black-capped Chickadee 1 4; Common Starling 105; House Sparrow 297.

Total 11 species, about 597 individuals. Duncan MacNeil, R.G. MacNeil (compiler).

PICTOU, Dec. 21.

Grebe sp. 1; White-winged Scoter 6; Merganser sp. 200; Bald Eagle 2a; Glaucous Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 11; Herring Gull 40; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 14; Black-capped Chickadee 4; Evening Grosbeak 40; Dark-eyed (slate-coloured) Junco 16.

Total 13 species, about 342 individuals. Mrs. G. Wortman (compiler).

PORT HEBERT, Dec. 28, 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Overcast, snow flurries. Temp. 1 to -3 c. Wind NW 25 m.p.h. No snow cover, fresh water frozen. Eight observers in 3 parties plus 3 at feeders. Total party hours 21 (16 on foot, 5 by car); total party miles 91 (11 by foot, 79 by car).

Common Loon 23; Horned Grebe 37; Great Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 700; Mallard 2; Black Duck 1050; Green-winged Teal 1; Greater Scaup 1; Common Goldeneye 62; Bufflehead 126; Oldsquaw 22; Harlequin Duck 27; Common Eider 130; White-winged Scoter 11; Surf Scoter 2; Black Scoter 7; Hooded Merganser 5; Red-breasted Merganser 25; Bald Eagle 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Sanderling 15; Glaucous Gull 1; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 40; Herring Gull 200; Black Guillemot 3; Common Flicker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 21; Blue Jay 29; Common Raven 7; Common Crow 33; Black-capped Chickadee 55; American Robin 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; Common Starling 18; Yellow-rumped Warbler 30; Evening Grosbeak 55; Common Redpoll 50; American Goldfinch 1; Dark-eyed Junco 10, Snow Bunting 150.

Total 42 species, about 2967 individuals. (in count areas during count period but not seen on count day: Great Blue Heron; Whistling Swan; Common Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Merlin, Kestrel, Spruce Grouse, Purple Sandpiper, Owl sp., Boreal Chickadee, Pine Grosbeak, Tree Sparrow). Barbara Addelson, Jeanne Addelson, Richard Addelson, Robert Addelson. Russel Crosby, Robert Turner, Cameron Widrig, Ralph Widrig (compiler).

SALMON RIVER, Dec. 20, 8.0 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. Overcast a.m., clear p.m. Temp. -11 to -7 c. Wind NW 7-3 m.p.h. Fresh water frozen, river partly open. Four observers, 3 in 1 party plus 1 at feeder. Total party hours 24 (13½ on foot, 10½ by car); total party miles 62 (2 by foot, 60 by car).

Rough-legged Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Great Black-backed Gull 150; Herring Gull 370; Rock Dove 12; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Downy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 25; Common Raven 90; Common Crow 320; Black-capped Chickadee 34; Boreal Chickadee 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Catbird 1; Common Starling 350; House Sparrow 40; Northern Oriole 2; Evening Grosbeak 20; Pine Grosbeak 8; American Goldfinch 25; Dark-eyed Junco 14.

Total 23 species, about 1486 individuals. Cora Darhemiu, Frances Hassey, Bertha Hopkins, Hedley Hopkins (compiler).

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 28, 8.30 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. Sunny. Temp. -8 to -2 c. Wind light. Light snow cover, river open, all other water frozen. Five observers in 2 parties plus 3 feeders. Total party hours 15 (10 on foot, 5 by car); total party miles 44 (4 by foot, 40 by car).

Canada Goose 19; Black Duck 804; Wood Duck 50; Goshawk 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 7 (4 imm., 3 a); Kestrel 2; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Great Black-backed Gull 4; Herring Gull 8; Rock Dove 54; Mourning Dove 2; Barred Owl 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 28; Common Raven 87; Common Crow 166; Black-capped Chickadee 52; Boreal Chickadee 22; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2;

Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 32; Common Starling 719; House Sparrow 158; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Common Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 82; Evening Grosbeak 8; Pine Grosbeak 19; American Goldfinch 14; Dark-eyed Junco 29; Tree Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 2.

Total 38 species, about 2402 individuals. (in count area during count period but not seen on count day: American Robin). B. Anthony, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler), Jean Schwartz, Annie Wallace, Lorne Weaver.

SMITHS COVE. Overcast, snowing. Wind 20 m.p.h. One observer.

Black Duck 150; Bufflehead 12; Herring Gull 2; Mourning Dove 1; Blue Jay 4; Common Crow 420; Black-capped Chickadee 8; Common Starling 2; Evening Grosbeak 35; Dark-eyed Junco 1; Tree Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 8.

Total 12 species, about 647 individuals. Kelsey Raymond (compiler).

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 26, 8.30 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. Temp. -13 to 5 c. Wind S 5-10 m.p.h. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 8½ (4 on foot, 4½ by car). Total party miles 47 (9 by foot, 38 by car).

Common Merganser 19; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Common Snipe 1; Great Black-backed Gull 4; Herring Gull 12; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Downy Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 38; Common Raven 39; Common Crow 116; Black-capped Chickadee 13; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 8; Common Starling 118; House Sparrow 45; Evening Grosbeak 3; Pine Grosbeak 34; Common Redpoll 14.

Total 24 species, about 489 individuals. (in count area during count period but not seen on count day: Black Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant, Gray Jay, Brown-headed Cowbird, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting). Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Fred Kenney (compiler), Margaret Kenny.

THE SYDNEY'S, Dec. 27, 8.0 a.m. to 4.0 p.m. Heavy rain a.m., sunny p.m. Temp. 7 to 9 c. Wind SW 10-42 m.p.h. Six observers in 3 parties. Total party hours 28 (16 on foot, 12 by car). Total party miles 94 (4 by foot, 90 by car).

Black Duck 8; Greater Scaup 30; Common Goldeneye 6; Oldsquaw 208; Common Eider 14; White-winged Scoter 52; Common Merganser 10; Bald Eagle 1a; Iceland Gull 11; Great Black-backed Gull 400; Herring Gull 900; Rock Dove 12; Blue Jay 30; Common Raven 140; Common Crow 340; Black-capped Chickadee 28; Boreal Chickadee 1; Brown Creeper 1; Bohemian Waxwing 20; Common Starling 482; House Sparrow 148; Common Grackle 16; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Evening Grosbeak 40; Common Redpoll 2; American Goldfinch 100; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Song Sparrow 1.

Total 28 species, about 3006 individuals. George Hay, Mary Hay, Hedley E. Hopkins (compiler), Headley H. Hopkins, Genevieve and Walley MacKinnon.

WEDGEPORT, Dec. 28. Temp. -1 c. Light Snow cover. One observer. Total hours 5, total miles 24 (8 by foot, 16 by car).

Black Duck 200; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; - Great Black-backed Gull 20; Herring Gull 100; Blue Jay 1; Common Raven 2; Common Crow 10; Common Starling 25; Song Sparrow 10.

Total 10 species, about 370 individuals. J. Israel Pothier (compiler).

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 27. Warm and foggy. Twenty-eight observers.

Canada Goose 18; Mallard 19; Black Duck 458; Common Goldeneye 11; Common Merganser 30; Goshawk 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 12; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Bald Eagle 10 (7a 3imm); American Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 85; Gray Partridge 19; Common Snipe 8; Great Black-backed Gull 320; Herring Gull 420; Rock Dove 848; Short-eared Owl 2; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Downy Woodpecker 11; Horned Lark 35; Blue Jay 203; Common Raven 249; Common Crow 3755; Black-capped Chickadee 260; Boreal Chickadee 9; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 2; American Robin 73; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; Cedar Waxwing 7; Common Starling 1242; House Sparrow 1658; Common Grackle 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 412; Evening Grosbeak 112; Purple Finch 2; Pine Grosbeak 23; Common Redpoll 82; American Goldfinch 20; Dark-eyed Junco 266; Tree Sparrow 49; White-throated Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 21; Snow Bunting 28; Cardinal 1.

Total 48 species, about 10,838 individuals.

YARMOOUTH, Dec. 20, 8.0 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. Overcast with snow flurries; occasional sunny periods. Temp. -10 c. Wind NW 15 m.p.h. Ground frozen, light snow cover. Lakes mostly frozen. Nine observers in 4 parties plus 14 feeders. Total party hours 64 (5 on foot, 59 by car), total party miles 239 (8 by foot, 231 by car).

Common Loon 3; Red-throated Loon 1; Canada Goose 874; Brant 5; Mallard 1; Black Duck 412; Common Goldeneye 27; Bufflehead 17; Oldsquaw 32; Common Eider 21; White-winged Scoter 105; Common Merganser 24; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 3; Peregrine Falcon 1; Merlin 1; American Kestrel 4; Ruffed Grouse 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 2021; Herring Gull 4000; Black-headed Gull 1; Rock Dove 60; Mourning Dove 9; Belted Kingfisher 3;

Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 70; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 94; Common Raven 3; Common Crow 201; Black-capped Chickadee 81; Brown Creeper 1; Mockingbird 1; American Robin 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; Cedar Waxwing 22; Northern Shrike 1; Common Starling 344; House Sparrow 239; Red-winged Blackbird 8; Common Grackle 50; Brown-headed Cowbird 189; Cardinal 2; Evening Grosbeak 242; American Goldfinch 8; Savannah Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 69; Tree Sparrow 15; White-throated Sparrow 78; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 26; Snow Bunting 10.

Total 56 species, about 9404 individuals. (in count area during count period but not seen on count day: Red-necked Grebe; Horned Grebe; Great Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Red-breasted Merganser; Iceland Gull; Ring-billed Gull; Saw-whet Owl; Common Flicker; Boreal Chickadee; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Yellow-rumped Warbler; Palm Warbler; Yellow-breasted Chat, White-winged Crossbill). C.R.K.Allen, Fernald Allen, N.B.Allen, Mr. W. Bain, Hazel Cann, Edith Crosby, Phyllis Dobson, Reginald Doucette, Mildred Hatfield, David Henry, Marie Henry, The Misses Herkes, Marion W. Hilton (compiler), Evangeline Killam, Dorothy Kirk, Dorothy Mackintosh, Margaret Nickerson, Milledge Nickerson, Harry Roberts, Henry Ross, Robin Rymer, Mr. B. Saunders, Celia Sollows, Edwin Sollows, John Sollows.

Summary of All-time Highest Counts of Individuals
for Nova Scotia.

The first Christmas Count carried out in Nova Scotia was on Dec. 13, 1913, at Yarmouth. On that day, Harrison F. Lewis and E. Chesley Allen saw 12 species of birds. From that start, the list of birds seen in Nova Scotia on Christmas Counts has grown to 177 species, plus 2 additional races. The following is the Nova Scotia list up to the 1974-75 Christmas Count, with the location and year of the high count. (High count - highest number of individuals recorded on a single count).

Common Loon 59 (Brier Island, 1974); Red-throated Loon 5 (Cole Harbour-Chezetcook, 1956); Red-necked Grebe 40 (Brier Island, 1974); Horned Grebe 140 (Broad Cove 1972); Eared Grebe 1 (Halifax West, 1966); Pied-billed Grebe 2 (St. Peter's, 1966); Northern Fulmar 122 (Cabot Strait, 1974); Greater Shearwater 1 (Fundy, 1973); Gannet 11 (Brier Island, 1969); Great Cormorant 400 (Brier Island, 1960); Double-crested Cormorant 1 (Brier Island 1974 and 75, Kingston, 1974); Great Blue Heron 7 (Halifax East, 1974); American Bittern 1 (Bridgetown and Cole Harbour-Chezetcook, 1960, and Halifax East, 1964).

Canada Goose 6512 (West Middle Sable, 1953); Brant 7 (Northport, 1964); Mallard 53 (Wolfville, 1968); Black Duck 2700 (Yarmouth, 1968); Pintail 4, West Middle Sable, 1954); Green-winged Teal 12 (Wolfville, 1958, and Eskasoni, 1964); Blue-winged Teal 2 (Shubenacadie, 1974); European Widgeon 1 (Halifax East, 1970); American Widgeon 4 (Port Hood, 1969); Wood Duck 5 (Halifax East, 1972); Ring-necked Duck 1 (Wolfville, 1962, Brier Island, 1969, Halifax East, 1972, and Louisbourg, 1974);

Greater Scaup 1500 (Cape Sable, 1973); Common Goldeneye 427; (Broad Cove, 1972); Barrow's Goldeneye 2 (Broad Cove, 1974); Bufflehead 140

(Karsdale 1966); Oldsquaw 500 (Brier Island, 1960); Harlequin Duck 25 (Brier Island, 1961); Common Eider 752 (Brier Island, 1973); King Eider 2 (Catalone, 1963, and Halifax West, 1971); White-winged Scoter 285 (Halifax West, 1971); Black Scoter 150 (Halifax West 1966); Ruddy Duck 2 (Halifax, 1956); Hooded Merganser 5 (Wolfville, 1965); Common Merganser 191 (Fort Ellis, 1960); Red-breasted Merganser 161 (Pictou, 1960);

Goshawk 2 (Margaree, 1972; Wolfville, 1973, and Halifax West, 1973 & 4); Sharp-shinned Hawk 5 (Halifax West, 1970, and Broad Cove, 1972); Cooper's Hawk 1 (Halifax West, 1966, and Louisbourg, 1970); Red-tailed Hawk 15 (Brier Island, 1968); Red-shouldered Hawk 1 (Brier Island, 1974); Rough-legged Hawk 27 (Brier Island, 1964); Bald Eagle 13 (Wolfville 1957, and Eskasoni, 1969); Marsh Hawk 5; (Amherst, 1973); Gyrfalcon 1 (Port Mouton, 1944 & 5, Wolfville, 1962, and Halifax East, 1965); Peregrine Falcon 1 (Cole Harbour-Chezzetcook, 1962; Halifax East, 1964; Eskasoni, 1966 and Halifax West 1969); Merlin 3 (Halifax West 1967 & 72); Am. Kestrel 7 (Broad Cove, 1974); Spruce Grouse 10 (Country Harbour 1958, 60, 65 and 66); Ruffed Grouse 25 (Country Harbour, 1958); Bobwhite 15 (Wolfville, 1953); Ring-necked Pheasant 112 (Wolfville, 1955); Gray Partridge 64 (Wolfville, 1970).

Clapper Rail 1 (Broad Cove, 1972); Virginia Rail 2 (Halifax East, 1971); Semipalmated Plover 1 (Brier Island, 1973); Killdeer 23 (Cape Sable, 1973); Black-bellied Plover 20 (Cape Sable Island, 1973); Ruddy Turnstone 22 (Catalone, 1967); Woodcock 1 (Brier Island, 1964 & 67, Halifax West, 1968 and Weymouth, 1973); Common Snipe 8 (Wolfville, 1974); Whimbrel (Eur.) 1 (Broad Cove, 1974); Spotted Sandpiper 1 (Salmon River, 1967, and Halifax West 1968); Greater Yellowlegs 8 (Halifax East, 1969); Knot 3 (Cape Sable 1974); Purple Sandpiper 700 (Brier Island, 1968), White-rumped Sandpiper 2 (Halifax East 1974); Dunlin 11 (West Middle Sable, 1953); Semipalmated Sandpiper 6 (Cape Sable Island, 1973); Sanderling 150 (St. Peter's, 1966); Northern Phalarope 1 (Louisbourg, 1972).

Glaucous Gull 68 (Glace Bay, 1969); Iceland Gull 706 (Glace Bay, 1966); Great Black-backed Gull 3000 (Yarmouth, 1973); Lesser Black-backed Gull 1 (Digby 1971); Herring Gull 5700 (Halifax, 1957); Ring-billed Gull 103 (The Sydneys, 1967); Black-headed Gull 102 (Glace Bay, 1969); Laughing Gull 2 (Halifax East, 1968); Bonaparte's Gull 22 (Eskasoni, 1973); Black-legged Kittiwake 25,117 (Brier Island, 1974); Razorbill 9 (Brier Island, 1964); Common Murre 3 (Brier Island, 1962 & 66); Thick-billed Murre 20,000 (Brier Island, 1973); Dovekie 1246 (Cabot Strait, 1973); Black Guillemot 500 (Brier Island, 1973); Common Puffin 13 (Brier Island, 1973).

Rock Dove 1860 (Halifax West, 1974); Mourning Dove 75 (Wolfville, 1966); Great Horned Owl 2 (Country Harbour, 1960); Snowy Owl 22 (Brier Island, 1960); Barred Owl 4 (Halifax West, 1971); Short-eared Owl 6 (Wolfville 1960 and Annapolis Royal, 1974); Saw-whet Owl 2 (Brier Island, 1959); Belted Kingfisher 4 (Halifax East, 1970 & 71); Common (Yel.-sh.) Flicker 3 (Wolfville 1956 & 59); Pileated Woodpecker 2 (Springville, 1966, Bass River, 1967 and Kejimikujik, 1974); Red-headed Woodpecker 1 (Digby, 1973, and Halifax West 1974); Hairy Woodpecker 13 (Halifax West, 1974); Downy Woodpecker 39 (Halifax West, 1972); Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker 6 (Amherst, 1974).

Eastern Kingbird 1 (Yarmouth, 1973, and Halifax East, 1974); Western Kingbird 1 (Cape Sable Island, 1973); Horned Lark 257 (Wolfville, 1963); Tree Swallow 7 (Halifax East, 1969); Gray Jay 30 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat. Park, 1968); Blue Jay 215 (Halifax West, 1974); Common Raven 356 (Wolfville 1974); Black-capped Chickadee 278 (Halifax East, 1969); Boreal Chickadee 96 (Halifax West, 1968 & 69); White-breasted Nuthatch 23 (Halifax West, 1967); Red-breasted Nuthatch 122 (Broad Cove, 1972); Brown Creeper 13 (Halifax West, 1968); Winter Wren 1 (Liverpool, 1958; Port Wallis, 1958; Cole Harbour-Chezzetcook, 1960; Round Hill, 1960; Halifax East, 1969; Gilberts

Cove, 1970, and Halifax East, 1974); Long-billed Marsh Wren 1 (Wolfville, 1959; Cole Harbour-Chezzetcook, 1961, and Halifax East, 1968 & 74).

Mockingbird 7 (Halifax West, 1966); Brown Thrasher 1 (Halifax, 1960, Cole Harbour-Chezzetcook, 1961; Halifax West, 1962, 68 and 70; Kejimujik, 1974); American Robin 273 (Wolfville, 1968); Wood Thrush 1 (Yarmouth, 1968); Hermit Thrush 3 (Yarmouth, 1968); Eastern Bluebird 1 (Bridgetown 1961); Golden-crowned Kinglet 234 (Halifax East, 1974); Ruby-crowned Kinglet 4 (Halifax East, 1974); Water Pipet 25 (Brier Island, 1973); Bohemian Waxwing 35 (Baddeck, 1971); Cedar Waxwing 15 (Annapolis, 1966) Northern Shrike 6 (Halifax West, 1974); Common Starling 9269 (Halifax West 1974).

Black-and-white Warbler 1 (Halifax West, 1974); Orange-crowned Warbler 1 (Halifax, 1960); Magnolia Warbler 1 (Halifax West, 1973); Yellow-rumped (Myr.) Warbler 60 (Halifax East, 1973); Pine Warbler 1 (Halifax West 1974); Palm Warbler 8 (Halifax East, 1966); Common Yellowthroat 2 (Halifax East, 1970 & 73, and Broad Cove 1973); Yellow-breasted Chat 2 (The Sydneys, 1968; Eskasoni, 1968, and Halifax West, 1974 & 75).

House Sparrow 2500 (Halifax 1958); Bobolink 1 (Halifax East, 1973); Eastern Meadowlark 5 (West Middle Sable, 1953, and Broad Cove 1971); Red-winged Blackbird 100 (Kingston, 1969); Northern (Bal.) Oriole 6 (The Sydneys, 1969); Northern (Bul.) Oriole 1; (Halifax West, 1969); Rusty Blackbird 8 (The Sydneys, 1975); Brewer's Blackbird 1 (Sable Island, 1969); Common Grackle 1009 (Kingston, 1974); Brown-headed Cowbird 3300 (Kingston. 1974).

Cardinal 6 (Yarmouth, 1973); Dickcissel 4 (St. Peter's, 1969); Evening Grosbeak 580 (Halifax West, 1968); Purple Finch 102 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat. Park, 1968); Pine Grosbeak 175 (Halifax East, 1968); Common Redpoll 1079 (Wolfville, 1968); Pine Siskin 131 (Salmon River, 1968); American Goldfinch 530 (Halifax East, 1968); Red Crossbill 138 (Broad Cove 1972); White-winged Crossbill 205 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat. Park, 1971).

Rufous-sided Towhee 5 (Halifax West, 1967); Lark Bunting 1 (Cole Harbour-Chezzetcook, 1959). Savannah Sparrow 43 (Halifax East, 1974); Savannah (lp.) Sparrow 78 (Sable Island, 1969); Grasshopper Sparrow 1 (Halifax East 1965 and Broad Cove, 1971); Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1 (Broad Cove, 1972); Vesper Sparrow 15 (Wolfville, 1967); Dark-eyed Junco 558 (Wolfville, 1968); Dark-eyed (Ore.) Junco 1 (New Glasgow, 1960; Cole Harbour-Chezzetcook, 1960 and Halifax West, 1972); Tree Sparrow 98 (Halifax East, 1970); Chipping Sparrow 5 (Halifax East, 1973); Field Sparrow 1 (Halifax East, 1973); White-crowned Sparrow 3 (Halifax East, 1973); White-throated Sparrow 110 (Halifax East, 1973); Fox Sparrow 20 (Halifax West, 1965); Lincoln's Sparrow 1 (Pictou, 1967); Swamp Sparrow 12 (Halifax East, 1974); Song Sparrow 68 (Halifax East, 1973); Lapland Longspur 150 (Amherst, 1968); Snow Bunting 500 (Brier Island, 1968).

I am grateful to Dr. L. B. MacPherson for the meticulous records he has kept as the N.S.B.S. Christmas Count Editor. Without his help this list could not be compiled.

Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals
for Nova Scotia in 1975-76

The 1975 Christmas Count added 4 new species to the list and they are underlined here. This now brings the Nova Scotia list to 181 species plus 2 additional races. All-time high counts were recorded for 23 species and these are underlined.

Common Loon 126 (Broad Cove); Red-throated Loon 6 (Broad Cove); Red-necked Grebe 40 (Broad Cove); Horned Grebe 196 (Broad Cove); Pied-billed Grebe 1 (Broad Cove and Glace Bay); Great Cormorant 117 (Broad Cove); Double-crested Cormorant 3 (Cape Sable); Great Blue Heron 3 (Broad Cove).

Canada Goose 3220 (Halifax East); Brant 5 (Yarmouth); Mallard 19 (Wolfville). Black Duck 1050 (Port Hebert); Pintail 2 (Halifax West); Green-winged Teal 1 (Halifax West and Port Hebert); Blue-winged Teal 1 (Halifax East); Ring-necked Duck 2 (Halifax West); Wood Duck 50 (Shubenacadie); Greater Scaup 178 (Broad Cove); Common Goldeneye 299 (Broad Cove); Barrow's Goldeneye 2 (Annapolis); Bufflehead 126 (Port Hebert); Oldsquaw 443 (Broad Cove); Harlequin Duck 27 (Port Hebert); Common Eider 469 (Broad Cove); King Eider 1 (Brier Island); White-winged Scoter 105 (Yarmouth); Surf Scoter 56 (Broad Cove); Black Scoter 112 (Broad Cove); Hooded Merganser 5 (Port Hebert); Common Merganser 50 (Halifax East); Red-breasted Merganser 140 (Broad Cove).

Goshawk 1 (Baddeck, Halifax West, Kingston, Shubenacadie and Wolfville); Sharp-shinned Hawk 3 (Halifax East & West and Yarmouth); Red-tailed Hawk 12 (Wolfville); Rough-legged Hawk 4 (Amherst); Bald Eagle 10 (Wolfville); Peregrine Falcon 1 (Yarmouth); Merlin 3 (Halifax West); American Kestrel 4 (Yarmouth); Spruce Grouse 3 (Halifax East); Ruffed Grouse 22 (Kejimikujik); Ring-necked Pheasant 85 (Wolfville); Gray Partridge 19 (Wolfville).

Virginia Rail 2 (Halifax East); Sora 1 (Halifax East); American Coot 1 (Halifax West); Killdeer 1 (Brier Island); Black-bellied Plover 5 (Cape Sable). American Woodcock 1 (Brier Island); Common Snipe 8 (Wolfville); Knot 10 (Cape Sable); Purple Sandpiper 300 (Brier Island); Sanderling 15 (Port Hebert)

Glaucous Gull 6 (Halifax West); Iceland Gull 87 (Halifax West); Great Black-backed Gull 2021 (Yarmouth). Herring Gull 4000 (Yarmouth); Ring-billed Gull 71 (Halifax East); Black-headed Gull 26 (Halifax West); Bonaparte's Gull 1 (Halifax West); Black-legged Kittiwake 2700 (Brier Island); Razorbill 1 (Brier Island). Common Murre 1 (Annapolis); Thick-billed Murre 9 (Brier Island); Dovekie 83 (Brier Island); Black Guillemot 30 (Brier Island); Common Puffin 2 (Brier Island).

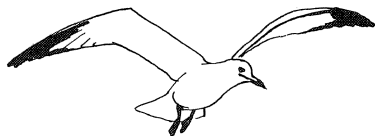
Rock Dove 848 (Wolfville); Mourning Dove 31 (Kingston); Great Horned Owl 1 (Halifax West); Snowy Owl 1 (Brier Island); Barred Owl 3 (Kejimikujik); Short-eared Owl 2 (Wolfville); Belted Kingfisher 3 (Yarmouth); Common (Yel.-sh.) Flicker 3 (Port Hebert); Pileated Woodpecker 3 (Shubenacadie); Hairy Woodpecker 8 (Amherst); Downy Woodpecker 14 (Halifax West); Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker 1 (Kejimikujik); Horned Lark 70 (Yarmouth); Gray Jay 23 (Broad Cove); Blue Jay 203 (Wolfville); Common Raven 245 (Wolfville); Common Crow 3755 (Wolfville); Black-capped Chickadee 260 (Wolfville). Boreal Chickadee 103 (Halifax East); White-breasted Nuthatch 5 (Halifax West); Red-breasted Nuthatch 8 (Broad Cove); Brown Creeper 12 (Halifax East).

Mockingbird 1 (Amherst, Brier Island, Glace Bay and Yarmouth); Catbird 1 (Margaree); American Robin 73 (Wolfville); Golden-crowned

Kinglet 61 (Halifax East); Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 (Halifax East); Water Pipit 1 (Brier Island and Halifax East); Bohemian Waxwing 131 (Kingston); Cedar Waxwing 150 (Bridgetown); Northern Shrike 4 (Bridgetown); Common Starling 4950 (Halifax West).

Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 30 (Port Hebert); Palm Warbler 2 (Halifax East); Common Yellowthroat 2 (Halifax East); House Sparrow 1658 (Wolfville); Eastern Meadowlark 2 (Halifax East); Red-winged Blackbird 57 (Kingston); Northern (Baltimore) Oriole 2 (Margaree); Rusty Blackbird 2 (Annapolis); Common Grackle 50 (Yarmouth); Brown-headed Cowbird 412 (Wolfville); Cardinal 2 (Yarmouth); Evening Grosbeak 579 (Halifax West); Purple Finch 2 (Broad Cove and Wolfville); Pine Grosbeak 56 (Broad Cove); Common Redpoll 82 (Wolfville); Pine Siskin 10 (Kejimikujik); American Goldfinch 100 (The Sydneys); Red Crossbill 6 (Kejimikujik); White-winged Crossbill 39 (Halifax East); Savannah Sparrow 15 (Halifax East); Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1 (Broad Cove); Seaside Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); Vesper Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); Dark-eyed (slate-coloured) Junco 266 (Wolfville); Tree Sparrow 49 (Wolfville); White-crowned Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); White-throated Sparrow 78 (Yarmouth); Fox Sparrow 15 (Broad Cove); Swamp Sparrow 7 (Halifax East); Song Sparrow 35 (Broad Cove); Lapland Longspur 3 (Annapolis); Snow Bunting 215 (Annapolis).

ROSS ANDERSON



FIELD TRIPS

ANNAPOLIS BASIN, Feb. 21st.

Saturday, February 21st, was one of those sunny, crystal clear days when winter hints of the warmth and vitality of spring and everyone feels good just to be outdoors. The purpose of the field trip, as devised by Ross Anderson, was to check out the wintering ducks of the Annapolis Basin as a forerunner for a future Christmas Bird Count to be held there.

The weather was a key factor in allowing for such an excellent turnout of bird society members and interested friends. Ross and Mary Anderson, Frank and Mary Himsel journeyed down from Halifax, Terry Hyson came from Bridgetown while Norm and Thelma Bowers, Rogerr Burrows and Peter Hope trekked in from Caledonia. All were met by a group from Annapolis and area including Calder and Myrtle Fraser, Noel and Marilyn Durling, Dr. and Mary Corstan, Mrs. Alison Thomson, W.E. Whitehead and Joe Ternan.

Following greetings all round we headed non-stop for Digby to take advantage of the low tide. En route we passed a couple of Ravens performing

courtship display. Arriving at the Digby wharf we were rewarded by fine views of the Lesser Black-backed Gull which has taken up his old haunt for another winter. A couple of Iceland Gulls mixed in with the Herring and Great Black-backs added to the variety in the gull flock. By strolling out the wharf we had excellent, close-up views of some of the many Horned Grebes and Oldsquaws which seemed to be everywhere in the basin. Our elevated vantage point allowed us to look down on these birds, often within 50 feet of us, and watch them disappear as they dove into the depths. Great Cormorants were present in small numbers flying about or sitting on weirs. We then followed the shore out to Prim Point lighthouse, observing several small groups of Bufflehead and a large flotilla of Greater Scaup along the way.

On the return trip to Annapolis a stop was made at the Bear River Bridge to look over the ducks wintering there. Our feelings of being conspicuous were aroused when an R.C.M.P. patrol car gave us a slow and careful look over but these suspicions were confirmed when a young couple stopped their car and asked what we were looking at. "Birds!" - came the reply. With a groan the couple disappeared in a cloud of dust.

At lunchtime we had a delightful pause for tea at the Frasers' house in Annapolis and then proceeded onward for the afternoon. At the Annapolis causeway we took plenty of time to study the large flock of ducks, mostly Common Goldeneye and Greater Scaup, but in particular everyone was watching the male Barrow's Goldeneye. For the second winter in a row a male Barrow's Goldeneye has wintered there and this year he was frequently observed from December on by Calder Fraser.

The final jaunt took us to Parkers Cove on the Bay of Fundy shore where flocks of Scoters, including all three species, and Common Eiders were the main attraction.

On the way home some of us were very fortunate to see a male American Kestrel at the Annapolis causeway, where he has been seen several times through the winter, and a Northern Shrike near the municipal dump in Lequille. All told it was a most interesting and pleasant day with a total of 30 species observed, including 11 species of ducks.

Peter Hope.

PORT JOLI, March 21.

On the first day of spring almost anything can be expected from the weatherman in Nova Scotia, and as 25 members set out from Liverpool toward the Port Joli, Port Hebert and Sable River group of inlets strong southwest winds, mist and fog showed little promise of abating. Early migrants are known to arrive on these spring southwesterly winds, however, and a restless male Robin was soon recorded. At Port Joli a flock of White-throated Sparrows was sighted, but their spring song was withheld, perhaps for the brighter days soon to come. Greater Scaup and Canada Geese were being observed when a Kingfisher passed low overhead as if riding the strong wind in his flight north from his winter home.

A flock of Black Ducks was being glassed through the murky fog when suddenly Peter Hope announced that he "had a Widgeon", a new bird for many members. Then a full plumaged drake Pintail loomed out of the mist and circled low in flight directly over the party, and a flock of Evening Grosbeaks descended to a clump of trees nearby.

The nine car convoy then moved to Port Hebert where a Woodcock was seen at close range "holding" in a small clearing, and then observed in its peculiar flight when flushed. At Sable River the fog thickened but the members were eager to see a new area and were rewarded by a sighting of Harlequin Ducks in the turbulent waters just off the headlands at Jones Harbor.

Finally, a warm fire and refreshments were much enjoyed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Turner as the wind, mist and fog picked up in the tempo.

Ralph Widrig.

GRAND PRE, May 11th.

Sunday, May 11th, was "hawk day" at Grand Pré. Eighteen NSBS members capably led by Ross Anderson viewed no fewer than 10 Rough-legged Hawks - probably more - two of which were light phase and the rest dark. Six Marsh Hawks were seen, two of them males. A Red-tailed, a Sharp-shinned and a Kestrel were also added to the Raptor list.

Land birds were sparse, apart from a concentration of Grackles, but Double-crested Cormorants were observed on their nests on Boot Island. 30 species were seen altogether including several "firsts" for 1976 for the party members.

Shirley Cohrs.

NEST RECORDS

With the onset of spring the Maritime Nest Record Scheme is entering its seventeenth year of operation. 1975 saw the greatest number of co-operators in the history of the scheme, with 94 people submitting record cards. Anyone who wishes to help should write to the address below and will receive a supply of record cards and a copy of the 1975 report.

A. D. Smith,
Co-ordinator, Maritime Nest Records Scheme,
Canadian Wildlife Service,
P. O. Box 590,
Sackville, N.B. EOA 3 CO.



UP-COMING FIELD TRIPS

- Sunday
May 16 Greenhead Road. Meet at the Prospect Bay Road turn off at 8.00 a.m. Leaders: John and Shirley Cohrs. Tel: 477-6036.
- Wednesday
May 19 Susie Lake. Meet at the Armdale Rotary at 6.30 a.m. Leader: Fred Dobson: Tel. 852-3042.
- Saturday
May 19 Hants County. Meet at Mount Uniacke Railway Crossing on Highway 1 at 8.00 a.m. Leaders: Margaret Clark, Tel. 443-3993 and Ross Anderson, Tel . 463-4188.
- Saturday
June 19 Yarmouth. If weather permits, a trip to the Tusket Islands. If you wish to attend, contact the leader, Charlie Allen, Box 42, Tusket, N.S. at least two weeks in advance, so that boats can be hired. There will be a fee required for the renting of the boats. Meet at Arcadia Post Office at 9.00 a.m.
- Saturday
July 24 Broad Cove - Green Bay. Early shore birds. Meet at the Post Office in Petite Riviere at 8.30 a.m. Leaders: John and Shirley Cohrs; Tel. 477-6036.
- Sunday
Aug. 22 MacNab's Island. Please contact the leader, Ross Anderson at 463-4188 one week in advance, so that the boat hiring can be arranged.
- Labour Day
Week-end
Sept. 4,5,6. President's Trip - Brier Island. Boat trips and Field trips will be arranged. Camping spots available. Please come to the registration booth at the end of Peajack Road on your arrival.
- Saturday
Sept. 25 Cheticamp Island. Combined trip with the Cape Breton Branch. Meet opposite the Armbridge Cabins in Cheticamp at 8.00 a.m. Leader to be announced.
- Oct. 9,10,11. Seal Island. Contact the leader Ralph Connor at 469-8370 at least one week in advance.
- Saturday
Oct. 2 Mac Nab's Island. Contact the leader Ross Anderson at 463-4188 one week in advance for boat hiring.
- Saturday
Oct. 23 Amherst. Meet at the Amherst Point Sanctuary at 8.30 a.m. Morning will be at the Sanctuary; afternoon at Cape Jourimain. Leader: Con Desplanque, 27 Harding Avenue, Amherst.
- Saturday
Nov. 6 MacNab's Island. Contact leader Ross Anderson, at 463-4188, one week in advance for boat hiring.
- Saturday
Nov. 20 Eastern Shore. Meet at Holiday Inn, Dartmouth, at 8.00 a.m. Leader: Eric Cooke. Tel: 429-2642.



MORE ABOUT "SPSHING"

In the July 1955 Newsletter Dr. Dick Brown reported a study by Neal G. Smith on the biological significance of the reaction of some birds to a call produced by birders usually referred to as "spshing" or "swishing".

Mr. Smith states that many of our migrants on arrival at their winter territory in the tropics switch to a diet of fruit and nectar, but that to find this sort of food they require "instruction" from native species which they locate by sound. According to Mr. Smith the calls of certain tropical fruit and nectar eaters - he mentions the Plain-colored Tanager - have a quality similar to "swishing" and so attract the newly-arrived migrants, which join the flock in the hope of being guided to food.

In his introductory paragraph Dick credits me with instructing him and others in this very effective method of calling birds, and I should like to say that not I, but Dr. Chris Helleiner was, I think, responsible for introducing it to Nova Scotians. I was merely an innocent bystander at one of his early performances, got sprayed with the saliva and so, caught the bug.

I have used this method (which I described in some detail in an earlier account) almost exclusively in recent years and have found it to be by far the most productive of all the hissing, squeaking, osculatory noises with which we try to bring our quarry close enough for identification.

There do seem, however, to be at least two serious obstacles to acceptance of Neal Smith's suggested reason for its effectiveness. First is the behaviour of the responding birds: this gives strong evidence of intense curiosity, agitation, anger - you name it - shown not only by their movements but by erected crests, scolding or alarm calls, or even complete songs. Surely the emotion evidenced is much stronger than one would expect in a bird merely attracted by a mixed flock which might lead it to a supply of food.

The second and more telling objection is in the species attracted. Among the forty-seven species which have been lured by my own swishy wiles are many which normally would never stray within hundreds of miles of the tropical fruit - and nectar-eaters. Among the most eager and consistent respondents are: Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Gray and Blue Jays, Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Red-breasted Nuthatch, both species of Kinglet, Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill. The reaction of these boreal species is for the most part more eager and consistent than that of the vireos and warblers.

One might add still a third objection: if the evolutionary process taught the migrants where to locate food in their summer habitats why not also in their winter territory?

In conclusion it may be of interest to note that certain species of small land birds seem to show little or no interest whatever in "swishing". These include the starling, flycatchers, swallows, waxwings and Icterids (blackbirds and relatives). This last family in fact exhibits completely reverse reaction, taking off for distant parts at the sound of the first "swish".

And finally: how many times must I tell you, Dick, that the proper term is "swishing"? "Spshing" indeed!



BIRTHDAY NOSTALGIA

1976 is the 21st birthday of the Bird Society. In January of 1955 more than 100 people attended a meeting in the Nova Scotia Museum (the "old" museum on Spring Garden Road) chaired by Dr. Harrison F. Lewis, at which a new society to be known as the "Nova Scotia Bird Society" was formed. Robie W. Tufts became the first President with C.R.K. Allen Vice-President and Willett J. Mills Secretary. Other members of this first executive were Harrison Lewis (editor), F.A. Lane, D.K. Crowdis, Rev. Calder Fraser and H.P. Moffatt.

The early "Newsletters" were published as part of the Museum publication of the same name and contained accounts of field trips and articles of interest to birders as well as reports of sightings sent in by correspondents. We have pleasure in reprinting the following item dated June 26, 1955.

RARE AND UNUSUAL BIRDS

OBSERVED DURING 1955

Several of our members have reported rare and unusual birds which they have seen since this Society was organized last January. The most outstanding of these is the Green-tailed Towhee (the second record for Canada), which was picked up dead on Cape Sable Island on May 14 and reported by Mr. S. F. Smith. Details regarding this accidental visitor have already been given wide publicity. What was left of this bird was preserved as a specimen and may be seen in the Nova Scotia Museum of Science at Halifax. Other observations which are worthy of inclusion in this report are: European Teal, April 26, near Amherst, Cumberland County (George Boyer); Eastern Cowbird on May 13, at Sydney (E. Swailes), Eastern Bluebird on May 23 at Debert (Martin McNally); Turkey Vulture on March 21, at Port Williams, and young of Prairie Horned Lark at Grand Pre, on May 6 (R.W. Tufts); Turkey Vulture, taken at Barrington on February 19, and Phoebe at Sable River May 19 (H.F. Lewis); Phoebe, May 26, Indigo Bunting, June 4, and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron on May 31, all on Bon Portage Island, Shelburne County (Mrs. Evelyn Richardson). Mrs. Richardson also reports having seen an Oregon Junco on May 1st and mentions that her son-in-law had a Vermilion Flycatcher aboard his fishing-boat near Seal Island, Yarmouth County on May 25th, but these it is felt had better be placed on our hypothetical list for the present, since neither has heretofore been recorded in Nova Scotia.

ROBIE W. TUFTS, President
 N. S. Bird Society,
 Wolfville, N.S.

June 26, 1955.

WHERE TO SEND

Reports of Banded Birds.

James S. Harding of Milton, Queen's County, has noted banded birds among wintering Evening Grosbeaks at his feeder, and this year, on January 6, succeeded in capturing one such male in order to read the number on the band. (It was not a difficult capture since the birds had become so tame they were eating out of hand. Ten minutes after the "ordeal" of band-reading the grosbeak was back eating with the rest of the birds).

The band number was ⁸³¹61512 but Mr. Harding did not know where this should be reported, so applied to the Editor of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, who in turn applied to Mr. W.J.Mills of Halifax (a former "bander") for this information. Mr. Mills then applied to the Canadian Wildlife Service in Ottawa, and they in turn sent on our request to the United States Department of the Interior, Migratory Birds Population Station, from whom we have very recently heard to the effect that they are busy processing tens of thousands of such reports, which must be located among 19,000,000 banded birds in their files (i.e. records of), but will eventually send us the information we desire. They thank us for our co-operation and hope we will be patient, and request that any such inquiries go to the

Bird Banding Laboratory
Migratory Bird Populations Station
Laurel, Maryland, USA 20810

ATTN: Correction Clerk

Members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society should make note of this address and use it in future - and save a small fraction at least of the unavoidable delay in obtaining this sort of information.

MARITIMES SHOREBIRD SURVEY 1976



The Canadian Wildlife Service would again like to request the assistance of volunteer participants for the Maritime Shorebird Survey scheme in 1976. The principal objective of this scheme is to identify and document areas of major importance to shorebirds in the Maritime Provinces, as well as to provide information on routes used by different species and the timing of their migration. Maritimes estuaries are threatened by a variety of industrial pressures (tidal power projects, deep water ports, offshore oil drilling, pollution, etc.) and information gathered on the shorebird surveys will be essential in determining conservation measures for the birds and in assessing the ecological impact of such developments. The surveys will also provide very important baseline information for monitoring future trends in shorebird populations.

Participants are asked to adopt a particular study area in which they regularly count the shorebirds every second week during the southward migration. Results are reported on forms provided by the Canadian Wildlife Service. In 1976, survey dates will be the weekends of 17-18 July; 31 July - 1 August; 14-15 and 28-29 August; 11-12 and 25-26 September; 9-10 and 23-24 October. We are also interested in obtaining information from shorebird areas during the spring migration. In addition to regular counts, information from other areas which you may visit occasionally, e.g. on vacation, is also most useful.

The Maritimes Shorebirds Survey Scheme was started in 1974 and has already provided a great deal of very valuable information on shorebird distribution and migration in the Maritime Provinces. It is most important that this work is continued and extended in order to provide sound information collected over a number of years from which future population trends may be reliably monitored and the impact of proposed developments assessed. The MSS scheme is an outstanding example of the way in which volunteer participants can make an extremely valuable contribution to our knowledge of shorebird migration over a wide geographical area. This is now particularly the case, since the Maritime scheme is being co-ordinated with similar censuses on the eastern seaboard of the U.S., the Caribbean Islands and South America.

The Canadian Wildlife Service would like to hear from anyone who may be able to contribute to the shorebird survey in 1976. Please contact Dr. R.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, KIA 0H3.

PUZZLE

After five hours of sea-watching Eric and Ross left the Northern Light on Brier Island somewhat irritated. When they met Ian they complained that the only noteworthy birds seen were Black Guillemots, of which they had single-figure totals during each of the first three twenty-minute periods. "And we might as well have stopped watching then" grumbled Ross, for if we had taken the product of those first three periods we would have had the same total as we got after all those hours".

"And the average rate of passage was the same as the first hour's total" added Eric.

"But how many Guillemots did you see altogether?" asked Ian.

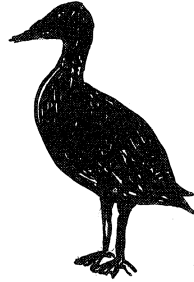
"You can work it out from what we've said" replied Eric and Ross.

"I can't" retorted Ian.

Could he?

TWO FIRSTS FOR NOVA SCOTIAFirst Fulvous Tree Duck SpecimenFIRST FULVOUS

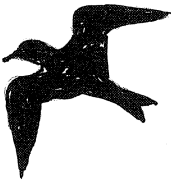
A Fulvous Tree Duck was shot on Bon Portage Island, Shelburne County, Nova Scotia, on January 15, 1975, by a hunter from Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia. A wing from the bird was sent in to the Canadian Wildlife Service on January 19, and was tentatively identified as a Fulvous Tree Duck. That identification was later confirmed by M.Earl Godfrey of the National Museum, where the wing has been retained for reference.



Fulvous Tree Ducks are native to southern United States, Central and South America, and are casual visitants to southern parts of Canada. A flock of 21 was reported from Grand Manan, New Brunswick, in November 1961, and there have been sight records of the species for Nova Scotia. Stuart Tingley reported a Fulvous Tree Duck near Alberton, P.E.I. last September.

FIRST NESTING OF BLACK TERN

Tufts (1973) assigns Black Tern the status of rare visitant in Nova Scotia, occurrences ranging from early June to late December, most frequently during August and September, at various coastal locations throughout the Province.



While canoeing on the Missiquash Marsh, a fresh waterfowl management area at the New Brunswick-Nova Scotia border, Bill Barrow, a wildlife technician for C.W.S. and his wife Eleanor came upon a nest of a Black Tern. Returning on the afternoon of June 12, Mr. Barrow, R.D.Smith and I were able to locate three nests about 100 metres inside the N.S.border, all containing three eggs. The nests were all within 20 metres of each other, and several undiscovered nests were probably

also in the same area, as 12 adult birds noisily hovered over the canoe during the survey.

Black Tern are well established at a couple of locations in south-central New Brunswick, but are relative newcomers to the Chignecto region. Prior to 1966 there were only two records for this area, but the birds have been seen annually in increasing numbers since then at both the Missiquash Marsh and at Tintamarre National Wildlife area near Jolicure, N.B. Nesting of this species at both these locations has been assumed for several years because of the number of adults present throughout the breeding season and the appearance of juveniles in July and August. A.D.Smith first noted Black Tern on the Missiquash in May and June, 1966, and has noted them annually since then in the same area as this year's nests were found. On the night of July 26, 1973, during waterfowl banding operations, two flying juveniles were captured which still had soft, swollen primary quills proving beyond much doubt that the birds had been hatched locally, but on which side of the border they hatched could not be determined.

Stuart Tingley, P.O.Box 1629,
Sackville, N.B.
Jan. 6, 1976.

Report on the Spruce Budworm Symposium

Late in 1975, Nova Scotia Forest Industries Ltd. submitted an application to the Dept. of Lands and Forests to spray against spruce budworm in some of its holdings in northern Cape Breton. Some members of N.S.B.S., as well as several other national and provincial groups became increasingly concerned with the possible dangers of such a spray program, and the lack of suitable information available to the public on the problem. Consequently, it was decided by the groups to co-sponsor a symposium on Spruce Budworm.

The day-long symposium held on January 24 at Dalhousie University provided those in attendance with up-to-date information on all aspects of the budworm problem. Experts from New Brunswick, Ottawa and Nova Scotia contributed to an understanding of the life history and population of the budworm, its status in New Brunswick and the methods of control in present use. The subject of chemical insecticides and their effects on the environment were discussed at length. In addition, the viewpoint of the pulp companies was expressed both by Nova Scotia Forest Industries Ltd. and Scott Paper Co. Ltd., who described the extent of the budworm outbreak in Nova Scotia and the financial loss this outbreak might inflict on their companies.

The complexity of the budworm problem was made apparent throughout the course of the symposium. Although we have an outbreak of serious proportions in the highlands of Cape Breton and parts of mainland Nova Scotia, our climate and geographical location are different enough from those of New Brunswick to discourage a simple adoption of their control schemes. These control schemes have always involved widespread aerial spraying of insecticides. This form of control is no longer aimed at destroying the insect population, but rather at reducing its numbers so that the trees are saved until they can be harvested. To a large extent the spray program is self-perpetuating, for by protecting large areas of mature and over-mature forests, an abundant food supply is maintained for the surviving budworm. These budworms then leave enough offspring to present an equally serious problem the following year, and the spraying must be repeated.

The insecticide Fenitrothyon is now used in New Brunswick and is a probable choice for use in Nova Scotia if spraying does occur. The assurances of the relatively harmless nature of the chemical rest on the fact that recommended dosages are very low and that much of the chemical breaks down rapidly to biologically inactive substances. However, it was pointed out at the symposium that aerial spraying is a very coarse dispersal technique. Due in large part to climatic conditions, amounts of spray to reach the target area vary considerably and local overspraying is inevitable.

Such variation has impeded studies of the effects of the spray on non-target organisms. This is particularly true of birds, one of the organisms most susceptible to the effects of aerial spraying. Song Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, Yellow-throats and Kinglets spend much of their time in the canopy tops, forest edges and brush areas exposed to the highest dosages of the spray. If the spray could be consistently administered at recommended dosages, short-term studies have shown that damage to bird life is minimal. However, because of large variations in the amounts of spray reaching the target areas, no two test situations have been the same. Thus the statements on the short-term effects of the spray have been generalized from very few test outcomes. The long-term effects of Fenitrothyon are virtually unknown.

Following the symposium, the sponsoring groups agreed that there were grounds for several major objections to a spray program in northern Cape Breton. Soon after, we were encouraged to learn that the Department of Lands and Forests recommended to the Cabinet that spraying not be carried out in 1976. Despite this, the Cabinet's decision (February 1) was to spray.

The sponsoring groups feel that the government's decision should be explained to the public. In addition we feel some forum should be set up where public objections to the decision can be made. Since further approval from the Department of the Environment is necessary before spraying begins, public concern could best be aired at a formal public hearing under the direction of the Environmental Control Council, which reports to the Minister of the Environment. Those interested should write directly to the Hon. Jack Hawkins, Minister, Department of the Environment, 1690 Hollis Street, Halifax.

Anne Linton,
Chairman,
Conservation Comm.

MEETING REPORTS

ANNUAL MEETING:

The Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held in the Nova Scotia Museum on Saturday, December 6, 1975 at 2 p.m. Approximately fifty members were present with the President, Robert Lamberton, presiding.

It was moved by Ethel Crathorne, seconded by Dick Brown that the minutes of the last annual general meeting be approved as published in the July Newsletter. Motion carried.

It was moved by Hazel Carmichael, seconded by Chris Cohrs, that the Financial Statement be adopted. Motion carried. The Financial Statement is attached as Appendix 1.

In the absence of the Honorary Auditor, Mr. Willett Mills, the Financial Report of the Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund was presented by the Treasurer, Hazel Carmichael. She moved, Chris Cohrs seconded the adoption of this report. Motion carried. The report is attached as Appendix 11.

The report of the Membership Secretary, Ethel Crathorne (attached as Appendix 111) was presented. She moved, seconded by Ross Anderson, that the report be adopted. Motion carried. It is interesting to note that of the 341 original Charter members, 51 have a record of unbroken membership.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee (Ian McLaren), Roger Pocklington presented the report as follows:

President	-	Dr. Fred Dobson
Vice-President	-	Mr. Ross Anderson
Secretary	-	Miss Margaret Clark
Treasurer	-	Miss Hazel Carmichael
Membership- Secretary	-	Miss Ethel Crathorne
Editor	-	Dr. Phyllis Dobson

Nominations for two members-at-large were called for. Shirley Cohrs moved, Blair Stevens seconded the nomination of Ralph Connors.

Sylvia Fullerton moved, Winnie Cairns seconded, the nomination of Anne Linton.

Phyllis Hemeon moved, Dick Brown seconded the motion that nominations cease. Motion carried.

The Honorary Auditor, Mr. Willett Mills, and the Honorary Solicitor, Mr. R. A. Kanisberg, both agreed to continue in their positions. The President thanked both Mr. Mills and Mr. Kanisberg for their continuing support, and the work they have done for the Bird Society.

The President then gave a brief report. He first thanked the members of the Executive for their co-operation over the year, and especially to Tony Locke, and Ross Anderson for preparing the Field Trips. He then expressed the appreciation of the Society to Roger Pocklington for seeing through the arrangements and publication of the new Nova Scotia Bird Society Official Field Check List. The publication would not have been possible if it were not for Talbot's Book Store and the generosity of Mr. Talbot in donating 2000 check lists to the Bird Society. Each member received a copy of the Check List with the November Newsletter. The smaller check lists have been reprinted and are also available.

The President reported, with regret, that Dick Brown was unable to continue as Managing Editor. Shirley Cohrs was appointed to replace him. Appreciation was expressed to the Editorial Board for the restructuring and "dressing up" of the Newsletter.

The "most unprecedented departure" undertaken by the Bird Society this past year, according to the President, was the creating of the Conservation Committee with Miss Anne Linton as Chairperson. The main undertaking of this committee was the report on the Wreck Cove Project in which Paul Keddy worked with Anne Linton.

The President then read the Notice of Motion to Amend the Constitution of the Nova Scotia Bird Society. Due to the Postal Strike the Notice was not able to be distributed to membership thirty days prior to the meeting; hence it is expected that the motion be brought before the general meeting to be held at the end of January. The motion is as follows:-

"The Executive may not authorize the spending of any individual sum or monies for any item in the excess of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars except permission be granted by a two-thirds vote in the affirmative of those members present at any general meeting".

The meeting was then turned over to Fred Dobson, the new President, who expressed thanks to Bob Lamberton for his work in the Society as President for the past year. He hoped Bob would use his influence as a member of the Chignecto Natural History Society to encourage them to take a more active part in the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

Under New Business, Blair Stevens spoke about the Annual Display at the Museum. He hoped that the Society would use this opportunity to create a favorable image of the Bird Society to the public and that more emphasis would be placed on this Exhibit. Ethel Crathorne reported that Candice Butcher had informed her the Display would be next May or June.

A number of members expressed the hope that close liaison with the newly formed Halifax Field Naturalists would take place.

The President responded to those two concerns stating he hoped the Society would allow more room for both those people who are interested in birds and those interested in other aspects of nature as well. Mr. Dobson promised that attention to the Museum Display would be uppermost on the agenda of the Executive and that he hoped Field trips would be arranged with the Field Naturalists.

The President went on to say there would be four policy cornerstones during the year he was president: first, the Executive will enter public issues and learn all about them; second, these issues would publicize information honestly; third, he would try to cultivate action not reaction, and fourth, take part in education through schools and the press.

Dr. H.L.Moffatt then presented the Puffin of the Year Award to Dr. Lloyd Macpherson. The tribute to Dr. Macpherson is attached as Appendix IV.

Peter Austin-Smith, Biologist with the Department of Lands and Forest Wildlife Division in Kentville, explained the Winter Bald Eagle Inventory being conducted from January through mid-March. He invited volunteers to assist with this survey and to take forms that he had brought with him.

Following a coffee break, Tony Locke introduced the special speaker, Mr. Jerry Parker of the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville. His slide presentation, along with his talk enlightened the members about wildlife studies in the Arctic, as well as the habits of birds and animals, showing the effects of climate and man in the balance of nature in the north.

GENERAL MEETING, Jan. 22.

At the monthly General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society held at the Nova Scotia Museum, Thursday, January 22, 1976, two motions were passed by the members present.

Ralph Ballam moved, Barbara Hinds seconded the motion that the Executive be empowered to approve and pay for the Newsletter expenses for the year 1976, i.e. from the 1975 Annual General Meeting to the 1976 Annual General Meeting. Motion carried.

Ethel Crathorne moved, Eric Cooke seconded the Notice of Motion to Amend the Constitution of the Bird Society. The motion reads:

"The Executive may not authorize the spending of any individual sum or monies for any item in the excess of Two hundred and fifty dollars except permission be granted by a two-thirds vote in the affirmative of those members present at any general meeting. Motion carried."

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Jan. 14.

A meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society Executive was held at the home of Ethel Crathorne on Wednesday, January 14, 1976, at 7.30 p.m., with

the President, Dr. Fred Dobson, in the chair. All regular members were present.

The minutes of the December 10th meeting were approved as typed.

January 22nd is the scheduled date for a General Meeting at which time the Secretary will summarize the Executive meeting; the amendment to the Constitution will be brought forward; Field Trips will be announced, and the President will make some comments as well.

The Membership Secretary sent out letters with an excellent response - over \$500 returned in membership dues as of this date.

Hazel Carmichael moved and Eric Cooke seconded the adoption of the Financial Statement. Motion carried. The affiliation fee to Canadian Wildlife Federation is \$25.00 which has been forwarded.

The President reported that the Museum Display will take place April 29-May 19 and that Heather Harbord of Dartmouth Library agreed to undertake the responsibility for the Display. She hopes to make this a human interest display centering around the activities of the Society. She also plans to make use of volunteers from the membership, to revise the pamphlet put out for the exhibit two years ago and to use slides of Field Trips and birds taken by members.

The Secretary read the report of the Cape Breton Branch. Officers for the coming year (1976) are:

President:	Roy Blakeburn, R.R.#3, Sydney.
Vice-President:	Wally MacKinnon, 176 Columbia St., Sydney
Treasurer:	Mrs. Ethel Blakenurn, R.R.#3, Sydney
Secretary:	Mrs. Hedley Hopkins, 43 Central St., Sydney
Records Secretary:	Mrs. Sara MacLean, 52 Catherine St., Glace Bay

Meetings in Cape Breton are held the last Friday of the month.

Anne Linton reported that the two main goals of the Conservation Committee are:

- (1) the committee must acquire an adequate information base by establishing effective communication with appropriate individuals and agencies in the province, and
- (2) the information acquired should be circulated to the membership and the public at large and, when appropriate, acted upon by the committee either independently or in co-operation with conservation orientated organizations.

Two Bills, one Federal, the other Provincial, were brought to the attention of the Executive:

Bill C253, a private member's Bill in its second reading in Parliament calls for the establishment of a body to be called Canada Seacoast Conservation Authority.

Bill 63 had its first reading in the Provincial Legislature and is called an Act to Preserve and Protect the Beaches of Nova Scotia.

The wording of parts of both acts has created concern to members.

Under New Business, the President reported on the Spruce Budworm Symposium to be held Saturday, Jan. 24, 1976 at 9.30 a.m. at Dalhousie University. Scott Cunningham is the organizer. The NSBS is one of the six sponsors.

It was moved by Eric Cooke, seconded by Ross Anderson, that the Nova Scotia Bird Society support the Symposium on the Spruce Budworm at the Life Science Building, Dalhousie University, on Jan. 24, 1976 and to accept a limited cost, under \$100, towards the organization of this meeting. Motion carried.

Ethel Crathorne reported that the change in the system of addressing the Newsletter and correspondence from the Museum will take place following the publication of the next Newsletter. The old plates will no longer be used.

Mrs. George (Nellie) Snyder of Crousetown, Lunenburg County, has offered to act as a contact person for her area. She will be sent additional notices, such as the notices of the monthly general meetings.

Peter Hope expressed the wish that a weekly column on Nature be written for the Halifax Herald. This has been discussed in past years. The problem is getting a commitment by someone willing to take on this responsibility.

Dick Parker of the N.S. Wildlife Federation expressed an interest in a nesting box program. This also was discussed but no action taken.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 7.30 p.m. at the home of the President.

FEB. 18, 1976

A meeting of the Executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held at the home of the President on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 1976. As well as the President, other members present were: Ross Anderson, Ethel Crathorne, Hazel Carmichael, Phyllis Dobson, Ralph Connors, Shirley Cohrs and Margaret Clark.

Under Old Business, the President reported that the Museum Display, under Heather Harbord's direction, was going well. The Centre Panel has been drafted and plans to complete the Display are in good hands.

The President also reported on the two Beach Protection Bills brought to the attention of the Executive at the last meeting. With regard to Bill C253, Anne Linton, Chairman of the Conservation Committee, with the assistance of a lawyer, Bob Dailey, after reading through the Coastal Zone Framework for Management in Atlantic Canada, drew up a report. In this is pointed out the objections to the Bill and a suggested outline of a Coastal Zone Management Authority.

The other Bill, No. 63, was assented to by the Lt. Governor on the 27th March, 1976. The Bill is entitled An Act to Preserve and Protect the Beaches of Nova Scotia and was introduced when Maurice E. Delory was the Minister of Lands and Forests. The present Minister of Lands and Forests is the Hon. Alexander M. Cameron.

A report on the Spruce Budworm Symposium held January 24th was given by the President. He considered it a first-rate conference with representatives from the Pulp and Paper Companies, the Dept. of Lands and Forests as well as Ecology personnel. The Dept. of Lands and Forests recommended that the Government wait a year before spraying. However, a week after the

Symposium and this recommendation, the Government gave the go-ahead to spray 100,000 acres of forest in Cape Breton. The Agencies who sponsored the Symposium issued a press release on February 18, pointing out to the public that the Government went against the recommendations of its own experts.

Under New Business, it was noted that notices about the General Monthly Meeting to be held on Thursday, Feb. 25, 1967, have been mailed to members.

During the period of March 13-April 3, April 11-30, the Vice-President will preside in the absence of the President.

The President of the Resources Council, Don MacDougall, expressed to the President of the Bird Society the hope that Executive Members of each sit in on meetings held by the other. This was agreed upon by the members present.

MARCH 24, 1976.

A meeting of the Executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held at the home of Shirley Cohrs on Wednesday, March 24, 1976. Eric Cooke presided in the absence of the President and the Vice-President. Other members present were Ethel Crathorne, Hazel Carmichael, Shirley Cohrs, Anne Linton, Ralph Connors and Margaret Clark.

Ralph Connors reported that the Museum Display is under control. The display takes place between April 29 - May 19.

Anne Linton stated that the report drawn up regarding Private Members' Bill C253 was sent to the Member but no reply has been received.

Hazel Carmichael moved, Shirley Cohrs seconded the adoption of the Financial Report. Motion carried.

After a discussion of our financial situation and the need for a typewriter to be used in the preparation of the Newsletter, Shirley Cohrs was appointed to look into prices of second-hand electric typewriters.

Ethel Crathorne reported 225 single members, 74 family, and 23 student for a total of 322 which compares favourably with the membership of other years at the same time.

Ralph Connors presented a suggestion of Rosemary Eaton's that a portfolio of photographs of Conrad's Beach be compiled. Included also could be descriptions, explanations, and a list of birds sighted on Conrad's. This portfolio would be available should it be necessary to make a proposal to the Government at any time.

Shirley Cohrs read a Press Release, dated Montreal, March 10, 1976, Imperial Tobacco Limited, dealing with grants and awards. A copy is attached to these minutes in the Minute Book. A copy was also forwarded to Willett Mills of the Sanctuary and Trust Fund.

Meeting adjourned at 9.0 p.m.

Margaret A. Clark,
Secretary.

We were grieved to hear of the death of Mrs. Robert Kanisberg on April 9, 1976, and extend our sympathy to her husband, Robert Kanisberg, Q.C., our honorary solicitor. Mrs. Kanisberg will be sadly missed at our Museum meetings.

Errata:

NSBS Newsletter, Volume 17, No. 1, April 1975.

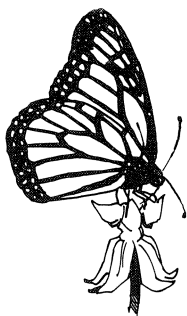
Page 5: Under GANNETS, CORMORANTS, line 10, the Double-created Cormorant was not seen on the Salmon River CBC. The one reported on the Sydneys CBC was withdrawn after further consideration.

Page 7: Under Shovelers, "30-5" should read "3-5".

Page 18: Under Black Guillemots, line 6, there was no Common Murre on the Brier I. CBC; the one recorded was subsequently withdrawn.

Puzzle Solution

No. There are two possible answers to the numbers seen in the first three 20-min. periods: 3, 4 and 5, or 2, 5 and 7. Ian therefore could not tell whether they had seen a total of 60 guillemots or 70 guillemots, though he could be certain it was one or the other.



MEMBERSHIP and DUES

Single Membership	\$4.00
Family Membership (one mailing)	6.00
Student Membership (Bona-fide student registered for full time attendance at any institution of learning)	2.00

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Application for Membership

I, hereby apply
for membership in the NOVA SCOTIA
(Single, Family, Student)
BIRD SOCIETY for the year 19.... and enclose \$.....
as annual membership dues.

Mailing Address

.....

.....

To:

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

