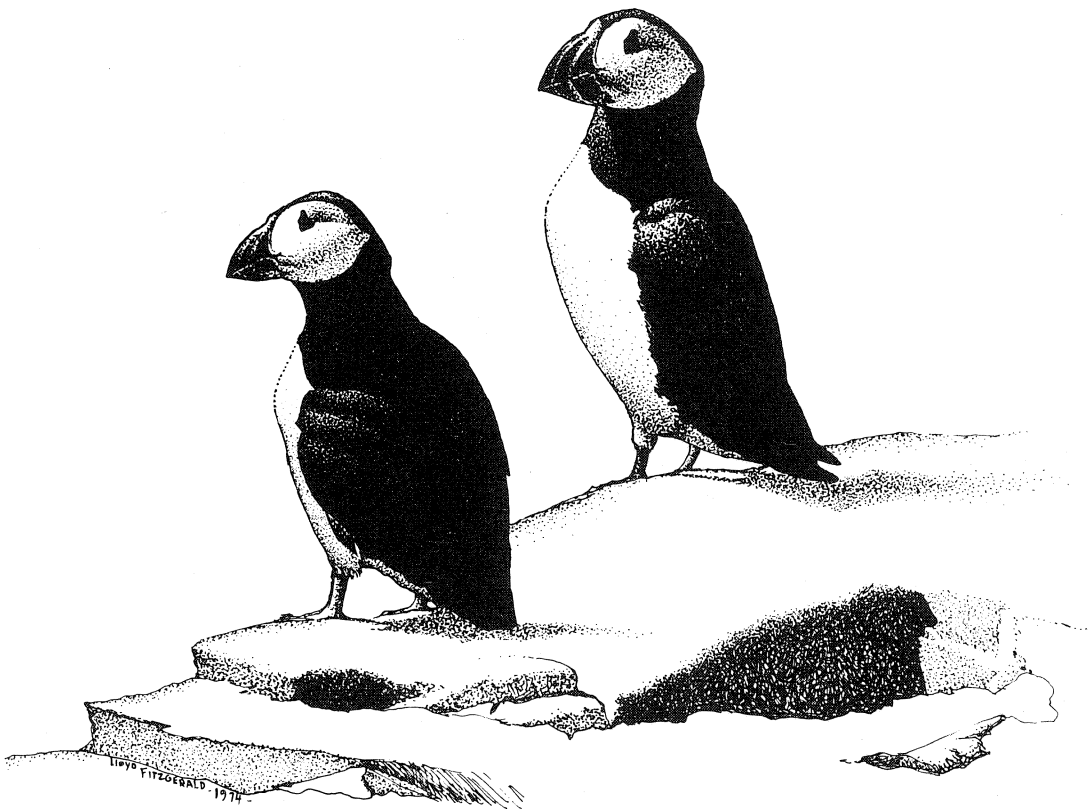


NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

MAY 1978
VOLUME 20 NUMBER 2.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 20, Number 2

May, 1978

EDITORIAL BOARD

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Editor-in-Chief | Shirley Cohrs |
| Records Editor | Phyllis Dobson |
| Photographic Editor | Ralph Connor |
| Christmas Counts | Mary and Ross Anderson |
| Seasonal Bird Reports | C.R.K. Allen |
| | R.G.B. Brown |
| | Shirley Cohrs |
| | Phyllis Dobson |
| | Robert Lamberton |
| | Eric L. Mills |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| Winter Birds | 57 |
| Field Trip Reports | 79 |
| Up-coming Field Trips | 80 |
| Christmas Counts | 81 |
| Planting for the Birds | 94 |
| Letters to the Editor | 96 |
| Birds of New Zealand - Sara MacLean | 98 |
| A Winter's Visit to South Africa - Lloyd Macpherson | 100 |
| Spring Migration - Eric Cooke | 106 |

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

ISSN 0383-9567

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Incorporated 1957.

The Winter of 1977-78 in Nova Scotia.

The introduction to our last Newsletter ended by saying "Look out for Northern Shrikes, Bohemian Waxwings, Redpolls and Purple Sandpipers". This proved to be a look in the right direction, since we did have these species present in better than average numbers this last winter. We also had an exceptionally large population of Black-capped Chickadees, Pine Grosbeaks and Tree Sparrows and among our larger birds, more numbers and kinds of Owls than usually reported.

On the other hand we had exceptionally small populations of our winter finches and sparrows - less than half the number of Evening Grosbeaks we had provided for, virtually no Purple Finches, few Goldfinches; Juncos, Fox and Song Sparrows not seen at all in many places. Since these are all "feeder" birds people who maintain feeders found it a dull and unrewarding winter season.

This unusual aspect of our winter bird population was not confined to Nova Scotia, it was widespread. William Townsend in Guillemot, the publication of the Sorrento, Maine, Scientific Society, for January-February, 1978, wrote that finch and sparrow reports were down, Evening Grosbeak numbers well down but that Pine Grosbeaks were everywhere, Common Redpolls almost everywhere, and coming to feeders. He also mentioned the presence of Bohemian Waxwings and the ubiquitous presence of the Northern Shrike.

The weather in Maine was very like ours also, but we cannot blame the weather for the shortage of birds. Possibly the early freeze-up discouraged Kingfishers and herons, very few of which have been reported, but on the whole it was not a severe winter. December settled in to day after day of cold and overcast, but January was quite mild. Many bodies of water came unfrozen, both lakes and estuaries. These froze again in February, which month however had a high record for sunshine, 55 hours above normal which is 125.

From Pictou Eric Holdway wrote "Pictou Harbor was permanently frozen over during the first week of January. October to February was favorable for birds and January set a record for mild and wet weather. There was much bare ground until the second week of February when snow covered the ground to a depth of two to three feet overall, and most weedy plants were buried".

At least one storm each month brought high winds, sometimes accompanied by snow, but the snow did not accumulate to any extent in the southern part of the province - each lot disappeared before the next lot arrived. (This was not the case over the rest of the province, see above). The January 13 storm, accompanied by driving snow and very high tides may have been responsible for a number of unusual bird sightings. On the morning of January 15 a Purple Gallinule was found, dead, on the road between Pubnico and Argyle; the next day a Gadwall was shot at Pubnico; later a Barn Owl was discovered, dead, in a lobster trap in the same area, and the week following (Jan. 16-21) a Varied Thrush, a bright male, paid a visit to a feeder in Liverpool.

We have records of all of these species, but the time and place of finding suggest involuntary arrival this (last) January, also the thrush and the owl are real outsiders. Perhaps one should say "have been" outsiders - the Varied Thrush came here last winter, and may become regular as it has in the eastern States.

In the introduction to our Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's) in this issue there is a comparison given between bird population numbers this year and last. Differences thus demonstrated may be "real" or may reflect differences in viewing conditions or arrival/departure times - more likely the latter, if you note the species involved. "Real" is used above to mean a genuine all-season difference, which may be verified by consulting the report to follow. How significant such differences are remains to be seen.

Many thanks from the Editors to the members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society listed below for their contributions to the winter bird report.

Phyllis R. Dobson
Records Editor.

List of Contributors:

CRK Allen, Mary Anderson, Kirk Atkinson, Peter J. Austin-Smith, Albert Bailey, Bob Bancroft, Roy Blakesburn(s), Leslie F.S. Blackburn, Douglas Bourque, George R. Boyd, Marion P.S. Brown, Roger Burrows, Roland D. Chaisson, Margaret C. Cheesman, Helen Clark, Margaret A. Clark, Evelyn E. Coates, JL, JS, CJ,LA, Cohrs, Eric H. Cooke, Ethel Crathorne, Russell J. Crosby, G. Crowell, Norman Cunningham, A.A. d'Entremont, Delisle J. d'Entremont, Oliver d'Entremont, Raymond S. d'Entremont, Andrew C. D'Eon, Bertin F. D'Eon, Ted C. D'Eon, Con Desplanque, Gerald E. Dickie, F.W.Dobson(s), Phyllis R. Dobson, Christopher B. Elson, Rachel Erskine, Allison Ferguson, Clarence Ferguson, Layton Ferguson, Mary Ferguson, D.W. Finch, Emmerson Fiske, Bernard L. Forsythe, Roberta B. Fraser, Edmund Green(s), Rene Haldane, Edgar & Vernita Hamilton, Thelma P. Hawkins, Chris W. Helleiner, Frank Hennessey, Marion W. Hilton, Stephen Homer, Peter Hope, Hedley Hopkins, D.W.MacDonald, Robert C. MacDonald, George MacInnis, M. E. MacIntyre, Pamela R. MacKay, Larry MacKenzie, David MacKinnon, Owen M. MacKinnon, Roy MacKinnon, Sara MacLean, E. MacLeod, Gordon MacLeod, J. McNichol, G. MacPherson, Wilfred Marshall, W. Martell(s), J. & M. Meagher, E. Meikle, R,S, & J. Meyerowitz, Eric L. Mills, Jean and Bill Morse, Sue Morse, Ethelda Murphy, Dora Myers, Sandra Myers, Oscar Nause(s), G.B. Nickerson, Fred J. Payne, George D. Perry, George and Jan Post, I.J. Pothier, Merrill H. Prime, Joyce Purchase, Annie Raymond, Ella E. Roland, Robin Rymer, Barry C. Sabeau, Lawrence Shaw, G. Shea, S. BJ,L. & B. Smith, Nellie Snyder, EP and F. Spalding, Ann Spencer, Arthur Spencer, Morton M. Stewart, B. Stoddart, Charles Symonds, Karl & Wendie Tay, Stuart I. Tingley, Robert M. Turner, Marian Tuttle, Dick Veit, Peter D, Vickery, Terry Wentzell, W. E. Whitehead, T. M. Workman.

- - - - -

Many of the birding areas in Nova Scotia "crop up" regularly in the following reports. To prevent repetition of the 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 Harbour, Brass Hill, Upper and Lower Ohio, Upper Clyde, Lockeport, Matthews Lake. |
| Queen's Co. | Port Joli, Port Hebert, Turtle Lake. |
| Lunenburg Co. | Cherry Hill, Broad Cove, Petite Riviere, Green Bay, Crousetown, Crescent Beach, Bayport. |
| Halifax Co. | Grand Desert, Three Fathom Harbour, Conrad's Beach, Lawrencetown, Martinique Beach, Cole Harbour, Mooseland. |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Digby Co. | Brier Island, Smith's Cove. |
| Colchester Co. | Economy. |
| Annapolis Co. | Wilmot, Round Hill, Sandy Bottom Lake. |
| King's Co. | Wolfville. |
| Cumberland Co. | Lusby Marsh. |
| Guysborough Co. | Wine Harbour. |
| APBS | Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary |
| CBHNP | Cape Breton Highlands National Park. |
| CBC's | Christmas Bird Counts. |

LOONS AND GREBES

Reports of COMMON LOONS are sparse during December and January and all were from the South Shore and Cape Breton waters. There was a definite increase in both these regions in February - 55 sightings for the South Shore and 18 from Cape Breton's Atlantic coast. In March sightings were fewer again but more general; 16 from South Shore, 10 from eastern Cape Breton waters, 5 from Bay of Fundy and 6 from Cape Breton's Gulf shore.

On March 25 the Cohrs were able to study an ARCTIC LOON under good viewing conditions and were able to compare it with a Common Loon as both birds could be seen together through the 'scope. In 1970 at least two Arctic Loons were seen in the same area by various members of the Society some of whom were familiar with the species in its normal haunts.

There are just two December reports of RED-NECKED GREBES, both at South Bar, Cape Breton Dec. 28 (RB). One lone January record was at Cape Sable on the 4th. Six were there on Feb. 12 and 7, from March 1-23 off the south point, with 15 more off the eastern side of the Cape (SS). Other February records were of one on the 8th at Lower West Pubnico (RSd'E), 9, on the 12th off Bush's Island, Lun.Co. (Cohrs), 1, Chebogue Point on the 15th (CRKA), 3, Cape Porchu on the 19th (MWH) and 2 in the Louisbourg area on the 17th and 26th (RB). The only other sightings were one on the 8th of March at Pinkney's Point and one at Chebogue on the 14th (MWH, CRKA). It will be noted that out of a total of 49 sightings, all but 5 were from the South Shore during February and March.

HORNED GREBES were down in numbers this year according to reports which totalled just 9, six from the South Shore and one each from the Bay of Fundy, eastern Cape Breton and Northumberland Strait. Sightings by months were 2 in December, 4 in February and 3 in March.

PIED-BILLED GREBES have no business in these waters during the winter but a few always seem to get left behind. This year there was one at Lockeport Dec. 12 (EF), one at East Jordan Dec. 26 (RJC) and one in the Chebogue estuary Feb. 13 (CRKA).

CRKA Ed.



FULMARS, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS, GANNETS, CORMORANTS.

Our NORTHERN FULMAR sightings are all well out to sea. Richard Elliott saw 2 on January 21, about 30 miles east of Canso, and Steve Woodley found them quite common on the edge of the continental shelf, 120 miles SE of Halifax, between January 23-February 4. These latter birds were in the ratio of about 6 Light to 1 Dark phase. He also saw a STORM-PETREL there on January 24 and 3 on January 29, tentatively identified as WILSON'S, as well as single GANNETS on January 30 and 31.

Almost all the CORMORANT records were GREATS. 1 or 2 were seen regularly all winter in Halifax Harbour (Ethel Crathorne). Other reports, usually of less than half a dozen birds, are from New Victoria and South Bar near Sydney, December 28 (Roger Burrows), Eel Brook February 1-3 and Yarmouth Harbour February 22 (CRKA), Bras d'Or March 15 (RBF) and in Grand Passage, Brier Island, March 21-22 (D&R Mac-kinnon). The biggest flock was 15 birds at Bayport on March 21 (JSC and JCC). Stuart Tingley had the only positive sighting of a DOUBLE-CRESTED - an immature bird gorged with fish on the Pugwash River, December 4.

Brier Island seabirds, July 1977: a postscript.

The MANX SHEARWATERS seen on the September 3 pelagic trip were already hanging around Brier Island on July 29, and I saw 6 of them. As many people know by now, Manx Shearwaters have made a very rapid colonisation of an island in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, on top of their "one-off" colonisation of an island off Cape Cod. Colonisation of intermediate sites seems very likely. The most reliable way of knowing whether Manx are breeding or attempting to breed is to be on the right island at night; the calls are unforgettable - a kind of eldritch screech in the rhythm of a smoker's cough which sounds like the original bat out of hell. GREATER and SOOTY SHEARWATERS were there in numbers on both July 20 and 29; they were gorging themselves on an unprecedented invasion of sand-lance, as well as the usual euphausiid shrimps. There were 6 GANNETS and a POMARINE JAEGER on July 20. The jaeger was in rather scruffy, Intermediate-phase plumage and, to lend point to Eric Mills' article in the last Newsletter, I at first thought it might be a South Polar Skua. The dark cap and paler neck of scruffy jaegers can give the effect of the Skua's pale nape, so be careful! The South Polar Skua (if it was a South Polar Skua) I saw on the Grand Banks in June had a definite golden tinge to the nape, and its fairly heavy build seemed more like a Skua than even so big a jaeger as the Pomarine.

RGGB Ed.

HERON, EGRET

January GREAT BLUE HERONS were reported only from Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties; Jan. 5 at Yarmouth (CRKA) and Jan. 8 and 17 (2 birds) at Shag Harbour (T.C.D'E, E&V Hamilton). A single February sighting, from an aerial survey of St. George's Bay, is reported with some hesitation (Feb. 16, Bob Bancroft). A single individual at Pubnico, Mar. 29 (E&V Hamilton) was probably a returning migrant. Phyllis Dobson and Charlie Allen report that a GREAT EGRET seen during the fall at Glenwood (Yarmouth Co.) remained at least until Dec. 4.

RL Ed.

GEESE AND DUCKS

The fall movement of CANADA GEESE in the Antigonish Harbour area was first noted Oct. 14 when 72 were counted. Numbers there peaked in late November and early December (Nov. 24, 412; Dec. 9, 361; Dec. 16, 492). Last seen were two birds on Dec. 22 (Can. Wildlife Census and RDC). Migrants were also noted at Sandy Bottom Lake, flock of 50 Dec. 7-8 (MCC GBN); at St. Esprit Dec. 16 (RM); at Wine Harbour Jan. 2 (GM) and at Port Howe Dec. 4 (SIT). Numbers of wintering geese at Port LeHebert, Sable River and at Cole Harbour-Lawrence-town appeared to be about normal. There were 2000-3000 at the former locality while at the latter the 1820 reported on the Christmas Counts had increased to 3000+ by Feb. 18 and to 5000+ by Mar. 12 (RMT, EHC, CBE). The "many" reported at Starr's Point near the Grand Pré in late February (WM per RE) may have been an early spring movement rather than a wintering flock. Incidentally a number of other reports received of geese on the move in March are being held for the Spring Migration Report. A small flock at Surette's Island Feb. 16 (CRKA) and 100 in Pubnico Harbour Feb. 28 (E&VH) may have been wintering birds "frozen out" of the Melbourne Sanctuary.

BRANT often stay late and arrive early, although 150 at Freeport, Digby Co. (MHP) Jan. 1, and 8 the same date at Matthew's Lake (RMT) could well have been wintering birds. The largest fall movement reported was 2000 at Starr's Point Dec. 9 (GRB), and later migrants were reported at Cape Sable where 10 tarried for several weeks after appearing on Dec. 10 (Smiths) - and from the vicinity of Outer Bald Island Dec. 28 (BFd'E). A flock of 20-30 at Brier Island Feb. 8 (AB, D&RM) was probably the vanguard of the spring migration.

MALLARDS were reported from Lingan Dec. 28 (RB), East Middle Sable Jan. 22 (RMT), both single birds; and about a dozen pairs wintered at Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth (ECra). BLACK DUCKS winter in considerable numbers in the province and it is difficult therefore to spot any migratory movements. According to the Canadian Wildlife Census numbers in Antigonish Harbour area built up to close to 300 in November and fell off sharply in early December, possible because of the freeze-up. Localities which were "high-liners" on the CBC's were: Port LeHebert 833; Yarmouth 622; Wolfville 586 and Economy 537. There were still about 400 birds at their wintering grounds at Port LeHebert Mar. 24 (RMT), 300 at Cole Harbour Jan. 28 (EHC); about 500 wintered in the Bass River-Five Islands area (FS) and a helicopter survey of the St. George's Bay-Ballantynes-Havre Boucher area on Feb. 11 produced 558 birds (BB).

A GADWALL was shot at Pubnico Point Jan. 16 and the wings sent to Canadian Wildlife Service and the Nova Scotia Museum for identification (Od'E).

A PINTAIL in aberrant plumage, possibly a hybrid was seen at Annapolis Causeway by Jean and Bill Morse Mar. 18. The markings of head and neck were typical Pintail but the breast was gray. Other reports for this species are rather scanty: males at Martinique and Chezzetcook on Jan. 24 and 28 (RCM, EHC); 2 at Cherry Hill and at Allendale on Mar. 23-24 (Cohrs and RMT). Several rugged GREEN-WINGED TEALS elected to spend the winter in Nova Scotia: 3 at Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth (ECra et al.) still there in late March; and one at Sunday Point, Yarmouth Co., Jan. 5 and for several days thereafter (CRKA). Ethel Crathorne reports an AMERICAN WIGEON at Sullivan's Pond as follows: "a scruffy-looking male Jan. 15/78, by Mar. 26 in beautiful breeding plumage". A male WOOD DUCK in full breeding plumage at Greenwood, Yar. Co., Dec. 4 is one of the latest records for this species (CRKA, PRD). A female REDHEAD "keeping company with the Scaup" at Rocky Run, Hfx Co., is the only record this season for this species (EHC). The last of the RING-NECKED DUCK fall migration was reported

by Con Desplanque, who saw 10, Nov. 26 at APBS. A very late straggler shot at Quinan, Yar. Co., Dec. 10 was reported by Raymond S. d'Entremont. The Cohrs report GREATER SCAUP as arriving very late at their wintering quarters at Bayport and vicinity, Lun. Co. - only 12 there on Dec. 30, with 60 in the LaHave River and 150 at Crescent Beach. By Mar. 21 the Bayport flock had grown to 3500+ with an additional 200 off Crescent Beach. Elsewhere Scaup flocks were also small through most of the winter; the peak for Antigonish Harbour area was 207 Dec. 29 (Can. Wildlife Survey), while similar numbers were reported by Christmas Count parties at Digby, Port LeHebert and Broad Cove. A flock of 300 at Allendale Bay Jan. 13 (RMT) was the only other of any size during early winter. The usual pre-spring movement of this species began on schedule: a flock of 100 showed up at their regular feeding grounds at Rocky Run Feb. 4 and their numbers had doubled by Feb. 11 (EHC). On Feb. 22 a small raft of 40-50 was first noted in Indian Bay near The Sluice, Yar. Co., and on Mar. 12 a flock of approx. 1000 appeared in Salt Bay, which is the upper region of Indian Bay (CRKA, PRD). This flock is still present at time of writing (April 3).

COMMON GOLDENEYES were apparently scarce in November; besides the few reports in the last issue of the Newsletter the only report for that month was 24 at Antigonish Harbour (Can. Wildlife Survey). In December however they were practically everywhere and showed up in 20 of the 26 CBC's. Greatest numbers for the month were 911 from South Shore and 332 from Northumberland Strait area. Sightings dropped sharply during January and February perhaps because inclement weather kept birders indoors, for in March the numbers jumped again. However this time about 1800 of the 1822 birds sighted were in just three places: 300+ in the Salt Bay-Indian Bay-Melbourne region; over 500 at Port LeHebert and about 1000 at Bayport (CRKA, PRD, RMT, JSC, CJC). Sightings of BARROW'S GOLDENEYES were from Northumberland Strait and Cape Breton waters: there were 2 at Port Phillip, Cumb. Co., Dec. 27 (DWF, PDV, SIT et al.); 7 at Pugwash same date and same observers; 3 at Pugwash Jan. 29 and 9 again at Pugwash Feb. 18 & 26 (SIT). The Cape Breton birds were: 1, on the 4th and 17th of Feb. and 2 on the 26th of Mar. at Louisbourg, and 1, at South Bar Dec. 28 (RB).

It is interesting that on the Christmas Counts BUFFLEHEADS were seen on ten of the fourteen counts in the Bay of Fundy and south regions but not at all from anywhere else. There were however 4 of this species seen in Antigonish Harbour Dec. 29 (Can. Wildlife Census) and there was 1, at the Glace Bay Sanctuary Feb. 18 (RB). No large concentrations were seen anywhere this winter, the biggest for which actual numbers were given being 58 at Sable River Feb. 1 (RMT)-although Annie Raymond reports "large flocks" at Smith's Cove from November to February.

The only November report of OLDSQUAWS is from Wine Harbour, Eastern Shore, where Gordon MacLeod heard them on the 12th. In December they were heavily reported chiefly because of the CBC's, highest numbers being 241 at Broad Cove, 131 at Halifax East, 153 at Brier I. and 175 at Tidnish. In January there was only a handful of reports: "heard" at Wine Harbour (GM), half-a-dozen in Yarmouth area (PRD et al.), "numerous" at Economy (FH), 3 at Louisbourg and Sydney (RB) and 26 in the Mira, C.B. area (HH). In February numbers of these ducks reported increased somewhat: 112 from the South Shire, 15 from Bay of Fundy and 93 from Cape Breton. March sightings were 43 from the South Shore, 125 from Bay of Fundy, 31 from Cape Breton. On CBC's HARLEQUIN DUCKS were recorded from four areas: 1, at Brier; 3, at Port L'Hebert. and 2 each at Broad Cove and Halifax West. Three other Harlequins were seen: 1, Jan. 1 at North Sydney (HH); another or the same bird at the same location Dec. 30 (RB), and one was shot in early January at West Pubnico, reported by Oliver d'Entremont. Wintering COMMON EIDERS were found almost exclusively along the South

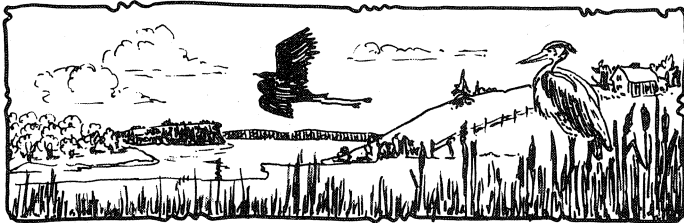
Shore and the lower Bay of Fundy. Of the approximately 4400 sightings reported, 3500 were from the former region and 880 from the latter. As usual most sightings were in December when birders were out in force on the CBC's, and again in March when they began to come out of hibernation.

The last of the Scoter migration for the Upper Bay of Fundy was one WHITE-WINGED at Lower Economy Dec. 23 (FH) although there were 10-20 wintering farther down at Annapolis Royal during January (AR) and several seen at various points in Cape Breton waters during January and February (RB). The only SURF SCOTER reports were of 3 at Whyocomagh Nov. 22; 11, near Louisbourg Feb. 18; 14, probably of this species at Boularderie Shore Mar. 12 (RB), and a wounded bird at Lower Wedgeport Jan. 20 (IJP). The only wintering BLACK SCOTERS were 10 at Bush I., Lun. Co. Feb. 12 (Cohrs) and 1, at Louisbourg Feb. 17 (RB). We are considering all March reports of this species as spring migrants and shall give them in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The Gulf region-Northumberland Strait and western Cape Breton waters were certainly "high liners" for COMMON MERGANSER reports - 2126 birds seen from November through February, with the South Shore a poor second with 569. Bay of Fundy region produced about 125 of which 68 were seen on the Wolfville Christmas Count; and Cape Breton had 216, about 86 of these being CBC sightings. Largest number seen on any one date was 629 in the Antigonish Harbour area Dec. 1 (Can. Wildlife Census).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were reported in good numbers through December to March from the South Shore and eastern Cape Breton waters. In the Bay of Fundy area 106 were seen on CBC's and 26 in March but none in between. In the Gulf waters 23 were seen during November and none thereafter. Five HOODED MERGANSERS at Port Joli Jan. 2 is an unusually late record for this species (RMT).

CRKA Ed.



DIURNAL RAPTORS

This winter's GOSHAWK reports are disturbingly sparse. The latest of four early winter sightings was Jan. 15 (Pleasant Lake, Yar. Co., CRKA) and the next Goshawk reported was inspecting Frank Hennessey's feeder at Lower Economy, Mar. 11. In a hard winter with low populations of small birds, this species may have suffered. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK reports, while considerably more numerous, seem to represent only about 20 individuals, down about one third from the comparable period last year. Half of those reported were regular visitors to feeders (from Glace Bay to Yarmouth), in a season which offered them few alternatives.

Most reports of RED-TAILED HAWKS come from the eastern end of the Annapolis Valley, where they were "common" during the winter (Wolfville-Kentville area: BCS, PJA-S, CBE, BLF). Other wintering birds were reported at Wilmot (TH), Paradise (JM), and Economy (PS), and in Yarmouth Co. (2, CRKA) and over 20 scattered single sightings indicate that the species was, at least intermittently, present throughout all winter. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were likewise "common" on the Canning and Canard dykes near Wolfville, where Bernard Forsythe reports 12 individuals, Feb. 18. Two wintered at Cape Chebogue near Yarmouth (CRKA) and 14 other sightings, scattered but primarily in coastal areas, indicate a normal flight, in spite of curiously low numbers in the border marshes.

The winter BALD EAGLE reports are considerably less numerous than they were last year, and the absence of any comprehensive report on the eagles of the Wolfville/Gaspereaux area leaves a considerable gap in the available information. Cape Breton Island reports seem to represent at least 20 wintering birds; Kings Co. presumably has the largest mainland wintering population (no figures), followed by Yarmouth Co. (at least 8 birds), Antigonish Co. (7), Shelburne Co. (6), Halifax Co. (5), and Annapolis and Digby Counties (1 ea.). Of the eagles whose age was specified (42 in all), 35% were immature, approximately the percentage the reports of the past 4 years would lead us to expect. It seems that a second eagle-feeder has been established in the province (though its numbers cannot compete with those of the eagles Cyril Coldwell attracts at Gaspereaux): Wilfred Marshall and Helen Clark at Paradise, Anna. Co., fed a single eagle through the worst of the winter, noting that it was "very hungry" when it arrived early in January.

A report of 3 OSPREYS, Mar. 21, at Cape Sable (C.Symonds, B. Stoddard) would represent an unprecedentedly early arrival, but it is unfortunately unaccompanied by details.

At least one MARSH HAWK remained in the Grand Pré area (Canning/Port Williams) at the end of December (Dec. 29, BS, PJA-S), but none are reported after that date except for wintering birds in the Cape Chebogue area (CRKA) and near Pubnico (TCD'E, DD'E), and an individual at Cape Sable, Feb. 14 (SS).

An exceptional winter PEREGRINE FALCON sighting is reported by the Edmund Greens at South Berwick (per R.Erskine), for the last week in February, and wintering MERLINS are exceptionally well reported. The 18 sightings from December through March are weighted in favor of the Annapolis Valley, where several individuals must have wintered, but range from Sydney to Yarmouth. Several Merlins were seen harassing Starling flocks, no doubt a staple for these handsome falcons. AMERICAN KESTREL reports are somewhat more numerous than usual, and show a rather surprising and perhaps meaningful pattern: a few late fall reports, then 10 for January and none between Jan. 31 and early March. It would be unusual for any significant migratory movement to occur in midwinter, and if this gap in the

records is not simply the result of uneven reporting, it probably indicates that severe winter storms wiped out most of the small wintering population.

GROUSE, PHEASANT, PARTRIDGE

The only reports of SPRUCE GROUSE came from Robert M. Turner at West Middle Sable (Mar. 17) and M. C. Cheesman at Sandy Bottom Lake (3 or 4 birds seen regularly all winter). Ten observers sent RUFFED GROUSE reports, half of them from Cape Breton I. If the density of reporting is any indication, the Cape Breton population is at a somewhat higher level than the mainland populations, or at the very least it has been more conspicuous this winter. Nine reports of RING-NECKED PHEASANTS come primarily from the Annapolis Valley and from Yarmouth Co. The exceptions were single birds at Bass River, near Economy, wintering at a feeder (Cook Rutherford, per FS) and at the John Lusby marsh near Amherst, Feb. 11 (CD), and two pheasants near Mira, CB, Feb. 23 (H.Hopkins). The reports mention a total of over 40 individuals, most at feeders, and no doubt reflect the conspicuousness of this species when driven from the bushes and hedgerows by heavy snow. A single GRAY PARTRIDGE report from Francis Spalding at Economy mentions several small flocks seen during the winter around Great Village.

MARSH BIRDS

One of the most interesting birds of the season is a specimen record: a PURPLE GALLINULE was found dead on the road between Pubnico and Argyle, Jan. 15, by Neil and Leo LeBlanc, and taken to J. Israel Pothier for identification.

There were still 2 AMERICAN COOTS at Russell Lake, Dec. 4 (NSBS field trip, per ECra, CBE), and the Sullivan Pond coot was "not seen after the bitter weather of Dec. 11/12" (ECra). The drastic drop in numbers of coots at Amherst Point at the end of November is again reflected in two late reports: 100 individuals, Nov. 26 (CD); 1 on Dec. 5 (RB).

RL Ed.

SHOREBIRDS - A Note - ELM.

The winter shorebird report is short enough to let me put in a plug for a fine new book that every "wader" (as the British have it) aficionado should have. It is GUIDE TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND AGEING OF HOLARCTIC WADERS by A.J. Prater, J.H. Marchant and J. Vuorinen, published by the British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts, England, cost £2.75 (roughly \$5.90 at current rates of exchange). This excellent manual is well illustrated by line drawings and photographs; it has a complete description (all plumages) and measurements of every shorebird found in northern America, Europe and Asia. If you want to know how to tell a Common Sandpiper from a Spotted Sandpiper, or a juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper from an adult in winter plumage, this is the book for you.

SHOREBIRDS

One series of records did not quite make it to the last Newsletter either because the typist missed them (typist's note - Not me!) or I did. WILSON'S PHALAROPES occurred in the usual numbers last fall. The first was seen July 15 at Matthews Lake (GP) and thereafter there were 2-4 with peep at the Lusby Marsh on 8 visits between Aug. 3 and 29, 4 at Conrad's Beach 14 Aug. (EHC) and 1 each at Matthews Lake and Conrad's Beach on Aug. 15 (GP, IAM).

The winter shorebirds ran true to form, but with three exceptions as described below. Please note, also, that many Christmas Census records did not reach me and there are more records of shorebirds there. KILLDEER made it at least part way through the winter at Sunday Point, Yar. Co. (3 on Jan. 5, CRKA) and at Chezzetcook (1 on Jan. 28, EHC). The next birds were probably migrants: 2 on 19-20 Mar. at Brier Island (DM,LS) and one on Mar. 25 at Crescent Beach (FWD).

There are records of BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER from December through March, the majority of them at Cape Sable where the Smiths noted 1-10 birds (usually 1-4) on 7 dates between Dec. 4 and Mar. 5. A lingering individual was seen at Brierly Brook, Ant. Co., on Dec. 6 and there were 2 at Lockport on Christmas Day (RMT).

A surprisingly low number of COMMON SNIPE seems to have wintered: one on Jan. 17 at Lower West Pubnico (RSd'E) and 1 on 20-21 Mar. at Pubnico (E&VH).

YELLOWLEGS normally winter far south of us, from South Carolina to southernmost South America. Nonetheless a group of 4 (unidentified to species) paused briefly at Cape Sable on Jan. 30 (SS). Also at Cape Sable, RUDDY TURNSTONES were seen five times between Dec. 10 and Feb. 8, always in low numbers (1-2 birds). A small number, reported as 1-4 on five occasions also wintered at Louisbourg between Dec. 18 and Mar. 25 (RB). At Lockport one joined the resident Purple Sandpipers on Jan. 4.

Ten RED KNOT were seen at Cape Sable on Dec. 4, but there were no records later than this.

Naturally we expect to see PURPLE SANDPIPERS throughout the winter, but I received only nine records from four locations, reflecting a lack of looking or possibly the severe seas that made coastal birding unusually rigorous this year. The well-watched and reported flock at Lockport ranged between 10 and 50 birds throughout the winter until it disappeared after Mar. 24 (RJC). A flock of about 50 at Fox Island, off Conrad's Beach, was sporadically seen in the early winter (CBE,ELM), the Smith's reported small groups of 3 to 20+ from Dec. 22 to Mar. 5, and a flock of 13, likely migrants, were at Crescent Beach on Mar. 23 (JLC,SC).

A late group of DUNLIN (5) were at Cape Sable Dec. 4 (SS). Even SANDERLINGS were few and far between this year. Beaches that might often have a wintering bird were totally uninhabited this winter. A group of 4 started the winter at Conrad's Beach in early December (CBE), was still present on the 17th (ELM) but had dropped to 2 on Jan. 28 and Feb. 11 (EHC). Numbers were recorded only at Cape Sable where there were 7 on Dec. 10, 25-30 on Jan. 9 and 30 on Feb. 8. In Cape Breton, Roger Burrows reported a lone Sanderling on three dates from Dec. 3 to Feb. 26 at Louisbourg.

A most surprisingly late RED PHALAROPE was at Louisbourg on Dec. 3 (RB).

ELM Ed.

JAEGER, GULLS, TERNS, AUKS

A single SKUA was seen on Jan. 25, on the edge of the Continental Shelf about 120 miles SE of Halifax (Stephen Woodley).

HERRING and GREAT BLACKBACKED GULLS were their usual abundant selves, and need little comment. And, yes, our LESSER BLACKBACK was back at Digby on Dec. 20 (Bob Lamberton, Peter Hicklin, Stuart Tingley).

GLAUCOUS GULLS were not very common. There was a single bird at New Victoria, Sydney, on Dec. 28 (Roger Burrows) and another on Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, on Jan. 15 (Cohrs), 2 at Abbott's Harbour on Jan. 24 (Kirk Atkinson, Ted C. d'Eon), 3 at North Sydney on Jan. 28 (H. Hopkins), and one at Upper Canard on Mar. 13 (Barry Sabean). The most persistent bird was the immature, first seen on Dec. 29, which was still in Yarmouth Harbour at press time (CRKA) - it's a little unusual for one to linger for so long so far south in the Province. ICELAND GULLS were by contrast abundant, if only in Cape Breton. Roger Burrows' largest flocks were at North Sydney (520 on Dec. 30, 460 on Jan. 7) and Louisbourg (350 on Feb. 26). But only small numbers were reported elsewhere. They were regularly seen in ones and twos at Cape Sable from late December to early March, with a peak of 5-6 birds in late February (Smiths). In the Minas Basin area Barry Sabean saw 2 at New Minas on Jan. 11, one at Port Williams on Mar. 2 and 2 at Upper Canard on Mar. 13. There was a bird at Abbott's Harbour on Jan. 16 and 2 on Jan. 24 (Ted C. d'Eon and Kirk Atkinson), at least one at Yarmouth on Feb. 22 (CRKA) and 4 at the Halifax waterfront sewer outlet and another on Sullivan's Pond on Jan. 15 (Cohrs).

The only unusual small gull sighting was a LAUGHING GULL at Cape Sable on Christmas Eve (Smiths). The biggest flock of RING-BILLS, 400+ birds, was in salt marsh and adjacent fields of corn stubble at Linden, Cumb. Co. on Dec. 4 (Stuart Tingley). There were a few birds at Salt Bay, near Eel Brook, on Mar. 12, but the first flock - some 20+ birds - did not show up until Mar. 27 (PRD, CRKA). Our only other reports are of single birds at Lingan on Dec. 28 and Port Hawkesbury on Mar. 12 (Roger Burrows), and 7 on Sullivan's Pond on Jan. 15 (Cohrs).

Now that a family part of BLACK-HEADED GULLS, including newly-fledged young, has been sighted in western Newfoundland it is just a matter of time before a nest is found and we have formal proof that the species breeds in North America. I shall therefore stop belabouring this point in the Newsletter, except for a final postscript. The Newfoundland birds are presumably breeding on marshy barrens or some comparable habitat, as they do in many parts of Northern Europe; we should look for small colonies - perhaps of only half a dozen pairs or so - in similar areas elsewhere in eastern Canada. But I doubt if this new colonisation will show the same rapid growth here as it has in Europe, where the birds are exploiting intensive arable farming; our arable farming is too sparse, and our soil too frozen. Meanwhile, the birds keep turning up here in small groups, but these are so scattered that the North American population - assuming that the ones we see all breed here - can hardly as yet be more than 50-100 pairs. We have sightings of 3 birds at North Sydney on Jan. 7, and single birds at Sydney River on Dec. 28 and at Louisbourg throughout February (Roger Burrows). There were 7 at Conrad's Beach on Jan. 14 and one on Mar. 24 (E.H. Cooke, Christopher B. Elson), 6-8 at Eel Brook during March (PRD, CRKA) and 2-3 at Linden on Dec. 4. Sara MacLean says that they were there most of the winter in Glace Bay and counted 19 on Feb. 13 and 14 on Mar. 11. Ethel Crathorne saw 2-12 daily all winter on Sullivan's Pond. Both Sara and Ethel note that their birds were getting their spring-plumage "black heads" by the middle of March. This fits in with

what I remember of English birds; but those are on their colonies by that time, whereas ours can hardly start until the ice goes. When the breeding grounds are finally located it will be interesting to see what adjustments these landed immigrants have had to make to a life in Canada.

The Black-headed Gull's likely competitor in North America is its closest relative here, BONAPARTE'S GULL, which breeds in western Canada but, surprisingly, migrates across to Passamaquoddy Bay, N.B., immediately after the end of the breeding season to feed on the swarms of euphausiids there. But they rarely move east of the Fundy shore of Nova Scotia and, for some reason, don't exploit our own euphausiids off Brier Island. Stuart Tingley saw 30+ birds ("virtually all adults") at Northport, Cumb. Co., and 45+ at Linden, on Dec. 4. Otherwise our only report is of a single bird on Sullivan's Pond between Jan. 13-15 (Ethel Crathorne, Cohrs).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES are the most pelagic of all our gulls and they were only seen in numbers well out to sea. Stephen Woodley was on a seismic survey ship on the edge of the continental shelf 120 miles SE of Halifax from Jan. 23-Feb.4, and estimated flocks of up to 950 birds per 10-minute watch out there. By contrast, the most improbable report was the bird which Ethel Crathorne saw on Feb. 13 on Sullivan's Pond, perhaps a mile from saltwater and at the end of a long inlet at that. The other inshore sightings were more conventional: 5 in Sydney Harbour on Dec. 28, 20+ off Cape Sable on Jan. 10 and 2 at Glace Bay on Mar. 7 (Roger Burrows, Sara MacLean, Smiths).

Stephen Woodley reports small numbers of MURRES (mostly THICK-BILLED?) and small flocks of DOVEKIES on the edge of the continental shelf from Jan. 23-Feb.4. He also reports our only PUFFIN sightings: a total of 11 birds out there on Jan. 29, and 8 the next day. Inshore, Roger Burrows identified a COMMON MURRE at Louisbourg on Feb. 26 and he saw a Thick-billed there on Feb. 17. Single Thick-billed were seen at Risser's Beach on Dec. 31 (Sandra Myers, JLC) and at Lockeport on Jan. 24 (Emmerson Fiske). Inshore Dovekies - all single birds - were seen at Lockeport on Feb.11 (Emmerson Fiske), South Bar and New Victoria, Sydney, on Dec. 28, and Louisbourg on Feb. 1 and 24 (Roger Burrows).

Single BLACK GUILLEMOT reports come from the Green Bay/La Have area (Feb. 11, Mar. 25; Cohrs). The Smiths saw them in ones and twos ("scarce all winter") off Cape Sable and Roger Burrows found them similarly scarce off Louisbourg.

RGBB Ed.

DOVES

We seldom receive ROCK DOVE reports, but this winter's records include notes of significant increases in this species from two observers. Thelma Hawkins at Wilmot in the Valley feels that pigeons are "on the increase since corn has become an important crop in the area", and Roland Chaisson indicates increased numbers of pigeons at his Antigonish feeder. Records of MOURNING DOVES for the winter are exceptionally careful and detailed: Barry Sabeau and Peter Austin-Smith in particular have supplied valuable reports of observations in the Wolfville area, which reflect significant trends. It seems that local populations reached their peak by December and dropped off significantly in January and February, with very few remaining in March. Barry Sabeau watched a flock frequenting a corn crib at Sheffield Mills, which numbered 60 birds in late December, 30 on

Jan. 19 and 2 on Feb. 9, disappearing completely thereafter, "despite continued food supply". He and Peter Austin-Smith note that, of 120 to 160 Mourning Doves in the western part of the Wolfville Christmas count circle on Dec. 18, none remained by mid-February. Just across the Minas Basin from these concentrations, Frank Hennessey at Great Village reports a flock of 37 doves, Feb. 18, noting, "They are regular in the area, but I have never seen this number before". Finally, J. Purchase at Cole Harbour notes a decline this winter in the number of doves visiting the feeder: in 1976-77 there were 21, but this year they reached an early peak of 10 on Oct. 15, and by Jan. 2 declined to 3 birds that remained until late March. Five or six birds summered at Cole Harbour last year. Along with the scattered reports of individuals and small concentrations, ranging from Cape Breton to Yarmouth, these reports confirm the puzzling pattern this species has shown in Nova Scotia in the past few years. It seem highly unlikely that the hundreds of Mourning Doves that flock in the Minas Basin area in early winter are permanent residents. The next questions to answer are: Where do they come from? and, Where (if anywhere) do they go in late winter?



OWLS

Nova Scotia's first BARN OWL in many years was picked up dead at Lower Argyle, in a lobster pot (Larry McKenzie) and sent to the Nova Scotia Museum.

There are four reports of GREAT HORNED OWLS: a single bird mobbed by crows at Round Hill in the Valley, Dec. 21 (WEW); two birds hooting in January (Pubnico, Jan. 17, RDd'E; Big Pond, Jan. 25, GM); and a pair heard and then seen Mar. 26,27) at a "likely looking nesting site" near Green Bay (JSC). SNOWY OWLS were few and far between this winter. There were none on the Christmas counts from the region reported to American Birds, and the border marshes produced very few sightings. W. E. Whitehead saw one at Round Hill, Jan. 23, and there was a series of sightings of single birds in northern Nova Scotia and Cape Breton in early February: Feb. 5, Beaver Meadow Park, Ant. Co. (RC); Feb. 6, Mira (AS); Feb. 7, Ingonish (Pamela MacKay, Gwen Mackinnon, Stephen Homer). BARRED OWLS were sparsely reported, and only from the western part of the province: Dec. 23 and Jan. 25, Wolfville area, BF; Mar. 26, Green Bay, the Cohrs. A late report from Stuart Tingley adds a roadkill in Cumberland Co., Jan. 13.

Many Halifax and Dartmouth observers were able to see and photograph a LONG-EARED OWL in the Anderson's back yard on Victoria Rd., Dartmouth, late in February (var. obs.), an unusual record, especially for the metro area. (See photographic section). Fifteen

SHORT-EARED OWL sightings for the winter are centered on two previously unreported winter roosts, both in Yarmouth Co. Two Short-eared Owls were observed at Chebogue Pt., Dec. 19 (CRKA), where the species was seen repeatedly until mid-March, with a maximum of 3 individuals, Feb. 10 (MWH), and an albino bird, Mar. 8 (CRKA,ELM). Another wintering group of 4 to 7 birds was observed repeatedly at Abbot Is. near West Pubnico by Kirk Atkinson and Ted D'Eon. The first sighting in that area was at Lower West Pubnico, Dec. 21 (RSd'E), and the peak of 4 individuals was observed at Abbot Is., Feb. 2 (TCD'E). Other Short-eared Owl sightings are reported by the Smiths at Cape Sable, Feb. 19, by Eric Cooke at Lawrencetown, Feb. 26, and by Bernard Forsythe, Wolfville Ridge, Mar. 22, with the note that the "mouse population was down on the Grand Pré dykes this winter, and apparently the Short-eared Owls had to move to higher ground to feed".

Two probable BOREAL OWLS are reported from Cape Breton. The earlier one, seen by Clarence Ferguson at Homeville in early January, is carefully documented by Sara MacLean on a society Verification Form prepared in phone consultation with Mr. Ferguson. He observed the bird perched, for 10-15 minutes at distances less than 15 ft., and noted the size and distinctive facial markings as the basis for his identification. The other bird, observed at Grand Greve near St. Peter's by Teresa Clements (per Sandra Meyerowitz) is reported with some hesitation ("boreal"?), and might have been a Saw-whet Owl. The latter species, SAW-WHET OWL, is itself very sparsely reported: Feb. 15 at Glenwood and Eel Brook, Yar. Co. (Kirk Atkinson, PRD); Mar. 8 at Argyle Head (PRD).

KINGFISHER

Seventeen BELTED KINGFISHER reports reflect at least 10 individuals that attempted to winter in the province and managed to survive into February, and most into March. Some were at familiar wintering spots (2 at Kelly Lake Fish Culture Station (BS)), and most were in the western part of the province, but 3 February sightings in Cape Breton indicate that winter kingfishers are to be expected wherever stream currents and rapids leave enough open water to allow them to fish.

WOODPECKERS

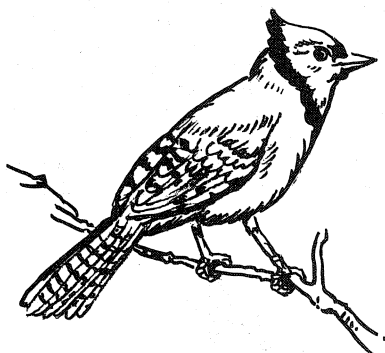
PILEATED WOODPECKER sightings are exceptionally numerous and describe at least a dozen wintering individuals, from Mira, CB, to the western part of the province, with the greatest number of reports coming from Cumberland Co. (3), followed by Antigonish and Annapolis Counties with two each. COMMON FLICKERS at Kentville, Jan. 16 (PJA-S) and Sheffield Mills, Jan. 30 (BS) must have attempted to winter. It is interesting that the Wolfville area seems to have wintering flickers with some regularity while the rest of the province seldom reports them. Both HAIRY and DOWNY WOODPECKERS appear to have occurred at feeders in good numbers this season, though local scarcities are noted by a few reporters.

RL Ed.

HORNED LARKS

Except for RB's report of a single bird at Louisbourg Feb. 26, all the HORNED LARKS were seen in the S.W. counties, mostly by CRK Allen. Flocks of from six to 20 were seen at birding spots near Yarmouth from December to March and Cape Sable reported small flocks present during those months. (BJS). Latest report is of 3 at Cherry Hill Mar. 23 (CJ&JSC).

Two unusually late BARN SWALLOWS were "playing along the beach as in mid-summer" at Petite Riviere Nov. 11-13 (F.W.Dobsons).



CORVIDS

GREY JAYS were more heavily reported than usual and seem to have been "around" in many areas. Gordon MacLeod, however, missed them from November to March when they reappeared in the Wine Harbour area.

Correspondants from Cape Breton to Yarmouth (and most places in between) were almost unanimous in agreeing that BLUEJAYS were numerous and noisy as usual, especially at feeders. W. E. Whitehead wrote from Round Hill that they seemed fewer than usual there "but still too many". Largest flock was of 25+ at Green Bay Mar. 26 when they appeared to be very excited, even noisier than usual and restless. (Cohrs).

There were many more COMMON RAVEN and COMMON CROW reports than in most years. Perhaps the large number of reports of all the Corvidae reflects not so much a super abundance of this family but the comparative rarity of some other winter birds. Jays, Ravens and Crows were more interesting this winter - even more welcome than usual, filling the empty spaces. Ravens nest early - Eric Cooke noted 10 pair in their mating flight on Lawrencetown circuit Jan. 22 and by March Bernard Forsythe in Kings Co. had found two nests with eggs (one Mar. 16 at Canard had 7 eggs and another at Wolfville Mar. 24 with 5 eggs). The crow population seems stable.

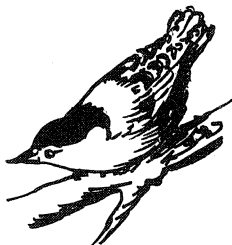
CHICKADEE thru CREEPER

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES abounded at feeders and some "wild" flocks were also seen. On Mar. 2 PRD saw several of the latter in Yarmouth Co. averaging 5-10 birds each, and on 15th there were approximately 50 divided into four flocks in the Wedgeport area (CRKA).

BOREAL CHICKADEES, rarely encountered outside of their woodland habitat were seen and/or heard in normal numbers there. There were also two reports of Boreals at feeding stations, one at Wolfville and one at Halifax. In both cases they were attracted by suet logs or balls and in both cases came regularly throughout the winter (BLF, JSC).

An intriguing note was received from W. E. Whitehead in Round Hill who stated that he passes on the information "for what it is worth". He writes: "On Dec. 17th, a cold blustery morning, my wife was feeding some Black-capped Chickadees by hand, when one with a dull reddish-coloured back suddenly arrived, took a sunflower seed and made off with it. It all happened so quickly that she did not have time to register further details. We have not seen it since. On checking in Birds of North America, I find that the Chestnut-backed Chickadee is confined to a narrow strip on the Pacific Coast from Alaska to California. Could it be that a straggler has arrived at Round Hill?"

The WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH continues to enjoy a comeback. At least eighteen came regularly to feeders during the winter.



Only 5 of the usually more common RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were reported and these included two pairs. Thelma Hawkins heard one in Wilmot on Christmas Day and Edgar and Vernita Hamilton (Pubnico) had a regular pair all winter up to press time as did the Cohrs in Halifax.

Eight single BROWN CREEPERS were seen from December to March with a possible movement observed Mar. 24 where four were present within 400 yards of each other up a logging road near Green Bay (CJC).

MIMIDS

Overwintering MOCKINGBIRDS were well reported. It is difficult to give definite numbers as some sightings are close enough in area and time to be duplicates. A conservative figure might be around fourteen. Some came to feeders sporadically but some were very faithful (or hungry?). Karl and Wendie Tay derived great pleasure from their Dartmouth bird. "He ate berries until they ran out around mid-January. Then he began to eat suet and has continued ever since. We tried

cranberries and blueberries but they were both expensive and hard to get. Then we got some old grapes from the grocery store and hung them in our trees - he adores them and has been living on them ever since. It is a joy to watch him eat them. Our trees do look a bit silly hanging in grapes. The bird appears very healthy and active. He is aggressive at times. At first all the birds avoided him. Now they live together quite well but he is still boss when he wants to be".

No GREY CATBIRDS or BROWN THRASHERS were seen.

THRUSHES

A few widely distributed AMERICAN ROBINS stayed the winter mostly singly or in twos and threes. There were a few larger flocks - 18 at Milton Dec. 20, 20 at Tuskett Jan. 15, 25 at Lower Wedgeport Jan. 17, 10 at Middleton Feb. 10 and 17 at Wolfville Feb. 15. (TW,CRKA,JP JP,TH,BJF).

A bright male VARIED THRUSH arrived at the Harold Dobson's feeder in Liverpool Jan. 21 and remained there for four days, enabling many to see and admire it. Robie Tufts writes of a second bird at Stanley Holt's feeding station in Middleton on Feb. 18. (See NSBS Vol. 19, No. 2, May 1977, p. 105, for last year's Varied Thrushes).

Apart from one or two seen on CBC's the only HERMIT THRUSH was seen at Westmount, CB, on Dec. 28 (RB).

KINGLETS thru STARLINGS.

Following the trend of the last few seasons GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS continued to be scarce. Up to six birds were seen during the winter months in Lower W. Pubnico, three were at Round Hill Jan. 15 and three and one at Sydney Forks Jan. 29 and Feb. 10, respectively. (RSd'E, TCD'E, WEW, RB).

A single RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET was well seen and identified by the Tays in a spruce tree near their Dartmouth feeder on Jan. 8.

Emmerson Fiske reports a WATER PIPIT at Lockeport on Dec. 28, but all the other pipits seen were at Pubnico Point. Numbers between 3 and 7 were there throughout February and a high of 20 was reached Mar. 18, dropping back to 7 by Mar. 24, RS d'E, TCD'E, JDD'E.

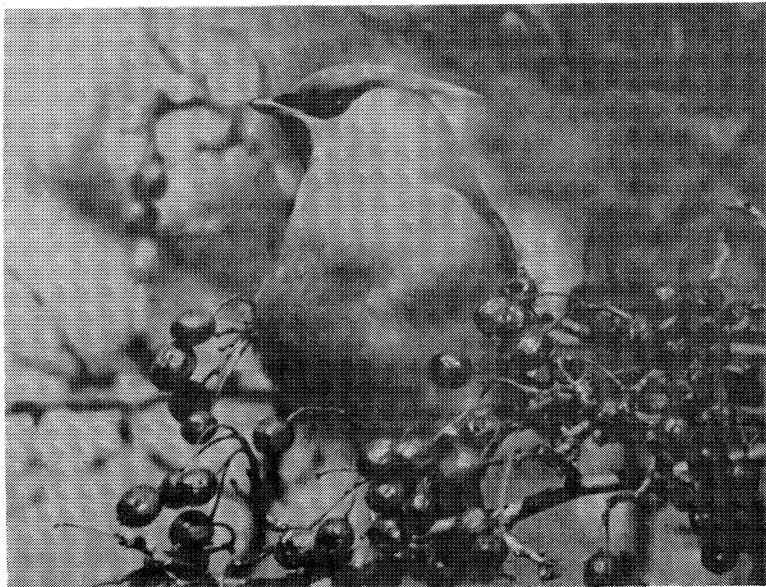
1977-78 turned out to be a BOHEMIAN WAXWING year. They appeared first at Amherst (10) on Dec. 1 (CD). Fifteen arrived at Antigonish on Dec. 4 and stayed the month (RCD). Seen in CBC's and throughout January in small flocks their numbers built up towards the end of the month. A flock of up to 120 cleaned out the hawthorn berries at Liverpool between Jan. 20-Feb. 5; there were 50 at Wolfville Feb. 9, 35 at Amherst on 11th, 30-40 at Bible Hill on 13th and 27 at Lockeport on 16th. In C.B. Hedley Hopkins counted 85 at Sydney on March 14. Last report received is of 12 Mar. 27 at the Purchase's on Ross Rd., Dartmouth.

Rare in winter, CEDAR WAXWINGS were reported twice, occurring on the same date (Dec. 31) but far apart geographically. Anne Spencer in Glace Bay found one in the midst of a flock of Bohemians, while Sandra Myers and John Cohrs saw four in Petite Riviere whilst on the Broad Cove Christmas Count. In both cases correspondants were close to the birds, in good light and able to make careful identifications.

This has also been a good year for NORTHERN SHRIKES. There were 23 birds in all, two of which were immature. Roger Burrows counted four in various locations in Cape Breton, and at least four were around Yarmouth County from Dec. 30-Mar. 22 at Belleville, Chegoggin, Chebogue and Glenwood. The other sightings were in Shelburne, Annapolis, Kings and Queens Counties.

Can it be possible that the STARLING population is decreasing? A few reports are of "usual" numbers, but several mention a decline. The Morses had one at their feeder in Paradise from January to March, PRD had none at hers at Eel Brook, and Thelma Hawkins had "fewer" at Wilmot. The Purchases mention that the twelve they had represented a steady decrease over the last three years. They were "rare" January and February in Yarmouth town (MWH) and the three that arrived at St. Esprit Mar. 22 were the first of the year there (RM). Long may the trend continue!

JSC Ed.



WARBLERS

The last of November and early in December the YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER was still generally present, singles noted at Wine Harbour (GM), Antigonish (RDC) and Amherst (SIT); at Christmas roving flocks were found at Halifax (6), at Broad Cove (29), Reisser's Beach (26), Port Hebert (53), Pubnico (10), Eel Brook (12), Yarmouth (21); and all-winter birds remained in several of these vicinities: 8-9 seen at Reisser's Beach Mar. 24 (Cohrs), 5 at Lockeport "all winter" (RJC), and in Yarmouth County 1, Jan. 17 at Pubnico, 8, Feb. 17 at Argyle Sound, 24, Mar. 15 at Plymouth and 2-3 March 26 at Eel Brook (TCD'E, CRKA, PRD).

HOUSE SPARROW

The complete report on the HOUSE SPARROW as received is as follows:

Glace Bay, "as usual", Sara MacLean.
 Antigonish, "about 40 at feeders this winter", Roland D. Chaisson.
 Amherst, "chirping band of 40 disappeared in January, the Jan. 14 storm must have decimated them", Con Desplanque.
 Ross Road, Cole Harbour, "75 all winter, up from last year's number", Joyce Purchase.
 Wilmot, Anna. Co., "very few, this is most unusual for us because some winters we have about 100", Thelma Hawkins.
 West Pubnico, "about 50 all winter around the feeders", Ted C.D'Eon.
 Yarmouth town "1-12 almost daily December to March", Marion W. Hilton.
 Yarmouth County, 2-20 (flocks) regular in settled areas, P.R. Dobson.

ICTERIDS

Three wintering EASTERN MEADOWLARKS were seen, 1, Jan. 14 at Lockeport (EF) and 2, Feb. 10 at Markland, Yar. Co. (CRKA). Of the few dozen REDWINGED BLACKBIRDS left at Christmas, we have records of 15 wintering birds only at the extreme ends of the province: 1, Jan. 23, Glace Bay (AS); 1, late Feb. at Economy (FS); 7, after the first of February at the Pubnicos (DJd'E, TCD'E); 2-5 up to mid-Feb. at Yarmouth (MWH) and 1, with a flock of Evening Grosbeaks and Cowbirds up to early March at Eel Brook (ORD). One NORTHERN ORIOLE seems to have made it through the winter, seen in January and again in March at Sydney, by Hedley Hopkins. The COMMON GRACKLE was still present in good-sized flocks in December. Since then small numbers have been noted, generally distributed from Glace Bay to Yarmouth, the only large number, 25, Jan. 15 at Middleton (BCS), the rest 1-10 at feeders, twelve reports in all. The BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD seems to have been quite scarce in Cape Breton this winter, reported from five localities, 2-4 birds each, by Roger Burrows and Arthur Spencer. In the rest of the province these cowbirds were fairly numerous and well distributed, with largest numbers noted in January at Pictou (EH), Antigonish (RDC), Greenwich, Kings Co. (BLF), Tupperville (WEW), Wilmot (TPH), Liverpool (RSJ), Eel Brook (PRD), Pubnico (TD'E) and Yarmouth (MWH), peak total number reported in the province between 300 and 400 early in January. Some flocks stayed on into March in diminished numbers, and one small flock reached Cape Sable Mar. 3 (CS).

FRINGILLIDS

A female CARDINAL came to a feeder in West River Station, Pictou Co., and stayed all of that month at any rate, to the great pleasure of its hosts, George and Jan Post. The population of EVENING GROSBEAKS to which we have become accustomed was way down this year. This was most noticeable in the NW province where few were seen (none at all in Lr. Economy (FH)) and those few mostly late winter; but someone has estimated that in the valley and SW Nova Scotia we had about one-third our usual number of these grosbeaks. Ella Roland of Truro has put it well: "they have been around since mid-October but are very independent this year. They come to our feeders only when they feel like it and then they are generally wild and wary. This is a sharp contrast with the tame voracious hordes we sometimes have". They were present on seventeen of the Christmas Bird Counts, nearly a thousand counted then, with over 400 in the Halifax area, just under 200 at Wolfville. Since then we have had fifteen reports of singles and small flocks seen from January on, well distributed in the Valley and on the South Shore, with these flocks building up to double in March, thinning out again at the end of the month. The story of the PURPLE FINCH is also one of scarcity, a mere handful (13 individuals) observed from Dec. 1 to date (April 3). These were generally distributed except none at all at Lr. Economy, Amherst and Truro (FH,ECC,EER).

The next two species made up to some extent for the above shortages. The PINE GROSBEAK outnumbered the Evening Grosbeak on the CBC's, there being over a thousand (1081) as compared with the 961 of the latter in total. The "explosion" of Pine Grosbeaks became apparent in November, noted first at Wine Harbour (GM), Round Hill (WEW) and Queen's County (TW). In December reports came from Antigonish (RDC), Pictou, flock of 14 feeding on hawthorn (EH); three reports from the Amherst region of small flocks (CDMRB, Marion Tuttle) and Yarmouth, small flocks of 6-8 in various places about the county, a large flock (30) at Pubnico (RSd'E) and even a flock of 10 seen in the town itself, flying over Sweeney's wharf Dec. 27 (CRKA). In January came the first report from Cape Breton, of 7 at Sydney Forks (RBl), from King's Co. of 14 at Greenwich (BLF), from Paradise, 5-6 (JM) and from Smith's Cove, "100+ up to about Jan. 30"(AR). There were also further reports from the Yarmouth region, flocks now larger, 15-20 usually (IJP, ACD'E, Dd'E,CRKA,PRD). In February flocks were still 12-20 in SW Nova Scotia, but encountered less often. However on Feb. 11 at Crescent Beach the Cohrs saw 8 Pine Grosbeaks "in the midst of the no-bird lunar landscape - ice-pans 6' high and no unfrozen water behind the beach - slush ice 10' out on the beach side, these birds, all female or immatures were sitting on the power line making forays to the dried grass below where they seemed to be feeding off grass seeds". A few only of these grosbeaks were reported in March, the largest number 7, at White Rock, King's Co. by Bernard Forsythe.

1977-78 turned out to be a very good year for REDPOLLS. Two of these from the careful description sent in could well be HOARY REDPOLLS, seen Dec. 27 at Fenwick, Cumb. Co., by Roger Burrows and Mar. 26 at Green Bay, Lunen. Co. by Chris Cohrs. The COMMON REDPOLL was found on nine of the CBC's, with large flocks at Amherst, Brier Island and Economy. Since then there have been over thirty reports, covering the province from Dec. to March, of flocks of 5-50, with larger flocks at Economy, 200 all winter (FH); at Chezzetcook, 80 Jan. 28 (EHC), Cole Harbour in March 54-63 (JP); around 200 Feb. 9 at Melanson, Kings Co., noted also in the Valley by the Edmund Greens (reported to us by Rachel Erskine), Christopher Elson, Bernard Forsythe, Jean and Bill Morse, and Sue Morse who noted 4-10 daily from late February to March at the feeder, Bridgetown. These

Redpolls settled readily at feeders, noted also at Amherst (CD), Pictou (EH), Cole Harbour (JP), Brookside Road, Hfx. Co. (FWD's), Italy Cross and Bridgewater (NS), and at various locations in Yarmouth Co. (IJP,Rd'E,CRKA,PRD), at the feeders in February and March.

The PINE SISKIN has made an unobtrusive but real comeback. It was found on eight of the CBC's, in good numbers. Flocks have been well scattered but sizable: starting with the 1, Nov. 26 at Amherst (CD), 7, Nov. 23 at Round Hill (WEW), and 80+, Nov. 25, at Lockeport (RJC); the December records added up to around 300, mostly on the CBC's; then the Cohrs had 15 at their feeder Jan. 14 (still there) and there was on that date a flock of 40+ at Rockville, Yar. Co.(CRKA); Feb. 6 one only was at Glace Bay, Feb.3-4 there were 25-23 at Louisbourg (RB) and Feb. 10-20 several at feeding stations in Liverpool (RSJ); 2, Mar. 1 at Newtonville, Kings Co. (BLF) and 5, Mar. 9 at Seaforth (ECra).

The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH was scarce this winter season; again Frank Hennessey reports none at Lr. Economy, and Joyce Purchase had only one at Cole Harbour all winter. The rest of us seem to have seen them only at feeders, 1's and 2's in December, but up to around a dozen by late February in faithful attendance, the only larger flocks reported being 40+ at Sydney Forks (HH) and 20-25 at Halifax (Cohrs).

The Crossbills remain also scarcer than usual, the RED CROSS-BILL noted only in February: 1, Feb. 11 at Louisbourg; 6, Feb. 20 at Catalone (nearby); 6, Feb. 22 in Dartmouth (RB,ECra). WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS are even fewer, Gordon MacLeod heard one a few times in November at Wine Harbour, and R.J.Crosby saw 2 on Jan. 29 at Lockeport.

SPARROWS AND BUNTINGS

We have nine species to report under this heading, of which three were abundant, at least locally. Many reporters would not agree that the DARK-EYED JUNCO was abundant, but in Yarmouth Co. it was present at feeders in greater number than any of the other sparrows.

Two SAVANNAH SPARROWS wintered: 1, seen Jan. 3 at Sydney Forks (RB1) and 1, Jan. 5 at Sunday Point, Yar. Co. (CRKA). A report which does not really belong to us is of extraordinary interest, and was sent in by several of our members. Con Desplanque, Stuart Tingley, Bob Lamberton, Jean Burke and others saw a GRASSHOPPER SPARROW at a feeder in Sackville, N.B., from Dec. 25, 1977, until Jan. 25, 1978, when it disappeared in a blizzard.

On the Christmas Bird Counts 622 DARK-EYED JUNCOS were found, and since then we have had twenty-five reports. Of these, thirteen are of "none" or "one" junco at the feeder. The rest are as follows: 5, Jan. 5, Louisbourg; 6, Dec. 28, Boularderie (RBF); 6, Mar. 5, Sydney area (EM); 5-7 Dec. 29-Jan.30, Antigonish (RDC); 6-8 at the feeder all winter at Lr. Economy (FH); 20, Feb. 28, Sheffield Mills (BCS); 8-10 all winter at feeder on Wolfville Ridge (BLF); 4-8, Jan. 11-30 at West Pubnico "they have been quite common through most of the winter in the Pubnico area and are still around" (TCD'E); 12, Jan. 9 at Lr. Wedgeport (IJP); 20 most of the winter at Eel Brook (PRD) and a dozen or more at Tusket at the feeder (the Allens). These numbers are normal, but the absence of the junco from over half of the province is not normal. It was however one of the three small birds seen along the roadsides in SW Nova Scotia this winter (the others being the Black-capped Chickadee and the Tree Sparrow).

More regularly distributed, and in good numbers was the TREE SPARROW. This was first seen in October at Pictou, one only (EH), and was not well distributed until mid-January. Flocks were as often seen about the countryside as at feeders until March, but even then some could be found working over the alder thickets. We had three reports of Tree Sparrows from Cape Breton (MF,AS,RB); N and E Shores, five reports (RDC,EH,CD,PH,GM); Halifax-Truro three reports (CBE,EER,JP); Valley, three reports (J&BM,TPH,BLF); South Shore, three reports (RMT,RSJ,ISC); Yarmouth area, eight reports (MWH,CRKA,PRD,E&VH,TCD'E. RSd'E,Dd'E); total, 175 birds, flock size 1-20.

A dozen reports of the WHITE-THROATED SPARROW add up to about 50 birds, all seen at feeders. These were well distributed in 1's, 2's and 3's mostly, the only sizable flocks being the 10 at Ted D'Eon's Dec. 12, and the 10 reported by Karl and Wendie Tay which "ate seeds regularly at feeder, also a bit of suet and were very fond of grapes once we put them out in February". Whitethroats are notably fruit-eating sparrows, much more than any of the others around here, and can be seen happily munching in an old apple tree, like a flock of Pine Grosbeaks upon occasion.

There were four December FOX SPARROWS, none since to date. The four were at Lockeport (EF), Pubnico (TCD'E), Eel Brook (PRD) and Yarmouth (MWH).

Although there were still nearly 400 SONG SPARROWS in late December (on the CBC's), by the New Year scarcely any were left. According to our reports, only 20 of these sparrows wintered in Nova Scotia, all seen at feeders, except three "lobster-pot birds". We missed the Song Sparrows and agreed that the only good thing about their most unusual absence was that this year we would know for sure when the true spring migrants came in.

Surprisingly few LAPLAND LONGSPURS have been noted this winter, in fact none since December, when RB saw 11 at APBS on the 5th, CD one on the 14th. The only others reported are from Cape Sable: 1, Dec. 4, 2, Jan. 1 and 17 on Feb. 19 (SS).

SNOW BUNTINGS arrived Dec. 28-30 at South Bar, Sydney (RB), Reynardton, Yar. Co. (CRKA), Amherst (MT) and St. Esprit, where 200 came in (RM). They were last seen, 35+ Mar. 5th in the Mira area (HH), and "very large flocks mid-March at Boularderie" (RBF). There were around 1300 on the CBC's, over 500 seen around in January and down to 175 in February, according to our reports. They were called "regular" at Lr. Economy by Frank Hennessey, considered abundant near Wolfville by Bernard Forsythe, and thought to be in very low numbers at Pubnico by Ted D'Eon, although flocks of 50-60 were noted at Chebogue Point and other places in the county during the winter by CRK Allen. Departure dates will be given in the next issue of the Newsletter, of these and the Tree Sparrows, Redpolls, etc., our true winter guests, which did no much to redeem for us an otherwise rather empty landscape, in 1977-78.

PRD Ed.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

Reports of birds for the next issue - May 31.

Please send the bird reports to the Records Editor,

Dr. P.R. Dobson,
RMB 170, R.R. 1,
Ste. Anne du Ruisseau, N.S. BOW 2X0

Please send photographs, sketches, articles and letters to the Editor in Chief, Newsletter, Nova Scotia Bird Society, c/o Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

FEBRUARY 18 - COLE HARBOUR

February 18, 1978, was a pleasant, crisp day when four carloads of birders left Dartmouth for some winter birding. At Cole Harbour, we saw Black Duck, Goldeneye, Common Mergansers and Black-headed Gulls. Further along, there was a big flock of geese in Lawrencetown Lake, estimated by myself at about 2,000. However, later when the geese took off and flew out to sea where they landed about a mile offshore, it was easy to see that 2,000 was far too low so the estimate was revised to 3,000+. (So much for my ability to estimate numbers!)

Along the coast in the salt water, we saw Red-breasted Mergansers, Common and Red-throated Loons, Red-necked and Horned Grebes, Scaup, Oldsquaw, Common Eider and White-winged Scoter. Among the land birds were Downy Woodpecker, Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees, Redpolls, Pine Siskin, Tree Sparrows and one Snow Bunting.

Lunch was eaten while sitting on the shore at Rocky Run enjoying the sunshine and smell of the wood smoke from a brush fire carefully tended by John Cohrs. This was when the Kingfisher that has been in the area all winter made its appearance. After lunch we went to Chezzetcook beach where Bufflehead can be counted on this time of year.

An enthusiastic group of birders, perfect weather and 40 species of birds, which is quite good for this time of year, made this a very enjoyable outing. Let's do it again next February!

Eric Cooke

MARCH 25 - GLACE BAY

Nine observers met at the Heavy Water parking lot at 8:00 a.m. for a field trip in the Glace Bay area. Sara McLean was our leader and we drove around Donkin, Long Beach, through Pt. Morien and around Wadden's Cove. We walked on the Morien Sand Bar and also in to the shore at South Head. We saw 24 species including over 1,000 Canada Geese. It was a beautiful sunny day, but the wind was high and very cold. Those in the group were Graham Fraser, Otis Cossitt, Winnie Meikle, Eldon Meikle, Brian MacNeill, George MacInnis, Hedley Hopkins and Bertha Hopkins.

B. Hopkins

APRIL 2 - SHUBENACADIE

More than thirty enthusiastic members met at the Wildlife Park to view waterfowl in their spring plumage. The trip was made possible by Mr. Eldon Pace and Dr. G.W.I. Creighton who conducted the tour through the park past ponds full of Wood Duck, Mallard, Black Duck and Canada Geese of all sizes. Canvasback, Gadwall, Scaup, Ringnecks and Goldeneye and many other ducks and geese were viewed and photographed. As well as native species some interesting imports were seen, including the Hawaiian Nene and Indian Cranes performing their dance ritual. A few birders who arrived early at the meeting place were rewarded by sight of a Snow Goose on the banks of the Shubenacadie River - walking, swimming and flying - a life lister for many. Many thanks to Dr. Creighton and Mr. Pace for a rewarding trip.

Shirley Cohrs

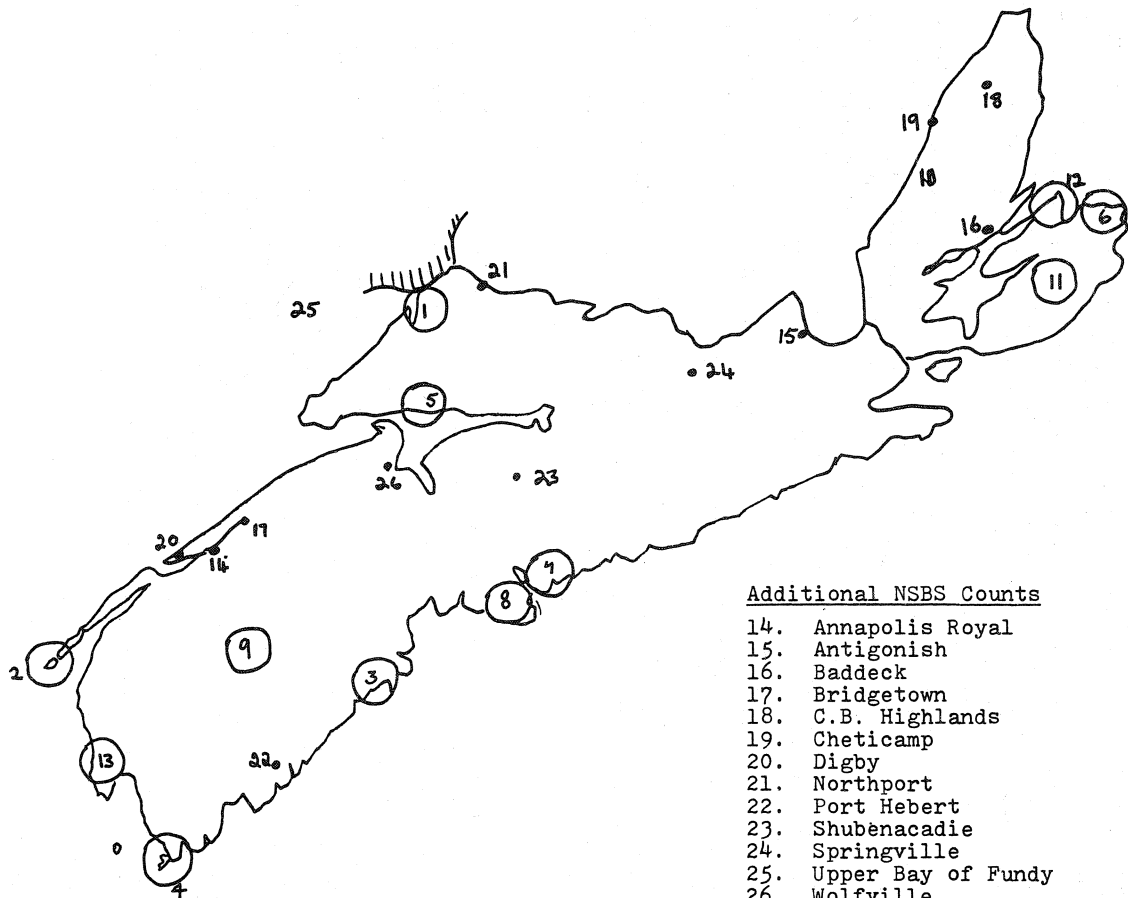
UP-COMING FIELD TRIPS.

Wednesday
May 17 SHUBIE PARK Jaybee Drive, Dartmouth
(2 miles/3.2 km. from Micmac Rotary on
Route 318). Early warbler walk led by
Gillian and Jim Elliott. Meet in the
Park parking lot at 6:30 a.m.



Saturday
May 27 PRESIDENT'S FIELD DAY - HANTS COUNTY DAY
Our new President Margaret Clark has
chosen the historic annual visit to
Hants County as the President's Field
Day. Usually see 70-80 species during
the day. Leader: Margaret Clark. Meet
at the railway crossing in Mount Uniacke
at 8:00 a.m.

- Saturday
June 3 CAPE BRETON, Brown's Lake and Grand Lake area. Meet at
the parking lot at the gate house of the Radar Base on
the Lingan Road, at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Hedley Hopkins.
- Saturday
June 3 ANNAPOLIS ROYAL - South Mountain and marshes. Meet at
the United Church, corner of Highways 1 & 8, at 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Calder Fraser.
- Saturday
June 10 YARMOUTH COUNTY - Cape Forchu-Carleton area. Newly arrived
warblers, flycatchers, etc. Meet at the C.P.R. station on
Main St., Yarmouth, at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Charlie Allen.
- Saturday
June 24 CAPE BRETON - Bird Islands. Boat trip to the Islands.
Dinner at the cabins, Mountain View Lodge, off the Trans-
Canada Highway at Big Bras d'Or on the old road. Cost for
both dinner and the boat trip is \$5.00. For reservation
and further information, contact Hedley Hopkins, phone
564-7405, or write 43 Central St., Sydney, N.S. B1P 2A7.
First come, first served. Time 9:00 a.m. Leader: Hedley
Hopkins.
- Saturday
July 15 CAPE BRETON - Baddeck area. Meet at the Provincial Build-
ing in Baddeck. Time: 8:00 a.m. Leader: Allister Fraser.
- Saturday
July 29 LUNENBURG COUNTY - Cherry Hill and Crescent Beach. Shore
birds. The tides should let us do both beaches. Willets
should be in good numbers, maybe some Piping Plovers.
Bring your 'scope. Meet at the Post Office at Petite
Riviere, at 8:30 a.m. Leaders: the Cohrs family.
- Saturday
August 5 CAPE BRETON - Fuller's Bridge, Forchu. Meet at the cross-
roads at Marion Bridge, at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Francis
MacKinnon.
- Saturday
Sept. 2 BRIER ISLAND - Meet at the cemetery at Peajack Road at
8:00 a.m. Ross Anderson will arrange the boats. Various
leaders.
- Saturday
Sept. 23 CAPE BRETON - Cheticamp Island and local area. Meet at
Armbridge Cabins at the Highland National Park on the
Cabot Trail, at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Jacques Pleau.
- Saturday
Sept. 30 NORTHUMBERLAND STRAIT - the shore from Tidnish to Tata-
magouche. Waterfowl and shorebirds. Meet at the bridge
over the Tidnish River near the turn-off to the P.E.I.
ferry, at 10:00 a.m. - continuing to late afternoon.
Bring a good lunch. Leader: Stuart Tingley.



AUDUBON COUNTS

1. Amherst
2. Brier Is.
3. Broad Cove
4. Cape Sable Is.
5. Economy
6. Glace Bay
7. Halifax East
8. Halifax West
9. Kejimkujik
10. Margaree
11. Salmon River
12. The Sydneys
13. Yarmouth

Additional NSBS Counts

14. Annapolis Royal
15. Antigonish
16. Baddeck
17. Bridgetown
18. C.B. Highlands
19. Cheticamp
20. Digby
21. Northport
22. Port Hebert
23. Shubenacadie
24. Springville
25. Upper Bay of Fundy
26. Wolfville

NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1977-78

This year's Christmas Counts were hampered by a miserable month of December, weatherwise, and very few counts reported good observing conditions. It's to be hoped the drop in the number of counts in the province from last year's 33 to this year's 25 is due to the bad weather and not a drop in the enthusiasm of some of our members.

This year we recorded 125 species, which was a drop of 15 from last year's 140 species. Some of this drop is due to the bad weather, but we feel that most of it is due to a 20% drop in the numbers of hours spent in the field between this year and last. The number of individuals seen in the province rose from 102,015 to 108,036. This rise is probably due to the increase in the number of starlings and crows seen in the province. Most species of birds were seen in approximately the same numbers as last year, plus or minus 15%, though there were some exceptions.

The following species increased in numbers by more than 50%: Brant, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ring-billed Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Rock Dove, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Shrike, Common Starling, Pine Grosbeak, and Common Redpoll.

Decreases of more than 50% occurred in the following: Red-necked Grebe, Horned Grebe, Harlequin Duck, Glaucous Gull, Thick-billed Murre, Dovekie, Black Guillemot, Short-eared Owl, Horned Lark, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Water Pipit, Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Oriole, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Red & White-winged Crossbills, Dark-eyed Junco, Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

We wish to thank all the hardy people who took part in Christmas Counts this year, and a special thanks goes to all the count compilers.

A 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.

NOTE: "CP = Birds seen in count period but not on count day".

- - -

AMHERST, Dec. 26; 7:45 AM to 4:45 PM. Temp 42F-32F. Overcast with intermittent light rain, a.m. Overcast, p.m. Wind SW 5-25 KM/H. Fresh water partly frozen. Fourteen observers in 6-8 parties. Total party hours, 40½ (22¼ on foot, 18¼ by car); Total party miles, 285 (34 on foot, 251 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; Black Duck 5; Common Goldeneye 7; Common Merganser 18; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Hawk sp. 1; Iceland Gull 1 imm.; Great Black-backed Gull 229; Herring Gull 383; Rock Dove 159; Great Horned Owl 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 9; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 33; Common Raven 76; Common Crow 179; Black-capped Chickadee 45; Boreal Chickadee 31; Brown Creeper 2; Mockingbird 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; Bohemian Waxwing 36; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 1025; House Sparrow 480, Red-winged Blackbird 1; Rusty Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 10; Brown-headed Cowbird 8; Evening Grosbeak 36; Pine Grosbeak 19; Common Redpoll 123; White-winged Crossbill 2; Tree Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 5.

Total 37 species; about 2947 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk; Rough-legged Hawk; Downy Woodpecker; White-breasted Nuthatch; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Song Sparrow; Lapland Longspur). Ian Cameron, Evelyn Coates, Con Desplanque, Mary Fredericksen, Hinrich Harries, Barb Hennigar, Bob Lamberton, Cora McKay, Dora Myers, Kathy Popma, Harold Popma, Margaret Purdy, Al Smith, Stuart Tingley (compiler).

- - -

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Dec. 26; 7:30 AM to 5:15 PM. Overcast. Temp 30F. Winds light. Fresh water partly frozen. Thirteen observers in 6 parties. Total party hours 28 (19 on foot, 9 by car). Total party miles 78 (24 on foot, 54 by car).

Common Loon 4; Red-throated Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 8; Horned Grebe 3; Great Cormorant 3; Canada Goose 215; Mallard 3; Black Duck 342; Greater Scaup 139; Common Goldeneye 29; Bufflehead 38; Oldsquaw 13; Common Eider 10; King Eider 1; White-winged Scoter 23; Black Scoter 2; Common Merganser 5; Red-breasted Merganser 29; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Marsh Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 12; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 34; Herring Gull 316; Dovekie 2; Rock Dove 10; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 48; Common Raven 13; Common Crow 155; Black-capped Chickadee 18; American Robin 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; Northern Shrike 2; Starling 275; House Sparrow 141; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Rusty Blackbird 6; Common Grackle 8; Brown-headed Cowbird 42; Evening Grosbeak 21; Pine Grosbeak 2; Common Redpoll 1; American Goldfinch 5; Dark-eyed Junco 6; Tree Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 6.

Total 53 species; about 2014 individuals. (CP: Barrow's Goldeneye, Spruce Grouse, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Boreal Chickadee, Winter Wren, Pileated Woodpecker). Tim Bartheaux, Allison Dalton, Noel Durling, Marilyn Durling, Calder Fraser (compiler), Joe Johnson, Harold McCormick, Jeff McCormick, Heather McCormick, Wendy Miller, Eric Muntz, Joe Ternan, W.E. Whitehead.

- - -

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 28; 11:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Overcast a.m. Light snow p.m. Temp. 20F. No wind. Fresh water partly frozen. One observer. Total party hours $4\frac{1}{2}$ (4 on foot, other $\frac{1}{2}$). Total party miles 4 (3 on foot, other 1).

Black Duck 3; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Great Black-backed Gull 20; Herring Gull 10; Rock Dove 6; Blue Jay 8; Common Raven 5; Common Crow 12; Black-capped Chickadee 20; Boreal Chickadee 8; Bohemian Waxwing 15; Starling 50; House Sparrow 45; Common Grackle 4.

Total 14 species; about 207 individuals. (CP: Evening Grosbeak, Dark-eyed Junco). Roland Chiasson (compiler).

- - -

BADDECK, Jan. 2 8:15 AM to 4:00 PM. Clear a.m. Mostly clear with intermittent snow p.m. Wind 5-10 m.p.h. Temp. 15-25 F. Fresh water frozen. Twelve observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 20 (8 on foot, 12 by car). Total party miles 133 (13 on foot, 120 by car).

Great Cormorant 1; Black Duck 34; Wood Duck 1; Common Goldeneye 22; Oldsquaw 4; Common Merganser 14; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Bald Eagle 7a, 1 imm.; American Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Great Black-backed Gull 20; Herring Gull 83; Dovekie 1; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Downy Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 9; Blue Jay 44; Common Raven 45; Common Crow 158; Black-capped Chickadee 44; Boreal Chickadee 13; White-breasted Nuthatch 1;

A RARE OWL AND BIRDS THAT WARM THE WINTER

Winter has many advantages. Not least among these is the probable appearance of some rare bird which prompts people to race across town or countryside with the hope of catching a glimpse of the rarity, or perhaps even to capture the bird's image on film. Ian McLaren was one of those able to do both. The Long-eared Owl chose to rest from nocturnal activity in a Dartmouth backyard close to the corner of heavily trafficked Victoria Road and Thistle Street. Here it remained for the day snoozing on a perch eight feet above the ground. With dusk approaching pangs of hunger drove it away to forage for food. For all we know the bird may still linger in the woods of nearby Brightwood Golf Club.

Several other advantages of Nova Scotia winters are pictured on the following pages. Although present the year round, the Blue Jay really comes into its own with terrific visual and audible activity once winter focuses our attention on an otherwise barren landscape. The price of a full scale Blue Jay performance is no more than a good supply of sunflower seed and at today's prices that is approaching extravagance. Back in the days of low-priced seed I once started feeding in October. Gulleets filled with seed were transported in all directions most likely never to be found again by the transporters. They even started a fall planting program on the lawn by pounding two or three seeds into a hole made for the purpose by stabbing the beak repeatedly into the ground. The planted seeds were then covered by an oak leaf or two. To my knowledge none of these seeds produced a plant. However, most of my own planting efforts are also failures.

The Downy Woodpecker, shown resting on the oak tree during a snow flurry, earns his keep by removing the overwintering larva of goodness knows what from the dead branches of our oak trees. He adopts this same posture during visits of the Pigeon Hawk to the bird feeder. During such stressful times he remains frozen to the tree save for a slight turn of the head with eyes open wide with fear and apprehension. These little woodpeckers are so glad to fulfill their duties that when they return in the fall from the woods only blocks away, they almost beat themselves to death against the windows in their desire to embrace the homeowner.

To the bird feeder the ravages of locusts in biblical times have been replaced by the ravages of Evening Grosbeaks. These hoarders consume massive quantities of sunflower seeds in their never ending quest for food energy. One of these birds equipped with only a beak can shell more sunflower seeds in 5 minutes than a person with two hands and ninety-eight teeth can in an hour. The female Grosbeak pictured here is more photogenic than the male either in colour or black and white. There is a general rule here somewhere but I don't know quite what it is.

Not all bird watchers are sedentary so we will end with a shot of a pair of Common Goldeneye at Conrad's Beach. Here in the cold grip of winter when water salinity is no barrier to ice formation in the wet marshes and sandy shallows, the Goldeneye relishes with great enthusiasm the brisk open water temperature. One or two of those that rest on the ice at night sometimes fall to the stealth and patient stalking of a red fox. A visit the following morning may show only a pile of feathers remaining from a sumptuous feast. That was, alas, in the days when Conrad's Beach had red foxes. Who knows, they may return when winter comes again.

Ralph Connor



long-eared owl

mclaren



bluejay
downy woodpecker
evening grosbeaks

connor





common goldeneye

connor

Brown Creeper 2; Mockingbird 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; Bohemian Waxwing 3; Starling 325; House Sparrow 153; Evening Grosbeak 13; Pine Grosbeak 29; American Goldfinch 2; Dark-eyed Junco 2.

Total 35 species; about 1056 individuals. Dan Banks, Diana Banks, Doris Black, Lal Coleman, Charles Fownes, Peter Lawson, Burland Murphy, Edith MacPherson, Dave Smith, Lloyd Stone (compiler), Jess Stone, Bob Wheeler.

- - -

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 17. 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Partly cloudy. Wind 10-20 m.p.h. Temp. 29-30F. Fresh water frozen. Twenty-one observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 96.5 (21 on foot, 68.5 by car, other 7). Total party miles 113 (10 on foot, 96 by car, other 7).

Common Loon 3; Horned Grebe 4; Great Cormorant 2; Black Duck 17; Oldsquaw 5; Common Eider 4; White-winged Scoter 2; Black Scoter 2; Red-breasted Merganser 9; Goshawk 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Purple Sandpiper 60; Great Black-backed Gull 51; Herring Gull 111; Thick-billed Murre 1; Rock Dove 24; Barred Owl 1; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Downy Woodpecker 6; Blue Jay 124; Common Raven 10; Common Crow 341; Black-capped Chickadee 93; Boreal Chickadee 5; White-breasted Nuthatch 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; American Robin 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; Starling 289; House Sparrow 539; Red-winged Blackbird 7; Rusty Blackbird 24; Brown-headed Cowbird 46; Evening Grosbeak 39; Pine Grosbeak 64; American Goldfinch 17; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Snow Bunting 15.

Total 42 species; about 1961 individuals. (CP: Snowy Owl, Northern Oriole, Tree Sparrow). Mrs. Chesley, Helen Clark, Ann Cotten-den, Jim Doig, Calder Fraser, Sue Goodwin, Terry Hyson (compiler), Wilfred Marshall Eric Morris, Jean Morris, Bill Morris, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Murray, Jeff McCormack, E. Nickerson, Vivian Nickerson, Ethel Shaffner, Allen Slaunwhite, Paul Slaunwhite, Marjorie Stoddart, Stewart Whitman.

- - -

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 19. 7:00 AM to 5:20 PM. Overcast. Wind NE 25 m.p.h. Temp. 30-32F. Fresh water frozen. Nine observers in 6 parties. Total party hours 36½ (33½ on foot, 3 by car). Total party miles 57 (32 on foot, 25 by car).

Common Loon 39; Red-throated Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 17; Horned Grebe 3; Great Cormorant 140; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 3; Mallard 2; Black Duck 36; Brant 2; Common Goldeneye 121; Bufflehead 1; Oldsquaw 153; Harlequin Duck 1; Common Eider 444; Barrow's Goldeneye 2; White-winged Scoter 11; Black Scoter 9; Common Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 52; Hooded Merganser 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Marsh Hawk 2; Merlin 1; American Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Purple Sandpiper 92; Glaucous Gull 3; Iceland Gull 5 imm.; Great Black-backed Gull 483; Herring Gull 310; Black-legged Kittiwake 2359; Common Puffin 3; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 67; Murre sp. 145; Horned Lark 2; Blue Jay 4; Common Raven 23; Common Crow 383; Black-capped Chickadee 8; Boreal Chickadee 19; American Robin 19; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; Water Pipit 3; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 177; House Sparrow 43; Red-winged Blackbird 6; Common Grackle 11; Brown-headed Cowbird 25; Evening Grosbeak 13; Pine Grosbeak 17; Common Redpoll 38; Pine Siskin 126; Savannah Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 15; Tree Sparrow 12; White-throated Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 5; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 95.

Total 64 species; about 5576 individuals. Ross Anderson, Sherman Boates, John Cohrs, Richard Elliot, Fulton Lavender, Wicker-son Lent, Eric Mills (compiler) Margaret Purdy, Peter Smith.

- - -

BROAD COVE, Dec. 31; 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Fog and moderate rain, a.m. Moderate snow, p.m. Wind NW 5 m.p.h. Temp. 32-35F. Fresh water frozen. Twenty-three observers in 9 parties. Total party hours 76 (57 on foot, 17 by car, 2 by boat). Total party miles 140 (58 on foot, 74 by car, 8 by boat).

Common Loon 93; Red-throated Loon 2; Red-necked Grebe 13; Horned Grebe 62; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Canada Goose 2; Black Duck 60; Ring-necked Duck 1; Great Cormorant 1; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Greater Scaup 246; Common Goldeneye 95; Bufflehead 25; Oldsquaw 241; Harlequin Duck 2; Common Eider 687; White-winged Scoter 34; Surf Scoter 63; Black Scoter 90; Common Merganser 22; Red-breasted Merganser 121; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 8; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Purple Sandpiper 40; Glaucous Gull 1; Iceland Gull 6 imm.; Great Black-backed Gull 320; Herring Gull 906; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 12; Rock Dove 64; Mourning Dove 1; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 100; Common Raven 31; Common Crow 210; Black-capped Chickadee 252; Boreal Chickadee 55; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 2; American Robin 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet 13; Water Pipit 2; Cedar Waxwing 4; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 469; Yellow-rumped Warbler 29; Palm Warbler 1; Common Yellowthroat 1; House Sparrow 153; Eastern Meadowlark 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 4; Evening Grosbeak 18; Pine Grosbeak 192; Pine Siskin 38; White-winged Crossbill 5; Savannah Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 41; Tree Sparrow 42; White-throated Sparrow 4; Swamp Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 33; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 8.

Total 70 species; about 4981 individuals. (CP: Merlin, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bohemian Waxwing). Norm & Thelma Bowers, Betsy Chambers, Margaret Clark, Chris, John, Lise & Shirley Cohrs, Ralph Connor, Eric Cooke, Ben Doane, Gillian & Jim Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Barbara Hinds, Peter Hope, Fulton Lavender, Ann Linton, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Sandra Myers, Howard Ross, Nellie Snyder.

- - -

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Dec. 28; 8:00AM to 3:30 PM. Overcast. Wind SW 9 km/h. Temp. 10-26F. Fresh water partly frozen. Nine observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 25 (8 on foot, 17 by car). Total party miles 59 (12 on foot, 47 by car).

Great Cormorant 5; Common Goldeneye 30; Oldsquaw 8; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; White-winged Scoter 16; Red-breasted Merganser 7; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 1a; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 4; Purple Sandpiper 14; Iceland Gull 19 imm., 6a; Great Black-backed Gull 22; Herring Gull 49; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 6; Common Raven 25; Common Crow 60; Black-capped Chickadee 60; Boreal Chickadee 4; Evening Grosbeak 4; Purple Finch 2; Pine Grosbeak 7; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Fox Sparrow 2.

Total 27 species; about 386 individuals. Dorthea Cox, Irene Gettas, Percy Giles, Ross Ingraham, George Leonard, Pam MacKay (compiler), Gary Pittman, Karole Pittman, Angus Rogers.

CAPE SABLE, Dec. 26; 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Overcast. Wind NW 20 m.p.h. Temp. 37F. Fresh water open. Two observers in one party. Total party hours 8 (8 on foot). Total party miles 16 (16 on foot).

Red-necked Grebe 5; Great Cormorant 1; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Brant 18; Black Duck 23; Pintail 1; Common Goldeneye 3; Bufflehead 23; Oldsquaw 2; Common Eider 1185; White-winged Scoter 3; Black Scoter 7; Common Merganser 27; Red-breasted Merganser 18; Black-bellied Plover 1; Ruddy Turnstone 2; Sanderling 11; Glaucous Gull 1; Iceland Gull 1a, ad. Kumlien's 1; Great Black-backed Gull 270; Herring Gull 150; Black Guillemot 2; Horned Lark 2; Common Raven 2; Common Crow 53; Snow Bunting 5.

Total 26 species; about 1819 individuals. . Betty June Smith (compiler), Sidney Smith.

- - -

CHETICAMP, Dec. 17; 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Snow, a.m. Snow and rain p.m. Wind, strong west at 20-25 knots. Temp. 30-35F. Fresh water frozen. Six observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 9.5 (2 on foot; 7.5 by car). Total party miles 95 (3 on foot, 92 by car).

Common Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 4; Canada Goose 3; Mallard 2; Black Duck 47; Common Goldeneye 28; Common Eider 11; Barrow's Goldeneye 3; White-winged Scoter 4; Common Merganser 32; Red-breasted Merganser 12; Great Black-backed Gull 546; Herring Gull 455; Gull sp. 200; Horned Lark 14; Common Raven 31; Common Crow 41; Black-capped Chickadee 3; Starling 16; House Sparrow 10; Pine Grosbeak 17; Snow Bunting 2.

Total 23 species; about 1487 individuals. Jean Fau, Jacques Pleau (compiler), Lynn Pleau, Britt Roscoe, M. Savoy, Jordan Wentzell.

- - -

DIGBY, Dec. 28; 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Mostly cloudy with snow, a.m. Mostly cloudy, p.m. Wind NE 10 km/h. Temp. 25-30F. Fresh water frozen except where running. Two observers in one party. Total party hours 7 (3 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 37 (4 on foot, 33 by car).

Common Loon 6; Red-throated Loon 3; Red-necked Grebe 4; Horned Grebe 4; Black Duck 250; Brant 5; Greater Scaup 200; Common Goldeneye 65; Bufflehead 230; Oldsquaw 45; Common Eider 12; White-winged Scoter 75; Surf Scoter 2; Common Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 15; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Great Black-backed Gull 45; Herring Gull 600; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Rock Dove 180; Downy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 5; Common Raven 2; Common Crow 270; Black-capped Chickadee 9; Boreal Chickadee 2; American Robin 1; Starling 350; House Sparrow 175; Evening Grosbeak 12; Tree Sparrow 3.

Total 34 species; about 2581 individuals. Barry Sabean (compiler), Janet Sabean.

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Mostly clear. Wind 10 m.p.h. Temp. 20-30F. Fresh water open. Six observers in 6 parties. Total party hours 33 (31 on foot, 2 by car). Total party miles 85 (60 on foot, 25 by car).

Black Duck 537; Common Goldeneye 8; Bufflehead 8; Oldsquaw 13; Common Eider 1; Common Merganser 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 15; Purple Sandpiper 3; Great Black-backed Gull 13; Herring Gull 135; Rock Dove 32; Great Horned Owl 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 9; Black-backed, 3-toed Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 60; Common Raven 29; Common Crow 158; Black-capped Chickadee 150; Boreal Chickadee 76; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; American Robin 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 87; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 146; House Sparrow 365; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 28; Common Redpoll 73; American Goldfinch 6; Dark-eyed Junco 6; Tree Sparrow 16; Snow Bunting 25.

Total 38 species; about 2027 individuals. (CP: Brown-headed Cowbird, Evening Grosbeak). Tony Duke, Frank Hennessey, Nan Hennessey, George Perry, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding (compiler).

- - -

GLACE BAY, Dec. 26; 8:00 AM to 12:01 PM. Heavy Rain. Wind SSW. Temp. 50-57F. Fresh water open. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 8 (8 by car). Total party miles 62 (62 by car).

Great Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 125; Black Duck 74; Oldsquaw 61; Common Merganser 30; Red-breasted Merganser 4; Iceland Gull 12; Great Black-backed Gull 564; Herring Gull 707; Rock Dove 16; Blue Jay 4; Common Raven 1; Common Crow 32; Starling 346; House Sparrow 64; American Goldfinch 2.

Total 16 species; about 2046 individuals. Graham Fraser (compiler), Bertha Hopkins, Hedley Hopkins, Ann Spencer, Art Spencer, Jr.

- - -

HALIFAX EAST, Dec. 17; 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Overcast, a.m. Mostly cloudy, p.m. Temp. 23-30F. Wind WNW 18-25 m.p.h. No snow cover. Fresh water partly open. Salt water partly open. Wild food crop poor. Thirty-five observers in 17 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 128 (92 on foot, 36 by car). Total party miles 370 (105 on foot, 265 by car).

Common Loon 38; Red-throated Loon 2; Red-necked Grebe 7; Horned Grebe 12; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 4; Canada Goose 1820; Mallard 12; Black Duck 380; Greater Scaup 100; Common Goldeneye 184; Bufflehead 80; Oldsquaw 131; Common Eider 20; White-winged Scoter 52; Surf Scoter 2; Black Scoter 72; Common Merganser 45; Red-breasted Merganser 198; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 2a, 1 imm.; American Kestrel 4; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 18; Common Snipe 1; Purple Sandpiper 55; Sanderling 4; Iceland Gull 31; Great Black-backed Gull 145; Herring Gull 950; Ring-billed Gull 170; Black-headed Gull 19; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; Dovekie 1; Rock Dove 16; Mourning Dove 2; Short-eared Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 4; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Downy Woodpecker 2; Horned Lark 2; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 72; Common Raven 75; Common Crow 375; Black-capped Chickadee 215; Boreal Chickadee 85; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 2; American Robin 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 46; Water Pipit 1; Northern Shrike 2; Starling 1900; Yellow-rumped Warbler 6; Palm Warbler 1; House Sparrow 600; Eastern Meadowlark 1; Red-winged

Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 68; Evening Grosbeak 13; Pine Grosbeak 133; Common Redpoll 3; Pine Siskin 18; American Goldfinch 26; Red Crossbill 5; White-winged Crossbill 21; Savannah Sparrow 17; Dark-eyed Junco 34; Tree Sparrow 43; White-throated Sparrow 50; Fox Sparrow 3; Swamp Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 28; Lapland Longspur 4; Snow Bunting 150.

Total 80 species; about 8617 individuals. (CP: American Coot). Mary & Ross Anderson, Shirley Brothers, Hazel Carmichael, Margaret Clark, Molly Clayden, Chris, John, Lise & Shirley Cohrs, Ralph Connor, Eric Cooke, Ethel Crathorne, Ben Doane, Gillian & Jim Elliot, Sylvia Fullerton, Yvonne Goodman, Phyllis & Ward Hemeon, Paul Keddy, Estelle LaBerge, Fulton Lavender, Ann Linton, Robert & Wendy MacDonald, Susan McCormack, Ian McLaren (compiler) Eric Mills, Willett Mills, Sandra Myers, Roger Pocklington, Don & Joyce Purchase, Howard Ross.

- - -

HALIFAX WEST, Dec. 26; 7:45 AM to 5:00 PM. Overcast with fog. No wind. Temp. 39F. Fresh water partly frozen. Forty-six observers in 17 parties. Total party hours 106 (90 on foot, 15 by car, 1 by boat). Total party miles 262 (90 on foot, 170 by car, 2 by boat).

Common Loon 67; Red-throated Loon 4; Red-necked Grebe 14; Horned Grebe 4; Great Blue Heron 1; Great Cormorant 88; Brant 2; Mallard 26; Black Duck 187; Green-winged Teal 3; Common Goldeneye 18; Bufflehead 1; Oldsquaw 91; Harlequin Duck 2; Common Eider 18; White-winged Scoter 216; Surf Scoter 8; Black Scoter 4; Common Merganser 4; Red-breasted Merganser 75; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Bald Eagle 1 imm.; Merlin 2; American Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 10; Purple Sandpiper 88; Glaucous Gull 5; Iceland Gull 90; Great Black-backed Gull 729; Herring Gull 2334; Ring-billed Gull 64; Black-headed Gull 3; Thick-billed Murre 1; Dovekie 5; Black Guillemot 11; Rock Dove 1140; Common Flicker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Downy Woodpecker 11; Gray Jay 11; Blue Jay 171; Common Raven 27; Common Crow 271; Black-capped Chickadee 579; Boreal Chickadee 115; White-breasted Nuthatch 22; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; Brown Creeper 8; Mockingbird 1; American Robin 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 41; Bohemian Waxwing 47; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 9475; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; House Sparrow 1265; Northern Oriole 1; Common Grackle 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 215; Evening Grosbeak 444; Purple Finch 2; Pine Grosbeak 56; Common Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 22; American Goldfinch 51; White-winged Crossbill 1; Savannah Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 122; Tree Sparrow 45; White-throated Sparrow 22; Swamp Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 221; Lapland Longspur 8; Snow Bunting 1.

Total 75 species; about 18409 individuals. (CP: Fox Sparrow, Dickcissel). Ruth Bedwell, Claire Bowditch, Hazel Carmichael, Bill & Ken Caudle, Barbara Christie, Walter Chute, Chris, John & Lise Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs (compiler), Jamie & Ralph Connor, Eric Cooke, Joan Corkum, Ethel Crathorne, Ben Doane, Ruth Edsall, Gillian & Jim Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton, Pamela Gray, Keltie Hebb, Mary Helleiner, Ethel Helpard, Frank Himsl, Marina Horrocks, Joan Howitt, Gerda Jansen, Charlotte Jeffries, Fulton Lavender, Alan Longhurst, Bob & Wendy MacDonald, Bernice & Ian McLaren, Anne, Chris, Eric & Karen Mills, Willett Mills, Roger Pocklington, Howard Ross, Allen Stewart, Wayne Stobo, Pauline Wood.

KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK, Dec. 18; 7:00 AM to 5:25 PM. Partly cloudy with intermittent light snow, a.m. Mostly cloudy with intermittent light snow/rain, p.m. Wind NE 5-20 m.p.h. Temp. 30-38F. Fresh water partly open. Fifteen observers in 12 parties, and 2 at feeders. Total party hours 61 ($47\frac{3}{4}$ on foot, $13\frac{1}{4}$ by car). Total party miles 140 ($53\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, $86\frac{1}{2}$ by car).

Canada Goose 29; Common Goldeneye 6; Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 8; Rock Dove 4; Barred Owl 4; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Downy Woodpecker 10; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 66; Common Raven 35; Common Crow 23; Black-capped Chickadee 106; Boreal Chickadee 7; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 22; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 21; Pine Grosbeak 18; White-throated Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 2.

Total 24 species; about 379 individuals. (CP: Pileated Woodpecker, House Sparrow, Evening Grosbeak). Norm & Thelma Bowers, Margaret Cheesman, Gordon Cullen, Chester & Shirley Fancy, Dave Harris, Peter Hope (compiler) Len MacDonald, Eric Mullen, Granville Nickerson, Cheryl Olsen, Miledge Rowter, Tom Sheppard, Rick Swain, Bob & Judy Thexton.

- - -

MARGAREE, Dec. 31; 7:30 AM to 4 PM. Overcast with moderate snow. Wind West. Temp. 26-28F. Fresh water partly open. Nine observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 24 (10 on foot, 11 by car, 3 at feeders).

Black Duck 17; Common Goldeneye 37; Oldsquaw 12; White-winged Scoter 2; Common Merganser 37; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 3a; Ruffed Grouse 4; Great Black-backed Gull 20; Herring Gull 16; Dovekie 7; Downy Woodpecker 3; Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 23; Common Raven 97; Common Crow 106; Black-capped Chickadee 28; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; Starling 284; House Sparrow 126; Purple Finch 2; Snow Bunting 40.

Total species 23; about 875 individuals. Anne Bellis, Thomas Bellis (compiler), Brenda Hart, Frances Hart, Gerald Hart, David Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham, Sylvia Ingraham, Alex Miller.

- - -

NORTHPORT, Dec. 24; 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Clear. Wind 5 m.p.h. Temp. 45-55F. Fresh water open. Two observers in one party. Total party hours 16 (8 on foot, 8 by car). Total party miles 24 (4 on foot, 20 by car).

Canada Goose 46; Common Goldeneye 8; Oldsquaw 26; Ruffed Grouse 1; Great Black-backed Gull 28; Herring Gull 84; Rock Dove 200; Blue Jay 17; Common Raven 15; Common Crow 160; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 73; House Sparrow 42; Common Grackle 1.

Total 14 species; about 702 individuals. Robert MacNeil (compiler), Duncan MacNeil.

- - -

PORT HEBERT, Dec. 18; 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Mostly clear, a.m. Overcast, p.m. Wind NW, 10-20 m.p.h. Temp. 25-30F. Fresh water frozen. Fifteen observers in 9 parties. Total party hours 74.5 (52 on foot, 20.5 by car, 2 by boat). Total party miles 217 (57 on foot, 155 by car, 5 by boat).

Common Loon 18; Red-necked Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 33; Great Blue Heron 8; Great Cormorant 135; Canada Goose 2612; Black Duck 833; Pintail 4; Greater Scaup 200; Common Goldeneye 386; Bufflehead 39; Oldsquaw 50; Harlequin Duck 3; Common Eider 106; White-winged Scoter 23; Black Scoter 4; Common Merganser 17; Red-breasted Merganser 32; Hooded Merganser 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Bald Eagle 2a, 2 imm.; Marsh Hawk 1; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 6; Purple Sandpiper 6; Dunlin 2; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 34; Herring Gull 239; Black-headed Gull 1; Black Guillemot 8; Rock Dove 12; Mourning Dove 3; Belted Kingfisher 1; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Downy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 18; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 28; Common Raven 18; Common Crow 117; Black-capped Chickadee 91; Boreal Chickadee 35; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 1; American Robin 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 19; Northern Shrike 2; Starling 87; Yellow-rumped Warbler 53; House Sparrow 19; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 9; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Evening Grosbeak 32; Pine Grosbeak 128; Common Redpoll 3; Pine Siskin 9; American Goldfinch 5; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Tree Sparrow 10; Song Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 102.

Total 64 species; about 5641 individuals. Jeanne Addelson, Gary Corbett, Russel Crosby, Emmerson Fiske, Frank Hennessey, Nan Hennessey, Richard Labelle, Glynis Newman, George Perry (compiler), Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding, Robert Turner, Shirley Turner, Cameron Widrig, Christopher Widrig.

- - -

SALMON RIVER, Dec. 17; 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Mostly cloudy with intermittent light snow, a.m. Mostly cloudy with moderate snow, p.m. Wind WNW. Temp. 10-32F. Fresh water partly frozen. Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 16 (12 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 78 (8 on foot, 70 by car).

Horned Grebe 1; Black Duck 25; Common Goldeneye 1; White-winged Scoter 3; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 4a; Great Black-backed Gull 356; Herring Gull 524; Bonaparte's Gull 8; Rock Dove 12; Mourning Dove 2; Downy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 22; Common Raven 220; Common Crow 270; Black-capped Chickadee 42; Boreal Chickadee 30; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 9; Starling 31; House Sparrow 67; Common Grackle 4; Evening Grosbeak 2; Common Redpoll 1; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Song Sparrow 1.

Total 28 species; about 1645 individuals. (CP: Pine Grosbeak) Bertha Hopkins, Hedley E. Hopkins (compiler) Frances Hussey, George MacInnis, Darrel Leach, Brian MacNeil, Jackie MacNeil.

- - -

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 26; 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Overcast with intermittent fog, a.m. Overcast, p.m. Wind south at 10 m.p.h. Temp. 40F. Fresh water open. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 10 (4 on foot, 6 by car). Total party miles 38 (3 on foot, 35 by car).

Canada Goose 33; Mallard 12; Black Duck 77; Common Merganser 12; Goshawk 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Bald Eagle 6a, 5 imm.; Ruffed Grouse 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Great Black-backed Gull 10; Herring Gull 30; Rock Dove 86; Mourning Dove 2; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Downy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 9; Blue Jay 37; Common Raven 88; Common Crow 458; Black-capped Chickadee 78; Boreal Chickadee 36; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; American Robin 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 42; Starling 870; House Sparrow 118; Common Grackle 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 98; Evening Grosbeak 10; Pine Grosbeak 17; Pine Siskin 38;

American Goldfinch 8; Dark-eyed Junco 16; Tree Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 18; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 25.

Total species 41; about 2281 individuals. Mary Geddes, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler), Jean Schwartz, Mrs. Annie Wallace, Lorne Weaver.

- - -

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 26; 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Mostly clear. No wind. Temp. 10-12F. Ponds and lakes frozen. River and brooks open. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 12 (8 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 57 (12 on foot, 45 by car).

Black Duck 45; Common Merganser 4; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Bald Eagle 1a; Ruffed Grouse 5; Glaucous Gull 1; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 98; Herring Gull 98; Rock Dove 84; Great Horned Owl 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Blue Jay 18; Common Raven 24; Common Crow 144; Black-capped Chickadee 39; Boreal Chickadee 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 10; Starling 456; House Sparrow 6; Pine Grosbeak 14.

Total 22 species; about 1064 individuals. (CP: Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Snowy Owl, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco, Tree Sparrow, Snow Bunting). Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Fred Kenney (compiler), Margaret Kenney.

- - -

THE SYDNEY'S, Dec. 28; Partly cloudy with light snow. Wind WNW. Temp. 4-20F. Fresh water partly frozen. Four observers in two parties. Total party hours 15 (9 on foot, 6 by car). Total party miles 120 (4 on foot, 116 by car).

Common Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 7; Mallard 1; Black Duck 69; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Greater Scaup 11; Common Goldeneye 85; Oldsquaw 34; Common Eider 1; White-winged Scoter 17; Common Merganser 24; Red-breasted Merganser 18; Bald Eagle 2a; Merlin 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Iceland Gull 370; Great Black-backed Gull 743; Herring Gull 1531; Ring-billed Gull 1; Black-headed Gull 6; Black-legged Kittiwake 5; Ivory Gull 1; Dovekie 1; Rock Dove 64; Blue Jay 7; Common Raven 46; Common Crow 165; Black-capped Chickadee 10; Brown Creeper 1; Hermit Thrush 1; Bohemian Waxwing 7; Starling 806; House Sparrow 119; Common Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Evening Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 12; Pine Grosbeak 2; Common Redpoll 5; American Goldfinch 21; Dark-eyed Junco 7; Snow Bunting 10.

Total 43 species; about 4222 individuals. (CP: Harlequin Duck, Downy Woodpecker). Roger Burrows, Hedley E. Hopkins (compiler), Hedley H. Hopkins, Eldon Meikle.

- - -

UPPER BAY OF FUNDY, Dec. 20; 11:30 AM to 2:15 PM. Intermittent light sleet, a.m. Overcast, p.m. Wind NE 15-50 km/h. Temp. 50F. Five observers in 1 party. Total party hours 2-3/4 (all by boat). Total party miles 42 (all by boat).

Common Loon 3; Red-throated Loon 1; Horned Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 3; Oldsquaw 1; Common Eider 3; Scoter sp. 1; Surf Scoter 3; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Duck sp. 8; Glaucous Gull 1; Iceland Gull 26; Great Black-backed Gull 15; Herring Gull 13; Black-legged Kittiwake 72; Thick-billed Murre 8; Dovekie 2; Alcid sp. 43.

Total 15 species; about 206 individuals. Mary Frederickson, Peter Hicklin, Bob Lambertson, Susan Rotroff, Stuart Tingley (compiler).

- - -

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 18; 7:45 AM to 5:30 PM. Mostly cloudy with intermittent sleet, snow/rain & freezing rain, a.m. Mostly cloudy with intermittent snow/rain, snow & freezing rain, p.m. Wind NE 10-20 m.p.h. Temp. 31-34F. Standing water frozen. Thirty-eight observers in 16 parties. Total party hours 83 (32 on foot, 51 by car). Total party miles 308 (64½ on foot, 243½ by car).

Canada Goose 90; Mallard 24; Black Duck 586; American Widgeon 1; Wood Duck 1; Common Goldeneye 13; Black Scoter 1; Common Merganser 68; Sharp-shinned Hawk 12; Red-tailed Hawk 37; Rough-legged Hawk 19; Bald Eagle 3a, 1 imm.; Marsh Hawk 4; Merlin 1; American Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 12; Ring-necked Pheasant 255; Gray Partridge 46; Common Snipe 1; peep sandpiper 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 1047; Herring Gull 2355; Rock Dove 1622; Mourning Dove 161; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Downy Woodpecker 14; Horned Lark 164; Blue Jay 345; Common Raven 271; Common Crow 16,400; Black-capped Chickadee 266; Boreal Chickadee 24; White-breasted Nuthatch 10; Brown Creeper 2; Winter Wren 1; American Robin 23; Golden-crowned Kinglet 45; Starling 2498; House Sparrow 1428; Northern Oriole 1; Common Grackle 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 1527; Evening Grosbeak 197; Purple Finch 3; Pine Grosbeak 261; Pine Siskin 41; American Goldfinch 8; Savannah Sparrow 23; Dark-eyed Junco 338; Tree Sparrow 39; White-throated Sparrow 11; Song Sparrow 44; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 702.

Total 54 species; about 31059 individuals. (CP:Goshawk, Barred Owl, Short-eared Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Northern Shrike). Peter Austin-Smith, Adeline Bayne, Nancy Bleakney, Sherman Bleakney, Sherman Boates, Dora Boersma, Larry Bogan, Curtis Chipman, Cyril Coldwell, Carolyn Crawford, Robert Curry, William Curry, Andy Dean, Lelia Dean, Richard Elliot, Rachel Erskine, Mrs. C. M. Forbes, Bernard Forsythe, Jamie Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Gay Hansen-MacInnis, Andrew MacInnis, Sarah Mainguy, Randy Milton, Oscar Morehouse, Ruth Morehouse, Julie Porter, Margaret Purdy, E.C. Smith, Peter Smith (compiler) Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Lillian Tufts, R.W. Tufts, Mrs. W. Urban, Kent Williams, Sherman Williams.

- - -

YARMOUTH, Dec. 18; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Clear to mostly clear. Wind NNE 5-20 m.p.h. Temp 40F. Fresh water mostly frozen. Thirty-three observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 40½ (21½ on foot, 19 by car). Total party miles 220 (19.5 on foot, 200.5 by car).

Common Loon 3; Red-throated Loon 3; Great Blue Heron 6; Canada Goose 640; Black Duck 622; Blue-winged Teal 6; Greater Scaup 5; Common Goldeneye 155; Bufflehead 39; Oldsquaw 42; Common Eider 33; White-winged Scoter 1; Common Merganser 322; Red-breasted Merganser 42; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 1a, 3 imm.; Marsh Hawk 2; Merlin 1; American Kestrel 4; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Killdeer 1; Purple Sandpiper 11; sandpiper sp. 60; Glaucous Gull 1; Iceland Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 150; Herring Gull 692; Ring-billed Gull 6; Black-headed Gull 1; Rock Dove 52; Mourning Dove 1; Common Flicker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 31; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 62; Common Raven 24; Common Crow 302; Black-capped Chickadee 109; Boreal Chickadee 10; Catbird 2; Mockingbird 2; American Robin 23; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; Northern Shrike 2;

Starling 530; Yellow-rumped Warbler 21; House Sparrow 112; Red-winged Blackbird 16; Rusty Blackbird 3; Common Grackle 27; Brown-headed Cowbird 426; Evening Grosbeak 93; Purple Finch 14; Pine Grosbeak 77; Pine Siskin 15; American Goldfinch 8; Dark-eyed Junco 28; Tree Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 62; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 8; Lapland Longspur 6; Snow Bunting 105.

Total 67 species; about 5063 individuals. (CP: Short-eared Owl, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bohemian Waxwing, Cardinal, Dickcissel). C.R.K. Allen, M.B. Allen, K. Atkinson, A. d'Entremont, D. d'Entremont, M. d'Eon, T.C. d'Eon, P.R. Dobson, A. Doucette, R. Doucette, G. Elliott, J. Elliott, J. Graves, B. Hatfield, M. Hatfield, K. Herkes, M. W. Hilton (compiler), A. Hurlbert, E. Killam, B. Kinsman, M. Kleiner, D.F. MacDonald, E. Murphy, M. Nickerson, H. Robbins, H. Ross, B. Ruff, E. Ruff, R. Rymer, B. Saunders, C. Sollows, V. Sollows, E. Stubbert.

- - -

CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION CONFERENCE

The 1978 annual meeting of the Canadian Nature Federation will be held at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, from August 17th to 21st. The host will be the Natural History Society of Prince Edward Island, assisted by the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists. Theme of the conference will be -

Nature in the Gulf
Island, Man and Sea

On Friday, August 18, and Saturday, the 19th, speakers will discuss various subjects relating to the conference theme. There will be a banquet on Saturday evening.

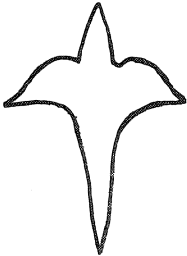
Field trips are scheduled during several days before and after the conference, some in New Brunswick, others in Prince Edward Island. Also early morning birding trips are planned on conference days.

This is an excellent chance to meet the birders and naturalists from across Canada, to hear speakers who are experts on various aspects of conservation and natural history, and to participate in what I'm sure will be an interesting field trip program.

For additional information, write to -

Canadian Conference for Nature 1978,
P.O. Box 2346,
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
C1A 8C1

E.H.Cooke





Before putting away the 1978 nursery catalogues, take a look for trees and shrubs that not only will improve the appearance of the yard but also furnish wildlife food.

One may note that some of the trees and shrubs listed are wild varieties which one might transplant, with permission of the original owner, to one's own yard. The wild cherries and the bayberries are examples. It is wise also to read the list before removing an existing plant and substituting something else. A tree or shrub now on the property may be more valuable to birds than any replacement.

One should remember also that a weed patch - if there is room for one to thrive - is an excellent supplier of winter food for birds. Among weeds which furnish Autumn or Winter food are pokeweed, sunflower, pigweed, and meadowsweet.

Grosbeaks, robins, cedar waxwings, orioles, catbirds, brown thrashers, flickers, purple finches, bluebirds, vireos, myrtle warblers, tree swallows are some of the birds attracted by berries of the following plants:

TREES

Flowering crab, Malus floribunda. Best all-round decorative small tree. Fruits in early Fall. Pine grosbeaks.

Cherries - Bird, Prunus pensylvanica. Black, P. serotina. Choke, P. virginiana. All these are native cherries. Fruits in Summer.

Dogwoods - Flowering, Cornus florida. Pagoda tree, C. alternifolia. C. florida, spring flowers, red fruits and foliage in Fall; C. alternifolia, small tree, blue-black fruits in late Summer.

Juneberry (shadbush) Amelanchier canadensis. Small tree, red fruits in early Summer, good Autumn leaf color.

Washington thorn, Crataegus Phaenopyrum. Best of the hawthorns. Bright red fruits into Winter. Attractive all year.

Mountain ash - American, Sorbus americana. European, Sorbus aucuparia. Fast-growing trees, beautiful in bloom. Orange fruits in Fall.

Russian olive (Oleaster) Elaeagnus angustifolio. Silvery foliage, silver-scaled fruits in Fall. Set several for cross pollination. Fine for seashore sites.

SHRUBS

Barberry, Japanese, Berberis thunbergi. Protection, nesting. Red fruits Fall to Spring sometimes taken by migrants.

Bayberry, Myrica pensylvanica. Leaves fragrant. Gray fruits early Winter attract myrtle warblers. Red osier dogwood, Cornus stolonifera. Native shrub, red twigs, white Fall fruit.

Winterberry or black alder, Ilex verticillata. Deciduous red-berried holly. Fruits in early Winter. Likes moist sites.

Tartarian honeysuckle, Lonicera tatarica. Deep red flowers and abundant fruit in early Summer. Provides nesting cover.

Viburnums - Arrowwood, Viburnum dentatum - Nannyberry, V. Lentago - High bush cranberry, V. trilobum. V. Lentago, blue fruits in Fall; V. trilobum, red Winter fruits. Vigorous native shrubs that will stand some shade.

Blueberry, Vaccinium spp. Low, medium, and high varieties. Fruits in Summer.

Elderberry Sambucus canadensis. Deep purple fruits in Summer. (This and the next two species for the wild garden).

Blackberry, Rubus canadensis. A species with few prickles!

Raspberry, Rubus idaeus. This and the blackberry make good cover and food. Nesting for catbirds and thrashers.

Multiflora rose. Large size and rank growth, but excellent cover and food. Red fruits in Winter.

Privet, Ligustrum regelianum. Hardy, makes good unpruned hedge. Black Winter fruits eaten by grosbeaks.

Redpolls, siskins, goldfinches, grosbeaks, crossbills, titmice, tree sparrows, juncos eat seeds of these:

TREES

Birches. Seeds in Winter; aphids in Summer. Conifers, especially firs, red cedar, spruces and hemlock. Shelter and seeds.

SHRUBS

Shrubby St. John's-wort, weigelia.

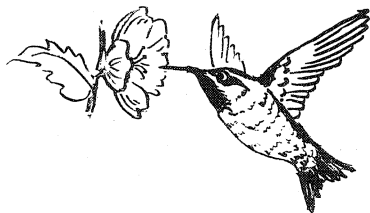
VINES

Grape, Vitis sp. and Virginia creeper, Parthenocissus quinquefolia.

For hummingbirds

Trumpet vine, honeysuckle, nicotiana, larkspur, columbine, bee balm, red salvia.

Text and illustrations reprinted with permission of Massachusetts Audubon Society.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, NSBS Newsletter

I thought it might be of interest to write you a report on the number of birds in our area this winter in comparison with last year. Since I missed getting last year's count in before the deadline date, I would like to tell you that this winter is the extreme opposite of last year.

It really concerns me that we have had only a dozen Bluejays, a few House Sparrows, Starlings, four Chickadees and four Tree Sparrows. Lately I saw approx. thirty Horned Larks in a field nearby. I put feed out every day and kept hoping and watching for a few of the numbers that we had last winter.

Last year we had the following: a dozen or more Purple Finches, approx. thirty-five or forty Evening Grosbeaks, two Song Sparrows, three Robins, one Pine Warbler, four or five White-throated Sparrows, one Cedar Waxwing, one Mourning Dove and hundreds of Snow Buntings - approx. five hundred at times. Most of these were with us all winter on the feeder. The Cedar Waxwing and Pine Warbler also Mourning Dove just made an appearance. The Buntings fed for several days, there were so many, they fluttered down like snowflakes from the trees and rooftop. I got much pleasure photographing the birds last winter on the feeders close to our large windows and have some nice shots.

This winter is very disappointing, not one stray bird and we kept a keen eye.

I hope the NSBS Newsletter will have more encouraging reports in other areas. Many people in the Truro area who feed birds did not have any this winter and the report was the same from friends in Bedford.

There were very few birds last fall during migration in our area.

Mrs. Dorothy Whippie
R.R. 1, Truro

Editor, NSBS Newsletter

As someone who purchased both the Eastern and Western Region Audubon Society Field Guides when they first arrived on the market in November I would like to add a few thoughts to the Book Review. (Newsletter, Vol. 20, No. 1, Jan. 1978. p.35).

I have always felt that we shouldn't view field guides as our bibles in the field but rather as a reference point for confirmation of carefully noted details. Everyone has experienced the embarrassment of a hastily identified species, me more than most, and the family grouping in most field guides tends to stop many birders from exploring possibilities. Many a Yellow-throated Vireo can pass one by because the bird resembles a warbler so much; and how many times has a Ruby-crowned Kinglet been searched for among the plate of fall warblers. To be honest I welcome the habitat arrangement since it encourages birders to look at more than the bird itself. I do agree with the reviewer, however, that the color coding, which works well with flowers and maybe even with breeding males, tends to confuse the issue. No doubt the publisher felt that the time had come to make use of the many excellent photographs on their files. Perhaps in an effort to please a wider public, the field ornithologist has suffered. However, in view of the excellent guides already in existence I feel the Audubon Society deserves a

pat on the back for widening the scope of the field guide.

Incidentally, and this was coincidental, I hope to have my book published this year using a similar format.

Roger Burrows.

LIFE MEMBER



At a recent meeting of the Cape Breton Branch a long time member, Frank Robertson, was honoured by his fellow members who presented him with the first Nova Scotia Bird Society Life Membership in appreciation of his contribution to the Society over the years.

MEMBERS ABROAD

Two of our members, Sara MacLean of Glace Bay and Lloyd Macpherson of Halifax, have lately ventured far afield. The two articles that follow tell of some of their birding experiences in New Zealand and South Africa, respectively.

Birds of New Zealand

The life list of a moderately successful bird watcher in Nova Scotia would cause his counterpart in New Zealand to eat his heart out in envy. Being so remote from other land masses, native species are few compared to our riches.

There is the Sooty Shearwater, called the Mutton bird, and offered up flat and smoked in the fish shops, with its webbed feet still attached.

Several cormorant species, one a little spotted shag smaller than a crow, speckled like a starling and the pied shag, very handsome, all snow white below and coal black above.

Three herons - blue, reef, and white, all very small, less than a foot high.

Three only species of wild duck. The grey duck, which corresponds to our black duck, but a little smaller, and a little dark scaup that they call a teal. But it's a scaup and no teal, a nimble little diver with a blue bill. Then there is the Paradise duck, a very beautiful shelduck with odd habits. These remain together in pairs. The drake is dark purplish brown and the female seems larger, she is a bright tan, almost orange, with a chalk-white head and neck. They inhabit fields where there is any little brook a foot or two wide. I saw large broods of pretty little chicks swimming in these little streams accompanied by both parents.

There is a fine big hawk, a harrier, coursing over the fields and pastures like our marsh hawk, even to the white rump. These are very numerous.

Inhabiting the field are a tiny native quail, not much bigger than a thrush, a spur-winged plover that looks like a killdeer, and a sort of rail or gallinule called the Pukaka, as large as a hen, blue and purple with red around its head, a really showy bird.

They have a very large colorful native pigeon, one little owl called a morepork, and a little metallic blue kingfisher.

There are two species of herring full, very bold and beggarly, but only the size of a Bonaparte gull. The Southern black-backed gull is about half as big as the greater black-backed. There are several tern species.

For song birds they have the great favorite that everybody knows and admires, the tui. This looks like a rusty blackbird except for a pom-pom of white down, below its throat. Also the bell bird, which looks and acts like a solitary vireo, and a yellowhead, a little tan bird with a canary yellow head and neck, that made me think of a junco, in spite of its color, because it pops out of the roadside thickets everywhere.

Of course there is the Kiwi, the national bird of New Zealand, a large creature of 5 or 6 pounds - there are several varieties. This bird has long, soft, brown feathers like hair, a long beak with nostrils at its tip, large strong feet, and is nocturnal.

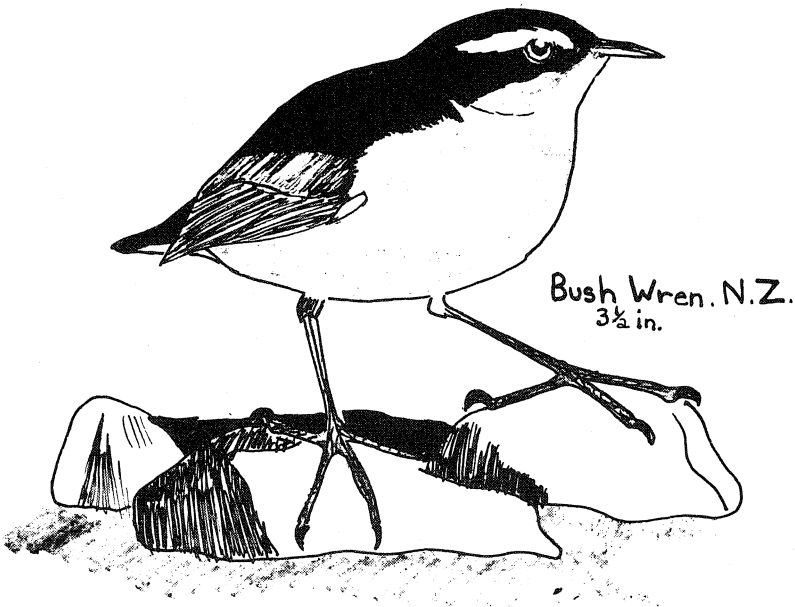
There are a few more - the rifleman, a little thing rather like a chickadee with no tail, a fantail, and a weta, which is a rarity.

There is no birdsong as we know it. The tui is much loved and admired for its song, but it only says "tui, tui", rather sweetly.

Of course there are all sorts of imported birds, from mallards through rock doves to sky larks, starlings, mynahs, house sparrows, and European goldfinches.

These seem to me a pathetic testimonial to the homesickness of the immigrants who carried these birds, mostly purely ornamental, for thousands and thousands of miles in cages on sailing ships, sharing with them their own food and water, sometimes scanty enough, to remind them of the homes they were leaving forever.

Sara MacLean

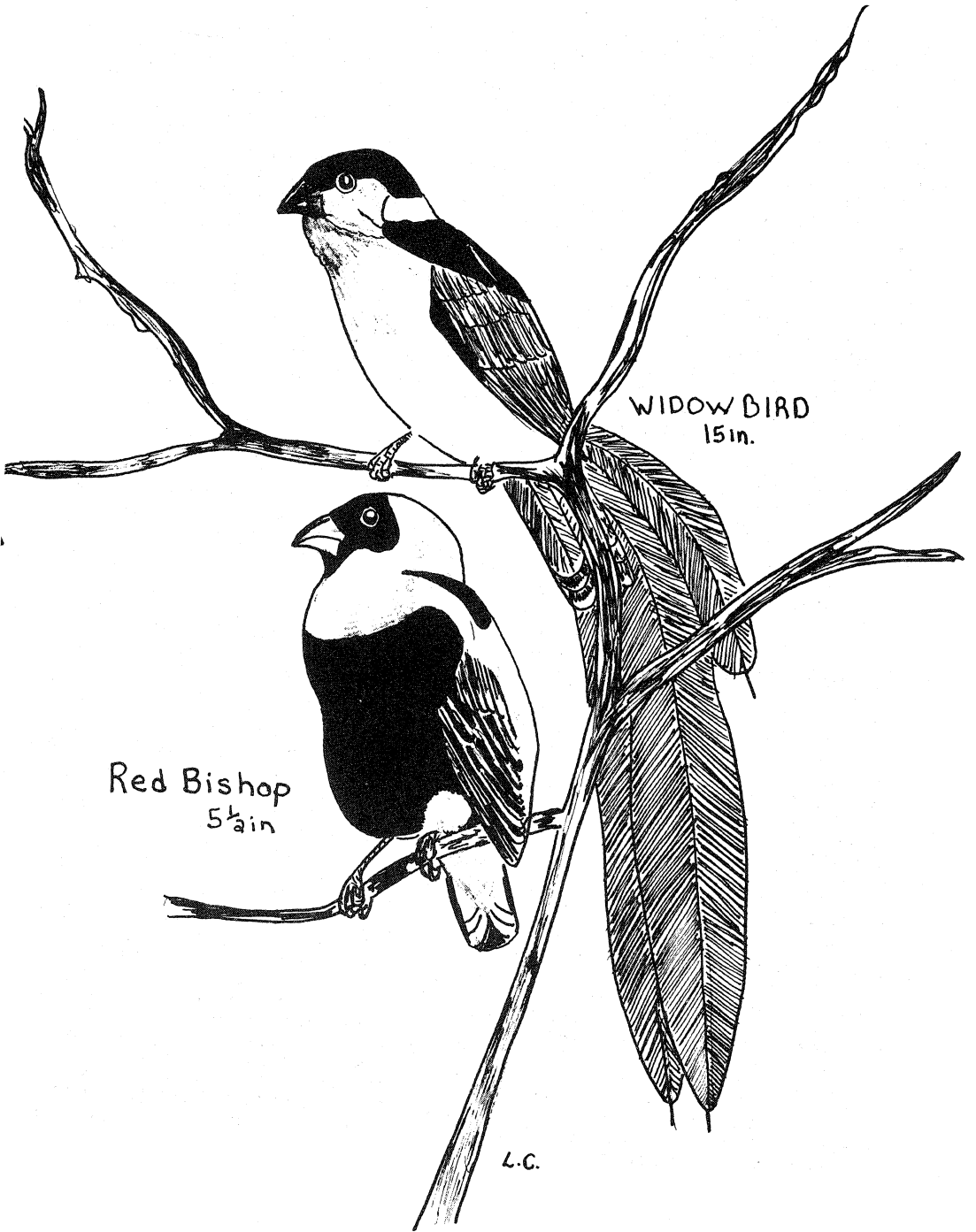


A Winter's Visit to South Africa

To have a whole new continent of birds to try to puzzle out may be a situation not many Newsletter readers find themselves in. Except for one occasion, so far I've been completely on my own but with the aid of books and binoculars I've managed to identify about 150 species in 8 weeks. These have tended to be the visible and spectacular ones as seen in suburban gardens, roadsides and parks. The exception was a day at a large sanctuary, mostly marsh and farm field habitat, with the most luxurious blinds that could be imagined - padded seats and padded elbow rests yet! That day I saw most of the ducks and waders it is possible to see in Southern Africa and had the benefit of the help of a first rate local birder. Most of the waders are paleoarctic migrants here for the summer some of which I had previously seen in U.K. The ducks are all locals - very few seem to be migrants altho their genus affinities with Europe and N. America are apparent. Included were two tree or whistling ducks, White-faced and Fulvous (same species as in Southern America?). An oddity is that Africa has no sea ducks of any kind - I wonder why. This was quite apparent in a wonderful day at the Cape of Good Hope (a thrill in itself). Thousands of gulls, terns, cormorants and gannets. Gulls are easy - only two species, but tern species numerous, of course including our Arctic Tern, not too difficult to separate from the local Common Tern - an European migrant too but I don't know if it is the same species as ours - I know there are no banding evidences as there is for the Arctic.

Egrets, ibis and storks are widespread over the country and numerous, many species of each. The Cattle Egret is amazingly abundant, always in attendance on herds of cows, commonly seen flying overhead even in city suburbs, but strangely almost absent with the game animals in Kruger National Park. A 4-day trip there was certainly a highlight. Much more than average rain this year so we were well warned not to expect to see too much because of the high, lush grass and heavily-leaved trees interfering with visibility and abundance of water so that the animals were not, as usual, concentrated at predictable waterholes. However our tour was extraordinarily lucky, seeing two prides of lions and many kinds of buck - Impala, Waterbuck, Kudu, etc., and rather an abundance of giraffe. Each giraffe (and some Impala) was accompanied by one or two Red-billed Oxpeckers, usually sitting on the animal's nose! This species is no longer seen on domestic cattle as they have been eliminated in farming districts through dipping the cattle for ticks - there are few ticks left for the Oxpecker to eat and anyway the poisoned ticks in turn poisoned the Oxpeckers. Incidentally, the Cattle Egret is very commonly known as the tick bird, but, in fact, it is looking for flying insects stirred up by the cattle, not for ticks. We saw Chacma Baboons and Vervet Monkeys, Warthog, Hippos but missed Elephant and Buffalo herds by a few minutes. The Park is rich in spectacular birds, Crimson Bee-eater, Lilac-breasted Roller, Magpie Shrike, Burchell's Starling (looks like a shiny blue grackle), Yellow-billed Hornbill, Angola Kingfisher, Gray Lourie - saw 5 species of eagles.

Other than the situations mentioned most of the opportunities have been for roadside birds, on fences or telephone wires, whilst travelling along or in suburban gardens so I have done particularly badly on the "small brown jobs" that live on the ground or in shrubbery - pipits, larks, cisticolas, warblers of which there is an abundance of species - and trying to identify by a book-description of calls just about impossible. They are all skulkers and bush divers too! In fact I believe that it is a characteristic of small African birds to dive into a thick tree and not come out - a contrast to our warblers, for instance, that are relatively visible. It is suggested that they have acquired this habit because there are 55+ species of birds of prey, many of them rather abundant.



WIDOW BIRD
15in.

Red Bishop
5 1/2 in

L.C.

Another topic that has intrigued me - why so many long-tailed birds in Africa and virtually none in the Northern Hemisphere. I mean birds with tails 3x as long as their bodies. The Paradise Flycatcher, Magpie Shrike, Cape Sugarbird, Long-tailed Widow, Red-collared Widow, Pin-tailed Whydah, Sharp-tailed Paradise Whydah, Shaft-tailed Whydah. Most of these I've seen and the most visible, widespread and eccentric is certainly the Long-tailed Widow, or Common Flap (pronounced Flop) - very descriptive. The males are polygamous and patrol their territories, 6 or 7 nests in the grass, with an incredible floppy flight, about 2 wingbeats per sec., barely staying airborne, all the while swaying from side to side, tails hanging vertically (sometimes dragging in the grass tops) and wing tips coming way forward around head. An unbelievable sight indeed (the bird is black with red wing patches - not unlike and about the same size as a Red-winged Blackbird, and another foot of floppy tail).

I think the two most brilliantly colored animals I've seen are the Red Bishop (bird, fluorescent scarlet) and the Blue Monkey (animal!) who is so named because his rear end, including all essential parts is a fluorescent sky blue! Neither of these colors is really fluorescent, I suppose, but they are so brilliant as to seem so. The Red Bishop is common enough in the right places but I was lucky to see a troop of Blue Monkeys in the wild. No description could do them justice! but certainly bizarre would have to be an adjective.

We are looking forward to returning to spring (?) in England on 10 Mar and to spring (?) in N.S. on 24 Mar.

L.B. Macpherson
 Krugersdorp, Transvaal
 12 Feb 78

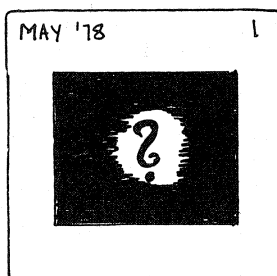
BOOK REVIEW

"Wild Birdwatchers I Have Known", by Gerry Bennett

Listers and their lists come in as many sizes and shapes as the birds they watch. "Wild Birdwatchers I Have Known" is funny to the point where it begins to remind you of some of your acquaintances, then some of your friends and then when you see a member of your own family, you may laugh or you may squirm. Just how well adjusted you are will surely be known by the time you finish this book. It is full of anecdotes, jokes and trivia about birdwatchers. This lighthearted book would make a good stocking stuffer for any birdwatcher and is best when read aloud, preferably around a picnic table, midway through a field trip.

Evelyn Dobson

Paperback,
 Obtained from
 G. Bennett,
 R.R. 2,
 Woodbridge, Ont.
 L4L 1A6

SLIDES NEEDED

NSBS is attempting to build a collection of 35 mm colour slides of Nova Scotia birds. This collection, or relevant parts of it, will be available to members to illustrate talks, lectures or similar presentations. There is a nucleus on which to build, but many more photographs are needed. Donations of slides would be most acceptable, but should you have slides you treasure we will have them copied for the collection and return the original to you if you could lend them for a short time.

The following is a list of "most wanted birds" -

| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>PLUMAGE</u> | <u>SEX</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Common Loon | Both | Any |
| Red-throated Loon | " | |
| Red-necked Grebe | " | |
| Horned Grebe | " | |
| Fulmar | Any | |
| Sooty Shearwater | " | |
| Leach's Petrel | " | |
| Wilson's Petrel | " | |
| Gannet | " | |
| Double-crested Cormorant | " | |
| Little Blue Heron | " | |
| Cattle Egret | " | |
| Common Egret | " | |
| American Bittern | " | |
| Gadwall | " | m & f |
| Pintail | " | m & f |
| Green-winged Teal | " | m & f |
| Blue-winged Teal | " | m & f |
| Shoveler | " | m & f |
| Wood Duck | " | m & f |
| Redhead | " | m & f |
| Common Goldeneye | Any | m & f |
| Bufflehead | " | m & f |
| Oldsquaw | " | m & f |
| Common Eider | Both | m & f |
| King Eider | " | m & f |
| White-winged Scoter | Any | m & f |
| Common Scoter | " | m & f |
| Hooded Merganser | " | m & f |
| Common Merganser | " | m & f |
| Red-breasted Merganser | " | m & f |
| Turkey Vulture | " | |

| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>PLUMAGE</u> | <u>SEX</u> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | Any | Any |
| Cooper's Hawk | " | " |
| Red-tailed Hawk | " | " |
| Rough-legged Hawk | " | " |
| Broad-winged Hawk | " | " |
| Marsh Hawk | " | Male |
| Gryfalcon | Black " White | Any |
| Peregrine Falcon | Any | m & f |
| Pigeon Hawk | " | m & f |
| Sparrow Hawk | " | m & f |
| Gray Partridge | " | Any |
| Virginia Rail | Adult | " |
| Yellow Rail | " | " |
| American Golden Plover | Winter, Summer | " |
| American Woodcock | Adult | " |
| Whimbrel | " | " |
| Willet | Winter, Summer | " |
| Knot | " | " |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | " | " |
| Stilt Sandpiper | " | " |
| Marbled Godwit | Adult | " |
| Hudsonian Godwit | Winter, Summer | " |
| Northern Phalarope | " | " |
| Pomarine Jaeger | Adult | " |
| Parasitic Jaeger | Dark phase, Light phase | " |
| Glaucous Gull | Adult, 2nd winter | " |
| Iceland Gull | Adult, winter, summer | " |
| Ring-billed Gull | Adult | " |
| Laughing Gull | Summer | " |
| Bonaparte's Gull | Winter, <u>Summer</u> | " |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | Adult, summer, winter | " |
| Roseate Tern | Adult, summer | " |
| Caspian Tern | Adult, summer | " |
| Dovekie | Winter, summer | " |
| Black Guillemot | " " | " |
| Common Puffin | Adult | " |
| Rock Dove | True plumage | " |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | Adult, showing bill | " |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | " " " | " |
| Great Horned Owl | Adult | " |
| Long-eared Owl | " | " |
| Saw-whet Owl | Dark & light phase | " |
| Belted Kingfisher | | m & f |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | Adult | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | " | |
| Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker | " | |
| Eastern Phoebe | " | |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | " | |
| Traill's Flycatcher | " | |
| Least Flycatcher | " | |
| Eastern Wood Pewee | " | |
| Common Raven | " | |
| Brown Creeper | " | |
| House Wren | " | |
| Swainson's Thrush | " | |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | " | |
| Veery | " | |
| Wood Thrush | " | |
| Brown Thrasher | " | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | " | m & f |
| Bohemian Waxwing | Adult, immature | |
| Northern Shrike | Adult | Any |

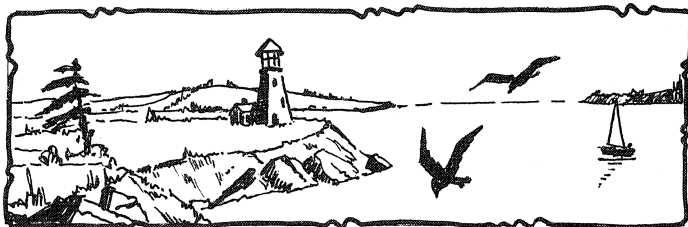
| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>PLUMAGE</u> | <u>SEX</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Solitary Vireo | Adult | Any |
| Red-eyed Vireo | " | " |
| Warbling Vireo | " | " |
| Tennessee Warbler | Summer, immature | " |
| Nashville | Spring, fall | " |
| Parula | Spring | m & f |
| Blackburnian | Spring, fall | m & f |
| Northern Waterthrush | Fall | Any |
| Hooded Warbler | Spring, fall | Both |
| Bobolink | Spring, fall | Any |
| Eastern Meadowlark | Adult | " |
| Orchard Oriole | " | m & f |
| Baltimore Oriole | " | m & f |
| Rusty Blackbird | Spring, fall | Any |
| Scarlet Tanager | Adult, spring, fall | m & f |
| Summer Tanager | " " " | m & f |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | Adult | m & f |
| Indigo Bunting | " | m & f |
| Cardinal | Adult bird | m & f |
| Dickcissel | Adult | m & f |
| Pine Grosbeak | " | m & f |
| White-winged Crossbill | " | m & f |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow | " | m & f |
| Vesper Sparrow | " | Any |
| Swamp Sparrow | Adult, immature | m & f |
| Song Sparrow | Adult | Any |

Please send slides to the co-ordinator:

Lise Cohrs,
8 Rosemount Ave.,
Halifax, N.S. B3N 1X8

Please say whether they are a loan or a donation, and mark your name on each one.

LAC



SPRING MIGRATION

Now that winter is over and spring is here - it arrived officially on March 21st - it's time to welcome back those species of birds that left us last fall. Spring migration is for many bird-watchers the most exciting and enjoyable time of the year as the birds that spent the winter in the southern States, in Central and even South America hurry northward to their summer nesting grounds. Many of the migrants that we see each spring travel through the province to areas further north - others stay here to nest. Some arrive earlier than others, the arrival dates generally governed by availability of suitable food. For instance, robins, which are ground feeders and will eat a variety of foods arrive earlier than specialists like the flycatchers that must wait until insects become available in the air for them to eat.

It adds interest to birdwatching if you know when certain species can be expected to arrive so you can be on the lookout for them. Let's consider when you should expect to see about a dozen species of migrants this spring -

Great Blue Heron - The first Great Blue Herons usually arrive in the western part of the province late in March - even as early as March 20th - and are generally distributed throughout the province by April 15th. We're on the Atlantic Flyway and most of our migrating birds travel up the eastern coast of the U.S., then fly across the New England States to the western part of Nova Scotia. They regularly appear first on Brier and Seal Islands and Yarmouth County, then spread eastward across the province, usually arriving in this area four or five days after being seen around Yarmouth.

Green-winged Teal - An occasional Green-winged Teal may winter in the province - there was a pair in Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth this winter - but most spend the winter in southern U.S. and Central America. Migrating flocks usually first appear the last week of March and are generally distributed throughout the province by early April.

Osprey - winter in Southern U.S., Mexico and Central America. They return to Nova Scotia in mid-April and you can almost count on seeing them at Cole Harbour and Lawrencetown by April 15th. A pair has been nesting and successfully raising young for several years in a nest at Lawrencetown that's clearly visible from the road.

Piping Plover are our earliest returning shorebirds. These attractive little birds nest on sandy beaches but because there's so much disturbance of their nesting areas, they're in danger of extinction and are on the endangered species list. They nest on only a few beaches in this province and need protection if they're to survive. Piping Plover first arrive about the first of April and though not plentiful, can be counted on being present by mid April at suitable beaches.

The Spotted Sandpiper is one of our most common breeding shorebirds. After wintering in Florida, Mexico and South America, it arrives back in Nova Scotia about April 28, but is not generally distributed throughout the province until May 10th to 20th.

Willetts are the first shorebirds normally seen along our coast and in the salt marshes. While Piping Plover arrive earlier, they're scarce, small and hard to find but Willetts are large, showy birds and fairly common. At rest, it's a dull, unspectacular brown bird but in flight, the flashing white wing stripes make it very noticeable. Willetts first arrive about April 24th and are everywhere by May 10th.

Tree Swallows arrive at Brier and Seal Islands and around Yarmouth about April 1st or 2nd and are well distributed by April 15th or 20th.

However Barn Swallows are almost a month later, first showing up about May 1st and spreading throughout the province by May 10th. One can't help wondering why two closely related species such as these should arrive a month apart.

A few Robins always stay in Nova Scotia over the winter so it's difficult to pinpoint the first arrivals but they're usually seen by March 20th and spread through the province by the last of the month. Many of the Robins we see continue on to Newfoundland, Labrador and New Brunswick but as you know, others stay here to nest and raise their young.

Warblers - It's always a joy to see the spring warblers arrive in their bright, courting plumages - such a wide variety of colors - blues, greens, yellows, reds and whites that are a joy to the eye while identification of their calls and songs is a challenge to the mind. Arrival of migrating warblers, which often appear in successive waves of mixed species, is for many birdwatchers the highlight of the year. The first warblers appear in early May and the migration continues all during the month.

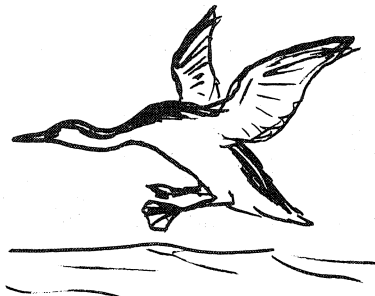
Returning Red-winged Blackbirds usually appear in the western end of the province about March 15th, then spread out over the province during the next few weeks, arriving in Cape Breton by early April. They can be seen at Lawrencetown by late March around the still frozen cattail marshes, bright red patches on the wings of the males flashing in the sun while they give their distinctive, though scarcely musical, call - kree! kree!

Fox Sparrows very seldom nest around here so we see them only for a short time in spring while on their way through the province to their nesting areas in Newfoundland, Labrador and northern New Brunswick. They usually go through between the last few days of March and about the 20th of April.

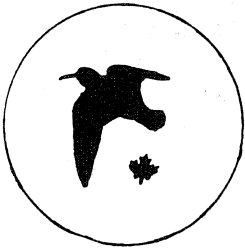
A sparrow that does stay to nest in fields and grassy areas of Nova Scotia is the Savannah Sparrow which usually arrives by April 15th and can be found throughout the province by April 25th.

So there are the arrival dates of a few of the more common and easily found species. It's always a pleasure to see the first Robin - the first Osprey - the first Willet. These and many more birds are on their way, getting closer every day and will be arriving in quick succession during the next two months. Let's all get out our binoculars and field guides, then go out to welcome them back!

Eric Cooke



MARITIMES SHOREBIRD SURVEY 1978



The Canadian Wildlife Service would again like to request the assistance of volunteer participants for what is planned to be the fifth and final year of the Maritimes Shorebird Survey in 1978. 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 migrations. Information gathered on the shorebird surveys will be essential in determining conservation measures for the birds; it is currently being used, for instance, in assessing the potential impact of the proposed Fundy Tidal Power project on shorebirds. 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 1978, survey dates will be the weekends of 15-16 and 29-30 July; 12-13 and 26-27 August; 9-10 and 23-24 September; 7-8 and 21-22 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, particularly around peak migration periods.

The Maritimes Shorebird 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 felt that a five-year study period will provide the basic data required for the above purposes, and 1978 is therefore being planned as the final year in the current series of surveys. Surveys in future years may be organized in response to particular requirements, e.g. for monitoring the effects of developments.

The Canadian Wildlife Service would like to hear from anyone who may be able to contribute to the shorebird surveys in 1978. Potential participants should contact the following:

Dr. R. I. G. Morrison
 Canadian Wildlife Service
 2721 Highway 31
 OTTAWA, Ontario K1G 3Z7 (613-998-4693)

INTERNATIONAL SHOREBIRD SURVEYS 1978

A cooperative International Shorebird Survey scheme has been organized by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Manomet Bird Observatory since 1974 to obtain information on shorebird migration and to identify and document areas of major importance. This scheme has been highly successful, with much very valuable information on shorebird distribution and migration coming from contributors throughout eastern Canada and the U.S.A., the Caribbean Islands and Central and South America. Information from the scheme will be valuable in assessing requirements for the future protection and conservation of the birds and their habitat. It is planned to make 1978 the fifth and final year of the project. Any observer who may be able to par-

ticipate in regular counts of shorebirds during spring and autumn migration periods, as well as during the winter in shorebird wintering areas, is asked to contact the undersigned. Occasional counts from observers visiting shorebird areas on an irregular basis would also be most welcome.

Dr. R. I. G. Morrison - address as above.

SHOREBIRD COLOUR-MARKING

In 1978, the Canadian Wildlife Service will be continuing a large-scale program of banding and colour-marking shorebirds in James Bay. During the past three years, over 30,000 shorebirds have been captured, resulting in more than 1,200 'bird days' of sightings of dyed birds ranging from eastern Canada to South America. Much valuable information on migration routes and strategies is being obtained and observers are again asked to look out for and report any colour-dyed or colour-banded shorebirds that they may see. Reports should include details of species (with age if possible), place, date, colour-marks and, if possible, notes on the numbers of other shorebirds present. For colour-dyed birds, please record the colour and area of the bird that was dyed. For colour bands and standard metal leg bands, please record which leg the bands were on, whether they were above or below the "knee", the colours involved (yellow or light blue), and the relative position of the bands if more than one was on a leg (e.g. right lower leg, blue over metal, etc.). All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to:

Dr. R. I. G. Morrison - address as above.



BALD EAGLE ALERT

The Wildlife Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests is monitoring the seasonal movements of Bald Eagles. Eagles captured at various locations throughout the province are being banded with a series of coloured leg bands in addition to a metal band. Immature birds will be marked with 1 inch (7½cm) long orange tags attached to the lower shaft of the outermost primary feather of each wing. These markers will be dropped on the next moult.

It would be greatly appreciated if anyone sighting an eagle would check for the bands and tags. If possible, the following information should be recorded: date, place, colour marks (the exact sequence of colour bands, e.g., red over blue on left leg, single red on right), other eagles present, observer's name and address.

Send all reports of sightings to: P.J. Austin-Smith, Wildlife Division, P.O. Box 516, Kentville, N.S. B4N 3X3

SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

The Executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society held regular monthly meetings from December through March.

During this period, the Society's collection of bird slides is being restored by Lise Cohrs, and it is an ongoing project designed to improve the quality of the collection.

This year, the Museum Display was capably organized by our Executive Member, Ralph Connor. Under his fine direction, panels and brochures were set up, as well as displays of carvings, photography, and bird banding.

It was decided to invest the money received from all life memberships and our Honorary Auditor, Jim Morrow, was consulted in the matter. The Treasurer was authorized to purchase a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (Annual Debenture), with interest payable annually on April 1st, value of the certificate being \$1000.00.

Paid members in the Society as of March 5th, 1978, total 338, a figure which is very promising over this time last year.

The balance on hand as of March 13th is \$3185.90.



Mary Anderson
Secretary

MEMBERSHIP AND FEES

Membership in the Nova Scotia Bird Society may be obtained by writing to -

Membership Secretary,
Nova Scotia Bird Society,
c/o Nova Scotia Museum,
1747 Summer Street,
Halifax, Nova Scotia. B3H 3A6

Rates are as follows -

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------|
| Life Membership | - | \$180.00 |
| Single Membership (1 year) | - | 6.00 |
| Family Membership (1 year) | - | 8.00 |
| Student Membership (1 year) | - | 4.00 |
| (available to those under 18) | | |

STOP PRESS

Two reports were received after the deadline. Their importance warrants their inclusion here.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK Was soaring overhead with adult Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks. Its size, smaller than a Redtail but larger than the Broadwing, rufous underwing coverts and breast, longer, narrower tail than a Redtail's and banded black and white with the white bands noticeably narrower than the black bands and the "windows" at the base of the primaries, were all field marks easily seen, making this a Red-shouldered Hawk.

This was a big hawk day, September 24, 1977, at Brier Is.- there were 200+ hawks, mostly Sharpies seen.

Bruce D. Mactavish

BLUE GROSBEAK "Small flock" seen at Waterford, Digby Neck, on Feb. 19, 1978, by Edward Knowlton. They stayed around all day and were eating spruce buds.

fide R.W. Tufts.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Volume 20, Number 2

May, 1978

EDITORIAL BOARD

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Editor-in-Chief | Shirley Cohrs |
| Records Editor | Phyllis Dobson |
| Photographic Editor | Ralph Connor |
| Christmas Counts | Mary and Ross Anderson |
| Seasonal Bird Reports | C.R.K. Allen |
| | R.G.B. Brown |
| | Shirley Cohrs |
| | Phyllis Dobson |
| | Robert Lamberton |
| | Eric L. Mills |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| Winter Birds | 57 |
| Field Trip Reports | 79 |
| Up-coming Field Trips | 80 |
| Christmas Counts | 81 |
| Planting for the Birds | 94 |
| Letters to the Editor | 96 |
| Birds of New Zealand - Sara MacLean | 98 |
| A Winter's Visit to South Africa - Lloyd Macpherson | 100 |
| Spring Migration - Eric Cooke | 106 |

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

ISSN 0383-9567