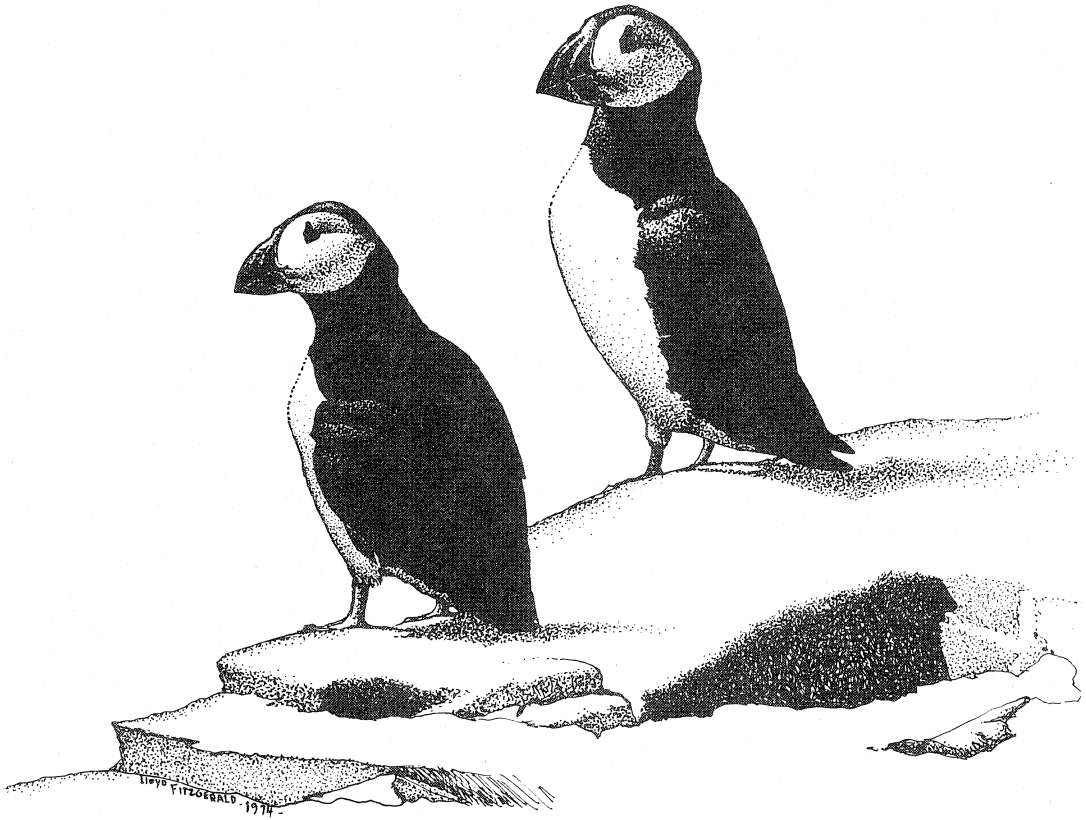


nova scotia

bird society



**april
newsletter**

volume twenty-one number two nineteen seventy nine

N O V A S C O T I A B I R D S O C I E T Y

N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 21, Number 2

April, 1979

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 Cobson I.A. McLaren Eric L. Mills

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Winter Bird Report	71
Field Trip Reports	88
Up-coming Field Trips	90
So You Want to Buy a Telescope - John Cohrs	92
Letters to the Editor	95
1980 Celebrations	100
Christmas Counts 1978-79	105

Use of photographs from NSBS Newsletter
requires written permission from the
photographer.

Cost of the publication of this News-
letter is partially borne by the Nova
Scotia Museum.

ISSN 0383-9567

Second Class Mail
Reg. No. 4628

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Incorporated 1957.

WINTER REPORT 1978-1979

The behavior of birds, like that of the weather (and of children in company) is unpredictable. The last fall report implied that only the memory of our robins would remain to fortify us through the long cold winter. It wasn't the memory which remained but the robins themselves; nor has it been an especially long cold winter. Cold weather "set in" early in December, with frost and snow, but January was exceptionally mild, as was early February. We then had a fortnight of severe cold weather with sub-zero temperatures and strong north winds, between which our lakes and estuaries, mostly still open, froze over, and our shorelines became iced up to an unprecedented degree - along the coast rocks and cliffs were encased in ice, and harbours, for the first time in many years, frozen over - (a scene of stark, white bone-chilling beauty) - and sea-birds were driven far off shore. This was of short duration. Three days of rising temperatures followed by heavy rains, and it was gone. Salt water soon reappeared but the lakes have been slow to open up again.

From reports received it would appear that the winter bird population was about normal. Depending upon where you lived certain species seemed scarce to absent, which however were abundant in other parts of the province - e.g. Juncos and the White-winged Crossbill. This inequality no doubt reflected differences in special food availability. Some species were unusually abundant everywhere - as the robins and Northern Shrikes. We had however very few Redpolls, and fewer Purple Finches. No one seems to know what motivates the finches, so this may have no particular significance.

We have to thank Ross and Mary Anderson for preparing the Christmas Counts for us, and for the interesting list at the end of the report, a list of the places where highest counts of each species of bird were found. We are apt to say "most participants in a Count, most birds seen", which is probably true of the number of species logged, but the number of individuals of each species present depends upon what the area has to offer and is quite independent of the number of "counters" (well not quite, but by and large). These high counts do give a fair indication of what birds to expect where. Naturally loons and grebes would be coastwise in winter, the largest number of Eiders would be off Cape Sable (their old gathering ground) but it was surprising to discover all those alcids in the Upper Bay of Fundy. How suitable to find the Spruce Grouse near Shubenacadie; the pheasant and Gray Partridge, the Crows and the big hawks - and the Mourning Dove - in the Valley. Go to the South Shore in winter for sea- and bay-ducks; the Sydneys to see the White-winged Gulls, to Brier I. for Kittiwakes, the Border region or Kejimikujik for owls and Economy for Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker. Read the whole report over, it is very interesting. Christmas Counts are not of much use statistically, having too many variables, but they are in some ways informative - besides providing us with a lot of fun.

Several oddities turned up on the Counts, for example a Yellow-headed Blackbird and a Seaside Sparrow, some White-crowned Sparrows and five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. During the season the most exciting discoveries were in the gull department - one or two more Lesser Black-backed Gulls and several Ivory Gulls. In fact this may be called in future the Winter of the Ivory Gulls - (the first winter - should they, like some others of the small gulls, become "common"?).

This is an Arctic bird which "occasionally wanders south in winter". Last February it would scarcely notice the change! Read all about it, in the report to follow.

P.R.D.

Contributors to this report:

C.R.K.Allen, M.B.Allen, Kirk Atkinson, Marion P.S. Brown, Roland D. Chaisson, Margaret A. Clark, J.S., J.L., and Lisé Cohrs, Eric H. Cooke, Ethel Crathorne, Edyth and Clarence Davis, Delisle J. d'Entremont, Raymond S. d'Entremont, Ted C. D'Eon, Con Desplanque, Phyllis R. Dobson, Ross Dobson, Reginald Doucette, Mary Ferguson, Christopher Field, Stephen P. Flemming, Bernard L. Forsythe, Roberta B. Fraser, C. Gardiner, E. Gardiner, Peter Gasson, June Graves, Edgar and Ver-nita Hamilton, John B. Hardie, Frank Hennessey, Marion W. Hilton, Hedley Hopkins, Terry Hyson, Ralph S. Johnson, Judy Jollotta, Vernon and Keith N. Keddy, C.F.L.Kelsey, Dorothy B. Kirk, Fulton Lavender, Clive S. Macdonald, Paul MacDonal, Ruth MacDougall, Pam MacKay, N. MacLachlan, Ian A. McLaren, Sara MacLean, Audrey MacLeod, Gordon MacLeod, Brian MacNeil, J. McNicol, J. Mahon, E. Meikle, Rainer and Jan Meyerowitz, Eric L. Mills, Jean and Bill Morse, Ethelda Murphy, Sandra C. Myers, Margaret A. Nickerson, Winnie Peach, Israel J. Pothier, Don and Joyce Purchase, Annie Raymond, Frank F. Robertson, Ella E. Roland, Michael Rymer, Barry C. Sabean, Bruce Saunders, Beverley, Betty June and Sid Smith, Arthur Spencer, Agnes Stokes, Aldon Turner, Allan Turner, W.E. Whitehead.

Many thanks! (from the editors).

- - - - -

Many of the birding areas in Nova Scotia "crop up" regularly in the 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, Eel Brook, Cook's Beach, Melbourne, Little Egypt.
Shelburne Co.	Cape Sable I., Barrington, Brass Hill, Lockeport Upper and Lower Ohio
Queen's Co.	Port Joli, Port Hebert
Lunenburg Co.	Cherry Hill Beach, Broad Cove, Petite Riviere, Green Bay, Crescent Beach
Halifax Co.	Three Fathom Harbour, Conrad's Beach, Lawrencetown Cole Harbour, Mooseland, Martinique Beach, Russell Lake
Digby Co.	Brier Island, Smith's Cove
Colchester Co.	Truro, Economy
Annapolis Co.	Wilmot, Round Hill
King's Co.	Wolfville, Long I., Boot I.
Cumberland Co.	Lusby Marsh, Tidnish, River Philip
APBS	Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary
CBHNP	Cape Breton Highlands National Park
CBC's	Christmas Bird Counts

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

Deadline for reports for next issue is - May 31, 1979.

Please send bird reports to the Records Editor,

Dr. P. R. Dobson,
RMB 170, R.R. 1,
Ste. Anne du Ruisseau,
Nova Scotia 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 Street,
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6

- - - - -

WINTER BIRD REPORTS, 1978-1979
December through February.

LOONS AND GREBES

COMMON LOONS were "logged" on 13 out of the 28 Christmas Bird Counts: 8 of these were at points along the South Shore, 4 from Lower Bay of Fundy and one at Baddeck. Highest number seen was 68 on the Broad Cove count. All other observations were of two or three birds along the coast between Halifax and Cape Sable. The only report from Yarmouth Co. all winter was of 2, Dec. 31 at Lower West Pubnico.(DJd'E).

An ARCTIC LOON in winter plumage at Tiverton, Digby Co. Dec. 28 was positively identified and painstakingly described by Eric and Anne Mills.

RED-THROATED LOONS showed up on the CBC's at three localities: 2, at Brier I. Dec. 27; a surprising 10 at Broad Cove Dec. 30 and 3, Dec. 23, Halifax East.

RED-NECKED GREBES ventured farther into the Bay of Fundy and in greater numbers than did the Loons: one was seen at Advocate Feb. 3 (PH); 8 at Port Royal Habitation Jan. 27(B&JM); 10, on the Kingston CBC Dec. 31, and one at Digby, Dec. 27. The 41 at Brier I. Dec. 30 was second only in numbers to the 51 seen at Cape Sable Dec. 29. The only other sighting of any number was the 23 at Broad Cove, Dec. 30.

Highest number of HORNED GREBES was the 115 scored by members of the Broad Cove CBC on Dec. 30 while adjacent Green Bay produced over 60 - possibly some of the same birds - Dec. 29-Jan. 1 (JSC). No other sightings came close to these in number although these grebes are reported as "quite plentiful" in St. Margaret's Bay where they usually winter in considerable numbers.

Two PIED-BILLED GREBES lingered well into the winter - one was at the old Sugar Refinery in Dartmouth Jan. 18 (FL) and the other (seen by a number of observers) stuck it out at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, until Feb. 17.

CRKA Ed.

FULMARS, SHEARWATERS, STORM PETRELS.

Our only tubenose records are the NORTHERN FULMARS which Dick Brown saw around the halves of the tanker "KURDISTAN" in Cabot Strait about 50 miles NE of Sydney, when he flew out there on March 17th.

GANNETS, CORMORANTS

There are only two GANNET records. Stuart Tingley saw two juveniles near Cape Tormentine on Dec. 16, and there were two the next day on the Port Hebert CBC.

The Christmas Bird Counts gives an interesting impression of GREAT CORMORANT distribution around the Province in winter. The peak was 318 birds at Brier I. on Dec. 27. There were also 18 at the Sydneys; 1 at CBHNP; 11 at Antigonish; 97 at Port Hebert; 6 on the Upper Bay of Fundy; 124 in Halifax West, but only 1 on Halifax East; 47 at Broad Cove; 7 at Cape Sable; 17 at Yarmouth; 2 at Digby; the Smiths saw 13 at Cape Sable on Jan. 20; one bird already had the white flank patch characteristic of breeding plumage. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS are as usual scarce at this time of year. There were single birds on the Halifax W. and Broad Cove CBC's, and an immature at Westport on Dec. 26 (ELM). The Smiths had 35 at Cape Sable on Feb. 9 and 15 on Feb. 18.

RGG Ed.



HERON

Several GREAT BLUE HERONS in December (including 7 on CBC's) could still have had time to leave, but some wintered as usual, especially in Yarmouth Co., where individuals were seen at Pleasant Lake on Jan. 24 (MR), Argyle River on Feb. 1 (PRD) and at Pubnico Harbour between Jan. 24 and Feb. 1 (Djd'E). Elsewhere birds were seen at Pomquet Antigonish Co. on Jan. 6 (RC) and Jan. 17 (George Boyd); near Eastern Passage, Hfx Co., on Jan. 7 (ELM, IM); and at Sheffield Mills, on Feb. 1 (BCS).

IAM Ed.

GEESE AND DUCKS

High numbers of CANADA GEESE were recorded on several of the CBC's; 5886, Port Hebert Dec. 17; 4660 Halifax East Dec. 23, and 1480 at Yarmouth Dec. 30. There were still 2000 of the Halifax geese at Cole Harbour until it froze, Feb. 24 when they presumably moved to Lawrencetown, as 2500 were seen at this latter locality on about the same date. The Yarmouth geese were ousted by ice from the Melbourne Sanctuary in early January and probably moved to the Tusket estuary and Pubnico Harbour as flocks numbering up to 500 were seen on and off at both places during January and February (MR&DJd'E). Except for 1000 at Morien Bar Jan. 13 (HH) all other reports of geese are of relatively small numbers seen or heard at widely scattered localities.

The regularity with which BRANT are recorded in winter from Brier I. and adjacent parts of Digby Neck tempt one to regard this area as a small wintering outpost for this species. This year 2 were seen on the Brier I. CBC Dec. 27, and 25 were at nearby Freeport on the same date (ELM).

Two SNOW GEESE, one white and one blue phase were shot by boys at Lingan Bay Jan. 2. The birds were so confiding that the young hunters were called to task by their father for killing domestic birds (CM).

Two or three MALLARDS, members of the Black Duck flocks were reported as usual from various places. The status of the 50 seen on the Sydneys CBC is dubious according to some observers who think the Mallards may be from an adjacent park, forced to move out for the winter. No comments have been received as to the status of the 25 at Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth or the 24 reported on the Wolfville CBC.

Wintering BLACK DUCK flocks are apparently down this year, numbers up to 200 each are reported from Economy, Five Islands, Pleasant Lake and Argyle Head in Yarmouth Co., Sydney-Glace Bay and Antigonish. At Pubnico Harbour, Sullivan's Pond and Cape Sable flocks numbered 400 or more. Even on the CBC's the highest number tallied was 686 at Yarmouth, and this was of course for the whole region (the Count area).

Just 7 PINTAILS showed up on the CBC's, 6 at Yarmouth and 1 at Wolfville and the only other sightings for the period were 1, Feb. 24 at Three Fathom Harbour (NSBS Field Trip) and 1, Jan. 24, still at Wolfville (BCS).

A few GREEN-WINGED TEAL - singles up to 2-3 birds - are wintering here and there and 14 were reported by participants in the Annapolis CBC. Barry Sabeau reports a very late BLUE-WINGED TEAL "apparently healthy though not fat" shot at Windsor Dec. 2.

Clive S. Macdonald of New Waterford reports 2 male EUROPEAN WIGEONS which, together with two Ivory Gulls on Feb. 10 made this day definitely in the red-letter category.

A female WOOD DUCK, wintering at the sewage plant at Dorothea Drive, on the outskirts of Dartmouth has caused a lot of comment. Seen first by Ian A. McLaren on Jan. 21, it was subsequently discovered by Shirley Cohrs who reported it, and then a week later (Feb. 3) by Eric Cooke, again reported, and well worthy of comment.

Three very late RING-NECKED DUCKS were spotted by the members of the Broad Cove CBC. GREATER SCAUP in rather small numbers are reported from all coastal waters, for the most part in 10's and 20's or 40's. John Cohrs found none at all on their usual feeding grounds at Bayport and Crescent Beach in late Dec. and early Jan., although the CBC's at Broad Cove in the same area scored 228 on December 30.

Antigonish birders report sighting 250 LESSER SCAUP at Mahoney's Beach, Antigonish Co. Dec. 29, and state that size, extent of white on wing and head color aided in identification. One other of this species was accompanying the Greater Scaup at Broad Cove.

Out of a total of 28 CBC's, 20 included COMMON GOLDENEYES on their lists. Numbers ranged from 3 at Annapolis Royal and Halifax West to 232 on the Halifax East count. Other observations are of the order of 20-70, except for 200+ seen at Crescent Beach daily, by Paul MacDonald until the arrival of severe weather in mid-February. Distribution seemed fairly even for all coastal waters.

There were six BARROW'S GOLDENEYES, 4 males and 2 females in Pugwash Harbour Jan. 6, and 8 in the same spot on Jan. 28. A single bird was noted at Northport also on Jan. 28 (FH, SIT). Other sightings of this species are: one at Lingan Bay in February (CSM); one at Annapolis Causeway Dec. 27 (B&JM), and a female at Cole Harbour Dec. 23 (Cohrs).

Greatest number of BUFFLEHEADS reported were from the Bay of Fundy, where 244 were seen in eight localities. Along the South Shore they showed up in eleven places but total number was only 143. Cape Breton reported 69 birds from five points.

Goodly numbers of OLDSQUAWS were seen on the CBC's - at Brier I. 356, Broad Cove 70, Halifax East 168, the Sydneys 303 and Digby 90. Elsewhere and for the rest of the winter numbers and distribution were normal. The only HARLEQUIN DUCKS noted were 2, Dec. 7 at Port Hebert and 4, Dec. 30 at Broad Cove.

Approximately 1400 COMMON EIDERS were still on hand for the Cape Sable CBC. This is one of their great gathering places during migration and Sid Smith recalls one occasion when there were "shore-to-shore" Eiders as far as the eye could see. No other Counts came close to the one above, except the 978 at Brier I. Dec. 27. Two KING EIDERS spruced up the Bridgetown CBC on Dec. 16, and were the only sightings of this species for the period.

Motley companies of SCOTERS of all three species were seen in all coastal waters during the winter, with distribution about even for Bay of Fundy, Atlantic Coast and Cape Breton waters; scarcity of reports from Northumberland Strait probably indicates scarcity of birders rather than birds. WHITE-WINGED Scoters greatly outnumbered the other two. Totals for all CBC's were as follows - White-winged 333, Surf 21, Black 114. Frank Hennessey writes that most White-wings had left Economy by early December and makes no mention of the other two types. The reporters from Northumberland Strait region, Stephen Flemming and Roland Chaisson had occasional sightings of small numbers of White-wings in Antigonish Harbour and observed one probable Surf. Eric Cooke reports Surf and Black Scoters as well as Common Eiders, to be very scarce along the Lawrence-town shore east of Halifax this winter.

Winter sightings of HOODED MERGANSERS include one each on the Broad Cove and Port Hebert CBC's, also a male at Petite Riviere estuary Dec. 30-31 (JSC) and two males at Argyle Head, Jan. 30 (PRD & CRKA). Localities reporting COMMON MERGANSERS were as follows: Bay of Fundy 8; Cape Breton and Atlantic Coast 5; Northumberland Strait 1. Approximate numbers of birds seen in each region (omitting probable repeat sightings) were: Atlantic Coast 353 birds in 8 reports; Northumberland Strait (Antigonish) 175 birds in two reports; Bay of Fundy 108 birds in 10 reports; Cape Breton 71 birds in 5 reports. Distribution of RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS did not differ significantly from that of the preceding species, nor was there any startling difference in numbers; total for this species being 428 as compared with 697 for the former. Only difference of any note was in Pleasant Lake, Yar.Co. where Mike Rymer's records for Jan. and Feb. show Common Mergansers seen on 15 days and not a single Red-breasted seen during the same period.

DIURNAL RAPTORES

Our only GOSHAWKS were in December: a total of 11, of which 9 were on scattered CBC's. Could they have emigrated subsequently? There were 31 SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS on CBC's, 8 others in December, 11 in January, and 6 in February, and about 10 others were reported to be regular at feeders. Obviously it was a good winter for them, although Michael Rymer writes with regret about one that suffered a broken wing in Yarmouth Co.

A striking 64 RED-TAILED HAWKS on CBC's should have heralded a record winter, but we only have about 24 birds in subsequent reports. However, George Boyd reports them as "very common in the Kentville-Wolfville area all winter". The Purchases saw a very pale bird in Dartmouth on Jan. 7. The Cohrs described one seen at Gaspereau, Kings Co., on Feb. 3 with "tail pale rufous, rest of bird pale - underside almost white...and feel it closely resembled the kriderii subspecies", of the Great Plains. A fascinating possibility. An immature BROAD-WINGED HAWK found dead by Bill Barrow on Jan. 2 at River Philip, Cumb. Co., had been seen alive in mid-December; this is our second confirmed winter record (spec. to C.W.S., Sackville, N.B.). Although 11 were seen on CBC's and 4 others in December, this was not a big year for ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS. We have reports of only 1 in January and 3 in February.

An adult GOLDEN EAGLE on Brier Island was last seen on Dec. 21 (W. Lent, file ELM). There were 36 adult and 20 immature BALD EAGLES on CBC's, and about 40 birds were reported subsequently. Sara MacLean notes "hard times and cold weather" in her Cape Breton Eagle report. The Smiths at Cape Sable observed an immature that hove in from the open sea on Feb. 2, appearing wet and tired; perhaps a foolish attempt to flee the hard times.

Five MARSH HAWKS occurred on CBC's, but genuine wintering individuals were reported only from W.Punbico (until Feb. 9, DJd'E) and Cape Sable (up to Feb. 7, SS).

A PEREGRINE on Dec. 2 thrilled participants of the Society's Annual General Meeting on the morning field trip at Lawrencetown, Hfx Co., and another was seen on Dec. 10 at Antigonish (RDC). A bird sighted twice around Feb. 1 at Crescent Beach by Paul MacDonald was one of our few winter records. Fewer MERLINS than usual were dashing about. After the 9 CBC birds, at least 2 occurred regularly in Dartmouth, 1 in Halifax, and probably 1 at Wolfville. Isolated sightings were of individuals at Glace Bay on Feb. 8; Wedgeport on Jan. 4; and Round Hill, Jan. 23. KESTRELS, with 12 on CBC's, were decidedly scarce thereafter, with 2 through the winter at Dartmouth, 3 near the Annapolis Causeway on Jan. 23, and singles at Amherst Pt. on Jan. 7 and near Yarmouth on Jan. 10 and 19.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Eleven SPRUCE GROUSE on CBC's, including 5 at Shubenacadie, were noteworthy, but only 2 were seen subsequently. After the reports of 56 RUFFED GROUSE on CBC's, about 20 individuals were seen by observers, three of whom thought that grouse were "reasonably common", "normal", and "not particularly plentiful". I judge, as for last fall, that there were more than average. The Hamiltons enjoyed 5 in and near their backyard at Punbico. RING-NECKED PHEASANTS as usual flourished near Wolfville (see CBC's), and were found in a scattering of other areas. No GREY PARTRIDGE records were received after the CBC reports for Wolfville and Economy.

MARSH BIRDS

A VIRGINIA RAIL benumbed by snow and cold on Dec. 19 at Lr. W. Pubnico, was caught and nurtured for 2 days before being released by TD'E. Another in a like state was found at the sewage-plant of Dorothea Drive, Dartmouth, by IM and others on Jan. 21. On the same day they found a SORA at nearby Russell Lake (probably the same bird seen by FL on the CBC). These rails could not be found on later trips and probably succumbed. The only COOT was a late autumn bird on Dec. 3 at Lr.W. Pubnico (Td'E).

IAM Ed.

SHOREBIRDS

Our highly varied winter brought one major shorebird surprise, the two PECTORAL SANDPIPERS found on the Port Hebert Christmas Count on Dec. 17. At that time Pectorals are normally in southern South America, although winter records from eastern North America are not totally unknown - for example, one bird spent the winter of 1976-77 in South Carolina, there was one at Clincoetogue, Virginia, on Dec. 28, 1974, and at least 5 records in coastal Maryland-Virginia in December, 1973.

KILLDEER were reported only in late December: one each on the Port Hebert and Cape Sable Counts. Also at Cape Sable BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER were reported in numbers from 1-9 on five dates between December 6 and February 4 (S,B&BJS).

A late fall WOODCOCK was at the Old Sugar Refinery, Dartmouth on Nov. 27 (FL) and the last of the season at Yarmouth on the Count, Dec. 30. Wintering COMMON SNIPE were relatively common up to the mid-February deep-freeze: 2 at the Sydneys, 28 Dec.; 5 at Wolfville, 30 Dec.; 1 at Pleasant Lake, Yar. Co., 13 Jan. (MR); 1 each at Greenwich, (BF) and at Dorothea Drive, Dartmouth (IAM), 21 Jan.; 1 at Pubnico, 5-6 Feb. (EM) and the last, flying vigorously along the shore looking for feeding places in frozen brooks at -13°C, 17 Feb., Head of St. Margaret's Bay, Hfx Co. (ELM).

RED KNOT stayed only at Cape Sable, where the Smiths found one (two possible on the second date) with Black-bellied Plover on 13 Jan. and 4 Feb.

PURPLE SANDPIPERS were well reported this year, mostly on Christmas Counts: 129, Halifax West, 16 Dec.; 88, Port Hebert, 17 Dec.; 45, Halifax East, 23 Dec.; 85, Economy, 27 Dec.; 100, Brier I., 27 Dec.; 3, Sydneys, 28 Dec.; 2, Cape Sable, 29 Dec.; 9, Broad Cove, 30 Dec.; 3, Yarmouth, 30 Dec.; and 50, Kingston, 31 Dec. The Conrad's Beach-Fox Island flock of 40 was still in residence on Feb. 3 (EHC). Some hardy soul should undertake a province-wide census of this species in mid-winter long after the Christmas Count activity has worn off.

A few DUNLIN stayed until late December, found on Christmas Counts: 8, Halifax East, 23 Dec. and 2, Broad Cove, 30 Dec. SANDERLINGS were scarce, except at Cape Sable, where the numbers fluctuated in interesting ways: 5, Nov. 25; 60, Dec. 1; 100, Dec. 24; 35, Jan. 14; 2 Jan. 3 -Feb 2, and 10-12, Feb. 4 (S,B&BJS). 2 at Cherry Hill, Lunenburg Co., 11 Feb. were the last reported before the great freeze (SJF,EHC), and it will be interesting to see if any survived to be seen in March.

ELM Ed.

GULLS

1978-79 was definitely a white-winged gull year in Nova Scotia. The most exciting of these were undoubtedly the five IVORY GULLS reported. Dave Gray saw one off Sable I. Feb. 7. On the same day Keith and Vernon Keddy identified an adult Ivory Gull at Sambro Harbour, Hfx. Co., flying amongst the many Herring and Iceland Gulls there. The next day ELM and IAM proceeded to Sambro to see it and saw instead a lightly marked immature Ivory Gull. It was Stuart Tingley, who, hurrying down from Sackville, N.B., early on Feb. 9, saw the two together. The immature was seen later the same day by SJF and JLC, and despite many attempts by many others, neither was seen again. Two other Ivory Gulls were seen at Glace Bay Harbour on Feb. 10 by Clive Macdonald et al.

The largest white wings, the GLAUCOUS GULLS, were very well reported. Twenty were seen on the Sydneys CBC's and fourteen on other counts. There were 3 immature and one adult hanging about Sambro Harbour where they were watched by Ivory Gull searchers. Ones and twos appeared at Chebucto Head, Inner Halifax Harbour, East Ferry (Digby Co.), Antigonish town and Lower West Pubnico, and one particularly large very white bird was around Sullivan's Pond and Lake Banook Jan. 19-28 (ELM, JSC).

Eric Mills felt that tho the Glaucous Gulls were more abundant than usual, the ICELAND GULLS were only normal "or a bit below". However, Sara MacLean wrote that, in Glace Bay they were "very common, in all stages of maturity, about 50-60% being of the Kumlien race". (There were 68 on the Glace Bay CBC and 101 on the Sydneys count). Fulton Lavender estimated 300 birds in the Halifax and Dartmouth harbour area over the season and on Feb. 25 JL&JSC saw 50+ at Sambro and 100+ at Tribune Head (many being adults).

On Dec. 31 Eric Mills and Ian McLaren identified a first year THAYER'S GULL at Dartmouth Cove. Eric writes "in all my years of watching white gulls at Halifax since 1967 this is the first bird of its kind I have seen". On Feb. 8-9 a paler bird of similar pattern was seen at Sambro Harbour (ELM). (Thayer's details on report).

GREAT BLACK-BACK GULLS appeared normal in number. The largest number counted on the CBC's was 2000 at the Sydneys.

An immature LESSER BLACK-BACK GULL was seen at Sullivan's Pond by Fulton Lavender on Jan. 6, the plumage being that of a first year bird. On Jan. 21 Eric Mills observed a near adult Lesser Black Back at the same place. This bird, subsequently seen by several birders was in similar plumage to that of the Digby bird when it first appeared some seven years ago. The latter bird overwintered again at its usual stamping (foraging?) ground at the old ferry terminal in Digby.

Like the Great Black-Backs the HERRING GULLS are ever with us. Largest numbers reported were on the Halifax W., Sydneys, Wolfville and Pubnico CBC's (2895, 2300, 2201, 2120). Shirley Cohrs reported a possible European race Herring Gull at Canal St., Dartmouth, Jan. 28. It had "high rounded all white (no grubby) head. Stood out distinctively from the other Herring Gulls".

RING BILLED GULLS were back again at Eel Brook and Abram's River in Yarmouth Co. (CRKA,PRD). Single birds were reported from Antigonish, Lower East Pubnico and Brier I. (RC,ELM,TCd'E). Keith Keddy found them "rather common" in the Halifax area - there were 44 on the Halifax W.CBC. The largest CBC number was 127 on Halifax E., most of these being counted from the railway line out in the middle of Cole Harbour.

BLACK-HEADED GULLS appeared on only five CBC's, one at Sydneys, 3 at Glace Bay, 4 on Halifax W., 7 on Antigonish and 12 on Halifax E. By early February numbers in Glace Bay had increased to 20, while the Halifax-Dartmouth population was estimated at 30-45. Twenty-five, all rosy breasted, were seen standing on frozen Lake Banook Jan. 28.

The rarer BONAPARTE'S GULLS were very sparsely reported. One adult spent most of December and January at Dartmouth cove where Fulton Lavender saw an immature Dec. 7. Two were seen on the Halifax E. CBC and 11 on the Upper Bay of Fundy CBC Dec. 30.

The BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE season started with a sighting of 200+ at Cape Sable Dec. 14. They had been blown inshore and were feeding along the shore just off the beach in a heavy chop(SS). On Dec. 16 an unusually high number of 57 were over outer Halifax Harbour, on 17th 65 were at Pubnico and on 23 there were 25 on the Halifax E. CBC. A veritable Kittiwake bonanza occurred off Brier I. Dec. 27 when 48,000 were observed, the total number being arrived at by several different methods of estimation. There was only one on the Upper Bay of Fundy count.

As I sit writing this report four ferries are icebound outside Sydney. Perhaps the influx of northern gulls we have experienced may be due to the exceptionally heavy ice conditions in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and around the north and west coasts of Newfoundland over the winter. Whatever the cause, it was most enjoyable.

JSC Ed.

AUKS

There was a RAZORBILL on Halifax Harbour on Jan. 4 (FL); the only other definite Razorbill was a dead bird on the beach at Cape Sable on Jan. 28 (BS) and on the same day there was a COMMON MURRE in the same place. The CBC's produced 13 THICK-BILLED MURRETS at Brier I., 5 at Cape Sable, and singletons at Broad Cove and Halifax West. More domestically, for us Dartmouth/Haligonians, there was a bird at the foot of Canal St., Dartmouth, on Jan. 31 (Cohrs). It's odd that there should have been so many birds in the Upper Bay of Fundy; the CBC there on Dec. 30 reports 19 Thick-bills and 41 unidentified large auks.

The largest DOVEKIE sighting was the 500+ birds flying from NW past Cape Sable on Dec. 1 (Smiths). An interesting movement which may have had something to do with being blown onshore by winter gales and then trying to escape. Most Dovekies come onshore for this reason - they are normally birds of the upwelling area out on the edge of the Scotian Shelf, where we think that they have plenty of food. Inshore sightings came from around the Province as usual, the biggest are from the Port Hebert and Halifax West CBC's - 90 and 26 respectively. The oddest is the bird which Barry Sabeau saw at Windsor on Dec. 2 - unusually far up the Bay of Fundy.

Most BLACK GUILLEMOT records come from the South Shore and Halifax. The CBC's show 136 from Cape Sable; 92 from Brier I. and 22 from Halifax West, but 4 from Port Hebert, 2 from Broad Cove and 1 from Halifax East.

The Brier I. CBC has 3 COMMON PUFFINS; the only other record was a stormdriven stray immature at Antigonish which Stephen Flemming and Roland Chaisson found and returned to the ocean on Jan. 21.

RGBB Ed.

DOVES

Nothing much gets submitted on ROCK DOVES, though I like FL's cool estimate of "approx. 800" in Dartmouth this winter (cf. 955 on Hfx. W. and 898 on Wolfville CBC's.) About 16 MOURNING DOVES were reported coming to 4 scattered feeders, but large groups elsewhere depended on agricultural gleanings, e.g., corn-cribs. A flock of about 40 wintered near Great Village (FH), and BCS from Kings Co. reported a diminishing flock of 22 at Sheffield Mills, a (transient?) 100 at Port Williams, and up to 100-120 (on Feb. 20) roosting in a marsh and scattering to feed near Greenwich Corner.

OWLS

With much of the continent reporting a blizzard of Great Grey and Hawk Owls, some of us were living and birding in hope. Alas, the nearest such bird was a wintering Hawk Owl near Port Elgin, N.B., some 11 km from our border (ST), and we had to be content with our "usuals". GREAT HORNED OWLS are always with us, but only Economy produced one on a CBC, and otherwise there were reports of only 3 in December, 2 in January, and a pair (BLF, of course) on the Wolfville Ridge in February. A SNOWY OWL passed through New Ross on Dec. 1 (fide KNK), and another at Amherst through February was not far from at least 3 or 4 others across the border near Sackville (ST). The 3 BARRED OWLS on CBC's were followed by one near West Branch, Pictou Co. 1 at Round Hill, and 1 unfortunately killed in a rabbit snare at New Ross. SHORT-EARED OWLS were decidedly scarce or under-reported: only a probable migrant at Cape Sable on Nov. 25-26, the Amherst CBC bird, and 2 in later winter near W.Pubnico. The only reports of SAW-WHET OWL were the CBC bird on Brier I. and a road-kill found near Prospect, Hfx. Co., by Fred Dobson on Feb. 12.

KINGFISHER

Individual BELTED KINGFISHERS seemed to be thriving beyond CBC periods in at least 8 localities, including Homewille Bridge near Sydney, where one has been routine in recent years(SM).

WOODPECKERS

A COMMON FLICKER between Feb.8 and 23 at Lr.W.Pubnico and 2 other Yar. Co. sightings on Jan. 9 and Feb. 23, were less surprising than the bird that appeared at New Waterford on Jan. 26 (J.Mahon). The 12 PILEATED WOODPECKERS on CBC's were noteworthy, as were reports of at least 7 from other localities. An adult RED-HEADED WOODPECKER was at the Bedford feeders of Lewis Nicholls and his neighbours from early December until the end of the report period, and was seen by many Halifax area birders. HAIRY WOODPECKERS seem to have recovered from their slump of the last few years, judging by the 72 CBC birds and subsequent reports of at least 22 individuals, often at feeders. The 91 DOWNY WOODPECKERS on CBC's were only followed by about a dozen subsequent reports, and some observers stressed their scarcity. The 10 BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS on CBC's seem to reflect the incursion described in the fall report, but only 3 were seen subsequently. The autumn birds in the APBS evidently disappeared. So did the NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS there, the last female of which was seen on Dec. 19 by ELM and IM, whose camera shutter, alas, failed in the bitter cold. Readers should note that there is only one (photographically) confirmed record of this bird in Nova Scotia.

IAM Ed.

FLYCATCHERS

It is seldom that the winter bird report contains mention of any flycatchers, let alone any of the rarer species. On Dec. 7, 1978, a WESTERN KINGBIRD was caught aboard a scallop dragger on George's Bank by Raymond d'Entremont.

HORNED LARKS

There were plenty of HORNED LARKS around as winter progressed, numbers building steadily in the South Shore area throughout December. The largest flock was reported from Wolfville: 268 Dec. 30. Larks were around in Yarmouth Co. well into January with 25 at L.W. Pubnico on 7th and 40-50 at Chebogue Pt. on 12th, of the latter flock 30 still remained Jan. 20 (DJd'E,CRKA). Latest report received was of 3 at Mochelle, Feb. 7th, (WEW).

CORVIDS

GREY JAYS were as reliable as usual this year with many people reporting flocks of 3-8 regularly at feeders. They occurred in the country mostly in Yarmouth Co. in 2's and 3's, although Lunenburg Co. had the highest count when 12 were seen in the Broad Cove area on Dec. 30.

BLUE JAY sightings can also be divided into feeder visitors and country birds. Many reports arrived of regular feeder blue jays: Antigonish, Little Egypt, Tusket, Sydney, etc. Keith Keddy (Hfx), W.E.Whitehead (Round Hill) and Joyce Purchase (Hfx Co.) all feel that numbers were slightly down this year at their feeders. Not many were seen away from "civilization", the only event of note being Phyllis Dobson's sighting of two or three dozen flying around in central S.W. Yarmouth Co. on Dec. 16. The high bluejay numbers in the CBC's were as follows: Wolfville 188, Annapolis Royal 190, Kingston 194 and Halifax West 266.

COMMON RAVENS and COMMON CROWS are always well reported this time of year, possibly because they are more in evidence but also because they are noticed more in the absence of so many other species. At Sunken Lake, Kings Co., a raven was seen carrying a 10" stick - "no doubt getting an early start on a nest" according to Bernard Forsythe. PRD noticed a pair "courting" over Eel Brook Feb. 25 and several other pairs again doing their circling and calling ritual at Salt Bay Feb. 27. Frank Hennessey writes that ravens are regular and common on the Five Islands side of Economy Mountain - 25-40 all the time.

Crows were reported "as usual". CRKA had 12 regularly at (their special) feeder in Tusket, and J.B. Hardie at Pine Hill in Halifax city had six who had learned to eat sunflower seeds out of a covered feeder. It would be interesting to know the whereabouts of crow roosts in the province. There is one on Boot Island (Kings Co.) and three are near Kingston (which accounts for the high crow counts on the local CBC's - Wolfville 13,384 and Kingston 3235.) There used also to be a roost on Bon Portage years ago, but what of the Halifax-Dartmouth area, and other parts of the province?

CHICKADEE THROUGH MIMIDS

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were very abundant all winter, both at feeders where flocks up to 30 appeared from Yarmouth Co. to Cape Breton, and in the woods where they could be "swished up" on most field trips. Keith Keddy found them common even in remote areas of Halifax and Lunenburg Counties where they appeared to outnumber Boreals. Only at Round Hill were they lower in number, about 50% down from last year (WEW). The spring "fee-bee" call was heard in Halifax in late February perhaps presaging an early spring (JSC).

BOREAL CHICKADEES were well reported and most correspondents felt that numbers were about normal. Not usually seen at feeding stations there were three very photogenic boreals attending the suet at the Cohrs' in Halifax from Dec. 4 to press time.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES are down. Apart from CBC's there were only eleven individuals seen ('tho the two at Sullivan's Pond were well seen and reported by many!). This is down 33% from 1977-78 total of eighteen. The total seen on CBC's was thirteen which of course probably includes some of those already reported.

Similarly RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were scarcer, or perhaps the distribution was less general than the norm. PRD felt the number in Yarmouth Co. was as usual and other reports from that area bear this out. However, there was only one each at Marg. Clark's and Shirley Cohrs' feeders in Rockingham and Halifax, and only one irregularly in Pt. Pleasant Park. Reports from their usual spots in New Ross and Lower Economy read "none"! Quite a flock spent some time in Keji where 30 were seen on the CBC Dec. 17.

There were fifteen BROWN CREEPERS seen other than during CBC's, of these two were at feeders, the Allens at Tusket and the Cohrs in Halifax. Total on the various CBC's was 22.

Although decimated the last two summer seasons two of the few WINTER WRENS stayed around long enough to be counted. Fulton Lavender encountered the first in the Halifax West area on Dec. 16 and John and Shirley Cohrs found the other consorting with swamp and song sparrows in a marsh at Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co. on Dec. 23. (No, it was not a marsh wren).

MOCKINGBIRDS were rare. Two were at Pubnico, one or two at Yarmouth Town/Tusket, and one at Wine Harbour (E&VH,EM,MWH,CRKA, GMacL). There were five seen on the Halifax West CBC, but where they were before and after Dec. 16 is a mystery as none were reported.

THRUSHES

A large concentration of AMERICAN ROBINS was present in S.W. Yarmouth Co. during December and January. An unprecedented 783 were at Pubnico on Dec. 17 and 540 on Dec. 30 at Yarmouth (CBC's). These appear not to have stayed much past the New Year as reports from that area show that numbers decreased rapidly during January until only ones and twos remained in February. There were 106 on the Halifax West CBC (Dec. 16), 53 of which were at Ketch Harbour (ELM). Another large flock of 200 or so was at Liverpool Jan. 11-15, dispersing into groups of ten or so afterwards when they were last noticed Feb. 9 (RJ). A few robins overwintered in other areas - 12 at Sullivan's Pond Jan. 17, 32 at Wolfville Ridge Feb. 4 and 50+ at Smith's Cove in mid February (FJL,BLF,AR).

For the third consecutive year we have had a VARIED THRUSH in Nova Scotia. (1977 at S. Maitland, 1978 at Liverpool). This was Kings Co.'s year. The bird was seen on Dec. 30 by Peter Austin-Smith at Greenwich. Bernard Forsythe writes "Both times I saw it it was with a robin. A male with robin-like actions, orange eye stripe, orange throat and black breast band".

Even more exciting was the TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE which turned up at Tony Lock's garden in Halifax on Jan. 2. A second N.S. record, this bird of the western mountains has stayed around, feeding on florabunda rose hips all through the sub zero weather of February enabling dozens of keen birders from near and far afield to see and photograph it. At press time (Feb. 28) it was still there.

A single HERMIT THRUSH was seen on the Halifax East CBC Dec. 23.

KINGLETS THROUGH STARLINGS.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS, like the Red-breasted Nuthatches (see above) were common in some areas and scarce in others. In Economy they were "regular and fairly numerous", in Yarmouth Co. they were "the commonest bird ...found on field trips in wooded areas" and in Lunenburg Co. it was "an exceptional year for this species". (FH, PRD,KNK). On the other hand there are reports of one or two only from Antigonish, Kings and Annapolis Counties and from Pt. Pleasant Park, Halifax, while Eric Cooke, seeing two at Rocky Run (Hfx Co.) on Feb. 18 found them "worth mentioning because they're so scarce in the area this winter".

Two RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS were counted on the CBC's, one at Pt. Hebert Dec. 17 and one on the Annapolis Royal count Dec. 30.

Eight WATER PIPITS lingered: one at Cape Sable Dec. 26, three at Brier I. Dec. 27 and one each at Broad Cove and Yarmouth Dec. 30. Fulton Lavender saw one at Halifax harbour Jan. 18 and one at the old Sugar Refinery in Dartmouth on Feb. 14.

There were nothing like last year's flocks of BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS around this winter. The only flocks of appreciable size were as follows: 15 in Antigonish town Dec. 12 (these increased to 20 by 19th and 15 remained by the middle of January); 22 at Hampton Road, Anna. Co. Jan. 7; 31 at Wolfville Feb. 5 and 9 there on 12th (RC,TH, JM,BLF). The only Cape Breton report is of 6 at Ingonish Beach Jan. 23 (RD).

Rare in winter CEDAR WAXWINGS were seen on several CBC's, viz: Annapolis Royal 6, Broad Cove 12, Yarmouth 10 (all Dec. 30), and Pubnico 59 (Dec. 17). There are a few Yarmouth Co. sightings since Jan. 1, all in the Pubnico and Yarmouth town areas.

The suspicion in the report on the Fall Migration 1978 (Vol 21, No. 1) that this might be a NORTHERN SHRIKE winter was fully realized. They were everywhere. Coverage was provincewide. They tended feeders (seemed to have a preference for juncos) but were also present at marshes, beach areas and open ground inland. Usually seen singly the total number, reported, allowing a margin for duplication was approximately 43. On the CBC's there were 47, some of which may not have been otherwise reported. It is interesting to ponder a reason for such an incursion - weather? food supply? predation? Any suggestions?

The STARLING, the only bird known to feed with open bill probing but otherwise undistinguished seems to have been present in normal numbers in most areas. High counts on the CBC's were Halifax East 1044, Yarmouth 1690, Wolfville 3416, and Halifax West 6941.

JSC ed.

WARBLERS

The "enormous migration of YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS" noted in the last Newsletter carried most of these birds out of the province, leaving a bare hundred to be seen on the Christmas counts and throughout the rest of the winter. Reports came from New Waterford (FFR), Antigonish (SPF, RDC), Halifax (ELM and CBC's), Broad Cove and Petite Riviere (Cohrs and SCM, JP and CBC's), Port Hebert (CBC), Pubnico (CBC and RSd'E), Yarmouth (CBC), and the last were seen on Crescent Beach Feb. 11, 12 of them, by Sylvia Fullerton and Eric Cooke.

The only other warbler noted this winter was a COMMON YELLOW-THROAT Dec. 23 on the Halifax East Christmas Count. It is interesting to note that all of the warblers were found in the coastal areas.

HOUSE SPARROW

It is unusual to have a comprehensive count of the HOUSE SPARROW, but thanks to the Christmas Count we find an all-over population, winter, 1978-79 of just under 7000. These were mostly counted in December, but include a scatter of subsequent enumerations, at feeders and around towns. The only CBC's which did not list the House Sparrow were Alba and Highlands Park in Cape Breton, Cape Sable and Upper Bay of Fundy. They may therefore be termed ubiquitous, as near as may be, and still present in good numbers, although counts at individual feeders varied from 6 to 60, with more in the lower numbers. Like the other birds House Sparrows were fickle at the feeders this winter, and also like the other birds were found to be most numerous where their preferred food was - Joyce Purchase, who had up to 100 at one time wrote "We stopped feeding scratch in January and flock size dropped dramatically".

ICTERIDS

A low count of two, possibly three EASTERN MEADOWLARKS for this past winter showed one at Broad Cove Dec. 30 (CBC) and two at Halifax, Dec. 23 (CBC), one of which, or another, was seen at Conrad's Beach Jan. 18 by Eric Cooke.

On November 20 at Louisbourg Mrs. George Jackson identified a YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, reported to Frank Robertson - this wanderer being the only rarity in this group for the season.

A few REDWINGED BLACKBIRDS remained throughout the winter as usual, well scattered from Sydney (HH) and Glace Bay (CC) to Pubnico (DJD'E) and Yarmouth (MWH). Most of these were present as 2-4 at feeders. It is perhaps interesting that the only "large" numbers counted were at Kingston, Dec. 31 and Port Hebert, Dec. 17, 23 and 13 respectively, by the CBC parties.

Unlike the Redwings which can be found right through the winter, our lingering NORTHERN ORIOLES fade out of the picture, usually in early January. Two November birds unreported previously were 1, a female, at the Purchases in Dartmouth and 1, Nov. 27 seen by E. MacRury at Glace Bay. There were no further records of these birds, or of the 1, Dec. 8 seen by F. Lavender in Dartmouth or the adult male noted Dec. 10 by Arthur Spencer in Glace Bay. The 5 orioles on the CBC's were all in the Halifax counts and may have been some of the 11, which were present at one time or another in the McLaren garden, in December and after. One of these was a female with

plumage characteristic of the "Bullock's" type Northern. These birds are attracted by the sugar water and grapes supplied for them, and one first-year male survived from Dec. 25 to Jan. 26. Of 3 (females) in regular attendance one survived all winter, one died on Feb. 12 (a very cold day) and one disappeared, possibly the victim of a cat. (IAM).

Seldom seen in winter, the RUSTY BLACKBIRD was present this year, a very few seen: 1, Nov. 4 at Dartmouth (JP); 1, Nov. 30 at Antigonish (RDC); 1, Dec. 16 on the Halifax W. CBC, and 3, Feb. 22 at Amherst, two females, one immature in Con Desplanque's garden - one wonders if these might be spring arrivals?

Wintering COMMON GRACKLES like the Redwings were well scattered about the province, but not in equal numbers. They were concentrated in SW Nova Scotia December through February, with 24 on the Yarmouth CBC, 20, Dec. 14 at Lr.W.Pubnico (DJd'E), and 20+ through the winter irregularly at a Tusket feeder (CRKA). On the other CBC's the only counts over 4 were 7 at Bridgetown and 18 at Kingston. Other feeder counts listed 1-4 birds, through January, with one report in February; 1, Feb. 3 at Advocate (FH).

We are inclined to say that birds will survive in spite of bad weather if there is sufficient food, but the Smiths at Cape Sable had a flock of 100+ BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS present on the island Nov. 15-Dec.10, when it became cold and snowy - "many died in the barn, under the steps, etc., though food was plentiful". Cowbirds usually do weather our winters of course, and this year close to 2000 were counted on the CBC's, about 450 of them in Wolfville which had the highest count. Numbers were down in NE Nova Scotia and the Border in January, but by Feb. 8 there were 28 at Parrsboro (FS), and around this time quite large flocks (50-100) appeared in Yarmouth Co. (Yar. MWH),(Tusket, CRKA), but did not stay at feeders, rather came and went a few times. K.N. Keddy at New Ross said of the Cowbird, for the winter, "Irregular, but flocks usually quite large".

GROSBEAKS AND FINCHES

The CARDINAL should have been included in our last report; it has been present all fall and winter at Hebron, near Yarmouth, coming with considerable regularity to the feeder of the Bruce Saunders, and reported to us by Margaret A. Nickerson.

Five ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS remained until December, one, an "adult female" Dec. 18 in Dartmouth, reported by Fulton Lavender; 3 males, Carleton, Yar. Co., Dec. 19 (BCS); another seen Dec. 29 on the Antigonish CBC.

Two DICKCISSELS also stayed, one seen on the Halifax W.CBC Dec. 16, and the other, an adult male, in Dartmouth (Crichton Ave.) by F. Lavender.

The story of the EVENING GROSBEAK in Cape Breton this last winter is simple, as told by Sara MacLean: 2, Dec. 26 noted in Glace Bay (CC), 25 daily in January at Glace Bay (AS), at the same time a flock twice that size in Sydney (HH) and 2 only at Alba (E. Gardiner). Sara says "Remarkable for their absence this year - seems to be only one flock in town" (Glace Bay). We got over 3000 on the Christmas Counts, in 21 out of 28 localities, so there were really quite a few of these birds around, and well distributed. Their behavior was much the same as last year, a few appearing in December, many more in January and February but seldom settled at feeders. They were reported "regular" at Lower Economy, 75+, "all period" (FH); at Truro, 40-

50 (EER); 12+ at Wolfville Ridge (BLF) and at Paradise, 51, but average 20-25 (B&JM). The earliest flock of any size was one of 15, Nov. 20 at Bedford (KNK), but in most places few were seen until after the Dec. 13 snowstorm - the first seen at Eel Brook, and the first and largest flock seen by Ted D'Eon at Lr.W.Pubnico - 80-100 birds, at this time. There was no true pattern, R.D.Chaisson in Antigonish had about 25 Grosbeaks at his feeder Jan. 10, 40+ on Feb. 24; Christopher Field at Halifax had about 30 Grosbeaks at his feeder regularly in December, only 5 times in January and only 4 in February; Ralph Johnson at Liverpool had approximately 40 Grosbeaks "once or twice weekly Dec. 28 through Jan. 10...several occasionally to Feb. 18" and the Purchases 70-80 Jan. 5, 35-50 from then to Feb. 20, at Dartmouth. Two banded Evening Grosbeaks were noted, one male at Wolfville Ridge (BLF) and one at the Cohrs', "left leg below knee had a silver band, a male bird"(JSC).

There were few PURPLE FINCHES this winter. December birds were reported only on eight CBC's, 35 altogether; and in January the numbers were about the same, an influx Jan. 6-12 bringing 1's and 2's to a few feeders, numbers increasing here and there by the end of the month up to 20 sometimes at R.S.Johnson's in Liverpool; 21 on Jan. 31 at M.W.Hilton's feeder in Yarmouth; but Ella Roland saw none at all during the winter season at Bible Hill in Truro; Sandra Myers had only one in Dartmouth, Bernard Forsythe only one at Wolfville.

The PINE GROSBEAK dropped in numbers from the "explosion" of last year, with half as many seen on the Christmas Counts (slightly over 500 this year). They came out into the open in early December, and at least one could be counted on each field trip thereafter in that month and January, widely distributed around the province. Higher numbers were reported from Clydesdale, 30+ on Dec. 2 (RDC); 11, Jan. 20 at Lr.W.Pubnico (RSD'E); flock of 25, Jan. 13 at Surettes I.(CRKA) and a high of 20, Jan. 17 at Little Egypt (MR) - the last two places in Yarmouth County. On Jan. 13 a Pine Grosbeak was present on Cape Sable where it was "chased by a kestrel, collided with the house and fell to the ground but apparently recovered within an hour". Considering the amount of forest on Cape Sable one would suspect some sort of movement of Pine Grosbeaks to take one there, and it is noticeable that largest numbers were reported generally Jan. 6-16; Delisle d'Entremont counted 30-40 on Jan. 7, 30 on Jan. 13 at Pubnico; M.A.Clark reported 12 at Rockingham Jan. 16; Michael Rymer noted that they declined in number after Jan. 17. We had only four February reports: 4-11, Feb.3-17, Kings Co.(BLF); 3, Feb. 14, Antigonish Co. (SPF); 1-10, Yarmouth Co. Feb. 7-19 (MR) and "regular, 8 at feeder today" at Lower Economy, Feb. 24 (FH).

The very scanty reports of the COMMON REDPOLL are as follows: 1, Dec. 16 Halifax W.CBC; 30, Dec. 17, Pubnico CBC; 17 Dec. 31, Kingstons CBC; 1, Jan. 13, Smith's Cove, Annie Raymond; 75+, Jan. 13, Lower Economy, Frank Hennessey, who added "for about two weeks, none since"; 25, Jan. 6 to 15 Feb. 20, Pubnico region, Raymond d'Entremont; 25-30 (a flock) seen twice the first week of January in different areas of Yarmouth Co., by P.R.Dobson.

PINE SISKINS were well distributed but very thinly spread, most reports ranged from 0 to 10 seen, sixteen reports received. The only higher numbers were found on the CBC's, 29 at Broad Cove, 26 and 22 on the Halifax counts, 20 on the Shubenacadie count. Sandra Myers and Lisé Cohrs found 12 at Petite Riviere Dec. 30 and Ralph Johnson had 8 on Jan. 20 and Michael Rymer, 10 on Feb. 7.

The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH was present on 18 out of 28 CBC's, the largest count - 200 - at the Sydneys. This was as usual our commonest finch throughout the winter, seen on most field trips in small flocks

along the roadside or in alder thickets. A few came to feeders in January, the flocks there building up to 20-30-40, smaller counts from NE Nova Scotia and Border regions, largest in Halifax - 30 at the Cohrs', 36 at Pine Hill at the Hardie's and 50 at Sandra Myers' in Dartmouth. Many hundreds of these birds are still around, some of them showing signs of summer plumage.

The RED CROSSBILL has dwindled almost to nothing in population, found in any numbers only at Kejimikujik Park on the Dec. 17 CBC, where there were 34. Halifax W. had 12 and Annapolis Royal 7, but outside of that 3 at Broad Cove in December, 39 at Round Hill Jan. 24 (WEW) and 1, Dec. 27 at Brier I. sums up the total seen this winter (according to our reports). The WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL on the other hand has made something of a come-back. Since it is a cone eater, it's range is limited to wooded sections, but we had two reports from the Valley, 11, Jan. 4 at Round Hill (WEW) and 15 (a flock) Jan. 16 at Port George, Anna. Co. (B&JM). Aside from the 12 seen on the Sydneys CBC all the rest have been seen along the South Shore, Halifax around to Brier I., with over half of the reports from Yarmouth Co., from all of our Pubnico reporters from Eel Brook and Tusket and Pleasant Lake, and from Reg Doucette at Upper Wedgeport. Flocks have numbered in the range 12-75, and were seen regularly throughout the winter.

SPARROWS AND BUNTINGS

There were 4 SAVANNAH SPARROWS seen on the Broad Cove CBC and one of them turned out to be an "IPSWICH". Only 10 other Savannahs were reported for the season, all of them in December, noted at Halifax, Port Hebert, Cape Sable, and Pubnico. Small as this number is, it is 11 more than last year.

A real rarity, a SEASIDE SPARROW was found on Dec. 23, on the Halifax W. Christmas Count. This was our only sharp-tailed type to linger.

If you lived in Lr. Economy, Truro or New Ross you would have said there were no DARK-EYED JUNCOS in Nova Scotia, winter 1978-79. If you lived in Yarmouth County you would have said this was a "Junco Winter" and they were very abundant (242 on the CBC). Presumably these birds stayed where they found their preferred type of food. They were well distributed (with the exception of above-mentioned places), but generally came to feeders in bad weather, foraged for themselves otherwise. Flock sizes remained about the same throughout the season (20-40 in SW Nova Scotia), in spite of snow, heavy frost and Sharp-shinned Hawks. In mid-February, while north winds pushed sub-zero temperatures to an unprecedented low, the Juncos began to sing, in the sunshine, at Eel Brook - it isn't weather that starts them off, but length of the day, it would seem.

Even the TREE SPARROW must have found it chilly in February. A few had come to feeders, then disappeared, but they came back, like the Juncos, when things got tough. Actually we had a good population of Tree Sparrows this year, at any rate normal, with over 100 seen on the CBC's on 12 counts, and reports from all over the province by January, all except Amherst, where Con Desplanque saw only one in December. One bird only was reported also from the Sydney area (EM), Lr. Economy (FH), Wine Harbour (GM), Truro (EER). Other areas were slightly better supplied but no large flocks, 16, Jan. 21 at Greenwich,

Kings Co., being the largest. Dorothy Kirk in Yarmouth had several Tree Sparrows at her feeder irregularly through the winter, and on Feb. 16, one of our very cold days, these sparrows discovered her "Thistle Feeder" and promptly took it over, ousting both Chickadees and Goldfinches quite ruthlessly. This is rather an expensive way of attracting Tree Sparrows, but worth a try, if you want them.

Sightings of two WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were unusual, 1, Dec. 16 on the Halifax W.CBC and 1, present through February at Highland Village, Col. Co., said by Frank Hennessey, who saw it, that "it was not of the Western race".

The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW was not plentiful during the winter but the few around were more faithful at feeders than most of the other small birds. There were just under 300 counted on 11 Christmas Counts and over twenty reports for the remainder of the winter, of 2, 3, 4 at feeders from Sydney to Yarmouth, with most in the latter vicinity: the highest number (109) on the Yarmouth Count, 15+ at the CRK Allen feeder in Tusket upon occasion, 20+ at the Ted'Eon feeder in Pubnico, regularly. Others in the county were at Pleasant Lake (MR), Yarmouth town (MWH), Port Maitland (June Graves), Eel Brook (PRD), and Wedgeport (Israel Pothier), about 20 in all.

As usual a few FOX SPARROWS spent the winter, two only reported, all in December: 1, Dec. 1 at Wolfville Ridge (a feeder there) (BLF) and 1, Dec. 17 at Pubnico (CBC).

With the exception of 1, Dec. 16 at Wolfville (seen on the CBC) all of the SWAMP SPARROWS seem to have stayed in Halifax Co., 1, Dec. 16 on the Halifax W. CBC; 13, Dec. 23 on the Halifax E, with 3 seen later; 1, Jan. 2 at Dorothea Drive; 2, Jan. 2 at Russell Lake, reported by F. Lavender.

The SONG SPARROW was sighted four times in Cape Breton during the winter, 1, Dec. 26, Glace Bay, 1, early Jan. same place, 1, Feb. 25 and on at the same place (EMM) and 1, Dec. 28 at Sydney (CBC). Aside from these there were no Song Sparrows reported north or east of Halifax except the 1, Dec. 26 at Amherst. The December population was close to 150 birds according to the total count on the CBC's, and of these over 70 were in the Halifax region, 23 at Wolfville. January reports show a sharp decline, only 20 birds accounted for; 5, Jan. 21 at Greenwich, (BLF); 2, Jan. 21, Russell Lake (FL); 4, Jan. 19, Lr.W. Pubnico (RSd'E); 6, Chebogue Point, Jan. 12 (CRKA); 1, Jan. 13 at Eel Brook (PRD) and 2, Jan. 13, Yarmouth (MWH). February reports came from the same people in the same places, but only nine birds were noted.

The LAPLAND LONGSPUR was scarce this last winter: aside from 3, Dec. 30 on the Broad Cove CBC and 1, Dec. 23 on the Halifax E. CBC there was only one other report, of a concentration of 50±, Feb. 10 at Morien Bar, observed there by a NSBS field party.

Appropriately Amherst had the highest count of SNOW BUNTINGS in the province-wide CBC - 449 (sic) birds. This was on Dec. 26. Other large numbers in December were 96 at Port Hebert Dec. 17, 212 at Economy Dec. 27, 200 alongside Hwy 101 near Aylesford Dec. 28 (ELM), 245, Dec. 30 at Wolfville and 100, Dec. 30 at Yarmouth. In January sightings were frequent but flocks were smaller (15-30) as is usually the case, also were all coastwise. By February the birds had almost disappeared from the shore areas, but there were only four reports: 14, Feb. 14, Boularderie (RBF); 15-20, Feb. 11, Round Hill (WEW); 25+, several times in Feb., Sunken Lake (BLF) and 20-35, Feb. 1-24, Pleasant Lake (MR,CRKA). An "average" year for Snow Buntings, and a few still to be seen around, now in March.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

An impromptu trip evolved in the Glance Bay area on February 10 - here is Sara MacLean's account of the fun:

"The February 10th field day seemed to begin out of nowhere and roll up like a snow ball, though where a snow ball would have come from would be hard to say, since there wasn't a speck to be seen anywhere.

I think it began a few days previously, when Arthur Spencer was passing the Sanctuary and noticed a list of interesting water-fowl. He talked about it in the right places, and inspired a group to go and take a longer look. It was a clear cold morning with excellent visibility.

Dr. Clive Macdonald came from New Waterford with a carfull of friends - sorry, I missed seeing that group, so I can't give their names - and they had the good fortune to discover two Ivory Gulls at Glance Bay Harbour. This is riches, isn't it?

At the Sanctuary, there were many species in the open water from Canada Geese to Red-breasted Mergansers, including an European Wigeon and a couple of Bufflehead, the last never numerous. I think this pair is wintering here.

An Eagle flew over - no great rarity hereabouts - there is one fellow that spends the winter keeping an eye on the ducks, hoping, I think, that one may feel a bit seasick and stray ashore. Probably he makes a living at it, he is always there in any case.

Schooner Pond provided a flock of Goldeneye and a few Oldsquaw. One handsome male Cockawee sat in the surf just off shore letting us admire him as long as we liked.

Morien Bar, usually a most productive hunting ground, had nothing to offer except a flock of about 50 Longspurs popping up and down in the beach grass. Of course there were the usual gulls and crows, one hardly notices them, although if they were missing we should soon feel it.

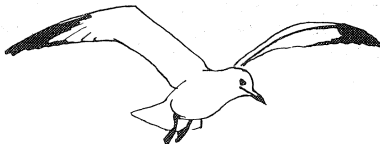
Some of the group kept on to Homeville River and were rewarded by finding the hardy, wintering Kingfisher who lives at the bridge. How I'd love to know if it is the same bird that has been there for the last seven or eight years. Does anyone know the life-span of Kingfishers?

Ann Spencer and I took a second look at Glance Bay harbour, just to enjoy the Ivory Gulls (we only saw one) and up popped a Kittiwake, among the Black-headed Gulls that are almost the insignia of Glance Bay, there seems to be more of them here than anywhere else.

The list of what we saw consists of about twenty species, not too bad for the depths of February, and this year when the woodland birds have left us.

Everybody seemed to enjoy the day and each other's company. The people who were there - Clive and Shirley Macdonald, Frank Robertson and three others - my apologies for not getting their names - from New Waterford, Otis Cossitt, Bertha and Hedley Hopkins from Sydney, Graham Fraser, Ann Spencer and Sara MacLean from Glance Bay."

Sara MacLean



FEBRUARY 23 - Lawrencetown

The morning of February 23 was cold, with snow in the air, when 23 hardy birdwatchers gathered for an outing to the Lawrence-town area, east of Dartmouth. Stops at Sullivan's Pond and the Dartmouth waterfront failed to produce the Lesser Black-backed Gull that had been in the area recently but we did see Black-headed, Bonaparte's and Iceland Gulls. Since Cole Harbour was frozen solid, we didn't stop there but continued on to Lawrencetown where a flock of Geese was estimated by John Cohrs to total 2500 birds - a lovely sight. Among the birds along the coast, we saw Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoters, Common Loons, Red-breasted Mergansers and about forty Scaup. Lunch time is always welcome on a field trip and we enjoyed eating together while sitting on the shore in an area protected from the wind. The snow held off until the outing was over and while birds weren't plentiful, the final list totalled a respectable thirty-five species, including a Meadowlark and some Purple Sandpipers at Conrad's Beach, seen by only a few of the hardest birders after the rest of us had gone home. Although it was a cold day and birds were scarce, the enthusiasm of pleasant companions made this a very enjoyable outing.

Eric Cooke

MARCH 17 - YARMOUTH COUNTY.

St. Patrick's Day, March 17, was celebrated in the sunny south - Yarmouth Co. - this year by about 30 birders (and the "Biggest Leprechaun in the World") who gathered at Arcadia from the Halifax area, the Pubnicos and various points around Yarmouth. Charlie Allen and Phyllis Dobson led a large group around the headlands and through the back country. Dot Kirk led the others in a search for an un-co-operative Cardinal. Despite below 0° temperatures and an eye-watering breeze, we were able to compile a list of 46 species. Highlights included a Bald Eagle, obligingly seated in a dead stub, a Kestral at a back-yard feeder (Charlie says he feeds on the suet there), a Northern Shrike and a pair of Purple Finches, all in bright plumage.

In the evening, the group gathered at the Yarmouth County Museum for a short informal meeting of the NSBS. Incidentally, the Museum is well worth a more leisurely visit, being housed in a delightful old Church containing a good variety of exhibits as well as serving as the Historical Research Library.

After some opening remarks by Charlie Allen and an address by the NSBS President, Marg Clark, the evening continued on a lively note. The Yarmouth members had arranged a sort of "Front Page Challenge" with birds and a series of quizzes - also a most instructive demonstration of bird imitations. The local group then provided a delicious lunch to top off a rewarding day.

Joyce Purchase

UP-COMING FIELD TRIPS

- May 19 HOPEWELL AREA - Leader: Harry Brennan.
Saturday Time: 0800 hrs. Meeting place: St. Columba Church, 1½ mi. south of railway crossing in Hopewell. (Leave Trans Canada Hwy. at Heather Motor Hotel, New Glasgow; turn left for Foord St., straight through Stellarton to Hopewell, about 6 mi.)
- May 19 CAPE BRETON - South Head and Port Morien.
Saturday Leader: Sara MacLean. Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at the Heavy Water Plant parking lot.
- May 26 PRESIDENT'S FIELD TRIP - HANTS COUNTY
Saturday Spring warblers and other good things. Leader: Margaret Clark. Time: 0800 hrs. Meeting place: Mt. Uniacke railway crossing.
- May 30 PT. PLEASANT PARK, HALIFAX - Early morning warbler walk.
Wednesday Leader: Fred Dobson. Time: 0600 hrs. Meeting place: Tower Road entrance.
- June 2 CAPE BRETON - Brown's Lake and Grand Lake. Leader: Graham
Saturday Fraser. Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at the Radar Base gate.
- June 2 & 3 KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK - Joint field trip with other
Saturday & Sunday natural history societies in N.S. Leader: Peter Hope. Time and meeting place: 0900 hrs. both days at the Park Information Centre Parking Lot. (Campers should note that main campground will be open.) Bring lunch for each day.
Saturday - "Woods, warblers and whatever" - a series of short hikes to some of the more interesting woodlands looking at the ecology of the communities visited.
Sat. Evening - "Sounds of the Night" - a couple of hours spent listening for owls (4 species possible) plus up to 7 species of frogs and toads all singing. Meet: 9:15 p.m. at entrance to Jeremys Bay campground.
Sunday - "Wild waterways" - a canoe trip across Kejimikujik Lake and part of West River plus exploration ashore on an island. This trip will be held in good weather and will be suitable for inexperienced canoists. Canoes can be rented in the park.
- June 9 YARMOUTH COUNTY - Cape Forchu, Deerfield, Carleton.
Saturday Leaders: C.R.K. Allen and Phyllis Dobson. Time: 0830 hrs. Meeting place: C.P.R. Station on North Main St. in Yarmouth town.
- June 17 WOLFVILLE AREA - Warblers and nesting birds. Leader: Bernie
Sunday Forsythe. Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at the Wolfville post office yard.
- June 23 CAPE BRETON - Bird Islands. (Reservations). Leader:
Saturday H. Hopkins. Time: 0930 hrs. Meet at the Mountain View Lodge, Big Bras d'Or.
- July 7 ECONOMY, THE COBEQUID SHORE AND MOUNTAINS - Leaders:
Saturday F. Spalding and F. Hennessey. Time: 0900 hrs. Meet at the Company Store, Bass River. Bring a lunch but our hosts will be providing a supper - You can't beat that!

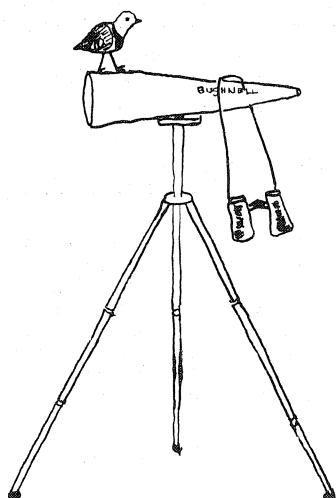
- July 7 CAPE BRETON - Lime Hill area. Leader: Marjorie Foote.
Saturday Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at Cleveland on Hwy. #4 at Marble Mountain and West Bay turn-off.
- July 15 McNAB'S ISLAND - Leader: Ross Anderson and others. Time:
Sunday 0900 hrs. Meet at the Eastern Passage wharf. There will be a \$2.00 per head charge for the boat - children exempted.
- August 4 CAPE BRETON - Forchu area. Leader: Francis MacKinnon.
Saturday Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at the Mira River, Marion Bridge.
- Sept. 1 BRIER ISLAND - Times and other arrangements to be announ-
Saturday ced.
- Sept. 15 CAPE BRETON - Cheticamp area. Leader: Jacques Pleau.
Saturday Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at the Visitors Centre at the Park entrance.
- Sept. 15 AMHERST AREA AND NORTH SHORE - A two-day bird expedition.
& 16 Saturday we will meet at the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary
Saturday at 0900 hrs. when Con Desplanque will guide us over the
& Sunday Sanctuary and adjoining Marsh areas. Sunday we will meet
at 1000 hrs. at the bridge over the Tidnish River on route
366 at Tidnish Bridge and Stuart Tingley will show us the
birds of the North Shore from Tidnish to Tatamagouche.
Suggestions for camping arrangements will be announced in
the next Newsletter.

If you have any queries, call Don or Joyce Purchase
at 434-5199.



SO YOU WANT TO BUY A TELESCOPE!

- John Cohrs



I hesitate to advise anyone contemplating the purchase of a telescope for birdwatching. Telescopes start out as inanimate objects and end up as very personal belongings. A second difficulty that arises is that many birders are either specialists or have other interests that might well influence their choice. Some telescopes can double as telephoto lenses; some as astronomical telescopes; some are suitable for small woods birds or hawks; others for ducks or shorebirds; and some are more useful in low light conditions than others. And of course, like cameras and binoculars you can gain one quality at the expense of another. If you want high power you can't see at dusk; if you want to focus close up you may lose in depth of field, and so on.

Having stated that it is almost impossible to state a universal rule on what is the best telescope lets have a look at what a telescope is and what it can do for a birdwatcher.

There are two types available insofar as optical systems are concerned. These are the refracting telescope and the reflector. The refractor in its simplified form consists of two lenses in a tube. You look through the small end (eye piece) and point the large end (objective) at the bird. Again, to oversimplify, for a given power or magnification, the bigger the objective lens the more light the instrument gathers.

Commonly, objective lenses range from 26 millimetres (mm.) to 80 or 90 mm. in the sizes of telescopes birders normally use. Double the diameter of the objective lens and the light-gathering properties increase fourfold. But in my experience, in general, so does the weight of the beast. The other end of the telescope, the eye piece, determines the degree of magnification. There is a formula - magnification equals the focal length of objective divided by focal length of the eye piece - but for the simpler souls most manufacturers sell eye pieces marked 15X, 20X, 30X, etc., which neatly states the magnification when used as directed. But here come the problems.

Firstly, the greater the magnification, the less the amount of light received by the eye. Secondly, the telescope doesn't magnify the bird only, but also the distortions due to heat shimmer of the atmosphere, the trembling of the hands if handheld, the shaking of the scope and tripod in the wind and any haze or precipitation. So higher powers may not be of much use if the "seeing" conditions are poor. Thirdly, the higher the power, given a particular telescope, the less the depth of field. Where at 15X you might focus sharply on one bird, another bird four feet in front of it and a third four feet behind, at 60X you might well be looking at a very sharply focussed head of a duck that appears to be attached to a vaguely defined barrage balloon rather than a body. So don't go overboard for high power.

Most of the scopes you see on a field trip are refractors like the Bushnell Spacemaster, Greenkat or Swift. Almost all are prismatic like your binoculars, to increase the focal length without extending the physical length (who wants to carry a scope 3 ft. long and weighing 18 pounds through the woods). The eyepiece arrangements should be one of three types. These are:

- 1) Interchangeable eyepieces, usually screwed in place but could be friction fit. The Bushnell is this type. Eyepieces with powers from 15X to 60X are available with some in wide angle type. To change powers remove one eyepiece and substitute another - a one-minute operation. If one power is all you need for a day's outing this system provides the clearest image and a simple rugged system. A light weight adaptor is available to convert this type to a 750-3000 mm. telephoto lens.
- 2) A "Zoom" eyepiece of variable power, usually 20X to 45X. This permits scanning at a low power with a wide field of view (to locate a bird) and then zooming to a higher power to examine it. This is my preference but of course you pay the price of decreased light, not as sharp an image, often a requirement to refocus, and a more delicate and complicated instrument.
- 3) A Turret eyepiece, comprising a mounting disc containing three to five eyepieces from 15X to 60X. The advantages are the same as the "Zoom" above. The disadvantages are that it is heavier, and extremely fragile and needs very careful handling.

The other common telescope is the reflector. Here the light enters the objective (big) end, usually 90 mm. in diameter or greater (up to 14 inches in a so-called portable instrument) is reflected from a curved mirror to another curved mirror and out the eyepiece either at the end or on the side. This system of reflected light back and forth has the effect of folding up what would normally be a very long telescope into something manageable. The Celestron 90, for example, has a 40" focal length folded into a tube about 12" long. So instead of pointing a yardstick at a bird (and carrying it about) you can have a foot rule.

These telescopes are basically astronomical with a few optical boxes of tricks to invert the image so that the bird is not standing on its head and to reverse it right to left so you can read its license number (on the band). They provide a lot of objective lens in a light weight so they can be used in poor light. Eyepieces are not too expensive so that several powers are obtainable, but their best feature is that they are excellent telescopes for star watching, and they make acceptable telephoto lenses in the 1000 mm.-2000 mm. range. So the birdwatcher/photographer has a versatile instrument. The drawback is cost - a 90 mm. or 3 in. unit can range from \$350.00 for a Celestron 90 to \$1600.00 for a Questar. Other disadvantages are that they are delicate, have a small depth of field and tend to be stiff focussing in cold weather.

How can all this be summed up for someone buying their first scope? Not easily. But here goes:

- 1) Don't go power crazy. Most of your scoping will be done at 20X. If you can splurge a bit, cover 15X (for dark days) and 40X. Very little use will be found for 60X.
- 2) Do buy a scope which accepts interchangeable eyepieces. A fixed scope at 20X costing several hundred dollars is not as good a buy as one which can be changed to 15X and 40X or "zoomed" by adding thirty dollar eyepieces.

3) If you are principally a birder with only a passing interest in astronomy and photography, a refractor is the best to buy - rugged, light weight and good looking. If you wish to take photographs occasionally for record purposes a model which can be fitted to a camera is desirable.

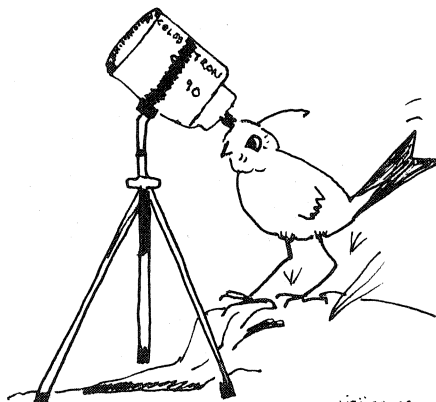
4) On the other hand, if you are interested in much photography or astronomy it is worth considering a 3" or 5" reflector. The extra cost is not worth it for birding alone, but as a three-purpose instrument the reflector is a very good investment.

5) Get a good quality. There may be some inexpensive bargains on the market, but I haven't seen any. The cheap scopes either lack sharpness of image, depth of field, or bright image or are poorly designed with internal parts in easily broken plastic. A good Swift or Bushnell can stand a great deal of abuse. I don't recommend dropping them on rocky beaches, but I have done so with mine and it survived.

6) Make sure you have a sturdy tripod or monopod. Most people cannot handhold even a 15X scope without tremor and few can even use a gun stock to support a 20X.

7) Finally - try before you buy. Look through other people's scopes. Borrow one if you can and see that it does what you expect. Try them out in the store on bright and dark objects and see how closely they will focus.

Whatever type you favour, do go ahead and get a scope - it opens up much new and exciting birding. The relative merits and drawbacks of refractor versus reflector will never be completely resolved, but a good scope of either variety is well worth owning.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, NSBS Newsletter

We wish to thank you for sending us a copy of your very informative booklet. We are amazed at the extensive coverage your interests cover and the wealth of even small details which mean so much to wild life activities. The Red-headed Woodpecker has not been so frequent in his visits to us - I have nicknamed him (or her) "Wolsey", with his red hat and cope and two surplise white wing feathers! However we still hope he will come again. Some of your friends were out on Sunday, but we had not seen him that day and have not since despite enquiries with neighbours. It has been bitterly cold these last few days and only two regulars seem to make a rendezvous with us.

My occupation before retirement entailed my being outdoors all the year - winter and summer alike. I was never confined to an office of any kind, and always in some remote spots, far from town or urban areas. This enabled me to carry on a side line of wild life while earning my living. I think it all started when I was a London Boy evacuated in the First War after being bombed out in 1917 and shipped out to Wiltshire to stay for the duration and after. I went to school there and the teachers (all men) as I look back were the most wonderful men guiding us, all unconscious to us, to a truly manfully way of life. Every Saturday, one or another would conduct some sort of field trip and I, who had only tramped the hard pavement of London, thought I was in paradise! In the spring we were quietly shown the difference between a nest of Chaffinch or Sand Martin and the haunts of the Cuckoo, and made to sit quietly till his song was heard close by, and then told of his habits and to this day I still remember the rhyme he had -

Come Warminster Fair early or late
The Cuckoo sings on Longleat Gate!

As a side line we kept bees at school under their supervision, but had to do all the chores of an expert Bee Keeper, and for drawing, how crude it must have been, gather wild flowers or weeds and then learn their names. And the war was on and rations too, and pennies mighty scarce, and all had to be done with one pencil. But it was a grand schooling and I am always thankful to these men, who did so much for us boys of their own free will, - and how quaint it all seems - some of us boys gathered enough wild strawberries and got a mother to make a pot of jam as a present to the Head!! We were getting turnip jam ourselves!!

Lewis Nicholls
Bedford, N.S.

- - - - -

Editor, NSBS Newsletter

In the latest issue of the NEWSLETTER Eric Mills questions the justification for collecting birds for scientific study purposes. He states his views on the subject and asks other members of the Society to state theirs. Here are mine.

It is obvious from his writing that Mr. Mills is personally opposed to the practice, but with a measure of seeming reluctance he does go so far as to concede two reasons which might justify collecting. They are both excellent reasons and if interpreted and applied broadly they give, in my opinion, sufficient scope to cover the entire field of operation, - with but a single exception, - he makes no provision for the private collector. My contention is that there are exceptional cases - though they be few and far between - where private

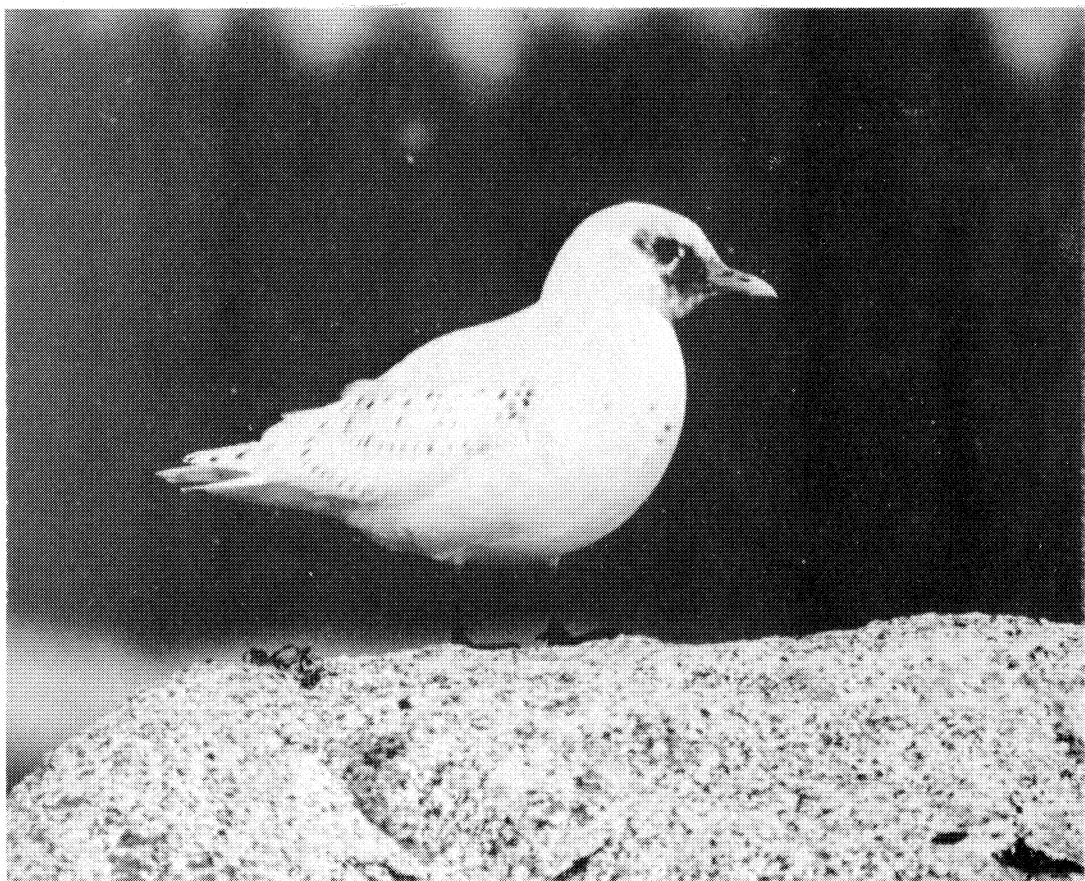
collections are justifiable. For instance when a young student whose mind is clearly ornithologically oriented feels disposed to start a collection of his own he should be given every encouragement. In the old days Government permission to collect was not a requirement, but today before such a collection may be started legally, a Scientific Collector's Licence must be acquired from Ottawa. Such permits are issued with caution.

Perhaps the way I feel about the importance of private collections is because I have had the opportunity to see their hidden values. Values which were not confined to the collector but which ultimately were shared by many. For instance consider the cases of Doctors A. L. Rand and W. Earl Godfrey, two Wolfville lads, both of whom, in pursuance of their studies acquired private collections. Though these were small - limited to a few hundred specimens - I contend that they contributed in no small measure toward the respective successes these men are presently enjoying and the value of their combined work in the field of ornithology is incalculable. One further reference to private collections is that they ultimately find their way to accredited museums where they will serve their original purpose in perpetuity.

Mr. Mills mentions the value of modern high-grade photography as a substitute for the shot-gun. Yes, in one particular sector of the field the camera can prevent the necessity of killing a bird. It is a pleasing thought. But such cases are relatively rare and the results are of limited value, for aside from establishing the identity of the species in question and being pretty to look at, what contribution do such pictures make to science?

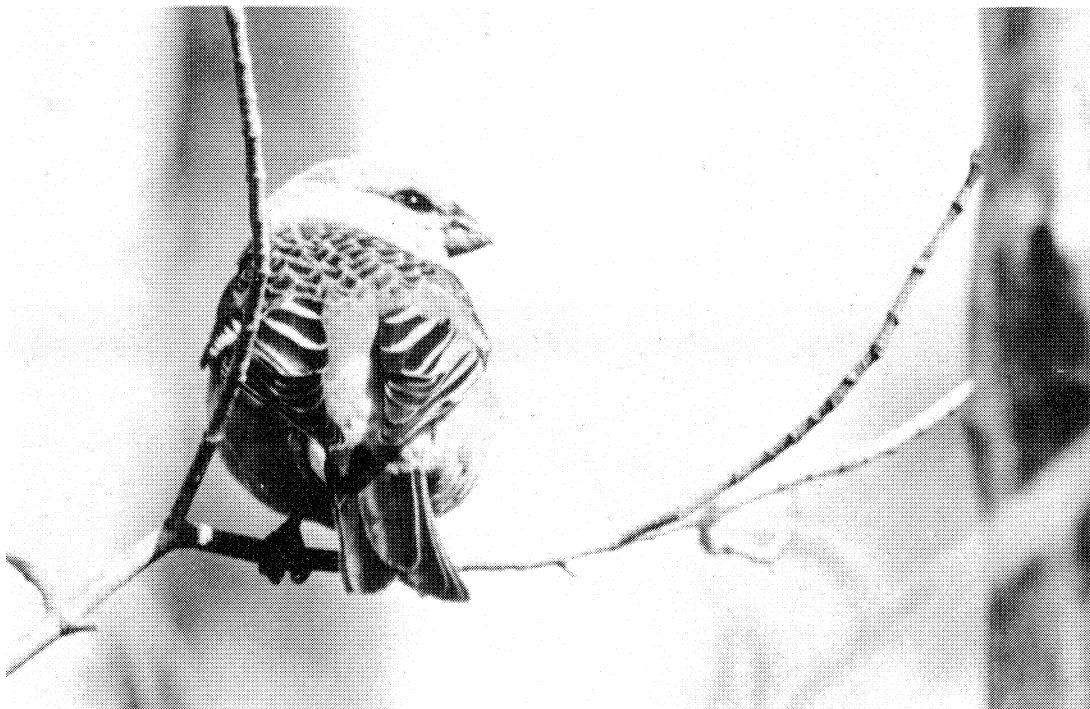
Rather than trying to justify private collecting let's look a little deeper. It appears obvious from Mr. Mills' letter that he and a number of other members of the Bird Society - probably a high percentage of them - are opposed to the collecting of birds for study purposes, because they deplore the loss of birdlife that such collecting entails. In this connection I feel that I am on safe ground when I state that for every bird which is taken for scientific study throughout Canada in any given year, many, yes many thousands more are killed by the ubiquitous house cats which are allowed to roam uncontrolled throughout the year. And these animals are not part of the indigenous animal life of Canada. They were imported as were the infamous starlings and house sparrows. Here it seems pertinent to ask - how many members of our Society who are opposed to collecting birds in the interest of science, harbor house cats and tolerate the destruction of birds for which their pets are responsible? In addition to the foregoing when one considers the hundreds of millions of birds that are destroyed each year by 'Man and His Works' - light-houses, radio and TV towers, power lines, oil spillages, poison sprays to mention but a few of his destructive agencies, it strikes me a little more than utter nonsense to question the loss of a few birds that are taken for scientific study. LET'S BE REALISTIC.

In the first part of Mr. Mills' letter he refers rather obliquely to hunters who kill birds for food or for sport. For the integral welfare of the Nova Scotia Bird Society I trust we will never take a definite stand against legitimate hunting. To do so would serve no useful purpose and might very well prove to be a very short-sighted policy resulting in a financial loss to the Society. For instance there are very likely a number of accredited sportsmen on our membership list some of whom might well be influenced against remembering us in their Wills if it were generally known that the Society was actively opposed to the hunting of game-birds in season.



ivory gull

mclaren



pine grosbeak

corbett





black-backed three-toed woodpecker

hope

gray jay

hope



red-tailed hawk

corbett



goshawk

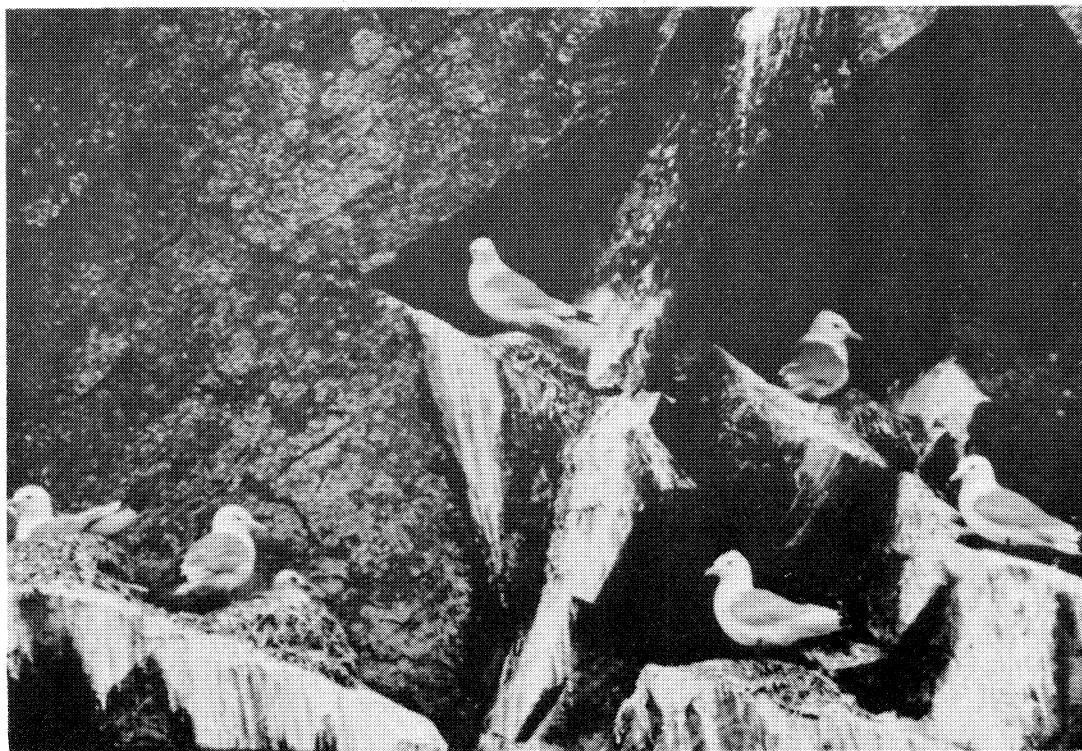
bowers



puffins

davar

black-legged kittiwakes





gannets

davar



great gray owl

tingley

WINTERY BIRDS AND SUMMER DREAMS

The winter season has provided its fair share of rare birds some of which appear elsewhere in this issue. Ian McLaren made the first recorded photograph in Nova Scotia of a first-year Ivory Gull seen here perching on a granite outcrop. The photo was taken at Sambro Harbour, Halifax Co., 8 February 1979. A total of two Ivory Gulls were observed.

Several new contributors appear in this issue of the Newsletter. The male Pine Grosbeak by Gary Corbett and the Gray (formerly Canada) Jay by Peter Hope are two common birds that enhance our landscape. Another bird supposedly common to mature spruce woods is the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker. Most people would agree that this bird is rarely seen and certainly rarely photographed. The yellow-capped male shown here indicates the lighting difficulties encountered trying to photograph in shady woods.

The Red-tailed Hawk close-up by Gary Corbett retains much of its impact even when reproduced in black and white.

The immature Goshawk with the freshly killed rabbit is very rarely captured on film. Norman Bowers took several shots of bird and prey on the front lawn of his house in Caledonia. The rabbit has provided the immature Goshawk with a fine breakfast. However, the skyward gaze almost leads one to believe that breakfast should be eaten quickly lest visitors take off with the lot.

While I am writing these captions the March rains beat against the windows and destroy any vestige of hope for snow dependent activity. It is at times like this that many dream and plan extensive bird trips for the coming spring and summer. The next three photographs by Celes Davar are the realization of such plans. The Black-legged Kittiwakes on and by nests perched on rocky cliffs of Great Island, Newfoundland, were photographed on a "bird trip" during the summer of 1978. The Puffins standing outside their nesting burrows are on the same island. The high density summer population of Gannets is on Cape St. Mary's, Newfoundland.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is Stuart Tingley's account of the Great Gray Owl invasion of eastern North America. The photograph was taken in Skowhegan, Maine, on 10 February, 1979.

Many thanks to the contributors of photographs to this Newsletter. Other photos by new contributors will appear in future Newsletters.

Ralph Connor

To my thinking it would be highly appropriate for us to adopt a policy whereby we undertake to assist the duly appointed law-enforcement officers in their efforts to enforce existing game-laws. Our action in such might be limited, perhaps, to merely providing such officers with detailed evidence of illegal acts on the understanding that those conducting the prosecutions would solemnly agree not to divulge the source of their information. In this way any unpleasant repercussions which might work to the disadvantage of the Society might be avoided. A case in point is that of a swan that was illegally killed last autumn in the Lawrencetown area of Halifax County. It is stated in the NEWSLETTER that this particular incident was discussed at the recent Annual Meeting and, assuming that conclusive evidence of wrong-doing was available, I was sorry to note that said discussion ended in what appears to have been a fizzle and no action was taken.

R. W. Tufts
Wolfville, N.S.

Editor, NSBS Newsletter

I read with great interest Ian Macpherson's story about the Barred Owls in the January Newsletter. We were particularly interested because we hear Barred Owls frequently and see them occasionally in the early evening or by day if we disturb them from their roosting places around or near our home here in Guilford, Conn. Two years ago we (my husband, two sons and myself) went out on an "Owl Prowl" with a group of birders. This consisted of calling out the owls by using a tape recording of their calls or imitating them. Several owls of various species were induced to return the calls and investigate - from a distance - the "intruder" into their territory. This gave us the idea to try calling our Barred Owls. In late summer the owls had been calling all night long - waking us up in the night frequently - so we thought maybe we could have some fun with them. We taped a record of Barred Owls hooting and armed with our tape went out to the driveway in front of our house and played the tape. After about 10 minutes we got our first answer from across the road followed almost immediately by a huge dark figure swooping down upon us, veering off about 15 feet over our heads and flying back up into a maple tree behind the house. It really startled us! For the next hour that owl flew back and forth dipping down over our heads, coming closer and closer until it was no more than 5 feet over our heads. It was joined by a second owl that also flew back and forth over us but did not come as close. After an hour we figured we had confused the poor owls enough and left them sitting in a tree pondering over the strange intruders to their territory.

The next day in mid-afternoon I heard a lot of hooting and went out to chastise my son for upsetting the owls in the daytime by playing the recording. It wasn't him - it was the owls calling back and forth to each other. We wondered if they were trying to call out the "intruder". The whole thing was a fascinating experience. Perhaps you might like to pass this note along to Ian Macpherson as he might like to try calling out his owls. He did not give an address, but next time we are back in Nova Scotia we would like very much to stop by and see his owls if we have the chance.

Also in regards to Eric Mills' letter in the January Newsletter about collecting birds. I agree whole-heartedly with everything he says. I see no point in collecting a rarity or a new bird to the area when a photograph would probably establish its identity. Even if you can't get a photograph maybe someone else can and anyway if the bird is killed you can say it's been here - but it isn't there anymore! I can understand the collecting of bird where they are

used for some special scientific study and where there are sufficient numbers of them that the population is not being threatened, but not just to enhance a private collection or to make positive I.D. on a rare species.

I would be most grateful if you could pass along the bit about the Barred Owls to Ian Macpherson.

Gillian Rose
1820 Durham Rd.
Guilford, Conn. 06437

Editor, NSBS Newsletter.

I thought it might be of interest to other NSBS members to report on our winter birds in the Antigonish area. This winter in both Roland Chaisson's and my opinion was quite interesting and very rewarding.

We have been studying the populations of winter ducks at Antigonish harbour with the following average numbers per species: 120 Black Ducks, 100 Greater Scaup, 100 Common Mergansers, 50 Canada Geese and 30 Common Goldeneye. We also had the following occasional ducks, Oldsquaw, Common Eiders, Red-breasted Mergansers, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter and a possible Surf Scoter.

As far as Bald Eagles go we were seeing in our comparatively limited surveys between 3 and 6 individuals often with 2 adults and the rest immatures. I believe that the 2 adults were a breeding pair wintering consistently in the harbour area.

Our area is not limited to ducks and eagles for we had wintering Black-headed Gulls this year. Also two records of Glaucous Gulls; 1 Great Blue Heron on Jan. 6th and Kingfisher on Jan. 27th were noteworthy.

One final note I might add was a phone call I received on Jan. 21st regarding a "queer looking bird". This bird was identified as an immature Common Puffin that had been blown inland during a storm two days previously. I returned it to the sea the same night as there was nothing wrong with it except it didn't have any water from which it could obtain enough speed for flight.

All in all it was a good winter in Antigonish.

Stephen Flemming



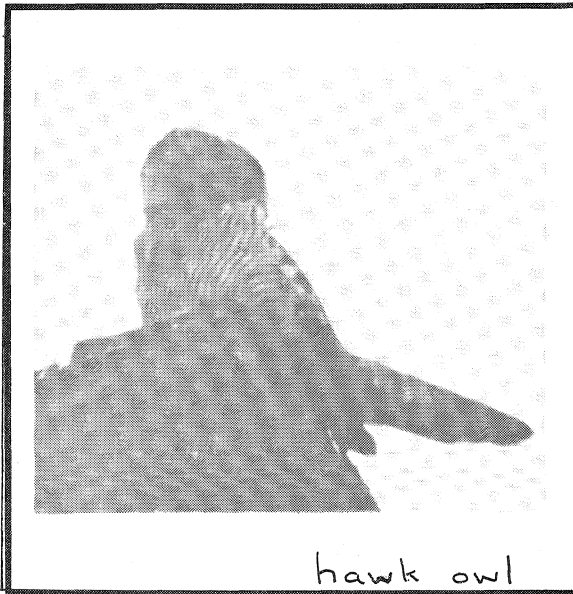
Editor, NSBS Newsletter

During January and February, Great Gray Owls staged what may be their most spectacular invasion this century into eastern North America (s. Ontario, s. Quebec, New York State and throughout New England). Over 35 different birds in the state of Maine alone had been reported to Peter Vickery by mid-February. Amazingly, none seems to have reached the Maritimes as this goes to print.

At Peter Vickery's invitation, a friend and I drove (with Peter as guide) to Skowhegan, about 50 miles west of Bangor, on February 10th to visit a field where he and Davis Finch had seen as many as 4 Great Grays the previous week. We soon spotted one bird basking in the sun at the edge of the field which permitted point blank range photographs. On our way home later that day we found and photographed another Great Gray Owl at Gouldsboro, Maine, 20 miles east of Ellsworth. (See photograph in centerfold).

The Hawk Owl was photographed at Little Shemogue, near Port Elgin, N.B., on 17 December, the day after we discovered it on the Cape Tormentine Christmas Bird Count sitting on the roof of an abandoned house. The bird remained in the area and was seen by many birders until early February. As the bird was a mere stone's throw from the N.S. border, I had visions of enthusiastic N.S. listers lined up along the Missiquash River, madly kissing the backs of their hands and throwing brightly painted mice high into the air.

Stuart Tingley



Stop Press.....

A new edition of "Where to Find the Birds in Nova Scotia" by P.R. Dobson and C.R.K. Allen is hot off the press. This edition includes a section on Yarmouth Co. and a new section on Digby Co.

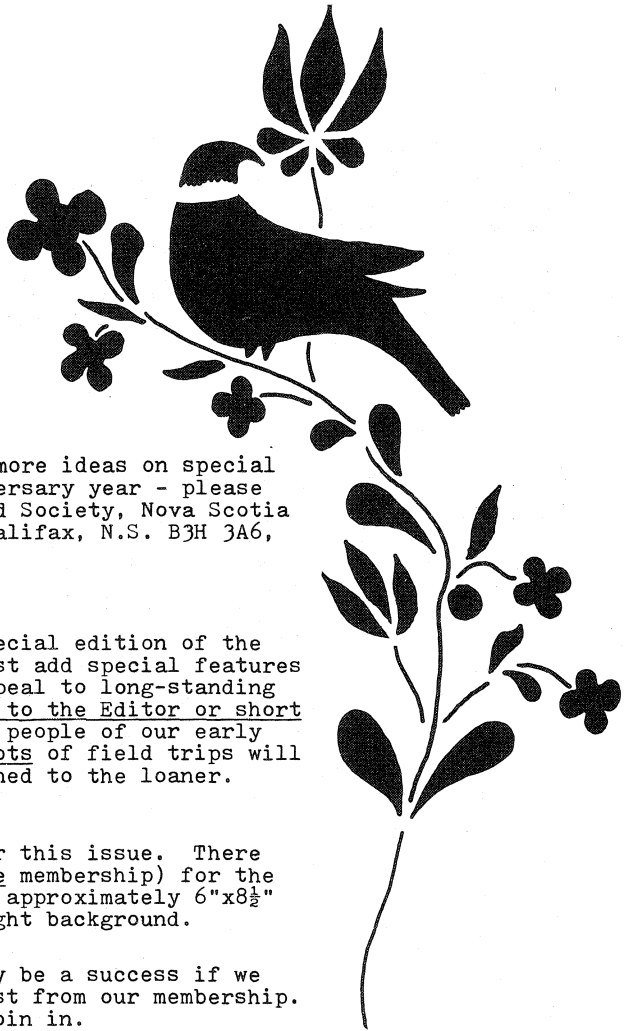
1980 CELEBRATIONS

Evelyn Dobson would like more ideas on special events to celebrate our anniversary year - please write her c/o Nova Scotia Bird Society, Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6, or phone her at 852-3042.

We expect to publish a special edition of the Newsletter in 1980, or at least add special features to the usual editions. We appeal to long-standing members to contribute letters to the Editor or short articles about the events and people of our early days. Black and white snapshots of field trips will be welcomed and will be returned to the loaner.

We need a cover design for this issue. There will be a prize (a year's free membership) for the winning design. It should be approximately 6"x8½" in black paint or ink on a light background.

This special year can only be a success if we have participation and interest from our membership. So take up pen or brush and join in.



ERRATA and ADDENDA.

Nobody's perfect - observers, reporters, section editors, editors and typists can all make slips. Back issues of the NEWSLETTER are read as a source of information by many people with a serious interest in bird occurrences and distribution. For this purpose, errors can be serious. If readers know of any consequential errors in earlier issues of the NEWSLETTER, please write to the Editor, and we'll publish a list of these, hopefully not lengthy.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE ON FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION,"A BIRDWATCHER'S GUIDE TO ATLANTIC CANADA" by Roger Burrows

There are several excellent birding areas in Atlantic Canada that I have not had the opportunity to visit and I would appreciate the assistance of any NSBS member so as to include all such areas. I will be writing directly to specific individuals in the next month but any assistance would be appreciated and acknowledged.

Each area would be identified and described as follows:-

Location by nearest town and major highway

Directions from the nearest town

Restrictions on access and landowner (if known)

Approximate area in acres, square miles or hectares

Specialities, i.e., rarities or abundant species

Best times of year to visit

Local contact

Sketches of species typical of many localities would accompany the text.

I hope to be ready for publication in early winter. This book is intended as a companion to Pettingill's and Geffin's Guides to the Eastern USA. A later book will deal more directly with the status of individual species in Atlantic Canada and the US seaboard.

Mailing Address:- Roger Burrows, P.O. Box 73, Glovertown, NFLD. A0G 2L0



Gary Corbett is a biologist with Parks Canada; he lives at Cole Harbour Dyke on Cole Harbour where some of the best birding in Nova Scotia is to be found. He invites you to come down and visit him. His phone number is 466-6862.





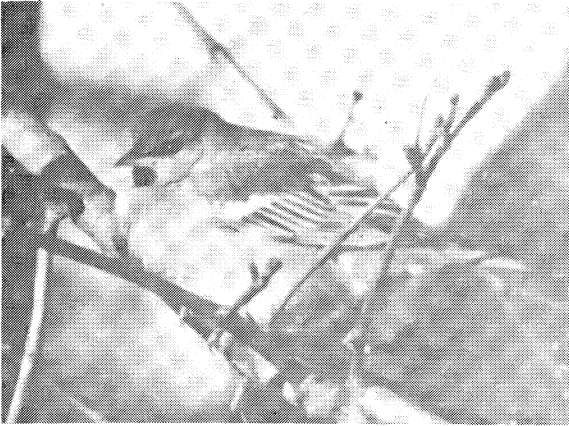
On a frigid January morning, Ian McLaren and his kids came across an astonishing sight near the sewage-plant outlet at Dorothea Drive, Dartmouth: captured in a single camera frame are a sleeping female Wood Duck (left), a desperately feeding Virginia Rail (center) and a grumpy Common Snipe. The Wood Duck allowed quite close approach for her portrait.

CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION

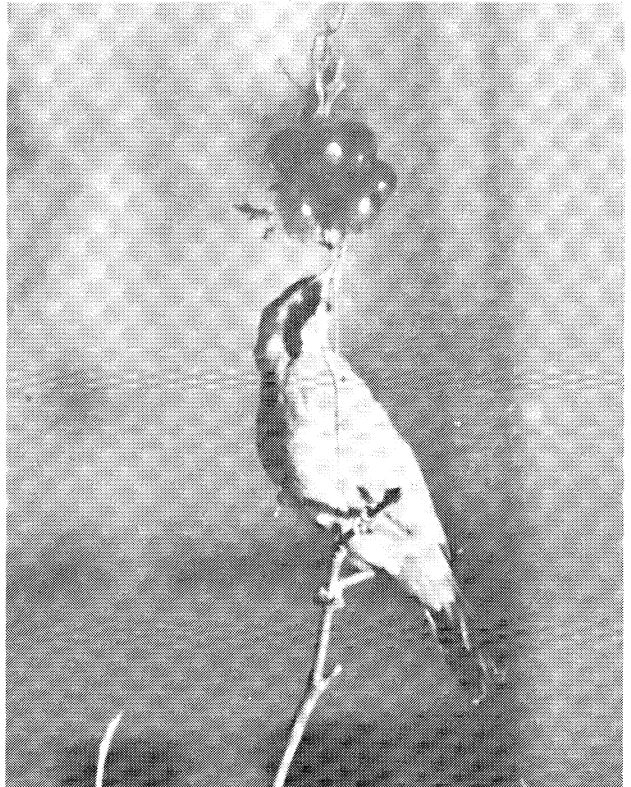
The annual Canadian Nature Federation conference will be held from May 28 to June 3 at Macdonald College, Montreal, Quebec. There will be field trips for naturalists with other interests as well as for birders during the peak of the spring migration. Included will be a trip to the famous gannet colony on Bonaventure Island. Symposia will be held to discuss such subjects as James Bay, budworm spraying and enforcement of hunting laws. The Annual General Meeting will be held on May 31st.

For more information, write to -

1979 Canadian Nature Federation Conference,
 c/o Ms. Brooke Wright,
 9 Springfield Avenue,
 Westmount, Quebec. H3Y 2K9



The first-year male "Bullock's" Oriole, a visitor from the far west, is readily distinguished from the eastern ("Baltimore") race of the Northern Oriole by its black throat and lores, unspotted greyish back, somewhat expanded first wing bar, and (though not of course evident in the picture) its pale grey belly, contrasting with orange breast and undertail coverts. The photographs are of one that spent December 25 to January 25 at the McLaren feeder where, with three "Baltimore" companions, it became quite adept at plucking grapes strung on their maple tree.



WHY PAY FOR CHRISTMAS COUNTS?

Very reluctantly, and with a covey of misgivings, we now approach a subject we would prefer to leave unmentioned. It is a subject that has been a sore point with a number of compilers and other participants for years, and a problem area for AMERICAN BIRDS for as long or longer. The subject, as you may have guessed, is the participant fee.

All of us, editors, compilers and participants, would be delighted to see the fee abolished. It is an infernal nuisance, it is often difficult or even impossible to collect, it makes National Audubon Society look like a profiteering organization, and it discourages full compliance with our very necessary rules and regulations.

When the Christmas Bird Count began 78 years ago, its sponsors invited and solicited participation, there was no fee, the then National Association of Audubon Societies was not only able to edit the few and brief counts submitted in time for the February issue, but bear all the costs of publication. But all that has changed; today's CBC is a tremendous operation, involving nearly forty editors, 1300 compilers, and thousands of pages of manuscript. What took a week or two to edit now takes more than six months; what cost little or nothing to publish now must suffer through the results of three quarters of a century of almost continual inflation.

Buried in the CBCs is real knowledge: studies revealing population increases, decreases, or shifts for many species, the effects of severe winters or weather-related phenomena, early winter incursions or irruptions, the boundaries of winter ranges and the distribution of populations, trends in half-hardy lingerers and late migrants, the long-range effects of habitat changes such as marsh drainage, plant succession, or industrial development on the numbers and variety of species.

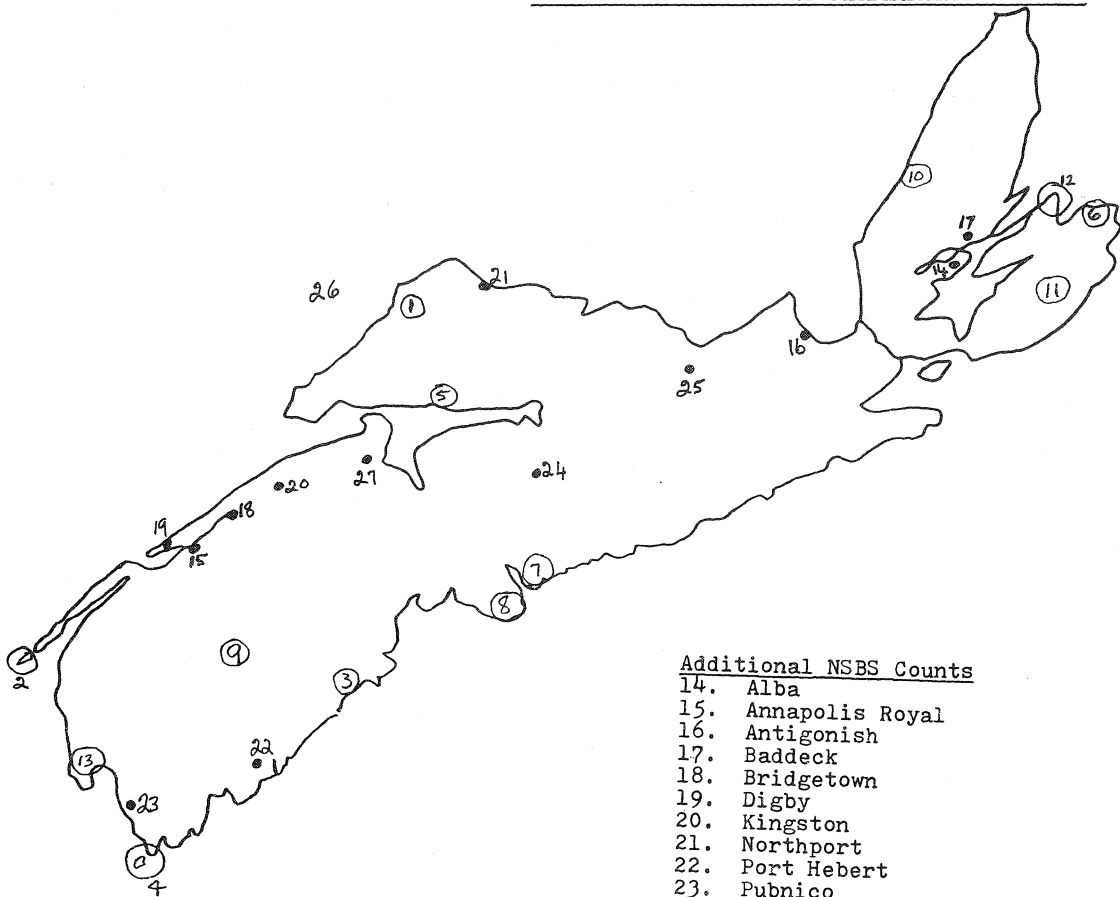
Today, as we have explained in the past, there is no way that we can organize the count, prepare and mail the compilers' packets, edit and finally publish the results, without financial assistance. Subscription fees alone cannot do it. National Audubon Society, facing substantial operating deficits, cannot provide funding for it; the fairest, and now traditional way would seem to be for the participants themselves to bear their rather miniscule share of the burden.

The argument occasionally heard goes like this, "Why should I pay a fee when I have given up a full day, worn myself out looking for birds, just to provide National Audubon Society with information for its benefit?" Our answer is simply "You're not doing it for us; we're both sharing the burden of the CBC phenomenon - you doing the field work, we the organizing, editing, publishing. We think the fee is modest and we know it is necessary. Without it, the CBC ceases to exist."

- Robert Arbib

Reprinted from AMERICAN
BIRDS, July 1978, Vol.
32 No 4

1978-1979 CBCs



- 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. Alba
 15. Annapolis Royal
 16. Antigonish
 17. Baddeck
 18. Bridgetown
 19. Digby
 20. Kingston
 21. Northport
 22. Port Hebert
 23. Pubnico
 24. Shubenacadie
 25. Springville
 26. Upper Bay of Fundy
 27. Wolfville

Nova Scotia Christmas Bird Counts 1978-79

Of the 28 Christmas Counts carried out this year, two were new for the province, Alba in Inverness County and Pubnico in Yarmouth County, and a hearty welcome goes out to them.

Unfortunately, large areas of the province still remain uncovered, as no reports were received for Hants, Guysborough, or Richmond Counties.

The number of species seen this year increased to 127 plus one additional race over last year's 125 species. Individuals seen, numbered 168,047, a new record for the province.

A very encouraging note is the increase in the number of party hours spent in the field; about 1143 this year, compared to 981, last year.

Seventy-three species showed gains in total numbers this year. The most dramatic increases were American Robin - up 1500%, Northern Shrike and Evening Grosbeak - up 200%, Canada Goose - up 60%, Red-necked Grebe - up 50%, and Herring Gull - up 45%. Most of this increase, I feel, is due to the increase in party hours.

A few species showed decreases in numbers. Some of the larger decreases are: Tree Sparrow and Common Redpoll - down 90% Greater Scaup, Common and Red-breasted Merganser - down 50%.

A single underlining of a species name denotes an unusual species for that particular count, while underlining of a number denotes an unusual number of that particular species.

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

ALBA, Dec. 31; 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Clear. Wind west 5-10 mph. Temperature 25-35F. Fresh water frozen. Three observers in one party. Total party hours 3½ (3 on foot, ½ by car). Total party miles 7 (2 on foot, 5 by car).

Black Duck 3; Common Merganser 23; Bald Eagle 1a; Ruffed Grouse 1; Great Black-backed Gull 10; Herring Gull 5; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 4; Common Raven 3; Common Crow 5; Black-capped Chickadee 4.

Total 13 species; about 63 individuals. Curdy Gardner, Burland Murphy, Lloyd Stone (compiler).

AMHERST, Dec. 26; 7:50 AM to 4:40 PM. Overcast with moderate snow and rain a.m. Overcast with moderate snow p.m. Wind NE 10-15 mph. Temp. 34-32F. Fresh water frozen. Eight observers in 4-5 parties. Total party hours 26.75 (8 on foot, 18.75 by car). Total party miles 159 (14 on foot, 145 by car).

Red-breasted Merganser 5; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Great Black-backed Gull 72; Herring Gull 199; Rock Dove 197; Barred Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Downy Woodpecker 4; Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 34; Common Raven 57; Common Crow 56; Black-capped Chickadee 46; Boreal Chickadee 11; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; American Robin 3; Northern Shrike 5; Starling 256; House Sparrow 235; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 2; Evening Grosbeak 35; Song Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 449.

Total 29 species; about 1681 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Brown Creeper). Gordon Burns, Evelyn Coates, Con Desplanque, Cora MacKay, Dora Myers, Margaret Purdy, Al Smith, Stuart Tingley (compiler).

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Dec. 30; 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Mostly cloudy AM to partly cloudy PM. Wind light northerly. Temp. 36F. Fresh water frozen. Six observers in six parties. Total party hours 32 (18 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 45 (12 on foot, 20 by car, and 13 on skis).

Common Loon 2; Canada Goose 21; Black Duck 383; Green-winged Teal 14; Greater Scaup 9; Common Goldeneye 3; Bufflehead 29; Common Merganser 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Marsh Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Great Black-backed Gull 9; Herring Gull 102; Mourning Dove 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 5; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 190; Common Raven 6; Common Crow 87; Black-capped Chickadee 120; Boreal Chickadee 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; American Robin 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; Cedar Waxwing 6; Starling 2; House Sparrow 145; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 111; Evening Grosbeak 45; American Goldfinch 40; Red Crossbill 7; White-throated Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 4; Snow Bunting 14.

Total 41 species, about 1394 individuals. Fred Barrett, Miss Cheesman, Allison Dalton (compiler); Wendy Miller, Donald Thexton; W.E. Whitehead.

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 29; 7:20 AM to 3:30 PM. Partly cloudy AM Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy PM. Wind brisk NW. Temp. 32-34F. Fresh water partly frozen. Five observers in two parties. Total party hours 9 (2 by car, other 7). Total party miles 35 (27 by car, other 8).

Great Blue Heron 1; Great Cormorant 11; Canada Goose 90; Mallard 1; Black Duck 347; Greater Scaup 10; scaup sp. (Lesser?) 250; Common Goldeneye 92; Common Merganser 89; Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 3a, 5imm; Ruffed Grouse 1; Great Black-backed Gull 35; Herring Gull 67; Ring-billed Gull 1; Black-headed Gull 7; Rock Dove 13; Belted Kingfisher 1; Blue Jay 24; Common Raven 53; Common Crow 138; Black-capped Chickadee 39; Starling 222; House Sparrow 41; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1; Evening Grosbeak 15; Purple Finch 1; Pine Grosbeak 5; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Snow Bunting 2.

Total 33 species, about 1571 individuals. A. Chiasson, Roland Chiasson (compiler), Frank Cormier, Stephen Flemming, Dr. N. Seymour.

BADDECK, Dec. 29; 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Mostly clear AM. Partly cloudy PM. Wind west 10-20 mph. Temp. 20-30F. Fresh water frozen. Fifteen observers in 6 parties. Total party hours 21 (8 on foot, 13 by car).. Total party miles 118 (8 on foot, 110 by car).

Common Loon 1; Black Duck 10; Green-winged Teal 2; Common Goldeneye 21; Common Merganser 8; Goshawk 1; Red-tailed 1; Bald Eagle 4a; Ruffed Grouse 1; Great Black-backed Gull 11; Herring Gull 73; Rock Dove 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 38; Common Raven 59; Common Crow 67; Black-capped Chickadee 42; Boreal Chickadee 8; American Robin 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; Starling 58; House Sparrow 188; Evening Grosbeak 26; Pine Grosbeak 29; American Goldfinch 4.

Total 29 species, about 669 individuals. Angie Aucoin, Dan Banks, Diana Banks, Doris Black, Lal Coleman, Charles Fownes, Richard McCurdy, Isobel MacFarlane, Edith MacPherson, Burland Murphy, Dave Pilkington, Dave Smith, Cliff Sollows, Jessie Stone, Lloyd Stone (compiler).

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 16; 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Partly cloudy AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind light NW 12-15mph. to 25mph., PM. Temp. 4C. Fresh water frozen. Seventeen observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 26.5 (12.5 on foot, 10 by car, and 4 by snowmobile). Total party miles 73 (7.25 on foot, 58.75 by car, other ?).

Common Loon 4; Common Goldeneye 5; Common Eider 16; King Eider 2; White-winged Scoter 10; Common Merganser 2; Goshawk 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 1a, limm.; American Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Great Black-backed Gull 4; Herring Gull 42; Rock Dove 48; Mourning Dove 5; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 30; Common Raven 18; Common Crow 200; Black-capped Chickadee 24; Boreal Chickadee 4; White-breasted Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 1; American Robin 2; Bohemian Waxwing 1; Northern Shrike 2; Starling 200; House Sparrow 80; Red-winged Blackbird 8; Common Grackle 7; Brown-headed Cowbird 100; Evening Grosbeak 105; American Goldfinch 12; Dark-eyed Junco 4; Song Sparrow 2.

Total 40 species, about 963 individuals. Lawrence Bent, Helen Clark, Jim Doig, Sue Goodwin, Grace Hyson, Terry Hyson, Maude Jodrey, Wilfred Marshall, Eric Morris, Jean Morse (compiler); Bill Morse, Hazel Saunders, Jesse Saunders, Ethel Shaffner, Gordon Shaw, Mrs. Malcolm Troop, Stewart Whitman.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 27; 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM: Intermittent light snow AM. Mostly cloudy PM. Wind NW 25-30mph. Temp. 30F. Fresh water frozen. Ten observers in 5 parties. Total party hours 39½ (37½ on foot, 2 by car). Total party miles 55 (31 on foot, 24 by car).

Common Loon 36; Red-throated Loon 2; Red-necked Grebe 41; Horned Grebe 4; Great Cormorant 318; Brant 2; Canada Goose 11; Black Duck 4; Common Goldeneye 118; Oldsquaw 356; Common Eider 978; White-winged Scoter 1; Black Scoter 2; Common Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 52; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Purple Sandpiper 100; Glaucous Gull 2; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 457; Herring Gull 1126; Ring-billed Gull 1; Black-legged Kittiwake 48,000; Black Guillemot 92; Common Puffin 3; murre sp. 13; Mourning Dove 1; Saw-whet Owl 1; Horned Lark 3; Common Raven 26; Common Crow 107; Black-capped Chickadee 23; Boreal Chickadee 19; American Robin 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 31; Water Pipit 3; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 44; House Sparrow 35; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Evening Grosbeak 12; Purple Finch 6; Pine Siskin 6; American Goldfinch 35; Red Crossbill 1; White-winged Crossbill 59; Dark-eyed Junco 8; White-throated Sparrow 9; Song Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 1.

Total 52 species, about 52,165 individuals. (CP: Double-crested Cormorant). Ross Anderson, Sherman Boates, Cyril Coldwell, Bill Caudle, Fulton Lavender, Wayne Neily, Anne Mills, Eric Mills (compiler), Julie Porter, Peter Smith.

BROAD COVE, Dec. 30; 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Clear to partly cloudy AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind NW 5-10mph. Temp. 30-34F. Fresh water frozen. Twenty-four observers in 10 parties. Total party hours 67 (41 on foot, 26 by car). Total party miles 233 (64 on foot, 169 by car).

Common Loon 68; Red-throated Loon 10; Red-necked Grebe 23; Horned Grebe 115; Great Cormorant 47; Double-crested Cormorant 1;

Canada Goose 17; Mallard 5; Black Duck 81; Green-winged Teal 1; Ring-necked Duck 3; Greater Scaup 228; Lesser Scaup 1; Common Goldeneye 96; Bufflehead 9; Oldsquaw 70; Harlequin Duck 4; Common Eider 760; White-winged Scoter 37; Surf Scoter 15; Black Scoter 32; Hooded Merganser 1; Common Merganser 8; Red-breasted Merganser 31; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Bald Eagle 2a, 2imm.; Marsh Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 7; Purple Sandpiper 9; Dunlin 2; Glaucous Gull 1; Iceland Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 258; Herring Gull 1290; Ring-billed Gull 1; Thick-billed Murre 1; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 2; Rock Dove 20; Mourning Dove 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 12; Blue Jay 111; Common Raven 46; Common Crow 261; Black-capped Chickadee 129; Boreal Chickadee 92; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; Brown Creeper 5; American Robin 28; Golden-crowned Kinglet 62; Water Pipit 1; Cedar Waxwing 12; Northern Shrike 2; Starling 605; Yellow-rumped Warbler 25; House Sparrow 117; Eastern Meadowlark 1; Red-winged Blackbird 8; Brown-headed Cowbird 302; Evening Grosbeak 235; Pine Grosbeak 66; Pine Siskin 29; Am. Goldfinch 20; Red Crossbill 3; White-winged Crossbill 30; Savannah Sparrow 3; Savannah Sparrow (Ipswich) 1; Dark-eyed Junco 127; Tree Sparrow 10; White-throated Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 10; Lapland Longspur 3; Snow Bunting 106.

Total 77 species plus 1 additional race, about 5748 individuals. Mary & Ross Anderson, Norm & Thelma Bowers, John, Lise, & Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Anthony, Bradford, Evelyn & Fred Dobson, B.K. Doane, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Dave Gray, Barbara Hinds, Fulton Lavender, Anne Linton, Len MacDonald, Sandra Myers, Don & Joyce Purchase, Howard Ross, Nellie Snyder.

JAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Dec. 27; 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Clear AM. Partly cloudy PM. Wind calm. Temp. -3.5C. AM, -2C. PM. Fresh water partly frozen. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party hours 26 (5 on foot, 5 by car, other 16). Total party miles 42 (4 on foot, 24 by car, other 14).

Great Cormorant 1; Black Duck 9; Bufflehead 42; Oldsquaw 5; Surf Scoter 3; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Great Black-backed Gull 12; Herring Gull 40; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 4; Common Raven 6; Common Crow 28; Black-capped Chickadee 4; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Purple Finch 6; Snow Bunting 5.

Total 19 species, about 173 individuals. (CP: Bohemian Waxwing). Gordon Doucette, Carlotta Enman, Irene Gettas, Pamela MacKay (compiler), Gabrielle Peciva, Angus Rogers, Stephen Warren.

CAPE SABLE, Dec. 29; 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy AM. Mostly cloudy PM. Wind NW 15-20 mph. Temp. 32-34F. Fresh water partly frozen. Two observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 13 (13 on foot). Total party miles 10 (10 on foot).

Common Loon 6; Red-necked Grebe 51; Horned Grebe 11; Great Cormorant 7; Black Duck 10; Common Goldeneye 33; Bufflehead 7; Oldsquaw 12; Common Eider 1400; White-winged Scoter 7; Black Scoter 6; Red-breasted Merganser 14; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Marsh Hawk 1; Killdeer 1; Black-bellied Plover 1; Purple Sandpiper 2; Glaucous Gull 1; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed

Gull 145; Herring Gull 610; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; Thick-billed Murre 5; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 136; Horned Lark 6; Common Raven 1; Common Crow 102; Brown-headed Cowbird 7; Pine Siskin 1; Snow Bunting 40.

Total 31 species, about 2628 individuals. Betty June Smith (compiler), Sidney Smith.

DIGBY, Dec. 27; 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Mostly cloudy with light snow AM. Mostly cloudy with intermittent snow PM. Wind N 20 mph. Temp. 30F. Fresh water frozen. Two observers in 1 party. Total party hours 7 (2 on foot, 5 by car). Total party miles 40 (4 on foot, 36 by car).

Common Loon 6; Red-necked Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 7; Great Cormorant 2; Black Duck 115; Greater Scaup 40; Common Goldeneye 75; Bufflehead 170; Oldsquaw 90; Common Eider 4; White-winged Scoter 35; Red-breasted Merganser 22; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Great Black-backed Gull 42; Herring Gull 170; Rock Dove 75; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 12; Common Raven 35; Common Crow 120; Black-capped Chickadee 4; Boreal Chickadee 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 107; House Sparrow 52; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Am. Goldfinch 10; Song Sparrow 3; Snow Bunting 7.

Total 32 species, about 1219 individuals. Barry Sabean (compiler), Janet Sabean.

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Snow all day. Wind W 25mph. Temp. 30-32F. Fresh water frozen. Seventeen observers in 11 parties. Total party hours 78 (76 on foot, 2 by car). Total party miles 120 (95 on foot, 25 by car).

Mallard 2; Black Duck 425; Common Goldeneye 13; Bufflehead 4; Oldsquaw 34; White-winged Scoter 5; Common Merganser 8; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 1a; Ruffed Grouse 1; Gray Partridge 4; Purple Sandpiper 85; Great Black-backed Gull 26; Herring Gull 240; Ring-billed Gull 1; Rock Dove 32; Great Horned Owl 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Downy Woodpecker 3; Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 29; Common Raven 59; Common Crow 317; Black-capped Chickadee 281; Boreal Chickadee 78; Brown Creeper 2; Am. Robin 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet 60; Northern Shrike 6; Starling 175; House Sparrow 255; Common Grackle 4; Evening Grosbeak 221; Pine Grosbeak 21; Am. Goldfinch 8; Dark-eyed Junco 14; Tree Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 212.

Total 44 species, about 2669 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Brown-headed Cowbird). Des Cousins, Irene Cooke, Sylvia Craig, Terry Craig, Tony Duke, Ross Hall, Frank & Nan Hennessey, Jen Jeranek, Joy LaKing, Ron LaKing, Richard Michaux, George Perry, Ken Snow, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding (compiler), Robert Turner.

GLACE BAY, Dec. 26; 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Moderate snow/rain. Wind east. Temp. 30-32F. Fresh water frozen. Two observers in 1 party. Total party hours 9 (2 on foot, 7 by car). Total party miles 60 (6 on foot, 54 by car).

Canada Goose 136; Black Duck 260; Greater Scaup 29; Common Goldeneye 7; Bufflehead 3; Oldsquaw 5; Common Merganser 19; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Iceland Gull 68;

Great Black-backed Gull 168; Herring Gull 228; Black-headed Gull 3; Dovekie 2; Rock Dove 6; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 3; Common Crow 71; Black-capped Chickadee 4; Starling 347; House Sparrow 191; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Evening Grosbeak 2; Song Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 48.

Total 26 species, about 1606 individuals. (CP: Bald Eagle, Common Raven, Gray Jay, Am. Goldfinch, Dark-eyed Junco). Sara MacLean (compiler), Arthur Spencer.

HALIFAX EAST, Dec. 23; 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Light snow AM. Mostly cloudy PM. Temp. 21-32F. Wind WSW 3-6mph. Fresh water partly open. Salt water mostly open. Wild food crop good. Twenty-five observers in 12 parties. Total party hours 96 (59 on foot, 37 by car). Total party miles; 320 (84 on foot, 236 by car).

Common Loon 29; Red-throated Loon 3; Red-necked Grebe 5; Horned Grebe 14; Great Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 4600; Black Duck 171; Greater Scaup 31; Common Goldeneye 232; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 52; Oldsquaw 168; Common Eider 32; White-winged Scoter 43; Black Scoter 52; Common Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 100; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Bald Eagle limm.; Merlin 4; American Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Sora 1; Purple Sandpiper 45; Dunlin 8; Iceland Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 145; Herring Gull 1052; Ring-billed Gull 127; Black-headed Gull 12; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Black-legged Kittiwake 25; Dovekie 4; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 28; Mourning Dove 6; Belted Kingfisher 1; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Downy Woodpecker 8; Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 45; Common Raven 28; Common Crow 317; Black-capped Chickadee 146; Boreal Chickadee 81; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 2; Winter Wren 1; Am. Robin 12; Hermit Thrush 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 51; Northern Shrike 4; Starling 1044; Yellow-rumped Warbler 6; Common Yellowthroat 1; House Sparrow 710; Eastern Meadowlark 2; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Northern Oriole 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 6; Evening Grosbeak 374; Pine Grosbeak 32; Pine Siskin 26; Am. Goldfinch 113; White-winged Crossbill 45; Savannah Sparrow 6; Seaside Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 32; Tree Sparrow 16; White-throated Sparrow 23; Swamp Sparrow 13; Song Sparrow 37; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 70.

Total 77 species, about 10291 individuals. Ross Anderson, Hazel Carmichael, John & Shirley Cohrs, Frances Cook, Eric Cooke, Ethel Crathorne, Ben Doane, Jim Elliot, Rosemary Eaton, Sylvia Fullerton, Barbara Hinds, Fulton Lavender, Alan Longhurst, Barbara MacDonald, Ian McLaren (compiler), Jamie McLaren, Sandra Myers, Don & Joyce Purchase, Roger Pocklington, Howard Ross, Karl & Wendy Tay, Betty Topple.

HALIFAX WEST, Dec. 16; 7:45 AM to 5:00 PM. Clear. No wind. Temp. 25-33F. Fresh water mostly frozen. Forty-eight observers in 8 parties. Total party hours 140 (101 on foot, 38 by car, 1 by boat). Total party miles 556 (132 on foot, 421 by car, 3 by boat).

Common Loon 18; Red-necked Grebe 13; Horned Grebe 5; Great Cormorant 124; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Mallard 3; Black Duck 347; Green-winged Teal 1; Common Goldeneye 3; Buffle-head 2; Oldsquaw 74; Common Eider 107; White-winged Scoter 105; Common Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Merlin 2; Am. Kestrel 4; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 9; Purple Sandpiper 129; Glaucous Gull 2; Iceland Gull 34; Great Black-backed Gull 524; Herring Gull 2895; Ring-billed Gull 44; Black-headed Gull 4; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Black-legged Kittiwake 57; Thick-billed Murre 1; Dovekie 26; Black Guillemot 22; Rock Dove 955; Belted Kingfisher 1; Hairy Woodpecker 16; Downy Woodpecker 24; Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 266; Common Raven 15; Common Crow 347; Black-capped Chickadee 318; Boreal Chickadee 80; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; Brown Creeper 5; Winter Wren 1; Mockingbird 5; Am. Robin 106; Golden-crowned Kinglet 47; Northern Shrike 8; Starling 6941; Yellow-rumped Warbler 6; House Sparrow 1090; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Northern Oriole 4; Rusty Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 185; Dickcissel 1; Evening Grosbeak 828; Purple Finch 2; Pine Grosbeak 201; Common Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 22; Am. Goldfinch 79; Red Crossbill 12; White-winged Crossbill 16; Savannah Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 190; Tree Sparrow 6; White-crowned Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 21; Fox Sparrow 1; Swamp Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 36; Snow Bunting 11.

Total 78 species, about 16,444 individuals. Mary & Ross Anderson, Ruth Bedwell, Claire Bowditch, Hazel Carmichael, Bill Caudle, Walter Chute, Marg Clark, John & Lise Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs (compiler), Eric Cooke, Ethel Crathorne, Ben Doane, Ruth Edsall, Gillian & Jim Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton, David Gray, Erick Greene, J.B. Hardie, Keltie Hebb, Mary Helleiner, Ethel Helpard, Phyllis & Ward Hemeon, Barbara Hinds, Joan Howitt, Gerda Jansen, Charlotte Jeffries, Keith Keddy, Estelle Laberge, Luc Lafreviere, Fulton Lavender, Anne Linton, Bob & Wendy MacDonald, Steven Manuel, Bernice & Ian McLaren, Anne, Chris, Eric & Karen Mills, Willet Mills, Jaques Perron, Don & Joyce Purchase.

KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK, Dec. 17; 6:45 AM to 5:05 PM. Intermittent light rain AM. Overcast with moderate rain PM. Wind NE-SE, 0 to 20mph. Temp. 32-47F. Fresh water partly frozen. Fourteen observers. Total party hours 38½ (31¼ on foot, 7¼ by car). Total party miles 122 (43 on foot, 79 by car).

Ruffed Grouse 1; Barred Owl 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 40; Common Raven 22; Common Crow 11; Black-capped Chickadee 207; Boreal Chickadee 14; Red-breasted Nuthatch 30; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 22; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 31; House Sparrow 50; Evening Grosbeak 11; Purple Finch 1; Pine Grosbeak 16; Red Crossbill 34; finch sp. 48; Dark-eyed Junco 4.

Total 22 species, about 558 individuals. (CP: Black Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Brown-headed Cowbird, White-throated Sparrow). Norm & Thelma Bowers, Royden Charlton, Margaret Cheesman, Goldie Gibson, Peter Hope (compiler), Bill Hussey, Barb MacDonald, Len MacDonald, Eric Mullen, Granville Nickerson, Cheryl Olsen, Tom

Sheppard, Bob Thexton.

KINGSTON, Dec. 31; 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Mostly cloudy. Wind SW 0-8kmh. Temp. 0-1C. Fresh water open. Eleven observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 40 (10 on foot, 18 by car, other 12). Total party kilometres 382 (16 on foot, 366 by car).

Red-necked Grebe 10; Canada Goose 1; Black Duck 2; Common Goldeneye 12; Oldsquaw 19; Common Eider 4; White-winged Scoter 31; Common Merganser 63; Red-breasted Merganser 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 2; Ruffed Grouse 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Gray Partridge 2; Purple Sandpiper 50; Great Black-backed Gull 16; Herring Gull 109; Rock Dove 149; Mourning Dove 20; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Downy Woodpecker 7; Horned Lark 6; Blue Jay 194; Common Raven 36; Common Crow 3235; Black-capped Chickadee 88; Boreal Chickadee 10; Am. Robin 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 11; Bohemian Waxwing 5; Northern Shrike 3; Starling 662; House Sparrow 495; Red-winged Blackbird 23; Common Grackle 18; Brown-headed Cowbird 183; Evening Grosbeak 67; Common Redpoll 17; Am. Goldfinch 31; Dark-eyed Junco 25; Tree Sparrow 3.

Total 42 species, about 5625 individuals. Edith Bent, Murray Bent, Sherman Boates, Cyril Coldwell, Thelma Hawkins, Terry Hyson, Earle Neily, Vivian Neily, Wayne Neily (compiler), Peter Smith, Jim Wolford.

MARGAREE, Dec. 28; 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Overcast. Wind ENE. Temp. 23-33F. Fresh water partly frozen. Eight observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 38 (21 on foot, 12 by car, other 5). Total party miles 82 (14 on foot, 68 by car).

Black Duck 7; Common Goldeneye 10; White-winged Scoter 20; Common Merganser 12; Bald Eagle 3a; Great Black-backed Gull 50; Herring Gull 13; Dovekie 9; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Downy Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 9; Blue Jay 80; Common Raven 49; Common Crow 155; Black-capped Chickadee 18; Boreal Chickadee 3; Starling 87; House Sparrow 121; Evening Grosbeak 50; Pine Grosbeak 27; Snow Bunting 50.

Total 24 species, about 784 individuals. Anne Bellis, Thomas Bellis (compiler), Brenda Hart, Frances Hart, Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham, Alex Miller.

NORTHPORT, Dec. 29; 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Clear. Wind West 5mph. Temp. 25-30F. Fresh water frozen. Two observers in 1 party. Total party hours 8 (5 on foot, 3 by car). Total party miles 38 (6 on foot, 32 by car).

Common Goldeneye 4; Oldsquaw 6; Ruffed Grouse 4; Great Black-backed Gull 14; Herring Gull 32; Rock Dove 82; Downy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 11; Common Raven 8; Common Crow 52; Black-capped Chickadee 6; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 37; House Sparrow 8; Pine Grosbeak 3; Tree Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 42.

Total 18 species, about 316 individuals. Duncan MacNeil, Robert MacNeil (compiler).

PORT HEBERT, Dec. 17; 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Overcast with heavy rain. Wind SE 30-40mph. Temp. 43F. Fresh water frozen. Twelve observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 58.5 (41.5 on foot, 17 by car). Total party miles 147 (52 on foot, 95 by car).

Common Loon 20; Red-throated Loon 1; Ned-necked Grebe 2; Horned Grebe 7; Great Blue Heron 2; Gannet 2; Great Cormorant 97; Canada Goose 5886; Mallard 2; Black Duck 581; Common Goldeneye 80; Bufflehead 37; Oldsquaw 20; Harlequin Duck 2; Common Eider 96; White-winged Scoter 1; Surf Scoter 3; Hooded Merganser 1; Common Merganser 27; Red-breasted Merganser 37; Goshawk 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Bald Eagle 1a; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 7; Killdeer 1; Purple Sandpiper 88; Pectoral Sandpiper 2; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 502; Herring Gull 959; Black-legged Kittiwake 65; Dovekie 90; Black Guillemot 4; alcid sp. 2; Rock Dove 13; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 29; Common Raven 4; Common Crow 94; Black-capped Chickadee 178; Boreal Chickadee 18; Red-breasted Nuthatch 15; Brown Creeper 2; Am. Robin 19; Golden-crowned Kinglet 79; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; Northern Shrike 2; Starling 10; Yellow-rumped Warbler 15; House Sparrow 7; Red-winged Blackbird 13; Brown-headed Cowbird 79; Evening Grosbeak 72; Purple Finch 1; Pine Grosbeak 41; Pine Siskin 6; Am. Goldfinch 53; White-winged Crossbill 2; Savannah Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 149; Tree Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 19; Song Sparrow 6; Snow Bunting 96.

Total 67 species, about 9670 individuals. (CP: Greater Scaup, Merlin, Dunlin, Sanderling, Hairy Woodpecker). Jeanne Addelson, Richard Addelson, Ross Anderson, Russel Crosby, Dean Fiske, Emmerson Fiske, Frank & Nan Hennessey, Fulton Lavender, George Perry (compiler), Francis Spalding, Robert Turner.

PUBNICO, Dec. 17; 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Fog and light to heavy rain. Wind gale force. Temp. 35-40F. Fresh water frozen. Sixteen observers in 3 parties.

Common Loon 7; Canada Goose 48; Black Duck 663; Common Goldeneye 16; Oldsquaw 2; Common Eider 3; Red-breasted Merganser 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 1; Glaucous Gull 2; Iceland Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 720; Herring Gull 2120; Dovekie 2; Rock Dove 9; Mourning Dove 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 18; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 2; Common Raven 8; Common Crow 148; Black-capped Chickadee 70; Boreal Chickadee 6; Am. Robin 783; Golden-crowned Kinglet 28; Cedar Waxwing 59; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 339; Yellow-rumped Warbler 5; House Sparrow 19; Brown-headed Cowbird 102; Evening Grosbeak 141; Pine Grosbeak 33; Common Redpoll 30; Am. Goldfinch 10; White-winged Crossbill 25; Savannah Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 136; Tree Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 18; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 26.

Total 45 species, about 5624 individuals. (CP: Goshawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-winged Blackbird). C.R.K. Allen, Albert d'Entremont, Craig d'Entremont, DeLisle d'Entremont, Harvey d'Entremont, Jean Guy d'Entremont, Raymond d'Entremont, Lester D'Eon, Maurice D'Eon, Ted D'Eon (compiler), Phyllis Dobson, Edgar Hamilton, Vernita Hamilton, E.E. Murphy, James Murphy, Eric Ruff.

SALMON RIVER, Dec. 16; 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Clear AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind WNW 0-20mph. Temp. 25-37F. Fresh water partly frozen. Eight observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 14 (8 on foot, 6 by car). Total party miles 104 (4 on foot, 100 by car).

Black Duck 7; White-winged Scoter 3; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 5a, 3imm.; Ruffed Grouse 1; Great Black-backed Gull 240; Herring Gull 523; Common Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 25; Common Raven 209; Common Crow 316; Black-capped Chickadee 33; Boreal Chickadee 4; Am. Robin 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 364; House Sparrow 54; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 24; Am. Goldfinch 11; Dark-eyed Junco 4.

Total 27 species, about 1854 individuals. Otis Cossitt, Graham Fraser, Frances Hussey, Bertha Hopkins, Hedley Hopkins (compiler), Brian MacNeil, Jack MacNeil, George MacInnis.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 31; 7:45 AM to 5:00 PM. Mostly cloudy with some snow AM. Overcast PM. Wind 10-15mph. Temp. 33F. Fresh water mostly frozen. Four observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 18.5 (6.5 on foot, 12 by car). Total party miles 35 (5 on foot, 30 by car).

Black Duck 10; Common Merganser 2; Goshawk 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Bald Eagle 4a, 2imm.; Am. Kestrel 1; Spruce Grouse 5; Ruffed Grouse 3; Great Black-backed Gull 20; Herring Gull 29; Rock Dove 26; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Downy Woodpecker 2; Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 11; Blue Jay 32; Common Raven 171; Common Crow 164; Black-capped Chickadee 68; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 12; Am. Robin 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 6; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 717; House Sparrow 146; Common Grackle 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 114; Evening Grosbeak 148; Purple Finch 16; Pine Grosbeak 9; Pine Siskin 20; Am. Goldfinch 21; Dark-eyed Junco 52; Tree Sparrow 13; White-throated Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 3.

Total 41 species, about 1854 individuals. Mary Geddes, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler), Annie Wallace, Lorne Weaver.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 16; 8:15 AM to 3:30 PM. Overcast AM. Mostly cloudy PM. No wind. Temp. 26F. Fresh water frozen. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 12 (7 on foot, 5 by car). Total party miles 132 (18 on foot, 114 by car).

Red-tailed Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 1imm.; Great Black-backed Gull 53; Herring Gull 337; Rock Dove 23; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 34; Common Raven 15; Common Crow 116; Black-capped Chickadee 13; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 126; House Sparrow 21; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Evening Grosbeak 1; Pine Grosbeak 1; Am. Goldfinch 2.

Total 20 species, about 753 individuals. Harry & Jean Brennan, Fred Kenney (compiler), Margaret Kenney, Flora Otto.

THE SYDNEY'S, Dec. 28; 7:55 AM to 4:15 PM. Clear AM. Light snow PM. Wind NW 7-15mph. Temp. 10-20F. Fresh water partly frozen. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 13.5 (6 on foot, 7.5 by car). Total party miles 110 (4 on foot, 106 by car).

Great Cormorant 18; Mallard 50; Black Duck 223; Greater Scaup 1; Common Goldeneye 50; Oldsquaw 303; Common Eider 16; White-winged Scoter 35; Black Scoter 12; Common Merganser 9; Red-breasted Merganser 60; Common Snipe 2; Purple Sandpiper 3; Glaucous Gull 20; Iceland Gull 101; Great Black-backed Gull 2000; Herring Gull 2300; Black-headed Gull 1; Rock Dove 130; Downy Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 32; Common Raven 26; Common Crow 138; Black-capped Chickadee 19; Boreal Chickadee 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; Starling 684; House Sparrow 244; Evening Grosbeak 38; Am. Goldfinch 200; White-winged Crossbill 12; Dark-eyed Junco 42; Tree Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 2.

Total 35 species, about 6796 individuals. Otis Cossitt, David Hopkins, Hedley Hopkins (compiler), Hedley H. Hopkins, Eldon Meikle.

UPPER BAY OF FUNDY, Dec. 30; 10:50 AM to 1:00 PM. Mostly clear AM. Mostly clear PM with moderate seas. Wind NNW 10-15mph. Temp. 30F. Two observers in 1 party. Total party hours 2.15 (2.15 by boat). Total party miles 42 (42 by boat).

Loon sp. 1; Great Cormorant 6; Common Goldeneye 20; Oldsquaw 1; Common Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 22; Glaucous Gull 2; Iceland Gull 8; Great Black-backed Gull 7; Herring Gull 30; Bonaparte's Gull 11; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; Thick-billed Murre 19; Dovekie 1; alcid sp. (large) 41.

Total 14 species, about 172 individuals. Peter W. Hicklin, Stuart I. Tingley (compiler).

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 30; Thirty-one observers. Total party hours 116 3/4.

Canada Goose 13; Mallard 24; Black Duck 648; Pintail 1; Common Goldeneye 4; Common Merganser 14; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 8; Red-tailed Hawk 22; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Bald Eagle 9a, 3imm.; Marsh Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 2; Ruffed Grouse 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 226; Gray Partridge 63; Common Snipe 5; Great Black-backed Gull 841; Herring Gull 2201; Rock Dove 898; Mourning Dove 93; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Downy Woodpecker 14; Horned Lark 268; Blue Jay 188; Common Raven 242; Common Crow 13,384; Black-capped Chickadee 123; Boreal Chickadee 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 4; Am. Robin 9; Varied Thrush 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 14; Northern Shrike 2; Starling 3416; House Sparrow 2278; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Common Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 464; Evening Grosbeak 354; Purple Finch 2; Pine Grosbeak 7; Am. Goldfinch 5; Dark-eyed Junco 120; Tree Sparrow 13; White-throated Sparrow 11; Swamp Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 23; Snow Bunting 245.

Total 51 species, about 26,289 individuals.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 30; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Mostly clear AM. Clear PM. Wind N 8-11mph. Temp. 28-35F. Fresh water partly frozen. Twenty-two observers in 8 parties. Total party hours 55 (26½ on foot, 28½ by car). Total party miles 205 (27 on foot, 178 by car).

Common Loon 10; Red-necked Grebe 6; Great Blue Heron 4; Great Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 1480; Mallard 18; Black Duck 686; Pintail 6; Greater Scaup 120; Common Goldeneye 200; Bufflehead 14; Oldsquaw 18; Common Eider 1; Black Scoter 30; Common Merganser 19; Red-breasted Merganser 24; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 2a, 2imm.; Marsh Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Am. Woodcock 1; Purple Sandpiper 3; Glaucous Gull 4; Iceland Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 311; Herring Gull 1652; Ring-billed Gull 15; Rock Dove 146; Mourning Dove 4; Common Flicker 3; Horned Lark 43; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 30; Common Raven 26; Common Crow 486; Black-capped Chickadee 128; Boreal Chickadee 18; Red-breasted Nuthatch 15; Mockingbird 1; Am. Robin 540; Golden-crowned Kinglet 9; Water Pipit 1; Cedar Waxwing 10; Northern Shrike 5; Loggerhead Shrike 1; Starling 1690; Yellow-rumped Warbler 8; House Sparrow 82; Red-winged Blackbird 8; Common Grackle 24; Brown-headed Cowbird 221; Evening Grosbeak 226; Pine Grosbeak 56; Am. Goldfinch 25; White-winged Crossbill 80; Dark-eyed Junco 247; Tree Sparrow 12; White-throated Sparrow 109; Song Sparrow 13; Snow Bunting 100.

Total 65 species, about 9027 individuals. (CP: Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Cardinal, Common Redpoll, White-crowned Sparrow). C.R.K. Allen, M.B. Allen, B. Brackett, L. Brackett, C. d'Entremont, D. d'Entremont, P. Dobson, Gillian & Jim Elliott, J. Graves, M. Hilton (compiler), S. Hilton, A. Hurlbert, E. Killam, M. Kleiner, E. Murphy, M. Nickerson, B. Ruff, E. Ruff, M. Rymer, R. Rymer, V. Sollows.

Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals for Nova Scotia in 1978-79

This year's list of 127 species + 1 additional race is far short of the record of 141 species + 1 additional race set on the 1976-77 Christmas Count, but it is only slightly below the average number of species for the last few years.

There were 5 new species added to the all-time list and these species we underlined in this summary. The total number of species seen on N.S.B.S. Christmas Counts now stands at 190 species + 3 additional races.

New all-time high counts were established for 12 species and 4 additional species tied their old records. All of these are shown by underlining of the number in this summary.

Halifax West led the way on this list with 22 high counts followed by Broad Cove and Halifax East with 18, Yarmouth and Wolfville 13, Port Hebert 10, Brier Island 7, Cape Sable 6, and The Sydneys 5.

Common Loon 68 (Broad Cove); Red-throated Loon 10 (Broad Cove); Red-necked Grebe 51 (Cape Sable); Horned Grebe 115 (Broad Cove); Gannet 2 (Port Hebert); Great Cormorant 318 (Brier Island); Double-crested Cormorant 1 (Broad Cove, Halifax

West); Great Blue Heron 4 (Yarmouth); Canada Goose 5886 (Port Hebert); Brant 2 (Brier Is.); Mallard 50 (The Sydneys); Black Duck 686 (Yarmouth); Pintail 6 (Yarmouth); Green-winged Teal 14 (Annapolis Royal); Ring-necked Duck 3 (Broad Cove); Greater Scaup 228 (Broad Cove); Lesser Scaup 1 (Broad Cove); Common Goldeneye 232 (Halifax East); Barrow's Goldeneye 1 (Halifax East); Bufflehead 170 (Digby); Oldsquaw 356 (Brier Is.); Harlequin Duck 4 (Broad Cove); Common Eider 1400 (Cape Sable); King Eider 2 (Bridgetown); White-winged Scoter 105 (Halifax West); Surf Scoter 15 (Broad Cove); Black Scoter 52 (Halifax East); Hooded Merganser 1 (Broad Cove, Port Hebert); Common Merganser 63 (Kingston); Red-breasted Merganser 100 (Halifax East); Goshawk 2 (Economy, Port Hebert); Sharp-shinned Hawk 8 (Wolfville); Red-tailed Hawk 22 (Wolfville); Rough-legged Hawk 3 (Wolfville); Bald Eagle 12 (Wolfville); Marsh Hawk 1 (Annapolis Royal, Broad Cove, Cape Sable, Wolfville, Yarmouth); Merlin 4 (Halifax East); Am. Kestrel 4 (Halifax West); Spruce Grouse 5 (Shubenacadie); Ruffed Grouse 9 (Halifax West); Ring-necked Pheasant 226 (Wolfville); Gray Partridge 63 (Wolfville); Sora 1 (Halifax East); Killdeer 1 (Cape Sable, Port Hebert); Black-bellied Plover 1 (Cape Sable); Am. Woodcock 1 (Yarmouth); Common Snipe 5 (Wolfville); Purple Sandpiper 129 (Halifax West); Pectoral Sandpiper 2 (Port Hebert); Dunlin 8 (Halifax East); Glaucous Gull 20 (The Sydneys); Iceland Gull 101 (The Sydneys); Great Black-backed Gull 2000 (The Sydneys); Herring Gull 2895 (Halifax West); Ring-billed Gull 127 (Halifax East); Black-headed Gull 12 (Halifax East); Bonaparte's Gull 11 (Upper Bay of Fundy); Black-legged Kittiwake 48,000 (Brier Is.); Thick-billed Murre 19 (Upper Bay of Fundy); Dovekie 90 (Port Hebert); Black Guillemot 136 (Cape Sable); Common Puffin 3 (Brier Is.); Rock Dove 955 (Halifax West); Mourning Dove 93 (Wolfville); Great Horned Owl 1 (Economy); Barred Owl 1 (Amherst, Kejimikujik National Park, Margaree); Short-eared Owl 1 (Amherst); Saw-whet Owl 1 (Brier Is.); Belted Kingfisher 3 (Port Hebert); Common Flicker 3 (Yarmouth); Pileated Woodpecker 2 (Alba, Salmon River); Hairy Woodpecker 16 (Halifax West); Downy Woodpecker 24 (Halifax West); Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 4 (Economy); Horned Lark 268 (Wolfville); Gray Jay 12 (Broad Cove); Blue Jay 266 (Halifax West); Common Raven 242 (Wolfville); Common Crow 13,384 (Wolfville); Black-capped Chickadee 318 (Halifax West); Boreal Chickadee 92 (Broad Cove); White-breasted Nuthatch 4 (Bridgetown); Red-breasted Nuthatch 30 (Kejimikujik National Park); Brown Creeper 5 (Broad Cove, Halifax West); Winter Wren 1 (Halifax East, Halifax West); Mockingbird 5 (Halifax West); Am. Robin 783 (Pubnico); Varied Thrush 1 (Wolfville); Hermit Thrush 1 (Halifax East); Golden-crowned Kinglet 79 (Port Hebert); Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 (Annapolis Royal, Port Hebert); Water Pipit 3 (Brier Is.); Bohemian Waxwing 5 (Kingston); Cedar Waxwing 59 (Pubnico); Northern Shrike 8 (Halifax West); Loggerhead Shrike 1 (Yarmouth); Common Starling 6941 (Halifax West); Yellow-rumped Warbler 25 (Broad Cove); Common Yellowthroat 1 (Halifax East); House Sparrow 2278 (Wolfville); Eastern Meadowlark 2 (Halifax East); Red-winged Blackbird 23 (Kingston); Northern Oriole 4 (Halifax West); Rusty Blackbird 1 (Halifax

West); Common Grackle 24 (Yarmouth); Brown-headed Cowbird 464 (Wolfville); Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1 (Antigonish); Dickcissel 1 (Halifax West); Evening Grosbeak 828 (Halifax West); Purple Finch 16 (Shubenacadie); Pine Grosbeak 201 (Halifax West); Common Redpoll 30 (Pubnico); Pine Siskin 29 (Broad Cove); Am. Goldfinch 200 (The Sydneys); Red Crossbill 34 (Kejimikujik Nat. Park); White-winged Crossbill 80 (Yarmouth); Savannah Sparrow 6 (Halifax East); Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1 (Broad Cove); Seaside Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); Dark-eyed Junco 247 (Yarmouth); Tree Sparrow 16 (Halifax East); White-crowned Sparrow 1 (Halifax West); White-throated Sparrow 109 (Yarmouth); Fox Sparrow 1 (Pubnico); Swamp Sparrow 13 (Halifax East); Song Sparrow 37 (Halifax East); Lapland Longspur 3 (Broad Cove); Snow Bunting 449 (Amherst).

Errata:

N.S.B.S. Newsletter, volume 18, No. 2, May 1976, page 88-89 & 90.

On reviewing the N.S.B.S. Christmas Count lists and dropping all records of birds seen on Christmas Counts but not published in the Society Newsletter or seen during count period but not on count day. The following species should be changed to the number, count, and year beside their name, or deleted as shown. The N.S.B.S. all-time count list should be shown as 177 species plus 3 additional races.

Northern Fulmar 75 (Cabot Strait 1976); Double-crested Cormorant 1 (Brier Is. 1973 & 75, Kingston 1974 and The Sydneys 1974); American Bittern 1 (Cole Harbour-Chezsetcook 1960 & Halifax East 1964); Canada Goose 4000 (Yarmouth 1969); Pintail 3 (Cole Harbour-Chezsetcook 1956 & 57 and Halifax East 1961); Green-winged Teal 26 (Bridgetown 1959); Surf Scoter 192 (Halifax East 1974); Black Scoter 184 (Inverness 1970); Red-breasted Merganser 180 (Pictou 1960); Goshawk 2 (Margaree 1971, Wolfville 1973, and Halifax West 1973 & 74); Sharp-shinned Hawk 5 (Halifax West 1970, Louisbourg 1970 and Wolfville 1966); Rough-legged Hawk 21 (Brier Is. 1964); Gyrfalcon 1 (Halifax East 1965 and Wolfville 1962); Peregrine Falcon 1 (Cole Harbour-Chezsetcook 1960 & 62, Halifax East 1964, Eskasoni 1966 and Halifax West 1969); Merlin 3 (Halifax East 1960, Wolfville 1964 and Halifax West 1967 & 72); Bobwhite (delete); Clapper Rail 1 (Broad Cove 1973); Ruddy Turnstone 10 (Catalone 1963); Spotted Sandpiper 1 (Salmon River and Halifax West 1967); Dunlin 7 (Cape Sable Is. 1973); Northern Phalarope (delete); Iceland Gull 742 (Glace Bay-Sydney 1965); Ring-billed Gull 95 (Halifax East 1961); Black-headed Gull 102 (The Sydneys 1969); Common Murre 3 (Brier Is. 1962); Rock Dove 1868 (Halifax West 1974); Great Horned Owl 2 (Country Harbour and Bridgetown 1960); Pileated Woodpecker 2 (Bass River 1964 & 67, Springville 1966 and Kejimikujik Nat. Park 1974); Red-headed Woodpecker 1 (Digby and Halifax West 1973); Horned Lark 275 (Wolfville 1963); Winter Wren 1 (Liverpool 1958, Port Wallis 1958, Cole Harbour-Chezsetcook 1960, Round Hill 1960, Halifax East 1965, 69 & 74, Gilbert's Cove 1970); Brown Thrasher 1 (Chester 1972, Cole

Harbour-Chezzetcook 1961, Halifax 1960, Halifax West 1962, 67 & 69, Kejimikujik Nat. Park 1973 and Yarmouth 1961, 69 & 73); Wood Thrush 1 (Yarmouth 1967); Golden-crowned Kinglet 365 (Halifax East 1974); Common Yellowthroat 2 (Halifax East 1969 & 73); and Broad Cove 1973); Yellow-breasted Chat 2 (The Sydneys 1968, Eskasoni 1969 and Halifax West 1973 & 74); Eastern Meadowlark 4 (Halifax East 1966); Rusty Blackbird 6 (Yarmouth 1968).

The Nova Scotia all-time list should now read 175 species plus 3 additional races.



SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Two Executive Meetings have been held since the last issue of the Newsletter. At each meeting there was a new interesting item in addition to the regular business discussion.

During the January meeting we discussed a bequest by Mr. R.A. Kanigsberg in memory of his wife. The interest on the money is to support an annual field trip for teenagers. This year, in order to give us time to make proper organizational plans the Executive decided to keep the first year's trip as simple as possible and to restrict it to the Halifax Dartmouth Metropolitan Area. In future years the trip will be wider in scope and will be aimed at generating interest in ornithology.

During the February meeting we discussed a weekly newspaper article to attempt to bring the objectives of the Society to the public view. The articles will be co-ordinated by Keith Keddy and will be written by a number of contributors. Interested? Please give Keith a call, he will be most happy to hear from you. Subject matter is wide open, so long as it is about birds and birding, or is just for the birds.

At the end of January membership was 174 Single, 65 Family, 9 Student and 4 Life, with many applications still being processed.

A total of \$3521.95 was in the Society's accounts.

W. G. Caudle
Secretary

CRESTS

Nova Scotia Bird Society Crests are still available at \$2.00, although there are not many left. Please mark your order "Crest" on the outside and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
c/o Nova Scotia Museum,
1747 Summer Street,
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6

1978-1979 Executive

President - Margaret A. Clark
Past President - Fred W. Dobson
Vice President - Eric Cooke
Secretary - William Caudle
Treasurer - Sandra Myers
Editor - J. Shirley Cohrs
Membership - Frank Hennessey
Cape Breton Rep.- Sara MacLean
Executive Member- Don Purchase
Executive Member- Ian McLaren
Solicitor - R.A. Kanigsberg
Auditor - James Morrow

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Life Membership	\$180.00
Single Membership	6.00
Family Membership	8.00
Student Membership	4.00

(available to those under 18)

N O V A S C O T I A B I R D S O C I E T Y

N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 21, Number 2

April, 1979

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 Cobson I.A. McLaren Eric L. Mills

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Winter Bird Report	71
Field Trip Reports	88
Up-coming Field Trips	90
So You Want to Buy a Telescope - John Cohrs	92
Letters to the Editor	95
1980 Celebrations	100
Christmas Counts 1978-79	105

Use of photographs from NSBS Newsletter
requires written permission from the
photographer.

Cost of the publication of this News-
letter is partially borne by the Nova
Scotia Museum.

ISSN 0383-9567

Second Class Mail
Reg. No. 4628