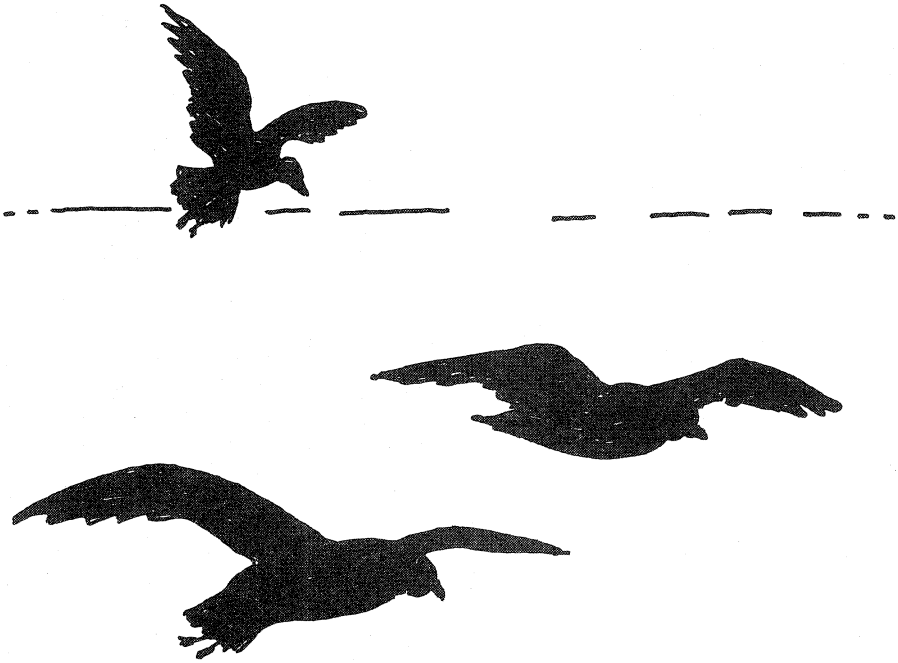


Nova Scotia Bird Society



25 Anniversary

1955 - 1980

Volume 22 No.1 January

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Volume 22, Number 1

January 1980

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Report	1
Fall Bird Reports	7
Birdwatching at a Summer Cottage	48
Field Trip Reports	52
Upcoming Field Trips	64
A Nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler	66
Letters to the Editor	69

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1979

Because the format of the AGM last year met with such favourable response from the members, we are here again this year.

Executive meetings have been held regularly each month with the exception of July and August. One meeting was held in Yarmouth on March 17th, - a Field Trip in the morning with an informal meeting at the Yarmouth Museum in the evening. This was a very successful event with the majority of the Executive being in attendance as well as others from the Halifax/Dartmouth, Yarmouth/Pubnico areas. We would like to hold meetings in other areas of the Province and hope to do so in 1980, especially with the Cape Breton Branch.

You will recall that last year a fund was set up, from the interest of a donation to the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund by Mr. Kanigsberg, to establish a Junior Field Trip each year. The first such Field Trip took place on June 16th, to McNab's Island. Roger Pocklington co-ordinated it. With twenty-one young people, leaders to assist, and perfect weather, the trip was considered a great success. Roger's initial planning and his recommendations will be used to continue such a Field Trip in 1980. We are very grateful to Roger especially, and to those who assisted him, for the capable way that this was done.

The Conservation Committee has been actively involved in environmental issues. Through its Chairman, Ian McLaren, the Bird Society keeps a watchful eye on the planning issues that arise, especially the Conrad's Beach/Lawrencetown area. Ian has presented many briefs on behalf of the Society to committees, Citizen Groups, etc.

Many attempts have been made over the years, by the Society, to undertake a series of articles for the Newspaper. This year was no exception and a very capable and willing member, Keith Keddy, agreed to co-ordinate and edit the articles. He spent a great deal of time and effort contacting newspapers as well as persons to write the articles. However, because the number of articles fell short of that required to fulfill the commitment that would have to be given to the Newspaper, this project has not been realized. Keith, however, is still willing to try again and we are hopeful that it will eventually succeed. Providing information to the public on birds and their environment has been an objective of the various Executives over the years. This, the Executive will strive to achieve.

Although our Financial Statement looks and is healthy at the present time, next year no doubt will bring more expenses than the normal year does. For next year is the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Bird Society. Co-Chairpersons of the Anniversary Committee are Evelyn Dobson and Gillian Elliott. Sub-committees have been formed and from the events to take place, it looks like an exciting year. Included in the special activities are:

- (1) a series of lectures, open to the public, both spring and fall
- (2) a special edition of the Newsletter
- (3) new field trips in addition to some of the regular ones
- (4) a Museum display, and
- (5) a reception for Founding and Continuous Charter members.

There will be plenty of advance notice given to allow you to plan to participate in these events.

There are a number of acknowledgements that I would like to make at this time:

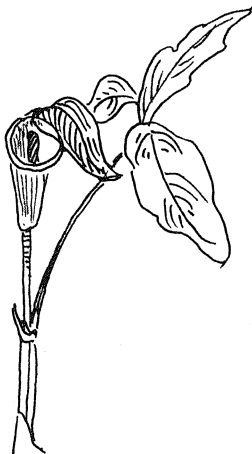
- (1) to the Purchases (Don & Joyce) who have organized a thorough list of Field Trips for the past two years and who have agreed to continue for next year;
- (2) to Ethel Crathorne who had done so much typing for the Society, especially preparing the Newsletters for the Printers;
- (3) to Eric Cooke who continues to arrange the General Meetings the fourth Thursday each month, held at the Museum;
- (4) to Molly Claydon who makes sure that coffee and refreshments are available after the general meetings;
- (5) to Mr. Kanigsberg, a special thank you this year, for he has looked after several matters requiring legal assistance, for both the Bird Society and the Sanctuary and Scholarship and Trust Fund, and he does so out of love, interest and genuine concern for the Society.

I would like to express at this time, my personal thanks to every member of the Executive for the efficient manner in which you have carried out your responsibilities.

Here I would like also to gratefully thank the Staff of the Nova Scotia Museum for their co-operation, especially to Kathy Aldous and all others who are most helpful and willing to assist the Society in any way.

Finally, to you the members--we are a large and wide-spread organization. But our common interest in and concern for the aims of the Bird Society will keep us that--large and wide-spread. The loyalty and support you have give us is not only necessary but truly appreciated. I trust it will continue.

Margaret A. Clark



THE FALL MIGRATION, 1979

Like the spring and summer this year, the fall was mild and gentle. September came in rather cool and stayed so--we grumbled a bit--but the same temperatures in October were seasonable and in November, very mild. Autumn color was disappointing at first because the maple trees lost their leaves before they had turned (as the ballad says, an unseasonable spring leads to an early fall); but birch, beech and oak with their gold, rust and browns kept the roadsides beautiful, especially when backed by the crimson of the huckleberry bushes, until the last of that month. December was a week old before the first snow fell; then, with the frost, the last leaves came down and we suddenly became aware that the birds were gone. There had been so many of them, so active and noisy, the silence literally fell upon the ear.

There was nothing to keep them. Hordes of "Myrtle" Warblers had eaten all the bayberries, the waves of robins had cleaned up every berry on the Canadian holly, and rowan trees didn't bear this year. Native thorn did here and there but for some reason was left untouched--for the Waxwings later, perhaps? Also the evergreens have no cones, not even the faithful white spruces--it will be a hard winter for our finches. Pine Grosbeaks can eat wild apple seeds, but what about the Crossbills?

Predictions are chancy in the bird world but we did have a sort of "bonanza" this fall. Some of our birds are down in number, but it seems to have been a good breeding season. Reports generally for late July and early August featured good numbers of immatures of most of our native species. The outstanding aspect of **this fall**, 1979, however, was the number (and numbers) of strays and rarities. These included 3 Least Bitterns, two Black-necked Stilts, A Marbles Godwit, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, many Western Kingbirds and many Yellow-billed Cuckoos (this spate of Yellow-billed Cuckoos was also a feature of fall migration in Maine (Guillemot, Vol.8, No.5, 1979), and many exotic warblers.

The story is best told by the observers themselves.

Towards the end of July when leaving Brass Hill, Barrington, Ros and Connie Gallagher wrote (as others have written) of the summer's birds; "...we noticed that some birds seemed to be less frequent than in other years and we had few sightings of species we usually see several or many times during the summer--these would include Boreal Chickadees, Winter Wrens, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Olive-sided Flycatchers and Redwinged Blackbirds."

Eric Mills with his family spent two weeks on Sable Is., August 22, to September 6, and sent this summary of conditions there: "...the period was characterized by SW and WSW winds. Very little obvious migration...Birds just drifted in, one by one, and often stayed for long periods. Several thousand shorebirds on Wallace Lake on August 22, declined to a few hundred, mostly Sanderlings and White-rumps after August 28,

(a sharp decrease on the 30th. Golden Plover and Buff-breasted Sandpiper arrived only on NW winds September 5, and after...Main arrivals of land birds were on August 29, September 1, and 5, or just after periods of N or NW winds... brief periods, but brought dramatic changes...Highlights were Cory's Shearwaters, Manx Shearwaters and Black Terns at East Spit: first Sable Is. record of the Lesser Black-backed Gull on September 5; abundance of Roseate Terns (immature) at both Spits; abundance of Prairie Warblers (seen on 11 out of 13 days) at least 14 individuals total.



It is interesting to contrast this with conditions on mainland Nova Scotia, where for the last ten days of August, many birds were preparing to depart--on the 18th, in Yarmouth County for instance, roadside telephone wires were lined with swallows all-sorts, the woods nearby, alive with flocks of mixed warblers, ten or more species per flock which also contained vireos, Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Juncos, moving towards the coast, where Great Blue Herons were gathering and Kingfishers were three times the usual number.

The Labor Day weekend Field Trip on Brier Island was (consequently) one of the best yet--114 species logged. High numbers were 100 Double-crested Cormorants, 800 plus Common Eiders, 100 plus Yellow-rumped Warblers, 25 Yellow-throats, 15 Wilson's Warblers and 40 Savannah Sparrows. On that day (Sept.1) Ross Anderson banded 45 species (Banding Station, Brier Is.) of 430 individuals total. These included both a Golden-winged Warbler and a Blue-winged Warbler and a Yellow-throated Vireo, 6 Philadelphia Vireos, 25 Blanc-and-white Warblers, 40 Wilson's Warblers and 70 Northern Waterthrushes.

Conditions on Seal Island at this time were slightly different. There were fewer species but good numbers, for example, 14 Wilson's Warblers, and 32 Waterthrushes--but a lot of room taken up by 300 plus Yellow-rumped Warblers. The rare ones were different--a Louisiana Waterthrush, two Connecticuts, a Hooded and up to 11 Prairie Warblers (compare Sable). These and others were seen by Ian McLaren and his family, August 23 to September 2.

It should be noted that though good, the numbers of our native birds were unusually large for these places and the season.

Our game bird census for this year was also informative. Hunters say woodcocks were present in normal numbers in central Nova Scotia, widely scattered, at the opening of the season, October 5. "A flight of birds occurred over the Thanksgiving weekend...and birds continued to be fairly abundant over the next ten days. After that they tapered off sharply. All in all hunters saw 116 Woodcock there, in the month of October, about the same number as were seen last year... Ruffed Grouse were notably scarce throughout the season--only 15 were seen in the whole month of October in this area. There were plenty of wild apples to attract them, but the birds just weren't there." This report is kindness of H. P. Moffatt.

The big show occurred on the last trip to Seal Island, October 6 - 9, of which also Eric Mills has sent us a summary. There was a team of star birders; Eric himself, Ian McLaren, George Perry and Francis Spalding, plus "a troop of young birders from Halifax", namely James McLaren, Steve Manuel, Tom Elwood and Bill Freedman. The total bird list for the long weekend was 140 species. The weather was terrible, but as it turned out, helpful: "Birding in the open was very difficult (westerly winds up to 40 knots), but the sheltered sides of the south and north ends were packed with birds."

Daily counts were around a hundred species, mostly natives, but including many unusual sightings and exotics. The night of arrival, October 5, a very late Common Tern flew by to the northeast. The next day, highlights were: 1 Peregrine, 20 Mourning Doves, 3 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, 5 Black-billed Cuckoos, 2 Philadelphia Vireos, 1 Yellow-throated Warbler (albilors), 1 Prairie Warbler, 1 Chat, 2 Hooded Warblers (male and female), 5 Indigo Buntings, 2 Grasshopper Sparrows, 1 Lark Sparrow.

Throughout the next three days the Peregrines were present (4 on the 7th), Mourning Doves rose to 60 in number and stayed so, both species of Cuckoo remained, the Yellow-billed reaching 16 on Oct. 8, Philadelphia Vireos (1-2) were seen each day, the Yellow-throated Warbler was present throughout the stay, 1-2 Prairie Warblers also present each day, as were Yellow-breasted Chats (up to 3, Oct 7); Hooded Warblers were seen the first three days,

Indigo Buntings each day with a peak of 30, Oct. 8, Grasshopper Sparrows, 3 on the 8th, 4 on the 9th, Lark Sparrow each day, 2 on the 8th; and besides these a Green Heron, Wood Ducks, a Common Gallinule, Coots, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Mockingbirds, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, House Wren, a Gray-cheeked Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireos, Pine Grosbeak, Kickcisseis, Towhees, 6 Field Sparrows on Oct. 8, and on Oct. 9, there was "a dramatic arrival of Merlins and Kestrels. ELM noted that the birding became better and better as the west winds persisted. This was Seal Island at its best.

But let us not be carried away by this gaudy kaleidoscopic glimpse of Seal Island birds. Next year may be just as good as this (or better!), or there may never again be such a year. Right now it is up to us to cast our eyes over the wintry, barren landscape of the mainland and conjure up enough little feathered friends to fill out a Christmas Count form. Such a sudden change! This may be really hard to do.

The best of luck, Everybody!

Phyllis R. Dobson



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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, Glenwood, Pleasant Lake.
Shelburne Co.	Cape Sable I., Lockeport, Matthews Lake.
Queen's Co.	Port Joli, Port Hebert, Turtle Lake, Caledonia.
Lunenburg Co.	Cherry Hill, Broad Cove, Petite Riviere, Green Bay, Crousetown, Crescent Beach, Bayport.
Halifax Co.	Three Fathom Harbour, Conrad's Beach, Lawrence-town, Cole Harbour, Mooseland.
Digby Co.	Brier I., Smith's Cove.
Colchester Co.	Economy, Brule, Bass River.
Annapolis Co.	Wilmot, Round Hill, Paradise, Sandy Bottom Lake, West Springhill.
King's Co.	Wolfville, Greenfield, Black River Lake.
Cumberland Co.	Lusby Marsh, Upper Nappan.
APBS	Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary
CBHNP	Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

PLEASE READ

AT THE RISK OF OFFENDING SOME OF OUR MOST FAITHFUL AND VALUABLE CORRESPONDANTS, I FEEL I MUST SAY THIS:

REPORTS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT ISSUE. THIS MAY SEEM HIGH-HANDED -- I'M SURE OUR RECORDS EDITOR WOULD NOT SAY IT -- BUT, IF WE ARE TO KEEP OUR BIRD REPORT EDITORS, I FEEL I MUST. IT IS ALWAYS A RUSH TO GET THE NEWSLETTER OUT IN THE MONTH IN WHICH IT IS SUPPOSED TO COME OUT. TO DO SO, THE EDITORS MUST GET THE REPORTS PROMPTLY, WHICH THEY DO, AS PRD IS MOST PUNCTILIOUS IN MAILING OUT THE PACKAGES OF REPORTS. THIS GIVES THE EDITORS A FEW EVENINGS IN WHICH TO DO THE WORK. HAVING DONE IT PROMPTLY, NEGLECTING OTHER COMMITMENTS (JOB, FAMILY, FRIENDS) IT IS DISCOURAGING IN THE EXTREME TO RECIEVE A SECOND OR EVEN A THIRD PACKET, NECESSITATING INSERTIONS, CHANGES AND REWRITES. THIS DELAYS THE JOB, HAMPERS THE TYPIST, WHO HAS TO DECIPHER THE MESS, AND DRIVES THE EDITOR (ME) WILD!!!

SO PLEASE--WHEN YOU HAVE GONE TO THE TROUBLE TO WRITE UP YOUR REPORTS, SEE THAT THEY GET TO PRD ON TIME. WITH THIS IN MIND I AM SUGGESTING A MAILING DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE FEBRUARY 23 !!! JSC

Bird reports to the Records Editor-

Dr. P. R. Dobson,
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Photographs, sketches, articles and letters to the

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FALL REPORT, 1979

LOONS AND GREBES

The COMMON LOON, according to reliable reports, is making its last stand as a breeding bird on the inland waters of Northern New England. Here in Nova Scotia, however, our supply of undisturbed lakes is still holding out well and the few reports we have for this past summer suggest a successful season; a total of 7 pairs (rumors of still others) on the Keji Park lakes, 3 pairs with 2 young each, and 4 with 1 apiece (PRH). A pair with 2 young at Sandy Bottom Lake, Ann. Co., managed to rear a family despite the build-up of speed boats, until late August, at least (MCC,GBN). A pair with 2 young was also seen a Horseshoe Lake, Shel.Co., Aug. 16 (S&BJS).

Loons apparently begin to gather preparatory to migration in late summer as small companies of 4-5 up to a dozen often show up on lakes where none, or at most, one breeding pair had been earlier. Such gatherings were reported from several localities in southwest Nova Scotia this year: 8 at Sandy Bottom Lake, Ann. Co., Aug. 10 (MCC,GBN), 3 at Albro Lake Aug. 10 (FLL) and 6 at Lake Vaughan, Aug. 5 (CRKA) Southward movement was in full swing by early October, when 75 were seen at Green Bay, in a long, loose flock stretching for about a quarter of a mile over the water (JSC). Another gathering of 60 plus was seen at the same place 18 days later (Cohrs & Purchases). A late sighting on fresh water was one in Kejimkujik Lake, Nov.23 (PRH).

The Northumberland Strait shore is the place to look for RED-THROATED LOONS in fall migration. Stuart Tingley reported 8 at Tidnish, Nov. 17, and 25 between Tidnish and Port Phillip, Nov. 25, while on the next day there were 55 a bit farther up the coast at Cape Tormentine, N.B. On the Atlantic coast there were 7 at Cape Sable, Oct. 9 (BJS), 5 plus at Green Bay, Oct. 19-20 (Cohrs & Purchases), and 6 at Martinique Beach Nov. 18 (IAM et al.). There were a few other reports of single birds all along the Atlantic coast. One quite early bird was seen by the NSBS Field Trippers at Forchu, Cape Breton, Aug. 4.

First sighting of southbound RED-NECKED GREBES was of 2 at Cow Bay, Sept. 7 (FLL). The same reporter saw one at Pond Cove, Brier Is., Sept. 29, 2 at Hartlen Point, Hfx. Co., Oct. 5 and 3 at the same place Nov. 3. Singles and 2-3 birds showed up along the Atlantic coast at Cherry Hill, Mahoney Bay, Hartlen Pt., and Cape Sable from mid-October to mid-November, but largest numbers reported were from the Northumberland Strait where there were 30 plus at Tidnish, Nov. 3 and 75 the same place Nov. 17, and again on Nov.24 (SIT). First HORNED GREBES recorded were seen over a month later than the preceding species: 5, at Green Bay, Oct. 19-20 (Cohrs). At Marriott's Cove, 5 showed up on Oct. 21, and the numbers increased to 12, on Oct. 24, dropping off to just 2 at last report, Nov. 8 (RDH). Two appeared in the Bay of Fundy as far up as Smith's Cove, Nov. 10 (AKR) and 1 was recorded at Lr. West Pubnico, Oct. 29 (RSdE). Again the top numbers were in Northumberland Strait, where there were 20 plus at Tidnish, Nov. 3, and 30 plus, near there, Nov. 17 (SIT).

PIED-BILLED GREBES were "very abundant" at APBS, where Eric Mills and Robert Moore saw at least 20 including several juveniles, July 30. There were still 5 there on Nov. 17, (SIT). The most reported Pied-bill was undoubtedly one at Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth, which was seen by a number of local birders; while the unluckiest one, so far as we know, was the bird which committed suicide by flying into the Cape Sable Light, Sept. 29 (SS). There were sightings of single birds at Sambro, Nov. 4 (IAM); Russell Lake, Oct. 13 (FLL), at Broad Cove, Nov. 15 (JSC) and 2, at Seal Is., Oct. 6-7 (NSBS party).

CRKA, Ed.

FULMARS, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS

1979 seems to have been one of those summers in which warm water from the Gulf Stream overflows onto the Scotian Shelf. One symptom of this is the occurrence of sea-turtles in our waters. There was a Leatherback Turtle off Brier Island on the Labour Day field trip, and the Smithsonian Event Alert Newsletter reports three Leatherback strandings along the New England coast. Similarly, Kevin Powers of the Manomet Bird Observatory's seabird group, reports unusual numbers of the warm-water CORY'S SHEARWATER on Georges Bank in September, and these have extended up into our area. I saw 8 off Scateri on Aug. 29, and over 20 on Oct. 7, on Western and Emerald Bank, c. 90 miles SE of Halifax. Eric Mills saw 3 off Sable Is., between Aug. 29- Sept. 3, and 2 on Nov. 6, near Brown's Bank, c. 50 miles S of Cape Sable (they'd gone by the time I got down there at the end of November). Bill Townsend saw 38 ("unprecedented numbers for Gulf of Maine") from "Bluenose" on Aug. 11.

Forgive me if I cap these with an AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER on Western Bank on Oct. 7. This is another warm-water shearwater, and was unusually abundant down off Cape Hatteras this summer, according to Kevin Powers. I believe the only previous Canadian record is the bird found dead near Ottawa, of all the bizarre places, in Sept. 1975. My bird was a black-and-white shearwater, too small for a Manx and with a much faster wingbeat. This description would apply equally to Audubon's close relative, the Little Shearwater, one of which was recorded from Sable Island back in 1896. However, the bird's tail, relatively long for a shearwater, seemed characteristic of the Audubon's I have seen off Florida.

MANX SHEARWATERS were here too, and seen regularly in small numbers. (Could they already be expanding out of their new and surprisingly large north west Atlantic bridge-head in Placentia By, Nfld?) Eric Mills saw 3 during his Sable Is. trip, and another off Cape Egmont, C.B., on Aug. 5. Stuart Tingley saw 3-4 a day off Seal Island in August, Bill Townsend saw one from "Bluenose" on Aug. 11, and an anonymous reporter saw a bird 6 miles off the LaHave River on July 22. I saw 3 between Emerald and Brown's Banks on the second Wednesday of October. On Aug. 3, on "Princess of Acadia", I saw a Manx in Digby Narrows, heading resolutely into Annapolis Basin - no doubt bemused by fog so thick you

could have cut it and spread it on bread.

The rest is rather anticlimactic. GREATER SHEARWATERS were as usual, abundant off the Atlantic coast; I saw birds in the Brown's Bank area as late as Dec. 3. They were, however, scarce or absent off Brier Is. on the Labour Day field trip (Roger Pocklington). SOOTY SHEARWATERS, as usual left earlier; the latest sightings were of 3 off Brier Is., on Sept. 15 (FLL), and a few fishing the Horse Race south of Cape Sable on Oct. 2 (S.Smith). NORTHERN FULMARS were common too. Kirk Atkinson found them abundant on Brown's Bank on June 1, and Eric Mills and I found them still there in early and late November, respectively. Eric and I each saw a dark-phase bird, but the majority, as usual, were light phase. In late November, I found them commonest on Emerald Bank; they seemed to be replaced by Greater Shearwaters in the marginally warmer waters at the edge of the continental shelf, and by the large gulls in the waters closer to our Atlantic coast.

Both LEACH'S and WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS were reported in small numbers. The latest Wilson's sighting was of 10 birds off Brier Is., on Sept. 16, and the latest Leach's, of 5 in the same area on Sept. 27 (FLL) and c.10 between Emerald and Brown's on the second Wednesday in Oct.(RGGB). A storm on Sept. 14, seems to have "wrecked" a number of Leach's. Bruce Mactavish saw one on Williams Lake, Waverley, on Sept. 15; the next day Steve Woodley (fide Peter Hope) saw a storm-petrel on Frozen Ocean Lake, Kejimikujik National Park, and Don Gordon saw another on Bedford Basin.

GANNETS AND CORMORANTS

What is interesting about the NORTHERN GANNET is the number of reports which help document its fall migration past our shores, en route from Newfoundland and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, down to the southeast United States. It seems to start in September. Off Cherry Hill Beach, the Cohrs saw a single bird on Sept. 15, at least 10 on Sept 30, 5-6 on Oct. 6, and over 100 on Oct. 20. The early birds were almost all immatures, but 65% of those seen on Oct.20, were adults. The Smiths' first fall sighting off Cape Sable was of c. 20, fishing in the Horse Race on Sept. 17, and there were 25-30 there on Oct. 2. There was a massive migration southwest past Brier Is. during the last three weeks of September (Bruce Mactavish, FLL), and there were hundreds off Ram Islands, in the Matthews Lake area on Oct. 8.(D.H & I.Young), and off West Head, Shel. Co., on Oct. 3 (R.M. Turner). It's interesting that in the early fall Gannets should detour into the Bay of Fundy. These can't be breeding birds; the only colonies - the Nova Scotian and New Brunswick Gannet Rocks - were exterminated 100 years ago. Presumably they use the area as a post-breeding pit-stop on their way south. Finally, some late records: Stuart Tingley's last sighting from Cape Jourimain was an adult on Nov. 25; I found birds still moving down the coast, between Sambro and Shelburne, as late as Dec. 3.

A. Angus MacLean finds that DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT colonies are in good shape in northeast Cape Breton, and the birds may even be increasing. He thinks this is a

good thing, and I agree, but I suspect we'd get an argument from the Cape Breton fishermen. Sandra Myers reports that the birds are also doing well at Taylor Head, despite all the "Kurdistan" oil that was picked up thereabouts in the spring.

GREAT CORMORANTS were also reported, though not as often as the Double-Crests. A few Greats, 1-5 per day, were going past Seal Is., during the middle two weeks of September (Bruce Mactavish); the Smiths saw some off Cape Sable on Oct. 31, and the latest sighting was of 2 off the LaHave River on Nov. 16 (Cohrs). Double-Crests were already migrating past Seal Island in late August (IAM), and were passing at the rate of 90-100 a day between Sept. 17-27. (Bruce Mactavish) On the other hand, Stuart Tingley saw over 1900 on Pictou Dock as late as Sept. 7. I had always assumed that when cormorants migrated, they flew close inshore, but this isn't necessarily so. On Oct. 11, I saw flocks of up to 150 probably Double-Crests heading southwest at the outer edge of Baccaro Bank, c.50 miles SE of Cape Sable.

RGBB, Ed.

HERONS, EGRETS, BITTERNS

During the nesting season GREAT BLUE HERONS were thought to be locally more common by a few observers. This may happen with establishment of new or expanded colonies, for others found them "as usual" and "normal". What may be our most northerly colony, of 1-15 birds feeding near Dingwall, was reported by AAM. First fledged young appeared on July 25 (RDH), and larger groupings in August (e.g., up to 50 around Cole Harbour after mid-month and 35 at Crescent Beach on the 25th) may have included migrants, for one on Sable Island on the 20th was certainly under way. Large autumn counts included 52 at Morien Bar on Sept. 8, 40 near Pubnico and 27 at Sunday-Pinkney Pts. on Sept 14, 150 plus along the Northumberland Strait on Sept. 16, (NSBS trip), 46 at Lingan Bay on Sept. 23, up to 20 in late Sept. on Brier Island, and ca. 20 at Argyle Head on Oct. 1. Most cleared out thereafter, but there were scattered sightings, including 4 at the Melbourne Sanctuary, until the end of the report period. Of general interest were one following a water-lubricated, foot-long snake near St. Esprit on August 2, (R&JM) and one with yellow wing-tags (whence?) near Antigonish on Nov. 1 (RC)

Most interesting follow-ups to Fulton Lavender's spring reports from Dartmouth were 15 adult GREEN HERON at Morris Lake on Aug. 2, and immature bird at Albro Lake on Aug. 12; could they have nested locally? Others were more clearly vagrant: a dead bird at Sable River on Oct. 10 (RMT) one on Seal Is. on Oct. 8-9 and 19-21, one at Green Bay on Oct. 20 (JSC et al.), one in the new Park at Taylor Head on the 28th (IM,ELM), and 3 on Oct. 14 (1 remaining until Nov. 14) on Sable Is. (AR).

Egrets were well featured in this season's flood of southern vagrants. In addition to the bird at Grand Pre in June (FALL FLYER), another summer CATTLE EGRET occurred at Annapolis Royal (no date, fide PRD). Autumn birds occurred at St. Esprit on Oct. 27 (R&JM), at Halfway River, Cumb. Co., on Nov. 21 (Mae Fullerton), an one was circling over Dartmouth on Nov. 24 (FLL). Many birders saw the very tame GREAT EGRET at Crescent and Risser's Beaches between June 15 and Sept. 25. Don Pentz comments on reaction of local residents--generally fascinated, but some suggesting that it be captured for a wildlife park or shot for display in a museum. We still have some educating to do. Others of this species were noted at Baddeck on Aug. 19 (RBF), at Lockeport for a week after Oct. 10 (GP), at St. Esprit on Oct. 12 (S, R&JM), at Fourchu on Oct. 19 (Peter Boncher) and at North Chegoggin on Nov. 6 (MAN). (A belated report of one seen by AAM at South Harbour, C.B., on July 13-17, 1977, seems worth recording here). Probable stragglers from the spring influx of SNOWY EGRETS were individuals at Petite Riviere, on June 15 (MWH), at Crescent Beach June 16-17 (JSC), and periodically until mid-July near Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co. (ELM et al.). One spent several weeks in the Mira area after mid-Aug. (GC), another was on Seal Is., Oct. 19-21, and 2 were on Pubnico Marsh on Oct. 24 (E&VH). But the bonanza was on Sable Is., where AR reported up to 4 between Oct. 10-27 (2 until Nov. 6).

a BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON was seen by ELM near Lower Wentworth on June 17, and at least 2 adults and a young bird on Seal Is. in late Aug. were said by locals to have been there much of the summer. Clearly the species ought to be looked for nesting beyond its (abandoned?) foothold on Bon Portage Is. One near Sydney River on July 26 (R. Blakeburn, fide SM) was seasonable. A YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON at Cape Sable on Aug. 11 (SS), and 2 on Sable Is. between Aug. 22, and Sept. 6 (ELM) made their own landfalls, but one immature bird was given assisted passage on Oct. 7, to Dartmouth from a point 130 km SE of Halifax, courtesy of the "Lady Hammond". Another merely circled the ship 100 km SE of Cape Sable on Oct. 10 (R&BB).

W. E. Whitehead saw his first LEAST BITTERN in Nova Scotia near Round Hill on May 29, and ELM and Robert Moore flushed the first for the APBS on July 30. These records are suggestive of breeding. At least 13 AMERICAN BITTERNS were reported in summer (including 4 from C.B.), and 5 in September. Late individuals occurred Oct. 15-26 and Nov. 10-16 on Sable Is. (AR).

IAM, Ed.



GEESE AND DUCKS

For oddities CANADA GEESE are close to the top of the heap in this report. First their early arrival: the vanguard arrived in Nova Scotia in late August and showed up all the way from northern Cape Breton, to Shelburne Co. There were 5 at Port LeHebert, Aug. 24 (RMT), 50 plus in northern Cape Breton, Aug. 28 (JT), and another 26 at North Harbor, Cape Breton, Aug. 27-28 (AAM). On the preceding day there were 27 at the Life-Saving Station, Sable Island. (ELM) and 30 at Petite Riviere (CB). One other oddity was the 5 seen at Glace Bay Sanctuary on June 1 (GC), and the final one, a perfect albino, except for the head and neck-abird straight out of an artist's imagination! This bird seen at Medford, Kings Co., Nov. 16 (GRB). At Port LeHebert, numbers rose from 700 plus, Sept. 5, to 2000 plus, Oct. 5 (RMT), while at Melburne Sanctuary, there were 1000-2000, Nov. 27 (MAN).

Just one SNOW GOOSE report this fall: a single bird seen at Starr's Pt., by Neil VanNostrand in a pond with domestic ducks, first seen, Nov. 20, and still there on Nov. 22, seemingly "settled in".

The Sydney Park MALLARDS keep trying to worm their way into this report as wild birds, but haven't made it so far. This year they showed up - 30 of them - in Sydney River. Authentic (we believe) wild Mallards were seen Aug. 17, at Cow Bay and at Brier Is., where a pair was seen at Pond Cove, Sept. 24 (FLL). The earliest pre-migratory congregation of BLACK DUCKS noted was a flock of about 100 at Salt Bay, near Eel Brook, Aug. 4 (PRD). Largest number reported was 900 plus at Port LeHebert, Nov. 7 (RMT) and second largest, 500-600 at Melbourne, Nov. 27 (MAN). The impression of most reporters is that the numbers were normal but several observers found them "down a bit". Six Black Ducks spotted by Dick Brown, 60 miles SE of Cape Sable were the farthest from land he had ever seen this species. (Take the word of an old sea-rover.)

A GADWALL in "fine plumage" was in Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth, Nov. 24-25, feeding on thrown bread, along with semi-domestic Mallards and Blacks. Other single Gadwalls were at Crescent Beach, Sept. 15 and 16 (JLC) and at Matthews Lake, Oct. 10 (RMT). There were 2 at APBS July 30 (ELM) and up to 28 there, Nov. 3 (FS&SIT). PINTAILS are sparsely reported: a female at Brier Is., Sept. 21 (FLL); 3 females at Cape Sable, Sept. 29, (SS); 100 plus at Port LeHebert, Oct. 7 (RMT); 1, Martinique Beach, Nov. 18 (JL&JSC); a pair at Cherry Hill, Nov. 25 (SJF,BH) and 21 at Cape Jourimain, N.B., Nov. 25 (SIT). There were two broods of GREEN-WINGED TEAL with 6 young each at Russell Lake, June 30, and a female with one downy young at Cow Bay, July 22 (FLL). This species was observed in good numbers from the Dartmouth-Lawrencetown region, Cherry Hill, Crescent Beach, Cape Sable and the Yarmouth area. If number of reports is any indication, they have had a good season. BLUE-WINGED TEAL also seemed to be "normal" in numbers. Largest count was of 200 plus at Port LeHebert, Sept. 12 (RMT). A late sighting

for this species was of 3 at Antigonish Landing, Nov. 18 (RDC&SPF).

Stephen Flemming reports 2 breeding pairs of AMERICAN WIDGEON at Antigonish Wildlife Management Area, to his knowledge the first breeding record for this species in this vicinity. Five Widgeon were also seen at Antigonish Landing, Sept. 4 (RDC). The only other report for this period was of 14 at Eel Lake (near the causeway), Sept. 20-21. (CRKA,PRD). Three SHOVELERS visiting Seal Is., Sept. 2, (IAM & family) were the only record of this species for the fall. A few WOOD DUCKS were noted during the summer on Eddy Marsh near Amherst (FH); one was seen at Russell Lake, Sept. 30, and 2 on Seal Is., Oct. 7-8 (IAM); a male appeared on a small pond at Whiteburn, Queen's Co.(PRH), and a late-stayer showed up at Sable Is. (where they are rare at any time) on Nov. 12 (AR).

The only reported REDHEADS are one of a female with 9 young at Wallace Bay Wildlife Area, July 17, seen by Peter Barkhouse and 2-4 at the same place Sept. 16 (NSBS Field Party). RING-NECKED DUCKS failed to make the news in any numbers this season; there were 5 males and a female with 1 downy young at Lake William, Waverley, June 24 (FLL); about a dozen drakes in eclipse plumage, mid-summering at Three Fathom Harbour (ELM), and a lone lorn female which dropped in at a lake on Mooseland Road, Sept. 2 (SCM).

GREATER SCAUP began to appear Oct. 19, when 30 plus were at Forchu, C.B. (PB). The only other sighting to date is of 11 at Cherry Hill, Nov. 15 (JSC).

One only LESSER SCAUP was at APBS from Nov. 3-11 (SIT).

It is still (at time of writing) a little early for GOLDENEYES, and only two sightings have been reported: 5 (first arrivals for the locality) at Antigonish Wildlife Management Area, Oct. 14 (SPF,RDC): 2 females, also first arrivals, at Lr. Economy, Nov. 10 (FH). Two BARROW'S GOLDENEYES were noted Nov. 3, at the Port Elgin sewage lagoon, not far from the Nova Scotia border (SIT). BUFFLEHEADS have appeared here and there in fairly good numbers. First record is of 6 at APBS in mid-October, still there Nov. 3, and 19 at Parrsboro, Nov. 4 (SIT); 15 were at Smith's Cove, Nov.1, (AKR) and 11 including 5 mature males, were at Martinique Beach, Nov. 18 (JL&JSC). A rather unusual sighting is of a male on fresh water at Sandy Bottom Lake, Ann. Co., Nov. 9 (MCC). A male OLDSQUAW in bright breeding plumage was spotted in the Lawrencetown area, Aug. 9-12, by at least three birders (FLL,ELM,KNK). Regular migrants began to appear, of course, considerably later: 1, Oct. 5, at St. Esprit, being eaten by a seal! (SC&RM&JM); 12 plus, Oct. 19, at Green Bay (Cohrs); 3, Nov. 11, at Lr. Economy ("first fall returns", FH); 1, Nov. 4, at Kingsport (LF).

Sandra Myers at Taylor Head notes a drastic drop in the number of COMMOM EIDER broods in that locality which she calls the area for these birds, and wonders if oil from the tanker Kurdistan is to blame. Other reports of note on this species are: about 200 summering at Lr. Economy, nearly

all gone by late November (FH); 600 at Pond Cove, Brier Is., Sept 29 (FLL) and the onset of the migratory movement at Cape Sable where the Smiths noted southbound flocks going by Sept. 24 and 25, increasing by Sept. 30, when several hundred passed in 1/4 hour in small flocks, hugging the shore. The great SCOTER flight goes over too far off shore to be seen by average birders and we only hear of the straggling flocks along the fringes. There was a gathering of up to 200 WHITE-WINGED and SURF SCOTERS with a scattering of BLACKS at Lr. Economy from September on, dwindling to less than 50 by Nov. 23 (FH). There were 25 White-winged at Cape Sable, Sept. 30, (SS) and 8 of this species with 6 Blacks at Evangeline Beach, Oct. 27 (EAC). Surf Scoters were seen in "small handfuls" at Hartlen Pt, Oct. 5 (FLL) and in St. Margaret's Bay, Oct. 12 (KNK,RBS). An early Black Scoter sighting was one at Forchu, C.B., Aug. 4 (NSBS Field Trip). There were 5 at Cape Sable, Oct. 1, (BJS) and 7 off Matthews Lake, Oct. 10 (DH&JY).

Sullivan's Pond is to Dartmouth what Kensington Gardens is to London, a haven for straying waterfowl and an oasis for town-bound birders. This past season there was, as previously noted, an addition to the half-tame Black Ducks and Mallards - a Pied-billed Grebe, a Gadwall, a Green-winged Teal, and now a RUDDY DUCK, which was present there for at least a week, beginning Nov. 17 (EAC et al.) Other sightings of this species were one at Gabarus, C.B, Aug.4, an unusual date for this part of the continent (NSBS Field Party), a female at Cole Harbor, Nov. 11 (IAM), a full-plumaged male (also unusual for Nova Scotia) at Merigomish Harbor, July 25-31, seen by Stephen Flemming who wonders if the species breeds in the province. This is answered by the next observation, which is a record of a male and female with four downy young photographed at APBS, July 18, first record for Nova Scotia (Stephen Young and Stuart Tingley). Other sightings by Stu Tingley and Francis Spalding are: 8, at APBS, Oct. 31, and 5, at Tidnish River, Nov. 3.

HOODED MERGANSERS showed up in widely separated areas: one at Seal Is., Aug. 23-30 (IAM), 5, at Albro Lake, Oct. 18 and 4, still there, Oct. 26, while 2, were at Russell Lake, Oct. 19 (FLL); up to 10 in a tidal lake at Queensland, Hfx. Co., from mid-September to Oct. 8, and 4 still there at the end of Oct. (KNK). One female at APBS, Nov. 3 and 6, including a male there Nov. 17 (SIT). Latest sighting reported is of a male and female in a small lake in the Toboatic Sanctuary, Nov. 27 (PRH). Margaret Cheesman and Granville B. Nickerson, write that COMMON MERGANSERS are definitely down in numbers on the Milford lakes this year, no broods at all having been seen. Some have, however, been reported from other localities: a female with 12 nearly full grown young at Cole Harbor, Aug. 9 (FLL&KNK), and a female with one young Aug. 11, at Mooseland Road (KT). The only area where more than several birds were noted is the neighborhood of Green Bay, where 13 were at the mouth of the Petite River, Sept.30 (JSC) and 30 were at Cherry Hill on the same date (JL&JSC). RED-BREADED MERGANSER reports are surprisingly scanty: "two plus" breeding pairs near Antigonish Harbor produced 12 young between them (RDC,SPF); they were abundant, 1200 in all, between Port Phillip and Tidnish (SIT). The only other sightings were 2 or 3 birds at several spots along the Atlantic shore.

CRKA, Ed.

DIURNAL RAPTORES

The provenance of the immature TURKEY VULTURE on Aug. 14, at Boulardie, C.B., is uncertain (RBF, SaF, et al.). The individual on Digby Neck on Sept. 3 (NSBS), and the adult and 2 immatures on Brier Is., Sept. 23-28, which "gave the appearance of being at home" (BMcT, also FLL) may have nested nearby, as suggested in the last NEWSLETTER.

GOSHAWKs often lie low until winter, so the paucity of reports (6 birds in Aug.-Oct.) is not unexpected. Thin reporting of SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS from much of the province might have indicated scarcity, but there were big movements locally. More than 300 occurred on Brier Is. with NW winds on Sept. 23, (only 10-20 on previous few days) and 175 were counted in 55 minutes flying north along the Fundy shore near Beaver River on Oct. 11 (CRKA, PRD). By contrast, the largest count on Seal Island this fall was only 15 on Oct. 7.

A dozen RED-TAILED HAWKS were recorded in summer and a like number (never more than 2 at once) in autumn. BROAD-WINGED HAWKS fledged one young at Nappan (Evelyn Coates). Only 9 were reported elsewhere in summer, mostly in the Dartmouth area. I have seen them regularly at the height of the summer inland in the province, and wonder if they are under-reported. Apart from 3 (or a "repeat") near Pubnico in Sept., only Brier Is. produced its traditional autumn migrants. About 40 (half adults) on Sept. 21, and 70 (mostly immatures) on Sept. 24, were seen arriving on and leaving the island (BMcT, FLL). ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS arrived early (often true in past years) on Sable Is., where a light-phase bird was seen on Sept 13, and 2 more between Oct. 1-7 (AR). These were well ahead of 5 others elsewhere during late Oct. and Nov.

I have received no details on the weakened or injured GOLDEN EAGLE brought to Cyril Calwell at Gaspereau, but am happy to report that it was released in good health.

No-one else offered nesting reports on BALD EAGLES like that of RGSB in the FALL FLYER. Summer reports in fact were few, and mostly from the Halifax region and Cape Breton. Autumn reports were more widespread, and the ratio of 11 immatures to 7 adults (ages not always given) seems healthy.

MARSH HAWKS were probably nesting at Hartlen Pt., near Dartmouth, where RBS found a pair displaying in May, and where he saw 2 adults with 2 fledged young on Aug. 7. There were other early-summer birds (resident?) at Cheggoggin on June 10, at St. Esprit on July 17, and on Cape Sable, where they are now "seen fairly regularly year round". A female on Aug. 19, at Cherry Hill, "where usually there is a resident pair", was a first this year for the Cohrs. Like Broadwinged Hawks, these harriers are surely under-reported. At any rate, autumn brought good numbers, mostly singles, but including 4 on Pennant Pt., on Sept. 16 (IAM), and 2-6 per day on Brier Is. between Sept. 18-26. There is little to add to the FALL FLYER report on OSPREY. They were thought to be as common as usual, or more so, by the few who offered opinions. The latest was at Three Fathom Harbour on Oct. 14.

A PEREGRINE FALCON was unseasonable at Green Bay on June 15 (JSC). About 16 fall migrants were noted, if we assume that birds on successive weekends on Seal Is. were different (about 11 last year). Six were reported as immature as 2 as adult females, a good sign. It would be useful in monitoring the health of Peregrine populations if more people would report ages. MERLINSs, during the breeding season, include one at Glace Bay, one being chased by Bank Swallows at Church Point, and an August nest in C.B., (no details, fide SM). Scattered ones and twos, 29 in all, were reported after Aug. 15, including a bird plucking a warbler in flight ("the equivalent of Air Canada flight service"--RGG) 25 km SW of Sambro Light. Seal and Brier as usual hosted more of these fine, dashing birds. A peak of 20 occurred on Seal Is. on Oct. 9. Bruce MacTavish on Brier Is., saw an average of ca. 6 per day when winds were SW and none when they were NW. He thinks this pattern is also true of Peregrines, Ospreys, and many Marsh Hawks, but not of large Sharp-shin flights. The only breeding season report of AMERICAN KESTREL was of one near Markland on June 10, again, surely under-reporting. About 55 scattered migrants, as singles and groups of up to 6, were reported, mostly from Yar. Co. In addition, there were big counts of 10-20 per day on Brier Is. in late September, 26 on Sept. 30, and 16 on Oct. 5, on Sunday-Chebogue Pts., and 30 on Seal Is. on Oct. 9. They were scarcer in Yar. Co., after Oct. 12 (CRKA). Noteworthy was an albino in Yar. Co., on Oct. 10 (no exact locality, MAN,HW).

GROUSE, PHEASANT, PARTRIDGE

Four reports of SPRUCE GROUSE are about as expected. Although several RUFFED GROUSE, including 2 broods, were spotted on the mainland, none were reported to SM from C.B., and they were "extremely low" in the national park (PM). They were also thought to be scarcer near New Ross KNK and in Yar. Co. (PRD). COMMON PHEASANTS were reported as usual from Digby, Yar., and Kings Co., but also there were 2 at Mira and 1 at Glace Bay in C.B. Our only GREY PARTRIDGE report is from Bridgetown, Anna. Co., where 8 were seen on Oct. 21 (TH).

MARSH BIRDS

Of 4 migrant VIRGINIA RAILS, 1 each came from Brier, Seal, and Sable islands. SORAs, on the other hand, were more accessible at Dartmouth (2), and at Wallace Bay (2 on the NSBS field trip), in addition to Seal Is. (1).

Two young COMMON GALLINULEs at APBS on Aug. 9 (JM,TE), had probably been reared there. One migrant was seen on Sable Is. on Aug. 31 (ELM), and another by the Seal Is. party on Oct. 7-9. A belated report of a vagrant PURPLE GALLINULE, seen (and filmed) on May 18, by Chris Oakley near Harrietsfield (fideJSC), is worth recording here. At least 10 AMERICAN COOTS, including young, were seen at APBS on July 30 (ELM), and numbers swelled there in fall (45 plus on Oct. 28, 35 on Nov. 10 and 17). In Atlantic coastal localities there were at least 16 individuals between Oct. 9, and the end of the report period, and another dozen were found on the ponds of Sable Is. on Nov. 20 (AR).

IAM, Ed.

SHOREBIRDS

The autumn migration of shorebirds in 1979, followed normal lines after the unusual events of 1978, which were governed by a disastrous breeding season in the arctic. This year a normal array of species, with normal dates and average numbers, presented itself. For some reason, very few birders were afield in early July, so the first stirrings of the migration were sketchily reported; thereafter, coverage was good until September, when birding passions apparently cool.

The most spectacular birds of the season were actually spring vagrants. At Cape Sable, a pair of BLACK-NECKED STILTS appeared on the morning of May 27, where they were watched (and photographed) by the Smith family, Everett and Kathy Nickerson. Betty June Smith wrote, "with binoculars we had perfect viewing and could hardly stop looking, for shape and colour were exquisite", an understandable reaction to these most elegant and spectacular of North American shorebirds.

Also in late spring, Bruce Mactavish watched a MARBLED GODWIT at East Wallace Lake, Sable Island, on June 2. This bird had disappeared a day later. On Aug. 18, another Marbled Godwit was reported at Malagash by Ian D. MacKay. In recent years this species has been among the rarest on the N. S. list.

Among the regular migrants, SEMIPALMATED PLOVER appeared at Cherry Hill on July 14 (JSC), peaked at the end of the month and in August: 1000-2000 at Evangeline Beach, July 2, (RBS) at Cherry Hill, Aug. 7, (SJF); 100 adults, Brier Is., Aug. 8, SIT; 200 plus, Cow Bay, Aug. 15; 600 max., Crescent Beach, Aug. 18, JSC; 88 at Cook's Beach, Aug. 25 (CRKA); then continued common into September and October in low numbers. One remained at Cherry Hill on Nov. 15 (JSC).

PIPING PLOVER, still precariously surviving here, attempted to nest in their usual places. One of 3 pairs at Conrad's Beach had fledged a chick by June 10 (ELM); all had gone, after many vicissitudes, by July 24. Elsewhere there was a nesting pair at East Baccaro Beach, June 13, (JRG, CDG), at least 2 pairs (one nest) at Cherry Hill, June 17 (still there on July 17) (JSC), and an adult with 2 chicks at McNab's Island on July 15 (RBS). Two remained at Cherry Hill (or were they migrants?) through Aug. 26 (SJF) Migrants were reported at weekly or two-weekly intervals, between Aug. 22 (1 at Sable Island, ELM), and Oct. 9 (1 with Semi Plovers at The Hawk, Cape Sable Island, DHT, JY).

No one reported breeding KILLDEER, despite their presence in many places. A few records in July were followed by numerous reports documenting this species, characteristic movements through summer and fall; in general, the numbers reported were high. 4 at Lower West Pubnico on Aug. 11 (DJdE) came first, followed, for example, by 9 on a lawn near Sydney airport, Aug. 12 (Georges Gorgas, fide SM); 4 at Hartlen's Pt, Aug. 15 (FLL); 10 and 14 at Antigonish Landing, Sept. 3-4 (RDC, SPF); 8 at Cranberry Head, Sept 7 (MWH), 31 at Sheffield Mills, Sept. 20 (BCS), 11 at Petite Riviere, Oct. 19, (JSC, JLC), and the last, 3 at the same place on Nov. 3.

GOLDEN PLOVER appeared first at Eastern Passage on Aug. 16 (FLL). Thereafter they were regular in low numbers through the end of September. At Sable Island, 6-10 per day were recorded between Aug. 22 and Sept. 6, except on Sept. 5, when 25 plus arrived (ELM). Numbers were low throughout, the highest being 12 at West Head, Lockeport, Sept. 24 (GDP), 7 at Brier Island, Sept. 25 (BM); 5 at Brier Is; and (FLL), 3 at Cape Sable (BJS), and 7 at Cherry Hill (JSC, JLC) on Sept. 29. The large flocks must all have flown over us, leaving stragglers at Crescent Beach on Oct. 8 (JLC, JSC) at Cherry Hill on Oct. 15 (SJF), and a very late bird at Hartlen's Point, November 11 (IAM).

20 summering BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER appeared at Cape Sable on June 21 (BJS). In July, 2 were at Matthews Lake on July 6 (GDP), and the first migrants at Evangeline Beach on July 29 (RBS). Thereafter records are abundant, showing peak numbers in early August and late August. Representative records: the first at Crescent Beach, Aug. 3 (JLC, JSC) and in Cape Breton, Aug. 4 (SM); 100 (the peak) at Evangeline Beach, Aug. 7 (RBS); 50 plus, Cow Bay, Aug. 15 (FLL); 20 at Pembroke, Aug. 19 (E&VH); 30-40 (peak) at South Harbour Beach, northern C.B., Aug. 24 (AAM); peak of 175 at Matthews Lake, Aug. 26 (GDP), 15 at Antigonish Landing, September 3 (RDC), and seasonal peak of 73 at Crescent Beach, Sept. 4, (JSC). Numbers, as usual, stayed into November, when there were 11 at Eastern Passage (FLL) and 35 plus at APBS on Nov. 3, 46 at Cherry Hill on Nov. 4 (SJF), one at Mahoney's Beach on Nov. 11 (RDC, SPF), and 5 still at Crescent Beach on Nov. 15 (JLC, JSC).

A few records indicate the persistent breeding presence of WOODCOCK at Eel Brook and Quinan, Yarmouth Co. (PRD, CRKA), Orangedale, CBI (fide SM), and Pubnico (E&VH). 5 records of migrants reached me: one heard after dark Sept. 16-17 at Wine Harbour (GM), one at Quinan, Sept 25 (CRKA), then singles on Oct. 21, 23 and 29, at Russell Lake (FLL), West Pubnico (TdE), and Albro Lake (FLL). COMMON SNIPE, as usual, were poorly reported: 11 records between Sept. 2, (an arrival at Sable Island, ELM) and Nov. 11. Nine at the Piggery and Dorothea Drive, Dartmouth, on Oct. 19, must indicate the usual influx in mid-month.

Summering WHIMBREL occurred at Cape Sable, June 20-21, (BJS), followed shortly thereafter by the first migrants (2) at Matthews Lake, July 6 (GDP) and at East Baccaro Beach (6), July 10 (JRG, EDG). In the late July passage there were 23 at Merigomish on the 25th (SPF), 5 at Hartlen's Point on July 29 (FLL), and 18 at Merigomish on July 31 (SPF). The second peak in September is represented by 5 at Hartlen's Point on Sept 7 (FLL), 15 at Chebucto Head next day (RBS), 5 at Cherry Hill on Sept 9, and 15 at Pennant Point, Sept 16 (IAM) The last bird of the season was at Mahoney's Beach on Oct. 6 (RDC, SPF).

UPLAND SANDPIPERs, widely separated in time, were at Matthews Lake on Aug. 26, and Seal Island, Oct. 7 (both GDP).

This year's records say little about breeding SPOTTED SANDPIPERS, but they clearly indicate a typical post-breeding aggregation in early to mid-August, for example, 12 at Green Bay-Broad Cove, Aug. 3 (JLC,JSC); 15 at Cherry Hill, Aug. 5 (JLC, JSC); and 20 at Hartlen's Pt., Aug. 15 (FLL). After that, the reports indicate regular, low numbers through Oct. 10, (the last date from Cape Breton), individual birds at Cow Bay (KNK) and Riverport (JLC, JSC) on Oct. 19, and a late bird at Economy on Nov. 2 (FS).

The migration of SOLITARY SANDPIPERS was spread evenly from late July through early Oct.; the first at Three Fathom Harbour, July 24 (ELM,RM), the last at Seal Is., Oct. 7-8 (IAM,ELM et.al.). There were 5 at Glace Bay on Aug. 5 (SM), 3 at Horseshoe Lake, near Indian Fields on Aug. 16 (SS,BJS), 2 at New Ross on Aug. 27 (KNK) and 6 at Antigonish Landing on Sept. 14 (RDC), to pick examples.

WILLETs typically gather in large flocks before their early departure from Nova Scotia. A peak of 45 occurred at Crescent Beach on July 22(JSC); there were 95 at Matthews Lake the following day(GDP), and 100 plus at Smith's Cove on Aug. 6 (KR fide AKR). Among 4 seen at Seal Island between August 24 and Sept. 2, two were large and pale, probably of the western race (IAM). Two at Linden, Cumberland Co., (SIT) and one at Crescent Beach on Sept. 16 (JSC)were the last of the season.

Two GREATER YELLOWLEGS somewhere in Cape Breton (SM) June 6, may have been non-breeders; 4 there on July 11, may have been the first migrants reported. By late July the species was a widespread migrant, nowhere as common as Lesser Yellowlegs until late in August, when a peak of 23 was reached at Crescent Beach on the 18th (JSC); in addition, there were more than 100 in the Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co. area on Sept. 9. On Sable Island between Aug. 22 and Sept. 6, a peak of 50 occurred on Aug. 28 (ELM). During September, the records are generally of ones and twos, except for 12 at Argyle Head, Sept. 18 (PRD), 11 at Crescent Beach, Oct.15 (JSC) and 80 plus at APBS on October 28, dropping to 25 on Nov. 3 (SIT). As of Nov. 24, there were still 4 at Linden, Cumberland Co.(SIT). LESSER YELLOW-LEGS typically arrive earlier and in greater numbers. 40 at West Lawrencetown on July 15 (ELM), were eclipsed by 600 near Sackville, N.B. on July 18 (SIT). The early July numbers in Halifax Co., diminished in late July, increased to 55 at Cole Harbour dike on July 26 (FLL), and, there and elsewhere, continued high, off and on until early September, for example: 7 at West Lawrencetown area, Hfx. Co., Sept. 9 (JLC,JSC). On Sable Island 2-10 were regular in the rapidly dwindling shore-bird flock on West Wallace Lake, Aug. 22-Sept. 6, peaking at 15 on Aug. 31 (ELM). The last Cape Breton record was Oct. 6 (SM), the last one on the mainland at Mahoney's Beach (1), Oct. 14 (SPF,RDC).

The last spring or summering RUDDY TURNSTONE was at Cape Sable on June 30 (SS); the first recorded migrant, an adult at Lower Three Fathom Harbour, July 20 (ELM). Low numbers were recorded for the next few days until Stuart Tingley counted 105 adults at Brier Island on Aug. 8. Throughout August, good sized flocks were recorded: 70 plus at Cow Bay, Aug. 15 (FLL); peak of 25 at Crescent Beach, August 18 (JSC); 15 at East River Beach, Lun. Co., Aug. 21 (RDH); and a peak of 15 on Sable Island, Aug. 31, repeated on Sept. 5 (ELM). A few lingered through October, sparsely reported. The only record after Oct. 20, is of one late turnstone at Mahoney's Beach on Nov. 24 (RDC,SPF).

RED KNOT were widely reported in low numbers. George Perry considered it "an off year" at Matthews Lake, where his maximum of 35 on Aug. 25, was both late and unusually low. The first appeared at Martinique Beach on July 6 (IAM), then 12 at Bayfield Marsh, Antigonish Co., July 18 (SPF); 5 at Matthews Lake, July 23 (GDP); 6 at Cherry Hill on July 25, (JSC); 11 at Bayfield Marsh, July 26 (SPF); 11 at Merigomish on July 31 (SPF); then a few here and there through August, numbers (30) concentrated at Matthews Lake through September 16 (GDP et al): 1 at Cape Sable, 16 Oct. (SS); 2 at Cherry Hill Oct. 28 (SJF); and the last of this winter-hardy species at Cherry Hill on Nov. 15 (JSC).

The winter's first PURPLE SNADPIPERs were at Crescent Beach on Nov. 24 (SJF).

PECTORAL SANDPIPERs appeared occasionally in July and August: 6 at Cherry Hill, July 14 and 21 (JLC); 4 at Fourchu, CBI, Aug. 4 (NSBS); and one at Eastern Passage, Aug. 15 (FLL). Numbers increased slowly through September, but the real peak of numbers was from Sept. 27 on: 12 on that day at Sheffield Mills (BCS); 25 at Brier Island, Sept. 29 (FLL); 105 at Cherry Hill that day (JLC,JSC); followed by 60 plus on October 6 and 35 on Oct. 8 (JSC,SJF). Peak numbers were probably very high near the border, for Stuart Tingley recorded a modest 40 at APBS on Oct. 28, down to 15 on Nov. 3. Two lingered at Mahoney's Beach through Nov. 24 (SPF,RDC).

Aprecursory WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER was at the John Lusby Marsh on July 30 (ELM,RM), followed by records from Cape Breton, Aug. 4 (SM), then at Matthews Lake (2) and Cherry Hill, Aug. 5 (GDP, JLC,JSC) 55 adults at Brier Island on Aug. 8, were the climax of the early migration (SIT). The late season peak of immatures began Aug. 22, with 70 plus at Cole Harbour dike (FLL,RBS), 500 at Sable Island (ELM), and on Aug. 25, 100 plus at Cole Harbour (FLL). The large flock on Sable Island dropped from 400 to 200 on Aug. 25, then to no more than 50 through Sept. 6 (ELM) There were no reports during September, only two in October, ending with 10 at APBS on Nov. 3 (SIT), 10 at Cherry Hill on Nov. 4 (SJF), and 4 there on Nov. 15 (JSC).

The elegant but inconspicuous BAIRD'S SANDPIPER was abundant this year. The records indicate at least 26 individuals from Aug. 11; (at Cherry Hill, JSC) through Sept. 30 (1 with Pectorals, Seal Is.,ELM). Most of the birds occurred at 2-4 day intervals between Aug. 24 and

Sept. 18, some details as follows: 1 at Seal Is., Aug. 24, (IAM); 2 at Matthews Lake, Aug. 26 (GDP); 3, 6 and 1 at Cherry Hill, Sept. 2, 6 and 8 (JSC, SJF); 2 at Eastern Passage, Sept. 9; 2 at Brier Is., Sept 12, 18 and 21 (one still there Sept. 22 and 29) (BM, FLL);

Breeding or resident LEAST SANDPIPERs were at Conrad's Beach (4) on June 10 (ELM) and at Cape Sable June 1, 3, 22 (2-8) (SS). One at Matthews Lake, June 30 (GP) was probably a Nova Scotian bird, but the 23 there on July 6 were undoubtedly migrants. Numbers increased throughout July eg.: 25 plus at Cherry Hill, July 14 (JSC; a temporary peak at Lawrencetown, July 15, dropping during the next 5 days (ELM); then 200 at the John Lusby Marsh on July 30 (ELM, RM). At Crescent Beach, the seasonal peak of 35 was on Aug. 8 (JSC), and at Lower West Pubnico there were 50 on Aug. 12 (RdE). At Sable Is., 100-150 were present Aug. 22-23; they dropped for a few days, then increased to 100 on the 28th, then held constant at 10-30 per day through Sept 6 (ELM).

A similar but delayed pattern occurred on the mainland: 10 plus at Cherry Hill, Aug. 29 (JSC, ER); a new peak of 40 at Crescent Beach on Sept. 4 (JSC); 95 at Cherry Hill on Sept. 15 (SJF); then little else in September. The season closed with 1 at Mahoney's Beach, Sept 16 (RDC, SPF), 1 at Sunday Point, Sept. 27, 4 at Seal Is. Oct. 6 (NSBS), and 2 at Cherry Hill, Oct. 15 (SJF)

A few early DUNLIN were recorded for example, an adult at Cherry Hill, Aug. 19 (JLC, SJF, JSC), 1-2 at South Harbour Beach, CBI, on Aug. 30 (AAM), and 3 at Cherry Hill, Sept. 4, but most of the records were between Sept. 12 and Nov. 18. The real numbers began with 100 at Oak Island, King's Co., Sept. 27 (BCS), then 40 at Crescent Beach, Sept. 28 (JSC), 41 at Crescent on Oct. 5 (JSC), 300 at Oak Island on Oct. 15, 90 plus at APBS on Nov. 3, and the remarkable count of 1800 at Peck's Cove (near Sackville, N.B.) on Nov. 11 (SIT). 20 remained at Martinique Beach on Nov. 18 (IAM) and 3 at Cape Jouriniaian, N.B., on Nov. 25 (SIT).

Three LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS were reported, most without comment or confirmatory details: 1 at Cherry, Sept. 14, (JSC), 1, well reported at Brier Island, Sept. 18 and 22, (BM, FLL), and 1-5 at APBS, Oct. 28 to Nov. 3 (SIT) Caveat emptor. Their SHORT-BILLED cousins were abundant and copiously reported from throughout the province, beginning with 14 at Cape Sable on June 21 (BJS). The first certain migrants occurred on June 30: 14 at Matthews Lake (GDP), 30 at Lockeport (GDP), 30-35 at Cape Sable (BJS), and 2 at Crescent Beach (L&JSC). The early peak was well reported: 81 at Crescent on July 4 (JSC); 250 at Martinique on July 6 (IAM); 1000 plus at the Hawk, Cape Sable Is., on July 8 (JRG, CDG); 125 at Crescent on July 10 (140 the next day - JLC, JSC); and 200 at Cherry Hill on July 15 (JLC, JSC). By early August much small groups were the rule. Late in the month, on Sable Is., only 2-15 per day were present, Aug. 22-Sept. (ELM). The first ever inland at River Lake, Hfx. Co., was seen there Sept. 2 (WT, SCM). The dowitcher season

concluded with 2 at Sydney Harbour, Sept 6 (SM), 6 at Cherry Hill, Sept. 9 (SJF), 3 at Sunday Point, Sept. 11 (MWH), 2 at Brier Is., Sept. 18-26 (BM,FLL), and 1 at Brier on Sept. 29 (FLL)

STILT SANDPIPERs occurred in normal numbers; at least 18 individuals on 12 occasions from July 24 (an adult at Lawrencetown, SIT) through Sept 2 (1 still at Matthews Lake, GDP). Stuart Tingley found 6 adults at Brier Is., on Aug. 7, 1-3 were found both at Three Fathom Harbour, Aug. 12-14 (ELM,RM); there were 6 at Cherry Hill on Aug. 19 (SJF), 2 remained on Sable Is. from at least Aug. 25 - Sept. 5, 1 occurred at Brier Is. on Sept. 21 (BM), and 1 late bird stayed at APBS, Oct. 28-Nov.1 (SIT).

A late spring SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER lingered at Conrad's Beach on June 10 (ELM), and there was 1 with Piping Plovers at Cherry Hill on June 17 (JSC) The first migrants (2) appeared at Matthews Lake on July 6, to peak at 500 on July 23 (GDP). Birds arrived daily through the last week of July. At the John Lusby Marsh on July 30, 4000 birds made up an active, rapidly expanding flock (ELM, RM). The same day at Cook's Beach, Charlie Allen estimated 2025. Peak numbers, 750, occurred on Aug. 8, at Crescent Beach, and there were still at least 300 in the West Lawrencetown area on Aug. 12 (ELM,RM). These occurrences adequately date the major migratory peak at the end of July even though no one submitted counts of the Minas Basin flocks (as usual). Considerable groups were present at many locations throughout August, including a flock of 1000 on Sable Is., Aug. 22, which dropped day by day to about 50, until the arrival of 200 on Aug. 28, then levelled out at 20-50 per day through Sept. 6 (ELM). At Matthews Lake, the late summer peak almost coincided with the one at Sable, 500 birds on Aug. 26 (GDP). The last large flock (60 birds) was at Sunday Point, Sept. 14 (MWH), after which only a few lingered: the last in Cape Breton, Oct. 29 (SM) and at Crescent Beach on Nov. 2 (JSC).

Two WESTERN SANDPIPERs, (only one documented although they present formidable field problems) were reported: 1 with classic field marks at Pond Cove, Brier Is., Sept.18 and 21 (BM,FLL), and one at Cape Sable, Sept. 29(BJS)

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERs were sparsely reported, largely, I believe, because their migration usually occurs after late summer birders have gone back to work. This un-naturally modulates fluctuating abundances, which are probably natural--governed by whether or not weather impels the birds to overfly Nova Scotia or stop here. Whatever the influences, the first Buff-breast arrived with Golden Plovers Sept. 5 at Sable Is.(ELM), then as follows: 4 at Hartlen's Point, Sept. 7 (FLL), 2 at Cherry Hill Sept. 8 and 15 (SJF), 7 at Brier Is. on Sept 17, 1 on the 18th and 2 on the 24th (BM,FLL), 2 at Cape Sable on Sept 23 and 1 there Sept 25 (BJS,SS).

HUDSONIAN GODWITs also fluctuate markedly from year to year. No large flocks, except 100 at Evangeline Beach on July 29 (RBS), were reported, though a maximum of 17 at Matthews Lake on Aug. 5, was respectable and about normal in numbers and time(GDP). Other records include the season's

first, July 6, at Matthews Lake (GDP); 1 at Cherry Hill, July 30 (Cohrs family); 2 at Sable Is., Aug. 22-24 (ELM), the last 2 at Matthews Lake, Sept. 2 GDP) (1 at Seal Is. the same day - IAM); 4 at Brier Is., Sept. 17 (FLL); 1 at Mahoney's Beach, Sept 30 (RDC,Spf); the last two, rather late, at Crescent Beach and Cherry Hill, Oct. 15 (KNK,SJF)

The roster of sandpipers is completed by SANDERLINGS, which appear by ones and twos in July, peak in late August, then more strongly at the beginning of October, and may linger to brighten bitterly cold walks on frozen beaches during the Christmas counts. An unusual flock of 20 was at Cape Sable on July 19 (BJS), followed by small groups until late August at mainland sites. On Sable Island a flock of 50 increased to 200 on Aug. 20, dropped sharply with northerly winds on the 30-31 st, then increased slowly in September to 100 plus, on the 6th (ELM). Shirley Cohrs' shorebird survey at Crescent Beach revealed a peak of 125 on Sept. 4, (then another peak, 102, on Oct. 19; 3 remained through Nov. 15.)

A pair of AVOCETs was reported second or third hand, no dates given, in late July at Iona, CBI, (J.Gardner, Fide SM). Specific information about date, place, observer, in addition to detailed field notes are mandatory in cases like this.

Although they were down a little from previous years, WILSON'S PHALAROPEs were seen at 8 locations, beginning with 2 residents at the John Lusby Marsh, July 30 (ELM, RM). Thereafter, there were 2 at APBS on Aug. 11 (SIT), at least 4 in the West Lawrencetown-Three Fathom Harbour area, from Aug. 12-19 (ELM, IAM), 1 at Cherry Hill, Aug. 19 SJF), 2 in residence at Number 3 Lifesaving Station, Sable Is., from Aug. 22-Sept. 6, 1 at Matthews Lake on Aug. 26, and one at Crescent Beach on Aug. 28 (JSC).

The pelagic phalaropes were sketchily reported, beginning with spring observations of 2 Reds and 200 plus Northernns on Brown's Bank (off SE Nova Scotia) on June 1(KA). 7000 RED PHALAROPEs occurred off Brier Is. on Aug. 9-10 (SIT). Also at Brier, Fulton Lavender estimated that 31,500 passed Northern Point, Sept. 1-30; Bruce MacTavish recorded 4000 plus, flying SW on Sept. 18. NORTHERN PHALAROPEs may have deserted us this year for Head Harbour Passage, N.B., for there were only two fall reports: 5 off Chebucto Head on Sept. 8 (RBS) and 1 at Cape Sable on Sept 29 (SS).

I should finish this lengthy report with a liberated cry of joy; instead, I must plead with my rapporteurs for better reports. "Some", "a few", "numbers" and "abundant" are not suitable descriptive adjectives referring to shore-bird flocks. I really need to know numbers to work out the complexities of the migration--as compensation, counting birds will help to increase your field skills. And a final grouch--Western Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitchers and the truly rare species deserve detailed field notes, so please send yours along. This report is only as good as the quality of the observations; without the evidence for your field judgement, I must cast doubt on it to be on the safe side. In the near future we (NSBS) must publish some guidelines for field note-taking, so the reported quality of rare bird observations can rise. So as not to seem too Scrooge-like, I hope all your Christmas counts have had a flock of Knots!

ELM, Ed.

SKUA, JAEGER, GULLS, TERNS, AUKS

On Nov. 6, on Brown's Bank, Eric Mills saw what was probably a SOUTH POLAR SKUA. The bird's plumage contrasted sharply with that of the 3 dark GREAT SKUAs which accompanied it. The head and neck, especially the nape, looked almost white. The body was a pale buffy orange, in contrast to the wings, which were dark brown apart from the usual white flashes. In all, Eric saw 14 Great Skuas in the Brown's Bank area on Nov. 6-7. Across the channel, Raymond S. d'Entremont saw one on Georges Bank during the same week, and he had seen another there on Sept. 12. I saw a total of 7 between Emerald and Brown's Banks in the second week in October and 9 between Sable Is. and Georges Bank in the last week in November, all too dark to be anything but Greats. Are Skuas getting commoner, or are more observers getting out to where they can be seen?

The LONG-TAILED JAEGER was, as usual, the rarest of the three species: a single bird was seen on George's Bank on Sept. 10 (Raymond S. d'Entremont). Rayner Meyerowitz saw 6-12 Jaegers off St. Esprit, C.B., on Oct. 15, and asks "isn't the Parasitic the only kind around?". Well, no. From September onwards both PARASITICS and POMARINES were seen in small numbers. The last Pomarine seen was on Brown's Bank on Nov. 6 (ELM); there were definitely none down there at the end of the month, though there had been a few in early October (RGG). Fulton Lavender saw an adult Parasitic at Hartlen Point on Nov. 3, but the species was not otherwise seen after the end of September.

The only interesting HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL report is the solid carpet of birds - a flock at least half a mile long - feeding on tiny herring at Smith's Cove on Aug. 13, 14 and 15. (Annie Raymond). But our sole LESSER BLACKBACK sighting is more interesting. This was not the usual Digby bird - which nobody has yet reported - but one which Eric Mills saw on Sable Is. on Sept. 5. It was an adult bird, and he saw the yellow legs very clearly. He was struck by the purposeful way it flew off over the sea to the westward, and believes that it had probably only just arrived from the east and had spent only a few minutes over Sable. Was it a migrant from Europe, or a Nova Scotian breeder going home to roost?

GLAUCOUS and ICELAND GULLS are only beginning to reach us. Shirley Cohrs' sighting of a second-year bird off Mahone Bay on Nov. 16, means that there must be a few off Cape Breton by now. Icelanders, as usual, came earlier. Some perhaps, never left; one spent the summer at Grand Anse, N.B., though it left in August (Stuart Tingley). Otherwise, the first records are Sara MacLean's from Glace Bay: a few on Oct. 10, and an influx on Nov. 16. There are 4 records, all of juveniles or second year birds along the coast between Halifax and Brier Is., during the first week in November (FLL, RBS). I saw 2, both juveniles or second year birds, between Sable Island and Georges Bank at the end of November.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES are normally the most pelagic of gulls, but W. E. Whitehead saw one among a flock of

Herring Gulls, feeding 100 yd. inland from the Annapolis River at Round Hill, on July 6. The other records are of migrating birds. Fulton Lavender saw c. 800 passing Brier Is., between Sept. 10-30, but there were only 12 off Seal Is., between Oct. 19-21 (EHC, Sylvia Fullerton). There were 15 plus off Cape Sable on Oct. 2 (S. Smith). Sara MacLean found 200 plus breeding on the Cape Breton Bird Islands on June 23 field trip, noting that "this is the first year they have nested in the islands". This is interesting. Canadian Wildlife Service surveys have shown a number of unsuspected, small Kittiwake colonies in the Cape Breton/S. Newfoundland area; it's not clear whether the species is expanding its range, or was simply overlooked.

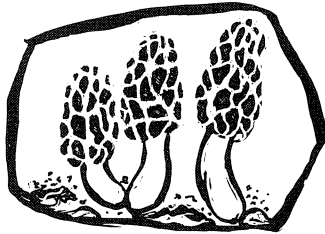
LAUGHING GULLS are the rarest of our inshore small gulls; Fulton Lavender and Keith N. Keddy saw a second year bird at Three Fathom Harbour on Aug. 9. EUROPEAN BLACK-HEADED GULLS were first seen in the Glace Bay area on Aug. 15, a bird in summer plumage and another in winter plumage (Sara MacLean). Numbers built up afterwards, with twos and threes at regular sites around the province, such as Dartmouth, Linden and Eel Brook. BONAPARTE'S GULLS were, as usual, commonest on the west side of the province. Stephen Fleming and Roland Chaisson saw their first bird, an immature, at Caribou Island on July 20, but they counted 73 in a half-hour watch there on Aug. 16. Farther south, a single bird had reached Hog Is., Yar. Co., by Aug. 7. (Larry MacKenzie). There were 15-20 at Antigonish Landing between Sept 4 and Oct. 31, and 10 plus at Mahoneys Beach on Nov. 24 (RDC, SPF). Fulton Lavender reports single RING-BILLED GULLS in the Dartmouth area all summer, with numbers building up to 28 at Eastern Passage on Aug. 21 and 40 on Sullivan's Pond on Sept. 6. The Cohrs saw 8 plus at Crescent Beach on Sept. 28. The first gathering at Eel Brook Pond, Yar. Co., was 100 plus birds on Oct. 3, and they were still there on Oct. 20 (PRD). Meanwhile, Stuart Tingley saw 600-800, almost all adults, in the Port Phillip/Tidnish area on Nov. 24.

It was an interesting autumn for terns. The pride of place goes to the adult ROYAL TERN, which by rights shouldn't have been north of Maryland, seen on July 20, by Eric Mills and John Kearney at Three Fathom Harbour. (Shouldn't this be 5.486 metre Harbour nowadays?) They point out that this was the first Nova Scotian sighting of the species which was not associated with a tropical storm. But the adult GULL-BILLED TERN seen in the same area between July 24 and Aug. 1 is almost as unusual (Eric Mills, John Kearney, Ian and James MacLaren). These two rather downgrade the CASPIAN TERN which A Angus MacLean saw at South Harbour Beach on Aug. 30. As he says, Caspians occur fairly regularly off Prince Edward Island and so this Cape Breton sighting is hardly unexpected, though, nonetheless welcome. ROSEATE TERNS aren't common either. The Gallaghers saw 2 off Liberty Point, Barrington Bay, Shel. Co., on July 3. But the only other reports are from the colony on Sable Island. Eric mills' last sightings were of 20 plus (about half immatures) on Aug. 30, and 10 immatures on Sept 3. COMMON and ARCTIC TERNS were much as usual. Stuart Tingley's 8 adult Commons at APBS on Aug. 5, were his first records of

the species there. Eric Mills found that Arctic Tern numbers had begun to drop on Sable Island by Aug. 31, but that a few were still there on Sept. 6. Fulton Lavender's last Arctic record was a single bird off Brier Island on Sept. 13, but Stephen Flemming and Roland Chaisson saw one on Oct. 14, place unstated, but I assume somewhere in the Pictou area. Eric Mills saw flocks of 25 and 50 Commons, mostly immatures, heading west, past Hemeon Head, Shel. Co., on Sept. 16; he saw 5 off Seal Island on Sept. 30 and 1 on Oct 5. Gordon MacLeod heard his last terns at Wine Harbour on Sept. 26. The last records are from Green Bay (Cohrs, of course): an immature Common on 6 Oct., and a "Comic" on Oct. 20. BLACK TERNS are fresh water birds and don't normally go out to sea. However, the 2-3 birds which Eric Mills saw on Sable Island between Aug. 29 and Sept. 5, were probably blown out there by strong northerly winds. Eric also saw 2 repeatedly carrying food at APBS on July 30, and birds were still active there in early August (James MacLaren). Our 1st report is of 4 adults at Eastern Passage Beach on Sept. 7 (FLL).

Sara MacLean saw only 3-4 RAZORBILLS on the June 23 trip to Bird Islands, "numbers sadly down from other years". PUFFINS were also scarce. As she says, this can probably be blamed on the KURDISTAN disaster. Bill Townsend saw Puffins from "Bluenose" on Aug. 11, there was a single bird 8 miles W of Seal Is., on June 21 (Daryl Amirault), 20 flying SW off Cape LaHave on Nov. 5 and 3, also heading SW on Lurcher Shoal, off Yarmouth on Nov. 7 (ELM). DOVEKIES arrived late this year; despite the October gales we have no reports of "wrecked" birds. The only sightings are my own; a total of 16 birds between Sable Is., and Georges Bank, at the end of November. There were 25 BLACK GUIL-LEMOTS off Western Light, Brier Is., on Sept. 17. (FLL), 2 moulting into winter plumage at the entrance to St. Margaret's Bay on Oct. 14 (RBS), and a bird still in summer plumage off Shelburne on Dec. 3 (RBBB). The only COMMON MURREs reported were seen on Sept. 15 field trip to Cheticamp. The first THICK-BILLED MURRE seen was a bird off Cherry Hill on Oct. 6 (Cohrs and Richards). I had a couple of unidentified murrelets off Shelburne on Dec. 3, and a total of 12 (all the ones which could be identified were Thick-billed) off Sambro on Dec. 5.

RBBB, Ed.



DOVES, CUCKOOS

The WHITE-WINGED DOVE has turned up in a number of northeastern localities in recent years (including N.B.), and to Alban Richard on Sable Is. goes the honour of spotting Nova Scotia's first. On Aug. 10, he was able to watch one (and hear it call) at distances of down to 15 m, and reported full details to IAM. Two weeks later on Seal Is., at mid-day on Aug. 27, James McLaren pointed out another beauty to his father, whose malfunctioning camera caused much gnashing of teeth. It flew off, but fortunately was encountered by the McLaren family at the north end in the afternoon and poorish, but adequate pictures taken (see this issue). On the same day on Seal Island, single ROCK and MOURNING DOVES were seen; quite a diversity of species among 3 individual doves! The report of the "first actual nest" of the Mourning Dove in the last FALL FLYER did not provoke any challengers. Instead, Mrs. Walter Urban of Avonport, who sent the abandoned first nest to the Acadia University Museum, found another in exactly the same place with 2 eggs on Sept. 24! There were few summer reports of this dove from other parts, but autumn brought an unusually large influx. High counts were of 60 on Seal Island on Oct. 9, 30 at Russell Lake on Oct. 21, 14 at Petite Riviere on Nov. 3, 10-12 at Chebogue Pt. on Nov. 20, and up to 35 in October on Sable Island, where AR reported many dying (about 25 found dead) after Nov. 9. They were also "much more common than usual in the Border Region" (ST), and occurred at Kejimikugik N.P., where "they are a rare bird" (PRH), so pile-up was not only along the coast.

A YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO was mortally injured by a car near Pubnico on June 7 (TCdE). The autumn influx was bigger than any previously recorded, beginning with a bird on Aug. 10, on Sable Island (AR). A minimum of 70 were reported, including 16 on Seal Is. on Oct. 8, and 10 at Port LaTour on Oct 16 (GDP,RMT; also "many seen and reported in area:). Six were killed by cars in the Pubnico area (DJdE, E&VH). Breeding-season BLACK-BILLED CUCKOOS were seen in Halifax, Lower Wentworth, and Round Hill. Although FLL reports that a "nesting pair" near Dartmouth left around Aug. 7, I believe that the several birds reported in the Pubnico region from July 4, to Aug. 4, were migrants, as were probably the 2 that hit windows at Barrington, on Aug. 4 (BJS) and certainly the individual on Sable Is. on Aug. 2 (AR). Subsequently about 15 were reported, with as many as 5 on Seal Island on Oct. 6.

OWLS

Eight GREAT HORNED OWLS and 6 BARRED OWLS were reported, the latter said to be "as usual" by MCC and GBN. Our only SNOWY OWL to date was a bird on Sable Island, Nov. 17-20 (sev. obs.) The LONG-EARED OWL heard calling on a Breeding Bird Survey in Kejimikugik Park was a "very rare" owl in that area (PRH, Ben Doane). See also the nesting season report in the FALL FLYER by BLF, who also found a bird being mobbed by Blue Jays near Canard on Nov. 25. What is the status of the SHORT-EARED OWLS in early summer on Cape Sable (BJS)? The 2 hunting over the John Lusby Marsh on July 30, (ELM) were presumably residents. SAW-WHET OWLS seen or heard in summer at Granite Village (see FALL FLYER) and at Orangedale, C.B. (fide SM), and on Brier Island on Sept 19.

GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRD, SWIFT, KINFISHER

An addition to the June WHIP-POOR-WILL reported in the FALL FLYER was a dead bird found on Nov. 1, near Pubnico (fide DJdE). Breeding-season COMMON NIGHTHAWKS were reported only from the Halifax area and from Yarmouth. I conclude that they were more abundant than usual during migration, so where do they come from? Some 420 were counted by observers, including about 20 near Halifax, on July 27, a "large flock" also near Halifax on July 31, about 175 over several days in early August near Sydney, 20 near Antigonish on July 17, 22 at Dartmouth and about 200 in 3 flocks near Bridgewater on July 21 (prize to TW), and 46 near Pubnico on July 27. The latest was one near Pubnico on Oct. 20 (DJdE).

Bernard Forsythe's tree-nesting CHIMNEY SWIFT was indeed "good news" in the FALL FLYER, but they continue to be generally scarce in the province (reports from Halifax, Mooseland, New Ross, and Sterling, but no explicit nestings). About 40 migrants were reported.

No more nestings (see FALL FLYER) of RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS were reported, but about 15 individuals were seen during breeding season. About 35 migrants (after mid-August) were reported, the latest "normal" dates being of birds in Halifax on Sept. 29 (McLaren family) and on Sable Island on Oct. 3. In view of the occurrence in the northeast in recent years of Rufous Hummingbirds, IAM has been encouraging birders to put out sugar-water feeders in late fall. None came to feast, but Marc Verpoorte did report a suggestively late unidentifiable hummer in Halifax on Dec. 2 (report to JSC, IAM), so we can live in hope.

BELTED KINGFISHERS, presumable under-reported, were thought by some to be "as usual" or "quite common". An early migrant appeared on Sable Island on July 26 (AR).

WOODPECKERS

COMMON FLICKERS, rated by several as more common this year (CRKA dissenting), "started to become restless and flock with Robins and Blue Jays in late August", near New Ross (KNK). On Brier Island, BMcT saw 30-50 per day Sept. 18-26, and 400 plus were seen flying off North Pt., up Digby Neck after daybreak on Sept. 24. On Seal Island, 75 were seen on Oct 8. We have only 2 November reports, both birds from Yarmouth Co. We also have more reports than usual (about 16 birds) of PILEATED WOODPECKERS, some from suburbia and cottage country, which is reassuring

RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS were seen on Brier Island on Sept. 14 (an imm., FLL), near Merigomish on Oct. 7 (EAC), and on Seal Island on Sept. 8 and 9 (3 imm.).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS were "seen frequently through summer" near Paradise (J&BM), and I know some were seen on Breeding Bird Surveys, but they were otherwise unreported. There were 8 scattered migrants on the mainland and in C.B., up to 50 on Brier Island between Sept. 20-30, and 8 on Seal Island on Oct. 7-9. The latest was a bird on Oct. 14, near Pubnico (DJd'E). A few breeding-season HAIRY WOODPECKERS were reported, but more (11) came out of the woods after August. A like number of DOWNY WOODPECKERS were reported. Two of these were seen perched in passerine fashion on telephone wires in Bridgewater on Aug. 8 (TW).

Karl Tay found a subsequently successful nest of BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOES WOODPECKERS near Mooseland Road, Halifax Co., on June 31. The only other report was of one on South Mountain, C. B., on Aug. 26 (AAM). Nothing like last year's peak numbers.

IAM Ed.



FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

EASTERN KINGBIRDS were well reported beginning with an early eight at Sydney Forks, July 31. No more were seen until Aug. 16, when the first three of a three day wave occurred at Petite Riviere. A definite migration took place Aug. 26 - Sept. 2. A dozen passed through the Pubnicos Aug 26 - 28, and a peak of 16 was at Seal, Aug. 27. After this, numbers declined sharply with latest birds (2) seen Sept. 25, on Brier Is.

There were nine WESTERN KINGBIRDS seen this fall, almost double last year's total (5). They were later in arriving and stayed very late. Other than one bird at Freeport, Sept. 2, one at Black River, Sept. 29, and one on Seal, Oct. 19 - 21, all the sightings were in November. Nov. 5, Chebogue Pt., Nov. 24, Northport (Cumb. Co.) and Pubnico, Nov. 25, Broad Cove, and Nov. 28, Upper Granville.

Only two GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS were seen: one on Seal, Aug. 27, and one in Yarmouth, Oct. 26 (IAM, GT)

EASTERN PHOEBES are never numerous, or perhaps they are difficult to identify--in any case, there are never many reported. The Tays at Mooseland may have nesting phoebes nearby, as they report "several" in May, June, Aug., and Sept. Others reported were one at APBS, Aug. 9, one, mid-Aug. near Wolfville, on, Sept. 25, on Brier and four on Seal, Oct. 6 - 9 (JM, VK, BM, FLL)

The EMPIDONAX group of flycatchers were thinly reported from all points. An adventurous YELLOW-BELLIED landed on Raymond d'Entremont's dragger on George's Bank on Aug. 17. An ALDER FLYCATCHER nested at PRD's at Eel Brook (For other nesting records, see the Fall Flyer, Sept. 1979) An empidonax with tanager green back, yellowish sides and belly, whitish throat, creamy wing bars, quite large in size could have been an ACADIAN (Oct. 9, Seal Is., IAM, ELM) The only indications of any migration are of a group of 6 empidonax at Hartlen Pt., Aug. 17, and a peak on Seal Is., Aug. 27 - 28, of an estimated 7 Yellow-bellied, 140 Alder and 28 Least (IAM).

PRD in Yarmouth Co., and Margaret Cheeseman in Ann. Co., agree that the EASTERN WOOD PEWEES were late in arriving in their areas. Once here, however, they appeared to be in usual numbers. Two late pewees lingered on Seal Oct. 6-9 (IAM)

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS (6) are down from last year's dozen or more. Other than one on Sable Is. and one at Albro Lake, Hal. Co., the others were all in Yarmouth Co.

HORNED LARKS appeared as usual in late September (ones and twos) and numbers began to build in October. On Oct. 20, 60 plus were at Cherry Hill (JSC) and on Oct. 31, 100 plus were seen on Cape Sable (BJS). Latest report is of eight at Cook's Beach Nov. 28 (EK, MAN)

W. E. Whitehead writes that TREE SWALLOWS were very scarce in his (Round Hill) area this year. This is interesting in that reporters in other areas were unanimous in agreeing that they had a bumper year elsewhere. Wendy Tay said they were very numerous at Mooseland, appearing to have successful nestings with some birds nesting twice. The first departing Tree Swallows reached Sable Is. Aug 1-2, and at the same time, at the other end of the province they were forming long roosts on the wires preparing for departure. Five lingering birds were at Cape Sable, Sept.21(Smith)

There is encouraging news of BANK SWALLOW colonies. A dozen or so pairs nested in a rock quarry in N. Dartmouth, nest numbers were up at St Esprit, C. B., and 200 plus nests were in a colony at Church Pt., Digby Co., (FLL, R & SM,RDC). BLF saw the last reported Bank Swallow Sept. 30, at Canard.

There was as usual, one ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW in the usual place (Seal) Aug. 23 (JM,IAM)

The news of BARN SWALLOWS is that they were "abundant everywhere", "many, probably more than last year!", etc., except at Round Hill, where a few birds arrived in spring, looked over the local nesting sites and then departed, making this the third successive year when there have been no local nests there.(WEW) Richard Stern reports a noteworthy sighting of several hundred Barn Swallows flying around and roosting on the railway which crosses Cole Harbour, on Aug. 12. This is the only mention of any large concentrations. Always later to go than the Tree Swallows, they hung about in small numbers throughout Sept. Late birds were: one at Matthew's Lake, Oct. 10, and one on Sable Is., Nov. 14, (GDP,AR)

An unusual looking CLIFF SWALLOW was seen on Seal, June 6 - 7, the forehead and rump being much paler than usual. Eric Mills and Bruce McTavish feel it was a N.W. North American sub-species "hypopolia". On June 3, FLL found three or four pairs nesting in an old abandoned house in Dartmouth. There were 10 nests at Marble Mountain (C.B.) and three at Baddeck. The latter birds chose the Bell Museum as a nest site and the nest was promptly removed by the Museum staff. However, they (the museum) constructed a little verandah in a more convenient place up in the peak of the roof and the swallows moved in!

Unfortunately, we no longer have correspondants in the Amherst area who keep us informed about the three PURPLE MARTIN colonies there. Four Martins had got as far as Cape Sable by June 8, and one was at Albro Lake, June 11.

CORVIDS THROUGH WRENS

GREY JAYS seem "normal" and "usual" in their wood land habitats.

BLUE JAYS seem much more than "normal" or "usual"--in fact, Nova Scotia appears to be knee deep in Blue Jays this fall. Even non-birders have been commenting on their abundance. They are in the woods, along the shore, in the gardens and along the roadsides, eating their heads off and threatening to deplete the winter supply of sunflower seeds before Christmas. Huge flocks appeared on Brier in Sept.: 500, Sept. 23, 750 plus, Sept. 24, 200, Sept. 25 and 100 on Sept. 26.

Scattered reports of COMMON RAVENS and COMMON CROWS have come in. No one reports them much while surrounded by large numbers of more exciting and attractive birds. However, the time is coming when they may be almost the only species to be seen during a bird walk in deep winter.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES are abundant in most areas, especially in Yarmouth and Lunenburg Counties. They are well established at feeding stations and already becoming tame. The Cohrs at Petite Riviere noted many small flocks (7--9 birds) moving quickly through the woods on Aug. 14 and 15, and again in somewhat larger numbers on Sept. 3. PRD noted about 100 on Aug 30, moving in mixed flocks with other small birds at MacKinnon's Neck. One or two BOREAL CHICKADEES were with them. Very few Boreal reports came in; no doubt they will become more noticeable from now on.

After years of scarcity the WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH made a real come-back in 1977(26 reported in the fall issue). In 1978, numbers fell to 10 but were still encouraging. This year numbers peaked again with 19 plus; perhaps they have become established in greater numbers.

The usually more numerous RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH have not been so much in evidence. Keith Keddy found them far from plentiful in the New Ross area and IAM writes "decidedly scarce, only about 3 on Seal in Aug., and one, Oct.9, compared with hundreds some past years".

A migration was noted on Aug. 25, in western Lun. Co., where small flocks moved through the woods all day at Petite Riviere, Crousetown, Green Bay and Risser's Beach (JSC).

BROWN CREEPERS were seen as follows: at Seal, 2, Aug. 31, 8 on Oct. 6., 1 at Sydney Forks, Oct. 8, 1 each at Yarmouth and N. W. Pubnico, Oct. 28, and 1 at Petite Riviere, Nov. 3.

Up to 3 HOUSE WRENS were on Seal, Oct. 1 - 9 (IAM) and one there Oct. 19 - 21(SJF,EHC)

WINTER WRENS continue to be very scarce. PRD heard two singing July 2, in central Yarmouth Co., there were four on Brier, Sept. 30, and four on Seal in Aug.(resident) still there Oct. 6 - 9. The Cohrs heard only one all summer and fall, all around Lun. Co. The Winter Wren has become a rare bird.

On the other hand, there have been at least 8 possibly 10 LONG-BILLED MARSH WRENS around. Eric Mills heard one singing at APBS, July 30. There were 2 singing in the same place, Aug. 11. Seal produced 1, Sept. 29, and 2 on Oct. 9. In mid-November. Fulton Lavender saw 1 at Hartlen Point and on Dec. 1, the NSBS members on the field trip prior to the AGM, turned out 3--1 at Conrad's Beach and 2 at Dorothea Drive.

Not counting possible duplications, there were at least a dozen MOCKINGBIRDS seen, a decrease from the high of 19 in 1978. They appeared around the end of September (except for 1, Aug. 29, on Sable, 1, Sept. 2, at Pubnico and 1 Sept. 12, on Brier) mostly in the S.W. area of the province. All sightings were of single birds.

GRAY CATBIRDS stayed quite late this fall: Oct. 8, at Queensland, Oct. 15, at Cape Sable, Oct. 19, Dartmouth (piggery) Nov. 3, Russell Lake and Nov. 6, Halifax.

The BROWN THRASHER picture is as follows: 1, June 19, S. Dartmouth; 1, possibly 2, Sept. 18-28, Sable Is.; 1, Oct. 1, Waverly; 6-7, Oct. 4, on Seal; and 1, Oct. 9, Little Harbour, Shel. Co. (FLL, AR, BM, IAM, DH & JY)

ROBIN THROUGH KINGLETS

The southward migration of Robins was more of a steady stream, than of heavy waves, as was the case in 1978. In October Robins seemed to be everywhere, relatively thin on the ground, but well distributed. Many people write of steady, small (15-20 bird) flocks going through from the end of September, to the third week of October, when numbers dropped off a little. There were one or two large concentrations. There were 300 on Brier, Sept. 24, a flock of 100 at Hartlen Pt., Oct. 20, and "hundreds" on the Canso barrens Oct 21.

WOOD THRUSH sightings quadrupled this year--4 instead of one. These were, three in the Mira area throughout July and Aug., and one on Brier, Sept 20. (HH, FLL)

Most people report HERMIT THRUSHES to have been normal or slightly up in numbers. Wendy Tay feels that they were extremely common at Mooseland--more than ever before. There were no reports of any concentrations prior to migration--they must have slipped away quietly one by one. Latest seen were (all singles) Yarmouth, Oct. 27, (VK) Russell Lake, Oct. 28, (JSC) and Tuskett Falls, Oct. 31 (CRKA)

The situation with regard to the SWAINSON'S THRUSH is similar--plentiful all around the province, with a quiet departure. Late Swanson's were at the Piggery, Dartmouth, Oct. 17, Robert's Island, Yarmouth Co., Oct. 19, and Halifax, Oct. 20.

Three GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSHES reports were received: 2 June 7, Sable Is.; 1, July 2, Mooseland; and 1 on Seal, Oct. 7.

During the summer months the VEERY was as common as the Robin in the Wolfville Ridge area, according to Bernard Forsythe. PRD found them "common" in the Tusket region and in "good Numbers" in the rest of Yarmouth Co. Stewart Whitman at Bridgetown and Curtis Chipman at Second Peninsula heard Veerys in places not usual for these birds. Latest to be noted was a little band of three at Round Hill on Sept. 20, (WEW)

Two EASTERN BLUEBIRDS, a male and a female were at Middle West Pubnico on Oct. 19, and seen by Td'E and Rd'E.

Three BLUE-GRAY GNAYCATCHERS were recorded: June 24, at L.W. Pubnico (Rd'E), Sept. 18, at Pond Cove, Brier Is. (FLL), and Nov. 3 and 14 (probably the same one) at Glace Bay. The latter bird was nibbling suet at a feeder in company with chickadees.

Great activity amongst GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS caught the attention of Shirley Cohrs, Aug. 12-16, in the Petite Riviere/Green Bay area of Lunenburg Co. She writes; "there were many around, moving even to the sea edge. Never seen so many, even in winter." IAM counted 50 on Seal in late August and from 6-9 of October. An adult was feeding 2 young as late as Sept. 2, at Petite Riviere. The golden crowns seem to be recovering steadily from their 1977 scarcity.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS, although by no means up to the numbers that occurred before the near wipe-out in the winter of 1976-77, have made steady progress and reports of "more than last year" came from most areas. Small concentrations departed by way of Argyle Head on Aug. 21, (CRKA); there were 17 at Round Hill, Sept 24, (WEW), and 90 on Seal, Oct. 6-9, (IAM). Latest birds were at Russell Lake, Oct. 28, and Halifax, Nov. 25 (both Cohrs)

PIPITS THROUGH STARLING

An early WATER PIPIT turned up at Sydney Forks, July 31, (RB). There were 24 there by Aug. 23, and by Sept. 5, they were seen on Cape Sable. Most of the other reports were for October and mainly of small (25-50) flocks. Latest pipits were eight at Pinkney's Pt., Nov. 20. (CRKA)

CEDAR WAXWINGS breed here, and a few adults and juveniles are seen during the summer months, but when the wild fruit crop is good we expect to see great flocks of waxwings in the fall and early winter. BF felt there were more than usual in his area during the summer (Wolfville Ridge). Small flocks began to be seen around the hedgerows as fall approached. On Aug. 27, a flock of 55 were on Seal and on Aug. 4, over 100 were at Antigonish, 90% of which were immatures. The largest flock so far is one of 110 on Seal, Oct. 8.

After last year's "Shrike winter", it will be interesting to see what will happen this year. So far there have been only 3 NORTHERN SHRIKES reported while at this point in 1978, 19 had been seen. The three are: 1 (IMM) Dartmouth Piggery, Oct. 28; and 1 each at Northport and L.W. Pubnico, Nov. 17. (FLL, ST, Rd'E)

Two LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES have been seen--at Round Hill, July 19, and an extremely late, one (the Loggerhead is our summer Shrike) at Cape Sable, Oct 7 , (WEW,SS)

STARLINGS? Plenty of them--1000 plus flying over Antigonish town on Sept. 10; unusual numbers near Cook's Beach, Yarmouth co., Nov. 28; clouds of them over shore areas in Yarmouth Co., in Sept., Oct and Nov. BUT, from W.E. Whitehead in Round Hill, a happy ending--"definitely down in numbers".

JSC Ed.

VIREOS

Carrying out the lavish pattern of the 1979 fall season we have six species of Vireo to report, and of our two native, 15 reports of the Solitary, 27 of the Red-eyed. One immature WHITE-EYED VIREO was "closely studied by most of the party on Seal Island, Oct , " size, yellow spectacles, etc., all very clear at a few feet" similarly 2 YELLOW-THROSTED VIREOson Oct. 7; 1, on Oct. 8, were noted by the party on Seal at that time (IAM). Of the 15 sightings of the SOLITARY, the last 3 were in Oct.-the largest, 11 on Seal, Oct. 6-9, then 1, Oct. 14, at Lr. Economy (FH) and 1, Oct. 19, at Crescent Beach (JS&JLC). Of the 27 reports of the RED-EYED VIREO, 7 were from Cape Breton, the majority from the whole province in August, when 93 were counted on Seal Is. IAM reports another big peak on Sept. 1, and these vireos were still migrating in October, when 5 were found (among dozens of warblers) killed at Cape Sable Light, Oct. 10-11 (SS). Five PHILADELPHIA VIREOS appeared Aug. 27, on Seal Is., a total of 7 there Sept. 2 (IAM); 1 was "newly arrived" on Sable, Sept. 5 (ELM) and 2 were seen (and closely studied), early October in Yarmouth Co. (CRKA). Sightings of the WARBLING VIREO were: 2, Aug. 29, at Glace Bay (JG); "a few" Oct. 6, in Lunenburg Co. (Ted Brown, reported to JSC); 2, Sept. 27-29, up to 6 on Oct. 1, "well studied and photographed often with Philadelphias" (IAM at Seal Is.)

WOOD WARBLERS

Of the 34 species of Wood Warbler sighted in Nova Scotia this fall, 22 were natives, 12 were visitors. We had 12 species of rare warblers last fall, almost the same ones as this year, some of which are regular rarities, others seem to be becoming such; seen not only on Seal Is., but inland as well. The only unusual thing about this fall's "bag" is the exceptional numbers of these stray birds, 3-4 Blue-winged Warblers, 6 Orange-crowned and at least 10 Prairie Warblers.

Ruth D. Hebb of Marriott's Cove wrote: "We saw no large warbler migrations this fall; just a few at a time, traveling with Whitethroats, Juncos and Chickadees and the occasional Nuthatch..." This seems to be the general and usual situation in the fall, until you reach the south coast and the offshore islands, where concentrations do occur. There is one notable exception, again general and usual,

which is the large flocks of YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS which gather over the countryside and flood out to sea from September on until the end of November. This year was no exception, in fact, we had a bumper crop.

For the record, the story is as follows: BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER from the 17 reports received (5 from Cape Breton) was generally "common", was seen feeding young June 23, immatures flocking throughout August, peaks of 37 on Aug. 27, 56 on Sept. 1 at Seal Is., last one seen Nov. 24, in Halifax by James McLaren.

The PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, 2 reports; 1, seen in June and again in August at Sydney Forks by Roy Blakeburn; 1, found on the sidewalk at Bridgetown by Terry Hyson, who picked it up; it made no resistance and "clung tight to his fingers", and was taken to Stewart Whitman for help in identification. The bird had a drooping wing, and although it became active and ate well under care, it did not survive more than a few days.

The WORM-EATING WARBLER was discovered by James McLaren Aug. 31, on Seal Is., and photographed later in the day by IAM (his father) who notes "a Nova Scotia lifer for both". Another one flew aboard a scallop dragger on Georges Bank Sept. 2, where it was "observed for several hours at close range" by Daryl Amirault, an experienced bird watcher.

A male GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER, "a superb bird in bright spring plumage" was discovered in his backyard by Tom Elwood, Halifax, Oct. 12, reported by JSC and IAM as seen there at least until Oct. 16.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER, 2 on Aug. 27, 1 on Sept. 1, at Seal Is. seen by the McLarens; 1, Sept. 9 at the Dartmouth Piggery, seen independently by Eric L. Mills and James McLaren; 1, a male, at Barrington, Oct. 9, seen and identified (first-rate description sent) by Betty June Smith. The bird was with a "wave" of other warblers and was examined at leisure in bright sun.

TENNESSEE WARBLER, 14 reports, 3 from Cape Breton (noted there as common, Aug. 23, near Smelt Brook, AAM), first migrants, Aug. 7, 20 plus birds at Albro Lake (FLL), last one seen Nov. 11, in Halifax (IAM).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, 6 reports of 5-6 birds, seen at Seal Is. and Albro and Russell Lakes near Dartmouth (RBS, FLL, ELM, J&IAM), Sept. 30-Nov. 5.

NASHVILLE WARBLER, 10 reports, up to 16 birds on Seal Is., Oct. 6-9, last one seen, Nov. 1, at the Piggery (FLL).

PARULA WARBLER, 19 reports, 4 from Cape Breton (RBS, HH, AAM), said to be "one of our more common warblers" at Mooseland (K&WT), few seen on Seal at the October trips, usual numbers in Yarmouth Co., where the last one was seen Nov. 27, (PRD).

YELLOW WARBLER, 24 reports, universally common, 5 Cape Breton reports, up to 70 birds estimated on Seal Is. late August, one only left there Oct. 9, last one seen Nov. 5, at Antigonish (RDC).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER, 15 reports (only one in Cape Breton), seen feeding young at Sandy Bottom Lake, July 20 (must have been a second nesting), "common in mixed warbler flocks" Aug. 27 (KNK), similarly at Paradise, Sept. 3-4, and Sept. 26-27 (J&BN), up to 8 on Seal Is., Oct. 6-9, last seen, 1, Oct. 18 at Barrington (SS).

CAPE MAY WARBLER, of the 12 reports received, 10 were in October, and 7 came from the Pubnicos (DJdE, TdE, E&VH). This bird is seen mostly in migration, and mostly from Brier Is., but was not reported from there this season; lack of reporters, not birds, we hope. On Seal, 15 individuals were present, Oct. 6-9, the last seen were 1, Oct. 16, at Sandy Bottom Lake (MPSB) and 1, Oct. 17, Middle West Pubnico, (DJdE).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, 8 reports, 7 individuals on Seal Is., Oct. 6-9, last one seen Oct. 14, an immature male at the Piggery, Dartmouth (FLL).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (myrtle), 36 reports, universally abundant, "the commonest warbler" in Cape Breton (SM), concentrations first noted in Yarmouth Co., Aug. 28, peaked (after steady increase) at "1000's", Oct. 12. On Sept. 16, 500 plus at Petite Riviere, "clouds and clouds of Myrtles, squabbling and swooping" (JS&JLC), up to 300 on Seal Is. late August and early September and up to 250 there Oct. 6-9. Alban Richard noted the first migrant on Sable Is., Aug. 18, but the most spectacular report comes from Brier Is. from Bruce Mactavish; 40, Sept. 18, 10 Sept. 19, 8, Sept. 20, 15, Sept. 21, 3000 plus, Sept. 24, 300, Sept. 25 and 200, Sept. 26. "The 3000 plus, Sept. 24, were seen streaming north off the North Pt., towards Digby Neck in the first 2 1/2 hours of daylight. (Note 400 plus Flickers were also seen at this time). Probably many of these birds had found themselves over water at daybreak and returned to safety, using Brier Is. and Digby Neck as a land bridge to the mainland". Last Myrtles noted were 2-3 at Truro, Nov. 22 (EER) but there are still a few around, at least in Yarmouth Co., and they may of course, stay all winter (PRD).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, 16 reports, none from Cape Breton. Judging by spring song, not as common as usual in Yarmouth Co., but called "average" in Annapolis Co. (MCC) and well noted in Halifax-Lunenburg (KNK). There were up to 7 on Seal Is. Oct. 6-9, last one seen, Oct. 22, at the Piggery (KNK)

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLERS, 11 reports, 4 from Cape Breton, 1 bird only on Seal Is., Oct. 7 & 9, the last seen this season.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, "One lovely bird seen by all of the party, around lobster pots on Seal Is., Oct. 7-9.

Evidently inland race, albilora, not the coastal plain race (IAM). Another sighting on Seal Is., Oct. 19-21 by Eric Cooke and Sylvia Fullerton, at the West Village was thought to be the same bird.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER, 9 reports, 1 in Cape Breton. JSC noted on Aug. 16 at Petite Riviere "many around today, don't think they all nested here; plumages mixed, from summer transition to full fall greens". Only 2 of these warblers on Seal, Oct. 8, the last seen this fall (by our reports).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER, 7 reports, none from Cape Breton, 5 of the reports in August, when these warblers were evidently on the move, 10 plus seen Aug. 10 at Crichton Park in Dartmouth (FLL), a "sudden influx, Point Pleasant Park, Aug. 22" (RBS), one "autumn male" seen at Pubnico, Aug. 27, (TdE): the last seen on Seal Is., up to 18, Oct. 6-9, big peak on the 9th (IAM).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER, 18 reports, 3 from Cape Breton, if you count Stewart Tingley's from the Newfoundland Ferry, July 26, when a juvenile Blackpoll landed aboard, 2 1/2 hours out from North Sydney. E.L.Mills noted a "Striking arrival on Sable Is., Sept. 1"; there were up to 10 on Seal Is., late August, up to 60 there, Oct. 6-9, when there were 6 seen at Barrington (BJS); 1 at Wolfville, Oct. 24-26 and "good numbers" at the Piggery until Oct. 27, 1 there Nov. 1, the last seen for the season, by FLL.

PTNE WARBLER, 4 reports, 2 birds on Seal Is., Oct. 7-8 seen by the party there, 1, Oct. 21, at Lr. Economy (FH,FS), 1 near TAngier, Oct. 28 (ELM, IAM et al.), and 1, Oct. 19-21 at Seal Is., (SJF, EHC) at West Village.

PRAIRIE WARBLER, 9 reports, one of which comes from Sable Is., where Eric L Mills saw 14 individuals on 11 out of 13 birding days, Aug. 23, through Sept. 6. On Brier Is., BDM saw two "identifiably different" birds on Sept. 19 and 21. Other Prairies seen were: 1 female, July 29, Middle West Pubnico (DJdE); 1, Aug. 30, at Green Bay, Ed. Richard and JSC; 1, Sept. 9, at Rocky Run, Hfx. Co. (JS&JLC); 1, Brier Is., Sept. 19, 21 and 23 (the last at Westport) by FLL; up to 11 on Seal Is., late Aug., early September, including 10 on Sept. 1, also around 3 there Oct. 6-9 (IAM); 1, Oct. 14, Russell Lake (JSC&JLC), and "a rather bright individual" Oct. 22, at the Dartmouth Piggery (Vernon KeddyL).

PALM WARBLER, 20 reports, half in October, two small gatherings in September were 6, Sept. 20 at Round Hill (WEW) and 5, Sept. 27, at Sunday Pt., Yarmouth (MWH), then BJS had 7, Oct 9, at Barrington, and a real accumulation of 75, Oct. 6-9 at Seal Is., was counted by the party there at that time. Last one seen was at the Piggery, Oct. 28. The Dartmouth Piggery bids fair to rival both Brier and Seal Islands for "last sightings".

OVENBIRD, 14 reports, called normal to abundant in all reports, but no peak numbers mentioned, and last seen Nov.12 in Halifax garden (JSC).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, 10 reports, mostly gone by the end of August, 2 at Paradise, Aug. 27 (B&JM), 3 at West Pubnico, Aug. 31 (T&E), up to 32 at Seal, late August, early September (IAM), only 2 there Oct. 6-9, last seen Nov. r at Yarmouth, garden at 23 Baker St. (MWH).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH, one on Seal Is., Aug. 31, "very different from the many Northerns, had a white eyebrow, large bill, etc."(IAM).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER, "2 observed closely on Seal Is., by IAM and James McLaren, Aug. 27, and Sept. 1. Identifications made along with an estimated 30 Mourning Warblers in the same period. The large size and long under-tail coverts are good markers in addition to the conspicuous clearly unbroken eyering".

MOURNING WARBLERS, 5 reports: 1, Aug. 27, "arrival" on Sable Is., thereafter 1-2 a day most days up to Sept. 6 (ELM); 1 male, Sept.2 at Orangedale, C.B. (RDC); 2, Sept. 10 at the Piggery (FLL); 1, Sept. 18, 19; 2, Sept. 24 at Brier Is.(BDM) This seems to be the last date seen, and the most of these warblers must leave before October, since the peak number seen was the 30 mentioned with the Connecticut above, no further sightings on Seal Is.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT 26 reports, 3 in Cape Breton. WEW at Round Hill found these warblers scarce during the summer; they were called "regular" by KNK at New Ross; "very common, much in evidence, abundant" at Mooseland (WT), Sandy Bottom Lake, near Annapolis (MCC) and Yar. Co. (PRD), respectively. At Seal Is., in late Aug. and early September, top number was 85, 4 only by Oct. 6-9, and the last one seen was at Cherry Hill, Nov. 4 (Cohrs).

YELLOW -BREASTED CHAT, 12 reports, from Sept. 1 to Sept. 1 to Nov. 24, all along the south shore, Seal Is., Cape Sable, Taylor Head, Petite Riviere, Halifax and Dartmouth and environs. The Nov. 24 bird was in southend Halifax (IAM).

HOODED WARBLER, 1 seen Aug. 31, at Seal Is.; 2 (male) and 2 (female) at Seal Oct. 6-9 (IAM).

WILSON'S WARBLER, 10 reports, 1 in Cape Breton. These warblers must have been on their way in August, since on the 17th of that month, one landed aboard the boat of Raymond d'Entremont, on the Georges Bank. A few were seen in Yarmouth Co., during August (CRKA), but most dates are in September, during the first three days seen in small numbers at Paradise, Mooseland, West Pubnico and Orangedale, C.B. IAM called them "not common on Seal until Sept. 1", when there were 19 there, and up to 14 by Oct. 6-9. A few were seen in October (only three birds reported) and the latest was in Dartmouth, Nov. 18 (JM).

CANADA WARBLER, 6 sightings, one in Cape Breton (Sydney, Aug. 2, HH), and all gone by Sept. 2, when SCM saw 1, in a mixed flock of warblers. Only a few on Seal in late August, none seen later.

AMERICAN REDSTART, 24 reports, 8 from Cape Breton, universally present in good numbers; called the most common warbler at Mooseland (WT). The first migrant at Sable Is., seen Aug. 12 (AR); at Seal Is., up to 60, late August, early Sept., up to 20 there, Oct. 6-8 (IAM); last 2 seen Nov. 6-9 on Sable Is. by Alban Richard.

HOUSE SPARROW

In Glace Bay and Yarmouth the HOUSE SPARROW is rated "as usual" (SM,MWH); Terry Wentzell finds them "common" in Bridgewater, but Roland Chaisson "fewer than last year, 60 down to 20" in Antigonish; Keith Keddy has found them "localized in Highland Park (Hammonds Plains Road), and quite restricted in New Ross..(these) and other seed-eaters have declined with the passing of many small farms".

ICTERIDS

BOBOLINKS arrived in May and thereafter were to be found anywhere about the province in appropriate habitat. Practically all of them left in August according to our reports. On Aug. 16, JSC noted 150-200 Bobolinks at Petite Riviere "now in fall plumage, but still at the nesting site", Aug. 17 KNK saw them moving through Hartlen Point, and on this date there were 500-1000 gathered in the vicinity of Antigonish Landing "feeding in the marsh grass and wheat fields" (RDC); Aug. 18, Bobolinks formed part of a mixed migrating flock of Blackbirds in Argyle Head marsh; on Seal Is., Aug. 28, around 100 Bobolinks were counted, at West Pubnico, Aug. 28, up to 150 were seen. Sept. 1, saw 20 plus appear at Sable Is., "a dramatic arrival" according to E.L. Mills, who witnessed another such on Sept. 5, and by Oct. 6-9 there were only 24 left on Seal Is.; the last on reported on the mainland was a female at Clarks Harbour (waiting for the boat) on Oct. 11-12 (DH&JY).

Five EASTERN MEADOWLARKS were seen late this fall: 3 on Seal Is., Oct. 8-9, 1, in Halifax Westend Park, Oct. 17, (IAM) and 1, Nov. 3, at Cherry Hill (JSC).

The YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD is a regular stray here, but we do not often have 4 to report. The first one was noted on Tobacco Is., Guys. Co., Aug. 28, by Peter Austin-Smith, Gerald Dickie and Randy Milton; another one was seen at New Waterford, Sept. 2 and 3 by Frank Robertson; an immature was identified on Seal Is., Sept. 28 by Eric Mills, Sylvia Fullerton, Barbara Hinds and Eric Cooke, and 2 were found on Sable Is., Oct. 8, by Alban Richard.

First sign of migration of the REDWINGED BLACKBIRD was a noisy treeful (12 birds) of mixed male and female Redwings at Argyle Head, July 25, (PRD). The next week one was a "new arrival" at West Light, Sable Is., Aug. 1 (ELM), and by early September the flocks were growing: 150 at the Piggery, 150 at Dorothea Drive, Sept. 9 (JL&JSC). This continued throughout October, nearly 90 at Bridgewater (in a cornfield) Oct. 10 (TW), 75-100 at Lr. West Pubnico, Oct. 19 (DJdE), 75 plus in a cornfield at Boularderie, all males, late Oct. (RBF), "large flock at St. Croix, lat Oct. at the Clarks' (MAC); in November still 30 counted at Black River, Nov. 2 (BLF), last ones so far noted on Nov. 20: 1 male on Grant St., Halifax (CF) and 7 males with 4 females at Chebogue Pt. (PRD).

Over 20 reports of the NORTHERN ORIOLE is unprecedented for the season, most were multiple sightings, and they have come from all over the province, Bridgetown to Green Bay, North Ingonish to Seal Is., close to 200 birds represented. Fifty-five of these were on Seal Is., late August and early September, around 16 there Oct. 6-9 (IAM). There were, however, still Orioles coming along in October: 2 females at Sydney, Oct. 23-25 (HH), 5 at Homeville "in the corn", Oct. 28 (WP), a good number of October Orioles seen in the vicinity of Dartmouth (Albro Lake, the Piggery, Sullivan's Pond) also at Pubnico and Yarmouth; in November, one was still at Glace Bay on the 17th (AS), one in a Halifax garden Nov. 23 (JSC), the one at North Ingonish, Nov. 19 (IG), also on the 19th at West Pubnico (TCdE), Nov. 20, in a garden in Yarmouth (EK), and a few still linger around Halifax (particularly on Cambridge St., where they have discovered grapes are usually to be found) but not as many as usual according to IAM.

There were a dozen or more reports of the RUSTY BLACKBIRD for the season, not bad for this least visible of our Blackbirds; seen feeding young (2-4 pairs) at Mooseland, June 30 (WT); 65 seen on Brier Is., Sept. 30 (FLL); 300-400 at Round Hill, Oct. 23 (WEW); two October sightings at Lr. West Pubnico of half-a-dozen birds (DJd'E) and in November "numbers still declining" at Mooseland, according to Wendy Tay.

Three BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS have been sponsored by three people this fall; 1, Sept. 23, at the Piggery, by John and Shirley Cohrs; and two, a male and a female at North Pt., Brier Is., by Bruce Mactavish who writes: "seen flying north Sept. 24, landed on lawn at North Light for five minutes before continuing on northward. Male, black all over with purple sheen on head quite visible in bright sunlight. The female or immature was grayish drab (female cowbird color) all over with dark eye including iris".

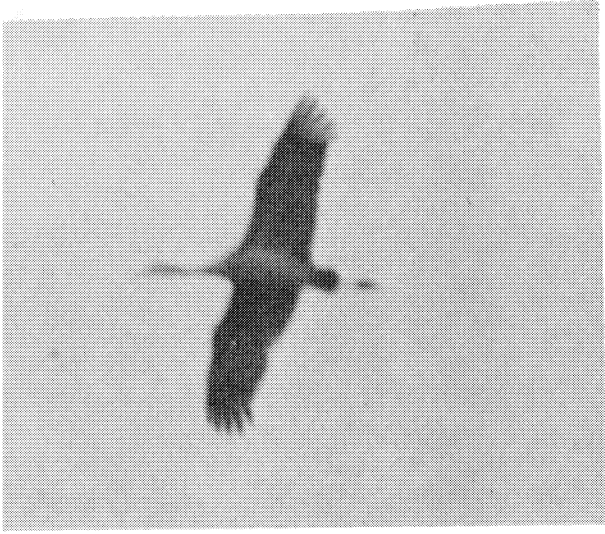
The fall migration of the COMMON GRACKLE began in earnest the last of September. Flocks were not large, as reported; were passing through Cape Breton in late August through September, when FLL saw 140 at Albro Lake, MWH had 50 in the garden (Sept. 30); 60 descended to a Halifax

A PHOTOGRAPHIC SEQUEL TO BIRD RARITIES IN PERSPECTIVE

Parts II and III of Nova Scotia Bird Rarities in Perspective by Ian McLaren in the November '73 and April '74 issues of the NSBS Newsletter recommended that bird-watchers keep their eyes open for a N.S. sighting of the Sandhill Crane. The comment on the Gull-billed Tern was that it could easily be documented by a photograph. The Mew Gull appeared in geographic areas adjacent to N.S. or adjacent to N.S. waters. Here then, is confirmation of records of these birds and others in N.S.

The first four photographs provided by Ian McLaren are commented on by him as follows: "The quartet of photos are no prizes but serve as first confirmation of four species in N.S. (Slide copies of these were sent to the National Museum in Ottawa for inclusion in the National Records Collection). The Sandhill Crane was seen by three parties on the Halifax East Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 18, 1976. The Mew Gull was photographed during abysmal weather near Canning, N.S., Nov. 7, 1976, but the photograph shows the dove-like head, small bill and dark eye. The Gull-billed Tern at Three Fathom Harbour; summer '79 (see bird reports) was snapped at a distance on July 24, enough to illustrate its stocky build, broad wings and large black bill. The provinces second White-winged Dove on Seal Island (see this issue) was taken by a camera operating at only the 1/60 second shutter speed. (who said cameras were reliable) The photo shows it but also brings out the diagnostic wing patch."

The Mourning Dove nested in the backyard of Mrs. Eva Urban in Avonport. This is the first authenticated nest in the province. The photograph was taken by S. Williams. A report of this nature leads one to speculate on what surprises await the persistent, tenacious and observant birdwatcher.

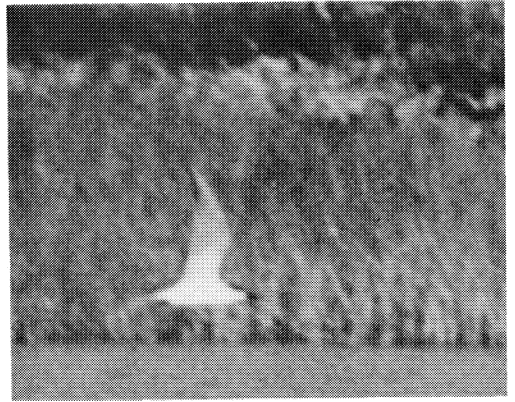


sandhill crane

mactavish



mew gull



gull-billed tern



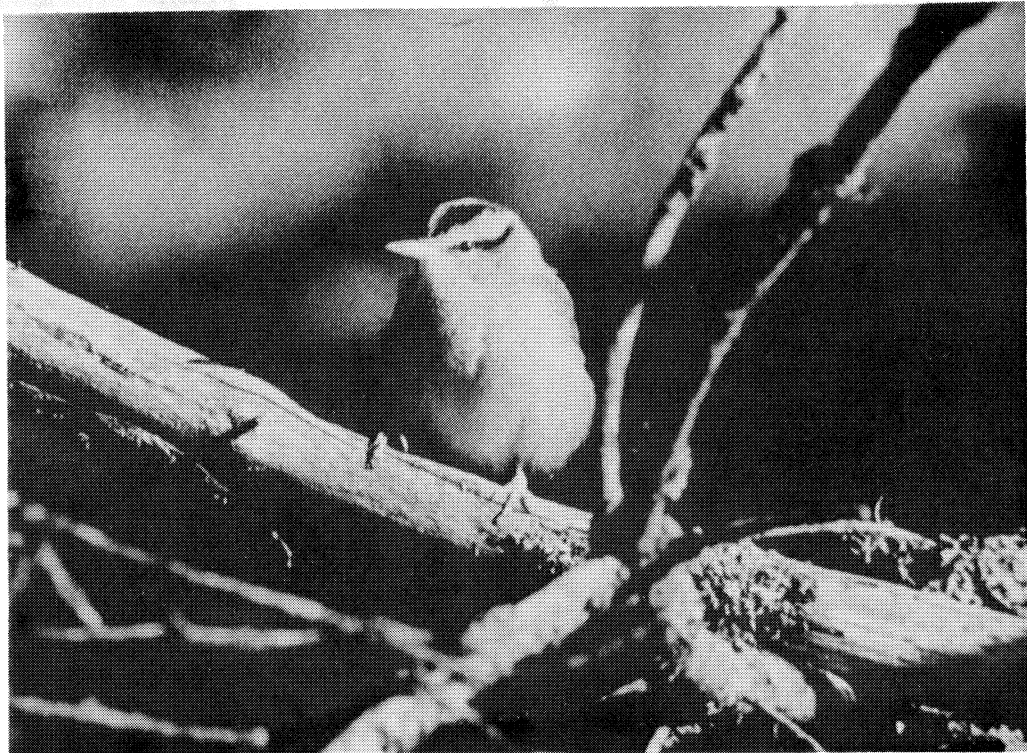
mclaren

white-winged dove



mourning dove

williams



worm-eating warbler

mc laren

townsend's solitaire

lock





bald eagle

leforte

The Worm-eating Warbler was spotted by James Sharp-eyes McLaren (who won't learn the significance of that middle name for another 35 years) on Seal Island, Aug. 31, 1979. Photograph by Ian McLaren.

Townsend's Solitaire provided significant visual interest for many birders in the Halifax area in 1979. The photograph was taken by Tony Lock "its owner". The bird was first seen Jan. 2, and remained in Tony's yard until Feb. 28. This is the second N.S. record for a bird that normally lives in the Western Mountains of Canada.

The Bald Eagle is not rare in N.S., but it is rarely photographed and rarely appears in community back yards. This photograph is of one of two Bald Eagles which paid a short visit to a Glace Bay backyard, Jan. 5, 1979. Miss Kit MacKenzie has no doubt looked in her noble trees every day since then, in the hope of a repeat appearance. The photograph is by Stewart Leforte, courtesy of the Coastal Courier.

It is hoped that this abbreviated photographic section will serve several purposes: to show the value of photos as records of confirmation; to promote the use of bird recording on film; to promote interest among birders in submitting photos to the NSBS for publication.

Ralph Connor

garden, Oct. 18, and smaller flocks continued to pause here and there through November: 24 on the 10th in Bridgewater (TW), 26 the 13th in Yarmouth (EK), 15 plus occasionally at Liverpool (RSJ). Early one October morning Stewart Whitman says he heard one "singing", and again that evening, in Bridgetown.

The BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD probably does not belong in this report; fifteen sightings mention remarkably few of these birds, the largest flocks were 100 plus, Nov. 5, at Black River, Kings Co. (BLF) and 40-50 seen at Chebogue Point Dec. 6 (CKRA).

At least 13 SCARLET TANGERS were scattered over our landscape this summer and fall: seen in August at Smith's Cove and Maccan (AKR, James M); in September at Seal Is., (MacLarens), at Brier Is., (FLL), Green Bay, Lun. Co., Halifax and the Dartmouth Piggery (JSC, JLC, JM); in October at Economy (FH) Halifax (FH), Seal Is., (SJF, EHC), and in West Pubnico, 1, a female, Nov. 9, (DJdE). Brilliant as these birds may be, they were rivalled this season in provoking enthusiasm by the six reports of SUMMER TANGERS, not so bright as the Scarlets, but very beautiful birds in their own way. The fortunate viewers were the Cohrs and the Purchases at Petite Riviere, the George Kennys, Hazel Williamson and the Fred Nickersons in Yarmouth, Eric Mills and Ian McLaren and most of their party on Seal Is., Oct. 8, (all sightings were in October, from the 8th to the 13th); the other sighting, Oct. 8, 2 males at Middle West Pubnico, by Lester D'Eon, Ted D'Eon, Delisle d'Entremont, Albert A. d'Entremont and E&V Hamilton.

GROSBEAKS AND FINCHES

The pair of CARDINALS that wintered at the Bruce Saunder' in Hebron, Yar. Co., was driven away from there by Mockingbirds in the spring. This pair (it seems safe to assume it was this pair, but may have been a new two birds) settled near Yarmouth town, seen there one or the other or both, late in the season at feeders: Oct. 16, Henry Ross; Oct. 23, Margaret Nickerson, Oct. 26-30, Marion Hilton; Nov. 12, Van Killam, Nov. 8, Marcy Rogers. A third Cardinal, probably an immature was also seen accompanying the female at times (MWH, Oct. 28-29). At Pubnico, 30 miles away, 2 female Cardinals were seen in June (KA on the golf course), then in October, (12th) one bird at Lr. West Pubnico (DJd'E) and for most of the month of November, a male and a female feeding regularly at dusk at the Edgar Hamiltons'. Two other Cardinals have been reported, a female on Lakeview Ave., Dartmouth, Nov. 16; and a female, in a Halifax garden, Nov. 12, 13, 16 and 25 (JSC).

Sixteen reports of the ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK account for 55 individual birds of this species. Starting in Cape Breton in June they pretty well cover the province, and extend to mid-November. Two migrants had arrived on Sable,

Aug. 22 (AR); flocks of 6-12 were seen in the woods nearby the Morses in Paradise, Sept. 27 and thereafter, 3 immature at Cape Sable, Sept. 23, one killed against the window; around 13 on Seal Is., late August - early September, peaking, Sept. 1-2; up to 4 at the Dartmouth Piggery in early October, with many immatures noted elsewhere in that month, and one bright male still lingering at a feeder in Yarmouth, seen there Nov. 3-11 by Van Killam.

A young male BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK was seen in company with three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at the Piggery on Oct. 13, by Shirley Cohrs and James McLaren "Dark orange head, large white wing flashes, diagnostic yellow on the belly and yellow underwings". Three BLUE GROSBEAKS can be added to this fall's list of rarities; 1, Sept. 1, a female at the West Light, Cape Sable (ELM), 1, Sept. 23, at the Piggery (IAM, JM, Steve Manuel) and 1, Oct. 8 on Seal Is. (IAM). The INDIGO BUNTING, well reported here in spring, was seen in a few places this fall; 1, Sept. 30 at the Piggery (one seen there Oct. 14 may be the same, but not necessarily); 1, Oct. 5, at Hartlen Pt., Hfx. Co., (FLL); 1, Oct. 8 at Green Bay (JS&JLC); 1, Oct. 14 at Seal, and 5 on the same day at Port LaTour, females and or immatures - "very common in Shel. Co., this fall" (GDP, RMT); up to 30, Oct. 6-9 at Seal Is., Oct. 19-21, 5 there and 1, Oct. 21 at Lr. Economy (FH). Our usual small migration of DICKCISSELS was up to strength this fall, the first one seen late August at Seal Is., one in September (28th) at Brier Is., (FLL); in Oct, 2, on the 21st, 4 on the 24th at Lr. West Pubnico (DJdE, TCdE); also up to 4 on Seal, Oct. 6-9; one left there Oct. 19-21 (STF, EHC); and in November, one still left at Lr. West Pubnico, Nov. 3; 2, Nov. 4, at Lockeport, seen by George Perry who wrote: "one or two immatures and/or females at my feeder most of November"; 3, Nov. 23, down to 1, Nov. 30, Cliff St., Yarmouth (EK), and 1, Nov. 25, Dartmouth (JS&JLC).

The EVENING GROSBEAKS came back about on time this year, around the end of October (of the 20-odd reports for that month, most were from Oct. 26-30). A few had been seen or heard earlier, and the flocks which finally came in were small, most of them around 30 birds. Distribution was general, with every county heard from. Ten reports in November were of slightly larger flocks, 40-50, and one curious sighting was of a single bird, a female, which flew aboard the CSS "Dawson", south of Brown's Bank on the edge of the Northeast Channel (ELM). As usual, these Grosbeaks have not settled down as yet, but still rove in flocks, with brief visits at feeders.

The PURPLE FINCH was rated regular to "common" throughout the summer, 1979, in Cape Breton (SM), Mooseland (WT), Lunenburg Co. (CHC) and Yarmouth Co., (MWH, CRKA). It was sparsely reported throughout September, and October, 1-4 birds per sighting, also generally distributed, Wine Harbor (GM), Antigonish (SPF, RDC), Pictou Co. (EAC) and Cape Sable (SS). Only a handful has been reported for Nov., the largest number "a mixed flock, Antigonish, Nov. 4", by Roland Chaisson. It was late appearing last winter, well

into March; like the above species, we call these finches "unreliable", but do not know what governs their movements, which are not migrations in the usual sense; we must take them and enjoy them as they come.

As for the PINE GROSBEAK, its migration is probably imperceptible, if any from here (have we ever seen a Pine Grosbeak on Seal Is.?) but it becomes more "visible" this time of year, probably young birds looking for the flock. We have had the usual small number of reports of sightings September through November, Cape Breton to Yarmouth, to reassure us of its presence, neither over abundant as it was a few years ago, nor scarce.

Distribution of the PINE SISKIN, another unreliable finch, is very unequal. We have only six reports of sightings, most to the west, as you might say. "Very common through summer" at Lr. Economy (FH), 15 in a flock, Oct. 12 at Brown's Mtn., At. Co. (SPF), 20 plus, on Caribou Is., Oct. 8 Pictou Co. (EAC), 11, Sept. 18 at Round Hill, Anna. Co. (WEW), and only two seen by Bruce Mactavish on Brier Is., Sept. 18-26. Aside from two seen in the summer in Cape Breton (SM) and "Few and far between in the fall in the New Ross area" (KNK) that is all the Siskins we have to report.

The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH was abundant all summer, with young birds reported in September by Ruth Hebb at Marriott's Cove and Terry Hyson at Bridgetown. The latter part of this month the number of Goldfinches dropped sharply, in New Ross (KNK) and Yarmouth (MWH,PRD), but on Brier Is., Bruce Mactavish found 100, Sept. 18, 175 Sept. 20, 150 Sept. 21, and 100, Sept 24--a nice departing migratory "peak". Our only October report, 15 from Seal Is.: "influx of around 30 on Oct. 9". There have been some further movements, "on Brier Is., about 300 moving through the trees with some Evening Grosbeaks, Nov. 11" (RBS), and a flock of 200 plus at Lr. Economy as of Nov. 23 (FH).

There are three reports only of the RED CROSSBILL; 35 plus, Aug. 25, in the Crousetown woods (JL&JSC); 3, Nov. 1 at Round Hill (WEW), and about 20-30 throughout August at Marriott's Cove (RDH). The WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL is slightly more numerous, with several summer sightings of small flocks or singles: "flocks of 5, Oct. 5, 12, Oct. 17, at Marriott's Cove; 8-10 at Eel Brook, Sept. 22 (PRD), and another (possibly the same) of 10-12, Oct. 12, at Robert's Is., (PRD). With the cone crop so poor this year we may see even less of these birds for a while, too bad.

A late spring record of a RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE comes from Peter Hope, who observed an adult male, June 18, in Kejimikujik Park, the second record for the Park (the first in 1971) Fall records of this bird were of 4, Oct. 6-9 at Seal Is.; 1, Oct. 19 at the Dartmouth Piggery; 1, Nov. 13, 17, a female in a Halifax garden (Cohrs) and 1, Nov. 25-26, a female at the feeder at #170, Eel Brook.

An interesting observation of the "IPSWICH" SPARROW was of a male, singing "on territory" in dry beach grass at Lr. Three Fathom Harbour, June 10, (ELM). It was not found there in July, but on July 6, at Martinique Beach, a male was seen with a female Savannah, feeding fledgelings. This This male Ipswich was the first of this sex found nesting on the mainland by IAM. Others of this race were found along the shore in fall migration, from Cherry Hill to Hartlen Point, Eastern Shore, Taylor Head and Pennant, 18-19 of them, by IAM and the Cohrs. The SAVANNAH SPARROW proper, common all summer in expectable places, left in September, the largest flocks noted, 25-30, Sept. 7, at Sunday Point, Yarmouth (MWH) and 30-40, Sept. 25 at Round Hill (WEW). A scattered few were noted after that, the last one on Nov. 20 at Chebogue Pt. (PRD).

As usual, Seal Is., attracted the GRASSHOPPER SPARROW this fall, up to 6 found there Oct. 6-9 by the party on the island. One other was found later, on Oct. 28, at Taylor Head, Hfx. Co. (IAM,ELM, et al.).

The SHARP-TAILED SPARROW did arrive in June, and was plentiful and noisy (in its own peculiar way) through July and August, in the salt marshes. It is curious that in migration this little sparrow is often found in what seems most unsuitable habitat. This September, Eric Mills found "7 plus, Sept. 16, in a raspberry thicket at the end of Hemeon Head", and Bruce Mactavish and Fulton Lavender found a Sharptail in a dry field at Brier Is., on Sept. 23. There was only one report after that, of three of these birds at Hartlen Point, Oct. 15 (FLL). Then they were gone again.

This same observer (Fulton Lavender) found an unusual sparrow on Eastern Passage Beach and sent in a description strongly suggestive of the SEASIDE SPARROW, seen there on Aug. 16. Almost as much to be classed as a rarity these days is the VESPER SPARROW, with only two sightings on the mainland this fall, both in Kings Co., Oct. 11 and 17 (BLF), 7 seen "in various places" in Cape Breton in July (SM). The LARK SPARROW was seen just as often: 1, Sept. 15-16 at Tidnish Dock, Cumb. Co., on the NSBS Field Trip; 1, Sept. 16 at Little Harbor, Shel. Co. (GDP,RMT); 1, Sept 23, Comeau's Hill Road, Yar. Co. (B&ER), 1, Sept. 28, Seal Is. (ELM party); 1, Sept. 18 & 20, Brier Is., and again 1 Sept. 27, by BDM and FLL, also 1 banded there by Ross Anderson in mid-September, all three apparently different birds-the first two not banded.

The DARK-EYED JUNCO was generally our most abundant sparrow, and still is, among our few remaining birds this fall. In Cape Breton there were five reports, with "100s in places noted in September" (SM); floods of immatures appeared in August, widely noted, with waves of migration in September and October but flocks of 6-12 left at many feeders, probably to stay the winter.

Our arctic Spizella, the TREE SPARROW, was first seen Oct. 28, at the Dartmouth Piggery (FLL,JS&JLC), and in the following two weeks had spread (albeit thinly) via Lr.

Economy, Antigonish, and Round Hill to Yarmouth-"common" only at Lr. Economy (FH,WEW,SPF,RDC,MWH,MAN). The CHIPPING SPARROW was well reported and numerous on appropriate territory; started moving out in August, (when casuals appeared in Yar. Co., at Chegoggin, Eel Brook and Pubnico) and in September there were up to 16 on Seal, larger flocks as usual on Brier, 75, Sept. 22 and 150, Sept. 27, this latter on Digby Neck (BDM). Numbers built up in the south in October, with 30-40 seen at Port Maitland, Oct. 11, around 70 on Seal Is., Oct. 6-9. The fall flocks so common along the roadsides, which "flare up" as each passing car goes by were smaller and fewer this year than last, along old Rte. 3 in Yar. Co., but some stayed into November, one immature in Yarmouth town until Nov. 25 (EK) and a very late Chippie at Argyle Head, Dec. 7 (PRD). (Definitely not a Tree Sparrow). As for the FIELD SPARROW, last in this group, we have one report per month, August through November: 1, Sydney, Aug:14 (HH); -1, "arrived, Sable Is.", Sept. 5 (ELM); up to 8 arrived at Seal Is., Oct. 1 (IAM) and 1, Nov. 1, at Albro Lake, Dartmouth (FLL).

In the next group, the WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW went through in September and October, but in quite small numbers this year: 1-2 at Brier Is., Sept. 22-30 (BDM,FLL), the rest in October, starting with 1, Oct. 3, at Cape Sable (SS), the others mostly in Yar. Co.: 2 at Argyle, 1 at Tusket, 2 at Chegoggin Shore, 3 at Chebogue Point and up to 15 on Seal Is., Oct. 6-9, including one gambelli on Oct. 9 (IAM). Three others were seen near Dartmouth and one in Ann. Co., in October (FLL,MPSB). Our WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, so abundant on the Breeding Bird Surveys, almost disappears from view in the summer. From August on, a few may be encountered, and this year a good number showed up in October, 15-20 during that month at the President's house, 12 Crest Ave., and Keith Keddy wrote "Appeared to begin their movement early in October (Oct. 7, New Ross)... where abundant at Russell Lake on Oct. 19, common around bushy edges in New Ross Oct. 21, and still abundant on Oct. 22 at the Dartmouth Piggery. They had diminished somewhat when I visited the Piggery on Nov. 1, but were still common." Others mention this location deserted by the end of that month. However, Shirley Cohrs gives us a delightful and typical picture to close the season: On Nov. 16 at Green Bay "amongst the half-drowned alders to-day was a little band of Whitethroats. The leader, a male, was in superb plumage - bright yellow lores, immaculate white throat and fine coloring on the back. With much chipping and flitting from branch to branch, he really seemed to be in charge of the little flock of seven and even essayed three little songs, very quiet and low, but quite clear and gallant".

There was a very small migration of FOX SPARROWS this fall, about fifty birds in all seen, and most of those (30) at the Dartmouth Piggery, on Nov. 1 (FLL). These had built up from about 6 there, Oct. 22 (KNK), 19 on Oct. 10 (IAM) (JL&JSC). Without that rich and fragrant bit of feeding ground we might have missed the fall movement altogether.

There were singles encountered here and there, two in Cape Breton, two in Halifax, one at Hammonds' Plains, one at Annapolis, one at Pubnico and one at Eel Brook, these all seen between Oct. 20 and Nov. 20. Multiple sightings may have meant the same bird often, or several in the same place, no indication was given.

Like the Whitethroat, the LINCOLN'S SPARROW was abundant on the BBS in its proper nesting territory, but seldom seen throughout the summer, only ten reports received. An early migrant arrived on Sable Is., Sept. 5 (ELMO, the first on Seal, Sept. 1, with up to 13 there by Oct. 6-9 (IAM). A very late one was seen Nov. 18, at Antigonish Landing (RDC,SPF). The SWAMP SPARROW was widely reported from June on, with small gatherings in August, first migrants in September (peaked at the Piggery, the end of Sept. IAM) more such noted in October, up to 23 on Seal, Oct. 6-9. One very late one at Russell Lake, Nov. 11(JSC). The SONG SPARROW remained our commonest song bird along the roadsides all summer and well into the fall. They were still abundant at Russell Lake, Sept. 30, thought by KNK to be the peak there, but still "common" there Oct. 19, also at Cherry Hill and on Robert's Is., mid-October, only a few left in these places (and others) by the end of that month. Reporters note very few stragglers left at feeders this fall. The Oct 11 bird at Robert's Is., was in song, certainly the country has fallen silent since these sparrows have gone.

The first LAPLAND LONGSPUR put down on Cape Sable, Sept. 23 (BJS), two days ahead of the 5 on Brier Is. (FLL,BDM). The five had risen to 15 by Sept. 28; there were 20 plus at Cherry Hill, Sept. 29 (JL&JSC) and the first one arrived on Seal Is., Sept. 30 - but 15 that day (Sept 30) on Mahoney's Beach near Antigonish (RDC). To continue their far from orderly arrival times and places, the next were the 32 seen at Eastern Passage and along the shore there Oct. 14, (IAM), then 5 plus at Cherry Hill, Oct. 15 (S&D), 19, Oct. 21, at Cape Sable again, 100 plus, Nov. 3, at Cherry Hill, 3, Nov. 5, at Chebogue, and 2, Nov 25, beside the Argyle River. One lone SNOW BUNTING, Oct. 15, at Cherry Hill, was the first to be seen this fall, by Sylvia Fullerton. The next two sightings were on Oct. 21, 2 at Cape Sable (BJS) and 1 at Canso Barrens, Guys. Co. (IAM). They next appeared in Yarmouth, Digby and Queens Cos., and finally in November, reports became general in distribution, and flocks became of usual size, 15-160. Eric Mills had another sea-going report of two Snow Buntings at the ship, Nov. 6, near 42°31'N, 66°03'W (SW of Brown's Bank near the edge of the continental shelf). Ashore, these birds have not stayed around for long, so far no December sightings. Hope is that some will be around for the Christmas Counts.

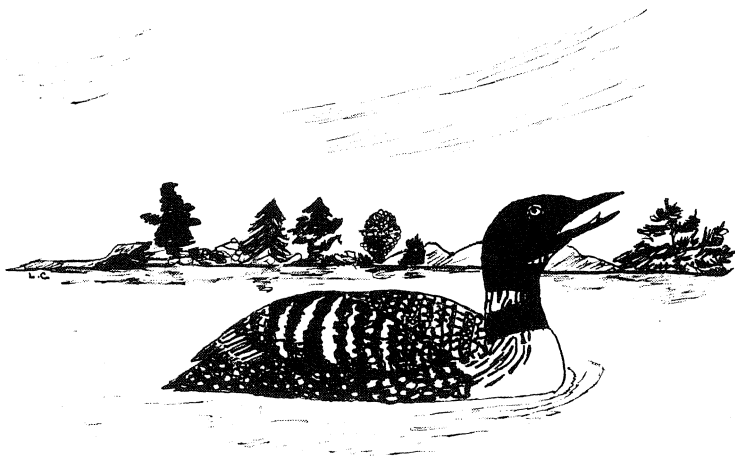
BIRDWATCHING AT A SUMMER COTTAGE

by Wendie Tay

Mooseland is relatively unknown to most Nova Scotians. The name conjures up a picture of abundant wild life roaming virgin forests. Once upon a time that was true. Today here, as elsewhere, man has made changes. However, there is still plenty of wildlife and numerous birds.

Luckily for us, we have a cottage on the Mooseland road. While we birdwatch the entire Eastern Shore, the spot we know and love the most is the area nearest the cottage. With two small children, we cannot always go for long trips, so whenever we have an hour to spare, we simply go for a short walk and are nearly always rewarded.

In Spring, the first birds to return are the Tree Swallows. In the cold, damp miserable days of Nova Scotia Spring when one begins to think that this year Winter is really going to stay, these colourful acrobats arrive to brighten spirits and renew hopes for finer days ahead. They are followed fairly quickly by the Barn Swallows. These are our two breeding swallows and they are abundant; in fact, long before we realized that we were Birders, we named our cottage "Swallow Hollow".



Throughout the summer we never tire of watching these incredible flyers snatch insects from within one millimetre of the surface of the water, (also it is gratifying to note that each of these birds consumes approximately one pound of insects per summer). Chimney Swifts are seen occasionally in spring and summer, and always in autumn.

The true name of this area should not be Mooseland, but Warblerland. At a guess, I would say that the warblers outnumber the moose by about 8603 to 1, in summer (in winter it would be closer to 1 to 1). It is difficult to be sure which warbler arrives first, but more often it is the Yellow-rump. They arrive attired in their Sunday best and singing like angels. They are usually our most common warbler. Secon place, both in numbers and arrival time, are the beautiful Redstarts. Some years they are in first place.

These two (really four) beautiful birds can be seen almost any time throughout the summer. Third place is difficult to award to any one warbler. It would be between Magnolia, Blackpoll, Yellowthroat or Yellow. All of these lovely songsters are fairly common. Each year a different one predominates. Less commonly, we see Canada, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian and both Kinglets. More rarely we see Tennessee, Bay-breasted, Nashville, Wilson, Cape May, and Chestnut-sided Warblers. If we lived here, rather than week-ended, I doubt that there is a warbler we would not see. These happy, vivacious little birds are so difficult to identify, that when we first began birding we wanted to ignore them. Their numbers and their beauty would not allow that. In spring, just when we begin to get some confidence, the leaves come out and Warblers love to be concealed in leaves. Just as we begin to see through the leaves, alas, they decide to put on their autumn coats. It is difficult to identify the male and female in Spring, but many become two entirely different birds in Fall. Usually the immature is different again and finally there are all the in between stages. The Warblers are really difficult but they keep us stimulated. For every three we see that we feel good about, we see one that we are not sure of. Recently, I decided to take up photography so we could get help, but if they are difficult to identify, they are nearly impossible to photograph.

Our area is also very attractive to the Thrushes. Hermits and Swainsons were everywhere this past Summer, and the Grey-cheeked and Robin were never difficult to find.

The White-throated Sparrow has become very dear to us. He is our commonest Sparrow. We never tire of admiring his gorgeous head colouring. He is thoughtful enough to prefer perching at the very tip-top of evergreen trees. His other favourite spot is on the ground in low bushes looking for bugs. This makes such a noise that over and over he fools us into expecting to see a grouse. We also have many song sparrows to please our eyes and ears, both day and night.

We love the Juncos. They are very common nesting on the ground very near cottages. The young always give us trouble in July as they look like young Sparrows, bearing no resemblance to a Junco.

Grackles, Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds are common in Summer. Evening Grosbeaks, Bluejays, Greyjays and both types of Chickadees are with us all year, giving them a special place in our hearts.

Other small birds that we see regularly include Purple Finches, American Goldfinches, all of our Flycatchers, Kingfishers, Catbirds, Ovenbirds and Eastern Kingbirds.

Spruce Grouse are seen occasionally but Ruffed Grouse are quite common all Summer. It is not at all unusual to see mother with ten or twelve chicks following her, playing in the leaves. When our four year old noticed this the first time, he ran excitedly to tell us that Mother Goose and her babies were in the yard, a good description.

Special mention must go to the Nighthawks. They are the last to return and the first to go, but they are so welcome. They rival the Swallows in flying agility and probably in consumed insects. Our relative numbers of this bird is high, but it varies dramatically from year to year and appears to be decreasing.

Because of our wooded location, Woodpeckers are very common. We see all of those which are found in Nova Scotia. This past Summer, a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers nested in the area. While we never found the nest, each week-end we saw or heard them in the same area. Although previously we have seen the elusive "Cock of the Woods" at least once a year, this was the first time we saw them regularly. We did find and follow the successful nest of an Arctic Black-backed Woodpecker.

Naturally one expects to see Hawks here. While not seen commonly, we do see a variety: Marsh, Goshawk, Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Broad-winged, Rough-legged and Bald Eagles have all been spotted. Kestrels are seen regularly, but it is the Osprey who loves to fish in our lake. These birds are truly magnificent to watch. One drifts lazily very high in the air, barely moving a feather; suddenly, down, down, down, like an arrow-- SPLASH, up he comes, struggling fish in talon and soars gracefully downriver.

Owls are heard by all, seen by others, caught in rabbit snares, but alas, none of us have ever seen one.

We certainly do get our share of occasional sightings and we get our share of rarities, the best of which was a Leach's Petrel, seen last Summer, in apparently good health, on our lake ten miles inland. I would like to tell about each and every bird we have ever seen, but I can only hope that I have said enough to make everybody want to birdwatch on the Mooseland Road.

To conclude, I must confess that we cannot brag about our ducks, in spite of what should be an excellent location. We see a few but none regularly. However, my story would be incomplete if I did not mention my favourite bird. Each year the beautiful "Messengers of Glooscap" return to our lake at the earliest opportunity to breed and raise their young. Throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall, these Loons are seen and heard, day and night. Their lonely and hauntingly beautiful calls are unique and I think to each of us, their very presence indicates what we love about Nova Scotia, and Mooseland is a very special part of our fair Province.



1955 - 1980



This is our 25th anniversary as the Nova Scotia Bird Society -- let's make it special. We already have plans for outings, lectures, a founders' reception, a commemorative issue of the Newsletter, and a course on introductory bird identification. You might have your own special project for this year, say, to maintain a winter bird feeder (plans available at the museum); or to make a year's list of birds seen in some small area such as your garden or local playground; or to give someone a bird book or record, or even a membership in NSBS; or to take a youngster or neighbour on a field trip with you; or...

You will be hearing about the various 25th anniversary activities throughout the year. One of the first will be the lecture series to be held at the Nova Scotia Museum at 8 p.m. on the following Wednesday evenings:

Feb. 13	Eric Mills	There's more to birding than meets the eye (The secret life of Nova Scotia's birds)
March 12	Ian McLaren	The pursuit of the rare, obscure, and elusive
April 9	Martin Edwards	Birdwatching around the world
Oct. 8	Katherine McKeever	Saving Owls
Nov. 12	Charlie Allen	Birding - Feast or Famine

The founders' reception will be held in the fall and the commemorative issue will appear in the spring. Detailed information on the course and the outings is included elsewhere in this issue.

LOOK FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY "SPECIALS"
MARKED



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

JUNE 2 and 3 - KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK

The weekend of June 2 - 3 was especially interesting to some 20 birders and field naturalists who spent their time at Kejimkujik National Park. We met at the Park Information Centre on Saturday morning and Peter Hope led us through various parts of the park checking out the birds, ferns, shrubs, toads...in other words, all the flora and fauna to be found in the many different habitats encompassed by the Park boundaries. Nothing spectacular but some firsts for certain participants, plus a couple of nests, made the walking worthwhile.

Saturday evening we drove to several localities where there should have been owls--sad to say, they were not obviously present. We did, however, enjoy the sight of many deer, does and young, browsing along the wood-edges of the park roads while we listened to the trilling of the toads.

The weekend weather was delightful and we were able to spend Sunday canoeing on Kejimkujik Lake and West River, going ashore on some of the islands and banks of the river, to examine the unique geological and vegetative features of the district. Eating lunch in our canoes, nestled in the reeds at the edge of the river, while we watched the acrobatics of the Swifts--that's living!

The total count for bird species was over forty--not many, but good sightings--and a most informative and enjoyable weekend.

Joyce Purchase

JUNE 17 - WOLFVILLE RIDGE

All eleven birders seemed to forget how hot it was on June 17, as we had a look at some interesting nests. The outing started with several nests behind my house on Wolfville Ridge. These were the nests of a Blue Jay, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo with a Cowbird egg, White-throated Sparrow, Veery with a Cowbird egg, Hummingbird, Redstart, Catbird, and Alder Flycatcher. There was also a Mourning Warbler singing and several of us got quick glimpses of him in the alders.

Next we drove to Newtonville, and saw the nests of a Solitary Vireo, Barred Owl, Goshawk, Pileated Woodpecker, and listened to the songs of several Blackburnian Warblers high in the hemlocks. After a lunch break we visited a large Bank Swallow colony and a Kingfisher tunnel in a gravel pit.

Then we were off to Black River for a look at the nests of a Broad-winged Hawk and a Sharp-shinned Hawk. The final nest of the day was that of a Long-eared Owl at Canard, where we got a little muddy going through a swamp. However, it was worth the effort as most of the group had several firsts for their lists. It is possible to learn a lot about birds by observing nests as long as the proper care is taken not to harm them.

Bernard Forsythe

JULY 7 - ECONOMY

On July 7th, approximately 35 birders gathered at Bass River for the start of the "Cobequid Shore" field trip. Members from Halifax, Truro, Amherst, New Glasgow, Annapolis and Sackville, N. B., were present. To most, this was a new area known only through the reports of hosts Francis Spalding and Frank Hennessey. Glooscap smiled on us as we set out to explore his home territory. Clear skies, warm temperatures and light winds made for superb conditions. Three parties explored the shoreline and the Cobequid Hills in the Economy area. Perhaps surprisingly, Economy is derived from the Micmac "Kenomee", meaning "a long point of land stretching out into the water". Economy Point, a possible site for Fundy power, was one of the highlights. After lunch at the Five Islands Provincial Park, the feature of the afternoon was a visit to Economy Falls, a beautiful two-part falls, located about five miles north of Economy. The day yielded a list of 84 birds. Nineteen species of Wood Warblers were noted and several participants were pleased to get outstanding looks at both Mourning Warblers and Bay-breasted Warblers.

A fitting conclusion to the day was the fish chowder and strawberry shortcake supper, held at the home of Frank and Nan Hennessey in Lower Economy. Many thanks must go to Chef Gordon Dearnaley and his able assistants, Nancy Cousins, Nan Hennessey, and Betty Spalding. In summary, a successful day was aided by fine weather and the typically co-operative birds of Economy.

Frank Hennessey

JUNE 23 - BIRD ISLAND TRIP

Bird Watchers from Australia, Scotland, Tennessee and Massachusetts, in the States, from Lavel, Quebec and from London, Ontario, as well as from Halifax and from various points in Cape Breton, attended the Bird Island Boat Trip on Saturday, under the auspices of the Cape Breton branch of the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

The group gathered about nine in the morning and in spite of dull weather and a slight breeze, about thirty real good sailors boarded the Sea Wolf for the three hour trip out to and around the Bird Islands, Cibou and Hertford, to view the nesting seabirds with their fledglings. Expertly manoeuvred by the two oldest boys in the Van Schaik family, proprietors of Mountain-View Lodge, the Sea Wolf made a fast run to the Island, then slowly made her way to the far end of the second island, returning on the same side, due to rough conditions on the ocean side of the rocky projections, with their moving 'umbrella' of seabirds. Cormorants, sitting awkwardly on the topmost points, Razor-billed Auks, and Puffins tucked neatly in every small opening in the rocky faces, Black-backed and Herring Gulls along with a few Black-legged Kittiwakes, Puffins and Guillemots were sighted by the delighted passengers. Perhaps most colourful were the Puffins with their monstrous and brightly coloured beaks, and the Guillemots, small black birds with distinctive black-and-white wings and bright red feet tucked while flying, just at the tail edge. These have gained the name of the "butterfly-of-the-sea" and they do resemble butterflies as they skim along close to the wave-tops. A few swallows, Starlings, and one lone Murre were also viewed.

One Boreal Chick-a-dee was sighted by the Tennesee couple, a first on their list, on the grounds of the Mountain-View Lodge, where a delicious lunch of chowder and strawberry shortcake was served by Mrs. Van Schaik and her daughters, assisted by a friend. Heavy rain, which fell during the lunch hour, cut the day's outing short, and instead of making the usual exploratory trip round New Harris and adjacent area, the birdwatchers returned to their homes, well pleased with a most enjoyable outing.

Edith MacLeod

AUGUST 4 - FULLER'S BRIDGE

The Cape Breton group had a field trip to Fuller's Bridge, a good shore-bird area, on August 4th. It was a beautiful, hot, calm, cloudy day, and we dallied along the way watching the birds feasting on the red elder berries--Cedar Waxwings, Redwings, Grackles, even a few Siskins. We lingered so long at Gabarus, where the Terns were feeding their young ones and the Cormorants were fishing, that we only got as far as the Gabarus breakwater when starvation overtook us. Nothing like an early start and a few romps in and out of wood roads to spur the bird watchers' appetites. After lunch at the picnic tables there, we trailed off to Forchu. An interesting place, because that is where we saw the Red-throated Loon and a nice flock of Common Scoters. Seals were basking on the rocks of one of the small islets.

The late Willetts and early Black-bellied Plovers were mingled at Fuller's Bridge, interspersed with little twilicks of several kinds--Semi-palmated Sandpipers mostly, but with a few other species as well. Black Ducks were in the distance. They were kept away by the many clam-digging parties on the flats. However, a nice little family of ducklings sauntered across the highway as we were leaving for home. They must have hatched rather late as they were not very big.

This is a wild rugged shore, very barren country, but these areas have a savage charm of their own; rather like the Lawrencetown beach where we went on the field trip the day of the Annual Meeting. Bake-apple barrens and black spruce bogs have their own beauty.

There were nineteen people in the party and we counted 49 species of birds.

Sara MacLeod

SEPTEMBER 1 and 2 - BRIER ISLAND

The annual trek to Brier Island continues to attract birders from all over the province and further afield. The weather was perfect with warm, sunny days and clear starlit nights.

Those who drove the Digby Neck route on Friday afternoon observed the numerous Eastern Kingbirds, hawks, and swallows gathered on wires along the way. Around each campsite that evening, the birds flitted in and out of the trees. Thus the guessing game began--to distinguish the immatures from

the matures in changing plumage.

Saturday was a full and busy day. The large group that met at the cemetery at Peajack Road was divided into two parties with Eric Cooke taking us to Long Pond in search of shore birds, while Roger Pocklington lead the rest to the land bird territory at the north end of the island. Those who were with Eric were rewarded with an exceptional close-up of a Stilt Sandpiper and were able to see how it differed in colour from other shore birds.

Following a lunch break we gathered at the ferry wharf for the Pelagic trip that left at 1 p.m. Three boats, with approximately eighteen birders per boat headed out to the shoals in search of seabirds. The young couple from New York who had come to see Red Phalaropes were not disappointed as that was about all that was seen! One or two Puffins, Shearwaters and Kittiwakes were spotted and then not by those on all three boats. Not even a whale was seen, but the "Captain" of the boat I was on, spotted a *Sea Turtle* and we were fortunate to have a good look before it disappeared. The turtle seemed to be about the same size as the one caught in fishermen's nets twenty years ago and that one weighed about 1400 pounds!

The gathering around the campfire ended a satisfying field trip that included lots of shore birds and land birds, but disappointing in sea bird numbers.

All the while these events were taking place, the mist net banding station set up by Ross Anderson was exceptionally busy. Those who did not observe the methods of banding on Saturday had an opportunity to visit the banding station on Sunday.

Field trips are memorable, not only for the birds seen, but for the people involved too, and Brier Island was no exception. *The travelling lady* from Australia, Marjory Byron Moore, arrived in her Land Rover, which has been her home for the last six years. She has travelled throughout Asia, Africa, Europe and arrived in May to begin her tour of Canada and the United States. Marjory was still in Nova Scotia when the Amherst-Tignish area field trip took place, so joined that also. All who came in contact with her were fascinated by her tales of travels in remote areas of Asia and Africa.

Field trips are for the birds and the birders, and our lives are enriched for our contacts with both!

Margaret A. Clark

SEPTEMBER 15 - CHETICAMP

Stormy, miserable, but rewarding, such was our annual field trip in the Cheticamp area. Once again the most dedicated birders of Cape Breton, eight in all (the Hopkins, Hussey, Cossitt, Fraser and Pleau) were at the rendez-vous. We met at the National Park Visitor Centre, had a coffee and then braved the stormy weather of the picturesque Western Cape Breton coastline.

Between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., we walked four and one half miles and drove twenty. We visited various habitats: the cobble beach at Cap Rouge, the lagoon at the mouth of the Cheticamp river, the Petit Etang and PteCross salt-water marshes, fields and stunted spruce stands.

The opening of our observation day started with an Osprey and then a soaking wet Bald Eagle searching the coastline for any dead fish or whale. Some poor Great Cormorant, wings wide opened, tried to dry up on the old Cap Rouge Wharf. For a while, it looked like all the birds had disappeared in the storm; some of our keen birders were getting a bit discouraged. However, wind and rain soon calmed down, and on the way to Petit Etang Beach we saw several birds at work: Marsh Hawks, Flickers, Ravens and Crows, Great Blue Herons. While at the beach we tasted some edible seaside plants such as: beach peas, sea-milkwort, sea-parsley, sea-blite, sea-rocket, etc. While there, we also saw two Common Loons and a few Semi-palmated Plovers. We also went to the very end of the road at Petit Etang and visited a small black spruce stand where hundreds of Yellow-rumped Warblers were feasting. We hiked to the salt-water marsh and on the way we flushed many Savannah Sparrows hidden in the Marram grass; at the marsh there were several Black Ducks, a Ring-necked Duck, two Common Mergansers and a Merlin.

Lunch time. The sky was clearing up and some of us decided to spend some time on Cheticamp Island. While there, we once again observed the noble Bald Eagle, Golden and Black-bellied Plovers, Yellowlegs, Kingfishers, Teal and a mysterious unidentified vireo!

Other birds species seen during the day were: Ruffed Grouse, Semi-palm and Spotted Sandpipers, Black-backed and Herring Gulls, Common Tern, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Robin, Yellowthroat, Grackles and Starlings, Juncos, White-throated and Song Sparrows. In all we saw 38 species, 10 less than our 1978 trip; with more than 500 individuals. The gulls came first with 200, second were the Yellow-rumped Warblers with over a hundred and third, the Savannah Sparrows with approximately 50.

Everyone went back home happy, taking along some magnificent bird stories and a bit more of the Cheticamp Acadian flavor. Come and join us next year! Thank you very much to those who came.

Cheticamp te salue

Jacques Pleau
Park Interpreter.

SEPTEMBER 16 - NORTH SHORE - TIDNISH TO WALLACE

Scattered clouds and light winds prevailed for the second half of the border region week end excursion as thirty or more birders from throughout Nova Scotia, Southern New Brunswick and Southern Ontario scoured the coast of Northumberland Strait from Tidnish to Wallace and tallied 68 species of birds.

Things got off to a roaring start with a Lark Sparrow at the first stop of the day, Tidnish Dock. The sparrow, which was a lifer for most of those present, obligingly fed in the open for over twenty minutes, allowing everyone to study it at leisure. At Linden, 2 adult Black-headed Gulls posed on the sand bars, especially pleasing our two visiting Ontario birders where the species is rarely seen.

Soon after arriving at Wallace Bay National Wildlife Area, a choice few of us were fortunate enough to witness the famous "walking-on-water" routine as performed by Fran Spaulding. Unfortunately nobody was carrying a camera to photographically document this ancient ritual, believed to have originated in the Central Economy region many centuries ago. The success of the performance was evident on Fran's beaming face as he emptied the water from his boots after flushing a Sora from the deep recesses of the marsh.

The few hardy souls who held on for the last hour of the trip were treated to a late mixed flock of swallows, 6 American Coots, a Golden Plover and 2 Redheads.

Apart from the usual problems of keeping a convoy of sixteen cars together (I swear next year we'll either tie a rope between every car or else rent a couple of Auto-Haulaway vehicle carriers), the weather and birds once again co-operated to make the trip a great success. Many thanks to all the participants.

Stuart Tingley





OCTOBER 6 - SEAL ISLAND

You know that nervous silence which follows the words in the marriage ceremony, "If anyone knows any just cause...let him now speak..."? Well, there is another which rivals that and it is the quiet which follows the abrupt stop of the friendly chug of your boat motor one hour out from harbour with the tide running and the wind rising.

It was intended to be a two and one half hour boat trip from Clark's Harbour to Seal Island for the weekend of October 6 to 8. Sixteen birders, led by Peter Hope (Ralph Connor having been fortuitously called away on business), relieved that the heavy rains and winds had ended as promised, met aboard the sturdy Cape Islander and put out with the clearing weather. Well, we didn't get to Seal Island.

Just beyond the "point of no return", our engine stopped. Our boat captain alerted the Coast Guard as soon as the problem arose and tried valiantly to get us under way again. However, we eventually found ourselves on our way back to port on the end of a tow rope behind a very smart Coast Guard vessel. Those seamen certainly know what they are doing and it was a great relief to all concerned to wave them a thankful farewell safely tucked back against the jetty. We were, at least, able to tally a variety of pelagic birds including a first for many, a Pomarine Jaeger.

After recovering over lunch--yes, we all ate heartily--we spent the afternoon at the "Hawk" (aptly names) amassing a day's total of 41 species, 5 of them hawks. We are not counting one stuffed loon which sat inexplicably at the far end of the beach. One particularly interesting feature was watching a Peregrine Falcon take his meal, a Kestrel (?), in midair, then fly directly past us with his prey.

Even though the birders, who had come from as far away as Grand Manaan and Massachusetts, were disappointed at not reaching our objective, we enjoyed the experience and most of us will try again next year.

Joyce Purchase

DECEMBER 1 - Lawrencetown and Cole Harbour

The 1979 Annual General Meeting preceeded by a field

The 1979 Annual General Meeting was preceeded by a field trip on the morning of Saturday, December 2. The weather was sunny and mild--a lovely day for late winter birding--so over fifty birders turned up. So that more terriotry could be covered and to make the group more manageable, the leader, Eric Cooke, asked Ross Anderson to take a separate party to the Cole Harbour area, while the main group proceeded to Conrads Beach and Three Fathom Harbour. It was a very enjoyable morning of birding and when the list was made at noontime, 52 species had been recorded, including several rarities. The Gadwall and Ruddy Duck at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, were lifers for many. Others were the 13 Coot, a Common Gallinule, two Long-billed Marsh Wrens and a Seaside Sparrow. Surprisingly, not a single hawk of any kind was seen. After the field trip, we all gathered at Lawrence-town Community Center for a fish chowder lunch, followed by the Annual General Meeting.

Eric Cooke

SINCE THE SEAL ISLAND TRIP (SIC) WAS SO INTERESTING (!)
WE ARE PRINTING ANOTHER ACCOUNT WE RECEIVED, TOGETHER
WITH PHOTOS



Joyce Purchase and Thelma
Bowers enjoy the prospect of
being rescued



L to R: Shirley Brothers, Francis Cooke,
Millie Rodgers, Jim Meagher, Bill Caudle and
Jim Wolford (seated) endure the ordeal.

ADVENTURE AFLOAT

On Saturday, October 6, around 7:00 a.m., nineteen members of the Bird Society, full of plans for a weekend on Seal Island, met at Ron Kenney's boat in Clarks Harbour. We departed from the wharf just before 7:30 despite a strong SW wind and the tide, which was running strongly into the Bay of Fundy. Ron figured that we would reach Seal Island and he would be well on his back before the tide turned and things got rough. He did allow that it might be a bit choppy, which when translated, turned out to be 6 foot high waves. It wasn't long before some of the group turned a little grey and were observed leaning over the rail - counting jellyfish perhaps.

In a bit over an hour we had passed Bon Portage Island and were about 3 miles west of it. A quick look around made me quite certain that Jim Wolford would have preferred to be on Bon Portage with the contingent of birders from Acadia University. Then the engine quit! There wasn't much notice; the power decreased for a few seconds and then the engine stopped. Ron rummaged around with the engine beneath the floor boards and finally got it restarted. The boat proceeded onward for about 5 minutes before the engine quit again. I think it was at that moment that the dorsal fin of a large shark was seen on the surface about 75 yards away. Thankfully it had been a few years since I saw the movie "Jaws".

For over an hour we would drift for a while, then Ron would get the engine going and for a few minutes we would cruise along - then nothing. It was finally concluded that the fuel pump was gone, and despite a radio discussion with friends ashore, no solution could be found. Ron had called the Coast Guard earlier and they were underway but now he called again informing them that we had drifted much farther up the bay. By this time, the waves were up to 8 feet - or was it just my imagination that things were getting worse. Oh yes; Roger Pocklington shared my ill feelings. He muttered a curse about Jolly Miller orange drink and then leaned over the rail. Along about this time, someone actually saw a bird - at least they said it was a bird - confirmations were vague as to whether it was a gull, a fulmar or a Kittiwake, but since they were all birds, I for one was satisfied that our trip was a success.

Later a Pomarine Jaeger came right up to the boat. I never knew they liked carrion for I imagine by then there were many of us who looked more dead than alive.

Some time later, and just before I could remember a complete verse of "The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner", a vessel was seen approaching. Ah, rescue at last! Men and women cheered as a Coast Guard Cutter with flag flying arrived just like a troop of Cavalry - "in the nick of time." Boy what a recruiting film it would have made as the cutter knifed its way through the waves, crew standing upright, looking well and efficient, and their engine definitely sounding full of life.

We hitched onto a rope and took off under tow faster than we had come out. It was just like a "Nantucket Sleigh Ride", complete with one wave which washed about a foot of water right over us. (I, being a pessimist, waited for the next wave to roll 3 feet of green water over our deck.) At this time, my senses were running wild as the waves seemed to be 9 to 10 feet high. I also remember Jim Wolford looking more dead than any corpse!

About 11:45 a.m. we arrived back at the wharf in Clarks Harbour where Ron Kenney's son greeted us. He said he knew we were the ones being towed in as Ron's boat was the only one that went out that day!

Peter Hope

Don Purchase photographs the Coast Guard Cutter as it comes to our rescue



The cutter has us under tow at last !



STEAM CLEAN WHALE

Those members who were on Brier Island for the 1977 President's Field Day, will no doubt remember encountering the carcass mentioned above the road to the North Light. They will NEVER forget the smell!

The saga of the stinky carcass finally ended Tuesday as a crane and two divers hoisted the skeleton of a 62-foot finback whale from Toronto harbor.

The skeleton will be taken to the Ontario Science Centre after scientists complete a two-year process to remove the foul odor from the bones which were picked up on a Nova Scotia beach in 1977.

Scientists, interested in preserving the skeleton, went to Nova Scotia two years ago and cut off all the meat, boiled the bones and shipped them here.

However, when it arrived the skeleton had such a foul smell it was buried in the ground for a year.

When it was dug up, the stink was still there so the skeleton was hauled onto the roof of the Science Centre and left to bleach in the hot sun for the summer in hopes the stink would disappear.

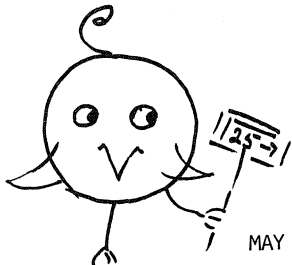
It didn't.

Finally, it was decided to sink the skeleton in the harbour for a year in one last effort to rid it of the smell.

That apparently successful process ended Tuesday.

After steam cleaning, the bones will be mounted in fibreglass to form a walk-through exhibit in the great hall at the Science Centre.

Reprinted from the Halifax Chronicle-Herald,
Oct. 19, 1979.



THE SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER MAY BE EXPECTED IN EARLY SPRING. THE WINNER OF THE COVER DESIGN CONTEST IS ROBERT McQUESTON OF DARTMOUTH. AS MANY INTERESTING AND ARTISTIC DESIGNS WERE RECEIVED, WE WILL BE USING THEM FROM TIME TO TIME AS COVERS ON OUR REGULAR ISSUES. MY THANKS TO ALL WHO SUBMITTED COVERS.
J.S.C.

UP-COMING FIELD TRIPS

- Saturday Feb. 23 HALIFAX COUNTY - EASTERN SHORE
Leader: Eric Cooke. Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at the parking lot opposite the Holiday Inn in Dartmouth.
- Saturday March 22 CAPE BRETON - GLACE BAY AREA
Leader: Sara MacLean. Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at Dearn's Corner, Hwy. intersection Port Morien and Donkin.
- Sunday March 23 HALIFAX COUNTY - EASTERN SHORE
MARTINIQUE AREA. Leader: Ross Anderson. Time: 0830 hrs. Meet at the parking lot opposite the Holiday Inn, Dartmouth.
- Sunday April 27 KINGS COUNTY - WOLFVILLE AREA. Migrant ducks, loons, possibly early Corvid's nests. Leader: Jim Wolford. Time: 0900 hrs. Meet at the Save-Easy parking lot, Wolfville.
- Saturday May 17 CAPE BRETON - SOUTH HEAD AREA. Early warbler arrivals. Leader: Sara MacLean. Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at Dearn's Corner, Hwy. intersection Port Morien and Donkin.
- Saturday May 17 YARMOUTH COUNTY. Warblers and other spring birds. Leaders: P. R. Dobson, C.R.K. Allen. Time: 0830 hrs. Meet at the C.P.R. Station in Yarmouth.
- Saturday May 17 PELAGIC TRIP LEAVING FROM SHAD BAY. (Alternate date: May 18.) Limited number. Charge per head: \$10 - \$12. Anyone planning this trip, contact John Cohrs by March 31.
- Sunday May 18 HANTS COUNTY - SHUBENACADIE AREA. Leader: Roslyn MacPhee. Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at the Co-Op parking lot, Shubenacadie Square, in front of Scott's Restaurant. Bring a lunch!
- Wednesday May 21 HALIFAX COUNTY - SHUBIE PARK. Early morning warbler walk. Leader: Jim Elliott. Time: 0600 hrs. Meet at the north end of the Shubie Park campsite off the Waverley Road.
- May 24 to 26 SHELburne COUNTY - SEAL ISLAND. Weekend trip by boat. For details and reservations, please phone Ralph Connor at 469-8370 (home) or 426-5801 (business).

Wednesday HALIFAX COUNTY - SUZIE LAKE. Early morning warbler
 May 28 walk. Leader: Ed Richard. Time: 0600 hrs. Meet
 at the intersection of the Kearney Lake Road and
 the Bi-Centennial Hwy. under the overpass.

Saturday HANTS COUNTY - PRESIDENT'S FIELD TRIP. Leader:
 May 31 Marg Clark. Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at the railroad
 crossing in Mount Uniacke.

MORE TO COME (Under active planning) A week-long
 trip Aug. 16-23 culminating in a
 return by M.V. BLUENOSE...etc.,etc.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES, CALL DON OR JOYCE
 PURCHASE AT 434-5199.

BIRD IDENTIFICATION COURSE



N.S.B.S. member Dr. Roger Pocklington, will be giving a Bird Identification Course under the aegis of the Dartmouth Night School System. Although the registration dates--January 7 and 8, occur before our publication, the course is not due to begin until January 16, and late registration will be accepted. The course is on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30, at the Bedford Institute and will extend for fifteen weeks.

For further information please contact Dr. Pocklington, at phone 469-3656. The cost is \$20.00, Senior Citizens-free.

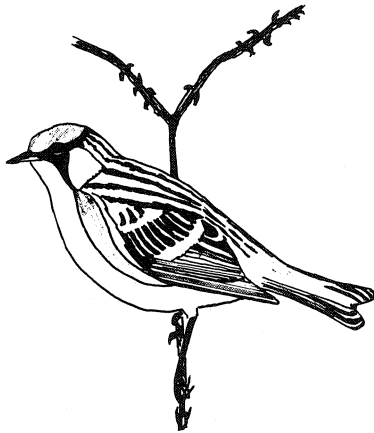
A NEST OF THE CHESTNUT - SIDED WARBLER

Francis Spalding

About noon on the last day of May 1979, not far from Shulie Lake in Cumberland County, I was eating lunch at the edge of an old clear-cutting choked with wild cherry, young birch and other shrubby growth. Out of the corner of my eye I caught sight of what appeared to be a straw-coloured snake several inches long undulating through the air a foot or two above the ground. In proper focus it turned out to be a more plausible variation on the above--a long straw in the tow of a small, low-flying bird. They both disappeared into the shrubbery and a minute or two later a female Chestnut-sided Warbler emerged and with a purposeful, bobbing flight, retraced her path.

After a brief search I found the straw wound loosely about some close-growing stems at the clearing's edge; I had happened upon the first day of her nest-building. I withdrew, and shortly she was back with another, less extravagantly long, but similar piece of material. In the weeks that followed my schedule took me to the area every other day. On June 2nd, the nest was, in my opinion, half finished, on the 6th, wholly so. Our opinions, the bird's and mine coincided, for on the 8th it contained two eggs, and on the 10th, four.

Thereafter, on each of my visits, when I parted the leaves above the nest, I found the hen bird peering fixedly up at me. Finally, on the 22nd, that is, on the 12th day of incubation, I decided, "in the interests of science", as the saying goes, to see what was going on beneath this imperturbable bird. Slowly lowering my hand as if to touch her caused her to flush from the nest; it contained two eggs and two very newly hatched young. While I was pleased at having guessed the time, I was also alarmed at having disturbed her at so critical a moment, especially as a few drops of rain had begun to fall. I



withdrew at once, waited a minute or so, and took a second, cautious look. She was back, peering up at me just as before, and I left reassured. Two days later the nestlings were still largely naked, blind but squirming. On my two succeeding visits the hen was on the nest, and I did not disturb her. After the 28th, I was unable to return until July 4th, when the nest contained nothing but a few recent droppings. It was a hot afternoon; there was no sign of activity in the surrounding bushes, and searching them would have constituted a major disturbance. I was left with the feeling that, while the nest had

been a success, the ultimate fate of the young would have to remain uncertain, for this was to be my last visit.

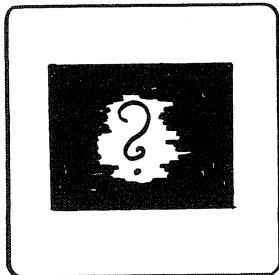
With clippers I had brought for the purpose, I cut the three stems to which the nest was attached and took the bundle

home. Examination showed that the straw loosely held the three stems together. The effect was much like that of raspberry canes tied together by twine to resist the winds of winter; rather than being flailed about singly, their combined bodies bend far less. Upon this straw stabilizer the nest proper was built, of fine twigs and grasses outwardly bound round and interwoven with the coarser straw; it was lined with black and red wiry stems which I at first mistook for animal hair. Quite unexpected was the discovery that the nest was glued to two of the stems, presumably by some sort of salivary product, and so firmly that my having left the nest lying exposed throughout a day-long downpour did not lead to any noticeable weakening, though the droppings were now wreathed by fungus, and a black beetle had taken up residence.

The Chestnut-sided is known to be a very tame warbler so the sang-froid of this particular bird in the face of my repeated close approaches was not surprising. While it is not, I suppose, legitimate to speak of the expressions of birds, I cannot help contrasting her, "Well, what is it now?" look with the timid manner of an Ovenbird peeking out her door at a passerby: the latter has, of course, good reason to fear having her roof stepped on and makes herself conspicuous in an effort to distract an intruder. Still, if you approach the nest cautiously you will find her nervously pondering whether to abandon it or sit tight. Quite unlike either, was a Tennessee Warbler who, while incubating, sat her ground until the protective shelter of grass above the nest was touched, or almost touched, then flitted unobtrusively into a nearby tangle, as much like a mouse as anything. Once hatching had occurred she made a half-hearted effort to lure one away before disappearing, but her strategy, to put it kindly, relied much more on discretion than did that of either of the others.

Tame, timid furtive--they are words that, when used at all in this context, describe specific strategies of survival. The individuals whose actions call them to mind are so reliably programmed that all through the woods thousands of others like them are behaving in the same ways. Perhaps though, one should consider that those one comes across do not know of our generalizations and really are worried or trying to be brave.



SLIDE COLLECTION

The slide collection is doing very well indeed. This is due largely to the interest and generosity of those who donated slides or who loaned them for duplication. The Society did purchase a small set of waterfowl photographs to fill in some gaps, but most of the holes have been filled by members. We now have 87% of the 271 birds on our field card covered. The remaining 30 birds needed are listed below. Of course, this is a basic coverage which I hope can be improved upon with further slides of various plumages, different sexes, birds in flight, etc. So although the birds listed below are the most wanted, please consider other species, should you have an interesting or informative slide.

“
Lise A. Cohrs.

We do not have:

Common Loon
Red-necked Grebe
Fulmar
Sooty Shearwater
Gannet
American Widgeon
Greater Scaup
Oldsquaw
King Eider
Common Scoter
Rough-legged Hawk
Gyr Falcon
Virginia Rail
Yellow Rail
Jaeger Pomarine

Parasitic Jaeger
Glaucous Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Caspian Tern
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Eastern Wood Pewee
Hermit Thrush
Veery
STARLING!
Nashville Warbler
Parula Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Summer Tanager
Vesper Sparrow

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, NSBS Newsletter:

The San Diego River Floodway, during the fall migration of shorebirds, is an excellent location for a novice shorebirder. Between September 15 - 19, I visited the Floodway on six occasions, seeing for the first time such species as American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, and Knot. Other shorebirds there were Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, Killdeer, Willet, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitcher, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Sanderling, and literally thousands of "undecideds". The Floodway was an unforgettable scene at low tide, with some 2000 plus (my estimate) shorebirds concentrated on mudflats 200-300 metres wide and 1.5 Kilometres long.

The area designated as Floodway is all that remains for migrating shorebirds, plus one or two other lagoons, of a several-miles-wide delta. Roads, over fourteen lanes of expressway and service roads now dominate the delta on both sides of the Floodway, coming within 100 metres of the birds. My vantage point was on the Floodway embankments, four metres higher than the mud-flats; the entire area bears the appearance of U.S. Army Corps of Engineer-type of "improvements". Although I found the nearness of expressways disconcerting, the "reclamation" gave me an armchair view of the shorebirds...no mud, no shrubbery, to obscure a field mark, no chance above the traffic noise for the birds to hear my exclamations..."oh, a Stilted Black-neck, er...a Stacked-back Stilt-neck!"

There were other birds at the Floodway besides shorebirds. Beneath the opposite embankment, water flowed from a culvert and cut a seaward channel through the mud-flats for about 20 metres. Here, Great Blue Heron and Snowy Egret were feeding, as were several similar looking "undecideds" which were dashing about in the channel amidst the unflappable and statuesque Herons and Egrets. A Black-crowned Night Heron fished from the bank. Waterfowl began arriving just before sunset, flying in across the traffic to feed in the water now rising over the flats. I identified for the first time Widgeon and American Coot.

During my visits to the Floodway, there was no expert shorebirder to call on for help with sticky identifications (and E.H.C. does not accept collect calls!), so my final species count is fourteen "positives" and five "maybes". One example of the "maybes" is the "Snowy Plover over there which looks like the Western Sandpiper over here, which looks like the Semi-palmated Sandpiper over home..."

How did I find such an excellent shorebird location? Simple. Before leaving Nova Scotia, I copied the information on San Diego's Bird Clubs from the N.S.B.S.' book, A Guide to North American Bird Clubs by Jon Rickert (reviewed by Margaret Clark, Jan.'79). In San Diego, in one telephone call, Bill Von Bergen of the San Diego Field Ornithologists, told me everything I needed to know about the shorebirds of the Floodway. Thank you Bill, Margaret, Joh, and N.S.B.S.

Sheila A. Connell

Editor, NSBS Newsletter:

On August 9, while walking through a bog near the Peskowsk Lake Road in Kejimikujik National Park, I noticed a Hermit Thrush repeatedly flying down into the same place in the low shrubs. It seemed to be attacking something and was so intent on its activity that I was able to get within three feet of it. There was a twelve inch long garter snake heading towards the base of a small black spruce tree under which the bird had its nest. The nest was empty, the snake's body was not distended and I did not see any young birds around.

Thelma Bowers

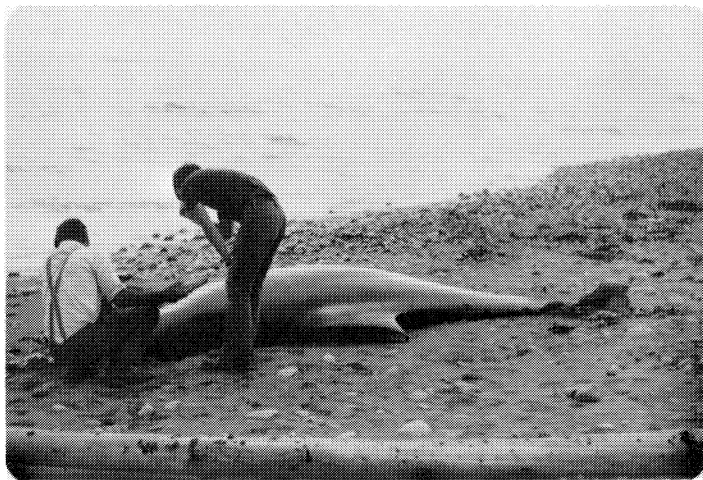
Editor, NSBS Newsletter:

My wife, Sandra, my son Jan, and I were walking along the shore two miles from our house (St. Esprit, Cape Breton, July, 1979) to view a whale which we had heard had washed up. The beach is very rocky there. All of a sudden there was a flurry beneath my feet and a baby sandpiper, having left its hiding place at the last possible moment, was fleeing for its life. It didn't get very far, for it slipped and fell on its back between two rocks which, though small by my standards, were enormous by a baby sandpiper's scale. (That is the picture I should have taken!) It lay there helplessly, its feet paddling the air, while its mother circled around us, calling its offspring anxiously.



After my wife had taken the photograph of it in my fist, we released it, hoping that its next rendez-vous would be with its parent, and not with another mountainous booby-trap.

We continued on to the pilot whale, and saw no more of the two sandpipers on our return home.



The whale was thirteen feet long, and stayed there two or three weeks. Our friend, George MacKay, had seen oil around the blow hole. Note the oil on the pole in the foreground.

R. F. Meyerowitz.

Editor, NSBS Newsletter:

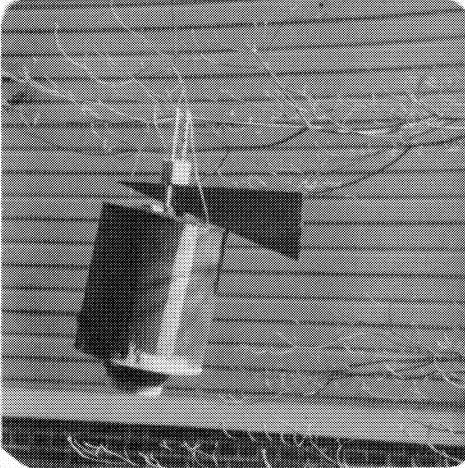
I am writing you with regard to our whale watching program which we initiated here on the island this summer. There is a problem here with whales (mostly humpbacks) getting entangled in and damaging fishing gear, and themselves, so that fishermen think the whales are overabundant and so must be cropped. We think there is a whale redistribution inshore due to scarcity of whalebait (caplin) on the offshore banks. In order to make a convincing argument that the humpbacks are indeed an endangered species and not overabundant, we must have good census data. One of the ways we are assisting Federal Fisheries is through the whale watchers program. Humpback whales have individualistic pigment marks on the ventral sides of their flukes so that it is relatively easy to "tag" them by photographing the flukes as they do a terminal dive. There is an organization in the New England states and we started one here to collect this kind of data, and it would be very helpful to fill the gap in Nova Scotia.

I understand the members of your group often spend time at sea and are likely to see whales. I wonder if it would be possible for you to write a note in your newsletter to recruit whale watchers and fluke photographers for us? If you wish, you could publish this letter or parts thereof. Enquiries should be directed to me. Thank you.

Bora Merdsoy
Whale Research Group
Memorial University
St. John's, Newfoundland.
A1B3X9

Editor, NSBS Newsletter:

I though you might be interested in my device for foiling the gray squirrels, who plunder our feeder containing sunflower seeds for Titmice, Chickadees and other small birds. What you see is the feeder, in its protective armor, hanging from a branch outside our kitchen window in Washington, D.C. The tree is a dogwood, and although the feeder appears to hand from it, the feeder is actually hung from a twenty foot bamboo pole that extends from the back porch, off to the left of this photo.



Inside the gallon paint can, is a plastic feeder, called beehive, obtained from the outfit in Penacook, N. H., that specialized in feeders. Only the bottom inch or two of the feeder shows in the picture. There is just enough exposure so that the small birds

can get at it, while larger birds, such as Blue Jays, can't make it. The feeder hangs from a long bicycle padlock, the key of which is lost. A wedge-shaped piece of board keeps the paint-can from being lifted up by the wind.

I took this picture in 1977 during cold weather, when the dogwood tree was dormant. You can see some of the big buds. This concoction is typical of my lack of mechanical ability and manual dexterity, which used to be the object of derision from my father and brother.

Ralph Russell

MARJORIE FOOTE, AN APPRECIATION

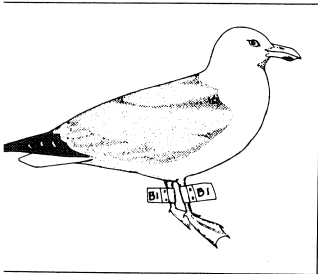
A good many years ago Marjorie and Bill Foote discovered Cape Breton, and before long had claimed a bit of it for their own. They built a cottage on a steep hillside and surrounded by forest. There the wild things were their neighbors, no farther away than arms length.

Each fall, Marjorie sent me a report of the birds they had seen during their stay at Lime Hill. Her report was always a little different from the other lists that came in, because the Footes saw the birds as families--Red-breasted Nuthatch, and young, or Ovenbird, and young.

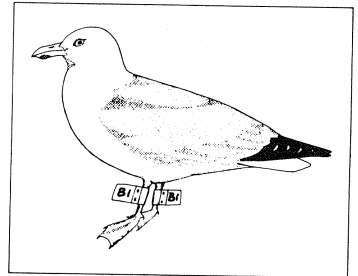
Marjorie's ear for bird voices was unerring, and to be on a field trip with her was to have one's awareness of the population in the countryside very much enhanced by her talent.

Marjorie's life ended suddenly in early July, but she is happily remembered by the friends she and Bill made through the Bird Society.

Sara MacLean



Great Lakes Herring Gulls have been marked with numbered and lettered green, orange, blue or pink leg ribbon - one on each leg. If you see any Herring Gulls so marked, please note number, letter and colour of each ribbon and date and place of sighting. Contact Dr. D. V. Chip Weseloh or Mr. Pierre Mineau, Canadian Wildlife Service, Box 5050, Burlington, Ontario, Canada, L7R 4A6. Tel. (416) 637-4264.



SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Regular monthly meetings of the executive were held during 1979, except for July and August. The meetings of January and February were summarized in the April newsletter.

The March meeting was concerned with second class mailing of the newsletter, arrangements for the Junior Field Trip and getting organized for special events for the 25th Anniversary year.

The April meeting was mainly on the Junior Field Trip and Roger Pocklington joined us for this meeting. We also discussed an automatic tape recorder for use with a Rare Bird Alert hot line. However, the cost of the recorder (\$150.00) and monthly telephone costs (\$150.00-\$200.00) were considered to be out of our reach.

In May we were concerned with 25th year arrangements. Lis' Cohrs was authorized to buy a commercial package of slides of ducks. Members are encouraged to take more photographs. We are short of Waterfowl and Warblers. We started to talk about a Provincial Bird for Nova Scotia.

The June meeting reviewed the Junior Field Trip; it was very successful and some alternatives were suggested for next year. Keith Keddy reported that he was not having too much success with a regular newspaper article. Evelyn Dobson attended and a proposed program of events for the 25th year were outlined.

The September meeting was mainly a general topic night, since a large number of small items had to be discussed after our summer break.

Gillian Elliot joined us for the October meeting. She has taken over the 25th year special events since Evelyn Dobson has departed for Germany. For these special events the dates and other arrangements are now being finalized. Announcements will be made shortly.

The November meeting was used to finalize arrangements for the Annual General Meeting, the process for selecting a Provincial Bird and Shirley Brothers sat in to discuss arrangements for a Founder and Charter Members reunion night.

The executive take a Christmas break (counting birds) and will meet again in January.

W. G. (Bill) Caudle
Secretary.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1979 Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was again held in the Lawrencetown Community Centre, on Saturday, December 1, 1979. The meeting got underway at 1:30 p.m., with the President, Margaret Clark in the chair, and about 75 members present.

The meeting was preceded in the morning by a number of field trips, about 58 species being spotted, including a Seaside Sparrow and some Long-billed Marsh Wrens. The tally was taken at the conclusion of the clam chowder luncheon, just prior to the commencement of the formal events of the day.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were distributed at the meeting, and were declared approved as circulated.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

REPORTS:

Membership. Frank Hennessey reported the 1979 figures, 1978 figures are listed for comparison.

	1979	Cape Breton	1978	Cape Breton
Single	405	(40)	423	(45)
Family	136	(21)	131	(13)
Student	28	(14)	19	(4)
Life	6	(2)	4	(1)
<hr/>				
Totals	575	(77)	577	(63)

There was a reduction of 2 during the year. Student membership had increased due to a Cape Breton school teacher enrolling 12 students in his science class.

The adoption of the report was moved by Frank Hennessey and seconded by Ross Anderson. Carried.

Financial. Sandra Meyers reported a balance in the Royal Bank of Canada of #3651.21 (\$3671.53 last year). By way of clarification, Sandra explained that last year's membership dues were above normal due to four life memberships, there were only two this year. The Museum has supported us with a cash grant, but it was received too late to be included in this report. The cost of printing the newsletter has increased, but this is off-set by the fact that arrangements have been made to send out the newsletters as second class mail. Last year's Annual General Meeting luncheon had to be supported financially; it was our first attempt at this type of meeting.

The adoption of the report was moved by Sandra Meyers and seconded by Ethel Crathorne. Carried.

The Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund report was read by Eric Cooke. A copy of it appears elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The adoption of the report was moved by Eric Cooke and seconded by Eric Mills. Motion carried.

The President Margaret Clark welcomed the visitors to the meeting; some had even come from Alberta. Margaret then introduced the executive of the Cape Breton Branch who were in attendance:

President - Eldon Meikle
 Secretary - Bertha Hopkins
 Treasurer - Graham Fraser

N.S.B.S. Executive Representative - Sara MacLean

Sara then reported for the Cape Breton Branch.

A number of field trips had been held during the year, and a meeting once a month during the winter. During April the Kurdistan disaster occured, nesting Murres and Black Ducks being the main sufferers. They were migrating through the area at the time and not one nested on the Bird Islands. Puffin nests were down by 25%, only five Razorbills were seen. However, about 200 Kittiwakes moved in and took up the vacant space. On the beaches the swallows got oiled trying to catch flies over the seaweed.

Financially, the Cape Breton Branch have a balance in the bank of \$158.42 after receipts of \$336.68 and expenditures of \$178.26.

Adoption of the report was moved by Sara MacLean

Eric Cooke then presented the following list of Christmas Bird Counts.

<u>Area and Date</u>	<u>Co-ordinator</u>
Halifax East, Dec. 15	Ian McLaren
Yarmouth, Dec. 16	Marion Hilton
Brier Island, Dec. 17,18	Eric Mills
Halifax West, Dec. 23	Shirley Cohrs
Broad Cove, Dec. 30	Sylvia Fullerton
Wolfville, Dec. 22	Peter Smith
Port Hebert, Dec. 16	George Perry
Amherst, Dec. 23	Stuart Tingley
Economy, Dec. 27	Francis Spalding
Sydney, Dec. 15	Hedley Hopkins

Eric also reminded the group of our regular monthly meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month at the Nova Scotia Museum: January will be member's slides. (Secretary's Note: Eric is also planning something special since this is the closest anniversary date to our 25th birthday).

February, Ross Anderson will talk on his banding program.

March, will be a talk on Birds of the Prairies and Alberta Foothills by Jim Wolford.

Francis Cooke gave the report of the Nominating Committee as follows:

President	Margaret Clark
Vice President	Keith Keddy
Secretary	William Caudle
Membership	Frank Hennessey
Treasurer	Sandra Meyers

The President then asked for nominations from the floor for each office. This call was repeated three times. There were no further nominations and the adoption of the report was moved by Frank Cooke and seconded by Wendy Tay.

The President then reported that Jim Morrow had agreed to continue as auditor and R. A. Kanigsberg had agreed to continue as legal advisor.

Following these announcements the President called for nominations from the floor for two Executive Directors. Eric Mills was nominated by Eric Cooke, and Don Purchase was nominated by Ian MacLaren. It was moved by Ethel Crathorne that nominations cease and seconded by Ed Richard. The motion carried.

The President then gave her report, a copy of which is reproduced elsewhere in the Newsletter. This was followed by the presentation of the "Puffin of the Year Award". This is also reported elsewhere in the Newsletter. The award was given to Ian MacLaren.

In his acceptance speech Ian, being an educator by profession, attempted to evaluate his past performance, saying that while he would rate his effort as adequate, his achievements, in his opinion were low. However, he hoped to deserve the award in the years to come. It was obvious from the reaction of the membership that they thought the award was well deserved for both his effort and achievements. Ian received an enthusiastic and prolonged round of applause.

NEW BUSINESS

Eldon Meikle asked when the Cape Breton Branch could expect a visit from mainland members. Margaret Clark suggested that the date be left to them to decide, that is, when the weather and birds would be best. Dates for July or September were suggested.

Sara MacLean was of the opinion that membership in the Cape Breton Branch had become "set". They were not reaching young people. Field trips do not seem to be drawing people in. Meetings are often well attended, but do not result in increased membership. Sara asked for ideas from the floor on ways to improve the membership.

Frank Hennessey pointed out that twelve students had enrolled from Cape Breton. Their names and addresses would be in the January membership list. He suggested that they be given a specific invitation to attend Branch functions.

R. A. Kanigsberg emphasised the rationale behind his bequest to the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund. "In order to increase membership we must attract the young. The field trips for juniors, with a bean supper and dance (Disco) are but one way to get them involved."

Margaret Clark then made the point that last year was our first Junior Field Trip attempt; in the future we will involve other parts of the province.

Curtis Chipman was concerned with the large balance in the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund. He felt that more donations would be forthcoming if we were buying property and were in debt.

Margaret Clark then summarized the meeting by saying that members had been asked to seek out new places to buy as sanctuaries, to suggest methods of increasing membership, and to suggest alternatives for the Annual General Meeting format or location.

The meeting adjourned at 2.40 p.m.

W. G. (Bill) Caudle,
Secretary.

DONATIONS TO THE SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND
MAY BE SENT IN WITH YOUR DUES OR FORWARDED TO:

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY,
SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND,
1747 SUMMER ST.,
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

AN OFFICIAL RECEIPT WILL BE MAILED TO YOU FOR INCOME TAX
PURPOSES.

YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER MAKING A BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL TO
THIS TRUST FUND

1979 PUFFIN OF THE YEAR AWARD

One of the pleasant but none-the-less difficult roles that the President of the Bird Society does is to select a person to be the recipient of the Puffin of the Year Award. Included among the many members whose active participation the Society cannot do without, is this year's recipient - Ian McLaren.

Ian's involvement in the Bird Society goes back many years and from the minute books, I discovered that at the 1966 Annual General Meeting, Ian was nominated to the Executive. At that same meeting he gave an illustrated slide address on "Birds of the Arctic" which included the Flora and Fauna as well. From that time on, he has been actively involved on the Executive in various roles including that of President for two years. Two items of interest of Bird Society History: (1) During Ian's term as President the Sanctuary and Trust Fund was established; and (2) in 1968, also while he was President, a small gold medal was given as a first prize for the Best Birdlife slide in the 5th Halifax International Photographic Slide Competition held that year and won by an Australian for a slide of the Australian Marsh Wren.

As well, locally, Ian has been active in organizing Christmas Counts, leading Field Trips to such exotic Islands as Seal, Sable, and MaNab's!

Ian was very involved with the Canadian Audubon Society and when that organization ceased to exist as such, and was transformed into the Canadian Nature Federation, Ian was nominated as First Vice-President. The Nova Scotia Bird Society hosted the Canadian Nature Federation Conference at Acadia University in 1973, and it was Ian who arranged the program, including speakers for that conference. He served as President of the Canadian Nature Federation for two years, then as Representative of the Nova Scotia Bird Society until 1977.

There are facets of Ian's life related to the Bird Society that have not been recorded by a date, nor can they be. Let me use this as an illustration of what I am going to refer to--In 1967, Kingfishers were being killed at the Milhaven Hatchery. Ian McLaren was the Bird Society's Ambassador and went to see the man responsible. I quote "When told of the Nova Scotia Bird Society's point of view, the man agreed to stop".

And this is what Ian has done and is still doing--expressing the Bird Society's point of view in many matters of conservation. As Professor in the Biology Department at Dalhousie University, he belongs to many nature oriented groups. Behind the scenes, he is the Conservation Committee of the Society. He has been continually involved with such issues as the Spruce Budworm Spray controversy; the re-zoning of the Cole Harbour/Lawrencetown area; off-shore islands, and has spent time-consuming hours preparing for and meeting with governmental officials on environmental issues.

For Ian's overall concern is nature, and whether it deals with birds specifically or nature generally, his concern is genuine.

And, of course, let us not forget that the name of Ian McLaren is synonymous with the Ipswich Sparrow! His extensive studies of their nesting areas on Sable Island, their wintering areas, and their migration routes along the coast make the Ipswich Sparrow Ian's personal bird.

So Mr. Ipswich, that is, Ian--please come forward and accept this Puffin of the Year Award on behalf of the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

Margaret A. Clark

THE SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING---DECEMBER 1, 1979

The Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund report shows a large increase in assets since the previous report. The main factor of the increase is the generous level of donations made to the Chris Cohrs Fund. Most of you will recall that Chris died suddenly just a year ago. There has also been an increase in the level of debenture interest - a sizeable donation in memory of Mrs. Kanigsberg - and further donations to the Marie Henry Fund. As a result, our assets during the past fiscal year increased from \$7,947.39 to \$19,246.78.

During the past year, signs were placed on our Tusket Islands to indicate that they are sanctuary areas during the nexting season - Outer Bald Island in memory of the former owner, Mr. Arundel, whose brother deeded the island to use through the Nature Conservancy of Canada - and on the other Bald Islands in memory of Marie Henry. We are still trying to get some sheep removed from one of the Bald Islands and have offered to pay the cost of having this done, hopefully next spring.

A number of other islands around the western end of the province may be suitable as sanctuaries. We intend to have a qualified person next spring to survey these islands to ascertain which are most desirable for our purposes. One island we're already interested in is Little Gooseberry Island, near Pubnico, where Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns nest. We're planning to make an offer for this island without waiting for the survey to be completed.

The Directors of the Trust Fund are interested in knowing of other areas that might be suitable as sanctuaries or that require protection. They're also interested in learning of suitable bird oriented studies or conservation projects which might justify expenditure of money from the Fund. If you have any suggestions along these lines, please contact one of the Directors. While it is encouraging to see the fund growing, it is our desire to use this money to good advantage rather than simply have lie idle in a bank. Your suggestions will be welcome.

Eric Cooke

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY SANCTUARY & SCHOLARHIP TRUST FUND
c/o Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, N. S.

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Willett J. Mills

Dr. B. K. Doane
J. L. Cohrs
Eric H. Cooke

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 31, 1979
(with comparative figures for the year ending July 31, 1978)

ASSETS

		<u>1979</u>	<u>1978</u>
Bank of N. S. Current Acct. 83917		\$ 286.70	\$ 344.86
Bank of N. S. Savings Acct. 19345 Regular	\$ 915.43		
Bank of N. S. Savings Acct. 19345 C. Cohrs Fund	<u>2,885.00</u>	3,800.43	822.93
Bank of N. S. Savings Acct. 21217 M. Henry Fund		2,089.17	719.60
Cash on Hand		.48	-
		<u>\$6,186.78</u>	<u>\$1,887.39</u>
Nova Scotia Savings & Loan Co. Debentures			
Mature Oct. 1/78 8%	\$1,000.00		
Mature Oct. 1/80 10-1/2%	1,400.00		
Mature Aug. 1/82 9-1/4%	2,000.00		
Mature Mar. 1/82 10% (C.C.Fund)	4,000.00		
Mature Nov. 1/83 10-1/4% (R.A.K.)	3,000.00		
Mature Aug. 1/48 10-1/4%	<u>500.00</u>		
		\$11,900.00	\$4,900.00
Sanctuaries (at cost)			
Outer Bald, Middle Bald, Half Bald and Mossy Bald Islands	\$1,000.00		
Hertford Island	<u>160.00</u>	\$ 1,160.00	\$1,160.00
		\$19,246.78	\$7,947.39
	<u>TRUST FUND</u>		
August 1, 1979 - Balance Forward		\$ 7,947.39	\$5,999.99
Donations:			
Regular	\$ 244.06		908.42
Marie Henry Fund	1,346.60		719.60
Chris Cohrs Fund	6,885.00		
R. A. Kanigsberg	<u>3,000.00</u>		
		\$11,475.06	
Balance (Loss) from Income Statement		(176.27)	319.38
		<u>\$19,246.78</u>	<u>\$7,947.39</u>

INCOME STATEMENT

Receipts

Debenture Interest	\$613.77	\$345.75
Bank Interest	77.12	2.93
Discount on Taxes	.48	-
	<u>\$691.37</u>	<u>\$348.68</u>

Disbursements

Bank Charges (Safety Deposit Box)	\$ 24.38	\$ 6.00
Property Taxes on Bird Islands	23.78	23.30
Teenage Field Trip to McNabs	89.48	
L. LeBlanc, Wedgeport re Tusket Islands	<u>730.00</u>	
	\$867.64	\$ 29.30
Balance to Trust Fund (Loss)	(\$176.27)	\$348.68

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
(Incorporated 1957)

c/o Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, N.S.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the Twelve months ended October 31, 1979
(with comparative figures for the year ended October 31, 1978)

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1978</u>
Balance from previous years	\$3671.53	\$1217.59
 <u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Membership dues	4062.20	4556.33
Savings Interest	277.20	147.85
G.I.C. Interest	84.50	-
Nova Scotia Museum Grant	-	2000.00
Sale of Publications, etc.	634.10	823.32
Tax Rebate on Newsletters	-	696.53
A.G.M. Luncheon & Meeting	273.00	-
Miscellaneous	59.35	139.95
	<u>\$9061.88</u>	<u>\$9581.57</u>
 <u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>		
Three issues of Newsletter	\$3945.94	\$3686.58
Postage & Stationery	261.46	487.35
A.G.M. Luncheon & Meeting	440.00	-
Printing Publications	-	101.72
Purchased plates & negatives of "Where to Find.."	111.72	-
Printing "Where to Find the Birds in N.S."	340.00	-
N.S.B.S. Crests	-	248.74
Printing Yarmouth Insert	-	60.00
C.B. Branch expenses	-	31.00
Wildlife photos of ducks	42.00	-
Slide Collection Project	-	50.00
Subscriptions	87.86	-
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	-	1000.00
Miscellaneous	181.69	244.65
	<u>\$5410.67</u>	<u>\$5910.04</u>
Balance in Royal Bank of Canada	3651.21	3671.53
	<u>\$9061.88</u>	<u>\$9581.57</u>

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Electric Typewriter (Cost - \$296.45)	\$ 189.73	\$ 237.16
Steel Filing Cabinet (Cost - \$99.96)	1.00	1.00
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	1000.00	1000.00
Balance in Royal Bank of Canada	3651.21	3671.53
(Savings Acct.-\$2962.85; Current Acct.-\$688.36)		
	<u>\$4841.94</u>	<u>\$4909.69</u>

LIABILITIES

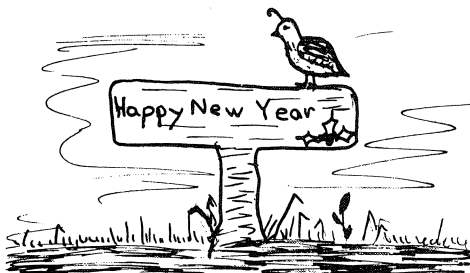
Surplus	\$4841.94	\$4909.69
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Audited and found correct
according to the books
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Sandra Meyers
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NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
c/o Nova Scotia Museum,
1747 Summer Street,
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6

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Executive Member - Eric Mills
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Auditor - James Morrow

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

(available to those under 18)

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 22, Number 1

January 1980

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Report	1
Fall Bird Reports	7
Birdwatching at a Summer Cottage	48
Field Trip Reports	52
Upcoming Field Trips	64
A Nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler	66
Letters to the Editor	69

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