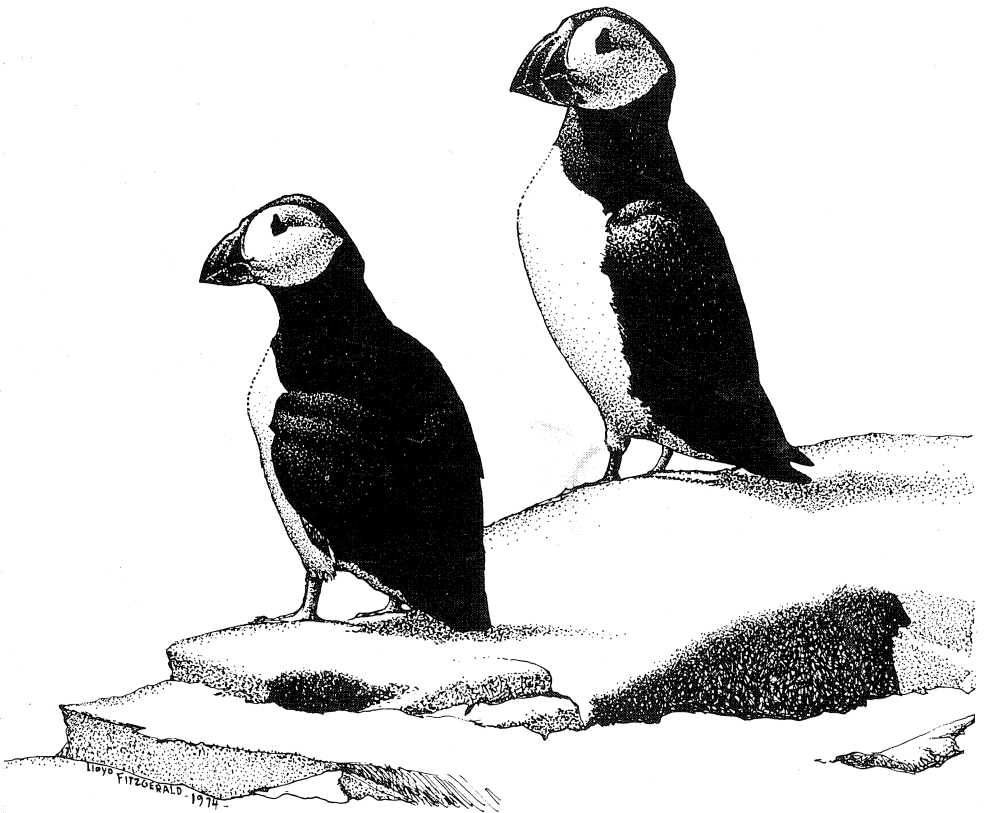


NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS



January 1981

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

a publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society

Volume 23, Number 1

January, 1981

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A New Name:

the Newsletter has become

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

It was felt by the Executive that "Newsletter" no longer described our publication. We hope the new name will meet with the approval of our members.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1980

From the reports presented already, you will realize that the year 1980 has been a very successful one for the Society. It has been an exciting year, as an Anniversary Year should be. The initial planning for the events began three years ago. Last year, in my report, is listed the activities that were being undertaken with the names of some members enlisted to work on committees. I am happy to report that all the events have been carried out most successfully as is fitting for celebrating a 25th Anniversary.

At this time, I think it appropriate to review these events which began at the General Meeting in January when two Founding Members, Lloyd MacPherson and Ken Gregoire blew out the candles of a birthday cake. That was a very impromptu arrangement but it sparked us into anticipating the planned ones.

The Anniversary Lecture Series began in February with Eric Mills, a present Executive Member, enticing us to listen to his fascinating account of the secret life of birds; continuing through three other excellent lecturers and ending in November, appropriately with a member of the first Executive, Charlie Allen, presenting his poetically descriptive and exhilarating account of Birds - Feast or Famine. Throughout the whole series, the response by members, as well as the non-member public, was most gratifying. And no more fitting way could the Lecture Series or all events of the Anniversary Year be brought to a close than with the Reception for Founding and Continuing Charter Members. Many of those who were present at the original meeting in January 1955, as well as many others who have continually maintained their loyalty through their membership since that time, were present and they certainly enjoyed renewing friendships and meeting those not seen for many a year. I am personally very grateful to Evelyn Dobson and Gillian Elliott for the excellent and complete organizational work that made this Lecture Series so successful. I also wish to express to Shirley Brothers, the same acknowledgement, for her handling of the Reception.

Every second year, the Bird Society participates in a display with other Societies in the Museum. This year, of course, the theme dealt with the Anniversary Year. Keith Keddy and Ed Richard handled this superbly so that any displays in the future will find difficulty in surpassing the work and effort put into this one.

In April, the long awaited Anniversary Issue of the Newsletter appeared. In it we have a collection of historical accounts related to the first twenty-five years, expertly planned and edited by Shirley Cohrs. This is a very worthy document that should be used as the basis on which to establish an Archives of the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

The co-ordinators of our Field Trip, Don and Joyce Purchase, had outings arranged for the whole year from South Shore, Yarmouth, Annapolis Valley, Eastern Shore, Cape Breton and in between, with the Granddaddy of all Tours - the 25th Anniversary Special - weeklong birding expedition. They certainly did a great job of organizing them all, and are to be congratulated for arranging such a variety.

At the July 5th Cape Breton Field Trip at Malagawatch, a Special Anniversary Puffin of the Year Award was presented to Frank Robertson of New Waterford, for his many contributions, especially his own personal campaign of educating the public to nature and birds in particular.

Then there is the Provincial Bird, yes, the procedure of nominations and balloting took place. The White-Throated Sparrow was the final choice after some close competition. Preliminary contact has been made with the Premier's Office and it is hoped that the White-Throated Sparrow will be officially proclaimed Nova Scotia's Provincial Bird in 1981.

This year saw other accomplishments as well as those related to the 25th Anniversary. One especially is that which Keith Keddy has undertaken to co-ordinate, that is, to try to make the public aware, through various forms of media, the aims and the work of the Nova Scotia Bird Society. Announcements and interviews have been made on different radio stations, some TV taping done, and most extensively, a series of articles, contributed by various members, co-ordinated by Keith, were printed in the Mayflower last February and March. Keith is confident of being able to have another series printed next spring as well. This has been a major break-through for the Society and we can thank Keith for his efforts and his willingness to continue to bring the work and concerns of the Society into the public eye.

The Bird Identification Course which had to be cancelled in January did get underway this fall with over thirty persons registered. This is the third time Roger Pocklington has undertaken this extensive course, through the Dartmouth Continuing Education Programme. We are very grateful to Roger for the work and detailed preparation he has given to make the course so popular and successful.

The Junior Field Trip was planned for a weekend in June at the Youth Hostel in the Wentworth Valley. Although only a few boys participated in that weekend as compared to a larger number that went to McNab's Island the year before, another Junior Field Trip will be planned for 1981. You will recall that these trips are funded from the interest of a contribution made to the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund by our Honourary Solicitor, Mr. Kanigsberg, in memory of his wife.

General Meetings have been held at the Museum regularly for the last eight years on the fourth Thursday of each month. The interest and attendance has been gratifying, especially to Eric Cooke who has organized and planned these meetings. We indeed owe Eric a great deal for continuing with this so faithfully. The meetings will continue to be held, beginning in January, and John Cohrs has agreed to take that responsibility.

Over the past three years our Membership has remained around the 578 number. Of course, we lose some each year, but we gain new members also, and the Society must continue to draw new ones, young ones, to carry on the work our Founders began.

The Financial Statement shows the Society to be sound in that respect. Despite the healthy balance, even after the extra expenses that occurred from the events pertaining to the 25th Anniversary, costs continually rise so that it is far better to enter the next year with that extra, than to find ourselves in a position of not being able to pay for the publication of our Newsletter, as we nearly did a few years ago.

As has been read in the report from the Cape Breton Branch, the Executive have "reluctantly decided to go into suspension for the present". It is unfortunate that such a decision is necessary and I sincerely hope that his will be a very temporary arrangement. The Cape Breton Branch has functioned for twenty-three years. Those who founded the Branch and have continued to be actively involved, trying to keep it operational over these past years deserve our grateful

thanks for their dedication. I know that the decision has been made with much reluctance and regret.

It is now the time for me to make some very grateful acknowledgements, on my own behalf as well as on behalf of you, the membership. To the Executive of this year, especially--

Keith Keddy, the Vice-President, for his work in the Museum Display and co-ordination of information to the media.

Frank Hennessey, Membership Secretary - for his excellent handling of membership registration as well as the mailing of the Newsletters.

Sandra Myers, Treasurer - who efficiently handles our money matters, as well as opens the mail, answers some and distributes the remainder to the appropriate persons.

Shirley Cohrs - Editor of the Newsletter, whose expertise in the publishing field has been a major factor for our Newsletter being recognized as second to none of all those printed in North America.

Bill Caudle - Secretary, for maintaining our minutes and for volunteering and undertaking many extras including the Junior Field Trip next year.

Don Purchase, Director - who with his wife Joyce has so capably organized the Field Trips and has agreed to do so again, next year.

Eric Mills, Director, who has served the Society so well as Chairman of the Conservation Committee responding to reports of bird law infractions and who has done much to draw these to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

Eric Cook - who has acted in the place of the Past President, and who has run the General Meetings each month at the Museum. He has also volunteered to revise the Check Lists which will be printed in 1981.

And of course to

Sara MacLean - our Director from Cape Breton - for her service on behalf of the Cape Breton Branch as well as her most interesting letters and reports.

--to each of you, my sincere gratitude for your support to me and to the Society during this year and all three years I have served as President.

At this time too, I would like to express to Mr. J. L. Martin, Director of the Nova Scotia Museum and his Staff our sincere appreciation for their excellent support and co-operation. Without this we would not have had such a successful year and we especially acknowledge their support of the Anniversary Lecture Series and allowing us to use the Museum facilities for the Founders' Reception.

Finally, I would like to thank all members for the support given to the Executive and thus helping to make this 25th Anniversary Year such a success. There would be no better time than 1981 to begin laying the foundation for the next 25 years and I would suggest that one way to do that would be to start an Archives for the Bird Society.

It has been my honour and my pleasure to have served as your President for the past three years.

Margaret A. Clark,
President,
November 29, 1980.

PUFFIN OF THE YEAR AWARD 1980

There is a statement in the guidelines for the Puffin of the Year Award which reads as follows--"A Society such as this depends on the active participation of its members, without which this Society wouldn't be the success it is now." The recipient of this year's award is an active participant and member, one who indeed has helped make the Bird Society the success it is today. There are many reasons, I feel, why the man who originated the Puffin of the Year Award, Eric Cooke, should be presented with it in 1980.

Eric was the Society's President in 1972. On the night of conducting his first Executive Meeting, a raging blizzard was in progress, so that he was obliged not only to act in his official capacity as President, but also as Secretary-Treasurer. Since then he has continued to be actively involved in matters pertaining to the Society in the same calm, methodical manner of that night. He has served continuously on the Executive in various positions for eight years, during which time he has given invaluable assistance, especially with any financial crisis that has arisen.

As a leader of many Field Trips, particularly shorebird field trips (which we all know are his first love), Eric has been very considerate of the new birder and those who find identifying fall shorebirds as confusing as fall warblers. His concern about the bird life of our province has been evident in the meetings he has attended, pertaining to the protection of islands, shore lines and beach areas, and his participation in studies relating to Conrad's Beach/Lawrence-town Area.

Because the Society's activities are centered in the Metro Area, due to the location of the Museum and the percentage of members living in the area, Eric has made a point of visiting other areas, attending meetings in Cape Breton and taking in as many Field Trips as possible.

Eric has been the Representative Director of the Nova Scotia Bird Society on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Nature Federation for the past three years. He has also served and is presently serving as a member of the Nova Scotia Bird Society Scholarship and Sanctuary Trust Fund. Thus, he serves the Society in the decisions made there, again reflecting his environmental and conservation concerns.

As well as all these ways in which the Society has benefited from Eric's "active participation", perhaps the most obvious and noteworthy contribution has been his dedication to our General Meetings. These meetings originated during his presidency and ever since that time on the fourth Thursday of each month (that the meetings are held) for the past eight years, Eric has been able to present a varied, informative and interesting program.

Always aware of the interests and needs of the Society in relation to the changes in environment and hence changes in the ornithological activities throughout the province, Eric has been able to tap the resources of individuals near and far. This has been a very demanding and responsible undertaking, but Eric has always managed to come through, and so it is for that dedication these many years that Eric is being presented with the 1980 Puffin of the Year Award.

Margaret A. Clark,
President,
November 29, 1980.

FALL MIGRATION - 1980

The news is good for fall of 1980, in the world of Nova Scotia birds, in fact, the news is fantastic. Besides the rush of wings as our own migrants departed in more than their usual thousands, we had some good long looks at as star-spangled a roster of rarities as we have ever encountered. Here are a few of them, some previously reported: in June the Willow Flycatcher, in July a Least Bittern and a Lawrence's Warbler, in August a Say's Phoebe (at Brier I. on the 27th), a Western Tanager, an Audubon's Shearwater and a Cinnamon Teal, in September a Magnificent Frigate-bird, and no less than six Red-shouldered Hawks, in October a Rock Wren, and in November a House Finch and a Townsend's Solitaire. These are no fly-by-nights (so to speak) but well studied and documented observations by competent observers - more birds for the list.

Among our natives we find both Kinglets up, also Cedar Waxwings, Mockingbirds, Mourning Doves, Pine Siskins and Pileated Woodpeckers-although the last one may only be increasing its range. In estimating the numbers of birds one has to take into account the number of reports, the number of areas represented and the number of birds per report. This latter received unusual accuracy for some of our migrants from the Seal I. records, mostly from Bruce Mactavish, who spent the five weeks, Oct. 3 to Nov. 7, the crucial period in the fall migration, on Seal I., and sent us remarkably informative data on 179 species. He wrote: "It was a pretty good trip with large numbers of migrants through to the third week of October, with birds fleeing the cold northwest winds that prevailed in that month. In late October and early November, it seemed as if Nova Scotia was drained of most of its migrants as few birds came in on the frequent cold weather at the time...There was such a concentrated push in the third week of October by all species to the north that twice I saw over 100 species in a single day - 102, Oct. 15 and 102, Oct. 21. I had never seen 100 species in one day on Seal before...The biggest day ended it all; it was Oct. 23 when Seal I. was over-run with sparrows, over 4000 sparrows seen that day. (No House Sparrows)...For most of the last week of October these sparrows gradually declined and no more came in until a few (light) waves in the first week of November. There were fewer Warblers in November and Blackbirds came early - everything points out that this was an early fall". Bruce ends up by saying he is off to Newfoundland to hibernate. He probably needs a rest! We are greatly indebted to him as indeed to all other of our regional observers, whose records make up most of the following report.

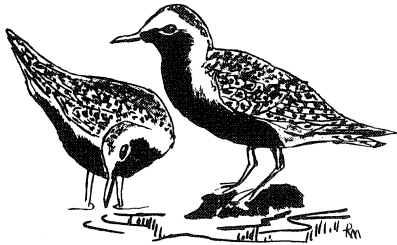
As for the weather, the end of summer left us dangerously dry, a condition that was quickly rectified. In September the rains and fog began, the weather cooled rapidly (the mercury touched 0° early morning Sept. 25); October continued with heavier rains, more cold and high winds, and chill November really deserved its name--thermometers hovered around zero most early mornings and before the end of the month ice was skimming over the lakes and heavy wet snow was falling in many parts of the province. We had had a plentiful harvest of weed seeds and wild berries for the departing birds but a lot of it was left behind. By the last week in November, the roadsides were deserted; the woods were silent.

It could be a long, cold, dull winter. On the other hand we have the cone eaters left (and cones for them), the finches, Cross-bills, Pine Grosbeaks and nuthatches - in fact, a fair supply of the little woods birds - nuthatches, chickadees and kinglets. The arctic birds have appeared already here and there - Redpolls, Snow Buntings and Rough-legged Hawk - and now the winter grebes and the sea ducks are coming inshore. With luck we may not do so badly on the Christ-

mas Counts. However, we're going to have to work for it.

Many thanks from all of us to the following contributors:

Jeanne U. Addelson; C.R.K. Allen; Carolyn Allworth; Daryl Amirault; Ross R. Anderson; George Archibald; Kirk Atkinson; W. and A. Baillie; R. G. S. Bidwell; Nancy Blair; R.G.B. Brown; Beula Burman; Pat and Bob Caldwell; Elizabeth Chant; Margaret C. Cheesman; A. Chiasson; R. B. Chiasson; Curtis H. Chipman; Margaret A. Clark; John L. Cohrs; J. Shirley Cohrs; Lisé Cohrs; Otis Cossitt; Russell J. Crosby; G. Crowell; Bob Curry; Ronnie Denton; Robbie Denton; Albert d'Entremont; Craig d'Entremont; Delisle J. d'Entremont; Raymond S. d'Entremont; J. Jerome D'Eon; Ted C. D'Eon, Con Desplanque, Elly Desplanque; Evelyn D. Dobson; Phyllis R. Dobson; Ross Dobson; S. Dobson; Paul Elderkin; James Elliott; Allison Fergusson; Bernard L. Forsythe; Roberta B. Fraser; Sylvia J. Fullerton; J. R. and C. D. Gallagher; J. Gardner; J. Gates; Mark Gawn; P. Giles; Anthony R. Glavin; Edgar and Vernita Hamilton; Ruth D. Hebb; Frank and Nan Hennessey; Marion W. Hilton; Barbara Hinds; Hedley E. Hopkins; Ross Ingraham; Goldie Jenkins; Ralph S. Johnson; John Kearny; Keith N., Vernon, Gladys, Cherry Keddy; Joan R. Kelley; C. F. L. Kelsey; Evangeline (Van) Killam; Fulton L. Lavender; Wickerson Lent; Jessie MacKay; Pamela MacKay; Larry MacKenzie; Francis MacKinnon; Sara MacLean; Olive and Gordon MacLeod; Bruce D. Mactavish; C. W. McCormick; Sandra and Rainer Meyerowitz; Eric L. Mills; Jean and William Morse; Hazel Munro; Ethelda Murphy; Sandra C. Myers; Margaret A. Nickerson; E. B. Nickerson; C. Olsen; G. Perciva; George D. Perry; Bentley Pierce; Joyce and Don Purchase; Annie K. Raymond; Kelsey O. Raymond; Dorothy Rawlings; T. Reynolds; E. Rooney; Michael Rymer; Betty June, Sidney F., Beverley, Smith; P. C. Smith; Edgar P. Spalding; Francis L. Spalding; R. B. Stern; Karl and Wendie Tay; Stuart I. Tingley; Robert M. Turner; Terry Wentzell; Hazel Williamson; W. E. Whitehead; Dorothy Whippie; David H. and Joan M. Young.



ERRATA

Last Issue, July, 1980, Vol. 22, No. 3.

- p. 148 - 4 E. Kingbirds at APBS should read May 16 (not April)
- p. 154 - Indigo Bunting in Sackville N. B. should also be May 16 (not April)
- p. 158 - should read Sable I. (not Seal) for A. Richard's first arrivals.

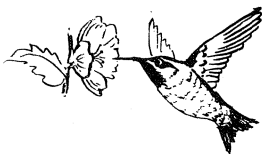
DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTSFEBRUARY 20, 1981

Bird reports to the Records Editor -

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

Photographs, sketches, articles and letters to the -

Editor in Chief, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS,
Nova Scotia Bird Society,
c/o Nova Scotia Museum,
1747 Summer Street,
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6



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, Granberry Head, Eel Brook, Glenwood, Pleasant Lake.
Shelburne Co.	Cape Sable Is., 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, Lawrencetown, Cole Harbour, Mooseland.
Digby Co.	Brier Is., 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
JLNWA	John Lusby National Wildlife Area
CBHNP	Cape Breton Highlands National Park.

FALL MIGRATIONS BIRD REPORTS

LOONS AND GREBES

Just three breeding records of COMMON LOONS have been received: 2 adults and 1 immature, River Lake, Mooselands, July 28 (WT), 2 family groups with one immature each forming part of a flock of 12, Milford Lakes, Sept. 2 (MCC&GBN) and a pair with an immature at Caribou Lake in late summer (JP). A gathering of 100+ at Hemeon's Head, Oct. 2 (RMT) is probably the largest concentration ever reported to us. There was a continuous movement SW past Seal I., reported by Bruce Mactavish: 6, Oct. 6; 12, Oct. 8; 20, Oct. 20; 60+, Oct. 25 and 12, Nov. 4.

The first RED-THROATED LOON this fall was one seen crossing the bow of M.V. Bluenose in the Gulf of Maine, Sept. 20 (KNK). October sightings were : 1, Oct. 14 and 4, Oct. 21, Seal I. (BDM); 5, Oct. 25, Lr. Economy (FH) and 1, Sunday Point during the last week of Oct. (MAN,HW). Single birds of this species were seen at Mahoney's Beach, Nov. 1 (RBC) and at Brier I., Nov. 3 (ARG,RD), while BDM noted an apparent small SW movement there Nov. 4-7.

A stray RED-NECKED GREBE in breeding plumage was seen at Cow Bay July 14 by Fulton Lavender. All other sightings were in November: 35 at Tidnish Dock on the 2nd; 1, at Lr. West Publico on the 10th; and 3, on the 24th, Pinkney's Point (SIT,RSD'E, CRKA)

First HORNED CREBES were at Sandy Cove, Lun. Co., Oct. 17, where 4 showed up (RDH). There were also 2 at St. Margaret's Bay, Oct 23 (KNK) and 13 at Tidnish Dock, Nov. 2 (SIT). A Bay of Fundy sighting was of 3 at Kingsport, Nov. 9 (BLF).

Con Desplanque reports a good breeding population of PIED-BILLED GREBES at APBS this summer, where 20-40 birds could be seen during an extensive walk. Two were still present there Nov. 8. One at Economy, Nov. 23 is the second record for that area (EPS). Other reports are of singles or several birds through Sept, Oct. and Nov., evenly distributed throughout expectable habitat.

CRKA, ed.

TUBENOSES, GANNET, CORMORANT, FRIGATE-BIRD

I was on a cruise to the southern Scotian Shelf, northeast George's Bank and the deeper water to the south and east, from June 16-26. I found GREATER SHEARWATERS common, SOOTIES less so, and NORTHERN FULMARS regular but fairly scarce on the Scotian Shelf. There was a particularly heavy movement of Greaters on the evening of June 20, south of Emerald Bank and about 100 miles SE of Halifax; at least 1000 birds passed us, all heading SE. I saw a total of 9 MANX SHEARWATERS on this cruise. 8 of them were definitely the usual birds of the North Atlantic subspecies--the black or very dark brown of the upper parts sharply demarcated from the white below. The other bird --seen on the NE edges of George's Bank on June 25--was clearly different. It had brown on upperparts with a smudged border in the neck region between them and the white underparts. The latter were too white for the bird to have been a Baleario Shearwater--the western Mediterranean subspecies of Manx. I believe the plumage was the Eastern Mediterranean subspecies, YELKOUAN. Looking back, I'm fairly sure I saw another bird of this race off Brier Island in late Aug. '78. CORY'S SHEARWATERS were quite common--perhaps 40-50 birds in all--at the edge of the shelf and the deep water beyond. Most of the birds I saw seemed to be heading east. About half of them had a white band across the rump, like a Greater Shearwater. This can be much more

conspicuous than the field guides suggest, and can be rather confusing.

I'm sorry to have crowded my records into the limelight like this, but it's easier to present them as a whole, rather than as bits and pieces. The real pride of place ought to go to the AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER which Bob Curry saw from "Bluenose" on Aug. 27, about 1½ hours out of Yarmouth. This is the third Canadian record of this bird. The small size, brownish upperparts, rapid wingbeat and long tail were all diagnostic of Audubon's (the tail length of Audubon's in comparison with other Shearwaters is rather like that of a Raven compared to a crow). The tail and the dark on the head extending down to eye level, rule out Little Shearwater, the other possible small shearwater in the North Atlantic.

I mentioned the "Baleario" shearwater earlier on: Mark Gawn saw a "very pale, smokey brown" Manx on the ferry from Argentia to Cape Breton on August 13. I'm not clear from his description whether the bird was smokey brown all over--a "Baleario", in other words--or just on the upperparts--another Yelkouan?

Fulmars and Great and Sooty Shearwaters were reported by several observers and there is no need to quote all the sightings. There were over 100 Fulmars at the mouth of Lobster Bay on June 4 (S.J. Smith) and 10 on 18 June, 25 miles SW of Cape Sable--yet another indication of how this species seems to be increasing in our water in summer. Stuart Tingley saw only 30 from the Cabot Strait ferry on September 22, another must have moved in after that because there were over 700 on October 21. Less than 2% were dark-phase birds. Greater Shearwaters were heading south past Seal Island at a rate of over 500 birds an hour on October 12 (Eric Mills). There are two late sightings: 3 birds about 24 miles south of Brier Island on Nov. 1 (RSdE) - 4 between Seal I. and Clark's Harbour on Nov. 7 (BMT) The latest Sooty was a single bird east of Seal on Oct. 3. (JK,ELM, BMT).

Stuart Tingley saw 18 CORY'S SHEARWATERS from the Cabot Strait ferry on Aug. 9--mostly on the Nova Scotian side; there were none at all when he crossed again on Sept. 22 and Oct. 21. Records of single Manx Shearwaters--all in Aug.--came from the "Bluenose", Digby and Cabot Strait ferries (MG) and off Brier Island on the Field Trip on Aug. 30 (ELM).

On my June cruise I found that both LEACH'S and WILSON'S STORM PETRELS were common the southern Scotian Shelf--especially on some tide rips on Brown's Bank (where else?) on June 24. There must have been at least 200 of each there. Wilson's were incredibly abundant next day on the NE course of Georges Bank. They were sitting on the water in large flocks--I must have seen well over 1000 birds. On Aug. 9, Stuart Tingley saw over 225 Leach's from the Cabot Strait ferry, but only 5 Wilson's; this is the sort of ratio I would expect so far north. On the other hand Keith Keddy saw only 1 Leach's from "Bluenose" on Sept. 20, and no Wilson's at all. The oddest Leach's record was from the Halifax-Dartmouth ferry on Oct. 2 (RBS); the ferry scared the bird up off the water--it flew up the harbour toward the Basin.

Our period covers the end of the spring migration of NORTHERN GANNETS. SJS saw at least 20 at Lobster Bay of June 15 and 10 on June 18. I saw small numbers on the Scotian Shelf during my cruise at this time. Both of us noted that our birds were all subadults. Shirley Cohrs saw an adult bird feeding right outside Green Bay on Aug. 17--unusually close inshore, and all the odder because, as she points out, the wind had been blowing strongly from the north--out of the Bay--and so could not possibly have blown this bird inshore.

The fall migration had evidently not begun at the time of the Brier Island field trip--only 25 birds were seen there on Aug. 30 (ELM). However, Robert M. Turner saw over 1000 come past Hemeon's Head, Shel. Co., on Aug. 2. BMT saw them from Seal Island between Oct. 3 - Nov. 7, mostly heading SW. The two peak days--both with strong SE winds, were Oct. 25, and Nov. 4, with 1000+ and 1500+ respectively. 90% of them were adults.

The Cohrs saw at least 40 birds heading south close inshore off Cherry Hill on Nov. 8, again, 90% were adults.

There are scattered records of GREAT CORMORANTS. Keith Keddy saw several migrating with long lines of DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS (at least 200 birds) from the "Bluenose" on Sept. 20. BMT saw an averaged 10-30 Greater a day on Seal Island between Oct. 3 - Nov. 7, with a peak of 75 on Nov. 3. In the same period his peaks for Double crested were 200 on Oct; 450 on Oct. 16 and 250 on Nov. 3. There are the usual records of Double-crested Cormorants from around the province. The Cohrs saw large flocks all over Green Bay 1-5 July, following schools of tinker mackerel. The peak numbers in Wine Harbour were roughly 200 in June and July and the last bird was seen on Oct. 21 (Gordon MacLeod). Ruth Hebb and her husband saw a mink trying to drown a cormorant somewhere in the Mahone Bay area on Sept. 10. The animal had caught the cormorant by the throat and let go only when Mr. Hebb hit it with an oar. The bird recovered after a few minutes and laboriously took off. The birds began to leave the Sandy Cove area in Sept., but there were still a few left in early Oct.

Finally, the most remarkable record for the whole group of species. On Sept. 1, Russel J. Crosby saw a MAGNIFICENT FRIGATE-BIRD soaring over Matthew's Lake, Shel. Co., the long, pointed, arched wings and pointed tail and large size--much larger than the Herring Gull which was harassing it--seem diagnostic of a frigate bird. The bird had a white breast and so was presumably a female.

RGBB, ed.

HERONS, EGRETS, BITTERNS

The GREAT BLUE HERON was well reported province-wide, last noted on Cape Breton, Oct. 23 (HH) but present in small numbers elsewhere to the end of the reporting period. On Seal I. numbers actually increased in Nov. as migrants left the province (BMT). 137 nests in two colonies, most of them containing fledglings by June 7, were reported from Bond and Channel Is. (in the Argyle area of SW N. S.) by the d'Entremonts and d'Eons. An errant individual was 15 miles out to sea SW of Yarmouth, June 18 (ST).

Only one GREEN HERON was reported, near East Ferry, on Digby Neck, June 23 - a surprising paucity after a promising spring. Many people saw the adult LITTLE BLUE HERON that summered at Lawrencetown, last noted in mid-August (ELM). At Matthew's Lake, there was one, Aug. 3 (RC), two, Aug. 10 (RC,RT,GP). A CATTLE EGRET was at Brier, June 4 (RD,AH). 4 GREAT EGRETS were present this summer: July 8, at Lusby (CD), Aug. 13, on Cape Negro (E&VH) the second half of Aug. on Digby Neck (WL, ELM), and at Port La Tour, Sept 1 (BP). At least 10 SNOWY EGRETS summered at Lawrencetown, 4 still present Sept. 14 (ELM). Two were at Homeville until late Sept. (AF), singles at Cherry Hill, Aug. 5 (SJF) and at Louis Head, Oct. 13 (D&JY).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS occurred in early summer - two imm. on Cape Sable, June 16 (ST), one June 21 at Kerr's Mill, Cumb. Co. (ELM) - and later, one, Aug. 10, at Smith's Cove, Digby Co., and 5 on Seal, Oct. 3-14 (BMT,ELM,EPS). YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS were at Cow Bay, July 14 (FL), Brier, July 29 (WL), Broad Cove, Aug. 13 (JSC), and again at Brier, Aug. 23-31 (ELM et. al.). An adult was at Sydney, Aug. 17-24 (HH,OC).

A LEAST BITTERN may have summered at APBS but proved elusive for those who sought more than the occasional sound of its call (CD, ST et al.) The COMMON BITTERN was well reported province-wide, including Cape Breton (SL). Last was one at Jones Hbr., Shel. Co., Nov 18 (RT).

FS, ed.

GEESE AND DUCKS

First reports of southbound CANADA GEESE came in late August: 26 at Port L'Hebert on the 25th (RMT), a flock heard going over Wine Harbor on the 28th (GM) and a flock of 7 at New Ross on the 29th (Cherry Keddy). We have 19 reports of small numbers - up to 100 - from all regions during Sept., Oct. and early Nov. and the only congregations of any size are of 1000 at Morien Bar Nov. 15 (George Crowell) and approximately 2000 at Melbourne Sanctuary, Nov. 24 (CRKA, PRD).

One or 2 MALLARDS were seen during Oct. - Nov. at Seal I. (BDM), at APBS (CD), at Melbourne (CRKA) and at Shubenacadie (KNK). The principal thing to say about BLACK DUCKS is that the number of sightings and numbers of individual birds are alarmingly small. In a total of 14 sightings from late Aug. through Nov. just five recorded over 100 birds: 900, Haley's Lake, Shel. Co., Aug. 17 (RMT); 300± Sullivan's Pond, Nov. 11 (RBS); "large numbers" APBS (CD) and 200 each at Melbourne and Salt Bay (CRKA). There are four GADWALL reports: a female at East Jordan with Blacks and Wood Ducks, Sept. 10-13 (RJC); 2, Nov. 7, at Beaver River, Yar. Co., (CRKA); 1, Nov. 8, at Cherry Hill (Cohrs and Richards) and a female, possibly last year's visitor, at Sullivan's Pond Nov. 16 (ELM). Not previously reported was the Gadwall at APBS last June with 8 young. Con Desplanque writes that a stroll through APBS in late summer or early autumn should yield at least 10 PINTAILS and that there were still 7 there Nov. 8. Singles or several birds were seen at Hemeon's Head, Aug. 17-23 (RJC); at Sullivan's Pond, where they are rare, Nov. 9 (ELM) and at Cherry Hill (SJF) and Beaver River also on the 9th (CRKA). Largest number reported was 35 at Port L'Hebert, Sept. 15 (RMT).

The Duck-of-the-year to date is a male CINNAMON TEAL in basic plumage which was first seen Aug. 28, in company with 14 Blue-wings by Dr. Eric Mills, Francis and Edgar Spalding, Dr. R. B. Stern and Eric Curry on Brier Island and carefully studied by them during the 28th, 29th and 30th, at 20-50 metres range with a 20x spotting scope. Unfortunately the distance was beyond that of available cameras, but a detailed examination of plumage, etc., was possible and they have supplied a careful and convincing description (available upon request) GREEN-WINGED TEAL migration was under way by Aug. 30, when 10-15 were seen at Brier I. (RBS); 38, Aug. 17 at Matthew's Lake; which had increased to 6++ by Sept. 1 (RJC). At APBS they peaked at 500 on Sept. 27 (CD), and 20-30 were present daily at Seal I., Oct. 3 to Nov. 7 (BDM). Migrant BLUE-WINGED TEAL first appeared at Matthew's Lake, Aug. 17, when 4 were observed (RJC) and at West Lawrencetown where there were 22, Aug. 19 (KNK). They were present in 20's and 30's during Sept. at Matthew's Lake, APBS, Crescent Beach, and South

Side Cape Sable I. (RJC, KNK, JSC & BJS). Largest concentration reported was 200 at Sable River, Oct. 8 (RMT). There were 50 at Seal I., Oct. 3, numbers declining to 20 by Oct. 17, and last seen there Oct. 20 (BDM). The only EUROPEAN WIGEON for the whole season was 1, May 30, at Lusby (CD). There are nine reports of the AMERICAN WIGEON, seven of these from Lunenburg and the three southwestern counties (Shel., Yar., and Digby) which were of 1-3 birds each; the other two sightings were from APBS, Sept. 13, of 10-20, Oct. 18 of 10 (CD,KNK).

Only fall records of NORTHERN SHOVELER are: 1, Sept. 21, at Economy - a first record for that locality (EPS) and 1, Oct. 17, at Cole Harbor (Jim Elliott). Con Desplanque reports that they were seen only occasionally in the APBS area this past summer. Several sightings of from 1 to 6 WOOD DUCKS, all in eclipse or immature plumage, between Sept. 9 and 13, at East Jordan, were probably birds from one brood (RJC). Thirty of this species at Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, Sept. 13 (KNK) could be descendants of Park "inmates". There were 3 at Sable River, Sept. 15, (RMT), 1, Oct. 12-20 at Seal (ELM,BDM) and 2 there, Oct. 29. A sighting of 2 at Blanche, Shel. Co., Nov. 13-14, is said to be an annual occurrence! (BP per BJS). Wood Ducks were less common this year at APBS although there were 20 there Aug. 9 (CD). A male REDHEAD at APBS July 5th, and again on the 12th, though out of the report period, should go on record here.

RING-NECKED DUCKS lingered well into November this year. There were 4, Sept. 9, in a brackish inlet at Beaver River, Yar. Co., and the same number, same spot, Nov. 7, and again Nov. 12 (CRKA). Keith Keddy reports 25 in a shallow lake on Highway 101 near Sackville and says "breeding suspected but not confirmed". (Editor's note: this is probably Mud Lake, an old established breeding place for this species) The summering Ring-necks at Three-Fathom Harbor reached a top of peak of 65 on Sept. 28 (ELM) but there were only 4 remaining on Nov. 10 (RBS). The Cohrs and Purchases found 55+ Ring-necks, Oct. 5, at Three-Fathom Harbor. Three LESSER SCAUP at APBS Oct. 30 (SIT) is the only report for either Scaup species so far this fall. First COMMON GOLDENEYE seen was one at Seal, Oct. 23 (BDM). First arrivals at Economy, near the head of the Bay were 3, Oct. 26 (FH). On Northumberland Strait, probably the Golden-eye centre for Nova Scotia, there were approximately 150 at Tidnish Dock on Nov. 2, and with them 2, possibly a pair, of BARROW'S GOLDENEYES. A very late pair of BUFFLEHEADS were seen in June at Wine Harbor, reported by Gordon MacLeod. At Smith's Cove, Annapolis Co., one of their wintering centres, there were over 100 by Oct. 18 (AKR). They first appeared farther up the Bay at Lr. Economy, Oct. 19, and were numerous there by mid-Nov. (FH). OLDSQUAWS were first seen at Seal I., Oct. 23, (BDM) and were first heard at Wine Harbor, Oct. 29 (GM), while 30+ at Brier I., Oct., were the earliest arrivals there (ARG). Bruce Mactavish reports two HARLEQUIN DUCKS, an adult and an immature male shot on Seal I., Oct. 25, also an adult male and female seen intermittently, Oct. 26-Nov. 6.

Late summer and fall sightings of COMMON EIDERS are 200, Wine Harbor (no date given) "great increase over oil-polluted birds last year" according to Gordon MacLeod; 1500+ at Hemeon's Head, Aug. 5, (RMT); 1000+ off Bar Harbor (MV Bluenose) Sept. 20; 200-250 Brier I., Sept. 1 (KNK). Eider counts for Seal I., were : 350, Oct. 4; 400, Oct. 13, dwindling to 100, Oct. 26, and 100, Nov. 2 (BDM). WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS as well as the other Scoter species are very lightly reported this year. Frank Hennessey writes that there was the usual build-up in a cove at Lr. Economy, which by late Oct. had reached 150 of which about 100 were of this species, most of the rest being SURFS with a very few BLACKS. Numbers had dwindled by Nov. 16 to 25+.

Edgar Spalding from the same area reports 10+, Nov. 22 - about the usual winter population. Only other sighting for this species is a bird at Morien Bay, Nov. 2 (SM). SURF SCOTERS were regular throughout Nov., last seen Nov. 22 (EPS). Four showed up at Seal I., Oct. 11, and a few were seen every day or so with high counts of 10, Oct. 24, and 20, Nov. 4, and no observations made after Nov. 7 (BDM). There were 45 BLACK SCOTERS at Green Bay, Sept. 28 (JSC) increased up to 80+, Oct. 13-15, fishing off the old breakwater Petite Riviere (PRD). There were close to 70 at East Ship Harbor (no date given WT) and a single bird at Five Islands, Nov. 9 (SIT,FLS). This species was the most frequently seen at Seal I. Oct. 3 - Nov. 7, first seen there, Oct. 6, high counts 150, Oct. 12 and 20, Nov. 4 (BDM).

At least one brood of RUDDY DUCKS was raised at John Lusby Marsh this summer as 9 young were observed in late summer, several adults seen earlier (CD,SIT,KNK). There was a female HOODED MERGANSER with 4 young at Gaspereau Lake, Aug. 4 (BLF). Five of this species were seen at Queensland, Aug. 21, and up to 9 in the same area through Sept. and Oct. (VK). A female seen at Brier I. Aug. 23, stayed until the 31st (ELM) and 3 showed up at Sable River, Sept. 14, (RMT). Young COMMON MERGANSERS were still with parents on Aug. 1, when a brood of 12 well grown immatures was reported at Sandy Cove, Lun. Co. (RDH). Two broods also nearly full grown were seen at Gaspereau Lake, Aug. 4 (BLF). Largest number noted was 200+ at Economy, Nov. 22 (EPS). Reported sightings of RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS are few indeed: 18, Aug. 7, at Annapolis Basin (KNK); 1, Oct. 10, first arrival Seal I., followed by 3, Oct. 14, becoming more frequent by late Oct. with maximum count of 16, Nov. 3 (BDM). S. Tingley reports 275 at Tidnish Dock, Nov. 2.

CRKA, ed.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

The best place to see the TURKEY VULTURE remains the Digby Neck - Brier I. area; first record was Sept. 24, the last, Oct. 24, with two Oct. 8 (RA et al.) Eleven GOSHAWK reports suggest the species is holding its own. A probably mature COOPER'S HAWK was seen June 25, and June 30 at the same spot on the Maccan-Nappan road, Cumb. Co. (CD). Reports of the SHARP-SHINNED HAWK are mostly of migrants, mostly in the SE. A high of 600+, Oct. 8, on Seal suggests many go undetected in north-eastern forests during the summer. "Only one adult noted among 100's of close encounters with the species...What happens to the adults in fall?" asks BHT. An unprecedented report, not only for the rarity, but for the number is that of six Red-SHOULDERED HAWKS on Sept 21 at Green Bay, Lun. Co. These were seen in optimum viewing conditions by John & Shirley Cohrs for at least five minutes, flying in an ever-circling kettle from 150 ft. upwards. Copies of their detailed rare-bird report are available on request. The only other hint of Red Shouldered Hawks is a report of a pair of wings (adult) found on Seal I., Oct. 11.



Intriguing are two reports of the GOLDEN EAGLE from the North Shore: 1st at Middleboro on the Wallace River in June, of two birds convincingly described by RB who, nevertheless calls it not a firm identification and second, an undetailed report of a single bird from Cape George, Ant. Co., in July (HM fide GM). The BALD EAGLE is doing well, 35 individuals reported, 12 adults, 7 immatures, 16 unaged (observers please note). Many report the NORTHERN HARRIER (Marsh Hawk); coupled with the good migration on Seal (e.g. 12, Oct. 6, 25, Oct. 8 - BMT), almost all immatures, the species appears to have had a good year. The only late fall record is one at Economy, Nov. 19 (ES). The OSPREY, which seems to leave earlier than most raptors, provides few Oct. dates, the last being of one at West Pubnico, Oct. 23 (Dd'E).

The PEREGRINE was, as usual, most noticeable on Seal during Oct. about 25 during that time, mostly immatures (BMT). Sept. reports are from Halifax area (ELM), Broad Cove (SJJ), and 70 miles off the SW coast, where one was seen to catch a petrel and devour it aboard a stern dragger (KA). Most unusual was the July 6 report of two exchanging food in flight (Rd'E), behaviour characteristic of breeding pairs. The MERLIN, too, favoured Seal - a maximum of 20 there Oct. 8 (BMT). One seen, one heard June 6, in Pt. Pleasant Park and one, again a female, seen in the same spot a month later suggest a breeding pair may have been present (RS). AMERICAN KESTRELS were apparently not much in evidence during the summer (FL reports a family of 5 in the Halifax area July 25), but the Seal migration showed a high of 70 Oct. 8, with 10-15 a day to early Nov.: there were laggards elsewhere in the province to the end of the reporting period.

GROUSE, PHEASANT, PARTRIDGE

SPRUCE GROUSE, with only 3-4 young were seen at New Ross, June 25 (KK) at Barrington, July 20 (BS), and in Shel. Co., Aug. 22 (J&CG) -not a very good survival rate, it would seem. 8 reports of the RUFFED GROUSE included two families. Most easterly RING-NECKED PHEASANTS were at Indian Point (FL) and Chester (GP). GRAY PARTRIDGE are reported only from Grand Pre, a family of 5, July 18 (KK) and from Economy, a flock of 8 on Nov. 19, 7 thereafter (ES).

MARSH BIRDS

A VIRGINIA RAIL was at APBS July 6 (ST), "only two" on Seal in Oct. (BMT), and one at Pubnico, Nov. 10 "found alive" (E&VH). At least one SORA summered at APBS (CD et al.), a pair on Dorothea Drive, Dartmouth (FL et al.); two visited Seal in early Oct. (BMT). Two COMMON GALLINULES were at APBS May 30, a grown young, Aug. 30 (CD) but there were no intervening sightings. One July 20, at Lr. Three Fathom Harbor and two "Gallinule sp." at Beaver River, Yar. Co. (CA) are the only other records. The COMMON COOT summered at APBS in small numbers, 4 young were seen there July 5 (CD), but the fall build-up was smaller than usual, the maximum 45 on Oct. 30 (ST).

FS, ed.

SHOREBIRDS

Past issues of the Bird Society's publication have contained accounts of the almost clock-like regularity of autumn shorebird migration. This year, because these eternal verities have repeated themselves, also because the number of reports has grown so large, I will be recording only exceptional records, early and late occurrences, and the rare species. See my previous reports, 1975 through 1979, for detailed accounts of the patterns the abundant migratory

species follow during the autumn migration.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER were found nesting only at Matthews Lake in early July (SIT). Careful searches of South Shore areas should reveal more. The last migrants of the season at Conrads Beach, Nov. 9, (JP) and Cherry Hill, Nov. 16, were later than average. Roland Chaisson and Stephen Fleming found that PIPING PLOVER nesting success in Pictou and Antigonish Counties was increased when warning signs were placed on three beaches. Migrants of this charming endangered plover appeared in Lun. Co., Aug. 2-10 (JSC,SJF); thereafter there were no more reports. KILDEER were reported nesting in Dartmouth, June 16, (FLL) and at Wine Harbour on July 12 (GM). GOLDEN PLOVER were rather sparsely recorded, beginning with 1 at Sydney on Aug. 16 (fide SM). 55 were at the Amherst sod farm on Oct. 25 (SIT) and 35+ at Hartlen's Point on Oct. 26 (JSC); 2 remaining at Hartlen's Point on Nov. 9 (ELM) and 1 at Grand Desert on Nov. 23 (Cohrs and Purchases) were late. A few summering BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER remained in the remarkable John Lusby marsh; the numbers ranged from 3 to 20 between June 10 and July 6 (CD,SIT).

Hardy Moffat records that 153 WOODCOCK were seen in various Hants Co., haunts between Oct. 3 and 30, compared with 96 last year. Peak numbers occurred between the 14th and 24th. The last migrants were 2 on Seal Island, 2 Nov. (BMT).

WHIMBREL were regularly reported from early July through Oct. 10. Thereafter, there was a late migrant at Cherry Hill on Nov. 9 (SJF). Only two UPLAND SANDPIPERS were found, one at Brier Island on Aug. 11 (ARG,WL) the other 3 days later at Matthews Lake (RMT).

Two late SOLITARY SANDPIPERS were reported at Lr. W. Pubnico on Oct. 22, (DJd'E), the last of only ten reports beginning July 20. WILLETS followed their usual patterns, except for two late reports: 3 at Clyburn Brook, CBHNP, on Oct. 22 (A. Chaisson), and 20+ at Morien Sandbar, CBI, on Oct. 25 (HH,OC). I would welcome descriptions of late birds, for they might be from the larger, paler western race. A few summering LESSER YELLOWLEGS (8-15) stayed in the John Lusby marsh from June 22 to at least the 27th (CD), after which they were swamped by the early July migrants. At the end of the season one appeared on Seal Is. on Oct. 12 (BMT), and a very late bird was reported from Glace Bay, Nov. 4 (SM).

1 - 3 summering RUDDY TURNSTONES were in the Lusby marsh em-poundments on June 22 and 27 (CD), followed by the first migrants a month later at various places. A fine group of RED KNOT in the Lusby marsh totalled 53 on July 16 (SIT), 20 on July 25 (ELM,AHM); throughout August the species dropped out of sight. Early PECTORAL SANDPIPERS, as usual, were very few: 10 at the Lusby marsh on 5 July (CD), dropping to 1 on the 25th (ELM,AHM); 1 at Lawrencetown Lake, 10 Aug. (ELM). Very few were reported from the Sept.-Oct. migratory period, though my impression is that the migration was a normal one, ending with a lone migrant at Seal Is. on Nov. 5 (BMT).

A late autumn peak of at least 50 WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS (mostly first winter birds) was at Cole Harbour, 9 Nov. (ELM), perhaps a week later than usual. In other respects the slow build-up from mid-July through mid-Sept. was normal. Rather few BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS were seen 15-20 at Brier Is. on July 26 (PCS,RRA), unusual numbers for such (or any) date; then an adult at Brier beginning Aug. 30 (NSBS); 1 at Cherry Hill the same day; other individuals there on Sept. 28 and Oct. 24 (SJF: and the last, quite late, at Seal Is. on Oct. 24 (SJD) were nearly a month behind the latest regular migrants. Two very early DUNLIN records came in: 1 in breeding (alternate) plumage at the Lusby marsh on July 5 (SIT), the other at Brier Is.,

on July 13 (ARG,RED). The next records, as expected, began in early Sept.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS, always scarce, were represented by only one bird, at Cherry Hill on Nov. 16 (SJF). Their cousins, SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS, followed the traditional pattern. The last was at Cherry Hill on Oct. 11 (JSC). STILT SANDPIPERS were unusually abundant. The reports show 34 individuals on 13 occasions between July 16 and Oct. 5, including 10 together at Lower Three Fathom Harbour on Sept. 14 (ELM), where one lingered to Oct. 5 (JSC). At Seal Island, Bruce MacTavish became familiar with one bird that "appeared perfectly healthy and withstood cold NW winds and frequent attacks from Peregrine Falcons" from Oct. 22 through Nov. 1.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS followed routine patterns, except that the flock in Pond Cove, Brier Island, contained a fully albino individual between Aug. 28 and at least Sept. 1 (ELM,EPS). Like a tiny Ivory Gull among peeps, it was all white (except for a light orange-brown wash on mantle, scapulars, tertials and primary tips), pink-billed and pink-legged. Very late birds (no details) were reported from Cranberry Head on Nov. 9 (MWH) and Glace Bay on Nov. 11 (SM).

At least 9 WESTERN SANDPIPERS were reported this autumn, roughly 4X the usual, beginning with one very well-described adult at the Lusby marsh on the unusually early date of July 16 (SIT). Two were watched at very close range on Aug. 18 at Lr. Three Fathom Harbour (ELM and Mark Gawn), where 2 (almost entirely different) birds occurred later, on Sept. 7 (ELM), and two were roosting with Semi's at Freeport on August 29 (ELM,EPS). At Matthews Lake two were reported (no details) Oct. 11 and 13 (DHT,WMT); one at Lr. LaHave was lovingly watched and documented on Oct. 15 (Cohrs, EHC). Finally, 4 at Conrad's Beach on Nov. 16 (Cohrs, Purchases) are the latest recorded from the province.

Eighteen BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS were seen, the first Aug. 28 at Brier Island (ELM,EPS), the last (though almost certainly not the last migrant) also at Brier on Sept. 21 (KNK). All the other records were from the South Shore or Southwestern Nova Scotia in favoured sites like The Hawk (3 on Sept. 3; JGG,CDG) and West Head. Lockport (6 on Sept. 4; RMT). A flock of HUDSONIAN GODWITS at the John Lusby marsh numbered about 40 on July 12 and 16 (CD,SIT); by July 25, it contained 70 birds (ELM,AHM). Peak numbers elsewhere were 23 at Matthews Lake on Aug. 17 (RJC), where one stayed until Oct. 13 (DHY, JMY). Late in the season, an adult and an immature arrived at Seal Island on Oct. 17. The adult left on Oct. 22, but the immature was still there when BMT made his autumnal migration off the island on Nov. 7.

A fine black RUFF was seen and admired at the Lusby marsh from July 4 through the 13th, then apparently reappeared across the road at Amherst Point sanctuary on Aug. 2 (SIT,CD et al.).

A pair of WILSON'S PHALAROPES may have nested at or near the Lusby marsh (as long expected) this year, for an adult female was seen on July 5, then an adult male with 2 juveniles on July 16 through at least Aug. 9 (SIT,CD,ELM,AHM). In other areas this rather erratic species was scarce: 1 at Brier I., July 26 (PCS,RRA); 1 at Matthews Lake, Sept. 1 (RJC); and 2 at Lr. Three Fathom Hbr., Sept. 7, (ELM); making a total of only 8 this autumn, half of them at Lusby.

RED PHALAROPES appeared to be relatively scarce, for example, only 200 in the slicks just NW of Brier I., On Aug. 25 (ELM), 1500-2000 in the same area Aug. 30 (NSBS), and a few (no numbers) during the "Bluenose" crossing Sept. 10 (KNK). A lone NORTHERN PHALAROPE appeared in a Lusby empoundment on July 13 (SIT). Among the Reds off

Brier, we were hardpressed to find two Northern in August (RBS, WSBS): later, some were reported from "Bluenose" on Sept. 20 (KNK) and a late individual fleetingly prospected Seal I., Oct. 15 (BMT).

ELM, ed.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, AUKS

I had three SKUAS on my June 16 - 26 cruise to the Southern Scotian Shelf. All of them were plain, ordinary northern birds with nothing South Polar about them. I also had 3 jaegers--including 1 definite and 1 possible PARASITIC JAEGER. Raymond d'Entremont saw a couple of Parasitics on Georges Bank on April 28. All the other sightings are POMARINES: a bird off Brier Island on Aug. 20, and a total of 18 off Seal Island on Oct. 12 (ELM, BMT et al.); a bird from "Bluenose" on Sept. 20 (Keith Keddy); a dark- and a light-phase adult off Seal Island on Nov. 1 (BMT).

Several observers say that HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS were "as usual", I'll leave it at that. There is no word of the Digby LESSER BLACKBACK, but Eric Mills saw an adult at the Volvo Plant in Halifax on Oct. 24--still there in late Nov.--and thinks it was the same bird that we had there last winter. I agree. There was either a very late or a very early GLAUCOUS GULL at Point Acois, B.B., on July 14 (Hedley Hopkins, Otis Cossitt) the only other sightings were a bird off Seal Island on Oct. 12 (ELM) and a first-year bird at Canal Street, Dartmouth, on Nov. 15 (Shirley Cohrs) Sara MacLean says that ICELAND GULLS returned to Cape Breton in Sept., but we have no other records than that.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES are scarce off Nova Scotia in summer. I saw only one on my June cruise--an adult about 50 miles SW of Halifax on June 20. The next record after that was the three birds which Keith Keddy saw from "Bluenose" on Sept. 20. Numbers built up after that. ELM saw over 300 at Seal I. on Oct. 12 and BMT, watching from Oct. 3 to Nov. 7, found a surge of birds on the last week in Oct. The peaks were over 1000 on Oct. 25, and over 2500 on Nov. 4--both days of E and SE winds. Many of these birds were juveniles. Shirley Cohrs has an unusual inland record from Halifax--a kittiwake inland from the Northwest Arm and flying over Simpson's on Dec. 17. (Do they fly over Eaton's too?)

RING-BILLED GULLS were here all summer. Con Desplanque saw 20 at Lusby Marsh on June 27. In the fall the numbers at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, stayed fairly constant--from 30 on Sept. 3 to 40 on Nov. 11 (RBS). Only a few of them were adults. Phyllis Dobson's usual flock at Eel Brook/ Abram's River first appeared on Sept. 24 --about 30 birds--and had grown to over 260 by Nov. 17. On Seal I., BMT found them scarce in early Oct., but with a steady light migration later in the month and in early Nov. The peaks were 10 on Oct. 13 (mostly immatures) and 25 on Nov. 3 (mostly adults).

SABINE'S GULLS are our most interesting small hooded gulls, and Jim Elliott saw 3 in the middle of Cabot Strait on Aug. 8. These were probably birds from Hudson Bay which had crossed Labrador en route to the Bay of Biscay.

We also had a LAUGHING GULL in full breeding plumage at Petite Riviere on July 5 (Cohrs). It was just one bird in a flock of hundreds of gulls, terns and Cormorants following the mackerel run into Green Bay. The only other sighting is the 1st-year bird which BMT saw at Clark's Harbour on Nov. 7.

BONAPARTE'S GULLS were hawking for flies over the fields on

Boularderie I., on Aug. 1 (J.Gardner) and the first mainland record was of a bird moulting out of breeding plumage at Cole Harbour on July 28 (Keith Keddy). There are few records after this, probably because nobody was watching Northumberland Strait, where they are most likely to occur in the fall. Bruce MacTavish saw a first-year bird at Seal Island on Oct. 26. We usually get more reports of BLACK-HEADED GULLS than Bonaparte's, but this fall is an exception. I don't know of there being a scarcity of birds, or of bird-watchers. All we have is a bird at Lobster Bay on June 4 (Sidney Smith), 2 at Glace Bay on Aug. 16--with numbers "as usual" in Sept.-Nov. (Sara MacLean), a winter adult at Conrad's Beach on Aug. 18 (ELM & MG), and an adult and an immature at Canal St. on Nov. 2 (ELM).

GULL-BILLED TERNS are the only exotic tern species this season. There was an adult on East Lawrencetown Lake June 19-24 (ELM,FL), and a bird in winter plumage at Apple Cove, Cherry Hill, on Sept. 20 (Sulvia Fullerton). BLACK TERNS aren't exotic--Con Desplanque saw them regularly at APBS all summer, with 6 young on July 19; I wish I'd seen "the beautiful adult" which Stuart Tingley saw fishing with all the other terns at Northwest Ledge, off Brier Island, on June 23. I've never seen a Black Tern in breeding plumage at sea.

As far as our regular sea-terns go, both Russel J. Crosby and Stuart Tingley report ROSEATES at Matthews Lake, Shel. Co., during the summer. It seems to be a feeding area for birds breeding nearby--Russel found a nest a East Jordan on June 11. COMMON and ARCTIC TERNS are reported as usual. Gordon MacLeod heard his first COMMON at Wine Harbour on May 21, and his last on Sept. 22. Betty Smith saw a tern at Barrington on May 22, but from her description of its plumage, it doesn't sound like an adult breeding bird. The Gallagher's describe an Arctic Tern colony of about 20 birds at Crow's Neck, East Baccaro Beach, on June 15; only 3 were left--all adults--on Aug. 6 and 9. This was down from 40 birds in 1979 and 90 in 1978. ELM found that Commons were disappearing from Brier I. by Aug. 22. After this date, the birds left on the Peter's I. colony were mostly juveniles, and even they had almost all gone by Aug. 25. The Arctics too had mostly gone by Aug. 22. The last tern record of all is an unidentified bird at Conrad's Beach on Nov. 9 (J. Purchase).

There were perhaps 600 BLACK GUILLEMOTS around the Bird Islands off Bras d'Or during the summer, and about 16 RAZORBILLS (HEH). A razorbill off New Campbellton, C.B., on Aug. 17, was presumably also a Bird Island bird (RBS). During his stay on Seal I., from Oct. 3 to Nov. 7, BMT saw 1 Razorbill on Oct. 25, and flocks of 17 and 11 on Nov. 3 and 4 respectively--the flocks flying west. He found Black Guillemots scarce, and his high counts were 2 on Oct. 17, 3 on Nov. 1, and 5 on Nov. 4. All I can add is a single Razorbill about 70 miles ESE of Halifax on June 1.

COMMON PUFFINS are better reported. The earliest was Lisé Cohrs' sighting of 6 birds--including 2 immatures, off west Ironbound Island on July 24. Pearl Island birds, perhaps?--or do they nest somewhere else on Mahone Bay? Bentley Pierce saw an adult and seven immatures just south of Cape Negro on Aug. 12. It seems to have been a good fall for them off Brier Island. Kelsey Raymond saw several groups of ten or so off Centreville, just up the coast, on Aug. 18, there were 10 between Northern Point, Brier I., and Moore's Ledge, on Aug. 25, and at least 75 on Aug. 30 (ELM). I don't remember seeing as many as that in the Aug. of 1977-8, that I spent off Brier.

Finally, we are just in time to report the first DOVEKIE--seen from the Hfx.-Dart. ferry Dec.1. I may have underestimated the ferry system--first the Leach's Storm-Petrel; now the Dovekie. 'Tho there's no substitute for the sea, I may now take the ferry more often.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS

The ROCK DOVE was largely ignored by reporters, but there is no shortage of the species. The MOURNING DOVE, on the other hand, is widely reported, mostly in the fall, mostly in the west. 100+ at Cheggogin, Yar. Co. (CRKA) and 135+, Oct. 15, on Seal (BMT) were the largest concentrations.

The YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO was again frequently seen this fall: 40 were on Seal during Oct. (BMT) one as far east as Wine Harbor, Sept 25 (GM) and another at Economy, Oct 18 (ES). A June 22 sighting in Crichton Park, Dartmouth (FL) is unusual. The BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO was seen this summer at Round Hill (WW), West Pubnico (Rd'E), Amherst (CD) and Crichton Park (FL). At Seal the Oct. total was 9 (BMT,ELM).

OWLS

The GREAT HORNED OWL was the best reported of the resident strygid (12 individuals involved - owls that is); a very pale one was on Seal, Oct. 16 (BH et al.). The BARRED OWL, presumably commoner, certainly noisier, managed only six mentions. The LONG-EARED OWL, much more local, returned eight strong to the same root-tree used last year at Canard (BF); two were resident at Brier (ELM) and one was detected at Lr. West Pubnico, Sept. 25 (Rd'E). The SHORT-EARED OWL summered at Grand Pre (KK,RS) and doubtless elsewhere, crows permitting. 5 fall records include 3 at Seal (BMT), one each at Brier (WL) and, Nov. 13, at Conrad's Beach (BMT,ST). The lone SAW-WHET OWL record comes from Granite Village, Queens Co. (RT).

CAPRIMULGIDS, SWIFT, HUMMINGBIRD, KINGFISHER

The WHIP-POOR-WILL's only report is from Spectacle Lake, Dartmouth, where FL spent much time in a vain search for its nest. The COMMON NIGHTHAWK was much noticed, both in summer and in "fall" migration, the latter being pretty well over by the end of August. The CHIMNEY SWIFT gets less attention but the records include two successful nests "in hollow trees over water" at Methal's Lake (BF) and a late migrant at Seal, Oct. 21 (BMT). "Numbers down from last year!" opines KK from New Ross.

The RUBY THROATED HUMMINGBIRD elicited a good deal of comment, all of it favourable. A very late one was at West Pubnico, Nov. 6 (Rd'E). For a time an aberrant individual at Orangedale, C. B., was thought to be a Black-chinned, but close inspection by experts (IAM, ELM) leaves the latter's status as hypothetical, at best.

The BELTED KINGFISHER nested at New Ross (KK), Cornwall (JP), Sandy and Marriot's Coves (RH); elsewhere it was seen in pursuit of the Merlin and Great Horned Owl (RS,GA fide GM).

WOODPECKERS

The COMMON FLICKER is a conspicuous fall migrant, with up to 150 in one day on Seal in early Oct. (BMT); it is not so easy to find as the days shorten, one at Yarmouth, Nov. 24, being the last reported (PRD). 11 well-distributed reports of the PILEATED WOODPECKER were received. An immature RED-HEADED WOODPECKER was at Pubnico from Nov. 6, to the end of the reporting period (E&VH). The YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, very lightly reported, was called "common" on Seal in early Oct., where there were up to 8 a day (BMT). We are apt to think of the HAIRY and DOWNY WOODPECKERS as essentially non-migratory but this year the former was passing through Seal at the rate of 6-11

a day compared to a total of 4 all fall in 1978. The BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER produced as much comment as either of the two preceding species (it's more newsworthy rather than more often seen); included was a nesting report from Mooseland (KT) and a sizeable fall gathering of 6-8 at APBS, Oct 25 (ST).

FS, ed.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

When the EASTERN KINGBIRDS begin to be seen, we know that fall is on the way. Single birds were seen here and there in July and August, but it was Aug. 30 when they really began to move, nine being seen at Chebogue (and 6 on Brier) that day. There were six at Chebogue, on Sept. 7, and there are several reports of 3's and 4's around the Yarmouth Co. roadsides on Sept 9 (CRKA,MWH).

Parties on Seal noted six different WESTERN KINGBIRDS there between Oct. 14-23. Elsewhere, there was one at Brier, Sept 12, and one at Lockeport, Nov. 3. The latest sighting was at Green Bay on Nov. 9, where the Cohrs watched a superbly plumaged bird catching insects along the shore.

Three GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS were documented. One spent a weekend at Rivendell (Cumb. Co.) May 28-31, another (female) was resident at Kerr's Mill (Cumb. Co.) at the end of June and 5 or 6 were seen on Wolfville Ridge during the first week of August. (RGSB, ELM,BLF). The latter may have been a family group, feeding together in an apple orchard.

Nesting EASTERN PHOEBES were reported from Bear Pt., Shel. Co. (May 18, fide BJS) and New Ross (June 22 KNK). The only report of any concentration of phoebes comes from Seal, where from Oct. 10-25 they went through at a rate of 3-4 a day. After an hiatus of a week another wave of 4 a day went by during the first week of November.

An exciting report of the accidental SAY'S PHOEBE was received from H. Barnett and C.W. McCormack on Brier, Aug. 27.

The EMPIDONAX group of flycatchers thrived as usual, numbers seeming about "usual" on BBS's and in other areas. The latest mainland YELLOW-BELLIED appeared at St. Croix on Sept 13, while on Seal BDM saw two on Oct. 15, and one on the 23rd. He writes, "3 birds involved. Each had a yellow eyering, thus eliminating the possibility of their being Western Flycatchers. The incidence of out-of-range flycatchers among the late birds of this family is so high that all late birds should be carefully identified. Eliminate everything!" We had one out-of-range bird of this group here this summer--a first for Nova Scotia. This was the WILLOW FLYCATCHER which Ian McLaren discovered singing at Indian Pt. (near Mahone Bay) whilst he was making his Breeding Bird Survey on June 22. The bird was seen subsequently by several members and, on July 24, Fulton Lavender found two adult Willows and two fledged young there (details available on request)

Late date for LEASTS was one on Seal, Oct. 15.

The EASTERN WOOD PEWEE story is of normal numbers, no large movements noticed and the latest seen at about the usual time--Oct.6, 11 & 15 (Seal)

Seventeen OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS were seen, mostly in the "Western end". The Teys saw an adult feeding two young at Mooseland on Aug. 23. Whenever they left they did it quietly as no one appears

to have noticed.

HORNED LARKS breed here, but are not much in evidence in summer, appearing around the shores in autumn. This year FLL found two pairs in a field at Berwick on June 29--presumably breeders. No more were seen until Oct. 4, when they appeared in Cape Breton, Oct. 14, at Grand Pre, and 21st at Brier. It was not, however, until November that they began to be seen in their usual spots at least six weeks later than usual.

The departure of the swallows is not monitored with the enthusiasm which greeted their arrival. TREE SWALLOWS nested successfully at St. Croix, Smith's Cove and Wine Harbour (MAX, AKE, GM). Con Desplangué had an unusual sighting at APBS on June 7, when he saw a flock of 2000 on the wires--he wonders if they were coming or going! They departed as usual towards the end of August, although no noebly large flocks were mentioned. As the Meyerowitz' at St. Esprit wrote, "We become lulled by the long preparation for departure and don't realize they've gone until the power lines and air are empty". A few lingered on, last report being of one at Little Harbour on Oct. 13 (DHY, JMY)

Not many people report BANK SWALLOWS. Gordon MacLeod saw the last one at Wine Harbour on Aug. 19, the same date mentioned by Keith Keddy. There were 25 on Brier, Aug. 30 and two at Mahoney's Beach, Sept. 27.

Three of our regular rarity, the ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW appeared: one in "early June" at Wine Harbour (fide GM), one at the Cole Harbour-Lawrencetown areas, July 18-20 (FFL, ELM) and a bedraggled storm driven rough-wing at Broad Cove, Oct. 12 (SJF).

So few people noticed the departure of the BARN SWALLOWS this year that it is difficult to pinpoint the migration. KNK had a flock of 23 at Hammond's Plains on Aug. 6, and 30+ were at Brier, Aug. 30. Latest seen was at Little Harbour Oct. 14. An all white, young Barn Swallow was seen at Berwick, where James Woods was able to photograph it being fed by a parent.

Keith Keddy writes that the CLIFF SWALLOW population at New Ross was sparse this year--he saw no large colonies--"just several of a few nests each "from June 12-Aug. 5, there were from 4-10 around a barn at Middle Clyde and 4-10 (3 nests) June 18-Aug. 8 at Middle Ohio (JR&CDG). Two were seen in June at Wine Harbour and eight at Russell Lake, July 8.

All the PURPLE MARTIN news, except for a rescue operation, comes from Con Desplangué in Amherst who wrote, "The Amos colony has about 35 boxes occupied, while the 16 at the Rose colony appear to be used. There are three other sets of boxes (Langille, Christie and Terris) which have a few occupants". More news of nesting success would be welcome. The rescue occurred at sea on George's Bank, when Raymond d'Entremont captured an exhausted martin and kept it caged for a couple of days to regain some strength before releasing it.

CORVIDS THROUGH WRENS

As is usual in summer, the GRAY JAYS kept a low profile, emerging in the fall from the deep woods to the wood edges. Those who ventured into the deeper (resting) areas reported three families: 2 adults with one young at Lr. Ohio (June 2), 2 adult and 2 young at Somerset Road (Lun. Co.) July 18 and 2 adults and one young at Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co., June 29.

BLUEJAYS, "abundant", "everywhere", "in tremendous numbers", etc., best describe their species. This trend began in the fall of 1979 (NSBS, Vol. 22, No. 1 p. 32) and is continuing. They were passing through Seal at a rate of 25-50 a day in October, until the big storm on the 25th--then numbers dropped to no more than six a day. From reports received there are still more than enough left on the mainland gobbling up the sunflower seeds.

COMMON RAVENS are said to be abundant in Yar. and Digby Counties, "as usual" in most other areas and on the decrease in the New Ross area. (PRD, AKR, KNK)

A white-winged COMMON CROW was reported from Glace Bay by Sara MacLean who caught crows "picking cherries" this summer. One mention was made of a crow migration--flocks of 80 were going through Seal in early Nov.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were very heavily reported. They stayed around a few feeders and gardens all summer and returned to the rest with a vengeance in autumn. Very rare on Seal Is., they were seen in groups of 3-4 on scattered dates in October.

BOREAL CHICKADEES are never so well seen but appear to be in usual numbers in their appropriate areas. They are common residents on Seal and BLM and ELM thought there were more than usual there with some migrating flocks of 30-40 a day as well.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES continue to thrive. This consistent (although uneven) increase in numbers following years of comparative rarity prior to 1977, is as follows: (numbers given are those in the fall reports of each year) 1976 (2), 1977 (26), 1978 (10), 1979 (19) and 1980 (28)

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES became plentiful in late August and continued to be heard "from every bush and tree" throughout Sept and Oct. ELM noted a wave of 75 arriving overnight on Brier on Aug. 22. All this is encouraging after last year's "drop off". They were heard regularly in Economy after a "prolonged absence" (FH).

An unusual sight and sound of a BROWN CREEPER singing was reported by the Cohrs from Somerset Road on June 29, and nine other creepers were seen on the mainland, mostly in late Oct./early Nov. They migrated through Seal, Oct. 13-23 with flocks of from 7-25 being observed.

"About 11 HOUSE WRENS showed up on Seal, evenly spread out on single dates, Oct. 3-Nov. 7. The usual early October flight did not happen this year, possibly because of a lack of westerly winds"--Bruce MacTavish.

The ROCK WREN found by John Kearney and Nancy Blair on Seal Is., Oct. 4, was truly amazing, considering its usual range and habitat. It was found amongst the large beach boulders at the north end of the island and was seen subsequently in that area by BMT and IAM, staying around until Oct. 8. Fieldmarks were documented and photographs taken. This a first record for Nova Scotia and probably only the third east of western Ontario.

Coming back down to earth to consider the plight of the decimated WINTER WRENS, we find that the picture is still grim. Most correspondants wrote just to say that they had seen or heard none. However, there were a few about. Joyce Purchase had three at Caribou Lake, Lun. Co., throughout the summer. She observed an adult feeding two young; presumably there must have been another adult around

sometime. KNK had three--at Beavercreek, New Ross and Hammonds Plains. There were 12 on Seal, Oct. 10, and others from 10-13-6 in numbers, passed through from Oct. 13-Nov. 7.

A LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN was heard frequently at APBS in July by Con Desplangue who writes, "2 seen July 12, 1, July 19 and two groups of 4-5 young on Aug. 23. They were playing hide-and-seek with me, being very noisy and nosy. One could follow their movements through the cat-tails and they would pop up and have a good look at me and my dog." On Seal the picture was: 1, Oct. 5, 3, Oct. 21 & 22, 1, Oct. 24.

We have been deluged with reports of MOCKINGBIRDS, at least fifty being seen in the province. They have become "old hat" in some areas and it remains to be seen how many will overwinter. A mixed blessing at feeders, their beligerant and aggressive behavior drives away some of the shy birds.

The GRAY CATBIRDS departed earlier than in 1979. The late dates are: Sept. 22, Eel Brook, Oct. 23, West Pubnico and Seal Is. (PRD,DJd'E, BMT)

Four BROWN THRASHERS appeared on the mainland: two at Sable River, July 11-26, one at Smith's Cove, Oct. 15 and one at L.W. Pubnico, Oct. 16. Five or six were seen on Seal in October, the last one being seen on Oct. 21.

ROBIN THROUGH KINGLETS

There was early evidence of the ROBIN migration Aug. 18 at Lake Center, when Terry Wentzell observed a flock of 20. No large flocks were reported in September, although movement of small numbers was steady. The large flocks began in October. On Seal there were 2500, Oct. 23, and 4500, Oct. 24, flying into the NW wind off the northern tip. There were "100's" at St. Esprit, Oct. 27. The Cohrs encountered robins everywhere on every October weekend at Green Bay. 4000 were in the Chester area Nov. 11. Throughout November they kept coming and going, many being of the splendidly coloured "Newfoundland" race.

One WOODTHRUSH was seen by Wendie Tay at Lochabar Mines, Aut.22.

Although many people complained that the HERMIT THRUSHES had left early and were not heard after the first week of August--it may be that they just do not sing in late summer after the young have left the nest. There were a few around (silently!) well into November, with several October sightings as well. Last date so far are 2 at Sable River and one at Brier on Nov. 3 and one on Seal, Nov. 7. However, it is not unusual to find a Hermit on several of the CBC's.

BLF found a SWAINSON'S THRUSH nest with two eggs at Newtonville, Kings Co. on July 8. By July 23 there was one egg and three newly hatched young. There were three reports of Swainson's for Sept. in Cape Breton (no details given) and five on the mainland. A very late bird was feeding on the kelp on Seal, Nov. 3.

There were two sight records of GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSHES on the mainland but in both cases no confirmatory information was given. Observers are urged to give such details in future--gray-cheeks in fall are tricky identifications.

VEERYS nested in Tusket and on the Wolfville Ridge (as usual). They were also seen and/or heard at Wine Harbour, New Ross and

Paradise. At Green Bay, where they had become established over the last few years, the Cohrs' heard none at all. Late date was Sept. 1 at New Ross (CRKA, BLF, GM, KNK, JM, JSC).

A female EASTERN BLUEBIRD was a temporary resident in Westport village from Aug. 11- Sept. 13. It (or another) was seen there Oct. 2-8. A bluebird (m or f?) was seen Oct. 11 at Sable River and 2 males were about at Lr. Argyle, Oct. 20.

On Nov. 6, at 2:30 p.m. at the northern tip of Seal, Bruce MacTavish found a TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE which he followed $\frac{1}{4}$ mile further south to observe further. A well documented sighting, it becomes the third for Nova Scotia (Wolfville, Halifax, Seal).

Piling rarities on rarities, no fewer than three BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS appeared on Seal Oct 6, 7 and 10. BLT feels that these were different birds.

Those who know where to look can usually find GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS in the summer months, but they come out of the deep woods and become more evident in Sept. and Oct. to become one of our most commonly heard ('tho not seen) winter birds. Numbers seem to be promising this year with correspondents claiming the population to be high. PRD writes that golden-crowns are the most frequently heard birds in the woods in Yar. Co. Numbers on Seal in Oct. were quite high with peaks Oct. 8 (120), 10th (200) and 15 (100) 21-23 (200+).

As well as golden-crowns, there were large numbers of RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS; 20 on Seal, with peak days as follows: Oct. 8 (120), 10 (200), 13 (400+), 15-16 (250), 21 (100), 23 (350+). Latest seen was one in a Halifax garden, Nov. 14 (JSC).

The southward movement of WATER PIPITS took place in Oct. & Nov. as usual. There were 100 at Pond Cove, Brier on Oct. 21 and 30 there Nov. 3. Nov. 1 saw 10+ at Economy, one at Conrad's Beach, Nov. 6 and 10 at Chegoggin Shore, Nov. 7 (RD, EPS, JP, CRKA). The peak days on Seal were Oct. 17 (60), 30 (30), 31 (50), Nov. 6 (15).

Two early reports of the winter BOHEMIAN WAXWING came in. Stuart Tingley reported several small flocks around Sackville, N.B., beginning Oct. 10, and Joyce and Don Purchase saw 2 at Grand Desert, Nov. 15.

This was a CEDAR WAXWING year. Sara MacLean said, "This was a waxwing summer in Cape Breton": Keith Keddy (New Ross and Hammond's Plains, .. "everywhere, couldn't help be noticed, even by non birders." Jean Morse (Paradise), "abundant", Joyce Purchase (Dartmouth), "might as well add our flock to the year of the waxwing" .. and on and on all over the province. The excellent berry crop was providential.

1978-79 was a NORTHERN SHRIKE winter, 1979-80 was not. 1980-81? So far, probably not--only four reports to date as against three last year and 19 in 1978. These are (al singles) Economy, Nov. 2, (imm.), Brier, Nov. 5, (ad), Chegnecto, Nov. 22 (ad) and Eel Brook, Nov. 25 (ad) (FH, SRG, SIT, CRKA).

A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE appeared at Round Hill, July 11 (one there last year, July 19) WEW.

At Round Hill STARLING numbers were the highest this summer that they have been in three years. On the Beaverbank BBS, KNK found Starlings to be his second most frequent bird (Robins first). Large moving flocks landed briefly on Seal at the end of October: 200, Oct. 23; 600, 28th; 250, 30th; 300, Nov. 3; 100, Nov. 6. They

often left the same day on which they came, some going back N and some SW.

JSC, ed.

VIREOS

Bruce MacTavish encountered two immature WHITE-EYED VIREOS on Seal Island in October this year which he says, "continues the tradition of one or two of these every October since the island's first, in October '74". This more southerly bird does not appear in Nova Scotia, only in the fall - remember the one caught and banded by Ross Anderson, May 17, on Brier I. last spring. Another exotic, the YELLOW-THROATED VIREO was present on Seal I. Oct. 5, identified there by Eric Mills. One also, an adult male, Nov. 11, at Notting Park, Dartmouth. The SOLITARY made its presence known, probably on its way, late August in Old Barns, heard by Dorothy Whippie; there was a wave Sept. 6, heard all around (JSC); four were noted on Brier I., Sept. 16 (ARG) and the top of the peak on Seal was 4, Oct. 22-23 (BMT). The RED-EYED VIREO, always later, was still in Old Barns, Sept. 6 (DW); last seen also at Hammonds Plains, Sept. 2 (KNK); 25+, Sept. 13, on a woods walk by JSC; present in good numbers on Seal I. through October, one still there Nov. 1 (BMT). Margaret Clark found a very small nestling on her lawn Aug. 1, which she placed on the branch of a tree, then watched it being fed for a day and a half by a female Red-eyed Vireo - the infant remained secure and quite unafraid on its branch throughout this time. APHILADELPHIA VIREO was noted by Hazel Munro, July 21-22 at Wine Harbor; another Aug. 24, at Brier I. (stayed several days near the banding station) and was identified by ELM, who also saw one on Seal I., Oct. 13, seen there also by BMT, and SJF; and another Oct. 13 at Green Bay (J&SC). WARBLING VIREOS were seen and heard in September, 2 on the 7th at Marriott's Cove by Ruth Hebb, who heard (and knows) the musical finch-like warble; and 2, Sept. 8, at Old Barns (DW).

WOOD WARBLERS

From Oct. 3 to Nov. 7, Bruce MacTavish monitored the fall migration on Seal Island. He was joined at times by Eric Mills, Sylvia Fullerton and Barbara Hinds. Bruce's count for the whole period was 179 species, many of which he "saw out of the country", in particular the Wood Warblers, and in the following report Seal I. sightings should be attributed to him unless otherwise indicated. Thirty species of warblers made their way through Nova Scotia this fall, all of our regular 22 and 8 exotics, these latter underlined as usual, in this report. The BLACK-AND-WHITE was well noted in August, very few present on Seal in October and the last date seen was Nov. 18, the Ross Road near Dartmouth (Joyce Purchase). The PROTHONOTARY is reported: 1, Sept. 1, at Old Barns (DW) and 1 male, Oct. 7-8 at Barrington (Hattie Perry and BJS). A GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER, Aug. 25, caught in the nets at Brier I., was identified by RRA and ELM. A very unusual sighting on July 7, at Big Bras d'Or was of a LAWRENCE'S WARBLER by Joan R. Kelly, a visitor here and an experienced birder, who gave us an unmistakable description of the bird, the characteristic markings clearly seen. The TENNESSEE was well reported up to Oct. 10 with the last sighting at Round Hill (WEW); a high of 5, Oct. 6, at Seal I., and the last sighting there Nov. 4. The ORANGE-CROWNED, rarely seen on the mainland is common in migration on Seal but was there in low numbers this fall, a high of 3, Oct. 22-31. The NASHVILLE, noted in usual numbers from June to September on the mainland, was regular on Seal and first half of October, last seen there Oct. 28. Nesting PARULAS were seen in June, notably by BLF in Wolfville Ridge and at Brass Hill, where for the ninth consecutive time, they nested in the same usnea-festooned spruce beside the Gallaghers' house; last seen at Glace Bay, Sept. 7 (SM), at Round

Hill, Oct. 28 (WEW) and on Seal, Nov. 1. YELLOW WARBLERS, common throughout the summer in most places apparently left in September (as is probably the case with most of the warblers), mixed flocks noted through that month in Annapolis, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties, flocks largely made up of Yellowthroats, Magnolias, Yellowthroats, Parulas, Black-throated Greens and Redstarts; the last Yellow seen on Seal, Oct. 15. The MAGNOLIA also was well reported all summer and seen in numbers on into September, the last on the mainland 5, Oct. 15, at Barrington (BJS) and on Seal 1, Oct. 22-23. Last report of the CAPE MAY from Cape Breton was Aug. 16 (NSBS party), from mainland N.S., Oct. 13, "a small flock" at Paradise (JM) and 1, Oct. 21 on Seal (had been up to 5 there earlier in Oct.). The BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, one of our dependably regular birds but seldom seen gave "good counts of 4, Oct. 6 and 8, Oct. 13, late record 1 adult male, Nov. 3 " on Seal I." indicates at least average October flight", according to Bruce MacTavish.

Outnumbering all the others put together (in the fall) the YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS went through Nova Scotia in a series of waves as usual, each running into the next, beginning in early September - KNK had 30 that day in his garden at New Ross - and continuing well into Nov. (200-300 in the sand dunes and grass at Summerville Beach, Nov. 6, counted there by Sandra Myers). By mid-Nov. Yellowrumps had disappeared from most areas but the Talbots at Cherry Hill reported them still abundant there, where the bay-berry bushes were still loaded. At Seal I. peaks were: 1000+, Oct. 6; 750, Oct. 7; 500+, Oct. 10; 300 Oct. 13; 750, Oct. 16; 600+, Oct. 20; 500+, Oct. 23; 400, Oct. 30; 250, Nov. 6. BMT attributed the variation to the frequent NW cold fronts that passed through the Maritimes in October.

The BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER was noted to be less abundant than usual this season, and was gone by mid-October. It was seen Oct. 10, at Antigonish (RBC) and the last individual on Seal was seen Oct. 25. A CERULEAN WARBLER, killed by gulls was brought ashore from Lobster Bay, June 14, on William Nickerson's boat and first identified as an Indigo Bunting, later correctly identified by the Hamiltons, Mike Rymer and Ted D'Eon. Nine reports of the BLACKBURNIAN is more than usual but all were of one or two birds only, although widely distributed. In keeping with this there was only one of these warblers seen on Seal (Oct. 7) during the period Oct. 3-Nov. 7. Although the CHEST-SIDED was well reported early in the season and is probably increasing in Nova Scotia (a bird of second growth woods) very few sightings are recorded, with the two last: 1, Oct. 21 on Seal and 1, Oct. 4 by T. Reynolds at CBNP. The retiring little BAY-BREASTED joined the throng on Seal in Oct., 3 seen on the 6th, 2 on the 7th. The BLACKPOLL (so difficult to distinguish from the preceding species when both are immatures that many of our light-hearted members lump them together as "Baypolls") although sparsely reported in summer did show up in some numbers at Seal: 30, Oct. 6; 10, Oct. 13; 1, Nov. 7. The PINE WARBLER (more difficult even than the above two, to identify as immatures) appears quite regularly in N.S. in the fall: six reports this year, from unassailable sources: 1, Oct. 6 from the Chester region (RDH); 2, Oct. 5 and 1, Oct. 10 and 21, at Seal; 1, Nov. 8 and 9 at Lr. Economy (FS, SIT, FH); 1, Nov. 11, at Chester (F&NH, GDP); one bright male, Nov. 13 at Conrad's Beach (SIT, BMT); one bright male Nov. 23, near Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth (JSC). The PRAIRIE WARBLER showed up in several places: in Sept., 1 adult on Brier I. on the 1st. (ELM); in Oct. 2 on the 6th, 1 on the 8th and 1 on the 10th on Seal, and 1, Oct. 10 at Chester (GDP).

It was a good year for PALMS, the first fully fledged immature seen flying July 15, at Argyle Head (CRKA) then good numbers noted

generally Aug. through Oct., last seen 1, Nov. 3 at Brier I. (ARG) and 1, Nov. 20 at Economy (EPS) - none on Seal! The OVENBIRD however, seen - more often heard - through the summer, did leave via Seal, at least one did. One was found Oct. 13 "very freshly eaten by a hawk" but another, Oct. 16, was alive. Eight reports of the NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH is more than usual, the latest seen being 1, Oct. 5, at Sable River (RMT) and 1, Oct. 17 at Seal. The only MOURNING WARBLERS reported were an adult female July 24, at Indian Pt., Lun. Co. (FLL) and 3, Oct. 6 at Seal, 3 or 4 more singles later, last one, Oct. 16. The COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, abundant in most places all summer (as usual) was still about in October, from Old Barns to West Pubnico, and on Seal these migrants reached 120+, Oct. 6, down to 40, Oct. 15 and eventually 1, Nov. 4.

Four YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS came our way in November: 1, Nov. 6 at St. Esprit (Sandra Meyerowitz); 1, Nov. 16 at Hartlen's Point, Halifax Co. "with juncos and Song Sparrows" (ELM); 1, Nov. 17 at a Dartmouth feeder (K&WT) and 1, Nov. 22 for a week at least at the Nickerson's feeder in Yarmouth (MAN). On Seal I. a total of 11 birds of this species were counted Oct. 3-Nov. 7. WILSON'S WARBLERS, often seen during last summer, were present on Seal in Oct., maximum 4 on the 16th and one even later, a male in breeding plumage, Nov. 15, near Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth (JSC). The CANADA WARBLER was seen June through October from Glace Bay (SM) to Lr. West Pubnico (RSd'E), most sightings from Halifax-Lunenburg (Karl Tay and KNK) and only one bird, on Oct. 15, at Seal - "very late date for this warbler in N.S." according to BMT! One of our best reported warblers (as usual) was the AMERICAN REDSTART, May to Nov., and from all regions. It was last seen on Seal I.: 14, Oct. 6 down to 1 Nov. 2; and 1, Oct. 23 & 30, last on the mainland (JSC) in a Halifax garden.

HOUSE SPARROW

The status of the HOUSE SPARROW remains unchanged. In Cape Breton HEH and OC estimated 100+ daily in summer in the Sydney-Mira area. ED had 50 at his feeder in Amherst, Nov. 19; KNK at Hammonds Plains usually has 10 but 30+ on Oct. 30 at the feeder there; MWH in Yarmouth estimates 3-24 regularly at her feeder and BDM reports a few flocks on Seal I. which remain only briefly, the largest, 9 birds Oct. 21, 1980.

ICTERIDS

The BOBOLINK continues to do well in N.S., very much in evidence this summer throughout the province. At Brass Hill (Barrington) females were feeding young June 25; by July 10, flocking had begun (CD, JRG), noted also shortly after in the Wolfville area by KNK, two flocks of 10-15 or more July 18; 100+ in the Sydney-Mira area in July (HEH, OC); by Sept. flocks of 35-50 in the Pubnicos (DJd'E) and 100's of immatures throughout the coastal areas, Chegoggin to Metegan shore, Yar. Co. (CRKA). Last date reported is 1, Oct. 20 at Seal I.. Eight EASTERN MEADOWLARKS were seen, 2's or singles in Oct. and Nov. as usual, Economy to Seal I. (EPS, CRKA, RSd'E, ELM, BMT). This is expectable, but four YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS is exceptional. These were seen, one each, in July at Lr. W. Pubnico (DJd'E), in August at Matthew's Lake (RMT&GDP), in Sept., Yar. Co. (CRKA) and Oct. at Brier I. (WL). In both Maine and New Brunswick these birds, in the fall, made "continuous appearances" according to Bill Townsend in Guillemot, Vol. 9, No. 5. The REDWINGED BLACKBIRD, scantily reported throughout the summer, began to appear in Oct., especially in mixed flocks of blackbirds: 83 in Bridgewater (TW); 20 at a Dartmouth feeder (K&WT), and then more widely spread but fewer numbers in Nov. On Seal the migration was still going strong with 100 there two days before. The NORTHERN ORIOLE was observed in migration Sept. through

Nov., mostly near feeding stations; a possible early wave was Sept 7, 3 birds seen that day at West Pubnico (DJd'E) and 1 at Barrington (BJS). Thereafter reports cover the province, with females and/or immatures as well as bright males seen, 23 in all, one of them with characteristics of the Bullock's race, carefully noted by GDP at Chester: "lower chest and most of belly clearly white, throat and upper chest and under tail feathers bright yellow (female) - stayed for several days foraging in apple trees". The last sightings were Oct. 24 at Seal I., and Oct. 25 at the Piggery, peak top on Seal, 10 on Oct. 5. The RUSTY BLACKBIRD received little comment this season but left Seal I. in usual numbers: 20, Oct. 8; 10, Oct. 21; 20+, Oct. 23; 2, Nov. 3. A very late Rusty was at the Desplanques' feeder in Amherst, seen there by Elly Desplanque Nov. 7, the first and last of the year. The COMMON GRACKLE population remains stable. Late August flocks began to build up reaching a good size by Oct., when one definite wave was clearly moving: many collected all day (Oct. 29) at Tusket, reaching over 100, and on Seal, Oct. 30, 250+ was the count (the peak). The last sightings were of smaller flocks, Nov. 18 and 20 in Yar. Co. (CRKA and the Hamiltons); the very last were seen Nov. 22 at Economy (EPS). The BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD appeared in mixed flocks with Grackles in Aug. at Orangedale, Cape Breton (J.Gardner), in Sept. at Amherst (KNK) and in Oct. at Yarmouth, up to 30-40 with many Grackles (MWH). The top of the peak days at Seal were much the same as for the Grackle: 100+, Oct. 24; 250+, Oct. 30; 150, Nov. 3. Cowbirds remained on into Nov. in small flocks on the South Shore (18, Nov. 5 at Liverpool, RSJ) and larger flocks in the Valley (400+ Oct. 25 at Port Williams, 500+, Nov. 2, Grand Pre Dyke, BLF).

TANAGERS

A WESTERN TANAGER, female, was caught in the mist nets, Brier I. Aug. 22, and photographed by Carolyn Smith (RRA,ELM,ARG). Two SCARLET TANAGERS have been reported for the summer (since the three sightings in June in Guys. Co. and Halifax Co.): one bright male in full song, Aug. 30 on Tancook I., seen by George Perry and 1, male in winter plumage, Sept 1 at Crest Road, Halifax, which "sat briefly on the clothesline and at the bird bath" watched by Margaret Clark. JSC has reported a probable SUMMER TANAGER, a bird in her garden, Oct. 23, "quite orange/yellow - wings did not contrast much with the body; huge, almost grosbeak-like bill, both in size and pale color."

FRINGILLIDS

There has been another influx of the CARDINAL to Nova Scotia, noted also in Maine where there were "too many to list" (Guillemot, Vol. 9, No. 5). Added to the four reported this spring were 2, July 29 at St. Esprit (Rainer Meyerowitz) and a probably 20, noted elsewhere in the province in Oct. and Nov.: 2 females at Pubnico, Oct. 29 - Nov. 4 (E&VH); 6 on Seal I. Oct. 25 - Nov. 7+, one male, the rest females and/or immatures; 1 female, Oct. 28, 29; 30+ at Brass Hill (Beula Burman); 1 male, Nov. 2 at Pubnico joined the 2 females at the Hamiltons'; another male, Nov. 2 at Lr. W. Pubnico, seen by Ted D'Eon and Albert d'Entremont; 1 very bright male Nov. 3 at Brier I. (Robbie Denton); one female joined the male on Brier I., Nov. 5 for two weeks (RB); 1 male, Nov. 6 at a feeder at Carleton, Yar. Co. (Goldie Jenkins); 1 male, Nov. 6 at Lr. Argyle (Larry MacKenzie); a pair, Nov. 28 in Yarmouth town (the Nickersons'); a single Nov. 29 (a pair there earlier) at Liverpool "eating snowberry seeds" (RSJ) and one at Tusket which has visited various feeders there throughout the month of Nov. (Mildred Hatfield and the Oscar Nausses). These birds have been seen mostly in SW Nova Scotia. If they are part of a migratory movement, Cardinals must have had better nesting success than we suspected. It would be more interesting if these sightings had been in the spring!

Twelve reports of the ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK include a fair number of juveniles in July and August - September birds were mostly migrants but two were not quite so ready to go; they were immatures, 1 male and 1 female and were noticed, "stripping green seed pods from jewelweed" at Sandy Bottom Lake, and were seen around until Sept. 22 (MCC). On Sept. 28, Annie Raymond at Smith's Cove saw 30 of these birds in a flock "so active it was hard to count them" - they stayed all day. Only singles were seen at Seal, Oct. 7-19 and BMT thought they were all different birds. On Oct. 3, 1980, at Sable River, Robert Turner "observed a bird at close range feeding on chokecherries" which he diagnosed as a BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK, for which we eagerly await further details. The BLUE GROSBEAK came through N. S. in exceptional numbers this year: 11-13 different individuals, Oct. 7-25 with a high of 5, Oct. 6, at Seal I. (BMT,ELM, SJF); 2, Oct. 11, one at Seaforth, one at Wedge Island, discovered by RBF and his wife; 1 female, Oct. 5 at the Dartmouth Piggery (KNK) and 1 female, Nov. 20; 20+ at Crest Road, Halifax, found by Margaret Clark (who believed, as it had a head injury, it may have been blown in by the storm). The INDIGO BUNTING was seen returning only in October: 1 partially moulted male, Oct. 8 at Queensland (KNK), and a total of close to 20 on Seal I. Oct. 5-6 with most birds before mid-Oct. - a high of 6, Oct. 7 (BDM,ELM,ES). The last of these "splinter migration" finches, the DICKCISSEL was first sighted on Brier I., Spet. 21 (ARG) and from then until Oct. 30, fourteen individuals were noted, 3 at feeders (Oct. 10-11 at Brass Hill, BB; Oct. 18 at Lr. W. Pubnico, DJd'E, and Oct. 30 at Hammonds Plains, Gladys and Keith Keddy); 4, Oct. 2 at Seal with 11 different individuals seen there up to Oct. 20 (ELM,BMT,JK).

The EVENING GROSBEAK was seen throughout the summer in Annapolis, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants and several of the Cape Breton counties; seen feeding young in mid-August in the Mira area "cracking the seeds of wild cherries for the young" (A. Baillie). These grosbeaks began to spread out extensively in Oct., as indicated by 20 or more reports from all over the province of flocks of 10-200 birds. As usual these would appear in a tree-top or settle to a feeder and almost immediately be off again. These birds are not true migrants (in the usual sense) here, but were on Seal I. - had "spread" to there? by late Oct. and reached 500 by Oct. 29, down to 50, Nov. 2-6. Flocks were still moving about the province restlessly through Nov.

A HOUSE FINCH on Seal I. Nov. 2-3, was identified by Bruce MacTavish on Nov. 3, the bird having been present at the Jones feeder at the Lighthouse the day before, accompanied by a pair of Cardinals. Bruce described it as "a light almost buff brown largish finch...uniform unmarked head, no cheek patch like Purple Finches. Faint streaking of lower breast and belly...its habit of trying to perch on very narrow window ledges shows it's been around buildings before"...bird did not, unfortunately, return for a photograph.

Hedley Hopkins and Otis Cossitt found the PURPLE FINCH present on their travels in Cape Breton, July through September, 20 of these birds seen. Five widely separated reports give records of these finches in June, then not again until September and six more reports have records only in September. The Morses in Paradise did not see them until October - a "flock" Oct. 19, and RSJ at Liverpool until November: 6, Nov. 15-18. Like the Evening Grosbeak, these finches are not "regular" migrants, but again, were on Seal I. (and off) until the last of October: 40, Oct. 6; 50, Oct. 10, 16 and 24; 12, Oct. 30, and 8, Nov. 6 (BMT).

The PINE BROSBEAK, resident here the year around, has returned to normal (from the exceptional numbers here a few years ago) and was seen and /or heard fairly frequently through October and November

in wooded areas and where wild fruits were abundant. The multiflora rose is not exactly wild but the berry closely resembles Canadian Holly in size and color and apparently flavor, as it is a favorite food of the Robin and the Mockingbird and can lure a Pine Grosbeak into the open to be seen occasionally near civilization. It too, was found on Seal I., 2-5 per day, Oct. 30 - Nov. 6, and will, of course, be with us all winter. The COMMON REDPOLL has been seen already, in November, oddly enough only on Brier I. (3 birds) and Seal I. (30 birds), plus a small flock of 5, Nov. 6, on Wolfville Ridge (BLF). PINE SISKINS reported add up to over 500 birds minimum in a dozen counts. Ruth Hebb of Chester calls it a "Siskin Year"; highest totals were on Seal I. ranging from 60 to 250 per day. Reports of flocks have come from CBHNP to W. Pubnico, from Tancook I. to Wolfville Ridge and many places in between. The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH was abundant in most places all summer, but numbers dwindled in September and have remained low - 2-5 birds in a loose flock, seen dipping over the treetops occasionally. Exceptions are a flock of 30+, Nov. 2 at Homeville (SM) and the October flocks on Seal I., where numbers were similar to the Siskins' with peak days, 120, Oct. 6; 250, Oct. 8; 150, Oct. 13; 20, Nov. 6. So that was where they went.

There have been nine reports of the RED CROSSBILL received this fall, most of them from Shelburne and Lunenburg counties and along the Atlantic side of the province. Shirley Cohrs wrote: "In the Green Bay-Petite-Riviere-Crescent-Beach area, Aug. 2-17, there have been 1's and 2's around, including one female drinking at the edge of a pond frequented by Least Sandpipers - I thought at first it was some shorebird exotic - or color marked! Very few have been around in recent years but now the cone crop is heavy, so perhaps they will increase"...Ruth Hebb at Marriott's Cove saw two lots of Red Crossbills on Sept. 28, one of them of 14 birds; Russell Crosby found "many" of them at E. Jordan, Shel. Co., and the Gallaghers had 6 sightings June 20, through Aug. 24 in Shel. Co. of 14 birds altogether. They saw no White-wings at this time. Sixteen reports of the more numerous WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL were mostly from the Atlantic side of the province also, but the exceptions were Yarmouth, Weymouth and Round Hill where flocks of 10-20 were seen in August, September and October - in Yarmouth Co., many flocks throughout the season, (CRKA, DJd'E, VK,WEW). On Seal I. there were no Reds and few Whitewings (compared with the other finches): 5, Oct. 16; 25, Oct. 24; 30, Oct. 30, and 1, Nov. 6. Few are seen or heard anywhere now.

A RUFIOUS-SIDED TOHEE spent the week, Oct. 12-19, on Brier I., reported by RD; on Seal I. the earliest Towhee was 1, Oct. 14, and the total reached was about 6, the last one there Oct. 30. A pair of these Towhees, male and female, came to Ralph Johnson's feeder in Liverpool, Nov. 29, eating sunflower seed on the ground beneath the feeder.

An "IPSWICH" SPARROW (Savannah Sparrow, Sable I. race) was seen in Cape Breton in August: 2, Aug. 16 at Belfry Beach (NSBS party) and again Aug. 26 at MacGuines Lake by HEH and OC. Only two fall sightings were both on Seal I.: 2, Oct. 21 and 1, Nov. 3. The SAVANNAH SPARROW heard only in June and July was seen in loose gatherings in August, (e.g., 12+ Aug. 20) at Boulargerie, RBF; 5-6 Sunday Point, Yarmouth, Aug. 16, MWH, and by Sept. and Oct., was common along the Fundy Shore and in parts of the Valley. On Seal it was present in scanty numbers in Oct., the highest counts there only 15, Oct. 7 and 21, and 12, Nov. 3. Last sighting on the mainland was Nov. 22 at Five Islands (EPS), and these birds will probably over-winter. An interesting sighting was a GRASSHOPPER SPARROW, Aug. 29 at Matthew's Lake (GDP); all others of this species seen in Oct. and most of them on Seal as usual, where about 24 showed up, starting

Oct. 5, with a top peak of 9, Oct. 13 and last one seen Nov. 5. One other individual awaits positive identification. It was caught by a cat Oct. 17, at Ross Ingraham's in Neil's Harbor, and has been sent to the N.S. Museum for inspection. The SHARP-TAILED SPARROW was well reported this season. As usual it came late and stayed late, still nesting the last of July, and immatures seen as late as Sept. 20 (Sunday Pt., CRKA). Only one was found on Seal I. during BMT's stay and one last one Nov. 9, Halifax Co., at the Cole Harbor Road entrance (ELM).

Fourteen VESPER SPARROWS is a good count these days, three seen at Round Hill, July 27 (WEW); 2, at Brier I., Sept 9 (ARG); 1, Oct 30, at Argyle Head (CRKA); 1, Oct. 14 and 24 at Economy (EPS) and 6-7 on Seal I., Oct. 17 - Nov. 6. A LARK SPARROW, Sept. 4 at Louis Head, was the only one of these western visitors to come to N.S. this fall, reported by Robert Turner, Sept. 4, 1980. The DARK-EYED JUNCO, as usual nearly disappeared in June and July, but returned to view in early Sept., increasing in number until by Oct., it became the most often encountered bird along roadsides - "twice as many as last year" according to W&JM from Paradise, "a very successful breeding season" (KNK), "Juncos everywhere" (WEW), "very abundant along the roads and in the woods" (CRKA). A heavy migration at Seal (top of peak 1200, Oct. 23) has left a considerable number of these birds, now mostly established at feeders, by the looks, for the winter. First report of the TREE SPARROW came from Bedford where KNK saw one Oct. 13, followed by 3 more Oct. reports: 2, Oct. 21 at Lr. W. Pubnico (DA) and 6, Oct. 24 at W. Pubnico (DJd'E), and the migration through Seal I.: after an initial 1 or 2 waves of 35, Oct. 23; 60, Oct. 30; 70, Nov. 3, and 40, Nov. 6. Six more Nov. sightings were very widely spaced on mainland N. S., 15 birds only noted, the last one, Nov. 20 at Amherst (CD). Suddenly the Tree Sparrows vanished - went south along with the rest? Their early appearance prompted old hands to say we were in for an early winter - is it also to be so cold a winter that the Tree Sparrows, Arctic birds, won't stay here? The CHIPPING SPARROW also is gone but that is expectable. Its travelling roadside flocks (5-25) were first noted in Yarmouth Co., Oct. 3 (PRD) and remained - at least they appear to remain as they flush up in the same locality time after time - up to Nov. 7. At Seal I., there was a steady flow through the island (80, Oct. 10; 150, Oct. 14; 100, Oct. 22; 70, Oct. 30; 15, Nov. 6) throughout that time. A CLAY-COLORED SPARROW was found on Seal I. this season "feeding on beach kelp at the north tip Oct. 30-Nov.4" (BMT). The last of this group, the FIELD SPARROW, first appeared at Seal I. Oct. 9-10 (ELM,BMT) and according to the latter observer "about 80 different Field Sparrows were thought to be involved in this fall's movements. This includes at least 50 birds in the period Oct. 2--23, including an amazing pure find of 12! This fall total of 80 is similar to my fall total during the same time period of 80-100 in 1976. There were up to 5 birds there Nov. 4, this season. Only two reports of the Field Sparrow have come in for the mainland: 1 Oct. 25 at Conrad's Beach (JLC) and 1, Nov. 15-20 at Port Joli, seen by C. F. L. Kelsy.

The WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW migration according to our records, went through N.S. from Oct. 4 to Nov. 15, 1980. It was unusually extensive, with at least 456 individuals involved, the largest numbers as usual on Brier and Seal Islands (top at Seal was 400+, Oct. 23). All mainland reports, many immatures involved, came from along the Atlantic from Dartmouth around to Yarmouth with two exceptions: "several sightings at Economy, the last one Nov. 1" (EPS) and 9, Oct. 30 at Round Hil (WEW). Two of the adult Whitecrowns at Seal I. were of the Gambel (western) race according to BMT who noted the yellowish bill and complete absence of any black between the eye and the bill. These two birds were seen on Oct. 10 and Nov. 3 (one each). The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW was common all summer in wooded areas, for

example, the Mooseland Road where Karl Tay reported its numbers unchanged until early fall, then built up again in Nov., when it appeared at numerous feeders (according to many other observations) throughout the province. There was a large, but not exceptional, migration through Seal I. with biggest waves: 250+, Oct. 21; 2000+, Oct. 23; 450, Oct. 30; 250+, Nov. 3.

The FOX SPARROW visitation took a strange course this fall: the first two birds were seen on Tancook I. by George Perry, Oct. 13. On the 17th it appeared simultaneously in CBHNP, (Ingonish Beach) and on Seal I.. Then, during the 10 days, Oct. 20-30, sizable numbers were noted at Halifax-Dartmouth, Kings Co., Yarmouth Co., and Seal I. (22 there on Oct. 23) followed by a wide dispersal Nov. 2, Brier I. to Nov. 29, Yarmouth Co., but most birds (18+) in Halifax-Dartmouth, plus 1-2 in Amherst, from where CD wrote, "the Nov. 20 bird seemed to be troubled with the cold - always holding up one foot to warm it - it came with the snowstorm - a load of heavy wet snow covered everything."

The three *Melospiza* sparrows, the LINCOLN'S, SWAMP and SONG occurred this last fall in an expectable ratio according to our reports: almost exactly four times as many Swamps as Lincoln's; almost exactly four times as many Songs as Swamps - that is, not counting the birds on Seal I.. These sparrows consistently go out via Seal I. and between Oct. 3 and Nov. 7 BMT counted 137 Lincoln's Sparrows, 413 Swamps and 660 Songs. Top days for Lincoln's were 35, Oct. 15 and 30+, Oct. 23; for Swamps, 100+, Oct 6 and 200+, Oct. 23 and for Songs 255, Oct. 23; 120, Oct. 30. Oct. 23 must have been quite a day. All three species were still present but down to small numbers by Nov. 7. All three were well observed on the mainland throughout the fall with highs of 8 Swamp Sparrows, Oct. 5 at Russell Lake (Cohrs and Purchases) and for Song Sparrows, 250, Oct. 5 at the Dartmouth Piggery (same observers).

The LAPLAND LONGSPUR was first observed on the mainland Oct. 5, 2 seen at Three-Fathom Harbour (Cohrs and Purchases); Oct. 13 at Matthew's Lake (the Youngs); 2, Oct. 15 at CBHNP (PG,PM,CO); and 25, Oct. 25 at Amherst Sod Farm by SIT. Other reports, all in Nov. are from Economy (EPS), Brier I. (ARG), Cole Harbor (ELM) and Cook's Beach (CRKA). On Seal I. this Longspur was first observed Oct. 8, seen there every day after, up to and including Nov. 7, with high counts of 15, Oct. 21: 12, Nov. 3. The SNOW BUNTING appeared suddenly, 3, a small vanguard, Oct. 19, at CBHNP on the road to the Lake of Islands, by Ross Dobson. The next date given is Oct. 23, a flock (17) at Seal I., seen after that, there every day in flocks up to 30-40 until Nov. 7, the end of BMT's stay. Following the arrival on the mainland first sightings there were: Oct. 26, Brier I. and Queensland, Oct. 28, Port Joli Beach (CFLK); Oct. 31, Annapolis Co., St. Esprit and Wine Harbor, Nov. 1, Antigonish and on Nov. 4 and thereafter "many large flocks all over (25-175), the last reported on Nov. 25, 24 on Cook's Beach. It is hard to find even one Snow Bunting now, or bird of any kind in the wild - dim prospects for the Christmas Count! Good Luck!

PRD, ed.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

June 7 - Cape Breton - Grand Lake, Brown's Lake

It was a beautiful morning on June 7, as, with Graham Fraser as leader, we enjoyed a trip to Brown's Lake and Grand Lake. We sighted 42 species and had 14 observers--Otis Cossitt, Gus Cossitt, Sara MacLean, Edie MacLeod, Rita Conron, Rhoda Yates, Joy Gates, Wally MacKinnon, Eldon Meikle, George MacInnis, Brian MacNeil, Graham Fraser, Bertha and Hedley Hopkins.

B. Hopkins.

June 7 - Paradise

The morning of June 7th dawned clear, promising fine weather for birding. It proved to be just that, and fifteen persons joined forces to make a foray into the woods on the south mountain in Paradise. Before coffee we had identified fifty species, including twelve warblers. Someone remarked that we were not able to name about one-third of the birds actually seen. These "unknowns" were frustrating, but gave rise to lively discussion.

Calder Fraser led the afternoon jaunt to the Belleisle marshes. During the course of this, the total number of species seen rose to seventy-one, and as one person said, we worked harder for them than we would have done had the area included shore birds. Annapolis County birders were delighted to have six people from Halifax and two from Kentville join the group. The greatest thrill of the day went to the ones who travelled east and saw a Common Gallinule in the Aylesford bog. Beside this, the Olive-sided Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Canada Warbler and Ovenbird seemed less exciting!

What better way to spend a June day? Good weather, good companions and good viewing!

Jean and Bill Morse

A follow-up-- 4 local birders joined me for a short field trip last week. They had been unable to participate in the June 7th walk. I was pleased to find that there appears to be local interest.

J.M.

June 15 - Wolfville Area

Although we had light rain, most of June 15, 18 birders visited several areas around Wolfville to look at nests. Early June was wet and cold so that by mid-June some of the song bird nests we saw were under construction, while others did not have complete clutches yet. Some nests seen on Wolfville Ridge were Veery, Hummingbird, Ovenbird, Yellow Warbler with a Cowbird egg, Yellowthroat, Catbird, Parula Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and a Pheasant nest containing hatched shells.

In the Newtonville area we saw the nest of a Raven, Goshawk, and found that the Barred Owl young had already left their nest box. A disappointment was the discovery that my Pileated Woodpecker nest was lost to a predator. At noon the weather broke long enough for a pleasant lunch at Lumsdam.

At Canard we all got a good look at the family of five young Long-eared Owls and their parents that nested on the platform of wire

moss and grass that I had put up in a spruce tree. The final stop was on the Grand Pre Dyke to enjoy the Short-eared Owls and Marsh Hawks. Everyone said they had had a good day and for several it had been their first look at Long and Short-eared Owls.

Bernard Forsythe

June 21 - Cape Breton - Bird Island

June 21 was Bird Island Day and by 10 a.m. 13 observers had arrived at Mountain View Lodge in spite of rain and fog. The boat was partly closed in and, dressed in rain wear and warm clothes, we really enjoyed the boat trip. Two gannets were sighted and more Razor-billed Auks than usual. Over 40 pairs of Kittiwakes are nesting there but not so many puffins, more Herring Gulls than Black Backs. We saw some seals.

After we got back to the Lodge Mrs. Van Schaick treated us to delicious coffee cake, tea, coffee and other goodies. We enjoyed a nice social time before leaving for home. We were glad to have Karen Somers and her mother meet us as we got back to the Lodge.

38 species were sighted. Our leader was Hedley Hopkins. Other observers were Winnie MacCarthy, Mary Ellen MacDonald, John MacGillivray, Shawn MacGillivray, Jennifer MacGillivray, Edie MacLeod, Joy Gates, Stanley Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart MacKeigan and her sister, Bertha Hopkins.

Sara MacLean led a trip to the South Head area on May 17, and likely has sent you in that report. We were glad to have James Hays of Wayland, Mass., with us. He had been attending a Geologist's Convention in Halifax and took a trip to C.B. We had 10 observers and 36 species.

B. Hopkins

June 22 - New Ross

The weatherman promised a sunny day, but we had to be content with a few sunny periods. Fifteen birders met at Ross Farm at 8:00 a.m. and then struck out along muddy logging roads and through swamps, brushpiles, a shin-deep sawdust pile and other generally inaccessible areas. 59 species of birds were identified, but the thick foliage made viewing difficult in many cases, and only 47 species were actually seen.

Our group was interested in all things natural, and when the birds weren't cooperative, we examined wild flowers and insects. Resident entomologists Linda Steeves and Peter Payzant listed 10 species of butterflies.

We were fortunate to have our nest man, Bernard Forsythe (and family) with us. After many of the birders had departed, he located an Eastern Phoebe's nest under a bridge at Lake Ramsay. The female was incubating 6 eggs, and flew off to wag her tail in a nearby alder while a couple of us sneaked a quick peek at the nest. Bernard's son Adam, is following right in his father's footsteps - he located an active kingfisher burrow in a sawdust pile adjacent to a small bank swallow colony.

The phoebe was a fine record - we had a few other "good" sightings, but no major surprises. Cedar waxwings everywhere! All present appeared to enjoy our first New Ross field trip.

Keith Keddy

July 5 - Cape Breton - Malagawatch Area

On July 5th, twenty-four people met at the Big Harbour Island intersection of the Orangedale to Marble Mountain highway to enjoy the Nova Scotia Bird Society's field day. Halifax and Dartmouth, Sydney, Baddeck, New Waterford and Glace Bay were represented, as well as three people from the immediate vicinity of the day's walk.

Very often these summer field days attract some interested people who are touring in the province, but this one didn't, in spite of notices in the Tourist Information Centres. Perhaps the bird watchers haven't come this far yet.

While we were strung out along the highway waiting for the latest comers, we had a very good assortment of little birds to entertain us; so many in fact, that our leader, Jeanne McNicol, at last had to send us off down the Big Harbour Island road. It was on this road that we spotted the Hooded Warbler, which Godfrey designates as "casual in Nova Scotia".

Having reached the end of the Big Harbour Island road and explored the beach and pond there, we wandered back with a diversion to McNicol's at Malagawatch. There we were able to see their personal eagle's nest with a fat baby eagle in it, to do our watching in their lovely garden, and to have Doug McNicol describe his oyster farming operation,--most interesting.

By this time, all the fresh air and sunshine, a scarce commodity this summer, were beginning to take their toll, so nobody objected to the idea of lunch. The Marble Mountain village hall had very kindly been put at our disposal. Eldon and Winnie Mickle had done the catering to good effect, so we were able to enjoy lunch in comfort and without flackflies.

At this time Margaret Clark made the presentation of the Puffin of the Year award to Frank Robertson. Margaret spoke of the interest that Frank's column "For the Birds" in the Cape Breton Post has evoked in the public, and quoted her favorite piece from his book of verse, "The Humble Bowl". In his reply, Frank said that he has derived a great deal of pleasure from the letters that have come to him as a result of his newspaper column and radio program. He has over a dozen scrap books with letters and clippings gathered over the years. Frank may not realize, or perhaps his natural modesty prevents him from knowing, what an impact his talks and writing have on public thinking. He never preaches or militates, but there is no doubt that he has gently taught respect for the outdoors and for wildlife to many people. The most unexpected characters will talk about what Frank said last week and quote some verse from which he may have given a line or two. He is a sort of father figure; many people have said, "I didn't know what to do about an injured bird, so I called Frank Robertson". The public feels his true involvement in the subject, and seem never to hesitate to call him or write to him with information or problems. This I consider really unusual, in that his sincerity shines through every word so that people feel that he is real and genuine, not just some disembodied voice or high-flown writer.

After all this, we visited the Marble Mountain Museum, a charming little place that uses the one-room village school and displays things from the time when Marble Mountain was a busy quarry employing hundreds of workers.

Next, we were invited to the home of Isabelle and Alastair MacPhail, Hillbrook Farm. Sprawled out at ease on the terrace, we

spied on the doings of the Evening Grosbeaks, goldfinches, siskins, and such like denizens, whilst waiting for the MacPhails' special guest to appear. At last he did--a male black-chinned hummingbird. Great speculation--there are several of them, at least three, in the area--was it the eruption of Mount Helen, or the forest fires, or what could have driven these mites so far, far from their home? They seem lively and contented. The following day I saw the one that lives in the village of Marble Mountain. At one time there was a female with him, but it could have been a ruby-throat.

To complete what you must agree was a full and superbly enjoyable day, we were invited to Mrs. Jean Edmond's, at Valley Mills. There a broad-winged hawk, by no means a common bird in Cape Breton at any time, showed itself.

In all we counted 61 species. Not a great lot, but not bad either, because in July the leaves are thick, and the birds are nesting and not flocking or wandering about as they do in spring and fall. The combined operation of the two branches of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was a very happy one, and everybody seemed to have a really good time. Of course, it is a supremely beautiful part of the country, and Jeanne McNicol led us to, and through, all these lovely places.

Sara MacLean

NOTE: For further speculations on the hummingbird, see the Bird Report section--ED.

July 20 - Cape Split

Despite ominous weather predictions of showers and afternoon thunder storms, 17 enthusiastic members and guests met at the Cape Split hiking trail parking lot and started the walk across the cape and along the northern ridge. Three hours of leisurely hiking, with the customary stops to locate and identify the birds and to view the spectacular scenery, brought the group to the end of the cape.

On the islands, the colonies of cormorants, Great Black Backed Gulls and Herring Gulls added interest to the well earned rest enjoyed by the group on the grassy meadow. Particularly rewarding was the sighting of Black Guillemots, a sighting tending to strengthen the hope that a colony of that species had become established there as well. Sighted also were rain squalls moving across the bay towards Cape Split. Fortunately the showers did not arrive until all had finished lunch and had a brief rest. Then, spurred on by the rain, lightning and thunder, the group began the long hike back. The rain persisted on and off for about half the return trip and on arrival at the parking lot, the sun was shining again. At this point, in view of the party not having completed the portion of the outing involving a visit to the beach at the end of the cape, an offer to lead the group back to do so was made. This offer prompted only the most desultory of responses and was accordingly abandoned.

While members of the party massaged their aching feet, a count of the sightings was taken; it reached 45. The Black Guillemot sighting was considered by all as being the most significant of the day.

Frank Himsl

August 10 - Yarmouth County

The Yarmouth County Field Day saw a break in the weather--no fog, fine and sunny with a strong breeze. The wind (force 6)

militated against observation of land birds but since the trip was primarily for shorebirds this gave little inconvenience. From first to last many shorebirds were present to be observed and studied: at Melbourne Sanctuary hundreds of Short-billed Dowitchers feeding on the flats accompanied by smaller numbers of peep; Willets, Yellow-legs both species; a few Great Blue Herons and an Osprey thrown in for good measure; at Pinkney's Point marshes there were more of the same plus Black-bellied and Golden Plover, 2 Red Knots, one still showing color, and Ruddy Turnstones, some in fine plumage, on the outer beach.

The high tide roost at Cook's Beach was smaller than usual but still worthy of observation (around 500 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 300 Semipalmated Plover, a few Least and White-rumped Sandpipers) especially when the close-packed birds lifted to bank and turn and re-settle, almost disappearing among the beachstones.

Later in the day at low tide in Yarmouth Harbor, sand flats at Bunkers Island, Sandbeach and Sunday Point were dotted over with peep, the afternoon sun full on them giving excellent visibility, and revealing the only true rarity for the day--a most extraordinary looking bird (first spotted by Raymond d'Entremont, identified by C. R. K. Allen), an albino Semipalmated Plover! a flash of white among the browns and grays, but with careful study unmistakable to all. Present also were Killdeer, a Common Snipe and a big American Bittern.

Incidental to the shorebird observations a few land birds were noted bringing the species count to 44. Observers came from Halifax, Pubnico, Barrington, Eel Brook, Tusket, Tusket Falls, Pleasant Lake, Port Maitland and Yarmouth town, 23 in all. The count period was 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., an hour out for lunch.

P. R. Dobson

August 16 - Cape Breton - Forchu, etc.

The Cape Breton branch of the Nova Scotia Bird Society seems to be having a reward for good behavior, or else just plain lucky. The field trip of July 5th was the only non-raining day for weeks, and August 16th was much the same, clear and fine.

The day began for two of the participants by producing two Black-headed Gulls, the first of the season; both in summer plumage, though in a day or so they had changed. It is always surprising to me that they change head dresses over night.

The group met at Marion Bridge, where our leader Francis MacKinnon shepherded us down a country road to see three species of swallows flying around a farm, a large flock of ravens--eight or ten--and a nice lot of sparrow hawks. Later, on the way to Gavarus, some of the party encountered a Pileated Woodpecker. They aren't very common in Cape Breton. Cedar Waxwings and Rose-breasted and Evening Grosbeaks were seen, and the beach at Gabarus had sea birds--loons, cormorants, terns, gulls.

At Belfry Beach there were some warblers in the trees behind the sand beach, and teal in the brook flowing out of Belfry Lake. Hedley Hopkins saw a couple of what he was convinced were Ipswich Sparrows. They could well be, Sable Island isn't that far away, and there certainly were Savannahs in the area.

By the time we reached Fuller's Bridge the fog had rolled in, so this good shorebird place wasn't as visible as we would have

liked. However, there were some shorebirds to be seen, notably a large group of willets, noisy and showy. Returning, we saw a Marsh Hawk skimming over a pond.

There was one Merganser mother with a good sized brood of pretty small ducklings. Twice we met with robins carrying food, which must mean they have very late broods to care for.

In all, we counted 53 species--not too bad, since we got cheated out of the shore birds to a great extent. It was a very pleasant day, in lovely surroundings, with interesting people. What more could one ask?

Sara MacLean

August 17-23, 1980 - 25th Anniversary Special Grand Tour

To mark the 25th Anniversary of our Society, a series of 5 field trips through New Brunswick, Maine and back to Nova Scotia via M.V. Bluenose was enjoyed by 15 interested birders, most of whom were rewarded by several new species.

We started on August 17 at Mary's Point, N. B. Mary Majka and David Christie led the group from Albert out along the dykes around Shepody Bay where we were treated to the sight of a family of Marsh Hawks learning the art of catching prey. Then, after viewing the Shepody National Wildlife area impoundments, we spent some time at the salt marsh at Waterside. Here we watched ducks and shorebirds of all kinds, including several Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs standing together, showing a good contrast in size, and had a good view of a Wilson's Phalarope circling in his section of pond. Lunch at Mary and David's cottage overlooking the extensive mudflats at Mary's Point was followed by a walk along the shore and back through the woods--lots of warblers and Indian Pipe. Finally came the crowning moment of the day, sitting on the shore watching 20,000 shorebirds being pushed up to the small stretch of dry beach in front of us by the rising tide. Practically at our feet rested rows of Least Sandpipers and Semi-palmated Sandpipers. Behind them to the water's edge, still feeding, were Black-bellied and Semi-palmated Plovers, Knots, Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings. While we looked, a Marsh Hawk came hunting and thousands of birds wheeled in front of us like snowflakes, settling down again each time the hawk finished her unsuccessful pass. With great reluctance, we counted our list for the day--70 species--thanked Mary and David for their generous hospitality and forced ourselves to leave.

Next day, Monday, August 18, we met Hank Deichmann, Chief Interpreter for Fundy National Park, who spent the morning showing us part of this diversified park. We walked through a woodland trail to an old Beaver pond followed by a flock of Pine Siskins and surrounded by birds of every description--warblers, Cedar Waxwings, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Rusty Blackbird, even several kinds of hawk. No trip is complete without a visit to a Settling Pond (otherwise known as a sewerage outfall) and ours produced several Solitary Sandpipers as well as a Summer Tanager which proved to be the first authenticated sighting in the Park. Over lunch, back at our campsite, Hank kindly pointed out other likely areas of interest and we chose to visit the Caribou Plains Trail, an interesting walk through a unique habitat, seeing several Grey Jays and a Pied-billed Grebe but, alas, no Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers as we had hoped. In all, 61 species were seen before we had to leave but we missed a great deal of the Park because of limited time.

Tuesday, August 19, was designated a travelling day and we made our separate ways to Grand Manan via the two ferries, the Grand Manan and the Lady Menane, the last travellers to reach the Island before the ferry crews went on strike. Most of us stayed at Anchorage Provincial Park where the campsite provided rabbits, loads of birds and HOT SHOWERS. The next day, Wednesday, Brian Dalzell showed us the Island, starting at Ashburton Head where a long walk for nesting cormorants was unsuccessful but we were treated to the sound of guillemots whistling to one another on the water below us. Then, back to Anchorage Park Bird Sanctuary for ducks, shorebirds--including a Whimbrel--and so many warblers we were hardly able to eat lunch. Our final stop for the day was Castalia Marsh. Here were shorebirds in quantity, Mourning Doves, Siskins and a rare im. male Yellow-headed Blackbird, spotted by Ruth and Walt Kuenning, two members of the Audubon Society from Denver, Colo., U.S.A., who had joined us. There are many other good birding areas on the Island: around Long Eddy Point Light, Swallowtail Light and South West Head Light, the vicinity around Dark Harbour, in the alders at Red Point (an interesting geologic area where the new volcanic and old sandstone rock meet), the islands off the east coast--but exhaustion had set in and we had to leave all that for another trip. Most of us managed a quick visit to the Grand Manan Museum at Grand Harbour, with its large collection of birds, and a stop at dusk or dawn to a heronry where a flock of Black-crowned Night Herons were roosting which Brian had pointed out to us. The final tally for the day was 73 species.

We were almost disappointed to hear that the ferry strike had been settled, allowing us to leave the next morning. Anyone who has been on a pelagic birding trip will realize that birds take second place when whales are spotted. We had an excellent look at two--identified tentatively as right whales--as the captain circled them for a closer view.

Thursday, August 21, was spent travelling to Acadia National Park in Maine. Some of the group managed a little shopping in Bangor; one couple attended a lecture in Acadia Park that evening on the birds of Maine given by Bill Townsend, the Park Warden who was to lead our group next day. Like Fundy, Acadia is too large to see properly in one outing but Bill gave us a representative tour of woods, beach, pond and marsh, along with an interesting commentary on the history of the Park and Bar Harbour. He also told us of a Peregrine Falcon nesting this year in Eastern Maine. Maine has wisely chosen the Black-capped Chickadee for their State Bird for they were everywhere; we also saw a nice Green Heron and counted a total of 40 species for the day. The group joined Bill and his wife for coffee and pie on our final evening in Bar Harbour.

Saturday, August 23, we boarded the M.B. Bluenose. The harbour was calm and the rail was crowded but the deck was rapidly cleared when we met the 15 foot swell of the Bay of Fundy, leaving our party a clear field. We managed to identify 14 species including Laughing Gulls in Bar Harbour and a Parasitic Jaegar not far from Yarmouth--and, of course, the usual whales and dolphins.

Except for heavy showers the night preceding our tour, the weather was beautiful, fine and warm. Fifteen observers saw a total of 122 species, several firsts for most, altogether a very interesting trip.

Joyce Purchase

Labour Day Week-end - Brier Island

Brier Island continues to hold its attraction for birders on

Labour Day week-end. There were lots of birders and lots of birds.

A clear calm Friday night was followed by early morning fog. Three boats of birders set off for the shoals for a pleasant morning boat trip which produced a modest number of seabirds including Puffins, Guillemots, Gannets, Red Phalaropes, and Shearwaters. Observers, in the Pond area, saw great numbers of shorebirds including Buff-breasted, White-rumped, and Baird's Sandpipers.

Cedar Waxwings were in abundance on Brier Island as they were everywhere this summer. Perhaps the most noteworthy bird was a male Eastern Bluebird. It had been seen in the village, prior to the week-end, and obligingly remained, moving from clothesline to wire to clothesline again, making itself available for easy identification.

Ross Anderson, with his team from Acadia University, had the banding site in operation, although Saturday proved to be a very quiet day.

Saturday evening, as usual, birders gathered around a bonfire to go over the day's sightings.

Sunday found most birders engulfed in fog. The second pelagic trip had to be cancelled and the majority of birders packed their wet equipment and headed for the ferry.

Margaret Clark

September 7 - Lunenburg County - Petite Riviere

Twenty-six birders turned up for the "Shorebird Special" field trip--probably too many for a normal outing, but Crescent and Cherry Hill Beaches are long and spacious so there was plenty of room to spread and enjoy the hundred of shorebirds feeding on the flats and along the beach edges. The day was fine and sunny and the viewing excellent in the morning. A pair of Solitary Sandpipers were new to some, as were two Pectorals and an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron in the afternoon. Sharp-tailed and Savannah Sparrows were common and a selection of "other birds" filled out the field cards--but the birds of the day were the "windbirds", which everyone had come to see and which lived up to all expectations--wild, pliant, free and beautiful.

Shirley Cohrs

September 13 - Cheticamp

Feeding Great Blue Herons greeted the enthusiastic birders to the annual Cheticamp Field Trip as the Cheticamp estuary was scanned by nine hopeful souls. Overcast weather and a stiff breeze out of the southwest didn't deter G. Fraser, R. Yates, S. Brothers, O. Cossitt, R. Conrod, E. MacLeod, Roy and Ethel Blakeburn and G. Croft from setting out shortly after eight. Swinging around the estuary three kestrels flew right at us bearing off when only a few dozen feet away! Herring Gulls, Great Black Backed Gulls and Double Crested Cormorants were very abundant. Two Greater Yellowlegs waded near the shore a little further on.

The sand spit in Cheticamp Harbour yielded 4 Red Breasted Mergansers, a Lesser Yellowlegs and a few Common and White Winged Scooters. The tally was increasing but the seabird numbers were still low. A Common Snipe daringly picked his way through a narrow gully in plain view, a mere ten feet in front of our feet.

The group split up into two groups for lunch with the party at the lighthouse spotting 8 Gannets, two of which were immatures, and many Starlings and Bobolinks, while the second group at the pond glimpsed 10 Black Ducks and a Golden Plover.

The route back along the estuary presented a few surprises. A Yellow-rumped Warbler smugly sat within two feet of a Kestrel and a fruitless chase exploded before us. The sighting of three Bald Eagles was enjoyed by all.

A last look at Cheticamp beach revealed an immature Peregrine Falcon who obligingly captured a mouse and ate it no more than fifty feet before us! A small group of Semipalmated Plovers burst into flight as our Peregrine flashed low over our heads and barged into the flock. A quick succession of hairpin turns yielded no meal, so he swung around and flew by us again only a few feet off the ground!

A concluding stop at Presqu'ile, for those of us who could linger, produced 4 beautiful Sanderling in winter plumage and one Semipalmated Sandpiper, a pleasing conclusion to a fruitful trip.

The day's totals were 39 species, 742 individuals of which 240 were gulls, 150 were Starlings, 47 Ravens, 25 were Bobolinks, 21+ were Yellow rumped Warblers along with numerous others. This compared favourably with previous years; 38 species in 1979, 48 species in 1978 and 35 species in 1977. In all, a very memorable field trip with high hopes for next fall.

Greg Croft

September 27 - Yarmouth County - Tusket Islands

Weather predictions of gale force winds did not deter the members of the Yarmouth County Field Party from embarking on the Tusket Islands trip, the morning of September 27, nor did any regret having done so. The wind was high but not chilling; our spirits were high, and we were travelling what amounts to inland waters in a big competent Cape Islander, captained by Neil LeBlanc, equally competent.

The islands stretch far out to the south and east into the Gulf of Maine, and the sea view is magnificent, especially under a high sky festooned with ever-changing scenic cloud effects. The sun stayed with us until afternoon, and after that we could dry out if necessary beside the engine exhaust pipes in the cabin.

We visited a dozen or so of the islands at close hand and landed on three. We were especially anxious to note the Bird Society signs on our recently acquired properties - Outer Bald and the smaller islands nearby, which make up the Marie Henry Sanctuary - for nesting petrels, terns and other seabirds. The signs are very fine-looking and clearly visible from a long way off.

Very few birds were seen, probably due to the wind conditions; our list was 34 species including the land birds on the islands we boarded, and nothing unexpected was seen (about every second bird at sea appeared to be a cormorant), but the trip itself brought great pleasure to everybody in the group - a day long to be remembered.

C. R. K. Allen

October 4 - Merigomish Island

After pouring rain all night, the weather cleared as we were on our way to Merigomish Island - "Big Island" to Pictonians. It was a nice warm day, with not too much wind and good visibility.

Eleven of us, from Halifax Co., and Pictou Co., Truro and Antigonish made our way, with a few stops, to Big Island. We spent the morning on the sand beaches and mud flats, and found the shelter of a big red barn to have our lunch. In the afternoon the owner of a family cranberry bog gave us a conducted tour.

Birds of interest for the day were an Hudsonian Godwit, who cooperated at close range, for us all to study for as long as we wished, as well as several Water Pipits and a Lapland Longspur.

The surrounding woods yielded the usual confusing fall warblers, some of which didn't make the count list! Total species count for the day was 55.

F. & M. Kenney

UP-COMING FIELD TRIPS

Sunday Feb. 22 HALIFAX CO.-HALIFAX/DARTMOUTH AREA. Sewerage outfalls. Leader: Bill Caudle. Time: 0930 hrs. Meet at the Hartlen Point Golf Club entrance at Eastern Passage.

Saturday March 21 CAPE BRETON-GLACE BAY AREA - SANCTUARY. Earliest spring outing. Leader: Graham Fraser. Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at Dearn's Corner, Hwy. intersection, Port Morien and Donkin.

Sunday April 26 KINGS CO.-WOLFFVILLE AREA. Short-eared owls? Leader: Jim Wolford. Time: 0900 hrs. Meet at Wade's parking lot in Wolfville.

May 16 to 18 SHELBURNE CO.-SEAL ISLAND. Leader: Ralph Connor. Phone him at 469-8370 for information and reservations. Further details in next issue.

Saturday May 30 CAPE BRETON - HOMEVILLE AREA. Warbler day. Leader: Sarah MacLean. Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at Dearn's Corner.

More to come! For further information, call Don or Joyce Purchase at 434-5199.

The 1980 celebrations reached their climax in November, when C. R. K. Allen came from Yarmouth to deliver the last of our special lectures. This was followed by a reception and wine and cheese party honouring the founding and charter members. His lecture was so well received that we asked Charlie for his notes so that all the membership could enjoy it.

BIRDING, FEAST OR FAMINE

I feel sure you will all agree that there is more to birding than the bird, bounded by the narrow circle of the binocular field; that the enjoyment of the hobby can be much greater if one gets to know a little about the habitats, the plants, insects and other forms of life which play a part directly or otherwise in the birds' lives.

Since this is a pretty big subject, I've limited us for the most part, to the smaller inland birds, and their experiences here in this country.

We'll begin then, with that time of year when the birds' world is closest to famine conditions - when the cupboard is nearly bare.

In late January the food supply is at about its lowest ebb. The conifers have been shedding their winged seeds ever since the scales of the cones began to open in late September. The small plants too, evening primrose, St. John's Wort, lamb's quarters and knapweed have been harvested over and over again by successive waves of autumn migrants and have been gleaned by the over-wintering Juncos, Tree Sparrows, Goldfinches plus a few stray Whitethroats and Song Sparrows.

In the woods the eaters of cone seeds have a chancy life. In some years there's an abundance: the red and black spruces and the hemlocks will produce a heavy crop supplementing the more dependable winter spruces; the Nuthatches, Crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks and other finches will lead a fairly easy life.

Once in a while however even the white spruce crop will fail and life gets truly hard. I recall one winter when we found Crossbills vieing with the Goldfinches for what was left in the open pods of evening primrose, and even exploring the big brown seed heads of curly dock. There were other occasions when we found Pine Grosbeaks searching along the shore among the trash at high tide level,--of all places.

Even in the best of winters January through February is the season when food hunting is a full-time job for both seed and insect eaters. Some species have developed special skills for searching out the last crumb of nourishment.

The St. John's wort - a fairly tall common roadside plant with heads of flowers which vaguely resemble buttercups - produces many little urn-shaped pods which open at the top when the seeds are ripe and as the springy stems are moved by the wind, scatters its seeds far and wide. These seeds are one of the favorite foods of the Tree Sparrows but by the time they arrive in the early winter most seeds have been shed and the pods are nearly empty. The sparrows however, will land on the upright stalks and after giving them a vigorous shaking, will drop to the ground and glean whatever residue of seeds has been shaken free.

Starlings too, perhaps the most versatile of all bird foragers, have a method for unearthing goodies buried in matted grass, which I

have never seen used by any other bird. They will drive their beaks down through the tangle to the ground below - and then, opening their mandibles as far apart as possible will lay bare a bit of the earth below - in the hope, no doubt, of exposing some hibernating grub, beetle, spider or the like - and succeeding often enough, it would seem, to make the operation worthwhile. An area of short grass field after a wave of Starlings has passed over it will be dotted with these little holes.

In the woodlands the insect hunters more often than not, travel in mixed flocks: Chickadees, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches, with now and then a Brown Creeper or Downy Woodpecker. As they drift from tree to tree - mostly conifers - they appear to divide the territory. The Kinglets concentrate on the tips of the twigs where they find semi-microscopic eggs of plant lice among the needles; the Chickadees work over the smaller branches, the Nuthatches the larger ones, while the Brown Creeper and Woodpecker spend most of their time on the main trunks. This, of course, is a great over-simplification; there is much poaching on each others' territory but nobody seems to mind and each tree gets a very thorough going-over.

The late winter woods is for the most part a silent apparently lifeless place, but there are a few faint gleams of hope - signs that everything is not completely at a standstill. This is the time when the rhodora, whose purple flowers colored the pastures in June, now, over half a year later, has its seeding time. Its slim fingerlike pods split lengthwise and the tiny seeds - apparently of no interest to the birds - are scattered in the wind. Another sign of more immediate life is the icicles here and there on maple twigs, whose bark has been broken - the sap has been flowing even in the dead of winter. Sometimes the injury to the twig is not accidental. Squirrels will bite through the bark and drink the sap or nibble the icicle after it freezes.

By mid-February another hopeful sign - a sound this time - is the bell-like calls of courting Ravens as they go through elaborate aerial acrobatics doing swoops outside loops and barrel-rolls high over the treetops. Great Horned Owls and Gray Jays have begun their courting at this time too, but seem to make far less fuss about it.

Towards the end of the month there comes, too, a sort of pre-spring stirring as though the winter world partly wakened, like a hibernating bear and rolled over in its sleep. There seems to be, not a true migration, but a shifting in bird populations; a few new ones show up on a route which has been covered regularly for the previous weeks, at the home feeder a new individual or two will appear and old habitues vanish.

Flocks of Scaup and Goldeneyes begin to build up in the estuaries and Common Mergansers show up in the ice-free rapids of the rivers.

By early March the evenings are perceptibly longer; at noon you can feel the warmth of the sun on your cheek, and the icicles begin to drip on the sunny side of the barn.

Now, however, is the time when real and bitter famine can grip the land. The trouble will begin with a warm rain, and then, while the storm is still in progress, the wind will shift around to the north, the temperature will drop sharply - every raindrop freezes as it lands - and in no time the world is encased in a sheath of ice. The storm may end overnight and next morning will be calm and cold with the rising sun turning the world into a glittering iridescent

fairyland - a very beautiful, but for wildlife a deadly world. Every particle of nourishment is hopelessly sealed away beyond reach of the sharpest beak or stoutest claw.

The devastation caused by a heavy silver thaw isn't, of course, limited to animal life. The weight of the ice can tear large limbs from trees or even split them apart. If a cold snap is prolonged, these conditions can mean disaster for most animals, especially the birds, whose winter reserves of body fuel are low and can soon run out.

Fortunately these ice storms seem to occur most frequently in late winter when the sun has enough power to melt the ice in short order and avert such disasters.

The coming of spring in our part of the world is something which we always look forward to eagerly but which, when it's finally run its long, dreary course, we like to forget as completely as possible. At least that applies to our spring weather - the endless recurring advances and retreats of winter, the warm sunny day that raises our hopes, followed by the worst blizzard of the year which dashes them to the depths again.

However, the trend is in the right direction; the old snow shrinks away from the bases of the trees and retires to the northern slopes and deep shade. The brooks come alive and pools of snow water border the little back roads and hollows in the woods. The soft bland days begin to come closer together; big flies bask on sunny surfaces, little midges do their mating dance in sheltered corners, and a Mourning Cloak butterfly just awake, takes its warming-up flight in a woodland clearing. The worst of the famine is over and the stage is set for the early spring arrivals.

It's still a chancy time, however; living can be precarious for the early birds, and the worm be still far out of reach...A drop of a few degrees can turn the earth to stone or cover it with inches of heavy, wet snow. This is par for the course for the first arrivals and they can cope with such conditions. Robins can still get by on frozen apples or shrivelled thorn haws and will even forage - presumably for sand fleas and the like - along the intertidal zone of a pebbly beach. Woodcock will search out soft soil wherever it may be, even along open roadsides and city front lawns - and at any time of day.

The progress into true spring is painfully slow at first but around mid-April it begins to accelerate. Flying insects take to the air in increasing numbers and bees begin to gather their first harvest of pollen from the ripening catkins of willows. Among these are the big furry bumblebee queens - sole survivors of last year's colonies - now fresh from hibernation and about to found a new community. Tree Swallows arrive and the first of the warblers - Yellow-rumps and Palms. The season of famine is finally over.

In some places the season of abundance begins with a rush, as with the May fly hatch in the lakes of the granite country along the South Shore. When the ice goes out and the water begins to warm, the nymphs which have been feeding for the past two years on diatoms and other algae, start their shoreward migration. They arrive in the marginal shallows in such vast numbers that the water of the shoreline sometimes seems thick with them; and sometime in late April or early May, when the temperature reaches the critical point, they crawl out into the air, shed their nymphal skins and emerge as dull brown winged insects known to the naturalist as sub-adults and to the trout angler as "duns" - the second last stage in their life history.

They crawl or fly up into the shoreside bushes - the cassandra and the sweet gale, whose short yellow catkins are already beginning to shed pollen.

There are no words in the English language to describe the numbers of these insects - billions, trillions, quadrillions - these are pitifully inadequate terms. They cover the bushes in packed masses, every twig of every bush along the shore of every lake - and there are hundreds of these in the area.

It's incredible that such apparently barren waters should produce such exuberance of life. Needless to say such a feast is welcomed with open arms - or more properly open mouths - by many creatures which, up to now, have been getting by on short rations. The early warblers, Whitethroats, Song and Swamp Sparrows feed avidly without making the slightest impression. Small parties of Greater Yellowlegs sometimes make an inland stopover and take their share and once we saw a female Red Phalarope in full breeding plumage swimming and spinning around close to shore picking off flies which had drifted out on the surface.

The duns aren't active flyers but spend most of their day or two in this stage of their lives clinging to the twigs...Then comes their final moult in which they shed their waterproof outer skin - even the film over their wings - and emerge as complete adults - known to the anglers as "spinners". They are now ready for the final acts of their brief adult lives - the mating flight and the egg-laying drift out over the water. As duns they were dull and drab, now they have delicate slender shining black bodies with two long thread-like tails and sparkling transparent wings...They no longer rest in huddled masses, but scatter themselves more thinly, finding roosting places several yards back from the lake margin, even among the lower branches of the spruces.

The mating dance of the spinners is a dramatic sight, seen at its best on a bright sunny day with a fresh but intermittent breeze. While the breeze blows the bushes seem lifeless but the moment it dies a great shimmering, sparkling curtain rises and hangs in the air a few yards above, like exaggerated heat waves along the shore as far as the eye can see and back to the fringing wood. At the first puff of returning breeze the veil sinks instantly back into the bushes as if pulled down by cords and remains invisible until the next calm spell. Mayflies are feeble flyers and can't make way against even the gentlest air.

Not all the flies however, dive for the bushes. The mated females fly out over the water where they settle and drift like tiny sailboats, releasing their eggs as they go.

Spinner time is when the Swallows come into their own. Tree Swallows mostly though a few Barn and Cliff Swallows horn in. They swoop back and forth through the hovering clouds of flies and skim low over the water picking them from the surface.

The Mayfly "hatch", as it is incorrectly called, usually lasts for several weeks, till about the middle of May in fact, so the main warbler wave arrives in time to reap some of the bounty and replenish their energy after the last leg of their journey.

Other large hatches of water-bred insects occur at about the same time in these granite lakes and in other lakes and streams throughout the country, though few as huge as the Mayflies. A week or two earlier, shortly after the spring break-up, a so-called "hatch" of little black caddisflies takes place on many lakes and

larger streams and apparently forms an important part of the food of Tree Swallows when they first arrive. These may, in fact, be their salvation, for the flies are very hardy and are active even when the spring temperature drops to near freezing - and are no doubt why, in such weather, we find Tree Swallows feeding close to the surface of the water.

Another outpouring of spring goodies, though not recognized as such in most quarters, is the emergence of the Blackflies. Their numbers probably exceed those of the Mayflies and certainly their arrival on the scene gets greater and more wide-spread attention. They too, spend the early stages of their life under water but under very different conditions. During their larval life, that is, their feeding and growing stage, they live in rapidly-flowing streams, anchored by their tails, their heads pointed down stream, equipped with a pair of tiny scoops for straining microscopic particles of living and dead organic matter from the current. In favored spots they are so numerous they look like a growth of fine moss over the surface of the submerged stones.

After completing their growth each larva spins a tiny cone-shaped cocoon with the opening pointing downstream, and goes into the resting or pupa stage, during which it changes into adult form, and then has the problem of getting to the surface of the rapid water without being washed away. It does this by secreting (from the surrounding water) air under its pupal skin, building up the pressure till the skin bursts and the adult is carried quickly to the surface in its own little air bubble. Unwelcome they may be to many, but the hordes of Blackflies have their place in the diets of many insect-eating birds, particularly the Swallows, Swifts and Flycatchers.

By early May the season of plenty is well under way. Many of the shrubs and trees as well as the small plants beneath them are coming into full bloom, supplying pollen and nectar for a host of flies, moths, butterflies, bees and wasps, not to mention food for some of our vegetarian birds, such as the Purple Finch, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Northern Oriole.

All these plants, unlike those of the open meadows and marshes have a deadline; they must have completed their flowering time before the blossoms are buried and hidden among the leaves. Even so, the opening of the first leaves usually overlaps the season of bloom and synchronizes perfectly with the hatching of a multitude of caterpillars and other leaf-eating larvae, and they, in turn, provide ample and hearty food for the warblers, vireos, and their nestlings which soon appear upon the scene. The timing is just right for all concerned - flower, leaf, caterpillar, bird - and has, no doubt, been honed to perfection over many thousand generations.

The caterpillars have an easy and plentiful, completely passive pasturage in the tender new leaves, and the birds too, have a plentiful and varied fare, but it's not quite so passive or defenseless, the leaf-eaters are not without protective devices. In fact, they have many and various ways of staying alive, or trying to. Some caterpillars roll the food leaves into a tube, stitching it together with silk and eat only the inner surface, thus keeping out of sight, at least. For some, like the tent caterpillars, there's safety in numbers. They live in a sort of family colony; that is, they hatch from an egg mass deposited around a twig by the female last autumn, and the first thing they do is spin a community shelter or tent of very tough silk around the first suitable forking branch they find. They all travel in a group till they find the proper spot, probably just inches from where they hatched. They spend most of their time inside this tent which also includes much of their food of young

leaves, but leave it permanently when they have reached full growth and can very quickly strip a number of branches of their foliage while remaining out of sight on the undersides of the leaves. Presumably they do run some risks while moving from one food supply to the next. Perhaps they do it at night? Some, like the big woolly bear caterpillars which we see travelling in a great hurry across the roads in late summer, have a thick coat of furry bristles which are distasteful to most birds, though not to the cuckoos. Others, such as the Mourning Cloaks, have sharp poisonous spines and have a row of conspicuous orange spots along their sides which may serve as a sort of "keep off" sign to hungry birds.

A great many caterpillars depend on protective coloring and shape; many are the same shade of green as the leaves they feed on. For instance, the blue-green cabbage worm is almost invisible against the "host" leaf; one species at least has its body segmented in ridges which silhouette, look exactly like the toothed margins of the leaves it eats. Some are mottled gray and white like the droppings of the birds themselves. The loopers, or measuring worms, when at rest, hold their bodies out rigidly at an angle so they look, for all the world like small leafless twigs.

Some caterpillars actually have active defense mechanisms. The larva of the big yellow Swallow-tail has two oval black spots, side by side, on its swollen shoulder region which, since it is bright green, gives its body the appearance of a green snake's head. As if this weren't enough, when it is touched lightly on the back, a forked pinkish structure pops out of a fold, just behind the head, for all the world like a snake sticking out its tongue.

We could go on in this strain indefinitely, but here are just two more. The first is a little humped-backed caterpillar with two slender tubes growing out of the last segment of its body. When touched it curls this segment upward and forward and from these tubes a pair of very thin, fine threads emerge and lash like tiny whips over the animal's body. This is probably a deterrent to some species of parasitic insect rather than a defence against a larger attacker. The second is a large grub which looks superficially like a caterpillar but is actually the larva of an insect related to the wasps, called a saw-fly. This big conspicuous luscious-looking morsel feeds on the leaves of willow and elm and is left strictly alone by most marauders because of its defense, which consists of squirting a number of jets of liquid from a row of pores along its sides when it is disturbed. To human taste this liquid is not at all unpleasant, being something like weak lemonade, but tastes apparently differ and the grub is safe from the birds.

Besides the caterpillars, grubs and beetles, all browsers, there are numbers of other insects with tube-like sucking mouth parts that depend on young foliage and tender new plant stems. These include the aphids or plant lice, the so-called stink bugs (which we've all found in our dishes of blueberries), the cicadas and so on.

I remember one of these in particular because of its method of defense, not of itself, but of its young. I had noticed a warbler, I think it was a Redstart, feeding actively on something which it was plucking from the under surfaces of the leaves of a white birch. I took a closer look and found that practically every leaf had on its lower surface a flat greenish bug about an eighth of an inch long with semi-transparent lacy wings folded along its back, and clustered beneath its body was a whole brood of young. When I investigated the situation with a small twig, the parent used its body as a shield, tilting it forward, back and to either side depending on what direction the apparent attack came from. One wonders what danger such a

pathetic defense could ward off, certainly not a Redstart, but the interesting thing to me was that any member of this particular group, which normally has no concern for the next generation beyond depositing its eggs in the right place, should put up any sort of defense of its brood, however feeble.

By the first week in June the trees and shrubs except for the ashes and bayberries, are in full leaf; the spring bloom in the woods and pasture lands is about over. The latest migrants: Black-billed Cuckoos, Red-eyed Vireos, Nighthawks and Sharp-tailed Sparrows are back, the last species having just arrived, not even unpacked yet.

Earlier arrivals are now, for the most part, incubating or trying to keep up with the appetites of newly hatched broods. Already young Ravens are out of the nest flying clumsily after their parents and complaining continually. In another week bob-tailed Robins will be on the lawns and young Juncos and Song Sparrows will be making first attempts at flight.

This is the time of year when, as spring merges into summer, there comes, now and then, an unseasonably sultry day, more like one in August than June, and it's on a day like this that the flying ants take to the air on their mating flight. These flights, composed of such vast multitudes over a wide area, recall the Mayfly hatch, but now, in this season of plenty it's as though Nature were painting the lily, and while they last practically every member of the small-bird population becomes an amateur swallow or flycatcher. These flights are the ants' way of propagating and spreading the species. The winged individuals are fully sexed males and females and in this nuptial flight the female or queen is fertilized permanently. She then drops back to earth, twists off her wings and sets out in search, either for a place in which to pass the coming winter or a site for a new colony whose members will all be her children - one vast family.

There are a few species of birds which take little part in one of these ant-eating orgies, whose diet in fact, even in the height of insect abundance is still large vegetarian. Such are the Goldfinches and Pine Grosbeaks. Close to fifty per cent of the food they seek in spring and early summer consists of buds, flowers and even green undeveloped fruits; a large proportion of the insect food that they collect at this time probably goes to feed their nestlings.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak likes the flower clusters of the white ash and the buds of a variety of hardwoods. Purple Finches favor the blossoms of the red maple and the leaf buds of apple, birch and poplar. Goldfinches do eat many aphids and caterpillars in spring but switch largely to seeds as soon as those of dandelions and early thistles are available.

Up to now we've been following the feast and famine theme literally, as it applies to abundance or scarcity of food...but now let's expand the meaning of these terms to embrace the ebb and flow of color and sound in the cycle of the seasons.

Already we have spoken of the almost complete silence of the winter countryside, and the muted colors of hardwoods, barrens and marshes. There is a spare, rugged beauty here and sometimes when the sun rises on a calm morning after an overnight fall of snow, the world is a sparkling fairyland, but it's a cold lifeless sort of beauty, and vanishes at the first puff of wind.

The silence at that time of year is broken most frequently by the distant croak of a Raven or the cawing of Crows in late afternoon as they gather before flying to their communal roosts.

A meeting with a mixed flock of Chickadees and Kinglets is a relief, and to hear occasionally the chattering of a flock of Cross-bills is a real treat.

For the most of us the first hint of better things to come is the "Spring-Soon" whistle of the Black-capped Chickadees or perhaps a winter Song Sparrow fooled by the late February sun into a shaky rendition of its song.

The earliest spring flowers add little to the scene but do contribute in one sense to the atmosphere. These are the big purple, twisted hoods of skunk cabbage which often push their way up through the hard winter snow, generating their own heat for this purpose. The odor, almost exactly like that of a skunk who feels it's been wronged, isn't really obnoxious at a distance, but is powerful close to. Its purpose is to attract flying insects such as carrion flies to the true flowers which are borne on a spike inside the protective hood.

What may be called the first true spring color is so delicate that one wonders if it is real or just a figment of wishful imagination. It's the heightened intensity of reds and yellows in the bark of young maple and willow shoots as the sap begins to flow.

It is about this time, late March or early April, that the first spring chorus comes to our ears.

It will be a warm, bland, sunny day, calm, or with a soft wind from the south. The snow has been reduced to puddles along the roadside or pools in the woods. As we near one of these, we can hear what sounds like a flock of ducks quacking quietly in a conversational sort of way among themselves. As we get closer however, there's no spattering commotion of wings as there would be from a surprised flock, but the quacking falls silent. If we watch and wait perfectly still for a few minutes, the mystery will be solved. Here and there on the surface of the pool we'll see the quackers, small frogs, of a dead-leaf, grayish brown in color, swimming slowly about, making their flat nasal little love croaks as they go, hoping to attract a willing female.

These are the wood frogs, first of their kind to spawn in the spring, and for them and their offspring, the deadline is desperately close, for they must mate and lay their eggs and the tadpoles must grow and develop into adult form before the pools of snow water disappear in late spring.

In early spring the frogs at first out-sing the birds. Only a few days after the Wood Frog chorus, the first Spring Peepers or Tree Frogs begin to tune up. These tiny songsters, hardly an inch long, have voices whose volume and carrying power would be the envy of a frog three times their size. Add to this their numbers, and we have an orchestra whose sound will carry for half a mile on a still evening, and at close range will make the air fairly vibrate.

Meanwhile, the birds are making themselves heard: Song Sparrows, Juncos, Redwings and Grackles. Their songs hold the stage during the day, mostly in the mornings, and at first the Tree Frogs voices are the only ones heard during the evenings. A little later however, after the Hermit Thrushes arrive, we may be lucky enough to hear one of the most beautiful concerts the spring has to offer; a Hermit Thrush, singing against the shimmering, quavering accompaniment of the frog chorus. The pure, bell-like tones of the solo instrument rendered in slow phrases is like the adagio movement of a concerto.

Now, from early May on, the bird voices take over and the growing chorus keeps pace with the spread of color over the land. In the woods the crimson blossoms of the Red Maple are opening and on the old pastures and burns the Shadbush, Pin Cherry and Chokeberry are bursting out into a white and pink froth, and while they are still in high bloom, the purple Rhodora appears and makes a delightful harmony.

Meanwhile, the leaf buds are opening and young foliage begins to appear in an almost unbelievable variety of subtle shades of green, bronze and other tints, making a misty melange as gorgeous in its delicate pastels as the flamboyant show in October.

Young leaves come in unexpected shades and hues: oak in frosty pink, one of the poplars in bronze, the other in mutton-fat jade; beech leaflets are sea-green, birches emerald, mountain ash, rich jade, shadbush, pinkish-bronze--and so on...It comes and goes quickly, this spring pageant of leaf color, and halfway through comes the warbler wave, and then, for a few happy days, while the leaves are still small, we can look our fill at the birds, whose bright new plumage echoes or rivals that of the new leaves: Magnolias, Parulas, Black-throated Greens, Bay Breasts, Redstarts, maybe a Cape May or a Blackburnian - and who's going to turn up his nose at a Black-and-White or a Blackpoll?

The leaves open quickly and the show is all too soon over, and we have to be satisfied with brief, frustrating glimpses and with the songs which most of us have to re-learn each spring.

Now, as we move into June, the bird chorus is at its height and the connoisseurs can have a fine time comparing favorites and promoting them to top place in the ratings. The Hermit Thrush would, I think, rank high, with other two woodland relatives, the Swainson's and Veery placing close behind. The whistle of the White-throated Sparrow would get many votes as would the rollicking songs of Bobolink and Purple Finch. The Mozartian trills and runs of the Winter Wren make some of my friends ecstatic and the Fox Sparrow's warbling ditty, coming as it does so soon after late winter silence, puts it well up among the Top Ten.

For sheer virtuosity, we have the Catbird's variations on a theme by a Robin, but for music to stir the deeper emotions, we must go to the big birds of the wild places. If the Winter Wren's arpeggios are Mozart, the harmonies of the Wild Geese are Beethoven. Their clarion music coming down out of the night sky could be the inspiration for a psalm of David: "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork". As for the sad, mad wail of a lonely Loon, this could be taken for Tchaikowsky's "Pathetique".

I'm afraid none of our warblers, in spite of their family name would make the rating as musicians, although a Yellowthroat in good voice or a Waterthrush might come close.

As we move into July, the bird chorus begins to dwindle; one by one the performers drop out, until by the middle of the month, the songs are sporadic - except for the endless changing of the Red-eyed Vireo...By now the flowering of the trees and shrubs is over, and in fact, the first ripe fruits are available: shadberries, raspberries, early elder, even a few blueberries, and some birds are beginning to convert to fruit-eating.

The woods are now uniform green and the display of color has shifted to meadows, roadsides and the banks of streams. They are a riot of Meadow Rue, Wild Rose, blue Vetch, yellow Loosestrife, Queen Anne's Lace, Morning Glory, Meadow Sweet, pink and white Yarrow,

golden Tansy, later Fireweed, Boneset, Joe Pye Weed, Evening Primrose and many, many others as they come into flower. It's a feast of color as July draws toward its close but for the birder this can often be a time of what might be called mini-famine. The songsters have mostly fallen silent; many young birds aren't yet fully fledged and on the wing. The adults, for some reason, seem to be attending to private affairs, perhaps going into the post-nuptial moult or finishing off their domestic duties.

At any rate, mid-summer birding can sometimes be slim pickings in that interregnum between the period of full bird song and the advent of the big mixed flocks of early migrants.

The last of July is the apex of high summer. It's like one's thirtieth birthday--from here on it's all downhill.

It is now, as July becomes August and the last of the fireflies blink out, that the music of the birds is replaced by that of the insects. The woodwinds give way to the strings, tambourines and castanets.

The first insect song we hear is the fine, soft trill of the tiny brown field cricket. When we hear it on a still warm night about the first of August, it sounds so familiar, so natural a part of the night, that it seems as though we'd been hearing it subconsciously for a long time, and had just now realized that it was a true outside sound--not just a faint ringing in our own ears.

This fine trill which swells in volume as the month progresses is soon joined by the louder intermittent chirp of the big black crickets who spend most of their time hidden away under loose stones and who continue to sing until the first hard frosts.

These are night sounds.

During the hot August days the song of the cicada is the dominant sound. It's shrill vibrant buzz has the same tonal quality as that of a tambourine and for a good reason, for it's produced by small vibrating membranes on the first segment of the cicada's abdomen.

The cicada, one of our largest insects, looks a lot like a giant aphid, and like the aphid, lives on plant sap which it extracts from young stems through its tubular beak. It passes its young nymph stage underground, living on the juice of various roots; it may take some species as long as seventeen years to reach adulthood.

Members of the grasshopper clan reach maturity in August too, and all of them produce a variety of chirping noises by rubbing their stiff, outer wings with their hind legs. Two of the most familiar are the katydid which sings at dusk and the big gray grasshopper of the beaches and gravelly roadsides which is very conspicuous when it flies because of its gaudy yellow and black wings and the loud crackling noise it makes. Like a Willet, it's showy and noisy in the air, but nearly invisible on the ground.

And now, the first hints of autumn begin to appear. Here and there along the boggy edges of the swales a young maple has turned bright scarlet; now and then we have a day with a hint of cool crispness in the air; the distant hills are sharp and clear, and the horizon looks as if it had been drawn with a ruler. Most birds are on the move; the Nighthawks are drifting south in loose companies; big mixed warbler flocks are becoming common and give us delightfully frustrating times as we try to sort them out. Swallows, also in

mixed flocks, line the telephone wires and often rest in great numbers on the gravelly beaches or even on the pavement of the highway. There's a sense of urgency and impending departure in the air.

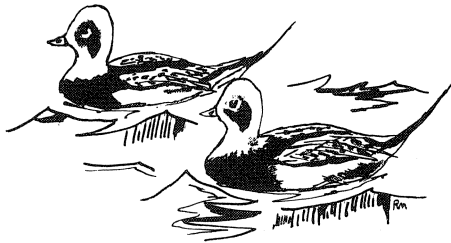
Labor Day weekend is the official time for the departure of the Kingbirds. Their migration always seems to be at peak, whether it's the first or the eighth of the month, and the other smaller fly-catchers leave at about the same time. By the middle of the month the Swallows have left and warbler migration has dwindled to a trickle--except for Yellowrumps, which are still superabundant. Robins are passing through in successive waves, gorging on black cherries, elderberry and mountain ash as they go. On day they will be everywhere, the next, hardly a robin to be seen.

Red Maples in the low-lying woods are turning and the poplars are beginning to show a bit of yellow. The climax of the autumn pageant comes, of course, in early October, but it would be absurd to recall something still so fresh in everyone's memory. Let me just mention a few vignettes: half-a-dozen Waxwings in a rum cherry tree; a Bluejay in a flaming sumac--for that picture we should forgive him some of his sins--and a small flock of White-winged Cross-bills at the top of a spruce--these almost reconcile us to the hard times ahead.

The salt marshes were the last to come to life in the spring and now they keep their autumn colors long after the last leaves have fallen. In the late November sun their colors are still warm and rich - streaks of yellow ochre and orange, russet brown and even pink where the samphire dies.

This rare November sun which gives us what duck-hunters refer to disgustedly as "Bluebird Days" and which most of us know as Indian Summer, with its soft warm air, seems to waken in some creatures a sort of memory of the long-gone spring. A bird now and then will warble a few faint bars; a dandelion or two will come into untimely bloom or pussywillows show a rim of silver from under their winter bud scales. However, to me, one of the most poignant sounds in all nature is the flute-like note of a Tree Frog, stirred by the mild weather to a memory of the mating chorus in May and singing his lonely serenade to a romance long past.

C. R. K. Allen



BOOK REVIEW

Roger Tory PETERSON. A field guide to the birds east of the rockies 1980. Fourth edition (revised and enlarged). 384 pp. 390 maps, 136 plates. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. (available from Canadian Nature Federation, 75 Albert St., Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6G1).

My old battered water-swollen Peterson field guide, vintage 1947, has just been retired to the bookshelf. It's replacement is the long awaited new eastern Peterson, closely similar in dimensions but with more pages and an entirely new set of plates. How does the new book measure up to the old?

I have always believed that the 1947 edition (mine has been in continual use since 1948) was one of the finest bird guides in existence, especially valuable for the beginner because the illustrations were so clear and because Peterson presented field marks in such a strikingly logical way. The new Peterson is much more extensively illustrated. There are, for example, 136 plates rather than 60, and 390 range maps (presented six to a page in a concluding section), a feature that is entirely new and very well done. The species accounts have been reduced in length without losing information. They face the plates, so that no page-turning is required to go from written account to illustration. The common names of some species have been changed to match those likely to be used in the next AOU checklist of North American birds (get used to Sedge Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Northern junco). The species are presented not in checklist order, but by habitat groupings (for example, waterbirds - shearwaters, pelicans, gannets, ducks, gulls and terns are presented together), or on the basis of size and general appearance (the finches and buntings are a unit ahead of the sparrows).

There are some other very useful features of the new guide, including a section (much of it published before in a small book in 1949) called "How to identify birds", which makes a useful outline for those writing rare bird reports for Nova Scotia Birds if combined with the diagram "Topography of a bird" on page 30. In addition, there is an illustrated section on accidentals, introduced birds and escapes to conclude the main text (though there is no Sudan Golden Finch to amuse those who remember "Davis Finch", a member of that species which appeared on Seal Island some years ago and lived out its life with the McLaren family).

My favorite field guides because of their beauty have always been the second edition of Peterson's western guide and Peterson and Chalif's Field guide to Mexican birds. They must yield to the new eastern Peterson, with its elegantly-composed, well-printed plates and attractive layout. In terms of utility, for the birder in eastern North America, the book is also a winner. It contains much new information, presents fine illustrations with great visual impact, and groups species in ways that the beginner will find very helpful. I consider the new Peterson eastern guide the best book on the market. The Golden Guide (Robbins, Bruun and Zim), which I believe failed by trying to do too much, will have to look to its laurels.

My glowing account must be tempered however. The new eastern Peterson has some logical failings, and does not include a great deal of published or unpublished information on difficult species. Why, for example is a Tufted Duck in breeding plumage illustrated, rather than a female or male in basic plumage, since most North American records are obscurely-plumaged birds? Thayer's Gull, always a difficult one, is represented only by an adult head, despite the fact that its wing-tip pattern is diagnostic. First-year Thayer's gulls have been reported frequently from eastern North America, but their

features are not even mentioned. There's no question that a Mew Gull immature should have been illustrated and described in comparison with a Ring-billed Gull. The juvenile Arctic, Common and Roseate Terns are not adequately illustrated despite detailed information on their identification that has been available since 1969. The field-marks separating winter-plumaged or immature Common and Arctic Loons are illustrated, but not mentioned, particularly the eye-ringed ("spots before the eyes") appearance of the Common Loon. No mention is made of how to distinguish the dowitchers in winter plumage though this has been well worked out. Some features that may be useful in separating Least and Alder/Willow Flycatchers, such as relative size of head, tail length, and notching of the tail are not mentioned. Water Pipits, Peterson shows us, have black legs, although most that we see in the field have flesh-coloured legs (to be fair, no other guide gets this right either). I must confess, too, that I like the new plates of "Confusing fall warblers" less than the ones in his 1947 book, and that I believe many of the colours in the plate of peeps (page 135) are not representative.

No doubt many experienced birders can lengthen this list of deficiencies in the new guide. There are failings, to be sure, but on balance, the new book is a fine one, beautifully illustrated, easy to use, correct in its presentation of fieldmarks. As a work of art it is a fine acquisition too. It will be hard for any illustrator to more beautifully illustrate the large sandpipers (page 127), the nut-hatches and creeper (page 213), the wrens (page 215) and the thrushes (page 223), which are my favorite plates.

Peterson's first field guide burst on us with such effect thirty or more years ago because birders, collectively, knew so little. Today, the experienced field birder can use a complex technical literature, a multitude of birding publications, and a widespread network of verbal information about identification. Despite this, the new Peterson has much to offer the new birder and the old hand. Without a doubt, on balance it is the best North American bird guide. I see one problem, though. Who wants to take such a lovely book out into the rain?

Eric L. Mills

Many readers will be sad to learn of the death of Louise Douglas Daley of Digby, a long time member and a true friend of the birds

INDIAN ISLAND

On a clear sunny morning in mid-July, a small group of birders --Shirley and Ed Richard, John and Shirley Cohrs, Sylvia Fullerton and EricCooke set off in the *Christabelito*, a 30 foot Cape Islander, captained by Peter Bell of Petite Riviere, Lunenburg County, to investigate Indian Island, a twenty acre, uninhabited inaccessible and reputedly haunted isle, situated off the entrance to Green Bay, Lunenburg County. Also aboard was Captain Douglas Bell, Peter's father.

It is notoriously difficult to land on the island due to treacherous winds and currents and the absence of any natural harbour or beach, which is the (probable) reason that it has become a breeding ground of the Double-Crested Cormorant. It was to find out what, if any, other species might be established there that this expedition was mounted.

The intention had been merely to circumnavigate the island with binoculars and telescopes at the ready, but we were lucky enough to have optimum landing conditions--and land we did, with Peter ferrying us ashore two by two in his row-boat. It was still tricky--"landing" entailed scrambling from the boat to a seaweed covered rock ledge.

Once ashore, there was no doubt that this was a thriving cormorant colony. The noise was considerable, the footing in the guano slippery and the smell interesting. Most of the young cormorants had fledged and were arranged with the adults in the tops of the moribund spruce trees. A few young remained on the nests which varied considerably in size. Some were apparently fairly new, whilst others had been added to in layers over the years, but all were built of small twigs with large pale ribbons of kelp well woven in. The Herring and Black-backed Gull nests, mere grassy platforms on the pebbles, were by now deserted, but there were so many young flightless gulls (varying in size from a few inches to a foot or so) lying around in the hummocks, that it was difficult to avoid treading on them. They were easily ('tho somewhat hazardously) picked up and, on being released, staggered off, their balance impaired by their huge bills and feet.

At the S.W. end of the island we found a small heronry of Great Blues and several petrel burrows were around. These latter were so deep and dirty that no-one offered a long arm, but a freshly dead petrel wing with the characteristic petrel smell was picked up.

Several dozen Black Guillemots in breeding plumage fled from the shores, feet gleaming blood red in the sunshine, and a few families of Common Eider swam amongst the weedy inshore rocks.

Spotted Sandpipers, Black-Capped Chickadee, Song Sparrow and an early-returning Sanderling completed our list as we stepped gingerly about, knee-deep in a lush green weed reminiscent of the flora at the Dartmouth Piggery. Peter rowed us all safely back to the boat for the return trip to Bush Island. Enroute Captain Bell told us stories of the early settlers hereabouts and detours were made to view McLeods Harbour and Queen's Beach, both on the now uninhabited Cape LaHave Island. As we listened to his accounts it took little imagination to be back with those brave early souls who lived out their lives on these inhospitable but beautiful shores. It was a trip of ornithological interest and historical reminiscence.

--J.S.C.

INDIAN ISLAND WAS PURCHASED BY THE NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY'S
SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND IN SEPTEMBER 1980.

The following article appeared in BIRDS, the magazine of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Summer Issue, 1980. We feel it is as important in Nova Scotia as in Britain... Ed.

BIRDWATCHERS' CODE

Today's birdwatchers are a powerful force for nature conservation. The number of those of us interested in birds rises continually and it is vital that we take seriously our responsibility to avoid any harm to birds.

We must also present a responsible image to non-birdwatchers who may be affected by our activities and particularly those on whose sympathy and support the future of birds may rest.

There are 10 points to bear in mind:

1. The welfare of birds must come first.
2. Habitat must be protected.
3. Keep disturbance to birds and their habitat to a minimum.
4. When you find a rare bird think carefully about whom you should tell.
5. Do not harass rare migrants.
6. Abide by the Bird Protection Acts at all times.
7. Respect the rights of landowners.
8. Respect the rights of other people in the countryside.
9. Make your records available to the local bird recorder.
10. Behave abroad as you would when birdwatching at home.

WELFARE OF BIRDS MUST COME FIRST

Whether our particular interest is photography, ringing, sound recording, scientific study or just birdwatching, remember that the welfare of the bird must always come first.

HABITAT PROTECTION

Its habitat is vital to a bird and therefore we must ensure that our activities do not cause damage.

KEEP DISTURBANCE TO A MINIMUM

Birds' tolerance of disturbance varies between species and seasons. Therefore, it is safer to keep all disturbance to a minimum. No birds should be disturbed from the nest so that opportunities for predators to take eggs or young are reduced. In very cold weather disturbance to birds may cause them to use vital energy at a time when food is difficult to find. Wildfowlers already impose bans during cold weather: birdwatchers should exercise similar discretion.

RARE BREEDING BIRDS

If you discover a rare bird breeding and feel that protection is necessary, inform the appropriate...(authority*). Otherwise it is best in almost all circumstances to keep the record strictly secret in order to avoid disturbance by other birdwatchers and attacks by egg-collectors. Never visit known sites of rare breeding birds unless they are adequately protected. Even your presence may give away the site to others and cause so many other visitors that the birds may fail to breed successfully.

Disturbance at or near the nest of species listed on the First Schedule of the Protection of Birds Act, 1954 is a criminal offence (in Britain).

* In N. S., the NSBS

RARE MIGRANTS

Rare migrants or vagrants must not be harassed. If you discover one, consider the circumstances carefully before telling anyone. Will an influx of birdwatchers disturb the bird or others in the area? Will the habitat be damaged? Will problems be caused with the landowner?

PROTECTION OF BIRDS ACTS

The bird protection laws (of Britain) are the result of hard campaigning by previous generations of birdwatchers. (British)...birdwatchers...(are urged to) abide by them at all times and not allow them to fall into disrepute.

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF LANDOWNERS

The wishes of landowners and occupiers of land must be respected. Do not enter land without permission.

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHER PEOPLE

Have proper consideration for other birdwatchers. Try not to disrupt their activities or scare the birds they are watching. There are many other people who also use the countryside. Do not interfere with their activities and, if it seems that what they are doing is causing unnecessary disturbance to birds, do try to take a balanced view. Flushing gulls when walking a dog on a beach may do little harm, while the same dog might be a serious disturbance at a tern colony. When pointing this out to a non-birdwatcher be courteous, but firm. The non-birdwatchers' goodwill towards birds must not be destroyed by the attitudes of birdwatchers.

KEEPING RECORDS

Much of today's knowledge about birds is the result of meticulous record keeping by our predecessors. Make sure you help to add to tomorrow's knowledge by sending records to your (local association). Behalf abroad as you would at home. This code should be firmly adhered to when abroad (whatever the local laws). Well behaved birdwatchers can be important ambassadors for bird protection.

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SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY PUFFIN AWARD 1980

1980 is a special year for the Nova Scotia Bird Society and many events have been held and will continue to be held to recognize the 25th Anniversary of its founding. Today is to be included as one of those events. The Puffin of the Year Award is presented at the Annual General Meeting and one will be presented this year, but it was felt a special Anniversary Puffin should be awarded and that the recipient be Frank Robertson.

It is very difficult to measure one's contribution to the Bird Society--it is done in many different ways by many different members. Frank's contribution is unique for, although he has always fostered a deep love and appreciation of nature, it is for his involvement since his retirement that he is being recognized now.

Frank has been an active member of the Nova Scotia Bird Society for many years, (since 1967), and has been a valuable contributor of bird reports to the records kept by the Staff of the Newsletter. When Life Memberships were made available a few years ago, he was presented with the first Life Membership by the Cape Breton Branch, an obvious recognition of the esteem in which Frank was held by his fellow Cape Bretoners.

Frank retired from one career in 1968, and that same year launched on a second one, that of writing a column for the Cape Breton Post, appropriately called "For The Birds". This has been and still is, an extremely popular column in the weekly edition of this newspaper and read by literally hundreds of subscribers.

In 1978, Frank became a regular contributor to Radio Station CBI's Information Morning programme. It has become a very popular feature to morning radio listeners. Frank's kind and sympathetic nature has even turned his home into a sort of medical centre for birds and apparently he has an unusually high rate of success in treating injured birds.

We know not how many lives have been affected by reading Frank's column, or listening to his bird talk on the radio; we know not how many young people have had their eyes opened to a part of nature previously not seen; not the number of adults who have developed a greater concern and awareness of not only birdlife, but other forms of nature, due to some contact with Frank.

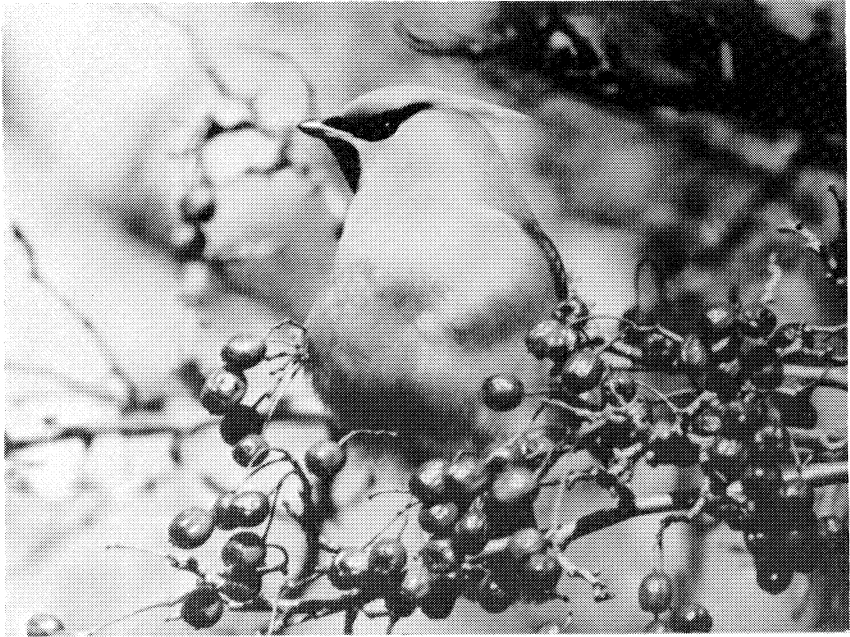
It is to recognize this personal campaign of Frank's, to educate and inform the public about the birdlife and wildlife of our province that Frank is being presented with this Special Anniversary Award.

In December 1969, Frank's book "The Humble Bowl" was published. It is a collection of some of the poems he has written during his lifetime and his love of nature, his sensitivity to his surroundings is beautifully expressed.

My favourite poem in his collection has a sketch of a Great B. Blue Heron beside it. Perhaps Frank's philosophy of nature and that which he is conveying to others through his newspaper column, his radio talks, and in his personal contacts with the public in other ways is expressed in the last stanza of his poem--"I Wasted This Morning"

I wasted this morning;
I should be ashamed;
But I heard a bird sing
And learned what it's named.
I saw a Blue Heron,
And climbed a high hill;
And I learned what it means
To be nothing but still.

Margaret A. Clark,
President,
Nova Scotia Bird Society,
July 5, 1980.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, NSBS Newsletter:

Fulton L. Lavender's article entitled "The Consistent Reminder", which appeared in the latest issue of the NEWSLETTER, gives an interesting summary of the bird-life he observed during the winter of 1979-80 in the East-Central Halifax County district. However, there is one recording which - if correct - is so unusual that it should not be reported without some elaboration. Under the section labelled "Grouse to Gulls" (page 189) he states, "The ever present Ruffed Grouse and the sandpiper related woodcock are the only game birds I have to report. Both were seen in mid-January at Albro Lake in Dartmouth."

To see a woodcock during January anywhere in Nova Scotia would be exceptionally noteworthy. During my many years of field observations I have recorded a woodcock in winter (late December) only once. The bird in question could barely get off the ground due to weakness caused by starvation. Internal examination of the specimen revealed its intestine had been punctured by a small shot. This wound which it had received during the preceding hunting season had so weakened the bird that it was physically unable to migrate at the appropriate time.

The possibility occurs to me that Mr. Lavender's "woodcock" were actually Common Snipe, for the latter is a sandpiper-related bird of comparable size which winters here regularly in small numbers in suitable habitat.

R. W. Tufts,
Wolfville.

To which Mr. Lavender replies:

In reply to your letter asking for confirmation of my mid January sighting of a North American Woodcock, I can safely say that the identification was made under ideal weather and daylight conditions, and all field marks such as classic coloration of underparts, head, bill, tail and wings etc., size, chunky roundish shape and loud explosive whistling of the wings on take-off were duly noted.

It may interest you to know that this is not my first recorded sighting of a North American Woodcock. I also have a record for Brooklyn, Queens County, January 16, 1977. Both of my recorded sightings were of apparently strong healthy birds. It would be most interesting to find out just what they were subsisting on, to maintain such a vigorous attitude.

Furthermore, it is my opinion that overwintering Woodcock in Nova Scotia are no more rare than D. C. Cormorants during the same season. That is to say, one or two stay every winter. Some Nova Scotia coastal regions provide ideal shelter, water supply and obviously sufficient food as well. One such area would be Russel Lake in Dartmouth, where the surface mud remains soft up to two feet in depth all winter long.

Respectfully yours,
Fulton L. Lavender,
Dartmouth.

Editor, NSBS Newsletter:

On April 7, Bob and I left on a Trans Canada trip, by car. We tried Point Peleé Park on April 15 -- It had been snowing in the morning, and stormy; we saw a deer, but no birds. We visited Jack Miner's

and there really were thousands of geese, including Blue Geese. We saw our first Cardinal here. We went down through the States, up through Michigan to Sault Ste. Marie--still snow there, but we saw two Turkey Vultures. From there on the weather improved. By the time we reached Manitoba, the temperature was 30°, and near Portage La Prairie we saw thousands and thousands of geese in migration (April 19) and our first wild swans. On April 24, we saw a flock of 400-500 swans at Morse (outside Swift Current) On April 21, we were in the badlands of Alberta and I saw my first Magpie, hundreds more swans and a Golden Eagle and my first Western Meadow Larks. In the mountains we saw more Golden Eagles and Stellar Jays and Ovenbirds. On Vancouver Island we saw Red-shafted Flickers and Oregon Juncos. To digress from birds--we saw a large flock of mountain sheep. We had to stop to let the sheep move off the highway, just outside Jasper. Near Al Oermings Game farm we saw Sandhill Cranes flying (April 30). On our return over the prairies the Yellow Headed Blackbirds had arrived and the geese were flying over in flocks. Each little band had its pair of ducks--they were easy to identify--a lot of Pintail, Mallard and some Harlequin.

Then we left spring and returned to early spring, arriving back in Nova Scotia on May 8. It was completely by accident that we left at the time of the western bird migrations. We saw sights we shall never forget--Mourning Doves at the side of the road in Ontario; the sight of the swans flying--and Stella Jays and Magpies! Bob was taken with the little prairie gophers!

Hope this will be of some interest,

Patricia Coldwell,
Truro.

Editor, NSBS Newsletter:

A few days ago I received a letter from George Archibald, Ornithologist, written while he was in Russia in connection with his work with the International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, Wisconsin, George was in Wine Harbour in August and called in to see us.

We thought that possibly some members of the NSBS might be interested in learning more about the work that he is doing--particularly in his study of Whooping Cranes, for which he was mentioned in an article in National Geographic a few years ago.

I am enclosing his address. If anyone wishes to become a member of the Crane Foundation, the cost is \$10.00.

Mr. George Archibald,
International Crane Foundation,
City View Road,
Baraboo, Wisconsin, U. S. A. 53913

Gordon MacLeod,

Editor, NSBS Newsletter:

On 29 July, 1980, a colleague at the Canadian Wildlife Service and I left our Sackville office to photograph a large roost of shorebirds at Grande Anse along the shores of Shepody Bay. It was a period of spring high tides when the beaches become narrow strips of stones and sand. At such times birds are forced to roost near the edge of the Cape Road and, if numbers are unusually high, smaller flocks roost on the road itself to await the retreat of the tidal waters. This occurs for only a few days during July and August. If one drives slowly, the birds can be photographed at close range. Approached at normal speed they soon fly off and return after the

vehicle has passed.

When we arrived at the site we met with a gruesome scene. Hundreds of birds lay dead or dying on the road. It was apparent that a vehicle going at high speed failed to stop or even to slow down. We gathered dead and crippled birds along a stretch of 1/4 mile. At the end, a neat pile of 22 birds lay in the middle of the road where, evidently, the driver had stopped to remove corpses from the grill of the car. Many birds had to be killed. We gathered 658 birds, all Semipalmated Sandpipers, which were kept to obtain morphological data (weight, bill length, etc.). One bird had been banded in James Bay. Another, also from James Bay, retained the bright yellow dye. We disposed of a large number which were mutilated. In total, I estimated that 1,200 sandpipers were killed or crippled by a single sweep of the unknown vehicle.

This most unfortunate encounter provides a strong warning for drivers (including birders) to beware of on-the-road roosts where the roadway happens near a known roost site for shorebirds. In my opinion, the collision at Grande Anse appeared intentional. If this is the case, I would encourage birders to report such callous drivers to the RCMP or wildlife enforcement officials. If this was indeed an accident, such sites need to have suitable warnings posted. The Grande Anse site will be posted with warning signs in the future. Any such sites in Nova Scotia should be brought to the attention of wildlife officials for similar action.

Peter W. Hicklin,
Canadian Wildlife Service.

Editor, NSBS Newsletter:

We had a Goshawk here from mid-Sept. to the 8th of Oct. We have occasionally seen Goshawks migrating through here, but this is the first time one stayed for more than a day or two. We saw the Goshawk several times each day, sometimes close by, sometimes out over the hayfields or the woods and closely watched him, with and without binoculars. On Oct. 2 & 3, we watched a very interesting performance. The Goshawk was perched on a limb of a spruce tree about 5 feet from the top of the tree, where a Raven sat. The Raven was screaming at the hawk, who kept peering up at the Raven. After a minute or so, the Raven dove down, fluttering the hawk's feathers, and flew off in a straight line, the hawk in hot pursuit, Raven screaming. But the hawk slowed down after about 150 yards,--flew back to his perch. The Raven then came back, buzzed the hawk a couple of times, ruffling the hawk's feathers and settled in the top of the tree again. The whole performance was repeated several times--I saw it again the next day in another place.

I presume this was some sort of game, because I would guess that the Goshawk is much faster than a Raven and could easily have overtaken it. What do you think?

John Gardner,
Orangedale.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER

On August 27, 1980, at about 12:45 p.m. EDT, we saw a bird from the "Bluenose" ferry about 1½ hours out of Yarmouth in Nova Scotia waters of the Gulf of Maine, which we have identified as an Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*).

Light conditions were bright, sunny but hazy, allowing for very good visibility for a few hundred metres, but poor visibility beyond approximately ¾ kilometres. The bird was seen sitting in the water directly in front of the boat. It took off when about 50 metres separated the bow from it. It flew in an arc, low over the water around to the port side, landing straight out from us at a distance of approximately 50 metres. Then, when it would be in line with about the mid-point of the ship, it again took off on a short flight straight out from the boat and again landed. Shortly thereafter, we lost sight of the bird. We estimate that the bird was under observation for about 1½ minutes.

The above, and the description which follows are taken from my notes written shortly after we disembarked at Yarmouth. George Bryant first noticed the smallish black and white bird in the water and called our attention to it. We all got it just as it took off. The small size and quite rapid wingbeats momentarily suggested alcid but we quickly recognized the Procellariid shape and manner of flight,

Pointform description

1. Small size. There were no other shearwaters in sight for direct comparison but in the hour previous, and again after this, we observed many Greater Shearwaters and small numbers of Sooty and Cory's (8!) as well as one Manx. This bird was immediately seen by all to be the smallest we had seen.
2. Manner of flight. This bird had a "fluttery" flight with much more rapid wingbeats than all the other species of Shearwaters, each species of which we observed to have different manner of flight. Even the Manx Shearwater glided after each 4-6 wingbeats, but this bird really only glided as it prepared to land in the water.
3. Back colour. As the bird first landed we had a clear view from behind of the back and tail which we all saw to be a medium dark brown and which most closely resembles Palmer's "dusky brown". This we noted as being quite different from the black upperparts of the Manx Shearwater seen earlier (and another seen off Brier Island, August 30).
4. Shape. The overall shape and wing-tail proportions were very distinctive. This bird had relatively short straight narrow wings and quite a long tail for a Shearwater, this latter noticed especially just as the bird glided in to land. In the water, the tail seemed noticeably long, jutting up to a 45° angle to the water. We particularly noted the shape and colour of the August 30 Manx and noted that it had proportionally much longer wings and quite a short tail.
5. Other plumage characters. The blackish on the sides of the face came down to about the eye although the impression was of quite a white-cheeked bird. A blackish smudge extended down the side of the otherwise white breast. An irregular white area on the upper wing surface I took to be whitish primary shafts.

We did not see the colour of the undertail coverts or foot colour but then, I do not recall seeing this on any Manx Shearwaters I have seen, or on Audubon's seen off Key West, Florida or Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

On August 27, we did not definitely identify this bird as to species. We felt sure that it was not Manx Shearwater, but felt we wanted to re-examine descriptions of both Little Shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis*) and Audubon's Shearwater.

We had with us the Finch, Russell and Thompson paper and were aware of the status of both of these in the Gulf of Maine. Curry has seen Manx Shearwater several times (Firth of Clyde, Scotland; Cox's Ledge, R. I.; Gulf of Maine once before the 2 seen in August, 1980) as has Bryant, and both these observers were off Cape Hatteras N.C., on September 1, 1979, and observed 157 Audubon's Shearwaters. Curry has also seen it off Key West.

On returning to Ancaster on September 1, Curry consulted a number of references but primarily Palmer's Handbook of North American Birds Vol. 1, Birds of the World, John Gooders ed., and Bent's Life Histories. Upon reading Palmer, p.189, we were convinced that our bird was not a Manx Shearwater (*P. maurentanicus*) of the brown-backed subspecies as this is described as larger and longer in the wing and more ponderous.

As to the distinction between Little Shearwater and Audubon's, the description of the former as being "black above - very black and white appearance" (Palmer, 1962 - p. 195) and the latter as having rich dark brown upperparts (op. cit., p. 199) would strongly suggest that our bird was Audubon's. The description of the wing with "primaries dark brown (markedly paler on inner web)" (op. cit., p.198) would explain the lightish area on the upper wing surface which we observed.

Audubon's Shearwater is a bird of warm surface waters which Finch et al stated in 1978 "has not been recorded with certainty from the 'Bluenose'". But then, at that time they regarded Cory's as "a very rare bird in the Gulf of Maine". We also on 2 previous trips over 12 years had not seen Cory's, but saw at least 7 on this trip. Certainly the waters here must be considerably warmer this year. We note also from American Birds Summer Season and Autumn Migration reports for 1979, that the waters were warmer and that highs of 28 Cory's Shearwaters were seen, and that "it was perhaps not surprising that single Audubon's Shearwaters were found along the S. edge of George's Bank, Sept. 13 (RSH) and in Nova Scotia waters, at Western Bank, Oct. 7 (RG BB)".

In summary, we feel that our recorded observations of the bird were consistent in almost every way with the accounts and field identification notes in the literature of Audubon's Shearwater and, furthermore, that a record of this bird is consistent with the trends in observations in recent years, especially 1979, and represents a slight extrapolation of the recorded occurrences to this time. We submit this report in the hope that it might fit into the context of other northern extralimital observations of this species in 1980 and subsequently.

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Bob Curry,
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Ancaster, Ontario L9G 2S7

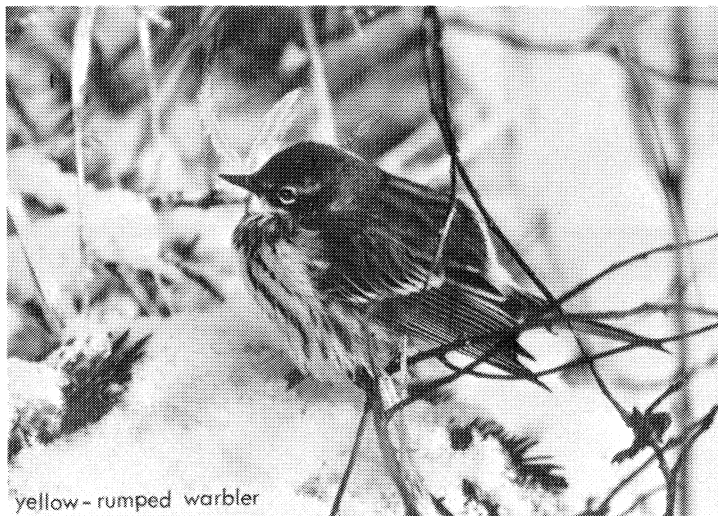
REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

NEW PROJECT: Readers may be interested to learn that preparations for a Holarctic Avian Speciation Atlas are in progress. The intention is to map the 1900-odd species that are members of the Holarctic avifauna and that regularly breed (or are presumed to do so) within that avifaunal area, on the same lines as was done for African birds. The whole of Greenland and North America south to mountains of Mexico and Guatemala over 2000m altitude is included.

We estimate that the work of preparing the atlas will take ten years. It is envisaged that the work will be an international effort involving authors for the different bird groups in several different countries and the collectors of the raw data in many countries. An honorary committee (including GEORGE A. CLARK, Jr.) has been set up to guide and advise the Organizer/Editor, and the enterprise will be launched at an informal discussion group at the XVIII International Ornithological Congress.

Regarding authors, we envisage them plotting the data upon the working sheet maps and final maps and writing a commentary for each map. Data-gathering is to be a separate operation. A bird group for an author can be anything from an order to a genus. For the data gathering operation we have divided the Holarctic into just over 300 areas grouped into 11 regions; the Holarctic parts of North America comprise 121 areas grouped into 3 regions which are shared with Eurasia and 2 entirely North American. Areas in North America are mainly defined by islands, provinces and states.

We would like North Americans to write and tell us they are interested in the Holarctic project and support it with offers to author a bird group (which one?) or to organize data collection for an area (which one?) from field observations, field records, museum specimens and the literature, or to write for further information/details. We need all the interest and active participation possible. Every letter received will be personally answered by DEREK T. LEES-SMITH, Organizer/Editor, Holarctic Project, 134 The Avenue, Starbeck, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 4QF England.



yellow-rumped warbler

SUMMARY OF 1980 EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Regular monthly meetings of the executive were held except during July and August. This has been our 25th Anniversary year and this topic has dominated the business of the meetings. Many special events have been planned, these have included a special lecture series and many special field trips.

January saw us finalizing the ballot sheet for the selection of a provincial bird and arranging for a 25th Anniversary display at the museum. Frank Hennessey did the work for the provincial bird and Keith Keddy agreed to be the Museum show chairman and to arrange a series of articles in the Mayflower.

The February meeting was more of the same except that as a result of the Mayflower articles a large batch of mail was distributed among members for answering.

At the March meeting we discussed the results of the ballot for a provincial bird, and the very impressive display in the museum, Ed Richard sharing the credit with Keith Keddy.

April saw us start arrangements for a Junior Field trip in June to the Wentworth Youth Hostel.

For June, we carried on the discussion on Field trips, environmental matters and the preparation of a new checklist of Birds for Nova Scotia.

An executive field trip to Malagawash was held on July 5th, and a supper on the 22nd. Three of the executive were part of the group for the weeklong field trip to New Brunswick and Maine.

The meetings of September and October dealt with many small items such as arrangements for the annual general meeting, Christmas counts, a Nominating committee, environmental concerns and our financial position, which is much better than was anticipated when we started planning for the anniversary events.

The November meeting was the last for the 1980 executive and was a wrap-up session with a few items to be carried over to next year. We decided to change the name of this publication--did you notice?--it is now more reflective of the objectives of the society.

W. G. Caudle,
Secretary.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
(Incorporated 1957)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the Twelve Months ended October 31, 1980
(with comparative figures for the year ended October 31, 1979)

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>
Balance from previous years	\$3651.21	\$3671.53
 <u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Membership dues	4038.05	4062.20
Savings Interest	348.12	277.20
G.I.C. Interest	(\$105) 69.00	84.50
N.S. Museum Grant	4000.00	-
Sale of Publications, etc.	544.44	634.10
A.G.M. Luncheon & Meeting	254.00	273.00
Founder's Reception	98.00	-
Miscellaneous	<u>75.11</u>	<u>59.35</u>
	<u>\$13077.93</u>	<u>\$9061.88</u>
 <u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>		
Three Issues of Newsletter	\$4465.49	\$3945.94
Postage & Stationery	482.31	261.46
A.G.M. Luncheon & Meeting	320.00	440.00
Purchased plates of "Where to Find.."	-	111.72
Printing "Where to Find the Birds..."	-	340.00
C.B. Branch Expenses	77.00	-
Wildlife photos of ducks	-	42.00
Slide Collection	25.00	-
Subscriptions	25.00	87.86
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	200.00	-
Field Trip Expenses	35.23	-
Monthly meeting Expenses	5.60	-
Miscellaneous	<u>125.16</u>	<u>181.69</u>
	\$5760.79	\$5410.67
25th Anniversary Year Expenses:		
Newsletter	\$1569.00	
Special Lecture	515.00	
Reception, etc.	<u>272.00</u>	
	2356.20	-
	\$ 8116.99	\$5410.67
Balance in Royal Bank of Canada	<u>4960.94</u>	<u>3651.21</u>
	<u>\$13077.93</u>	<u>\$9581.57</u>

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Electric Typewriter (Cost - \$296.45)	\$ 151.79	\$ 189.73
Steel Filing Cabinet (Cost - \$99.96)	1.00	1.00
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	1200.00	1000.00
Balance in Royal Bank of Canada	<u>4960.94</u>	<u>3651.21</u>
(Savings Acct-\$3762.85; Current Acct-\$1198.09)	<u>\$6313.73</u>	<u>\$4841.94</u>

LIABILITIES

Surplus	\$6313.73	\$4841.94
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Audited and found correct
according to the books

Margaret Clark
President

J. Morrow
Auditor

Sandra Myers
Treasurer

Footnote to Financial Statement: Deferred disbursements in amount of
\$246.07 to 1980-81 Fiscal year.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY SANCTUARY & SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

C.R.K. Allen, Chairman	Dr. B. K. Doane
Dr. L. B. MacPherson	J. L. Cohrs
Willett J. Mills	Eric H. Cooke

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 31, 1980.
(with comparative figures for the year ending July 31, 1979)

ASSETS

	1980	1979
Bank of N.S. Current Acct. 83917	\$ 230.76	\$ 296.70
Bank of N.S. Savings Acct. 19345		
Regular	\$2,762.63	\$ 915.43
Bank of N.S. Savings Acct. 19345		
C. Cohrs Fund	5,385.00	2,885.00
Bank of N.S. Savings Acct. 21217	8,147.63	3,800.43
M. Henry Fund	2,159.76	2,089.17
Cash on Hand	-	.48
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$10,538.15	\$6,186.78

Nova Scotia Savings & Loan Co. Debentures		
Matures Oct. 1/80 10 1/2%	\$1,400.00	
Matures Aug. 1/82 9 1/4%	2,000.00	
Matures Mar. 1/82 10 %		
(C. Cohrs Fund)	4,000.00	
Matures Nov. 1/83 10 1/4% (RAK)	3,000.00	
Matures Aug. 1/84 10 1/4%	500.00	
Matures Oct. 1/83 9 1/2%	1,000.00	
	<hr/>	
	11,900.00	11,900.00
Sanctuaries (at cost)		
Outer Bald, Middle Bald, Half Bald		
and Mossy Bald Islands	\$1,000.00	
Hertford Island	160.00	
	<hr/>	
	1,160.00	1,160.00
	<hr/>	
	\$23,598.15	\$19,246.78

TRUST FUND

August 1, 1979 - Balance Forward	\$19,246.78	\$ 7,947.39
Donations - Regular	\$ 254.00	
C. Cohrs Fund	<u>2,500.00</u>	
	2,754.00	11,475.06
Balance from Income Statement	<u>1,597.37</u>	<u>(176.27)</u>
	<hr/>	
	\$23,598.15	\$19,246.78

INCOME STATEMENT

Receipts

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>
Debenture Interest	\$1,373.78	\$ 613.77
Bank Interest	678.16	77.12
Discount on Taxes	-	.48
	<u>\$2,051.94</u>	<u>\$ 691.37</u>

Disbursements

Bank Charges (Safety Deposit Box)	\$ 24.50	24.38
Bank Charges (Service Charge)	7.50	-
Property Taxes on Islands	27.57	23.78
Teenage Field Trip	300.00	89.48
Sanctuary Expenses	<u>95.00</u>	<u>730.00</u>
	\$ 454.57	\$ 867.64
Balance to Trust Fund	\$1,597.37	(\$176.27)



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

1980-1981 Executive

President - Shirley Cohrs
Past President - Margaret Clark
Secretary - Bill Caudle
Treasurer - Sandra Myers
Editor - Shirley Cohrs
Membership - Frank Hennessey
Executive Member - Evelyn Dobson
Executive Member - Don Purchase
Solicitor - R. A. Kanigsburg
Auditor - James Morrow

Membership Fees

Life Membership	\$180.00
Single Membership	6.00
Family Membership	8.00
Student Membership	4.00
(available to those under 18)	
Institutional	10.00

Note: U. S. and foreign please add \$1.00

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

a publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society

Volume 23, Number 1

January, 1981

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