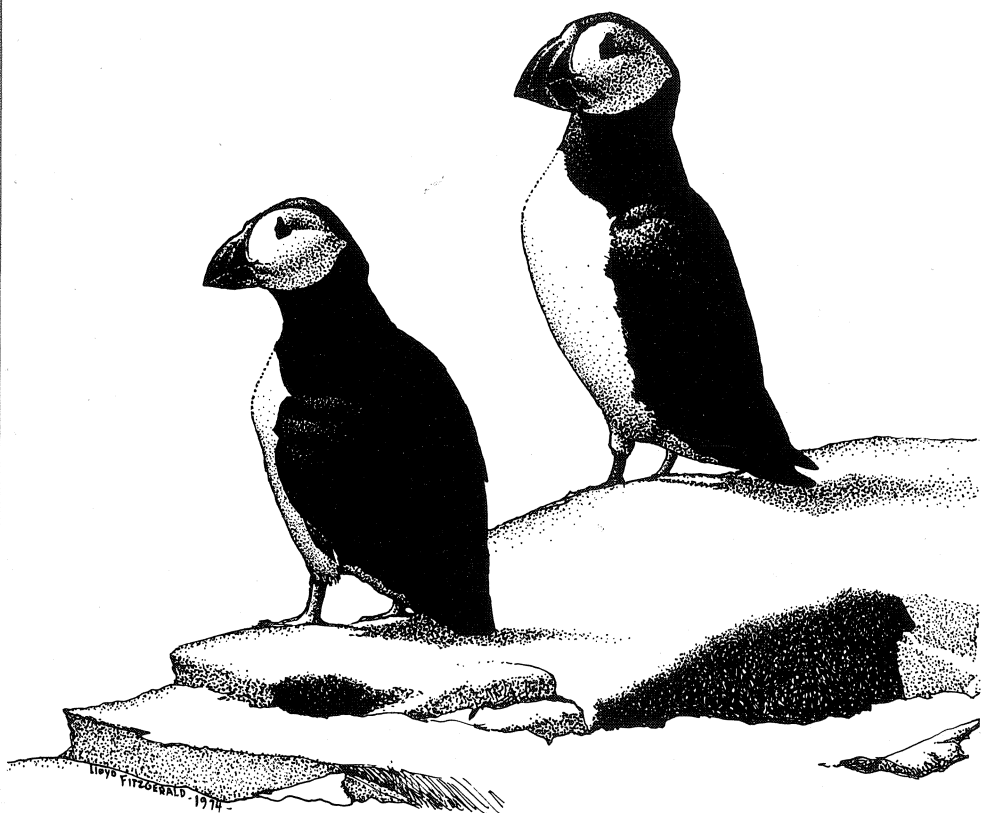


# **NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS**



**APRIL 1981**

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## THE WINTER SEASON 1980-1981

Eastern North America had rough treatment this last winter; the Maritime region had more snow and lower temperatures than we have experienced for many years. It was however, a winter early begun, and early ended. The pattern was set in November, of periods of sub-zero temperatures, high winds and snow "flurries"; and the ground was frozen by the 20th of that month. These conditions continued and worsened through December and January, so that rivers and lakes froze "clear to the bottom" ( well, some did) and we were buried deep in drifted snow. In the middle of February the temperatures began to climb and in two weeks the snow had melted, the ice had disappeared from lakes, marshes and estuaries. At Salt Bay, a branch of the Tusket River estuary, the ice went out February 27, and on the 28th, the Greater Scaup flock moved in. Had spring come already on the fishing banks?

Looking back, December through February of '76-'77 was cold and snowy--succeeded by three relatively mild and open winter seasons, and then this very severe one, '80-'81. A comparison of our bird populations over these periods gives no related pattern whatsoever. In '76-'77, we had many Rough-legged Hawks, no Snowy Owls, no Redpolls and Siskins, abundant Snow Buntings; in '80-'81, we had less than the usual number of Roughlegs, three Snowy Owls (about average) and many Redpolls and Siskins, also abundant Snow Buntings, but so did mild '77-'78 have abundant Snow Buntings. Both '76-'77 and '80-'81 had many hawks and owls (other than Snowys), but so did open '79-'80, a very easy winter. All years mentioned had fair numbers of Tree Sparrows. The year '77-'78, with little snow, gave us a small number of finches and sparrows (probably there, but not attending feeders), which were well reported, this year. Other comparisons are equally confusing.

The truth is, there are too many factors involved to make predictions possible; weather conditions may differ here and in the Arctic; so may snow cover, presence of prey for the large birds; previous year's breeding success of such prey--or predators; availability and/or success of crops (cones, berries, buds, etc.). Certainly we saw many birds this last winter, and it is obvious most of them were at feeders, gathered there by the availability of food, impossible to obtain in the wild. Certainly this was true of the hawks and owls, there because the little mice and squirrels etc., were running about, safe in their tunnels beneath the snow. The rabbits were having an off year too.

We were short of sightings of sea ducks and sea birds generally, this at least predictable, with ice holding them far off the coast. Besides the hawks and owls mentioned above, we saw pheasants at our feeders, and of the smaller birds, an abundance of Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees, Nuthatches, both kinds, but more of the Red-breasted, finches, some of the blackbirds, especially Cowbirds, and sparrows. These are all (the small ones) seed-eaters, but were glad of the "fat-log" too. Recent winter visitors were the Pine Warblers, the Cardinals; multiple (as opposed to one only) White-crowned Sparrows; and the three House Finches.

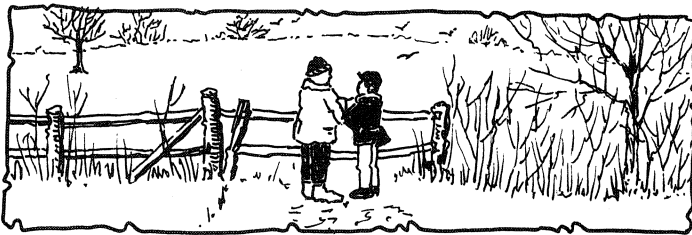
Although it feels like spring, winter is not supposed to be over until March 21, the Equinox. Perhaps there is more to come. Perhaps we can start looking for the first swallow. Time will tell.

Contributors to the Winter Bird Report are as follows:

C.R.K. Allen (CRKA); Peter J. Austin-Smith (PJA S); Daryl A. Amirault (DAA); Beula Burman (BB); George R. Boyd (GRB); Roy Blakeburn(RB); William G. Caudle (WGC); Kevin Caudle; Margaret C. Cheesman (MCC); Otis Cossitt (OC); George Crowell (GC); Roland D. Chiasson (RDC); Ethel Crathorne (EAC); J. Shirley and John L. Cohrs (JS& JLC); Russel J. Crosby (RJC); Margaret A. Clark (MAC); Robbie Denton (RD); Ronnie E. Denton (RED); Con Desplanque (CD); Elly Desplanque; Delisle J. d'Entremont (DJd'E); Raymond S. d'Entremont (RSd'E); Ted C. D'Eon (TCd'E); P. R. Dobson (PRD); James and Gillian Elliott (J&GE); Allison Fergusson (AF); Chris Field (CF); Bernard L. Forsythe (BLF); Graham Fraser (GF); Roberta B. Fraser (RBF); John Gardner (JG); G. Gates (GG); Joy Gates; Ruth D. Hebb (RDH); E.C.W. Helleiner (CWH); Frank and Nan Hennessey (F&NH); M. W. Hilton (MWH); Frank and Mary Himsel (F&MH); Hedley E. Hopkins (HEH); Adele Hurlburt (AH); Edgar and Vernita Hamilton (E&VH); Keith N. Keddy (KNK); Vernon Keddy (VK); C. F. L. Kelsey (CFLK); S. R. Kenney (s); F. L. Lavender (FLL); Wickerson Lent (WL); Clive S. MacDonald (CSM); Sara MacLean (SM); Edie MacLeod (EM); Stephen Patrick Manuel; Sandra Meyerowitz, Eric Morris; Jean and William Morse (J&WM); G. B. Nickerson (GBN); Margaret A. Nickerson (MAN); Peter and Linda Payzant (P&LP); Joyce and Don Purchase (J&DP); A. K. Raymond (AKR); Kelsey Raymond; Mary Lou Raymond; Frank F. Robertson (FFR); Joey Rogers (JR); Ella and Albert Roland (E&AR); Robin Rymer (RR); Michael Rymer (MR); Barry C. Sabean (BCS); R. Shears (RS); Mabel Smythe (MS); F. L. Spalding (FLS); Edgar P. Spalding (EPS); Arthur Spencer (AS); Richard B. Stern (RBS); Stuart I. Tingley (SIT); Neil VanNostrand (NV); W. E. Whitehead (WEW); Helen Whitman (HW).

Many thanks!

P. R. Dobson, Records Ed.



WINTER BIRD REPORT, 1980-81

## LOONS AND GREBES

A COMMON LOON joined the celebrities at Sullivan's Pond, Jan. 2, according to Fulton Lavender, and added a further touch of glamour to this fabulous puddle. There were, of course, no great concentrations during the winter period, although 15+ were seen at Green Bay, Feb. 6-8, by the Cohrs; 8, at Causeway Road (Three-Fathom Harbor) Dec. 27 (RBS); in Halifax Harbor, Feb. 10 (FLL); and 9, at Brier I., Jan. 1 (RD). RED-THROATED LOONS were travelling in 4's this winter: there were 4 at Hartlen Point, Nov. 4 (FLL) and the same number at Economy, Dec. 6 (FH).

RED-NECKED GREBES were few and far between: 5, at Brier I., Dec. 28, and singles only, there on three other dates (RD); 2, at Queensland, Jan. 5 (KNK); 1, at Dartmouth, Jan. 12, and 2, Eastern Passage, Feb. 2 (FLL); and 2, at Lr. West Pubnico, Feb. 7 (Rsd'E). HORNED GREBE reports, although more frequent than those of Red-necks, are definitely down this year, 16, in Nov. as compared with 89 for the same period in 1979-80. Highest number seen on any one day thereafter was 10 at Antigonish Harbor, Dec. 14 (RDC); in January, 8, Jan. 5, in St. Margaret's Bay (KNK). CRKA, ed.

## FULMAR TO CORMORANTS

A thin crop, this time around. The only GANNET sighting was fairly spectacular, though--Fulton Lavender saw 600 of them going past Hartlen Point on Nov. 4. This was the latest of a whole set of fairly big passages he saw there this fall: 100 on Sept. 17, 200 on Oct. 26, 50 on Oct. 27, and 550 on Oct. 31.

There was the usual smattering of GREAT CORMORANTS, from a single bird on the Glace Bay Christmas Count and an adult and 3 immatures on Jan. 25, at Lingan (SM) to 10 down at Lockeport, on Feb. 17 (RJC). About 30 spent the winter in Halifax Harbour (FLL). The only DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT sightings were single birds at Chebucto Head on Dec. 30 (FLL) and at Lr. West Pubnico on Jan 2 and Feb. 7 (DJd'E, Rsd'E).

RGBB, ed.

## HERONS

Of the herons, only the GREAT BLUE was noted this winter; there were fifteen reports to year's end from Sydney (SM) westward, only one thereafter, in late January in the Pubnico area. (DJd'E, DAA, E&VH reported independently, so perhaps more than one was present)

FS, ed.

## GEESE AND DUCKS

The CANADA GOOSE picture for this year was just about the same as for the same period in 1979-80; no large wintering concentrations, largest numbers reported being 500+ at Mahoney Beach, Antigonish Co., Dec. 14 (RDC); an estimated total of 1000 in three flocks in passage over Lusby Marsh, Dec. 14, plus another three flocks totalling about 600 in the same area, Dec. 17 (CD). In both years severe icing closed the wintering areas for most of the season.

Twenty-five-plus BRANT at Brier I., Jan. 6, 11 and 16 (RD) is our only record for this species.

Annie Raymond of Smith's Cove reports a SNOW GOOSE which came to feed on grain she had put out at her feeding station, presumably close to the shore. The bird, first flushed from the flats by a clamdigger,

was clearly wild and although having dark gray primaries rather than black, was quite unlike a domestic goose which also came regularly for its hand-out.

Three MALLARDS obligingly showed up on Dec. 26, for the Sydney Christmas Count, and singles were seen in the area subsequently on Jan. 25, Feb. 5, 8, and 13; finally 6 showed up there Feb. 14 (HEH et. al.). At Economy there was a single bird on Dec. 6 and 7, and 2, Feb. 20, but they dodged Count Day. Two pairs with about 100 Blacks at Green Bay, Jan. 1 (Cohrs) is the only other observation.

It has been a bad year for observations of dabbling ducks. Ice conditions in the estuaries and inshore shoals have put the usual feeding areas "off bounds". The largest number of BLACK DUCKS reported was approximately 1000 at Salt Bay, Yar. Co., Dec. 14, before winter really set in (PRD). A flock of 250-300 wintered at Economy (EPS); Annie Raymond reports "a large flock" on the Bear River, Jan. 28, and Hedley Hopkins says numbers were fairly strong in the Sydney area, but the few other sightings are of less than 60 birds. Black Ducks were beginning to pair off as early as Feb. 23 (CFLK).

A GADWALL was one of the mixed wintering flock at Sullivan's Pond (RBS et al.). There was also a male PINTAIL at Sullivan's Pond Jan. 2 (FLL), another or the same, still there Feb. 3 (KNK) and a pair at Greenwich, Kings Co., Feb. 8 (BLF). At least 2 GREEN-WINGED TEAL were seen several times in December and one appeared again Feb. 15, at Economy (EPS). Only other report is of those in the Sullivan's Pond flock which also included a female WOOD DUCK.

Fulton Lavender and Richard Stern have sent in separate reports of the winter population of dabbling ducks at Sullivan's Pond, which are here combined: Mallards, 40-60 (all wild? Ed.), Black Ducks 500-600, Gadwall, one male, Pintail, one male, Green-winged Teal 6-10, Wood Duck, one female.

An unusual sighting of two RING-NECKED DUCKS on Jan. 25, in a small open stream in Hants Co., was made by the Cohrs and the Purchases. The ducks were observed at 100 feet with both scope and binoculars and were in the company of 6 Canada Geese - this too, an unusual sight in a small stream!

GREATER SCAUP have been reported from just three localities: 15, St. Margaret's Bay, Jan. 5 (KNK); 324, Jan. 25, Glace Bay (SM) and 6, Feb. 25, which were seen in Salt Bay, Yar. Co., shortly after the ice disappeared. The Salt Bay flock increased to 110 on Feb. 26, to 310+ on the 27th and to 350 by March 4 (CRKA).

Fourteen COMMON GOLDENEYE were counted off MacNab's Island on the Dec. 20 Christmas Count; 44, Dec. 27, in the Three-Fathom Harbor area (reported by RBS); small groups were seen at Economy, Glace Bay Sanctuary, Bedford Basin and Point Aconi, C. B., during December and January (FH, HEH, FLL). On Jan. 2-3, 16 were seen off Ingonish-Neil's Harbor, C.B. (RBS); on Jan. 25 there were about 100 at Glace Bay Sanctuary, and on Feb. 6-8 the Cohrs reported 300+ at Crescent Beach. An adult male BARROW'S GOLDENEYE, Dec. 30 at Three-Fathom Harbor and an immature male Feb. 2, at Eastern Passage (FLL) are the only two sightings of this species reported.

BUFFLEHEAD sightings have been few and of small numbers - ice conditions in the estuaries probably being the reason. There were 5 at Cherry Hill, Nov. 8 (Cohrs); 5 in the same locality, Nov. 28 (KNK); 5, Mahoney Beach Dec. 14 (RDC); a single bird at Brier, Jan. 4 (RD); 7, off Causeway Road, Seaforth, Jan. 11 (RBS); 5, Jan. 25, at Glace

Bay Sanctuary (SM) and 6, at Smith's Cove, Feb. 8 and 10 (AKR).

OLDSQUAWS were reported in small handfuls, for the most part up to about 10 birds per sighting from various points along the Atlantic coast and the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. The Cape Breton Christmas Count listed 26, Dec. 26; about 40 wintered in the Glace Bay Sanctuary (HEH); about 30 were off Neil's Harbor, Jan. 2-3, (RBS); another 30 off Conrad's Beach, Feb. 3 (KNK) and yet another 30, Feb. 23, Lower Kingsburg, Lun. Co. (CF). Frank Hennessey reports that these ducks were numerous along the shore since October in the Lower Economy region.

The only HARLEQUIN DUCK reported is a female off the mouth of the Petite River, Jan. 1 (Cohrs.).

The number of observations of the COMMON EIDER for the period suggests (a) that this species should be placed on the "Endangered List", or (b) that our birders along the coast have been slacking on the job. We have 3 reports: a female, last for the season, seen at Economy, Dec. 6, by EPS, who says the species is seen very rarely in that area during winter. Another sighting was of 45 - about 20% adult males - at Green Bay, Feb. 7 (Cohrs); and the third was of 4, at Lower Kingsburg, Feb. 23 (CF).

There were good numbers of Scoters in Green Bay on the New Year's weekend (Jan. 1-4). The Cohrs reported up to 250 BLACK SCOTERS in flocks of 25-40, plus 6-10 WHITE-WINGED and a single SURF. Other reports on White-winged Scoters are 15 in January at Mira Bay (HEH); one at Conrad's Beach, Nov. 20, and 10 at Crescent Beach, Nov. 28 (KNK). There were 2 Surf Scoters, Nov. 4 at Hartlen Point (FLL) and 4 at Economy, Dec. 6, which was the last sighting for the season there (EPS). December 7 was the departure date for Black Scoters at Economy according to EPS and the only other records for this species are 40 at Green Bay, Feb. 6 (Cohrs) and 8, Feb. 23, at Lower Kingsburg (CF).

There was a lone female HOODED MERGANSER at Queensland, Hfx. Co., Dec. 7, where 4 had been observed Nov. 28 (KNK). An immature male of this species was seen at Seaforth, Jan. 28 (D&JP) and another apparently crippled at Brier I., Jan. 4 (RD).

There has been a big drop in numbers of the COMMON MERGANSER reported as compared with the same period last year. In only three places were any considerable numbers seen, since the last of November: 25 at Gavelton, Yar. Co., Dec. 14 (MR&JR); 22 on the Sydney Christmas Count and 50+ at Mira Bay during January and February (HEH). All other sightings were of three birds or fewer (nine sightings).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS are also down in numbers, even lower than last year, when their scarcity was noted by several observers. This year's highest counts were 38 at Seaforth, Hfx. Co., Dec. 27 and 20 off Ingonish, Jan. 2-3 (RBS), as compared with highs of 50 and 60 in 1979-80. Total birds of this species recorded for the past three years are: 1978-79, 426; 1979-80, 177; 1980-81, 126.

CRKA, ed.

#### DIURNAL RAPTORS

Notice of a TURKEY VULTURE from late August to Nov. 12, at Boularderie, C. B., arrived too late for inclusion in the fall reports (fide RBF).

The nine GOSHAWK reports were mostly from the southwest. Two

were at feeders (MR, RSD'E), indicative of harder than normal times. SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS were well reported, at least twenty individuals, often at feeders, where their catch included House Sparrows (JP) Evening Grosbeak (CD,MWH), "mostly juncos and gold-finches" (PRD). Five were reported as adults, none as immatures, a circumstance which may shed light on BMT's query in the fall report. There, you will recall, he noted that the Seal I. migration consisted almost exclusively of immatures and wondered what happened to the adults. If they stay with us, the next question must be, which are smarter?

A Feb. 15, report of a COOPER'S HAWK comes from DC at Amherst. He and ED viewed it through a scope at point-blank range and, best of all, photographed it. If all goes well, film may confirm a most unusual winter occurrence of what is a rare bird even in summer.

The RED-TAILED HAWK was heavily reported (30+), especially from the Valley. At Avonport, Jan. 5, BCS saw ten at once that were watching and presumably assisting a chicken farmer dispose of his dead. In keeping with a cold winter the ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK visited in good numbers (15-20). Two at Lawrencetown in November were especially well reported, attesting to the good coverage that area receives (RS,KK,FLL)

A GOLDEN EAGLE at Cherry Hill, Feb. 8, was seen in flight at close range by J & SC. Details of colour and shape were convincing, although the brief viewing did not allow intensive inspection. The species seems to be earning its occasional status--photographers should be on the alert to add it to the Society's files.

Fourteen observers reported 40+ BALD EAGLES, exclusive of the Shubenacadie field trip and CBCS. The sight of one always makes a winter's day afield worthwhile; it is doubtful their apparently growing numbers will ever make one think of them as "common". An interesting NORTHERN HARRIER (Marsh Hawk) report from BB at Barrington Passage is of two females Jan. 10, "tearing at suet together--remained at least 30 minutes...seemed weak." Still, two others survived the cold, one Feb. 1, at Pubnico (DJd'E) and one Feb. 7, at Port Williams, Kings Co. (BF).

A dark phase GYRFALCON was discovered by Edgar Spalding on the Economy marsh, Feb. 28, and seen again the next afternoon (EPS,ELM, FLS). That morning EPS had had the rare privilege of watching it in company of a PEREGRINE as they more or less jointly pursued the local Rock Doves. Other peregrine reports are from Sheffield Mills, Jan. 16 (GB,JM), Port Williams, Feb. 1 (BF, GRB) and Feb. 4 (PJA-S), and Sydney River, Feb. 9 (RB) This editor knows of two CBC records (Advocate and Port L'Hebert), all in all a most encouraging showing. There were, in fact, as many Peregrines as MERLINS (6), the latter from Glace Bay, Dec. 8 (SM), Pubnico, Dec. 25 (E&VH), Amherst, Jan. 6 and 11 (C&ED), Port Williams, Jan 14 (BCS), Dartmouth, Jan. 26-27(FLL) and again at Port Williams, Feb. 14 (BCS). Laggard AMERICAN KESTRELS at Porter's Lake (HW) and Amherst (CD) to mid-December, and overwintering birds, Jan. 15 at Windsor (BCS) and Jan 28 at Lawrencetown (D&JP), round out an extraordinary winter raptor report that won't be matched for at least a year.

#### GROUSE, PHEASANT, PARTRIDGE

Ten observers reported a total of 24 RUFFED GROUSE, on one occasion seen eating wild apples (KK). A good showing, and one may assume many more escaped detection in the snowy woods. The SPRUCE GROUSE, not surprisingly, was more successful in that respect, none at all being reported. The more visible RING-NECKED PHEASANT apparently survived in good numbers (30 cocks, 100 hens at one farm in Avonport - BCS) Several reporters commented that people were feeding



them. Most sightings were from western N. S., but two were at Mira, C.B. (HEH). Several small flocks of GRAY PARTRIDGE wintered in Kings Co. (BCS), and a small flock was seen near Truro in November (E&AR).

#### MARSH BIRDS

An AMERICAN COOT at Sullivan's Pond was seen by many, last reported Feb. 10, when it was "still healthy" (FLL).

FLS, ed.

#### SHOREBIRDS

The bitterly cold weather during December and January apparently took its toll of late-migrating shorebirds, for the reports were few, even of cold-hardy species like Black-bellied Plover and Sanderlings.

A lone BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER remained at Crescent Beach on 1-2 January (JLC,JSC), perhaps the last of 5 there in late November (KNK). Two very late WOODCOCK appeared, the first at Barrington Passage on December 7 (BB), the others on the following day at Pleasant Lake, Yar. Co. (MR). COMMON SNIPE were last reported on 11 December near Yarmouth airport (CRKA) and on the Glace Bay census, 26 December (fide SM), although an urbanized individual was present most of the winter in an unfrozen seep behind Armbrae Academy, Halifax (ELM). Very few wintering birds seem to have survived the deep-freeze.

One common wintering species, PURPLE SANDPIPER, appeared 6 December (400 birds) at Economy; 200+ were at Lower Economy nearby on January 31 (F&NH, EPS). Unusually few individuals (maximum 4 at a time) have been seen in the Wedge Island-Causeway Road-Conrad's Beach area since Christmas (ELM,RBS, J&DP). Elsewhere numbers appear normal.

A few late autumn WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS appeared: 3 at Conrad's Beach, November 15 (FLL); 1 there November 20 (KNK); and the last at Lawrencetown Lake, November 23 (RBS). A few DUNLIN lingered past the end of November, notably 3 still at Crescent Beach on January 2 (JLC,JSC). SANDERLINGS have been scarce since the cold began: last seen at Economy December 7 (EPS); 7 at Crescent Beach 1-4 January (JLC,JSC); 1 at Seaforth 11 January (RBS).

ELM, ed.



## JAEGERS TO AUKS

The usual reports of GREAT BLACK-BACKED and HERRING GULLS need no comment--apart from noting Phyllis Dobson's observation that the Great Blackbacks they saw at Argyle River estuary on Feb. 25, were already displaying and beginning to pair up. The LESSER BLACKBACK at the Volvo Plant in Halifax--last year's bird again?--was reported on Dec. 30 (FLL) and Jan. 11 (JSC), and is still there, I understand. Shirley Cohrs noted that this year its back is as dark as most Great Blackbacks, though the feet and legs are a brilliant yellow. That very dark back sounds like a bird from the Scandinavian race, rather than one from Britain or Iceland.

We tend to think of GLAUCOUS GULLS as Cape Breton birds in winter, but this year the cold snap pushed them about as far south in Nova Scotia as they can go, with single birds at Lower West Pubnico on Dec. 26 and Abbot's Harbour on Feb. 12 (R.S.d'E) and Yarmouth Harbour on Feb. 25 (CRKA). There was a first year bird on Brier Island on Feb 18 (RD), another on Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth on Jan 4, and 3 at Eastern Passage on Feb. 2 (FLL), and one bird (?age) at Dartmouth Cove on Jan. 25 (RBS). But they were on Cape Breton, too. Richard B. Stern saw a flock of 32--identified by size, compared to Great Blackbacks--off Neil's Harbour on Jan. 2.

ICELAND GULLS were also widespread, and as usual, commoner than Glaucous. The southern-most sightings were a couple of birds at Abbot's Harbour on Feb. 12 (RSD'E) and 6 (three of them immature) on Yarmouth Harbour on Feb. 25 (CRKA). There were 4 in the Ingonish/Neil's Harbour area in Cape Breton Jan. 2-3 (RBS) and only two seen all through February at the Truro Sewage plant (EPS) and various reporters had them regularly in the Halifax-Dartmouth area.

Something like 25 RING-BILLED GULLS were wintering in the Halifax area, and much the same number around Eel Brook (FLL,PRD). There was a bird at Lingan on Jan. 25 (SM), 5 at Brier Island on Feb. 3 (RD) and one at Economy--a little unusual, that--on Feb. 15 (EPS). We had around 40 BLACK-HEADED GULLS in the Halifax area (FLL) and 20 around the Sydneys (SM). There were 3 in the Sewage Pond at Antigonish on Feb. 7 (RDC). The maximum count of BONAPARTE'S GULLS in the Halifax area was 4 at Dartmouth Cove on Dec. 29 (RBS). No records from anywhere else.

Two records of BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES - 25 at Hartlen Point on Nov. 31 (FLL:he had 125 on Oct. 31) and a singleton on Boxing Day at the Cape Breton CBC.

We have three RAZORBILL reports--single birds at Wedge Island, Halifax Co. on Feb. 1 and at Brier Island, on Feb 10 and 16 (Cohrs, Purchases, RD). There was a COMMON MURRE at Lockeport on Feb. 17--in breeding plumage and in the "bridled" phase with the eye-long but, sad to say, heavily oiled (RJC). A THICK-BILLED MURRE at Abbot's Harbour on Feb. 7, also had traces of oil on it (RSD'E). And we've had no serious oil spills this winter--it's a very dirty ocean out there! The other thick-bill records are a single bird on the Port George, Anna Co. Christmas Count (J&WM) and singles at Chebucto Head and Pennant Harbour (Dec. 30), Hartlen Point (Feb. 2) and right on Halifax Harbour off the Volvo Plant (Feb. 6) - all FLL. There were two DOVEKIES at Brier Island on Dec. 2 and singletons on Dec. 23 and Jan. 20 (RD), as well as single birds at Lr. West Pubnico (Dec. 2; RSD'E), Queensland (Dec. 7; KNK) and at Green Bay (Jan 3; JSC,JP). There were up to 4 BLACK GUILLEMOTS at Brier Island during the first half of February (RD) and singles off Hartlen Point (Nov. 4) and Dartmouth (Jan. 15), and no less than 13 off Point Pleasant Park, Halifax, on Feb. 10 (FLL)

RGBB, ed.

## DOVE, OWLS, KINGFISHER

MOURNING DOVES survived the winter, at least at West Pubnico (TCd'E) and Halifax (MC), and were still in Cape Breton well into February (RB,HEH,SM).

GREAT HORNED OWLS are reported this winter from Shel. Co. (RC), Round Hill (WEW), Economy (EP&FLS), and at Exit 6 on 103 (KK). No doubt an evening's listening would reveal many more. Three SNOWY OWLS appeared this winter, at Brier, Jan 23 (RD), Pubnico, Feb. 8 (DJ d'E) and Lawrencetown, discovered Feb. 23, by D&JP, seen next day by MAC and, since it was put on the Rare Bird Alert, one hopes by others. Eight BARRED OWLS were seen or heard, only one LONG-EARED, that on Brier, Feb. 16 (RD) where the species appears to be a permanent resident. Last year's gathering of the species near Wolfville has either left or is lying very low. FLL reports the only SHORT-EARED OWL, Feb. 2 on Devil's Island. Reports of the SAW-WHET come from Bridgetown (fide J&WM), Yarmouth (MAN), Lockeport (RC), Brier (RD) and Lr. Eel Brook, where it became the 190th species listed for the area (PRD).

The BELTED KINGFISHER will not be with us in numbers until April, but a few somehow manage to stay the winter; individuals, Jan 16, at Wentworth (NH) and Feb. 23, at Lawrencetown (D&JP) are the hardiest ones mentioned.

## WOODPECKERS

Twelve well-distributed reports of the PILEATED WOODPECKER are encouraging. An immature RED-HEADED WOODPECKER was at Lockeport, Nov. 21-Dec. 6 (RJC), and this fall's immature at Pubnico remained until Dec. 7 (E&VH). The HAIRY WOODPECKER was heavily reported, that, despite this fall's outbound migration on Seal. The DOWNY too, appears to be thriving, both species taking full advantage of feeders. The BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED, not so easy to find, once the snows have come, was noted this winter at Gavelton (JR), at St. Esprit (SM), and APBS (CD).

FS,ed.



## HORNED LARK TO CREEPERS

HORNED LARKS were reported in flocks in November--up to 100 at Conrad's Beach--and finally in one's and two's in January and February. One report of the Western race (white forehead) by FLL, seen at Tuft's Cove in the city of Halifax.

GRAY JAYS must have been forced from their normal deep woods home to the feeder circuit by the deep snows of late December and early January. Many reports noted increases. They appeared in greater numbers in Jan. at Wine Harbour where they were absent three years ago. Some were seen in the cities, and Con Desplanques reports one and comments "one does not see a Canada Jay often at APBS". BLUEJAYS were reported by more than twenty observers. The general consensus revealed that Bluejays are faithful to established feeders and numbers remained consistent. One report indicates a regular 12-15 birds dropped off when feeding stopped in Jan. When feeding resumed in February, 3-4 Bluejays attended the feeder regularly.

CROWS were reported as congregating as usual except at Round Hill, where WEW reports more than usual attracted by a "farmyard carcass". These natural feeders often attract winter birds. I once observed two chickadees dining on the meat of a dead horse in mid winter. The horse was nearly intact and I attempted, unsuccessfully, to calculate the length of time that one horse could feed two chickadees.

RAVENS were reported as regular in varying numbers. Annie Raymond reports from Smith's Cove "usually 10 at a time all over the garden--many more on the shore".

The BLACK CAPPED CHICKADEE is the most reported bird--more than forty observers. Most of these stated that numbers dropped off in January. Margaret C. Cheesman reports from Sandy Bottom Lake, "four feeding from hand with up to four, more or less tame ones nearby". One of the great pleasures of feeding is to attract chickadees or Gray Jays to feed from the hand (or hat).

BOREAL CHICKADEES were reported as single birds in most areas except for flocks of 20 to 30 in Bedford Park and Point Pleasant Park in the Halifax area. A sad note was struck by Michael Rymer. He had a Boreal attending his feeder at Pleasant Lake from Nov. 20 to Feb. 17. On that day in his words "Today he hit the window in my door and fell into a bucket of drinking water on the back step. I was not fast enough to save him. Feel very sad". We seem to be able to accept the reports of high mortality of migrating or overwintering birds in the abstract, but are always touched by these small tragedies when they happen to birds we know personally.

WHITE BREASTED NUTHATCHES continue their steady comeback since the reported low of 5 to 6 years ago. Twelve reports list 20 individuals including 3 reported by CK at Port Joli; a pair visiting regularly from Nov. to Feb. at the Morse's feeder at Paradise (lovely name). They ranged from Sydney Forks to the southern counties, but most were from the south. Fifteen reports, ranging from "not a common bird" at Economy (EPS) to "seen daily all winter" in Barrington Passage (BB). High counts were 3 to 4 as late as February 28, (PRD) and 4 on Jan. 22 at Gavelton by Joly Rogers.

BROWN CREEPERS invaded our yards during the big snows of January. The few birds reported in Dec. were joined by others after the snows with 28 individuals reported in Jan. They were found in groups of 3 to 6 in the city of Halifax and singly or in company with other feeder species throughout the province. Richard Stern of Dartmouth and both nuthatch species and creepers at his feeder at year's end.

## MOCKINGBIRD TO STARLING

Some MOCKINGBIRDS survived the deep snow. Of the ten reports, FLL reported 5 of the Christmas Count birds. They were still resident in Dartmouth on Jan. 7 and the Glace Bay bird stayed until Feb. 13.

Several reports suggested the birds might survive the winter. Our single Brown Thrasher report was from MIRA, Cape Breton, of all places. Hedley Hopkins reported this Dec. bird.

ROBINS have had a difficult year. They were reported in small numbers of 1 to 2 in November and December with only four reports after Jan. 15. These were one in bright colours, Jan. 26, (CD) and averaging 10 at Greenwich, Kings Co., (BF). One to five occasionally from Nov. to Feb. 13 at Paradise (JM) and at least one of a pair each day up to Feb. 16 "eating pounds of grapes and apples and then vanished completely", by Joyœ Purchase of Dartmouth. Perhaps the last mentioned finally burst! HERMIT THRUSH was reported in Dartmouth in early Nov. (FLL). SWAINSON'S THRUSH by Chris Helleiner was carefully checked to assure identification at the late date of Dec. 13. This bird was seen in Halifax city.

GOLDEN CROWNED KINGLETS only drew 6 reports, and only 2 after the snows came. This is not necessarily an indication of a population decline, but is more likely a reflection on the ability of our reporters to visit their normal winter haunts with two feet of snow on the ground. RUBY CROWNED KINGLETS, on the other hand, were reported 5 times (one or two reports is usual) in Dec. and Nov.

WATER PIPITS were reported only four times always on the coast, from Halifax to the south. They were again at Lower Pubnico. Perhaps they really do overwinter in that area.

BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS, on the other hand, were reported nine times; all reports being from Halifax to the north with reports from Amherst, (CD) New Waterford (CSM), Antigonish (RDC) and Glace Bay. The largest flock reported was 30.

NORTHERN SHRIKES were found at Economy, "not a shrike winter", (FH), Round Hill (WEW) and Yarmouth (MAN). It really was not a good shrike year.

STARLINGS. What can we say about starlings. Except for the encouraging news that they seem to be fewer each year, little can be said. They are certainly fewer in Halifax. We must review the Christmas Count date to confirm this reported trend.

JLC, ed.



## WOOD WARBLERS

Four species of WARBLER lingered with us on into winter: the YELLOW-RUMPED, PINE, COMMON YELLOWTHROAT and the YELLOW-BREADED CHAT: only the Yellow-rumped in any numbers and those few enough. They were still scattered about the province in November, a few in the Valley (J&WM), a few in Halifax County (FLL,KNK) and, what looks like a migrating group - about 20 - at Cherry Hill, Nov. 28 (KNK). After that, the only ones seen were 1, Dec. 26, at Glace Bay on the CBC; 5+, Dec. 22 at Lockeport (RJC) and 2, Jan 6 at Lr. West Pubnico (RSd'E). This last is about the only terrain in Nova Scotia where such birds could have survived our bitter, snowy winter - nearby acres of shrubby woodland windswept of at least some of its snow, plus slightly warmed, incredible as it may seem, by the embracing Atlantic. The Pine Warblers were at Amherst and Dartmouth, one each, seen Dec. 10, for a day at 27 Harding Avenue, Amherst on the feeder by Ellie and Con Desplanque; the other, Nov. 30 to Dec. 26, at Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth, seen by Richard Stern and subsequently by Roger Pocklington, Fulton Lavender and Shirley Cohrs. Both birds were well described and the Dartmouth bird photographed. The Yellowthroat was also seen in Dartmouth, on Dec. 7, by Chris Field, with Fulton Lavender. It was at the Sterns' feeder in Dartmouth that the Yellow-breasted Chat put in a brief appearance, Dec. 7; not recorded since.

## HOUSE SPARROWS

These naturalized citizens, the HOUSE SPARROWS, are still with us, reported as regular or fairly regular at feeders in towns and cities. Of the eight people who took the trouble to count them, three had flocks of 6-12, three, flocks of 20-25, and two, quite large flocks: 100+ daily, Jan.-Feb. at Sydney (HEH), and 35-50, Dec. 1-Feb. 25 in Dartmouth (J&DP).

## ICTERIDS

One only EASTERN MEADOWLARK this year, was seen through Jan.-Feb. at Lr. West Pubnico by Daryl Amirault. Let us hope this small representation was due to poor viewing conditions and not to a shrinking population. (Last year was average, with 12 sightings in this period)

One only YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD was seen "several times in Jan. and early Feb. at feeders in the Wolfville area - an immature male, back of head and neck still brown. It was always with a flock of Cowbirds." (BLF) There were three of these birds last year.

The big flocks of the RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD were gone by the end of Nov., after which time they were seen exclusively at feeding stations, often 1 or 2 with a flock of Cowbirds, sometimes up to 3, wintering at a feeder. They were noted "everywhere" from Sydney to Yarmouth, by seventeen reporters.

Six or 7 NORTHERN ORIOLES lingered here through Dec., one only, into Jan. One immature was at Pubnico, Dec. 11 (E&VH); 1, Dec. 12 at Yarmouth (MWH); 1 each, male and female, Nov. to mid-Dec. at Antigonish (feeding on sunflower seeds) (RDC); 2, through Dec. at Glace Bay (SM) and 1, Jan. 21, at Sydney, where one had wintered last year (HEH).

Two RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were reported: 1, Dec. 15, at Pubnico (E&VH), and 1, Feb. 13, at Sydney Forks (RB).

The COMMON GRACKLE big flocks disappeared abruptly the last week of Nov., leaving a few singles, widely scattered, all reported seen at feeders in Dec. (Glace Bay, Amherst, Halifax city and county, Shelburne County and Yarmouth). January sightings were also of singles (at Glace Bay, AS; at Brier I., RD; at Queensland, KNK), with flocks of 6-12 seen fairly frequently at Barrington Passage (BB); Tusket (CRKA) and Yarmouth (MWH).

The BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD remained abundant all winter, with large flocks often settled in at feeders, Dec. or Jan. through February: 1-30 daily at Sydney (HEH); 50 by mid-Feb. at Antigonish (RDC); 10-20 at Lr. Economy (FH); up to 40 at Halifax (RBS); 50-100 at Dartmouth (D&JP); 75-100 at Middle Musquodoboit (MS); "a few" to 100 at Hammonds Plains (KNK); 12+ at Barrington Passage (BB); 30-40 at Yarmouth (MWH); smaller numbers, 2-6, were present at Amherst (CD); Wine Harbor (GM) and Round Hill, where one was found frozen on the doorstep, Jan. 3, at around -23° C, (WEW); and only one, Jan. 1, at a Waverly feeder (P&LP). At #170 Lr. Eel Brook, a flock varying from 50-100 came Feb. 12, muscled in at the feeder, wrought havoc for ten days and left as suddenly as it had come - and the other birds came back! (PRD).

#### FRINGILIDS

Very few of the Nov. CARDINALS have been seen or at any rate reported since the end of that month; probably most of them migrate. One each for sure has been seen at Brass Hill (Barrington) and at Yarmouth town, both bright males; the Shelburne bird at Beula Burman's Nov. 17 to Feb. 17; the Yarmouth bird at the Fred Nickerson feeder well into Jan. and joined briefly during that time by a female. The male Cardinal unfortunately died soon after from flying into a window. (MAN)

Hedley Hopkins has reported a very late ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK at Sydney, Dec. 6-9.

Two DICKCISSELS visited feeders: 1 female, Dec. 11, at Tusket (CRKA), 1, Feb. 22, at West Pubnico, noted at the Leon D'Eon feeder by Delisle d'Entremont.

Our earliest reported flock of EVENING GROSBEAKS was one of 15-20 birds, seen by Ruth Hebb a few miles outside of Windsor, Nov. 8. Reports of 1-2 birds were common in Dec., but the only flocks mentioned were at Lr. Economy, 15-30 regularly at the feeder (F&NH); 14, Dec. 9, at Wine Harbor (GM), and "arrived at feeder in Dec., eventually drove the Blue Jays off; now, in Feb., about 50 present". This was at Waverley, at the Linda and Peter Payzant residence. Glad to hear of the Blue Jays routed for once! Most reporters said that these Grosbeaks were irregular at feeders; most had a few in Jan., but the larger flocks did not arrive until Feb.: 20-40 at Sydney (HEH); up to 30 at Halifax (CF); 70+, Feb. 17, "remarkably few before" (Purchases); 30+ since Christmas (J&GE) at Little Salmon River Drive, Hfx. Co.; 30, Feb. 8, at Wolfville (BLF who wrote: "other than these, only a few this winter"); 50+ at Round Hill (WEW) and 30 or more at each of three Yarmouth feeders.

Three HOUSE FINCHES is better than one seen last year; scarcely an invasion, but promising. The first was seen "Dec. 5, at about 8 a.m., Woodlawn Terrace in Halifax, with Grosbeaks and other finches, at a distance of 10-15 feet" ... brown streaks on sides, orangy-red color and other field marks were carefully noted. (We are grateful indeed to Stephen Manuel for sending in this very convincing and interesting report). The other 2 (maybe 3) House Finches were noted at Lr. West Pubnico: a female, Jan. 16-Feb. 29, at the Delisle

d'Entremont feeder, and a male and female, Jan. 18 at the same place, identified by Delisle and Raymond d'Entremont.

PURPLE FINCHES are probably yet to come, as few have been reported. A thin population at large in Nov. Dec., disappeared at the end of Dec., since when 2's and 3's have shown up at a few feeders: at Glace Bay, Dartmouth, Little Salmon River Drive (4 there Feb. 21), Lockeport, Barrington Passage, Tusket and Yarmouth. Purple Finches at the Tusket and Yarmouth. Purple Finches at the Tusket feeder had built up to half-a-dozen the last week in Feb. (CRKA).

Fifteen reports of the PINE GROSBEAK added up to 150-200 individuals. This sounds like a lot of these rather retiring birds, but several "flocks" account for most of them, e.g.: 30-40, Nov. 15-30, at Smith's Cove (Kelsey Raymond); 15+, Dec. 6 at Gavelton, Yar. Co. (Joey Rogers); 12-14, Dec. 15 at Port Joli (CLFK), and a "flock", Jan. 9, at Paradise (J&WM). The rest of the reports were of 1-4 birds each, some of them near feeders, wherever favorite berries grew, or, as noticed by Peter and Linda Payzant, stripped maple seeds at Waverley, Hfx. Co..

One HOARY REDPOLL, Jan. 4-5 was present with a flock of the Common variety at 12 Crest Road, Halifax, noted and carefully studied by Margaret Slatkin and Margaret Clark. The prominent ivory-white rump was unmistakable. COMMON REDPOLLS were first noted Nov. 19-30, in the Dartmouth area by F&NH and FLL; flocks numbering 25-150. There were few reports in Dec. but by Jan. they were widespread, from Sydney to Yarmouth; flocks of 10-50 birds flying fast in tight formation, or feeding busily in an alder patch (WEW noticed them feeding on pigweed heads showing above the snow). Con Desplanque wrote: "out in full force in Feb. at all hours; some of the males becoming more colorful day by day". In all, over 500 birds were counted, in eighteen reports.

At last a real PINE SISKIN winter, with twenty-two reports of "uncountable" individuals of this species. At Round Hill WEW first noted up to 7, Nov. 16; at Porter's Lake, Helen Whitman had 40-50 from that time into Dec., and after the Annual General Meeting at Lawrencetown, Nov. 29, some of the members of the Field Trip found the vanguard flocks which led to 100+ on McNab's I. Dec. 20; 34 at Seaforth, Dec. 27; 10-20 around Keltic Lodge, Jan. 2, and up to a dozen at the Halifax feeder of the R.B. Sterns, (reporter of above sightings). December saw them distributed from Paradise to Amherst, Antigonish, Glace Bay, Dartmouth, Hammond's Plains, Queensland, East Jordan and Barrington Passage, 1-15 birds per sighting. In Jan. Siskin reports are all from feeders, eight reports of flocks 5-50 in size, and mostly regular well into Feb.: of these one is from Lr. Economy, four from Halifax and vicinity and the rest from the SW counties. When the snow went in Feb. flocks of Siskins were occasionally seen in the open, usually with Goldfinches in flight. Shirley Cohrs wrote: "25 Pine Siskins at the feeder accompanied by 1-3 Redpolls and 6-10 Goldfinches. This winter has afforded the opportunity to really look at Siskins close to (as on the windowsill). When they spread their wings (as they constantly do in anger, being the most aggressive of birds) an amazing amount of yellow shows up. I also notice a wide range of size and coloration. There are some huge Siskins, some medium and smaller ones, some pale and some darker--but all mean! They only settle down at the 'Droll Yankee' feeder where there is a perch and hole for each."

The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH was with us all winter, numbers normal early on but growing less as winter progressed until they had almost disappeared by mid-Feb.. There were sixteen reports of Goldfinches numbering a few hundreds of individuals ("flock is difficult to est-



imate.) and these were frequently associated with Pine Siskins in the same flock - at first mostly Goldfinches, at the last, mostly Siskins.

After Nov. there was only one record of the RED CROSSBILL, of 8+ Jan. 23, at Brier I. (RD). The WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL, which has greatly outnumbered the Red in Nova Scotia of late years, was well reported and seen with equal frequency in Dec., Jan. and Feb.. At Anitgonish, Roland Chiasson noted "small flocks in 20's taking advantage of the heavy crop of spruce cones"; Marg. Clark (Jan. 1) "feeding on shelf outside the kitchen window" - that is a rare sight! - and Michael Rymer remarked that these Crossbills "had not been seen for over two years at Little Egypt, where a flock of 60 was noted Feb. 7; 15+, Feb. 11". Crossbills are such specialized feeders they are pretty well limited to spruce cones, so were one of the few species encountered in the wild during this winter of deep snow. They also fly (intight flocks, but not as tight as the Redpolls) so far and so fast it is difficult to be sure that the next flock you encounter is another and not the one you have just left. Trying to estimate numbers is a losing game, but we had 10 reports, adding up to at least 116 of these birds seen during the winter of '80-'81.

Although the last of the SAVANNAH SPARROWS were seen in Nov., 1 "IPSWICH" was "collected" (only one on the list) by the Glace Bay Christmas Counters. (SM).

The new edition of Peterson's A Field Guide to the Birds has moved the JUNCO from its place among the sparrows to the category of "Snowbirds" and changed our newly-learned name "Dark-eyed" to NORTHERN JUNCO. This is probably an easier designation, but much less picturesque, which is regrettable. The people who name the birds in the first place make life hard for us; those who re-name them, much harder. Someday there's going to be an uprising among We the Birders --I hear mutterings.

The Junco meanwhile, remains our most faithful winter visitor, at feeders, and in most areas it was the only small bird to be encountered along the roadsides throughout this winter season. It is universally reported over the province, mostly as "regular daily guests Nov. through Feb.", numbers present 2-20 birds. Exceptions to this were two reports: Two Juncos from late Nov. last seen Dec. 11, at Sandy Bottom Lake (MCC,GBN); and "up to 15 in early winter, disappearing almost completely by mid-Jan." at Waverley, Halifax Co. (P&LP). At #170 Lr. Eel Brook there were 7-8 Juncos present in early Dec., 5 of them still here the end of Feb. - the two others are little heaps of feathers down in the woods, victims of the attendant Sharp-shinned Hawk (PRD).

Besides the Redpolls, we received a generous share of TREE SPARROWS from our northern regions this season, 27 reports of over 100 individuals, all but about 25 of these at feeders, where a usual 1-3 were spritely and regular attendants. It was a hard winter for seed eaters, one cannot blame them for attending feeders (several people mentioned this as the first time they had had Tree Sparrows) and it was interesting that they disappeared practically simultaneously from these feeders the second week of Feb. (Feb. 12-15) when the snow finally melted away.

A few FIELD SPARROWS made it to December: 1 immature Dec. 20 at the Dartmouth Public Cemetery (FLL); 2, Dec. 25, at Port Joli (CLFK); and in January, around the 25th, 1 adult Field Sparrow, present since Dec. 11, was still at the feeder, Head of St. Margaret's Bay, of the E. L. Mills'.

In our last report we mentioned the unusually large migration of the WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. The last Nov. sighting was from Brier

I., one adult bird reported by Robbie Denton. At least 4 (possibly others on the CBC's) of this species remained in Nova Scotia, which is unusual in winter: 1 immature in Yarmouth town at 23 Baker St., Dec. 10, (MWH); 2, Dec. 21 (and before and after) at Larry MacKenzie's feeder, Lr. W. Pubnico, seen there (at his invitation) by members of the Pubnicos Christmas Count party; 1 immature, Jan. 16 at his feeder in Wolfville by BLF; 1 immature at his feeder in Dartmouth by RBS, also FLL; and 1, possibly one of those from the CBC, at the feeder of Leon D'Eon in West Pubnico, Feb. 22, by DJd'E.

The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (our own Nova Scotia Bird now) was universally present during the winter but reported only at feeders, Dec. through Feb., with twenty-four reports of about 150 individuals. It may be of interest that the Glace Bay, Antigonish and Wine Harbor reports were of only one bird each (SM,RCD,GM), Middle Musquodoboit only 2 (MS), Little Salmon Rive Drive, Hfx. Co., 3, decreasing to 1 after Christmas (J&GE) and the three Valley reports at Wolfville, Sandy Bottom Lake and Paradise only 4 of these sparrows at each of the feeders (BLF, MCC,J&WM). Throughout the rest of the province 5-12 birds per feeder was the rule. At #170 Lr. Eel Brook the flock of 9 Whitethroats remained intact and by mid-Feb. some were "singing" -- a wavering and thready, but recognizable "Canada" song.

Looking back at FLL's Nov. report on the FOX SPARROW, there were flocks of 15-25 birds seen up to Oct. 30, thereafter 1's and 2's, around Halifax Co.. Quite a few of these sparrows must have stayed on and settled in at feeders around the province as a number of reports mention 1-2 staying from Nov. to Feb.. Reports were widespread from Glace Bay to Yarmouth, fifteen in all, of 21 individuals during this time. In Halifax a flock of 6 Fox Sparrows was noted Nov. 16, near the end of Marlborough Avenue, by Point Pleasant Park, some of which may have stayed in the vicinity, as 1, Dec. 24, appeared and stayed for a month at the Helleiner feeder there; disappearing for a while, to return Feb. 14 (CWH). Two other Fox Sparrows at the other end of town stayed from Dec. 5 to Dec. 25, at 12 Crest Road, at Margaret Clark's feeder.

Two interesting reports of our seldom-seen LINCOLN'S SPARROW have come in; one of a bird undecided about, staying for the winter (perhaps) and the other about a bird which did stay but shouldn't have: the first one was seen during the migration season "hovering at the window (seeing reflection?) and provided an unusually close view (2 feet away), fine streaks and buffy breast band clearly visible" (CWH); the second bird was observed "feeding vigorously in a sparse weed patch with a mixed flock of about 20 Tree's, Juncos and Song's. The bird was carefully observed under good conditions, later seen by FLS. Seen the following day also but the day after brought a snowstorm and a long, bitter cold spell. There cannot be much hope of its survival. This is the only winter record for the Economy area". This was Dec. 13-14 at Economy (EPS).

Less than 20 SONG SPARROWS were seen in Nova Scotia after Dec. 1, according to our reports, and of these, 6 were at Queensland, Dec. 7, seen there by KNK. The others were widely scattered, 1's and 2's at feeders, none at large, very few left by the end of January.

Fulton Lavender has sent us early reports of the arrival of the LAPLAND LONGSPUR, 2-3 at Hartlen Point late Oct. and early Nov.. Following those Keith Keddy saw 1, a female, at Queensland, Dec. 7, and Richard Stern found 6, Dec. 27, on Wedge I., Hfx. Co.. Three were identified Jan. 4-28 at Lr. W. Pubnico (DJd'E, Rsd'E, TCD'E); 1 other found at Lr. W. Pubnico, Jan. 15, by Daryl Amirault. At Wine Harbor, Gordon MacLeod reports a Lapland Longspur at his feeder: "one appeared in late afternoon, very tame and hungry. Ate seeds with

Juncos and Tree Sparrows, seen at feeder again Jan. 26". Most extraordinary was the sighting of 30+ of these Longspurs (a migratory flock?) at Fox I., Hfx. Co., identified there by the Cohrs and the Purchases on Feb. 1st, 1981.

SNOW BUNTINGS came in good numbers this year, reported first by Ruth Hebb: "en route to Ontario, Nov. 8, saw four lots of Snow Buntings, all in Nova Scotia; two of the flocks 25-30 birds, one flock around 10 and one 2 birds only. Were seen in almost the same area last year, between Chester and Windsor, swooping around and lighting on the gravel shoulder of the highway." FLL encountered "many flocks" during Nov. in the Halifax region, where KNK also, saw around 50, Nov. 20 at Conrad's Beach. At Amherst CD counted 200, Dec. 17 at John Lusby Marsh (20 there Jan. 1); a flock was at Middle Musquodoboit Dec. 27 (MS) and a small flock (15) at Glace Bay, Dec. 26, for the CBC.. In Jan. flocks were distributed generally throughout the province, varying in size from 5-10 on Brier I., (RD) to 30+ at the MacDonald feeder at New Waterford, there for three weeks (CSM). The largest late flock was 150+, Feb8, at Broad Cove (JLC&JSC). And after that these "Snowbirds" went, with the snows.

PRD,ed.



great gray owl

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTSMAY 28

Bird reports to the Records Editor--

Dr. P. R. Dobson,  
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R. R. 1, Ste. Anne du Ruisseau,  
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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. B5H 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 of references:*

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



Birders enjoy a chowder lunch at Lawrencetown after the A. G. M. Field Trip. Above can be seen Hazel Carmichael, Eric Cooke, Wendie Tay, Richard and Pam Stern, Ethel Crathorne, "Purch" Purchase, Bob McDonald.

In the lower photo are Ross Baker, Eric Mills, Shirley and John Cohrs, Fulton Lavender, Edgar Spalding, Frank Hennessey and Fred Dobson.

(photos-Bill Caudle)

## AT THE WINDOW IN FEBRUARY



Set yourself a bird-watching period from a window. Rest your elbows on the kitchen counter with the field glasses at hand, and set a time limit. (I do this all the time.) Take two minutes, or five minutes, or ten, and count the species that come into view.

It is 9 a.m. on a very cold morning. The Brook runs behind my house. The name of the water course is Renwick Brook; it flows out of swamps and little lakes behind the airport and becomes the top part of Glace Bay Harbour. I don't suppose one person in five hundred knows that it is called Renwick Brook, or who Renwick was. Some long ago land surveyor, I believe. It is just "The Brook", a dirty, polluted tidal reach at this point. But it is interesting at all times, and the birds care nothing for a bit of dirt.

Right now the tide is pretty low. The mud flats are showing, and the 20 or so European Black-headed Gulls that winter in Glace Bay Harbour are picking around and soaring up and down the stream,--pretty little gulls. With them are some Herring Gulls, the most graceful of all the gulls. There are some Iceland Gulls along too. With their dark eyes and dark beaks they seem to have a snub-nosed look, and their slightly broader wings are less graceful than the Herring Gulls'.

A couple of Great Black-backed gulls soar aloft.

The local crow family of four or five are busy on the flats or perching in the trees scouting for dainties.

A couple of Rock Doves, the stocking-stuffers of the bird lists, are stamping around on their big pink feet.

In the rills are some Black Ducks, black-mud colored and hard to see in the dark water. They are nuzzling around under water and paddling here and there. Among them is a handsome Mallard drake, like a rich relative.

All at once, every bird is airborne, soaring, leaping, darting, flapping. Strange, why is that? Gosh, there is a big gull! Oh no, it isn't. It is the little male Eagle that lives over at the sanctuary. Now I can see his white head and tail and the flat wings. Times must be very hard for him to come right into town to see if there might be a cripple he could pick up among the birds on The Brook. A moment later a woman from the other side of The Brook calls to say she had seen him flying low through her yard. "I saw his eyes!", she exclaimed.

Nearer at hand, the little flock of Chickadees is busy with seeds and nibbles of suet. They are polite and wait their turn; not so the Evening Grosbeaks, squawking and threatening.

The Hairy Woodpeckers are pounding away at fence posts. I know that carpenter ants lived in one of them last summer; they, or their eggs must be providing woodpecker rations now. They also eat a lot of suet, chopping away at it, and at the same time watching one with big black eyes.

The two Downy Woodpeckers don't seem to pay much attention to each other, though they travel around together. But just let another Downy appear and the little male gets very nasty, which makes me think that these birds remain in pairs all year round. One humble little Siskin endured the cold until he ventured into a neighbor's yard where a cat got him.

Two Purple Finches come along with the dozen or more winter clad Goldfinches that visit several times a day.

Once in a while there is a Bluejay, but for some reason they neglect this feeder--no sorrow to me.

A Mourning Dove prowls around the ground. It hasn't found the hanging feeder yet, and looks shabby.

Starlings are stumping about stabbing at things on the ground and taking a snatch at the hanging suet if they get a chance.

House Sparrows visit, but not in any number and once in a while a couple of Juncos or a wintering Song Sparrow can be seen scratching around in the snow below the spruce.

A Raven passes over with a honk or two.

The five minutes are up. Count the number of species. Twenty-three? Remember, we are in the middle of winter, in the middle of town, and we haven't stepped outside the door or frightened anything. Beyond providing a bit of suet, some old fence posts and a few seeds, we have in no way altered the ecology, and think of the fun it is to watch all this living going on!

Sara MacLean

The following would make interesting additions to a day's list. (Taken from Birds of America, 1907). They are all in translated form, on our new checklist. How many can you guess?

1. Bog Bird
2. Fishing Eagle
3. Black and White Driller
4. Skunk Blackbird
5. Sea Swallow
6. Hell Diver
7. Cuddy-Moddy
8. Black Coot
9. Little Chocolate breast Titmouse
10. Fiery-crowned wren

TRANSLATIONS ON PAGE 51

#### PRECIOUS OLD NEWSLETTERS

We have constant requests for back issues of the newsletter. Some members of the society want to make up complete sets of issues for binding, other new members want to purchase complete sets from the society. Some of our issues are in extremely short supply, especially those from the early 1960's. If you have issues that you would not mind giving up, please drop a note to the society at the Museum, or call one of the executive, and we will arrange to have them picked up or to have them transported to Halifax at our expense.

#### HAWK OBSERVERS WANTED

The Hawk Migration Association of North America wants volunteers in the Maritimes. Any time you could devote to watching and reporting migrating raptors would be useful, but the 1981 weekends of April 25-26, May 2-3, August 29-30, September 12-13 and October 3-4, are suggested for special attention so we can obtain simultaneous reports from a number of sites. For full details and hawk watch forms write to David Christie, R. R. 2, Albert, N. B. EOA 1A0.

The Hawk Migration Association was formed in 1974 to promote and coordinate studies of raptor migration in North America. The association's newsletters contain summaries of spring and fall migration in 13 regions of the continent, news of special projects and recent publications, notes on hawk watching techniques, etc. To join, send \$8.00 U.S. (\$5.00 student) to the treasurer, Nancy Clayton, 95 Matha's Point Road, Concord, Mass. 01742, but you don't have to belong to participate; what we need most in the Maritimes is observers!

David Christie



## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

January 25 - Stewiacke

On January 25, eleven people met at Stewiacke and then proceeded to the Herman Berfelo farm at Riverside, along the Shubenacadie River. The plan was to see some of the numerous Bald Eagles which winter at this location. To our delight, Herman had placed a hog carcass in the field by his farm and at least 14 eagles had arrived for a feast. After much eagle watching, coffee and cookies in the Berfelo kitchen, and good-byes to our hosts, we proceeded to have a closer look at the Shubenacadie River and to see perhaps another 16 eagles.

Ross Hall.

February 22 - Sewerage Outfalls, around Halifax/Dartmouth

At the beginning of the week-end the weather forecast for Sunday was cloudy, with drizzle and zero visibility in coastal fog. When THE DAY arrived, the forecasters had added "some sunny periods".

It was a beautiful day, warm sun from dawn to dusk, the wind from the south at 13 km, temperature when we started at 9:30 was +2 and it had climbed to +7 at noon.

The trip started at Hartlen Point Golf Course and concentrated on the Sewer outfalls on the eastern shore of Halifax Harbour and Bedford Basin. Of course we had to have a side trip to Sullivan's Pond.

Fortunately the calling points on our route had large parking areas, because the party consisted of 24 people and about 12 cars. Most spots had more gulls, both Herring and Greater Black-backed than we had people. However, there were a few exceptions. When we pulled into the parking lot overlooking Tuft's Cove, there was one Herring Gull. It was not very sociable; it promptly took off and left us to eat our lunches alone.

There were good spots; Sullivan's Pond had a Wood duck as well as this winter's regulars, the Gadwall, the Coot and some Teal.

Permission had been obtained to visit the sewer plant at Mill Cove, operated by Halifax County Council. This proved to be a good vantage point to see the gulls and Mergansers in Bedford Basin; we even saw a seal sunning himself on a rocky island.

The highlight of the day was the Lesser Black-backed Gull. Upon our arrival at the Volvo plant, he flew to the top of the nearest flagpole and posed for us, making sure we had a good look at his yellow legs.

The count for the day stood at 35 species when the group broke up at 2:00 p.m.

W. G. Caudle.

UP-COMING FIELD TRIPS

Sunday Wolfville Area-Kings Co.  
 April 26 Maybe some Short-eared  
 Owls. Leader: Jim Wolford  
 Time: 0900 hrs. Meet at  
 Wade's parking lot next to  
 the Wolfville post office.

Sunday Amherst Point Bird Sanct-  
 May 3 uary-Cumb. Co. Ducks and  
Things. Leader: Con  
 Desplanque. Time: 0900 hrs  
 Meet at the APBS parking  
 lot.

Long week- Seal Island-Shel. Co. Warbler migration. For details and  
 end reservations please phone Ralph Connor at 469-8370 (home)  
 May 16-18 or 426-5801 (bus.)

Wednesday Goodwood Area- Hfx. Co. Early morning warbler walk.  
 May 20 Leader: Shirley Cohrs Time: 0600 hrs. Meet at the Hyland  
 parking lot at the Armdale Rotary.

Saturday Mooseland-Hfx. Co. Spring arrivals and maybe B/B Th-Toed  
 May 23 Woodpeckers. Leaders: Karl and Wendy Tay Time: 0800 hrs.  
 Meet at the Tay's cottage "Swallow Hollow"-exactly 10 miles  
 up the Mooseland Road which is 60 miles east of Dartmouth  
 on Hwy #7. Cottage is at the first lake just past the  
 dam. Bring fly dope and a lunch.

Wednesday Russell Lake, Hfx. Co. Early morning warbler walk.  
 May 27 Leader: Fulton Lavender Time: 0600 hrs. Meet in the  
 Capital Store parking lot on the Cole Harbour Road, Dart-  
 mouth.

Saturday Hants Co. Warblers and much, much more. Leader: Marg.  
 May 30 Clark. Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at the railway crossing in  
 Mt. Uniacke,

Saturday Homeville Area-Cape Breton. Warbler day. Leader: Sara Mac-  
 May 30 Lean Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at Dearn's Corner.

Saturday Paradise-Anna. Co. Spring warblers and other good things.  
 May 30 Leaders: Bill and Jean Morse Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at  
 the Morse's: first house on right, moving west, within  
 stone wall on Rt. 201, about ½ mile from the road leading  
 across the river to the village of Paradise. Sign in  
 front, just inside wall reads-"Burnbrae" - Jean and William  
 Morse. For further info. on accomodations or campsites,  
 contact the Morses at P. O. Box 28, Paradise, N. S. B0S  
 1R0. Bring fly dope.

Sunday Shubenacadie Area-Hants Co. Back country warbler walk  
 May 31 Leader: Rosalyn MacPhee Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at the  
 Co-op parking lot, Shubenacadie Square.

Wednesday Suzie Lake-Hfx. Co. Early morning warbler walk. Leader:  
 June 3 Fred Dobson Time: 0600 hrs. Meet at the Armdale Rotary  
 in the Hyland Theatre parking lot. Bring lots of fly dope.


Saturday Yarmouth Area-Yar. Co. Warblers. Leader: C.R.K. Allen  
 June 6 Time: 0830 Meet at C.P.R. station in Yarmouth.

- Sunday  
June 14 Wolfville Area-King's Co. A rugged walk for nests.  
Leader: Bernie Forsythe. Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at Wade's parking lot next to the Wolfville post office. Bring a lunch and lots of stamina.
- Saturday  
June 20 Bird Islands-Cape Breton Leader: Hedley Hopkins Time: 0930 hrs. Meet at the boat landing.
- Sunday  
July 12 Economy Area- Col. Co. Warblers and usually a high count of other species Leaders: Francis Spalding and Frank Hennessey Time: 0830 hrs. Meet at the Bass River General Store.
- Saturday  
July 18 Malagawatch-Cape Breton. Leader: Jean MacNicol Time:0800 hrs. Meet at Big Harbour Island intersection.
- Sunday  
July 26 Martinique Beach Area-Hfx. Co. Early shore birds, etc. Leaders: Don and Joyce Purchase Time:0830 Meet at the I.G.A. Lakeview Plaza parking lot, Porter's Lake.
- Saturday  
Aug. 1 Yarmouth-Yar. Co. Shore Birds. Leader: C.R.K. Allen Time: 0830 Meet at the C.P.R. station in Yarmouth.
- Saturday  
Aug. 1 Mary's Point-New Brunswick. Thousands of shore birds, maybe even tens of thousands. Leader: Mary Majka and David Christie. Time: 1100 hrs. Meet at the Bank of Nova Scotia in Albert, N.B., Rt. 114. We are invited to join further activities planned by the N. B. Federation of Naturalists for Sunday, Aug. 2.
- Saturday  
Aug. 8 Evangeline Beach-King's Co. Shore birds. Leader: Frank Himsl Time: 0900 hrs. Meet at the Evangeline church in Grande Pre. Bring a lunch and a scope.
- Aug. ? Matthews Lake-Shel. Co. In planning stage-see July Newsletter
- Saturday  
Aug. 15 Fuller's Bridge-Cape Breton. Shore birds Leader: Francis MacKinnon Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at Marion Bridge.
- Sept.5,6,7 Brier I.-Digby Co. Fall migration. Leader: Ross Anderson Time: 0900 hrs. Sat., Sept. 5. Meet at Peajack Rd. at Cemetary.
- Saturday  
Sept. 12 President's Field Trip- Petite Riviere, Broad Cove, Cherry Hill Beach. Shore birds, hawks, etc. Leader: Shirley Cohrs Time: 0900 hrs. Meet at the post office, Petite Riviere.
- Saturday  
Sept. 19 Baddeck Area--Cape Breton. Early migrants. Leader: Lloyd Stone Time: 0800 hrs. Meet at the Provincial Bldg.
- Saturday  
Sept. 26 Tusket Islands, Yar. Co. Leader: C.R.K. Allen Time: 0830 hrs. Meet at Arcadia P. O. Cost per person for boat depends on number of people. Contact Purchases or C.R.K. Allen not later than Sept. 12.

MORE TO COME!!!

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



62ND ANNUAL MEETING  
JUNE 4 - 7, 1981  
SACKVILLE, NEW BRUNSWICK  
CANADA 

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Mount Allison University, and the Chignecto Naturalists' Club will co-host the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society, to be held June 4-7, 1981 at Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada. This will mark only the second time this international body has met in Canada.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Place</u>
1300 - 2300	Registration	Windsor Hall, Mt. A. University
2000 - 2200	Wine and Cheese Reception	Hessler Hall, Mt. A. University

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

0530 - 0800	Early Morning Field Trips	Depart Windsor Hall
0800 - 1700	Registration	Windsor Hall
0900 - 0945	First Business Meeting	Crabtree Auditorium
0945 - 1200	Papers Session	Crabtree and Avard-Dixon
1330 - 1630	Papers Session	Crabtree and Avard-Dixon
1900 - 2130	Lobster Boil and Films	Jennings Hall

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

0530 - 0800	Early Morning Field Trips	Depart Windsor Hall
0900 - 1200	Papers Session	Crabtree and Avard-Dixon
1330 - 1630	Papers Session	Crabtree and Avard-Dixon
1900 - 2200	Annual Banquet and Awards	Jennings Hall

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

0830 Field Trips (all day)

Those interested in attending are urged to write immediately for an information package which includes a pre-registration form (due in Sackville by May 15) to:

Dr. A. J. (Tony) Erskine  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Atlantic Region  
Environment Canada  
P. O. Box 1590  
Sackville, New Brunswick  
CANADA EOA 3C0

Phone - (506) 536-3025

## Publications & Desiderata.

**NEW !!**

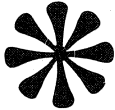
### checklists



are now available. Four page Field Cards' (pocket size) designed by Eric Cooke

--4 for \$1.00 + 25¢  
for postage and handling

### decals



You have received a complimentary decal with this issue of Nova Scotia Birds. Additional decals are \$1.00 each if order is accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

### crests

\$2.00 each--please include a stamped addressed envelope.

### where to find the birds



now includes a section on Shelburne County and costs \$2.00

ALL AVAILABLE FROM:

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

## PHOTOGRAPHING BIRDS AT SULLIVAN'S POND

The opening of the shooting season in Sullivan's Pond is Boxing Day. The season runs to mid-March or until the ice melts. There is no bag limit as long as you don't run out of film. The number of species varies; six species of surface-feeding ducks is not unusual; five species of gulls; and usually a coot, sometimes a Canada Goose and always a pair of Mute Swans.

The photographic possibilities are limited only by one's energy and imagination. For example, what do ducks look like when photographed underwater? This is for wet suiters only. No diving gear? Then place an aquarium tank in six inches of water and position the camera in the tank to expose a dabbling duck feeding off the pond bottom. Tired of photos of large groups of Black Ducks competing for the stale bread? Then take a friend along and push him or her into the pond with the ducks for a refreshing new approach.

The accessibility of Sullivan's Pond allows one to photograph during all types of weather. What do ducks look like photographed in a snow storm, in a rain storm, on a heavily overcast day, or a bright overcast day?

Thinking of trying another type of film? Try a roll of both the new type and your current favorite on the same day to gain a fair comparison.

For several years I have shot between ten and twenty rolls of film at Sullivan's Pond during the winter season. Obtaining a decent photograph is fraught with the usual difficulties plus some that are not encountered in the field: plastic bread wrappers, parking signs and general litter thrown into the pond and which appears in the view finder just when the bird is "posing"; buildings in the background of the "best" flight shots' birds migrating to the nearest handout at the "moment of decision"; and irate women pushing their husbands into the pond. In short, photographing birds, or anything else, is like a salmon spawning thousands of eggs in the hope that one might survive. Such was the playwright, G. B. Shaw's comment on his involvement in photography.

Black Ducks are the largest transient population at Sullivan's Pond. They can often be attracted to within six inches of one's boot toe with bread or cracked corn or puffed wheat or pop corn or sugar pops or shreaded wheat or any other cereal, but they do not like pound cake. A reasonable estimate of the distance Black Ducks would approach your boot toe in Lawrencetown Marsh is 100 yards even with two tons of cereal handouts. Therefore, if you wish to record at close range, mating display, preening habits, flight activity or the difference between male and female, then Sullivan's Pond is the spot to choose. In addition, the practice will sharpen skills in the field where only a few shots can be made in a chance encounter.

To the best of my knowledge the winter of '80-'81, is the first visit of a male Pintail to Sullivan's Pond. Note the white spot on the right side of the bird's head just forward of the white head stripe. This photo was taken during a heavy snowstorm. The Gadwall photo shown was taken during the winter of '79-'80. A male was also present this winter.

The presence of a single American Coot seems to be the norm for Sullivan's Pond. I would not hesitate to use plenty of film on the Coot but it does not always cooperate.



**BLACK DUCK**

**CONNOR**





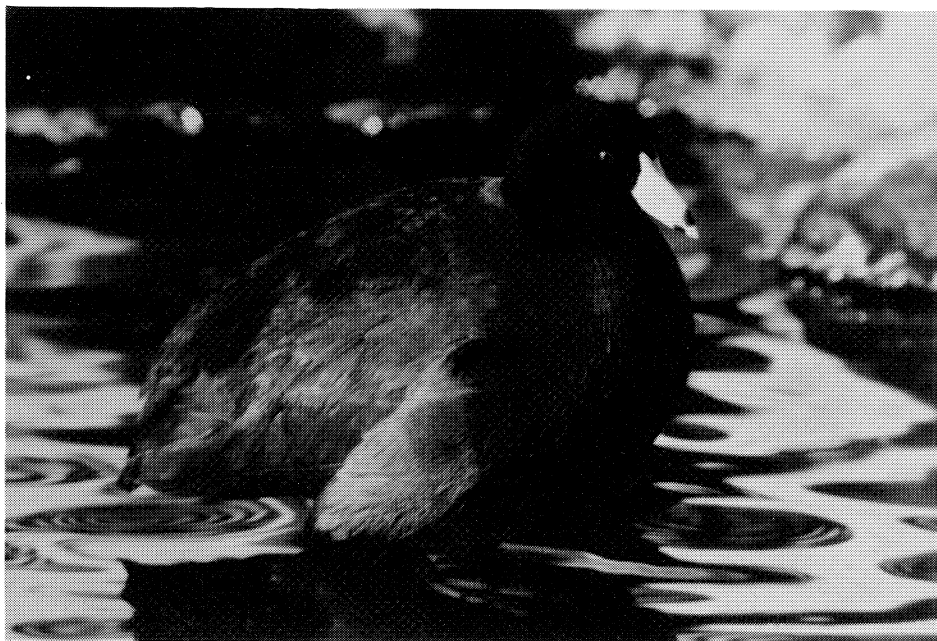
**PINTAIL**

**GADWALL**

**CONNOR**







**AMERICAN COOT**

**WOOD DUCK**

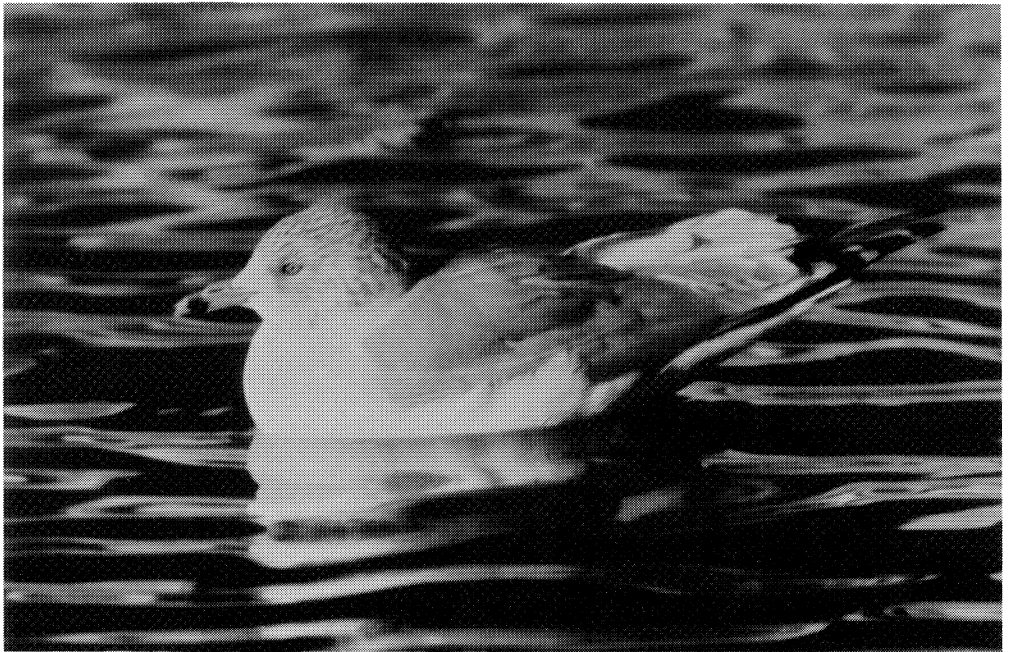
**COMMON TEAL**



RING-BILLED GULL

CONNOR







**PINE GROSBEAK**

**FULLER**

The female Wood Duck is my first photo encounter outside of Shubenacadie Wildlife Park. It appeared as aloof and distant as those in the park and did not appear to be attracted by any handouts. Acorns maybe? Next year I will save these instead of using them in the compost heap.

The Common Teal, present for several months during the winter of '79-'80, was a first encounter for many birders and certainly a feather in the cap for Sullivan's Pond. Pardon me.

The Ring-billed Gulls at Sullivan's Pond are frequently attracted from their icy perch by bread tossed in the air or even on the water as evidenced by the child feeding the birds under the tutelage of a wise mother. My first introduction to birds occurred at about the same age. While I was holding an icecream cone, a bird of some species, I don't recall which, sent forth its droppings from above and covered my sweet little hand between thumb and forefinger, just narrowly missing the icecream. After many years I realized that birds may have a sense of humor.

The final photograph, a Pine Grosbeak, was taken by Mark Fuller in Yarmouth. Eric Ruff, who forwarded this photo, states that the bird was located in a hedge, one block from the main street and allowed an approach to within two and one half feet. There you are, wide angle lenses can be used to photograph birds. Many thanks, Eric and Mark.



## LIFE &amp; TIMES OF THE RIVENDELL EAGLES - R. G. S. Bidwell

## 2. The Care &amp; Feeding of Eaglets.

This years young hatched quite early, before mid-May. Timing seems to vary quite widely, because in late May, when the Rivendell eaglet was quite well fledged and had turned black, we saw another nest that contained three newly-hatched, fluffy grey babies. Perhaps the fishing season opens earlier on the river than along the seacoast, where the other nest was located.

While the eggs are incubating the female spends most of her time sitting so far down in the nest as to be almost invisible. The male alternately patrols the river and sits on watch in a nearby tall pine. We have never observed the male feeding the female at this time, so presumably she gets time off for hunting. During this period, and indeed until the young have started to fly, the eagles completely forsake their normal perches on the cliffs along the river-side.

Soon after the eggs hatch there is a great increase in the air traffic around the nest. The parents (often both together) spend a lot of time standing on the rim of the nest. At this time the male still succumbs from time to time to the nest-building instinct and fetches more branches. Whenever he lands on the nest he seems compelled to redo the interior decorations, pulling out sticks that are not correctly placed and shoving them, end first, into some other part of the nest. If they won't fit, he tears them up with his beak and claws. The female, on the other hand, seems satisfied with things just as they are. She watches, or feeds the young, and leaves the nestkeeping to her compulsive consort.

At first, feeding time is usually quite late in the evening. Either parent, or occasionally both, will arrive on the nest with supper, which is usually an eel, sucker or gaspareau. The female tears it into small pieces and passes them to the young in her beak. The whole process is very gentle and tidy and without the voracious beak snapping that one might expect from such fierce-looking birds. Normally the youngster behaves with great restraint, although one occasionally sees a wing or head or tail thrashing about if supper does not happen quickly enough.

The fluffy, grey eaglet spends its first few weeks at the bottom of the nest. By late June it will begin to walk about on the edge of the nest. By this time it is black, about as big as a turkey, and as untidy. Its attitude, as it paces up and down the rim of the nest, suggests Napoleon at Elba; head thrust forward, hands clasped behind coat-tails, peering across the sea waiting for rescue...

As the young bird grows, so does its appetite. Feeding occurs at morning as well as evening, and finally at irregular intervals all day. At first the young bird outgrows the strength of its legs and tends to fall over. If it drops food, even into the nest, it cannot pick it up, and the parent has to retrieve it. Later, when the youngster is able to stamp about the nest on its own, the parents stop tearing up food and merely dump it in the nest for it to deal with.

About this time the youngster begins to show some independence of spirit. When the eagles are disturbed (we are not permitted to walk across our own fields during the nesting season, let alone enter the woods around the nest tree!) they make a great fuss and fly about, evidently hoping to frighten the intruder away. At their first scream the baby crouches down in the nest, and remains invisible until the danger is past. Once it has tasted freedom, however, even to the limited extent of the platform around the nest, it refuses to duck, no matter how extreme the danger. It shows no fear,



but only curiosity. The parents do a lot of anxious and ponderous flapping about, but the youngster remains serenely indifferent, or interested to see what's causing the fuss.

During early May, the male does most of the food gathering, bringing the food to the female in the nest. By mid-May, and through out much of June, both parents seem to share equally in the hunting process. However, by late June the male seems to desert, sometimes for days on end, and makes only occasional visits to the nest. When the female is disturbed she calls loudly for help. If the male does not come, she makes a few half-hearted attack flights, but quickly returns to the nest. As the time for the young bird's first flight approaches, however, the male again returns to his post near the nest to assist in this most important event.

By early July the parents encourage the young bird, now fully fledged, but still terribly untidy, out onto a limb some distance from the nest. It goes back to the nest at night, but spends much of the day exercising its wings, clutching tightly to its perch. The first flight comes with plenty of warning. Eagles are not reticent birds at any time, and tend to give voice most vigorously at times of excitement or stress. The youngster shrieks, the parents shout, and with a convulsive heave it launches itself into the air.

The whole countryside seems to hold its breath as the great bird staggers through the sky, looking for all the world like a gigantic flying feather dust-mop. There is no grace, no ease, no poise, only great effort and many loud cries. The parents fly close alongside, shouting encouragements. The neophyte aeronaut does not suffer in silence. In spite of the racket and the confusion, it is a magnificent and awesome sight.

Every flight must have its end. If flying is difficult, stopping is even more troublesome, and has to be learned as quickly. The parents encourage the youngster, now evidently tiring, toward the eagle tree across the river which has a nice, easy landing place in the shape of a long, bare branch projecting at right angles. The eaglet lurches, tries to pull up, and clutches for the branch. It misses, and disappears into the undergrowth behind in a flurry of squawks and feathers.

It takes a certain amount of anxious coaxing to extricate the young bird, but the second try at flying ends with better luck. It just manages to grab the branch as it goes by, and lurches to a stop. However, it now faces a new problem; it is pointed in the wrong direction. Turning around is more difficult than one would imagine, in spite of the long practice on the nest. The feet get pointed in the wrong direction, the tail gets in the way. About the time when the bird watchers are reduced to helpless laughter, our inexpert aerialist finally gets untangled, facing the right way, and is ready to take off again.

It takes only a day or so before the young eagle begins to fly like a bird, though the landings are apt to be a bit rough for the first couple of weeks. It soon learns to swing and bank and ride the updraughts, and to soar effortlessly until it is almost out of sight in the clear sky. For the first week or so it is usually escorted by a parent wherever it goes. After that, it is on its own.

Except for food! Young eagles seem to learn slowly. The female parent has to lead it to its prey, usually a dead fish or some rotten offal on the river bank, and then escort it back to its perch. The youngster does a lot of squawking, particularly when hungry, and sometimes one or even both parents engage in hours of raucous conversation with it. It does not really become independent until late fall, when it will move away from the nest area and take up its abode in the canyons and gulleys up-river. However, the family bond is

strong. The young often return to the vicinity of the nest, and two- or even three-year old birds occasionally visit amicably with their parents, even during nesting season.

The close family ties and the evident bond between the parents and their offspring is one of the most appealing aspects of eagle family life. They are not only beautiful in flight and magnificently fierce of visage, but surprisingly gentle and affectionate. Truly, the most wonderful of birds.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY - 1980

The 1980 Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held on November 29, 1980 at 1:30 p.m. in the basement of the Lawrencetown United Church. The meeting got underway with about forty-five members present.

Low attendance was attributed to the weather - about ten members attempted to go on a field trip in the morning, but after two minutes at Sullivan's Pond, exposed to the heavy rain and gales, the trip was abandoned.

The President called Mrs. Hiltz and her assistants from the kitchen; they were given a vote of thanks for the catering.

The minutes of the 1979 meeting, published in the January '80 Newsletter, were again circulated to members present. There being no errors or omissions the minutes were approved as circulated.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

REPORTS

Membership

Frank Hennessey reported the 1980 figures, 1979 figures are shown for comparison

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>
Single	397	405
Family	147	136
Student	19	29
Institutions	11	New Category for 1980
Life	6	6
	<u>580</u>	<u>575</u>

Financial

A detailed financial report was circulated to members present. Sandra Myers reported a balance in the account with the Royal Bank of Canada of \$4,960.94, compared to \$3,651.21 last year.

Sandra advised that the Museum grant for 1979 was received late in the year and is therefore shown in this years' report together with the 1980 grant.

The cost of printing the Newsletter is much higher. We are obtaining higher interest on the Guaranteed Investment Certificate. The expenses for the 25th year anniversary events were shown separately

for visibility purposes.

Adoption of the report was moved by Sandra Myers - seconded by Wendie Tay. CARRIED.

#### The Sanctuary & Scholarship Trust Fund

The report as read by Eric Cooke is printed elsewhere in the newsletter, a copy is on file. Eric reported that negotiations to purchase two islands in the Tusket Group had fallen through. Ken Gregoire had been appointed as a new Director. Indian Island - off Lunenburg - has been purchased since the financial report was prepared. The Trust Fund people are looking for suggestions for land to be bought. However, the suggestions must be specific and well substantiated, i.e. description of the land, its area, the price, and why it is of interest to the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

Adoption of the report was moved by Eric Cooke - seconded by Karl Tay. CARRIED.

#### Cape Breton Branch

The report from Bertha Hopkins was read by Margaret Clark because the Cape Breton people had been unable to get to the meeting. It was with regret we heard that the Cape Breton Branch is folding due to failing membership and attendance at their meetings. It is hoped this is only a temporary setback.

Christmas Bird Counts. Don Purchase read the list of dates:

AREA AND DATE		CO-ORDINATOR
Halifax East	Dec. 27th	Ross Anderson
Yarmouth	Dec. 27th	Marion Hilton
Brier Island	Dec. 23rd	Eric Mills
Halifax West	Dec. 21st	Shirley Cohrs
Broad Cove	Jan. 3rd	Sylvia Fullerton
Port Hebert	Dec. 21st	George Perry
Amherst	Dec. 23rd	Stuart Tingley
Economy	Dec. 27th	Francis Spalding
Glace Bay	Dec. 26th	Sara MacLean
Sydney	Dec. 27th	Hedley Hopkins

A vote of thanks to all leaders for making each field trip a success was moved by Don Purchase. A round of applause indicated it was passed unanimously.

#### Nominating Committee

Frank Himsl gave the report of the nominating committee as follows:

President	Shirley Cohrs
Vice President	Richard Stern
Secretary	William Caudle
Membership	Frank Hennessey
Treasurer	Sandra Myers
Editor	Shirley Cohrs

The president then called for nominations from the floor. After three calls, there being no further nominations, adoption of the report was moved by Frank Himsl, seconded by Bob McDonald. CARRIED.

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

The President then called for nominations from the floor for two Executive Directors.

The nomination of Don Purchase was moved by Eric Cooke, seconded by Fred Dobson; the nomination of Evelyn Dobson was moved by Sandra Myers, seconded by Eric Cooke. There being no further nominations, these two names were put to the vote which was passed.

The President, Margaret Clark then gave her report, a copy is reproduced elsewhere in the Newsletter. This was followed by the award of "Puffin of the Year" to Eric Cooke, this also is reported in full on another page of the Newsletter.

Shirley Cohrs then took the chair. In her acceptance speech she expressed her disappointment that other senior members of the Society had not been able to accept a call from the nominating committee. Shirley feels that she will be very busy in her dual role of President and Editor. She does not intend to sit and dwell on past achievements, she wants to see more out-of-town speakers brought in to address the monthly meetings which should be given more publicity. Shirley would also like to see more involvement by the Society's membership and cited:- the Sanctuary & Scholarship Trust Fund in need of ideas on lands to purchase - the Conservation Sub committee, in need of information on environmental problems - and the need for education of the public in general.

Members are encouraged to call on the executive members and discuss any item of interest.

#### New Business

Fred Dobson recommended that the S & STF consider Beaches on the Bay of Fundy which may be affected by Tidal Power Generation.

Eric Cooke reiterated his request for specific details. Fred Dobson will write to Eric, Eric then advised that C. Allen is the Chairman of the S & STF but agreed to pass on any messages.

John Cohrs moved, and Richard Stern seconded a motion to allow the executive to appoint someone at large to represent the Cape Breton Area. CARRIED.

A question was asked "Could teenagers be elected to look after the interests of the youth in the organization?" The answer was "yes, they have full voting membership".

A question was asked regarding the nomination of the Editor.

Margaret Clark explained that normally the Editor is an Executive appointment, but by asking the Nominating committee to make a nomination for this position it would make it an executive position.

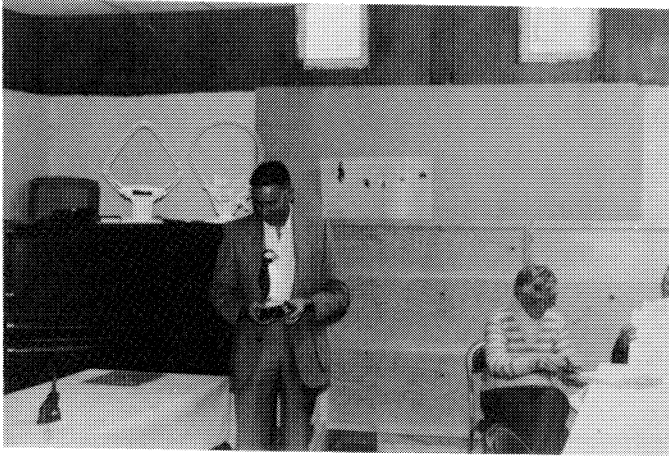
Mrs. Evelyn Dobson enquired as to what is done to keep continuity in the paperwork for the Conservation sub committee. Shirley Cohrs advised that this is a problem, the past three Directors had all had or will have sabbatical leave from their jobs and this has resulted in a lack of continuity. An effort is to be made in the future to ensure continuity.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

W. G. Caudle  
Secretary

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1980

Marg Clark presents the Puffin of the Year Award to Eric Cooke (photo-Bill Caudle)



A somewhat pensive EHC making his acceptance speech (photo-Bill Caudle)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

In the January 1981 issue of "Nova Scotia Birds:", I was surprised to read that Mr. Frank Himsl considered the sighting of Black Guillemots at Cape Split to be "particularly rewarding" and "the most significant of the day", apparently implying that the Black Guillemot is not usually found at Cape Split during the summer, thus contradicting my belief that it is usually found there.

During the past two summers, I have made ten trips around Cape Split by boat and I saw Black Guillemots on every trip. I do not know whether or not they nest there, but it is certainly a possibility.

Trying to explain this contradiction, I came up with two possibilities:

1. The Black Guillemot may have just recently established (or reestablished?) itself at Cape Split, my experience with Cape Split being only since 1979.

2. The Black Guillemot could have been there all along and just not noticed. I feel that this is also possible as most observers undoubtedly go to Cape Split via the trail. It is my impression that Black Guillemots would be quite difficult to see from the top of the cliff as they tend to stay close to the bottom of the cliff out of view to observers from above, unless disturbed by a boat.

It may be of interest to Mr. Himsl and others to know that I have observed Common Eiders at Cape Split on a number of occasions. It usually was a flock of about twenty to thirty birds, both males and females, and which often headed across the channel towards Port Greville, when disturbed by the boat.

What I consider my most remarkable sighting in that area was a flock of 50+ Northern Fulmars, along with five Greater and two Sooty Shearwaters on a foggy day in June '79. I was really surprised to see these three pelagic species so far up the Bay of Fundy and heading towards the Minas Basin.

Although I contradict Mr. Himsl, to a certain extent at least, I trust he will welcome these notes.

Sincerely,  
Ronald G. Arsenault.

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

In replying to my letter (p. 61) in the latest issue of NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS, Mr. Lavender makes it plain that he was not confusing our Common Snipe with the American Woodcock when he referred to the latter as occurring "regularly" in winter in Nova Scotia. In support of his observation it would have been pertinent for him to have given us particulars concerning weather and habitat conditions which were prevalent at the time in January 1977 and 1980. For instance, was there snow on the ground? If any, how much? What type of habitat were these birds occupying and was there an open, boggy warm spring in the immediate vicinity? What was the exact date of his 1980 observation?

This correspondence with Mr. Lavender resulted from his remark (p. 189) November issue of the NEWSLETTER in which he stated that - "The everpresent Ruffed Grouse and the American Woodcock were the only game birds he had to report in January." I'd be interested in

knowing how many normally healthy woodcock our readers have seen in Nova Scotia in January. I've never seen nor heard (before) of even one and I've been around a long time.

R.W. Tufts,  
Wolfville, N.S.

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

I enclose my cheque for \$9.00, which I hope will cover Membership for 1981 and the new edition of Dobson and Allen "Where to Find the Birds".

We had a lovely early spring trip to and throughout N. S. in 1979, but someone hid all the grey jays and boreal chickadees and we couldn't find even one.

Any member visiting "central" Texas would be welcome to call me (listed as below in Austin phone book) for local birding help on our two specialties--golden cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo--or whatever.

Thanks,  
W. M. Meriwether,  
3002 West Terrace Dr.,  
Austin, Texas, U. S. A.  
78731

The Nova Scotia Bird Society acknowledges with grateful thanks, the bequest from the Estate of the late Miss Louise Daley.

## NOTES FROM EUROPE

Nine months ago, my long-suffering tripod bearer, my cat, and I bid goodbye to our beloved Nova Scotia to take up a two to three year residence in Italy. We are living in Northern Italy near the busy Mediterranean Port of La Spezia. Periodically I will send along to the NEWSLETTER some of our experiences as members of the NSBS, living and birding in Europe.

About birding in Italy--the less said the better. There are very few birds here. We have seen some of them and the conditions under which they live. It is like watching at the bedside of a sick friend.

In compensation, one of Europe's best birding areas is only a half day's drive away, La Camargue, in France. 'Camargue' is the name given the vast delta region of the Rhone River on the Mediterranean Sea, just west of the city of Marseilles. Its sub-tropical climate on a mainly temperate continent makes Camargue an important wintering/resting area for many birds from northern Europe, particularly ducks and shorebirds; in summer it is the most northerly established nesting site in Europe of several African and Asiatic species, notably bee-eaters and pratincole. (Readers interested in a zoologist/naturalist's account of this remarkable marshland should ask at the Public Library for Europe: A Natural History (Random House 1964), by Kai Curry-Lindahl.

Last February we made an exploratory trip to Camargue. From the car, in six hours, we saw thirty-seven species, with several to many individuals per species. Some birds were visible from the boundaries of Camargue's two sanctuaries, but we spotted the majority elsewhere, on farmland, rice fields, freshwater lagoons, reed-beds and shallow, brackish lakes, and stony plains. Harrier and buzzard seemed everywhere. We observed buzzards in several competitions over small prey with grey heron, well-represented that day, along with less numbers of purple heron and little egret.

Our first shorebirds since leaving Nova Scotia were in an area posted "Fish Hatchery, Keep Out". We saw 2 curlew, several plover, many red shank, and little waders. About thirty lapwing circled overhead and occasionally 'dive-bombed' the little waders, scattering them; the air was filled with the lapwings' odd "kewpie-doll" call. In order to see these shorebirds, we had to stand on the car's bumpers and aim our binoculars over a dike that concealed the hatchery from the highway. Better identifications at this spot are unlikely.

Sts. Marie des Mers, Camargue's fashionable summer resort, is virtually a ghost town in February, but that day a brackish lake by the Promenade was full of winter visitors. Larks, wagtails, a few robin redbreasts ('pettirosso', in Italian), house sparrows and starlings foraged at the edge of the lake. (In southern Europe, we have to 'look twice' at starlings, for spotless and/or rose coloured starling; so far with no luck). On the open water, some 300 coot congregated, medium and small size gulls flew overhead, and heron and egret stalked the edges. We glimpsed a few duck drifting around reeds. They always quickly returned to cover before we could identify them. (With good reason their caution, for all of Camargue, except the two sanctuaries, is open to hunters). At the far shore, looking, I thought, as drab as the February landscape, stood eleven greater flamingo. Easy to identify, I cursorily turned from them back to the 'more interesting' birds.

Alpine birding was the object of a four-day trip in mid-May. Frances Vanoise National Park is an environment vastly different from Camargue, yet it also is only a half day's drive from home.



In May, winter still restricted travel in the Alps. Snow-covered passes prevented us from reaching our destination at the 9000 foot level, so we opted for a hotel at the 6000 foot level.

The snow also prevented migrating passerines from dispersing higher and wider, temporarily confining them to open areas on the narrow valley floor and lower slopes. We found ourselves in the middle of an avian traffic jam. Along the roadside and in soggy, sprouting fields were many wheatear, larks, goldfinch, chaffinch, wagtails, whinchat and stonechat. Opportunists among these birds fed on clouds of insects provided by steaming stacks of manure awaiting the plow.

Above the fields, south-facing slopes were carpeted with tiny wild flowers. We kept to well-worn sheep trails to avoid damaging the fragile ground-cover, and found large rocks on which to sit and watch the birds. Small groups of linnet flew here and there, and redstart, their chestnut tails constantly flickering, perched on rocks. Of most interest were many blue rock thrush and rock thrush; ..."two of the loveliest birds in the Alps. The former is a beautiful blue, and the latter, terracotta, blue and white" (Curry-Lindahl). Ring ousel, another thrush, were in good numbers, as were blackbirds, although this last thrush kept mostly to the base of the slopes near dwellings and vegetable plots. (Where we live in Italy, the blackbird is most often seen captive, in ornamental cages in gardens).

Birdsong filled the air from morning to night, a concentration of music due to the season and the over crowding, we thought. My favourite songster was the dunnock, or hedge sparrow, the only one we saw in Vanoise, and listened to for ten minutes in late afternoon as it poured out its lovely melody from atop a woodpile. (The Book of British Birds (1974), a Readers' Digest publication, refers to the dunnock's song as a "tuneless ditty", but then ours was a French dunnock). In continuous accompaniment to the birdsong was the sound of running water from melting snow, and several times from our sunny rock, we heard (and saw) the boom of snow landsliding down the opposite slopes.

Camargue in mid-June was bustling with agricultural activity and vacationers, yet we were still able to find un-peopled areas and good birding. This was our first chance to work on swamp warblers. These 11 brownish species nest low in reed-beds and marshes, and are distinguished from each other by streak, or no streaks, on backs. Voice and behaviour are all-important. Many "Karra-karra, krik-krik, gurk-gurk's", and/or "chirruc-chirruc, jag-jag-jag's" later (Peterson's), and we're still working on swamp warblers!

For fun, we took a trip up the 'Petit Rhone' on the 'Tiki' a large paddle-wheeler (Seal Islanders take note!), and saw grey and purple heron, egret, oystercatcher, redshank, turtle doves, and Camargue's "wild" cattle and horses. Later, at the modern Information Centre of the Parc Zoologique, we read about Camargue's natural history and watched a white stork from the observation windows.

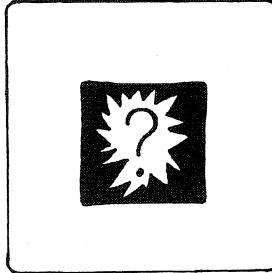
Sunset brought us this trip's high points. Our first bee-eaters were gliding in the shadows and only when they rose to perch on overhead wires in the setting sunlight did we know their identity. "Shades of green, golden-yellow and reddish-brown--and, depending on the angle of the sun, their undersides change from emerald-green to Vienna blue and ultramarine." (Curry-Lindahl) As if to divert us from the decorative bee-eaters, a tawny pipit landed close by, its creamy, unstreaked breast taking on the golden rose of dusk.

Many times in Mid-June, we saw Camargue's greater flamingos. Watching them move en masse through shallow ponds, their young concealed within a protective fence of red legs, I wondered about my

"blindness" to them in February. Aloft in the setting sun, their huge wings like black and crimson banners, flamingos are at their magnificent best.

Sheila A Connell,  
September, 1980.

SLIDE COLLECTION



*The Bird Society is building up a collection of slides of birds that can be seen in Nova Scotia. These can be used by any member of the society for viewing pleasure, educational purposes, or just entertainment, at any time. Several people have already contributed and we have the beginnings of a good collection. We need any slide of any bird, rare or common, preferably in the wild in Nova Scotia.*

*If anybody has any slides that might be suitable, we can have them duplicated at our expense !*

*There are some notable gaps, e.g., we have NO slide of Common Loon, Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater, Oldsquaw, King Eider, Common Scoter, male Marsh Hawk, Yellow Rail, Parasitic Jaeger, Glaucous Gull, Winter Black-headed Gull, Caspian Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, male Kingfisher, W. and W. Kingbirds, E. Wood Peewee, adult Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling or White-winged Crossbill. Several other birds are out of focus, distant, or are slides of pictures in books.*

*You can permanently contribute to the bird society by donating slides. Please send your slides to-*

*Dr. R. B. Stern,  
c/o Nova Scotia Bird Society,  
c/o Nova Scotia Museum,  
1747 Summer St.,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3A6*

*We can have them duplicated and send you back the originals.*

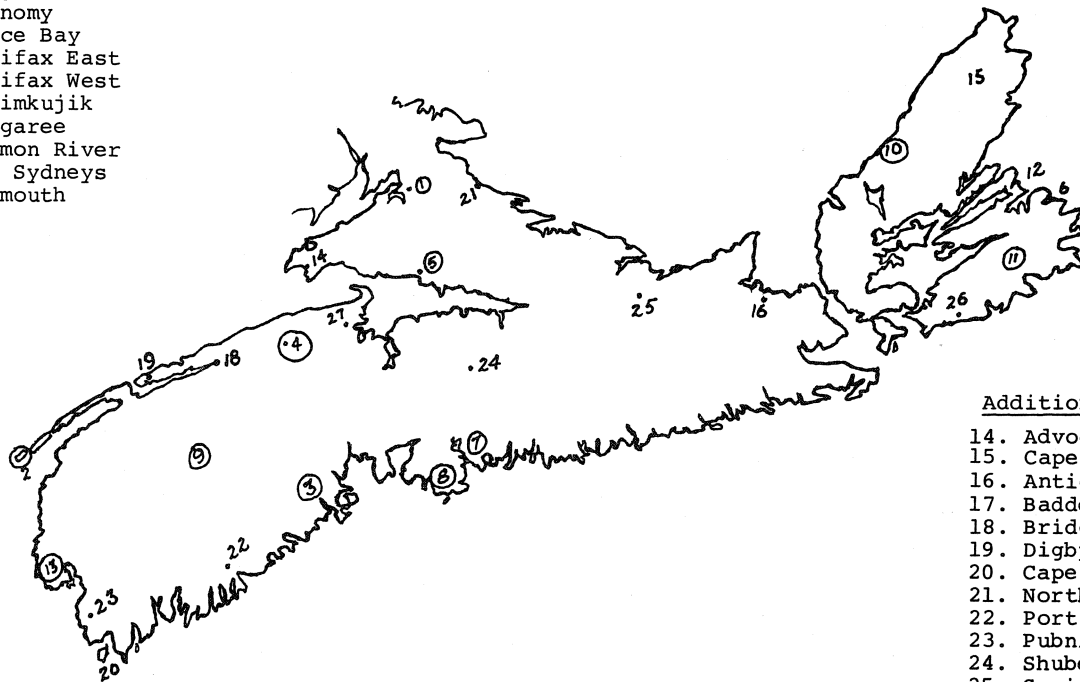
ERRATUM

*NOVA SCOTIA, Vol. 23, No.1, January, 1981, page 22, paragraph 10, line 4, should read ELM not IAM.*

## 1980-1981 CHRISTMAS COUNTS

### AUDUBON COUNTS

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



### Additional NSBS Counts

14. Advocate
15. Cape Breton Highlands
16. Antigonish
17. Baddeck
18. Bridgetown
19. Digby
20. Cape Sable Is.
21. Northport
22. Port Hebert
23. Pubnico
24. Shubenacadie
25. Springville
26. St. Peters
27. Wolfville

N.S.B.S. Christmas Bird Count  
1980/81

This year's cold and windy festive season saw a drop in both species and numbers of birds reported on all our provincial counts. This is best illustrated by the crow roost on Boot Island near Wolfville, when only 8,000 birds could be counted during heavy snow squalls. Both before and after tallies were carried out, and put the roost size at over 20,000 individuals. Broad Cove was another casualty to the weather when miserable conditions reduced their perennial standing on the high count list from among the top 5, to 13th place.

Despite the bad weather conditions, our feathered friends found many ways to surprise us with their hardiness, such as the Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Cape Breton, Water Pipits in Halifax East, Pubnico, and Yarmouth, a Rufous-sided Towhee in Halifax West, plus other extremely good records scattered about the province.

The cold weather did provide a bonus for us with a large crop of Redpolls and Siskins, the first for us in many years. Unfortunately, the rest of the winter finches didn't show up.

Two new species were reported this year - a Common Gallinule on the Halifax East count and a roost of six Long-eared Owls in Wolfville. This puts the all-time Nova Scotia list to 198 species, plus 3 additional races.

Our total of 128 species for this year was down 13 from last year's high, just slightly below average, but our number of individuals fell to a 4-year low of 98,996. The number of counts reported this year fell by 1 to 26, but there was a dramatic increase in the number of participants on the counts, to an all-time high of 368.

ADVOCATE, Dec. 29; 8AM to 4:30PM. Moderate rain AM. Overcast PM. Wind light. Temp. 30-35F. Fresh water frozen. 5 observers in 5 parties. Total party hours 33 (31 on foot, 2 by car). Total party miles 61 (31 on foot, 30 by car).

Com. Loon 1; Red-throated loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 6; Black Duck 225; Com. Goldeneye 6; Bufflehead 3; Oldsquaw 21; Aider sp. 1; White-winged Scoter 2; Surf Scoter 2; Red-breasted Merganser 10; Goshawk 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Peregrine Falcon 1; Purple Sandpiper 201; Iceland Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 8; Herring Gull 125; Ring-billed Gull 1; Rock Dove 2; Com. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 7; Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 14; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 26; Com. Raven 14; Com. Crow 60; Black-capped Chickadee 46; Boreal Chickadee 19; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 16; Starling 53; House Sparrow 90; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Com. Grackle 5; Brown-headed Cowbird 4; Pine Grosbeak 14; Com. Redpoll 3; Dark-eyed Junco 4; Tree Sparrow 17; White-throated Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 46.

Total 48 species, about 1084 individuals. Nan Hennessey, Frank Hennessey (compiler), Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding, Stuart Tingley.

AMHERST, Dec. 23; 7:40AM to 4:40PM. Mostly cloudy AM. Intermittent light snow PM. Wind S. 2-12mph. Temp. -4 to 22F. Fresh and salt water mostly frozen. 11 observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 48.25 (20.75 on foot, 27.5 by car). Total party miles 275 (37 on foot, 238 by car).

Com. Goldeneye 1; Com. Merganser 51; Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 6; Marsh Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Great Black-backed Gull 133; Herring Gull 266; Rock Dove 307; Barred Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 1; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Downy

Woodpecker 15; Horned Lark 27; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 89; Com. Raven 77; Com. Crow 148; Black-capped Chickadee 110; Boreal Chickadee 26; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 44; Bohemian Waxwing 12; Northern Shrike 2; Starling 474; House Sparrow 945; Com. Grackle 1; Evening Grosbeak 65; Pine Grosbeak 30; Com. Redpoll 53; Pine Siskin 8; White-winged Crossbill 9; finch sp. 15; Savannah Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 10; Tree Sparrow 35; White-throated Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 106.

Total 41 species, about 3105 individuals. (CP: Mockingbird). Paul Bogaard, Bob Brittain, Evelyn Coates, Frank & Nan Hennessey, Bob Lamberton, Colin MacKinnon, Dora Myers, Al Smith, Edgar Spalding, Stuart Tingley (compiler).

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 22; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Mostly clear. Wind light. Temp. -4F. Fresh water frozen. 7 observers in 4 parties, 5 at feeding stations. Total party hours  $8\frac{1}{2}$  (2 on foot,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  by car,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  by skis). Total party miles 80 (2 on foot, 71 by car, 7 other).

Com. Loon 2; Great Cormorant 75; Canada Goose 480; Black Duck 191; Greater Scaup 120; Com. Goldeneye 70; Oldsquaw 1; Com. Eider 1; White-winged Scoter 2; Com. Merganser 100; Red-breasted Merganser 25; Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 6a, 6imm.; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Great Black-backed Gull 119; Herring Gull 96; Rock Dove 96; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 1; Blue Jay 18; Com. Raven 63; Com. Crow 84; Black-capped Chickadee 26; Boreal Chickadee 2; Brown Creeper 1; Am. Robin 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; Bohemian Waxwing 17; Starling 30; House Sparrow 144; Com. Grackle 6; Brown-headed Cowbird 4; Evening Grosbeak 6; Pine Grosbeak 10; Pine Siskin 41; Am. Goldfinch 4; White-winged Crossbill 47; Dark-eyed Junco 18; Tree Sparrow 18.

Total 43 species, about 2044 individuals. Alyre Chiasson, Celeste Chiasson, Roland Chiasson (compiler), Stephen Flemming, Jimmy Hardy, Martin Lynch, Marlene Teasdale.

BADDECK, Dec. 26; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Clear. Wind 10-20mph. Temp. -5 to +5F. Fresh water frozen. 18 observers in 7 parties, 6 at feeding stations. Total party hours 20 (12 on foot, 8 by car). Total party miles 97 (16 on foot, 81 by car).

Black Duck 15; Com. Goldeneye 27; Com. Merganser 22; Red-breasted Merganser 2; Bald Eagle 1a, 1imm.; Ruffed Grouse 5; Great Black-backed Gull 9; Herring Gull 57; Mourning Dove 3; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Downy Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 60; Com. Raven 21; Com. Crow 81; Black-capped Chickadee 69; Boreal Chickadee 14; Mockingbird 2; Am. Robin 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; Starling 88; House Sparrow 73; Com. Grackle 1; Evening Grosbeak 35; Pine Grosbeak 37; Pine Siskin 5; Am. Goldfinch 11; Dark-eyed Junco 24; Song Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 7.

Total 31 species, about 703 individuals. Angie Aucoin, George Bartlett, Bill Coleman, Lal Coleman, Charles Fownes, Chris King, Finn King, Iggie King, Anne Lawson, Richard McCurdy, Grace Ann MacDonald, Sybil MacLennan, Edith MacPherson, Gladys MacRae, Jim Morrow, Burland Murphy, Cliff Sollows, Lloyd Stone (compiler).

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 20; 8AM to 4PM. Mostly cloudy with flurries AM. Mostly clear with occasional flurries PM. Wind brisk NW. Temp. -9 to -20C. Fresh water frozen. 23 observers in 5 parties, 14 at feeding stations. Total party hours 27 (7 on foot, 20 by car). Total party miles 82 (17 on foot, 65 by car).

Canada Goose 408; Black Duck 3; Com. Eider 9; White-winged Scoter 1; Goshawk 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 11; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Ring-necked Pheasant 41; Purple Sandpiper 35; Great Black-backed Gull 24; Herring Gull 95; Thick-billed Murre 1; Rock Dove 49; Hairy Woodpecker 15; Downy Woodpecker 14; Blue Jay 162; Com. Raven 22; Com. Crow 200; Black-capped Chickadee 90; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Red-

breasted Nuthatch 6; Am. Robin 13; Bohemian Waxwing 9; Starling 243; House Sparrow 386; Red-winged Blackbird 7; Com. Grackle 14; Brown-headed Cowbird 46; Evening Grosbeak 67; Am. Goldfinch 10; Savannah Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 108; Tree Sparrow 23; White-throated Sparrow 27; Fox Sparrow 5; Swamp Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 4; Snow Bunting 65.

Total 41 species, about 2234 individuals. (CP: Short-eared Owl, Barred Owl, Great-horned Owl, Pine Siskin, Gray Jay, Purple Finch, Gray Partridge, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Grosbeak). Helen Clark, Ann & David Cottenden, John Curry, Calder Fraser, Marion Graves, Mrs. K. Hyson, Terry Hyson, Maude Jodrey, Amy Joyce, Ruth Little, Margaret Lycett, Harry Marshall, Wilfred Marshall, Eric Morris, Bill Morse, Jean Morse (compiler), Eric Porter, Adele Patterson, Alan Slauenwhite, Margaret Smith, Marjorie Stoddard, Stewart Whitman.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 23; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Overcast with intermittent snow AM. Overcast, with intermittent snow/rain PM. Wind SE to SW, 20 to 25 knots. Temp. 12 to 32F. Fresh water frozen. 6 observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 34 (33 on foot, 1 by car). Total party miles 66 (36 on foot, 30 by car).

Com. Loon 15; Red-throated Loon 2; Red-necked Grebe 37; Horned Grebe 3; Fulmar 3; Great Cormorant 137; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 2; Brant 6; Black Duck 6; Com. Goldeneye 62; Oldsquaw 184; Com. Eider 60; White-winged Scoter 2; Black Scoter 18; Com. Merganser 6; Red-breasted Merganser 78; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 5; Gyrfalcon 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 14; Purple Sandpiper 22; Great Black-backed Gull 287; Herring Gull 810; Black-legged Kittiwake 28; gull sp. 8400; Com. Murre 5; Dovekie 3; Black Guillemot 22; alcid sp. 18; Belted Kingfisher 1; Horned Lark 14; Blue Jay 8; Com. Raven 22; Com. Crow 424; Black-capped Chickadee 9; Boreal Chickadee 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 6; Starling 85; House Sparrow 71; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Com. Grackle 8; Brown-headed Cowbird 16; Evening Grosbeak 21; Pine Grosbeak 1; Com. Redpoll 45; Dark-eyed Junco 26; Tree Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 33; Fox Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 5; Snow Bunting 8.

Total 52 species, about 11062 individuals. (CP: Saw-whet Owl, Pine Siskin). Cyril Coldwell, Robbie Denton, Ronnie Denton, Tony Glavin, Peter Smith (compiler), Jim Wolford.

BROAD COVE, Jan. 3; 7:30AM to 5:00PM. Partly cloudy AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind W. 15 to 30mph. Temp. 5 to 14F. Fresh water frozen. 19 observers in 9 parties. Total party hours 69 (39 on foot, 30 by car). Total party miles 238 (56 on foot, 182 by car).

Com. Loon 33; Red-throated Loon 2; Red-necked Grebe 12; Horned Grebe 31; Great Cormorant 18; Canada Goose 24; Black Duck 38; Com. Goldeneye 119; Bufflehead 11; Oldsquaw 86; Harlequin Duck 1; Com. Eider 256; White-winged Scoter 13; Surf Scoter 4; Black Scoter 31; Com. Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 38; Goshawk 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 2a; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 4; Dunlin 3; Sanderling 7; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 108; Herring Gull 965; Com. Murre 1; Bovekie 1; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 30; Mourning Dove 2; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 2; Horned Lark 15; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 50; Com. Raven 37; Com. Crow 248; Black-capped Chickadee 34; Boreal Chickadee 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 14; Golden-crowned Kinglet 16; Starling 117; Yellow-rumped Warbler 3; House Sparrow 191; Rusty Blackbird 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 179; Evening Grosbeak 21; Pine Grosbeak 24; Com. Redpoll 14; Pine Siskin 12; Am. Goldfinch 26; White-winged Crossbill 20; Dark-eyed Junco 225; Tree Sparrow 64; White-crowned Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 65; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 20; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 191.

Total 66 species, about 3472 individuals. (CP: Mallard,

Greater Scaup, Ring-necked Pheasant, Black-bellied Plover). Margaret Clarke, John, Lise, & Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Ben Doane, Evelyn & Fred Dobson, Gillian & Jim Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Anne & Eric Mills, Sandra Myers, Don & Joyce Purchase, Edgar Spalding, Stuart Tingley, Kevin Wagner.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Dec. 21; 9AM to 4:30PM. Overcast with snow. Wind NW 20 to SW 10mph. Temp. -10C to -15C. Fresh water frozen. 20 observers in 11 parties, 6 at feeding stations. Total party hours 38 (6 on foot, 13 by car, other 19). Total party miles 93 (6 on foot, 87 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Red-throated Loon 1; Double-crested Cormorant 5 (no details); Canada Goose 13; Black Duck 2; Com. Goldeneye 37; Bufflehead 5; Oldsquaw 66; White-winged Scoter 1; Red-breasted Merganser 15; Purple Sandpiper 15; Glaucous Gull 3; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 189; Herring Gull 74; Com. Murre 1; Dovekie 5; Mourning Dove 5; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Blue Jay 98; Com. Raven 13; Com. Crow 83; Black-capped Chickadee 20; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Am. Robin 13; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; Starling 46; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; House Sparrow 66; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Evening Grosbeak 4; Pine Grosbeak 7; Com. Redpoll 55; Savannah Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 3; White-throated Sparrow 1; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 4.

Total 39 species, about 867 individuals. (CP: Com. Eider, Bald Eagle, Snowy Owl, Boreal Owl (excellent details), Com. Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Northern Shrike, Com. Grackle). Dave Algar, Rosemary Algar, Bert Buchanan, Jean Buchanan, Lorne Buchanan, Dorothea Cox, Ross Dobson, Irene Gettas, Percy Giles, Maxine Hardy, Chrystal Hussey, Ross Ingraham, Pam MacKay (compiler), Jessie McEvoy, Ken Murray, Linda Murray, Steve Ostrander, Gabrielle Peciva, Hazel Stockley, Murray Stockley.

DIGBY, Dec. 28; 8AM to 5PM. Mostly clear. Wind SE 5mph. Temp. 25F. Fresh water frozen. 5 observers in 4 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 10 (5 on foot, 5 by car). Total party miles 30 (4 on foot, 26 by car).

Com. Loon 1; Horned Grebe 6; Great Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 12; Mallard 1; Black Duck 425; Greater Scaup 30; Com. Goldeneye 45; Bufflehead 105; Oldsquaw 70; Com. Eider 3; White-winged Scoter 112; Com. Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 75; Hooded Merganser 2; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Bald Eagle 1a; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 50; Herring Gull 900; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Black-legged Kittiwake 15; Thick-billed Murre 2; Rock Dove 50; Downy Woodpecker 2; Horned Lark 9; Blue Jay 45; Com. Raven 14; Com. Crow 105; Black-capped Chickadee 35; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Mockingbird 2; Am. Robin 3; Starling 225; House Sparrow 40; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 33; Evening Grosbeak 42; Pine Grosbeak 32; Com. Redpoll 31; Pine Siskin 21; Am. Goldfinch 19; Dark-eyed Junco 39; Tree Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 30; Fox Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 6.

Total 51 species, about 2662 individuals. Kay Banks, Mrs. H.S. Emerson, Barry Sabean (compiler), Janet Sabean, Edith Wightman.

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 8AM to 5PM. Overcast with intermittent, light snow AM. Mostly cloudy PM. Wind NE 5mph. Temp. 10 to 15F. Fresh water frozen. 9 observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 51 (42½ on foot, 6½ by car, 2 on skis). Total party miles 138 (43 on foot, 87 by car, 8 on skis).

Black Duck 407; Com. Goldeneye 2; Oldsquaw 18; scoter sp. 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 2a; Ruffed Grouse 2; Gray Partridge 5; Purple Sandpiper 4; Great Black-backed Gull 12; Herring Gull 247; Rock Dove 40; Mourning Dove 1; Great Horned Owl 4; Barred Owl 1; Hairy Woodpecker 12; Downy Woodpecker 10; Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 2; Horned Lark 3; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 83; Com. Raven 57; Com.

Crow 132; Black-capped Chickadee 88; Boreal Chickadee 27; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 23; Northern Shrike 3; Starling 125; House Sparrow 503; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 62; Evening Grosbeak 6; Pine Grosbeak 35; Com. Redpoll 56; Pine Siskin 11; Am. Goldfinch 8; White-winged Crossbill 67; Dark-eyed Junco 40; Tree Sparrow 31; White-throated Sparrow 9; Song Sparrow 5; Snow Bunting 40.

Total 43 species, about 2192 individuals. Robert Brittain, Sylvia & Terry Craig, Frank & Nan Hennessey, George Perry, Edgar Spalding, Fran Spalding (compiler), Stuart Tingley.

GLACE BAY, Dec. 26; 7:30AM to 3:30PM. Mostly cloudy with fog. Wind WNW. Temp. -2 to 0F. Fresh water frozen. 7 observers in 4 parties, 4 at feeding stations. Total party hours 49. Total party miles 4.

Great Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 22; Mallard 3; Black Duck 120; Com. Goldeneye 8; Oldsquaw 26; Com. Merganser 22; Red-breasted Merganser 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 2a; Com. Snipe 1; Sanderling 3; Iceland Gull 104; Great Black-backed Gull 276; Herring Gull 429; Black-headed Gull 20; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; Rock Dove 21; Mourning Dove 8; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 12; Com. Raven 11; Com. Crow 122; Black-capped Chickadee 13; Am. Robin 1; Starling 549; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; House Sparrow 269; Com. Grackle 1; Evening Grosbeak 14; Pine Grosbeak 3; Pine Siskin 2; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 19; Tree Sparrow 4; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 17.

Total 40 species, about 2029 individuals. Otis Cossitt, Dave Harris, Hedley Hopkins, Sara MacLean (compiler), Douglas McNicol, Jeanne McNicol, Arthur Spencer.

HALIFAX EAST, Dec. 27; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Clear to overcast with light snow AM. Overcast with intermittent snow PM. Wind NE 0 to 15mph. Temp. 12 to 28F. Fresh water frozen. 25 observers in 10 parties. Total party hours 69 (53 on foot, 16 by car). Total party miles 272 (52 on foot, 220 by car).

Com. Loon 56; Red-throated Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 9; Horned Grebe 14; Great Blue Heron 1; Great Cormorant 12; Canada Goose 2162; Black Duck 475; Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 117; Com. Goldeneye 175; Bufflehead 56; Oldsquaw 72; Com. Eider 34; Barrow's Goldeneye 2; White-winged Scoter 24; Black Scoter 12; Com. Merganser 39; Red-breasted Merganser 112; Goshawk 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 4; Bald Eagle 4a, 3imm.; Marsh Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Com. Gallinule 1; Purple Sandpiper 10; Sanderling 1; Iceland Gull 23; Great Black-backed Gull 114; Herring Gull 1624; Ring-billed Gull 74; Black-headed Gull 20; Dovekie 3; Black Guillemot 2; murre sp. 1; Rock Dove 16; Mourning Dove 4; Belted Kingfisher 5; Com. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 10; Downy Woodpecker 8; Horned Lark 39; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 119; Com. Raven 40; Com. Crow 363; Black-capped Chickadee 111; Boreal Chickadee 35; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; Brown Creeper 4; Am. Robin 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 41; Water Pipit 1; Bohemian Waxwing 7; Starling 484; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; House Sparrow 428; Eastern Meadowlark 1; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 160; Evening Grosbeak 68; Purple Finch 26; Pine Grosbeak 6; Com. Redpoll 372; Pine Siskin 306; Am. Goldfinch 46; White-winged Crossbill 67; Savannah Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 200; Tree Sparrow 118; White-crowned Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 48; Swamp Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 47; Lapland Longspur 28; Snow Bunting 256.

Total 81 species, about 8764 individuals. Ross Anderson (non-participating compiler), Michael Bendkin, Bill Caudle, Andrew Clarke, John Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Ben Doane, Jim Elliott, Gillian Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton, Frank Himsl, Mary Himsl, Sandra Isen, Fulton Lavender, Kay Love, Robert MacDonald, Wendy MacDonald, Eric Mills, Roger Pocklington, Pat Pocklington, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Richard Stern, Elizabeth Stern, Ottis Williams.



HALIFAX WEST, Dec. 21; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Clear AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind 20mph. Temp. -2 to 22F. Fresh water frozen. 36 observers in 20 parties. Total party hours 181 (118 on foot, 62 by car, 1 by boat). Total party miles 642 (128 on foot, 509 by car, 5 by boat).

Com. Loon 15; Red-throated Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 15; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 188; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Mallard 45; Black Duck 617; Gadwall 1; Green-winged Teal 10; Wood Duck 1; Com. Goldeneye 17; Bufflehead 1; Oldsquaw 97; Com. Eider 2; White-winged Scoter 77; Black Scoter 230; Hooded Merganser 1; Com. Merganser 10; Red-breasted Merganser 50; Goshawk 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 4; Bald Eagle 1a; Merlin 2; Am. Kestrel 3; Ruffed Grouse 2; Am. Coot 1; Purple Sandpiper 26; Glaucous Gull 5; Iceland Gull 80; Great Black-backed Gull 172; Herring Gull 3609; Ring-billed Gull 21; Black-headed Gull 24; Bonaparte's Gull 3; Dovekie 2; Black Guillemot 40; Com. Puffin 1; Rock Dove 1072; Mourning Dove 21; Great Horned Owl 1; Hairy Woodpecker 12; Downy Woodpecker 27; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 178; Com. Raven 24; Com. Crow 571; Black-capped Chickadee 359; Boreal Chickadee 36; White-breasted Nuthatch 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 29; Brown Creeper 7; Mockingbird 8; Am. Robin 46; Golden-crowned Kinglet 48; Bohemian Waxwing 1; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 3833; Yellow-rumped Warbler 17; Pine Warbler 1; House Sparrow 1770; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Northern Oriole 6; Com. Grackle 10; Brown-headed Cowbird 1002; Evening Grosbeak 499; Purple Finch 2; Pine Grosbeak 55; Com. Redpoll 271; Pine Siskin 249; Am. Goldfinch 3; Rufous-sided Towhee 1; Savannah Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 515; Tree Sparrow 129; Chipping Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 234; Fox Sparrow 7; Swamp Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 61; Snow Bunting 23.

Total 84 species, about 11,109 individuals. (CP: Great Blue Heron, Rusty Blackbird). Ross Anderson, Mairlyn Baker, Michael Ben-skin, Nancy Blair, Hazel Carmichael, Bill Caudle, Margaret Clark, John Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs (compiler), Ethel Crathorne, Ben Doane, Fred Dobson, Gillian & Jim Elliott, Tom Ellwood, Sylvia Fullerton, Dave & Linda Gray, Frank Himsl, Barbara Hinds, John Kearney, Tony Lock, Fulton Lavender, Bob & Wendy MacDonald, Steve Manuel, Anne, Chris, Eric & Karen Mills, Sandra Myers, Joyce Purchase, Elizabeth & Richard Stern, Karl Tay, Betty Topple.

KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK, Dec. 22; 7:15AM to 5:25PM. Clear. Wind SW 0 to 5mph. Temp. -19 to 7F. Fresh water mostly frozen. 11 observers in 6 parties, 4 to 5 at feeding stations. Total party hours 26 $\frac{1}{2}$  (17  $\frac{3}{4}$  on foot, 8 by car,  $\frac{1}{2}$  by snowmobile). Total party miles 117  $\frac{3}{4}$  (23  $\frac{3}{4}$  on foot, 89 by car, 5 by snowmobile).

Black Duck 1; Com. Merganser 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Barred Owl 2; Hairy Woodpecker 13; Downy Woodpecker 9; Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 55; Com. Raven 20; Com. Crow 6; Black-capped Chickadee 72; Boreal Chickadee 5; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 8; Starling 20; House Sparrow 21; Brown-headed Cowbird 8; Evening Grosbeak 18; Pine Grosbeak 3; White-winged Crossbill 1; Dark-eyed Junco 10; White-throated Sparrow 14; Song Sparrow 1.

Total 24 species, about 303 individuals. (CP: Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Ruffed Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin). Chester & Shirley Fancy, John Gorman, Peter Hope (compiler), Bill Hussey, Len MacDonald, Eric Mullen, Rick & Timothy Swain, Freeman Timmons, Gail Waddington.

KINGSTON, Jan. 4; 7AM to 5PM. Partly cloudy with intermittent, light snow. Wind WNW 17mph. Temp. 3 to -2F. Fresh water frozen. 8 observers in 2 parties, 5 at feeding stations. Total party hours 11 (4 on foot, 7 by car). Total party miles 80 (2 on foot, 78 by car).

Com. Eider 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Purple Sandpiper 40; Great Black-backed Gull 7; Herring Gull 87; Rock Dove 6; Downy Woodpecker 4; Horned Lark 10; Blue Jay 97; Com. Raven 26; Com. Crow 304; Black-capped Chickadee 36; nuthatch sp. 1; Am. Robin 13; Bohemian Waxwing 14; Starling 48; House Sparrow 318; Red-winged

Blackbird 8; Com. Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 213; Evening Grosbeak 20; Purple Finch 1; Pine Grosbeak 5; Am. Goldfinch 5; Dark-eyed Junco 84; Tree Sparrow 12; White-throated Sparrow 4; Snow Bunting 60. Total 29 species, about 1428 individuals. (CP: Ring-necked Pheasant). Murray Bent, Betty Donovan, Norman Donovan, Lynn Driscoll, Earle Neily, Larry Neily (compiler), Vivian Neily, Jeff Viets.

MARGAREE, Dec. 29; 8AM to 4PM. Partly cloudy AM. Overcast with fog and intermittent, light rain PM. Wind SW. Temp. 32 to 42F. Fresh water partly frozen. 7 observers in 3 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 27 (12 on foot, 15 by car). Total party miles 96 (15 on foot, 81 by car).

Black Duck 30; Com. Goldeneye 71; Oldsquaw 4; Com. Merganser 44; Bald Eagle 12a, 4imm.; Iceland Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 28; Herring Gull 16; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 85; Com. Raven 34; Com. Crow 112; Black-capped Chickadee 20; Brown Creeper 2; Starling 102; House Sparrow 155; Pine Grosbeak 39; Dark-eyed Junco 6; Snow Bunting 13.

Total 21 species, about 794 individuals. Brenda Hart, Frances Hart (compiler), Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham, Sylvia Ingraham, Alex Miller.

NORTHPORT, Jan. 1; 8AM to 4PM. Clear. Wind north, very light. Temp. 6 to 36F. Fresh water frozen. 2 observers in 1 party, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 8 (2 on foot, 5 by car, 1 other). Total party miles 28 (3 on foot, 25 by car).

Pintail 1; Oldsquaw 38; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Great Black-backed Gull 42; Herring Gull 88; Rock Dove 61; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 26; Com. Raven 25; Com. Crow 48; Black-capped Chickadee 17; House Sparrow 53; Tree Sparrow 3; Fox Sparrow 1.

Total 16 species, about 411 individuals. Duncan MacNeil, Robert MacNeil (compiler).

PORT HEBERT, Dec. 21; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Clear. Wind NW 10 to 20mph. Temp. -5 to 10F. Fresh water frozen. 9 observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 63 (55 on foot, 8 by car). Total party miles 256 (56 on foot, 200 by car).

Com. Loon 15; Red-throated Loon 3; Red-necked Grebe 12; Horned Grebe 53; Great Cormorant 267; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 3822; Mallard 2; Black Duck 394; Pintail 2; Green-winged Teal 1; Greater Scaup 1; Com. Goldeneye 259; Bufflehead 26; Oldsquaw 48; Com. Eider 431; White-winged Scoter 8; Black Scoter 2; Com. Merganser 19; Red-breasted Merganser 63; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Bald Eagle 1a, 2imm.; Marsh Hawk 1; Merlin 2; Am. Kestrel 3; Peregrine Falcon 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Purple Sandpiper 1; Sanderling 10; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 223; Herring Gull 1022; Ring-billed Gull 1; Black Guillemot 11; Rock Dove 25; Mourning Dove 1; Snowy Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Com. Flicker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 2; Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 2; Horned Lark 53; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 39; Com. Raven 11; Com. Crow 122; Black-capped Chickadee 84; Boreal Chickadee 10; Red-breasted Nuthatch 21; Am. Robin 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 74; Northern Shrike 2; Starling 27; Yellow-rumped Warbler 86; House Sparrow 42; Eastern Meadowlark 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 4; Evening Grosbeak 42; Purple Finch 1; Pine Grosbeak 46; Com. Redpoll 44; Pine Siskin 65; Am. Goldfinch 12; Dark-eyed Junco 65; Tree Sparrow 79; White-throated Sparrow 67; Song Sparrow 35; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 106.

Total 71 species, about 7904 individuals. Bill Crosby, Russel Crosby, Emerson Fiske, Frank Hennessey, Nan Hennessey, George Perry (compiler), Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding, Robert Turner.

PUBNICO, Dec. 21; 8AM to 5PM. Partly cloudy with blowing snow. Wind 5 to 30mph. Temp. 4 to 15F. Fresh water frozen. 26 observers in 5 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 40 (30 on

foot, 10 by car). Total party miles 370 (96 on foot, 274 by car).

Com. Loon 2; cormorant sp. 2; Canada Goose 132; Black Duck 156; Greater Scaup 18; Com. Goldeneye 30; Oldsquaw 6; Com. Eider 2; Com. Merganser 19; Red-breasted Merganser 10; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Bald Eagle 1a, 1imm.; Marsh Hawk 4; Merlin 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Com. Snipe 1; Glaucous Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 216; Herring Gull 1128; Ring-billed Gull 7; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; Mourning Dove 10; Com. Flicker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Downy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 15; Blue Jay 17; Com. Raven 15; Com. Crow 277; Black-capped Chickadee 50; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 11; Brown Creeper 2; Hermit Thrush 1; Mockingbird 2; Am. Robin 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet 11; Water Pipit 1; Starling 75; House Sparrow 69; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Rusty Blackbird 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 38; Evening Grosbeak 138; Purple Finch 4; Pine Grosbeak 21; Pine Siskin 16; Am. Goldfinch 16; White-winged Crossbill 12; Savannah Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 60; Tree Sparrow 19; Chipping Sparrow 1; White-crowned Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 73; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 10; Snow Bunting 54.

Total 61 species, about 2793 individuals. (CP: Horned Grebe, Great Cormorant, Iceland Gull, Gray Jay, Com. Redpoll). C.R.K. Allen, Daryl Amirault, Albert d'Entremont, Connie d'Entremont, Craig d'Entremont, Delisle d'Entremont, Onil d'Entremont, Raymond d'Entremont, Timmy d'Entremont, Jerome D'Eon, Lester D'Eon, Michelle D'Eon, Ted C. D'Eon (compiler), Wendell D'Eon, Phyllis Dobson, Edgar Hamilton, Vernita Hamilton, Larry MacKenzie, Jeannine Muise, Ethelda Murphy, James Murphy, Roland Pothier, Veralyn Rogers, Michael Rymer, Barbara Ruff, Eric Ruff.

SALMON RIVER, Dec. 20; 7:30AM to 4PM. Mostly clear AM. Mostly cloudy with intermittent snow PM. Wind NW 10 to 17mph. Temp. 9 to 11F. Fresh water partly frozen. 8 observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 20 (6 on foot, 14 by car). Total party miles 120 (8 on foot, 112 by car).

Double-crested Cormorant 3; Black Duck 9; Greater Scaup 6; Bufflehead 2; White-winged Scoter 3; Bald Eagle 7a; Ruffed Grouse 1; Great Black-backed Gull 166; Herring Gull 187; Bonaparte's Gull 5; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Downy Woodpecker 2; Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 42; Com. Raven 207; Com. Crow 158; Black-capped Chickadee 24; Boreal Chickadee 2; Brown Thrasher 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; Starling 160; House Sparrow 63; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Evening Grosbeak 15; Purple Finch 10; Pine Grosbeak 10; Pine Siskin 32; Am. Goldfinch 36; Dark-eyed Junco 42; Song Sparrow 2.

Total 30 species, about 1205 individuals. (CP: Belted Kingfisher, Com. Redpoll). Otis Cossitt, David Harris, Bertha Hopkins, Hedley Hopkins (compiler), Frances Hussey, George MacInnis, Jack MacNeil, Eldon Meikle.

SHUBENACADIE, Jan. 1; 8AM to 4PM. Mostly clear AM. Clear PM. Wind 10mph. Temp. -16 to -11F. Fresh water mostly frozen. 7 observers in 3 parties, 8 at feeding stations. Total party hours 15 (5 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles 58 (5 on foot, 53 by car).

Black Duck 808; Wood Duck 9; Com. Merganser 150; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Bald Eagle 7a, 2imm.; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Great Black-backed Gull 8; Herring Gull 46; Rock Dove 134; Mourning Dove 2; Barred Owl 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Downy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 9; Blue Jay 84; Com. Raven 164; Com. Crow 450; Black-capped Chickadee 97; Boreal Chickadee 12; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 13; Cedar Waxwing 2; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 359; House Sparrow 202; Com. Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 207; Evening Grosbeak 53; Pine Grosbeak 12; Com. Redpoll 2; Pine Siskin 11; Am. Goldfinch 15; White-winged Crossbill 13; Dark-eyed Junco 60; Tree Sparrow 18; White-throated Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 4.

Total 42 species, about 2989 individuals. Ivan DeLong, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler), Jean Schwartz, Annie Wallace, Lorne Weaver,

Peggy Williams.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 15; 7:45AM to 1:15PM, and 4PM to 5PM. Clear. Wind light. Temp. -22 to 0F. Fresh water mostly frozen. 4 observers in 2 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 14 (10 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 38 (8 on foot, 30 by car).

Bald Eagle 1a; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Great Black-backed Gull 6; Herring Gull 41; Rock Dove 42; Belted Kingfisher 1; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 31; Com. Raven 22; Com. Crow 160; Black-capped Chickadee 47; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; House Sparrow 59; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 19; Evening Grosbeak 8; Pine Grosbeak 1; Com. Redpoll 21; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 2; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 37; Dark-eyed Junco 50; Tree Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 4.

Total 28 species, about 575 individuals. Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Fred Kenney (compiler), Margaret Kenney.

ST. PETER'S, Dec. 26; 7:15AM to 4:30PM. Clear. Wind NW 3mph. Temp. 12C. Fresh water frozen. 4 observers in 2 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 19.5 (10 on foot, 1.5 by car, 8 other). Total party miles 60 (9 on foot, 51 by car).

Black Duck 12; Com. Goldeneye 2; Oldsquaw 1; Surf Scoter 6; Com. Merganser 3; Bald Eagle 1a; Great Black-backed Gull 33; Herring Gull 69; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 5; Com. Raven 2; Com. Crow 34; Black-capped Chickadee 6; Mockingbird 1; Starling 13; House Sparrow 76; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Evening Grosbeak 12; Purple Finch 5; Pine Grosbeak 8; Com. Redpoll 21; Pine Siskin 6; Am. Goldfinch 15; Dark-eyed Junco 9; White-throated Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 9.

Total 29 species, about 361 individuals. (CP: Cedar Waxwing). E. Digout, Murdock Digout (compiler), William Digout, Katherine Robertson.

THE SYDNEY'S, Dec. 27; 8AM to 4PM. Clear. Wind NW 10mph. Temp. 2 to 24F. Fresh water partly frozen. 4 observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 14 (6 on foot, 8 by car). Total party miles 130 (4 on foot, 126 by car).

Mallard 28; Black Duck 36; Com. Goldeneye 108; Oldsquaw 7; Com. Eider 1; Barrow's Goldeneye 3; White-winged Scoter 28; Com. Merganser 24; Red-breasted Merganser 140; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 3a; Glaucous Gull 14; Great Black-backed Gull 620; Herring Gull 700; Rock Dove 30; Downy Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 16; Com. Raven 25; Com. Crow 140; Black-capped Chickadee 24; Am. Robin 2; Starling 225; House Sparrow 142; Brown-headed Cowbird 7; Evening Grosbeak 32; Pine Grosbeak 7; Am. Goldfinch 24; Savannah Sparrow 12; Dark-eyed Junco 14; Tree Sparrow 1.

Total 30 species, about 2414 individuals. (CP: Cedar Waxwing, Baltimore Oriole, White-throated Sparrow). Otis Cossitt, Bertha Hopkins, Hedley Hopkins (compiler), Eldon Meikle.

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 21; 7:30AM to 5PM. Mostly cloudy, intermittent, moderate and drifting snow in squalls. Wind NW, light to 25 - 30 knots. Temp. 0 to 2F. Fresh water frozen. 44 observers in 17 parties, 10 at feeding stations. Total party hours 172, including feeders. Total party miles 295 (64 on foot, 217 by car, 14 on skis and snowshoes).

Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 183; Mallard 25; Black Duck 588; Pintail 2; Com. Goldeneye 10; Com. Merganser 35; Goshawk 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 37; Rough-legged Hawk 17; Bald Eagle 3a, 7imm.; Marsh Hawk 3; Merlin 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 632; Gray Partridge 90; Com. Snipe 1; Great Black-backed Gull 505; Herring Gull 1135; Rock Dove 541; Mourning Dove 261; Barred Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 3; Long-eared Owl 6; Com. Flicker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 14; Downy Woodpecker 35;

Horned Lark 157; Blue Jay 366; Com. Raven 392; Com. Crow 8600; Black-capped Chickadee 158; Boreal Chickadee 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 2; Mockingbird 2; Am. Robin 116; Golden-crowned Kinglet 16; Bohemian Waxwing 8; Starling 2351; House Sparrow 1588; Com. Grackle 10; Brown-headed Cowbird 1285; Evening Grosbeak 98; Purple Finch 20; Pine Grosbeak 48; Com. Redpoll 53; Pine Siskin 2; Am. Goldfinch 31; Savannah Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 678; Tree Sparrow 118; White-throated Sparrow 105; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 39; Lapland Longspur 14; Snow Bunting 278.

Total 60 species, about 20,818 individuals. (CP: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Red-winged Blackbird, Rufous-sided Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow). Doug Archibald, Ron Arsenaault, Peter Austin-Smith, Adeline Bayne, Curtis Chipman, Cyril Coldwell, Margaret Connolly, Chris Corkett, Carolyn Crawford-Smith, Andy Dean, Rachel Erskine, Mark Forbes, Mary Forbes, Bernard Forsythe, Sandra Forsythe, Jamie Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Ed Goodstein, Chris Hawes, Blanche Healy, Paul Healy, Tom Herman, Ruth Hersey, Cindy Hiseler, Bob Lutes, Peter MacDonald, Sheri MacDonnell, Andrew MacInnis, Pat Martell, William Martell, Randy Milton, Reg Newell, Shirley Prescott, Mark Pulsifer, Bob Simmons, Peter Smith (compiler), Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Lillian Tufts, Robie Tufts, Eva Urban, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 28; 7:30AM to 5PM. Mostly clear with fog offshore AM. Mostly clear PM. No wind. Temp. 12 to 32F. Fresh water frozen. 42 observers in 8 parties, 10 at feeding stations. Total party hours 55½ (36½ on foot, 19 by car). Total party miles 270 (55 on foot, 215 by car).

Com. Loon 11; Red-throated Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 6; Horned Grebe 24; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 3; Canada Goose 158; Black Duck 557; Greater Scaup 11; Com. Goldeneye 163; Barrow's Goldeneye 4; Bufflehead 43; Oldsquaw 129; Com. Eider 16; White-winged Scoter 2; Surf Scoter 50; Com. Merganser 54; Red-breasted Merganser 78; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 2a; Marsh Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Am. Kestrel 4; Ruffed Grouse 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 12; Am. Woodcock 1; Purple Sandpiper 1; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 175; Herring Gull 1123; Ring-billed Gull 11; Black Guillemot 4; Rock Dove 62; Mourning Dove 26; Belted Kingfisher 2; Com. Flicker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Downy Woodpecker 5; Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 170; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 118; Com. Raven 184; Com. Crow 375; Black-capped Chickadee 97; Boreal Chickadee 18; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 34; Brown Creeper 2; Mockingbird 5; Am. Robin 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; Water Pipit 1; Starling 376; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; House Sparrow 218; Eastern Meadowlark 3; Red-winged Blackbird 24; Com. Grackle 34; Brown-headed Cowbird 248; Cardinal 1; Evening Grosbeak 135; Purple Finch 10; Pine Grosbeak 13; Com. Redpoll 215; Pine Siskin 22; Am. Goldfinch 41; White-winged Crossbill 26; Dark-eyed Junco 159; Tree Sparrow 25; White-throated Sparrow 99; Fox Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 30; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 221.

Total 78 species, about 5674 individuals. C.R.K. Allen, Margaret Allen, Caroline Allworth, Christopher Allworth, Loran Baker, Craig d'Entremont, Delisle d'Entremont, Ted d'Eon, Anthony Dobson, Bradford Dobson, Elizabeth Dobson, Evelyn Dobson, Fred Dobson, Phyllis Dobson, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, June Graves, Estelle Green, Helen Hall, Mildred Hatfield, Marion Hilton (compiler), Sylvia Hilton, Adele Hurlbert, Evangeline Killam, Dorothy Kirk, Genevieve MacCrae, Douglas MacLeod, Ethelda Murphy, Muriel Murphy, Lawrence Murphy, Margaret Nickerson, Arthur Porter, Hilda Robbins, Marcy Rogers, Veralynn Rogers, Henry Ross, Barbara Ruff, Eric Ruff, Michael Rymer, Robin Rymer, Edwin Sollows, Vera Sollows.

Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals - 1980 Christmas Count

This year's Christmas Count was remarkably quiet, with only 23 new high counts being established. These are shown by underlined numbers in this summary.

As in the past, coastal counts predominated the number of high counts, lead by Halifax West with 29, followed by Wolfville with 20, and a real surprise this year, Port Hebert in third place with 16.

Two new species were added to the Nova Scotia list, and they are underlined in this summary. As mentioned before, this brings our all-time list to 198 species, plus 3 additional races.

Com. Loon 56 (Halifax East); Red-throated Loon 3 (Port Hebert); Red-necked Grebe 37 (Brier Island); Horned Grebe 53 (Port Hebert); Pied-billed Grebe 2 (Halifax West); N. Fulmar 3 (Brier Island); Great Cormorant 267 (Port Hebert); Double-crested Cormorant 2 (Brier Island); Great Blue Heron 3 (Yarmouth); Canada Goose 3822 (Port Hebert); Brant 6 (Brier Island); Mallard 45 (Halifax West); Black Duck 808 (Shubenacadie); Gadwall 1 (Halifax West); Pintail 2 (Port Hebert & Wolfville); Green-winged Teal 10 (Halifax West); Wood Duck 9 (Shubenacadie); Greater Scaup 120 (Antigonish); Com. Goldeneye 259 (Port Hebert); Barrow's Goldeneye 4 (Yarmouth); Bufflehead 105 (Digby); Oldsquaw 184 (Brier Island); Harlequin Duck 1 (Broad Cove); Com. Eider 431 (Port Hebert); White-winged Scoter 112 (Digby); Surf Scoter 50 (Yarmouth); Black Scoter 230 (Halifax West); Hooded Merganser 2 (Digby); Com. Merganser 150 (Shubenacadie); Red-breasted Merganser 140 (The Sydney's),

Goshawk 3 (Bridgetown & Wolfville); Sharp-shinned Hawk 6 (Halifax West); Red-tailed Hawk 37 (Wolfville); Rough-legged Hawk 17 (Wolfville); Bald Eagle 16 (Margaree); Marsh Hawk 4 (Pubnico); Gyrfalcon 1 (Brier Island); Peregrine Falcon 1 (Advocate & Port Hebert); Merlin 2 (Halifax West & Port Hebert); Am. Kestrel 4 (Yarmouth); Ruffed Grouse 5 (Baddeck & Bridgetown); Ring-necked Pheasant 632 (Wolfville); Gray Partridge 90 (Wolfville); Am. Coot 1 (Halifax West); Com. Gallinule 1 (Halifax East);

Am. Woodcock 1 (Yarmouth); Com. Snipe 1 (Glace Bay, Pubnico & Wolfville); Purple Sandpiper 201 (Advocate); Dunlin 3 (Broad Cove); Sanderling 10 (Port Hebert).

Glaucous Gull 14 (The Sydney's); Iceland Gull 104 (Glace Bay); Great Black-backed Gull 620 (The Sydney's); Lesser Black-backed Gull 1 (Digby); Herring Gull 3609 (Halifax West); Ring-billed Gull 74 (Halifax East); Black-headed Gull 24 (Halifax West); Bonaparte's Gull 5 (Salmon River); Black-legged Kittiwake 28 (Brier Island); Com. Murre 5 (Brier Island); Thick-billed Murre 2 (Digby); Dovekie 5 (Cape Breton Highlands National Park); Black Guillemot 40 (Halifax West); Com. Puffin 1 (Halifax West).

Rock Dove 1072 (Halifax West); Mourning Dove 261 (Wolfville); Great Horned Owl 4 (Economy); Snowy Owl 1 (Port Hebert); Barred Owl 2 (Amherst & Kejimikujik National Park); Short-eared Owl 3 (Wolfville); Long-eared Owl 6 (Wolfville); Belted Kingfisher 5 (Halifax East); Com. (Yel.-sh.) Flicker 1 (Advocate, Halifax East, Port Hebert, Pubnico, Wolfville & Yarmouth); Pileated Woodpecker 4 (Baddeck); Hairy Woodpecker 15 (Bridgetown); Downy Woodpecker 35 (Wolfville); Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 2 (Economy & Port Hebert); Horned Lark 170 (Yarmouth); Gray Jay 9 (Shubenacadie); Blue Jay 366 (Wolfville); Com. Raven 392 (Wolfville); Com. Crow 8600 (Wolfville); Black-capped Chickadee 359 (Halifax West); Boreal Chickadee 36 (Halifax West); White-breasted Nuthatch 7 (Bridgetown & Wolfville); Red-breasted Nuthatch 34 (Yarmouth); Brown Creeper 7 (Halifax West); Mockingbird 8 (Halifax West); Brown Thrasher 1 (Salmon River); Am. Robin 116 (Wolfville); Hermit Thrush 1 (Pubnico); Golden-crowned Kinglet 74 (Port Hebert); Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 (Cape Breton Highlands National Park); Water Pipit 1 (Halifax East, Pubnico & Yarmouth); Bohemian Waxwing 17 (Antigonish); Cedar Waxwing 2 (Shubenacadie); N. Shrike 3 (Economy).

Com. Starling 3833 (Halifax West); Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 86 (Port Hebert); Pine Warbler 1 (Halifax West); House Sparrow 1770 (Halifax West); Eastern Meadowlark 3 (Port Hebert & Yarmouth); Red-winged Blackbird 24 (Yarmouth); N. (Baltimore) Oriole 6 (Halifax West); Rusty Blackbird 2 (Broad Cove); Com. Grackle 34 (Yarmouth); Brown-headed Cowbird 1285 (Wolfville); Cardinal 1 (Yarmouth); Evening Grosbeak 499 (Halifax West); Purple Finch 26 (Halifax East); Pine Grosbeak 55 (Halifax West); Com. Redpoll 372 (Halifax East); Pine Siskin 306 (Halifax East); Am. Goldfinch 46 (Halifax East); White-winged Crossbill 67 (Economy & Halifax East); Rufous-sided Towhee 1 (Halifax West); Savannah Sparrow 12 (The Sydney's); Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 3 (Glace Bay); Dark-eyed (Slate-col.) Junco 678 (Wolfville); Tree Sparrow 129 (Halifax West); Chipping Sparrow 1 (Halifax West & Pubnico); White-crowned Sparrow 2 (Halifax East & Pubnico); White-throated Sparrow 234 (Halifax West); Fox Sparrow 7 (Halifax West); Swamp Sparrow 3 (Halifax East); Song Sparrow 61 (Halifax West); Lapland Longspur 28 (Halifax East); Snow Bunting 278 (Wolfville).

#### ERRATUM

Nova Scotia Birds, Vol. 23, No. 1, Page 19. The Blue Grosbeak at Marg Clark's should read one bird, not 20+

#### TRANSLATIONS

(from page 22)

1. Woodcock
2. Osprey
3. Downy Woodpecker
4. Bobolink
5. Arctic Tern
6. Common Loon
7. Kittiwake
8. Black Scoter
9. Bay-breasted Warbler
10. Golden-crowned Kinglet

## Notes



## Notes

## Notes

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY,  
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