

**NOVA
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BIRDS**



JULY 1981

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INTRODUCTION
Spring 1981

This is June 7, 1981, and in two more weeks we will again have come to the end of "What they call spring, in Nova Scotia". We hear ourselves referred to frequently these days as a "disadvantaged people", and I am sure this last March, April and May, we felt that to be true.

After all, we did have to wait for that first swallow; the February remission brought false hope and shortly after our last report, winter gripped us again, with sub-zero temperatures, deep snow and howling gales. The early melt actually did grave harm to certain of the shrubs and fruit-trees which, with the return of winter were literally nipped in the bud.

Reluctantly the temperatures rose again, hovering around 0° in March, 5° in April and 10° in May, but falling below zero most nights. The winds stayed cold, the rains frequent, but in between the sun shone and plant growth resumed where it had left off. Insects hatched out, the frogs began to sing and our birds returned to us, species by species, all on time and most of them in good numbers.

The picture of our bird world is never the same, as revealed in reports, from year to year and season to season. This year we have the "usual rarities" (stray passerines and big waders) but there is one in particular which missed the last publication and which is most extraordinary: an Ani (sp.) which stayed two days at Debert last December (1980) and was identified there by Carl Adshade, who is fortunately familiar with Florida birds, and who reported it to R. W. Tufts, who vouches for it. Of interest also is a new species which is gaining a foothold in Nova Scotia, the House Finch. This bird is said to be extending its range in the northeastern region generally, in North America. The only noticeable increases in native species is in numbers and distribution of the Mourning Dove and possibly the Northern Oriole. Increase in numbers of the Mourning Dove is mentioned by William Townsend in the last number of Guillemot, a Maine publication, and reads: "Mourning Doves everywhere. I have been banding quite a few at Sorrento and nearly everyone has damage to their feet due to freezing in the winter. Nearly all are missing claws or even complete toes". They are ill-equipped for our winters.

We are still short of Nighthawks, Chimney Swifts and Winter Wrens; these last two shortages also mentioned in Guillemot, Vol. 10, No. 2. (In other words, are not purely local).

In spite of its early setback and doubtless because of the frequent rains since then, renewal of foliage in the last three weeks has been spectacular. Firs and spruces are heavily tasseled with new growth, not a leaf missing on the hardwoods and all of them perfect and delicately green, and some of these trees and many shrubs tightly packed with blossom, promise of fruit to come.

Fill this shrubbery with singing birds in bright plumages and go searching them out some fine morning and it is hard to feel like a disadvantaged person - but (to quote another current saying), "don't let it get around".

Phyllis R. Dobson,
Records Ed.

SPRING BIRD REPORT, 1981

LOONS AND GREBES

COMMON LOONS were abundantly reported this period, almost entirely from the Eastern and South Shore areas; exceptions were: one at APBS April 25 (CD); 2, May 16 & 18 Brier I. (RD) and 2, May 2, from somewhere in Cape Breton (HEH). First appearances on fresh water were: a bird at Sandy Bottom Lake April 6, the day after the ice went out (MCC) and one at Rocky Lake April 2, with other sightings on neighboring lakes thereafter (L & PP). There was apparently a considerable concentration of Common Loons in the waters just east of Halifax, March 28-29: 40, March 28 in the Cow-Bay-Hartlen-Point area (FLL); 5, March 29, at Rocky Run, and 30, at nearby Three-Fathom Harbor (RBS&NSBS field party). Five pairs were seen at Scraggy Lake, Mooseland April 26 (FLL).

All three sightings of RED-THROATED LOONS were from the Bay of Fundy: 3 - first for the season - at Economy, March 21 (FLS); one, well seen and other more distant "probables" at Grand Pre April 25 (JWW), and 3, April 26, at Evangeline Beach (BLF).

RED-NECKED GREBES were more heavily reported this year than last for the same period - fifteen reports of 85 birds as compared with just four reports totalling 62 birds - if that tells us anything! There were no great numbers at any one place or time this year, 12 birds at Ste. Ann's Point being the largest. First birds in breeding plumage were at Mahone Bay, April 17, seen by the Cohrs who report that about half of the dozen or so seen at Green Bay on the following day were in their summer dress.

No definite signs of a definite migratory movement of the HORNED GREBE appeared in the reports received this spring. The greatest number noted was 20, in St. Margaret's Bay, March 19 (KNK). Of the nine reports (total of 50 birds), all but one at Wallace Bay, May 19, were from the South Shore. The Wallace Bay reports were courtesy of our New Brunswick friends, David Christie and Eric Tull, and this last report was the latest record for the period.

Ten PIED-BILLED GREBES were seen April 11, at APBS and "many more heard". There were 20 there April 18; 6, April 20, and 20 again May 3 (CD). Only other sightings were one at Beaver River, Yar. Co., April 12 (CRKA) and one, April 17, at Palmer Brook near Wentworth (EH).

C.R.K.A., Ed.

FULMARS TO CORMORANTS

The two earliest NORTHERN FULMARS were unusually close in shore--single birds off Chebucto Head, Feb 22 (FLL,WC) and off Hartlen Point, May 25 (FLL). Raymond d'Entremont saw about 25 on the Lurcher Shoal, west of Yarmouth, on Mar. 27, but they were not numerous. He saw only one bird, on May 4, during a ten day trip to Georges' Bank, "very strange--there should have been thousands". Actually, Fulmars only began to be common south of Nova Scotia in the 1970's; perhaps the cycle is reversing? Finally, Kevin Wagner saw a couple of birds 20 miles off Chedabucto Bay on April 1.

There was a single SOOTY SHEARWATER on Georges' Bank, May 15, a WILSON'S STORMPETREL, May 16, and a GREATER SHEARWATER, May 18 (RSd'E) --our only records of these three species.

By contrast, there are many sightings of NORTHERN GANNETS, beginning with 10 adults off Hartlen Point on Mar. 25, and 60 on Mar. 28 (FLL), 3 on the Lurcher Shoal, Mar. 27 (RSd'E), and 15+ on April 1 and 8+ on April 8 (all adult) 20 miles off Chedabucto Head (KW). Migration off Southern Nova Scotia continued well into May, with 14 off Hemeon Head, Shel. Co., April 23 (D&J Young) and several near Seal Island, May 15-18 (RBS). There were 25 birds off Brier Island on April 19, 10 on April 26, 2 on May 2, 5 on May 10, 50+ on May 10 (subadults) and 3 immatures on May 23 (SIT,FLS,AG,RD)

GREAT and DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS were both regularly recorded --Greats from Mar. 1 (30 birds at Mahoney's Beach RDC, SPF), but Double-crested not until April 1 (one at Porter's Lake, Halifax Co., (FLL) and one--the first of the year--at Economy on Apr. 4 (FLS). Both Greats and Double-crested were well settled and in breeding plumage at Taylor Head, Halifax Co., on May 16 (SCM), Francis Spalding calls the single Great we saw at Economy on May 17, "a late transient". One large flock is worth noting: 300+ Double-crested in the Lawrencetown-Three Fathom Harbour-Seaforth area on April 17.

RGBB,Ed.



Ipswich sparrow

HERONS, IBIS

Early reports of the GREAT BLUE HERON are of two at Cow Bay (FL) and one at Economy (FS) March 28, then of two at Argyle (DJd'E) and singles at Queensland (KNK) and Brier (RD) March 29. The first week in April found them at Port Joli (BA), Homeville (WP), Lawrencetown (FL,RBS), Amherst (EH), and Eel Brook (CRKA); by this time several were at the Channel I. colony off Argyle (LM). Two were at the Boot I. colony, Kings Co., April 19 (JWW). It is mentioned as more frequent in the Mooseland area in recent seasons (WT).

An adult LITTLE BLUE HERON was at West Pubnico, Apr. 16-27 (TCD'E DJd'E, E & VH et al.) Another (or the same?) was at Brier, Apr. 30 - May 1 (RED,RD). An early GREAT EGRET was in the Sydney area, Mar. 19-26 (HEH,FR) and another was at Robert's I. Yar. Co., May 9. SNOWY EGRETS Apr. 13 at Brier (RD,AG) and May 29 at Lawrencetown (SIT,EPS), and a BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON at Seal, May 15-18 (NSBS) round out the list of occasional herons.

The AMERICAN BITTERN, on the Audubon Society's Blue List of species currently thought to be on the wane, received only six mentions; the first were at APBS, Apr. 11 (CD), at Berwick, Apr. 13 (EH), and at Paradise, Apr. 26 (JM). May reports are from Pubnico (DJd'E), Keji (CF), and Lawrencetown (FL).

Five GLOSSY IBISES were at Northport from Apr. 11, first noted by John Wile (fide SIT), to Apr. 17 (RGMacN). Another was at Brier, Apr. 30 - May 8 (RD,RED,AG) and may, who knows, have gone on to Seal, where one was present May 15-18 (NSBS).

FS, Ed.

GEESE AND DUCKS

CANADA GEESE were reported on the move throughout March in all areas in the province though no great numbers were seen, the largest being several thousand at Morien Bar in the middle of the month (AF & HEH). By May 9, all had left Lusby Marsh except for one nesting pair (CD) but a few were still at Pomquet Beach, Ant. Co., May 25 (RDC & SPF).

All BRANT sightings are from the Bay of Fundy except for 9 seen by the Cohrs at unusually close range - about 100 feet - at Cherry Hill Beach, April 19. They were seen through March and April at Brier I. in numbers varying from several to over 80 (RD). The other reports are from the Grand Pre area: about 50, April 19 (JWW); about 25, April 26 (RBS), and up to 70, May 11 (EH). Non-breeders of this species often linger in the Grand Pre area well into late spring.

Several SNOW GEESE, 3 or 4, were at Lusby Marsh from April 21 to May 3 (EH & CD).

MALLARD reports continue to increase; they were reported from thirteen points from all parts of the province, mostly in pairs, a total of 71 birds in sixteen sightings.

BLACK DUCKS began to appear on fresh water as soon as the ice disappeared - March 8, at New Ross (KNK) - although many were evidently paired in February. No great numbers were reported, 100+ in the Sydney-Mira area (HEH) and a 'peak' of 100 at Lusby, April 11 (CD) being the largest. A brood of 6, seen near Amherst, April 30 (CD) was the earliest recorded; others were seen at Summerville, May 10 (LM); Mira, mid-May (GC), and Lawrencetown, May 24 (RBS), sizes not given.

The resident GADWALL at Sullivan's Pond this year disappeared, April 16, (FLL). With one exception all other sightings were of from

1 to 5 birds in the APBS vicinity (CD et al.) The exception was a pair at Canard, May 26 (EH).

Most PINTAIL records are for March except for APBS and Lusby Marsh where there were 20-40 birds through late March and all of April with a 'peak' of 80 in the latter place, April 30 (CD). The only other large number was 20 at Eddy Marsh near Amherst, March 22 (SIT). There was a pair at Economy, March 30, and a single male at Lawrencetown, March 2 (FLL) where on the 29th the Cohrs saw two males and a female. A similar triangle was seen April 1, near the mouth of the Canard River where a few had spent the winter (BLF).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL began to show up in late March, 2 males at Eddy Marsh on the 22nd (SIT), a single male near Berwick, March 30 (EH) and another at Economy on the 31st (FLS). There were 40 at Lusby, April 11 and 60 there on April 25 (CD). Greatest number however, was 110 at La Planche River near Amherst, April 21 (CD).

Three sightings of COMMON TEAL were recorded; one at Lusby Marsh, April 1 (SIT), 1, at La Planche River April 21 (SIT), and one, keeping company with a female of indeterminate species at Wallace Bay, April 9 (EH).

Of 11 reports of BLUE-WINGED TEAL, all but three are from points in the Bay of Fundy area, being of singles and pairs - except for 10, April 1 and 30, May 3 at APBS (CD); the other sightings were at Shefffield Mills (FJP&AM), Brier I. (RD&AG), Canard (RN), Port Williams (JWW), Avonport (JB&EH), all during April. The non-Fundy records are of a pair at Lawrencetown, April 5 (KNK), another pair at Port Joli, April 24, (CFLK) and 2 at Seal I. May 16 (RBS).

A male EUROPEAN WIGEON was seen with several of the American species at Debert on May 1, and again on May 8 (EH&MRLF).

The AMERICAN WIGEON arrived early: a pair appeared at Eddy Marsh on March 20 and was joined by two other pairs on March 22 (SIT); there were 2, at Sullivan's Pond from the 22nd of March to April 12 (FLL); a pair at Lawrencetown on March 28 and 29 (Cohrs and KNK) and 3, at Economy, April 4 (EPS). A pond near Canning was home for up to five WIGEON from March 30 to April 23 (BLS,JWW,BLF), and 10, were seen at Antigonish Harbor, April 12 (RDC) and at Wallace Bay, May 20 (SIT). At Lusby and APBS, 2 Wigeon appeared on March 28, and increased to 60 by April 17. The peak was 100 at Lusby April 30 (CD&EH).

All SHOVELER reports are from the Bay of Fundy region. They were first noted April 11, at Lusby, when three birds were seen, numbers increasing to 20 by the 17th. At APBS there were 12, April 2, 10, April 30 and 16, May 3 (CD,SIT). Two males at Upper Canard were seen by several observers, April 8 to April 16 (JWW,BSC,BLF,EH). There were also 4, at Wallace Bay, May 22 (SIT) and 1, a male, near Port Williams, April 25 (JWW).

A female WOOD DUCK wintered at Sullivan's Pond and left on April 4, just missing a male which arrived April 16 (FLL). One showed up at APBS April 11 (CD), two males were at Palmer Brook, near Wentworth, April 17 (EH) and a male at Moschelle, May 8 (WEW).

The North Shore seems to be the favored regions for REDHEADS. There was a pair at Wallace Bay, April 9, where a pair was also seen about this time last year (EH), and another pair arrived at APBS April 18 and was seen regularly from then on (SIT,CD).

RING-NECKED DUCKS arrived a week earlier than last year, 5, showing up at APBS on March 28 (CD&SIT). They were well distributed

in lakes, mainly along the South Shore, but also at Wallace, Grand Lake, APBS and in the Valley; highest number recorded being 50+ at Wallace, April 26 (EPS&FH).

Four CANVASBACKS have been reported from Wentworth Park, Sydney, seen there March 4-15, three drakes and a female. Daily sightings were by Hedley Hopkins and Otis Cossitt, who wrote that these birds were in a fresh water brook running into two larger bodies of salt water; the brook, called Wentworth Creek, is well known for strays.

Rafts of GREATER SCAUP seem to have dwindled in size during the past few years; the only significant one this spring was one that peaked at about 350 at Salt Bay, Yar. Co., March 4 (PRD). The only other flocks larger than a handful were 40, at Rose Bay, March 28, and about 75 in the LaHave River, March 29 (LC&KW). Small numbers were still around at Bayport, Lun. Co., till April 17 (Cohrs), at Salt Bay, April 27, and at Brier I., where one still lingered until May 7 (RD).

One LESSER SCAUP was also seen at Brier I., April 17-19 (SIT&RD).

Largest number of COMMON GOLDENEYES recorded was 400 at Tidnish March 28 (SIT); all other sightings were considerably smaller: 35+ at Brier I., March 1st (RD); 60, at Lawrencetown Lake, March 2, (FLL); over 50 at Brier, March 10 (RD) and 40-50 at Malagash, April 26, this being the latest record for the season.

There were three BARROW'S GOLDENEYES, one male and two females at Tidnish, March 28, and a pair at Northport on the same date (SIT).

Annie Raymond writes that BUFFLEHEADS, once "abundant as English Sparrows" in Annapolis Basin have dwindled to a very few during the last two winters; and reports from other localities bear this out. Greatest numbers seen in other localities were 18, at Parrsboro, March 22 (SIT) and 15, at Seaforth, April 17, and the same number at Melbourne Sanctuary, April 26 (FLL,CRKA). The other seven reports were of three birds or less.

OLDSQUAWS were well reported from all coastal waters throughout March and April - no May sightings this year. Greatest numbers were in the waters just east of Halifax: 200 in the Hartlen-Point-Eastern-Passage area, March 10, and 40 in the same locality March 25 (FLL). Up to 60 were seen by the NSBS party in and around Three Fathom Harbor, March 29. Last sighting was of a pair in breeding plumage on a fresh water pond at Port Williams, April 25-26 (JWW).

On a flight from Halifax to Liverpool, May 10, the greatest concentration of COMMON EIDERS noted was in the waters off the Society's recently acquired Indian Island. About 350 were in rafts just off the shore and another 150+ were basking on the rocks (JSC). Quite respectable numbers were reported from other areas too: 2000 at Hartlen-Point-Devil's-Island, March 10 (FLL); 200+, at Taylor's Head, May 16 and 23 (KT) and about 100 at Annapolis Basin, April 6 (AKR). About 50 pairs were reported at Taylor's Head on May 23rd (NSBS field party) and several hundred around Seal I. May 15-18 (RBS).

Great numbers of SCOTERS appeared in Green Bay in mid-April and again in early May. There were 1000+ there April 17-20 of which about 65% appeared to be SURF, 10% WHITE-WINGED and the remainder BLACK (Cohrs); on May 10, John Cohrs estimated another 1500 of which about 75% were Surf. Fulton Lavender chalked up about 300 on March 10, in the Hartlen-Point-McNab's-Island waters; Black Scoters appeared in flocks of 20-25 in Green Bay, April 11 (JSC); Economy, April 18 (FH) and at Highland Village, May 12 (EH).

One RUDDY DUCK, unusual in spring, was at Amherst Point, May 11 (JWW).

A total of 9 HOODED MERGANSERS were reported in seven localities: a female at Rocky Run, April 1, (FLL); a pair at Wentworth, April 3 (EH); a male at Eddy Marsh, April 7, and a pair at the Middleton sewage lagoon, April 20 (SIT). There were single birds at Wallace, April 26 (EPS, FH), at Port Joli, May 16 (CFLK), and at New Ross, May 19 (KNK).

Most COMMON MERGANSERS reported were 2's and 3's, although a few concentrations were observed: 21, at Point Aconi, April 21 (HEH); 18+ at Glace Bay Sanctuary, March 29 (SM); 60, Northumberland Strait, March 2 (DM) and up to 100 Eel Lake, March 28 (PRD).

Large concentrations of RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were reported from a number of localities: 400, March 2, at Northumberland Strait (DM); about 100, March 16, at Eel Brook estuary, males predominant (PRD); 250+ at Port Howe, March 28 (RBS); 300-400, April 26, near Port Howe (EPS, FH) and 60, May 4, at Odgen's Pond, Antigonish (RDC, SPF).

C.R.K.A., Ed.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

A TURKEY VULTURE was on Digby Neck, its favourite N. S. locale, May 1 (RD)

Two GOSHAWK nests are reported: one with three eggs, Apr. 27, at Canaan (BLF), the other at Paradise, May 19, found by J. Durling (fide J&WM). The only other reports are from Port Howe in March (SIT), from Arisaig (JSC), Parquet Beach, Ant. Co. (SPF) and Brier (RD) in May. The SHARP-SHINNED HAWK was well-reported (12 observers); 10 birds were at Brier, May 16 (RD), the only sizable number noted.

RED-TAILED HAWKS were equally widespread, noticed throughout the period, often in pairs. A surprising number of BROAD-WINGED HAWKS is reported. The first was at New Ross, May 2 (KNK), with other early arrivals in Yar. Co., May 3 (SCH, PRD) and Brier May 5, where there were four (RD). Also at Brier there were 14-15, May 10-11, and 12, May 25 (RD). On the latter date a pair was already on the nest at Pleasant Lake (MR). Most of last winter's ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS had moved on by the end of February but five in March and three in April were followed by very tardy migrants in May, the last at Brier, May 23 (RD) and at Lusby, May 25 (SIT).

HEH saw 12 BALD EAGLES in Cape Breton in the Feb.-May period. JG reports them numerous in Orangedale in March-May. The species was also noted more than once in Yar. Co. (PRD, CRKA) and Gaspereau (J&WM, JW). The NORTHERN HARRIER (Marsh Hawk) was first noted at Pubnico, Mar. 19 (RSd'E) and Mar 30, at Berwick (EH). About 30 were seen in April, with 8 at Brier, Apr. 26 (RD). Eleven were there May 10 (RD). The first OSPREY appeared at Lawrencetown, Apr. 5 (RBS); by mid-month nine had been reported. Nesting pairs were already busy Apr. 17 at Indian Path, Lun. Co. (J&JSC) and Cow Bay, May 10 (RBD)

A dark-phase GYRFALCON was at Lusby, Apr. 10 (SIT), a gray-phase at Grand Pre, Apr. 25-28. A white-phase was at Brier (no date, RD). The only PEREGRINE was one at Conrad's Lake Road, Lun. Co., Apr. 17 (JLC) A late-winter MERLIN was in Dartmouth, Mar. 11 (FL); the first spring birds were Apr. 4 and 11 (no. loc. RDC, SPF) and Brier (SIT et al.) Five May reports are all of single birds in transit. A wintering KESTREL was at Lawrencetown, Feb. 28 (L&PP); the first migrants appeared on Brier, Mar. 31 (RD), in King;s Co., Apr. 1 (BLF) and

Lawrencetown, Apr. 5 (RBS). By mid-month they were wide-spread and on May 8 comes word of a first egg (BLF).

GROUSE THROUGH MARSH BIRDS

The SPRUCE GROUSE, more retiring than ever at this time of year, receives only four mentions (KNK,EH,NSBS,EPS). Nine observers report the RUFFED GROUSE, first heard drumming at Sandy Bottom Lake (MCC). Ten reports of the RING-NECKED PHEASANT are from the western areas of N.S., with a nest of 10 eggs from Wolfville, May 18 (JWW). The only mention of the GRAY PARTRIDGE is of two at Economy. May 16 (EPS).

A VIRGINIA RAIL was at APBS throughout May (SIT). Two SORA were at Berwick, May 11 (EH). JWW heard 3-4 at APBS the same day; SIT estimates the mid-May population there at 30, with an additional 20+ in the Wallace Bay area, numbers which indicate the species is apt to be under-reported. Across the border, near Sackville, a YELLOW RAIL on territory, was seen by twenty birders, May 20 at midnight (SIT)

An adult PURPLE GALLINULE appeared at Russel Lake, Dartmouth, May 27 (FL,KNK). It was seen subsequently by several others and joined May 29 by a one-year old bird with brownish facial shield (FL). Being an optimist, FL says he hopes to add a new species to the N.S. breeding list. The only COMMON GALLINULE report is of one, May 9, at APBS (CD). The first AMERICAN COOT appeared there Apr. 1 (CD) where the number stabilized at less than ten for most of Apr.-May (EH,JWW, CD,SIT) but with 16 on May 9 (CD). The Sullivan's Pond bird was last seen Apr. 24 (FL).

FS,Ed.

SHOREBIRDS

This report records only the early-migrating shorebirds, for our reporting period artificially breaks the spring migration into two parts. Thus, the late May-early June peak has been missed, at least until the next issue.

Most species occurred on conventional dates, though SEMIPALMATED PLOVER were sparsely reported. CRKA noted probable breeders at Cook's Beach on May 31. PIPING PLOVER arrive in mid-April; the first appeared at Mahoney's Beach on April 12 (RDC,SPF). By May, RDC and SPF recorded only 8 breeding pairs along the Nova Scotian shore of Northumberland Strait, the same as last year. At Cadden Bay, a stronghold 18 were present on April 22 (D&JT), and breeders were in evidence at the usual places in Halifax County during May.

KILLDEER were well reported, beginning their north to southward influx on March 29 (Conrad's Beach-NSBS) and April 5 (Economy-EPS), thereafter reported throughout the province in April and May. At Lawrencetown Lake a lone AMERICAN (LESSER) GOLDEN PLOVER appeared on March 29 and stayed through April 1 (NSBS). BALCK-BELLIED PLOVER were sparsely reported beginning May 10; an early (or late-lingering) bird was at Cherry Hill Beach on March 28 (LC,KW).

WOODCOCK and COMMON SNIPE followed their usual patterns, the first sparsely reported on and after March 27 (Economy - FS), the latter first reported March 22, at Port Joli (CFLK) but peaking throughout the province during the second week of April.

No WHIMBREL were reported in April this year, and thereafter only 2, the first at Cherry Hill on May 10 (JSC), the other at Little Harbour Island, Pictou County on the 12th (RDC,SPF).

An UPLAND SANDPIPER was at Brier Island on 1 - 2 May (WL, RD), another at Seal Island May 18 (R.R.Veit and M. Litchfield).

A very early SPOTTED SANDPIPER was at Peggy's Cove on April 28 (CF). The usual migration after the first week of May was well documented. The first WILLETTS appeared in numbers on schedule in Yarmouth County on April 26, were "general" there by May 5, and had moved northeastward to Economy by May 13 (EPS). GREATER YELLOWLEGS appeared first at the Nappan River tidal dam on April 10 (SIT), then were regular and abundant everywhere from April 20 through May. As usual, LESSER YELLOWLEGS were scarce: 1 at Sheffield Mills, April 1 (FJP, BCS); 2 at Cape Jourimain, N.B., April 11 (SIT), and 3 at the John Lusy Marsh on May 1 (CD).

15 PURPLE SANDPIPERS remained at Brier Island until May 9 (RD).

On April 11, an unprecedented 700 PECTORAL SANDPIPERS were reported in Massachusetts (fide R.R.Veit); 9 at Cape Jourimain, N.B. on the same day (SIT) were probably part of the same migratory movement. Another of these very scarce spring migrants was reported at Conrad's Beach on May 17 (EH).

By May 15 some of Nova Scotia's breeding LEAST SANDPIPERS were singing on territory on Cape Sable Island (ELM). Small migratory groups were reported throughout the province beginning May 1.

Stuart Tingley reports an unusually interesting group of sandpipers at Woodpoint, 8 km west of Sackville N.B., during the last week of May. Among 10,000 - 20,000 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS (remarkable numbers in spring), a breeding-plumaged CURLEW SANDPIPER appeared on May 25. It could not be located again because a Peregrine Falcon kept the birds on the move on following days.

DUNLIN records were few but unexceptional: 1 at Cherry Hill on April 12 (JSC) and 5 at Matthews Lake on April 21 (D&JT). Our only report of a SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER is from Cole Harbour on May 10 (FL).

Migrant SANDERLINGS, sparse at best, usually occur late in May. Only 3 reports came in, all from earlier dates, April 22 - 19 May.

All three PHALAROPES were reported, beginning with a few NORTHERNS west of Pubnico Point on May 8 (DA); later small groups were still present east of Seal Island on May 15 (NSBS). 25 RED PHALAROPES were at Brier Island on May 19 (RD). Our records of WILSON'S PHALAROPES come from the border region of New Brunswick: a female at Cape Jourimain, on May 10, (SIT, BDM) and 2 pairs in their usual haunts in the Tintamarre National Wildlife Area in late May (SIT), no doubt getting ready to breed.

ELM, Ed.

JAEGERS TO AUKS

First, a late report held over from last time--a probable LONG-TAILED JAEGER off Brier Island on Nov. 10 (RD).

I will preserve my usual reticence about HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS. There were many of them, as usual. I believe the LESSER BLACK-BACK was around for much of March at the Volvo plant on the Halifax waterfront, but the only report received was R.B.Dickie's from Mar. 1. There is no report of our old friend from Digby this spring. GLAUCOUS GULLS were few this year, with no definite sighting south of the Halifax area; the latest bird seen there was at Grand Desert on May 3 (Cohrs). However, I'm sure there must have been more

up on Cape Breton, but we have few reports from up there for this issue. ICELAND GULLS were reported from all around the province as usual, from North Sydney, Cape Breton, to Brier Island. The latest sightings were 6 birds at Westport, Brier Island, in early May (RD), a late bird at Economy on May 9 (SIT, EPS, BDM), and 3 at the fish plant at Daniel's Head, Cape Sable Island, on May 15 (SIT, BDM).

The first RING-BILLED GULL records come from Eel Lake, Yar. Co.: 39 on Mar. 23, 10 on Mar 28, 50+ on Mar 29 and 5 on April 3 (PRD, CRKA). Meanwhile there were 5 at Northport on Mar. 28 and 25 at Loudon the same day, and 120 at Northport on April 13 (SIT); all were adults. Two more flocks are worth noting--20 at River Philip on April 16 and May 7 (DSC & Mary Majka), and 75 in the Pugwash area on May 19 (DSC, CET)

The rarest gull this time is the FRANKLIN'S which was seen on Brier Island on May 13-14 (RED, RD, AG, WL). Fulton Lavender reports small numbers of BLACK-HEADED in the Halifax area from the beginning of March to at least the end of May. There were small numbers at Antigonish sewage plant, Feb. 28--March 1 (RDC)--mostly immatures but with some adults. Hedley Hopkins saw 62 at Point Edward on April 9. BONAPARTE'S GULLS were as usual, mostly in the western part of the province and rather scarce: a maximum of 10 at Eel Lake from March 23 to April 3 (CRKA, PRD). 10-15 on March 24 and 3 on May 25 at Pomquet Beach, Antigonish (RDC, SPF). 4 at Northport (SIT) and 3 at Loudon, Cumberland Co., May 19 (DSC & CET). The only report from the Atlantic shore was an adult in winter plumage at Dartmouth on Mar. 17 (FLL). Finally, there were 5 BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES off Chebucto Head on Feb. 22 (FLL), one on the Lurcher Shoal off Yarmouth on Mar. 27 (RSd'E) and an immature between Clark's Harbour and Seal Island on May 15 (RBS).

Robbie Denton believes he saw a possible ROYAL TERN at Brier Island on May 14. Most of the rest of our sightings were COMMONS, ARCTICS and, of course, "COMICS". There were 3 "Comics" about 4 miles west of Pubnico on May 5 (DA), 35 Commons at Mahoney's Beach, Ant.Co., May 10 (RDC), 1 at Albro Lake next day (FLL), 10 on Cape Sable Island on May 15 (SIT, BDM), and 100+ at Mahone Bay, May 16 (LC & KW), the first definite Arctics--6 of them--were at Seaforth, Halifax Co., on May 19 (FLL). BLACK TERNS arrived a little later, with 3 at APBS on May 18 (EH), 1 there next day (CET & SIT) and 3-4 pairs settled in by late May (SIT).

BLACK GUILLEMOTS were reported in small numbers off Brier Island, Feb. 28-May 23, with a maximum of 20+ on April 18-20 (RD, BPS). A bird in summer plumage was seen there on March 18 (RD). Fulton Lavender saw 9 birds in summer and 1 in winter plumage at Hartlen Point on Mar. 25.

The only other auks were a THICK-BILLED MURRE on Feb. 22, at Ketch Harbour (FLL, WC), 3 RAZORBILLS on Feb. 24 at Mira Bay (OC, HEH) and 4 DOVEKIES in Morien Bay on April 4 (HEH).

RGBB, Ed.



DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS

One ROCK DOVE was at Brier, May 20 (RD), one was already two weeks old in Antigonish, March 31 (RDC) and in Yarmouth, there were lots in town, few in the country (PRD). MOURNING DOVES are more widely reported, many at feeders. There were 16 at Pubnico, Apr. 20, and of the 14 still there May 28, one was carrying nesting material (TCD'E). Disappointing, but not surprising, is the absence of Cuckoo reports.

Four GREAT HORNED OWLS (MCC,BA,CRKA) include one that had somehow become soaked by oiled water at Eel Brook. It was netted, cleaned and released by the Wildlife people (PRD). Single SNOWY OWLS remained at Falmouth until Apr. 19 (CK), at Grand Pre until Apr. 26, (RBS) and at Cox Heath, C.B., until Apr. 28 (HEH). Nine reports of BARRED OWLS (21+ birds) include 5 nests in the Wolfville area, all with young by late May (BLF). A LONG-EARED OWL was found dead of starvation at Three Fathom Harbour, March 29 (RBS), but the species did somewhat better at Wolfville where two nests were found: one was lost to a racoon, the other, on an artificial site, courtesy of BLF, held four eggs on May 21. The only SHORT-EARED OWL reported is one at APBS May 13 (SIT). HEH reports four SAW-WHET OWLS from the Sydney area; the only others are second-hand reports of several dead ones in Shelburne Co. (fide B.MacD)--presumably of starvation.

NIGHTHAWK, SWIFT, HUMMINGBIRD, KINGFISHER

Two very early NIGHTHAWKS were at Paradise, May 5, heard and seen ("hurried observation",JM). The only others that arrived in time for the deadline were at Brier (JWW) and Sandy Bottom Lake (MCC) May 25, and at Kentville, May 29 (JWW). An early CHIMNEY SWIFT at Delorey's Beach, Antigonish Co., Apr. 30 (RDC) is noteworthy. Still early is one at Bible Hill, May 6 (A&ER). 200 ("at least") at Wolfville, May 12 (JWW) is an impressive number and signals the main migration following several reports of a few, May 9-10 (BLF,JM,PJA-S, RSD'E). A RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, May 2, at Yarmouth (MWH) was well ahead of schedule. First dates within the normal range were May 13 at Economy (EPS), May 15 at New Ross (KNK) and Wolfville (JWW) and May 20 at Barney's River, Ant. Co. (JS&JLC). A male at Glace Bay May 19, is the earliest recorded there; normal for the area is May 25 SM). The BELTED KINGFISHER was at Port Joli (BA) and Three Fathom Harbour (NSBS) Mar. 29, at Queensland, March 30 (VK); most reports, however, are for late April and May.

The COMMON FLICKER arrived in the southwest in early April with one at Pubnico, Apr. 3 (Jd'E), two at Brier (RD) and one at Queensland, Apr 4 (VK). One at Economy, the same day (FH) was the earliest yet for that locality. The main migration is suggested by 15+, Apr. 8 at Brier (RD) and "all around the house" at Port Joli, Apr. 11 (JA). There were six eggs in a nest at Oak I. Kings Co., May 21 (BLF). A dozen PILEATED WOODPECKERS are reported including three pairs, one with a nest and four eggs, May 18 (BLF). An adult RED-HEADED WOODPECKER was at Seal, May 16-18 (NSBS--all notes from Seal so designated are courtesy of RBS). Two early YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS appeared on Brier, Apr. 4 (RD); the period, Apr. 29-May 9, includes most of the few other reports. HAIRY and DOWNY WOODPECKERS are well reported, the BLACK-BACK THREE-TOED, not at all.

FS, Ed.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

There were no April EASTERN KINGBIRDS seen this year, the earliest date being May 11 in Kings Co. (BCS). Three more reports came

from King's Co., in mid-May. (BLF,BW). The first kingbird arrived on Brier, May 19, numbers mounting to a small peak of 7 on the 26th and falling to four next day. Other kingbirds were in Halifax Co., May 19, and Colchester Co., May 22 (RD,FLL,EH).

Our earliest returning flycatcher, the EASTERN PHOEBE, appeared even earlier than usual at L.W. Pubnico, on March 30, remaining until April 4 (RSD'E). A phoebe arrived on Brier, April 5, on Bush I. (Lun. Co.) April 11, and Port Joli on the 18th (RD,Cohrs, B&JA). By the 27th phoebes were in King's Co., at White Rock bridge, where a pair had completed a nest by May 27 (JW,BLF).

No YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS were seen and very few ALDER FLYCATCHERS were noted--and those there were, were a week later in arriving. Dates are: May 22 (Wolfville Ridge) and May 26 (Brier and Eel Brook). LEAST FLYCATCHERS were on time but not in usual numbers. Edgar Spalding noted that a least in Economy on May 10 was early for there. By the 13th they were heard in King's Co., by the 18th at New Ross, by the 27th on Brier and on the 29th at Eel Brook. These were all reports of single birds except at New Ross (3) and Eel Brook (several). So far, a poor showing for the EMPIDONAX group.

Wickerson Lent, on Brier, sent a report of an EASTERN WOOD PEWEE on the incredibly early date of March 30. There was a considerable delay before the other four reported were seen:-May 13, White Rock, 22nd, Greenfield, 27th, Economy and 29th, Wolfville.

Only three OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS managed to get here in time to be seen or heard before our deadline. They were: May 22 and 27th at Greenfield and May 30 at Kegeshook (Yar. Co.) (JW,BLF,CRKA).

HORNED LARK flocks began to disappear as spring progressed. A flock of 15 was seen on Brier, March 10 and one of 32 at Morien Bar, April 4. Two late singles were still hanging about, May 10 & 11 at Cherry Hill and Berwick (JSC,MRLF&EH)

As is usual, the return of the swallows was heavily reported. Apart from 5, March 31, on Brier, the TREE SWALLOW migration began around April 4, with small numbers occurring on Brier, at Kentville, Little Salmon River Road, L.W. Pubnico, Petite Riviere and Broad Cove, between then and the 11th. Numbers picked up as the month progressed. There was a flock of 35 at Canard on the 12th, 40 on the 20th at APBS, swelling to 500 there by May 3rd. Earliest seen in Yar. Co., were 10 on April 26, and first for Cape Breton, one on May 11 at Glace Bay. On May 7, KNK saw 200 near Upper Sackville. In the second half of May large flocks were still arriving, 200 being seen at Wallace Bay, May 19. John and Shirley Cohrs observed 200+ Tree Swallows resting, exhausted on the edges of a small pond behind a restaurant near Antigonish. The next evening (it was an excellent restaurant) they had recovered sufficiently to be up and flycatching about. (May 21)

BANK SWALLOWS first appeared on May 9, when 2 were seen at L.W. Pubnico and one at Crousetown (DJd'E, JSC). By the 10th, they were on Brier and by the 15th, at Economy. "Many" were on Seal, May 15-18. By the 19th they were observed at Russel Lake (2), Paradise (3) and Sunday Pt., Yar. Co. (10+).

BARN SWALLOWS seem even more abundant than usual. They began slowly during the last week in April--L. W. Pubnico, April 26 (1), Rawdon Hills and Truro, the 29th (1 each) and Halifax. Co., on the 30th (2). On May 3, the first was recorded in Yar. Co., while 24+ rested on the rocks by the side of the road at Three Fathom Harbour. The weekend of 15-18 May, saw "many" on Seal and nests were being started then at Mooseland. They were on the way to what may be a

bumper year.

CLIFF SWALLOWS arrived in the main during the second half of May. A few early birds appeared--May 2 (4) Tusket Power Dam, May 10 (1) Cole Harbour, May 17 (4) Bridgewater and May 18 (1) Russel Lake. There were 9 at Annapolis Royal on 20th and 12 over a pond in S. Antigonish Co. on the 22nd. Thirteen or so were investigating old nest sites on Brier, May 25.

PURPLE MARTIN. Con Desplanque writes from Amherst that the birds were back at the Rose and Amos colonies there by May 9. The only other Martin report is of one female, May 16, at E.W. Pubnico.

CORVIDS

A few GRAY JAYS were reported from wooded areas, mostly in March before they retreated even more deeply into the forest to nest. Two were seen by Michael Rymer on May 10, in the Summersville area of Yar. Co.

BLUE JAYS were much more in evidence and seemed in no hurry to leave the feeders and suburban gardens. In fact, a few people who had fewer Bluejays during the winter, reported that they came back to the feeders in March and April and even into May.

COMMON RAVEN. Not much is reported about Ravens this time of the year, their having retreated to nest in late Feb. or March. One pair had young fledged and out of the nest by May 18 at Lumsden Dam, Kings Co. (BLF) Perhaps the 15 seen playing in an up draft over Salt Bay, Yar. Co., on April 21, were taking a break from their parental responsibilities.

COMMON CROWS, always seen on a bird trip at any time of the year become less noticable in spring during their nesting season (early, 'tho not as early as Ravens). A pair of crows nested at Margaret Clark's in Halifax, close to the house, where she had a front row seat from which to observe their behavior. They took turns incubating the eggs and proved to be excellent parents, protective and conscientious.

The BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE story seems to be consistent in all areas. They attended regularly at feeders until the middle of May, when they appeared once again along the wood edges. The Cohrs found a pair constructing a nest at Petite Riviere on May 15.

In the appropriate areas BOREAL CHICKADEES seemed as plentiful as usual. Con Desplanque counted 10 at Lusby, April 20; they were common at Mooseland, May 16, and plentiful on Seal, May 15-18.

Eight WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES attended feeders in April and May. Of all reports sent in of this species almost all are of birds at feeders. A rare "wild" one was seen by Lise Cohrs and others at Smiley's Park on the Hants Co. trip, May 30. The more common RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH was more heavily reported. MAC had a pair in Halifax and another pair in St. Croix. Other pairs were at Pleasant Lake and Liverpool. Scattered singles were around at Mooseland and Antigonish Co. The only hint of any migratory movement was on Brier, May 17, when RD counted 15.

Although quite a few BROWN CREEPERS were seen around in March and early April, there are not many spring sightings. Phyllis Dobson was enchanted at hearing (and seeing) a creeper singing on April 26 at Bell Neck. BLF found a nest with eggs at Greenfield, May 22.

A single HOUSE WREN was seen by those on Seal May 15-18.

Only three or four WINTER WRENS were heard before May was out. A very early one was at Pleasant Lake, April 10, (another or the same there May 9-21) one May 8 at L. W. Pubnico and one in the Goodwood Area, May 20. (RSD'E,MR, JSC)

Two or more MOCKINGBIRDS were on Brier in April and May and the usual one or two in Dartmouth at the same time. On May 25, at least four were nestbuilding at the Fraser house in Windsor where they nested last year. Although this is a spring report, the occurrence of a Mocker at the R. S. Johnson's in Liverpool all winter until mid March is worthy of mention. Mr. Johnson remarked that "by its actions" it was probably the same one he had in 1979-80. Its actions? From time to time it fought savagely with its own image in the car side mirrors, even going into the garage to do this if the doors were left open.

In the eleven days between May 16 and 27, the GRAY CATBIRDS arrived. There was an earlier sighting at Liverpool on the 12th, but all other dates are in this period.

No one ever goes to Seal I. without seeing a BROWN THRASHER, and true to form, our only one this spring was there May 16-18.

AMERICAN ROBINS came in huge numbers as usual, beginning in the last week in March--also usual. CRKA had a probably "new" Robin March 13, very bright, vocal and lively. They were out on lawns by the end of the month and there were "lots", "everywhere", "well distributed" by the end of the first week of April. An unusual phenomenon of this year's migration was the lack of many large flocks. Only two were mentioned--one of 250+ at Petite Riviere, April 10-12, and a "big influx", May 4, at Tusket (JSC,CRKA).

The HERMIT THRUSHES moved in during the last week in April. Early dates were : April 11 (1), Sandy Bottom Lake and (1) W. Pubnico April 14 (1) Argyle Head and (1) Canaan. PRD writes of "usual" numbers in Yar. Co.--i.e. "many heard singing all over the woods". Keith Keddy found them "rather common" at New Ross by May 1. As usual they came quietly with no large flocks seen.

SWAINSON'S THRUSHES arrived later and most reports are of singles. First heard on May 16, at Port Joli and Mt. Pleasant, Lun. Co., they were at Round Hill (2) by May 3 and Mooseland by the 16th. The 22nd saw one at Blomidon Park and on the 23rd at least 5 were at Mooseland, seen at Wendie Tay's by NSBS members in the teeming rain.

Numbers of VEERY are up--nine birds reported between May 15 and 26. They were wide-spread from Kings, Halifax, Lun. and Yar. Counties and Brier and Seal Islands.

Two EASTERN BLUEBIRDS were seen by Stuart Tingley and Edgar Spalding on April 18 at Digby Neck (sexes not mentioned).

There are only two spring reports of GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS. On May 10, RD saw two on Brier and on May 22, JSC had a singing golden-crown near Antigonish.

The pattern of arrival of the RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS seems clear from reports received. They arrived between April 25-28. True, there were a few earlier dates--April 11 at Economy (1), the 17th at Greenfield (1), the 18th at Brown's Brook, Lun. Co. (2), but all other reports from far and wide were within the aforementioned four days. Almost all reports however, were of single birds and, although

distribution seems wide-spread, it is the opinion of this editor that numbers are sadly down, one bird being heard on a long woods walk where normally there would be 8-10.

On April 9, Hedley Hopkins saw a flock of 24 CEDAR WAXWINGS at Sydney--truly an early date for Cape Breton. There were 3 on Brier on the 26th and eleven there the next day. Last report is of 5 in the south end of Halifax, May 26 (RBS).

MWH found STARLINGS very much in evidence around the shores of Yar. Co. in April. Keith Keddy writes, "once again this spring I'm blessed with a nest pair in my Flicker box"!!

JSC, Ed.

VIREOS

Two weeks before the rest, on April 23, a SOLITARY VIREO was heard singing at Port Joli, by C.F.L. Kelsey. Tufts gives May 6 as an early date, May 14 average for this bird; this year we had reports of them on May 8 from Yarmouth and Brier I.; May 9 from the Valley and Economy; May 10 from Shelburne, Halifax and Kings Counties, the rest later with reports from 34 areas up to May 30.

The RED-EYED VIREO on the other hand, seems to have been a little late; the expectable early date was May 19, but our first was heard on May 22, at Tusket (CRKA), only 6 reports thereafter up to May 30 (but since then many have come in, assuring us of a normal population)

WOOD WARBLERS

Most often, if you wish to find an early warbler you can walk along a country road one morning in April or May, and the earliest heard will be a YELLOW-RUMPED (Myrtle) with its unmistakable wistful quaver; or you may try in the evening to raise a trout from a dead-water in a heath bog, and hear the hoarse trill of a PALM. The main thing is to be in the right place at the right time, and if you cannot manage either of the above methods, go to Brier Island. Not all of our birds come in via Brier, but a good proportion do, and this year these included both the Myrtle and the Palm: the Myrtle on April 4 (no fooling, 5 of them were counted by Robbie Denton and Anthony Glavin), and the Palm, April 18, noted by Robbie Denton. Aside from these, there were 9 April reports (of first sightings) of the Myrtle and 17 in early May, and it is now very general and abundant. There were 6 April (first) reports of the Palm and 8 (firsts) in May and it appears to be present in normal numbers in appropriate habitat.

Of our 22 summer resident warblers we have 21 accounted for, the Mourning Warbler still missing. Besides this, we have one exotic, a Hooded Warbler, a bright male seen (at 40') and heard by Raymond S. d'Entremont at L.W. Pubnico. (One other possible exotic was a PRAIRIE WARBLER which Jim Wolford says he does not wish to claim as he did not see it, but was "pretty sure he heard males singing, once on Brier I. May 25, and once earlier in Blomidon Park"...he is familiar with the song from elsewhere. Since this warbler is so expectable it seems proper to include it.)

One of our most reported warblers is the BLACK-AND-WHITE, which is surprising, considering how inconspicuous its coloring is, and how high-pitched its peculiar little song. Nevertheless, it is one of the easiest seen, perhaps because of its habit of crawling around tree trunks, often at eye level. At any rate, it is reported from 33 localities, the first one heard, April 29, near Deep Brook Ann. Co.

(MCC), 6 other reports by May 8; one of our earliest and most abundant warblers.

An exception to our rule (about Brier I.) was the TENNESSEE, the earliest seen on May 10 at Economy (BDM); 7 reports altogether, from Colchester, Kings, Halifax and Lunenburg counties only, up to May 30.

For the NASHVILLE, earliest dates were May 8, seen that day on Brier by RD and the same day, 2 males at Newtonville, Kings Co., by BLF; then not until May 12, thereafter 23 reports, very general.

The PARULA arrived on May 8, seen that day at Markland, Yar. Co. (MWH,SCH); on May 9, at 5 different places : Lr. Eel Brook (PRD), Brier I. (RD), Kejimkujik Park (CF), Green Bay, Lun. Co. (JSC), Economy (FH). By May 23 this warbler was generally distributed, in proper territory.

A very early YELLOW WARBLER was seen April 29, at Milford Station (MRLF), the next a week later at Brier I., Paradise and in Yarmouth Co., then 6 reports all on the 15th of May, a big wave, and 10 more up to May 30; the Yellow well distributed in settled areas as well as woodland by now.

There have been 9 reports of the MAGNOLIA from May 9 to May 30, and it is now general and abundant. This is the warbler which must be seen to be believed; it has infinite variety of song and can so easily be confused with the Redstart on the one hand, the Chestnut-sided on the other, that the most experienced among us routinely check any but the most unmistakable version of its rather unremarkable warble. Since both of the birds also mentioned here also have great variation in their songs, the same caution applies to them, i.e. identification by song only--have a care!

The CAPE MAY, seen on May 11 (first) at Economy (EPS) was reported from four other places only: Halifax Co., Brier I., Antigonish and Antigonish Co., this last the only place for multiple sightings, 5-6 seen near Arisaig (JSC).

The BLACK-THROATED BLUE received 10 reports, the first at Brier, very early, April 11 (WL), and by RB on May 8; then on May 10 at Economy and Waverley, Halifax Co. (L&PP): at 3 other places next day and by May 27 well distributed.

The BLACK-THROATED GREEN was first heard May 8 at Middle West Pubnico (TCd'E) and Brier I. (RB), and on May 9 and 10 arrived in force, noted in 7 different places simultaneously and in good numbers, in fact, is still the most often heard of all the warblers in spruce wooded areas.

The BLACKURNIAN was noted in 7 places only, May 7 to May 30, first at Lr. W. Pubnico (RSd'E), nest, May 9 at Keji Park (CF); the other localities being Halifax Co., Economy, Antigonish, Tidnish and Brier I. (where 7 were seen May 26, so are probably still coming in).

The CHESTNUT-SIDED was first noted at Markland, Yar. Co. (SCH) on May 8, then simultaneously on May 18 at Port Joli, New Ross and Seal I. (B&JA,KNK,RBS), before and after that at 11 other places.

The BAY-BREASTED was reported only from 5 localities, the earliest, May 16 from Mooseland (SCM); but again there were 6 seen on Brier, May 27, so more should be distributed soon.

The first BLACKPOLL WARBLERS were 2, May 9, at Glenmont, Kings Co. (L&JM) and only four areas reported after that up to May 30.

Fifteen at Brier I., May 20 suggests a good "wave".

The OVENBIRD received 13 reports, the first, May 11, 2 heard at Paradise (J&WM), and is, next to the Black-throated Green the most often heard in the woods (but more likely beechwoods) since the latest record, May 30.

The NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH was lightly reported as usual, the earliest, May 9, at White Rock, Kings Co. (BLF); 8 others, and none from SW Nova Scotia.

The COMMON YELLOWTHROAT was first reported May 11 at Carleton, Yar. Co. (PRD), thereafter 11 areas reporting, very general distribution but possibly not as many as usual heard along the roadsides. This could be due to cold wet weather (less singing).

Few of the WILSON'S WARBLER have been noted so far; only 7 areas reporting, May 16 to May 25 - the first, May 16 at Economy (FLS), none then until May 20, one at Spectacle Lake, Dartmouth (FLL). There were 3 males seen at Brier I., May 25, and this was the last reporting date, for a change.

The CANADA is always a late warbler (Tufts gives earliest date as May 15, average, May 25) and we had our first May 17 this year, at Brier I., then 3, May 18 at New Ross; one male, May 19 at Blomidon Park, only 3 other reports.

The AMERICAN REDSTART came rather with a rush, starting May 15, with 3 reports (Economy, Dartmouth and Quinan, Yar. Co., about as far apart as you can get); 5 reports followed on May 16, from widely separated areas, and since then 5 more, so that distribution is now very general, and numbers appear to be good.

Our Cape Breton records have been received but no warblers nor vireos were reported. They undoubtedly will be, later.

PRD, Ed.

HOUSE SPARROW

Most reports of the HOUSE SPARROW are a succinct "As usual", but there were a few interesting comments this spring: at Sydney, HEH has 50+ daily; at Yarmouth, MWH had only one in March, up to 11 by early April which was the "peak", subsequently falling off to around 4 occasionally; at Smith's Cove AKR noted "have not had a House Sparrow for several weeks but a pair always return to fight the Tree Swallows; at Wolfville, Jim Wolford has a House Sparrow which is "light-sandy-colored all over", and also at Wolfville BLF watched a House Sparrow female taking grass into an opening in a telephone cable while a male watched--this was Feb. 24 (and presumably "the male" was not BLF, but a House Sparrow).

ICTERIDS

BOBOLINKS started coming in the second week in May, 2 seen May 8 on Brier I. (RD), 4 (males) at Five-Islands Park, May 10. Small flocks were at Boularderie in Cape Breton, May 16 (E.MacRury) and in Lunenburg Co. (JSC); "many", the day before, at St. Croix, Hants Co. (MAC); seen generally since then, females first noted May 19, one only in a flock of 40 males (DSC&CET). Because of their order of distribution it seems probable that most Bobolinks come into Nova Scotia via the Isthmus, but evidently not all of them; we have a report of 28 Bobolinks at Brier I., May 20, 8 there May 21, and even more

interesting is the sighting of one of these birds flying over Georges Bank, May 18, by R.S.d'Entremont, who wrote that he had never seen one there before. One was also sighted at Pubnico, May 14 (DJd'E).

The EASTERN MEADOWLARK often winters here, so spring sightings may not be of migrants. This spring we have three reports of one Meadowlark each, on Brier I., (all three) so probably of the same bird, seen April 25 (RD,RED,AG), May 5,6,26,27 (RD) and May 25 (JWW).

Once again we have the YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD to report, 2 of them, in Cape Breton: 1, Feb. 24-March 24, seen at a feeder in Sydney by Hedley Hopkins and Otis Cossitt; and 1, April 17 at Glace Bay, observed on the feeder by Anne and Arthur Spencer.

As with the above, the REDWINGED BLACKBIRD is often seen here in winter, so March sightings are questionable as "early arrivals". This year however, the situation is quite clear. At Amherst Con Desplanque had 1-3 Redwings through March, by April 10 "regular visits (11) in the garden, very common in APBS"; at Brier I. Robbie Denton had one Redwing throughout March, next notation there, 35, April 1, up to 40 by April 12; at Sydney, Hedley Hopkins counted 42+ Redwings March 29; in the St. Margaret's Bay and Lawrencetown areas there were "flocks of Redwings everywhere" according to Keith Keddy, 24 there April 5 (at Hammonds Plains) and 40 in the same place April 17,18. March 29 was arrival time at Conrad's Beach (RBS) and at Truro (Ella Roland); March 30 at Berwick, where territorial males were noted by Earle Hickey; March 31 at Sandy Bottom Lake, Anna. Co., a flock of 26-30 counted by Margaret Chessman, and first females were noted near Canning, April 18, along with lots of males (JWW).

On May 25, at Brier I., Jim Wolford and Peter Hicklin were fortunate enough to see an ORCHARD ORIOLE, an immature male. This is the place to see Orchard Orioles (in Nova Scotia) but one wonders what happens to them after that? They are very seldom heard of again.

A few NORTHERN ORIOLES came in between May 11 and 18 (at least noted on those dates): the early one, May 11 at Wolfville by Jean Timpa, another there May 15, a singing male, by JWW. May 16 brought one each to Taylor Head (SCM) and Brier I. (RB); May 17 a pair to Mooseland (SCM) and another to Brier (RD), also a male bird to Middle West Pubnico, seen by Bertin D'Eon. There was an adult male at Russel Lake in Dartmouth, May 18 (FLL), a pair at Markland, Yar. Co., May 19 (MWH) and a single at Sheet Harbour, May 22 (JSC). After this, pairs were seen in various places, notably Yarmouth and the Pubnicos and Tusket, where these conspicuous big birds regale their hosts with their somewhat boisterous singing any fine day, and some wet ones.

As to be expected, the earliest seen RUSTY BLACKBIRD this year was at Amherst, in CD's garden, March 14, 2 of them. Three reports follow, all for March 29: at Sydney (HEH), Rocky Run (JL&JSC) and at Sandy Bottom Lake (MCC). There are only half a dozen more reports of this retiring bird but Fulton Lavender estimated 35-40 pairs present at Scraggy Lake (Mooseland) the last week of April. How appropriate a place that sounds for a Rusty Blackbird haunt.

First flocks of the COMMON GRACKLE were noted at Economy (EPS) and Wolfville-New Minas (JWW) on March 27. On the 28th they were in Antigonish (RDC), 40+ (and 75 "by now") at St. Croix (MAC) and at Kentville (RBS). By the 29th and 30th there were flocks at Truro (E&AR) and Glace Bay (AS), 60+ at Glace Bay by April 2 (HEH). On April 8, they had begun to build up at Brier I., 15 there, increasing to 20, April 11; and on April 21, 150+ were observed flying over Yarmouth town (MWH). Con Desplanque wrote "April 30, 3 nests in our spruce trees lining the driveway; May 3, 2 more nests being constructed.

Reports of the BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD reverse the spring order, they diminish with time instead of increasing, which is a break for most of us. For example, HEH at Sydney had 30+ daily at his feeder all winter, now has two pairs; KNK at Hammond Plains had 72 Cowbirds Feb. 18, now at this place finds only one; RSJ had 50+ April 13, now, (or by May 8) only 2 left. It is a little different here at Lower Eel Brook where we have few Cowbirds during the winter; but at #170, a small flock appears in March, dwindling to a few pairs by early May, which pairs remain, faithfully in attendance on the nesting small birds, a sinister occupation considering its object, presumably a nest suitable for the female Cowbird to lay her egg in. These waiting birds "display" constantly, male to female, sometimes female to female, and keep up a steady skirling noise all day long which reminds one of their presence--it seems strange that the Juncos, Whitethroats and Myrtle Warblers, etc., show no enmity to these parasites, but they feed beside them in perfect amity and trust. If only one could "bell the bird" (as in bell the cat), or warn them in some way. Bernard Forsythe has found his first Cowbird egg of the season, May 19, in a Whitethroat's nest, on Wolfville Ridge.

TANAGERS

Robbie Denton reports a SCARLET TANAGER, a very bright male, at Brier I., on May 25. Present also there on that day were two female Scarlet Tanagers, "2 at least" according to JWW. One other has been seen, a bright male in song, May 19, in the woods at Bell Neck, Yar. Co. (CRKA). This, but most probably another (bright male) was reported outside of our present season, June 2, in Yarmouth town, at the Higby's. A very unusual observation was of an immature bird, almost certainly a SUMMER TANAGER, as it had no black on it, but was a "study in olive green and red, orange red which seemed to change from day to day; very patchy, moulting? individual" as described by Beula Burman, who watched it May 17 through 20 at her feeder in Barrington Passage. This bird was larger than a Purple Finch and was quite friendly, "could hold its own with a Purple Finch, fed on grain (chicken scratch)". One other, an immature male Summer Tanager, was seen on Seal Island, May 15-18, (so was certainly another). This bird was seen by all members of the NSBS field trip there at that time, reported to us by Richard Stern.

PRD, Ed.

FRINGILLIDS

Many of the species in this group being year-round residents, may not properly belong in our migration report, but it is clear that in most cases, some "new" birds arrive in the spring, as did the first of our CARDINALS, in 1973, to found their tiny resident population in Nova Scotia. We have only 5 reports of Cardinals this spring (there surely are more around somewhere) of 7 individuals: a male at the R. S. Johnson's in Liverpool, which RS believes "is the same bird which I saw here Nov. 28/80 - has been around in this area until April 10"; a male, Nov. 17 to April 24, joined by a female, April 8 (both disappeared April 24, nesting most likely) at Barrington Passage at Beula Burman's feeder; a male, April 28, at Ann Lee's feeder in Middle East Pubnico (this is the famous place where the two Pine Warblers wintered year before last); a male in "excellent plumage" seen April 14 at Brier I. by Robbie Denton and Anthony Glavin; a male at the feeder of Margaret Nickerson in Yarmouth town, April 17-23, joined at that time by a female.

The first ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, (a true migrant), was heard May 1, at Waverley (L&PP) where a female appeared May 17, a male, May 18, "still around but never together". Let's hope they soon make it

up. The Hamiltons at Pubnico had a male around May 3-10 (these grosbeaks seen also on the 10th at Wolfville and Yarmouth); and one, May 6, at Brier (RD), 5 there by May 26 (1, on the 27th). There were two dozen or so reports of this bird, very generally distributed, many with mention of the beautiful day-long serenade poured out by the male birds so generously in early May.

The INDIGO BUNTING is also a true migrant, but does not breed here, just stops to feed awhile on its spring (sometimes fall) trips. It is much more conspicuous in the spring, the males at any rate, giving many of us great pleasure, especially when seen in company with Purple Finches and Goldfinches, all in new plumages. We have only four reports this spring: 1, April 30-May 9 at Brier I. (RD); 1, May 1 at West Pubnico (TCd'E); 1, May 22-24 at least, at Waverley (L&PP) "feeds on platform feeder, ignores Purple Finches which are larger" (seen here also by RBS May 26) and 1, a female, May 25, again at Brier I (JWW). The first 3 birds mentioned were all males...Late report just received: 1 immature male Indigo Bunting, singing at APBS on May 30, seen by Bruce Mactavish, Marcia Litchfield and Dick Veit.

EVENING GROSBEEKS were fairly plentiful this last winter, with flocks of 20-50 in irregular attendance at a number of feeding stations. In April these flocks began to dwindle and disappear, but roving bands, 3-6 birds, showed up occasionally in May. Reports were general, from most regions: Sydney Forks to Amherst to Yarmouth-Pubnico, the Valley to Halifax-Liverpool.

We have a new finch with us, the HOUSE FINCH. and by the looks of things this may be the last time we have to underline it. It has been reported from 7 areas, far apart: Yarmouth, probably 4 pairs, since the dates of sightings overlap on occasion, certainly 2 pairs at 23 Baker St., April 1, seen at intervals thereafter to April 20, and 3 males and a female at 36 Chestnut St., from April 17 to April 23 (at least), (MWH&MAN); a possible 5 in the Pubnico-Argyle area from Feb. 28, to April 25 on which last day 3 of these finches (2 male and 1 female) were at the Hamiltons'. The other observers were Larry MacKenzie of Argyle, Delisle d'Entremont and Ted D'Eon of Lower West Pubnico. Three House Finches were seen at Brier I., April 5-20 by Robbie Denton, Anthony Glavin, Edgar Spalding and Stuart Tingley; another, a male, was present at Beula Burman's feeder at Barrington Passage, April 24-26; another male appeared at the Waverley feeder of Linda and Peter Payzant, May 17, another (female) on Seal Island, May 15-18, reported by Richard Stern, and a female at 300 Ross Road, Dartmouth, May 20 and 26, reported by the Purchases. All of these birds were well documented and some photographed. They are, once you notice, quite easy to distinguish from the Purple Finch. Joyce Purchase made a descriptive comment on their female House Finch, "Dowdy little bird, isn't it?"

The PURPLE FINCH usually returns to us in mid-February, but this year very few were seen until well into May. Aside from a few singles there were only 3 reports from March: on the 1st, 12 birds at Yarmouth (MWH); on the 8th, 6 birds at Liverpool (RSJ) and on the 14th, 12 birds at Sydney (HEH). In April the only flock mentioned was one of 12-18 birds at Port Joli (CFLK). On May 7, 8 and 9, "first appearance" was recorded in 7 different localities, numbers from 1 to 20, and by the end of the month they were called "common", "daily", and flocks were up to 30 in number. Sara MacLean of Glace Bay had a bird characteristic of a male Purple Finch except that was golden where the others were red. This was on May 16, among "many, many others". Any guesses?

Half-a-dozen reports of the resident PINE GROSBEEK assure us of its continuing presence, in usual numbers.

The COMMON REDPOLL, leaving rather than arriving, has received ample attention, with reports too numerous to itemize. Flocks of 16-40+ are mentioned February through March very generally distributed; in April numbers were down to 1-6, only 4 reports, at Wolfville (JWW), Hammonds Plains (KNK) and Halifax at 12 Crest Road (MAC) and 8 Rosemount Ave. (JSC). It was an exceptionally good year for Redpolls, seen both in town and country.

The above is also true for the PINE SISKIN, reported as "several occasionally" in February in a number of localities to flocks of 5-40-100 generally through March and part of April, still a few to be seen in early May. These tiny birds were often part of a mixed flock with Goldfinches, Redpolls and later Purple Finches, but remained consistently aggressive, not to say hoggish, at feeders, well able to look after themselves--although the Payzants said they lost about 2 a month from flying into windows (Corpses donated to the N.S. Museum).

By April 21, AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES were in full breeding plumage and by the end of May were singing everywhere. They appear to have been present very generally over the province throughout the winter, a few noted in February, building up through March, but only about 8-12 per sighting or feeder flock and tapering off again in April--perhaps to finish moulting? Reports were received from all over the province, numbers normal.

Both CROSSBILLS have been seen, the REDS more often: 1, May 10, at Colby Village (FLL) who saw some also in April; 8, May 15 in Green Bay (JSC); the WHITE-WINGED, (a winter report, 30) seen Feb. 23, at Antigonish town (RDC) and 8, April 29, at Gold River Mines; 1, May 14 at Lake Charles, Dartmouth (FLL).

The RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE, a summer resident in New England, has been coming to Nova Scotia since 1936, according to Tufts, but has remained a casual here, and never increased in number. This spring 3 are reported, 2 in Liverpool, April 10-20, a male and a female, noted by R.S. Johnson. One other, a male, was present May 15, at the Ruffs', in Yarmouth, at their feeder.

A few of the "IPSWICH" (Savannah) SPARROW species as usual were seen along the Atlantic coast: 1, March 28 at Cherry Hill Beach (Lisè Cohrs & Kevin Wagner); 1, March 29, seen by the NSBS party at Conrad's Beach, a bird in good spring plumage according to Shirley Cohrs, noted also by RBS; and a later one on April 1, at Lawrencetown Lake (FLL); a still later one, April 19, at Brier I. (EPS&SIT); the Conrad's Beach bird still present April 5, reported by KNK.

A bird seen on the Halifax "circuit" March 29 could have been a wintering SAVANNAH SPARROW, but those noted April 4-27 were probably spring birds, although mostly 1-2 per sighting. However, at Brier I. there were 2 Savannahs May 7, 100+, May 8 and 8 May 9th, a good big "wave". They were "rather common" on Grand Pre marsh on May 7 (KNK) and abundant on Seal I., May 15-18 (NSBS party); obviously May was the big migration month.

Two reports of the VESPER SPARROW were all, for this spring: 1, April 19, Petite Riviere (JL&JSC); 1, April 20-22, Brier I. (RD).

The NORTHERN JUNCO stayed here all winter, for the most part in good sized flocks, and it is almost impossible to pinpoint an arrival time for migrants. At Brier I in March, Juncos numbered 1-7 throughout the whole month; at Amherst there were 2 present at the Desplanques', April 2, 6 there April 9 and 10 by April 11. At Hammonds Plains there were 14 by March 14 and a "second wave" of 20+

from April 19, noted by Keith Keddy. Here at Lr. Eel Brook they were "beautifully marked" by April 5, "lots of them, all trilling"; but whether they were winter birds through their moult or new spring birds, who could tell? They are busy nesting now, but remain our most frequently seen sparrow, both at feeders and along the roadsides. A typical "Oregon Junco" "came on April 23, with a flock of 10-12 'new' Juncos...had a brown back with about 6 fine darker brown streaks and a rather pinky buff stripe on each side of its body. Whenever possible it kept aloof from other Juncos and was around only one whole day", at Truro, as described by Ella Roland. This bird is no longer considered a separate species, although it is noticeably different in appearance from an ordinary Junco.

TREE SPARROWS, present in good numbers throughout the winter, left us in April: last seen April 3 in Yarmouth (MWH); April 6 in Round Hill, Anna. Co. (WEW) and April 20 at Albro Lake, Dartmouth (FLL).

The CHIPPING SPARROW makes it easier for us to time its arrival by leaving altogether for the winter. This year, our first sightings came on May 3rd, one bird each at Amherst (CD) and at Pleasant Lake, Yar. Co. (MR). May 5 saw another at Pleasant Lake and a new one on Brier I. (RD). Reports follow on May 7 at Grand Pre and Paradise, May 8 at St. Croix and May 9 at Economy, reaching St. Esprit in Cape Breton June 1 (Meyerowitzes). Shirley Cohrs reported from her trip to Antigonish County "many around, still in transit or newly arrived perhaps, as still together in flocks of 8-12. A few individuals singing on territory as well". This was May 20, 21.

One adult FIELD SPARROW was spotted at Albro Lake, May 4 by FLL. and one other was noted on Seal I. around the lobster pots, May 16-18, reported by RBS.

A wintering WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, apparently an immature, remained at the feeder of Wendie and Karl Tay in Dartmouth in this plumage, turning to "adult" by April 21, a "quick moult", - and departing May 15 for parts unknown. Larry MacKenzie of Argyle also had one, possibly two of these birds at the feeder all winter. The adult bird at the home of Paul Elderkin of Wolfville for April 20-24 may have been either a wintering bird or a new migrant--it was noted also by Jean Timpa there, and may have been the one seen by JWW in his year at Wolfville, May 1. All other reports are for the month of May, starting May 10, Yarmouth (E&BR) to the end of the month, with a high of 5 adults on May 26 at Brier I. (RD).

Like the Junco, the WHITE-THROATED SPARROW was present at most bird feeders through the winter, some remaining faithful through the moult and blossoming out in fine feathers by early April. There was a noticeable increase in numbers in late March and early April (at Brier I. 1, March 26 and 20+, March 28; at Liverpool 10, March 18 and 20, April 8); then again on Brier I. in May, a second influx: 2, May 5; 27, May 8 and 10, May 9 (than you for these day by day records RD). Whitethroats were in full song everywhere (appropriate) by May 5, feeders deserted until the change of seasons.

Aside from the FOX SPARROW still at the Cohrs' feeder after overwintering, we have had 25 individuals of this species reported, from March 19 to April 22. The first one was at Brier I., and the next 1+ 4 were at Brier and at Round Hill (RD, WEW) on March 25. From here there is a steady progression of dates with 1-2 birds per report, all around the province and in no significant order. In other words, the Fox Sparrows did not stage an invasion, as they do sometimes in spring, nor do they appear to have come in a body via the isthmus (as they sometimes do) but have scattered themselves impartially in

all directions for their brief stay among us.

The only report of the LINCOLN'S SPARROW is of one "first noted May 23" by Edgar Spalding, at Economy.

The first SWAMP SPARROW detected this spring was at West Pubnico April 6 (DJD'E), the second five days later at the other end of the province, at APBS, April 11 (SIT). Eight more reports, generally distributed, followed in April, and in May another influx was indicated (again by Brier I. reports) by the presence there May 6, of 3 of these sparrows, on May 8, 35 Swamp Sparrows and on May 9, down to 8 of the Swamps. By the end of May they could be heard wherever they should be heard.

As with the Junco and the Whitethroat, it is hard to decide on arrival time of true migrant SONG SPARROWS. There is, this year, convincing evidence that the date of this arrival was March 23, when several people heard them singing from the trees and telephone wires, and more of them on each successive day after that up to April 7; no doubt more coming in after that, but at Wolfville Ridge, May 20, two nests each holding 5 eggs were reported. This is not particularly early for the Song Sparrow, in fact rather late, but is probably a first nesting of later-arriving birds. Tufts gives July for second nestings, August for possible thirds. The Song Sparrow was our most reported bird in this group. JSC writes: "A huge wave, Apr. 10-11 at Petite Riviere-a bird in every bush" Three sightings of the LAPLAND LONGSPUR are of 1, April 4 at Economy (EPS); 2, in breeding plumage, April 21 at Matthew's Lake, Shel. Co., (D&JY) and 1, May 23 at St. Esprit, the first noticed there, (Jan Meyerowitz).

SNOW BUNTINGS were still abundant in Cape Breton in March: 50+ March 9 at Coxheath (Roy Blakeburn); 100-200 mid-March at Boularderie (RBF); 20+ March 26 at Morien Bar, seen by Otis Cossitt and Hedley Hopkins. The last of these Buntings seen on the mainland was 1, April 18 at Mahoney's Beach, reported by RDC and SPF.

PRD, Ed.

Many thanks from all of us to those of our members who have contributed to the above report:

Barbara Addelson (BA); Jeanne Addelson (JA); Carl Adshade (CA); Daryl Amirault (DA); C.R.K.Allen (CRKA); Peter J. Austin-Smith (PJA-S); Roy Blakeburn (RB); John Brownlie (JB); Beula Burman (BB); Patricia B. and Robert Caldwell (P&RC); William Caudle (WC); Margaret C. Chessman (MCC); Roland D. Chiasson (RDC); David S. Christie (DSC); Margaret A Clark (MAC); John L. and J. Shirley Cohrs (JL&JSC); Lisette Cohrs (LC); Otis Cossitt (OC); George Crowell (GC); Gordon Dearnaley (GD); Robbie Denton (RD); Ronnie E. Denton (RED); Delisle J. d'Entremont (DJD'E); Bertin D'Eon (Bd'E); Con Desplanque (CD); R. B. Dickie (RBD); P.R. Dobson (PRD); Paul Elderkin (PE); Jim and Gillian Elliott (J&GE); Allison Ferguson (AF); Mary Ferguson (MF); Chris Field (CF); Stephen P. Flemming (SPF); Mark R. L. Forbes (MRLF); Bernard L. Forsythe (BLF); R. Fraser (RF); John Gardner (JF); Anthony Glavin (AG); Ken Gregoire (KG); Edgar and Vernita Hamilton (E&VH); Frank Hennessey (FH); Tom Herman (TH); Earle Hickey (EH); M.W. Hilton (MWH); S.C. Hilton (SCH); Hedley E. Hopkins (HEH); R. S. Johnson (RSJ); Cherry Keddy (CK); Keith N. Keddy (KNK); Vernon Keddy (VK); C.F.L. Kelsey (CFLK); Fulton L. Lavender (FLL); Ann Lee (AL); Wickerson Lent (WL); Marcia Litchfield (ML); K. MacCuish (KM); Shirley MacDonald (SMacDonald); Don MacDougall (DM); Andrew McInnis (AM); Larry MacKenzie (LM); Colin MacKinnon (CM); Sara MacLean (SM); Edie MacLeod (EM); Robert MacNeil (RM); E. MacRury; Bruce D. Mactavish (BDM); Chris Majka; Mary Majka; John Mark (JM);

Sandra, Rainer and Jan Meyerowitz; Lynn and John Mills (L&JM); Jean and Wm. Morse (J&WM); Frances Murphy; Sandra C. Myers (SCM); M. Oliver (MO); Fred J.. Payne (FJP); Linda and Peter Payzant (L&PP); W. Peach (WP); Joyce and Don Purchase (J&DP); Annie K. Raymond (AKR); Kelsy Raymond (KR); Frank F. Robertson (FFR); Ella and Albert Roland E&AR); Eric and Barbara Ruff (E&BR); Michael Rymer (MR); Barry C. Sabeau (BCS); Keith Sibley (KS); Edgar P. Spalding (EPS); Francis L. Spalding (FLS); Anne and Arthur Spencer (A&AS); Richard B. Stern (RBS); Clarence Stevens Jr.; Karl A. Tay (KAT); Wendie Tay (WT); Jean Timpa; Stuart I. Tingley (SIT); Robie W. Tufts (RWT); G. Eric Tull (CET); Cliff Vail; Dick Veit; Kevin Wagner (KW); W.E. Whitehead (WEW); Jim W. Wolford (JWW); Joan M. and David H. Young (J&DY).

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NOVEMBER 25

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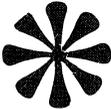
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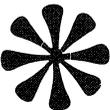
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A PIPING PLOVER PROPOSAL

Roland Chiasson and Stephen Flemming



One of our Nova Scotian birds is quickly disappearing. There are only about seventy-five nesting pairs left in Nova Scotia. In the last two years the Piping Plover which we have been studying under the Department of Lands and Forests has been rapidly declining along the Northumberland Strait. We are presently in the third year of this study, and it is our opinion that now is the turning point for the Piping Plover. Either something is done very soon, or it will be too late.

Let us present you with a review of the decline in our area. From 1977 to 1979 we noted a 50% decline in the number of breeding pairs in St. George's Bay. In 1979 detailed surveys on Mahoney's Beach yielded a zero fledgling success.

This prompted an experimental program using interpretation signs constructed by the Department of Lands and Forests and by the Canadian Wildlife Service telling people about the bird and asking them to walk only along the shoreline, as well as reiterating the "No vehicles allowed" clause of the Protected Beach Act. These signs were posted in Antigonish and Pictou counties on some of the beaches with breeding birds. A 1.7 young fledged per year per nest on signed beaches while only a 0.3 young fledged per year per nest on unsigned beaches. These figures seem to speak for themselves, suggesting a good method for protecting the Piping Plover.

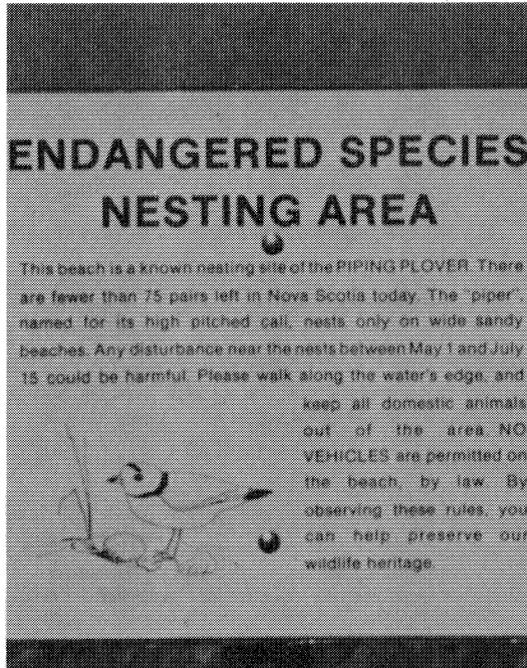
With the posting of interpretation signs on Mahoney's Beach, fledgling success changed from nil to 1.2 young fledged per nest. However, a stable population requires at least 2 young fledged per nest. Thus, along with the signs, public awareness must be increased especially among cottage owners near these nesting beaches.

We feel, as members, that the society has a responsibility for the Piping Plover. Perhaps the Piping Plover, like no other bird, can be best helped by us; because preservation might well be only a matter of posting interpretation signs and educating the public.

Indeed, this is not an easy task, but with cooperation of the Department of Lands and Forests and the Canadian Wildlife Service we can succeed. The survival of the Piping Plover might well depend on it.

If the interest is there, then perhaps the next step is forming a committee to organize ourselves. We could start by getting more support from the various wildlife agencies and obtain funds for construction of more signs.

At any rate, this is just a proposal, but one that we think should be well considered. We need your support.



EDITORIAL NOTE:

In 1980 Roland Chiasson and Stephen Flemming published A Preliminary Report on the status of Piping Plover on the Northeastern Mainland of Nova Scotia. This was followed in 1981 by A Report on the Effectiveness of Piping Plover Interpretation Signs in Northeastern mainland Nova Scotia by Stephen Flemming, Robert Bancroft and Roland Chiasson. Both of these reports are on file with the N.S. Bird Society and may be obtained upon request.

Any member who is interested in becoming involved with this project should get in touch with:

Stephen Flemming,
R. R. #3 North Grant
Antigonish Co., N. S. B2G 2L1

or

Roland Chiasson
48 MacKinnon St.,
Antigonish, N. S. B2G 1M2

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

March 29- Lawrencetown

The early morning of March 29 was a cool 3° C with a light drizzle and strong SW wind, but it did not prevent 18 birders from doing some early spring birding along the eastern shore near Halifax. After assembling in Dartmouth we headed to Conrad's Beach. Beyond the surf were the usual wintering species: loons, grebes, oldsquaws, mergansers and gulls. However, looking into the wind was not pleasant and most of the party concentrated on the shore behind and on the dunes. Following a distant sighting of a shorebird, we circled the sand flats of the West Marsh; the shorebird was a cooperative killdeer Ipswich Sparrows were common; there were three in the short section of the beach we walked. The next stop was Lawrencetown Lake where the pattern was similar. Here and there along the roads the first of the Song Sparrows were singing and early blackbirds were perched on prominent twigs. At Lawrencetown Lake we chased the second shorebird of the day; it was a Golden Plover. Two more duck species were there: American Widgeon and Pintail. We stopped at Rocky Run to see the Kingfisher and to walk along the tracks and out to Point-no-Point. Most of us continued on to look over the pond near Three Fathom Harbour and to check the causeway before calling it a day. Of the total of 34 species seen, the fraction that heralded spring, warmed an otherwise chilling wind and gave everyone, I believe, a satisfactory morning of birding.

Jim Elliott

April 26 - Wolfville Area

An exact head-count was never completed, but we had 14 cars at one point and roughly 35 people for most of the day. This attendance had been inflated by local publicity through the Blomidon Naturalists' Society.

Before we started, several people remarked that they had seen a few tree swallows that morning, and during the day we saw additional occasional individuals. Like last year, we began by "caravanning" out to the Grand Pre dykelands and to a view of Boot Island. Also like last year, it was a bit too cold and windy for good viewing in any open surroundings. Perhaps that's why we didn't see a Gyrfalcon (known to be present then, for 4+ days) nor a short-eared Owl (a nest was found the next day); but we did spot about 35 Brant distantly and then a beautiful male Marsh Hawk. (Later I heard that there was also a Snowy Owl on the dykelands in the afternoon.)

Then we drove past Cyril Coldwell's raven-trap at Gaspereau, where we saw a late immature Bald Eagle, and to the west Bernard Forsythe took us to a nest-box occupied by an incubating Barred Owl. On the trail we were very surprised to see a new nest with one very blue egg of a Robin!, (awfully early?) plus two snowshoe hares** and a flowering Daphne shrub.

At a small shallow pond northeast of Port Williams were were surprised to see a pair of Oldsquaws in breeding plumage, plus other ducks and a few Canada Geese, etc.

Near Pereau, northeast of Canning, Jamie Gibson showed us an area at the foot of the North Mountain where he was hoping that Pileated Woodpeckers would eventually nest--we saw their roosting cavities and recent signs of excavations, and distantly we heard a couple of calls (the same was true, west of Gaspereau).

**The sighting of hares is ironic in a year in which Bernard has been unable to locate any calling or nesting Great Horned Owls--the density of prey is one factor known to affect the breeding behavior of some owls

Then it was time for lunch, and again this year we sampled the hospitality of Wilma and Merritt Gibson in Canning. Their big house was filled up with birders who demolished the big pot of fish chowder plus assorted other goodies and pies for dessert. It was with a big degree of reluctance that we hurriedly pushed onward and left all those dishes and spoons to the Gibson daughters!

First we went to a small boggy swamp just northwest of Canning, where my Black Duck nest had been destroyed (by a raccoon?), and also where I failed miserably at calling in Swamp Sparrows (one was faintly heard singing though).

Then Jamie and Merritt Gibson led us into the nearby forest where they had a nest of Goshawks. While the parents scolded us, Bernard Forsythe climbed a neighboring tree to let us know that the nest held three eggs--one parent flew over us, but only once. Near the Goshawk nest we also heard a Brown Creeper singing and saw a Red-breasted Nuthatch--the small group of people who went after these diversions, "led" by me, became completely "turned around" and hopelessly lost (we exited from the woods at the opposite end from where we entered!).

When everyone finally regrouped, the caravan was halted briefly by an immature Iceland Gull (seen well only by yours truly, who also saw one in Wolfville before the trip started today). Then the few people who were left went to the "Canard Poultry pond" (south of Canning), where we saw American Wigeons and Ring-necked Ducks, etc.

Our hearty thanks to the entire family of Merritt Gibson, for housing and feeding 30+ people, and also to Bernard Forsythe.

P.S. In the early evening I went back to Grand Pre, in fruitless pursuit of the Snowy Owl, but I did see the grayish-brown Gyrfalcon. My species list for the day was 45, but I believe the number seen by the entire group was well over 50--not bad for a chilly day in early spring.

Jim Wolford

May 3 - Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, John Lusby Marsh

The weather forecast was not very encouraging, and the brave people that came from Truro and Halifax reported rather miserable conditions in their common stamping grounds. However, although the wind was rough, it stayed dry and seven persons did the rounds in the bird sanctuary. Although most birds stayed wisely under cover and had little cause to sing about, we got a good sampling of what usually is around this time of the year. Ring-necked Ducks and Pied-billed Grebes were in good numbers to observe, but Mallard, Black Ducks, Pintails, Blue and Green-winged Teals, Wigeons and Gadwalls were also seen. A Sharp-shinned Hawk and Marsh Hawk were seen as well as a Kestrel. The hundreds of Tree Sparrows must have found the pickings slim, but they were accompanied by some Barn Swallows. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers and many Ruby-crowned Kinglets tried to enliven the woods.

In the afternoon the pond on the John Lusby Marsh was visited. In the pond were many Pintails, Teals, Wigeons, Shovelers and Red-breasted Mergansers that could be observed at leisure from the edge of the woods. A Lesser Yellowlegs could be observed at short range. 40 species were seen and heard when we left for home at about two o'clock.

Con Desplanque

May 15-18 - Seal Island

This year 18 members and friends of the Bird Society, plus another small party, set sail from Clark's Harbour, in reasonably good weather, on Friday evening, arriving just at dusk. Most of Saturday and Sunday were spent looking long and hard at relatively few birds, in rain and fog. However, the sun shone for the final day, and it brought reasonable numbers of warblers with it.

Birding highlights included an adult Red-headed Woodpecker, an immature male Summer Tanager, a Glossy Ibis, adult Black-crowned Night Heron, and a female House Finch. All these birds stayed in the same spot, and were easily visible to everybody. Warblers included a lot of Blackpoll and Magnolia, and a few each of most other common species. Other interesting species on the island included Great Crested Flycatcher, Upland Sandpiper (not seen by everybody), Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher. A total of 97 species was seen altogether.

Non-birding highlights included the convivial atmosphere, and a fine feed of lobsters on Saturday night.

The party returned to Clark's Harbour in fine weather on Monday afternoon, and headed back to various homes--from Pubnico to Calgary!

Richard B. Stern

May 20 - Goodwood Area

The weather was dull, but the wind had dropped, having blown away all the fog, so viewing was good as nine early morning warbler watchers spent a couple of hours welcoming back a small vanguard of birds. As usual more were heard than seen, but very satisfactory views were enjoyed of Parula, Myrtle, Magnolia, Black-throated Green and Black and White Warblers as well as Redstarts, White-throated Sparrows and Solitary Vireos. Ovenbird and Blackpoll Warblers were heard as well as Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes, Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets and, happily, a single Winter Wren, now one of our more rarely encountered species.

Shirley Cohrs

May 23 - Mooseland

On Saturday, May 23, a small field trip was held at Mooseland. Eleven hearty, dedicated birders attended. The weather rivalled some Christmas Count days for atrocity. The rain poured relentlessly; the wind blew in gales and the temperature was 3° C. Noone bothered to calculate the wind chill factor. Undaunted, the group set off through the woods to see the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, but of course he was not obtuse enough to be out in such weather. A few brave song birds were seen en route. After a pick-me-up of hot coffee in a warm cottage, this still optimistic group set off for Taylor Head Beach (15 miles away). Here, at least, the Common Eider were very much in evidence but even the Cormorants were uncooperative. On the breeding island where both Great and Double-crested nest together, only the Double-crests were seen. When we rounded the final turn to the beach, the weather was truly unendurable. Lunch was eaten in steamy cars, and cold wet miserable birders decided to pack it in and go home. Out of a total of 40 species not a single unusual bird was seen to "save the day". The only good thing is that any future field trips to Mooseland can only be better.

Wendie Tay

May 27 - Russel Lake, Dartmouth

Early Morning Warbler Walk--The morning began clear and cool, with just a scattering of high cirrus clouds. The wind was moderate from the southwest, all good conditions for sighting numerous spring migrants.

The list for the day totaled a respectable 65 species of which 53 were well seen and 12 others were heard. Of the 65 species recorded 16 of those were warblers. Most numerous warbler species were:

Yellow (15-20)	Common Yellow-throat (8-10)
Magnolia (10-15)	Black and White (4-6)
Canada (10-12)	Blackpoll (4)
A. Redstart (10-12)	Ovenbird (3)
Yellow-rumped (10-12)	Black-throated Green (3)
Chestnut-sided(10-12)	Black-throated Blue (2)

while singles belonged to: Parula, Blackburnian, and Nashville.

However, the highlights of the day were provided by birds other than warblers. At Russel Lake Marsh, the whole birding party was treated to a fine spring calling display by two resident Soras.

In the garden behine Eisener's Dr., a young first-year male Northern (Baltimore) Oriole was both heard and seen, singing from a small apple tree.

After all but two of the party members had left because of work commitments, a beautiful breeding plumage, adult Purple Gallinule saw fit to present itself in a glorious display of iridescent green, blue and purple. It was viewed in absolute awe and disbelief by Fulton Lavender and Keith Keddy at Russel Lake Marsh.

Therefore, I shall end this account with a brief, modified version of "Burk's Law", which in the case of Russel Lake should read, "Anything that can be seen, will be seen".

A sincere thank you must be given for the fine weather, the many birds and, most of all, to the indulgent birders who turned out so early on a work day morning. "See you all, same place, October 4"

Fulton Lavender.

May 30 - Hants County

If birds are to be seen on the week-ends then one has to get out in the rain! So it was that 30 birders met in the fog and drizzle at the Mount Uniacke Railway Crossing, and with that air of optimism that pervades the atmosphere of any Field Trip, started off to look for birds and sunshine. With patience and perseverance, (two other characteristics of birders), we found both.

The first two stops at the picnic site and Uniacke House were not typical of past years, but there was satisfaction to be gained for those who heard a song of "was it really a Rose-breasted Grosbeak?" found the bird and smugly realized that "we were right", and could now recognize the difference between the songs of that beautiful bird and the Robin. The birds kept to the woods in the morning but then, some of the birders kept close to their cars too! The rains continued.

The Snipe, Waterthrush and male Marsh Hawk were seen in their usual habitat, but it was not until after lunch when the rain let up and the clouds moved away, that the blue sky and sun appeared.

One of the most rewarding stops was the first one after lunch, on the road to Grand Elm Farm. Birds sang everywhere and at the sighting of a Purple Martin with other swallows, it was possible to see the difference in size.

By the time the Field Trip ended, the birders were quite dry and they had sighted a total of 82 species.

Margaret Clark

May 30 - Homeville Area, Cape Breton

The Warbler Day field trip to the Glace Bay Sanctuary and Homeville area turned out to be more fog than warblers. But it did have its interesting points. Somehow, every field day does, and so often not what we set out expecting to see.

After we had assembled at Dearn's Corner, our regular meeting place, we strolled out on the little road leading to the sanctuary lake. There, behold, in the most unlikely place--our first warbler. A handsome Yellow-throat, competing with Savannah Sparrows, among the old spirea shrubs, for a twig to twitch on.

Some Greater Yellow legs were there, too, some terns, Willets posing like beautiful big butterflies on the marsh across the water. There were gulls, Red-breasted Mergansers, herons, and a pair of Blue-winged Teal. But the strangest sight of the whole day, one that none of us had ever witnessed before, was the peculiar swallow flock.

Now, we know that when the swallows first arrive, they resort to the seaweed at the edge of the salt water, because even when the weather is too cold and windy for flies to be about, they can always make a living on the kelp--flies in the flotsam at the water's edge. But here was a flock of over a hundred swallows, not on the shore line, but swarming on a little bit of sandy road between some rocks.

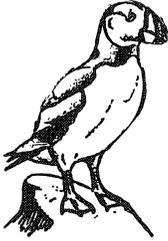
Hedley Hopkins suggested that they may have been harvesting sand fleas, because they certainly were hunting something, and right on the ground. This little rock-sheltered spot was only about twenty-five feet square. We watched them there for twenty minutes or more, and they were there when we returned. The most peculiar thing of all was that there were four species of swallow, all together in the one flock--Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows, Cliff Swallows, and Bank Swallows. There was no place anywhere near to provide much of a habitat for any of them, except perhaps the Tree Swallows.

Cliff Swallows are most uncommon in this part of Cape Breton, in fact, I don't think they are as numerous anywhere on the Island as they used to be. People who once rather enjoyed having them under the eaves, now think they are dirty and knock down the nests.

Unless the whole mixed flock were new arrivals, and May 30 is a pretty late date for that, we couldn't imagine why they were so ecumenical. Has any other watcher seen anything of the kind, or is anyone able to give an explanation beyond our guesses?

As the day went on we wandered along, meeting the bird friends who had been gone, or at least silent, all winter. Except the jay--noisy all winter and prudently dumb in the nesting season. They all had their cares, except one loon, still in juvenile plumage swimming in the salt water, not a worry in the world.

Sara McLean

UP-COMING FIELD TRIPS

Sunday
July 12 Economy Area - Col. Co. Warblers
and usually a high count of other
species. Leaders: Francis Spald-
ing 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 inter-
section.

Sunday
July 26 Martinique Beach Area - Hfx. Co.
Early shore birds, etc. Leaders:
Don and Joyce Purchase. Time:
0830 hrs. Meet at the I.G.A.
Lakeview Plaza parking lot, Port-
er's Lake.

Saturday
Aug. 1 Yarmouth - Yar. Co. Shore birds. Leader: C.R.K. Allen.
Time: 0830 hrs. 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. Leaders: Mary Majka and
David Christie. Time: 1100 hrs. Meet at the Bank of
Nova Scotia in Albert, N. B., Route 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. Leader: Frank Himsl. Time:
0900 hrs. Meet at the Evangeline Church in Grand Pre.
Bring a lunch and a scope.

Sunday
Aug. 23 Matthews Lake - Shel. Co. Ducks and shore birds. Leader:
Robert Turner or Russell Crosby. Time: 0830 hrs. Meet
at the Esso station at Sable River.

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 Ander-
son. Time: 0900 hrs. Sat., Sept. 5. Meet at Peajack Rd.
at Cemetery.

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.

Sunday
Oct. 4 Russell Lake, Lawrencetown, etc. Fall warblers, shore birds
hawks and more. Leader: Fulton Lavender. Time: 0830hrs.
Meet in the Capital Store parking lot, Cole Harbour Rd.,
Dartmouth.

Thanksgiving Seal Island - Shel. Co. Fall migration. For details
 Week-end and reservations, please contact Ralph Connor at
 Oct. 10,11,12 469-8370 (home) or 426-5801 (bus.)

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

JAMAICAN IDYLL

Richard B Stern

The winter of 1980-81 saw many Nova Scotia travel agents promoting Jamaica as an alternative to more traditional southern haunts, for a Caribbean holiday. We flew directly from Halifax to Montego Bay in early April, as part of an inclusive package tour for one week. Although none of the travel agents mention birding as an alternative, the guide books we perused prior to our trip all mentioned the rich avifauna of the island--particularly the "doctor bird", Jamaica's national emblem, which is, in fact, the Streamer-tail Hummingbird.

The hotel we stayed at faced the beach, and there were Mockingbirds, Greater Antillian Grackles and Cattle Egrets in the grounds, and Great Egret and Little Blue Herons wading on the reef just offshore. Frigatebirds occasionally soared past, and a very pleasant evening activity was sitting on the beach, rum punch in hand, watching Brown Pelicans and both crowned night Herons flying by.

We discovered a small lake just up the coast from the hotel, near Falmouth, which proved a big attraction throughout the week. At various times there we saw 9 different herons, a Roseate Spoonbill, a Flamingo, Black-necked Stilts, Willets, Frigatebirds, Brown Pelicans and a very exhausted Yellow Warbler that landed practically at our feet.

We called on Ms. Lisa Salmon, who runs Rocklands bird-feeding station, whose location and hours of opening are mentioned in the standard guide books. However, we telephoned in advance, and on hearing that we were "genuine and keen" birders, she allowed us in, in the morning, before the public. She maintains a feeding station, mainly for hummingbirds, but is also a remarkable naturalist, observer and ornithologist, who through her own painstaking observation over many years, has become an expert on the birds of Jamaica.

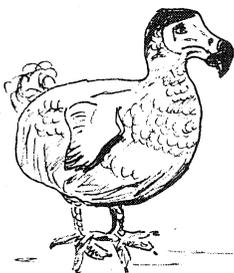
While we chatted on her verandah, Streamertail and Mango Hummingbirds, Banaquits, Orangequits, 2 types of Grassquit, Jamaican Orioles and Black-throated Blue Warblers were flying, sitting and perching all around. Unlike here, the warblers were very tame and behaved more like house sparrows. Ms. Salmon let us explore some of the woods nearby, and we saw several types of flycatcher, and a Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo, as well as several warblers, and both Grey and Loggerhead Kingbird.

During our week's stay, we explored several parts of the island, and saw that birds of all sorts were ubiquitous. We saw parrakeets, Smooth-billed Anis, hummingbirds, todies (a sort of emerald-green miniature kingfisher-like bird), herons, Common and Purple gallinules Grassquits, and Jacanas.

It was particularly pleasing to see some of our own warblers, e.g., Redstarts, Northern Winterthrush and--best of all--Golden-winged, as well as some of our shorebirds--Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone.

The most obvious and abundant birds on the island were Cattle Egrets, which strutted around the roadsides like chickens, and Turkey Vultures, which were about as common as crows are in Nova Scotia.

For anyone contemplating a trip to Jamaica, who plans to combine birding with the more obvious attractions of a Caribbean Island, I would make two recommendations. Firstly, take James Bond's Field Guide to the Birds of the West Indies and also Peterson's Field Guide to North American Birds East of the Rockies, as most of the birds are in the latter, even if only on the "vagrant" pages. Secondly, establish contact with Ms. Salmon, at Rocklands Feeding Station, for a delightful person, and the best advice about where to go and what birds are about.



LISTERS---EAT YOUR HEARTS OUT!

Here is a tale that will only cause the province's listers, and the nation's, too, for that matter, to fetch a sigh if they haven't already heard it. If they have, they will undoubtedly fetch another. But first, for the sake of the suspense, a little background: in the fall of 1975, a most improbable bird appeared in the MacLeod's yard in Wine Harbour, the site, incidentally, of many an interesting record. The report was too unlikely to merit publication, and apparently (the details aren't ready to hand) there was no chance to call upon the experts to investigate it.

However, now another sighting of the same species has been reported from Debert. Well, not now exactly, but as recently as December 7-8, 1980; and not, perhaps, the same species, but definitely the same genus. Alas, news of it was committed to the mail, whether in December or not, it is unclear, and by the time inquiry could be made, the bird had disappeared. Additional news comes that a specimen has been collected and its name added to the Canada list, but that was in Ontario.

Just for the record, or rather non-record, the bird in question is one or other of the *Crotophagae**. Let's hope when the first Road Runner appears our response is more effectual.

F.S.

* *Crotophaga Sulcirostris* (Groove-billed Ani)
Crotophaga Ani (Smooth-billed Ani) ---Ed.

LIFE & TIMES OF THE RIVENDELL EAGLES

By R. G. S. Bidwell

3. Social Life of Bald Eagles.

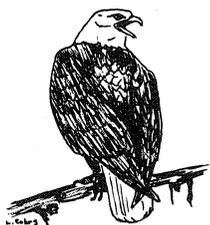
Bald Eagles are normally retiring, but they are not fearful of humans. If they are disturbed they generally leave, but not always silently. Near the nest they are very aggressive, making low, threatening attack flights over intruders and uttering hoarse screams, chucks and croaks. They do not attempt to hide their nest, but very clearly and loudly indicate the limits of their territory. The zone of defence varies from only a few yards around the nest before the eggs hatch to 200 yards or more if there are young in the nest.

Eagles have clearly not come to understand humans. Their aggressive actions and their habit of flying closely around the nest when their territory is invaded suggest that they hope to drive intruders away. But they are totally unconcerned about four-legged animals, including dogs and horse-mounted human beings. On horseback, one can approach to within a few yards of the nest without exciting comment from its occupants. Their lack of appreciation of the potential danger of humans unfortunately makes them easy targets. However, it may also have good consequences. As their natural habitat dwindles with encroaching civilization, they must learn to live in much closer contact with humans, or perish. The existence of active nests on farms and within 50 yards of cottages gives hope that they will indeed learn to coexist successfully with humans.

While eagles have no natural predators, they do interact in various ways with other birds. Perhaps the most spectacular social contact is with Ospreys, whose habitat and nesting preference are similar to those of eagles. At Rivendell there are one or two Osprey nests about half a mile upriver from the eagles' nest, and their hunting territories overlap. Certain perch trees are used by both species, but not at the same time. They have a sort of "king of the castle" routine, accompanied by much vocalization. The "king" of the moment loudly proclaims his sovereignty, and since Ospreys have lower pitched voices, one can always tell who is in possession at the moment. Ospreys often attack young eagles in flight by swooping on them with claws at the ready. The eagle waits until the Osprey is very close, then turns suddenly on its back with talons extended. The Osprey quickly backs off. These aerial combats are never conclusive. We have watched this performance repeated (noisily, of course) time after time without physical encounter or any obvious winner in the exchange.

A most glorious sight is the teamwork of a pair of eagles robbing an Osprey. The Osprey catches a fish and heads for a perch to deal with it. But the eagles are watching, and one (the larger, presumably the female) flies swiftly high above the Osprey and swoops on it with brandished claws at incredible speed, screaming as it comes. The Osprey zig-zags and dives, and finally drops the fish in its effort to escape. The other eagle flies low beneath the Osprey, turns on its back and catches the fish in its claws. The two eagles then fly off together. We cannot say if they share the prize, because we have never been able to follow the action that far! Perhaps they take it to the young. An article some years ago in Audubon magazine about eagles stated categorically that this never happens, but we have seen it twice, and have spoken to others who have seen it in other parts of Nova Scotia. It may be a rare event, but it certainly does occur.

Other hawks sometimes interact with eagles. The Red-tailed Hawks that live here summer and winter occasionally perch in the eagle



tree. They seem to be tolerated, and the eagles may sit on their perch only a few feet from a red-tail, acting as if nobody was there. The fun-loving Sparrow Hawk is a different matter. Families of young Kestrels play "follow the leader" around the barn and through the trees when they are learning to fly. Sometimes they deliberately fly over the eagle nest, provoking the eagles into ponderous and ineffectual efforts to drive them away. Sometimes they "buzz" an eagle sitting on the eagle tree, and slip into the woods when the eagle takes after them.

However, the clown of the air is the Crow, and neither clowns nor crows have any respect for dignified royalty. Sometimes small groups of them gang up on a flying eagle, like Sparrow Hawks, provoking it into lumbering and ineffectual attack. Unlike hawks, crows do not seem to tease a perching eagle, but a flying eagle is another matter. Just as a Kingbird will harass a Crow, so a Crow will harass an eagle by swooping on its back, flying in close enough to touch, but keeping well out of the way of flying claws when the eagle rolls over to retaliate. In fact, we have watched a kingbird chasing a crow chasing an eagle. Perhaps the most absurd aerial battle we have ever seen occurred when a lone Crow followed an eagle for over 500 yards across the fields, swooping and diving on it while the eagle zig-zagged madly in a effort to shake its tormentor. Finally, the Crow caught up with the eagle, darted in from above and behind, and pulled a feather from its tail. The eagle said things (not knowing its language, we could not tell what, but we could guess...) while the Crow flew up high in the sky turning summersaults and clutching the huge white feather in its beak. Very degrading for the eagle!

While eagles are definitely majestic birds, their ponderous lack of humor makes them an easy mark for avian pranksters. Infact, the real danger for eagles no longer seems to be to their lives--they have few enemies, and most people seem to have discovered that they are worth more alive than dead--but to their dignity. A badly ruffled eagle being harassed by Sparrow Hawks or Crows is one of nature's funniest sights. Eagles do not suffer fools gladly!

FRANCIS MACKINNON:- An Appreciation

At a recent gathering of the New Waterford Naturalist Society a desire was expressed to give some tangible expression of the members' appreciation of their recently deceased President, Francis MacKinnon.

At the time the New Waterford Society was first organized, it was immediately recognized that Francis was the person whose executive ability and keen interest in nature in all its phases especially fitted him for this office. Most were already aware of Francis' special ability to organize and lead and of his knowledge and interest in the out-of-door world as evidenced by his work in connection with the Cape Breton Branch of the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

The pressures of his valuable contribution to the Town of New Waterford and the welfare of its citizens, often prevented him from participating as actively as he would have liked in the Bird Society, but it was always understood that he would, each summer, conduct a field trip through the area of Cape Breton and Richmond Counties adjacent to the location of the family summer home.

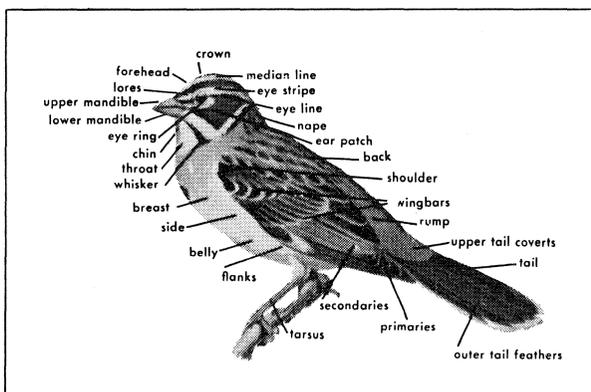
In past years, his keen interest in people and the outdoors led him to participate in several field trips and outings on the mainland of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In this way his expertise and enthusiasm for birds and birding, as well as in all other spheres of nature study, came to be recognized and appreciated by others of similar interest throughout the Maritime Provinces.

Thus, it was felt that this expression of the New Waterford Naturalist Society appreciation of Francis MacKinnon should have wider recognition than if confined to some local project or memorial. Accordingly, it was unanimously agreed that a donation should be forwarded to the Nova Scotia Bird Society in honor of our first president and of a valued member of the Bird Society, to be placed in whichever fund the Executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society may consider as the most appropriate and worthwhile

Frank Robertson,
Vice President,
New Waterford Naturalist Society.

The Nova Scotia Bird Society acknowledges with grateful thanks, the donation from the New Waterford Naturalist Society in memory of Francis MacKinnon. The donation has been placed in the Sanctuary and Trust Fund.

EXAMINING SPARROWS



On Maine Audubon's field trips, interested people ask many questions about birds. Nearly all of these questions are quite specific. Do female Wilson's Warblers have black caps? Do Blackpoll Warblers have stripes on their sides? The questions reveal a desire by people for more extensive information to bird identification. Certainly the most important single factor in birding is one's acute attention to detail. With this in mind I thought it would be useful to review the terms for different parts of birds, in the context of identifying some of Maine's common and uncommon sparrows. Once familiar with these terms, the careful observer should have an easier task in the field.

The four basic parts of a bird are its head, body, wings, and tail. In studying a bird, examine each of these general areas. When looking at the head, perhaps the most significant part to sparrow identification, make further refinements. The shape, size, and color of the bill are important in identifying certain species. Chipping Sparrows, Field Sparrows and Tree Sparrows are all quite similar, but Field Sparrows have a pinkish bill, Chippies have a dark bill, and Tree Sparrows have a dark upper mandible and a pale yellowish lower mandible. Some birds have striped heads; then study the color of the superciliary or eye-stripe, which is above the eye. The eye-line runs from the eye back towards the nape or back of the head. The lores are the small area before the eye. Savannah Sparrows are easily identified by their yellow lores. Some birds show an eye-ring, or circle around the eye, one notable feature of Vesper and Field Sparrows. The crown is the top of the head, and sometimes there is a median-stripe running through the center of the crown. White-crowned Sparrows are a good example of a bird that shows a particularly broad median-stripe. Attention should be paid to the fore-head to see if it is different from the rest of the crown. On the side of the head, below the eye-line, is the auricular (ear) area which may be bordered by a malar stripe, which runs from the base of the bill and borders the throat. Lark Sparrows have rich rusty auriculars, while Song Sparrows show much heavier malar stripes than Savannah Sparrows. Look at the chin and throat to see if they are striped or unmarked. Especially with fall Chipping Sparrows, examine the nape carefully. Clay-colored Sparrows show a fairly conspicuous gray nape, whereas fall Chippies do not.

The body has fewer parts, but they deserve attention. On the ventral, or lower, side look at the breast to see if it is striped or plain; examine the color, and look for a central spot. The thickness of the stripes is important. Frequently birders dismiss Savannah and

Lincoln's Sparrows because both have striped breasts. Savannahs and especially Lincoln's Sparrows show fine, delicate stripes. Song and Fox Sparrows have thick, heavy breast stripes. Check also to see if the flanks or sides are striped. Look at the belly to see if it is the same color as the breast. Examining the under-tail coverts is less important for sparrow than for warbler identification; if one is trying to separate fall plumaged Orange-crowned from Tennessee Warblers, one must scrutinize the under-tail coverts.

A bird's dorsal side, or back, is divided into the interscapular area, the center of the back, and the rump, the feathers on the lower back. The color of the rump is important in separating Clay-colored and Chipping Sparrows; Clay-colored are brownish-buff, while Chippies are gray. The rump color can be very difficult to observe. In separating these two species, look at the nape carefully. Just below the rump are the upper-tail coverts; these feathers cover the base of the tail. Examine the color and the length of the tarsi, or legs. This may be less significant for sparrows, but is important with fall warblers, shorebirds, and herons.

The wings are divided into the remiges, or flight feathers, and the coverts, or covering feathers. The primaries are the outer-most 9 to 11 feathers of the wing, while the secondaries are inside the primaries. The coverts protect the base of these flight feathers. If a bird shows wing-bars, usually the light edges of the greater and middle coverts produce these bars. The scapulars and tertials are a line of feathers separating the wing from the back. On the under-surface of the wing are the wing linings and axillars, the last especially useful in identifying fall Black-bellied Plovers. One cautious note: especially with hawks, the general shape of the wing is critical. It may be impossible to get many details of a hawk in flight, but the wing shape (pointed, rounded) and the flight pattern (soaring, flapping continuously, alternately soaring and flapping) are very useful in identification.

The retrices, or tail feathers, are frequently ignored in examining sparrows. Birders know that Vesper Sparrows have white outer retrices and that Lark Sparrows have white spots on the end of the retrices, but few people take the time to examine tail feathers on more familiar sparrows. Savannah Sparrows have tails only half as long as Song Sparrows, useful information in identifying a brown sparrow flitting into the bushes. Grasshopper Sparrows have very short tails, while White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows have notable long retrices. Many hawks have barred tails; the thickness, position, and color of these bands should be noted carefully. Adult Broadwings have broad white and black bands, while Red-shouldered Hawks have wide dark bands and thin white bands. Adult Red-tailed Hawks show no bands at all.

All these terms may seem bewildering at first, but once they become familiar, one should have an easier time with details. If you know what the malar stripe is or know about the nape, examining the different parts will become a natural part of birding. Even if you have identified a bird, examine all the details. You will become a more sensitive birder.

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MAINE AUDUBON NEWS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

A well established pair of Bald Eagles has successfully raised one young each year for the past five years (although they often laid more than one egg). Breeding was very early this year, nest-building being completed during our sub-tropical February. The female sat throughout March and most of April, during which time we experienced some very wint ry weather.

On April 25th the female left the nest and spent some time in a nearby tree, screaming frequently. She returned to the nest for the night, but left it again next day. He behaviour suggested that the egg might have hatched, although this does not normally occur until later, in May. However, when the nest was approached, the eagles left without any of the usual defensive action. Some pieces of broken eggshell were found under a perch tree some 50 yards from the nest, suggesting that they had been carried there. The eagles remained in the area, but did not return to the nest for two days. Since then they have been seen frequently in the vicinity of the nest, sometimes working on it, but most of their time has been spent elsewhere.

Clearly the egg or eggs had been broken, not hatched. It is interesting to speculate on the cause of the accident. The eggshell was rather thin (0.50 - 0.55 mm) which suggests that some environmental toxic substances may be affecting eggshell thickness. It does not seem likely that DDT is still causing this problem, but many other chemicals are entering the environment that may do so. Alternatively, the embryo may have died from cold during early April, or perhaps the eagles were just careless. Any comments or suggestions would be much appreciated.

R. G. S. Bidwell,
Rivendell,
Wallace, N. S.

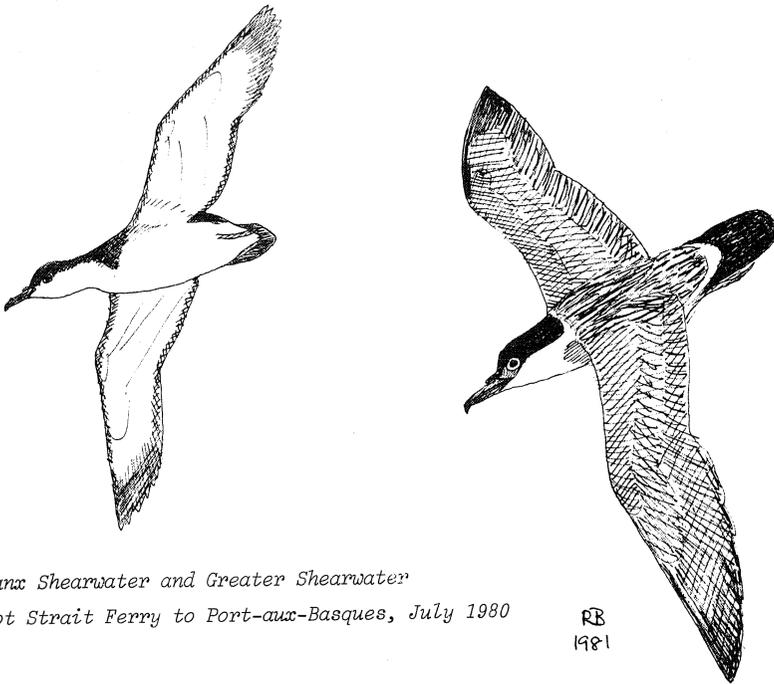
N.S.B.S. ARCHIVES

A Nova Scotia Bird Society Archives is being started. The committee responsible for beginning the organization of the material to be included would appreciate and contributions of articles, relative documents, pictures, etc. The document will show recognition of the contributor and the date. Any material can be forwarded to the Nova Scotia Bird Society, c/o Nova Scotia Museum, Marked N.S.B.S. Archives.

YOU DON'T NEED AN AIR TICKET FOR THE WEST COAST!

Roger Burrows

The island portion of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador is only a third of its mainland counterpart, but it does contain most of the best birding locations. My present base is on the east coast of the island of Newfoundland, but I have to admit that the best birding is usually found on the west coast. I should explain at this point that Newfoundlanders are very insular in their geography and a visitor to the province should be aware that reference to the "west coast" should not be taken as mention of British Columbia. Our west coast is sufficiently different from our east coast to be considered as an entirely different climatic and even avifaunal zone. There is more sunshine (usually!) in summer, more snow (always!) in winter, and more birds most of the year. The only thing missing for visiting birdwatchers is the presence of the vast seabird colonies of the Atlantic coast, which is admittedly quite a loss. However, the Gulf coast does offer a bewildering variety of bird experiences unequalled in Atlantic Canada. This article attempts to summarize the West Coast of Newfoundland and is a very brief precis of the more complete coverage in my upcoming book, which I hope will be in print by the time you receive this copy of Nova Scotia Birds.



Manx Shearwater and Greater Shearwater

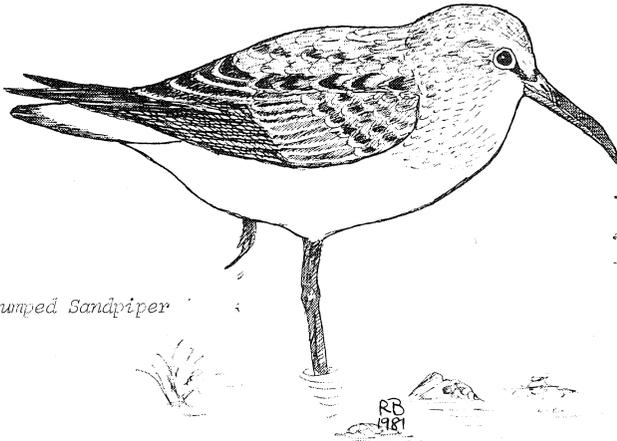
Cabot Strait Ferry to Port-aux-Basques, July 1980

RB
1981

Access to the west coast is by way of the CN Marine ferry, which leaves North Sydney in the morning and late at night. For obvious reasons the day crossing is the sailing for birdwatchers who want to see as many species as possible. The ferry operates year-round and usually offers a wide range of pelagic species. As this article is mainly concerned with summer and early fall visits to the province, I will only mention species and numbers typical of the June-September period. Early in June it is not unusual to see Greater, Sooty, Manx

and Cory's Shearwaters in small numbers off the North Sydney shore and these species are joined by Leach's and Wilson's Storm-petrels in mid channel. A few Northern Gannets, Northern Fulmars and Black-legged Kittiwakes are also present during the crossing, but most alcids are confined to Newfoundland waters. I have seen Common Puffin and Thickbilled Murre close to Port-aux-Basques in early July and any of the northern species are possible in August. Trips in the later part of the summer and into early fall can add Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers and a few flocks of Red, and less often Northern, Phalaropes. There have also been tentative identifications of Audubon's and Little Shearwaters in Gulf waters, so any small shearwaters should be carefully checked out. The trip takes just over six hours, which is short enough for undertaking a complete sea watch but long enough for tiring other members of the family who do not share a birder's enthusiasm for braving rough seas, strong winds and lashing spray on deck.

It is unfortunate that the visitor's first view of Newfoundland should so often be dismal and discouraging for, to be honest about it, the landing at Port-aux-Basques is about the most depressing reception you could expect anywhere. It is best to jump back into your car and drive the 40 kilometers of Trans-Canada Highway to the Codroy Valley. There are good birding spots at Cape Ray and Cheeseman Provincial Park, but they are most productive outside the main tourist season when the crowded campground is again quiet. The first really good location in summer is the estuary of the Grand Codroy Valley and its brackish and saltwater marshes. Several duck species now breed in the area and there is a good chance that Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Redhead and Ruddy Duck will lay their stamp of approval on the area in the future instead of being mere migrants. Wading birds of all kinds are also common here and the area is the only location in Newfoundland with both Sora and Virginia Rails.

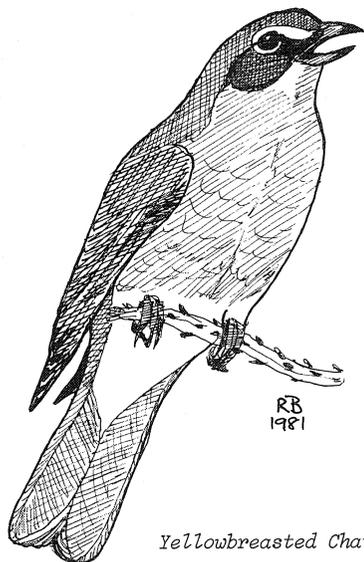


Whiterumped Sandpiper

Shorebirds are not as common as at locations a little further north along the coast, but the Grand Codroy rivermouth is an excellent location from late July to October. Numbers of all species are small but there is usually plenty of variety and the more hardy later species like Red Knot, Dunlin and Whiterumped Sandpiper are well represented. Waterfowl are also common in this area in September, although the majority of Redthroated Loons and Rednecked Grebes wait another month before staging here with a variety of diving ducks. The north shore of the rivermouth is the best area to visit for wading birds and the access road continues beyond the rivermouth to the wind-swept point to Cape Anguille. This is the westernmost extension of the island and is a good place to look for strays, although the few visits

that have been made have all been in fall. Landbirds tend to end up here waiting for the right weather conditions to continue their journeys and there have been a number of unusual sightings, although none are outstanding by Nova Scotian standards.

The next stop up the coast is perhaps the best known so far of all the west coast locations, especially since its railway bridge is featured in one of Roger Tory Peterson's paintings of shorebirds in "The Birds of Nova Scotia". This is Stephenville Crossing, perhaps the best shorebird location on this coastline. This open area of salt marsh and sand flats was the site of the first North American nesting of Blackheaded Gulls and this species is very much a summer and fall attraction of the area. The large gull flocks also contain a few Caspian Terns and sometimes a Pomarine Jaeger on its way south in fall. However, the main attraction of the area is its shorebirds, which use the extensive tidal flats south of the community of Stephenville Crossing. The number of birds may be lower than in the Maritimes, but the variety is the equal of anywhere in Atlantic Canada. Eurasian Golden Plovers have called in here in spring, but the majority of birds pass through from mid July to late October. Species that are uncommon elsewhere in Newfoundland tend to appear in greater numbers here, obvious examples being Red Knot, Pectoral Sandpiper and Dunlin, and the list of rarities includes Baird's and Buffbreasted Sandpipers, Hudsonian Godwit and Wilson's Phalarope, not rare by Maritime standards but quite a catch in Newfoundland. The area is also becoming well known for the appearance of increasing numbers of species expanding their ranges up the west coast, although a better location in summer would be the nearby Barachois Pond Provincial Park.



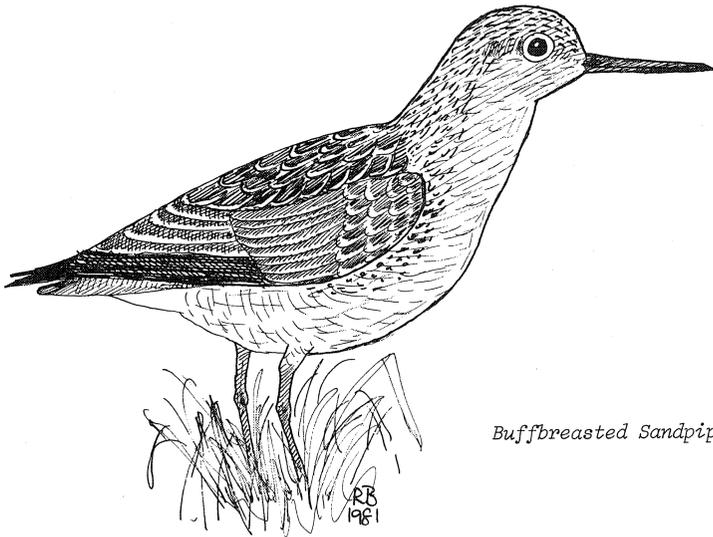
Yellowbreasted Chat

The same highway that leads to Stephenville Crossing off the Trans-Canada Highway is also the starting point for the short drive to the Port-au-Port Peninsula. This interesting extension of the mainland, which looks like a crane flying north or a jaeger flying south, contains the island's only French settlements and is ideally placed to attract migrants in spring and fall. While other locations can provide sightings of almost every waterbird known to occur on the island, the 17 kilometer long spit of land culminating at Long Point will satisfy anyone in search of landbirds. Birds of prey are very common in September and October and this is one of the few places where an observer can hope to see all the island's owls, hawks and falcons on one visit. Since this is the season of galeforce on-shore winds, the point is also an excellent place to look out for large numbers of pelagic birds, including the huge flocks of Red and Northern Phalaropes that stream down through the Strait of Belle Isle. However, it is the songbirds that

make the spit a veritable birding bonanza in the fall migration period. A road leads right to the end of the spit, but it is worth walking the last 8 kilometers or so to flush out the large numbers of birds moving through the scrub and shrubbery and across clearings. To save a long walk back, two drivers could alternate driving and walking in turn as I did with Rob Walker and Stu Tingley on a fall visit. This is the

best way of covering the whole area in the shortest possible time. Almost any eastern songbird is likely to turn up here, including Wheatear and Yellowbreasted Chat, and the only reason that the spot is not better known is the lack of visits that have been made in the prime months of May and September-October. Perhaps the best location for exploring this area and nearby Stephenville Crossing is the campground at Piccadilly Head Provincial Park, which offers a short Bird Blind walk along its shoreline on the more sheltered Port-au-Port Bay side of the peninsula.

The next good birding location on the west coast involves a two hour drive past the industrial community of Cornerbrook and the controversial airport at Deer Lake along the scenic Route 430 to Gros Morne National Park. Rob Walker has been the only regular contributor of records on the west coast and his favourite birding spot in the park is undoubtedly Saint Paul's Bay. Situated near the northern boundary of the park, this coastal area rivals Stephenville Crossing in the variety of shorebird species it can offer in fall and certainly dwarfs all other localities in sheer numbers. The extensive tidal flats and marshes attract excitable throngs of peeps, which are quite likely to contain a few Baird's Sandpipers among the hundreds of Least Whiterumped and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Red Knot, Shortbilled Dowitcher and Dunlin are also quite common here, despite being rare elsewhere on the island, and large numbers of Semipalmated and Blackbellied Plovers and Ruddy Turnstones are also features of the mud flats. Lesser Yellowlegs and Wilson's Phalaropes have also been seen in late July and August, making this the top shorebird location on the island in fall. Another feature of the area is the early fall passage of large numbers of Whimbrels pausing here on their way south.



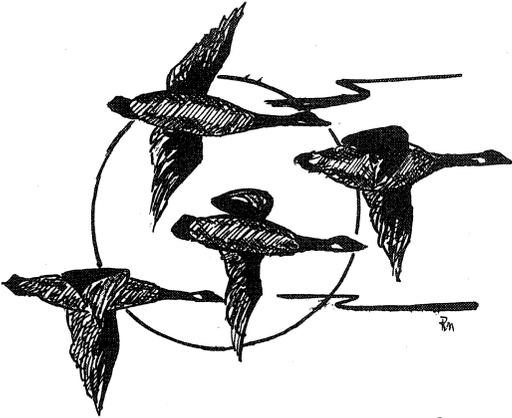
Buffbreasted Sandpiper

Approach to the flats is made by leaving the soon-to-be-paved highway just south of Saint Paul's and parking alongside the enclosures by the shingle beach and sand dunes. These enclosures are a favourite feeding place for the fall flocks of American Golden Plovers and these gatherings should be inspected for the Pectoral and Buff-breasted Sandpipers that invariably appear at the same time. Ducks are also a feature of the area and numbers can be quite reasonable in the late fall, although the coastal marshes are more likely to reveal

parties of Common Snipe and an occasional Great Blue Heron or American Bittern earlier on. The inshore waters are, however, favoured by diving ducks and this is one of the few places in Atlantic Canada where Barrow's Goldeneyes can be looked for in the summer months. Other diving ducks tend to prefer the rougher waters off Cow Head a little further to the north and the adjacent Shallow Bay area is very popular with gulls, which have included Laughing and Blackheaded Gulls in recent years. Songbirds are not really a feature of the Saint Paul's area, but the large number of visits made in the summer and early fall have turned up some unusual species. Perhaps a more reliable location for finding songbirds is the tuckamore and coastal meadows at Lobster Cove Head just north of Rocky Harbour, which has yielded a number of surprises over the last few years.

The next section of coastline is rather uninteresting for its birds but offers excellent views of the North Long Range Mountains that form the backbone of Newfoundland. Almost every peninsula and cove can be expected to yield its share of shorebirds and vagrants, especially during and after storms, but none are extensive enough to rival those to the south. The best of the bunch is the Ferolle Peninsula to the west of Three Mile Lake Provincial Park, which offers small numbers of Whimbrels and Ruddy Turnstones and a good selection of songbird migrants in the early fall. The next major birding location is not a location at all...it is in fact, the shortest pelagic ferry route in Atlantic Canada! The Strait of Belle Isle ferry is perhaps the most economical and pleasant way of seeing almost every pelagic species found in the region and the beauty of it is that it operates twice a day in the summer so that a trip can be made in the morning and a return made in the afternoon. Shearwaters are regular throughout the summer, but the ferry is perhaps best known for the chance of seeing Longtailed Jaegers during their inshore migration in August. There are also good numbers of Red and Northern Phalaropes at this time and into October and the chance of adding a Sabine's Gull should not be written off. Oldsquaws, Common Puffins, Thickbilled Murres and Dovekies also nest close enough to be expected in summer and the numbers of all eastern grebes and loons are higher than anywhere else on this coast. It is worth spending the morning and afternoon checking out the coastal cliffs and rocky shoreline of Quebec's Blanc Sablon and making a return on the afternoon ferry as several unusual species have appeared here in summer and fall. The final destination on the trip should be L'Anse-aux-Meadows and Saint Anthony at the northernmost tip of the Northern Peninsula, but that is quite a different story and one best written by its semi-resident birding fisherman, Bruce MacTavish, who has done more to put the area on the map than even Lief Ericson! On the way there try to make a short stop at Eddies Cove, located just before the new highway heads off overland. I can't guarantee that you will find a Western and Baird's Sandpiper together again at the same time as a possible first Atlantic coast Longtoed Stint, but you never know! That's the beauty of Newfoundland, where all you can expect is the unexpected!





No centerfold this issue.

The number of N. S. B. S. members who are now in possession of telephoto lenses has increased. It is hoped that submissions for the photo section of the next issue will allow at least eight pages of bird photos. Common birds are as welcome as rarities.

Ralph Connor.

Cover Photo

What is it?

Comments are invited.

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

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