

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS



April 1984

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WINTER 1983-1984

February 29, 1984, and another mild winter for Nova Scotia is nearly past. We have had frost and snow and gales of wind, but each effort of King Winter soon subsided to give over to open water, bare ground and still and silent tree-tops.

The migratory birds left us in droves (see last report) in the fall; winter woods have been largely silent--an occasional flock of chickadees answering to a prolonged "swish", a Blue Jay calling from a spruce-top, a Redtail tilting over, and of course, the crows and gulls overhead almost anywhere along the salt water edges or strutting about, pecking at the half-frozen mud flats.

Where feeders were maintained the birds clustered around: Evening Grosbeaks, Goldfinches, Black-capped Chickadees; at one point many Pine Siskins and a few Redpolls and Purple Finches; some feeders had Nuthatches, either Red- or White-breasted; Juncos, Song Sparrows, Whitethroats, the Mockingbird and the Mourning Dove and an occasional lingering warbler.

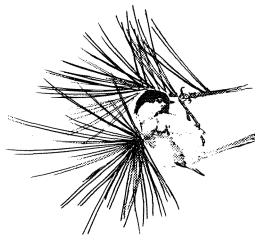
Although this seemed to be our winter population of birds it is amazing to find (from the following report) that in truth, this hardy little province maintained hundreds of birds, large and small, from December 1 to March 1. (One at least, the Song Sparrow, forgot it was Leap Year and started singing on February 29--at Lower Eel Brook in Yarmouth County).

We worry that the lack of snow may mean another dry summer with a short growing season. That remains to be seen. Meanwhile, it behooves us to cherish what we have in the way of native greenery, for our birds and other creatures of the wild, and for ourselves.

Every season has its specialties, and this winter of 1983-1984 is no exception. During this season you will see that we have had the company of quite a number of wintering birds, and besides those mentioned above at feeders, have been exotics such as the Northern Oriole, the Yellow-breasted Chat and the Cardinal. Some off-course, large Tundra Swans (Whistling Swans) provided considerable excitement in the late fall; a very large Grackle has created much interest, its identity still in question: Boat-tailed or Great-tailed? We have acquired a second Lesser Black-backed Gull, indubitably a second, as determined by R.B. Dickie.

For these and other stories read the Report to follow.

--PRD



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Many of the birding areas in Nova Scotia "crop up" regularly in the reports. To prevent repetition of the locations of these areas in the body of the text, we include this list of references:

Yarmouth Co. (Yar. Co.)	Arcadia, Pinkney's Point, Tusket, Cranberry Head, Eel Brook, Chegoggin, Melbourne, Bartlett's Beach
Shelburne Co. (Shel. Co.)	Cape Sable Is., Matthews Lake, Lower Ohio, The Hawk
Queen's Co.	Port Joli, Port Hebert, Caledonia, Cadden Bay, Summer-ville Beach
Lunenburg Co. (Lun. Co.)	Cherry Hill, Broad Cove, Petite Riviere, Green Bay, Crousetown, Crescent Beach, Bayport, Lower LaHave, Second Peninsula
Halifax Co. (Hfx. Co.)	Three Fathom Hbr., Conrad's Beach, Lawrencetown, Cole Hbr., Mooseland, Rocky Run, Conrad's Road, Queensland, Waverley, Martinique Beach, Hartlan's Point
Colchester Co. (Col. Co.)	Economy
Annapolis Co. (Anna. Co.)	Wilmot, Round Hill, Paradise, Sandy Bottom Lake
Kings Co.	Wolfville, Greenfield, Melanson, Canard, Lockhartville, Black River Lake, Gaspereau, Grand Pre
Cumberland Co. (Cumb. Co.)	Lusby Marsh
Hants Co.	Shubenacadie

BIRD REPORTS

LOONS AND GREBES

The RED-THROATED LOON population showed a big increase this year over '82-'83, when only a single bird was reported: there were 2 at Evangeline Beach, Dec. 17 (JET); 3, Northwest Arm, Hfx. Co., Jan. 8 (CF) and 19 were seen on seven of the CBC's (Christmas Bird Counts). All COMMON LOON sightings except for one in the Annapolis Basin and 43 on the Brier Is. CBC were along the South Shore from the Halifax area to Yarmouth. Numbers were normal: singles, up to 12 except for a fantastic 150 in the Green Bay area, Jan 28 & 29, seen by the Cohrs, who recorded 80-100 there at the same time last year. Several high CBC counts were: 88, Hfx. E.; 78, Broad Cove, and 70, Port Hebert.

PIED-BILLED GREBES were the only members of this family to show up on the CBC's--2, at Hfx. W., and 1, at Port Hebert. Other sightings were: 2, at Russell Lake, Dec. 10 (RBD), and 1, Tusket Forks, Feb. 13 (CRKA, PRD). The number of sightings of HORNED GREBES this winter is not significantly different from last year--11 compared with 9 in '82-'83, but the number of individuals is well up--181, compared with 30. High counts were: 100+ at Cape Sable and vicinity, Jan. 28 (MEC, JG, EG); 30+, Chester Basin, Jan. 26 (FLL & DM), and 27, St. Margaret's Bay, Jan. 22 (ELM). RED-NECKED GREBES also are well up in number of sightings-- 13 compared with 10, and numbers of individuals, 145, compared with 21. The stretch of shore in the Hfx. area produced the greatest number of sightings in Jan. and Feb.: 20 at both Martinique and Bear Cove, and 40 at Cow Bay. The usual spring assembly point at Pinkney's Point had 15, early arrivals Feb. 19; and the Brier Is. CBC recorded 32.

--CRKA, ed.

FULMARS TO CORMORANTS

There are slim pickings in this section, I'm afraid. The Christmas Bird Count at Brier Is., produced 5 NORTHERN GANNETS, and there was an immature bird off Chebucto Head on the Hfx. W. CBC on Boxing Day. As usual at this season, almost all of our cormorant reports are of GREAT CORMORANTS. They come from as far apart as Point Aconi in Cape Breton (14 birds on Jan 18, according to Hedley Hopkins), to Cape Forchu and Lr. W. Pubnico, Yar. Co., where Eric Ruff and Raymond S. d'Entremont saw a few birds in late Jan. and early Feb. Something like 30 birds have been wintering in Hfx. Hbr. (Don MacNeill, Fulton Lavender), and 15+ on the LaHave River near Bridgewater (Chris Naugler). There was a DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT in Bedford Basin on Nov. 26, a couple on Dec. 31, one off the Ferry Terminal in Hfx. Hbr. on Feb. 3, and a bird at Cape Forchu, Yar., on New Year's Day (RBD, RBS, Eric and Barb Ruff).

A follow-up to the BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS in the last issue: the record was forwarded to me without a date, and I should have realized that this was the same 1980 sighting which was duly reported in "American Birds" at the time. It came from a patriotic Nova Scotian who believes that this sighting belongs to OUR list, and not to Newfoundland's. He's quite right, it does.

--RBBB, ed.

HERON

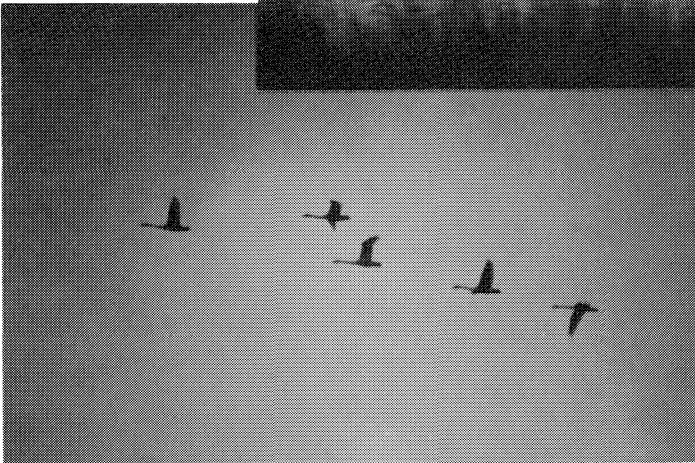
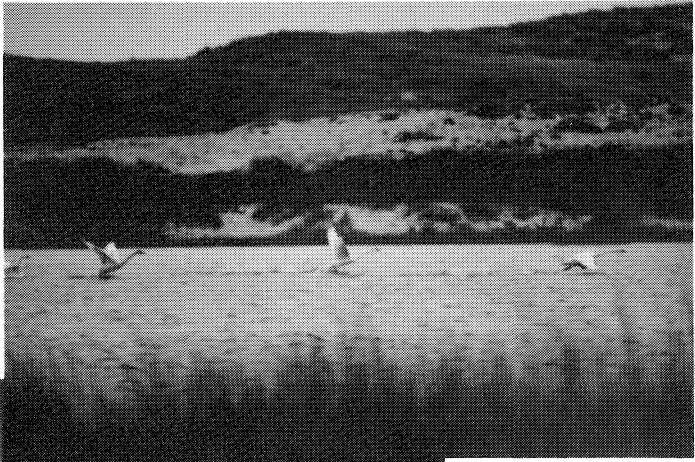
The Canard "Poultry Pond" hosted 2 GREAT BLUE HERONS in Dec., and 1 remained there for the Wolfville CBC. All other late birds were coastal; the several on the Halifax counts were noteworthy. Later

individuals were at Petpeswick on Jan. 2, W. Pubnico on Jan. 8, Annapolis Royal on Jan. 17 and at Clementsport on the 18th, and 2 were near Port LaFour on Jan. 28. The latest was seen by Chris Mills at the Head of St. Margarets Bay on Feb. 22, and found dead on the 17th; this was probably the fate of most that dared to winter.

--IAM, ed.

SWANS, DUCKS AND GEESE

A sprinkling of TUNDRA (WHISTLING) SWANS honored us with a visit in late Nov. and early Dec.; whether the southeast gales at that time blew them off their course from James to Chesapeake Bay is anyone's guess, but there they were, great stately birds, making the attendant Great Black-backed Gulls look like chickens around a hen: 6 at Pond Cove near Yarmouth, 4 at Bissett Lake, Hfx. Co., Dec. 6, up to 12 on Sable Island, and an adult at Glace Bay Sanctuary from Nov. to time of writing. At least one fell to the gun of a "sportsman".



Among the several records of Tundra Swans in late autumn were these ones snapped at take off and in flight over Sable Island on December 3 or 4. Photograph by Dave Lombard.

The SNOW GOOSE at Pubnico Hbr. (with 300 Canadas), Feb. 27 (TCd'E et al.) had probably been somewhere in the area for quite a long time; perhaps one of the Melbourne birds? (see last report). CANADA GEESE remained in large numbers at their usual wintering havens which never did freeze completely this year. The 5000 at Martinique were apparently still there by Feb. 19; numbers from 1700 to 3000 in the Chezzetcook area may be a separate flock or a part of this concentration. Other considerable numbers were: 1000 in the Port Williams-Canard region; 1500, West Lawrencetown-Cole Hbr; 750, Port Joli, and 600+, Melbourne. A small flock of 19, Feb. 3 at Lockhartville was called "the earliest ever" (D & GL), and one of about 50 over Eel Lake, Feb. 29, may have been the beginning of the migration, induced by recent spring-like weather. (CRKA).

Three male WOOD DUCKS wintered at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, the surest place to see this species in winter; another was at Maynard's Lake during the same period (RBD, Cohrs, Lovitts). Sullivan's Pond also had its usual winter population of GREEN-WINGED TEAL: 4, Dec. 29, down to 2, Feb. 9 (RBD). At Canard Poultry Pond, there were 6 male Greenwings, Nov. 20, and on Nov. 24, there were 6 females! Transvestites? (BT). Numbers of BLACK DUCKS were generally unimpressive; greatest number reported was 3000, Dec. 18, at Martinique, down to 1000-2000 by Feb. 19, there (RBD,FLL). Only other localities reporting over 100 were: Sullivan's Pond, 600; Yarmouth Hbr., 300; Wedgeport, 200, and Grand Pre, 250; from early Dec. to mid Feb. Single male MALLARDS were seen at Martinique, Glenhaven, Lawrencetown Lake and Annapolis dykes, Dec. to mid-Feb. The 4 at Canard Poultry Pond, Nov. 22, had doubled by Dec. 8 (BT & JET), and 14 were seen at Port Williams by the NSBS-BNS Field Party Feb. 6. The 100+ at Sullivan's Pond are thought to be wild birds, but we still have no information from local observers as to the Sydney flock which numbered 88 this winter. There were 2 male PINTAILS at Martinique, Dec. 4, joined by a female Jan.15 (FLL,RBD,JT). One other male was at the Canard Pond Dec. 8 (RBS,BT,JET). In the matter of strays and rarities Canard Poultry Pond seems to be worming its way up into the place once held by Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth. It has produced the only NORTHERN SHOVELER of the winter, seen there Nov. 22 and 24 by Brenda Thexton. A female GADWALL, seen at Green Bay, Jan. 28, by the Cohrs is a real straggler, (although 5 did show up on the CBC's). A RING-NECKED DUCK at APBS Dec. 3; and 2, at Glace Bay, Dec. 8, are quite late dates (CD,OC,HEH,GF). The first signs of the spring build-up of GREATER SCAUP were 200, Feb. 11, at Glace Bay, where there had been only 8 on Dec.8 (NC); and Feb. 15, with the appearance of 40-50 at Salt Bay, Yar. Co. (CRKA,PRD). The only record of LESSER SCAUP is of one seen on the Cape Breton Highlands Park Christmas Count.

Apparently the great COMMON EIDER migration has not reached here at the time of writing (March 1). Small numbers of wintering birds up to 70, were reported from the Bay of Fundy as far up as Evangeline Beach, and along the South Shore from Martinique to Yar. Co. beaches. The only HARLEQUIN DUCKS reported are 2, at Cranberry Head (11 there last year at this time), Dec.-Feb. (MEC,JG); and 10 on the Port Hebert CBC. Margaret Churchill and June Graves report OLDSQUAWS as "easy to find but in small numbers" in SW Nova Scotia during this period, and this is borne out by other observers: Richard Stern estimates 120 along the coast from Martinique to Halifax; and Hedley Hopkins and Otis Cossitt report 46, at Glace Bay and Catalone Bay. High counts for single dates are: 40+, Dec. 6, St. Margaret's Bay (KNK) and 40, Feb. 22, at Lr. Kingsburg (CF). As with the Eiders, the period covered by this report is early for the Scoter migration. BLACK SCOTERS numbered 126 individuals seen in seven localities all along the Atlantic shore from Martinique to Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., none west of there. High counts were 50, Crescent Beach, Jan. 28

(J & SC) and 50, Chezzetcook, Feb. 19 (RBD). SURF SCOTERS, missing last year, numbered 7, in three localities; 1, at Lawrencetown, Jan. 23; 1, at Prospect Hbr., Feb. 23, and 5, at Clam Hbr., Feb. 16, all seen by FLL and DM. WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS are as always, the commonest --238 individuals were seen in eight localities: 4, Bay of Fundy, 1, Cape Breton and the remaining places along the Atlantic coast. Again high counts were just 50 (each) at Martinique, Herring Cove, and Morien-Catalone-Sydney; this last being the total number seen at these places by HEH and OC. COMMON GOLDENEYES were well reported in numbers, usually 20-100 from Cape Breton, lower Bay of Fundy, Eastern and South Shores. At Lawrencetown Lake and Martinique numbers increased from 6, Jan. 2, at the former locality and 20 at the latter, to 100 in that general area by Feb. 19. The highest count was 208 seen on the Broad Cove CBC. Three BARROW'S GOLDENEYES have been reported: one male in Bedford Basin, Dec. 30 (RBD), where one or two have been showing up most winters for at least 30 years (why here particularly?); and 2, at Tantallon, St. Margaret's Bay, (ELM,JSC,etc.) Annapolis Basin seems to be the principal winter headquarters for BUFFLEHEADS in the province, and the first report for the year comes from there where Annie Raymond saw a flock too far off to count, Nov. 4. By Dec. 12, she estimated their numbers to be a bit over 200. Robert Dickie kept track of this species at Martinique from Dec. 13 to Feb. 19, where their numbers fluctuated from 2 to 30. There were 2, at Glace Bay Sanctuary, Dec. 4 & 8 (HEH,OC,SM), 24 at Chezzetcook, Dec. 17, and 15 at Three Fathom Hbr., Dec. 12 (D & JP). There were seven HOODED MERGANSERS at The Puddle, Queensland, Nov. 19 (KNK); a male at the Poultry Pond, Canard, Nov. 22 (JET,BT); another male at Martinique, Dec. 4 (RBD), and a very late couple (male and female) seen by the Cohrs in Bedford Basin, Jan. 15. After being sparsely reported in this period last year, the COMMON MERGANSERS have staged a big come-back. They were listed on 13 of the CBC's with a total of 512 birds. The highest single-date sighting was an estimated 300 in the Shubenacadie River near Stewiacke (D & JP), with, as runner-up, 65-70 on Eel Lake, Feb. 24 (CRKA,PRD). Other reports are from all over--fourteen localities to be exact--in Cape Breton, South Shore, Valley, ranging from 50 down to a single bird seen Jan. 26 by Ted D'Eon at Pubnico--"the only one for me this year". Nothing notable happened to RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS this year; they are reported in 10's and 20's from all the usual places, mostly along the Atlantic shore, but that is also where most of the birders can be found. High score went to Eel Lake where there were about 80, many displaying, Feb. 26 (PRD,CRKA); (the Common Mergansers were still there).

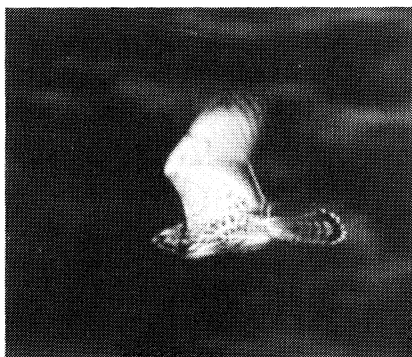
--CRKA, ed.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

There were rumors of a TURKEY VULTURE in the Wolfville area this winter, but no explicit report. We had excellent coverage of BALD EAGLES, although few reports from C.B. Barry Sabean (and others) mention that the weekly eagle survey in eastern Kings Co., by Lands and Forests personnel produced a peak count of 66 birds on Feb. 21. Others from that region also stressed the abundance of these fine birds this winter, and from their submissions I gleaned a ratio of 39 ad. to 37 imm. birds. At their other big concentration near Stewiacke, there were about 20 (ad. and imm. ca. equal) on Jan. 24 (D & JP). Up to 7 (4 imm., 3 ad.?) were at Martinique Beach, and perhaps an equal number around Metro by various observers. "Several" were seen around the LaHave R., an ad. and an imm. at Port Joli, and 1 occasionally at Smith's Cove. There were several reports from the Yarmouth area, but never more than 1 ad. and 1 imm. at a time. Finally, 1 was at W. Pubnico on Feb. 15.

At least 2 N. HARRIERS were in the Wolfville-Canard area through the reporting period. There were also 1 at Cape Forchu through Jan.,

2 at W. Pubnico through mid-Feb., and 1 over the Halifax Shopping Centre on Feb. 3. Only one of the Wolfville birds was sexed--a male; these are said to winter further north and return sooner, so it would be useful to have sexes reported in future. There were reports of ca. 23 SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS, some as usual indirectly consuming sunflower seed at feeders. Among the 5 GOSHAWKS seen, one was on a sustained "dove diet" at Mid. W. Pubnico (TD'E).



This immature Broad-winged Hawk, seen on the Halifax East Christmas Count, was most unseasonable. The strong "mustache", white "eyebrow", pale wing linings with dark trailing edge and the wider terminal tail band are all good field marks.
Dec. 17, 1983, W. Lawrencetown

Photo by I.A. McLaren

In addition to the bird seen on the Halifax East count, a BROAD-WINGED HAWK was reported from Sydney, seen from Dec. 16 into Feb. (DH,HEH). The several records in recent winters suggest that a change in habits may be developing in this small Buteo. RED-TAILED HAWKS were superabundant in Kings Co. this winter. Following upon the remarkable number on the Wolfville CBC, there were still at least 50 for the NSBS-BNS field trip on Feb. 5. Several were paired up and displaying on Feb. 18-19, according to RBS. Some reporters mentioned high "mouse" (vole) numbers. Otherwise, there were 13 reports of 25 scattered birds. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS also put on a good show in Kings Co., where the maximum estimate was 8 nominally light-phase and 4 dark birds on Feb. 11 (FLL et al.). One was so black that it was "easily mistaken for a raven...at a distance" (JET). Elsewhere, only about 6 were seen, but this is still more than usual.

In the new year there were scattered reports of 7 AM. KESTRELS and about 12 MERLINS, allowing for probable "repeats". Although I heard rumors of later sightings, the only PEREGRINE FALCON reported was an imm. at Grand Pre on Dec. 15 (GD & PM). The big news was 2 GYRFALCONS in the same area. A dark bird was seen from Dec. 28 through Feb. 19, and staged several close-up shows for several people --killing pheasants and Black Ducks, and doing battle with a red-tail. A paler bird was seen only in early Feb. (BLF et al.) and was generally more elusive. An additional light-phase bird was seen by FS et al. taking a Rock Dove at Economy on Jan. 27; what was probably the same bird was seen there on Feb. 19 (EPS).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Flocks of GRAY PARTRIDGE were reported from N. Hants and E. Kings Co.: up to 30 near Hillaton, 25 near Windsor and 13 at Grand Pre (BLF et al.). There were also flocks of a dozen each at Economy and Great Village, and 11 near Truro. This looks like a real "comeback"; does anyone know if it has been abetted by releases? RING-NECKED PHEASANTS thrive in spite of hunting and predation. The Thextons reported them as "down" at their Wolfville feeder--4-5 instead of the 25-30 of a few years ago. Nonetheless, they and BT and JET report good numbers in the countryside, and 35 were seen on the NSBS-BNS field trip on Feb. 5. There were up to 15 f. and 4 m. at a feeder in Smith's Cove

on Feb. 7, and there were reports of 1-4 birds from Amherst, Baddeck, Lockhartville, Middle Musquodoboit, Paradise and Sydney Mines. RUFFED GROUSE were thought to be "far more common last winter" at Clementsport, where only 1 has been seen this year (SCH), and indeed we only have reports of 8 birds from 7 other localities. A carefully studied N. BOBWHITE at Cloud Lake, Kings Co., on Dec. 20 was "likely an escape" (John Mills).

RALLIDS

A SORA at Russel Lake on Dec. 27 was gone next day (JT). Another was found freshly dead on Mar. 4, during a Hfx. Field-Naturalists' field trip to Duncan's Cove (to N.S. mus. Sc., fide Bernice Moores); it had probably tried to return too soon. Some such compulsion drove 2 errant PURPLE GALLINULES our way. One flew aboard a Dept. of Fisheries ship off the E. coast of C.B. on Jan 10, and got as far as Hfx. before succumbing (to N.S. Mus., fide JSC). The other was picked up alive in Sydney on Feb. 7, and also soon died (DH). Although up to 8 AM. COOTS were on the Dartmouth-area lakes in Dec., only 1 bird, at Sullivan's Pond, made it into the new year and was still about in early Feb.

--IAM, ed.

SHOREBIRDS

After a busy fall season, this winter's shorebird reports are even scantier than usual. Two stray KILLDEER were at Hartlen Pt., Jan. 7 (FLL,JT). 20 SANDERLING were at Martinique Beach (Dec. 18 (RBD), 15 still there Jan. 15 (FLL,RD,JT). Small flocks of the PURPLE SANDPIPER were noted at Martinique, Baccaro and Peggy's Cove in Jan. and Feb. (FLL,JT,D.M.,E.G.,M.C.). Add Flat Island (off Seal) to this species' wintering grounds: a hunter saw a small flock there Jan 2, and brought one back for identification (T.C.D'E).

Two DUNLIN were at Martinique Beach, Jan 15. Fulton Lavender suggests that because they were very short-billed and smaller than nearby Sanderlings they were Greenland birds (subsp. artica). However, 5 there March 4 were all pacifica (ELM,IAM--see photo).



At least 5 Dunlin managed to get through the winter at Martinique Beach.

*Photo by I.A. McLaren
Mar. 4, 1984.*

--FS, ed.

JAEGERS TO AUKS

HERRING AND GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS will receive their customary short shrift here. The birds are part of the Nova Scotian scenery; what more can I say? More to the point, there are single, adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS, both at the Volvo Plant in Halifax Hbr.,

and at the Mill Cove outlet in Bedford. Fulton Lavender reports that the Mill Cove bird has a worn, white-tipped secondary feather which makes it easily separable from the Volvo bird. If only we could get them to mate...! I have the feeling that this may be the winter of the ICELAND GULL. Eric Mills, Mike Almon, Fulton Lavender and the Cohrs all report flocks totalling around 100 birds in the Halifax area at various dates from December to February. According to Fulton, about 95% of them are the Kumlien's subspecies, as you'd normally expect down here in winter. This is the form with the shadowy, Herring Gull-like wing-tips which breeds in Baffin Island. The 'Iceland' subspecies with the pure white wing-tips (which, despite its name, nests only in Greenland) is always rare in eastern Canada - though I found it surprisingly common at sea off south-east Labrador in mid-November. Farther south, Richard Stern found Icelands common in the harbour at Saint John, N.B., on Jan. 29, and there are at present (early March) a couple of birds, as well as a GLAUCOUS GULL, in Yarmouth Hbr. (PRD). It may be the winter of the Glaucous Gull as well. There are many reports of them from the Halifax area south to Mahone Bay. The highest numbers are 6 birds from the Halifax West CBC, and 7 along the west side of Halifax Hbr. on Feb. 12 (Eric Mills). As a rule, Glaucous Gulls don't come much farther south than Cape Breton, and most of the Iceland Gulls in Nova Scotia winter up there as well. It's a pity that there are no Cape Breton reports which might put our mainland observations this winter into perspective.

RING-BILLED GULLS have been seen in their usual numbers in the Halifax area--20 on Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth on Jan. 27 (FLL)--and, on the other side of the province, there were 8-10 on the sewage plant at Grand Pre on New Year's Day (Bill and Brenda Thexton). The Thextons, and Jean Timpa, believe they saw a LAUGHING GULL near Port Williams on Jan. 4th. Jean is not prepared to press the point, but I'm putting it on record for that very reason. We editors receive so many one-line, unsubstantiated identifications that it's a positive pleasure to read a report full of honest doubt...

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES were abundant around Brier Island. Eric Mills counted 1535 there on the CBC on Dec. 19, and they were still common on Dec. 27-28, coming very close in to Westport Harbour (RBS).

The usual numbers of BLACK-HEADED GULLS were wintering in the harbour at Glace Bay, according to Sara MacLean, and there are reports of stragglers as far south as Yar. Co., in January (Delisle d'Entremont, Eric and Barbara Ruff). I won't say another word about whether or not the species breeds in Atlantic Canada, because Brian Dalzell of Moncton has just drawn my attention to the proven record of breeding at Havre-aux-Basques in the Magdalens in 1982. My apologies for missing it! BONAPARTE'S GULLS, as usual, are rarer; for example, the Cohrs saw one among 8-10 Black-headed at Canal St., Dartmouth, on Jan. 8, and the odd bird or two has been seen around Metro all winter. Elsewhere, Annie K. Raymond reports 5 birds at Smith's Cove, Digby Co., on Dec. 1, and there was a bird at Hazel Hill, near Canso, in early Feb. (June and Sam Jarvis).

Would you believe a COMMON TERN at this season? Eric Mills saw one at Conrad's Beach on Dec. 17.

One normally has to go out to sea on an oceanographic ship to see DOVEKIES, but all you need this winter is the Halifax-Dartmouth ferry. It has been, as Shirley Cohrs puts it, a bonanza year for the little birds. It hasn't been one of those winters when they've been blown ashore by storms--though Sara MacLean found one such bird at Reserve Mines, C.B., on Christmas Day, and duly returned it to the sea. On the other hand, they have been remarkably common close in shore. Our reports come from the Sydneys in Jan.-Feb. (Hedley Hopkins,

Otis Cossitt), all the way down the Atlantic shore to Cape Sable Is., (up to 15 on Feb. 4--Margaret E. Churchill) and Lr. W. Pubnico in Yar. Co. (2 birds on Dec. 17, 1 on New Year's Day--Delisle d'Entremont).

There have also been reports of THICK-BILLED MURRES inshore in small numbers this winter, though not, I think, more frequently than is usual. Most are from the Atlantic shore--3+ off Canso in late Jan. (June and Sam Jarvis); up to 3 birds at a time off Halifax in Jan. and Feb. (Fulton Lavender, Jim Taylor, Bernice Moore, Don MacNeill, Bob Dickie). However, there was also a bird off Digby Hbr. on Jan. 29 (RBS). The only COMMON MURRES were 2-3 birds seen from the causeway to Cape Sable Island in the first week in Feb. by Margaret Churchill. Our only RAZORBILL was the bird in the Northwest Arm, Hfx. Hbr., Jan. 8-12 (Chris Field, Don MacNeill). Finally, scattered BLACK GUILLEMOTS were reported along the Atlantic shore from Canso (12+ birds in late Jan./early Feb.--June and Sam Jarvis) to Cape Sable Island and Baccaro (Margaret Churchill et al.)

I'll finish with a follow-up to Ian McLaren's possible SOUTH POLAR SKUA in the last NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS. Jens-Kield Jensen of Nolsoy in the Faeroe Islands, writing in the Danish bird journal DANSK ORNITOLOGISK FORENING'S TIDSSKRIFT (1982. 76:149), describes how he collected two Skuas at random from the flock around his fishing boat out on Flemish Cap, in Aug. '78. Both of them turned out to be South Polar Skuas. Now Flemish Cap is 300 nautical miles east of St. John's and that's outside Canadian waters, even by today's standards, but if Jensen found South Polar Skuas out there, and if the Americans can find them off New England, and if the Danes can produce a specimen from west Greenland, then it's a fair bet that the species is going to turn up off Nova Scotia, sooner rather than later. I'm sure that the only reason we haven't yet found them is because the field marks which distinguish them from North Atlantic Skuas, which regularly reach our waters from Iceland and Scotland, have not properly been worked out.

--RGG, ed.

DOVES, OWLS, KINGFISHER

The Lockharts of Lockhartville, got landed with 24 ROCK DOVES after Jan. 11, and found them "hard on feed". Some maximal counts from JET and BT suggest that there were at least 350 around Port Williams, 100 at Acadia Univ., 85 at Greenwich, and 60 at Gaspereau. They do well around feed mills. Naturally MOURNING DOVES were more fully reported. Big feeder concentrations in Jan.-Feb. were up to 23 on the Dartmouth outskirts (D & JP), 26 at Yarmouth (MEC), 14 at Tusket (CRKA), 19 at Mid. W. Pubnico (TCD'E) and 11 at Lr. W. Pubnico (DJd'E). There were only 7 reports from elsewhere, of about 17 birds. Oddly, they were evidently scarce in Kings Co., where only 1 was reported in the new year (D & BT).

Some 8 GREAT HORNED OWLS were reported, among them "an alto and tenor" hooting on several evenings in Jan. at Sandy Bottom Lake (G & MN). Another at Glengarry Rd., C.B., "probably a culprit returning to the scene of the crime, was caught by the neck in a snare from which a rabbit had been taken the previous night; snare owned by Benny MacNeil, who forgave him (?) his trespasses, freed him, and he flew off, seemingly none the worse for his experience" (JMacN). A SNOWY OWL at Lr. Onslow on Jan. 22 (A & ER) and another near Smith's Cove on Feb. 1 (AKR) put in unexpected mid-season appearances. Unfortunately, we did not receive any of the numerous boreal wanderers--Great Grey and Hawk Owls--that flooded southern Ontario and Quebec this winter. A total of 11 BARRED OWLS this winter is more than usual. Three LONG-EARED OWLS near Canard on Jan. 18 and 5 SHORT-EARED OWLS at Grand Pre on Feb. 21 were seen by BLF.

We have 8 post-CBC reports of BELTED KINGFISHERS--numbers that have not been matched since 1979. These were near Annapolis Royal until Jan. 2, at Chezzetcook and Porter's Lake on Jan. 15, Purcell's Cove at Halifax and near Hubbards on Jan. 22, and in 3 locations around Yarmouth between Jan. 4 and Feb. 17.

WOODPECKERS

FLL thought that both DOWNY and HAIRY WOODPECKERS were fewer than usual at metro feeders because of the generally open winter. Nevertheless, there were reports of 31 (incl. 10 m., 11 f.) of the former from 21 localities, and 27 (incl. 7m, 4 f.) of the latter from 15 localities, mostly at feeders outside metro. This is about average for recent years. We had reports of a male BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER along Hammond's Plain Rd. (n.d., DAC) and of a female at Boularderie, C.B., on Feb. 13. Our only wintering N. FLICKERS were near Mt. Denson, Hants Co., on Jan. 3, and at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co., on Jan. 23 (DM). We had 6 scattered sightings of 7 PILEATED WOODPECKERS.

--IAM, ed.

HORNED LARK TO CHICKADEE

HORNED LARKS were quite widely reported this year from Dec. to the end of Feb., but only from three counties. Ones and twos were seen in Hfx. Co., larger flocks of 15 or more were around Yar. Co., and as usual, flocks of 30+ were at Grand Pre, Kings Co. The largest concentration was 50+ at Grand Pre, Feb. 10-18--exactly the same in number and date as in 1983!

Six TREE SWALLOWS, underlined as rarities at this time of the year, were seen Dec. 14, at Lr. W. Pubnico, feeding along the shore on insects on and above the storm-tossed seaweed. Three remained on the 16th (Od'E, TCD'E).

Sporadic sightings of GRAY JAYS were made throughout the winter in Yar., Shel., Lun., Hants and Hfx. Counties and at Sydney, C.B. Don MacNeill counted eleven at Mt. Uniake, Feb. 14, while C & MN at Sandy Bottom Lake and E & RS d'E at Lr. W. Pubnico had regulars at their feeding stations most of the winter. BLUE JAYS were much more plentiful and were widely noted as regular visitors to feeders. Two correspondants, Joyce Purchase (Dartmouth) and G & M Nickerson (Sandy Bottom Lake) had many fewer than usual while Shawn Hawbolt (Clements-port) and Brenda Thexton (Wolfville) had all time high numbers. CRKA dished out sunflower seeds to a steady 20 or so daily at Tusket.

AMERICAN CROWS were "always in evidence" on winter birding trips. Jean Timpa wrote that 18,300 were estimated on the Wolfville CBC--they are counted late in the day as they return to their roost on Boot Island. Annie Raymond (Smith's Cove) noticed a crow feeding two others on Feb. 6--possibly courting behavior? Two large flocks of COMMON RAVENS were noted: Jan 10, 50+ flying west over Bridgewater and 75+ at Martinique Beach during Feb. (CN,RBD). On Jan. 28-29 on a round trip from Halifax to Green Bay, JSC noticed "tumbling, calling, cavorting ravens" all over the place and estimated some 200+.

CHICKADEES TO PIPITS

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were heavily reported as "regular" both at feeders and along the wood edges and seemed to most people to be in usual numbers. Polite and dapper, they seem to add class to the winter feeders. As Con Desplanque writes, "although present at all times, they are no bums, appearing more frequently when they need some assistance." The Raymond d'Entremonts had a pair of BOREAL CHICKADEES tending their suet feeder again this year. (This is unusual for this species which prefers to keep to their woodland habitat). Not many

others were reported--a few in the Bridgewater and Chester areas, 5 at Hazel Hill, Canso, 3 at APBS and odd ones else where. Several people feel that their numbers were much lower than usual.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were constant at feeding stations but less common in the woods. The count of WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES was 23--a most encouraging increase from the 8 in 1983, during the same period. It remains to be seen whether or not this is the beginning of a new upward trend.

Eighteen BROWN CREEPERS were around, all S.W. of a line from Hfx. to Grand Pre.

The single WINTER WREN report is from Jean Timpa at Wolfville, who saw it on Dec 17--but, alas, not on the 18th, which was CBC day. A MARSH WREN was at Conrad's Beach, Dec. 17, and counted then by Eric Mills--this was was the Hfx. E. CBC day.

Only five people mentioned GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS. RBS and KR had a few each at Kentville and Smith's Cove in early Dec., and JG had 2, Dec. 18, at Glace Bay. In Feb., 38 were at Catalone Bay, Mira Gut, C.B., on the 21st. The fifth reporter, PRD, at Eel Brook, wrote of "none seen or heard in our woods since Christmas". This species is usually quite heavily reported, their sleigh-bell call being noticeable in the quiet winter woods. Apart from the Cape Breton report, it would seem that they were drastically "down" this winter. A single RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET survived at least until Jan. 7, at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth.

One HERMIT THRUSH made it into 1984, seen in Dartmouth, Jan 7 (DAC, FLL)

A sprinkling of AMERICAN ROBINS overwintered in the province--we had 21 reports of from 1-8 birds each. There were also 14 at Marlborough Woods, Hfx., on Jan. 12, and 25-30 who spent the winter in the Wolfville area (FLL, PA, JET et al.)

The count of NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS is seventeen, all singles and from scattered locations (15 in 1983, 27 in 1982). The only BROWN THRASHER around resided at Westport, Brier Is., from Dec. 19, until at least the 25th, enabling it to be included in the CBC (RBS, ELM).

PIPIT TO STARLING

A single WATER PIPIT was seen at Martinique Beach on Feb. 4 by Bob Dickie.

This was a bonanza year for the BOHEMIAN WAXWING. Dozens of reports came in of flocks from 2-35, widely scattered. Flocks of significant size are as follows:

Jan. 14	67	Sydney	HEH
Jan. 15	67	Ross Rd., Dartmouth	D & JP
Jan. 22	50	Berwick	BLF
Jan. 22	200	<u>Halifax city</u>	DAC
Jan. 22	100+	Tusket	CRKA
Jan. 24	80	W. Pubnico	DJd'E
Jan. 25	50+	Sydney Area	AS
Feb. 7	70+	Dalhousie Campus	ELM

Although there were five reports of CEDAR WAXWINGS, rare in winter, three may have been of the same bird. A single Cedar was seen in Wolfville on Dec. 7, Jan. 15 and Feb. 18. There were four on Dec. 31 at Lr. W. Pubnico and one in the Purchase block of Bohemians, Jan 27.

Seven NORTHERN SHRIKES do not make 1983-84 a "Shrike Winter". Four of the shrikes were around Yar. Co.: Dec. 2, near Pubnico, Dec. 12, Sandford, Jan. 20, Amirault's Hill and Feb. 17, Melbourne (JG, MEC,CRKA). The others were Nov. 13, at Brookside, Hfx. Co., Dec. 28 near Port Joli and Jan 23 at Conrad's Beach (E&FD,BA,FLL).

It is difficult to write anything constructive about the EUROPEAN STARLING. Everyone feels they are "all over", "everywhere", but there are no reports of any exceptionally large concentrations and no one this year seems to feel that their numbers are anything but "normal".

--JSC, ed.

WOOD WARBLERS

It is unexpected to have nine species of Wood Warbler reported during the winter season--perhaps a result of the mild weather. Some of these warblers were bewildered (?) foreigners, some laggard natives: at Crichton Park, Dartmouth, on Jan. 7, Fulton Lavender identified an ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER; the Cohrs had a CAPE MAY in the garden in Halifax on Dec. 13; YELLOW-RUMPED were almost common, as they often are: 24, found on Conrad's Beach-Lawrencetown on the Hfx. E. CBC, Dec. 17; 2, Jan. 1, on the Pubnico CBC; 30, counted on Sebim Beach, Shel. Co., Jan. 14 by MEC and JG; "several" seen on Conrad's Beach, Jan. 15 (RBD); 80+ estimated on Robert's Is., Yar. Co., by Jerome D'Eon, and 1, Dec.-Jan., at Marion Bridge, reported by HEH. The PINE WARBLER is becoming almost regular here in winter; this year three have been found: 1, at Lr. W. Pubnico, Nov. 24 (DJd'E); 1-2, Nov. 26-Jan. 15, at Amherst where "they were regular visitors at the feeder eating small seed and suet. They were not shy, could be approached to a distance less than 30 cm at the other side of the window. They always came with a group of chickadees. (A very good color picture accompanied this report, taken by Elly Desplanque) (CD&RBD); and 1, at Jim Taylor's feeder and reported by RBD.



This Pine Warbler is one of two that visited the Desplanques in Amherst from Nov. 26 to Jan. 15.

Photo by Elly Desplanque

Another rarity, a YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, was present at Ben Eoin, Cape Breton, Dec. 14-17, found by Jack MacNeil, confirmed and photographed by Dave Harris (Photo accompanying). At Lr. W. Pubnico, R.S. d'E observed a PALM WARBLER Dec. 20, and noted, "This bird appeared very weak, and it's doubtful if it lived much longer". Rosemary Eaton had a COMMON YELLOWTHROAT at Bissett Road near Dartmouth, Jan. 20, "fluttering in the snow, a very cold day"; and last but not least,

we have two YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS reported: 1, Dec. 18, at Wolfville, discovered by Sean Timpa "about 15" from us in some bushes where we had a lovely viewing of it" (JET); another Yellow-breasted Chat in late Dec. at the McLarens', Cambridge St., Hfx, left shortly after Christmas.



One of several errant warblers this winter, this Yellow-throated Warbler was snapped by Dave Harris on Dec. 14, 1983, as it poked around stacked picnic tables at Ben Eoin Campground, near Sydney.

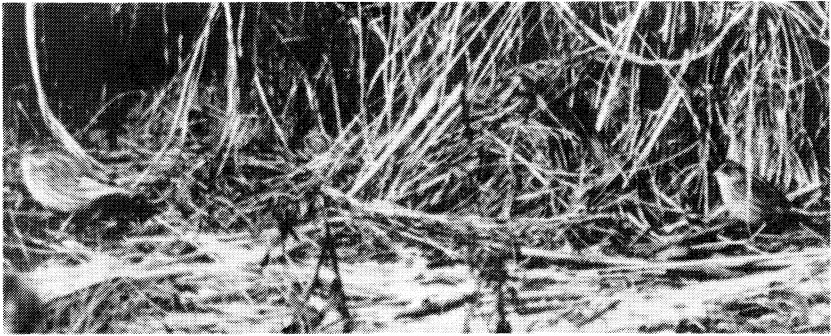
Photo by Dave Harris

NORTHERN CARDINAL through DICKCISSEL

According to our new classification, the next bird we have to record is the NORTHERN CARDINAL, one of which appeared at a Yarmouth feeder Dec. 3, a male; 2 males there Dec. 4, and only one, again on Dec. 5 (MWH). A Cardinal was present in a Halifax garden Dec. 9 (JSC), and another, a male at a feeder in Tusket, Yar. Co., Dec. 27-28 (CRKA); the one seen in Halifax there again (or another) Jan. 6, and again Feb. 16 (JSC). A BLUE GROSBEAK (female) was left behind (perhaps) and had survived until Jan. 5, in Dartmouth, where it was seen at 15 Cleveland Cres. by Stephanie Robertson, reported by Fulton Lavender. A DICKCISSEL also stayed with us, present Jan. 24 at Grant St., Hfx., reported by Chris Field.

SPARROWS through SNOW BUNTINGS

A great many sparrows did not bother to leave this winter--12 species, in this next grouping: TREE SPARROWS were present, but not in abundance, only about 100 seen all over the province but it was all over the province, except that there were none reported from C.B. A CHIPPING SPARROW was carefully identified (as not a Tree Sparrow) present at the RBS feeder in Kentville, all winter. One FIELD SPARROW was noted Dec. 30- Jan. 1 at Port Joli, seen on two occasions by Barbara Addelson. A few SAVANNAHS lingered, mostly on the beaches: 14, Dec. 17 at Conrad's Beach (Hfx. CBC); 6 were at Martinique Beach, Jan. 2 (RBD,FLL), still "numerous" there Jan. 15, according to Bob Dickie; 1, Jan. 15 at Grand Pré (JW, B & BT). SAVANNAH (IPSWICH) were noted Jan. 2, five of them at Martinique Beach (FLL,RBD) and 7, at the same place Jan. 15, same observers plus Jim Taylor. There were 2 of these sparrows at Hirtle's Beach, Lun. Co., Jan. 28 and Feb. 4 (GDP) and finally, Feb. 2, "several" at Martinique Beach still, noted by RBD. Two SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS are reported: 1, Dec. 11, at Cole Hbr. entrance (ELM,IAM); and 1, Jan. 15, "of an inland race, prob. A.c. nelsoni. Dark-brown streaked; face, throat and breast ochre-orange; breast with a few obscure short streaks; sides buffy-orange, obscurely streaked. Crown broadly gray bordered with dark brown stripes. Back, deep brown with 2-3 conspicuous dark-bordered white stripes in the scapular region. Belly, whitish; undertail buffy-orange; uppertail greenish brown. Appears to fit descriptions of A.c. nelsoni very well; James Bay race A.c. altera, less well. (ELM,IAM,James McLaren).



Subspecies can be extra fun. The sparrow on the left is an "Ipswich Sparrow", a locally familiar subspecies of Savannah Sparrow. The bird on the right of the picture is of the prairie subspecies of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow, the second individual recorded in N.S. The faint breast streaks, together with strong white back streaks are diagnostic on the photo, which cannot, of course, show the rich ochre color of face and breast captured on the original slide. Taken at Cole, Hbr., Feb. 1983. Photo by I.A. McLaren.

We have an exceptional number of reports of the SONG SPARROW: 1-2 at many feeders, and seen along the shores of both fresh and salt water bodies throughout the winter; 5's and 6's on Christmas Counts; "More than usual in Valley regions" according to Bernard Forsythe; reports of 80+ individual Song Sparrows, Sydney to Yarmouth, Dec. 2 to Feb. 29--on which date one sang, a rather tentative but genuine Song Sparrow song, all morning in a hedge at #170 Lr. Eel Brook (PRD). SWAMP SPARROWS were seen only at Russell Lake, apparently: 10 there Jan. 25 (FLL) and 2, Jan. 8 (JS & JLC). The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW always winters here, or a few of them do, and this year 23 were seen in 1's and 2's in Yar., Digby, Anna., Kings, Hfx., and Guys. counties. The DARK-EYED JUNCO was the most numerous of this group present, over 200 of them seen at feeders or encountered in the wild, Dec. through Feb.; most staying near the feeders or found in resting vegetable gardens--also at Grand Pre, eating weed seeds. The first Juncos heard trilling (that we have heard of) were at Tusket, Feb. 26 (CRKA). LAPLAND LONGSPURS were noted Jan. 2 and Feb. 11, seen at Martinique Beach (2) and Grand Pre (8) (BT, JET, JW, RBS), and at W. Pubnico, 4, Jan. 12, by Raymond d'Entremont who wrote: "This is turning out to be a 'Longspur winter'. I saw 4 more on Jan. 14, 2, on Jan. 18 and another Feb. 2, all at different locations." The SNOW BUNTING appeared in December at Martinique (RBD), Hartlan's Point (CF), and Queensland (KNK), and at Grand Pre, approx. 40 there, Dec. 28 (BT). In January it became widespread with flocks of 5 to 60 from Homeville in Cape Breton (SM) through, Lockhartville (D & GL) to Halifax Co. and Colchester Co. (D & JP), to Martinique Beach again and Hammonds Plains (FLL, RBD, DM), to Grand Pre and Paradise (BT, JET, J & BM), to Lr. W. Pubnico (DJd'E); the largest flock being an estimated 1,000 on Grand Pre dyke, Feb. 5 & 6 (BT, JET, RBS), and our latest record, 20+, Feb. 8, at Dan'l's Head, Shel. Co. (MEC, JG).

REDWINGED BLACKBIRD to NORTHERN ORIOLE

The REDWINGED BLACKBIRD has been reported as seen almost entirely at feeders, 1-2 individuals as a rule but a few flocks in the open: 10, at Maynard's Lake, Dartmouth, Jan. 28 (FLL); 14 at Gore, Kings Co., Feb. 18--this flock analysed as "2 females, 1 adult male and 11 imm. males" (FLL, DM, JT) and 30, Jan. 15, near Port Williams (RBS). The EASTERN MEADOWLARK; 3 seen, Jan. 14, and 3 again Feb. 13, at Lr. W. Pubnico by JD'E and RSD'E, who wrote that he put the birds up to hear if possible, the "chuck" note characteristic of the Western Meadowlark, but these birds have so far remained silent. A YELLOW-HEADED BLACK-BIRD was present for a day with a flock of Cowbirds and Starlings at

a feeder in Chester, seen there Jan. 19 by GDP. One other of these regular strays, an ad. female, was seen on the Shore Road, Bedford, Feb. 9, by FLL and DM; seen again Feb. 12 "in the company of about 100 Cowbirds, perched in a tree beside the Stardust Motel" by these same two observers plus Caroll MacNeill. A female RUSTY BLACKBIRD stayed around for six days from Jan. 12 on, at a feeder at Lana Churchill's, Port Williams. The bird stayed all day and was observed by many people. Two other Rustys wintered at Hazel Hill, Canso (J & S Jarvis). We had, not many, but probably the usual number of COMMON GRACKLES around this last winter: 5-15 at Sydney at a feeder all winter (HEH); 2, all winter at Hazel Hill, Canso (J & SJ); 1 each at Clementsport, late Nov. to early Dec. (SCH) and at Paradise in Dec. (J & BM); at Dartmouth, Dec. 13 (D & JP), Timberlea in Dec. (RBD); Arcadia, Yar. Co., in Jan. (E & BR), and Indian Hbr., in Feb. (DM). The only large flock mentioned was 75-100 all winter in the Hebron area, Yar. Co., noted by June Graves. An unusual occurrence was the presence of a large female Grackle, Nov. 17 to Feb. 8, at the farm of A.P. Muntz, West Dalhousie Road, near Annapolis Royal. Many observers have had good looks at the bird, thought at first to be a female Boat-tailed Grackle. However, on account of the eye color and the throat pattern it seems more closely to resemble the Great-tailed Grackle. Observers who have reported this bird to us have been Jean Timpa, Jim Wolford, Lana Churchill, Martha Dodge, Fulton Lavender, Richard Stern, Larry Neily, Peter MacLeod, Eric Mills and Ian McLaren. The last two mentioned have sent photographs to the National Museum, Ottawa, for verification and documentation.

Photo by
I.A. McLaren
Dec. 3, 1983.

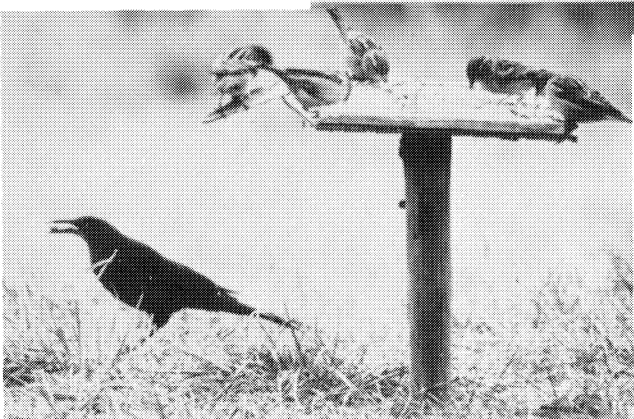
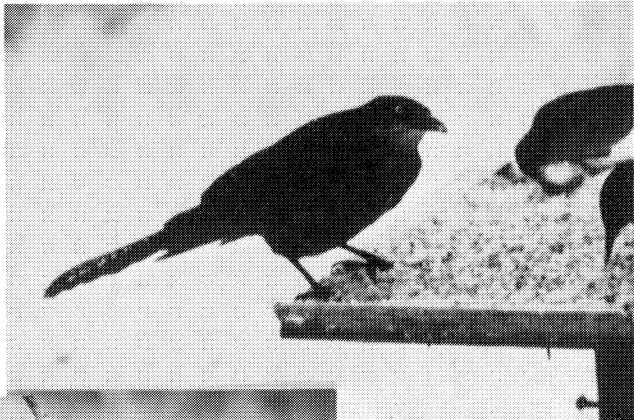


Photo by
Eric Mills,
Dec. 2, 1983.

The BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD settled in at feeders from early Dec. on, but Jean Timpa from Wolfville, found them "not as predictable...as they used to be several years ago" and added that this does not break her heart. Bob Dickie found them to be "numerous throughout the period in Halifax, Bedford, etc., but none at his feeder.". S.C. Hawbolt at Clementsport, had her first flock at the feeder on Dec. 4; the Lockharts of Lockhartville did not have their first sighting until Feb. 13. Hedley Hopkins of Sydney, had 2-12 daily all winter and Mabel S. Smythe of Middle Musquodoboit had 100+ on Christmas Day. At Canard in the Valley, Nov. 22, Brenda Thexton estimated 1500-2000 Cowbirds in the stubble of one cornfield, but in nearby Wolfville, Dec. 2, she had only 1, at her feeder. Judith C. Tufts of Wolfville, wrote of her only one, sheltering in a tree with difficulty in the high winds of Feb. 7, in the snowstorm. Finally, FLL, Don MacNeill and Mike Almon found, on Feb. 1, 180 Brown-headed Cowbirds at Bedford; 50, at Herring Cove; 30+, at Portugese Cove; and on Feb. 10, 300+ at Atlantic Gardens, Bedford. In other words, we seem to have had plenty of Cowbirds around, but distribution was erratic. Three Northern Orioles lingered behind, this season: 1, at Brookside Rd., Hfx. Co., on Nov. 12, was at the Dobson feeder, but did not stay; two of these birds did stay through the late fall at the McLaren feeder in Halifax, but disappeared from there in early Jan. (IAM).

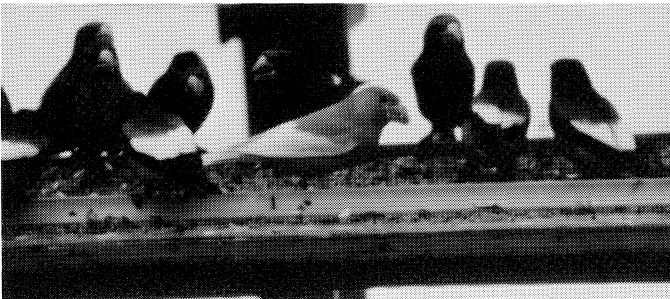
HOUSE FINCH to EVENING GROSBEAK

A note from Con Desplanque of Amherst reads as follows: "I noticed something unfamiliar moving among the birds, noticeable because of the light-colored head. On Sunday morning, Jan. 15, the weather was sunny, the windows clear, and the bird easy to observe for half an hour or so. It was somewhat smaller than the Purple Finches present and larger than the Pine Siskins. It had a striped breast but no centre spot. Wingbars were prominent, and a thick bill. But the head appeared as if the bird had been dipped in a bleaching agent. I could not make anything out of it except a HOUSE FINCH."

On the December CBC's this year, good numbers of PINE GROSBEAKS were found: 5 at the Pubnicos; 43, Broad Cove; 2, Port Hebert; 5, Wolfville; 3, Halifax W.; 56, Halifax E.; 4, Shubenacadie; 4, Economy; 22, Margaree and 2, Cape Breton Highlands National Park. Since that time unusually large numbers of this species have been reported, but curiously enough, all from N.E. Nova Scotia. In Cape Breton, over 16 were seen near Glace Bay, Boularderie and the Mira area (SM,RBF, PB); the rest of the reports from Hfx. Co., only (perhaps this indicates something about our bird watchers): Pine Grosbeaks in Dartmouth areas were over 30 (DAC); at Porter's Lake, 25 (RBD); Chezzetcook-Lawrence-town region, 55 (RBD, JT, FLL, DM); and Hammonds Plains areas, 40, (KNK, DAC). The PURPLE FINCH stayed with us all winter, 1-2 and up to 5 at many feeders very generally around the province, with a small increase in number, usually, following a snowstorm. HEH estimated the Jan.-Feb. population of Purple Finches in the Sydney-Mira area as 40; Sara MacLean gave a similar count (39) for these finches resident in the Glace Bay area during the winter. A definite rise in numbers after mid-Jan. was noted at Tusket and Yarmouth (CRKA, MWH, ER & AP); Smith's Cove (AKR); Kentville (RBS); Wolfville (JCT), Dartmouth (FLL, C & DM) and Amherst (CD). A further increase was noted in Dartmouth Feb. 14 & 15, by the Purchases, a rise from 5 to 15 at the feeder; also in Yar. Co., at Lr. Eel Brook, 5 of these birds appeared for the first time since Christmas, on Feb. 22, 2 bright males and 3 females, and are now regular at the feeder. Eric and Barbara Ruff lost one of their regulars from their feeder to a Kestrel, Jan. 15.

Only two reports of the RED CROSSBILL have been received this season, one of a female seen Jan. 29, at Clayton Park, by D.A. Currie, and one of a female at Clementsport Feb. 2, "several others feeding

and calling high in the conifers" (SCH). Apparently no Whitewinged were seen. This was not a COMMON REDPOLL winter; sightings were rare and multiple sightings rarer. One or 2 were seen late Jan., and again late Feb. at Lr. Eel Brook, feeding in the multiflora rose hedge with siskins and grosbeaks; 1 each appeared at the feeders of D & JP in Dartmouth and during the winter at Hazel Hill (Jarvises and Peters); 2, came Feb. 10, to the RSD'E feeder in Lr. W. Pubnico, in company with chickadees and siskins. At Clementsport, SCH had 2, on Jan. 2, and 25+ on Feb. 2, with goldfinches in the alder bushes "very busy and noisy"; Redpolls (how many?) came to the Dobson feeder at Brookside, Hfx. Co., Jan. 8; 25 were at the Woodlawn Rd., Dartmouth, Jan. 5, and 4, at Martinique Beach, Jan. 15 (FLL,RBS,JT), 1, Jan. 13, at a feeder in Yarmouth (MWH); and in Cape Breton, 14 were counted in Feb. at Mira (HEH). This was, however, a PINE SISKIN year with reports from 28 observers, completely covering the province, from "100's daily" at Sydney (HEH,OC) to "flocks up to 50 at the feeder through Jan. and Feb. in Yarmouth (B & ER). The earliest date for the invasion of these Siskins was in Sept. when 7 were noted eating hemlock cones (seeds) by Evelyn Coates at Nappan, near Amherst, but these soon disappeared, to reappear Dec. 29, 12 in number, up to 35 there by Jan. 8. Most flocks mentioned were of 20-30 birds, associating with goldfinches and putting even those aggressive types to rout. Bob Dickie enjoyed a little by-play at his feeder: "One siskin regularly emptied my little plastic window feeder (dumping every sunflower seed on the ground), much to the delight of my family." The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH, on the other hand, much prefers sunflower seed, from the chickadee feeder as a rule. These Goldfinches were the only ones of the small birds this winter which deserved the term "common". They were present universally in Jan. and Feb. in flocks of 20-60 birds at feeders, and fair-sized flocks were encountered occasionally, even in the wild; the only other small birds so encountered being the Black-capped Chickadees, and of course in open areas, the Starlings. In the day-by-day account of winter birds at feeding stations, Jean Timpa and Brenda Thexton noted that on Feb. 17, the goldfinches included one male nearly in full summer plumage--"gold, with very little dusty gray left on it, quite spectacularly different from his counterparts!". The EVENING GROSBEEK flocks were of average size (8-24-60) and universally present at feeders Dec. through Feb., though not as faithful as the Goldfinches; noticeably absent or irregular in attendance during mild weather, vociferously present in the cold and snow. An interesting report from Don and Glenda Lockhart reads: "We've had these birds steadily for well over a year, though their visits were not quite as constant during the breeding season. One female which is partly albino, looks as if someone had thrown javex on her. We have had another successful breeding season for the grosbeaks, many young brought to the feeder." (at Lockhartville). We have a picture of another albino grosbeak taken with a flock of "normals", at the Creighton Jewkes' feeder, Hillcrest, Antigonish, Jan., 1984, and sent to us by Bob MacNeil. This is a beautiful picture in color; we are very grateful to the photographer and to the sender.



This strange Evening Grosbeak appeared at the feeder of Creighton Jewkes in Antigonish in Jan. 1981. The photo was sent by Bob MacNeil of Amherst.

HOUSE SPARROW

The HOUSE SPARROW population appears to remain as usual; it also still deserves its name, always associated with domestic areas. A typical feeder population was one at Yarmouth: "3, Nov. 27; 4-5, Dec. 1-3; 12, Dec. 5; 6, Dec. 23-31, then occasional until 10, Jan. 12-20". This was, of course a mild winter. At Amherst, the House Sparrows seem to have deserted the Desplanque garden where they used to be common, and CD writes that they are missed--"it has been painfully quiet". The Nickersons of Sandy Bottom Lake, Anna. Co., do not appreciate them as much: "a flock of 6-8 through the summer" (of House Sparrows) "has swelled to 20-25 through the winter. We cleared about a half acre of land 500 yards back from the lake and house in spring, and can only assume we are now 'agricultural' in the eyes of these birds! We wonder if they are responsible for the absence of other ground feeders (except jays)--we've always had a junco or a whitethroat staying through the winter but this year none." (G & MN). Other reports are of 30-60 at feeders (Sydney, Hammonds Plains, Wolfville) or in shrubberies and gardens, somewhat irregular in attendance. Annie Raymond's were regularly absent from her property at Smith's Cove, and she evidently took delight in sending us a large round zero for Jan. through Feb. this year. Some people feel one way about these birds and some feel another. After all, they are no more immigrants than we are, and most of us prefer houses too.

--PRD, ed.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

FOR
THE JUNE ISSUE

MAY 25

Bird reports to the Records Editor--

Dr. P. R. Dobson,
RMB 170,
R. R. 1, Ste. Anne du Ruisseau,
Nova Scotia B0W 2X0

Articles, sketches and letters to the--

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

Photographs to--

Dr. I. A. McLaren,
1755 Cambridge St.,
Halifax, N.S. B3H 4A8

WILD BIRDS AND BRITISH INNS

by David Watkins

Reprinted from "WINEMAKER", Vol. XXIV, No. 6

Animal inn-signs are found in abundance, but signs depicting birds tend to be more uncommon. In North Wales, quite a common inn-sign is that of an eagle; the reason for this is two-fold--firstly, the eagle was a symbol of strength and it was considered the king of birds and secondly, it was a popular heraldic coat-of-arms belonging to influential families. In two towns which are popular with holiday-makers, Llangollen and Llanrwst, can be found two inns bearing the name 'The Eagle', the first having the Welsh words 'Eryr Eyrod Eryi' (The Eagle of the Eagles of Snowdonia) and the latter bearing the eagle coat-of-arms of the local medieval magnate Sir John Wynne of Gwydir Castle (whose spirit, according to tradition, lies forever at the bottom of the nearby Swallow Falls as punishment for all his sins)

Another bird little seen today, which was once very popular on inn-signs, is the raven. Much Wenlock, in Shropshire, has a beautiful wrought-iron sign of this bird outside the Raven Inn and at Shrewsbury can be found another Raven Inn. Once again, these signs go back to the heraldic arms of one of the local gentry, called Corbet, who had great influence over the county. Other Raven Inns can be seen at Cobridge, Stoke-on-Trent and Norwich and there is also the Black Raven in London's Bishopsgate.

An equally old inn-sign is that of the peacock and inns of this name can be found at Middle Tysoe in Warwickshire and also not far from Clerkenwell, London. The peacock's flesh was thought to be incorruptible and so the bird was looked upon as a symbol of the Resurrection.

As one would expect, one can come across many inns bearing the sign of the owl. The Owl can be found at Edmonton, North London, and at Calverley, near Leeds, whilst near Shaftesbury there is the Blinking Owl. The owl was once regarded as the bird of wisdom, prudence and intelligence. In some parts of Yorkshire the custom can still be found of giving owl broth as a cure, for whooping cough in particular. At St. Helen's can be found the very odd inn-sign of the Owl's Nest Pub; people once believed that the owl made a nest in a bush of ivy!

The Blackbird is not a common inn-sign, but there is an impressive one at Wellington, Somerset; the sign is three-dimensional and is the only one in Britain showing the nest with nestlings in it. It is strange that this bird was not used more often; it has always been a favourite songster with everyone, and is the most common bird in Britain, with an estimated population of 10 millions.

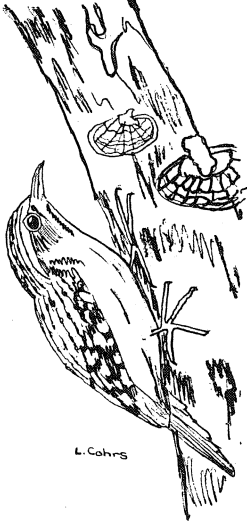
Inn-signs bearing the name Cock are too numerous to name and can be found almost everywhere. This bird was looked upon in ancient days as the symbol of fertility, and it was once a custom ceremoniously to kill a cock at harvest time and to bury it in the field to ensure the next year's crop would be plentiful and abundant.

Magpies are occasionally sported on inn-signs; some fine pictorial signs can be seen of the Magpie Hotel, Woburn, and at the Three Magpies, in Gloucestershire. In olden days, a live magpie would even be kept in a cage inside the inn, as it was a beautiful bird in its own right and could draw much attention to itself. It is worth remembering that this bird was at one time useful in the country; people who could not afford to keep a watch-dog would capture a magpie and tie it to a gate outside the house or farmyard and the bird's harsh rattle would soon warn people of the approach of strangers.

Other bird inn-signs can be found all over Britain and most of them have an old reason for their popularity. Birds depicted include the robin, rook, cuckoo, swallow, wren and woodpecker, so keep a sharp look-out for them when you visit different parts of the country; by enquiring as to their origin, you might well find interesting facts about the locality or some historical events.

BIRDING KNOWLEDGE

(Sixth in a series meant to upgrade readers' knowledge and appreciation of some of our commoner species.)



Brown Creeper

Brown Creeper

Certhia familiaris

Size: 5-5 3/4" long. Wingspread 7-8"

Diagnostic Habit: Has a distinctive habit of spiralling up a tree trunk and then flying down to the base of the next tree to repeat the spiral.

Call: a single tinkling zi-i-i-it, resembling the first part of the call of a Golden-crowned Kinglet

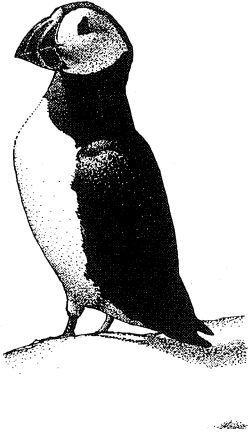
Song: rarely heard, sings only on breeding ground (mature hardwood and coniferous forests) a high pitched musical song.

Nest: Crescent shaped hammock, usually built under a strip of bark against the trunk of a dead tree, 5-15 feet up.

Eggs: 5-6 white, dotted with brown.
Incubation 14-15 days.

Other names: California Creeper, tree creeper, little brown creeper.

In Nova Scotia it is seen mostly in fall and winter months. Occasionally comes to suet at feeding stations.

UP-COMING FIELD TRIPS

Wednesday HFX. CO.--Early morning warbler
May 16 walk. Leader: Fred Dobson
Meet at the parking lot at the
junction of the Prospect Rd.
(route 333) and the St. Marg-
aret's Bay Rd., at 0700 hrs.

Saturday PICTOU CO.--Hopewell region.
May 19 Leader: Harry Brennan. Meet
at 0800 hrs. at St. Columba's
Church (about 1 mile south of
Hopewell).

Wednesday HFX. CO.--Early morning warbler
May 23 walk. Leader: James McLaren.
Meet at the Hyland Theatre
parking lot (Armdale Rotary)
0730 hrs.

Saturday ANNA. CO.--Paradise and Bridgetown region. Leaders: Bill
May 26 and Jean Morse. Meet at the Morse residence at 0800 hrs.
To get there, travelling east to west on Route 201 (the
road south of the river between Bridgetown and Paradise)
it is the first house within the stone wall on the right.
Also, it is about 1 mile east of the golf course.

Saturday HANTS CO.--many habitats and many species. Leader:
May 26 Margaret Clark. Meet at the railway crossing in Mount
Uniake at 0830 hrs.

Sunday COL. CO.--Shubenacadie region. Leader: Roslyn MacPhee.
May 27 Meet at 0800 hrs. in front of Scott's restaurant in
Shubenacadie. SPRING WARBLERS. 'Phone 1-758-3265 in case
of inclement weather re possible cancellation.

Sunday WAVERLEY and neighborhood. Early morning warbler walk.
June 3 Leaders: Peter and Linda Payzant. Meet at the Green
Gables store parking lot at 0700 hrs. at the intersection
of Highways 2 and 318 (Waverley Rd.) This is an early
morning walk and will end before noon; lunches not required.

Sunday YAR. CO.--Warbler Walk. Leader: C.R.K. Allen. Meet at
June 3 Carleton School yard at 0900 hrs.

Sunday WOLFVILLE REGION.--Leader: Bernard Forsythe. A look at
June 10 the birds of various habitats such as fields, second
growth woods and mature woods. A few nests may also be
included. Meet at Wade's parking lot next to the Wolfville
Post Office at 0800 hrs.

Saturday McNAB's ISLAND-- Leader: Roger Pocklington. Summer resid-
July 7 ents. Meet at the Maritime Museum in time for the 9 o'clock
ferry.

Saturday ECONOMY REGION--Leader: Francis Spalding. Common summer
July 21 birds as well as Mourning Warblers, Lincoln's Sparrow, Sharp
tailed Sparrows and a few early shore birds. Meet at the
store in Bass River at 0900 hrs.

Sunday MARTINIQUE BEACH-- Leader: Ian McLaren. Early migrating
July 29 shore birds. Meet at the facilities at 0900 hrs.

Saturday EVANGELINE BEACH--Leader: Ralph Connor. Carpets of
August 4 migrating shore birds. Meet at the Grand Pre Historic Park
at 0900 hrs.

Sunday YAR. CO.--Shore birds. Leader: C.R.K. Allen. Meet at CPR
August 12 station Yarmouth at 0900 hrs.

Sunday TANCOOK ISLAND-- Leaders: Fred and Evelyn Dobson. A day
August 19 on this charming island to see early migrants and sea birds
The facilities on the island are limited; a prediction of
rain will result in an automatic cancellation. Walking
shoes and lunches are a must. Meet at the Tancook Island
ferry terminal in Chester in time for the 10 o'clock ferry.

Saturday AMHERST & AMHERST POINT BIRD SANCTUARY--Leader: Stuart
August 25 Tingley. Marsh birds, waterfowl, migrating shore birds and
warblers. Meet at the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary parking
lot at 0930 hrs.

CAPE BRETON FIELD TRIPS COMPLETE SEASON SCHEDULE--SEE JANUARY ISSUE

Enquiries: Field Trip Co-ordinators
Mary & Frank Himsl
Phone: 453-2588

FIELD TRIP REPORT, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1984

A joint field trip to see hawks in the Kings County area was undertaken with the Blomidon Naturalists Society and the Nova Scotia Bird Society. The day dawned in dense fog, which persisted as seven intrepid car-loads of birders set off down the road across the Grand Pre dykes. Much peering into the fog produced crow-like silhouettes some 20 yards away, and even an identifiable Rough-legged Hawk. Luckily, however, the fog cleared, and we soon saw Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawkes in profusion, and a beautiful flock of about 1,000 Snow Buntings silhouetted against the green grass.

After leaving Grand Pre, the forty visited the Port Williams, Canard and Sheffield Mills areas. Red-tailed Hawks were everywhere, with about 50 being seen altogether. Several Bald Eagles were also seen, with about 12 being at one farm at Sheffield Mills. A Sharpshin was seen chasing starlings, and a Northern Harrier was on the Canard dyke. Other birds seen included Pheasants and Mallard. By mid-afternoon the fog came down again and the rain started too.

"The" birds of the area, 2 different Gyrfalcons that had been about, and well watched, in the few days prior to the field trip, were nowhere to be seen. However, despite that, and the fog and the rain, it was a satisfying day, especially for the people who enjoyed watching Red-tailed Hawks.

--Richard Stern

NOT JUST "SEAGULLS"

BY IAN MCLAREN

City dwellers become more aware of birds in winter. At least I get more phone calls about them from neighbors and sometimes complete strangers. Maybe birds fill more of our need for contact with nature, otherwise dormant. Most people ask about birds at their feeders. Feeders concentrate and rearrange nature for our pleasure, like gardens in summer. However, people are not merely attracted by fine feathers; they seem to enjoy being told that "their" bird is unusual--a laggard from fall migration, or a vagrant from afar. Among serious birders, mere listing or ticking is only part of the game; they spend much time poring over books and journals for fine points of appearance, history, or geographical distributions. Gulls, perhaps more than any other group of birds, can give us that larger sense of time and space.

Many of us get a lot of pleasure out of a half-day weekend tour of the Halifax and Dartmouth waterfronts to scrutinize gulls. The city is a large feeder whose dependents are less well known to the public than are the chickadees, grosbeaks and jays of our backyards. To the birder, gulls pose challenges for identification on a fine scale--there are difficult species, identifiable age classes, and geographical variation. Here is a little survey of the gulls around the city, with something of their whithers and whences.

The Birds

The everyday HERRING GULL gives us a baseline. No doubt our local Herring Gulls are replaced and augmented by northern ones in winter, for they breed into the arctic. Most seen in winter are adults or near-adults, as the dark first-year birds generally winter farther south. Note that the spanking white heads of summer adults become streaky, whitening again towards spring. Occasionally a very white-headed bird stands out in winter, but whether this is from an excess of sex hormones or reflects geographical origin cannot be said.

Our other everyday species in the GREAT-BLACK BACKED GULL. The adult in winter is much as in summer. Immature birds can be distinguished from other large, grubby gulls by size and massive bills. They are also whiter below and more neatly "checkered" above than are first-year Herring Gulls. By the second winter, some black appears on the back (mantle).

Winter, of course, brings truly northern "white-winged gulls", ICELAND GULLS. The Iceland Gulls are fascinatingly variable in size and plumage. The mantles of are distinctly paler than those of Herring Gulls. Note that lighting and viewing angle can play tricks. Their rounder foreheads, smaller bills, and buoyant, stern-high setting on the water make them stand out from the larger Herring Gulls, even in silhouette. The first-winter birds are varyingly marked with sooty or brown mottling, although the ground color is always paler than in the Herring Gull. Second-winter birds acquire a pale, pinkish base to the bill and a pale grey mantle, like the adults'. Our Iceland Gulls probably nest entirely in the eastern Canadian Arctic, where they are classed as the subspecies Larus glaucoides kumlieni. Most of us used to distinguish "Kumlien's Gulls", with dark wing tips, from birds with white wing tips, which were supposed to be L. g. glaucoides, with nesting grounds in Greenland. It is now believed that Greenland birds migrate largely or entirely to Europe, and that

purely white-winged birds in our area are from the Canadian Arctic population. Another supposed species of gull from the Canadian Arctic is Thayer's Gull. It is closely related to the Iceland Gull, and some recent evidence suggests that it interbreeds with kumlieni in their zone of geographic contact, and accordingly might better be classed as a dark subspecies of the Iceland Gull. A few of us have looked long and hard for this bird around Halifax, and I, for one, am increasingly convinced that I could not distinguish between a very dark "Kumlien's Gull" and a pale Thayer's Gull. A "classic" adult Thayer's Gull should have dark eyes (as do some "Kumlien's Gulls"), and a mantle that is darker than that of Herring Gulls. A first-year bird can be as dark as a first-year Herring Gull, but with the more mottled characteristics of young Iceland Gulls (and with a more Iceland-like, slender, dark bill). Trouble is, we get some very dark young "Kumlien's Gulls", some with darker wing tips and some even with the dark tails supposedly characteristic of Thayer's. Most Thayer's Gulls winter on the West Coast. I have seen birds around Victoria that I would have called dark Iceland Gulls if they were in Halifax Harbour. For the pure "lister", this may be frustrating; actually, it adds to the fun.

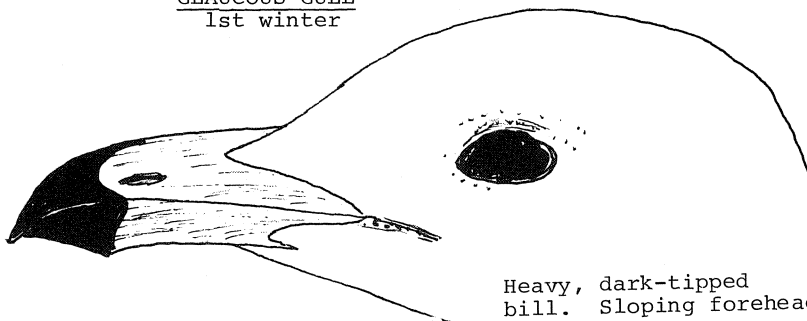
The larger GLAUCCOUS GULL is generally easily distinguished from the smaller Iceland species. In all plumages, its more powerful bill and sloping forehead give it the same ferocious mien shown by the Great-black Backed Gull. Immature birds are generally paler than Iceland, and second-year birds are often "whiter than white". Both first-winter and second-winter birds have pale, flesh-colored bases of the bill. However, this feature is also shown by second-winter Iceland Gulls. Although almost all pale-winged adult Iceland Gulls can be distinguished by size, head shape and bill size (and, with experience, wing shape and flight manner) from Glaucous Gulls, a few cannot. There is always a possibility of hybrids (see below).

The first Canadian record of COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL was in 1933, they were first reported in Nova Scotia in 1952, and they have become regular winter birds since. They greatly expanded their Eurasian range since the 19th century, first nested in Iceland in 1911, and showed a marked expansion there in the 1930s. They nested in S.W. Newfoundland a few years ago, and last year a pair was confirmed as nesting in the Magdalen Islands. They are a welcome addition to our winter avifauna. The closely related BONAPARTE'S GULL arrives in late summer from the far northwest, and sometimes lingers into winter. It is readily distinguished from the Black-headed by its smaller, darker bill, and by the lack of extensive duskiness on the underwing.

The LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL has been turning up increasingly in eastern (and indeed all over) North American, and may be following the pattern set by the Common Black-headed Gull. The individual that has been coming for years to the Volvo Plant in Halifax must surely have been seen by every city birder. The bird does not in the least resemble the Greater Black-backed Gull. Rather, it looks like a small, exceptionally dusky-headed, dark-backed, yellow-legged Herring Gull. Almost all North American sightings have been of this slaty-backed subspecies, Larus fuscus graellsii, which nests in Iceland. First-winter birds are tricky to distinguish from very dark, young Herring Gulls.

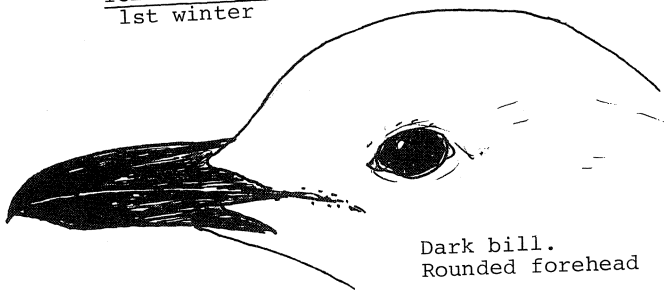
Our native RING-BILLED GULLS have also undergone a population expansion. They are now nesting on New Brunswick's north shore, and will doubtless soon nest in Nova Scotia. Around Halifax, they are increasingly familiar in winter, abandoning the mudflats of the eastern shore for the comforts of city life as harsh weather develops. Of course, only the adults have the diagnostic ringed bill, and this may be a little obscured in winter. Adults are more heavily marked around

GLAUCOUS GULL
1st winter



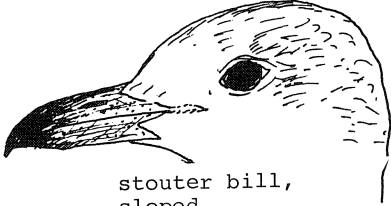
Heavy, dark-tipped
bill. Sloping forehead

ICELAND GULL
1st winter



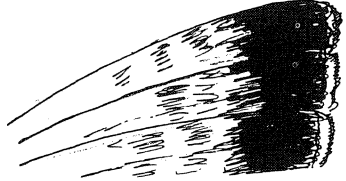
Dark bill.
Rounded forehead

RING-BILLED GULL
1st winter



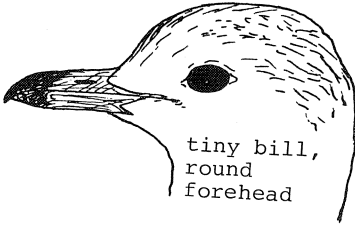
stouter bill,
sloped
forehead

TAIL PATTERNS

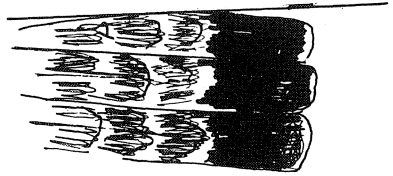


Ring-billed Gull

MEW GULL
1st winter

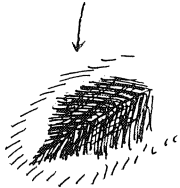


tiny bill,
round
forehead

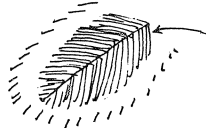


Western
North
American
race, Mew Gull

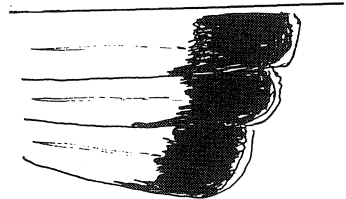
Ring-billed Gull
with chocolate-brown,
pointed central areas



Wing
Covert
feathers



Mew Gull
with light-brown,
rounded central
areas



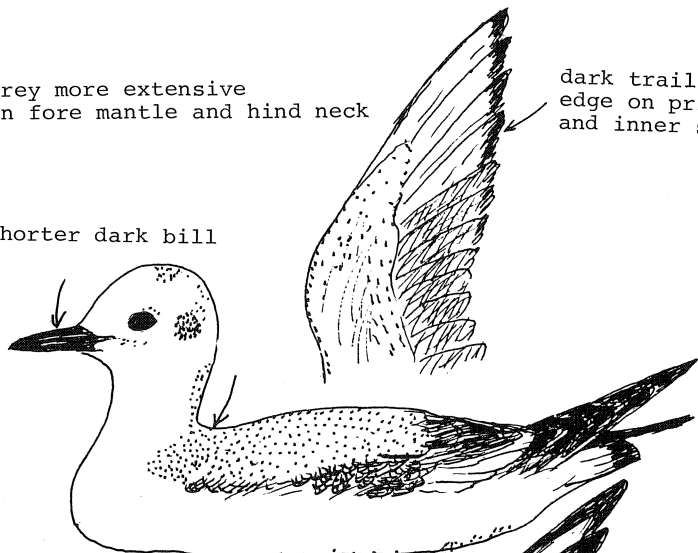
Eurasian race,
"Common Gull"

BONAPARTE'S GULL

1st winter

grey more extensive
on fore mantle and hind neck

shorter dark bill



dark trailing
edge on primaries
and inner secondaries

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL

1st winter

longer bill,
yellow base



much dusker
underwing

whiter on fore mantle
and hind neck

the head in winter than indicated by most field guide illustrations. They are often seen flying lightly around sewer outlets, along with Black-headed Gulls, while their larger relatives swim in the effluent. The cognoscenti will want to keep eyes open for the MEW GULL, which closely resembles the Ring-billed in all plumages, but which has a smaller, plain bill in the adult. There are about a half-dozen sightings from the province. First-winter birds can be identified as to origin: those from Europe have sharply defined tail bands, unlike the Ring-billed and especially unlike the western North American subspecies, which has a heavily mottled tail. Most of our birds probably have been and will be from Europe.

Other exotic possibilities among city gulls include the IVORY GULL (which occurred in 1979, in Sambro Harbour), the occasional BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (a pelagic species that I once saw at Pier 23), and, for the truly hopeful, almost anything is possible; gulls are great wanderers, which adds to the delights. Another source of amusement and pleasure is their tendency to hybridize. Hybrids are known between Herring and Great-black Backed Gulls and between Herring and Glaucous Gulls, and I have seen a bird that may have been an Iceland X Herring Gull product. Occasionally highly competent birders and professional ornithologists report a gull that, with the utmost effort and opportunities, cannot be identified. Such is the madness of the confirmed gull-watcher that many of us would love to see one of those.

The Places

Gulls tend to occur in unattractive places, like sewer outlets and garbage dumps. I don't know if anyone has looked for gulls in the new, inland landfill site north of Metro; this might be worthwhile. Otherwise, in the Metro area, the best spots (starting clockwise from the outer harbour) are as follows.

At Herring Cove, near Tribune Head. Park on the road and walk down a few score meters. Especially favoured by "white-winged" species, this (controversial and perhaps soon-to-be-eliminated) outlet is close to the open sea, and might some day attract a real exotic.

On the ice at the head of the Northwest Arm, the gulls are usually commonplace, but a Lesser Black-backed Gull has been seen there.

Fairview Cove: this is not as good as it used to be, with the change in sewage outflow and construction of the container pier. However, it still attracts white-winged gulls, and this winter a second Lesser Black-backed Gull was found there.

Head of Bedford Basin: although a bit far inland to attract some species, there is usually a good number of larger gulls at the outlet of the regional sewage processing plant.

The Volvo plant: this is the home of our long-faithful Lesser Black-backed Gull, who possesses a few meters of shore and storm-sewer trickle through the winter. It can be seen atop one of the decorative flag poles on the south side of the plant, or often loafing on the plant roof (to be seen from a parking lot off Barrington, overlooking the plant). This is also a fair place for Black-headed Gulls.

Around Piers 23-24 in Halifax Harbour, where the grain loading facilities and a large fish plant are found: the offloading of fish is an attraction, and there is usually activity at the ends of the piers, in sewer outlets.

The Northwest Arm, near the entrance to Point Pleasant Park: take

the entrance to the park off Chain Rock Drive. A short distance inside the park, a sewer empties into the arm near shore. This is one of the best places for both white-winged gulls between December and April.

Dartmouth Cove, at the foot of Canal Street: with its "canal" and sewer outlets, this is one of the best places for white-winged and Common Black-headed Gulls. It is also one of the few places where Bonaparte's Gulls turn up routinely in winter.

Sullivan's Pond, in Dartmouth, is the centre of attraction for Ring-billed Gulls, and occasionally more exotic fare (like a Lesser Black-backed Gull one winter). It is a good place to study ring-bills in anticipation of a Mew Gull (which would be more likely at a sewer outlet or mudflat).

Eastern Passage has mud flats that are swarming with gulls, generally only Herring, Great-Black-backed and Ring-billed) at low tide. However, such numbers may attract more exotic fare.

The shores of Hartlen Point often have good numbers of Iceland Gulls in winter, and it is fun to watch them in this more natural setting, snatching food out of the surf and mooching about in tide pools.

The Books

Most field guides do not handle well the great individual, geographical and age variations that occur among gulls, and can be quite misleading. The new National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America does much the best job among the field guides. However, anyone with a serious interest in birds should buy P. J. Grant's Gulls. A Guide to Identification. Although designed for British birders, it covers almost all the species that have occurred in North America with exquisite detail and clarity. Peter Harrison's Seabirds. An Identification Guide, is also a must for those whose interests extend beyond Halifax Harbour. It is also important in considering the possible range of vagrant exotics. Both these books can be obtained from Nature Canada Bookstore.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

I was lucky enough to spot a SECOND Lesser Black-backed Gull (at the Fairview Container Terminal) on Saturday, Dec. 10th, at about 3:30 p.m.

It was generally overcast and dead calm. The bird was in the open, sitting on a rock beside the sewer opening, then it circled around and landed on top of the sewer opening. I observed it through my 10 x 40 binoculars and a 45 power Bushnell scope. I was approximately 200 feet from the bird. I observed the bird carefully, noted size, leg (yellow), mantle (very deep gray), for approximately 15 minutes.

At first I thought it was the Volvo bird so went to the Volvo plant to check it out and found that bird sitting on the flag staff at the plant. I then returned to the container terminal and found the second bird still sitting on top of the sewer outlet.

This bird is a duplicate of the Volvo plant bird--(dark mantle, yellow legs, larger than black-headed gulls sitting beside it, dusky marks [stripes] on the neck.) The red mark on the bill appears to me to be more conspicuous than that of the Herring Gull.

A big thrill for me to see both of these very rare birds.

Bob Dickie

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

Your readers will find it of interest that on December 28, 1983, a dark-phase immature Gyrfalcon was sighted on the Grand Pre dykelands of Kings Co. To my knowledge, this was the first date it was seen. I first saw it perched on a telephone pole at about 2:45 in the afternoon. After I drove back to Wolfville to get a camera equipped with a 300 mm lens, the bird was found still sitting at the same spot, and four photographs were taken before a passing motorist honked his horn and scared the falcon away. While observing the bird, I noted the overall large size, the long tail, the uniformly dark chocolate-brown back, the dark breast streaked with buff, the indistinct facial mask, and the cerulean blue eyelids, bill, cere, and feet. Above all, the bird was exceptionally tame. Because I was reloading my camera when the Gyrfalcon flew from the post, I did not see its flight route. After scouring the area thoroughly with no luck, I decided to drive to Gaspereau and inform my good friend Cyril Coldwell of my experience. He was very keen that we should return to the area immediately, and this we did, despite my pessimism about locating it again--however, my next encounter with this falcon was to exceed even Cyril-the-optimist's expectations.

When we reached the dykelands, we did not find the bird sitting passively on a post as we drove across the meadows. As we approached the branch in the road heading to the west end of Long Island, we both caught sight of a large dark-brown bird flying at high speed low over the ground along the creek-bed, modifying its flight path with the contours of the landscape. We drove faster so that we might follow it. Also, some distance ahead, we could see a large flock of about twenty birds fly from the ground in front of the falcon. At first we took them to be Gray Partridge, so great was the difference between the extent of their wings and those of the hunter. In the twinkling of an eye, the Gyrfalcon had singled out one of the birds which were now scattered in every direction. It tightened its wings

back along its body as it closed in on the quarry. On contact, there was a puff of feathers, and momentarily we lost sight of both birds as they went down on the south side of the creek. When we had reached a point on the road parallel to the creek, the Gyrfalcon was about 80 meters away on top of a hen pheasant, mantling with its wings spread downward over the kill. From the truck we watched intently with a 20 power spotting scope as it plucked the breast of its prey. After about 15 minutes we decided to try to get closer to it so that we might get more photographs. As we walked on an angle toward it, the bird screamed and flew from the pheasant; both of us feared that it would not return. To our surprise it took a direct line of flight, not away from us as we had anticipated, but rather toward us; and upon reaching a point eight meters directly overhead, it hovered there, looking down at us and screaming in defiance at our intrusion. Shortly thereafter we returned to the truck to return to Wolfville. On our way we met two avid birders, Brenda Thexton and Jean Timpa, who just happened to be out in search of a rare bird that day. They could not have been more fortunate. To make sure that they did not miss this opportunity, we went back to the site with them. As we passed Cyril's scope back and forth, discussing what we were seeing, the Gyrfalcon suddenly looked skyward beyond our position, screamed, and took flight toward the east. A Red-tailed Hawk, perhaps thinking this bird a raven dining on carrion, apparently had it in mind to pirate this morsel. The hawk could not have been more wrong in its assessment of this diner. As the hawk reached a high position over the kill, the Gyrfalcon plummeted, unseen from the rear, and hit the red-tail hard on the shoulder with a closed foot. The hawk catapulted earthward, landing with a thud, but was apparently only shaken up. It then turned its attention back to the sky in search of its attacker. The red-tail had unfortunately landed only about 25 meters from the pheasant, and eight times the Gyrfalcon climbed in the air to swoop at the grounded hawk. With each pass, the hawk flipped over on its back, with its feet and talons outstretched, perhaps hoping to "scratch" the fleeting bullet of brown. Soon realizing that it would gain neither flight nor food from its position, the hawk hopped a good distance away from the pheasant in a very undignified, "un-hawklike" manner. After finally gaining flight and needed distance from the area, it perhaps was thankful to still be aware that its crop was not full. The Gyrfalcon soon returned to its kill and resumed dining. It was about 4:45 when Cyril and I left the area for home,--very, very pleased!!!

Mark F. Elderkin

P.S. Over subsequent weeks, until at least Feb. 19, presumably the same dark immature Gyrfalcon was seen on several occasions by a variety of observers. It was seen capturing another pheasant and a field vole, and it was also feeding on the remains of a black duck.

Also during February, there was at least one more Gyrfalcon in our area, an adult in the light gray phase (closely observed by Bernard Forsythe in the Canard Valley).

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

I wonder how usual--or unusual--it is to see Bohemian Waxwings in Nova Scotia in winter. Finding them on the Christmas Count Check List leads me to think they are expected.

Hearing of a flock in the Canso area in early January, I spoke with the observer who said, "at least twenty". Especially interesting was the word that, while seeing a flock of Bohemian Waxwings is always special, it is not unusual in that area.

On January 18, I was looking over a flock of 60+ Evening Grosbeaks on a bare tree above our feeder. At the very top of the tree three heads were the wrong shape, though the size was right. On closer inspection I easily picked up the white wing patch, rusty under-tail, etc., and felt that delightful, eager shiver that washes over one when something really special is identified. No doubt at all--Bohemians.

My first and only sighting prior to this was in Durant-Eastman Park in Rochester, New York, in the mid-fifties. At that time and place they were unusual enough to be put on the local "hot line", and the three individuals were watched closely, practically around the clock for the two days they hung around.

Large flocks of Cedar Waxwings are usual in Western New York in winter, and many's the time we have looked them over hoping for Bohemians in their company.

I have been away from Nova Scotia for many years and became a "birder" during that time. So--is it rather usual to see Bohemian Waxwings in Nova Scotia in winter? I hope so.

Nancy Peters

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

Bill Fisher's interesting letter about a pair of Caspian Terns in Cape Breton Highlands National Park in August, 1983, jogged my memory to days before I was a member of the NSBS--indeed before I lived in Nova Scotia.

On September 1, 1962, Anne and I were camping at Corney Brook on the Cabot Trail. We had excellent views from our tent-site of a lone Caspian Tern flying very near shore. The weather had been fine for days before. I suspected at the time (as I still do) that this bird came from the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

One could hardly call this, a record by two birders related (for six days) by marriage, the first confirmed one for Cape Breton Highlands Park, but it does suggest that Caspian Terns are likely to be regular (though rare) along the west coast of Cape Breton Island.

Eric L. Mills

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

Having seen the note on page 61 of NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS, July, 1983, I have been intending to drop you a note.

I spend about 5 months of the year in Mexico and Central America and have traveled extensively in the area. Last Tuesday morning for example, I spent a few hours birdwatching at Boquete, Panama. Although I am a very casual birdwatcher, I might be of help to any society members thinking of a trip to this area. I would be glad to correspond with any member and could provide some information and suggestions on birding areas, transportation and accomodation, climate and items of interest to naturalists.

Anyone wishing to contact me can write to the address below, more or less mid-December to mid-March and mid-July to mid-August. I am in Halifax in June and September and usually get to the society's September meeting. Anyone wishing to contact me in June or September, could drop a note to P.O. Box 281, Halifax, B3J 2N7, with their phone number and I will give them a ring when I am in Halifax.

Ron Boyd,
Apdo. 151,
2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios,
Cost Rica.

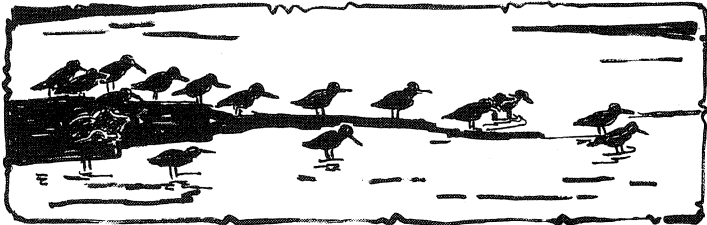
Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

Since the January issue of *Nova Scotia Birds*, I have had a recurring bad dream. In it, I see dozens of Nova Scotian birders on the intertidal flats peering through telescopes trying to see the scapulas of Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers. Eventually, they drag me from bed, routemarch me barefoot across the flats in the fog, and force ME to try.

Of course, even a Christmas turkey doesn't show its scapulas voluntarily. Somewhere between my writing and the printing, the "r" in "scapulars" was lost. So may I rest easily, assured that the scapulars are there for all to see?--even if most of them are on Semipalmated Sandpipers.

Eric L. Mills

ABJECT APOLOGIES , the "r" was indeed lost in the typing and not relocated before reaching the printer.



NAVIGATION EXPERIMENT

(After complaints from the public on the behavior of mallard drakes in the London Parks, the Ministry of Works caught up a large number and shipped them to Dr. G.V.T. Matthews, of the Wildfowl Trust.)

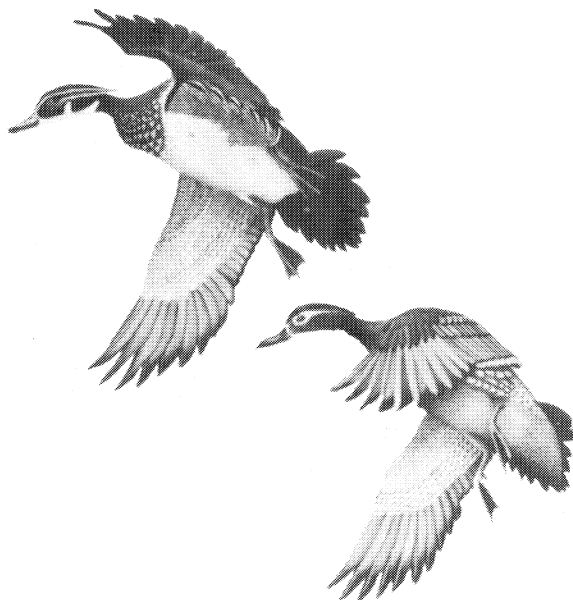
They're changing ducks at Buckingham Palace:
 Serious charges were laid by Alice.
 "A female's life is terribly harsh
 To be raped in public upon the grass."
 Quite revolting--get rid of them, fast!"
 Snaps Alice.

"Decent people can't walk in the Park
 Without seeing things best done in the dark.
 A dreadful example to Modern Youth--
 The way they make love is most uncouth,
 Quite revolting--and that's the truth."
 Nags Alice.

"It's just the same wherever one goes,
 And I blush from my ears to the tip of my nose.
 On top of each post and litter bin
 Are a couple of mallard living in sin.
 Oh dearie me, what a world we live in",
 Moans Alice.

So they caught all the ducks, with considerable malice,
 And sent them away from Buckingham Palace.
 Matthews took them to Salisbury Plain:
 They flew off east, through wind and rain.
 Two weeks rest and they're at it again.
 Poor Alice.

--R.G.B. Brown



NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC EDITOR

On behalf of the membership of the NSBS, the Editor wishes to thank Ralph Connor for all his time and effort for the past several years in his role as Photographic Editor of NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS.

We now welcome Ian McLaren who has taken over the position.

We rely on members to send in slides and prints for publication-- not only of rare birds, but of birds, birding areas and participants on Field Trips (in case of the latter, please identify the people). Photographs will be returned if requested.



Partridge Island, N.S.

RBD

ESCAPES VERSUS VAGRANTS: A COMMENT

by Richard Veit

Reprinted from the Bird Observer of Massachusetts, Vol. 11, No. 6
December 1983

As co-author of a forthcoming book on the status and distribution of Massachusetts birds, I have been disturbed by an attitude that seems pervasive in ornithological circles and that influences the handling of records of certain species of vagrant birds. In recent regional notes, as well as in periodicals such as American Birds, a number of authors have been plagued by impossible decisions about whether or not some records involve "escapes". More often than not, these authors have chosen a conservative approach and rejected records of species that are frequently kept in captivity. There is no question birds occasionally do escape from captivity and are subsequently reported by birdwatchers. However, summarily dismissing numerous records of a particular species on the sole evidence that the species is common in collections does a disservice to ornithology. In fact, in many instances I find it highly questionable that a given bird seen in the wild is equally or more likely to be an escape than a bona fide vagrant.

How often do wild birds occur far outside their normal ranges? An examination of American Birds, British Birds, or similar periodicals reporting bird records will convince the most skeptical of the regularity with which a wide diversity of bird species stray great distances beyond their normal ranges. No ornithologist to my knowledge has questioned the origins of the Aleutian Tern in Great Britain, Sooty Flycatcher or Fairy Tern in Bermuda, Parakeet Auklet in Sweden, Brown-chested Martin or Lucy's Warbler in Massachusetts, or Dusky Warbler in the Farallon Islands. Why not? Simply because these species are not known to be kept in captivity. Yet ornithologists will sigh in exasperation over reports of American Flamingo, Tufted Duck, Garganey or Brambling in the Northeast, simply because these species are commonly kept in captivity. That these highly migratory species routinely appear far beyond their normal limits is apparently discounted, and thus they are regarded as "more likely" to be escapes. This sort of reasoning begs the question of how often captive birds have been known to escape, survive, and subsequently be reported by birders. My argument is that this occurs infrequently, and the burden of proof rests upon those who cry "escape" to show that this is fact represents a viable alternative to vagrancy.

Many arguments for rejecting certain records as "presumed escapes" are obviously circular. For example, it is said that American Flamingos are poor candidates for vagrancy because there are very few confirmed instances in which the species has occurred far outside its normal range. Therefore, records 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc., of flamingos far beyond the normal range are considered suspect, because American Flamingos are poor candidates for vagrancy, etc. Furthermore, flamingos appearing in the Northeast are usually very pale in coloration. Therefore, the escape proponents proclaim, the birds were probably recently kept in captivity. They neglect the obvious: immature flamingos, the most likely individuals to wander, are much paler than the adults. Indeed, a record of a vivid adult flamingo in the Northeast should be more suspect than that of a "faded" immature.

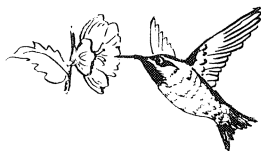
How does one prove that a given individual is an escaped cage bird? One usually cannot. However, if escaped cage birds now living free are as rampant as some would have us believe, then certainly there should exist numerous records of wild birds showing unambiguous evidence of having been captive, e.g., a band, excessive abrasion of

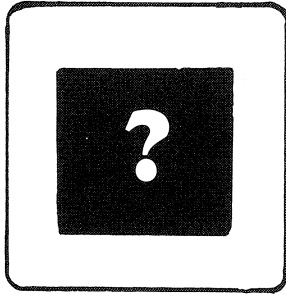
the wing and tail feathers, abnormal bill growth, or calloused feet. My impression is that birds that escape from the Bronx Zoo, from Sea World in San Diego, or from other places of confinement do not travel far but remain close to their "free" food source. I think that a quantitative study comparing the frequency of vagrancy with the frequency of dispersal of escapes might reveal that the former phenomenon occurs more often.

So why belabor this point? Because I think that a cynical attitude towards the origins of probable vagrants has hindered our perceptions of very real biological phenomena. Vagrancy is, despite many published statements to the contrary, of exceptional biological importance in determining distributional patterns of birds throughout the world, albeit over very extended time periods. The biological species concept, as articulated by Ernst Mayr, requires geographical isolation to explain the evolution of reproductive isolating mechanisms. Geographical isolation must have been achieved originally in many instances by "vagrancy". Consider the distribution of species of rails among isolated islands in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The presence of such distinctive species as the Laysan, Inaccessible Island, and Chatham Island rails presupposes at least two (in each instance) remarkable feats of dispersal over thousands of miles of open ocean. Of course, the distinctive avifaunas of the Galapagos and Hawaiian Islands are the end result of similar instances of vagrancy.

Now, it may be impossible to witness an instance of avian speciation within the span of a human lifetime, but the above examples (and there could be as many as 8600), should indicate the value of studying vagrants. The discovery of a Garganey at Plum Island, Massachusetts, in May, 1968, stirred little excitement because the bird was dismissed as an escape. An examination of records before and since then, however, reveals that Garganeys have occurred in eastern North America in the spring during a remarkably limited span of dates. Such a pattern would be expected from a sample of wild birds, but would be close to impossible to explain and all or most of the birds been escapes. (Do zoo keepers suddenly become more lax in restraining their birds during March?) Similarly, the occurrence of several species of Palearctic waterfowl and finches in North America, many of which are kept in captivity, seems to fall into discrete temporal patterns; this, again, suggests that wild birds are involved.

So what is the proper approach for compilers and authors of regional bird atlases? I think it is high time to stop worrying about the provenance of individual birds and publish all records of potential vagrants; the only way to determine the validity of any one is to compare it with future occurrences. We don't know what causes birds to wander far afield. But we may enhance our chances of finding out by maintaining an open eye, ear, and mind with respect to any species that turn up within our geographical area, however bizarre, outlandish or unexpected.



SLIDE COLLECTION

Here is the latest list of "wanteds" for our society slide collection. We welcome donations but are also prepared to have your slide copied and returned to you if you wish. Correspondence should be addressed

TO: Karl Tay,
5 Berwick St.,
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 3B6

Cory's Shearwater	missing	Red-necked Phalarope	poor
Manx Shearwater	missing	(formerly Northern Phalarope)	
Sooty Shearwater	missing	Hermit Thrush	missing
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	poor	European Starling	missing
Eurasian Wigeon	missing	Vesper Sparrow	missing
Ring-necked Duck	poor	Parasitic Jaeger	missing
Greater Scaup	missing	Pomarine Jaeger	missing
Black Scoter	missing	Glaucous Gull	missing
Ruddy Duck	missing	Caspian Tern	missing
Yellow Rail	poor	Common Nighthawk	poor
American Avocet	missing	Eastern Wood-Pewee	missing
Greater Yellowlegs	poor	Brown Creeper	poor
Willet	in flight	Meadowlark	poor
Song Sparrow	poor		

QUIZ

THE ANSWERS ARE ALL NAMES OF BIRDS

1. JOHNNIE CASH
2. WHAT YOU MIGHT DO IF YOU SAW A GOLF BALL COMING AT YOU
3. BLACK PERSON WHO KICKS THE SLEEPING CAT
4. BLOND QUEEN'S SON

(Answers on Page 42)

OSPREY MANAGEMENT IN THE POWER CORPORATION

Peter Payzant

Nova Scotia is blessed with a large and healthy population of Ospreys. According to Erick Greene, "the local Osprey population ranks among the densest in the world" (Nova Scotia Birds, July 1983). These birds prefer to nest on tall trees out in the open, where the fledging young can get good wind speeds across the nest before actually taking off. They are not above using man-made structures as nesting sites, however, and this has resulted in some problems for the Nova Scotia Power Corporation.

Transmission line poles and towers are almost ideal nest sites for Ospreys. They are high, and in the open, since they are always located on wide power line right-of-ways. An osprey nest on a tower is not an uncommon sight in Nova Scotia: one helicopter flight revealed 19 nests between Chester and Truro, and a particularly attractive location outside of Antigonish has 12 nests along a 3 mile stretch of line. The Power Corporation estimates that there are somewhere around 100 nests on various poles and towers throughout the province.

Nests do not pose much of a problem on the higher-voltage transmission lines, mainly because the spacing between the conductors is so large compared to the size of the nest. However, on the lower-voltage lines (the 69,000 volt lines, for example) the nest structure becomes a definite threat. If part of the nest or a bird makes a connection between a wire and the tower, or between two wires, protective devices operate to remove power from the line. The result is a power failure, affecting possibly thousands of houses and businesses. Usually, the "fault" is cleared in a few seconds as the cause of the short burns away. In some cases though, sufficient damage is done that repair crews must be dispatched, and the power can be off for much longer. Nova Scotians are left in the dark about 5 times a year due to ospreys nesting on transmission lines.



Prior to 1970, the Power Corporation's response to the problem was somewhat uncoordinated. The decision as to what to do with an osprey nest on a Corporation structure was left up to the line foreman, and the outcome didn't always favour the bird. Around 1970, however, the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forests suggested that the Corporation adopt a more positive and uniform approach.

Together, the Corporation and NSLF drafted a set of guidelines to protect ospreys from NSPC activities. The Corporation now has a biologist on staff, and part of his responsibilities include osprey management. NSPC reports all osprey nests on Corporation structures to NSLF. If a fault occurs in the vicinity of an osprey nest, local personnel notify both the NSPC biologist and a NSLF biologist. Either or both biologists may be present during emergency repairs.

Routine work in the immediate area of nests is strongly discouraged during the early part of the nesting season, which is the most critical period for osprey development. NSPC and NSLF biologists supervise work which must be performed during this time. Later in the summer, restrictions are eased to the point that young osprey can be handled if work on or near a nest is required. During the fall and winter, when nests are unoccupied, NSPC crews carry out any required work near nests, but nests are not moved or destroyed without the approval of the NSLF regional biologist.

The Power Corporation and the Department of Lands and Forests are also working on more permanent solutions to the osprey problem. A promising approach is to erect substitute poles near existing nests, and to move the nests to the substitute poles during the winter. A crane is required to move the nest, which can weigh over 100 lb. Eight such poles were put up in the Bridgewater area, and six of the nests were successfully reoccupied the following spring. NSPC is considering the use of "invalidation" structures: simple obstructions placed on transmission line poles after a nest has been moved. These structures may discourage ospreys from re-building on the same site.

Making a positive effort to protect ospreys has not gone unnoticed by the general public. An osprey nest blew down from a power pole during a violent wind storm recently, and an NSPC zone office received a call complaining that the nest hadn't been put back up on the pole soon enough!

The Nova Scotia Power Corporation has entered a new phase of osprey management. A cordial and cooperative working relationship has been set up between NSPC and the Department of Lands and Forests, and future research is planned on methods to reduce the impact of osprey nesting on power transmission in Nova Scotia.

NEW CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FORMED

A new committee has been formed to help deal with issues relating to conservation and the environment. Recently, Fred Dobson has carried on more or less singlehandedly as the chairman of the conservation committee. The new Conservation and Environment Committee has had the ball passed to it by Fred, although he has agreed to remain in an advisory capacity. Co-chairman of the new committee are Linda and Peter Payzant.

At a meeting held in late February, the committee drafted the following preliminary terms of reference:

1. Recommend to the executive means of supporting scientific research into birds in Nova Scotia.
2. Keep the Society up to date on formal and informal research activities in environmental issues and conservation,
3. Examine environmental issues and assist the executive in establishing positions on these issues, and represent the Society in public forums,
4. Help to increase public and Society awareness of environmental and avian conservation issues,
5. Support the work of outside agencies in conservation,
6. Maintain contact with the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund in order to assist them with their activities.

The committee has solicited the advice of a number of authorities in the field, and work has begun on issues such as the use of herbicidal/insecticidal sprays on forests and on the trees of the city of Halifax. Members of the committee are determined to take a rational, balanced approach to these issues in order to maintain the valuable credibility which the NSBS has established with outside organizations.

Any advice, opinions, or offers to participate in the activities of the committee would be most welcome. The committee can be reached by mail at the usual mailing address of the NSBS (preferably with "Environmental Committee" marked on the outside of the envelope), or by phone at 861-1607, evenings and weekends.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 39

1. NASHVILLE WARBLER
2. WOOD DUCK
3. BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE
4. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED.....

that there are some alterations in the order in which our birds have been reported. There are also some changes in their NAMES (for example--Common Gallinule has now become Common Moorhen). This is due to a reclassification done by the American Ornithologist's Union. This new classification is being adopted by most new field guides and ornithological publications. So as to prevent confusion and to make members more comfortable with the change, the Society has published a new FIELD CHECK LIST which follows the new names and order. This is now available at 6 for \$1.00 from our Museum address:

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



PLANNING A TRIP?

We have a list of the bird clubs and societies in every Canadian province and territory, every State in the United States, the Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Trinidad and Tobago.

If you plan a trip to any of these areas, let us know and we'll send you the Club's name, address, contact person, best birding areas and any other information we have.

Just call Bob Dickie at 443-0993 (h) or 426-6667 (w) or write to:

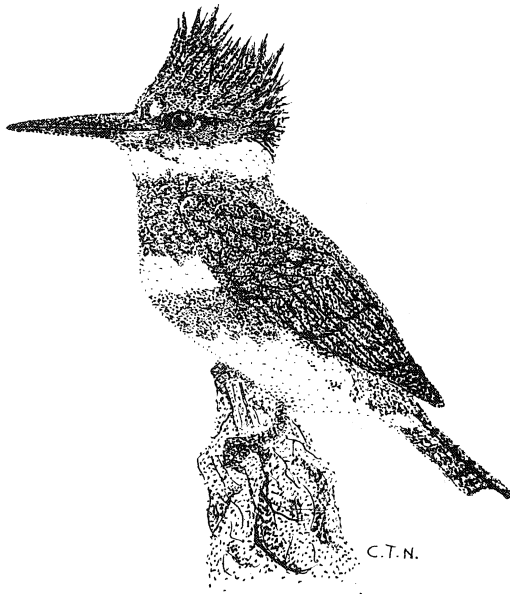
Robert B. Dickie,
43 Deepwood Crescent,
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 2Y5

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

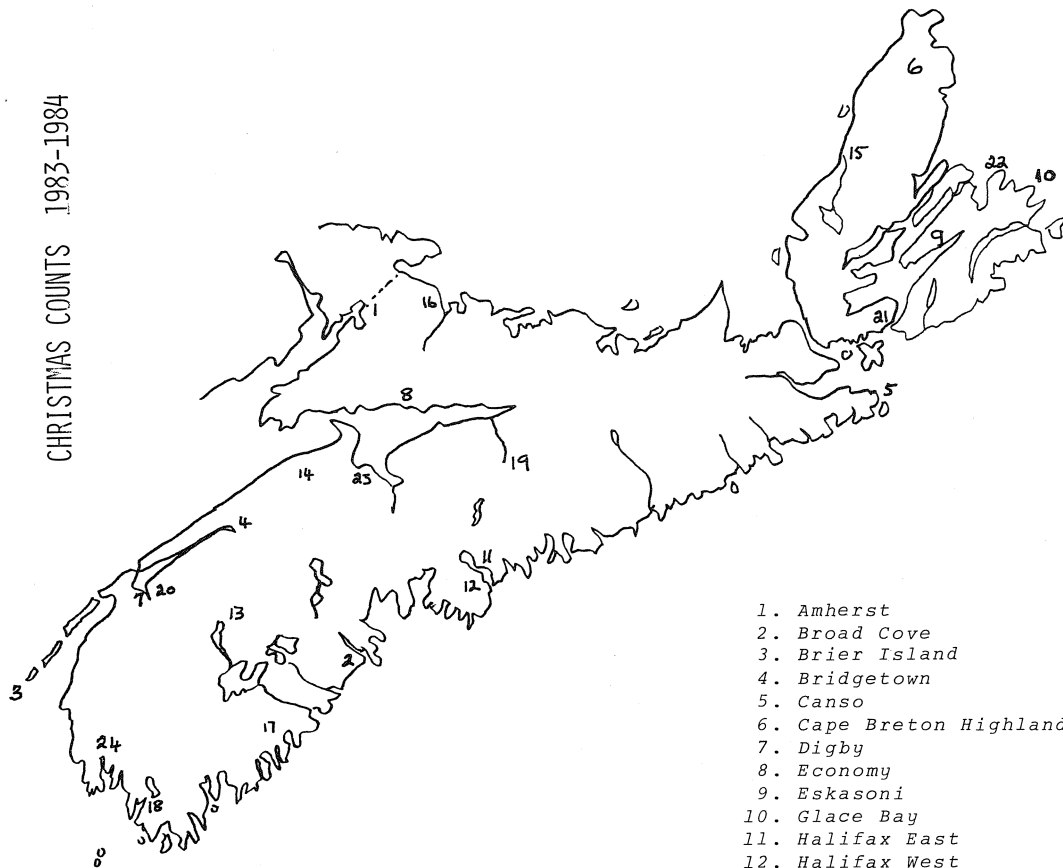
The XIX International Ornithological Congress will take place in Ottawa, Canada, from 22 to 29 June 1986. Prof. Dr. Klaus Immelmann (West Germany) is President and Dr. Henri Ouellet (Canada) is Secretary General. The programme is being planned by an international Scientific Programme Committee chaired by Professor J. Bruce Falls (Canada). The programme will include plenary lectures, symposia, contributed papers (spoken and posters), and films. There will be a mid-congress free day. Pre and post-congress excursions and workshops are planned in various interesting ornithological regions of Canada.

Information and requests for application forms should be addressed to:

Dr. Henri Ouellet
Secretary General
XIX Congressus Internationalis Ornithologicus
National Museum of Natural Sciences
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0M8



CHRISTMAS COUNTS 1983-1984



- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Amherst | 13. Kejimkujik |
| 2. Broad Cove | 14. Kingston |
| 3. Brier Island | 15. Margaree |
| 4. Bridgetown | 16. Northport |
| 5. Canso | 17. Port Hebert |
| 6. Cape Breton Highlands | 18. Pubnico |
| 7. Digby | 19. Shubenacadie |
| 8. Economy | 20. Smith's Cove. |
| 9. Eskasoni | 21. St. Peter's |
| 10. Glace Bay | 22. The Sydneys |
| 11. Halifax East | 23. Wolfville |
| 12. Halifax West | 24. Yarmouth |

NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

This year's count unfortunately, not as spectacular as last year's, still recorded 134 different species of birds within the province in the Christmas period. If one was to add some of the remarkable count period birds seen: Common Egret, Glace Bay and Shubenacadie; Whistling Swan, Glace Bay; Fish Crow and Cardinal, Halifax West, then 1983's count compares very favourably with 1982. When the number of individuals are compared, 1983 just doesn't stack up against 1982. We fell from 163,000 to 118,000. Some of this could be attributed to the absence of some counts from this year's report, but even taking this into consideration, Christmas 1983 saw a decrease in the total number birds seen in the province.

This year's total of all-time high counts, shown by underlined numbers in this summary, was only 18. One has to go back to 1970 to find a year with fewer new all-time high counts than this year. Halifax East led this field by setting 6 new all-time high counts, followed by Halifax West with 4, and Cape Breton Highlands Nat'l Park with 3. There were 3 new species added to the Nova Scotia list, and in this summary they are underlined.

This is the first year since we have done this summary in which two different counts were carried out in practically the same area. This is a practise which should be avoided at all costs, and I urge the compilers of these two counts to get together and do one count with better coverage.

AMHERST, Dec. 22; 7:45AM to 4:15PM. Overcast. No wind. Temp. 10-21F. Fresh and salt water mostly frozen. 9 observers in 4-6 parties. Total party hours 34.75 (17.75 on foot, 17 by car). Total party miles 220 (20 on foot, 200 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; Com. Merganser 37; Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 9; Rough-legged Hawk 14; Bald Eagle 1a; Marsh Hawk 8; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Iceland Gull 2; Gt. Black-backed Gull 134; Herring Gull 298; Rock Dove 260; Mourning Dove 3; Short-eared Owl 5; Downy Woodpecker 4; Horned Lark 7; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 62; Com. Raven 89; Com. Crow 191; Bl.-capped Chickadee 97; Boreal Chickadee 17; White-br. Nuthatch 2; Red-br. Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 1; Am. Robin 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 11; Bohemian Waxwing 38; Starling 1425; Pine Warbler 2; House Sparrow 1264; Brown-headed Cowbird 12; Evening Grosbeak 356; Am. Goldfinch 6; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Tree Sparrow 65; Swamp Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 3; Lapland Longspur 15; Snow Bunting 86.

Total 42 species, about 4543 individuals. (CP: Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker). Evelyn Coates, Steve Daniel, Con Desplanque, Jocelyne Gauvin, Scott MacNeil, Al Smith, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding, Stuart Tingley (compiler).

BROAD COVE, Dec. 31; 7:30AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind NNW 0-5mph. Temp. 25-32F. Fresh water mostly frozen. 23 observers in 14 parties. Total party hours 120 (81 on foot, 39 by car). Total party miles 360 (127 on foot, 233 by car).

Com. Loon 78; Red-throated Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 38; Horned Grebe 54; Great Cormorant 48; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 6; Black Duck 42; Pintail 2; Greater Scaup 43; Com. Goldeneye 208; Bufflehead 8; Oldsquaw 324; Harlequin Duck 1; Com. Eider 779; White-wing Scoter 9; Surf Scoter 4; Black Scoter 24; Com. Merganser 48; Red-br. Merganser 95; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Marsh Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Purple Sandpiper 11; Dunlin 2; Sanderling 2; Gt. Black-backed Gull 214; Herring Gull 950; Ring-billed Gull 3; Dovekie 12; Black Guillemot 8; murre, sp. 4; Rock Dove 69; Mourning Dove 2; Belted Kingfisher 2; Com. Flicker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Downy Woodpecker 4; Horned Lark 6; Gray Jay 23; Blue Jay 124; Com. Raven 45; Com. Crow 381; Bl.-capped Chickadee 198; Boreal Chickadee 48; Red-br. Nuthatch 48; Am. Robin 13; Golden-cr. Kinglet 49; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 609; Yellow-rumped Warbler 35; Com. Yellowthroat 2;

Yellow-breasted Chat 1; House Sparrow 317; Eastern Meadowlark 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 11; Evening Grosbeak 340; Purple Finch 4; Pine Grosbeak 43; Pine Siskin 6; Am. Goldfinch 129; Savannah Sparrow 7; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 73; Tree Sparrow 17; White-thr. Sparrow 11; Fox Sparrow 1; Swamp Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 37; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 22.

Total 76 species, about 5764 individuals. Bill Caudle, Molly Clayden, John, Lise & Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Ben Doane, Evelyn & Fred Dobson, Tom Elwood, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Barbara Hinds, Fulton Lavender, David Lawley, Bernice, Ian & James McLaren, Sandra Myers, Don & Joyce Purchase, Ruth Ramey, Nellie Snyder, Bruce Young.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 19; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Mostly cloudy AM. Overcast PM. Wind NW 25-35. Temp. 25-22F. Fresh water open. 9 observers in 5 parties. Total party hours 30 (27.5 on foot, 2.5 by car). Total party miles 65 (38 on foot, 27 by car).

Com. Loon 43; Red-throated Loon 3; Red-necked Grebe 32; N. Gannet 5; Great Cormorant 288; Canada Goose 1; Black Duck 121; Com. Goldeneye 45; Oldsquaw 242; Com. Eider 476; White-winged Scoter 28; Black Scoter 3; Red-br. Merganser 204; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Purple Sandpiper 3; Iceland Gull 7; Gt. Black-backed Gull 1041; Herring Gull 615; Black-legged Kittiwake 1535; Thick-billed Murre 89; Dovekie 3; Black Guillemot 75; Mourning Dove 1; Horned Lark 3; Blue Jay 5; Com. Raven 32; Com. Crow 87; Bl.-capped Chickadee 25; Boreal Chickadee 2; Mockingbird 1; Brown Thrasher 1; Am. Robin 12; Golden-cr. Kinglet 7; Starling 38; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; House Sparrow 35; Red-winged Blackbird 8; Com. Grackle 13; Brown-headed Cowbird 6; Evening Grosbeak 20; Purple Finch 1; Pine Siskin 2; Am. Goldfinch 56; Dark-eyed Junco 8; Tree Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 1; Swamp Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 5.

Total 49 species, about 5234 individuals. Sherman Boates, Cyril Coldwell, Mark Elderkin, John Kearney, David Lawley, Wickerson Lent, Eric Mills (compiler), Peter Smith, Jim Wolford.

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 17; 8AM to 4PM. Clear AM. Overcast with intermittent snow flurries PM. Light wind. Temp. 2-5C. Fresh water open. 20 observers in 5 parties, 7 at feeding stations. Total party hours 29.5 (17 on foot, 12.5 by car). Total party miles 141 (51 on foot, 90 by car).

Com. Loon 1; Great Cormorant 1; Black Duck 50; Com. Goldeneye 22; Com. Eider 2; White-winged Scoter 15; Red-br. Merganser 10; Goshawk 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 10; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Am. Kestrel 2; Ruffed Grouse 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 11; Purple Sandpiper 20; Gt. Black-backed Gull 22; Herring Gull 180; Rock Dove 98; Hairy Woodpecker 12; Downy Woodpecker 6; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 74; Com. Raven 41; Com. Crow 146; Bl.-capped Chickadee 57; Boreal Chickadee 3; White-br. Nuthatch 8; Red-br. Nuthatch 6; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 6; Starling 538; House Sparrow 325; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Com. Grackle 14; Brown-headed Cowbird 31; Evening Grosbeak 145; Pine Siskin 8; Am. Goldfinch 1; Dark-eyed Junco 1.

Total 39 species, about 1885 individuals. (CP: Canada Goose, Marsh Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Mourning Dove, Mockingbird, Am. Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Purple Finch, Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow). Bill Chambers, Jim Doig, Calder Fraser, Marian Graves, Terry Hyson, Maude Jodrey, Heather Maher, Wilfred Marshall, Edith Morris, Eric Morris, Bill Morse, Jean Morse (compiler), Eric Porter, John Porter, Mary Porter, Phyllis Sarsfield, George Sarsfield, Alan Slauenwhite, Eileen Slauenwhite, Stewart Whitman.

CANSO, Dec. 30; 7:30AM to 4PM. Mostly clear. Light south wind. Temp. 20F. Fresh water frozen. 2 observers in 1 party, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 17 (2 on foot, 8 by car, 7 at feeders). Total party miles 18 (1 on foot, 17 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Red-throated Loon 1; Great Cormorant 3; Com. Eider 1; Glaucous Gull 3; Iceland Gull 36; Gt. Black-backed Gull 30; Herring Gull 22; Dovekie 3; Black Guillemot 10; Rock Dove 9; Mourning Dove 7;

Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 4; Com. Raven 3; Com. Crow 5; Boreal Chickadee 4; Mockingbird 1; Am. Robin 1; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1; Starling 23; House Sparrow 50; Com. Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Evening Grosbeak 50; Purple Finch 1; Com. Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 3; Am. Goldfinch 3; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Tree Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 1.

Total 35 species, about 290 individuals. (CP: Great Blue Heron, Northern Shrike, Bl.-capped Chickadee, Rusty Blackbird). June Jarvis, Nancy Peters, (compiler).

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Dec. 29; 7:30AM to 6PM. Wind SW 22 knots. Temp. 3-10C. Fresh water mostly open with some ice. 32 observers in 11 parties, 8 at feeding stations. Total party hours 22.5 (11 on foot, 11.5 by car, 25 at feeding stations). Total party miles (km.) 195.2 (16 on foot, 179.2 by car).

Com. Loon 3; Horned Grebe 8; Great Cormorant 5; Canada Goose 6; Black Duck 28; Gadwall 5; Lesser Scaup 1; Com. Goldeneye 71; Bufflehead 18; Oldsquaw 80; Com. Eider 1; White-winged Scoter 11; Surf Scoter 1; Black Scoter 1; Com. Merganser 2; Red-br. Merganser 64; Bald Eagle 2a, 1 imm.; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Purple Sandpiper 12; Glaucous Gull 7; Iceland Gull 4; Gt. Black-backed Gull 671; Herring Gull 322; Com. Murre 18; Dovekie 63; Black Guillemot 6; Com. Flicker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Downy Woodpecker 6; Bl.-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 12; Blue Jay 134; Com. Raven 12; Com. Crow 144; Bl.-capped Chickadee 26; White-breasted Nuthatch 5; Red-br. Nuthatch 8; Brown Creeper 1; Mockingbird 1; Am. Robin 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 3; Starling 101; House Sparrow 77; Com. Grackle 25; Evening Grosbeak 132; Purple Finch 2; Pine Grosbeak 24; Com. Redpoll 17; Pine Siskin 142; White-winged Crossbill 11; Dark-eyed Junco 32; Snow Bunting 200.

Total 54 species, about 2535 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Mourning Dove, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Shrike, Am. Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow). Leslie Buffett, Dorothea Cox, Pamela Doyle (compiler), Ray Farrier, Irene Gettas, Allan Gibbs, Wendy Gibbs, Curt Hussey, Mr. & Mrs. George Hussey, Jeri & Bucko Hussey, Jeanette Jackson, Dr. Ken Murray, Tim & Paula Reynolds, Sonia Reynolds, Hazel Stockley, Murray Stockley, Norma Taussig, Frank Taussig, Fred Williams, Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Amos, Heather Dauphinee, Bernice Doucette, Gordon Doucette, Chris Gorey, Jessie McEvoy, Jim McEvoy, Delores Neal.

DIGBY, Dec. 27; 9AM to 5PM. Mostly cloudy AM. Cloudy with moderate blowing snow PM. Wind SW 20-30 knots. Temp. 0C. Fresh water frozen. 5 observers in 1 party, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 7 (2 on foot, 5 by car). Total party miles (km) 53 (50 by car, 3 by foot).

Com. Loon 3; Red-thr. Loon 2; Red-necked Grebe 18; Horned Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 3; Mallard 2; Black Duck 450; Greater Scaup 225; Com. Goldeneye 45; Bufflehead 130; Oldsquaw 80; White-winged Scoter 58; Red-br. Merganser 60; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 7; Gt. Black-backed Gull 200; Herring Gull 700; Black-legged Kittiwake 6; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 50; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 12; Com. Raven 20; Com. Crow 305; Bl.-capped Chickadee 40; Red-br. Nuthatch 3; Am. Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 50; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 400; House Sparrow 45; Brown-headed Cowbird 6; Evening Grosbeak 44; Purple Finch 7; Am. Goldfinch 27; Dark-eyed Junco 7; Tree Sparrow 17; White-throated Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow.

Total 39 species, about 2976 individuals. Dan Banks, Kay Banks, H.S. Emerson, Barry Sabeau (compiler), Edith Nightman.

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 8AM to 5PM. Overcast. Wind 15-25 SW. Temp. 28-32F. Fresh water partly frozen. 9 observers in 6 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 49½ (41½ on foot, 8 by car). Total party miles 129 (47 on foot, 82 by car).

Canada Goose 15; Mallard 2; Black Duck 570; Green-winged Teal 1; Com. Goldeneye 6; Bufflehead 6; Oldsquaw 17; Com. Eider 1; White-winged Scoter 14; Com. Merganser 4; Red-br. Merganser 2; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Bald Eagle 2imm.; Marsh Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 3;

Gray Partridge 7; Purple Sandpiper 78; Gt. Black-backed Gull 34; Herring Gull 350; Rock Dove 181; Mourning Dove 1; Barred Owl 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 4; Bl.-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 50; Com. Raven 62; Com. Crow 217; Bl.-capped Chickadee 142; Boreal Chickadee 29; Red-br. Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 2; Am. Robin 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 46; Bohemian Waxwing 5; Starling 369; House Sparrow 787; Com. Grackle 10; Brown-headed Cowbird 35; Evening Grosbeak 146; Pine Grosbeak 4; Com. Redpoll 1; Am. Goldfinch 16; Seaside Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 24; Tree Sparrow 46; Song Sparrow 5; Snow Bunting 30.

Total 51 species, about 3345 individuals. (CP: Glaucous Gull, Purple Finch). Brian Dalzell, Gordon Dearnaley, Ward Hemeon, Frank Hennessey, Brad MacLaughlin, George Perry, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding (compiler), Stuart Tingley.

ESKASONI, Dec. 23; 8AM to 4PM. Rainy, winds at times heavy, slushy, trees snow-laden, AM. Rain intermittent, less cloudy and less windy, PM. Wind 60 km+. Temp. 0C. Fresh water frozen. 6 observers in 2 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 14 (2 on foot, 12 by car). Total party miles 60 (5 on foot, 55 by car).

Black Duck 13; Greater Scaup 30; Com. Goldeneye 26; White-winged Scoter 43; Red-br. Merganser 13; Goshawk 1; Bald Eagle 3a, 2imm; Gt. Black-backed Gull 20; Herring Gull 60; Bonaparte's Gull 5; Mourning Dove 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 36; Com. Raven 24; Com. Crow 73; Bl.-capped Chickadee 13; Boreal Chickadee 10; Red-br. Nuthatch 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 2; Starling 43; House Sparrow 56; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Evening Grosbeak 80; Purple Finch 7; Pine Grosbeak 29; Am. Goldfinch 8; Savannah Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 4; Song Sparrow 1.

Total 30 species, about 612 individuals. George Ball, Dave Harris, George MacInnis, Brian MacNeil, Jack MacNeil (compiler), Laurie MacNeil.

GLACE BAY, Dec. 26; Snow. 3 observers, 3 at feeding stations.

Black Duck 2; Iceland Gull 7; Gt. Black-backed Gull 5; Herring Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 4; Blue Jay 9; Com. Raven 2; Com. Crow 7; Starling 115; House Sparrow 140; Com. Grackle 1; Evening Grosbeak 185; Purple Finch 2; Am. Goldfinch 4; Tree Sparrow 4.

Total 15 species, about 642 individuals. Joy Gates, Sara MacLean (compiler), Arthur Spencer.

For the first time in twenty-one years, the Glace Bay Count was not completed. Sara MacLean, the compiler, broke several ribs just before Christmas, and some of the other stalwarts were not able to go for a variety of reasons. Arrangements were made, however, to cover the route on Dec. 26th. After the bad snowstorm of Dec. 24th, the roads were still very bad when Dave Harris set out with Otis Cossitt to do the count. His car was hit from behind and put out of service early in the day, ending any attempt at counting birds. Three people watched their feeders all day so as to provide at least some coverage. This we publish here. (Note, the compiler sent in the report from her hospital bed where she is suffering from pneumonia as a result of the broken ribs). We feel this count should be given great appreciation for effort. - Ed.

HALIFAX EAST, 7:30AM to 5PM. Mostly clear. Wind 0-10kph. Temp. 34-39F. Fresh water open. 35 observers in 17 parties. Total party hours 148 (111 on foot, 37 by car). Total party miles 497 (127 on foot, 370 by car).

Com. Loon 88; Red-thr. Loon 9; Red-necked Grebe 14; Horned Grebe 13; Great Cormorant 31; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 2500; Mallard 4; Black Duck 170; Greater Scaup 10; Com. Goldeneye 32; Bufflehead 86; Oldsquaw 120; Com. Eider 36; White-winged Scoter 465; Surf Scoter 3; Black Scoter 27; Hooded Merganser 2; Com. Merganser 27; Red-br. Merganser 242; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Broad-winged Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 6; Am. Coot 1; Killdeer 2;

Black-bellied Plover 3; Com. Snipe 1; Red Knot 6; Purple Sandpiper 2; Dunlin 24; Sanderling 2; Iceland Gull 31; Gt. Black-backed Gull 175; Herring Gull 1145; Ring-billed Gull 119; Black-headed Gull 88; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; Com. Tern 1; Thick-billed Murre 1; Dovekie 8; Black Guillemot 3; Rock Dove 97; Mourning Dove 38; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 3; Horned Lark 25; Gray Jay 15; Blue Jay 176; Blue Jay 176; Com. Raven 129; Com. Crow 667; Bl.-capped Chickadee 362; Boreal Chickadee 48; Red-br. Nuthatch 9; Brown Creeper 6; Marsh Wren 3; Mockingbird 2; Am. Robin 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 103; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; Starling 3935; Orange-cr. Warbler 3; Yellow-rumped Warbler 30; Pine Warbler 4; Prairie Warbler 1; Palm Warbler 6; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; House Sparrow 394; Northern Oriole 1; Com. Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 34; Evening Grosbeak 276; Purple Finch 22; Pine Grosbeak 56; Com. Redpoll 104; Pine Siskin 33; Am. Goldfinch 419; White-winged Crossbill 12; Sharp-tailed Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 24; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 8; Dark-eyed Junco 92; Tree Sparrow 42; Chipping Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 10; Swamp Sparrow 19; Song Sparrow 70; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 38.

Total 90 species, about 12870 individuals. Mike Almon, Ron Arsenault, Hazel Carmichael, Bill Caudle, John & Shirley Cohrs, Mike Crowell, Dave Currie, Bob Dickie, Jim Elliot, Tom Elwood, Chris Field, Sylvia Fullerton, Frank Himsl, Barbara Hinds, Fulton Lavender, Dave Lawley, Ian MacKay, Steve Manuel, Bob McDonald, Ian McLaren (Compiler), James McLaren, Eric Mills, Bernice Moores, Sandra Myers, Linda & Peter Payzant, Don & Joyce Purchase, Richard Stern, Karl Tay, Jim Taylor, Betty Topple, Elizabeth Townsend, Elaine Wallace.

HALIFAX WEST, Dec. 26; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Clear. Wind SW 20-30mph. Temp. 20-35F. Fresh water frozen. 28 observers in 16 parties. Total party hours 134 (86 on foot, 46 by car, 2 by boat). Total party miles 513 (106 on foot, 405 by car, 2 by boat).

Com. Loon 27; Red-necked Grebe 20; Horned Grebe 11; Pied-billed Grebe 2; N. Gannet 1; Great Cormorant 188; Double-cr. Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 85; Mallard 56; Black Duck 580; Green-winged Teal 7; Wood Duck 5; Greater Scaup 9; Com. Goldeneye 44; Bufflehead 1; Oldsquaw 164; Com. Eider 780; White-winged Scoter 25; Sulf Scoter 3; Black Scoter 33; Hooded Merganser 2; Com. Merganser 19; Red-breasted Merganser 43; Goshawk 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Bald Eagle 1; Marsh Hawk 2; Merlin 4; Ruffed Grouse 2; Am. Coot 2; Purple Sandpiper 42; Glaucous Gull 11; Iceland Gull 202; Gt. Black-backed Gull 549; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Herring Gull 3292; Ring-billed Gull 59; Black-headed Gull 27; Thick-billed Murre 4; Dovekie 26; Black Guillemot 25; Rock Dove 418; Belted Kingfisher 2; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Downy Woodpecker 10; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 128; Com. Raven 56; Com. Crow 494; Bl.-capped Chickadee 153; Boreal Chickadee 1; White-br. Nuthatch 3; Red-br. Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 4; Mockingbird 4; Brown Thrasher 1; Am. Robin 14; Golden-cr. Kinglet 32; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1; Starling 6514; Orange-cr. Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 5; Palm Warbler 1; House Sparrow 1177; Northern Oriole 2; Com. Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 235; Dickcissel 1; Evening Grosbeak 355; Purple Finch 19; Pine Grosbeak 3; Am. Goldfinch 64; Savannah Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 112; Tree Sparrow 38; White-thr. Sparrow 34; Fox Sparrow 1; Swamp Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 61; Snow Bunting 21.

Total 83 species, about 16340 individuals. (CP: Fish Crow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Cardinal N. Redpoll). Mike Almon, Nancy Blair, Hazel Carmichael, Bill Caudle, John & Lise Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs (compiler), Ethel Crathorne, David Currie, Bob Dickie, Evelyn & Fred Dobson, Gillian & Jim Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton, Frank Himsl, Barbara Hinds, John Kearney, Fulton Lavender, Chris MacKee, Ian & James McLaren, Anne & Eric Mills, Linda & Peter Payzant, Don & Joyce Purchase.

KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK, Dec. 20; 7:30AM to 5:30PM. Mostly clear AM. Clear PM. Wind NW 8-20mph. Temp. 1-9F. Fresh water mostly open. 19 observers in 9-10 parties, 3-6 at feeding stations. Total party hours 59½ (50½ on foot, 8 ¾ by car). Total party miles 196 (65½ on foot, 130½ by car).

Canada Goose 98; Com. Goldeneye 3; Ruffed Grouse 18; Barred Owl 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Downy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 13; Blue Jay 40; Com. Raven 18; Com. Crow 9; Bl.-capped Chickadee 183; Boreal Chickadee 12; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Red-br. Nuthatch 17; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 42; Starling 7; House Sparrow 26; Evening Grosbeak 1; Dark-eyed Junco 2.

Total 21 species, about 499 individuals. (CP: Com. Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Am. Goldfinch). Jeff, John, Kerri & Sheila Bacon, Norm & Thelma Bowers, Cliff Drysdale, Connie Eaton, Larry Fisk, Peter Hope (compiler), David Lawley, Len & Pat MacDonald, Eric Mullen, Granville & Maggie Nickerson, Tom Sheppard, Marcus Waddington, Jordan Wentzell.

KINGSTON, Dec. 31; 7:30AM to 5PM. Mostly clear AM. Mostly cloudy PM. Wind 0-5W. Temp. 3-28F. Fresh water mostly open. 7 observes in 2 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 17½ (6 on foot, 11½ by car). Total party miles 142 (4 on foot, 138 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 3; Horned Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 1; Oldsquaw 27; Com. Aider 16; White-winged Scoter 30; Red-br. Merganser 1; duck, sp. 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; buteo, sp. 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Purple Sandpiper 38; Gt. Black-backed Gull 13; Herring Gull 301; Razorbill 3; Rock Dove 74; Mourning Dove 18; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 191; Com. Raven 8; Com. Crow 211; Bl.-capped Chickadee 47; White-br. Nuthatch 10; Red-br. Nuthatch 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 8; Starling 559; House Sparrow 440; Red-winged Blackbird 7; Brown-headed Cowbird 371; Evening Grosbeak 138; Am. Goldfinch 37; Red Crossbill 2; Dark-eyed Junco 10.

Total 34 species, about 2589 individuals. Betty Donovan, Norman Donovan, Mary MacMillan, Pat MacMillan, Larry Neily (compiler), Vivian Neily, Jane White.

MARGAREE, Dec. 27; 8AM to 4PM. Overcast AM. Partly cloudy PM. Wind SW. Temp. 0-2F. Fresh water partly open. 8 observers in 3 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 17 (9 on foot, 8 by car). Total party miles 103 (12 on foot, 91 by car).

Black Duck 11; Com. Goldeneye 35; Com. Merganser 46; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 10a., 1 imm.; Spruce Grouse 4; Ruffed Grouse 2; Iceland Gull 38; Gt. Black-backed Gull 19; Herring Gull 46; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 78; Com. Raven 75; Com. Crow 215; Bl.-capped Chickadee 44; Brown Creeper 15; Golden-cr. Kinglet 41; Cedar Waxwing 9; Starling 67; House Sparrow 196; Evening Grosbeak 58; Pine Grosbeak 22; Pine Siskin 145; Am. Goldfinch 11; Dark-eyed Junco 8; Snow Bunting 9.

Total 29 species, about 1223 individuals. Brenda Hart, Eunice Hart, Everett Hart, Frances Hart (compiler), Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham, Alex Miller.

NORTHPORT, Dec. 26; 9:30AM to 4:15PM. Clear. Wind 15-20mph. Temp. -4 to +3F. Fresh water frozen. 2 observers in 1 party, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 10 (3 on foot, 7 by car). Total party miles 46 (3 on foot, 43 by car).

Com. Goldeneye 33; Oldsquaw 6; Com. Merganser 32; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Gt. Black-backed Gull 10; Herring Gull 24; Rock Dove 39; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 5; Com. Raven 31; Com. Crow 11; Bl.-capped Chickadee 5; Starling 18; House Sparrow 11; Evening Grosbeak 51; Dark-eyed Junco 1.

Total 16 species, about 280 individuals. Robert MacNeil (compiler), Duncan MacNeil.

PORT HEBERT, Dec. 18; 7:30AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind NW 10-25mph. Temp. 25-30F. Fresh water open. 16 observers in 12 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 83 (76.5 on foot, 6.5 by car). Total party miles 214 (80 on foot, 134 by car).

Com. Loon 70; Red-thr. Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 61; Horned Grebe 35; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 101; Great Blue Heron 5; Canada Goose 1252; Mallard 2; Black Duck 654; Greater Scaup 80; Com.

Goldeneye 73; Bufflehead 31; Oldsquaw 68; Harlequin Duck 10; Com. Eider 303; White-winged Scoter 37; Surf Scoter 4; Black Scoter 29; Hooded Merganser 2; Com. Merganser 6; Red-br. Merganser 130; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 1a; Merlin 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 6; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Purple Sandpiper 32; Sanderling 77; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Black-backed Gull 221; Herring Gull 833; Ring-billed Gull 1; Bl.-headed Gull 2; Bl-leg. Kittiwake 19; Thick-billed Murre 2; Dovekie 8; Black-Guillemot 37; Rock Dove 15; Mourning Dove 2; Gt. Horned Owl 1; Com. Flicker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Downy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 13; Blue Jay 21; Com. Raven 34; Com. Crow 215; Bl.-capped Chickadee 142; Boreal Chickadee 55; White-br. Nuthatch 2; Red-br. Nuthatch 5; Brown Creeper 5; Winter Wren 1; Am. Robin 5; Golden-cr. Kinglet 109; Northern Shrike 1; Starling 49; Yellow-rumped Warbler 113; Pine Warbler 1; Palm Warbler 1; House Sparrow 23; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 5; Evening Grosbeak 89; Pine Grosbeak 2; Com. Redpoll 3; Am. Goldfinch 21; Savannah Sparrow 3; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 30; Tree Sparrow 12; White-thr. Sparrow 12; Swamp Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 31; Snow Bunting 36.

Total 78 species, about 5272 individuals. Jeanne Addelson, Norman & Thelma Bowers, Bill Crosby, Donna Crosby, Russel Crosby, Emmerson Fiske, Frank Hennessey, Peter Hope, Fulton Lavender, Len MacDonald, George Perry (compiler), Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding, Stuart Tingley, Robert Turner.

PUBNICO, Jan. 2; 8AM to 5PM. Mostly clear. Wind 5-10mph. Temp. 30F. Fresh water frozen. 26 observers in 5 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 35 (25 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles 299 (70 on foot, 229 by car).

Com. Loon 26; Red-necked Grebe 4; Great Cormorant 1; Double-cr. Cormorant 2; Great Blue Heron 4; Canada Goose 11; Mallard 1; Black Duck 126; Greater Scaup 1; Com. Goldeneye 117; Oldsquaw 48; Com. Eider 13; Surf Scoter 4; Red-br. Merganser 40; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 1a; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Iceland Gull 1; Gt. Black-backed Gull 185; Herring Gull 484; Ring-billed Gull 5; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 19; Mourning Dove 38; Belted Kingfisher 3; Com. Flicker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Horned Lark 1; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 11; Com. Raven 35; Com. Crow 130; Bl.-capped Chickadee 75; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-br. Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 4; Mockingbird 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 17; Starling 95; Yellow-rumped Warbler 47; House Sparrow 183; Eastern Meadowlark 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 7; Evening Grosbeak 164; Pine Grosbeak 5; Pine Siskin 3; Am. Goldfinch 11; Dark-eyed Junco 30; Tree Sparrow 7; White-thr. Sparrow 15; Song Sparrow 12; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 1.

Total 58 species, about 2035 individuals. (CP: Pintail, Merlin, Bl.-headed Gull, Dovekie, Cedar Waxwing, Com. Grackle, Purple Finch). Judith Adam, C.R.K. Allen, A. d'Entremont, D. d'Entremont, O. d'Entremont, R. d'Entremont, B. D'Eon, J. D'Eon, L. D'Eon, M. D'Eon, Ted D'Eon, (compiler), W. D'Eon, Phyllis Dobson, Pierre Ferron, Stefan Ferron, Edgar Hamilton, Vernita Hamilton, Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Ethelda Murphy, Greg Murphy, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters, Barbara Ruff, Eric Ruff, Carol Spinney.

SHUBENACADIE, Jan. 1; 7:15AM to 3PM. Partly cloudy AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind 0-15mph. Temp. 25F. Fresh water mostly frozen. 4 observers in 2 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 11 (2 on foot, 9 by car). Total party miles 42 (5 on foot, 37 by car).

Canada Goose 28; Com. Merganser 250; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Bald Eagle 2a, 6imm; Ruffed Grouse 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Gt. Black-backed Gull 34; Herring Gull 60; Rock Dove 145; Belted Kingfisher 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Bl.-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 24; Com. Raven 146; Com. Crow 343; Bl.-capped Chickadee 28; Boreal Chickadee 6; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Am. Robin 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 34; Starling 3074; House Sparrow 188; Com. Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 51; Evening

Grosbeak 64; Purple Finch 1; Pine Grosbeak 4; Com. Redpoll 12; Pine Siskin 31; Am. Goldfinch 9; Dark-eyed Junco 24; Tree Sparrow 7; White-thr. Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 2.

Total 39 species, about 4596 individuals. (CP: Great Blue Heron, Com. Egret, Mallard, Black Duck, Green-winged Teal). Mary Geddes, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler); Jean Schwartz, Lorne Weaver.

SMITH'S COVE, Dec. 22; 8AM to 4:30PM. Overcast. Wind 0-10 knots. Temp. 18-24F. Fresh water open. 3 observers in 1 party, 2 at feeding stations.

Horned Grebe 1; Bufflehead 110; Com. Merganser 3; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 1 imm; Ring-necked Pheasant 6; Gt. Black-backed Gull 32; Herring Gull 20; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 7; Com. Raven 4; Com. Crow 5; Bl.-capped Chickadee 7; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; House Sparrow 1; Com. Grackle 2; Evening Grosbeak 35; Purple Finch 1; Dark-eyed Junco 1; Tree Sparrow 2; White-thr. Sparrow 11; Song Sparrow 1.

Total 23 species, about 261 individuals. A. Raymond, Kelsey Raymond (compiler), Mary Lou Raymond.

ST. PETER'S, Dec. 26; 8AM to 5PM. Mostly clear. Wind W. 5mph. Temp. -5F. Fresh water frozen. 3 observers in 2 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 24. Total party miles 60.

Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 1; Black Duck 3; Com. Goldeneye 9; Oldsquaw 2; White-winged Scoter 12; Bald Eagle 6a; Gt. Black-backed Gull 1; Herring Gull 29; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 5; Com. Raven 9; Com. Crow 15; Bl.-capped Chickadee 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 1; Starling 20; House Sparrow 65; Evening Grosbeak 20; Com. Redpoll 5; Pine Siskin 2; Am. Goldfinch 3; Song Sparrow 2.

Total 23 species, about 217 individuals. E. Digout, Murdock Digout (compiler), W. Digout.

THE SYDNEY'S, Dec. 31; 8AM to 5PM. Clear AM. Clear to partly cloudy PM. Wind light. Temp. 20F. Fresh water $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ frozen. 6 observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 48 (8 on foot, 40 by car). Total party miles 178 (4 on foot, 174 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 2; Great Cormorant 14; Mallard 167; Black Duck 512; Greater Scaup 14; Com. Goldeneye 183; Bufflehead 1; Oldsquaw 156; Com. Eider 8; Com. Merganser 3; Red-br. Merganser 51; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Bald Eagle 4a, 2 imm; Iceland Gull 47; Gt. Black-backed Gull 556; Herring Gull 494; Bl.-headed Gull 6; Dovekie 2; Rock Dove 55; Downy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 104; Com. Raven 22; Com. Crow 5196; Bl.-capped Chickadee 29; Boreal Chickadee 16; Red-br. Nuthatch 10; Golden-cr. Kinglet 5; Starling 559; House Sparrow 106; Com. Grackle 7; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Evening Grosbeak 54; Purple Finch 46; Pine Grosbeak 7; Pine Siskin 7; Am. Goldfinch 27; Dark-eyed Junco 11; Tree Sparrow 2.

Total 39 species, about 8443 individuals. (CP: Canada Goose, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Glaucous Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Horned Lark, Am. Robin). O. Cossitt, David Harris (compiler), H. Hopkins, G. MacInnis, J. MacNeil, E. Meickle.

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 18; 7:30AM to 5:15PM. Partly cloudy AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind NW 15-20mph. Temp. 24-26F. Fresh water partly frozen. 53 observers in 19 parties, 6 at feeding stations. Total party hours 103. Total party miles 430 (78 on foot, 352 by car).

Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 501; Mallard 14; Black Duck 1400; Pintail 1; Green-winged Teal 6; White-winged Scoter 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Red-tailed Hawk 80; Rough-legged Hawk 16; Bald Eagle 8a, 10 imm; Marsh Hawk 5; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 6; Ring-necked Pheasant 230; Com. Snipe 1; Gt. Black-backed Gull 1007; Herring Gull 5332; Ring-billed Gull 35; Rock Dove 1725; Mourning Dove 91; Barred Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Downy Woodpecker 18; Horned Lark 95; Blue Jay 302; Com. Raven 444; Com. Crow 18300; Bl.-capped Chickadee 145; Boreal Chickadee 5; White-br. Nuthatch 7; Red-br. Nuthatch 9; Brown Creeper 2; Am. Robin 13; Golden-cr. Kinglet 15; Bohemian Waxwing 56; Cedar Waxwing 30; Starling 5255; Yellow-br. Chat 1; House Sparrow

1802; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 135; Evening Grosbeak 483; Purple Finch 38; Pine Grosbeak 5; Com. Redpoll 25; Pine Siskin 8; Am. Goldfinch 386; Savannah Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 179; Tree Sparrow 19; White-thr. Sparrow 14; Song Sparrow 35; Snow Bunting 5.

Total 56 species, about 38326 individuals. (CP: Red-thr. Loon, Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Com. Grackle, Winter Wren). B. Austin-Smith, L. Austin-Smith, Peter Austin-Smith (Jr.), Peter Austin-Smith (Sr.); N. Bleakney, S. Bleakney, S. Boates, J. Bromley, K. Casselman, T. Casselman, C. Chipman, C. Coldwell, M. Connolly, C. Crawford-Smith, M. Elderkin, R. Erskine, M. Forbes, A. Forsythe, B. Forsythe, S. Forsythe, J. Gibson, E. Goodstein, L. Hammett-Vaughan, B. Healy, P. Healy, T. Herman, S. Johnson, E. Knight, B. Lutes, N. Lutz, P. MacDonald, A. MacInnis, C. MacKinnon, P. Martell, W. Martell, C. Matlack, P. Matthews, Reg & Ruth Newell, M. Pulsifer, C. Smith, D. Smith, Peter Smith (compiler), R. Stern, B. Thexton, Brenda Thexton, J. Timpa, S. Timpa, D. Urban, E. Urban, W. Urban, S. Williams, J. Wolford.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 18; 8AM to 5PM. Partly cloudy AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind NW 30 knots. Temp. 28F. Fresh water partly frozen. 27 observers in 6 parties, 6 at feeding stations. Total party hours 43 (19 on foot, 24 by car). Total party miles 361 (25 on foot, 336 by car).

Com. Loon 13; Red-thr. Loon, 1; Red-necked Grebe 4; Horned Grebe 1; Double-cr. Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 550; Mallard 4; Black Duck 361; Com. Goldeneye 24; Bufflehead 23; Oldsquaw 55; Com. Eider 75; Com. Merganser 3; Red-br. Merganser 123; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 2; Ruffed Grouse 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Killdeer 1; Iceland Gull 1; Gt. Black-backed Gull 416; Herring Gull 964; Ring-billed Gull 16; Rock Dove 135; Mourning Dove 22; Gt. Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Com. Flicker 6; Downy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 44; Com. Raven 120; Com. Crow 342; Bl.-capped Chickadee 108; Boreal Chickadee 8; White-br. Nuthatch 3; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 6; Am. Robin 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 24; Water Pipit 20; N. Shrike 2; Starling 2275; Yellow-rumped Warbler 13; Yellow-br. Chat 1; House Sparrow 236; Red-winged Blackbird 10; N. Oriole 1; Com. Grackle 13; Brown-headed Cowbird 77; Evening Grosbeak 240; Purple Finch 5; Am. Goldfinch 15; Dark-eyed Junco 42; Tree Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 12; Song Sparrow 5; Snow Bunting 5.

Total 62 species, about 6449 individuals. (CP: Harlequin Duck, Bl.-legged Kittiwake, Red-headed Woodpecker). C. Allen, M. Churchill, D. D'Entremont, O. D'Entremont, R. D'Entremont, J. D'Eon, T. D'Eon, P. Dobson, J. Graves, Mrs. N. Gray, E. Greene, Helén & Hubert Hall, P. Hayes, M. Hilton, C. Jacquard, E. Murphy, M. Nickerson, A. Porter, I. Prosser, L. Prosser, H. Robbins, Barbara & Eric Ruff (compilers), R. Rymer, J. Sollows, V. Sollows.

Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals

Com. Loon 88 (Halifax East); Red-thr. Loon 9 (Halifax East); Red-necked Grebe 61 (Port Hebert); Horned Grebe 54 (Broad Cove); Pied-billed Grebe 2 (Halifax West); Gannet 5 (Brier Island); Great Cormorant 288 (Brier Island); Double-cr. Cormorant 2 (Pubnico); Great Blue Heron 9 (Halifax East); Canada Goose 2500 (Halifax East); Mallard 167 (The Sydney's); Black Duck 1400 (Wolfville); Gadwall 5 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat'l Park); Pintail 2 (Broad Cove); Green-winged Teal 7 (Halifax West); Wood Duck 5 (Halifax West); Greater Scaup 225 (Digby); Lesser Scaup 1 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat'l Park); Com. Goldeneye 208 (Broad Cove); Bufflehead 130 (Digby); Oldsquaw 324 (Broad Cove); Harlequin Duck 10 (Port Hebert); Com. Eider 780 (Halifax West); White-winged Scoter 465 (Halifax East); Surf Scoter 4 (Broad Cove, Port Hebert & Pubnico); Black Scoter 33 (Halifax West); Hooded Merganser 2 (Halifax East, Halifax West & Port Hebert); Com. Merganser 250 (Shubenacadie); Red-br. Merganser 242 (Halifax East).

Goshawk 4 (Bridgetown); Sharp-shinned Hawk 6 (Wolfville); Red-tailed Hawk 80 (Wolfville); Broad-winged Hawk 1 (Halifax East); Rough-legged Hawk 16 (Wolfville); Bald Eagle 18 (Wolfville); Marsh Hawk 8 (Amherst); Merlin 4 (Halifax West); Am. Kestrel 2 (Bridgetown & Yarmouth); Spruce

Grouse 4 (Margaree); Ruffed Grouse 18 (Kejimikujik Nat'l Park); Ring-necked Pheasant 230 (Wolfville); Gray Partridge 7 (Economy); Am. Coot 2 (Halifax West); Killdeer 2 (Halifax East); Black-bellied Plover 3 (Halifax East); Com. Snipe 1 (Halifax East & Wolfville); Red Knot 6 (Halifax East); Purple Sandpiper 78 (Economy); Dunlin 24 (Halifax East); Sanderling 77 (Port Hebert).

Glaucous Gull 11 (Halifax West); Iceland Gull 202 (Halifax West); Gt. Black-backed Gull 1041 (Brier Island); Lesser Black-backed Gull 1 (Halifax West); Herring Gull 5332 (Wolfville); Ring-billed Gull 119 (Halifax East); Black-headed Gull 88 (Halifax East); Bonaparte's Gull 5 (Esquasoni); Bl.-legged Kittiwake 1535 (Brier Island); Com. Tern 1 (Halifax East); Razorbill 3 (Kingston); Com. Murre 18 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat'l Park); Thick-billed Murre 89 (Brier Island); Dovekie 63 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat'l Park); Black Guillemot 75 (Brier Island); Rock Dove 1725 (Wolfville); Mourning Dove 91 (Wolfville); Gt. Horned Owl 1 (Port Hebert & Yarmouth); Barred Owl 2 (Wolfville); Short-eared Owl 5 (Amherst).

Belted Kingfisher 3 (Pubnico); Com. Flicker 11 (Pubnico); Pileated Woodpecker 2 (Broad Cove, Margaree & Shubenacadie); Hairy Woodpecker 12 (Bridgetown); Downy Woodpecker 18 (Wolfville); Bl.-backed 3-toed Woodpecker 1 (Economy, Shubenacadie & Cape Breton Highlands Nat'l Park); Horned Lark 95 (Wolfville); Gray Jay 23 (Broad Cove); Blue Jay 302 (Wolfville); Com. Raven 444 (Wolfville); Com. Crow 18300 (Wolfville); Bl.-capped Chickadee 362 (Halifax East); Boreal Chickadee 55 (Port Hebert); White-br. Nuthatch 10 (Kingston & The Sydney's); Red-br. Nuthatch 48 (Broad Cove); Brown Creeper 15 (Margaree); Winter Wren 1 (Port Hebert); Long-billed Marsh Wren 3 (Halifax East); Mockingbird 4 (Halifax West); Brown Thrasher 1 (Brier Island & Halifax West); Am. Robin 14 (Halifax West); Golden-cr. Kinglet 109 (Port Hebert); Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1 (Canso, Halifax East & Halifax West); Water Pipit 20 (Yarmouth); Bohemian Waxwing 56 (Wolfville); Cedar Waxwing 30 (Wolfville); N. Shrike 2 (Yarmouth).

Com. Starling 6514 (Halifax West); Orange-cr. Warbler 3 (Halifax East); Yellow-rumped Warbler 113 (Port Hebert); Pine Warbler 4 (Halifax East); Prairie Warbler 1 (Halifax East); Palm Warbler 6 (Halifax East); Com. Yellowthroat 2 (Broad Cove); Yellow-br. Chat 1 (Broad Cove, Halifax East, Wolfville & Yarmouth); House Sparrow 1802 (Wolfville); E. Meadowlark 4 (Pubnico); Red-winged Blackbird 10 (Yarmouth); N. Oriole 2 (Halifax West); Com. Grackle 25 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat'l Park); Brown-headed Cowbird 371 (Kingston); Dickcissel 1 (Halifax West); Evening Grosbeak 483 (Wolfville); Purple Finch 46 (The Sydney's); Pine Grosbeak 56 (Halifax East); Com. Redpoll 104 (Halifax East); Pine Siskin 145 (Margaree); Am. Goldfinch 419 (Halifax East); Red Crossbill 2 (Kingston); White-winged Crossbill 12 (Halifax East); Savannah Sparrow 24 (Halifax East); Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 8 (Halifax East); Sharp-tailed Sparrow 2 (Halifax East); Seaside Sparrow 1 (Economy); Dark-eyed Junco 179 (Wolfville); Tree Sparrow 65 (Amherst); Chipping Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); White-thr. Sparrow 34 (Halifax West); Fox Sparrow 1 (Broad Cove & Halifax West); Swamp Sparrow 19 (Halifax East); Song Sparrow 70 (Halifax East); Lapland Longspur 15 (Amherst); Snow Bunting 200 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat'l Park).

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