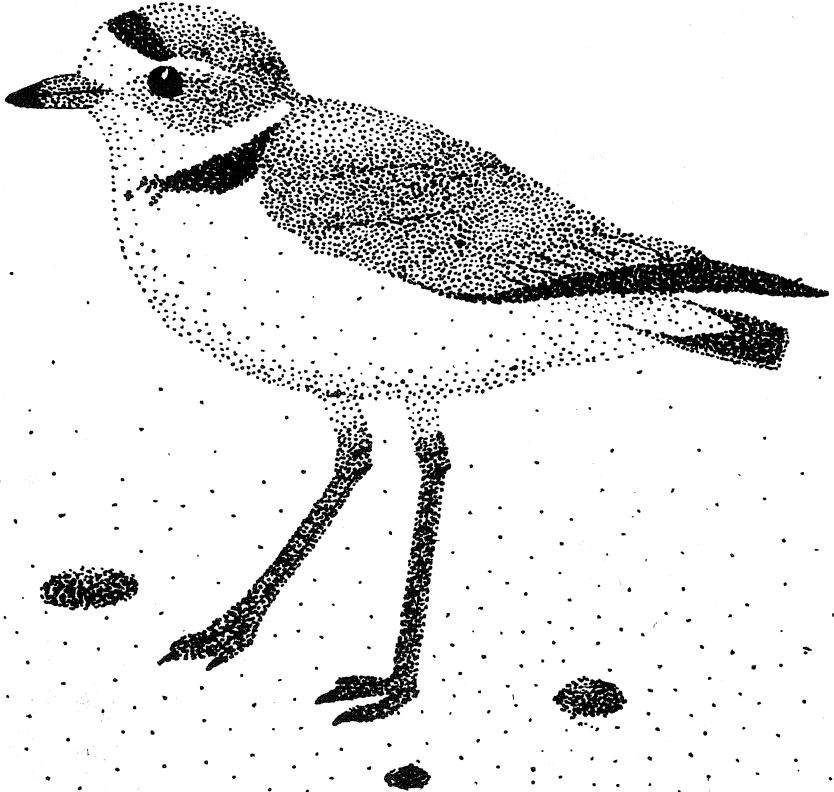


NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

January 1984



NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
a publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society

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*Cover drawing of Piping Plover
by Chris Naugler*

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I believe that in 1983, the Nova Scotia Bird Society has continued to serve the best interests of the birds of Nova Scotia and those who watch them.

First, I would like to thank the many people who helped out with our regular activities. John Cohrs chaired our well attended monthly meetings with wit and wisdom. Our directors arranged the speakers for these meetings. Wendie and Karl Tay looked after the thankless job of providing coffee and refreshments. Frank and Mary Hmsl have organized an impressive series of field trips. Shirley Cohrs has continued the high quality of Nova Scotia Birds. I would also thank Ken Gregoire for making possible a very interesting Audubon lecture, early in the year. To all of these people and so many more I offer my thanks.

We have worked on behalf of the birds. A presentation was made in February before the Committee Examining Alternative Uses of the Woods Property. This sensitive area is the breeding ground for the endangered Piping Plover. The Society strongly argued for protection of the breeding ground of the plover in any future plan. We were gratified to see both the government and the Committee strongly endorse our position. The Committee has recommended the area be made part of Kejimikujik National Park. I thank Fred Dobson, who drew up our presentation.

This summer the Society acted as an employer under the Summer Canada Student Employment Program. We submitted a proposal to study Piping Plover populations and to conduct an education program concerning them. The proposal was approved and we employed three students for the summer. Two of the students, Stephen Fleming and Roland Chaisson are members of the Society. Special thanks to John Cohrs for working his way through a myriad of paper and politics to make the program a great success.

Our Raptor Rehabilitation Project was honoured this year when, on the basis of it, the Society was selected to receive a Certificate of Merit in the Environmental Awards presented by the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment. Shirley Cohrs, the main organizer of this project in 1982, accepted the award at a ceremony in the Red Chamber, at Province House on June 28.

We also sought this year to introduce non-birders to the fascinating world of birds. Our Junior Field Trip was held in September, involving a group of senior students at Halifax West High School. In June, Roger Pocklington presented a public lecture at the museum on bird identification. This was followed the next day by a morning bird walk. The lecture was well attended and enthusiasm was high the next morning in spite of terrible weather. We should offer similar outings in the future. Finally, members of the executive have made presentations on birds and birding to community groups on several occasions.

This year the Society became a member of the Nova Scotia Voluntary Planning Association. This is a wide ranging association of interested groups who advise the government on land use.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to be your president. I regret that personal plans make it impossible to offer for a second year. I would like to thank my executive who have made the job of being president an easy one. I leave you with two thoughts...

Over the past year I have talked to many people referred to me by the Nova Scotia Museum. These are people who have found a robin with a broken wing or who have, for some reason, for the first time, noticed a large flock of strange birds, usually starlings. As I talked to such people, I found my enthusiasm easily contagious. So, I remind you to take every opportunity to share your enthusiasm about birding. You'll win many converts, particularly if you can get them to look at birds through your binoculars. The converts are on our side and of course they'll want to join the Society.

Lastly, the Society, I believe, should become more active in the environmental area. In the past we have had an environmental committee, usually consisting of one person. Most recently this has been Fred Dobson, who has done much excellent work. However, to stay informed and active on a variety of issues and to keep the executive informed, requires the efforts of many. This summer several members inquired about our position on spraying. We had no mechanism on hand to consider this complex issue. We are now creating a new environmental committee with Bob Dickie as the executive representative. I hope some members will come forward to give their time and knowledge in this area. There are important matters to consider beyond the feeders.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to be your president.

Good birding,
Frank Hennessey.



Osprey. This was one whose nest was moved from the power lines on Indian Path, Lun. Co. Photograph taken in early July.

Photo--Richard Stern

THE FALL MIGRATION, 1983

The weather, summer of 1983, was as variable as usual, but often-er "fine and warm" than "cloudy and cold". From mid-June until mid-September, we had equitable temperatures, roughly from 5° to 25° C., but on September 15, this suddenly dropped to -6°! (how the leaves came rattling down). During the day the temperature rose to 14°, but thereafter cooler weather prevailed. Autumn colors developed slowly and were slightly muted this season--and suddenly they were gone. October and November were distinguished by many periods of high wind, from "fresh breeze" to "fresh gale" (about twice as strong); the former bringing down the remaining leaves, the latter bringing down trees and road signs. Sometimes rain accompanied the wind, and many mornings, coastwise at any rate, were foggy, but in spite of this, the countryside seems to have dried out early--too early for some of the farmers, and doubtless also for our migrating land birds. The remaining blackberries and blueberries dried up on the bushes before they had ripened; we have a very poor cone crop; there are no Rowan berries nor wild raisin and Canadian holly was sparse. Wild thorn, apple and bayberry look to be normal, and those of us with multiflora rose hedges have been able to feed grosbeaks and finches and Mockingbirds, as well as the Robins, and some thrushes and sparrows on their way out.

Reporting for the season has been good, covering most of the region. New areas were Isle Haute, Twin Islands (off Pubnico) and a long report from Cape Breton Highlands National Park, all with many welcome observations. We have been told that the new Bluenose ferry to Bar Harbor does not have good viewing accomodation for birders, which is disappointing. How thoughtless of them!

For some species we still have reason for concern but for the most part, there is evidence of a successful breeding season. On July 16-17, the countryside (in SW Nova Scotia) was alive with young birds: flycatchers, swallows, warblers, thrushes, Cedar Waxwings and White-throated Sparrows. (See also the Report to follow.) Also, we have had more than our share of rarities; perhaps the Little Stint is the rarest, a new one for the list, but there were Whistling Swans, Sandhill Crane, House Wrens, Wheatear, Cerulean Warbler, and 33 Yellow-billed Cuckoos; Pied-billed Grebes were way up and so were Pileated Woodpeckers, and there were unusual gulls and many such warblers (nice variety).

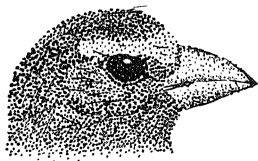
The departure of the birds was less spectacular than their arrival (See Nova Scotia Birds, July, 1983), but during the height of the migration both Seal and Brier Islands were heavily manned, and as usual there were rewards for those present. Eric Mills' description of the big day at Brier gives the picture:

"10 October, Monday.1983. Overcast, clearing . 3-10°C. Wind NNE 15. 0730-1200 Brier Is., N.S. ELM,IAM. Thousands of birds arrived over night on a brisk NNE wind which came up before midnight and dropped to a strong breeze by dawn. At Northern Point thousands of Juncos, White-throated Sparrows and Golden-crowned Kinglets swept through the thickets northward, attempted to leave, and turned back. In the alder thickets birds went by like wind-driven autumn leaves. Hundreds of Robins in flocks of 50-100 flew above the trees, then settled into the spruces. Chipping Sparrows were everywhere in the open, including the lawns at Northern Light, and little groups of Red-breasted Nuthatches were calling from the edges of the trees. Blue Jays were also on the move, though not in the numbers we saw earlier in the weekend. In the wind and cold the birds moved so fast that it was nearly impossible to get good views. At one time the isolated end

thickets were literally hopping with Golden-crowned Kinglets and a few Ruby-crowns. By about 10:00 hours the great movement of flocks had stopped but birds were still everywhere in the island thickets... About 40 Broad-winged Hawks were soaring over Lighthouse Hill ca. 0545; Sharp-shinned Hawks less abundant to-day but the whole island still had dozens; they patrolled the tree tops and tickets everywhere. One immature Bald Eagle on rocks at Peter's Island."

Well, the eagle will probably stay with us--Bon Voyage to the rest.

--PRD



CTN

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

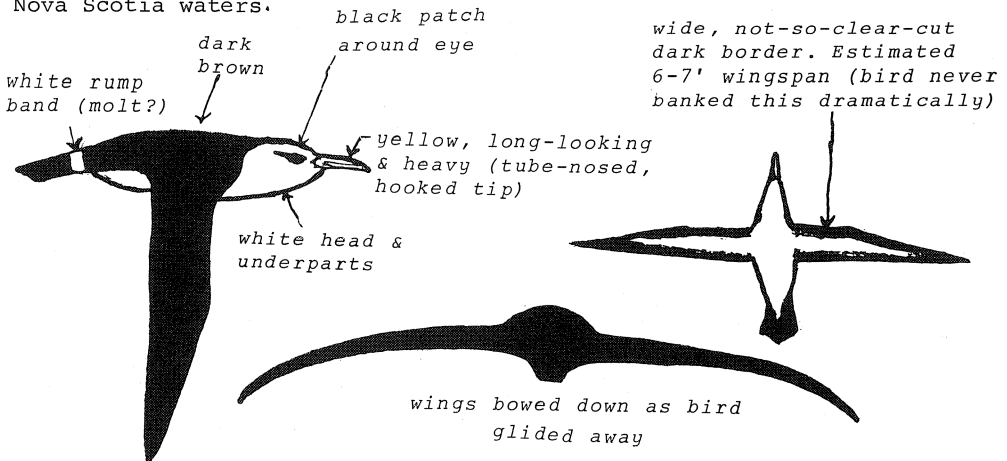
LOONS AND GREBES

COMMON LOONS were as usual, seen in ones and twos throughout the summer, from northern Cape Breton to Cape Sable. Also as usual, small flocks were noted in late summer and early fall: 7, Aug. 20, Crane Lake, Yar. Co.; 5, Sept. 10, Ste. Ann's Bay; 22, Oct. 15, Brier Is.; 6, Sandy Cove, Lun. Co., Oct. 27. Most RED-THROATED LOON reports are from Hartlen Pt., where the first was of 3, Sept. 11; there were three other reports from here for Oct. 21 (FLL, JT). Other reports were of a single Oct. 9 at Brier; 4, Oct. 23 at Grand Pre, and 1, Oct. 20, Martinique Beach. RED-NECKED GREBES were either scarce or late this fall; only eight sightings so far with a high count of two birds. HORNED GREBES too are few and far between, just five reports of 14 birds, with a high of 6, Oct. 18, Mahone Bay (RDH). Our summer resident, the PIED-BILLED GREBE has done much better: a total of 105 were seen all over the province; most popular spot was APBS, where there were 60, Aug. 30, many of these probably having nested there. Another possible nesting is reported by Jean Timpa--this one at Port Williams.

--CRKA, ed.

ALBATROSS TO CORMORANTS

A BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS was seen on 15 July, 4 hours out of Sydney on the Argentinia/North Sydney ferry, by David E. Wolff and Bret Whitney of Nacogdoches, Texas (submitted through Bruce Mactavish). There really isn't anything in our waters which you can mistake for an albatross. This bird was extremely large (the species has a wingspan of over 7 ft.), with a white head, neck, rump and underparts, and black back, upper wings and tail. There was a sharply contrasting black 'brow' above the eye, and the bill was fairly long, yellow and hooked somewhat at the tip. The only real question at issue is whether the bird was a Black-browed or the very similar Yellow-nosed Albatross, also from the South Atlantic Ocean. Both species occur in the North Atlantic from time to time, but for some reason most records in North American waters are of Yellow-nosed, while Black-browed occur on the European side. (A Black-browed Albatross has regularly visited a Scottish Gannet colony in recent years.) However, the Yellow-nosed has a black bill with a yellow line on top, and the underside of its wings are predominantly white. The bill of our bird, on the other hand, was yellow and this, and the broad black borders and very restricted white of its underwings, leave no doubt that it was a Black-browed. It's the first good sight record of the species from Nova Scotia waters.



That's a hard act to follow, and we don't, in fact, have very many records of our other, regular tubenoses. There were about 20 NORTHERN FULMARS near Sable Island on 9 July (L&PP), occasional sightings, some way offshore of Country Harbour, during the last 10 days of Sept. (Earle Hickey), and a singleton off Chebucto Head on 12 Nov. (FLL, Jim Taylor). Linda and Peter Payzant saw a few SOOTY and GREATER SHEARWATERS from CSSHUDSON some 100 miles east of Halifax on 8 July and there was a single Sooty and a MANX SHEARWATER off Brier Island on 4 Sept. (RBS). However, the overwhelming majority of shearwaters reported were Greater's, as you'd expect at this time of year. Some of the numbers seem quite large: 45 off Seal on 3 Sept. (BDM); ca. 2000 off the North Point of Brier on 4 Sept. and ca. 800 there on 8 Sept. (RBS); 10-20 a day during 2 cruises off Country Hbr. during the last 10 days of the month (Earle Hickey); 500+ off Brier on 10 Oct. (FLL). The latest records were ca. 300 on the Lurcher Shoal, west of Yarmouth on 3 Nov., but there must have been flocks moving through our waters later than that; I saw several large flocks moving south off north-east Newfoundland on 10 Nov. This last summer, as we all know, has been a warm one, and the waters off Nova Scotia have been warm as well. It's therefore surprising that there are no reports of CORY'S SHEARWATER this year; it's a warm-water species which tends to move into our area under these conditions. Tony Lock made several trips out to Sable Island during the summer and fall, and he notes that the only shearwaters he saw out there were all definitely Greater's.

We have very few Storm-Petrel sightings. The only definite LEACH'S was the bird which Roy John saw from the Digby ferry on 28 June. A few WILSON'S followed CSS HUDSON near Sable Island on 9 July (L&PP) and, despite much disagreement among the observers, the 8 birds seen off North Point, Brier Island, on 4 Sept. seem definitely to have been Wilson's as well (RBS).

The lone immature GANNET which the Payzants saw about 100 miles off Halifax on 8 July was too early to have been a migrant, or even a bird of the year. The 13 birds which Hedley Hopkins saw off Bird Islands, Cape Breton, during a trip there in June were so far from the nearest colonies (Magdalens, Cape St. Mary's), that they probably also were subadult, non-breeding birds. On the Fundy side of the province, there were 16 undoubtedly non-breeding birds seen from the Digby-Saint John ferry on 28 June (RJ), 6 adults flying west past Evangeline Beach on 28 August (EPS), 8 birds off Seal Island on 9 Sept. (BDS), well over 500, in all plumages, off Brier on 17 Sept. (Cohrs and Payzants), and 200+ there on 10 Oct. (FLL). On the Atlantic side, Earle Hickey saw 3 immatures well offshore from Country Hbr. on 25 Sept. There were 15+ (including only 2 adults) off Cherry Hill Beach on 1 Oct. (Cohrs); 100+ off Chebucto Head on 5 Oct. (FLL, Jim Taylor); 100+ passing points off Shel. Co., on 17 & 18 Oct. (95% adults; D&JY, RJC); 50+ off Hartlen Point on 21 and 29 Oct. (FLL, Jim Taylor, Dave Currie); 3-4 adults off Cherry Hill and Green Bay on 27 and 28 Oct., but 40+ (80% adults) in that general area on 29 Oct. (Cohrs). The single bird which D. Dominick saw well out from Cape Breton Highlands Park on 15 Oct., was probably a fairly late straggler.

We have plenty of sightings of both GREAT and DOUBLE-GRESTED CORMORANTS. Sara MacLean notes that Greats in the region of Glace Bay Sanctuary were 'very abundant this year, popping up in the oddest places. Must have had a most successful hatch'. There were 100+ off Brier Island on 9-10 Oct. and 200+ off Hartlen Point on 21 Oct. (FLL, Jim Taylor), and 61 on the rocky islands near Sambro on 14 Nov. (RBD). I'll only summarise reports of Double-crests which refer to their fall migration. Small flocks were flying south west past Seal Island all day on 30 August (ELM), and Bruce Mactavish estimated 80 there on 4 Sept. and 50 on 8 Sept. Off Brier, there were "many!" on 24 Sept.

(JET), 300+ passing during the day on 8 October (ELM) and 1000+ there on 9-10 Oct. (FLL). Fulton Lavender and Jim Taylor saw a massive movement of 2500 birds passing Hartlen Point on 21 Oct. Birds from this passage seem to have straggled well offshore; Tony Lock saw 2 Double-crests off Sable Island on 26-28 October.

--RBBB, ed.



Barred Owl. This bird, despite missing a left eye, successfully raised at least one chick this summer in the trees behind the nursing home in Kentville. Photo--Richard Stern

HERONS AND RELATIVES

There were 15 reports of 17 AM. BITTERNs during summer and fall, the latest on Nov. 20 on Cape Sable Is. (JG,MC). Most reporters saw GREAT BLUE HERONS in the usual numbers, although there were noteworthy concentrations of 200 at Martinique Beach on July 31, 43 at Petpeswick on Sept. 22, and 40+ at Crescent Beach on Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Our only GREAT EGRETS were late individuals at Barrington on Nov. 13-15 (BJS et al.) and Glace Bay on Nov. 23 (HEH,OC). The first post-July (see FALL FLYER) SNOWY EGRETS was near Yarmouth on Aug. 17. A real "push" around the Pubnicos began with 4 on Aug. 4 and peaked at 11 birds by Sept. 5. There were still 7 there on Oct. 7. A previously unreported LITTLE BLUE HERON was at Fall River on May 22. The first "fall" migrant was at Economy on Aug. 20-22, and was followed by 1 at APBS on Aug. 22, 1 at Pubnico on Aug. 30, up to 4 there on Sept. 10, and 1 near Yarmouth on Sept. 12-20. A bird at Ingonish on Oct. 1 was late (DD). An unusual report of 9 CATTLE EGRETS near Mira during July from reliable sources (HEH,OC) was not detailed. Previously unreported spring GREEN-BACKED HERONS were 2 at L.W.Pubnico on June 2 and 1-2 in S.W. Yar. Co., on June 2-4. At least 2 were on Seal Is. between Aug. 23 and Sept. 16. An adult and an immature BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON were on Dan'l's Head, Cape Sable Is., between June 12-29. A pair on Seal Is., in mid-July were believed responsible for an incompletely feathered young there at the time (IAM) and probably for the 2 juveniles seen there with 2 adults periodically between mid-Aug. and mid-Sept. There were NO reports of YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS, which is unusual.

--IAM, ed.

SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS

The big bird, both literally and figuratively for Yarmouth birders this fall, has been the WHISTLING SWAN, a flock of which appeared on Island Pond, a few miles north of town on Nov. 20. The huge birds--one immature and six adults--rested for some hours surrounded by a number (of relatively tiny!) Great Black-backed Gulls; and finally mounting high into the sky--a thrilling sight--set course for the southwest. On Dec. 2, more of this species were seen flying over Arcadia on the edge of town.

Two summer reports of CANADA GEESE are: 1, (a cripple?) seen walking along the beach at Point Esprit, June 21 (RM), and 4, adults with 8 young, at Lusby Marsh, June 11 (CD). First migrants were noted at Big Bras d'Or, Aug. 29, and small flocks began to appear at Conrad's Beach, Glace Bay Sanctuary and Port Howe, during September. Numbers, still small (under 500) showed up at all the usual stop-offs during October, and by the end of that month they began to gather in their thousands. There were 1000± at Port Morien in late October; 2000+ at Martinique and Melburne each, Nov. 6 and 7 and 2000+ still at the former locality, Nov. 20, though only about half that number remaining at Melburne. We have only one report of BRANT, surprising for this common transient, 13, off Bartlett's Beach, Nov. 24 (MC,JG). Two SNOW GEESE, one white phase and one blue, seen at Melburne, Nov. 6 and 7 by a number of local birders could possibly still be there among the Canadas.

MALLARD reports continue to increase; singles, couples and up to 10 birds were seen at Seal Is., Halifax area and Melburne in late summer and fall; while on Sept. 30, the Cohrs saw 75 in three flocks at Crescent Beach, with another 40+ at Broad Cove and Cherry Hill next day. During the same period only about 40 BLACK DUCKS were seen in the same area. Yarmouth birders and gunners are inclined to think that this latter species has shown a definite increase and this is borne out by reports from other regions. There were many sightings of

50-100 reported, and a fair number of 500-1000. The only GADWALL report is of 4 young at APBS, Aug. 30 (CD). PINTAILS were seldom seen; 16, June 4 at Lusby, and 10, Oct. 29 at Canard were the highest numbers seen (CD,RBS); the only other report was of a drake at Glace Bay Sanctuary, Nov. 23 (HEH&OC). Two migrant GREEN-WINGED TEAL were seen by the Cohrs at Petite Riviere, Aug. 8, where the earliest previous date had been Aug. 19. Jean Timpa reports a great many, Sept. 12 at Canard; D. Dominick had 100 at Glace Bay Sanctuary, Sept. 29, and Hopkins and Cossitt saw 58 there Aug. 24-28. There were a number of other sightings of 15 or fewer. BLUE-WINGED TEAL were present in good numbers through August and September. Like the Green-wings, they arrived early, for the Cohrs, showing up at Green Bay, Aug. 11, their earliest previous date being Aug. 20. As usual, these little ducks left the province early, last sighting Oct. 1 at Canard (JET). A bird which was almost certainly a CINNAMON TEAL, was observed at close range at leisure, minutely described, and photographed by a group of experienced observers--Eric Mills, Stuart Tingley, Francis Spalding and Bruce Mactavish, Sept. 2-3, on Seal Is. It was a male in eclipse plumage and it spent some time in the company of Blue-winged Teals where comparison was possible. We hope to have the verdict on the photographs for the next issue. Up to 8 AMERICAN WIGEON spent June at Lusby Marsh, last seen July 1; there were 25 at APBS, Oct. 23, and small numbers were at Glace Bay, Seal Is., Brier Is., Martinique and Eel Lake, during September to November. High counts were 22, at Eel Lake, Sept. 22 and 30, Nov. 23 at Martinique.

SHOVELERS bred again at APBS this summer, where Con Desplanque found 4 young in August. Up to six adults had been seen there and in nearby Lusby Marsh during June, and 1 to 4, were seen on Seal Is., by various birders, Aug. 2 - Sept. 14. Other reports of one to several birds were from Canard, Little River, Digby Co., and Lawrencetown; while a small flock was at Glace Bay, Nov. 22 (HEH&OC). WOOD DUCKS also bred at APBS, where two young were seen Aug. 30. Single birds appeared at New Ross, June 29, Russel Lake, Aug. 20 and Sullivan's Pond (glad to hear from there again!) Oct. 19. There were 4, at Three-fathom Harbour, Aug. 6, and 3, on Seal, July 17. Good numbers of RING-NECKED DUCKS were in their usual lakes during the summer but the only young mentioned were 20, at APBS, Aug. 20. Last sighting was 15 in November at Frog Pond, Halifax Co. No numbers of GREATER SCAUP have shown up so far. They were reported from Sydney Harbour (no numbers given) in early November, and Shirley Cohrs saw a female at Crescent Beach, Nov. 12, but that is all. There were undoubtedly good numbers in Northumberland Strait but no birders there. The COMMON GOLDENEYE situation is identical with that of the Scaup: 20+ at Russel Lake, Nov. 9, and a female at Cunard Pond, Nov. 8. Like the Scaup, they gather in the Strait until the ice drives them out. First BUFFLEHEADS seen were 15 males Oct. 20, Smith's Cove (AKR). By late November they had shown up at their regular wintering spots: Martinique Grand Desert and Melburne. One seen by Jean Timpa at the Canard Poultry Pond was a straggler from its normal habitat.

OLDSQUAWS, judging by reports, are behind schedule: first report, late October from the Highlands Park (no numbers given), and 20+ at Hartlen Pt. No others! There were three HARLEQUIN DUCKS at Highlands Park in mid- October, and 3 or 4, Nov. 16 at Cranberry Head. These birds can be looked for with confidence in the same very local wintering spots every year. Ian McLaren reported 306 female COMMON EIDERS with 216 young at Seal Is. in mid-July, and Sid Smith saw 29 adults with 22 young at the Hawk at about the same time. Numbers of Eiders reported this year far outstrip the numbers of any of the other ducks and, in fact, greatly excel their own reported numbers for the same period last year. There were 2000+ at Port L'Hebert, July 13; rafts off Evangeline Beach, Sept. 17 and 27, and "many" off Brier Is., Sept. 24 (MC,JG,JET,BT); while FLL saw 1000+ at Hartlen Point, Oct. 29.

Most other reports are of 50-200 birds. A few WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS summered here: 15 in Green Bay, June 25, and 2 at Big Bras d'Or, Aug. 29. The fall movement was in full swing by mid-October, when Margaret Churchill and June Graves saw 1000+ going by Cranberry Head. There were 100+ at Hartlen Point, Oct. 27-29 (FLL), the same number on the same date at Evangeline Beach (RBD). SURF SCOTERS were in very short supply: 2, July 21 at Queensland; 1, at Brier, Oct. 8, 4 there, Oct. 10, and were reported again (no number given) at Ingonish Beach, Oct. 15. Shirley Cohrs reports none of this species in the Crescent-Beach-Green-Bay area, often a regular stop-off. BLACK SCOTERS did a little better. Like the other two species, a few summered here: 25 seen by John Cohrs at Green Bay, June 25. During the fall they were reported from Green Bay, Crescent Beach, Brier Is., Hartlen Pt., Chebucto Head, Ragged Island and Ingonish Beach, in numbers ranging from several to 100+, this last at Hartlen Pt. The RUDDY DUCK made its usual fall appearance, showing up at Crescent Beach, Oct. 9--this one a male in eclipse--a female at Port Joli Bay, Oct. 12, and another female at the Canard Poultry Pond, Nov. 19.

An adult female HOODED MERGANSER visited Nellie Snyder in Crousetown, Sept. 17, and spent a week on her pond eating her frogs and tadpoles. A group of four, including a male--we hope in full plumage--was seen by the Cohrs at "the Puddle" near Hubbards, Oct. 16. Single birds were also seen at Conrad's Beach, Sept. 1; Long Island, Digby Neck, Sept. 17; Yarmouth, Co. 8, and Brier Is., Oct. 10. COMMON MERGANSERS were reported in good numbers--mostly 20's and 30's --from all areas during late summer and fall. RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS, scarce last fall, have done a little better this time. There were only 2, at Martinique, Sept. 11, and 1, at Lawrencetown, Sept. 19, but by Nov. 12 there were 40 at Cherry Hill and up to 75 at Cranberry Head, Nov. 24.

--C.R.K.A., ed.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

The TURKEY VULTURES of SW N.S. put on a poor show this season, with only 1 on Oct. 1 and 2 on Oct. 9-10 on Brier Is., and 1 near Yarmouth on Nov. 10. Another over Point Pleasant Park, Halifax, on Sept. 1 (SPM) was unexpected.

OSPREYS seemed as usual, with large counts coming from the Eastern Shore. Only 8 were reported from September, the latest being 1 on Brier Is. on Oct. 7 - 9. There were some 32 reports of 75 BALD EAGLES (incl. 18 ad., 16 imm.) from late summer and fall. CRKA thought they were scarcer in his area because of the closing of a mink farm on the Tusket River. An adult female NORTHERN HARRIER on Seal Is. in mid-July consumed at least 2 small rabbits and was evidently a failed nester from somewhere or a non-breeder. Other summer birds were in the usual places. From mainland and C.B. localities, there were 4 reports of some 40 birds in Sept. and Oct. Generally reports from the islands were 1-6 birds daily, but there were peaks of 20 on Aug. 30 and 15 on Sept. 15 on Seal Is. and of 10+ on Oct. 9-10 on Brier Is. The latest bird was near Canard on Nov. 9.

Mainland and C.B. reports of fall SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS totalled some 35 individuals. Island reports begin with 1 (early migrant?) on Seal Is., on 21 July. On 1-4 were seen there per day in late Aug. and early Sept., but there were 15 on Sept. 3-11, they were "abundant" on Sept. 16-17, in "hundreds" on Sept. 24, "all over the place" on Oct. 6-9 (a more concrete 500+ per ELM on Oct 8), and only "moderate" on Oct. 21-23. On the nearby Tusket Is., they were, by contrast, "not in great numbers" on the NSBS trip on Sept. 24. Two reports of COOPER'S HAWKS by experienced observers, on Seal Is., on Oct. 15 (SPM) and at Petite Riviere on Oct. 15 (J&SC) included size comparisons with

Sharpshins, but few other details. A number of subtle details of plumage and shape are noted in the latest field guides. Only 1 summer and 3 autumn N. GOSHAWKS were reported.

We have 3 reports of RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS--an adult on Seal on Sept. 15 (SPM), 2 on Brier on Sept. 16 (J&SC,L&PP) and another there on 22 Oct. (RBS). Only the last was accompanied by detailed field notes, but perhaps we can finally accept that this species is quite regular with us and readily identified. The only summer BROAD-WINGED HAWKS were single birds near Clyde River and in SW Yar. Co. There were only 6 scattered fall reports of birds from the mainland, including a late bird at Green Bay on Nov. 12 (J&SC). Peaks of a mere 5 on Seal on Sept. 15 and several over the Tusket Is. on Sept. 25, again emphasize the special status of Brier Is. for this species. Only 1 was seen there during the week of Sept. 3-11, but there were 200+ on Sept. 16, only 9 on Sept. 24, and again 200+ between Oct. 6-11. After a sprinkling of summer sightings, some 40 scattered RED-TAILED HAWKS were reported from Sept. - Nov. Not many were on the islands (peak of 5 on Brier, Oct. 9-10), but by late Oct. they were numerous in their usual winter haunts in Kings Co., with "so many every which way that we couldn't keep track of them" on Oct. 19 (JET). Only 3 ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were reported, the first on Oct. 6 at Cranberry Head, Yar. Co.

Scattered summer (ca. 10 birds) and fall (ca. 45) reports of AM. KESTRELS were as usual outmatched by island records. There were 1-10 daily on Seal Is., in early Sept., with a peak of 25 on Sept. 14. A few were on Brier Is. on Aug. 19-21, and they were "all over" during the week of 3-11 Sept., in "hundreds" on Sept. 16-17, and there were 100+ during Oct. 6-10. About 26 MERLINS were seen in scattered localities during fall migration. On Seal Is., 1-7 occurred daily during the first two weeks of Sept., peaking at 20-25 on Sept. 14-15. On Brier Is. there was only 1 on Sept. 10, "many" on Sept. 16-17 (possible confusion with the many Kestrels noted), and up to 15 between Oct. 6-10. A PEREGRINE FALCON at CBHNP on Aug. 15 and 2 at Morien Bar on Aug. 24 (EHE&OC) were presumably early migrants. There were later reports of 9, including 6 imm., between Sept. 11 and Nov. 13. A very dark-phase GYRFALCON was closely observed near Port Joli on Oct. 12 (D&JY).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

The 20 GREY PARTRIDGES on Grand Pre Dyke on Aug. 26 (BLF) may signal a local recovery. There were also several sightings by FS of up to 20 near Economy. RING-NECKED PHEASANTS seem to be holding their own or increasing, with small numbers reported from the Dartmouth area Musquodoboit Hbr., Barrington and Mira, rather more from Smith's Cove and the Lunenburg area and, as usual, most from King's Co. ("until the hunters got out", notes JET). SPRUCE GROUSE were reported on the Clyde River road on Aug. 21 (3), on Cape Split on Sept. 9 (3), and at Horseshoe L., Yar. Co., on Oct. 9 (1). In addition to the summary report from C.B. of 36 RUFFED GROUSE between June and Oct. (per HEH), we have 13 reports of 33 birds from the mainland between July and Nov. (excluding 3 broods with ad.). One was drumming at Petite Riviere on Oct. 9 (L&SC).

RALLIDS, CRANE

Our only rail reports were of SORAS. These were "heard in APBS on many occasions" during the summer (CD), but elsewhere there were only 6 sightings of 9 birds between Aug. 13 and Sept. 9. At APBS a young COMMON MOORHEN on Aug. 7 and 7 more on Aug. 30 (CD) were probably locally produced. Otherwise, there were individual adults at Seal Is. on Sept. 1 and at Russel. L. on Oct 28. AMERICAN COOTS built "many nests during the summer in APBS" (CD). Migrants included 5 on various

Dartmouth lakes in Oct. and Nov., and single birds at Hemeon Hd. on Oct. 14 and L.W. Pubnico on Nov. 15.

I have been reporting SANDHILL CRANES so regularly of late that I believe they no longer deserve to be underlined as an extreme rarity. This fall, 2 were seen on Oct. 9, standing with about 30 Canada Geese in a stubble field at Middle Musquodoboit (W.H. Owen et al.). Unfortunately they did not stay to be seen by more regional birders.

--IAM, ed.

SHOREBIRDS

This report will follow the sequence and nomenclature of species as set forth in the most recent revelation of the A.O.U. Running Noah's Ark by committee is, of course, a necessary evil, taxonomically speaking. If only they left the common names alone, most of us could safely ignore their proceedings--perhaps that explains why they keep tinkering with them.

The first BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS were reported from Yar. Co., July 26 (JU&CQG,SFS) and from Crescent Beach, July 26 (J&JSC). There are many reports from mid- Aug. through Sept. but no big counts: maximum at Sand Hills, Shel. Co., was 75 (JR&CDG), 81 at Cherry Hill (SJF), besides many 100's not actually counted along the Minas Shore (FHH,FS). Last were 20 at Cherry Hill, Nov. 20 (SJF), one at Chebogue Pt., another at Economy on Nov. 23 (CRKA,FS). The LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER was at the Hawk, Shel. Co. and at Beaver River, July 21 (SFS, JG,MC), followed by several reports of small numbers elsewhere, and of goodly numbers at Grand Pre, 100+, Aug. 28, Sept. 3 & 8-17 (BLF,RBS, JET,BT). At Hartlen Pt. there were 100 + Sept. 28, still 60+ Oct. 15 (FLL,JT,MK). There one lingered to the end of the reporting period (JT). Summer reports of the SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER are of 4, July 9 at Cherry Hill (SJF) and 15, including 6 young at Blanche Pt., Shel. Co., (SF&BJS). By July 23, the migration was underway, with 28 at Cherry Hill, 109 there July 28 (SJF). At Cook's Beach, numbers rose from 600 Aug. 7 to 2600 Aug. 13 (CRKA,PRD), whereas at Cherry Hill the Aug. range was 200-300 (STF). Relatively few stayed through Sept., a very few into Oct., with one last at Cherry Hill, Oct. 30 (STF). 27 young from 13 pairs of PIPING PLOVERS are reported, Conrad's Beach, with 4 pairs (SLM,FLL,JT) and Cherry Hill with 3 pairs (SJF), accounting for 21 of the young. At Cherry Hill a second nesting kept two young there as late as Sept. 12 (SJF). A pair of KILLDEER with 3 young was at Boularderie, July 2 (RBF). Large gatherings were 35 at St. Esprit, Rich. Co., Sept. 1 (RM), 40 at Port Williams, Sept. 12 (JET), and 50+ Oct. 9 at Upper Granville (JT). One last was at Chebogue Pt., Nov. 23 (PRD), with winter strays still to be looked for.

The GREATER YELLOWLEGS was heavily reported, especially for Sept. through the largest concentration was of 200+ at Cole Hbr. Aug. 25 (FLL). Sizeable Sept. groups were 70-80 at Salt Bay Yar. Co. and 50 at Pubnico Hd. (CRKA), with somewhat smaller numbers at Glace Bay (OC,HEH) and Eel Brook (CRKA). A late 4 were at Crescent Beach, Nov. 13 (JSC). SM calls the LESSER YELLOWLEGS more numerous than usual this fall on Cape Breton. 300+ at Conrad's Beach, July 17 (FLL,JT) would seem to confirm the impression, though elsewhere the species was not much noticed except in the Halifax area, where there were still 50+ Sept. 10 (FLL). One, very late, was still at Cherry Hill, Oct. 27 (JSC&LAC). The SOLITARY SANDPIPER was early, July 18 at Seal (IAM) and at Green Bay, where two of an original three remained to month's end (JSC&LAC). Most reports are for Aug: one from Cape Breton (ALM), 7 from the mainland, all singles, plus a maximum of 6 on Seal, Aug. 23 (ELM). A late record comes from East Jordan, Oct 10 (RJC). The WILLET, a common breeder, departs in Aug. and the first half of Sept.

One of the local population was still at Cherry Hill, Sept. 25, where there had been 40-45 at the end of July (SJF). There were 200+ in the Lawrencetown area, July 21, only one at Conrad's Beach, Aug. 25 (IAM,FLL), dates that roughly define the main migration. A note from TCD'E tells of helping unfledged young cross the highway to the shore at W. Pubnico, June 17 (note the early date of the first brood). The draught of passing cars had bowled one over and discouraged the others but, with hovering Black-backed Gulls awaiting any mischance, he managed to herd them all safely across. The only large numbers of departing SPOTTED SANDPIPERS noted were 20+ at Hartlen Pt. Aug. 27 (FLL, HFN) and on Seal, where there were 15-20 Sept. 9-12, dwindling to 3 by Sept. 15 (SPM). Last report is of 4 at the Wolfville sewage plant Sept. 27 (JET), where RBS had noted singles through Aug. There were 3 reports of the uncommon UPLAND SANDPIPER: at Economy (first record for the area) Aug. 14 (FS), at Grand Pre Aug. 24, (B&BT), and Seal, Sept. 3 (BM). One or two WHIMBREL were in the Halifax area July 8-10 (ELM,IAM), 9 as early as July 21 at Cape Sable (SFS). The 40+ at Sydney, Sept 4-12 (DC,HEH) was a smaller gathering than some in recent years. In the Halifax area and at Cherry Hill there were small numbers through Sept., the last lingering until Oct. 9 (FLL,JT,RBD,SJF). An early HUDSONIAN GODWIT was at Lusby, July 1 (CD). 12+ were at St. Esprit, July 10 (RM), the same 'number' reported from Lr. Three Fathom Hbr. a week later (ELM)--who knows, perhaps the same group.

The RUDDY TURNSTONE always manages to be present in July; first this year were 6 at Blanche Pt., Shel. Co. on the 10th (BJS). There were about 50 at Brier, Aug. 19 - Sept. 11 (RBS). Nowhere were large numbers noted but doubtless most beaches saw their share. It was last seen Oct. 29 at Pollack Pt. (JSC), but the Christmas Counts should add a few more.

The RED KNOT was much in evidence. Early dates are of one, July 10 at Conrad's Beach (ELM) and several in the Cape Sable area, a maximum of 4 there on July 26 (SFS, JR&CDG). There were 150 at Grand Pre, Aug. 4 (EPS), 100 there Nov. 8 (RBS). Last reports are of 20 at Martinique Beach, Nov. 13 (IAM,ELM) and 2 at Crescent Beach on Nov. 17 (NS); Sept.-Oct. had seen them on many beaches with 100+ at Evangeline, Sept. 24 (FLL et al.) The SANDERLING was present from mid-July (JR&CD), with 100+ at Martinique by July 31 and, with fluctuations, through Aug. (RBD). Sizeable numbers were 500+ at Crescent, 300 at Cherry Hill, Sept. 30- Oct. 1 (JS&SC), and 200+ at Hartlen Pt. Sept 11-Oct 26, dwindling to 50+ by Oct 25 (FLL,JT). There were still 20 at Crescent, Nov. 17 (NS), 3 at Economy, Nov. 23 (FS). The SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER must have met itself coming and going, for there were 1000 at Pinkney's Pt., June 23 (CRKA), presumably northbound (it is a large number for "spring"), while at Lawrencetown, there were 6 July 8, believed southbound (ELM). Back at Pinkney's there were 1200 again July 23 (CRKA). 4000 were counted at Lusby, Aug. 1 (CD), "thousands" at Evangeline through Aug. (BT,JET) and c. 1000 at Five Islands, Aug. 15 (KNK). It's safe to say that many more thousands went uncounted. Last was one at Crescent, Oct. 30 (JSC). Reports of the WESTERN SANDPIPER are always problematical. Three were received: July 19, from Conrad's (FLL), Sept. 24 from L.W. Pubnico (D&Rsd'E), and Oct. 30 from Cherry Hill (SJF). This editor feels none of the accompanying comments would pass muster with an exacting judge and hopes IAM can be prevailed upon to provide a commentary for our future guidance (see page 50) The LEAST SANDPIPER was recorded in numbers only at Grand Pre, "thousands" from late July to mid-Aug. (RBS), 500+ on the Minas Basin, July 17 (FLL&NSBS), and 700+ July 19 at Conrad's, where there were still 400+ Aug. 27 (JT,FLL,IK). Last were 2 at Cherry Hill Oct. 27, and one, very late and very gray (i.e.winter adult) at Economy Nov. 7 (FS).

Shorebirds (continued)

SPECIAL INTEREST ITEM

The most exciting shorebird for many a year is the LITTLE STINT, discovered by IAM at Hartlen Pt., October 23. The FIRST recorded in Nova Scotia (3rd Canadian record, 5th for eastern North America), its rusty plumage with white back-stripes was that of a first-fall bird as described in British Birds (Jan.'74); at least for those who knew they were looking for it, it was easily distinguishable from the common calidrids. Thanks to the "rare-bird alert", some 25 saw it before it left on the 24th. Especially gratifying is that, like this spring's oystercatcher, it was photographed (IAM) and so becomes a confirmed accidental.

The WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER was present as early as July 25, 50+ at Conrad's Beach (FLL). 300+ were there Aug. 27, about which time it also peaked, though in much smaller numbers (50-80) at Cherry Hill (FLLSTF). There were still 40+ at Hartlen's Pt., Oct. 24 (FLL). Three BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS were at Cherry Hill, Sept. 16 (SJF), one at Brier, Sept. 17, a day, incidentally, when most common shorebirds were conspicuous by their total absence there. (J&JSC). There was a total of 12 on Seal from Aug. 23-Sept. 5, with a maximum of 4 on Aug. 25 and Sept. 1 (ELM). A rare sighting of the CURLEW SANDPIPER in breeding plumage was obtained at Cherry Hill, July 2, by SJF and BH; photos were taken later by the Cohrs, making this the FIRST CONFIRMED SIGHTING for Nova Scotia. An early PECTORAL SANDPIPER was at Lawrencetown, July 10 & 17 (ELM). Still rather early was one at Wolfville, Aug. 10 (EPS), where the maximum was 5-6 Sept. 17 (JET) and Oct. 16 (EPS). There were 30+ at Matthews Lake, Oct. 15 (D&JY), still 3 at Hawk Pt., Nov. 9 (JG,MC). The only PURPLE SANDPIPERS to make this report were 3 at Pollack Pt., Oct. 29 (JSC) and 3 at Economy, Nov. 7 (FS).

An early DUNLIN was at Martinique Beach, Aug. 26 (RBD), several at Evangeline, Sept. 4 (JET). The largest concentration was 100+ there Sept. 24 (FLL,D&CM). The high at Cherry Hill was 26 on Oct. 16, perhaps representative of many places along the coast. Last was one at Economy, Nov. 23 (FS).

Two adult STILT SANDPIPERS were early at Conrad's, July 8; two singles were on nearby marshes, July 17 (ELM,IAM), with a total of 2-3 in the area through Aug. (FLL). Sept. records were all from Seal, 2-3 from the 3rd to 9th (SPM,ELM). Two late records are from Crescent, Oct. 28, and Nov. 13 (same bird?) (J & JSC). The first BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER was at Cherry Hill, Aug. 27 (J&JSC,SJF). Two reached Seal, Aug. 30, 2+ were there through Sept. 3, 1 Sept. 9-12 (ELM,SPM). A maximum of 5 were at Grand Pre, Sept. 6-7 (BLF,JET, BT). At Hartlen Pt. one of two there on Sept. 11, stayed through Oct. (FLL,JT,IAM) and was still there Nov. 2-16 (JT).

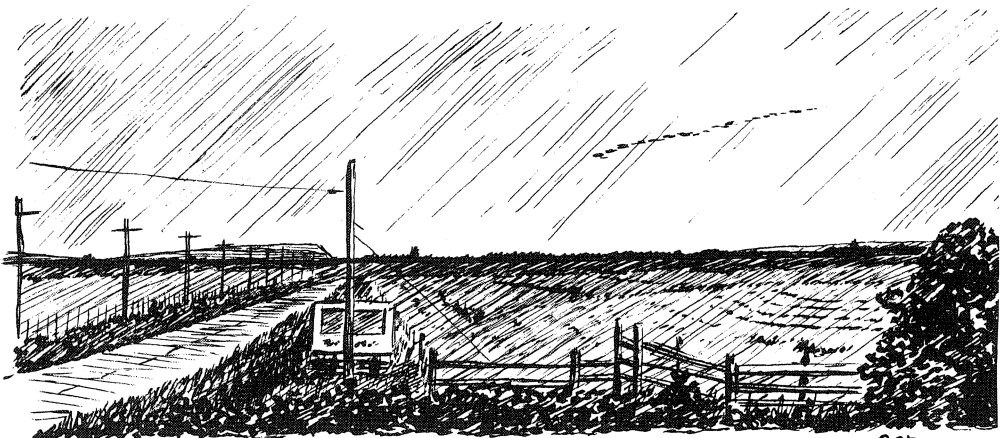
While separating the dowitchers as to species is problem enough for most of us, IAM & ELM picked out a SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER of the more westerly subspecies hendersoni at West Lawrencetown, July 8. ELM reports another at Three Fathom Hbr., July 17. Numbers of our regular transient griscus were high this year. Around Halifax there were upwards of 1000 in late July (FLL,IK, et al.), 750 at Blanche Pt. Shel. Co. (SF&BJS), and 800 Aug. 1 at Lusby (CD). Last were 3 at Rose Bay, Lun. Co., Sept. 23 (RDH). A LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER was seen and heard at Cherry Hill, Oct 1 (JSC), another Nov. 20 at Hawk Pt. was not heard, but its long bill and the late date suggest this species (MC). The only sizeable gatherings of the COMMON SNIPE were 13 in the Sydney area, Oct 6 (OC,HEH), 10+ at Hemeon Hd., Oct. 10 (D&JY), and 8 Oct. 22 at Canard (B&BT,JT), but there were quite a few reports of 1's and 2's for Sept.-Oct. Nov. records are from Black River, Kings

Co. (BLF), Chebogue Pt., Yar. Co. (CRKA), and last, on Nov. 10, from Russel Lake (FLL, JT).

Hunters, not birders, go where the AMERICAN WOODCOCK is in the fall. There were only two sightings reported, 1, Sept. 15, at Louisburg (OC), another at Russel Lake, Oct 6 (JT). Spring reports usually give a better idea of how this species is faring.

The WILSON'S PHALAROPE, one of our more dependable occasionals, was at Lawrencetown, July 19, and at Conrad's, Aug. 27 (FLL, JT, HFN), with still another on the Wolfville sewage ponds, Sept. 24 (BLF). The RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (formerly Northern) was scarce: one at Short Beach, Oct. 30 (JG&MC), 5 at Chebucto Hd., Nov. 12 (FLL). The RED PHALAROPE was numerous: belated spring reports of 3000+ at sea off Cape Sable (SFS) and again this fall off Brier, 2-3000, Sept. 4 & 8 (RBS), and 100+, Oct. 10 (FLL). One, minus a leg but otherwise all right, was at Hartlen Pt., Oct. 24 (FS, SIT, FLL).

--F.S., ed.



Grand Pré, N.S.

RBD.

JAEGER TO AUKS

An immature POMARINE JAEGER was seen from the Digby-Saint John ferry on 28 June (RJ), and there were two Pomarines at Seal Island on 3 Sept. (BDM). Two PARASITIC JAEGERs were chasing the gulls on the Lurcher Shoal west of Yarmouth, on 3 Nov. (RSd'E). There were 2 SKUAS some two miles south west of Cape Sable on 30 May (SFS), and one off Country Hbr. on 20 Sept. (Earle Hickey). However, the most interesting Skua record is the bird which Ian McLaren saw en route from Seal Island to Clarks Hbr., on 19 August. It was well seen in good light: and all-dark bird, the head possibly paler than the back. The underparts were "a cold, greyish brown, lighter than the back, which in flight showed no pale or dark streaking--seemed uniformly dark brown--again rather cold tones". The point here is that the brown on North Atlantic Skuas tends to have a hint of rufous or "warmth" about it--something which was conspicuously absent on Ian's bird, which seemed closer to the description of a SOUTH POLAR SKUA--possibly a juvenile dark phase bird? Ian points out that we still need a specimen to prove that this species reaches Canadian waters, though it has been regularly reported from Geo. Bank and farther south.

HERRING AND GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS were reported from around the province in their usual numbers, and further comments would be superfluous. The LESSER BLACKBACK at the Volvo Plant on the Halifax waterfront was seen on 23 Oct. (IAM,ELM) and 16 Nov. (FLL,MFA). The first GLAUCOUS GULL, an immature bird, was reported from Yarmouth Hbr., on 20 Sept. (AP), and there was a juvenile at Economy on 12 Nov. (EPS,FH). Tony Lock saw a first-year and 3, 2nd year birds on Sable Island, along with 4 adult ICELAND GULLS, on 26-28 Oct. However, the first Icelanders to arrive were up in Cape Breton; Sara MacLean's usual wintering flock turned up off the Sydneys on 19 Oct., while the 2nd year bird which Fulton Lavender and Jim Taylor saw at Hartlen Point on 21 Oct., was the first record of the fall from the mainland. The Cohrs saw a fair-sized flock at the Point Pleasant Park sewer outfall, Halifax, on 27 Nov. 3 juvenile, 2, 2nd-winter, 10 3rd-winter and 3 fully adult birds; 2 of the adults and 2 of the 3rd winter birds were of the Kumlien's race.

RING-BILLED GULLS were reported often, sometimes in quite large numbers. Jean E. Timpa and Brenda Thexton saw them regularly in small numbers in the Wolfville area from 27 Aug. to 19 Nov. The birds first began to fish at Eel Brook, Yar. Co., around 1 Sept., but the build-up there did not begin until October; there were 150 there on 21 Oct., and the peak, for Eel Brook and Abrams River nearby, was 350 birds on 23 Nov. (CRKA,PRD). In the Halifax area, there was a single Ring-bill on Conrad's Beach on 17 July, 20 on 29 July, but 150 (ca. 100 adults, 50 2nd year and one juvenile) on 6 Aug. (ELM), Fulton Lavender estimated 50+ on Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth on 19 Oct., and 100+ off Hartlen Point on 24 Oct.

There was an adult BALCK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE off Hartlen Point on 11 Sept., 30+ birds off Chebucto Head on 5 Oct., 2000+ around Brier Is. on 10 Oct. and 10+ off Hartlen Point on 29 Oct. (FLL). The only other record is of a large "fly past" of Kittiwakes off Cranberry Hd. on 17 Nov.; they were all heading south west, and were probably brought in by strong winds (MC).

There was an adult LAUGHING GULL on Seal Island on 22 July (IAM); a bird which landed on Raymond S.d'Entremont's boat on Brown's Bank on 30 July ("it looked sort of out of place way out there"); and an immature at Cherry Hill on 2 Oct., seen by Barbara Hinds and Sylvia Fullerton, who suggest it may have been the same as the immature they saw there on 5 June. A FRANKLIN'S GULL in full adult plumage was photographed on Seal Island on 18-20 July by Ian McLaren. This was the fourth record of the species in Nova Scotia. The adult which

Jean E. Timpa and most of the birdwatchers of Wolfville saw on Grand Pre Dyke on 3 Sept., was either the same bird, or our fifth record. Sara MacLean saw her first BLACK-HEADED GULLS of the fall in the Sydneys on 21 August; the 3 birds were all in breeding plumage, but they soon lost their dark heads. Surely these were breeding birds which had just finished nesting not too far away; where ARE these elusive gulls breeding on this side of the Atlantic? Fulton Lavender saw an immature on 24 Oct., and an adult on 27 Oct. at Hartlen Point, and the species was numerous at Conrad's Beach on 30 Oct. (RBD). Tony Lock saw 3 immature birds on Sable Island on 26-28 Oct. Sara MacLean reports at least 3 BONAPARTE'S GULLS at Lingan on 24 July, but the species is otherwise not reported until September. On 3 Sept., Lisé Cohrs saw an adult in winter plumage on Brule Beach, Pictou Co., and Jean Timpa and the Thextons found an immature bird on Grand Pre Dykes near Wolfville. There was a bird on Seal Island on 8 Sept. (Stuart Tingley), an adult and an immature on Conrad's Beach on 10 Sept. (FLL) and an immature at Port Williams on 12 Sept. (JET & BT). Farther south, in Yarmouth Co., Charlie Allen found a couple of Bonaparte's at Argyle Head on 28 Oct. and there was bird near Pinckney's Point on 20 Nov., still showing traces of summer plumage (E&BR). Finally, Sylvia Fullerton and Eric Cooke had an excellent view of an adult SABINE'S GULL in winter plumage on Seal Island on 16 Oct. Occasional Sabine's turn up fairly regularly in the Bay of Fundy in the fall, and they are probably birds which have migrated overland from Hudson Bay via the Great Lakes. However, the majority of Sabine's from the eastern arctic seem to cross the Atlantic directly to the Bay of Biscay, well to the north of the Maritimes.

Some statistics on COMMON, ARCTIC and ROSEATE TERN colonies are worth putting on record. The mixed Common/Arctic colony on Cape Sable was put at 240 pairs on 21 June (BJ&SFS), there were 210 nests and 42 young. The Gallaghers counted a maximum of only 16 birds, on 4 July, at the Arctic Tern colony on East Baccaro, Shel. Co.; this is about the same as last year, and up from 7 birds in 1981, but well down from their estimate of 125 birds in 1978. In the second week of June, Ted C. d'Eon and Delisle J. d'Entremont estimated a minimum of 718 terns on Northern Twin Island, near L.W. Pubnico. Their guess is that 65% were Commons, 30% Arctics and 5% Roseates. There were many young terns there (and also many unhatched eggs) on 4 July. On that date, and on 12 July, they could only find 2 young Roseates. The only other Roseate sightings were 7 adults in Three Fathom Hbr. on 18 July (FLL) and a single adult bird flying over Seal Island on 3 Sept., (ELM, BDM). On Brier Island, Commons were abundant until the week of 3-11 Sept., but gone by 6 Oct. (RBS). Between 22 Aug. - 5 Sept., there were 1-5 on most days but 41 on 4 Sept., heading south west (ELM), 55 on 10 Sept., and 5 on 11 and 12 Sept. (SPM). Sommons began to show up in the inlets and estuaries of the Eel Brook area after mid July, and the last sighting was on 20 Sept. (PRD). There are, however, later records from farther north. Earle Hickey saw a couple of "Comic" Terns off Country Hbr. on 26 Sept., while the Cohrs saw a couple of Arctics at Crescent Beach on 1 Oct.

We have two records of LEAST TERNS, rather an unusual species for Nova Scotia. Chris Helleiner saw an adult at Caribou Island, Pictou Co., on 10 July, and an immature was seen by the Mills clan and several others on Seal Island, 1-7 Sept. Bill Fisher and Pamela R. MacKay, Chief and Assistant Park Interpreters at Cape Breton Highlands National Park, had an excellent view of a couple of adult CASPIAN TERNS on 12 Aug., just outside their operations office at Ingonish Centre. This is the first confirmed record of the species from the Park, though it has been seen in adjacent areas.

There was a BLACK TERN in the Common/Arctic colony on Cape Sable on 21 June, and 3 on 30 August (BJ & SFS); 3 in breeding plumage and 1 in partial fall plumage at Amherst Marsh, 17 July (FLL, Jim Taylor);

2 slightly moulted adults at Three Fathom Hbr. on 24 July and 2 well-moulted birds there on 21 August (IAM). The last sighting is of a bird on Seal Island on 10 Sept. (SPM).

Hedley Hopkins reports 50+ RAZORBILLS and 100+ PUFFINS from the Bird Islands, Cape Breton, 25 June. Ian and Paul Jones saw a single Razorbill off Brier Island on 20 Aug. A Puffin turned up at Annapolis Basin in the first week in September (AKR), one was seen off Brier Is., on 17 Sept. (L&PP) and there were 3 off Brier on the pelagic trip of 17 Oct. (Cohrs, Payzants). Tony Lock found two exhausted juveniles on the beach on Sable Island on 23-24 Nov., after a storm, and he saw three more being blown across the East Bar there on 27-28 Nov. The only DOVEKIE report so far is of 15 off Hartlen Point on 6 Nov. (FLL, Jim Taylor). Francis Spalding was given a good description of a THICK-BILLED MURRE, seen near Economy on 12 Oct. There was a COMMON MURRE seen off Seal Island on 31 Aug. (ELM,AHM), and another off Hartlen Point on 29 Oct. (FLL). There were 100+ BLACK GUILLEMOTS around the Bird Islands on June 25 (Hedley Hopkins' party), and ca. 205 birds resident around Seal Island in mid-July (IAM). There were only a few off Brier 3-11 Sept. (RBS), but over 100 there 8-10 Oct. (FLL). The Cohrs saw a bird in winter plumage at Apple Cove, Lun. Co., on 29 Oct.

--RGG, ed.

DOVES, CUCKOOS

A useful summary of status of ROCK DOVES in Kings Co., was submitted by JET, who notes that "they hang out in Greenwich, New Minas and Port Williams at the feed mills, where they thrive on spilled grain". They are reckoned as pests at Acadia U., where they were still nesting on building ledges in Nov. Allowing for possible repeats, we seem to have reports of about 125 MOURNING DOVES from 23 localities from Aug. through Nov.

At least 1 BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO summered around Barrington, and there were subsequent reports of about 30 migrants from 15 localities, the latest in Dartmouth on Oct. 19. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS were unusually common--some 43 reported from 17 localities between, Sept. 3 and Oct. 23.

OWLS

On July 23 JR & CDG had a fine view of a GREAT HORNED OWL perched on a rock off Hawk Beach, Cape Sable Island. It had been pursued and grounded there by a nervy Great Black-backed Gull. There were 4 other summer sightings or hearings, and 10 birds in 9 localities in fall. We have reports so far of single SNOWY OWLS from Economy on about Nov. 4 (fide FS), Noel Shore on Nov. 12 (fide JET), and Cherry Hill on Nov. 13 (SFJ et al.). Two BARRED OWL residents were reported from C.B., and R.B.S. reports that an adult minus its left eye successfully helped raise an owlet at Kentville. Five scattered birds were noted in Sept.-Nov. Two LONG-EARED OWLS near APBS on Aug. 1 (CD) were very tame. Another at Waverley on Sept. 14, was "betrayed by jays and more White-breasted Nuthatches than we knew were in the vicinity" (L&PP). Two SHORT-EARED OWLS were seen frequently on Grand Pre in late Aug. (JET et al.) and 2 were there on Oct. 9 (BLF). Our only report of SAW-WHET OWLS were of 5 in various C.B. localities (per HEH).

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFT, HUMMINGBIRDS, KINGFISHER

No evidence was submitted that COMMON NIGHTHAWKS nested in the province this year, although the Gallaghers mentioned sightings as early as June 25. Between July 10 and Sept. 12, there were about 38 sightings of 315 individuals. The largest groups were 2 of ca. 50 each over Halifax on Aug. 16 (JDM). All told, a strong migration. WHIP-POOR-WILLS were calling at their traditional (?) sites near Burnside on May 30 (RBD) and near Herring Cove on July 5 (KNK). They

remain very rare in the province.

Jack MacNeil documents a nesting of CHIMNEY SWIFTS in the chimney at St. Mary's Glebe, Big Pond; I believe we have not had a nesting record from C.B. for some time. There were other summer reports from scattered localities, but with no remarks on status. Two on Seal on Aug. 30 were undoubted migrants, and thereafter there were 4 scattered reports of 7 birds, the latest being 2 at Pubnico on Sept. 19.

We have the usual reports of RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS in summer flower gardens, especially from C.B. Island migrants included up to 10 on Seal on Sept. 2, and 3 on Brier on Sept. 17. A very late bird on Nov. 6 at W. Pubnico (JD'E) was listed as a ruby-throat, although there are other possibilities that late in the year. A hummingbird on Aug. 21 at Hebron was described by Annie Saunders (via PRD) as being "larger than a ruby-throat" and as having a "dark robin-colored back" (colour of robin breast implied), "broken, dark, vertical stripes on the throat", and a "white band on the tail". It was watched for an hour or so in good light. Another female or immature hummingbird with a "metallic green back" and "bright rufous sides" was seen at Seal Is., on Sept. 10 by SPM, who gave good details of his too-brief and too-limited sighting. The Hebron bird's back colour would seem to exclude anything other than RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD, and the Seal Is. bird is at least suggestive of the same genus. I include these observations, not as firm records, but to encourage more study of pertinent field marks by members. Any such bird in members' gardens should be reported immediately to others for detailed study and photographs, if possible.

After an apparently normal summer for BELTED KINGFISHERS (and "queenfishers" says PRD), there were fewer fall reports than in last year. There was no large, province-wide movement, and the largest count reported was of 6 on Seal Is. on Sept. 13-14.

WOODPECKERS

There was a good show of RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS this fall--an immature on Seal Is. on Sept. 3, an adult in Spryfield on Sept. 28 (M. Almon), an immature on Brier Is. on Oct 6-9, another on Seal Is. on Oct 10, and an adult at W. Pubnico on Oct. 17-23 (sev. obs.). Four YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS in Aug. and 2 on Brier were the only ones reported. A female DOWNY WOODPECKER was observed feeding a fledgling with sunflower seeds at a Waverley feeder on June 27 (L&PP). Other comments suggest that this is an "off" year for the species (26 summer-fall birds reported), which is also true of the HAIRY WOODPECKER (22 birds). We have 9 reports of 10 BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS, from C.B. to Yar. Co. NORTHERN FLICKERS showed a "definite increase" from about 15 Aug. in Yar. Co. (CRKA), and other reports bear this out. However, numbers on Seal Is., continued to build up through mid-Sept., when ca. 130 were present. There were still 100+ on Brier Is. on Oct. 8-16, but none by Oct. 21 (RBS). We received 8 reports of ca. 15 PILEATED WOODPECKERS.

--IAM, ed.

FLYCATCHERS

EASTERN KINGBIRDS were well reported, dating from June 18 at St. Esprit to October 9, at Tusket. The highest number of sightings were for the month of August in numbers of from one to three, mostly from the S.W. counties. Early September brought a stronger migration with 8 on Seal, September 4, and 7 at Sand Beach, Yar. Co., September 10. Five WESTERN KINGBIRDS were seen: Aug. 22 on Seal, Sept. 4 at Pubnico, Oct. 18 at West Head, Shel. Co., Nov. 10 at Big Pond, C.B., and Nov. 15 at L.W. Pubnico (ELM,D&RSd'E,RJC,JM). A lone GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER appeared July 2, near the home of Peter and Linda Payzant of Waverley.

EASTERN PHOEBE reports were also quite low. Ruth Hebb heard one throughout July, near Marriott's Cove, and one was seen in Kentville, Aug. 1 (RBS). The others were at Barrington, Aug. 30, Brier, Sept. 16 and Oct. 6-9, the latter sighting being of 3 birds. (BJS,JSC,RBS). A nest of the YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER containing 3 eggs was viewed by the NSBS trip to New Ross, June 30. Edgar Spalding was treated to a Yellow-bellied's song at Isle Haute, Aug. 6. Most of the other reports were of singles here and there during the summer. A small migration went through Seal, Sept 4-8, when 3-4 were seen each day. Last seen was one at the Dartmouth Piggery, Sept. 9 (FLL). A wave of eight ALDER FLYCATCHERS were around the Lawrencetown circuit, Aug. 25 and Sept. 10, "many" were moving through the glenwood area of Yar. Co. A definite migration of LEAST FLYCATCHERS took place on Seal at the end of Sept. with 15 Sept. 3, 25 on the 5th and 20 on the 8th. Last noted, again at the "Piggery" was 5 on Sept. 9. A very brown, (almost khaki) Empidonax with no eyering, was seen by Ian McLaren on Seal on Aug. 16--he feels it may have been a WILLOW FLY-CATCHER.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEES seem to have been "as usual" with widely spread ones and twos from June to Sept. There were four at Russel Lake, Aug. 23 and 10 & 8 on Seal, on Sept 4 & 6. PRD entertained one (or vice versa) all summer at Eel Brook. Late birds were on Brier, Sept. 16, and Hartlan Pt., Sept. 29. (JSC,FLL). OLIVE-SIDED FLY-CATCHERS were seen and heard singing their thirsty song, singly and in pairs in July & Aug. The first ones to leave went through Seal at the end of Aug. No groups were noticed but latish birds were in Dartmouth Sept. 8 & 9 and on Brier, Sept. 16 (they have been later, one being seen as late as Oct. 15 in 1982).

HORNED LARKS TO ROBINS

As the Flycatchers departed the HORNED LARKS returned from their summer nesting areas to grace the beach margins. First three were at Hartlan Pt., Sept. 29, and during Oct., they became widespread in their usual habitat. Amongst the 25 at Cherry Hill on Oct. 27, there was one, clearly of the Western Race (JSC). The flock at Hartlan Pt. was up to 30 by Nov. 4, but there were very few at Grand Pre--about 12 on Nov. 14 and only 6-8 Nov. 19.

Annie Raymond, from Smith's Cove writes of a successful TREE SWALLOW nest with four young in July. The migration began as usual in mid-Aug.--on the 12th MWH had a mixed flock of 50+ Trees and Barns, swirling over her home in Yar. town and on the 13th they were all along the wires in Yar. Co. Then they were gone---there were no reports of large migrations so, as usual, they went without notice until one realized they had left. There were a few lingerers--4, Oct. 7 at L.W. Pubnico and one each, Nov. 13 and Nov. 20, at Sand Hills Beach, Shel. Co. and Daniel's Head. (DJd'E,SFS&BJS,JG&MC). Over 200 BANK SWALLOWS, some nesting, were present on Seal in mid-July. PRD reports from Yar. Co., that they were in good numbers wherever a suit-

able "bank" existed, especially on the Tusket Islands. Unfortunately the good bank at Argyle Head was destroyed. A colony was seen at Martinique Beach, Aug. 13, and the small one at the top of Cherry Hill Beach seemed to thrive (RBD,JSC). They too left quietly--there were no reports of any movements. BARN SWALLOWS had a good year, especially in Cape Breton and Yar. Co., where they were said to be abundant. The migration began in Aug. PRD wrote, "Aug 1, beginning to flock and roost on the highway pavement" (why?). They were gone by the end of the month except for the stragglers: 3, Sept. 28 at Canard, 1, Oct. 24, at Cranberry Hd., and 1, Nov. 7, at M.W. Pubnico (JET&BT,JG,&MC,J D'E). CLIFF SWALLOWS did well at Big Pond, C.B., 33 nests on one house and 17 on another. A partially albino bird nested for the third successive year in the first colony (JM). Last bird to be seen was at Eel Lake, Oct. 7 (JG&MC). Good news comes of the Amherst PURPLE MARTINS, at least at the Amos colony. Con Desplanque noted 49 boxes occupied and over 300 birds "showing off their flying skills". There were two on Seal, Sept. 9, two (imm.) at Caribou Is., Pictou Co., Sept. 10 and one at Cherry Hill, Sept. 10 (SIT,CWH,SJF).

GRAY JAYS were well reported, mostly from the end of Aug. onwards Ruth Hebb had several at Marriott's Cove--the first for years there. Lisé & Shirley Cohrs wrote of an influx in the woods around Petite Riviere in Sept. and Oct.--one day seeing 15 adults along the road edges. A flock of 40 BLUEJAYS descended on the Otis Cossits at Sydney, Aug. 27. They were in unusually large numbers in the fall in Yar. Co. and in Oct., a huge migration passed through Brier. On the 8th flocks of 50-150 were passing over all morning with the day's total reaching 1000+. (PRD,ELM,IAM). The Payzants had a steady flock of 15 tending their feeder in late Nov., including one missing a foot which has survived over a year. COMMON RAVENS seem "as usual". The Meyerowitz's have up to 40 resident at their compost heap! KNK reports a flock of 16, Oct. 8, at New Ross--a bit unusual for that area. AMERICAN CROW. Many people wrote "frequent sightings" and "daily, most areas". A flock of 150 was noisily moving around Martinique Beach, Nov. 20. The largest concentration was, of course, at Boot Is., where Jean Timpa sees "thousands late every afternoon flying west from Evangeline Beach" (last Dec. 27, an estimated 27,400 roosted there).

The only sizable flock of BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES noted was of 60 at Big Bras d'Or, Aug. 15. They were otherwise reported in small numbers, mostly regularly attending feeders. The Gallaghers in Shel. Co., and Ruth Hebb near Chester, felt that BOREAL CHICKADEES were scarce this year. They were not heavily reported, in ones and twos only, except for 9 at Mira on Nov. 16, and 17 at L.W. Pubnico, Oct. 28, (HEH,RS&E).

Sad to say, WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES seem to be on the decline again. Comparatively rare prior to 1977, they began to increase until 1981, when numbers again began to fall. Here are the figures (from fall reports of each year):

1976 - 2	1980 -28
1977 -26	1981 -24
1978 -10	1982 -15
1979 -19	1983 - 9

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES began calling in the woods in Lun. Co., Aug. 19-22, and from then to the end of Sept., the movement was on. On Seal, from Sept. 9-15, they averaged 30-40 a day and on Sept. 29, there were 30+ at Cape Split. They did not all go, however. PRD had one arrive Sept. 11 and stay, to be joined by two more at the end of October. They are tame, get on well with the Chickadees and are possibly set for the winter.

Nine "mainland" BROWN CREEPERS were seen from Sept.- Nov., all from Halifax to Yar. Counties. On Seal 1 - 5 were seen each day, Sept. 2 - 9, and 2-4 from then to the 16th. Two HOUSE WRENS came to light, both on Seal, Sept. 13 and Oct. 15 (SPM,SJF&EHC). There were 3-4 WINTER WRENS singing on Seal in July & Aug. and 1-5 there most days between Aug. 22 & Sept. 16. Otherwise, the picture is bleak indeed--we may soon have to underline this species as a rarity. One at Tusket Falls, Sept 12, is the only one reported from the Yar. area in two years. On three others were seen all in the various parts of the Dartmouth area, Sept. 15, 16 & Nov. 8. Many people wrote "none seen or heard in 1983". The single MARSH WREN was at Russel Lake in mid-October. Fulton Lavender writes "probably Western Race--very pale on the sides of the breast, light buff on the flanks". No SEDGE WRENS.

Even with very strict weeding out of possible duplications the NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD picture is rosy indeed. At least 22 were around, 5 in C.B., 6 on islands and the remainder on the mainland. Last year's total number was 6. GRAY CATBIRDS also had a good season. The Richard Sterns hosted a nesting pair at Kentville as did PRD at Eel Brook. Phyllis reports that they arrived a week earlier than usual (on June 3) and brought one young up to the house on July 1. Last seen were 3-4 at Quinan Rd., Yar. Co., Sept. 23, near Bear River, Sept. 25 and one at Russel Lake, Sept. 27 (PRD,JET,FLL). Two BROWN THRASHERS were around in Oct.--on the 8th at Brier and the 16th at Little Harbour, Shel. Co. (ELM,D&JY).

ROBINS THROUGH STARLINGS

AMERICAN ROBINS left in small waves this year (with one exception) Flocks of 30+ were passing through Barrington all Sept. and Oct. PRD noticed the first wave at Eel Brook, Aug. 31-Sept. 2, and another Sept. 22. On Oct. 5 there were 500 at Chebucto Head, Halifax Co., and on the 8th a magnificent 5000 at Brier. On the 11th a flight went over Eel Brook and continued to flood the Yar. Co. countryside until the 17th--these presumably being the Brier birds en route. The last Yar. Co. wave was Nov 10, the day after Vivian Keddy saw 25 at New Ross. 100+ at Cranberry Head, Nov. 24, was the last flock documented. (BJS,FLL,JG&MC).

The NORTHERN WHEATEAR seen Oct. 14 on Seal by Sylvia Fullerton & Eric Cooke was quite different from the one seen there in the spring. This one was in winter plumage--a warm ruddy colour. There were no WOOD THRUSHES.

PRD writes "Thrushes sing all day and here at #170 sometimes all together, HERMIT, SWAINSON'S and VEERY. They fell silent in October, a rare Hermit seen on roadsides until mid-Nov.". They may not have been singing, but a lot of HERMITS stayed around in October this year--16+ reported from widely scattered areas. There were 10+ in S. Dartmouth, Nov. 1 and 1 still in Halifax, Nov. 20 (FLL). SWAINSON'S may have been late in arriving (PRD, heard her first June 23) but seemed to thrive thereafter. They leave earlier than Hermits and most "last sightings" are for Aug. September birds were 1 on Sept. 1 in Yar. Co., 5 on Sept. 2 and 1 on Sept 13, at Russel Lake (PRD,FLL) An extremely late Swainson's was at Green Bay, Oct. 10 (JSC). GREY-CHEEKED THRUSHES were much better reported this year than last (when there was only one). IAM had one in the Cape Breton Highlands, June 16, and one on Seal, July 17. There was a juvenile on Seal, Sept. 6, an adult there Sept. 10, and 1 at Cape Split, Sept. 25. (BMCT,SM,NSBS). Although not many people mentioned seeing or hearing VEERYS, those who did felt that they did quite well this year in their usual haunts. A few still lingered at New Ross, Aug. 25 and in Sept. seven were seen in different parts of Dartmouth, the last being there Sept. 9.

Four EASTERN BLUEBIRDS were in Digby Neck, Oct. 10--3 imm. and one adult, all males. Another adult male was at Scott Rd., Yar. Co., Nov. 20 (FLL et al, E&BR). The only BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER was seen by Stuart Tingley on Seal, Sept.3.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS may be up in number. "many" have been heard in Yar. Co., during the fall and most writers seem enthusiastic about this abundance. There is evidence of two migrations: on Seal, 40 per day were going through Sept. 2-9, and on Brier there were 500+ on Oct. 10, and none left there by the 21st. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS sometimes find their way into the Christmas Counts but none were seen this year after October. They were widely reported in ones and twos in Sept. The sightings for Oct. are as follows: 3 at Chebogue Pt., Oct. 8, one at M.W. Pubnico, Oct. 10, and 1 at Ingonish "in October". (CRKA,TCD'E,DD)

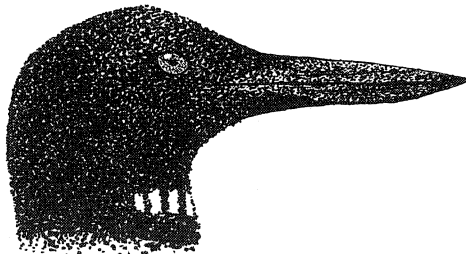
There were none of the sometimes huge flocks of WATER PIPITS in 1983. First few arrived on Seal, Sept. 12 and at Grand Pre, Sept.14. There were 40 at Brier, Sept. 24 and 100 there by Oct. 8. A steady group of 24 or so were at Hartlan Pt. up to Nov. 2.

Whether this will be a waxwing winter (Bohemian, that is) remains to be seen. Our deadline is too early to include many of this species but the hawthornes and other wild shrubs are loaded with fruit so perhaps they will be here in good numbers. Only two have been seen so far--one at Brier, Oct. 22, and one at Petite Riviere, Nov. 11 (RBS, JSC). Up to the deadline our "summer" CEDAR WAXWINGS were very plentiful--"common", "many reports", was the cry. PRD writes of a "blanket invasion" in July which lasted through Aug., tapering off to a few towards the end of Sept. There were 100 on Brier, Sept. 4 and 200 there Sept. 8.

The only SHRIKE reported is a "Shrike Sp", Nov. 23 at L.W. Pubnico (DA).

EUROPEAN STARLINGS appear, alas, to be increasing. Thousands collected at Chebogue Pt. in Sept. and Oct. Hedley Hopkins writes of 1000 a day at Sydney Dump in Sept., KNK of 200+ at Hammond's Plains in Oct., and JSC of 400+ at Martinique Beach in Nov. The only happy comment comes from Seal, Sept. 2-9--Starlings, ZERO!

--JSC, ed.



VIREOS

In line with this season of many varieties we have records of six species of vireo: RED-EYED, WARBLING, PHILADELPHIA, YELLOW-THROATED, WHITE-EYED and SOLITARY. The RED-EYED was heard June through August as usual, generally distributed, with flocks gathering in September--"numerous beyond measure" at Brier Is., according to Jean Timpa; 20, Sept. 9 at Seal Is.: dwindling there to 1, by Sept. 14 (SPM). The WARBLING VIREO, a regular stray, appeared late summer, 1, in Barrington, Aug. 25 (BJS); 1, on Seal Is., Sept. 4 and 8 (NSBS), and 3, Sept. 24 on Brier L. (EPS). The PHILADELPHIA was seen in August and September (6 individuals) on Seal and Brier Is. and once in November, 1, on the 15th at Crichton Park, Dartmouth (JT&FLL). One only YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, a real rarity, was seen, on Seal, Sept. 6 and 9, identified by Stuart Tingley and Stephen Manuel. The WHITE-EYED VIREO, another real rarity, was also found on Seal Is., an immature bird, Sept. 3 and 5, identified by Bruce Mactavish, Edgar Spalding and Stuart Tingley. Lastly our own SOLITARY VIREO, was well reported, June through September, very generally distributed about the province. Young were observed (being fed) July 17 at Waverley (L&PP), and Solitarys were heard singing vigorously in August and September; 1, as late as the 20th, in Yar. Co. These birds were seen among migration flocks of other birds in late August (RDH) and most of them must have left early, as none was recorded on either Seal or Brier Islands on the September trips there.

WOOD WARBLERS

After the enormous influx of warblers we had this spring, we have only moderate numbers to report this fall. This applies to numbers of individuals; when it comes to species, we have reached a new high of 30, our usual native 22 plus 8 exotics. Some of these latter have already found their way to our checklist as Accidentals or Transient Visitors but we wish to welcome one of the new ones especially, the CERULEAN, well seen by several competent observers, photographed, and no longer to be relegated to the hypothetical list.

There has been no lack of representative reports, with good over-all coverage of the province; individual lists were most often of one or two birds per species which is not unusual but fall migration flocks (mixed flocks ashore) were, in many places, absent or very small. Sandra Meyerowitz of St. Esprit wrote: "very few birds again this year where there used to be thousands"..perhaps a change in migration pattern? At the other end of the province in Yarmouth Co., mixed fall flocks numbered 10-20 instead of 30-50, although sometimes up to 12 species were present, a few of each. Apparent migration :waves: were noted Aug. 23 and 30, Sept. 2,4,10 and 29.

A summary of our warbler population, summer and fall, 1983, follows: BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, 17 reports, averaging 5 individuals; at Seal Is., Sept 2, 20; Sept. 8, 35. PROTHONOTARY, one report of 1, Aug. 18, Seal Is. (Elsie Mitchell), also reputed to be seen at Bon Portage, Aug. 16, by Pete Smith. TENNESSEE 15 reports, 1-2 per report; a migration flock at Cole Hbr. (district) of 50, Aug. 25; 6, Sept. 3 and 3, Sept. 9 at Seal Is. ORANGE-CROWNED, 4 reports, 1-4 per report, all either in the Dartmouth area or on Brier Is. early in October. NASHVILLE 10 sightings, 1's and 2's with larger numbers in the Dartmouth area in Sept: 5, Sept. 2 and 6, Sept 8 at Seal Island. PARULA, 17 reports, 1-10 per sighting; 2, Sept. 4 and 4, Sept. 8 at Seal. An interesting note on the Parula Warbler comes from the Gallaghers of Brass Hill, near Barrington:..."This is the 12th year they have built in a spruce tree by our house...two nests this year. The first nest graduated at least one young bird on June 24; a second nest was built on June 27 but it was destroyed by a violent wind and

rain storm on the night of July 22. Four very young birds were found dead on the ground under the nesting site on the following morning. This is the first time a nest here has been destroyed by a storm."

YELLOW WARBLER: 18 reports, 2-3 per sighting; our common garden warbler, usually seen around in pairs; had a fall count of 50+ at Russel Lake Aug. 13; at Seal, 30 seen Sept. 2, 8 on Sept. 8. The MAGNOLIA, 20 reports, mostly 1-2 per (but 16 at Big Bras d'Or); 25, Sept. 3 at Seal, 15 there Sept. 8. CAPE MAY was reported from 9 localities, mostly single birds but 200, Sept. 3 at Seal; 50 there Sept. 8. BLACK-THROATED BLUE, 6 sightings all singles, and 1, Sept. 2, 2, Sept. 9 at Seal. CERULEAN, the first sighting was on Aug. 16 at Seal Island, by Ian McLaren and his party from Montreal. The description was: "...pale yellowish breast areas, striking white wing bars and prominent eye-line, along with plain back of strong bluish cast, cap and back, rump more greenish...". These are all diagnostic markings, and photographs were obtained. On August 31, Anne and Eric Mills found a female Cerulean in one of the iris beds on Seal which they described (the bird) as an "exceptionally dingy type". On Sept. 2 at Seal, the whole party: Bruce Mactavish, Stuart Tineley, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding, Eric Mills, Chris Brown and Patricia Green saw a Cerulean Warbler which they decided was a male or an immature male. Bruce has written, "After talking over the appearances of each Cerulean we were positive that 3 different Ceruleans were seen!" YELLOW-RUMPEL, at least 40 sightings, from 3 to 30 per sighting, and over 1000 at Brier, Oct. 8; 200, Sept. 2 and 7 at Seal. This is our commonest warbler and a few are still with us the last of November and probably will winter. BLACK-THROATED GREEN, 20 reports, 1-20 per report (abundant in Wolfville); 5, Sept. 2 at Seal, 12 there Sept. 8. BLACKBURNIAN, 12 reports, 1-6 birds per (6 at Big Bras d'Or, 5 at Cape Split, Sept. 24); 2, Sept. 2 at Seal, also 2 there Sept. 8.

YELLOW-THROATED (not to be confused with the Yellowthroat), 1, identified by SIT, Sept. 8, on Seal Is. CHESTNUT-SIDED, 11 reports, 1-2 birds per, on the whole, not as well seen as usual; 2 only, Sept. 8 at Seal. BAY-BREASTED, 10 sightings (from 4 areas only, its habitat being restricted); a fall gathering in the Halifax-Dartmouth area however, added up to 50, seen there Aug. to Sept. and down to a count of 5 by the middle of that month; 30, Sept. 3 on Seal, 20 there Sept. 8. BLACKPOLL, 10 areas heard from, 1-6 per sighting, until migration when good numbers were found in Sept. in the Russel Lake area, and at Kejimikujik Park in Oct. IAM found 15 pairs of Blackpolls, plus a few young on Seal, evidently resident there (as they have been historically), and on Sept. 2, 25 were counted there, 60 on Sept. 8. PINE: 1, Aug. 7, Great Pubnico Lake; 1, Oct. 1 at Big Duck Island, Mahone Bay, well seen by James McLaren; and 1, an adult male, Nov. 1, at Russel Lake. PRAIRIE, 2 reported Aug. 20, from Brier, by Ian and Paul Jones (birders from Ottawa) fide EPS. Richard Stern saw another or the same one, "a bird in good plumage", Sept. 4, at Brier IAM et al. found a Prairie Warbler on Seal Is., Aug. 16; 2 were seen there Aug. 23, and another on the 24th, 28th and 30th, 2 still there Oct. 15, and 1, Oct. 1, was seen on Big Duck Island, Mahone Bay, by IAM, ELM, K. Gregoire and JDM. Stuart Tingley and Bruce Mactavish sum up the Seal Is. birds as 8-10 different ones, all seen Sept. 2-9. Also, these two observers noted 2 Prairie Warblers Sept. 10 at Cape Forchu--a small but genuine movement of these (usually south-westerly based) birds. PALM young ones first seen July 21 in the Chester Basin area, seen there again July 27-28. By Sept. there were 30+ at the Piggery, Dartmouth, they were "very abundant" at Wolfville, 30+ Aug. 22, at East Jordan, 50+, Sept. 24 at Brier, 200+ there Oct. 10. Brier Is. was probably its chief migration route as it was very scarce on Seal Is., only 1 there Sept. 8. On Nov. 20 at south Dartmouth, FLL and Jim Taylor identified a Palm Warbler as of the Western race. OVENBIRD 13 reports, average 1-2 birds per sighting (or hearing), those in Aug., Sept. and Oct., in the Dartmouth-Cole Hbr. area; on Seal and

Brier Islands, similar small numbers were noted in Sept. and Oct. NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, 6 reports, 1-2 birds per. A tiny movement was noted in Yarmouth Co., Sept. 2-4, when 4 of these birds were found in the Quinan area and at the same time 1, at Lr. Eel Brook, which is about 5 more than are usually found here. At Seal there were 7, Sept. 2 and 5; 3, Sept. 8. Betty June Smith reports a CONNECTICUT WARBLER Sept. 8 at Barrington. MOURNING: 8 reports, averaging 1-3 birds per sighting. There are never many Mourning Warblers; the most are usually recorded in June in Guysborough County on the BBS, where 5 were found this year. On Seal Is., 1 arrived Aug. 31, the most seen there were 4-6, Sept. 2-9. COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, at least 33 reports, average 1-8 birds per; migration flocks Sept. 1-16 at the Piggery-Russel Lake area, numbered 20-30; at Brier, Sept. 24, "too numerous to count", and at Seal, 15-25 per day Sept. 2-9. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, 13 individuals seen in 7 reports: 1, at Glace Bay, June 16 (G. Fraser and S. MacL.); 1, at Seal Is., Sept. 4 (ELM) and 6 at Seal Sept. 2-9 (NSBS); 1, at Hebron, Yar. Co., Nov. 15-17 (June Graves); 1, at Maynard's Lake, Dartmouth, Nov. 15; 1, at Crichton Park, Dartmouth, Nov. 18; 1, at Fairview Cemetery, Hfx. Co., Nov. 20 and 1, at Woodlawn, Nov. 20, these last four sightings by FLL and Jim Taylor.

HOODED WARBLER, 1, female, Sept. 3 and 8, Seal (BDM, SIT). WILSON'S, 6 reports, 1-3 birds per; 20+ at the Piggery, Sept. 10 and 5 at Seal, Sept. 2. This is another special territory bird, rather seldom seen, but there was a count of 12 individuals (average of) 1981 and 1982 on the Guysborough Co. BBS, only 4, counted there this year. CANADA, 10 reports, one bird per sighting; with 5, in a Sept. flock at Russel Lake, and 6, Sept. 4 at Seal (FLS). AMERICAN REDSTART, 22 sightings 1-3 birds per; the largest fall flocks at Russel Lake were 75, Aug. 13 and 50+, Aug. 23. At Seal there were 12, Sept. 3, 40 Sept. 8 and 18, Sept. 9. The Cohrs and Payzants wrote that there were very few warblers at Brier Sept. 16, 17 and 18; only 10 species with 1-3 birds apiece. Ian McLaren listed warblers which were evidently breeding on Seal Is. as: 2 pairs of Magnolias, 20+ pairs (150 Juv.), 6 pairs of Yellowthroats and on pair of American Redstarts. According to a tabulation by Steve Manuel, Sept. 9-14 on Seal Is., Black-and-White, Cape May, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, Yellowthroat and Redstart were going through there constantly in about the same numbers, except that the Cape May and possibly the Yellow-rumped were dwindling.

HOUSE SPARROW

In Cape Breton, Hedley Hopkins says the House Sparrow numbers less than last year but is still present in 100's. In the Wolfville-Grand Pre area, Jean Timpa finds that there is "no scarcity of these birds" with 8 localities visited (accompanied by Bill and Brenda Thex-ton) Sept. 26 through Nov. 19. In Yarmouth, M.W. Hilton noted 15-20 House Sparrows at her feeder Aug. 12; usually 6, from Oct. 22 through November. B.L. Forsythe watched a House Sparrow "taking nesting material into the eaves of a barn roof, Oct. 19, and remarked that they do not know when to stop nesting.

ICTERIDS

BOBOLINKS were frequently sighted in June on mainland Nova Scotia, flocks numbering 20-30 as a rule; in Cape Breton "hundreds", in the Boularderie district according to Roberta Fraser (to S. MacL.), and 100's in most areas observed elsewhere (HEH, OC). Fall flocks began appearing Sept. 1; 250 at Seal Is. that day, dwindling to 15, Sept. 15 (ELM, SPM); at L.W. Pubnico on Sept. 9, Delisle d'Entremont observed a flock of 350-400 Bobolinks, and in SW yar. Co., there were 100's noted at Pleasant Lake and Chebogue Point, Sept. 6 & 9 (CRKA). The very last ones left (apparently) were 3-4, Oct. 15 and 2, Oct. 24 at Hartlen Pt., noted by Jim Taylor, Mike Almon and Fulton Lavender.

Bobolinks do not seem to linger. One story concerning these delightful birds has come from Shel. Co., from Ross and Connie Gallagher: "Bobolinks nested on Brass Hill again this summer. Two male birds frequently perched back-to-back at the top of an apple tree, overlooking two fields that were divided by a stone wall and a narrow roadway. This gave each one an unobstructed view of his own territory --and would have made a beautiful cartoon!".

Our rarely seen but resident bird, the EASTERN MEADOWLARK was observed only once this season: 2, Nov. 23 at L.W. Pubnico, by Daryl Amirault. The YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, a Westerner, continues to appear each fall but has never yet become common (as Robie Tufts thought possible). Two, perhaps three of these birds have been reported: 1, a female or immature male, Sept. 3 at Cherry Hill (SJF, JSC), and 1, immature, Aug. 22-23, at Seal Is. (ELM), the same or another (imm.) Sept. 4 & 5, in the same place (BDM, EPS). The REDWINGED BLACKBIRD is reported "numerous throughout" in the Halifax area (RBD) but "very scarce this summer" in SW Shel. Co., by JE & CD Gallagher. In general the numbers seem to be as usual and fall flocks were average: 150+, Oct. 6, Russel Lake (FLL); 32, Nov. 4-5 Sydney (HEH); 6, Nov. 11, L.W. Pubnico (DJd'E); 30-40 Nov. 19, East Wolfville (JET, B&BT); 12+ Nov. 23 Chebogue (CRKA). Two notes have come in, one from Carol Jacquard, who noted two Redwinged Blackbirds with a flock of Grackles, Nov. 15, one of the Redwings with a white band on the tail. (Albinism or accident?). The other note, from Ian McLaren reads: "2 young male Redwinged Blackbirds on territory on Seal I. in mid-July. Is nothing sacred?"

Two at least, possibly 4 ORCHARD ORIOLES, female or immature male are reported from Seal Is., seen Sept. 1-4 and reported by ELM, BDM and other members of the NSBS party present there. At least 46 NORTHERN ORIOLES were seen this summer and fall, seen first in June, in Halifax Co. (L&PP); Shel. Co. (JR&CDG) and Yarmouth town (MWH). RBS noted one in Kentville in Aug., and the rest were seen Sept. 9 through Nov. 20. Migrating Orioles at Seal Is. peaked at 18, Sept. 8. In Sydney, Oct. 28 & 29, HEH and OC reported a Northern Oriole of the Bullocks type. The last seen were 1, Nov. 3 at L.W. Pubnico (JD'E) and 2, a male and female Nov. 20 in Dartmouth (FLL, JT).

The RUSTY BLACKBIRD was reported in better than usual numbers this season; May through Aug. OC and HEH counted 50+ in Cape Breton at Mira, George's River, Morien Bar and Sandlake; 2 were noted at New Ross, June 18 (KNK) and the rest, doubtless migrating, were seen Aug. 23 through Oct. 10: 15 at Big Bras d'Or (ALM), 2, at Pubnico marsh (TCD'E), 4, Halifax-Dartmouth area (FLL, Dan and Carol MacNeill), 25+ Brier Is. (JET, B&BT), and 2, Seal Is. (SPM). The COMMON GRACKLE still deserves its name, being present in normal numbers all year round. HEH and OC found it in most areas explored in Cape Breton, to a total of 300-400. Sara MacLean received a report of a pair of Grackles feeding one young, July 10 at Glace Bay; R.B. Dickie found these birds "more numerous than usual" in the Halifax area, where small groups passed in October...; "by Oct. 22 all were gone"; (L&PP), numbers were low in Hammond's Plains, highest 17 on Oct. 13 (KNK); the Gallaghers had seven sightings during the season of 2-4 birds each; at Wolfville, 100+ flew over Oct. 8 (JET), and in the Yarmouth area few were noted until October, when flocks of 15-20 appeared here and there, the 10+ at the feeder at 23 Baker Street apparently settled in for the winter (MWH). The BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD left us in June when the nesting season waned. Added to the several "Cowbirdized" nests reported by Bernard Forsythe in the 1983 FALL FLYER, was a report of 1-2 immature Cowbirds being fed by a Magnolia Warbler, Aug. 11, at the Farm, Big Bras d'Or (ALM). Incidentally, one of BLF's nests was a Magnolia's. In August the Cowbirds returned to view, hundreds seen around the countryside, even on Seal Is. (where

IAM suspected the 25 there Aug. 16-19 may have been migrants). In November, Cowbirds began to settle in at feeders from Glace Bay (AS) to Yarmouth (MWH); small flocks still to be encountered along the roadsides.

TANAGERS

Five reports of the SCARLET TANAGER add up to 8 birds this summer and fall: 1 male, present June 25 to July 17, "the 4th year in a row that we have seen a male near our house. They never seem to stay long--I wonder if 3 weeks is long enough to breed?" (L&PP); "July 17, a female flew into a window in Kentville and was given to me who took it to Cyril Coldwell--it is now dead and hopefully will go to the Acadia Biology Department"; Aug. 31, a live female in our back yard, Kentville...have never yet seen a male bird here." (RBS). Jim Taylor saw 3 of these Tanagers at Summit Ridge, Dartmouth, Sept. 9; on the same day 3 were spotted on Seal Is. by members of the NSBS party there, 1 only, left by the 14th (SPM).

FRINGILLIDS

NORTHERN CARDINALS have been observed in November only, this year, all but one in the Yarmouth-Digby area: 1, Nov. 10 at Tusket (Oscar Nauss); 1, Nov. 12 at the Walter Chute feeder in Halifax; 1 male, Nov. 15, 16, 17, at the Graves' residence in Hebron, and 1 female, Nov. 24 at Salmon River, Digby Co., seen by Veralyn Rogers. Following early reports April to June of the ROSE-BREASTED GROSBK and aside from those recorded in the FALL FLYER, there was only one report, of a very young bird in the Marriott's Cove area, July 29 (RDH); and a few migration flocks, very small, were noted Sept. 8-14 diminishing to 1, mostly at Seal Is. (NSBS), (SPM). A very few of the 30+ BLUE GROSBKs noted this spring were seen departing: 1 adult male, Sept. 10, Dartmouth Piggery (FLL); 1, Sept. 24, Brier Is. (EPS); 1 female, Oct. 10 at Brier Is. (FLL and Elaine Wallace), and 1 female the same date, Oct. 10, at Seal Is. (SJF,EHC). To the 60+ INDIGO BUNTINGS observed this spring, we can add 2: 1 adult male seen June 4 at Three Fathom Hbr. (FLL,IK); 1 male, June 12 at L.W. Pubnico (Onil d'Entremont). HEH made an estimate of these birds, May 7-July 20 in Sydney, Mira, Donkin, South Bar and Pt. Edward, which came to 12. In the fall departure must be by a route outside of our observation (if the strays have survived and bred)--the only ones seen in the fall were 1, Sept. 13 at Russel Lake, 3 there Oct. 6 (FLL & Jim Taylor). DICKCISSELS were present on Seal Is., Aug. 1 - Sept. 15, from 1, Aug. 1st to 3, Aug. 23, to 2, Sept. 15, noted by ELM,NSBS party and SPM. Also in October a Dickcissel was seen, Oct. 1, on Flat Island, Mahone Bay by IAM,ELM,K. Gregoire and James McLaren: another, Oct 15, a female at Crescent Beach by Shirley Cohrs, and 1, Nov. 6 at Martinique Beach (RBD).

Two more breeding records of the EVENING GROSBK are both in July: 4 (a pair and 2 very shaky young) found by the Cape Breton field party July 16; 2 adults and 2 immatures which showed up at the Payzant feeder in Waverley on July 27. Observations of Evening Grosbeaks occurred throughout the summer months, the only large number, 20+, noted at Victoria Park, Truro by Lisé Cohrs "flying" (the Grosbeaks) "and lighting in high deciduous trees". In Oct. flocking was noted from Cape Breton (Malagawatch) to W. Pubnico, largest flock encountered was "50 or so" at Kentville, Oct.1 (JET,BT). Increasing numbers were reported Nov. 3-24, from Sydney (HEH) to Yarmouth (AP,MWH); flocks of 15 up to 150 with most of them in the Valley Region, the highest however, (150) Nov. 11, at Truro (B&BT). The PURPLE FINCH was also observed feeding young, frequently through July at Sandy Cove, near Chester Basin (RDH), and still feeding young, Sept. 7, at Lr. Eel Brook (PRD); here also, it was noted that

moulting was over by the end of September, and by October 17, only one bird remained at the feeder. After that, Purple Finches were seen in flocks around the countryside, and some--many--apparently migrated via Seal: 150 counted there Sept. 8; 100 on the 10th; 50, the 11th, down to 15 on the 15th (counts sent by SPM). There are still some of these finches around, and they are, as Sara MacLean observed, enjoying the dandelion seed, bless their hearts.

The HOUSE FINCH invasion is perhaps more half-hearted than that of the Cardinal; aside from one pair, present for 2-3 days in early August at Yarmouth--1 only, present there Sept. 20 (MWH), there are reports from Seal Is., of 2 (males) there July 11-23, 1, still there Aug. 16-19, with a female (IAM); 1 (male) Aug. 28, and again a male plus a female, Sept. 2-9 (NSBS); 1 (male) Sept. 13-15 (SPM). It is a pity these people didn't get together, but the number of House Finches must be somewhere between 6 and 9, depending on how much population change there was (maybe only 3?). The PINE GROSBEAK was seen in usual numbers throughout the summer months, Sydney to Barrington, and in about the same (low) numbers in the fall: 2 to 3 at a time in the Dartmouth area, also at New Ross and Hammonds Plains, and in Halifax, Lunenburg and Yarmouth counties. BLF saw 7 on Oct. 9 at Black River Lake, King's Co., the largest number found in any one place. These are our permanently resident birds and probably have never seen Seal Is. Of the ten reports, we have this season of the PINE SISKIN, 6 are in Aug., and are scattered from Big Bras d'Or (90, ALM) to "up to 100" around Kentville (RBS) to "single bird, perched and singing" at Middle Ohio, Shel. Co. (CD & JRG). Sept. reports were from East Jordan, Shel. Co. (e RJC) and from Seal Is., 1-4 birds mid-Sept. (SPM). BLF found 4 Siskins, Nov. 9 at Wolfville; so far this is not shaping up as a "Siskin Year". The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH has been "very plentiful", "numerous throughout" this season, according to reporters at both ends of the province and many in between. On Aug. 27, Brenda Thexton and Jean Timpa noted several fuzzy-plumaged young, perched on wires at the Grand Pre dykes, but, like the Purple Finch, our Goldfinch is irregular as to time and place of nesting, which may take place any time from June to September. It seems, so far this season, to be doing well, maintaining its numbers; and was for a time, in late fall, about the only small bird encountered on daily field trips in the country. It was often seen feasting on fall dandelion and late goldenrod seedheads. Shirley Cohrs found it "everywhere" around Halifax, and at Green Bay, Lun. Co., in mid-September, but by the 30th, only 2 were left in the latter place; FLL found 500+ at Brier Is., Oct. 8-10, a possible indication of where (temporarily) had all the finches gone. However, as with their other movements, any sort of Goldfinch "migration" is unpredictable.

The RED remains the more numerous of the two CROSSBILLS, seen in five areas this summer: 6, June '14, at Sandy Cove (near Chester Basin); 12, June 17, nearer Chester Basin; 8, June 22, at Sandy Cove again and 1-4 seen in July in that general area (RDH); 8, Aug. 6 at Isle Haute (EPS); 1 imm., Sept. 18, at Albany Cross, Ann. Co. (Cohrs); 6-8, Oct. 9 at Green Bay (L&SC) and 6, Oct. 11 at Kejimikujik Park (FLL). The WHITE-WINGED was seen somewhat doubtfully "just a glimpse" of 2, July 23 at Sandy Cove (RDH); 6, last two weeks of Aug., at Big Bras d'or, and "a territorial male present throughout period, consistently showing alarm when given area approached" (ALM).

On Oct. 16-17, a male RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE was observed at M.W. Pubnico (TCD'E), and on Oct. 18, at L.W. Pubnico, a female was noted by RSD'E. On Oct. 21-22, the female was seen by TCD'E and on Nov. 23-24, a male Rufous-sided Towhee was at M.W. Pubnico again; four sightings, but probably two birds. Let's hope they get together and decide to spend the winter.

The SAVANNAH SPARROW was seen generally all over the province in good numbers, with migration counts of 200+ at Brier, Oct. 8-10; 50-75 per day at Seal Is., Sept. 2-9. IAM observed about 75 pairs of Savannahs nesting on Seal Is., mid-July. There were November sightings in the Valley and on Cape Sable. "IPSWICH" SPARROWS seemed to be unusually numerous, at any rate, seen more frequently than usual: 1, Sept 9 at Hartlen Pt., 20 there Oct. 15, down to 10+ there Oct. 24. SJF remarked that these sparrows "seem unusually common this fall, there were 4 together at the edge of the dunes at Cherry Hill, Oct. 22". On Seal, there was only 1, Sept. 3, but IAM observed a female Ipswich nesting on Conrad's Beach this summer, and found an exceptionally good number in migration, 12, on Conrad's Beach, Nov. 12, 8 on Martinique Beach, Nov. 13, 8, on Cherry Hill Beach and 1, at LaHave, Nov. 20, and remarked "not usually so many so late". The SHARP-TAILED SPARROW was also well reported from various beach areas, May through August: Glace Bay Sanctuary, Morien Bar, Wadden's Cove, Forchu, Martinique Beach, Cole Harbor, Conrad's Beach, Lawrencetown Beach, the Yar. Co., beaches (where many were heard and few seen), Dan'l's Hd. (Cape Island) and Seal Is. At least one pair tried to nest on Conrad's Beach, seen carrying nesting material there July 29 (ELM, IAM). Five late ones were at Little Hbr., Shel Co., Oct. 7 (DJ Young) and FLL and Mike Almon saw an adult Sharptail of the Acadian race, Sept. 29, at Hartlen Pt.

SEASIDE, VESPER AND LARKSPARROWS were all reported this season: the Seaside as usual at Economy, Nov. 12 & 13, still there Nov. 23, seen by FLS and EPS. Vespers: 16 were noted in Cape Breton throughout the season, elsewhere seen only in migration: 1, on Brier, Sept. 10, and another there Oct. 6-9 (RBS, ELM, IAM). One Lark Sparrow, an immature, was seen on Seal Is., Sept. 4 & 5, by the many observers there.

The DARK-EYED JUNCO was present as usual in generous numbers in all areas this season, and was very visible along roadsides late into the fall--often the only sparrow seen on a trip. Sept. 29, 500+ were reported from Russel Lake, with 5000+, Oct. 10, on Brier Is. (FLL); at Seal Is., very few were seen up to Sept. 15, none reported after that.

TREE SPARROWS left us late this spring, still present June 9, and returned late, only 3 records so far: 5, at the Piggery, Oct 19; 3-4 at Economy, Nov. 24, and 5, at Argyle Head, Yar. Co. Nov. 28. The CHIPPING SPARROW was seldom observed, apparently, throughout the summer, only singles sighted here and there; the only multiple observation was "common, Aug. 15, at Economy Mountain" (KNK). By September, migration had begun and there were 15-20 of these birds at Seal Is., Sept. 9-15 (SPM); 7, at Brier Sept. 24 (JET), and a flock of 7-8 birds, Sept. 28 at Quinan Road, "the first--and, as it turned out, the only roadside flock of Chippies" for PRD. On the 8th of Oct., ELM and IAM saw at least 200, in flocks of 20-30 at Brier Is. (500 there Oct. 10, according to FLL); and on Oct. 29 at Chebogue Point, CKRA found 20+ Chipping Sparrows. It was good news that this bird showed up in numbers in the Oct. 10 migration wave (so vividly described by Eric Mills) as it has been a cause for worry to us in Yar. Co. It is not a normal inhabitant here to any extent, but has always been very visible in the fall, flocks flaring up from the roadside every few miles from mid-October on for weeks. Looking back in our records, this happened typically in 1976; in 1977 mention was made of fewer of these flocks, and ever since then there have been fewer fall flocks, until this year, when over the same territory there was, for the season, one small flock seen. These birds are avid seed-eaters; it has occurred to us that there is nothing left here to attract the migrating Chippies, with the present Dept. of Highways policy of shearing the roadsides bare of all shrubs and wildflowers.

Slowly but surely we manage to diminish our bird populations.

One FIELD SPARROW was seen Sept. 11-12 on Seal Is., an immature bird, noted by SPM. Six more were present on Seal, Oct. 15 (SJF,EHC).

The WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW splinter migration was very slender indeed this year: Roberta Fraser spotted one at Boularderie in early July; after that, IAM saw an immature on Flat Island, Mahone Bay, Oct. 1; Lisé and Shirley Cohrs found 1--possibly 2--immatures at Green Bay Oct. 9, and FLL had 1, another immature, at Russel Lake, Nov. 1. The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW made a real comeback this year, heard singing in the spring on many closely adjacent territories. At Seal Is., Ian McLaren found a nest mid-July; September counts there were too early but were building up (30, on the 15th) and on Brier Is., Whitethroats were among the throng coming in there Oct. 10 (ELM). FLL gave a fall count, Sept. 29, at Russel Lake of 1000+, and at Brier Oct. 8-10, 1000+ again. So far, no November records have been received.

Additional to our spring sightings of the FOX SPARROW are 1, April 28 at Sydney (HEH,OC), and "at least 2 singing males" heard at the CBHNP, June 16 (IAM). Fall sightings are all from the Dartmouth area: 1, Oct. 15 at Summit Ridge (FLL); 1, Oct. 19, at Crichton Park (FLL, Mike Almon); 2, Oct. 27 at the Piggery (FLL) and 15, Nov. 1 at Summit Ridge (FLL, Jim Taylor).

Twelve reports of the LINCOLN'S SPARROW add up to 28 individuals seen, widely scattered over the province. Fall concentrations were small; the largest was 10+, Sept. 29 at the Piggery; only 1-2 seen on Seal, Sept. 2 & 4 and 13-15, and only 1, on Brier, Oct. 7. The SWAMP SPARROW seems to have been present in usual numbers this season, found on appropriate territory from June to November. Again migration was not evident on Seal Is., Sept. 3-15 (1's and 2's only, seen) but at Russel Lake counts of up to 200 were made Sept. 29 and Oct. 6, with 200+ present on Brier Oct. 8-10. The SONG SPARROW, our last Melospiza, stayed with us all summer, widespread and in usual numbers, vocal well into July. In September, 25-40 a day were noted on Seal Is., Sept. 2-9, and numbers piled up at Russel Lake from about 100 there Sept. 13, to 200 by Oct. 6; and FLL's count, Oct. 8-10 at Brier Is., was over 800.

A few LAPLAND LONGSPURS arrived in October: 3, Oct. 10 at Cadden Beach (D&JY); 1, Oct. 9 at Brier, 5, Oct. 15 at Hartlen Pt. (down to 3, by Oct. 29) (FLL, JT, MA, DAC); 2, Oct. 30 at Morien Bar (SM) and 7, Nov. 2 at the same place (HEH). The SNOW BUNTING came in October also, and stayed through November; 11 reports adding up to 50+ birds in October and many more--over 500, seen in December, distribution universal from the Grand Pre dykes to Cherry Hill, Morien Bar to the Cape Island beaches.

--PRD, ed.

Contributors to the above report:

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Trips to Seal Island (1) by Ian A. McLaren and family, July 16-23; and again (2) by IAM and Montreal friends Hon. Justice George Montgomery, Betsy Barber, Elsie Mitchell, Ed. Noseworthy, Aug. 15-19; (3) Eric and Ann Mills, Aug. 25-31; (4) S. J. Fullerton and E.H. Cooke, Oct. 10-16; (5) Bruce Mactavish, Stuart Tingley, Chris Brown & Patricia Green (these two from Newfoundland), Edgar and Francis Spalding, Sept. 2-9; Stephen P. Manuel, Sept. 9-14.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

FOR

THE APRIL ISSUE

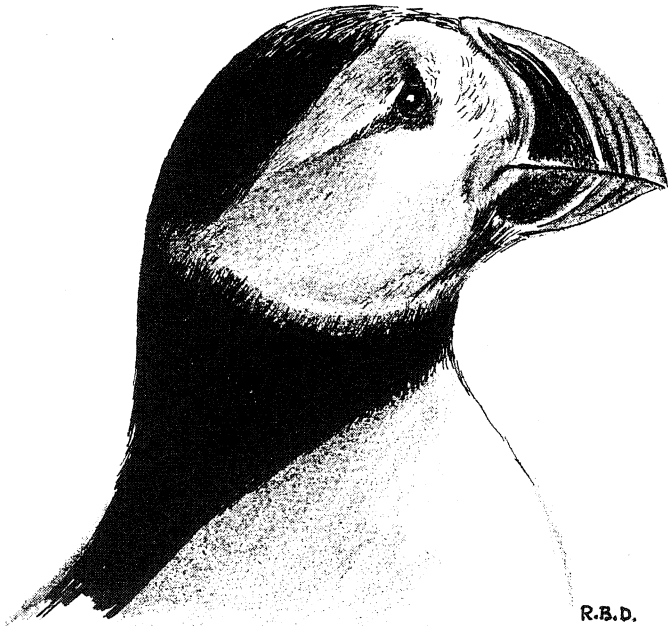
FEBRUARY 25

Bird reports to the Records Editor--

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Photographs, sketches, articles and letters to the--

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Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6



PUFFIN OF THE YEAR

This award is given for outstanding achievement in the work of the Nova Scotia Bird Society. You might think that I have spent many hours debating among the many people who contribute so much to our society. I have not. The choice is overwhelmingly obvious. In fact, I challenge you to mention one activity in this society that does not benefit from the dedication and exceptional ability of this person. The Newsletter, the Raptor Rehabilitation Project, the Rare Bird Alert; bird seed in her garage; public relations of all kinds. Shirley Cohrs is as close as anyone will ever be to being the Nova Scotia Bird Society. I would like pay particular tribute to her work as Editor of Nova Scotia Birds. Thanks to Shirley, it is of very high quality and its publication as dependable as clock-work. It is a particular pleasure for me to present this, the twelfth Puffin of the Year Award to Shirley Cohrs.

Frank Hennessey

STOP PRESS

SAGA OF THE SWANS

So many sightings of SWANS have been made around the end of November and early December, that we summarize here all the information to date. We would be grateful if members would let us know of any subsequent Swan-sightings.

Yarmouth Co. Swans (see report by C.R.K.Allen in this issue)

Nov. 20 6 adult and 1 imm. TUNDRA SWANS (old name-Whistling Swans) on Island Pond near Yarmouth. Flew off to S.W.

Dec. 2 More swans seen flying over Arcadia

Halifax Co. Swans(mainland)

Nov. 29 Report by Ted Currie from Cole Harbour of 4 Swans

Dec. 5 Report by Rick Stewart of 4 TUNDRA SWANS on Bisset Lake behind the Halifax Co. Rehabilitation Centre in Dartmouth. Two were adult and two immature. They continued to be seen there until at least Dec. 9. The Editor, in conversation with Andrew McInnis of the Dept. of Lands and Forests, learned that members of the Dept. had seen four swans "earlier" at Jeddore, Martinique Beach, Chezzetcook and Cole Harbour successively--presumably the same four working their way down the coast.

Dec. 10 4 Swans (2 adult, 2 imm.) at Russel Lake.

Sable Island Swans

Dec. 1-6. Five Swans, four adult and one immature seen daily by Sherod Crowell on Sable Island

Dec. 2 Bill Parsons of the Canadian Coastguard flew over Sable Island and sighted twelve Swans flying west of the West Light there.

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 persons, 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

BIRDING KNOWLEDGE

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

AMERICAN CROW

(formerly Common Crow)

Corvus b. brachyrhynchos



The crow's length is 19 3/4". Its plumage is black, the wings long and pointed; tail much shorter than wing; bill compressed, and higher than broad; feet, stout.

Feeding Habits.

Probably the best known bird of the countryside, its eating habits are completely opportunistic--it will eat anything handy from road-kills to insects and frogs to young birds of other species.

Nest. The crow builds its nest 18 to 60 feet up in a tree, but sometimes as low as 6 to 10 feet in small bushes. On the prairies it will nest on the ground or on crosspieces of utility poles.

Eggs. February - June. 3-7, usually 4-5, blue-green mottled with brown.

Incubation. By both parents 18 days. The young fly at 28-35 days.

Age. About 8 years. One known (banded) to be 14. In captivity to 20 years.

Flight Speed. Timed to 32 m.p.h.

Other Names. Eastern Crow, Western Crow, Corn-thief, Carrion-crow.

HALIFAX MUSEUM PROGRAMMES

ALL COMMENCE AT 8:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 23 MEMBERS SLIDE NIGHT

MARCH 22 ARCTIC BIRDS--AN ILLUSTRATED LECTURE BY
DR. BILL FREEDMAN

APRIL 26 POINT PELEE--AN ILLUSTRATED VISIT TO THIS
MECCA OF BIRDERS

COMMON BIRDS IN AND OUT OF CONTEXT

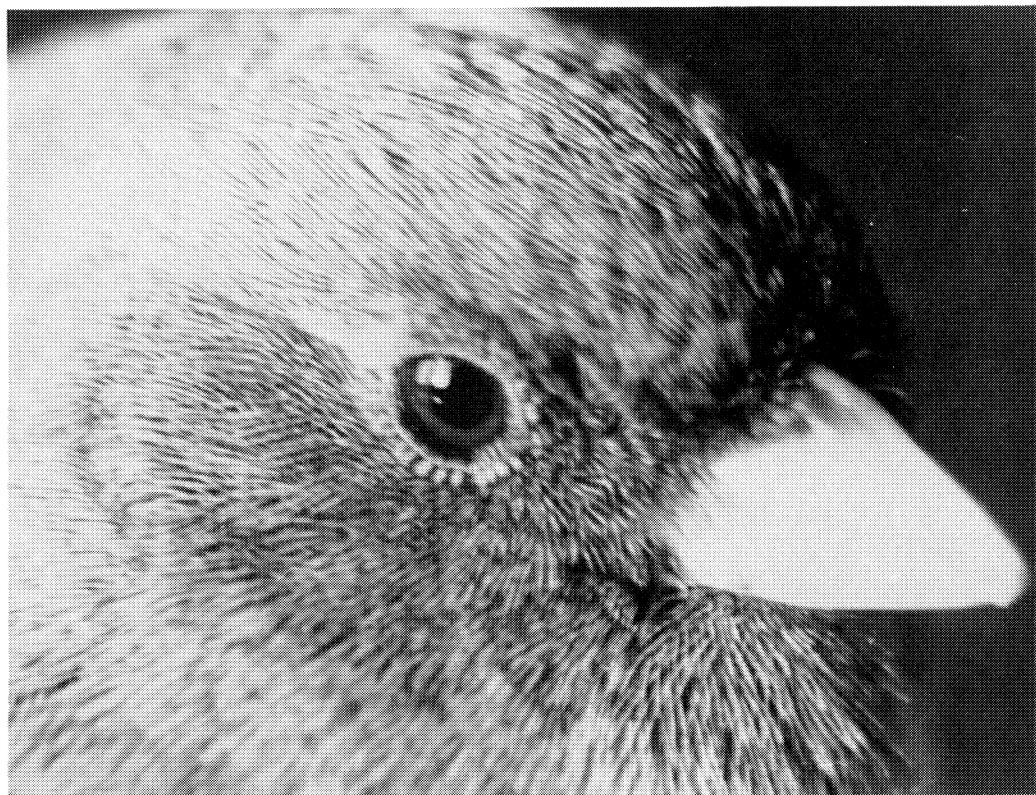
Ralph Connor

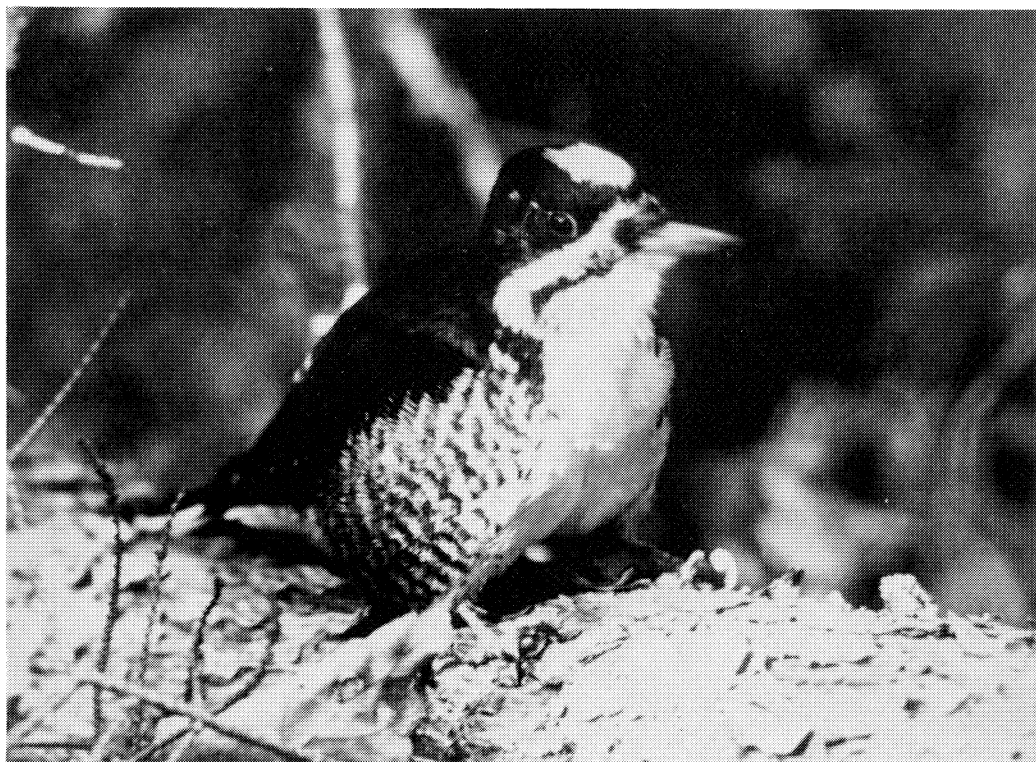
The caption for this first photograph might go something like this:

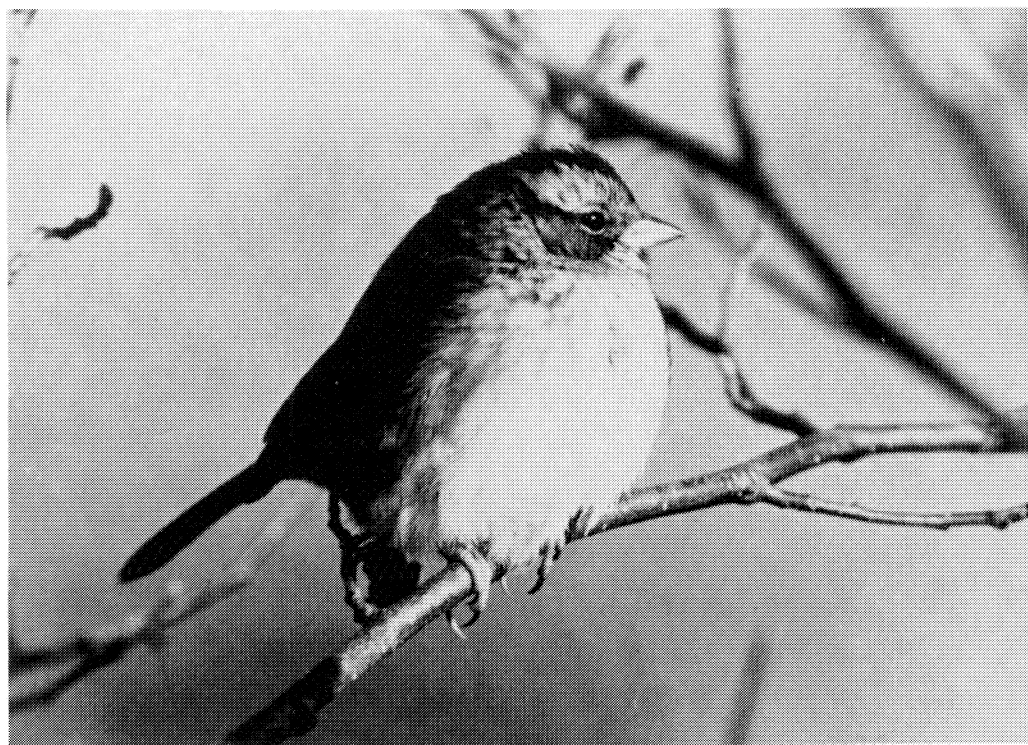
"My mother and father were known as Slate coloured Juncos. I was renamed a Dark-eyed Junco. My offspring are known as Northern Juncos. Goodness knows what their offspring will be called, and how then are we or anyone else to know who we are?"

...and welcome to the club, because many of us have been here many more years and still do not know what we are.

Several years ago, I caught my first glimpse of a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker. It was pecking high in a stand of mature spruce; high enough to avoid any decent photographic image. In January of '83, while hunting for Ringnecked Pheasant in the area between Russel Lake and the end of the Shearwater runway, I heard a tapping, much louder than a Hairy. When I viewed the male Black-backed, it was feeding along a downed spruce and allowed an approach to within three feet. All of this was fraught with a "dehydrated package of photographic dilemma"; incorrect film speed; too long a lens; too little light; and a fumbling, bumbling lack of method in interfacing motor drive and camera body. As a result, this whole encounter with a photogenic and co-operative subject, over a period of at least 10 minutes, resulted in only one or two decent exposures. Although this bird is uncommon in its preferred habitat, coniferous forest, it lives up to its designation of being an approachable animal and very adaptable to the photographic apparatus.









The third photograph is of an immature White-throated Sparrow. I searched this bird out of my files last week, because at that time seven White-throats flew into my back yard and started feeding about my compost heap. This was the first time this fall that I saw the White-throat. However, more important, here is an animal that recognizes the efforts made to build a compost heap--what a heroic assumption!

The fourth bird in this series is very common in Nova Scotia, but like so many common birds in our province, is elusive of the camera. This closeup of a Great Blue Heron is really a deathbed photograph. Whether this bird broke its wing on some man-made structure or met its fate from gunshot, is not known. The bird with fractured wing was in Lawrencetown Marsh in October. It has undoubtedly not survived. It has encountered an economy as inefficient as ours and succumbed to that imperfect environment. What else is new!

To identify a bird from a photograph is not colinear with the field experience:

- a. In the field, one is exposed to movement, several views of plumage, and sometimes the vocal expression;
- b. the bird is in a specific habitat or can be explained in a different habitat such as a Ring-billed Gull in a newly ploughed field;
- c. a bird which is normally seen in Florida in winter may spend that season in Sullivan's Pond.

Therefore, one can be frustrated by looking at photographs of very common birds that eliminate many of the factors we use in field identification because they show only what is seen in one short instant of time.

This then, is essentially the difference between our field identifications and a photograph.

All Photographs by Ralph Connor.

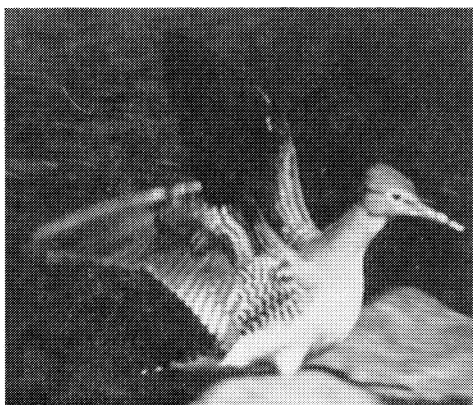


CLAY-COLORED SPARROW, Seal Island, May 16, 1983. The strong face markings of the bird are conspicuous even on this rather distant snap. It was a second spring occurrence in Nova Scotia (the first also on Seal Island.) Photo by Steve Manuel.

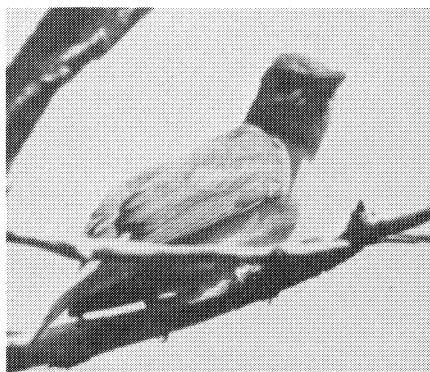
WORM-EATING WARBLER, Seal Island, May 16, 1983. This bird is the 3rd or 4th one to have been reported in the spring in Nova Scotia. A nice supporting photo by Steve Manuel.



RARITY ALBUM



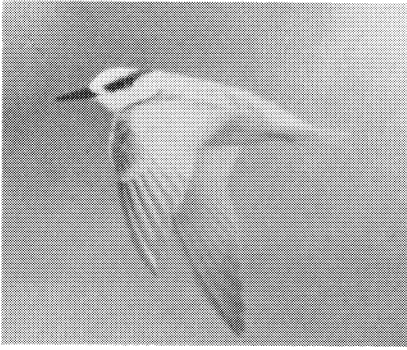
SOLITARY SANDPIPER, Green Bay, Lun. Co., July 18, 1983. Photo by Shirley Cohrs.



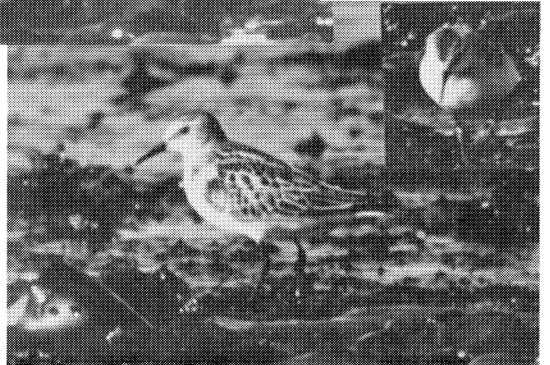
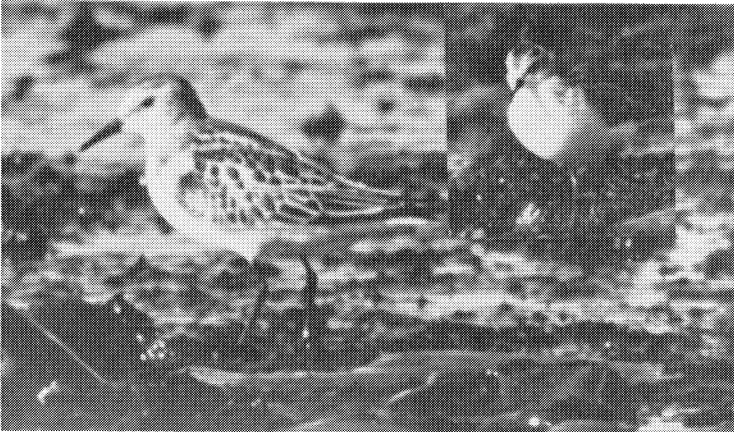
SUMMER TANAGER, Seal Island, May 16, 1983. Although the rich coloration of the bird on the original slide cannot be conveyed, the heavy bill of the bird is suggestive of its identity in the photo by S. Manuel.



CURLEW SANDPIPER, Cherry Hill Beach, Lun. Co. Although blurred from the bird's movement, the long, decurved bill and the whitish eyestripe establish the identity of this bird beyond question. It is a first confirmed (by specimen or photo) occurrence of the species in the province. Photo by John Cohrs.



LEAST TERN, Seal Island, early September 1983. This bird was a rare treat for a number of birders on the island. It is one of the few confirmed occurrences in the province. Photo Stuart Tingley.



LITTLE STINT, Hartlen Pt., near Eastern Passage, Hfx. Co., Oct. 23, 1983. These photos, although no prizes, serve to confirm Nova Scotia's first, and Canada's third (?) occurrence of the Old World wader. The distinct white back stripe (one of a pair of V-shaped "braces") is very evident. The insert show to advantage the delicate bill and "forked" eyestripe, both good field marks of this diminutive shorebird from Eurasia. Photos Ian McLaren.

THE COMMON EIDER IN NOVA SCOTIA

Tony Lock

The Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) is the largest of four species of Eider Ducks, all of them large, gregarious birds which breed only in the northern hemisphere. It has a circumpolar breeding distribution with virtually all breeding taking place north of 40° of latitude in North America and north of 50° in Europe. It is the only species of eider which occurs commonly in Nova Scotia and the only species known to breed in the Atlantic provinces. Eiders are, of course, diving ducks and their most frequent food item is the common mussel, though other small shell fish and marine invertebrates--even insects-- are regularly consumed. Two subspecies occur here: S.m. dresseri, which breeds from Maine, north to Hamilton Inlet in Labrador, and S.m. borealis, which breeds in more northerly locations and is found in Nova Scotia only as a wintering bird. These subspecies differ very slightly and can best be told apart at very close range or in the hand by the shape of the processes on the frontal shield of the bill; these broad and rounded in dresseri and pointed in borealis.

Eiders breeding in Nova Scotia arrive here, often already paired, in late March or early April. They nest colonally on coastal islands, attempting breeding for the first time at the age of three years. First eggs are laid in late April and clutches added to at a rate of one per day to produce clutches which are usually 4 or 5 eggs. The incubation period is 25-28 days, during which time incubating females, who do not feed, may lose up to 45% of their body weight. Within a few days of hatching, females attempt to lead their young to the sea; if they are delayed too long by bad weather, the ducklings, who must feed themselves, may starve. When broods reach water they may amalgamate to form creches of up to 30 or 40 birds under the care of one or more females which may or may not be the mother of the ducklings in the creche. This creche system gives the incubating females opportunity to feed and rapidly regain the weight lost during incubation. If the sea is sufficiently calm, creches of ducklings are then led, perhaps 10 miles or more, to sheltered bays on the mainland where they can feed in quiet waters and grow to fledging weight.

Eiders bred, historically, on sea coasts throughout Eastern Canada, wherever there were small, safe islands and a sufficient area of shallow water (less than about 50 feet deep) in which they could feed. They were, consequently, rare or absent on the west coast of Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, the Gulf coast of New Brunswick (except for a few in the Bay of Chaleur), and the Bay of Fundy, except for those breeding west of Saint John and on the North shore of Minas Basin and Channel. They bred plentifully in Labrador, Newfoundland, and on the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia and in Southwestern New Brunswick and Maine.

Our efforts to document the changes in numbers of many seabird species are frustrated by a lack of reliable historical counts or censuses, but the changing fortunes of eiders in this century can be quite well plotted because we know that they were almost extirpated in Maine and the Maritime Provinces by the first decade of this century. At this time, Bent notes, fewer than a dozen pairs bred in Maine, and that only two or three remained to breed in Nova Scotia. Recovery was rapid once protection was extended by the Migratory Ponds Convention Act of 1917, and in succeeding decades as fishery practices and social patterns changed, more and more inshore islands became untenanted and eiders were able to return to breed. By 1958, Harrison Lewis estimated that 3000 pairs of eiders bred in Nova Scotia and

Howard Mendall counted 18,000 pairs in Maine alone in 1968. Now healthy breeding populations are established in almost all parts of their historic range, save for the Island of Newfoundland. Here human exploitation has been extremely heavy and breeding eiders have been almost extirpated.

Even though eiders breed colonially they are not particularly easy to census, nesting as they do in heavy vegetation on many, often difficult-to-reach islands. So, while a few colonies had been censused accurately, it was not possible before 1981, when I finished my censuses of the main eider breeding concentrations in Atlantic Canada, to do any more than attempt to guess the size of the breeding population. In designing a census with limited time and funds available, it became obvious that a search of all islands or even of all likely nesting islands was out of the question. However, because the plumage of the adult males is so highly visible, and different from that of adult females and immature birds of both sexes, and because eiders are monogamous within a breeding season, it is possible to make accurate estimates of the number of pairs breeding in an area by carrying out low-level aerial counts early in the breeding season. So, in a short time, I was able to fly the entire coastline of Labrador, Southwestern New Brunswick and the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia at times approximating the beginning of incubation and to count the numbers of the strikingly plumaged adult male eiders at each colony. The number of males thus counted was taken as equivalent to the numbers of pairs breeding. This was tested by doing nest counts in all the eider colonies in the northern 200 miles of the Labrador coast and on 37 colonies on the south coast of Groswater Bay --also in Labrador. In these areas about 1.1 males were counted for each nest found, which, considering the difficulties of finding all the nests in every colony, can be taken as confirmation of the accuracy of the census method.

About fifteen thousand pairs were estimated to be breeding in Labrador, over eight thousand pairs on the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia and close to seven thousand pairs in Southwestern New Brunswick. I didn't census the island of Newfoundland, but informed estimates are that fewer than 1000 breeding pairs remain there. In the Bay of Chaleur, there are fewer than 200 pairs breeding and on the north shore of Minas Basin and Channel, perhaps a hundred pairs. So, our best estimate of the breeding population in the Atlantic Provinces is rather more than 31,000 pairs.

The accompanying map shows the numbers of adult male eiders counted during early May census flights around Nova Scotia. At this time males still attend females at colonies so the numbers represent, quite accurately, the breeding distribution of eiders around our coast. This distribution will not be much of a surprise to most birders, but I was a bit taken aback by the numbers around the Seal Island group. Do that many pairs breed there or could some of them have drifted out from islands closer to the mainland?--and that group off Brier Island, where do they breed? Perhaps they have dispersed from colonies in the Grand Manan Archipelago.

When females are firmly established in incubation, males leave the colony and gather in flocks of varying sizes before embarking on the moult migration. This migration, which was first documented about 60 years ago by a Swedish Biologist, is most developed in the seaducks and consists of a movement of adult males and some immature birds from breeding areas to sheltered and safe waters in which to moult. This moult begins while they are still on the breeding areas and when completed, the birds are in eclipse plumage. Moult migrations of up to 3000 km have been documented. Male King Eiders, for instance, leave their Canadian Arctic breeding grounds to moult in waters off the coast of West Greenland. Scandinavian Common Eiders

perform a substantial moult migration, whereas those breeding in Scotland move less than 100 km. I suspect that Nova Scotian birds behave very like those in Scotland. We have few firm data on concentrations of moulting Eiders in June and July, but there appear to be concentrations forming along the coast between Mahone Bay and Cape Sable and possibly along the north shore of Minas Basin and Channel and Chignecto Bay.

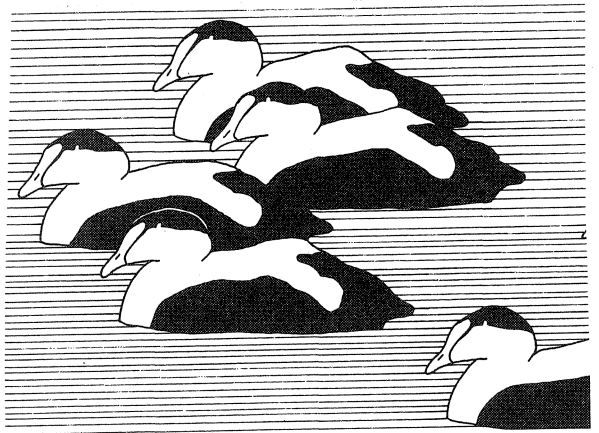
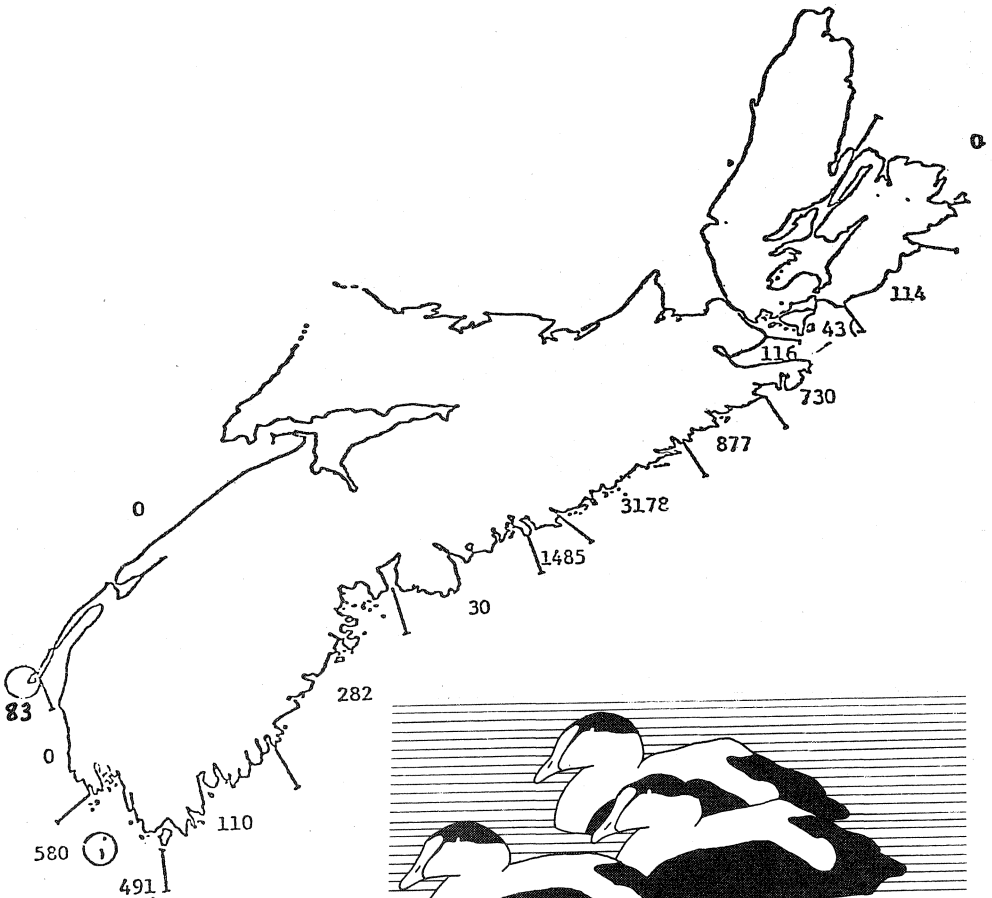
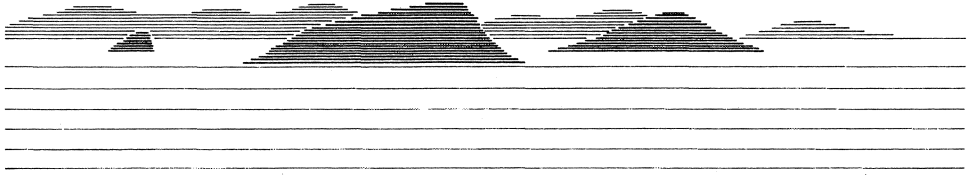
Birders could make a usefully contribution by documenting concentrations of eiders at this time of year and attempting the difficult task of determining the proportions of eclipsed adult males, immature males and immature females. The Chignecto birds may come from South-western New Brunswick or even Maine. However, in the absence of any recorded movements of marked birds, there are just guesses as are any attempts to determine the moulting sites of the thousands of males which breed along the eastern shore.

The moult of females is about a month later than that of males so, while males may be flightless in August, females are usually flightless in September. Males then moult their body feathers to assume breeding plumage in the fall and early winter. Females moult to breeding plumage over the winter months but because there is no change of colour, this is not easily observed.

At present, eiders breed in Atlantic Canada with little disturbance and there is every indication that despite a fairly heavy hunting pressure, populations might be stable. However, it is the misfortune of the eider that it produces a highly prized down. A local retailer quotes \$2000.00 for an eiderdown with 36 ounces of eider down but only \$400.00 for the same item filled with 36 ounces of white goose down. This high value of eider down has prompted various groups and individuals to attempt to harvest down in Canadian Eider colonies. In proper harvesting, only a portion of the down in each nest is removed; if too much is taken, breeding may be unsuccessful. Most of the eider down of commerce comes from Iceland, where individual "farmers" own eider colonies and have a vested interest in managing their birds to produce a sustained yield of down by improving breeding habitat and by not taking too much down from each nest. Where down is gathered on an opportunistic basis, the temptation is to take as much down as possible while it is there for the taking.

Down collection has already started in some New Brunswick colonies and many northern communities which already harvest eider eggs as well as shooting adults for food are now, attracted by the high price of the product, contemplating the collection of eider down. Inuit and Canadian pioneer societies have an opportunistic hunting tradition rather than one of husbandry. It may require careful supervision and training of down collectors, or even a radical shift to individual or community "ownership" of colonies, if self interest and desire for profits are to be made to contribute to conservation of eider colonies, rather than their uncontrolled exploitation.

NUMBERS OF ADULT MALE COMMON EIDERS COUNTED ON EARLY MAY AERIAL
AROUND NOVA SCOTIA



FIELD TRIP REPORTSMay 29 - Paradise Bird Walk

This year we were blessed with good weather, endurable black flies, good company and cooperative birds. Heaven to birdwatchers!

Twelve people met at 8 a.m. at our home, including 3 early risers who drove down from Halifax. We had lots of laughs as enthusiasm was demonstrated--sit on a rock and you are bound to acquire a woodtick. We walked up the South Mountain toward the top--we never seem to actually reach it--and totalled 50 species by lunchtime. Each new species was seen by all participants, with the exception of the Canada Warbler, who chose to be elusive. Later on in the season the male is easy to see, as he leads you away from the nest--he thinks he wins and in the process, so do you.

At noon we listened to warbler songs as we ate, to reinforce Blackburnian versus Cape May, etc. In the afternoon we stopped by the river to catch bank swallows and then made our way to the dykes below the Annapolis Rose Gardens. We added 24 species to our list, including 2 in our yard after returning to Paradise, when Richard Stern saw siskins and an Evening Grosbeak. Our trip to Annapolis included a stop at the Belle Isle marshes and a good viewing of an American Bittern. 74 species in all, and our highest count on this trip--a good day for this, as well as many other reasons.

--Jean Morse

June 5 - Wolfville Region

The small turn-out for this outing was no doubt due to the threatening rain-filled skies that seem to be with us almost daily this spring. However, the heavy rain of the previous evening had ended and other than the soggy walking, the party of five society members ended up having a very enjoyable outing.

We started on farmland at the base of Newtonville Mountain, and saw such species as Bobolink, Kingbird, Alder Flycatcher, Redstart, while overhead were Bank Swallows and a Chimney Swift. On the way up the mountain, visits were made to a mixed woodlot and a mature hemlock stand. As is usual with the heavy leaf cover this time of year, a few species were identified by their songs or call notes, which led to much discussion about bird songs. Being able to hear Veery, Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes in the same woods is reward enough without actually seeing them. We passed near one of my Barred Owl nest boxes and both adults appeared at my call. Another highlight was being able to watch a Brown Creeper taking a moth to her five young behind a loose slab of bark on a long dead stump. Also, an Ovenbird was flushed from a nest that contained five eggs. In an area where Sapsuckers were known to be, I tried a trick I learned some time ago. Sapsuckers become alarmed at the sound of a Barred Owl calling. Sure enough, after a couple of calls a Sapsucker came to the edge of the clearing near our position.

After a lunch break at Lumsden Dam, we drove to Peck Meadow, where the highlights were Red Crossbills, Swamp Sparrows, and courting Nighthawks. The day ended with a drive back to Grand Pre Dyke, where such birds as Northern Harrier, Willet, Killdeer, and Savannah Sparrow were added to the list. The total count added up to 76 species and good fun.

--Bernard Forsythe

June 11 - Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary and John Lusby Marsh

Eight people from the Halifax area gambled on the return of summer were paid off handsomely with a beautiful sunny day, perfect for a leisurely stroll through the area. It was a bit on the windy side so that waterfowl mostly preferred to stay under cover. This cut down on the number observed. Mark Forbes, who studies the breeding population, told of the 52 grebe nests he had found this season and the nests of coots, bitterns, moorhens and soras. Warblers were well represented on the list of more than 60 species observed during the day.

For most, the highlight of the day was the sighting of two families of Canada Geese, that showed their broods of 3 and 5 young.

Before the group dispersed some colonies of Purple Martins were visited in Amherst.

--Con Desplanque.

June 25 - Bird Islands Trip

June 25 was a beautiful day for our annual boat trip around the Bird Islands. With Captain Joe Van Schaik at the helm, we left the wharf at 10 a.m., returning about 12:45 p.m. to a lovely luncheon at the canteen dining room supervised by Mary Van Schaik.

We had 22 in our party-- 2 from Annapolis Royal, Big Pond, North Sydney, Glace Bay and Sydney. Also on the boat we had a young family from Toronto and a couple from Germany.

We sighted 29 species, including 2 kinds of cormorants, Razor-billed Auks, Murres, swallows, gannets and lots of guillemots and gulls. This is the first year the swallows are nesting there. The kittiwakes are trying to keep the Puffins out of their burrows and there are more grey seals around the islands than last year.

--Hedley Hopkins.

July 9 - New Ross Area

The weather wasn't very cooperative for our second New Ross Field Trip. Skies were overcast, and showers had already occurred when we met at Ross Farm Museum at 9 a.m. Nine of us set out for the Lake Ramsay area with some optimism and managed two hours of precipitation-free birding. The rain became rather persistent by noon, and we called it quits in the middle of a hasty outdoor lunch. A somewhat soggy checklist indicated that 58 species were noted (though about 20 were by voice only)--not bad for the short time we had. Nests of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird were examined.

--Keith Keddy.

July 25 - McNab Island Field Trip

A small but enthusiastic group explored McNab Island from end to end under the guidance of Roger Pocklington, a strong advocate for the preservation of the natural environment of the island. It is difficult to point to one particular specialty of the island, although ospreys, which circled overhead near treetop nests, were certainly the most spectacular sight. At one point, 9 ospreys circled over the water between Lawlor's Island and McNab's. This is more than the total osprey population of the British Isles!

Birding on the island seems best combined with exploring the island's history. For instance, near the old Farrand house, we found a variety of warblers: Yellow-rumped, Yellow, Black-throated Green, Black-and-white and Tennessee, all using various portions of the "old field" habitat. At the lagoon were Arctic and Common Terns, the Arctic feeding their young. The lagoon also offered a chance to distinguish Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers and Barn, Tree and Bank Swallows, all flying together. Near Wreck Cove were 6 Great Blue Herons on the shore, probably from the breeding colony on Lawlor's Island.

We explored the forts and climbed the hill near the tea room currently under construction in an old garden overlooking Purcell's Cove amidst copper beech, Japanese maple and mock orange trees. We ate raspberries all along the road and tried the blueberries just starting to ripen.

Despite threatening rain and a bit of drizzle, the sun shone a good part of the day on a trip which offered fauna and flora (including 40 species of birds) of the sea, woodlands, wetlands and grasslands.

Members may be interested to know that by regulations made by the Governor in Council, dated 23rd March, 1983, McNab, Lawlor and Devil's Islands, have Regional Park Designation and the Department of Lands and Forests will be the Provincial agency responsible for their management (NOT Department of Development!)

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August 6 - Petite Riviere Field Trip

Twenty-two members assembled at the Post Office in Petite Riviere for the annual shorebird outing to Crescent and Cherry Hill Beaches. They were not disappointed, for after a shaky start through threatening fog, the weather improved and the viewing was good all day. No rarities were about but the crowd of Shortbilled Dowitchers, Willets, Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Sandpipers, etc., etc. (thirteen species of shorebirds in all) were there to be seen and studied at will. With a lunch stop at Risser's Beach, a few passerines were added to the list--all in all, a most satisfactory trip with good birding and great people.

--Shirley Cohrs

August 20 - Fuller's Bridge

We had perfect weather for our August 20 Field Trip to Fuller's Bridge. Seventeen of us met at Marion Bridge by 8 a.m. We stopped at Big Nidge, Fiddler's Lake, etc., and saw lots of Cedar Waxwings, American Goldfinches and a Swanson's Thrush. It was beautiful by the shore in Gabaruse and we ate lunch at the Breakwater. Our car got stuck in the sand at Belfry Gut but we were soon on the road again after the help of four young men camping there. One of our braver members took a dip in the surf at Belfry Beach. The tide was low at Fuller's Bridge and the clam diggers were at work. We saw 41 species in all including Shore birds and two Red-tailed Hawks. Our birders were from Glace Bay, South Bar, Marion Bridge, Sydney, Toronto, New York and Mass.

--Eldon Meikle

September 10 - St. Ann's Bay Area

Almost a year ago now, when we were choosing dates for our field trips, we took September 10th to be the day for our last day out in 1983. Since the St. Ann's Bay area had been very interesting in 1982, why not go there again?

At 7 a.m., when I was clumping around in rubber boots and rain gear, climbing into Graham Fraser's car for a long drive in a down-pour, I said, "You know, we're a pair of old fools for doing this."

By the time the whole troop had assembled at the St. Ann's look-off, at the top of Kelly's Mountain, there seemed to be a pretty good number of people foolish enough to go squinting between swipes of the wipers to see what was about.

We kept on down the mountain, and made the turn that takes one into the road to North River. Stopping here, the rain ceased, the mist rolled away a bit and things began to seem more cheery. We saw a flock of five loons that had taken to the salt water, along with many Great Cormorants. Great Cormorants have had a most successful season in Cape Breton this year. I have never seen so many young ones with the flocks.

As we continued on our way towards North River, we hit the high spot of the day, and indeed something pretty nice to see on any day--a Horned Owl--in mid-morning. Our leader, Eldon Meikle was the only one of us who actually saw the owl before it flew over the edge and into a place where we couldn't follow. However, everybody else got a good view of its entourage--about thirty-five crows, every one in a frenzy, along with a couple of ravens grunting and honking--poor owl.

After this experience, the Pine Grosbeaks at the picnic tables in Oregon paled into insignificance. They too, have had a most successful year and are being seen in large numbers.

On the return trip four Bald Eagles were soaring above the hen ranches on Boularderie Island. Green-winged Teal and Black Duck were visible in the inlets. The Cape Breton viewers always seem to see such numbers of sea birds and shore birds, probably because our area is so surrounded with water.

So, in spite of an unpromising start, the day was really pleasant, and while we were having lunch at North River we were making plans for next year's field days. Roll on 1984, George Orwell, notwithstanding.

--Sara McLean.

September 18 - Shorebirds at Grand Pre

It's a good thing that local farmers stayed off the Grand Pre dykelands on this Sabbath, because our impressive caravan of 15 cars would have been a serious road-obstruction for them. On this cool, breezy, but thankfully rainless day, the 30+ birders (plus a poodle) first searched the open fields on the dykelands at high tide. There we saw hundreds of roosting Black-bellied Plovers with smaller numbers of Red Knots, Pectoral Sandpipers, Golden Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, and Least Sandpipers (plus Herring, Black-backed, and Ring-billed Gulls). We also had a good look at a low-flying foraging Merlin some Harriers, a Bald Eagle, and a Red-tailed Hawk; the latter was an immature bird and it generated lots of entertaining speculations as to its identity!

We had our lunches on a bluff overlooking Evangeline Beach, where we could see good numbers of varied shorebirds getting active as the tide receded. Then we walked the beach where we were able to view the abundant Black-bellied Plovers plus good numbers of Knots; with them were Dunlins (many still showing black bellies), Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Semi-palmated Plovers, Sanderlings, and Dowitchers.

We also had another look at a Merlin (harrassed by a crow). Some distant offshore ducks in the choppy water provided lots of interest and guessing, but our final conclusion (definite?) was that they were molting male Common Eiders.

One highlight unrelated to birds was the discovery of some fossil plants in shoreline slate; these were stems of Carboniferous club-mosses (Lepidodendron).

P.S. "The leader" apologizes for his uneven disposition (to which the local birders are accustomed!).

P.P.S. After the group disbanded, some of us located some Whimbrels and Water Pipits on the dykelands (but we couldn't find the Buff-breasted Sandpipers that we suspected were still there).

--Jim Wolford

September 24 - Cape Split

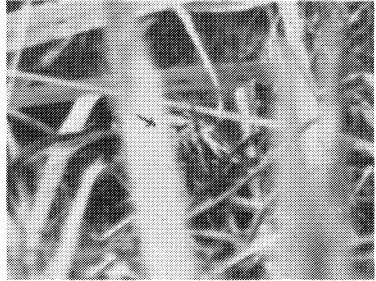
At 9 a.m. on Sunday morning, 24 September, nine members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society set off from the parking lot at the beginning of the hiking trail to Cape Split. Prior to leaving, while waiting for possible late arrivals, many common birds were seen, auspicious signs of the enjoyable day to follow. The weather was ideal; cool, calm and sunny. Many stops were made along the ridge to enjoy the beautiful view of the Bay of Fundy and the opposite shore. The picnic lunch at the Cape was particularly enjoyable; a pair of Red-tailed Hawks soared around the picnic site several times at different heights offering excellent views from above and below. Also, just on the point of returning, a flock of about twenty-five Blue Jays passed as well as small flocks of Siskins, Chickadees (both species) and Goldfinches. Not many seabirds were seen, apart from the usual Herring Gulls and Great Black-backed Gulls, the only species were Loons and Eiders. The climax of the outing, however, was the sighting of a Black-billed Cuckoo which moved ahead of the group in short flights posing several times, thus providing an excellent view for several members for whom it was a first sighting.

A total of forty species was seen by the group; a most enjoyable in all respects.

--Frank Himsl.

TWO MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPHS

These are both first confirmed (by specimen or photo) occurrences in Nova Scotia. Both are totally convincing on the original color slides, but the black-and-white versions are quite adequate for purposes of identification, with a little thought and (if you must) perusal of bird books. The bird on the right has the fore part of its head hidden; its eye would be about at the tip of the added arrow. Answer are on page 55.

DEFINITION OF BIRD WATCHING

Bird watching is a curious and sometimes contagious condition that can only be cured by rising at dawn, armed with field guide and binoculars, and hiking in meadows and marsh lands, through forest and streams, or along a rocky shore.

--Arthur Porter,
Yarmouth, N.S.

UP-COMING FIELD TRIPS

Sunday
Feb. 5 KINGS CO.-WOLFVILLE AREA,
Kentville, Canning, etc. Leader;
Richard Stern. In conjunction
with the Blomidon Naturalist
Society. Meet at Acadia Univ.
Gymnasium parking lot 0900 hours
If weather forbidding, contact
Richard, 678-1975, re possible
cancellation.



Sunday
Feb. 26 SPRYFIELD, HFX. CO. - Sewer
Stroll for gulls and ducks.
Leader: Bill Caudle. Meet at
the Canadian Tire Corporation
parking lot in Spryfield at
0800hrs. Bring warm clothing
and lunch. 'Phone 469-7481 for
more information.

Sunday
Mar. 25 DARTMOUTH, HFX. CO. Late winter birds. Leaders: Don and
Joyce Purchase. Meet at the Bank of Nova Scotia parking
lot (Bridge Plaza, Dartmouth) at 0830 hrs. 434-5199 for
details.

Sunday
Apr. 29 KINGS CO.-- Grand Pre, Gaspereau, Canard. Leader: Jim
Wolford. Meet at the Grand Pre Historic Park parking lot
1000 hrs.

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

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

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

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

Sunday
May 27 COLCHESTER CO.--Shubenacadie region. Leader: Roslyn
MacPhee. 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.

CAPE BRETON FIELD TRIPS FOR 1984

ALL TRIPS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY

Mar. 24 GLACE BAY SANCTUARY AREA. Leader: Sara MacLean. Meet at
Dearn's Corner at 0800 hrs.

- April 28 SALMON RIVER AREA. Leader: Hedley Hopkins. Meet at Marion Bridge at 0800 hrs.
- May 26 GROVE'S POINT AND BOULARDERIE ISLAND. Leader: Eldon Meikle. Meet at Woolco parking lot, Sydney River 0800 hrs.
- June 23 BIRD ISLANDS. Leader: H. Hopkins. Meet at Mountain View Lodge, Big Bras d'Or at 0930 hrs. For reservations phone leader at 562-0405
- July 14 BADDECK AREA. Leader: Graham Fraser. Meet at Provincial Building at 0800 hrs.
- Aug. 18 FULLER'S BRIDGE and POINT MICHAUD. Leader: Eldon Meikle. Meet at Marion Bridge at 0800hrs.
- Sept. 8 LOUISBOURG AREA. Leader TBA. Meet at end of Morrison Rd., on Louisbourg Rd. at 0800 hrs.

COMMENTS ON TWO RARE BIRD REPORTS

The Records Editor has asked me to comment on two submitted reports of vagrants. The first was of a very brief sighting on Seal Island on Sept. 11, 1983, of a bird believed by Steve Manuel to be a Green-tailed Towhee, its "slim, long appearance obvious as it teetered partially hidden on a small branch". Unfortunately, it was seen "only for 2-3 seconds against the light, from the belly up", and he "was unable to determine colors of chest and back". However, it was seen to have a "white throat with moustache extended slightly onto the chest", and its "feathers on the crown were raised so that the reddish cap was obvious". This succinct and commendably honest report certainly suggest that the identification was correct--I know of no other bird that matches the few marks seen--but in view of the brief and incomplete opportunity for study, it had perhaps best remain "unofficial". It is interesting that all our (4) previous records have been for spring.

The other bird was viewed with 10x40 binoculars at mid-day in excellent light at ca. 6-7 m for ca. 40 seconds by Shirley Cohrs, as it fed with Water Pipits on Cherry Hill Beach, on October 1, 1983. With them there was "an even buffier bird" that was ascertained to be "a longspur--about the same size as a Lapland L., but bright buffy right down to the underparts of the tail--giving almost the look of a yellow bird". A nearby Lapland Longspur was "very different...darker, streakier, with white abdomen". There was "merely an impression of triangular mark" on the face. When the stranger flew, it "had white tail sides along the length of the tail like those of a Vesper Sparros --most conspicuous when the bird flew". It is very hard to resist the conclusion by Shirley Cohrs that she had seen an immature Smith's Longspur. I have never seen a bright buffy (certainly not near "yellow") Lapland Longspur, and the white tail feathers of this common species are rarely conspicuous. (Readers might benefit from the excellent reprints of Fuertes plates of longspurs in American Birds, Sept. and Nov., 1979) This observation certainly serves (as a single observer "hypothetical", along with the Aug. 1981 sighting in C.B) to suggest that we keep our eyes open and cameras ready for more of these vagrants from the west in coming seasons.

WESTERN SANDPIPER IDENTIFICATION

Western Sandpiper identification is a difficult field problem, exacerbated by the poor descriptions given in all the standard field guides. This species status in Nova Scotia is not well known, though it is an extreme rarity in spring migration and probably a regular but very scarce migrant in autumn.

There are two main problems:

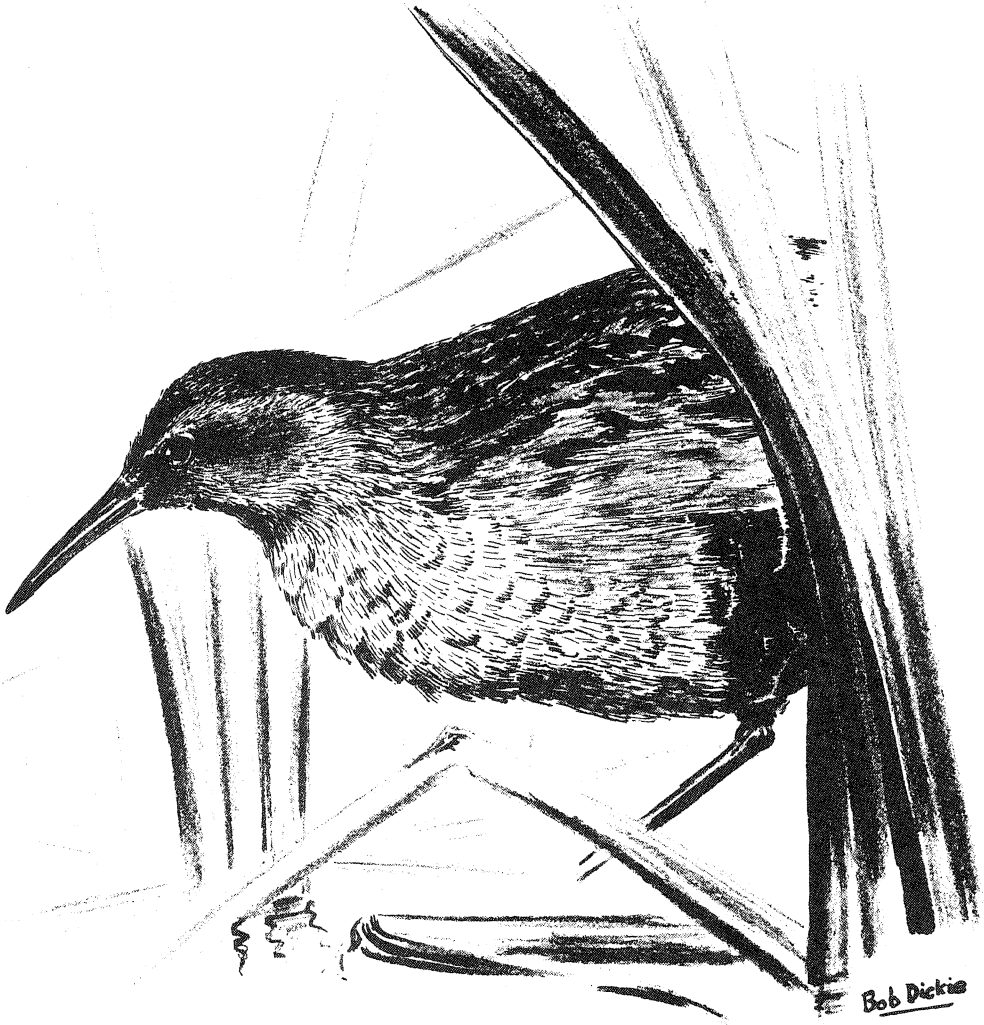
1. Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers overlap in bill size as well as other body dimensions. For example, large female Semipalmated Sandpipers may have larger bills and other body parts than small male Western Sandpipers. Semipalmated Sandpipers from Baffin Island have the longest bills; these are the ones most likely to be confused with Westerns.
2. The field guides don't explain differences of plumage related to age and season. This is important, because at some stages of molt in late summer and autumn, long-billed Semipalmated Sandpipers may look suspiciously like Westerns.

The best mark of Western Sandpiper in autumn--the mark one often sees first--is the bill. Typically, in identifiable birds, it is long, slightly drooping and noticeably thick at the base. Westerns frequently hold the bill pointed down more than do Semipalmateds. They are also long-legged and tend to forage in deeper water, often probing with the head partially submerged. In autumn juveniles there may be a rich contrast of orange-rufous scapulas with gray-brown mantle and greater coverts. The head may also be capped with rufous and the ear-patch rufous, these contrasting strongly with a gray background. Others are apparently pale-headed, without much contrast. My experience is that red-capped, red-eared individuals are more frequent here in autumn, BUT--and this is important--some juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers in autumn have rich brownish or chestnut scapulas, contrasting with paler mantle and coverts, at least for a while. So do some adult Semipalms molting into basic (non-breeding) plumage for the winter. If either is very long-billed it looks superficially like a Western. I suspect that a good many observers have spent a lot of time puzzling over birds like this. Certainly I have.

Juvenile White-rumped Sandpipers are also a source of confusion, for these late migrants have reddish caps, ear-patches and scapulas contrasting with grayish-brown ground colour. Of course they are larger, have longer bodies and wings, giving them a long, pointed-bodied appearance, as well as having the diagnostic, though not always visible, white rump.

The voice of Western Sandpipers is higher pitched than the rather raspy call of Semipalmated Sandpipers. In general, I have found Westerns to be rather quiet in our area, so voice may not be all that helpful.

In my experience Western Sandpipers are scarce in the extreme until late August. After that they are still scarce, although one or two may appear in large flocks of juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers into September. To be safe and sure, one needs considerable knowledge of the age, stage of the molt cycle, and limits of variation of both Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers. Perhaps one day we will know enough to identify each individual safely, but until then, careful, detailed field notes should accompany each record of Western Sandpiper claimed in Nova Scotia.



The following article is reprinted here, with the kind permission of Jack D. Tyler, as it appeared in the Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society 10(4) 28-29, Dec. 1977.

ON CORRECT IDENTIFICATION

George M. Sutton

It sometimes seems to me that the only person fully qualified to comment on that which gives sight records full validity is the confirmed collector of specimens who has had the experience of identifying a living bird in the field to his complete satisfaction, then of collecting that very bird only to find it *not to be* of the species he had been sure it was.

Three times I have had that experience--first at Churchill, Manitoba, along the west coast of Hudson Bay in the summer of 1931, when I crawled across a mudflat on a very foggy day stalking what I felt sure was a Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) only to find, after I'd collected the bird, that it was a Stilt Sandpiper (*Micro-palama himantopus*) in full breeding feather. In heavy fog the bird had appeared to be three times its actual size. That's how fog can affect visibility.

Again, in the northern panhandle of West Virginia, I collected what I felt sure was an adult male Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*), a species that had never been reported from that area, and picked up a Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), a common species there. The sky was clear and very blue that day. The feathers of the catbird's back had reflected that blue and the bird died because I, convinced that the blueness was that of a Blue Grosbeak, and mindful that I had many times failed to obtain an important specimen as a result of too much deliberation, did not check one very important point--the looks of the bird's bill. Many a reader will say: What nonsense! Nobody'd ever mistake a catbird for a grosbeak! To which I reply: That's exactly what I did. I wanted very much to obtain a Blue Grosbeak. And the reflected blueness tipped the scales in favor of my calling the catbird a grosbeak. It was as simple as that; and the point of this particular discussion is that what happened *happened to me*, a veteran.

Again, in central Oklahoma, this time on 13 September 1954, along the east edge of Norman, I collected what I'd identified as a Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*), at that time a species that had never been taken in Oklahoma. I had noted the strongly yellowish tone of the flanks and the rather warm tone on the chest and was confident that the bird was a Philadelphia, this despite the fact that I'd heard a Warbling Vireo (*V. gilvus*) singing more than once that morning in that very area. When I picked the specimen up I saw at once that it was a Warbling Vireo. Its chest was pale buffy, not yellow. For a moment I toyed with the idea that I'd seen one bird and shot another; then I knew that I'd simply misidentified the bird while it was alive.

So nowadays when someone tells me that what he saw was surely a raven (*Corvus corax*) because it was "so much larger" than a crow (*C. brachyrhynchos*), or a Great-tailed-Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) because it was "a whole lot bigger" than a Common Grackle (*Q. quiscula*) the first question I ask is this: Was the day foggy? Or, if the moot bird was supposedly a Philadelphia Vireo, I insist on ascertaining that the color of the underparts was the right sort of light, clear yellow and that this color extended throughout the whole of the throat and breast, before I feel sure that the bird was not a Warbling Vireo.

Most bird students are honest; but I have reason to suspect that many of those who dedicate their efforts primarily to building up a "life list" tend to be content with identifications that are not entirely satisfactory. Especially is this true when the "life lister" knows that the locality and season are right for the species he is determined to see. After all, he may have travelled across a continent just to see that particular species.

Here in Cleveland County, Oklahoma, those of us who have worked, really worked, with the birds of the area know that Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) is a fairly regular winter resident. We know about when it arrives and about when it departs. We know from specimens carefully collected and examined that the molt into handsome breeding feather does not start while the species is here. We know about where to look for the birds, for they seem to be attracted winter after winter to certain largely treeless fields.

How many of us know just what to look for in identifying Smith's Longspur--the boldly black-and-white lesser and middle wing coverts in adult males (a feature that can be seen clearly on a bright day as the birds fly past), the strongly buffy tone of the underparts in both sexes, the diagnostic tail pattern? Showing visitors from afar some flying longspurs and announcing that "they could be Smith's Longspurs" is not enough. Falling back on the well documented statement that all four longspurs are known to occur here in winter is not enough. The truly scientific "life lister" will have in mind just what characters to look for and also exactly what the analogous characters are in similar species before he calls his sight record completely valid.

Editor's Note: George M. Sutton, author of this article, died in Norman, Oklahoma, December 7, 1982. He was the protégé of Louis Agassiz Fuytes, carried on a great artistic tradition himself and encouraged and counselled a whole generation of talented younger artists. As an explorer, ornithologist, artist and author, he influenced thousands of lives, but especially the artists.

FIRST RECORD IN NOVA SCOTIA OF A GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

May 17, 1961,
Bon Portage Island.

The bird was stunned hitting the lighthouse window. Picked up by Evelyn Richardson, it was found to check with the plate in Peterson. The identification was also made by Merrill Richardson and Sylvia Crowell. The bird was released and seemed none the worse.

* * *

NOVA SCOTIA ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS1982ORGANIZATION CATEGORY

Certificate of Merit: Nova Scotia Bird Society, Halifax

Coordinator: Shirley Cohrs

Nominated by: Frank Hennessey, President
N. S. Bird Society

Project: Raptor Rehabilitation Program

The Raptor Rehabilitation Program was started in 1982 in response to concern about the number of raptors injured each year.

The N. S. Bird Society pays all costs for reporting, transportation and veterinary care of injured raptors. Three rehabilitation centres have been established, using volunteers to care for the injured birds.

The program enables many birds, which would otherwise die, to be rehabilitated and returned to the wild, and is an excellent example of wildlife preservation.



Leader of the Opposition Province of Nova Scotia

Suite 1212 Bank of Commerce Building, 1809 Barrington Street
PO Box 723, Halifax Nova Scotia B3J 2T3 Phone 424-3281

Nova Scotia Bird Society
c/o Ms. Shirley Cohrs
Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 3A6

Dear Ms. Cohrs:

I was pleased to see the Nova Scotia Bird Society on the list of recipients for an Environmental Award.

Your Society's contribution to the environmental welfare of Nova Scotia should set an example for others to follow.

With best regards, and please extend my congratulations to the members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society for receiving the Certificate of Merit.

Sincerely,

Sandy Cameron

(July 29, 1983)

IDENTIFICATION OF MYSTERY BIRDS

Although the bill of the left-hand bird is not very clearly shown, it does not appear to be very prominent, and you are off to a good start if you recognize the bird as a warbler. The two strong, white wing bars eliminate many possibilities. The evidently unstreaked throat, breast and sides leaves out a whole suite of possible Dendroica spp., as does the lack of streaking on the back (although this is a little tricky on the photo). Although it is a little messy, there appears to be a distinct eyestripe--not an eyering, ear patch, or other facial markings. All these features signify a female or immature Cerulean Warbler. A blue-grey cast on back and crown is evident on the original slides taken by IAM on Seal Is., on August 16, 1983, but this merely adds to the above, quite adequate points of identification.

You can't see the bill on the right-hand bird, but the bird does appear to be a small, streaked, furtive job--in a word, a sparrow. It looks like one of those squat, large-headed grassland sparrows, doesn't it? The strong dark and light back streaks eliminate some possibilities. The pale crown stripe, the obscure streaks on the nape and, most diagnostically, the unique dark, pointed mark behind the ear patch allow firm identification of a LeConte's Sparrow. The bird, photographed by Bruce Mactavish on October 6, 1974, was understandably overlooked by him when he got his slides back; he though his snapshot effort had failed. He rediscovered the bird recently and had its identity accepted as a Nova Scotian "first" by the National Museum ornithologists.

FIRST RECORD OF A SEASIDE SPARROW

not only for Nova Scotia but for all of Canada

February 4, 1962.
Lawrencetown,
Halifax County

Seen and collected by C.R.K.Allen, Willett Mills and Lloyd MacPherson. Verified in Ottawa by Dr. Earl Godfrey.

* * *

FIRST RECORD IN NOVA SCOTIA OF A CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR

May 29 - June 1, 1962
Bon Portage Island,
Evelyn Richardson

* * *

FIRST RECORD FOR NOVA SCOTIA OF A RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

All winter, 1961-62,
Middleton, Anna.County

Movie sent to Dr. Earl Godfrey to confirm.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

This past week, the park had two unusual visitors--a pair of Caspian Terns. The status unusual is correct for they have never been sighted in Cape Breton Highlands National Park before. In fact, there is only one other record of this bird from Cape Breton, that being Cheticamp Island in 1968.

The pair of Caspian Terns were observed for over 15 minutes foraging along the coast of North Bay in Ingonish by several park staff. Their large size (similar to a young herring gull), black cap, large red bill and short tail, were all clearly seen.

As the name implies, these birds were first described from specimens taken near the Caspian Sea. They are a cosmopolitan bird and nest in several regions of North America such as the Niagara Peninsula central Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and as far north as Great Slave Lake.

Robie Tufts, author of the Birds of Nova Scotia, writes that most of the individuals seen in Nova Scotia reach our shores after being blown here during storms originating in or passing through central Canada. As a result, the birds are often found washed ashore, either dead or barely alive.

This pair, which were very healthy, may have been migrating south from their breeding colony in northern Quebec. A small colony of Caspian Terns has been reported along the Gulf of St. Lawrence, near the Quebec/Labrador border. If indeed they are migrants, then they will probably continue south to the wintering grounds in the Gulf of Mexico. Once there, they will stay close to shore, feeding on small fish and shrimp which they catch by diving head-first into the water.

Although we still hope that summer will remain with us for a few more weeks, many birds have already begun their fall migration. From now until late November, birds will be passing south--some regular migrants, others such as the Caspian Tern a rare visitor--or perhaps we just haven't been looking enough.

Bill Fisher,
Cape Breton Highlands National
Park

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

Enclosed please find two copies of "Checklist of Birds, Cape Breton Highlands National Park", our association has recently published. We thought your members might like to be informed about the checklist. As you can see, copies can be obtained by contacting Formac Publishing, Ste. 333, 1651 Barrington St., Halifax, N.S., B3J 2A1.

The checklist seems to be generating much more interest in the avifaunal aspect of the park. As well, we would appreciate comments on the checklist (format, code, species etc...).

Betty Rooney,
President, Les Amis due Plein Air,
Cheticamp.

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

This week is normally a busy time at the tern colony off the tip of Middle Head Peninsula. The adults are busy foraging for their fledglings and at the same time defending their territory against other terns and the ever present gulls. However, that scene is missing this summer--the terns are gone.

As in the past, the tern colony came to life this spring, in May, with the return of the breeding adults. Many of these birds spent the winter in the southern hemisphere, probably along the southern coasts of Africa and South America. Their annual migration north is one of the longest and most enduring known.

Park staff--Cape Breton Highlands National Park--monitored activity at the colony once the birds arrived. We are particularly interested in knowing how many birds are nesting in comparison to previous years. This colony has both Arctic and Common terns so we also keep track of the relative abundance of each species. Everything seemed normal during June--about 200 birds were breeding and about 15% were Arctic Terns.

Nest building and other courtship activities were observed and adults were nesting by late June. In past years the first nestlings appear by the second week of July and the young are flying by July 25. This year, the terns disappeared from the island, sometime between July 1 and July 18.

We are unsure as to why the birds disappeared, but it seems likely that a major disturbance must have taken place at the colony. We can only speculate as to the cause but human disturbance of some kind seems likely. The colony is physically separated from the mainland by water and steep cliffs but it would be possible for people to reach the island--particularly at low tide on calm days. A curious photographer or someone collecting eggs could easily disrupt the colony--even if they only spent fifteen minutes on the island. If such was the case, then the terns will abandon their nest and gulls will feed on the eggs and nestlings.

It is difficult to assess the consequences of the terns not completing their breeding here. Hopefully the terns will return again next spring and continue to make this rock outcrop their colony. If not, the only tern colony in the park will have vanished.

Bill Fisher,
Cape Breton Highlands National Park

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

Your 1983, January edition of Nova Scotia Birds contains a photograph of two young ospreys in nest which was taken by Doug Archibald on July of 1981, on Bon Portage Island, Shelburne County. In 1982, this same nest produced an infertile egg and fledged one young which was earlier banded on July 17th of that year. Your readers may find it interesting to know that the band was recovered this past spring ('83) on April 17, 15 km west of Cayenne, French Guyana, South America. How the bird died is not known at the time of writing.

C. K. Coldwell.



Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

Enclosed is a photograph that is perhaps of good enough quality for reproduction.

Members of the Bird Society, I think, will be quite surprised to learn that the hummingbird is the cause of hole riddled trees.

Seriously, sapsuckers fed on this tree and a pair of hummingbirds followed the sapsuckers for several days apparently feeding on the sap.

Ross Hall, Wildlife Biologist,
N.S. Dept. Lands & Forests

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

Please find enclosed, information concerning the Audubon camp in Maine. This is the second year that a course in Field Ornithology has been given. The response was so great that a second session was scheduled this year; 3-10 Sept. '83. Both sessions were full last March, 50 students per session.

The food is excellent (I gained 3 lbs.), lots of it and a wide variety; all you can eat. Accommodation is good; 40 students were in double rooms and 10 in one large room. One large central wash house, but each barrack block has a toilet on each floor. The rooms are very clean. The staff (college students) do an excellent job at keeping the camp clean and in good shape. The director, Dr. Stephen Kress runs a tight ship; there are no radios, T.V.s, phones or newspapers--beautiful, peaceful and quiet, with CB radio for emergencies only. The camp is easy to reach; Audubon has two boats used for field trips and transportation.

Enough about logistics, now for the course. I include a list of the instructors, together with their biographies; they are all well qualified. They are excellent lecturers, highly professional, they all made good use of audio-visual equipment and they all knew their subject and were able to handle the questions, from the dumb to the most detailed. The lectures given were:

The Origin of Birds
Clues to identification
Field Guides
Binoculars and Scopes

Speciation (Family of Birds)
 Bird Flight (Bird Adaptations)
 Banding (with practical demo)
 Puffin Project
 Song Bird Conservation.
 Atlantic Islands
 Taxonomy

As you can see from the daily schedule, the day was long, 0530 hrs to 2200 hrs. Field trips every day--the groups identified 117 species; I saw 63 of which 14 were life birds. The 50 students were divided into groups depending upon their experience and knowledge. We have been serious birders for 7 years so we went with the experienced groups and this was the correct choice. The students were further sub-divided into groups of 8 for the field trips. Each group had at least one instructor, sometimes two. The instructors were not interested in seeing how many birds they could identify but took great care and effort to instruct us in the correct method to make an identification. They provided excellent visual and aural instruction. They also provide natural history information for each location we visited. We were also given information on the human history of the Muscongus Bay settlers.

The course met all of its objectives and all of the fifty students were pleased. I include a list of students and, as you can see, they were a diverse lot. I highly recommend this course.

Norm & Betty Donovan, Kingston, N.S.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an abridged version of the Donovan's letter. They included much detail about the Maine camp but space does not allow us to print it all. However, if any member would like more information, please get in touch with the Editor, who will be pleased to lend these most interesting accounts sent in by the Donovans.

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

Having got my report off to Phyllis, my duty is done for now. However, there always seem to be a few things that need a little more attention than the report supplies. So, here they are. Use them if you wish.

On June 6, we had what must have been the most notable sighting of our summer. Coming home, and doing as I always do--head straight for the kitchen to see what may be moving around the back garden, where all the action is, I saw an unusual visitor. Can it be? It can't be'. It must be! There it was, hopping around in the spruce, breast as yellow as a dandelion, tail cocked up at a jaunty angle, feasting busily on something nice that he was finding. I brought out the books and consulted them, and looked at the pictures. Finally, I called my neighbour, who would be a reliable witness to this unusual sighting, "Come on up, Graham, and come in the front way, I don't want this bird disturbed."

Graham Fraser was here in a moment and he confirmed what I thought. A Yellow-breasted Chat. Now, we do see chats once in a while. Not every year by any means, but heretofore the sightings have always been around Christmas time or early January, never in summer. How this one got so far from home is difficult to imagine. I don't know how long he had been here when I first saw him but he remained for a couple of hours in late afternoon, so we had a very good view of him from 25 feet or less. A bright male, he seemed to be in excellent condition. He stayed until dusk but never appeared again and nobody else seems to have seen him. Godfrey says it

prefers a habitat "where it can keep out of sight". I may say that this one didn't seem to care one bit whether he kept out of sight or not. Perhaps he thought himself invisible.

On September 10, two of my friends, who are by no means deeply interested in the doings of birds, returned from a trip to Newfoundland by way of the ferry from Port aux Basques to North Sydney. They told me that it was a daytime crossing, and that as soon as they left the harbour in Port aux Basques, they became aware of a large number of "pretty little birds" who were also passengers on the ferry. The lifeboats, they said, were covered with them, and some were even hopping about the deck, very tame; almost, but not quite, willing to be touched.

The fact that small warblers come by ferry gives me all kinds of pleasure. My friends among the fisherman tell me tales of seeing Greater black-backed Gulls catching and swallowing warblers at sea. So, here are some who know how to cross the gulf in comfort. Has anyone else seen this?

--Sara MacLaan

CAN YOU HELP?

The Atlantic and Gulf Coast Beached Bird Survey is looking for birders who would be willing to walk our beaches searching for dead birds that wash up.

The purpose of the project is to establish a base line of normal bird mortality as determined by the dead birds that reach the beaches. Against this base line, changes, either in the short term or over longer periods, can be measured.

The eight year old project is headed by Malcolm Simons Jr., of Charlotte Harbour, Florida, and at present extends from Texas to Florida (around the Gulf of Mexico) and along the Atlantic coast from Florida to Nova Scotia. Similar projects are being carried out on the Pacific Coast and in the Great Lakes.

In Nova Scotia there are now two members of our society in the project. Linda Conrad of West Lawrencetown is the first Nova Scotian to participate. (Linda is surveying Conrad's and Lawrencetown Beaches). More recently, I started surveying Martinique Beach.

There are lots of excellent beaches in the province which could be surveyed and all that is needed is birders who would be willing to walk those beaches and note the dead birds they find.

Four times a year we fill out a very simple report and send it to Mr. Simons, who tabulates the results from everywhere and sends his report to each participant.

Anyone who feels that he or she might like to assist in this fascinating project is asked to write...

Mr. Bob Dickie,
43 Deepwood Cres.,
Halifax, N.S. B3M 2Y5

I'll forward all necessary details to you.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
1983 Annual General Meeting

The 1983 AGM of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held on November 24, 1983, at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, N.S. The President, Mr. Frank Hennessey was in the chair with 64 members present.

The minutes of the 1982 meeting, published in the January 1983 issue of Nova Scotia Birds was again distributed to members attending the meeting. It was moved by Ethel Crathorne, seconded by Mike Almon that the minutes be accepted as issued. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes.

Piping Plover Report.

Stephen Fleming and Roland Chaisson reported on their 1983 activities. This year they were part of a team of three people sponsored by the N.S.B.S., and funded by the Federal Government's "Summer Canada Employment Program". 60-70 pairs of Piping Plover were found during an extensive survey. 11 to 14 pairs were found on Cadden Beach, compared to 30 in 1976. It appears that when disturbed by human activity near the nest site, the chicks do not feed, even for some time after the humans have moved on. The result is high mortality.

Publicity--This was very good with both newspaper and TV coverage. Most of the signs survived and were respected by the public.

Habitat--This is changing over the years where there was once a sandy beach is now cobble stones--the birds are moving to stay in a suitable habitat.

Predators--5% loss confirmed to Gulls and Crows but 30% is still unknown. Crows are the number one enemy; they even took 15 dozen disguised chicken eggs.

Many thanks were extended to all of the people who had participated in the program from Yarmouth to Cape Breton.

Frank Hennessey advised that both the N.S.B.S. and the Federal authorities were very pleased with the program and that N.S.B.S. wished it to continue next year.

Financial Report.

Chris Field tabled his report for 1983. The present balance is \$5782.30 compared to \$5011.19, one year ago. Membership is again down, resulting in lower receipts. One package of cheques, ready for deposit at the bank, was lost. However, all but \$40 has been recovered by way of duplicate cheques. None of the lost cheques were ever cashed; it is presumed that they were inadvertently destroyed. Chris Field moved, and Wendy Tay seconded that the report be accepted. Carried.

Membership Report.

Shirley Brothers presented her report. 1981 and 1982 figures shown for comparison.

<u>Catagory</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1981</u>
Single	258	292	429
Family	131	132	118
Senior	129	105	-
Student	15	15	11
Life	7	6	7
Institution	9	8	10
	<u>549</u>	<u>558</u>	<u>575</u>

Acceptance was moved by Shirley Brothers. The motion was seconded by Joyce Purchase, who added an expression of thanks for all the extra work undertaken by Shirley to sort out the Postal Code rework for mailing under Canada Post new regulations. Carried.

Junior Field Trip

Bill Caudle reported that the Junior Field Trip was held on 15 September, 1983. The Grade 12 Biology class from Halifax West High School and two teachers went to Crescent Beach and Rissers Beach. A total of 27 species was seen. On September 13, John Cohrs and Bill Caudle gave a classroom lecture, illustrated with slides of birds the students could expect to see. This resulted in much greater understanding by the students on the actual day. Thanks were extended to John Cohrs, and to Ed Richard and Eric Cooke, who assisted Bill Caudle as leaders on the beaches.

Field Trips

Frank Himsl thanked all the people who had acted as leaders. He advised that distant trips had been poorly attended and that causes and solutions to the problem will be looked into.

Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund.

Ian McLaren reported that they had not spent much money in the past year, the Raptor Rehabilitation program was going well and that the fund had been used to bridge the funding from the Federal Government for the Piping Plover Program. The committee is trying to find ways, other than buying isolated islands, of putting the funds to use. The committee had been working with the Provincial Government regarding the purchase by the Government of Conrad's Beach. Progress is being made. The Government is excluding some parcels of land which are marshy and the S & STF may look into purchase of these areas once a Government control program is in place (Special Places Legislation).

Suggestions from members are requested as to use of the assets. Eric Cooke then presented the financial report. The balance is now \$50,703.07, compared to \$38,844.41 this time last year. Since the closing of the books, a donation of \$2000.00 has been received from the estate of the late Robie Tufts.

Acceptance of the report was moved by Eric Cooke, seconded by J. Cohrs. Carried.

President's Report.

Both the President's report and the award of the Puffin of the Year to Shirley Cohrs are printed elsewhere in this issue of Nova Scotia Birds.

Nominating Committee.

Margaret Clark, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for 1984:

President	Bill Caudle
Past President	Frank Hennessey
Vice-President	Joyce Purchase
Membership	Shirley Brothers
Treasurer	Chris Field
Secretary	Robert Dickie

The committee also recommended the following appointments:

Editor	Shirley Cohrs
Honourary Auditor	Jim Morrow
Honorary Legal Advisor	R. Kanigsberg

After three calls for nominations from the floor, Margaret Clark called for nominations for the three Executive Directors.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Mover</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Karl Tay	John Cohrs	Eric Cooke
James McLaren	Don Purchase	Shirley Cohrs
Frank Himsl	Sylvia Fullerton	Chris Field

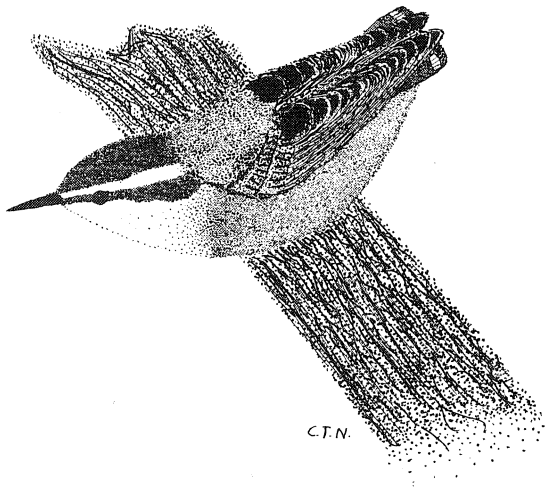
Margaret Clark moved, Eric Cooke seconded, that nominations cease.

The slate of officers was then put to the vote and carried.

The new President, Bill Caudle, took the chair and thanked Frank Hennessey for his efforts as President. He asked the members to wish Frank well on his proposed trip and asked Frank to give us progress reports.

There being no new business, John Cohrs moved the meeting adjourn.

W.G. (Bill) Caudle,
Acting Secretary.



NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
(Incorporated 1957)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the Twelve Months ended October 31, 1983
(with comparative figures for the year ending October 31, 1982)

	1983	1982
Balance from previous year	\$5011.19	\$3558.43
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Membership dues	4997.46	5073.63
Savings interest	288.66	450.93
G.I.C. interest (202.60)	146.60	(183) 147.00
N.S. Museum Grant	2000.00	2000.00
Sale of publications etc.	821.54	856.97
Replacement of misplaced cheques	157.00	-
Miscellaneous	180.50	147.83
	<u>\$13602.95</u>	<u>\$12255.37</u>
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>		
Three issues of N.S. Birds	5273.50	5592.03
Postage and stationery	1026.17	524.83
Editor's expenses	150.70	71.93
Word processing for membership list	117.07	-
Subscriptions	76.44	72.95
Monthly meeting expenses	20.00	27.90
A.G.M. meeting	292.76	173.19
Printing of membership cards and forms	275.18	-
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	313.24	-
Typewriter maintenance	39.03	-
Misplaced cheques	209.00	-
Bank charges	27.56	-
Purchase of file cabinet	-	98.99
Field trip expenses	-	56.24
President's expenses	-	31.89
Owl Rehabilitation Program	-	115.33
Miscellaneous	-	46.17
	<u>7820.65</u>	<u>7204.84</u>
Balance in Royal Bank of Canada	<u>5782.30</u>	<u>5011.19</u>
	<u>\$13602.95</u>	<u>\$12216.03</u>

BALANCE SHEET

<u>ASSETS</u>		
Electric Typewriter (cost \$296.45)	77.71	97.14
Steel Filing Cabinet (cost \$99.96)	1.00	1.00
Steel Filing Cabinet (cost \$98.99)	79.19	98.99
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	1613.24	1300.00
Balance in Royal Bank of Canada	5782.30	5011.19
(Savings Acc't \$5051.51, Current Acc't \$730.79)		
	<u>\$7553.44</u>	<u>\$6508.32</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Surplus	\$7553.44	\$6508.32

Audited and found correct
according to the books.

J. Morrow
Auditor

Frank Hennessey
Frank Hennessey - President
Christopher Field - Treasurer

Christopher Field

Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund

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

Board of Directors -	Dr. I. McLaren, Chairman	Dr. G.K. Gregoire
	Dr. B.K. Doane	C.R.K. Allen
	J.L. Cohrs	R.A. Kanigsberg
	C.H. Chipman	E.H. Cooke

Financial Statement from November 1, 1982 to October 31, 1983
with comparative figures from November 1, 1981 to October 31, 1982

	<u>To October 31, 1983</u>	<u>To October 31, 1982</u>
<u>Balance Forward</u>	\$ 50,703.07	\$ 38,844.41
<u>Receipts</u>		
Debenture Interest	\$ 948.68	\$ 1,220.76
Bank Interest	551.71	444.26
Regular Contributions	2,028.00	219.00
Chris Cohrs Fund	3,300.00	-
N. Peters	-	<u>11,000.00</u>
	<u>\$ 6,828.39</u>	<u>\$ 12,884.02</u>
<u>Disbursements</u>		
Bank Charges	\$ 65.01	\$ 42.55
Property Taxes	266.77	289.25
Junior Field Trip	108.34	465.38
Sanctuary Expenses	20.00	8.06
Raptor Rehabilitation	237.20	220.12
Audubon Lecture	860.16	-
Miscellaneous	<u>11.00</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 1,568.48</u>	<u>\$ 1,025.36</u>
<u>Net Worth</u>	<u>\$ 55,962.98</u>	<u>\$ 50,703.07</u>

Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund

	<u>Assets</u>	
<u>Bank Account</u>	<u>October 31, 1983</u>	<u>October 31, 1982</u>
Current Account	\$ 276.52	\$ 6.00
Savings Account	5,623.15	873.22
Savings Account (MH)	<u>3,503.31</u>	<u>3,263.85</u>
	\$ 9,402.98	\$ 4,143.07
 <u>Debentures</u>	 \$ 11,900.00	 \$ 11,900.00
 <u>Sanctuaries</u>		
Outer Bald, Middle Bald, Half Bald and Mossy Bald Islands	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Hertford Island	160.00	160.00
Indian Island	12,000.00	12,000.00
N. Kemptville property	1,500.00	1,500.00
Peters Island	<u>20,000.00</u>	<u>20,000.00</u>
	\$ 34,660.00	\$ 34,660.00
 Total Assets	 \$ 55,962.98	 \$ 50,703.07

CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION NEWS RELEASE - September 6, 1983.

Conservationists Hope to Avoid International Incident

A tiny speck of land off the New Brunswick coast is the centre of a growing controversy involving sea captains, the governments of Canada and the United States and naturalists from both countries. Machias Seal Island is a 15 acre (6hectare) patch of rock and sparse vegetation, with birds everywhere.

The big problem is that the island's birds were too attractive to birdwatchers, photographers and curiosity-seekers. The site is designated a Canadian federal migratory bird sanctuary, and regulations limit visitors to 25 per day. For several years, two sea captains, one from New Brunswick and one from Maine, have brought visitors to the island, sharing the 25-person quota between them. In recent months however, two more American captains have been bringing tourists, and a number of private boats have been visiting the site. Arctic terns, the most numerous birds on the island, are sensitive to disturbance and have been declining in numbers. The island also provides a home to puffins, razorbills, petrels, sandpipers and swallows. Its puffins are the southernmost colony within reach of large numbers of Canadians and Americans.

The situation is complicated by a dispute between Canada and the United States over ownership of Machias Seal Island. Canada, which has maintained a lighthouse on the island for 151 years, claims sovereignty, but concern over fishing and mineral rights in the area has led the U.S. to dispute this claim. Canadian wildlife officials have attempted to enforce controls on access. However, some of the sea captains have taken the position that the site is within U.S. waters and freely available to American visitors. The situation has led to unpleasant confrontations between the sanctuary warden and those attempting to land visitors.

The Canadian Nature Federation, which has an observation blind on the island, is trying to bring a halt to the conflict and eliminate the threat to the bird colonies. Gregg Sheehy, spokesman for the Nature Federation said, "the island may look pretty small on the map, but to the birds that breed there it is a vulnerable home. Overuse by tourists threatens the sanctuary, and it is vital that we have enforced standards for controlling visitors".

The Nature Federation is working with conservation groups in New Brunswick and the U.S. to resolve the conflict among users and control access to the island. Sheehy stated, "I feel confident that with cooperation all around, we can work out a fair agreement that will protect the birds while allowing naturalists from both countries to enjoy the beauty of the area".

For further information, please contact:

Gregg Sheehy,
Canadian Nature Federation
75 Albert Street, Suite 203,
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6G1
(613) 238-6154

Mary Majka,
Mary's Point Road,
R.R. 2, Albert,
NewBrunswick E0A 1A0
(506) 882-2100



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

1983-1984 Executive

President - Bill Caudle
Past President - Frank Hennessey
Vice-President - Joyce Purchase
Secretary - Bob Dickie
Treasurer - Chris Field
Editor - Shirley Cohrs
Membership - Shirley Brothers
Executive Member - Karl Tay
Executive Member - James McLaren
Executive Member - Frank Himsl
Solicitor - R. S. Kanigsberg
Auditor - James Morrow

Membership Fees

Life Membership	\$240.00
Single Membership	8.00
Family Membership	10.00
Student Membership	6.00
(available to those under 18)	
Institutional	12.00
Senior Citizens	6.00

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

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

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Seasonal Bird Reports	C.R.K. Allen R.G.B. Brown Francis Spalding Phyllis Dobson Ian A. McLaren Shirley Cohrs

*Cover drawing of Piping Plover
by Chris Naugler*

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