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CATTLE EGRET by Ted d'Eon

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fall Bird Reports 1984	2
Glace Bay Birding - Sara MacLean	27
Letters to the Editor	37
Birding on a Bicycle - Frank Hennessey	42
Field Trip Reports	43
Upcoming Field Trips	53
The Jackdaw Story - Ian McLaren	56
Beached Bird Project	60
Annual General Meeting	69

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President's Report 1984

1984 has, in many ways been a quiet year for our society.

I would like to thank all those of you who have made things happen. All the leaders of field trips, Frank Himsl, for doing the arranging; John Cohrs, who has been the M.C. at our meetings here each month; Jamie McLaren and the other directors for arranging the evening programs; Millie Lawrence for looking after the coffee and cookies each meeting; Phyl Bryson for tonight's refreshments; Shirley Cohrs for the production of Nova Scotia Birds.

Where to Find The Birds in Nova Scotia, now called Birding Nova Scotia, is receiving acclaim from British Columbia to Newfoundland, all thanks to the team consisting of C.R.K.Allen, P.R. Dobson, B.J. Smith, G.D. Perry, Bob Dickie and Shirley Cohrs.

As recommended by our past president, Frank Hennessey, we have established an Environment and Conservation Committee. You have already heard Peter Payzant's report.

The Raptor Rehabilitation Program is still benefiting many birds. I often hear of people who are anxious to help an injured bird. One night last spring I had three phone calls in one evening.

You have also heard the report of our Junior Field Trip. Unfortunately I was out of town for that day and missed an exhilarating occasion. For this event we must thank Mr. Kanigsberg. I understand he is now in poor health; he has been our unpaid legal advisor for many years and he is sorely missed. I am sure you will want to join me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

Shirley Cohrs and I had the pleasure of representing the Society at the inaugural screening of "The Eagles of Bras d'Or", a film made by the Provincial Department of Education. We are making arrangements to screen it here in the New Year. You must arrange to be here; it is an unforgettable movie.

There is one area of concern on my part. At each of our meetings we get an attendance of about 45. Our field trips are attended by about 15 people on each trip. I suspect that this means we are only reaching about half of our membership. The other half see us only when reading Nova Scotia Birds.

I would like to ask those "Hidden" members--What can we do to help you?--we need to know you better. If any of you have a special area of interest that we could explore, or an idea that could be expanded, please drop me a line or put a note in with your membership renewal; I want to hear from you.

I have enjoyed being your president for the past year.

Thank you,

W. G. Caudle

BIRD REPORTS

LOONS AND GREBES

The first reported sighting of RED-THROATED LOONS was of one at Hartlen Point, Sept. 16 (CF). From then on, they appeared in small numbers (1 to 4) wherever coastwise birders do their birding: Martinique Beach, Seaforth, the Lawrencetowns, Hartlen Point, Green Bay-Crescent Beach, Lr. W. Pubnico, Seal Is., Beaver River, Clementsport, Evangeline Beach, Port Howe. Margaret Churchill and June Graves counted 30 Red-throateds along a 20-mile stretch of shore from Beaver River to Cape St. Mary, Yar. Co. Eric Mills' report of an ARCTIC LOON (adult in molt) seen by him at Pond Cove, Brier Is., Sept. 3, is accompanied by a detailed description which leaves no doubt in the writer's mind as to its correctness. A copy may be had upon request. COMMON LOONS are well reported as to numbers, well over 250 individuals from 18 reporters. Of these latter, Halifax expectably leads with 7, Yarmouth second with 3, Lunenburg and Guysborough next with 2 each and Annapolis, Digby and Shelburne trail with one reported each--that is, for this species. Richard Stern had 85 of these Loons at Brier Is. June 22- Oct 28; Bob Dickie, 19 in the Halifax-Martinique area for about the same period; the Gallaghers, 16, from June 14-Sept. 10 in the Barrington-Shelburne area, and they were reported as numerous in Chester-Chester Basin during the period, by Ruth Hebb. On specific dates, there were 10 at Conrad's Beach, Dept. 15 (FLL); 25 at Lr. W. Pubnico, Oct. 25 (JD'E,DJd'E), and Ian McLaren had a good "fly-by" of about 20 birds at Seal Is., Nov. 10. There are, strange to say, only two records of young birds, both by the same reporters: an adult carrying two young on its back, June 29, at Rocky Lake, and two adults with one young on Miller's Lake, July 26 (the Payzants).

A good sized brood--2 adults, 7 three-quarter grown young--of PIED-BILLED GREBES was seen by Keith Keddy in New Ross, July 18, this being his first record of the species for that locality. All other sightings--10 in all, were of 1-2 birds, observed at Glace Bay Sanctuary, Sable Is., Seal Is., Loch Lomond (Cape Breton), Three Fathom Harbour, Russell Lake, Gavelton, Short Beach, Yar. Co., and Digby Neck. The last sighting to date was Nov.12, at Russell Lake, near Dartmouth. The first HORNED GREBES of the season were 10 birds scattered over the water about ½ mile off Chester, Oct. 19, seen by Ruth Hebb, who also found 10 in the same general area, Oct. 22 and 9 on Oct. 24. There was a single one at Clementsport, Nov. 4 (SH), 6, in St. Margaret's Bay, Nov. 11 (CF), another single bird at sea, Nov. 12 (FLL, DM) and 10 at Louis Head, Nov. 17 (MC et al.). There were just three reports of RED-NECKED GREBES so far: 1, Oct. 6, in Digby Harbour (MC et al.); 1, Oct. 12 at Green Bay (JSC) and 1, Oct. 21 at Martinique Beach (RBD). No reports at all for November when they should be building up.

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

HERONS AND RELATIVES

Although AMERICAN BITTERNS were said in the "Fall Flyer" to have been more numerous and regular, only 7 summer birds were reported for this issue. They are thought to have declined in the New Ross area (KNK). Our only fall reports were of singles at Crescent Beach on Sept. 16, and at Conrad's Beach on Sept. 20-23, and 2 near Annapolis Royal on Nov. 17.

It is worth adding that a GREAT BLUE HERON evidently overwintered near Canso in 1983-84 (W&NP). They were of course, widely reported in summer; two observers thought their numbers were down, three thought they were about the same, but most made no such comments. The

only large gatherings away from colonies, were of 28 at Little Hbr., Pictou Co., on July 10, and 20+ on Cole Hbr., on Sept 22. There were 6 scattered November reports.

Our only GREAT EGRET was at Dan'l's Head, Cape Sable Is., on Sept. 1 (RR&CDG). The 2 SNOWY EGRETS at Lawrencetown Lake in spring were last seen on May 27 (CF), so that a bird there on July 29, which became 3 on Aug. 2, and 1 periodically between Aug. 15 and Sept. 14, must have been summer arrivals. Individuals were at Dan'l's Head on Aug. 25 and Sept 1, at Lr. W. Pubnico on Sept. 8, and at Todd's Is., St. Margaret's Bay from Oct. 30 to at least Nov. 18. The earliest LITTLE BLUE HERON was an immature bird at Three Fathom Harbour from July 29 to Aug. 3 (sev. obs.), and two others were at Hazel Hill on Aug. 10 and beyond (NP), and at Dan'l's Head on Sept. 9 (JR & CDG). An imm. TRICOLORED HERON at Three Fathom Harbour on July 30, and probably the same bird there on Aug. 15 (good details FLL,RBD), added to the swelling list of records of this once very rare heron. A CATTLE EGRET was on Grand Pre on June 23 (ELM,IAM,RF), and up to 3 (according to locals) were off Lake Major Road, Dartmouth, in late Oct. (1 seen by D & JP on Oct. 24, and by RBD on Oct. 27).

An additional spring of GREEN-BACKED HERON was at Pubnico on May 27, but there were no summer or fall sightings. There is a "strong suspicion" that a pair of BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS nested around Pubnico (RSD'E), where they were seen regularly with 2 imm. (3 on Sept. 21) through summer. Elsewhere, there was an imm. at Cole Hbr., on July 20 (FLL), at least 3 were on Seal Is., Aug. 29-Sept. 4, and individuals were on Sable Is., on Sept. 11, and on Seal Is., on Sept. 29. In addition, 2 unidentified night herons at Pinkney's Pt. on Sept. 14, could have been of this species or of the YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, which was even more widely reported. One was at Baleine, C.B., on July 1 (J. MacDonald), an adult was on Brier Is., on July 20 (RBS et al.), an imm. bird was around Melbourne Sanctuary, Aug. 1-12 (m. obs.), 2 birds were flying around the lights at the Englishtown, C.B. ferry dock in the evening of Aug. 29 (identified largely from their distinctive calls by J. McLaren), an adult was on Seal Is., from Aug. 29 to Sept. 4 (IAM et al.), an imm. at Grand Pre Sept. 14-25 (sev. obs.), and the latest was an imm. on Sable Is., on Oct. 1 (RP).

The only GLOSSY IBISES were 2 that spent the day at Lr. W. Pubnico on July 5 (sev. obs.).

--I.A.M., ed.

SWANS, DUCKS AND GEESE

Two MUTE SWANS in immature plumage were seen by the Matteaus at Sullivan's Pond, July 30. They appeared very tame and were therefore probably, as the observers suggest, escapees from a park or preserve.

SNOW GEESE showed up at widely scattered points: 10+ at the surprisingly early date of July 30 at Sullivan's Pond (R & DM); 35, Jordan Lake, Queen's Co., Oct. 5 (GB); 1, Nov. 20, at Lower Canard (RBS & BF). CANADA GEESE, probably liberated from the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, have been breeding in the Meagher's Grant area for many years, and a pair with six downy goslings was seen there by R.B. Dickie on June 10, and were reported by him to have survived to adulthood. First migrants showed up at Mira River, where 9 were seen Aug. 17. Small numbers appeared in other localities soon after: 11 at New Ross Sept. 4 (KNK), another 9 at Glace Bay, Sept. 15 (SM), and 38+ at Hazel Hill, Sept. 17 (W & NP). The first numbers of any consequence were 300-400 at Grand River Sept. 30 (RM). From then on, they appeared

in good numbers at their usual stops. The largest flocks reported were: 2000+, Melburne, Oct. 18, which had dwindled to 200 by the 28th (CRKA) and 1800, Oct. 27 (FLL), shrinking to 700 by Nov. 11 (CF). A flock at Middle Musquodoboit next door to Meagher's Grant (see above), may have been made up to some extent of local breeding birds. The flock left on Nov. 15 (MBS).

All WOOD DUCK sightings except possibly one, were in spring or summer. A pair at Seal Is., May 26-27, was the first record for there (IAM). Bob Dickie had three observations for Drain Lake, Hfx. CO.: a male there May 21; a pair June 28, and 3, in eclipse, Aug. 14. There was a male at Meagher's Grant, June 26 (RBD), 2 at Brier Is., July 19 (RBS) and 2, shot at Beaver Dam in Cape Breton (no date given) SM. Two broods of GREEN-WINGED TEAL are reported, both from Cape Breton, one from Lundrigan's Pond, the other at Homeville (W Peach), both in June. The largish flocks in late summer--45 at Lawrencetown, July 29 (Cohrs), 40 and 60 at Barrington, Aug. 5 (CD & JRG), were probably bachelor males whose wild oats were sown. By Sept. 15, however, the flock of 40+ at Three Fathom Harbour were no doubt migrants (FLL,RBD), as were the flocks of 50 or more at Brier, Sept. 27-30, Oct. 12-13 and Oct. 26-28 (RBS), and 34 on Seal Is., in mid-October (IAM). Bob Dickie reports them as abundant in the Halifax-Martinique area all season with 50 at Three Fathom Harbour Aug. 18. possibly the same flock seen by the Cohrs nearby on July 29. BLACK DUCK broods were reported from just two localities. Ruth Hebb of Marriott's Cove observed two families which by Aug. 8, consisted of 5 and 7 young respectively of different sizes attended by two adults. She suggests that these were two broods raised by the same parents, but as Black Duck males take no part in raising the young, it is probable that two females were sharing family responsibilities. Late summer and autumn distribution and numbers seem to be about the same as last year. Numbers at Martinique grew fairly steadily as the season advanced: 500 Aug. 19; 700 Sept. 23; 600 Oct. 21; 2000 Nov. 4 (RBD). The 100 birds at Melbourne Sanctuary, Sept. 15 had more than doubled by Oct. 28. Richard Stern reported 200 birds at Canard Pond and an equal number at Grand Pre, and Sara MacLean predicted that the 150 at Glace Bay Sanctuary would winter there if ice conditions allowed.

We need advice from locals as to whether the 30+ MALLARDS at Sullivan's Pond July 30 (R & DM) are all wild, all domesticated or some of each. Is there any way of distinguishing? At Seal Is., single female Mallards were seen with Black Ducks, Aug. 29, Sept. 5 and Sept. 30 (IAM). RBD found a single male at Shearwater, Sept. 14 and four males at Martinique, Oct. 21; a single male was there, Nov. 3. There was a single male at Cottage Cove, Annapolis Co., Sept. 2, and two males and two females at Ducks Unlimited, Annapolis Royal, Nov. 25 (SH). PINTAILS were few and far between. Singles and up to three birds were seen at scattered localities--Martinique, the islands: Seal, Sable, Brier, McNabs--Hammonds Plains and Drain Lake, from early Sept. to mid-Nov. BLUE-WINGED TEAL were rather scarcer than what used to be considered their cousins, the Green-winged. They were reported from Cape Breton, Aug. 18, Sept. 8, and Oct. 8, but again no numbers nor localities were given. There were three on Sable Is., Sept. 10 (CD & JRG) and Bob Dickie reports sightings at West Lawrencetown: 3, Sept. 14 and 18, Sept. 23; 5, at Three Fathom Harbour Sept. 15, and 20, at Martinique, Oct. 7.

A lone male SHOVELER at the Sewage Pond, Port Williams and 2 at Canard Pond, June 23, suggested to the observers that there were females incubating nearby (IAM,ELM,RF). There were single birds at W. Lawrencetown Marsh, Sept. 14 (FLL,RBD), Mavilette, Sept. 25 (CRKA), Cow Bay, Oct. 1 (CF) and again at Canard Poultry Pond, Nov. 25. AMERICAN WIGEON were seen by only three observers during the period:

4, Aug. 29, at Brier Is. (ELM), about 25 at Mavilette, Sept. 25 (CRKA,PRD) and at Martinique 3, Sept. 9; 9, Sept. 23 and 3, Oct. 7 (RBS). An adult female REDHEAD at Eddy Marsh, Cumb. Co., July 9 (FLL, MA) is the only sighting of this species reported for the period. Bob Dickie estimates six or seven nests of RING-NECKED DUCKS at Drain Lake, Hfx. Co., one of their favourite breeding sites, and Sara MacLean reports a brood at Schooner Pond in Cape Breton. The largest numbers of the species are 100+ at Drain Lake, Aug. 18 (FLL et al.) with 72 at Rocky Lake, Hfx. Co., Oct. 27 (L & PP), coming a close second. Other reports are of one to several birds generally distributed.

The only SCAUP sightings are of a GREATER (female) at Bartlett's Beach, Sept. 25 (CRKA,PRD); and 2 LESSERS, a male and female at W. Lawrencetown Marsh, Nov. 23 (FLL,JWT). Too bad we have no observers along the North Shore where both species should be present at this season. The COMMON EIDER is indeed one of the commonest ducks in Nova Scotian waters during summer and fall. Richard Stern reports small flocks all summer off Brier Is., and Sharon Hawboldt also saw small flocks along the coast from Delaps Cove to Cottage Cove, Anna. Co., Sept. 2. At Seal Is., the McLarens estimated 305 females and 180 ducklings July 2-3, commenting that the poor ratio is no doubt due to gull predation. RBD had 22 at Martinique Beach, June 17, where they were present throughout the summer, and also saw 250 at Hemeons' Head, Aug. 4. From Sept. 5 to Oct. 28, numbers of males were observed offshore in transitional plumage (CRKA,PRD). The greatest number of Eiders reported was an estimated 3000 at Hemeon's Head, Aug. 2, (the Gallaghers). One KING EIDER, an immature, was seen at Hartlen Point, Oct. 8 (FLL,BM). Two OLDSQUAWS, a male and a female, both in "pretty tatty plumage" were seen in company with Scoters at Crescent Beach, Aug. 14 (JSC). The "regulars" began to show up in late October, when one was at Pond Cove, Brier Is., Oct. 27 (RBS). There were 6, Nov. 4, at Hartlen Point (JP), 1, at Three Fathom Hbr., Nov. 11 (RBD) and 1, at Pinkney's Pt., Dec. 1 (JD'E).

BLACK SCOTERS were the commonest of the three of this group for the period, with 92 individuals in nine sightings compared with 44 birds in five sightings for Surfs and 79 in nine sightings for the Whitewings. There were seven Blacks summering at Martinique, June 17 (RBD), about 15 at the top of Crescent Beach, Aug. 19 (the only Scoters of any species seen there, JSC), 35 at Seal, Sept. 29, (NSBS), 19 at Green Bay (again the only species of Scoter present) Sept. 29 (JSC) and 30, Petpeswick Inlet, Oct. 27 (FLL,DM). The other sightings were all of single birds. The first sighting of SURF SCOTERS was Sept. 29, when there were seven at Seal Is., and one female at Pond Cove, Brier Is., (IAM,RBS). The only other sightings were 25 at Martinique, Oct. 7 (RBD), one still at Pond Cove (same bird?), Oct. 27 (RBS) and on the same date 10, at Petpeswick Inlet (FLL,DM). The earliest date for the WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was Aug. 6 (summering birds?) at Middle West Pubnico (DJd'E). A Nova Scotia Bird Society field party saw an unspecified number in Cape Breton, Aug. 8, and the Cohrs saw one, an early record for them, Sept. 9, at Cherry Hill. RBS saw an estimated 50 off Kingsport, Oct. 24 and several off Brier Is., Oct. 26-28. There were 15 at Martinique, Nov. 4 (RBD) and one, possibly a sick or oiled bird, flushed from a bed of kelp at Conrad's Beach, Nov. 10 (KNK).

First COMMON GOLDENEYE record is of one, a female, at Canard Pond, Oct. 16 (RBS). On Nov. 4, At Carleton, Yar. Co., Jerome D'Eon saw 15 of this species--rather unusual to find so many so far inland at this season. More according to Hoyle, is the 24 seen by Jim Taylor at Brule on the North Shore, where they can be expected in numbers until freeze-up. The only other report is of a female at Three Fathom Hbr. (RBD). The first BUFFLEHEADS of the season were 2, at Martinique Beach, Oct. 21 (RBD). A single bird showed up at Clementsport, Oct. 26,

where in November, there were 6 in the river regularly (SH). On the 28th, there were 2 at Three Fathom Harbour, and on Nov. 3, they had increased to 16 (JP). The first for the Yarmouth area were 10+, Nov. 3, at Melbourne Sanctuary (CRKA, PED). On the 10th Margaret Churchill and June Graves saw 100+ in the Chebogue River, and on the 25th, Sharon Hawboldt estimated at least 150 at Ducks Unlimited, Annapolis Royal. At Martinique, there were 30 on the 11th and 12 on Nov. 18 (CF, RBD).

HOODED MERGANSER sightings are as usual--few. There was one at Oathill Lake, Dartmouth, Aug. 20; a female with 3 young at Melbourne Sanctuary, Oct. 13 (MC, JG), 6, at Three Fathom Harbour, Nov. 11 (CF), and 4, Amherst Pt., Nov. 17 (DC). Keith Keddy found these birds at one of their regular stop-offs, the Puddle, Queensland, from August to November: 2, Aug. 10; 1, Sept. 24; 3, Oct. 7; 7, Nov. 8; and 5, Nov. 10. There was nothing of note about COMMON MERGANSER reports; there were singles and up to 10 or 12 birds seen in the St. Margaret's Bay area, Big Bras d'Or, Roseway River, Hammonds Plains and Clements-port. Only flocks of any size were 27 at Chezzetcook, Sept. 1 (FLL, DM), and a flock of 30, Annapolis Royal, made up of this and the following species (SH). R. B. Dickie's six RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS off Martinique Beach, June 17 were plainly non-breeders or males whose breeding chores were over for the season. There were 30 of this species at Wallace Lake, Sept. 12 (RP) and 15 at Cow Bay, Oct. 1 (CF). Seven birds at Eel Lake, Oct. 2, was their first appearance in that area this season (PRD). From then on they appeared in small numbers at Hartlen Point, Brier Is., Lawrencetown and Pubnico through October and early November. The only concentration was around 100 at Lawrencetown, Oct. 28 (JP). We have just two reports of RUDDY DUCKS: two adults at APBS, Sept. 6 (DC) and two sightings of what is probably the same bird--a female at Canard Pond, Nov. 18 (BLF), and again at the same pond, Nov. 20 (RBS, BLF).

--C.R.K.A.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

Have TURKEY VULTURES lost their toehold? Only one was seen, on Brier Island on Oct. 12 (RBS). OSPREYS were widely reported, but with no comments on patterns or concentrations. Several on Brier Is., on Aug. 16-19, may have begun to move. The latest was a bird off Cole Hbr., on Oct. 27 (R & DM). Twelve imm. and 9 adult BALD EAGLES were reported. We have the usual few reports of N. HARRIERS in summer, including presumed pairs at Melbourne Sanctuary, around St. Esprit, C.B., and at Little Dover and Hazel Hill, Gusys. Co. There were good numbers on Brier Is., in Sept. and Oct. ("particularly abundant" on Oct. 12-13, RBS) and near Yarmouth on Sept. 14 (8 seen). One female found her way to Sable Is., on Sept. 11. There were still 3 around Canard and Grand Pre on Nov. 18.

No SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS were seen on Brier Is., on Aug. 16-19, and 3 on Seal Is., on Aug. 31 were clearly migrants. By Sept. 7-9 there were 20-30 on Brier Is., and by Sept. 27-30 there were "hundreds (thousands?)" according to RBS, who found them slightly fewer on Oct. 12-13. There were still an estimated 150 there on Oct. 15-16 (FLL, JT), but they were down to 20-30 again by Oct. 26-28 (RBS). Other places don't get such numbers, but there were 100+ on Cape Sable Is., on Sept. 21, 10 at Cherry Hill Beach on Sept. 22, 24 flying northward at M.W. Pubnico on Sept. 25, a total of ca. 200 on Seal Is., Sept. 28-30, and 20 there on Oct. 13-14. One bird reached Sable Is. on Sept. 30. A meticulous report of a young female COOPER'S HAWK, seen several times on Brier Is. on Oct. 15, was submitted by FLL. A GOSHAWK brought a snake to its nestlings, near Big Pond, C.B., on July 16 (John Mac Innis). The only other summer report was of 1 in Cumb. Co on July 7.

Only 6 were reported in autumn.

An adult RED-SHOULDERED HAWK was seen on Brier Is. on Sept. 6 (ELM) and 5 adults and 4 immatures were seen there, mostly together, on Oct. 15, with 1 adult seen next day (excellent details FLL & JT). These buteos are clearly turning up more regularly there in recent years. There were only 3 reports of summering BROAD-WINGED HAWKS, if we assume that 5 around Blomidon on Aug. 28, were on the move. Three on Brier Is., on Aug. 18, were clearly migrants, as were several kettles there on Sept. 7-9 ("surprisingly nearly all adults"--RBS). Big movements were in later September. There were 29 at M.W. Pubnico on Sept. 25, and several hundred on Brier Is., on Sept. 27-30. A good flight of 150+ was at Russell Lake, Dartmouth, on Oct. 10 (JT), and 35 were on Brier Is., on Oct. 15. By Oct. 26-28, there were none on Brier Is. The usual scattered RED-TAILED HAWKS were reported for summer, with nests noted (in addition to those by BLF in the "Fall Flyer") at Riverside, Col. Co., and Shaw's Lake, Hfx. Co. Brier Is. migrants were: 1 on Sept. 28, 5-6 on Oct. 12-13, and 6 on Oct. 15. There were 5 at Lr. W. Pubnico on Sept. 25. On Oct. 27, 60+ were seen along Digby Neck, and by this time they were widely located in their wintering areas in the Valley and Yarmouth Co. Sixteen were "congregating near a pile of dead chickens" at Canning on Nov. 1 (BCS); some "chicken hawks"! An early ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was near Louisbourg on Sept. 8 (NSBS field trippers). There were otherwise 4 scattered individuals between Oct. 1 and Nov. 10 and a peak of sorts of 3 on Digby Neck on Oct. 27 (MC,JG.)

A well documented report of two adult GOLDEN EAGLES at Martinique Beach on July 29 (RBD) heightens our suspicions that they may be nesting in that general area. Another at St. Ann's, C.B., on July 14 was seen by V. Levitt and a companion, who both saw the "golden" head shining in the sun, but did not report the bird's age. An imm. at Brier Is., on Nov. 4, was seasonable, but no less thrilling, to ELM.

Two AMERICAN KESTRELS were reported to be using nest boxes, one at Big Pond, C.B., with 5 eggs on June 3 (Jack MacNeil) and another at New Ross with at least 2 young on July 17 (KNK). Brier Is. had 20-30 migrants on Sept. 7-9, Sept. 27-30, and Oct. 12-13 (RBS), but there were only 5 there on Oct. 15-16 (FLL). On Sept. 13-14 and Sept. 24, there were 8-10 in the Chebogue area, and an estimated 100+ were on Cape Sable Is., on Sept. 21 (MC,JG), and 24 on Seal Is. on Sept. 28-30. There was only 1 on Seal Is., on Oct. 13-14. Singles were reported through November. There were no major flights of MERLINS this fall. An early migrant at Lawrencetown on Aug. 14, startled RBD by killing, evidently instantly, a Lesser Yellowlegs that he was watching through a telescope. On Brier Is., there were: 1 on Sept. 2 & 8, "many" on Sept. 23, 2 on Sept. 28, 6 on Oct. 6, 8+ on Oct 8, "several" on Oct. 12-13, and 1 on Oct. 15. On Seal Is., there were: 1 on Aug. 31, 2 on Sept. 4, 10 on Sept. 29, 3 on Oct. 13, and 1 on Nov. 10. At least 5 were on Sable Is., on Oct. 2. Some 17 more individuals were reported from other localities. An adult PEREGRINE FALCON crossing Highway 101 near Aylesford on June 23, was a gladdening sight for ELM, IAM and RF. The 3 birds seen on Aug. 12 by the NSBS party in Yar. Co., on Aug. 12, and the 2 on Aug. 28 by JG and MC at Blomidon, may likewise have been locally bred or released birds. Other presumably migrant birds came in a total of 12 reports of some 25 individuals, more than have ever been reported before in the province for the fall period. On Brier Is., there were: 1 on Sept. 30, and 2 adult and 2-3 imm. birds on Oct. 6-8. On Seal Is., at least some of the 4 imm. and 3 adult birds on Sept. 28-29, were believed to be the northern tundrius, whereas some of the 4 imm. and 1 adult there on Oct. 13, were very dark, and thought to be the (re-introduced) anatum (ELM, IAM, et al.).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Apart from Jim Wolford's unusual nesting GRAY PARTRIDGE at Grand Pre (see his account, next issue), there was only one other report-- a bird at Mass Town on June 13. By contrast, RING-NECKED PHEASANTS were reported in small numbers from Barrington, Clementsport, Sandy Cove, Truro, Tusket, Annapolis Royal, Brier Is., and of course, from Kings Co. SPRUCE GROUSE were recorded in 5 localities, and included a female with 2 young at Upper Clyde and 4 juveniles at Middle Clyde (JR & CDG). Eric Mills visited Scateri Is., with Lands and Forests personnel on July 26-27, to see the introduced WILLOW PTARMIGAN. They found the birds very wary and loathe to fly, but nevertheless did see or hear 13 birds, including 4 juveniles. About 60 RUFFED GROUSE were recorded from 20 locations, the highest number ever for this reporting period. Nine at once, "bursting out of the alders at Green Bay" on Sept. 16, were "terrifying" to JSC. In Cape Breton they were rated as "very plentiful...best in 12 years" (CSM). A nest with 11 eggs near Northport, Cumb. Co., was observed between May 19 and June 2 (R. MacNeil), and another with 8 eggs was found at Big Pond, C.B., on June 2 (J MacN).

--IAM,ed.

RALLIDS

A large rail was flushed at Hartlen Point on Nov. 3 by FLL, who did not see enough to be certain it was not ("only") a Clapper Rail. It could not be put up again then or next day. The period's only VIRGINIA RAIL was found dead at Lr. W. Pubnico on Oct. 26 (JD'E). Summering SORAS included the usual residents at APBS, 2 or more near Upper Sackville on June 23, and 2 adults and a chick at Drain Lake, on Aug. 16 (RBD). A probable migrant was killed by a cat at Lr. W. Pubnico on Aug. 25, and thereafter there were single birds on Brier Is., on Sept. 2, on Seal Is., on Sept. 29 and Nov. 9, and on Sable Is., on Oct. 2. A very tame COMMON MOORHEN was caught and shown to all the local birders at Lr. W. Pubnico before being released out of harm's way. We received no word on the AMERICAN COOTS at APBS during summer, but there were 70 there on Nov. 18 (DC). One on Digby Neck on Sept. 1 was presumably an early migrant. Others appeared at Lr. W. Pubnico on Nov. 7, at Russell Lake on Nov. 11 (3 birds), and finally at Sullivan's Pond on Nov. 17.

--IAM, ed.

FALL SHOREBIRDS

Early reports of the BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER come from Shelburne Co., July 14 (J & CG) and Cherry Hill, July 29 (SJF). At New Waterford, C.B., 150 were counted Sept. 16 and Oct. 15 with 8 still present Nov. 11 (CM). There were 250 at Conrad's, Oct. 28 (R McD), still 200+ there and on neighbouring beaches Nov. 12 (FLL,DMCN). There were similar numbers at Economy in early Oct. (FS) with numerous reports of smaller flocks elsewhere. There were 30 LESSER GOLDEN PLOVERS on Seal Is., Sept. 1-4 (IAM), as many on Sable Is., Sept. 10 (RP), and 20 at Tupperville (Anna. Co) Oct 6 (EM). The largest concentration was 100 at Grand Pre, Oct. 9 (RBS). A stray was at Cherry Hill, July 13 & 21 (SJF), another in full breeding plumage at Crescent, Sept. 21 (RH). Last was one at Brier, Nov. 3-4 (EM). A WILSON'S PLOVER, identified as a second-year male not yet in breeding plumage, was at Conrad's, July 13-14 (FLL,DC). A pair of SEMI-PALMATED PLOVERS were at Conrad's, July 3 (RBD), early enough to be suspected of summering there--after over-wintering (IAM fide RBD). Early migrants, there were 1000 there by Aug. 9 (FLL). The late July-early August period also saw peaks elsewhere: several hundred at Grand Pre, July 29, and at Brier Aug. 16-19 (RBS), 286 at Crescent, Aug. 6 (SJF) and 200 at

Martinique, Aug. 12 (RBD). Last reported stragglers were two at Eastern Passage, Nov. 3 (IAM) and one at Lr. W. Pubnico, Nov. 12 (Td'E). The PIPING PLOVER maintained its precarious hold on our ever more crowded beaches: at Conrad's, the concensus is that four pairs raised about 15 young (FLL,IAM). At Colette's Beach, human disturbance was the probable cause of the failure of a four-egg nest (RBD). A pair with 3 young is the only other nesting report, from Sabim Beach (JG&MC), although an immature was at Cherry Hill, Aug. 25 (J&SC) and four birds were at East Baccaro in June and July (J&CG). A migrant was at McNab's Is., Sept. 2 (KNK). KILLDEER turned up off-shore, at Seal, July 2 (IAM), and Sable Is., Sept. 11 (RP). There were 50 in the Canning area Aug. 28 (JG,MC) and 11-13 in a single gravel pit near Bible Hill, July 13 (IAM,EM). The only evidence of nesting comes from Yarmouth, where there were 3 unfledged young following their parents through a salt marsh (H&HH).

Early GREATER YELLOWLEGS were at Dan's Head, July 10 (J&CG) and Brier, July 14 (RBS). There were already 40 at Lingan Bay, C.B., Aug. 1 (CM). 100+ at Chezzetcook, Sept. 1 (DMcN), 200 at Melbourne, Sanctuary, Sept. 29 (MC,JG) were the largest numbers reported, but they were still numerous in late October, with 70+ at the Melbourne Sanctuary (PRD,CRKA) and Martinique (IAM) on the 28th. Last were three at Lr. W. Pubnico, Nov. 18 (Dd'E). There were 75 LESSER YELLOWLEGS at Conrad's on July 15 (FLL). By July 31, the number at neighbouring Lawrencetown was estimated at 100+ (FLL,MA) to 200 (RBD)--very large concentrations for this species. There was still one at Cole Harbour, Oct. 13, possibly another on the 27th (RM) and, very late, one at Crescent, Nov. 10 (JS&JLC). The SOLITARY SANDPIPER was more widely reported than usual, the first at Indian Point, July 18 (FLL,RD), thereafter reports of mostly 1-2 (totaling perhaps 20) through mid-September, but with a remarkable 25 at APBS on Sept. 6 where compound #2, completely drained, was a major attraction (DC). A late straggler was at Green Bay, Oct. 22 (JSC). WILLETS "as usual" (SM) echoes the sentiments of many of us, nesting in most salt marshes (HH found two nests with eggs in the Yarmouth area), among the first shorebirds to leave in the fall and pretty well gone by mid-Sept. As IAM points out, however, the western race inocnatus (larger, paler, longer bill) occurs here; quite possibly one of this race passed over Conrad's July 17, a very early date, except for a non-nester, and another "clearly of the western race", was at Seal, Aug. 28-Sept. 1 (IAM). Last report was of one at Crescent, Sept 14 (JSC). The SPOTTED SANDPIPER was at Conrad's in "huge numbers", July 11 (RBD), 20+ at Cole Harbour, Aug. 2 (R&DM) and 30 from Broad Cove to Green Bay, Aug. 17 (JS&JLC). It was sparsely reported elsewhere and unusual by its absence from the Economy River (FS). A late migrant was at Port Howe, Oct. 1 (JWT). The only UPLAND SANDPIPER, and BLF's first, was at Grand Pre, Spet. 15.

The only impressive concentration of WHIMBRELS was on seldom-visited Scatarie Is., C.B., 180 in all July 25-26 (EM), with the 35 on Seal, Aug. 21-Sept. 4, also noteworthy. There were still 12 at Martinique, Oct. 7 (RBD). There were already 25 HUDSONIAN GODWITS at Matthew's Lake, July 22 (JSL&JC), 28 there Aug. 16 (EPS,RT). There were 12 at The Hawk Aug. 25 (J&CD), and still 5 at Lingan Bay, C.B., Oct 15 (CM). The RUDDY TURNSTONE, just turned up (sorry about that) at Conrad's on July 21 (FLL), where there were 200 by Aug. 2 (RBD) and 100, Aug. 9 (FLL). The 100+ at The Hawk, Aug. 15 (MC&JG) is the only other sizable count, suggesting an early migration, although there were still 10 at Baccaro, Nov. 10 (MC&JG).

The RED KNOT was not widely reported. There was an early bird at Cherry Hill, July 13 (SJF), 30 at The Hawk, Aug. 1 (J&CG) and 30+ at Martinique, Aug. 18 (FLL). A surprising 40 were still at Conrad's Oct. 28, still 15 there on Nov. 2 (IAM) and 2 on Nov. 12 (FLL). The

SANDERLING arrives early and stays late: there were 40 at The Hawk, July 20 (J&CG), 200 at Conrad's, July 26 (FLL), 300 at Matthew's Lake Aug. 4 (RBD) and 400 at Grand Pre, Sept. 15 (RBS) were August totals reported, with 30 still at Conrad's Nov. 12 (FLL). There were already 400 SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPERS at Conrad's, July 14 (FLL), 1500 there Aug. 9, dwindling to 50 by Sept. 15 (FLL). The 10,000 at Grand Pre, July 29, and the "several thousand" at Canard, Aug. 12 (RBS), seem to define the main passage. There were still 5 at Hartlen Point., Oct. 27 (FLL,DM). One with an orange band on its right leg was at Brier, July 21 (RBS). Two laggards were at Cherry Hill, Oct. 11 (JSC), one at Hartlen Point. Oct. 27 (FLL). The only sizable numbers of WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS reported are from Hartlen Point, 100 there on Aug. 24, 150, Oct. 27 (FLL,JWT,DM). One was still at Eastern Passage Nov. 18 (IAM) and 6 at Cherry Hill (SJF). An early BAIRD'S SANDPIPER was at Conrad's, July 20 (FLL,BM). Another at Cherry Hill, Sept. 22 (NSBS) There were 1-2 at Brier, Aug. 27-Sept 6 (EM) and one on Seal, Aug. 31 (SM). A report, 4 seen at close range on Nov. 5, included no details; it would be a late date for this species. Reports of the PECTORAL SANDPIPER suggest (there was some double-reporting) that about 45 birds were seen. An early migrant was at Drain Lake, Aug. 15 (RBD). The majority of sightings occurred from mid-Sept. 21-29 (JSC,SJF), where one still remained Nov. 11 (SJF). The first PURPLE SANDPIPER was at Louis Head, Oct. 20 (MC,JG). Two were at Brier, Nov. 3 (EM) and 35-50 at Martinique by Nov. 18 (RBD). Very early DUNLIN were at Chezsetcook July 26 and Aug. 2 at Conrad's (RBD)--plumage? The maximum at Grand Pre was 30 on Oct. 9 (RBS), but elsewhere the maximum were rather late: 60 at Conrad's Oct. 28 (IAM), 70 there Nov. 12 (FLL,DM). There were still two at Cherry Hill, Nov. 18 (SJF). At least 12 STILT SANDPIPERS appeared in July, the first at Lr. W. Pubnico, on the 12th, with a large flock of dowitchers (Td'E,RSd'E). The others were in the Lawrencetown area (FLL,RBD,RD). Elsewhere, and later were: one on Seal, Aug. 27- Sept. (IAM), one at Crescent, Sept. 16 (JSC) and, rather late, at Cole Harbour, Oct. 13 (R&DM).

A BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER was on Seal, Aug. 31 (IAM), singles at Brier, Sept. 1 and Sept. 4-6 (EM et al.). Three were at Hartlen Pt., Oct. 10 (FLL,RBD). Although there were 30 SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS on Seal, J-ly 2 (IAM), most maximum numbers were reported toward month's end--except, that is, for a surprising 2000+ on the Chebogue River flats, July 9 (JG&MC). There were "hundreds" at Grand Pre, July 29-30, one there Sept. 11 (RBS). At Lawrencetown, there were 350 on July 30, one at Conrad's, Sept. 16 (FLL). At Sand Hills the high count was 98 on Aug. 4 (J&CG). Again it appears to be a case of a short, swift passage. A LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER was carefully studied (not heard) by AMcL at South Hbr. Beach, on Oct. 10. Four dowitchers at The Hawk on Oct. 21 were thought to be of this species (no details). Eleven COMMON SNIPER were reported, the last at Cole Harbour on Nov. 18 (IAM). Only eight AMERICAN WOODCOCK were detected, with one still at Margaree, C.B., on Nov. 4 (CM).



cavity at Loch Lomond, C.B., on June 10 (JM&CN). A bird found on Oct. 17 in Halifax was reported around the west end by several other non-birders on subsequent days helping with the pigeon problem, we hope. Interestingly, a young banded in one of BLF's nest boxes at Gaspereau in spring turned up starving in Wolfville on Oct. 17. A LONG-EARED OWL was calling in Pleasant Valley, Yar. Co., on Oct. 12 (FLL). At least 6 were in their usual roost near Canard on Nov. 18 (BLF). A SHORT-EARED OWL at APBS on Aug. 27 and 2 at Grand Pre on Nov. 3 are our only reports. A SAW-WHET OWL successfully reared 5 young in one of Jack MacNeil's nest boxes at Big Pond. Another was seen near Middle Musquodoboit on June 19 (FLL).

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFT, HUMMINGBIRD, KINGFISHER

A COMMON NIGHTHAWK became active at the height of the sun's eclipse on May 30 near Yarmouth (H&HH). There were nesting-season sightings in Halifax, Dartmouth, Meagher's Grant, and parts of Yar. and Shel. Counties. Five at Hammonds Plains and 20 near Mount Thom, Cumb. Co., on July 29 were first signs of movement. Thereafter, there were good flights of 9 near the Halifax International Airport on Aug. 1, 12 near Hubbards and 75-100 near Tusket on Aug. 5, 100-150 between Hubbards and Lunenburg on Aug. 14, 100+ over Dartmouth on Aug. 19, 8 at M. W. Pubnico on Aug. 24, 8-10 over Digby Neck on Aug. 31, and 20+ at Hartlen Point on Sept. 17, the latest seen. At least one pair of WHIP-POOR-WILLS was at the traditional Burnside site in Dartmouth in June (FLL et al.).

A few CHIMNEY SWIFTS used the chimney at King's College University but we received no word of the much bigger colony at Acadia. There were a few reports from elsewhere, but Yar. Co. had "many...this summer, always on backwoods roads, far from chimneys" (H&HH). A flock of 15 at Hammonds Plains on Aug. 11 were probably migrating, and 5 on Brier Is., on Aug. 29 certainly were. The latest was a bird on Sable Is., on Sept. 10.

There were a dozen reports of RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS in summer. Distinct migration peaks occurred on Seal Island on Aug. 27 (28 birds) and Sept. 5 (ca. 25). The latest was at Middle Musquodoboit on Sept. 14 (MBS).

BELTED KINGFISHERS were clearly under-reported; a few were still around through November.

WOODPECKERS

Three imm. RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS turned up--1 on Seal, on Sept. 28, 1 at the Peters' feeder at Hazel Hill on Oct. 10 (W&NP), and 1 at a feeder in Lr. W. Pubnico on Oct. 25-30 (DJd'E). Residents on Seal also reported that an adult was released from several days accidental Captivity in one of the houses in early Oct. YELLOW-BELLIED SAP-SUCKERS remained uncommon in the breeding season. We have reports of 3 near New Ross, 1 at Middle Musquodoboit, and a nest with young at Shaw's Lake. Other records were of 6 migrants seen between Sept. 28 and Oct. 14. We received 13 reports of 17 DOWNY WOODPECKERS, including a bird eating mountain ash berries at Lr. W. Pubnico (Rsd'E). There were also 13 reports of 16 HAIRY WOODPECKERS. Probably both species are under-reported. There were 7 summer sightings of 9 BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS and also a nest with nestlings on June 21 near Hazel Hill (LB, NP). There were 8 fall reports of 16 birds seen between Sept. 28 and Nov. 9, the last on Seal Is. A few migrant N. FLICKERS were on Seal Island on Aug. 27, but major movements were on Brier Island on Sept. 7-9 ("thousands?"--RBS), N and E of Yarmouth on Sept. 25, on Brier on Sept. 23 and Sept. 27-30 ("even more"--RBS), on Seal on Sept. 28-29 (est. 250), and on Brier on Oct. 12-13. None were

Since we seldom receive reports from Sable Island, there follows the complete list of R.P.'s fall sightings:

NAME	NUMBER	DATE
Black-bellied Plover	33	Sept. 10
Lesser Golden Plover	30	Sept. 10
Semi-palmated Plover	no count	Sept. 11
Killdeer	1	Sept. 11
Greater Yellowlegs	30-40	Sept. 10
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	Sept. 12
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Sept. 10
<u>Upland Sandpiper</u>	1	Sept. 1
<u>Whimbrel</u>	1	Sept. 10
Ruddy Turnstone	103	Sept. 10
Red Knot	1	Sept. 10
Sanderling	no count	Sept. 12
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	3	Sept. 10
Least Sandpiper	"pairs"	Sept. 12
White-rumped Sandpiper	45	Sept. 12
Pectoral	1	Sept. 10
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	3	Sept. 12
<u>Ruff</u>	1	Oct. 3
Short-billed Dowitcher (<u>griseus</u>)	1	Sept. 11
Common Snipe	1	Oct. 3

--FS, ed.

DOVES, CUCKOOS

The ROCK DOVES at Ross Farm Museum were thinned out in spring by eating "treated" grain, but by Oct. had increased again to 30+ (KNK). The province's sixth WHITE-WINGED DOVE turned up at a North Sydney feeder, May 26-29, where it was adequately photographed by Lois MacLean. We urge anyone who has one of these turn up at a feeder in future to spread the word, as there are many of us who would love to see one. On a late June trip through byways in Kings and Annapolis Counties, ELM and IAM were struck by the numbers of Mourning Doves compared with a few years ago. A few were also reported in summer from Dartmouth, W. Lawrencetown and Chester Basin. It would be good to have a better picture of their hold on the province. Some larger autumn gatherings of 10-30 birds were reported from Digby Neck on Sept. 23, Seal Is., on Oct. 13-14, and W. Lawrencetown on Nov. 11. There were 22 at a Lr. W. Pubnico feeder by Nov. 12 and 29 at a Dartmouth feeder on Nov. 21.

Summering BLACK-BILLED CUCKOOS were at W. Pubnico, Little Hbr., Guys. Co., and New Ross (the latter's song phrases in pairs rather than the usual 2's and 3's' KNK). One at Hazel Hill on Aug. 17-18 was probably migrant, as were certainly birds on Seal Is., on Sept. 2 and Second Peninsula on Oct. 19. Vagrant YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS were on Seal Is. on Sept. 4-5 and Sept. 28-29 (2 birds), on Sable Is. on Sept. 26, and at Pubnico on Oct. 26.

OWLS

Bernard Forsythe, as usual, contributed his notes on owl nests to the "Fall Flyer", and these will not be repeated here. The only other evidence of a nesting GREAT-HORNED OWL was at Overton, Yar. Co., where there was a juvenile with 2 adults (H&HH). Otherwise, there were 7 scattered reports of individuals of this species. Sarah MacLean reported (no details) a SNOWY OWL in late May at Glace Bay, and the only autumn bird to date was found eating a gull at Lr. W. Pubnico on Nov. 15. The usual dozen or so BARRED OWL reports, of some 20 individuals or pairs, included an account of 3 young in a maple tree

seen on Brier Is., on Oct. 26, and only 2 on Seal Is., on Nov. 9. One reached Sable Is. on Sept. 26. We have 11 reports of 17 PILEATED WOODPECKERS, including a pair near East Chester, where they had not hitherto been seen by M. Haase.

--IAM, ed.

FLYCATCHERS

Only two correspondents wrote of OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS seen during the summer months (six birds in Lun. & Queens Counties)--surely more must have been around. Two migrants were mentioned (even fewer than last year's poor showing)--Dartmouth, Sept. 3 and Seal, Sept. 5 (FLL,IAM). Please--eyes and ears up and out for 1985!

The migration of the EASTERN WOOD PEWEE was well documented, starting on Aug. 28, when waves of 20 or more were passing through Seal. Between then and Sept. 9, they were moving through Hants and Yarmouth Counties, the highest number being 15 at Summit Heights, Dartmouth, on Sept. 3. Latest Pewee seen was at Green Bay, Sept. 23 (IAM,FLL, KNK, RSd'E, SH,JSC).

Single YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS were seen in early Sept., but a true migration went through Brier, Sept. 1-8, with highs of 10 on Sept. 2 & 8 (ELM). No fall ALDERS were reported and only two mentions of LEASTS. FLL saw 10 on Sept. 3, at Summit Heights and a late bird was on Seal, Sept 28 (ELM,IAM, etc.) Brier was the place for the only fall GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER and EASTERN PHOEBE on Sept. 7 and Oct. 6 respectively (ELM). Two WESTERN KINGBIRDS (five in 1983) were on Brier Oct 13 and at Little Dover on Nov. 21 (Payzants, RBD,VM&NP). EASTERN KINGBIRDS were, of course, much more numerous, in fact, in Yar. and Digby Cos. they reached what might well be an all time high. At Chebogue Point they were gathering along the wires by Aug. 24. By the 27th there were 75 on Brier, dropping to 25 by the 29th. John and Shirley Cohrs, travelling from Sandy Cove to Brier and back on Aug. 30 & 31, counted 250 kingbirds on the wires, roadsides, fence-posts and trees along Digby Neck. There were still 75 at Pubnico on Sept. 19, and 3 at Sand Beach, Yar. Co. on the 21st. (RSd'E,CRKA).

Received after the deadline, but included here because of its great interest, is the sighting of a SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER at Hazel Hill (near Canso) on Dec. 1. It was first seen by Damian Welsh and then by others; it was later photographed by June Jarvis. We hope to publish these photos in the April issue.

Another rarity, a FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER was seen and photographed on June 25 in Cape Breton by John Peebles of Richmond Va.

HORNED LARKS TO CORVIDS

The appearance of the HORNED LARK in the fall is always well noted--perhaps it is to winter what the swallow arrival is to spring. (but greeted with perhaps a little less enthusiasm?)

On Brier the first 50 arrived Oct. 12 and 45 were still there Nov. 4 (RBS,ELM)

Hartlen Pt. There were 15, Oct. 19 (RBD,FLL)

Cook's Beach. The first 40 arrived Oct. 18, increasing to 40, Oct. 28 and 65 by Nov. 3 (PRD,CRKA).

Cherry Hill. 7 were there Oct. 7, 40 by Oct. 17 and 60 by the 21st. These increased to 150 by Nov 10, and at that day there were 40 more at nearby Pollack Point (JSC).

Cole Harbour Dyke . There were 100+ Nov. 4. (JP).

There was NO NEWS of the PURPLE MARTIN COLONIES--Amherst members please help!

The departure of the TREE SWALLOWS was a week later than the norm. On Aug. 23 Keith Keddy noted a noticeable flocking at Hammonds Plains and IAM saw flocks leaving via Seal in late Aug. and early Sept. with numbers up to 80. They left Middle Musquodoboit on Aug. 30 (MBS). There are reassuring reports of BANK SWALLOWS in their appropriate surroundings during the summer months, but no migratory movements were noted except by Eric Mills on Brier, who saw 250 arrive there on Sept. 4. A late bird was seen by Joyce Purchase, hunting flies along the seaweed (the bird that is, not Joyce) at Hartlen Point, Nov. 4. CLIFF SWALLOW reports were of nests rather than of migrations and are as follows: 18 nests on the church at Marble Mountain, C.B. (E.Chant) 2 at Clyde River Road (Gallaghers) and 2 colonies at Big Pond, C.B. with 44 successful nests in one and 11 in the other (Jack MacNeil).

Along with the Tree's, KNK had flocking BARN SWALLOWS on Aug. 23 About 25 had reached Seal by the end of the month. Two small flocks passed by Deep Brook, Anna Co., on Sept. 20 (SH) and after that there were the odd ones and twos around. On Oct. 6, 3 were seen at Canard Poultry Pond (RBS, Cohrs) and on Nov. 4, a single bird in poor plumage was at Eastern Passage (IAM, etc.)

CORVIDS TO KINGLETS

GRAY and BLUE JAYS reappeared from their nesting areas at the beginning of September as usual, with the Blue Jays settling in at feeders as soon as seed appeared. Several very large concentrations of Blue Jays were noted, proving that there is considerable migration of this species within its constant range. June Graves saw 2000, Aug. 30 at Beaver River (Yar. Co.) in four flocks of 500 between 7 and 8 a.m. A flock of 48 appeared near Canso, Oct. 10 and there were 300 on Brier, Oct. 7 and 500 there Oct. 15-16.

A migration of 150 AMERICAN CROWS gathered on the shore of the main pond on Seal on Sept. 9, "no doubt plotting the next stop of their evident journey" (IAM). COMMON RAVENS appeared "as usual".

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES are mentioned as "very frequent" visitors at feeders. Ruth Hebb (Chester) and Marion Smythe (Musquodoboit Hbr.) felt that they were up in numbers this year as did Alan MacLeod at Big Bras d'Or, who had 44 at once on Aug. 20 (a migration?). The less noticeable BOREAL CHICKADEE was reported more than usual. They nest on Seal and evidently had a good season there; the island was swarming with them in late Aug. While most other reports were of ones and twos, 10 were near Canso, 4 at Causeway Road and 4 at Martinique, on Oct. 10, 24 and Nov. 11 (JJ,JP,CP).

"A very good year", "plentiful" and "numbers very large", were the cries concerning the RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Paradoxically none of the reports mentioned any of their usual, sometimes huge and always noisy, migratory movements. Most have gone unseen or unheard, leaving a few to devour the suet this winter.

Eight, possibly ten WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were around, mostly at feeders, the Payzants at Waverley accounting for 3 of them. One "wild" bird hung about the campus of the Agricultural College in Bible Hill, where it was seen Oct. 4-29 by Ella Roland and Lisé Cohrs.

Single BROWN CREEPERS were seen in Halifax, Seal, Waverley and Truro from Sept. to Nov. Seven birds within 100 yards at Green Bay Sept. 29, suggests a migration as May 4 at Saltsprings, Oct. 25 (JSC,

LB). A HOUSE WREN was counted by Steve Manuel on Seal, Sept. 5, and the NSBS party there had one on Oct. 15, which may or may not have been the same bird. The only other was on Brier, Oct. 6 (ELM). Only 4 definite WINTER WRENS showed up on the mainland, although RSd'E heard "several" wren songs near Pubnico in July. There was one on Sable Island, Sept 26 (RP). All others were on Seal when IAM had 5 in July and up to 15 in late August. One remained at the end of Sept. and two were there Oct. 13-14. No SEDGE WRENS appeared and only two MARSH WRENS, Sept. 23, at Cape Forchu and Sept. 28, on Seal (Ruffs, ELM, et al.)

KINGLETS TO CATBIRD

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS enjoyed a good nesting season judging by the hordes of them around this autumn. They appeared in early Sept. and at the time of writing this report (early Dec.), they still fill the woods with their winter call notes. Two concentrations suggesting migration were: Green Bay, Sept. 29, when an "uncountable number of noisy, belligerent birds were all over the place, low down and tame, in the bushes", and on Seal, Nov. 8-9, when over 100 were present (JSC, IAM).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS lingered late, with many being seen up to the end of October. Two small waves were noticed on Seal, Sept. 30 and Oct. 14, while a big wave of c. 250 was on Brier, Oct. 7. November birds on the 25th were at Clementsport and Halifax (SH, FLL).

The BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER picture is quite unprecedented. Never have so many been reported. It is difficult to discern the exact number because of the many observers who saw them on Brier and in the south end of Halifax. In each of these places there could have been anywhere from one (if so, most active) to four. The earliest gnatcatcher to surface was seen by John Cohrs on Brier, Aug. 30, and it (they?) was seen in varying locations there up to Sept. 9 (ELM). The Halifax Conservatory of Music bird was seen from Oct. 27 to Nov. 22 there and also in four other locations not too far away...1 or 4? There was one each at Cherry Hill, Sept. 16 (SJF), Lr. W. Pubnico, Sept. 17 (RSd'E), Sable Is., Oct. 1 (RP), Yarmouth, Oct. 22 (MAN) and two each at Canso, Oct. 10 (W&PN) and Fairview (Hfx.), Oct. 28 (DC); very conservatively 10 birds, but perhaps up to twenty.

An adult male EASTERN BLUEBIRD was singing in Shel. Co., on June 14, but it did not stay after that day (Gallaghers). An imm. male made an appearance on Brier, Oct. 15. Over the border, at Riverview, N.B., Dave Curry encountered six Bluebirds on Aug. 4, two adults and 4 young.

Only five people mentioned the VEERY being seen or heard in the summer. These thrushes departed early around the end of August and only two reports came in of September birds, one on the 1st at Brier and 4 on Seal on the 2nd (JLC, IAM). No GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSHES this time. Ruth Hebb writes that SWAINSON'S THRUSHES were sparse in her area of Lun. Co., and very few reports came in from elsewhere. A small movement of 12 or so was on Seal, Sept. 2, and late birds were seen at Maxwellton, Digby Co., and Eleven Mile Lake, Anna Co. on Sept. 25 and 30 (CRKA, PRD, SH). A single male WOOD THRUSH was seen by Hubert and Helen Hall at Kemptville, Yar. Co., May 30.

As is usual, HERMIT THRUSHES departed quietly and individually with no groups seen. Latest seen was in Nov. 5, at Lr. W. Pubnico by Jerome D'Eon.

The AMERICAN ROBIN picture is more interesting, with several large waves leaving in Sept. and Oct. On Sept. 29-30, they were all

over Green Bay, Petite Riviere and Crousetown, approximately 1500 in all. A flock of 70 were in Truro, Oct. 3, and 50+ along the Eastern Shore road in Hfx. Co. on the 24th. On the 26th, a huge migration passed through Lr. W. Pubnico, with robins flying over all day. As late as Nov. 11, a group of 500 were on Roberts Is., Shel. Co. (JSC, LR,JP,D&Jd'E).

GRAY CATBIRD reports were low. The lingering birds were on Seal, Sept. 28 (1), Green Bay, Sept. 29 (3) and Brier, Oct. 5 (5) (IAM,JSC,ELM).

MOCKINGBIRD TO STARLING

Jim Taylor noted a successful NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD nest in Dartmouth, with three fledged young--date not given. From Sept. 29 to Nov. 21, seven mockers have been spread out in Clementsport, Canso, Kentville, Argyle and Glace Bay. Fall BROWN THRASHERS were few, only two, possibly three noted. These were one Oct. 27, in Fairview and one, Oct. 13, and again on the 31st (same?) in W. Pubnico (DC,Ld'E)

The transient WATER PIPIT peaked in most places in late Sept., decreasing steadily thereafter. Here is the picture:

Place	Number	Date	Observer
Martinique	20	Sept. 23	RBD
	12	Oct. 31	RBD
Seal	50	Sept. 30	IAM
	18	Oct. 14	IAM
Brier	100	Sept. 30	ELM
	a few	Oct. 28	ELM
Hartlen Point	70	Oct. 8	FLL
	28	Oct. 28	FLL
Cranberry Head	100	Sept. 30	MC&JG
Cherry Hill	3	Sept. 22	JSC
	30	Oct. 21	JSC
	0	Oct. 27	JSC
	10	Nov. 10	JSC

Although CEDAR WAXWINGS were well reported, several people felt they were fewer than usual and most wrote of ones and twos or small flocks of less than 25. There were only three large groups: 100 at Chebucto Head on Sept. 3, 300 in Lr. W. Pubnico, Oct. 7, and 60 in Wolfville, Oct. 22. Edgar Spalding saw 8 at the Acadia campus, Wolfville, Nov. 8...Not really a waxwing year.

Four NORTHERN SHRIKES made the deadline--Oct. 14 on Seal, one the same date near Canso, Nov. 11 at S. Ohio, Shel. Co., and Nov. 17 at APBS (J&SJ,MC&JG,DC). Alas, no LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE this year. For many years, the late W. E. Whitehead of Round Hill reported a Loggerhead in late July in that area. It was the only steady report of the rare "summer" shrike.

The first recorded EUROPEAN STARLING in Nova Scotia was in Dartmouth on Dec. 1, 1915 (Tufts). It was believed to be the first in Canada. How they have thrived. Few people mention them, however; possibly preferring to ignore the unpalatable facts. They seem "as usual".

VIREOS

Distribution of the SOLITARY VIREO was provincewide. Ruth Hebb had a pair around (as usual) May 27 to June 8, at Marriott's Cove, and believed them to be nesting; also, 2-3 were seen and heard in the vicinity up to Sept. 1. There were 22 sightings thereafter, from Cape Breton to Yarmouth; the last one of the season reported, an immature at Cricton Park, Dartmouth, on Nov. 25, according to Fulton Lavender. A probable 8-9 PHILADELPHIA VIREOS were counted: 1, May 27, singing, at Amherst Point, reported by Dave Currie; and during the migration season, Aug. 17 to Sept. 1, 1 was seen at Cape Forchu, Yar. Co., Aug. 17, by Edgar Spalding and Paul Lehman; 1, adult, Sept. 1, at Dartmouth (FLL and D MacN); the 5-6, Sept. 1 to 8 on Brier Is., by EPS, Stu Tingley, Eric Mills and the Cohrs; 2 on Seal, Sept. 1 and 3 (different birds) by S. Manuel and Ian McLaren; 1, also on Sept. 1, at Dartmouth (FLL&DM). Edgar Spalding wrote that he, Stu Tingley and Eric Mills recorded 113 spp. Sept. 1, on Brier, 108 of which were seen by all three of them. The next day, Sept. 2, a YELLOW-THROATED VIREO was caught in the net at North Point, Brier Is., by the Acadia bird-banding group, noted for us by EPS. Another rarity (possibly not as rare as we have thought), an adult WARBLING VIREO, male, was "singing on territory, July 7, at Athol, Cumb. Co.", according to Mike Almon and FLL, who regrettably gave no further details. The RED-EYED VIREO was common throughout the province, summer of 1984: 2, first sighted on Seal Is., May 28, (IAM), with 39 other sightings generally distributed, reported up to No. 11, when 1, was seen at York Redoubt, Hfx. Co., by DAC.

WOOD WARBLERS

Since we have so many warblers general comments are useful, especially to get the picture this year, when we have 30 species to report, our native 22 plus 8 rare ones. According to Ian McLaren, Wood Warblers were still arriving in early June, e.g., Wilson's and Canada, singing in the west end of Halifax, June 5, a.m.; Linda and Peter Payzant observed "a large wave of warblers passing through Waverley on Aug. 6, including the Black-throated Green, Parula, Nashville, Canada, Black-and-White, Chestnut-sided and Yellow-rumped"; Richard Stern wrote, "I felt there were normal numbers of warblers in August, September and October in the Valley and on Brier"; Ian McLaren reported "in general, a few warbler migrants of most routine species were present on Seal Is., in late August, with peak counts of 40 Tennessee, 80 Cape May, 180 Yellow-rumped, 10 Blackburnian, 40 Bay-breasted, 30 Black-and-White and 60 American Redstarts, occurring on 3-5 September. ALL the N.S. nesting species were seen during the trip". Joyce Purchase wrote, "a wave of warblers (through Dartmouth) on Sept. 5 included Black-and-White, Black-throated Green, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll and Yellow-rumped, 50+ birds seen altogether" on Sept. 23, another wave of warblers was noted at St. Esprit, Richmond Co., 50 birds seen by R.F. Meyerowitz.

Following in new checklist order are the names of our season's Wood Warblers, number of reports received and approximate number of individual birds: TENNESSEE, 5 reports, of 75 birds, including a peak of 40, Sept. 3 on Seal; ORANGE-CROWNED, 5 reports of 6 birds (2, Sept. 1 at Brier, JS&JLC: 1, Oct. 20 at Lr. W. Pubnico, JFK; 1, Nov. 24, at Halifax, RBD; 1, Nov. 10, at Dartmouth, FLL and Mike Almon and 1, Nov. 3, IAM and family); NASHVILLE, 8 reports of 10+ birds; NORTHERN PARULA, 11 sightings of 40 birds (the Gallaghers of Brass Hill reported a nest "in the same spruce tree for the 13th consecutive year", on their property, and "on July 13, later than usual at least 3 young hatched from the nest and left it Aug. 10, 1984"). Two BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS, Sept. 1, on Seal Is., received "close study by Steve Manuel" (IAM). Twenty-one reports of 42+ birds is low for the YELLOW WARBLER

which seems to have flown past un-noticed in the fall migration. Similarly, six reports of a possible 54 CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLERS--most of them seen in a migratory flock, Sept. 3 (FLL) is probably not truly representative of this population. Twenty reports of over 60 birds sounds reasonable for the MAGNOLIA WARBLER; for the CAPE MAY, 12 reports of 120 birds includes 3 migratory flocks of approximately 30 birds each; for the BLACK-THROATED BLUE, 3 reports of 7 birds; 58 reports of our YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER add up to 2425 birds, and included are 10 migratory flocks, one of them of "1000+, Oct. 7, at Brier Is. only 100+ left by Oct. 8" (ELM). BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, 28 reports of 93 birds, larger flocks in early September; BLACKBURNIAN, 8 reports of 30 birds, 15 of these Sept. 3 near Dartmouth; PRAIRIE WARBLER, 7 reports of 9 birds, 2 of these on the tip of Scatarie Is. where ELM saw them July 26 and queries "any other Cape Breton records?" Other reports of this rare warbler are 1, Sept. 2, and 2, Sept. 5, Seal Is., IAM, S. Manuel; 1, Sept. 21, Cherry Hill, SJF and BH: 1, Oct. 1, Sable Is., Roger Pocklington, and 2, Oct. 12 at Green Bay, JSC. For the PALM WARBLER, 18 reports of 157 birds, 2 migratory flocks of 50 and 15 birds respectively included: BAY-BREASTED, 5 reports of 8 birds plus 3 migratory flocks of 10, 20 and 50 birds noted in the Dartmouth area in early September, plus another flock of 30, late August on Seal Is. BLACKPOLL WARBLER, 8 reports of about 50 birds, 40 in migration; a male BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER was seen and photographed in Halifax city by Ian McLaren, Nov. 24, at the Conservatory of Music, and later seen by Linda and Peter Payzant, Roger Foxall, Jim Taylor, John and Shirley Cohrs, Bob Dickie and Dave Currie... "a beautifully marked bird and quite tame". See photo elsewhere in this issue. This was the fifth N.S. record and second confirmed sighting. The BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, 17 sightings of 95 birds, a peak of 30 included (in the 95) for Sept. 4 on Seal; AMERICAN REDSTART, 15 sightings of 28 birds, plus flocks of 100+ and 20+ Sept. 3, near Dartmouth; OVENBIRD, 12 reports of 19 birds, one of which, a female, was a passenger on the Newfoundland ferry in late August. "She seemed perfectly happy and was catching some little flies up under the eaves. Unfortunately she was travelling in the wrong direction and ended up in Argentina." (according to Sara MacLean). NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, 5 reports of 7 birds, of which 2 on Aug. 17 "dropped in on us on George's Bank" according to Raymond d'Entremont. The CONNECTICUT WARBLER, one report of 2 birds seen Sept. 28 and 29 on Seal Is., by Ian McLaren, F.L. Lavender, Peter and Linda Payzant, all field marks noted; MOURNING WARBLER, 6 reports of 13 birds; KENTUCKY WARBLER, one sighting of 1 bird, Aug. 28, on Brier Is., was seen and identified by Edgar Spalding, distinctive field marks and call noted. COMMON YELLOWTHROAT, "numerous" sightings (numbers seldom given) of over 200 birds plus several reports simply marked "common", sightings province-wide; WILSON'S WARBLER, 8 reports of 24 birds of which 8 were present Sept. 1, at Brier, according to JSC. N.B.: A Wilson's Warbler seen in the McLaren's back yard for a few days around Nov. 24, was "very yellow, perhaps a north-west bird", noted by Ian McLaren and James McLaren. A GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER was reported seen Aug. 31 on Brier Is., by John Cohrs. CANADA WARBLER received 6 reports of 9 birds; the YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, 5 reports of 7 birds, all on Brier Is. (ELM, SIT, EPS), Seal Is. (IAM, SM, NSBS party) and Sable Is. (Roger Pocklington).

Many thanks to Roger for sending us the Sable Island reports; also to the following: Ruth Hebb, Keith Keddy, Alan MacLeod, Rene and Dianne Matteau, James Taylor, Sharon Hawboldt, Warren and Nancy Peters, June and Sam Jarvis, Herbert and Helen Hall and the Pubnico boys! from whom came the bulk of our reports of the warblers, other than those which have been indicated above.

TANAGERS TO TOWHEES

The SCARLET Tanager was seen this season in every month from May to November; the first 2, in May in Cape Breton (Frank Robertson) and 1, late May at Ben Eoin (Nancy More). These were followed by 1 m. June 3 at Waverley, (L&PP); 1 m., July 2, near Streets Ridge (DAC); 1 m., Aug. 31, Halifax (RBS); 1, at Brier Is., Sept. 1 (EPS, SIT, ELM); same place (maybe the same bird) Sept. 2 (IAM); 5, on Brier, Sept. 3 (IAM), and 4, at Summit Heights Hill, Dartmouth also Sept. 3; 2 or 3 on Sept. 4 and 5 at Seal Is., (IAM; 1, Sept. 7, at Wolfville (EPS); 1, on Brier, Sept. 9 (RBS) also on Brier, a "female in winter plumage" with a large flock of robins, Sept. 27, south end of Halifax "eating yew berries" (IAM); the one November bird was "in fall plumage", seen at Fairview Cemetery, Nov. 3 by Dave Currie.

Only 2 NORTHERN CARDINALS have been reported: a female, June 6, 7 and 9 in a Halifax garden (JSC), and another female, Nov. 30 (also heard singing!) in a Yarmouth garden (Margaret Nickerson).

It has been an unusually good season for the ROSE-BREASTED GROS-BEAK, reports from all months, May through September: first sighting 1, May 27 (singing) at Glace Bay (J. Gates); a male and a female coming to a feeder at Waverley late May and early June (L&PP); 1 male, June 27, Wentworth Lake, Digby Co. (H&HH); 1 male, July 9, Tatamagouche, 1 male, Aug. 20, at New Ross and 2, Sept. 8-9 at New Ross (KNK); 1 male and 1 female, July 6-21 (male seen sharing a berry with the female at one time) at Smith's Cove (J.L. Bates); 4, Aug. 16 at Big Bras d'Or (Alan MacLeod); 1 female, Sept. 1 at Brier Is. (JL&JSC); at Seal Is., 22 birds of this species arrived Sept. 2, 5-20 in the next three days (IAM); at Lr. W. Pubnico 6 were seen Sept. 3 (JD'E); 1 imm. Sept. 5, was in a garden in Yarmouth town (MAN); 1 imm. male, Sept. 7, was at Brass Hill, Barrington (JR&CDG); and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was photographed Sept. 15 at Sable Is., (Roger Pocklington).

Fall sightings of the INDIGO BUNTING were few compared with the numbers of our spring arrivals: 3, Sept. 30 at Seal Is. (IAM); 1, Oct. 5 at Dartmouth Piggery, and 3 there, Oct. 6 (RBD); 1, Oct. 7-8, on Brier (ELM), 1, Oct. 13 at Petite Riviere (JSC). The DICKCISSEL was seen a few times, Sept. through Nov., 1984: noticeably in SW Nova Scotia first, later in Guysborough County and Cape Breton; an imm. bird Sept. 1 on Seal (IAM); 1, Sept. 8 on Brier (ELM); 1, Sept. 30 on Sable (RP); 1, Oct. 13 on Seal (NSBS party); 2 m. and f., Oct. 28 at Lr. W. Pubnico (Dd'E); 1, Oct. 25, at Big Hbr., Vict. Co. (Barry C. Sabeau, Dan Banks); 1, Oct. 25, near Baddeck (Dan Banks); 1, Nov. 22, at Canso (June and Sam Jarvis). Two sightings of the RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE were: 1, singing, on the Clyde River road, June 18 (JR&CDG) and 1, Oct. 13 at Seal (NSBS party).

SPARROWS

Two very early TREE SPARROWS were (marked) the first of the season, seen Oct. 12, at Petite Riviere (JSC). Thereafter five reports, Nov. 1-22, came from widely separated areas, Cape Breton to Yarmouth, 12-13 birds altogether. The CHIPPING SPARROW was present in good numbers throughout the summer, largest concentration as usual in the Valley, mentioned also as "common" in Clementsport, with 10-20 "constantly at the bird bath". The migration went almost unobserved, the last seen were however, at Seal Is., 4 there Nov. 8-9. The FIELD SPARROW was seen only three times, one bird per sighting in Sept. and Oct., at Green Bay (JSC), Seal Is., (IAM), Brier Is. (L&PP, RBS-- Richard Stern kindly gave us a complete and unmistakable description of the Brier Is. bird, seen Oct. 13). Four sightings of the VESPER SPARROW were 2, from the Valley, 1, from Halifax County and 1, offshore: at Wilmot in June, Peter MacLeod showed three of these sparrows

to IAM, ELM and Roger Foxall; B.L. Forsythe saw 1, Sept. 19 on the Grand Pre dyke; James McLaren saw 1, at Hartlen Point, Oct. 6 and again (or another) there Oct. 21, another on Nov. 2 (IAM); the sea-going bird was aboard the boat with R.S. d'Entremont, Oct. 20, on the Lurcher Shoal. Three LARK SPARROWS are reported: 1, imm. Aug. 17 at The Hawk, Cape Sable Is., "hopping about a lawn and driveway, observed closely for 15 min". (EPS, Paul Lehman of California); 1, imm., Oct. 17 at Marilyn Drive, Dartmouth (FLL et al.). Three sightings of the CLAY-COLORED SPARROW are given as: 1 juvenile, Seal Is., Sept. 28 (several observers of the NSBS party); 1 imm. Oct. 9, Hartlen Pt. (FLL, JWT) and 1 adult, Nov. 18, Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary (APBS) by Dave Currie.

R.B. Dickie of Halifax wrote: SAVANNAH SPARROW, abundant at Cole Hbr., Martinique, Conrad's Beach, Hartlen Pt. throughout the season; Sara MacLean of Glace Bay wrote of these sparrows, "quite common really, if you go where they are"; Ruth Hebb noted from the Chester area that "young seemed to be out after the first week of July", and the Gallaghers had numerous sightings in several localities (in SW Shel. Co.) "with a maximum of 10 birds Aug. 1 at Dan's Head." IAM estimated 25 pairs on territory at Seal Is. early July, 40+ there late Aug. and early Sept., and 45, Oct. 13-14. All other reports were from coastal areas, including Sable Is., and the last bird was still present on Canard Dykes Nov. 9 (RBS). The (SAVANNAH) IPSWICH SPARROW has been listed for us by IAM: Oct. 6, 2 at Hartlen Pt.; Oct. 13, 1, Seal Is.; Oct. 20, 4, Crescent Beach; Oct. 21, several at Cole Hbr.; Nov. 1, 3 at Seal Is., also several until the end of the report period at Cole Hbr., Eastern Passage and Conrad's Beach. Besides these, are the many present in Sept. on Sable Is. (RP).

Like the above, the SHARP-TAILED SPARROW favours coastal areas, and was first noted, 10+ on July 30, 1984, at Cole Hbr. Dyke by R&DM; other sightings were of 1-4 birds, Aug. 1 through October, from Morien Bar, Cape Breton (Sara MacLean) to Mavilette Beach (Yar. Co., CRKA), 12 reports in all. The FOX SPARROW appeared briefly in August at Green Bay (JSC), then a few in October: quite a few Oct. 18 at the Piggery (FLL); 2, Oct. 24 & 25 at Lr. W. Pubnico (JD'E, RSD'E). The SONG SPARROW is reported as "abundant", "numerous sightings in many places" and "usual numbers from the members generally throughout the province". Sightings dwindled through Oct., but a few of these birds remain, and doubtless will throughout the winter as they usually do. Eleven reports of the LINCOLN'S SPARROW add up to 12 birds, seen from Aug. 8 to Oct. 9, at Big Bras d'Or, Wolfville Ridge, Brier and Seal Islands, Hartlen Pt. and the Dartmouth Piggery; widely scattered and probably more in the remote areas sought by preference of this beautiful singer. SWAMP SPARROWS were present in usual numbers according to reports; heard oftener than seen, from June to Nov.; the only concentration noted was at Seal Is.: 35, Oct. 13-14. Two Nov. sightings were 1, Nov. 5, Lr. W. Pubnico (DJd'E) and 1, Nov. 25 at Ducks Unlimited in Annapolis (SH).

The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW is another wintering bird--at least a few stay--but many came back this spring, heard singing frequently and generally distributed, Glace Bay to Lr. W. Pubnico. Evidence of an exodus of some at least, was the 18+ present on Seal Is., Sept. 25-30, only 1, there Oct. 13-14 (IAM); also the assemblage of 20+ (some in full song) Oct. 31 at Tusket (CRKA). Last record for the season is 15, Nov. 12, Lr. W. Pubnico (JD'E). The WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW appeared on its return in Sept. in N.S.: 2, Lr. W. Pubnico, Sept. 22, and noted on Sable Is., Sept. 26. Other reports are in Oct., eight in all, and 1, Nov. 17 at Amherst Pt. (DAC). Up to 30 birds of this species were seen, 8 imm. at least among them. The last seen was an imm. at Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary, Nov. 17, 1984 by D. Currie. The Oct. 10 bird (RSD'E) was aboard the boat, by Lurcher Shoal. The DARK-EYED

JUNCO remains the most numerous of this group, well reported from Glace Bay to Yar. Co. Flocks numbered from 6 to 30, increasing in size as fall approached; often associated with chickadees, nuthatches and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Fifty plus were counted at Porter's Lake Park, Oct. 27, and 50+ in one flock, Nov. 21 at Argyle Head. As of now, Dec. 1, Juncos are coming regularly to feeders.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR AND SNOW BUNTING

The LAPLAND LONGSPUR was seen from Oct. 7 (2, at Brier Is.) to Nov. 18, (15 at Cole Hbr.), about 125 of these birds reported through Oct. and Nov. These sightings were at Hartlen Pt., Brier Island, Cole Hbr., Cherry Hill, Grand Pre and Lr. W. Pubnico. SNOW BUNTINGS arrived the week of Oct. 13-19 (first report came from Seal Is., of 3 birds). Flocks in Oct. numbered from about 6 to 40-50, and are still around, at Cole Hbr., Martinique Beach, Cherry Hill, Cook's Beach, and 100 at Lr. W. Pubnico. (The flock at Cook's Beach may soon become decimated, operating as it does under the watchful gaze of a poised Peregrine).

ICTERIDS

The BOBOLINK has become a common bird in Nova Scotia, "numerous throughout" as Bob Dickie says; a good supply noted nesting in June on the Ohio Road, Shel. Co., and in the Chester area. They started leaving in July, but in Sept. there were about 100 at Seal Is. early on, 700+ at Lr. W. Pubnico, Sept. 3, and 25 left at Seal, Sept. 30. One late one lingered until Nov. 18 at Hartlen Pt., Hfx. Co. Not many RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS were reported until October, when from the 15th on sizable flocks were seen, notably 500, Oct. 15-16 on Brier Is. (FLL,JWT); "thousands" Oct. 21-22 in the stubble fields near Kentville, Berwick and Middleton, and "very common" Oct. 26-28 on Brier Is. (RBS); 6, Oct. 29, at Lr. W. Pubnico (JD'E); 10, Oct. 10, Shelburne (Marion Cunningham); 9, Nov. 8 at Dartmouth (Joyce Purchase); 3, Nov. 22, at Canso (J & ST) and 1 female, Nov. 25, at a Clementsport feeder (SH). A few EASTERN MEADOWLARKS reported are: 1, Oct. 13-14 on Seal Is., (ELM,IAM); 1, Oct. 19 at Hartlen Pt. (RBD,FLL); 1, Oct. 28, Ashburn, Hfx. Co. (Chris Field); 1, Nov. 4, Cherry Hill (BH,SJF); 1, Nov. 12, Dartmouth (JWT), and 2, Nov. 19 on Conrad's Beach (J. Purchase. A YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD was seen by many birders Sept. 1, on Brier Is., first found there by John Cohrs, later observed by "mobs" to quote Eric Mills; another was at Canso, Oct. 7-10, reported by Gloria Shanahan; 1, perhaps 2 were seen Oct. 27,28,29, at Pubnico, on the 28th by Kenneth and Doris Peters, and 1, at Lr. W. Pubnico, seen there by Jerome D'Eon and John F. Kearny, for all three days, at the feeder.

Reports would indicate that the RUSTY BLACKBIRD (for the most part) arrived in June, 1984, and left in September and October: early sightings were 1, June 8, Glace Bay (J. Gates); 2, June 14, Shel. Co. (JR & CDG) and 1, June 30, Lr. W. Pubnico (DjD'E). Alan MacLeod counted 5, Aug. 29 on his farm at Big Bras d'Or; in September DjD'E saw one Rusty on the 25th, one again October 13; one was at Clementsport, Sept. 25 & 30; 1, was on Seal Is., Sept. 28, and 3, Oct. 13-14 (IAM). The COMMON GRACKLE maintains its usual population, called "abundant" by RBD, and "as usual" by Sara MacLean this year. The Gallaghers in Shel. Co., had eight sightings in four different localities June 14-Aug. 27. Keith Keddy noted an increase in Sept. from 1 to 4 to 11, Sept. 19, 25 and 30, and there were 42 at Lr. W. Pubnico, Sept. 12 (DjD'E). The main departure was in October: 200 Oct. 2 at Maitland, Hants Co. (CF); 1000, Oct. 15-16, Digby Neck and Brier Is. (FLL,JWT); 100+ Oct. 25 at Black River, Kings Co. (BLF); 75, Oct. 27, at Lr. W. Pubnico (JD'E at his feeder); in November, smaller roving flocks were noted of 5-7 birds only, in scattered areas. Of the BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD, R.B. Dickie said "numbers appear to be

down this year (of course this could be wishful thinking on my part)". Other reports unfortunately do not indicate any great diminution in the population. Young were hatched in August; on Aug. 12, BLF saw a young Cowbird following a Black-capped Chickadee which fed it several times (a green worm), also, at New Ross, Keith Keddy noted a young Cowbird bagging. On Seal Is., there were no Cowbirds present in June and early July, up to 25 in early Sept., 20 on the 30th of that month. (IAM). In late October, assemblages of Cowbirds could be seen in SW Nova Scotia in flocks of 5 to 20, which grew in size through October and November and are still around, in this area, in the hundreds.

ORCHARD ORIOLE...erratum. Please note that the female listed as of April 20-22 in Halifax, should be May 20-22. (Otherwise would have been eating non-existent plum blossoms). (IAM).

Very few NORTHERN ORIOLES were sighted in the spring, but fall reports are copious (where did they all come from?) In Sept. they were noted on Sable Is., in Lr. W. Pubnico 5 were seen at this time and on Seal Is.: 0, Sept. 1; 20, Sept. 2; 25, Sept. 3, down to 7, Sept. 5. These sightings were by Ian McLaren, who later found a bird on Seal (Nov. 9) which had a "black throat and grayish back, but darkness of belly and some dark markings on the back suggest that it was not a pure 'bollockii'" (IAM,ELM). For the most part, November sightings were of singles: 1, Nov. 4 near York Redoubt (DAC) 1 female Nov. 8 at Dartmouth (J. Purchase); 3, Nov. 15, early a.m. near Point Pleasant Park, Halifax (CWH); 2 or 3, Nov. 21 at Canso (J & SJ,NP); 1 female, Nov. 25, Annapolis (SH). Two other of these orioles were "at my grapes for 10 days" (time not given, but probably late summer if the grapes were ripe) "more enjoyable than the wine I had planned", at New Waterford, according to C. S. MacDonald.

FINCHES AND GROSBEAKS

The PINE GROSBEAK is still with us, few reports but quite as usual, with eight sightings June through August of 12 birds, and in October and November five sightings of 16 birds, distribution general. The PURPLE FINCH was still around in May but disappeared for the most part after that, with an occasional encounter with 1 or 2 until Aug. when slightly larger numbers were noted: 12, Aug. 24 at Big Bras d'Or (AM); 4, Aug. 24, at Eastern Passage (R &DM); by October flocks were slightly more widespread (6 birds Oct. 26 at Glenwood; 12, Oct. 31 at Tusket; but these finches have not yet settled in Nova Scotia for the winter, if indeed they will at all this year. There were 7 sightings of the RED CROSSBILL from June through September, representing about 30 birds: at Shelburne (Gallaghers); Chester area (RDH); Yarmouth (the Halls); Green Bay (JSC); Porter's Lake, Hfx. Co. (CWH); Brier Is. (JSC) and Black River Lake, Kings Co. (BLF). For the WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL there were 27 sightings, and over 2000 birds counted, from first appearance in June (2 birds on the Clyde River road, June 29, by the Gallaghers), to two flocks in November of 20-30 birds, at Hazel Hill (W & NP) and the Pubnico Lake road (DJd'E). At Sable River, Joan and Dave Young heard five separate singing males within a distance of about a mile (July 7/84); Ruth Hebb called it "the best year for White-winged Crossbills for some years"; Eric Mills wrote "by the first week of August ubiquitous, singing and calling noisily everywhere in the Schooner Cover area, Head of St. Margaret's Bay; FLL and JWT counted 500 along Digby Neck Oct. 15; BLF noted several young out Oct. 13 at Black River Lake; IAM gave 150 as total White-winged Crossbills for Seal Is., Oct. 13-14, and on Oct. 21, JS and JLC wrote: 1200, flocks of 60 to 100 flying noisily all around all day. (Heavy cone crop).

So far we have only one report for the COMMON REDPOLL: 5, arrived Nov. 23, Shelburne town, Marion Cunningham.

This has been a PINE SISKIN season in some areas. It began slowly with a single bird, June 8 at Marriott's Cove, but a big flock showed up there Sept 6, mixed with Goldfinches (RDH). There were 10, at Big Bras d'Or, Aug. 9-10 (AM) and 12 appeared at Green Bay, Sept. 6-9. Keith Keddy's Siskins were: 1, at New Ross, Sept. 9, increasing to 30+ by Oct. 14, and about 6, at Hammonds Plains Nov. 2. Then through Oct. to late Nov. there were counts up to a dozen birds at Wolfville, Porter's Lake, Lr. Eel Brook, "Cat Town", Yar. Co., Middle Musquodoboit and Cape Breton. High counts were 200, at Seal Is., Oct. 15.-16. Some general comments on the AMERICAN GOLDFINCH are : "Plentiful around here, seen and heard very frequently in June, July and August. In Sept., on the 6th, a big flock with Pine Siskins" (RDH); "Numerous throughout the summer, 200-300 Martinique Beach, Nov. 18" (RBD); "Numerous sightings June 8 - Sept. 17, maximum Brass Hill, Aug. 29, 25 on wire." (CD & JRG); "Quite regular, July-Oct., Hammonds Plains, and common Sept. 7-9, at New Ross" (KNK); other records: 4, Big Bras d'Or, Aug. 28, was the only sighting reported from Cape Breton. Twenty at Shelburne Oct. 15 (MC), 1000, Oct. 15 Digby Neck (FLL & JWT), 25-30 Overton, Yar. Co. (in winter plumage) Oct. 20 H & HH), 50-60, Middle W. Pubnico, Oct. 31 (DJd'E) and 10-12, Tusket, Oct. 31 (CRKA).

EVENING GROSBEAKS, true to form, were restlessly on the move during early autumn, stopping briefly at feeders for a quick lunch and then departing. Two summer reports of interest are: parents feeding young at a feeder in Big Pond, Cape Breton, June 15 (JM); and up to 19 during a 5-day period at Big Bras d'Or, around Aug. 15. Keith Keddy saw a few birds of this species wandering about at Hammonds Plains and New Ross during the summer and fall and reports that six had finally settled down at a feeder in Hammonds Plains by Nov. 11. Richard Stern and Sharon Hawboldt report the same situation at Kentville and Clementsport respectively. At Lr. W. Pubnico, however, Jerome D'Eon had 70 regulars at his feeder by Oct. 25 and Marion Cunningham at Shelburne had 10 as fairly regular customers, Oct. 30.

HOUSE SPARROW

HOUSE SPARROWS got a fairly good "press" all things considered, most observers treating them as they would any other species. IAM and ELM reported on their movements on Seal Is., as they would have for any native species. The number seen there on Oct. 13, jumped to 25 on the 14th and was down to 7 on Nov. 8-9. On Oct. 14, a flock of 20 flew over the island towards the south. Both observers regard it as an unusual migrant at Seal. Alan MacLeod at Big Bras d'Or saw 3 there Aug. 28, and the Gallaghers had four sightings in four places from June 4 to July 30, in Shel. Co. A change from fifty years ago! Other reports are of small numbers, up to 12 at feeders. Perhaps the automobile is more useful to us than the horse in more ways than one.

--PRD, ed.

Editor's Note: You may have noticed that there are some gaps in these reports. Missing sections are to be found at the end of this issue

Contributors to the above report are: J. Adams, C.R.K. Allen, Mike Almon, Dan Banks, George Boyd, Betty Bushell, Lee Bushell, Norris Bushell, Curtis Chipman, Margaret Curchill, John Cohrs, Lisé Cohrs, J. Shirley Cohrs, G. Crowell, Marion Cunningham, Dave Currie, Jerome d'Eon, Leon d'Eon, Delisle d'Eon, Elizabeth d'Entremont, Raymond d'Entremont, Robert B. Dickie, Phyllis R. Dobson, Chris Field, Bernard L. Forsythe, Roger Foxall, Sylvia J. Fullerton, C.D. Gallagher, J. R. Gallagher, J. Gates, Diana Geil, Jamie Gibson, June Graves, E. Greene, Martin Haas, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Sharon Hawboldt, Ruth D. Hebb, C. W. Helleiner, June Jarvis, Sam Jarvis, John F. Kearney, Keith N. Keddy, Annette Keuning, Fulton L. Lavender, Paul Lehman, Bob MacDonald, Clive Macdonald, John MacDonald, Angus MacLean, Sara MacLean, Alan MacLeod, Peter MacLeod, Dan MacNeil, Jack MacNeil, Steve Manuel, Blake Maybank, James McLaren, Ian McLaren, J. McNicol, Sandra Meyerowitz, Eric L. Mills, John Mills, Nancy More, G. Murphy, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters, Nancy Peters, Warren Peters, Roger Pocklington, J. Prosser, L. Prosser, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Albert Poland, Ella Roland, Barbara Ruff, Eric Ruff, Les Rutherford, Barry Sabean, Marion Smythe, Edgar Spalding, Arthur Spencer, Richard B. Stern, James W. Taylor, Tim Taylor, Damian Welsh, Dave Young, Joan Young.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

FOR
THE APRIL ISSUE
FEBRUARY 25

Bird reports to the Records Editor--

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

Articles, sketches and letters to the--

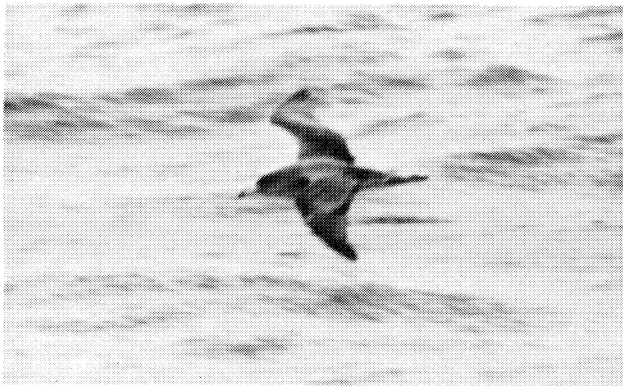
Editor-in-Chief, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
Nova Scotia Bird Society,
c/o The Nova Scotia Museum,
1747 Summer Street,
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6

Photographs to--

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

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 Overton
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 Clementsport
Kings Co.	Wolfville, Greenfield, Melanson, Canard, Lockhartville, Black River Lake, Gaspereau, Grand Pre
Cumberland Co. (Cumb. Co.)	Lusby Marsh
Hants Co.	Shubenacadie



The best bird of the NSBS fall field trip to Seal Island was this Cory's Shearwater, which came to investigate the boat several times during the return trip on Oct. 14

Photo-I.A. McLaren

IN MEMORIAM

WILLET J. MILLS WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY, AND DURING ITS EARLY YEARS HELD A NUMBER OF EXECUTIVE POSITIONS: SECRETARY, TREASURER, EDITOR, AUDITOR AND MEMBER OF A NUMBER OF COMMITTEES.

IT WAS VERY LARGELY BECAUSE OF HIS BOUNDLESS ENERGY AND IMAGINATION THAT THE SOCIETY PROSPERED AND GREW FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. HIS GENEROSITY AND DEDICATION TO THE CAUSE OF BIRDING IS EXEMPLIFIED BY HIS ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE SEAL ISLAND FOR A VERY CONSIDERABLE SUM AND THEN DONATE IT TO THE NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY.

BESIDES HIS SERVICE TO THE SOCIETY, WILLETT MADE DEFINITE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF BIRDS IN THIS REGION THROUGH HIS RECORDED OBSERVATIONS AND PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF BIRD BANDING. ALSO, HE WAS READY AND WILLING WHENEVER POSSIBLE TO ACT AS GUIDE AND HOST TO VISITING BIRDERS, AND WAS ABLE TO INTRODUCE MANY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS TO THE NOVA SCOTIA WOODLAND AND ITS SPECIAL INHABITANTS.

WILLETT WAS A QUIET, MODEST MAN WHO MANAGED ALWAYS TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE, BUT TO THOSE WHO KNEW HIM HE SHOWED A WARM, HUMAN SIDE AND A DELIGHTFUL SENSE OF HUMOUR.

WE WHO STILL REMAIN FEEL FORTUNATE TO HAVE SHARED WITH THE JOYS AND THRILLS OF BIRDING IN THOSE NOW DISTANT DAYS.

--C. R. K. ALLEN

SECOND in our series on interesting birding areas in Nova Scotia
(Glace Bay Birding)

OBSERVATIONS

Text by Sara MacLean
Photographs by Joy Gates

June 16th, and we seemed to be breathing a long sigh of relief after a hateful cold-weather tantrum. At this time of the evening the sanctuary lake was utterly at peace (at Dearn's Corner)

What we thought most remarkable was the silence. The surf was not pounding on the outer beach, the wind not strong enough this evening to cause a sussarus in the marsh grass, and the birds seemed so subdued and unusually silent.

In the little harbour the water was dimpling to the jumping of some tiny fishes. Their little bodies gleamed silver as they went almost an inch into the air after some sort of flies. A group of terns were soaring and snatching these, but in a carefree way. They must still be sitting on eggs out on the dry marsh, and not yet so anxiously competing for the food supply as they will be when the young ones need more and more to eat. They hardly gave a screech.

Tide was dead low and Willets were probing here and there on the mud. However, there was not a sound, not a 'pilly-willy-willy' to be heard, just easy going picking along the mud banks. Unusual, we thought, considering the nature of the high-strung Willets.

A few bachelor Herring Gulls passed over in a leisurely way, probably coming from Sand Lake, a mile or two to the south, where they go to drink fresh water and to bathe. They didn't stop; they would fly to the sandbank at the mouth of the channel to roost for the night.

Crows sailed past in an awkward gang, one couldn't say a flock. We sat in the car on the causeway to see what would come. The birds are accustomed to cars and pay no attention, simply keeping on with their lives. Also, a car is about the best defense there is against mosquitoes, and those dry marshes produce a fine population of the best in the little ponds and pools in among the long grass.

A Savannah Sparrow hopped up on the longest grass blade, and from this great height, examined us carefully. It decided we were not a threat and fluttered away directly towards its nest in the marsh. A moment later, a Song Sparrow crept out from the grass, snapped up a couple of little victims of some sort on the sandy track, and ran back to the shelter of the grass. A Spotted Sandpiper tilted and throbbed on a peaty island, all of a foot across. Great Blue Herons slowly, so slowly, lifted a foot, put it forward, and let it down again, waiting for what must eventually swim into range of that dagger. Big and pompous looking, one of the resident eagles flew out of the woods and made a semi-circular tour of the area.

There is a gull on the marsh that seems to be ailing. Probably by tomorrow the eagle may decide it has lived long enough. Along with the silence of a set of birds that can screech and scream with the best of them, there was one more odd circumstance--we were there for an hour and did not see one--not one--duck of any kind.

This used to be the breeding place for five or six Black Duck broods at the least, and sometimes a couple of Green-winged Teal, but none were in sight on this evening.

II

On June 30th, we explored the possibilities of Lundrigan's Pond. This is a tantalizing place in many ways. I'm certain it is a disposal field for a sewage system. It grows what has to be the richest crop of grass on Cape Breton Island--not cat tails or reeds or swamp plants, but huge, sweeping swathes of coarse grass of the lushest Irish green. The water is of a good extent, perhaps six or eight acres, but I don't think it is ever much over a foot deep anywhere.

Early in the year it is possible to see all kinds of ducks there --Ring Necks, Shovellers, and of course, Teal and Black Duck, which remain and nest. There is no way to approach, one must do one's viewing from the highway, but there are plenty of interesting sights. By the end of June, the grass is so thick and high, and has obscured the waterways so much, that the ducks can only be seen as they pass from one lagoon to another.

The ducks have no objection to this pond's being a sewage area. In fact, they love it and throng here. However, the place has a terrible fault. Just let us have a dry spell and it is as if the bottom had fallen out of the whole contraption. The water disappears in a few days. I fear that all the hopeful broods of little Teal and Black Duck swimming so gaily on June 30th, will be dead in a couple of weeks. They are not nearly old enough to fly, and how can they live without water? Is it possible? I doubt it.

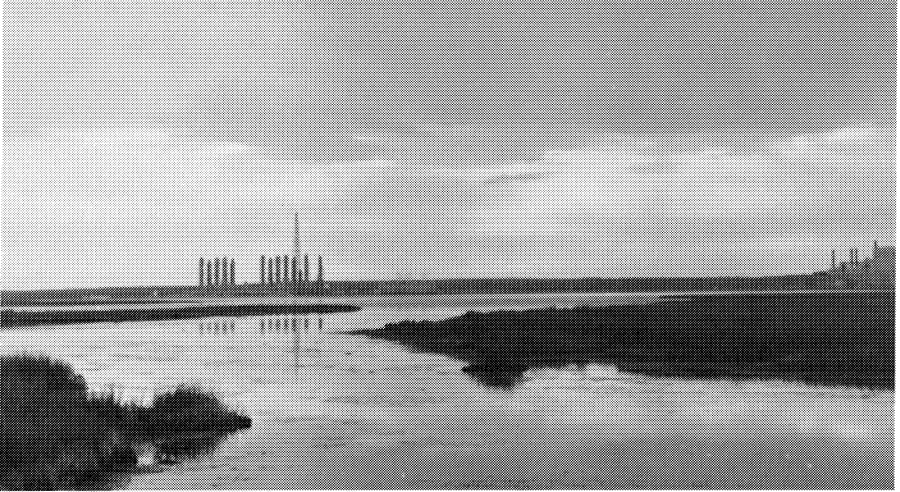
As luck would have it, on the last day of June, there was still water. A Black Duck led a line of five large young out of the grass. They are almost as big as their mother. Two other Black Duck had about ten little ones between them, but these are tiny. A couple of teal were herding a frisky flock of a dozen or more little ones, skating around in all directions and jumping up to snap at mosquitoses. There were two Solitary Sandpipers crossing the open places.

A Song Sparrow was trilling its powerful tune so loud it can be heard above a passing tractor. On the overhead wires beside the highway, a Red-wing kept watch over us, 'churring' from time to time, until he was satisfied we would approach no nearer and meant no harm.

On this evening we didn't have a glimpse of the Barn Swallows that usually skim over the pond. The Marsh Hawk was not to be seen. Perhaps the grass is so high now that the mice are safe from him. No herons were moving about. They drop in from time to time to dine on frogs. At least, I suppose it is frogs they get. They spear something, anyway.

Lundrigan's Pond is such a happy place when the new animals come in early spring. Every year we hope that this will be the summer that the water will not dry up so that these infants hatched here may have a future. Once in a while a wet summer gives them a chance to live.

III



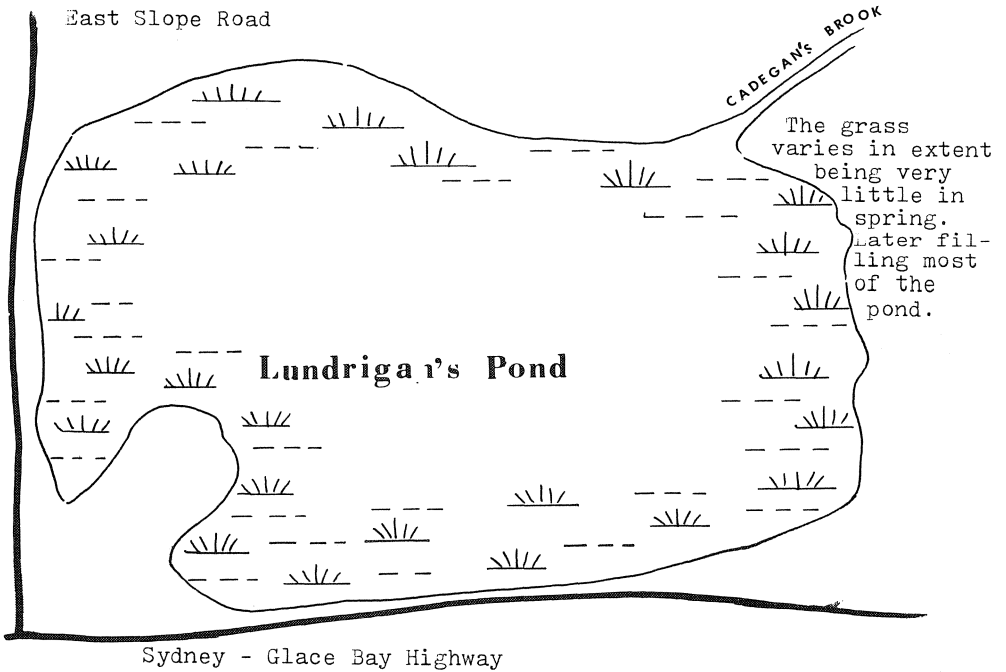
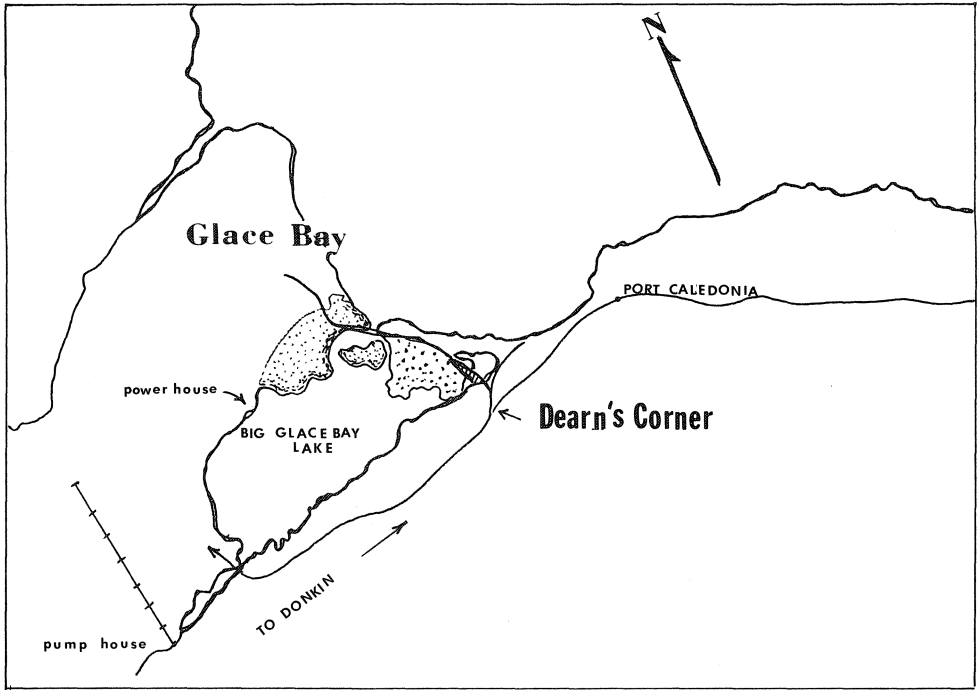
GLACE BAY SANCTUARY

Not every field trip discovers wonders, though anywhere one goes there is always something to enjoy. On July 18th, we explored the western end of the Glace Bay lake, the Sanctuary. We went in at the very top, on a narrow driveway that leads to the town pumping station. This is really a much more private, secluded spot than the famous Dearn's Corner at the eastern end---prettier, too. MacAskill's Brook runs through here, a large, slow stream, flowing past handsome stretches of marsh grass. I have been told that MacAskill's Brook runs right through the whole lake in a channel fifteen feet deep, continuing the whole length of the lake--this must be nearly two miles--and finally finding an outlet on the east into the ocean.

The view was very nice. Marsh grass always looks so rich and handsome, especially with the slow, dark water running through it. Out of the waving grass flew a little flock, probably a family, of young Bobolinks, enjoying their new ability to fly, and chirruping all together.

Along the clearing is a border of scrub, stunted spruce and some poor looking maples. Out of this peered a Solitary Vireo, which examined us without showing much interest, then dropped down out of sight in the undergrowth. There was a warbler in there, too. I thought it was a Tennessee Warbler, but certainly wouldn't be too opinionated about such a tiny shape flitting about in the deep shade of a maple.

A heron stood with dignity in the distance down the brook. Herons always stand with dignity, until the moment they give up all their posing and turn into an angular missile-launching device, to send that dagger home into some victim. Robins, Song Sparrows, and a Yellow Warbler saluted us, -- nothing rare or strange. Just a quiet, peaceful evening scene.



IV

Has anyone ever counted all the bodies of water in Canada that are called "Grand Lake"? There are at least three in Nova Scotia, perhaps more, and this is a very small province. Truth to tell, many of these "Grand" lakes are not all that great, either. On August 1st, we visited Cape Breton's Grand Lake. It is neatly concealed. One drives along the highway between Sydney and Glace Bay, which is one of the busiest highways in the province. Dodge in on your right if you are going towards Sydney, drive down a lane, not very far, and there is Grand Lake. Actually, it is quite near Sydney, but somehow seems a secluded place, perhaps because nobody really lives along its shores.



GRAND LAKE

We had another glorious evening of this most lovely summer. No wind, no dust,--no flies! After leaving the car at a railway crossing, we wandered along a pleasant wood road. There were Purple Finches high up in the trees. They have been out of sight recently, so were welcome. Robins flitted back and forth, a flight of brazen young Grackles stormed past overhead, and there were some Redwings in the bushes near the water. We expected to see some of the birds that have been present at Grand Lake on other occasions--loons, Yellow-legs, Snipe, more than one species of duck--but none of these were visible this particular evening. Plenty of Gold Finches were darting about, descending into the cat tails and popping out at another spot. A Song Sparrow trilled his song beside the lake near where the yellow lillies are blooming. A Savannah Sparrow ran along the path's edge and chickadees were in the thickets. Cedar Waxwings passed overhead and perched in tall trees. No warblers were seen, but they are often present in these woods. They just didn't want to show themselves.

Probably this very hot weather keeps some of the birds quieter than they might be otherwise? What do all these little birds that live on flies find this year, when everything is so dry and their prey of tiny flies is so scarce? It is difficult to say, isn't it? All these questions add to the interest of looking about out of doors. Marking the things we see, the things we expect to find but don't, and pondering on cause and effect.

V

Back to Dearn's Corner on September 15th--Now that the swimming season is over, not very many people cross the causeway to the sea beach, and the birds are free to move about near the shore where they are more visible to people who come to spy on them.

For years, the same thing has happened at this observing place--we drive in and nothing seems to be going on --pretty well deserted, just a few Black Duck away out in the lake. But have a little patience. Sit still. The tide is beginning to run out. Before very long, more and more Black Duck materialize out of the marsh and from behind the points of land. These must be newcomers, certainly all these birds, nearly a hundred, never spent the summer here--and what are those large waterfowl away out? Canada geese, indeed! A flock of nine or ten. Small teal bob around among the larger birds, very distant, and not to be identified, except as 'teal'. The herons move out from the forest and begin to fish--successfully too. I can see the nearest one swallowing after every job.

A few Herring Gulls fly over. They don't frequent the lake much or at any rate, not this end of it, though hundreds nest along the northern shore, sheltering below the bank if the wind is north.

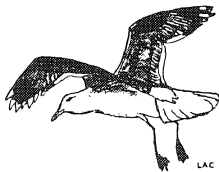
A couple of Great Cormorant fly out, and a Raven goes over.

It is getting well into dusk now, but a Greater Yellow-legs tiptoes out of the grass and begins to scamper along the mud exposed by the falling tide.

It's quite dark now, so I suppose we might as well leave; we'll not see much more this evening--and at that very moment, something very tiny flies over the water quite near--perhaps a little warbler. It seems too small to be a sparrow. It is dodging and turning, pursued by a Sharpshinned Hawk.

To tell the truth, I don't know whether the hawk got the bird or not, it was so dark. Once they flew to where they had the trees for a background, it was impossible to see. I rather think the hawk missed; he turned back again towards the big marsh without pausing.

So, Dearn's Corner remains the best place to be. It is not the prettiest and certainly a mighty cold spot on a winter morning, and has nothing romantic about it. The distant view displays a nursing home, a power plant, and a heavy water plant, so one couldn't call it scenic. However, it is reliable for anyone who wants to see birds going on with their lives.



VI

Perhaps one might think that to go back to the Glace Bay Sanctuary, and the Dearn's Corner end of it, would get monotonous, but it doesn't seem to be so, at least, not to us. The place remains the same, but the characters in the story are always changing. When we went there on October 8th, we could see hundreds of Black Duck. Now, Black Duck seem to have become, all of a sudden, an endangered species, or at any rate, a species in decline. There has been a bag limit on how many ducks the hunters may shoot in a day's hunting--I believe it's three. What if one shoots four? Does that one over the limit get trodden into the marsh? It has happened with other birds--that I know. However low their numbers are elsewhere, there are plenty at the sanctuary, and many of them in pairs. The teal are plentiful too, cute little things, turning up their pretty bottoms as they delve at the edge of the marsh. Somehow, I was taught that the Black Ducks paired in January. Perhaps these at the Sanctuary don't know about this rule because many of them, not by any means all, and I do believe it's the older birds, are definitely keeping in pairs.

A beautiful late afternoon and the marsh grass is taking on the colour I think of as tawny. Tawny seems to me a very English word, and Joy is very English. She thinks tawny is a darker shade than the grass. In the marsh are many colours from yellow to crimson, as the various plants change in preparation for winter. I think it's permissible to use tawny--just this once.

The tide is low and the herons are marching around out at the end of the marsh. Joy began to count them, but they kept passing back and forth, so it wasn't easy. We know there are plenty of them; they don't seem to be in any danger of decline.

We wondered if we could cross one of the channels. Who knows how deep that dark muddy water is? Just then one of the Yellow-legs informed us. It trotted right across without swimming a stroke, though they will swim pretty well if they have to.

Out in the Little Harbour was a Pied-billed Grebe--just one, turning summersaults repeatedly. For some reason several species of grebe visit the Little Harbour, though there is only this lone water witch here now. They don't seem to go into the large part of the lake. At least, I have never seen them there.

The usual gang of crows comes walloping past, going to the roosting place. The light is failing. Up at the tip of the nearer marsh are three white birds. I didn't give them a second glance; just three gulls. However, Joy said, "Those aren't gulls, you know". Quite right. They were three Snow Geese. There were no Canada Geese in the lake at that time, although flocks of 500 have been seen. At this time of year they go out to the two little lakes in the big bog back of the airport where they eat the fresh-water vegetation and drink the water. If one goes to those lakes in mid-summer when the water is low, it is possible to pick up arrow heads. The Indians hunted geese there long ago.



GLACE BAY SANCTUARY, LOOKING WEST FROM DEARN'S CORNER WITH THE HEAVY WATER PLANT IN THE DISTANCE

VII

Having visited the Sanctuary and two other good observation places, we rounded off the summer and fall with a last view of Dearn's Corner on November 7th. The more I study the Glace Bay Sanctuary, the better I think it to be. I don't say it's an easy place to observe birds, but after all, the sanctuary is created for the birds, not for the watchers, isn't it?

In itself, it is an interesting spot. So many places in Nova Scotia have historic backgrounds that we take them a bit for granted, and tend to forget or ignore the footsteps of those before us. The lake is always called Glace Bay Lake, but its proper name is Dyson's Pond. Who was Dyson? I don't know; some long-ago land surveyor, perhaps. Then, as one turns off the highway at Dearn's Corner, the little road that leads out over the causeway has a round pond of some fifteen or twenty acres on the right. Because I'm one of the oldest people who goes there, I call it the Old Harbour, or the Little Harbour. Today it's just a land-locked pond and there is a stream running into it from the lake, or out of it, depending on the tide. At the outer end, there is a high rocky beach of rounded stones protecting the pond from the sea, but it was really once a harbour. Before Glace Bay was anything but a small village, Port Caledonia shipped coal here in sailing ships. Perhaps the vestiges of the piers may still be visible in the beach at very low tide. A railway ran along the beach carrying coal from the mine to the shipping pier. How long ago? Over a hundred years have passed since the railway and the pier were abandoned. Once little steamers came into use, Port Caledonia was too shallow, and Glace Bay Harbour took its place.

In summer, the outer sea beach is a swimming place, which is why Joy and I visited Grand Lake and Lundrigan's Pond instead of Dearn's Corner on two of our outings. When the beach is thronged with swimmers and everybody is coming and going, the birds keep well away, too far to watch. It is not that the swimmers bother them. The willets, terns and others that nest on the marshes are very well protected by the unbelievable swarms of mosquitoes and flies that wave like a banner in the breeze over the top of the grass.

No flies were left in November, but a Savannah Sparrow greeted us as we drove out on the causeway. A windy day seemed to make the ducks restless, flying from place to place, stopping to feed a little, then circling around once more.

About 150 Canada Geese were less flighty. They were feeding in a businesslike way at the edge of the marsh. What a great deal of food there must be to supply these large birds for weeks and weeks; sometimes there are many more than the flock we saw.

The tide was high and no herons were visible. Some have doubtless gone south, but there must be a few lingering yet.

As we watched, a very large eagle flew up from the eagle-perching place and flapped along over the marsh. The geese seemed to care nothing for her, but from some sheltered spot on the other side of the lake, rose a thousand gulls. They mounted up high against a background of dark purple clouds, looking like a swarm of flies. They didn't trust that eagle and not one of them wanted to be caught on the ground where a strong yellow claw might snatch from above.



On banding Petrels

Night falls. Under the Island,
A million puffins grunt in suburban burrows.
Out of the dark Atlantic the petrels made land fall,
Flutter and swoop through the short summer night,
Fight and make love on the green tiles of the mountain.

Caught in the invisible net, they spit and dangle,
Helplessly biting the fingers of science;
Resist to the end the obscene examinations,
The shotgun wedding with the numbered ring
To the British Museum (Natural History).

Far off the land, the morning light picks out
A hundred petrels walking the waters;
Once known only to God
(He doesn't specialize in sparrows.)
Now free no more.

--RGB Brown

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

I am enclosing three shots of the Mutation or SPORT, taken at my feeder in April of this year. He was sighted a number of times with his brother and sister Grosbeaks. I had sent a distant shot of 'him'? to my cousin R.G. MacNeil, who submitted it to your organization and was published in your last edition. These close ups are much more interesting and almost pet-like. I used a telo-zoom lens through my window which accounts for imperfection of the picture. I would like to share these pictures with you and your readers but would like them returned. Thanks.

--C. Jewkes

ED. Note: Unfortunately, available space allows us to publish only one of these lovely photographs. We wish that we could have it in colour to show the true beauty of the clear yellow.



Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

As the bleak, grey, February dawn crept across the cold, lead coloured waters stretching between our anchored vessel and the marshy delta of the Tigris River, the day started out as uneventfully as any other.

Though the marshland was home to hundreds of wintering European birds such as Sanderlings, Little Stints, Grey Plovers, Green and Common Sandpipers, our only visitors that morning, were the usual assortment of Herring, Common and Black-headed Gulls, along with Common and Sandwich Terns, all squabbling and jostling on the water, for places nearest to the ship's galley chute, where table scraps were tossed overboard.



The Pelican after cleansing

hunched its drooping shoulders against the wind's miserable chill and pathetically eyed our approach.

The bird's fluffy white underside was mucky brown and its wing feathers were also streaked with the brown of crude oil. My heart sank when I noticed how puffed up the bird's stomach appeared. Was that the result of ingesting crude oil, I wondered?

No one seemed to think that there was anything we could do for the bird, but I decided to try anyway. Arming myself with a bucket of soapy water and a sponge, I nervously approached the Pelican. Apathy turned to wariness as the bird looked down its long, formidable beak. The rest of the crew looked on in horror as I lifed the warm, soapy sponge to the bird's underside.

To everyone else's surprise (and I must admit, to my own as well) the bird did not attack me, but merely cocked its head to one side, as if puzzled, or even amused.

Suddenly everyone wanted to help, but as the crew began to crowd around the Pelican, it nervously hobbled toward the ship's side. It was too weak to fly. If it fell over the ship's side, it would have drowned.

I left the birds to their quarrels and went inside for my breakfast, little suspecting that a few moments later, our vessel would receive a most unusual visitor.

The ship's electrician, red faced and huffing from his race to the dining room, suddenly burst inside, shouting, "There's a great big bird on the after deck!"

As we'd been at anchor for over sixty days, excitement was a rare emotion aboard the ship. Curiosity aroused, the ship's crew hurried outside for a look. I followed.

To my astonishment, the 'great big bird', was a young Pelican--and a very sick one. Teetering precariously on a huge coil of mooring line, the Pelican

The electrician moved in quickly and helped me to grab the Pelican. We then took it away from the crowd and to the ship's hospital, the only cabin on board with a bath tub.

The electrician then taped the bird's beak closed while I filled the bathtub with warm water. Neither of us had ever cleaned an oil soaked bird before and there was no one to turn to for advice. We hoped that we were doing the right thing.

Actually the bird took its bath quite stoically, though it stubbornly resisted my washing one particular part of its anatomy, by promptly sitting on it. I overcame this problem, by slipping the sponge under its tail feathers. The Pelican quickly scrambled to its feet with an undignified squawk and I managed to complete bathing the bird. By the time I'd finished, the bath water was black and oily, but the bird's feathers were white and clean.

The electrician removed the tape from the Pelican's beak. The ship's recreation room became the recovery room for our soggy patient, though the Pelican took little notice of its surroundings before falling asleep.

Shortly after we'd put the Pelican in the recreation room, a tin full of seawater, containing a few fish, appeared outside the door. The seamen were eager to help in any way they could. When they began asking me how the bird was, I escorted the seamen in, one at a time to view the Pelican as he slept peacefully with its head tucked under one wing. I put the fish and some fresh water near the bird, just before going to bed that evening and the Pelican awoke. I reached out and shyly scratched his head and tummy while he gave me another of his amused looks.

The next day, I found the Pelican feebly flapping his wings and trying to get out of the porthole. One of the stewards mentioned that the bird had kept him awake during the night, with its racous squawking. Obviously the Pelican was getting better. Just then, one one of the cooks came in and proudly presented the Pelican with a large piece of cod fillet that had been thawed from our four month old ship's shores. The bird turned disdainfully away.

The cook took the insult in stride and then tried to tempt the Pelican with a fresh fish that the seamen had caught earlier. Though the bird hadn't eaten during the night, it still wasn't interested in food.

When it opened its beak to preen its feathers, the cook managed to pop the fish inside. The Pelican blinked in astonishment and promptly spat the fish out. It was obvious that he wasn't going to eat. Though I'd hoped to build the Pelican's strength up, before letting him go, we couldn't have kept him much longer in any case. In trying to fly out of the porthole, the Pelican would have injured himself.

I picked the bird up, marvelling at how light he seemed, and carried him outside. The Pelican didn't struggle or fight, but remained docile as a pup. Silly as it must have looked, I continued to talk to the bird, hoping to reassure him with a calm, soothing voice.

I took the Pelican up to the bridge deck and placed him on a fiberglass awning as the seamen looked on. A number of pessimistic comments followed and I wondered if I'd done the right thing.

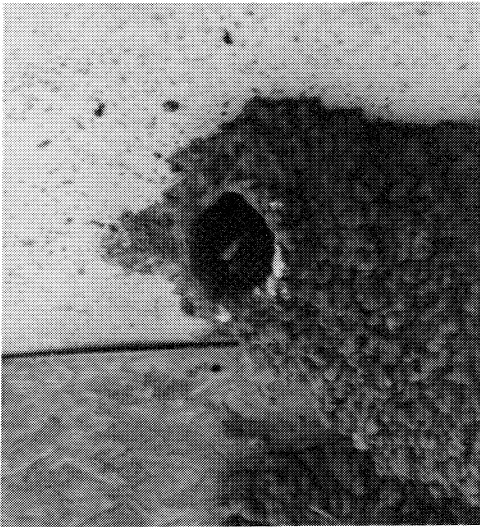
"He can't take off, can't grip the awning properly."

"He'll fall in the sea and drown."

"He'll stay on the awning and starve."

Meanwhile, the Pelican stretched out his wings and gave me the strangest look, almost of reassurance or gratitude or both. Suddenly the bird stepped off the awning and disappeared. For one awful moment, I was certain that he'd fallen into the sea. Seconds later though, the Pelican soared upward, his huge wings beating effortlessly. By this time, everyone was cheering and waving. Our visitor in distress was well and on his way home.

--J. Kenefick, 1984.



Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

I don't know if anyone has reported this (or even if it is of much interest) but I was leaving Halifax Airport on July 17, when I noticed two Cliff Swallow nests under the eaves of the main building along the roadway at the airport. One nest had the entrance partially broken and had a family of English Sparrows in it but the other had Cliff Swallows with at least one young one.

I had a camera with me, so took the enclosed photo with a 210 lens and 2X doubler (hand held so it is not very sharp). That's a baby in the entrance to the nest. The parents were bringing food at frequent intervals.

I don't know if this is unusual now, but it interested me because when living in Cole Harbour about twenty years ago, the Stewart Bissets had Cliff Swallows nesting under the eaves of their home on Bisset Road and at that time we were quite excited as Cliff Swallows were rather rare--at least around Cole Harbour!

--Gillian Rose

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

On Sunday afternoon, August 19th, the Manager of one of the fish plant called Graham Fraser to report a very rare bird down by the harbour. A real stranger, no one had ever seen anything like it. It is in Mr. and Mrs. Bird's yard, and its leg is broken, or perhaps its wing, or maybe both.

Graham came for me, and all agog, we siezed our bird books and went down. We, or anyway I, expected some tropical gorgeous thing that no one had ever recorded. We'd be made! As we drove up, we exclaimed in unison and on a falling note, a gannet.

There goes our chance at fame.

One would wonder,--these fishermen must see sea birds when they are out. Some of my fishermen friends can report off-shore sightings with a real feeling for the creatures they see. Well, not everyone is capable of enjoying the things around us.

The bird was, like so many of these pelagic birds, quite unable to rise from dry land. A good many people have arrived at my door with what they call a "little penguin", in other words a Dovekie, and are amazed when I tell them to take it to the sea and launch it; even more amazed when the supposed cripple makes a miraculous recovery as soon as it is safely in the water.

This bird was quite uninjured. Its legs and wings were not broken. You know, Gannets have very large, webbed feet, and it sort of trod on its own toes as it waddled along--pretty awkward looking. It was hot and exhausted and probably hungry. Mrs. Bird had kindly offered it bread--people always offer bread to birds. Also, it had picked up an infestation of some sort of insects, probably from the grass. Aside from that, it was quite all right and dealt out some smart pecks to a little dog that came too close.

It was really a lovely thing. It's nice to see them on film, or flying at a distance, but to be able to gaze into those strange blue eyes, and to see the long blue beak and rich plumage gives one a special appreciation of the wonderful works--

The people there were not in the least afraid of it, and were allowing their three year old child to come right up to it.

I said, "we'll have to take it to the water and we must have something to wrap it in. That six inch beak is dangerous. It is instinctive for a bird to peck at anything moving, and what is moving is your eye. So keep away from it!"

Mrs. Bird contributed a crib sheet, and we wrapped it up, making sure its head was covered, and took it to the pier. When we got there, I simply pulled off the sheet and chucked it in. It left swimming. Graham said, "it didn't fly, but at least it's headed out to sea."

--Sara MacLean

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

I spend the winter, December-March, in the state of Oaxaca, Pacific coast Mexico at the following address:

Las Casas de Pedro Santiago
Apt. #76, Puerto Escondido) postal address
Oaxaca, 71980

I'd be pleased to guide visiting bird watchers to nearby areas of interest. The birding here is nothing short of phenomenal.

Michael Malone (N.S.B.S. member)
R.R. 3 Parrsboro, N.S. BOM 1S0

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

When a Black-throated Gray Warbler showed up here recently, a lot of us went to have a look at it.

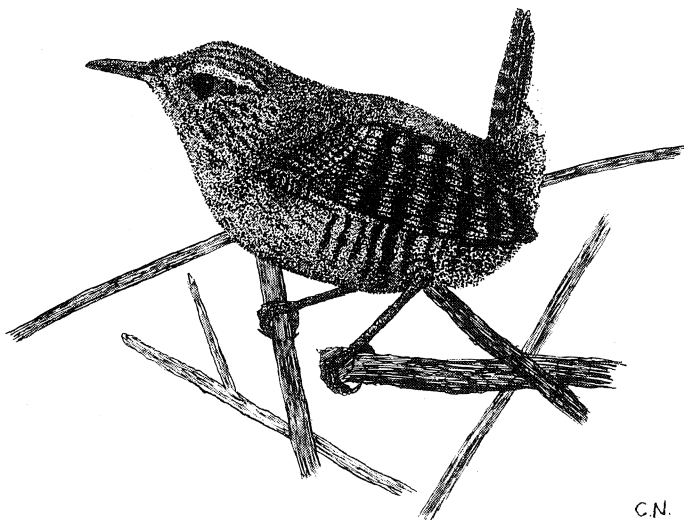
Upon arriving, I found John Cohrs already there. We walked about, searching until the bird appeared in a small, nearby tree.

John took a very quick look at it then quickly got into his car to get some other birders. Within five minutes he arrived back with his passengers then, without waiting, went off after yet another, so he too might see this very rare warbler. When he returned, this time, the bird had left the area.

John could have stayed to watch the warbler but, instead, chose to restrict his own pleasure so others could have a chance.

"Good Birding", John.

--Bob Dickie.



C.N.

NEWS FROM OUR PERIPATETIC PAST PRESIDENT

Reflections on Birding on a Bicycle

Frank Hennessey

October, Lahr, Republic of Germany

Last week as we cycled along the small roads of France, we found ourselves in the midst of a major migration of buzzards and kites. For two days, as we explored the famous wine producing area of Burgundy, we had these magnificent birds soaring around us, often affording magnificent closeup views. Such experiences are common when you are travelling on a bicycle. Donna and I have travelled almost 3000 miles by cycle since we landed in London on July 1. Although bird watching has not been our major objective, it has been hard to avoid the challenge of the birds along the way. I have accumulated no impressive list (about 135 species) and we have gone on no formal birding outings. But as we have explored the backroads of England, Scotland, Holland, Ireland, France and now Germany, we have constantly found we have had to stop to try to identify or just admire the birds along the way.

There have been several highlights. One warm afternoon, just north of Oban on the west coast of Scotland, we spent several hours observing a series of about eight Golden Eagles. They were often close and always magnificent. A boat trip to the Farne Islands off the north-east coast of England, gave us incredible close-up looks at Puffins, Guillemots and Razorbills. All through England I searched in vain for a Kingfisher. In our month in France we had frequent sightings of this elusive bird along the Loire River. The brilliant flash of this bird along the bank of the river will long be a vivid memory. Historic buildings must be visited and they often offer more than history and architecture. We've photographed nests of swallows in the entrance to King's College at Cambridge, and just inside the main gate at Mont St. Michel (a place well worth a visit, by the way!). One day, while waiting for the Chateau Chambord to open, we spotted a solitary Black Redstart on the walls. Perhaps we should have expected it as our bird guide informed us that it is often found in "old buildings". Then there was the misplaced Cattle Egret along the Loire, the singular beauty of Avocets at Cley and the thousands of Fulmars on the cliffs of Mohr in Ireland.

Before you rush to the basement to resurrect your rusting bicycles, let me warn you that there are certain frustrations in attempting to birdwatch on two wheels. Thanks to a tip from Stuart Tingley, I'm equipped with a pair of Bushnell Banner binoculars. These good quality, small binoculars easily fit into my front handlebar bag without adding too much bulk or weight. However, between the time you spot a bird as you cycle along, stop, get your binoculars out and sight it, there is an agonizing time lag. The birds of Europe are not prepared to wait around just to get on your life list. Birds also have a habit of showing up when you are plunging downhill and are reluctant to stop. Rarely do they appear when you are climbing a steep hill and would appreciate any excuse to stop. Finally, your mobility is limited on a bicycle. A late afternoon discovery of a good birding area twenty miles away just can't be accommodated easily on a bicycle.

I miss the birds of Nova Scotia and am thinking now of the fall migration with a twinge of homesickness. But, as we prepare to move on to Italy and Greece, chasing the warm weather, I know there will be new birds and challenges. I know we'll do a Christmas count somewhere in Europe, and keep you posted in the April newsletter.

FIELD TRIP REPORTSApril 29 - Kings County

A beautifully sunny, cloudless, warm day resulted in an impressive procession of 22 cars (at least 60 people). We first drove to Grand Pré, where highlights were a Rough-legged Hawk, a Bald Eagle, 22 Brant, and 4 or 5 Short-eared Owls. Van Nostrand's Pond near Starr's Point produced Shovelers, Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, and a few Tree Swallows. There were only a couple dozen Canada Geese along the Canard River, plus Mallard and Black Ducks, and a Double-crested Cormorant looking rather ludicrous as it repeatedly dove in the river's very narrow and shallow and muddy channel. A hawk or owl pellet contained bones and hair of a field vole and a kernel of corn!

Again Wilma and Merritt Gibson provided their home and yard and lots of delicious chowder, pies, etc., for our lunch-- a Mockingbird and a very sooty Downy Woodpecker were bonuses.

At Canard Poultry Pond, a male Wood Duck was present but uncooperative and therefore only seen by a few. Also, there were Ring-necked Ducks, a Greater Yellowlegs, an Osprey, and several basking painted turtles.

On our way back toward Wolfville, four carloads of birders were entertained by the Church-Street-corner Kestrels, which mated under our gaze for the second year in a row!

Then we wrapped up the trip with brief stops for ice cream and basking turtles at Hennigar's Market, caged raptors and Ravens at Cyril Coldwell's farm, and smelt-jiggers along the Gaspereau River.

Thanks again to the Gibsons!

P.S. Yours truly, who is past forty years of age, still hasn't learned about sun and fair skin--his boiled-lobster colour was a great start for his week-long Caribbean holiday the next day!

--Jim Wolford

June 10 - Wolfville Region

A friendly group of 19 birders began the outing with a clear view of a male Northern Oriole against the dark green at the top of a large oak at the bottom of the Newtonville Mountain. The oriole plus a male hummingbird that was catching flies really made a great start for an outing, along with the warm, sunny day we were blessed with.

Moving on to a stand of mature hemlocks, we visited a Brown Creeper, Swainson's Thrush, and a Barred Owl nest. At the owl nest a pair of very angry Ruby-crowned Kinglets led us to one of the owls high in a pine tree. Near Lumsden we followed a high pitched song at the top of a group of tall spruces that proved to be a Cape May Warbler.

After a pleasant lunch break at Lumsden Pond, we drove to Grand Pré where Willet, Northern Harrier, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow were added to the list. Because of the bright day, many birds were quiet and missed. However, it made the going very pleasant for we humans and the bird list totaled a respectable 65 species. Another plus was that several of the group were able to see a lifer, which always adds to everyone's enjoyment of an outing, especially the leader.

--Bernard Forsythe

June 23 - Bird Islands

Our annual trip to the Bird Islands, with leader Hedley Hopkins, on June 23, was a success as usual. It was a beautiful sunny morning when 30 enthusiastic bird watchers boarded Capt. Joe Van Schaik's boat at Mountain View Lodge, Bras D'Or. Viewers were from New Hampshire, New York, Lime Hill, Dartmouth, Aspen, Wolfville, Port Williams, Glace Bay, and Sydney. The count was 30 including sightings on land, as well as on the islands. There seem to be a lot more Puffins and Razor-billed Auks than last year, also lots of Kittiwakes. The boats of the lobster fishermen were a pretty sight and grey seals were bobbing around in the surf.

We returned to shore by 12:30 p.m. and Mrs. Van Schaik and her staff served us a lovely lunch. We enjoyed a time of fellowship before leaving for home

--B. Hopkins

July 7 - McNab's Island

Leader: Roger Pocklington

Weather: Overcast, winds s.w. 15-20

Birds seen:

Common Loon	Red-eyed Vireo
Double-Cr. Cormorants	N Parula Warbler
Great Blue Herons	Yellow Warblers
Am. Black Ducks	Magnolia Warbler
Common Eiders	Black-throated Green Warbler
Osprey - 9 in sight at once	Common Yellowthroats
(+3 nests 1 with young)	Am. Redstarts
Merlin	Red-winged Blackbird
Least Sandpiper	Purple Finch
Lesser Yellowlegs	Am. Goldfinches
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Savannah Sparrows
Short-billed Dowitchers	Sharp-tailed Sparrows
(7 at one time)	(breeding in marsh?)
Gr. Black-backed Gulls	Northern Junco
Herring Gulls	White-throated Sparrow
Common Tern	Song Sparrows
Arctic terns	Common Flicker
Rock Doves	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher	Winter Wren
Tree Swallows	Catbird
Bank Swallow	Veery
Barn Swallows	Cedar Waxwing
(+ nest and fledgling)	Black & White Warbler
Am. Crows	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Raven	
Blue Jay	
Black-capped Chickadees	
Am. Robin	
Hermit Thrush	
Swainson's Thrush	

Compared with last year's, the turnout was better, the day bright and clear. Eighteen adults and children tramped the length of the island and in addition to the birds listed, had a magnificent views of the Harbour. All Bird Society members are urged to make their opinion known to federal, provincial and municipal representatives, that McNab's Island remain as a natural park in as unchanged a state as possible

--R. Pocklington

July 14 - Cape Breton Field Trip

Saturday, July 14 was a perfect day for birdwatchers. Nine of us met at the provincial building in Baddeck at 8 a.m. Eldon Meikle acted as our leader. We drove through the Baddeck Valley area and crossed the Baddeck River in many places. We drove on the North Branch road, New Glen Road, etc., and saw spectacular scenery. Five of our hardy members hiked in to the Uisge Bhan Falls, which are well worth seeing. As for the birds--the trees and shrubs were full of warblers and others but we didn't keep the count as well as we should have. The count was 24, including eagles and hawks. We also took note of the butterflies, plants and rock formations.

--B. Hopkins

July 21 - Economy

Eleven of us met on a hot, sunny morning and proceeded directly to the Economy sand bar for the shorebirds that were preparing to follow the receding tide out and away over the mud flats. There were few enough birds and no surprises but, given the pleasant conditions, no complaints. Then, on to the woods along the river where the glimpse of a mature Bald Eagle passing overhead and a Bay-breasted Warbler feeding a fledgling were the modest highlights. For lunch we went into the high country at Economy Falls--cool, scenic, but almost birdless. In the afternoon we ended our trip at the Cove on Economy Point, where we tallied up and were impressed to find that as a party we had amassed a list of 64 species.

Although the hot weather and heavy foliage made it difficult to obtain good views, it was a fine day afield.

--Francis Spalding

August 12 - Yarmouth Shorebird Field Day

The NSBS Yarmouth Shorebird Field Day was one of highlights: the first of these was the failure of the leader's car battery, which necessitated transferring the "flag" to the car of the co-leader, and delayed the trip's take-off for a short time.

Twenty-three birders met at the C.P.R. Station in Yarmouth, and despite the above-mentioned delay, were off by 9:30. The first stop was Sandbeach, and first birds noted provided the second highlight: two, yes two, immature Peregrine falcons, one of which, mobbed by half a dozen swallows, flew rather slowly over the group and gave a perfect view of its streamlined form and dark juvenile plumage.

The beach was swarming with peep, many Black-bellied Plover, a few Turnstones, Knots still showing traces of summer pink, both species of Yellowlegs and dozens of Dowitchers.

The next stop was Pinkney's Point, with our arrival timed to coincide with high tide when the shorebirds would be on their roosts on the upper pebble ridge--roosts which have been occupied during this period for many decades--perhaps even centuries. The roost on Cook's Beach was carpeted with peep, 6000-7000, well over 60% Semipalmated Sandpipers, most of the remainder being Semipalmated Plover, with a sprinkling of White-rumped Sandpipers and at least one rather early Dunlin. (These are peak numbers for this roost--Highlight No. 3).

The roost on the salt marsh was nearly deserted: a few Yellowlegs and Turnstones--and one cruising Marsh Hawk (Northern Harrier).

En route back to Yarmouth, a short side trip in the Beveridge Road at Melbourne yielded highlight No. 4: an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron which had been spotted there about two weeks earlier. Lunchtime was willingly postponed by about an hour while everyone had a fairly satisfactory look through the telescope, a first for most, but blending so well with the spruce tree it was difficult at first to discern.

The afternoon was a bit anti-climactic but still enjoyable. Yarmouth Bar produced many more peep, feeding now on the freshly exposed flats, and strangely oblivious of highlight No. 5: an incredible third Peregrine, this one a bird in gorgeous adult plumage, which sat on a shoreside rock pinnacle, apparently well fed as it paid no attention to the nearby flocks. A side trip to the Tin Pot Road, on the edge of town, gave a number their first look at a Solitary Sandpiper (tripping around the edges of a muddy pond); and the final stop at Sunday Point, though it produced nothing new, lived up to its long-time reputation of giving birders a chance to see and hear Sharp-tailed Sparrows in full song.

--C.R.K. Allen

August 18 - Fuller's Bridge

The Cape Bretoners have fallen into the habit of choosing Fuller's Bridge as the locality of the August field trip. Eldon Meikle was the leader for this field day, and Fuller's Bridge, his favourite hunting place, so we willingly followed the leader.

August 18th was a bit misty at the start. We even had spells of what can only be called dry rain--the kind that doesn't really make one wet, just soaked to the knees in an instant going through scrub or into a hayfield.

We doddered along the highway, stopping here and there and seeing some interesting sights. We saw a Spruce Grouse, think of that! One doesn't run across THEM very often. I believe there were probably more about, but in a spot where we couldn't safely park a string of cars, so we had to be satisfied with the one.

Soon after, I saw what I claimed was a Sparrow Hawk--well, call it a Kestrel if you want to--perched on the highest tip of a spruce away in the distance. "Of course it's a Sparrow Hawk, look at those shoulders, and sitting up on the top of a tree like that, what else would do that?" "Well, you don't expect to see much colour in it with all this fog about, that's why it looks gray!" Somebody remarked, "First Sparrow Hawk I ever saw with a white head". While I was still furthering the cause of the distant Sparrow Hawk, somebody unlimbered one of the telescopes, and showed it up for what it really was--a Gray Jay. Strangely enough; the telescope picked up a Sparrow Hawk, a real one, only half as far off, and on a much shorter tree. The air was full of goldfinches, as last year was full of waxwings.

All the ponds and little lakes were starred with white lilies, and chugging around in the lilies, plenty of Double-crested Cormorants. They certainly haven't the style of the Great Cormorants, which are more familiar to those of us who live on the coast.

When we finally reached Fuller's Bridge, we could hear the shorebird music before we even came within sight of the water. It is essentially a large expanse of mud flats and marsh, and on that day it was swarming with every kind of shorebird: Godwits, Willets, like beautiful big butterflies, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, plover of several sorts, Dunlin, dowitchers--More and more, real riches!

There were very few ducks this field trip and no eagles, which is unusual. However, a perfectly lovely day, and very much appreciated by seventeen observers.

At the last, the sun came out, and those of us optimistic enough to take along a swim suit, enjoyed the surf at Point Michand Beach.

--Sara MacLean.

August 19 - Tancook Island Trip

The weather was promised fine, and fine it was, in every sense of the word. However, a few of us, driving through Bridgewater at nine in the morning with grey, scudding fog overhead, had presentiments of a return to the last weeks' muggy mess, and found Chester crystal clear with a sense of some relief. We needn't have worried; at day's end we returned fried to a crisp. It was so hot on Tancook we had, by noon at a steep stone beach, almost turned our Society--and a visiting group from the Blomidon Natural History Club--into a nude bathing organization, and we emptied the freezers of both the stores on Tancook.

The heat held the warblers down too, and, although one felt there were lots to be found on the island, they were hard to dig out. Most were in "pockets", in league with kinglets (both species) and Boreal Chickadees. There were a scattering of flycatchers: Empidonax and Peewees, not singing; all the swallows: Barn, Tree, Bank and Cliff, surprisingly few hawks (we surmise it's early yet for them), lots of Cedar Waxwings, and a short but satisfying list of shorebirds: Least, Semipalmated, Spotted, White-rumped, and Solitary Sandpipers, Semi-palmated (but no Piping or Black-bellied) Plovers, and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. Of gulls, Black-backed and Herring were about 50/50, and Don MacNeil, who sailed over with his family, saw one immature Bonapartes' on the way. We found a single tern, a Common, sitting on a plastic soap bottle in a muddy pond. One of the nicest birds was a single Red Crossbill; my first in two years.

Twenty-seven people took part this year, and all expressed great delight with their day; even the trip back on the school bus was fun. Our special guests were Dr. and Mrs. Roland from Truro.

Thank you Frank Himsl, and 'see you next time'!

--Fred Dobson.

August 25 - Amherst area

Nova Scotia birders visiting the Amherst area for the first time are invariably surprised by the number of species of marsh birds which are more or less unique to that part of the province. Thus, a day in the field usually turns up a few "lifers" for even the more experienced observers, and such was the case with the twenty-one members from around the province assembled at A.P.B.S. on August 25.

Superb weather, a most amiable group, and 82 species of birds made for an unforgettable day for everyone. Highlights were many: several families of American Coots, including a couple of very young broods of tiny red-splashed fuzzballs; a lingering adult Black Tern changing into winter plumage before taking up its migration to South America; an elusive adult and young Common Moorhen (gallinule) tantalizing us all with their infrequent brief forays into the open before dodging behind another clump of cat tails; a pair of adult Ruddy Ducks, hurrying across a gap in the vegetation while some distance away, a train of six young slowly wound their way along the edge of a small

pond; stripe-headed baby Pied-billed Grebes, rushing to keep close to their parents who frequently presented them with wiggling sticklebacks; a dozen eclipse drake Wood Ducks, exploding from the marsh adjacent to the dyke along which we walked; a Bald Eagle, slowly circling overhead; a dozen species of warblers in fall dress; a group of 20 Eastern Kingbirds, watching for grasshoppers from fenceposts along the road - side; and on and on...

A brief mid-day excursion across the border to sewage ponds near Sackville turned up several interesting sightings including a number of Northern Shovelers and 3 juvenile Wilson's Phalaropes.

Thanks to one and all who attended for making it such an enjoyable day for me, and a special tip of the hat to Nellie, who didn't want to miss a minute of the action--she not only drove the 300+ kilometers from her home to APBS the night before, but even slept in her Toyota in the parking lot!

--Stuart Tingley

September 8 - Louisbourg

September 8th was the final field day for the Cape Breton group of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, and we chose Louisbourg for our field. For much of the year, Louisbourg merits the Micmac name for Cape Breton, 'Oonamagee', the Foggy Country, but people who live there say that September is the best month of the year for them. Indeed, we found it so on that day. Everyone remarked on the beautiful, beautiful sky, so blue and fretted with lovely clouds; the sea, a deep September blue, with a ruffle of white surf on the black Louisbourg rocks.

In our usual doddering way, after we had assembled at the meeting place, we set off, starting and stopping, investigating whatever looked interesting. One clump of old yellow birch yielded a whole mixed swarm of warblers, goldfinches and sparrows. They must have been feeding there.

We turned into the New Boston road and it was along this country path that we saw what seemed the most interesting sight of the day--a Rough Legged Hawk, dark phase, soaring around and around. When we first spotted it, it was clutching a piece of stick, about a foot long, but it soon dropped that. I have seen hawks and eagles play, carrying and dropping, and catching a stick between a pair in the spring, but this bird was alone. A handsome sight which we enjoyed for a good while until it tipped one wing up and skimmed out of our view.

It seems as though one species has an explosion of numbers each year. In 1983, there seemed to be Cedar Waxwings in every bush. 1984 is the year of the Double-crested Cormorants. They stick their snaky black heads up among the lily blooms in the freshwater lakes, and perch on the rocks around Main-a-Dieu Harbour, looking like a split crow with wings spread out to dry. One shouldn't scoff at them; they really look heraldic standing like that. It's just that I think the Great Cormorant a much handsomer bird.

Among all this grandeur, we sat and enjoyed the day, the gulls following the fishing boats and each other's company, at the nice little picnic place near the lighthouse in Louisbourg, where we had lunch.

The day was listed as "Louisbourg", but it took us nearly until noon to get there, what with watching shore birds, hawks, cormorants and whatever else appeared. It was a most satisfactory outing for 12 observers, who helped plan our 1985 program.

--Sara MacLean.

September 20 - Student Field Trip

The annual student field trip took place at Crescent Beach on September 20. These trips are made possible by the generosity of Bob Kanigsberg, who has arranged to finance youth activity each year through the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust.

On the Tuesday preceding the trip, members of the society described the area and the possible bird life to be expected to a number of senior biology students at the Halifax West High School. The trip was to view the structure, flora and fauna of a Nova Scotia beach with its dunes and salt marsh with particular attention to shorebirds.

Thirty or more students and several teachers were met at Rissers Beach by four leaders, including Ed Richard and Eric Cooke, (who have volunteered to lead these trips for the past four years) at 10:30 a.m.

The students spent the morning at Rissers Beach examining the plant life and structure of the dunes and salt marsh and identifying shells and sea weeds along the tide line. They received their first lesson in field identification when the apparent eight species of gulls in the river estuary were resolved into the different plumages of the Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls.

The afternoon was spent at Crescent Beach identifying shore and sea birds. Although shorebird species were limited to about ten, there was sufficient variation in bill and leg lengths, ranging from Semi-palmated Plovers to Dowitchers, Yellowlegs and one Willet, to point out species adaptation to the young biologists.

The four leaders were impressed with the interest shown, the intelligent questions asked and the unfailing courtesy of these students.

If you are looking for ways to renew your faith in the new generation, volunteer to assist in leading next year's trip. You would not be disappointed.

--John Cohrs



Student Field Trip--Short briefing session before proceeding up Crescent Beach.

September 22 - Crescent Beach

The day of the annual shorebird trip to Crescent and Cherry Hill Beaches, dawned fine and sunny, as usual--how long this phenomenal luck can hold is anybody's guess!

Some twenty-seven birders gathered at Crescent and spent the morning viewing Black-bellied Plovers, Semi-palmated Plovers, Sanderlings, Willets, a couple of Short-billed Dowitchers, etc., etc.--all the commoner shorebirds, as well as some peripheral "dickey-birds", herons, ducks and a bittern, which was merely glimpsed before diving for cover in the long grasses.

After lunch at Rissers Beach, complete with the usual outsize ice cream cones, most of the party proceeded to Cherry Hill, where a few more species were added to the list. There were no rarities this time but the good company, glorious weather and spectacular scenery of salt marsh and shore, combined to make an exhilarating day for everyone.

--Shirley Cohrs



Doing the list after lunch at Rissers Beach. Some of the people shown: Eric Cooke & Duchess, Phyl Bryson, Jim Wolford, Frank Covert, James McLaren, Chris Naugler, Joyce Purchase, Shirley Cohrs.



Trecking up Crescent Beach

October 13-14 --Seal Island trip

Eleven NSBS field trippers and three "independents" arrived on the island Saturday morning in fine weather, and marched around the island generally in a single herd. There were some wonderful looks at some 6 Peregrine Falcons. The raptors made the few passerines that were present quite wary, but we all saw a Lark Sparrow, and some of us had fleeting looks at Field Sparrow, Rufous-sided Towhee, Dickcissel, and House Wren. The gate crashers added a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, yielding a collective list of 78 species. Chumming with bread on the way back produced a fine Cory's Shearwater, which was a well-seen lifer for almost everyone aboard.

--James McLaren



This Barred Owllet turned up in Kentville at the house of a friend of Richard Stern this spring, and stayed for several days.

--Photo Richard Stern

A FIELD TRIP "DOWN-UNDER"--NEW ZEALAND

Bob McDonald

A colleague and I took the opportunity to attend an international chemical conference in Auckland, N.Z., last August and were able to combine business with a few days of birding in the northern half of the North Island.

The season was late winter; daytime temperatures varied from 8^o-15^o C, some rain, often overcast skies; not unlike early May in Nova Scotia.

The avian species of New Zealand number around 300, perhaps 200 being found on the North Island. However, closer scrutiny of the Collins Fieldguide to the Birds of New Zealand, by C.T. Kelly, reveals that many species are very local, very rare, or simply very hard to see (like the three species of kiwi). Sounds like I'm making excuses already.

After a 38 hour trip enroute (including 9 time changes, a lost day, and 10 hours in L.A. airport on the last day of the Olympics), we arrived in Auckland at 8:30 a.m.--what better to do than to go for a walk (in the rain) in a downtown Auckland Park. Here we saw many of the introduced European species--Blackbird, Songthrush, Chaffinch, Yellowhammer, Greenfinch, Goldfinch and the ubiquitous House Sparrow and Starling. One of the commonest introduced species was the Indian Myna. In marshy areas near the roadway, the Pukeko (which resembles the Purple Gallinule) was common, and we had brief glimpses of the Australian Harrier. A walk along the shoreline of the Haurakai Gulf produced White-faced Heron, Welcome Swallow, New Zealand Kingfisher and Australian Gannet.

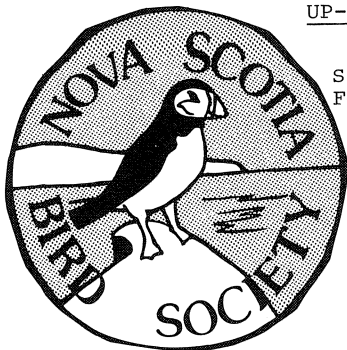
A trip to the local sewage treatment plant (why did I just think of Bill Caudle?) gave us an introduction to some of the shorebirds--Wrybill, Bar-tailed Godwit, Banded Dotterel, Knot and the larger oystercatchers (South Island Pied and Variable) and Pied Stilt. Here we also saw the White-backed Magpie, harrassing Rock Pigeons, Spotted Dove and Skylark.

A two-day trip by car along the east coast from the Coromandel Peninsula to Tauranga, produced more water birds--the Southern Black-backed, Red-billed, and the less common Black-billed Gull, Caspian and White-fronted Terns and four of the 13 species of shags (Pied, Black, Little and Little Black).

The thermal area lakes produced some ducks and their relatives--Mallard, Grey Duck, Scaup and Shoveller (N.Z. variety), Dabchick, Coot and Black Swan.

The inland forest birds proved to be the real challenge. Although we were able to see a few of the small passerines (Silvereye, Fantail, Grey Warbler (the only warbler on the main islands and Tui) in or near Auckland, we had to tramp many miles before we eventually found Bellbird (and heard its beautiful song), the very large N.Z. Pigeon, North Island Robin and Eastern Rosella.

Our only glimpses of the several native species--Kea, Kaka, Kiwi and Hukka occurred on the day before departure--at the Auckland Zoo! New Zealand is a fascinating country and its people friendly and interesting. Our only regret is that we didn't have more time to explore further. Maybe next time I'll get to see some penguins.

UP-COMING FIELD TRIPS

- Saturday Feb. 2 KINGS CO., WOLFVILLE REGION
 Kentville, Canning marshlands and dykes. Leader: Richard Stern. This outing is held in conjunction with the Blomidon Naturalists Society. Meet at the Acadia University Gymnasium parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch, clothing for comfort in windy terrain and footwear for marsh walking. If weather appears forbidding, call Richard at 1-678-1975 regarding possible cancellation.
- Saturday Feb. 16 HAMMONDS PLAINS ROAD Winter finches, crossbills, woodpeckers. Leader: Dave Currie. Meet at Hammonds Plains Consolidated School on Hammonds Plains Road at 9:00 a.m. A half day trip.
- Sunday Feb. 24 SPRYFIELD AND HALIFAX CO. Annual Sewer stroll for gulls and ducks. Leader: Bill Caudle. Meet at the Canadian Tire Corporation parking lot in Spryfield at 8:00 a.m.
- Saturday Mar. 23 GLACE BAY SANCTUARY for lingering winter birds. Leader: Sara MacLean. Meet at Dearn's Corner at 8:00 a.m.
- Sunday Mar. 24 DARTMOUTH-HALIFAX COUNTY Late winter birds. Leaders: Don and Joyce Purchase. Meet at the Bank of Nova Scotia parking lot at the corner of Wyse Road and Nantucket Avenue (opposite the Holiday Inn) in Dartmouth at 8:30 a.m.
- Sunday Mar. 31 EASTERN SHORE to Martinique Beach. Leader: Ian McLaren. Meet at the Bank of Nova Scotia parking lot at the corner of Wyse Road and Nantucket Avenue in Dartmouth at 8:30 a.m.
- Sunday Apr. 21 AMHERST POINT/JOHN LUSBY MARSH Waterfowl and shorebirds. Leader: Con Desplanques. Meet at APBS parking lot at 9:00 a.m. (take exit 3 from the TCH at the Wandlyn Inn and proceed towards Nappan, a few Km.) We will cover APBS in the morning; JLM after lunch.
- Saturday Apr. 27 CAPE BRETON, TWO RIVERS PARK. Early arrivals. Meet at Marion Bridge, 8:00 a.m., Graham Fraser, Leader.
- Saturday Apr. 27 BACCARO - Gannet "Flypast" and other early migrants. Meet in Barrington at junction of Route 3 and the road to Coffins Croft, Villagedale and Baccaro at 9:30 a.m. Leader: C.R.K.Allen. Phone 648-2752
- Sunday Apr. 28 KINGS COUNTY Grand Pré, Gaspereau, Canard. Leader: Jim Wolford. Meet at the Grand Pré Historic Park parking lot at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday May 15 HALIFAX COUNTY Early morning warbler walk. Leader: Fred Dobson. Meet at the parking lot at the junction of the Prospect Road (Route 333 and the Ste. Margaret's Bay Road) at 7:00 a.m.
- Saturday May 18 ANNAPOLIS COUNTY Paradise and Bridgetown region. Leaders: Bill and Jean Morse. Meet at the Morse residence at 8:00 a.m. 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.

- Sunday
May 19 PICTOU COUNTY Hopewell region. Leader: Harry Brennan. Meet at 8:a.m. at Ste. Columba's churchyard (about 1 mile south of Hopewell).
- Wednesday
May 22 EARLY MORNING WARBLER WALK. Leader: James McLaren. Meet at the Hyland Theater parking lot (Armdale Rotary) at 7:15 a.m.
- Saturday
May 25 HANTS COUNTY DAY Many habitats and many species. Leader: Margaret Clark. Meet at the railroad crossing in Mount Uniacke at 8:00 a.m.
- Saturday
May 25 CAPE BRETON, GROVE'S POINT. Warbler Day. Meet at Woolco, Sydney River, 8:00 a.m. Leader: Eldon Meikle.
- Saturday
May 25 YARMOUTH COUNTY. Warbler Walk. Meet at Carleton School ground at 9:00 a.m. Leader: C.R.K. Allen. Phone:648-2752
- Sunday
May 26 HANTS COUNTY- SHUBENACADIE REGION. Marsh and wetland species. Leader: Roslyn MacPhee. Meet at 6:00 a.m. (yes, 6:00 a.m.!!!) in front of Scott's Restaurant in Shubenacadie. Phone 1-758-3265 in case of inclement weather and possible cancellation.

Questions about Cape Breton Trips should be addressed to Sara MacLean (1-849-5362). Queries re mainland trips or suggestions regarding future trips (which latter are MOST welcome) should be addressed to Field Trip Co-ordinators Bob and Wendy McDonald at 1-443-5051.



Those of us living on the Atlantic coast of the province rarely see more than a few Bobolinks in spring. Judging from Richard Stern's photo, they festoon the fences in King's County. Photo--Richard Stern

AUCTION BOOKS

AUCTION BOOKS

AUCTION BOOKS

AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING (THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 8:00 P.M., AT THE NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM IN HALIFAX) A NUMBER OF INTERESTING BIRD BOOKS WILL BE PUT UP FOR SALE BY AUCTION, PROCEEDS GOING TO THE BIRD SOCIETY.

MANY OF THESE BOOKS WERE THE PROPERTY OF THE LATE WILLETT MILLS AND ARE NOW UNOBTAINABLE.

ANY MEMBER WISHING TO DONATE MORE BOOKS (ON BIRDS, OF COURSE) TO THIS PROJECT, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH SHIRLEY COHRS, 8 ROSEMOUNT AVENUE, HALIFAX, B3N 1X8, TELEPHONE: 477-6036. HERE IS A LIST OF SOME OF THE TITLES TO BE OFFERED, JUST TO WHET THE APPETITE:

Forbush, E. Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States, with 93 coloured plates by L.A. Fuertes and Allan Brooks. 3 volumes, original green cloth. Boston, 1929.

Delacour, Jean. The Waterfowl of the World. 4 volumes, 1954-1964.

Miner, Jack. Jack Miner and the Birds, by Jack Miner Himself, 1923.

Tavener, P.A. Birds of Canada, 1935.

Tuck, Leslie M. The Snipes, 1972.

Tufts, Robie. The Birds of Nova Scotia, 1st ed., 1961, 2nd ed., 1973.

THE JACKDAW STORY

Ian McLaren

Readers were tantalized in the last issue of Nova Scotia Birds by promise of "more details" on the Jackdaw of last spring, which never materialized (my fault).

The story begins with the sighting at about 10:30 a.m., May 6, by John Kearney and Nancy Blair of a strange bird on the outskirts of Westport, Brier Island. After some frantic field-guide consulting (they sensibly had a European guide), they realized that it was unmistakably a Jackdaw. It was poking about the lawn of an unoccupied house, and was evidently not tame. They knew that Roger Foxall and I were on the island, and John kindly set out to find us. He alerted Roger (who admits to having been skeptical) and then me, and returned to the bird. Roger and I followed by car, and pulled up sharply at the sight of a Jackdaw on a roadside spruce, several hundred metres to the southwest of the place where it had been discovered. The bird flew within seconds and perched even further southwest, and we briefly scoped it. Then it flew strongly back to the place where it was first seen, with Roger and I in hot pursuit. There, with Nancy and John, we were able to study it, as it perched on poles and wires for a couple of minutes, before it flew strongly southwest again, not to be found again during the next day and a half of birding. Fortunately, I got an adequate snapshot (see last issue, p. 16) for a first confirmed Canadian record.

Now, ordinarily, one would not take such a record too seriously as anything other than an escaped, or at least ship-assisted, bird. After all, Jackdaws are only partial migrants in western Europe, although we read that they had occurred in Iceland and the Azores. But, then the plot thickened. Phone calls by Roger determined that three had turned up on the French island of Miquelon on March 23, and stayed until April 6. One on March 23, was so exhausted that it was caught and released by a schoolchild. Furthermore, a literature check revealed that in the mid-1970's, numbers had turned up on Iceland and at a weathership a third of the way across the Atlantic. We felt much better.

Then, on May 20, Roger Foxall found what he believed to be a different individual on Bon Portage Island, and was able to show it to Edgar Spalding, Stuart Tingley, and several Lands and Forests Wildlife personnel working there. It was also seen next day, flying back and forth between forest and shore and once well out to sea to the east. The alarms went out, but only Eric Mills responded. He was lucky enough to find the Jackdaw on May 24, and showed it again to the Lands and Forests party. That was the last sighting; a search a week or so later failed to produce it.

Now the plot thickened further. A Jackdaw found on Nantucket late in 1982 began to look more interesting, as did a bird on Rhode Island in April 1984. Finally, in addition to one undocumented bird now said to have been found in Maine a few years ago, and dismissed as an escape, it should be reported that Sylvia Fullerton saw one of these surely unmistakable birds at Cherry Hill Beach a couple (?) of springs ago. She mentioned it to a few of us at the time, but considered it so outrageous and unlikely at best, to have been an escape, that she did not keep notes; she is trying to pin down the date.

So, it looks as though some errant Jackdaws have staked an extraordinary claim on the North American list. The records of last spring give an opportunity to be a bit more analytical. There had been a large movement of Jackdaws to Britain in autumn 1983 (British

Birds, 1984, 77:44). Then, in mid-March, there developed a huge low between Greenland and Iceland, which moved southeast just before March 23 (Weather, June 1984). This resulted in very strong circulation north from Britain, west across Iceland, and south from Greenland along the Labrador coast. Could the exhausted Miquelon birds have been the first spotted of a number that were swept up in this weather system when migrating from Britain or from Iceland? The Rhode Island and Nova Scotian birds could have, sensibly, moved south after arrival in the Newfoundland region.

All in all, I'm keeping Jackdaw on my list no matter what anyone says!

CORRECTION

Volume 26, Number 3 (July 1984)

Page 64 should have 'X' opposite Killdeer in column one. This alters the totals to 20, 13, 20.



The strong, buffy wingbars on the juvenile Indigo Bunting have led some wishful thinkers to believe that they have "ticked" an errant Lazuli Bunting. Photo--I. McLaren
Sept. 30, 1984.

PHOTOGRAPH CONTEST

There was an excellent response to the photographic contest and cheques will be forwarded to the winners who are:

First Prize: TED d'EON (Cattle Egret)

Second Prize: CHARLES CRON (Heron Preening)

Third Prizes: WENDY TAY (Hooded Merganser)
RICHARD STERN (Cedar Waxwings)

Honourable Mention:

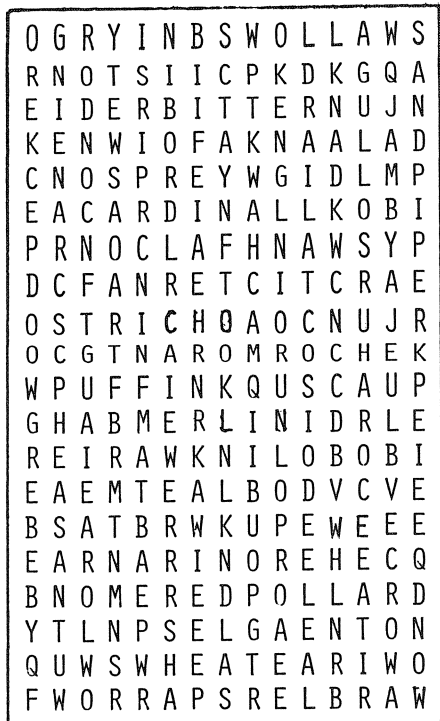
LINDA PAYZANT (Rose-breasted Grosbeak)
T. L. BATES (Ruby-throated Hummingbird)
TED d'EON (Common Eider Nest and Hairy Woodpecker)
LISE COHRS (Mourning Dove)
PETER PAYZANT (Shorebirds)

A selection of the slides submitted will be featured in future issues of NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS.

The winning CATTLE EGRET, you have already seen on the cover.



The province's first confirmed American Oystercatcher was snapped by Robert Turner at Matthews Lake on Apr. 28, 1983. The bird is flying to the left, with white striped wings bowed down. Note the black head and paler (brown-gray) back, diagnostic of the American vs. European species. Photo--Robert Turner

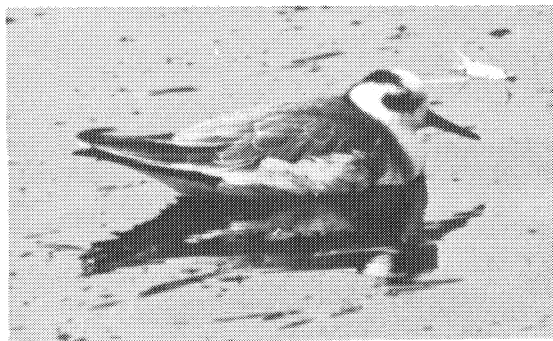


ARMCHAIR BIRDING

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. ARCTIC TERN | 23. LARK |
| 2. AUK | 24. OSPREY |
| 3. BITTERN | 25. OSTRICH |
| 4. BLUEJAY | 26. OWL |
| 5. BOBOLINK | 27. PARTRIDGE |
| 6. CARDINAL | 28. PEWEE |
| 7. CONDOR | 29. PHEASANT |
| 8. CORMORANT | 30. PLOVER |
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| 10. CROW | 32. QUAIL |
| 11. DOVE | 33. RAIL |
| 12. EAGLE | 34. REDPOL |
| 13. EIDER | 35. ROBIN |
| 14. FALCON | 36. SANDPIPER |
| 15. FULMAR | 37. SCAUP |
| 16. GREBE | 38. SPARROW |
| 17. GULL | 39. SWALLOW |
| 18. HAWK | 40. SWAN |
| 19. HERON | 41. TEAL |
| 20. IBIS | 42. WARBLER |
| 21. JUNCO | 43. WHEATEAR |
| 22. MERLIN | 44. WHIMBREL |
| | 45. WOODPECKER |
| | 46. WREN |

See how many you can find! Names go up, down and diagonally!

ANSWERS ON PAGE 66



This Red Phalarope seemed to be having a quiet time on the pond on Seal Island after a buffeting at sea. Photo -- I.A. McLaren Sept. 2, 1984

BEACHED BIRD PROJECT

Bob Dickie

In April and May, 1983, a total of 498 birds representing 69 species perished in the Gulf of Mexico and their bodies washed ashore on the beaches of Mustang Island, Texas. It is most certain that this represents only a small fraction of the total numbers that died at that time.

In the winter and spring of 1983, Common Loons, wintering in the Gulf of Mexico suffered a massive mortality. Suddenly, for no clear reason, weak and dead loons began to wash ashore on the beaches of Florida.

What caused these catastrophes is not known. Perhaps the first birds were caught in a storm as they crossed the Gulf on their northern migration; perhaps the Loons were poisoned or diseased or malnourished. The important thing is our knowledge that the events took place at all.

Every two weeks, volunteers walk hundreds of miles of beaches along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of North America, searching for the carcasses of dead birds that have washed ashore. The data they gather are forwarded to Malcolm Simons Jr., of Charlotte Harbor, Florida, who compiles the information, computes the average number of carcasses per kilometer of beach and sends the results back to each volunteer.

The purpose, is to establish a picture of what is normal for each segment of the coastline; Texas Gulf, Florida Gulf, South Atlantic, North Atlantic and Nova Scotia.

I survey Martinique Beach, a crescent of sand that stretches three kilometers across the entrance of Musquodoboit Harbour, about forty kilometers from Halifax on Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore. Martinique is the longest sand beach in the province.

I began the survey at Martinique on July 17, 1983, and have found one beached bird, on the average, every 2.3 kilometers (2 miles). On one trip I found five carcasses but on eleven other trips, I found none. The most common species of beached bird at this beach is the Greater Shearwater; ten were found between June and August.

I soon learned that identifying beached birds wasn't going to be as easy as I had originally thought. Some carcasses are in near perfect condition but in most cases, the sea and the scavengers have left little more than a couple of wings, tangled grotesquely in the eel grass and kelp.

In The Birds of Canada, W. Earl Godfrey lists, for most species, a measurement of the wings. This measurement is taken from the wrist to the tip of the longest primary feather. This is fortunate for that is the one part of a beached bird that usually remains intact. I now carry a little metric tape measure with me and before I discard the carcass behind the dune, I measure the wing and jot down a brief description. I then check it out when I get home.

The Canadian Wildlife Service has started its own beached bird project, here, in Atlantic Canada (to which we are also reporting our findings) and Dr. Tony Lock has carried out a most impressive survey of Sable Island. There are similar projects on the Pacific Coast and on the Great Lakes as well as in Europe.

In a recent letter, Bob MacNeil, who patrols Northport beach said..."at age 61, medical history--heart problems, minor strokes and now a diabetic - I must find a younger Northport person who could become interested in birds and also in my patrol area. While the old machine continues to run, I'll have fun and possibly make a small contribution to science."

We do need more volunteers. It's a lot of fun walking the beach as the seasons change, watching some birds come and go while others stay on. It's good exercise and gives us a chance to "make a small contribution to science".

PUBLICATION DATES -- a rationale

Newer members of our society may be puzzled at the somewhat uneven intervals between our issues--January, April and July. This is done to enable the bird records of our three major periods to be published as soon as possible after the event. These periods are Fall Migration (January issue), Winter Birds (April issue) and Spring Migration (July issue). The Fall Flyer (September issue) is to bridge the gap between July and January and to bring notices of meetings, birdseed availability, Museum programmes, etc., to the notice of members.

--Ed.



Ruffed Grouse, well camouflaged on her nest at Northport on June 3, 1984. Photo-Scott MacNeil

A Special Request For Help

As you know, the Federal Government has announced extensive spending cuts in an attempt to reduce the deficit. The Minister of Finance has announced that about 1500 jobs (out of a total of around 200,000) will be cut from the public service. This amounts to less than 1%.

The Nova Scotia Bird Society Conservation and Environment Committee is alarmed to learn that the Canadian Wildlife Service will lose 84 out of their present 384 positions, or about 22%. The Atlantic Region will lose 11 out of 43 positions, which amounts to more than one quarter of their staff. As of April, 1985 the following programs will be stopped:

- o A continuing study on the effects of agricultural sprays, herbicides, and the Spruce Budworm spray program on migratory birds. This program has been in operation for 18 years.
- o Research on the effects of large-scale forestry operations, such as clear-cutting, on wildlife habitats. This program began 3 years ago.
- o Assistance to Parks Canada by CWS biologists. This includes a program to re-introduce the Peregrine Falcon into the Maritimes. 28 birds have been released so far.
- o The work of an interpretive biologist on low-key trails such as those at the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary.
- o Ecological impact assessment advice to industry, providing assistance in evaluating the effects on wildlife of projects such as Fundy Tidal Power, the Point Lepreau Nuclear plant, and offshore oil development.

The CWS is one of the most important forces on the conservation scene in this area. They have been very helpful to the NSBS in the past, with advice and financial support for such projects as the Piping Plover signs, the Snipe posters, the Breeding Bird Survey, and the Breeding Bird Atlas. Now they need our help.

These cuts can be prevented if sufficient numbers of people object. The Conservation and Environment committee urges every member of the Nova Scotia Bird Society to write and express your concerns to the following people:

The Honourable Suzanne Blais-Grenier
 Minister of the Environment
 Centre Block, Room 341-S
 House of Commons
 Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

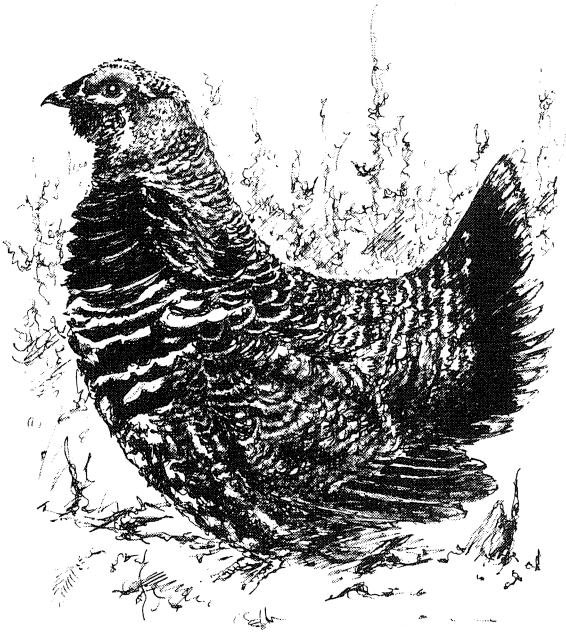
Mr. Charles Caccia, M.P.
 Centre Block, Room 353-S
 House of Commons
 Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

... and your member of parliament.

No postage is required. Please take the time to write.

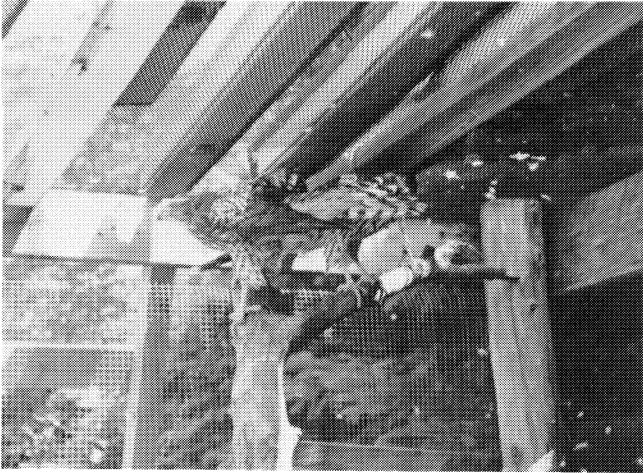
Linda and Peter Payzant
 Co Chairmen, C & E Committee

BIRDING

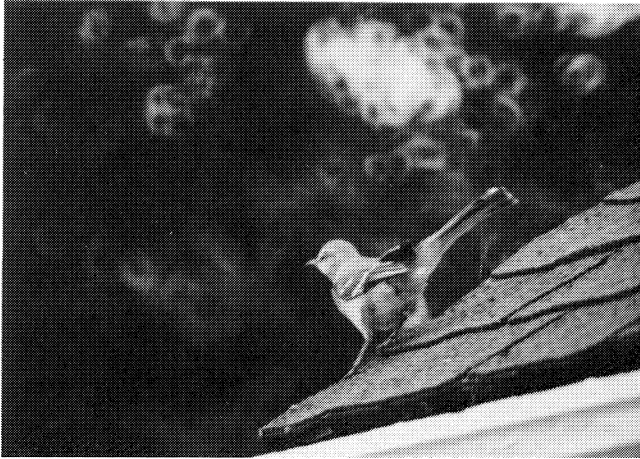


Nova Scotia

OUR NEWEST PUBLICATION BIRDING NOVA SCOTIA, SEPTEMBER 1984, IS WELL ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING A BEST SELLER. HUNDREDS OF COPIES HAVE BEEN SOLD ACROSS CANADA AND TO BIRDERS IN THE UNITED STATES. COPIES ARE OBTAINABLE FROM OUR MUSEUM ADDRESS AT \$5.00 EACH.



Goshawks, Mason's Point Rehabilitation Centre, July, 1984. --Photo KEW



Northern Mockingbird in Richard Stern's garden in Kentville, November, 1984. --Photo, RBS

NOTES FROM THE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

1. COSEWIC Communique

COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) has representatives from federal, provincial and private agencies and assigns national status to species at risk in Canada. The following is a list of birds with designated status as of April 1984.

- RARE: Trumpeter Swan
 Peregrine Falcon (ssp paelei)
 Piping Plover
 Ivory Gull
 Caspian Tern
 Great Grey Owl
 Ipswich Sparrow
 Ross' Gull
 Red--houldered Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Prothonotary Warbler *
 Eastern Bluebird *
 Barn Owl *
- THREATENED: White Pelican
 Ferruginous Hawk
 Peregrine Falcon (ssp tundrius)
 Burrowing Owl
 Henslow's Sparrow *
- ENDANGERED: Peregrine Falcon (ssp anatum)
 Greater Prairie Chicken
 Whooping Crane
 Eskimo Curlew
 Kirtland's Warbler
- N.I.A.C.: Double-crested Cormorant
 Gyrfalcon
 Greater Sandhill Crane
 Red-necked Grebe
 Prairie Falcon
 Bald Eagle *

Notes: 1. * = committee decisions COSEWIC annual meeting 1984.

2. N.I.A.C = Not In Any Category; i.e., these species were considered but it was decided they were not rare, threatened, or endangered at present but should be watched.

2. Piping Plover

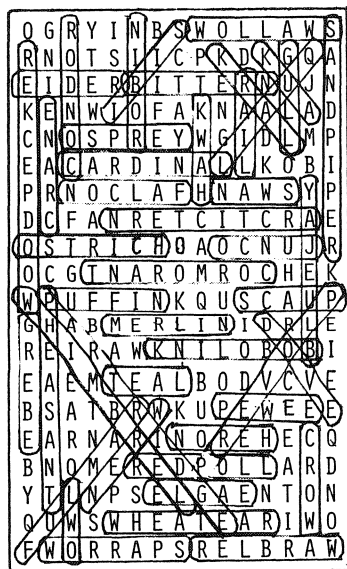
At the 1983 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Nature Federation a resolution was passed urging federal and provincial governments to take steps to census and protect Piping Plover nesting sites and establish advisory committees for management and protection of Piping Plovers.

Although the Piping Plover occurs in all Canadian provinces except B.C., and is declining in numbers throughout its range, the CNF found little interest in federal and provincial agencies except for the Atlantic Region of the Canadian Wildlife Service. Due to this general lack of response the Canadian Nature Federation has decided to drop further attempts to establish advisory boards for management of the Piping Plover.

The Canadian Wildlife Service makes the following estimates for Atlantic Canada Piping Plover populations:

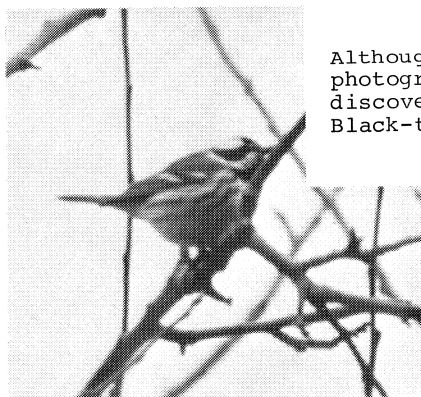
NFLD	10-15 pr?
NS	60-70 pr
PEI	50 pr
NB	100 pr
Magdalens	20 pr (CWS, Quebec 1983)

Linda Payzant



ARMCHAIR BIRDING

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. ARCTIC TERN | 23. LARK |
| 2. AUK | 24. OSPREY |
| 3. BITTERN | 25. OSTRICH |
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| 15. FULMAR | 37. SCAUP |
| 16. GREBE | 38. SPARROW |
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| 18. HAWK | 40. SWAN |
| 19. HERON | 41. TEAL |
| 20. IBIS | 42. WARBLER |
| 21. JUNCO | 43. WHEATEAR |
| 22. MERLIN | 44. WHIMBREL |
| | 45. WOODPECKER |
| | 46. WREN |



Although many birders got better views, this photograph taken on Nov. 25, the day of its discovery, suffices to document the Halifax Black-throated Grey Warbler.

Photo--I.A. McLaren

One of the metro area's several Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. This one was in south-end Halifax, Nov. 2, 1984. Photo I.A. McLaren



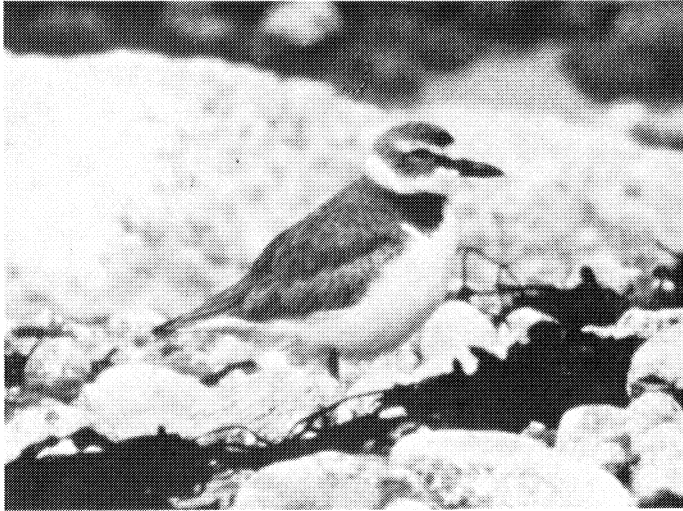
This Lark Sparrow stayed around the lobster pots at West Side dock, Seal Island, giving all the NSBS field trippers ample views on Oct. 13-14, 1984. Photo--I.A. McLaren



PROGRAMMES FOR MEETINGS AT THE NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM FOR THE REST OF THE SEASON ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- February 28 "A Great Auk Talk", R.G.B. Brown
Book Auction
- March 28 "Birds of the Galapagos" a slide presentation
by Nan Geizer
- April 25 The Eagle Restoration Programme--P. Austin-Smith
(The film "Eagles of Bras d'Or will be shown)

ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 8:00 p.m.



The strikingly heavy bill on this Wilson's Plover (once known as "Thick-billed Plover") is here evident. Seal Island, May 27, 1984.
--Photo I.A. McLaren

1984

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Nova Scotia Bird Society

The 1984 A.G.M. of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held on November 22, 1984 at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, N. S. The President, Mr. William Caudle was in the chair with 64 members present.

The minutes of the 1983 meeting, published in the January 1984 issue of Nova Scotia Birds was again distributed to members attending the meeting. It was moved by Bob MacDonald, seconded by Marg Clark that the minutes be accepted as issued. Carried.

Business Arising from The Minutes.

Nellie Snyder read a letter of appreciation to the Nova Scotia Bird Society by Stephen Flemming.

I wish that I could be at the meeting tonight to be saying this in person but unfortunately my commitments here at Acadia are unyielding for this evening. However, Nellie has kindly offered to speak in my stead.

On behalf of Roland Chiasson and I, we would like to thank the Bird Society for a job well done with Piping Plovers. With your help we visited 185 beaches and made over 600 censuses through the years. To me - that's impressive!

The result of all this effort, plus my behavioural work and Roland's habitat work, is the current writing of 4 papers for publication.

These are,

1. The Status and Behavioural Response of Piping Plovers to Recreational Activity in Nova Scotia.
2. Time and Activity Budgets of Piping Plovers in Nova Scotia
3. Fostering Behaviour in Piping Plovers.
4. Nest Site Selection in Piping Plovers.

The Society will, of course be acknowledged in the first paper for all its work.

I think the Society has demonstrated that a naturalist group can function for enjoyment, education and can even contribute significantly to scientific research.

In closing, I'd like to say I'm proud to be a member of the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

Sincerely,
Stephen Flemming.

Stephen Flemming presented the Society with a copy of his thesis for his masters degree.

Nellie also delivered to the President a petition to "Protest Termination of Research, Toxicology, and Interpretative Divisions of the Canadian Wildlife Service as Effective 31st March, 1985." This was made available for concerned members' signatures.

Financial Report

Chris Field tabled his report for 1984. The present balance is \$861.25 compared to \$5782.30 for 1983. Major expenses have been incurred with the publication of Birding Nova Scotia and the purchase of new supplies of Society crests and the new Checklists. These items are, in reality assets, since their sale will bring in revenue. The balance also does not include the Museum Grant which had not been made at the time the balance sheet was drawn up.

The president explained that the Museum had misplaced the Society's request for the grant. The request was made a second time and the grant of \$2,000.00 was made.

Chris Field moved, and Don Purchase seconded that the report be accepted.

Membership Report

Shirley Brothers presented her report.

Category	
Single.....	303
Family.....	166
Senior.....	133
Instit.....	11
Student.....	17
<u>Life</u>	<u>10</u>
Total.....	640

Shirley explained the new policy regarding family membership. On the new membership forms, Family memberships request the name of each member of the family. This policy will give the Society a more realistic membership figure.

Shirley Brothers moved that the Membership Report be accepted. Seconded by John Cohrs. Carried.

Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund

Ian McLaren reported that although no land has been obtained on behalf of the Society this year, the Trust Fund has remained active in a number of ways. Most expenditures were on behalf of the raptor rehabilitation program. We are very pleased that Conrad Island, Halifax Co. has this year been acquired by the province as a natural area within the new Eastern Shore Provincial Park system. To aid in its acquisition, the Trust Fund has offered to assist the province in purchasing some remaining pieces of land. However, we were requested instead to help by funding a survey of beach use last summer and a biophysical survey of the natural attributes of the island. Both these projects have been completed and will assist in the planning and management of the area in ways that we hope will be compatible with our own interests.

A member of the society has offered a large tract of land close to the sanctuary at Port Joli and to the proposed federal park at Cadden Beach. We have accepted this generous offer, and hope to affect transfer soon. This will be an area which will be of direct use for members wishing to explore it.

The owner of a large part of a large island off southern Nova Scotia has offered to sell his holdings to the Society. We are investigating ways in which the island could be purchased to maintain it in its present state.

We have approached the owner of a smaller island in Minas Basin, important as a seabird colony, and hope that this too can be acquired for permanent protection.

C.R.K.Allen paid a brief tribute to Willet Mills, a founding member of The Nova Scotia Bird Society, who passed away this fall.

Jr. Field Trip.

John Cohrs reported on the Junior Field Trip which was held at Risser's and Crescent Beaches on Sept 20, 1984. Thirty five students from Halifax West High School accompanied by Shirley and John Cohrs, Ed Richard and Eric Cooke enjoyed an excellent trip. (See Field Trip Reports).

President's Report

The President's report appears on page 1 of this issue

Award to Dr. Phyllis Dobson.

The president presented a special award to Phyllis Dobson to mark her resignation as Records Editor after a service of twenty years.

Phyllis thanked the members for the presentation and after giving a brief history of the Society, urged members to send in bird reports and, on time.

Nominating Committee.

Peter Payzant, chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for 1985

President	Bill Caudle
Vice President.....	Bob Dickie
Secretary.....	Don MacNeil
Treasurer.....	Chris Field
Membership.....	Shirley Brothers
Editor.....	Shirley Cohrs
Hon. Auditor.....	James Morrow
Hon. Solicitor.....	Leonard Kitz

After three calls for nominations from the floor, Peter Payzant called for nominations for the three Executive Directors.

Nominee	Mover	Second
James McLaren	Richard Stern	John Cohrs
Joyce Purchase	Ethel Crathorn	Nelly Snyder
Bob MacDonald	Linda Payzant	Dave Currie

New Business.

A discussion regarding a request by Halifax Seed Company for a copy of the Society's mailing list resulted in a proposal that the list be given to the company because it would result in less

expensive bird seed for members.

Moved by Evelyn Dobson, seconded by Shirley Cohrs that the society not sell its mailing list to outside concerns. Carried

Peter Payzant reported that the Museum has offered printing, office space and secretarial services to the Breeding Bird Atlas. He also stated that there are now enough surveyors to cover Nova Scotia in five years.

There being no additional new business, Marg Clark moved that we adjourn.

Robert B. Dickie
(Secretary)

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Annual Report
November, 1984

1. A New committee was formed with 5 active members early in 1984
2. The committee decided to call itself the Conservation and Environment Committee, and drafted a set of guidelines which appeared in NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS.
3. One of the first things we did was send a letter to several 'experts' asking for their ideas on what issues we should be looking into.
4. We had a total of 7 meetings in this first year and received and answered letters from many individuals concerned about various environmental issues.
5. We have collected a lot of material on herbicide spraying and wrote a letter to the editor of the Mail Star stating our position against the use of 2-4-D on roadsides because of dioxin contamination.
6. We produced a "Snipe Hunter's" poster and arranged to have the Canadian Wildlife Service pay for the cost of printing it.
7. We gathered information on the Machias Seal Island dispute and wrote to the Department of External Affairs urging the government to take action on this matter.
8. We have been working on getting a Breeding Bird Atlas project underway for Nova Scotia and possibly for New Brunswick and P.E.I. (This was suggested by several of the "experts" we consulted.)
9. You will see some "Conservation and Environment Notes" in NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS from time to time to keep you informed on issues that should be of concern to birders in Nova Scotia.
- 10 We have recently learned that DDT is again be released into the environment in the USA and in Canada. We are gathering more information on this right now and you will hear more about it in the April issue of NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
(Incorporated 1957)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the Twelve Months ending October 31, 1984
(with comparative figures for the year ending October 31, 1983)

	1984	1983
Balance from previous year	\$5782.30	\$5011.19
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Membership dues	5123.54	4997.46
Savings interest	269.14	299.86
GIC interest (153.67)	89.67	(202.60)
NS Museum Grant	-	2000.00
Sale of publications, etc.	1198.97	821.54
Life memberships	480.00	-
Mailing list cost recovery	50.60	-
Miscellaneous	12.00	337.50
	<u>\$13006.22</u>	<u>\$13602.95</u>
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>		
Three issues of N.S. Birds	5376.31	5273.50
Postage, stationery, wordprocessing	1636.75	1143.24
Editor's expenses	170.89	150.70
Subscriptions	50.91	76.44
Monthly meeting expenses (refreshments)	109.62	20.00
A.G.M. meeting	257.18	292.76
Printing of membership cards and forms	-	275.18
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	483.34	313.24
Typewriter maintenance	-	39.03
Misplaced cheques	-	209.00
Environmental committee	31.87	-
Slide collection	77.73	-
Awards, gifts	275.00	-
Checklists	442.43	-
Bank charges	58.15	27.56
Birding N.S.	2181.00	-
Crests	892.85	-
Archives	22.04	-
President expenses	18.00	-
Miscellaneous re T-shirts	61.00	-
	<u>12145.07</u>	<u>7820.65</u>
Balance in Royal Bank of Canada	861.15	5782.30
	<u>\$13006.22</u>	<u>\$13602.95</u>

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Electric typewriter (cost \$296.45)	62.17	77.71
Steel Filing Cabinet (cost \$99.96)	1.00	1.00
Steel Filing Cabinet (cost \$98.99)	63.35	79.19
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	2096.58	1613.24
Balance in Royal Bank of Canada	861.15	5782.30
(Savings \$317.65, Current 543.50)		
	<u>\$ 3084.25</u>	<u>\$ 7553.44</u>

LIABILITIES

Surplus	3084.25	7553.44
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Audited and found correct
according to the books.

J. Morrow
Auditor

W. Gaudin - President

C. Field - Treasurer

Note to Financial Statements:

With regard to the item "Miscellaneous" under the Receipts of the Society, there has been a policy change here since a year ago which should be explained to the members at the Annual Meeting and which, in my opinion, is beyond my terms of reference.

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, 1983 to October 31, 1984
with comparative figures from November 1, 1982 to October 31, 1983

	<u>To October 31, 1984</u>	<u>To October 31, 1983</u>
<u>Balance Forward</u>	\$ 55,962.98	\$ 50,703.07
<u>Receipts</u>		
Debenture Interest	\$ 1,255.01	\$ 948.68
Bank Interest	522.02	551.71
Regular Contributions	192.00	2,028.00
C. Cohrs Fund	-	3,300.00
Estate of R. Tufts	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>-</u>
	\$ 3,969.03	\$ 6,828.39
 <u>Disbursements</u>		
Bank Charges	\$ 77.26	\$ 65.01
Taxes	299.36	266.77
Student Field Trip	149.75	108.34
Miscellaneous	20.12	31.00
Raptor Rehabilitation	1,733.74	237.20
Audubon Lecture	-	860.16
Conrads Beach Survey	<u>1,225.00</u>	<u>-</u>
	\$ 3,505.23	\$ 1,568.48
 <u>Net Worth</u>	\$ 56,426.78	\$ 55,962.98

Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust FundAssets

	<u>October 31, 1984</u>	<u>October 31, 1983</u>
<u>Bank Accounts</u>		
Current Account	\$ 43.05	\$ 276.52
Savings Account	2,055.50	5,623.15
Savings Account (MH)	<u>3,768.23</u>	<u>3,503.31</u>
	\$ 5,866.78	\$ 9,402.98
<u>Debentures</u>	\$15,900.00	\$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
Peter's Island	<u>20,000.00</u>	<u>20,000.00</u>
	\$34,660.00	\$34,660.00
Total Assets	\$56,426.78	\$55,962.98

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

XIX CONGRESSUS INTERNATIONALIS ORNITHOLOGICUS

The 19th International Ornithological Congress will be held in Ottawa, Canada, from 22 to 29 June 1986. Its President is Professor Dr. Klaus Immelmann. The scientific programme has been determined and comprises plenary lectures, symposia, contributed papers (oral and posters), round table discussions, special interest group meetings, and workshops. Pre and post-congress excursions and workshops are planned, as well as early morning bird walks and other activities for members and accompanying members.

The deadline for registration and submission of contributed papers is January 1986. Additional information, the final circular and registration forms are available from:

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

Editor's Note:

We are glad that these reports, which were unavoidably held up, arrived in time for last minute inclusion.

FULMARS TO CORMORANTS

Blake Maybank saw single NORTHERN FULMARS on the Nova Scotian side of Cabot Strait, on his crossings of July 14 and 28. Roger Foxall, Ian McLaren and Eric Mills also saw a couple en route to and from North Sydney to Argentia on July 13-15. GREATER SHEARWATERS and WILSON'S and LEACH'S STORM-PETRELS were quite common, and the Leach's were locally abundant over patches of plankton. Richard Stern estimated about 1,000 and 200 Greaters on pelagic trips off Brier Island, on, respectively, 8-9 and 29-30 of September, and Roger Pocklington counted at least 900 going past Sable Island on Sept. 12. There were 200 on the Lurcher Shoal on Oct. 17 (RSD'E). SOOTY SHEARWATERS were in the minority, as usual, but there were singletons or pairs off Cape Forchu on June 2 (Hubert Hall), off Cape Breton on July 28 (Blake Maybank), and off Brier on July 16, and Sept. 8 and 30 (Richard Stern). It's been a good summer for both MANX and CORY'S SHEARWATERS. Blake Maybank saw one of each off Sydney, from the Cabot Strait ferry, on July 28, and Hubert Hall saw a Manx from Bluenose, 15 miles west of Yarmouth, on August 26. There was a single Manx, along with 200+ Greaters and 50+ Sooties, off Brier on Sept. 1 (ELM). Raymond d'Entremont, fishing on Georges Bank and the Lurcher, saw his first Cory's on August. 13, and his last on October 19; he saw a Manx on Aug. 18. The Cory's which followed the NSBS boat to Seal Island on Oct. 14. was one of the highlights of the trip (IAM). The last Manx to be recorded was the bird which Roger Pocklington saw from Sable Island on Oct. 1.

On the other hand, it hasn't been a good season for Storm-Petrels, to judge from the scarcity of reports. Apart from the Cabot Strait sightings in July, all we have is a single Wilson's from Bluenose on June 10, 15 miles west of Yarmouth (Hubert Hall), and a couple off Brier on Sept. 9. (Richard Stern). Ted d'Eon and Delisle d'Entremont found a road-killed Leach's at West Pubnico on Sept. 21. M. Churchill, J. Graves and their trusty beagle Skippy, found a couple in the grass at Baccaro on Oct. 20, and another at Louis Head on Oct. 27--"a lifer for all three observers". These stranded birds must all have been blown in by storms. There is however, the intriguing possibility, nothing more, of another BRITISH STORM-PETREL record. Technically speaking, it's probably not even Canadian but, as it comes from one of the Tall Ships, we'll stretch a point. Kim Aaboe of the Maritime Museum, found a storm-petrel on board Dar Mlodziezy, on July 16, at 40°N 45°W, just south-east of the southern tip of the Grand Banks. His slides show a remarkably small bird, compared to the length of his fingers, with all-black feet (which rules out Wilson's), and a rump-patch which extends much farther on to the flank than is normal in Leach's. British and Harcourt's Storm-Petrels are the alternative possibilities. The slides don't show the underside of the wing, unfortunately; white under-wing coverts are diagnostic of the British Storm-Petrel. I've cited this unconfirmed record because I can't believe that the only confirmed one, the bird mist-netted on Sable Island in August 1970, was an isolated occurrence. It would be easy to overlook this species at sea among the much more numerous Leach's and Wilson's.

As usual, I'll confine the NORTHERN GANNET reports to the timing of their fall migration. There was a steady trickle of birds, about 50% adult, going past Brier Island on Sept. 1 (John Cohrs), and this seems to have continued for most of the month (Richard Stern). There were about 300 there on Oct. 16, and 100, very close to shore, on Oct. 26-28 (FLL, J.W. Taylor, RBS). Meanwhile, on the Atlantic shore, the Cohrs counted 40+ in half an hour off Cherry Beach on Oct. 13, 70% were adults. Fulton Lavender estimated 50 at Hartlen Point on both the 11th and 28th of Oct. However, there were still plenty of birds off Neils Hbr., in northern Cape Breton, in mid-Oct., diving for mackerel so close inshore that they were almost on the rocks (Angus MacLean). There was also a dead bird on Tickle Beach near Canso on Oct. 19 (Norris Bushell). It had evidently been driven ashore by tropical storm Josephine ; after that, some idiot had shot it.

There's nothing special to report about our GREAT OR DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS. Perhaps the oddest records of either were the 6 adult and imm. Double-crests, and the adult and imm. Great, which Roger Pocklington saw off the west end of Sable Island on Oct. 12-14. You don't often see them so far offshore. Otherwise, the records for both species come in, as usual, from all around the province. Great Cormorants, presumably early migrants, began to appear around Seal Island from Aug. 26, onwards (IAM). There were 235+ on the ledges along the south side of Long Island, just inshore of Brier, on Sept. 8, and 30+ on Brier on Nov. 3 (ELM). The Cohrs saw a spectacular flock of 1,700+ Double-crests on Aug. 5, in Green Bay, crammed together, presumably over a run of fish. The 1000+ off Hartlen Point on Oct. 21 must have been migrants on their way south (J. Purchase). Birds were common off Brier Island all fall, with a very large flock of 200 there Oct. 26, but they had almost all left by Nov. 3 (RBS & ELM). They were also scarce at Eel Lake after the beginning of Nov. (PRD, CRKA), and there were none at all in the Crescent Beach-Cherry Hill-Green Bay area on Oct. 27-28 (Cohrs).

PHALAROPES

It was a good fall for RED PHALAROPES off Brier Island: at least 10,000, along with 50 NORTHERNS, over the ledges north-west of the island on Sept. 8-9, 3000+ Reds and 6 Northerns on Sept. 23, and 100 Reds on Oct. 6-7 (ELM, RBS). On the other hand, Raymond d'Entremont says that they were scarce on the Lurcher Shoal, about 25 miles farther south; all he saw was small, scattered flocks of Northerns there on Aug. 4, and a few unidentified Phalaropes on Sept. 2. The first birds of the fall--a Red, and 2 Northerns--were seen off Sydney on July 28, from the Cabot Strait ferry (Blake Maybank). The last birds to be reported were in early Oct: a Red on Canard Pond on Oct. 6, and 4 at Hartlen Point on Oct. 10 (Cohrs, RBS, RBD, FLL), and 3 Northerns at Hartlen Point on Oct. 17 (FLL).

We also had a trickle of WILSON'S PHALAROPES: singletons at Matthew's Lake on Aug. 16. (EPS, RT), at APBS on Sept. 6 (D. Currie), and at West Lawrencetown-Conrad's Beach on Aug. 16 and 23, and Sept. 15 (IAM, FLL, RBD).

JAEGERS TO AUKS

It's a little too early to report on the arrival of the various auks from farther north. There was a handful of DOVEKIES off Brier and Seal Islands on Nov. 3-10 (ELM,IAM), and a bird off Portuguese Cove in Hfx. Hbr., diving and feeding, on Nov. 4 (Alan R. Longhurst). Also, a THICK-BILLED MURRE off Cole Hbr. Dyke on Nov. 10. (FLL, Mike Almon). RAZORBILLS and ATLANTIC PUFFINS were seen in good numbers on the NSBS Field Trip out to the Cape Breton Bird Islands on June 23 (SM). There are no other reports of Razorbills, but there were 10-20 Puffins off Brier Island on Sept. 8-9, 15 on Sept. 23, and 1 on Sept. 30 (RBS). BLACK GUILLEMOTS are commonly reported, as usual, from around the province. There were the usual numbers around Brier Island in the late summer and fall. Eric Mills saw at least 50 there on Nov. 3, far more than on his previous trips, and he believes that there had been a recent arrival of migrants. This fits in with the banding returns, which show a movement of young birds in the fall from Labrador and the northern Gulf of St. Lawrence, towards Cape Cod; no doubt Nova Scotian birds go there as well.

Our skua records are quite interesting. Roger Foxall, Ian McLaren and Eric Mills believe they had SOUTH POLAR SKUAS on their round trip on the ferry between Sydney, Cape Breton, and Argentina, Nfld., July 13-15. They say of the bird which they saw, south of the Burin Peninsula: "solid deep sooty-brown back with no emarginations or streaking; underparts lighter, buffy or greyish brown (no warm colour). Upper wing solidly dark with large white flashes". They point out that this agrees with all the descriptions of an immature, dark-phase South Polar Skua; and, on the other hand, their bird completely lacked the streaking and warm tones of a Great Skua of any age--the Scottish/Icelandic skua which you expect to see off eastern Canada.

There are not many other Skua sightings. Captain Hubert Hall saw two from BLUENOSE, some way SSW of Yarmouth, on Sept. 26, Raymond S. d'Entremont saw 3 birds on Georges Bank on Aug. 22, ("I'm at a loss to say whether these were South Polar or Great Skuas; they appeared blackish-brown on top, lacking the rusty edgings of the Great Skua"), and a Great Skua on the Lurcher Shoal on Sept. 9.

Foxall, McLaren and Mills saw a total of 4 POMARINE and 6 PARASITIC JAEGERS on their crossing, all on the Newfoundland side. In Nova Scotia, Margaret Churchill and June Graves saw a subadult Pomarine off Baccaro Light on June 27, identified by its size. A dark-phase adult Parasitic was the highlight of the field trip to Martinique Beach on July 29 (IAM,ELM). Raymond S. d'Entremont says, of the 4 Parasitics which he saw on the Lurcher on Sept. 10: "this is typical of the many jaegers that I've seen since June 23, to Oct. 22. Most of them, especially immatures, had to pass as just jaegers. It has been a great year for jaegers". The last of them--so far--is the Pomarine which was harrassing terns over the airstrip on Sable Island on October 1 (RP).

This has been an interesting summer and fall for unusual terns. Derek Langslow and Ian McLaren saw an adult GULL-BILLED TERN at Cow Bay on July 17. The whiteness of the Plumage, the large black bill, the broad wings and the distinctive flight pattern were all well seen. Derek knows the species in Europe. It's normally a Gulf of Mexico species over here. So is FORSTER'S TERN in winter, though it also winters along the Atlantic coast as far north as the Virginia Capes. However, I suspect our own sightings were birds which had strayed east on their way south from the prairies. There was a second-year subadult on Conrad's Beach on July 15 (FLL; Wernon and Ivy Higgins),

and a first-year immature there on 14-15 Sept. (FLL,IAM,RBD). M. Churchill, J. Graves and E. Greene had a good view of an adult in winter plumage at Eel Lake, Yar. Co., Nov. 17. Roger Pocklington saw two LEAST TERNS--an adult and an immature--on Sable Island on Sept. 11, and about 20 ROSEATES the next day. There is a gloomy prediction, based on population trends, that Roseates will be extinct north of Florida by the year 2002; I don't know if our sheaf of Nova Scotian reports proves the forecast wrong, but it's certainly encouraging. The two adults on Rainbow Haven flats, just east of Halifax, on July 17, were 'unexpected' (IAM). There were at least 12 adults in the Wedge Island tern colony, on the east side of St. Margaret's Bay, on July 20 (ELM), and the several summer reports of Roseates along that part of the coast (FLL,RBD) probably came from there. However, Richard Stern says that there were only 2 in the Peter Island COMMON ARCTIC TERN colony, when he was on Brier from July 13-22. Apart from that, there was a bird at Cherry Hill on July 23, and another at Matthew's Lake on July 22 (Cohrs); 2 at Matthew's Lake on Aug. 16 (EPS,RT), and one at Seal Island on Sept. 1.

COMMON and ARCTIC TERNS were both common, as usual, and I'll only deal with their departures. The last positive record of Arctics was the party of 7 which the Cohrs saw at Cherry Hill on Sept. 14. On the other hand, there was a definite 'last sighting' of a Common Tern at Cow Bay on Oct. 6. (I&J McLaren); a bird at Hartlen Point on Oct. (FLL and Bernice Moore); and 2 terns at Sugarloaf, off northern Cape Breton, on Oct. 11 (Angus MacLean).

We think of BLACK TERNS as birds of the freshwater marshes on the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick border, and I'm sure that the single bird which Linda and Peter Payzant recorded at APBS on July underestimates their numbers. Otherwise, on the Atlantic coast, there's the immature Black Tern which Fulton Lavender and J.W. Taylor saw in Three Fathom Harbour on Aug. 1, and Shirley Cohrs' two birds at Crescent Beach on Sept. 8.

Richard Stern reports a couple of LAUGHING GULLS in breeding plumage on Peter Island, off Brier, on July 15. He and Eric Mills also saw a total of 3 winter adults and a subadult off Brier on Sept. 8-9. Raymond d'Entremont saw a probable SABINE'S GULL on Georges Bank on Aug. 20: a dark-headed gull with a white, forked tail. We have the usual reports of BLACK-HEADED GULLS along the Atlantic coast. The birds were regularly sighted at Conrad's Beach, Hartlen Point and the usual places east of Halifax, from Sept. to Nov. (RBD,FLL, Don MacNeil, Mike Almon, Bernice Moor). However, Sara MacLean says that they didn't turn up around the Sydneys, in C.B., until Nov. 14. "very late for a first appearance". The first arrivals at Chebogue Point, Yarmouth Co., were an adult and an immature on Oct. 25 (PRD,CRKA). The first BONAPARTE'S GULL report was the 15 which Fulton Lavender and Mike Almon saw at River Philip on July 7. The latest is Sharon Hawboldt's 2 adults at Annapolis Royal on Nov. 25. I hate to say it, but our Nova Scotian records of this species are merely strays. The birds are really trying to migrate from the forests of northern Manitoba to the Passamaquoddy channels in south-west New Brunswick, and on to the southern States. We only see those birds on the fringe, which have lost their way.

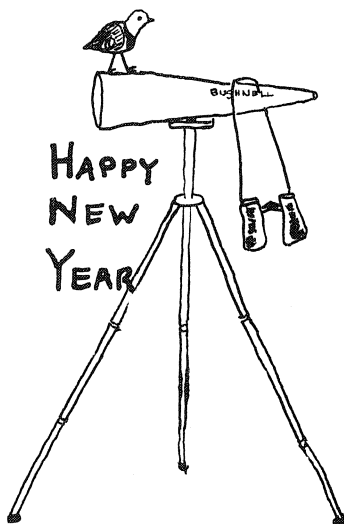
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES lose their way in the opposite sense. They come flooding on to the Scotian Shelf and the Grand Banks in the fall, from colonies as far away as Newfoundland, Baffin Island, Greenland and Russia. The ones which we see close to shore in Nova Scotia, are the ones which have been blown too far west. I suspect that Ruth D. Hebb's bird at Hampton Beach on the Fundy Shore on July 4, Rene and Diane Matteau's at Eastern Passage on Sept. 8, and Raymond d'Entremont's at Meteghan Wharf on Oct. 31, all fall into this

category. On the other hand, the 1,000 odd off Brier Island on Oct. 16 (FLL, j.W. Taylor), and the 'hundreds' of Kittiwakes there on Oct. 27-28 and Nov. 10 (RBS, ELM) were coming to as rich a feeding area as the Greater Shearwaters have, earlier in the fall. Out at sea, Kittiwakes were abundant off Sable Island between Nov. 7-14. (Tony Lock).

As usual, I can't think of anything more to say of our HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS than that they were present. As usual, Our Digby LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL had reappeared, for its 14th year, by Oct. 6. (ELM). The bird at the Fairview Container Port in Halifax had also come back, for its fifth year, by Sept. 22 (ELM); it, and/or another one (Bob Dickie believes we have TWO of them), was there and/or at the Volvo Plant at least until Nov. 11. The first report of a "white-winged" gull - ICELAND/GLAUCOUS - was the bird which Roger Pocklington saw on Sable Island on Sept. 10. The first ICELAND GULL seen in the Sydneys, Cape Breton, was on Nov. 17 ("a late date", according to Sara MacLean). The only report from mainland Nova Scotia so far comes from Bob Dickie: 40 odd birds at the sewer outlet at Point Pleasant Park on Nov. 24.

RING-BILLED GULLS were with us as early as July 28, when Blake Maybank saw one on our side of Cabot Strait. Rene and Diane Matteau counted 2 adults and 10 subadults on Sullivans Pond, in Dartmouth, on July 30, and there were still 10 there on Nov. 10 (KNK). There were 70+ on Conrad's Beach on Aug. 23 (FLL), and the birds remained, in comparable numbers, at least until the end of October (FLL, Don MacNeil, RBD). Farther south, there were 30-40 "feeding on flying ants like nighthawks" at Eel Brook on Sept. 25, and 170+ there on Oct. 25 (PRD, CRKA).

--RBBB, ed.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fall Bird Reports 1984	2
Glace Bay Birding - Sara MacLean	27
Letters to the Editor	37
Birding on a Bicycle - Frank Hennessey	42
Field Trip Reports	43
Upcoming Field Trips	53
The Jackdaw Story - Ian McLaren	56
Beached Bird Project	60
Annual General Meeting	69

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