

*Nova Scotia
Birds*



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WINTER BIRDS 1985-1986

November, 1985 was generally cold with precipitation below normal for that month, in most areas. December was sunny and very cold again, precipitation was generally well below normal though snowfall at Sydney was 76% above normal. January, believe it or not, was on the mild side with Halifax 2.2 degree (C) above normal. The temperature during that month varied from cold to warm, indeed, a record warm temperature of 13.3 degrees (C) for Yarmouth was set on January 27. Sunshine totals for Nova Scotia during this month were generally below normal.

In spite of the generally cool weather, birders were out in force and 104 sent a total of 1150 reports on 167 bird species.

The most commonly reported species was the Bohemian Waxwing, followed closely by the American Robin and then at some distance by the Evening Grosbeak.

Frequently, the Robins are reported as "the first for the season" or "the first to return", but undoubtedly, those seen at this season are simply over-wintering here. Even so, it's great to see them.

I would like to thank Keith Keddy for the weather information and all the following birders for their reports.

It would assist us greatly if each reporter would include his or her THREE INITIALS, as it would speed up identification of birders for readers who want to do so. When you send me your reports next time, would you please include the three initials (if you have three) on your reports as well as your name on a note to me so we know who you are.

Bob Dickie
Records Editor

MANY GRATEFUL THANKS GO FROM ALL SOCIETY MEMBERS TO PHYLLIS DOBSON ON HER RETIREMENT FROM HER POSITION AS ONE OF OUR SEASONAL RECORDS EDITORS. WE HAVE LOST COUNT OF THE NUMBER OF YEARS THAT "PRD, ED," HAS BEEN WRITING UP HER PART OF THE LIST (IN THE EARLY DAYS IT WAS THE WHOLE LIST). ALL OUR GOOD WISHES FOR YOUR FUTURE BIRDING PHYLLIS, AND KEEP YOUR REPORTS COMING !

-JSC

WE WELCOME to our Editorial Staff David Currie who is wetting his feet in this issue as a Seasonal Records Editor. He will be known to you as D.A.C., Ed.

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, Little Harbour, Seal Is.
Queen's Co.	Port Joli, Port Hebert, Caledonia, Cadden Bay, Summerville 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, Hartlen's Pt.
Colchester Co. (Col. Co.)	Economy
Annapolis Co. (Anna. Co.)	Paradise, Sandy Bottom Lake, Clementsport
Kings Co.	Wolfville, Canard, Lockhartville, Black River Lake, Gaspereau, Grand Pré, Sheffield Mills
Cumberland Co. (Cumb. Co.)	Lusby Marsh, APBS (Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary)
Hants Co.	Shubenacadie
Guysborough Co. (Guys. Co.)	Hazel Hill
Digby Co.	Brier Is.

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DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

FOR
THE JULY ISSUE

MAY 25, 1986

Bird reports to the Records Editor--

Mr. Bob Dickie,
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LOONS AND GREBES AND SWAN

RED-THROATED LOONS were in short supply this winter: "Single birds" off Hartlen's Pt., November 24, some (no number given) on the Halifax East CBC, Dec. 29, single birds at Evangeline Beach, Dec. 10, M.W. Pubnico, Jan. 8 and Chegoggin Pt., Jan. 19, are the only reported sightings.

There was apparently a build-up of COMMON LOONS in February. The Tufts saw 21 along the Blandford peninsula, Feb. 4--14 of them in a "raft"--unusual for Loons--and Jim Taylor saw many from Hartlen's Pt. to Devil's Is., Feb. 17, and from Conrad's Beach to Three Fathom Harbour, Feb. 21, also seen in the same area by Joyce Purchase, who estimated about 30. They may have been there all the time but it seems unlikely in this well-watched area.

Two PIED-BILLED GREBES and possibly a third (juvenile) were seen by the Tufts at Black Rock, Kings Co., Jan. 24.

HORNED GREBE reports are rather scanty: 7 or 8 wintering near French Village, 10 or 12 at the Puddle (St. Margaret's Bay), Jan. 13, 4 at Black Rock Light, Jan. 29, 12 along Blandford shore (where there should normally be dozens) Feb 12, and 2 at Digby Harbour, Feb. 12 (TD,AJC, the Tufts).

RED-NECKED GREBES too are lightly reported: 3 or 4 at Brier and singles at Eastern Passage and Canso Harbour, a big drop from the 114 reported the same period last year.

An unmistakable TUNDRA SWAN, first seen by the Thextons at Annapolis Royal causeway, gave a number of local birders a thrilling "lifer".

--CRKA, ed.

FULMARS TO CORMORANTS

The pickings are very slim. Hubert Hall saw a NORTHERN FULMAR from Bluenose, 13 miles west of Yarmouth, on Jan. 121 This was our only tubenose.

As usual, at this time of year, most of our cormorant sightings are of GREATS. The birds were "frequent" around Brier Is. on Dec. 18, Dec. 20-Jan. 1, and Feb. 21-23 (RBS). Farther east, Raymond and Delisle d'Entremont saw birds in the Pubnicos at the beginning of February, James Taylor reports a bird on Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, on Jan. 31, and Warren and Nancy Peters saw 1-5 birds daily, in Canso Harbour, through most of January and February. The Cohrs and Purchases saw 12 off Chebucto Head on Feb. 12; one of them was already showing the white breeding patch on its flank. A few DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS have wintered with us--again, as usual. Richard Stern had a good view of one off Westport, Digby Co., on Dec. 31, and Ian McLaren photographed an immature on a piling in Dartmouth Cove, on Feb. 16.

--RBBB, ed.

HERONS

Five or 6 GREAT BLUE HERONS were seen in December, but only 3 later: Jan. 1 on Brier Is., Jan. 18 at Overton, and Feb. 11 at L.W. Pubnico. This was no winter for hanging in.

--IAM, ed.

BRANT, GEESE, DUCKS

About 50 BRANT arrived at Pond Cove, Brier Is., Dec. 30, where none had been seen Dec. 18 or 29 (RBS). There were 4, at Annapolis Royal, Jan. 18, 2 at Little Harbour, Shel. Co., Jan. 31 and 3 at Pinkney's Point, Yar. Co., Feb. 27 (CRKA).

Numbers of CANADA GEESE appeared to be normal for this period, although the maximum number in one sighting was only 1600 at Cole Harbour, Dec. 15. There were few reports for January but from mid-February on, there were a number of reports of flocks of from 20 to 75 birds, mostly in flight. Jean Timpa and Brenda Thexton report a GOOSE wearing a yellow neck-band at Grand Pré in December, but were not able to decipher any numbers or letters on the band.

There were the usual few wintering GREEN-WINGED TEAL: up to 3, at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth; 5, in Yarmouth Harbour, and a couple of bright males at the Canard Poultry Pond. BLACK DUCK reports are very spotty but the consensus is that their numbers are down. Eric Cooke found them "extremely scarce along the South Shore"; Fulton Lavender reports 1900-2100 at Sullivan's Pond, and Jean Timpa saw "several thousand" at Grand Pré December 10; but all other sightings are of 100 or less--mostly much less. This, for a bird which abounded throughout the year, only a few years ago.

On the other side of the picture is a letter from Jim Taylor, who lives apparently near a thriving BLACK DUCK nursery in Dartmouth. Last spring a parent paraded her family of ten downy young across his lawn and crossed the highway via the cross-walk to nearby Moreash Retention Pond, where they were shortly joined by two other broods. Up to fledging time only one of these three broods was lost.

There were up to 6 MALLARDS seen near the head of St. Margaret's Bay, through the winter and two males at Canard Pond and Cornwallis River during December. As for the 70+ at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, their status would be hard to determine.

Up to 4 NORTHERN PINTAILS--3 males and a female--were seen through the winter at Sullivan's Pond, and a male showed up at Lawrencetown Lake, Dec. 9.

Just one report of the NORTHERN SHOVELER for this period: a male in partial eclipse or post-juvenile plumate at Cow Bay, Dec. 8 (IAM). A male GADWALL was seen at Sullivan's Pond (of course!) Dec. 8 and Jan. 5 (FLL, JT) and up to 4 AMERICAN WIGEONS there for the winter. The only other Wigeon sighting reported was at Glace Bay Sanctuary, late January, -- no number given.

Two off-calendar RING-NECKED DUCKS were: one at Pleasant Lake, Yar. Co., Dec. 22 and one at Glace Bay, late January.

GREATER SCAUP were "general" and in good numbers this winter. The first report was of a single in the rather unusual spot (for this species), Canard Poultry Pond (JW); a flock or flocks of up to 200 were in Annapolis Basin from Dec. 11 to Jan. 18. There were over 50 at Pubnico Harbour and at Pictou Harbour on the same date, and about the same number at Glace Bay Sanctuary in late January. At Bayport, Lun. Co., there were over 100, Feb. 1 and up to 250 at Salt Bay, Yar. Co., Mar. 7.

The only LESSER SCAUP reported were by Jim Wolford, who saw 2, at the Canard Poultry Pond and 2, at the Port Williams sewage ponds; all in brown plumage, from Nov. 8 to 24; and by Fulton Lavender et al., who spotted a drake at Dartmouth Cove, Nov. 30.

Only three observers report COMMON EIDERS for this period: R.B. Stern says there were "usual numbers" at Brier Is., December through February, and 100 at nearby Tiverton Ferry, Feb. 21. Elsewhere, Jim Taylor, who reported 6 off Hartlen's Point, Jan. 26, thinks they are not so numerous this winter. The Tufts saw 4 at Black Rock Light, Jan. 29, and 2, still there Feb. 7. In my own area--Yarmouth Harbour, around to Pinkney's Point, where normally they are regular, I haven't seen a single one. It could be that they've all travelled farther south. Spring reports should tell the tale.

There were 6 or 7 HARLEQUIN DUCKS off West Pennant, Hfx. Co., Dec. 29 (JSC), and a female off Green Bay, Lun. Co., Jan. 4 (JP&JSC).

OLDSQUAWS are reported in good numbers this winter: several flocks of over 20 in Mahone Bay, Nov. 3, over 100 in the Annapolis Basin near Digby and at Brier, December through January; 30-40 at Hartlen's Point, Jan. 29 and up to 78, in large groups, at Chedabucto Bay and Blandford shore.

BLACK SCOTERS were reported scantily: up to 5, at Hartlen's Point and the Pubnicos, December through January; but up to at least 50 at Evangeline Beach Jan. 11, were seen by the Thextons. SURF SCOTERS were in even fewer numbers: 6, in St. Margaret's Bay, Feb. 11, and 4 at Broad Cove, Feb. 8. WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS did a little better in number of sightings--9 in all--but poorly in numbers of birds, ranging from 1, to a maximum of 7. They were "general" in all coastal waters, but lightly sprinkled!

Between 30 and 40 COMMON GOLDENEYES in Pictou Harbour, Dec. 12, had increased to 250 by Feb. 19 (AJC). This increase could be because of icing over of their feeding grounds in Northumberland Strait. There were good numbers at Brier and at least 100 in the Annapolis-Digby region all winter (Jean Timpa, Stern, the Tufts and Thextons). Over 70 wintered at Mill Cove and other parts of Bedford Basin (Keddy, Taylor, the Cohrs and Payzants); Joyce Purchase saw about 75 at Three Fathom Harbour, Feb. 11, and Jim Taylor had another 18 at Hartlen's Point on the same date. The high count of BARROW'S GOLDENEYES was unexpectedly 7 or 8 in Pictou Harbour, Dec. 12. (This species is said to be quite common in the more northern part of Northumberland Strait). Up to 6 of this species--3 males and 3 females--were seen by several observers from mid-January to mid-February near the Annapolis Causeway. Jerome d'Entremont reports one shot in Pubnico Harbour, Dec. 27; Fulton Lavender saw a female at River Phillip, Feb. 16, and Jim Taylor reports a female in Bedford Basin, Feb. 21.

BUFFLEHEAD were reported for the most part in 2's and 3's this winter, exceptions being 30+ at Annapolis Royal, Jan. 19 (RBS), 20+ at Three Fathom Harbour, Feb. 1 (JP) and 'many' in Annapolis Basin, Feb. 12. (Tufts).

A male HOODED MERGANSER in full plumage wintered in Bedford Basin with the Goldeneyes much to the delight of local birders. There were two immatures of this species at Glen Haven, Dec. 8, and one female there Feb. 1 (AJV), and a pair, male displaying his crest, at Pleasant Lake, Yar. Co., Feb. 19 (MC&JG). The highest count of the COMMON MERGANSER was 300 at Pictou Harbour, Feb. 19 (AJV). There were 53 at 'the Puddle' near Hubbards, Nov. 3 (DM) and Richard Stern reports them as present all winter in the Cornwallis River. There were about 40 at Tusket Falls in December, tapering off to about 15 in early March (CJ). All other sightings were just of several birds at Glace Bay (GC), Mill Cove (RSM) and Petite Riviere (NS). RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were apparently in normal numbers throughout the winter--scattered singles or pairs, and flocks up to 10-12 in the Bay of Fundy and along the South Shore.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

It is worth reporting belatedly that Jim Wolford and colleagues thought that there might have been as many as 12-15 TURKEY VULTURES on Brier Is., Sept. 15; they saw 8 in one group and also 2 separate individuals and a group (or 2 groups) of 3. Richard Stern found a dead one with no obvious wounds near his cottage on Brier Is., on Dec. 30, and had a report from locals of a bird present on the island for a few days prior to Feb. 22. What was possibly a single bird was reported by several observers from the W. Pubnico on Jan. 11 and 12, Yarmouth town on Jan. 29, and Eel Brook on Feb. 1.

The summer stronghold of BALD EAGLES in Cape Breton, becomes partly vacated in winter, but there were up to 14 scavenging offal at Boularderie in December (RBF) and a pair stayed around L. Ainslie (BF). From various observers scattered on the mainland outside Kings and Yarmouth Counties, we have 14 reports of some 18 birds (14 ad., 2 imm., 2?). Eric Cooke writes that his single bird around Lr. LaHave compared poorly with the several normally wintering in that area. In Yar. Co., the Regional Biologist of Lands and Forests counted 12 at a feeding station on Feb. 19, and was able to read the bands on 6 of them (fide Jean Timpa). The picture in Kings County is best summarized by the series of counts made on a set route by personnel of the Department of Lands and Forests (from Peter Austin-Smith, via Jean Timpa). For interest, the Buteo counts are included.

DATE		Nov. 27	Dec. 14	Jan. 8	Jan. 22	Jan. 29
Bald Eagle	ad.		4	14	15	16
	imm.	2	10	10	17	26
	age?	1	0	1	0	0
Red-tailed Hawk		21	3	21	15	5
Rough-legged Hawk		2	0	2	3	1
<u>Buteo</u> sp.?		0	0	4	0	0

These are to be taken as minimal estimates for the county, and Peter Austin-Smith feels that there are at least 60 wintering there. Around Sheffield Mills alone, RBS thought there were about 50, up to 20 having been seen in a single tree! There were two notes on eagle behavior. Richard Stern saw one adult fly off a tree near Grand Pré clutching what appeared to be a Red Squirrel--how pathetic! The Tufts wondered why an adult should be coursing low over the choppy water off Black Rock Light, Kings. Co., on Feb. 7; I once saw one snatch a scoter from well offshore, and perhaps that was the intent of the Tufts' bird.

Sara MacLean was "astounded" by a female NORTHERN HARRIER in view from her kitchen window at Glace Bay, on Feb. 15, her first mid-winter record there. New Year reports were also received of a male in Dartmouth, a male and female around Grand Pré, a male and female around Yarmouth, a male at L.W. Pubnico, a male at Little Hbr., Shel. Co., and a female near Sable River.

Allowing for "repeats", we have 20 reports of about 25 SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS--more than usual, perhaps because bad weather led to more plundering of feeders. There were only 3 NORTHERN GOSHAWKS, 1 each from Wolfville (GWT), Big Pond, C.B. (JM), and Shelburne (JG,MC).

An imm. BROAD-WINGED HAWK, studied at close range as it perched by a road in Cole Harbour on Dec. 8 (ELM,IAM) was no great surprise after our recent spate of winter records. We obtained 15 reports of some 19 RED-TAILED HAWKS from elsewhere than Kings Co., where they were clearly concentrated (see above table). Nevertheless, both JET and RBS thought them scarcer than usual in Kings Co., this winter.

There was a belated report of a nearly all-white individual near Annapolis Royal on Aug. 30 (JW); the bird was clearly a partial albino, not a "Kridler's Hawk" from the west. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were seen in the Dartmouth and Cole Harbour area (2 light, 2 dark birds), near Lawrencetown, Anna. Co. (ca. 3 birds), around Minudie, Cum. Co. (est. 15 birds! FLL, Mike and Ann Almon), and of course in Kings Co. (max. generally about 10, one observer gives 15). Obviously this has been a good winter for them.

We have one unelaborated report of a GOLDEN EAGLE at Truro on Feb. 7 (Ross Hall). Details of such birds should always be submitted for statistics on ages, etc.

The only winter reports of AMERICAN KESTREL were of single birds at Cape Fourchu on Jan. 1 (H&HH) and at Little Hbr., Shel. Co., Jan. 25 and 29 (D&JY). MERLINS were also scarce, with single birds in Dartmouth and in Halifax (assuming that several sightings were repeats) Pig Pond, C.B., Crousetown, Greenwich in Kings Co., and Brier Is. An ad. PEREGRINE FALCON was reported by several observers around Wolfville Ridge between Feb. 10 and 19.

Two reports of white Gyrfalcons, one perched at the edge of a woods in Lr. Sackville and the other tackling pigeons at a Dartmouth feeder, are not wholly convincing; only the undersides were observed on the former, and the latter was said, anomalously, to have buffy markings. As falcon-like characteristics were not noted, the possibility remains that a partial albino of a more common species was involved.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

GRAY PARTRIDGES were reported by several observers from Kings County: 5 at Hortonville, Dec. 30, 6 at Medford on Jan. 11, 3 at Mount Denson in mid-Jan. (2 at month's end), and 6 at Porter's Pt., and 12 at Starr's Pt., on Feb. 23. Judy Tufts feels that they are "down in numbers in the Annapolis Valley and are causing great concern to those who like to see these beautiful birds". The maximum count of RING-NECKED PHEASANTS in Kings Co. was submitted by the Thextons, who saw 20+ in a cornfield at Porter's Pt. Pheasants were clearly down in numbers around the Thexton's feeder in Wolfville; perhaps they were more scattered than usual, for there were many reports of small numbers in the countryside, where RBS thought they were "as usual". Another fair population is in Amherst, where FLL and MA saw 10 on Feb. 16. The only report from Lun. Co., was of a cock at Lr. LaHave on Jan. 30 (EC). One that had killed itself on a window at Glace Bay on Feb. 14 was brought to Sara MacLean.

Our only winter SPRUCE GROUSE was at Hamilton Rd., Yarmouth, on Feb. 22 (M&VL). We have 7 reports of about 20 RUFFED GROUSE--up from last year.

RALLIDS

A SORA at Russel Lake, Dartmouth, survived until at least Dec. 13 (FLL). An AMERICAN COOT appeared at the Lake Banook outlet to Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, in early December, and has survived since on handouts.

--IAM, ed.

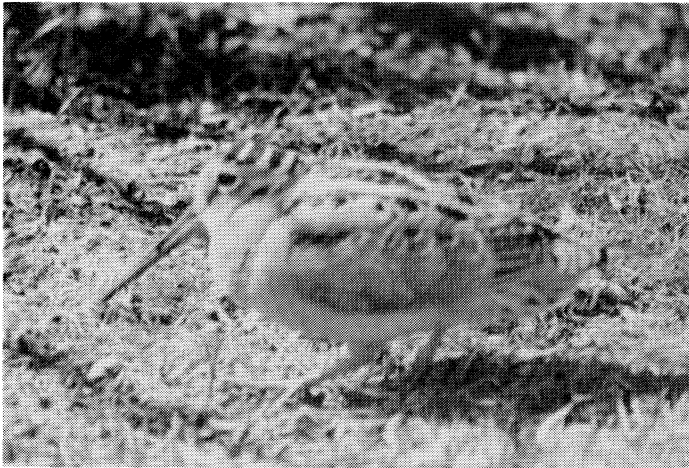
SHOREBIRDS

A late BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER was at Brier Is., Dec. 29 (RBS), and three attempting to overwinter were still at Cherry Hill, Feb. 9 (SJF). KILLDEER in January were at L.W. Pubnico (O&Rd'E) and at Lr. LaHave, where one was still present Feb. 9 (EC).

The last GREATER YELLOWLEGS was at L.W. Pubnico, Nov. 23 (Dd'E). Eight RED KNOTS were still at Conrad's Beach, Nov. 30 (FLL et al.) and one, overwintering, was at Cherry Hill, Feb. 9 (SJF). An overwintering SANDERLING was at Conrad's, Jan. 26 (R&DM), 8 were at Crescent, Feb. 8-9 (DM,FLL et al.) and one at Cherry Hill, Feb. 9 (SJF). Most unusual is the report of an adult BAIRD'S SANDPIPER at Hartlen's Pt., Nov. 30 (FLL,MA). Mid-winter reports of the PURPLE SANDPIPER come from Hemeon Hd. (JG,MC), Devil's Is., Hfx. Hbr. (IAM) and Brier (RBS). At Hartlen's Pt., there were still 8 DUNLIN on Jan. 6 (JT).

A COMMON SNIPE at L.W. Pubnico, was still holding on by a small area of open water Feb. 10 (Rd'E). The last AMERICAN WOODCOCK was noted at Wallbrook (Gaspereau Valley) on Dec. 6 (GWT).

--FS, ed.



When you read this issue, America Woodcocks will be doing their mysterious thing on quiet evenings. Rarely do they poke about in the open, like this one photographed by Clive Macdonald on his lawn in New Waterford, Apr. 7, '85.

JAEGERS TO AUKS

There weren't any reports of skuas or jaegers. Jean Timpa, at Wolfville, says of her HERRING GULLS, that there was "a seemingly endless supply around", and that her GREAT BLACKBACKS were "not as many as the Herring Gull, but we seldom pay much attention to either". As Wolfville goes, so does the province. Richard Stern saw the Digby LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL on Dec. 11 and Jan. 8. There were up to half-a-dozen GLAUCOUS GULLS in Canso Harbour in January and February (Warren and Mary Peters). The only other sightings were of 2 birds at Canal Street, Dartmouth, on Dec. 8, and an imm. at Brier Is., at New Year's (RBS); another imm. at Mill Cove on Dec. 16 (Linda and Peter Payzant); and a couple of birds at False Hbr., Cape Fourchu, Jan. 29 (JG&MC). ICELAND GULLS--mainly imm. birds--have been more widely reported in small numbers: from Canard Pond, Wolfville, Nov. 30 (BBT), and M.W. Pubnico on Dec. 27 (TCd'E), to Glace Bay on Jan. 1-5 (SM). Warren and Nancy Peters saw up to 15 a day in Canso Hbr., up to the middle of February--but the numbers fell off after that. The subspecies we usually see here is "Kumlien's": a big-billed gull from south-east Baffin Island, with a faint, brown shadow of the familiar Herring Gull pattern on its wing-tips, as opposed to the "real" Iceland Gull, a small-billed bird with pure white wing-tips which, in spite of its name, actually breeds in Greenland. Thayer's Gull, from the Canadian High Arctic, is a big-billed bird with much the same wing pattern as a "Kumlien's", but it winters on the West Coast. However, as Ian McLaren says of the adult "Kumlien's", which he saw in Point Pleasant Park on Feb. 12, "it would certainly have been called a Thayer's out West." Gull experts are beginning to believe that the real species gap--if the birds really are species--is between Thayer's/Kumlien's, and the "real" Iceland Gull. The mind boggles at the subadult bird which Azor Vienneau saw off Pictou Causeway on Feb. 19: "bill almost totally black, large; legs dirty orange or red; remainder of bird white; primaries longer than tail and all white". My best bet is some kind of Iceland/Glaucous hybrid--but your guess is as good as mine. As Ian says, "Gulls are such non-conformists!"

The biggest flocks of RING-BILLED GULLS were the 20 odd birds which Rene and Diane Matteau report from Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, in December-January--and Jean Timpa's 20+ on the Wolfville Sewage Pond, on Dec. 10 and later. They keep to the southern end of the province. Ted C. d'Eon saw one at M.W. Pubnico on Dec. 27, and Helen and Hubert Hall saw several in mid January, at the head of Yarmouth harbour. Our MEW/Common GULLS are more controversial: do they come from the east, or the west? The imm. bird which many NSBS members have seen around Metro, from November on, seems to be a second-year European Common Gull. It's quite possible that there are two of them, --why not?--the birds breed as close to us as Iceland.

BLACK-HEADED and BONAPARTE'S GULLS both wintered with us but, as usual, Black-headed were the commoner. On Feb. 2, Ian McLaren saw up to 31 Black-headed, but only one Bonaparte's at Tufts Cove. James Taylor's ratio was eight Black-headed and a single Bonaparte's on Sullivan's Pond, on Feb. 16. However, there were more Boney's than that, around Metro: Bill Caudle saw 3 adults in Dartmouth Cove on New Year's Day, while Fulton Lavender reports four adults and a couple of first year immatures at Dartmouth/Tufts Coves on Jan. 18. Farther afield, Ted C. d'Eon saw a Bonaparte's at M.W. Pubnico on Dec. 27. G.W. and J.C. Tufts, with Mary Pratt, saw another at Joggins Bridge, Digby Co., on Jan. 22: "a mature bird, in winter plumage, feeding at the edge of the river inlet". Jack MacNeil reports that "numbers were lower than usual in the east bay of the Bras d'Or Lakes; the usual fall flock was not present this year at Ben Eoin Beach, though there were a few stragglers early in the fall". There were three Black-headed Gulls in Lunenburg Harbour on Feb. 8 (FLL et al.), and two at Conrad's Beach on Feb. 28 (J. Purchase). One of the latter already had a nearly black head.



What appeared to be an acceptable Thayer's Gull, of which a number have been seen but not photographically documented in one province, was observed by Ian McLaren on Feb. 9, 1986, at the sewer outlet in Pt. Pleasant Park, Halifax. However, an extreme "Kumlien's" (Iceland) Gull is another possibility. In fact discrimination of such possibilities may be academic if current views that they are the same species become accepted.



There was a BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE at Westport on Dec. 18, on the Brier Is. Christmas Count; two adults and a juvenile off the Pubnico Peninsula on Christmas Eve (R.S. d'E); and a bird about 6 miles west of Yarmouth, seen on Jan. 12, from BLUENOSE by Capt. Hubert Hall. Warren and Mary Peters saw up to 15 in Canso Harbour, from January through early February, but none later than that.

Everyone seems to have seen the imm. FORSTER'S TERN at Three Fathom Harbour; the first reported sighting was by the NSBS party, at Conrad's Beach, on Nov. 30; the latest was by Ian McLaren, who photographed it on Boxing Day. We take these stray, exotic terns more or less for granted, but what about our two COMMON TERNS?--the winter adult off Conrad's Beach on Nov. 30, and the first fall bird, well described, which the Cohrs saw at Crystal Crescent Beach, Hfx. Co., Dec. 29. Don't they know they're supposed to be somewhere in the sun, off West Africa?

Meanwhile, Jim Wolford sends in a late report of the ROYAL TERN which he and Miriam Tams saw sitting on the mudflats at Freeport, Digby Co., on Aug. 31. It had a white forehead, an orange bill, and no dark patches on the underside of the primaries. He is certain that it was not the adult Caspian Tern which was in the area at that time.

Our unpleasant winter has not been very kind to DOVEKIES. There are no reports of massive "wrecks" of birds driven on land by storms: just the bird flying through the fog near Sable River, 6 miles inland, on Jan. 27, and the one picked up alive at Hemeon Head the next day (D&J Young), but there are unusually numerous sightings close inshore. That's suggestive because, at this time of year, most Dovekies are normally 100 miles out, at the far edge of the fishing banks. We've had, for example, 1 off Three Fathom Harbour on Christmas Eve and another in Bedford Basin, on Jan. 5 (Don MacNiell); 3 at Black Rock Light, Kings Co., on Jan. 29, and 3 near Blandford, Lun. Co., on Feb. 4 (GW and JC Tufts); 6 off Cape Fourchu on Jan. 29 (MC,JG); 3 in Sambro/Chebucto Head area on Feb. 9 (Cohrs and Purchases); one in mid-February in Cape Breton, off the Sydneys (SM).

Hugh Jones, of Cape Negro, Shel. Co., reports "an intimate and successful sighting of a COMMON MURRE" on Jan. 21, waddling along the gravel road past his mailbox. Murres' beaks are sharp, and there were some painful moments before he finally coaxed the bird back to the ocean. The only other record is the bird which Shirley Cohrs and Dave Currie saw, along with a couple of THICK-BILLED MURRES, on Jan. 10 in Bedford Basin. Most Common Murres winter from the southern Bay of Fundy, south to New England, so it isn't surprising that all our other records are of Thick-bills. There were five sightings, of up to 5 birds, in Halifax Harbour between Jan. 5 and 27--probably storm-driven, and certainly unhappy: "...in poor condition...harassed by a Great Black-backed Gull" (Don MacNeill, James Taylor, R.S. McDonald, C.S.II). Apart from these, there were single Thick-bills at L.W. Pubnico on Jan. 5 (DJD'E) and Funk Cove, Hfx. Co., Feb. 9 (Cohrs & Purchases), and 3 at Barrington Causeway on Feb. 1 (JG&MC). Warren and Mary Peters regularly saw a few unidentified murres offshore in Chedabucto Bay in January and early February; the chances are that these were Thick-billed.

RAZORBILLS, like Common Murres, are supposed to spend the winter off Cape Cod. However, Don MacNeill saw a bird sitting on the ice in Fairview Cove, Bedford Basin, on Jan. 5. The Peters saw BLACK GUILLEMOTS regularly in Canso Harbour, in January and early February. A bird was shot, "mistaken for a duck", at M.W. Pubnico, on Jan. 15 (T.C.d'E.). There were single birds in Herring Cove, Halifax, on Jan. 11. (Currie), and off Hartlen's Point-- along with our only ATLANTIC PUFFIN--on Feb. 18 (PLL); a couple near Aspatogen, Lun. Co., on Feb. 4, and 4 in the Sambro/Chebucto Head area on Feb. 9.

DOVES

ROCK DOVES ranged widely around grain facilities in Kings Co., but seemed to prefer the Acadia campus for a little dalliance. Jim Welford reports a nest at Acadia with 2 large squabs on Nov. 26, the parent trying to cover them against the cold--"a ludicrous sight". Both DJd'E at L.W. Pubnico and JT in Dartmouth, suffered numbers around their feeders as a price paid for MOURNING DOVES. The maximum counts at feeders or grain facilities of the latter were 14 in Hazel Hill (W&NP), 63 in Rockingham, Halifax (BD), 30 at Ross Rd., Dartmouth (JP), 11 in Wolfville and 11 near Kentville (RBS,JET), 60+ at Greenwich and 40 at Sheffield Mills, Kings Co. (BLF), 30 at Mason's Beach, Lun. Co. (FLL), and 33 at M.W. and 40 at L.W. Pubnico (DJd'E, TCD'E). Eleven at Hartlen's Pt., on Dec. 8 (IAM) had not yet settled for the easy life. Special mention should be made of one wintering in Glace Bay, reported to SM "6 or 8 times as a great rarity".

Five GREAT HORNED OWLS appeared in various quarters and others were "heard several places, many times", in the Hazel Hill area (NP,SB). A SNOWY OWL in the Canso area from early December was not seen after month's end (JJ). A dark imm. bird was seen at Grand Pré by several people (not me, dear readers, and I "need" it) between Dec. 26 and Jan. 12. Another at Forest Glen, Yar. Co., on Jan. 12 (Ld'E) may have been the same imm. bird that was at Cape Fourchu on Jan. 17-18 (H&HH et al.). Cyril Coldwell obtained an injured imm. bird from the Yarmouth area and, after tender loving care, it was released in early March (this from a column by Valerie Wilson in the Middleton "Valley Mirror" on Feb. 12); was it the same bird reported earlier from Yarmouth? About 10 BARRED OWLS were noted, from Cape Breton to Yar. Co., about as usual. Bernie Forsythe managed to pull the usual LONG-EARED OWLS out of his hat: 1 at Grand Pré Park on Jan. 11, and another at Starr's Pt., on Feb. 17. As usual, also, there were several SHORT-EARED OWLS in that vicinity, although the reported total (FLL) of 15 on the combined NSBS and HF-N field trip in Kings Co., on Jan. 25, seems likely to involve some repeats. The only SAW-WHET OWLS were 1 at Upper Granville on Jan. 9-10 (Winnifred Taylor) and another mobbed by chickadees near Sunken Lake, Kings Co., on Feb. 9 (S. Blakney).



Brown Creeper at the Payzant's "Creeper Feeder"
see page 15
photo--Peter Payzant

NIGHTHAWK, KINGFISHER

For the record, I include the sighting of 4 COMMON NIGHTHAWKS at Brier Is., on Sept. 4 (JW), 2 days after the latest reported in the last issue.

Stragglng BELTED KINGFISHERS were seen into the New Year (a number until reporting deadline) at Ben Eoin, C.B., Three Fathom Harbour, Lawrencetown, Cole Harbour, Head of St. Margaret's Bay, Lr. LaHave, Little Port Hebert, Clyde R., Lr. Shag Harbour, and Argyle-- certainly more than usual in spite of the hard freeze. Maybe they were more concentrated at the last suitable sites.

WOODPECKERS

An imm. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER that turned up on the Kingston C.B.C. was around until reporting deadline. It was well catered to by the Pinsents at Dempsey's Corners, near Aylesford and observed by many. Its head was reddening in February. A YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER was late at Gavelton, Yar. Co., on Dec. 7 (JD'E). Readers might note that the recent "official" split by the A.O.U. of the Yellow-bellied and Red-naped Sapsucker gives us a "new" Canadian species. The Red-naped breeds in the western U.S. and southwest Canada, and could conceivably occur here as a vagrant in late fall or in winter. Red-naped immatures and females, like the males of both species, have red throats, and all have a red mark on the back of the head, unlike the Yellow-bellied. There are other differences; see e.g., the National Geographic guide, where they are treated as subspecies. We have 19 reports of 30 DOWNY WOODPECKERS, all but 2 coming to feeders, and 17 reports of 26 HAIRY WOODPECKERS, about 18 at feeders. Another report of a THREE-TOED WOODPECKER, at Boularderie, C.B., on Jan. 31, (Roberta Fraser) should further convince us that they are resident up that way. There were only 2 BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS, 1 on Feb. 8, at Hazel Hill (SB) and the other at Athol, Cum. Co., on Feb. 16 (FLL, MA). NORTHERN FLICKERS were noted in record numbers this winter. There were individuals at Glace Bay through the period (SM), around Canso until early Jan. (N&NP), along Prospect Road on Feb. 19 (CS), at Head of St. Margaret's Bay on Feb. 19 (Ted Dorey), at Cherry Hill through the period (sev. obs.), at Mount Denson, Kings Co., from Jan. 19 to date, in Annapolis Royal through winter (2 birds, sev. obs.), at Overton, Yar. Co., on Jan. 1 (HH), and in Yarmouth North on Feb. 15 (3 birds, AP). Twelve PILEATED WOODPECKERS were recorded in scattered localities.

--IAM, ed.



FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS

The only record of a flycatcher is from last season when a SAY'S PHOEBE appeared in South Side, Cape Sable Island on Nov. 8. It was reported by Ethelda Murphy, an experienced birder who was able to view the bird to within 25 ft, over a period of two hours. This constitutes the 5th Nova Scotia record (Details on request).

All the HORNED LARK reports, save three, came from the Grand Pré area. There the birds were plentiful and heavily reported throughout the whole report period (i.e., Dec. 1-Feb. 28). The highest count was of 100 in two flocks on Jan. 11 (JET). Other larks were seen at Lr. W. Pubnico (9 on Dec. 28), Yarmouth Harbour Fish Plant (15 on Jan. 8) and Lockport Beach (30 on Feb. 8) (RSD'E, H&HH, MCC, et al.).

Twenty-seven GRAY JAYS were noted, about usual for the time of year, seen from Cape Breton to Shel. Co. BLUEJAYS were gobbling down sunflower seeds throughout the province, their numbers being "normal" according to most reports. The average was from three to twelve visiting regularly, although Ken and Doris Peters in Pubnico thought that they were scarce at their feeder.

There were a few reports of a few AMERICAN CROWS scattered around the province and three reports of large concentrations. G. Crowell counted 1120 in 10 minutes, while they approached their roost near Sydney on Jan. 10. "1000's" were "having a convention" on the fields beside the Grand Pré dykes on Dec. 2, and just as many gathered by the Canard dykes on Dec. 4. Jean Timpa wrote that the winter crow roost on Boot Is. off Evangeline Beach is estimated to number about 29,000! NORTHERN RAVENS maintained their status quo in their appropriate habitats. A completely white raven was seen in Wycocomagh, Dec. 9, flying with a normal bird. Apparently this white raven has been in the area for several years (fide Sara MacLean).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were daily visitors at dozens of feeders. It is often difficult to count chickadees as they come singly to hanging feeders, politely remove a seed and bear it away to open. Then another arrives and flits away, then another... There could be four or five or twenty. BOREAL CHICKADEES were reported from Overton, Eastern Passage, Dartmouth, Hazel Hill and Broughton (C.B.), as well as L.W. Pubnico, where RSD'E had three feeding at a suet log again after missing them last year.

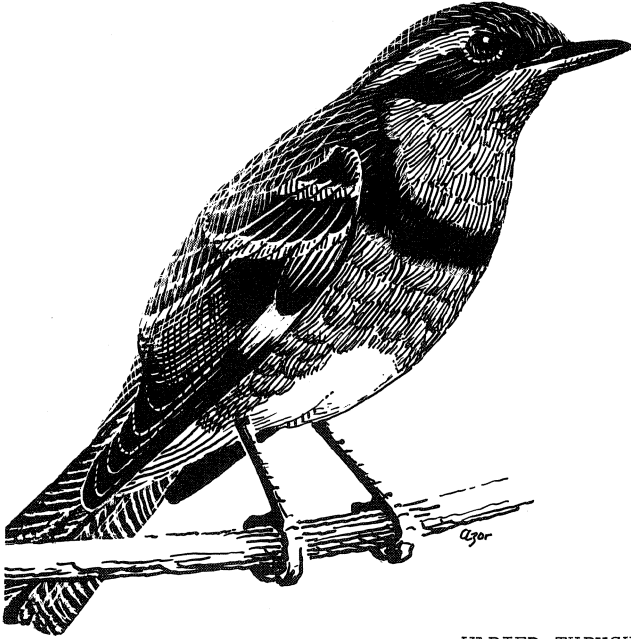
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES seemed steady in number, but all reports were from feeders, none in the woods. While they usually confine themselves to the suet feeders, Nellie Snyder observed a trio taking sunflower seeds, driving them into holes in tree bark and then prying out the kernels. Twenty-two WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES match the number in the winter of 1984-85. Most were at feeders (generally in pairs) although two were spending the winter in Point Pleasant Park. BROWN CREEPERS were well represented--about thirty-three altogether. Linda and Peter Payzant made a "creeper-feeder" by smearing the bark of trees with a mixture of peanut butter, cornmeal and fat. This proved most successful and they were rewarded by regular visits from two creepers.

Three MARSH WRENS appeared in December: one on Dec. 8 at Lawrencetown Marsh and two on Dec. 12, at Russel Lake (Cohrs, CSII).

KINGLETS TO STARLINGS

Our "winter kinglet", the GOLDEN-CROWNED was reported by only seven correspondents. This may suggest that numbers were down, but it is more likely that the severe weather was such that few birders

ventured into the woods where they are to be found. It seems that "feeder" and "town" birds got most mentions this season. Four RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS were seen: Dec. 9 in Wolfville, Dec. 23, in Dartmouth, Jan. 5, in Fairview, and Feb. 19, in Canning (JW,CSII,IAM).



VARIED THRUSH

A late HERMIT THRUSH showed up in Paradise (the warmer place might have been more comfortable) on Dec. 29. (J&BM).

TWO VARIED THRUSHES, both well marked males arrived from the west. The first showed up at the Austin's feeder in Three Fathom Harbour on Dec. 21, and at press time was still there. A less fortunate crashed into a window at the home of Art and Flo Blanchard on Shaw Island, Marriott's Cove on Feb. 4. The specimen was sent to the Nova Scotia Museum where it may be viewed.

The reports of AMERICAN ROBINS were almost as heavy as in spring! This does not mean that spring came early this year--this was not the "Robins' Return". It would seem to be more of a lateral movement, possibly in search of food. The influx started near Canso in late Dec., when Warren and Nancy Peters noted flocks of 100 and 150. They stayed around that area until early Jan., and then spread out across the province. The reports from other areas start then and continue into Feb. These reports are not of large flocks but of many "ones and twos", occasionally a dozen, and come from Yar., Shel., Queens, Kings, Lun., Hfx., Pictou and C.B. Counties. Many people mentioned that the birds were of the dark "Newfoundland" race--perhaps they came from there.

There were three very late GRAY CATBIRDS. One was counted on the Halifax East Christmas Count at Cow Bay on Dec. 22. Another, near

Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth, was seen regularly until Feb. 2, but not thereafter, the rumour being that it had been killed by a cat. (appropriately?) A third was in L.W. Pubnico on Feb. 13, and West Pubnico, Feb. 20.

Unlike last year, when only one NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD graced this report, we have twelve this time. All reports were of single birds, most of which stayed in the area from Dec. or Jan. to press time. Counties were as follows: Yar., Shel., Hfx.(3), Cape Breton, Kings (5) and Guys. An error was made in the January issue (Vol. 28, No. 1, p. 26), regarding the July 4 sighting of a pair of Mockingbirds in Dartmouth by Clarence Stevens--there WAS a nest.

Four WATER PIPITS were on the Grand Pré dykes Dec. 11, and one lone bird at Porter's Pt., Kings Co., on Dec. 22 (JET,RBS). The only other pipits mentioned was a flock that overwintered at the end of Pubnico Pt., and other areas of L.W. Pubnico village. DJd'E counted 24 there on Jan. 25, and RSd'E saw 7 on Feb. 17.

It has been much more than a BOHEMIAN WAXWING winter--more of a veritable BONANZA. Forty-three correspondents reported them in quite unprecedented numbers. Flocks of from 30-100-150 were all over the province. FLL, after including detailed reports of sightings, estimated that the total number seen between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, in the Halifax-Dartmouth-Spryfield-Bedford area would be around 2000. There were even Bohemians downtown in the courthouse shrubbery and outside Macdonald restaurant in Halifax. Outside the metro area the large flocks were at L.W. Pubnico (225), Bridgewater (100), Wolfville (300), Clementsport (300), Sackville (100+), Amherst (110 in one garden) and Hazel Hill(200). It was almost frightening when at dusk a flock of 60+ descended into a window box outside the Cohrs' window and fought violently over some American Holly berries, put there as a winter decoration!

Only a few CEDAR WAXWINGS were seen--in Wolfville, Jan. 4 (10), Dartmouth, Jan 16 (1), Kentville, Jan. 26 (1), Glace Bay, Feb. 6 (1), Wolfville, Feb. 7 (15) and Halifax, Feb. 25 (1) (JW,FLL,RBS,EMacL, BLF,JSC).

NORTHERN SHRIKE numbers were up from four at this time last year to fourteen. Here they are, all single sightings except where noted:

Dec. 2	Loch Lomond, C.B. (JMacN)
Feb. 21	Loch Lomond, C.B. (JMacN)
Dec. 24	Grand Desert, Hfx. Co. (DMacN)
Dec. 28	Halifax (RBD)
Dec. 28	Paradise (2) (Morses)
Dec. 31	Harbourville, Kings Co. (Tufts)
Jan. 13	Port Royal (BBT)
Jan. 19	Granville Ferry (Tufts)
Jan. 25	Digby (MCC&JG)
Feb. 8	Avonport (BLF)
Feb. 8	Lr. LaHave (EHC)
Feb.16	Lornville (FLL)
Feb.16	Waverley (Payzants)

There is no shortage of EUROPEAN STARLINGS. A few people have small numbers at their feeders but most of them gather at the large roosts in Halifax and Grand Pré. The Halifax winter population is estimated at 8,000-8,500 (FLL), and in the valley, Jean Timpa noted flocks of 1000 each at Grand Pre and Canard Pond in Dec. and Jan.

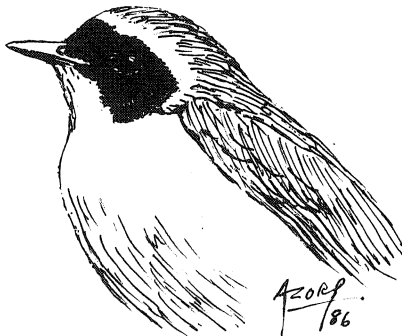
VIREO AND WARBLERS

One specie of vireo was observed during this report period. A SOLITARY VIREO was reported by Clarence Stevens on Dec. 9, in the Crichton Park area of Dartmouth and stayed until Dec. 15, when it was last reported by AJV. A late report was of a RED-EYED VIREO, seen by IAM and SM on Nov. 15. This find goes into the record books as being the latest ever date, surpassing the one previous by one day.

Most wood warblers kept to their migration schedule, thinking better of attempting to overwinter in the province. Those that decided to stay are as follows: an ORANGE CROWNED WARBLER found by FLL and JWT was of the westerly race, seen in Dartmouth on Dec. 15, and yet another, an easterly variety, was first seen on the Halifax (west) Count on Dec. 29 by R. Foxall. This bird stayed on in the Edmond's Grounds area of Halifax, until it was last seen on Jan. 12 (DAC,DM). Two reports of YELLOW WARBLER are noted. A very late date for this warbler was Nov. 30, seen near Canal Street, Dartmouth by JSC, "at least 2 months late", and IAM reported a very dull Yellow Warbler which visited his garden in Halifax on Dec. 4. This he feels was possibly a northern bird, very slow in moving through. There were YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS in the province this winter, however. Apart from those tallied on the various Christmas Counts, there were about 10 individuals in the spruce woods of Conrad's Beach on Jan. 26 (IAM), 3 at Crescent Beach on Feb. 8 (JWT & party) and 1 at a feeder in Hazel Hill from Feb. 7 - 21, reported by Steve Bushell.

It's hard even to imagine that PINE WARBLERS would be reported as many times as Yellow-rumped, but we have three reports, all single birds; one on Nov. 15 at Eastern Passage (IAM,SM); one from Dec. 3-23, coming to suet feeders in the Cohrs' garden in Halifax and another noted, also at a feeder in Dartmouth on Dec. 22 (JWT).

A PALM WARBLER, the only one, was observed in Barrington on Nov. 30 by MC&JG. Over the last few years Palm Warblers have been reported well into December, being a somewhat hardy species. However, the dramatic changes in weather during December most certainly took its toll on our stragglers. A BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER was seen in Point Pleasant Park by Dave MacKinnon (fide IAM), feeding with a company of chickadees. The last of the lagging warblers were two separate reports of YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, one in the Crichton Park area of Dartmouth on Nov. 26 and another, seen until December 23, on Lady Hammond Road in Halifax (DAC,RSM).



CARDINAL TO TOWHEE

NORTHERN CARDINALS continue to be very sporadic with one female on Dec. 18, coming to a feeder near Westport, which co-operated for the Brier Island Christmas Count (RBS). Elly Desplanque reported one (sex?) on Dec. 24, in her garden in Amherst. The last was a female in the Kentville area from Jan. 12-30 as noted by Julius Wright.

A winter plumaged male INDIGO BUNTING pleasantly surprised the observers at Hartlen's Point on Nov. 24, when it flew up from the pathway in front of them to land a few feet away in a thicket (DAC, RSM). Indigo Buntings are MUCH more regular spring visitors in Nova Scotia and this constitutes one of the few late fall sightings.

DICKCISSELS were reported twice, apart from the Christmas Counts and both were in Halifax County. One was on Nov. 30, a female in Crichton Park, Dartmouth, seen by many NSBS members. The other was seen on Jan. 11 feeding with House Sparrows on the Conrad Rd. (DM et al.).

Two female RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEES were reported: one in Yarmouth and one in Halifax. The bird in Halifax showed up on cue for the Halifax (west) Count, was seen by AJV, R&D and stayed until Jan 5 (IAM,DM). The other was seen on Jan. 31, in the town of Yarmouth by Jean Scott and had been there for at least 3 weeks prior, according to June Graves.

SPARROWS TO SNOW BUNTINGS

TREE SPARROWS, from all reports, had a good winter throughout the province being plentiful in most areas and regular visitors to feeders. There were notes from the Pubnicos, the Annapolis Valley, Halifax County, Canso and Amherst. All seemed to agree--daily feeder visitors in numbers from 1-10 and "plentiful in suitable habitat" (RBS). Even after all the snow-fall in February, the winter population is still good at the time of writing.

A few CHIPPING SPARROWS were reported; one at Jim Wolford's feeder in Wolfville from Jan. 3 to Jan. 31, another in Kingsport on Feb. 15, seen by MC&JG, and lastly, one at a feeder at "Sunset Cove", near Three Fathom Harbour until Feb. 16 (J&S C6hrs, IAM). Hopefully these birds have survived the snows and will make it through the remainder of the cold weather.

Our second ever wintering LARK SPARROW occurred on Dec. 22, at a feeder on the Conrad Road, Halifax County and was still feeding there until Feb. 16 (IAM). The only other winter record of Lark Sparrow was Dec. 1/84 in Italy Cross.

There are only five reports of SAVANNAH SPARROWS. They were very uncommon and in low numbers, even in their regular haunts. One was seen on the Wolfville Dykes on Dec. 11 (JET), one at Conrad's Beach, Jan. 26 & Feb. 21 (J&SC,JWT); one on Feb. 14 at Hemeon Head (D&J Young). The largest population was two on Jan. 18, in Eastern Passage (IAM). There was only one Ipswich (P.S.princeps) seen by IAM at Martinique Beach this winter. These far below average numbers indicate that it was a very difficult winter for these birds in our area.

Eight lingering FOX SPARROWS were noted, all seemingly dependant on the generosity of those with feeders. One has been with the Purchases in Cole Harbour since the middle of November, one in Halifax (JSC), one in L.W. Pubnico (JD'E), one in Lt. Argyll (M. Goodwin), one regular visitor in Overton (H&HH), one in Three Fathom

Harbour, and two recently found by CS in Dartmouth in January.

With thirty reports of SONG SPARROWS, they were obvious at most feeders, generally in one's and two's. Jean Timpa, Brenda & Bill Thexton saw a total of 25 from Dec. 10 to Feb. 11 in the Wolfville area. RBS had 12 on the Wolfville CBC. Edie MacLeod in Glace Bay writes of a singing Song Sparrow on Feb. 5, and as if to give the people of the area some hope there really could be a spring season, the bird was still singing after six feet of snow covered the area on Feb. 24.

Only one SWAMP SPARROW was observed in Dec., three in January and two in February. These were Dec. 1 in L.W. Pubnico (RSD'E), Jan. 13, Russel Lake (FLL), Jan. 14, Head of St. Margaret's Bay by Ted Dorey and two adults in the Dorothea Marsh on Feb. 10 (FLL).

Sixty-two WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS (all at feeders) came from eighteen reporters. They were all from mainland Nova Scotia, with the more significant numbers seen in the valley where there were thirty. The most notable numbers were 12 on Jan. 12 in Lr. Sackville (ME), and a newly arrived flock of 12+ at a Hants Point feeding station on Feb. 12. There were 5 in the Dorothea Marsh, Feb. 10 (FLL) and 4 in Greenwich, Kings Co., on Jan. 25 (BF).

The DARK-EYED JUNCO population was generally reported in numbers from 20-25, seen in orchards and wooded areas but not far from feeding stations where they were regular guests from December to February. Nellie Snyder writes that her juncos started with 2 or 3 individuals then increased to 20-24 at her feeder with a resident Sharp-shinned Hawk occasionally snatching a few. Richard Stern said that they seemed abundant this year in the Kentville area, but in Paradise the Morses reported that juncos were seldom seen this winter apart from 20 they saw on Feb. 8.

Grand Pré fields, dykes and roadsides proved to be the hotspot for viewing LAPLAND LONGSPURS, where they were seen in numbers up to more than 50. Dates were from Dec. 22 to Jan. 31, in these large numbers, then in Feb. until the 11th, when only 2 were seen there by J&CT. There was only one other noted from outside the Valley area on Jan. 6 at Hartlen's Point where one was found (JWT).

SNOW BUNTINGS were not seen until the first part of January, with the exception of a small flock early in December in Boularderie (GF), and 60 on Dec. 29, on the Grand Pré dykes, seen by Brenda Thexton. Most impressions were that these birds were far fewer in number than most years. J. Addelson reports that there were none or only a few in the Port Joli area. Other sightings were from Shelburne, L.W. Pubnico, Baccaro and Hazel Hill, along with the largest congregation seen on Feb. 15 of over 2,000 near Minudie, Cum. Co., by FLL, M&A Almon



ICTERIDS

Eleven sightings of RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS consisted of over 90 birds, most being immatures or females in very streaky plumage. There were several in Westport on Dec. 18 (RBS), 30+ in a mixed flock of cowbirds, Starlings and House Sparrows, feeding on freshly spread manure and straw near Wolfville on Jan. 11 & 26 (JET,JW), 12 at Robert's Is., Feb. 16 (Jd'E); 10 at a Wolfville feeder, all imm., Feb. 13 (BBT); 2 females at Hazel Hill (N&WP), and a male with two females in Dartmouth, mid-February (FLL).

EASTERN MEADOWLARKS turned up twice apart from the CBCs and both were in Hants County. On Jan. 16, an "Eastern Variety" was seen by B&JS and H&BF, feeding on scratch grain at a Pheasant feeder near Mount Denson. This bird was repeatedly seen until Feb. 17. G.W. & J.C. Tufts write that they "couldn't believe that any bird could be so beautiful in the dead of winter", when on Feb. 18, they watched a Meadowlark for over 30 minutes feeding on the roadside at Hantsport. It's truly remarkable that these birds can find enough to survive on during one of our more snowy winters.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS have become almost regular visitors to the province over the last few years. On Nov. 24, one bird arrived at Sandra Myers' feeder in Dartmouth and probably the same bird was again seen on the Halifax (west) CBC on Dec. 29, at another feeder near Sullivan's Pond. These birds seem to enjoy or at least tolerate the company of cowbirds and Starlings, and will almost certainly be found at feeding stations during the winter months.

There were a few sightings of RUSTY BLACKBIRDS, two wintering at a feeder in Big Pond (JM); two from Jan. 10 to Feb. 16, at a Wolfville feeder (BBT), three on Jan. 22 at Grand Pré (BT); and a bird that could fit the description of a Brewer's Blackbird was seen on Feb. 15 at Highland Village and Gaspereau on Feb. 23. Barry Sabeau writes of a bright male with no evidence of rusty colouring. Jim Wolford says the bird he saw was nearly all very dark, with a whitish iris and only a hint of any lighter markings in the head area.

COMMON GRACKLES hardly showed themselves this winter with the exception of 7 which were regular at a feeder in Hazel Hill from Jan. 18 (N&WP) and several seen on Dec. 18 in Westport, Brier Is., by RBS. The rest--5 reports--were of single birds seen in Wolfville (BBT), Glace Bay (SM), Hammond's Plains (KNK), Three Fathom Harbour (RBD,DM et al.); and Westport, Feb. 22 (RBS).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were abundant, beginning with small numbers in December, becoming more conspicuous during January and February, when they could almost be classed as being a nuisance. Some of the larger flocks were seen in L.W. Pubnico, where between "200-250 assaulted the feeder and emptied its contents in a short time", on Jan. 9 & 12 (RSD'E). Fifty to 75 were the largest number at any one time at Azor Viennau's feeder in Lewis Lake, and FLL calculates the Dartmouth population from Jan. 1 - Feb. 15 to be in the thousands.

Seven individual NORTHERN ORIOLES were seen, six of them from the Halifax area and one seen in West Pubnico. They are as follows: at least 3 in the McLaren garden from Dec. 8 to 15, one being a female with definite "Bullock's" traits (IAM). One on Nov. 30 and one throughout January in Dartmouth (FLL). Another was seen by RSM on Shore Drive in Bedford from Jan. 2-15, and the last was that reported be Delisle d'Entremont on Jan. 5 in West Pubnico.

STOP THE PRESS

Marjorie Bezanson of Mosher River notified The Nova Scotia Museum on March 6, that she had a BRAMBLING coming regularly to her feeder. She had consulted both Birds of Nova Scotia and the Peterson guide, but to no avail. After wearing out those books, desperately trying to identify this bird, she remembered she had a guide with illustrations of European birds. She found what she'd been looking for; it was most certainly a Brambling. Brambling have been recorded only once before in Nova Scotia; that was May 18, 1983. There are only a handful of records for the rest of Canada, one in Ontario, one in Alberta, and two in British Columbia. The bird Mrs. Bezanson had was a male, mostly dressed in fall plumage with the mottled head and neck, nevertheless a very striking bird with the cinnamon-brown breast and wing coverts. She deserves much credit for identifying this accidental quickly, enabling others to share her excitement.

FINCHES TO HOUSE SPARROWS

Seventy per cent of all reported PINE GROSBEAKS occurred in the Valley region this winter, while the next highest was Halifax County with 17%. Typically of Pine Grosbeaks, there were no extremely large flocks with 30 being the maximum. Sightings of 1 to 25 individuals came from 15 different observers in the Valley for a total of 183 birds. Eight people in Halifax Co. saw a total of 46. Ten came from Sara MacLean, seen at Boularderie in December and January. Five were seen at Hazel Hill on Feb. 17 (SB); twenty in L.W. Pubnico from Dec. to Feb. (J d'E) and only one on Morris' Is., on Nov. 27 (MC&JG).

There is no doubt that PURPLE FINCHES became one of the most abundant birds at feeders as the season progressed. December saw small numbers, starting with 3 in Glace Bay (SM); 12 in Wolfville (BF); 3-5 in Amherst (CD); 3 in L.W. Pubnico (Jd'E); 20-25 in Halifax (RSM). January reports were from Clementsport, 1-2 (SH); Hammond's Plains 3 (KNK), 7 in Lr. Sackville (ME) and 14 at the Purchases feeder in Dartmouth. February snow brought hundreds into the province with large numbers reported almost everywhere. Sixty were at a feeder in Tusket Falls (RR); J.C. Tufts said there were many all over Kings Co., particularly from mid-January to February. JET & BT report at least 45 in the Wolfville area, increasing after Jan. 20 with the most seen, 30 on Feb. 14. Fifty were at Jim Taylor's feeder in Dartmouth and up to 35 at the Cohrs' feeder in Halifax on Feb. 3 with 50-60% being female. The southern portion of the province by Feb. 21, had not seen the numbers experienced in the more northerly parts with 2-5 in Pubnico (K&DP) and 8 on Feb. 15 in L.W. Pubnico (DJD'E).

A very interesting report of HOUSE FINCH was sent in by Bernard Forsythe of a bright male seen on Nov. 30 at Eva Urban's feeder in Avonport, Kings Co. This bird stayed with a flock of House Sparrows from the fall of '85 until mid Jan. '86. It was well described and photographed by Jim Wolford, who also mentioned that Mrs. Urban had up to four of them in July and August and then the one male stayed alone. There are many of us eagerly awaiting our first glimpse of this bird in Nova Scotia. One would hope that in future, those fortunate enough to encounter the species would spread the word to other members.

Scattered reports of WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS indicated a less than average cone crop over the greater part of the province. Of the two species of crossbill, only this one was reported. There were two sightings from the southern localities, with 6 on Nov. 30 in Barrington (MC,JG); 2 in L.W. Pubnico on Jan. 22, the only crossbills Rsd'E saw during the winter. The largest group was 40 seen at Twin Rock Valley by Bernard Forsythe on Dec. 26. Four were seen at Hammond's Plains on Feb. 8 (DAC), and one female in the Canso area (N&WP). In Cape Breton there were six on Dec. 2 in the Broughton area, and Jack MacNiell noted flocks of a dozen or more common in the Big Pond area since the beginning of December.

The impossible to predict COMMON REDPOLL began arriving in a few areas by early December. There seemed to be a drop in numbers in January but by mid-February they were well reported everywhere. The totals are 126 seen in December, 96 in January and 588 reported by mid-February. This endearing bird was noted Dec. 9, where 60 were feeding on juniper trees in Ainslie Glen (BF). Other notable large numbers were 30 on Dec. 27 at North Mountain (JC&GWT), 30 on Long Island, Digby Co. (IAM), 30 near Rocky Lake, Waverley on Jan. 6 (LPP), over 100 on Feb. 3, in Hazel Hill (SB), over 100 on Feb. 12 in Digby (JC&GW Tufts), at least 100 seen near Pubnico on Feb. 22 (JG&MC) and Sharon Hawbolt writes of over 65 feeding on birch trees in the Clementsport area. Interestingly, there were relatively few reported in Hfx. Co., compared with the number of watchers there. Typical is one at the Cohrs' feeder, Feb. 25-26, and 7 combined in the Dartmouth area over a period of two weeks (PLL). Bernard Forsythe writes that the four he saw throughout January and February were the first he's seen for four years in the Wolfville area. They were warmly welcomed.

A good description of a bird which he suspected to be a HOARY REDPOLL came from Michael Almon in Halifax. He says that on Feb. 24 an odd looking redpoll visited his feeder for almost two hours, while he carefully noted its field marks. He made reference to the extremely small bird, high forehead, very small sharply defined red cap and the lack of noticeable streaking on rump and undertail coverts. It should be noted that large flocks of redpolls may contain a bird of this species and should be scrutinized.

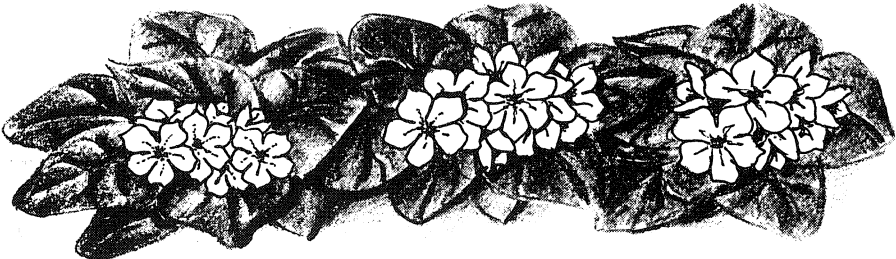
Cape Breton held all the PINE SISKINS during December, with 50 or more seen on Dec. 17 at Lake Ainslie (BF) and 2 at a feeder on Dec. 26 (SM). In January they started moving to the mainland, and 30 were seen in Wallace (BBT), one at a feeder in Wolfville (JW,JET) and 1 in Lr. Sackville (ME). These quarrelsome little fellows found their way to Hazel Hill on Feb. 10-11, where one appeared, (SB). Feb. 23-27 showed building numbers starting with one at Wolfville Ridge (JCT), 4 at a Spryfield feeder, Feb. 24 (CSII); 2 on Feb. 25, then 6 on Feb. 26 at the Cohrs' feeder. On the same date the first two arrived at the Purchases' feeder in Dartmouth and headed straight for the thistle seed as if they knew it was there all along.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH were present in abundance. However, there were exceptions; only a few small flocks were seen at Big Pond and Glace Bay. Warren and Nancy Peters in Hazel Hill wrote that they only had seen one individual all winter and wondered where they all were. The notes from the Valley indicate that the largest numbers were there: "the year of the goldfinch", Jean Timpa and Richard Stern wrote. Most feeders attracted 15-25 as regular guests but a flock of 40 appeared on Jan. 26, at the Desplanques feeder in Amherst. There were also 20-25 coming to the McLaren feeder in Halifax with a melanistic male amongst them with a "very sooty vest" and black feathers on the back. IAM hopes to see this individual in spring plumage which should prove interesting. Other reports came from Port Joli (CK); Pleasant Valley (Lovetts) and Pubnico (K&DP).

EVENING GROSBEAKS showed themselves in very small numbers in late November but by mid-December they were literally everywhere, waiting at feeders until sunflower seed was available, then consuming all and returning for more. It was a very expensive year for those that had to return to cities or towns to replenish their seed supply. Reports of 100-200 birds converging on feeders were not unusual and with these numbers there were mutants with fascinating colouration. A pale grey bird with white wings was first spotted in Hazel Hill by Kim and Larry Hirtle and subsequently seen by others (N&WP). FLL suggests that the Dartmouth, Halifax, Bedford area held between 2500-3000 birds in January and February and that could be conservative. The Christmas Counts during December undoubtedly surpassed previous high numbers of individuals.

With the other bird life about the feeder this winter HOUSE SPARROWS were not missed at all. There is good news according to the majority of reports, that this bird is holding its own, actually increasing in numbers and is becoming more of a nuisance for most. Nellie Snyder recorded at least eight in Crousetown, an increase over last year; Wolfville flocks are from 25-40 regularly (JET,BT). Edie MacLeod has 70-75 continually at her feeder in Glace Bay and Doris and Ken Peters have 10 permanent fixtures, hardly their favourites, and already (Feb. 22) starting to clean out their bird house. The only decline was at 300 Ross Rd., in Dartmouth, where the Purchases had a maximum of 6 this winter. If they do something special about them there, there are a number of people who would love to know what it is!

-DAC, ed.



THE MAY FLOWER. (TRAILING ARBUTUS)

R.B.D.

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FIELD TRIP REPORTSJanuary 18 and February 23 - 1986 Sewer Strolls

The question to be resolved was: in order to ensure good weather, should we start the Sewer Stroll from Hartlen's Point or Spryfield. As a quick way to get the answer, I was asked to lead two trips this year, one in each direction.

The first trip, on January 18, started at Hartlen's Point with about 24 people. Because we were a large group, everyone was given the key points and we leapfrogged around Bedford Basin, not all people being at the same place at the same time. Fifty-four species were seen, including the Catbird near Sullivan's Pond, the Towhee in Clayton Park and a large flock of Bohemian Waxwings in Bedford. What was the best bird of the day?--opinions differed.

The second trip on February 23, followed a 30 cm snowfall on Saturday. On Sunday, most people were still digging out the driveway and only seven observers showed up. We saw 30 species; Pine Grosbeaks being the only birds not on the Jan. list. About the weather? The question was not answered as both days were very pleasant and sunny. The temperature in January was a warm +5°C, while February was a cooler -3°C. Both days were ideal for winter birding.

--Bill Caudle

February 2 - Kings County

For the third successive year for the Kings County winter field trip, the weather was atrocious, but at least this year was Ground Hog Day, and as the ground hog couldn't possibly have seen his shadow, maybe it presages better things to come. Considering the wet snow and the very poor visibility, a surprisingly large number of people turned out and a succession of cars headed off towards the Grand Pre dykes. Has there ever been a field trip where no birds were seen? Well, this was very nearly it. We saw one Rough-legged Hawk, a few Tree Sparrows and a Downy Woodpecker and we traipsed all over the fields looking for Short-eared Owls (large numbers of which had been around the previous weekend) and saw none. We then drove on somewhat treacherous snow-covered dirt roads to the far end of the dykes looking for more Short-eared Owls, Snowy Owls or anything else that could possibly be seen and again we saw nothing. The parking lot at Grand Pre, that had the previous week yielded Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks, on this occasion yielded, -- you guessed it-- nothing!

At least Brenda Thexton kindly invited us back to have our packed lunches in the warmth and comfort of her house and we all had a good chance to spend an hour looking through her enormous window pane at her feeders where we all got close looks at Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches and Cowbirds and the two Rusty Blackbirds that had been present most of the winter did, at least show up and put on a good display for us.

After lunch, we went to an area in Wolfville where about 300 Bohemian Waxwings had been seen first thing in the morning before the field trip started but when we got there, apart from a few Cowbirds, there was nothing.

We went then to Cyril Coldwell's establishment where he had a caged Snowy Owl which had recently arrived with a bruised wing from Yarmouth; luckily nothing was broken and he had hoped to rehabilitate it. We all had a good close look at a caged Rough-legged Hawk, Bald Eagles and Barred and Horned Owls as well.

Following this, we decided that the snow which had now become heavier and wetter, precluded any possibility of visits to where Bald Eagles had been seen around the Sheffield Mills and Church Street areas but we did at least glimpse a dark shape sitting in a tree through the heavy snow in Gaspereau Valley by virtue of the fact that it was the right size and shape; it was presumably one Bald Eagle.

At least people will know where to go now when the weather gets better.

--Richard B. Stern

February 15 - Hammond's Plains, St. Margaret's Bay

Six "die-hard" birders, undaunted by snowy conditions and a forecast of miserable weather, arrived at Mill Cove on the Bedford Basin. As it turned out, road conditions were good, temperatures were mild and wind almost nil, which helped us locate about twenty-seven species.

From the Bedford Highway, along Hammond's Plains Road, Ruffed Grouse, Gray Jay, Raven, Boreal and Black-capped Chickadees, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks were spotted. Most of our birds were found on or near the water from Head of St. Margaret's to Queensland Beach. Such birds included an adult Bald Eagle at the power plant, numerous Horned Grebes, Common Goldeneye and two Dovekie, the latter we watched spinning and diving close to shore near Black Point. Oldsquaw were in moderate flocks, the males being very vocal with their yodeling calls.

Although the snowfall was continuous, it was never heavy, which made our outing very enjoyable. Much credit goes out to those of you who decided a little snow wouldn't hurt.

--David Currie



Here's a mystery bird. A number of birders have stared intently at this photo, taken by Charles Tupper near Zwicker Lake, Aug. 18, 1985, and can't identify it. Can you? Let us know.

UP-COMING FIELD TRIPS

- Saturday
April 26 TWO RIVERS PARK (CAPE BRETON) - early migrants. Leader: Hedley Hopkins. Meet at Marion Bridge at 0800 hours.
- Sunday
April 27 GRAND PRÉ, KINGS COUNTY - waterfowl, early migrants - our annual safari. Leader: Jim Wolford (1-542-7650). Meet at 1000 hours at the Grand Pré Historic Site parking lot or at 0945 hours at the Acadia University Gym parking lot. A joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalists.
- Sunday
May 4 AMHERST POINT, JOHN LUSBY - waterfowl, shorebirds and other early migrants. Leader: Con Desplanques (1-667-3790). Meet at the APBS parking lot at 0900 hours (take exit 3 from the TCH at the Wandlyn Inn and proceed a few km towards Nappan). We will visit APBS in the morning and JLM after lunch.
- Saturday
May 10 HALIFAX-DARTMOUTH PARKS - a search for early warblers especially unusual ones. Leader: Fulton Lavender (469-0352). Meet at 0700 hours in the parking lot at the end of Tower Road in Point Pleasant Park. After Point Pleasant, we hope to visit Laurie Park and Waverley Park.
- Wednesday
May 14 HALIFAX COUNTY - early morning warbler walk. Leader: Fred Dobson (852-3042). Meet at 0630 hours in the parking lot at the junction of the Prospect Road (Route 333 and the St. Margaret's Bay Road).
- Saturday
May 17 MOOSELAND - spring birds. Leaders: Carl and Wendy Tay (463-1646). Meet at 0800 hours at the Tay's cottage, "Swallow Hollow", 10 miles (16 km) up the Mooseland Road which is 60 miles (100 km) east of Dartmouth on Highway 7. The cottage is at the first lake just past the dam. We will bird along the road in the early a.m. and then proceed down to Taylor Head Provincial Park in the late a.m. for lunch. Fly dope may be required. If the weather is uncooperative, the trip will be postponed until Sunday.
- Sunday
May 18 HOPEWELL AREA (PICTOU COUNTY) - nesting owls and raptors. Leader: Harry Brennan (1-923-2780). Meet at 0800 hours at Saint Columba's churchyard, about 1 mile south of Hopewell.
- Wednesday
May 21 SHUBIE PARK - early morning warblers. Leader: Dave Currie (443-0490). Meet at 0630 hours in the main parking lot of Shubie Park for 2 hours of birding before work.

- Saturday
May 24 PARADISE/BRIDGETOWN REGION (ANNAPOLIS COUNTY) -
warblers and other songbirds. Leaders: Bill and Jean Morse (1-584-3417). Meet at the Morse residence at 0800 hours. Travelling west on route 201, the road south of the river between Bridgetown and Paradise, theirs is the first house within the stone wall on the right (about 1 mile east of the golf course).
- Sunday
May 25 SHUBENACADIE AREA (HANTS COUNTY) - mainly warblers. Leader: Roslyn MacPhee (1-758-3265). Meet at 0600 hours in front of Scott's restaurant in Shubenacadie.
- Saturday
May 31 GROVE'S POINT (CAPE BRETON) - Warbler Day. Leader: Eldon Meikle. Meet at 0900 hours at the Woolco store in Sydney River.
- Saturday
May 31 HANTS COUNTY DAY - various habitats, many species. Leader: Margaret Clark. Meet at 0800 hours at the railway crossing in Mount Uniacke.
- Saturday
May 31 YARMOUTH COUNTY - warbler walk. Leader: C.R.K. Allen (1-648-2752). Meet at Carleton school ground at 0900 hours.
- Saturday
June 7 ARGYLE ISLAND (YARMOUTH COUNTY) - A visit to a great blue heron colony; views of tern (3 species) and gull colonies enroute. Leader: Ted D'Eon (1-762-2097). Meet at parking lot of La Pharmacie or the Royal Bank in Lower West Pubnico at 0800 hours. Bring lunch. Cost for boat - \$10/person (max). If planning to attend, phone Ted before June 5.
- Sunday
June 8 WOLFVILLE AREA - Leader: Bernard Forsythe (1-542-2427). A search for breeding birds in various habitats including fields, second growth woods and mature woodland. Meet at Wade's parking lot next to the Wolfville Post Office at 0730 hours.
- Saturday
June 14 NEW ROSS/LAKE HOLDEN AREA - breeding birds and late migrants. Leader: Keith Keddy. A full day hiker's field trip (15km round trip) through mixed woodland and hardwood stands south of New Ross. Meet at Ross Farm at 0800 hours with a lunch and hiking boots (waterproof if possible). If weather foul, contact Keith at 1-689-2457 concerning possible cancellation.
- Saturday
June 21 ATLAS DAY - the Halifax City square. Contact Judith Kennedy (429-4610) for details.
- Saturday
June 28 BADDECK AND BACKLANDS AREA - summer birds. Leader: Allister Fraser. Meet at Baddeck Provincial building at 0800 hours.
- Saturday
June 28 MCHAB'S ISLAND - Leader: Roger Pocklington (469-3656) Meet at the N.S. Museum of the Atlantic in time for the first ferry crossing (0930 hours - check time beforehand). Bring a lunch. If weather is uncooperative, the trip will be postponed until Sunday, June 29.

- Sunday
July 20 TANCOOK ISLAND - breeding birds and early migrating shorebirds. Leader: Fred Dobson (852-3042). Facilities on the island are limited; a prediction of foul weather will cause cancellation of the trip. Bring walking shoes or boots and a lunch. Meet at the Tancook Island ferry terminal in Chester in time for the 1000 hours ferry. (The ferry returns at 1700 hours.)
- Saturday
July 26 BIG POND/LOCH LOMOND (CAPE BRETON) - midsummer birds. Leader: Nancy More. Meet at Sydney River Woolco store at 0800 hours.
- Friday
August 1 CRESCENT AND CHERRY HILL BEACHES - early shorebirds. Leader: Shirley Cohrs (477-6036). Meet at the entrance to Crescent Beach at 0830 hours. Come prepared for a short easy walk at Crescent Beach in the morning, lunch at Risser's Beach and a fairly long rugged hike up Cherry Hill Beach in the afternoon.
- Saturday
August 9 YARMOUTH COUNTY - shorebirds. Leaders: C.R.K. Allen (1-648-2752) and P.R. Dobson (1-648-2058). Meet at Yarmouth CPR station at 0900 hours.
- Saturday
August 9 SCATARI ISLAND - a search of the bogs and barrens of this island off Cape Breton for whimbrel and of course willow ptarmigan. Leader: David Harris (1-564-6389). Bring hiking boots or sturdy waterproof footwear. We will travel over and back on the same day. It will be necessary to register for the boat trip before June 15 with either Dave Harris or Bob McDonald (number below). Bad weather in the morning could mean cancellation of the trip or postponement to the next day. Participants should also be prepared for an overnight stay if weather does not permit our return. (We can stay in the cabin but a sleeping bag and some provisions will be required). Meet at the Government Wharf in Main à Dieu at 0730 hours.
- Saturday
August 16 FULLERS BRIDGE (CAPE BRETON) - mostly shorebirds. Leader: Eldon Meikle. Meet at Marion Bridge at 0800 hours.
- Saturday
August 16,
Sunday
August 17 CANSO AREA - a chance to explore this exciting part of the province. Leaders: Nancy and Warren Peters (1-366-2792 or 366-2889). Various habitats will be visited for shorebirds and other early migrants. Meet at 0700 hours on both mornings at the parking lot of the curling rink about 500m past the old brick cable office in Hazel Hill (just west of Canso). Accommodation is available at the Dorian Motel (366-2400) in Hazel Hill. Reserve well in advance at this number or with the manager at 366-2124. For further information contact Bob McDonald.
- Saturday
August 23 NORTHUMBERLAND SHORE (TIGNISH TO WALLACE) - waterfowl, shorebirds and marsh birds. Leader: Stu Tingley (1-506-536-2862). Meet at the bridge at Tignish Bridge on Route 366 (roughly 16km east of Amherst) at 0930 hours.

- Saturday BON PORTAGE ISLAND - Labour Day long weekend excursion
 August 30 to Evelyn Richardson's "The Living Island". Leader:
 to Peter Smith (1-542-5998). Meet at the wharf in Shag
 Monday Harbour (3 1/2 hours from Halifax or Wolfville) on
 September 1 Saturday at 0930 hours for the 40-45 minute boat trip
 over (rough cost - \$10 return). Advance registration
 before July 15 is necessary; contact Peter or Bob
 McDonald (number below). A limited number of bunks
 are available indoors; outdoor accommodation is
 unlimited. Bring sleeping bag, food, hiking boots and
 personal gear in waterproof containers. Return on
 Monday early afternoon.
- Saturday NORTH RIVER - fall migrants. Leader: Edie MacLeod.
 September 6 Meet at Sydney River Woolco store at 0800 hours.
- Sunday FALL ROUND-UP - our second annual species count in the
 September 7 Halifax area. Coordinator: Bill Caudle (469-7841).
 More details in the July issue.
- Sunday ADVOCATE HARBOUR/MINAS BASIN - leader: Michael Malone
 September 14 (1-392-2352). A visit to a new location - we will
 search for waterfowl in fresh and salt water and visit
 a CWS peregrine falcon release site. Meet at the
 wharf in Advocate Harbour (about 45km west of
 Parrsboro) at 1000 hours. Mike estimates he could get
 115 species in his square here.

Any questions on mainland field trips or suggestions regarding future trips should be addressed to Field Trip Coordinators, Bob and Wendy McDonald (443-5051).

BIRDS HITTING THE WINDOWS? -- Read on....

Edge Pegg has fed birds since 1929, so a lot of experience goes into his feeder in Pickering, east of Toronto.

What Pegg calls his boomerang could help birders with a problem. Outside a picture window is a broad shelf brimming with food. On one recent day, tree sparrows by the dozen, juncoes, chickadees and other birds could be studied feather by feather as they fed two metres away.

But a panic over a hawk, for example, could send birds crashing into the glass. Pegg tacked strings every six centimetres between two lengths of 1 x 1-inch wood. Then he tacked the strips outside the window frame, top and bottom. The strings provide a safety net. Boomerang? "You should see birds bounce when they hit," Pegg said with a chuckle. "But none gets hurt."

BIRDING IN SCOTLAND

Nellie Snyder

I visited Scotland in April of 1984, and again in April of 1985. While I did not go necessarily to do bird watching, it became a very exciting part of my visit. The friends with whom I was visiting were newly arrived residents. Together, we sought out the birds with only our Bird Guides to help with identification. They arranged for me to meet Frank Hamilton, Scottish Director of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (R.S.P.B.). He and his office staff at 17 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh, took the time to point out areas of special ornithological interest. Here, I picked up my hardcover Birdwatchers Pocket Guide for £3.95, and many free pamphlets. I would urge all birders visiting Scotland to contact this office.

At home in Gifford, there were two bird feeders. Besides the prettily colored Chaffinch there were House Sparrows and Starlings--no surprise, these. The Tits, Coal and Blue, resemble our chickadee. The Great Tit sporting its black tie and the other Tits were drawn there by the net bags of peanuts, their favorite feeder food. I was awakened most mornings with a beautiful song; I found it to be a Blackbird singing. The Scottish people did not share my admiration for this bird.

I was soon walking on the moors, trying to imagine the beauty of the heather in bloom. There were Lapwings everywhere, mostly in migration. They were so graceful on the ground and so homely when they unfolded their huge wings to fly. Red Grouse were in the heather and pheasants in the fields sporting their breeding plumage. Black-headed Gulls were following the farmers' machinery. Curlews and Dunlins were scurrying about together with the flocks of Golden Plover in migration. There were Pink Footed and Greylag Geese feeding on the rich grassland. Pied Wagtails were bobbing their tails on the open land. Here I saw and heard my first Skylarks. They sounded so happy on that bleak, windy moor.

Crossing the river Tyne by the Nungate Bridge on my way to Edinburgh by bus, I saw the first of many Mute Swans. It was sitting high on its nest on a wee island beside the busy highway. One year this nest had been destroyed by flooding, so the people built a more secure island, where the nest new reposes.

An unexpected surprise awaited us when we visited the ruins of the old Dunbar Castle in Dunbar on the North Sea. Here was a large colony of Kittiwakes nesting and screaming on tiny ledges of the walls of the old castle. Continuing up the coast we visited the John Muir Country Park and walked along the sandy shore in a bitter wind. Cuttle fish bones were scattered all over the beach. Gulls, Eider Ducks, Scoters, Gannets and Fulmar were there. Coming back to the car park we saw the burrows of the Short-eared Owls. Farther up the coast we visited Tantallion Castle. From this ruined castle we viewed with the help of my telescope, the seabirds on famous Bass Rock. The Isle was covered with Gannets, Fulmars and other seabirds which gave the appearance of snow. It is a protected breeding place for these birds. We had a good look at the Fulmars as they were nesting in the bank beside the castle. Their beaks, with the nostril tube, made them easy to identify.

In Yester Wood (Park) in Gifford, I saw my first Robin. It sings like a Canary and isn't much larger than one. With its red breast, it is easily identified but spends considerable time in the trees.

The beech and linden trees are so high that while I heard many different bird songs, it was hard to find the singers. I was told that the Green Woodpecker was back from migration but my many trips to the Wood never produced one. Woodpigeons were plentiful here cooing all over the place. There were occasional Rooks, Crows and Jackdaws.

Another interesting trip was to Vane Farm, a R.S.P.B. Nature reserve, near Kincross, Tayside, beside Loch Leven. Here my N.S.B.S. membership card gave us special priveleges. An Observation Room with strong telescopes gives a panaramic view of the birds in the reedbeds and water of the loch. A hide nearer the water, gives the viewer a protected place to get a closer look at these birds. A diminished number of geese (in migration) along with many breeds of ducks and other water fowl were to be seen.

In 1985, I had just arrived in Scotland, when my friends arranged a Birding Week-end for me. This was in the South West, near the Borders on the River Dee, near Castle Douglas and the famous Threaves Gardens. Cuil Park Guest House was having these week-ends especially for bird-watchers. The first day, Saturday, we were driven by the resident naturalist up along Loch Ken to see the waterfowl. We saw Oystercatchers, Mute Swans, Mallards, Teal, Wigeons, and Shoveler and Pintail Ducks, Whimbrel, Coots, Great Crested Grebes, Grey Lag Geese and Black-headed Gulls, along the way. Then we drove into Galloway (Glentool) Forest Park. Along the way and while hiking along the Forest Park road we saw the Peregrine Falcon, Kestrel, Short-eared Owl, the beautiful Red-legged Partridge, Redpoll, Siskin, Crossbill, Great, Coal and Willow Tit, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff and Meadow Pipit. We were birding for over seven hours. A lunch in the field was transported and served by the Guest House.

The following day we went to the Solway Firth (Atlantic side of Scotland). Here we traversed narrow footpaths so close to the steep cliffs that I got vertigo but dared not stumble. That cold windy day, besides seeing many of the birds of the previous day, we saw other, to me, rare birds. The Peregrine Falcon (one or more) kept skimming past our view. The Black Guillemots and Razorbills, busy bustling and noisy black and white birds, thronged the steep cliffs. As their bill shapes suggest, they do not compete for food. The Black Guillemots feed close to the shore and nest on the low cliffs in holes and crevices. The Common Guillemot, which was also present, nests higher up on the cliffs and the Razorbills nest near the top of the cliffs where the soil is softer for them to make or find burrows for nesting. Ringed Plovers, Rock Doves, Velvet Scoters and Red-breasted Mergansers were also seen. Walking back through the scrub, we saw Yellowhammers, Robins, Dunnocks, Pied Flycatchers and, of course, the singing Skylarks. It was a wonderful week-end and I hope that many more birders took advantage of these rewarding opportunities. I was in their very first group.

Also in 1985, while touring the "Highlands and the Islands", I found a very upsetting occurrence. On the Isle of Arran, I was having lunch in the courtyard of Brodic Castle (site of a Viking fortress) in a beautiful setting of Rhododendron and blooming flowers, when I noticed a crippled Chaffinch gathering crumbs with other Chaffinch on my table. I tried to catch it because it looked as if it had a clump of something stuck to its foot. I went to the Ranger-Naturalists' office to report this. They told me that this was a bird suffering from 'bumblefoot'. This disease was in the park and while it looked cumbersome, the bird did not seem to be too greatly inconvenienced.

Even today, if I concentrate really hard, I can still hear the Skylark's song and Cuckoo cooing. In fact, I have many happy memories of my two visits to Scotland.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Sexist Behavior of the Male - or the Female?

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

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are constantly flitting about the sunny gardens at Rivendell. There is plenty for them to feed from. In May, they appear suddenly just as the *Dicentra* (Dutchman's Breeches) comes into bloom, then graduate to the honeysuckle and mock orange, and so to the summer annuals and perennials as they come into bloom. They seem to live close to the river bank, in a tangle of shrubs, wild apple trees and bushes that overhang the water. Though we have tried to follow them, we have not been able to find their nests. But they always seem to go about in pairs in early spring, then the females are seen less frequently during the summer. So we presume they do nest.

The display flight of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is very well known. Every bird book has a little diagram showing the characteristic swing-back see-saw flight of the male. However, the diagram don't show what the female is doing while this display is going on. One always assumes that she is crouching timidly below, watching his macho display in admiration. The implication is that she is so overcome by his tireless flip-floppings (or his grace and energy, as he might put it) that she docilely acquiesces to his requirements, makes his nest, lays his eggs, raises his family, and so on. That seems to be the standard and, if I may say, sexist view of the matter.

Last summer, we viewed a performance that threw this whole comfortable concept into doubt. Our back porch has wide steps leading down into the orchard, and there are potted geraniums scattered up and down the steps. We were sitting on the steps one sunny spring afternoon when our attention was caught by the rhythmic buzzing sound, a sort of high-pitched burr-burr-burr, of the male hummingbird's display flight. He put on a brave performance about six feet from us, as if for our special benefit. Then we noticed the female, sitting on a geranium stem not three feet from us, intently watching the performance. A real grand-stand!

However, it was very hard to keep from laughing. Instead of just sitting there quietly and admiring him, she was conducting him with her beak. Her head dipped and swung, and he frenetically followed her lead--or so it seemed. Really, of course, it was a little difficult to be sure. Was she so mesmerized by his dance that she was following it with her eyes, or was she conducting him?

It's hard to be certain, but I'll tell you what clinched it for us: she left first, before he was through!

PUFFIN OF THE YEAR AWARD

In the past when making the presentation of the Puffin of the Year, an effort has been made to extoll the virtues and attributes of the recipient and to keep his/her identity to the last sentence. I don't know how I can do that this year--but I will try.

In Europe and many states or provinces in North America an Atlas has been or is being produced of the breeding birds of an area. Preparation of such an atlas has taken a number of years, perhaps five or six, and has required the efforts of maybe a hundred or so field observers.

A little over a year ago, the need for a Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas was identified and two people took it upon themselves to get things organized. This took many hours of midnight oil, many meetings and telephone calls! The cost of such an atlas was identified as about \$200,000.00, plus the volunteer field workers. These two people, through their hard work, have got this program going and have raised the first \$8,000.00.

In appreciation of their efforts the 1985 Puffin of the Year goes to Linda and Peter Payzant.

--Bill Caudle



photo--D.W. Purchase



Pileated Woodpecker calling on
Gillander's Mountain Road.
by Barrie Fraser

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

Members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society are perhaps aware of a Purple Martin migration study where several hundred thousand Martins were sprayed with an ultraviolet light sensitive ink as they flew about their roosts in Brazil.

A request was sent asking people to salvage wings from any dead Martins and send them to the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Wings from two dead Purple Martins were collected at Oxford last Spring.

I want to share with you my amazement that one of these Oxford birds was marked with fire-orange particle markers at Barretos in January, 1985.

I might add that the Oxford colony is easy to locate for any birders travelling between Amherst and Truro. Take the Oxford exit and travel towards Oxford about one half mile. The colony is located beside the Lands and Forests Depot on the left.

--Ross Hall, Wildlife Biologist

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

The bird feeder by the front door is pure gold this winter. All the usual friends are there, and an old cock pheasant (they are quite rare in Cumberland County) spends his days sunning himself on the front doorstep. He is totally relaxed about people, and has a non-aggression pact with Dog. He lost a considerable portion of his tail to Dog a couple of years ago, when he first arrived. We explained the difference between good and bad birds to Dog, and they now sit side-by-side on the front walk crunching oats and bones respectively. He will feed from our hands now. Beside the pheasant, we have chickadees, juncos, Goldfinches, Evening (and occasionally Pine) Grosbeaks, Tree Sparrows, Starlings, Bluejays, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. The Downy Woodpeckers are especially charming; they are always about in pairs, and they love suet.

Dog is becoming quite a good birder. She knows several varieties of good and bad birds now. One generalization is that all black colored birds are bad, and the bigger, the badder. So Starlings and Grackles are bad, Crows are much worse (they eat the garden), and ravens give her apoplexy. However, her greatest hate is eagles; the biggest and blackest, so they must be the worst! She chases them from one end of the farm to the other, but they never notice. It's good exercise for Dog, so nobody minds.

Dog also rescues baby birds. She comes and tells us about them and shows us where they are, protecting them from the attacks (she thinks) of their parents and friends. Several baby grackles and starlings were returned to their nests last year. Her choice of "the perishing" to rescue isn't too bright, but apparently nice birds don't fall out of their nests. She is clearly a birder-dog, not a bird dog. Could she be the first of the breed? She has no other claim to distinction, or breeding.

--R.G.S. Bidwell

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

This is our response to the image that "Ducks Unlimited" seems to project in the magazine that arrived yesterday. How, I wonder, does the NSBS and its members feel?

Sir,

Today we received our first copy of Ducks Unlimited's magazine.

Its contents, superb photographs apart, appalled and angered us. As bird watchers, members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society and lovers of nature in general, we are disgusted with the magazine and, by association, the D.U. organization. Both of them exist, it would seem, solely to boost waterfowl populations so that mindless yahoos can blow the birds apart for their own amusement.

We became D.U. members (or at least my wife did) by accident. She attended, by invitation, a D.U. dinner; the charge for the dinner included a year's membership. We even live a short walk from a D.U. conservation area and had always assumed that the organization's purpose was the establishment of areas to provide a living, breeding, feeding environment for waterfowl whose numbers are declining as so-called civilization gobbles up their traditional wetland homes.

Magazine articles cover: an editorial bemoaning reduced bags, letters about grandchildren who will never get to hunt and that steel shot is more expensive than lead, an article on floating blinds, lots of photos of retrievers retrieving, articles on decoy making and the good old muzzle loading days and even duck recipes.

Of approximately 120 advertisements, all but a sad very, very few are aimed at the hunter (or perhaps aimed at the 'duck'). The list of subjects is almost frightening in its singlemindedness...14 ads for guns and ammunition, 9, for assorted vehicles to get the hunter through the worst terrain, 12, for decoys and calls to lure the bird to the gun, 3, for booze to ease his waiting, 2, for hides for hiding, 16, for clothing, much of it camouflaged, 2, for hunter's food, 3, for duck dressing knives, 12, for equipment to make the hunter's job less irksome, 7, for getting, training, feeding the retrieving dogs, 2, on learning taxidermy, even one for a duck plucker! 29, yes 29 ads about where to go to hunt, some advertisers seeming almost to lick their lips in anticipation. There were a few books, etc., simply 'about ducks'. I was saddened to see Robert Bateman's name among the pages though.

The usual defence of the hunter seems to include words like "cull" and phrases such as "keeping populations in check". Sadly there seems to be little chance of wildfowl populations ever needing "checks", as man spreads his various occupations ever sideways, draining, destroying and building over waterfowl habitat at a frightening rate.

Perhaps the front cover of Ducks (Un)limited should carry the sub heading "This magazine is for the real gung-ho, sporty, red-blooded, gun-wise, macho, real-man HUNTER and has nothing to do with conservation or protection or love of our fellow creatures..." because that is the impression it conveys to us.

--D. & G. Hutton,
Shubenacadie, N.S.

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

You recall in the spring of 1985, that Frank Robertson and I expressed a fear that the Common Loon in Cape Breton was in danger. Dr. Lawrence Alexander of Cornell University reported that 7500 Common Loons died from Mercury contamination along the Gulf and east coast of Florida. This occurred in 1983, during the wintering season of the Loon. Where did the Loons pick up the mercury and which summer populations were being affected?

Dr. Alexander asked that Canadians get involved and count the Loons during their summer stay north. I asked Cape Bretoners to participate and specifically asked if the Loons were on their lakes two years ago, last year and during the summer of 1985. The response was most gratifying. I received 46 positive reports to the above questions. There were only four negative replies and they occurred in Antigonish County, Guysborough County, St. Peter's and North Sydney.

One sportsman, Don McInnis, took Loon watching very seriously. He made 20 sightings in Cape Breton and Victoria Counties combining his fishing trips with much valued Loon sightings.

It would appear then, that our Cape Breton Loon population may not be in danger. However, it is too early to be sure. I will be again making a plea in April for Cape Bretoners to once more count the Loons.

My thanks go out to all those who responded.

--Clive S. Macdonald

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

In the January 1986 issue of Nova Scotia Birds, Bernard Forsythe provided his usual high quality detailed observations of nesting Chestnut-sided Warblers and the danger to them from predation by Cowbirds. We wondered how long the Chestnut-sided Warbler could continue to be a common bird. I believe that there is another much more alarming threat to our warblers and probably some birds in general. This can be surmised by glancing through other recent publications from elsewhere in North America, for example, from the fall 1985 issue of American Birds, where mention was made of a "lackluster migration", with poor numbers. The season in Southern Ontario was described as poorer than usual and in the extreme southwest, one of the worst ever. That bore out my own impression on a very disappointing trip to Point Pelee last May, where we only saw a few Warblers in contrast to other people's previous experiences of large numbers, all very close by. More alarming was the report from the South Texas region, where disappointment voiced over the spring's poor passerine migration had a shadow of concern. Coming on the heels of a poor spring migration in 1984, this was a cause for concern, more so because non passerine migration, such as shorebirds, etc., was normal. The feeling was that the diversity of forest dwelling species was not bad but the numbers were all very low.

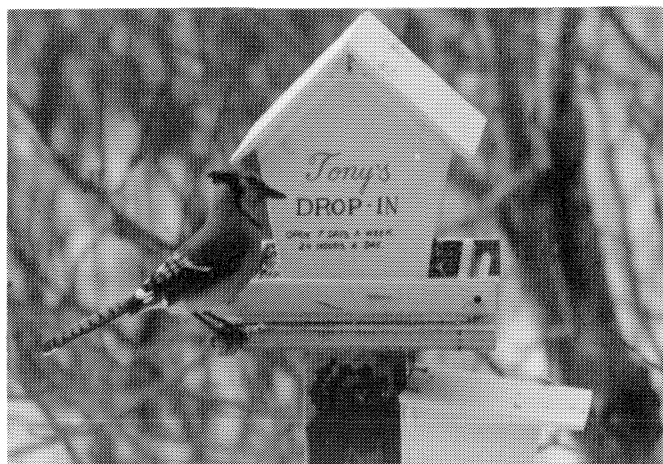
In addition to all this, looking through old accounts of birds in Nova Scotia and talking to some of the older members of our birding communities, one certainly gets the impression that numbers of migrating songbirds in the spring, particularly Warblers, are not what they used to be.

One would be very concerned that the chief cause of all this is the increased rain forest destruction in Brazil and Central America, where a great many of our nesting songbirds winter. One would hope that this is not a continuing trend but I wonder how much scientific data there is to back up these impressions. It would be interesting to look through old Breeding Bird Surveys. I believe that if there is any way for the NSBS to continue to lobby for conservation measures in this particular area, it should be very active in doing so for the allowance of continual enjoyment of our nesting songbird species.

--Richard B. Stern



Eric Ruff's alert "spotty" was snapped last year in August at Sunday Pt., Yar. Co.



This Blue Jay, photographed by Edie MacLeod at Tony MacIntosh's feeder in Cape Breton, is clearly looking for a menu.



Some lesser and greater goodies from The Halifax Christmas Bird Counts. The Forster's Tern was seen the day after count-day at the causeway road near Three Fathom Harbour, and the Red Knot and Black-bellied Plover were at nearby Rocky Run. The Lark Sparrow was a prize at a feeder on the Conrad Beach road. The Gray Catbird lurked in the multiflora rose thickets at Sullivan's Pond. Photos, Ian McLaren.

THE SECOND OF A SERIES ABOUT MEMBERS...

PROFILES.....



Meet Lisë Cohrs,

"Some people wish that their children would take up birding and are disappointed when it doesn't work out. If parents are close to their kids and take the time and energy to guide them when they're still little, the enthusiasm will rub off."

And Lisë Cohrs should know. She told me that she had been observing and studying nature with her parents as far back as she could remember.

"In those days we were interested in nature generally but the interest in birds began to develop when I was seven years old. My parents gave me a pair of 7 x 35 Tascos that year."

Lisë was born in Halifax on August 2, 1961, but the family soon moved to Ottawa. They missed Nova Scotia so much that they rented (later bought) a cottage at Green Bay, where they spent the summers. It was here that birding began to take hold. This spot is an excellent birding area.

When she was ten years old, Lisë took her first trip to Brier Island (a place that needs no explanation to birders) and while there, she took her first pelagic trip.

Even though still very young, she found her new knowledge of birds was in some demand at school because of the projects she devoted to the subject.

In 1975, the Cohrs family took a trip to British Columbia, where they birded around Vancouver Island and on the Pacific Ocean nearby. The next year Lisë visited Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary and met Con Desplanque, a well known and respected member of our society.

April 1977, found Lisë and her family in the Everglades of Florida and other birding spots in that state. A tour of the Rockies, Southern Alberta and the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia in 1980 added a variety of mountain and desert species to her experience. In 1981, she finally set foot on Seal Island, the most southern point in Nova Scotia and a great place for "rarities". By this time, she had been birding for thirteen years and had acquired an enviable life list.

A trip to Point Pelee, probably Canada's best birding area, didn't come until 1983. There, in her own statement, she saw the greatest number of bird species at any one time in her birding career. In that year too, she took a boat trip to Newfoundland. It was a great trip because of all the pelagic species.

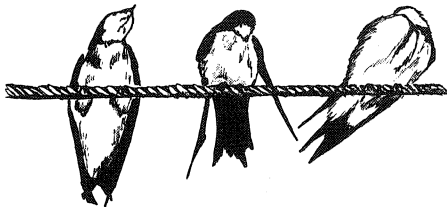
Having involved herself in Shorebird and Breeding Bird surveys for the last six years, Lisë has participated in no less than 34 Christmas Bird Counts.

She is interested in fishing, sketching, nature photography and landscaping and has been playing flute and recorder for many years.

Now in the third year of a B.Sc. program at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, majoring in horticulture, she feels she would like to work in a big garden like Butchart's Gardens in Victoria, B.C.

On May 6, 1978, Lisë Cohrs spotted an Eurasian Curlew at Cherry Hill, Nova Scotia; the first sighting of this species in Canada.

Bob Dickie



BOOK REVIEW

THE LOON, VOICE OF THE WILDERNESS

by Joan Dunning

Published by: Yankee Publishing Inc.,
Dublin, New Hampshire, U.S.A.

Number of Pages: 143

Price: \$20.95

Many times, on coming to the end of a particularly interesting book, I have experienced a feeling of regret just because it is the end. Of course, this feeling is mitigated by the fact that sooner or later I will have the pleasure of reading and enjoying it all again. It is rarely, however, that I fell compelled to turn from the last page to the first and immediately re-read the whole thing. This happened to me when I finished The Loon the first time.

It is a difficult book to describe because it encompasses so much.

IT IS SCIENCE--for it describes the life cycle of the Common Loon in great detail from its wintering at sea, through spring migration, courtship, nesting, fall migration and arrival back at sea. The evolution of the species, its encounters with man and its current struggle for survival are some of the other topics covered.

IT IS LITERATURE--for it tells the story of a pair of loons throughout the year in loving and lyrical prose that at times verges on the poetic. The author lived with the loons for a season and her observations are made with great feeling and sensitivity without a shred of sentimentality or anthropomorphism.

IT IS ART--for the author has illustrated the text with several luminous watercolours and black and white sketches. The watercolours (reproduced in full colour) are a little different and very beautiful. The sketches are not only of loons in every stage of their lives, but also of other birds, flowers, fish, insects and scenery.

Marginal notes, a range map, an appendix on loon language and a comprehensive bibliography are included.

In my opinion this is a book that anyone who loves birds should own, in fact, having read what I have just written, I think I shall turn back to page one once more.

--J. Shirley Cohrs.



*Weekend vacationers often disturb loons
nesting on small islands.*

SEVENTY YEARS OF BIRD PROTECTION

Anthony J. Erskine

The public, including Nova Scotia Bird Society members, assumes that all, or nearly all birds are legally protected, except during the hunting seasons for game species. That kind of broad statement is more or less correct, but when more detail is sought the picture gets complicated, or even confusing. Migratory birds are protected under federal regulations, and other birds by the province--but some birds that migrate are not counted as migratory birds, and so on. The editor of Nova Scotia Birds asked for an outline of the legal basis for bird protection in Canada, to reduce the confusion and frustration occasioned by the divided jurisdictions of government agencies.

Wildlife conservation in general is a provincial responsibility, under the British North America Act (1867) which left to the provinces most subjects not specifically designated as federal concerns. Birds received little protection from hunting and commercial exploitation under provincial laws in the next 50 years, and numbers of some species were greatly reduced. Public awareness of this overexploitation led in 1916 to the Migratory Birds Convention (hereafter "the Convention"; called Migratory Birds Treaty in the USA) between the United States and Great Britain (on behalf of Canada). As an "empire treaty" which took precedence over provincial laws, this Convention and the Act (M.B.C. Act 1917) that put it into effect transferred to federal jurisdiction specified groups of birds that were considered useful to man or harmless. The Migratory Birds Convention is still the principal basis for federal involvement in bird protection in Canada, and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) evolved out of the needs for enforcement of regulations under the M.B.C. Act and for information to guide the conservation of migratory birds. The Convention has led to general success in halting commercial exploitation and in regulating sport hunting, which were its two main thrusts. Difficulties have arisen repeatedly, because amendments to the Convention are possible only with the concurrence of all the provincial and territorial governments. That unanimity is essentially impossible to obtain, so the Convention still stands with the strengths and weaknesses that were built into it originally. The United States subsequently signed treaties with Mexico, Japan, and the Soviet Union, covering all birds rather than only a selection and avoiding the pitfalls built into the 1916 Convention. Canada has not been able to do this, and the new Constitution would have to be amended to make it possible, so no early resolution of the impasse is foreseen. Some piecemeal remedies are being explored, including a Protocol to allow regulated subsistence hunting by native people in northern areas where migratory birds are present only during the summer months, which were defined as a permanently closed season in the Convention.

Species seen under the Convention as being useful included game birds, except for grouse, partridges, and pheasants (which were obviously non-migratory), and insectivorous birds, excepting obvious "pest" species such as starlings, blackbirds, and the House Sparrow. Harmless species included the other families of water birds not considered as game birds, thus loons, grebes, tubenoses, gannets, herons and bitterns, jaegers, gulls and terns, and alcids. The provinces were left to regulate, besides resident game birds, the various species that were seen as competing with man in some way, thus: 1. fish-eating birds, including pelicans, cormorants, and kingfishers (but not mergansers, which were placed with the other ducks as migratory game birds); 2. predators that were thought to feed on

game birds or insectivorous birds, or on their eggs or nestlings, including all the raptors (hawks, eagles, falcons, Osprey) and owls, and all the Corvidae (crows, ravens, jays); and 3. the grain-eating passerine pests mentioned earlier (not including the colourful members of the Icteridae - Bobolink, meadowlarks, orioles). Interpretation of what birds are insectivorous ("good") rather than seed (grain)-eating ("bad") has changed gradually. Nearly all song birds feed insects to their young, and most of the seeds eaten by the North American "sparrows" (Emberizinae) are of no commercial value; at one time only the Chipping Sparrow was counted as insectivorous, but now that whole (sub-) family is covered by the Convention.

Species classed as game birds also are protected except during officially declared hunting seasons. If no season is declared, a species is protected at all times, even if it is designated as a game bird. The Whooping Crane and Eskimo Curlew, both endangered species, are examples of game birds under federal jurisdiction which have not had a hunting season declared since 1916. Ptarmigan and Spruce Grouse are game birds fully protected under provincial regulations in Nova Scotia, although both are hunted in other provinces. No open seasons were declared on Wood Duck and Common Eider, singled out in the Convention as in need of special protection, for many years after 1916; as their numbers increased, seasons were again opened on these birds, but in Nova Scotia there are still restricted bag limits (one/day) on Wood Ducks--to discourage hunters from discarding birds shot by mistake rather than from any intent to encourage the hunting of Wood Ducks. The old hunters who remembered shooting shorebirds prior to 1916, were still agitating for open seasons on Black-bellied Plover and yellowlegs as late as 1950, but shorebird hunting has been restricted for many years to the two "sporting" species, Woodcock and Common Snipe.

Introduced species present anomalies. Release (to establish a huntable stock) of Giant Canada Geese from eggs collected in Ontario, is regulated under federal permits, although carried out by the provincial wildlife agency. Releases of Pheasants (for hunting) and Gray Partridges are a provincial responsibility, even when carried out by private citizens. The Willow Ptarmigan (game bird, i.e. "good") introduced by the provincial agency on Scatari Island and the Peregrine Falcons (raptors, i.e. "bad") re-introduced by the CWS at Cape D'Or are both strictly protected at all times. The European Starling and House (English) Sparrow, not covered by the Convention, are also named as excluded from protection under provincial regulations. The Rock Dove (feral pigeon) is not mentioned either by federal or provincial regulations, and municipal governments of cities and towns plagued by these birds are left to devise their own solutions.

Protection by laws is one thing; enforcement of laws is another. The Migratory Birds Regulations are quite explicit about restrictions on when, where, and by what means people may hunt particular species. They are less clear--and thus subject to varying interpretations--as to what constitutes disturbance to birds. Most people assume that such prohibitions are more explicit and clear-cut than is actually the case. For example, a person standing quietly in the middle of a tern colony, among nests containing eggs or small young, on a cold and drizzly day, may be causing substantially reduced reproduction by those birds; yet a judge easily could conclude that such presence did not constitute action to "disturb...a nest (or) egg...of migratory bird" (Section 6) nor to "harass (one of several actions encompassed by the word "hunt" (Section 2 (1)) a migratory bird" and thus subject to hunting restrictions. Often it would be necessary to demonstrate that such a person intended to cause disturbance or harassment by his or her presence in the colony, in order to secure a conviction. If an area were conspicuously posted as a

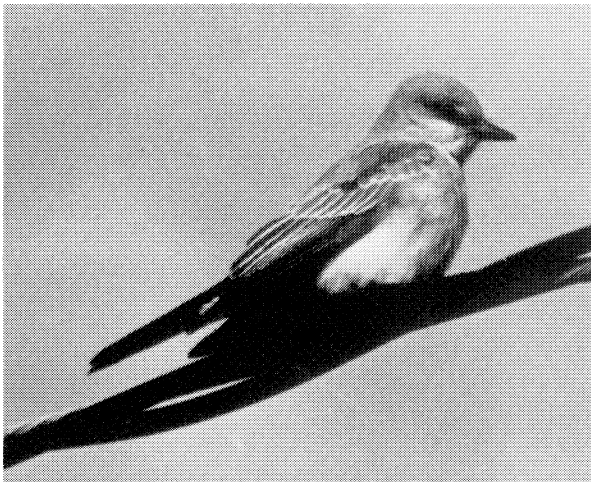
bird sanctuary or nesting area, an intruder might reasonably be expected to interpret that agitated birds protesting his or her presence were responding to disturbance to them; but without such signage to identify an area as sensitive, even experienced birders do not always recognize what kinds of behavior in what time-periods constitute breeding evidence (hence the need for instructing participants in the Breeding Bird Atlas project).

If a Bird Society member sees actions that could be harmful to birds, or finds evidence of such actions having occurred recently, several alternatives are available. If "harmless trespass" seems to be the problem, a polite personal approach to the individual(s) involved may be the best solution; this allows information to be given in a suitable context, and may encourage interest in birds by previously ignorant people. Warnings of possible charges would follow only if an abusive or other negative response resulted. If the violator(s) were armed or inebriated, a personal approach would be at your own risk, and detailed note-taking would be safer. Obtaining the description and license-plate number of a vehicle may allow enforcement personnel to issue a stern warning to the persons responsible, and this is all that will be possible in most cases where a violator was not apprehended in the illegal act. The more detail delivered to enforcement people, the more possible their follow-up, and the effect also is cumulative; as a picture of repeated violations in an area or of a particular type is built up, the probability of enforcement effort being focussed there increases. Notwithstanding the divided jurisdictions of the various levels of government, many enforcement personnel are empowered to act on violations of both federal and provincial regulations for the protection of birds. A Canadian Wildlife Service enforcement coordinator is stationed in Bridgewater, and another in Sackville, N.B., but most information on violations will be delivered to detachments of the Roayl Canadian Mounted Police or to conservation officers of the provincial Department of Lands and Forests. Officers of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans Protection Service often are licensed as migratory bird officers, and they may be prepared to relay messages or to advise where other enforcement people may be contacted. Within the limits of a city or town, the municipal police would be the first point of contact regarding any kind of violations.

Despite all this discussion of violations and divided jurisdictions, the story of bird conservation in eastern Canada is not all gloom and doom. Compared to the situation in 1916--as far as that can be reconstructed, bird protection under the Migratory Birds Convention is a success story. Many species whose numbers had been greatly reduced by unregulated exploitation have recovered very well, even though sport hunting is practiced more widely than ever before; also bird-watching and bird feeding attract people on a scale that would have been inconceivable to our grandparents. These are direct and indirect results of the protection afforded birds through the Convention. Conservation processes are often slow, as traditions of exploitation persist long after the direct subsistence needs that started them have ceased to apply. Furthermore, new problems influencing bird numbers emerge, for which the old regulatory measures may not be appropriate so that new ones have to be devised. Example of present problems not foreseen by the people who drafted the Convention are the widespread dissemination of toxic substances such as biocides or oil spilled at sea, and the imbalance to marine bird communities caused by gull populations burgeoning on man's garbage. Given the continuing concern of informed citizens, and their insistence on enough controls to allow time to work out solutions, I believe that the next seventy years will show advances in bird protection as striking as those of the years just past.



BARRED OWL in a tree on Beech St.,
Halifax, Nov. 1985, framed by Crows
and Bluejays--photo M.McCurdy



This Western Kingbird, one of several
last fall, turned up at Portuguese Cove
Halifax County, on Nov. 21,
Photo--Ian McLaren

BIRDING IN THE PINKNEY'S POINT - CHEBOGUE
POINT AREA

by C.K.R. Allen and P.R. Dobson

Pinkney's and Chebogue Points flank the mouth of the Chebogue River estuary on the east and west respectively, and are both arrival and departure points for a number of migrants.

They are only three kilometers apart and share much of the same bird population but there are a few differences due to their distinctive habitats.

Just to the north of Pinkney's Point is the large shallow tidal Melbourne Lake which is a wildfowl sanctuary. In the Point area itself, there is a long gravel ridge with salt water on either side stretching north for about a kilometer and known as Cook's Beach. To the eastward there is a salt marsh dotted with shallow puddles and traversed by several gravelly ridges, which is about two kilometers across and three in length, north to south.

Chebogue Point, on the other hand, is largely agricultural land, though with a fringe of salt marsh bordering the river, and a gravelly beach at the Point itself. The summer and winter populations of these areas are rather scanty--one exception being the many noisy breeding pairs of Willets on Pinkney's Point marsh--but come into their own during fall migration.

Pinkney's specializes in shorebirds with sometimes fantastic numbers of peep--up to 15,000 or more, roosting out the high tides on Cook's Beach. The common larger shorebirds--Willets, both Yellowlegs, Black-bellied and Lesser Golden Plover, Knots and now and then such uncommon and rare species as Whimbrel, Godwits, Stilt Sandpipers and even a Ruff occupy the puddles and gravel ridges on the marsh.

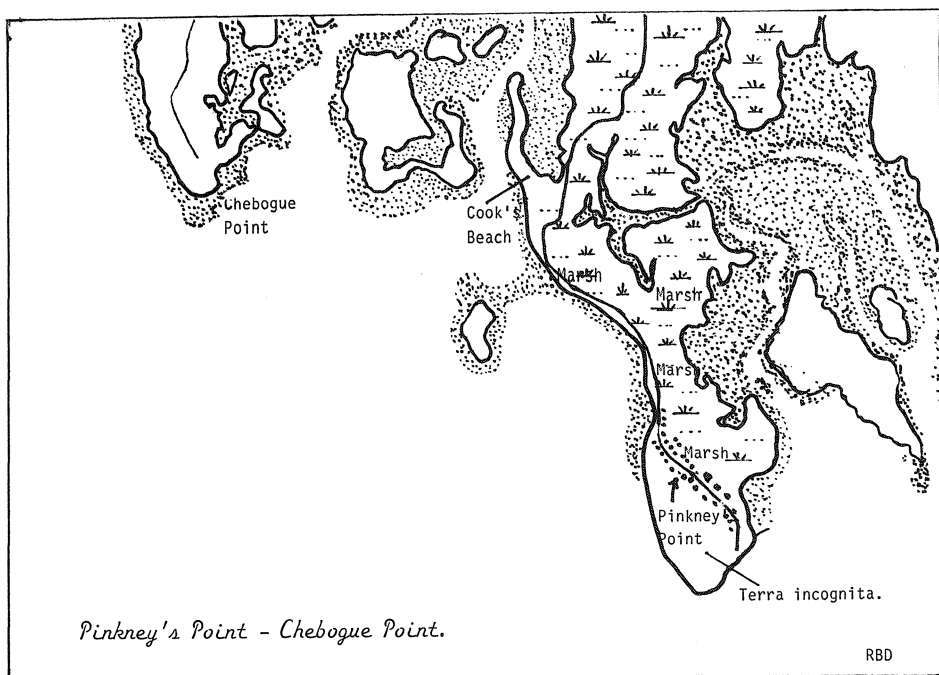
The commonest big wader is of course the Great Blue Heron, with the Bittern in second place. Night Herons of both species have been seen, as have Little Blue Herons and both species of Egrets.

Melbourne Sanctuary is a spring and fall gathering place for Canada Geese and Black Ducks, numbers of both species sometimes reaching the thousands. Other frequently noted species are Mallard and both Teals, Goldeneye, Bufflehead and both Mergansers. Occasional-to-rare visitors are Snow Geese, American and Eurasian Wigeons, Pintail, Eurasian Teal, and Gadwall.

In open water, south of Cook's Beach, Loons, Eiders and Oldsquaws are regular, with Red-throated Loons, Red-necked and Horned Grebes gathering in early spring.

Peregrine Falcons and Merlins harry the shorebird flocks in late summer and fall, and Harriers patrol the marsh. Landbirds are scarce in summer. Song and Savannah Sparrows live along the edge of the marsh, and Bank Swallows, which nest on the inshore islands are abundant.

One big difference between Chebogue Point and the fore-going area is that it is more clearly a departure route for several species: from late August to early September, Kingbirds move down the point in considerable numbers and Western Kingbirds and even one Scissor-tailed Flycatcher have been known to join the throng. It is also a southbound route for Kestrels, Merlins and Harriers.



Small land birds also use this route--warblers, Savannah and Sharp-tailed Sparrows, even such forest species as Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Red-breasted Nuthatches, in spite of the open nature of the country.

The shorebird population is scanty compared with Pinkney's Point because of lack of feeding areas, but Black-bellied and Lesser Golden Plover (with once or twice an Upland) and Buff-breasted Sandpipers have been seen on the pasture.

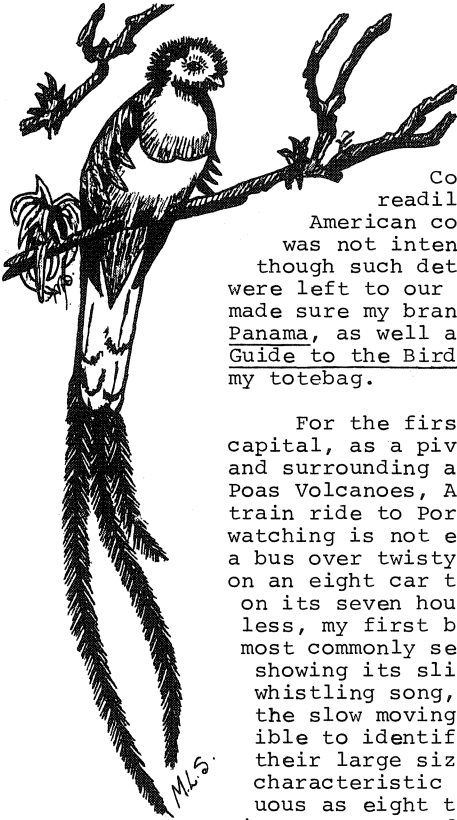
Most obvious summer residents are Barn, Cliff and Bank Swallows, Song and Savannah Sparrows and Bobolinks. In fall, Water Pipits are a nearly sure bet along the gravel beach at the Point itself, and when winter sets in, straggling Harriers and Kestrels, occasional Short-eared Owls and Rough-legged Hawks quarter the pastures. The vegetable fields, grown up to pig-weed, are well populated with mixed blackbird flocks and other seedeaters such as Song, Savannah, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows and Juncos.

Horned Larks and Snow Buntings go through in late fall in considerable numbers both here and at Pinkney's Point, and a few remain all winter.

POSTSCRIPT: The "Pinkney's Point" described above is actually an area which lies to the north of the village of this name. The true point, a stretch of barren to the south and west of the village, is as yet unexplored.

BIRDING IN COSTA RICA

Margaret A. Clark



When our friends Jean and Ed Edmund invited us to join them on their seventh visit to Costa Rica, Margaret Slatkin and I readily agreed to include that Central American country in our "retirement trip". It was not intended to be a birding trip, and although such details as where to stay, what to see were left to our personal travel agent, i.e., Ed, I made sure my brand new copy of Ridgely's Birds of Panama, as well as National Geographic's Field Guide to the Birds of North America, were packed in my totebag.

For the first week we used San José, the capital, as a pivot from which we toured the city and surrounding areas such as Cartago, Irazu and Poas Volcanoes, Angel Falls, and the infamous jungle train ride to Port Limon on the Caribbean Sea. Bird-watching is not enhanced by being bounced about on a bus over twisty, steep, dusty mountainous roads or on an eight car train making frequent whistle stops on its seven hour winding scenic route. Nevertheless, my first birds identified were naturally the most commonly seen--the Rufous-collared Sparrow, showing its slight crest and singing its pleasant whistling song, and the Blue-gray Tanager. From the slow moving train to Port Limon, it was possible to identify many Montezuma Oropendola by their large size and bright yellow tails. Their characteristic long, pendant nests were conspicuous as eight to ten could be seen in colonies in one tree. Of course Vultures, both Black and Turkey were everywhere as were Great-tailed Grackles, the Great Kiskadee, Groove-billed Ani, and Tropical Kingbirds.

In Port Limon we were treated to our first sighting of a sloth--those slow moving monkey-like animals that cling to the topmost branches of the tallest trees. Marg and Jean spotted two birds with spottings of white showing on their black backs. Thinking I was about to count another "lifer", one bird obligingly turned about and there they were--two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, joined by two immatures! They all looked a bit bedraggled with their dull drab back and pale rose breast. Not at all like the ones we see on the Hants County Field trip!

From San José, we took a bus to the Pacific Coast to spend some time at Jaco Beach. What a panoramic view of the countryside we had and what a relaxing stay, walking the beaches of black sand and swimming the warm Pacific waters. My birding took place between six and eight a.m., for by nine o'clock the rays from the tropical sun were becoming too intense to stay out and by afternoons siestas were most welcome! These early morning and late afternoon walks produced many first sightings, but, believe me, it is no easy task to sight a movement, find it with your binoculars, focus, try to find the Plate No. in the Birds of Panama, then turn to the page where the description is given. All this, before the bird flies to another branch and hides behind some leaves! It can be just as frustrating to search

for and identify the tropical birds as it is a thrush, an ovenbird, or confusing fall warblers in Nova Scotia. The rewards were there however, in identifying the Variable (white-collared) Seedeater, Orange-chinned Parakeet, Crimson-fronted Parakeet, Red-crowned Woodpecker, both Green and Ringed Kingfishers, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, Carmiol's Tanager, Black-chested Jay and the very beautiful Magpie Jay with the tear-drop plume on its head.

One morning Jean, Marg and I had the good fortune to be driven to a pond about 15 km from our hotel where we spent an hour watching Wood Storks, Jabirus, two Northern Jacana, several Black-necked Stilts, Roseate Spoonbills, White Ibis, Little Blue Heron, Common Egrets, Greater Yellowlegs and the Fasciated Tiger-Heron. In the grass, on the road, on fences, wires, etc., we also saw Black-shouldered Kite, Yellow-headed Caraca, Gray-headed Kite, Blue-black Grassquit, Social Flycatcher, Green-crowned Brilliant Hummingbird, and a Blue-crowned Motmot! And of course there were Iguanas.

However, the best was yet to come. We were able to make arrangements with a tour guide to drive us to the Monteverde Cloud Forest. The trip, an overnight one, included the 165 km drive, with 35 km of that over rough, dusty, twisty, steep, winding, perilous but picturesque roads, overnight accommodation, and our own bird guide. The Hotel de Montana "Monteverde" was at an altitude of over 4000 feet, overlooking the Gulf of Nicoya and the village of Saint Elena. The comfortable rooms, home-cooked meals, quiet atmosphere and clear fresh air provided the restful setting to prepare us for a morning of concentrated birding.

Situated in the mountains of the Central Cordillera, the Biological Reserve of Monteverde is divided into Habitat Zones with the bird distribution influenced by altitude, rainfall and the prevalence of mist. With anticipation in our hearts, clear sunny skies overhead, and joined by two doctors from Maryland, Jean, Marg and I set off with Gary, our bird guide. What an enthusiastic, experience bird guide he turned out to be! He not only recognized the songs and sounds of birds but could skillfully imitate them as well. Within fifteen minutes of beginning our walk, he had identified ten different species! We were flabbergasted!! Once again came the task of finding each bird, identifying it and noting it. (Margaret generously listed the name after Gary patiently pointed out the bird and made sure each person saw it.)

Suddenly his command, "Listen!!", stopped us all in our tracks. "It's the Quetzal!" We listened--THAT subdued sound from such a spectacular bird! "There it is!" and all we five amateurs had to do was to follow Gary's directions. Lo and behold, there it was!--the Resplendant Quetzal, perched high in a tree with his scarlet front, golden green head and long, long tail swaying in the slight breeze. His pose was almost identical to the one on the cover of the Birds of Panama. We gazed in awe and admiration while yet two more flew through the trees. If I had seen no other bird that day, the trip to Monteverde would have been worth that alone!

When the Quetzal flew off, we moved on, up through the narrow, muddy trail that climbed to the Continental Divide and we stood over 5000 feet above sea level to admire the beautiful forest, to watch the cloud of mist go by some distance from us and later, to have another cloud of mist go directly over us. Another male Quetzal gave us ample opportunity to admire it while Gary explained its feeding and nesting habits.

Of course, we saw other birds with such original names as Squirrel Cuckoo, Emerald Toucanet, Prong-billed Barbet, Bananaquit, Collared

Redstart, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Yellow-throated Brush Finch, and lest we forget the hummingbirds, read these delightful names: Green Violetear (a rare sighting according to Gary), Little Hermit, Violet Sabrewing, Fork-tailed, Emerald, Coppery-headed Emerald, and Purple-throated Mountaingem. There were many more birds, but the thrill of seeing so many tropical birds was no greater than that of seeing (just as we left the Cloud Forest trail), a Black-and-white Warbler, a Golden-winged Warbler, and a Black-throated Green Warbler.

One thing that puzzled all of us while birding in Costa Rica-- why was such a non-descript bird as the Clay-colored Robin selected as the National Bird?

For all the numerous birds seen, identified and added to my life list, there were many more heard, seen fleetingly, but not identified --no matter. The memories of those fifteen exciting and eventful days among friendly and courteous Ticos will stay with me always as will that first sighting of the Resplendant Quetzal!





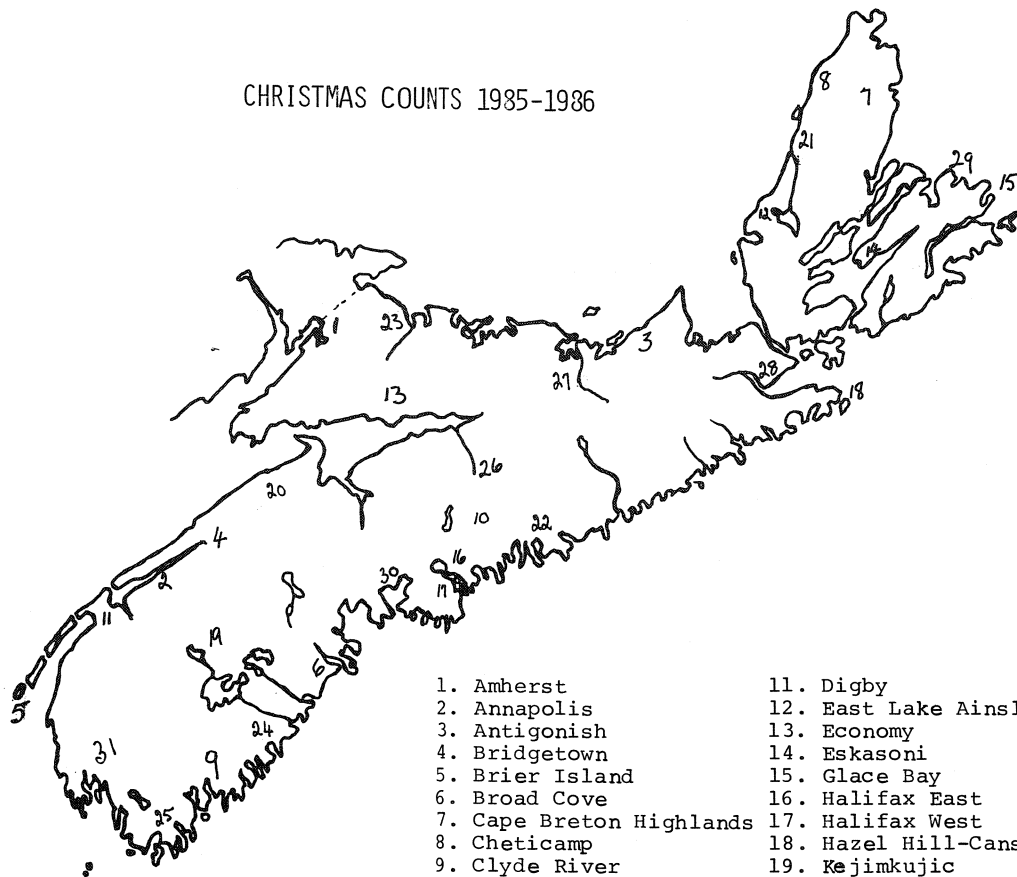
This Yellow-billed Cuckoo looks a little weary. Seal Island, late Oct. 1985. Photo-Sylvia Fullerton

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED US SINCE OUR ANNIVERSARY YEAR IN 1980, MAY NOT KNOW OF OUR SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE WHICH CONTAINS THE HISTORY OF THE NSBS, ARTICLES ABOUT OUR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND MANY PHOTOGRAPHS. IT IS AVAILABLE FOR \$2.00 PLUS \$1.00 FOR POSTAGE FROM THE MUSEUM ADDRESS:

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CHRISTMAS COUNTS 1985-1986



- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Amherst | 11. Digby | 21. Margaree |
| 2. Annapolis | 12. East Lake Ainslie | 22. Middle Musquodoboit |
| 3. Antigonish | 13. Economy | 23. Northport |
| 4. Bridgetown | 14. Eskasoni | 24. Port Hebert |
| 5. Brier Island | 15. Glace Bay | 25. Pubnico |
| 6. Broad Cove | 16. Halifax East | 26. Shubenacadie |
| 7. Cape Breton Highlands | 17. Halifax West | 27. Springville |
| 8. Cheticamp | 18. Hazel Hill-Canso | 28. St. Peter's |
| 9. Clyde River | 19. Kejimkujic | 29. Sydney |
| 10. Cook's Brook | 20. Kingston | 30. Todd's Island |
| | | 31. Yarmouth |

Nova Scotia Christmas Bird Counts

The total number of counts submitted this year is 31, a substantial increase over last year, and in fact the highest number since 1976. A total of 137 species were seen in the province, up slightly from last year, but interestingly, the total number of birds seen fell by 20,000. Where were the geese, the gulls and the starlings which account for the majority of this decrease. Only two species were recorded on all 31 counts, (Blue Jay and Black-capped Chickadee) and another 13 species were spotted on 20 or more counts. The Evening Grosbeak, seen in record numbers this year, was spotted on 30 counts.

It is gratifying to see so many compilers take the time and effort to fill out the count forms properly. Still, there are people who are having problems and I encourage them to read the article in this issue on Christmas Count forms. This is the first year that I have used the words "no details" after a species which is highly irregular in the province at that time of the year and no details of the sighting have been supplied to me, preferably on the rare bird report form which is available from the N.S.B.S. Now, on to the reports, and good birding until next year.

AMHERST, Dec. 23; 7:30AM to 5:00PM. Overcast with intermittent, moderate snow AM. Overcast with moderate to heavy snow PM. Wind SE 10-25Km/hr. Temp. -12 to -1C. Fresh water frozen. 12 observers in 7-11 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 53.75 (28.75 on foot, 25 by car). Total party miles 318.5 (30.5 on foot, 288 by car).

Am. Black Duck 2; Com. Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 3a; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 7; Ring-necked Pheasant 11; Ruffed Grouse 8; Herring Gull 231; Iceland Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 180; Rock Dove 195; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 11; Blue Jay 49; Am. Crow 199; Com. Raven 94; Bl.-capped Chickadee 94; Boreal Chickadee 18; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 34; Northern Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 110; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 750; Am. Tree Sparrow 264; Song Sparrow 4; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 3; White-crowned Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 14; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 893; Com. Grackle 2; Pine Grosbeak 8; Com. Redpoll 66; Am. Goldfinch 20; Evening Grosbeak 321; House Sparrow 1005.

Total 44 species, about 4624 individuals. (CP: Gray Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-winged Blackbird, N. Cardinal, Purple Finch). Paul Bogaard, Con Desplanque, Hinrich Harries, Ron Hounsell, Etta Hudgins, Colin MacKinnon, Jesse MacKinnon, Al Smith, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding, Stuart Tingley (compiler), Robert Walker.

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 5; 7:30AM to 5:00PM. Mostly cloudy to overcast AM-Snow/rain PM. Wind SE. Temp -10 to +1C. Fresh water frozen. 24 observers in 7 parties, 8 at feeding stations. Total party hours 22 (12 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles 99 (20 on foot, 79 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Com. Loon 5; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 11; Great Cormorant 4; Wood Duck 1; Am. Black Duck 49; Greater Scaup 40; Com. Eider 3; Oldsquaw 16; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 2; Com. Goldeneye 125; Bufflehead 12; Com. Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 31; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 15; Ruffed Grouse 2; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 122; Glaucous Gull 4; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 16; Razorbill 1; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 36; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 1; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 241; Am. Crow 160; Com. Raven 6; Bl.-capped Chickadee 82; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; White-breasted Nuthatch 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; Am. Robin 16; Bohemian

Waxwing 6; European Starling 322; N. Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 11; Song Sparrow 11; White-throated Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 62; Brown-headed Cowbird 92; Pine Grosbeak 3; Purple Finch 1; Com. Redpoll 15; Am. Goldfinch 154; Evening Grosbeak 355; House Sparrow 357.

Total 53 species, about 2439 individuals. Fred Barrett, Mildred Burrell, Allison Dalton, Faith DeWolf, Jane DeWolf, Helen Ellis, Dorothy Everett, Drew Eville, Marianne Fickes, Barbara Harbord, Lanny Harbord, Sharon Hawboldt (compiler), Stephen Hawboldt, Charlotte Hollett, Clifford Jones, Harold McCormick, Jeff McCormick, Eric Muntz, Connie O'Brien, Gini Proulx, Alison Thomson, John Turner, Julie Turner, Charlotte Wade.

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 31; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Clear AM. Partly to mostly cloudy with intermittent, light sleet PM. Wind NW to SW. Temp. -13 to -1C. Fresh water partly frozen. 3 observers in 2 parties, 8 at feeding stations. Total partyhours 8 (3 on foot, 5 by car). Total party miles 170 (4 on foot, 166 by car).

Com. Loon 3; Great Cormorant 3; Canada Goose 500; Am. Black Duck 21; Mallard 1; Oldsquaw 5; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 146; Com. Merganser 67; Red-breasted Merganser 32; Bald Eagle 3a, 2imm.; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 5; Herring Gull 359; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 65; Rock Dove 39; Mourning Dove 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 3; Blue Jay 13; Am. Crow 233; Com. Raven 20; Bl.-capped Chickadee 13; Boreal Chickadee 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 27; Am. Robin 2; Northern Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 93; Loggerhead Shrike 1 (no details); European Starling 459; Am. Tree Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 17; Snow Bunting 12; Br.-headed Cowbird 4; Pine Grosbeak 3; Purple Finch 14; White-winged Crossbill 150; Pine Siskin 54; Am. Goldfinch 8; Evening Grosbeak 78; House Sparrow 109.

Total 45 species, about 2588 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Grackle). Beck family, Celeste Chiasson, Edmund Chiasson, Paulette Chiasson, Roland Chiasson (compiler), Stephen Flemming, Gorman family, C. Jewkes.

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 28; 8AM to 5PM. Mostly clear until snow began at 10:30AM, lasting until 2:30PM. Wind light. Temp. -12 to 2C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 6 observers in 3 parties, 10 at feeding stations. Total party hours 15 (4 on foot, 11 by car). Total party miles 173 (17 on foot, 156 by car).

Com. Loon 8; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 4; Am. Black Duck 60; Mallard 1; Com. Eider 8; Oldsquaw 12; White-winged Scoter 70; Com. Goldeneye 6; Red-breasted Merganser 8; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 2; Purple Sandpiper 20; Herring Gull 259; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 25; Rock Dove 37; Mourning Dove 3; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Horned Lark 6; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 124; Am. Crow 296; Com. Raven 10; Bl.-capped Chickadee 45; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; Bohemian Waxwing 8; Northern Shrike 3; European Starling 679; Am. Tree Sparrow 16; Chipping Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 13; Snow Bunting 100; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Com. Grackle 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 190; Pine Grosbeak 8; Purple Finch 9; Am. Goldfinch 114; Evening Grosbeak 238; House Sparrow 161.

Total 51 species, about 2605 individuals. (CP: Barred Owl, Cedar Waxwing, Hermit Thrush, Gray Partridge). D. Bowlby, W. Chambers, D. Colville, D. Cottenden, J. Doig, E. Frost, M. Graves, T. Hyson, M. Jodrey, H. Maher, E. Marshall, W. Marshall, J. Morse (compiler), W. Morse, E. Shaffner, A. Slauenwhite, E. Slauenwhite, M. Smith, S. Whitman.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 18; 7:30AM to 5PM. Overcast. Wind S then NW. Temp. +2 to -4C. Fresh water frozen. 5 observers in 3 parties, 1 at

feeding stations. Total party hours 25 (20.5 on foot, 4.5 by car). Total party miles 37 (19 on foot, 18 by car).

Com. Loon 17; Red-necked Grebe 31; N. Gannet 3; Great Cormorant 149; Great Blue Heron 1; Am. Black Duck 20; Com. Eider 144; Harlequin Duck 2; Oldsquaw 135; Black Scoter 4; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 41; Com. Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 56; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Black-bellied Plover 1; Ruddy Turnstone 1; Purple Sandpiper 67; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 581; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 440; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 69; Black Guillemot 32; Mourning Dove 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 50; Blue Jay 1; Am. Crow 51; Com. Raven 11; Bl.-capped Chickadee 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 6; European Starling 137; N. Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 14; Song Sparrow 10; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Red-winged Blackbird 6; Com. Grackle 3; Br.-headed Cowbird 10; Com. Redpoll 23; Am. Goldfinch 25; Evening Grosbeak 35; House Sparrow 23.

Total 44 species, about 2218 individuals. David MacKinnon, Steve Manuel, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills (compiler), Richard Stern.

BROAD COVE, Jan. 4; 7:30AM to 5PM. Heavy snow AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind NW 20-45mph. Temp. -2 to -10C. Fresh water frozen. 27 observers in 16 parties. Total party hours 118 (69 on foot, 49 by car). Total party miles 439 (95 on foot, 344 by car).

Com. Loon 50; Horned Grebe 17; Red-necked Grebe 9; Great Cormorant 11; Canada Goose 159; Am. Black Duck 46; Mallard 21; Greater Scaup 400; Com. Eider 1145; Harlequin Duck 1; Oldsquaw 86; Black Scoter 82; Surf Scoter 4; White-winged Scoter 10; Com. Goldeneye 103; Bufflehead 2; Com. Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 32; Bald Eagle 1a.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 9; Black-bellied Plover 3; Red Knot 1; Sanderling 7; Purple Sandpiper 5; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Herring Gull 769; Iceland Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 228; murre, sp. 1; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 25; Mourning Dove 25; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; N. Flicker 1; Horned Lark 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 51; Am. Crow 327; Com. Raven 96; Bl.-capped Chickadee 181; Boreal Chickadee 43; Red-breasted Nuthatch 14; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 53; Am. Robin 1; Gray Catbird 1; European Starling 637; Yellow-rumped Warbler 8; Am. Tree Sparrow 9; Savannah Sparrow 8; Song Sparrow 20; White-throated Sparrow 13; Dark-eyed Junco 129; Snow Bunting 12; Red-winged Blackbird 2; E. Meadowlark 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 110; Pine Grosbeak 2; Com. Redpoll 4; Am. Goldfinch 58; Evening Grosbeak 252; House Sparrow 303.

Total 68 species, about 5613 individuals. (CP: Ring-necked Pheasant, Killdeer, Barred Owl, N. Shrike, Pine Siskin). W.G. Caudle, John, Lisé & Shirley Cohrs, E.H. Cooke, D.A. Currie, B.K. Doane, Tom Elwood, Millie Evans, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Barbara Hinds, Heather Kelley, Fulton Lavender, Steve Manuel, Hugh McCormack, Ian McLaren, Earl Meister, Eric Mullen, Chris Naugler, Linda & Peter Payzant, Don & Joyce Purchase, Ruth Ramey, Nellie Snyder, Val Stonehurst, James Taylor.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Dec. 30; 8AM to 5PM. Overcast with intermittent light snow AM. Mostly cloudy with intermittent light snow PM. Fresh water frozen. 31 observers in 15 parties, 13 at feeding stations. Total party hours 50 (15 on foot, 20 by car, 15 at feeding stations). Total party kilometers 140 (40 on foot, 100 by car).

Horned Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 6; Am. Black Duck 33; Com. Eider 13; Oldsquaw 53; Black Scoter 7; Surf Scoter 4; White-winged Scoter 9; Com. Goldeneye 134; Bufflehead 13; Hooded Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 58; Bald Eagle 1; N. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Spruce Grouse 2; Purple Sandpiper 18; Herring Gull 272; Iceland Gull 40; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 660; Com. Murre 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 45; Am. Crow 158; Com. Raven 35; Bl.-capped Chickadee 45; Boreal Chickadee 28; Red-breasted Nuthatch 21; Golden-crowned Kinglet 72; Am. Robin 1; N. Shrike 1;

European Starling 103; Yellow Warbler 1 (details sketchy); Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 11; Snow Bunting 29; Br.-headed Cowbird 1; Purple Finch 9; White-winged Crossbill 72; Com. Redpoll 6; Pine Siskin 24; Am. Goldfinch 17; Evening Grosbeak 104; House Sparrow 21.

Total 51 species, about 2157 individuals. (CP: Com. Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose Greater Scaup, Ruffed Grouse, Red-headed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Three-toed Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak). Dave Algar, Albert Bird, Kenneth Buffet, Leslie Buffet, Dorothea Cox, Pamela Doyle, Bill Fisher (compiler), Ruby Fisher, Al. Gibbs, Wendy Gibbs, Ruth Goodyear, Chris Gorey, Anita Hardy, George Hardy, Ross Ingraham, Glenn King, David Lawley, Lucille LeBlanc, Rodend Macleod, Jessie McEvoy, Delores Neal, Paula Reynolds, Sonia Reynolds, Tim Reynolds, Tracy Roper, Hazel Stackley, Kim Stackley, Elaine Wallace, Patricia Waterhouse, Norman Wentzell, Fred Williams.

CHETICAMP, Dec. 18; 7:45AM to 3:45PM. Mostly clear AM. Overcast with heavy snow PM. Wind 5kmh AM, and 55kmh PM. Temp. -2C. Fresh water open. 8 observers in 5 parties. Total party hours 24 (10 on foot, 14 by car). Total party miles 65 (15 on foot, 50 by car).

Great Cormorant 9; Canada Goose 8; Am. Black Duck 20; Mallard 1; Greater Scaup 2; Com. Eider 8; Oldsquaw 1; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 77; Com. Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 43; Bald Eagle 8; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Ruffed Grouse 4; Herring Gull 82; Iceland Gull 9; Glaucous Gull 4; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 10; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 7; Blue Jay 7; Am. Crow 32; Com. Raven 15; Bl.-capped Chickadee 35; Boreal Chickadee 20; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 45; Bohemian Waxwing 50; European Starling 40; Dark-eyed Junco 1; Snow Bunting 12; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 2; Com. Redpoll 50; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 7; Evening Grosbeak 6; House Sparrow 6.

Total 40 species, about 646 individuals. (CP: Bl.-headed Gull, Thick-billed Murre, Rock Dove, Gray Jay). Alfred Aucoin, Rene Aucoin, Joyce, Janet Boss, David Lawley (compiler), George Mercer, Mac Savoy, Elaine Wallace.

CLYDE RIVER, Dec. 28; 10:00AM to 4:30PM. Overcast with intermittent rain. Wind light SW. Temp. mild. 2 observers in 1 party. Total party hours 6.5.

Herring Gull 9; Blue Jay 12; Am. Crow 6; Bl.-capped Chickadee 2; Cedar Waxwing 1; European Starling 50; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 20; Dark-eyed Junco 25; Evening Grosbeak 30.

Total 10 species, about 159 individuals. Eleanor and Art Spencer.

COOK'S BROOK, Dec. 22; 7:30AM to 4PM. Overcast AM. Overcast with snow PM. No wind. Temp. -18C. Fresh water frozen. 3 observers in 2 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 8.5 (1 on foot, 1 by car, 6.5 at feeder). Total party miles 8 (2 on foot, 6 by car).

Bald Eagle 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 6; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 30; Am. Crow 8; Com. Raven 4; Bl.-capped Chickadee 8; Am. Tree Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 1; Com. Redpoll 1; Am. Goldfinch 2; Evening Grosbeak 8; House Sparrow 25.

Total 14 species, about 101 individuals. Beverley Jarvis, Ern Jarvis, Joan Jarvis (compiler).

DIGBY, Dec. 28; 8:30AM to 4:30PM. Overcast with intermittent heavy snow AM. Overcast with intermittent moderate snow PM. Wind S, 10 knots. Temp. 0C. Fresh water partly frozen. 7 observers in 3 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 13 (7 on foot, 6 by car). Total party miles 40 (3 on foot, 37 by car).

Com. Loon 4; Horned Grebe 7; Red-necked Grebe 45; Great Cormorant 15; Am. Black Duck 600; Mallard 6; Pintail 2; Greater Scaup 200; Com. Eider 60; Oldsquaw 250; White-winged Scoter 25; Com. Goldeneye

70; Bufflehead 280; Red-breasted Merganser 50; Bald Eagle 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 11; Ruffed Grouse 2; Bonaparte's Gull 4; Herring Gull 1000; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 100; Black-legged Kittiwake 24; Com. Murre 1; Rock Dove 100; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 6; Blue Jay 48; Am. Crow 341; Com. Raven 10; Bl.-capped Chickadee 28; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; N. Mockingbird 1; European Starling 350; Am. Tree Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 9; Dark-eyed Junco 8; Snow Bunting 40; Br.-headed Cowbird 5; Pine Grosbeak 22; Red Crossbill 2; Com. Redpoll 60; Am. Goldfinch 42; Evening Grosbeak 210; House Sparrow.

Total 48 species, about 4126 individuals. Kay Banks, H.S. Emerson, Sylvia Irvine, Lynn Odell, Kelsey Raymond, Mrs. Kelsey Raymond, Barry Sabeau (compiler).

EAST LAKE AINSLIE, Dec. 26; 1PM to 5PM. 3 observers.

Am. Black Duck 11; Ruffed Grouse 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 1; Am. Crow 13; Bl.-capped Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Chipping Sparrow 2 (no details); Dark-eyed Junco 14; Pine Grosbeak 2; White-winged Crossbill 30; Com. Redpoll 20; Pine Siskin 52.

Total 13 species, about 151 individuals. Robert Brann, Chris Campbell, Barrie Fraser (compiler).

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 8AM to 5PM. Clear AM. Overcast with moderate snow PM. Wind east 5-10. Temp. -10 to 0C. Fresh water frozen. 4 observers in 4 parties, 6 at feeding stations. Total party hours 34 (28 on foot, 6 by car). Total party miles 95 (28 on foot, 67 by car).

Am. Black Duck 903; Mallard 1; Mallard/Black Duck hybrid 2; Com. Eider 3; Oldsquaw 52; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 13; Com. Goldeneye 3; Bufflehead 22; Com. Merganser 9; Bald Eagle 2a; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Gray Partridge 10; Ruffed Grouse 20; Killdeer 1; Purple Sandpiper 127; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 193; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 11; Rock Dove 131; Barred Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 10; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Horned Lark 2; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 61; Am. Crow 284; Com. Raven 60; Bl.-capped Chickadee 150; Boreal Chickadee 19; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 67; Am. Robin 4; Bohemian Waxwing 15; Cedar Waxwing 1; European Starling 347; Am. Tree Sparrow 109; Song Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 83; Snow Bunting 1; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Com. Grackle 4; Br.-headed Cowbird 112; Pine Grosbeak 17; Purple Finch 7; Red Crossbill 1; Com. Redpoll 458; Pine Siskin 2; Am. Goldfinch 193; Evening Grosbeak 382; House Sparrow 389.

Total 56 species plus one hybrid, about 4328 individuals. Brian Dalzell, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding (compiler), Stuart Tingley.

ESKASONI, Dec. 21; 8AM to 4PM. Clear AM. Overcast with moderate snow PM. Wind East 10-15kmh. Temp. -5C. Fresh water frozen. 13 observers in 3 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 22 (5 on foot, 17 by car). Total party miles 68 (8 on foot, 60 by car).

Great Cormorant 1; Am. Black Duck 15; White-winged Scoter 31; Com. Goldeneye 6; Bufflehead 18; Com. Merganser 18; Red-breasted Merganser 17; Bald Eagle 13a, imm.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Herring Gull 52; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 11; Mourning Dove 2 (feeder); Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 49; Am. Crow 35; Com. Raven 11; Bl.-capped Chickadee 60; Boreal Chickadee 20; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 21; Bohemian Waxwing 55; European Starling 116; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 13; Rusty Blackbird 2 (feeder); Pine Grosbeak 50; Purple Finch 11; White-winged Crossbill 42; Com. Redpoll 8; Pine Siskin 28; Am. Goldfinch 4; Evening Grosbeak 241; House Sparrow 88.

Total 40 species, about 1060 individuals. George Ball, Joe Donovan, Colleen MacInnis, George MacInnis, John MacInnis, John MacLeod, Brian MacNeil, Duncan MacNeil, Jack MacNeil (compiler), Laurie Mac-

Neil, C. MacPhee, Pat Murphy, Melvin White.

GLACE BAY, Dec. 26; Mostly cloudy to overcast AM. Mostly cloudy PM. Wind calm to 15mph. Temp. 12 to 6C. 5 observers, 5 at feeding stations.

Am. Black Duck 20; Bufflehead 2; Com. Merganser 6; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 4; Herring Gull 52; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 45; Rock Dove 15; Downy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 1; Blue Jay 6; Am. Crow 129; Bl.-capped Chickadee 13; European Starling 99; Song Sparrow 1; Com. Grackle 1; Pine Siskin 2; Evening Grosbeak 57; House Sparrow 99.

Total 18 species, about 553 individuals. (CP: Ruffed Grouse, Iceland Gull, Com. Raven, Boreal Chickadee, Bohemian Waxwing, Am. Tree Sparrow, Purple Finch, White-winged Crossbill, Am. Goldfinch). George Crowell, Joy Gates, Sara MacLean (compiler), Elsie MacRury, Roy Wadden.

HALIFAX EAST, Dec. 22; 7:30AM to 5PM. Clear AM. Mostly cloudy with intermittent light snow PM. Wind NW 5-15kmh. Fresh water frozen. 32 observers in 15 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 122 (89 on foot, 33 by car). Total party miles 440 (91 on foot, 349 by car).

Com. Loon 26; Horned Grebe 5; Red-necked Grebe 7; Great Cormorant 2; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 1010; Am. Black Duck 78; Mallard 1; N. Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 1; Com. Eider 78; Oldsquaw 91; Black Scoter 3; White-winged Scoter 28; Com. Goldeneye 151; Bufflehead 128; Com. Merganser 31; Red-breasted Merganser 103; Osprey 1; Bald Eagle 4; N. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; N. Goshawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 4; Merlin 3; Ruffed Grouse 3; Black-bellied Plover 2; Red Knot 2; Sanderling 4; Purple Sandpiper 28; Dunlin 8; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 60; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 113; Herring Gull 1664; Iceland Gull 6; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 106; Atlantic Puffin 1; Rock Dove 51; Mourning Dove 75; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 10; N. Flicker 1; Horned Lark 46; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 156; Am. Crow 490; Com. Raven 38; Bl.-capped Chickadee 318; Boreal Chickadee 67; Red-breasted Nuthatch 14; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 110; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; Am. Robin 11; N. Mockingbird 2; Varied Thrush 1; Gray Catbird 1; Water Pipit 7; Bohemian Waxwing 1; Cedar Waxwing 1; N. Shrike 2; European Starling 1380; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 1; Dickcissel 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 104; Lark Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 17; Sharp-tailed Sparrow 4; Fox Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 82; Swamp Sparrow 21; White-throated Sparrow 51; Dark-eyed Junco 95; Lapland Longspur 5; Snow Bunting 187; Red-winged Blackbird 1; E. Meadowlark 1; Com. Grackle 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 40; Pine Grosbeak 35; Purple Finch 8; White-winged Crossbill 14; Com. Redpoll 7; Am. Goldfinch 194; Evening Grosbeak 312; House Sparrow 368.

Total 90 species, about 8147 individuals. (CP: Forster's Tern, Dovekie, Chipping Sparrow). Mike Almon, Ron Arsenault, Tom Austin, Jack Cameron, Bill Caudle, John & Shirley Cohrs, Bob Dickie, Jim & Gillian Elliot, Chris Field, Roger Foxall, Sylvia Fullerton, Frank Himsl, Barbara Hinds, Janos Kovacs, Fulton Lavender, Bob McDonald, Dave MacKinnon, Steve Manuel, Ian McKay, Ian McLaren (compiler), Eric Mills, Bernice Moores, Sandra Myers, Don & Joyce Purchase, Clarence Stevens Jr., Derek Tay, James Taylor, Audrey & Lorne Tyler.

HALIFAX WEST, Dec. 29; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Partly cloudy AM. Mostly clear PM. Temp. 14-34F. Wind SSW 0-9mph. Snow cover 2-5 inches. Fresh water frozen. Salt water mostly open. Wild food crop fair. 42 observers, 41 in 19 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party hours 145 (91.5 on foot, 52.5 by car, 1 by boat, 2.5 at feeders). Total party miles 487 (95 on foot, 390 by car, 2 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 1; Com. Loon 26; Horned Grebe 11; Red-necked Grebe 17; Great Cormorant 199; Double-crested Cormorant 4; Green-winged Teal 2; Am. Black Duck 1491; Mallard 63; N. Pintail 3; Greater Scaup 3; Com. Eider 139; Harlequin Duck 6; Oldsquaw 125; Black Scoter

13; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 79; Com. Goldeneye 105; Buff-lehead 7; Com. Merganser 20; Red-breasted Merganser 103; Bald Eagle 1; N. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Merlin 3; Ruffed Grouse 4; Am. Coot 1; Black-bellied Plover 1; Killdeer 2; Purple Sandpiper 20; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 39; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 57; Herring Gull 4388; Iceland Gull 198; Lesser Black-backed Gull 3; Glaucous Gull 4; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 775; Black-legged Kittiwake 10; Com. Tern 1; Dovekie 18; Thick-billed Murre 9; Razorbill 2; Black Guillemot 34; Rock Dove 1522; Mourning Dove 64; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 31; Hairy Woodpecker 6; N. (Yel.-sh.) Flicker 2; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 228; Am. Crow 707; Com. Raven 25; Bl.-capped Chickadee 626; Boreal Chickadee 64; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 5; Brown Creeper 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet 109; Am. Robin 25; Gray Catbird 2; N. Mockingbird 6; Bohemian Waxwing 63; European Starling 6946; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 5; Dickcissel 2; Rufous-sided (E.) Towhee 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 44; Savannah Sparrow 11; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 121; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 21; Dark-eyed (Slate-col.) Junco 119; Snow Bunting 24; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Yellow-headed Blackbird 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 377; Pine Grosbeak 19; Purple Finch 36; Com. Redpoll 8; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 280; Evening Grosbeak 2141; House Sparrow 1314.

Total 91 species, about 22,989 individuals. (CP: Am. Wigeon, Com. Murre, Atlantic Puffin, N. Shrike, Pine Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, N. Oriole). Hazel Carmichael, Bill Caudle, Molly Clayden, John, Lisé, & Shirley Cohrs, Allan Covert, David Currie (compiler), Bob Dickie, Gillian & Jim Elliott, Roger Foxall, Sylvia Fullerton, Frank Himsl, Barbara Hinds, Janos Kovacs, Fulton Lavender, Betty Learmouth, Steve Manuel, Carol. & Don MacNeill, Hugh McCormack, Bob & Wendy McDonald, Bernice, Ian, & James McLaren, Ann & Eric Mills, Linda & Peter Payzant, Roger Pocklington, Don & Joyce Purchase, Clarence Stevens Jr., Jim Taylor, Betty & Wesley Topple, Audrey & Lorne Tyler, Azor Vienneau, Filip Volckeart.

HAZEL HILL-CANSO, Jan. 5; Dawn to dusk. Clear to partly cloudy AM. Partly cloudy to overcast PM. Wind calm AM to light SE PM. Temp. -7 to -2C. Fresh water frozen. 9 observers in 1 party, 5 at feeding stations. Total party hours 7 (1 on foot, 6 by car). Total party miles 15 ($\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, $14\frac{1}{2}$ by car).

Com. Loon 4; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 3; Surf Scoter 20; Herring Gull 30; Iceland Gull 40; Glaucous Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 17; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 1; Black Guillemot 1; Mourning Dove 11; Hairy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 3; Am. Crow 7; Com. Raven 3; Bl.-capped Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; European Starling 77; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 15; Rusty Blackbird 1; Am. Goldfinch 11; Evening Grosbeak 70; House Sparrow 30.

Total 28 species, about 359 individuals. Elaine Bushell, Stephen Bushell, Kim Hirtle, Larry Hirtle, June, Jarvis, Sam Jarvis, Nancy Peters (compiler), Warren Peters, Francis Roberts.

KEJIMKUJIK NAT'L PARK, Dec. 22; 7:40AM to 5:10PM. Mostly clear with intermittent light snow AM. Mostly clear PM. Temp. 10-20F. Wind NW 0-5mph. Snow cover 8-14 inches. Fresh water mostly frozen. Wild food crop fair. 19 observers, 13-17 in 7-8 parties, 2-6 at feeders. Total party hours 36 ($14\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, $5\frac{1}{4}$ by car, $16\frac{1}{2}$ on skis, 8 at feeders). Total party miles $174\frac{1}{4}$ (15 on foot, $137\frac{1}{2}$ by car, $21\frac{3}{4}$ on skis).

Am. Black Duck 1; Com. Goldeneye 4; Ruffed Grouse 11; Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 46; Am. Crow 43; Com. Raven 31; Bl.-capped Chickadee 111; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 21; White-breasted Nuthatch 6; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 25; N. Shrike 1; European Starling 36; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 14; Red-winged

Blackbird 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 34; Purple Finch 1; Com. Redpoll 10; Am. Goldfinch 31; Evening Grosbeak 55; House Sparrow 40.

Total 27 species, about 551 individuals. (CP: Canada Goose, Sharp-shinned Hawk). Thelma Bowers, Bill Copeland, Ron Eaton, Bruce & Nancy Gurnham, Gary Hartlen, Peter Hope (compiler), Stephen & Peggy Hopper, Len & Pat MacDonald, Doug McOuat, Eric Mullen, Chris Robart, Peter Rogers, Marilyn Rowter, Gary Selig, Nellie Snyder, Dave Winaut.

KINGSTON, Dec. 27; 8AM to 4:30PM. Mostly cloudy AM. Overcast PM. No wind. Temp. -13 to -3C. Fresh water frozen. 27 observers in 21 parties, 7 at feeding stations. Total party hours 28 (5 on foot, 23 by car). Total party miles 200 (5 on foot, 195 by car).

Com. Loon 4; Horned Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron 1; Am. Black Duck 17; Com. Eider 15; Oldsquaw 41; White-winged Scoter 26; Com. Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 11; duck, sp. 13; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Broad-winged Hawk 1 (no details); Red-tailed Hawk 11; Rough-legged Hawk 1; hawk sp. 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 28; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 22; Herring Gull 195; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 7; gull sp. 4; alcid sp. 2; Rock Dove 61; Mourning Dove 57; Great Horned Owl 1; owl sp. 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-headed Woodpecker 1 (no details); Downy Woodpecker 18; Hairy Woodpecker 10; N. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 17; Blue Jay 215; Am. Crow 451; Com. Raven 63; Bl.-capped Chickadee 133; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; White-breasted Nuthatch 9; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; Cedar Waxwing 6; N. Shrike 1; European Starling 687; Am. Tree Sparrow 26; Chipping Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 12; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 12; Dark-eyed Junco 110; Snow Bunting 14; Com. Grackle 33; Br.-headed Cowbird 34; Pine Grosbeak 51; Purple Finch 3; White-winged Crossbill 48; Com. Redpoll 30; Am. Goldfinch 494; Evening Grosbeak 500; House Sparrow 725.

Total 56 species, about 4258 individuals. (CP: Barred Owl). Betty Donovan, Norm Donovan (compiler), Lance Laviolette, Debbie McMahon, Larry Neily, Gordon Tufts, Judy Tufts, Flo Carpenter, Paul Cummings, Thelma Hawkins, Frank Hawkins, Terrie Hyson, Don Keddie, Joan Keddie, Clarence McGray, Ethel McGray, Peter McLeod, Evelyn Mockett, John Mockett, Pat MacDonald, Earle Neily, Vivian Neily, Mary Schurman, Phyllis Selig, Grace Wile, Gary Weese, Kay Weese.

MARGAREE, Dec. 27; 8AM to 4PM. Mostly clear. Wind 0-3mph. Temp. -15 to -3C. Fresh water partly frozen. 6 observers in 2 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 16 (7 on foot, 9 by car). Total party miles 83 (8 on foot, 75 by car).

Am. Black Duck 11; Com. Goldeneye 82; Com. Merganser 21; Bald Eagle 15; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 13; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 43; Am. Crow 158; Com. Raven 87; Bl.-capped Chickadee 53; Boreal Chickadee 5; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 6; Am. Robin 2; European Starling 194; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Snow Bunting 48; Pine Grosbeak 10; Pine Siskin 19; Evening Grosbeak 61; House Sparrow.

Total 27 species, about 948 individuals. Frances Hart (compiler), Marjorie Hart, Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham, Alex Miller.

MIDDLE MUSQUOIDOBOIT, Dec. 16; 8AM to 4:30PM. Heavy snow. Wind medium strong. Temp. cold. Fresh water partly frozen. 1 observer in one party, 4 at feeding stations.

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 9; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 1; Mourning Dove 4; Snowy Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 12; Am. Crow 12; Com. Raven 1; Bl.-capped Chickadee 6; European Starling 8; Am. Tree Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 10; Snow Bunting 20; Br.-headed Cowbird 20; Evening Grosbeak 9; House Sparrow 20.

Total 19 species, about 141 individuals. Mabel Smythe (compiler).

NORTHPORT, Dec. 25; 8AM to 4PM. Mostly cloudy, then overcast with fog AM. Overcast with rain PM. Very little wind. Temp. 41-49F. Fresh water frozen. 1 observer in one party, 1 at feeding station. Total party hours 7 ($\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 6 by car, $\frac{1}{2}$ at feeder). Total party miles 39 (3 on foot, 36 by car).

Oldsquaw 3; Com. Goldeneye 9; Red-breasted Merganser 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 2; Herring Gull 35; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 9; Rock Dove 11; Downy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 13; Am. Crow 62; Com. Raven 12; Bl.-capped Chickadee 14; European Starling 75; Dark-eyed Junco 4; Snow Bunting 37; Com. Redpoll 70; Evening Grosbeak 41; House Sparrow 6.

Total 21 species, about 414 individuals. R.G. MacNeil (compiler).

PORT HEBERT, Dec. 22; 6:30AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind NW. Temp. -12C. Fresh water frozen. 13 observers in 10 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ (74 $\frac{3}{4}$ on foot, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ by car). Total party miles 169 (71 on foot, 98 by car).

Red-throated Loon 4; Com. Loon 39; Horned Grebe 48; Red-necked Grebe 28; Great Cormorant 98; Great Blue Heron 3; Canada Goose 3859; Green-winged Teal 1; Am. Black Duck 411; Greater Scaup 13; Com. Eider 412; Harlequin Duck 2; Oldsquaw 35; Black Scoter 328; Surf Scoter 33; White-winged Scoter 25; Com. Goldeneye 194; Bufflehead 8; Com. Merganser 17; Red-breasted Merganser 111; Bald Eagle 1a, imm.; N. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 6; Killdeer 1; Ruddy Turnstone 8; Sanderling 7; Purple Sandpiper 153; Com. Snipe 1; Dunlin 3; Am. Woodcock 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 5; Herring Gull 337; Iceland Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-headed Gull 57; Black Guillemot 31; Rock Dove 23; Mourning Dove 4; Great Horned Owl 3; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 4; N. Flicker 8; Horned Lark 39; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 47; Am. Crow 139; Com. Raven 32; Bl.-capped Chickadee 106; Boreal Chickadee 34; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 27; Am. Robin 2; Water Pipit 3; N. Shrike 2; European Starling 96; Yellow-rumped Warbler 122; Palm Warbler 2; Am. Tree Sparrow 20; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 22; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 17; Dark-eyed Junco 37; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 49; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 51; Pine Grosbeak 56; White-winged Crossbill 2; Am. Goldfinch 93; Evening Grosbeak 140.

Total 75 species, about 7501 individuals. (CP: Black-legged Kittiwake, Dovekie). Margaret Churchill, Bill Crosby, Chris Crosby, Donna Crosby, Russel Crosby (compiler), Bill Curry, Emerson Fiske, June Graves, Laura McLaughlan, Robert Turner, Carmen Williams, David Young, Joan Young.

PUBNICO, Dec. 29; 8AM to 5PM. Mostly clear AM. Partly cloudy PM. Wind light. Temp. 1C. Fresh water frozen. 37 observers in 5 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 40 (28 on foot, 12 by car). Total party miles 258 (25 on foot, 233 by car).

Red-throated Loon 12; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 8; Great Blue Heron 3; Am. Black Duck 22; Greater Scaup 2; Com. Eider 17; Oldsquaw 35; Black Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 140; Com. Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 23; Bald Eagle 4; N. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Am. Kestrel 1; Rough-legged Hawk 10; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 1; Killdeer 1; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 7; Herring Gull 984; Iceland Gull 2; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 353; Thick-billed Murre 1; Rock Dove 7; Mourning Dove 22; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 2; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 21; Am. Crow 182; Com. Raven 31; Bl.-capped Chickadee 131; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch 12; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 19; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; Am. Robin 11; Water Pipit 6; N. Shrike 1; European Starling 370; Yellow-rumped Warbler 7; Am. Tree Sparrow 21; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 20; White-throated Sparrow 25; Dark-eyed Junco 65; Snow Bunting 12; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Com. Grackle

1; Br.-headed Cowbird 35; N. Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 7; Am. Goldfinch 20; Evening Grosbeak 274; House Sparrow 56.

Total 64 species, about 3028 individuals. (CP: Great Cormorant, Canada Goose, N. Goshawk, Com. Bl.-headed Gull, Bl.-legged Kittiwake, Horned Lark, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow). Judithe Adam, C.R.K. Allen, Daryl Amirault, Stephen Bourque, Joan Brett, Peter Brett, Margaret Churchill, Albert d'Entremont, Delisle d'Entremont, Gilbert d'Entremont, Jacqueline d'Entremont, Onil d'Entremont, Peter d'Entremont, Raymond d'Entremont, Roger d'Entremont, Janet D'Eon, Jerome D'Eon, Lester D'Eon, Maurice D'Eon, Milton D'Eon, Ted. C. D'Eon (compiler), Wendell D'Eon, Phyllis Dobson, June Graves, Edgar Hamilton, Vernita Hamilton, Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Goldie Jenkins, John Kearney, Greg Murnhy, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters, Barbara Ruff, Eric Ruff, David Young, Joan Young.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 29; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Mostly clear. Wind 10mph. Temp. -12 to -5C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 15 observers in 3 parties, 9 at feeding stations. Total party hours 17 (7 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles 51 (6 on foot, 45 by car).

Canada Goose 21; Am. Black Duck 313; Com. Merganser 80; Bald Eagle 6a., limm.; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Ruffed Grouse 15; Herring Gull 31; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 2; Rock Dove 188; Mourning Dove 2; Downy Woodpecker 12; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 68; Am. Crow 235; Com. Raven 58; Bl.-capped Chickadee 121; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 13; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 42; European Starling 949; Am. Tree Sparrow 15; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 48; Com. Grackle 10; Br.-headed Cowbird 65; Pine Grosbeak 2; White-winged Crossbill 38; Pine Siskin 76; Am. Goldfinch 36; Evening Grosbeak 222; House Sparrow 98.

Total 38 species, about 2810 individuals. Mark Anthony, Frances Cook, Cathy Etter, Mary Geddes, Phil MacBeth, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler), Eldon Pace, Nancy Reid, Florence Robb, Jean Schwartz, Connie Stott, Annie Wallace, David Wallace, Faye Wallace, Lorne Weaver.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 23; 8AM to 1PM. Wind S 5kmh. Temp. -14 to -3C. Fresh water frozen. 6 observers in 3 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 15 (10 on foot, 5 by car). Total party miles 80 (5 on foot, 75 by car).

Am. Black Duck 10; Com. Merganser 6; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 18; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 2; Rock Dove 102; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 17; Am. Crow 270; Com. Raven 23; Bl.-capped Chickadee 17; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 6; European Starling 244; Am. Tree Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 20; Pine Grosbeak 101; Purple Finch 54; Red Crossbill 9; White-winged Crossbill 20; Com. Redpoll 34; Pine Siskin 57; Am. Goldfinch 12; Evening Grosbeak 248; House Sparrow 66.

Total 31 species, about 1366 individuals. (CP: Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, N. Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Bohemian Waxwing, Snow Bunting, Br.-headed Cowbird). Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Calder Fraser, Fred Kenney (compiler), Margaret Kenney.

ST. PETER'S, Jan. 5; Mostly clear. No wind. Temp. 5C. Fresh water frozen.

Red-throated Loon 1; Surf Scoter 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 7; Com. Murre 2; Mourning Dove 1; Blue Jay 8; Am. Crow 11; Com. Raven 1; Bl.-capped Chickadee 4; N. Mockingbird 1; European Starling 18; Am. Tree Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Snow Bunting 1; Purple Finch 6; Pine Siskin 4; Am. Goldfinch 4; Evening Grosbeak 40; House Sparrow 30.

Total 24 species, about 155 individuals. (CP: Bald Eagle).

Murdock Digout (compiler).

SYDNEY, Jan. 2; 8AM to 12:00PM. Partly cloudy to overcast with snow. High wind. 2 observers in 1 party. Total party hours 6 (1 on foot, 5 by car). Total party miles 15 ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile on foot, $14\frac{1}{2}$ by car).

Oldsquaw 1; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 2; Herring Gull 400; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 60; Am. Crow 75; Com. Raven 12; Bl.-capped Chickadee 4; European Starling 150; Am. Goldfinch 30; Evening Grosbeak 40; House Sparrow 12.

Total 12 species, about 787 individuals. Ottis Cossitt, Eldon Meikle (compiler).

TODD'S ISLAND, Dec. 22; 9AM to 4PM. Clear AM. Partly cloudy PM. Wind W light. Temp. -12 to -5C. Fresh water frozen. 2 observers in 1 party, 1 at feeding station. Total party hours 5 (1 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles $23\frac{1}{2}$ ($1\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 22 by car).

Horned Grebe 11; Am. Black Duck 40; Mallard 3; Oldsquaw 7; Com. Goldeneye 22; Com. Merganser 15; Bald Eagle 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Herring Gull 30; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 4; Rock Dove 4; Belted Kingfisher 1; Blue Jay 2; Am. Crow 25; Com. Raven 1; Bl.-capped Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Bohemian Waxwing 4; European Starling 40; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Br.-headed Cowbird 4; Am. Goldfinch 2; Evening Grosbeak 60.

Total 24 species, about 289 individuals. Dot Dorey, Ted Dorey (compiler).

YARMOUTH, Dec. 22; 8AM to 5PM. Mostly cloudy. Wind 5-30mph. Temp. -3C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 25 observers in 6 parties, 8 at feeding stations. Total party hours $42\frac{1}{2}$ ($12\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 30 by car). Total party miles 314 (15 on foot, 299 by car).

Com. Loon 7; Red-necked Grebe 3; Great Cormorant 2; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 585; Green-winged Teal 1; Am. Black Duck 471; Mallard 3; Ring-necked Duck 1; Com. Eider 13; Oldsquaw 41; Com. Goldeneye 48; Bufflehead 9; Com. Merganser 99; Red-breasted Merganser 50; Bald Eagle 3a., 2imm.; N. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Purple Sandpiper 7; snipe/woodcock 1; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 917; Iceland Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt.Bl.-backed Gull 88; Rock Dove 30; Mourning Dove 22; N. Saw-whet Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 3; N. Flicker 4; Horned Lark 82; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 49; Am. Crow 319; Com. Raven 41; Bl.-capped Chickadee 123; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 6; Hermit Thrush 1; Am. Robin 3; N. Mockingbird 5; N. Shrike 1; European Starling 836; Yellow-rumped Warbler 4; N. Cardinal 3; Am. Tree Sparrow 19; Chipping Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 28; White-throated Sparrow 72; Dark-eyed Junco 157; Red-winged Blackbird 18; Com. Grackle 41; Br.-headed Cowbird 114; N. Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 26; Am. Goldfinch 43; Evening Grosbeak 336; House Sparrow 314.

Total 66 species, about 5106 individuals. (CP: Ruffed Grouse, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl). Charles Allen, Stephen Bourque, Peter Comeau, Raymond d'Entremont, Milton D'Eon, Ted D'Eon, Phyllis Dobson, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Phyllis Hayes, Marion Hilton, Sylvia Hilton, Carol Jacquard, Burland Murphy, Oscar Nauss, Joanne Newell, Margaret Nickerson, Arthur Porter, Ingrid Prosser, Hilda Robbins, Robin Rymer, Barbara & Eric Ruff (compilers), Vera Sollows, John Young.

Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals

1985 Christmas Count

The following is the list of species seen in this year's Christmas Count, and where the highest number of individuals were recorded in the province.

This year's list has only 13 new high counts (numbers underlined)

which is one of the lowest totals in a number of years. The new specie added to the list this year brings the Nova Scotia total to 214 species plus 3 additional races.

As usual, Halifax West recorded the largest number of high counts (40), followed by Halifax East (24), Port Hebert (18), Yarmouth (13), and Pubnico (7).

Red-throated Loon 12 (Pubnico); Com. Loon 50 (Broad Cove); Horned Grebe 48 (Port Hebert); Red-necked Grebe 45 (Digby); N. Gannet 3 (Brier Island); Great Cormorant 199 (Halifax West); Double-crested Cormorant 4 (Halifax West); Great Blue Heron 3 (Port Hebert & Pubnico); Canada Goose 3859 (Port Hebert); Wood Duck 1 (Annapolis); Green-winged Teal 2 (Halifax West); Am. Black Duck 1491 (Halifax West); Mallard 63 (Halifax West); N. Pintail 3 (Halifax West); Ring-necked Duck 1 (Yarmouth); Greater Scaup 400 (Broad Cove); Com. Eider 1145 (Broad Cove); Harlequin Duck 6 (Halifax West); Oldsquaw 250 (Digby); Black Scoter 328 (Port Hebert); Surf Scoter 33 (Port Hebert); White-winged Scoter 79 (Halifax West); Com. Goldeneye 194 (Port Hebert); Bufflehead 280 (Digby); Hooded Merganser 1 (Cape Breton Highlands National Park); Com. Merganser 99 (Yarmouth); Red-breasted Merganser 111 (Port Hebert);

Osprey 1 (Halifax East); Bald Eagle 15 (Margaree); N. Harrier 3 (Halifax East & Yarmouth); Sharp-shinned Hawk 6 (Halifax West); N. Goshawk 1 (Cheticamp & Halifax East); Red-tailed Hawk 11 (Kingston); Rough-legged Hawk 10 (Pubnico); Am. Kestrel 1 (Pubnico); Merlin 3 (Halifax East & Halifax West); Gray Partridge 10 (Economy); Ring-necked Pheasant 28 (Kingston); Spruce Grouse 2 (Cape Breton Highlands National Park & Middle Musquidoboit); Ruffed Grouse 20 (Economy); Am. Coot 1 (Halifax West); Black-bellied Plover 3 (Broad Cove); Killdeer 2 (Halifax West); Ruddy Turnstone 8 (Port Hebert); Red Knot 2 (Halifax East); Sanderling 7 (Broad Cove & Port Hebert); Purple Sandpiper 153 (Port Hebert); Dunlin 8 (Halifax East); Com. Snipe 1 (Port Hebert); Am. Woodcock 1 (Port Hebert).

Com. Bl.-headed Gull 60 (Halifax East); Bonaparte's Gull 4 (Digby); Ring-billed Gull 113 (Halifax East); Herring Gull 4388 (Halifax West); Iceland Gull 198 (Halifax West); Lesser Black-backed Gull 3 (Halifax West); Glaucous Gull 4 (Annapolis, Cheticamp & Halifax West); Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 775 (Halifax West); Bl.-legged Kittiwake 69 (Brier Island); Com. Tern 1 (Halifax West); Dovekie 18 (Halifax West); Com. Murre 2 (St. Peter's); Thick-billed Murre 9 (Halifax West); Razorbill 2 (Halifax West); Black Guillemot 34 (Halifax West); Atlantic Puffin 1 (Halifax East); Rock Dove 1522 (Halifax West); Mourning Dove 75 (Halifax East); Great Horned Owl 3 (Port Hebert); Snowy Owl 1 (Middle Musquidoboit); Barred Owl 1 (Amherst, Economy, Eskasoni, Halifax West, Port Hebert & Pubnico); Short-eared Owl 1 (Economy); N. Saw-whet Owl 1 (Yarmouth).

Belted Kingfisher 2 (Halifax East); Downy Woodpecker 31 (Halifax West); Hairy Woodpecker 11 (Economy); Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1 (Economy & Shubenacadie); N. (Yel.-sh.) Flicker 8 (Port Hebert); Pileated Woodpecker 3 (Economy); Horned Lark 82 (Yarmouth); Gray Jay 10 (Annapolis, Cape Breton Highlands National Park & Port Hebert); Blue Jay 241 (Annapolis); Am. Crow 707 (Halifax West); Com. Raven 96 (Broad Cove). Bl.-capped Chickadee 626 (Halifax West); Boreal Chickadee 67 (Halifax East); Red-breasted Nuthatch 21 (Cape Breton Highlands National Park & Kejimikujik National Park); White-breasted Nuthatch 9 (Kingston); Brown Creeper 11 (Halifax West); Golden-crowned Kinglet 110 (Halifax East); Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 (Halifax East & Pubnico); Hermit Thrush 1 (Yarmouth); Am. Robin 25 (Halifax West); Varied Thrush 1 (Halifax East); Gray Catbird 2 (Halifax West); N. Mockingbird 6 (Halifax West); Water Pipit 7 (Halifax East); Bohemian Waxwing 110 (Amherst); Cedar Waxwing 6 (Kingston); N. Shrike 3 (Bridgetown).

European Starling 6946 (Halifax West); Orange-crowned Warbler 1 (Halifax West); Yellow-rumped (Myr.) Warbler 122 (Port Hebert); Pine Warbler 1 (Halifax East); Palm Warbler 2 (Port Hebert); N. Cardinal 3 (Yarmouth); Dickcissel 2 (Halifax West); Rufous-sided Towhee 1 (Halifax

fax West); Am. Tree Sparrow 264 (Amherst); Chipping Sparrow 2 (Yarmouth); Lark Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); Savannah Sparrow 17 (Halifax East); Sharp-tailed Sparrow 4 (Halifax East); Fox Sparrow 4 (Halifax East); Song Sparrow 121 (Halifax West); Swamp Sparrow 21 (Halifax East); White-throated Sparrow 72 (Yarmouth); White-crowned Sparrow 1 (Amherst); Dark-eyed (Sl.-col.) Junco 157 (Yarmouth); Lapland Longspur 5 (Halifax East); Snow Bunting 893 (Amherst).

Red-winged Blackbird 18 (Yarmouth); E. Meadowlark 1 (Broad Cove & Halifax East); Yellow-headed Blackbird 1 (Halifax West); Rusty Blackbird 2 (Eskasoni); Com. Grackle 41 (Yarmouth); Br.-headed Cowbird 377 (Halifax West); N. (Bal.) Oriole 1 (Pubnico & Yarmouth); Pine Grosbeak 101 (Springville); Purple Finch 54 (Springville); Red Crossbill 9 (Springville); White-winged Crossbill 150 (Antigonish); Com. Redpoll 458 (Economy); Pine Siskin 76 (Shubenacadie); Am. Goldfinch 494 (Kingston); Evening Grosbeak 2141 (Halifax West); House Sparrow 1314 (Halifax West).

N.S.B.S. Christmas Bird Count Report Forms and Rules

As the number of bird counts increase each year, it takes more and more time to produce them in the newsletter. The following are some basic instructions on how to fill out the count form. If these instructions are followed, it should make it quicker and easier for us to produce the Christmas Count issue.

1. Name of Count: Preferably the village or area in which your count is carried out.
2. Date: The date the count was carried out. It must be within the count period as published by the N.S.B.S. or your count will not appear in the Newsletter.*
3. Time: The time of day your count began, and the time it ended should be specified. (Dawn to dusk counts are preferred).
4. Base Point: This means the center of your 15 mile circle. Do not overlap a previously established count.
5. Weather: Circle the appropriate weather conditions only.
6. Wind: Give appropriate speed and direction only.
7. Temperature: Give the appropriate temperature, ranging from low to high, in Centigrade only.
8. Fresh water frozen: Answer yes or no.
9. Number of Observers: Total number of people taking part in the count, including feeder watchers.
10. Number of Parties: The total number of parties in the field (does not include feeder watchers), i.e. 6 people together is one party--if they all separate, then they are 6 parties.
11. Feeding Stations: The number of feeding stations that had observers watching them.
12. Total Party Hours: The total number of hours spent in the

field by all parties, i.e. 5 parties in the field from 8AM to 4PM would be 5 X 8 or 40 party hours. Then state how many hours were spent on foot, in the car, etc.

13. Total Party Miles: Add up the number of miles travelled during the day by all parties (how many miles by foot, car, etc.). The grand total will be the total party miles for the count.
14. Observers: List all observers in alphabetical order.
15. Compiler: Give full name and address.
16. The Checklist: Please use the list supplied to you in the Newsletter--no old forms or blank sheets of paper.* If you do have to write in the name of a species, please provide the compiler with the details.
17. Count Period Birds: Only birds seen during the count period are allowed. When writing them down, put "CP" beside the specie name on the count form only.
18. Checking Addition: Please double-check all addition for number of species and number of individuals. Do not include CP birds in these totals.

* Counts - 1986-87 will be done from Dec. 18, 1986 to January 4, 1987, inclusive.

* Forms will be included in the Fall Flyer as usual

Ross & Mary Anderson

SURVEY OF 19TH CENTURY ORNITHOLOGY IN NOVA SCOTIA

Part II. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ian A. McLaren

The first part dealt with the occurrences of rare and unusual species in Nova Scotia in early times. This part lists all the references used in that work together with many others with more routine contents. I comment briefly on the content of most of these writings, and sometimes on the authors of them. What follows is by no means a complete, or even thorough, survey, but may do as a first effort.

Allen, F.H. 1891. Birds of the Bras d'Or region of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. *Auk* 8: 164-166.
Adds 18 species, Baddeck region, to Dwight's (1887) list - none noteworthy.

Allen, F.H. 1895. Some notes on Cape Breton summer birds. *Auk* 12: 89-90.

Based on a list by "the late Frank Bolles during the first two weeks of August, 1893." Adds White-winged Crossbill and Black-throated Blue Warbler to earlier lists of Allen (1891) and Dwight (1887). He also adds Whip-poor-will and Vesper Sparrow on heresay.

Allen, J.A. 1879. Notes on the sea-birds of the Grand Banks. *Bull. Nuttall Ornith. Club.* 4: 127-128.

In fact, observations largely on Sable Island Bank. Of interest is perhaps first clearly N.S. record of a Skua species.

Ambrose, I. [= J]. 1860. [A letter to J.M. Jones, communicated by Dr. H. Bryant]. *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.* 7: 367-368.

He describes visiting "Green Island" (= Pearl Island, Lunenburg Co.) and gives an account of "petrels" in their burrows.

Ambrose, J. 1864. Some account of the petrel - the sea serpent - and the albicore - as observed at St. Margaret's Bay, - together with a few observations on a beach-mound, or kitchen-midden, near French Village. *Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Nat. Sci.* 1(2): 35-44.

Same on petrels as Ambrose (1860).

Ambrose, J. 1865. Observations on the sea-birds frequenting the coast of St. Margaret's Bay, N.S. *Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Nat. Sci.* 1 (3): 51-59.

Gives a surprisingly complete list.

Anonymous. 1898. A Golden Eagle at Bear Island, Nova Scotia. *Amer. Field* 24: 585.

[Not seen.]

Anonymous. 1889a. [Untitled]. *Ornithologist and Oologist.* 14(1): 14.
Report of night heron (sp?) and Common Moorhen in Halifax ca. 18 November 1888, per H. Austen.

Anonymous, 1889b. [Untitled]. *Ornithologist and Oologist* 14(3): 47.
Report of E. Meadowlark, 16 February 1889, per A. Downs, Halifax.

Anonymous, 1889c. [Untitled]. *Ornithologist and Oologist* 14(5): 77.
Spring arrival of Yellow-rumped Warblers, per H. Austen.

- Austen, H. 1890a. Notes from Dartmouth, N.S. *Ornithologist and Oologist* 15(7): 103.
Notes on nests of 5 common species and, doubtfully, Tree Sparrow, with no details on the last.
- Austen, H. 1890b. Further notes on the nesting of the Ruby-Crowned Kinglet. *Ornithologist and Oologist* 15(7): 111.
- Austen, H. 1892. Notes from Nova Scotia. *Ornithologist and Oologist* 17(7): 97-99.
Describes nestings of commonplace species.
- Bishop, W. 1888. How a set of snipe's eggs were saved. *Ornithologist and Oologist* 13(2): 105-106.
- Blakiston, T. 1857. [Addendum to Blakiston and Bland 1856.] *Naturalist (Lond.)* 7: 39.
Corrects nomenclature of Chimney Swift and Common Redpoll and adds Boreal Chickadee.
- Blakiston, [T], and [R.E.] Bland. 1856. A list of the birds of Nova Scotia, as far as ascertained, compiled mostly from actual observation, in the years 1852-3-4 and 5. Land birds. *Naturalist (Lond.)* 6: 268-271.
- Blakiston, [T], and [R.E.] Bland. 1857. A list of the birds of Nova Scotia, as far as ascertained, compiled mostly from actual observation, in the years 1852-3-4 and 5. Waterbirds. *Naturalist (Lond.)* 7: 103-106.
These two lists, with very terse annotations, include 120 land birds and 84 water (and marsh and shore) birds respectively. Seventeen land birds and 12 water birds are included "on the authority of Mr. Andrew Downs." However, in general the lists of Blakiston and Bland have an air of accuracy and sophistication that is unmatched in most later 19th century accounts, including those of Downs. The account by Willis (1859) is an almost exact copy of those by Blakiston and Bland.
- Boardman, G.A. 1876. The Labrador Duck. *Forest and Stream* 6: 181.
One of the most explicit responses to a call for information by Baird, stating that ca. 1845-50 "it was not uncommon about the mouth of the Bay of Fundy..."
- Brewer, T.M. 1852. A few ornithological facts gathered in a hasty trip through portions of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in June, 1850. *Boston J. Nat. Hist.* 6: 297-308.
A visit to Downs in Halifax helped straighten out prevailing confusion on Hermit and Swainson's Thrush. The other "facts" are on N.B. birds.
- Brewer, T.M. 1877. Willet. *Forest and Stream* 9: 144.
Obtained eggs from Halifax.
- Brewer, T.M. 1878. Changes in our North American avifauna. *Bull. Nuttall Ornith. Club* 3(2): 49-52.
Comments on Halifax Green Sandpiper.
- Brewer, W. 1883. Notes [on birds of] the Gulf of St. Lawrence. *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.* 22: 364-412.
A few common species noted around Port Hawkesbury. Also comments on Lincoln's Sparrow breeding near Halifax.

- Bryant, H. 1857. A list of birds observed at Grand Manan and at Yarmouth, N.S., from June 16 to July 8, 1856. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. 6: 114-123.
The paper runs into an open-ended discussion. Includes important observations on breeding Leach's Storm-Petrel, N. Gannets, Laughing Gulls, and alcids.
- Bryant, H. 1862. Monograph of the genus Catarractes, Moehring. Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. 8: 134-144.
States that Common Murre was then breeding near Seal Island (not on the island, per Tufts 1962, 1973). Probably refers to the islands near Yarmouth mentioned in the above work.
- Chadbourne, A.P. 1889. An unusual flight of Killdeer Plover (Aegialitis vocifera) along the New England Coast. Auk 6: 255-263.
Includes lightkeeper reports on this movement in late November, 1889, from Cape Sable, Negro I., Seal I., and Brier I.
- Chamberlin, M. 1881. Remarkable flight of birds. Ornithologist and Oologist 6: 53.
Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Buntings and Green-backed Herons on Brier Island after on April gale. Very like recent occurrences.
- Chamberlin, M. 1887a. A Catalogue of Canadian Birds with Notes on the Distribution of the species. J. & A. McMillan, Saint John, N.B.
Includes a number of first mentions of species for Nova Scotia.
- Chamberlin, M. 1887b. The Florida Gallinule in Nova Scotia. Auk 4: 253.
- Chamberlin, M. 1887c. The Baltimore Oriole (Icterus galbula) in Nova Scotia. Auk. 4: 258.
- Collins, J.W. 1884a. Notes on certain Laridae and Procelleridae of the New England Coast. Auk 1: 236-238.
Corrects errors in Coues' "New England Bird Life," and includes records from Banquereau Bank. Notes his forthcoming work (Collins 1884b).
- Collins, J.W. 1884b. Notes on the habits and methods of capture of various species of sea birds that occur on the fishing banks off the eastern coast of North America, and which were used as bait for catching codfish by New England Fishermen. U.S. Bur. Fisheries. Ann. Rep. U.S. Comm. Fisheries, 1882: 311-338.
This is a fascinating account of sea birds and methods used by fishermen to capture them for bait. Most of the observations were in (now) Newfoundland and Nova Scotian waters. Many specimens from Nova Scotian waters were probably taken at this time and doubtless will be found in the Smithsonian and other U.S. Museums. The article was reprinted as "Notes on the capture of sea birds" in 1884 issues of Forest and Stream, Vol. 23, pp. 364-365, 383-387.
- Deane, R. 1879. The Frigate Pelican in Nova Scotia. Bull. Nuttall Ornith. Club 4: 64.
This is a first report of this specimen.
- Downs, A. 1865. On the land birds of Nova Scotia. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 1(3): 38-51.

- Downs, A. 1866. On the land birds of Nova Scotia. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 1(4): 130-136.
Downs was the best-known Nova Scotian naturalist of his day. In these two lists, he gives the status of 91 species. There are a number of errors and lapses in his accounts, and in many ways they add little to the list of 120 land birds presented a decade earlier by Blakiston and Bland (q.v.). Although he states that he hopes "to complete the whole of the land birds" in a later publication, he evidently did not do so until rendering his complete account of all species in 1888 (q.v.).
- Downs, A. 1886. Pied or Labrador Duck. Proc. Trans N.S. Inst. Sci. 6: 326-327.
Adds little to our knowledge.
- Downs, A. 1888. A catalogue of the birds of Nova Scotia. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 7: 142-178.
This is the best known 19th century account, and "presents all the birds we have personally observed. With one or two additional ones," totalling 234 species. Because he uses A.O.U. check-list nomenclature, some earlier puzzles are clarified. However, Downs fails to refer to a number of well-established earlier records of some species and is very spare in his comments, there being little information on dates and localities for some rare specimens. The paper was "arranged and edited by Harry Piers", who may have expunged it of some less professional judgements. Although Downs claims his work is "the result of sixty years of practical field work," his accounts do not seem to reflect the kind of field knowledge of, for example, Matthew Jones (q.v.).
- Dutcher, W. 1891. The Labrador Duck: a revised list of the extant specimens in North America with some historical notes. Auk 8: 201-214.
Helps to straighten out tangled provenance and disposition of N.S. specimens.
- Dutcher, W. 1894. The Labrador Duck - another specimen, with additional data respecting extant specimens. Auk 11: 4.
Puts N.S. specimens in perspective.
- Dwight, J. 1887. Summer birds of the Bras d'Or region of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Auk 4: 13-16.
Lists 59 species, most commonplace, but including Virginia Rail, with a query, and Coccyzus sp?
- Dwight, 1895. The Ipswich Sparrow (Ammodrammus princeps) and its summer home. Mem. Nuttall Ornithol. Club No. 1, 56 p.
A monographic treatment.
- Dwight, J. 1896. The Mockingbird (Mimus polyglottos) in Canada. Auk 13: 344.
Notes McLennan's (1829) record and adds one for Sable Island, 1894.
- Dwight, J. 1897. A species of Shearwater (Puffinus assimilis Gould) new to the North American fauna.
A first report, from Sable Island.

Gesner, A. 1842. Birds of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Synopsis of the Contents of Gesner's Museum of Natural History at Saint John, N.B., pp. 41-46. Saint John, N.B., Henry Chubb.

Gesner's list is the first to use the developing scientific nomenclature of the day, so his supposed species are readily identifiable, even when there is doubt about occurrence. He lists 33 species from N.S., including an unknown rail species, evidently not Virginia Rail or Sora. The identity of specimens supposed to be Cooper's Hawk and E. Screech Owls can be questioned. Others are not unusual.

Gilpin, J.B. 1872. On the eagles of Nova Scotia. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 3: 202-209.

A fulsome account of the two species.

[Gilpin, J.] 1877. [Communication on a dead pelican]. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 4: 234.

Gilpin, J.B. 1880. On the semi-annual migration of sea fowl in Nova Scotia. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 5: 138-151.

A lengthy and ill-written account of the 27 waterfowl known to him, adding only the Lesser Scaup to the list of Blakiston and Bland (1857, q.v.), leaving out Gadwall and Ruddy Duck of that earlier list, and inserting Barnacle Goose - certainly misidentified Snow Goose. There is a brief mention of some other seabirds.

Gilpin, J.B. 1881. On the birds of prey of Nova Scotia. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 5: 255-268.

Another rambling paper, with accounts of 9 species of owls and 14 diurnal raptors, with casual mention of 2 others. It is an improvement over the effort of Blakiston and Bland (1856, q.v.), with elimination of the unknown "sparrow owl" and addition of Cooper's Hawk and Peregrine. However, Jones' (1879) list (q.v.) seems to have a more reasonable perspective on status of the various species.

Gilpin, J.B. 1882a. Shore birds of Nova Scotia. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 5: 376-387.

A rambling and at times confusing account, with several serious typographical errors. He includes a list ("classed after Dr. Coues") of 27 species, but does not give any account of several less likely ones in the text, while giving anecdotes about others.

Gilpin, J.B., 1882b. Rare birds in Nova Scotia. Ornithologist and Oologist 7: 122-123.

A brief account of past and recent records of Pomarine Jaeger, Great Auk, Purple Gallinule, Common Moorhen, Magnificent Frigatebird, White-tailed Tropic Bird, N. Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird, and White-winged Crossbill.

Gilpin, J.B. 1882c. The birds of prey of Nova Scotia. Can. Sportsman and Naturalist 2: 139-140, 153-155.

A replicate with a few typographical changes of Gilpin (1881), which is not acknowledged.

Goss, N.S. 1885. Wilson's Plover in Nova Scotia. Auk 2: 221-222.

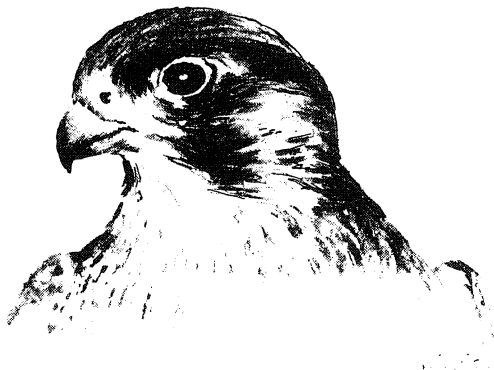
A specimen collected by him during a visit from the U.S. on 28 April, 1880.

- [Haliburton, T.C.] 1825. A general description of Nova Scotia, illustrated by a new and correct map. Halifax, N.S., Royal Acadian School.
- Sometimes attributed to C.H. Belcher, this list of 79 species, by popular names only, is the first comprehensive one for the province. Among the commonplace species (along with a number that are clear misnomers or unidentifiable), inclusion of Rufous-sided Towhee, Barn Owl and Chuck-will's-widow is tantalizing.
- Hickman, W.A. 1896. List of birds observed at Pictou, Nova Scotia, from first of January to first of July, 1895. *Ottawa Naturalist* 9: 231-235.
A tabulation with dates and brief comments. Includes a number of unlikely sightings.
- Jack, E. 1889. The Woodcock in Nova Scotia. *Shooting and Fishing* 7: 332-333.
[Not seen.]
- Jones, J.M. 1868. On some of the rarer birds of Nova Scotia. *Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci.* 2: 70-73.
Brief accounts of Great and Snowy Egret, King Eider, and Curlew, Pectoral and "Schinz's" Sandpipers. Includes a perceptive view of vagrancy as resulting from both weather patterns and navigational error.
- Jones, J.M. 1870a. Rare birds in Nova Scotia. *Am. Nat.* 4: 253.
Reports a Pomarine Jaeger, 4 October, and a Purple Gallinule, 30 January 1870.
- Jones, J.M. 1870b. On the gulls of Nova Scotia. *Can. Nat., N.S.*, 5: 231-232.
Lists 9 species of jaeger, gulls and terns.
- Jones, J.M. 1879. List of the birds of Nova Scotia - land birds. *Forest and Stream (N.Y.)* 12: 65-66, 105-106, 205, 245.
This is an account of 128 species. Jones' comments demonstrate a much better grasp of the province's avifauna than evinced by either of his contemporaries, Downs and Gilpin. Furthermore, he clearly used other sources, published and unpublished, effectively. His occasional lapses are forgivable.
- Jones, J.M. 1881a. The Pine Grosbeak and Robin in winter [in N.S.]. *Forest and Stream (N.Y.)* 16: 86.
- Jones, J.M. 1881b. Spring notes. *Forest and Stream (N.Y.)* 16: 367.
- Jones, J.M. 1882a. Spring notes. *Forest and Stream (N.Y.)* 18: 166.
- Jones, J.M. 1882b. Summer notes from Nova Scotia. *Forest and Stream (N.Y.)* 18: 487.
- Jones, J.M. 1882c. Winter notes from Nova Scotia. *Forest and Stream (N.Y.)* 19: 466.
- Jones, J.M. 1883a. Nova Scotia spring notes. *Forest and Stream (N.Y.)* 20: 285.
- Jones, J.M. 1883b. Nova Scotia summer notes. *Forest and Stream (N.Y.)* 21: 163.

- Jones, J.M. 1884a. Nova Scotia spring notes. Forest and Stream (N.Y.) 21: 285.
 In the above series, which includes flower phenologies, bird arrivals and departures, and sundry anecdotes, Jones establishes himself as the most active amateur Nova Scotian naturalist of his day.
- Jones, J.M. 1884b. Canada Goose in Nova Scotia. Ornithol. and Oologist 10: 175-176.
- Jones, J.M. 1885. Water birds of Nova Scotia. Forest and Stream 25: 43-44, 83, 123.
 This account, of 105 species, is most useful in spite of a few lapses in identification and nomenclature.
- Jones, J.M. 1886a. Occurrence of the Ivory Gull at Halifax. Forest and Stream 26: 487.
- Jones, T. [=J.] M. 1886b. Occurrence of the Ipswich Sparrow (Ammodramus princeps) in Nova Scotia. Auk 3: 135-136.
- Kempton, A.C. 1891. Fox Sparrow in Nova Scotia. Forest and Stream 34: 412.
 A rather doubtful description of nest and eggs.
- Langille, J.H. 1884. Bicknell's Thrush. Auk 1: 268-270.
 Describes visit to Mud and Seal Islands and discovery of nesting "Bicknell's" (Gray-cheeked) Thrushes.
- Langille, J.H. 1892. [Discussion of Seal Island thrushes] p. 511-513 in Our Birds and Their Haunts. Orange Judd Co., N.Y.
- McKinlay, J. 1885. Field notes from Pictou County, Nova Scotia. Auk 2: 39-43.
 Some useful information on changes in status of species, and records of Scarlet Tanager, Glossy Ibis.
- McKinlay, J. 1899. The Corn Crake in Nova Scotia. Auk 14: 75-76.
 Ca. 1875 in Pictou Co., October.
- McLaren, I.A. 1981. The birds of Sable Island. Proc. N.S. Inst. Sci 31 (1): 1-84.
 Gives a review of 19th Century birds and ornithology of the island.
- McLennan, J. 1889. [Mockingbird in Nova Scotia] Ornithologist and Oologist 14: 126.
 First record.
- Morrell, C.H. 1899. Some winter birds of Nova Scotia. Auk 16: 250-253.
 Mostly routine observations by an American visitor, 1 December 1897 to 4 April 1898. Also possible record of Three-toed Woodpecker.
- Newcomb, R.L. 1887. Seabird notes of the Grampus. Forest and Stream (N.Y.) 28: 152-153.
 Usual species, but also Skua species off "LaHave Ridges." Some casual notes on landbirds at Shelburne.
- Page, G.S. 1890. Landbirds at sea. Forest and Stream 35: 372.
 Routine.

- Piers, H. 1890. Notes on Nova Scotian zoology. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 467-474.
Purple Gallinule, Am. Woodcock, Red and White-winged Crossbills, N. Junco, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets.
- Piers, H. 1891. Snow Buntings in Nova Scotia. Ornithologist and Oologist 16(2): 23.
- Piers, H. 1892a. Notes on Nova Scotian zoology, No. 2. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 8: 175-184.
Records or nests of King Eider, Canada Goose, Green-backed Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Virginia Rail, Red Phalarope, Killdeer, Rough-legged Hawk, Saw-whet Owl, N. Hawk Owl, Snowy Owl, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Canada Jay, Am. Crow, Bay-breasted and Palm Warbler, Winter Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.
- Piers, H. 1892b. On the nidification of the Winter Wren in Nova Scotia. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 8: 203-207.
- Piers, H. 1894. Notes on Nova Scotian zoology: No. 3. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 8: 395-410.
Records of Red-necked and Horned Grebes, Ivory, Ring-billed and Laughing Gulls, Caspian and Black Terns, Brown Pelican, Redhead, King Eider, Snow Goose, Brant, Glossy Ibis, Clapper Rail, Red and Red-necked Phalaropes, Ruff, Spruce and Ruffed Grouse, Mourning Dove, Gyrfalcon, Peregrine, Saw-whet, Screech and N. Hawk Owl, Pileated and Red-headed Woodpeckers, Chuck-will's-widow, Common Nighthawk, E. Kingbird Bobolink, Orchard Oriole, Common Grackle, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Martin, Bank Swallow, Bohemian Waxwing, and N. Mockingbird.
- Piers, H. 1897. Notes on Nova Scotian zoology: No. 4. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 255-267.
Records or nestings of Roseate Tern, Mallard, Wood Duck, King Eider, Least Bittern, Little Blue Heron, Purple Gallinule, Common Snipe, Eur. Lapwing, Mourning Dove, Black Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Peregrine, N. Hawk Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Am. Crow, Bobolink, E. Meadowlark, Common Grackle, N. Shrike, Bay-breasted and Blackburnian Warblers, Winter Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. In this and preceding "Notes" Piers documents a number of new species for the province. However, he lists as new others that had been previously reported, and also misses some earlier records. In general, though, his work is decidedly "professional," compared with many earlier accounts.
- Piers, H. 1898. Remarkable ornithological occurrences in Nova Scotia. Auk 15: 195-196.
Records of Least Bittern, Little Blue Heron, Purple Gallinule Eur. Lapwing, Black Vulture, an albinistic Am. Crow, Winter Wren nest.
- Piers, H. 1914. The Occurrence of European birds in Nova Scotia. Proc. Trans. N.S. Inst. Sci. 13: 228-239.
Includes several 19th century records.
- Ridgway, R. 1884. The probable breeding place of the Ipswich Sparrow. Auk 1: 292-293.
Inferred from a set of eggs collected on Sable Island.
- Ryan, W. D'H. 1892. Nesting of the Wood Pewee in Nova Scotia. Ornithologist and Oologist 17(6): 87-88.

- Smith, E. 1884. Sharp-tailed and Sea-side Finches. Forest and Stream (N.Y.) 23-405.
Former nesting as far as Tantramar Marshes.
- Stone, Witmer. 1892. Birds collected by the West Greenland expedition. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1892: 145-152.
Includes a dozen species taken at Sydney, N.S., en route. Nothing unexpected.
- Trotter, S. 1904. Some Nova Scotia birds. Auk 21: 55-64. Anecdotal account of birds seen in Shelburne Co. in three summers before the turn of the century. Little of interest.
- Tufts, H.F. 1896. Wilson's Snipe in Nova Scotia in winter. Auk 13: 341.
- Tufts, H.F. 1898-1899. Notes on the birds of King's Co., Nova Scotia. Ottawa-Naturalist 12: 173-177, 229-233. 359-262.
- Whitelaw, Marjory. (Ed.) 1978. The Dalhousie Journals. Oberon Press. Mentions (p. 90) Whip-poor-wills near Truro on 17 July 1818 and (p. 192) an Am. Woodcock's nest at Lr. Sackville on 28 April 1820.
- Willis, J.R. 1859. List of birds of Nova Scotia. Compiled from notes made by Lieutenant Blakiston, R.A., and Lieutenant Bland, R.E., made in 1852-1855. Ann. Rep. Board Regents Smithsonian Inst., 1858: 280-286.
A virtually exact copy of the lists published by Blakiston and Bland (q.v.).
- "X.Y.Z." 1887. Land birds at sea. Forest and Stream 27: 323.
A Ruffed Grouse came aboard at Chetigan [sic.], C.B., and an Am. Crow at Pubnico.



EASTERN PEREGRINE FALCON.

R. DICKIE.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
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