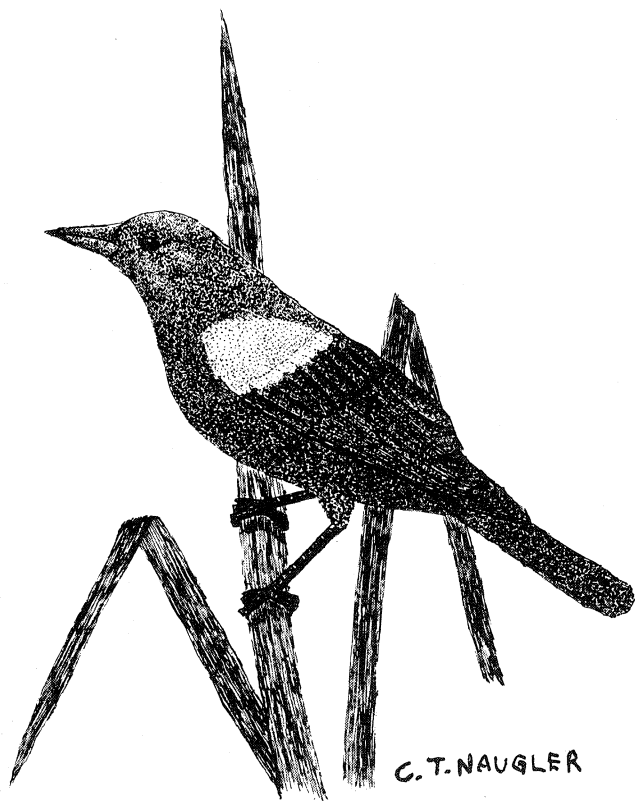


*Nova Scotia
Birds*



April 1987

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
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WINTER 1986-1987

November was one of the coldest on record, indeed, several low temperature records were set for that month this year. Our province had almost double the usual amount of snow most of which fell on the 19th. Nova Scotia received the full force of an early snow storm on that day with a total of 28.2 cm. (11 inches) of snow recorded at the Halifax International Airport. December, on the other hand was sunny and dry with below normal amounts of snow for the period. January was cold and snowy with above average amounts of snow. Six big snowstorms swept across the Maritimes dumping a total of 67 cm (26½ ins.) of snow.

Where are the EVENING GROSBEAKS? With weather like this who could blame them for not hanging around here? Look at it this way, we already have next year's supply of sunflower seeds.

The severe weather may be the reason for our numbers being down over last winter. Seventy nine hardy souls braved the elements and sent in a total of 1004 reports on 157 species. This is about fifteen percent fewer reporters and seven percent fewer species but we did receive ten rarities not found on our check list.

A special thanks to Keith Keddy for faithfully supplying the weather information and to all the following for the bird reports.

Charlie Allen (CRKA), Norman Bay (NB), Pearl Bay (PB), Dick Brown (RBBB), Stephen Bushell (SSB), Karen Kastleman (KLC), Margaret E Churchill (MEC), John Cohrs (JLC), Shirley Cohrs (JSC), G. Crowell (GC), David Currie (DAC), N. Dawe (ND), Martin Delorey (MD), Burton D'Entremont (BD), Delisle D'Entremont (DJD), Raymond D'Entremont (RSD), Jerome D'Eon (JKD), Ted D'Eon (TCD), Helen Dickie (HD), Bob Dickie (RBD), Phyllis Dobson (PRD), E.T. Dorey (ETD), Margaret Ellis (ME), Chris Field (CF), Bernard Forsythe (BLF), Roger Foxall (RF), June Graves (JLG), Helen Hall (HJH), Hubert Hall (HGH), Jennifer Hall (JH), Sharon Hawboldt (SH), Phyllis Hemeon (PH), Ward Hemeon (WH), Joan Jarvis (JVJ), June Jarvis (JNJ), Sam Jarvis (SKJ), Hugh Jones (HJ), John Kearney (JFK), Janos Kovacs (JK), Fulton Lavender (FLL), Ray Lorimer (RL), Mac Lovett (ML), Viola Lovett (VL), Brian MacKenzie (BM), Dave MacKinnon (DM), Peter MacLeod (PM), Carol MacNeill (CDM), Don MacNeill (DAM), A. MacRury (AM), Bob McDonald (RSM), Bridget McKeough (BHM), Ian McLaren (IAM), Sara MacLean (SM), J. McNicol (JM), Eric Mills (ELM), Bernice Moores (ABM), Doris Peters (DP), Ken Peters (KHP), Nancy Peters (NWP), Warren Peters (WTP), Mary Pratt (MP), Ingrid Prosser (IP), Lloyd Prosser (LP), Nellie Snyder (NS), Francis Spalding (FS), Ann Spencer (AS), Clarence Stevens (CSII), Audrey Taylor (VAT), Bernice Taylor (BT), Jim Taylor (JWT), Lorne Taylor (LT), Brenda Thexton (BET), Bill Thexton (RGT), Diane Thorpe (DT), Jean Timpa (JET), Gerry Trueman (GMT), G.W. Tufts (GWT), Judy Tufts (JT), Azor Vienneau (AJV).

Bob Dickie
(Records Editor)

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

FOR
THE JULY ISSUE
MAY 25, 1987

Bird reports to the Records Editor--

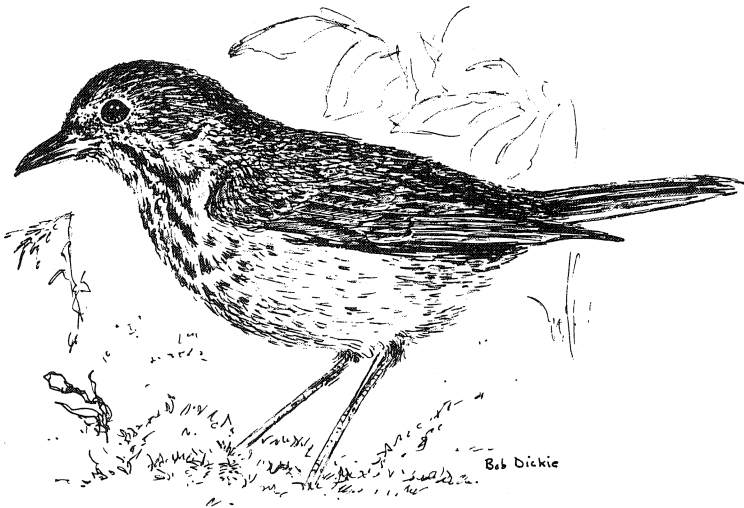
Mr. Bob Dickie,
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Mrs. Shirley Cohrs,
8 Rosemount Ave.,
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1755 Cambridge Street,
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BIRD REPORTS

LOONS AND GREBES

There were six reports of RED-THROATED LOON this winter, which is about average. All reports were of single birds.

COMMON LOONS were reported in salt water all around the province, in small numbers (10 or less) until February 8, when the Cohrs had 35 "in close" at Rocky Run, and later on Feb. 21, when they had 40+ in Green Bay and 20+ at Broad Cove.

A straggling PIED-BILLED GREBE was seen at Conrad's Beach on Dec. 28 (ELM,RF). There were 93 HORNED GREBES reported in 12 reports. This is over twice the number of individuals reported last year. The largest concentration was 40 birds on Jan. 25, at Graves Island (CF). RED-NECKED GREBES were also up with 97 birds in 14 reports. There were 50 at Brier on the Christmas Count on Dec. 23 (ELM); 10 at McNab's Island, Dec. 21 (RSM, Hfx W. CC), and the rest were smaller groups of 8 or less.

--LPMP, ed.

ALBATROSS TO CORMORANTS

We may as well start the seabirds off with a bang. The most spectacular, though not the rarest reports are two sightings of BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSSES, both on July 21, 1986.

The first is from the middle of Cabot Strait, from the North Sydney/Port-aux-Basques ferry. Clive Goodwin, an experienced Toronto birder, saw a large white bird with a black back and upper wings, and thought at first that it was an adult Great Black-backed Gull. However, the wings were too long and narrow, and this bird was gliding, shearwater-fashion, low over the sea. The bright yellow bill was strikingly bulky--almost as big as the head--and so was the bird itself. A Black-browed Albatross has a wingspan of 8 feet, but a Great Black-back's is only 5 feet. A Kittiwake that came into Clive's field of view "was tiny by comparison". He had a good view of the underwings: they were "white, bordered front and back by a broad, irregular black band". Clive considers, and rejects, the possible alternatives--Great Black-back, Gannet, Fulmar, shearwaters--and leaves no doubt at all that his bird was an albatross. There are two possibilities: the Black-browed and the Yellow-nosed Albatross with, respectively, one and two previous sightings off Nova Scotia. The BROAD black border on the underwing, and the yellow bill, show that this was an adult, or near-adult Black-browed. The Yellow-nosed only has a NARROW border, and an underwing that is white, not black. It has yellow on its beak, as its name suggests, but this is confined to a narrow strip along the top; the rest of the bill is blackish.

Marianne and David Ainley of Montreal topped this on the same day, with TWO Black-browed Albatrosses in mid-Fundy, from the Digby-Saint John ferry. They crossed the bow at a minimum range of 200 metres. The Ainleys' report is not as detailed as Clive Goodwin's but, like him, they were struck by the birds' size and their long, narrow, motionless wings. The underwing was well seen: "almost dark-white in centre",--a pattern that rules out Yellow-nosed. One of the birds had dark smudges on the side of its neck; presumably it was in immature plumage.

The traditional pattern of vagrant albatross sightings in the North Atlantic is for the Black-browed to occur off Europe, and the

Yellow-nose to be on our side. Is this changing--or is the 'tradition' based on too small a sample? Watch this space for further details--and keep on watching that ocean. One day, somebody in Nova Scotia is going to spot a vagrant Wandering Albatross, 12-foot wingspan and all. Now, that is a big bird...

It comes as an anticlimax to have to report that our only other tubenose record is of 3 NORTHERN FULMARS on George's Bank, on Jan. 17th. (Raymond S. d'Entremont).

Most of our adult NORTHERN GANNETS winter off the Carolinas, and the immatures go to the Gulf of Mexico. However, up to 20 immatures were feeding actively off the Canso Causeway on Dec. 4-6 (R.S. McDonald, Nancy and Warren Peters, Fulton Lavender et al.). Eric Mills counted 9 adults on the Brier Island CBC, on Dec. 23rd. I think that these were late migrants, not overwintering birds. On Feb. 21, I, and the half of Halifax that wasn't washing its cars, went out to Chebucto Head to watch the finback whales chase herring. There wasn't a Gannet in sight. Yet I've always seen Gannets there before, when the Scotian Shelf is virtually clear of the birds in January and February.

Let me finish with a breeding record that slipped between the cracks of the last Nova Scotia Birds. On July 1, David and Joan Young visited the cormorant colony on Ram Island off Hemeon's Head, Shel. Co. They found Great Cormorants nesting there. It is, as they say, not just the southernmost colony in Nova Scotia, but the southernmost in North America.

--RGBB, ed.

HERONS AND ALLIES

A late AMERICAN BITTERN was at Conrad's Beach for the Halifax East Christmas Count. There were reports of GREAT BLUE HERONS from several localities through Dec. Late individuals were on Brier Is., Dec. 28, near Overton on Jan. 3, near Tusket next day, at Conrad's Beach on Jan. 9 (where there were 7 on the Christmas Count and still 5 on Jan. 1), on Cape Sable (3 birds) on Jan. 10, and lingering at L.W. Pubnico until at least Feb. 2. This seems more than usual. An unidentified night-heron was flushed by GWT at Grand Pré on Nov. 15.

--IAM, ed.

GEESE AND DUCKS

Migrating SNOW GEESE were reported from Fort Lawrence on the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick border on March 5 (4 birds), and March 8 (6 birds). They were heading approximately northeast. All were white phase (Eira Currie). There is only one report of BRANT this winter: about 30 birds in Pond Cove on Brier Island, Feb. 20-22 (RBS): "fewer than this time last year". We have some belated reports of Brant from the spring of last year: Helen and Hubert Hall had 15 birds at Sand Beach, Yar. Co., on March 28, 1986, and a small flock at Brier Island on May 10-11, 1986. There were several reports of CANADA GEESE flying overhead throughout December. The only large concentration overwintering was reported at Chezzetcook Marsh where 5000+ were seen on Jan. 17 (CSII, AC). Other reports were of groups of hundreds at the Glace Bay Sanctuary (SM), Port Joli, Tusket River, Grand Desert and Three Fathom Harbour. There was no report of the Martinique flock this year, which reflects a lack of birders rather than birds, I expect. IAM wonders whether the Canada Goose on Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth is wild. He says, "...I think not, as it is not of the regional race atlantica--too small and gray".

Wintering GREEN-WINGED TEAL were reported from three locations: three birds in Yarmouth on Dec. 12 (JFK), two at Greenwich, Kings Co., Dec. 24 and Feb. 3 (BLF,JCT,GWT) and two males in Sullivan's Pond on Jan. 18. (JCT,GWT).

BLACK DUCK numbers may be down somewhat from recent years with the only major concentrations being approximately 3000 at Martinique Beach on Jan. 10 (FLL,DAM), and about 1000 at Sullivan's Pond, where Ethel Crathorne feels they are fewer than last year. There were seven other reports of groups of about 100 birds from other locations throughout the province, and Richard Stern sends us the melancholy tidings of "part of one underneath the left foot of a Peregrine Falcon near Kentville", on Jan. 30.

Does the lack of reports of MALLARDS in the Sullivan's Pond and Sydney flocks mean that people have finally decided that these birds are not wild? In any case, other flocks were reported from a small pond in Greenwich, Kings Co.: 12 birds on Dec. 24, up to 50 on Jan. 17, and down to 9 on Feb. 3; 4 were reported from Petite Riviere on Feb. 8 (NS), and 2 from Gaspereau, Kings Co., Feb. 21 (BLF).

One NORTHERN PINTAIL "always with Black Ducks", was present in the Whynacht's Cove area from December to at least Feb. 8 (AJV). A single male was reported from Yarmouth Harbour in late December and early January (JFK,H&HH).

Two GADWALLS were spotted on Jan. 12, at the sewer outfall at the foot of Maitland Street in Dartmouth (DAC,JWT), and for once, none was reported from Sullivan's Pond although our only AMERICAN WIGEON was reported from there on Feb. 14: one male and one female (JWT).

A single RING-NECKED DUCK was reported from Sullivan's Pond by JWT on Dec. 21. IAM happened by three days later and saw what may be presumed to be the same bird, "being devoured by a Great Black-backed Gull on the ice".

GREATER SCAUP were reported from various locations around the province, with the only large concentrations being 250+ observed by the Cohrs' on Jan. 1 at Crescent Beach, and over 150 near the causeway at Pictou Harbour on Feb. 6 (AJV). There was no sign of the spring build-up which can often be seen in these reports.

There were three reports of LESSER SCAUP, including one at L. W. Pubnico, present from Nov. 27 until Dec. 5 (RSD), a single female at Sullivan's Pond from Dec. until Feb. 24 (many observers), and four Lesser Scaup in Yarmouth Harbour on Feb. 4 and 6 (H&HH,JLG,MEC).

COMMON EIDER were sparsely reported as usual for this period, although perhaps the Christmas Counts will show higher numbers. There were four reports of a total of about 38 individuals, and the largest group was the 19 observed along the Fundy shore on Jan. 29 (JCT,GWT).

A single female KING EIDER was seen by the Cohrs' on Jan. 18, off Chebucto Head. A complete and convincing description was included.

Seven to ten HARLEQUIN DUCKS were present in the Big Dover Is.-Sand Cove area between Jan. 2 and 5: "Four were taken by gunners, and at least one has been mounted" (fide NWP). Other records included a male and a female at Baccaro on Nov. 29 (JLG,MEC), a single at Hartlen's Point on Dec. 6 (DAM, FLL).

OLDSQUAW were reported in larger numbers than usual with around 200 in Digby Harbour in November through January (RBS,JCT,GWT); about 200 in Pond Cove, Brier Is., in late Dec. (RBS), and 150-200 around Blandford Peninsula, Lun. Co., on Jan. 1 (JCT,GWT). Dozens were reported from several other locations including the Glace Bay Sanctuary, Clementsport, Hartlen's Point, and The Hawk.

BLACK SCOTERS were down considerably from previous years with the highest number being the 14 observed by ELM during the Brier Is. Christmas Count on Dec. 23. GreenBay, usually a good location for these birds, reported a maximum of 8 on Feb. 15 (NS).

RBS evidently caught the end of the SURF SCOTER southward migration on Nov. 25, when he saw about 50 in Digby Harbour. There were six other reports of small numbers of birds from areas around the south shore of the province, through Yarmouth and up into the Bay of Fundy.

As usual, WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS were the most heavily reported of the three, with over 100 birds in ten reports. The largest numbers came from the Fundy Shore in Kings Co., where JCT and GWT reported 20 from Digby, another 20 from Evangeline Beach, and 33 from Canady Creek/Black Rock Light in January. Other reports were of 11 or fewer individuals.

COMMON GOLDENEYE were approximately as usual with small numbers of birds at many locations around the province. The high count comes from Chris Field, who had 200 individuals at Three Fathom Harbour on Feb. 2, closely followed by the 150 present at the Glace Bay Sanctuary on Dec. 26 (SM). JSC reports 40-50 all around Green Bay and Crescent Beach on Feb. 21, in threes and fours, where there is usually a large flock of anywhere from 60-300.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE was reported from 5 locations this year. As usual, there were one or more in Bedford Basin. On Jan. 8, there was a single female (DAC,JSC), up to one imm. male and an imm. female on Feb. 28 (ELM), a single bird in the Annapolis River near the power dam on Jan. 6 (JCT,GWT), three birds near the Annapolis Causeway, Jan. 18 (BLF), and three more in Pictou Harbour on Feb. 6 (AJV). There was a single female reported from Three Fathom Harbour on March 1 (Cohrs).

BUFFLEHEADS were reported in good numbers from their usual locations at Annapolis Royal, the Digby area, and Three Fathom Harbour. There were 50+ at Annapolis Roayl on Nov. 29 (RGT,BET), another 50 in the Digby area on Jan. 6 (JCT,GWT), and CF had a total of 40 in the Three Fathom-Grand Desert area on Feb. 2. There were 34 left there on Feb. 22, when it was visited by DAM and FLL, and 25 on Mar. 1 (RBD,HD). Other reports were of less than a dozen birds from several locations.

Fifteen HOODED MERGANSERS in Whynacht's Cove on Nov. 30 had dwindled to 2 by Dec. 6, and these departed the following week when the cove froze over (AJV). There was also a male in Petite Riviere "displaying in an open patch of water" on Feb. 8 (NS), and a single male in Bedford Basin on Feb. 15 (JWT,IAM). The only large aggregation of COMMON MERGANSER was reported from Miller's Lake in Hfx Co., Dec. 7 (DAM)-89 birds. Other reports were of 6 or fewer birds from about a dozen different locations throughout the province. There was no sign of the usual spring build-up.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were thought to be about as usual by many observers, using words such as "common", "many", and "very common". The Cohrs' report numbers of 60-80 on the Lawrencetown

"circuit" on Feb. 8- "one flock of 25 doing their courtship thing". Other high counts were of about 40 at McNab's Is., on the Hfx.W. C.C., Dec. 21 (RSM), and 30+ at Three Fathom Harbour on March 1 (RBD,HD).

--LPMP, ed.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

Among reports of perhaps 70 BALD EAGLES from 14 localities, there were noteworthy concentrations of up to 35 (AJV,FLL,CSII) in Kings Co., Feb. 7, 12 on the Shubenacadie on Jan. 1 (CF), and at least 6 imm. and 4 ad. (max. counts) in the Argyle-Yarmouth area (sev. obs.). The single report from C.B. Is., is clearly not representative.

Among New Year NORTHERN HARRIERS, 4 were males, 1 female, and one not sexed. The latest was a female at L.W. Pubnico into February (RSd'E). There were 21 reports of about 25 SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS, most attending feeders. Eight GOSHAWKS, including one on the move in downtown Halifax, were noted. There were about a dozen scattered RED-TAILED HAWKS, and the usual concentrations in Kings Co., variously estimated as 21-77 by different groups on Feb. 7-8 (RBS, JCT,AJV et al.). Some were depending on offal. A bolder one took a pheasant at JkD'E's feeder at L.W. Pubnico on Feb. 14. As usual, most ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were reported from Kings Co., up to 6 on Jan. 2 (JC&GWT). Another half-dozen were seen, some through February, from Guysborough to Yar. Co. Mousing must have been tough.

Single AMERICAN KESTRELS were at L.W. Pubnico until Feb. 10 (JKd'E et al.) and at Canard Pond, Kings Co., until Jan. 9. Are there fewer wintering birds in recent years? Six MERLINS were spotted between early Jan. and mid-Feb., again perhaps a low number. More exciting were a PEREGRINE FALCON (an unbanded tundrius per RBS) clutching an Am. Black Duck near Kentville on Jan. 30, and a dark-phase GYRFALCON perched on a telephone pole at Grand Pré on Jan. 1 (RGT,BET).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Three coveys of GRAY PARTRIDGES were in Kings Co., with 3 near Lr. Canard, 6 at Starrs Pt., and up to 6 at Porters Pt. (var. obs.). The biggest concentration of RING-NECKED PHEASANTS in Kings Co., several at feeders, was of 30 in Wolfville on Dec. 28. There were also up to 4 near Riverport, 4 near Chebogue, and 9 at JkD'E's feeder in L.W. Pubnico. One SPRUCE GROUSE was noted at W. Lawrence-town on Dec. 24. Seven "wild" RUFFED GROUSE were reported from 5 localities, and one was regular at a feeder in Wolfville (BLF), up to 4 at a feeder in Overton (H&HH), and up to 4 in PRD's multiflora hedge at Eel Brook.

RALLIDS

A strange bird that hit a window at the north Halifax home of Barbara and Ron MacDonald on Jan. 3, was captured and identified next day as a PURPLE GALLINULE by Dave Currie. It is being overwintered in the Shubenacadie Game Park. It is still there and thriving. There were 2 AM. COOTS at Sullivan's Pond through the winter, one on the pond proper and one above in the Lake Banook outflow.

Some dropped copy in the last report led to errata, here corrected. Following "Our only report of Virginia Rails...grunting in their fashion", there should have been a full stop. Then the new sentence began, "There were several Soras...", so that the subsequent references should all be to Soras.

--IAM,ed.

SHOREBIRDS

Surprisingly, the only plover reported for the period was a lone KILLDEER at L.W. Pubnico, Dec. 7-8 (DJD'E). There was a late GREATER YELLOWLEGS at Eel Brook, Dec. 2 (PRD). A dozen wintering RUDDY TURNSTONES were noted at The Hawk Feb. 8 (JLG, MEC). Four RED KNOTS lingered at Grand Pré until Dec. 24 (BLF, GWT). There were 2 SANDERLING at Martinique Beach, Jan. 17 (JT et al.) and 75, Feb. 8 at The Hawk (JLG, MEC). Two SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS (basic plumage) were at Long Island, Kings Co., Dec. 28 (BLF) and, rare overwinterers, 3 at Crescent Beach, Feb. 18, 2 noted there again next day (N.S.). A PECTORAL SANDPIPER in weakened condition was at L.W. Pubnico, Dec. 6-8 (D & DRd'E). PURPLE SANDPIPERS are reported from Halifax Hbr (JSC) Conrad's Beach (FLL, PD), Brier (ELM et al.), The Hawk (JLG, MEC) and Port George, Anna. Co. (GWT). Three DUNLIN were at Long Island, Dec. 24, one of which was still there Dec. 28 (BLF, GWT). An AMERICAN WOODCOCK lingered at West Lawrencetown until Jan. 1 (FLL, PD, RBD).

--FS, ed.

GULLS TO AUKS

There are no skuas or jaegers to report, so I'll go straight to the point: the first ROSS' GULL record for Nova Scotia. The credit goes to Don Codling, who saw the bird on the Cape Breton side of the Canso Causeway, Dec. 1. "The gull was noticeable smaller than Black-headed and Bonaparte's Gulls in the same flock, and a pink tinged breast and grey wing-linings, as shown in Peterson's Guide for the mature bird. Its other plumage was of an immature bird, with the black W on its upper wings, and a black tip to its wedge-shaped tail. My wife noted a pale grey shadow in the place corresponding to the dark line shown on the head or neck of the mature bird." The Codlings watched the bird for over an hour, "feeding on the wing in the angle between the locks and the causeway, mainly remaining close to the shore in that corner," among the Boney's and the Black-headed's.

Bob Bancroft, of Nova Scotia Lands and Forests, confirmed the sighting on Dec. 3. Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Roger Foxall and I drove up to see it the next day. It was so awed by our massed binoculars that it zipped through the Boney flocks--and left Nova Scotia before our very eyes. None of us had a good view, but we all saw it briefly from different angles. My own impression was of an immature Little Gull, perhaps with a pinkish tinge to its belly. However, between the four of us, we saw a wedge-shaped tail, a smallish beak in a round head and, possibly, a pink flush.

We take no responsibility whatever for the bird's absence on Dec. 6-7, when the Nova Scotia Bird Society descended on the Strait of Canso. Sorry about that.

I'm usually caustic about HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS --and they are, of course, here in their usual numbers, but I was intrigued by Ian McLaren's report of a Herring X Great Black-back hybrid, in Bedford Basin, on Jan. 4. "As large as a Great Black-back, paler mantle than a Lesser Black-back, perhaps 4-year-old, grey-pink legs". Fulton Lavender saw a hybrid there--possibly the same bird?--Feb. 23. Herring Gulls and Great Black-backs are second cousins, but they don't normally hybridise unless one of them is moving into the other's range--as the Herring Gull did in Iceland, in the 1940's. Yet, Herring Gulls and Black-backs have been in Nova Scotia forever, as far as anyone knows. There must have been an interspecific mating, three or four years ago. I don't know why.

LESSER BLACK-BACKS are the Herring Gull's first cousins. They are working their way west, by way of Iceland to the New World. We have had them as regular visitors to Nova Scotia ever since our Digby bird arrived in 1970. Richard Stern saw it there--"presumably the usual bird"--on Nov. 25. Azor Vienneau was the first to see our other one, at the Fairview sewer outlet, on Nov. 30. Fulton Lavender's adult at Mill Cove, Bedford, may have been a different bird. I would guess that all of them are good, family gulls, mated to Nova Scotia Herring Gulls on islands in Pubnico or St. Margaret's Bay, with 16 generations of chicks to prove it; but Lesser Black-backs are smaller than Herring Gulls, they can't be responsible for Ian and Fulton's hybrid.

The first GLAUCOUS GULL of the year was the bird that the Peters saw in Canso Hbr. on Nov. 30. The first southern one was the Halls' bird--an adult--in Woods Hbr on Jan. 3.

ICELAND GULLS are more complicated. None of them actually nests in Iceland, but don't let that confuse you. The "Iceland" Gull--the one with the small bill and the pure white wing-tips--breeds in Greenland. Kumlien's Gull, our usual winter "white-wing" with its off-brown wing-tips, nests in south-east Baffin Island, while Thayer's comes from Lancaster Sound. They are all Herring Gulls with pale wing-tips, that may or may not be three separate species.

The first sighting of any "white-winged" gull was on Nov. 29: Richard Stern's adult Iceland at Canal Street, Dartmouth. However, as usual, they were in Cape Breton long before that. There were at least 20 off Canso Causeway, on Dec. 4 (ELM,IAM,RF,RGBB). However, Shirley Cohrs believes that all the "white-wings"--including Glaucous--are scarce this winter, despite the cold weather. "Tribune Head--THE place for IceLands--has had only 8 or 9 each time (most years 25+)!"

As far as specifics or subspecifics go, the most careful descriptions are those of Ian McLaren writing, in February, about the gulls in Halifax Hbr. "An adult seemed to have all the marks of a 'true' Iceland Gull--very pale mantle, immaculate primaries, VERY small bill--but not small in body... . One bird, found by Shirley Cohrs at Fairview Cove (3 Jan.) seems to be a good Thayer's. When perched it looks more Herring Gull-like than Iceland-like. Dark charcoal wing tips quite extensive above, but restricted to the tips from below, mantle as dark as darker Herring Gulls..."

We had a MEW GULL on Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth, Feb. 16 (FLL), and the usual RING-BILLS were seen around the southern end of the province. There were 60+ at Eel Brook on Dec. 5 (CRKA), and 14 at L. W. Pubnico on Feb. 16, pecking at Jerome K. D'Eon's garbage bags.

BONAPARTE'S and BLACK-HEADED GULLS were also regularly reported, though I have the feeling that Black-headed may not have been as common as usual. The count at Canso Causeway on Dec. 4 was 150 Boneyes and only 7 Black-Headed (ELM); disgruntled Ross' Gull searchers put the Boney total up to 500+ on Dec. 6 (FLL,RBS). However, there were 4 Black-headed up in the Sydneys, Cape Breton, also on Dec. 4, calling noisily; "never heard them before at this season", says Sara MacLean. On the mainland, both species have been wintering in the Halifax-Dartmouth area as usual, with 30+ Black-headed in Dartmouth Cove/Sullivan's Pond on Feb. 16 (FLL). An adult Bonaparte's wintered in Dartmouth Cove--last seen as late as Feb. 24 (IAM)--and there was a first-winter bird there as well (Cohrs, DAC). Farther south and west, Raymond S. d'Entremont saw an adult Bonaparte's in Lobster Bay, Pubnico, on Dec. 6, and M.E. Churchill saw three birds in Digby Hbr., Feb. 22.

Bob McDonald saw a BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE from Canso Causeway on Dec. 6. That was unusually close inshore. Captain Hubert Hall, On Bluenose, saw four Kittiwakes out at sea on Jan. 11, "in singles, from Yarmouth to the Lurcher Shoal area", but most of the birds spend their winter out on the big fishing banks. Raymond S. d'Entremont saw 300+ on George's Bank, Jan. 16.

It seems odd to be writing about terns in the middle of winter, but we have a very late report of a LEAST TERN that should be put on record. It was seen in Louisbourg Hbr., Cape Breton, Aug. 14, 1985. Michael and Lois Schultz, from North Carolina, are familiar with the Least and the other terns on the eastern seaboard. This bird was an adult, well seen at close range, diving for bits of bait and fish -- "A very small tern with white head and incomplete black cap (i.e., white forehead clearly visible), short white forked tail, dark wing tips with contrasting whiter secondaries on a light gray mantle...this bird appeared about half the size of the Commons...No other tern approaches the size of a Least Tern except perhaps the Black Tern. The white, deeply forked tail, and white, black-capped head with white forehead, easily distinguished this bird from the immature Black Tern, and any gull". Least Terns breed along the coast from New England southwards, and they are regular, irregular strays to Nova Scotia.

Finally, there are the auks. There aren't many sightings at this time of year, because the birds are well out at sea--and most birders have the sense to stay on land. However, those who do go out, see them. Raymond S. d'Entremont saw 25 DOVEKIES on Brown's Bank (about 30 miles south-west of Cape Sable), Jan. 15, and Hubert Hall saw small flocks near the Lurcher Shoal, 12-25 miles west of Yarmouth, Feb. 8. Our other Dovekie sightings come in ones and twos, from observers along the coast between Kings Co. and Halifax. These birds are random and storm-driven but, so far, there is no report of any major "wreck" of large flocks blown onshore.

Murres are in much the same case. They, like the Dovekies, winter out on the fishing Banks. The THICK-BILLED MURRE that came into Bedford Basin on Jan. 18, was well-timed for the NSBS Field Trip --but it was very unusual. Like the Dovekies, murres have been reported inshore in ones and twos, all through the winter, from Kings Co. to Halifax, and also off the Canso Causeway. Northeastern Cape Breton would be an even better place to see them. The most interesting report is Eric Mills', of 100+ murres off Brier Is., on the CBC, Dec. 23. I wonder if the tides that work so well for the shearwaters, phalaropes and whales on Labor Day, also work for murres in winter?

Our only COMMON MURRE report is the bird off Chebucto Head, on Dec. 21 (DAM,AJV,RBD). There are two RAZORBILL sightings: a bird off Lobster Bay, Pubnico, Nov. 27 (Rsd'E), and another off Dartmouth Cove on Jan. 10 (FLL). I never expected to have an ATLANTIC PUFFIN record at this time of year, but Hubert Hall saw one, near the Lurcher Shoal off Yarmouth, on Feb. 4. On the other hand, BLACK GUILLEMOTS stay with us, all year 'round, on rocky coasts. The biggest reported numbers are 15+ at McNab's Is., Halifax Hbr., Dec. 21 (RSM McD.)

DOVES

ROCK DOVES seem to have become common around Head of St. Margarets Bay (ETD); little hope of them freezing to extinction, I suppose. There were mixed reports on MOURNING DOVES. Some noted them as absent. Nellie Snyder found them scattered and "more plentiful than ever" in the Crousetown area, and up to 30 were reported around Wolfville and L.W. Pubnico. Brave birds were at Birch Grove, Cape Breton Co., and at Hazel Hill, Guys. Co., through February. However, only a few were noted in the Halifax-Dartmouth area. There'll be a lot of frozen feet, I expect.

OWLS

There was a startling but a well-documented report of a COMMON BARN-OWL, the province's sixth. The owl spent over a month in a barn belonging to the mother of Mr. Ralph Hudgins of Ward Road, Aylesford, Kings Co., from some time in Sept. to Nov. 1. The bird slipped in and out of a small window with greater ease than did the resident pigeons (which somehow disappeared in time). The Hudgins noted all field marks, including the long, featherless legs. A distant colour photo and a flight feather turned over to the N.S. Museum (fide AJV) clinch the record. There is, by the way, a frozen, rather tattered, unlabelled specimen of a barn-owl in the N.S. Museum, dating from some years back. If anyone knows its origins, please let them know.

We have reports of 6 GREAT HORNED OWLS from 5 localities. The Hubert Halls noted no signs of nesting at a traditional Overton site by mid-Feb.

This has been a SNOWY OWL winter, cyclically about on schedule. Following the numbers noted in November (see last issue), at least 10 scattered birds were reported through winter and others will doubtless be noted in Christmas Count lists.

Up to 17 BARRED OWLS were reported. Some were perched in trees along highways or in towns (at least 2 dead in the Halifax area), and ELM writes that 2 flying by day at Brier Is., in lat Dec., "suggests movement of starving birds". A report of a GREAT GREY OWL at St. Croix Cove, Anna. Co., on Dec. 8 (Barbara & Don Hamilton) seemed convincing, but the bird did not remain. Another reported by non-birders at West Lawrencetown in late Dec. must remain controversial. Although at least one birder is thought to have seen the owl, no report was turned in, and others found only a rather large Barred Owl. A SHORT-EARED OWL was found at Grand Pré on Jan. 1 (BLF), and another was hunting at dusk on Brier Is., Feb. 20 (RBS). One found dead near Sambro in late Feb. had doubtless contended with the deep snows and cold. There were reports of single SAW-WHET OWLS from Halifax, Mahone Bay, L.W. Pubnico and Kingston.

KINGFISHER

BELTED KINGFISHERS stayed behind in fair numbers. There were 11 reports of scattered individuals after Jan. 1, but only 2 in February--at French Village, St. Margarets Bay on Feb. 8 (AJV) and at Barrington on Feb. 15 (JLG,MEC). Probably most were done in by the cold.

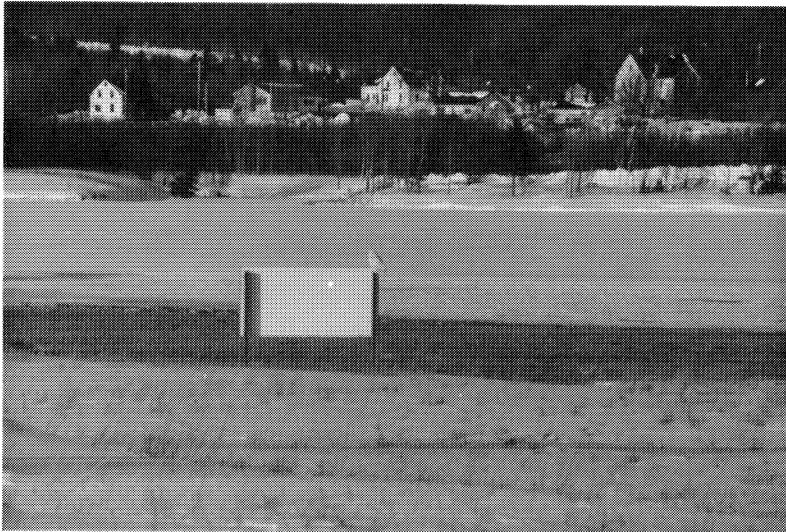
WOODPECKERS

A belated report of a RED-HEADED WOODPECKER at Bass River on Oct. 16, was submitted by Phyllis and Ward Hemeon. They also report a reliable observer as having had one at her feeders in Bass River

during the winter 1985-86. Halifax's RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER continued to be seen into Feb., especially around the Bryson's feeder.

We have reports of some 27 DOWNY WOODPECKERS from 18 localities, and of 16 HAIRY WOODPECKERS from 14 sites--about average. Both species were almost all reported from feeders. There were only 2 BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS: 1 near Glace Bay on Feb. 6 (fide SM) and the other near Harrietsfield (FLL et al.). In addition to Christmas Count records, there were NORTHERN FLICKERS in Yarmouth until at least Feb. 8 (F & ED), in Overton until at least Feb. 4 (H&HH), at Head of St. Margarets Bay, until reporting time (ETD) and, most surprisingly, through the winter at Glace Bay (SM). Seven records of 12 PILEATED WOODPECKERS are about normal. A curious observation is submitted by CLC, observed 3 females on Jan. 6 and 1 on Feb. 7, in a dead spruce outside his back door at Cheverie, Hants Co. Both times someone nearby was breaking up ice with a sledgehammer. Is this what it takes to impress a female Pileated?

--IAM,ed.



A white owl (a common sight this year) on a white sign in a white landscape. This one was at Annapolis Royal, photographed by Jane DeWolfe.

FLYCATCHER TO KINGLETS

The sixth Nova Scotia SAY'S PHOEBE was discovered on Dec. 28, 1986 by Stuart Tingley at Economy. This was the first winter record; other sightings were May 20, Aug. 27, Sept. 7, 18 and 24. The bird was feeding about a sheltered corner of salt marsh where flies and spiders were active on sunny days. The bird, observed by many and well photographed, was last seen Jan. 7, 1987.

HORNED LARKS continued to be seen to the end of Feb., most of these around Grand Pré. A flock of 400 was there Feb. 7 (FLL et al.). To have a Horned Lark at one's feeder is indeed special, and Joan Jervis was pleased to entertain one at Cook's Brook from Feb. 6 to 9.

Twenty-one GRAY JAYS was about normal for this period. They were seen from Dec. 3 to Feb. 18, widely spread geographically. Most of the BLUEJAYS seem to have been in Lun. Co.--"at everyone's feeders, eleven at mine, the best fed birds in the area" (NS). In other places they were there, but not in their usual numbers. CRKA in Tusket and JSC (and others) in Halifax found them quite sparse. After years of complaining that they gobbled up all the sunflower seed as soon as it was put out, their bright and noisy company was sorely missed.

There was no shortage of AMERICAN CROWS. Hundreds were at Grand Pré, Feb. 7, and crows were often the only birds seen along highways, sometimes six or eight visible at once. COMMON RAVENS were beginning their mating rituals by mid-Feb., soaring and dipping, especially along the shorelines.

There were very many reports of BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES, which seem to have enjoyed a bonanza this winter. Everyone with a feeder had Black-caps, with numbers sometimes reaching 18-25. Judy Tufts was delighted when one fed from her hand. Shirley Cohrs had a large flock which ate sunflower seeds continuously all day except for an early feed of frozen bayberries from the windowbox at precisely 7:30 a.m. BOREAL CHICKADEES outnumbered the Black-caps on McNab's Island on Dec. 21 (HWCC), and were heard along the woods roads in Hfx., Guys., Shel. and Yar. Cos. Three came to feeders - at Indian Point, New Cornwall and Halifax - but NOT this year at Raymond d'Entremonts, despite much tempting suet.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES continue to thrive. After years of scarcity, the last three winters have shown many more in numbers, with twenty-two in 1984-85 and 1985-86. This year the count in the written reports was 30, but many people seem to feel that more were about, having talked to friends and neighbours who mentioned having seen them around. They were widely spread from Glace Bay to Yarmouth, mostly singles, four pairs noted. This year they far outnumbered the RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES for the first time in MY records. Only eight of the latter were seen.

Nineteen BROWN CREEPERS were considerably fewer than the thirty-three last year (which was about normal). There were only five reports of our usually common woods bird, the GOLDEN CROWNED KINGLET and three of these correspondents mentioned how scarce they had been.

The fourth provincial TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE appeared at Blanche, Shel. Co., on Jan. 10, identified by Hugh Jones and seen also by June Graves and Margaret Churchill.

In such a frigid winter, it is no surprise that only two overwintering HERMIT THRUSHES came to light. One healthy-looking individual was seen by Chris Field in Halifax on Jan. 23. The other, in French Village, was found by Azor Vienneau on Feb. 8, but was not to

be seen later. Only a (very) few AMERICAN ROBINS attempted to overwinter. A flock of 50 were in Wolfville, Jan. 28, but only 2 or 3 were seen afterwards (BLF). On Feb. 1, a straggling flock of 30 flew over Tusket. Otherwise, only five single birds were seen in Feb., up to the 7th, and none thereafter. As RSD'E put it, "not a Robin Winter".

Eleven NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS were around, three in Dec., five in Jan. and three in Feb. Almost every year a mocker overwinters in the brush behind the Credit Union building in Halifax and this year was no exception (AJC,DAC). A BROWN THRASHER survived until Jan. at Moser's River (M.Bezanson). A second thrasher was seen from Jan. 10 to Feb. 15, at E. Petpeswick. (FLL, num. obs.). A third was seen in Halifax by IAM in early Feb.

The usual flock of WATER PIPITS (this year 10) were at L.W. Pubnico, Dec. 15, but by Feb. 17, only one remained (RSD'E,JFK). The only other pipits noted were 4 on Dec. 10 at Wolfville (RGT,BET).

BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS were well reported, although nothing approach-last year's avalanche. Flocks of 27-75 wandered about Kings Co., with a high there of 200 in Wolfville on Jan. 25 (GMT). Three flocks of 60, 70 and 90 toured Spryfield (FLL), ten found their way to Canso (mid-Dec.) (Peters) and 60 were at Bedford (AJB,DAC) Feb. 15. Last seen were 18 at W. Pubnico, Feb. 22 (DJd'E).

Only five CEDAR WAXWINGS lingered--four together Dec. 20, in Kentville and one at Doctor's Cove during the Pubnico C.C. (RBS,HH&JH).

A careful count of NORTHERN SHRIKE reports totalled 26 at least. Sightings ranged from late November to Feb. 25, from Cape Breton to Yarmouth and all around the province.

EUROPEAN STARLINGS were "as usual", "everywhere" and "daily". To Sara McLean goes the prize for starling commentary--she writes, "starlings--oh, well".

--JSC,Ed.



This Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was nicely photographed at Mosher's Corner, Anna. Co., June 7, by David Colville.

WOOD WARBLERS

Recent years have seen a variety of warblers lingering on at least until mid-December, but this season a very low, six species and a total of twelve individual birds were recorded.

An ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER was seen on the Halifax West, CBC on Dec. 21, in Dartmouth (JWT). A grand total of 5 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS were noted; 2 on Nov. 23, Bass River (W&PH) and 3 on Brier Is., Dec. 23 (ELM).

The only PINE WARBLER was one which visited the McDonald feeder in Halifax on Dec. 14, for a very short time, not to be seen again. A most unusual report was that of an OVENBIRD seen at Point Pleasant Park, Halifax, on Jan. 27. Paul Duval wrote in his report, that following a severe storm on Jan. 26, he discovered and watched this bird for about 20 minutes while it "carefully ran its bill over the length of its legs and feet repeatedly, apparently to keep them from freezing". The previous late date was December 16.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT was seen twice, once Dec. 28, at Conrad's Beach (RF) and one lingering near Blanch, Yar. Co., on Jan. 7, (JLG,MEC). There were three YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS recorded: one Nov. 30, at Argyle Head (JD'E) and two which were reasonably comfortable near Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, until at least Jan. 21.

CARDINAL TO TOWHEE

NORTHERN CARDINALS were found at feeders in the Gaspereau Valley and in L. W. Pubnico. A female was visiting a feeder during most of Jan. and was last seen near Gaspereau on Feb. 6 by Viola & Mac Lovitt. A striking male was reported Feb. 9 to 20 at a feeder in L. W. Pubnico. (BD'E, RD'E, JFK).

An immature ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK was seen Feb. 7 at Gaspereau (FLL, AJV), and another was noted Feb. 10 at Cherry Hill (N.S.). The only DICKCISSEL was a female found Dec. 4 on Patterson St. in Dartmouth by Paul Duval and Fulton Lavender.

Sightings of RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE tallied two, one each from opposite ends of the province. A male was seen during Dec. in Glace Bay (N.D.) and one came to a feeder in L.E. Pubnico from Jan. 20-29 (JKD).

TREE SPARROW TO SNOW BUNTING

TREE SPARROWS had nowhere near the winter they enjoyed last year, with few observers seeing more than 5 at one time. There were scattered reports from Yar. to Guys. Counties of irregular feeder visits of 1 to 9 individuals with the largest number of 30 in the corn fields of Grand Pré (FLL, AJV, CSII). There were six records of CHIPPING SPARROW which came from Yar., Anna. and Guys Co.s. The Yar. bird was a regular visitor from Dec. 6 -28, at Eel Brook (PRD, CRKA). Three reports of 4 individuals occurred in the Valley area with two at Clementsport, Dec. 11- Jan. 4, one at a Kentville feeder Dec. 25 (SCH) and one at Wolfville Ridge from Nov. 22 to Feb. 21 (BLF). In Hazel Hill the Peters had one irregularly from Nov. 26 through to Feb. 20, evidently surviving the worst of the winter.

SAVANNAH SPARROWS were an uncommon find this winter with only 6 reports submitted. Of these, three were "IPSWICH" SPARROWS. There were 8 Savannahs at Conrad's Beach on Dec. 28 (ELM, RF), 8 at Rainbow Haven Beach on Jan. 1, with 2 Ipswich, but a re-check there on Feb. 15 failed to produce a single bird (IAM). Only one was found at Grand

Pré dyke on Jan. 3 (BLF), one at Martinique (JWT et al.), two at Dayspring (N.S.) and an Ipswich seen at The Hawk (JFK).

An individual SHARP-TAILED SPARROW of the prairie nelsoni race was photographed at The Hawk on Jan. 18. Ian McLaren hints that this particular race appears to be a rare but regular transient and wintering bird in Nova Scotia.

FOX SPARROWS were recorded only twice. One was found in Timberlea on Dec. 21 (RF) and the other at Hazel Hill, Guys Co., Dec. 27 (SSB). SONG SPARROW numbers appear to be down throughout the province. Ken and Doris Peters reported that this was the first year they failed to see even one in Pubnico. There were just three reported in Glace Bay from Dec. to Feb. and a scattering of one or two birds visiting feeders semi-regularly elsewhere. SWAMP SPARROWS were noted just three times: Dec. 21-21 at Duncan's Cove, Hfx. Co. (AJC,FLL), three at Conrad's Beach (ELM,RF) and one at Grand Pré (BLF). Although swamp sparrows are never common during our winter months to have just three records is most unusual.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were in normal numbers in the southern areas of the province; however, they were few and far between elsewhere. There were between 10-20 at Pubnico and Tusket feeders from Dec. through Feb., 6 were found at Conrad's Beach, Dec. 28, and 1 or 2, periodically at feeders in Halifax/Dartmouth. A very convincing description of an adult WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW was received from the Seabright, Hfx. Co. area, where a bird appeared irregularly at a feeder after a storm passed through in mid-February.

As with all of the sparrows DARK-EYED JUNCO numbers were low. Instead of writing to report sightings, observers were writing to report not seeing any at all. The Gaspereau Valley was the only stronghold where between 50-100 were seen there from mid-Jan. to Feb. (JCT). There were 6 at Crousetown in Dec., 20 at Upper LaHave, and in Clementsport the Hawbolt feeder had 10 daily all winter.

The most popular wintering area for LAPLAND LONGSPURS is the Grand Pré area, where 250 were seen on Feb. 7 (AJV). In other parts, 3 were found at Martinique Beach, Jan. 17, (JWT et al.), and 3 were watched at Chebogue Point (H&HH). NOTE: The very few reports of Laplands written in the Jan. '87 issue of Nova Scotia Birds were correct. The "flocks of 100s" refers to the omitted species, Snow Bunting.

Concentrations of at least 1500 SNOW BUNTINGS were seen in the Canard/Grand Pré areas during February. One thousand were seen in one flock near Burlington, Hants Co., on Jan. 23-27 (CLC), and many observers wrote of over a hundred visiting feeders after storms during Jan. and Feb. Interestingly, the large numbers which occurred in late Oct. and Nov., virtually disappeared until late Jan., with most sightings from Jan. 23 - Feb. 21.

ICTERIDS

At least 40 RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS overwintered in the Gaspereau Valley, feeding in the corn fields. Apart from this group, 5 were seen in Canso, Dec. 11, one coming to a feeder in Clementsport, Feb. 10 (SCH), two in L.W. Pubnico on Nov. 21, and one, Jan. 4, in Woodlawn, Dartmouth (FLL).

An EASTERN MEADOWLARK inhabited Conrad's Beach during Dec. and early Jan., affording many the opportunity to see it. The only other report came from West Clifford, where Nellie Snyder writes that after this bird became quite tame at a feeder, Jan. 22-26, it

unfortunately met its demise by way of a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

The RUSTY BLACKBIRD showed itself just once: 6 were seen Jan. 30 in the Clyde River area (JLG,MEC). BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were reported sparingly with small flocks converging on feeders from Yar. to Col. counties during Nov. and Dec. Typical accounts of 8-40 birds mixed with starlings and House Sparrows were noted. Spryfield to Sambro, Halifax Co., had at least 4 separate flocks of 50-100 birds.

Several COMMON GRACKLES overwintered, the bulk of which were 10, seen in Melanson, feeding with Red-wings on Jan. 25. Other reports were single birds visiting feeders at various locations.

Four NORTHERN ORIOLES were present Dec. and Jan. A very brightly coloured adult female was discovered in Greenwich, Kings Co., on Dec. 10 and stayed until at least Jan. 5, feeding on rotted apples (JCT,GWT et al.) One was found in the Halifax south end, Dec. 21, and lingered until Jan. 13 (PD,FLL). Another was visiting a feeder in Dartmouth until Jan. 18 (JWT), and the last was a very shabby looking bird seen in Glace Bay from Jan. 16 to Jan. 21 (SM).

FINCHES

PINE GROSBEAKS were well reported from all areas, consisting of flocks of 5-15 and as usual, mostly immatures or females. An interesting note was received from the Peters, who noticed a group of 5 several times, feeding along the rocks of the Canso Hbr. Certainly the cone crop was not THAT poor in Guys. Co.

It was far from being a good winter for PURPLE FINCH. There were just 6 reporters noting a combined total of 14 individual birds and 7 of those were at Sullivan's Pond, Feb. 21 (AJV,CSII). The remaining 7 came from a few feeders in Tusket, the Valley and Col. Co.

There were only two records of RED CROSSBILLS; ten were found on Brier Is., on Dec. 26 (ELM) and a single bird was seen in Dartmouth on Dec. 30 (FLL). WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL reports came from the south and central parts of the province with the largest flock, 25, seen in Wolfville, Jan. 28 (BLF). There were 10 at Upper Clements on Jan. 1 (SCH), 12, Dec. 22 in L.W. Pubnico (RSD), 3 in Chebogue (H&HH) and 4, Feb. 15, near Peggy's Cove (AJV et al.).

Where other birds were lacking at feeders, Redpolls and siskins delightfully filled the void as their presence this year was noted from every part of the province. COMMON REDPOLLs were seen in small isolated flocks during Dec., remaining quite constant until the latter part of Jan., when suddenly there were hundreds, coming daily to feeders. These large numbers persisted until mid-Feb., when flocks rapidly declined. In L.W. Pubnico, there were typically 10-200 at feeders from early to mid-Feb. It was comparable in the Valley, Halifax, Hants and Cumberland Counties.

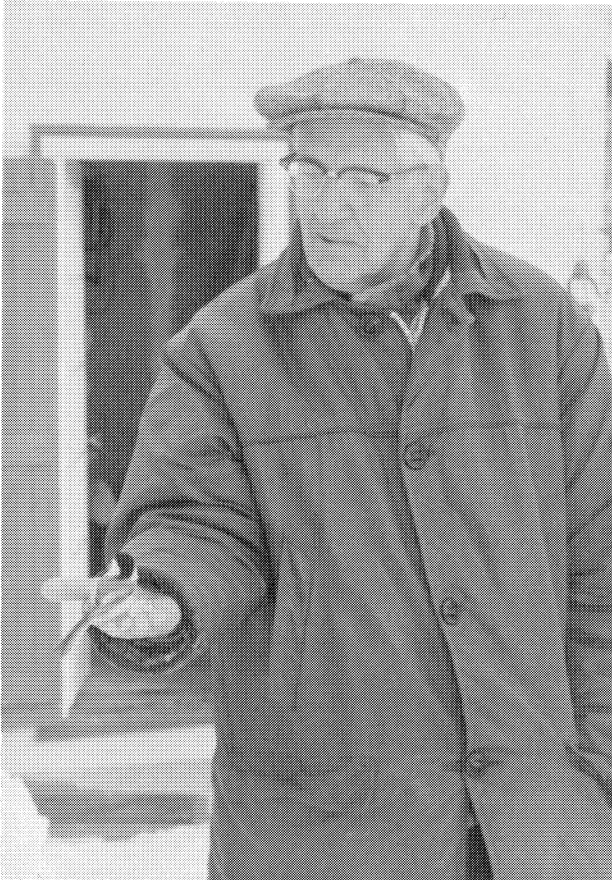
The HOARY REDPOLL had to show itself at least a few times and did, with 2 seen Dec. 21-23 on Brier Is. (ELM,DM,IAM) and 2 in Bridgewater, which were well identified on Feb. 25 (NS).

PINE SISKINS arrived in abundance by late December with hundreds flocking to feeders daily until the redpoll population replaced the majority of them by late January. The numbers decreased rapidly in February with only a few mixed with the redpoll flocks. One misguided individual found its way into the Cafeteria on the ferry Bluenose, over 2 hours out to sea on Jan. 6 (JFK). AMERICAN GOLDFINCH numbers were very low, with a small handful of reports submitted. A few feeders had as many as 10 irregularly, but these were exceptions as feeders attracted only 1 or 2, if any at all.

EVENING GROSBEAKS were at least evident in December, they became erratic in January and practically non-existent in February. In Hazel Hill, the Peters noted that although they had flocks of up to 100, they certainly overestimated, as most of us did, the amount of sunflower seed required this year.

The HOUSE SPARROW undoubtedly had a tough winter also; not that this would upset too many. However, I, for one, would have been delighted to have had even one at the feeder during those quiet days of January and February. The reports received indicated a lower than usual population but persistent nuisances all the same.

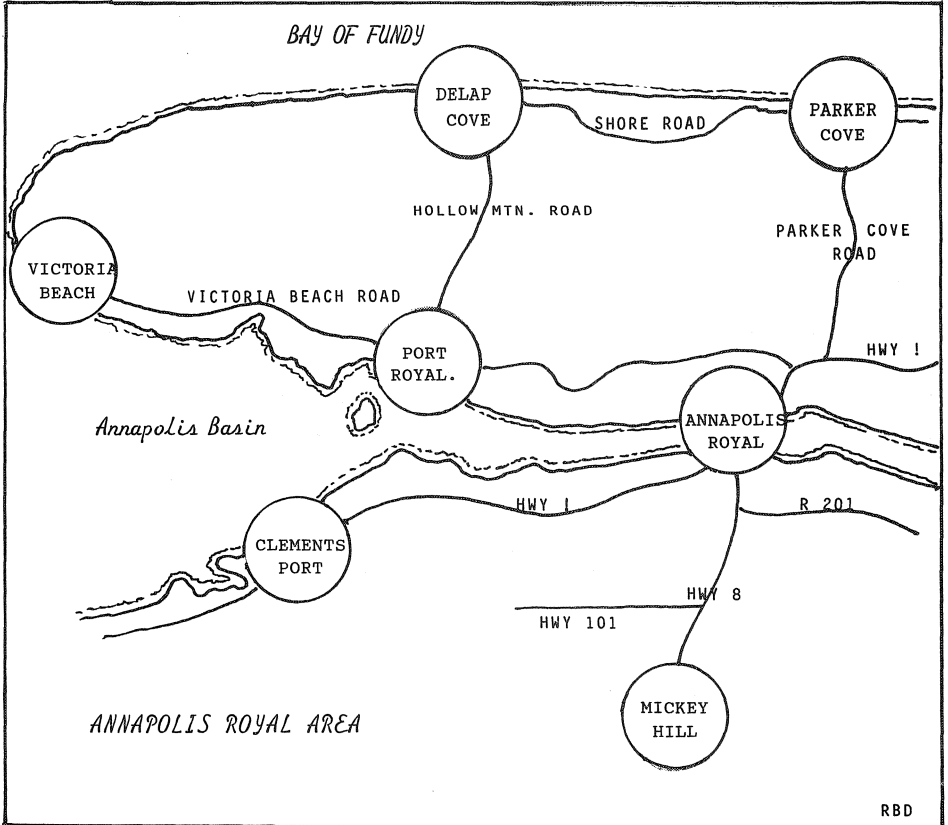
--DAC, ed.



Stuart Whitman of Bridgetown feeds a friend. Stuart has been a keen birder for many years, having kept records since the 1930's. He has been a member of N.S.B.S. for over twenty years and, as you can see, he has an "in" with the birds. Photo---Donald Bowlby

BIRDING IN THE ANNAPOLIS ROYAL AREA

by Sharon and Steve Hawbolt



The Annapolis Royal area offers an interesting variety of habitats for year-round birding. Located at the head of the Annapolis Basin off the Bay of Fundy, it makes an excellent base point for exploring those waters and surrounding land.

The main attraction, especially during spring and fall migrations, is the Ducks Unlimited Marsh located within the town's boundaries and easily accessible. Hundreds of ducks, particularly Bufflehead, Black Ducks and Green and Blue-winged Teal, can be seen gathering there. Flocks of Water Pipits, Horned Larks, and Savannah Sparrows commonly stop over as well. One can often be rewarded with sightings of less common ducks, gulls and waders. Snowy Egrets and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron have been spotted.

To reach the reconstructed dykes on the marsh where you will hike, park your vehicle in the Historic Gardens parking lot on St. George Street, the town's main street. Enter through the main entrance (off season is Thanksgiving to June, no fee) and take time to enjoy the Gardens, interesting year'round. The fruiting shrubs are attractive to lingering robins and the occasional Northern Mockingbird and invite large flocks of Bohemian Waxwings.

Keep to your left, go through the pergola and follow the path to the most distant lookout. You will see a trail through the grasses which takes you along the dykes. Walking there is rough and can be muddy. This can also be a windy spot so dress appropriately. Plan to stay a couple of hours, if possible. There is no easy way to climb the hill, so return the same way.

If you have less time or inclination for hiking, a stop at the Annapolis Causeway can be rewarding, particularly in late fall and early winter. Use the parking lot at the Tidal Power Plant and then check along both sides of the highway. A Snowy Owl has been keeping a lookout from one of the signs at times this winter. Barrow's Goldeneyes and a Tundra Swan have recently been sighted with the many ducks.

Leaving the causeway, travelling east, make a left-hand turn taking the road to Port Royal. The Queen Anne Marsh can be worth checking. In Granville Beach look for a small stone cairn on the left hand side for the Stoney Beach Cemetery. The road beside it leads down to the Annapolis Basin through fields and is easy walking.

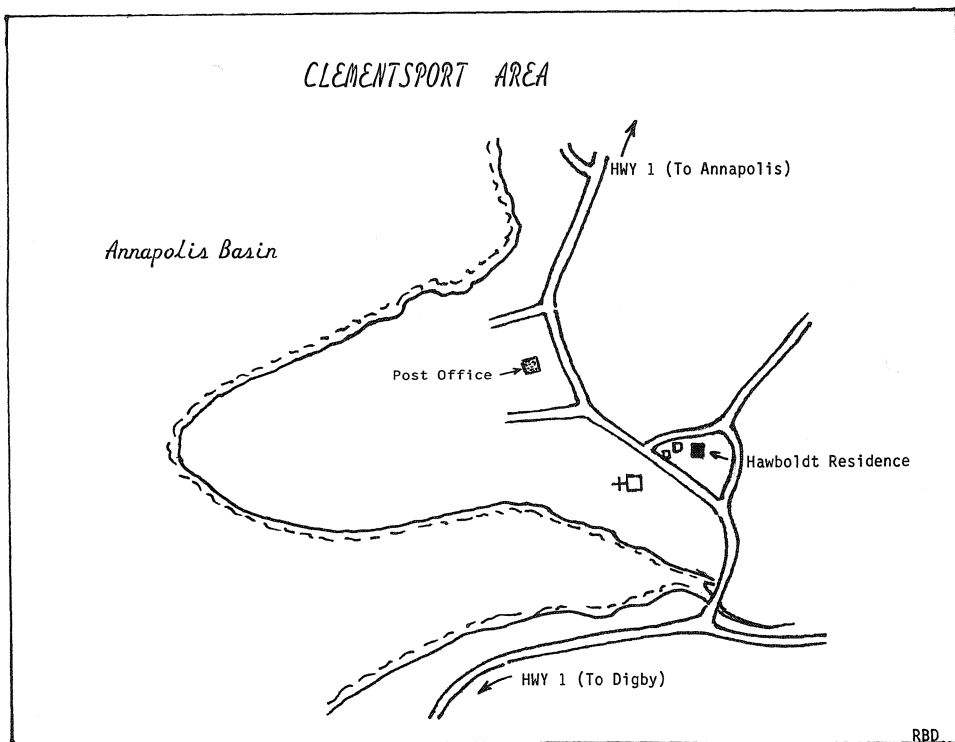
Then continue along the highway to Port Royal National Historic Park. This site provides an excellent point for viewing seabirds.

At Victoria Beach, land's end, you view Digby Gut, which connects the Annapolis Basin to the Bay of Fundy. Again, ducks and gulls can be numerous. This year thousands of ducks, mostly Oldsquaw, can be seen gathering at dusk to fly through Digby Gut to spend the night on the Bay of Fundy.

Victoria Beach is where the highway ends. A walk along the last few kilometers provides an excellent view. Often, especially during spring and fall migrations, there is much activity in the trees along the roadside. Try to catch one of their spectacular sunsets.

Also not far from Annapolis, are coves along the Bay of Fundy which provide excellent birding. For such an outing cross the causeway, heading east. Do not take the Victoria Beach road this time but continue driving east. Watch for a left hand turn to Parker's Cove, just a couple of kilometers from the causeway. A short drive over the mountain brings you to a "T" intersection in Parker's Cove. Turn left and you will see the wharf which offers excellent footing for observing sea ducks, loons and grebes. Gannets have been viewed there in March. This is an exposed spot; dress accordingly. Try to arrange a morning visit if you want back-lighting.

If you continue along in a westerly direction, you will soon arrive at the new Delaps Cove Wilderness Trail. Watch for a large sign on the left. This 12 km trail loops along the shore and through the woods. Maps are available at the tourist bureau in Annapolis Royal.

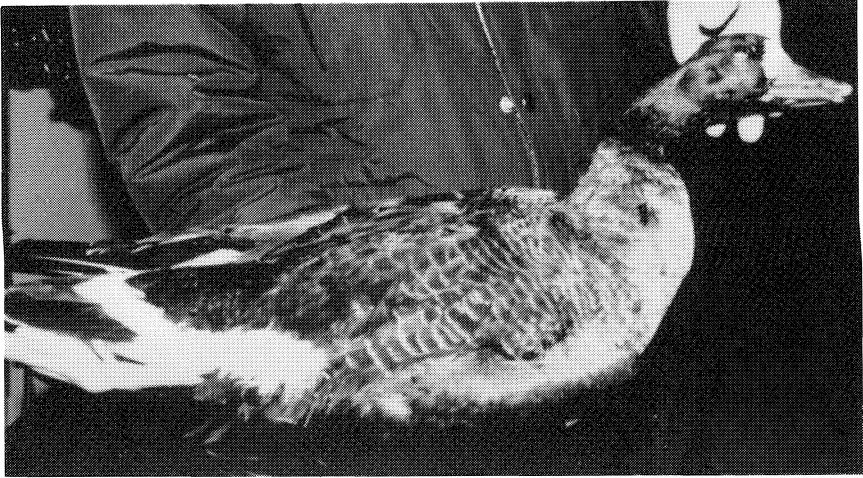


Another beautiful wilderness trail is located at Mickey Hill, just a 10-15 minute drive from Annapolis on Highway 8. This is a Bowater's Pocket Wilderness, constructed along a small river. Picnic tables are a bonus. This might provide a welcome stop on your way to Kejimikujik.

To the immediate west of Annapolis is Upper Clements. A walk around the Upper Clements Wildlife Park will no doubt yield many woodland species.

You may want to picnic at the Upper Clements Provincial Picnic Park, just across the highway from the wildlife park. If you walk across the railway track from the parking lot, you will find a little path to the beach. There is a large marsh to the right. This is an interesting spot for shorebirds in late summer and ducks in the winter. A copy of the tide tables would be useful.

Clementsport, the next community, offers shoreline, rolling fields, and woodland. For more details on access to good birding spots there, please feel free to visit me for directions. Drop into Maggie's Country Grocer in Annapolis Royal--we welcome any "excuse" to talk to fellow birders. Clementsport 638-3387.



Peter Payzant has documented last November's Greater White-fronted Goose with several colour slides, all showing the bright orange bill characteristic of the Greenland rare flavirostris. (The belly, atypically, was not very heavily barred.) This race is not often, if ever, kept captive--an undoubted wild goose.



This stranger turned up at the feeder of Debbie and Geoff Gregory at Barrington, Nov. 20-25, 1985. Their color prints indicate that it was a first-year male Summer Tanager, with warm orange-buff underparts, more grayish tail feathers. This is one of the latest records for the province.

ROBERT KANIGSBURG

1909 - 1987

Bob Kanigsberg had many and varied interests, but high on the list was the Nova Scotia Bird Society. He became a member when the organization was in its infancy and in 1960, was appointed Honorary Solicitor. Also in this year, at his instigation and through his efforts, the Society acquired by lease from the province, the Eastern Shore Bird Sanctuary, consisting of seven islands off the shore of eastern Halifax County, on which were located breeding colonies of a number of sea birds and several land species of special interest. He was also chiefly instrumental in acquiring the other sanctuaries now leased or owned by the Society.

In 1968, he was able, after long and frustrating negotiations, to establish the Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary and Trust Fund, to which contributions were tax-deductible. In 1975, Bob received the Puffin-of-the-Year Award for outstanding service.

In 1978, in memory of his wife Margo who had died two years previously, he established the Margo Kanigsberg Memorial Fund, the interest from which is used to defray expenses of a yearly birding field trip for young people.

Bob's interest in and service to the Bird Society continued through the years until ill health recently forced him to give up his position as Honorary Solicitor.

His energy and imagination were very largely responsible for our organization holding the position it does among similar bodies, and his passing leaves a gap which will not soon or easily be filled.

Our deep sympathy goes to Bob's wife and their family.

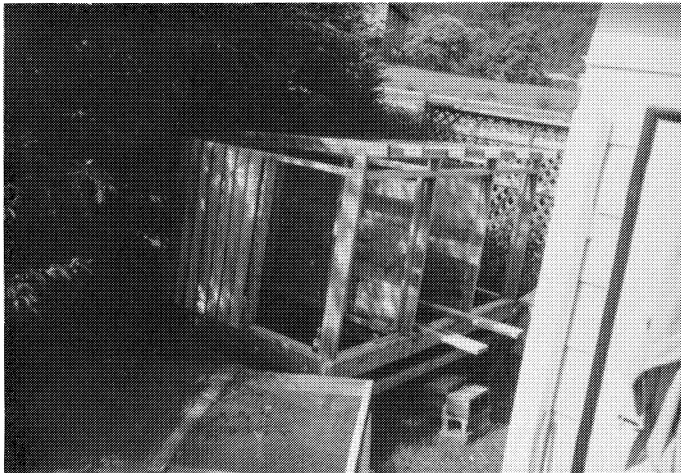
RAPTOR REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

THE LATEST UPDATE FROM THE REHABILITATION CENTER AT MASON'S POINT, STE. MARGARET'S BAY.



The three-sectioned aviary

1986 has been another interesting year for the rehabilitation programme at Mason's Point. In addition to our large aviary, we have constructed one unit divided into three sections, each measuring 60" high 64" in length and 38" wide. These holding pens have been used for raptors requiring restrictive movement due to serious injuries.



The new holding pen --now finished

The two Osprey we housed last summer bring back vivid memories of feeding time. Normally, these large birds can consume a considerable amount of fresh fish per day, so our family worked in shifts to meet the need. Manned with life jackets and fishing rods we would secure our boat to the red marker in the bay and fish until a sufficient amount was caught for the morning, noon and evening meals. Some fish were kept alive in a wire mesh pen below the salt water. Soon our neighbours were also contributing to the feeding process. We have found it necessary to breed mice in order to maintain an adequate food supply for other raptors. These raptors are also fed salvaged deer meat, rabbit, poultry and other salvaged meat such as pheasant, ruffed grouse, etc.

On July 24, a Northern Harrier (nestling) arrived along with two Broad-winged Hawks. The Broad-wings were placed in the large aviary until their release on August 5. At this time, the nestling harrier had shed most of its down and feathers were shaping the typical harrier pattern of fan or disc surrounding the eyes. Imprinting was



Harrier with some down still showing amid new feathers

a problem with this bird as we do not have puppets (resembling adult birds) for parenting at present, to substitute as the parent making the necessary gestures of loving, caring adult raptors. Hopefully, the use of puppets will avoid any future encounters with imprinting.



Red-tailed Hawk being held by Mike for banding before release.

The following raptors have been cared for under the present raptor rehabilitation programme for the year 1986:

Barred Owl	Adult
Broad-winged Hawks (2)	Immature
Northern Harrier	Nestling
Osprey	Immature
Osprey	Adult
Goshawks	Immature
Barred Owl	Adult
Red-tailed Hawk	Immature
Short-eared Owl	Adult
Barred Owl	Adult

Since the beginning of the programme in 1982, our success rate has been 80%.

--Elaine & Mike Kew



Mike releases the Broad-wings

Mike and Elaine are interested in building another flight cage-- a high one to accomodate falcons, with a smaller mesh suitable for the smaller raptors, the 2" mesh in the larger pens being too large. They would also like to construct some puppets to prevent imprinting. This is a project worth your support. The Kews do all the work (not just Mike and Elaine, but their boys as well). The Programme pays only for the materials. As the Programme is a project of the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust fund (a registered charity), we are able to provide donors with receipts for income tax purposes. Please send your contributions to:

David A. Currie,
Treasurer
NSBS Sanctuary & Scholarship Trust Fund
c/o Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer Street
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6

--MARK YOUR DONATION FOR THE RAPTOR REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

--J. Shirley Cohrs
Co-ordinator
Raptor Rehabilitation Programme

FIELD TRIPSFebruary 8 - Wolfville area

On Sunday, February 8, 1987, a group of some 20 people met in Wolfville for the annual joint NSBS -BNS birding field trip in the Wolfville-Grand Pré, Canard and Kentville areas. For the first time in the last four years the weather was half decent with no blizzard and no fog and reasonable temperatures. We started off exploring the Grand Pré dykes where Rough-legged Hawks did their usual trick of standing on telephone poles till we were within two pole distance of them and then flying off and it was nice to see the different plumages on individual birds. We had a look at the sea at Evangeline Beach at high tide and had a hard job picking out the Common Merganser and Black Ducks against the ice floes.

We then went back around the Port Williams and Lower Canard areas looking at Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks till we went back to the Stern's house for sandwiches, a warm-up and a good look at Redpolls and Siskins at their feeder.

After lunch, we went to the Kentville Dump, where among several thousand Herring and Black-backed Gulls, there was one second-winter Glaucous Gull which was a "lifer" for at least two members of the party. These all white gulls may be common along the South Shore and in Cape Breton but here in the valley, they are quite unusual.

We then did a big circle back to Wolfville via more Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks. One robin was seen and all along the way; both in the morning and in the afternoon there were substantial flocks of Snow Buntings and Horned Larks.

In total we saw thirty-two species and everyone had an enjoyable day.

-Richard Stern

February 15- WINTER BIRDS OF HALIFAX COUNTY

Although skies were clear, the temperature was sub-zero, on which ever scale you chose. The strong northerly wind brought tears to our eyes as we quickly scanned parts of the Bedford Basin near Mill Cove. Here we saw through blurry eyes, a male Hooded Merganser at the edge of the ice among the Common Goldeneye. There were four types of gulls, Great Cormorants and a large flock of Bohemian Waxwings nearby.

A wood road near Kearny Lake was the next stop, for it had proved to be interesting for birding in other seasons. The trail was easily walked but the coldness caused the snow to squeak loudly underfoot and we neither saw nor heard a single bird. Along Hammond's Plains Road, a Pileated Woodpecker chose the precise moment to bound over the highway, conveniently but in front of only a few fortunate birders.

We continued on to St. Margaret's Bay to visit all the "Hot Spots" but unfortunately they were frozen solid. The few open areas of water from Seabright to Peggy's Cove had Red-necked and Horned Grebes, Oldsquaw, Common Eider, Red-breasted Merganser, a Thick-billed Murre and a number of Black Guillemots. Land birds were meager but included White-winged Crossbills, Redpolls, Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks. In all, the combined effort accounted for a respectable 35 species for the day.

- David A. Currie



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

- SUNDAY
May 3 Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary - waterfowl, shorebirds, early migrants. Leader: Allan Smith, CWS, Sackville (1-506-536-3025). Meet at the APBS parking lot at 0930 hours (take exit 3 from TCH at the Wandlyn Inn and proceed a few km towards Nappan; the entrance is on the left). Bring a lunch.
- WEDNESDAY
May 13 Shubie Park - the first of our early morning warbler walks. Leader: Jim Elliott (434-6072). Meet in the parking lot at 0630 hours for 1-2 hours of birding before work.
- WEDNESDAY
May 20 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 23 Yarmouth - warbler walk. Leader: Charlie Allen (1-648-2752). Meet at Carleton School grounds at 0900 hours. Bring plenty of fly dope!
- SATURDAY
May 23 Paradise/Bridgetown (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 1.5 km east of the golf course).
- SUNDAY
May 24 Hants County day - various habitats, many species. Leader: TBA. Meet at 0800 hours at the railway crossing in Mount Uniacke.
- WEDNESDAY
May 27 Powder Mill Park (Waverley Park) - warblers (including possibly Black-throated Blue), breeding Loons, perhaps Great-crested Flycatcher. Leader: Peter Payzant (861-1607) Meet in the parking lot of the Canadian Tire store in Bedford at 0600 hours.
- SATURDAY
May 30 Sand Lake Area (Cape Breton)- warbler day. Leader: Hedley Hopkins. Meet at the Heavy Water Site at 0800 hours.
- SATURDAY
May 30 Amherst Point/Northumberland Shore - warblers, flycatchers, vireos and a search for rails. Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-8984). Meet at the APBS parking lot at 0830 hours: see directions above. We will visit APBS and John Lusby Marsh in the morning and work our way along the Shore in the afternoon.
- SUNDAY
May 31 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
June 6 Argyle Islands Bird Colonies (Yar. Co.)-nesting Great Blue Herons, Common Eider, gulls and terns. Leader: Ted D'Eon (1-762-2097). Meet at Abbott's Harbour wharf in West Pubnico at 0800 hours. Bring a lunch. The boat can accomodate up to 40 (cost \$10-15). For reservations, phone Ted before June 4.
- SUNDAY
June 7 Hopewell Area (Pictou Co.)- nesting owls and raptors. Leader: Harry Brennan (1-923-2780). Meet at 0800 hours at Saint Colomba's churchyard, about 1 mile south of Hopewell. Bring a lunch.
- SATURDAY
June 20 Barrington Bay/Cape Sable Island - birds of the shore, marsh and woodland. Leader: Joan Czapalay (1-637-2734). Meet at 0900 hours in the parking lot of the Woollen Mill Museum in Barrington. Bring a lunch. There are several good bed-and-breakfast spots in the area.
- SUNDAY
June 21 Antigonish Area - three venues; estuary habitat for water birds and eagles, Crystal Cliffs -old and new growth forest plus rocky cliffs, Beech Hill for Osprey nests and coniferous forest species. Leaders: Bob Bancroft (1-386-2501) and Norman Seymour (1-863-6134). Meet at the Provincial Building parking lot in Antigonish at 0800 hours. To get there, travelling from New Glasgow on the TCH, turn left by the Acadian Bus terminal on James St. The Provincial Building is on the right side just before the Kentucky Fried Chicken spot.
- SATURDAY
June 27 Iona (Cape Breton) - birds of High Summer. Leader: Nancy More. Meet at East Bay Church at 0800 hours.
- SATURDAY
July 4 Atlas Day - consult your Breeding Bird Atlas newsletter or phone Judith Kennedy at the Museum for details.
- SATURDAY
July 11 McNab's Island - our annual excursion. Leader: Roger Pocklington (469-3656). Meet at the wharf behind the N.S. Museum of the Atlantic at 0800 hours. This will be a joint trip with the Halifax Field Naturalists. Bring a lunch. If the weather is uncooperative, the trip will be postponed until Sunday, July 12.
- SATURDAY
July 18 Wallace Area - a variety of habitats including shoreline, woodland, riverside and marsh will be explored with a focus on raptors, hopefully including eagles. Leader: Tony Bidwell (1-257-2035). Meet at the wharf in Wallace at 0900 hours. Bring a lunch and comfortable walking boots.
- SATURDAY
July 25 St. Peters and Pt. Michaud - land and sea birds - Leader: Graham Fraser. Meet at East Bay Church at 0800 hours.
- THURSDAY
August 6 Crescent and Cherry Hill Beaches - focus on shorebirds. Leader: Shirley Cohrs (477-6036). Meet at 0900 hours at the entrance to Crescent Beach. Be prepared for a short easy walk at Crescent Beach in the morning and a fairly long rugged hike along Cherry Hill Beach in the afternoon.
- SATURDAY
August 8 Yarmouth Area - shorebirds. Leader: Charlie Allen (1-648-2752 or 648-2058). Meet at the C.P.R. station in Yarmouth at 0900 hours. Bring a lunch and footwear suitable for rocks and wet walking.

- SATURDAY Fuller's Bridge (Cape Breton)- shorebirds. Leader:
August 15 Eldon Meikle. Meet at Marion Bridge at 0800 hours.
- SUNDAY Pomquet (Antigonish Co.)- an early morning walk along the
August 16 shoreline (fresh and salt water) for shorebirds and other
migrants. Leaders: Bob Bancroft (386-2501) and Norman
Seymour (863-6134). Meet at 0700 hours at the Provincial
Building in Antigonish (for directions, see the June 21
field trip above).
- SATURDAY Seal Island (TENTATIVE) - arrangements are in progress to
Sept. 5 to have our Labour Day long weekend excursion on Seal. The
MONDAY alternate will be Bon Portage Island. Watch the July
Sept. 7 issue for more details or contact Bob McDonald.
- SATURDAY Point Aconi (Cape Breton) - exploring a new birding area.
September Leader: Hedley Hopkins. Meet at Sydney River Woolco at
12 0800 hours.
- SUNDAY Fall Roundup - contact Bill Caudle (465-3977) for an area
September to cover within the Dartmouth-Eastern Shore count circle.
13 More details in the July issue.

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



There's sea ducks in those waves! Christmas counters on the Barrington count, Jan. 3. Photo - Joan Czupalay.

SEASONAL SIGHTINGS IN SOUTHWEST NOVA SCOTIA

From Abrams River Bridge through the village of Eel Brook to Bear Road Corner is approximately one and a third kilometers; the northwest side of the road wooded, the southeast side, is either close along Salt Bay or has lanes giving easy access to it; and it is a rare day that nothing in the way of birds turns up along here--usually the trip is more than rewarding.

Spring and fall are naturally the luxuriant times, and at both of these seasons at Abrams River, and more so at Eel Brook (the nearby brook itself), the surfaces of the water and the air above are crowded with gulls, mostly Ring-billed, but some Herring and occasionally a small Black-headed Gull or an even smaller Bonaparte's. In among them in the swift-flowing water are cormorants, their long thin periscope necks and black heads winding in and out, with no apparent means of propulsion. It seems probable that they all--cormorants and screaming gulls--are feeding on the hordes of tiny sticklebacks (doubtless other species as well) which crowd the fast-flowing stream at such times.

There is good fishing here for birds at most seasons. We see Willets early in the spring, perched (and very vocal) on the overhead wires; while later, Kingfishers come and spend a week or so diving from the same perch.

Our Great Blue Heron also settles in at both Eel Brook and Abrams River in April and sometimes stays as late as December. It was this last fall that I noticed one which was accompanied by a small white heron. This, upon closer inspection turned out to be a Snowy Egret. For several days these two kept company, except that the Great Blue seemed indifferent; it was the little Egret which insisted upon following it about. If the big bird stalked off along the shore, the little one looked up and ran after it like a child after its parent; it really was very funny to watch.

There is a lane just beyond the Bear Road Corner which goes down through deep woods to cross a marsh, where in the spring we hear Swamp Sparrows and Redwinged Blackbirds singing. Once, a Rusty sang, up at the corner; such a sweet song, which I had never heard before, nor since. I am so glad I listened as long as he kept it up. At the end of the lane is the Dyke, the famous Dyke, built many, many years ago to turn the salt marsh into fresh, for growing hay. It is really an enormous structure, "as high as a house and as wide as a road", and has created a sandflat on the salt water side--rather a muddy sandflat which extends into Salt Bay. This is a favourite feeding ground for shorebirds, especially in the late summer when vast numbers of plovers, turnstones, yellowlegs and sandpipers (often plus somewhat rarer birds--Dowitchers, Knots and occasionally a Ruff), collect here to feed. We most enjoy the Greater Yellowlegs which gather in a noisy group and then rush in a body, swishing through the shallows, turn back and do it over and over again. It is a ludicrous performance and looks like some sort of game, but I am told it is a ploy to stir up food from the bottom! Knowing birds, this seems more probable.

High above this beach is a cruising area for Ospreys. Once I saw one catch three fishes in a row, only to have to drop each one because of a marauding gull, finally managing to get a fourth with which it made off in safety. One morning in early summer a Green Heron emerged shyly from the high weeds back of the Dyke, in and out several times to our great delight.

Another big bird, the Bald Eagle, although fairly common along the Tusket River, isn't often seen here. However, two immatures have recently settled in across the water, usually with a crow in attendance

looking ridiculously small as it sidles closer and closer to the huge birds, no doubt hoping to snatch a morsel from whatever it is they're eating.

Another big bird, the Red-tailed Hawk, stays with us all winter and is fairly often seen--also the Sharpshin of course, smaller but so deadly swift, is attendant at most feeders.

The only owls I have seen around here are the Barred and the Saw-Whet. The Barred, I found dead beside the road--such a beautiful bird--and fairly common throughout the country. I have seen them now and then in late afternoon, sunning themselves drowsily in a big spruce along Route 3 from Yarmouth. The little Saw-Whet is seldom seen in daylight, but this is usual with owls of course. One afternoon late last summer, the neighbouring boys came running across the road to tell me of one perched in their huge old oak tree. I went over and there it was on a low branch and as usual, fast asleep. The children were delighted, and I too, of course.

To return to this spring, our earliest arrivals--sometimes in February, but always by March--are ducks: Greater Scaup in large rafts in Salt Bay, always with a few Black Ducks along the far bank, and the occasional flock of Canada Geese flying north over the Bay. Some of the Black Ducks stay to nest inland where we have seen them on ponds--so few, where they used to be abundant. Shortly after the arrival of the Scaup, Red-breasted Mergansers come; we see most of them where Eel Brook proper joins its estuary--a popular spot most times of the year for the fish-eaters. The Mergansers start their courting almost immediately and there is a lot of rushing about and showing off, which is fun to watch from the bridge over the brook. Some of these, or other Red-breasted Mergansers cross over to Eel Lake later, but there they are greatly outnumbered by Common Mergansers, which feed for a month or more in the lake before taking off for their nesting grounds.

Driving from Tusket towards Eel Brook along Highway 103, we pass over a bridge which crosses Eel Lake near the turn-off, and there we always slow down to inspect two rocks, one each side of the road. The one on the right was, for a few years in a row, a crouching place for very young Common Terns, where one would wait patiently for the parent bird which was drifting over the lake in search of something nourishing to drop into its bill. It is unusual to see terns so far inland, but as the tern flies, it probably isn't so far.

The left hand rock is longer and thin and we call it the "Reef" (a tiny one) which has been a perching place for Terns at times, also gulls--mostly Ring-bills, but sometime Herring and Black-backs and occasionally a smaller Black-headed. However, in the late summer and fall during high tide periods, it is covered with shorebirds, and I mean covered--standing room only. For the most part they are Semi-palmated Sandpipers and Semi-palmated Plovers but always at each end there are a few Greater Yellowlegs, as many as can crowd onto the roost.

Crossing from here to Route 3, by the causeway, you get a wonderful view of the lake, and there one spring we were thrilled to get a good look at a sizable flock of American Wigeons, among the larger flocks of Common Mergansers. Rarer ducks do appear at times, in fact we spent a great deal of time last spring driving around Pleasant Lake, just down the road, watching a pair of Hooded Mergansers--gorgeous birds in full mating plumage. They stayed there for nearly a month, in full and frequent view before leaving, presumably to find a nesting place.

We soon lose sight of the ducks but as spring advances, the small

birds come: first the Tree Swallows, swooping over the lakes, then we hear a Song Sparrow, a Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers and the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and soon the whole chorus is with us. We have sixteen of the warblers in the county, but out here only hear about ten of them; but with the vireos, thrushes (and Catbird), flycatchers, Bobolink and other blackbirds, finches and the other sparrows, we have a full chorus.

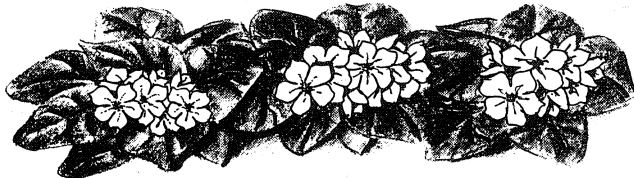
By full summer, most of this music subsides, and we come out of the woods, so to speak, to stroll along the roadsides and quite soon to try to identify the practically unidentifiable young birds. I find the warblers almost a hopeless task but the sparrows are slightly easier. One thing we miss now is the fall departure of the Chipping Sparrow--flock after flock used to flare up from the roadside as we drove along Route 3, but since the Department of Highways instituted its horrendous policy of scraping the roadsides bare, no wildflowers grow here any more. Aside from the sad loss of so much beauty, there are now no seeds to ripen for the migrating birds, to help them on their way; and they have disappeared from around here.

The summer birds depart but the winter ones start coming to the feeders as the cold weather sets in: Nuthatches (the Red-breasted here) and the Downy and Hairy Woodpecker at the fat log; Evening Grosbeaks at the sunflower seed; sparrows and juncos at the smaller seed; Goldfinches at the thistle seed and chickadees everywhere. This winter, incidentally, the Goldfinches were ousted by the Pine Siskins, dozens of them,, but they in turn were driven away by redpolls, the Common Redpoll, a truly arctic bird.

This very cold winter I have found the multiflora rose hedge a great help. When the snow came a few robins, storm-stayed, came back to eat the hedge berries, as did the Purple Finches and even sparrows at times--there were several Whitethroats, two Song Sparrows and one Tree Sparrow, also a few Juncos. Three large Ruffed Grouse were almost regular. It amazed me to see them climb about the hedge from top to bottom, calmly, while the smaller birds fluttered and stumbled--the robins especially--evidently trying to avoid the wicked thorns which the grouse plod over in apparent comfort. Often those hedge berries were the only thing within reach to eat, for the birds; even the rabbits reached up and nibbled them!

Today, February 18, with deep snow covering land and ice-locked lakes, Eel Brook was open, and in the flowing water were a Black Duck, two Buffleheads and five Greater Scaup. Perhaps spring is really coming again.

--Phyllis Dobson



THE MAY FLOWER. (TRAILING ARBUTUS)

R.B.D.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor's Note: In a letter to me, Frank Robertson expresses delight in the 1986 summer "resurgence" of the American Bluebird in the province. He continues:

Apparently, the disappearance of Bluebirds from their old, established habitats was experienced in more areas than Cape Breton Island. If these were unattractive birds, people in those areas would be inclined to shrug off the departure as unimportant. However, in many areas, particularly through the Canadian and mid-west United States prairies, people were so concerned about this loss that they took steps to encourage Bluebirds to return. The stories of the success resulting from the creation of Bluebird Trails--the one through southern Canada is said to stretch for two thousand miles--are stimulating and encouraging to anyone hoping to re-introduce these birds to their area.

The encouraging thing about the Bluebird Trails is that they are created by volunteers working singly. They are building wooden nesting boxes, posting them on spaced posts, which they check, particularly in spring, to see that the birds are not molested.

That is where English or House Sparrow and Starlings come into the picture. Both are introduced birds which have taken over nesting sites and feeding areas from more attractive native birds.

In other parts of the continent they are kept under control by volunteers who check the nest-boxes in early spring to offset any attempts by the sparrows and starlings to destroy the bluebirds' nests and take them over for their own use. It could be argued that the Cape Breton climate, especially in spring, might be too severe for these birds which are noted as early migrators. Too often the drift ice from the north crowds our shores until late in March. This has been blamed as a factor in discouraging Purple Martins and Cardinals from nesting here--but then, according to our records--the bluebirds were here before. That leaves us with the House Sparrows and Starlings as the culprits. People who work successfully with bluebirds say the House Sparrows and the Starlings are their worst enemies.

Sometimes people tell me proudly, "I feed the birds. I throw out all the scraps and bread". I have even known people who regularly visited bake shops to buy up stale bread for the birds. This occurs mainly in towns, less so in rural areas. Besides making an unsightly mess of your yard, throwing out scraps and bread encourages birds like House Sparrows, Starlings, gulls, Crows and ravens--which in themselves are messy birds.

Supported over the winter months, the sparrows and Starlings keep on increasing, taking possession of natural nesting cavities and nest-boxes before the more attractive birds arrive from the south. Even the few that do find a box or hole suitable for nesting, find their nests torn up, their eggs smashed and their young killed by these aggressive imports.

In areas where efforts are made to control sparrows and starlings, traps are used to catch them. These traps do not harm or injure the birds in any way. The quickest and most humane way to dispose of them is to put them in a plastic garbage bag and hold the opening for a second or two to the exhaust pipe of your car. The birds die quickly without suffering.

Some readers may be repelled by the thought. Other people-- without realizing their threat to our more attractive native birds-- will defend them as being "Scrappy" or "Tough". It is doubtful if at this late date, we could hope to eliminate them, but we could, as has been demonstrated in parts of the United States, control their numbers. One thing we can do, for sanitary reasons and the improvement of the looks of our property, as well as discouraging their population growth, is to stop feeding them. I am still hoping to see bluebirds in Cape Breton.

--Frank Robertson

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

I was greatly intrigued by Richard Stern's review of the third edition of Birds of Nova Scotia.

His reference to the length of this edition as "only a few pages longer than its predecessors" is puzzling, as the first edition had 480 pages, the second had 532 and the third has 478 (not 480, as he states; unnumbered pages are never counted).

His comments on the "washed-out" plates in this edition as compared to the previous two are interesting, in that they show how accustomed we can become to inaccurate colour reproductions simply because we live with them for so long. The colour-separation and printing technology used in the plates of the first two editions are 26 years old, and give the plates a distinctly muddy look, as though seen through a dirty window. We had the original Roger Tory Peterson paintings re-photographed for the new edition, by a professional, using controlled lighting conditions, and the colour separations subsequently made from those photographs are faithful in terms of colour balance. At first they do look a bit "washed-out", simply because the muddiness is gone. They are as close to the brilliance and clarity of the original paintings as it is possible to get with today's printing technology.

This brings me to the main reason for writing, as I was intrigued by his reference to the fourth toe in the Black-backed Woodpecker painting. I checked this and previous editions and it almost appeared that somebody had tampered with an original Peterson painting, which seemed hard to credit, since they were in the custody of the Newfoundland Museum in St. John's, and not accessible to casual visitors. So, I got in touch with John Maunder, the Curator of Natural History at that institution, and asked him if he could shed any light on the matter. He chuckled and said that he could, and my main reason for writing this letter is to pass on to the members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society the history of this error.

The Peterson paintings were originally done for Burleigh & Peters' The Birds of Newfoundland, published in 1951, and the fourth toe was in fact Peterson's own mistake, one he apparently hates to be reminded of, even today. Nobody noticed it in time to correct the plates for that first publication, but it was noticed subsequently and when the colour separations for the first edition of The Birds of Nova Scotia were made, the negatives were retouched to eliminate the toe. When the first edition was printed, extra plates for the anticipated second edition were printed at the same time (to save future costs, which would certainly be higher). Some time between 1962 and 1984, the original colour separations were lost, which is why we arranged to have the original Peterson paintings photographed again. Unfortunately, nobody in Newfoundland realized we were no longer aware of the extra toe, so we unwittingly reinstated an old error. We also had

extra plates run off for the anticipated second printing of the new edition (now on the press) so that error cannot be corrected until a third printing is required. Judging by the demand for the book, that day may not be very far off.

--Fred Scott

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

Bird Atlassing! I wonder if any other members of the N.S.B.S. have been "turned-off" participating in this project.

We are a group of four birders who, last May, reluctantly agreed to participate in the Breeding Bird Atlas project. We were hesitant because we did not feel we had the time to do it properly; we were not worried about our expertise. We agreed to participate and made a real effort to spend extra time birding, especially in our priority square, about 35 km from our cottage. Our cottage bisected two other squares, so we reported on three squares.

Our reports were submitted late, because we kept them at our cottage. We had some hassle over that, but resolved it amicably. The real turn-off came when we received a letter from Judith Kennedy, requesting further documentation for 10 of the birds we reported.

We reported Yellow-rumped Warblers, as "confirmed, attending young". I cannot see how we could confuse this sighting, except of course, if they were Yellow-rumps feeding young Redstarts.

We were also questioned on the pair of Common Loons who summer in our lake. We reported them as, "Probable pair in suitable nesting habitat", only because, this year, we were never fortunate enough to see the young. A pair of Loons has nested in this lake for the last 20 years.

We were equally upset with being questioned on Herring Gulls, Great Blue Herons and Cedar Waxwings.

Although we do not consider ourselves "crackerjack" birders, we feel we are considerably experienced and reliable. Our records are accepted without question by the editors of NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS, who maintain very high standards. Are other birders being questioned on basic birds? Are they pleased with their participation in this project? Do they question if the project is worth the cost? For us, participation took all the joy out of our birding!

--Wendie Tay

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

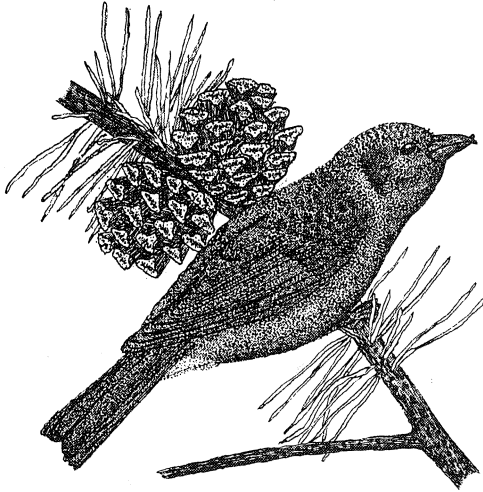
I wish to express both admiration and some concern for the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas scheme.

The objectives of the scheme, and the enthusiasm and hours of hard work of the organizers, coordinators, and participants are highly commendable. The task is formidable so it is particularly delightful to see such interest in the program.

My concern is with the quality of the results. Hundreds of people are involved in the Maritime atlassing. Frankly, one has to ask whether or not all of these participants have the knowledge and experience to contribute well to a data base that is intended to be useful in the years ahead. While this comment regarding variability among observers is applicable to any large scale scheme, it is apt to be very pertinent to the Maritimes. The results from each square do undergo a review process that hopefully is as sensitive as it is thorough. Ultimately, however, the quality of the information is dependent upon the calibre of the participants.

My hope is that the very evident enthusiasm will be matched by an atlas recognized for its completeness, accuracy and consistency.

--P.C. Smith



Red Crossbill C.T.N.

CORY'S SHEARWATER IDENTIFICATION

Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) is a rare summer visitor to Newfoundland. In recent years it has been seen annually on the Cabot Strait ferry and North Sydney, Nova Scotia to Argentinia, Newfoundland ferry; mostly by tourists.

Newfoundlanders are accustomed to seeing scads of Greater Shearwaters each year along the coast and the question invariably comes up: what would a Cory's look like out there?

The one mark to look for is the evenly dusky face, head and hindneck. The dusky colouration comes down farther on the side of the neck than the markings on a Greater.

The Greater Shearwater has a dark capped head, usually distinctly darker than the mantle and a white collar that can almost meet on the hindneck. It is often difficult to determine the cap from the back but sharp definition of the cap from the white face is always there.

The Cory's Shearwater looks like it is wearing an open neck, woollen hood pulled up over its head. The Greater Shearwater is wearing a baseball cap pulled down just below the eyes. This feature is visible at considerable distance under most conditions in flight and on the water.

The Cory's lighter brown colour can also set off the alarm when scanning through large flocks of Shearwaters on the water and in flight.

The Cory's lacks the dusky markings on the belly and underwing coverts that a Greater has, so is just plain white there. This whiteness of the underparts and paler, more uniform brown back, along with the woollen hooded effect and subtle differences in the flight, which is supposed to be more gull-like, add up to make a Cory's different enough from a Greater to stand out easily under half decent conditions. The big yellow bill is not hard to see if you look for it and is a definite clincher.

The reason you have not seen Cory's Shearwater in Newfoundland is because they are rare, not because they are hard to identify. You are likely to look through many more tens of thousands of Shearwaters and never see a Cory's. However, to increase your chances, take the ferries to North Sydney from Argentinia or Port-aux-Basques from late July to early September. They are a warm water Shearwater and don't appear in the NW Atlantic Ocean until mid-summer.

This article was reprinted, with permission, from The Bullbird, Vol. 1, No. 3, July 1986.

PACKING PARTY

--photos by Shirley Cohrs

Packing and mailing Nova Scotia Birds may sound a simple sort of operation: place in envelopes, affix mailing labels and mail. It just isn't quite so easy. Our society qualifies for second class mail. This is fortunate, for if we couldn't use this method the cost of sending out three copies of Nova Scotia Birds per year (at \$1.20 per magazine) and the Fall Flyer (at .34) would be prohibitive. Based on a membership of 650, mailing alone would cost approximately \$2561.00. Second class mail, however, does entail much complicated work. We are responsible for the sorting, which is done by a complex system of urban and rural postal codes. Packets of stuffed and addressed envelopes are parcelled up with elastic bands, some top envelopes turned out, some turned in, all marked appropriately. The organized mail is packed into mail bags which are then doubly labeled. These are taken to the post office where arrangements have been made previously for a deposit to our account there.

Before sorting however, the books are placed in envelopes. Simple? Not always--sometimes there is an insert in some and not in others. In January non-renewers get a renewal form instead of a magazine. The postal codes on the computerized labels must not be mixed up and out of Canada subscriptions (of which we have quite a lot) are done differently altogether.



In charge of this whole operation is Dave Currie (and I suspect he's the only person who completely understands the complexities). Volunteers help with each issue, under his patient guidance and, as you can see from the photographs, usually enjoy the experience.

Members who would like to help with packing (done the third weeks of January, April and July and the second week in September) should get in touch with Dave (479-6330)

--JSC

Dave brings the boxes of Nova Scotia Birds from the delivery bay to the packing room at the Museum.



Complexities are explained to a confident-looking Peter Payzant and a somewhat dubious-looking Linda



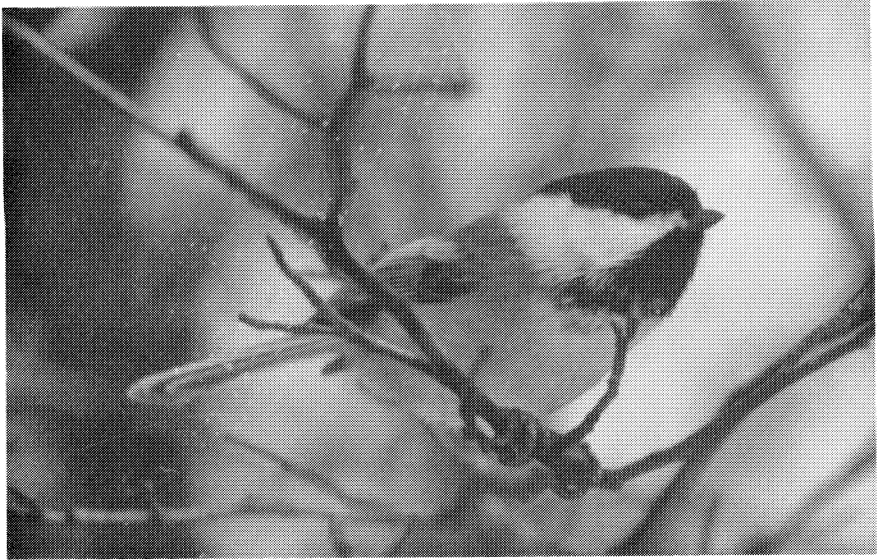
Peter, Linda, Molly Clayden and John Cohrs, hard at work.



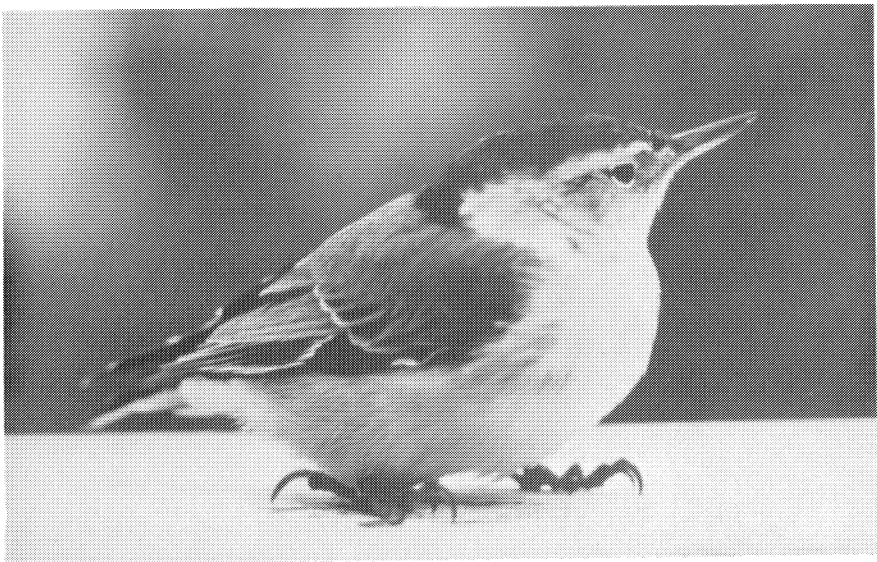
Only Dave does the more complicated organization



Bags of Nova Scotia Birds are dragged to the door to be heaved into Dave's car. Molly, Peter, Linda and Azor Vienneau are the draggers



This pair of sprites helped to mitigate the winter "blahs",—
almost the only species of passerines to be plentiful this season.
Chickadee photo - Richard Stern White-breasted Nuthatch photo -
Ian McLaren



RED FACES

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of my editorship of Nova Scotia Birds, formerly the Newsletter, I am indulging myself by reprinting my favourite "piece" from past issues. Originally written by Phyllis Dobson in 1969, it is as amusing now as it was then.

WATCH THAT SYNTAX
(with apologies to all concerned)

Recently I had occasion to unearth some old Newsletters, and while leafing through them, my eye lit upon an interesting item: "...Mrs. E. Richardson - Sang a pleasing song". Mrs. Richardson is well known to us all as a woman of many talents, but I had not realized that this was one of them. Glancing below I read: "...Dr. I. Lewis --Eating highbush cranberries", "...W. E. Whitehead-Flycatching in his garden". Fascinated, I read on and was not surprised at "...J. Comer -Observed swimming off Conrad's Beach", "...S. Fullerton - Lurking in swampy area below County Home:, nor "...W. Neily - Feeding upon peanut butter", but when it came to "...H. Carmichael - Engaged in nest building", "...J. Brayley - Seen on the limb of an apple tree in his backyard", "...W. Chute - A lively male at his feeder" and "...A.J. Erskine - Yellow feet noted", horror began to mount. At "...Margaret Torey - Ate multiflora rose hips and began to sing in the spring", "...E. Crathorne - Watched for half-an-hour on the water and flying", "...Capt. Holdway - Perched in a lilac hedge" and "...The Hemeons - Seen together on a telephone wire", hysteria set in. Worse was to come: "...Dr. L. B. Macpherson - Seen sitting on the ice!!" "...C.R.K. Allen - On a piece of drift ice, oiled"!! So, when I read "...W.Mills - Picked up by the police at a shopping centre", and "...Mr. and Mrs. Smith - Both males", I was glad to reach"...P. Dobson - Found in a weakened condition, cared for, but died".

--The Red-faced Editor
PRD

Having read this before I took over as editor, I vowed to be very careful NOT to be trapped into fractured syntax or double entendre. I find, However, on looking back through "my" past issues that such accidents seem to be an editorial hazard to which I too fell prone.

Here then, are some of MY bloopers:

"...on April 6, a Phoebe appeared at L.W. Ohio, and by May 8, had acquired a mate and established a nest containing three eggs. Five young were successfully raised." (double yolks?)

"Dottie Willis observed the dull yellow legs, large bill and crest like a Great Glue Heron" (a sticky identification!)

"There was the usual sprinkling of the Eastern Wood Peewee during the summer months..."

"Another Martin, a mature, decorated a fencepost at Chebogue Pt."

"This bird (cerulean warbler) flew ahead of Fred and Evelyn Dobson as they explored the island, fluttered about and lit."

"The very thinly spread Hooded Mergansers covered all regions."

"Marg Clark,...feeding on a shelf outside the kitchen window--a rare sight."

"The Pine Grosbeak, resident the whole year round has returned to normal."

--The Second Red-faced Editor
JSC

CHANGING BIRD NAMES - A NEW GAME

The nomenclature committee of the American Ornithological Union (AOU) continually publishes new names for American birds. The American Birding Association (ABA) also has gotten into the act with some changes of their own, and the authors of bird books compound this confusion by using whatever names turn them on.

The purpose of the name changes is to reflect current research in the grouping of families and genera and to have names which correspond to those in use by the worldwide community of scientists. At least, that is what we are led to believe. Actually, it is a game, and points are scored as follows:

ONE POINT - For simple changes, such as adding Northern or Common to an existing name, for changing American to Common, or vice versa.

TWO POINTS - For changes that lump two species, such as Snow Goose and Blue Goose. Extra points may be rewarded depending upon the outcry from birders.

THREE POINTS - For changes that lump three species, such as the flickers or juncos.

FOUR POINTS - Since so few people, including scientists, know Latin names, changes in this category rarely rate more than four points.

FIVE POINTS - Because lumping is currently the fad, there is some controversy about the number of points to be earned by splitting a species. However, most members of the nomenclature committees will begrudgingly give up to five points for a split, such as Alder and Willow Flycatchers.

SIX POINTS - For deleting a personal name, such as changing Wied's Flycatcher to Brown-crested Flycatcher. Of course, there is a vain hope that the next time around they will rename the species after you instead of the original guy.

SEVEN POINTS - For picking a confusing name that sounds like several others. For example: Yellowthroat, Yellow-throated Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

EIGHT POINTS - For an ambiguous name that conveys no image at all, such as Magnificent Hummingbird or Elegant Trogon.

NINE POINTS - For naming a bird after its least-conspicuous field mark, such as Ring-necked Duck, Band-tailed Pigeon, or Gray-breasted Jay.

TEN POINTS - For selecting a name that is longer than the bird, such as Northern Beardless Tyrannulet.

From Birder's Guide to Rio Grande Valley & Texas by James Lane printed here by permission of L & P Press, Denver, Colorado. Lane has also written Birder's Guides to Churchill, Arizona, Florida and others. Details available upon request.

BOOKS

Title: Shorebirds: An Identification Guide to the Waders of the World

Author: Peter Hayman, John Marchant and Tony Prater

Publisher: Croom Helm, Beckenham, Kent, U.K.

Pages: 412

Price: \$56.00 from Nature Canada
 £19.95 in Britain

If you are a birder who stands on the edge of a beach contemplating a mixed flock of shorebirds and despairs of ever telling them apart, then this is the book for you. On the other hand, if you are fairly experienced and confident of your ability to identify any shorebird you are likely to encounter, this is the book for you too, for this is the most comprehensive book on the subject published to date. It is an identification guide, not a field guide (it weighs 2½ lbs. and measures 9½ x 6½ inches) and its 412 pages include every shorebird in the world.

The first half of the book has each species name captioned on the left hand page, together with a range map. Facing, on the opposite page is a veritable feast of coloured plates of the bird in question --not one or two plates each, but up to NINE, showing male, female, adult, juvenile, breeding and non-breeding plumages, plus other points of identification. These species captions are cross-referenced to the text which occupies the second half of the book. Here, the finer points of identification are explained in detail and include voice, habits, movements, descriptions, measurements, races and references. With all this information at hand the experienced shorebirder can branch out into identification of age and sex and also be on the lookout for the strays and rarities. However, the beginner should not be overwhelmed by the amount of data presented. The plates are generally excellent and the non-breeding adult plumage illustrations could be the answer to any problems the beginner might have.

After a foreword by Roger Tory Peterson, is a valuable section (especially for beginners) on how to identify shorebirds and how to use the book to the greatest advantage. Following the text are some charts dealing with particularly difficult identifications such as that of the three species of Golden Plover and the two american Dowitchers. A detailed bibliography is included.

Nothing, of course, is perfect and one can point out that a few of the plates could be better--for example, the Baird's Sandpiper in Plate 81 is not, in my opinion, very realistic. In one or two instances some small plates have been reversed. The print is rather small and since this is not a field guide, the little extra size and weight with larger print would have been acceptable.

However, these are all small points in a book of such wide scope. It is expensive, true, but if it were the only book on shorebirds in one's library, it would be enough.

--Shirley Cohrs.

(Books continued)

Title: The Birds of Canada

Author: W. Earl Godfrey

Publisher: The National Museum of Canada

Pages: 595

Price: \$39.95

The long-awaited revised edition of The Birds of Canada is now available. It has become fashionable in book reviews to range from hypercritical and sarcastic to nit-picking. I am afraid that Godfrey's book is too old a friend to play that game!

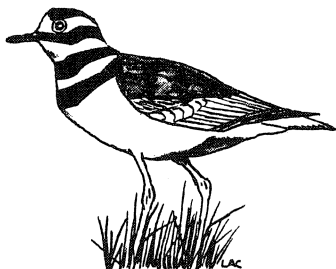
Don't miss the surprisingly informative introduction. It summarizes the field of birds from the scientific aspect to the hobby value in just sixteen interesting pages.

The format for each species is relatively unchanged from the earlier edition. For each species it gives a brief outline of range, habitat, subspecies, breeding areas and nesting; information that is usually crowded out of most field guides. Thus, when seeking to identify or confirm a tricky sighting, it provides a valuable bridge between the too scanty information of the field guide and the floods of information in publications such as Bent's.

The text is uniformly excellent. In my opinion, the colour plates have their greatest value in the identification and field marks of shorebirds, gulls, terns and alcids. Stop and look at the colour plates, they are works of art. Crosby's illustrations, particularly swans, geese and ducks, are a delight to the eye. The seascape background of Plate 4 for petrels and shearwaters could stand alone as a painting.

There are many books that are, in their own fields, as useful as Godfrey, that range from utilitarian to ugly. This is a beautiful book, from plates, to typesetting, to page layouts. My own personal view is that if you can afford it and are forced to limit yourself to three bird books for Nova Scotia, you would do well to choose the field guide of your choice, R.W. Tufts' Birds of Nova Scotia and this publication. I must warn you, however, that two or three kilograms or over five pounds in weight, this is no field guide!

--John L. Cohrs



(Book Reviews cont'd)

Title: The Migrations of Hawks

Author: Donald S. Heintzelman

Publisher: Indiana University Press, Oct. 31, 1986.

Pages: 360

Price: \$35.00 U.S.

Of the few special events in nature I've seen, the one which impressed me most was seeing thousands of Broad-winged Hawks taking advantage of thermal air currents high over Hawk Cliff, Ontario. With this experience and predictable curiosity, I eagerly agreed to read and review The Migrations of Hawks.

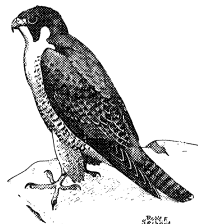
The introduction quickly suppressed my enthusiasm as the author briefly touched on various hawk-watching techniques and possible theories which have evolved over the years of research. It may be a slight exaggeration to say that every sentence was extracted from a previous work but it seemed that way, with a large number of references made to other works.

The second part of the book makes up almost 50% of it and comprises brief descriptions of every significant hawk look-out in North and Central America. In this section the author donates three-quarters of a page to Nova Scotia and includes Bon Portage, Brier, Cape Sable and Seal Islands as the prime hawk-flight areas in autumn.

Parts three and four offer fascinating information on weather conditions, geography and migratory route changes and their effect on hawk movements. I found these sections the most informative and they actually provided me with a slight desire to read on. Next, though, came a very extensive 62 page bibliography which in itself is a masterpiece. It lists, I'm sure, every conceivable source published or unpublished that had anything whatsoever to do with hawks.

To be fair to the author, his book is a very comprehensive study, the result of years of research and was probably not meant for general reading. His sole purpose was to further knowledge constantly being gained of the enigma of hawk migration. This, I believe he has done. This is not the type of reading material that will adorn the amateur birder's library without collecting dust and, at \$35.00 U.S., I'm not too sure how many public libraries would obtain it either.

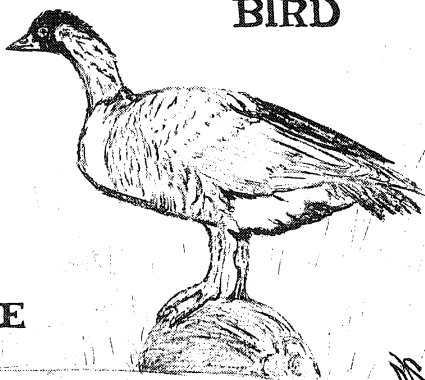
--Dave Currie



A CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT IN HAWAII

Margaret A. Clark

HAWAII'S STATE BIRD



NENE

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to experience a Christmas Bird Count other than the cold, wet, snowy, blizzard conditions that usually face you on the Halifax East, Yarmouth, Broad Cove, Wolfville or any other count you go on in Nova Scotia? Last year I had such an experience. A few days after arriving in the Waikiki area of Honolulu, I phoned Dr. Robert Pyle. After introducing myself and telling him where I was from, his question was, "Would you like to go on a Christmas Bird Count?". He gave me the name and telephone number of the leader responsible for the count in the area where I was staying. After another telephone call the details fell into place.

When making plans to spend a month in Hawaii, I had purchased a copy of Hawaii's Birds, published by the Hawaiian Audubon Society. This small 5x7 inch booklet, along with a checklist and a map of the Islands, made for a relaxed seven hour flight from Dallas to Honolulu, and helped prepare me for identifying any of the new birds that I was hoping to add to my life list.

So it was, that on Sunday, December 21, 1986, at 7 a.m., dressed in comfortable walking shoes, shorts, cotton blouse with a small satchel, containing such items as notepad, pencil, kleenex, snack and field guide, attached to my waist, and with binoculars in hand, I waited on the steps of the hotel to be picked up at 7:05 a.m. The group included George Campbell, the leader, Helen and Betty, all residents, Ed, a winter visitor from Victoria, B.C., and myself. We were to cover four areas within the largest tourist concentration of Honolulu.

Our first stop was Al Moana Park which included Magic Island. George, Helen and I covered the shore area, while Betty and Ed looked after the picnic area. The early morning joggers and fishermen were already exercising legs and casting arms as we began counting the Zebra or Barred Dove, softly cooing as the males bowed in their courtship display; the Common Myna Birds strutting along easily identified by their bright yellow legs, bill and eye patch; and the Red-crested Cardinals, some who were tame enough to feed out of George's hand.

We counted House Sparrows, Rock Doves (I'm sure 99% of all Rock Doves in Hawaii are pure white); Kōlea, which is the Hawaiian name for the Golden Plover, seen more often on lawns and in fields than on mud flats. Then scanning the water off shore, we spotted one Brown Booby perched on a buoy and two flying low over the water. Before leaving Al Moana Park, we added Mockingbirds, Red-whiskered Bulbuls, and many of the more common Red-vented Bulbuls to our list.

The second area we were to cover was the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, or Punchbowl, located within an extinct volcano, the Puowaina Crater. Here one has an excellent view of the city and harbour of Honolulu. The beautifully landscaped grounds, where the grey markers contrasted visibly with the deep green of the grass, contains the graves of over 21,000 service personnel killed in World War II and the Korean Conflict. Ellison Onizuka, a crew member of the Space Shuttle Challenger, is also buried here.

We wasted very little time starting out, for already the tour buses were arriving, as were cars carrying other people with plants and flowers to place on the graves of relatives or friends. The red of the anthurium flowers and poinsettia plants made a striking contrast with the lush green, reminding me it was only four days before Christmas. The heavy clouds that had threatened us finally opened up with a steady fine rain and, although George had ample rain gear for all five of us, I decided to go unprotected, as it was quicker to let my cotton blouse dry between showers than to be continually wet from the claminess of the plastic rain jacket.

The Golden Plovers, Doves and Myna Birds walked and flitted unceremoniously over the graves, and as we climbed the slopes to the cemetery boundary, the first rainbow of the day formed a perfect arc over Pearl Harbour. We counted Northern Cardinals, Spotted Doves and House Finches, then flitting among the weeds, tall grasses, vines and shrubs were the Spotted Munia, alias Ricebird, alias Nutmeg Mannikin. Just as we were about to leave Punchbowl, George spotted a White-rumped Shama. As thrilling as it was to have this bird identified and pointed out to me, it was more so two weeks later when I found a pair while birding on my own.

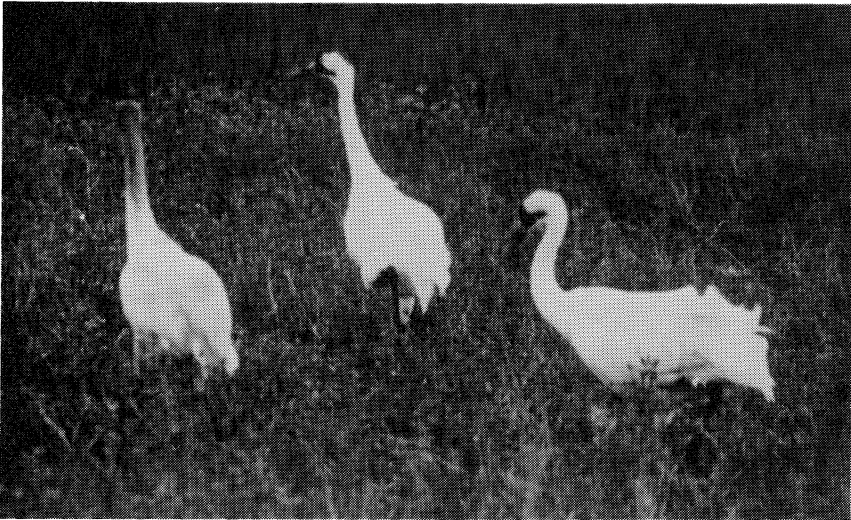
Our third area was the Maikiki Cemetery (Japanese) with most of it well kept while one corner was quite overrun with tall grass, vines and weeds. Here we found a large flock of Java Sparrows, easy to identify with black head, white patch under the eye, pink finch-like bill, grey back and black tail. Of course there were more doves, Myna Birds and Red-vented Bulbuls to count and add to our growing list.

Driving through downtown Honolulu, munching a granola bar, the Sunday traffic at its peak, crowded beaches on the right side, another rainbow partly visible with a backdrop of mountains on the left, it was hard to realize this was a Christmas Count. We were able to find a spot in the Fort DeRussy parking lot and now with the heat of the noontday sun beating down on us, winding our way over sunbathers, around picnickers, dodging frisbee throwers, meanwhile trying to count the flocks of Rock Doves and sparrows being fed by just one of the many who go to the park to feed the birds, I could understand why this was the last stop of the day. We added more of the same to our list as well as the Japanese White Eye--a tiny, quick-moving bird that acts like a Nuthatch, feeding upside-down!

In the six hours we had a total of 17 species; 1956 individuals. It was a very pleasant, non-strenuous experience, more like being out on a summer field trip in Nova Scotia, with fewer birds seen!

All the birds seen in that count area were "foreign" to Hawaii, having been introduced by man. Seeing some of the endemic species would come later when I was able to go to areas outside of Honolulu and flew to other islands. Even the almost extinct State Bird, the Nene, cannot easily be seen in the wild.

What was the most significant difference between birding in Hawaii and birding in Nova Scotia? No, it had nothing to do with weather conditions, species of birds or even the way the Christmas are handled. It was not seeing any GULLS!! Not one Gull anywhere!



While some of us have to suffer snowshovelling and sniffles, others wander off to more salubrious climes to gaze at exotic rarities. These familiar (in pictures, at least) birds were photographed by Margaret Clark at Aransas, Texas, last fall.

* ANNOUNCING *



A NEW CONTEST



A COMPETITION FOR FUTURE COVER DESIGNS

FOR NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

FIRST PRIZE: GODFREY'S BIRDS OF CANADA

SECOND PRIZE: ONE YEAR -- FREE MEMBERSHIP IN THE
NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

REQUIREMENTS:

A sketch of a bird or birds
Black and white (preferably ink)
Size: to fit within our cover (5 x 7 inches)

PLEASE SUBMIT TO THE EDITOR:

Shirley Cohrs
8 Rosemount Ave.
Halifax, N.S. B3N 1X8

*All entries become the property of the Nova
Scotia Bird Society.*

*There is no restriction on the number of
entries for any one person*

CLOSING DATE: JULY 30, 1987

NOTE: We would also be pleased to have smaller sketches of birds (or bird related subjects) suitable for use as half or quarter page decorations. Please note that as the text of Nova Scotia Birds is reduced from legal size to 6 x 9 inches, when it is printed, the sketches should relate to the legal size page (8½ x 14 inches) THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO THE COVER DESIGN as the cover is NOT reduced.

--Ed.

BIRDS AND BERRIES

by Bernice Moores and Liz Townsend

The first "B" of Atlassing is Birds. Atlassers have spent many an hour searching for an elusive species carrying food or displaying signs of amorousness. But, how many atlassers have sought the second "b"? One of the bonuses of atlassing is the discovery of berries! Discovering new berry-picking grounds can "fulfill" an atlasser's hope that the square will be "fruitful"! (Please permit us a little pun before we get on with our story!)

We are responsible for an area on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia including West Jeddore, Ostrea Lake and the Eastern tip of Martinique Beach. During the spring and summer, we counted birds but we also had our eye on the progress of several patches of fox berries. On a sunny Saturday morning in mid-September, 1986, we set out to reap our harvest.

As we approached Ostrea Lake an adult Bald Eagle flew up from short alders on the roadside about thirty metres ahead of the car. The car responded to our excitement by screeching to a halt as we watched this magnificent bird flying to the opposite of the Musquodoboit Harbour narrows on our right.

Before we had fully collected ourselves, an immature Bald Eagle rose from the same spot and flew across the road to land in a tree on our left. The immature eagle was brown with some white flecks. A large white patch in the area of the upper tail coverts and rump was evident as it flew and also as it landed and folded its wings. Its downy head and careful landing, folding its huge wings with great deliberation, led us to believe that it was a very young bird. It called several times and changed perches at least twice. During all of this time, two ravens were noisily circling overhead. We assumed the eagles had been feeding and decided to proceed on our way.

As we were passing the spot from which our two eagles had flown, another adult eagle suddenly lifted its head and emerged in the ditch no more than two metres from the car! After exchanging stares with us for about twenty seconds, it started to walk through the alders with a limp favouring its right side. We moved the car slowly to keep pace with it while its fierce eye observed us. After eight metres or so, an opening appeared in the trees at the side of the ditch and the eagle hobbled through it out of sight.

We decided our first two eagles were assisting and showing concern for an injured family member while the ravens added to their distress. As we left the scene, a backward glance revealed that the first adult eagle had returned and was doing a great deal of calling from a tree top near the ditch while the immature eagle and ravens added to the cacophony. We hurried back to the nearest telephone to report the injured eagle to the Department of Lands and Forests.

Although the Department of Lands and Forests had closed at noon, fifteen minutes before our call, we located a competent lady who answered "Zenith 40,000" and took our report. Two hours later, we joined a Department representative and his dog in conducting a search for the injured bird (the wait was no hardship since the Lions Club was holding a chicken barbeque nearby). The area was now silent except for the cheerful sounds of Black-capped Chickadees. The only evidence that the eagles had been there was a few bits of down and feathers on bushes some distance away at the water's edge. There was no evidence of feeding, a scuffle, or injury. The eagle's injury

must have been slight.

By 4:30 p.m., we headed for the berry patch. Luckily the fox berries were ripe and sufficiently plentiful for us each to pick a small pail. For that day, the "B. & B." of atlassing included an eye level encounter with three magnificent birds and enough berries for jam for Christmas presents!

This Zenith 40,000 (which is an operator assisted call only) is available twenty-four hours a day to report injured raptors (which will then be handled by our Raptor Rehabilitation Programme) illegal hunting or trapping, vehicles on restricted beaches, etc., etc. Members are urged to use this service, should they see shorebirds being shot at, out-of-season duckhunting, all-terrine vehicles on beaches, especially in Piping Plover nesting areas. We have a supply of cards for detailed reporting, especially designed for this purpose by the Department of Lands and Forests. If you would like some, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to :

*Shirley Cohrs,
8 Rosemount Ave.,
Halifax, B3N 1X8*

--Editor



Peter Payzant caught this Yellow-headed Blackbird at Hartlen Point on Oct. 7, last fall.

THE MARITIMES BREEDING BIRD ATLAS -- YEAR TWO

Judith Kennedy, co-ordinator of the Atlas project, is urging all who participated last year to gear up for another season, taking on new territory if possible. Anyone not involved who wishes to begin now will be welcomed and should contact her c/o Nova Scotia Museum.

WILD LIFE ' 87

This year has been declared a nationwide celebration of wildlife: Wildlife '87. The purpose of Wildlife '87 is to increase public awareness of wildlife in general and of actions both governmental and non-governmental which affect it. The Nova Scotia representative

on the Wildlife '87 committee is Judith Kennedy, who should be contacted c/o of the Nova Scotia Museum by anyone wishing further information.

The Nova Scotia Bird Society has several projects planned with regard to Wildlife '87, and details will be given in the July issue.

**PLANNING A TRIP?**

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

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

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

MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH



A number of people responded by letter and by phone to the sparrow photograph in the last issue, here shown in a slightly crisper version at left. The streaked breast sent several people down the wrong track--Savannah Sparrow and Lincoln's Sparrow were suggested and, more perceptively, juvenile Swamp Sparrow.

However, only Mike Almon got it right: a juvenile Chipping Sparrow. The "capped" appearance and the eyestripe on the otherwise bland face are typically "chippy", but of course the streaks are a feature that will soon be lost. It was snapped in late August on Seal Island last year.

This issue's photo shows another passerine, again on Seal Island. It should be easier than any so far, because it contains at least one highly diagnostic feature.



NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The 1986 Christmas Count presents a very contrasting picture this year. Numerous writers commented on the minimal number of birds or species on their counts. After compiling all the statistics, one finds this year's total number of birds, 166,000, to be the second highest number of birds ever recorded in the province. The number of species, 130, is the lowest total in the last 6 years. What this means, we don't know. Is the weather playing a major factor? Or are there just better observers, better counts, or more hours spent in the field?

This year 4 species were seen on all 29 counts, Blue Jay, Am. Crow, Black-capped Chickadee and European Starling, and a startling total of 24 species (including White-breasted Nuthatch) were seen on 20 or more counts.

It is always nice to see new or old counts being started up and sent into the Newsletter, but I must caution new count compilers to make sure your count does not overlap a previous and ongoing established count. In the future these overlapping counts will not be published.

As the Christmas Count compilers, we have taken literary license and added the comment "no details" behind certain species of birds, and this practice will continue. As a rule, if you have to write in a species name on the count form you should include a N.S.B.S. Verification Form for Unusual Records along with your count form.

AMHERST, Dec. 22; 7:45AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind NW 5kmh. Temp. -15 to -5C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 19 observers in 9 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 60 (28½ on foot, 31 ¾ by car). Total party miles 304 (30 on foot, 274 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; Am. Black Duck 75; Com. Merganser 27; Bald Eagle 2a; N. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Rough-legged Hawk 27; Ring-necked Pheasant 15; Ruffed Grouse 5; Herring Gull 750; Iceland Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 203; Rock Dove 538; Mourning Dove 1; Snowy Owl 2; Barred Owl 1; owl, sp. 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Horned Lark 72; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 126; Am. Crow 381; Com. Raven 205; Bl.-capped Chickadee 137; Boreal Chickadee 22; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 20; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 1257; Am. Tree Sparrow 81; Song Sparrow 2; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 17; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 2257; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 4; Pine Grosbeak 5; Com. Redpoll 157; Pine Siskin 13; Evening Grosbeak 382; House Sparrow 511.

Total 45 species, about 7331 individuals. Paul Bogaard, Evelyn Coates, Brian Dalzell, Halton Dalzell, Con Desplanque, George Finney, Gary Greer, Barb Hennigar, Peter Hicklin, Ron Hounsell, Donna Johnson, Colin MacKinnon, Nancy MacKinnon, Dora Myers, Harold Popma, Eric Ross, Al Smith, Stuart Tingley (compiler), Rob Walker.

ANNAPOLIS, Dec. 21; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Mostly clear. Wind NW 15kmh. Temp. -4 to -5C. Fresh water frozen. 27 observers in 12 parties, 21 at feeding stations. Total party hours 26 (19 on foot, 7 by car). Total party miles 99 (20 on foot, 79 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Horned Grebe 7; Red-necked Grebe 5; Great Blue Heron 3; Am. Black Duck 71; Mallard 2; Greater Scaup 21; Com. Eider 1; Oldsquaw 2009; Surf Scoter 3; White-winged Scoter 38; Com. Goldeneye 59; Bufflehead 67; Red-br. Merganser 61; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 16; Ruffed Grouse 4; Herring Gull 186; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 13; Rock Dove 84; Mourning Dove 5; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 185; Am. Crow 130; Com. Raven 21; Bl.-capped Chickadee 137; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-br. Nuthatch 10; White-br. Nuthatch 8; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 14; Am. Robin 9; Bohemian Waxwing 10;

N. Shrike 3; Eur. Starling 300, Am. Tree Sparrow 4; Chipping Sparrow 2 (no details); Song Sparrow 5; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 24; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Br.-headed Cowbird 81; Pine Grosbeak 7; Pine Siskin 92; Am. Goldfinch 59; Evening Grosbeak 133; House Sparrow 241.

Total 51 species, about 4163 individuals. (CP: Harlequin Duck, Black Scoter, Barred Owl, Bl.-backed Woodpecker, N. Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Swamp Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, White-winged Crossbill, Com. Redpoll). Mildred Burrell, Shirley Burrell, Allison Dalton, Graham Dalton, Helen Ellis, Dorothy Everett, Gladys Feener, Marianne Fickes, Barbara Harbord, Lanny Harbord, Sharon Hawboldt (compiler), Stephen Hawboldt, Rita Hearne, Charlotte Hollett, Harold Horwood, Clifford Jones, Lealand Lewis, Esther Maling, Eric Muntz, Connie O'Brien, Gini Proulx, Alison Thomson, Perry Trimper, John Turner, Julie Turner, Alice White, Karl White.

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 29; 7:30AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind 0 to 3kmh. Temp. -8 to 1C. Fresh water partly frozen. 31 observers in 5 parties, 16 at feeding stations. Total party hours 35 (20 on foot, 15 by car). Total party km. 870 (45 on foot, 825 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Great Cormorant 22; Canada Goose 1200; Am. Black Duck 400; Mallard 1; N. Pintail 1; Oldsquaw 23; Black Scoter 7; Surf Scoter 2; Com. Goldeneye 300; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Com. Merganser 32; Red-br. Merganser 270; Bald Eagle 24a, 4imm.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Ruffed Grouse 5; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 554; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 51; Rock Dove 132; Mourning Dove 9; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 45; Am. Crow 226; Com. Raven 111; Bl.-capped Chickadee 92; Boreal Chickadee 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 11; Am. Robin 1; Eur. Starling 615; Am. Tree Sparrow 13; Lincoln Sparrow 1 (insufficient details - possible immature Swamp Sparrow); Chipping Sparrow 4 (no details); Dark-eyed Junco 27; Snow Bunting 6; Pine Grosbeak 26; Purple Finch 2; Com. Redpoll 52; Pine Siskin 12; Am. Goldfinch 13; Evening Grosbeak 104; House Sparrow 37.

Total 48 species, about 4459 individuals. (CP: Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Song Sparrow, E. Meadowlark, Com. Grackle, Br.-headed Cowbird). Bob Bancroft, May Bancroft, Connie Beaton, Margaret Beaton, Carol Brown, Margaret Brown, Vicky Bunbury, Anne Camozzi, Celeste Chiasson, Paulette Chiasson, Roland Chiasson (compiler), Stephen Delorey, Mrs. Dunphy, Jane Gorman, Lou Gorman, Les Gray, Norma Gray, Stephen Flemming, Oonah Laundry, Mike MacDonald, Father R.B. MacDonald, R.J. MacDonald, Reagan MacDonald, Mavis Murraray, Peter Murphy, Mrs. P. Sers, Norm Seymour, Colin Smith, Gerald Teasdale, Betty Webber, Beck family.

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 21; 4:30AM to 4PM. Clear. Wind moderate. Temp. 0C (high). Fresh water frozen. 24 observers in 6 parties, 11 at feeding stations. Total party hours 51 (6.5 on foot, 44.5 by car). Total party km. 288 (34 on foot, 254 by car).

Com. Loon 4; Horned Grebe 1; Com. Eider 4; Oldsquaw 19; Surf Scoter 4; White-winged Scoter 15; Com. Goldeneye 42; Red-br. Merganser 5; N. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 12; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 18; Herring Gull 113; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 2; Dovekie 5; Rock Dove 122; Mourning Dove 11; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 16; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Blue Jay 110; Am. Crow 297; Com. Raven 60; Bl.-capped Chickadee 76; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; White-br. Nuthatch 7; Bohemian Waxwing 12; Cedar Waxwing 193; Eur. Starling 1398; Am. Tree Sparrow 14; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 24; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 3; Br.-headed Cowbird 48; Com. Redpoll 74; Pine Siskin 24; Am. Goldfinch 53; Evening Grosbeak 305; House Sparrow 288.

Total 43 species, about 3401 individuals. (CP: Great Blue Heron, Pileated Woodpecker, Am. Robin, Pine Grosbeak, Purple Finch). D. Bowlby, D. Cottenden, D. Colville, A. Devillez, J. Devillez, J. Doig, D. Durling, M. Graves, D. Harlow, V. Harlow, T. Hyson, M. Jodrey, D. Keddie, J. Keddie, E. Morris, E. Morris, J. Morse (compiler),

W. Morse, E. Porter, M. Porter, A. Slauenwhite, E. Stern, R. Stern, S. Whitman.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 23; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Mostly cloudy. Wind SW-W 40kmh. Temp. 5 - 0 C. Fresh water partly frozen. 5 observers in 5 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 21 (19.5 on foot, 1.5 by car). Total party miles 47 (22 on foot, 25 by car).

Com. Loon 20; Red-necked Grebe 50; Gannet 9; Great Cormorant 182; Double-crested Cormorant 9; Am. Black Duck 30; Com. Eider 172; Oldsquaw 161; Black Scoter 14; White-winged Scoter 11; Com. Goldeneye 80; Barrow's Goldeneye 2; Bufflehead 2; Red-br. Merganser 73; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Purple Sandpiper 29; Herring Gull 343; Iceland Gull 7; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 380; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 20; Dovekie 3; Thick-billed Murre 5; Black Guillemot 38; murre, sp. 100; Snowy Owl 4; Blue Jay 4; Am. Crow 61; Com. Raven 10; Bl.-capped Chickadee 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 10; Am. Robin 1; N. Mockingbird 1; Eur. Starling 40; Yel.-rumped Warbler 3; Am. Tree Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 1; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Br.-headed Cowbird 3; Com. Redpoll 55; Hoary Redpoll 2; Pine Siskin 21; Evening Grosbeak 5; House Sparrow 17.

Total 45 species, about 1991 individuals. (CP: Great Blue Heron, Barred Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill). David MacKinnon, Ian McLaren, Anne Mills, Eric Mills (compiler), Karen Mills.

BROAD COVE, Jan. 2; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. 32 to 36F. Wind E. 8-50mph. Still water frozen. Moving water partly frozen. Heavy rain. 24 observers in 15-19 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 87 (36 on foot, 51 by car). Total party miles 304 (48 on foot, 256 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Com. Loon 62; Horned Grebe 26; Red-necked Grebe 12; Great Cormorant 10; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 22; Am. Black Duck 36; Mallard 39; Com. Eider 227; Oldsquaw 66; Black Scoter 45; Surf Scoter 10; White-winged Scoter 15; Com. Goldeneye 68; Bufflehead 12; Com. Merganser 4; Red-breasted Merganser 47; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Ruffed Grouse 1; Red Knot 1; Purple Sandpiper 13; Dunlin 1; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 840; Iceland Gull 3; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 232; Thick-billed Murre 2; Black Guillemot 5; Rock Dove 45; Mourning Dove 10; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; N. (Yel.-sh.) Flicker 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 72; Am. Crow 243; Com. Raven 59; Bl.-capped Chickadee 240; Boreal Chickadee 15; Red-br. Nuthatch 5; White-br. Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 24; Eur. Starling 363; Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler 18; Am. Tree Sparrow 5; Savannah Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 14; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed (Slate-col.) Junco 58; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 1; Pine Grosbeak 76; White-winged Crossbill 8; Pine Siskin 58; Am. Goldfinch 49; Evening Grosbeak 384; House Sparrow 127.

Total 64 species, about 3705 individuals. Bill Caudle, John, Lise & Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Ben Doane, Jillian & Jim Elliott, Millie Evans, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Fulton Lavender, Peter MacLeod, Ian McLaren, Earl & Val Meister, Sandra Myers, Chris & Scott Naugler, Susan Owens, Don & Joyce Purchase, Nellie Snyder, David & Joan Young.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Dec. 28; 7AM to 4:45PM. Clear. Wind AM: NW 9kmh; PM: SW 6kmh. Temp. -5 to -1 C. Salt water open. Fresh water mostly frozen. 32 observers in 9 parties, 11 at feeding stations. Total party hours 75 (17 on foot, 21.2 by car, 36.8 at feeders). Total party miles 304.5 (45.5 on foot, 259 by car).

Com. Loon 7; Horned Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 5; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Canada Goose 10; Am. Black Duck 77; Greater Scaup 4; Com. Eider 14; Oldsquaw 157; Black Scoter 15; Surf Scoter 8; White-winged Scoter 15; Com. Goldeneye 183; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 3; Com. Merganser 13; Red-br. Merganser 74; Bald Eagle 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Purple Sandpiper 44; Herring Gull 196; Iceland Gull 21; Glau-

cous Gull 13; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 77; Dovekie 4; Com. Murre 2; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 8; Mourning Dove 7; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 14; Blue Jay 74; Am. Crow 113; Com. Raven 29; Bl.-capped Chickadee 114; Boreal Chickadee 16; Red-br. Nuthatch 20; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 17; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1; Eur. Starling 103; Pine Warbler 1 (no details); Rufous-sided Towhee 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Pine Grosbeak 21; Purple Finch 3; Com. Redpoll 36; Pine Siskin 66; Am. Goldfinch 9; Evening Grosbeak 43; House Sparrow 8. Total 55 species, about 1677 individuals. (CP: Ruffed Grouse, Great Horned Owl, Am. Robin, N. Mockingbird, N. Shrike, Song Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill). James Bridgland (compiler), Dorothea Cox, Gordon Doucette, Jeri Doucette, Irene Gettas, Allan Gibbs, Wendy Gibbs, Chris Gorey, John Gorman, Maxine Hardy, Edna Hewitt, Tom Hewitt, Bucko Hussey, Chrystal Hussey, Casey Ingraham, Christan Ingraham, Corey Ingraham, Ellen Ingraham, Ross Ingraham, Jeanette Jackson, Angela Janes, Bob Janes, David Lawley, Ruth McLagan (compiler), Ken Murray, Tim Reynolds, Sonia Reynolds, Joe Robinson, Hazel Stockley, Murray Stockley, Elaine Wallace, Fred Williams.

CAPE SABLE ISLAND - BARRINGTON, Jan. 3; 8:30AM to 5PM. Mostly cloudy with intermittent rain and snow. Temp. -1 C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 16 observers in 6 parties. Total party hours 31½ (11½ on foot, 20 by car). Total party miles 323 (9 on foot, 314 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Com. Loon 32; Horned Grebe 27; Red-necked Grebe 36; Great Cormorant 175; Double-cr. Cormorant 14; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 300; Am. Black Duck 42; Greater Scaup 150; Com. Eider 195; Oldsquaw 78; Black Scoter 59; White-winged Scoter 25; Com. Goldeneye 17; Bufflehead 46; Com. Merganser 4; Red-br. Merganser 46; N. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Sanderling 9; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 1858; Iceland Gull 4; Glaucous Gull 3; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 732; Dovekie 1; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 8; Rock Dove 2; Mourning Dove 13; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; N. Flicker 4; Horned Lark 17; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 37; Am. Crow 148; Com. Raven 27; Bl.-capped Chickadee 61; Boreal Chickadee 14; Red-br. nuthatch 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 2; Cedar Waxwing 1; Eur. Starling 184; Yellow-rumped Warbler 140; Savannah Sparrow 7; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 7; White-throated Sparrow 22; Dark-eyed Junco 22; Snow Bunting 44; E. Meadowlark 4; Rusty Blackbird 3; Pine Grosbeak 4; Purple Finch 3; Pine Siskin 21; Am. Goldfinch 18; Evening Grosbeak 108; House Sparrow 20.

Total 65 species, about 4820 individuals. (CP: Harlequin Duck, Brown Creeper). Percy Cole, Joan Czupalay (compiler), Raymond D'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, Ben Doane, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Jennifer Hall, Hugh Jones, Lillian Perry, Mike Rymer, Robin Rymer, Barb Ruff, Nellie Snyder, Al Wilson, Carol Wilson.

CHETICAMP, Dec. 22; 7AM to 4:30PM. Overcast with light snow. Wind 15 kmh. Temp. -5 C. Fresh water partly frozen. 14 observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 43.25 (27.25 on foot, 16 by car). Total party miles 176 (43 on foot, 133 by car).

Great Cormorant 14; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Am. Black Duck 46; Mallard 4; Com. Eider 4; Black Scoter 4; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 75; Com. Merganser 43; Red-br. Merganser 5; Bald Eagle 5; N. Harrier 1; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 173; Iceland Gull 15; Glaucous Gull 33; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 125; Dovekie 1; Thick-billed Murre 1; Snowy Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 5; Am. Crow 177; Com. Raven 43; Bl.-capped Chickadee 65; Boreal Chickadee 18; Golden-cr. Kinglet 2; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 78; Snow Bunting 36; Pine Grosbeak 85; Red Crossbill 1; Am. Goldfinch 1; Evening Grosbeak 53.

Total 40 species, about 1138 individuals. (CP: Red-necked Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Barrow's Goldeneye, Rough-legged Hawk, Com. Snipe,

Great Horned Owl). Rene Aucoin, Odette Barr, Patricia Bernier, Janet Boss, James Bridgland, David Lawley, Joyce MacDonald, Pam MacKay, Ruth McLagan, George Merrer, Tim Reynolds, Randy Thompson, Elaine Wallace (compiler), YoAnne Beauchamp.

COOK'S BROOK, Jan. 4; 8:30AM to 4:30PM. Overcast. Wind N. 60kmh. Temp. -6 C. Fresh water open. 3 observers in 1 party, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 8 (1 on foot, other 7). Total party miles $1\frac{1}{2}$ ($1\frac{1}{2}$ on foot).

Blue Jay 1; Am. Crow 2; Com. Raven 2; Bl.-capped Chickadee 25; Eur. Starling 2; Snow Bunting 6; Evening Grosbeak 24; House Sparrow 50. Total 8 species, about 112 individuals. (CP: Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Herring Gull, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Am. Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin). Ern Jarvis, Joan Jarvis (compiler), Sue Jarvis.

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 8AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind W 25kmh. Temp. -3 C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 6 observers in 5 parties, 8 at feeding stations. Total party hours $36\frac{1}{2}$ ($28\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 8 by car). Total party miles 100 (28 on foot, 72 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Canada Goose 3; Am. Black Duck 408; Mallard 2; Oldsquaw 56; White-winged Scoter 4; Com. Goldeneye 12; Bufflehead 11; Com. Merganser 16; Bald Eagle 1a.; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Gray Partridge 21; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 5; Purple Sandpiper 105; Ring-billed Gull 15; Herring Gull 460; Iceland Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 36; Thick-billed Murre 1; Rock Dove 8; Mourning Dove 2; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 91; Am. Crow 141; Com. Raven 107; Bl.-capped Chickadee 124; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-br. Nuthatch 2; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 15; N. Shrike 3; Eur. Starling 208; Am. Tree Sparrow 17; Song Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 15; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Com. Grackle 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 77; Pine Grosbeak 22; Com. Redpoll 95; Pine Siskin 9; Am. Goldfinch 7; Evening Grosbeak 92; House Sparrow 264. Total 49 species, about 2481 individuals. (CP: Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Am. Robin, Snow Bunting). Brian Dalzell, Halton Dalzell, Brad McLaughlin, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding (compiler), Stuart Tingley.

GLACE BAY, Dec. 26; 8AM to 4:30PM. Overcast with fog and intermittent, light rain AM. Overcast PM. Wind S 20-25kmh. Temp. 2-3 C. Fresh water partly frozen. 8 observers in 3 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 25.5. Total party miles 73 (73 by car).

Com. Loon 1; Canada Goose 200; Am. Black Duck 43; Greater Scaup 30; Oldsquaw 33; White-winged Scoter 3; Com. Goldeneye 150; Bufflehead 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 4; Herring Gull 87; Iceland Gull 78; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 139; Rock Dove 43; Mourning Dove 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 8; Am. Crow 70; Com. Raven 2; Bl.-capped Chickadee 13; N. Mockingbird 1; Eur. Starling 211; Song Sparrow 2; Com. Grackle 2; Am. Goldfinch 16; Evening Grosbeak 79; House Sparrow 6.

Total 30 species, about 1231 individuals. (CP: Bald Eagle, White-breasted Nuthatch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Pine Grosbeak, Pine Siskin). George Crowell, Joy Gates, Sara MacLean (compiler), Doug McNicol, Jeanne McNicol, Elsie MacRury, Beverley Sarty, Arthur Spencer.

HALIFAX EAST, Dec. 28; 7AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind NW-SW 0-10kmh. Temp. -8 to 1 C. Fresh water frozen. 30 observers in 20 parties. Total party hours 144 (110 on foot, 34 by car). Total party miles 412 (93 on foot, 319 by car).

Red-throated Loon 7; Com. Loon 124; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 33; Red-necked Grebe 76; Great Cormorant 9; Am. Bittern 1; Great Blue Heron 9; Canada Goose 4416; Am. Black Duck 50; Greater Scaup 7; Com. Eider 130; Oldsquaw 246; Black Scoter 14; Surf Scoter 3; White-winged Scoter 46; Com. Goldeneye 100; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 129; Hooded Merganser 2; Com. Merganser 28; Red-br. Merganser 530; Bald

Eagle 4a.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 58; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 157; Herring Gull 1173; Iceland Gull 40; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 58; Dovekie 4; Razorbill 1; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 71; Mourning Dove 49; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 14; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 39; Gray Jay 14; Blue Jay 218; Am. Crow 860; Com. Raven 54; Bl.-capped Chickadee 605; Boreal Chickadee 163; Red-br. Nuthatch 14; White-br. Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 128; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1; Am. Robin 1; N. Mockingbird 2; Bohemian Waxwing 19; N. Shrike 3; Eur. Starling 1537; Yellow-rumped Warbler 7; Com. Yellowthroat 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 76; Savannah Sparrow 16; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Sharp-tailed Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 72; Swamp Sparrow 17; White-throated Sparrow 12; Dark-eyed Junco 61; Snow Bunting 13; E. Meadowlark 1; Com. Grackle 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 25; N. Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 78; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 17; Com. Redpoll 157; Pine Siskin 14; Am. Goldfinch 269; Evening Grosbeak 198; House Sparrow 457.

Total 81 species, plus 1 additional race, and about 12782 individuals. (CP: Mallard, N. Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk). Ron Arsenault, Bill Caudle, John & Shirley Cohrs, Alan Covert, David Currie, Bob Dickie, Gillian & James Elliot, Chris Field, Roger Foxall, Sylvia Fullerton, Jean Harley, Barbara Hinds, Janos Kovacs, Fulton Lavender, Peter MacLeod, Don MacNeill, Ian McLaren (compiler), Eric Mills, Bernice Moores, Sandra Myers, Peter Payzant, Linda Payzant, Don & Joyce Purchase, Derek Tay, Karl Tay, Jim Taylor, Azor Vienneau.

HALIFAX WEST, Dec. 21; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Mostly clear. Wind 17-19kmh. Temp. -5 to -7 C. Fresh water frozen. 40 observers in 22 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 170.75 (116 on foot, 53.75 by car, 1 by boat). Total party miles 467.25 (97.25 on foot, 365 by car, 5 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 2; Com. Loon 44; Horned Grebe 3; Red-necked Grebe 53; Great Cormorant 239; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Canada Goose 3; Green-winged Teal 1; Am. Black Duck 1894; Mallard 93; Gadwall 2; Am. Wigeon 2; Ring-necked Duck 1; Greater Scaup 1; Lesser Scaup 1; Com. Eider 316; Harlequin Duck 1; Oldsquaw 82; Black Scoter 40; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 42; Com. Goldeneye 28; Bufflehead 4; Hooded Merganser 1; Com. Merganser 12; Red-br. Merganser 98; Bald Eagle 2; N. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Am. Coot 2; Purple Sandpiper 90; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 18; Ring-billed Gull 29; Herring Gull 4398; Iceland Gull 332; Lesser Bl.-backed Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 5; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 434; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 2; Dovekie 6; Com. Murre 1; Black Guillemot 22; Rock Dove 1965; Mourning Dove 80; Barred Owl 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1; Downy Woodpecker 16; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 214; Am. Crow 712; Com. Raven 73; Bl.-capped Chickadee 423; Boreal Chickadee 68; Red-br. Nuthatch 4; White-br. Nuthatch 14; Brown Creeper 8; Golden-cr. Kinglet 55; Am. Robin 10; N. Mockingbird 5; Water Pipit 1; Bohemian Waxwing 19; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 8943; Orange-cr. Warbler 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 39; Savannah Sparrow 3; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 36; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 24; Dark-eyed Junco 120; Com. Grackle 5; Br.-headed Cowbird 147; N. Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 100; Purple Finch 2; White-winged Crossbill 27; Com. Redpoll 39; Pine Siskin 9; Am. Goldfinch 93; Evening Grosbeak 122; House Sparrow 1064.

Total 88 species, about 22779 individuals. (CP: Merlin, Thick-billed Murre). Mike Almon, Ron Arsenault, Phyllis Bryson, Bill Caudle, Alan Covert, John Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs, Ethel Crathorne, June Cruickshank, David Currie (compiler), Bob Dickie, Paul Duval, Gillian Elliot, Jim Elliot, Chris Field, Roger Foxall, Sylvia Fullerton, Phyllis Gardiner, Barbara Hinds, Joe Kennedy, Janos Kovacs, Fulton Lavender, Rick Lowell, Alana MacNeill, Carol MacNeill, Don MacNeill, Hugh McCormack, Bob & Wendy McDonald, Bernice McLaren, Ian McLaren, Bernice Moores, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Roger Pocklington, Don Purchase, Joyce

Purchase, Clarence Stevens, Jim Taylor, Betty Topple Julie Towers, Azor Vienneau.

HANTS WEST, Jan. 3; 6AM to 6PM. Mostly cloudy with intermittent rain AM. Overcast with light rain PM. Wind light & variable. Temp. 1 to 4 C. Fresh water open. 17 observers in 8 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 52½ (30 on foot, 22½ by car). Total party miles 242 (35 on foot, 207 by car).

Green-winged Teal 2; Am. Black Duck 285; Com. Merganser 17; Bald Eagle 1; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 11; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 137; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 34; Rock Dove 109; Mourning Dove 1; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 53; Am. Crow 108; Com. Raven 21; Bl.-capped Chickadee 110; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-br. Nuthatch 9; White-br. Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 17; Am. Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 25; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 800; Am. Tree Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 2; White-thr. Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 9; Snow Bunting 32; Br.-headed Cowbird 13; Pine Grosbeak 24; Purple Finch 1; Com. Redpoll 10; Pine Siskin 24; Am. Goldfinch 82; Evening Grosbeak 170; House Sparrow 380.

Total 43 species, about 2530 individuals. (CP: Canada Goose, Mallard, Cedar Waxwing). Karen Casselman, Ted Casselman (compiler), Tanya Casselman, Ian MacPherson, Jill MacPherson, Beatta Marsters, Everett Marsters, Mary Pratt, Gerry Rathbun, Richard Stern, Elizabeth Stern, Brenda Thexton, Bill Thexton, Judy Tufts, Gordon Tufts, Beth Woolaver, Frank Woolaver.

HAZEL HILL-CANSO, Jan. 2; 8AM to 4:30PM. Overcast. Wind 6kmh. Temp. 0 C. Fresh water frozen. 9 observers in 1 party, 4 at feeding stations. Total party hours 8½ (8½ by car). Total party miles 18 (18 by car).

Com. Loon 3; Great Cormorant 3; Com. Eider 1; White-winged Scoter 7; Com. Merganser 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Herring Gull 80; Iceland 71; Glaucous Gull 8; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 300; Black Guillemot 4; Mourning Dove 3; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 2; Am. Crow 6; Com. Raven 5; Bl.-capped Chickadee 13; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-br. Nuthatch 2; Bohemian Waxwing 2; Eur. Starling 55; Am. Tree Sparrow 1; Chipping Sparrow 1 (no details); Dark-eyed Junco 7; Rusty Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 1; Pine Siskin 31; Evening Grosbeak 50; House Sparrow 38.

Total 31 species, about 704 individuals. (CP: Thick-billed Murre, Gray Jay, N. Shrike, Fox Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Br.-headed Cowbird, Pine Grosbeak). Stephen S. Bushell, June N. Jarvis, Sam K. Jarvis, Bridget H. McKeough, Gertie L. McKenzie, Harold M. McKenzie, Warren J. Peters, Nancy W. Peters (compiler), Francis H. Roberts.

HEAD OF ST. MARGARET'S BAY, Dec. 30; 7:20AM to 4:50PM. Overcast AM. Mostly cloudy PM. Wind SW 5kmh. Temp. -3 to 3 C. Fresh water frozen. 2 observers in 1 party, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 9 (3 on foot, 6 by car). Total party miles 29 (4 on foot, 25 by car).

Com. Loon 3; Horned Grebe 20; Red-necked Grebe 4; Great Blue Heron 1; Am. Black Duck 79; Oldsquaw 21; Com. Goldeneye 25; Com. Merganser 3; Red-br. Merganser 7; Herring Gull 24; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 30; Rock Dove 22; N. Flicker 1; Blue Jay 3; Am. Crow 38; Bl.-capped Chickadee 25; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; white-br. Nuthatch 2; Eur. Starling 56; Song Sparrow 2; white-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Oregon Junco 1 (no details); Br.-headed Cowbird 1; Red Crossbill 1; Am. Goldfinch 5.

Total 26 species, about 379 individuals. (CP: White-winged Scoter, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Com. Raven, Savannah Sparrow, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak). Dorothy Dorey, Edmund Dorey (compiler).

KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK, Dec. 22; 7:45AM to 5:15PM. Clear. Wind NW 0 - 5kmh. Temp. -3 to -14 C. Fresh water partly frozen. 18 to 20

observers in 11 to 12 parties, 2 to 4 at feeding stations. Total party hours $54\frac{1}{2}$ ($41\frac{1}{2}$ on foot, 13 by car). Total party miles $163\frac{1}{2}$ (64 on foot, $99\frac{1}{2}$ by car).

Com. Goldeneye 14; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 8; Banded Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 12; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 23; Am. Crow 15; Com. Raven 41; Bl.-capped Chickadee 152; Boreal Chickadee 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 70; Eur. Starling 48; Dark-eyed Junco 4; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 15; Am. Goldfinch 3; Evening Grosbeak 67; House Sparrow 12.

Total 25 species, about 525 individuals. Thelma Bowers, Katherine Bradshaw, Rick Brunt, Gary Corbett, Leigh & Miriam DeLong, Cliff Drysdale, Peter Hope (compiler), Jim & Ginny Langley, Len & Pat MacDonald, Eric Mullen, Chris Naugler, Granville & Maggie Nickerson, Ruth Ramey, Bill & David Rogers, Jim & Betty Ross, Nellie Snyder.

KINGSTON, Dec. 29; 7:30AM to 5:30PM. Partly cloudy AM. Clear PM. No wind. Temp. -5 to -1 C. Fresh water frozen. 6 observers in 3 parties, 30 at feeding stations. Total party hours 23; (4 on foot, 19 by car). Total party miles 175 (4 on foot, 171 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Great Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 3; Com. Eider 5; Oldsquaw 15; White-winged Scoter 18; Com. Merganser 4; Red-br. Merganser 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Rough-legged Hawk 1; buteo, sp. 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 9; Purple Sandpiper 17; Herring Gull 255; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 12; Rock Dove 54; Mourning Dove 94; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 146; Am. Crow 306; Com. Raven 28; Bl.-capped Chickadee 197; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-br. Nuthatch 8; White-br. Nuthatch 16; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 755; Am. Tree Sparrow 14; Song Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 27; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 4; Br.-headed Cowbird 99; Pine Grosbeak 3; Purple Finch 3; Com. Redpoll 163; Pine Siskin 95; Am. Goldfinch 85; Evening Grosbeak 176; House Sparrow 228.

Total 44 species, about 2890 individuals. Betty Donovan, Norm Donovan (compiler), Barb Giffin, Pat Giffin, Larry Neily, Wayne Neily.

MARGAREE, Dec. 18; 8AM to 4PM. Clear AM. Overcast PM. Wind 12kmh. Temp. -3 C. Fresh water partly frozen. 6 observers in 2 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 16 (11 on foot, 5 by car). Total party miles 91 (15 on foot, 76 by car).

Am. Black Duck 31; Com. Goldeneye 18; Com. Merganser 27; Bald Eagle 12; N. Goshawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 36; Iceland Gull 6; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 39; Mourning Dove 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 45; Am. Crow 116; Com. Raven 92; Bl.-capped Chickadee 35; Boreal Chickadee 4; White-br. Nuthatch 10; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 4; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 2 (no details); Eur. Starling 225; Yel.-rumped Warbler 1; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Snow Bunting 28; Pine Grosbeak 67; Red Crossbill 9; Pine Siskin 11; Evening Grosbeak 6; House Sparrow 62.

Total 35 species, about 922 individuals. Frances Hart (compiler), Marjorie Hart, Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham, Colin Miller.

NEW WATERFORD, Dec. 28; 11:30AM to 3:30PM. Clear. Wind NE 8kmh. Temp. -5 C. Fresh water frozen. 6 observers in 1 party. Total party hours 4 (1 on foot, 3 by car). Total party miles 50 (2 on foot, 48 by car).

Com. Loon 1; Canada Goose 300; Am. Black Duck 100; Greater Scaup 100; Oldsquaw 8; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 12; Com. Merganser 2; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 3; Herring Gull 1000; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 800; Rock Dove 8; Blue Jay 3; Am. Crow 200; Com. Raven 5; Bl.-capped Chickadee 10; White-br. Nuthatch 1; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 600; Evening Grosbeak 20; House Sparrow 80.

Total 21 species, about 3255 individuals. (CP: N. Oriole, Pine Siskin). Clive Macdonald (compiler), Hilary Macdonald, Shaun Macdonald, Shirley Macdonald, Frank Robertson, Roy Steiger.

PICOU HARBOUR, Dec. 27; 8AM to 4:30PM. Mostly cloudy. Wind 20kmh. Temp. 2 C. Fresh water frozen. 4 observers in 2 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 16 (2 on foot, 14 by car). Total party miles 42 (2 on foot, 40 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 400; Am. Black Duck 210; Mallard 2; Greater Scaup 115; Lesser Scaup 14 (no details); Oldsquaw 2; Com. Goldeneye 148; Barrow's Goldeneye 6; Bufflehead 2; Com. Merganser 137; Red-br. Merganser 23; Bald Eagle 4; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 189; Iceland Gull 3; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 160; Rock Dove 21; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 7; Am. Crow 145; Com. Raven 9; Bl.-capped Chickadee 8; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Eur. Starling 33; Am. Tree Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Com. Redpoll 30; Evening Grosbeak 53; House Sparrow 16.

Total 33 species, about 1754 individuals. (CP: Green-winged Teal, Boreal Chickadee, Golden-cr. Kinglet, Bohemian Waxwing, N. Shrike, Am. Goldfinch). Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Calder Fraser (compiler), Stephen Vines.

PORT HEBERT, Dec. 28; 7AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind SSE 0-8kmh. Temp. -10 to -1 C. Fresh water frozen. 14 observers in 10 parties. Total party hours 76 (70 on foot, 6 by car). Total party miles 311 (73 on foot, 238 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 3; Com. Loon 78; Horned Grebe 83; Red-necked Grebe 67; Great Cormorant 47; Great Blue Heron 6; Canada Goose 2205; Am. Black Duck 798; Mallard 4; Greater Scaup 95; Com. Eider 77; Oldsquaw 162; Black Scoter 15; Surf Scoter 8; White-winged Scoter 31; Com. Goldeneye 311; Bufflehead 53; Red-br. Merganser 34; Bald Eagle 1a.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 2; Ruffed Grouse 9; Ruddy Turnstone 2; Purple Sandpiper 2; Dunlin 8; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 1; Herring Gull 327; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 97; Dovekie 3; Black Guillemot 12; Rock Dove 36; Mourning Dove 1; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 4; Gray Jay 13; Blue Jay 50; Am. Crow 110; Com. Raven 13; Bl.-capped Chickadee 197; Boreal Chickadee 50; Red-br. Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 7; Golden-cr. Kinglet 69; Am. Robin 1; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 69; Yel.-rumped Warbler 72; Com. Yellowthroat 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 3; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 16; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 18; Br.-headed Cowbird 10; Pine Grosbeak 34; Purple Finch 5; White-winged Crossbill 3; Pine Siskin 42; Am. Goldfinch 19; Evening Grosbeak 33; House Sparrow 10.

Total 56 species, about 5447 individuals. (CP: Sanderling, N. Mockingbird, Water Pipit, Palm Warbler). Barbara Addelson, Jeanne Addelson, Bill Crosby, Chris Crosby, Donna Crosby, Russel Crosby (compiler), Bill Curry, Jane Van Dyck, Emerson Fiske, George Perry, Darcy Rhyno, Roger Swansburg, Robert Turner, Joan Young.

PUBNICO, Dec. 28; 8AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind W 5kmh. Temp. -1 C. Fresh water frozen. 26 observers in 6 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 43 (34 on foot, 9 by car). Total party miles 224 (27 on foot, 197 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 1; Com. Loon 22; Red-necked Grebe 18; Great Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 3; Canada Goose 54; Am. Black Duck 36; Greater Scaup 37; Com. Eider 10; Oldsquaw 39; White-winged Scoter 2; Com. Goldeneye 217; Bufflehead 19; Com. Merganser 2; Red-br. Merganser 46; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ring-billed Gull 12; Herring Gull 1402; Iceland Gull 5; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 560; murre sp. 1; Rock Dove 17; Mourning Dove 55; Great Horned Owl 1; Snowy Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; N. Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 71; Am. Crow 133; Com. Raven 12; Bl.-capped Chickadee 172; Boreal Chickadee 23; Red-br. Nuthatch 2;

White-br. Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 7; Am. Robin 6; Eur. Starling 154; Yel.-rumped warbler 28; Am. Tree Sparrow 3; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 18; White-thr. Sparrow 12; Dark-eyed Junco 14; Com. Grackle 2; Br.-headed Cowbird 79; Pine Grosbeak 11; Purple Finch 3; White-winged Crossbill 1; Com. Redpoll 3; Pine Siskin 73; Am. Goldfinch 84; Evening Grosbeak 101; House Sparrow 129.

Total 62 species, about 3731 individuals. (CP: Double-cr. Cormorant, Bald Eagle, Glaucous Gull, Thick-billed Murre, Barred Owl, N. Mockingbird). Joan Brett, Peter Brett, Michael Clark, Joan Czapalay, Albert d'Entremont, Delisle d'Entremont, Jacqueline d'Entremont, Onil d'Entremont, Peter d'Entremont, Raymond S. d'Entremont, Jerome D'Eon, Milton D'Eon, Ted C. D'Eon (compiler), Estelle Greene, Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Goldie Jenkins, John Kearney, Ethelda Murphy, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters, Barbara Ruff, Eric Ruff, Robin Rymer, Preston Smith, Nellie Snyder.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 28; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Mostly clear. Wind 5-10kmh. Temp. -12 to -2 C. Fresh water partly frozen. 18 observers in 5 parties, 10 at feeding stations. Total party hours 23 (16 on foot, 7 by car). Total party miles 171 (16 on foot, 155 by car).

Canada Goose 8; Wood Duck 9; Am. Black Duck 73; N. Pintail 2; Gadwall 11; Com. Merganser 200; Red-br. Merganser 50; Bald Eagle 10; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 57; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 7; Rock Dove 90; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 8; N. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 91; Am. Crow 118; Com. Raven 81; Bl.-capped Chickadee 95; Boreal Chickadee 24; White-br. Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 8; Cedar Waxwing 40; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 682; Am. Tree Sparrow 9; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 1; Com. Grackle 30; Br.-headed Cowbird 26; Pine Grosbeak 2; White-winged Crossbill 2; Com. Redpoll 58; Pine Siskin 14; Am. Goldfinch 8; Evening Grosbeak 162; House Sparrow 63.

Total 45 species, about 2065 individuals. Mark Anthony, Gretchen Dawe, Mike Dawe, Mr. & Mrs. Ivan DeLong, Cathy Etter, Shirley Foster, Wayne Gardon, Mary Geddes, G. Hutton, Philip MacBeth, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler), Mrs. Murphy, Eldon Pace, Jean Schwartz, Barbara & Lloyd Scott, Connie Stott, Lorne Weaver.

SMITH'S COVE, Dec. 27; 8:15AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind NW 5-15kmh. Temp. -2 to 2 C. Fresh water frozen. 4 observers in 3 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 2 (1 on foot, 1 by car). Total party miles 11 (3 on foot, 8 by car).

Horned Grebe 1; Bufflehead 40; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Herring Gull 20; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 150; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 6; Am. Crow 13; Com. Raven 2; Bl.-capped Chickadee 18; Red-br. Nuthatch 2; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Eur. Starling 150; Am. Tree Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 4; Purple Finch 4; Pine Siskin 15; Am. Goldfinch 12; Evening Grosbeak 8; House Sparrow 3.

Total 24 species, about 464 individuals. Linda Dakin, Clinton MacInnis, Kelsey Raymond (compiler), MaryLou Raymond.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 18; 8AM to 2PM. Overcast with intermittent light rain AM. Overcast PM. Wind NNE 10-15kmh. Temp. 2 C. Fresh water frozen. 7 observers in 4 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 24 (10 on foot, 14 by car). Total party miles 71 (8 on foot, 63 by car).

Am. Black Duck 17; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 1; Bonaparte's Gull 1 (no details); Herring Gull 38; Iceland Gull 1; Rock Dove 204; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 64; Am. Crow 320; Com. Raven 18; Bl.-capped Chickadee 49; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; White-br. Nuthatch 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 4; Am. Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 84; Eur. Starling 366; Am. Tree Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 7; Br.-headed Cowbird 32; Pine Grosbeak 4;

Com. Redpoll 1; Am. Goldfinch 11; Evening Grosbeak 84; House Sparrow 98.

Total 33 species, about 1433 individuals. (CP: Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Gt. Bl.-backed Gull, Mourning Dove, Snow Bunting, Pine Siskin). Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Calder Fraser, Fred Kenney (compiler), Margaret Kenney, Stephen Vines.

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 20; 7:15AM to 5PM. Partly clear. Wind N 15mph. Temp. 27 to 29 F. Still water partly open. Moving water open. 52 observers in 20-21 parties, 10 at feeding stations. Total party hours 118 (62 on foot, 56 by car). Total party miles 459 (114 on foot, 345 by car).

Com. Loon 1; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 254; Green-winged Teal 2; Am. Black Duck 1021; Mallard 23; White-winged Scoter 49; Com. Goldeneye 17; Com. Merganser 18; Red-br. Merganser 3; Bald Eagle 28a., 28imm.; N. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Red-tailed Hawk 108; Rough-legged Hawk 9; Gray Partridge 9; Ring-necked Pheasant 224; Ruffed Grouse 2; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 19; Herring Gull 6819; Iceland Gull 5; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 1363; Dovekie 1; Rock Dove 1393; Mourning Dove 205; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 27; Hairy Woodpecker 18; Horned Lark 131; Blue Jay 486; Am. Crow 20942; Com. Raven 440; Bl.-capped Chickadee 433; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-br. Nuthatch 5; White-br. Nuthatch 12; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-cr. Kinglet 21; Am. Robin 9; N. Mockingbird 1; Water Pipit 1; Bohemian Waxwing 326; Cedar Waxwing 4; N. Shrike 3; Eur. Starling 22175; Com. Yellowthroat 1; Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 143; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 16; Song Sparrow 59; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 18; Dark-eyed Junco 671; Snow Bunting 1330; Br.-headed Cowbird 48; Pine Grosbeak 60; Purple Finch 17; White-winged Crossbill 2; Com. Redpoll 425; Pine Siskin 10; Am. Goldfinch 473; Evening Grosbeak 425; House Sparrow 1793.

Total 66 species, about 62150 individuals. (CP: Am. Kestrel, Merlin, Snowy Owl, Red-winged Blackbird, Com. Grackle). Peter Austin-Smith, Adeline Bayne, Nancy Bleakney, Sherman Bleakney, Sherman Boates, Karen Casselman, Ted Casselman, Curtis Chipman, Lana Churchill, Joe Clifford, Pat Clifford, Cyril Coldwell, Margaret Connolly, Martha Dodge, Mark Elderkin, Rachel Erskine, Paul Fairclough, Mary Forbes, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Merritt Gibson, Ed Goodstein, Lisa Hammett-Vaughan, Tom Herman, Shirley Jackson, Jerry Karttunen, Jackie MacDonald, Peter MacDonald, Rosemary MacDonald, Pat Martell, William Martell, Bernard Mason, Elanor Mason, Pam Matthews, Randy Milton, Reg Newell, Ruth Newell, Richard Orr, Julie Porter, Terry Power, Mary Pratt, Mark Pulsifer, Chalmers Smith, Peter Smith (compiler), Elizabeth Stern, Richard Stern, Miriam Tams, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Dan Toews, Gerry Trueman, Gordon Tufts, Judy Tufts, Eva Urban, Shirley Van Nostrand, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Beth Woolaver, Frank Woolaver, Barry Yoell, Chris Yoell.

YARMOOUTH, Dec. 21; 8AM to 5:30PM. Clear. Wind NNW 24-40kmh. Temp. -3 to 1 C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 24 observers in 8 parties, 10 at feeding stations. Total party hours 47½ (12½ on foot, 35 by car). Total party miles 380 (17 on foot, 363 by car).

Com. Loon 13; Horned Grebe 3; Red-necked Grebe 5; Great Cormorant 2; Double-cr. Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 5; Canada Goose 1288; Green-winged Teal 3; Am. Black Duck 374; Mallard 2; N. Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 7; Com. Eider 22; Oldsquaw 72; white-winged Scoter 3; Com. Goldeneye 70; Bufflehead 27; Com. Merganser 10; Red-br. Merganser 80; Bald Eagle 1; N. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 6; Purple Sandpiper 18; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 15; Herring Gull 702; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 231; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 55; Mourning Dove 26; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 3; N. Flicker 3; Horned Lark 7; Blue Jay 114; Am. Crow 519; Com. Raven 63; Bl.-capped Chickadee 248; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-br. Nuthatch 3; White-br. Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 13; Am. Robin

1; N. Mockingbird 1; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 1056; N. Cardinal 3; Am. Tree Sparrow 6; Chipping Sparrow 10 (no details); Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 6; White-thr. Sparrow 25; Dark-eyed Junco 54; Snow Bunting 6; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Com. Grackle 17; Br.-headed Cowbird 104; Pine Grosbeak 13; Purple Finch 5; White-winged Crossbill 18; Com. Redpoll 127; Pine Siskin 4; Am. Goldfinch 127; Evening Grosbeak 85; House Sparrow 196.

Total 75 species, about 5926 individuals. (CP: N. Oriole). C.R.K. Allen, Fernald Allen, Joyce Borchardt, Margaret Churchill, Peter Comea, Joan Czupalay, Delisle d'Entremont, Raymond d'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, Phyllis Dobson, June Graves, John Green, Margaret Green, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Jennifer Hall, Phyllis Hayes, Sylvia Hilton, Carol Jacquard, Diane Leverington, Rosamond Moses, Ethelda Murphy, Oscar Nauss, Margaret Nickerson, Arthur Porter, Ingrid Prosser, Lloyd Prosser, Hilda Robbins, Marcy Rogers, Barbara & Eric Ruff (compilers), Robin Rymer, Vera Sollows, John Young.

Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals

1986 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.

The Nova Scotia all-time list now stands at 217 species plus 3 additional races, with the addition of 3 new species this year (new species are underlined).

New all-time high counts (numbers underlined) were established for 19 species, certainly an improvement over last year's total of 13.

wolfville recorded the largest number of high counts with 30, followed by Halifax West 28, Halifax East 26, Cape Sable Island 9, and Port Hebert 8.

It must be noted that all species marked "no details" in the report on counts are not included in this summary.

Red-throated Loon 7 (Halifax East); Com. Loon 124 (Halifax East); Pied-billed Grebe 1 (Halifax East); Horned Grebe 83 (Port Hebert); Red-necked Grebe 76 (Halifax East); N. Gannet 9 (Brier Island); Great Cormorant 239 (Halifax West); Double-cr. Cormorant 14 (Cape Sable Island); Am. Bittern 1 (Halifax West); Great Blue Heron 9 (Halifax West); Canada Goose 4416 (Halifax East); Wood Duck 9 (Shubenacadie); Green-winged Teal 3 (Yarmouth); Am. Black Duck 1894 (Halifax West); Mallard 93 (Halifax West); N. Pintail 2 (Shubenacadie); Gadwall 11 (Shubenacadie); Am. Widgeon 2 (Halifax West); Ring-necked Duck 1 (Halifax West); Greater Scaup 150 (Cape Sable Island); Lesser Scaup 1 (Halifax West); Com. Eider 316 (Halifax West); Harlequin Duck 1 (Halifax West); Oldsquaw 2009 (Annapolis); Black Scoter 59 (Cape Sable Island); Surf Scoter 10 (Broad Cove); White-winged Scoter 49 (Wolfville); Com. Goldeneye 311 (Port Hebert); Barrow's Goldeneye 6 (Pictou Harbour); Bufflehead 129 (Halifax East); Hooded Merganser 2 (Halifax East); Com. Merganser 200 (Shubenacadie); Red-br. Merganser 530 (Halifax East).

Bald Eagle 56 (Wolfville); N. Harrier 2 (Amherst, Bridgetown & Wolfville); Sharp-shinned Hawk 6 (Halifax West & Wolfville); N. Goshawk 3 (Margaree); Red-tailed Hawk 108 (Wolfville); Rough-legged Hawk 27 (Amherst); Am. Kestrel 2 (Broad Cove & Port Hebert); Merlin 1 (Halifax East, Margaree & Yarmouth); Gray Partridge 21 (Economy); Ring-necked Pheasant 224 (Wolfville); Spruce Grouse 2 (Economy); Ruffed Grouse 9 (Port Hebert); Am. Coot 2 (Halifax West); Ruddy Turnstone 2 (Port Hebert); Red Knot 1 (Broad Cove); Sanderling 9 (Cape Sable Island); Purple Sandpiper 105 (Economy); Dunlin 8 (Port Hebert).

Com. Bl.-headed Gull 58 (Halifax East); Bonaparte's Gull 2 (Halifax East & Wolfville); Ring-billed Gull 157 (Halifax East); Herring Gull 6819 (Wolfville); Iceland Gull 332 (Halifax West); Lesser Bl.-

backed Gull 1 (Halifax West); Glaucous Gull 33 (Cheticamp); Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 1363 (Wolfville); Bl.-legged Kittiwake 20 (Brier Island); Dovekie 6 (Halifax West); Com. Murre 2 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat. Park); Thick-billed Murre 5 (Brier Island); Razorbill 1 (Halifax East); Black Guillemot 38 (Brier Island); Rock Dove 1965 (Halifax West); Mourning Dove 205 (Wolfville); Great Horned Owl 2 (Hants West); Snowy Owl 4 (Brier Island); Barred Owl 2 (Kejimikujik Nat. Park & Wolfville); Short-eared Owl 1 (Cape Sable Island).

Belted Kingfisher 3 (Pubnico); Red-bellied woodpecker 1 (Halifax West); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1 (Halifax West); Downy Woodpecker 27 (Wolfville); Hairy Woodpecker 18 (Wolfville); Bl.-backed Woodpecker 2 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat. Park); N. (Yel.-sh.) Flicker 4 (Cape Sable Island & Port Hebert); Pileated Woodpecker 3 (Shubenacadie); Horned Lark 131 (Wolfville); Gray Jay 14 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat. Park & Halifax East); Blue Jay 486 (Wolfville); Am. Crow 20942 (Wolfville); Com. Raven 440 (Wolfville); Bl.-capped Chickadee 605 (Halifax East); Boreal Chickadee 163 (Halifax East); Red-br. Nuthatch 20 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat. Park); White-br. Nuthatch 16 (Kingston); Brown Creeper 8 (Halifax West); Golden-cr. Kinglet 128 (Halifax East); Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat. Park & Halifax East); Am. Robin 10 (Halifax West); N. Mockingbird 5 (Halifax West); Water Pipit 1 (Halifax West & Wolfville); Bohemian Waxwing 326 (Wolfville); Cedar Waxwing 193 (Bridgetown); N. Shrike 3 (Annapolis, Economy, Halifax East & Wolfville).

Eur. Starling 22175 (Wolfville); Orange-cr. Warbler 1 (Halifax West); Yellow-rumped (Myr.) Warbler 140 (Cape Sable Island); Com. Yellowthroat 1 (Halifax East, Port Hebert & Wolfville); Yellow-br. Chat 1 (Halifax West); N. Cardinal 3 (Yarmouth); Rufous-sided Towhee 1 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat. Park); Am. Tree Sparrow 143 (Wolfville); Chipping Sparrow 10 (Yarmouth); Savannah Sparrow 16 (Halifax East & Wolfville); Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); Sharp-tailed Sparrow 3 (Halifax East); Fox Sparrow 4 (Cape Breton Highlands Nat. Park); Song Sparrow 72 (Halifax East); Swamp Sparrow 17 (Halifax East); white-thr. Sparrow 25 (Yarmouth); Dark-eyed (Sl.-col.) Junco 671 (Wolfville); Lapland Longspur 2 (Amherst); Snow Bunting 2257 (Amherst).

Red-winged Blackbird 4 (Annapolis & Yarmouth); E. Meadowlark 4 (Cape Sable Island); Rusty Blackbird 3 (Cape Sable Island); Com. Grackle 30 (Shubenacadie); Br.-headed Cowbird 147 (Halifax West); N. (Baltimore) Oriole 1 (Halifax East & Halifax West); Pine Grosbeak 100 (Halifax West); Purple Finch 17 (Wolfville); Red Crossbill 9 (Margaree); White-winged Crossbill 27 (Halifax West); Com. Redpoll 425 (Wolfville); Hoary Redpoll 2 (Brier Island); Pine Siskin 95 (Kingston); Am. Goldfinch 473 (Wolfville); Evening Grosbeak 425 (Wolfville); House Sparrow 1793 (Wolfville).

--Mary and Ross Anderson



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