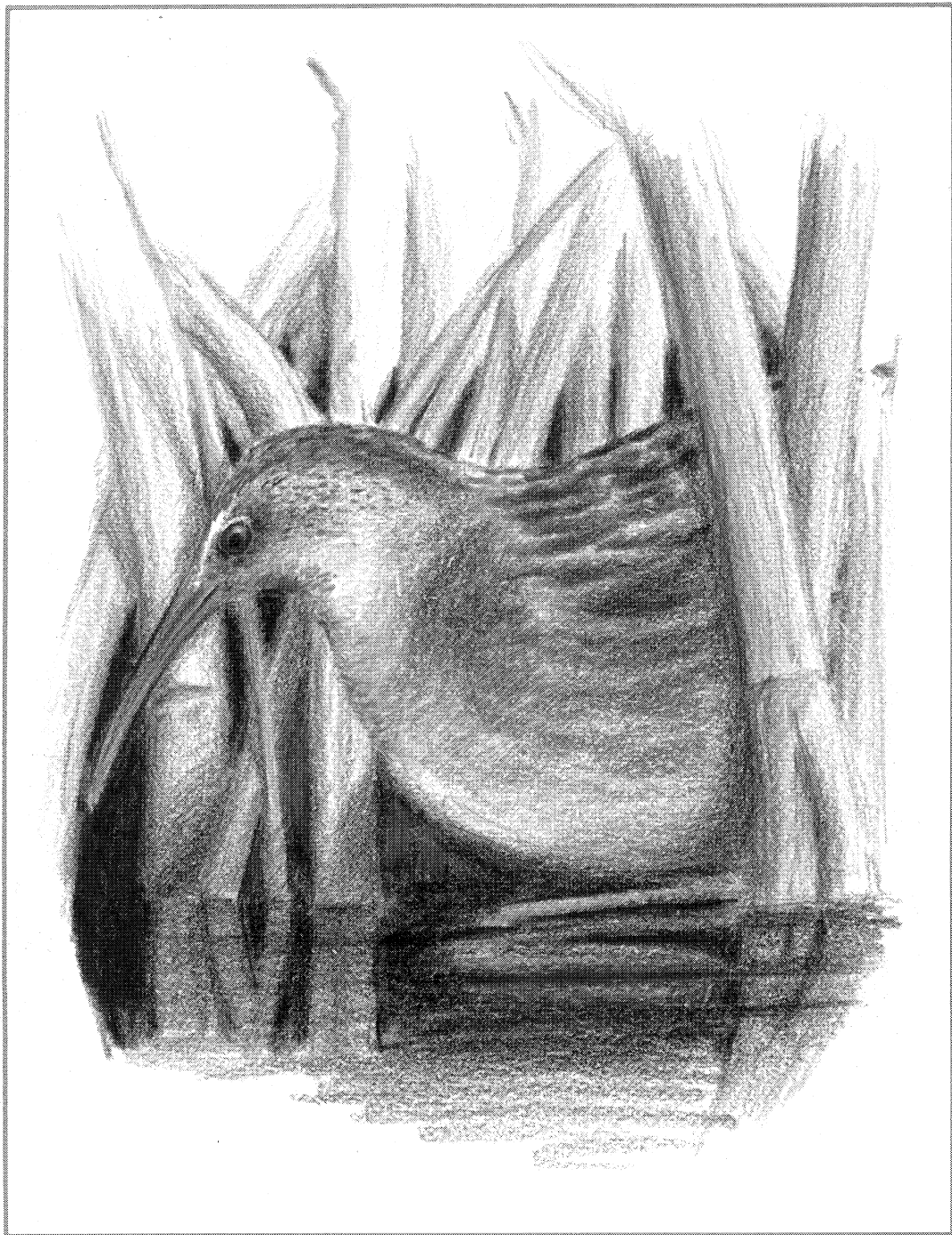


Nova Scotia Birds



January 1987

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Happy New Year

FROM YOUR

1986 - 1987 EXECUTIVE



From the left

Back row Bill Caudle (Past President), Don MacNeill (Secretary),
Phyllis Bryson (Director), Carin Somers (Director), Ken Gregoire
(Director)

Front row Shirley Cohrs (Editor), Sandra Myers (Treasurer), Joyce
Purchase (Membership Secretary), Bob Dickie (President).

--Photo, Peter Payzant

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past year, from a birding viewpoint, has been a little damp. An exception to this was the field trip to Tancook Island, which was hot and sunny. The trip to Scatari was a little more than damp--it was downright wet--and no ptarmigan were seen.

However, the indoor programs during the year were far from dry and we enjoyed some very interesting talks and slides on birds both near and far away. A thank you to all the guest speakers, to Alan Covert for making the arrangements, to John Cohrs, our Master of Ceremonies and to Millie Lawrence who looked after the refreshments.

Back to field trips--Thank you go to Bob and Wendy McDonald for making all those arrangements and to all the leaders who arranged for the good birds , making each trip a memorable event.

On the administrative side of things, thanks go to the Nova Scotia Museum for the use of the facilities and their financial support by means of the \$2000.00 grant. More thanks to Bernice Moores and Elizabeth Townsend for looking after tonight's Wine and Cheese Party, to David Currie for the postal sorting and mailing and to both David and Chris Field for their work on the Nominating Committee--to all our heartfelt thanks. Above all, I must thank the editorial staff of our Nova Scotia Birds, who continue to turn out a superb product time after time.

Membership in the society increased in 1986, from 923 to 1033, which is a nice increase. Unfortunately, all of our operating costs are also on the increase. The publication of Nova Scotia Birds is now over \$7000.00 per year, which is 10% more than last year, and the Post Office is making noises about postage increases. All this has meant an increase in our membership dues in order to maintain the quality of everything we do. We hope we can hold the line now for a few years.

This is my third AGM as your President. I must say that the time has flown by and that I have enjoyed the experience. My job has not been very arduous as I have had the assistance of a very efficient executive. If the future Presidents are as lucky as I have been, then the future of the Bird Society is well assured.

There is one cloud on the horizon. We , at the moment, do not have a very active Environmental Committee. Fortunately we have not had any major problems but, if anyone with chemical or environmental impact experience would like to volunteer a little of his or her time, the new executive would be pleased to hear from you.

Thank you
W. G. Caudle

SUMMER AND FALL 1986

June through October were cooler than normal in the Maritime Provinces and, with the exception of September, there were fewer hours of sunshine than usual. Frost in June wiped out a tobacco crop in New Brunswick and along with persistent cool, wet weather undoubtedly took its toll of nesting birds, particularly the insect eaters.

Ian McLaren and Eric Mills reported that on September 13, the twenty-five square mile "forest" in Cape Sable had only one Cape May Warbler, one Rose-breasted Grosbeak, one Chipping Sparrow and one oriole. Sylvia Fullerton noted that a usually successful trip to Seal Island this fall produced dismal results, birdwise.

In spite of all this, we received 1894 bird reports sent in by 89 birders. In all, they reported 278 species including 13 not found on our check list. The most frequently reported species was Greater Yellowlegs (same as last year), followed closely by Mourning Dove.

Among those not showing up were Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Cattle Egret, Wilson's Phalarope and Eurasian Wigeon.

This year, there is a drop in the numbers of reporters so let's keep those reports coming in.

Our special thanks to Keith Keddy for sending in the weather reports and to the following for their bird reports.

Charles Allen (CRKA), Doug Archibald (DA), Norman Bay (NB), Pearl Bay (PB), Phyllis Bryson (PB), Stephen Bushell (SB), E. Chant (EC), Margaret Clark (MAC), John Cohrs (JLC), Shirley Cohrs (JSC), Lisè Cohrs (LAC), G. Crowell (GC), C. Dawe (CD), Delisle D'Entremont (DJD), Raymond D'Entremont (RSD), Jerome D'Eon (JKD), Con Desplanque (CDE), Bob Dickie (RBD), Helen Dickie (HD), Phyllis Dobson (PRD), Martha Dodge (MD), Chris Field (CF), Bernard Forsythe (BLF), Roger Foxall (RF), Sylvia Fullerton (SJF), J. Gates (JG), June Graves (JLG), James Gregory (JHG), Norma Gregory (NBG), Helen Hall (HJH), Hubert Hall (HGH), Marjorie Hansen (MJH), Sharon Hawboldt (SH), Ruth Hebb (RDH), C. W. Helleiner (CWH), Barbara Hinds (BAH), Kim Hirtle (KJH), June Jarvis (JNJ), Sam Jarvis (SKJ), John Kearney (JK), Fulton Lavender (FLL), Sara MacLean (SM), Alan MacLeod (AM), Peter MacLeod (PM), Carol MacNeill (CDM), Don MacNeill (DAM), E. MacRury (EM), Bob McDonald (RSM), Barbara McGremere (BMC), Mike McGremere (MMC), Gertrude McKenzie (GLM), Bridgit McKeough (BHM), Bernice McLaren (BM), Ian McLaren (IAM), Eric Mills (ELM), Bernice Moores (ABM), Nancy More (NM), Bill Morse (WM), Jean Morse (JM), Mike Palmenter (MP), Linda and Peter Payzant (L&PP), Doris Peters (DP), Ken Peters (KHP), Marilyn Peters (MP), Nancy Peters (NWP), Warren Peters (WJP), Arthur Porter (AP), Joyce Purchase (JP), Pam Rhyno (PJR), Barbara Ruff (BR), Eric Ruff (ER), F. Schaab (FS), Nellie Snyder (NS), Richard Stern (RBS), Clarence Stevens (CSII), Jim Taylor (JWT), Bill Thexton (RGT), Brenda Thexton (BET), Jean Timpa (JET), Miriam Toms (MT), Gerry Trueman (GMT), Gordon Tufts (GWT), Judy Tufts (JCT), Eva Urban (EU), Azor Vienneau (AJV), Jim Wolford (JWW), David Young (DY), Joan Young (JY).

Bob Dickie
(Records Editor)

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

FOR

THE APRIL ISSUE

FEBRUARY 25, 1987

Bird reports to the Records Editor--

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

Articles, sketches and letters to the Editor--

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

Photographs to--

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

MANY GRATEFUL THANKS GO FROM ALL SOCIETY MEMBERS TO CHARLES R. K. ALLEN, WHO IS RETIRING AS A SEASONAL RECORDS EDITOR. HE HAS DEVOTED SO MUCH OF HIS TIME OVER THE YEARS TO MANY ASPECTS OF THE BIRD SOCIETY AND HAS EARNED A WELL-DESERVED REST. WE HOPE THAT THE GARDEN GROWS WELL AND THE FISH CONTINUE TO BITE, CHARLIE, AND THAT YOU KEEP SENDING IN YOUR BIRD REPORTS !

WE WELCOME to our Editorial Staff, Peter Payzant, who will be taking over C.R.K.A.'s part of the list. He will be known to you as LPMP, ed.

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

Yarmouth Co. (Yar. Co.)	Arcadia, Pinkney's Point, Tusket, Cranberry Head, Eel Brook, Chegoggin, Melbourne, Bartlett's Beach, Overton
Shelburne Co. (Shel. Co.)	Cape Sable Is., Matthews Lake, Lower Ohio, The Hawk, Little Harbour, Seal Is.
Queen's Co.	Port Joli, Port Hebert, Caledonia, Cadden Bay, Summerville Beach
Lunenburg Co. (Lun. Co.)	Cherry Hill, Broad Cove, Petite Riviere, Green Bay, Crousetown, Crescent Beach, Bayport, Lower LaHave, Second Peninsula
Halifax Co. (Hfx. Co.)	Three Fathom Hbr., Conrad's Beach, Lawrencetown, Cole Hbr., Mooseland, Rocky Run, Conrad's Road, Queensland, Waverley Martinique Beach, Hartlen's Pt.
Colchester Co. (Col. Co.)	Economy
Annapolis Co. (Anna. Co.)	Paradise, Sandy Bottom Lake, Clementsport
Kings Co.	Wolfville, Canard, Lockhartville, Black River Lake, Gaspereau, Grand Pré, Sheffield Mills
Cumberland Co. (Cumb. Co.)	Lusby Marsh, APBS (Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary)
Hants Co.	Shubenacadie
Guysborough Co. (Guys. Co.)	Hazel Hill
Digby Co.	Brier Is.

BIRD REPORTS

LOONS AND GREBES

The earliest RED-THROATED LOON report was of two together at Harbourville, June 19 (JWW). After that, they fell into the usual pattern of ones and twos around the coastal areas, until Nov. 16, when there were three reports of these birds in quantity: RBS saw a flock of about 100 flying high in a SE direction over Peter's Point, Kings Co.; BLF saw about 20 feeding east of Evangeline Beach (same group?); and 14 were seen around Hartlen's Point and Eastern Passage (IAM,ELM).

There were four reports of breeding COMMON LOON: 2 pairs at the Catalone area in May (C. Dawe); 2 adults with nest and eggs on Cranberry Lake, May 31 (AJV); another pair with nest and eggs at Big Hubley Lane on June 14 (AJV); and an adult with a "nearly full-grown young" at Lake Vaughan, Yar. Co., on Aug. 5 (CRKA). There were 22 other reports from all around the province, with large numbers observed by JWT (10-40 at Port Howe on Oct. 11), SJF (150+ at Crescent Beach on Nov. 8--"a late gathering"), and ELM, IAM et al. (Nov. 8--about 25 while they were crossing to Seal Is., and about 35 on Nov. 11, when they returned).

PIED-BILLED GREBES were more or less as usual, with only one breeding record--Jim Taylor found an adult with 5 young at Port Howe, Cum. Co., on July 25. Other reports were from APBS (June 1: DAM,JCT,GWT), L. W. Pubnico (Aug. 20 and Sept. 22: Dj'd'E), Louisbourg (early Sept.: C. Dawe), Caledonia (Sept 9: DAM,CDM), and Eastern Passage (Sept. 18: JWT). AJV saw 4 at APBS on Sept. 27, and Seal Is., had 2 on Oct. 13 (JG, Youngs) and 3 on Nov. 8 (IAM et al.).

HORNED GREBES were rather scarce this fall, with reports of small numbers from The Hawk, Cape Sable, Crescent Beach, French Village and Digby. The only concentration was reported by DAM, CDM ("lots") on Oct. 26, as they were sailing from Second Peninsula to Gold River in Mahone Bay.

RED-NECKED GREBES were likewise sparsely reported, with only six reports of 16 individuals. Ruth Hebb reports the presence of one to four individuals in Mahone Bay, near the mouth of Sandy Cove, during October--"I have never seen one in here before...Usually we just have Horned Grebes".

--LPMP, ed.



FULMARS TO CORMORANTS

I apologise for missing my deadline for the last newsletter. I was marooned on Sable Island and then, as soon as I came home, I had to drive up to Ottawa for the International Ornithological Congress. This report combines all your seabird reports since April.

Our first sightings of tubenoses come, as usual, from Raymond S. d'Entremont's fishing trips out to Brown's and George's Banks. He saw 200 NORTHERN FULMARS on Brown's, on May 15, as well as 'hundreds of WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS dancing on the surface.' My guess is that they were feeding in the turbulence downstream of the Bank. Raymond's first Wilson's sighting on that trip was on George's, on April 27, and he saw several LEACH'S STORM-PETRELS on Brown's on May 1. He also saw two SOOTY SHEARWATERS on George's, as early as April 9, and an early GREATER SHEARWATER ("I saw none other than that one") on May 10. There were 2000+ Greaters on the Bank on July 12, including an albino ("it was my second"), and single MANX SHEARWATERS on July 30, and September 6. His CORY'S SHEARWATER sightings are later in the year, as you'd expect for a subtropical seabird in our waters. There was one on Western Bank, west of Sable Island, on July 1, but "in early October, there were still several on George's Bank". I'm not surprised. Our Canadian corner of George's is at the edge of the Gulf Stream, and it's the nearest that any part of Canada comes to the tropics.

I've given Raymond d'Entremont's records in some detail, because they give us a picture of the seasonal movements of the various shearwaters and storm-petrels off Nova Scotia; but many other N.S.B.S. members went to sea in the summer of '86. James W. Taylor, fishing off Eastern Passage on July 1, saw six Northern Fulmars and a Sooty Shearwater, with "no Cory's or Greater Shearwater in evidence that day". (I'd guess it was too early for Cory's - and Greaters prefer to stay farther offshore.). Captain Hubert Hall saw a Sooty Shearwater from BLUENOSE on June 3, two miles west of Cape Forchu, and a Manx in much the same place on June 18. (When are we going to prove that Manx breeds here in Nova Scotia?). He also saw a Cory's, 35 miles WSW of the Cape, on June 30. Ian McLaren's Greater/Sooty Shearwater counts on the Canadian side of the BLUENOSE route, before and after Hurricane Charlie, were 75/6 on 17 Aug., but 60/0 on the 20th. That isn't statistically significant--but his Wilson's/Leach's Storm-Petrel numbers dropped from 600/100 to 10/6. The Cohrs say that the Leach's in the colony on Bon Portage Is. were calling noisily in the nights before the storm came through, but they were very quiet in the torrential rains afterwards. The storm must have made a clean sweep of the ocean south of Nova Scotia, and blown the birds far out to sea.

Apart from that, we have the hundreds of Wilson's which Richard Stern saw on the Lurcher Ledge on Sept. 1; the hundreds of storm-petrels-Leach's, from their flight--that Erich Muntz (fide Jim Wolford) saw from a bus on Canso Causeway on Sept. 27; and on Oct. 11, off Brier Is., Fulton Lavender's seven light-morph Fulmars, along with an intermediate light/dark bird. Last of all, there's the Leach's Storm-Petrel that JWT picked up under the power lines in Dartmouth on Nov. 4.

The NORTHERN GANNET, without any doubt, is our most spectacular seabird. It's a pity that it no longer nests with us on Gannet Rock, off Yarmouth. In fact, we're close to the centenary of its extinction there. However, the birds still breed in Newfoundland and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the ones we see here are flying to or from their colonies and their winter quarters off Florida.

In the spring, Daryl Amirault saw single gannets east of Mud Is., Yar. Co., on Mar. 17 and 24, J. Soames and M. Churchill had one off Baccaro on March 23 ('our earliest spring sighting ever'), and Captain Hall saw his first of the season from BLUENOSE, 3 miles off Yarmouth, on Mar. 25. There were 40 gannets in Fundy, off Parker's Cove, Anna. Co., on Mar. 20 (Sharon Hawholdt), and 180 off The Hawk, Cape Sable, in only an hour (FLL). However, the early prize goes to Larry MacLeod who saw an adult off Lobster Bay, Yar. Co., on Mar. 5.

Gannets, herrings and finback whales have established, or re-established, a pattern off Halifax Hbr., in the last few years. They all come in to Chebucto Head in the early spring. I saw at least 25 adult gannets there on April 13, following and diving behind a couple of finbacks. I also saw an adult bird flying past Point Pleasant Park, up the Northwest Arm, on April 12. I wonder if this was the bird which the Cohrs saw SWIMMING up the Arm the same day, heading for the Armdale Rotary? They thought it might have been injured, but I rather doubt it. Gannets can sit on the water, and dive like murrens, when they really want to.

A little later, on May 1, Miriam Tarns and Jim Wolford saw a flock of 40 'adults' on the Fundy side, off Harbourville, 'going WHERE? FROM where?'. These birds can't have been fully adult if they were so far south, so late in the spring, but this is the floating population of near-adult gannets which, with any luck, will eventually recolonise the Bay of Fundy. They've tried at two sites already, on the New Brunswick side, and we can only hope for the best.

The brown immatures come later, and spend most of their summer out on the Scotian Shelf. James W. Taylor saw 45 of them on July 1, 8 miles off Eastern Passage, and Ian McLaren counted at least 20 from Hartlen's Point, in a strong southerly wind, on Aug. 24. The return migration of adults, whitening immatures and birds-of-the-year begins in Sept., as the gannets head back to the Carolinas and the Gulf of Mexico. Fll et al. counted 50+ off Hartlen's Point on Sept. 2, and Sylvia Fullerton and the N.S.B.S. Field Trip saw at least 200 birds going past Seal Is. on Oct. 11-13. Nov. 2 was a spectacular day for gannets off Chebucto Head and Hartlen's Point. The birds ('99% adults') were pouring south at a rate of "10-20 per minute" (the Cohrs), or "at least a 200-250 rate/hour"(JWT). These must have been the last breeding birds from the colonies in the Gulf and Newfoundland; they stay on the cliffs until the end of October.

GREAT CORMORANTS winter with us, but DOUBLE-CRESTED don't. Sara MacLean reports that the Greats wintered, as usual, in Louisbourg harbour up in Cape Breton. Richard Stern found that there were "plenty" of Greats around Brier Is. on Apr. 4-6, but no Double-crested at all. The first definite spring sightings of Double-crests are FLL's adult at Porter's Lake on Apr. 5, Jim Wolford's 5 at the mouth of the Gaspereau River on Apr. 11, and Jerome D'Eon's 30, at L.W. Pubnico, on May 1. Sandra Myers' birds on Taylor's Head, Hfx. Co., on the May 17 N.S.B.S. Field Trip, were already carrying nest material back to their colony.

At the other end of the season, Jerome D'Eon saw 150+ Double-crested Cormorants go by L.W. Pubnico on Oct. 11, and Bernard L. Forsythe estimated 300+ off Port Williams the same day, 'flying west in a huge V-formation'. Dan Toews saw a very long, single line of ca. 500 cormorants heading south over Kingsport on Oct. 22. All of these birds were presumably on their way to winter off Massachusetts and farther south. The last sighting of a Double-crest was the single-ton which FLL et al. saw off Hartlen's Point, on Nov. 11.

HERONS AND RELATIVES

Summering AMERICAN BITTERNs were reported from 6 localities, although more were doubtless noted. A clumsy juvenile was flushed at Round Bay, Shel. Co., on Aug. 12. Late fall individuals were seen at 4 places between Oct. 13-26. LEAST BITTERNs are always worth recording, even belatedly. Estell Greene flushed one from a roadside pond near Pembroke, Yar. Co., on May 23, and reported all field marks.

GREAT BLUE HERONS seemed to be as usual. A typical coastal sequence comes from Crescent Beach (sev. obs.): Sept, 20 (28), Oct. 4 (20), Oct. 7 (30), Oct. 11 (7), Oct. 17 (6). A similar mid-Oct. drop was noted on the Eastern Shore. There were still 8 at APBS on Nov. 10, and a few here and there at month's end.

Our only GREAT EGRETS were individuals at Three Fathom Hbr., Aug. 23- Sept. 6 (sev. obs.) and on Bon Portage Is., on Aug. 31 (HH et al.). The 3 adult SNOWY EGRETS on Bon Portage Is., Aug. 30-Sept. 1, may have been local, but we have no word on earlier summer status. One juvenile on Cape Sable Is. on Nov. 2 (ELM et al.) and another bird at Eel Brook, Nov. 3-18, (PRD) were probably late reverse migrants. LITTLE BLUE HERONS were at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co., July 21-Aug. 4 (CSII), Chegoggin on Aug. 17 (H&HH), Tiddville, Digby Co., Aug. 30-Sept. 1 (sev. obs.), Grand Desert, Hfx. Co., Sept. 6-7 (RF,IM), and near Canning, Oct. 19-20 (sev. obs.). The last may have been the "small white crane" seen thereabouts on Nov. 1 (rep. to JWW).

A GREEN-BACKED HERON along Clyburn Brook CBHNP, on June 12 was reported by Barbara and Mike McGrenere of Victoria, B.C. (file RSM). One at Round Bay, Shel. Co., on June 19 (D&JY) and another on Brier Is. on Sept. 13-14 (RBS) are less unexpected.

The usual numbers of BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS presumably nested on Bon Portage Is., but we received no account of this. Only 1 adult and 3-4 juveniles were encountered between Aug. 16-22 (JSC et al.), and about the same number at month's end (N.S.B.S.). A few others were seen on Cape Sable Is. and at the Pubnicos, the latest being 3 imm. at L.W. Pubnico on Sept. 13. A YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON on Brier Is., May 31 (LAL,RRN) was the only one last spring. Summer visitors came to the NW Arm, Halifax, on July 15- Aug. 9 (FLL et al.), and Dartmouth on Sept. 7 (JWT).

Last spring's WHITE IBIS at Cranberry Pt., Yar. Co., was not seen in June. There were no reports of Glossy Ibis in summer or fall--most unusual. I must note here that the imm. Greater Flamingo reported in the January 1986 issue could equally well have been a Chilean Flamingo, as these are now more common in captivity and there were 2 records in New England last year, and the observer did not consider the possibility.

GEESE AND DUCKS

The one report of SNOW GOOSE comes from Erich Muntz by way of JWW: 6 white phase birds on the Grand Pré Dykelands on Nov. 13.

Strangely, there were no reports of BRANT this year. However, CANADA GEESE did well as usual. Birds were reported with goslings on June 1 at APBS (JCT,GWT,JWW). The first migrants gathered at Morien Bay on Sept. 6 (C. Dawe). Numbers rose steadily at all the usual locations, and by Oct. 8, we had 700-1000 at Lr. Onslow, Col. Co. (JKd'E). There were over 1000 at Wallace Bay on Nov. 5 (RGT,BET), and 850 at the Melbourne Sanctuary on Nov. 7 (PRD,CRKA). Dan Toews saw about 600 at Kingsport on Nov. 13, and the Cole Hbr flock was in good shape with over 1000 at Osborne Head, seen on Nov. 23 (FLL,MA).

A hunter at Cole Hbr. bagged Nova Scotia's 4th GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE on Nov. 20, where it was associating with the winter flock of Canada Geese. Inspection of the bird showed that it had the orange bill typical of the "Greenland" race. The hunter reported that there was a second bird which he missed. Several people tried to locate the second bird, but the only reported sighting comes from Jim Taylor. He spent several hours on a cliff overlooking Cole Hbr., and saw in the flock a "darker bird, with no white streak on the neck, a lighter texture to the bill and face area, and no white front or breast--distinctive compared to the Canada Geese". There is always the possibility that both birds are escapees from some private collection.

We had 21 records of WOOD DUCK, stretching well into the fall. Breeding records included an adult (sex?) with 9 young at Drain Lake, Hfx. Co., on July 15 (RBD); a male, several females and young at Pembroke, Yar. Co., on Sept. 1 (HHH); and a solitary female who was later joined by a male in eclipse plumage and 6 juveniles at Sheffield Mills (RGT,BET). The migration trickled on with small numbers of birds until the last report of a male in breeding plumage on Oct. 21, at Upper Dyke, Kings Co. (JCT,GWT).

There were two breeding records for GREEN-WINGED TEAL. Jim Wolford reports a "nest of 8 eggs, at least 200 meters from nearest water", near Poplar Grove on July 9, and Bob and Helen Dickie saw an adult with recently fledged young at the West Marsh, Lawrencetown on July 13. They were found throughout the fall in little knots and clumps, mainly in the southern end of the province, including a group of 200-300 at Sheffield Mills on Sept. 22 (JCT,SWT).

There were few reports of BLACK DUCK from the summer, and only one breeding report: an adult and 10 young at Drain Lake, Halifax Co., on June 8 (RBD). However, numbers picked up later with Jim Taylor reporting a total of 300-450 from two sites in Dartmouth "all October and November", 90 at Settle Lake, near Dartmouth on Oct. 31 (FLL), about 300 at Melbourne Sanctuary on Nov. 7 (PRD,CRKA), 180 at Lingan Marsh on Nov. 18 - "good numbers for here" (CSM), and about 100 at the Annapolis Royal Ducks Unlimited marsh on Nov. 18 (SH).

MALLARDS were well reported, although there was only one breeding record--2 adults and 13 half-grown young at Port Williams on Sept. 22 (BET,JET). Twenty birds were at Crescent Beach on Sept. 1 (JCT,GWT), and 5-15 males and females were seen through Sept. and Oct., in ponds and rivers in Kings Co. (JCT,GWT). FLL and JWT saw 25 at Risser's Beach and Crescent Beach on Oct. 17, Sharon Hawboldt had 10 at the Annapolis Royal Ducks Unlimited marsh on Oct. 26, and there were 30, mostly males, at Seabright on Nov. 2 (AJV).

We had 19 reports of NORTHERN PINTAIL, 14 of which were from the Canard Poultry pond. Starting with 2 birds there on Sept. 27 (JWW), numbers increased slowly to a peak of 11 birds, including at least 4 males on Oct. 19 (JWW), and they then decreased to 7 birds on Oct. 31 (JCT,GWT). Other reports came from APBS (1 on June 1: JCT,GWT); Matthews Lake (12 on Oct. 10: D. H. Young), 2 birds at Grand Pré on Nov. 15 (JWW) and 1 at Port Williams sewage pond on Nov. 16 (JWW).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL had a good year, with 24 reports, mostly from Dartmouth, the Valley area, and the South Shore, reflecting the distribution of observers rather than birds. With the exception of a group at the Ducks Unlimited marsh in Annapolis Royal (about 20 on Oct. 19 (SH), the peak passed at the end of Sept., with a group of 22 at Lawrencetown Lake (FLL,MA). A female with 8 young and another with 10 young were seen on Aug. 13, in the Port Williams-Wolfville area (RGT,BET,JET). Other reports were mainly of less than 10 birds at various locations including L.W. Pubnico, Crescent Beach, Brier Is., Petite Riviere, Seal Is., and APBS.

The Blomidon Naturalists Society (fide JWW) turned up 2 male SHOVELERS at John Lusby Marsh, Amherst Point on June 1. One or two birds were present at Canning from Sept. 26 to Oct. 19, (RGT,BET,JCT, GWTO, and the latest report is from APBS, with 12 birds on Nov. 4, down to 10 on Nov. 8 (CD).

GADWALLS were up somewhat over previous years with one at APBS, June 1 (JCT,GWT), 6 at Canning (JCT,GWT), and 2 at Canard (RGT,BET) both on Sept. 22, and 3 at Canard Pond on Sept. 28. FLL et al. had a single female at Brier Is., on Oct. 12, and CD reports 2 at APBS on Nov. 4 and again on Nov. 8.

AMERICAN WIGEON were also well reported: 8 birds at Canning on Sept. 27, (RGT,BET) and increased to 16 by Oct. 13, and remained at that number until at least Oct. 26 (JWW). There were 60-70 at APBS on Sept. 27 (AJV), and by Nov. 4 CD had 150 at the same site. DHY reports a "pair" on Oct. 10 at Matthews Lake--"first I've seen in this area". Others were reported from the West Lawrencetown marsh, Brier Is., Dartmouth, and Antigonish Hbr.

A surprising report of 10 CANVASBACK at Annapolis Royal Ducks Unlimited Marsh, Oct. 19, comes from Saron Hawboldt--"seen by others then and a few days prior--not seen here Oct. 26".

RING-NECKED DUCKS were reported in small numbers at the usual locations. BLF noted a nest with 5 eggs at Black River, Kings Co., being predated by a crow and later destroyed; RSD'E had a female with 5 ducklings at Quinan on July 13, and Bob Dickie reports them "abundant at Drain Lake--several confirmed breeding in this lake for several years".

The first GREATER SCAUP were reported from Canard on Oct. 11 (JCT,GWT). Small numbers were reported by 4 other observers, with the only concentration being at Pictou Hbr: 30-40 on Oct 19, (JV) and "abundant" on Nov. 9 (RBD).

Three LESSER SCAUP in the Canard Poultry Pond became 7 on Oct. 19, and back to 3 on Nov. 8 (JWW). Jim also had 5 ("definite--close views of size and head shape and wing patches") on the Port Williams sewage pond on Nov. 16. Several observers reported a single bird at Three Fathom Hbr, and another at Sullivan's Pond, both Nov. 23. Other reports were of a single bird at Annapolis Royal, Oct. 13, and 2 at Lawrencetown Lake, Nov. 11.

COMMON EIDER, which are still probably the most numerous fall duck, seemed to be down from previous years. Nancy and Warren Peters report them as regular all year along the Guysborough coast, and JSC sympathises with the lone adult minding a crèche of 21 young at Green Bay on June 29. There were 500-600 off Brier, Aug. 29-Sept. 1 (RBS,JCT,GWT), 65+ off Pollack Point, Lun. Co., Nov. 8 (JSC), and about 150 off Grand Pré on Nov. 2 (RBS).

HARLEQUIN DUCK makes the list again this year--there were none reported last year, just six in 1984, 1 in 1983, and none in 1982. A single "beautiful, bright" male was at Seal Is., on Oct. 15-16 (SJF,JG et al.), a single female was seen at Clam Hbr. Beach on Nov. 16 (ABM), and Roger Foxall saw another (?) female off Martinique Beach, Nov. 23.

Our first OLDSQUAWS showed up at Crescent Beach on June 21, where the Cohrs saw 9--"all males (long tails) but a fantastic array of plumage--real rag-bags". AJV reports one at Whynacht's Cove, St. Margaret's Bay, Aug. 3 and Aug. 26, and JWT had 10 at Port Howe, Cum. Co., Oct. 14. DAM and CDM saw "hundreds" from their boat in Mahone Bay on Oct. 26, and there were 400+ off Digby on Nov. 16 (SH).

BLACK SCOTERS were reported from Oct. 5 to Nov. 8 from seven locations. The only large group was 93 at Green Bay on Oct. 11 (JSC), where there were 100+ at about the same time last year. Brier Is. had 50+ also on Oct. 11 (FLL).

Two SURF SCOTERS at Green Bay on June 29 (JSC), were probably summering. The more usual fall migrants began to arrive in early Sept., with a single bird at Rocky Run, Sept. 2 (FLL et al.). Only small numbers were reported generally, except for 40+ at Brier on Oct. 11 (FLL et al.) and "rafts fo them mixed with White-winged Scoters" at Young's Cove, Ann. Co., Oct. 5 (JCT,GWT).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS were mentioned in ten reports with a total of 72 birds plus two "rafts"--Evangeline Beach, Sept. 20, and Young's Cove, Ann. Co., Oct. 5 (both JCT,GWT). AJV reports an adult male at Whynacht's Cove regularly from Aug. 9 to Oct. 5, and about 50 appeared off Grand Pré on Nov. 2 (RBS).

Two female or immature COMMON GOLDENEYE were unusually early on Aug. 1, at the Head of St. Margaret's Bay (AJV). Other observers began seeing them in the usual locations around Oct. 5, in small numbers--4 at Petite Riviere (JSC), 1 at Port Joli (BAH,SJF), 3 in Lumsden reservoir (JWW), and 5 at the Annapolis DU Marsh (SH). The only large concentration was the 200+ at Pictou Hbr., Nov. 9, reported by Bob Dickie. Like many duck species, the biggest fall concentrations are to be found along the North Shore, but due to few birders in the area, we seldom get to hear about them.

BUFFLEHEADS put in their first appearance on Oct. 11, at Bay Head, Cum. Co., where JWT saw 2 females. A little over a week later SH had about 30 at the DU Marsh at Annapolis Royal--by Oct. 26, there were about 50 present, and about 200 on Nov. 18. The six or seven flocks at the Melbourne Sanctuary, totalled about 100 birds on Nov. 7 (PRD,CRKA), and JSC had 5 females and one male at Petite Riviere on Nov. 9. Smaller numbers appeared at Port Williams, Lr. Canard, APBS, Glen Margaret, and L. W. Pubnico.

HOODED MERGANSERS were very well reported-- -16 reports of almost 100 individuals. The first one showed up very early (a summer resident?) at Black River on July 8 (JCT,GWT). The remainder began arriving in late Aug. with single birds at Conrad's Beach and Bon Portage Is. Nothing was reported until the end of Sept., when there were 7 birds in the Charles Cove area of Guys. Co. (NBG,JHG),

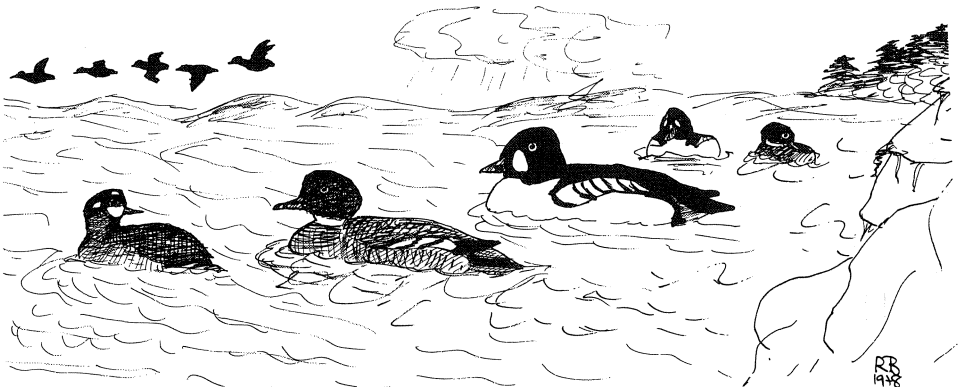
1 at Sheffield Mills (JCT,GWT) and 5 at the Lumsden reservoir. Small numbers appeared throughout October at Whynacht's Cove (AJV), Tantallon, "The Puddle" (a traditional spot near Queensland), several locations in Kings Co., and L.W. Pubnico. By Nov., they appeared to have deserted the inland locations in favour of the coast, where AJV now had 16 at Whynacht's Cove on Nov. 1, IAM had about 5 nearby at Head of St. Margaret's Bay, Nov. 8, and 2 females were at Three Fathom Hbr, Nov. 11 (JWT et al.).

There were lots of COMMON MERGANSERS at two locations--100+ at White Rock (Sept. 27-RGT,BET), building to 150 on Oct. 4 (JCT,GWT), and 130 at Lumsden (Sept. 29 - RGT,BET). Smaller numbers were at Crescent Beach, L.W. Pubnico, Glenwood, and APBS. A group of 21 birds at Eel Lake, Oct. 27, may have been a grown brood (PRD,CRKA).

RED-BRESTED MERGANSERS seemed to be maintaining their recovery of the past few years . There were 25+ at St. Anne's Bay (G. Crowell) on July 27, 30 in Mahone Bay on October 26 (DAM,CDM), and 50-70 at Port Howe, Cum. Co., Oct. 13 (JWT). CD had 10 at APBS, Nov. 8, JWW had 1 at Canning on Oct. 20, and SH saw four at Digby, Nov. 16, 2 on Nov. 18 at Annapolis Royal DU Marsh.

Finally, we had an unusual four reports of RUDDY DUCK. J.C. Tufts relates a convincing description of one by a non-birding neighbour--"a duck with a funny stiff tail that stuck up in the air" and a good match to the illustrations in Peterson. This was at Andrew's Pond on the Wolfville Ridge on Aug. 2. There were 2 females at Three Fathom Hbr., Nov. 11 (DAM,ABM,JWT), 1 at Cherry Hill, Nov. 15 (SJF), and 1 at Bissett Lake, Hfx. Co., Nov. 23 (Cohrs).

LPMP, ed.



DIURNAL RAPTORS

TURKEY VULTURES were as usual, evident on lower Digby Neck and Brier Is., perhaps as many as 3 adults and 1-2 imm. birds between Aug. 5-Oct. 19 (sev. obs.). Individuals at Cole Hbr., Guys. Co., on June 24 (SSB), near Gays R., Hfx. Co., on Aug. 6 (imm., Doug. Archibald), and near Greenwich, Kings Co., on Nov. 3 (BLF) were a bit farther afield.

Some OSPREYS had fledged by July 6 (JSC) and were reported as gone by (or not reported later than) early to mid-Sept. in some localities. There was a late migrant on Brier Is. on Oct. 13 and another on Seal Is. next day. Nesting or breeding-season BALD EAGLES were reported as usual from C.B., Guys. and Pictou Co., and at Head of St. Margarets Bay, Hfx. Co. An adult at Chester Basin on June 1 and another at Blomidon on July 23, were wandering. At White Rock, Kings Co., JCT saw an imm. on Sept. 26 and an adult on Oct. 4, flying over ca. 150 unperturbed Common Mergansers and pluck small gaspereau from the schools of turbine-stunned fish. "Apparently there was more than enough food for everyone."

There were "several pairs" of N. HARRIERS in Guys. Co. this year. Most others reported only scattered individuals, including an "extremely large male near Canard on Aug. 17 (JSB, MG). A male was seen transferring food in flight to a female near Carroll's Corner, Hfx. Co., on July 6 (RBD), and 2 weakly flying young were pursuing a female with food at Hartlen's Point on July 19 (IAM). Numbers picked up in Sept., with larger counts of 6 at L.W. Pubnico on Sept. 17, 13+ on Brier Is. on Sept. 27, and 10 there on Oct. 13.

A report of 2 SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS hawking flies at Glace Bay on Aug. 27 was sent by Sara MacLean. Fall migration was not too impressive this year, with ones and twos in late August through late Sept. being the rule. There were small flights of 5 on Aug. 21 and 15 on Oct. 17, on Seal Is., and 8 near L.W. Pubnico on Sept. 18. Brier Is. as usual, took the prize, with 450+ on Sept. 27 (Cohrs): there were only ca. 40 next day. We have three reports of Cooper's Hawks, but none was accompanied by satisfactory details. I think we must insist on this. We have 3 reports of breeding season N. GOSHAWKS, and 15 more were seen between Sept. 27-Nov. 20 (ca. 5 on Brier Is., Oct. 11-12).

The big hawk flight on Brier Is. on Sept. 27 (the Cohrs) included an ad. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, and another was seen there on Oct. 19 (RBS). A scattering of BROAD-WINGED HAWKS was noted in summer. One was over Glace Bay on Sept. 8 (SM). Brier Is had 4 on Sept. 1, and on Sept. 27, some 2500 (a near record) were seen. Kettle after kettle spiralled out of sight during morning and part of the afternoon; next day there were only 3 kettles of ca. 300 each, and only a few were left on Sept. 29 (the Cohrs). There were 3 over Brier Is. on Oct. 12-13 (N.S.B.S.). The RED-TAILED HAWKS showed no such surge. The peak on Brier Is. was 7 birds on Oct. 12 (N.S.B.S.) A report of 20 near Canning on Nov. 16, indicates that they are settled in for winter. An early ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK (dark) was near Glace Bay on Sept. 4 (J. (J. Gates). The nest was on Brier Is. on Oct. 19, after which there were about 11 (about 4 id. as dark 4 light) allowing for possible repeats in Kings Co.

AMERICAN KESTRELS were reported in small numbers from Yar. Co. to Cape Breton Is. A pair nested in a utility pole near Quinan, Yar. Co. (RSd'E), and 2 fledglings were near White Rock, Kings Co., on July 8 (JC>). Six were seen along with a Sharp-shin, "ganging up" on a Blue Jay on Brier Is. on Sept. 1 (JC>). Counts of 8-16 were

made in Yar. and Shel Co. on Sept. 3, 13, 15 and 17. Brier Is. had 160+ on Sept. 27, 25 on the 28th and only 3 on the 29th (the Cohrs); there were about 20 on Oct. 11-13 (N.S.B.S.). A MERLIN nest was found by Pam Matthews and BLF at Avonport. It was in an old crow's nest in a spruce and had 2 eggs on May 28, 4 on June 7, and 4 young were banded by BLF on July 17, and were fledged by month's end. Interestingly, the male was in immature plumage, brown-backed and streaked below. There were a few other summer records from Cape Breton and Hfx. Co., and 1-3 individuals were seen in several places on several dates between late Aug. and late Nov. There were 7 around BLUENOSE at sea on Sept. 23, but only 4 occurred in the major hawk flight at Brier Is. on Sept. 27. RBS saw a shorebird in a flock being chased at Grand Pré on Sept. 9, evidently drop dead into the water without being touched by the pursuing Merlin. An imm. PEREGRINE FALCON chasing pigeons at Port Williams on Aug. 22 (CKC) could have been produced regionally. At least 12 others were seen between Sept. 13 and the end of Nov., from Crescent Beach to Yarmouth. The earliest of these was identified as a tundrius male (ELM,IAM).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

GRAY PARTRIDGES surfaced in Kings Co., with 6 at Port Williams on Nov. 7 and 12 at Wolfville Dyke on Nov. 15. Very few RING-NECKED PHEASANTS were being taken by hunters in Kings Co., according to GWT, although others reported small groups there. They were noted as "uncommon" (as usual?) in Tusket, but there were "a great many in the Chester area in summer" (RDH).

There were an unusual number of SPRUCE GROUSE reports, with 2 broods (2 & 5) near Hubley, Hfx. Co., on July 6, a brood of 5 on the Mersey road near Sandy Lake, Hfx. Co., on July 19 (all AJV), another brood near Kennetcook, Hants Co., on July 2 (RBD), and 6 other birds from Hants to Yar. Co. RUFFED GROUSE "are down compared to 1985 ." (CRKA) Although only 5 sightings (1 brood) were reported to us, I know that atlasers came across others. One flew into a Wolfville School window and "was delicious" (fide JWT) and another "crazy" turned up on the Dalhousie Univ. campus on Oct. 8 (IAM).

RALLIDS AND CRANE

A group from the Blomidon Field Naturalists (JWT et al.) flushed a convincingly described YELLOW RAIL at APBS on June 1. Next day, JC and GWT were able to flush it twice and Peter MacLeod reported one at a nearby site on June 7. This is our first report in almost a decade! A possible King Rail, wisely reported with "(?)" attached, was heard at APBS on June 1 by JWT, who writes that it gave a "loud series of grunting notes (like a loud, weird duck)" which "didn't descend or speed up like a Virginia Rail's...fairly close to recordings I've heard of King Rail". Certainly this species should be looked for in the border region. Our only report of VIRGINIA RAILS was of 2 pairs at APBS, also grunting in their fashion, at APBS on June 1-2, 2 at Drain Lake, Hfx. Co., on June 1-2 (RBD), 3 at Canning on July 29-30 (RGT), and a migrant at Russell Lake on Sept. 21 (JWT).

COMMON MOORHENS were at Amherst Marsh (3pairs) and at Three Fathom Hbr. (1) on June 14 (FLL,RBD), near Brooklyn, Hants Co. (1) on July 6 (sev. obs.), and at APBS (2) on Aug. 3 (DAM). A dead migrant was found at L.W. Pubnico on Oct. 20 (JKd'E,JK). We have no breeding season reports of AM. COOTS, but doubtless they were as usual in their border haunts. Away from APBS, there were only 4 fall birds, including one settled at Sullivan's Pond through November.

A SANDHILL CRANE at Elderbank Marsh, Hfx. Co., was discovered by RBD and FLL on June 21, and subsequently seen by several others until at least Aug. 6 (D. Archibald). It was very brown, perhaps

subadult, and was thought by FLL to be of the larger race *tabida*. Sooner or later they'll be nesting, and that extensive marshy area would do.

--IAM, ed.

FALL SHOREBIRDS *Note: other news of Lesser Golden Plover in photographic section--Editor*

There were 28 unseasonal BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS at Cherry Hill, June 24 (SJF). The only ones noted in July were 5 at Conrad's Beach (FLL et al.) and 2 at Cole Hbr. (IAM), all on the 19th. The species was not widely reported thereafter, the largest numbers being 450 at Economy, Aug. 20 (FLS), 150 at Crescent on the 31st (JS&JLC), and 100+ at Grand Pré, Sept. 5 (RGT,BET). The last were 20 at Conrad's Nov. 11 (FLL et al.) and one at Economy of the 15th (FLS). An early LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER was at Grand Pré, Aug. 2 (JWW). About 50 were noted in that area through mid-Sept. (JWW,GWT,RGT,BET), with smaller numbers in the Halifax area (FLL,IAM,L&PP), the last there were on Oct. 28 (IAM), about which time there were still 15 at Chebogue (PRD&CRKA) summering, and perhaps breeding. SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS were at Pinkney's Pt. (PRD,CRKA) and at various beaches in Guysborough Co. (N&WP). There were also three at Round Bay, Shel. Co., July 5 (IAM). 60+ fall migrants were at Cook's Beach, July 27 (PRD&CRKA); in the Halifax area, numbers rose from 200+ on Aug. 2, to 800-900, Aug. 15-Sept. 2, declining to 90+ by Oct. 17 (FLL et al.). There was still on Nov. 8 (JWT). The PIPING PLOVER is still with us, but only barely. Perhaps as many as half a dozen pairs occupied ideal habitat at Round Bay in mid-June (D&JY, IAM), but because of disturbance by all-terrain vehicles, no young were found there July 5 (IAM). There were 3 pairs and 2 juveniles at Cherry Hill through July (SJF). Summering adults, but no juveniles, were at Conrad's (RSM,FLL,BD) and Martinique (ELM,BAM). Fall dates are for singles, Sept. 14 and 20 at Cherry Hill (JSC,SJF). Of the 7 breeding reports of KILLDEER, the most unusual was that of a nest on the gravel roof of Acadia University's gymnasium (Cyril Coldwell fide JWW). Nov. records came from L. W. Pubnico (PRD,CRKA), Cherry Hill (SJF) and Debert (FLS).

A GREATER YELLOWLEGS at Pinkney's Pt., on June 30 (PRD,CRKA) was unseasonal; there were 5 there July 3, 15-20, by July 27 (PRD,CRKA), suggesting an early fall migration, as did 10+ at Chezzetcook (FLL) and 15 at Cole Hbr. (IAM) on July 19. Mid-Aug. saw peak numbers with 110 at Cape Sable (IAM) and 40 at Lawrencetown (AJC,CSII), Aug. 16. Late migrants were 8 at Canning (JWW) and one at Annapolis (SH) on Oct. 26. A straggler was at Whynacht's Cove, Nov. 25 (AJV). Unusually large numbers of LESSER YELLOWLEGS were reported this fall, e.g., 400+ in the Halifax area, July 19 (FLL,IAM), 110 at Cape Sable, Aug. 14 (IAM), 50 at Canning, Sept. 22 (JC,GWT). The last one was at Hartlen's Point, Oct. 6 (L&PP). Nine SOLITARY SANDPIPERS were noted, the earliest, July 20, at Tancook (H&HH,E & BR) and July 24 at L.W. Pubnico (DJD'E), the last was Sept. 20 at Green Bay (JSC), all the others in mid-Aug. The WILLET summered much as usual but one of this early-departing species, a possible "western" on the basis of its very long bill, was at Wolfville, Oct. 24 (JCT). Details of breeding SPOTTED SANDPIPERS come from Cranberry Lake, Timberlea (AJV,RF), Green Bay (JSC), South Mtn., Kings Co. (JCT) and Pubnico Pt. (RSD'E). The last migrant was one at Green Bay, Oct. 25 (JSC). Two UPLAND SANDPIPERS were at Grand Pré, Sept. 8 (RGT,BET,JC,GWT). The height of the WHIMBREL migration passed through Cape Breton in mid-Aug., with 53 on Scatari Is., Aug. 9 (DAM et al.) and a maximum 100+ at Larry's River Barrens, Aug. 18 (WS&NWP). Individuals apparently summered in Guysborough Co. and were thought to be nesting in the Whitehead area (N&WP). An early HUDSONIAN GODWIT was at Hartlen's Point, July 19 (IAM). Most reports are for August, 6 on Brier, Aug. 13 (RBS) and 10 at Glace Bay, Aug. 27 (IAM), being the only "sizeable" numbers. A few were present in Sept. and one lingered until Oct. 19 at Three Fathom Hbr. (IAM). The RUDDY TURNSTONE was

first noted July 27 at Cook's Beach (PRD&CRKA) and thereafter in small numbers through Oct. 25, when 7 were still at Cherry Hill (JAC). The maximum number was 100 at Economy, Aug. 20 (FLS). The first RED KNOT was noted at Chezzetcook, July 19 (FLL et al.). Mid-Sept. saw the majority of the migrants with 15 at Cape Sable on the 13th (IAM) and 40 at Crescent on the 14th (JSC). There were still 15 at Cape Sable, Nov. 8 (JFK). The ubiquitous (in suitable habitat anyway) passed through largely unnoticed. The only large numbers reported were 200 at Economy, Aug. 20 (FLS) and the same number at Grand Pré, Nov. 1 (FLL et al.). Sightings of a partially molted SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER at Round Bay, June 15 and July 5, were presumably of a non-migrant (IAM). An early migrant was at Pinkney's Pt., July 16 (PRD&CRKA); by July 19 there were 400+ at Chezzetcook (FLL), by the 27th, c. 1000 were at Cook's Beach (PRD,CRKA). The species was present in its thousands (as usual) in Aug. and the first half of Sept. at Grand Pré (JC&GWT,RSM), around Halifax (FLL et sl.) and at Cape Sable (IAM). There were still 300+ at Hartlen's Point, Oct. 6, and on Nov. 11, Conrad's yielded a last three (FLL). Two WESTERN SANDPIPERS were noted Sept. 13 (IAM et al.), no location was given, and another, Sept. 26, at Cook's Beach was a "lifer" for PRD & CRKA. A LEAST SANDPIPER in nuptial song was at Round Bay, June 15 (IAM). 300+ migrants were at Chezzetcook--Conrad's, July 19, still 100+ were there Sept. 2 (FLL). There were still 16 at Cherry Hill Oct. 5 (JSC) and a last laggard was at Conrad's, Oct. 26 (ELM,IAM). Many were noted but uncounted in the flocks of "peeps" at Grand Pré and elsewhere. Three out-of-season WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS were at Round Bay, June 15 (IAM). The first migrants were 5 in the Halifax area, July 19 (IAM,FLL), numbers there rising to 100+ by Sept. 6 (FLL). Only scattered reports thereafter until late Oct., when there were 50 at Grand Pré (RBS) and Nov., with 180 at Cherry Hill and environs (JSC). There were 30 there (SJF) and 60+ at Hartlen's Point (FLL) on Nov. 23, which indicates the lateness of their migration this year. About a dozen BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS were reported (a good showing), with dates ranging from Aug. 17 at Conrad's (ELM) to Sept. 27 at Hartlen's Point (FLL). Other favoured localities were Cherry Hill (SJF,FLL,JSC), Grand Pré (JWW), Matthews Lake (DHY,M&NG), Seal (IAM) and Brier (RBS), where there were four, Sept. 3 (JFK). An early PECTORAL SANDPIPER was at L.W. Pubnico, July 15 (DJD'E). For the second consecutive year Sheffield Mills hosted remarkable numbers: 80+ Sept. 22, 120+ Oct. 11-14, 50 Oct. 19 (JC&GWT,RBS,JWW). Elsewhere, several were still present in November, the last was noted at L.W. Pubnico, Nov. 16 (JD'E). The first PURPLE SANDPIPERS were a few at Hartlen's Point, Oct. 6 (L&PP); by Nov. 8, there were 20 at Crescent (JSC). DUNLIN, first noted Sept. 6 at Hartlen's Point (IAM,FLL), were most numerous from mid-Oct. to early Nov.: 25 were at Crescent, Oct. 17 (FLL), 50 at Grand Pré, Oct. 18 (JWW), 75 at Matthews Lake, Oct. 22 (DHY) and 45 at Conrad's, Oct. 26 (IAM). A second CURLEW SANDPIPER has made its appearance at Cherry Hill since July 1983. This one, discovered, Aug. 30 (SJF), was photographed the same day (J&SC). Two very early STILT SANDPIPERS were at Pinkney's Pt., July 12 (JFK). Only one was reported from the Lawrencetown area on Sept. 5 (FLL), and only 5 elsewhere, all in mid-Aug. (RBD,IAM).

No BUFF-BREADED SANDPIPERS were reported this fall. However, three RUFFS were noted: one, July 5, at Round Bay, Shel. Co. (IAM), was a full-plumaged male (sandy-coloured head, black ruff). Less spectacular were the reeves at Cherry Hill, Oct. 5 (JSC) and at Hartlen's Point, Nov. 5 (JWT,FLL). SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS arrived early, as they usually do, and in large numbers as well. Two were at L.W. Pubnico, July 1 (DJD'E), 5 at Cook's Beach, July 3 (PRD,CRKA), 35 at Round Bay, July 4 (IAM), 75 at Crescent (July 9 (JSC) and 100+ at Pinkney's Pt., July 16 (PRD,CRKA). There were 700+ at Chezzetcook- Conrad's, July 19 (FLL,DM,CSII) and 800 at Conrad's Aug. 2 (FLL,PD). The last were 4 at Three Fathom Hbr., Sept. 27 (FLL,MA).

Nesting reports of the COMMON SNIBE come from Methal's Lake (BLF), Port Howe (JWT) and Timberlea (anon.). The largest migrant groups were reported from the Valley, 20, Sept. 22, and 30, Oct. 6 at Canning (JC&GWT). Six were still at Hartlen's Point, Nov. 5 (JWT). The only AMERICAN WOODCOCK reports are of one at Cole Hbr., Nov. 1 (JWT) and 3 at L.W. Pubnico, Nov. 7 (D&RSD'E).

--FS, ed.

PHALAROPES TO AUKS.

The only Phalarope records from the spring were the single RED NECKED which Hubert Hall saw from BLUENOSE, 7 miles SSW of Yarmouth, on May 1, and Lance Laviolette's female WILSON'S PHALAROPE at Kings - port, on May 22. RED PHALAROPES were off Brier Is. in their thousands on August 9 and 30-31, along with a few Red-necked (RBS,L&PP). Ian McLaren saw ca. 500 Reds from BLUENOSE on Aug. 20. However, there were only 50-200 Reds off Brier on The N.S.B.S. Field Trip on Oct. 11-12. The last Phalarope of the year was a Red-necked off Hartlen's Point on Oct. 15 (E.Tull)

Banding has proved that many of the skuas off eastern North America are second year Great Skuas from Scottish colonies. However, this says very little about the South Polar Skuas that undoubtedly also migrate up into our part of the Atlantic, as far north as Greenland. Ian McLaren says that the "official" Nova Scotian skua specimen, taken off Shel. Co., in 1910 and cited by Robie Tufts, "turns out to be a South Polar-fide Michel Gosselin, who showed me the mounted bird (it is in lightish phase)".

The point about the phase is important, because Great Skuas don't have a light phase--and the pale head and underparts of a light South Polar are conspicuous. Ian, who knows my scepticism ("Dick, this one was for real"), saw a light-phase SOUTH POLAR SKUA from BLUENOSE, a third of the way from Nova Scotia to Maine, Aug. 17. It flew alongside and above the ship, and his sketch ("on the spot--no guide consulted") suggests something like a fat, intermediate-phase Pomarine Jaeger, with a rounded tail--dark underneath and without the tail points. The underside of the wings were "blackish", with a pale skua flash across the base of the primaries and outer secondaries. The underparts, from upper breast to crissum, were "pale mouse grey; I saw very clearly the palish grey--with little hint of brownish". The tip of the bill was dark when the bird cocked its head. The sketch also suggests a jaeger-like contrast between a pale throat and a darker cap.

By George, I think he's done it! Between them, Robie's specimen and Ian's observation have bridged the gap between the proven records on Georges Bank, and Flemish Cap off Newfoundland, and made the South Polar Skua a respectable Nova Scotia bird at last!

I ought to add that the majority of South Polars are dark phase, and a very black "dark" indeed. They are distinguishable in the hand from the brownish chestnut of a Great Skua, but the difference isn't reliable in the flat, grey light that you usually get at sea. It's easy to get them wrong: they're all big, black birds, coming at you head-on with a deep, menacing, beat--and they seldom stay long enough for you to get a good look at them. As a sceptical Seabird Editor, I shall need a really good description before I upgrade any skua to "South Polar". Don't forget that immature Pomarine Jaegers can be very confusing, if they're pale and fat enough.

Meanwhile, skuas of one or both kinds appeared off Nova Scotia as usual. Richard Stern saw one off Brier Is., on June 27, and two "rufous" birds--Presumably GREAT SKUAS--on July 13. Hubert Hall saw a "light phase" skua from BLUENOSE on July 14, and a "dark phase" on Aug. 28--both of them on the Nova Scotia side of the crossing. Raymond D. d'Entremont believes he saw a pale phase South Polar ("buff-brown head and underparts") on George's Bank on Sept. 9. He says that "this year, as last year, skuas were present throughout the summer on our offshore waters". The last record of the year was the bird which Tony Lock saw off Sable Island, harrassing 4 Double-crested Cormorants on Oct. 16.

Jaegers were sparsely reported. Raymond S. d'Entremont saw a light phase adult POMARINE out on George's, on Apr. 25, Daryl Amirault saw two birds off Lobster Bay on May 22, and Ian McLaren saw 3 from BLUENOSE--on the Canadian side--on Aug. 17. He also saw 3 PARASITICS. John Kearney saw one off Brier Is., Sept. 3, and 7 birds, west of Seal Is., Sept. 9. The earliest Parasitic sighting - presumably en route to the Arctic--was the adult which Fulton Lavender, Bill Caudle and Peter MacLeod saw off Cape Sable on May 17.

HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS were as common as usual, and I can't think of anything useful to say about them. Old friends are back again for the winter. Our Digby LESSER BLACK-BACK was there on the wharf on Oct. 29 (RBS). The bird on the Northwest Arm, and/or the Volvo plant, had returned by Oct. 5 (Eric Mills, Ian McLaren). It was last reported back in the spring by Fulton Lavender and Mike Almon, on March 15.

The first ICELAND GULLS of the fall appeared in Glace Bay on Oct. 19 (SM), but it took them another ten days to reach the mainland. "CSII" saw the first Dartmouth bird on Nov. 1, and Ian McLaren saw 4 first years at Cape Sable the next day; as he says, you don't often see them there this early. The last bird in the spring was a first-year at Digby on May 21 (FLL,PM). Jim Wolford and Miriam Tams saw an unusually early subadult GLAUCOUS GULL at Grand Pré on Aug. 7. It "was limping a bit and looked a bit unkempt, therefore, was probably unhealthy and may have been here all summer." I agree. Fulton Lavender's adult in the Northwest Arm on Nov. 20, is a far likelier date for a first arrival. The last spring bird--a second-year--was seen off Clark's Hbr., on May 13 (ELM,IAM).

Our only spring LAUGHING GULL was the adult, in breeding plumage, that the Cohrs saw on Crescent Beach on May 17. After that, John Kearney saw an "immature coming into adult plumage. No hood", at L.W. Pubnico on July 10, and Ian McLaren saw an adult from BLUENOSE on Aug. 17, and a 1-year-old off Seal Is., Aug. 31. The last BONAPARTE'S GULLS of the spring were Fulton Lavender's 3 adults at Cole Harbour on Apr. 5. It's hard to know what to make of the adult that Phyllis Dobson and Charlie Allen saw at Eel Lake on June 20: a straggler--or an early arrival? The "many" birds that Helen and Hubert Hall saw on July 26-30, off western Cape Breton and Guy. Co, are more typical of the timing of Bonaparte's arrival from western Canada. BLACK-HEADED GULLS go with Bonaparte's, and the last spring sighting was of a couple of birds in breeding plumage at Conrad's Beach on April 25 (Fulton Lavender and Paul Deval). The first fall record was an adult, on the Beach, on Aug. 3 (IAM). A flock "in transition" had returned to Glace Bay for the winter by Sept. 29 (SM).

RING-BILLED GULLS wintered with us at least as late as Apr. 26 (50+ on the Amherst Shore, according to the Cohrs), with 8 adults lingering as late as June 15, at Abrams River Dyke, Yar. Co., according to Charlie Allen. The birds had returned there in force, 40+ by Aug. 29; Charlie says there were 300+ there on Nov. 15. Fulton Lavender says that our European MEW GULL, in full second year plumage, was still at Eastern Passage back in the spring, Apr. 25.

Banding returns show that BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES are offshore birds that migrate here in winter from as far away as Greenland and Russia. Brier Is. is one of the places they come to. They congregate there in October, when the amphipod shrimps are swarming, and Fulton Lavender and the rest of the N.S.B.S. party counted at least 200 on Oct. 11-12. More prosaically, there was an immature bird at the sewer outlet in the Fairview Container Port on Nov. 30 (RBD).

The first sighting of any tern was the unidentified bird that Daryl Amirault saw in Lobster Bay on May 1. However, Jerome D'Eon's sighting of 6 COMMON TERNS off L.W. Pubnico, May 14, seems more typical timing. Richard Stern says that both Common and ARCTIC TERNS were breeding on Peter's Is., off Brier, and that Arctics were in the majority; "lots of young in the early fall". There were several ROSEATES around Southern Twin Island near L.W. Pubnico, when Ted C. D'Eon went out there on May 15. He found no nests--it was too early--but the birds were "scolding". Tony Lock and I saw only one Roseate in the species' former stronghold on Sable Island, in the third week of June. The only other Roseate record was the single bird at Lawrencetown Lake on July 16-19 (RBD, CSII, PJR). We also have reports of a couple of BLACK TERNS on North Amherst Marsh, May 31 (Fulton Lavender and Paul Duval), and a CASPIAN TERN off Brier Island, Sept. 27 (Cohrs). Finally, the last Common Tern--a juvenile--was seen by Eric Mills and Ian McLaren at Eastern Passage on Oct. 5; and the last tern of all--probably also a Common--was at Green Bay on Nov. 10 (Cohrs).

Auks are not Nova Scotia's strong suit. Most of the reports are of BLACK GUILLEMOTS, which are more or less resident and breed solitarily, but in surprising numbers, in rocky shores all around the province. Hubert Hall saw a COMMON MURRE near the Lurcher Shoal, WNW of Yarmouth, Apr. 22. Ian McLaren & Co. saw 7+ RAZORBILLS en route to Seal Is., Nov. 8--and 40 on Nov. 11, "some flying strongly NW". These birds must have been on their way south, to winter off Cape Cod. I know the ATLANTIC PUFFIN is our Society bird--but its sightings are only marginally more frequent. Raymond S. d'Entremont saw one on Brown's Bank on May 7; Hubert Hall saw another from BLUENOSE, 4 miles west of Yarmouth, July 15; there were singletons off the Mud Islands on Sept. 10 (JFK) and Brier Is. on Aug. 30 (J.C. & GWT); and 12 off Brier on Oct. 11 (PLL et al.). What we need in Nova Scotia is the same kind of careful fostering programme that has re-established the Puffin in Maine.

--RGG, ed.

DOVES, CUCKOOS

Of ROCK DOVES, JWT writes "unfortunately at my feeder all Oct. and Nov. and likely all winter:". Try thistle seed, Jim. MOURNING DOVES were reported in small numbers in Yar., Kings, Shel. and Hfx. Co. They returned to some feeders in Sept., and concentrations were noted widely on the mainland (only 2 birds from Cape Breton) in fall: 20 at Hartlen's Point on Oct. 7, 40 on Seal Is. Oct. 16, 12 at Hazel Hill on Oct. 29, 13 on Seal Is., Nov. 10, 75 at Lr. Canard on Nov. 12, 60 at Porter's Pt., Kings Co., on Nov. 16, 16 at L.W. Pubnico (finally outclassed) on Nov. 19, and 100+ near Canning, Nov. 22. This seems to be one of the largest shows to date in the province.

A BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO at APBS on June 7, may have been settled, while birds elsewhere on Aug. 2 and Aug. 30 may have been migrants. We had only 3 reports of YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS: 1 fresh dead at Cole Hbr., on Sept. 26 (CSII), 2 on Seal Is., on Oct. 16 (SJF et al.), and 1 at L.W. Pubnico on Oct. 29 (JFK).

OWLS

A nest of GREAT HORNED OWL near Greenwich, Kings Co., had 1 egg in late March and fledged the young in early June (BLF). There were only 2 other breeding season reports, and fall migrants were seen on Brier Is. and in Halifax. A darkly marked SNOWY OWL on Devil's Is., Halifax Hbr., on Nov. 16-17 (IAM et al.) may not have been the same one seen there on Nov. 30 (W.McCormick). Two others near Three Fathom Hbr. on Nov. 29 (FLL et al.) and another at Broad Cove on Nov. 30 (SJF) suggest that an invasion is taking shape. Among 4 breeding season reports of BARRED OWLS is one of 4-5 foraging nightly for fish at the Coldbrook Hatchery (Jamie & Merritt Gibson)! There were 6 reports of autumn migrants.

A pair of LONG-EARED OWLS on Bon Portage Is., this summer was evidently subsisting on storm-petrels (JSC et al.). There were thought to be at least 3 on Brier Is., on Oct. 11-13 (FLL,PM). There was a SHORT-EARED OWL at Alan MacLeod's farm at Big Bras d'Or on Aug. 16 and others at Bon Portage Is. on Aug. 30, Grand Pré on Nov. 1, and Seal Is. on Nov. 11. There were several summer sightings (or hearings) of SAW-WHET OWLS, the most interesting of which was an errant juvenile on a vessel on Georges Bank on July 12 (RSd'E). Fulton Lavender and Peter MacLeod, sometimes with others, went owling on Brier Is. and estimated that about 20 Saw-Whets were about on the night of Oct. 12-13--anocturnal counterpart of the day's hawk flight, and matching the situation on Bon Portage Is. in recent years.

A follow-up of a report to the Museum produced an interesting letter (to IAM) from Ansell Bray of New York a long-time summer resident of Northeast Margaree. He, his family and a friend observed a well-described GREAT GRAY OWL along a trail above the provincial park near North River Bridge, Victoria Co., on July 24. They "watched the bird for twenty to thirty minutes and noted all its colors and characteristics" from "approximately 50 feet", noting that the "ear-less" owl was "at least 30 inches tall and had vertical dashes on its chest but none of the horizontal dashes (found) on a Barred Owl". When they finally flushed it, they "were amazed at the wingspan which seemed to be about 5 feet across". The Brays have "seen many Great Horned Owls" around their summer property, but were clearly much impressed with this greater bird. One notes that Godfrey in the new Birds of Canada, has "?" on the map of breeding range of this owl in eastern Quebec. Might the Cape Breton Highlands deserve a "?" as well? Atlassing may tell.

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRD AND KINGFISHER

A COMMON NIGHTHAWK nested on the Imperial Oil property in Dartmouth, with one egg on July 15. They were thought to be generally scarce in summer by three reporters in Kings and Halifax Co., but the fall migration became impressive. It began with a loose flock of at least 100 near Greenfield on July 6 (H. Forsyth). Other large movements were 20+ over Tusket on July 24, "several hundreds" along route 103, Gold River to Hubbards, on July 27 (L&JSC), 50 near Kingston on Aug. 9, 35 at Cheverie, Hants Co., on Aug. 17, and "hundreds, if not a thousand" along Highway 340 to Digby on Sept. 1 (JWT). Only a few were reported this year from Cape Breton Is., where many have sometimes been seen. The latest was at L. W. Pubnico on Sept. 17 (DJD'E). Our only reported WHIP-POOR-WIL, although I heard that they summered as usual at Burnside, Dartmouth, were a male at Barrington Passage, Aug. 29, and a female on Bon Portage Is., next day (FLL, PM). A CHUCK-WILL'S WIDOW found dead on Harbour Is., near Sheet Hbr., Hfx. Co., by Randy Milton on June 4, is in the Acadia University collection (JWW). It was the province's 7th record.

A large colony of CHIMNEY SWIFTS in an old smokestack near Harmony in Queen's Co., was brought to our attention by Gordon Vaughn. Communications with N. S. Power Corp., the owners of the facility, assure us that the birds will be allowed continued possession (L&PP). The only other known large congregations occurred, as usual, in Wolfville, but with a difference (JWW et al.). While 40 on June 13 and 180 on June 22, were observed at dusk entering the Acadia campus chimney, larger numbers were seen later in the season entering a chimney at the dairy on Front Street, a new site. There were an estimated 400 on Aug. 7 and 500 on Aug. 9 and 10. Other summer sightings were of a scattered few, but CF saw 15-20 evidently nesting, entering a hollow tree stump at the Head of Porter's Lake, Hfx. Co., on May 28 and July 2. Our latest was over Brier Is. on Sept. 1.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS were reported from Cape Breton to Yar. Co., but my impression is that they were not as common this year. Four reporters had them at feeders; they disdain mine, and I would like some tips. One "took a dive at our window thermometer, which has a red Cardinal on it, but missed disaster" (RDH), and another "investigated a male Purple Finch for several seconds at a range of about two inches" (L&PP); they must have been into the nectar (the birds, not the observers!). There were a few around until mid-Sept. (Sept. 18 at L. W. Pubnico). One at the Harvey's Fuchsia in south-end Halifax on Oct. 5, was thought by my colleague Barry Goldsmith to have been "pinkish below"; all late hummers should be scrutinized and others alerted if suspicious.

Summering BELTED KINGFISHERS were probably under-reported, but also might have been somewhat scarce. The latest reported was at Annapolis Royal on Nov. 17, but others will hang on.

WOODPECKERS

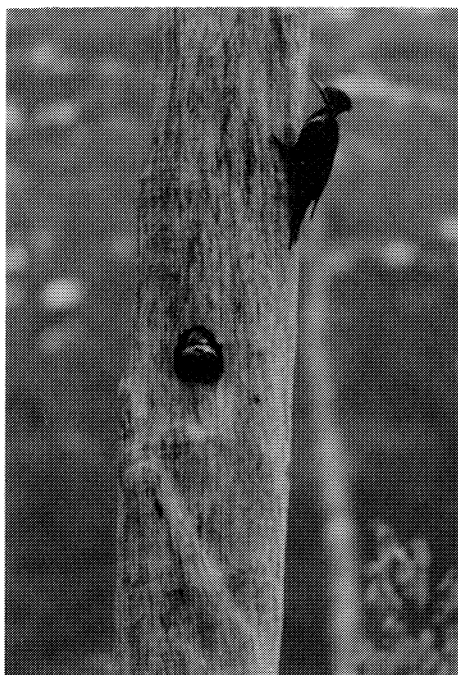
Adult RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS were at a feeder at L. W. Pubnico on Oct. 15 (JKD'E) and in Wolfville on Oct. 28 (P.C. Smith), and an immature at the Barbour's feeder in late Oct. was seen by several alerted birders. Even more exciting was a male RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER first seen in their back yard in southend Halifax by David and Phyllis Bryson on Nov. 5, and seen by many others in the vicinity up to time of writing. It may stay the winter in this oak-rich area. (Jim Taylor was able to "tick" every known N. S. woodpecker this year. Too bad the Lewis' Woodpecker, which turned up in Gros Morne Park, Newfoundland, this fall, didn't pause here en route.)

Nesting YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS were reported at New Ross in June. Six scattered juveniles were recorded in late July. There were only 3 fall records, the latest, an imm. in Dartmouth, Oct. 5. We received only one report of nesting DOWNY WOODPECKER and otherwise on ca. 20 birds in a dozen localities. This was almost exactly the same story on HAIRY WOODPECKERS.

Jim Taylor came across a female THREE-TOED WOODPECKER at close range near Port Howe, Cum. Co., on June 7. This is only our second mainland record outside the winter season. The bird was in an open softwood stand, somewhat damaged by budworm. The nesting BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER, also reported by JWT in the last issue, fledged 2 young, and there were 4 other summer reports of pairs or individuals. Seven birds during Sept.-Nov. were possibly on the move.

Summering NORTHERN FLICKERS were not well reported. A few were on Brier Is. on Sept. 1, flocks were seen in various places by mid-month, and on Sept. 27, there were 500+ "yelling everywhere" on Brier Is. (Cohrs), with only a few remaining there on Oct. 11-13. We received 10 reports of about 14 PILEATED WOODPECKERS, which is about average.

--IAM, ed.



Pileated Woodpeckers at nest, discovered by Dave Currie, along a wood road near Kearny Lake, Hfx. Co. May 19. Photo of adults attending young was taken June 7 by Maurice D'Entremont.

FLYCATCHERS TO CORVIDS

Between May 24 and Sept. 1, only eight OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS were reported, with no fall migrations in evidence. EASTERN WOOD PEEWEES were scarce in Yar. and Lun. Co., according to CRKA & JSC and indeed, not many were recorded other than from Kings Co. There the Tufts encountered them in plentiful numbers, with two to four singing in their back yard from Aug. 7-21. The birds nested there and by late Aug., two young had been successfully raised. The migration was observed Aug. 29-Sept. 1, on Brier, Bon Portage and Seal Islands (JCT,FLL,IAM)

The Empidonax migration went through Bon Portage Aug. 16-22. Statistics are as follows:

Date	Yellowbellied	Alder	Least
16	1	6	1
17	2	8	1
18	1	5	-
19	-	2	-
20	-	10	1
21	1	10	5
22	-	2	-

A second wave of 10+ Alder and 300+ Least went through there on Sept. 1. A late Least was singing on Cambridge St. in Halifax, Sept. 14. The latest Yellow-bellied was on Brier, Sept. 28, and the last Alder there Oct. 11 (JSC,FLL,IAM).

This was another poor year for EASTERN PHOEBES, which seem to be in a steady decline, possibly because of the disappearance of their beloved old wooden bridge nesting sites. The four seen were on their way south: Aug. 21 and 31, on Bon Portage, Oct. 15 on Seal and Oct. 19 on Brier (LAC,DAM,SJF,RBS). The news about the GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER is not good either. In June and July seven were seen, two each in Shel. & Kings Cos. and one each in Yar., Hfx. and Cumb. Cos. Fall birds were in Yar. Co., Aug. 30 and Seal Is., Oct. 16. Seven WESTERN KINGBIRDS were above average. They were, predictably, all seen in the fall, starting on Long Is. (Digby Co.) Oct. 9 (JWT). By Oct. 16 there were two on Seal and on the 18th, one was at Cadden Beach (SJF,SF). A month passed before the next "wave" occurred--two immature birds on Seal, Nov. 9-11 and an adult, 17-18 in Pt. Pleasant Park in Halifax, feeding along the shore on kelp flies and seen by numerous observers. Twenty EASTERN KINGBIRDS were seen in late May, June and July, but the usual fall gatherings were small this year--no "wirefuls" along Digby Neck as there often are. There was a small peak on Seal, Sept. 1 (IAM), and CRKA writes of eight at Chebogue and "numbers" at Mavillette the same day.

Earliest HORNED LARKS to come to the coast were nine at L.W. Pubnico, Sept. 28 (DJD'E). Numbers grew in October--8 on Brier on Oct. 9, increasing to 10+ by the 13th (NSBS). On the 18th, a flock of 35 were at Cherry Hill (all alpestris) and on the 25th, thirty at Cook's Beach (JSC,PRD,CRKA).

The Cook's Beach birds had dwindled to one by Nov. 7, but on the 15th over 50 were at Grand Pré (RBS).

Don MacNeill wrote of "several" PURPLE MARTINS around the Amherst martin houses on June 1, but no one has reported on their season there. However, the Thextons and Tufts both wrote of the Oxford colony, where 100 birds were established in June. There were 35-40 active nests, some with four young visible. Lands and Forests personnel mentioned four additional units having been established in

the town, all active. The Thextons noted that a martin house at Collingwood, Cum. Co. had five nests occupied. Purple Martins maintain such a small (albeit tenacious) number in the province that reports on them are most welcome. More information from Amherst would be of particular interest. Although TREE SWALLOWS arrived in abundance (JCT, RBD, etc.), their nesting success was not high and reports suggest that many left early, abandoning dead young in the boxes. Reports from Wolfville Ridge, Canso and Glace Bay, all speak of nesting failures, and early departure was widely noticed (JCT,WJP,SM,AM). A lone late Tree was swooping across the road at Peggy's Cove, Oct. 31 (JSC). No ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS were seen.

Three active BANK SWALLOW colonies were noted in July--44 holes at Sandy Lake, 40-50 at Port Howe and 150 at Lumsden Dam (AJV,JWT, JC&GWT). The only sight of a migration was an Aug. 30 (see Barn Swallow report). The latest seen was one at Chebogue, Sept. 15 (CRKA). CLIFF SWALLOW nests were encouragingly "up". Three pairs were building on a house near New Ross, June 14, and over 30 birds were counted in Sherbrooke, June 23. In July there were two at Deerfield, Yar. Co. three at Canaan, "many" at East Bay, C.B., and 5-6 at Marble Mountain. An adult fed a recently fledged young at Beaverbank, July 17 (RBD). The last Cliff mentioned was at Peggy's Cove Aug. 8 (RDH). People tend to take BARN SWALLOWS for granted--always there, always in good numbers. Consequently, there were few reports, 'tho those who mentioned them found them abundant. The only fall migration noticed was Aug. 30 at Cherry Hill Beach, when Joyce Purchase and Shirley Cohrs encountered 400-500 swallows, mixed Barn and Bank, with one or two Trees thrown in, pouring up the berm of the beach heading southwards.

CORVIDS TO THRUSHES

Seen infrequently in summer (four in June, one single and one adult with young in July and one in Aug.) GRAY JAYS became more visible as fall approached. Six were seen in Oct. and five in Nov. Dave Currie had scarcely set up his feeders at Williamswood before Jays were coming in for a feast. Watchers from Lun., Hfx., Yar., Cum., Hants & Kings Counties and Cape Breton all agree that BLUEJAYS are even more abundant than usual. Members who put up feeders in early fall found them cleaned out in ten minutes. A flock of 70 were at Hartlen's Point, Oct. 6 and in Nov. the south end of Halifax abounded with Bluejays. It will be interesting to have the Christmas Count statistics on these birds.

AMERICAN CROWS also seem abundant. On Nov. 15, 2000 were at Grand Pré, filling the trees and corn stubble (RGT,BET). In Halifax city they have increased to the point of nuisance as they tear open garbage bags awaiting collection, thus attracting all stray dogs and cats to get into the act (JSC). Only four correspondants mentioned the COMMON RAVEN (in groups of 1-9). They do seem to take a back seat in summer and come to notice again amid the winter emptiness.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were "regular" and "frequent" at fall feeders. A migration went through Oct. 11-12, when 250 were on Brier and at Petite Riviere there were "too many to count--in one mile alone we encountered 95" (NSBS,JSC). There were 60+ at Cherry Hill that day and on the 19th, waves of 35+ were passing through Pictou (AJV). Not often seen on Seal Is., there was an unprecedented 6 there on Oct. 16 (SJF et al.). BOREAL CHICKADEES were more heavily reported than usual. They were seen regularly in the usual habitats in the summer and three definite migrations took place. On Sept. 28 there were 30 at Pubnico Pt., 7 at Porter's Lake on Oct. 26, and 8 on Wolfville Ridge, Oct. 26. On Nov. 15 Warren and Nancy Peters in

Canso, welcomed their "first feeder Boreal" to the suet bag. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES came to feeding stations in late summer and early fall. Two migrations were noted: on Bon Portage from Aug. 16-22, numbers were 9, 36, 19, 5, 50, 100+, 3 (JSC et al.). Aug. 31-Sept. 3 found them "all over" Brier, some flycatching from the spruce tops (JFK,RBS). Counting very conservatively there were forty-one WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES around this fall. This is truly amazing! These have always been rare birds in Nova Scotia. In 1977 there was an all time peak of 26 seen after years of scarcity, but numbers again fell off with yearly totals from three to twelve being usual. This sudden influx is quite unprecedented and will be most interesting to follow up.

Seven BROWN CREEPERS turned up (or should I say "spiralled up") during the fall in areas not including Hfx. Co. There they were very common and in Halifax city there were many more than usual about (IAM). On Oct. 13, AJV found nine at Hartlen's Point.

The HOUSE WRENS seen by Sylvia Fullerton and party on Seal Is., Oct. 16, were the only ones reported. Two WINTER WRENS were seen in late May, four each in June and July. Thereafter, there were no sightings. This seems odd as the wren count in May (before our May 25 deadline was twenty, twice that of 1985, and it seemed that it might be a good year for them. No MARSH or SEDGE WRENS came forth.

Our winter kinglet, the GOLDEN-CROWNED became more visible (and audible) as fall progressed. A few migrations were noted: Aug. 16, 20 at Big Bras d'Or, Sept. 27 & 28 - 25 and 60 on Brier, Oct 18, 12 at Porter's Lake and on Oct. 19, "dozens" on Brier (AM,JSC,JWT,RBS). Movements of RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS began as early as Aug. 13, when 20 were at Big Bras d'Or (AM). The next migration was not until Sept. 27, 28 & 29, when numbers on Brier were 2-35-0 (JSC). The latest bird was seen in a snowy barberry hedge in Halifax, Nov. 22 (JSC).

Four BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS ties with last year's total for this period. These were: Seal, Aug. 31, west end Halifax, Nov. 3, same place (different bird, IAM) Nov. 16, and Little Harbour, Nov. 7 (CF,IAM,DH,JMT).

Eva Urban of Avonport writes of a NORTHERN WHEATEAR in her garden Nov. 1. It was seen by her (an experienced observer) and her family for an hour before it departed.

THRUSHES TO STARLINGS

This was an exceedingly interesting report period for EASTERN BLUEBIRDS. Apart from the saga of the Sunken Lake bluebirds, for which see the "Bluebird Special" in this issue, there were four other sightings: on May 31, two females were on Brier (LAL). On July 1, two (m&f) were at Kingston (CSII) on Oct. 11, an adult male was on Brier (PM), on Oct. 18, there were five on Brier, one male and four female or immature (RBS).

VERRYS were lightly reported although no one felt they were anything but normal in number. No migrations or late sightings were mentioned. SWAINSON'S THRUSHES also seemed "as usual", with late birds on Brier, Sept. 27 and Oct. 11.

HERMIT THRUSHES reputedly did well this year. BLF found a very late nest Aug. 13, which still held young Aug. 30 (Greenfield, Kings Co.). A movement took place, Oct. 11-12, when two were on Brier, five a Green Bay and one at Broad Cove (FLL,JSC,SJF). Five were seen at Porter's Lake, Oct. 18. The only WOOD THRUSH was seen by

Don MacNeill, June 21 at Oakland.

The departure of the AMERICAN ROBINS began in August--25 at Big Bras d'Or and 50+ at Sheffield Mills, Aug. 16. "Flocks" were feeding on the blueberry fields in Kings Co. throughout Sept. and Oct. On Oct. 11, a big wave was moving--100+ at Green Bay, 500+ on Brier. A second wave was Oct 17--9 in Yar. Co. coinciding with 250+ at Green Bay. After that small numbers were still around but no large flocks. IAM noticed several black-backed Newfoundland Robins in Halifax in mid-Nov. With the plentiful wild food crop we should expect to see many overwintering. GRAY CATBIRDS were present in their usual habitats and "sneaked away" unnoticed. The last seen was Sept. 20, at Petite Riviere--not late as Catbirds go. Twenty-six NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS, perhaps more, allowing for duplications, were around. A pair nested successfully at Glace Bay (fide SM) and probably at Canso. The Peters heard mockers singing at Chapel Hill, Canso, in early July and in Aug. saw four birds in that area.

BROWN THRASHERS continue to be scarce--none seen in the usually certain spots on Seal. The single report is of one at Westport, Nov. 16 (ELM).

The first WATER PIPITS were at Pond Cove on Brier, Aug. 29. (8) There were no other reports until Sept. 27, when 12 were at Hartlen's Point and 25 at Pond Cove, the latter increasing to 50 the next day and by Oct. 11 to 80. The last noted were twenty-five at L.W. Pubnico, Oct. 26 (JKd'E).

A first nesting record of BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS in the province was established when Eva Urban discovered a nest at Mount Denson on July 20. It was in a young chestnut tree and contained three young, the adults being in attendance nearby. Whether this will be a winter to match last year's Bohemian Bonanza remains to be seen, but there have been several flocks seen already. These are: 55, Nov. 4 (Glace Bay-fideSM), 50, Nov. 9 (Pictou Co) and 30, Nov. 12 (Wolfville). CEDAR WAXWINGS were seen sporadically in small numbers (1-10) from late May to press time, but without any of the sometimes large concentrations that build up in late summer most years. Twenty-six birds on Sept. 17, was the largest number seen --NOT a Cedar Waxwing Fall.

Seven NORTHERN SHRIKES were counted, all in Nov. These were in Wolfville, Canso, Hazel Hill, White Rock Mountain and Pennant (Hfx. Co.). Nancy Peters writes that the Hazel Hill bird was swooping around dive-bombing the chickadees at her feeder--"took a long swift dive at a Mourning Dove--missed that too". A shrike seen by the Cohrs at Crousetown, Oct. 24, might possibly have been a LOGGERHEAD. It was an immature bird of small size with a small, neat, hooked bill and a back pattern similar to that shown in Birds of North America, on p. 334.

About EUROPEAN STARLINGS...those who reported wrote, "as usual" and "regular". There were (also as usual) large concentrations at Grand Pré and slightly smaller ones at Hartlen's Point. The partially albino bird was seen by several at Grand Pré (see July issue, p.16)--amazing how one different bird can stand out among the hundreds. For once, there was a positive attitude expressed about starlings. Linda and Peter Payzant, watching a flock of 300 at Hartlen's Point, Oct. 13, wrote "beautiful to watch in flight".

VIREOS AND WARBLERS

The SOLITARY VIREO was reported in every month from May to Nov., being well distributed throughout the province. There were two breeding records; one June 10, at Quinan, Yar. Co., (a nest with 4 young) (JKD,RSD), and one at Port Howe, July 11 (JWT). Migration was noted as early as Sept 2, at Wolfville Ridge (JCT,GWT), however, there were still small groups of up to 8 in Chester Basin and Green Bay on Sept. 20 (RDH, Cohrs). Lastly was one of an "eastern race" on Seal Is., Nov. 10 (IAM,ELM,RF).

A real rarity, that of a YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, was convincingly described by Clarence Stevens, who saw and carefully watched this bird for several minutes before it moved out of the Birch Cove Park area of Dartmouth on Aug. 30.

A single WARBLING VIREO was seen on Brier Is., where the Cohrs had a leisurely 5 minute look, noting every possible physical and behavioral field mark on Sept. 28. PHILADELPHIA VIREOS were reported first, Aug. 21, on Bon Portage Is. (LAC), Sept. 1, had another there and one on Brier Is. (DAM,CDM,RBS). The final record was Sept. 15, in L. W. Pubnico (JK). RED-EYED VIREO was as abundant as usual in all parts of the province. However, there was only one nesting record submitted. That was of an unfortunate pair that dealt with raising two cowbirds during the first week of July at Wolfville (BLF). Late dates were Oct. 16, Seal Is., Nov. 1 in Dartmouth, and what could be the latest N. S. record, Nov. 20, at St. Mary's Campus in Halifax (IAM).

Although it was a very poor season again this year for our wood warblers, all twenty-two residents were accounted for with five additional species encountered during the fall migration. There were no reports of large migrating waves and many of the reporters observed lower numbers than usual through the summer.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS were noted three times: once on Aug. 17, at Bon Portage Is. (JSC); one on Seal Is., Aug. 30 (IAM) and another on Bon Portage, Aug. 31 (FLL et sl.). CORRECTION--the July '86 Nova Scotia Birds states that the Blue-winged Warbler at Pubnico Pt., was seen on May 30; it should read May 20.

TENNESSEE WARBLERS, as indicated in the spring report, were most noticeable for most of the summer. They were heard all over Yar. Co., Kings and Hants Cos. They were very common in Hfx. Co., and singing steadily throughout June in Cum. Co.

Five reports of ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS were sent in; the first Aug. 11, at Big Bras d'Or was seen by Alan MacLeod. At least two were noted on Bon Portage, each day from Aug. 16-22 (JSC & party). Two were watched at Green Bay, Sept. 20, one Oct. 4, at Petite Riviere (Cohrs) and one seen Oct. 29, at L.W. Pubnico (JFK).

Ruth Hebb reports that NASHVILLE WARBLERS nested near Marriott's Cove, seeing young on July 7 & 23. Small numbers were seen in mixed groups, departing by Aug.25. Late dates include 3 in Cole Hbr.,Sept. 26 (JHG,NBG) and two seen on Brier Is., Oct. 11, 12 (FLL,PM,DAM). NORTHERN PARULAS were noted as being in the dozens June 6 in Hazel Hill (NWP,WJP), and extremely common in Cum. Co., through June and July. There are no extremely late dates, although there were birds seen on Brier Is., Sept. 1, which may indicate the last of these birds passing through at that time. YELLOW WARBLERS were in evidence throughout the province with a number of nests and young discovered from June 14, to mid-July. On Bon Portage from Aug. 16-22, these warblers were everywhere and in all plummages with at least 50 seen each day. (JSC).

Late departures were: 1, Sept. 20 at Green Bay, 1, at Sheffield Mills on Sept. 22, and a lone bird lingering on Seal Is., until at least Oct. 16 (JY).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLERS were found to be uncommon but not as much so as the other warblers in Marriott's Cove, according to Ruth Hebb, who found them in a few locations from June 1 to Aug. 15. As with most other warblers, departure was late August, with the last date recorded, Sept. 25, at Marriott's Cove (RDH). MAGNOLIA WARBLERS were well reported during the summer, being very common in spruce-lands during the breeding season. There were few seen during migration. Late dates include: 3 at Petite Riviere, Sept. 14, and 1 seen on Seal Is., Oct. 16 (JY,JG). CAPE MAY WARBLERS were noted summering at Quinan, Yar. Co., June 17; New Ross, June 14; Greenfield, June 18; Marriott's Cove, June 25. A 'very large' wave of predominately Cape Mays were estimated at 75 passing through Bon Portage on Aug. 20-21 (Cohrs et al.). Late departures were Sept. 26, when 4 were seen at Cole Hbr. (NBG,JHG); Oct. 12 on Brier; Oct. 17, at Petite Riviere and Nov. 13 in the Rockwood area of Halifax (FLL).

The elegant BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER was seen in various locations, apparently breeding in Annapolis, Kings, Hants and Halifax counties throughout June and July. The latest straggler was that of an adult male, seen on Seal Is., on Nov. 11 (IAM,ELM,RF). YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS were "the lowest in eight years of observation", in the Big Bras d'Or area, noted by Alan MacLeod. From all accounts, this and most other warblers were hurt terribly by the very wet and cold summers over the past two years. The largest "wave" of Yellow-rumps reported were just 25 seen on Seal, Oct. 16 (SJF et al.). BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS also were scarce. Each reporter commented that they were much less apparent than usual. One nest was found at Long Lake, Hfx. Co., on June 16 (DAC). Migration during Sept., yielded a few survivors; 8-10 were seen at Petite Riviere, Sept. 14, which discouragingly was the highest single count. The last stragglers were 2, seen on Seal, Oct. 16 (JG,BAH et al.). BLACKBURNIAN WARBLERS successfully nested near Shield's Lake, Kennetcook, in July. (RBD,HD). Other summer reports came from Big Bras d'Or, New Ross, Wolfville Ridge, Davidson Lake and Hazel Hill. During migration, there was 1 on Brier Aug. 21, (JCT,GWT); 1 in Glace Bay, Sept. 6 (SM) and the latest, Sept. 20, in Marriott's Cove (RDH).

There were three occurrences of PINE WARBLER, all during southward migration. The first, on Bon Portage, Aug. 21 (JSC & party); a single one on Sept. 29, at South Branch (DAM,CDM) and an adult seen Nov. 3-5 in Halifax (IAM). It was a great year for PRAIRIE WARBLER sightings. Aug. 21 brought one to Bon Portage Is., (JSC et al.); that population grew to 3 by Aug. 31 (FLL,JWT); two more were seen Sept. 7, at Port Hebert (DAM); a very detailed description of two on Sept. 22, near Brookvale, came from Bob & Helen Dickie. There was yet another on Seal Is., Aug. 30, and a different bird there the following day, Sept. (IAM).

PALM WARBLERS were breeding locally in boggy areas near Kearny Lake, Hfx. Co., during late June. There were several seen June 14, near New Ross (JCT,GWT); 10 were on Brier Is., Oct. 11 (FLL); a 'western race', Nov. 4 in the Halifax south end (FLL). Five were seen on Brier, Nov. 11 and two of those were of the westerly race. BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS, possibly because of their striking appearance, were well reported and breeding near Drain Lake, July 4 (RBD) and near Port Howe, July 10 (JWT). Other reports were of several seen June 6 in Hazel Hill (NWP,WJP) and "very good numbers", June 20, near Amherst. The latest straggler was an immature, seen on Brier Is., Oct. 11 (FLL,PM). Although there were dozens of BLACKPOLL WARBLERS seen June 6 at Hazel Hill (WJP,NWP), generally these birds

were conspicuous because of their absence. Typical reports are of one singing, June 22, on Wolfville Ridge and 3 seen July 20, on Tancook Is. (H&HH). Late reports were of one at Hartlen's Point, Oct. 13 (AJV,CSII) and 3 seen on Seal Is., Oct. 13-16 (SJF et al.).

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLERS were seen frequently in many parts of Kings Co., from May to Aug. (JCT). However, as with many others, they were far from common. The last date was Oct. 31, in Dartmouth (CSII). AMERICAN REDSTARTS were encountered from Yar. Co. to Cape Breton, but were rather poorly reported. Three reports came from SM in Glace Bay; several were seen in Canso and a number of sightings in various locations of the Valley (Tufts). Oct. 13-16, a laggard was discovered on Seal Is. by Sylvia Fullerton and party. OVENBIRDS were vocal in their usual haunts in May, June and the best part of July. There were still 3 in Big Bras d'Or on Aug. 27 (AM) and the last report was of a single bird lurking on McNab's Is., Sept. 7 (DAC). NORTHERN WATERTHRUSHES were encountered quite often, being oblivious to the wet weather and probably enjoying it. James Taylor reports seeing several in Cum. Co., and comments that he found them to be quite plentiful this year. Sept. 20 brought the last report of one seen on Hartlen's Point by CSII. MOURNING WARBLERS were noted four times a male, singing, June 4-27, at Greenfield (JCT,GWT); a pair seen throughout June and July, near Kearny Lake; a male seen July 19, at the Bowater-Mersey Paper Rd., near Tantallon (AJV) and one at Big Bras d'Or, Aug. 22 and 27 (IAM). COMMON YELLOW-THROAT was evenly distributed and reported in good numbers. The Tufts write that this warbler was well established in Kings Co. from Cape Split to South Mountain and from the Gasperreau Valley through to the Annapolis Valley from May to Aug. The latest record was Oct. 8, of one in Canning (JWW).

Several WILSON'WARBLERS were seen at Canso, May 29; one at Pubnico, June 1, then 2 there by June 30 (DJD'E). Bon Portage had 2-3 seen each day from Aug. 16-22 (JSC) and the last was a male, seen Sept. 25, near Cape Forchu, Yar. Co. (HH). Good numbers of CANADA WARBLERS were in Hazel Hill, June 6; a male carrying food was watched at Drain Lake, July 4 (RBD) and single birds were seen at Big Bras d'Or on Aug. 13 and 27 (IAM).

There are eight reports of 10 individual YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS from Aug. 17 to Nov. 29. These are: Aug. 17; Bon Portage (JSC); Aug. 30, 2, Bon Portage (FLL); Aug. 31, Seal Is. (IAM); Sept. 14, 1 at Port Hebert (DAM); Sept. 25 one came aboard a boat in L.W. Pubnico (RSD'E); Sept. 28, one at Cole Hbr. (DBG,JHG); one seen briefly in the McLaren garden on Nov. 24; and on Nov. 29, one at Sullivan's Pond and at Crichton Park, Dartmouth (CSII).

TANAGERS TO INDIGO BUNTING

Aside from one female SCARLET TANAGER, seen by Sara MacLean in Glace Bay on June 1-8, all other reports came from the Kentville-Wolfville birders. Two males and a female were in the same spot as they were last year, near the Kentville Research Station on June 14, and were subsequently heard singing throughout the summer. It is difficult to determine exactly how many individual birds there were in this area, although males were heard and seen regularly from June 6 until late Aug. in the vicinity of Kentville and Wolfville. (BLF, RBS,JWW,JCT&GWT).

NORTHERN CARDINALS appeared only three times in this period. A young male stayed for about an hour at the feeder in Broad Cove on July 12 (SJF,BAH). Nov. 3 brought a male to West Pubnico (DJD'E), and a female came to the Peters' feeder in Pubnico from Nov. 13-15.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAKS were generally reported to be in good numbers this year. They were found nesting June 12 at Wolfville Ridge (JCT,GWT) and during a Breeding Bird Survey, June 20, between Tidnish Bridge and Amherst; males were heard singing at many of the stops along the route(DAC). Mrs. F. Schaap of Amherst sent a detailed description, complete with sketches of a bird which she had perched on her back porch, Oct. 20, six feet away, which most certainly fits that of a male BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK. This would be the ninth occurrence in N. S., the last being Oct. 13, 1979, when one was discovered at the Piggery in Dartmouth.

Our only report of BLUE GROSBEAK came from Pubnico Point, where on Oct. 24, a female was seen by R.S.D'E. After the large number of sightings of INDIGO BUNTINGS in the spring, their numbers rapidly dwindled to only two in June. There was one, June 5, in 'Glace Bay (SM); and one, June 10 at Pubnico Head. (DIP,KHP). The fall migration brought two females to Half Island Cove on Sept. 26 (NWP,WJP), and another female was seen at Hartlen's Point, Nov. 11 (FLL et al.).

DICKCISSEL TO SNOW BUNTING

Five reports of DICKCISSEL came from as many locations. The first was on Bon Portage, Aug. 17 (JSC and party); one at Hazel Hill, Oct. 10 & 11 (Peters); Hartlen's Point, Oct. 13, (AJC,CSII); a female Oct. 18, at Broad Cove (SJF,BAH) and one seen in Dartmouth, Nov. 20 (JWT).

RUFOS-SIDED TOWHEE was observed just once, that being by Jerome D'Eon on Oct. 19 in W. Pubnico.

A very early TREE SPARROW showed up Aug. 30, in L. W. Pubnico, seen by Delisle D'Entremont. There were no others reported until two months later, when RBS had one on Oct. 19, at Pond Cove, Brier Is. By Nov. 16, reports came from most parts of the province, of twos or threes, visiting feeders.

CHIPPING SPARROWS were well reported and well distributed with a number of adults seen feeding young by mid-Aug. Late dates are three; Oct. 11, Port Howe (JWT); Oct. 15, Williamswood (DAC); and Oct. 25 Lewis Lake (AJV).

CLAY-COLOURED SPARROWS occurred only twice, a juvenile, Oct. 5, at Hartlen's Point (ELM,IAM), and an adult seen on Nov. 1, on Seal Is. (ELM,IAM,RF). A FIELD SPARROW was watched by Bernice & James McLaren in their yard, May 31. This bird behaved "much as a Wood Warbler would, gleaning food from the trees". Two were found, Sept. 28, in Belleville, Yar. Co. (RSD'E); another, Oct. 11, at Petite Riviere (JSC). On Oct. 14-16, up to 6 were seen on Seal Is. (SJF et al.). VESPER SPARROWS were noted five times from July to October. Two were heard singing near Exit 17, Hwy. 101, July 1 (CSII et al.). Migration brought one each to L. W. Pubnico, Sept. 21 (JFK); to Brier on Sept. 28 (Cohrs); to Black River, Kings Co., on Oct. 3 and 3 were seen Oct. 1 at the edge of an orchard near Wolfville (SF fide JWW).

LARK SPARROWS are becoming more and more regular fall migrants as is evidenced by a possible 10 individual birds seen from Aug. 30 to Nov. 15. There were possibly 3 in L. W. Pubnico, Aug. 30 (JFK). Another report of this species was passed along by Jean Morse, who along with others, saw a juvenile on Brier, Aug. 31. Two were seen on Seal Is., Sept. 2 (IAM), 2 imm. at a feeding tray in Yarmouth, Sept. 27-30 (DHY,JMY) and an adult on Brier, was well photographed, Oct. 19 (RBS). The latest report was one Nov. 14-15, in L. W. Pubnico, at

Jerome D'Eon's feeder.

The Tufts wrote that the SAVANNAH SPARROW was widespread throughout Kings Co., especially in Grand Pré during May, June and early October. There were more than 30 at Hartlen's Point, Sept. 27, and by Oct. 7, they had built up in numbers to over 100 (FLL). SAVANNAH (IPSWICH) SPARROWS seemed in unusually high numbers this fall. There were at least 20 at Hartlen's Point, Oct. 6 (FLL,CSII), 6-10 at Cherry Hill, Oct. 17-25 (FLL,Cohrs) and 2 in West Pubnico, Oct. 28 (DJD'E). Three were seen on Seal Is., Nov. 11, and by Nov. 16, the Hartlen's Point group had dwindled to only 2 (IAM,ELM).

A single report, but no details, of a GRASSHOPPER SPARROW was submitted by Nancy Peters and June Jarvis, who found one on Oct. 16, lurking in a grassy, low shrub area near Glasgow Head, Guys. Co.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS were well reported along coastal beach areas as well as in the fields at Ft. Laurence, Cum. Co., through June and July. They have been found lingering on Seal, Oct. 16; Petite Riviere, Oct. 19; and Hartlen's Point, Nov. 11.

FOX SPARROWS were noted in Aug. on Bon Portage Is., where 3-4 were seen daily from the 16-22. Late reports are Nov. 20, Wolfville (JWW) and Nov. 22 in the Cohrs' garden, Halifax.

Although the SONG SPARROW appeared in normal numbers throughout the province during the summer, there are very few reports of lingering birds up to the time of writing. On Oct. 7, there were 80 or more at Hartlen's Point (FLL) but by Oct. 28, there were only a few seen at Grand Pré (JCT,GWT). Eight people wrote of LINCOLN'S SPARROWS totalling 15 individuals over every month from June to Sept. at Big Bras d'Or, Tidnish, Amherst, Beaverbank, Halifax, Lewis Lake, Dartmouth and Seal Is. The SWAMP SPARROW was well represented with several nesting records, with the average date for feeding young being July 12. On Oct. 7, there were 30 or more at Hartlen's Point and the only Nov. appearance was also at Hartlen's Point, Nov. 16 (AJV).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were frequently encountered during spring and summer. Once eggs have hatched, these birds tend to go unnoticed until small flocks join up in late fall to attempt overwintering. The largest dispersal occurred, Oct. 18 & 19, when Richard Stern witnessed hundreds travelling through the underbrush all over Brier Is. An interesting report came from Nancy Peters in Hazel Hill, of a male WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, which came to their feeder for several days from June 2 until a female of the species arrived. That was the last they saw of either of them! Two were seen at Bon Portage, Aug. 16; 4 on Brier, Sept 27 (Cohrs); 1 at Broad Cove, Oct. 12; 2 on Seal Is., Oct. 13-16 (SJF) and 1 at Pubnico Point, Oct. 28 (RSD'E). DARK-EYED JUNCOS were found breeding from Cape Breton to Yarmouth and remain some of our more common birds in this group. Most reporters noted that a few have been regulars at feeders during November, and will increase their numbers rapidly as wild food supply diminishes.

Very few reports of LAPLAND LONGSPURS were submitted. A total of 40 individuals were seen by seven parties from Sept. 25 to Nov. 22. The places they were found were Cole Hbr. Dykes, Hartlen's Point, Chester Basin, Cadden Beach, Grand Pré, Cherry Hill and Crystal Crescent Beaches. A week later brought the arrival of large flocks averaging 100 or more in numbers. Nancy Peters writes: "large flocks moved around Hazel Hill, Canso area in early Nov. One reported flock was so heavy and flying so low that traffic on route 16, near Fox Island was held to a crawl--the lead car had birds flying over the hood--and all around!" Judging from the number of reports and the size of the flocks, it promises to be a good season for them.

BOBOLINK TO ORIOLES

The BOBOLINK has made steady progress nesting from Cape Breton and throughout the mainland. Fledged young were seen in Cum. Anna., Kings, Hfx. and Shel. counties by early July. Sept. 1 saw 50-60 in the tall beach grasses of the Petite Riviere (Cohrs) with the latest being one on Seal Is., Oct. 16 (SJF,JAG).

The largest concentrations of RED-WING BLACKBIRDS seems to annually occur in late summer and mainly in the Valley area. Over 1000 were seen Aug. 16, near Canard Pond (RGT,BET), but once this flocking behavior takes place they quickly move on, leaving few behind to try our winter in mixed company of starlings and cowbirds. The few Nov. reports include one in Clementsport, Nov. 15 (JWT); and one at Canning, Nov. 22 (AJV,CSII).

An EASTERN MEADOWLARK was seen Aug. 10 at Grand Pré by Wendy McDonald; a meadowlark (sp) was noted by Steve Flemming at Cadden Beach, Oct. 18; one Eastern was reported at Hemeon's Head on Oct. 23, (DHY); one on Seal Is., Nov. 8 (IAM) and 3 were seen at Conrad's Beach, Nov. 26 (PB). YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS were reported just twice. One found Oct. 5-7 at Canard was foraging with a large group of cowbirds (JSB fide JWW) and one male was at Hartlen's Point, Oct. 7 (LP,PP).

Although there are countless spruce bogs in the province, their accessibility is often very difficult. Nevertheless, RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were noted in several locations breeding successfully. A nest was found at Davidson Lake, Hants Co., June 11 (GWT). An adult was seen feeding young in the Hammond's Plains area, June 15 (RBD). The last record was Nov. 11, when one was found at the Doherty Drive Marsh in Dartmouth (FLL,CSII,AJV).

Following the remnants of a hurricane, Aug. 19, a sighting of BREWER'S BLACKBIRD surprised the observers on Bon Portage. Two apparent females arrived for a very short time but fortunately long to be scrutinized to satisfaction (JSC et al.).

COMMON GRACKLE populations were as usual; there were no complaints of too many but it wouldn't do any good anyway. Mid-October seemed to be the departure time with numerous small groups drifting here and there. The largest flock of 400 settled at Wolfville Ridge, Sept. 28. Later reports of 6 in Dartmouth, Nov. 15; 10 in Lewis Lake, Nov. 16 and two Nov. 24 in Williamswood are typical.

Bernard Forsythe reports that BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD eggs or young were found in eight nests in the Wolfville area. The host species involved were: Veery, Red-eyed Vireo, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird, Chipping Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. Flocks of 150-250 were gathering by late Sept. and mid-Oct., at Canard and a group of over 200 were in Dartmouth, Oct. 11-14 (JWT).

A single ORCHARD ORIOLE was observed on Bon Portage, Sept 1, during the N.S.B.S. Field Trip (FLL,PM,BM). Of the 50 NORTHERN ORIOLES reported only 4 were seen during the breeding season. Migration was well underway by Aug. 30, when at least 30 were seen passing through Bon Portage Is. (NSBS). A few lingering birds were found during Nov.: Dartmouth, Nov. 15; Spryfield, Nov. 20 and New Waterford, Nov. 23.

FINCHES TO HOUSE SPARROW

It looks to be the start of a very good season for PINE GROSBEAKS. Many reports of small groups were received from Yar. to Cape Breton for October and November. Summer occurrences include a sighting of

several, June 15, near Kearny Lake (RBD); at least 2 were heard near Black River Lake, July 27 (BNS). Unlike the Pine Grosbeak, the PURPLE FINCH has yet to put in much of a showing. On Aug. 15, there were over 25 seen at Grand Pré (BET, GWT). There were an estimated 100 on Brier Is., Oct. 11-13 (FLL, NSBS). However, in Nov., feeders rarely had any more than two visiting and those only stayed for a few days. There were just 4 records of RED CROSSBILLS during this period. There were "lots" in Wolfville, June 5, remnants of the many seen during May throughout the province. One was seen at Cape Split, June 15 (GWT). There was a total of 13, July 6, at L. W. Pubnico, then no more reported until Oct. 30, when one was seen near Long Lake in Spryfield (FLL). WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were observed several times through June and July. On June 22, there were flocks of 12 seen near Poplar Grove (BNS), Wolfville Ridge (JCT) and L. W. Pubnico (DJD'E). In Guys Co., the Peters' report that by Sept. 20, there were several flocks in various locations. The latest report was of two near Forest Hills in Dartmouth on Nov. 1 (FLL).

The COMMON REDPOLL has arrived though in small groups. These are as follows: Oct. 15, 5 at Forest Hills, Dartmouth (FLL); Nov. 5, 8 at Wolfville Ridge (BLF); Nov. 11, 20 on Seal Is. (IAM et al.); Nov. 19, 3 at Spryfield (FLL) and Nov. 22, 10 at Canard (AJV). PINE SISKINS were noted in June and July in the Valley area. On June 25, there were 4 at Peck Meadows, South Mountain (JC, GWT). They were common at Harbourville, July 12 (JWW) and 16 arrived at a feeder in Advocate Hbr., on Sept. 14 (JC, GWT). Large numbers were seen Oct. 11-13, when between 150 and 400 were seen at L. W. Pubnico and Brier Is., respectively. The month of Nov. shows 3 individual birds seen at feeders in Wolfville, Kentville and Pubnico, from Nov. 9-17. AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES were reported "as usual" and regularly seen. One thousand or more were on Brier Is., Sept. 27-29. JSC writes that they were practically the only passerines in any number and were darting about dodging the hundreds of Sharp-shinned and other assorted hawks. By Oct. there were still 200 left on Brier and Nov. brought a very few to feeders.

The EVENING GROSBEAKS began to appear in small numbers about feeders by mid-Oct. More reports came during Nov. of larger flocks. A breeding report came from James Taylor, who saw an adult feeding 2 young on July 25, at Mud Creek, Cum. Co. During Aug., there were only two single birds seen on the mainland, one at Conquerall, Lun. Co., Aug. 2 (SJF, BAH) and one at L. W. Pubnico, Aug. 11. In Cape Breton, Alan MacLeod had 33 on Aug. 22, at Big Bras d'Or.

The HOUSE SPARROW appears to be unchanged in its abundance and distribution. There were large flocks settling in at Grand Pré, Sept. 9-14, with two partial albinos, one with conspicuous large white wing patches, the other very sandy in coloration. Other reports from Halifax, Dartmouth, Amherst and Hazel Hill indicate that there is no noticeable growth in numbers.

--DAC, ed.

PUFFIN OF THE YEAR

The Raptor Rehabilitation Programme continues to be very active. You have read about it in Nova Scotia Birds and have heard the financial report of the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund. We now have a network of seven veterinarians who donate their time and expertise to treating these birds as well as devoted custodians to tend them until they are able to be released. These people charge only for the expenses (and some not even for those).

The two 'original' veterinarians were N.S.B.S. members Jack Cameron and Ian McKay, who since the beginning of the programme in 1982, have been working quietly on injured hawks and owls, saving many to be returned to the wild. Ian made a visit to Katherine McKeever Owl Rehabilitation Center at Vineland, Ontario and brought back many ideas to apply locally. It is in recognition of their great contribution to a growing knowledge of wild bird treatment and to the continuing success of the Raptor Rehabilitation Programme, that I present them with the 1986 Puffin of the Year Award.

Bill Caudle



Bill Caudle (left) with Puffin recipient, Ian McKay
--photo, Peter Payzant

OPERATION CHEBUCTO

Off George's Bank on the afternoon of July 23, 1986, a small, exhausted owl landed on the rail of the Fisheries Patrol vessel, "Chebucto". Unable to fly farther and mobbed by jaegers, it was in dire straits until rescued by one of the officers, who approached and just picked it off the rail'. It was placed in a large cardboard box with a mesh top and fitted perch, provided with a meal of chicken (which it spurned) and left in a quiet corner of the bridge until the ship docked in Halifax the following morning.

The Marine Superintendent in Halifax, who is a birder, identified it as a young Saw Whet Owl and contacted his wife who is also a birder. She collected the bird and with the help of Dave Currie, transported it to a remote area near Lewis Lake, where Saw Whets had recently been heard calling. While the bird angrily snapped its bill a few photographs were taken and then it was set free. After the long rest it seemed in very good shape and flew strongly across an open bog and into the trees on the far side.

The decision was made not to band the bird because of the delay involved which would have undoubtedly caused further stress. The owl was returned to its appropriate environment less than twenty hours after its arrival on board.

-JSC



Photo by Dave Currie

BRIER ISLAND - A BIRDER'S GUIDE

Eric Mills

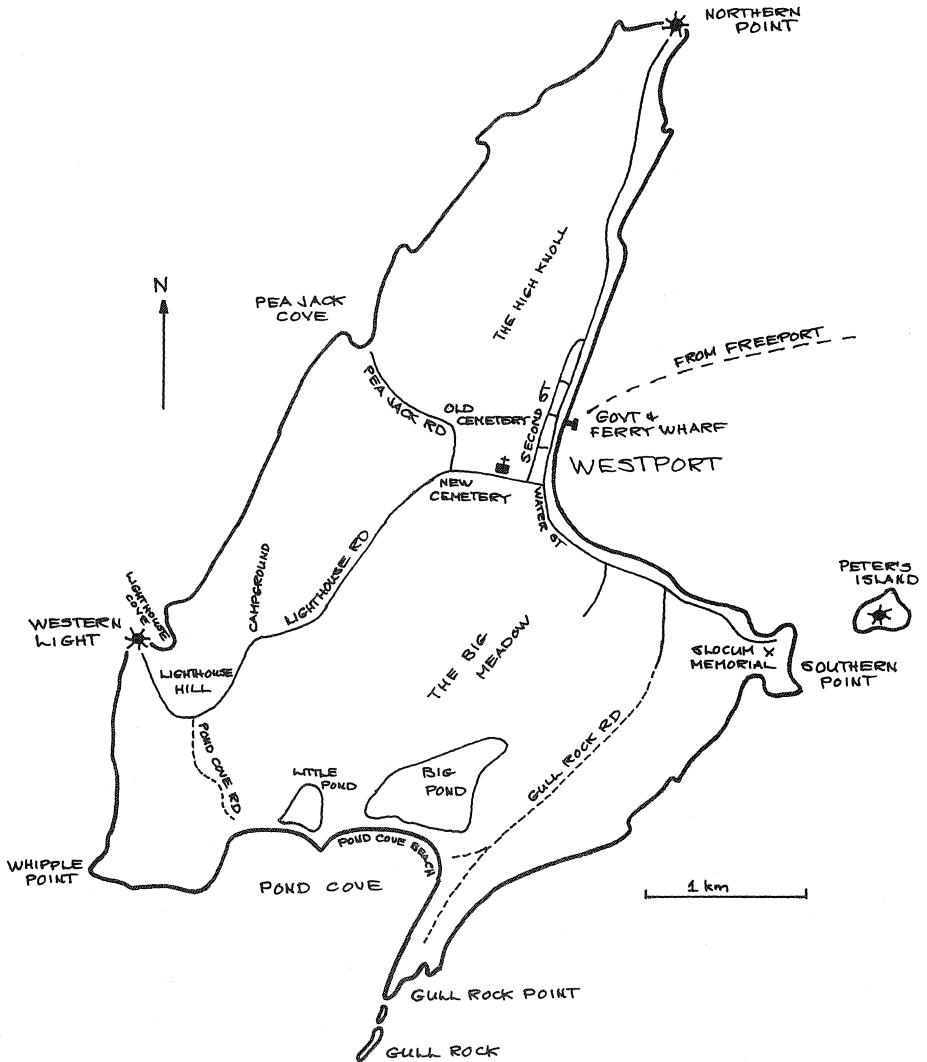
Brier Island, Digby County, at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, ranks with Seal Island (Yarmouth County) and Sable Island, as one of the best birding places in Nova Scotia. More easily accessible than the others, Brier Island's whole natural history is interesting, whether one looks for the invertebrates revealed by its Fundy tides or the rare plants (such as curly grass fern, dwarf birch and the *Avens* (*Geum peckii*) that occur in its bogs. Its Triassic-Jurassic basalt rocks make the island exceptionally picturesque, especially from the sea or from high points near Northern Point or at the Slocum Memorial (Southern Point).

Access. To reach the island, drive SW from Digby on Highway 217 to East Ferry (40 km). Especially in fall, watch the Digby Neck roadsides and power lines for migrants. Just before East Ferry, at Tiddville, a fine marshy pond just S of the road is worth checking for grebes, ducks and egrets, especially in late summer. The ferry to Tiverton across Petite Passage runs 24 hours a day on the half hour, returning on the hour and costs \$1.00 return. From Tiverton, drive 18 km to Freeport, where the ferry across Grande Passage to Westport on Brier Island leaves hourly on the hour, returning a few minutes before the half hour. The ferries are likely to be crowded on summer weekends. Brant overwinter in Freeport harbour. Birding may be good from both ferries: Phalaropes and Kittiwakes occasionally enter the passages; Black Guillemots, both species of cormorants, and eiders are common.

Accommodation and supplies. On Brier Island three bed and breakfast houses, advertised near the ferry wharf, were open in summer, 1986. The best known one to birders is The Brier House, operated by Donald and Rosemary Eaton, at the N end of Westport (phone 902-839-2879). Groceries, hardware and gasoline are available at a general store in Westport, and there is a post office. In the summer a takeout near the ferry wharf is useful for snacks. Car repairs, medical attention and most other supplies are available only in Digby, so come prepared. Camping is possible along the road to Western Light, at Northern Point, at the end of Pea Jack Road, and along Gull Rock road. Water may be a problem and there are no outhouses.

Birding Brier Island. From the ferry wharf, turn right (N) toward Northern Point. Especially in late summer and autumn this 2 km section of road is worth birding carefully. A few short trails lead into interesting clearings and thickets. Northern Point itself, especially just after the passage of a cold front before dawn in late summer and autumn, can be spectacularly active. Many birds that reach the island before dawn in fall leave toward the N and NE just after dawn, challenging one's skills with warblers and sparrows in flight. Check the isolated spruce thickets near the tip, also the light house lawn and environs for grounded migrants. The older thickets farther south are hard to bird but they frequently harbour hundreds of migrants and the occasional rarity; try following the bird-banding paths. Sea watching may be good from the shelter of North Light, especially on the flood tide and in northerly gales.

Left (S) from the ferry wharf, Water Street runs about 1 km to Southern Point, opposite Peter's Island. Check the fish plant for gulls, also the marsh on the right and the shore on the left for herons, shorebirds and the rarer gulls. Front yards and thickets along the road should not be overlooked. A dead-end road running right just past the marsh has Lois and Lester Pugh's feeder at the



end, along with a fine wet thicket and a good view of the marsh (locally called "The Big Meadow"). At Southern Point is a memorial to Joshua Slocum, who lived on the island for a time, and a good view of Peter's Island, where Arctic and Common Terns (sometimes a few Roseates) nest beginning in late May. Eiders, loons and alcids ride the strong current past the point in winter. Gull Rock Road, marked by a sign, runs SW 3 km to Pond Cove. The whole road and the raspberry thickets at Gull Rock Point are worth birding carefully, especially in fall. Gull Rock, offshore to the S, harbours a large flock of Purple Sandpipers in winter. Harlequin Ducks are regular, though scarce from November to March.

Westport itself can provide some splendid birding. Check every thicket, multiflora rose hedge and deciduous tree. Ditches may hold sparrows or even unseasonal warblers in early spring and late fall. The spruce hedge along Bailey's Field Lane is a fine shelter for vagrants. The village is best birded on foot, especially along Second Street, from the Lighthouse Road to Pugh's Lane, or the reverse. A weedy field with large deciduous trees behind Westport Marine Salvage should always be examined carefully. The fine feeders at the Brier House and in Raymond Robicheau's front yard attract many birds. It is possible to walk across the fields just behind the houses on Second Street as far as the church on the Lighthouse Road. Only the dogs will mind; the human residents are quite tolerant.

Lighthouse Road runs 4 1/2 km from Westport to the Western Light. Just above the town on the left, the new cemetery can be good during migrations. To the right, opposite the new cemetery, Pea Jack Road leads 1 km to the sea. The old, overgrown cemetery and the gravel pit should be birded on foot. Sea ducks, loons and grebes often come into Pea Jack Cove. The walks from Pea Jack Cove to Northern Point or to the Western Light are rough but beautiful. Along the Lighthouse Road, check the power lines and field edges for kestrels, bluebirds (especially in April and October), sparrows and warblers. The "campground" area about 3 1/2 km from Westport is worth checking for passerines in spring and fall, Saw Whet Owls in March-April and October, and soaring hawks in August-October. Opposite Pond Cove Road, on the right, is the rocky ridge of Lighthouse Hill, a fine hawk-watching vantage point in late summer and autumn. Scan the water off the Western Light for the occasional fin or humpback whale that may be feeding near shore. At the Western Light check the powerlines and lawns. A sea watch, especially in windy fall weather, may yield phalaropes, gannets, alcids, kittiwakes and sea ducks. Lighthouse Cove, visible to the N from the base of the light tower, is a good place for Red-necked Grebes, eiders, Brant and gunshy pond ducks in winter.

Pond Cove Road is a lane leading S from Lighthouse Road toward Whipple Point and the west end of Pond Cove. It is best walked; check especially around the cottages and in raspberry thickets. Just below the cottages the road divides; the trail to the right goes about 1 km to Whipple Point, the westernmost point of Nova Scotia, where winter duck-watching can be good. Try walking from Whipple Point to the Western Light for fine views of the shore and sea. The left branch leads to the barachois beaches of a small pond, then the big pond of Pond Cove. Both ponds are worth checking for ducks and herons. When the water is low, the big pond in particular can be very good for shorebirds. Also check the beach carefully for shorebirds, especially the rocks and piles of rotting algae at each end. Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers are regular on Pond Cove beach from the end of August through October. Brant frequently overwinter in the Cove, and the large flock of summering eiders is always worth checking for surprises. The head of the Big Pond may be good for ducks, herons and shorebirds, though human harassment is affecting

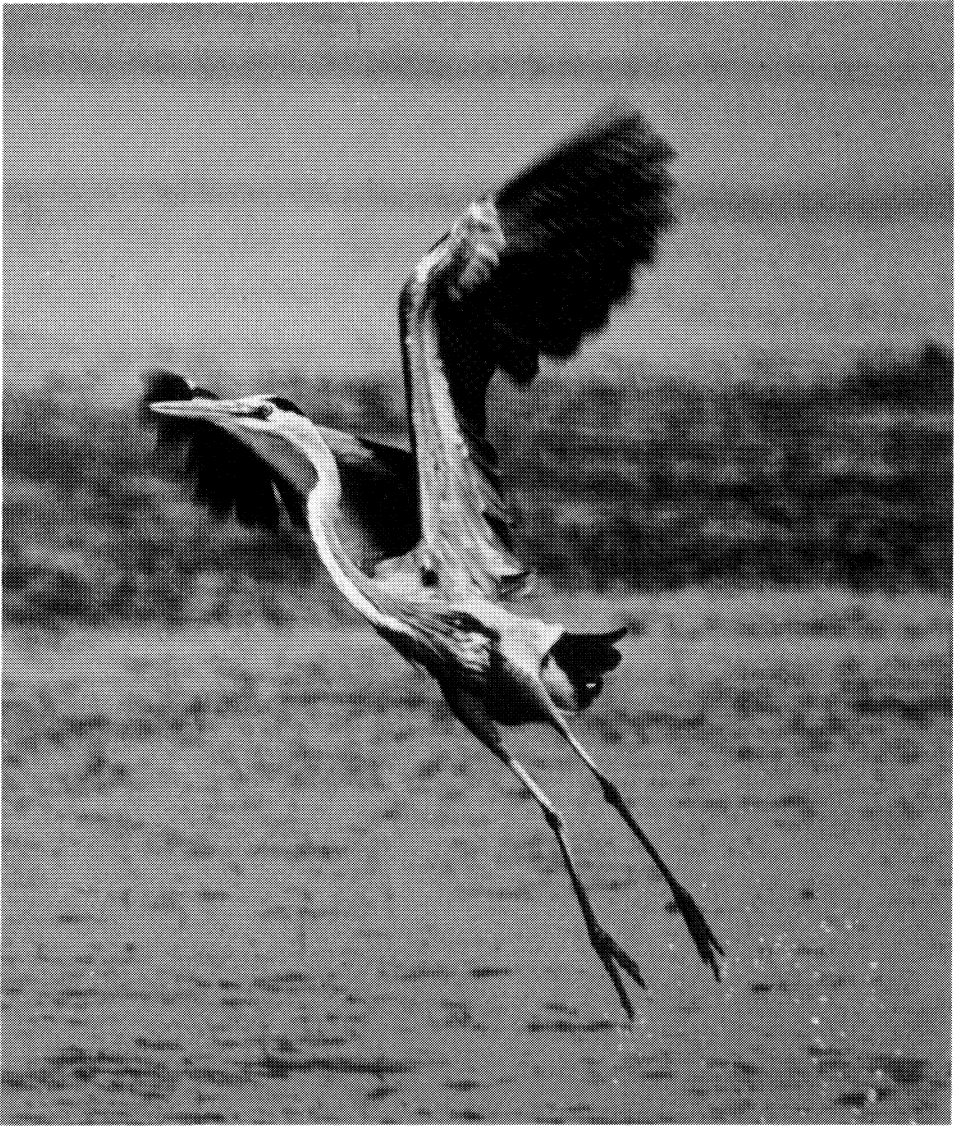
SOME PORTRAITS OF THE SEASON

Shirley Cohrs, using her new 500 mm mirror lens, nicely caught the Great Blue Heron flinging itself into the wild blue yonder. You can see the great wing tendons at work under the feathers.

The next page portrays two ground nesters and eggs; you may have to look harder for the nighthawk's one egg. The Killdeer successfully nested in the parking lot of the Prescott House in Kings Co.; they're becoming commoner, but this pair had bourgeois aspirations. The Common Nighthawk was discovered nesting on the Imperial Oil property in Dartmouth in July. Workers kindly put up barriers to protect the nest site, but the bird abandoned it or was predated.

Island birds are often very approachable, as our next portraits show. The adult Lark Sparrow was photographed at a feeder on Brier Island in mid-October. The Northern Mockingbird hung around the east-side lobster pots on Seal Island throughout August, according to locals.

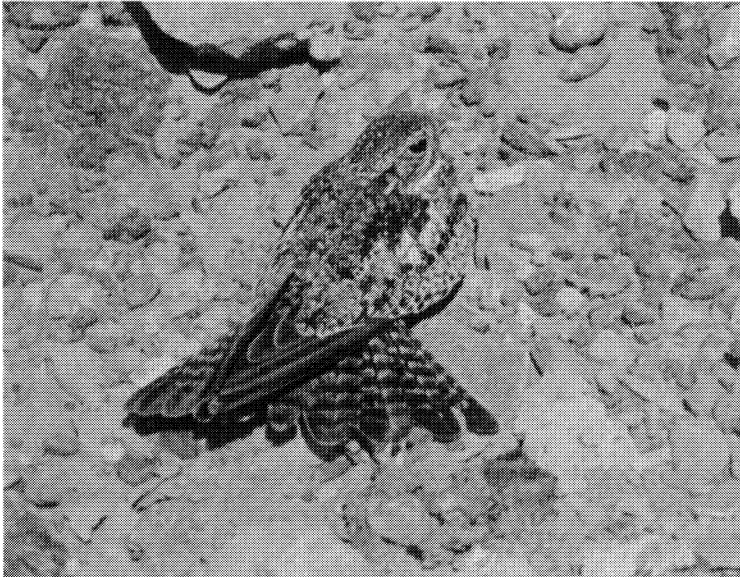
Two of the waders on the last page of photographs are certifiable rarities. The White Ibis, the province's fifth known occurrence, was snapped at Cranberry Point, Yar. Co., on May 30. The Curlew Sandpiper was about the thirteenth, found on Aug. 30, at Cherry Hill Beach. Interestingly, Shirley Cohrs also photographed the only other thus confirmed individual in 1983.



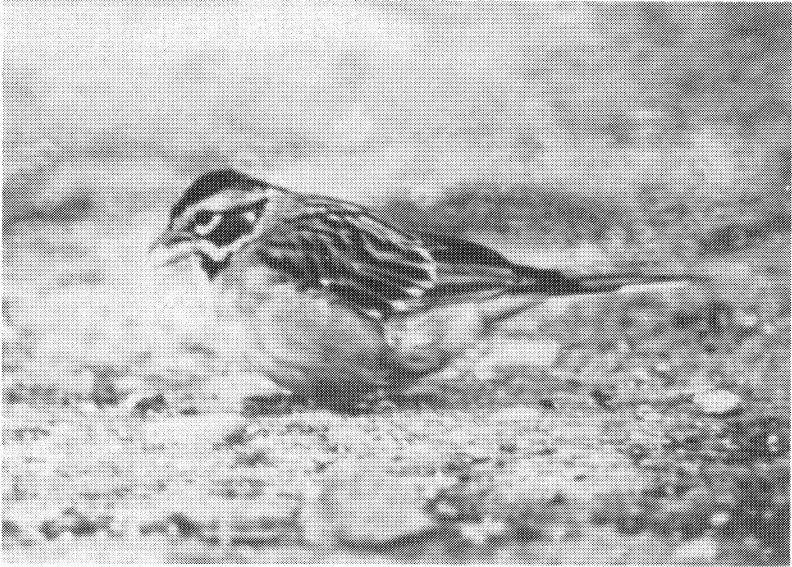
GREAT BLUE HERON, SHIRLEY COHRS



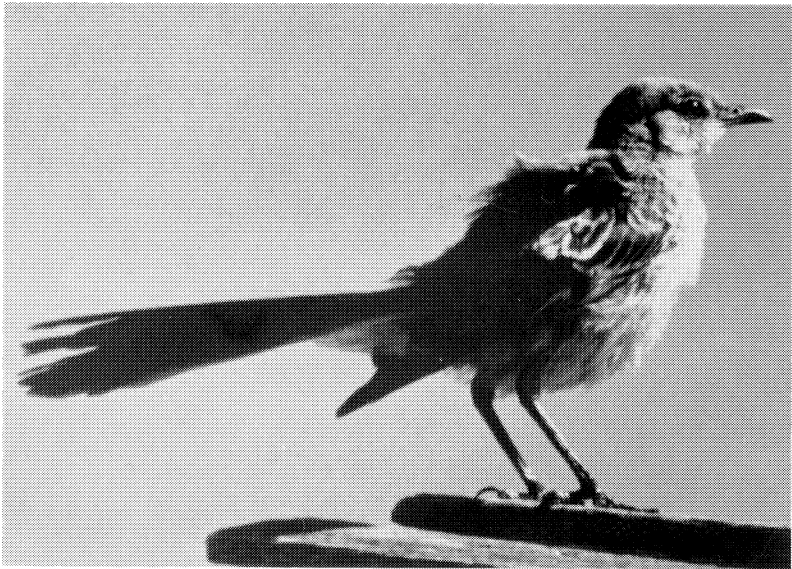
KILLDEER, RICHARD STERN



COMMON NIGHTHAWK, GEORGE FULLERTON



LARK SPARROW, RICHARD STERN



NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD, IAN MCLAREN



**WHITE IBIS,
IAN MCLAREN**

**LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER,
IAN MCLAREN**



**CURLEW SANDPIPER,
SHIRLEY COHRS**

The Lesser Golden Plover was the cause of some excitement in early October. It was found by Eric Mills and me at Hartlen's Point on October 5, and seen by a few others next day. Both of us were convinced, having never seen such a brightly gold-spangled juvenile before, that it was a Pacific Golden Plover, Pluvialis dominica fulva, which some authorities now recognize as a separate species from the North American Lesser Golden Plover, P.d. dominica. Specimens of this bird have been taken in Maine and Greenland, and there are recent sight records from Newfoundland and New York. The race, or species, fulva nests in Siberia-Alaska and migrates to the tropical Pacific, sometimes down the western North American coast. Slides of the Hartlen's Point bird were sent to two Californian experts, both of whom supported our identification. However, when the slides were later shown by one of them, Jon Dunn, to Lars Jonsson, the renowned Swedish Ornithologist-Artist, he argued strongly that the bird was more likely a bright extreme of dominica. One critical feature of dominica is the longer extension of the primary wing feathers beyond the tertials. The long wing tips are evident on the photo reproduced here, and other slides show that four primaries, rather than the three typical of fulva, PROTRUDE in our bird. Jon Dunn's advises that "it is best not to identify the bird at this stage". All in all, it's more fun to raise a tricky problem of identification than merely to garner another "tick". I hope that others can make critical observations on autumn golden plovers and try to get good photos of suspicious ones.

Ian McLaren
Photographic Editor

this area, which has been proposed as an ecological reserve. Please keep disturbance to a minimum.

Seabirds and whales. Strong tidal currents, rough bottom topography and high marine production combine to make the Bay of Fundy waters off Brier Island an outstanding area for seabirds. The best places for seawatchers, preferably with a telescope, are Northern Point and the Western Point. In August-September vast flocks of phalaropes and shearwaters may gather along the plankton-filled slicks northwest and west of the island. As long as terns are present jaegers are possible, mainly Pomarines and Parasitics. Manx Shearwaters are regular among the abundant Greater and Sooties. Seabird and whale-watching trips are available daily from July to October on a well-equipped modified fishing boat, staffed by a cetacean biologist and local fisherman. Their success rate with whales is very high. For information on four hour and eight hour trips offshore, call (902) 839-2995 in Westport, or enquire at the Brier House.

The Seasons. Typical of Nova Scotia, birding is at its best on Brier Island in autumn. Beginning in mid-August, flocks of warblers and Red-breasted Nuthatches arrive during and after the passage of cold fronts. September is usually the peak month; Northern Point and the roadsides are often alive with birds, especially for an hour or two after dawn. By late September the dozens of cruising Sharp-shinned Hawks and a few Merlins have terrorized the migrants into skulking invisibility, but the numbers remain high. In October large numbers of sparrows, Juncos and winter finches begin to appear. Even in November, finch numbers are often high, Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs appear in Pond Cove, and some surprising vagrants or summer holdovers may appear in Westport. When the freshwater freezes, usually in mid-December, land birds begin to disappear from the island except in Westport, where a few feeders and many septic tank seeps provide food and unfrozen ground. In mid-winter, Westport and the sea are the main attractions. During NW gales, thousands of Kittiwakes and alcids may pass by Northern Point and the Western Light. Thick-billed Murres and Dovekies are quite common, though often hard to identify in the scudding sea-smoke and bone-chilling winds. Eiders and gannets are on the move in March; Saw Whet Owls and Woodcock begin their breeding vocalizations. Early spring trips to the island--in March and April--have been rewarded by a remarkable array of southern warblers and herons, especially if the winds have been SW. May is often slow; the alders leaf out late in the month and warbler waves are few and late--usually after the 20th. Spring birds trickle in, quite unlike the autumnal floods. Even in early June, migrants and vagrants may occur, but by early July the island is dominated by its small array of breeding species, notable Blackpoll, Yellow-rumped and Black-throated Green Warblers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Boreal Chickadees. In truth, less is known about the breeding species than about migrants and vagrants, a situation the Breeding Bird Atlas project should correct.

In Summary and Conclusion. Brier Island has something for the birder at any time of year, but if your time is limited and your disappointment threshold is low, try mid-September, when the passerine migration is at its peak and the sea still has shearwaters and phalaropes to offer. Late May is a good second choice, provided a warbler-flycatcher arrival happens. As on most islands, birding is very much an on-off affair on Brier Island. Long periods of uninteresting birding are common, broken, often unexpectedly, by some truly spectacular days. The hard-core rarity seeker is best advised to try Seal Island or yearn after Sable Island. However, for sheer numbers and diversity, enlivened by scarce species now and again, Brier Island in September and October is hard to beat.

Birding has begun to make its mark on the island. Birders are now a recognized, though little-understood part of the local scene. Their presence can have a positive effect, awakening the community to its unusual natural surroundings. On the island, hunting goes on practically year-round and all-terrain vehicles have begun to cut the bogs and meadows to ribbons. The presence of birders and their comments on the value of Brier Island's beautiful and unusual natural environments can awaken the island's residents to the need to preserve them undamaged.



Richard Stern caught these Hudsonian Godwits at moment of takeoff at Pond Cove, Brier Island, in September.

BLUEBIRD SPECIAL

THE BLACK RIVER BLUEBIRDS

Bernard Forsythe

Thirty years have gone by since the last known nest of an Eastern Bluebird was found in the Annapolis Valley. My only experience with this striking bird had been a male, seen on Brier Island several years ago. On April 30, 1986, I saw what appeared to be a mated pair of bluebirds in an old pasture near Sunken Lake, Kings Co. The following is an account of the pleasing outcome of this sighting.

Before April 20 ended, permission was received from the land-owner and a hastily constructed nest box was put up in the pasture. As I passed this field daily on my mail route, I was able to watch the proceedings. Usually one or both bluebirds were present. The male would perch on or near the box. Sometimes he would chase the female around a tree and then fly to the box; however, not once did I see her at the box. She would be feeding or preening nearby and looking very disinterested in his antics. Once though, she was on a post when a robin flew in to displace her. She fluffed up, scolded, and the robin did a 90° turn and flew off. May 17 was the last day I saw them at this site. A pair of Tree Swallows began to visit the box and I assumed that the bluebirds had left the area.

About a mile away in a wooded area of Black River is a dammed-up stream. The high water level covers several acres of woods. The trees died long ago and are now rotting stumps with lots of natural cavities and woodpecker holes. Various grasses, as well as meadow sweet, low alders, and other bushes grow up from the water around the stumps. All this creates a habitat for a great variety of birds. A few species that I have found nesting here include: American Bittern, Sora, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Snipe and Swamp Sparrow. Around the edge are many species of flycatchers and warblers. Often a Pileated Woodpecker passes overhead. This year I even heard a Virginia Rail calling along one edge of the pond.

On May 30, I was quietly paddling my canoe around the pond, when, to my great surprise, there appeared a pair of bluebirds feeding around the stumps. They must have been the same birds that were missing from my nest box. The female soon disappeared among the stumps. On June 11, I put on high waders and entered the pond in an attempt to find a bluebird nest. The male appeared with an insect, flew to an area of stumps and reappeared without the insect. Before long I found a Hairy Woodpecker sized-cavity, 15 feet up in a long dead maple stump. When I tapped the stump, out came the female bluebird. Standing in water over my knees, I was looking at my first bluebird nest in most unbluebird-looking habitat. I suppose they must have used similar sites before the forests of North America were cut. Both adults were shy around the nest. On June 29, I watched them feeding the young at the cavity entrance. They would fly some distance high over the woods, probably to open fields, before returning with food.

On July 4, Cyril Coldwell accompanied me to the pond. Finding no bluebirds at or near the nest, we assumed they had fledged and began a search for them. About half a mile from the pond we found the adults feeding along a power line on the edge of the road next to a hay field. As we watched, they flew with insects into a tree on the lawn of a house. Walking to the tree, we could see two or possibly three spot-breasted young bluebirds among the branches. One young

flew to the ground in an attempt to catch the insect. They were now in bluebird habitat and stayed for ten days or so along the road before leaving as a family for another area. The male and one young were seen until early October on the White Rock Mountain, three miles north of the nest site.

One interesting note was that on July 11, there was a young cowbird with the young bluebirds. The cowbird seemed to be begging from the female bluebird. However, I did not actually see her feed it. Two other birdwatchers reported to me that they saw a young cowbird with the bluebirds. Although cowbirds have been known to lay eggs in a cavity, it is quite rare. This could have been a case of a fledged cowbird joining another group of young birds hoping to be fed.

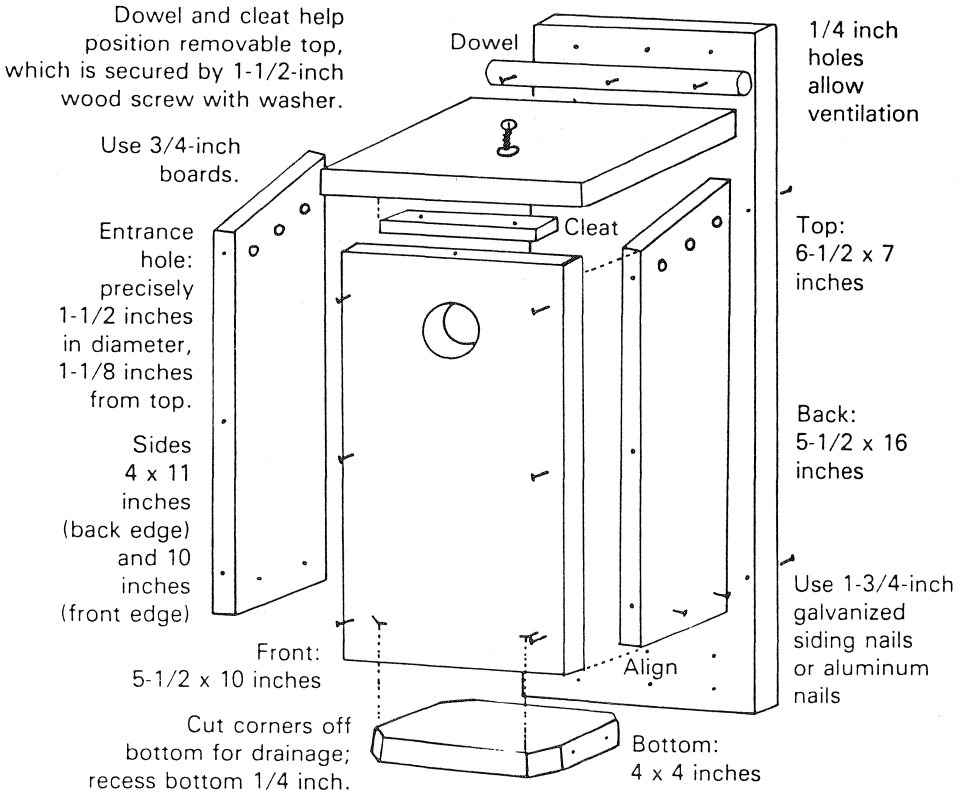
This family, along with the pair reported nesting in a bird box on a lawn in Kingston, as well as a female with one young that Larry Bogan found in Coldbrook made 1986 the year of the bluebirds in Kings Co. I was fortunate enough to see all three families. The putting up of bluebird nest boxes should be encouraged to help this small group spread in Nova Scotia. We hope to read about more bluebird families in future issues of Nova Scotia Birds.

PLACING AND CARING FOR BLUEBIRD BOXES

(from the North American Bluebird Society, Box 6295, Silver Springs, Maryland 20906-0295, U.S.A.)

1. Select good habitat. Open rural country with scattered trees and low or sparse ground cover is best. Bad habitat selection often results in more house sparrows, not bluebirds.
2. Avoid areas where house sparrows are abundant.
3. Avoid areas of extensive pesticide use.
4. Mount nest boxes three or more feet from the ground, preferably on smooth pipes or posts.
5. Face boxes in any direction, but preferably away from prevailing winds and toward a tree or shrub from 25 to 100 feet distant.
6. Because of bluebird territorial preferences, boxes kept at least 100 yards apart, will ensure the most economical use of boxes.
7. Protect boxes against predators when necessary. For example, raccoon "guards" can be mounted over the entrance hole for boxes located in areas of heavy raccoon populations.
8. Monitor the boxes about once a week during the nesting season, if possible.
9. Always remove house sparrow nests immediately when found. Remove bluebird and other nests as soon as the young birds have flown.
10. Inspect boxes late in winter. Clean and repair if necessary.

BUILD YOUR OWN BLUEBIRD NEST BOX



THIS SIZE BOX IS ALSO SUITABLE FOR TREE SWALLOWS. TO ADAPT FOR CHICKADEES AND NUTHATCHES, CHANGE THE HOLE DIMENTION TO 1 1/4". IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MAKING A BOX (OR BOXES) TO HELP ENCOURAGE OUR VALLEY BIRDS NEXT YEAR, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

Editor,
 Nova Scotia Birds,
 Nova Scotia Bird Society,
 c/o Nova Scotia Museum,
 1747 Summer Street,
 Halifax, N.S. B3H3A6

FIELD TRIP REPORTSMay 31 - Hants County Field Trip

"It all depends upon the weather ." "We'll go--rain or shine." As has been the case in half of the Hants County Field Trips in the last fourteen years, neither fog, mist nor rain dampened the spirits of the seventeen birders who met at the Mount Uniacke Railway Crossing. All but three knew what to expect in such weather conditions on this outing--pulling on rain gear in the cramped quarters of a car; protecting the binoculars from rain only to have them fog over in the car when the hot air from the blower was put on to try to dry off the occupants and realizing the movement of the leaves was a result of the rain drops, not birds flitting through. No matter, the satisfaction of seeing the Common Loon land on the lake and the Hummingbird flitting from one blossom to another on the Japanese Quince at the Uniacke grounds, spurred us on to the next stop.

Oh yes, it was necessary to sit in the cars at times to wait for the downpour to subside to a gentle rain but by the time we reached Smiley's Provincial Picnic Park, we were able to eat lunch outdoors under the covered picnic tables. The afternoon brought clearing skies, some sun and blackflies!

Ovenbirds were singing at every stop as were either Solitary and/or Red-eyed Vireos and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Although the Northern Waterthrushes were unusually silent, we spotted them feeding along the river's edge at the Bar-S Campground. Fortunately, we decided to check out one of "Caudle's Crows" perched atop a spruce tree and found it to be a Red-tailed Hawk! The usual species of warblers and flycatchers were sighted and before leaving the dykelands, the male Northern Harrier stayed visible for all to see.

Those who had no other commitments followed the leader to Ste. Croix, where the songs of Bobolinks entertained them over the supper hour. The sighting of a Chipping Sparrow brought the day's total to 66. As the birders headed to their cars to depart for their homes, they were thrilled at the sight of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird perched on the very tip of the Cattypa tree.

--Margaret A. Clark

May 31 - Grove's Point (Cape Breton)

On May 31, a group of no less than nineteen observers, met with our leader, Eldon Meikle, for a day among the warblers.

A few of our group were new. Not really the type who boasts, "I don't know one bird from another", but nonetheless, not quite as experienced in seeing things bouncing around on the other side of the bush, or hiding in the reeds, as the old-timers are. We were able to introduce them to fields peppered with beautiful Bobolinks, and a pair of Kingbirds were unexpected and new for the learning observers.

Things were going very well for us, we had enjoyed all the introductory places and just reached the true warbler country--you know the territory--alders and wire-birch and little tunnels one can poke into and see warblers at arms' length--and then came the rain.

So, the warblers remained unobserved on Warbler Day. Too bad. However, even without them we had 35 species as well as a pleasant day in each others company and a chance to enjoy the beauty of spring.

--Sara MacLean

May 30 - Yarmouth County Field Trip, "Warbler Walk"

The Yarmouth County Warbler Walk got off to the same start as last year, with a Northern Oriole (the same one?) in almost the same tree, at the Carleton School meeting place.

The weather was uncertain but soon decided to rain, gently but steadily. The twenty-five participants stuck it out, along the Carleton Perry Road, with dampening ardor for a little over an hour before going to the leader's house in Tusket for an early lunch and a dry-out.

After lunch we set out again, this time for Cranberry Head, in hope of seeing the White Ibis and the Little Blue Heron seen there by Eric and Barbara Ruff the preceding day. The heron had moved on but the Ibis was still there posing generously for all to see--and there too, were Ian McLaren and Eric Mills--no generous posing here, but a happy reunion with old friends.

In the brief morning walk the commonest species was the Blackburnian Warbler, as it was several years ago in the same area.

Total count for the day was only a skimpy forty (40) but that can be blamed on the weatherman.

--C. R. K. Allen

June 8 - Wolfville Area

Steady rain resulted in only nine birders reporting at the starting point. Gordon and Judy Tufts kindly offered their house as a place to hopefully wait out the rain. By mid-morning there was a bit of a break so we proceeded to a mature woodlot in Newtonville, where a few birds such as Least Flycatchers, Parula, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green Warblers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were singing. There was also a wind beginning to start up that didn't help matters any. A quick visit to an active Goshawk nest produced an angry mother and glimpses of fluffy chicks on the nest. As we continued on, the rain became heavier and all bird sound stopped, so the walk back to the cars was spent looking at plants.

A stop that was made on the way to our lunch break at Lumsden Dam, produced a Tennessee Warbler, Mourning Dove and a White-throated Sparrow. After lunch the rain was down to a light drizzle, so a couple more sites were checked along the power line. Down by a brook we could hear a Northern Waterthrush. Up the road under young mixed trees we could hear the varied songs of Redstarts as we were watching a very co-operative Blackburnian Warbler singing at the top of a white spruce high overhead. By now it was mid-afternoon, so we decided to call it a day. Despite the weather conditions our list was in the high thirties, plus some enjoyable conversation.

--Bernard Forsythe

June 14 - New Ross

The morning was overcast, drizzly and cool, but eleven brave souls met at Ross Farm eager to set out on a 15 km hike to the Lake Holden area south of the village. While we chatted and waited for stragglers, Jim Wolford kindly pointed out a Cape May Warbler, one of 18 warbler species we were to list.

Once underway, we found birdsong suppressed because of the weather, but this allowed us to isolate such short and high-pitched

songs as that of the Bay-breasted Warbler. Biting insects, thankfully, were suppressed too--we all knew that the New Ross vote for our provincial bird went to the mosquito. It took four hours to reach the lake, and those of us who had any lunch remaining ate it there. However, more important than eating was the quest for the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Knapsacks were abandoned at the lakeside as first a bird, and then a nest with young was located. Other nests discovered by the group included those of the Hairy Woodpecker (with young), Least Flycatcher (incubating) and Ruffed Grouse (eggs hatched). Atlassers please note that breeding was confirmed for at least seven additional species.

The sun broke out occasionally to make for a pleasant trip back, and though the odd blister was reported, fatigue was not in evidence. Nellie Snyder took a little romp with her dog, Hamish, to prove that point upon our return. Those with pedometers found I had exaggerated the distance a bit, so to prevent any dissatisfaction a few of us continued into the early evening and rounded out our species count to 64.

My thanks to ten nice people for an enjoyable day.

--Keith Keddy

June 28 - Cape Breton Field Day

It poured rain as usual on that day, but 14 interested observers met our leader, Allister Fraser, at the Provincial Building in Baddeck at 8 a.m. Allister solved the rain problem by taking us all to his cottage. We enjoyed listening to bird-call tapes, reading and talking. A few went out in the rain for a while and the rest of us just visited. Allister has lots of hummingbirds around the cottage and they are nesting now. We enjoyed seeing at least one of them come to the feeder. We saw 19 species in all. Our observers were from Truro, St. Peters, Harvie Centre, Glace Bay and Sydney. We left for home after lunch and owe Allister many thanks for a nice time.

--B. Hopkins

July 26 - Loch Lomond, Cape Breton

July 26, was the day the Cape Breton birders chose, last fall when we were choosing, to be our day at Loch Lomond.

Well chosen! It turned out to be a real, true, hot day, inserted in an otherwise pretty chancy summer.

Nancy More, our leader, first took us on a walk around their pleasant summer property at East Bay. Then we kept on to Big Pond, where we saw all the Cliff Swallows nesting under the eaves of a house. The householders have very considerably put a board along below which makes a nice landing place for the swallows and keeps peace in the family, too, because Cliff Swallows are mighty dirty neighbours to have on your house. I'm always hurt when I hear that people have broken down the nests to drive them away. They aren't all that numerous, at least in Cape Breton. It seems terrible to drive them off, even if they are dirty. We kept on in our poky way, in and out of corners--a kingfisher here a Spotted Sandpiper there, a Black Duck with six or seven well grown young.

At lunch time Nancy led us into a farmyard and down to the lakeside, where we could watch a loon and see the Warblers whipping across the openings in the bushes. We had a good list of sightings, nothing rare. Late July is about the worst time of the summer for counting

up species; the leaves are so thick, the singers are silent by now and the young ones scarcely confident enough to be out on their own. It was a delightful day all the same, in very good company.

As usual, I'm interested in what we did NOT see--no woodpeckers, not even a Flicker, no herons, no Bobolinks--I think they had gone just a day or so before--no Siskins or Purple Finches. There were only two hawks, both Kestrels. No doubt all these things were there, but with the thermometer at 30^o, they had sense enough to relax in the shade.

--Sara MacLean

August 1 - Crescent Beach and Cherry Hill

In this summer of drizzle and fog (at least along the Atlantic shores) the day of the Crescent Field Trip dawned clear and, although not sunny as it has been for years and years, at least it did not rain, nor was it cold. Joining NSBS members from Annapolis, Lunenburg and Halifax Counties were four American birders, one pair at Crescent in the morning and another for the Cherry Hill sortie in the afternoon. The shorebirds were reliable, as usual, although not in their normal numbers for the date, and all the expected species were represented. All the species of Scoter and a Black Guillemot off Crescent were a particular thrill for our guests as were Piping Plover later on in the day at Cherry Hill. They picked up a few other "lifers" among our shorebirds and the few passerines we encountered along the way, like the Alder Flycatcher and the gasping Sharp-tailed Sparrows. Our delight in their delight added to our enjoyment of the day--it was pleasant to show off our old friends to a new and admiring audience. The total count was 62 which, considering that we confined ourselves to the beach habitats, we felt to be very creditable.

--Shirley Cohrs

August 9 - Yarmouth County

The trip got off to an inauspicious start with a party numbering thirteen and a dense fog which restricted visibility to about six inches--a slight exaggeration perhaps; but at any rate it didn't rain.

The hot spots visited were Cape Forchu, Sunday Point and Sand Beach in the morning. Most birds seen were fuzzy blobs, sometimes identified by their calls, but now and then the mist thinned enough to allow the common species of 'peep', Greater Yellowlegs, Turnstones and a Whimbrel to be spotted. Lunch was eaten at the leader's house in Tusket and much bragging about past sightings garnished the meal.

High tide was 1:25 p.m. and the party arrived at the roosts on Cook's Beach and Pinkney's Point marsh shortly thereafter. The beach roost consisted of eight to ten thousand tightly packed 'peep', mostly Semi-palmated Sandpipers and Plovers, with one or two individuals of other species--Ruddy Turnstones, White-rumped Sandpipers, Sanderlings and Least Sandpipers thrown in. One color-marked bird caused a little excitement till it turned out to be a Semi-palmated Sandpiper standing behind a small piece of orange lobster rope.

The marsh produced a good number of Dowitchers, Willets, (both adult and downy young), Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs--and several exciting blurred shapes (which doubtless were either Bar-tailed Godwits, Ruffs or Redshanks!)

--C. R. K. Allen

August 16-17 - Canso Area.

Canso is a fair trip from almost anywhere. The term "isolation" has been used to describe it's location, and certainly it can't be reached by car from all directions. This however, does not concern birds and many species find their way to this general area.

NOW...would anyone make the long trip from WHEREVER, "motel" for two nights, bird for the better part of two days, then make the long trip back from HERE? Would the weather be good? Would the birds co-operate? Well, we wondered and hoped.

August 16...6:00 a.m. Beautiful ! Seven a.m. at the meeting spot and two cars, each with two birders were there...from Halifax! Greetings and introductions were made all round and a Solitary Sandpiper landing briefly, then lifting from the shore of the Front Lake where we met, gave the party its first bird for the checklist. Down the Tickle Road to the shore we went, where gulls perching on fishing boats were perfectly reflected in the calm water and a number of cormorants were breakfasting at a fish trap a short distance up the shore of Chedabucto Bay. Goldfinch, Cedar Waxwings and Song Sparrows flitted, bounced and conversed from the grey rail fences and a variety of shrubs and bushes.

This was the first trip to this area for all visitors and they were wonderfully interested in the ground cover of crowberry, foxberry, ground juniper, grey granite outcroppings, rocky coast and the moorlike appearance of the Tickle-Fox Island shore. Several orchids were discovered and identified by knowledgeable visitors. One, a perfect Purple Fringed Orchis was a first for some. It was examined and photographed and admired by all.

Next, down through Canso town, along the white gravel beach roads and evergreen headlands to Glasgow Harbour--a fair walk through woods and along the shore to Betsy's Point. We viewed cormorants, Black-backed and Herring Gulls on offshore ledges, Willet, Semi-palmated Plover and a pair of Yellowlegs moving along the calm pond. A small fire of white driftwood was lit, not for warmth, but to please our senses; new acquaintances became friends as we rested and chatted and watched five Spotted Sandpipers moving up and down the shore watching us. When the fire was first kindled one of the group moved close and recited a short verse about"...When you first light a fire". That warm gesture created a special atmosphere and we hope she remembers to send us a copy of the poem.

Next, off to the Peters' cottage at Black Duck Cove, beyond Little Dover, where we sat by the water and lunched, joined by friends from a nearby cottage. Then we dispersed for rest period.

All met again at our home at 5:00 p.m., joined by two birding couples who had reluctantly forgone the Field Trip. We had a pleasant social hour, then enjoyed dinner together at the Scotia Restaurant.

August 17 started at 7:00 a.m. along the Eastern Shore, heading for New Harbour. A side trip into White Head gave us three Least Sandpipers. A small rock just offshore, covered with ducks vying for a foothold, brought three cars to a sudden stop. They turned out to be domestic Muscovys, and while one of the group took pictures, the rest of us were highly entertained by five large ducks struggling for a place in the sun where there was room for only three.

On we went again, with much stopping and starting for various sightings and scenery viewing. It really is a beautiful drive.

Everyone enjoyed a Bal-scope view of 25-30 seals draped over offshore rocks below the Port Felix headland. One member was especially interested, having done a study of seals.

Next was a stop along the Larry's River blueberry barrens hoping for Whimbrel. They were there, lifting from the blueberry patches to huge granite boulders, landing by twos and fives, then turning their long decurved bills in our direction as they gave careful consideration to this intrusion. That they thought little of it was evident as they lifted and flew farther away over the barrens, calling softly to one another. This was a highlight of the day, the Whimbrel being a lifer for several in the party. We estimated 50+ (note: the next day Warren and I visited the same area and counted 100+ Whimbrel. For years we have found them here in numbers from mid-August through September.)

An unwelcome drizzle had started and increased as we arrived at the New Harbour bridge. We birded from the cars and found a number of shore birds in this interesting area, always a hot spot for fall migrants. A dozen shore bird species were identified, including Black-bellied Plover, both Yellowlegs, Willet and later, after the group had separated, a flock of 40+ Semi-palmated Plover, a Pectoral Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitchers. Some of the party had a Sharp-tailed Sparrow here. We are still looking for our first!

The rain came in torrents and we needed a place to have lunch, check our list and say good-bye. It would be a long drive back to Halifax.

An abandoned, windowless house in a nearby wooded area on the shore became our lunch stop. Clean newspapers spread over the old kitchen counter gave us room for unpacking our lunch carriers. A huge blue tarp was spread over the chunks of plaster and shards of window glass on the floor of another room. We deserted the kitchen and all went into the "diningroom", sat on the tarp and lunched and chatted while we put our list together. The rain dripped past the glassless windows and a happy bonus of warblers and both Boreal and Black-capped Chickadees dripped from the surrounding evergreens.

Time to separate came all too soon. We said goodbye to one another and the newly christened Birdwatchers Open Air Restaurant. As we drove back to our home in Hazel Hill, we wondered why we had been anxious about leading a Field Trip. As it turned out, everyone led the trip in one delightful way or another; we shouldn't have been concerned. All birders are Nice People and whether or not one finds birds, one finds friends.

--Nancy W. Peters

August 23 - Northumberland Shore (Tidnish to Wallace)

Sunny and cool fall-like weather prevailed as 15 birders from various parts of Nova Scotia and SE New Brunswick scoured the coves, estuaries and headlands between Tidnish and Wallace. The major stops were at Tidnish Dock, Northport, Linden, Port Howe and Wallace Harbour.

Few landbirds were in evidence at coastal woodlots, so most of our time was devoted to studying and ageing the many shorebirds and gulls. A novelty for many participants were the hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls in juvenile, first-summer and adult-summer plumage. Among the fifteen species of shorebirds observed were Lesser Golden Plover, excellent side-by-side comparisons of both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs in juvenile and adult plumage, Whimbrel, Short-billed Dowitchers and Common Snipe. Raptors observed included an adult Bald Eagle, circling over the Shinimicas River, and several Northern Harriers.

It was a most enjoyable day for all in an interesting, though ornithologically neglected part of the province. Many thanks to all the participants and to WINGS for the use of the Questar which added tremendously to everyone's enjoyment of the birds.

--Stuart Tingley

August 30 - Bon Portage Island

On the morning of August 30, fourteen enthusiastic birders met at the main wharf in Shag Harbour to board the boat to Bon Portage Island for a Labour Day Weekend excursion. The boatripe across the channel to Bon Portage took approximately thirty-five to forty minutes. Unloading and bunking-in took another twenty-five; after which, our most gracious host Peter Smith from Acadia University gave us our on-island directions, as well as birding and cabin rules. After well wishes from our host and a brief snack or two, we teamed up and headed off to various points to begin birding.

Trip highlights included;

(3) Prairie Warblers	(1) Great Egret
(1) Blue-winged Warbler	(3) Snowy Egrets
(2) Philadelphia Vireos	(6) Black-crowned Night-Herons
(2) Yellow-breasted Chats	(1) Short-eared Owl
(1) Orchard Oriole	(2) Long-eared Owls
(1) Whip-poor-will	(1) Greater Shearwater
(1) Hooded Merganser	

--hundreds of flycatchers (mostly Epidonax) on the morning of Sept. 1
 --thousands of Leach's Petrels arriving by night beginning near 10 p.m.
 The weather on the whole, was excellent with sunny skies and light winds all three days, with just a touch of fog to give it a true Nova Scotian flavour.

All but two of the weekend guests added lifers to their Nova Scotia lists, and everyone of us was able to add to his or her list of pleasurable birding experiences.

A final note of appreciation from all of us to our host, Peter Smith, and our skipper Carleton Greenwood for helping to make the trip such a success.

--Fulton L. Lavender.

September 6 - North River, Cape Breton

September 6 was the last field trip of 1986 for the Cape Bretoners unless some of us take a spontaneous search around, should the opportunity arise. It was a lovely morning, so twelve birders met at Sydney River Woolco and headed towards North River. Of course there were the usual starlings, like the poor, they are always with us. There were hundreds and hundreds of Herring Gulls, almost like a coating, sitting on the roof of the Woolco building. They must have been there all night; it seems an odd place to roost and their numbers almost outdid the starlings.

As we drove along, in one rather unproductive stretch, suddenly, right beside the highway, sat a Goshawk. It was an immature and must have been exceedingly inexperienced, to be teetering on the tip of a dead stump ten or twelve feet high, right at the very roadside. In fact, so surprising was it, that only a few of us saw it at all.

At the inlet at South Gut we saw a large brood of Canada Geese, several parents and numbers--almost a score, I'd think--of young ones in gray plumage. Actually, I'm not sure if we should even record these birds because I think they are children of the Department of Lands and Forests. However, I can't resist telling about them. After all, they weren't in any way captives, so let's call them wild birds.

We kept on to North River, and up the river to the camp grounds at Oregon. At this time, the birds were resting so we had few guests besides ourselves at the picnic tables. However, a Blackburnian Warbler flamed for us and a few chickadees were muttering in the old spruces. I hoped for boreal chicks, but no, not this time.

The Double-crested Cormorants are in an explosion for the second season. They crop up in the most inappropriate places. For instance, one was sporting itself in a most indecorous way in a little pond in the graveyard. Another was away up the North River, certainly where he had no business to be. When approached, he up-chucked a couple of little trout, then left the scene swimming, because I fear he was so full of trout he was unable to rise.

Let us hope for good birding in 1987.

--Sara MacLean

October 11 - 13 - Brier Island Thanksgiving Weekend

Those of us who undertook the journey to this western-most point of Nova Scotia are thankful indeed that we did. Participants in the weekend birding experience numbered five parties and totalled fifteen individuals. Halifax County produced the bulk of the observers with eleven visitors attending the weekend fun. Shelburne County was second with two new Brier Island patrons; Lunenburg and Annapolis Counties completed the list of arrivals with one person each.

The list of activities comprising the weekend agenda included: Owling, three trips; observation of passerine, waterfowl and shore-bird migration daily Saturday to Monday; a seabird and whale-watching trip, Saturday, Oct. 11; a hawk watch, Sunday, Oct. 12. The total list of bird species for the trip numbered 112

Birding Highlights:

Daily passerine, waterfowl, shorebird count. Oct. 11-13	
Canada Warbler (1)	Black-throated Green Warbler (2)
Magnolia Warbler (1)	Nashville Warbler (2)
Black-throated Blue Warbler (1)	Bay-breasted Warbler (1)

Cape May Warbler (1)	Brown Thrasher (1)
Red-eyed Vireo (1)	Bobolink (1)
Solitary Vireo (2)	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1)
Philadelphia Vireo (1)	Sharp-tailed Sparrow (1)
Alder Flycatcher (1)	Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1)
Swainson's Thrush (2)	American Bittern (1)
Eastern Bluebird (1)	Short-billed Dowitcher (1)
	Gadwall (1)

Boat trip highlights: Oct. 11

Puffin (12)
 Fulmar (8)
 Black-legged Kittiwake (200)
 N. Gannet (200)
 Red Phalarope (200)
 Red-necked Phalarope (1)
 Wilson's Storm Petrel (1)
 Right Whale (2)
 Humpback Whale (1)

Hawk watch highlights: Oct. 12

Turkey Vulture (3) ad.
 N. Goshawk (3) Im. (2) ad.
 Sharp-shinned Hawk (80)
 A. Kestrel (20)
 Red-tailed Hawk (7)
 N. Harrier (6)
 Broad-winged Hawk (2)
 Merlin (1)

Owling highlights: Oct. 11-13

Great Horned Owl (2)
 Long-barred Owl (3)
 Saw-whet Owl (25)

On the evening of Oct. 12, following a delicious Thanksgiving repast served by the Eatons at Brier House, four stuffed dedicated birders including the writer, explored a portion of the Western Light Road near Cottage Lane looking and listening for owls. The results were excellent:

Great Horned (1)
 Long-eared (1)
 Saw-whet (15).

By the next morning all was quiet again, with a low pressure system moving in to seal things up. Fortunately the weather on Saturday and Sunday had been ideal with sunny skies, light winds and mild temperatures. Thus, we took our leave of the island with a young Turkey Vulture as an escort down Digby Neck. We left him there sailing majestically on a coastal breeze. What we could not leave behind was the memory of a raptor-dotted sky over Hawk Rock and the many tiny musical voices of miniature owls hunting like silent shadowy bats on an evening too special for words. Please join us next year.

--Fulton L. Lavender

Up-Coming Field Trips

Sunday
February 8 Wolfville Area/Kings
County - wintering
birds of the dykes,
marshlands, rocky
shores and town.
Leader: Richard Stern
(1-678-1975). Meet at
1000 hours in the
parking lot of the
Acadia University Gym.
Bring a lunch, dress
warmly and wear warm,
waterproof footwear.
If weather looks too
forbidding, contact
Richard concerning
possible cancellation.

- Sunday
February 15 WINTER BIRDS OF HALIFAX COUNTY - various habitats,
several locations. Leader: Dave Currie (479-3630).
Meet at 0900 hours in the parking lot of the 24-hour
Sobey's store on the Bedford Basin at Hammonds Plains
Road (next to Wacky Wheatley's) in Bedford. We will
visit the Mill Cove Pollution Plant, possibly other
spots on the Basin, Hammonds Plains Road and the Head of
St. Margaret's Bay. The trip will end in the early to
mid-afternoon so bring a lunch.
- Saturday
February 28 SEWER STROLL II - Leader: Bill Caudle (469-7841). This
trip will begin at Herring Cove, visit the Volvo plant
(for the L.B.B. gull), several locations on the Bedford
Basin working towards Hartlen's Point in late afternoon.
Bring a lunch and the usual winter birding paraphernalia.
Meet at 0830 hours in the parking lot of the Canadian
Tire store in Sproyfield.
- Saturday
March 28 GLACE BAY SANCTUARY - lingering winter birds. Leader:
Sara MacLean. Meet at Dearn's corner at 0800 hours.
- Saturday
April 4 EASTERN SHORE RAMBLE - late winter birds (waterfowl) and
early arrivals (Piping Plover, etc). Leader: Ian
McLaren (429-7024). Meet at the Scotia Bank on the
Dartmouth side of the MacDonald Bridge at 0830 hours.
Bring a lunch and be prepared for a brisk beach walk.
- Saturday
April 11 CADDEN BEACH - sea ducks (possibly including Harlequins)
and Piping Plover. Co-leaders: Eric Cooke (1-766-4457)
and Peter Hope (1-242-2512 (h): 242-2770 (w)). Meet at
0930 hours at Schnare's Grocery Store in Port Joli on
Highway 103. This Beach, now a part of Kejimkujik
National Park, will be closed later to protect nesting
areas of the plover. Our visit at this time should be
non-disruptive. Dress warmly, wear sturdy footwear and
be prepared for a 10 km walk (round trip).
- Saturday
April 25 BRICKYARD ROAD AND OYSTER COVE (CAPE BRETON) - early
arrivals. Leader: Edie MacLeod. Meet at Mira Gut at
0800 hours.

- Sunday
April 26 Grand Pré, Kings County - waterfowl (possibly Brant), early migrants in number. Leader: Jim Wolford (1-542-7650). A joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalists. Meet at 0945 hours at the Acadia University Gym parking lot or at 1000 hours in the parking lot of the Grand Pre Historic Site.
- Sunday
May 3 AMHERST POINT BIRD SANCTUARY - waterfowl, shorebirds, early migrants. Leader: Allan Smith, CWS, Sackville (1-506-3025). Meet at the APBS parking lot at 0930 hours (take exit 3 from the 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: Margaret Clark. 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.

In Appreciation of Field Trip Leaders

by Bob and Wendy McDonald, Field Trip Coordinators

I must admit that Wendy and I had some apprehension when we took on the coordination of field trips for the Nova Scotia Bird Society, a job previously so well done in recent years by Don and Joyce Purchase and Frank and Mary Himsl. We needn't have worried: the cooperation shown by so many members in their willingness to lead field trips has been terrific.

We have attempted to maximize the number of members on field trips by having more outings in as many different areas of the province as possible. Several new leaders have appeared: our thanks go to you for volunteering or demonstrating a willingness to be recruited. Of course, as always, suggestions for new areas to visit and volunteers for leaders continue to be most welcome.

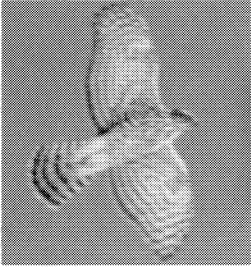
On a more mundane note, may I remind leaders that a report, however brief, on your Field Trip would be most appreciated by the Editor-in-Chief of Nova Scotia Birds, Shirley Cohrs.

A very sincere thank you then goes out to all Field Trips leaders who have been active over the last two years: Charlie Allen, Harry Brennan, Bill Caudle, Margaret Clark, John and Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Dave Currie, Ted D'Eon, Con Desplanques, Bob Dickie, Fred Dobson, Phyllis Dobson, Bernard Forsythe, Allister Fraser, Graham Fraser, Ross Hall, Dave Harris, Frank and Mary Himsl, Hedley Hopkins, Keith Keddy, Fulton Lavender, Lucille LeBlanc, Don MacDougall, Sara MacLean, Edie MacLeod, Roslyn MacPhee, Michael Malone, Ian McLaren, Jamie McLaren, Eldon Meikle, Nancy More, Bill and Jean Morse, Linda and Peter Payzant, Nancy and Warren Peters, Roger Pocklington, Don and Joyce Purchase, Richard Stern, Carl and Wendy Tay, Stu Tingley and Jim Wolford. And I hope I didn't forget anyone!

Without your continuing willingness to lead trips, our job would be impossible. Finally, we would like to thank Peter Smith for his hospitality during our Labour Day weekend trip to Bon Portage Island and Sara MacLean and Charlie Allen for continuing to act as regional field trip coordinators for Cape Breton and Yarmouth County, respectively.

SO, TO ALL MEMBERS: DO YOURSELF A FAVOUR - COME ON A FIELD TRIP - TODAY!

MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH



Not many people responded to the last quiz. Was it too easy? Actually, I had two correct written and one correct verbal answer, and two incorrect verbal guesses. All three correct guesses stressed the white eyeline as indicating Northern Goshawk.

I debated, using another of Harry Brennan's photos of this bird which did not show the white eyeline. Even without this clue, the bird must obviously be either a Buteo or an Accipiter to start with. Only the immature broad-wing among the buteos would have a comparable tail pattern, but would be more heavily streaked below and would show a dark "whisker mark" and lack the dark cap. So it is an accipiter, an adult or near-adult from the lack of heavy streaking below. It is too bulky and large-headed for a sharp-shin. The angle of the bird makes it difficult to judge relative length of wings and tail (Cooper's with relatively long tail, N. Goshawk with longer wings.) The Cooper's Hawk often has a whiter upper belly in front of the legs. The N. Goshawk has more ragged, almost broken tail bands compared with those on the smaller species. Of course, the original slide shows the developing grayness of the underparts, although the underwings retain a brownish cast. It is a near-adult Northern Goshawk.

This issue's photo clearly shows a sparrow of some sort. It was photographed on Seal Island, where almost anything can occur. What is it?



CROW WOE

Wendie Tay

Most of the time, Dartmouth is a delightful city in which to live. It has lots of lakes and trees and bits of undeveloped, wooded areas. We live in the heart of the city; nearby is one of these small, natural areas, providing us with excellent birding all year 'round-- both nearby and in our own yard.

However, not all birds are "excellent" to have in your yard. This lovely bit of forest proves to be an ideal home for crows, one of the birds in this "less than perfect" category. This summer, these birds have nearly caused us to become anti-birders.

Our ordeal began in May, just after the time changed, and mating was in full swing. Whether from the joy of fulfillment or the frustration of failure, or both, they gathered in our yard every morning at dawn to herald the new day with their well-known "song".

We live in a two-story house, atop a steep hill. In a direct line, as the crow "sits", the pillows on our bed are about ten meters from the top of the light pole. This is where the crows came to greet each new day. All the crows came, every day, one at a time!!

Do you know that dawn comes shortly after 4:30 a.m.? Even though we are early risers, that hour is ridiculous, day after day. The combination of terrain, light pole and our bedroom made it sound as if the crow was on our windowsill--caw,caw,caw, at 4:17 a.m. Help!

We began with "Shoo"!! It worked for a few days. Then we tried a loud noise. It only worked for one day! Our son's toy gun did not work at all. These black, bold, brazen creatures simply looked us straight in the eye and said "caw".

A brief respite came, and we thought we had won. In retrospect, we realize that was probably when the young were newly hatched. The break was shortlived.

By mid-June, things were worse than ever. Several birds arrived at one time, getting us up just after 4:00 a.m. Nothing scared these black devils. We resorted to rock-throwing, but they laughed at that. Our neighbors had just completed a glassed-in patio; they did not laugh. I have been known to run outside, at dawn, wearing large white slippers and a long red robe to chase them off the next light pole, which is just beside our other bedroom window. In my frenzied state of mind, I was certainly more effective than any scarecrow one could design.

In desperation, we sometimes slept in the basement in sleeping bags. This resulted in a later sleep in the mornings but also in many aches and pains.

Friends suggested we call the N.S.B.S.--but we are part of N.S.B.S. We thought of guns, especially after the toy one failed. We favored an air-pistol. In the U.S.A., you can get ammunition which shoots the victim with dye--we imagined a pink crow! However, the guns cost over \$100.00 and the dye is not available in Nova Scotia.

The light pole they favored (the one ten meters from our pillows) contains twenty-eight wires, a transformer and a street light. Using a real gun, if we missed the crow, we could surely have plunged the city into darkness for some time. Also, if we missed both the crow and the pole, there were three different neighbors to worry about.

We never tried the gun!

Summer marched on. We fretted, ranted, raved, cursed and hated. We did it somewhat quietly, as we birders are not supposed to criticize any bird--right?!

Still, these black demons were literally ruining our personalities. They came every morning, without fail (on rainy days we got a half an hour extra sleep). Nothing we had tried would make them move. By early July, the babies joined the adults, and found dawn the perfect time to practice their "singing". We were tired all the time. We were cranky. We were miserable. We were desperate but we did not know what else to try.

We had been told that displaying a dead crow would scare the others off. Where do you get a dead crow? We did not feel justified in driving into the country to shoot one--besides, I'm sure it is illegal. We considered poison, but felt we could not control the danger, both to other birds and especially to neighborhood pets and other small animals.

Then, one busy evening in July, when the whole family was coming and going, what do you suppose appeared in our driveway? Of course --a dead crow; not only dead but complete with a baby bird foot hanging from its mouth. If one could feel any love for these creatures, surely that tiny foot destroyed the emotion.

We speculated greatly on the origin of this carcass. Many people knew of our plight and our wish for a dead crow. Initially, we felt it must have been delivered. As a natural event, it just seemed too opportune to be true. However, it probably did occur naturally. The baby bird may have been too big to swallow and, while struggling with it, he may have flown into the twenty-eight wires (justice surely!). There was a lot of blood, and no external sign of injury.

In any case, we decided to use the body and check out the theory. We felt the neighbors might be insulted if we nailed it to our beloved light pole. Instead, we spread it on our front lawn--our hill is situated so that only we, and one neighbor could see it.

Not so, the other crows! At 5:03 a.m. the next morning, we heard, "caw!", followed by an unbelievable series of "caw!, caw!, caw!", and off he flew. Almost immediately, we were surrounded by crows. For a few minutes we felt like the characters in Alfred Hitchcocks famous "The Birds". They had never come as close before. They lit on our window sills. Even our fourteen year old son, who sleeps the dead sleep that only teenagers can, lifted out of his bed when they all arrived saying, "Caw!, caw!--caw, caw!".

Our translation is not perfect. We will never be sure whether the words were, "Who did this to our brother?", or "Who the heck is this stranger and why did he die in our territory?". In any case, they were a very upset bunch of crows. No one in our household slept any more that morning and it seemed that the "dead crow" idea was just another failure.

However, on the next and subsequent mornings, they found our light pole distinctly uninviting. It finally seemed that we hit upon a method that worked. The cure was not complete, as they still come to our neighbors' light poles. For us, their call has the same effect as a little heat does to a newly healed burn--super-sensitive. While we may awake with the first distant call, we are now usually able to go back to sleep (in our own bed).

I suppose several dead crows may have been more effective, but definitely not aesthetically pleasing. We left our crow on the lawn for about five days. As I write this story, it is about two weeks since the episode. We only hope that the effect will last for the rest of the year.

As a final request, we beg anyone who has a solution to a problem like ours, to share it with us. We fear that by next spring (if not sooner), they will have completely forgotten this incident, and the chances of repeating this exercise are slim.



This nesting Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was a treat for those on the N.S.B.S. Field Trip at New Ross, June 14. Photo by Steve Barbour

AT HOME WITH THE HARRIER

Matthew B. Saunders

The Northern Harrier or Marsh Hawk is a familiar sight on many of Nova Scotia's wetlands. During the summer of 1985, I had the very rewarding opportunity to carry out research on a population of these remarkable birds. Much of my work involved close-range daily observation of nests from a blind, which allowed me to discover a more intimate world than can be seen through binoculars. Despite aggressive attempts by certain birds to redirect my interest in their nests, it was easy to become attached to my aggressors and their families.

Harriers spend much of their time on the wing, soaring low over fields, ditches, and cattail-filled impoundments in search of food. The best time for spotting harriers is from early May to mid-August, when nest construction, breeding, and rearing of the young occurs.

A prominent white rump patch makes the Northern Harrier readily distinguishable from most other native hawks, with the possible exception of the stockier Rough-legged Hawk. This patch is visible even to the naked eye from a considerable distance. The female and immature harriers are very similar in appearance. Both have dark brown backs, barred underwings and white rump patches. However, the juveniles sport a rusty breast rather than the streaked breast of the adult female. Adult male harriers are strikingly different in appearance from either the juveniles or females of the species. Males are pale grey, have blackened wingtips, and lack the heavy streaks and bars characteristic of the female's breast and underwings. Close observation reveals fine, reddish streaks on the thighs of the male. Besides these obvious color differences, the males are somewhat smaller than the females.

Harriers are one of only a few ground-nesting species of raptors and are therefore vulnerable to nest losses due to predation as well as through agricultural and recreational activities. Nests are uncomplicated in structure, made simply of loosely piled grasses or reeds and are generally located in wet, densely vegetated sites.

By building in such areas the birds take advantage of natural protection, as the vegetation provides camouflage and the water serves to deter all but the most dedicated predators. Occasionally nests are constructed in pastures or fields where they may be trampled or accidentally destroyed by farming activity such as the draining of land, mowing, or spraying. These risks, added to the danger of terrestrial predators chancing upon the nest, gives Northern Harriers what is reputedly one of the highest rates of nesting mortality among many species of hawks.

Of five active nests which I studied, two were ransacked before the chicks had fledged. One of these nests suffered the loss of the mother, as well as six eggs that were very close to hatching. The prime suspect was a coyote.

Clutches generally consist of three to five pale blue or chalky white eggs. Occasionally clutches may have as few as one or as many as eight eggs. Egg-laying and hatching are asynchronous, resulting in an age difference between the hatchlings. The youngest chicks often have a higher mortality rate than older siblings. This is primarily due to competition for food and is most common when food is limited.



A healthy brood of five harrier chicks. Note the obvious size differences between these chicks. They range from two to ten days of age. Pipe cleaner leg bands are visible on two of these chicks. These were used to identify individuals until they were large enough to wear standard leg bands.

Northern Harriers feed on a wide variety of prey. Although meadow voles are their staple food, the diet also includes small birds such as sparrows, Bobolinks and Red-winged Blackbirds, as well as frogs and snakes.

While hunting, harriers typically soar very low above the terrain, often doubling back over promising areas. This low flight pattern makes good use of the element of surprise in capturing prey. A keen sense of hearing as well as sharp vision makes this method of hunting profitable.

The male provides most of the food, while the female incubates her eggs or broods newly hatched chicks. Food items are transferred to the female in a spectacular, mid-flight event known as a food pass. When the male returns from a successful hunt he glides low over the nest and issues a quiet chortle to inform his mate of his success. The female then flies from the nest and follows slightly below and behind the circling male. In this position she is able to receive the item as the male tosses it--by flipping upside-down and catching it in her talons. Then the female usually returns to the nest to feed the chicks. With adequate provisioning the offspring are able to fly thirty days after hatching.

The various activities of the breeding pair often allow a patient observer to locate the nest. Once the chicks hatch, food relays are quite frequent and are useful indicators. Occasional excursions by the female to collect nesting material or to remove debris (i.e., eggshells) from the nest may also give away the site. In each of these cases she generally returns to the nest.

When the birds become aware that their nest is located, they may respond with a range of behaviours, ranging from diving threateningly at the intruder to simply retreating until the disruption passes. Once a nest has been pinpointed it is best to hold subsequent watches from a distance to increase the chances of nesting success. If the nest happens to be in a potentially hazardous area such as a hay field or pasture, placing several fence posts or a simple fence around it will prevent it from being destroyed and protect this unique member of the marsh community.

* * * * *

Matthew Saunders, an Honors Biology graduate of Mount Allison University, studied Northern Harriers on the Tantramar Marsh from May through August 1985, under the supervision of Gay Hansen. Her research is part of a long-term study of the Tantramar population, said to be the second largest breeding population in North America.

We regret to report the death of MARION W. HILTON, of Yarmouth, one of our most consistent and conscientious reporters for many years as well as co-ordinator of the Yarmouth Christmas Count. She contributed much to our Society and to the ornithological knowledge of the province.

BOOK REVIEWBIRDS OF NOVA SCOTIA, third edition

Robie Tufts

480 pages, original illustrations

Published 1986

by Nimbus Press and the Nova Scotia Museum

Cloth \$29.95

Paperback \$19.95

The first (1961) and second (1973) editions of Robie Tufts' Birds of Nova Scotia went rapidly out of print and for the last few years the only way of obtaining a copy of this essential and standard work has been to try to buy one second hand; even if one was obtainable, it would cost up to \$90. During this time there has been a considerable clamor for a third edition and this has now been published and appeared in the book stores in late October, 1986. This edition has been updated and rewritten by the seasonal editors of Nova Scotia Birds, periodical of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, under the co-ordination of Dr. Ian McLaren. The book is well bound and printed and the original plates by Roger Tory Peterson and John Crosby, as well as the original line drawings have been reproduced again in this edition.

The preface and introduction, entitled, "Nova Scotia Environment for Birds", describes the different habitats available for birds in this province, a note on place names in Nova Scotia and a note on naming of birds, particularly the taxonomic changes that have taken place since the previous two editions. The main text follows and consists of descriptions of 410 species birds that have been seen in Nova Scotia and for each there is a note on the status, a full description, range and remarks about the occurrence, habits or other interesting features of the bird.

The book proceeds with brief remarks on fifteen hypothetical species and five species which have undergone unsuccessful attempts at introductions into this province. There is an extensive literature citation followed by an excellent index which I found well cross-referenced and easy to search. The color plates and line drawings are interspersed at regular intervals throughout the text and in this respect the layout of this third edition is similar to the previous two.

There have been a number of new species seen in the province since the second edition was published, and the authors have been careful to sift through the available data to be sure to include only species that have been well documented. Evidence for inclusion of a bird has consisted of specimens, photographs or well and accurately documented sight records.

Despite these additions, the book is only a few pages longer than its predecessors and the reason is partly because the print is a bit smaller and partly because many of the descriptive remarks and anecdotes written by Tufts himself in the first and second editions have been shortened and edited. Many of the remarks about specific birds are still written in the first person as though by Tufts himself (as they were in the first two editions), but others, particularly some of the "new" birds, have been written in a more terse, "modern" style. In some cases this leads to rather odd juxtapositions. For example, on one page there are fairly extensive anecdotal remarks

concerning Common Redpolls, written in the first person by Tufts, and lower down on the same page is a comment on Hoary Redpolls, written in the third person and credited to "R.W. Tufts" in brackets.

The contributions of numerous past and present Nova Scotians are rightly included and in many cases the names of observers of both common and unusual species as well as early and late dates, large numbers, etc., are specifically mentioned in the text. The short section on hypothetical species is interesting but there are one or two species in the main text that perhaps might better have been included here, such as Thayer's Gull and Pacific/Arctic Loon.

The color plates are mostly by Peterson, originally done for The Birds of Newfoundland, and used by Tufts in the first and second editions, together with Crosby's plates and these are basically unchanged. However, I feel that the color reproductions are a little more washed out in this new edition than they were in the first two. This makes everything look a little paler but in some cases the colors are, in fact, more realistic. Unfortunately, I could find two definite errors in the color plates; in one the adult Common Tern's bill is depicted as yellow instead of orange-red and the other is the Black-backed Woodpecker, which is depicted as having four toes (it had the correct three in the previous editions). These are, however, very minor criticisms and in the last few weeks since buying the book I have been looking up practically every bird I have seen from Scoters to Hawks to House Sparrows and it has told me something useful, interesting and entertaining about every single one of them.

Overall, I would highly recommend this book to anyone wishing to learn more about the birds of this province, whether he is a beginner or merely interested in knowing more about a lively and interesting facet of our province's wildlife, or already an expert. This book is a delight to browse through and is a mine of information on any bird seen in the province. Judging by the number of copies of this edition that I have already seen in numerous book stores, I would anticipate that sales would be extremely high and justifiably so.

Even though Tufts is no longer with us, I hope that his name will be perpetuated in fourth, fifth editions and so on, in the same way that Gray's Anatomy, Harrison's Textbook of Medicine, etc., are still reproduced and updated every year or so, even though their original authors are long dead, and are still used as standard reference works in their fields. This third edition of Tufts' Birds of Nova Scotia is, and will remain a standard reference work in its field. Perhaps the fourth edition could include data from the much awaited Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas.

--Richard B. Stern

Editors involved were C. R. K. Allen, R. G. B. Brown, J. Shirley Cohrs, Phyllis R. Dobson, Ian A. McLaren and Francis Spalding.

THE FOURTH OF A SERIES ABOUT MEMBERS...

PROFILES.....



Meet Ethel Crathorne,

On the morning of December 6, 1917, six year old Ethel Crathorne went to the front room window of her home, at the foot of Jamieson Street in north end Dartmouth, to watch a ship burning in the harbour nearby. At six minutes past nine on that clear, frosty morning, the ship exploded, obliterating the Crathorne home and flour and feed mill. Cut by flying glass, the family members suffered injuries but survived one of history's worst disasters, the infamous Halifax Explosion.

"It blew up right in front of our house and we were all there looking at it at the time."

After the explosion, the Crathorne family went west and settled for a time in Nelson, British Columbia and at various places in the state of Oregon, but within five years, they found themselves back in Dartmouth.

Ethel attended the Halifax Academy, "because there was no high school in Dartmouth", then on to Dalhousie University for a Liberal Arts Degree. While at Dal, she went north to teach in a school set up at St. Barbe Bay, Newfoundland, by Sir Richard Grenfell. She decided then and there that she did not want to teach school.

Graduating in 1934, Ethel attended the Maritime Business College and worked for a short time with a finance company, then a trust company and an insurance company. Finally, she entered the provincial civil service, where she became Administrative Secretary in the Civil Service Commission Office.

Ethel is a Fellow of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society and is particularly interested in genealogy, the study of family histories. She is membership secretary of the Genealogy Association. She began birding in 1952, three years before the founding of our society. Her first field trip was with the late Florrie White of Port Wallis.

She is a charter member of the Bird Society, attending the very first meeting in 1955. Ethel and Phyllis Hemeon, at the time

agreed to do all the typing for the society and Ethel acted as membership secretary for twenty years.

"There was a meeting called, with lots of advertising by Robie Tufts in his newspaper column. This resulted in a membership of several hundred, right from the start."

Ethel has birded across Canada and into the arctic. She has also birded in the United Kingdom, Bermuda, the Bahamas and Florida. She has seen lots of great birds but of all things she most appreciates is the Rare Bird Alert, "because you get to see so many rare birds that way".

Her philosophy is simple enough, "you won't see any good birds if you don't go out there and look". Frequently attending the society's field trips in the past, she is beginning to mind taking long trips. How fortunate that she lives next door to Sullivan's Pond, one of the province's birding hot spots.

Before I left, I asked her if the Coot had returned to the pond this winter.

"He's in the channel, above the dam", she told me.

On my way home I stopped above the dam to take a look. There among the Mallards and Black Ducks was the Coot, just as Ethel had said he would be.

--Bob Dickie

NOTICE

C W S (Canadian Wildlife Service) is attempting to access the potential of the Sharp-shinned Hawk as a biomonitor of toxic chemical contamination of the terrestrial environment. Specimens are needed. Sharpies occasionally collide with windows near winter bird feeders. A request is made that such casualties be labelled, placed in plastic bags and frozen. C. W. S. should then be called collect at (506)452-3086 for shipment instructions. Potential contributors of specimens are thanked in advance for their support of this investigation.

Peter Pearce,
Canadian Wildlife Service.

ORNITHOLOGISTS

R. G. B. (Dick) Brown

A gaggle of geese--an exaltation of larks--a murmuration of starlings--A CLUTCH of ornithologists?

We bird people are a trifle touchy about these collective nouns. On the whole, the one we prefer is 'Congress'. 1,500 of us spent the last week of June, 1986, up in Ottawa, Ontario, spreading ourselves out at the 19th International Ornithological Congress. I suppose half of us were from Canada and the United States. The other half came from Bulgaria and Brazil, Egypt and Ecuador, Iran, Israel and the Indian Ocean Territories--and everywhere in between. I have to admit that we and our wives and families, let loose together at a cocktail party in a large room, made quite a noise. Perhaps 'murmuration' is the right word, after all?

I hope they all got as much out of the I. O. C. as I did. We scientists are always very cautious about our current research. We keep our cards close to our chests at these meetings, and save our discoveries for our published, printed papers. However, it's fun to talk about them all the same, and play a little scientific poker in sidewalk cafés. Nothing propinks like propinquity--and this is how the news of science gets around.

These Congresses happen every four years. I suppose you could say that they are for professionals rather than amateurs--for scientists, not birdwatchers. This is a meaningless distinction in a science whose basic research has always been done by amateurs, from Gilbert White and Charles Darwin onward. Particularly when half the registered professionals in the 1986 I. O. C. tromped through the hallways at 4:00 a.m. every morning, hellbent on watching birds in each and every Canadian dawn. I'm a rank unbeliever in any form of field ornithology at that ungodly hour and, to be honest, I rolled over, cursed the lot of them--and fell asleep again, dreaming of large, hungry cats. I suppose you could also say that we bird people come in every cantankerous shape and size.

But then, we always have been an odd lot. The first International Ornithological Congress was held in Vienna in 1884, and we had a montage of some 30 stiff portraits to remind us of it. They ranged from Professor Johan von Cabanis, the museum zoologist who founded 'Journal für Ornithologie' in 1853, the world's longest running bird journal, to Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, a dedicated amateur whose scientific career was blighted when he accepted the throne of Bulgaria. Their formidable whiskers would have bristled at the naked informality of Ottawa in the summer of 1986. However, I think they would have approved our program, all the same. After all, they weren't the blinkered museum men that we suppose. ('What's hit's history; what's missed is mystery.') It was Cabanis who insisted, as early as 1853, that we ornithologists should always think well beyond our subject; to embryology and biochemistry, the high-tech sciences of his day, but also to the other sciences he never dreamed of.

He was quite right. International Ornithological Congresses are more than reunions, and rare bird hunts. They are statements of our art and science (ornithology is both of these), every four years. The theme of this one was that Ornithology IS an interdisciplinary subject. The titles of some of our plenary lectures and symposia will give you the general flavor. In no kind of order, they are:

"The Goose with Blue Genes" (snow goose population genetics, out on the Barren Grounds west of Hudson Bay); "Mate Choice"- and "Mate Guarding"; "Seabird Patchiness in a Turblent Marine Environment", (my own specialty); "Avian Vision"; "Salt and Water Metabolism in Wild Birds"; "Bird Song Dialects"; "Birds in Agriculture"; "Foraging Behavior"; "Mechanisms of Homing"; "Parent-Offspring Conflict in Birds" (Dr. Freud, where are you now that we need you?..) --and "Reproduction of Birds in Cold Climates" (..and Miss Nancy Mitford, as well?). "The Historical Impact of Ornithology on the Biological Sciences" helps to define this Pot-pourri, and it puts us fairly firmly back in our place, but only in a way.

This summary of titles shows that we ornithologists have respectable claims to priority in research into genetics, physiology, oceanography, taxonomy, evolutionary theory, and animal psychology. They aren't modest claims, either. Dammit, we INVENTED Animal Psychology--there's a Nobel Prize to prove it...and where would embryology and immunology be, without the egg? I wonder how much further we will have gone by the next I.O.C.?

This will be in Christchurch, New Zealand in November 1990. I hope to be there, if I can raise the fare...

NEW CANADIAN CHECKLIST

The Canadian Society of Ornithologists has arranged for the publication of a Checklist of Canadian Birds/List de reference des oiseaux du Canada. This list, prepared by Dr. R. D. James of the Royal Ontario Museum, gives the scientific, French and English common names and breeding status of all 579 species of bird recorded in Canada up to the end of 1984. It corresponds to the birds described by Earl Godfrey in his second edition of The Birds of Canada.

The list is bound in pocket-size form and would be a useful addition to any naturalist's field gear.

Copies of the checklist may be obtained by sending two (\$2.00) dollars to:

Ornithology Checklist
c/o Dr. W. Bruce McGillivray
Provincial Museum of Alberta
12845-102 Avenue,
Edmonton, Alberta
T5N 0M6

ERRATUM

July Issue, 1986, Page 15--3 Hermit Thrushes at Lewis Lake "on March 8", should have read "April 28".

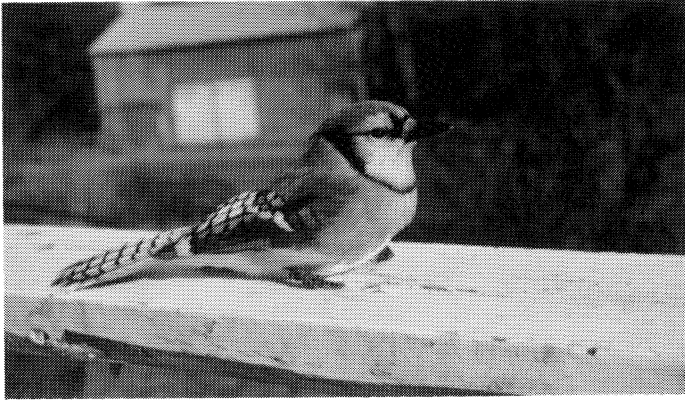
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

I think I mentioned to you that I had banded a Blue Jay which had hit the window back on November 30, 1985. I placed a reddish-pink plastic canary band on its right leg. I saw it a couple of times during December, 1985.

On Sunday, July 20, 1986, my banded Jay arrived at my feeder with four young and was busily feeding them. I didn't have my zoom lens as a friend has borrowed it, but I thought it was interesting and thought I'd pass the information along. I'd be interested to know if any of the readers have seen this Jay about their feeders.

Lynda Conrad,
Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co.



Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

We would like to enlist the help of the Bird Society in getting a supply of birds' nests.

One of the programs we conduct for elementary school children is "Birds and Their Environments". During the program thirty pairs of 10-year-old hands get an opportunity to examine birds' nests, so, needless to say, we need a variety of nests to replenish those which are bound to deteriorate.

Would you pass the word on to members of your Society that we in the Education Section of the Museum would like some nests? We would also appreciate it if collectors could furnish us with information about the nests: the habitat where they were found, and the name of the bird that called it home.

The nests can be dropped off at the Info Centre, or in the Education Section of the Museum, attention Nancy Stobie.

Thanks for any help you can give us.

Nancy Stobie,
Curator of Education.

Editor, NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS:

The purpose for my writing is to comment on the T.V. program "Who Hears the Piper?", which was broadcast over C.B.C. on Monday, November 24, 1986. I felt that the show was extremely well done and very informative; the photography was exceptional. I do however, disagree with Ann Braumley's report stating that there were no Piping Plovers raised on Conrad Island this year; there were, in fact, eleven young which hatched and fledged.

I wish to make one thing very clear before further adding to this letter and this is: I do not condone the destruction or ravaging of beaches by people, animals or vehicular traffic and I feel that places such as Conrad Island should be protected for the beauty they hold.

As many of you may know, I was hired by the N.S.B.S. in 1984, to conduct surveys and keep nesting records on the Piping Plovers breeding on Conrad Island, and to act as an interim warden, informing people about the various wildlife species that are found there. I was present on this beach every day from June through August and never once did the horses which are stabled at Sambea Farms travel this section of the beach. The riders of these horses kept to the path which leads out towards Fox Point then veers off toward the wooded areas. The riders were also interviewed for the survey at which time they expressed a deep concern about the future of their riding area.

At this point, I wish to say that I am not the owner of a horse, but after having watched the show on T.V., I am certain that everyone is thinking, "here's this woman riding her horse along the prime breeding area which the Piping Plover inhabits, she couldn't care less about these endangered species as long as she has a place to ride." The cameraman did a great job of pointing out the scrape containing the eggs and how very close the horse's hooves came to it, and after seeing all this, many of you must have thought horses definitely should be banned from the beach.

The lady riding the horse was a complete stranger to me and I feel that she has been used very badly by the television station. I have since obtained this lady's name and after I tell you the facts as they actually happened on the day of taping, I think that many of you will agree with me. Here are the facts as they happened:

1. This lady was contacted and asked if she would agree to ride her horse on the beach for the T.V. cameras, as they wanted to show how the Piping Plovers survived with all the various traffic that occurs on this beach.
2. C.B.C. taped the program at high tide.
3. C.B.C. were present for approximately two or three hours prior to the time arranged for the lady to ride her horse.
4. When the lady arrived, she was told by Ann Braumley that she was to ride her horse where the cameras were set up, which just happened to be in the prime breeding area.
5. The rider told Ann Braumley that this was not the area in which she rode her horse, explaining where and why they rode toward the other end of the beach. Her reasons were that she was aware of the Plovers breeding there, and also that other trails were hard packed earth, not loose sand containing broken glass and so were more suitable for riding.

Ann Braumley told the rider that this is where they wanted her to ride.

7. The rider was instructed to ride this section, not once but four times.

8. The rider was instructed that they needed close-up shots of the horses hooves.

Now I ask you, wouldn't you tend to think that Muriel Jacobson, the rider, has been victimized and I have these questions in my mind.

1. Did C.B.C. know exactly where this nest was when they set up their cameras?
2. Why did they insist that Mrs. Jacobson ride here, not once, but four times at high tide?
3. If the C.B.C. knew that the nest was there, would they have stopped the rider if the horse was going to trample the eggs?
4. If the horse had trampled the eggs, would the C.B.C. have used the film footage?

I feel that this lady has been used for purposes other than what she had been told, that being, to show how the Piping Plovers could survive with beach traffic. I would like to know what you think.

Lynda M. Conrad

IDENTIFYING CROSSBILLS BY CALL

Both White-winged and Red Crossbills are most often detected when in flight because of their continuous loud and sharp calling that carries a long way through the forest. It is safe to say that for every crossbill in the tree there are three in the air. Since they are difficult to identify in flight by eye it is important to know how to by ear.

The common flight call-note of the Red Crossbill is a simple, sharp, clear, loud klip-klip or jip-jip-jip, given in groups of two or three and repeated often as they fly. At close range there is an almost liquid quality to the call.

The corresponding common call-note of the White-winged Crossbill is a loud, dry, flat jeet-jeet or cheet-cheet-cheet, given in the same pattern as the Red Crossbill, but is more rasping and harsher. Flocks of White-winged Crossbills also emit a dry chattering sound which is similar to the jeet-jeet call but not as loud and more buzzy. The overall effect can be likened to the sound of distant hydro wires. This effect is never given by Red Crossbills.

It takes practice in the field to learn these calls. When you hear a crossbill, try to fit one of the call descriptions with it. You may be unsure if it is a jip-jip or a jeet-jeet at first, but after checking out your guesses with positive visual identifications a few times you should gain confidence rapidly. When you find a flock of crossbills in a tree picture the appropriate call descripti with the sound that you hear. With a conscientious effort anyone can learn how to identify crossbills by call.

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

1986

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Nova Scotia Bird Society

The 1986 A.G.M. of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held on November 27, 1986, at 8:10 p.m., in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, N.S. The President, Mr. William Caudle chaired the meeting and 67 members attended.

Copies of the 1985 minutes, published in the January, 1986 issue of Nova Scotia Birds, were distributed to the attending members. It was moved by Chris Field and seconded by Eric Cooke that the minutes be accepted as distributed. Carried.

Business Arising from the minutes: None

Financial Report

Sandra Myers tabled the financial report for the year, ended October 31, 1986. Receipts totalled \$10,760.26 and disbursements totalled \$11,196.82, reducing the bank balance from \$4,150.42 to \$3713.86 at year end. It was noted that the cost of Nova Scotia Birds had increased 10% over the previous year and that this was one of the reasons for the recent increase in dues.

It was moved by Sandra Myers and seconded by Bob McDonald that the report be accepted as tabled. Carried.

Membership Report

Joyce Purchase presented the membership report showing the following membership statistics:

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Single	319	30	9
Family	211	17	5
Senior	154	14	5
Student	9		
Institutional	10	1	
Life	11	11	11
	<u>714</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>30</u>

In addition, a few members have paid for memberships to 1993. Total individuals represented by the 1986 memberships is 1033.

It was moved by Joyce Purchase and seconded by Clarence Stevens that the report be accepted as presented. Carried.

Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund

Eric Cooke discussed the activities of the Fund for the past year. An amount of \$100.00 was expended to rent Spencer's Island for ten years from Scott Paper, as an additional sanctuary location. The Raptor Rehabilitation programme continued to be successful with a number of injured hawks and owls having been treated by veterinarians and cared for by others. Costs of this programme include veterinary costs, transportation and supplies for the injured birds. The fund commemorating the memory of Marie Henry has not yet been used and members were asked to contact Ian McLaren if they have ideas for its use.

Eric Cooke tabled the financial statements for the Fund which indicated receipts of \$2053.90 and disbursements of \$1039.26 for the year, ended October 31, 1986.

Ian McLaren mentioned that although some islands and inland areas had been purchased or received as gifts, the Fund does not have the cash resources to make such purchases on an ongoing basis. As an outgoing member of the Fund's Board of Directors, he recommended that it would be better to attach the Fund's activities to larger initiatives of other organizations and governments. The Fund could finance such elements as signage, fencing or wardens' salaries, especially for those items not able to be covered by the other organizations' programmes.

Dan McAskill, Atlantic Vice-President of the Canadian Nature Federation suggested that television public service announcements could be prepared at low cost through the local technical schools for conservation purposes.

It was moved by Eric Cooke and seconded by Ian McLaren that the report be accepted as presented. Carried.

Margo Kanigsberg Memorial Field Trip

This successful programme for high school biology students was not held this year, due to an inability to arrange for a suitable time for all participants. It will be held again next year.

Conservation and Environment Committee

Peter Payzant presented a report on the activities of this committee for the past year. These included: an article in the January, 1986 issue of Nova Scotia Birds; liaison with the Nova Scotia Power Corporation to ensure that a Chimney Swift colony was not disturbed; coordination of the Nova Scotia leg of the Save South Moresby caravan; and coordination of the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas activities. Peter noted that Bob Dickie had decided not to continue as a committee member but that Clarence Stevens had agreed to join the committee.

President's Report

The report of the President and the presentation of the Puffin of the Year Award to veterinarians Jack Cameron and Ian MacKay of the Dartmouth Veterinarian Hospital, appear elsewhere in this issue.

Nominating Committee

Chris Field reported that James Morrow, Honourary Auditor and Leonard Kitz, Honourary Solicitor, had agreed to serve for another year. The following slate of officers for 1987 was presented:

President	Bob Dickie
Vice-President	Richard Stern
Secretary	Don MacNeill
Treasurer	Sandra Myers
Membership Secretary	Joyce Purchase
Editor	Shirley Cohrs

It was moved by Chris Field and seconded by Eric Cooke that this slate of officers be accepted. Carried.

Nominations for the Directors positions were then called for and the following were nominated:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Mover</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Carin Somers	Eric Cooke	Don Purchase
Phyllis Bryson	Bernice Moores	Molly Claydon
Ken Gregoire	John Cohrs	Shirley Brothers

There being no further nominations, it was moved by Eric Cooke and seconded by Don MacNeill that nomination cease. Carried.

New Business: None

The meeting was adjourned by the chairman.

--Don MacNeill
Secretary

**Nova Scotia Bird Society
Special General Meeting
25 September 1986**

The meeting was held at the Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax. It was explained to the members that thirty days notice had been given to the members regarding the intention of amending the bylaws of the Society to enable fees to be changed at other than the Annual Meeting in accordance with Section 19 of the bylaws, and changing the fee structure at this meeting.

A general discussion took place regarding the intentions of the new fee structure.

Upon Motion - the members unanimously approved deleting the first line of bylaw 16 and replacing it with "Each member of the Society shall pay an annual fee of one dollar, or such sum as may be set at the Annual Meeting or any general meeting of the Society provided that a full notice of the matter be given to all members 30 days in advance of such meeting."

Upon Motion - the members approved that the annual fee for 1987, and henceforth until amended, shall be set at:

Single - \$12.00
Family - \$15.00
Institute - \$20.00

D. A. MacNeill

D.A. MacNeill
Secretary

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
(Incorporated 1957)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the period November 1, 1985, to November 1, 1986
(with comparative figures for the year ending October 31, 1985)

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>
Balance from previous year	4,150.42	861.15
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Membership dues	5,215.91	6,102.67
Life Memberships	240.00	240.00
Savings Interest	176.47	153.28
GIC Interest (\$254.22)	166.22	135.52
N.S. Museum Grant	2,000.00	(2 Yr.) 4,000.00
Sale of publications, etc.	1,703.49	2,285.21
Sale of R. Tufts "Birds of N.S"	904.05	-
Auction of books (W. Mills estate)	-	556.25
Bird Atlas Grant	200.00	-
Mailing list cost recovery	-	40.00
Donations	129.00	-
Grant re: Birds of N.S. (3rd ed.)	-	2,800.00
Miscellaneous	<u>25.12</u>	<u>67.00</u>
	14,910.68	17,251.08
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>		
Three issues of N.S. Birds	7,083.23	6,326.93
Postage, stationery, etc.	1,479.05	2,052.23
Editor's expenses	194.67	227.62
Subscriptions	151.85	51.55
Monthly meeting expenses	100.00	62.74
A.G.M.	250.00	236.98
Printing of membership cards and forms	-	412.61
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	628.07	-
Equipment maintenance	-	67.95
Bank charges	64.91	60.47
Field trips (Coordinator's expenses)	115.43	30.48
Purchase of computer	-	1,572.77
Computer program	99.84	-
Decals	631.37	-
Breeding Bird Atlas grant	200.00	290.00
"Save South Moresby" Fund	100.00	-
Miscellaneous	108.40	-
Payment for work on Birds of N.S.	-	1,400.00
Awards, gifts	-	24.75
Photographic contest	-	283.58
	<u>11,196.82</u>	<u>13,110.66</u>
Balance in Royal Bank of Canada	<u>3,713.86</u>	<u>4,150.42</u>
	14,910.68	17,251.08

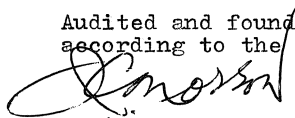
BALANCE SHEETASSETS

Electric typewriter (cost 296.45)	1.00	2.88
Steel filing cabinet (cost 99.96)	1.00	1.00
Steel filing cabinet (cost 98.99)	30.50	43.55
Computer and printer (cost 1,572.77)	1,100.94	1,572.77
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	2,724.65	2,096.58
Balance in Royal Bank of Canada (savings: 3,347.40, current: 366.46)	3,713.86	4,150.42
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,571.95	7,867.20

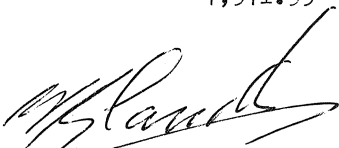
LIABILITIES

Surplus	7,571.95	7,867.20
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Audited and found correct
according to the books



J. Morrow
Auditor



W. Caudle
President



Sandra Myers
Treasurer



Richard Stern photographed this Barred Owl on its rather unusual nest in a hollowed out "witch's broom" in Kentville. The nest was not successful --washed out in a rainstorm.



Dave MacKinnon got this amusing picture of a Red-wing Harassing the Elmsdale Sandhill Crane. In the colour print, the red crown of the crane seems to supply a focus for the Red-wing's anger.



Just for the record. This Yellow-headed Blackbird on Cape Sable Island on Aug. 4, 1985 was the second earliest fall migrant on record. The date was not given in last year's mention of the bird.

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

1986-1987 Executive

President - Bob Dickie
Past President - Bill Caudle
Secretary - Don MacNeill
Treasurer - Sandra Myers
Membership Secretary - Joyce Purchase
Editor - Shirley Cohrs
Executive Member - Carin Somers
Executive Member - Ken Gregoire
Executive Member - Phyllis Bryson
Solicitor - Leonard Kitz
Auditor - Jim Morrow

Membership Fees

Life Membership	\$360.00
Single Membership	12.00
Family Membership	15.00
Institutional Membership	20.00

Note: Outside Canada please add \$1.00

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
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January 1987

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Cover: <i>Virginia Rail</i> by Bob Dickie	

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