

*Nova
Scotia
Birds*



*Special Sanctuary and Scholarship
Trust Fund Issue April 1988*

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THE SANCTUARY & SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

In this edition of Nova Scotia Birds, we hope to make our members more familiar with the activities of the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund from the time of its formation up to the present.



1988 Directors of the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund.
Left to right: Peter Payzant, Bob Dickie, Shirley Cohrs
(Chairman), Milton Gregg, Don Purchase, Dave Currie.

LET US BEGIN WITH ITS HISTORY, WRITTEN BY C.R.K. ALLEN FOR THE
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE IN 1980.

 * THE HISTORY *
 * OF THE *
 * SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP *
 * TRUST FUND *

C. R. K. Allen
 (1980)

The birth of the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was not an easy one, but thanks to the gifted midwifery of (the late) Honorary Solicitor "Bob" Kanigsberg, it was accomplished in March, 1969.

The paternity of this infant body was in some doubt, but rumors pointed to a respected charter member of the parent society, (the late) Willett J. Mills, whose close association with its financial affairs gave him both opportunity and inclination.

The facts are, that the Nova Scotia Bird Society, early in its life, became the owner by purchase of Hertford, one of the two Bird Islands in Baie Ste. Anne, Cape Breton, and shortly thereafter acquired by lease, five islands off Harrigan Cove, Halifax County, which supported breeding populations of Leach's Storm Petrels, Common Eiders, Black Guillemots and Double-crested Cormorants.

As a property owner, the Society found itself with certain responsibilities on its hands: the erection of signs, payment of warden's fees and municipal taxes, all of which put a strain on its already slim exchequer.

Except for membership dues, the only source of revenue was donations, and these were few and far between--they could not be claimed as exemptions from income tax, since the Bird Society did not qualify as a charitable organization. The Executive set about rectifying this situation by the establishment of a trust fund whose aims would qualify it for acceptance by the Taxation Division of the Department of Internal Revenue as a charitable institution.

There followed rather a lengthy correspondence between our Honorary Solicitor and the bureaucrats in Ottawa, but the affair was finally resolved, and the Society's application accepted.

What might be called the birth certificate of the infant Trust Fund, was the resolution passed at a meeting of the parent Bird Society, held March 28, 1969, the substance of which reads as follows:

"Whereas the Nova Scotia Bird Society...is desirous of creating a Trust Fund for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining sanctuaries; to provide scholarship assistance to students in the field of Ornithology; to support research on birds and their environment on a nonprofit basis,

"And Whereas it is desirable to create such a Trust, independent of the normal objects of the Nova Scotia Bird Society,

"Be It Resolved as follows:

- (a) That the (N.S.B.S.) hereby creates an independent Trust Fund to be known as the Nova Scotia Sanctuary Trust,
- (b) That (this) be managed by an independent group of persons selected by the Executors...for five years and to consist of at least three persons with powers to add."

The trustees appointed at this meeting were C. R. K. Allen (Chairman), Willet J. Mills (Treasurer) and Dr. L. B. Macpherson.

The newly appointed Trust--which somehow added the word "Sanctuary to its full title--did not have long to wait for its first assignment. The Henrys, David and Marie, of Upper Wedgeport, had been carrying out , for a number of years, a banding program on a group of small islands in the lower Tusket River estuary. These are called locally the Bald Tusket Islands, and they supported breeding colonies of common, Arctic and Roseate Terns, plus large numbers of Leach's Storm Petrels and a fair population of Black Guillemots.

This little archipelago was one of the last strongholds in Nova Scotia for breeding seabirds and the Henrys recommended that the Trustees consider acquiring the group while there was still time. The recommendation was acted upon at once and in May, 1971, the deeds were signed and Mossy Bald, Middle Bald and Little Half Bald Islands became the property of the Trust.

This transaction was scarcely completed when word came that a fourth island in the group might soon be available. This was Outer Bald Island and as its name implies, was the most seaward of the cluster. It had the distinction of boasting the only house on the islands, and also the doubtful distinction of having won the unfavorable notice of an Iron Curtain newspaper.

Outer Bald had been bought some years previously by an American sportsman, Russel Arundel, during the heyday of tuna-fishing in southwestern Nova Scotia waters--where Soldier's Rip was labelled the "Greatest Fishing Hole in the World". A house solidly built of beach stones was erected on the island, and served as a haven for anglers whose stomachs were not able to cope with the pitch and toss of the Rip when wind bucked the tide.

Once in possession of the island, Arundel and his friends, tongues in cheeks, announced to the world the creation of an independent state to be known as the Principality of Outer Baldonia. They appointed civil and military officials, drew up a code of laws and even produced their own money and postage stamps--choice collectors' items today.

Word of this startling development on the international scene spread far and quickly, reaching even behind the Iron Curtain, where it was pounced upon by Soviet newspapers who issued a scathing denouncement of this latest evidence of capitalist imperialism. Nothing daunted, Outer Baldonia severed diplomatic relations with the U.S.S.R. No more was heard of the affair and one can presume that the Soviet newspapers lapsed into red-faced silence.

A few years later the bluefin tuna moved to other waters, followed by the anglers. Outer Bald was left to its birds and resident flock of sheep; the roof of the angler's refuge collapsed but the walls still remain standing, sound as the day they were built.

In 1971, Mr. Arundel, having no further use for the island, began negotiations which resulted in its being conveyed to the Nature Conservancy of the U.S.A. "subject to the conditions that the rookeries of Forster's Tern (sic) on said island shall be forever kept as a sanctuary for said terns and shall not in any way be disturbed. Said sanctuary to be known as a memorial to Earle E. Arundel, brother to Russel Arundel".

Since Outer Bald was in Canadian waters, the U.S. Conservancy asked its Canadian counterpart to take over ownership and management and to delegate this to some appropriate body. Thus, in 1974, Outer Bald was deeded to the Nova Scotia Bird Society, who immediately passed it over to the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust.

The trustees then found themselves responsible for a considerable parcel of island real estate; Hertford in Ste. Anne's Baie, the five Eastern Shore Bird Islands, and now, four Tusket Islands. Intermittent attempts were made during the next year or two to add Ciboux, sister island of Hertford, to the collection, but its owners clung to it like limpets despite all efforts to dislodge them. Recently, however, the provincial government has acquired Ciboux as part of its program of setting up wildlife study areas, thus assuring the continued safety of its seabird colonies.

In 1977, the holdings of the Trust were substantially reduced--the Department of Lands and Forests began a program in which it set aside certain coastal islands for wildlife management. It asked the Trust to relinquish its lease on the Eastern Shore Bird Islands, so that they might be included in this program, which was accordingly done.

Meanwhile, the coffers of the Fund had been filling slowly, but steadily; the financial statement for 1977 showed a balance of \$5,999.99; in 1978, donations including early contributions in memory of Marie Henry, brought this up to \$7,947.39. In the past year (1980) the balance has more than doubled, now standing at \$19,246.78. This large increase is for the most part due to two donations: one made by John and Shirley Cohrs as a preliminary gift from the estate of their son Chris, who was one of our most enthusiastic and knowledgeable birders; and the other from our solicitor "Bob" Kanigsberg, given in memory of his wife Margo, which is for the purpose of promoting interest in bird study among young people.

It need hardly be said that this increase in assets means a broadening in the Trust's potential activities and an added responsibility to see that such funds do not lie idle, but are wisely used.

The time for action is all too short.

In the last eight years the Fund's activities have been broadened as C. R. K. Allen hoped. To Hertford Island and the Tusket Group we have added land at Port Joli (donated by Charles Kelsey), Peter's Island in Digby County and Indian Island in Lunenburg County, to our portfolio of properties. We have also initiated the Raptor Rehabilitation Programme, assisted in the study of Osprey and the monitoring of the Piping Plover and donated funds to the Maritime Atlas Project. For six years the Youth Field Trip has been a great success and plans are afoot to extend this in 1988.

LET US CONSIDER SOME ASPECTS OF THE FUND IN MORE DETAIL:

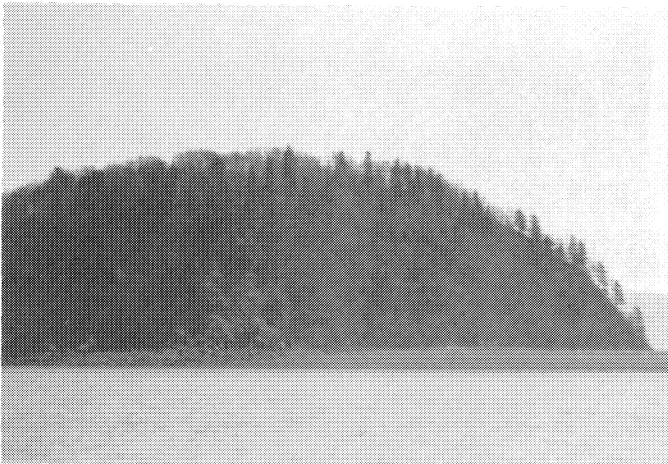
Our Properties.

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*                                     *
*   SPENCER'S ISLAND                 *
*                                     *
*****
  
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Shirley Cohrs

In 1986, this property was leased to the Nova Scotia Bird Society for ten years by the Scott Paper Company for protection of the seabird colony there. The island is twenty acres in size and is located in the Minas Channel rear the Village of Spenser's Island, Cumberland County. The Environmental Protection in Cumberland South group, known as "EPCIS", censused the island and found that of the ten islands in the upper Bay of Fundy which had nesting seabirds, Spenser's has the richest diversity. Census data collected over a seven year period, included nesting Great Blue Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, Black Guillemot, Common Eider and Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls. A number of passerines nest there as well.



Spenser's Island - Photo - Ward Hemeon

 * THE KELSEY PROPERTY *
 * AT *
 * PORT JOLI *
 * *****

David Young

The former Charles Kelsey property on the St. Catherine's River Road, Queen's County, is situated quite close, but not contiguous to the new Cadden Beach preserve. This property has been owned by the Nova Scotia Bird Society for several years but has not been actively managed or improved in any way. Acreage is reported to be about 290 and the property is generally rectangular with approximately one km bordering the road and extending one and one half km deep.

Upon visiting the property this summer, I discovered it to be covered with an extremely dense vegetative cover, consisting of the typical seaside species of spruce, a few hardwoods and low growing "pucker brush". This cover and the complete lack of woods roads or trails makes the property almost inaccessible. There is a short property border trail along the southern edge which I used to get to the southern part of the property. There seem to be many low, rocky knolls and one large bog with a small stillwater and a few scattered tamarack trees.

Now to the important part--the birds! This parcel is the ideal home for the typical south shore summer species: Black-throated Green, Magnolia, Parula, Yellow, Yellowthroat, Palm, Yellow-rumped, Redstart, and a few Tennessee and Chestnut-sided Warblers. Also present were many Juncos, Song Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, Robins, Blue Jays, Gray Jays, Crows and both Chickadees. I would expect, but did not see, an occasional Raven, Alder Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruffed Grouse, Great-horned Owl, Tree Swallow and maybe even Rusty Blackbird and Lincoln Sparrow around the rather sizable bog.



Kelsey Property, Port Joli
 (Photo--David Young)

A breeding bird survey I did near Jordan Falls, in similar habitat but with some additional water present, turned up about 60 possible breeders, so I would expect 40-50 breeding species on this property. I would suggest that this area would be an interesting demonstration area of a typical south shore habitat with the creation of a nicely laid out trail wandering throughout the property.



Kelsey Property, Port Joli
Photo--David Young

 *
 * KEMPTVILLE *
 * PROPERTY *
 *

John F. Kearney

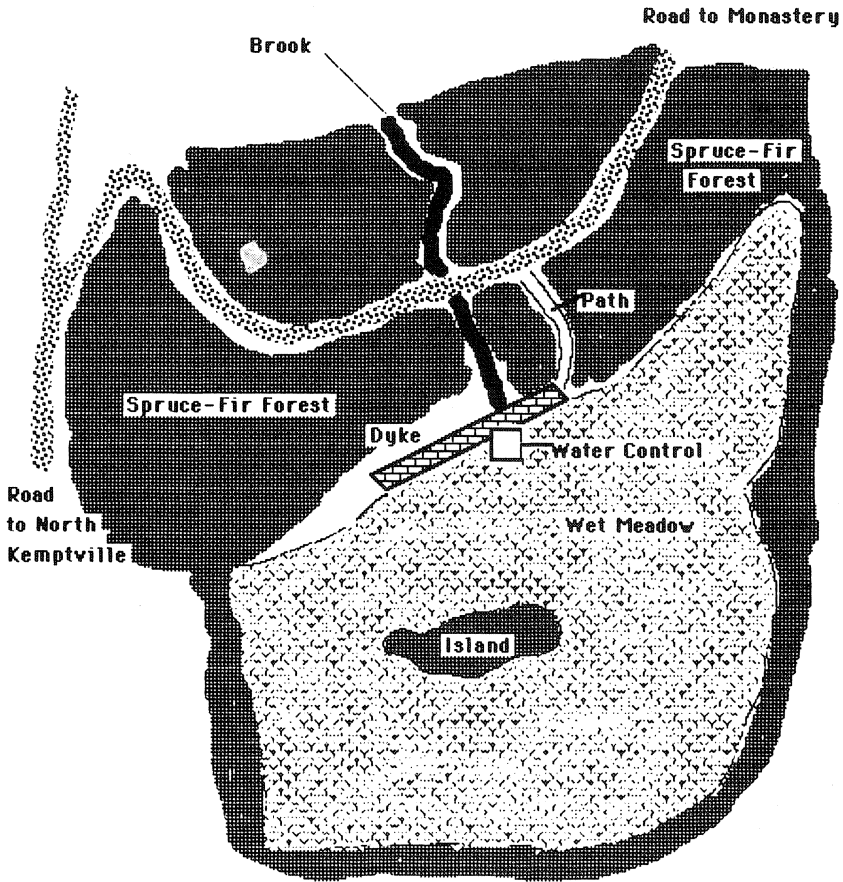
The North Kemptville property of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was visited during the afternoon of February 28, 1988. The property is located approximately 8 kilometres from the end of the paved road in North Kemptville and about 3 kilometres before the entrance to the Nova Nada Monastery. The road to the site is probably impassable to all but four-wheel drive vehicles during the spring breakup. The property is deep in the interior of the province and thus quite isolated. There is only one dwelling between the end of the paved road and the monastery.

The section of the site immediately adjacent to the road is surrounded by a fairly mature stand of spruce and fir (see map). Close to where a brook passes beneath the road, there is a path going in a southerly direction and leading to an open, wet meadow. The path is blocked off by an old and rusted cable. At the edge of the meadow is a dyke with a structure to control the level of water in the meadow. Water falls through the structure to the brook below and behind the dyke. The meadow was probably a bog, but it is now quite flooded, perhaps covered in many places by a couple of feet of water but with much emergent vegetation. It is difficult to determine at this time year the effectiveness of the dyke and water control structure in maintaining water levels and what that level must be.

No wildlife was observed during the visit. However, I was in this area on a regular basis during three months in 1974, and on several occasions since that time. From this experience, I know that the area is exceptional in terms of the number of Pileated Woodpeckers frequenting it. There is a higher abundance than normal of all species of woodpeckers due to the relative isolation and the large quantity of tall, dead trees. The area is also particularly productive for Barred, Great Horned and Saw-whet Owls, and for Spruce Grouse. However, despite the isolation, there has been increasing human disturbance of this area over the past 15 years. Residential subdivisions and a country club are now located in nearby Kemptville, and there is an increasing human presence due to all-terrain vehicles.

It is recommended that another survey of this property be conducted during the summer in order to determine the effectiveness of the water control structure and the potential of the site as a breeding area for forest birds and waterfowl.

Rough Map of North Kemptville Property



 * THE TUSKET GROUP *

Ted C. D'Eon

The BALD TUSKET ISLANDS consist of five, relatively small islands, four of which are owned by the Nova Scotia Bird Society, and located at the western edge of Lobster Bay, Yarmouth County, in southwestern Nova Scotia.

They are the most distant of the near Tusket Islands, a group of 25 to 30 islands and ledges. The wellknown Seal Island group of five islands, sometimes referred to as the "Mud Islands", are located another 10 to 20 km south and also considered part of the Tusket Island chain, but these are rarely included when the locals refer to the "Tusket Islands".

The BALD TUSKETS, presumably named because they were treeless or half so at the time, are now all "bald". All of the vegetation is low-growing and consists of grasses and wild flowers, raspberry and blackberry bushes, and many other types of non-woody flora.

The tidal currents around these islands are hard to imagine. At 7 to 8 knots, when the tide is running, it can be like a raging river, even out there, 10 km from the mainland. Needless to say, for me in my 19 foot outboard motor boat, I had to choose windless days with calm seas for the 17 km trip from West Pubnico to visit these islands.

My first visit was on May 25, 1987. I anchored my boat, Blue Heron, about 50 m east of the middle of the OUTER BALD, where the current goes into a slow circular pool when the tide is ebbing, and rowed to the steep sandy beach, underlying an even steeper bank of rounded beachrocks. My first urge was to check out the northern bank of this island for a petrel colony. On the way there I found several Great Black-backed Gull nests with eggs, as well as dozens of Savannah Sparrows singing, and a Song Sparrow or two in and about the beached-up and broken lobster traps on the northern beach.

All along the grassed-over part of the northern bank, which stretches for about 30 m, there were what appeared to me to be petrel burrows; some were shallow holes 10 to 15 cm; some, I could touch the end at arm's length, some, I couldn't, and most were too small for me to get my hand through the entrance. No evidence of birdlife could be detected in any of the burrows. I assumed that the ones I had reached into were unfinished, but that the colony was active since some of the burrows showed recently dug out material at their entrances. I would check these out again on a future visit.

Standing above the middle of this northern bank is a sign which reads:

EARLE E. ARUNDEL
 BREEDING BIRD SANCTUARY
 CONVEYED TO
 THE NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
 BY NATURE CONSERVENCY OF CANADA
 HUNTING PERMITTED IN SEASON

Then, when I looked back over the bank, a Raven seemed to be flying away from the stone house.

Here, I must mention what I've been told of the stone house on the OUTER BALD. During the 1930's, it seems that this island was owned by an eccentric American, by the name of Arundel, who made it his kingdom and called it the "PRINCIPALITY OF OUTERBALDONIA", and appointed himself prince. He had this house, ARUNDEL CASTLE, built and a constitution drawn up; one of the clauses excluded women from the island. The American government became interested in the island at this time. The whole thing was a farce, but it still made the world news. Anyway, the masonry still looks sound, although a lot of the wood is pretty well rotted away. One of the masons who worked on it was my grandfather.

There were several Magnolia Warblers and one Palm Warbler near the house as I approached it. Inside, in the northeast corner, above the ceiling joists, was a Raven's nest with only one young; lots of clutter from scavenged food, mainly sheep bones and wool, littered the floor underneath. I also found some Bank Swallows nesting along the western edge of this island.

All in all, there must have been 50 Black-backed Gull's nests, one or two Herring Gull's nests, the remains of a Common Eider's nest, some Bank Swallow's and some Savannah Sparrow's nests.

My second visit to OUTER BALD was on June 22, 1987, with Ken and Doris Peters and Delisle d'Entremont. On landing, Delisle spotted a White-winged Crossbill taking off from the beach. We were later able to approach it to within 1 metre. It was an adult male with a substandard crossed bill; it wasn't quite straight, but it didn't actually cross. The bird seemed to be content as it was feeding on the beach vegetation.

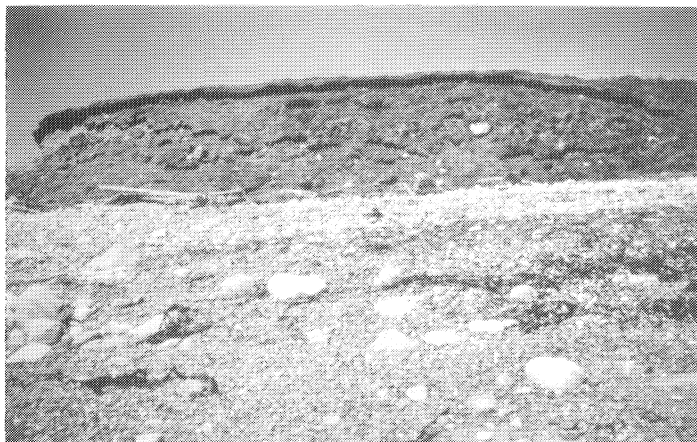
Ken, Doris and I headed for the petrel nesting area, anticipating conclusive nesting evidence. The results were disappointing. The same holes were in the bank; the only change was that the vegetation was taller, with no signs of petrel activity. I returned to this island again on July 20, 1987, with Raymond d'Entremont and my son, Nigel. Again, we found no petrel activity.

The second of the BALD TUSKETS I visited that year was MIDDLE BALD ISLAND. This was on May 25, 1987. This island lies 1 km north of the OUTER BALD and has about half the land mass of the latter. Black Guillemots were flying in the area and probably nest here. One Common Eider's nest with three eggs was located above the northern bank. Other birds which probably nest here include Savannah Sparrows which were quite plentiful, Song Sparrows, and Bank Swallows. Of course Black-backed Gull's nests were plentiful. There is an abandoned sheep coral at the northwestern corner of this island.

On May 27, 1987, I landed on the eastern side of the MOSSY BALD ISLAND. This one is much smaller than the preceding two and lies about another kilometre north of MIDDLE BALD.

My first observation was the number of the Black Guillemots on the island and in the water adjacent to it; some were on the rocks and some even in the overhanging turf edging the top part of the island. The turf layer almost all around this island is riddled with interconnecting holes and galleries. On my later visit to this island, on June 22, 1987, with Ken and Doris Peters and Delisle d'Entremont, we actually saw a number of adult guillemots flying out of these holes, and bird tracks in the loose earth at their entrances. In one of these burrows, I thought I could hear some sounds; I reached in and got what looked like a fresh squirt of bird excrement on my hand, but could not locate any resident. Part of a

guillemot eggshell was also found nearby, and before we left, some adult guillemots with fish in bill were waiting for our departure.



MOSSY BALD ISLAND
(photo - Ted C. D'Eon)

Here, the Black-backed Gull was the primary nester by far. Savannah and Song Sparrows were seen here and probably nesting. Some Bank Swallows flew by and some terns were fishing $\frac{1}{2}$ km to the south; there was no sign of these nesting on the island. One Double-crested Cormorant displayed something like a broken wing type of diversion tactic as it flew away from the island when it saw me. Perhaps it had a broken wing. There were no signs of cormorants nesting here and I can't recall ever seeing cormorants acting like this before.

The third island I visited on May 27, 1987 was the HALF BALD ISLAND, a kilometre southwest of the LITTLE HALF BALD. This one is the largest of the group, slightly larger than the OUTER BALD and the one not owned by the Bird Society. It's owner, Mr. LeBlanc, keeps a flock of sheep here all year round and they keep most of the vegetation clipped very short, affording only limited suitable nesting sites. There were few birds of any kind here. Even the Black-backed Gull population was very low. I am convinced that the bird situation on this island was mainly due to the sheep. An Arctic Tern flew overhead but no tern nests were found.

The two larger Bird Society islands had sheep on them up until a few years ago. These islands have not yet recovered from their impact.

I was disappointed with the petrel colony there once was on OUTER BALD and also the disappearance of the once large tern colony on one of the smaller of these islands. These do not seem to be active anymore.

Black-backed Gull's nest
LITTLE HALF BALD ISLAND



 *
 * HERTFORD ISLAND *
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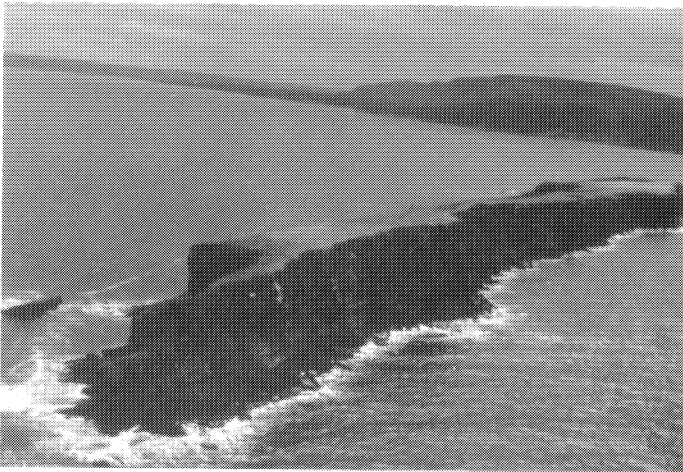
Bob Dickie

Between the entrance of Great Bras d'Or and St. Ann's Bay, Cape Breton, stretching to the northeast, about three miles from Cape Dauphin, are two rocky islands known as "The Bird Islands". Their names are Hertford and Ciboux. The innermost of these (Hertford) became the property of the Nova Scotia Bird Society on April 8, 1958 (nine years before the formation of the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund in March, 1967).

Hertford was originally granted to the General Mining Association in 1833 and sold by them to John MacLean in 1876. It was subsequently sold by Victoria County in 1935 (tax sale?) to Lawrence Wilson. In 1943 it was deeded to Arthur Allen, then to Der Val Goldthwaite in the same year. It was eventually purchased by the Bird Society fifteen years later for the princely sum of \$160.00.

For a modest fee, charter boats will take you for a trip around these islands. They present cliff faces to the observer, against which the ocean pounds incessantly. This seemingly hostile environment is the nesting place of many species of sea birds: Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill, Black Guillemot, Thin and Thick-billed Murres, Black-legged Kittiwake, Great Cormorant, Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull.

With your help it will remain their sanctuary forever.

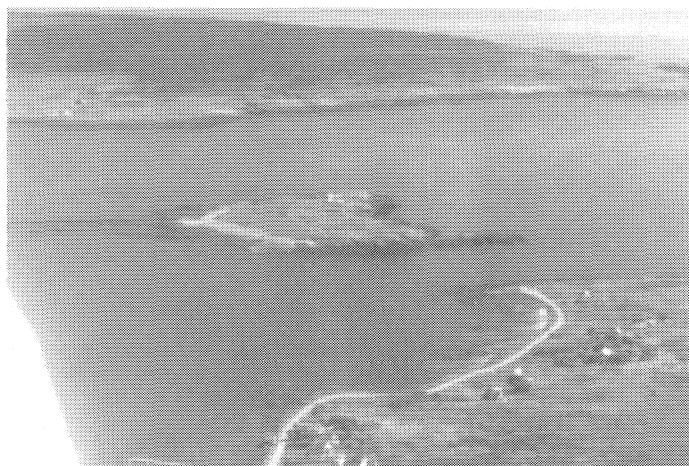


Hertford Island from the air
 Photo - Ken Gregoire

 *
 * PETER'S ISLAND *
 *

Richard B. Stern

Peter's Island, one of the properties now owned by the Nova Scotia Bird Society, lies immediately to the southeast of the village of Westport on Brier Island, and is separated from the latter by only a few yards of swirling water where the southbound currents through Grand Passage meet the northbound currents heading into St. Mary's Bay. It is approximately oval in shape, measuring roughly 600 metres by 400 metres and consists of columns of basalt rising from the water to a grassy plateau in the centre and is crowned by a lighthouse which is one of the most audibly (when there is fog) and visibly (when there is not fog) prominent features in the vicinity of Westport. The first lighthouse was built in 1850, and for many years there was a lighthouse keeper, but more recently the light has been fully automated. Transport Canada still maintains helicopter landing rights and occasionally visit to maintain the automatic light. The island was inhabited until some twenty years ago and indeed there was a lobster processing plant until about thirty years ago.



PETER'S ISLAND from the air
 (photo by Richard Stern)

The terns, which are of course the main avian feature of the island, first started appearing about fifteen years ago and now appear to be thriving. A detailed study of the foraging and breeding performance of the Arctic and Common Terns of Peter's Island was performed during the summer of 1982 by Ian Kirkham, then of the Department of Biology of Dalhousie University and a summary of his survey was published in the January 1983 edition of Nova Scotia Birds, Volume 25, Number 1. At that time the total population of terns was estimated at about 500 pairs of which about 200 were Arctic and 300 were Common. Occasional Roseate Terns were also seen and heard and on July 14, 1982, one adult and chick were

found. I was lucky enough to be able to visit the island again in the summer of 1987 and again the tern colony appeared to be thriving. In the middle of the breeding season I estimated approximately 2000 terns of which approximately half were Arctic and half Common but I did not see any Roseate. There were nests, some with eggs, some with chicks and chicks that had wandered away from the nests all over the island but for both lack of time and fear of disturbance, I did not attempt to carry out any kind of population study or formal survey.



Arctic Tern colony on Peter's Island

(Photo - Richard Stern)

Usually the Terns appear on or around May 10, and initially a flock of some 300-400 birds appear and the numbers will then build up over the next week or so. The Arctics usually precede the Common. The arrival of the terns is usually greeted happily by the Westporters who generally regard it as a sign that summer is on the way and who call the birds "Mackerel Gulls".

In addition to the terns I have been able to observe evidence of breeding Great Cormorants (1 - 2 pairs on some flat rocks at the northern tip of the island) as well as Spotted Sandpipers. There are usually large numbers of Herring Gulls that hang around the rocks at the edge of the island, presumably preying on tern chicks, but I have seen no evidence of breeding of Herring Gulls. There is, of course, an enormous Herring and Black-backed Gull breeding colony on Brier Island only a couple of miles away and it is quite likely that these gulls are a source of predation of the terns. During the summer of 1983, I saw a pair of full breeding plumaged Laughing Gulls sitting together on the rocks in among the terns but I could find no evidence of breeding and unfortunately I have seen none since. During the winter months flocks of Eider, Oldsquaw, Scoter and Black Guillemot, etc., are often to be seen on and around the edge of the island. Overall, therefore, Peter's Island is a small but highly important acquisition of the Bird Society and long may terns continue to nest there!

 *
 * INDIAN ISLAND *
 *

Shirley Cohrs

On a clear sunny morning in mid July, a small group of birders set off in the Christabelito, a thirty foot Cape Islander, captained by Peter Bell of Petite Riviere, Lunenburg County, to investigate Indian Island, a twenty acre, uninhabited, inaccessible and reputedly haunted isle, situated off the entrance to Green Bay, Lunenburg County. Also aboard was Captain Douglas Bell, Peter's father.

It is notoriously difficult to land on the island due to treacherous winds and currents and the absence of any natural harbour or beach, which is the (probable) reason that it has become a breeding ground of the Double-crested Cormorant. It was to find out what, if any, other species might be established there that this expedition was mounted.

The intention had been merely to circumnavigate the island with binoculars and telescopes at the ready, but we were lucky enough to have optimum landing conditions--and land we did, with Peter ferrying us ashore two by two in his rowboat. It was still tricky--"landing" entailed scrambling from the boat to a seaweed covered rock ledge.



South Point, beach-land interface
 (Great Black-backed Gull chick hiding somewhere in foreground)
 Indian Island, Summer 1987 (Photo-Fred Dobson)

Once ashore, there was no doubt that this was a thriving cormorant colony. The noise was considerable, the footing in the guano slippery and the smell interesting. Most of the young cormorants had fledged and were arranged with the adults in the tops of the moribund spruce trees. A few young remained on the nests which varied considerable in size. Some were apparently fairly new, while others had been added to in layers over the years, but all were built of small twigs with large pale ribbons of kelp well woven in. The erring and Black-backed Gull nests, mere grassy platforms on the bbbles, were by now deserted, but there were so many young

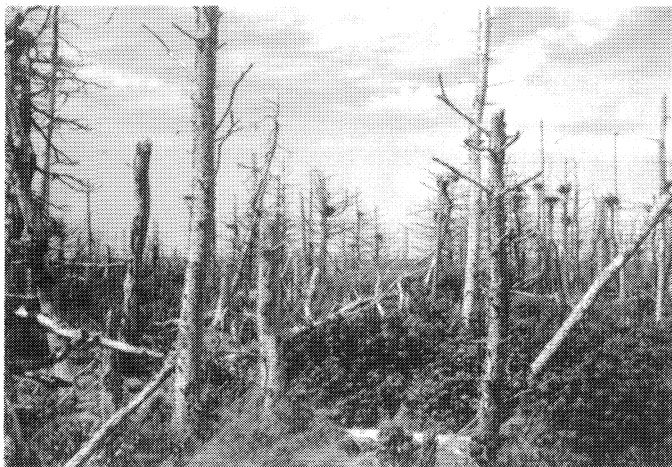


Swamp and grasses, west shore looking inland
Indian Island, Summer, 1987
(Photo--Fred Dobson)



North Point, looking east to Cape LaHave
Indian Island, Summer, 1987 (Photo--Fred Dobson)

flightless gulls (varying in size from a few inches to a foot or so) lying around in the hummocks, that it was difficult to avoid treading on them. They were easily ('tho somewhat hazardously) picked up and on being released, staggered off, their balance impaired by their huge bills and feet.



Panorama of trees and nests, South Point (west)
Indian Island--Summer 1987 (Photo-Fred Dobson)

At the S.W. end of the island we found a small heronry of Great Blues and several petrel burrows were around. These latter were so deep and dirty that no one offered a long arm, but a freshly dead petrel wing with the characteristic petrel smell was picked up. Several dozen Black Guillemots in breeding plumage fled from the shores, feet gleaming blood red in the sunshine, and families of Common Eider swam among the weedy inshore rocks.

Spotted Sandpipers, Black-capped Chickadee, Song Sparrow and an early-returning Sanderling completed our list as we stepped gingerly about, knee deep in a lush green weed reminiscent of the flora at the Dartmouth Piggery. Peter rowed us all safely back to the boat for a return trip to Bush Island. Enroute, Captain Bell told us stories of the early settlers hereabouts and detours were made to view McLeod's Harbour and Queen's Beach, both on the now uninhabited Cape LaHave Island. As we listened to his accounts, it took little imagination to be back with those brave early souls who lived out their lives on these inhospitable but beautiful shores. It was a trip of ornithological interest and historical reminiscence.

Mid July is not the only time Indian Island has been surveyed. Ken Gregoire often flies over the island in winter and reports on its value as a haven for hundreds of wildfowl. Apparently thirty-five Great Cormorants, twenty Black Guillemots and fifty Oldsquaw are usually present with Common Eider numbers fluctuating from 250 to up to 400. The birds are seen in water adjacent to the island in fine weather and pull out to rest, shelter and oil their feathers during winter storms. So it seems that this small island is particularly valuable, used by the birds both in breeding season and during the cold winter storms.

Raptor Rehabilitation Programme

Shirley Cohrs

Through various articles and photographs published in Nova Scotia Birds over the last few years, readers are possibly more familiar with the Raptor Rehabilitation Programme than with the phases of the other Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund. With the co-operation of all veterinary surgeons in the province and all detachments of the Department of Lands and Forests, injured raptors are quickly dispatched (at our expense) to any one of the seven participating veterinarians who undertake to treat these birds, charging us only for their expenses. (We pay for drugs, supplies, etc.--and some veterinarians do not even charge us for these!) The birds are then sent to rehabilitation centres where they are nursed and cared for until they are capable of being set free in the wild. These custodians donate their time and efforts, charging us (sometimes!) only for their expenses. We donate funds for the erection of flight cages and other necessary equipment. This programme won a Provincial Environmental Award for the Bird Society in 1983.

This year, Mike and Elaine Kew, who run the Mason's Point Rehabilitation Centre were named co-recipients of the annual Puffin of the Year Award. In 1986, the award was won jointly by Doctors Jack Cameron and Ian MacKay, our two veterinarian members who were in the scheme from the start.



Elaine Kew at Mason's Point
with the 1987-88 Puffin of
the Year Award (shared with her
husband Michael)

Youth Field Trip

The Youth Field Trip has been successfully run for six years--the Honours Biology class from Halifax West High School are bussed to Crescent Beach, Lunenburg County, and met there by five of our members, armed with telescopes and spare binoculars. Divided into small groups, the young people are introduced to shorebirds, various seaducks, gulls and some passerines. A lunch is provided before the trip home.

A week before the trip, two members visit the classroom and give a slide presentation on shorebirds and a lecture on the use of field guides and binoculars. The weather has always been kind and the students keenly interested.

Other Projects

The foregoing are our major projects. We have had, however, other irons in the fire. The Fund has provided money to enable Erick Greene to study the Osprey and to enable Roland Chiasson and Stephen Fleming to study and census Piping Plovers.

In February of this year, we sponsored the attendance of veterinarian Dr. Cameron at a course on the Care and Handling of Injured Wild Birds at the University of Guelph.

At the moment we are working on signage for some of our more prominent properties. We feel that to attract donations and bequests we must make our members and the public aware of what we are about. The first sign is finished and will be at Green Bay overlooking Indian Island this spring.

WE HOPE THE FOREGOING HAS BROUGHT THE WORK OF THE
SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND
INTO FOCUS AND GIVEN READERS SOME IDEA OF OUR PAST AND PRESENT
AND
OUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE
WE DO NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO CONTINUE THE WORK

Included in this issue of Nova Scotia Birds, you will find a donation envelope. PLEASE CONSIDER USING IT. All donations are income tax deductible and receipts will be sent.

Please.....

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Birds.....

April 1988

November was cold and stormy. In fact, it was the third coldest November since record keeping began. The snowfall in that month set a new record high at several places in the province. Much of Nova Scotia received above normal amounts of snow in December too, with several large storms hitting the province. January was not as stormy as the two previous months but was very cold. So, it has been a rough winter.

Ninety-five birders sent in a total of 843 reports (this is the lowest number of reports we have received in many years) but the number of reporters is average for this season and the number of species is actually up a bit, at 158. These include seven rarities not listed on our check list.

The most frequently reported species was the American Robin, followed closely by Purple Finch and Evening Grosbeak. Robins were reported by more than 25% of our reporters.

Once again we are indebted to Keith Keddy for our weather information and to each of the following for the bird reports.

Bob Dickie
Records Editor

Reporters, April 1988

Charlie Allen (CRKA), Mike Almon (MA), Daryl Amirault (DA), Dan Banks (DBB), Armand Bedard (AB), Tony Bidwell (RGGB), Paul Cable (PC), Stuart Cassey (SC), John Cohrs (JLC), Shirley Cohrs (JSC), G. Crowell (GC), David Currie (DAC), Joan Czapalay (JC), Ruth Dauphinee (RD), Les Dennis (LD), Albert D'Entremont (AD), Delisle D'Entremont (DJD), Gary D'Entremont (GD), Lisette D'Entremont (LTD), Peter D'Entremont (PD), Raymond D'Entremont (RSD), Richard D'Entremont (RD), Seige D'Entremont (SD), Jerome D'Eon (JKD), Lance D'Eon (LAD), Lester D'Eon (LD), Milton D'Eon (MD), Ted D'Eon (TCD), Con Desplanque (CD), Helen Dickie (HD), Bob Dickie (RBD), David Diller (DED), Benjamin Doane (BD), Phyllis Dobson (PRD), Margaret Ellis (MEE), Steve Feldstein (SF), Bernard Forsythe (BLF), Sylvia Fullerton (SJF), Mac Goodwin (MG), Minola Goodwin (MIG), Helen Hall (HJH), Herbert Hall (HGH), Phyllis Hemeon (PH), Ward Hemeon (WH), Joan Jarvis (JWJ), Goldie Jenkins (GJ), Don Keith (DEK), Joan Keith (JJK), Lara Keith (LDK), Fulton Lavender (FLL), Doug Linzey (DL), Mac Lovett (ML), Viola Lovett (VL), Zoe Lucas (ZL), Brian MacKenzie (BM), Sara MacLean (SM), Peter MacLeod (PM), Don MacNeill (DAM), Jack MacNeill (JM), R. McNicol (RM), Ian McLaren (IAM), Edie MacLeod (EM), Eric Mills (ELM), Bill Morse (WM), Jean Morse (JM), Ethelda Murphy (EM), Chris Naugler (CTN), Linda & Peter Payzant (L&PP), W. Peach (WP), Lillian Perry (LP), Doris Peters (DP), Ken Peters (KP), Lloyd Prosser (LLP), Don Purchase (DP), Joyce Purchase (JP), Bob Robinson (BR), Dorothy Robinson (DR), Barb Ruff (BR), Eric Ruff (ER), Michael Rymer (MR), Rose Rymer (RR), Beverly Sarty (BS), John Schoonhaven (JGS), Francis Spalding (FS), Richard Stern (RBS), Bernice Taylor (BT), Jim Taylor (JWT), Bill Thexton (BT), Brenda Thexton (BRT), Jean Timpa (JT), Gerry Trueman (GMT), G.W. Tufts (GWT), Judy Tufts (JCT), Azor Vienneau (AJV), Jim Wolford (JWW), David Young (DY), Joan Young (JY).

BIRD REPORTS

LOONS AND GREBES

RED-THROATED LOONS were sparsely reported this time, with only four reports of 7 individuals. All were in the Halifax area except for 2 at Pubnico Head on Dec. 15 (RSD).

COMMON LOONS seem to be down as well. All reports were of groups of 6 or fewer birds. Compare this to the reports of groups of 30 to 50 in previous years. BS sends a note on a pair on Sandy Lake, Hfx. Co., which successfully raised two young last year. She saw up to 11 other loons visiting for a couple of hours and then flying off. "First time I've seen so many dropping in."

Two PIED-BILLED GREBES were reported this year, which is about usual: one at the head of Yarmouth Harbour on Dec. 21 (HGH) and another at the mouth of the Ingram River on Jan. 3 (AJV).

Only one concentration of RED-NECKED GREBES was reported: about 200 birds at Herring Cove on Feb. 21 (FLL, MA). JWW was surprised at the low numbers in the Digby area. Other reports were of 10 or fewer birds.

There were only 22 HORNED GREBES, in 8 reports. This is unusually low, compared to previous years in which we saw reports of about 100 birds routinely. Possibly the Christmas Count data will contain more reports.

LPMP, ed.

ALBATROSSES TO CORMORANTS

The pickings are very slim in this section, I'm afraid. Our only NORTHERN FULMARS come from Capt. Hubert Hall on Bluenose. He saw a total of eight birds on Jan. 26, 6-20 miles west of Yarmouth Harbour. On the same day, he also saw at least 100 MANX SHEARWATERS between Yarmouth and the Lurcher Shoal. He believes that the strong westerlies had blown them inshore. Fulton Lavender and Peter MacLeod counted 25 NORTHERN GANNETS going south past Chebucto Head, Dec. 1. The Halls' two GREAT CORMORANTS, at Yarmouth Bar, Cape Forchu, on Jan. 3, are also on the late side. Most of our DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT sightings also come from Yarmouth County: ones and twos at Eel Lake (Dec. 8: PRD and CRKA), Yarmouth Harbour (Dec. 29 HGH), and Tusket Falls (Jan. 12: Carol Jacquard). However, Sara MacLean saw a Double-crested on the Sydneys CBC on Boxing Day, and Shirley Cohrs reports singletons from Purcell's Cove on Jan. 11 and Feb. 7.

RGBB, ed.

HERONS AND ALLIES

As the Christmas Counts will make clear, the usual scattering of GREAT BLUE HERONS hung back in December. One stayed around L.W. Pubnico until at least Feb. 20 (sev. obs.). Another or the same bird was near Yarmouth Bar on Jan. 16, and 2 were at the head of Port Joli Hbr. on Feb. 22 (H&HH).

IAM, ed.

GEESE AND DUCKS

No SNOW GEESE or BRANT were reported this year. They must have been seen by some birders last fall and winter, but they didn't get "put down on paper". The CANADA GOOSE flock at Melbourne Lake in Yar. Co. had reached about 3000 in late Dec., but departed on freeze-up and appeared in groups of up to 900 off Pinkney's Point later (PRD,CRKA). The Cohrs' report a group of 1200-1500 at Bissett Lake on Dec. 12, and other reports throughout the province mention smaller numbers.

The new book by Steve Madge and Hilary Burn titled Wildfowl (and recommended), calls the male WOOD DUCK "one of the most attractive of all ducks, perhaps rivalled only by the closely related Mandarin". A female was resident at Glace Bay in Nov. and Dec. (SM), and a single male was at Spryfield on Dec. 13 (AJV). Another male was at Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth at least until mid-February, and was joined briefly by a female on New Year's Day (CTN).

DBB reports a male AMERICAN WIGEON overwintering in Baddeck, and a banded female was on Sydney Harbour, Feb. 7 (JM). A single bird spent most of the winter on Sullivan's Pond (GWT,JCT).

BLACK DUCKS seem to be in good shape, with about 1000 at Melbourne Lake until early Jan. (PRD,CRKA), hundreds at many other locations and the resident bunch who commute between Sullivan's Pond and Halifax Harbour--about 500 individuals, I should guess. A single NORTHERN PINTAIL was at Whynacht's Cove on Nov. 29 (AJV). Perhaps this is the same loner reported from here last year.

A very late BLUE-WINGED TEAL was at Cherry Hill on Dec. 29 (SJF)

A male REDHEAD showed up at Seaforth on Dec. 31, and was seen (and well described) by CTN,DEK,JJK, AND LOK.

GREATER SCAUP seem to be about as usual this winter, with groups of about 100-200 at Rocky Run (JSC), Pictou Causeway (AJV), and Eel Brook, Yar. Co. (PRD,CRKA). A single report of LESSER SCAUP comes from SM who saw two of them on a Christmas Count, Dec. 26, presumably near Glace Bay.

COMMON EIDER were only reported from one location (Chebucto Head), but doubtless there were many around, as usual. A more interesting adult male KING EIDER was seen at Sandy Cove on Dec. 17 (PM), and may have been the same bird reported as an imm. male on Jan. 1 (PM,FLL,DM).

One to two HARLEQUIN DUCKS were present at the Herring Cove sewer outfall between Dec. 17 and Feb. 7 (many obs.), and delighted those who were fortunate enough to see this increasingly scarce bird. A female was also at Sandy Cove on Dec. 17 (PM). The Canadian Wildlife Service feels that there are less than 1000 Harlequin Ducks in all of eastern North America, and has taken steps to protect this population. It is now illegal to hunt them in the Atlantic Provinces, and some areas where they are known to occur are being considered for designation as wildlife sanctuaries.

OLDSQUAW were present in about the usual numbers: 120 near Digby on Jan. 30 (GWT,JCT), and groups of 10-20 at various locations around the province. GWT and JCT comment that there were "many more than usual" in Kings and Annapolis counties.

Only two reports of BLACK SCOTERS reached us: about 80 at Three Fathom Harbour causeway on Jan. 23 (D&JP), and 26 at Chebucto Head on Feb. 22 (FLL,MA,DL). Although there were six reports of SURF SCOTERS, only one mentioned more than a handful of birds: about 30 at Parker's Cove, Anna. Co., on Feb. 19 (JWT,JCT,PM). WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS seemed to be more common, with seven reports of about 150 birds. GWT and JCT report that they were "all along the coastline of the Fundy Shore" in Kings and Anna. Co., in February.

COMMON GOLDENEYE were reported from many locations as usual, although the numbers were a little down. The only large concentrations were of about 100 birds each in the Sydney River on Jan. 31 (Jack MacNeil) and at the Pictou Causeway on Feb. 6 (AJV). Other reports were of 60 or fewer birds. Eric Ruff noted "courtship behaviour" in a flock of 60 at Pinkney's Point on Feb. 11.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE showed up in their usual small numbers, and at the usual locations. There were 2 males and a female at the Annapolis Power Dam on Jan. 22 (GWT,JCT), an unusual 5 males and 4 females at Pugwash Harbour on Jan. 30 (JWT), 2 males at the Pictou Causeway on Feb. 6 (AJV), and the reliable few in Bedford Basin--2 females and an immature at the Mill Cove Sewage Treatment Plant on Feb. 13 (FLL,SF).

BUFFLEHEADS were reported in usual numbers from their traditional locations. This means a total of ten reports of groups mostly in the 20-30 count range.

HOODED MERGANSERS are usually scarce in Nova Scotia in winter, so it isn't surprising that we have only three reports. AJV caught a migrating group at Whynacht's Cove on Nov. 29, when he saw 2 males and 12 females/immatures, and two observers reported a lone male in Bedford Basin, as last year.

COMMON MERGANSERS seem to be somewhat lower in numbers than in previous years, although there are as many reports as ever. The largest groups were 100 at the Pictou Causeway on Feb. 6 (AJV), followed by three reports of about 20 birds each at Economy (Jan. 19, FS), Sydney River (Feb. 7, JM), and Sheet Harbour (Feb. 20, FLL, MA).

RED-BREADED MERGANSERS were fairly evenly distributed, with groups of 15 or less being reported from several locations. The exception was the 75 individuals at Digby on Jan. 22 (JCT,GWT).

LPMP,ed.



DIURNAL RAPTORS

We have the usual fragmentary reports of BALD EAGLES, with fair coverage of the upper Valley, Yar. Co., and Hfx. Co. The total of 23 ad. and 26 imm. estimated on the Wolfville Christmas Count was eclipsed by a count on Feb. 21 of 32 ad. and 19 imm., by 6 parties covering the area encompassed by White Rock, Sheffield Mills, Kingsport and Avonport (fide JWW). A good count of the Shubenacadie eagles was of 7 ad. and 13 imm. on Jan. 17 (D&JP). There were at least 2 ad. and 2 imm. around Tusket-Pubnico (sev. obs.), and the usual 2 adults hung around St. Margaret's Bay (AJV). Two or 3 birds reported from C.B. were no contest, although there is a report (J. McNicol) of 2 back at the nest at Malagawatch in late Feb.

Immature or female N.HARRIERS are, in my experience, less frequent than males in winter, but we have several this year. The sightings of harriers around Yarmouth may add up to 1 m. and 1 f., the latter until at least Feb. 18 (PRD,CRKA). Possibly the f. at Pubnico Pt. throughout winter (RSD) was different, and 2 f. and 1 m. on Cape Sable Is. on Jan. 1 (JKD et al.) certainly were. A f. on Jan. 1 at Hartlen's Pt. (CTN et al.) was the latest from farther north.

About 18 different SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS were reported, at least 9 of them at feeders. A rather grim account was submitted by George Alliston (per JWW) of a sharpie repeatedly attacking a Blue Jay and finally commencing its meal while the jay was still alive. Rather tough fare, I guess. Allowing for repeats, there were 5-6 N. GOSHAWKS out and about.

Reports of late BROAD-WINGED HAWKS are perhaps no longer surprising. Three imm. birds were seen in Halifax on Dec. 8, at Cow Bay on Dec. 9, and on McNabs Is., Halifax Hbr., on Jan. 16, all by FLL, who thinks they could have been the same individual. The record of 140 RED-TAILED HAWKS on the Wolfville C.B.C. was not matched by later reports, although the Tufts report that 10-25 could be seen on any day around the area in Jan.-Feb. They were reported seen in ones and twos from 9 other places, including Big Pond, C.B. (JM). ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were in good numbers, especially near the border, where there were 15+ at Minudie on Jan. 31 (sev. obs.) and around Wolfville, where there were at least 5. Elsewhere there were 13 in 9 localities. When reported, dark birds outnumbered light ones by ca. 3:1.

Surely the bird of the year was the EURASIAN KESTREL wintering in the border region. This was the second record for Canada (the 1st was in B.C.), with only 9 others for N. America (1 in Mass., 1 in N.J., the rest in Alaska); well worth hot pursuit from points afar! It was a female-plumaged bird, quite wary, and generally had to be scrutinized from afar by telescope. The bird was discovered, in the sense that America was discovered, by Stuart Tingley, at Ft. Beausejour, N.B., on Jan. 18, whence it disappeared shortly after. Enquiries indicated that others had been seeing a large kestrel in the area on and after the Sackville C.B.C. Eric Mills, who could not find it in N.B. on Jan. 23, cleverly searched the Minudie Commons, about 5 km across Cumberland Basin, and thus established a N.S. record, picked up by many of us. It spent most of its time until at least Feb. 18, around Minudie, but was also seen at Amherst Pt and Ft. Beausejour.

We'll never look too casually at AMERICAN KESTRELS again, but 5 were seen in 4 areas from Halifax to Pubnico. Only a half-dozen scattered MERLINS were reported. Quite exciting were an unbanded imm. PEREGRINE FALCON at Sheffield Mills on Dec. 20 (P.C. Smith, R. Mitton), and a bird at Grand Pré on Jan. 23 identified as an ad. m. anatum (FLL, L. Dennis). The arctic race is supposed to migrate further south, so maybe the imm. one was a "wild" product of stocked birds. A gray-phase GYRFALCON seen around Grand Pré, Dec. 15 (PM) and Dec. 22 (GWT) may have been the same bird seen and photographed on Jan. 24, by Mark Elderkin, as it secured a House Sparrow (!) in a farmyard.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

We have reports of a GRAY PARTRIDGE at a feeder and flocks of 5 and 10 in the Wolfville area, 7 near Windsor (RGT), 15 at Economy (FS), and 6 near Bass River (P&WH). The usual reports of RING-NECKED PHEASANTS came from the Grand Pré area, up to 30+ for a day's birding (D&JP, BET). Individuals in Dartmouth and Paradise were outmatched by banana belt records of 8 at Chegoggin (H&HH) and L. W. Pubnico (RKD). Our native RUFFED GROUSE was reported by 6 places--a total of 17 birds, 13 of them in yards or at feeders. We have no reports of Spruce Grouse. I did receive a report from colleague Charles Thompson of 2 evidently wild WILD TURKEYS along the roadside near New Ross. I believe a decision was made by Lands & Forests not to introduce them, so these must have been "unofficial".

RALLIDS AND CRANE

The 3 AM. COOTS on Sullivan's Pond in early December dwindled to 1, which made it through Feb.

A previously unreported SANDHILL CRANE through much of Oct. at Wallace Bay, Cumb. Co., was well studied and photo'd by Tony Bidwell on Oct. 16-17. Another at Grand Pré on Dec. 13 (RGT, BET) flew off to the west soon after being spotted. However, one that wintered in Yar. Co., was our most obliging to date. What was probably the same individual was first seen at L. W. Pubnico on Dec. 14 (RSD). Then, from Jan. 7 through Feb., an ad. bird spent time picking through fields at Arcadia, and was savoured by many local birders.

IAM, ed.



WINTER SHOREBIRDS

The BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS at Sunday Pt. Beach, Dec. 26, had dwindled to one by Jan. 10; there were also three KILLDEER there on the earlier date (H&HH) and one at Sable Is., Dec. 27 (ZL).

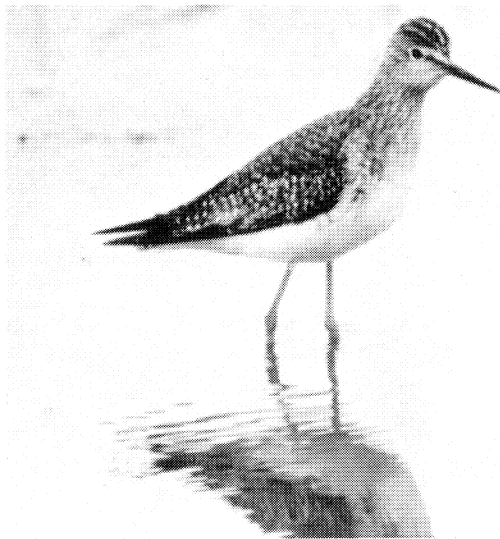
It must have been with the mixed emotions known to many a Christmas counter that Nova Scotia's first December LESSER YELLOWLEGS was recorded at Cole Hbr., Dec. 20, the day after the Halifax East Count, and was still there Dec. 23 (ELM,IAM). Perhaps it is some consolation that there were an even more unusual pair on Cape Sable in late Feb. and March of 1979.

There were 6 RED KNOTS Eastern Passage, Dec. 11 (J&SC), and three at Crescent Beach, Dec. 29 were still there Feb.21, well on their way to overwintering (SJF). Sixteen SANDERLINGS were at Crescent, Dec. 29 (SJF), with 2 still there Jan. 8 (JSC). Another 25 were on Cape Sable, Jan. 2 (JKD et al.). PURPLE SANDPIPERS were well reported: 30 at Chebucto Head, Jan 1 (FLL,PM CSII et al.), 3 at Conrad's (JWT) and 70 at Cheverie (GW&JCT), Jan. 2. The maximum numbers noted in the Port George area in Jan.-Feb. were 70 Jan. 24 (BLF) and 59, Feb. 7-19 (GW&JCT). Six lingering DUNLIN were at Cook's Beach, Dec. 6 (H&HH), and 2 at Crescent, Dec. 29 (SJF).

Two late COMMON SNIPE were noted: one at L.W. Pubnico, Jan. 12 (JKD,RSD) and another, very hardy, Feb. 12, at Loch Lomond, C.B. (JM). Late AMERICAN WOODCOCK were noted in the Valley, Jan. 1-6 (H&HH) and on Sable Is. Dec. 27-Jan.20 (ZL).

NOTE: In the last issue, the number of birds (173) was omitted in the RUDDY TURNSTONE entry for Cheverie, Au. 12.

FS, ed.



This Lesser Yellowlegs was a lingerer at the new Provincial Park on Cole Hbr., where it was photographed by Ian McLaren on Dec. 23.

JAEGERS TO AUKS

Nobody sent in a jaeger sighting in to this issue. There were precious few reports of HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS either--though I think we can assume, in their case, that presence DOESN'T make the heart grow fonder. "Always visible", says Sara MacLean, on the Sydneys C.B.C. But the good news is that BOTH the Halifax LESSER BLACKBACKS, at Fairview Cove and the Volvo Plant, were there on Feb. 7 (IAM).

We had the usual ICELAND GULLS in ones and twos as well--mostly juveniles and subadults. Hubert Hall's first bird of the year in Yarmouth Harbour--an immature--was on Dec. 29. Phyllis Dobson and Charlie Allen, also at Yarmouth, thought that the birds were "scarce this year". The Thextons saw an adult on the Wolfville sewage ponds on Dec. 22, and a couple of first-winter birds on Feb. 7, and Delisle J. d'Entremont saw two Icelanders off M. W. Pubnico on Feb. 17.

The Canard Poultry Pond in Kings County was a good place to see Icelanders--and GLAUCOUS GULLS as well. There was a juvenile Glaucous there on Dec. 19, and a 2nd winter bird on Feb. 4-8 (Jim Wolford, the Tufts, and most of the Blomidon Naturalists). We also had singletons as far south as the Pubnicos on Dec. 6-7 (J.K. and T.C. D'Eon, J.d'Entremont), and at least as far north as the Northwest Arm, Halifax, on Feb. 8 (FLL et al.) Fulton Lavender saw four adults in Sambro Harbour on Jan. 16, and an adult and a subadult at West Dover on Feb. 13. He also saw two possible immature THAYER'S GULLS in the Northwest Arm, Halifax, Jan. 5.

Eric Mills thinks that this is a very good year for BLACK-HEADED GULLS. He saw 15 at Conrad's Beach on Dec. 19, and at least 20 at Canal Street, Dartmouth, Feb. 20. On that day, there were also many more along the east side of the harbour, at least as far down as Hartlen's Point. Other people seem to agree. Jack MacNeill says that the birds were regularly seen in Sydney and Glace Bay Harbours--and that there were "perhaps a couple of dozen in Glace Bay on Feb. 20". Sara MacLean counted 96 on the Sydneys C.B.C. Francis Spalding saw a first year bird--the first local record--on ploughed fields near Economy. The D'Eons saw one as far south as Cape Island, on the Barrington C.B.C. I think this all adds up to a new immigrant--it's now been proved to breed here--that is about to spread through eastern North America, as it has through inland Britain. Watch for it on garbage dumps--and behind the plough.

Its obvious competitor in Canada is our own BONAPARTE'S GULL which breeds in the north-west, up to the tree line, and migrates through the Maritimes in the fall. The two have hardly met, yet. Boneys don't come much farther east than New Brunswick--while in my time in Nova Scotia, since 1965, the Black-headed has always been the commoner species here. Today, in 1987/8, Jack MacNeill counted a mere 12+ Boneys at Ben Eoin Bech between Nov. 29 and Dec. 13--and he "didn't see one on the C.B.C. (Dec.29) or since". The only other report is the second year bird that Fulton Lavender & Co. saw in Dartmouth Cove, on Jan. 16. That's all. So we still have some way to go before these two very similar gulls meet in biological competition, and come to a stand-off. My guess is that the Black-headed Gull will win--and spread at least as far west as the Great Lakes. If, that is, it can only face up to the Ring-billed Gulls, that are steadily spreading east.

Our own RING-BILL records are negligible, however, James W. Taylor puts the flock wintering in the Dartmouth Lakes at 5-15 birds, and I agree. The only other record is Sara MacLean's bird at

Glance Bay on Dec. 15. But we do have a few, thoroughly Atlantic BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES instead. There were 35 off Chebucto Head on Dec. 2, 10+ on New Year's Day, and 20+ on Feb. 13 (DM,IAM,FLL, Steve Feldstein). Hubert Hall saw two birds, one an adult, flying south off Yarmouth Harbour on Jan. 21.

On December 27, Raymond d'Entremont and Ben Doane observed a tern near Pubnico. They identified it as a FORSTER'S TERN, but in the absence of any corroborative details it must, sadly, remain a "maybe" in this report.

The winter storms have brought us a good crop of DOVEKIES this year. The first arrivals were 40+ off Chebucto Head on Dec. 1 (FLL,PM), and Delisle J. d'Entremont's bird at L.W. Pubnico, the next day. There have been regular reports, mainly of singletons, since then--in an arc from Yarmouth round to Halifax. The most recent sighting is Ian McLaren's bird at Purcell's Cove, on Feb. 14.

RAZORBILLS are the rarest auks in the Atlantic, and most of our Nova Scotian birds are wintering down on Georges Bank by now, or even farther south. However, Fulton Lavender saw 3 off Chebucto Head on Dec. 1, and one Feb. 21. There was also a single bird at Margaretsville, Anna. Co., on the Fundy Shore, on Feb. 7 (GW&JCT,PM and DAM).

COMMON MURRES are ten to a hundred times commoner than Razorbills, but they too winter on Georges Bank, and are reported from much the same parts of southern Nova Scotia. Fulton Lavender saw two off Chebucto Head on Dec. 1--and no less than 20 there on Feb. 21. The next bird, washed up dead and oiled at L.W. Pubnico on Dec. 17, was certified by Raymond S. d'Entremont, Ian McLaren, Phyllis Dobson and Charlie Allen. The Tufts saw two at Port George, Anna. Co., on Feb. 2, and another, along with a THICK-BILLED MURRE, at Margaretsville on Feb. 7. Thick-bills are the more northerly species--and Sara MacLean reports one from the Sydneys C.B.C., on Dec. 26. However, Fulton Lavender saw 12 of them off Chebucto Head on Dec. 1, and 10 on Feb. 21, while Delisle J. d'Entremont saw a Thick-bill as far south as M. W. Pubnico, on Feb. 12. Hubert Hall, from Bluenose, on Jan. 26, reports small flocks of both murres, 2-16 miles west of Yarmouth.

Nobody really knows where ATLANTIC PUFFINS go in the winter; they simply scatter, and vanish out to sea in a southerly direction. Hubert Hall, on Bluenose, saw one near the Lurcher Shoal, 20 miles west of Yarmouth, on Feb. 4, and five singletons in the same area on Feb. 9. Our only other reports are of an adult off Chebucto Head on Dec. 1 (FLL,PM) and, on Jan. 1, an immature at Chebucto Head and an adult at Sandy Cove (FLL,PM, L&PP, CSII).

On the other hand, BLACK GUILLEMOTS are always with us. David Diller saw one "in what looked like summer plumage!", at Ingonish, on New Year's Eve. There were 6 off Chebucto Head on Dec. 1 (FLL,PM), one at Herring Cove on Jan. 13 (Tufts, Peter MacLeod), and one off Pubnico Point on Jan. 22 (RSD).

DOVES

Big flocks of ROCK DOVES were at feed mills--100 at Pt. Williams, and 200 at Truro, but nobody except Christmas Counters tabulated the huge Halifax Hbr. population. The staggering Christmas Count of MOURNING DOVES in Wolfville included 370 at one farm at Sheffield Mills (Meritt & Jamie Gibson), where there were "only" 50 on Jan. 10. A total of 139 was found on the Pubnico's count. Elsewhere, generally in the southern half of the province, there were flocks of 10-50 at feeders, totalling some 130 birds. Seven outliers wintered at Big Pond (JM), and 3 were on Sable Is., on Dec. 23 (ZL).

OWLS

A GREAT HORNED OWL made a couple of unsuccessful mid-day passes at the Sullivan's Pond ducks on Jan. 1 (DD)., and another was seen at Economy on Jan. 19. Karen Casselman has been using her "hooter" through late winter to entice a pair to her garden in Cheverie, Hants Co. I rated 1986-87 as a "SNOWY OWL winter" in last April's issue on the basis of 10 birds, but in Nov. (see Jan. issue) we already had 10 birds to herald this winter's all-time record of at least 25 more from scattered mainland localities. Five BARRED OWLS were reported to have been seen or heard around the province. Single SHORT-EARED OWLS were reported from Overton and Pinkney's Pt., Grand Pré, Broad Cove and Cole Hbr., and a pair jumped the gun with a courtship display over a hayfield near Cheverie on Feb. 24 (KLC). A rare BOREAL OWL was victim of an automobile near Arichat, Richmond Co., on Jan. 2. Fortunately, Ernie Giles found it and sent it through the network for rehabilitation by the Kews at Mason's Pt. The bird was restored to full spirits and returned to the wild on Feb. 23. The only report of a SAW-WHET OWL was of one at Paul Cable's Hfx. feeder sometime in Feb.

This BOREAL OWL looks quite content as a ward of the Kew's rehabilitation facility.
Photo--Shirley Cohrs



KINGFISHER

There were few reports of new-year BELTED KINGFISHERS. Three coastal birds in Lun. and Yar. Co. were not unexpected, but 1 at Ben Eoin, C.B. Co., on Jan. 1 (JM) and another at an open stream in the Wentworth Valley on Feb. 9 (IAM) are mildly surprising.

WOODPECKERS

A RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER was at the feeder of the Seward Neil's near Noel Shore, Hants Co., from Dec. 20 until at least Feb. 20, and was seen and photographed by several observers. A number of prints sent to us by Peggy Neil, although a little too small for publication, show a fine male bird. A RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (see last issue) stayed until at least Nov. 25. Another was seen at a feeder at Upper Burlington, Hants Co., on Jan. 2-3 (sev. obs.). We have 10 reports of about 15 DOWNY and 5 reports of 8 HAIRY WOODPECKERS, but surely both were seen more often. Our only BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER was a male at Long Lake Prov. Park on Feb. 24 (FLL). Post-C.B.C. NORTHERN FLICKERS were reported from Wolfville on Feb. 5 (fide JWW), Overton on Jan. 17 (H&HH), and L. W. Pubnico, where 2 were still present on Feb. 16 (RSD). At least 16 PILEATED WOODPECKERS were reported by 11 observers, continuing the healthy trend.

IAM, ed.



HORNED LARKS TO THRUSHES

HORNED LARKS were first seen at L. W. Pubnico (12) and Cherry Hill (6) on Dec. 28 (D.J.d'E,SJF) and in January, numbers peaked with sizable flocks at Grand Pré, Gaspereau, Wolfville area and Pinkney's Point. Fewer were around in February--six near Truro on Feb. 9, were of the praticola race. There were six at Bass River and 14 only, at Grand Pré on the 11th. Twenty at Cole Harbour on the 21st were of the alpestris race.

In Yar. Co., GRAY JAYS were scarce. One at Pinkney's Pt., and two at Pubnico Point were the only ones of the winter seen by CRKA and RSD'E, respectively. Another single appeared on Feb. 15 at Carleton (H&HH). Elsewhere, one was seen at Lewis Lake, Hfx. Co. and three at Shad Bay, Hfx. Co. Things were better in Cape Breton: Jack MacNeil had "three pairs in a four mile stretch" at Loch Lomond Road on Feb. 1 and Sara MacLean reported three near Glace Bay, Jan. 23.

BLUEJAYS were reported as numerous but irregular. Many large flocks of 12-40 were seen around but they came and went at feeders--as Joyce Purchase put it--"very erratic".

AMERICAN CROWS, as usual, were very numerous in the valley areas. Apart from there, they concentrated along the coast, being "normal" in most areas. An interesting report came from Zoe Lucas on Sable Island, where there were 10 from Jan. 2-8. This is an unusual number for the island. Only two people bothered to report on the COMMON RAVEN--Sara MacLean, who noted three on Dec. 26, and CRKA, who noticed them beginning to pair off in mid-Feb. I found this dearth of reports quite amazing--perhaps no one bothers with Ravens. This is the time of the year when they are most in evidence performing their courting swoopings and soarings.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES, like Bluejays have been very irregular. Some correspondents found them "common", "as usual" and even "numerous", while others in other areas considered them "low", "down", "much scarcer than last year". BOREAL CHICKADEES were definitely down. CRKA and PRD saw only one, in early Jan., as did RSD'E and JSC. The Purchases had only 2 and plaintively enquired if they were just looking in the wrong places. It was a very poor showing. CRKA sums up the nuthatch situation by reporting, "Nuthatches, both species, none seen this winter!". The count of WHITE-BREASTED was six and RED-BREASTED, ten!!! (The Payzants must have some special secret--out of the total number, they had a pair of each species regularly attending their feeders at Waverley).

Eight BROWN CREEPERS were seen from Dec. 22 to Feb. 20, four each in Yar. and Hfx. Cos. ONLY THREE GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS were mentioned, in Glace Bay, Tusket Falls and Bedford!!! They were outnumbered by overwintering RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS of which there were four: Nov. 16 & 23 at the Purchase's in Dartmouth, Dec. 19 at Greenwich (Tufts), Jan. 3 at Gaspereau (BLF) and Feb. 15 at Cook's Brook, Hfx. Co (June Jarvis). Perhaps this is another case of reporting only the uncommon birds and ignoring the expected species--I'm sure there were more Golden-crowns around!

THRUSHES TO STARLING

A lingering SWAINSON'S THRUSH was in Dartmouth, Dec. 9 (FLL). Only two HERMIT THRUSHES were noted: one fed on American Holly in the windowbox at the Cohrs' on Dec. 28, and the other was eating yew berries in Dartmouth on the 29th (possibly the same bird?).

This was definitely a year for overwintering AMERICAN ROBINS. Dozens of reports of flocks from 12-50 came in and many more of smaller numbers came as well. All areas were included but the highest concentrations were in Hfx. Co. and the Valley. There were 300 near Sandy Cove, Hfx. Co., Dec. 27, 220 on the Wolfville C.C., Dec. 19, 300 in Halifax city Jan 20 (on one street), and 350 in an orchard in the Gaspereau Valley, Jan. 29 (SJF,JWW,FLL, Cohrs&DAC).

A late GRAY CATBIRD was seen by the Morses at Paradise on Dec. 14 and 24.

Eight NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS were counted, all single sightings, widely spread from Cape Breton, Antigonish, Hfx, Shel. and Yar. Cos, and including one on Sable Island.

BROWN THRASHERS spent (or attempted to spend) the winter at Lower Argyle, Antigonish and Halifax. Late WATER PIPITS turned up at Crystal Crescent Beach, Dec. 27, Cherry Hill, Dec. 28 and Pubnico (2) Jan. 10-30 (JSC,SJF,RSd'E,JKd'E).

Flocks of BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS swept around the province, especially in Yar. and Kings Cos. Flocks of 50 or less were common but a few larger ones were about. There were 75 at Middleton, Jan.22, and 120 in Spryfield, FEB. 11. Eva Urban reported a flock of over a hundred at Ben Jackson Road (near Hantsport) on Feb. 23. A few CEDAR WAXWINGS stayed behind this year and flocks of 18-40 were in Dartmouth, Halifax, Central Chebogue and Cape Island.

It was a great NORTHERN SHRIKE year. It is impossible to give a number, for some sightings were undoubtedly repeats of the same bird, especially in Kings Co., where there were so many shrikes and so many reporters. Most people felt that they were commoner than they had been for many years. At one point BLF saw six in one day! They were regularly about from early December to early Feb., after which there were few reports. The Purchases had a "regular" preying on their feeder birds for a week in January.

It was exciting to have at least two, if not three LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES well documented. The first was seen in Wolfville by Peter C. Smith in early January. On Jan. 12, a Loggerhead was seen by Gordon Tufts up on Wolfville Ridge--it may or may not have been the same bird. This "Ridge" bird was seen again in the same place on the 19th, left for a while, and returned on Feb. 11. On Feb. 12, John and Shirley Cohrs had an excellent view of a Loggerhead by the roadside near Peggy's Cove. In all cases birds were well viewed and the pertinent field marks were noted. They may be obtained by request. The status of the Loggerhead in Nova Scotia is "rare, transient, very rare in summer and winter". The only other winter record is one Feb. 28, 1969 at Port LaTour, Shel. Co. (B.K.Doane).

Almost all the EUROPEAN STARLINGS must be in Kings Co. 12,600 were counted on Dec. 19 as they left their roost at Port Williams. Another 10,000 were at one farm near Canning the same day. The latter birds were still there Jan. 16th. There were 100 on Sable Island in late Dec., but they were "definitely down" in the Yarmouth, Eel Brook area (ZL,PRD,CRKA). Without a doubt, many people are NOT enamoured of starlings: "Can't see much loss,

despite the cold weather", and "usually only 5 or 6 and sometimes none for days--Hurrah!"--are a couple of comments sent in.

JSC,ed.

WOOD WARBLERS

A cold, stormy November and a snowy December did little to encourage these avian jewels to linger, but totals were nevertheless up from last winter.

A late summer report missed the January issue; a male BLUE-WINGED WARBLER, was singled out of a mighty migratory wave which included 15 species of warblers on Aug. 25 at Little Harbour, Shel. Co. (D&JY). Three ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS were reported in late November, the last sighting being 2 individuals at Indian Point, St. Margaret's Bay, on Nov. 29 (AJV).

A late date record was set for CAPE MAY WARBLER (Dec. 22), when Jim Wolford watched an imm. at close range at Stirling's orchard in Wolfville. This well-described bird was observed "piercing and sucking rotten apples still on the trees". At least 10 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS were noted in western Nova Scotia, the largest "flock" being 5+ at Lower Eel Brook, Jan. 3 (PRD,CRKA), and the latest were 3 on a bitterly cold Jan. 14 at Wolfville Ridge (JWW).

The Halifax TOWNSEND'S WARBLERS which stopped the press in the January issue were reported for a week (Dec. 2-8). The jury is still out on the question of these having been two or three individuals; but at least two observers (FLL,PM) were convinced there were three--an adult male, an imm. male and an adult female. John Cohrs' painstaking description of a Townsend's at Armbrae Academy on Dec. 4 was excellent, and it demonstrated that it is not a simple thing to separate an imm. male from an adult female.

JWT had 2 PINE WARBLERS at his feeder in Dartmouth until the Jan. 4 snowstorm. A single tail-still-wagging PALM WARBLER was listed at Woods Harbour, Shel. Co., Jan. 2 (HGH,E&BR). Fairview Cemetery yielded a record late (tardy, not deceased) BAY-BREASTED WARBLER for John and Shirley Cohrs on Dec. 3.

The COMMON YELLOWTHROAT was reported twice, 1 on Nov. 29, at Wynacht's Cove (AJV) and 2 on Dec. 30, at Cherry Hill (SJF et al.) Two different YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS were sighted in Yar. Co. on Dec. 27 (Argyle and L.E. Pubnico --10 observers total). A chat also frequented a Wolfville yard, ca. Dec. 3, to at least Dec. 26 (fide JWW).

KNK, ed.

TANAGERS TO TOWHEE

The first species to be recorded in this group is one which occurred before this reporting period, but is of such importance that it cannot be omitted. Not one but TWO WESTERN TANAGERS were observed during August 25 and 26, 1987, at Little Hbr., Yar. Co. The extensive red on the head and upper breast along with the large wing bars and generally yellowish appearance was described by D & J Young and June Graves. This is the eighth sighting in Nova Scotia and is the third record for the month of August.

During early December no fewer than 8 NORTHERN CARDINALS arrived at feeders in Yarmouth County areas of Pubnico and Argyle (vide TD'E). Three females stayed at Ethelda Murphy's feeder in Pubnico from Nov. 17 to Feb. 8. A male and female were in Lr. Argyle on Dec. 27 (JDE,DA) and at least two more habitually visited Ken and Doris Peters' feeders in Pubnico.

DICKCISSELS were reported at a number of feeders in the Halifax area at least until mid-January with a single bird near Kearney Lake surviving through to February.

The RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE count was five individuals. A male was discovered on the Halifax East C.B.C. on Dec. 19 (SJF); one lasted from Nov. 28 to Jan. 6 in L. W. Pubnico (Daryl Amirault); three were located on the Hfx. West C.B.C. on Dec. 28 and another male took up residence at a feeder near Kearney Lake until Feb. 20 (JWT).

SPARROWS

Apart from the Valley areas of Wolfville, Port Williams and Grand Pré, where there were sizable groups of 40 or more TREE SPARROWS, most other areas had few coming to feeders. Reports came from all parts of the province with the larger numbers being encountered during mid to late Dec. A few CHIPPING SPARROWS over-wintered with two seen at the Canard Poultry Pond, Dec. 19; one in Wolfville, Dec. 22 (JWW); three in Pubnico, Dec. 27 (TD'E), two in Dartmouth throughout the winter (CN) and one in Halifax in late Jan (JSC). Uncommon in fall migration and rarer still in winter, FIELD SPARROWS were recorded twice, both in the Hfx. area. One was discovered in Herring Cove on Dec. 12, coming to a feeder (FLL,DAM), and the other was found during the Hfx. West C.B.C. in Halifax on Dec. 28, least being seen Feb. 25 (FLL,PMBM). Very few SAVANNAH SPARROWS were flushed out of their grassy feeding areas. The usual areas of Conrad's Beach held 28 on Dec. 19 (ELM); Grand Pré Dykes, Canning and Canard, totalled 12, and the Yarmouth, Tusket and Eel Brook areas had populations more numerous than usual (CRKA,PRD). Sadly, there were no "IPSWICH" SPARROWS reported. SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS were found along their usual haunts of shoreline and salt marsh areas of Conrad's Beach, Cole Hbr., Rainbow Haven and McNab's Is., during Dec. One was seen in Wolfville along the main dyke on Dec. 22 (JWW). Most reports were of one or two with the exception of about 7 on McNab's Is., Dec. 28 (IAM,DAC) and 5 at Conrad's, Dec. 19 (ELM,BM). The 17th record of SEASIDE SPARROW was confirmed by Peter MacLeod and Don MacNeill on the Hfx. East C.B.C., Dec. 19 at Cole Hbr. Dyke. This apparently was of the more northerly race maritimus.

FOX SPARROWS evidently felt conditions this winter were too harsh to stay on with only three records being submitted. One was found in Bedford in late Nov. (Bev. Sarty); one in Herring Cove, Dec. 2 (FLL,PM) and one more in Lr. Argyle on Dec. 27 (JD'E, MG). There were likewise very few reports for SONG SPARROWS, indicating

below normal wintering populations. The largest single populations were of 4 seen in Wolfville and L. W. Pubnico during Jan and Feb. All others noted were of ones or twos and there were some reports of "none whatsoever". Mid-Feb., with the daylight beginning to stretch out, brought wavering song from a few individuals in Dartmouth and Halifax, heralding the end of a long dark winter. SWAMP SPARROWS were even more uncommon, with just 3 in Wolfville, Dec. 22 (JWW); one in L.W. Pubnico, Dec. 27 (BKD,RSD) and 7 in a mixed flock of sparrows on McNab's Is., Dec. 28 (IAM,DAC).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS had a good winter with many members commenting on their abundance compared to most years. They were quite plentiful in Yar. Co., with 6-10 coming to feeders as was the case in a few areas of Hfx. Co. Futile as it was, one was singing strongly in Wolfville on Dec. 20 (JWW) and another was heard singing in Halifax on Feb. 15 (JSC). A total of 3 WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were noted. Two came from the Valley areas of Canning and Port Williams from Dec. 13 through to Jan. 24 (JWW,BLF,LC) and one was found in Lr. Argyle on Dec. 27 (MG,JKD). DARK-EYED JUNCOS were extremely common, evident along roadsides, in shrubbery and at feeders especially during Dec. and Jan. Flocks of 20-60 were commonplace during most of the winter. Reports came from all parts of the province with even distribution, but by mid-Feb., numbers had dropped significantly, leaving feeders practically unattended.

Chevarie, Grand Pré, Cole Hbr. Dykes and the large pasture lands of Minudie, were the only locations where LAPLAND LONGSPURS could be found. There was one each seen at Chevarie and Cole Hbr. (GWT,JCT,ELM); up to 20 at Grand Pré., Jan. 11 (RGT,BET) and 150 at Minudie on Jan. 30 (FLL). A major population of over 2800 SNOW BUNTINGS was located in Minudie on Jan. 25 (FLL et al.) and flocks of 100-300 were relatively common in suitable habitats like Grand Pré, Greenville, L. W. Pubnico and Cole Hbr. Cape Breton also had numbers of these beautiful birds near Glace Bay, Loch Lomond, Big Pond and Ben Eoin (SM,BS,JM).

ICTERIDS

There were none of the usual mid-sized flocks of RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS this season. Spread widely over the mainland areas, single birds came to feeders with the exception of two individuals which visited the Purchase's feeder in Dartmouth on Dec. 6. An unusually high count of 6 EASTERN MEADOWLARKS occurred during the period of Nov. 28 and Dec. 31. Three of these were confirmed as the EASTERN species leaving some doubt as to which species the others belonged. These birds were seen near Gaspereau, Nov. 28 (CKC), two at Matthew's Lake, one at Pembroke Beach, Yar. Co. and another near Canning, all on Dec. 20 (DHY,LP,HH,GWT,JCT). The last bird was an Eastern, seen at Cherry Hill Beach on Dec. 30-31 (SJF). RUSTY BLACKBIRDS are certainly a novelty when discovered during winter in this province. They appear and disappear very quickly, hardly allowing sufficient time to separate them from their close relative, the Brewer's Blackbird. CKC saw one at Gaspereau, Dec. 19, two were at Grand Pré, Dec. 22 (GWT), and three reports of single birds came from Port Williams, Spryfield and Glen Margaret, Hfx. Co. in Jan. (LC,FLL,DAC).

Ward and Phyllis Hemeon in Bass River, Col. Co., had regular visits of up to 9 COMMON GRACKLES during Nov. and Dec. Another 13 birds found their way to feeders in Spryfield, Jan. 12 (FLL). Single birds were recorded in Jan. from Wolfville and Overton and two Feb. records of possibly the last survivors were of 1 at Waverley, Feb. 7 (LAP&PP) and 6 lingering in Spryfield until Feb. 23 (FLL,PM).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were found in tight groups of 10-25 in Nov. They seemed to all but disappear in Dec., but by mid-Jan. to Feb., the numbers increased rapidly. High counts were 103 at Ross Rd., Dartmouth (D&JP) and 75 near Timberlea, Hfx. Co., Jan. 26. Reports of a single bird came from Pubnico and of about 6 from Tusket.

A number of NORTHERN ORIOLES attempted to over-winter in the province. Cape Breton, which during most winters rarely has any to report, had 4, 2 in Glace Bay, Dec. 20 and 22 (SM) and Jack MacNeill in Big Pond, saw one there on Dec. 16, and another in Ben Eoin, which survived into early Jan. Other reports were of 5, 2 of which were of the Bullock's race, Dec. 3 at Port Mouton, seen by Robert Shivers (vide DHY). There were two in Darmouth, Nov. 26 and Dec. 7 and the latest report was of one in Halifax, which survived through the coldest weather seen on Feb. 26 (RBD).

FINCHES

During the four months, Nov. to Feb., winter finches were well down throughout the province with Cape Breton experiencing a virtual void of these birds. The Christmas Count observers in Wolfville, Dec. 19, tallied 113 PINE GROSBEAKS and flocks of 12 and 14 were found in Hants and Col. Counties on Dec. 29 (RGT,BET). A large flock was seen Jan. 31, at Sand Hill Beach, Shel. Co. (Reg D'Eon) and small flocks of 3-11 were reported in Feb. in Hfx. Co (FLL). Although only a fortunate few saw PURPLE FINCHES during Dec., there was a rash of reports about the second week of January. RED CROSSBILLS were a rare sight again this winter with only four occurrences noted. The first came from Wolfville Ridge on Jan. 19 of 11 (JCT), 2 were seen in Berwick, Jan. 23 (JWT,BCT), 15 in Spryfield, Jan. 29, and 10 near Chocolate Lake, Halifax, Feb. 3 (FLL). WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS conversly were fairly abundant, at least on the mainland, with reports from Amherst to Halifax. The majority of the sightings centred in Lun. Shel. and Yar. Counties. Typically, these were 5-15 individuals per flock, but three flocks of over 50 each were seen in Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co., Jan. 24 (Cohrs).

The first COMMON REDPOLLS to be noted occurred in late Dec., when a flock was found at Homeville, C.B. (W. Peach). Mainland N.S. hosted very few Redpolls although large concentrations of 100-200 birds were found in Minudie, Riverside (Col.Co) and Wentworth by January's end. Other reports of 10, Feb. 6 at Grand Pré, 3, Feb. 5, at Pubnico Pt., and 2 or 3 at feeders in the Wolfville, New Minas areas, were typical for Feb. Although extremely sparse during Nov. and Dec. PINE SISKINS began arriving in earnest by mid- Feb., especially to feeders supplying niger seed. All sightings were from Hfx. Co. south to Yarmouth, with typical reports of 2 to 80 individuals. AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES numbering between 10-20, were common visitors to feeders in all areas from Yar. to C.B. Two of the larger flocks occurred in Dartmouth, where there were 50+ (DD&JP) and at Lewis Lake, where there were 35 on Jan. 19 (AJV). EVENING GROSBEAKS were well noted, being far more evident than last year. Eighteen reporters sent records of from 1 to 200 birds during all four months. General comments were that they were erratic at feeders and seemed uninterested in staying long when they did arrive.

Very unusual observations of the HOUSE SPARROW came from members in the Yar. Co. areas. Arthur Porter in Yarmouth commented that these birds have completely disappeared from feeders there. Ken and Doris Peters added that they haven't seen ONE this winter

in Pubnico and Eric and Barbara Ruff wrote they have had but 3-4 on Jan.11 which is a sharp decline from a regular 40 or more any other winter. Apart from this void in Yar. Co., the usual numbers have been noted from all other areas and as a matter of interest, the Purchases, who have written of drastic declines over the years have regained a population of 40 or more.

DAC, ed.

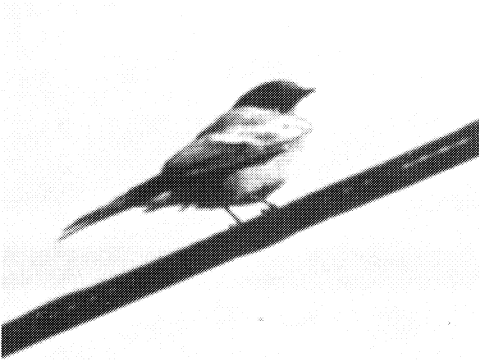
DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

FOR
THE JULY ISSUE
MAY 25, 1988

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



Although not easily diagnosed as a SAY'S PHOEBE, on this black-and-white print, Richard Stern's color slide clearly depicts this rare vagrant on Brier Is., Oct. 24, 1987.

The TOWNSEND'S WARBLER is readily identified, even in a soft photograph, from its strong face markings. This is one of the birds, a male, that appeared in Halifax's South End in December. (Photo by Peter MacLeod)



A Snow Bunting added to the list by Bill Caudle at Eastern Passage on the Halifax West Christmas Count.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Annapolis Royal/Digby Field Trip

Apparently it takes more than icy roads, high winds, snow and chilling rains to keep some dedicated birders at home. Sixteen good sports from Wolville to Yarmouth met in Annapolis at 10:00 a.m., Feb. 13.

We first spent time searching the goldeneye at the causeway; all were Common Goldeneye. When rain sent us back to our cars, we drove along the Annapolis Basin to Port Royal. There we saw only a few Red-breasted Mergansers, but got a taste of what winter might have meant to the early settlers.

After watching the ducks and gulls again at the causeway, this time with excellent lighting, we set out for Clementsport. This stop meant a warm fire, hot coffee, and a chance to see a handsome adult Red-tailed Hawk at one feeder and several Pine Siskins at the thistle feeder.

We drove through a few snow squalls after lunch, but sunny breaks made for good lighting. We noticed a couple of Robins. At Smith's Cove, we watched Oldsquaw, Bufflehead, and Red-breasted Mergansers. Driving along the Bear River at low tide, we were able to see hundreds of Black Ducks feeding in the reeds.

From the Digby wharf we had a good look at a large raft of Greater Scaup and watched Buffleheads swimming among the fishing boats. Driving toward the ferry terminal in the sunshine, we made stops to see many Oldsquaws, Red-breasted Mergansers, Buffleheads, a Common Loon, both Grebes, Horned and Red-necked.

Everyone agreed to accept the Purple Snadpipers at Pt. Prim on faith and not attempt the icy road. Instead, we all headed home after a full winter day--nothing unusual, but interesting.

Sharon Hawboldt

Up-Coming Field Trips

Saturday BRICKYARD ROAD & OYSTER
 April 30 COVE (C.B.) Early arrivals
 Leader: Edie MacLeod.
 Meet at Mira Gut Bridge
 at 0880 hours.

Sunday AMHERST POINT BIRD SANCT-
 May 1 UARY-waterfowl, shorebirds
 & early migrants. Leader:
 Allan Smith, CWS,
 Sackville (1-506-536-3025)
 Meet at the APBS parking
 lot at 0930 hours (take
 exit 3 from the TCH at the
 Wandlyn Inn and proceed a

few km towards Nappan; the entrance is on the left). Bring
 a lunch.

Wednesday HALIFAX COUNTY WARBLER WALK - Leader: Fred Dobson
 May 18 (852-3042). Meet at 0630 hours in the parking lot at the
 junction of the Prospect Road (Rte. 333) and the St.
 Margaret's Bay Road.

Saturday PARADISE/BRIDGETOWN (Anna.Co.) - ducks, warblers and
 May 21 marsh birds. 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), their house is the first
 within the stone wall on the right (about 1.5 km east
 of the golf course. Fly repellent is recommended.

Saturday YARMOUTH - warbler walk. Leader: Hubert Hall (742-4467)
 May 21 Meet at the Carleton School grounds at 0900 hours. Bring
 a lunch and fly dope.

Sunday HOPEWELL AREA (Pictou Co.) - nesting owls and other
 May 22 raptors. Leader: Harry Brennan (1-923-2780). Meet at
 Saint Colomba's churchyard which is about one mile south
 of Hopewell. Bring a lunch.

Wednesday YORK REDOUBT (Hfx.) - warblers and other songbirds.
 May 25 Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-8984). Meet at 0630 hours
 at the York Redoubt entrance on Ferguson's Cove Rd. for
 two hours of "pre-work" birding.

Saturday HANTS COUNTY DAY - many habitats and abundant birds.
 May 28 Leader: Margaret Clark. Meet at the railroad crossing
 in Mount Uniacke at 0800 hours. Be sure to bring lunch.

Saturday WARBLER DAY AT BROWN'S LAKE (C.B.) - Leader: Hedley
 May 28 Hopkins. Meet at the Radar Base gate at 0800 hours.

Sunday SHUBENACADIE AREA (Hants Co.) - Leader: Roslyn MacPhee
 May 29 (1-758-3265). Meet at the Scott's Restaurant at 0600
 hours. in Shubenacadie.

Saturday AMHERST POINT/NORTHUMBERLAND SHORE - warblers, fly-
 June 4 catchers, vireos and rails. Leader: Fulton Lavender
 (477-8984). Meet at the APBS parking lot at 0830 hours
 see directions above. We'll visit APBS & John Lusby
 Marsh in the morning and work our way along the shore in
 the afternoon.

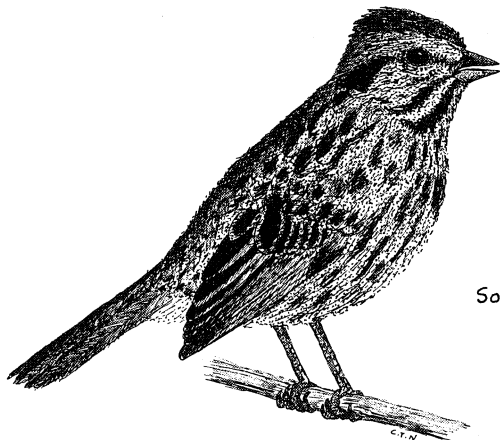
- Saturday
June 4 ARGYLE ISLANDS BIRD COLONIES (Yar. Co.) - nesting Great Blue Herons, Common Eider, gulls and terns. Leader: Ted D'Eon (1-762-2097). Meet at Abbott's Harb. wharf in W. Pubnico at 0800 hours. Bring a lunch. The boat accomodates up to 40 (cost \$10-\$15). For reservations phone Ted before June 2.
- Saturday
June 11 BARRINGTON BAY/CAPE SABLE ISLAND--shore, marsh and woodland birds. Leader: Joan Czapalay (1-637-2734). Meet at 0900 hours in the parking lot of the Woolen Mill Museum in Barrington. Bring a lunch. There are several good bed-and-breakfast spots in the area.
- Sunday
June 12 PRESIDENT'S FIELD TRIP - Leader: Richard Stern (678-1975). Meet at the Cornwallis Inn parking lot in Kentville at 0830 hours. Explore the Kentville and surrounding areas. Bring a lunch.
- Saturday
June 18 ANTIGONISH AREA - estuary habitat for water birds and eagles; Beech Hill for Osprey nests and coniferous forest species. Leader: Norman Seymore (1-863-6134) Meet at the Provincial Building parking lot in Antigonish at 0800 hours. To get there, travelling from New Glasgow on the TCH, turn left by the Acadian Bus Terminal on James St. The Provincial Bldg. is on the right just before the Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet.
- Saturday
June 25 IONA (C.B.) -birds of high summer. Leader: Nancy More. Meet at East Bay Church at 0800 hours.
- Saturday
July 16 WALLACE AREA - an excellent trip with a variety of habitats including shoreline, riverside, marsh and woodland that will be explored with a focus on raptors, hopefully eagles. Leader: Tony Bidwell (1-257-2035). Meet at the wharf in Wallace at 0900 hours. Bring a lunch and comfortable walking boots.
- Tuesday
July 26 CRESCENT CHERRY HILL BEACHES - focus on shorebirds. Leaders: John and Shirley Cohrs (477-6036). Meet at the entrance to Crescent Beach. Be prepared for a short easy walk at Crescent in the morning and a fairly long, more rugged hike along Cherry Hill Beach in the afternoon. Telescopes an asset. Meeting time 0830 hours.
- Saturday
July 30 ENGLISHTOWN AREA (Cape Breton) -Meet at the Sydney River Woolco Dept. Store parking lot at 0800 hours. Leader: Sara MacLean
- Saturday
Aug. 13 YARMOUTH AREA - shorebirds. Leader: Eric Ruff(1-742-8145h or 742-5539w). Meet at the C.P.R. rail station at 0900. Bring a lunch and suitable footwear for rocks and wet walking
- Saturday
Aug. 27 FULLER'S BRIDGE (Cape Breton) - shorebirds. Meet at Morrison Road intersection at 0800 hours. Leader: Eldon Meikle.

Please direct any questions or suggestions regarding field trips to Dave Currie, Greenwood Heights, Box 369, R. R. 1 Armdale, Nova Scotia B3L 4J1 or phone 1-876-8745.

A CLOSER LOOK AT SONG SPARROW SONG

Christopher Naugler

The Song Sparrow is one of Nova Scotia's more common and widespread birds, as well as being one of our most accomplished songsters. Anyone who has listened to a Song Sparrow singing has probably been impressed by the complexity of its song. If one were to listen to a Song Sparrow singing, one would hear a song consisting of several phrases repeated a number of times. The bird would then switch to another song consisting of different series of phrases. The bird would then change to yet another combination of phrases and so on. Each of these combinations of phrases is called a SONG TYPE and each series of songs belonging to the same song type is called a BOUT.



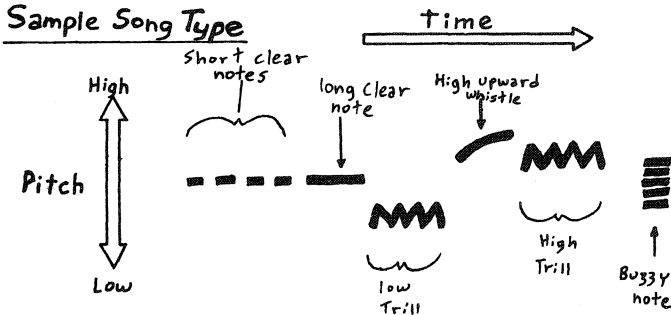
Song Sparrow

As with most species of birds, it is the male Song Sparrow that sings. A typical song consists of three to five short phrases. There are usually several characteristic, clear introductory notes, and songs often contain at least one trill. Each male Song Sparrow possesses a repertoire of a definite number of distinctive song types. As mentioned before, a song type is a certain combination of phrases that are used by a particular bird. For example, a song type of a given bird might consist of several short introductory notes followed by a buzzy note, a trill and ending with a high clear whistle. Another song type of the same individual might consist of introductory notes, a low trill followed by a higher trill and ending with a repeated note. Each song type in an individual's repertoire consists of a similarly definite sequence of elements. Within this framework however, there is a certain amount of variation, but each song usually follows the general pattern closely enough to recognize it as belonging to its respective type. It is interesting that the song types of one individual are distinctive to that individual and it is very rare to find two birds that share a song type. Although a California bird was reported to have a repertoire of 23 song types, I have found that Nova Scotia Song Sparrows generally have repertoires consisting of five to seven song types, which is comparable to the repertoire sizes found for Song Sparrows in Maine and Ontario.

During periods of song, song types are organized into bouts. A bout is a series of songs belonging to the same song type. In Nova Scotia I have observed Song Sparrows singing bouts consisting of from one to 105 songs. Most commonly though, a bout would consist of from 10 to 20 songs (of a song type).

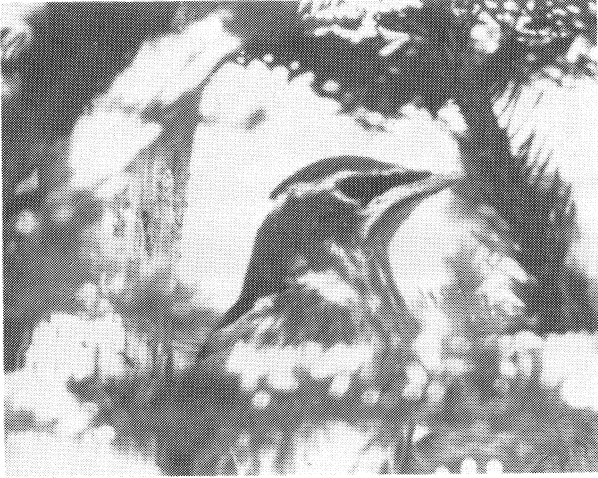
A singing male will commonly sing different song types in successive bouts until it has worked its way through its entire repertoire. Thus, if you listen to a Song Sparrow singing, you should be able to hear most, if not all of its repertoire within an hour or so.

It would be nearly impossible to remember each song type as you listen to it, so you may find it useful to quickly jot down some information on each type as you hear it. I find that enough information can be jotted down in a quick visual and verbal representation such as the one pictured below.



Since, during each bout, the song will generally be repeated 10 to 20 times, what you miss on the first run through the song type, you can pick up on the second time and so on. By doing this you can work out the entire repertoire of a given Song Sparrow and you would know for instance, that the Song Sparrow which spent the summer in your back garden had a repertoire of so many song types. Because the song types of each male remain constant over the life of the bird you could compare your notes of the male singing in your yard this year with your notes of the one singing there next year and see if it is the same individual.

I would be most interested in hearing any observations that you make on Song Sparrow song. You may write to me at R. R. #3 Bridgewater, Lunenburg Co., N.S. B4V 2W2.



Three young Cedar Waxwings in a nest
in the Casselman's garden in Chevarie
stayed put until Sept. 2
(Photo Ted Casselman)



John Cohrs snapped this hungry visitor
in his window box in early December.

MORE BIRDING ETIQUETTE

On page 58 of the January 1988 edition of Nova Scotia Birds is a paragraph written by one of our members reminding people that there are circumstances where birding infringes on the rights and enjoyment of others. At the most recent monthly meeting of our Executive, a number of members pointed out that they had heard of further regrettable examples coming to light recently and in one instance since that article was published.

These instances have included:

-birders looking at a rarity at a feeder, walking all over the owner's lawn to the extent that a "Keep Off" notice had to be posted. The owners were apparently quite annoyed that a certain amount of damage had been done to their lawn by birders;

-another site where a rare bird was visiting a feeder, several people stayed most of the day interfering with the activities of daily living of the hosts and outstaying their welcome. In this particular instance, the householders complained of some birders tramping around the house in their snowboots;

-a member of the Society, having driven for nearly four hours to look for a rarity and having found it, discovered that other members of the Society were chasing the bird farther and farther away from him in their efforts to get better views and he was unable to get as satisfactory a view as he would have liked;

-a group of birders hung around a feeder before dawn and strayed onto neighboring property. When neighboring householders awoke, they found strangers clad in boots and binoculars roaming around their backyards. Several people expressed considerable alarm at this since permission had not been asked to enter the property of any of these people.

Not only is this sort of behavior plain inconsiderate, but it is obviously to the detriment of both the birds and members of the Society. If birders in general in Nova Scotia started getting a reputation (even if only a minority is guilty) for this sort of behavior, then we, as a group, will find ourselves no longer welcome where rarities are seen in built up areas. Indeed, I have already heard of one recent case where a rare bird was seen in the province and the property owner expressly asked that the sighting not be put on the rare bird alert because she did not want birders tramping all over her property.

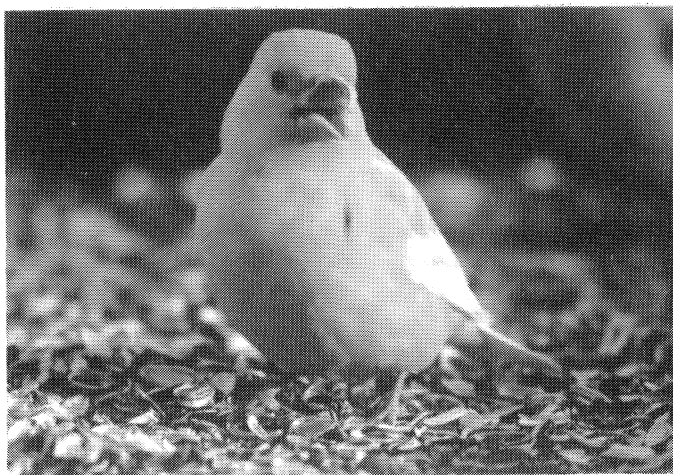
One only has to open the first few pages of almost any introductory book on birding or any field guide and the same message is always present:

- Please respect people's property.
- Please always ask permission before entering someone's property.
- Please respect basic household courtesies when invited into someone's home to view a bird or feeder through their window.
- Please act in a manner which is unlikely to make private householders feel threatened by armies of bootwearing, binocular clad strangers in the early hours of the morning.
- Please do not frighten off rarities in the attempts to get a better view, photographs, etc., both from the point of view of the welfare of the bird itself and the enjoyment of others who may wish to see or photograph the bird.

A recent article in a national newspaper described similar unfortunate behavior in other provinces and mentioned in that at least one area elsewhere in Canada, birders who are felt to be guilty of these crimes are shunned by their fellow birders and they are not told about rare birds. We would hate for those sort of measures to have to be taken with any member of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, so please remember your etiquette.

I am sure we have all been guilty of this behavior at some time and I know how easy it is to get over excited over a new or rare sighting or in an attempt to get a decent photograph, but please be thoughtful!

Richard Stern
President
Nova Scotia Bird Society



This amelanistic Evening Grosbeak, strikingly beautiful in the color original, turned up at C.S. Macdonald's feeder in New Waterford in mid Nov. A few others have been reported in recent years. They look like giant, strongly yellow canaries, but with the usual white wing patch.

Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) in Nova Scotia

Eric L. Mills

The Eurasian Kestrel is a common and widespread bird in the Old World, ranging from the British Isles to eastern Siberia, Mongolia, North Africa and the Middle East. Many of us are familiar with it as a common sight along motorways or over fields in Britain, or as a regular but gunshy inhabitant of rural areas in the rest of Europe.

Canada's second and the Atlantic Provinces' first Eurasian Kestrel was discovered by Stuart Tingley at Fort Beausejour, Westmorland Co., New Brunswick on the afternoon of January 18, 1988. It was seen by many birders the next day, but after a brief appearance on the morning of January 20 it disappeared and could not be found again. At least one long-distance migrant in the Canadian bird-listing fraternity had to return home without seeing it.

Stuart Tingley had seen the Kestrel fly away southwards toward Nova Scotia on the first day. On Saturday the 23rd, I decided to spend a long overdue day in the field, using the departed Kestrel as an excuse. There was no sign of the bird at Beausejour, so I began to work south and west, on the premise that if the bird were anywhere it would be in some remote location where the hunting was good, like the Elysian Fields, a dykeland in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, visible across Cumberland Basin from Beausejour. Getting there took most of the morning, with stops to scan all the possible locations around Amherst Point, Nappan, Maccan and River Hebert. But my goal was the Elysian Fields, north of Minudie, which I had never visited before. At the very least there could be Rough-legged Hawks and a Snowy Owl there.

I arrived at Minudie about 1030 and turned north toward the Elysian Fields. It was clear, cold and calm, with very little snow on the ground. At a T-junction, slightly lost, I turned back toward Minudie to regain my bearings. Within a couple of minutes I spotted a hawk sitting on the roof of an abandoned house. It appeared to be quite large, probably a Rough-legged Hawk, I thought. But the sun was behind it, making identification difficult. Unconcernedly, I drove past the bird, turned around and began to work my way back toward the Elysian Fields. Now the sun was more favorable. I casually stopped for a look at the hawk. It was no Rough-leg, but a female or immature Kestrel, a big one. The Eurasian Kestrel had been rediscovered.

During the next three hours I spent a long time watching the Kestrel at ranges of 150 to 300 meters as it rested, made hunting forays, and sallied about the area from tree-top to tree-top. My notes, slightly edited, read as follows:

A large Kestrel with very long tail and noticeably shorter but very sharply pointed wings at rest. Head pale brown, noticeable paler than back, cheeks even paler, giving over-all a pale headed and pale-collared appearance; only one head marking ("moustachial stripe"), quite conspicuous. Back and wings warm brown, noticeably evenly barred with dark marks. Tail very long and brownish, dark band at end very broad and conspicuous; tip elongated and wedge-shaped at rest, rounded when spread. Underparts whitish, with scattered dark streaks across breast and down sides. Under-tail coverts pale and unstreaked. Spread tail (seen occasionally) brown with distinct narrow black bands and conspicuous wide band at tip. Did not see wings adequately.

In flight, bird had very long tail and very pointed wings. Paleness of plumage (compared to American Kestrel) noticeable in flight, also dark primaries which created distinctive contrast between the dark outerone-third of the wing and the brown inner part. Long tail and pointed wings (in combination with size) gave a very un-American Kestrel profile. Wing beats very shallow and rapid, giving different impression than American Kestrel. Bird hovered occasionally when hunting, and when perched never cocked its tail except for readjustment of feathers just after landing.

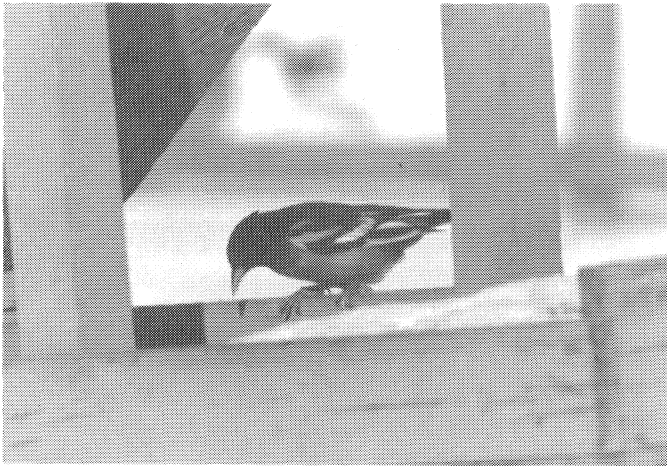
Getting the word out from Minudie took a while. I was able to contact some radio amateurs in the area using the transceiver in my car and the amateur repeater at Springhill. They left a message for Stuart Tingley on his answering machine in Sackville. Coincidentally, Peter and Barbara Fisher of Sackville, who had been in contact with Stuart earlier in the week, were listening. They volunteered to drive over, going via Beausejour to look for Stuart. They arrived at Minudie in late afternoon, leading a cavalcade of cars with New Brunswick birders, mainly from Lameque and Shediac. Everyone saw the bird before it flew off toward the Elysian Fields to the north and disappeared.

Since that memorable afternoon, dozens of birders from Canada and the U.S.A. have seen the Eurasian Kestrel, mainly in the Minudie area, although on February 13 it was again at Beausejour. Never tame, it became harder and harder to approach as questing listers kept it on the move. At last report, a visitor from Iowa reported it at the original location on February 26. It also became a national celebrity, thanks to the work of Barbara Fisher, a CBC freelancer, who provided information to local CBC centers and to Morningside about our Eurasian visitor. When Stuart Tingley left for a bird tour in Mexico, the Nova Scotia Information Centre at the N.S. - N.B. border provided maps and up-to-date information about sightings to visiting birders. A simple rare-bird sighting rapidly became an event.

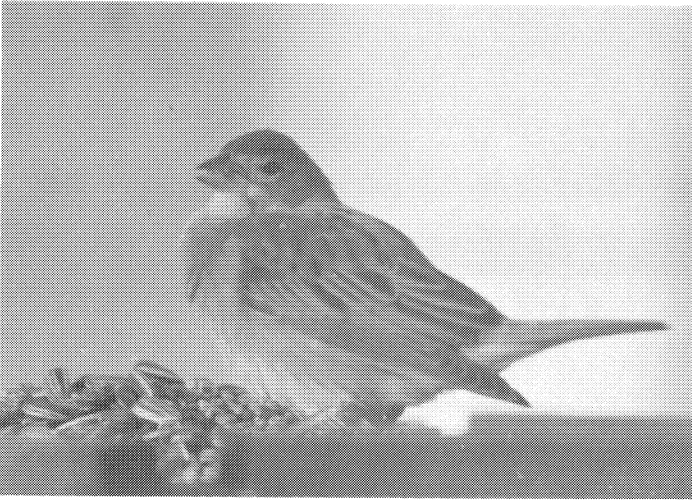
This sighting of this rare raptor raises at least two questions. First, was it really a Eurasian Kestrel? And where did it come from? I believe the evidence in favour of the Eurasian Kestrel is strong. The only other possibility is Lesser Kestrel (Falco naumanni), a bird of southern Europe and central Asia. Females and immatures of the two species are similar, but the Lesser Kestrel is smaller on average, obscurely-marked on the head (only a faint moustachial stripe), paler-plumaged, and hovers less. It has pale claws, rather than the black ones of Eurasian Kestrel. Based on size, plumage and behaviour our bird was the Eurasian species; in addition, one or two sharp-eyed birders report seeing dark claws, a definitive characteristic.

How did it get to the N.S. - N.B. border area? Only two possibilities are plausible, from Europe or from eastern Asia. Canada's first Eurasian Kestrel, shot at Alkali Lake, B.C. (in the south-central interior near Williams Lake) in December 1946 likely came from Asia. Ours probably came from Europe, although we can't exclude an Asiatic origin without information on its race. Northern European Kestrels migrate south and south-westward in September and October. A 60 degree navigational error westward would bring a powerful, fast-flying raptor like the Eurasian

Kestrel from Scandinavia to the Atlantic coast of North America within a few days, possibly via Iceland or Southern Greenland. It had probably been in the Beausejour-Minudie area for at least a month when it was first identified in January, based on observations of a large Kestrel with other falcons (American Kestrel and Merlin) near Minudie during the Amherst Christmas Count in December. The dykelands proved to be an ideal stopping place because they have been overrun by voles all winter. No matter where it originated, this Eurasian Kestrel is likely to remain in the food-rich, relatively isolated dykelands of the border area at least until spring. Then, like most vagrants, it will probably disappear, fate unknown.



A full male Northern ("Baltimore") Oriole at the Robert George residence in Brookfield, Dec. 26, 1987. (Photo by C. Allen Eddy)



Look again!!! Not female HouseSparrow, but a Dickcissel, photographed on the Elliot's feeder in east Dartmouth by Bill Caudle in late Nov., 1987.



The Wallace Bay SANDHILL CRANE, photographed by R. S. Bidwell in mid October, 1987.

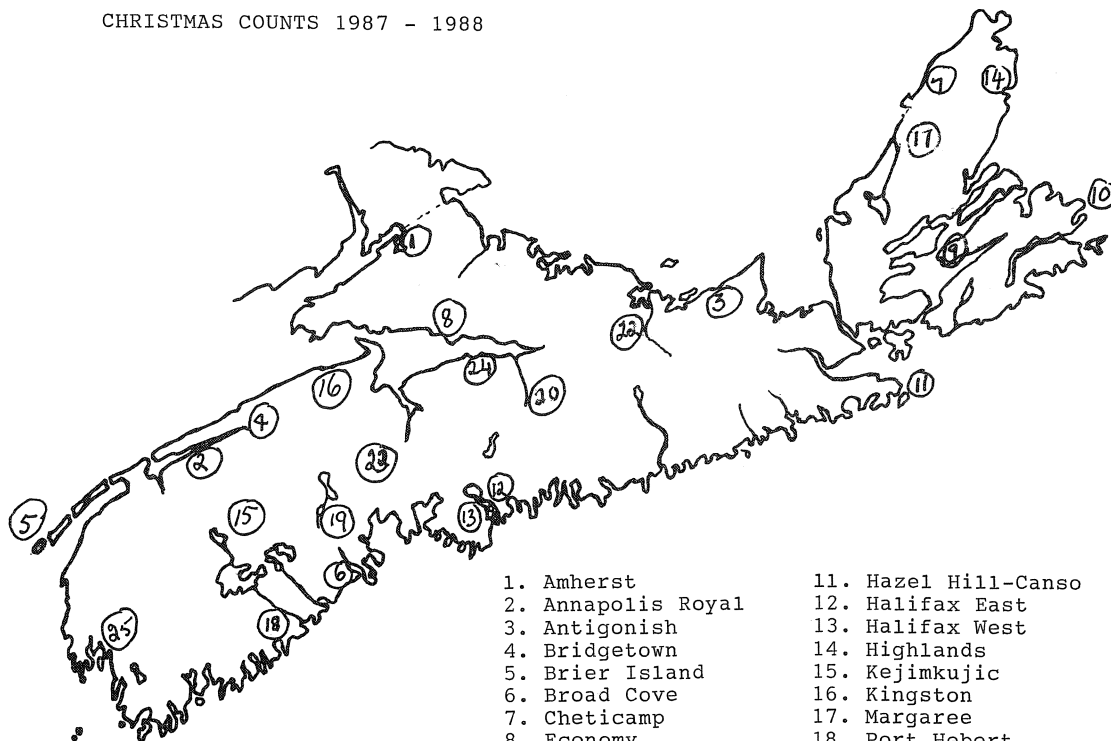
ATTENTION FEEDER WATCHERS

It has been suggested that we start a FEEDER WATCHER'S FEATURE in Nova Scotia Birds. Very many of our members are keen feeder owners and have all kinds of ideas about various ways to feed wild birds and good tips to pass along to beginners. We would like to receive photographs, comments, questions and suggestions. If there is sufficient interest, this could become a regular part of our magazine.



To start things off, here is a picture of an unusual, if not unique, attendant at a bird feeder. Tony Robinson's horse RINGO (we feel he should be renamed PEGASUS) has developed a passion for sunflower seeds. He approaches the feeder, gives it a butt with his shoulder to push some seed out and then enjoys a snack. This has become such a regular occurrence that when Ringo comes out of the barn, the feeder goes in--it gets a bit expensive to cater to such a large guest.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS 1987 - 1988



- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Amherst | 11. Hazel Hill-Canso | |
| 2. Annapolis Royal | 12. Halifax East | |
| 3. Antigonish | 13. Halifax West | |
| 4. Bridgetown | 14. Highlands | |
| 5. Brier Island | 15. Kejimkujic | |
| 6. Broad Cove | 16. Kingston | |
| 7. Cheticamp | 17. Margaree | |
| 8. Economy | 18. Port Hebert | |
| 9. Eskasoni | 19. Sherbrooke Lake | |
| 10. Glace Bay | 20. Shubenacadie | |
| | | 21. Smith's Cove |
| | | 22. Springville |
| | | 23. West Hants |
| | | 24. Wolfville |
| | | 25. Yarmouth |

Nova Scotia Christmas Bird Counts

The 1987/88 count when compared with the past counts that this Society has carried out can only be called a mediocre count. Although the number of individuals spotted, 159,000, was the fourth highest on record, the number of species identified, 129 plus 1 additional race is the lowest number recorded in the last 8 years and there were only two species seen on all 25 counts - Blue Jay and Common Crow.

This year most count compilers supplied good to excellent details of all the unusual species seen on their counts. We hope this trend continues and we look forward to seeing more of the N.S.B.S. Verification Form for unusual records.

AMHERST, Dec. 23; 7:45AM to 5:15PM. Overcast AM. Partly cloudy PM. Wind 0-10kmh. Temp. -5 to 2C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 14 observers in 9 parties. Total party hours 44 (26 on foot, 16.5 by car, 1.5 by skidoo). Total party miles 296 (31 on foot, 258 by car, 7 by skidoo).

Am. Black Duck 22; Com. Merganser 100; Red-br. Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 2a; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 20; falcon sp. 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 7; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 800; Iceland Gull 3; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 325; Rock Dove 335; Mourning Dove 7; Great Horned Owl 1; Snowy Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 119; Am. Crow 253; Com. Raven 159; Bl.-capped Chickadee 190; Boreal Chickadee 40; Red-br. Nuthatch 14; White-br. Nuthatch 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 28; Bohemian Waxwing 35; N. Shrike 5; Eur. Starling 1382; Dickcissel 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 54; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 46; Snow Bunting 105; Com. Grackle 1; White-winged Crossbill 20; Com. Redpoll 176; Evening Grosbeak 125; House Sparrow 792.

Total 44 species, about 5213 individuals. Paul Bogaard, Evelyn Coates, Gary Greer, Hinrich Harries, Frank Hennessey, Ron Hounsell, Bill Murphy, Cora Nelson, Al Smith, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding, Russ Tilt, Stuart Tingley (compiler), Rob Walker.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Dec. 28; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Mostly Cloudy AM. Mostly cloudy with snow flurries PM. Wind NW 40-50 kmh. Temp. -8 to -10C. Fresh water partly frozen. 18 observers in 10 parties, 11 at feeding stations. Total party hours 23 (12.5 on foot, 10.5 by car). Total party miles 63.5 (14.5 on foot, 49 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Com. Loon 4; Horned Grebe 9; Red-necked Grebe 5; Great Cormorant 2; Am. Black Duck 102; Com. Eider 7; Oldsquaw 2600; White-winged Scoter 16; Com. Goldeneye 30; Bufflehead 44; Red-br. Merganser 17; Bald Eagle 2; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Ring-necked Pheasant 18; Herring Gull 276; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 16; Rock Dove 31; Mourning Dove 14; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 3; N. Flicker 1; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 194; Am. Crow 155; Com. Raven 17; Bl.-capped Chickadee 76; Boreal Chickadee 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 25; Eur. Starling 290; N. Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 27; Chipping Sparrow 3 (good details); Song Sparrow 7; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 71; Snow Bunting 90; Com. Grackle 9; Br.-headed Cowbird 19; Pine Grosbeak 30; Purple Finch 2; White-winged Crossbill 20; Pine Siskin 14; Am. Goldfinch 39; Evening Grosbeak 355; House Sparrow 192.

Total 48 species, about 4858 individuals. (CP: Pied-billed Grebe, Canada Goose, Greater Scaup, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Barred Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Am. Robin, Bohemian Waxwing, Red-winged Blackbird, N. Oriole). Mildred Burrell, Helen Ellis, Dorothy Everett, Barbara Harbord, Lanny Harbord, Sharon Hawboldt (compiler), Stephen Hawboldt, Charlotte Hollett, Harold Horwood, Leah Harwood, Chris Jones, Clifford Jones, Susan Jost, Eric Muntz, Connie O'Brien, Gini Proulx, John Turner.

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 27; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Partly cloudy with intermittent light snow AM. Mostly clear to partly cloudy with intermittent light snow PM. Wind light, 5kmh. Temp. -8 to -4C. Fresh water partly frozen. 31 observers in 3 parties, 25 at feeding stations. Total party hours 21 (7 on foot, 12.50 by car, 1.50 other). Total party miles 398 (9 on foot, 388 by car, 1 other).

Horned Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 25; Canada Goose 355; Am. Black Duck 200; Greater Scaup 3; Oldsquaw 3; Surf Scoter 2; Com. Goldeneye 89; Red-br. Merganser 7; Bald Eagle 7a, 61mm.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 1; Herring Gull 536; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 76; Rock Dove 78; Mourning Dove

11; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 117; Am. Crow 127; Com. Raven 197; Bl.-capped Chickadee 80; Boreal Chickadee 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 1; Am. Robin 4; Brown Thrasher 1 (no details); Bohemian Waxwing 55; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 239; Am. Tree Sparrow 66; Song Sparrow 4; White-thr. Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 184; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 22; Com. Grackle 2; Br.-headed Cowbird 2; N. Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 9; Purple Finch 5; Com. Redpoll 3; Pine Siskin 6; Am. Goldfinch 22; Even. Grosbeak 121; House Sparrow 157.

Total 49 species, about 2841 individuals. (CP: Com. Loon, Bufflehead, Com. Merganser, N. Harrier, Ruffed Grouse, Sanderling, Ring-billed Gull, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-br. Nuthatch, White-br. Nuthatch). Donald & Mary Barry, Connie & Margaret Beaton, Beck family, Anne Braid, Paul Brown, Vicky Bunbury, Alyre Chiasson, Roland Chiasson (compiler), Paulette Chiasson, Margie Dunphy, Jane Gorman, Lou Gorman, Alfred Landry, Debbie Landry, Oonah Landry, D.J. Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Luc Laurin, Betty & David Roy Macdonald, Dr. & Mrs. MacCormick, Mora MacDonald, Harriet MacMillian, Gus & Ria Merten, Mavis Murray, Phyllis Sers, Dr. Norm Seymour, Colin Smith, Gerald Teasdale, Ingrid Tolsen, Betty Webber, Celeste Chiasson.

BRIDGETOWN, Jan. 2; 8AM to 5PM. Clear AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind 0 AM to 10kmh PM. Temp. -3C. Fresh water frozen. 23 observers in 5 parties, 9 at feeding stations. Total party hours 36 (9.5 on foot, 26.5 by car). Total party miles 260 (33 on foot, 227 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Horned Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 1; Com. Eider 13; Oldsquaw 15; White-winged Scoter 75; Red-br. Merganser 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Gray Partridge 11; Ring-necked Pheasant 24; Purple Sandpiper 80; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 166; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 12; Dovekie 2; Rock Dove 187; Mourning Dove 38; Downy Woodpecker 16; Hairy Woodpecker 17; Horned Lark 3; Blue Jay 169; Am. Crow 332; Com. Raven 27; Bl.-capped Chickadee 42; Red-br. Nuthatch 2; White-br. Nuthatch 4; Am. Robin 2; N. Mockingbird 1; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 612; Am. Tree Sparrow 23; Song Sparrow 8; White-thr. Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 106; Snow Bunting 551; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Com. Grackle 14; Br.-headed Cowbird 82; Pine Grosbeak 4; Red Crossbill 2; Am. Goldfinch 42; Even. Grosbeak 160; House Sparrow 255.

Total 49 species, about 3130 individuals. (CP: Canada Goose, N. Harrier, Ruffed Grouse, Great Horned Owl, N. Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher (no details), Gray Catbird (no details), Golden-cr. Kinglet, Pine Siskin). D. Bowlby, D. Colville, A. Devillez, J. Devillez, D. Durling, M. Gaul, M. Graves, M. Jodrey, D. Keddie, H. Maher, E. Marshall, W. Marshall, E. Morris, Eric Morris, J. Morse (compiler), W. Morse, E. Porter, M. Porter, A. Slauenwhite, E. Slauenwhite, J. Smith, S. Whitman, J. Keddie.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 29; 7:45AM to 4PM. Overcast with intermittent moderate snow AM. Overcast with heavy snow PM. Wind 30-50kmh. Temp. -5C. Fresh water frozen. 3 observers in 1-2 parties. Total party hours 11 (4 on foot, 7 by car). Total party miles 18 (3 on foot, 15 by car).

Com. Loon 7; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 11; Great Cormorant 35; Am. Black Duck 42; Greater Scaup 2; Com. Eider 181; Oldsquaw 52; Com. Goldeneye 12; Bufflehead 1; Red-br. Merganser 20; Bald Eagle 1 imm.; N. Harrier 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 1; Herring Gull 43; Iceland Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 32; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 230; Mourning Dove 2; Snowy Owl 1; Horned Lark 2; Blue Jay 3; Am. Crow 66; Com. Raven 15; Eur. Starling 35; Rufous-sided Towhee 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Even. Grosbeak 48; House Sparrow 14.

Total 32 species, about 864 individuals. Elizabeth Stern, Richard Stern (compiler), Jim Wolford.

BROAD COVE, Dec. 30; 8AM to 5PM. Overcast. Wind NW 40-75kmh. Temp. -12 to -9C. Fresh water frozen. 12 observers in 5-6 parties. Total party hours 34 (23 on foot, 11 by car). Total party miles 152 (20 on foot, 132 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 1; Com. Loon 38; Horned Grebe 25; Red-necked Grebe 3; Great Cormorant 6; Double-cr. Cormorant 2; Canada Goose 113; Green-winged Teal 1; Am. Black Duck 73; Mallard 27; Greater Scaup 150; Com. Eider 940; Oldsquaw 35; Black Scoter 63; White-winged Scoter 4; Com. Goldeneye 96; Bufflehead 12; Com. Merganser 3; Red-br. Merganser 36; Bald Eagle 1a.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; N. Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 2; Killdeer 5; Red Knot 3; Sanderling 16; Dunlin 2; Com. Snipe 1; Herring Gull 803; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 349; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 3; Rock Dove 12; Mourning Dove 2;

Snowy Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 6; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 49; Am. Crow 162; Com. Raven 18; Bl.-capped Chickadee 46; Boreal Chickadee 6; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 12; Water Pipit 2; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 223; Yel.-rumped Warbler 9; Com. Yellowthroat 2; Am. Tree Sparrow 23; Savannah Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 12; White-thr. Sparrow 18; Dark-eyed Junco 177; Snow Bunting 67; E. Meadowlark 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 1.

Total 63 species, about 3684 individuals. (CP: Great Blue Heron, Short-eared Owl, Red-br. Nuthatch, Am. Robin). Barbara Byrd, Bill Caudle, Margaret Clark, John, Lise & Shirley Cohrs, Ben Doane, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Greg Hall, Don & Joyce Purchase, Nellie Snyder.

CHETICAMP, Dec. 19; 9AM to 4:30PM. Mostly cloudy to overcast. Wind NW 10kmh. Temp. -4C. Fresh water open. 12 observers in 6 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 21.5 (11 on foot, 10.5 by car). Total party kms. 116.1 (21 on foot, 95.1 by car).

Great Cormorant 5; Am. Black Duck 58; Com. Eider 3; Oldsquaw 3; Surf Scoter 35; White-winged Scoter 2; Com. Goldeneye 76; Red-br. Merganser 4; Bald Eagle 2; Ruffed Grouse 2; Herring Gull 56; Iceland Gull 19; Glaucous Gull 4; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 30; Black Guillemot 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 31; Am. Crow 199; Com. Raven 56; Bl.-capped Chickadee 14; Boreal Chickadee 11; Golden-cr. Kinglet 15; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 48; Yel.-rumped Warbler 1; Dark-eyed Junco 4; Snow Bunting 101; Even. Grosbeak 29.

Total 30 species, about 819 individuals. (CP: N. Goshawk, Pine Grosbeak). James Bridgland, Don Buckley, Jackie Cyr, Marie Doucette, Alexis Goth, David Lawley (compiler), R.L. MacDonald-May, Ruth McLagan, Mack Savoy, Randy G. Thompson, Ingrid Timmons, Elaine Wallace.

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 8AM to 5PM. Clear AM. Partly cloudy PM. Wind West 0-25kmh. Temp. -15 to -3C. Fresh water partly frozen. 5 observers in 5 parties, 11 at feeding stations. Total party hours 43½ (36 on foot, 7½ by car). Total party miles 118½ (33½ on foot, 85 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 1; Com. Loon 1; Am. Black Duck 394; Mallard 2; Oldsquaw 26; White-winged Scoter 6; Com. Goldeneye 16; Bufflehead 5; Com. Merganser 12; Bald Eagle 1a.; N. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 8; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Gray Partridge 44; Ruffed Grouse 8; Purple Sandpiper 60; Ring-billed Gull 9; Herring Gull 655; Iceland Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 16; Rock Dove 81; Mourning Dove 6; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 78; Am. Crow 192; Com. Raven 82; Bl.-capped Chickadee 136; Boreal Chickadee 24; Red-br. Nuthatch 39; Golden-cr. Kinglet 12 (low); N. Shrike 6; Eur. Starling 621; Am. Tree Sparrow 62; Song Sparrow 6; White-thr. Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 133; Snow Bunting 432; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 13; Pine Grosbeak 2; White-winged Crossbill 12; Com. Redpoll 53; Pine Siskin 58; Am. Goldfinch 55; Even. Grosbeak 140; House Sparrow 230.

Total 51 species, about 3775 individuals. (CP: Canada Goose, Bohemian Waxwing). Frank Hennessey, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding (compiler), Stuart Tingley, Rob Walker.

ESKASONI, Dec. 29; 8AM to 4PM. Mostly clear. Wind 5-10kmh. Temp. 25F. Fresh water frozen. 13 observers in 3 parties, 5 at feeding stations. Total party hours 20 (2 on foot, 18 by car). Total party miles 55 (5 on foot, 50 by car).

Com. Loon 4; Double-cr. Cormorant 1 (no details); Am. Black Duck 5; White-winged Scoter 5; Com. Goldeneye 11; Com. Merganser 3; Red-br. Merganser 27; Bald Eagle 8a., 8imm.; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Herring Gull 19; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 4; Mourning Dove 13; Belted Kingfisher 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 73; Am. Crow 39; Com. Raven 10; Bl.-capped Chickadee 26; Boreal Chickadee 2; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 4; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 56; Am. Tree Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 47; N. Oriole 1; Am. Goldfinch 23; Even. Grosbeak 104; House Sparrow 22.

Total 32 species, about 529 individuals. (CP: Snow Bunting). George Ball, Terry Boone, Maureen Dixon, Joe Donovan, George MacInnis, John MacInnis, John MacLeod, Catherine MacNeil, Jack MacNeil (compiler), Laurie MacNeil, Bernard Murphy, Pat Murphy, Melvin White.

GLACE BAY, Dec. 26; 8AM to 3:30PM. Partly Cloudy. Wind N. 20kmh. Temp. -3C. Fresh water frozen. 4 observers in 2 parties, 5 at feeding stations. Total party

Com. Loon 4; Double-cr. Cormorant 1 (no details); Canada Goose 60; Am. Black Duck 296; Lesser Scaup 2 (no details); Oldsquaw 1; Com. Goldeneye 4; Bufflehead 2; Red-br. Merganser 13; Purple Sandpiper 8; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 10; Herring Gull 258; Iceland Gull 22; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 43; Thick-billed Murre 1; Rock Dove 108; Mourning Dove 36; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 10; Am. Crow 78; Com. Raven 3; Bl.-capped Chickadee 7; Golden-cr. Kinglet 1; N. Mockingbird 1; Eur. Starling 225; Song Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Snow Bunting 48; Purple Finch 1; Am. Goldfinch 8; Even. Grosbeak 19; House Sparrow 75.

Total 32 species, about 1351 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Bohemian Waxwing, White-thr. Sparrow, N. Oriole, Com. Redpoll). David Harris, Jeremy Harris, Jeanne McNicol, Sara MacLean (compiler).

HAZEL HILL - CANSO, Jan. 2; 10:30AM to 3:30PM. Mostly clear with snow flurries. Wind NNW 60kmh. Temp. -3C. Fresh water frozen. 9 observers in 1 party, 7 at feeding stations. Total party hours 12 ($\frac{3}{2}$ on foot, $11\frac{1}{2}$ by car). Total party miles 24 (1 on foot, 23 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 2; Great Cormorant 1; Oldsquaw 8; Herring Gull 60; Glaucous Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 11; Black Guillemot 12; Mourning Dove 1; Blue Jay 3; Am. Crow 7; Com. Raven 1; Am. Robin 6; N. Mockingbird 1; Eur. Starling 110; Am. Tree Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 19; Snow Bunting 25; Br.-headed Cowbird 1; Purple Finch 6; Am. Goldfinch 2; Even. Grosbeak 24, House Sparrow 40.

Total 22 species, about 343 individuals. (CP: Red-necked Grebe, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Com. Snipe, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Com. Redpoll). Stephen S. Bushell, June N. Jarvis, Sam K. Jarvis, Bridget H. McKeough, Gertrude L. MacKenzie, Harold M. MacKenzie, Nancy Peters (compiler), Warren Peters, Harold MacKinnon.

HALIFAX EAST, Dec. 19; Partly cloudy AM. Mostly Cloudy PM. Wind NNW 1-4mph. Temp. 14-23F. Fresh water open. 38 observers in 23 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 185.1 (126.5 on foot, 58.6 by car). Total party miles 605 (157.8 on foot, 447.2 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 5; Com. Loon 177; Horned Grebe 21; Red-necked Grebe 17; Great Cormorant 25; Great Blue Heron 6; Canada Goose 10,666; Am. Black Duck 214; Greater Scaup 8; Com. Eider 45; Harlequin Duck 1; Oldsquaw 282; Black Scoter 16; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 36; Com. Goldeneye 36; Bufflehead 88; Com. Merganser 11; Red-br. Merganser 232; Bald Eagle 2; N. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 11; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 5; Am. Kestrel 3; Merlin 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Spruce Grouse 3; Ruffed Grouse 2; Killdeer 1; Red Knot 3; Purple Sandpiper 2; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 74; Ring-billed Gull 257; Herring Gull 1090; Iceland Gull 93; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 41; Thick-billed Murre 5; Razzorbill 1; Black Guillemot 5; Atlantic Puffin 1; Rock Dove 89; Mourning Dove 95; Snowy Owl 14; Short-eared Owl 3; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 13; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; N. (Yel.-sh.) Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 31; Gray Jay 21; Blue Jay 255; Am. Crow 920; Com. Raven 64; Bl.-capped Chickadee 387; Boreal Chickadee 49; Red-br. Nuthatch 78; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 76; Am. Robin 10; N. Mockingbird 4; Bohemian Waxwing 2; N. Shrike 5; Eur. Starling 3998; Yel.-rumped Warbler 29; Palm Warbler 15; Com. Yellowthroat 1; Yellow-br. Chat 2; Rufous-sided Towhee 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 227; Savannah Sparrow 52; Sharp-tailed Sparrow 20; Seaside Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 100; Swamp Sparrow 34; White-thr. Sparrow 35; Dark-eyed Junco 502; Lapland Longspur 54; Snow Bunting 1453; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Com. Grackle 4; Br.-headed Cowbird 58; Pine Grosbeak 26; Purple Finch 15; White-winged Crossbill 388; Com. Redpoll 4; Pine Siskin 56; Am. Goldfinch 321; Even. Grosbeak 604; House Sparrow 446.

Total 92 species, about 24,066 individuals. (CP: Mallard, Lesser Yellowlegs, White-br. Nuthatch, Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow). Ron Arsenault, Phyllis Bryson, Bill Caudle, Margaret Clark, John Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs, Alan Covert, David Currie, Paul Duval, Jim Elliott, Chris Field, Sylvia Fullerton, Branimir Gjetvaj, Sherman Glazebrook, Jean Hartley, Barbara Hinds, Peter Jones, Janos Kovacs, Fulton Lavender (compiler), Doug Linzey, Peter Macleod, Don MacNeill, Kathleen Masui, Blake Maybank, Bob McDonald, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Sandra Myers, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Roger Pockington, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Pam Sinclair, Carl Tay, Derek Tay, Jim Taylor, Azor Vienneau.

HALIFAX WEST, Dec. 27; 7:15AM to 4:45PM. Mostly clear. Wind 10kmh. Temp. -15 to -4C. Fresh water frozen. 38 observers in 24 parties. Total party hours 153.5 (105.5 on foot, 47.5 by car, .5 by boat). Total party miles 477 (103.2 on foot,

372.8 by car, 1 by boat).

Com. Loon 47; Horned Grebe 5; Red-necked Grebe 14; Great Cormorant 170; Double-cr. Cormorant 1; Wood Duck 2; Am. Black Duck 1176; Mallard 63; Greater Scaup 1; Com. Eider 122; Harlequin Duck 2; Oldsquaw 102; Black Scoter 6; White-winged Scoter 39; Com. Goldeneye 31; Bufflehead 8; Com. Merganser 16; Red-br. Merganser 71; Bald Eagle 1a.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 2; Merlin 4; Ruffed Grouse 2; Am. Coot 1; Killdeer 1; Purple Sandpiper 35; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 32; Ring-billed Gull 38; Herring Gull 4424; Iceland Gull 117; Lesser Bl.-backed Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 695; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 1; Dovekie 9; Com. Murre 1; Thick-billed Murre 8; Black Guillemot 33; alcid sp. 4; Rock Dove 1647; Mourning Dove 43; Great Horned Owl 1; Snowy Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 27; Hairy Woodpecker 15; N. Flicker 2; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 246; Am. Crow 1080; Com. Raven 28; Bl.-capped Chickadee 394; Boreal Chickadee 55; Red-br. Nuthatch 27; White-br. Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 11; Golden-cr. Kinglet 64; Am. Robin 592; N. Mockingbird 13; Water Pipit 1; Bohemian Waxwing 16; Cedar Waxwing 22; N. Shrike 6; Eur. Starling 6273; Yel.-rumped Warbler 8; Pine Warbler 2; Yel.-br. Chat 4; Dickcissel 1; Rufous-sided Towhee 3; Am. Tree Sparrow 160; Field Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 10; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 104; Swamp Sparrow 12; White-thr. Sparrow 35; Dark-eyed Junco 559; Snow Bunting 391; Com. Grackle 19; Br.-headed Cowbird 757; N. Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 13; Purple Finch 16; Red Crossbill 3; White-winged Crossbill 23; Am. Goldfinch 150; Even. Grosbeak 371; House Sparrow 1561.

Total 87 species, about 22,076 individuals. (CP: Am. Wigeon, Glaucous Gull, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher). Steve Barbour, Bill Caudle, Margaret Clark, John Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs, Kay Cooke, Alan Covert, Ethel Crathorne, David Currie (compiler), Bob Dickie, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Chris Field, Roger Foxall, Sylvia Fullerton, Barbara Hinds, Fulton Lavender, Betty Learnmouth, David MacKinnon, Alana MacNeill, Carol MacNeill, Don MacNeill, Steve Manuel, Bob McDonald, Ian McLaren, James McLaren, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Karen Mills, Bernice Moores, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Roger Pocklington, Mike Potter, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Jim Taylor, Azor Vienneau.

HIGHLANDS, Dec. 27; 7AM to 5PM. Mostly cloudy AM. Overcast with light snow PM. Wind calm to NW 10kmh. Temp. -7.5 to -3C. Fresh water frozen. 35 observers in 19 parties, 16 at feeding stations. Total party hours 23 (10 on foot, 13 in car, 55.5 at feeders). Total party miles 109 (100 by car, 9 on foot).

Red-thr. Loon 1; Com. Loon 2; Am. Black Duck 54; Com. Eider 2; King Eider 4; Oldsquaw 34; White-winged Scoter 19; Com. Goldeneye 86; Bufflehead 3; Com. Merganser 11; Red-br. Merganser 14; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 17; Herring Gull 20; Iceland Gull 7; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 17; Dovekie 6; Thick-billed Murre 3; Black Guillemot 6; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 58; Am. Crow 106; Com. Raven 1; Bl.-capped Chickadee 42; Boreal Chickadee 10; Red-br. Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 3; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 54; Song Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 21; Snow Bunting 68; Pine Grosbeak 4; Am. Goldfinch 10; Even. Grosbeak 17.

Total 44 species, about 739 individuals. (CP: Double-cr. Cormorant, Barrow's Goldeneye, Am. Robin, Bohemian Waxwing, House Sparrow). James Bridgland, Charlotte Campbell, Clara Carter, Dorothea Cox, Bernice Doucette, Gordon Doucette, Jeri Doucette, John Doucette, Bill Fisher, Ruby Fisher, Irene Gettas, Chris Gorey, Maxine Hardy, Bucko Hussey, Ellen Ingraham, Ross Ingraham, Doug Jackson, Jeanette Jackson, Jim MacLean, Marilyn MacLean, Jessie McEvoy, Jim McEvoy, Ruth McLagan, Daniel Murray, Heather Murray, Ian Murray, Ken Murray, Linda Murray, Tim Reynolds, Paula Reynolds, Joe Robinson, Murray Stockley, Bob Thexton, Karen Thexton, Fred Williams.

KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK, Dec. 21; 8AM to 5:30PM. Light rain AM. Partly cloudy PM. Wind NW 0-15kmh. Temp. -4 to 3C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 13-17 observers in 9-10 parties, 2-6 at feeding stations. Total party hours 39 (19½ on foot, 3½ by car, 12 ½ on skis, 4 by snowmobile). Total party miles 124½ (28 on foot, 52 by car, 15½ by skis, 29 by snowmobile).

Am. Black Duck 1; Com. Goldeneye 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 13; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 46; Am. Crow 15; Com. Raven 28; Bl.-capped Chickadee 108; Boreal Chickadee 10; Red-br. Nuthatch 20; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 82; Bohemian Waxwing 1; Eur. Starling 26; Am. Tree Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 33; Snow Bunting 55; Pine Grosbeak 20; Pur-

ple Finch 20; Red Crossbill 1; White-winged Crossbill 94; Pine Siskin, Even. Grosbeak; House Sparrow 13.

Total 32 species, about 653 individuals. Thelma Bowers, Rick Brunt, Cliff Drysdale, Ron Eaton, Peter Hope (compiler), Greg Kenney, Ginny & Jim Langley, Len & Pat MacDonald, Paul MacDonald, Eric Mullen, Granville & Maggie Nickerson, Peter Rogers, Betty & Jim Ross, Rick Swain, Gail Waddington.

KINGSTON, Dec. 28; 8AM to 5PM. Mostly cloudy. Wind 40-60 kmh. Temp. -10 to -4C. Fresh water frozen. 7 observers in 3 parties, 32 at feeding stations. Total party hours 23 (4 on foot, 19 by car). Total party miles 202 (6 on foot, 196 by car).

Am. Black Duck 4; Com. Eider 2; Oldsquaw 5; White-winged Scoter 12; Com. Merganser 2; Red-br. Merganser 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Merlin 1; hawk sp. 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 6; Purple Sandpiper 30; Herring Gull 139; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 9; Com. Murre 3; Thick-billed Murre 1; Rock Dove 47; Mourning Dove 133; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 20; Hairy Woodpecker 15; Horned Lark 3; Blue Jay 345; Am. Crow 413; Com. Raven 34; Bl.-capped Chickadee 190; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; White-br. Nuthatch 18; Golden-cr. Kinglet 30; Am. Robin 5; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 1053; Rufous-sided Towhee 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 29; Song Sparrow 7; White-thr. Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 390; Snow Bunting 391; Com. Grackle 31; Br.-headed Cowbird 19; Pine Grosbeak 76; Purple Finch 3; Pine Siskin 24; Am. Goldfinch 193; Even. Grosbeak 500; House Sparrow 350.

Total 45 species, about 4554 individuals. (CP: Horned Grebe, Fox Sparrow). Note: 10 Ringed Turtle Doves - possible released birds. George Aitken, Jim Cathcart, Norm Donovan, Barb Giffin, Patrick Giffin (compiler), Larry Neily, Tom Ross.

MARGAREE, Dec. 18; 8AM to 4PM. Overcast. Wind 5-15kmh. Temp. -3C. Fresh water partly frozen. 5 observers in 2 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 16 (7 on foot, 9 by car). Total party miles 72 (6 on foot, 66 by car).

Am. Black Duck 14; Com. Goldeneye 18; Com. Merganser 33; Bald Eagle 11; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 11; Com. Tern 1 (no details); Mourning Dove 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 60; Am. Crow 103; Com. Raven 43; Bl.-capped Chickadee 37; Boreal Chickadee 3; Eur. Starling 126; Dark-eyed Junco 6; Snow Bunting 20; Pine Grosbeak 5; Even. Grosbeak 32; House Sparrow 32.

Total 24 species, about 568 individuals. Frances Hart (compiler), Marjorie Hart, Baxter Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham, Alex Miller.

PORT HEBERT, Dec. 20; 7AM to 5PM. Partly cloudy AM. Mostly cloudy PM. Wind 5-10 kmh. Temp. -7 to 0C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 17 observers in 10 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 71 (61.25 on foot, 9.75 by car). Total party miles 227 (95 on foot, 132 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 6; Com. Loon 116; Horned Grebe 119; Red-necked Grebe 59; Great Cormorant 35; Great Blue Heron 4; Canada Goose 2691; Am. Black Duck 852; Mallard 3; N. Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 70; Com. Eider 212; Harlequin Duck 7; Oldsquaw 117; Black Scoter 42; Surf Scoter 10; White-winged Scoter 567; Com. Goldeneye 161; Bufflehead 38; Hooded Merganser 1; Com. Merganser 51; Red-br. Merganser 30; Bald Eagle 1a.; N. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 6; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 2; Broad-winged Hawk 1 (no details); Ruffed Grouse 8; Sanderling 2; Purple Sandpiper 80; Am. Woodcock 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 5; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 491; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 74; Dovekie 7; Black Guillemot 26; Rock Dove 3; Mourning Dove 25; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 4; N. Flicker 13; Horned Lark 17; Gray Jay 19; Blue Jay 48; Am. Crow 153; Com. Raven 19; Bl.-capped Chickadee 113; Boreal Chickadee 38; Red-br. Nuthatch 9; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 62; Am. Robin 6; N. Mockingbird 1; Water Pipit 13; Bohemian Waxwing 1; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 282; Yel.-rumped Warbler 70; Pine Warbler 1; Palm Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 34; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 34; Swamp Sparrow 6; White-thr. Sparrow 46; Dark-eyed Junco 132; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 715; E. Meadowlark 2; Br.-headed Cowbird 14; Pine Grosbeak 38; Purple Finch 7; White-winged Crossbill 495; Pine Siskin 24; Am. Goldfinch 70; Even. Grosbeak 342; House Sparrow 17.

Total 81 species, about 8789 individuals. (CP: Black-bellied Plover, Snowy Owl, Savannah Sparrow, Cardinal). Barbara Addelson, Jeanne Addelson, Lloyd Cameron, Bill Crosby, Donna Crosby, Russel Crosby (compiler), Bill Curry, Peter Hope, Greg Kenney, Len MacDonald, Danny Mason, Dan Reive, Lydia Toth, Robert Turner, Danielle MacAulay Williams, Joan Young, David Young.

SHERBROOKE LAKE, Dec. ?; 8AM to 3PM. Mostly cloudy with snow AM. Partly cloudy with snow PM. Wind 40-50kmh. Temp. -10 to -15C. Fresh water frozen. 2 observers in 1 party, 9 at feeding stations. Total party hours 7 (7 on foot). Total party miles 2 (2 on foot).

Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 3; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 4; Am. Crow 13; Com. Raven 1; Bl.-capped Chickadee 1; White-br. Nuthatch 2; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Even. Grosbeak 5.

Total 11 species, about 38 individuals. Judith Beaton (compiler), Ron Shanks.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 27; 8AM to 4:30PM. Mostly clear AM. Mostly cloudy PM. Wind AM 0-5kmh., PM 15kmh. Temp. AM -15, PM -6C. Fresh water mostly Frozen. 21 observers in 5 parties, 11 at feeding stations. Total party hours 14 (5½ on foot, 8½ by car). Total party miles 66½ (8½ on foot, 58 by car).

Canada Goose 6; Am. Black Duck 29; Mallard 21; Com. Merganser 3; Red-br. Merganser 350; Bald Eagle 10a., 6imm.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 1; Herring Gull 14; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 11; Rock Dove 96; Mourning Dove 39; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 101; Am. Crow 153; Com. Raven 113; Bl.-capped Chickadee 70; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-br. Nuthatch 15; Golden-cr. Kinglet 18; Am. Robin 1; Eur. Starling 524; Am. Tree Sparrow 49; Song Sparrow 11; White-thr. Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 227; Snow Bunting 163; Com. Grackle 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 5; Pine Grosbeak 16; White-winged Crossbill 65; Pine Siskin 27; Am. Goldfinch 53; Even. Grosbeak 208; House Sparrow 214.

Total 42 species, about 2662 individuals. (CP: Rough-legged Hawk). Mark Anthony, Ivan DeLong, Avarad Ettinger, Nancy Ettinger, Wayne Garden, Mary Geddes, Derek Hutton, Glennys Hutton, JoAnne MacBeth, Philip MacBeth, Pam MacInnis, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler), Juanita Murphey, Eldon Pace, Jean Schwartz, Barbara Scott, Lloyd Scott, Connie Stott, Lorne Weaver, Marion Williams, Peggy Williams.

SMITH'S COVE, Dec. 26; 8AM to 4:45PM. Overcast. Wind 30kmh. Temp. -2C. 6 observers. Details of total party hours and miles not given.

Horned Grebe 1; Canada Goose 75; Bufflehead 12; Com. Merganser 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Herring Gull 25; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 15; Downy Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 8; Am. Crow 25; Bl.-capped Chickadee 9; Am. Robin 25; Yel.-br. Chat 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 15; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Snow Bunting 25; Purple Finch 1; Com. Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 8; Even. Grosbeak 35.

Total 25 species, about 297 individuals. A. Ettinger, S. Irvine, M. Mondale, M.L. Raymond, K. Raymond, H. Rajic.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 19; 8AM to 1PM. Mostly clear. Wind SW 5kmh. Temp. -10C. Fresh water frozen. 8 observers in 4 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 14 (8 on foot, 6 by car). Total party miles 85 (7 on foot, 78 by car).

Bald Eagle 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Herring Gull 12; Rock Dove 146; Mourning Dove 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 81; Am. Crow 207; Com. Raven 6; Bl.-capped Chickadee 23; Golden-cr. Kinglet 1; Eur. Starling 225; Am. Tree Sparrow 11; Dark-eyed Junco 9; Br.-headed Cowbird 4; White-winged Crossbill 2; Am. Goldfinch 1; Even. Grosbeak 31; House Sparrow 111.

Total 23 species, about 881 individuals. (CP: Canada Goose, Am. Black Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, Red-br. Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, N. Shrike, Snow Bunting, Com. Redpoll). Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Robert Cameron, Calder Fraser, Fred Kenney (compiler), Margaret Kenney, Stephen Vines.

WEST HANTS, Jan. 2; 8AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind 30-40kmh. Temp. -9C. Fresh water partly frozen. 19 observers in 8 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 42 (11 on foot, 31 by car). Total party miles 224 (18 on foot, 206 by car).

Am. Black Duck 349; Mallard 2; White-winged Scoter 6; Com. Merganser 12; Bald Eagle 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Gray Partridge 22; Ring-necked Pheasant 68; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 70; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 575; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 119; Rock Dove 355; Mourning Dove 6; Red-headed Woodpecker 1 (no details); Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 33; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 97; Am. Crow 403; Com. Raven 30; Bl.-capped Chickadee 59; Red-br. Nuthatch 4; White-br. Nuthatch 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 6; Am. Robin 1; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 815; Am.

Free Sparrow 21; Song Sparrow 5; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 104; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 393; Com. Grackle 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 38; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 10; Am. Goldfinch 62; Even. Grosbeak 90; House Sparrow 294.

Total 48 species, about 4081 individuals. (CP: Bohemian Waxwing, Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin). Karen Casselman, Bill Caudle, Sheila Connell, Merritt Gibson, Baeta Marsters, Everett Marsters, Mary Pratt, Gerry Rathbun, Richard Stern, Meriam Tams, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Judy Tufts (compiler), Gordon Tufts, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Beth Woolaver, Frank Woolaver, Paul Yates.

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 19; 7:15AM to 5:15PM. Overcast. Wind variable 0-10kmh. Temp. -8C. Fresh water frozen. 64 observers in 21 parties, 10 at feeding stations. Total party hours 124 (64 on foot, 60 by car). Total party miles 469 (109 on foot, 360 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 1; Great Cormorant 4; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 573; Am. Black Duck 2230; Mallard 28; N. Pintail 1; Com. Eider 40; Black Scoter 15; White-winged Scoter 84; Com. Goldeneye 11; Hooded Merganser 1; Com. Merganser 13; Bald Eagle 49 (23a., 26imm.); N. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 17; N. Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 140; Rough-legged Hawk 12; Merlin 2; Gray Partridge 21; Ring-necked Pheasant 304; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Ring-billed Gull 39; Herring Gull 2674; Iceland Gull 4; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 2271; Rock Dove 964; Mourning Dove 554; Snowy Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 34; Hairy Woodpecker 25; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Horned Lark 271; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 709; Am. Crow 10,633; Com. Raven 264; Bl.-capped Chickadee 196; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-br. Nuthatch 16; White-br. Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 39; Am. Robin 220; Bohemian Waxwing 14; N. Shrike 3; Eur. Starling 28,901; Yel.-rumped Warbler Warbler 6; Yel.-br. Chat 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 273; Chipping Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 14; Song Sparrow 151; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-thr. Sparrow 15; White-crowned Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 963; Lapland Longspur 25; Snow Bunting 646; Red-winged Blackbird 25; Rusty Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 321; Pine Grosbeak 113; Purple Finch 45; White-winged Crossbill 34; Pine Siskin 79; Am. Goldfinch 225; Even. Grosbeak 405; House Sparrow 2018.

Total 75 species, about 56,877 individuals. (CP: Peregrine Falcon, Gyrfalcon, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cape May Warbler, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, E. Meadowlark). George Alliston, Adeline Bayne, Gordon Bayne, Sherman Boates, Karen Casselman, Curtis Chipman, Margaret Chipman, Lana Churchill, David Clarke, Cyril Coldwell, Margaret Connolly, Evelyn Eagles, Mark Elderkin, George Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Jamie Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Ed Goodstein, Lisa Hammett-Vaughan, Blanche Healy, Paul Healy, Tom Herman, Hedley Hopkins, Shirley Jackson, Jerry Karttunen, Joan Lloyd, Jackie MacDonald, Peter MacDonald, Pat Martell, William Martell, Randy Milton, George Moody, Reg Newell, Ruth Newell, Dick Orr, Helen Orr, Julie Porter, Terry Power, Chris Pratt, Mary Pratt, Mark Pulsifer, Anna Redden, Francis Schwab, Susan Schwab, Chalmers Smith, Peter Smith (compiler), Elizabeth Stern, Richard Stern, Miriam Tams, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Gerry Trueman, Gordon Tufts, Judy Tufts, Eva Urban, Walter Urban, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Frank Woolaver, Paul Yates, Barry Yoell, Chris Yoell, Marion Zinck.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 20; 8AM to 5PM. Overcast AM. Moderate snow PM. Wind SE 0-15kmh. Temp. -4C. Fresh water frozen. 18 observers in 7 parties, 9 at feeding stations. Total party hours 44½ (12½ on foot, 32 by car). Total party miles 355½ (13½ on foot, 342 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 3; Com. Loon 9; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 11; Snow Goose 1 (no details); Great Blue Heron 4; Canada Goose 1180; Wood Duck 1; Green-winged Teal 7; Am. Black Duck 384; Mallard 4; N. Pintail 1; Am. Wigeon 1; Greater Scaup 2; Com. Eider 19; Oldsquaw 33; Black Scoter 1; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 6; Com. Goldeneye 28; Bufflehead 39; Com. Merganser 6; Red-br. Merganser 58; N. Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 7; Ruffed Grouse 4; Black-bellied Plover 3; Killdeer 6; Purple Sandpiper 3; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 3; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 1196; Iceland Gull 4; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 421; Dovekie 1; Rock Dove 141; Mourning Dove 72; Great Horned Owl 1; Snowy Owl 2; Barred Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 4; N. Flicker 11; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 172; Blue Jay 104; Am. Crow 230; Com. Raven 26; Bl.-capped Chickadee 83; Golden-cr. Kinglet 6; Am. Robin 23; N. Mockingbird 3; Water Pipit 38; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 443; Yel.-rumped Warbler 38; N. Cardinal 5; Am. Tree Sparrow 47; Savannah Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 31; White-thr. Sparrow 61; White-cr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 94;

Snow Bunting 395; Red-winged Blackbird 3; E. Meadowlark 1; Com. Grackle 24; Br.-headed Cowbird 179; N. Oriole 1; Pine Siskin 17; Am. Goldfinch 29; Even. Grosbeak 350; House Sparrow 42.

Total 79 species, about 6157 individuals. (CP: Pied-billed Grebe, Double-cr. Cormorant, Bald Eagle, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Brown Creeper). Charles Allen, Fernald Allen, Shirley Atwood, Joyce Borchardt, Percy Cole, Peter Comeau, Milton D'Eon, Ted D'Eon, Raymond D'Entremont, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Rosamond Moses, JoAnn Newell, Margaret Nickerson, Arthur Porter, Lloyd Prosser, Hilda Robbins, Marcy Rogers, Barbara & Eric Ruff (compilers), Robin Rymer, Vera Sollows, Paulette Surette, Doug Trefry, John Young.

Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals

1987 Christmas Count

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

For the first time since these counts have been published in the Newsletter, no new species were spotted in the province on this count. The all-time provincial list remains at 217 species plus 3 additional races.

New all-time high counts (numbers underlined) were established for 24 species, the best showing in the past two years.

Wolfville repeated last year's performance by recording 30 high counts, followed by Halifax West 29, Halifax East 24, Port Hebert 14 and Yarmouth 12.

Red-throated Loon 6 (Port Hebert); Common Loon 177 (Halifax East); Horned Grebe 119 (Port Hebert); Red-necked Grebe 59 (Port Hebert); Great Cormorant 170 (Halifax West); Double-crested Cormorant 2 (Broad Cove); Great Blue Heron 6 (Halifax East); Canada Goose 10,666 (Halifax East); Wood Duck 2 (Halifax West); Green-winged Teal 7 (Yarmouth); Am. Black Duck 2230 (Wolfville); Mallard 63 (Halifax West); N. Pintail 1 (Port Hebert, Wolfville & Yarmouth); Am. Wigeon 1 (Yarmouth); Greater Scaup 150 (Broad Cove); Com. Eider 940 (Broad Cove); King Eider 4 (Highlands); Harlequin Duck 7 (Port Hebert); Oldsquaw 2600 (Annapolis Royal); Black Scoter 63 (Broad Cove); Surf Scoter 35 (Cheticamp); White-winged Scoter 567 (Port Hebert); Com. Goldeneye 161 (Port Hebert); Bufflehead 88 (Halifax East); Hooded Merganser 1 (Port Hebert & Wolfville); Com. Merganser 100 (Amherst); Red-br. Merganser 350 (Shubenacadie).

Bald Eagle 49 (Wolfville); N. Harrier 4 (Yarmouth); Sharp-shinned Hawk 17 (Wolfville); N. Goshawk 2 (Broad Cove & Wolfville); Red-tailed Hawk 140 (Wolfville); Rough-legged Hawk 20 (Amherst); Am. Kestrel 3 (Halifax East); Merlin 4 (Halifax East & West); Gray Partridge 44 (Economy); Ring-necked Pheasant 304 (Wolfville); Spruce Grouse 3 (Halifax East); Ruffed Grouse 32 (Kejimikujik Nat'l Park); Am. Coot 1 (Halifax West); Black-bellied Plover 3 (Yarmouth); Killdeer 6 (Yarmouth); Red Knot 3 (Broad Cove & Halifax East); Sanderling 16 (Broad Cove); Purple Sandpiper 80 (Bridgetown); Dunlin 2 (Broad Cove); Com. Snipe 1 (Broad Cove); Am. Woodcock 1 (Port Hebert).

Com. Bl.-headed Gull 74 (Halifax East); Ring-billed Gull 257 (Halifax East); Herring Gull 4424 (Halifax West); Iceland Gull 117 (Halifax West); Lesser Bl.-backed Gull 1 (Halifax West); Glaucous Gull 4 (Cheticamp); Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 2271 (Wolfville); Bl.-legged Kittiwake 230 (Brier Island); Dovekie 9 (Halifax West); Com. Murre 3 (Kingston); Thick-billed Murre 8 (Halifax West); Razorbill 1 (Halifax East); Bl. Guillemot 33 (Halifax West); Atlantic Puffin 1 (Halifax East); Rock Dove 1647 (Halifax West); Mourning Dove 554 (Wolfville); Gt. Horned Owl 1 (Amherst, Antigonish, Halifax West, Kejimikujik Nat'l Park, Kingston & Wolfville); Snowy Owl 4 (Halifax East); Barred Owl 1 (Kejimikujik Nat'l Park & Yarmouth); Short-eared Owl 3 (Halifax East).

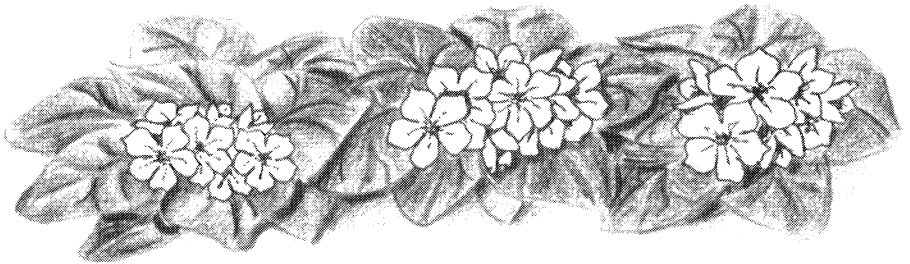
Belted Kingfisher 1 (Annapolis Royal, Eskasoni & Yarmouth); Downy Woodpecker 34 (Wolfville); Hairy Woodpecker 25 (Wolfville); Bl.-backed Woodpecker 2 (Highlands); N. (Yel-sh.) Flicker 13 (Port Hebert); Pileated Woodpecker 6 (Economy); Horned Lark 271 (Wolfville); Gray Jay 21 (Halifax East); Blue Jay 709 (Wolfville); Am. Crow 10,633 (Wolfville); Com. Raven 264 (Wolfville); Bl.-capped Chickadee 394 (Halifax West); Boreal Chickadee 55 (Halifax West); Red-br. Nuthatch 78 (Halifax East); White-br. Nuthatch 18 (Kingston); Brown Creeper 11 (Halifax West); Golden-cr. Kinglet 82 (Kejimikujik Nat'l Park); Am. Robin 592 (Halifax West); N. Mockingbird 13 (Halifax West); Water Pipit 38 (Yarmouth); Bohemian Waxwing 55 (Antigonish); Cedar Waxwing 22

(Halifax West); N. Shrike 6 (Economy & Halifax West).

Eur. Starling 28,901 (Wolfville); Yel.-rumped (Myr.) Warbler 70 (Port Hebert); Pine Warbler 2 (Halifax West); Palm Warbler 15 (Halifax East); Com. Yellowthroat 2 (Broad Cove); Yel.-br. Chat 4 (Halifax West); N. Cardinal 5 (Yarmouth); Dickcissel 1 (Amherst & Halifax West); Rufous-sided Towhee 3 (Halifax West); Am. Tree Sparrow 273 (Wolfville); Chipping Sparrow 3 (Annapolis Royal); Field Sparrow 1 (Halifax West); Savannah Sparrow 52 (Halifax East); Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1 (Port Hebert); Sharp-tailed Sparrow 20 (Halifax East); Seaside Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); Fox Sparrow 1 (Halifax West); Song Sparrow 151 (Wolfville); Swamp Sparrow 34 (Halifax East); White-thr. Sparrow 61 (Yarmouth); White-cr. Sparrow 1 (Wolfville & Yarmouth); Dark-eyed (S.-c.) Junco 963 (Wolfville); Lapland Longspur 54 (Halifax East); Snow Bunting 1453 (Halifax East).

Red-winged Blackbird 25 (Wolfville); E. Meadowlark 2 (Port Hebert); Rusty Blackbird 1 (Wolfville); Com. Grackle 31 (Kingston); Br.-headed Cowbird 757 (Halifax West); N. (Baltimore) Oriole 1 (Antigonish, Eskasoni, Halifax West & Yarmouth); Pine Grosbeak 113 (Wolfville); Purple Finch 45 (Wolfville); Red Crossbill 3 (Halifax West); White-winged Crossbill 495 (Port Hebert); Com. Redpoll 176 (Amherst); Pine Siskin 79 (Wolfville); Am. Goldfinch 325 (Wolfville); Evening Grosbeak 604 (Halifax East); House Sparrow 2018 (Wolfville).

Ross and Mary Anderson



THE MAY FLOWER. (TRAILING ARBUTUS)

R.B.D.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
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caught in a leg-hold
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