

*Nova Scotia  
Birds*



*April 1989*

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS  
A Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society

---

Volume 31 Number 2

April 1989

---

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief	Shirley Cohrs
Records Editor	Bob Dickie
Photographic Editor	Ian McLaren
Christmas Counts	Mary Anderson
Seasonal Bird Reports	R. G. B. Brown David Currie Keith Keddy
Cover: Hooded Merganser Bob Dickie	Ian McLaren Peter Payzant Francis Spalding Richard Stern

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Winter Bird Reports	2
Forthcoming Field Trips	18
Editorial	23
Sara MacLean, a Tribute	25
Letters to the Editor	28
Birding in Papua New Guinea	29
Who shall watch the watchers?	35
Book Review <u>Newfoundland Birds</u>	39
Window on the River	41
Nova Scotia Christmas Counts	45
Summary of Highest Counts	57

Use of photographs from NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS  
requires written permission from the photographer.

Cost of the publication of this periodical is partially  
born by the Nova Scotia Museum.

ISSN 0383-9567

Second Class Mail  
Reg. No. 4628

WINTER BIRDS  
1988-89

November was mild with temperatures generally above normal, with the exception of Sable Island where it was slightly below normal. Precipitation totals were above normal for most of Nova Scotia. The precipitation throughout much of this province was in the form of rain with some snow in Cape Breton. There were three major storms during the month.

By January, precipitation levels were low. There was a definite lack of snow in the region, again with the exception being Sable Island, where snowfall in January was twice the normal amount.

The lack of snow, plus a high seed crop throughout, seems to have kept the birds away from the feeders. When the snow finally did come in February, more birds began to show up.

A note to Cape Breton Birders. For many years, Sara MacLean collected bird reports from around the island and sent them to us. Sara died last year and we hope that those people who sent reports to her will now send them directly to us so that the excellent work carried on for so many years by her, will be continued.

Once again, thanks to **Keith Keddy** for the weather reports and thanks to all of the following...for the bird reports.

--Bob Dickie  
Records Editor

Pearl Bay (PVB), Phyllis Bryson (PB), Stephen Bushell (SSB), Karen Casselman (KC), Bill Caudle (WC), John Cohrs (JLC), Shirley Cohrs (JSC), George Crowell (GC), Brian Dalzell (BED), Delisle d'Entremont (DJD), Raymond d'Entremont (RSD), Claire D'Eon (CD), Reginald D'Eon (RD), Bob Dickie (RBD), Helen Dickie (HD), Patricia Elliott (PE), Margaret Ellis (MEE), Joan Fawcett (JF), Sylvia Fullerton (SJF), Joy Gates (JG), G. Harding (GH), Phyllis Hemeon (PH), Ward Hemeon (WH), Barbara Hinds (BH), Joan Jarvis (JVJ), Janos Kovacs (JK), Fulton Lavender (FLL), Jill MacLean (JEM), Peter MacLeod (PM), Carol MacNeill (CDM), Don MacNeill (DAM), Jack MacNeill (JMa), Ian McLaren (IAM), Blake Maybank (BM), Gordon McLean (GM), Bernice Moores (ABM), Bill Morse (WM), Jean Morse (JM), Dale Mullen (DM), Michael Olsen (MO), Linda & Peter Payzant (L&PP), Doris Peters (DP), Ken Peters (KHP), Nancy Peters (NWP), Warren Peters (WJP), Don Purchase (DAP), Joyce Purchase (JP), Joe Robertson (JR), Barbara Ruff (BR), Eric Ruff (ER), Mike Rymer (MR), Robin Rymer (RR), Rose Rymer (RoR), Beverly Sarty (BS), Francis Spalding (FS), Richard Stern (RBS), Clarence Stevens (CS), Bernice Taylor (BWT), Jim Taylor (JWT), Gordon Tufts (GWT), Judy Tufts (JCT).

## BIRD REPORTS

## LOONS AND GREBES

RED-THROATED LOONS showed up more or less on schedule in November, and were still present as late as February 15, when JP reported several between Eastern Passage and Seaforth.

Many observers reported groups of dozens of COMMON LOONS, from Dec. 20 (Brier Is., RBS) right through to Feb. 20 (Fundy Shore, Anna. Co., GWT, JCT). There seems to be a slight decrease over the past two years.

A very late PIED-BILLED GREBE was in the Annis River, at Pleasant Lake, Yar. Co., on Feb. 19 (E&BR,H&HH).

There were 8 reports of about 170 RED-NECKED GREBES, including 30 on the Brier Is. CBC on Dec. 20 (RBS), 50+ at Beaver Harbour, Hfx. Co., on Jan. 24 (BED), and 20 in Purcell's Cove on Jan. 20 (L&PP).

The only decent group of HORNED GREBES reported was the 40 at Cherry Hill on Feb. 5 (SJF). Other observations reflected a general scarcity this winter: 1 at Brier Is. on Jan. 1 and another at Green Bay on Jan. 9 (RBS); 7 at Cape Sable Is., Feb. 11 (BED,BM), and 4 along the Fundy Shore between Hampton and Young's Cove on Feb. 20 (GWT,JCT).

--LPMP, ed.

## FULMARS TO CORMORANTS.

Slim pickings, I'm afraid--Raymond S. d'Entremont saw 3 NORTHERN FULMARS in Lobster Bay, Yar. Co., Nov. 28. These were unusually close inshore: the first time he'd seen Fulmars in the bay. He saw a NORTHERN GANNET there on Dec. 3, and a couple of adults in the same area on Dec. 5. Most of our Cormorant sightings were of GREATS. Blake Maybank and Richard Stern saw 242 on the Christmas Count at Brier Is., Dec. 20. Bill Montevecchi, John Parsons and Ian Goudie counted 25 on an aerial survey near Goose Is., Guysborough Co., Dec. 17, and Bill saw 6 between Purcell's Cove and Herring Cove on Jan. 28. There were 5 at Sandford, Yar. Co., on Jan. 23 (ER), and 16 ("most seen all winter") at Beaver Harbour, Halifax, Co., on Jan. 29 (BED). The Peters saw 1-5, regularly through January and February, in Canso Harbour. Richard Stern's single DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT on Jan. 1-2 in Westport Harbour, Brier Is., was well seen: "orange throat patch...in contrast to Great Cormorants". Bev Sarty saw a couple at Bayswater, Hfx. Co., on Dec. 2, and on New Year's Day, the MacNeills had a bird at West Jeddore, and Sylvia Fullerton saw an adult and an immature at Broad Cove.

--RGBB, ed.

## HERONS AND RELATIVES

The Cohrs found 7 GREAT BLUE HERONS on Crescent Beach on Nov. 26, and none next day after a clear, moonlit night--certainly suggestive of an overnight departure of these normally diurnal migrants. Of course not all left. A few seemed content through December in coastal areas, but on Dec. 27, one on totally frozen Simpson's Lake in the Cobequids and another in the middle of a bush road near Economy (SIT), were in trouble or asking for it. Laggards survived at least until Jan. 18 (JF) near Seabright, and until late Feb. at Lr. W. Pubnico (DJD,RSD). (For the record--the July 11-13 date for Cattle Egret in the last issue should be June 11-13.)

--IAM, ed.

## GEESE AND DUCKS

Yet another GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE report: In the January 1989 issue, we reported sightings of a single individual on June 20 at Economy, June 26 between Port Hood and Colindale in Inv. Co., and July 4 at St. Joseph, Ant. Co. Now we have a report from Mrs. Patricia Elliott of Wallace, of a single bird which arrived on a Saturday in mid-September and followed a flock of domestic geese around for about 30 minutes until frightened off by a dog. A photo submitted establishes the identity beyond question, but it is not possible to be sure whether this individual was an immature, as two of the earlier reports indicated. It is, however, tempting to consider that all of these reports might be the same individual.

SNOW GEESE put in an appearance at the Glace Bay Bird Sanctuary: 2 were seen on Dec. 1 (GC), Dec. 4 and Jan. 30 (GM). GM reports that both of his sightings were of an adult and an immature, and so possibly the same birds.

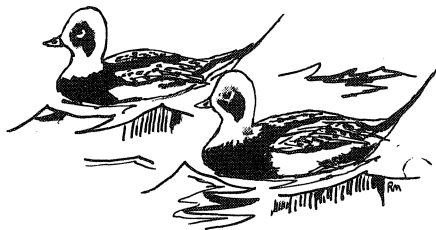
CANADA GEESE were about as usual, with groups of 1000-4000 reported from Rainbow Haven (PM,FLL,DAM), the Chezzetcook area (JP), the Petpeswick Harbour (BED). Smaller numbers were reported from West Pubnico, Pinkney's Pt., Dominion Beach and Trenton.

A few straggling WOOD DUCKS enlivened the early winter. BM had 2 on the Cole Harbour road on Dec. 3, and GWT saw one on a pond in Greenwich, King's Co., Dec. 17. The same pond held some GREEN-WINGED TEAL, where there were up to 8 on Feb. 18 (GWT,JCT). Other reports were of one at Petite Riviere on Dec. 29 (J&SC), Sullivan's Pond on Jan. 1 (JWT), and 5 in Yarmouth Harbour on Feb. 19 (E&BR).

BLACK DUCK were reported with phrases like "quite large numbers" and "very plentiful" from several locations. Sullivan's Pond had 1000 on Dec. 12 (BM) and, by Feb. 10, about 2800 (BED). About 1200 were at Martinique Beach on Jan. 29 (BED, and hundreds were reported at many other locations, including Bass River (P&WH), various locations in King's Co., the Pictou Causeway, Salmon River Bridge, Cheverie and Glace Bay Sanctuary.

MALLARDS were well reported for the winter. GWT, JCT had 2 on Jan. 2 at Cheverie, 32, Jan. 7 in Greenwich (down to 24 by Feb. 18), and 2 at Canard on Feb. 11. Three birds were in the Glace Bay Sanctuary on Dec. 28 (BS,GC), and FS had 1 at Parrsboro. A mob of dubious status (and lineage, in some cases) was present at Sullivan's Pond, reported as 60 on Feb. 5 (BM), and around 200 on Feb. 10 (BED).

Only two locations for NORTHERN PINTAIL: a single male in Yarmouth Harbour from Nov. 13 on (E&BR), and 3 males in Sullivan's Pond in early Feb. (BED,BM,L&PP). Yarmouth also "harboured" the only NORTHERN SHOVELLER--a single male, from Christmas until Feb. 19 (E&BR).



AMERICAN WIGEON were more common than usual, with reports from four locations: 2 were at Petite Riviere on Nov. 25 (JSC), 1 in Yarmouth Harbour from before Christmas up to Feb. 12 (E&BR), and 1 in Sydney Harbour on Feb. 14 (JMa). Tuft's Cove had a male and 3 females on Jan. 2 (DAM), and 3 males Feb. 25-28 (BED,BM,JWT).

GREATER SCAUP were thinly spread, with the largest groups on the South Shore (60 at Green Bay, Nov. 25-27, and 75 at Petite Riviere, Dec. 30, both JSC). JMa had 50+ in New Waterford Harbour and 40+ in Glace Bay Harbour on Feb. 26. Lesser numbers were reported from several other locations. A single LESSER SCAUP was seen at Mill Cove, Bedford Basin on Jan. 17 (PM,BS) and a single male was in Sullivan's Pond on Jan. 20 and 29 (FLL,SJF,BH).

RBS had the only large groups of COMMON EIDER, with 641 on the Brier Is. CBC, Dec. 20, and several hundred off Tiverton on Jan. 2. Others mentioned very small numbers in several locations.

KING EIDER makes the winter list for the third consecutive year, with a single bird at Brier Island on Dec. 20 (BM).

Many observers reported the trio of HARLEQUIN DUCKS at Tribune Head sewer outfall, between Jan. 16 and Jan. 29. Two were also at Whipple Point, Brier Is., Dec. 20 (RBS,GWT,JCT) and Hartlen's Point in Jan. (FLL,JR).

OLDSQUAW seem to be doing well. Beaver Harbour had over 250 on Jan. 29 (BED: "largest flock seen this winter"), and the Purchases report "more than we've seen in the last few years", with about 50 between Hartlen's Pt. and Seaforth on Feb. 15. Many other observers mentioned the species from all around the province.

The number of BLACK SCOTER reports has been declining recently, and this year brings us to a new low: none! However, we had 8 reports of around 250 SURF SCOTERS, with 160 at Little Bass River on Oct. 18 (P&WH: 40-45 daily through Sept.), and 75 at Beaver Harbour on Jan. 29 (BED: at least 90% males), and 26 at Green Bay on Feb. 10 (Cohrs). WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS were also well reported--10 reports of about 500 individuals. They were first seen Nov. 13 in Yar. Co. (B&ER), and Nov. 29 in Digby Harbour (RBS). About 50 accompanied the Harlequins at Tribune Head (L&PP,BS) in late Jan. and Feb. and Jack MacNeill reports 300 on Jan. 29 off South Bar, Cape Breton.

Several observers reported largish groups of COMMON GOLDENEYE: 200-300 near the Pictou causeway all winter (MO), 92 at Mill Cove, Bedford Basin on Jan. 18 (BS), 100+ in Guysborough Harbour on Feb. 2 (NWP,WJP), and 250 at Crescent Beach on Feb. 12 (JSC). Others reported ones to tens at various locations. Courtship began in Sydney Harbour on Feb. 26 (JMa).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE were reported from four locations: an adult female was off Economy during the Christmas count period (Rob Walker vide FS), a male and 2 females were at the Annapolis River power dam on Feb. 20 (JCT,GWT), a male and female were at Crescent Beach on Feb. 12, and 1-3 were reported from the Mill Cove, Bedford Basin area between Jan. 12 and 21 (many obs.).

BUFFLEHEADS were present in good numbers in most of their usual locations. RBS had a flock of about 40 at Annapolis Royal, Nov. 29; there were 60 at Martinique Beach on Dec. 3 (BM), and the 42 at Three Fathom Harbour on Dec. 26 (Hfx. East CBC--GWT,JCT) had dwindled to 35 by Jan. 22 (DAM,PM0 and 29 on Feb. 12 (JP). In Cape Breton, there were 6 at the Glace Bay Sanctuary on Dec. 28 (BS,GC), and 12 at Lingan, Feb. 5 (JMa).

Eleven HOODED MERGANSERS at Tantallon on Dec. 4 (BS) had augmented their number to 27 by Dec. 10 (DAM,PM,FLL). There was also a pair at Bedford on Jan. 2 (DAM), and a single male at presumably the same location, the mouth of the Sackville River, on Jan. 29 (BS).

COMMON MERGANSERS were reported in the 40-50 range at Lawrencetown Lake, Nov. 20 (DAM,PM), Pictou Causeway on Jan. 16 (MO), and Edwardsville, Cape Breton on Feb. 19 (JMa). There were 13 other reports, mostly in the 1-10 range.

BM saw a surprising group of 150 RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS at Hartlen's Point on Dec. 10, and there were "lots" at Blandford on Nov. 2 (DAM). There were 35 at Three Fathom Harbour on Dec. 26 (GWT,JCT), and 11 other reports of smaller numbers.

Finally, an unusual report of a single RUDDY DUCK on January 2, at Purcell's Cove (DAM). It has been more than 10 years since one was last reported in the April issue of this publication.

--LPMP, ed.

## DIURNAL RAPTORS

Raptor enthusiasts might consider buying the latest 2 volumes (4&5) of the Handbook of North American Birds, edited by R. S. Palmer (Yale Univ. Press, New Haven). They are densely packed with information.

We don't have the "official" Wolfville area raptor census at hand, but JSC et al. counted at least 40 BALD EAGLES in the area on Jan. 27-28. Even Cape Breton Island, the origin of many of these birds, cannot boast such winter concentrations, although the Eskasoni CBC of 22 (17 ad.) is impressive (JMa). Otherwise, there were scattered reports of 1-4 birds from the length of the province, 13 specified as ad. and 5 as imm.

Among 8 NORTHERN HARRIERS after Jan. 1, there were reports of 2 "females" (which could also be juv. males?), 4 males, and 1 unsexed bird, all in the SW half of the province. A preponderance of males in winter is, I think, usual with us, although I can find no comment on this in Palmer's exhaustive handbook. I wonder if the males stay back to be first on territory?

A small, rather late, outbound flight of SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS on Brier Is. on Nov. 11-13, rounds out last fall's picture (RBS). There were a dozen reports of some 20 winter birds, 9 frequenting feeders. Reported prey included 3 Starlings, a House Sparrow and a Blue Jay. Four reports of NORTHERN GOSHAWKS included one chasing pigeons at Economy (FS). An imm. BROAD-WINGED HAWK was closely observed, both perched and flying, near Hortonville, Kings Co., on Jan. 28 (Cohrs & Purchases). This is about the tenth winter record for N.S. since 1967, but only the second one later than December. Anyone who has seen them happily slaughtering beetles and the like in Florida, during winter, must wonder how they manage here.

RED-TAILED HAWKS were widely reported, but not in large numbers. The maximum reported for Kings Co. was about 8 on Jan. 10 (RBS); were they actually low, or will the annual census there show otherwise? About 9 ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS do not make a big invasion. One that captured a muskrat on Feb. 18 near Fort Lawrence, Cumb. Co. (BED), was more ambitious than usual; muskrats are not mentioned among prey in Palmer's handbook.

What was probably the same AMERICAN KESTREL was seen from time to time by various observers in the north end of Halifax. On Feb. 26, Bob Dickie had to divert an anguished householder from thought of revenge when the kestrel killed a House Sparrow at her feeder. We should all be so lucky! Another was at Chebogue Pt. on Dec. 5. Have you noticed that this bird has become decidedly scarcer in recent winters? MERLINS were also sparse, with only 3 individuals reported-at Grand Pré, near Pictou and at Cherry Hill. A PEREGRINE FALCON was at Wolfville Ridge on Dec. 10-11 (RBS, JCT) and another at Cherry Hill on Dec. 30 (JLC,JSC). There was one other second-hand report, but I think we must be wary of these if transmitted by non-birders or beginners. In recent years I have checked out 3 reports of Peregrines at feeders and found that they were or probably were Merlins. Some reports of "white Gyrfalcons" have probably been adult Goshawks. Our only genuine GYRFALCON this winter, a dark bird on Feb. 12-13 was, as usual, at Grand Pré (RBS,GWT,JCT).

## GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Four GRAY PARTRIDGES were at a feeder in Economy through later Feb. (FS), but we had no reports on the Valley birds. RING-NECKED PHEASANTS are routinely at feeders in Wolfville, but the locals must generally be bored by them, for their general status in the

Valley was not commented upon. Certainly they were all over the corn stubble along highway 101, west of Kentville on Feb. 5 (WAM,IAM). "Extralimitals" were at Chebogue Pt., W. Pubnico and, for the first time, at the Purchase's feeder in Dartmouth and Joy Gates' feeder in Glace Bay.

A SPRUCE GROUSE at Cherry Hill on Dec. 31, and 2 at Hartlen's Pt. on Jan. 29, seen by the same observers (SJF,BH), were more than some of us see in a few years' birding. Among 5 reports of RUFFED GROUSE were individuals at feeders in Bedford (BS) and Dartmouth (Jpu).

#### RALLIDS

As usual, an AMERICAN COOT wintered on Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, and was joined by another in January. We had no other reports of coots or any other rallids.

--IAM, ed.

#### WINTER SHOREBIRDS

The only BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (but check the CBC tallies appearing in the back of this issue for this and other species) was one, Dec. 19, at Sunday Point, Yar. Co. (ER). A dozen KILLDEER were present in early winter, the last at Sandy Cove, Jan. 2 (DAM).

Late GREATER YELLOWLEGS were at L.W. Pubnico, Nov. 15 (Djd'E) and Martinique, Dec. 3 (BM). Only a handful of RUDDY TURNSTONES lingered: one, Dec. 20 at Brier Is. (RBS,R&JT), one at Crescent Beach, Dec. 30-31 (J&SC), one at Canso, Jan. 14 (BD,N&WP) and two at Pubnico, Jan. 23 (Rsd'E). Evidence of determined overwinterers is absent this year. Three RED KNOTS were at Hartlen's Pt. as late as Jan. 17 (BS,PM). Five SANDERLINGS were on Sable Is., Jan 15 (J Lawson vide WAM); a flock of 22 at Crescent, Dec. 9, had dwindled to 6 by Feb. 11 (J&SC), the only mid-winter shorebird sighting except for PURPLE SANDPIPERS, noted from Dec. 11 at Peggy's Cove (DAM,CDM) through Feb. 20 at Hampton Beach, Anna. Co. (G&GT). An aerial survey Dec. 15, found 205 in Guys. Co., including a flock of 150 at Marie Joseph (WAM), but elsewhere, numbers did not exceed the 50+ in Feb. at Port George (G&JT). A lingering DUNLIN was at Grand Pré, Dec. 19 (G&JT).

A COMMON SNIPE, Dec. 26 at Loch Lomond, C.B., was found in the exact spot where last year one was flushed Feb. 12 (JM). Another was at L.W. Pubnico, Jan. 5 (Rsd'E). The only AMERICAN WOODCOCK were two at Brier Is. in mid- Nov. (RBS), and another at Conrad's Beach, Nov. 26 (PM,FLL,DAM).

Errors crept into the last issue's report. The invasion of Greater Golden Plovers was reported from St. John's, Nfld. (and elsewhere in that province), not from Saint John, N.B. For a thorough account of that unique event see Vol. 3, No. 3 of the Bullbird. The Lesser Golden Plover reported by BED at Hartlen's Pt., lingered until Oct. 23, not Nov. 23.

--FS, ed.

#### PHALAROPES TO AUKS

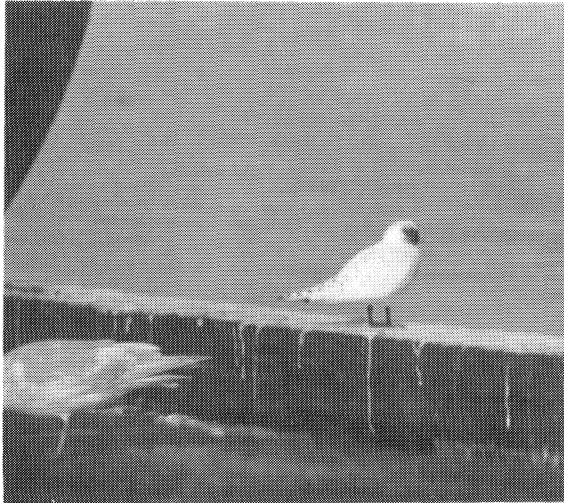
There are no Skua records for this issue, but Ian McLaren has taken me up on my three sightings in the last Nova Scotia Birds, from Georges Bank in late August. I saw a dark Skua with a pale head that was obviously a pale-morph South Polar, and two, all-dark birds that I took to be Great Skuas from Scotland or Iceland. These could also have been dark-phase South Polars, but Scotland is nearer, and the banding recoveries show that immature Scottish Great Skuas spend their second July/August off West Greenland, with stragglers west to Newfoundland. However, Ian tells me that he recently talked to Henri Ouellet and Michel Gosselin at the National Museum of Canada, who have looked carefully at the Skua specimens from Atlantic Canada. "The only Great Skuas they have are the SEPTEMBER series from Newfoundland and N.S. Dick, those all-dark birds you saw in August were probably S. Polars. ALL the birds in the NMC trays have pale, not dark streaks, and are very warm-to rufous-brown below. I think Great Skua is very rare in summer on the Shelf". Well, late August isn't too far from September--but I'm not about to argue with his verdict. The moral is that we can't take ANY Skua for granted; each one needs a second and third look. Unfortunately, Skuas at sea take one quick pass around the ship, and then



they're gone. If only the birds would come ashore, and sit quietly on container piers within easy telescope range...

We have a positive plethora of BLACK-HEADED GULLS this winter, who did just that. They were centred on Halifax/Dartmouth and Glace Bay, probably scavenging garbage dumps for a living. Here in Metro, we had 40 birds on Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, and 5 at Fairview Cove, Dec. 24, 20 in Dartmouth Cove on Dec. 25 & 29 and Jan. 13, and an adult and an immature in Bedford Basin on Jan. 26 (BM,L&PP,RBS,RGBB,John C. Chardine). Gordon MacLean reports 6-10 birds seen regularly in upper Glace Bay Harbour from late December at least until early February. They were mostly immatures, but there were 2-3 mature birds among the 8 he saw on Feb. 5. Jack MacNeil saw 40+ at Point Edward on Dec. 22, and 6 in Sydney Harbour, 6 at New Waterford and 24+ at Glace Bay, all on Feb. 26. Apart from these, there were singletons at Tribune Head on Jan. 2 (DAM), and in Westport, Brier Is., on Dec. 20 and Jan. 1 (RBS). The bird that the Cohrs and Purchases saw on Nov. 20 at Crystal Crescent Beach was "the first ever seen in this area".

BONAPARTE'S GULLS were also fairly common. Up in Cape Breton, Jack MacNeil reports 60+ at East Bay Sandbar on Dec. 4, but none after that date until Dec. 26, when he saw 2 at the Ben Eoin CBC. The Dartmouth reports are all from Dartmouth Cove: 1 on Nov. 26 (DAM,PMFLL); 2 on Dec. 25 (L&PP); an adult on Jan 13, among about 30 Black-headed (RBS); 1 on Jan. 20 (SJF,BH); and 2 adults and an immature on Feb. 23 (FLL et al.). The only other sighting was RSD'E's bird at Eel Lake, Yar. Co., Nov. 27.



Nancy Peters photographed this splendid young Ivory Gull at Canso in early January.

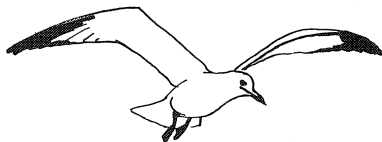
There was a Ring-billed Gull at Glace Bay on Dec. 17, and a dozen at a time in the harbours in the Sydney area from early October to mid-Nov. (JMa). They were numerous in Dartmouth Cove and Sullivan's Pond on Dec. 29 and Jan. 13, and around Bedford Mall on Jan. 15 (RBS). Joyce Purchase saw 30+ in Three Fathom Harbour on Feb. 15, "feeding among the ice blocks on the incoming tide".

HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS maintained their usual numbers. There were 4000+ Herrings on Bedford Basin on Nov. 18 (JSC), and there were at least 1000 there during the week of March 6-10 (RBBB). There was a LESSER BLACK-BACK at the Volvo Plant in Halifax on Nov. 27 and Jan. 7, and what may have been another bird at Sullivan's Pond on Dec. 20 (DAM,IAM). Ian McLaren notes that the adult he saw at Fairview Cove on Jan. 1, was definitely a different bird.

The Cohrs report a HERRING x ICELAND GULL hybrid at Halifax Docks on Dec. 4: "in every way this bird looked like the Herring Gulls it was with, except, 1, its head was slightly more dove-like, and 2, it had pale grey Kumlien spots at the end of the tail. Behaviour more like Iceland, pecking at surface of water". Blake Maybank saw a first-winter Herring x Iceland off Cape Sable Is., Feb. 11, but gives no details. I record these reports as submitted, with the personal reservation that the Iceland/Kumlien's/Thayer's/Herring Gull distinctions are often so blurred that I'm never happy about identifying them as species, if that's what they really are, let alone as hybrids.

Our THAYER'S GULL was certainly controversial in that way. The Cohrs' description is clear enough. The bird was well seen on Feb. 20, at Mill Cove on Bedford Basin, Halifax. It was a fully adult bird, with the jizz of an Iceland Gull. It had a dark eye, a mantle a shade darker than a Herring Gull's, wing-tips somewhere between a Herring's and a Kumlien's, and very dark pink legs and feet. So far, so good, but Ian McLaren suggests that "the mantle was not as dark as those I saw in Vancouver in January...In my view, the dark-eyed 'Thayer's Gull'...was an extreme 'Kumlien's'". There, for the moment, the case rests.

Meanwhile, ICELAND GULLS of various stripes were moving into Nova Scotia from the north. Nancy and Warren Peters say that they were common in the Canso Harbour area from December onwards. Jack MacNeil says, "regularly seen throughout the reporting period from Sydney to Glace Bay Harbours". He saw 12+ at New Waterford on Feb. 26, and 'dozens' in Glace Bay. The first reports from the Halifax area were the 4 adults that the Cohrs and Purchases saw at Tribune Head on Nov. 20, the bird in Dartmouth Cove on Nov. 26 (DAM et al.), and Shirley Cohrs' nominate race adult at Crescent Beach the next day ("first there in 26 years of birding"). There were 180 at Hartlen's Point on Feb. 5 (BM). Richard Stern reports 4-5 in Dartmouth Cove on Jan. 13, and at least 20 of all ages on Jan. 13th. He also saw an adult at Vogler's Cove, near Cherry Hill, on Jan. 29, and 2 first-winter birds at Canard Poultry Farm on Feb. 11th. The first record from the Deep South was the Ruffs' bird in Yarmouth Harbour on Nov. 13th, followed by 2 on Jan 30th, and another 2 on Feb. 12th. Delisle J. d'Entremont saw a bird at L.W. Pubnico, Dec. 28, and a first- and second-winter bird there on Jan. 20.



GLAUCOUS GULLS followed much the same pattern but, as usual, there were fewer of them and they didn't come as far south. The Peters saw Glaucous Gulls regularly around Canso, from December on. The only report from Cape Breton is of the two—a 1st- and a 2nd-year bird—that Jack MacNeil and Gordon MacLean saw in Glace Bay Harbour on Feb. 5. The Payzants saw a Glaucous at the Fairview Cove sewer outfall on Dec. 24, and the Cohrs had single, 2nd-year birds at the Mill Cove Sewer, and behind Walker's Wharf on the Bedford Highway, on Jan. 12. Richard Stern has our farthest south record; an adult off Whipple Point, Brier Is., on Dec. 20. There were at least 2 birds at Canard Poultry Farm between Jan. 24-Feb. 11: a 1st and a 2nd winter (RBS,JCT).

We had two MEW (or COMMON) GULLS in Metro, both 1st-winter birds, obligingly ready to pose for cameras. The first appeared in Dartmouth on Dec. 17, and the other on the McNab's Is. Christmas Count the next day (IAM). I'm not sure if the bird that the Tufts saw at Woodside on Dec. 30, was one of these, or a new one. The Cohrs saw a 2nd-year bird at Eastern Passage on Jan. 9. Raymond S. d'Entremont saw a BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE at Lobster Bay, Yar. Co., on Dec. There were 2 at Peggy's Cove on Dec. 11 (DAM,CDM), and 10 off Chebucto Head on Dec. 18 (BM). Richard Stern reports "only a few" off Brier Is., Dec. 20, and 3 in Westport Harbour on Jan. 2. To round off the gulls, the Peters and Stephen Bushell saw an IVORY GULL in Canso Harbour on Jan. 6-10.

This seems to be a pretty good winter for DOVEKIES, so far. We expect them to arrive in the northern part of Nova Scotia but, oddly enough, the first report was the southernmost: RSd'E's bird in Pubnico Harbour on Dec. 9. After that, there was 1 at Point George on Dec. 17 (David Colville via Jean Morse); 5 off Chebucto Head and 2 at Prospect on Dec. 18 (BM,DAM,CDM); 1 at York Redoubt on Jan. 2 (DAM); 2 at Canso on Jan. 14 (DAM,JWT); 1 in Canso Harbour and 3 at Crystal Crescent Beach on Jan. 16 (Peters & Cohrs); at Ketch Harbour on Jan. 20(BS,PM); 1 at Ketch Harbour on Jan. 22 (MacNeills); and singletons on Jan. 29 at Bayswater (DAM) and Cape St. Mary's, Digby Co. (Ruffs). However, the Ruffs' bird's bill "appeared to be too large for a Dovekie and much too small for a murre". Could it have been a juvenile ATLANTIC PUFFIN - or a straying Pacific auklet? Our only definite Puffin sighting was the bird that Bev Sarty and Peter MacLeod saw off Chebucto Head on Jan. 17. The only RAZORBILLS were the Sarty/MacLeod bird off Chebucto Head on Jan. 12, and 6 (1 oiled) off Brier Is., Dec. 20 (RBS, the Tufts). Nancy and Warren Peters saw COMMON and THICK-BILLED MURRES all winter in Canso Harbour. However, the only other Common report was of two birds off Chebucto Head on an illegible date in January (FLL,JR). Thick-billed, as you'd expect, were commoner. There was 1 at Prospect on Dec. 18 (MacNeills); 1 at Brier Is., for the CBC (RBS,Tufts); singletons on Jan. 12 off Chebucto Head and on Jan. 20 at Ketch Harbour, and 2 at Ketch Harbour on Feb. 10 (BS,PM); 3 at Canso on Jan. 14 and 1 at Tribune Head on Jan. 22 (DAM,PM, AB, MO, JWT); 4 near Sambro and 3 at Ketch Harbour - "no Commons anywhere"--on Jan. 23 (Cohrs); 1 at Bear Cove on Jan. 29 (L&PP); and 1 off Cape Sable Is., Feb. 11 (BM). Finally there are the BLACK GUILLEMOTS, our only resident auks. RSd'E saw 3 off Pubnico Point on Nov. 26, and Don MacNeill saw one the next day at Mill Cove. The MacNeills saw 5 off Prospect on Dec. 18. Richard Stern counted 27 on the Brier Is. CBC, and there were "still plenty around" on Jan. 2. The Peters and Stephen Bushell saw 12+ in Canso Harbour on New Year's Day, and there were 50+ there on Jan. 14 (BED). There were a few at Bear Cove, near Chebucto Head, Jan. 29 (L&PP).

--RBBB, ed.

## DOVES

A ROCK DOVE was sitting tight on a nest at Hortonville, Kings Co., during the very cold CBC day of Dec. 17 (GWT,JCT). Joyce Purchase wonders if the unwelcome appearance of these birds for the first time at their feeder was connected with a drop in MOURNING DOVES from 42 in early Dec. to 9 in late Feb. Francis Spalding attributed a waning in his yard in Economy to surrounding feeder competition. As usual, there were concentrations of the native doves around Valley granaries (50 near Greenwich; RBS), and at feeders in Halifax and Yar. Co (ca. 30 near Dayton, 20+ around the Pubnicos), with scattered reports of 1-11 from elsewhere. Of particular interest were up to 11 getting through around Canso (NWT), and 6 at Big Pond (JM) and 8 at Port Morien in C.B. Co. They really are taking hold throughout the province.

## OWLS

Duetting GREAT HORNED OWLS were heard near Cherry Hill in early Jan. and near Cheverie on Jan. 16. Three others were daylight sightings. June Graves obtained the corpse of one bird found wedged in a tree fork, largely consumed. It smelled strongly of skunk, known to be preyed on by these owls. Owls do eat owls, but they normally pick on someone smaller than themselves. A SNOWY OWL at Hartlen's Pt. through early Dec. (sev. obs.), another near Cheverie in late Jan. (KC), and a third near Truro on Feb. 12 (G. Harding), denote a far-from-peak winter. We have 9 reports of BARRED OWLS from throughout the province, and of no other owls. Were there really no N. Saw-whet or Short-eared Owls about, or is this laxness in reporting?

## KINGFISHER

BELTED KINGFISHERS made it well into the new year at Ben Eoin, C.B. Co. (last seen Jan. 29), at Barrington, and at Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co. One near Pictou on Jan. 16, seemed to be a new arrival (MO), perhaps a refugee from other more icy shores.

## WOODPECKERS

About 30 DOWNY WOODPECKERS and 20 HAIRY WOODPECKERS were reported, which is more than usual, but several reporters thought that they were scarcer this winter. We have 4 reports of 6 BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS, again more than in most winters. Single N. FLICKERS were at Little Dover on Jan. 1 (JNJ,NWP), in Dartmouth through Jan. (JPu), and in Yar. Co., at W. Pubnico on Jan. 20-21, Brooklyn on Jan. 30 (ER), and Abram's R. on Feb. 19 (HH). We received 11 reports of some 15 PILEATED WOODPECKERS; almost exactly last winter's total. The male RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER made it through Feb. at the Foster's feeder in Waverley, much to the pleasure of admiring observers.

--IAM, ed.

## FLYCATCHERS TO CORVIDS

Only one Flycatcher was reported this winter, but a pretty unusual one--the province's 8th or 9th record of a SAY'S PHOEBE, reported by W. and JM from Lawrencetown in the Valley on Dec. 30. The bird was also seen by other observers, but did not reappear after a few days.

HORNED LARKS were widely reported in usual winter numbers, with 15 at Sunday Pt., Dec. 19 (ER), 40 on the Brier Is. CBC, Dec. 20 (GWT&JCT), 12 at Overton, Yar. Co., Jan. 22 (DM), 40 at Grand Pré, Jan. 27 (Cohrs & Purchases), 20 at Cole Harbour, Feb. 5 (BM), 20 at Starr's Pt., King's Co., Feb. 11 (RBS), and over 200 at Amherst Sod Farm on Feb. 18 (BED). Several observers noted other smaller flocks around the province all winter.

As last winter, a smattering of GRAY JAYS was reported. JM noted 3 or 4 in Paradise, and several more in the surrounding higher elevations bordering that part of the Valley in late Nov. to mid-Dec. As expected, sightings came from the more remote and heavily wooded areas of the province, including 9 from Eskasoni, C.B., Dec. 26 (JMa), 1 from Fox Island, on the same day (NWP,WJP), and "several" from the Five Islands and Economy areas (FS).

BLUE JAYS were widely reported, mostly from feeders. L&PP reported them as being less numerous than usual, "may be patronising other establishments"; J&WM said, "numbers have not changed over the years"; and the Tufts noted more than usual, at least on one occasion. No unusually large flocks, or total absences, were remarked upon.

For the second time in three years a JACKDAW has appeared in Halifax (PM, IAM et al.). This small, grey-headed Eurasian Corvid has spent all winter in the Fairview area of the city, in the company of Crows. When RBS and JCT saw it on Dec. 4, it had 1 primary missing on the left wing, but when FLL saw it on Feb. 2, it had grown back (unless there have been 2 birds!). It also seems to have managed well, despite a missing or damaged lower mandible.

Considering how many AMERICAN CROWS I have noticed all winter,

in Halifax/Dartmouth, and other towns in the Valley and elsewhere, there have been few reports sent in. The huge flock that roosts on Boot Island, Grand Pré, will no doubt be reported in the Wolfville CBC report. BED saw 1200+ at the Truro dump. P&WH reported 5-7 around their feeders at Bass River, NWP & WJP reported 1-7 daily in the Hazel Hill Woods area, and MO saw around 300 on the road from Durham to New Glasgow in Feb. He saw one carrying a stick, on Feb. 24, and wondered if this could be nesting material, but normally this species begins construction in late March (Tufts 3rd ed. 1986). COMMON RAVENS, on the other hand, do begin courting, and then nest construction earlier, and JM noted a pair courting in Paradise (appropriately!) on Feb. 15. As last year, there were few reports, although there have been plenty of birds in the Valley, Metro area, and points between (RBS).

#### CHICKADEES TO THRUSHES

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were widely reported as expected, mostly from feeders. Between 2 and 8 were regularly coming to feeders in Paradise (JM), Yarmouth (B&ER, DM), W. Pubnico (D'Eons), Bass River (P&WH), Durham (MO), Bedford (BS), etc. Joy Gates from Sydney, evidently had them all winter, but the Peters in Canso, reported that they were rarely seen all winter by the local birders. BM reported 79 in the Wolfville area on Dec. 17. BOREAL CHICKADEES fared better than last winter, with 5 seen by JCT & GWT on the Halifax East CBC at Three Fathom Harbour, 10 on New Year's Day at White's Lake (BM), 10 on Jan. 10 at Fox Island (B.N. McKeough), and 2 visiting RSD'E's feeder in L. W. Pubnico regularly.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were rather variable, with RBS noting that they were abundant in woods in the Kentville and Wolfville area, often in mixed flocks with Chickadees and Golden-crowned Kinglets, but the Peters in the Canso area not seeing any, and only occasionally hearing them. Various counts in between these extremes were noted, and several observers had them coming to feeders (P&WH,BS,RSD'E, etc.). Only a few WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were reported, of which L&PP in Waverley and RBS in Kentville had them at feeders. BROWN CREEPER sightings included 4 at Pubnico Point on Feb. 14 (RSD'E), 1 on Feb. 1 and 13 at Five Islands (FS), and 1 in the grounds of St. Mary's University, Halifax, seen by PM,RBS,IAM,JCT and WAM on Dec. 4.

FS found the only reported WINTER WREN at Five Islands Park on Jan. 17, but not on subsequent searches. One of this winter's major rarities was the CAROLINA WREN that appeared at Sandy and Martin Bowler's feeder in Tusket. The bird had been present since before Christmas, but was not confirmed till Feb. 14. It was later seen and photographed by numerous observers. The eyestripe was somewhat buffy, but this is routine in winter adults (Ridgeway, *fide* IAM). The three previous sightings of this more southerly bird in the province have all been from Seal Island.

In total contrast to last year, the woods of Nova Scotia were almost dripping with GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS this winter. RSD'E summarised the situation by saying, "Throughout the dreary winter, when feeding stations were wanting for inhabitants, and the countryside in general was lacking in birdlife, this little bird provided solace". In particular, the Cohrs noted them to be abundant in Green Bay, Dec. 9-11, JCT had 9 on Wolfville Ridge, Dec. 16, BM had 60 at Conrad's Beach, Dec. 26, and 45 at Economy the next day, and reports continued through the winter. Only 1 over-wintering RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET was reported, coming to the Ruffs' feeder in Yarmouth, Dec. 23-Jan. 3.

HERMIT THRUSHES are not that uncommon in early winter, and 1 was at Ross Rd., Cole Harbour, Dec. 18. It may have lingered though, as one was in the same location, Feb. 7 (JP), and another late bird was in Sackville, Feb. 12 (JWT).

It was again a bumper year for over-wintering AMERICAN ROBINS. Reports were received from all over the province, including 22 at Bass River, Nov. 4 (P&WH), 140 in the Wolfville area Dec. 17 (BM), and 150+ at the Kentville agricultural Research Stn. the same day (BM), 40+ at Grand Pré the same day (JCT), 10-100 between Jan. and early Feb. at Hazel Hill (Peters), and 7 or 8 in south end Halifax, Feb. 19 (IAM). IAM noted that St. John's, Nfld., had been blessed with record numbers of Robins this winter. He has also submitted photos of a bright male VARIED THRUSH taken at Port l'Hebert in Nov. 1987, and included here for documentary purposes. Hot off the press comes news of 2 more of this rare species from the west, one from Truro and the other at Boutillier's Point, St. Margaret's Bay, in

early March.

#### CATBIRD TO STARLING

A GRAY CATBIRD (presumably 1 individual) was reported from Tribune Head, Herring Cove, from Jan. 7 to Feb. 10 (IAM,JSC,JEM,BS,JWT). NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS were more widely seen, with individuals in Halifax (BS,PM), Westport (RBS,JCT), Dartmouth (JWT), and other areas from Yarmouth to Canso (NWP,WJP,E&BR et al.). Dates ranged from Nov. 19 to Feb. 22, so plenty of this species have probably made it through the winter.

Only 2 reports of WATER PIPIT were received, of 1 bird on Brier Is., Dec. 20 (BM) and 35 at L. W. Pubnico, Jan. 18, with a further 5 on Feb. 5 (RSd'E).

It was decidedly not a Waxwing year. The Purchases of Ross Rd., Cole Harbour, said that this was the "first winter for years that they have seen neither species". BED found a group of 7 BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS feeding on Mountain Ash berries at Petpeswick Harbour on Jan. 29, but there were no other reports of this species. CEDAR WAXWINGS were a little more numerous, with 15-20 at Port Morien, Jan. 23 & 28 (J.&G. MacLean), 20 in Glace Bay (G. Crowell) on Feb. 25, and 24+ at Edwardsville, C.B. on Feb. 25 (JMaCL)--the latter observer also commenting on the lack of Bohemians this year.

It was also decidedly not a Shrike year, in marked contrast to last winter. Only 4 reports of NORTHERN SHRIKE, involving 5 birds, appeared, from Eskasoni (J. MacLeod), Noel (JWT), Queensport and Folly Lake (BED).

Comments about EUROPEAN STARLINGS ranged from "irregular and uncommon all winter" (MO) to "large flocks noted in the fall" (DM), but most reports seem to indicate low numbers this winter. WAM noted 1 bird with partial albinism, e.g., white in the tail, visiting his Halifax feeder all winter.

--RBS, ed.

#### VIREOS AND WARBLERS

A sunny, dry, early winter should have been encouraging, but numbers and species of wintering birds were, generally speaking, not remarkable. It is perhaps just as well, for February brought a cruel mixture of wintry weather that only the hardy could withstand.

A SOLITARY VIREO lingered at Halifax, seen on Robie Street, Dec. 3 (FLL et al.). No other vireos were reported.

Four ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER sightings were reported, three of these in Halifax. The latest report was of an individual at St. Mary's Music Conservatory on Dec. 18 (BS,PM)--perhaps its singing will be improved this spring. The only non-metro record belonged to JSC, who listed one at Petite Riviere on Nov. 25.

As was the case the previous year, a single CAPE MAY WARBLER hung on, reported at Petite Riviere on Nov. 27 (Cohrs). YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS were much more widely observed than in '87-'88, with 12 reporters, from Yarmouth to Port Morien, getting into the act (about 55 birds). One at Economy on Dec. 27 (CBC) was the first winter record for that area. The largest flock numbered 25--at Cole Harbour on Feb. 5 (BM et al.). The Cohrs' four Yellow-rumps at Green Bay on Feb. 12, were described as "getting quite yellow and spring-like".

Nine reporters sent in PINE WARBLER records this winter, mostly in Halifax's south end. Up to 18 were reported there in late fall (IAM et al.) This number dwindled to about 8 during Dec., but a few lingered well into February (PM,IAM,JEM,JWT). Those attending feeders on Inglis Street were observed to be feeding both on suet and seed. The only non-metro bird was noted at a feeder in Durham, Pictou Co., on Jan. 19 (MO). A PALM WARBLER was observed at an Inglis Street feeder on Nov. 19, with another appearance there Dec. 5 (JEM). A single showed up at Hartlen's Point on Nov. 20 (W.A. Montevecchi).

From the Palm Warbler we go all the way down the list to WILSON'S WARBLER. RSD

was the lone reporter, with a male at Pubnico Point on Nov. 27. We round out this not too eventful season (for these species at least) with a fair collection of YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT reports. Most were once again from the Halifax area (no more than 6 individuals). One was reported at Glace Bay, DEC. 27-28 (GC,BS). Keep those Cape Breton reports coming!

--KNK, ed.



The Jackdaw discovered in November in Fairview, Halifax became a crow "groupie" through the winter. Note the missing lower mandible, which didn't seem to bother it. This photo was taken by Jim Ripley, who lives nearby.

## CARDINAL TO TOWHEE

NORTHERN CARDINALS as usual, were found regularly at feeders in the Yarmouth area. A male and female were seen until Feb. 20 at M. Rogers' feeder in Yarmouth, and at least two other birds were found at separate locations in Yarmouth town. The only other report came from Mr. Crowell (fide IAM), who saw a male at his feeder on Dec. 22 in E. Lawrencetown. It appears that the female BLUE GROSBEEK which arrived at Marion Graves' feeder in Bridgetown in December, has successfully overwintered. This is the first time ever that this species has done so in the province. Many thanks to the Graves' for the regular updates and hospitality they provided. Another unusual sighting was that of an INDIGO BUNTING which found its way to Don and Joyce Purchase's feeder in Dartmouth, Jan. 1, and stayed until Jan. 16. This is the first January occurrence on record. A single report of RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE was of one discovered during the Broad Cove CBC, Dec. 31. Jim Elliott and his party, discovered this bright male lurking in low, dense shrubbery associating with White-throats and Juncos.

## SPARROWS

TREE SPARROWS were later than usual in making themselves visible. It wasn't until late Dec. that any numbers were seen in the province. Feeders attracted two or three individuals throughout the winter and from all parts. Although our winter population was much lower than recent years, there was a flock of 40 at Grand Pré on Dec. 17 (GWT, JCT), and 25 were seen at Economy on Dec. 25 (BM). CHIPPING SPARROWS in Nova Scotia during the winter were at one time considered rare. In recent years these birds have been found regularly at feeders throughout the province. This winter we've had eleven reporters seeing at least ten different birds at feeders at Brier Is., Tusket Falls, Barrington Passage, Dayton and Grand Pré. (JW,BR,ER,BM,DM,JP,JLC). A single FIELD SPARROW WAS FOUND AT Greenwich, Kings Co., Jan. 3, by Gordon and Judy Tufts. This bird was perfectly content feeding on the abundant wild food and it wasn't until mid-February that it found it necessary to use a feeder in the area.

Warren and Nancy Peters of Hazel Hill, have submitted the only report of LARK SPARROW. This adult bird arrived at their window feeder on Dec. 3, making several visits per day and is continuing to do so at the time of writing.

SAVANNAH SPARROWS were extremely hard to locate this winter. Even in their regular haunts, they were either absent or lower than normal. On Cherry Hill Beach, there was just a single bird from Jan. 2 to Feb. 18 (SJF), only seven at Cole Harbour on Feb. 5 (BM), and there were eight seen at Grand Pré (RBS). There were no reports of the "IPSWICH" race of Savannah Sparrow. A single SHARP-TAILED SPARROW was found by RSD'E on Jan. 23, at the Pubnico Head Marsh. This was the only winter report of this species and is the first Mr. d'Entremont has ever had in winter in Yar. Co. The trend this winter was a virtual absence of passerines and SONG SPARROW numbers reflected this as well. Very few were sighted at feeders and of the five observers who sent in reports, three were from the Yarmouth area. Others were single birds in Hazel Hill and Dartmouth.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were actually more plentiful than in the last two years. These birds were found at feeders in the more rural areas in groups numbering from two to twenty and from Yarmouth to Halifax to Cumberland Counties. On Oct. 16, Dale Mullen of Dayton, Yar. Co., had two immature WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS at his feeder, of which one bird remained throughout the winter. If it wasn't for the presence of DARK-EYED JUNCOS on the ground beneath the feeders, it would have been an even more disappointing winter for the feeder-watcher. Juncos were found to be in near normal numbers in the southern and central areas of the province but uncommon in the northern areas.

Although there were just four reports of LAPLAND LONGSPUR, the sightings were of larger than average flocks. Nine were seen on the Brier Is. CBC on Dec. 20 (GWT,JCT,RBS); 29 were found at Conrad's Beach (BM); more than 35 were at Grand Pré on Jan. 27 (Cohrs, Purchases); and about 75 were seen at the Amherst Marsh sod farm on Feb. 18 (BED). SNOW BUNTINGS were rather scarce during December with just two reports submitted. January saw much larger flocks in typical habitat. However, during February, huge flocks of 1000-1500 birds were found at Grand Pré and the Amherst Marsh.



## ICTERIDS

There were six reported sightings of RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD from November to February. Single birds were found at feeders in L.W. Pubnico, Tusket and Hortonville. Two were coming to the Purchase's yard in Dartmouth, 5 were in Dayton, Yar. Co., during Dec. and Jan. (DM); and the largest flock, that of 20, were seen at St. Martin's, Digby Co., Feb. 12 (BR). The Valley areas which in past years held the major overwintering populations of these birds, drew a virtual blank this year. Ten EASTERN MEADOWLARKS were encountered and RSD'E of L.W. Pubnico, can account for eight of them. On Nov. 29, he had 2 in L.W. Pubnico, then on Jan. 18, he had six at Pubnico Head. Other reports were of 1 at Westport, Brier Is., which was heard singing on Dec. 20 by Judy Tufts, Peter MacLeod et al., and a single bird was found feeding along the shoulder of the road at Newport Landing on Feb. 28, by Merritt Grantmyre (fide BED). RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were extremely rare, with just two reports during the period. One was visiting at the Mullen feeder in Dayton, Yar. Co., until Nov. 7, and 2 were at the Ruff's feeder in Yarmouth from Feb. 10-19. Although just outside of the reporting period, Bob Dickie noted three Rusty's in Halifax, "singing" continuously on March 4, these most certainly were migrants and can be safely entered as the earliest spring date on record.

Fair numbers of COMMON GRACKLES, although spread widely, were found. On Nov. 10, the Hemeon's in Bass River had 25, over 25 were at the Mullen home in Dayton during Dec. and Jan., and 11 were seen in Clayton Park, Halifax, Jan. 13 (RBS). Other reports were of 1 at Tusket, for most of the winter, and 2 seen at Durham, Pictou Co., in January and again in February. (MOP). BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were seen considerably less often this winter than usual. Isolated and small flocks of mostly male birds were found in many mainland counties. A large flock of 80-90, that enveloped Delisle d'Entremont's feeder on Dec. 25 and 31 at Dayton, Yar. Co. (DM), was the most notable. At least 7 NORTHERN ORIOLES were found. In December, birds were found in Halifax, Dartmouth, Wolfville and Kentville. By January, there was 1 still in Wolfville and Dartmouth and throughout February, a female was managing well at the Hayes' feeder in Tusket Falls. This is only the second occurrence of successful overwintering in Nova Scotia.

## FINCHES TO HOUSE SPARROW

As was noted in the January '89 issue of *Nova Scotia Birds*, a COMMON CHAFFINCH was discovered in the Fairview Cemetery on Nov. 19. This bird was observed there for about a week until it disappeared, not to be seen again until Dec. 16. Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Thomas of Clayton Park read an article in a Halifax newspaper which asked for assistance in locating this bird and they quickly responded. The adult male in winter plumage attracted many people from far and wide to try their luck at seeing it. Unfortunately, the irregular feeding patterns of the bird disappointed as many as it thrilled. IAM writes that it should be noted that recently there have been regular sightings of Chaffinches in Iceland and 4 reports in the north east region of N. America. One of these was in Alma, N.B., in April 1987, which makes ours the second mainland Canadian record, not the first, as previously noted. The Chaffinch was last seen briefly during the third week of January at the Thomas feeder.

The third Nova Scotia record of BRAMBLING occurred with the observation by Mrs. Phyllis Hayes of Tusket Falls, who spotted this bird at her feeder on Feb. 7. This (apparently) female attracted many birders until at least Feb. 19, being quite cooperative for those who travelled from afar. Other Brambling occurrences in Nova Scotia were May 1983, in Lake Echo, Hfx. Co., and Mosher River in March, 1986. Mrs. Hayes deserves much credit in noticing and reporting this vagrant to allow others to share in the thrill.

PINE GROSBELLS were very uncommon in most of the province. A number of CBCs could not locate even one to tally. In early December, 15 were found at Petite Riviere (Cohrs), and several on the Hammond's Plains Rd., Hfx. Co. (L&PP). Brian Dalzell writes that these birds were common in the north central areas of the province, but rarely encountered anywhere else. As with most of our winter finches, PURPLE FINCHES were a notable sighting, if found at all. Jack MacNeil of Big Pond, C. B., writes that there were virtually no finches to speak of in that area. Thirty-eight were seen enjoying the wild food crop in Durham, Pictou Co. (MO), throughout January. However, this was the exception as in all other areas they were virtually non-existent. There were isolated sightings of one or two during February in Dartmouth, Bass River and Wolfville Ridge. A female HOUSE FINCH was discovered by Janos Kovacs at his feeder in Dartmouth, appropriately on the Halifax

West CBC on Dec. 19. This bird has been a regular visitor to that feeder up to the present. A second report came vide Brian Dalzell, of a male and female seen at a feeder in Up. Tantaloon, Hfx. Co., during most of January and part of February.

RED CROSSBILLS were by far more UNcommon than WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. Reds were found singularly or in family groups of up to four in the central parts, while White-wings were abundant in most areas. The Cobequid Mountain, Economy area, held populations of hundreds throughout the period. There were no reports of REDPOLLS. PINE SISKINS were found to be very uncommon in most areas. Small numbers were irregularly visiting feeders from Yar. Co. to Pictou Co., with the major numbers being seen in the north central areas of the province. Francis Spalding, the Hemeons and Brian Dalzell, all comment on the abundance of these birds in the Colchester, Cobequid Mountain areas. AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES proved to be very unpredictable and highly erratic this season. Late November brought large numbers to most areas. However, only small groups remained in scattered locales through December and January. By mid-February, their numbers steadily increased, becoming more evident at feeders from Yarmouth to Pictou. A melanistic form was noted by Blake Maybank and Brian Dalzell, feeding with a group of about 35 on Dec. 17, in New Minas.

EVENING GROSBEAKS were notable by their absence. Although they were to be found irregularly throughout the province, it was by no means a "good" season for them. Alas, the sunflower seed can be put away for yet another year. Higher numbers were 100 at Durham, in mid-Feb. (MO), 160 in Wolfville, Dec. 17 (BM), 160 at Bass River, Jan.25 (P&WH), and over 200 daily at Cook's Brook, Hfx. Co. (JVJ). HOUSE SPARROWS continue to decline or are showing no increase in numbers throughout the province. Ken & Doris Peters of Pubnico, haven't had a House Sparrow since 1987, having done nothing to discourage them from coming. This holds true in the Yarmouth town area, where numbers continue to fall. Nancy Peters in Hazel Hill, writes that they still have a gathering of 20 or so birds, but this showing is nothing like it used to be.

--DAC, ed.

### DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

FOR

THE JULY ISSUE

MAY 31, 1989

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

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

1989 Sewer Stroll (s)

Once upon a time, it seemed that trips which started at Hartlen's Point in Eastern Passage, always had fair and sunny weather. I thought that if I moved to Eastern Passage every trip would be sunny--so I moved-- 1989 proved the theory to be false. The January 15th trip started at Hartlen's Point with cloudy skys and a blustery wind. The CBC sent a TV camera crew to record the joys of birding. They were not impressed. As the day progressed, the wind got higher and by ten o'clock, it was raining, often quite hard. I was wired for sound, and I am pleased to report that my thoughts about the weather were "edited out" for Monday's 6 p.m. news.

We saw about 25 species of bird but the nice ones could not be found. The day ended about noon with the last birders heading off for a hot shower.

There is a saying "cheer up, it could be worse"--well, I cheered up, and for Sewer Stroll II, it got worse. Only three people phoned to register for the trip and with a forecast of 15 cm of snow/freezing rain, I gave up. The trip was cancelled after the Friday evening forecast--which turned out to be right.

I wondered if some people, anticipating the terrible weather, did not bother to phone in and register. If enough people had registered, it could have been rescheduled to a better day.

Are you still reading? Good!--while I have your attention--in my spare time, I look after the slide collection. I had a request the other day for some slides of Crows and Ravens. I was able to provide them!!, ALL THREE of them--two Crows and one Raven. Please, all of you with cameras, we don't just want slides of the exotics. We want Crows, Ravens, Starlings, Blue Jays, etc., etc. Please donate some to the society collection.

P.S. It could have been one Raven and one Crow. One slide was not top quality--Got my message? Thanks.

Bill Caudle



Compared to the two hawks in the centre photo section, this male American Kestrel appears decidedly awkward and benign, as it tries to secure a perch on some outermost twigs. This north end Halifax bird was snapped by Ian McLaren on Feb.

FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Sunday AMHERST POINT  
 May 7 BIRD SANCTUARY--Leader:  
 Alan Smith, CWS,  
 Sackville, N.B.  
 (506-536-3025 or H  
 506-536-0164). Meet  
 at the APBS parking lot  
 at 0930 hours (take exit  
 3 from TCH at the  
 Wandlyn Inn and proceed a  
 few km towards Nappan;  
 the entrance is on the  
 left). Bring a lunch  
 and wear appropriate  
 footwear for wet con-  
 ditions. Enjoy a day of observing waterfowl, shorebirds  
 and early migrants.

Wednesday HALIFAX COUNTY WARBLER WALK--Leader: Fred Dobson  
 May 17 (852-3042). Meet in the parking lot at the junction of  
 Prospect Road (Rt. 333) and the St. Margaret's Bay Rd.,  
 at 0600 hours. 2-2.5 hours in duration.

Saturday SPRING MIGRANTS (Yarmouth Area)--Leader: Hubert Hall  
 May 20 Meet at the Carleton School at 0900 hrs prepared for a  
 splendid day of birding. Bring lunch and fly repellent

Saturday WARBLER WALK FOR THE NOVICE--Leader: Clarence Stevens  
 May 20 (835-0098). Meet at the entrance parking lot at Shubie  
 Park in Dartmouth at 6030 hrs. Duration 2-3.

Wednesday EARLY MORNING WARBLER WALK--Leader: Dave Currie (876-  
 May 24 8745). Meet at the Hammond's Plains and Kearney Lake  
 Roads intersection at 0600 hrs. Duration 2-3 hrs.  
 Comfortable but not necessarily waterproof footwear  
 recommended.

Saturday WARBLER WALK (Cape Breton)--Leader: Joy Gates, Glace  
 May 27 Bay. Meet at the Sand Lake intersection at 0800 hours.  
 This encompasses the Sand Lake, Homeville areas.

Saturday PARADISE/BRIDGETOWN (Anna. Co.)--Leaders: Bill and Jean  
 May 27 Morse (584-3417). Meet at the Morse residence at 0800  
 hours. Travelling west on Rt. 201 (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). You should see ducks,  
 marsh birds and warblers. Bring lunch and fly repell-  
 ent.

Saturday ANNUAL HANTS COUNTY DAY--Leader: Marg. Clark (443-3993)  
 May 27 Meet at the railway crossing in Mt. Uniacke at 0800 hrs.  
 Observe abundant birdlife in a variety of habitats. This  
 is a trip with many stops and extends well into the  
 afternoon, so bring a lunch.

- Sunday  
May 28      SHUBENACADIE AREA--Leader: Roslyn MacPhee(758-3265).  
Meet in front of the Scott's Restaurant in Shubenacadie  
at 0600 hrs. Bring a lunch.
- Saturday  
June 3      ARGYLE ISLANDS BIRD COLONIES (Yar. Co)--Explore some of  
our off shore island habitats. Leader: Ted D'Eon  
(762-2097). Meet at Abbott's Harbour Wharf in West  
Pubnico at 0800 hrs. Bring lunch. Please make your  
reservations no later than May 30, to insure a space on  
the boat. There will be a cost of 10-15 dollars per  
person.
- Saturday  
& Sunday  
3-4 June    HAZEL HILL-CANSO & VICINITY--Leaders: Warren and Nancy  
Peters (366-2124). This trip is planned at the height  
of the spring migration in this beautiful area. Accom-  
modations can be made at the Dorion Motel (366-2400).  
Trips will begin at 0700 hrs, Saturday and Sunday;  
please meet at the curling rink in Hazel Hill.
- Sunday  
June 11     PRESIDENT'S FIELD TRIP--Leader: Richard Stern  
(678-1975). Meet at the Cornwallis Inn parking lot in  
Kentville at 0830 hrs. Explore the Kentville, Wolfville  
areas. Beginners are particularly welcome. Please  
bring a lunch.
- Friday  
June 16     NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY MEETING--The Yar. Co. Museum in  
Yarmouth. Meeting begins at 2000 hrs. On Saturday,  
June 17, there will be a morning birding trip to various  
"hot spots" in the area. Please meet at the Museum at  
0800 hrs. Saturday.
- Sunday  
June 24     SUMMER BIRDS AT GROVE'S POINT (C.B.)--Leader: Nancy  
More. Meet at the Sydney River Woolco Dept. Store  
parking lot at 0800 hrs.
- Saturday  
July 22     ENGLISHTOWN (C.B.)--Leader: Andrew Gingell. Meet at the  
Sydney River Woolco Dept. Store parking lot at 0800 hrs
- Saturday  
July 29     CRESCENT AND CHERRYHILL BEACHES--a focus on the more  
common of the migrating shorebirds. Leaders: John &  
Shirley Cohrs (H) 477-6036 (Cottage) 688-2131. Meet  
at the entrance to Crescent Beach. Be prepared for a  
short walk at Crescent in the morning and a more rugged  
long walk at Cherryhill in the afternoon.
- Sunday  
August 13   FULLER'S BRIDGE, C.B.--Leader: Hedley Hopkins. Migrat-  
ing shorebirds. Meet at Marion Bridge at 0800 hrs.

**Please remember to call the field trip leader in advance to insure  
your comfort and enjoyment**

Any suggestions or questions regarding field trips can be directed  
to Dave Currie, 53 Silvermaple Dr., R. R. 1, Armdale, N.S. B3L 4J1  
or Phone 876-8745.

## NOTES ON THE GREATER GOLDEN PLOVER

Don MacNeill and Ian McLaren

Because it is rated as difficult to identify, because diagnostic photos do not seem to have been taken, and since some supposed sightings of the bird may be questionable, we give this brief account of what a number of us saw and identified as a Greater Golden Plover.

The bird was found by Peter MacLeod and Don MacNeill around midday on October 15, at Hartlen's Point, southeast of Dartmouth. It was at rest with 35 Lesser Golden Plovers on rocks along the beach. Like two of the Lessers, it was in worn and partially molted breeding plumage (see comments on plumage below). Both were struck by its size and shape: noticeably larger, and with "squarish" head compared with the rounded, more dainty heads of the Lessers. When the flock was disturbed, it raised its wings to reveal bright-white underwing coverts and axillars, with somewhat darker flight feathers, quite different from the dark grey underwings exhibited by some of the Lessers. The birds then flew off, unfortunately toward the sun, but among them was one larger individual that seemed to be uncoordinated with the flock.

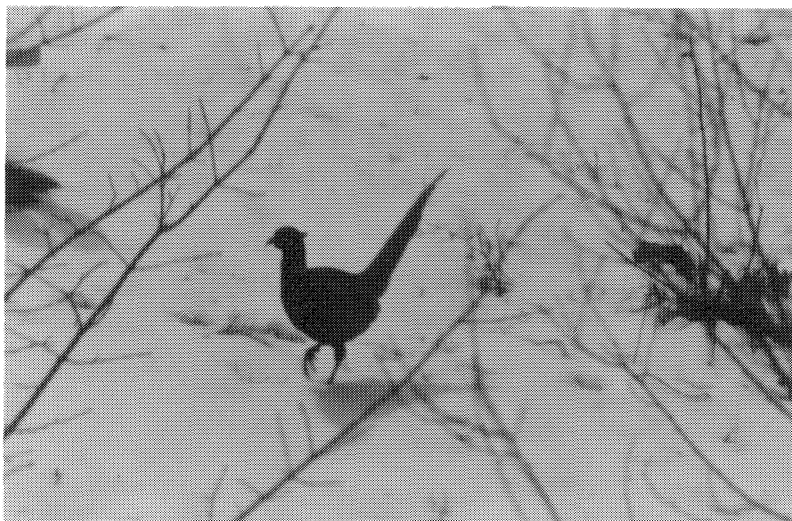
Clarence Stevens and Alan Covert found the bird at the same place next day. They noted that, although it was indeed bulkier than nearby Lessers, its leg joint appeared closer to the belly so that the bird did not seem to stand as high. The bill seemed sligher than those of the Lessers, perhaps only in relation to its larger head. Depending on its stance, its wings extended to the tip of the tail or slightly beyond. They had good views of its striking white underwings.

On October 18, the bird was found by itself on the rocks at Hartlen's Point by a number of observers. We confirmed the structural points noted above and studied its plumage. This was much worn, with larger, blacker blotches ventrally, and more remnant gold on its back than found during the period on the few Lessers with similar wear and molt. The extensive black on the lower breast did not extend up the paleish flanks to the wings. A dingy streak, with a few black speckles, ran from lower breast to throat, possibly the remnant of the narrower black markings there in this species compared with the Lesser. The vent and undertail coverts were strikingly white; on comparable Lessers this area was dingier and still had some blackish feathering.



The bird was generally silent. However, Fulton Lavender and others heard it calling from the beach on October 18. These were not penetrating flocking calls (as on the National Geographic record), but sweet and mellow "too-wee", and "chi-u-ee" to Fulton, quite unlike those of any Lesser Golden Plover that he had ever heard.

Other observers, including some from afar, may have seen this bird on later dates. However, descriptions indicate that some who claimed to have seen it, had seen something else, and we are uncertain of any sightings after October 20. Last spring, large numbers of this species turned up in Newfoundland and two were seen in New Brunswick. Perhaps the October bird became involved somewhere in the Canadian North with its Lesser cousins. Its plumage (which in this species is supposed to be molted before migration) may have been affected by this abnormal environmental and social experience. At any rate, the events of spring may lend further credence to the record.



This winter, for the first time, Joy Gates had a pheasant coming to her feeder near Glace Bay. Her photo shows its cocky silhouette quite nicely.

On behalf of the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund I wish to thank the following people who made donations in 1987-88 and 1989 to date. We are most appreciative of their support.

J. S. Cohrs, Chairman, S&STF

Charles Allen	Mr. & Mrs. Don MacNeill
J. S. Anderson	Margaret Macomber
Mary Anderson	Edith McClearn
Margaret Anderson	Ian McLaren
Assoc. of Volunteers, Women's	Jeanne McNichol
College Hospital, Toronto	Robert McQueston
Elizabeth Barber	Mrs. Lil Milligan
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Bay	James Morrow
Judith Beaton	Dale Mullen
Ruth Beer	Joyce Myers
Edward Borza	Sandra Myers
Richard (Dick) Brown	Carolyn Noble
Phyllis Bryson	David Page
Cavendish Bridge Club, To.	Thomas Parsons
John & Shirley Cohrs	Arnold Patterson
Co-operator's Insurance	Mr. & Mrs. W. Peters
David Currie	Margaret Pugsley
Eira Currie	Sydney Randall
Marjorie Dalsto	Gweneth Reid
Lisette D'Entremont	Mildred Rogers
Marjorie Dickie	Thomas Rogers
Edmund Dorey	Dr. Henry Roper
Ducks Unlimited	Jean Wight Rosahn
Rosemary Eaton	Judith Rourke
Rachel Erskine	Bernadette Saltmarsh
Kathryn Farmer	Dorothy Saltmarsh
Franklin Farrel II	Rev. James Shields
Mary E. Foley	Carin Somers
Sylvia Fullerton	Myrna Stanley
James Gallagher	William Stevens
William Giles	Mary Stirling
Ken Gregoire	Patricia Stock
James Gunn	Mr. & Mrs. J. Stone
Hubert Hall	Mrs. Vera Tomlinson
Roger Hartley	Mrs. V. Tyler
Claire Hilchie	Azor Vienneau
J. Robert Jackson	E. Wakeling
Hugh Jones	Women's College Hospital,
Mrs. S. E. Lewis	Administration, Toronto
Ruth MacDougall	David Young
A. O. MacLean	
Jill MacLean	



EDITORIAL

In the twelve years that I have been the Editor of this journal, I have never felt the need to write an editorial. The fact that I do so now is an indication of the concern I feel about the future status of our Nova Scotia birds.

In the last three years, I have received many telephone calls and letters from people who are worried about our declining bird population. These have come from members and non-members of our society, and from all corners of Nova Scotia.

In the last few MONTHS, these enquiries and expressions of concern have reached unprecedented numbers. I am not a scientist and do not presume to give reasons for or solutions to the situation. What I hope to do is to put forward some of the theories that have been suggested to me and ask for comments from our membership.

Let us consider firstly, our WINTER BIRDS. There is no doubt that they have been declining in number for at least five years. Every year there are fewer, both at feeders and in the woods. This year many people have been putting out seed (as yet uneaten) bought in 1987. Of course there are some birds and the occasional feeding station in a good location has been busy. However, when I have asked the owners of all-year-round "hot" feeders, they have stated that, although they have birds, there are little knots here and there and vast tracts of silence. Some of the reasons for the undoubted decline I have heard are as follows:

- a. More people feeding birds
- b. 1988-89 has been an extremely mild winter combined with a bumper wild food crop.
- c. Poor nesting seasons in 1986 and 1987 (June of both years were cold and foggy and many dead nestlings were found) 1988 was not very much better.
- d. Acid rain
- e. Other pollution
- f. Loss of breeding habitat in Nova Scotia--urban sprawl, marsh drainage, proliferation of uncontrolled all-terrain vehicles.

It may be noted that Peter Whelan, in his column of January, in the Toronto Globe and Mail, reported that the paucity of bird life was from coast to coast, from cold hard winter to soft, mild winter, from north to south and east to west.

Now, let us consider SUMMER BIRDS. The picture is depressing here too. Many species of warblers have become fewer in number as have Red-eyed and Solitary Vireos, Catbirds, White-breasted Nuthatches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, etc., etc. Anyone who has become interested in birds in the last ten years will no doubt have noticed some drop-off. Just how drastically different things are now, however, becomes apparant only when the comparison is made with fifteen, twenty and twenty-five years ago. Looking back at my records of twenty-five yers ago, I am appalled. In those days there were birds--LOTS of birds--all summer from May to September. Now I find the woods quiet by the beginning of August and far fewer migratory flocks passing through later on. On offshore islands, we used to be guaranteed Marsh and Sedge Wrens, House Wrens and Brown Thrashers--quite run-of-the-mill birds--but now things have changed.

Seal and Brier Island birds have become mere shadows of the bonanza that was once year after year and trip after trip. The suggestions of reasons for the decline of summer birds were as follows:

- a. Poor nesting in 1986-1987
- b. Destruction of wintering habitat--the rain forests in Central and South America.
- c. Destruction of wintering habitat in the United States
- d. Acid Rain
- e. Other pollution
- f. Adverse weather in wintering areas (as in the 1970's when Winter Wrens and Ruby-crowned Kinglets had a crash due to unusually frigid temperatures in the Carolinas and surrounding area)

I do not wish to be thought excessively pessimistic, but in all honesty I do not see any improvement in sight. I wish I knew the cause, or most likely causes of this decimation. I hate to think of a possible "Silent Spring" in future years. It may be that nothing can be done, but before that can be said, we must discover the reasons. There is something happening that we should be watching and to which we should be listening.

Shirley Cohrs

READERS' OPINIONS ABOUT AND EXPERIENCES WITH THESE CONCERNS ARE INVITED.

---



---

20th INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS 1990

Final Notice

The 20th International Ornithological Congress will take place in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 2-9 December 1990. The Congress programme will include 7 plenary lectures, 48 symposia, contributed papers (spoken and poster), workshops, round-table discussions and films. There will be a mid-Congress excursion day. Longer tours are planned to interesting ornithological sites in New Zealand before and after the Congress, including the post Congress cruises to sub-antarctic islands.

The Second and Final Circular of the Congress will be available from 1 October 1989 and will include the registration papers and forms for submitting papers. In late 1990 New Zealand will also host the 20th World Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation in Hamilton on 21-27 November 1990 and a Pacific Festival of Nature Films in Dunedin on 27 November - 1 December 1990. Requests for this Final Circular, which includes information on the above events, should be sent to:

Dr Ben D. Bell, Secretary-General,  
20th International Ornithological Congress,  
School of Biological Sciences,  
Victoria University of Wellington,  
P.O. Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand  
(Telex NZ30882 VUWLIB; Facsimile NZ 64-4-712070)

## S A R A I S A B E L M A C L E A N

1907 - 1988



On Sunday morning, December 18, 1988, Sara MacLean, Glace Bay, passed away. Sara not only had a lifelong interest in observing, feeding and keeping records of birds, she also inspired others in these and related pursuits such as bird carving, photography and taxidermy. Each person would share his efforts with Sara, who inevitably would encourage the project. Sara faithfully submitted reports to this newsletter for many years. Reports of sightings came from friends, acquaintances and total strangers, who walked into the Glace Bay Library where she worked and asked for the "bird lady". Sara was the catalyst through whom most bird sightings flowed--from Malagawatch to Kelly's Mountain to New Waterford and Glace Bay to St. Esprit, touching all four counties of the island and the lives of hundreds of birders. The void is real. Sara's feeders overlooking Renwick Brook are empty; her binoculars were beside her large kitchen window, perhaps reminding us of the many pleasures we have derived from the companionship of birders, birding and Sara MacLean.

Roberta Beecher Fraser

TRIBUTES TO SARA

It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of Sara MacLean of Glace Bay, less than twenty-four hours after I had paid her a brief hospital visit.

Sara was one of the Cape Breton birdwatching contingent who greeted me so warmly on my very first Field Trip, and who brought me from being a complete neophyte in that first summer to acting as a Trip Leader in the last couple of seasons. Sara's knowledge of birds, shared by all members through the pages of Nova Scotia Birds, was equalled by her exceptional knowledge on a host of other matters, and by a ready sense of humour.

We shall miss her sorely in Cape Breton, as report compiler and as the one among us who made sure that our Field Trips were planned in advance and sent on to you. Not least, I personally shall miss the elegant and lyrical prose in which she reported our doings on the island to the pages of Nova Scotia Birds.

Sara always thought positively. She enjoyed life. I am so glad I had the privilege of knowing her.

Nancy More

Cape Breton lost its premier birder when Sara MacLean passed away in December. She was born in Glace Bay and served first as a teacher and then for twenty years as a Librarian in that community.

She was always interested in birds as a young person, but it was not until the early 1960's that she became a true birder. She was one of four founding members of the Cape Breton Branch of the Nova Scotia Bird Society. She served as President on several occasions but she felt her record-keeping and leadership of field trips were her greatest contributions. She led the March field trip for winter birds and the Warbler Walk in late May. Who can forget her cheery write-ups in Nova Scotia Birds? The list was not important to Sara; the companionship and the getting-out were highlighted.

Her love of nature was catholic. She was equally at home with the Cape Breton wildflowers as she was with the birds.

She instructed her minister to be sure to use the King James version of the Bible at her memorial service. This surprised none of us because we always felt that if you were reporting anything to Sara, you had better get your facts straight.

Despite this brusque exterior, underneath was a loving, caring woman, one who was respected and admired by all who knew her. Sara will be missed.

Clive S. Macdonald



Sara, giving a talk on feeding winter birds at the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs Convention at North Sydney, October, 1988.

Photos--Coastal Courier, Glace Bay



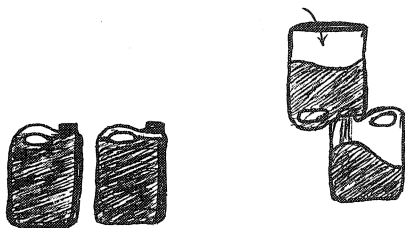
Sara at the same convention. Left to right: Anne Martin, Edie MacLeod, Sara and Rhoda Yates. All save Ms. Martin are members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

We have an idea of how to store the huge bags of bird seed we get at the beginning of the winter season. For a couple of years now we've saved the windshield wash fluid bottles; they make excellent containers both for storing and for dispensing. To get the labels off simply use hot water for rinsing, put the cap on and hold up the bottle, label side down. After a few seconds, the label will peel off easily. To fill, use another of the containers. Cut off the base and carefully cut round the neck so that the screwed "bit" is removed. The resulting "thing" makes an excellent funnel. We have perhaps eighteen of them now, about enough for fifty pounds or so of seed and the world's a slightly cleaner place.

Cliff and Glennys Hutton



Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

Again this year, as has occurred for at least the last couple of years, the winter bird population has decreased drastically. Noticing this decline in evidence last year, I contacted a number of people, many of whom are experts in the field, to obtain their thoughts on our dwindling populations. Various reasons were given in response, including subtle suggestions of over-reaction on my part. However, even many of those claiming not to notice waning feeder attendance are now admitting that there must be something terribly wrong.

With the plight of our rainforests in the news, we might be overly anxious to point an accusing finger in that popular direction. However, a little thought quickly shows us that, for the most part, our feeder birds are not as readily affected by the serious devastation of the tropical forest regions as are our summer visitors. Therefore, we must consider other possibilities and what we, as a birding society, might do to help alleviate this rather serious situation.

It seems that now might be the time to ask ourselves some important questions. For example, what are we doing for the birds? Are we taking active part in **preserving** their future (as well as our own)? Are we **actively** involved in environmental issues which affect their very existence such as preserving **large** tracts of forest land, swamp area, suitable beach areas (salt and fresh) and clean water or are we merely waiting for someone else to initiate some necessary action? Are we exerting sufficient pressure on our government to take a concerned and responsible stand on environmental abuses?

Surely, there is something (more) we can do. Is it possible to get fellow members more involved in these very important issues? Is it possible to make a change or must we be content to **sit quietly** as our recreational pastime and our futures are destroyed before our very eyes?

As a **united** voice, maybe we can make a difference. Where are we now and where do we go from here?

T. Dale Mullen

## BIRDING IN PAPUA, NEW GUINEA

Peter Payzant

It's dark. I'm sitting on a thin damp mattress in the back of an open truck, bouncing up a pot-holed mountain road at five A.M. A cold drizzle has been falling for several hours and my rain gear doesn't cover my lower legs and feet, which are now decidedly wet. Eight other birders are here with me, all trying to fit ourselves into a small space without making too much body contact. We've been birding in Papua, New Guinea for two weeks now, and this morning's ride is not one of the high points.

As I doze in the dark, trying to recover a little lost sleep, my thoughts return to earlier parts of the trip.



Huli tribesman. His headdress is a wig made of human hair, ornamented with feathers. The small central spray over his forehead is a Lorikeet tail.

## SOME CHOICE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM FALL AND WINTER

Peter MacLeod attributes his splendid portrait of a **Merlin** on Seal Island to luck, but luck comes to those who are ready for it. The brown-backed adult female seems ready to defy everything and everyone. Nevertheless, it slipped away moments after Peter snapped the picture.

Bill Montevecchi photographed this large, subadult female **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in his backyard in Halifax. Such large individuals are sometimes mistaken for Cooper's Hawks by beginners, but its small head and squared tail are good marks of this species. Some feeder watchers agonize over hawk raids, but few would begrudge the dismembering of a Starling outside the kitchen window.

The **Mew Gull** was one of two first-year birds seen by many around Dartmouth this winter. They were very instructive for those who like gull challenges. They were clearly the European subspecies, the Common Gull of European bird books, which nests as close as Iceland, and not the western North American subspecies. These birds are being seen increasingly on the east coast, with 5 in Newfoundland and 3 in Nova Scotia this winter. When sitting, their very attenuated shape and notably pale tertials are very different from the Ring-billed Gull. In flight, the sharp margins of the band on the tail, otherwise cleanly white up to the lower back, are strikingly different from the yearling Ring-billed and western Mew Gulls. Another good mark at a distance is the uniform appearance of the upper wing, without the paler grey coverts of the Ring-billed. European birders, for whom the Ring-billed Gull is a rare visitor among their Common Gulls, have refined our abilities to tell the species apart. The latest word on such discriminations is in British Birds, for 1988.

The drake **Northern Pintail** was one of three at Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth this winter. Civic and wildlife authorities have been fussing about the feeding by the public of increasingly large gatherings of wildfowl and other water birds in the Halifax-Dartmouth region. Concern has been expressed about duck and gull "pollution" around Dartmouth and Bedford. Actually, this kind of pollution seems not a bad thing for our generally nutrient-poor waterways. However, waterfowl are also correctly implicated as carriers of parasites causing "swimmer's itch", which results from a futile and basically harmless attempt of the parasite larvae to burrow in human skin. It is also argued that feeding makes our native American Black Ducks too dependent on handouts, although I think that keeping them away from hunting areas and icebound shores must surely help sustain their populations. More serious is the possibility of increased hybridization with our largely feral Mallards, the more promiscuous males, of which are said to be irresistible to female Black Ducks. Certainly there is plenty of propinquity in winter. However, on Sullivan's Pond, most Black Ducks seem paired by later winter and soon begin leaving for the coastal and acidic marshes that are little used by Mallards. Have you noted any great increase in Mallard x Black hybrids in recent winters? I haven't. The point of all this is that I don't think birders should feel guilty about seeking interesting laggard and vagrant waterfowl like our handsome Pintail in these winter gatherings.

The beautiful male **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was a frequent visitor to the Foster's feeder in Waverley, where many birders were made welcome by its "owner". It was well sustained on very short pie crust dough, which I hadn't heard of as a (better?) substitute for suet. Interestingly, the area of the Foster's home has many oak trees, like the area in Halifax, where one of these birds spent the winter 1986-87. All members of this genus, Melanerpes, seem to enjoy acorns, especially the famous Acorn Woodpecker of the U.S. Southwest, which makes large "acorneries" in trees.

The **Carolina Wren**, our fourth record, arrived at the Bolers's feeder on Salmon Lake, Yar. Co., shortly before the new year. It was a "lifer" for many birders from around the province. Our other records have been in spring or fall on Seal Island, although they are well known as wanderers in early winter, and there have been a few such feeder birds in nearby New Brunswick. The Bolers graciously allowed visitors to observe this spritely mite through their livingroom window at wonderfully close range. Carolina Wrens are again expanding their distribution northwards after disastrous setbacks in the 1970s. Might we hope to hear their ringing songs soon, down Yarmouth way?





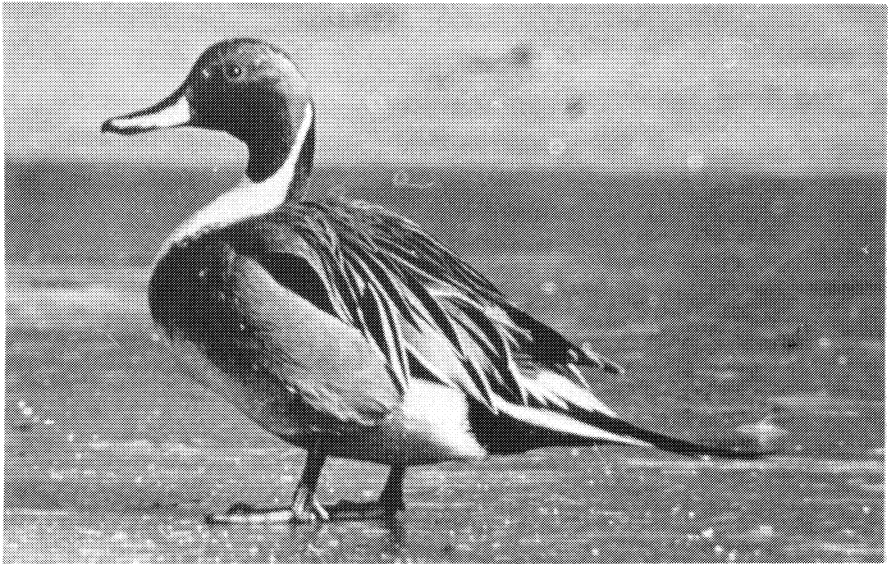
**MERLIN - PETER MacLEOD**



**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - BILL MONTEVECCHI**



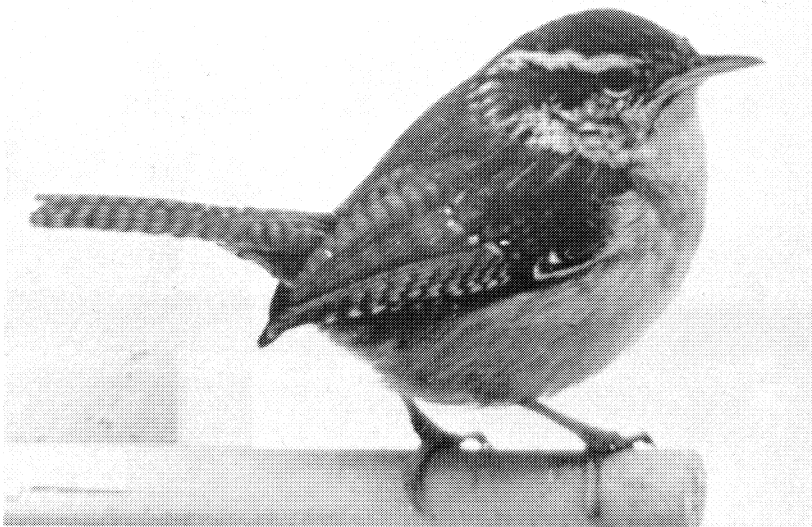
**MEW GULL - IAN MCLAREN**



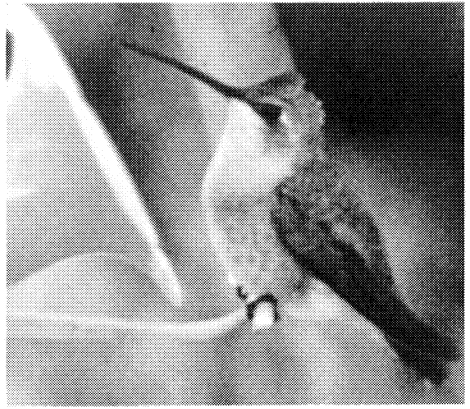
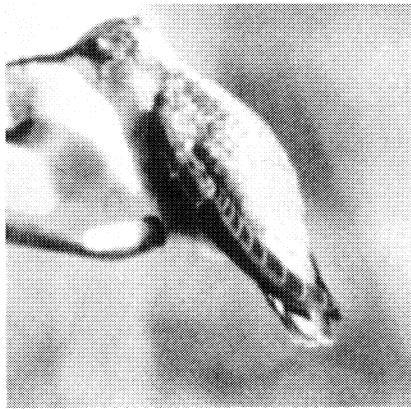
**NORTHERN PINTAIL - IAN MCLAREN**



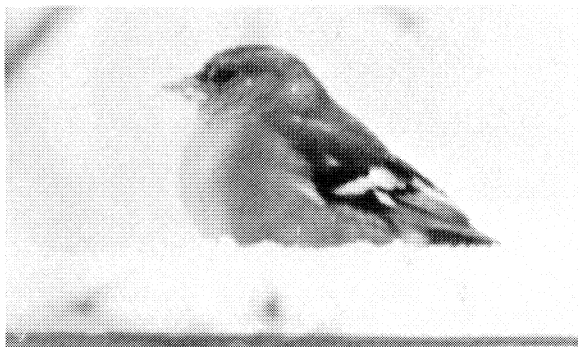
**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER - IAN McLAREN**



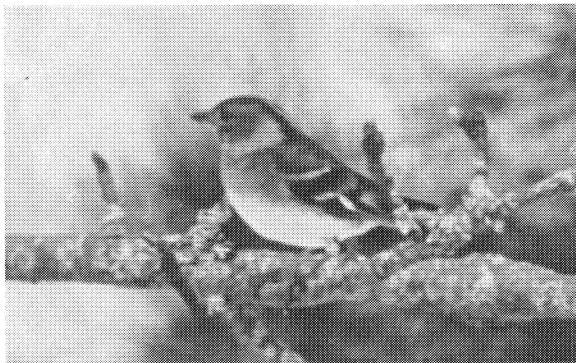
**CAROLINA WREN - IAN McLAREN**



**BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD**  
**PETER MacLEOD & IAN McLAREN**



**COMMON CHAFFINCH - PETER MacLEOD**



**BRAMBLING - IAN McLAREN**

The last page is not portrait class, but rarities deserve a little license. The **Black-chinned Hummingbird**, as detailed in the 1st issue, was at the McLaren's Halifax feeder in late November. We really needed such photographs for confirmation. Peter MacLeod's photo shows the very broad, decurved outermost primaries, unlike the narrower, straighter ones of the Ruby-throated. You can also confirm from the 60 mm height of the "flower" in my picture, that the bill from the tip of the forehead feathers is at least 21 mm long, outside the absolute range for the eastern species (15-19 mm) and near the limit for the Black-chinned female (19-22 mm.). I hope this "catch" persuades others to keep their hummingbird feeders active up to, and even after freezeup. Newfoundland had a second Rufous Hummingbird in August last year. It was a male, which is true of all four summer reports for Atlantic Canada. We are much more likely to get a female late in the fall, and it too could pose an identification challenge unless captured or well photographed. In my opinion, it is not impossible to get an even more exotic hummingbird in late fall or winter. So, give it a try, and let us know if anything turns up!

The European finches caused much excitement this winter, especially the **Common Chaffinch** at the Thomas' feeder in Fairview, Halifax. Peter MacLeod's color slide is the best I have seen, but Cyril Thomas took some splendid video footage. The origin of this bird might be endlessly debated, but I think it was a true vagrant. Chaffinches are not commonly imported in North America (190 in 1968-72, vs. thousands of e.g., European Goldfinch), and this one was a dark bird, like those of northern Europe, not like those of Britain or southern Europe, from which most cagebird stocks come. They are regular on the Faeroes and in Iceland, mostly in spring, and there is a Greenland record, also in spring. In fact, apart from a bird in St. John's, Newfoundland, on Feb. 26, 1967, the other three reports in the east (MA, ME, and NB) have all been for April. So ours is a little out-of-synchrony. However, the presence of two European thrushes, a Fieldfare and a Redwing, in Newfoundland this winter, along with our Brambling (see below) and a possible second Chaffinch near Halifax (see next issue), suggest that something special happened this winter. Of course, skeptics can always invoke ship-assisted passage, but most of us will close our minds to that!

The **Brambling** was almost as exciting as the Chaffinch, and the Hayes of Tuskett Falls also obliged many visiting birders who sat vigil in their front yard or in their livingroom. Bramblings have become almost routine in North America, but most have occurred in the west or central parts of the continent. Our third record is one of the very few from the east, although I believe another occurred in New England this winter. There is also a record of Aeropian Greenfinch from Saint John, NB, in early April, 1977, which should be taken seriously by those who propose cagebird escapees as an explanation for all such events. Although we are not favoured by many trans Atlantic passerine vagrants, as the winds are usually contrary, the Iceland and Greenland lists include many other possibilities that are fun to dream about.

Ian McLaren

THE BLUE BIRD OF PARADISE: We're walking down a rural road in the mid-morning, following a Huli tribesman. He doesn't speak any of the three official languages of PNG (English, Pidgin and Motu), so we can't communicate with him. He has assured a translator, however, that he can show us the very tree in which the Blue Bird of Paradise can be seen. His dress is simple, and characteristic of the region. A t-shirt, a few leaves suspended from a belt ("arse-grass"), and a bit of fern stuck in his hair. His feet, which have never known shoes, are huge, and the toes dig into the ground with every step. The muscles in his legs are developed like an athlete's, from climbing up and down the roads of this mountainous region. He carries a three-foot long bush knife by the blade. A bundle of umbrellas is tucked under his arm.

At the top of a hill, we stop and the guide indicates a large tree, set back from the road in the rain forest. We unfold our tripods, get out the binoculars and cameras, and prepare ourselves for a wait.

A crowd collects. They talk quietly and watch everything we do. They are also Huli, so our guide can explain what we are doing if he has to. It seems that he has very little to say to them, however. By early afternoon, the bird has not arrived. Other events claim our attention; it pours rain and we crowd under the umbrellas. Our guide solemnly holds one about three feet over the head of Polly, who is shorter even than most of the highlanders. A little Huli boy shares an umbrella with Ralph, a birder from Washington. The others scatter, or cut huge fern fronds to use as umbrellas. After an hour and a half the torrential downpour stops, just as it has for the past three days at this time.



North American birders and Huli tribesmen observing a Blue Bird of Paradise. The North Americans are the ones without the knives.

The bird activity picks up and a call, "wahr, wahr, wahr, wahr", is heard from beyond the farm fields. "Blupela em i cri", says our tour leader in Pidgin, and the younger Huli who speak Pidgin agree enthusiastically. Finally the bird itself appears and we are all treated to one of the most famous and beautiful birds of the region. Even the Huli enjoy looking through our telescopes and comparing the bird with the pictures in the field guides. It's a gorgeous sight, like a starling with a fluffy blue tail and iridescent wings. Two central black tail wires end in little discs, bobbing around six or eight inches below the rest of the bird. It clammers over the epiphytes, picking out small insects which have been disturbed by the rain...

The truck has stopped and we climb out. The drizzle is showing no signs of letting up and we are bruised, wet and cold. With the fog and poor light it is hard to see the birds. Mountain Pigeons fly over in formation and a few Stephanie's *Astrapias* appear far back in the fog. These are another bird of paradise--small and black with an iridescent green throat and a spectacular violet tail, made up of three spatulate feathers more than twice as long as the rest of the bird. We decide to walk, and slog off up the wet road. Other familiar species show up, but nothing to justify a two hour drive in the rain. Someone mentions the contrast with two days ago, when...

We were in a completely different climate, in the rain forest along the Karowari River, just a few hundred feet above sea level. The humidity was never below ninety percent, and daytime temperatures were over 30. Birding around the lodge before breakfast was very rewarding, with several species of parrots almost too numerous, a Black-browed Triller, huge Channel-billed Cuckoos, and a comical Yellow-faced Mynah startling us with a laconic "Ray-bop. Ray-bop.", from the top of a tree. Later, as we cruised up the river in a little flat-bottomed boat, we passed several dugout canoes. They are incredibly narrow, often less beamy than the women who ride them who are perforce required to stand as they paddle.



Wild Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. These sell for \$1000 in Canada, but in PNG are known as "cocky kai-kai". Kai means "food" in Pidgin.

The river had good birding too. A beautiful Brahminy Kite, chestnut with a white head and breast, glided low over the boat. Flocks of Rainbow Lorikeets and Dusky Lorries were everywhere, along with Sulphur-crested Cockatoos patrolling the forest in small groups. Great, Intermediate and Little Egrets stalked the frogs in the river, and Green Pygmy-geese (actually small ducks) swam nervously away as the boat approached. Five Blyth's Hornbills (hail to thee, blithe hornbill!) flew high over the trees at the edge of the river, and disappeared over the horizon. Comb-crested Jacanas walked over the lily pads with their incredible feet, and Rufous-bellied Kookaburras (gorgeous little blue and red kingfishers) hunted from the bushes at the water's edge. We surprised a hawk in a dead tree and it obligingly stayed while we puzzled it out. After a few minutes, our leader announced that it was a rare Doria's Hawk, one of the rarest of the lowland raptors...

The drizzle has now become steady rain, and several of us are completely soaked. Even though we're only a few degrees south of the equator it's darn cold when you're wet at 6000 feet above sea level. We're all a little morose and reluctant to move very far from the truck. We haven't seen a single new bird, and it's already early afternoon. As we stand gazing vacantly into the woods, a little movement catches our attention. Probably just another Papuan Tree- creeper, and only a few of us pay any attention.

The adrenalin flows. Someone shouts that it's something new-- some sort of little parrot, climbing up the side of the tree. I recall our leader talking about Pygmy Parrots, and seconds later he confirms that we can now see one of the smallest parrots in the world, only three and a half inches long. We scramble to set up the scopes on a gravelly knoll, and there is the usual sotto voce dialogue, "Where are they?", "On that tree, the gray one with the bark.", "They all have bark.", "They're gone!", "No they aren't, you're looking at the wrong tree.", "WHICH TREE ARE THEY ON?"

Those with scopes get a quick first look, just enough to make the bird listable. Then the rest take equally rapid turns, until everyone has seen them, little mites climbing up the side of the tree, sweeping their heads from side to side as they harvest the lichens and fungus which grow everywhere in the cloud forest. The male has a blue nape, collar and tail, and his bright buffy face and red underparts show up clearly as he works over towards the edge of the trunk. The female looks all green at this distance.

The cold and discomfort are almost forgotten. These are wonderful birds, a species which we might very well have missed or only heard flying over. We watch them for just long enough--they depart before we become bored.

We think of the other near misses: the Harpy Eagle, flying by at eye level over a mountain valley, the Palm Cockatoo, at extreme binocular range, and the Wattled Ploughbill, a pathologically odd bird which was seen by only one of the party.





Southern Cassowary adult and chick. These are one of the most dangerous animals in the country. A three inch claw on the inner toe and a powerful forward kick can disembowel a dog or stab a human through the heart.

A decision is made. We've scored and now we can go home. We climb into the back of the truck and our leader goes to sleep in a pool of water in a tarpaulin on the deck. The rest of us stand, jouncing along at ten miles per hour with the rain beating into our faces, holding on for dear life and making up silly limericks about birders and their peculiarities. The two Oriental Hobbies in the tree beside the road seem almost superfluous now, although we've never seen these little falcons so clearly. We smile as the truck rolls on.

Note: Peter and Linda Payzant spent two weeks birding in Papua, New Guinea in July of 1988.)

## BIG YEAR 1988 - PETER MACLEOD

Last winter, Peter MacLeod decided to see if he could set a record for the number of species of birds seen in Nova Scotia in one year. Peter's objective was to beat Bruce MacTavish's record of 271, the highest known existing record. When the results were tallied at the end of the year, Peter's total was 292--a number that most Nova Scotian birders would be pleased to have for a life list.

In 1988, Peter had the time available and in the early part of the year, a great deal of it was spent birding. This tapered down to weekends only in the latter portion. Highlights of the year included three weeks in May, spent on Bon Portage Island, a four day pelagic trip in August, aboard a local fishing boat, and a warbler invasion at Hartlen's Point in mid-September. The remainder of the birding was either chasing rarities reported on the Rare Bird Alert or casual birding throughout the province.

Although there were only two days of sunshine on Bon Portage (and lots of rain), a Blue Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Northern Hawk Owl and Summer Tanager were seen.

Getting set to leave on the Ruth Marie, a Laughing Gull in Eastern Passage made a good start to the voyage. Seen on the trip were a Sabine's Gull, Manx and Cory's Shearwaters, Long-tailed Jaeger, South Polar Skua, and Pomarine Jaeger. Peter broke one pair of binoculars but luckily had brought a spare.

Hartlen's Point proved to be a good birding spot in 1988, with the following birds being seen there: Cooper's Hawk; Cerulean, Kentucky, Connecticut and Hooded Warblers; Philadelphia, Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos.

Nova Scotia generally was visited by a number of good birds in 1988, and had several appear on the North American Rare Bird Alert. Those seen by Peter were Eurasian Kestrel, Northern Lapwing, Common Greenshank, Greater Golden Plover and Chaffinch. A number of other rarities seen included King Eider, Redhead, Upland Sandpiper, Ruff, Mew Gull, Caspian Tern, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Say's Phoebe, Willow Flycatcher, Jackdaw, Northern Wheatear, Brewer's Blackbird, Western Tanager, House Finch, and Grasshopper, Lark, Clay-coloured and Field Sparrows.

Approximately 21 species were reported in Nova Scotia in 1988, but not seen by Peter. This provides lots of scope for anyone who would like to make an attempt at beating Peter's record. Peter thanks all those who helped him since his effort was accomplished with the assistance of a number of Nova Scotia Bird Society members. This included transportation, information on sightings, accommodations (especially P.C. Smith), and the encouragement of his friends and fellow birders.

--D. MacN.

## WHO SHALL WATCH THE WATCHERS

Hello again. There are already more than enough field guides, field notes and learned treatises available to the bird watcher or field naturalist. What is lacking is a good guide to the various families, species, and races of birdwatchers. If you are more 'with it' and up-to-date, you may prefer, and are welcome to, the word "birder".

To fill the gap, I am in the process of assembling my years of field notes into a publication entitled A Field Guide to the Bird-watchers or (Birders), or The Birdwatchers Watchers or (Birder Watchers) vade mecum. I am still wrestling with the basic taxonomy of my subject. In particular, I am not certain which species are the most primitive and which the most developed. I have encountered certain Neanderthal "tickers", exhibiting strong evidence of the former, but have some research to complete. I am also having some trouble obtaining the services of a competent artist who will stop laughing long enough to illustrate the key field marks of some of the rarer species.

In spite of its preliminary nature, I would like to share with you a few of the delightful species any competent bird watcher can observe.

#### 1. THE GREAT FEEDER WATCHER

This species is large, lumpy, lethargic and is generally found more or less supine on a couch or in an easy chair on the warm side of a picture window during daylight hours. Can be gregarious when prey is abundant. Is almost invariably seen with a glass or mug in the left hand. In courtship, the male often makes the effort to keep eyes open for long periods. This is a winter species, rare in spring and fall and accidental in summer.



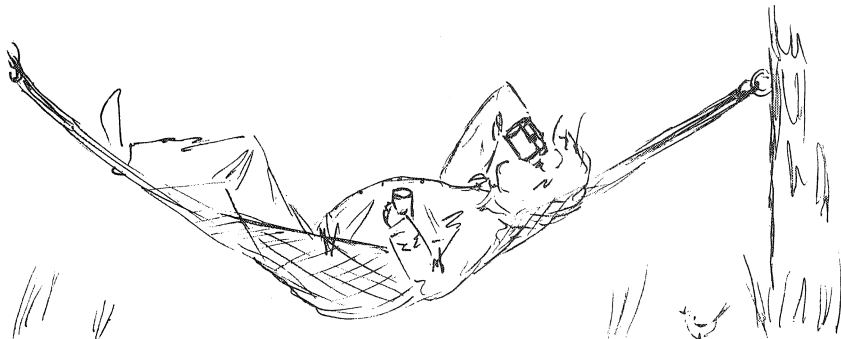
#### Similar species

-The Hammock Hawkwatcher

Normally a summer resident. Generally seen in an even more horizontal attitude and slightly lighter plumage.

-The Roadside Viewer

Our common spring and fall species. Sits partly upright in a six to twelve year old automobile, parked off the shoulder of a road in a choice spot waiting for things to happen.



Note: all three species are virtually flightless and when flushed, flutter weakly to a nearby similar location.

Voice: "Get me another beer (coffee or tea)" depending on specific race.

Range: Houses, condominiums or apartments overlooking open gardens or treed lots.

## 2. THE INDEFATIGABLE LISTER

In the western hemisphere, during most of the year, a birdwatcher encountered ten miles down a beach, or three miles back from the road in deep brush is probably LISTER.

None of this species exhibits any interest in watching birds. They want to see birds and list those seen at a particular time or in a particular place, or within a specific time period or doing certain things such as walking, flying, resting or doing naughty things. Once any or all of these conditions are met, the Lister shows no more interest in that bird until next year.



This species tends to gather whenever rare birds are reported. They can often be observed in winter, standing in the middle of a barberry hedge overlooking a backyard feeder. If they are stamping their feet, indicating that they have been standing in the same spot since dawn, you are assured of adding a LISTER to your list.

It is suspected that Listers do not breed and may not be a true species. It is not certain whether they do not breed because they are always chasing rarities and have no time, or whether they are in reality just ordinary birdwatchers in the grip of a powerful mental disorder.

The presence or absence of a camera is not a significant field mark. The race called Honest Lister carries a camera to verify lists but the pictures are usually too awful to be of any use. The nominate race generally finds a camera inhibits its imagination and greatly reduces list size.

### Similar Species

-The European Twitcher. A species very similar to ours but generally in drabber and more bedraggled plumage

-The Old World Ticker. Also like ours but plumage so bedraggled that it looks as if it just blew over from the U.K.

Voice: a smirking "Just got a Great Ivory-billed Passenger Auk-- my 150th this forenoon".

Range: Seen anywhere from roof tops to swamps to caves and holes in the ground.

### 3. THE SHARP-EARED GROUNDWATCHER

Often seen skulking quietly along a woods road with its gaze fixed on a point six inches in front of the advanced foot. The infallible behavioral field mark is the fact that this species never looks up unless stopped. If it does look up while walking, it stumbles over a twig and falls down--the second infallible field mark.

Like the owls, its plumage is an odd mixture that makes no sound--no squeaking shoes, jingling zippers or sussurating trousers.

The species does not really birdwatch but rather bird listens. It is rarely encountered in the city or near busy roads, but on silent beaches, up quiet logging trails or in marshes. Even a noisy river frightens it off.

Most frequently observed by the roadside conducting breeding bird surveys in June and early July. Rarely seen in winter.

Courtship is mainly vocal with a variety of sweet whistles and coos. (The bills come later!)

#### Similar Species

-The Crepuscular Night-ear. Very similar but has warmer plumage. A more sedentary bird, given to sitting on logs and rocks and not flushing unless its foot is stepped on. Seen in late evening or by moonlight.

Voice: The alarm call is a sharp, repeated "SSHHH", when its companion is noisy. Others: "I wish you wouldn't wear corduroy trousers!", in various pitches and volumes.

Range: Almost one half a mile for hearing a pin drop and over a mile for hearing a very quietly whispered "Quick, free beer!".

More to follow if you want more, but in closing, a word of warning about contracting the perfectly good "birdwatcher" to "birder". What will happen to all those other naturalists. Just imagine the toaders, froggers, snakers and doggers loosed on the world. When one walks in the barnyard of new word creation, one risks dirty boots.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEW SPECIES OF BIRDWATCHERS FOR WHICH YOU WISH TO PROVIDE FIELD NOTES--LET US HAVE THEM.



## F O R T H E R E C O R D



Carl Haycock's photograph of 4 White-fronted Geese on Brier Island, late April, 1988, clearly represents a natural occurrence--the largest group ever of this rare visitor. The origin of the immature bird, photographed at Wallace in mid-September by Patricia Elliot is debatable. It is rather pale, in the manner of the central arctic and (Old World) subspecies, forms often kept in waterfowl collections. If it is the same individual that appeared elsewhere, unseasonably last summer, it is probably an escapee from a waterfowl collection somewhere, not necessarily in Nova Scotia.



## BOOK REVIEW

Title: Newfoundland Birds: Exploitation, Study, Conservation  
 Authors: William A. Montevecchi and Leslie M. Tuck  
 Publisher: Publications of the Nuttall Ornithological Club,  
 No. 21. Nuttall Ornithological Club, Cambridge, MA.  
 No. Pages: Index plus 273 pages.  
 Price: None given

I've always bracketed Newfoundland and Nova Scotian birds together, for more than geographical reasons. The classic books on both are uncannily similar in format and style, down to the same illustrations by Roger Tory Peterson. I'm thinking of Peters and Burleigh's The Birds of Newfoundland, of course, published in 1951, and Robie Tufts' Birds of Nova Scotia, first edition 1961. I've taken a lot of smug pleasure from the thought that Tufts is now, since 1986, in his third edition. This is partly local patriotism, and partly because I was one of the sub-editors. Meanwhile, the unfortunate Newfoundlanders are still stuck in 1951.

The obvious man to update Peters and Burleigh was Les Tuck, THE bird man of Newfoundland. He chipped away at it for many years, saving the bulk of the work until he retired from the Canadian Wildlife Service. We were all sorry when Les died in 1979; he was a very nice man indeed. However, it was also a pity that this, the book that would have crowned his distinguished career, was lost forever--but it wasn't lost after all. Bill Montevecchi is Professor of Psychology at Memorial University. He's an enthusiastic birdwatcher as well: one of the Newfoundland Mafia who regularly contributes notes to Nova Scotia Birds. Les bequeathed his papers to the Library at Memorial. Bill has inherited them in the scholarly sense, building on Les' foundations with his own research, until it is almost impossible to tell which of them wrote what. The blend is a strange regional bird book that doesn't even try to be an orthodox list of sightings. It's far less, and a great deal more, than Tufts' (3rd edition).

Les was always a teacher and a Newfoundland historian as well as a biologist. He put all of these talents, and the last of his energies, into drafting a long, historical introduction to his Birds of Newfoundland. The chapter headings, by Bill and/or Les, give you some of the flavour: "The Island" (Landforms, Labrador Current, Ecoregions...) tells you everything you never knew about "the Rock", in a very readable way. Karlsefni's Saga, the story of the first European discovery of America, is also an "Early Written Account of Birds (1007-1795)". "William Epps Cormack's Walk across Newfoundland, 1822", with a surprisingly long birdlist to prove it, comes under "Early Nineteenth Century Naturalists". "Henry Reeks' Highly Conjectural Species List, 1869", is part of "Systematic Ornithological Study, 1833-1900. The slaughter of the Great Auks on the Funks in the 1700's is spelled out, though not in every gory detail. I didn't know that the magistrates in St. John's had tried to stop it. They "banned eggging and poachng on Funk Island and, using tactics no longer resorted [to] by wildlife officers, enforced the ban through public flogging of offenders". Says Les, sardonically--or is it Bill? I only wish it had worked.

This is an excellent book, whether you're interested in Newfoundland, birds, natural history--or how all of them fit together. It's "ecology" in the very best sense. Mind you, it's still very far from the update of Peters and Burleigh we've all been waiting for--though the book promises that this is on the way. I put it down feeling, as a Nova Scotian, distinctly unsmug--not to say uncomfortable. Perhaps we should take Newfoundland Birds as a model, when we next update Robie Tufts.

--Richard G. B. Brown

SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

V I D E O (VHS)

With the cooperation and assistance of the Nova Scotia Museum, the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund has produced the first of a series of slide and commentary video cassettes for beginning birders. The first effort is an "Introduction to the SHOREBIRDS of Nova Scotia". Any society member may borrow it, free of charge.

To do so, please call or write:

Mrs. Shirley Cohrs  
Chairman, S. S. & TF,  
8 Rosemount Ave.,  
Halifax, N.S. B3N 1X8  
Telephone--477-6036

Please note: This is a **very basic**, short, introductory video, suitable for **beginners**, not the more experienced.

STORM CANCELLATION NOTICE

In the event of a snow storm, the Bird Society monthly meetings held at the Museum will be cancelled if Halifax Continuing Education evening classes are cancelled. The Executive will also notify the Museum and radio stations if possible.



## WINDOW ON THE RIVER

by Elizabeth Otter

Somewhere between the breakfast dishes and the bottling of the first batch of cranberries, I became aware of the impending drama beyond my kitchen window.

For some weeks I had not seen the Bald Eagle that now perched in the dead elm on the riverbank a quarter of a kilometer away, but he had been a common sight there during the summer, perched grandly in the tree that I came to think of as his personal possession, often tormented by crows to whom he never seemed to condescend. He had appeared in this tree the previous afternoon and had remained there for several hours. I felt vaguely that there was some special significance in his return this morning but it escaped me just then.

I scalded the bottles and set the lids to sterilizing in a saucepan. When I looked out again the eagle had vanished. Leaning over the sink, I peered to left and right but could not see him. The cranberries were beginning to pop and burst in their simmering juice and I gave them a critical stir. They were nearly ready for bottling.

Back at the sink I drained the steaming jars, glancing hopefully out of the window at the same time and was electrified to see the eagle, his white head gleaming splendidly, settle in the huge old willow directly below my house, fifty meters away. I did not have time to speculate on the meaning of this before he rose purposefully from his place to a height well above the trees and then descended magnificently with such force and velocity that I could not doubt his intention. The half-formed thought that had eluded me earlier struck suddenly. Of course!--it was November the second; the Atlantic salmon were spawning!

I could not see the immediate result of the dramatic dive, for the bird had vanished behind a dense growth of tall dead weeds that had flourished on a gravel deposit around which the river flowed. Presently however, there was a stirring from behind the weeds and the eagle emerged into view with an incongruous, forward-hitching movement as if he were trying to execute a difficult ballet manoeuvre. As he hitched along, his great wings unfolded several times, contributing to an even more awkward and ungainly appearance. I watched with fascination as he drew a large fish up onto the gravel bed. For a long moment he stood fiercely over it as if expecting a challenge and then, with one talon securing it firmly, he lowered his head and began to devour it. The hooked, yellow beak plunged down again and again and bits of flesh spattered left and right.

The grisly meal ended abruptly when another eagle flew low over the river in the opposite direction. The first eagle, for some reason, took flight to another nearby dead elm. He did not return to the fish nor did he abandon his new perch until late afternoon. When I realized that he was gone, I left the house, descended the bank and crossed the river to the gravel bed, consumed with curiosity. The head of the fish had been entirely and neatly eaten, leaving two cleanly exposed vertebrae. The remainder of the salmon, for salmon it was, measured fifty-four centimeters. As I examined it, the thought occurred to me that it would provide a pleasant change for our own evening meal until I recalled that eagles are often carrion eaters and the carcass, punctured as it was with talon marks might be contaminated. So I left it there for creatures less discriminating.

Some time that day the cranberries were finally bottled and sealed. The bread was made; the laundry was folded; the bathroom was cleaned. The procedures were simple and familiar enough so that I could perform them without mental effort--a good thing, as I was under the spell of the eagles.

That was the last spectacle on the river below my window before winter set in and it was sufficiently dramatic to provide a suitable end to the year's observations. A year that began in a modest way with the sight of a score of Common Mergansers whirling downstream on the swift current of the April thaw. Later, a single female appeared from time to time to fish in the quiet pool below the house; a pool that she shared during the summer with bold kingfishers and silent stalking Great Blue Herons. Later still, when she arrived with nine well-trained youngsters, I was treated to a display of the remarkable obedience of wild young. The parent bird was wary and watchful and when something alarmed her she uttered a warning, unheard by me behind my window. The young ones complied immediately, and with one accord, fell in behind her in perfect wedge-shaped formation with such alacrity and speed that I was left breathless with laughing admiration. As they withdrew downstream a cat glided into view, making its way furtively from one clump of grass to another.

During the nesting season small birds made daily use of the open space on the river just below my window to eat and drink and splash. There, coming and going regularly, were individual warblers and finches, swallows and flycatchers, thrushes and grosbeaks, and waxwings and blackbirds, starlings and jays. In the dog days of late July and August, I fancied that the river possessed an amiable laziness that I thought was reflected in the frolicking activity of the birds. Was the amiableness with the birds perhaps, now that their real work was done, and the river absorbed the mood? Whatever it was, a peaceable, playful spirit seemed to prevail for a time until the restlessness preceding migration seized the bird population.

Suddenly, there were gypsying flocks of starlings and robins and grosbeaks and waxwings, whirring through the air, alighting on the field sloping down to the river, splashing vigorously in the shallows, sipping delicately along the water's edge, feeding noisily in the chokecherries on the opposite bank. A lone Double-crested Cormorant arrived and for an hour preened and primed his features carelessly perched on a bleached fallen elm. Six Wood Ducks appeared and remained in the vicinity for some days. I had never before seen those exotic beauties outside the pages of a book. Once I watched as several of them pursued little green apples bobbing in the pool. They manoeuvred them to shallow water and then pecked and worried at them. I was never sure if they were eating or playing.

The west branch of the River John is a modest little stream. Living in such proximity to it and being able to look down upon it provides me with the advantage of not always having to venture out into the woods and fields in order to indulge my pleasure. Binoculars have a permanent place on the windowsill and my eyes habitually return to the window to keep watch on activities below. My window on the river provides something more than the aesthetic appeal of watching birds, for it gives me the unaccountable feeling of being on the edge, almost participating in timeless affairs, and making the mystery of the wild things around me somehow less remote.

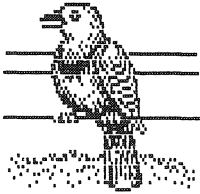
Note: Elizabeth Otter, the mother of five sons, lives on 400 acres in Pictou County. She is currently discovering the delights of watching birds.

P U F F I N   O F   T H E   Y E A R   A W A R D  
1988

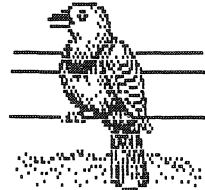


Mary Anderson, holding the 1988 Puffin of the Year

The award was made to her husband, the late Ross Anderson, in appreciation of the many and varied contributions to our society which he had made over many years.



*N.S.B.S. Regional Meeting*



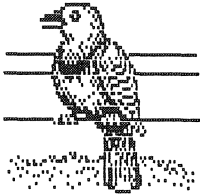
*Yarmouth County Museum*

*YARMOUTH*

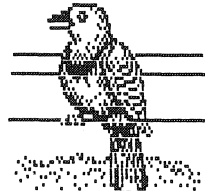
*FRIDAY JUNE 16 AT 8.00 P.M.*

*All members and Guests*

*welcome*

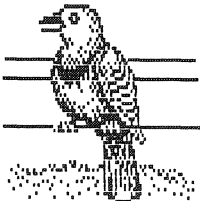


*from anywhere in the province.*

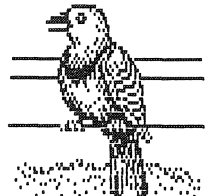


*There will also be a Field Trip,  
starting in the same place, on*

*SATURDAY JUNE 17 AT 8.00 A.M.*



*Please make every effort to go!*



HALIFAX WEST AND ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT COMPETITION

As many of you know, for a number of years there has been a challenge between the Halifax West and Atlanta, Georgia Christmas Counts. The challenge is for highest number of species seen and the prize is a very delightful hand carved kingfisher which, depending on the final tallies, either flies north or south.

The Christmas 1988 Bird Count for Halifax West "netted" a total of 86 species while the Atlanta Count had 83. Over the years we have allowed certain privileges, one being that in Halifax, we can count the "Ipswich" race of Savannah Sparrow as a separate species. (maybe the A.O.U. should too). In 1988, as usual, a handicap was allowed, using past totals to determine who, if either, had an edge. Atlanta had a THREE bird handicap coming into the '88 counts which meant with 83 species counted and three figments of their imaginations, their count total for THE CHALLENGE was 86. In the case of a tie, it is agreed that those in possession retain the revered kingfisher until the other wins. Since Atlanta had taken the trophy in 1987, it means that Halifax will have to do a little better in 1989, if we expect to see the kingfisher again this decade.

CONGRATULATIONS to compiler Terry Moore and the birders in Georgia, who braved 70+ (F) degree temperatures and endured the elements in t-shirts and sneakers while we slept in, knowing full well that the roads wouldn't be cleared of snow until midday.

It was a great effort by the Halifax crew, and I'm sure that if there was another species in the area, it would have been found.

Dave Currie

««Nova Scotie Christmas Bird Counts»»

The 1988/89 count when compared to last year's was much more successful. There were more counts done, 27 as compared to 25 in 1987/88. The number of individuals spotted were 162,858, up from 159,000 last year, and the number of species took a big jump with 140 plus 1 additional race as opposed to 129 plus 1 additional race last year. There were only two species seen on all 27 counts and these were Common Raven and European Starling.

There appears to be some confusion among compilers with regard to reporting count period birds. Birds seen within the count period, but not on count day should not be added in as part of the total number of species or individuals seen. They should be listed on the count form as "CP", opposite the specie name.

For rare or unusual species seen on any count, details and a full description of the sighting must be submitted. For this purpose, the N.S.B.S. provides Verification Forms for unusual records.

Mary Anderson

**AMHERST**, Dec. 21; 7:45AM to 5PM. Overcast. Wind SW 10-20kmh. Temp. 4-7C. Fresh water partly frozen. 20 observers in 9-12 parties. Total party hours 69.75 (40 on foot, 29.75 by car). Total party miles 375 (39 on foot, 336 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; Am. Black Duck 20; Com. Merganser 24; Bald Eagle 3a.; N. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 4; Am. Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 6; Ruffed Grouse 5; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 950; Iceland Gull 8; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 350; Rock Dove 284; Downy Woodpecker 5; N. Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 3; Gray Jay 9; Blue Jay 26 (low); Am. Crow 322; Com. Raven 60 (low); Bl.-capped Chickadee 210; Boreal Chickadee 38; Red-br. Nuthatch 07; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 158; Am. Robin 1; Eur. Starling 1531; Am. Tree Sparrow 116; Song Sparrow 5; White-thr. Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 77; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 614; Reg-winged Blackbird 4; Com. Grackle 3; Br.-headed Cowbird 18; Purple Finch 15; White-winged Crossbill 564; Com. Redpoll 12; Pine Siskin 134; Am. Goldfinch 88; Evening Grosbeak 723; House Sparrow 331 (low).

Total 48 species, about 6832 individuals. Paul Bogaard, Stan Bunker, Sandy Burnett, Roger Calkins, Don Cormier, George Finney, Hinrich Harries, Bruce Hawke, Ron Hounsell, Oscar LeBlanc, Ron Leger, Bill Murphy, Harold Popma, Al Smith, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding, Bob Thiel, Russ Tilt, Stuart Tingley (compiler); Rob Walker.

**ANNAPOLIS ROYAL**, Dec. 28; 8AM to 4:30PM. Heavy rain AM. Light rain PM. Wind 40 kmh. Temp. 7C. Fresh water frozen. 14 observers in 7 parties, 32 at feeding stations. Total party hours 49 (20.5 on foot, 28.5 by car). Total party miles 169.5 (31 on foot, 138.5 by car).

Com. Loon 6; Horned Grebe 8; Red-necked Grebe 4; Great Cormorant 7; Am. Black Duck 175; Com. Eider 39; Oldsquaw 3000; Black Scoter 1; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 20; Com. Goldeneye 44; Bufflehead 205; Com. Merganser 2; Red-br. Merganser 55; N. Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 7; Ruffed Grouse 5; Bonaparte's Gull 7; Herring Gull 324; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 51; Thin-billed Murre 18; Rock Dove 43; Mourning Dove 24; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 97; Am. Crow 154; Com. Raven 7; Bl.-capped Chickadee 109; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-br. Nuthatch 5; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 98; Am. Robin 19; Eur. Starling 414; Am. Tree Sparrow 9; Song Sparrow 6; White-thr. Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 52; Snow Bunting 5; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 4; Pine Grosbeak 15; Purple Finch 4; Com. Redpoll 9; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 61; Even. Grosbeak 316; House Sparrow 149.

Total 55 species, about 5612 individuals. (CP: Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Barred Owl, Brown Creeper, Yel.-rumped Warbler, White-winged Crossbill). Allison Dalton, Faith DeWolfe, Jane DeWolfe, Helen Ellis, Dorothy Everett, Sharon Hawboldt (compiler), Stephen Hawboldt, Harold Horwood, Leah Horwood, Clifford Jones, Gini Proulx, Greg Turner, Julie Turner, Karl White.

**ANTIGONISH**, Dec. 29; 8AM to 1:30PM. Overcast with snow AM. Overcast with intermittent snow PM. Wind 30kmh. Temp. 0-8C. Fresh water frozen. 11 observers in 1 party, 4 at feeding stations. Total party hours 9 (1 on foot, 5 by car, 3 other). Total party miles 75 (5 on foot, 74.5 by car).

Com. Loon 1; Am. Black Duck 11; Greater Scaup 40; Com. Goldeneye 35; Bald Eagle 8; Ruffed Grouse 3; Am. Woodcock 1; Herring Gull 150; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 35; Bonaparte's Gull 5; Rock Dove 36; Blue Jay 17; Am. Crow 86; Com. Raven 32; Bl.-capped Chickadee 11; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 12; Am. Robin 2; Cedar Waxwing 24; Eur. Starling 45; Am. Tree Sparrow 2; Chipping Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 6; E. Meadowlark 1; Com. Grackle 2; Br.-headed Cowbird 5; Pine Siskin 7; Am. Goldfinch 26; Evening Grosbeak 5; House Sparrow 25.

Total 33 species, about 646 individuals. (CP: Red-tailed Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Magnolia Warbler, Snow Bunting, Red Crossbill). Brian Starzomski (compiler), Stephen Starzomski, Paul Kennedy, Norman Seymour, Gerald Teasdale, Colin Smith, Harriet MacMillan, Remi Chiasson, Celeste Chiasson, D.J. Kennedy, T. Beck.

**BARRINGTON BAY/CAPE SABLE ISLAND**, Dec. 30; 8AM to 4:30PM. Clear. Wind 5kmh. Temp. -10C. Fresh water frozen. 14 observers, 4 at feeding stations. Total party hours 84 (16 on foot, 68 by car). Total party miles 320 (20 on foot, 300 by car).

Com. Loon 15; Red-necked Grebe 15; Horned Grebe 3; Great Blue Heron 1; Great Cormorant 15; Canada Goose 157; Am. Black Duck 154; Com. Goldeneye 12; Oldsquaw 100; Com. Eider 35; White-winged Scoter 14; Surf Scoter 5; Black Scoter 1; Red-br. Merganser 17; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; N. Harrier 2; Ruffed Grouse 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Purple Sandpiper 4; Iceland Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 222; Herring Gull 462; Dovekie 3; Black Guillemot 9; Rock Dove 6; Mourning Dove 5; N. Flicker 4; Downy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 9; Blue Jay 4; Com. Raven 2; Am. Crow 36; Bl.-capped Chickadee 18; Boreal Chickadee 6; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; Mockingbird 1; Am. Robin 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 9; Eur. Starling 235; Yel.-rumped Warbler 9; House Sparrow 2; Evening Grosbeak 9; Am. Goldfinch 1; White-winged Crossbill 20; Savannah Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Am. Tree Sparrow 12; White-thr. Sparrow 6; Swamp Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 3; Snow Bunting 9.

Total 53 species, about 1673 individuals. Beulah Burman, Joan Czapalay (compiler), Bill Curry, Raymond d'Entremont, Jacqueline d'Entremont, June Graves, Ethelda Murphy, Lillian Perry, Doris Peters, Ken Peters, Betty June Smith, Sidney Smith, Dave Young, Dave Young, Sr.

**BRIDGETOWN**, Dec. 17; 8AM to 4PM. Clear with a few flurries AM. Partly cloudy with flurries PM. No wind. Temp. -3 to -10C. Fresh water frozen. 24 observers in 5 parties, 15 at feeding stations. Total party hours 23.75 (8 on foot, 13.75 by car, 2 other). Total party kms. 317.6 (44.6 on foot, 268 by car, 5 other).

Com. Loon 8; Am. Black Duck 1; Com. Eider 2; Oldsquaw 30; Black Scoter 1; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 26; Com. Goldeneye 2; Red-br. Merganser 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 8; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 18; Ruffed Grouse 4; Herring Gull 151; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 14; Dovekie 1; Rock Dove 117; Mourning Dove 6; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 21; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 88; Am. Crow 216; Com. Raven 23; Bl.-capped Chickadee 65; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 10; Am. Robin 28; Eur. Starling 737; Am. Tree Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 2; White-thr. Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 19; Br.-headed Cowbird 18; Purple Finch 3; White-winged Crossbill 8; Am. Goldfinch 25; Blue Grosbeak 1; Evening Grosbeak 85; House Sparrow 248.

Total 44 species, about 2018 individuals. (CP: Canada Goose, Merlin, Spruce Grouse, Snowy Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Say's Pheobe). D. Bowlby, D. Colville, A. Devillez, J. Devillez, M. Davidson, D. Durling, M. Gaul, M. Graves, M. Hamilton, M. Jodrey, D. Keddie, J. Keddie, A. Kennedy, E. Marshall, W. Marshall, E. Morris, Eric Morris, J. Morse (compiler), W. Morse, E. Porter, A. Slauenwhite, E. Slauenwhite, J. Smith, S. Whitman.

**BRIER ISLAND**, Dec. 20; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Overcast with intermittent light rain AM. Overcast PM. Wind 20-40kmh. Temp. 2-8C. Fresh water partly frozen. 11 observers in 1-3 parties, 1 at feeding station. Total party hours 21 (18 on foot, 3 by car). Total party miles 40 (15 on foot, 25 by car).

Com. Loon 44; Red-necked Grebe 30; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Great Cormorant 242; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 1; Am. Black Duck 107; Mallard 3; Com. Eider 641; King Eider 1; Harlequin Duck 2;

Oldsquaw 58; Black Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 19; Bufflehead 1; Red-br. Merganser 100; Hooded Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 1; N. Harrier 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Purple Sandpiper 23; Ruddy Turnstone 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 1; Herring Gull 738; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 528; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 15; Thick-billed Murre 3; Razorbill 6; Black Guillemot 27; Mourning Dove 7; Snowy Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Horned Lark 41; Am. Crow 162; Com. Raven 23; Bl.-capped Chickadee 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 31; Am. Robin 39; N. Mockingbird 1; Water Pipit 1; Eur. Starling 60; Yel.-rumped Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 15; Chipping Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 20; Swamp Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 15; Lapland Longspur 9; Snow Bunting 70; Red-winged Blackbird 10; E. Meadowlark 1; Com. Grackle 30; Br.-headed Cowbird 5; Pine Siskin 1; House Sparrow 75.

Total 57 species, about 3228 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk). Brian Dalzell, James Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Fulton Lavender, Peter MacLeod, Blake Maybank, Richard Stern (compiler), Miriam Tams, Gordon Tufts, Judy Tufts, Jim Wolford.

**BROAD COVE**, Dec. 31; 7:45AM to 5:15PM. Heavy snow/rain AM. Mostly cloudy PM. Wind SSE-W, 40-10kmh. Temp. 0-1C. Fresh water frozen. 19 observers in 12 parties. Total party hours 78 (56 on foot, 22 by car). Total party miles 208 (48 on foot, 160 by car).

Com. Loon 41; Horned Grebe 11; Red-necked Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 22; Canada Goose 91; Am. Black Duck 47; Mallard 30; Greater Scaup 110; Com. Eider 47; Oldsquaw 109; Black Scoter 162; Surf Scoter 3; White-winged Scoter 11; Com. Goldeneye 146; Bufflehead 2; Com. Merganser 31; Red-br. Merganser 41; Bald Eagle 1a.; N. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Killdeer 6; Ruddy Turnstone 1; Sanderling 17; Purple Sandpiper 5; Ring-billed Gull 12; Herring Gull 1543; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 221; Black Guillemot 6; Rock Dove 21; Mourning Dove 16; Great Horned Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 5; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 69; Am. Crow 279; Com. Raven 31; Bl.-capped Chickadee 121; Boreal Chickadee 25; Red-br. Nuthatch 15; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 143; Am. Robin 9; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 933; Yel.-rumped Warbler 5; Rufous-sided Towhee 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 10; Song Sparrow 27; White-thr. Sparrow 36; Dark-eyed Junco 168; Snow Bunting 34; Br.-headed Cowbird 1; Red Crossbill 3; White-winged Crossbill 3; Am. Goldfinch 282; Evening Grosbeak 113; House Sparrow 187.

Total 65 species, about 5286 individuals. (CP: Double-crested Cormorant, Green-winged Teal, Peregrine Falcon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Savannah Sparrow, Purple Finch). Ruth Ballem, Barbara Byrd, Bill Caudle, John Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Dave Currie, Jim Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Barbara Hinds, Don MacNeill, Ian McLaren, James McLaren, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Bernice Moores, Nellie Snyder, Jim Taylor, Susan Wijffels.

**CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS**, Dec. 18; 7AM to 5PM. Overcast with blowing snow AM. Overcast with flurries PM. Wind N25 - SW10kmh. Temp. -2 to -2.5C. Fresh water frozen. 20 observers in 13 parties, 10 at feeding stations. Total party kilometers 75 (15 on foot, 60 by car). Total party hours 72.5 (6.5 on foot, 6 by car, 60 at feeder).

Great Cormorant 2; Am. Black Duck 65; Oldsquaw 5; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 32; Red-br. Merganser 2; Bald Eagle 3; Ruffed Grouse 1; Herring Gull 13; Iceland Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 244; Dovekie 1; Mourning Dove 6; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 22; Gray Jay 4; Am. Crow 39; Com. Raven 8; Bl.-capped Chickadee 10; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-br. Nuthatch 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 8; Am. Robin 2; Cedar Waxwing 3; Eur. Starling 61; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Pine Grosbeak 4; White-winged Crossbill 25; Evening Grosbeak 7; House Sparrow 10.

Total 30 species, about 592 individuals. (CP: Com. Loon, Red-thr. Loon, Harlequin Duck, Bufflehead, Purple Sandpiper, Black Guillemot, N. Shrike, Song Sparrow, Pine Siskin, Am. Goldfinch). Clara Carter, Dorothea Cox, Al Gibbs, Wendy Gibbs, Chris Gorey, Ross



Ingraham, Ellen Ingraham, Doug Jackson, Jeanette Jackson, Jim MacLean, Marilyn MacLean, Christine Mather, Chris McCarthy, Karen McCarthy, Jim McEvoy, Jessie McEvoy, Hazel Stockley, Bob Thexton, Karen Thexton, Fred Williams. (Compiler unspecified).

**CHETICAMP**, Dec. 21; 8:AM to 4:30PM. Mostly cloudy. Calm. Temp. 0C. Fresh water frozen. 13 observers in 8 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 281/2 (23 on foot, 51/2 by car). Total party miles 99 (30 on foot, 69 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Com. Loon 1; N. Gannet 1; Great Cormorant 5; Am. Black Duck 43; Mallard 1; Com. Eider 7; Oldsquaw 6; Com. Goldeneye 112; Barrow's Goldeneye 3; Bufflehead 4; Com. Merganser 19; Bald Eagle 1imm.; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 213; Glaucous Gull 9; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 70; Mourning Dove 6; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 3; Am. Crow 118; Com. Raven 51; Bl.-capped Chickadee 29; Boreal Chickadee 4; Eur. Starling 48; Yel.-rumped Warbler 2; Snow Bunting 76; White-winged Crossbill 23; Pine Siskin 3.

Total 31 species, about 867 individuals. (CP: Great Blue Heron, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ring-billed Gull, Iceland Gull, N. Flicker). Dave Algar, Linda Aucoin, Yves Bosse, Gerald Bourgeois, Gervais Cormier, Perlene Cormier, Nadine Deveau, Marie Doucet, Pam Doyle, David Lawley (compiler), Geraldine LeVert, Mac Savoy, Randy Thompson.

**ECONOMY**, Dec. 27; 8AM to 5PM. Clear AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind 15 kmh. Temp. -10 to -30. Fresh water partly frozen. 8 observers in 7 parties, 10 at feeding stations. Total party hours 69 (52 on foot, 17 by car). Total party miles 140.5 (62.5 on foot, 78 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Am. Black Duck 296; Com. Eider 5; Oldsquaw 52; Surf Scoter 4; White-winged Scoter 24; Com. Goldeneye 13; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 7; Com. Merganser 16; Bald Eagle 3a.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; N. Goshawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Gray Partridge 36; Ruffed Grouse 10; Purple Sandpiper 55; Ring-billed Gull 27; Herring Gull 852; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 23; Thick-billed Murre 1; Rock Dove 65; Mourning Dove 3; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 19; Hairy Woodpecker 10; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Horned Lark 3; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 19; Am. Crow 219; Com. Raven 57; Bl.-capped Chickadee 150; Boreal Chickadee 35; Red-br. Nuthatch 237; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 232; Am. Robin 2; Eur. Starling 1033; Yel.-rumped Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 70; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 4; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 323; Snow Bunting 336; Br.-headed Cowbird 2; Pine Grosbeak 33; Purple Finch 48; White-winged Crossbill 688; Pine Siskin 254; Am. Goldfinch 113; Evening Grosbeak 100; House Sparrow 193.

Total 56 species, about 5707 individuals. Brian Dalzell, Halton Dalzell, Blake Maybank, Bill Murphy, Edgar Spalding, Fran Spalding (compiler), Stuart Tingley, Robert Walker.

**ESKASONI**, Dec. 26; 12AM to 12PM. Mostly clear AM. Mostly cloudy PM. Wind 15-25kmh. Temp. -5C. Fresh water frozen. 21 observers in 7 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 42 (20 on foot, 22 by car). Total party miles 120 (25 on foot, 95 by car).

Horned Grebe 1; Am. Black Duck 54; Greater Scaup 7; White-winged Scoter 3; Com. Goldeneye 22; Bufflehead 2; Com. Merganser 7; Red-br. Merganser 11; Bald Eagle 22 (7a., 15imm.); Ruffed Grouse 5; Com. Snipe 1; Herring Gull 130; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 10; Mourning Dove 3; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 1; Gray Jay 9; Blue Jay 43; Am. Crow 80; Com. Raven 15; Bl.-capped Chickadee 70; Boreal Chickadee 16; Red-br. Nuthatch 10; Golden-cr. Kinglet 48; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 162; Am. Tree Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 6; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 48; White-winged Crossbill 20; Pine Siskin 4; Am. Goldfinch 85; Evening Grosbeak 76; House Sparrow 10.

Total 39 species, about 991 individuals. George Ball, Terry Boone, Robert Boone, Maureen Dixon, Joe Donovan, Andrew Harris, Dave Harris, Cyril MacInnis, Debbie MacInnis, George MacInnis, John W. MacInnis,

John MacLeod, Brian MacNeil, Duncan MacNeil, Jack MacNeil (compiler), Laurie MacNeil, Bernard Murphy, Pat Murphy, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Melvin White.

Editor's Note: As a result of the sudden death of Sara MacLean, compiler for the Glace Bay Christmas Count for many years, this count did not take place. However, Joy Gates, George Crowell and Arthur Spencer very kindly submitted the following list of birds observed during the count period.

**GLACE BAY,** (CP: Canada Goose, Am. Black Duck, Bufflehead, Bald Eagle, Sanderling, Com. Bl.-headed Gull, Iceland Gull, Gt. Bl.-backed Gull, Mourning Dove, Hairy Woodpecker, Bl.-capped Chickadee, Boreal Chickadee, Golden-cr. Kinglet, Ruby-cr. Kinglet, Am. Robin, Yel.-br. Chat, Am. Tree Sparrow, Am. Goldfinch).

**HALIFAX EAST,** Dec. 26; 7:30AM to 5PM. Clear to overcast with light snow. Wind NW 9mph. Temp 30°F. Fresh water open. 31 observers in 22 parties. Total party hours 113.5 (71 on foot, 42.5 by car). Total party miles 553.8 (85 on foot, 468.8 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 1; Com. Loon 77; Horned Grebe 5; Red-necked Grebe 9; Great Cormorant 7; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 5584; Am. Black Duck 226; Mallard 5; Greater Scaup 13; Com. Eider 59; Oldsquaw 259; Black Scoter 73; White-winged Scoter 58; Com. Goldeneye 79; Bufflehead 64; Com. Merganser 33; Red-br. Merganser 330; Bald Eagle 5 (2a., 3imm.); N. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 4; Purple Sandpiper 20; Dunlin 4; Red Knot 2; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 10; Ring-billed Gull 119; Herring Gull 1221; Iceland Gull 22; Glaucous Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 139; Dovekie 1; Rock Dove 39; Mourning Dove 97; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 6; N. Flicker 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 123; Am. Crow 488; Com. Raven 73; Bl.-capped Chickadee 449; Boreal Chickadee 87; Red-br. Nuthatch 30; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 403; N. Mockingbird 3; Water Pipit 1; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1; Eur. Starling 3099; Yel.-rumped Warbler 13; Com. Yellowthroat 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 40; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 9; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 54; White-throated Sparrow 37; Fox Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 232; Lapland Longspur 29; Snow Bunting 21; Red-winged Blackbird 10; Com. Grackle 4; Br.-headed Cowbird 21; Purple Finch 13; Red Crossbill 26; White-winged Crossbill 74; Pine Siskin 16; Am. Goldfinch 198; Evening Grosbeak 18; House Sparrow 383.

Total 78 species plus 1 additional race, about 14,553 individuals. Michael Almon, Karen Casselman, Bill CAudle, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Roger Foxall, Sylvia Fullerton, Jean Hartley, Barbara Hinds, Janos Kovacs, Fulton Lavender (compiler), Betty Learmouth, Don MacNeill, Blake Maybank, Pat McKay, Jill McLain, Ian McLaren, James McLaren, Laurence McCook, Bernice Moores, Michael Olsen, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Alan Pinder, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Cindy Staicer, Clarence Stevens, Pam Stevens, Jim Taylor, Gordon Tufts, Judy Tufts, Brian White, Louise White.

**HALIFAX WEST,** Dec. 18; 7:30AM to 4:45PM. Mostly cloudy with light snow AM. Partly cloudy PM. Wind 10-32kmh. Temp. -3 to -5C. Fresh water frozen. 44 observers in 22 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 157 (96 on foot, 60 by car, 1 other); Total party miles 542.9 (101.6 on foot, 440.8 by car, .5 other).

Com. Loon 34; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 11; Great Cormorant 122; Double-crested Cormorant 6; Canada Goose 53; Am. Black Duck 1623; Mallard 69; Lesser Scaup 2; Greater Scaup 104; Harlequin Duck 1; Oldsquaw 205; Black Scoter 24; Surf Scoter 7; White-winged Scoter 84; Com. Goldeneye 29; Bufflehead 9; Red-br. Merganser 70; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Merlin 3; Am. Coot 2; Sanderling 2; Purple Sandpiper 17; Com. Snipe 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 40; Com. [Mew] Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 64; Herring Gull 6233; Iceland

Gull 131; Lesser Bl.-backed Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 4; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 1630; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 10; Dovekie 5; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 36; alcid, sp. 6; Rock Dove 692; Mourning Dove 55; Snowy Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 20; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 183; Am. Crow 1685; Com. Raven 26; Jackdaw 1; Bl.-capped Chickadee 304; Boreal Chickadee 32; Red-br. Nuthatch 15; White-br. Nuthatch 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 156; Hermit Thrush 1; Am. Robin 19; N. Mockingbird 6; Gray Catbird 1; Eur. Starling 6273; Orange-cr. Warbler 1; Yel.-rumped Warbler 40; Pine Warbler 9; Palm Warbler 7; Com. Yellowthroat 1; Yel.-br. Chat 2; Dickcissel 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 42; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 4; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 97; Swamp Sparrow 7; White-thr. Sparrow 51; Dark-eyed Junco 185; Snow Bunting 14; Com. Grackle 5; Br.-headed Cowbird 46; N. Oriole 6; Com. Chaffinch 1; Purple Finch 6; White-winged Crossbill 11; House Finch 1; Am. Goldfinch 69; Evening Grosbeak 19; House Sparrow 1372.

Total 85 species plus 1 additional race, about 22,133 individuals. (CP: Wilson's Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee). Steve Barbour, Bill Caudle, John Cohrs, Lise Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs, Alan Covert, Ethel Crathorne, David Currie (compiler), Brian Dalzell, Bob Dickie, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Deborah Flemming, Roger Foxall, Sylvia Fullerton, Barbara Hinds, Peter Jones, Don Keith, Janos Kovacs, Fulton Lavender, Millie Lawrence, Doug Linzey, Ann-Margaret MacKinnon, David MacKinnon, Peter MacLeod, Alana MacNeill, Carol MacNeill, Don MacNeill, Blake Maybank, Lawrence McCook, Ian McLaren, Bernice Moores, Sandra Myers, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Joan Robinson, Joe Robinson, Bev Sarty, Bruce Smith, Clarence Stevens, Jack Stone, Carl Tay, Jim Taylor, Azor Vienneau.

**HAZEL HILL**, Jan. 2; 10AM to 4:30PM. Clear. No wind. Temp. -10C. Fresh water frozen. 10 observers in 1 party, 4 at feeding stations. Total party hours 6 1/2 (2 on foot, 4 1/2 by car). Total party miles 30 (2 on foot, 28 by car).

Com. Loon 4; Red-necked Grebe 1; Canada Goose 6; Am. Black Duck 1; Com. Eider 35; Oldsquaw 3; Surf Scoter 4; Com. Goldeneye 5; Com. Merganser 3; Herring Gull 60; Iceland Gull 11; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 17; Black Guillemot 3; Mourning Dove 13; Blue Jay 4; Am. Crow 12; Com. Raven 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 1; Am. Robin 11; N. Mockingbird 2; Eur. Starling 130; Yel.-rumped Warbler 4; Am. Tree Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 9; White-winged Crossbill 65; House Sparrow 27; Lark Sparrow 1.

Total 28 species, about 439 individuals. (CP: White-winged Scoter, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Rock Dove, N. Flicker, Gray Jay, Bl.-capped Chickadee, Boreal Chickadee, Red-br. Nuthatch). Stephen Bushell, Dana Bushell, Brendan Bushell, Joe Delorey, June Jarvis, Sam Jarvis, Warren Peters, Nancy Peters (compiler), Joe Walsh, Grace Walsh.

**KEJIMKUIK NATIONAL PARK**, Dec. 19; 8AM to 5:15PM. Clear AM. Light snow PM. No wind. Temp. -19 to -3C. Fresh water partly frozen. 12 observers in 9 parties, 5 at feeding stations. Total party hours 443/4 (211/4 on foot, 6 by car, 16 on skis, 11/2 by snowmobile). Total party miles 1183/4 (253/4 on foot, 531/2 by car, 251/2 on skis, 14 by snowmobile).

Com. Goldeneye 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 10; Barred Owl 5; Downy Woodpecker 10; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 44; Am. Crow 23; Com. Raven 17; Bl.-capped Chickadee 137; Boreal Chickadee 15; Red-br. Nuthatch 33; White-br. Nuthatch 5; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 41; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1; Eur. Starling 30; Dark-eyed Junco 38; Pine Grosbeak 3; Purple Finch 2; Red Crossbill 12; White-winged Crossbill 3; Pine Siskin 70; Am. Goldfinch 31; Evening Grosbeak 88; House Sparrow 12.

Total 29 species, about 655 individuals. Thelma Bowers, John Brownlie, Rick Brunt, Leigh & Miriam DeLong, Connie, Ron & Victoria

Eaton, Peter Hope (compiler), Len & Pat MacDonald, Rick Swain, Gail & Marcus Waddington, Norman Wentzell.

**KINGSTON**, Dec. 27; 8AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind 12kmh. Temp. -6C. Fresh water partly frozen. 12 observers in 5 parties, 32 at feeding stations. Total party hours 45 (12.5 on foot, 32.5 by car). Total party miles 300 (15 on foot, 285 by car).

Com. Loon 1; Am. Black Duck 15; Com. Eider 1; Oldsquaw 25; White-winged Scoter 15; Red-br. Merganser 15; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 9; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Purple Sandpiper 88; Herring Gull 200; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 1; Rock Dove 60; Mourning Dove 65; Great Horned Owl 3; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 25; Hairy Woodpecker 17; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 178; Am. Crow 449; Com. Raven 91; Bl.-capped Chickadee 261; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-br. Nuthatch 32; White-br. Nuthatch 11; Golden-cr. Kinglet 137; Am. Robin 14; N. Mockingbird 1; Eur. Starling 1622; Yel.-rumped Warbler 8; Am. Tree Sparrow 9; Chipping Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 3; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 76; Snow Bunting 14; Red-winged Blackbird 7; Com. Grackle 9; Br.-headed Cowbird 8; Yellow-headed Blackbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 35; Purple Finch 5; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 301; Pine Siskin 140; Am. Goldfinch 192; Evening Grosbeak 317; House Sparrow 353.

Total 51 species, about 4845 individuals. (CP: Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Surf Scoter, Com. Goldeneye, Com. Merganser). James Cathcart, David Colville, George Eakins, Barbara Giffin, Patrick Giffin (compiler), Michael Gratton, Cordelia Hare, Peter MacLeod, Larry Neily, Wayne Neily, James Ross, Thomas Ross.

**L'ARDOISE**, Jan. 2; 1PM to 3PM. Overcast. Wind 10kmh. Temp. -4C. Fresh water partly frozen. 1 observer. Total party hours 2 (2 on foot). Total party miles not given.

Herring Gull 3; Com. Raven 21; Bl.-capped Chickadee 80; Eur. Starling 14.

Total 4 species, about 118 individuals. Josephine Bartlett (compiler).

**MARGAREE**, Dec. 20; 8AM to 4PM. Mostly clear AM. Partly cloudy PM. Wind WNW 8kmh. Temp. -1C. Fresh water partly frozen. 5 observers in 2 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 16 (6 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles 74 (8 on foot, 66 by car).

Am. Black Duck 10; Com. Goldeneye 86; Com. Merganser 53; Bald Eagle 15; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 1; Herring Gull 21; Iceland Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 4; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 19; Am. Crow 191; Com. Raven 66; Bl.-capped Chickadee 26; Boreal Chickadee 2; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 11; Am. Robin 10; Eur. Starling 46; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Pine Siskin 66; Evening Grosbeak 11; House Sparrow 48.

Total 25 species, about 705 individuals. Frances Hart (compiler), Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham, Alex Miller.

**PICTOU HARBOUR**, Dec. 30; 8AM to 4PM. Mostly clear. Wind 10kmh. Temp. -12C. Fresh water frozen. 3 observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 12 (2 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles 110 (3 on foot, 107 by car).

Great Cormorant 3; Canada Goose 90; Am. Black Duck 155; Mallard 2; Greater Scaup 53; Com. Eider 2; Com. Goldeneye 38; Com. Merganser 49; Red-br. Merganser 8; Bald Eagle 3; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Herring Gull 368; Iceland Gull 7; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 93; Rock Dove 13; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 1; Am. Crow 185; Com. Raven 8; Bl.-capped Chickadee 2; Eur. Starling 156; Am. Tree Sparrow 2; Br.-headed Cowbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 5; Red Crossbill 6; Evening Grosbeak 1; House Sparrow 2.

Total 27 species, about 1255 individuals. (CP: Com. Loon, Oldsquaw, Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Rough-legged Hawk, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Pine Siskin). Fred Kenney, Margaret Kenney, Calder

Fraser (compiler).

**PORT HEBERT**, Dec. 26; 7AM to 5PM. Mostly cloudy with moderate snow AM. Partly cloudy with light snow PM. Wind 40kmh. Temp. -2 to -6C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 14 observers in 10 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 69 (55 on foot, 14 by car). Total party miles 274 (64 on foot, 210 by car).

Red-throated Loon 7; Com. Loon 55; Horned Grebe 38; Red-necked Grebe 19; Great Cormorant 25; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 4029; Am. Black Duck 1332; Mallard 13; Am. Widgeon 1; Greater Scaup 4; Com. Eider 218; Oldsquaw 291; Black Scoter 42; Surf Scoter 30; White-winged Scoter 11; Com. Goldeneye 92; Bufflehead 9; Com. Merganser 24; Red-br. Merganser 59; Bald Eagle 1a.; N. Harrier 3; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Black-bellied Plover 1; Dunlin 6; White-rumped Sandpiper 1; Purple Sandpiper 35; Greater Yellowlegs 2; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 4; Herring Gull 1149; Iceland Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 199; Black Guillemot 22; Mourning Dove 19; Snowy Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Hairy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 3; Horned Lark 39; Gray Jay 15; Blue Jay 35; Am. Crow 120; Com. Raven 16; Bl.-capped Chickadee 137; Boreal Chickadee 79; Red-br. Nuthatch 15; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 7; Golden-cr. Kinglet 217; Am. Robin 4; Eur. Starling 414; Yel.-rumped Warbler 125; Palm Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 8; Savannah Sparrow 3; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 16; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 46; Dark-eyed Junco 49; Snow Bunting 57; Com. Grackle 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 16; Am. Goldfinch 12; Evening Grosbeak 104; House Sparrow 28.

Total 68 species plus 1 additional race, about 9327 individuals. (CP: Com. Snipe). Barbara Addelson, Jeanne Addelson, Lloyd Cameron, Bill Crosby, Donna Crosby, Russel Crosby (compiler), Bill Curry, Emerson Fiske, Greg Kenney, Danny Mason, Dan Reive, Robert Turner, Danielle MacAulay-Williams, David Young.

**PUBNICO**, Jan. 2; 8AM to 4PM. Clear to overcast AM. Overcast with intermittent heavy snow PM. Wind 15kmh. Temp. -9 to -2C. Fresh water frozen. 25 observers in 5 parties. Total party hours 35.5 (25.5 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles 216 (24 on foot, 192 by car).

Com. Loon 11; Red-necked Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 40; Am. Black Duck 19; Com. Eider 5; Oldsquaw 39; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 115; Bufflehead 4; Com. Merganser 2; Red-br. Merganser 32; Bald Eagle 3; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Ruffed Grouse 2; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 404; Iceland Gull 4; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 219; Rock Dove 2; Mourning Dove 33; Belted Kingfisher 2; Horned Lark 9; Blue Jay 41; Am. Crow 147; Com. Raven 12; Bl.-capped Chickadee 55; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-br. Nuthatch 5; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 73; Am. Robin 3; Eur. Starling 100; Yel.-rumped Warbler 65; Am. Tree Sparrow 28; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 17; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 39; Dark-eyed Junco 10; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Com. Grackle 4; Br.-headed Cowbird 20; N. Cardinal 1; White-winged Crossbill 12; Am. Goldfinch 8; Evening Grosbeak 25; House Sparrow 60.

Total 49 species, about 1696 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Merlin, Com. Snipe, Great Horned Owl, Gray Jay, N. Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Water Pipit, N. Oriole). Judith Adam-Murphy, Daryl Amilault, Albert d'Entremont, Delisle d'Entremont, Germain d'Entremont, Jacqueline d'Entremont, Onil d'Entremont, Raymond d'Entremont, Serge d'Entremont, Jerome D'Eon, Lance D'Eon, Lester D'Eon, Nigel D'Eon, Ted C. D'Eon (compiler), Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Ethelda Murphy, Greg Murphy, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters, Barbara Ruff, Eric Ruff, Robin Rymer, Betty-June Smith, Sidney Smith.

**SCOTSBURN**, Dec. 30; 10AM to 1PM. Clear. Wind 20kmh. Temp. -12C. Fresh water frozen. 1 observer, 1 at feeding station. Total party hours 3 (3 by car). Total party miles 20 (20 by car).

Canada Goose 50; Am. Black Duck 50; Com. Goldeneye 25; Gt. Bl.-

backed Gull 6; Rock Dove 20; Blue Jay 5; Am. Crow 10; Com. Raven 1; Bl.-capped Chickadee 3; Eur. Starling 30; Evening Grosbeak 10; House Sparrow 10.

Total 12 species, about 220 individuals. Warren C.E. Parsons (compiler).

**SHUBENACADIE**, Dec. 27; 7:30AM to 4PM. Clear. Wind 20kmh to 12kmh. Temp. -12 to -6C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 20 observers in 5 parties, 13 at feeding stations. Total party hours 18 (8 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles 85 (7 on foot, 78 by car).

Am. Black Duck 16; Mallard 2; Com. Merganser 2; Red-br. Merganser 8; Bald Eagle 10 (6a., 4imm.); N. Harrier 1; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 7; Ruffed Grouse 4; Herring Gull 41; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 14; Rock Dove 138; Mourning Dove 1; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 39; Am. Crow 862; Com. Raven 168; Bl.-capped Chickadee 114; Boreal Chickadee 113; Red-br. Nuthatch 72; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 48; Eur. Starling 3694; Am. Tree Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 33; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 5; White-winged Crossbill 589; Pine Siskin 49; Am. Goldfinch 25; Evening Grosbeak 678; House Sparrow 146.

Total 38 species, about 6921 individuals. (CP: Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red-winged Blackbird). Mark Anthony, Cathy Etter, Nancy Ettinger, Mary Geddes, Derek Hutton, Glynis Hutton, Joan Jarvis, Jo-Ann MacBeth, Pam MacInnis, Juanita Murphy, Eldon Pace, Judy Queripel, Earle Reid, Maud Smith, Connie Stott, Audrey Tyler, Lorne Tyler, David Wallace, Margie Wallace, Bernice Williams.

**SPRINGVILLE**, Dec. 17; 8AM to 1PM. Clear. Light SW wind. Temp. -16C. Fresh water frozen. 6 observers in 3 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 23 (8 on foot, 15 by car). Total party miles 75 (8 on foot, 67 by car).

Am. Black Duck 4; Bald Eagle 3; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Ruffed Grouse 2; Herring Gull 24; Rock Dove 170; Mourning Dove 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 12; Blue Jay 45; Am. Crow 181; Com. Raven 30; Bl.-capped Chickadee 42; Boreal Chickadee 10; Red-br. Nuthatch 11; White-br. Nuthatch 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 9; Eur. Starling 173; Am. Tree Sparrow 7; Dark-eyed Junco 12; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 2; Br.-headed Cowbird 2; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 3; Red Crossbill 3; White-winged Crossbill 91; Pine Siskin 55; Am. Goldfinch 14; Evening Grosbeak 10; House Sparrow 83.

Total 33 species, about 1020 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Barred Owl, Brown Creeper, Am. Robin, Com. Redpoll). Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Calder Fraser, Fred Kenney (compiler), Margaret Kenney.

**WEST HANTS**, Jan. 2; 7AM to 4:30PM. Overcast. Light wind. Temp. -8C. Fresh water partly frozen. 22 observers in 8 parties, 5 at feeding stations. Total party hours 56 (45 on foot, 11 by car). Total party miles 308 (50 on foot, 258 by car).

Am. Black Duck 705; Mallard 3; Com. Merganser 33; Bald Eagle 8; N. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 11; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Gray Partridge 5; Ring-necked Pheasant 152; Ruffed Grouse 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 15; Ring-billed Gull 13; Herring Gull 369; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 30; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 367; Mourning Dove 33; Barred Owl 2; N. Saw-whet Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 9; Blue Jay 188; Am. Crow 733; Com. Raven 75; Bl.-capped Chickadee 215; Boreal Chickadee 18; Red-br. Nuthatch 44; White-br. Nuthatch 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 63; Am. Robin 53; N. Mockingbird 1; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 1850; Am. Tree Sparrow 8; Song Sparrow 9; Dark-eyed Junco 51; Snow Bunting 23; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Com. Grackle 25; Br.-headed Cowbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 1; Purple Finch 8; Red Crossbill 3; White-winged Crossbill 199; Pine Siskin 30; Am. Goldfinch 124; Evening Grosbeak 449; House Sparrow 565.

Total 50 species, about 6519 individuals. (CP: Canada Goose, N. Goshawk, Purple Sandpiper, Great Horned Owl). Karen Casselman, Ted Casselman (compiler), Bill Caudle, Sheila Connell, Merritt Gibson, Judy Kazimirski, Fulton Lavender, Ian MacPherson, Everett Marsters, Mary Pratt, Gerry Rathbun, Merriam Tams, Jim Taylor, Brenda Thexton, Bill Thexton, Judy Tufts, Gordon Tufts, J. Elmer Wiersma, Azor Vienneau, Sherman Williams, Beth Woolaver, Frank Woolaver.

**WOLFVILLE**, Dec. 17; 7:15AM to 5:15PM. Clear. Wind 0 to NW10kmh in afternoon. Temp. -14 to -2C. Fresh water frozen. 77 observers in 24 parties, 14 at feeding stations. Total party hours 136 (75 on foot, 61 by car). Total party miles 404 (85 on foot, 319 by car).

Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 154; Am. Black Duck 1259; Mallard 75; Com. Eider 28; White-winged Scoter 42; Com. Goldeneye 12; Com. Merganser 57; Red-br. Merganser 3; Bald Eagle 96 (50a., 46imm.); N. Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; N. Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 165; Rough-legged Hawk 14; Ring-necked Pheasant 149; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Com. Snipe 1; Dunlin 1; Ring-billed Gull 134; Herring Gull 3102; Iceland Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 1808; alcid, sp. 2; Rock Dove 1028; Mourning Dove 401; Barred Owl 4; Downy Woodpecker 39; Hairy Woodpecker 22; Com. Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Horned Lark 282; Blue Jay 222; Am. Crow 16,600; Com. Raven 278; Bl.-capped Chickadee 438; Boreal Chickadee 8; Red-br. Nuthatch 73; White-br. Nuthatch 13; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 152; Am. Robin 534; Cedar Waxwing 25; Eur. Starling 22,602; Yel.-rumped Warbler 1; Com. Yellowthroat 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 303; Savannah Sparrow 10; Song Sparrow 133; Swamp Sparrow 5; White-thr. Sparrow 12; Dark-eyed Junco 134; Snow Bunting 258; Com. Grackle 2; Br.-headed Cowbird 252; N. Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 35; White-winged Crossbill 18; Pine Siskin 43; Am. Goldfinch 453; Evening Grosbeak 413; House Sparrow 1222.

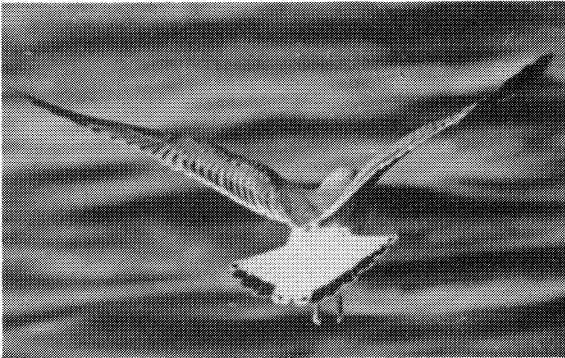
Total 65 species, about 53,152 individuals. (CP: Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck). George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Caroline Amphlett, Peter Austin-Smith, Adeline Bayne, Gordon Bayne, Nancy Bleakney, Sherman Bleakney, Sherman Boates (compiler), Curtis Chipman, Lana Churchill, Cyril Coldwell, Margaret Connolly, Brian Dalzell, Heather Davidson, Ed Eagles, Ev Eagles, Mark Elderkin, George Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Al Foster, Jamie Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Ed Goodstein, Lorna Hart, Blanche Healy, Paul Healy, Tom Herman, Hedley Hopkins, Shirley Jackson, Anne Karttunen, Jerry Karttunen, Jackie MacDonald, Peter MacDonald, Stephen MacPhee, Bill Martell Pat Martell, Pam Matthews, Blake Maybank, Randy Milton, George Moody, Erich Muntz, Terry Murphy, Reg Newell, Ruth Newell, Nancy Nickerson, Dick Orr, Helen Orr, Jim Oulton, Josh Oulton, Shelley Porter, Terry Power, Mary Pratt, Francis Schwab, Chalmers Smith, Peter Smith (compiler), Elizabeth Stern, Richard Stern, Thomas Stern, Miriam Tams, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Dianne Thorpe, Jean Timpa, Gerry Trueman, Gordon Tufts, Judy Tufts, Eva Urban, J. Elmer Wiersma, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford (compiler), Frank Woolaver, Barry Yoell, Betty Yoell, Chris Zinck, Marian Zinck.

**YARMOUTH**, Dec. 18; 8AM to 5PM. Overcast with intermittent light snow AM. Overcast with intermittent heavy snow PM. Wind 0 to 20kmh. Temp. -5 to -1C. Fresh water frozen. 19 observers in 8 parties, 6 at feeding stations. Total party hours 53 1/2 (18 on foot, 35 1/2 by car). Total party miles 428 (25 on foot, 403 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Com. Loon 11; Red-necked Grebe 3; Great Cormorant 2; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 72; Green-winged Teal 2; Am. Black Duck 306; Mallard 10; N. Pintail 3; N. Shoveler 1; Greater Scaup 5; Com. Eider 10; Oldsquaw 31; White-winged Scoter 3; Com. Goldeneye 51; Bufflehead 62; Com. Merganser 91; Red-br. Merganser 128; Bald Eagle 4; N. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 4; Am. Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Ruffed Grouse 6; Killdeer 1; Purple Sandpiper 47; Am. Woodcock 1; Ring-billed Gull 7; Herring Gull 1852; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 518;

Rock Dove 127; Mourning Dove 138; Great Horned Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 7; Horned Lark 44; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 40; Am. Crow 407; Com. Raven 54; Bl.-capped Chickadee 110; Red-br. Nuthatch 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 48; Am. Robin 77; N. Mockingbird 6; Cedar Waxwing 1; Eur. Starling 747; Yel.-rumped Warbler 17; N. Cardinal 4; Tree Sparrow 19; Chipping Sparrow 6; Song Sp. 34; White-thr. Sparrow 105; Dark-eyed Junco 86; Snow Bunting 42; Red-winged Blackbird 20; Com. Grackle 119; Br.-headed Cowbird 66; N. Oriole 1; Am. Goldfinch 26; Evening Grosbeak 149; House Sparrow 78.

Total 68 species, about 5848 individuals. (CP: Am. Widgeon, Black-bellied Plover, Snowy Owl, Barred Owl). Margaret Churchill, Peter Comeau, Jacqueline D'Entremont, Raymond D'Entremont, June Graves, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Hazel MacDonald, Dale Mullen, Jo Ann Newell, Ingrid Prosser, Lloyd Prosser, Barbara Ruff (compiler), Eric Ruff (compiler), Robin Rymer, Paulette Surette, Robert Surette.



The Mew (Common) Gull on the Halifax West CBC, and subsequently in Dartmouth, had a tail pattern quite distinct from the one that turned up a few days later (see centre photo section).



## Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals

## 1988 Christmas Count

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

This year boasted four new species for the count, bringing the all-time provincial list to 221 species plus 3 additional races.

New all-time high counts (numbers underlined) were established for 21 species, compared with 24 last year.

Halifax West led this year by recording 30 high counts, followed by Wolfville 27, Port Hebert 15, Yarmouth 14, and Halifax East tied with Brier Island at 13 each.

Red-throated Loon 7 (Port Hebert); Common Loon 77 (Halifax East); Horned Grebe 38 (Port Hebert); Red-necked Grebe 30 (Brier Island); Northern Gannet 1 (Cheticamp); Great Cormorant 242 (Brier Island); Double-crested Cormorant 6 (Halifax West); Great Blue Heron 2 (Wolfville); Canada Goose 5584 (Halifax East); Green-winged Teal 2 (Yarmouth); Am. Black Duck 1623 (Halifax West); Mallard 75 (Wolfville); N. Pintail 3 (Yarmouth); Am. Widgeon 1 (Port Hebert); Northern Shoveler 1 (Yarmouth); Greater Scaup 110 (Broad Cove); Lesser Scaup 2 (Halifax West); Com. Eider 641 (Brier Island); King Eider 1 (Brier Island); Harlequin Duck 2 (Brier Island); Oldsquaw 3000 (Annapolis Royal); Black Scoter 162 (Broad Cove); Surf Scoter 30 (Port Hebert); White-winged Scoter 84 (Halifax West); Com. Goldeneye 146 (Broad Cove); Barrow's Goldeneye 1 (Cheticamp & Economy); Bufflehead 205 (Annapolis Royal); Hooded Merganser 1 (Brier Island); Com. Merganser 91 (Yarmouth); Red-br. Merganser 330 (Halifax East).

Bald Eagle 96 (Wolfville); N. Harrier 4 (Wolfville); Sharp-shinned Hawk 7 (Yarmouth); N. Goshawk 3 (Economy); Red-tailed Hawk 165 (Wolfville); Rough-legged Hawk 14 (Wolfville); Am. Kestrel 1 (Amherst, Annapolis Royal, Broad Cove, Port Hebert & Yarmouth); Merlin 3 (Halifax West); Gray Partridge 36 (Economy); Ring-necked Pheasant 152 (West Hants); Spruce Grouse 2 (Halifax East & Kejimikujik Nat'l Park); Ruffed Grouse 10 (Economy & Kejimikujik Nat'l Park); Am. Coot 2 (Halifax West); Black-bellied Plover 1 (Port Hebert); Killdeer 6 (Broad Cove); Greater Yellowlegs 2 (Port Hebert); Ruddy Turnstone 1 (Brier Island & Broad Cove); Red Knot 2 (Halifax East); Sanderling 17 (Broad Cove); White-rumped Sandpiper 1 (Port Hebert); Purple Sandpiper 88 (Kingston); Dunlin 6 (Port Hebert); Com. Snipe 1 (Eskasoni, Halifax West & Wolfville); Am. Woodcock 1 (Antigonish & Yarmouth).

Com. Bl.-headed Gull 40 (Halifax West); Com. (Mew) Gull 1 (Halifax West); Bonaparte's Gull 7 (Annapolis Royal); Ring-billed Gull 134 (Wolfville); Herring Gull 6233 (Halifax West); Iceland Gull 131 (Halifax West); Lesser Bl.-backed Gull 1 (Halifax West); Glaucous Gull 9 (Cheticamp); Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 1808 (Wolfville); Bl.-legged Kittiwake 15 (Brier Island); Dovekie 5 (Halifax West); Thin-billed Murre 18 (Annapolis Royal); Thick-billed Murre 3 (Brier Island); Razorbill 6 (Brier Island); Black Guillemot 36 (Halifax West); Rock Dove 1028 (Wolfville); Mourning Dove 401 (Wolfville); Great Horned Owl 3 (Kingston); Snowy Owl 1 (Brier Island, Halifax West & Port Hebert); Barred Owl 5 (Kejimikujik Nat'l Park); N. Saw-whet Owl 1 (West Hants).

Belted Kingfisher 2 (Port Hebert & Pubnico); Downy Woodpecker 39 (Wolfville); Hairy Woodpecker 22 (Wolfville); Black-backed Woodpecker 2 (Economy); N. (Yel-sh.) Flicker 7 (Yarmouth); Pileated Woodpecker 9 (West Hants); Horned Lark 282 (Wolfville); Gray Jay 15 (Port Hebert); Blue Jay 222 (Wolfville); Jackdaw 1 (Halifax West); Am. Crow 16,600 (Wolfville); Com. Raven 278 (Wolfville); Bl.-capped Chickadee 449 (Halifax East); Boreal Chickadee 113 (Shubenacadie); Red-br. Nuthatch 237 (Economy); White-br. Nuthatch 13 (Wolfville); Brown Creeper 7 (Port Hebert); Golden-cr. Kinglet 403 (Halifax East); Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1 (Halifax East & Kejimikujik Nat'l Park); Hermit Thrush 1 (Halifax West); Am. Robin 534 (Wolfville); N. Mockingbird 6 (Halifax West & Yarmouth); Gray Catbird 1 (Halifax West); Water Pipit 1 (Brier Island & Halifax East); Cedar Waxwing 25 (Wolfville); N. Shrike 2 (West Hants).

Eur. Starling 22,602 (Wolfville); Orange-crowned Warbler 1 (Halifax West); Yel.-rumped (Myr.) Warbler 125 (Port Hebert); Pine Warbler 9 (Halifax West); Palm Warbler 7 (Halifax West); Com. Yellowthroat 1 (Halifax East, Halifax West & Wolfville); Yellow-br. Chat 2 (Halifax West); N. Cardinal 4 (Yarmouth); Dickcissel 1 (Halifax West); Rufous-sided Towhee 1 (Broad Cove); Am. Tree Sparrow 303 (Wolfville); Chipping Sparrow 6 (Yarmouth); Lark Sparrow 1 (Hazel Hill); Savannah Sparrow 10 (Wolfville); Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 2 (Port Hebert); Fox Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); Song Sparrow 133 (Wolfville); Swamp Sparrow 7 (Halifax West); White-thr. Sparrow 105 (Yarmouth); Dark-eyed (S-c.) Junco 323 (Economy); Lapland Longspur 29 (Halifax East); Snow Bunting 614 (Amherst).

Red-winged Blackbird 20 (Yarmouth); E. Meadowlark 1 (Antigonish & Brier Island); Yellow-headed Blackbird 1 (Kingston); Com. Greckle 119 (Yarmouth); Br.-headed Cowbird 252 (Wolfville); N. (Baltimore) Oriole 6 (Halifax West); Com. Chaffinch 1 (Halifax West); Pine Grosbeak 35 (Kingston); Purple Finch 48 (Economy & Eskasoni); House Finch 1 (Halifax West); Red Crossbill 26 (Halifax East); White-winged Crossbill 688 (Economy); Com. Redpoll 12 (Amherst); Pine Siskin 254 (Economy); Am. Goldfinch 453 (Wolfville); Blue Grosbeak 1 (Bridgetown); Evening Grosbeak 723 (Amherst); House Sparrow 1372 (Halifax West).



Red-wing Blackbirds are frequent early-winter visitors to bird feeders--this female or young male came to the Hutton's feeder in Shubenacadie in late September. Photo by Glenys and Cliff Hutton.

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

1988-1989

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

Membership Fees

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

Note: Outside Canada please add \$1.00

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS  
A Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society

---

Volume 31 Number 2

April 1989

---

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief	Shirley Cohrs
Records Editor	Bob Dickie
Photographic Editor	Ian McLaren
Christmas Counts	Mary Anderson
Seasonal Bird Reports	R. G. B. Brown David Currie Keith Keddy
Cover: Hooded Merganser Bob Dickie	Ian McLaren Peter Payzant Francis Spalding Richard Stern

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Winter Bird Reports	2
Forthcoming Field Trips	18
Editorial	23
Sara MacLean, a Tribute	25
Letters to the Editor	28
Birding in Papua New Guinea	29
Who shall watch the watchers?	35
Book Review <u>Newfoundland Birds</u>	39
Window on the River	41
Nova Scotia Christmas Counts	45
Summary of Highest Counts	57

Use of photographs from NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS  
requires written permission from the photographer.

Cost of the publication of this periodical is partially  
born by the Nova Scotia Museum.

ISSN 0383-9567

Second Class Mail  
Reg. No. 4628