

# *Nova Scotia Birds*



*April 1990*

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS  
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Winter Birds 1989-1990	4
A Common Ringed Plover in Nova Scotia	19
Letters to the Editor	23
Birding Holidays in Britain	26
Living Island	29
Forthcoming Field Trips	36
Field Trip Reports	39
Book Review: <b>North American Owls</b>	43
The Ruddy Duck	45
Nova Scotia Christmas Counts 1989-1990	51

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RECORD EDITOR'S REPORT

In the past, I have sent out a card whenever people sent in bird reports. It has come to my attention, however, that due to escalating postage costs, this has come to be an expensive proposition. We have decided, in the interest of economy, to stop that practice. We will, of course, continue to recognize contributors by listing their names under the Record Editor's Report in each issue.

We have to meet deadlines in order to get **Nova Scotia Birds** out to you on time. It is then necessary for all reports to be **IN MY HANDS BY THE DEADLINE SET IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUE**. Once the reports are sorted, they are sent to the editors. It is then impossible to make use of the late arrivals.

Reports should be clearly written on **2" x 4" pieces of paper**, using one piece of paper per species. Long, narrow slips, overly large reports and tiny reports all confuse the issue and decrease our accuracy. We are fortunate to have very competent species editors who are doing an excellent job but let's remember, they are volunteers and their job takes a great deal of their time and effort.

It's great to hear from you so please keep those reports coming in.

Bob Dickie,  
Records Ed.

List of Reporters

Last Name	First Name	Initials
Allsebrook	Keith	KAL
Allsebrook	Marion	Mal
Bleakney	Sherman	JSB
Bondrup-Nielson	Soren	SBN
Brauns	Vicki	BV
Brunt	Richard	RJB
Cohrs	John	JLC
Cohrs	Lisé	LAC
Cohrs	Shirley	JSC
Comeau	Peter	PC
Crowell	George	GCr
Cunningham	Robert	RC
Czupalay	Joan	JC
D'Entremont	Lisette	LD
D'Entremont	Raymond	RSD
D'Eon	Jerome	JKD
Dickie	Bob	RBD
Dickie	Helen	HD
Ellis	Margaret	MEE
Field	Chris	CF
Flemming	Deborah	DF
Gates	Joy	JG
Hall	Helen	HJH
Hall	Hubert	HGH
Harris	Robert	RH
Hemeon	Phyllis	PH
Hemeon	Ward	WH
Hilchie	Claire	CJH
Huxtable	Bea	BH

Keddy	Keith	KNK
Kovaks	Janos	JK
Lavender	Fulton	FLL
MacDonald	Clive	CM
MacFarland	Andrew	AM
MacLeod	Edie	EMa
MacLeod	Peter	PM
MacNeill	Jack	JM
MacRury	Elsie	EM
Maybank	Blake	BMa
McLaren	Ian	IAM
Moores	Bernice	ABM
Mullen	Dale	TDM
Murrant	Allen	Am
Murrant	Cathy	CMu
Murray	Andy	AM
Murray	Evelyne	EM
Olsen	Michael	MO
Parsons	Ben	BP
Parsons	Warren	WP
Payzant	Linda/Peter	L&PP
Peters	Doris	DP
Peters	Ken	KHP
Prosser	Ingrid	IP
Prosser	Lloyd	LP
Purchase	Don	DWP
Purchase	Joyce	JAP
Ruff	Eric	ERu
Rymer	Edward	ER
Rymer	Mike	MR
Rymer	Rose	RR
Sarty	Bev	BS
Sherman	Robin	RS
Smith	Bruce	BSm
Smith	Sidney	SS
Spalding	Francis	FS
Spicer	Kathleen	KS
Stern	Richard	RBS
Taylor	Jim	JWT
Thexton	Bill	RGT
Thexton	Brenda	BET
Timpa	Jean	JET
Tufts	Gordon	GWT
Tufts	Judy	JCT
Veinneau	Azor	AV
Young	David	DHY

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

Yarmouth Co. (Yar. Co.)	Arcadia, Pinkney's Point, Tusket, Cranberry Head, Eel Brook, Chegoggin, Melbourne, Overton, all the Pubnicos, Glenwood, Dayton, Quinan
Shelburne Co. (Shel. Co.)	Cape Sable Is., Cape Sable, Matthews Lake, Lower Ohio, The Hawk, Seal Is., Sand Hills, Little Harbour Port L'Hebert W.
Queen's Co.	Port Joli, Port L'Hebert E.

Lunenburg Co. (Lun. Co.)	Cherry Hill, Broad Cove, Petite Riviere, Green Bay, Crousetown, Crescent Beach
Halifax Co. (Hfx. Co.)	Three Fathom Hbr., Conrad's Beach, Lawrencetown, Cole Hbr., Martinique Beach, Hartlen's Point, Oakfield Park, Laurie Park, Powder Mill Park, Chezsetcook
Colchester Co. (Col. Co.)	Economy, Glenholme
Annapolis Co. (Anna. Co.)	Wilmot, Round Hill, Paradise, Sandy Bottom Lake, Annapolis Royal, Clementsport, Eleven Mile Lake
Kings Co.	Wolfville, Greenfield, Canard, Black River Lake, Gaspereau, Grand Pre, White Rock, Starr's Pt., Lumsden Reservoir
Cumberland Co. (Cumb. Co.)	Lusby Marsh, APBS*, Lorneville, Linden, Port Howe
Hants Co.	Shubenacadie, Noel Shore
Digby Co.	Brier Island
Guysborough Co. (Guys. Co.)	Hazel Hill
Cape Breton (C.B.)	Big Pond, C.B. Highland National Park (C.B.H.N.P.)

\*APBS-Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary  
CBC - Christmas Bird Count

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS**

for  
the **JULY** issue  
**MAY 31, 1990**

**Bird Reports to the RECORDS EDITOR**

Mr. Bob Dickie,  
43 Deepwood Crescent,  
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**Articles, sketches and letters to the EDITOR**

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## LOONS AND GREBES

Both COMMON and RED-THROATED LOONS were reported in usual numbers over the winter. BMa saw 3 Red-throats in one day along the Eastern Shore, and other observers reported single birds. Common Loons could be seen in salt water all around the province, usually in twos and threes but at times in larger numbers, particularly at Hartlen's Point and around the Blandford Peninsula.

PIED-BILLED GREBES lingered in at least three locations. The Overton Salt Pond in Yar. Co., held one on Nov. 17 (HJH,HGH); there was one in Dartmouth Cove on Dec. 23 (JWT), and on the same date there was another in a pond near the LaHave River (DF,BS). It was a good winter for HORNEED GREBES, with consistent reports throughout. High numbers included 24 at Little Port l'Hebert on Jan. 23 (DHY) and 20 around the Blandford Peninsula on Feb. 3 (CF). RSD was surprised by 21 RED-NECKED GREBES appearing at Pubnico Point on Jan. 29 after seeing no more than 4 all winter. There were "good numbers" at Brier Is. on the CBC (RBS) on Dec. 19, and 50-70 at Hartlen's Point on Feb. 13 (FLL).

LPMP, ed.

## HERONS AND ALLIES

A late AMERICAN BITTERN was seen near Wolfville on Nov. 25 (Calvin Brennan). Although there were a few GREAT BLUE HERONS through December, the only later ones were 2 at Hawk, Cape Sable, during the first week of Feb. (RC). Cape Sable also hosted a CATTLE EGRET in early December, seen at Clark's Hbr. by Viola Sperka.

IAM, ed.



## NOTICE

The Editor regrets that the species normally edited by Dick Brown--Fulmars to cormorants, and phalaropes to auks--are missing from this issue. The error lies somewhere between the mailing of your carefully written reports by Bob Dickie, our Records Editor, and the non-reception of them by Dick. Should the post office ever find them they will appear in a future issue.

JSC

## GEESE AND DUCKS

We have three reports of SNOW GOOSE, which probably refer to 3 or 4 different birds. One was on Sable Island from Dec. 10 to Jan. 13 (AM **vide** IAM). Another was at Little Hbr. and Lockeport on Nov. 25 (DHY). This was eventually shot, at night, in a schoolyard at Lockeport. Two more were reported with Canadas at nearby Port l'Hebert on Dec. 5 (**vide** JWW).

DHY reports that the 2 BRANT at Little Harbour on Jan. 18 were the earliest he had recorded for that location. This group had increased to six by Feb. 11. Six flew just off the shore at Short Beach, Yar. Co. on Feb. 8 (HGH,HJH), and an early flock of 300 appeared in Pond Cove, Brier Island on Feb. 17 (RBS).

The usual situation with CANADA GEESE prevailed--flocks of hundreds in many locations, and thousands at Chezzetcook, Cole Hbr/Rainbow Haven, and Port Joli. JWW mentions a "migration over and past Wolfville--hundreds of flocks, all day, headed SW" on Nov. 22 and 23. A very small individual was on a road in Kejimkujik National Park on Nov. 28 (**vide** JWW) and another small one, "Black Duck size", was on Sable Island on Dec. 20 (AM **vide** IAM). Without more details, it is impossible to determine which races these little ones belong to, but the Richardson's Goose, race **hutchinsii**, would be a good bet since it breeds in the eastern Arctic. It is, mind you, about twice the weight of a Black Duck, but size is difficult to judge in the field.

Three male WOOD DUCKS charmed many observers at Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth from early January through the end of the reporting period, and another showed up in a small pond in Arcadia, Yar. Co. on Nov. 27 (HGH,HJH).

Up to eight over-wintering GREEN-WINGED TEAL, including a male of the Eurasian subspecies, were in the Greenwich area from early December until at least mid-January (**vide** JWW). Others, in small numbers, appeared at Dartmouth Cove, the Prospect area, Yarmouth Harbour, Wentworth Park and Whynacht's Cove.

BLACK DUCKS were reported to be "about normal" by MO from the Pictou and Trenton Causeways, and usual numbers showed up in other traditional locations. FLL felt that numbers were higher than usual in the Halifax Harbour/ Sullivan's Pond/Bedford Basin circuit, although a new city by-law prohibiting feeding at Sullivan's certainly reduced the number at that location from the thousands there in previous winters.

Semi-wild MALLARDS by the dozen subsisting on handouts could be seen at Sydney River (Alan Murrant), Sullivan's Pond, Dayton, Yar. Co. (TDM) and other places. Smaller numbers of more independent birds were at Canning and Greenwich (**vide** JWW), the Pictou Causeway (MO), Conrad's Beach (L&PP) and the Northwest Arm and Mill Cove (BMA).

Three late BLUE-WINGED TEAL were at Short Beach, Yar. Co., Nov. 29 (HGH). NO PINTAIL were reported, but a single GADWELL was seen in Canning and Greenwich between Nov. 8 and Jan. 16 (**vide** JWW). Two males and a female or immature were present at the Trenton causeway on Feb. 12 (MO).

AMERICAN WIGEON were reported from Sable Island, the Annapolis Valley, the Dartmouth Area and Sydney. On Sable, there were three individuals present in early December (AM **vide** IAM). The valley birds were in Canning (10) and Sheffield Mills (5) between Nov. 8 and Nov. 19 (**vide** JWW). In Dartmouth, there were 3-4 dividing their time between the harbour at Tufts Cove and Sullivan's Pond in January and February (BS,FLL). A single male in Sydney Harbour on Jan. 18 (JM) which lingered until at least Feb. 27 might be the same bird seen by the Murrants in Wentworth Park on Feb. 20.

Sydney Harbour (Jan. 29) and Wentworth Park (Feb. 20) were also home to our first wintering REDHEAD in years (JM, Murrants). Six male RING-NECKED DUCKS browsed on bottom vegetation in open water in Rocky Lake, Waverley from Feb. 11 on (L&PP).

500-600 GREATER SCAUP ("perhaps 2X last year") were at the Pictou causeway through the end of January (MO). Over 100 more were at Lingan from early December (JM), and tens were reported from Annapolis Royal and the Hartlen's Point/Eastern Passage area. The usual smaller numbers of LESSER SCAUP were reported: a female at Lr. W. Pubnico on Nov. 17 (RSD), two at Three Fathom Hbr., Jan. 5 (DWP,JAP), one at the Pictou Causeway on Jan. 15 (MO), and two in the Hartlen's Point/Eastern Passage area on Jan. 20 (BMa,FLL).

COMMON EIDER were present at the mouth of Halifax Harbour in reasonable numbers. BS estimated that there were about 200 at Tribune Head on Jan. 5, and FLL reported 200-300 for the harbour mouth as a whole. BMa saw around 100 at Conrad's Beach on Jan. 13. Other reports mentioned much smaller counts from the Eastern Shore down to Yarmouth and up into the Bay of Fundy.

It's difficult to know how many HARLEQUIN DUCKS were around last winter. In the Halifax area, the first report was of an immature male in Bedford Basin on Dec. 15 (BS). There were two birds, possibly females, at Tribune Head on Jan. 28 (HGH,BS), and 4 at Chebucto Head the same day (BS). On Feb. 7, there were 2 females or immatures at Herring Cove (GWT,JCT), and these were seen again on the 9th by FS. Other reports included a single bird at Petite Riviere on Nov. 21 (JSC), another at Round Island, one of the Mud Islands, on Dec. 30 (RSD: "1st winter male...shot by a local"), and 5 at Short Beach, Yar. Co., Feb. 8, increasing to 7 on Feb. 11 (HGH,HJH).

The only large flock of OLDSQUAW was the 100+ off Port Morien on Feb. 13 (A.Murrant). BMa saw 75 at Conrad's Beach on Jan. 13, and other observers mentioned lower numbers at many locations around the province including Caribou Island, New Waterford Harbour, Spry Harbour, Eastern Passage, Crystal Crescent Beach, Green Bay, Pinkney's Point, and the Fundy Shore.

We only have five reports of BLACK SCOTER for last winter, although that is more than we have had since 1987. RSD saw a single female at Pubnico Point on Nov. 26, and JSC had 40 in Green Bay on Dec. 9 and Jan. 3. There was a single bird at Baccaro Point on Jan. 13 (HGH,HJH), and 14 along the Fundy shore in Annapolis Co., Jan 29 (JCT,GWT). SURF SCOTERS, often more numerous than the Blacks, were nowhere abundant. The mixed flock JSC saw at Green Bay on Jan. 3 included 12 Surfs, and GWT saw 35 in 4 groups along the Fundy shore on Jan. 29. FLL estimated 200-300 WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS at the mouth of Halifax Harbour, CF saw 200 around the Blandford Peninsula on Feb. 3, and GWT, JCT reported about 120 along the Annapolis Co. portion of the Fundy shore on Jan. 29.

Many observers reported ones to tens of COMMON GOLDENEYE. MO had about 550 at the Pictou causeway on Jan. 15, but this number had decreased to about half that by Jan. 25. Bedford Basin held a flock of 30-40, and there were 50 in Sydney Harbour on Jan. 19, which may be the same ones reported at North Sydney on Feb. 16 (JM).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE were reported from four locations. A single female was at Sable Island (AM vide IAM, no date), and there were two at Sydney River on Jan. 21 (Murrants). Bedford Basin was home to at least five, including 3 females, a young male and an adult male (FLL,RBS,IAM). These were first reported on Feb. 2. Up to five were also present at Annapolis Royal from Jan. 7 on (RGT,RBS,GWT,JCT).

RBS reports a surprising 200 BUFFLEHEADS in Digby Harbour on Nov. 21, but these had mostly moved on by Jan. 9, when there were only a few left. FS felt that the 3 at Parrsboro represented an unusually low number, but other observers reported seeing tens, at locations including Three Fathom Hbr. (BMa,L&PP), Sydney River (JM,Murrants), the Glace Bay Sanctuary (GCr), and Smith's Cove (JCT,GWT).



HOODED MERGANSERS were present in the Annapolis Valley area from the very start of the reporting period, with 6 at Middle Dyke, Kings Co. (RGT,BET) on Nov. 6, 5 at Bishop's Pond on Nov. 8 and 6 at Chipman's Corner on Nov. 12 (**fide** JWW). Several observers reported ones and twos from scattered locations, but Bev Sarty recorded a steady dispersal from the mouth of the Sackville River where it empties into Bedford Basin. On Nov. 29, she saw 11 birds there, 7 on Dec. 2, 5 on Dec. 10 and by Dec. 17, there was only 1 left (MAI,KAI).

COMMON MERGANSERS were "three or four times" more abundant than last year at the Pictou causeway, with 160 there on Jan. 31 (MO). Northeastern Cape Breton was also a good location" 25 birds were in the Sydney River from Jan. 1 through Feb. 20 (Murrants); there were at least 25 in Big Glace Bay Lake on Feb. 10 and 26 at the Glace Bay Sanctuary the next day (BS,GCr); there were 40 in North Sydney on Feb. 16 (JM) and 55 at Myra on Feb. 27 (CM).

There were 38 reports of RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS, accounting for about 600 birds. Although there were no reports of large concentrations, the picture was typical for Nova Scotia in winter--the RB "merg" can be found almost everywhere around the coast through the winter in loose groups of 20 or 30 and sometimes over 100 individuals. Perhaps RBS's laconic comment on the situation at Brier Island (on their CBC) best sums it up: "Good numbers".

For the record, one of the RUDDY DUCKS at Cow Bay Pond (many obs.) mentioned in the January issue was still present up to at least Nov. 15 (MAI).

LPMP, ed.



This winter's abundance of Snow Buntings was remarked on by many. Richard Stern came across this flock that had taken to a tree. Another photo of such unusual behavior was submitted by Bruce Viennotte.

## DIURNAL RAPTORS

TURKEY VULTURES were very evident this winter. Two on the Christmas Count at Brier Is., and another still there on Feb. 18 (RBS) were not regionally unprecedented. More unusual were a bird near Windsor on Jan 1 & 2, and sightings around Wolfville and Hantsport on several occasions from mid to late January. Two birds were seen together on the ground on Jan. 18 (Glenn MacDonald, Denise Packard). Finally, another (one of the Valley birds?) was sighted between Bedford and Hammonds Plains on Feb. 25 (L&PP).

A late OSPREY took a much needed rest on a fishing vessel on Georges Bank on Nov. 11 (RSD).

Jim Wolford conveniently summarized observations of many reporters on the extraordinary BALD EAGLE buildup in E. Kings Co. The birds now obtain food from slaughter houses and kindly farmers in several localities, so Cyril Coldwell's "eagle feeder" is not the Mecca it once was. Personnel of the Department of Lands and Forests on Jan. 17, tallied 88 eagles on Jan. 17 and 114 (50 ad., 62 imm., 2 unknown) on Jan. 24. The imm. age groups on the 24th seem to reflect low mortality: 14 first, 13 second, 18 third, 12 fourth years, and 5 of unknown age. On this same date, the eagles at Shubenacadie were down to 21 (P. Austin-Smith). On Feb. 3, a 1 hour count in the a.m. by 10 parties (16 obs.) in Annapolis-Kings Counties produced an astonishing 60 ad. and 63 imm. eagles. The next day, a HFN-BNS field trip to eagle hot-spots produced 47 ad. and 87 imm. It is noted by JWW that the latter ad. to imm. ratio is rather different from other recent ratios, so the field trip totals may involve some "repeats". Somewhat diminished numbers were counted on the Lands & Forests surveys through February, but there were notable concentrations, including 54 at a poultry farm near White Rock on Feb. 19. There were none at this farm a week later when the offal supply ceased. Finally, JWW himself saw 25 ad., 42 imm., and 1 of unknown age on his circuit of Feb. 26. This wildlife spectacle has become a world attraction. Beginning in late February, about 400 tourists (mostly Americans and Europeans), **en route** to seal watching on the Magdalen Islands, were treated to the Valley eagles as part of their itinerary. Good estimates from Cape Breton were 17 ad. and 3 imm. on the Big Pond CBC (JM) and 10 ad. around Sydney in late January and early February (A&CMu); note the preponderance of adults compared with the Valley. About 6 were around Pictou in mid-winter (MO). Other eastern and southwestern shore localities had their usual sprinklings, with a notable 5 in one tree near Bridgewater (see photo). Only one was reported from Yar. Co. (the Rymers), although doubtless more were about.

As usual, there were scattered NORTHERN HARRIERS through winter. A male and a female were seen from time to time around Cole Hbr. and Hartlen's Pt. (sev. obs.), and another (?) bird was in Dartmouth on Jan. 20 (ABM). The only report from the Valley was of a male at Grand Pré on Jan. 27 (JCT). A female was near Yarmouth on Dec. 15 (HH) and another at Pubnico Pt. on Feb. 3 (RED).

Some 25 SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS were recorded in all parts of the province, most at feeders. Accounts of depredations mostly involved starlings. A detailed description of an ad. female COOPER'S HAWK comes from JK, who noted among other things, the straight, not "zig-zag", barring on the very long, rounded tail. The bird materialized on Feb. 28 near flocks of juncos, inducing a deathly stillness, near the Brightwood Golf Course, Dartmouth. Seven N. GOSHAWKS were reported from scattered localities, including one that overpowered a pheasant at Avonport on Feb. 3 (S. Williams).

The hawk of the season was surely the near-ad. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK discovered by RBS in Kentville on Jan. 3 and seen by many observers (although at times elusive) until at least Feb. 18. The excellent description by RBS and his photo in this issue, leave no doubts of its identification. JWW describes how, after 6 tries, he finally came across it "hanging upside down, clinging with its talons to a suet feeder...and pecking at the suet!" The hawk thereafter made daily visits to this high-calorie food source. An emaciated imm. BROAD-WINGED HAWK found dead at Starr's Pt., Kings Co., on Dec. 11 could have succumbed somewhat earlier (**vide** JWW). High estimates of RED-TAILED HAWKS in Kings Co., included 20-30 by various observers followin<sup>g</sup> the Christmas

Count. The annual eagle census (10 parties counting simultaneously) produced a very respectable 58 red-tails (29 ad., 9 imm., 29 unknown). RBS noted single birds all along Highway 101 from Kentville to Digby on Jan. 9. A splendid albino, with only a few dark marks on wing tips and a hint of pink in the tail, was found at Grand Pré on Dec. 10 by M & K Allsebrook. It was discovered later near Sheffield Mills (RBS), where it was seen by others in late December. About 10 birds were reported from other scattered localities. The showing of ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS was about a dozen from Dartmouth and Economy to Yar. Co., including to 6 in the Wolfville area.

A well described imm. GOLDEN EAGLE was discovered on Dec. 11 by Peter MacDonald and Soren Bondrup-Nielsen at Cadden Bay (the Keji National Park extension). It was seen there again on Dec. 27 and Jan. 27 by Peter, who thought it was preying on waterfowl.

AM. KESTRELS are a little "soft", and it is not surprising that only 3 were reported: at Lr. W. Pubnico on Dec. 31 (RSD) and N.E. of Kentville on Jan. 13 (JCT), and periodically on SABLE Is. (AM). MERLINS were also down: 2 sightings from Dartmouth, 1 from Halifax, 5 from the Wolfville region and 1 from Sable Is.; all of which could have involved as few as 3 birds. PEREGRINE FALCONS were seen in Kings Co., near Scots Bay on Dec. 30 (M. Gibson) and near Canning on Jan. 24 (unbanded; P. Austin-Smith), and another was seen into Jan. on Sable Is. (AM). Probably more than one dark-phased GYRFALCON occurred in Kings Co.--a brownish one at Grand Pré between Nov. 30-Dec. 9 (RGT,BET,JCT), a very large dark bird on Jan. 22 (RGT), and a grey phased one on Feb. 25 (BLF). Another large, dark falcon, apparently a gyr, was seen periodically on Sable Is. (IAM). Finally, a white bird was a spectacular "flyby" for Steven Bray at Glace Bay on Feb. 2.

#### GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

GRAY PARTRIDGES hold their own in Kings Co., but we have no reports from elsewhere. Between Dec. 1 and Feb. 18, coveys of 14 were spotted around Lower Canard, of 2 to 6 around Starrs Pt., and 3-8 around Windsor (sev. obs.). Several observers submitted trip counts of 26-50 RING-NECKED PHEASANTS from Kings Co. In Wolfville, up to 9 cocks and 12 hens fed on cracked corn at the Thexton feeder and 6 cocks and 6 hens at the Scott feeder. A cock crowing on Jan. 24 (JWW) seemed optimistic. Elsewhere, up to 4 cocks and a hen visited a feeder in Dayton, Yar. Co. (TDM), and 2 hens were seen at Hartlen's Pt. (sev. obs.). Our only reports of SPRUCE GROUSE were of 1 near Birch Grove, C.B. Co., on Feb. 11 (A&CMu) and 3 cocks and a hen at Apple R., Cum. Co. on the same day (KS). RUFFED GROUSE are clearly up. We have only 11 reports, but these (apart from references to "good numbers", and the like) totalled 56 birds!

#### RALLIDS

An AMERICAN COOT on Yarmouth North Hbr. on Dec. 18 (H&HH) evidently did not stick it out, but one got through winter on Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth. Our only other rallid was a frigid VIRGINIA RAIL on the dunes of Rainbow Haven Beach, Cole Hbr., on Dec. 2 (IAM). However, the occurrence of a Corn Crake in St. Pierre et Miquelon this winter alerts us to future possibilities.

## WINTER SHOREBIRDS

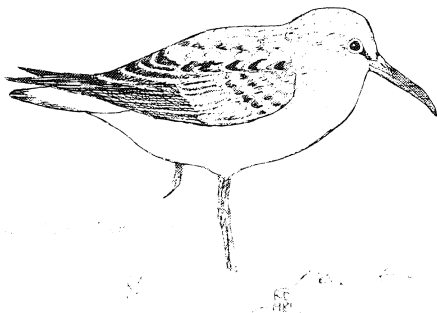
Apart from the CBC (q.v. for this and other species) the only records of the BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER are 11 in the Halifax area, Nov. 18 (BM) and 7 at Cherry Hill, where none overwintered, Nov. 26 (SJF). Two late LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER were at Pembroke Beach, Nov. 1 (HH). KILLDEER calls from a field near the poultry farm at Canard, Jan. 21 and 31 were thought not to be from a starling (DK **fide** JWW).

While on the subject of plovers--last fall's COMMON RINGED PLOVER, discussed elsewhere in this issue, was found on Seal Is., not on Sable Is., as previously reported.

Lingering RUDDY TURNSTONES were at Hemeon's Hd., Dec. 2 (DHY) and Mid. W. Pubnico, Dec. 24 (RSd'E); one well on its way to overwintering was at Louisbourg, Feb. 27 (CM). About 15 RED KNOTS were present in the period from Nov. 2 to Dec. 3 (BLD,BM,DHY). There were still 50-60 SANDERLINGS at Pembroke Beach, Nov. 1 (HH) and, on the north shore, still 8 Nov. 21 at Black Pt., Pictou Co. (MO), but the last 5 had departed from Cherry Hill by month's end and there were only 2 on Sable Is., Dec. 16, the latest reported (IAM). The only report of the WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER was of 90 at Grand Pre, Nov. 2 (BLF). The single report of the PECTORAL SANDPIPER is also of a rather high number, 10 at Cole Hbr., Nov. 18 (BM). Wintering PURPLE SANDPIPERS were well reported: about 100 all told were noted in the Halifax area (CF,BM,IAM,BS), and 25 at Little Hbr., Shel. Co. (DHY). Along the Fundy shore, north of Middleton, 120 were counted Jan. 29 (JGT), while farther east, up the Bay, but still outside the Minas Basin, there were only 10 at Black Rock, Feb. 14 (BE&RGT). It seems this hardy species is gradually forced out of Fundy's eastern arm as the ice build up and eventually covers the rocky ledges. This might explain why none of the 196 at Economy Point in late Dec. could be found there in late Feb. (FS). At Lr. W. Pubnico, 14 on Jan. 22 are noteworthy as RSd'Es first record for the Pubnico Peninsula. There were still 30 DUNLIN at Grand Pre, Nov. 15 (RG&BET) and one last at Cherry Hill, (Dec. 3 (SJF).

Late December reports of the COMMON SNIBE come from Lr. W. Pubnico (RSd'E) and Loch Lomond, C.B., where last year one was found in mid-Feb. (JM). Later reports are from Little Hbr., Shel. Co., Jan. 11 (DHY) and Allendale Bay ("into Jan."--**fide** DHY). A few AMERICAN WOODCOCK try hard to survive under what are probably impossible conditions. One found on the Wolfville Ridge, Dec. 9, was in the same place Dec. 17 and Jan. 1, beside a spring-fed streamlet four inches wide (BLF); it could not be found Jan. 7 (BLF **et al.**). Another was still present Feb. 22 in the presumably more hospitable confines of the Burnside Industrial Park (LAC). The only other reports, on less extreme dates, are from Hemeon's Hd., Nov. 24, where it is seldom seen, according to DHY and from Lr. W. Pubnico, Dec. 13 (RSd'E).

FS, ed.



## DOVES, OWLS, KINGFISHERS

ROCK DOVES did not seem to do anything of interest this winter. MOURNING DOVES might have been marginally down in numbers, perhaps because of the harsh December weather. Maximum feeder counts on CBI. included up to 6 near Port Morien (A&CMu) and 2 at Big Pond (JM) in Cape Breton. At the other end of the province, up to 20 were at Pubnico (K&DP) and 12 at W. Pubnico (LD), and 35 at Lr. W. Pubnico (JKD), where they have been more common in winter. In between, flocks of 12 to 50 birds were noted at 9 feeders in Yar. Co., Pictou Co., Kings Co., and around Halifax-Dartmouth.

The most interesting owl record was a COMMON BARN OWL found dead in early December near Mushaboom, Hfx. Co., and turned over to the Nova Scotia Museum.

There were reports of 8 scattered GREAT HORNED OWLS. The most interesting was from JWW concerning Cyril Coldwell's half-tame female (raised at Shubenacadie and released by Cyril). Last year she brought off her first undisputable owlets away from Cyril's home. This year, as she has in the past, she is using a nest platform in a tree on his front lawn. She sat for a couple of days in mid-February, then evidently began incubating on Feb. 18--her earliest on record. As I noted in the July 1988 issue, it seems that these owls may take some years to become fully competent mothers. Our only reports of SNOWY OWL were a bird on Devil's Is., Halifax Hbr., in late January (sev. obs.) and one into February on Sable Is. (AM). Reports of 8 BARRED OWLS had no tales attached. SHORT-EARED OWLS were definitely about in greater numbers this winter. There were up to 2 around Grand Pré in December, 2 at Glace Bay through February, 2 around Hartlen's Pt. and Cole Hbr. through the period (all by sev. obs.), one at Cherry Hill Beach on Feb. 13 (JGT), another off and on until February at Hemeon's Head (DHY), and 2 at Cranberry Head, Yar. Co., on Jan. 13 (GCr). A dead one was found on Sable Is. in Dec., along with a more unexpected dead BOREAL OWL (AM). Three N. SAW-WHET OWLS, one calling, were noted in late Jan. and early Feb. (FLL,BD,AV). One that had been banded on Oct. 1 by the Acadian group on Bon Portage Is., was recaptured on Nov. 12 at Cape May, N.J.: the little fellows go far and fast, it seems.

Individual BELTED KINGFISHERS were noted on C.B.I. at Big Pond on Dec. 26, Ben Eoin Beach on Jan. 5 (both JM), and near Sydney on Jan. 24-28 (A&CMu). These outclassed the only mainland reports of one near E. LaHave on Dec. 23 (DF,BS) and another in Dartmouth on Feb. 12-13 (**vide** JM).

## WOODPECKERS

Two RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS, one imm. in Dartmouth in late December and another ad. in Halifax in mid-January, were reported to FLL and JK, but not seen by others. A total of some 32 DOWNY WOODPECKERS from 14 reporters was about normal. About 17 HAIRY WOODPECKERS from 11 observers was perhaps a little low. BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS reports were of 1 in January near Inverness (**vide** RS), a male at Cox L., Hfx. Co. on Jan. 7 (KNK), a male and a female at White's L., Hfx. Co., in late January and early February (BMa), and 1 on N. Range, Digby Co., on Dec. 27. (**vide** JWW). Single N. FLICKERS were reported from Cherry Hill through December (SJF) at Overton and Yarmouth in mid-December (H&HH), at Grafton L. in early January (RJB), and (all **vide** JWW) at Starr's Pt. on Jan. 20, Kingsport on Jan. 29, Berwick on Feb. 4-5, and at a feeder near Tatamagouche on Feb. 1-9; a good show for a severe winter. A total of some 15-20 PILEATED WOODPECKERS from 9 reporters was about average for recent years. One or 2 fed upon a "seed bell" from time to time in Yarmouth (TDM).

## FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

Not surprisingly, there have been no winter reports of FLYCATCHERS.

There was no lack of HORNED LARKS, however. Larger flocks included 30 in the Canning area, Dec. 11 (JWW), 40 at Grand Pré, Jan. 31 (JCT), 100 at Melanson, Feb. 1 (BBT), 35+ at Sheffield Mills, Feb. 8 (DWP,JAP) and several flocks along the Canard Valley in late Feb. (JWW).

## JAYS TO GNATCATCHERS

GRAY JAYS were reported sporadically from one end of the province to the other. Two were seen on Nov. 3 by H&HH, picking at a road-killed porcupine carcass in Shel. Co., and one other near the same area on Jan. 12. Two were on Pubnico Point, Jan. 8 (RSD), and moving a few hundred km N.E., two were in Wilmot on Jan. 7 (RGT) and 10-15 in several groups hung around the warden's office and maintenance area at Maitland Bridge for handouts (RJB). At the other end of the province, a pair was seen on Feb. 8 in Big Pond, C.B. (JM), one of the birds carrying nesting material. This species can be a very early nester.

Nearly all the BLUE JAY reports, not surprisingly, were from feeders. The pattern seemed to be consistent all over the province, with groups of 6-12 present from late November through to late February at many feeders (DP, KHP, DWP, JAP, BS, TDM, DF, RGT, BET, LD). RBS mentioned an abundance on the Broad Cove and Hants West CBC (NOT all at feeders) and WP mentioned one in the Liscombe Game sanctuary, miles from any feeder. They do live in the woods too! One snatched up an injured American Goldfinch at L&PP's feeder, and JCT noted that "Sharpies" had taken at least two at her feeder. Numbers and distribution seemed similar to last winter.

A few more people sent in AMERICAN CROW reports this year. The largest number reported was 2200 at Grand Pré on Dec. 9 (BMA). MO reported numbers "about normal" and several observers (DF, BS, JKD) noted crows coming to feeders. MT (**fide** JWW) saw a pair mating on Jan. 31. There were also scattered COMMON RAVEN reports, including 40 at the West Hants Landfill Site, Dec. 31 (RBS) and not unexpectedly, several reports of overwinter displaying and nesting behavior. The Halifax EURASIAN JACKDAW was reported this winter on Nov. 13 by BLF **et al.** and the following weekend by MT and JWW.

Eighteen different people reported BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES this winter, and I will attempt to summarize the sometimes detailed reports. Nearly all were at feeders, and many people specifically mentioned them coming to suet. Sometimes there were up to 15 at feeders at once. Reports cover the whole winter so far, and many different areas of the Province. One was singing was singing in Port Williams by Feb 15, and there was a partial albino, with a pink bill, and dark streaked in an otherwise white plumage, also in Port Williams, seen Feb. 25. It seems that BOREAL CHICKADEES also did well this winter, although of course they are far less frequently seen than the Black-caps. Some observers noted mixed flocks, with the Boreals in with Brown Creepers and nuthatches. Eleven were noted by BMA in the Prospect area on Dec. 23. Reports were received from Louisbourg (GCr) through to Overton (HJH), thus covering the whole province.

The RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH situation is similar to that of the Black-capped Chickadee, and rather better than last year. Again, most reports are of birds coming to feeders, usually in ones, twos and threes. The WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH seemed to have had a better winter than last year, although as its habitat is less widespread in Nova Scotia than the Red-breasted, it is less often seen. L&PP reported three at their feeder ("about normal"); a few were seen in Kentville (JCT,RBS) and Wolfville (RB&BET), and along the South Shore (Chester Basin, Petite Riviere/Green Bay (VB,JSC,JLC). Another member of our variably abundant, mixed, boreal forest, roaming winter flocks that seem unusually widely reported this year is the BROWN CREEPER

Like the chickadees and nuthatches, these birds have been seen in small numbers all winter all around the province, and seem more abundant (?better reported) than last winter. L&PP had two coming to bait smeared on a tree trunk, but most reports mention them in the woods in the snow--a characteristic Nova Scotia winter pleasure (BS,RBS,FS,JKD,HJH,IS,MO et al.)

The other species that often associate with these mixed flocks is the GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. This winter was not a bumper year like last year, but numbers and distribution seemed to have closely followed the Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper--ones, twos and threes appearing mostly in the woods and occasionally at feeders. I don't know if these roaming boreal forest species have done particularly well this winter or if they have just been better reported, but CBC information should give a better idea.

The RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, in contrast, is a summer breeder that normally winters well to our south, but a few stragglers are not unexpected. JWW mentions a "probable" in Wolfville, Dec. 3. One came to TDM's backyard in Dayton, Yar. Co. for a few days in mid-Dec., and two very late sightings were from the Dalhousie Campus, Halifax, Jan. 16 (SJF) and Barrington, Feb. 11 (JC).

The only BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER was a late stray seen in Green Bay by the Cohrs, Nov. 18.

#### BLUEBIRDS TO STARLING

A HERMIT THRUSH was coming to a feeder in W. Pubnico, Dec. 13 (JKD) and another was present in Dartmouth 10 days later (JWT). There were no later reports and presumably they did not survive for long. Contrary to popular opinion, at least in Nova Scotia, the appearance of the AMERICAN ROBIN is not the first sign of spring. Small numbers were seen in many locations all winter: 10+ in Wolfville, Nov. 27 (CB), 1 on Sable Island till Jan. 7 (AM), 12 in Tusket, Jan. 15, 30 in Wolfville and 5 in Kentville, Feb. 5, 1 in Economy, Feb. 22 (FS). However, compared to last winter, the numbers seemed a little down.

The EURASIAN REDWING reported in the fall from Sable Island by AM was last seen there Dec. 23.

The fall mini-invasion of NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS left some individuals around well into the winter. One was at Evangeline Beach, Dec. 19 (RGT,BET) around grape vines, 1 was at Cow Bay, Dec. 23 (KAI,MAI), 1 was in downtown Trenton throughout Jan. (MO), 1 was in Glace Bay Jan. 20 (GCr), and 2 were coming to rose bushes in Belevista Ave., Dartmouth all winter. Two or 3 BROWN THRASHERS made it into the winter as well, in the Cohrs' Halifax garden in Dec. and Feb., and Lr. Argyle in Dec. (JKD).

There were no reports of overwintering WATER PIPITS.

The last BOHEMIAN WAXWING invasion was in the winter of 1985-6. This winter has seen another. Reports of large flocks were received from all over the province, including Cape Breton, right from late November through to late February. Some examples included 66 in Durham, Pictou Co., Nov. 18 (MO), 200+ at Bear River, Jan. 3-7 (fide JWW), 322 in Merrit Gibson's yard in Canning, Jan. 7 (JWW), 80+ in Sydney River through most of February (A&CM), 100+ in Halifax, Feb. 1 (BS), 500+ in Wolfville, Feb. 6 (PJA-S), etc. A few CEDAR WAXWINGS were also seen, all in Wolfville, and at times with the Bohemians (PCS).

A number of NORTHERN SHRIKES were reported, all singles, from various locations in Kings Co., throughout December and January (BLF,JCT,MAG), Pembroke Beach, Dec. 15 (GHG), Advocate (KS), Big Pond (JM), etc., for a total of about 20 birds. Several hung around feeders to prey on the "feeder birds".

It is difficult to detect any definite trend in the EUROPEAN STARLING population. For example, MO felt that they were not as numerous as last year in Pictou Co., but

others felt they were more numerous, for example, in the Cow Bay area. TDM noted only occasional visits to the feeder, while DF and BS had multiple birds jammed into theirs. No huge numbers have been reported, but again, CBC information from known and regularly observed roost sites should provide more information.

RBS, ed.

#### VIREOS AND WARBLERS

The record high snowfalls of November, and the record cold of the month of December made for an inhospitable early winter. By the time milder weather arrived in January, it is likely that most of these species had long since departed. Numbers bear this out, with no winter vireos and only six species of warblers, representing about 35 individuals, being reported.

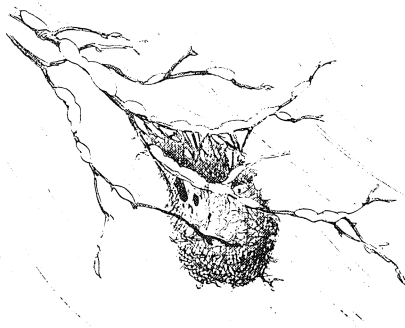
Our only ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER report was of one, Dec. 1, on Rosemount Ave., Halifax (JSC). A NASHVILLE WARBLER straggler was noted at Wolfville, Nov. 25 (JSB).

Six reporters from Overton to Sable Is., sent news of the regularly overwintering YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, down from last year. Six Yellow-rumps were seen in the Cole Hbr. area in Nov.-Dec. (BMa, BS). HGH writes of 2 in the Overton area on Dec. 17, 3 there on Jan. 11 and one at Baccaro, Jan. 13. A few were at Cherry Hill Beach, Dec. 31 (RBS). It was heartening to see that some had survived into February, with 10 at Conrad's Beach, Feb. 11 (CF), and a few persisting on Sable Is. through the month (AM).

PINE WARBLER numbers were down from about 19 last year to a singleton this year, at a Halifax feeder on Dec. 29 and 31 (RBD,HD). DHY got a good look at a straggling PRAIRIE WARBLER which flew into his garage at Little Hbr. Shel. Co. on Nov. 24. BMa closes out our warbler reports with 3 sightings of the PALM WARBLER -- one (western race) at Hartlen's Point and one (eastern) in Halifax, Nov. 18; also one (eastern) was at White's Lake, Hfx. Co., Dec. 16.

At least 3 YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS lingered into late November or early December in the Halifax/Dartmouth area (sev. obs.)

KNK, ed.





## CARDINAL TO SNOW BUNTING

NORTHERN CARDINALS were much less noticed this winter than last with just four records. The lovely male that arrived at Carolyn Yuill's feeder in Wolfville on November 8 was regularly seen until at least Feb. 9. The three other reports were of females, one at Little Hbr., Shel. Co. on Nov. 8, (DHY); Alice d'Entremont reported one at Lr. W. Pubnico from Nov. 20 until Dec. 31; and Michael Olsen recorded one at Antigonish during December and January.

Two BLUE GROSBEAKS, one at a feeder in Sackville and the other at Cow Bay, Hfx. Co., were seen by sev. obs. until Nov. 18.

Lisette d'Entremont was fortunate to have not one, but two DICKCISSELS at her feeders in W. Pubnico during November. The other two reports were at opposite ends of the province, with one at Big Pond, C.B., Dec. 20 (JM) and one at Overton, November 14-17.

Judging from the large number of reports sent in of AMERICAN TREE SPARROW, these birds did well this winter season. The birds seemed to be almost everywhere at feeders or along roadsides. They were seen in small flocks of three to eight with one exception--that being 20 at the Thexton's in Wolfville during December. A few lingering CHIPPING SPARROWS were noted. There were three during November in Wolfville, one at Little Hbr. Shel. Co. on Dec. 1 and 2 in January at Barrington on Jan. 13, and Kentville on Jan. 27. Two over-wintering VESPER SPARROWS were spotted. One was seen by Jim Wolford and Marc Adam near Port Williams on Dec. 16 and the other was at a feeder in Dartmouth from mid-November until Feb. 18 (JWT).

There were very few winter sightings of SAVANNAH SPARROWS with only one or two seen at any one time with the exception of 10 at Rainbow Haven on Jan. 9 (IAM). Other records were from widely scattered areas and most were of birds visiting feeders, including one on Sable Is. (AM). Single SAVANNAH (IPSWICH) SPARROWS were found at Hartlen's Point on Nov. 18 and Cherry Hill Beach on Nov. 26 and Andrew MacFarlane had a number visiting the feeder at Sable Is. all winter. Brier Is. hosted the only GRASSHOPPER SPARROW of the season on Nov. 11 (BLF). During most winters SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS are found in small numbers in select areas of the province, but this year only one sighting was made. A single bird was found at Hartlen's Point, Lun. Co., Jan. 6 and 13 (SJF).

FOX SPARROWS were to be found in the very southern parts of the province. There were four reports of single birds coming regularly to feeders in Overton, Little Hbr and Lr. W. Pubnico from Nov. 26 to Dec. 20. A fifth report was of a bird on Sable Is. on Jan. 9. As with most passerines, SONG SPARROW numbers were noticeably down from previous winters. The weather conditions may have been just too much for many of these birds to over-winter. Sightings, mainly at feeders, were from all parts of the province but only one or two seen at one time. The largest concentration of 12 was noted by Blake Maybank at Hartlen's Point on Nov. 18. One report of LINCOLN'S SPARROW would have been exceptional for the winter reporting period, but this season there are TWO well documented observations. What is even better is that it looks as though both birds could make it through the rest of the winter. The first was one that arrived at the Young's feeder in Little Hbr. on Nov. 27, and was still there on Feb. 12. This was one of seven species of sparrows the Youngs had at their feeder. The second record was one at Sable Is., from Dec. 20 to Jan. 21 (AM). It is unusual to have only three sightings of SWAMP SPARROWS. Although they are rare in winter, they have shown themselves at feeders in past years in numerous locations. The records were in Wolfville, Nov. 4 (JSB) and Hartlen's Point, Feb. 11 (IAM).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were down in numbers this winter. They were only to be found by a fortunate few and only in very small numbers. One or two coming to feeders in Wolfville, Pubnico and Dayton, Yar. Co. were typical of what this winter allowed. Bev Sarty found five at Purcell's Cove on Jan. 26 and 4 at Seabright on Feb. 22, but these small groups appeared to be pleasant exceptions. DARK-EYED JUNCOS numbered well below previous years even though a few feeders in widely separated areas attracted up to 35 birds. As diminished as the previous sparrow species were all winter, it seems that LAPLAND LONGSPURS have never been as easy to find. There were

reports of up to 84 at Grand Pré in November and still 52 there in February. Other reports of smaller numbers came from Rainbow Haven, Bass River, Prospect, Sand Lake and Amherst. SNOW BUNTINGS were the most reported birds in this section. There were over fifty reports of sightings from enormous flocks at Grand Pré to single birds coming regularly to feeders in other areas. Spectacular flocks of one thousand or more were seen regularly at Grand Pré and Canard Valley throughout January. Bernard Forsythe witnessed a single flock of **thousands** drifting away after being disturbed by a Harrier on Nov. 25.

#### ICTERIDS

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS were well reported, more so than normal. A large group of thirty was seen on Brier Island, Dec. 19 to Feb. 18 (RBS). During January and February there were numerous sightings of single and small groups of from 7 to 12 visiting feeders from Big Pond, C.B. to various locations in Yar. Co. Unless you are fortunate enough to hear the call note of a MEADOWLARK in the winter in Nova Scotia it is virtually impossible to tell whether the bird was an eastern or western variety unless in the hand. Two of these unknowns were found this season. The first was on Nov. 15 near Wolfville (RGT, BET) and the second at Cherry Hill Beach on Dec. 3 (SJF). A YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD was seen in Purcell's Cove, Halifax, until Dec. 25, but was missed on CBC day. RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were reported from four areas and totalled five birds. There were 2 in Pubnico and 1 in Sackville during November, one in Barrington on Jan. 7-8 and one from Feb. 12-21 at Sand Lake. COMMON GRACKLES were seen in small isolated flocks in Halifax, Annapolis, Digby and Yarmouth Counties. The largest flock of "feeder regulars" was 30 at the Purchases in Dartmouth. The single bird on Brier Is., Feb. 18 was equipped with a "crossbill" type bill which appeared not to hinder its efforts to secure seeds (RBS).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were well reported in all areas of the province in all four months. There were over 100 at Dayton, Yar. Co. all winter (TDM); and up to 70 at Dartmouth in early Jan. (JAP). Smaller groups of 10-35 were found from Pictou to the southern counties. A NORTHERN ORIOLE was found at W. Pubnico on Nov. 5 and 6 (LD) and another sighting of possibly the same bird came from Pubnico Head on Dec. 15 (DP,KHP).

#### WINTER FINCHES TO HOUSE SPARROW

It was a good winter for PINE GROSBEAKS as sightings were regular and from all areas of the province. Interestingly, many observers noted that flocks contained mostly adult males which is not usual. All but three records were in November, December or February with the January sightings being from the very southern areas of the province. PURPLE FINCHES were, to say the very least, scarce. During late fall they were fairly common but by the first part of November they had virtually disappeared. There were two records of a total of three birds in December in the Valley. January records of 14 in total included 8 in Wolfville, Jan. 24-27 (JWW,BMa). Hubert Hall writes that the two "purples" that visited his feeder on January 12, were the first he'd had in ten years. Six HOUSE FINCHES, a male and five females were discovered in Yarmouth town on December 6 (HGH,HJH). In the Valley, a single male was a regular visitor at a feeder in Port Williams from November to February and an orange variant arrived to join it there late in February (**fide** JWW).

RED CROSSBILLS were very uncommon. There was one report of 12 seen just east of Grand Pré by Eric Muntz and a single bird was observed at Liscomb on Jan. 14 (BP,WP). After the deluge of WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS over the last few years their erratic nature has taken them away from Nova Scotia. There were three reports from November to February. They occurred at Graves' Is. (2), along the Fundy shore in Anna. Co., and 10 at Louisbourg on February 7 (GCr). Although it wasn't a "redpoll" winter, there were 15 COMMON REDPOLL sightings from Cape Breton to Yarmouth from December to February. The largest flock was 120 seen over the west light on Brier Is., Dec. 19. As well, a flock of 70 was seen at Westport, Brier Is. on Feb. 18. All other reports were of one to three coming very irregularly to feeders in widely separated areas.

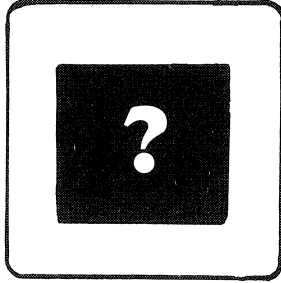
Squabbling, noisy flocks of PINE SISKINS were something that would have had to be conjured from imagination as this winter two birds at a feeder even for a day would have proved to be a most notable record. Most records, from Pictou to Yarmouth were of single birds making one day visits to feeders generally in company with our next species. The general consensus from all reports is that it wasn't a spectacular winter for AMERICAN GOLDFINCH either, although there have been years when there were fewer. Reports were from all but the northern and Cape Breton areas. Flocks of 15 to 60 visiting feeders were fairly common all winter in the Annapolis Valley and Halifax County areas. A large flock of 100 were seen in Wolfville on Jan. 1 (*fide* FWW) and over 60 at the Purchases feeder in Dartmouth on Jan. 11. Many people sent reports of EVENING GROSBEAKS but almost all had the message that these birds were well below normal numbers. The birds that descended on feeders rarely stayed long nor ever returned again. Some notable numbers include 100 in both Queensland and Glace Bay in late November (DF,BS,EM), 75 on Dec. 3 at Lr. W. Pubnico (RSD). By mid-December all locations experienced a dramatic decrease and remained low through to February.

It may be that because there were so few birds to watch at the feeders this winter that HOUSE SPARROWS received more attention and consequently were reported by more people than I've ever experienced. Although there are still a few observers noting declining numbers, encouragingly most now are indicating a definite increase. Keith Keddy of Hammond's Plains writes, "This is the first winter for several years that I have had a stable House Sparrow flock at my feeders. They are not unwelcome--they are survivors in a hostile world!"

DAC, ed.



Bruce Veinotte attracted Snow Buntings to his feeder near Bridgewater in December, and had them for weeks as welcome guests.

SLIDE COLLECTION

The executive wish to convey their thanks to Bill Caudle who has been the custodian and administrator of the Slide Collection for the past several years.

The position is now filled by Milton Gregg, who will be publishing lists of most wanted bird photographs in Nova Scotia Birds from time to time. To begin with we need:

CROWS, RAVENS and WARBLERS--particularly close-ups

Should you have a "super slide" you are loath to part with, we can have it copied and returned to you.

All donations of all bird slides are welcome. Members are reminded that all or part of the collection may be borrowed free of charge. Requests, donations or any queries about the collection should be directed to

Milton Gregg  
7007 Fielding Avenue  
Halifax, N.S.  
B3L 2H1

Phone: 454-0187.

**ERRATUM:** Photograph of Killdeer on page 58 of the January 1990 issue should have been credited to Alan Millward.

## A COMMON RINGED PLOVER IN NOVA SCOTIA

with notes on its identification.

Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Fulton Lavender and Blake Maybank.

In mid-afternoon of 7 October 1989, we were walking on the high beach on the west side of Seal Island, when we spotted a small, motionless plover below us at the edge of the island's major pond. It stayed at ranges as close as 7-10 m for several minutes of study; probably it was somewhat cowed by the numbers of Merlins and Peregrines about that day.

Our immediate impression was that this was unlike any Semipalmated Plover we had ever seen. It was a juvenile, noticeably large for a Semipalmated Plover (we felt able to judge this at such short range), and with a particularly long bill. Its shape also seemed different; we agreed that it had a more blocky head, and had a very long wing extension. Although its breast band was complete and quite wide at the base, it appeared narrowed and broken when the bird maintained its crouched position. Its face patch was dark, and it seemed to have only a small amount of white above the eye. Its back seemed distinctly grayer in tone than those of juvenile Semipalmated Plovers. Its crown was particularly pale and the white of its forehead did not seem so sharply demarcated as in young Semipalmateds. Our initial belief was that the bird was indeed a Ringed Plover and, fortunately, a few photographs were taken before further debate on its identity.

Although we all knew that toe webbing in the Ringed and Semipalmated Plovers differed, we proved lamentably ignorant of precise differences to look for. In fairness, most field guides are uninformative. Farrand (1983) does not mention toe webs; the National Geographic Society (1987) guide states that the "webbing between the toes is less extensive"; Robins *et al.* (1983) has it with a "lack of webs on toes". Only Peterson (1980) has it right, noting "the lack of basal webs between the inner and middle toes". Of course more weighty works, like Cramp (1983) and Godfrey (1986), and the specialized shorebird guides by Chandler (1986), Hayward *et al.* (1983) and Prater *et al.* (1977) stress the real "in hand" difference.

Because our bird was standing close to and below us with feet spread on a smooth cobblestone, we were all able to agree from several viewing angles (with 10X binoculars and 20X 'scope) that it had small but distinct webs between the middle and outer toes, and none whatever between the middle and inner toes. Unfortunately, our "knowledge" impeded at this point, for this seemed to us to denote "semipalmated". Thus, instead of giving the bird further study and attempting closer photographs, we decided to flush it to hear its call notes.

This too led to bad judgement. We were aware of the mellow flight call of the Ringed Plover, rendered as "tooli" or "too-i" in a number of sources, as an important point of difference from the Semipalmated's sharper "chu-wi", or chee-wit". Upon flying off, our bird produced a short, rather sharp alarm note, which sounded to us like "krip" or "Killik". More detailed accounts of the species (e.g. Cramp and Simmons 1977) give various renditions of the shorter, often higher pitched alarm calls. Anthony McGeehan (in litt.) renders this call as "'prpp', a short, rolling note reminiscent of turnstone". The lack of mellow quality in our bird's call, together with our confusion about toe webs, left us feeling that we had been studying an unusual Semipalmated Plover. However, our close observations and photographs show that our initial judgements were correct.

A few slides, taken with fast film in rather poor light, clearly show the relatively long bill, blocky head, and very long wing extension (see photos). There is no hint of an orbital ring, said in recent accounts to be absent in young Ringed but present in young Semipalmated Plovers (Chandler 1987,1989). One slide shows a feature missed in the field-- the backs of the legs are bright orange, unlike the duller yellow on young Semipalmateds. The duller leg color of a vagrant juvenile Semipalmated in England is alluded to by Dukes (1980).

The longer bill, broader breast band, more extensive white on the head, and the

above-mentioned call note are the usual field guide distinctions given for identifying adult Ringed Plovers. We believe that the following features deserve more attention, especially for picking out juvenile Ringed Plovers from among groups of Semipalmateds.

1. The paleness and grayness of the back compared with the Semipalmated's is rarely mentioned as a distinction. We were particularly struck by the pale gray feather edgings of the juvenile coverts. On juvenile Semipalmateds, the ground colour appears darker and warmer in tone and the feather edgings seem more buffy. Paleness is mentioned in the only other documented eastern North American records outside the breeding grounds: two adults seen by B. Mactavish in Newfoundland in late August and September 1980 (Vickery 1981) and a bird seen by J. and S. Cohrs and S. Fullerton on Cherry Hill Beach, N. S., in early November 1985 (Spalding 1986). The darker back of the first recorded Semipalmated Plover in Britain was noted by Dukes (1980). The gray tone of the Ringed Plover is also evident in paintings in Cramp and Simons (1977, plate 12, fig. 4) and, most pertinently, in the colour photograph of a juvenile on Baffin Island in Renaud *et al.* (1981, p. 126). A picture supplied by Anthony McGeehan (printed here) is of a bird that appears even grayer than ours.

The difference in tone of the back feathers may be deepseated, judging from photographs of downy young from Baffin Island (Smith 1969), showing *C. hiaticula* as strikingly paler than *C. semipalmatus*. (Smith argued from putative mixed broods that a single gene controls "not only toe-webbing, but also size, plumage pattern, and direction of migration, which is a great deal", and that these are a single, "polymorphic species". This seemingly unlikely conclusion is in great need of further study.)

2. The wing extension on our bird considerably exceeded that of juvenile Semipalmated Plovers in our experience (see difference in accompanying photos). One would like to know how variable this is. Wing chords of the Ringed Plover average almost 1 cm (7%) longer, but tails only about 3 mm (4%) longer, than those of the Semipalmated (measurements in Cramp *et al.* 1983). Do juveniles of the long-distance migrants from Arctic Canada have particularly long wings?

3. Although bill length has been mentioned as a difference by others, Anthony McGeehan (in litt.) has drawn attention to the shape of the lower mandible--generally flatter in the Ringed Plover, and upswept from the gonys in the Semipalmated, giving the latter a more conical bill. This difference is clearly shown in the accompanying pictures.

4. The apparent lack of orbital ring in photos of our bird support the observations by Chandler (1987, 1989). This feature may prove more useful in the field than the toe-webbing distinction.

We are grateful for comments on the draft Mss by Anthony McGeehan of Bangor, County Down, Ireland, who has studied both species in their normal ranges.

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Figure 1. A juvenile Common Ringed Plover on Seal Island, Oct. 7, 1989. Photo Ian McLaren. In this photo, the bird's neck band is very narrowed because of its hunched pose. Note especially the long, relatively untapered bill, the lack of evident orbital ring, and the long primary extension.

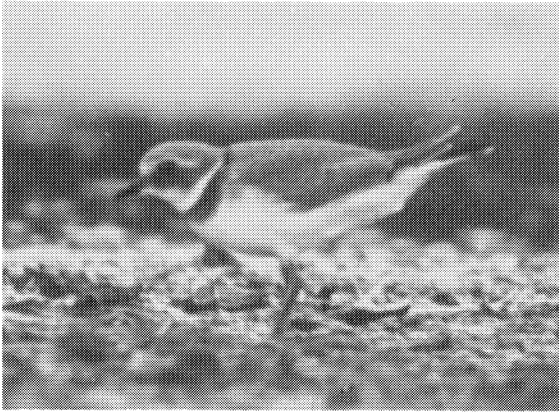


Figure 2. A juvenile Common Ringed Plover, autumn, Ireland. Photo Anthony McGeehan. Note the similar head, bill and body shape to those of the birds in Figure 1.



Figure 3. A juvenile Semipalmated Plover, Hartlen's Point, 14 October 1989. Photo Ian MacLaren. Note short, conical bill, evident orbital ring, and short primary extension.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

How common is albinism in Nova Scotia birds? I have a partly albino junco in a flock of about twenty visiting my feeder, From the neck back it is a normal junco. The bill is pink, the eye dark. Around the bill and on the sides of the head it is white, with a white line going around the neck. It is the same on both sides. An interesting bird!

Sincerely,  
R. McCormick

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

## Excitement In My Back Yard!

I heard a loud bump against my window. I went over to see what had happened. I looked out and saw an immature Sharp-shinned Hawk clutching a Bluejay in his claws! The Bluejay was making a harsh rasping sound. Then the hawk took the Bluejay over to the brook outside my house and drowned him! Then he flew up into the woods and ate him.

From my window I also saw a Red-tailed Hawk try to take a vole who escaped by burrowing under the snow! Another day my dad and I were standing on the porch when a small falcon-like hawk tried to take a Black-capped Chickadee from our feeder. The bird missed the chickadee and flew off too quickly for us to get a good look at him. We think he was a Merlin.

Robin Sherman (9 years)  
Inverness, Nova Scotia

**Editor's Note:** Robin and his father would be interested to know if anyone else has observed such drowning behaviour with regard to Sharp-shinned Hawks and their victims. Apparently this one stood in the brook for some time holding the Bluejay under water.

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

Much as I like winter, it begins to drag a bit in January and February. For the past couple of years I have found myself looking forward to the arrival of **Nova Scotia Birds**, and this year was no exception. Once again I was totally delighted with the January issue, which I read cover-to-cover and back again.

I can't imagine how you accomplish such a professional job for what appears to be a small cost—it must be a labor of love! I know that a job well done has its own rewards, but please know that your hard work is vastly appreciated by me and, I am sure, by all the other members of NSBS.

Just a few minutes thinking about birds seen over the past year is a real tonic for this urban-dweller. The detailed accounts of sightings are very useful in planning expeditions and the forthcoming field trips are always tantalizing. Highlights came quickly to mind, and I happily re-lived a fall canoe trip out to Cape LaHave Beach where the resident Merlin displayed his hunting skills over and over.

Anyway, I want to thank you and your colleagues for doing such a wonderful job and a publication which has literary as well as scientific value.

Warren C. Reed  
Cambridge, Mass. U.S.A.

The Editor Nova Scotia Birds:

David Currie's letter in the January 1990 issue of **Nova Scotia Birds** refers to the use of mist nets to capture birds for research purposes.

It is my belief that some legitimate research is being carried out through the use of these nets but I also believe that some mist netting is used, essentially for the amusement of the netter.

I recall, quite recently, seeing a mist netter place a little Oriole in a small cloth bag. When I enquired as to the purpose of this I was told that his friend wanted to see this species "close up". The bird remained in the bag for upwards of half an hour before the friend arrived to see it.

I will not accept that a legitimate researcher would do such a thing.

The mist net, used in this arbitrary way is nothing more than an avian "drift net", gathering mountains of unneeded data and killing hundreds of birds in the process.

I strongly urge our society through the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Committee to investigate the use of mist nets in Nova Scotia and to report back their findings to our membership through **Nova Scotia Birds**.

Bob Dickie  
Past President,  
Nova Scotia Bird Society

An Open Letter to N.S.B.S. Members:

This is the final year of data collection for the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas, a cooperative five-year venture amongst birdwatchers in all three Maritime provinces started in 1986. Many members of the society have already donated observations they have made of breeding birds in Nova Scotia.

I would like to encourage those who have not already taken part to consider contributing any nesting records they may have for the province going as far back as 1986. More than 800 bird watchers in the Maritimes have already done so. Our aim is to produce an Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces in late 1991 or early 1992. To date we have collected evidence of almost 200 species of birds that breed here, as well as another 20 species that could possibly do so.

Before the Atlas began, we knew that the common species of birds nested almost everywhere in the Maritimes. For those less-than-common species, only a rough idea based on information from many sources was available. Now, after four years of data collection, more than 40,000 observations of breeding birds in Nova Scotia have been sent to the Atlas. For instance, did you know that the Fox Sparrow breeds commonly in Cape Breton Island, but on the mainland only along the Atlantic Coast from the Strait of Canso to St. Margaret's Bay? There is also an isolated population on Bon Portage Island off southwestern Nova Scotia.

However, there are still many species of birds nesting in the province of which we know very little, such as the Whip-Poor-Will and the Black-billed Cuckoo, the Northern Cardinal and the House Finch, the Eastern Bluebird and the Eastern Phoebe to name just a few. The Atlas will gladly accept any and all observations you may have for the above-noted species in Nova Scotia—or any species for that matter. Why not keep a list of nesting birds seen in your area this summer? Tack a piece of paper to the fridge or the bulletin board, or write it on your calendar. At the end of August, send the information to the address below

The important information to record is the species, the date, the location and the kind of breeding evidence noted (eggs, nest with young, young out of the nest, etc.). All who donate will get their name in the final publication, a chance to buy the Atlas at a pre-publication saving, and the satisfaction of knowing you have made a small contribution to understanding our natural heritage of birds.

Brian Dalzell,  
Breeding Bird Atlas,  
1747 Summer Street,  
Halifax, N.S.  
B3H 3A6

#### **WANTED: RHALAROPE RECORDS!**

In the last issue of **Nova Scotia Birds**, I described a "crash" in the numbers of Red and Red-necked Phalaropes staging through the Bay of Fundy--Brier Island, Nova Scotia, and Deer Island, New Brunswick--early in the fall. The Canadian Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will be looking at this during the coming summer.

Part of the investigation will be to repeat the plankton samples I collected in Fundy in the late '70s, to see if there have been any oceanographic changes. Another part is to see if there really has been a decline in phalarope numbers. Could the birds still be here, but in a different feeding area? We will be flying surveys out to Georges Bank to look for them. But we will also be puttering about in small boats, in Fundy and elsewhere.

This is where I need the help of the Nova Scotia Bird Society. Please send me ALL your sightings of phalaropes, anywhere in Atlantic Canada, between the beginning of July and the end of September. I'm particularly interested in records from the Fundy ferries, but ANY sightings at sea will be welcome. Remember that a **Bluenose** record when you DIDN'T see any phalaropes, is just as valuable as one when you did. This goes for trips out to Seal Island, Hertford/Ciboux, and everywhere else.

I don't know what we'll find, but I can promise a report, with full acknowledgments, in the January 1991 edition of **Nova Scotia Birds**.

Dick Brown,  
Canadian Wildlife Service,  
Bedford Institute of Oceanography,  
P.O. Box 1006  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
B2Y 4A2

Office: (902) 426-2578. Home: (902) 457-2285

## BIRDING HOLIDAYS IN BRITAIN

Barbara Hinds

Going to Britain this year? Going to do some birding? To save time finding the hot spots and to get the utmost value for a dollar you might consider spending a week bird watching at one of Britain's Field Study Centres.

Nine centres, with widely different habitats in England and Wales, offer week-end or week-long courses conducted by knowledgeable staff. They are operated by the Field Studies Council, in which membership costs about \$10.00 a year, but membership is not required to join a course.

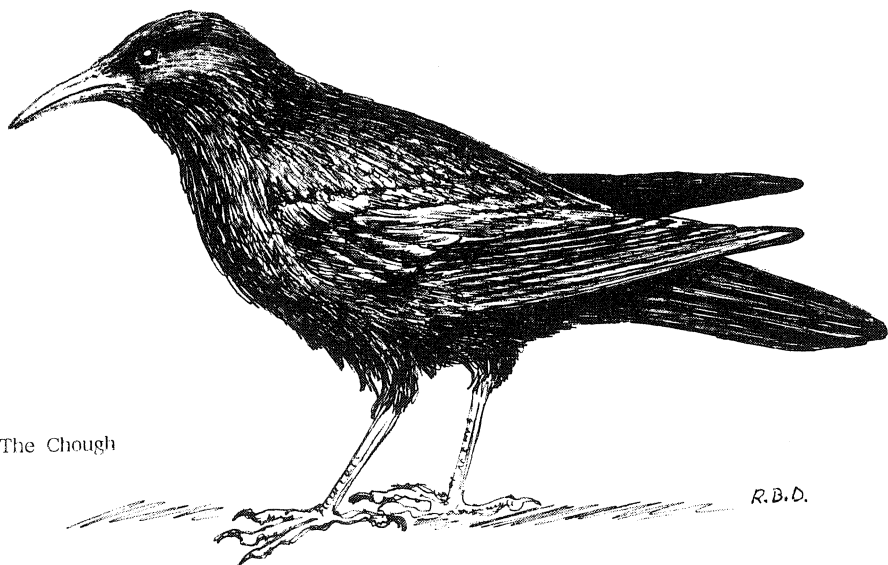
Bed and board with more than you can eat, access to the best birding areas and and transport, cost around \$400. a week. Rain gear and wellingtons can be hired at a small cost at the centres and bird watching parties are always limited in numbers. Everyone gets to see the birds.

Full information on all the varied courses is available from Field Studies Council, Preston Mansford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, England. SY4 1HW.

Each centre is interesting in its own right--several are mansions where slippers are required to protect ancient oak staircases. One centre has some bedrooms in former stables. They include a mill, made famous by the English landscape artist, John Constable; a former vicarage in a beautiful Devonshire village, and a converted military fort where the director of mostly marine studies is a retired extremely nautical naval officer who takes groups about in a former lifeboat to the islands off Wales' rugged coast.

Flatford Mill in Suffolk gives easy access to the farmlands, hedgerows, marshes and mudflat estuaries of the south east coast, and the rare Bearded Reedling (Bearded Tit) nests there.

Dale Fort on a wild headland in Pembrokeshire gives access to Shearwater nesting grounds and the islands of Skomer, Skokholm, Steepholm, Flatholm and Lundy. The rare Chough is a specialty on local cliffs.



The Chough

Juniper Hall in Surrey, within an hour of London, offers elegance indoors and the famed Dartford Warbler outdoors on Thursley Common where Canadians were stationed in W.W. II. Their faded signposts still stand.

Malham Tarn Field Centre is in a geologically fascinating part of North Yorkshire. The magnificent prehistoric Pennine Way passes through the centre's grounds and strapping hikers are part of the scene, which is immediately recognizable as the setting of the television series, **All Creatures Great and Small**. Long-billed Curlews live here. Slapton Lea in Devonshire gives access to shore and land birds, the swelling hills of Dartmoor and quiet combs where Barn Owls nest and hunt at dawn or dusk.

Preston Montford is in the heart of Britain, close to nightingale country in England and Red Kite mountains in Wales. This countryside is the setting of Ellis Peters' "caedfel" series of medieval mystery stories.

Field Centres offer differing degrees of comfort. The staffs include excellent cooks who provide generous servings, and experienced biologists, who conduct the bird courses. Dozens of other subjects can be studied: nature photography and illustration, oil and watercolour techniques, calligraphy, hedgelaying, bookbinding, industrial architecture, weather forecasting, trees, flowers, insects, badgers, the ecology of a cowpat, geology, rural rambles: green lanes to village inns...and so on...

#### **SPECIAL REGIONAL MEETING**

**New Glasgow High School, Albert St.  
Friday, June 15—8:00 p.m.**

#### **Speakers**

Norm Seymour: Biology, St. Francis University

Harry Brennan: Noted Pictou County bird expert

Directions: Take Exit 25 off Trans Canada Highway, turn toward New Glasgow. Travel about 2 km, turn right on Marsh St (1st major intersection after the Post Office). Go up Marsh St. about 7 km and turn left on Albert St.—before the Peter Pan Motel. The school is about 5 km down Albert St.

#### **AND**

**SPECIAL FIELD TRIP**  
Saturday, June 16—7:00 a.m.

Meet in the parking lot, Highland Square Mall, off Exit 23, Trans Canada Highway. Leaders: Michael Olsen (h. 485-5921) and Harry Brennan. No reservations necessary for this.

**EVERYONE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**



Bruce Vienotte's respectable gathering of 5 Bald Eagles behind his property near Bridgewater, is outmatched by the Kings Co. assembly photographed by Richard Stern. There are also several crows and a Red-tail in the tree. Can you spot them?



## LIVING ISLAND

Evelyn M. Richardson

**Editor's Note:**

Bon Portage, a scrap of an island of about a thousand acres, lies off the south coast of Nova Scotia. For some thirty-five years it was the home of Evelyn Richardson and her husband Morrill. There they were keepers of the light; there they raised their family of three; there Evelyn wrote her books and there she discovered the fascination of bird-watching.

Although she is well known as an author, especially of the prize-winning **We Keep a Light**, it is not so widely realized that Evelyn Richardson was a pioneer among bird-watchers in the province. She wrote a book about "her" birds--**Living Island**, published in 1965. Prized by birders as an entrancing description of her birding experiences, it has been out of print for many years, and although eagerly sought, it is rarely found in secondhand bookshops. We have obtained permission of the publishers McGraw-Hill Ryerson, to reprint excerpts from **Living Island** in **Nova Scotia Birds**, and begin with Evelyn's description of how she became "hooked" on birds...

## LIVING ISLAND

If you're a lightkeeping family and the only inhabitants of an offshore island, your visitors are apt to belong to one of three classes: seamen taking refuge from storm or accident, relatives and friends who so much want to see you that they face the awkward boat-trip and lack of mainland amenities, and strangers who are drawn to islands and what islands offer. During our years on Bon Portage, Morrill and I have enjoyed many guests from each of these categories and, almost without exception, they have widened and enriched our might-well-be circumscribed and stinted life. No visit brought us more returns than that of Dr. Harrison Lewis and his wife Laura, who in 1954, spent two foggy May days with us, and took us for our first bird-watching walk.

It wasn't a long walk, or into unexplored territory, merely a stroll around the edge of our mowing-field, where tangled softwoods, alders and underbrush press close against the fence. The first week in May was too early for the full tide of spring migration, yet that walk--I can't quite use the cliché "opened a new world to me," but I can say it revealed new aspects of the island world I had thought I knew thoroughly, and it led to a deepened and broader appreciation of our relation to its various natural manifestations.

For one thing, it introduced me to birds as seen through binoculars. Although Morrill voices skepticism when the subject arises and laps up the sympathetic glances of other husbands with gift-bestowing wives, he knows in his heart that I was innocent of any sneaky stratagem when I gave him the binoculars. There had always been an old government-issue pair in the lighthouse lantern, but these could not be carried afield and had long refused to focus properly. When my duck-shooting brother visited us with field-glasses about his neck and sang their praises as a hunting aid, I knew just what to give Morrill that Christmas. He was as pleased as I could wish, and made much use of his gift during the winter, but with the spring came the bird-watching Lewises and soon I was slipping on the binoculars before stepping outdoors, even to the clothesline; before long when Morrill said, "Mind if I borrow your glasses?" neither of us remembered to smile.

On that May afternoon Morrill and I were such ignorant bird observers that neither of us took the binoculars, and our guests were forced to share theirs. I blush for this now, but I could not have believed how essential glasses are to seeing birds. Warblers, apart from the yellow "alder birds" which nested among the garden bushes, had hitherto been only tantalizing flashes among the trees. That day I learned the little parula's name and saw in clear detail the bright yellow breast and throat, the white-barred blue-grey wings, the back's dull gold triangle against the soft blue coat. The parula is shy but, with lips against the back of his hand, Dr. Lewis imitated its buzzy little trill and coaxed it out to a branch tip where I could feast my eyes upon it. I learned that the handsome bird with black bib and olive-green back was the "black-throated green", a name which may lack imagination but is certainly not misleading. Swooping myrtle warblers, in their striking blue-grey and white, flashed their yellow rump-patches, then alighting, hid them with a speed to fool the eye. Along the fence bottom, brown-capped palm warblers wagged saucy tails as they wound in and out among the bushes.

We watched chickadees playing "upside-down and right-side-up" and I found that our trees held two species--the energetic happy-go-lucky black-capped and the smaller, softer-voiced brown-capped, or boreal. No doubt there were sparrows and robins and juncos about that day, but I had no eyes for these old acquaintances, only for the bright and vivacious warblers.

Because of the dull weather, the early date, and the fact that most of the birds present would not stake out nesting territory here but would be moving on, we heard no more than a sample of the jubilant chorus which each spring fills the trees and rolls out across the fields; but the single songs and the various call notes each added its audible charm to the eye-delighting colours.

Next morning Dr. Lewis made a pre-breakfast walk around the island and returned elated at having identified a field sparrow, a species then unrecorded for Nova Scotia. I could share some of his satisfaction for, although I couldn't yet realize the excitement of having "first" to report, I was already "hooked" as a bird watcher.



Later, Dr. Lewis proved to have not only the knowledge but the patience to answer my question-crammed letters and to make allowances for the first over-enthusiastic reports I sent for his monthly "Outdoor Chat" in the county newspaper. The correspondence elicited by the column soon revealed that this area had many stray birds hitherto unlisted for Nova Scotia, as well as an unsuspected number of bird lovers. I soon felt myself one of a goodly and growing company.

In my reading, I began to recognize how closely observed birds had been through the ages and how lovingly recorded, how crowded are our written language and our folk sayings with references to them. Since the lighthouse is open to the public and a trip from the mainland offers an enjoyable fine weather boatripe, summer brings many casual visitors to Bon Portage. I now noticed how many of these carried binoculars and swung them up at the flash of a wing. Out of my new awareness, I mentioned to Dr. Lewis that there seemed to be an inherent love for birds in many people who had never studied them, and who showed little or no interest in any other wildlife.

His answer has stayed with me. "Well, the noted American ornithologist, Dr. Frank Chapman, claimed 'Every man is born with a bird in his heart.'" Though I fear human behaviour does not always bear this out, it is a happy thought. And it is in my heart that I hold my birds. For, although I keep (rather haphazard) records, I have no desire to make an intellectual or scientific study of these fellow-islanders.

I met the nature-loving Lewises at what was no doubt a "psychological moment." In such stories as I've read of island life, the people always have time to roam the beaches and woods, or sit on a quiet shore and search their souls. Glances at the surf as I hung out my wash, delight in birds and flowers and the pungent mixture of sea air and balsam as I hurried to or from the boat slip, were relished indeed, but snatched between always pressing duties. A stroll along the shore or a few minutes to sit and watch the sea were highlights enjoyed rarely and oftenest with visiting friends. Now, after long years of shared family effort, Betty June's marriage the preceding fall had meant the last of our children was gone from the lighthouse home; Morrill no longer needed my help in gardens, field and barn, while island life offered few opportunities to embrace new spheres of service. I don't mean I had time heavy on my hands. Writing had proved a sideline that would absorb more hours than I could garner on an island where most labour-saving devices were denied me. But with no one to urge "Let's go for a walk, Mum" and no incentive for me to set out alone, I was sticking too close to the house and losing touch with the island's changing shores and wooded paths. In the death of our son I had suffered a wound which was taking more time to close than is generally conceded; I needed the healing found in the peaceful aspects of nature. The possibility of seeing new birds and the delight in watching old friends brought me outdoors again. With eyes opened to birds, I found my aroused perception extending to long-accepted mosses and shrubs and wildflowers, to shells and seaweeds and rocks. This all led to fascinating, tantalizing and would-be time-consuming studies. I often remind myself of A. A. Milne's shipwrecked sailor (beloved by my children) who, distracted by multitudinous and pressing demands, ended by ignoring them all to "bask on the shingle wrapped up in a shawl." Overwhelmed by prodigal nature, I sometimes sit down and just bask, letting myself become an unquesting part of surrounding creation, with the sun on my body, the sea and birdsong in my ears, the scents of trees and blossoms flowing across me. This does nothing to decrease my ignorance and curiosity but I find it is, to use an old-fashioned phrase, "good for my soul." And always I come back to birds as the centre of the expanding circle of interests.

I soon recognized that I was fortunate, not only in having Dr. Lewis as mentor, but also in the position and topography of my home. Bon Portage lies three miles off the southwestern tip of Nova Scotia and approximately two hundred miles due east of Portland, Maine. Thus it is on the migration route for birds following the Atlantic seaboard to their nesting grounds, and for the same birds returning south in the fall. Because of its formation and cover, it offers suitable conditions and foods for various species of birds; many nest here, others tarry for appreciable periods. The island also lies in the path of Caribbean storms which sweep up the coast and, reaching this latitude, swing seaward off the bulging land mass. Many strays are carried here in the upper currents of such storms, and I like to think of Bon Portage welcoming these wayworn travellers even while wind and sea are battering it. These rare visitors drop

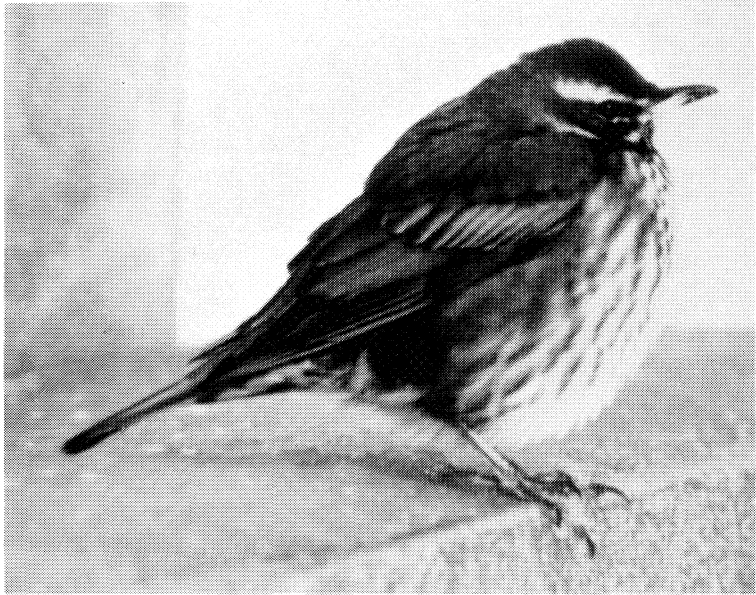
#### PHOTOGRAPHIC PICKS OF THE YEAR

Surely an outstanding find for any year was the **REDWING**, photographed by Andrew MacFarlane on the front step of the meteorological station on Sable Islands on Dec. 1, 1989. First seen on Nov. 25, the bird remained until at least Dec. 23. It was a first for Nova Scotia. The only other records for North America are an old one from New York and four birds that have turned up in more recent years in Newfoundland. The outstanding slide reveals, from the density of its breast spots and its leg colour, that this individual was of the race nesting in Iceland and the Faroe Islands, and not from Europe proper. This is as expected, although individuals of the European race have turned up in West Greenland.

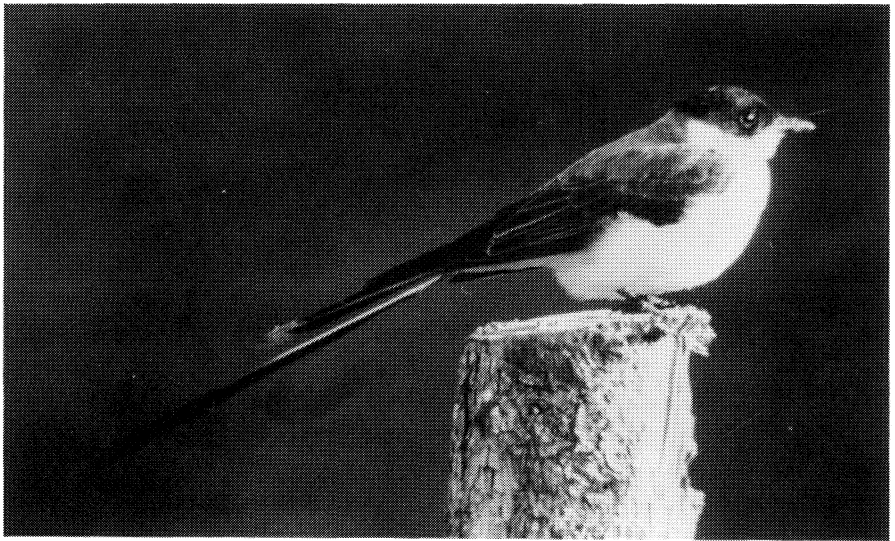
Almost as exciting was Nova Scotia's fourth **FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER**, which arrived on October 29, on the property of Maureen Mills of Apple River, Cum. Co. Thoughtfully, she reported it to the Nova Scotia Museum, and the rush was on. Among several lucky birders to see it next day, Blake Maybank obtained slides of the elegant South American bird. It disappeared late that day. Elsewhere in this issue, there is a picture by Stuart Tingley with a caption comment on the probable origin of this individual from the migratory population nesting in southern South America.

The next page might be viewed as a plug for the upcoming, final field season of the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas. Through it, we have found that **Eastern bluebirds** are more widespread than previously thought, with at least a half-dozen confirmed nesting in Nova Scotia and lots more in New Brunswick. The photograph is of the male of a pair nesting in Pauline Parker's back yard at Urbania last summer, taken by Blake Maybank.

Blake Maybank also supplied the slide of a **WILSON'S WARBLER**, mouth full of insects, wings spread in mild agitation. This, in Atlas parlance is a solid "AY"--a bird clearly attending young, and fully confirmed as a breeding species. If any of you haven't had the pleasure of "ticking" large numbers of AYs on a cool early morning in early July, try to join the game this summer. It's fun, and the data will be very valuable in the Atlas to be published in 1991.



REDWING      ANDREW MACFARLANE



FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER      BLAKE MAYBANK



EASTERN BLUEBIRD      BLAKE MAYBANK



WILSON'S WARBLER      BLAKE MAYBANK



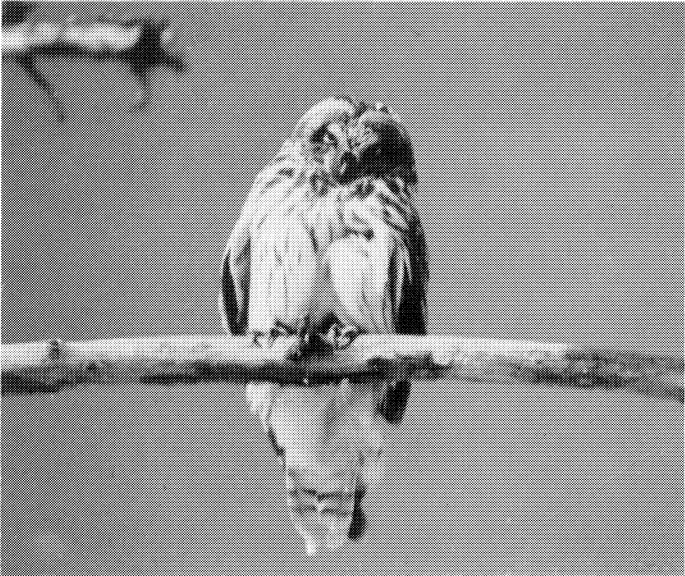
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON    BEV SARTY



RUDDY TURNSTONE    SHIRLEY COHRS



RED-SHOULDERED HAWK      RICHARD STERN



SHORT-EARED OWL      IAN McLAREN

Bev Sarty obtained a sharp slide of an alert but surprisingly approachable **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON** at North Stonehurst, Lun. Co., on July 23 last summer. Although it is almost as regular here as its Black-crowned relative, it is strictly a visitor, seldom breeding north of the southern United States.

Shirley Cohrs' photograph of a preening **RUDDY TURNSTONE** might have been presented as an identification challenge. Her slide is one of a series taken on an August day at Petite Riviere. The bird became increasingly adjusted to her presence and finally ended up undergoing its rather bizarre contortions virtually at her feet.

The last page contains two raptors that were of some note this winter. Richard Stern's photograph of the near-adult **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** frequenting Kentville this winter shows clearly two field marks of this bird--its evenly coloured, rather pale head feathering and its checkered wing pattern. The tail bars are evident on other slides. This is the only individual known to have wintered in Nova Scotia, discounting an emaciated corpse found in Shelburne Co. on March 1, 1975.

You will read in the seasonal report that **SHORT-EARED OWLS** were around in some numbers this winter, and I have learned that the same was true in Newfoundland. Did they come from afar? No one turned in a photo of one of these owls this winter, so I have taken the liberty of including one that I photographed many years ago in Montreal. I hope that, regardless of its origin, the picture speaks for itself.

Ian McLaren  
Photographic Editor

exhausted out of the fog and rain as the skies begin to clear. How does the island look to them as they glimpse its trees and fields beneath their weary wings?

As seen by humans and from mainland Shag Harbour, the nearest village, Bon Portage stretches more than two miles along the western horizon. It appears too low in the water to be altogether seaworthy, yet it successfully breaks the wild westerlies from the Sound, as the three miles of intervening water is called. Even on the finest day the long shore wears a white ruffle of surf, and the island has a look of braced endurance against the sea's harassments, of self-containment and remoteness from mainland concerns. Its low centre is hidden behind a seawall\* of bleached rocks, while the slightly higher ends are clothed in ragged black trees. Only the southern tip shows signs of habitation: an emerald field, a cluster of low buildings, and a white lighthouse watching seaward where the unbroken Atlantic rolls to the New England shore.

Because the island thrusts into the open sea and runs north and south without a bend, it has no anchorage and during bad storms a boat cannot be launched or landed. Half a mile north of the lighthouse the keeper has built a slip that serves his own twenty-foot boat, but the larger fishing boats which bring visitors to the island must tie up at the jone\*\*, a hundred and fifty yards off shore, then transfer their passengers to a skiff and row them to the slip. The shore of tumbled boulders wears no welcome even when high water reduces its width, while at low tide the weeded boulders and the pools at their feet look definitely forbidding. The lighthouse and its inhabitants are hidden behind trees while distant gulls, lifting and falling like snow squalls above the black shore, increase rather than lessen the apparent absence of moving life.

Few visitors attempt to walk the open slippery skids which slope upward from low-water to beach top. Some choose to remain in the skiff which brought them ashore and be pulled up by the tractor-operated winch; others essay to scramble on foot over the weeded rocks beside the slip. Gained by whichever method, the beach proves to be a flattened area of loose cobblestones and pebbles, tossed about by always another storm-pushed tide before they can settle into position.

The granite rocks, with their varied quartz markings and glittering mica flecks, hold considerable beauty, but they are littered with the debris that marks most of the island's shore: broken lobster pots with snarled ropes and painted buoys; derelict trees with snapped and naked branches; strakes from a smashed dory; broken gaffs and oars; dried seaweeds, bleached shells, dried sponges and--even here--a scattering of civilization's rusty cans, plastic containers and grapefruit rinds.

\*\*\*\*\*

Thirty yards south of the slip stands a large boathouse, erected by the Canadian government around 1880. Its wind-grabbed shingles, sagging doors and rotting sills mark it as a victim of some coming gale, and add a touch of desolation. The island's only road was constructed by the government to facilitate the conveyance of supplies between this boathouse and the lightstation and, although Bon Portage's mature hardwoods might be counted on one's fingers, by happy chance the road's entrance is framed by two opposite white birches whose rustling branches mingle overhead. These trees are many-trunked and ragged-barked, more grey than silver and, although their tender spring green and autumn gold make grateful breaks among the ubiquitous softwoods, perhaps only island eyes might find them beautiful.

The hurricanes of recent years have spared no part of Bon Portage but nowhere are their ravages more apparent than along this once tree-lined road. Winds have snapped and uprooted many trees, but the accompanying tides, which broke over the seawall and flooded the land behind it, brine-killed more. Many standing trees are dead, hosts to

\*As used along this coast, "seawall" refers to a rocky barrier thrown up by the sea not a man-made defense.

\*\*Joan? Local name for a large mooring pole; spelling and etymology unknown to me.





EVELYN AND HER LIGHTHOUSE--Photo Bob Brooks

tattered Old Man's Beard and other lichens; they will fall to the next gale. In places the road has sunk below the water level or the bordering swamp; seldom can one walk dryshod across what was a well-drained roadway twenty years ago. But along this road warblers hunt insects among the dead limbs, flycatchers dart across the roadside pools, woodpeckers drum upon the hollow trunks, while swallows wheel overhead.

For almost its entire half-mile the road was once sheltered by thick trees on either side; now, for much of the way, the trees are gone and all trace of the original road is buried under storm-thrown rocks. Yet the land's stubborn resistance against the sea is everywhere evident, for it continues to push a dense mat of shrubs and small trees to the very tide line. Bayberry, sweet gale, alders, lambkill, Labrador tea, wild cotton, blue-flag, reeds and cranberry vines crowd the swamp edges while wild berries and rose bushes, luxuriant ferns and a myriad of small wildflowers and grasses claim the higher ground. Wherever a deadfall or a raspberry thicket gives a seedling some protection, tiny fir and spruce thrust up their green spindles, ready to defy distorting winds and scorching spray. When the island wears summer's rich caparison, its brave opposition looks not altogether hopeless, for then many deep wounds are hidden under green leaves and bright blossoms.

The road wanders through its wooded section, over its stretches of beach rocks and finally runs along a mowing-field fence to a red farm gate. The open field beyond the gate makes up the "point," washed on three sides by the sea. It holds the keeper's dwelling, a fog-alarm building, sheds, a barn and, where the land drops to the sea, the lighthouse with its attached living quarters.

For twenty-six years this lighthouse was home for me, my husband and, during most of those years, for our three children. We were, except when we kept a hired man, the island's sole inhabitants. Before I came to Bon Portage I had seen it and its lighthouse only once, and that from the deck of a passing boat. Nothing I then saw had appealed to me, yet I had scarcely set foot upon its greensward when the island drew me close, baring to me its beauties and its scars. I fell in love with it at once. The slanting lighthouse walls soon enclosed my family and therefore most of my world. The building was old and neglected, inconvenient and exasperating, but I came to love it too.

However, on my infrequent city or inland visits, I often hesitated before explaining to a new acquaintance that my home was an island lighthouse. I learned to expect puzzled or pitying glances and perhaps I smiled secretly, knowing the image my words evoked: a desolate stone tower, skirted in foam and veiled in spray, rising from a circle of battered rocks and leaping seas, with seabirds forlornly wheeling overhead. Actually the Bon Portage lighthouse scarcely presumes to claim kinship with those picture structures which sweep skyward a hundred feet or more and withstand the full onslaught of monstrous seas. Our sloping four-sided wooden tower on its grassy point rises to a modest forty feet or so and, unless great winds are pushing full-moon tides beyond their appointed boundaries, the spray does no more than rime our windows. True, wind and waves come tearing in off hundreds of unbroken miles, but along this coast the bottom is shallow and the island's guardian ledges trip the feet of the intruding billows and send them sprawling well off shore. In a raging welter they roar and toss and fling themselves landward, but are unable to regain their spilled power.

Bon Portage island is more than a wave-washed base for the lighthouse, for it contains between six and seven hundred wildly productive acres. Five acres surrounding the lightstation belong to the Canadian Department of Transport; the rest is ours. In formation the island is long and narrow, its flatness broken only by low knolls or ridges, and it falls into three topographical divisions, each with its appeal to some species of birds.

The southern end, jutting into the Atlantic, bears the brunt of dank fogs, hurricane surf and winter gales. This is the refuge for most storm-driven strays, while many small migrants are temporarily held by the insects of its fields, gardens and trees. Swallows build about barns, bird-houses and swamp trees, or in the clay bank which form the point's eastern side. Warblers nest among its trees. Spotted sandpipers cry and teeter on the margins of the brackish, shallow pond seventy yards from the lighthouse. Until recent years a few black ducks and teal nested near the pond and brought their babies

to its quiet waters for their first swimming lessons.

The savannah which forms the island's waist consists of sphagnum bogs, waterholes and Flag Pond on the shoulder of the western seawall. Ducks once nested in considerable numbers about this area, but for many years it has been pre-empted by herring gulls which swirl above it in a perpetual blizzard. In winter flocks of starlings, snow buntings and horned larks sweep across its frozen flatness.

The northern end is the smallest of the three natural divisions. It has Woody Pond, with its heron colony among the bordering trees, and tidal Salt Water Pond. Here, where the island ends, eastern and western seawalls converge and form the dangerous Northern Bar over which surf and currents, having raced up both sides of the island meet in tumult. This portion of Bon Portage lies within a mile of the nearest mainland point and is less exposed than the southern end. Its woods are thick and such small birds as brave our winters are oftenest found among them. But its charm for a bird watcher lies in the flocks of shorebirds which arrive in mid-July and for many weeks cover the tide-bared sandbars of the Salt Water Pond and the outer beach, filling the air with excited flights and cries, or with conversational twitterings as they feed. The pond is well liked by fall ducks and spring brant, and a few willets nest near the margin. The disadvantage (to a bird watcher, not to the birds) is that a visit to the northern end means a six mile walk, and a mile over our rough shores and through our soggy swamps is a time-consuming mile.

The island has a fourth area, the encircling foreshore, which by Nova Scotia law can be owned by no individual. Its rocks and sands are claimed alternately by sea and land as the tides flow and ebb. At high water it is home for teeming marine plants and various molluscs; at low water it belongs to foraging crows and gulls and--in their season--to the skittering shorebirds.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CARIN ALMA SOMERS

In July, 1989, **Nova Scotia Birds** featured a profile of Carin Somers. I first met her long before I was a birder when she was the helpful librarian on our local Bookmobile. It was a pleasant surprise to meet her again on a field trip with the Society, which she was obviously enjoying immensely, along with her mother, Helen Stein-Badham, who is also a Member.

Carin served on the Executive of the bird society since 1986, first as a Director, then as Vice-President. Her cheerfulness and quiet good sense made her a valued colleague and her death on March 9, 1990, will be a loss to us and to all who knew her. We extend our sympathy to her family.

## FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

REMINDER: Please be sure to continue phoning the field trip leader or contact person ahead of time to register for the trip. In this way no trip is oversubscribed and you can be contacted in case of cancellation. All trips have names and phone numbers listed for your convenience.



Sun. Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary  
May 6 Leader: Alan Smith

(H) 506-536-0164  
(W) 506-536-3025

Meet at APBS parking lot at 9:30 a.m. (take exit 3 from TCH at the Wandlyn Inn and proceed a few km toward Nappan. The entrance is on the left). Bring a lunch and wear appropriate footwear for wet conditions. Enjoy a day of observing waterfowl, shorebirds and early migrants

Wed. Halifax County Warbler Walk -- Leader: Fred Dobson (852-3042) meet  
May 16 in the parking lot at the junction of Prospect Rd (Rt. 333) and the St. Margaret's Bay Rd at 6:00 a.m., 2 to 2.5 hours duration.

May Bon Portage Island --Leader: Peter MacLeod (477-4539). Passage and  
18 -21 accommodations are limited and fee will be charged. Committed reservations  
Only 18 should make the trip. Sail at 7:00 p.m., Friday evening.

Sun. Hopewell Area (Pictou County) -- Leader: Harry Brennan (923-2780)  
May 20 Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Saint Columba's Churchyard, about 1 mile south of  
Hopewell. Nesting owls and migrants, a great trip for beginners.

Wed Kearny Lake Early Morning Warbler Walk -- Leader: Dave Currie 876-8745)  
May 23 Meet at the Hammond's Plains and Kearny Lake Road intersection at 6:00  
a.m. Duration 2-3 hours.

Sat. Warbler Walk (Cape Breton) -- Leader: Joy Gates (849-9800) Meet at  
May 26 Sydney River Shopping Center at 8:00 a.m.

Sat. Hants County Day -- Leader: Marg. Clark (443-3993) Meet at the rail-  
May 26 way crossing in Mt. Uniacke at 8:00 a.m. Observe abundant birdlife in a  
variety of habitats. This trip extends well into the afternoon so bring  
a lunch.

Sun. Shubenacadie Area -- Leader: Roslyn MacPhee (758-3265). Meet at 6:00  
May 27 a.m. in front of Scott's Restaurant in Shubenacadie

Sun. Yarmouth and Carleton Area Warbler Walk -- Leader: Hubert Hall (742-4467)  
May 27 Meet at Carleton School (Highway 340) at 8:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and fly  
dope.

Sat. Argyle Islands Bird Colonies (Yar. Co.) Leader: Ted D'Eon,  
June 2 (H) 1-762-2097 (W) 1-762-2793 -- Great Blue Heron colony, gulls, Eiders,  
tern colonies. Meet at Abbot's Harbour wharf in Middle West Pubnico at  
8:00 a.m. Lobster fishing boat can accommodate up to 30-35 (cost \$10  
-\$15). Reservations necessary.

- Sun.  
June 3      Hartlen's Point, Hfx. Co. Leader: Peter MacLeod (477-4539) Meet at 7:30 a.m. golf course entrance. See warblers and birds of the Point.
- Sat.  
June 9      Clyde River, Shelbourne Leader: Joan Czpalay (1-637-2734). Meet at United Church, Clyde River on Highway 3, 15 minutes west of Shelbourne 7:30 a.m. Warblers, hawks, ducks, possible heron colony.
- Sat.  
June 16      Eddy Marsh, Chignecto & Minudie Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-8984). Meet at 8:00 a.m., Fort Lawrence Road, Exit 1, Highway 104 (right side exit as you head to New Brunswick) Marsh Wrens, Black Terns, Wilson's Warblers and Short Eared Owls—a great opportunity to see some new country and birds seldom seen by the beginner.
- Fri.  
& Sat.  
June  
15&16      SPECIAL N.S.B.S. MEETING at 8:00 p.m., Friday, June 15, at the New Glasgow High School, Albert St. (See notice elsewhere in this issue for details). A FIELD TRIP covering the area hot-spots will follow at 7:00 a.m. Saturday June 16, led by Michael Olsen (H 485-5921) and Harry Brennan. Meet in the parking lot of Highland Square Mall, off Exit 23. No reservations necessary for this one.
- Sat.  
June 23      Marconi Trail, Cape Breton Leader: Graham Fraser (849-3743) at 8:00 a.m. at the Heavy Water Plant, Glace Bay.
- June 29  
July 1      Bon Portage Pelagic Trip. Leader: Peter MacLeod (477-4539) Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons, Snowy Egrets, Leach's Storm Petrels, nesting birds of the island, a pelagic trip to George's and Brown's Banks is planned. Registration required and there will be a fee for boat and accommodations.
- Sat.  
June 30      McNab's Island Leader: Roger Pocklington (464-0300). Meet at the wharf behind the N.S. Museum of the Atlantic to take the earliest ferry at approximately 8:00 a.m. This is a joint trip with the Halifax Field Naturalists. Bring a lunch. If weather is uncooperative, the trip will be postponed until Sunday, July 1.
- Sat.  
July 21      Wallace Bay Area Leaders: Tony Bidwell (1-257-2035) and James Taylor (434-8516). A variety of habitats including shoreline, woodland, river side and marsh will be explored. Nesting eagles a good possibility. Meet at the wharf in Wallace at 9:00 a.m. Bring a lunch.
- Sat.  
July 28      North River (Cape Breton) Leader: Nancy More (539-3285) Meet at Meet at Sydney River Shopping Centre, Woolco at 8:00 a.m.
- Thur  
Aug. 2      Crescent & Cherry Hill Beaches Leaders: John & Shirley Cohrs Hfx. (477-6036) Green Bay (688-2131). Meet at entrance to Crescent Beach at 8:45 a.m. Be prepared for a short walk at Crescent Beach in the morning and a more rugged one at Cherry Hill in the p.m. This is a shorebird field trip.
- Sat.  
Aug. 4      Economy Area Leader: Francis Spalding (647-2837). Meet at the general store at 9:00 a.m. Returning shorebirds and birds of the area. Great scenery and lots of back roads. On Sunday, Ross Hall is willing to tour Ducks Unlimited Ponds in Advocate, Appleriver and on to Minudie so bring your camping gear if you wish to stay on.
- Sat  
Aug. 11      Yarmouth Area --shorebirds Leader: Eric Ruff (H 742-8145) (W) 742-5539) Meet at the CPR railway station at 9:00 a.m. Bring a lunch and suitable footwear for rocky and wet walking.

Sat. Fuller's Bridge Leader: Andrew Gingell (564-8298). Meet at 8:00 a.m.  
 Aug. 18 at Marion Bridge migrating shorebirds

#### ATLAS TRIPS

The following are atlas square bashes--led by Ian Ross (678-0515) in the Ross Farm Bridgewater area, Lunenburg Co. Here is a great opportunity to learn and explore new country to do by yourself at a later date. All trips move off a 7:00 a.m.

- June 2 Meet at New Ross Farm.
- June 16 Meet at Mill Village--village shop
- June 23 Meet in Bridgewater at Tim Horton's--the new one, down near the LaHave River opposite the big Bridgewater Mall.
- June 30 Meet at Delong Dairy Kone, New Germany Highway #10
- July 14 Meet at picnic park, Card Lake, Highway #14

Is anyone interested in volunteering to lead a Field Trip into parts of the province not currently being covered, such as the lower Annapolis Valley, Brier Island, Antigonish, or the Canso Eastern Shore? If so, please contact Jim Taylor.

Any questions or suggestions should be directed to the Field Trip Co-ordinator Jim Taylor (434-8516), 69 Woodlawn Rd., Dartmouth, N.S. B2W 2S2. Leaders are reminded to send a Field Trip Report to the Editor of **NSB** (Museum address).



This bird, which looks as though it had been cut out of the picture, is the albino Red-tailed Hawk, snapped by Richard Stern at Centreville, Kings Co., in December 1989.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

January 13 - Sewer Stroll I

On the cool overcast morning of January 13, fifteen eager birders met at Hartlen's Pt. for the first field trip of 1990.

Hartlen's legendary potential was realized once more on what was to be a day of many highlights. Indeed, we were greeted at nearly every stop by a new or unexpected sighting. By trip's end we had totaled a fine count of 59 species with 25 of them making the allstar ballet. Of the sixteen observers involved in our outing (one joined us in Bedford), eleven were first timers, and all eleven added life birds to their lists.

Special thanks to Jim Taylor, Don MacNeill, Bernice Moores, Bev. Sarty, Debbie Flemming, Gordon and Maxine McLean, Kurt Arsenault, Sean Smith, Nancy Grant, Mike Heany, Dave MacKinnon, Ann Margaret, Keith and Marion Alsebrook--see you January 1991.

Fulton L. Lavender

January 27 - Riverview Eagles

The Riverview Eagles Field Trip took place on January 27, 1990, a cold and windy day. An excellent turnout of fifteen hearty souls turned up at Exit 11 on the 102 Highway; four birders were from Truro, the remainder from the Halifax/Dartmouth area. Our first stop was at the Belou Farm and as per plans, there were six adult and four immature eagles, along with Ravens, Crows and Herring Gulls--feeding on a dead deer that had been supplied by the Department of Highways and a pig carcass from the farm.

The wind kept up, creating an excessive wind chill, and several stops along the Shubenacadie River yielded more eagles, Black-capped Chickadees and Golden-crowned Kinglets. We found it impossible to get down to the river due to the severe flooding from heavy rains that had fallen the two days before. Because of this we were unable to see any of the Common Merganser that should have been feeding on young tom cod where the river ice stopped and the flowing river began.

It was a great day for Red-tailed Hawks to glide around and several were seen viewing the great scenery, most likely looking it over for unwary prey. The stop at Maitland for gas gave us an opportunity to view the river and fields on the other side. The highlights here were two coyotes making a dash from one forest edge to another. The look-off at Maitland produced a number of Black Duck, feeding on the muddy shoreline of Minas Basin.

Plans are already afoot for the 1991 Field Trip. After viewing the eagles and touring the river, we plan to tour the Old Barns Road and make a thorough search of Victoria Park in Truro.

Jim Taylor for Ross Hall

25 YEARS AGO

The **NSBS Newsletter**, Vol. 7, No. 1, March 1965, recorded seventeen Christmas counts for 1964-65, seven of which were still going strong in 1989-90: Amherst, Springville, Wolfville, Shubenacadie, Halifax East, Halifax West and Brier Island.

The late Fred Kenney compiled the Springville count and continued to do so until his death in 1989. This year, the count was done by his wife Margaret. The only other compiler to continue from then to now is Roslyn McPhee (Shubenacadie).

Other items twenty-five years ago were as follows:

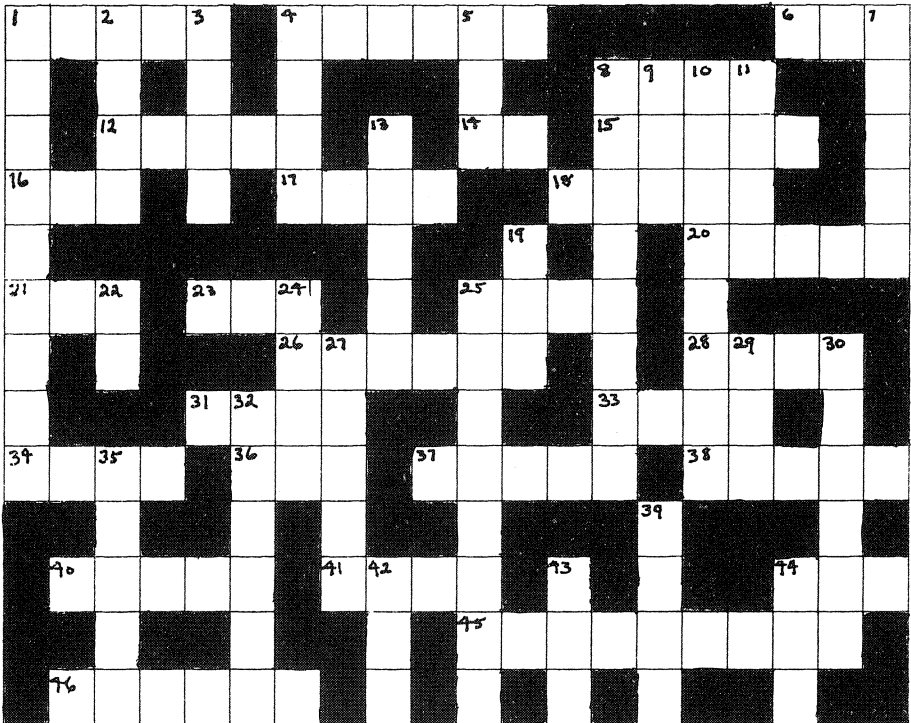
--Report of a first record of a GRASSHOPPER SPARROW for Nova Scotia, on Seal Island in October of 1964.

--Plans for the Annual Field Day were announced. It was to be at Indian Point, Lunenburg Co., on July 4, hosted by Captain (N) Tommy Moreland.

--Notes of winter birds. At least nine SNOWY OWLS had been seen, a MARBLED GODWIT at Glace Bay in mid-November, a GYRFALCON at Pictou in January and two on Brier Island in February. BLUEJAYS were down, GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS were about average and winter finches were in good numbers.

--Enclosed with the **NSBS Newsletter** was a sample of our first Field Record Cover, the work of Lloyd Macpherson and Tommy Moreland. They were for sale--25 for a dollar!

--a crossword puzzle--here it is...





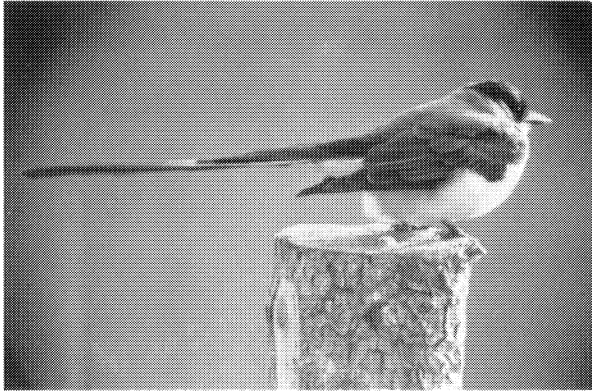
ACROSS

1. Extinct species
4. "Dive bomber" shore bird, says his name.
6. Call of the crow
8. Favourite food of Woodcock and robin.
12. Some have red eyes, but not from weeping.
14. What migratory birds do in the fall.
15. Pertaining to birds
16. Good in highballs, but bad for birds
17. A bird which loves wet weather.
18. Small goose.
20. A term in ornithological classification
21. Birds beware!
23. Night hunter, or complaint of a Cockney dog.
25. Shy marsh dweller.
26. Every day is Friday for this bird
28. Formerly a sacred bird in Egypt
31. Three means a letter
33. What should be followed in reporting birds?
34. He wears his name about his neck
36. Occasional in Florida, like some of us.
37. These birds have necks like Annie Laurie.
38. Species name meaning smallest
40. Has given his name to sharpshooting
41. A long-distance flyer over oceans
44. English Chickadee.
45. An arctic bird, king of his race.
46. "Canadian nightingale"

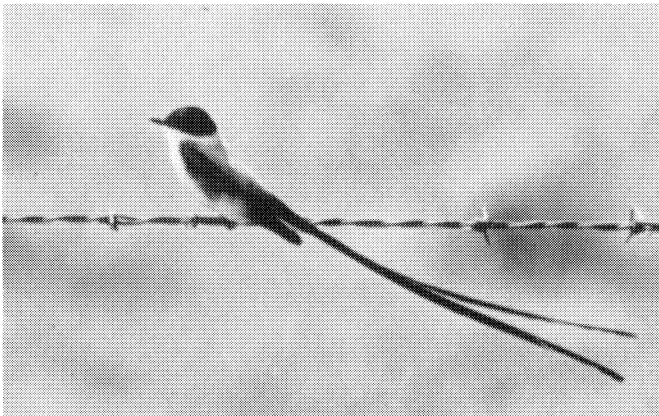
DOWN

1. The sewing-machine of the mud flats
2. Symbol of peace.
3. Porzana carolina.
4. Where you find the warblers
5. Which came first?
7. Birds in the Royal Navy
8. The "butterflies" of the bird world.
9. Latin for eggs.
10. Species of gull
11. What birds, and others, plan to do in spring.
13. "Bluebill".
19. Of this kind, two types: one gripes the other swipes
22. Preposition
24. Bird with a zany laugh
25. Blackbirds or hockey players
27. A slender bird which deserves its name.
29. Has wings, but is not a bird.
30. Our smallest finch.
32. Friends of Edgar Allen Poe.
35. Feeds on seeds.
39. A small bird, or a conversation.
42. "Have you ever seen the Australian \_\_\_\_\_?"
43. Sound of the wild goose.
44. Also.

ANSWER ON PAGE 50



Such a wondrous bird as the Apple River Fork-tailed Flycatcher merits more than one picture in this issue. This instructive pair of photos was sent by Stuart Tingley. The bird on the wire was photographed in Chiapas, Mexico in February, 1989. It is an example of the paler-backed, non-migratory race, **Tyrannus savana monachus**. The darker back of the Apple River bird, photographed through his Questar by Stuart on Oct. 30, suggests that it is of the race **T.S. savana**. This race migrates from northern to southern South America during the austral spring (our fall). This one went the wrong way! It is believed that most of the hundredodd North American records of this bird are a result of this 180° misorientation.



## BOOK REVIEW

Title: **North American Owls: Biology and Natural History**  
 Author: Paul A. Johnsgard  
 Publisher: Smithsonian Institution  
 Price: \$55.95 (\$49.95 through Nature Canada Bookshop)

It was the owl that shrieked, the fatal bellman  
 Which gives the stern'st goodnight

--William Shakespeare - **Macbeth**

For obvious reasons many owls do not lend themselves to scientific or casual study very easily. **North American Owls** describes what one does not see when owling; the private life, internal biology, and interrelationships of a highly nocturnal order of birds. This book helps fill the void in understanding owls natural biology and behavior. The life history of every breeding species in North America is documented with convincing details using the most up-to-date sources and presented in a straightforward, mostly non-anecdotal format. The book succeeds in its stated purpose of attempting a compromise between being a "highly technical" work and one which is "over simplified". At any rate, the reader is not subjected to excesses of scientific jargon. Thankfully, those technical terms which are used are conveniently interpreted for the layman in a glossary.

The book is divided into two main parts. The first contains chapters concerning the biology of owls. Johnsgard begins with a significant account of the evolution and classification of these birds and he presents evidence from new studies which indicate that a revised nomenclature for owls may be appropriate. Later in the book, an appendix describes the origins of scientific and vernacular names for owls. Of interest to our area is of course, the Saw-whet Owl (**Aegolius acadicus**) and the western sub-species of the Long-eared Owl (**Asio otus tuftsi**) which Godfrey named after his friend and mentor.

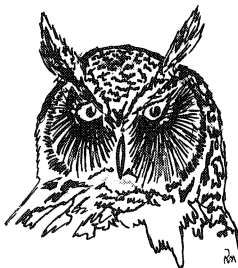
Johnsgard says that owls occupy niches within every major North American habitat type; he goes on to describe food selection, competition between species, and species distribution and densities within these habitats. The external structure and physiology of owls, especially their highly evolved hearing and visual faculties, makes fascinating reading. Behavior like prey location and catching, defence postures, courtship displays and other social conduct receives extensive analysis. The prey catching methods of Common Barn Owls and the snow plunging technique of Great Grays really do appear to put these animals on a level above our normal human comprehension. Other behavior like the catching and subsequent thawing of food by Boreal and Saw-whet Owls is unfortunately not elaborated upon. Reproductive biology is also compared between species.

Much of the work relies on the relatively recent knowledge of owl's secret lives from data gained through the use of radio-telemetry. Johnsgard effectively interprets the results of this technology. There is also much reference to European studies, especially Mikkola's **Owls of Europe**, for holarctic species, pointing out the need for more North American studies. This becomes apparent in the second section of the book which comprises individual species treatments. Little is known, for instance, of the social behavior and breeding biology of the Saw-whet or Barred Owls. Perhaps our own nest box providers could help fill some of the gaps in this knowledge. Another problem with the species treatments is an oversight that will leap out at readers from this area. The range maps leave out most of eastern Newfoundland and Cape Breton! At least five or six species regularly occur in these areas. Although few series of range maps, if any, are perfect, this seems inexcusable in a book professing to include the entire continent. Nevertheless, the second part of the book is as informative as the first. Of special significance for bird atlassers in our area is the chapter on boreal owls. The author indictates that the population status of the boreal must be based on conjecture. Nesting probably occurs where singing and territoriality do, but Johnsgard also states that non-breeding birds may especially be inclined to linger south, well into April and May.

Also of interest is the disappointingly brief, but highly entertaining chapter which recounts the overwhelming mournful, sometimes lugubrious, influence that owls have been embued with in various writings and mythologies. Johnsgard leaves us with the thought that the legendary prophetic wisdom of owls should be examined in a new way, one that recognizes that they, along with other birds, are helpful indicators in foretelling the overall health of our environment. The book contains some excellent photographs, doing justice to the beauty of these birds, as well as several watercolours by the famed wildlife artist L. A. Fuertes.

**North American Owls** is a must for the serious owl student, an informative addition to any bird watcher's library, and probably of great interest to the casual reader. It's not cheap, but its price is far from exorbitant considering its value as a reference for years to come.

--Sean D. Smith



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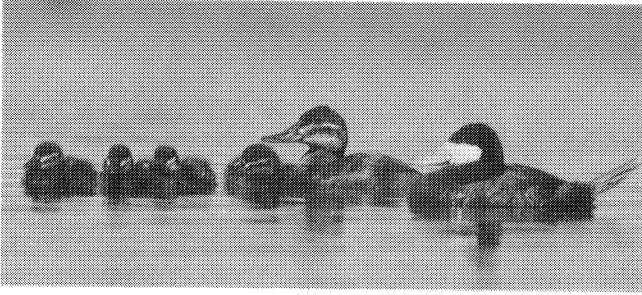
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## THE RUDDY DUCK

by Alison Somerville

Most duck species have one or two characteristics that make them different. For example, mergansers are fish-eating ducks and northern shovelers have strange, long bills. But with ruddy ducks--almost everything is unusual.

Although they are abundant in summer, from northwestern Ontario through to southern B.C., few people get more than a glimpse of them. Ruddy ducks are shy and spend much of their time surrounded by the cattail or bulrush plants that grow in shallow water at the edge of wetlands. When a pair emerges from the reeds during mating season it's typical for the female to appear first, followed by the male, who attempts to attract her attention. First, he dips his bill into the water and makes a bubbling sound like air being blown into a drink through a soda straw. Then he bounces comically forward, sideways or even backwards toward her and makes odd chuckle-like quacking noises.

When ruddys are not performing bizarre displays, they can still be distinguished from other waterfowl, even at a distance, by their small size and tail feathers which they often hold erect above the water. That habit has earned them the nickname "stiff-tail".

Although they appear similar at a distance, male and female ruddys seem ill-mated when viewed close-up. His azure bill, conspicuous white eye patch and rich red-brown feathers, make a breeding male look like an exotic tropical bird. Somewhat more subdued, the female is camouflaged by mouse-brown colouring and a single dark stripe through a grey-white cheek patch. From late summer until spring, the differences diminish as the male exchanges bright red for brown feathers and his bill fades to grey.

Despite her appearance, the female ruddy is anything but dull. She nests a full month later than other ducks. She also lays eggs that average 68 grams, more than a tenth of her 500-gram body weight. Averaging 1,200 grams, the much larger canvasback duck lays eggs the same size. Most amazing is the fact that, at the rate of one per day, the female ruddy can exceed her own body weight by laying as many as 15 eggs in a single nest. It's an incredible expenditure of energy.

Curiously, a ruddy duck female sometimes lays her eggs in the nests of other ruddy ducks rather than incubating them herself. She occasionally lays eggs in canvasback, redhead or other duck nests, as well. Sometimes several ruddy females will lay eggs in the same nest. Nests with several dozen eggs have been found. Often such "dump" nests are abandoned before the eggs hatch--perhaps because of the presence of foreign eggs.

No one knows for sure why such odd egg-laying behaviours take place. It has been suggested that they may save energy, or they may help ensure genetic diversity. Indeed, it is not a rare thing to see several ruddy duck chicks being protected within a family of redheads or canvasbacks. Nor is it unusual to see enormous broods of ruddy ducks attended by a single female. Perhaps this is a natural manifestation of the wise : "Never put all your eggs in a single basket". Certainly if a ruddy female loses her own nest, eggs she laid in another nest may still be hatched.

Despite unusual habits, ruddy ducks have remained a common bird in Canada. Part of the explanation for this may be that ruddy ducklings are remarkably good at looking after themselves. They have a better survival rate during the first month of their lives than many other duck species.

It's common for entire broods of ruddys to survive and grow to maturity even when the mother dies or abandons them. This may be partly related to hatching in mid-summer when temperatures are higher and death from exposure is less likely. Some scientists also believe that ruddy ducklings are more physically mature when they hatch, that they are faster swimmers and more efficient feeders, allowing them to escape predation and avoid starvation more often.

Like other ducks though, ruddy ducks are vulnerable to prolonged drought. They prefer to dive in deeper water for insects, seeds and roots of aquatic plants, and they nest in shallows, normally securing their nests above or at the water surface by anchoring them to cattail or bulrush stems. When water evaporates quickly, ponds soon become shallower and salts are concentrated, making them unsuitable for feeding. Dried out nesting areas are not used and nests left high and dry after being built are often abandoned.

Because ruddy females require a great deal of energy to produce their large eggs, they are usually found nesting only on highly productive natural wetlands or on sewage ponds and their outfalls. During recent years of drought, ruddy ducks have relied on the wetlands with the most stable water levels. More than ever, Ducks Unlimited projects, where man-made dams store water, have provided a necessary refuge for these remarkably different little ducks.

from **Ducks Unlimited Conservator**, Vol 10, No. 3, 1989.





Two woodpeckers whose ranges rarely overlap, are here shown in rather offbeat poses. The immature Red-headed Woodpecker was photographed by Alan Covert near Chevarie on Jan. 3, 1988. The young male Black-backed Woodpecker was one of two of this species snapped by Margaret Slatkin at Salt Springs Provincial Park, July 13, 1989.



## SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

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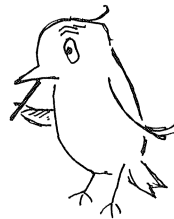
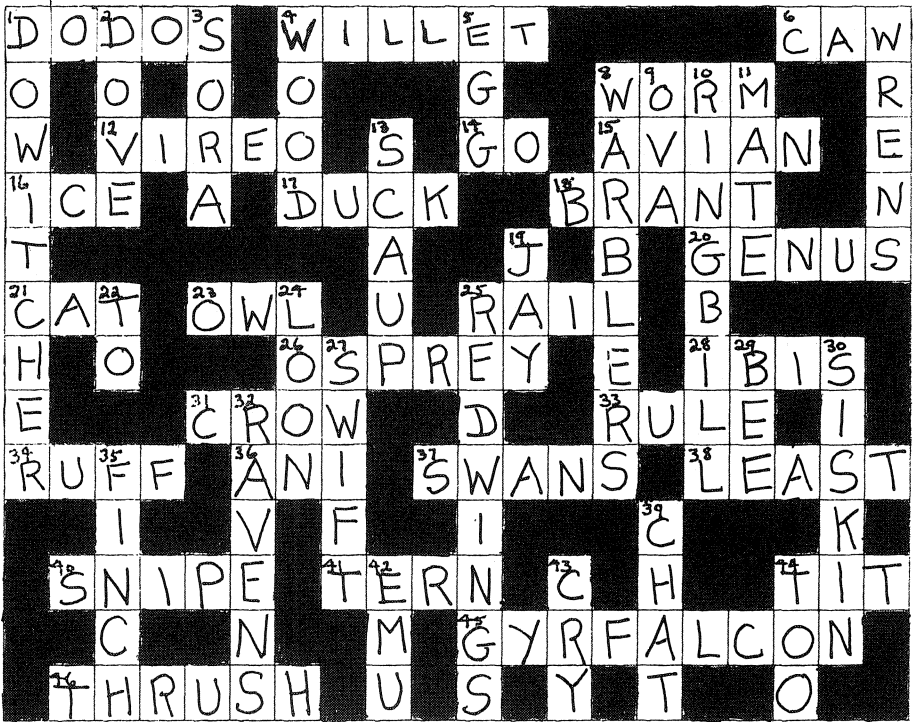


#### SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

Someday, our Raptor Rehabilitation Programme may be as extensive as this. Shown here is an example of the current trend in housing design--a 2,000 square foot interconnecting cage complex for three breeding pairs of damaged wild Barred Owls.

This is only a part of the Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation at Vineland, Ontario and the picture was sent to us by the founder, Catherine McKeever.

## ANSWER TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 40



## NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1989-1990

The 1989/90 Christmas Bird Count showed a drop in the number of counts submitted, with a total of 24, compared to 27 last year. The number of individuals spotted were 132,404, which is a decrease of 30,454 over 1988/89. However, this year a total of 139 species plus one additional race were seen, a decrease of one species over last year. The sighting of the (European) Redwing on Sable Island, not only is a new species for Nova Scotia, but is the first record for a Christmas Count in all of North America.

Although the decrease in the number of individuals can partly be attributed to the unusually cold weather experienced in December, it reinforces the need to continue to produce valuable statistics through Christmas Counts. These counts, consistently compiled, now more than ever, provide an important barometer for monitoring our environment.

AMHERST, Dec. 20; 7:40AM to 5PM. Mostly clear. No wind. Temp. -22 to -12C. Fresh water frozen. 17 observers in 7-11 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 64 (29.5 on foot, 32.5 by car, 2 by skidoo). Total party miles 345 (36 on foot, 302 by car, 7 other).

Canada Goose 1; Com. Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 4 (3a., imm.); Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; N. Goshawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 25; Ring-necked Pheasant 53; Ruffed Grouse 17; Herring Gull 352; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 260; Rock Dove 222; Mourning Dove 2; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 12; Hairy Woodpecker 13; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Horned Lark 3; Gray Jay 26; Blue Jay 124; Am. Crow 189; Com. Raven 144; Bl.-capped Chickadee 383; Boreal Chickadee 16; Red-br. Nuthatch 24; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-cr. Kinglet 33; Am. Robin 4; Bohemian Waxwing 159; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 832; Yel.-rumped Warbler 1; Dickcissel 2; Am. Tree Sparrow 58; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 18; Lapland Longspur 8; Snow Bunting 141; Br.-headed Cowbird 8; Pine Grosbeak 34; Com. Redpoll 17; Am. Goldfinch 30; Evening Grosbeak 96; House Sparrow 601.

Total 44 species, about 3930 individuals. Paul Bogaard, Lee Calkins, Roger Calkins, Evelyn Coates, Chris Ellingwood, George Finney, Neville Garrity, Hinrich Harries, Bruce Hawke, Ron Hounsell, Joel Landry, Colin MacKinnon, Nancy MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Al Smith, Francis Spalding, Stuart Tingley (compiler).

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Dec. 30; 7:30AM to 6PM. Mostly clear. Wind 0-5kmh. AM, 10-15kmh. PM. Temp. -20C to -7C. Fresh water frozen. 27 observers in 14 parties, 44 at feeding stations. Total party hours 53 (22 on foot, 25 by car, 6 on skis). Total party miles 268 (26 on foot, 235 by car, 7 on skis).

Com. Loon 13; Horned Grebe 7; Red-necked Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 7; Am. Black Duck 297; Mallard 12; Com. Eider 19; Oldsquaw 4584; Black Scoter 20; Surf Scoter 15; White-winged Scoter 46; Com. Goldeneye 70; Barrow's Goldeneye 3; Bufflehead 267; Com. Merganser 12; Red-br. Merganser 15; Hooded Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 1; N. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Ring-necked Pheasant 54; Ruffed Grouse 2; Purple Sandpiper 13; Herring Gull 441; Bonaparte's Gull 4; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 30; Thin-billed Murre 1 (no details); Rock Dove 118; Mourning Dove 40; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 5; N. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 10; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 356; Am. Crow 444; Com. Raven 52; Bl.-capped Chickadee 227; Red-br. Nuthatch 13; White-br. Nuthatch 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 15; Am. Robin 36; N. Cardinal 4; Brown Thrasher 1; Bohemian Waxwing 48; Eur. Starling 286; Am. Tree Sparrow 122; Savannah Sparrow 12; Song Sparrow 36; Fox Sparrow 2; White-thr. Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 65; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 109; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Rusty Blackbird 16; Com. Grackle 11; Br.-headed Cowbird 7; Pine Grosbeak 28; Purple Finch 14; Com. Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 11; Am. Goldfinch 211; Evening Grosbeak 178; House Sparrow 207.

Total 67 species, about 8665 individuals. (CP: Red-throated Loon, Canada Goose, Rough-legged Hawk, Spruce Grouse, Iceland Gull, Great Horned Owl, Boreal Chickadee, Brown Creeper, N. Shrike). Marion Croft, Peter Croft, Allison Dalton, Graham Dalton family, Faith DeWolfe, Jane DeWolfe, Helen Ellis, Dorothy Everett, Drew Evill, Sharon & Steve Hawboldt, Harold & Leah Horwood, Steve Jensen, Clifford Jones, Len Legard, Jeff McCormick, Dr. Bill McCormick, Kate McLeod, Eric & Richard McDormand, Clarice & Phil Muntz, Eric Muntz, Raphaelle Poiraud, Gini Proulx, Gus Quian, Fran

Rafuse, Jack Turner, Julie Turner (compiler), Greg Turner, Karl White.

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 28; 8AM to 5PM. Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy AM. Mostly cloudy with light snow PM. No wind. Temp. -20C to -10C. Fresh water frozen. ? observers in 4 parties, 6 at feeding stations. Total party hours 22.5 (17 on foot, 5.5 by car). Total party miles 340 (15 on foot, 325 by car).

Canada Goose 24; Am. Black Duck 57; Lesser Scaup 10; Greater Scaup 110; Com. Eider 3; Oldsquaw 2; Black Scoter 7; Com. Goldeneye 156; Com. Merganser 37; Red-br. Merganser 15; Bald Eagle 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Ruffed Grouse 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 8; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 386; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 22; Rock Dove 48; Mourning Dove 21; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 57; Am. Crow 235; Com. Raven 55; Bl.-capped Chickadee 82; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-br. Nuthatch 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 22; Am. Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 5; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 164; Am. Tree Sparrow 19; Song Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 19; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 44; Rusty Blackbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 20; Purple Finch 3; N. Cardinal 1; Am. Goldfinch 47; Evening Grosbeak 5; House Sparrow 54.

Total 48 species, about 1788 individuals. (CP: Mallard, N. Goshawk, Dovekie, Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Bl.-backed Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, Chipping Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Com. Grackle, Br.-headed Cowbird, Com. Redpoll, Pine Siskin). Beck family, Ann Braid, Celeste Chiasson, Remi Chiasson, Roland Chiasson, Gorman family, D.J. Kennedy, Paul Kennedy, Colin MacDonald, Frank MacDonald, Harriet MacMillan, Tony Miller, Mark Pulsifer, Norm Seymour, Donald Smith, Brian Starzomski (compiler), Stephen Starzomski, Gerald Teasdale, Betty Webber.

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 30; 8AM to 4:30PM. Mostly clear. Temp. -8C to -12C. Fresh water frozen. 39 observers in 7 parties, 25 at feeding stations. Total party hours 22 (7 on foot, 15 by car). Total party miles 167 (16 on foot, 150 by car, 1 other).

Com. Loon 5; Great Cormorant 1; Am. Black Duck 1; Com. Eider 12; Oldsquaw 26; Black Scoter 10; White-winged Scoter 23; Com. Goldeneye 3; Red-br. Merganser 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; N. Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 77; Ruffed Grouse 5; Purple Sandpiper 50; Herring Gull 334; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 9; Dovekie 1; Thick-billed Murre 1; Thin-billed Murre 1; Rock Dove 176; Mourning Dove 10; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Horned Lark 2; Blue Jay 176; Am. Crow 259; Com. Raven 42; Bl.-capped Chickadee 84; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-br. Nuthatch 4; White-br. Nuthatch 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 2; Am. Robin 1; Eur. Starling 262; Am. Tree Sparrow 35; Song Sparrow 7; Dark-eyed Junco 52; Snow Bunting 676; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Com. Grackle 24; Br.-headed Cowbird 5; Pine Grosbeak 6; Am. Goldfinch 102; Evening Grosbeak 50; House Sparrow 208.

Total 47 species, about 2783 individuals. (CP: Canada Goose, Com. Merganser, Bald Eagle, Barred Owl, Brown Creeper, Bohemian Waxwing). Lawrence & Winnie Bent, Don Bowlby, Laura Burrell, Ruth, Paul & Scott Colville, David Colville (compiler), Annette, Justin & Ashley Colville, Anita & Jauna Devillez, Doris Durling, Marie Gaul, Marion Graves, Sarah Graves, Joe Guest, S. & Mike Hamilton, Nathalie Harlow, Doris Hicks, Maude Jodrey, Don & Joan Keddy, Audrey Kennedy, Jerry MacDonald, Eric & Edith Morris, Eric Porter, Erma & Bob Rains, Joyce Smith, Freda Tobin, Donnie Troop, Gladdie & Roger Weir, Jane White, Stewart Whitman.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 19; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Partly cloudy. Wind NW30 kmh. Temp. -6C. Fresh water frozen. 8 observers in 3 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 23 3/4 (11 1/4 on foot, 12 1/2 by car). Total party miles 50 (14 on foot, 36 by car).

Com. Loon 10; Horned Grebe 3; Red-necked Grebe 53; Great Cormorant 71; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Canada Goose 15; Am. Black Duck 6;

Greater Scaup 16; Com. Eider 310; Oldsquaw 34; Black Scoter 3; Surf Scoter 3; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 87; Com. Merganser 3; Red-br. Merganser 103; Turkey Vulture 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Ring-billed Gull 5; Herring Gull 1095; Iceland Gull 4; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 599; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 2200; Black Guillemot 21; Mourning Dove 6; Snowy Owl 1; Horned Lark 3; Blue Jay 2; Am. Crow 172; Com. Raven 21; Bl.-capped Chickadee 45; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 9; Am. Robin 4; Water Pipit 3; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 36; Am. Tree Sparrow 41; Song Sparrow 10; White-thr. Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 13; Red-winged Blackbird 40; Com. Grackle 7; Br.-headed Cowbird 4; Pine Grosbeak 1; Com. Redpoll 105; Pine Siskin 30; Am. Goldfinch 33; House Sparrow 17.

Total 53 species, about 5260 individuals. (CP: N. Harrier, Ring-necked Pheasant). Karen Casselman, George Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Louise Garron, Eric Mills (compiler), Wade Pierlot, Richard Stern, Gordon Tufts.

BROAD COVE, Dec. 30; 7:45AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind WNW 2-6kmh. Temp. -19C to -7C. Fresh water frozen. 27 observers in 14-17 parties. Total party hours 100.5 (61 on foot, 39.5 by car). Total party miles (413 (61.5 on foot, 351.5 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Com. Loon 36; Horned Grebe 17; Red-necked Grebe 4; Great Cormorant 39; Canada Goose 205; Am. Black Duck 91; Mallard 72; Greater Scaup 50; Com. Eider 190; Oldsquaw 182; Black Scoter 17; Surf Scoter 11; White-winged Scoter 9; Com. Goldeneye 194; Bufflehead 12; Com. Merganser 44; Red-breasted Merganser 86; Hooded Merganser 3; Bald Eagle 2imm.; N. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Am. Kestrel 1; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 13; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 16; Herring Gull 1038; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 151; Dovekie 14; Black Guillemot 2; Thick-billed Murre 3; Rock Dove 162; Mourning Dove 43; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 4; N. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 9; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 325; Am. Crow 277; Com. Raven 50; Bl.-capped Chickadee 425; Boreal Chickadee 118; Red-br. Nuthatch 31; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 10; Golden-cr. Kinglet 133; Bohemian Waxwing 15; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 582; Yel.-rumped Warbler 13; Am. Tree Sparrow 66; Savannah Sparrow 5; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 36; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-thr. Sparrow 7; Dark-eyed Junco 140; Lapland Longspur 4; Snow Bunting 246; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Br.-headed Cowbird 17; Pine Grosbeak 22; Red Crossbill 13; Com. Redpoll 90; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 12; Evening Grosbeak 40; House Sparrow 194.

Total 78 species, about 5632 individuals. (CP: Com. Bl.-headed Gull, Am. Robin, Fox Sparrow). Ruth Ballem, Barbara Byrd, Bill Caudle, John, Shirley & Lise Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie, Ben Doane, Jim Elliott, Millie Evans, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Barbara Hinds, Fulton Lavender, Anne-Margaret MacKinnon, David MacKinnon, James McLaren, Gordon McLean, Maxine McLean, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Jean Morse, Chris Naugler, Susan Owens, Nellie Snyder, Richard Stern, Jim Taylor.

CHETICAMP, Dec. 21; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Mostly clear with moderate snow AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind W 20-25kmh. Temp. -9C. Fresh water frozen. 9 observers in 7 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 33 (5 on foot, 26 by car, 2 other). Total party kms. 153.5 (34.5 on foot, 112 by car, 7 by snowshoes and skis).

Great Cormorant 1; Am. Black Duck 28; Greater Scaup 4; Black Scoter 7; Com. Goldeneye 32; Barrow's Goldeneye 5; Com. Merganser 24; Bald Eagle 7; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 290; Iceland Gull 5; Glaucous Gull 13; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 116; Black Guillemot 2; Mourning Dove 6; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 18; Am. Crow 147; Com. Raven 48; Bl.-capped Chickadee 41; Eur. Starling 51; sparrow (sp.)

1; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Snow Bunting 101; Pine Grosbeak 4; Evening Grosbeak 22.

Total 27 species, about 982 individuals. (CP: Com. Eider, Ring-necked Pheasant, N. Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-br. Nuthatch, Golden-cr. Kinglet). Linda Aucoin, Rene Aucoin, Gerald Bourgeois, Gervais Cormier, David Lawley (compiler), Hal Morrison, Justine Roach, Gordon Rooney, Elaine Wallace.

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 8AM to 5PM. Partly cloudy. Wind 25kmh. Temp. -10C. Fresh water frozen. 5 observers in 5 parties, 10 at feeding stations. Total party hours 44 (39 on foot, 5 by car). Total party miles 100 (36 on foot, 64 by car).

Am. Black Duck 209; Mallard 1; Oldsquaw 1; Bald Eagle 3a.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; N. Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Gray Partridge 26; Ruffed Grouse 18; Purple Sandpiper 196; Herring Gull 240; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 18; Rock Dove 108; Mourning Dove 2; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 12; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 52; Am. Crow 194; Com. Raven 32; Bl.-capped Chickadee 270; Boreal Chickadee 17; Red-br. Nuthatch 38; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-cr. Kinglet 117; Eur. Starling 267; Am. Tree Sparrow 83; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 35; Snow Bunting 200; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Rusty Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 6; Br.-headed Cowbird 6; Pine Grosbeak 26; Com. Redpoll 1; Am. Goldfinch 78; Evening Grosbeak 67; House Sparrow 190.

Total 41 species, about 2542 individuals. (CP: Am. Robin, Lapland Longspur). Bill Murphy, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding (compiler), Stuart Tingley, Rob Walker.

GLACE BAY, Dec. 31; Clear. Light winds. Temp. -14C to -4C. Fresh water frozen. 4 observers. Total party hours 16 (4 on foot, 8 by car, 4 at feeders). Total party miles 30 (5 on foot, 25 by car).

Canada Goose 5; Am. Black Duck 95; Mallard 5; Oldsquaw 3; Com. Goldeneye 2; Bufflehead 14; Com. Merganser 5; Red-br. Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 2a., 1imm.; Ruffed Grouse 3; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 17; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 700; Iceland Gull 5; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 150; Rock Dove 9; Mourning Dove 3; Short-eared Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 7; Am. Crow 5; Com. Raven 2; Bl.-capped Chickadee 15; Golden-cr. Kinglet 2; N. Mockingbird 1; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 25; Am. Tree Sparrow 2; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 75; House Sparrow 50.

Total 31 species, about 1212 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Evening Grosbeak). George Crowell, Patsy Murrant, Allan Murrant, Rhys Williams.

HALIFAX EAST, Dec. 16; 7:30AM to 4PM. Overcast AM. Overcast with snow PM. Wind 10kmh. Temp -10C. Fresh water frozen. 36 observers in 17 parties, 5 at feeding stations. Total party hours 118 (70.5 on foot, 47.5 by car). Total party miles 390 (96.5 on foot, 293.5 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Com. Loon 61; Horned Grebe 19; Red-necked Grebe 24; Great Cormorant 14; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 6606; Am. Black Duck 208; Mallard 2; Am. Widgeon 2; Greater Scaup 20; Com. Eider 50; Oldsquaw 168; Black Scoter 42; Surf Scoter 6; White-winged Scoter 73; Com. Goldeneye 196; Bufflehead 62; Com. Merganser 8; Red-br. Merganser 271; Bald Eagle 6a.; N. Harrier 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk 10; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Merlin 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 6; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 5; Killdeer 1; Dunlin 9; Purple Sandpiper 40; Greater Yellowlegs 1; Com. Snipe 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 32; Bona-partes Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 92; Herring Gull 757; Iceland Gull 20; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 67; Dovekie 7; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 5; Rock Dove 53; Mourning Dove 50; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 10; N. Flicker 2; Horned Lark 80; Gray Jay 18; Blue Jay 294; Am. Crow 504; Com. Raven 60; Bl.-capped Chickadee 438; Boreal Chickadee 52; Red-br.

Nuthatch 32; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 7; Golden-cr. Kinglet 119; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1; Am. Robin 61; N. Mockingbird 4; Water Pipit 3; Eur. Starling 1294; Yel.-rumped Warbler 37; Com. Yellowthroat 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 134; Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 29; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 3; White-crowned Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 50; Swamp Sparrow 16; White-thr. Sparrow 29; Fox Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 56; Lapland Longspur 126; Snow Bunting 325; Red-winged Blackbird 10; Rusty Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 3; Br.-headed Cowbird 10; N. Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 46; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 25; Com. Redpoll 3; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 96; Evening Grosbeak 248; House Sparrow 185.

Total 92 species, plus 1 additional race, about 13443 individuals. Keith Allsebrook, Marion Allsebrook, Kurt Arseneault, Ruth Ballem, Phyllis Bryson, Bill Caudle, Eric Cooke, Alan Covert, Bob Dickie, Jim Elliot, Chris Field, Deborah Fleming, Roger Foxall, Sylvia Fullerton, Jean Hartley, Barbara Hinds, Don Keith, Janos Kovacks, Fulton Lavender, Doug Linzey, Pat McKay, David MacKinnon, Jill MacLean, Don MacNeill, Bob McDonald, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Roger Pocklington, Joyce Purchase, Bev Sarty, Bruce Smith, Sean Smith, Jim Taylor (compiler), Azor Vienneau.

HALIFAX WEST, Dec. 23; 6:30AM to 5PM. Clear. Wind WNW 4-22kmh. Temp. -17C to -8C. Fresh water frozen. 27 observers in 17 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 104 (56 on foot, 48 by car). Total party miles 373 (44.5 on foot, 328.5 by car).

Com. Loon 36; Horned Grebe 8; Red-necked Grebe 27; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 80; Double-cr. Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 95; Green-winged Teal 2; Am. Black Duck 1675; Mallard 165; N. Pintail 1; Am. Widgeon 8; Wood Duck 3; Greater Scaup 1; Com. Eider 18; Oldsquaw 83; Black Scoter 1; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 67; Com. Goldeneye 36; Bufflehead 8; Com. Merganser 6; Red-br. Merganser 201; Am. Coot 1; Bald Eagle 3a., imm.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Merlin 3; Purple Sandpiper 15; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 47; Ring-billed Gull 39; Herring Gull 4217; Iceland Gull 88; Glaucous Gull 3; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 354; Lesser Bl.-backed Gull 1; Dovekie 13; Black Guillemot 32; Thin-billed Murre 1; Rock Dove 941; Mourning Dove 75; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 28; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 342; Am. Crow 2027; Com. Raven 24; Jackdaw 1; Bl.-capped Chickadee 511; Boreal Chickadee 49; Red-br. Nuthatch 31; White-br. Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-cr. Kinglet 64; Am. Robin 36; N. Mockingbird 3; Hermit Thrush 1; Bohemian Waxwing 197; Eur. Starling 2132; Yel.-rumped Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 1; Dickcissel 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 49; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 30; Fox Sparrow 2; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-thr. Sparrow 11; Dark-eyed Junco 118; Lapland Longspur 8; Snow Bunting 74; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Br.-headed Cowbird 85; Pine Grosbeak 39; Purple Finch 2; White-winged Crossbill 2; Com. Redpoll 8; Pine Siskin 2; Am. Goldfinch 38; Evening Grosbeak 76; House Sparrow 809.

Total 84 species, about 15,206 individuals. (CP: N. Gannet, Hooded Merganser, Com. (Mew) Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Thick-billed Murre, Bl.-backed Woodpecker, Yellow-headed Blackbird). Phyllis Bryson, Bill Caudle, John & Shirley Cohrs, Alan Covert, David Diller, Jim Elliott, Chris Field, Roger Foxall, Sylvia Fullerton, Barbara Hinds, Deb Hornsby, Fulton Lavender, Alana MacNeill, Carol MacNeill, Don MacNeill, Blake Maybank, Ian McLaren, Gordon McLean, Maxine McLean, Roger Pocklington, Bev Sarty (compiler), Clarence Stevens, Jim Taylor, Gordon Tufts, Azor Vienneau, Jim Wolford.

HAZEL HILL, Jan. 3; 10AM to 4:30PM. Clear AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind 25kmh. Temp. -3C. Fresh water frozen. 7 observers in 1 party, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 7 (1 on foot, 6 by car). Total party miles 29 (1 on foot, 28 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Great Cormorant 3; Oldsquaw 4; Com. Merganser 1; Red-br. Merganser 21; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Herring Gull 28; Iceland Gull 7; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 9; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 3; Mourning Dove 3; Blue Jay 8; Com. Raven 1; Bl.-capped Chickadee 3; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; Eur. Starling 210; Am. Tree Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Com. Grackle 6.

Total 21 species, about 319 individuals. (CP: Com. Eider, Gray Partridge, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Am. Crow, Am. Robin, Song Sparrow, White-thr. Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak). Stephen Bushell, June Jarvis, Samuel Jarvis, Warren Peters, Nancy Peters

(compiler), Grace Walsh, Joe Walsh.

KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK, Dec. 18; 8AM to 5:30PM. Cloudy with light snow. Wind NW 10-20mph. Temp. 18-22F. Still water frozen. Moving water partly open. 15 observers in 7-9 parties, 4-8 at feeders. Total party hours 37 3/4 (19 1/4 on foot, 7 1/2 by car, 11 by skis). Total party miles 91 1/2 (23 on foot, 56 3/4 by car, 11 3/4 on skis).

N. Harrier 1; Ruffed Grouse 10; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 57; Am. Crow 15; Com. Raven 11; Bl.-capped Chickadee 74; Boreal Chickadee 6; Red-br. Nuthatch 39; White-br. Nuthatch 5; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-cr. Kinglet 37; Eur. Starling 26; Am. Tree Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 14; Br.-headed Cowbird 5; Pine Grosbeak 2; Red Crossbill 24; White-winged Crossbill 3; Evening Grosbeak 68; House Sparrow 23.

Total 24 species, about 440 individuals. Thelma Bowers, Rick Brunt, Leigh & Miriam DeLong, Ron Eaton, Jerry Frail, Peter Hope (compiler), Len & Pat MacDonald, Paul MacDonald, Daniel Mansfield, Jean Morse, Granville & Maggie Nickerson, Betty & Jim Ross, Althea Rowter, Ron Sigston, Nellie Snyder.

MARGAREE, Dec. 19; 8AM to 4PM. Overcast. Wind NW 6kmh. Temp. -7C. Fresh water partly frozen. 6 observers in 2 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 16 (2 on foot, 14 by car). Total party miles 81 (3 on foot, 78 by car).

Am. Black Duck 10; Com. Goldeneye 83; Com. Merganser 15; Bald Eagle 29; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 11; Herring Gull 32; Iceland Gull 13; Mourning Dove 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 58; Am. Crow 172; Com. Raven 86; Bl.-capped Chickadee 38; Brown Creeper 7; Golden-cr. Kinglet 6; Am. Robin 2; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 179; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Pine Grosbeak 55; Pine Siskin 17; Evening Grosbeak 15; House Sparrow 67.

Total species 27, about 913 individuals. Frances Hart (compiler), Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham, Alex Miller, Cora Timmons.

PICTOU, Dec. 23; 7AM to 4PM. Mostly clear AM. Partly cloudy PM. Wind 10kmh. Temp. -10C. Fresh water frozen. 5 observers in 3 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 16 (2 on foot, 14 by car). Total party miles 38 (2 on foot, 36 by car).

Horned Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 4; Double-cr. Cormorant 3; Canada Goose 165; Am. Black Duck 96; N. Pintail 2; Greater Scaup 210; Com. Goldeneye 215; Bufflehead 2; Com. Merganser 60; Red-br. Merganser 6; Hooded Merganser 2; Bald Eagle 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 187; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 56; Rock Dove 72; Mourning Dove 4; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 6; Blue Jay 15; Am. Crow 197; Com. Raven 38; Bl.-capped Chickadee 14; Am. Robin 1; N. Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 42; Eur. Starling 166; Am. Tree Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 31; Br.-headed Cowbird 3; Am. Goldfinch 8; Evening Grosbeak 41; House Sparrow 12.

Total 39 species, about 1684 individuals. (CP: Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Oldsquaw, Iceland Gull, Red-br. Nuthatch, White-br. Nuthatch, White-thr. Sparrow, Pine Grosbeak). Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Calder Fraser (compiler), Margaret Kenney.

PORT L'HEBERT, Dec. 17; 7:30AM to 5PM. Mostly cloudy with intermittent snow. Wind NW 30-40kmh. Temp. -5C. Fresh water frozen. 14 observers in 9 parties, 3 at feeding stations. Total party hours 67 1/4 (56 1/2 on foot, 10 3/4 by car). Total party miles 267 (76 on foot, 191 by car).

Red-throated Loon 8; Com. Loon 45; Horned Grebe 46; Red-necked Grebe 10; Great Cormorant 24; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 3510; Green-winged Teal 4; Am. Black Duck 714; Mallard 2; Greater Scaup 40; Com. Eider 383; Oldsquaw 103; Black Scoter 98; Surf Scoter 4; Com. Merganser 8; Red-br. Merganser 34; Bald Eagle 5imm.; N. Harrier 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 3; Ruffed Grouse 3; Black-bellied Plover 3; Ruddy Turnstone 2; Dunlin 52; Purple Sandpiper 3; White-rumped Sandpiper 1; Com. Snipe 1; Short-billed Dowitcher 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 9; Bonaparte's Gull 5; Herring Gull 625; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 375; Dovekie 13; Black Guillemot 44; Rock Dove 23; Mourning Dove 27; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 4; Horned Lark 15; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 42; Am. Crow 152; Com. Raven 19; Bl.-capped Chickadee 114; Boreal Chickadee 25; Red-br. Nuthatch 9; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 52; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1; Am. Robin 7; Water Pipit 2;



Cedar Waxwing 1; Eur. Starling 451; Yel.-rumped Warbler 80; Palm Warbler 3; Com. Yellowthroat 1; Pine Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 113; Savannah Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 16; Lincoln's Sparrow 1; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 40; Fox Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 95; Snow Bunting 269; E. Meadowlark 1; Pine Grosbeak 26; White-winged Crossbill 7; Com. Redpoll 2; Pine Siskin 2; Am. Goldfinch 32; Evening Grosbeak 24, House Sparrow 8.

Total 84 species, about 7996 individuals. (CP: Ring-necked Duck, Ring-billed Gull, Great Horned Owl, Short-eared Owl, Red-winged Blackbird). Lloyd Cameron, Bill Crosby, Donna Crosby, Russel Crosby (compiler), Bill Curry, Emerson Fiske, Greg Kenney, Danny Mason, Hugh McCormack, Robert Turner, Carmen Williams, Danielle MacAulay-Williams, David Young, Joan Young.

PUBNICO, Dec. 30; 8AM to 4PM. Clear. Very light wind. Temp. -23 to -3C. Fresh water frozen. 23 observers in 5 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 35 (25 on foot, 10 by car). Total party miles 204 (14 on foot, 190 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Red-necked Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 8; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 31; Am. Black Duck 5; Greater Scaup 17; Oldsquaw 10; Com. Goldeneye 108; Com. Merganser 1; Red-br. Merganser 57; Bald Eagle 15; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 45; Ruffed Grouse 2; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 272; Glaucous Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 156; Rock Dove 29; Mourning Dove 49; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 3; N. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Horned Lark 30; Blue Jay 76; Am. Crow 137; Com. Raven 22; Bl.-capped Chickadee 135; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-br. Nuthatch 9; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-cr. Kinglet 58; Am. Robin 1; N. Mockingbird 1; Eur. Starling 53; Yel.-rumped Warbler 36; Am. Tree Sparrow 101; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 15; Fox Sparrow 4; White-thr. Sparrow 36; Dark-eyed Junco 42; Snow Bunting 334; Red-winged Blackbird 30; Com. Grackle 4; Br.-headed Cowbird 29; N. Cardinal 1; Pine Grosbeak 8; Am. Goldfinch 3; Evening Grosbeak 25; House Sparrow 167.

Total 55 species, about 2198 individuals. (CP: Brant, Turkey Vulture, Barred Owl, Brown Thrasher, Bohemian Waxwing, N. Shrike, House Finch). Daryl Amirault, Makiko Clark, Michael Clark, Peter Comeau, Albert D'Entremont, Alice D'Entremont, Craig D'Entremont, Delisle D'Entremont, Laurent D'Entremont, Lisette D'Entremont, Raymond D'Entremont, Serge D'Entremont, Jerome D'Eon, Lance D'Eon, Lester D'Eon, Milton D'Eon, Ted C. D'Eon (compiler), Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Richard Martyn, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters, Eric Ruff.

SABLE ISLAND, Dec. 20; 9AM to 3PM. Cloudy. Wind 15kmh AM, 5kmh PM. Temp. -2C to -3C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 1 observer. Total party hours 6 (2 on foot, 4 by all terrain vehicle). Total party miles 34 (2 on foot, 32 by all terrain vehicle).

Canada Goose 2; Snow Goose 1; Am. Black Duck 32; Am. Widgeon 3; Com. Goldeneye 3; Red-br. Merganser 5; Peregrine Falcon 1; Sanderling 45; Dunlin 3; Herring Gull 30; Iceland Gull 20; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 275; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 50; (Eur.) Redwing 1; Am. Robin 3; Eur. Starling 6; Yel.-rumped Warbler 4; Savannah Sparrow 1; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 15; Fox Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 30.

Total 21 species, plus 1 additional race, about 532 individuals. (CP: Snowy Owl). Andrew MacFarlane (compiler).

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 30; 8AM to 4:30PM. Clear. No wind. Temp. -29C (at first). Fresh water frozen. 32 observers in 4 parties, 21 at feeding stations. Total party hours 19 (5 on foot, 14 by car). Total party miles 27 (5 on foot, 22 by car).

Am. Black Duck 2; Bald Eagle 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; N. Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 33; Herring Gull 6; Rock Dove 78; Mourning Dove 12; Downy Woodpecker 18; Hairy Woodpecker 10; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 211; Am. Crow 134; Com. Raven 39; Bl.-capped Chickadee 211; Boreal Chickadee 11; Red-br. Nuthatch 26; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 10; Cedar Waxwing 1; Eur. Starling 435; N. Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 100; Song Sparrow 2; White-thr. Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 30; Snow Bunting 95; Pine Siskin 13; Am. Goldfinch 24; Evening Grosbeak 131; House Sparrow 79.

Total 33 species, about 1742 individuals. (CP: N. Harrier, Ruffed Grouse, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl 1; N. Flicker, N. Shrike, Dickcissel, Pine Grosbeak). Marjorie Cook, Ivan DeLong, Cathy Etter, Avard & Nancy Ettinger, Mary Geddes (compiler), Glennys Hutton, Joan Jarvis, Joanne MacBeth, Allan, Anne, Eric & John MacDonald, Pam MacInnis, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler), Elsie & Lloyd McCulloch, Juanita Murphy, Eldon Pace, Clara Parker, Aletha Poole, Christine Iveripel, Judy Iveripel, Nancy Reid,

Jean Schwartz, Barbara & Lloyd Scott, Peter Smallwood, Connie Stott, Audrey & Lorne Tyler, Linda Vaughan, Lorne Weaver, Peggy Williams.

SPRINGVILLE; Dec. 16; 8AM to 1PM. Mostly clear. Wind W 10kmh. Temp. -11C to -8C. Fresh water frozen. 4 observers in 2 parties, 1 at feeding stations. Total party hours 10 (3 on foot, 7 by car). Total party miles 65 (5 on foot, 60 by car).

Am. Black Duck 21; Bald Eagle 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Herring Gull 18; Rock Dove 56; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 88; Am. Crow 133; Com. Raven 9; Bl.-capped Chickadee 19; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; Bohemian Waxwing 66; Eur. Starling 113; Am. Tree Sparrow 10; Dark-eyed Junco 4; Snow Bunting 50; Com. Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 5; Com. Redpoll 36; Am. Goldfinch 10; Evening Grosbeak 12; House Sparrow 61.

Total 25 species, about 727 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk, N. Goshawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Golden-cr. Kinglet, N. Shrike, Red Crossbill). Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Margaret Kenney (compiler), Richard Murphy.

STRAIT OF CANSO, Dec. 31; 8AM to 4PM. Clear. No wind. Temp. 5C. Fresh water frozen. 1 observer. Total party hours 7 (2 on foot, 2 by car, 3 other). Total party miles 23 (3 on foot, 20 by car).

Com. Goldeneye 11; Red-br. Merganser 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 2; Herring Gull 100; Iceland Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 30; Blue Jay 5; Am. Crow 50; Com. Raven 1; Bl.-capped Chickadee 12; Red-br. Nuthatch 2; Eur. Starling 14; Am. Tree Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 1; Snow Bunting 15; Com. Redpoll 1.

Total 17 species, about 255 individuals. (CP: Great Cormorant, Double-cr. Cormorant, Bald Eagle, Ruffed Grouse, Hairy Woodpecker, Am. Robin, Cedar Waxwing (no details), Evening Grosbeak). Kerstin Mueller.

WEST HANTS, Dec. 31; 8AM to 4:30PM. Clear AM. Mostly clear PM. Wind 8kmh. Temp. 1C. Fresh water partly frozen. 17 observers in 6 parties, 2 at feeding stations. Total party hours 49 (40 on foot, 9 by car). Total party miles 275 (47 on foot, 228 by car).

Great Cormorant 1; Am. Black Duck 286; Com. Merganser 23; Bald Eagle 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Gray Partridge 10; Ring-necked Pheasant 110; Ruffed Grouse 4; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 301; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 67; Rock Dove 247; Mourning Dove 51; Downy Woodpecker 10; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Pileated Woodpecker 13; Horned Lark 52; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 289; Am. Crow 422; Com. Raven 77; Bl.-capped Chickadee 162; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-br. Nuthatch 12; White-br. Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 27; Am. Robin 4; Eur. Starling 1571; Am. Tree Sparrow 85; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 9; Dark-eyed Junco 71; Snow Bunting 1047; Pine Grosbeak 35; Am. Goldfinch 86; Evening Grosbeak 37; House Sparrow 555.

Total 40 species, about 5709 individuals. (CP: Mallard, Merlin, Bohemian Waxwing, Red-winged Blackbird). Karen Casselman (compiler), Ted Casselman, Merritt Gibson, Fulton Lavender, Pat MacLeod, Bernice Moores, Mary Pratt, Gerry Rathbun, Richard Stern, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Azor Vienneau, Jelmer Wiersma, Sherman Williams, Beth Woolaver, Frank Woolaver.

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 16; 7:15AM to 5:15PM. Overcast AM. Overcast with snow or snow/rain PM. Wind 0 to 20kmh. Temp. -8C to -2C. Fresh water mostly frozen. 94 observers in 28 parties, 26 at feeding stations. Total party hours 139.5 (80.75 on foot, 54.75 by car, 4 by snowmobile). Total party miles 541.6 (87.1 on foot, 434.5 by car, 20 by snowmobile).

Red-thr. Loon 1; teal, sp. 5; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 48; Am. Black Duck 618; Mallard 20; White-winged Scoter 6; Com. Goldeneye 14; Com. Merganser 55; Red-br. Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 148 (77a., 69imm., 2 unknown age); N. Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 12; Red-tailed Hawk 154; Rough-legged Hawk 13; Am. Kestrel 2; Merlin 2; Gray Partridge 6; Ring-necked Pheasant 585; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 6106; Gr. Bl.-backed Gull 995; Rock Dove 1027; Mourning Dove 569; Barred Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 44; Hairy Woodpecker 21; N. Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 294; Blue Jay 822; Am. Crow 11,330; Com. Raven 644; Bl.-capped Chickadee 570; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-br. Nuthatch 20; White-br. Nuthatch 17; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-cr. Kinglet 79; Am. Robin 37; N. Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 197; Cedar Waxwing 11; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 20,080; Yel.-rumped Warbler 1; N. Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 324; Chipping Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow

10; Vesper Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 122; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 18; Dark-eyed Junco 725; Lapland Longspur 92; Snow Bunting 829; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Com. Grackle 6; Br.-headed Cowbird 34; Pine Grosbeak 40; Purple Finch 6; Red Crossbill 12; White-winged Crossbill 13; Pine Siskin 6; Am. Goldfinch 737; Evening Grosbeak 310; House Sparrow 1986.

Total 69 species, about 49,855 individuals. (CP: Green-winged Teal, including one of Eurasian race, Gadwall, N. Goshawk, Am. Woodcock, Ring-billed Gull, Iceland Gull). Marc Adam, Agar Adamson, George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Jim Amos, Peter Austin-Smith, Adeline Bayne, Gordon Bayne, Nancy Bleakney, Sherman Bleakney, Sherman Boates, Larry Bogan, Soren Bondrup-Nielsen, Richard Cain, Karen Casselman, Simone Champion, Curtis Chipman, Lana Churchill, Joe Clifford, Pat Clifford, Elizabeth Coghill, Cyril Coldwell, Peggy Connelly, Debbie Daigle, Jim Daigle, Pat Davis, Don Dodds, Ed Eagles, Ev Eagles, Mark Elderkin, Mary Forbes, George Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Jamie Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Tony Green, Robert Harris, Sharon Harris, Blanche Healy, J.P. Huang, Shirley Jackson, David Johnson, David Jones, Anne Karttunen, Jerry Karttunen, Helen Loomer, Jackie MacDonald, Peter MacDonald, Stephen MacPhee, Bill Martell, Pat Martell, Bernard Mason, Eleanor Mason, Pam Matthews, Pat McLeod, Randy Milton, Erich Muntz, Andy Nette, Reg Newell, Ruth Newell, Nancy Nickerson, Pat O'Neill, Terry Pearson, Wade Pierlot, Mary Pratt, Ladny Richmond, Stan Riggs, Jack Scott, Ada Smith, Chalmers Smith, Peter Smith, Richard Stern, George Stevens, Maeann Stevens, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Dianne Thorpe, Kimberly Thorpe, Jean Timpa, David Tracey, Gerry Trueman, Gordon Tufts, Judy Tufts, Eva Urban, Gertrude Waseem, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford (compiler), Jim Wood, Frank Woolaver, Barry Yoell, Chris Yoell, Chris Zinck, Marian Zinck.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 17; 8AM to 5PM. Overcast with heavy snow AM. Mostly cloudy PM. Wind 30-40 knots. Temp. -5C. Fresh water frozen. 16 observers in 6 parties, 7 at feeding stations. Total party hours 36½ (6½ on foot, 30 by car). Total party miles 411 (10 on foot, 401 by car).

Com. Loon 13; Red-necked Grebe 1; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 36; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 242; Green-winged Teal 1; Am. Black Duck 354; Mallard 93; Am. Widgeon 1; Wood Duck 1; Greater Scaup 1; Com. Eider 36; Oldsquaw 65; Black Scoter 4; Surf Scoter 3; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 20; Bufflehead 14; Com. Merganser 21; Red-br. Merganser 46; Bald Eagle 4; N. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Broad-winged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Ruffed Grouse 2; Am. Coot 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 2; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed 12; Herring Gull 853; Iceland Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 376; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 58; Mourning Dove 99; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 4; N. Flicker 1; Horned Lark 114; Blue Jay 93; Am. Crow 445; Com. Raven 33; Bl.-capped Chickadee 113; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-br. Nuthatch 5; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 11; Am. Robin 14; N. Mockingbird 6; Water Pipit 3; Eur. Starling 757; Yel.-rumped Warbler 2; N. Cardinal 2; Am. Tree Sparrow 65; Chipping Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 35; White-thr. Sparrow 56; Fox Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 227; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 71; Red-winged Blackbird 49; Com. Grackle 91; Br.-headed Cowbird 84; Pine Grosbeak 7; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 4; Pine Siskin 3; Am. Goldfinch 36; Evening Grosbeak 1; House Sparrow 96.

Total 79 species, about 4838 individuals. (CP: Am. Woodcock, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Ruby-cr. Kinglet, N. Shrike). Margaret Churchill, Raymond D'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, June Graves, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Hazel MacDonald, Dale Mullen, Ingrid Prosser, Lloyd Prosser, Barbara & Eric Ruff (compilers), Robin Rymer, Gerry Somers.

#### Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals 1989 Christmas Count

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

This year there were three new species seen, bringing the all-time provincial list to 224 species plus 3 additional races.

New all-time high counts (numbers underlined>) were established for 17 species, compared with 21 last year and 24 the year before.

Wolfville led the high count list this year with 28, Port Hebert and Halifax East each tied with 24, followed by Halifax West with 18, Yarmouth 11, and Annapolis Royal, Brier Island and Broad Cove each with 8.

Red-thr. Loon 8 (Port Hebert); Com. Loon 61 (Halifax East); Pied-billed Grebe 1 (Halifax West & Yarmouth); Horned Grebe 46 (Port Hebert); Red-necked Grebe 53 (Brier Island); Great Cormorant 80 (Halifax West); Double-cr. Cormorant 3 (Brier Island & Pictou); Great Blue Heron 2 (Halifax East & Yarmouth; Canada Goose 6606 (Halifax East); Snow Goose 1 (Sable Island); Wood Duck 3 (Halifax West); Green-winged Teal 4 (Port Hebert); Am. Black Duck 1675 (Halifax West); Mallard 165 (Halifax West); N. Pintail 2 (Pictou); Am. Widgeon 8 (Halifax West); Greater Scaup 210 (Pictou); Lesser Scaup 10 (Antigonish); Com. Eider 383 (Port Hebert); Oldsquaw 4584 (Annapolis Royal); Black Scoter 98 (Port Hebert); Surf Scoter 15 (Annapolis Royal); White-winged Scoter 73 (Halifax East); Com. Goldeneye 215 (Pictou); Barrow's Goldeneye 5 (Cheticamp); Bufflehead 267 (Annapolis Royal); Hooded Merganser 3 (Broad Cove); Com. Merganser 60 (Pictou); Red-br. Merganser 271 (Halifax East).

Turkey Vulture 2 (Brier Island); Bald Eagle 148 (Wolfville); N. Harrier 7 (Halifax East & Port Hebert); Sharp-shinned Hawk 12 (Wolfville); N. Goshawk 2 (Bridgetown, Economy & Shubenacadie); Broad-winged Hawk 1 (Yarmouth); Red-tailed Hawk 154 (Wolfville); Rough-legged Hawk 25 (Amherst); Am. Kestrel 3 (Port Hebert); Merlin 4 (Halifax East); Peregrine Falcon 1 (Sable Island); Gray Partridge 26 (Economy); Ring-necked Pheasant 585 (Wolfville); Spruce Grouse 2 (Halifax East); Ruffed Grouse 18 (Economy); Am. Coot 1 (Halifax West & Yarmouth); Black-bellied Plover 3 (Port Hebert); Killdeer 1 (Halifax East); Greater Yellowlegs 1 (Halifax East); Ruddy Turnstone 2 (Port Hebert); Sanderling 45 (Sable Island); White-rumped Sandpiper 1 (Port Hebert); Purple Sandpiper 196 (Economy); Dunlin 52 (Port Hebert); Com. Snipe 1 (Halifax East & Port Hebert); Short-billed Dowitcher 1 (Port Hebert).

Com. Bl.-headed Gull 47 (Halifax West); Bonaparte's Gull 5 (Port Hebert); Ring-billed Gull 92 (Halifax East); Herring Gull 6106 (Wolfville); Iceland Gull 88 (Halifax West); Lesser Bl.-backed Gull 1 (Halifax West); Glaucous Gull 13 (Cheticamp); Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 995 (Wolfville); Black-legged Kittiwake 2200 (Brier Island); Dovekie 14 (Broad Cove); Thin-billed Murre 1 (Annapolis Royal, Bridgetown & Halifax West); Thick-billed Murre 3 (Broad Cove); Black Guillemot 44 (Port Hebert); Rock Dove 1027 (Wolfville); Mourning Dove 569 (Wolfville); Great Horned Owl 1 (Broad Cove & Halifax West); Snowy Owl 1 (Brier Island); Barred Owl 2 (Amherst, Halifax East & Halifax West); Short-eared Owl 2 (Glace Bay & Wolfville).

Belted Kingfisher 2 (Port Hebert); Downy Woodpecker 44 (Wolfville); Hairy Woodpecker 21 (Wolfville); Black-backed Woodpecker 1 (Amherst); N. (Yel.-sh.) Flicker 4 (Port Hebert); Pileated Woodpecker 13 (West Hants); Horned Lark 294 (Wolfville); Gray Jay 26 (Amherst); Blue Jay 822 (Wolfville); Jackdaw 1 (Halifax West); Am. Crow 11,330 (Wolfville); Com. Raven 644 (Wolfville); Bl.-capped Chickadee 570 (Wolfville); Boreal Chickadee 118 (Broad Cove); Red-br. Nuthatch 39 (Kejimikujik Nat'l Park); White-br. Nuthatch 17 (Wolfville); Brown Creeper 10 (Broad Cove); Golden-cr. Kinglet 133 (Broad Cove); Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1 (Halifax East & Port Hebert); Hermit Thrush 1 (Halifax West); Eur. Redwing 1 (Sable Island); Am. Robin 61 (Halifax East); N. Mockingbird 6 (Yarmouth); Brown Thrasher 1 (Annapolis Royal); Water Pipit 3 (Brier Island, Halifax East & Yarmouth); Bohemian Waxwing 197 (Halifax West & Wolfville); Cedar Waxwing 11 (Wolfville); N. Shrike 2 (Amherst).

Eur. Starling 20,080 (Wolfville); Yel.-rumped (Myr.) Warbler 80 (Port Hebert); Pine Warbler 1 (Halifax West & Port Hebert); Palm Warbler 3 (Port Hebert); Com. Yellowthroat 1 (Halifax East & Port Hebert); N. Cardinal 4 (Annapolis Royal); Dickcissel 2 (Amherst); Am. Tree Sparrow 324 (Wolfville); Chipping Sparrow 2 (Wolfville); Vesper Sparrow 1 (Wolfville); Savannah Sparrow 29 (Halifax East); Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 15 (Sable Island); Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); Fox Sparrow 6 (Yarmouth); Song Sparrow 122 (Wolfville); Lincoln's Sparrow 1 (Port Hebert); Swamp Sparrow 16 (Halifax East); White-thr. Sparrow 56 (Yarmouth); White-crowned Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); Dark-eyed (S-c.) Junco 725 (Wolfville); Lapland Longspur 126 (Halifax East); Snow Bunting 1047 (West Hants).

Red-winged Blackbird 49 (Yarmouth); E. Meadowlark 1 (Port Hebert); Rusty Blackbird 16 (Annapolis Royal); Com. Grackle 91 (Yarmouth); Br.-headed Cowbird 85 (Halifax West); N. (Baltimore) Oriole 1 (Halifax East); Pine Grosbeak 55 (Margaree); Purple Finch 14 (Annapolis Royal); House Finch 4 (Yarmouth); Red Crossbill 13 (Broad Cove); White-winged Crossbill 25 (Halifax East); Com. Redpoll 105 (Brier Island); Pine Siskin 30 (Brier Island); Am. Goldfinch 737 (Wolfville); Evening Grosbeak 310 (Wolfville); House Sparrow 1986 (Wolfville).





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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Winter Birds 1989-1990	4
A Common Ringed Plover in Nova Scotia	19
Letters to the Editor	23
Birding Holidays in Britain	26
Living Island	29
Forthcoming Field Trips	36
Field Trip Reports	39
Book Review: <b>North American Owls</b>	43
The Ruddy Duck	45
Nova Scotia Christmas Counts 1989-1990	51

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