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Happy New Year

FROM YOUR 1990-1991 EXECUTIVE



From the left: Bob Dickie, President; Shirley Cohrs, Editor; Bev Sarty, Director; Joyce Purchase, Vice President; Phyl Bryson, Secretary; Carol MacNeill, Membership Secretary; Marion Allsebrook, Director; Don MacNeill, Treasurer (absent, Clarence Stevens)

Photo: Peter Payzant

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tonight we are marking the 35th anniversary of the Nova Scotia Bird Society so I would like to extend a welcome to all, especially to those Charter Members who are here tonight. We shall be introducing them later.

It has been a busy year. The Executive has held regular meetings and has made my term as President much easier by carrying out their duties in a willing and efficient way. One of the goals I had set myself was the revision and up-dating of the Constitution and By-laws of the Society which had not been done since 1968. In light of events on the federal level this summer, it is perhaps just as well that we were unable to finalize the new version. However, it should be ready for presentation by next year. Thanks to Bill Caudle and Tony Robinson for the work they have done so far.

Besides the usual housekeeping duties, we have answered several letters of concern with regard to the environment; e.g., the proposed port at Kelly's Mountain, which is near our Bird Islands sanctuary, a request from Porter-Dillon for input into the proposed line from Pt. Aconi to Hopewell; sent a letter of support to R. Chaisson for a Piping Plover Conservation and Education project on the Acadian peninsula in New Brunswick and a letter supporting retention of a chimney at the Middleton Regional High School used by Chimney Swifts. A watching brief is being kept on the Black Duck Brook controversy and the McNab's Island sewage plant suggestion. We supplied a Cape Breton group with the information gained from the Bird Fair held last year and made suggestions for speakers at the International Wild Waterfowl convention in Sackville, N.B. In addition to this, members of the Executive gave slide talks and led bird walks for groups such as Elderhostel, the Nova Scotia Museum, several schools from Jeddore to Halifax, Beavers, Brownies and two horticultural clubs. For nearly the whole year, I have been attending meetings as your representative on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Point Pleasant Park Commission. As I said, it has been a busy year.

Other members deserve a "thank you" as well: Ted D'Eon represented the Society at the dedication of the Evelyn and Morrill Richardson Field Station of Acadia University on Bon Portage Island; Fulton Lavender and Ian McLaren responded to a call from Bowater Mersey Paper Co. Ltd., with a survey of birds on their lands--we hope this is a step in the right direction. Ian also responded to the request for a brief from us by Cohasset/Panuke (Lasmo) who, as you know, are setting up a well-drilling project off Sable Island.

Many of our members also take on the duties of giving slide talks and leading groups and, rather than leave someone out, we thank all of them. A special thank you goes to Bernice Moores and Elizabeth Townsend for organizing tonight's wine and cheese reception at the end of the meeting.

The Nova Scotia Museum has, as usual, assisted us in the publishing of **Nova Scotia Birds**, by a grant of \$2,000 and, of course, we are fortunate to have the use of these rooms for our meetings.

Those of us who live near enough to the museum look forward to the regular monthly meetings, ably run by John Cohrs who, by the way, also carved our Puffin--thanks John--and, thanks to Bernice and Jim Taylor, we are able to enjoy a friendly visit over refreshments afterwards. Last years' speakers included Ian McLaren, who spoke on Southern Birds, Blake Maybank, with his programme on India and Loren Bondrup-Neilsen, who related his experiences with Boreal Owls. We would like to thank them, not

forgetting the members who shared their photographs with us on members' slide night and this year a special mention goes to Chris Field, who ran the Book Auction so well, assisted by Marion Allsebrook.

At this time, we would like to pay tribute to Carin Somers, who was serving as Vice President at the time of her death. She was always smiling and enthusiastic and will be greatly missed. Her mother, Helen Stein (a long standing member) and her husband, Frank, generously donated her books and other items relating to birds, etc., for this successful auction with the proceeds going to the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund.

From time to time, we are able to have a special meeting outside Halifax; e.g., Yarmouth, Bridgewater and Cape Breton. This year, Michael Olsen arranged just such a programme in New Glasgow and we spent an enjoyable evening with the speakers, Norm Seymore and Harry Brennan, followed by a chance to get together over refreshments. A successful field trip was conducted the following morning.

For all our members, one of life's little pleasures is receiving the newest copy of **Nova Scotia Birds**. We agree with all the correspondents who write in praise of our magazine and our thanks go to the Editor, Shirley Cohrs, and her hard working staff for presenting such a professional product with something of interest for everyone. We also commend Bev Sarty and her mailing committee for the difficult job they do.

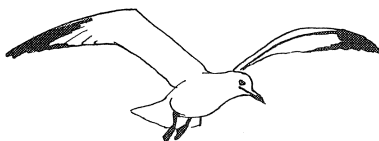
For the list of field trips scheduled throughout the province at all times of the year, you can see we have another busy and capable organizer, Jim Taylor. These trips give the members a chance to meet and explore new birding spots and, in my opinion, play a very important role in the life of the Society.

For years, we have been asked why there are no bird columns in the local newspapers. We are fortunate to have at this time at least three members who produce excellent articles on all facets of birding in Nova Scotia. I would like to express the Society's appreciation to Barbara Hinds, Nellie Snyder and Clarence Stevens for so ably filling this gap.

Do you remember, on our 25th anniversary, trying to select and have proclaimed a Provincial Bird? We have a file this thick. In fact, after contacting every conceivable department of the provincial government, we finally stopped trying. Then C.B.C.'s Information Morning staff ran a little contest with considerable input from Clarence Stevens, with first choice going to the Osprey. We waited, at last there was a nibble from the Tourism Dept., eventually a meeting was arranged with the Minister of Education, Ron Giffin, our representative being Richard Stern and, after much discussion, the Director of the Nova Scotia Museum, Candice Stevenson, agreed to oversee the selection--presumably the Osprey. Who knows, maybe by our 50th...

It has been an honour to serve as your President for this year and I recommend it highly as a marvelous learning experience.

Joyce Purchase



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, Chezzetcook.
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, Lindon, 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.

RECORD EDITOR'S REPORT

Fall - 1990

Generally bird populations in this reporting period would appear to be up. I have read comments like "There are birds everywhere". This certainly would appear to be true of the Red-bellied Woodpecker, a local rarity. Whether these increases constitute a trend or a temporary respite from an apparently disastrous drop off over the past few years, remains to be seen.

Our bird reports cannot be used to determine trends, but the results of the Annual Christmas Counts and the Breeding Bird Survey could give a good indication.

I was particularly impressed with David Currie's report at the Society's Annual General Meeting, of the work he is doing with the Christmas Bird Counts. These counts are useful because they cover specific and unchanging conditions and have been conducted over lengthy periods of time. The late Ross Anderson had collected Christmas count data for much of his life and this has been made available to us by his wife, Mary. With assistance from the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund Committee, Mr. Currie has been entering the great mass of data into computer so analyses are possible.

It is with great concern that I have heard of an attempt to change the Halifax East and West counts by combining them into one count circle. Such a change would have a catastrophic effect upon the work done by Ross and Dave.

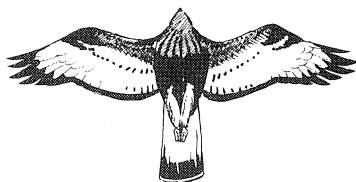
I cannot comment on the perceived good coming from such a change but to alter the basis of this study, at a time when the environment is under unprecedented assault would appear to me to be a retrograde step of mammoth proportions.

In any event, I urge you to keep those reports coming in, and please be sure to get them to me before the deadline. Thanks to Keith Keddy for sending me the weather reports and thanks to all the following for their important contribution.

Bob Dickie
Records Editor

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Initials</u>
Almon	Mike	MAI
Allsebrook	Keith	KA
	Marion	MA
Brunt	Richard	RB
Caudle	Bill	WC
Clarke	Margaret	MAC
Cohrs	John	JLC
	Lise	LAC
	Shirley	JSC
Covert	Alan	ACo
Crathorne	Ethel	EC
Crosby	Donna	DC
Currie	Carol	CLC
	David	DAC
Dalzell	Brian	BD
D'Entremont	Lisette	LD
	Raymond	RSD
D'Eon	Jerome	JSD
Desplanque	Con	CD
Dickie	Bob	RBD
	Helen	HD
Ellis	Margaret	MEE
Field	Chris	CF

Gallagher	Constance	CG
Gates	Joy	JG
Hall	Helen	HJH
Hebb	Hubert	HGH
Hinds	Ruth	RDH
Keith	Barbara	BHi
Kenny	Don	DK
Landry	Margaret	MK
Lavender	Nicole	NL
Lindes	Fulton	FLL
MacInnes	Janice	JL
MacInnis	Cyril	CMa
MacLean	John	JMac
MacLeod	Maxine	MM
MacNeill	Alan	AMc
Marrins	Peter	PM
Maybank	Carol	CDM
McLaren	Don	DAM
McLean	David	DMa
Mills	Blake	BMa
Morse	Ian	AIM
Paquin	Gordon	GMc
Payzant	Billy	WMi
Porter	Eric	ELM
Prosser	Bill	WM
Purchase	Jean	JeM
Sarty	Jean	JPa
Slatten	Linda/Peter	L&PP
Smith	Arthur	AP
Spalding	Ingrid	IP
Spicer	Lloyd	LPr
Stern	Don	DWP
Taylor	Joyce	JAP
Thorpe	Beverley	BSa
Thurston	Margaret	MS
Tufts	Sean	SDS
Vienneau	Francis	FS
Waldron	Kathleen	KS
Yawkey	Richard	RBS
Young	Jim	JWT
	Ken	KT
	Bob	RT
	Judy/Gordon	JGT
	Azor	AV
	Eleanor	EW
	Peter	PY
	David	DHY



BIRD REPORTS

LOONS AND GREBES

The earliest RED-THROATED LOON was one seen near Sober Island on Sept. 26 (BMA). There were 11 off Evangeline Beach on Oct. 22 (JGT), and a pelagic trip out of Halifax counted a satisfactory 38 individuals near the mouth of Halifax Harbour (FLL et al.) on Oct. 28.

A probable PACIFIC LOON was seen at Tidnish Bridge on Sept. 21 by Don and Carol MacNeill. Their description follows:

"In partial breeding plumage...seen through 20X scope. Head and neck light grey. Same shade all over neck except dark patch on front of neck. White breast. Bill not tilted up. Not as slender a head and neck as on Red-throated Loons also seen that day. Back and wings seemed mottled brown but may have been due to light. No white patch seen on side."

The neck details all but rule out any other species except the once-conspecific Arctic Loon. On the basis of the breeding ranges (Arctic: N. Europe and Siberia, Pacific: Canadian Arctic, Alaska), and these observers familiarity and experience with Common and Red-throated Loons (the only plausible alternatives) I am inclined to accept this as a valid record.

A pair of COMMON LOONS in Sandy Lake, Bedford failed to raise any young for the second year in a row, according to BSA. Predation by mammals could be behind this, but another possibility is that this lake has become acidified to the point where it no longer supports enough invertebrates and small fishes to feed the young birds, which simply starve to death. There were 17 reports of Common Loons on salt water, numbering from one to 15 individuals.

PIED-BILLED GREBES were lightly reported. ELM and AHM saw 20 at the Eddy Marsh near Amherst on August 16, JGT had two at the New Minas Ducks Unlimited (DU, hereafter) pond on August 30, the Cohrs' had two at Publicover Lake in Lun. Co. on Oct. 13, and JWT reported one in Russell Lake on Nov. 17. HORNED GREBES began appearing on Oct. 18 at Sandy Cove ("...right on cue" - RDH), and after then were in small numbers at several locations, with the exception of the 25 at Cherry Hill on Nov. 10 (JSC). A NSBS field trip encountered over 150 RED-NECKED GREBES at Tidnish on Sept. 9 (Stu Tingley et al.), and DAM reported "lots" from the same place on Sept. 21. Other reports were of five single birds at Economy, Brier Island, Cherry Hill, Crescent Beach and Bedford Basin.

LPMP, ed.

FULMAR TO CORMORANT

Our warm summer has brought us a good crop of tropical tubenoses, but the cool-water NORTHERN FULMAR has been scarce. Carl Haycock saw one off Grand Passage, Brier Island on July 4, and I saw one off Brier on Aug. 19. A galaxy of NSBS observers, rather seasick, saw only 5 - 4 light, 1 intermediate - on the pelagic trip on Sept. 29, about 30-35 miles ESE of Halifax. However, the trip to the same area on Oct. 28 produced 35 light, 10 intermediate and 5 dark.

Judah Bunin, the warden on Machias Seal Island, saw none of the large shearwater flocks that were a feature of July 1989, on the New Brunswick side of Fundy. However, there were plenty over here. I was on an oceanographic cruise to Georges and Browns Banks from Sept. 14-20. GREATER SHEARWATERS were common everywhere, often sitting behind fishing boats in large rafts. CORY'S, the subtropical species, was common on southern Georges Bank, close to the Gulf Stream. SOOTIES were largely confined to the outer Bay of Fundy. At a very rough guesstimate, I put the Greater: Cory's: Sooty ratio at 100:10:2.5, overall. I also saw a couple of MANX. But my

oddest sightings were probable LITTLE SHEARWATERS: 1 on Sept. 16 and 2 on Sept. 19, on Georges and Browns Banks respectively. These were little black-and-white birds, flying just above the surface, with short bursts of auk-like wing-beats: too lean in wings, neck and body for Dovekies, but quite the wrong size and flight-type for Manx. This bird, like Cory's, comes from the subtropical eastern Atlantic; the only confirmed Canadian record is a specimen from Sable Island, in September 1896.

If I've given my own records priority it's partly editorial privilege, but mainly because it's easier to describe them in one lump. For comparison, Raymond d'Entremont saw 1 Sooty on Sept. 8, but 300 Greaters on Oct. 20. He says: "You sometimes see immense flocks of Greaters on Georges in October. There will still be considerable numbers by mid-November". The Payzants saw a late Sooty off Brier Island on Oct. 8. The shearwaters on the pelagic trips off Halifax added up to 15 Greaters and 2 Manx on Sept. 29: there were none at all on Oct. 28. But Eric and Anne Mills, on a whale cruise off Brier Island on Sept. 6, estimated 2500 Greater Shearwaters, 500 Sooties, and 8 Manx. The complete absence of Cory's shows how much these birds depend on the Gulf Stream influences, farther south, that rarely reach us here in Nova Scotia. However, Ken Thorpe saw one, among large flocks of other shearwaters, off Brier on August 9, and Raymond d'Entremont saw 10 on Georges Bank on Sept. 6. "Late August and early September is probably the best time to see this shearwater on Georges". As for the other shearwaters, Hubert Hall saw a Manx on a **Bluenose** crossing on July 10, another on August 6, and 4 on Sept. 12. These last were with a large number of Greater Shearwaters 5-20 miles west of Yarmouth. The Payzants saw a Manx off Brier Island, on Oct. 8. Raymond d'Entremont saw 2 on Georges Bank on Sept. 23. "I'm seeing this shearwater more and more in recent years." Yes indeed, now the species has colonized southern Newfoundland, and Cape Cod.

In fact, we may have a colonization here in Nova Scotia. Brian Dalzell has found a possible burrow on St. Paul Island, north of Cape Breton, in Cabot Strait. I think the next step is to spend a couple of nights on the island, listening in the dark. A breeding Manx Shearwater shoots past your ear like something on Halloween, screaming like a bat out of hell with a bad smoker's cough, and smacks into the earth at your feet. It's very hard to mistake. Do we have any volunteers for an expedition? July or August would probably be the right time.

Richard Stern was on Bon Portage Island at night, on Sept. 1-3, and he found plenty of LEACH'S STORM PETREL chicks there, almost ready to fly. I saw WILSON'S and Leach's Storm-Petrels regularly, if in small numbers, on my cruise to Georges/Browns Banks in mid-Sept. My own best guess was that Wilson's were always in the majority - perhaps by 10: 1? Raymond d'Entremont saw 100 Leach's on Browns Bank on August 6, but his last positive sightings of Leach's were of a couple on Georges Bank, as early as Sept. 10, and his Wilson's were scarce after Sept. 15. The Mills saw only 1 Wilson's on their whale cruise off Brier on Sept. 6. I'm afraid it's a thoroughly inconsistent pattern: NOBODY is right, when it comes to counting seabirds in Fundy! The latest, and oddest sighting is the Leach's - presumably storm-driven - that Jerome K. D'Eon found in the fish plant at M. W. Pubnico, Oct. 18.

Finally, I have a good sighting of one rarity - and the suggestion of another. Fulton Lavender and Blake Maybank saw a BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL off Seal Island, on Oct. 8. This was the size of a Leach's, but with shorter wings and a thicker body, and a distinctive, banking flight, with a few wingbeats interspersed with glides, shearwater fashion. The rump patch was a broad, unbroken strip of white, visible from the side. This sounds good to me: what I mainly remember from tropical oceanographic cruises is the tubby body, and the big, white rump patch. It's another warm-water species, as is our report of a possible WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL, sent in by Raymond d'Entremont. It was seen by Franklin d'Entremont in mid-August, while he was out swordfishing in Crowell Basin: a pale storm-petrel with a "definitely different", flight. My own memory of White-faced Storm-Petrels is that they have a very different flight indeed, BOUNCING rather than pattering over the surface on very long legs, banking from side to side after every bounce. I can't accept Franklin's identification as it stands, because it isn't detailed enough. But I think it's worth having on record, as a real possibility, to put people on the alert. After all, our PIROP seabird observers have already recorded the species from north of Bermuda. If the

Greenhouse really is warming up, who knows what will arrive next?

Meanwhile, we're back with NORTHERN GANNETS. I saw at least 40 off Digby, all of them immatures or juveniles, flying out of Fundy early on Sept. 18. The Cohrs saw 4 adults off Cherry Hill Beach on Sept. 21. The main passage was well under way on Sept. 23, when the Alsebrooks saw 60 off Chebucto Head, and Oct. 19, when D. H. Young estimated 600-900 an hour were passing Little Harbour. His "traffic count" there on Oct. 24 was "60-75 in view at once". It seems that the southeasterly gales were pushing them inshore. Sean Smith saw about 500 an hour passing Brier Island on Oct. 20. Raymond d'Entremont saw "many" - all adults- passing Seal Island on Oct. 22. Our latest records are the 2 adults and the immature that he and Jerome K. D'Eon saw off Cape Island on Nov. 12.

We have both GREAT and DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS, as usual. Jean Paquin and Nicole Landry saw Greats regularly, in small numbers, in Bras d'Or and the Cape Breton Bird Islands in July. Eric Mills saw about 25 Greats, among the flocks of migrating Double-crested, on Sept. 2. (I assume this was from Brier Island, though he doesn't actually say so. Let me add a plea, from an exhausted editor, to add names, dates and places to ALL your record slips!)

The latest Great Cormorant record is the Cohrs' bird at Bayport, Nov. 12. Eric Mills saw 200+ Double-crested flying SW past Conrad's Beach on Sept. 1. The Alsebrooks saw 50 Double-crests off Herring Cove on Sept. 23; and the Cohrs saw migrating skiens of 75 off Green Bay on Oct. 4, and 250 off Cherry Hill on Oct. 28.

RGBB, ed.

HERONS AND RELATIVES

Scattered reports of 9 AM. BITTERNs, one reaching Sable Is. on Oct. 24 (Zoe Lucas) and the latest at the Annapolis Royal impoundments on Oct. 27 (SDS), probably represent considerably fewer than were seen. Sean Smith wonders if one on July 26 at Dorothea Drive pond, Dartmouth, might have nested there. A LEAST BITTERN was heard calling at Eddie Marsh, Cum. Co., on June 23 (FLL,MA). GREAT BLUE HERONS might seem even less reportable, but concentrations catch the eye. Some of these included: 10 near Cheticamp and 10 near Grand Pre in late July (JP,NL), 15 at Economy on Aug. 4 (GJT), 31 on Cole Hbr. on Aug. 24 (BMa), 40+ just across the N.B. border near Tidnish on Sept. 9 (NSBS), 86 at River Philip and 23 at Northport on Sept. 13 (DM), 20-30 counted in the W. Lawrencetown "circuit" at times in October (sev. ob.), 36+ at South Head, C.B. Co., on Oct. 4 (per JG), 19 at Crescent Beach on Oct. 14 (Cohrs). One some 60 km off Yarmouth was escorting **MV Bluenose** to Maine as early as Aug. 15 (HH). The mild November will doubtless induce more than usual to attempt to winter. A GREAT EGRET was "around the [Lr. W. Pubnico] area for most of August" (RSD). Another was along the Shinimicas R. near Northport on Aug. 19 (ELM,AHM). The LITTLE EGRET and 5-6 SNOWY EGRETS were said still to be on Bon Portage Island in late June, and one of the latter remained for the NSBS trip on Sept. 1-3. Otherwise we have reports of only 3 more Snowy Egrets -- at E. Lawrencetown on June 18 (HGH&HJH). Were there really no other **Egretta** species?

A GREEN-BACKED HERON perching on the telephone wires in front of his house was a surprise for JKD at Lr. W. Pubnico on June 9. Breeding success of the BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS on Bon Portage Is. is suggested by an adult and 3 immatures there during the NSBS field trip on Sept. 1-3 (RBS). An adult on Cape Sable Is. on July 15, and an immature there on Aug. 31 (GJT) may have been foraging out of the Bon Portage colony. Had the adult and 2 immatures at Lr. W. Pubnico on Aug. 15-22 (RSD) also dispersed from that colony? A juv. at W. Advocate Hbr. on Aug. 5 (GJT *et al.*), an apparent 2-yr-old photographed near Crescent Beach in early July (Barbara Shaw) and another bird near New Waterford on Sept. 11 (H & R Martell) could have come from anywhere to the south and west. Our only documented YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON was an immature near Allendale, Shel. Co., on Aug. 5 (JSC), although another was reported from the head of St. Margaret's Bay on Aug. 13 (**vide** CSII).

IAM, ed.

GEESE AND DUCKS

No one reported any SNOW GEESE last fall. However, there were two reports of BRANT: 1 at Shipple Pt., Brier Is. on Sept. 4 (ELM,AHM), and another on Nov. 4 in the back cove at Hartlen's Pt. (ELM).

CANADA GEESE were about at usual: small numbers flying around or feeding in groups in many locations, but the only large numbers were the 1000-2000 at Martinique Game Sanctuary on Oct. 28 (MA). One contributor picked up the calls of Canadas at Big Pond, Cape Breton on Oct. 29 with a parabolic microphone, at 1:30 a.m.

WOOD DUCKS - 20 of them - graced the Eddy Marsh near Amherst on Aug. 16 (ELM,AHM). There were a male and a female in Publicover Lake, Lun. Co. on June 11 (JSC), and single birds at Quinan, Seal Is. and the Saxon Street pond.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL were well distributed, with hundreds at Canard Pond on Oct. 15 (RBS), and 100 - 200 at Little Harbour, Canning, the Melbourne bird sanctuary and Cole Harbour. No "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal were reported.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCKS were in the 150 -200 range at Harris' Pond at Canning: on Oct. 3, there were 5 males; on the 28th, there were 8 males and 2 females, and by Nov. 2, there were 12 males and 4 females. Other reports were of 5 at Carlton, Yar. Co., Oct. 14 (LD) and 6 at Morash Pond, Dartmouth on Nov. 20 (JWT).

There were only 9 reports of NORTHERN PINTAIL - rather low for such a striking bird. One or two could be found in the ponds at Canard and Canning from Sept. 16 to early November (JGT,RBS), and there were 7 or 8 in the New Minas DU pond from Sept. 28 through Oct. 11 (JGT). Other reports were from Annapolis Royal, Seal Is., Brier Is. and Martinique Beach.

Thirty BLUE-WINGED TEAL were at Three Fathom Harbour on Au . 24 (BMa). RBS saw 6 at Bon Portage Is., Sept. 1, and a few more were reported from Annapolis Royal, Seal Is. and the Saxon St. Pond until Oct. 15.

Two early NORTHERN SHOVELLERS were at Cape Sable Is., Aug. 31 (BSa). A single male swam in the New Minas DU pond on Oct. 10 (JGT), and an anonymous observer reported seeing 6 at APBS on Nov. 4. GADWALLS were very lightly reported compared to previous years: IAM had "a pair" at Bon Portage Is., June 22, the Cohrs' reported 1 at Publicover Lake, Lun. Co. on Oct. 13, and RBS saw 1 at the Annapolis Royal marsh on Nov. 6.

All of our common pochards appear to be down severly from previous years. Reports of hundreds of AMERICAN WIGEON were not unusual in the middle 80's, and in the last few years we have had dozens at several sites. This fall, the best we could do was 9 birds at Harris' pond in Canning, Oct. 28 (JGT), with seven other reports totalling 18 birds, including only 4 at APBS on Nov. 3 (DAC,CLC). RSD saw a pair of RING-NECKED DUCKS with 7 young at Quinan, Yar. Co., July 12; there were 30 in Nirvana Pond at Three Fathom Harbour on Sept. 4 (FLL), and 14 at Annapolis Royal on Oct. 17 (SDS). There were only two reports of GREATER SCAUP: 20 at Hirtle's Beach on Sept. 26 (RBS), and "a pair" on Grafton Lake in Kejimikujik NP in mid-October (Erich Muntz). There were no reports of LESSER SCAUP.

COMMON EIDER were reported in usual numbers throughout the summer, but apparently no one saw huge rafts in the fall. The largest group reported was the 500 at Brier Is. on Aug. 25 (JGT). Other reports in the 100-200 range came from Economy, Evangeline Beach, and Pea's Is. (near Inner Bald Island), Yar. Co.

A single HARLEQUIN DUCK, perhaps the most threatened duck species in Canada, was at Ingonish on Oct. 2 (BMa). Another (?) was reported from Cranberry Head five days later by JKD.

The earliest OLDSQUAW was at Cheticamp Is. (1 on July 23: JPa, NL). Small

numbers were reported at Cranberry Head, Martinique Beach and Conrad's Beach, and the Cohrs' and over 150 at Green Bay on Oct. 28. There were 13 at Mader's Cove on Nov. 1 (WM,JeM), 20+ at Seaforth the next day (DWP,JAP), and a single immature also on Nov. 2 at the Canard poultry pond (JGT).

There were 4 late BLACK SCOTERS at Salmon River, Digby Co. on May 21 (IP,LPr,HGH & HJH). Three other reports mentioned single birds from August through October, and BMA saw 6 at Ingonish on October at Ingonish on October 3.

SURF SCOTERS were reported in the 1-10 range in ten reports covering August through November. JMac had about 12 at Fourchu, Cape Breton throughout October. Several observers saw WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS in groups of 10-20, but the only large groups were reported from the Bay of Fundy: 70 in the Minas Basin at Grand Pre on Oct. 10 (RBS), and 200 at Evangeline Beach on Oct. 22 (JGT).

There were almost no COMMON GOLDENEYE reported--JMa saw 12 in Sydney Harbour on Nov. 7, and JSC had 4 females at Crescent Beach on Nov. 12. I suspect that if anyone had been in the Pictou or Trenton area last fall, there would have been more to report. There were no reports of BARROW'S GOLDENEYE.

BUFFLEHEADS, on the other hand, showed up in ten reports, although no one saw more than about 20 at once. What has happened to our customary sightings of hundreds? I hope that it's just a matter of timing: not a single observer in the right place at the right time. The earliest report was of 3 females at the Canard poultry pond on October 21 (JGT). Other reports until November 10 came from Canning, Annapolis Royal, Lr. W. Pubnico, the Melbourne bird sanctuary, Petite Riviere, Seaforth and Martinique Beach.

RBS had 9 HOODED MERGANSERS ("...including several beautiful breeding plumage males") at Annapolis Royal on Oct. 9. There were 7 in the same location on Oct. 27 (SDS), and 18+ on Nov. 6 (RBS). ELM reports 7 in Schooner Cove (Head of St. Margaret's Bay) from Oct. 31 to Nov. 15.

COMMON MERGANSER numbers were disappointing--seven reports totalling less than 100 individuals. White Rock in the Gaspereau Valley apparently peaked at 21 birds on Oct. 18, and there were around 50 at APBS on Nov. 3 (DAC,CLC). The remaining reports, accounting for 6 birds, were from Conrad's Beach, Parrsboro and the Saxon Street pond near Canning.

JMac had a nest of RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS at Loch Lomond on May 31, and females with young were reported from Rafuse Is. (Mahone Bay), on Aug. 5 (RBS) and Goose Creek, Linden, Cumb. Co on Aug. 12 (JWT). Flocks of 40 -50 were at Port Howe, Sept. 28 (JWT), Eel Lake, Nov. 1 (JLD), and DWP, JAP counted over 50 around the "Lawrencetown Loop" on Nov. 2.

Only one RUDDY DUCK makes this issue: JMac saw one at Fourchu, Cape Breton on Oct. 28.

ERRATUM: In the July, 1990 issue of **Nova Scotia Birds**, this section had two paragraphs on Common Mergansers. The second paragraph actually referred to Red-breasted Mergansers. This comes of too much reliance on a silicon brain and not enough on a protoplasmic one.

LPMP,ed.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

An adult TURKEY VULTURE near Inverness in late July (Ian Sherman), an imm. over Truro on Aug. 13 (BD) and a bird over Dartmouth on Aug. 23 (O. Benjamin) were unusual. In their "routine" range, they may have been under-reported; 1 was circling

over Chegoggin on July 2 (HGH,HJH) and 2 were on Brier Is. on Sept 4-5 (ELM,MAC et al.). OSPREYS were reported in their usual numbers. One was seen bravely attacking a Bald Eagle near Indian Path, Lun. Co., on Aug. 11 (JeM). Migrants were evident at six places between Halifax and Brier Is. in early October, the largest number being 7 over Brier Is. on Oct. 6 (ELM). The latest, over Seal Is. on Oct. 8, was two weeks earlier than the average for last sightings. Adult BLACK EAGLES in summer near Truro (SDS), in Kings Co. (JGT) and at Maitland Bridge (JGT) were presumably nesting in those areas. There were also scattered summer records of imm. birds from the mainland. Young birds over Brier Is. on Aug. 26 and Pubnico Pt. on Sept. 14 were early migrants. A notable sighting of 20 eagles at the Canso Causeway on Nov. 10 were, along with myriads of gulls, lured by the great seasonal die-off of Atlantic Saury (KAM,ELM). No other concentrations were reported. There is no pattern in the few submitted records of summering N. HARRIER. A nest at Pubnico Pt. contained 4 eggs on June 8, from which 3 young were hatched on June 12 and successfully fledged (RSD). Evidently only small numbers migrated via Brier Is.--"several" on Aug. 29 (RBS) and 5+ on Oct. 6-8 (ELM,RBS). One was on Sable Is., Oct. 11-24 (Zoe Lucas). They were last reported for early November, but of course some will winter.

A pair of SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS was passing food at Mahone Bay on May 31, and there were a few nesting-season mentions. They appeared more widely in August and, as usual, our southern islands had good flights. On Brier Is., there was only one on Aug. 26, "several" on Sept. 1-3, and large numbers on Oct. 6-8 (sev. ob), estimated by ELM as 400+ on Oct. 6 and 150+ next day. On the same three day weekend, were ca. 50, 20 and 10 on Seal Is. on successive days (sev. ob.). A very well described (by JT) imm. COOPER'S HAWK was scoped for ten minutes on Bon Portage Is. on Sept. 2 (WM,JeM,GJT); details were not submitted for 2 imm. on Oct. 5 at Sable River (GJT, Roger Taylor) and one on Seal Is. on Oct. 6 (BMa,FLL). There were only 2 reports of N. GOSHAWK, both on Aug. 31, on N. Cape Breton Is. (KA,MA) and on Cape Sable Is. (BMa).

Nesting BROAD-WINGED HAWKS were doubtless in place, but there were only two reports, including adults around Kentville (RBS). No major flights were reported. There were 3 on Long and Brier Is. on Aug. 25 (JGT), another there on Oct. 6 (ELM), and a late bird at The Hawk, Cape Sable Is., on Oct. 31 (JKD); what happened? Summering RED-TAILED HAWKS were reported from only a half dozen locations, and were under-reported for autumn. RBS thought they became more common by late October around Grand Pre. Single ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were reported from three localities between Oct. 28 (Grand Pre, JT) and Nov. 11. An imm. GOLDEN EAGLE was an exciting find for EC,MAC,MK and MS at Brier Is. on Sept. 6.

There were a half dozen reports of summering AM. KESTRELS, including a "travelling/hunting family (?)" at Grand Pre on Aug. 8 (JT). Migration was said to be "under way" on Brier Is. on Aug. 10-12 (RBS), and 6 were there on Sept. 6-7 (MC et al.). A migrant was seen from **CSS Dawson**, 160 km SSW of Cape Sable on Sept. 16 (RGG). Six capturing grasshoppers near Truro on Sept. 23 matched the "usual peak in numbers around this locality at this time" (SDS). Estimates of 50+ and 30+ on Brier Is. on Oct. 6-7 (ELM) were impressive, particularly since the same weekend produced only 3 on Seal Is. Three hunting between Cole Harbour-Hartlen's Pt. on Nov. 25 will probably attempt to stay. The dashing MERLINS evoked more reports. A young bird was seen to reject food offered by its parent at Economy on Aug. 5 (JT). The usual harrassment of shorebirds began in August and continued until at least Nov. 10, when one was doing so at Cherry Hill (JSC). In between, most departed, including an imm. that plucked a Bay-breasted Warbler, "very publically", aboard **CSS Dawson**, 90 km SW of Cape Sable on Sept. 19 (RGG). Perhaps we missed the peak; there were 10-15 on Brier Is. on Oct. 6-7, and 5 on the same dates on Seal Is. We have reports of some 31 PEREGRINE FALCONS from nineteen localities. Both races were noted, continuing a gratifying increase in **anatum**. All were presumably migrants, with the possible exception of an imm. unsuccessfully attacking shorebirds at Grand Pre on Aug. 5 (GJT). A minimum of 5 on Seal Is., Oct. 6 (sev. ob.) was the largest day count reported. Two imm. circled the **MV Bluenose**, 30-60 km W of Yarmouth on Oct. 11; one caught a Leach's Storm-Petrel, only to have it snatched by a Pomarine Jaeger (HH)! A gray-phase GYRFALCON on East Ironbound Is., Oct. 21, was observed at a blood-tingling 5 m distance by Ken Gregoire.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

The only GRAY PARTRIDGES noted were in a covey of 8 near Kentville on Nov. 2 (GT). Margaret Clarke was pleasantly surprised when 12 young RING-NECKED PHEASANTS flushed from her potato patch at St. Croix on July 30. Others were confirmed or suspected of breeding in outlying places such as Hartlen's Pt. (sev. ob.), Brier Is. (MAC), and Seal Is. (per locals). At Lr. W. Pubnico on Oct. 27, JKD found that "only five minutes after putting cracked corn around my feeder, there were 14 hens and 2 cocks" in attendance. Six broods (4-9 young) of SPRUCE GROUSE were noted at sites from Cape Breton Is. to Shel. Co. Six broods (2-9 young) of RUFFED GROUSE were also reported, but mostly by KS around Apple River. Among hunters the "general feeling is that partridge numbers are down a bit" in SW Nova Scotia (RB).

RALLIDS

The only reported VIRGINIA RAIL responded to a tape during the NSBS field trip at Wallace Bay, July 21 (SDS). On Cape Breton Is., a SORA was noted at Loch Lomond on June 5 (JMac) and nesting was confirmed at Dingwall (EW). One migrant was on Seal Is., Oct. 6-7, and another at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 14. These are all our reports, although surely they were heard and seen by others. A COMMON MOORHEN stayed around Lr. W. Pubnico, July 6-26 (RSD), and 1 more were seen on Sept. 21 at APBS (CDM,DAM) where they presumably still nest. There were no reports on summering AM. COOTS. Arrivals frequented APBS (up to 18 on Nov. 3 sev. ob.), New Minas Pond (3 on Oct. 11, possibly diminished by hunters to 1 on Nov. 2; RBS,GJT), the impoundments at Annapolis Royal 2 from Oct. 21 (SDS), Sullivan's Pond (1 from early Nov.), and Three Fathom Harbour (2 in Late Nov.).

IAM, ed.

SHOREBIRDS

A few BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER at Apple River in early June (KS) were doubtless late spring migrants. There were no reports of fall migrants until Aug. 8, when 235 were at Grand Pre (JGT). Peak numbers occurred there and at nearby beaches the third week of August with "several thousand" as an overall total (RBS) and 500 at Grand Pre alone (JGT). Sept. and Oct. groups were smaller; there were also several Nov. sightings, the latest and largest of 155 at MacDonald's Sod Farm, Grand Pre, Nov. 7 (BD). One with the rump dyed pink was among the large number at Grand Pre, Aug. 20 (JGT). Ten observers reported a total of 76 LESSER GOLDEN -PLOVER, starting Aug. 13, with 2 at Hartlen's Pt. (DAM) and one at Brier (RBS). 52 were in the fields at Grand Pre, Sept. 22 (JGT); the last were 2 at Cook's Beach, Oct. 18 (H&HH).

A WILSON'S PLOVER was found at Point Aconi in early June (FLL **fide** BD).

An early SEMIPALMATED PLOVER was at River Philip, Cumb. Co., July 11 (JWT). By the 17th there were 30 at Conrad's (FLL), with 315 at Matthews Lake, July 27 (DHY), the largest group for the month. They were most numerous in Aug. and early Sept., 300-500 at several localities and 1200 on Bon Portage, Aug. 19 (DAC et al.). Reports and numbers dropped off through Sept. though there were still 67 at Crescent on the 29th, a number that decreased to 35 by Oct. 14 (JSC). At Economy there were still 3, Nov. 5 (FS). According to Barbara Hinds' column at least one has waited for the winter report. Evidence of breeding PIPING PLOVERS comes from Lingan--2 young with parents July 24 (JP,NL), from Black Pt. - 2 pairs, May 30, with 3 fledglings seen later, "the best show...at this location" (DHY), from Cole Harbour - a pair with nest and 3 eggs, June 7 (SDS), and from Conrad's - 2 adults and a juv., July 25 (BS,PM). According to BD the Atlas will report new breeding sites in Guys. Co. and on Chedabucto Bay. From Halifax to the southwest, sightings in later summer totaled about 20 birds (MA,CG,FLL,JSC); migrants, all rather late, were 6 at Mira Gut, Oct. 10 (CMA) and 4 at Cherry Hill, Oct. 21 (LAC). The only large gathering of KILLDEER was 21-29 in late Sept.-early Oct. at Petite Riviere - "the most ever" (JSC). Breeding reports from there "as usual" (JSC) and from Halfway River, Cumb. Co (KS) were too late for our spring deadline.

The many reports of GREATER YELLOWLEGS start with 1, July 1, 2, July 7 at Lr. W. Pubnico (L&RSd'E). Numbers were low through Aug.-Sept., but Oct. 3 saw 80 at Canning (JGT), Oct. 7, 62 at Glenwood, Yar. Co. (JKd'E), as well as "hundreds all along the shore from Conrad's to Martinique" (RBS). Sightings in Nov. totaled 35, the last 2 at Cherry Hill, Nov. 10 (JSC). LESSER YELLOWLEGS, apt to be earlier and less abundant, first appeared July 8 at Canard (JGT). There were 100 at Conrad's July 17 (FLL), with smaller but still respectable collections in the Halifax area until mid-Aug. (FLL,BS). Thereafter, most reports come from the southwest - e.g. 40, Aug. 20 on Bon Portage (DAC et al.), 37 at Matthews Lake, Sept. 16 (DHY). The last were 2 at Marriott's Cove, Oct. 19 (RDH). About 20 SOLITARY SANDPIPERS were reported this fall, starting with 2 at Canard, July 20 (JGT). There were 5 at Apple River, Aug. 24 (KS), elsewhere mostly ones and twos, with one last Oct. 5 at Broad Cove (JSC). Since WILLETS arrive, breed and depart early 200+, July 14 (ELM) and 86, July 18 at Matthews Lake (DHY) are not unexpected. There were still 100 in early Aug. at Pond Cove, Brier (RBS). The only Sept. record are of 3 still on C.B. at Ingonish on the 1st (EW) and 14 on Bon Portage on the 2nd (FLL); two laggards were still at Argyle Head, Oct. 21 (JKd'E). SPOTTED SANDPIPER nests with eggs were found in late June at Pubnico Pt. (RSd'E) and Big Pond (JMac). Only a few migrants were noted, the last on the Gaspereau, Sept. 29 (JGT).

An UPLAND SANDPIPER at Point Aconi in late June may be the first Cape Breton record (FLL ~~vide~~ BD). Another was at Hartlen's Pt., Sept. 14 (FLL). The first WHIMBREL were three at Conrad's July 11 (SDS) and a maximum of 13 at Hemeon's Head, July 17-18 (DHY). About a dozen at Chebogue Pt., Yar. Co., Aug. 11 (AP) and at Grand Pré, Aug. 25 (JGT), together with 25 at Matthews Lake, Sept. 15 (NSBS) account for most of the migrants reported. One of the European race was at Conrad's, Aug. 25 (FLL). HUDSONIAN GODWITS were well reported though in small numbers except for 10 at Conrad's, July 17 (FLL) and 18 at Port Morien, July 25 (JP,NL). Last were 2 at Conrad's, Oct. 14 (NSBS). RUDDY TURNSTONES were most numerous in August: 350+ at Cheverie on the 5th (BD) and 300 on Bon Portage on the 20th (DAC et al.) were the only large groups. Other observers report much smaller peaks; numbers generally appear to be down, the out-migration early and leaving few laggards.

The only July sighting of RED KNOT was one at Conrad's on the 17th (FLL). The only sizeable gatherings (25-40) were at Cheverie and Minasville, Aug. 11 (BS) and at Conrad's, Oct. 27 (FLL); elsewhere were mostly ones and twos, the last at Crescent, Nov. 9 (JSC). Four SANDERLINGS were at Cherry Hill, July 18 (FLL), the number there rising to 100 by the 27th (JP,NL). The peak at Crescent was 285 Sept. 29 (JSC), with the 450+ a month later at The Hawk, suggesting the migration's southward progress. There were still 53 at Crescent, Nov. 9 (JSC). Nine SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS were at Crescent, July 15 (JSC) and 100 at Canard by the 20th (JGT). As usual the largest concentrations were at Grand Pré, with thousands there during the first two weeks of August (JGT,RBS). Conrad's Beach was another favoured stopping place--1500 Aug. 1 (FLL et al.), still 1200, Sept. 4 (ELM). There were still 400 at Hartlen's Pt., Sept. 10 (FLL), much smaller numbers thereafter, but still 20+ on Pease's Is., Yar. Co., Nov. 5 (JKd'E). One with yellow-dyed rump was at Grand Pré, Aug. 14 (JGT).

A third LITTLE STINT has been recorded in Nova Scotia, a bright juvenile found by the Cohrs at Crescent Beach, Oct. 14. (Rare Bird Form on file).

Seven early LEAST SANDPIPERS were at Broad Cove, July 7 (JSC), with others at Canard, July 10 (RBS) and Little Harbour, Shel. Co., July 12 (DHY). A remarkable 3500 were on Bon Portage, Aug. 18, where there were still 500 on Aug. 20 (JSC et al.). Few were sighted thereafter, the last one at Crescent, Oct. 6 (JSC). There were already 150 WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS at Conrad's, Aug. 1 (FLL), but the 250 there (ELM) and the 116 at Cherry Hill (JSC) Sept. 4, mark a more normal peak; there were no large numbers later, but there were still 13 at Cherry Hill, Nov. 10 (JSC). At least 5 BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS were present this fall, 1 as early as July 17 at Conrad's (FLL). Others were at Cherry Hill (JSC), Hartlen's Pt. (BS,FLL), Conrad's (ELM), and Brier (JGT,SIT,ELM) all from mid-Aug. to Sept. 9. Six PECTORAL SANDPIPERS at Lawrencetown, July 25 (BS) were unusually early. Numbers peaked at c. 40, Oct. 20-21 in the Halifax area (BS,IAM), with 2 still at Hartlen's Pt., Nov. 2 (BS). Seven out-of-

season PURPLE SANDPIPERS were on Brier (opp. Peter's Is.) Aug. 8 (KT,JL); the same number appeared at Crescent, Oct. 27 (JSC). No DUNLIN were reported until Sept. 10, when one at Hartlen's Pt. was attributed to the European race (FLL). No more were noted until late Oct.; by far the largest number was 400, Nov. 7 at the MacDonald's Sod Farm, Grand Pre (BD). A CURLEW SANDPIPER travelling with ten Black-bellied Plovers was at Economy, Oct. 14, all departing the same day (FS).

Four STILT SANDPIPERS were at Conrad's July 17, 6 there Aug. 1 (FLL et al.). Another in full breeding plumage was at Canard, July 23 (RBS,JGT). One, a bit late, was still at Conrad's, Sept. 9; perhaps the 8 there Sept. 30 (AM) had been in the neighbourhood all fall; at any rate, two lingered until Oct. 14 (IAM), an extreme "normal" date--in a mild fall, to be sure. Two - 3 BUFF-BREADED SANDPIPERS were on Brier, Sept. 4-9 (ELM), rather a poor showing even for this uncommon species. Another, very late, was at Conrad's, Oct. 27 (NSBS fide BD).

The most remarkable shorebird record of the year, or any year, one may say, is the sighting of a BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER Sept. 9, at Hartlen's Pt by Ian McLaren and Blake Maybank. Their comprehensive, moment-by-moment account makes exciting reading and should be referred to for further details--it should satisfy the most critical as a satisfactory sight record pending confirmation in the centuries ahead.

Three early SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS were at Cherry Hill, July 3 (JSC); about mid-month a total of 2000 was reported from Halifax southwestward (DHY,FLL,ELM). At Conrad's numbers increased from 500 to 750 by month's end (FLL). Bon Portage had 500 on several dates between mid-Aug. and early Sept. (JSC et al.). Only a handful are reported thereafter, with one last at Conrad's, Oct 27 (FLL). A LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER was at Cherry Hill, Oct. 14--heard and seen (JSC). Only 4 migrant COMMON SNIPE are reported, all in Oct. (JGT). One suspects that not every one that flashes by is noted by even the most conscientious observer. The more elusive AMERICAN WOODCOCK received only one Sept. mention (JSC), together with an anonymous note quoting a Yarmouth hunter as finding them scarce this fall. More positively, eggs were hatching for a pair at Apple River, June 9 (KS), and 1 was still displaying at Bedford June 1 (SS et al.).

FS, ed.

PHALARO PES TO AUKS

I've written separately about the general pattern of RED and RED-NECKED PHALAROPE movements in Fundy this fall. Here are the details.

The first birds to arrive off Brier Is., and on the Nova Scotia side of Fundy, were Red, many of them still in breeding plumage. Hubert Hall saw a Red and an unidentified phalarope from **Bluenose**, between July 19-22, as well as 4 probable Red-necked on July 20, but Carl Haycock tells me that Red-necked very quickly became the dominant species off Brier--a complete reversal of the situation there a decade ago. Stu Tingley estimated 20,000+ Red-necked there on August 20, against only 1,000 Reds. That agrees with my own guesstimate of 95% Red-necked, during the last third of August. On the other hand, Eric and Anne Mills report 5,000 Reds but only 500 Red-necked, on their whale cruise NW of Brier, on Sept. 6. On my **Dawson** cruise, a little farther offshore on Sept. 18, I saw several hundred phalaropes, but the light was too bad for species identification. Next day, out on Brown's Bank, I saw about 1,500 birds. The majority were Reds but there were little patches of Red-necked, as though flocks of the two species were migrating independently. Overall, I thought about 75% were Reds. Franklin d'Entremont (through RSD) saw "many thousands" of unidentified phalaropes just west of there, in the deep water of Crowell Basin, around Aug. 20. Meanwhile, Ross Galbraith, on Fisheries patrol on ca. August 25, saw scattered flocks of unidentified phalaropes on Brown's Bank. Anonymous (PLEASE sign your record slips!) reports "1000s" of Red Phalaropes from **Bluenose** on Sept. 12, along with "maybe 1/10 as many Red-necked". Finally, Raymond d'Entremont saw 3 Reds on Georges Bank on Oct. 20, and 50 Red-

necked between Brown's Bank and Seal Is., Oct. 22.

However, I mustn't leave you with the impression that our phalaropes are exclusively Fundy birds. There was a Red-necked at Hartlen's Pt. between Aug. 12-15 (DAM,BSa), and a late Red on Oct. 16. The Mills saw a Red-necked on Aug. 16, at John Lusby Marsh in Cum. Co. The NSBS pelagic observers, off Halifax, saw 5 Reds on Sept. 29, and 1 on Oct. 28.

To round the group off, we've also had several sightings of WILSON'S PHALAROPES. The Cohrs saw 1 at Cherry Hill on Aug. 2, and another at Crescent Beach on Sept. 16. Eric and Anne Mills saw 3 on Aug. 16, at the sewage treatment ponds in Sackville, N.B. (Why not? It's only JUST across the border!) At Hartlen's Pt., Bev Sarty saw singletons on Aug. 2 and Aug. 20, and 2 adult females on Aug. 21.

Skuas are not my strong suit. The 3 I saw on Brown's/Georges Banks, between Sept. 14-19, looked russet with dark streaks, so they ought to have been GREAT SKUAS-though I suppose they could have been dark South Polars. However, there were two SOUTH POLAR SKUAS on the NSBS pelagic trip off Halifax on Sept. 29. Raymond d'Entremont, out on Georges Bank, saw a skua on September 5, and "the occasional Great Skua" there at the end of Sept. Anonymous adds a skua from Bluenose on Sept. 12. There were three Great Skuas on the NSBS pelagic cruise off Halifax on Sept. 29, and two first-year Great Skuas on the cruise on Oct. 28. Hubert Hall reports 3 skuas from Bluenose on Sept. 2-3, and a very dark bird "which was flying exactly on the Hague Line (US-Canada boundary)" on Sept. 18. This sounds very like a dark South Polar.

Raymond d'Entremont sends in a late report of POMARINE and PARASITIC JAEGERs on spring migration across Georges Bank in April and May. He saw 4 Pomarines there on Sept. 7, and 4 Parasitics on Sept. 26, as well as a Pomarine on Brown's Bank on August 10. In that general area, I saw a total of 18 jaegers from Dawson, between Sept. 15-20. Most were difficult juveniles, but I identified both Pomarines and Parasitics. Eric and Anne Mills, off Brier on Sept. 6, saw an all-dark immature Pomarine. On the Bluenose crossing, Hubert Hall and others saw a dark adult Pomarine, tail-tips and all, on Aug. 7, a total of 4 Pomarines between Aug.30-Sept. 12, and a Parasitic on the Lurcher Shoal on Sept. 1. These birds were all seen at the Nova Scotian end of the crossing. On the Atlantic side of the province, the NSBS pelagic trips off Halifax saw a Pomarine on Sept. 29, and a first-year Pomarine on Oct. 28.

As usual, we'll take our HERRING and BLACK -BACKED GULLS as read. Ian McLaren saw at least 4,500 Black-backs and 500 Herrings on Seal Is., Oct. 6-8. I can't think why we've chose the OSPREY as our provincial bird! Ian says that our faithful LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was back at the Volvo Plant on Oct. 22. Fulton Lavender and Bob Thurston saw our first ICELAND GULL of the fall: a first-year bird at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 26. Jack MacNeil saw 6+ Icelands in New Waterford harbour on Nov. 1, and the Allsebrooks saw 2 off Point Pleasant Park, Halifax, on Nov. 4.

The BLACK-HEADED GULL is probably now a Nova Scotian breeding bird. Brian Dalzell found a nest that was either of this species or a LAUGHING GULL, in a tern colony at the mouth of Chezzetcook Harbour. As he says, "it is obvious that a thorough search of all tern colonies (on foot) on the Nova Scotia coast would turn up more Black-headed Gulls".

Breeding or not, Black-headed Gulls seem to become commoner by the year. People reported them throughout the period covered by this newsletter. Most sightings were from the Halifax area and the Eastern Shore. However, Jack MacNeil saw 6 in Glace Bay Harbour on Sept. 3, and Raymond d'Entremont saw 2 adults, along with an immature BONAPARTE'S GULL, off Pubnico Point on Nov. 8. Eric Mills saw 6 adults at Conrad's Beach on Sept. 1. The latest records are the 5 that Bev Sarty saw at Tufts' Cove on Nov. 8, and the Cohrs' bird at Centre, Lun. Co., on Nov. 12. Bonaparte's were locally common in August, when Eric and Anne Mills saw 60 at Sand Point, Col. Co., on the 15th, 20 at Linden, Cum. Co, on the 18th, and 26 at Northport, also in Cum. Co., the next day. Hubert Hall had a good view of an adult with a black head in Yarmouth Harbour on July 22. The latest sighting was Jack MacNeil's bird on East Bay Sandbar

On Aug. 24, Blake Maybank saw a total of 3 Black-headed, 13 Bonaparte's and 145 RING-BILLED GULLS at Cole Harbour, Conrad's Beach and Hartlen's Point. Ring-bills were locally common. Jean Paquin and Nicole Landry saw 25 at Cow Bay on July 26. The Mills saw 20 at Sand Point on Aug. 15, and 20 at Linden the next day. They found 175 at Conrad's Beach on Sept. 1, and 5 at Brier on Sept. 5. Jerome D'Eon saw a flock of 75 Ring-billed on Eel Lake, on Oct. 17. Donna Crosby saw 3 LAUGHING GULLS at Lockeport on June 4, Hubert Hall, on **Bluenose**, saw 2 off the Nova Scotian coast: "a very uncommon visitor to our area!"

The pelagic trips off Halifax produced 4 BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES and 2 Bonaparte's on Sept. 29, and 125 Kittiwakes on Oct. 28. On Sept. 6, the Mills saw 70 Kittiwakes, mainly adults, off Brier Is. On the same day, Raymond d'Entremont saw a singleton on Georges Bank. Carl Haycock tells me that a Kittiwake was roosting on the cliff at the north end of Brier during July and August. Richard Stern saw it there on Aug. 12; it was moulting from first summer to second winter plumage. I'm not sure if this was the same bird that the Halls and Prossers saw there on May 19: "it was wading in and drinking fresh water".

Finally, the assembly of gull species at Canso causeway in late fall is always interesting. On Nov. 10, the Mills estimated over 10,000 Herrings, about 200 Great Black-backs, 20 ICELANDS, 20 Ring-billed, 200 Bonaparte's, 6 Black-headed and 100 Kittiwakes. The Kittiwakes were mostly adults.

Single CASPIAN TERNS were seen at APBS at various times during the summer. The earliest was Keith Allesbrook bird on June 16, and the latest was Con Desplanque's on Sept. 30. The Tufts describe one that was seen sitting in a flock with Herring Gulls and Great Black-backs, obviously with delusions of grandeur.

Don and Carol MacNeill saw a first winter LEAST TERN near Tatamagouche on Sept. 18. Peter MacLeod, Dave Currie, Jim Taylor and Bev Sarty report a FORSTER'S TERN in Cole Harbour on Oct. 20; an unusual species AND unusually late in the year.

COMMON, ARCTIC and "Comic": TERNS were widely reported, with the two species seen in Cape Breton and on the mainland. G.R. Black and B. Gillis note that the Common Tern colony on Big Pond has dwindled from 11 nests in 1988, to 7 in 1989, to only 2 in 1990. They blame all-terrain vehicles, and ever-hungry gulls. Richard Stern notes that, by July 6-8, the young Arctics had already hatched out on Peters' Is., off Brier. There were still plenty of young birds there on Aug. 10-12, but they dwindled away during the last half of the month. Raymond d'Entremont saw migrant terns flying past, all with white foreheads, when he was out on Georges Bank on Sept. 7. Our latest sightings are the Fulton Lavender/Bob Thurston Common Tern, a juvenile, at Conrad's Beach on Oct. 27, and Jim Taylor's Common in the same area on Nov. 4.

Sean Smith saw at least 12 BLACK TERNS at Eddy Marsh, Amherst, on June 16. Don MacNeill and Peter MacLeod saw a juvenile there on Aug. 19, and a bird of unstated age reported by Bev Sarty on Aug. 25. The Mills saw a bird with Common Terns, at Moser's Is. in St. Margaret's Bay, on Aug. 26.

The first DOVEKIES arrived late in October; the NSBS, offshore trip on Oct. 28, estimated 380 of them, along with 2 RAZORBILLS, 3 THICK-BILLED and 2 COMMON MURRES, and 11 ATLANTIC PUFFINS. On the same date, David Young saw 7 Dovekies off Hemeon Head, and found a dead one. Jerome K. D'Eon saw a couple of Dovekies at M. W. Pubnico on Oct. 30, "about 50 feet from the wharf"--storm-bound, presumably. The Halls saw 3 birds close inshore off Chegoggin Point, Yar. Co., on Oct. 28.

Richard Stern and Jean Paquin and Nicole Landry saw small numbers of Razorbills and Puffins in mid-July, in the colony on Hertford/Ciboux Islands off Cape Breton. The MacNeills and Payzants saw a Razorbill and a Puffin off Brier on Oct. 8. Puffins were seen off Brier in small numbers in August. Hubert Hall saw one from **Bluenose** on Aug. 19, and I had 2 on Brown's Bank on Sept. 18.

BLACK GUILLEMOTS, as usual, were seen in small numbers along most of our coastline.

RGBB, ed.

GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS, KINGFISHER

We normally get large flocks of migrant COM. NIGHTHAWKS from late July into August. Most reported them as singles or groups of less than 10, and EW and MA commented on the poor showing. Yet larger groups were seen by KS at Apple River (15+, 100+, and 15 on Aug. 23, 25, and 30 respectively) and by the Morses in Lun. Co. (35-50 at Mader's Cove on Aug. 8, 25 at New Ross, Aug. 24). Late individuals were on Brier Is., Oct. 7 (sev. ob.), over Halifax, Oct. 9 (BD), and at Lr. W. Pubnico, Oct. 12 (JKD). A WHIP-POOR-WILL in her Halifax backyard on June 7 was a surprise for Judy MacDonald. George Ball coded Whip-poor-will as "no breeding evidence" for the Sydney River Atlas square this summer. This may be only a second record from Cape Breton Is. There were a few accounts of scattered CHIMNEY SWIFTS, but nothing much on the Wolfville phenomenon (10 there July 28; ML, JPa). The latest were 2 on Bon Portage Is., Sept. 3 (NSBS).

There were plenty of RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS this year, with 11 correspondents claiming 1-4 pairs each at feeders, sometimes augmented by young birds after late July. Last sightings were almost all between Aug. 29 and Sept. 3, following unseasonable cold at the end of August, but one remained at Bedford until Sept. 8 (L&PP) and a female at Wolfville on Sept. 18 was considered to be a vagrant (GJT). A Rufous hummingbird at Lockeport in mid-summer was the first of this rare stray to have been fully savoured by the interested birding community. (I was on the West Coast at the time, and saw them daily; but it isn't the same, is it?) A full account was sent by George Perry. It was an unmistakable adult male. Credit must go to its "owner", Norman Anderson, who recognized it and alerted Robert Turner, who spread the word. Mr. Anderson believes it arrived about July 30, and it was not seen after Aug. 8 or 9. It favoured jewelweed, fireweed less so, and generally dominated the Ruby-throateds. Its timing was typical of almost all records from Atlantic Canada.

BELTED KINGFISHERS were sparsely reported. Presumably one on Bon Portage Is., Sept. 1 was a migrant, as were certainly one seen from **CSS Dawson** 160 km SW of Cape Sable, Sept. 17 (RGBB) and 3 on Seal Is., Oct. 6-8.

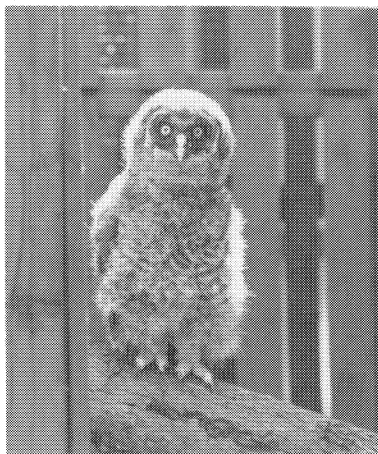
DOVES, CUCKOOS

The province's 8th WHITE-WINGED DOVE appeared at a W. Pubnico feeder July 1-6, where numbers of local birders were thrilled to see it (LD et al., photos). What can one say from the spotty reports of MOURNING DOVES, many at feeders through summer? They are now thoroughly established throughout the mainland, although perhaps still pioneering on Cape Breton Is. Several on Sable Island, Oct. 6-8, represented the usual fall scattering.

A summer BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO was seen by three and heard by all the NSBS field trippers near Economy on Aug. 4. Its voice was noted by SDS as different from that on the Peterson tape of eastern birds, with distinctly double "kuckoo" phrases. Six migrants (or reverse migrants) were noted from four localities between Sept. 25 and Oct. 24 (sev. ob.). Our only reported YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS strayed to Green Bay on Aug. 22 (JLC) and Cape Sable Is. on Aug. 31 (BMA).

OWLS

We received only three accounts of GREAT HORNED OWLS, including fledged young at Apple River (KS) and Overton (H&HH). They have apparently begun to nest on Bon Portage Is., but no details are at hand. A SNOWY OWL that summered at Minudie, Cum. Co., in 1989, is worth reporting belatedly. This is not unprecedented in the province (or in that area), but this case is unusual in that a local farmer, Rick Starr, actually put out food for the owl. Unfortunately, someone finally shot it (**vide** BD). Our first winter arrival was at Shearwater Air Base in mid-November. There were four reports of BARRED OWLS, including an account of fledged young on July 10 "attempting to imitate the adults" (BSa). No one wrote of sightings (hearings) of LONG-EARED OWLS, but I believe that 2 or more pairs nested as usual on Bon Portage Is., and I heard one calling near Upper Clyde River before dawn on July 7. A migrant SHORT-EARED OWL circled the whale-watching boat off Brier Is. on Oct. 8 (DAC), and another was far off course on a ship 400 km SE of Halifax on Nov. 29 (Peter Comeau). A more sensible one appeared at Hartlen's Pt. from Nov. 12 (BSa). An earful of SAW-WHET OWLS was heard during the breeding season, and CMA found that they still responded to tapes at Big Pond, C.B. Co., on Oct. 17. One unfortunate was killed by a car at Burnside, Dartmouth, on Oct. 29 (JWT). Away from the northern highlands, a pair of BOREAL OWLS was tape-lured near Port Morien during April by Alan and Cathy Murrant.



What species of owl is this?

WOODPECKERS

It was a bonanza autumn for RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS. The first was an immature near Peggy's Cove, Sept. 28 (IAM). Thanksgiving weekend, Oct. 6-8, brought a spate: 2 ad. and an imm. on Seal Is. (sev. ob.), 2 imm. and an ad. on Brier Is. (sev. ob.) an ad. on Bon Portage Is. (NSBS trip), and another at Overton on Oct. 6 (H&HH). Perhaps separate arrivals were an imm. near Seabright, Oct. 17 (**vide** B. Moores), an ad. on Digby Neck on Oct. 21 (HH **et al.**), an imm. at Clementsvale on the same day (Alice White) and another in Halifax on Oct. 24 (Brian Walker). RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS are considerably rarer here. One was seen on Oct. 6 by half the party on Seal Is., a fem. turned up in Con Desplanque's Amherst backyard from Nov. 3 until at least the 10th (diagnostic photo sent). A male arrived in Kathleen Spicer's yard at Apple River on Nov. 9, and probably the same bird came on the 12th to the Moorehouse feeder in nearby New Salem, where it appeared to be settling in. Finally, a fem. was present in Lr. Sackville during the first and second week of November (**vide** CSIII). These woodpeckers may have dispersed from poor mast crops (acorns, etc.) to the southwest, and we may find more, come winter. Summering YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS were clearly under-reported. A total of 9 migrants materialized between Sept. 27 and Oct. 18 in scattered localities. DOWNY WOODPECKERS seemed marginally more common (7 reports of 13 birds, 1 nesting) than HAIRYS (10 of 16 birds, 3 nestings). An ad. male THREE-TOED WOODPECKER on July 29, had a begging juv. in tow at Morrison Lake, near Sunrise, on the N. Aspy River (BD); this is the first confirmed breeding in the province. Only two BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS were reported--a male near Middleboro, Cum. Co., on July 29 (JWT) and another around Neil's Harbour, C. B. Co., in July-Aug. (EW). A small peak of 8+ NORTHERN FLICKERS was at Apple River, Sept. 10 (KS). On Oct. 6-8, there were 100+ on Seal Is. and "obvious migration" (RBS) on Brier Island. We have only two reports of PILEATED WOODPECKERS for summer, but some dispersal seems implicit in the records of 9 scattered birds, Sept. 14 to Nov. 4.

IAM, ed.

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

There were scattered reports of OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER throughout the summer, with some migration reported from Brier Island in early fall ("several" Aug. 25-26, SDS, and 3, Sept. 4, ELM), with the latest, although not unduly so, reported from Little Harbour, Shel. Co., Oct. 4 (DHY). EASTERN WOOD-PEEWEEES are highly visible, and generally sing both late into the summer and late into the day, so the reports this summer and fall were surprisingly few. There were a few reports of successful nesting around the province (BSa,JGT **et al.**). RBS noted they were singing in Kentville, Aug. 27, and JGT noted that all their local Wolfville Ridge peewees departed Sept. 1-3. There were a few migrants reported from the usual migrant traps (BMa).

Our least common regularly breeding Empidonax, the YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, received three reports, two with evidence of breeding (Glengarry, C. B., JMac, and Apple River, KS), and one of presumed migrants (Bon Portage Is., (WM,MM,JGT). Both JGT and RDH found ALDER FLYCATCHERS to be plentiful in several locations this summer, and JGT specifically found singing birds at twenty-nine out of fifty stops on their breeding bird survey. RDH saw 1 on Sept. 12, and luckily heard it call, thus confirming the identification. IAM was, in contrast, able to carefully study a LEAST FLYCATCHER at Hartlen's Pt., on Sept. 25. There were only a few other migrants reported (BMa,RSD), although from my own observations in the Valley, they were abundant this summer. Of potential interest to rarity hunters, but not identified, as is so often the case with non-singing members of this difficult family, was an EMPIDONAX Flycatcher in Fairview Cemetery, Halifax, Nov. 14 (DAC), and this late date certainly raises the possibility of a Western stray.

There were four GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER reports, with one that was phoned in to the bird information line from near Baddeck, Aug. 14 (G. Perrera), one in Waverley most of the summer and another nearby (L&PP) and one in Fall River (?the same) (MA,KA). The previously regular Kentville birds did not seem to appear this year (RBS)

and neither did the pair of EASTERN PHOEBES that have nested under a bridge there up to 1989. However, DHY reported nesting of this species from West Middle Sable, an unusual location, and a few migrants were seen in the SW end of the province in mid-October (HJH,HGH,EPS,FS,RSD).

In contrast, the reports of EASTERN KINGBIRD were more numerous, and noteworthy were 5-6 flocks totalling 25-30 birds seen by JGT at Grand Pre, Aug. 8. BSa and IAM observed the latest birds at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 12-14. The WESTERN KINGBIRD is a regular late fall vagrant, and this year 3 were reported, from Fox Pt near Parrsboro, Sept. 11 (CDM,DAM), Brier Is., Oct. 8 (many ob.) and Pubnico Pt., Nov. 2 (RSD).

HORNED LARK arrival was perhaps a little late this winter, with no reports until Nov. 7 (Grand Pre, JGT), followed by flocks seen at Cole Harbour (CF) and Cape Sable (JKD,RSD).

The PURPLE MARTIN scene was dismal, with the only sighting being of a few being mercilessly chased out of their nest sites at Amherst by House Sparrows and Starlings, noted on June 16 by SDS. DAC commented that all the Amherst colonies were lost this year. It does not look as though TREE SWALLOWS fared well either, with the late cold snap last spring causing a high mortality and many nest failures. There were only a few reports at all, several only ones and twos on fall migration, and none of big numbers. Several reporters, in contrast, found seemingly more normal colonies of BANK SWALLOWS this summer, e.g. 100+ pairs at Aspy Bay, C.B. (RBS), 60+ at Apple River (KS) and 15+ active nest holes at North Harbour (EW). JMa noted no CLIFF SWALLOW nests at Big Pond this year, and also ascribed this to the early cold snap, although JPa and NL in July, and RBS in August, found a thriving colony amongst the fortress buildings at Louisbourg. JMa found the same phenomenon locally with the BARN SWALLOW population, although this was not borne out by other observers elsewhere in the province. Although the Tree Swallow failure this year seems to have been a province-wide phenomenon, possibly ascribable to the May cold spell that occurred as many birds were arriving back, the Purple Martin failure seems to have had other causes and I wonder if some purely local phenomenon in Big Pond might account for Jack MacNeil's findings. It will be interesting to see what happens next year.

JAYS TO GNATCATCHERS

As usual, scattered reports of GRAY JAYS came from all over the province all summer and fall. Several obvious family groups were noted. KS in Apple River had them coming to her suet feeder. Those people who started to put out feeders early had a healthy population of BLUE JAYS coming by mid-September. BS had 22 at one point, and JGT noted their abundance everywhere in the Valley. BMa had 20 at Ingonish on Oct. 2.

AMERICAN CROWS are, as usual, under-reported for the actual number around. True population estimates over time are probably more accurately obtained from Christmas Counts, so please keep reporting what is currently, but may not always be, a common bird! JP,NL,LD,EW,DWP,JAP all sent in reports from differing areas. Probably the same could be said about the COMMON RAVEN, although JM and WM sent in a report of a nest with young in Mahone Bay in June, and KS reported a flock of 13+ in Apple River on Nov. 2.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES seemed plentiful again this summer and fall, with numerous reports from wide locations, and from feeders once they had been set up. RDH best summarized the situation, with her comment that they were "very plentiful all season, at feeders and elsewhere, often with other birds--Red-breasted Nuthatches, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Juncos etc." BOREAL CHICKADEES, with their more local distribution, were less common, although KS from Apple River saw "quite a few" and RDH also had good sightings. Some possible migration seems to have been noted this fall, with JKD seeing 7 at Kemptville on Oct. 1, and BMa seeing 55 at Sober Island, Hfx. Co., on Sept. 26, and 50 on Seal Island, Oct. 7.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were well reported, and to judge by the descriptions

seemed as common as Black-capped Chickadees in the woods, and in mixed flocks. Notable sightings in fall migration included 200+, leaving N. Point, Brier Island at dawn Sept. 4 (ELM), 70 on Sober Island, Hfx. Co., Sept. 26 (BMA) and 50 on Seal Is., Oct. 6-8 (IAM). The Nova Scotia population of these attractive little birds seems to be stable for the moment. The WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH is much more local, but only four reports is still a small number compared to the last few years. However, BROWN CREEPERS continue to be well reported, with several seen, eg. at Apple River (KS), Sandy Lake (BSa), Skir Dhu (EW) etc. A notable sighting was of one that joined the NSBS field trip on the way back from Seal Island, Oct. 8, clinging to the woodwork of the boat, and Gordon Tufts' jacket, before heading off once Cape Sable had been reached.

The only HOUSE WREN reports were from Brier, Bon Portage and Seal Islands, all on Oct. 6-8 (NSBS trip, L&PP etc.). There were, as usual, a few reports of WINTER WRENS, with some evidence of breeding, e.g. in Pubnico Pt. (RSD), Bedford (BSa), Apple River (KS) and Glengarry (JMac), thus representing the whole length and breadth of the province, although obviously in small numbers. Most MARSH WREN reports were from the usual migrant traps (Hartlen Pt., Bon Portage, etc.) in the Fall, but this year we have to include boats out at sea in this category! RSD had 1 aboard his boat out on Georges Bank on Sept. 24, and RGGB also had 1 on Sept. 16, on the **CS Dawson**, also on Georges Bank, and just in Canadian territorial waters. He submitted an excellent detailed description. In both cases the bird seemed quite healthy and happy. Could there have been just one, boat-loving bird?

Our GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS continue to be common, with reports such as "hundreds still in the woods" in October (FLL) and "flocks everywhere on Brier Island" in Sept. (MAC), and RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS were also well reported, with, as usual, a few late stragglers, seen, e.g. at Armbrae Academy, Halifax, Nov. 9 (FLL) and Nov. 11 nearby (CF). Only 1 BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER was reported by the Halls at Cape Forchu in late Sept. and again in Nov.

BLUEBIRDS TO STARLINGS

The tenuous hold of the EASTERN BLUEBIRD in the province was maintained this summer. A nest was found in a hollow tree near the cemetery on Brier Island in July (RBS), with adults feeding young, and subsequently the family, seemingly with 3 fledged young, was seen in the same area by many observers. The latest sighting from there was on Sept. 6 (MAC). BLF found a successful pair near White Rock, and JCT noted the ad. female feeding 2 young there on July 28. KS from Apple River also reports a male and later 3 young in her area, making confirmed successes in the province this year. RSD also reported 2 in Lr. W. Pubnico on Nov. 1, presumably migrants.

Although Judy Tufts echoed this year my own sentiment for the last few years that thrush numbers in general are declining, this is not borne out by the number of reports sent in, which is up a little from the last few summers. There are plenty of VEERY reports, including several from around the province that include evidence of breeding. I found them to be abundant in the woods near Antigonish, July 17-18. In contrast, the Cohrs for the first time heard none this summer in Green Bay. Perhaps the distribution is changing. We need more hard data! An early fledgling was found by JGT on the Wolfville Ridge on May 29. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH was seen in two locations in Cape Breton (L&PP), with one bird seen carrying food. Word has it that "our" form of this bird, the "Bicknell's Thrush" may soon once again be recognized as a full species.

There were more reports of SWAINSON'S THRUSH than last year, with a good geographical scattering, and mention of breeding from the Morses at Mader's Cove. Late individuals were at Kingsport, Oct. 14 (JGT), and one which was caught by a dog on Brier Island the night of Nov. 11 (RBS). The HERMIT THRUSH picture also seemed mixed. BSA found at least 10 pairs within earshot in Bedford all summer, but RDH at Marriott's Cove felt that the numbers were down. MM saw one at Apple River on Nov. 4. It would be most interesting to look at the Breeding Bird Survey data for thrushes in Nova Scotia for, say, the last 10 years, as that is the only reasonably "hard" longitudinal population data that we have.

On the other hand nobody seems too concerned about the AMERICAN ROBIN numbers. Numerous reports were received from all summer long. Migration was represented by, e.g. "thousands" at Pubnico Pt., Oct. 23 and Nov. 2 (RSD), "hundreds" over the Eastern Shore all day, Oct. 27 (RBS), 400+ at Sandy Lake, Nov. 4 (BSA) etc.

There were only a few GRAY CATBIRDS reported, with the latest being at Lr. W. Pubnico on Oct. 12. (KD). There were no large numbers or unusual comments. The NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD continues to belie its supposedly rare or uncommon status. There were reports from Brier Island in mid-July (RBS), Dartmouth late July (JGT), Woodlawn all summer (JWT), and remarkably, 10 in Fairview Cemetery, Halifax on Oct. 7 (DAC). Perhaps the BROWN THRASHER is also being seen more frequently. There were reports of 9 birds altogether, from Dartmouth and the SW end of the province (LD, SDS, IAM et al.).

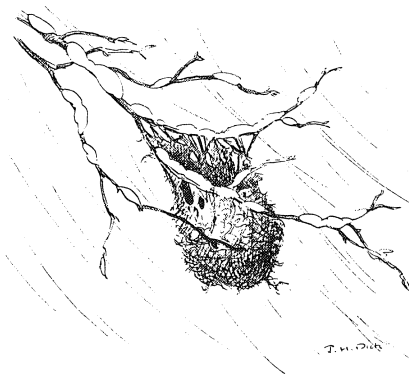
AMERICAN PIPITS arrived a little late, the first sightings being of 30 at Pond Cove, Brier Island (ELM) and 15 at Pembroke Beach, Yar. Co., both on Oct. 6. Numbers also appeared to be down compared to the usual large flocks.

Small (in the 10-30 range) flocks of CEDAR WAXWINGS were widely reported all summer and fall from all over the province, as usual. In major contrast to last year, there are no Bohemian Waxwing reports.

It may, however, turn out to be a good winter for the NORTHERN SHRIKE. One was at Hartlen's Pt., Oct. 16 (FLL), and birds have since appeared in Avonport (JGT), Lr. W. Pubnico (RSD), Apple River (KS), Martinique (M&KA), Ross Rd. (D & JAP), near Aylesford (JWT) and again at Hartlen's Pt. in mid-Nov. (CF). Watch this space!

The EUROPEAN STARLING remains common, and JKD noted 2000+ at Pinkney's Pt. on Oct. 17, with other observers noting somewhat less horrendous numbers.

RBS, ed.



VIREOS AND WARBLERS

Hartlen's Point offered up a rare WHITE-EYED VIREO on Oct. 27 (DAC **et al.**)--two were there on that date in 1989. Several observers mentioned breeding SOLITARY VIREOS; and there were reports of about 30 individuals during migration, but none east of Halifax-Dartmouth. "Mini-waves" were noted in the Kentville-Wolfville area in late August (JGT,RBS). Two on Brier Is., Oct. 21, seen by the Halls and Prossers, were the last reported. Brian Dalzell of the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas (MMBA) believes the WARBLING VIREO to be much more common than the record shows. He tells of 5 adults on territory in Cape Breton in late July and early August. One carrying food at Margaree Centre on Aug. 1, with young heard begging in thick foliage, was the first breeding record for the province. A well-described bird was seen and heard in Wolfville, June 7-10 (RBS **et al.**). BD feels that the PHILADELPHIA VIREO is another overlooked bird, especially in aspen stands in Cape Breton and northern Nova Scotia. An adult carrying food at Dingwall, July 29, is likely another breeding first for the province. JSC and JAP reported one in Hants Co., June 6; while single migrants were noted at Hartlen's Pt., Aug. 23 (**vide** BMA), at White's Lake, Hfx. Co., Aug. 25 (BMA) and at Sandy Lake, Bedford, Aug. 27 and Sept. 9 (BSA). Scattered reports of breeding RED-EYED VIREOS were received - BSA felt numbers were lower in the Bedford area than in 1989. A handful of migrants were noted in western and northern regions only up to Sept. 11.

A male BLUE-WINGED WARBLER discovered at Hartlen's Pt., Sept. 13 (BSa) was publicized over the Rare Bird Alert (RBA) system. One was still at Back Cove, Sept. 19 (**vide** BMA). BD and FS estimated that 75 pair of TENNESSEE WARBLERS were present on St. Paul Is., July 29-31; otherwise, only the odd report of summer birds trickled in. Traditionally early to depart, only a few migrants were noted in late August and September, one at Skir Dhu, C.B. on Sept. 19 (EW) being the latest reported. Five reporters sent news of the ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER in and about Halifax-Dartmouth, amounting to 8 or 9 individuals (BSa,KA,FLL,IAM,BMA). Halifax City and Hartlen's Pt. accounted for most of these sightings which occurred from early September to Nov. 15. The NASHVILLE WARBLER appears to have had a much-improved year. They were on the move by late August or early September, with BSA listing 10 (7 at Hartlen's Pt., 3 at Sandy Lake) the first half of September, and MAC **et al.** counting 4 on Brier Is., Sept. 5-7. Two were found on Brier as late as Oct. 21.

Though the NORTHERN PARULA migration was not very well observed, reasonable numbers were noted in widespread localities from Overton to Big Pond, mostly in early September. The latest report was of 1, Oct. 1 at Hartlen's Pt. (BSa). Two reports were received of the Parula's distinctive hanging nest of Usnea lichen, with CG observing that a pair has nested in the same spruce tree at Barrington on fourteen of the last sixteen years.

Though the YELLOW WARBLER was well-observed during the breeding season, it slipped away unnoticed by most. However, 15 were seen on Cape Sable Is., Aug. 31, 26 were counted on Bon Portage, Sept. 1 (both BMA), and 4 were at Hartlen's Pt., Sept. 4 (FLL,AMC). The CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER was even more elusive, with singletons on Cape Sable Is., Aug. 31, and at Hartlen's Pt., Sept. 4, the only migrants reported. Summer observations would indicate a more noticeable MAGNOLIA WARBLER migration, but only 3 post-August reports were received--6 or more were in Dartmouth, Sept. 11 (DWP,JAP) in a small mixed wave, one was on Seal Is., Oct. 7 (BMA) and several were seen off Brier Is., Oct. 8 (L&PP). The CAPE MAY WARBLER, however, did better than spring reports suggested, with over a dozen individual migrants noted, mostly along the South Shore, including 6 on Bon Portage Is., Sept. 1. The last one seen was in a mixed flock of 70 birds at Mader's Cove, Lun. Co. on Nov. 10 (WM,JeM). Reports of the BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER on territory from Salmon River, Digby Co. to Glengarry, C.B. during the summer indicated a "normal" year, but the only migrant observed was a male on Sober Is., Hfx. Co. Sept. 25 (BMA).

RDH stated that the YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER was "by far the most abundant warbler" during migration in the Marriott's Cove, Lun. Co. area. Other reports are compatible with sightings of 1 -12 or more from the Pubnicos to Apple River and Dartmouth to the end of October (KS *et al.*). No reports of exceptionally large numbers came from the islands off our coast, but BMa counted 50 on Sober Is., Sept. 26, RBS found them "abundant" all over Brier Is., Oct. 8 and the Halls and Prossers found "large flocks" on Brier, Oct. 21. From Halifax-Dartmouth, Marriott's Cove and Apple River, Cum. Co., came reports of 1 or 2 BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER migrants until Sept. 25. Small groups of 4-6 were seen on Brier Is., Sept. 5-7 (MAC *et al.*), and several landed in a state of exhaustion on a whale-watching boat off Brier, Oct. 8 (L&PP). The BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER was not widely reported, but a breeding record came in from Skir Dhu (EW), and reports of 1 or 2 migrants were received from Hartlen's Pt., Sandy Lake and Kentville in late August and early September.

PINE WARBLER numbers were about the same as during the fall of 1989, with 8 individuals reported, from Sept. 16 to Nov. 3. All of these were in the Halifax-Dartmouth area (mostly Hartlen's Pt.) except one--this was a Port Greville bird seen on Sept. 21 by DAM. MAC was fortunate enough to have 3 in her Halifax yard on Sept. 16. Why can't I have that kind of luck? The MMBA found Pine Warblers to be well established as breeders in southwestern New Brunswick (at least 500 pr.), so it's no wonder we are beginning to see them regularly. BD suspects they may breed here, the pine woods from Kentville to Kingston singled out as a likely spot. Half a dozen PRAIRIE WARBLERS were reported--2 on Bon Portage Is., Aug. 18 (Cohrs *et al.*), 2 on Brier (1 Aug. 20 and 1 Oct. 6-9, both *fide BMa*), 1 in Dartmouth, Sept. 9 (Purchases), and 1 at Hartlen's Pt., Sept. 19 (*fide BMa*).

RDH felt that PALM WARBLERS were scarce in Marriott's Cove, but they were quite well reported elsewhere, with up to 15 at a time noted to mid- September in Halifax, the South Shore, Valley and northern Nova Scotia regions. Only a few October reports came in though, including 1, Oct. 28 at Shubie Park, Dartmouth (SDS), the latest seen. The BAY-BREASTED WARBLER was on the move from the last week of August until mid-September. Again, most were reported from the Halifax-Dartmouth area, with 12 or 13 total noted at Sandy Lake and Hartlen's Pt. RGGB tells of an adult male aboard *CSS DAWSON* on western Brown's Bank, Sept. 17, the last one observed. This bird met an untimely end, and I Quote: "Our Merlin, a fellow passenger, ate it for supper". The BLACKPOLL WARBLER seems to do very well along our coastline, with 250 pair estimated to be on St. Paul Is., July 29-31 (BD,FS). During migration, BMa counted 250 on Sober Is., Sept. 26, and BSa accounted for 21 or 22 total at Sandy Lake and Hartlen's Pt., Sept. 6 to Oct. 1. An adult male CERULEAN WARBLER was noted at Hartlen's Pt. on Sept. 9 (IAM,BMa).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLERS were hard to come by after breeding was completed. Bon Portage Is. offered up 5 on Sept. 1, and only half a dozen other migrants were noted, the latest at Apple River, Sept. 20. AMERICAN REDSTART reports recovered somewhat from the fall of 1989, though BSa thought numbers were down in Bedford. Ten pair were found on St. Paul Is., July 29-31, while migrants were noted from late August to mid-September in Apple River and western Nova Scotia, including 7 on Bon Portage, Sept. 1, 6 at Hartlen's Pt., Sept. 4 and 3 in Halifax, Sept. 18--the last seen.

The OVENBIRD seemed to do quite well during the summer, but reports of 2 September individuals at Apple River (KS) represented our only specific reports on migration. The NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH situation is more hopeful this year. Summer reports came in from Cape Breton (JMac,EW) and BD observed 25 pair on St. Paul Is., July 29-31. Two were on Cape Sable Is., Aug. 31 and one on Bon Portage, Sept. 2 (JGT *et al.*).

Would you believe 65 pair of MOURNING WARBLERS on St. Paul Is., July 29-31? Unbelievable for those of us who have struggled for an occasional brief look at this secretive bird, but JMac located at least 12 pair during nesting season around Big Pond, and summer reports of perhaps 10 other individuals came in from elsewhere in Cape Breton and the Valley. September records numbered two--1 at Aerotech Park, Hfx. Co., Sept. 12 (KA) and 1 at Hartlen's Pt., Sept. 14 (BSa). Mixed reviews were received on our COMMON YELLOWTHROAT. BSa felt it was not as common in Bedford, while RSD found "many" at Pubnico Pt. on Aug. 22, and MAC thought it "very common" on Brier Is., Sept. 5-7, as did KS from Apple River. RBS found a migration already in progress on Brier Is., Aug. 12, and Yellowthroats were "abundant" on Bon Portage, Sept. 1-2. BMa added 12 at Hartlen's Pt., Sept. 9, and KS listed the last at Apple River, Oct. 9. The WILSON'S WARBLER did well, with about 10 individuals seen during migration from late August and September. One at Port Greville, Sept. 21 (DAM) was the last seen. The RBA went out on a YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT in Lower Sackville on Nov. 3, seen by many. JWT added 1 in Dartmouth, Nov. 8.

KNK,ed.

SCARLET TANAGER TO INDIGO BUNTING

Generally, fall migration allows for several sightings of SCARLET TANAGERS in the province. This year, even with the increased scrutiny of so many birders, all that could be found was a lone male on Seal Is., Oct. 7 (IAM et al.). The only other report was of 1 female near Springhill on July 6 (JWT). As usual, but by no means unimpressive, the Yarmouth, Pubnico and Overton areas seem to be alive with NORTHERN CARDINALS. The first of the season was of a male seen on Seal Is., Oct. 7 by Mary Nickerson, then Raymond d'Entremont had 2 female birds, 1 at his feeder in Lr. W. Pubnico and 1 at Pubnico Head on Oct. 23. On Nov. 3, there were reports of 1 female at Con Desplanque's feeder in Amherst and 2 males were found at Cape Forchu (HH). The Halls also have a female visiting their feeder in Overton, this bird seen first on Nov. 4.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK reports came from all parts of the province but surprisingly there were fewer sightings than expected when reflecting on the many early spring records in the April issue of *Nova Scotia Birds*. There were scattered sightings of 1 or 2 birds visiting feeders during the early part of June and only 2 fall sightings, 1 along the Gulf Shore on Sept. 18 (DAM) and 1 at Schooner Cove, Head of St. Margaret's Bay from Oct. 18-28 (ELM). BLUE GROSBEAKS, single birds, found their way to Sandy Lake and Bedford on Oct. 4, Brier Is., Oct. 9 and Lr. Sackville on Nov. 4 (BSa,EP,FS,Cohrs). INDIGO BUNTINGS were found at Chapman Settlement, Cum. Co., July 12 and 13 (JWT). There was also a pair visiting a feeder at Brier Island Lodge throughout May and June and by mid-May juvenile birds began showing up at the feeder. If anyone has further information on this possible breeding record, please let us know. This lends itself quite nicely to the idea that these birds are increasing their breeding range into Nova Scotia. Other recorded sightings were of up to five seen at Hartlen's Pt. throughout Oct., 1 at Cape Forchu and 2 on Seal Is., Oct. 6.

DICKCISSEL TO SNOW BUNTING

DICKCISSELS were sighted on four different occasions this fall. The first, was 1 seen on Bon Portage Is. on Oct. 6 (BSa). There were 2 cavorting with the assortment of sparrows in the marram grass at Cole Harbour on Oct. 14 (IAM); 1 at Apple River at Kathleen Spicer's feeder on Oct. 25 and 1 found at a feeder at Chezzetcook during a NSBS field trip on Oct. 27.

At the time of writing, AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS have arrived to most areas of the province. The only written report was of a single bird which arrived at a feeder in Apple River on Nov. 1 (KS). It appears that CHIPPING SPARROWS did not suffer too much from the devastatingly cold spring as they appeared in good numbers at various locations from Cape Breton to Yarmouth. Typical were sightings of twelve or more at a single time (Central Argyle, Apple River). Two adult CLAY-COLOURED SPARROWS were found this season, both during the NSBS field trip to Seal Is., Oct. 7 and 8 (IAM et al.). FIELD SPARROWS were noted from 2 locales. Two were at Pubnico Pt, Oct. 27 and a single bird was discovered on Seal Is., Oct. 6-7 (RSD,IAM).

SAVANNAH SPARROWS were not particularly well reported and we hope the reason has more to do with their being rather common and occasionally ignored than with declining populations. Jean Paquin and Nicole Landry during their travels over much of Nova Scotia in late July, made note of several areas where these birds were evident. They found them in small numbers from Cheticamp, Port Morien, Hartlen's Pt., Cow Bay, Cherry Hill and Evangeline Beach. On a pelagic trip SE and twenty miles off Halifax, 1 Savannah was seen by Fulton Lavender on Sept. 29. An early juvenile "IPSWICH SPARROW" was observed at Hartlen's Pt., Sept. 22 (IAM) and later on by mid-October there were at least 12 seen there by a number of observers (PM,JWT). A very good description was sent in by Bev Sarty of what could only have been a LACONTE'S SPARROW. This bird was seen at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 11. This is the second record for the province. SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS were quite well reported. Although there were areas such as Fort Lawrence and Green Bay where these birds were almost non-existent there were good breeding records from many localities and sizable gatherings in September and October. Ian McLaren had at least 40 at Rainbow Haven on Oct. 14, and about 30 there on Oct. 21. Judy Tufts recorded many of these birds in and around the Wolfville area throughout the summer and Eric and Ann Mills spotted about 20 juveniles at the the John Lusby Marsh near Amherst on Aug. 20.

Fall FOX SPARROWS were seen as late as Nov. 16 and we can be reasonably certain of a few attempting to over-winter at feeding stations. Sightings, mainly at feeders, were from the Halifax-Dartmouth, Bedford, Waverley areas, Wolfville and Apple River. SONG SPARROWS did not appear to have suffered a great deal in the cold, wet spring. All reports, of which there were many, indicated higher than normal numbers. The only exception was Hartlen's Pt., where there seemed to be fewer foraging in the border marsh of Back Cove. LINCOLN'S SPARROWS were reported from widely separated areas. E. Waldron heard several all summer from Jersey Cove to Cabot's Landing, C.B., and Bev Sarty had at least 3 pairs near Sandy Lake. Fall reports were from Apple River during late September and early October, where there were up to 6 at one time, Seal Is. on Oct. 6 and a late record of 1 in north end Halifax on Nov. 4 (LAC,JSC). SWAMP SPARROWS were found as usual in the dampest of areas throughout the breeding season. Late reports were of 1 at Seal Is., Oct. 7 (Tufts), and 1 on Nov. 10 at Loch Lomond, C.B. (JMac). It is encouraging to have so many sightings from Cape Breton.

Of the five records of WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS during this period, 3 came from different areas of Cape Breton! Apart from the usual numbers during the summer, there were small groups scraping in the leaves and scratching for seeds at feeders in Apple River and Pubnico during September and October. There were at least 10 WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS counted during this reporting period. Other than the 1 which arrived at Kathleen Spicer's feeder in Apple River on June 10 and 11, the rest were fall occurrences. Up to 4 were found on Seal Is. from Oct. 6-8 (IAM et al.); 1 imm. was found at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 9 (BSa); 1 at Apple River, Oct. 13 and 14 and then again there on Nov. 4 and 5 (KS). The only other sighting was of a single bird visiting a feeder in W. Pubnico from Oct. 21-27 (LD). DARK-EYED JUNCOS were regularly encountered all summer and during early autumn, but they really made an impression by late October, when large numbers were found along roadsides and feeders. Typical were about 50 at Apple River on Oct. 28, 30 at Wolfville Ridge on Nov. 3 and 25 at Glenwood, Yar. Co., Oct. 21.

LAPLAND LONGSPURS were found at Hartlen's Point in mid-October when 4 were

seen there and 3 were seen on Brier Is., Oct. 9 (EP,FS). The first SNOW BUNTING sighted was 1 found at Hartlen's Pt on Oct. 14 (KA,MA,CF) and it wasn't until the following week that reports came from most areas of the province. The larger numbers started occurring in November with flocks of 400 or more seen at Cherry Hill and at Bridgetown on Nov. 10.

ICTERIDS

BOBOLINKS were notably more scarce throughout much of the province. It seemed that they arrived in fairly normal numbers but did not appear to have had a very good nesting season as several observers found fewer birds in the usual places. One late record was of 1 at Cole Harbour on Oct. 14 (IAM). RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS departed in the large noisy flocks shared by Grackles in August and September, but there are numerous occurrences this year of laggards visiting feeders in preference to a long journey south. Late sightings include 16 on Nov. 2 and 5 on Nov. 7 at Apple River (KS); 9 in different areas of Dartmouth up to the present (DP,JP,JWT) and 16 on Nov. 12 at Lr. W. Pubnico (JKD).

A single mention of MEADOWLARK was submitted by the Cohrs who saw either an Eastern or Western at Conrad's Beach on Oct. 18. These two species are extremely hard, if not impossible to identify in the field if they are not vocal. A YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, the only report, was 1 spotted on Bon Portage Is., during the NSBS field trip there on Oct. 6 (fide BSa). There were few reports of RUSTY BLACKBIRDS which makes it difficult to attempt a judgment of their status. Two relatively late records were of one adult seen on Brier Is., Oct. 7 and 1 observed at Economy on Oct. 12. COMMON GRACKLES were seen in extremely large flocks this fall. They seemed to wait a little longer to leave this year which could have contributed to the huge deafening flocks that descended during September and October. About 600 were seen in the Tufts' backyard at Wolfville Ridge on Sept. 11. There were about 1,000 near Pugwash, feeding on corn stubble on Sept. 21 (DAC) and up to 2,000 were seen flying over in a five minute interval in Halifax on Oct. 10 (JLC,LAC). Late reports were 100 at Apple River on Nov. 2, and 3 and 300 at Forest Glen, Yar. Co., Nov. 2 (KS,JKD). Could it be that there is a reduction in BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS? Don and Joyce Purchase give a very provoking explanation that because of the general decrease in warblers throughout North America that these birds will be affected as well because of the fewer number of hosts. Cowbirds become very scarce during the summer and have mostly left the area by late August. They begin to reappear, associating with Starlings and House Sparrows usually in November or December and often successfully over-winter. Late sightings include several in Dartmouth, Nov. 9-14 (JWT) and 14 birds seen at Lr. W. Pubnico on Nov. 12 (JKD).

NORTHERN ORIOLES were well represented during fall migration with 13 observers reporting about 20 different birds. These were all during September and October. Two late records were reported by Bev Sarty who saw 1 in Lr. Sackville on Nov. 3 and 1 at Conrose Field, Halifax on Nov. 14. An ORCHARD ORIOLE was found singing on Bon Portage Is. By Cyril Coldwell and Peter Smith on June 22. This is very unusual timing for a vagrant (IAM).

WINTER FINCHES TO HOUSE SPARROW

PINE GROSBEAKS often go unnoticed as they rarely venture far from the depths of the conifer forest. Helen and Hubert Hall observed a brilliant male while it was feeding near Darling's Lake, Yar. Co., July 2. Six birds were found at Forest Glen, Yar. Co., Oct. 1 (JKD) and 12 were reported at Big Pond on Oct. 12 (CMA). PURPLE FINCHES were evident in small numbers throughout the summer but it wasn't until late September and especially October that larger flocks began to arrive. Cumberland County areas of Amherst and Apple River had substantial flocks of 30-50 birds visiting feeders in late October. Other sightings include 1 at Grand Pre and Evangeline Beach on Oct. 22 (JT) and 5 at Cranberry Head, Yar. Co., Oct. 17 (JKD). What is probably going to be a trend is the incidence of HOUSE FINCHES in Nova Scotia. Although there were no reported sightings of these birds for fall, there were 2 at a feeder in W. Pubnico from June 27 to July 2 (LD) and a male feeding with siskins and goldfinches at Overton on June 3 (HJH,HGH).

Of the two species of crossbills, recently it has been the RED CROSSBILL which has been the less often encountered. This year it was the opposite. Red Crossbills were seen in small groups of up to 25 in practically all areas from June through to September. A few typical reports were 5 at Lr. W. Pubnico on June 26 (RSD); 6 seen in Halifax city on June 22 (HD) and flocks of 10-25 seen on July 30 at Green Bay (Cohrs). Ian McLaren writes that it is vital that birders alert themselves to subtle differences in Red Crossbills. There are 2 forms we should watch for, a large-billed and small-billed form. It is thought that the large-billed form has been extirpated from parts of Newfoundland following the introduction of red squirrels there. These birds may be so specialized that they only feed on spruce cones which, unlike its relatives that feed primarily on pine cones. It would be very helpful if observers could keep notes on sizes, colours, bill sizes, calls (which are different) and food/feeding habits. Eleanor Waldron recorded the only WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL for the entire reporting period, that of a single bird at Neil's Harbour on July 6.

PINE SISKINS were spotted in many areas on the province during the summer months although in small flocks of 10-20 birds. As the fall approached numbers began increasing until most areas were recording larger groups descending on feeders. It appears October was the month which these birds were particularly plentiful and steadily increasing. Like the preceding species, AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES were fairly common all summer taking advantage of the increasing number of summer feeding stations set up throughout the province. Sizable flocks became regular visitors at feeders in Apple River, Dartmouth, Halifax, Cape Breton and the Valley areas during August, September and October. After a couple of years when EVENING GROSBEAKS have practically been non-existent, it looks as if we will need to stock up on sunflower seeds to meet the demand. These birds were found during summer in Cum., Lun., Yar. and Hfx Co., and areas of Cape Breton. It appears from the early reports that these nomadic birds seem to be increasing rapidly in number as winter approaches.

HOUSE SPARROWS are now being well reported and it is easier to get a feeling as to their status in the province. There are still areas where numbers are not what they were in recent years but there is an indication that the numbers have stabilized. They are not increasing, but not disappearing (happily), as was the impression over the last three years.

DAC, ed.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

for

the **APRIL** issue

FEBRUARY 25, 1991

Bird Reports to the RECORDS EDITOR

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

Articles, sketches and letters to the EDITOR

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

Photographs to

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

PROGRAMMES AT THE MUSEUM

- February 28 - 8:00 p.m.
Dick Brown - Seabirds
- March 28 - 8:00 p.m.
Peter Payzant - Birding the Australasian
Region
- April 25 - 8:00 p.m.
Bob Bancroft - Birds of Prey

C O M P E T I T I O N J U L Y 1 9 9 0

On page 53 of the July is of **Nova Scotia Birds** the challenge was presented: What is the songbird which wears a pocket handkerchief in both adult plumages? The first correct answer was from Joyce Purchase who wins a year's membership. The answer: The Black-throated Blue Warbler (which has a white patch at the base of the primaries like a pocket handkerchief)

A FURTHER CHALLENGE

No one got the FIVE North American nesters with a longer name than Yellow-crowned Night Heron. One more chance on this one--THE FIRST CORRECT ANSWER WINS A MEMBERSHIP!

FOR SALE - \$500.00

The Society's Commodore 64 computer, purchased in 1985, complete with monitor, printer and floppy disc drive. Used only for membership. Contact Don MacNeill at 3143 Aikens Avenue, Halifax, B3L 3Y5, (902) 454-5337, evenings.

NEW ZEALAND BIRDING

Eric Cooke

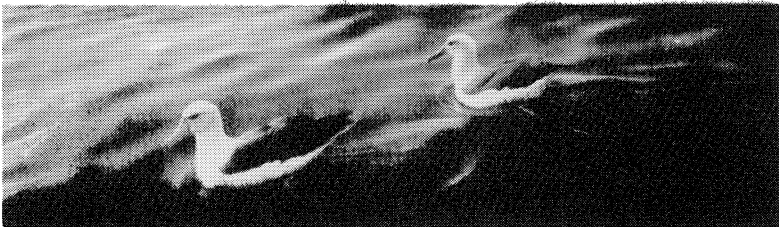
Birding in New Zealand is made interesting by a wide variety of climate and habitat. Since the country runs more or less north and south for about 2,000 miles, it's to be expected that the climate varies from subtropical in the north to temperate in the south. The ever present ocean, the mountains, farmlands and forests, all contribute to provide differing habitats for a wide variety of birds. While birding was wonderfully interesting, with some exceptions, numbers of birds were not great and finding them was not always easy.

Because of its remote location and absence of predators in ancient times, many flightless birds evolved in New Zealand and were plentiful before the arrival of Polynesian seafarers hundreds of years ago. Some, such as the giant Moa which stood up to 16 feet tall, were extinct before the arrival of European settlers in the nineteenth century. Others such as the Kiwi and Weka still survive in remote areas and offshore islands. The introduction of predators which as rats, opossums and stoats has contributed to the extinction of some and drastic decline in numbers of other species of flightless birds.



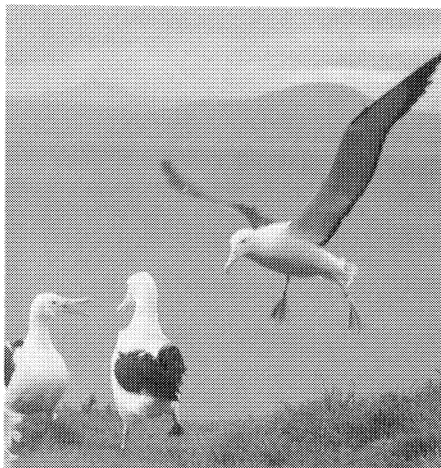
Weka -- a flightless bird now endangered

Pelagic species are numerous because the ocean surrounds New Zealand, so birders should make an effort to go on an offshore trip. We saw Royal Albatross with chicks at the only mainland breeding colony. This is one of the largest of the albatross with a wing span of eleven feet--spectacular in flight! There are also two other species of albatross, the Shy Mollymawk and Buller's Mollymawk, slightly smaller but still large, graceful birds in flight. However, while we were deep sea fishing (among other fish, we caught two sharks and a barracuda) when the skipper tossed overboard the fish guts, the mollymawks came squacking and fighting around the boat like hungry gulls. We also saw two species of penguins, the Little Blue and the Yellow-eyed Penguins.



Shy Mollymawk and Buller's Mollymawk--note the difference in bills

Royal Albatross



There were few species of shorebirds but large numbers of some species such as Bar-tailed Godwit, Black Oystercatcher, Pied Stilts, Spur-winged Plover and Banded Dotterel. One of the most interesting shorebirds was the Wrybill, a small gray and white plover with a longish bill which is unique because the tip always has a noticeable turn to the right. One wonders what benefit the birds derive and what evolutionary pressures brought this about.

Raptors were few, the only common hawk being the Harrier. Over open country, we'd often see eight or ten of these a day. The beautiful and graceful Black Swans were common and at one large tidal estuary, thousands were gathered together--an unforgettable sight.

Black Swans with young



Cormorants--or as they are called in New Zealand, Shags--were plentiful and we saw five different species.



Stewart Island Shags--found only in southern New Zealand

There was a large colony of Australian Gannets with the immatures just leaving for their first flights. On the woodlands, the friendly, attractive little Fantail, like our chickadee. All these and many others made the birding fascinating.

New Zealand is a beautiful country with lovely and, at times, spectacular scenery--and so clean! Nowhere, in towns or tountry, was there any sign of refuse or untidyness. The roads are excellent and driving is easy once you overcome the stangeness of driving on the left hand side of the road. Motel accommodations are moderately priced and superior to what's available in this country, each unit being like a small apartment with fully equipped kitchen.

Although birding was part of every day, other activities took much of our time--sailing at the Bay of Islands and on 75 mile long Lake Manapouri--trail riding on horseback at different ranches--swimming in the warm ocean water at wonderful beaches, miles long and almost unpopulated--hiking on some of the marvelous and well maintained trails--and most fun of all, white water river rafting!

Yes, New Zealand is a lovely, fascinating country. Go there if you have the chance. You'll be glad you did, just as I am. Yes, and I'd love to go back! If anyone contemplates a trip there, contact me if you'd like more details.

PUFFIN OF THE YEAR - 1990



President Joyce Purchase presents the Puffin to Bob Dickie
Photo: Peter Payzant

In 1972, the Society's President, Eric Cooke, initiated the "Puffin of the Year" award to be presented at the discretion of the current president (with or without consultation) to that member of the Society who has contributed in some special way to the furtherance of our aims. It is becoming a long and honourable list. In some years, the choice is obvious and thus easy for the president. In other years it is a difficult decision: never because there is a scarcity of deserving recipients but because there are so many.

I found that one of those times. However, I think there will be unanimous agreement with my choice...and it is my own choice. It is customary to leave the name until the last but most of you will guess our 1990 winner long before I finish.

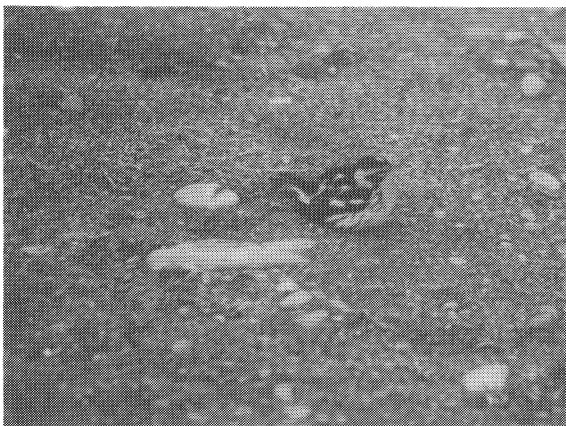
He has served on the Executive (with one year off for good behaviour) since 1982--as Secretary, Vice-President, President and Past-President and as a Director of the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund since 1987, as well as on the Conservation and Environment committee. For many years he added to the fund of scientific data through his involvement with the "Beached Bird Surveys" as well as faithfully turning out for the Christmas Bird Counts. He has led field trips for several years, both for the Society and for the Nova Scotia Museum, including one memorable occasion when he volunteered to help a visitor and found himself in a chauffeured limousine complete with wine and picnic basket. More prosaically and with great dedication he has served as Records Editor of **Nova Scotia Birds** since 1985. His contribution to our much-praised magazine also includes the introduction of the feature "Profiles", which introduces some of our members.



Our new President holding his Puffin of the Year - 1990

Photo: Peter Payzant

In 1984, he provided a drawing of a "Bald Eagle" for the cover of our magazine and has continued to contribute one or more covers and other artwork annually. This has culminated in the splendid cover on the July, 1990 edition and, if that were his only contribution, it would almost be enough to be recognized for this year's "Puffin of the Year": Bob Dickie.



This Blackburnian Warbler took a wrong turn and flew into a window of Judith Graham's house at Montrose, near Bass River. Fortunately, it was just momentarily stunned—long enough to be captured forever on a colour print.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

May 26 - Hants County Field Trip

After two weeks of rain, fog, cold temperatures--yes, even snow, the forecast for Saturday, May 26, was for a sunny day and rising temperatures. That did it! 46 birders, longing for an opportunity to bird in such conditions and hoping to have their first sighting of spring migrants, registered so that suddenly my own anticipation of birding through binoculars that didn't fog up, turned to concern about the logistics of what would turn out to be the largest movement of birders on a Hants County Field Trip! However, with car pooling, limiting the time spent at each stop and dividing into groups in a few areas, we had a successful and rewarding experience.

It was fortunate that we had such a large group of eager and keen birders, including visitors from England and Thunder Bay, Ontario; Wolfville-Kentville area: Dartmouth-Halifax area; Hants County as well as Cumberland County and then to have Ross Baker, from Truro, join us for lunch at Smiley's Park. Without the eyes and ears of all these people we would not have recorded 76 different species of birds and one red fox!

Sometimes as I birded along that day, hearing more than I was seeing, or feeling I was not seeing as many as in past years, with such a cold wet spring, so many more crows and fewer swallows (a reported 10-15% of the swallow and Purple Martin returning migrants have starved this spring), I felt that the bird population is certainly declining.

Yet despite the fact that we didn't see Snipe, only one Willet, no Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, fewer than usual flycatchers and thrushes, we did have some specials, such as spotting a female Wood Duck, squeezing into a cavity in a tree on the Uniacke grounds. This is only the third time in the years I've kept a record of the Hants County Field Trips that Wilson's Warblers were seen. It has been six years since Blackpoll Warblers were seen, so it would verify a late migration.

I would like to thank all who turned out for your cooperation and patience in adhering to some of the "strict" rules enforced for this field trip, and especially to Eric Cooke and John Cohrs for leading sub groups. It was a fun day, a rewarding day, topped in evening by the leader, sitting in her back yard (still in Hants County), watching a hummingbird foraging for nectar in the still underdeveloped chestnut blossoms; a Chipping Sparrow carrying nesting material to a cedar tree, hearing the unmistakable call of a Ring-necked Pheasant and spotting a Bald Eagle fly over the St. Croix River.

Margaret A. Clark

June 16 - Amherst Marshes

On June 16, twenty bird-watching connoisseurs (we do not eat the birds) met at the east exit, number one, to Fort Lawrence. Here we introduced ourselves and then headed off along the Ducks Unlimited trail to Eddie Marsh.

We were greeted at the main impoundment by singing blackbirds, screaming terns and ducks on every hand.

The highlight birds included: Sora, Black Tern, Marsh Wren, Moorhen, Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Wood Duck, Northern Shoveller, Northern Pintail, Northern Harrier.

Our next stop was Amherst town, thanks to a little reconnaissance work by Jim Taylor (he is an indispensable part of any field trip) who had located some Johnny-come-lately Purple Martins for us. We enjoyed this tattered little band (mostly immatures) of survivors with bittersweet feelings.

By the time we arrived at our next location, A.P.B.S., the sky was mostly clear and temperatures were in the uncomfortable zone.

The best birds included: Gadwall, American Coot, Merlin, Caspian Tern, Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

From A.P.B.S., we moved on to Fenwick Park for tea. Here, the highlights, apart from a well-deserved lunch break, were Blackburnian Warbler, Parula Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Bay-breasted Warbler.

Next we explored the Maccan Sanctuary in an apparent lost cause for Virginia Rail. After what was approximately a three kilometer hike, we heard three--of course right beside the parking lot where we started. Such are the delightful frustrations of leading a field trip.

Then it was on to "the Boar's Back" and Minudie pastures. Now there were only two cars left. Everyone else got smart. I however, had my landing gear set for the Elysian Fields in Minudie and nothing short of death would have thwarted my attempt. (I had promised Short-eared Owls to everyone from the outset).

On the Boar's Back we added Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Pileated Woodpecker. Then my avian craft crashed in a puff of infamous smoke on the plains of Waterloo.

There were harriers everywhere and even an immature Rough-legged Hawk, but not an owl to save one's pride.

Fortunately, the hot, tired, bedraggled foursome left in my somewhat tarnished presence inclined their comments toward the gentle side (they really wanted to strangle me) while suggesting for the last time that we should depart this owl-less hell for the cooler confines of domestic bliss.

It must be noted for those new to my company, that I talked the MacLeans (Gordon and Maxine) into staying an extra fifteen minutes (it must have seemed like a year to them) and for what?--a flock of twenty-six Red Crossbills and even though a life for them both, I thought they unquestionably deserved better.

See you all next year, I hope

Fulton Lavender.

July 28 - North River, Cape Breton

Thirteen bird-watchers, including a visitor from Ontario, set off under cloudy skies for the trip to North River; it was warm and windless.

We first made a side trip to Leitch's Creek, to check on the progress of a pair of Ospreys who were rearing their young on top of a power pole about a hundred yards from the road. We could see one young bird in the nest, with an adult bird standing guard. Opposite, a flock of House Sparrows were flying in and out of nesting holes provided by the cracks and crannies in the wall of a large barn. During this trip, a loon flew directly overhead, calling as it went.

Then it was back to the main road and on to the Trans Canada, which we followed by way of Big Bras d'Or to St. Ann's Gut, stopping briefly at sightings of Great Blue Herons, and at the Kelly's Mountain lookoff for a marvellous view of Englishtown and St. Ann's Bay.

The tide was very low at the Gut. Small blue patches were beginning to appear in the cloud layers. Six Canada Geese were resting on the mud flats, while a single Greater Yellowlegs waded nearby, and a Great Blue was fishing most successfully. Other birds seen here included Great-crested Cormorants, a pair of Kingfishers, Common Terns, and a Spotted Sandpiper.

We made a longer stop at St. Ann's picnic park, on the North side of the gut. Here we sighted a small flock of Yellowlegs, Yellow-rumped and Magnolia Warblers, a Solitary Vireo, a White-throated Sparrow, newly out of its nest and as yet unable to fly,

waiting on the ground for food from its absent parent, and a Woodcock, which was flushed most unexpectedly by Cathy and Alan Murrant.

And so to the North River Park, where we unpacked our lunch baskets before setting out on the trail that leads to falls and fishing pools. Along the edges there were Blackburnian and Bay-breasted Warblers, while in the mixed woods themselves, on a very large white pine, we spotted the elusive Brown Creeper.

Our species count for the day was 34. The route chosen yielded a variety of habitats and thus a good assortment of birds, from Mergansers to swallows and siskins. An excellent outing, in perfect weather conditions and very good company.

Nancy More

August 2 - Crescent and Cherry Hill Beaches

For the fifteenth year in a row, it was a beautiful summer day for the trip! In spite of dire warnings of Hurricane Bertha, torrential rain and gale winds, the day dawned calm and warm, progressing to a superb day of high summer with sparkling blue sea and bleached white sandy beaches.

Twenty birders were there, mostly from the South Shore, from Yarmouth to Halifax. The shorebirds were there too, sadly in their ever-decreasing numbers, but more than enough to test identification skills. A Red Knot that still showed much of his "red" was one of the more interesting kinds at Crescent, while a male Wilson's Phalarope cavorted, phalarope style, at the top of Cherry Hill. At Cherry Hill too, nine Piping Plovers were still about, dodging the dogs and people (and vehicles too, for although none were seen then there were many tire tracks). Gulls, ducks and a few passerines were encountered, including fine viewing of the local Sharp-tailed Sparrows through the telescope.

By 3:30 p.m., most were foot-weary and sunburned, happy to relinquish the beaches to the birds and head home for refreshments and contemplation of the fascination of the windbirds

Shirley Cohrs

August 4 - Economy

August 4, was a hot clear day and consequently woodland birds were not very active on our trips to the Falls and Thomas Cove. There was a fair sampling of migrant shorebirds on the gravel bar although numbers were not large. Highlight of the trip was a Black-billed Cuckoo calling persistently in high alders on the way to The Falls. Three of the sixteen participants saw it and all of us heard it.

Some of us stayed for an outdoor slide show sponsored by Lands and Forests at the Five Islands Park that evening.

Francis Spalding

August 18 - Fuller's Bridge, Cape Breton

It was a beautiful summer morning that we all gathered at Marion Bridge on the Mira River. There was a good turnout, including four visitors from the mainland.

The first stop was at String Lakes. In the lake we saw Double-crested Cormorants, two Common Loons and an Osprey flying overhead. In an adjacent swamp there were Song Sparrows, a Yellow Warbler, a Grackle with two fledglings, two Yellow-shafted Flickers, Black and White Warbler, Canada Warbler, six American Goldfinches, three Slate-coloured Juncos and a Swamp Sparrow, hopping from lily pad to lily pad.

From there we headed off to Gabarus Beach. There we spotted two Ruby-throated

Hummingbirds, an American Kestrel, many Black-backed Gulls, a Bank Swallow and a Barn Swallow.

Next, at Belfry Beach, the wind was very high and harbour seals bobbed in the surf. Along the beach were Ruddy Turnstones still in their breeding plumage, Black-bellied Plovers, Greater Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpipers and a Savannah Sparrow in the beach grass. We decided to have our lunch here so we would not reach Fuller's Bridge before low tide.

Fuller's Bridge, as usual, was abundant with shorebirds. The intrusion of many clam diggers on the mudflats did seem to disturb them--Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Great Blue Herons, Common Terns, six Pectoral Sandpipers, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Northern Harrier, Willet, Short-billed Dowitcher and Least Sandpiper. It was a great finish to a great day with a total of 31 different species.

Andrew Gingell

September 15 - Louisbourg and Kennington Cove, Cape Breton--fall migrants

There was a small but dedicated turnout on this misty morning. Our first stop at Albert Bridge was shrouded with fog so we continued on to the New Boston Road. There we saw Bluejays, Black-capped Chickadees, an American Goldfinch, two Yellow-shafted Flickers, three Gray Jays, a Cedar Waxwing and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

As the day wore on, the sun broke through the most and made for a very pleasant fall day. On our way to Kennington Cove we stopped for lunch at a park overlooking the Fortress of Louisbourg. While we were there we spotted six Boreal Chickadees, a Yellow-throated Warbler, two Green-winged Teal, a Double-crested Cormorant, a Kingfisher, a Black-billed Plover, and six Semipalmated Sandpiper.

After lunch we headed off to Kennington Cove. There we found six Semipalmated Plovers skipping along the edge of the water. Many Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls hung in the air above the cliff and a Savannah Sparrow perched motionless on a lone spruce tree.

As we left this tranquil cove I spotted a soaring Bald Eagle high above the cove.

Andrew Gingell

September 15 - Matthew's Lake

Fourteen intrepid, real, birders started the long 7-8 km walk to Matthew's Lake expecting miserable weather along the way. We were not disappointed as it rained moderately most of the way and a head wind of 2-25 knots greeted us on the way back. An added discouragement was the fact that the southerly winds prevented the lake from draining normally so wet feet were had by all.

However, on the plus side, the shorebirds were "hanging tight" and many very close looks were obtained of White-rumps, Dowitchers, Knots and Pectorals. No attempt was made to count individuals, but shorebirds seen included the above, plus Semipalmated Sandpipers and Plovers, Least Sandpipers, Whimbrel, Turnstone, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Sanderling, Black-bellied Plover, Golden Plover (1) and Dunlin for a total of 15.

Not much time was spent looking for other birds due to the rough conditions, but Merlin, Double-crested Cormorant, Eider, Common Tern, Harrier, the usual gulls, Song and Savannah Sparrows were noticed.

As might be expected, Sunday dawned clear and cool and would have been a nicer day for the outing--I promise better things next time.

David Young

September 17 - Bob Kanigsberg Youth Trip

The annual Bob Kanigsberg Young People's Birding Trip took place at Crescent Beach, Lunenburg County on Monday, September 17. Preliminary arrangements was made before the end of the school year last June, with Mr. John MacKay, head of the Science Department, Parkview Education Centre, Bridgewater, for participation of his International Baccalaureate, Grade XII Biology Class, and with Miriam MacIntosh for lunch at the Green Bay Canteen.

In early September arrangements were finalized. On September 14, John Cohrs and Bill Caudle spoke to the students at the school, and at 10:30 a.m. on September 17, eighteen students with Mr. MacKay and another teacher arrived at Crescent Bench by small bus. The leaders were John and Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke and Bill Caudle. Also present were Ruth Ballem and myself.

It was a lovely day and many species of shorebirds were seen. In addition, spirits were high during lunch at the Green Bay Canteen, making it apparent that Bob Kanigsberg's wishes are being met when he left a sum of money for this trip--that it be fun as well as educational.

A kind letter of thanks has been received from Mr. MacKay in which, among other things, he thanked "the Nova Scotia Bird Society for providing such fine organization and leadership".

Milton Gregg

October 14 - Hartlen's Point & Eastern Shore

Despite a close brush with tropical storm Lili, the rain held off most of the day and allowed the field trip to proceed. It was a muggy day, uncharacteristic of October, with temperatures in the 18 to 20 C range. First stop was the Back Cove at Hartlen's Point where Janos Kovacs and Dave MacKinnon were mist-netting migrant birds for banding. There was a distinct movement of Black-capped Chickadees and robins, Song Sparrows, "Ipswich" Sparrows, Swamp and Sharp-tailed Sparrows, the odd warbler, as well as three hatching year Indigo Buntings. Janos kindly suffered the many questions put to him by the field trippers, many of whom had never seen in Indigo Bunting, let alone in the hand. Perhaps brought in by the tropical depression, a lone Eastern Kingbird was also seen at the Back Cove.

From Hartlen's Point, the group proceeded to Conrad's Beach. Here, there were many sparrows in the beachside grasses, including Godwits, several Pectoral Sandpipers and a flock of Lapland Longspurs. The ever-shrinking group then moved on to Three Fathom Harbour, with stops at Dottie's Pond and the "stinkhole", where the field trip broke. The breakup was not due to the smell, although one participant noted that the odor was making him hungry! The group included Lorne and Audrey Tylor of Shubenacadie, Ken McKenna from New Glasgow, Ray Cook from P.E.I., and the rest from the Halifax area: Bev Sarty, Clarence Stevens Sr., Louis Coutinho, Azor Vienneau and Brian Dalzell. A total of 57 species were tallied, not bad for threatening skies. The list is extensive so a list of birds seen and their numbers is available on request.

Brian Dalzell.

October 27 - Eastern Shore

Things didn't look great as the trip leaders arrived for a preliminary look around the Shore Road at Grand Desert. At half an hour before the trip was due to start, it was pouring rain, with high winds and near-freezing temperatures. However, from the

comfort of our car, we were delighted to see lots of birds in the upper end of Chezzetcook Inlet, including Great Blue Herons, Greater Yellowlegs, and even two dowitchers (species not proven).

We were even more delighted to see the seven hardy souls who arrived on time at the Porter's Lake shopping centre, in spite of the terrible weather. Many of them piled into a roomy van with big windows, and a little convoy of three vehicles began the official part of the trip by driving back to the Shore Road. There was no sign of the dowitchers, but a rather odd-looking sparrow in a group of House Sparrows turned out to be a Dickcissel.

Out at the end of the Martinique Beach road, we had ten species of ducks and Canada Geese in the marsh, but the better birding was from the beach. Not only was it a little more sheltered, but there were very good views of Northern Gannets close in to the shore, plus Sanderling, White-rumped Sandpipers and Snow Buntings flying around. A hot lunch at a new tea room warmed us, and we were reluctant to get underway. However, we soon piled out into the weather again and headed for Lawrencetown via Three Fathom Harbour.

Other good birds we saw included a Peregrine Falcon at Three Fathom Harbour, thousands of American Robins flying over all day and, at Conrad's Beach, Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin and a lone Pectoral Sandpiper. By the time the trip broke up in mid-afternoon, we had seen 52 species.

My thanks to RBS for his very welcome assistance with the shorebirds.

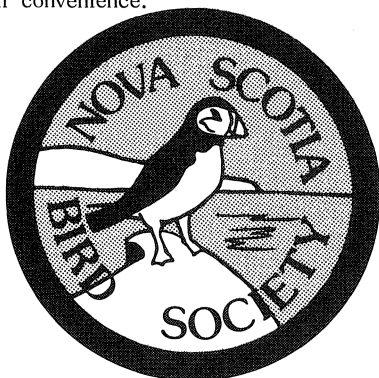
Peter Payzant



This summer's Rufous Hummingbird, at Lockeport in July, was photographed by Shirley Cohrs, for a first fully confirmed provincial record. Of course the black-and-white print hardly does justice to the original slide of this glowing rufous male.

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.
Jan. 20 | <u>Riverside Eagles</u> Leader: Ross Hall (893-9665) Meet at Kentucky Fried Chicken at Exit #11 (Stewiacke) on Hwy 102 at at 9:00 a.m. Eagles etc. at Herman Berfalo's feeder and tour the Shubenacadie River. |
| Sun.
Feb.3 | <u>Eastern Shore</u> Leader: Clarence Stevens (835-0098) Meet at Golf Course Gate at Hartlen's Point at 7:30 a.m. All day trip. |
| Sun.
Feb.10 | <u>Sewer Stroll II</u> Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-8984). Meet at Spryfield own centre parking lot (Zellers) at 8:30 a.m. This is an all day trip from Sambro, Bedford and ends at Hartlen's Point. |
| Sun
Mar.17 | <u>Sea Birds and Stuff</u> Leader: Barbara Hinds (422-9407). Halifax to Sambro Meet at 9:00a.m. parking lot Point Pleasant Park end of Tower Road. |
| Sat.
Mar.23 | <u>Lingering Winter Birds (Cape Breton)</u> Leader: Andrew Gingell (564-8298) Meet at Heavy Water Plant, Glace Bay at 8:00 a.m. |
| Sun.
Mar.24 | <u>Past President's Field Trip</u> Leader: Joyce Purchase (434-5199). Dartmouth Conrad's Beach, Grand Desert, etc. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Scotia Bank, Bridge Plaza, MacDonald Bridge, Dartmouth. |
| Sun.
Mar.31 | <u>Owl Prowl - Harrietsfield</u> Leader: Peter MacLeod (454-2006). Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Shoppers Drug Mart, Herring Cove Rd. 2-3 hours duration. |
| Sat.
Apr. 6 | <u>Eastern Shore, Martinique Beach</u> Leader: Ian McLaren (429-7024). Meet at at 8:00 a.m. at the Scotia Bank parking lot, Bridge Plaza, MacDonald Bridge, Dartmouth. |
| Fri.
Apr.26 | <u>Owl Prowl (Cape Breton)</u> (Alternate date, Sat. April 27) Leader: Alan Murrant (737-2684). Meet at Louisbourg Hwy and Morrison Road at 6:00 p.m. |
| Sun.
Apr.28 | <u>Wolfville Area</u> Leader: Jim Wolford (542-7650). Pond hopping for ducks and early migrants. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Front St, Wolfville. Joint trip with Blomidon Naturalist Society. |
| Sat.
May 4 | <u>Cape Sable Island - The Hawk</u> Leader: Joan Czapalay (742-8753). Meet at 7:30 a.m., Causeway Plaza, north end of the causway. |
| Sun.
May 5 | <u>Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary</u> Leader: Alan Smith (H) 506-536-0164 (W) 506-536-3025. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the APBS parking lot. Take the Exit 3 from TCH at the Wandlyn Inn and proceed a few km toward Nappan the entrance is on the left side. Wear appropriate footwear for wet conditions. Enjoy a day of observing water fowl, shorebirds and early migrants. |
| Sun.
May 12 | <u>Eastern Shore</u> Leader: Peter MacLeod (454-2006) Meet at 7:30 p.m. at golf course gate at Hartlen's Point. |

- Sun.
May 19 Hopewell Area (Pictou County) Leader: Harry Brennan (923-2780) Meet at St. Columbo's Churchyard, about 1 mile south of Hopewell, at 8:00 General birding-great trip for beginners.
- Wed.
May 22 Halifax County Warbler Walk Leader: Fred Dobson (852-3042). Meet at the parking lot at the junction of the Prospect Road (Rt.333) and the St. Margaret's Bay Road at 6:00 a.m.--2 to 2.5 hours duration.
- Sat.
May 25 Warbler Walk (Cape Breton) Leader: Jackie Chretien (564-4640). Meet at the Sydney River Shopping Centre at 8:00 a.m.
- Sat.
May 25 Hants County Day Leader: Marg Clark (443-3993). Meet at the railway crossing in the Mt. Uniacke at 8:00 a.m. Observe abundant birdlife in a variety of habitats. This trip extends well into the afternoon.
- Sun.
May 26 Shubenacadie Area Leader: Roslyn MacPhee (758-3265). Meet at 6:00 a.m. in front of Scott's restaurant in Shubenacadie.
- Sun.
May 26 Yarmouth and Carleton Area Warbler Walk Leader: Hubert Hall (742-4467). Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Carleton School (Hwy 340). Bring lunch and fly dope.
- Wed.
May 29 Kearney Lake Early Morning Warbler Walk Leader: David Currie (876-8745) Meet at the Hammonds Plains and Kearney Lake Road intersection at 6:00 a.m. Duration 2-3 hours. Scarlet Tanager a possibility.

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 **Nova Scotia Birds** (Museum address).

Field Trip Leaders are requested to report any interesting sightings to the **RARE BIRD ALERT 477-6036** and the **Nova Scotia Bird Information Line 852-CHAT**



The West Pubnico White-winged Dove was nicely photographed by Lisette d'Entremont

CHARTER MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY

A special invitation to the Annual General Meeting was extended to our Charter Members on the occasion of our thirty-fifth anniversary. Although some live too far away to have been able to attend, many sent their good wishes. As a memento of the occasion, all were presented with bookmarks made of pewter cast hummingbirds and grosgrain ribbon.



Charter Members attending were, left to right:
Betty Morrow, Wesley Topple, Betty Topple, Ethel Crathorne, Ward
Hemeon, Phyllis Hemeon, Jim Morrow, Nellie Snyder and Frank Rudolf
Photo: Peter Payzant

A SIGHT RECORD OF LONG-BILLED CURLEW IN NOVA SCOTIA

J. Shirley Cohrs

In early afternoon on August 28, 1989, my husband John and I were birding along the beach at Pond Cove, Brier Island, Digby County. At about 1:15 p.m., we came across a large, buff-coloured shorebird, with a long, decurved bill, feeding on the rockweed of the shore, about 100 m ahead of us. We both immediately exclaimed, "a curlew", meaning Long-billed, for we had studied them last summer around White's Lake, in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia. As we approached for closer study, the bird flew up and away, giving the typical alarm call, "kee-kee-kee-kee". We were also able to see that its rump was the same buffy-pink tone as the rest of the upperparts.

The bird flew out of sight, but on our return along the beach it flew in and settled to feed at almost the same point where we had first seen it. With care, we were able to approach it within 15 m, and study it using a 20X telescope with the sun behind us.

--Its overall colour was pinkish-beige in the strong mid-afternoon sunlight.

--The faintly streaked head was slightly darker than the neck, but there were no crown stripes.

--The downcurved bill was $2 \frac{3}{4}$ to 3 times as long as the head.

We decided to put up the bird to check the wing linings, which were plain and pink/cinnamon in colour.

These field marks seem clearly to be those of a Long-billed Curlew. A few days later on September 9, a very large Whimbrel, with a long bill (said to be about $2 \frac{1}{2}$ times the head length), and with much-faded head stripes and warm-coloured upper wing coverts, was found on Brier Island by other observers. We have seen such large, faded adults from time to time. However, our observations on plumage tone (especially the underwings), and calls would seem to exclude the possibility that this Whimbrel was the bird that had been seen by us. The bill of our bird, although possibly not much larger than that of an extreme Whimbrel, and shorter than the longest bills known in Long-billed Curlews (up to $4 \frac{1}{2}$ times the head length), was well within the range for males and juveniles (e.g., Fig. 134c in Hayman et al., 1986, *Shorebirds. An identification guide*, Houghton Mifflin, Co., Boston, Mass.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor, *Nova Scotia Birds*:

I am a new member of the Bird Society and I am pleased to tell you how thrilled I am to have become a member and wonder why I hadn't joined sooner.

The last field trip I joined was with Harry Brennan in Hopewell. Luckily Ross Baker was with our group too. It was a most enjoyable day!

Calvin, Harry's son displayed his talent of identifying the birds' songs. He told me he was working on the songs since a very young age. Harry and Ross in their quiet manner showed their love of the outdoors as they showed us bloodroot, dutchman's breeches, dogstooth violets and others too numerous to mention.

Harry always made sure if you didn't get a view of the bird from where you were looking he would show you a better place to stand. I could tell you more of my thoughts about Harry. I could tell you more of my thoughts of Ross and of course Calvin, but by reading my letter I am sure you get the picture.

I extend a thanks to the Bird Society for knowing these men and asking them to share their love of our beautiful outside with us.

Lynda McLean

LIVING ISLAND

Evelyn Richardson

Part III

WINTER BIRDS ON BON PORTAGE

The sweep of beach on Bon Portage; the north bar on the horizon
Photo: Bill Caudle

To come back to December on Bon Portage: if the island itself is comparatively birdless, the water surrounding it is not. There are always gulls, though not in summer's numbers, breasting the wind, skimming the wave crests to swoop into the troughs, or sleeping on the rolling water just beyond the surf line. At this season we begin to see the rare "winter" gulls, which stay about the point a few days, then vanish. A single laughing gull appeared in mid-December one year; several years later three arrived at about the same date and lingered well into January. If I take a winter walk to the Salt Water Pond I am apt to see unusual gulls there--always in small numbers-- such as the three Bonaparte's gulls I have recorded. One January, three ring-billed gulls spent several days near the lighthouse, rocking with furled wings in the hollows between waves. These were similar in colouring to the herring gulls with which they mingled, but something about them--their more delicate shape, their less ferocious movements--sent me for my binoculars which revealed the diagnostic black rings on their beaks.

By mid-December only stragglers of the earlier migrating ducks pass the point, but small flocks of red-breasted mergansers and of whistlers, or golden-eyes, feed and rest in its lee. (The flock of two hundred whistlers seen in December of 1961 was exceptionally large for recent years.) Eiders more often breast the windy seas or coast down the backs of combers. I never tire of watching them dive through the base of a breaking sea, with a flirt of the body, to emerge casually on the outer side, ready to repeat the

performance or to ride the oncoming crest with buoyant ease. Though eiders are heavy birds, they are perfectly adapted to their cold wet habitat, for they have a frame like a broad-beamed boat and a shallow keel of breastbone. Their feathers are watertight and well secured (ask any sore-thumbed gunner who has just plucked a "seaduck"), and they have a thick undercoat of down. They feed upon heavy-shelled molluscs and sometimes, if the wind has dropped during their meal, they cannot get off the water despite frantic wing-flapping. Once in the air they fly in a low straight line at a steady speed. In our early island years we saw flocks consisting of many hundreds near our shores, but forty or fifty now seems a great number, although Arth tells me that during the winter lobster season (December into January) he sees eiders feeding in thousands on the "shell-shoals" some five or six miles off Bon Portage. They rise in huge black clouds at a boat's approach.

According to my records, other birds which have wintered on Bon Portage, or visited it infrequently and in small numbers during the winter are: chickadees, kinglets, red-breasted nuthatches, grackles, juncos, white-throated sparrows, robins, hairy and downy woodpeckers, myrtle warblers, pine grosbeaks (seldom more than four or five). Cowbirds (A flock of between two hundred and three hundred stayed all one January and February), common snipe (usually a single bird), a goldfinch (throughout one winter) and on a January 15th a catbird (surely a stray).

Though snow buntings have appeared here as early as October 31--and they are always welcome--I associate them with winter snow. John Burroughs wrote of the snow bunting: "Its twittering call and chirrup coming out of the white obscurity is the sweetest and happiest of all winter songs. It is like the laughter of children..." Its song in the Arctic is said to be notably pure and sweet, but we hear only tinkling whistles. At a distance it is a black-and-white bird, with white predominating and giving it the colloquial name "snow flake," but near at hand it shows blending patches of a warm yellowish tan about head and shoulders. It is a walking rather than a hopping bird and, although I've seen snow buntings perched on a Saddleback stump or driftwood, they shun trees. When feeding at Saddleback, they are not interested in the seaweeds, liked by so many probing birds, but in the matted weeds above tide line. They also feed about the fields when the snow is blown clear, but the flocks visiting this end of the island are small, twenty to thirty birds; larger numbers stay about the savannah and remote sections of beach. I sometimes see one of the smaller flocks flying along the shore, low over the water and at what seems to me a considerable distance from land. Reminding me of snowflakes caught in a gust, they appear to blow across a field, with the rear birds drifting on over those which had been foremost, but which have already settled. Often the flock about the mowing field is joined by a straggling of ear-tufted larks which, like them, are ground-loving birds. (I have never seen one of them perched on anything.)

Many winters go by when I never see a Canada goose; that is doubtless why I remember so clearly the flock of thirty that one dull January day flew past the kitchen window and low across the mowing field. I suspect they had intended to alight on the field, but caught some taint of man. Wild geese are always a stirring sight, although it is their voices high in the spring sky that tug at the earthbound.

Just before winter storms strike, cold-shrunken crows perch high on the skeleton trees outside the gate and call dismal warnings. My mother, bred in seafarers' superstitions, never liked to see a lone crow about the yard, and as a child on my way

to school I considered it the normal thing to spit, as my companions did, at the sight of a single crow, or to join in the chant, "One crow sorrow, two crows joy," to the old rhyme's end. On Bon Portage the prevalence of crows broke me of any concern regarding numbers. Many flocks are beyond counting; at night they roost in hundreds about the trees and rise with a rush that lifts the scalp. During winter they feed much along the banks of seaweed, and at low water take the rockweed in their beaks, strand by strand, and turn it over in their search for small shellfish. They cannot be called fastidious eaters as they feed upon the barn dressing and the offal from the winter butchering. (About this winter offal is where I have seen the two adult bald eagles of my records, single birds several winters apart.)

A NEW BREEDING GULL FOR NOVA SCOTIA

In July this year, Clair Hilchie of Musquodoboit Harbour visited a small island off Chezzetcook to check on a tern colony. She was unhappy to find the colony had dispersed without producing any fledged young. Uncertain of the cause of the destruction of the colony, she brought in a number of broken eggs for me to see. Many of the eggs were broken only on one side, suggesting gull predation, but among the egg-remains was one that was too large to be a tern egg. Enough of the egg remained to deduce approximate dimensions, so I immediately checked the sizes of the most likely candidates: Laughing Gulls, which had bred on the eastern shore of Nova Scotia until around 1961; Black-headed Gulls, European birds which have become common in the Atlantic Provinces in the last three decades; the Ring-billed Gulls which are increasing rapidly in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Newfoundland.

Ring-bills I could eliminate, their eggs are a little too large, but the colour, size and surface texture of the egg did not allow me to decide whether it was the egg of a Laughing or a Black-headed Gull, so I sent the egg off to the Curator of Birds at the National Museum, hoping that he could make a firm diagnosis. He couldn't.

I am confident however, that this is the egg of a Black-headed Gull. Birds of this species have been increasing in number in North America for the last fifty years and A. J. Erskine, reviewing their status in 1963, predicted that they would soon be found breeding. In 1977, Davis Finch found them breeding at Stephenville Crossing in Newfoundland. Their breeding was subsequently documented on the Magdalenes in 1983, off Cape Cod in 1985, at Petite Manan Island in Maine in 1986, and they are now known to breed at two sites in Newfoundland. In all cases they have bred with other seabirds, usually terns.

So, it is hardly surprising that Black-headed Gulls should breed in Nova Scotia. They have been common winter visitors to the province with greatest numbers noted in Halifax Harbour and the Sydney-Glace Bay area. Increasingly, they have lingered into late spring, and summer sightings of adults in breeding plumage have suggested that they are breeding somewhere in Nova Scotia. Fulton Lavender reports summer sightings of Black-headed Gulls in breeding plumage for three of the last four years at Conrad's Beach, so it is likely that they have been breeding or attempting to breed in the area for some time. It is unfortunate that we don't have rock-solid proof of breeding for this, the last atlas year, but next year I will inspect all the tern breeding sites just east of Halifax in the hope of finding them breeding.

Tony Lock

SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND DIRECTORS

1990-1991



Left to right: Peter Payzant, Don Purchase, Ken Gregoire, Shirley Cohrs, Dave Currie, Milton Gregg, Bob Dickie

Photo: Linda Payzant

SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND REPORT FOR 1989-1990

Many of our projects this year were continuations from 1988-89.

Because of our concern about dwindling populations of Common Eider, a series of aerial surveys was carried out by Ken Gregoire and Dave Currie. They made many sorties over the Eastern and South Shores of the province, gathering data, counting birds and taking photographs. This information is now being collated and documented for publication.

Many people heard about the proposed and subsequently cancelled gull cull on Sable Island. This had nothing to do with the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund, but we find ourselves addressing a similar problem on Peter Island, our sanctuary and Tern colony in Digby County. Black-backed and Herring Gulls have moved in, and in a few years we may have only a bare rock. With this in mind we have arranged to have the island studied and a census taken early in 1991.

An attempt was made to land on one of our other sanctuary islands, Indian Island in Lunenburg County. Ken Gregoire made duck nest boxes but after several attempts to land which were frustrated by poor weather and sea conditions had to abandon the idea. Another try will be made next spring. A good number of Common Eider did raise families on the island this year.

The annual Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund Trophy for the best bird photograph was competed for by members of the Photographic Guild. Forty-three slides were submitted to a panel of three judges (one from the Trust Fund committee) and the trophy was won by Fred Green for a study of a Red-tailed Hawk which appeared in the July 1990 edition of **Nova Scotia Birds**. The trophy was presented by our President, Joyce Purchase, at the annual Photographic Guild Banquet. Copies of some entries were obtained for publication in **Nova Scotia Birds** and for the NSBS slide collection.

The Youth Field Trip sponsored by the late Bob Kanigsberg was held in September. Some days before the trip John Cohrs and Bill Caudle spoke to the Grade XII Baccalaureate Biology class at Parkview Education Centre on the topics of shorebird adaptations and field trip logistics.

The day of the trip was bright and fine and eighteen students were introduced to a nice selection of shorebirds at Crescent Beach before proceeding to lunch at Green Bay. My thanks go the leaders John Cohrs, Bill Caudle and Eric Cooke (and me!) and to Milton Gregg who organized the trip.

This year we began an annual donation of approximately \$500-600 to any three to five organizations who we felt worked towards improving our environment and who had aims which matched our own. This year we chose:

The Nature Conservancy of Canada
 The McKeever Owl Rehabilitation Centre
 The World Wildlife Fund
 The Nova Scotia Bird Atlas
 The Cole Harbour Heritage Society

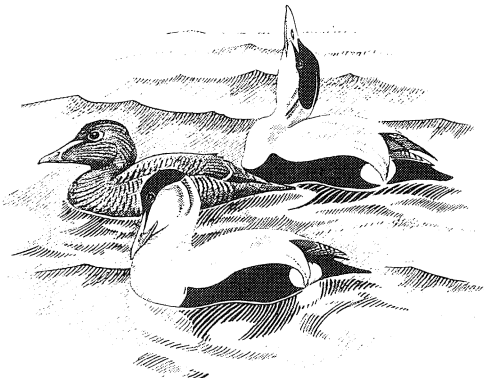
Our own Raptor Rehabilitation Programme continued to operate and to return to the wild many birds which had been lost or injured. Our veterinarians treated raptors and our custodians nursed them back to health, all very quietly and without much fanfare. A new flight cage was constructed at Mason's Point and the highlight of the year **there** was the overwintering of three Peregrine Falcons. They were successfully set free in early spring.

The last of our projects was the continuation of the computerization of the Ross Anderson Collection of N. S. Christmas Count Data. As Dave Currie is most involved with this, I'll ask him to tell you about it when he gives the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund Financial Report.

In finishing, I wish to thank most sincerely the executive of the Sanctuary and Trust Fund who have faithfully attended our meetings and been so willing in taking tasks in hand. These are:

Secretary Don Purchase
 Treasurer Dave Currie
 Director Bob Dickie
 Director Milton Gregg
 Director Ken Gregoire
 Director Peter Payzant

Thank you
 Shirley Cohrs, Chairman
 Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund



25 YEARS BACK

The Nova Scotia Bird Society Newsletter, April 1966, carried an announcement of the publication of Evelyn Richardson's **Living Island**. Phyllis Dobson wrote:

Living Island, by Evelyn Richardson, is a simple narrative of life on a small island, day by day, season by season, but it is much more than that. It is a prose poem, where both atmosphere and episode are brought so vividly into focus that they become actual experience.

If you like salt air and the sound of surf, strolling along the shore and scrambling over pebble ridges, watching birds and wondering about wild flowers--in short, if you are a true Nova Scotian, you must read **Living Island**.

Although out of print nowadays, **Nova Scotia Birds** continues to bring you excerpts from **Living Island**. Part III is to be found elsewhere in this issue--please see Table of Contents.

The April issue of the **Newsletter** contained the 1965-66 Christmas Counts compiled by Lloyd McPherson. Three new species were added to the Nova Scotia Counts list--all seen on the Halifax East Count. These were COOPER'S HAWK, BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER and GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. The latter, found and identified (and later seen by many) by Peter Anketell-Jones was the third record for the province.

Did you ever wonder when "swishing" or "spishing" began? In the July 1966 issue of our **Newsletter**, Charlie Allen wrote this delightful piece about the then new technique:

BIRD CALLING -A NEW TECHNIQUE
by C.R.K. Allen

The art of the bird caller is probably as ancient as that of the hunter. Birds are more often than not wary but gullible, and it was frequently easier to lure the game within range than to perform an elaborate stalk.

Unlike many of the skills of our primitive forbears, bird calling is far from being a lost art today. Latterly, however, binoculars and camera have tended to replace the scatter gun, and the caller's efforts are now directed at a much larger and more varied avian audience than those of the pot hunter.

Whereas these latter were mostly "instrumentalists", buying their duck, goose, turkey or crow calls from a sporting goods store, the bird watcher may be classed as a vocalist, and for the most part relies on lips and tongue to produce the squeaks and clicks which he hopes will excite the curiosity of the skulkers in the undergrowth.

Alas, however, his efforts are at best only mildly successful. Sometimes, when young are in the nest, one can bring two or three pairs of anxious parents within close range by making a high squealing noise with the lips against the back of the hand, and I know of one or two virtuosos who, because of God-given talent or peculiarity of dentition, can imitate the song of some particular species so exactly that they can bring a raging territory-conscious male of that species almost within inches of the sound's source. Most of us however, have had to confine ourselves until recently to the methods already mentioned, which produce results barely often enough to make them worth trying.

Now the situation has improved, with the advent of a new technique which in effectiveness far outstrips the older methods. This technique is hereinafter to be known in this article as "swishing" because this describes it as well as any word can. The sound is the same and produced in exactly the

same way as that which music lovers use at a concert, to quell some restive character who shuffles his feet and clears his throat at the wrong moment. There is however, a difference: whereas the concert goer's admonition is merely a long drawn out "sh-h-h-h!", the avant garde bird watcher moulds this with his lips into a series of syllables like this: "pish-wish-wish-wish...", and so on in rapid succession for from five to ten seconds, or until his breath gives out.

Admittedly this sound bears no close resemblance to the call of any bird native to these parts; but then, neither do some of the most killing trout flies imitate any denizen of the lakes and streams. There is however, in the this sound, when produced with force and vigor, something intrinsically "birdy" in quality, and apparently the birds think so too. Here are several examples of audience reaction.

Time and location: mid-November by a roadside in central Hants County; not a bird of any kind could be seen or heard. After a minute or two of calling, purely "on spec", the husky note of a Boreal Chickadee replied, followed quickly by the sharper "dee-dee-dee" of several Black-caps. Next, four or five Purple Finches approached through the leafless tops of the roadside trees, and a Gray Jay appeared briefly at the top of a nearby spruce.

Time and location: mid-March on a grassy tract back of Lawrencetown Beach near Halifax. A flock of 60-75 Redpolls were feeding and flitting restlessly. At the first few "swishes", the whole flock took wing and flew directly at the caller's car, and swooped and swirled about it as long as the calling continued.

These examples give some indication of the variety of birds who will respond to "swishing", but the list is much longer. Sharp-shinned and Pigeon Hawks will occasionally show brief interest; Woodpeckers are, surprisingly almost as responsive as chickadees, kinglets, nuthatches and warblers; thrushes seem unpredictable--consumed with curiosity today, completely indifferent tomorrow. Finches and sparrows respond as readily as warblers; swallows are immune.

The reaction of the Blackbirds and their kin--the cowbirds and Bobolinks, is interesting because it is so uniform. At almost the first "swish" they drop whatever they are doing and "take off" in the opposite direction. That, at least, is the writer's experience.

Now, lest the convert to "swishing" thinks he will become a sort of avian Pied Piper over night, we must be honest and admit that this technique is not one hundred percent effective. There are times when for no apparent reason the birds will refuse to interrupt the pursuit of their affairs to investigate this exciting sound, no matter how seductively produced. This may happen at any time of year, but most often it seems during April and May. Perhaps the new arrivals are preoccupied with the selection of a territory or a mate, or perhaps depleted of energy after their long northward flight, are interested only in food and rest. Whatever the reason, this is the nadir of the bird-caller's year, be he a squeaker, whistler or swisher.

To sum up then: this new "swishing" technique will bring the birds from greater distances, bring them closer to the observer, and, best of all, will attract a much wider variety than any of the other methods.

It has one other feature too, of dubious value: unless one is circumspect in its use, it is a quick and easy way of getting acquainted with the local human population. One day, for instance, I was aiming my swishes at a dense clump of bushes in a pasture when interrupted by a voice from behind. I whirled around to face a young man whose face was an expression of mixed curiosity and sympathy.

"What's the matter? Lose your cat?"

"Surprised into the truth, I stammered, "No, just calling birds."

Wariness replaced curiosity on his face and with a nod he moved off rather quickly. It then dawned on me that, of all places to be caught at my "swishing", I had chosen the grounds of the Halifax County Mental Hospital!

This exposition was followed in the November issue by Dick Brown's letter to the editor:

Editor,
NSBS Newsletter:

I was amused, though a bit sceptical, over Charlie Allen's patent bird-calling method. But the other day I was in the woods near Mooseland, and when I heard something cheep I tried out a few tentative "swishes".

The result was startling. In next to no time I stood, like a sort of depraved St. Francis, surrounded by about 15 Blackpolls, Magnolias, Canadas and Parulas, with the odd Yellowthroat, Solitary Vireo and White-throated Sparrow flitting about on the sidelines.

Marvelous, you may think, but I've two complaints. No bird watcher is ever completely convinced of his bird unless he's seen it properly, through binoculars. But try though I did, I couldn't get far enough away from this little lot to focus on them. Perhaps Charlie could invent a system which will keep the birds back a bit, within binocular range?

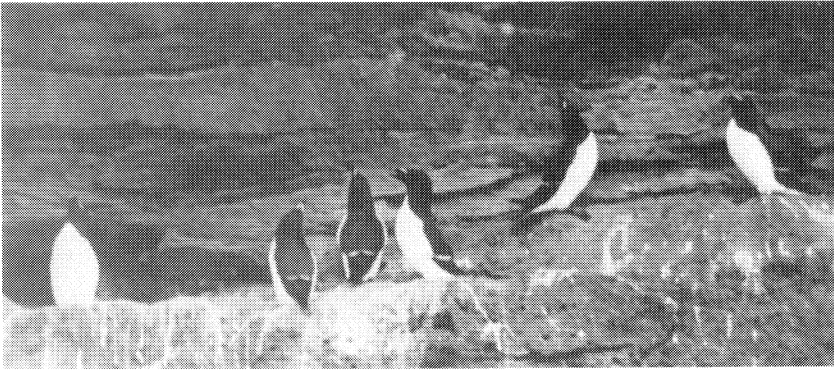
Secondly--and more important: Charlie's embarrassment at the Halifax County Mental Hospital was nothing compared with mine. You see, I was with a couple of psychologists!

Dick Brown



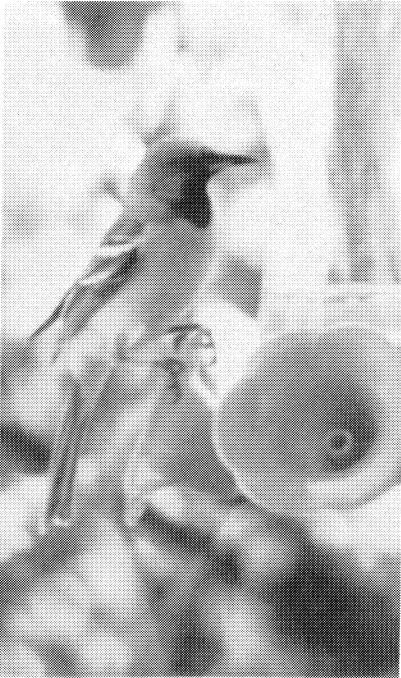
New Waterford birders on a "big day", including Octogenarian Frank Robertson, are always willing to stop and lend a hand.

Photo, Clive Macdonald



Perhaps more visitors to the province than residents have seen our famous Bird Islands of Cape Breton Island. At any rate, photographs of their residents have never appeared in **Nova Scotia Birds**. Among the sights are the now substantial Black-legged Kittiwake colony (top, bottom) and good numbers of Razorbills (middle). Photos taken by Dave MacKinnon last June.

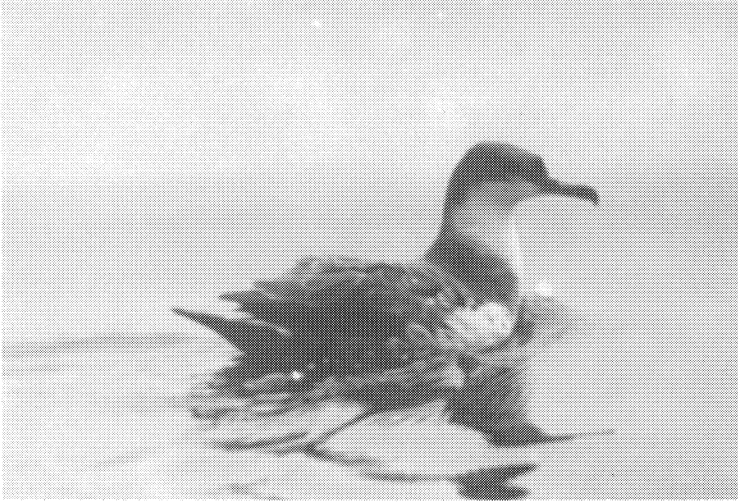
Peter MacLeod snapped this American Avocet at Back Cove, Hartlen's Point, during its fleeting stay in early May.



This beautiful yearling male Orchard Oriole spent a week in late May at Clair Hilchie's feeders in Musquodoboit Harbour.



Although far from diagnostic, this distant snap of a Great Skua 25 miles off Halifax on Sept. 29, does give an impression of the massiveness of the bird. Note the moulted inner primaries. Photo--Ian McLaren.



The regular whale-watching trips off Brier Island are a boon for birders. This Greater Shearwater was readily photographed on a foggy August day by Dave MacKinnon.



Although not strictly "our business", this tern, snapped by Dave MacKinnon on May 3, 1990, at Tidnish, P.E.I., is worth pondering. It seems to have field marks of Forster's Tern. -- all white upper wing, dark-tipped primaries, rather large bill, and white under tail, with perhaps a hint of dark on the inner web of the outer tail feather. Does anyone disagree? If so, it may be a provincial first.

BOOK REVIEW

Title: **Advanced Birding**

Author: Kenn Kaufmann

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin, 1990

Price: **ca.** \$16.00 (softcover)

A major problem with field guides is the balance between completeness and compactness. It is impossible to distill accumulated wisdom on identification of "difficult" or obscure species in the modern field-guide format of text pages opposite to illustrations and, at the same time, give space at all to widespread and familiar birds. This fine little book ignores all the easy-to-identify species that swell the pages of existing field guides.

The book assumes that you have acquired basic birding skills, but not that you are already, self-designated or otherwise, "advanced". It carefully treats many of the more vexing field identification problems that almost any birder will encounter routinely. Here is a partial list of those species-pairs or species-groups included that might be of particular relevance to Nova Scotian birders:

the winter loons, the scaups, female scoters and mergansers, shorebird "basics", the dowitchers, Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers, jaegers, gull "basics", medium-sized terns, the **Epidonax** flycatchers, Philadelphia and Warbling Vireos, fall warblers, including Blackpoll and Bay-breasted, the "Generic approach" to sparrows.

Other entries could be of particular value in sorting out certain rare vagrants to the province.

Any birder might think of "problem" birds that are not covered. For some, like Tropical and Couch's Kingbirds and perhaps the meadowlarks, identification breakthroughs have yet to be made. But for others, like the Fish and Common Crows, large grackles, the **Euphagus** blackbirds, and the females of **Passerina** buntings and **Pheucticus** grosbeaks something useful might have been written. However, one can accept the author's disclaimer that "a compendium of everything known about field-identification...would be many times the bulk of this one".

To supplement this small volume, the author includes an excellent guide to the burgeoning literature on tricky identifications to be found in birding and scientific journals. Serious birders should be aware of such sources and Kaufman gives tips on how to get hold of them.

In short, this latest in the Peterson Field-Guide series is a must for anyone seriously interested in watching and identifying birds.

Ian McLaren

THE GREAT FUNDY PHALAROPE MYSTERY

Dick Brown

Dear Phalaropers:

Thank you for your observations. I promised you a report on the latest developments in the Fundy phalarope story in this issue of **Nova Scotia Birds**--and here it is.

It isn't intended as a scientific paper: that will come later. It's just a preliminary summary, to put you in the picture--and to thank you all as well. It's remarkable how many letters I've had. Most of the people are from the Maritimes and New England, but some are from as far away as Alaska. (the west coast phalaropes are in good shape, I'm glad to say.) We birders really are an unofficial but universal information network.

Charlie Duncan, at the University of Maine at Machias, deserves the credit for tapping us into it. He also alerted us to the absence of Red-necked Phalaropes in Fundy in the first place. But I'd like to thank all our observers--including the people who sent in "negative" records: no birds where they expected to see them. I shouldn't pick people out, but I particularly thank Raymond d'Entremont, Hubert Hall, and the observers of BIOS, the whale-watchers on Brier Island. And, on the New Brunswick side, Lisa Brown and the oceanographers from the University of Guelph.

* * *

You'll remember the story. Back in the '70s, we had something like 100,000 Red-necked Phalaropes every August, on the tide-rips between Deer and Campobello Islands, New Brunswick. We also had about 10,000 Red Phalaropes off Brier Island. These are the phalaropes' fall staging areas, where they feed up after their breeding season in the Arctic, before they spend their winter off Peru or Senegal. Most shorebirds have these stopovers. Semipalmated Sandpipers are land-based, but they use the mudflats at the head of Fundy in much the same way.

Our phalarope counts were little more than guesstimates: "100,000" and "10,000" only mean that there were a LOT of birds. It's no base from which to measure a population change. But you can't miss the drop to zero that Charlie Duncan, and Dave Gaskin of the University of Guelph, have observed off Deer Island in the summers of 1988 and 1989--perhaps even earlier. Nor can you miss the recent changes in ratio of Red to Red-necked Phalaropes off Brier. I spent four Augusts there, working out of Freeport on Raymond Thurber's boat, always aiming at the phalarope flocks and chugging through them at point-blank range. I was trying to sample the plankton they were eating. I didn't do censuses, but Red-necked Phalaropes were always extreme rarities: 5% would probably be an exaggeration. Yet Stu Tingley, off Brier on August 20, 1990, estimated 20,000+ Red-necked to only 1,000 Reds. Something has happened, and I wish I knew what it was.

The first things I checked out were my old zooplankton samples on both sides of Fundy--at the surface, where the phalaropes feed. Lucy Brown repeated the tows I did off Deer Island in the '70s, trying to do them at the same times of day and tide. The surface water used to be stiff with tiny copepod shrimps in the '70s, - but there was absolutely nothing there in 1990. On the other hand, the repeats of my Brier samples showed that this zooplankton community was pretty much as it always has been: not very much of anything, at the surface.

Commonsense predicts that the Red Phalaropes would stay where they were off Brier, with its usual skimpy plankton. But the Red-necked Phalaropes, starved of their swarms of large, juicy copepods off Deer Island, would go God knows where. They might even become extinct. Yet it was nothing like that in practice, in 1990. The Red-necked Phalaropes moved across to Brier, in such numbers that, for a while, I thought it was the REDS that might be becoming extinct. Then I found a large feeding area for Reds farther south, on Brown's Bank: the details are in the main newsletter. But I still don't know whether Brown's Bank is a new feeding area for phalaropes in September--or whether they've been there all along, but nobody has noticed. I've had conflicting reports: does anyone have any historical records???

And the reasons for the change? Well, we started off with half the world, and at least three possibilities. Whatever was happening to the phalaropes could be up on the tundra in summer, down in Peru in winter, or here in Fundy, at their crossroads. I think the plankton changes prove that it has to be here, though I don't know why. There were times during the summer when I changed my mind every week--and I still don't really know. We thought for a while that the effluent from the new salmon ranches in Passamaquoddy could somehow have been polluting the zooplankton. But Charlie Duncan tells me that field parties from the University of Maine/Machias have found ABUNDANT zooplankton in Passamaquoddy Bay this summer. They have echo-sounder traces that are BLACK with the stuff. So why isn't it coming up to the surface? Any and all suggestions are welcome!

* * *

If you take a world view of these changes, part of a major fall flyway for Arctic shorebirds has suddenly turned upsidedown, and nobody knows why. I shall be taking another look at it in the fall of 1991, and I hope I can count on your records again. Thank you once again for all your help.



This American Bittern thinks it is fooling the photographer by its erect, frozen pose.
Photo--Bev Sarty

SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

AN UP-DATE ON PETERS ISLAND

Peters Island lies just 200m offshore in Grand Passage between Brier Island and Long Island. It is a small rocky island approximately 600m x 400m, crowned by a vegetated area of some 2.5 hectares. It is now uninhabited but it has a long history of human use and occupancy. We have few details of its early history but it is likely that Peters Island has been occupied since the time of earliest settlement on Brier Island. Certainly a light was put on the island in 1850, and it was manned continuously until about twenty-five years ago. Human occupation of the island discouraged colonization by seabirds and it was not until the manned light was automated that seabirds returned to the island. It appears that terns began to breed there about twenty years ago and, in the absence of the cats, dogs and children that are the accompaniment of lightkeepers, the terns flourished. The value of Peters Island as a tern breeding site was recognised by birders who flocked to Brier Island and in 1981, the Nova Scotia Bird Society bought the island from Neil and Norma Peters of Westport.

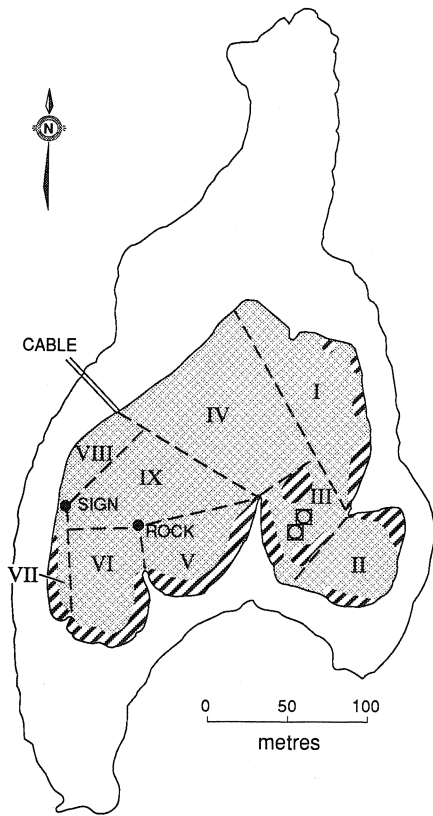
Since its purchase, Peters Island has received little attention. In 1982, Richard Stern and Ian Kirkham visited and estimated that approximately 200 pairs of Arctic and 300 pairs of Common Terns bred there. Ian Kirkham used the Peters Island terns in his studies of tern foraging strategies for a Ph.D. thesis, but since then there have been no reports of the status of the terns.

I made two visits to the island this last summer, accompanied by Stefan Gerriets. The first was on June 30, 1990. On that occasion I counted 160 gulls and 38 Double-crested Cormorants roosting on the rocks at the northern end of the island. A further 43 gulls rose from the vegetated area in the centre of the island when we landed. About a quarter to a third of the gulls present were Great Black-backed. In the course of my search for tern nests I discovered 87 gull nests; there were probably a few more than this but I doubt if the number of gull nests exceeded a hundred. About a half of the gull nests had hatched. Nests containing eggs were destroyed but nests with hatched chicks were left intact. A thorough search of all tern breeding habitat on the island revealed 504 nests. The distribution of tern and gull nests on the island is shown in Table 1 and Figure 1. No hatched tern eggs were seen but many nests contained piped eggs. It is interesting that Richard Stern and Ian Kirkham found 503 nests in June 1982, but while they reported that 40% of the birds present were Arctic Terns, I found relatively few Arctic Terns, about 90% of them appeared to be Common Terns.

I revisited the island on July 17, 1990. This time there were 470 gulls, one third Black-backed, on the northern rocks and a further 30 rose from the vegetation as we landed. In the course of a search that took two people six hours, we discovered a total of 124 tern nests still with eggs and a total of 218 tern chicks, all of which were aged and banded. The distributions of the remaining eggs and banded chicks are summarised in Table 1. Only 27 (12.6%) of the 215 chicks banded were Arctic Terns. No Roseate Terns were seen.

It is not possible on the basis of just two visits to say very much about the productivity of this colony. If we assume that the 124 nests with eggs found on the second trip were those present at the time of my first visit, then the 215 chicks banded were from 380 nests, less than 0.6 chick per nest. It is likely that some of the nests with eggs found on the second visit were in fact second nests, so the overall production of chicks could be lower. It is certain that we did not find and band all the chicks present but in areas V and VI, which were on the rocky shore, I am sure we found at least 90% of the chicks. However, even here, the apparent nesting success is substantially less than one chick per nest. It seems possible that the large numbers of gulls breeding and roosting on the island are reducing tern nesting success.

Figure 1. Peters Island showing census areas



Gulls did not breed on Peters Island until around 1985. Several thousand pairs of gulls, mainly Herring Gulls, breed in the boggy areas in the centre and southwestern parts of Brier Island. I was told by several people from Brier Island that for the last few years these gulls have been greatly harassed by youths on all-terrain vehicles. This disturbance has probably led to the colonization of Peters Island by gulls.

Peters Island is one of the few remaining large tern colonies in Nova Scotia; the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund administrators are to be congratulated on their foresight in purchasing the island. My two visits there have not been sufficient for a proper assessment of the productivity of the terns but they have indicated that this sanctuary needs a more detailed examination. If we are to ensure the preservation of the terns breeding there, we will have to accept the responsibility to actively manage this sanctuary. This will probably require discouraging breeding gulls, but it should also involve regular censuses and assessments of tern breeding success.

Tony Lock

Table 1. Nest and chick counts made on two visits to the Peters Island tern colony in 1990.

30-Jun			17-Jul						
Census Area	No. Gull Nests	No. Tern Nests	Clutches				Banded Chicks		
			1	2	3	Tot.	Arctic	Com.	Tot.
I	25	12	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
II	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
III	8	139	18	19	0	37	6	38	44
IV	17	0	0	0	0	103	0	0	0
V	2	139	23	34	9	78	12	96	108
VI	0	114	4	6	2	87	8	46	54
VII	2	91	5	4	0	21	0	7	7
VIII	3	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0
IX	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	87	504	50	63	11	335	26	189	215

1990 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

The 1990 A.G.M. of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held on Thursday, October 25, at 8:05 p.m. in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, Nova Scotia . The President Joyce Purchase chaired the meeting and 72 members attended.

Copies of the 1989 minutes, published in the January, 1990 issue of **Nova Scotia Birds**, were distributed at the meeting. Ethel Craythorne moved and Eric Cook seconded that the minutes be accepted as distributed. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

None.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Don MacNeill gave his report for 1990. The membership dues are up over last year. Sale of publications are down. A Guaranteed Investment Certificate for \$5,268.65 was purchased. The total receipts were \$14,408.51. Disbursements were \$15,920.39. Excess of receipts over disbursements (\$1,511.88). Closing bank balance \$8,638.59.

It was moved by Don MacNeill and seconded by Jim Morrow that the report be adopted. Carried.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Carol MacNeill presented the Membership Report. The membership totals 1001 individuals.

Year	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	
Single	420	424	49	15	6	5	1	
Family	207	217	23	3				
Institutions	16	17	4	1				
Life	13	14						
Total	656	672	76	19	6	5	1	
Total Individuals	998	1001	-----97-----					
Life Members		14						
Exchange Memberships		5 + 2 to Museum						

Carol MacNeill moved the adoption of the report. Seconded by Shirley Cohrs. Carried.

SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND REPORT

Shirley Cohrs presented the report (see page 49)

David Currie gave the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund Treasurer's Report and thanked all those who had made a donation.

David Currie gave a report on his work with the computerization of the Ross Anderson Collection of Nova Scotia Christmas Counts. This is a continuing task and will be published when completed.

Adoption of the SSTF report was moved by David Currie and seconded by Carol MacNeill. Carried.

FIELD TRIPS

Coordinator Jim Taylor thanked all trip leaders for a very successful year.

PRESENTATION OF THE PUFFIN OF THE YEAR AWARD to Bob Dickie was made by the President (see page 34)

THE PRESIDENT WELCOMED CHARTER MEMBERS of the Society and presented them with a memento of the occasion.

On January 26, 1955, a group of 55 people interested in birds met at the assembly hall of the Nova Scotia Technical College, which then contained the Nova Scotia Museum, and the rest, as they say, is history. When the period for Charter membership closed by March 31, 1955, 341 people were enrolled. By 1973, only ten percent of the founding group were still maintaining unbroken membership.

Tonight, as we celebrate our 35th anniversary, we have chosed to mark the occasion by honouring our present 26 Charter Members by introducing them to the other members as we present each of them with a token of appreciation of their contribution. Those members were:

Miss Ethel Crathorne
Mr. Ward Hemeon
Mr. Jim Morrow
Mrs. Nellie Snyder
Mr. Wesley Topple

Mrs. Phyllis Hemeon
Mrs. Betty Morrow
Mr. Frank Rudolph
Mrs. Betty Topple

Charter members unable to attend were:

Mr. & Mrs. D. Burchill
Miss N. Kathleen Currie
Mrs. Mary Ann Doucet
Mrs. Mary Forbes
Dr. & Mrs. J. Roswell Gallagher
Mrs. Myra Kenny
Mr. R. MacLeod Rogers

Mr. Charlie Allen
Dr. Phyllis Dobson
Mrs. Rachel Erskine
Mr. G.B. Hanrahan
Mrs. Edith James
Miss Anna J. MacDonald
Dr. Hereford Still

Mrs. Margaret Whitehead of Round Hill wrote a letter of thanks. At 96 years of age she is still birding.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Richard Stern spoke for the committee, consisting of himself and Peter Payzant. He reported that James Morrow had agreed to serve another year as Auditor. Tony Robinson had accepted our invitation to serve as Solicitor. The following slate of officers for 1990 was presented.

Shirley Cohrs - Editor
Carol MacNeill - Membership
Don MacNeill - Treasurer
Joyce Purchase - Past President & Vice President
Bob Dickie - President
Phyllis Bryson - Secretary

After three calls for further nominations, none being received, the above were elected. Nominations for Directors were called for and the following nominations were received.

Clarence Stevens - Mover Marg. Clark, Seconder John Cohrs
 Marion Allesbrook - Mover Jim Taylor, Seconder Dave Currie
 Bev Sarty - Mover Fulton Lavender, Seconder Joan Czapalay

There being no further nominations, they were declared elected.

New President Bob Dickie took over the chair and thanked Joyce for her work and leadership for the past year as President.

NEW BUSINESS

Tony Lock invited those present to attend a meeting of the Atlantic Canadian Tern Working Group which was being held at the Bedford Institute the following day. The purpose was to put in place a tern survival plan for the Atlantic Provinces in conjunction with people dealing with the same problem in New England. Of particular concern is the Status of the Roseate Tern.

Clarence Stevens Sr. remarked that he had taken part in "Bird Quest" put on by the Nova Scotia Museum this spring and has become an enthusiastic birder with 127 species recorded so far. He thanked members and leaders who have been very helpful.

Jim Taylor announced that he and Peter MacLeod would be organizing Christmas Counts. Dates: Halifax West, Dec. 16; Halifax East, Dec. 23. Richard Stern announced Dec. 22 for the Wolfville Count. Contact--P.C. Smith or Sherman Boates.

Bob Dickie moved that as there was no further business, the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Phyl Bryson.

A wine and cheese party was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,
 Phyllis Bryson,
 Secretary.



Among many intriguing Atlas records this summer were two female Common Redpolls, discovered by Fulton Lavender and Dave MacKinnon in two different squares in the high country of C.B. National Park.

MacKinnon

Photo: Dave

July 22, 1990

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

(Incorporated 1957)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended September 30, 1990

(With comparative figures for the year ended September 30, 1989)

	1990	1989
<i>STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS</i>		
<i>Receipts</i>		
Membership dues	\$9,660.00	\$8,477.00
Sale of publications, etc.	1,105.70	1,614.50
Nova Scotia Museum grant	2,000.00	4,000.00
Federal government grant	500.00	500.00
Interest – savings account	732.67	356.12
– G.I.C. (net)	268.65	188.17
Mailing list cost recovery	100.00	50.00
Miscellaneous	41.49	71.50
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Receipts	14,408.51	15,257.29
<i>Disbursements</i>		
"Nova Scotia Birds" and Fall Flyer	8,405.67	7,881.87
Editor's expenses	415.08	302.90
Field trip coordinator's expenses	29.78	58.45
Printing and stationery	1,018.62	928.62
Postage	310.26	423.73
Slide collection expenses	150.29	16.94
Monthly meeting expenses	172.10	62.80
Annual general meeting expenses	273.61	268.13
Guaranteed investment certificate	5,268.65	(116.60)
SSTF donation on death of life member		330.77
Subscriptions	67.80	111.33
Bank charges	27.30	11.33
Telephone answering machine		208.99
Computer repairs and parts	43.99	
Disbursements refundable (refunded)	(452.51)	537.01
Miscellaneous	189.75	30.65
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Disbursements	15,920.39	11,056.92
<i>Excess of receipts over disbursements</i>	(1,511.88)	4,200.37
Opening bank balance	10,150.47	5,950.10
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing bank balance	\$8,638.59	\$10,150.47
	<hr/>	<hr/>

BALANCE SHEET**Assets**

Electric typewriter (cost \$296.45)	\$1.00	\$1.00
Steel filing cabinet (cost \$99.96)	1.00	1.00
Steel filing cabinet (cost \$98.99)	8.00	11.00
Computer and printer (cost \$1,572.77)	264.00	377.00
Guaranteed investment certificates	8,576.39	3,307.74
Bank balance	<u>8,638.59</u>	<u>10,150.47</u>
Total assets and members' equity	<u>\$17,488.98</u>	<u>\$13,848.21</u>

STATEMENT OF MEMBERS' EQUITY

Opening balance	\$13,848.21	\$9,931.44
Excess of receipts over disbursements	(1,511.88)	4,200.37
G.I.C. purchases	5,268.65	(116.60)
Less: depreciation	<u>(116.00)</u>	<u>(167.00)</u>
Closing balance	<u>\$17,488.98</u>	<u>\$13,848.21</u>

Audited and found correct
according to the books

J. Morrow
J. Morrow
Auditor

J. Purchase
J. Purchase
President

D. MacNeill
D. MacNeill
Treasurer



A Wilson's Plover, at Pt. Aconi, C.B. on June 14, was photographed by Peter MacLeod as proof positive of this rare visitor.

SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

Financial Statements
to September 30, 1990

(With comparison for the 12 months ended September 30, 1989)

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

	1990	1989
Receipts		
Contributions	2,316.50	4,862.89
G.I.C. Interest	2,075.20	1,748.36
Bank Interest	457.24	352.20
Tax Recovery	.00	35.20
Total Receipts	4,848.94	6,998.65
Disbursements		
Bank Charges	56.80	54.20
Taxes	498.71	452.97
Raptor Rehab. Project	1,242.50	225.00
Purchase of G.I.C.	5,500.00	.00
Christmas Count Project	.00	3,000.00
Youth Field Trip	70.50	220.00
Peter Island Sign	.00	202.76
Photo Guild Trophy	.00	41.31
Bird Video Project	.00	64.66
Eider Project	.00	91.94
Cole Hbr. Rural Heritage Soc.	100.00	
World Wildlife Fund	100.00	
Cdn. Nature Conservancy	100.00	
McKeever Owl Rehab. Fund	175.00	
Maritimes Bird Atlas Trust	140.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	177.34	316.28
Total Disbursements	8,160.85	4,669.12
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	-3,311.91	2,329.53
Opening Bank Balance	5,708.31	3,378.78
Closing Bank Balance	2,396.40	5,708.31

Balance Sheet

Assets

Guaranteed Investment Cert.	24,400.00		18,900.00	
Outer, Middle, Little Half and Mossy Bald Islands	.00 1,000.00		.00 1,000.00	
Hertford Island	160.00		160.00	
Indian Island	12,000.00		12,000.00	
North Kemptville Property	1,500.00		1,500.00	
Peter Island	20,000.00		20,000.00	
Kelsey Property, Port Joli	13,000.00		13,000.00	
Bank Balance	2,396.40		5,708.31	

Total Assets	74,456.40		72,268.31	

Statement of Surplus

Opening Balance	72,268.31		69,938.78	
Excess of receipts over Disbursements	.00 -3,311.91		2,329.53 .00	
Increase in G.I.C.	5,500.00			

Closing Balance	74,456.40		72,268.31	

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

Executive 1989-1990

President - Bob Dickie
Vice President - Joyce Purchase
Past President - Joyce Purchase
Treasurer - Don MacNeill
Membership Secretary - Carol MacNeill
Secretary - Phyllis Bryson
Editor - Shirley Cohrs
Executive Member - Marion Allsebrook
Executive Member - Bev Sarty
Executive Member - Clarence Stevens
Solicitor - Tony Robinson
Auditor - Jim Morrow

Membership Fees

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

Note: Outside Canada please add \$1.00

