

Nova Scotia Birds

April 1991



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RECORD EDITOR'S REPORT

On Saturday, January 19th, I received a phone call from a man by the name of Albert Wolfe who indicated that he had a very strange bird at his feeder. From his description I assumed it was a Varied Thrush and Helen and I decided to drive down to his place to have a look. Even before we got out of the car, the bird appeared at the feeder and it was, indeed, a Varied Thrush. This bird is one of the most co-operative members of that species I've ever seen and many birders have had a chance to get a good look at this uncommon rarity.

Many people see unusual birds and never realize that birders would like very much to have an opportunity to see them too. I notice that several of you collect reports from other people, some are birders, some are not. If you submit reports from others, be sure to include their names so we can publish them in the list of contributors. This is a great way to involve many other people in our activity.

Marion Aelsebrook suggested that I include a sample bird report routinely as a reminder of what the editors would like to receive. This is a good idea but right now we are experimenting with a new form, designed by Peter Payzant. If it receives general acceptance I would be happy to include it with the Record Editor's Report in all issues of **Nova Scotia Birds**.

Many reports come to us from NSBS field trips. It's surprising how often only one person will report on birds seen on these occasions. Jim Taylor has been putting together a series of really great trips and recently submitted a list of pelagic (ocean-going) trips. Our lawyers, however, recommended that we not get involved in such trips as it could involve the society in legal liability problems. Most of us would like to see some pelagic trips, so we will be meeting with the solicitors to see if there is any way such trips can be set up without financial risk to the society or the trip organizers.

Hats off to all of the following who submitted reports for this issue...

Bob Dickie
Records Editor.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

for

the **JULY** issue

MAY 27 1991

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April 1991

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McCorquodale	Dave	DM
McKenna	Ken	KM
	Kenneth	KJM
McLaren	Bernice	BM
	Ian	IAM
Mills	Billy	WM
	Eric	ELM
	Maureen	MM
	Sunday	SM
Morse	Bill	WM
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Murrant	Alan	AM
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Thexton	Brenda & Bill	BBT
Thomson	Linda	LT
Timpa	Jean	JET
Trueman	Gerry	GMT
Urban	Eva	EU
Wolford	Jim	JWW
Young	David	DHY

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

BIRD REPORTS

LOONS AND GREBES

By November, the migrating flocks of RED-THROATED LOONS have spread out to cover a good part of the coast of North America, so the tens and twenties usually reported in the early fall have diminished to ones and twos. There were two reports of single birds in November (Port Morien and Pubnico Point), five reports of up to five birds in December (Cow Bay, Economy, Brier Island, Bass River and Cheverie), and two reports in February—one bird at Chebucto Head and two in Eastern Passage.

COMMON LOONS were present in usual numbers throughout the winter—there were 16 reports of up to 60 birds (Green Bay area, Jan. 2, JSC).

A tantalizing report of a possible YELLOW-BILLED LOON at Ferguson's Cove near Halifax on Dec. 2 brought many birders to the site, but unfortunately the bird was not seen again. The observers, John and Shirley Cohrs, saw the bird in bright sunshine on calm water at a distance of about 200 yards. For the record, their description follows:

"A large loon, about the size of a Common Loon. Bill heavy, somewhat longer and slightly slimmer than that of a Common and bright yellow in strong sunlight. Culmen straight giving a decidedly upturned look. The shape of the head was remarkable. There were two little peaks giving a somewhat tufted look. Reminiscent of a Western Grebe. Top of head very black, especially towards the front and over the brow (as if wearing a black beret tilted forward). It was not in breeding plumage. Front of neck was grey/white but the smudgy dark grey of sides of the head still came down past the eye."

If confirmed, this would have been a spectacular record—the first for Nova Scotia and only a second or third record for eastern North America. These loons breed above the tree line in Eurasia and North America. The North American population breeds in the western Arctic, and normally winters off Alaska with rare occurrences farther south to B.C. and California.

Two late PIED-BILLED GREBES were spotted—one was at Upper LaHave on Dec. 5 (EHC), and another was on Forbes Lake (Pictou Co.) on Dec. 22 (KM,CB). St. Margaret's Bay held 101 HORNED GREBES on Dec. 2 (IAM), and ten or more were reported from East Chester (CF), Cherry Hill (SJF), and Gold River (DAM). Twenty-nine RED-NECKED GREBES off Brier Island on Dec. 18 made the Christmas Count (RBS, Tufts). Other reports were of less than 10 birds. BMA comments that one at Port Lorne, Ann. Co. on Feb. 16 was "good for the area".

Another mystery bird: IAM reports that a detailed description by Sonya Russel and Don Brewer seems to represent a WESTERN GREBE, or in some details a CLARK'S GREBE. They saw the bird in St. Margaret's Bay on Dec. 1, but it was not relocated.

LPMP, ed.

FULMARS TO CORMORANTS

Our NORTHERN FULMAR sightings come from Hubert Hall on Bluenose at the Yarmouth end of the ferry run. He saw 25-30 of them, along with 10-15 GREATER SHEARWATERS on Nov. 12, and 15-20 Fulmars on Feb. 14. Jerome K. d'Eon saw a Greater off Outer Bald Island on Nov. 27, and Coral d'Entremont saw another, in company with several Fulmars, on Brown's Bank on Feb. 5. Our only other tubenose report is the storm blown LEACH'S STORM-PETREL that Nellie Snyder found in a Bridgewater parking lot on Nov. 6.

Regular watching from Cape Jourimain, by Colin MacKinnon and Richard W. Daury of the Canadian Wildlife Service, showed a peak spring passage of NORTHERN GANNETS through Northumberland Strait on April 18, returning in the last week of October. However, stragglers were still coming past in late November. These last may well have contributed to the 23 birds that Allan Murrant saw off Port Morien on Nov. 23. Nellie Snyder found an oiled bird on Cherry Hill Beach on Nov. 6. At the Fundy end of the province, Richard Stern saw "quite a lot" off Brier Island on Nov. 10-12, blown inshore by strong winds. The latest report was the Mills' bird off Petite Passage, Digby Neck, on Dec. 19.

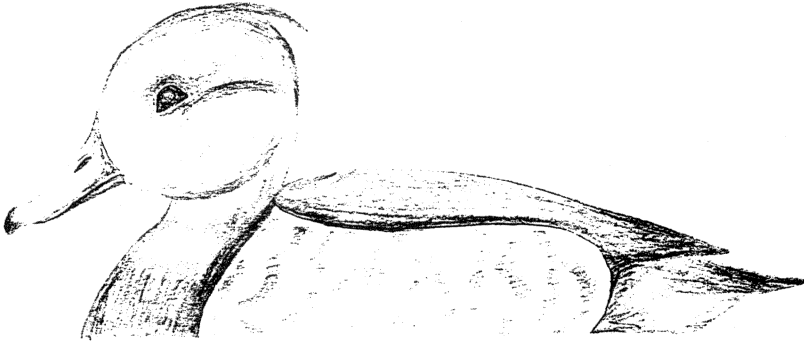
Blake Maybank saw 18 GREAT CORMORANTS off Brier Island on Dec. 18, and 10 off Chebucto Head on Jan. 12. The Halls saw a single bird in Yarmouth Harbour on Jan. 8; so did Sean Smith in Ferguson's Cove on Jan. 13, and the Rufts at Hampton, Annapolis Co., on Jan. 16. There are also scattered reports of DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS. The Murrants saw single birds in the Sydney River on Jan. 6 and 27, and the Brier and Broad Cove CBCs turned up respectively, 2 on Dec. 20 and a singleton on Dec. 18.

RGBB, ed.

HERONS

As usual, GREAT BLUE HERONS were quite widely noted in small numbers into December. In January, single birds were seen at Yarmouth, Pubnico Pt., Cape Sable and in the Lunenburg area (3 sightings, 1 bird?). The latest reported was, perhaps surprisingly, near Apple River on February 18 (WM).

IAM, ed.



Not having her camera with her, Cathy Murrant of Port Morien made this pencil sketch of the delightful little Tufted Duck which appeared at North Sydney.

GEESE AND DUCKS

A single SNOW GOOSE (white phase) was discovered feeding among the resident Black Ducks and Mallards in Yarmouth Harbour on Jan. 23 (H&HH). It stayed until at least Feb. 13 (FLL et al.).

Six BARNACLE GEESE appeared at Cape Sable Island sometime before mid-September. IAM reports that they were

"...wary at first but slowly came to feed with captive waterfowl collection kept by Randall Ross. The arrival time coincides with the usual Greenland departure. The birds evidently roosted at night on an island nearby, and were also seen to feed on "seaweed" (probably eel-grass). They were distinctively a pair (the male was very aggressive to other waterfowl) and 4 young. Although there was an escape of numbers of unopinioned, unbanded exotics (including some Barnacle Geese) from a Grand Manan collection in autumn 1989, these birds probably didn't derive from that event, unless a pair bred in parts unknown. On 8 Jan. after a hard freeze they left. On 18 Jan., an identical family group was found on Cape Cod."

This is the third record for N.S., the second being the single bird at Kingsport on Nov. 18, 1989.

There were about 1200 CANADA GEESE at Rainbow Haven on Dec. 23 (DAM) which is normal for the area. However, Port Joli was down to 1200 (BMA), compared to more than 2000 in 1990, and the Chezzetcook Inlet flock was reported as only about 1000 on Feb. 23 (BS), compared to about 3000 last year and 4000 the year before. These birds are highly mobile, though, often moving from area to area during the day, so single counts probably don't accurately reflect the true numbers. Other reports were the usual hundreds from various Annapolis Valley locations, Yarmouth County, the Trenton power plant, and smaller numbers at the Glace Bay Sanctuary.

There was only one WOOD DUCK report last winter--a lone male was at L. W. Pubnico from Nov. 16 until Nov. 21 (JKD).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL appeared in small numbers as usual at many locations around the province. Six at Cole Harbour on Dec. 1 (BMA) may have been seen again at Lawrencetown on Dec. 23 (JSC). Five in Yarmouth Harbour on Dec. 21 (H&HH) had diminished to 4 by Feb. 13 (FLL et al.).

CSM comments that there were more AMERICAN BLACK DUCKS in Cape Breton County than he had seen in 18 years. There were 600-700 at the Melbourne Bird Sanctuary on Nov. 16 (JKD), hundreds in the Canso area, Pictou, Advocate, Port Joli and Lawrencetown, and about 1000 in the Halifax Harbour-Bedford Basin-Sullivan's Pond group (my est.).

No one reported large numbers of MALLARDS. There were around 20 in Stirling's Pond, Greenwich, from Jan. 20 through Feb. 17 (Tufts, JWW, GF), and only 2 males at the Trenton power plant on Feb. 24 (KM). Doubtless there were at least 50 in the Halifax area, although they were not reported.

Three female NORTHERN PINTAIL swam in the Canard Poultry Pond on Nov. 16 (Tufts), and a single male was in Sullivan's Pond from Jan. 12 (JWT) to the 21st (RBS). A single BLUE-WINGED TEAL was also in the Canard pond on Nov. 16. A lone male GADWALL was reported in Stirling's pond in Greenwich from Jan. 20 through Feb. 17.

Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth was home to 3 and sometimes 4 AMERICAN WIGEON (2-3 females and a male) from Dec. 2 to Feb. 10. Possibly the same individuals were also seen in Tufts Cove on Jan. 1 and 14. Other sightings were of single birds in Sydney Harbour on Nov. 24 (AM) and Yarmouth Harbour, Dec. 18 (H&HH) and Jan. 21 (LD). Incidentally, a slip of the mental gears had me including this species with the Pochards in the January 1991 issue--now that I think about it, they don't look much like

Ring-necks or Scaup.

One of the two big duck stories last winter was the little invasion of CANVASBACKS. It began with a single male in the Yarmouth area on Dec. 17 (H&HH). On Dec. 31, a lone male was seen in Bedford Basin (BMA), and on New Year's Day there were at least 3 in the Basin--a male and female at the mouth of the Sackville River, and a female at Tufts Cove. Later sightings in the Halifax area spoke of 2 until Jan. 7 at least, and a single female in Dartmouth Cove and Sullivan's Pond until at least Feb. 10. Meanwhile, there were 2 in Lake Milo, Yarmouth Co. on Jan. 5 (H&HH), and there was one reported in Yarmouth Harbour from Jan. 20 to at least Feb. 24--possibly the same one. Finally, a single male was at the Trenton power plant from Jan. 27 until Feb. 23 (KM).

For the second winter running, a single REDHEAD spent the winter in the Sydney area, in Wentworth Park (BS) and the Sydney River (AM,CM).

Rather more RING-NECKED DUCKS than usual were reported wintering: there were 2 at Three Fathom Harbour on Dec. 1 (BMA), 1 at Sullivan's Pond from Jan. 1 (JSC) to at least Jan. 21 (RBS), another in Dartmouth Cove on Jan. 21 (RBS), and 3+ females in Yarmouth on Jan. 24 (IAM).

The other and even bigger duck story concerns the TUFTED DUCKS which found their way to Nova Scotia. The first report (literally, the first ever for Nova Scotia) was of the female in Dartmouth Cove, which was discovered by FLL, JWT and KM during an NSBS field trip. It was subsequently viewed by dozens of local birders, and was still present up to Feb. 23, by which time it had moved to Sullivan's Pond. This bird had "a small but definite tuft, lighter under-tail coverts and a relative lack of white on the face" compared to female Ring-necked Ducks (RBS). Meanwhile, another female was discovered in North Sydney on Jan. 19 (AM,CM,DM), and it was present until Feb. 3 at least. Another was present in Yarmouth Harbour from Jan. 20 until at least Feb. 3 (LD). This was presumably the same individual which was discovered by John Kearney (**fide** IAM): "A well-tufted bird with more white around the face than the Dartmouth one". This bird was still present on Lake Milo, Yarmouth Co. on Feb. 24. Finally, there is an unconfirmed report of a male in Conrad's Lake on Feb. 9: "crest and bright white sides" (Mrs. E. Hines **fide** DD). The total for Nova Scotia is 3 certainly, with a possible fourth. These were all part of a larger movement. According to IAM, there were 2 females in St. John's in December and 1 in Rhode Island during the winter.

GREATER SCAUP numbers seem to have rebounded from the doldrums of recent years. JSC reports 750+ at Crescent Beach on Dec. 7 ("largest flock I've encountered since 1985"), and there were about 1000 at the Pictou Causeway in February (DWP, JWP **et al.**). A flock of 600 at Annapolis Royal on Feb. 16 was said to be "moving North for spring" (BMA).

A single male LESSER SCAUP was noted by BMA at Sullivan's Pond on Nov. 25, and another was at Nirvana Pond, Three Fathom Harbour a day later (FLL **et al.**). Two females swam in Second Lake, Dayton, Yar. Co., Jan. 24 (H&HH), and a single bird at Broad Cove on Feb. 1 was said to be a first winter male (SJF).

COMMON EIDER had not yet begun to form their huge early spring rafts by the deadline for this issue's reports. Nonetheless, CF had 650 at Hartlen's Point on Dec. 14, there were 150 at Grand Pré on Nov. 11 (RGT,BET), and 150 at Brier Is. on Dec. 18 (RBS). Other observers reported tens from Canso to Brier Is. and up into the Bay of Fundy.

It was a relatively good winter for HARLEQUIN DUCKS, with eight reports of about 20 individuals. RBS had one at Hogyard Cove on Brier Is., Nov. 12, there were 2 females and a male at Little Port L'Hebert on Dec. 26 (BLF **fide** L&PP), a male and female at Port Morien on Dec. 29 (AM,CM), 1 at Cheverie on Dec. 30 (BMA), and 7 at Short Beach, Yar. Co., Jan. 13 (H&HH). Two at Tribune Head were reported from Jan. 17 until at least Feb. 19, and there was one off Conrad's Beach sometime in late January (E. Hines **fide** DD).

A group of over 200 OLDSQUAW was at Northern Head, Port Morien from Nov. 11 until Feb. 14 (AM,CM). Other reports were of up to about 60 birds at North Sydney, Chebucto Head, Mader's Cove, East Chester, Crystal Crescent Beach, Broad Cove, Yarmouth, Brier Island and various locations along the Fundy shore.

SCOTERS of all species seemed to be down in numbers last winter, with a few exceptions. The Cohrs' had 160 BLACK SCOTERS at Green Bay on Dec. 6, there were 45 at Brier Is., Dec. 18 (RBS), and 50 at Hartlen's Point on Jan. 13 (FLL et al.). Also on Jan. 13, there were 24 SURF SCOTERS at Hartlen's Point (FLL) and 25 at Hampton, on the Fundy shore (Tufts). Other reports mentioned 16 birds only. The only large(-ish) group of WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS was in the Tribune Head-Herring Cove area, where there were reported to be 150 or so in late December and early January. The Tufts had 88 along the Fundy shore on Jan. 16.

The Pictou area was good for COMMON GOLDENEYE as usual, with reports of about 200 in February. JSC had 350+ at Crescent Beach on Feb. 8. There were 24 other reports of dozens of birds at widely scattered locations.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE showed up at the expected locations again last winter. These included Sydney River (1 on Feb. 3, AM,CM), Bedford Basin (up to 5 by Feb. 9, BMa), Annapolis Royal (varying from 3 on Dec. 16 through 9 on Jan. 16 to 3 again on Feb. 16) and the East River at Pictou (5 on Feb. 22, KM).

BUFFLEHEADS were widely reported, although not very numerous--only 3 reports of more than 20 birds, in twenty-five reports. Good places were the Melbourne Bird Sanctuary in mid-November (JKD,H&HH), Bear River, Ann. Co. in mid- Jan. (Tufts), and the Causeway road at Three Fathom Harbour in mid-Feb. (CF). H&HH report a lone female at Chegoggin Point "fending off attacks by a Great Black-backed Gull...by diving repeatedly. Eventually the gull left".

HOODED MERGANSERS seem to appear in groups in the early winter, and then the numbers taper off as the season wears on. There were 16 at the Glace Bay Sanctuary on Nov. 3 (AM,CM), 8 at Red Bridge Pond in Dartmouth on Nov. 26 (DD), and about 10 in Bedford Basin on Jan. 1 (L&PP). After that, with the exception of 8 at West Chezzetcook on Feb. 2 (DAM,CDM) all reports are of 1 or 2 individuals.

The warm outflow from the Trenton power plant and the Pictou Causeway areas were good for COMMON MERGANSERS--there were about 150 there all winter until Feb. 22 at least, and 80 more at Quarry Island, Pic. Co. on Feb. 16 (KM). There were 83 in the Kennetcook River on Dec. 30 (BMa), and dozens were reported from several other locations throughout the winter.

There is nothing unusual in the RED-BREASTED MERGANSER reports--twenty-two reports of up to 70 birds at once, although most reports mention not more than 10.

Three Fathom Harbour held 2 RUDDY DUCKS on Nov. 25 (BMa), but only one remained by Dec. 1. DAM had 1--perhaps one of the Three Fathom Harbour individuals, at Sambro on Dec. 28.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

On Jan. 7 a TURKEY VULTURE was found by Alan Murrant as it fed on discarded fish near Glace Bay Sanctuary. The Murrants then thoughtfully set up a platform, stocked with similar delectables, in their backyard near Sand Lake, a few miles away. This was discovered by the vulture on Jan 13, and it continued to come daily, staying up to 2 hours at a stretch, until Feb 7. This must take the prize for most bizarre feeder guest this winter. It seems unlikely that this was the same bird that showed up in Yarmouth around Feb. 10 (spotted by HH on Feb 16), or another that was spotted scavenging with eagles near Wolfville on Feb 24 (CDM,DAM).

I can't possibly enlarge on most of some 30 sightings of 1 to 3 BALD EAGLES throughout the province this winter. Some homebodies were able to add them to their "yard lists" this winter. For example, a snapshot was sent of two eagles sharing a gull dinner in some backyard trees in Dartmouth (Joyce MacAskill), and CJH reports one visiting a crow feeder (!) in Musquodoboit Hbr. But let's concentrate on concentrations, beginning with summaries for King's Co. (JWW). The N.S. Land & Forests roadside survey on Jan. 30 produced a record 142 birds. On Feb. 3, this was outmatched by 12 observers in 8 parties organized by Acadia's Biology Department, who counted 76 ad. and 72 imm. birds. Others reported gatherings within this region, including 22 in one tree at Sheffield Mills during the BNS field trip on Feb. 17 (JWW). Again this winter the eagles were shown to tourists on route to seal-watching on the Madeleine Islands. Elsewhere, a major gathering of 114 birds reported (Halifax Herald) from around the mouth of Antigonish Hbr. in mid-February. At this date it seems unlikely that these were King's Co. eagles heading northeast. No one submitted reports on groups along the Shubenacadie R. or in Yar. Co. However, in the latter locality, observations off leg bands of eagles from a blind near Yarmouth revealed that one had been banded in P.E.I. and another in New York State (P. Austin-Smith, **vide** JWW).

Taking probable repeats into account, I estimate that there were reports of about 15 N. HARRIERS after Jan. 1. Six of these were in the Dartmouth-to-Chezzetcook area, and 4 in the Wolfville region. Where specified, 6 were males and 2 females.

Of interest was a 1st-year female SHARP-SHINNED HAWK banded on Bon Portage I. on Oct. 9 and recaptured on Oct. 24 at Cape May, N.J. (CKC). Some 35 were reported during the winter period, many around feeders. We received sanguinary details (B. K. Doane, ICR, JGT) of three attacks on Blue Jays that all led to much squawking and loss of feathers, but not lives. If birds of jay size are vulnerable, an Orange-crowned Warbler was courting disaster by mobbing a sharpie in Wolfville on Dec. 3 (JSB). There were reports of 3 window-kills of these little hawks -- an occupational hazard when harrassing backyard feeders. Two reports were received of COOPER'S HAWKS, one without any details and the other described only as "bigger than our sharpies." Although there is no overlap of with sharp-shins, apparent size can be misleading, and I urge reporters to document Cooper's Hawks fully. Eight GOSHAWKS were about as usual for the winter report. One dashed into an antique ship in Petite Riviere on Nov. 13, breaking windows both in entering and exiting; remarkably, with "no apparent damage to the hawk!" (NS).

Yet another winter RED-SHOULDERED HAWK was found near the Yarmouth airport on Feb. 5, "a beautiful dark bird" (details from JKD). Laggard BROAD-WINGED HAWKS continue to surprise us. In addition to the imm. photographed on the Halifax East Christmas Count (IAM **et al.**), at least 2 and possibly 3 imms. were seen at Overton between Dec. 20-29 (HJH,HGH), and another was found near Wolfville on Jan. 21 (MD). Outside Kings Co., about 22 RED-TAILED HAWKS were reported, including one photographed in CD's backyard in Amherst on Feb. 10. The largest count received for Kings Co. were ca. 40 on Feb. 24 (JSC **et al.**). Of interest there were 2 nearly all-white individuals (sev. obs., both nicely sketched by JCT). One of these, in the Gaspereau area from Feb. 14, had a reddish tail and some dark markings on back and breast. Another, whiter bird, with only a hint of reddish in the tail, was found from Jan. 8 on, around Sheffield Mills where a similar individual occurred last winter. It was a moderately good winter for ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS. The maximum among several submitted counts from Kings Co. was 3 dark and 8 light-phase birds on Jan. 26 (JWW **et**

al.). In addition, 2 light and 1 dark bird were seen around Hartlen's Pt., and 9 birds (2 noted as dark, 2 as light) elsewhere. Owners of the latest field guides can see that sexes are separable in adult light-phase birds, but only CD did so in reporting a male at APBS.

As usual in recent years, few AM. KESTRELS stayed into the New Year. One was spotted near Kentville on Jan. 4 (RBS), an imm. fem. was at Hartlen's Pt. until at least mid-January (FLL *et al.*), and an ad. male was around Lawrencetown Beach through mid-February (sev. obs.). MERLINS were similarly scarce, with 4 sightings (repeats?) through late winter in the metro area (FLL), and individuals at Avonport in early Jan. (*vide* JWW), and on Cape Sable Is. on Feb. 2 (HGH). A PEREGRINE FALCON near Canard on Jan. 13 (JGT) was the sole representative of its noble kind.

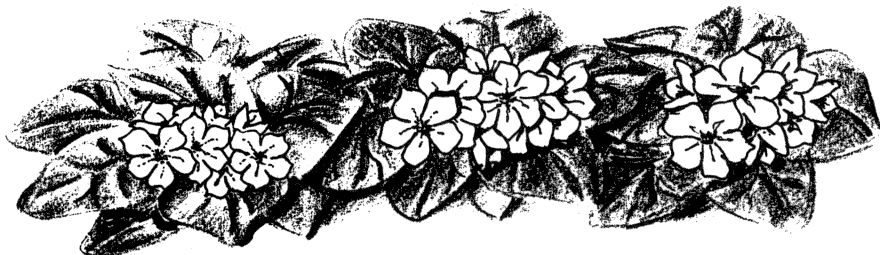
GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Up to 8 GRAY PARTRIDGES were found near Canning (Wellington Dyke) through mid-February (var. obs.) and, across the Basin, there were a half dozen each around Little Bass River (*vide* WPH) and Economy (FS). RING-NECKED PHEASANTS were widely but thinly reported. Good feeder counts were 16 at L. W. Pubnico (JKD) and 38 at a Wolfville feeder (*vide* RGT). At the margins of their range, 2 were at Dominion (the Nearings) and 2 at Ligan (Q Campbell). What must be a winter day's record were the 6 SPRUCE GROUSE found behind Stanley Airport on Dec. 30 (JWW, Janos Kovacs). Otherwise, only KS reported them--at least 2 through January at Apple River. Eleven reports of about 22 RUFFED GROUSE were about average.

RALLIDS

A single AM. COOT at Three Fathom Harbour (var. obs.) was frozen out in December. Two were seen through December at Sullivan's Pond, but only one made it through winter (var. obs.).

IAM, ed.



THE MAY FLOWER. (TRAILING ARBUTUS)

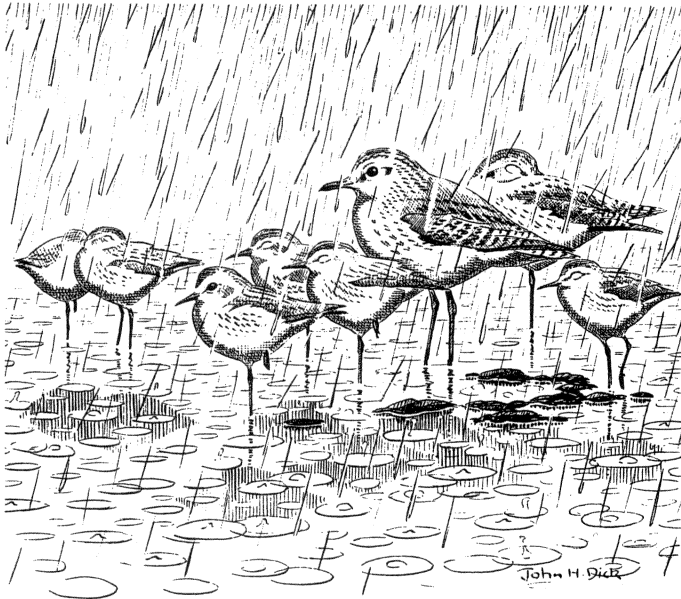
R.B.D.

WINTER SHOREBIRDS

In late Nov. and early Dec., a few BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER still lingered at Grand Pré (RBS) and from Halifax southward (SJF,JSC,DHY). One was still at Cherry Hill, Jan. 3 (JSC), while 4 at Matthew's Lake, Feb. 21, were truly overwintering (DHY). Late Dec. KILLDEER were as far north as Canso (S&JJ,NWP) and at Chezzetcook (CBC), with one later, Jan. 8, at L. W. Pubnico (RSD).

Late GREATER YELLOWLEGS were at the Melbourne Sanctuary (H&HH) and Barrington (JKD) in mid-Nov. at Cole Harbour, Dec. 1 (BM) and at Daniel's Head, Dec. 6 (JKD). Much more unusual were 2 LESSER YELLOWLEGS at Chezzetcook, Dec. 23 (SJF,BH et al.- CBC), the first Count Day record for N.S. Received too late for inclusion in the January issue is BM's report of 24 HUDSONIAN GODWITS at Conrad's Beach, Aug. 24. Somewhat surprisingly, the only report of RUDDY TURNSTONES is of 6 on the Brier CBC, Dec. 18. A late RED KNOT was at Cherry Hill, Dec. 2 and Jan. 3 (JSC,SJF). In contrast to last year, SANDERLINGS were still present in mid-winter with 3 still at Cherry Hill, Dec. 9 (SJF,JSC,GT et al.). A tardy report of 650 WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS at Conrad's Beach, Aug. 26 (BM) merits inclusion; 7 were still at Grand Pré, Nov. 11 (DD) and 5 at Hemeon's Head, Nov. 20 (DHY). Unless the CBC summary reveals a higher number elsewhere, Economy's 215 PURPLE SANDPIPERS, Dec. 27 (CBC) is the only three-digit total. Around Halifax, where they were called rare this winter by SJF, the highest number was 15 on Feb. 25 (BS). The last half of Jan. saw 50-60 at Cherry hill (GT,B&SF) and Port George (G&JT), and also at now well-covered W. Apple River (KS), where ice conditions perhaps allow them to spend the whole winter. There were still ca. 50 DUNLIN at Grand Pré, Nov. 21 (RBS) and 8 at Three Fathom Harbour, Dec. 3 (JSC), but the real surprise was the 48 at Matthew's Lake, FEB. 21 (DHY). A tardy report of 550 SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS at Conrad's Beach, Aug. 24 (BM) round out last fall's account. The last COMMON SNIBE was at Port Williams, Dec. 12 (GT); the last AMERICAN WOODCOCK was at Little Harbour, Shel. Co., Nov.19 (DHY).

FS, ed.



PHALAROPES TO AUKS

Yes, we had some phalaropes, unlikely though it sounds so late in the year. Jerome K. D'Eon saw 3 probable RED PHALAROPES off Outer Bald Island on Dec. 5.

I think the best way to report the Brier Island Christmas Census of pelagic seabirds is to give all the counts together, instead of piecemeal for each species. Eric Mills *et al.*, went out in Carl Haycock's whale-watching boat, on Dec. 18. They estimated 579 BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES, 204 DOVEKIES, 13 THICK-BILLED MURRES, 35 RAZORBILLS, 23 BLACK GUILLEMOTS, 200 ATLANTIC PUFFINS, and 500 unidentified alcid.

As you can see, it's been quite a good winter for auks. It's been even better for peculiar gulls, so I'll lighten my load by making the usual disclaimer right away. HERRING and GREAT-BLACK-BACKED GULLS were abundant, and will receive their usual short shrift. Ian McLaren saw our familiar adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL at the old Volvo Plant on Jan. 1, as well as 2 others in Bedford Basin, and he passes on a report of a subadult in the Metro area. This last was probably one of the 2 three and a half year old birds that Fulton Lavender *et al.* saw on Jan. 13, at Sullivan's Pond and Hartlen's Point. Jim Wolford says that the Volvo bird was still there on Feb. 10. Elsewhere, Donna Crosby says that she regularly saw an adult Lesser Black-back on Lockeport Beach between Nov. 10 and Feb. 17. She thinks it may be the same bird as the one she saw there in February and March of 1990. Finally, to complete the species' spreading web in Nova Scotia, there's the bird that Cathy and Allan Murrant saw in North Sydney on Jan. 27 and Feb. 3.

The first GLAUCOUS GULL was Fulton Lavender's first-year at the sewer off Point Pleasant Park on Nov. 29. Blake Maybank saw an adult there on Dec. 16. an unaged bird at West Dover on Jan. 1, and 3 adults scavenging at the poultry plant at Canard on Feb. 16. The birds spread throughout the province: for example, Lisette d'Entremont's Glaucous in Yarmouth Harbour on Jan. 20. As usual, ICELAND? KUMLIEN'S GULLS were our commonest large gulls from the Arctic. On Dec. 16, as part of the Halifax West CBC, Blake Maybank counted 135 birds off Point Pleasant Park. However, their numbers dropped off inland, to levels comparable to Glaucous Gulls'; he only saw 6 Icelands at the Canard plant on Feb. 16. He saw 10 on the Cornwallis River on Dec. 22; in the same area, George Forsyth reports 2 immatures on Dec. 20 and Jan. 6, and 5 adults and an immature bird on Jan. 13. The Peters estimate up to 20 birds in Canso Harbour, beginning in early December. SW Nova Scotia comes close to the edge of the species' winter range, so it isn't surprising that we have so few records: singletons from Blake Maybank on Jan. 5 and David Young on Feb. 9 at, respectively, Cape Sable Island and Little Harbour, and the adult and subadult that Hubert Hall saw in Yarmouth Harbour on Nov. 20. Finally, the cream of our Arctic crop was the THAYER'S GULL, seen in Halifax Harbour on Feb. 3 and 17, and reported by the Cohrs, Eric Mills and Ian McLaren. Shirley Cohrs says: "a really good Thayer's adult gull--Iceland jizz--mantle slightly darker than Herring's, primary tips dark charcoal--not quite black--dark eye--feet dark pink".

We'll take the rest of the gulls in order of size. RING-BILLS were unusually common this year. Jim Wolford and party, on the Wolfville CBC on Dec. 22, counted 1-56 of them, mainly north of Canning. Their previous record was only a few hundred. Richard Stern found them "plentiful" in the Metro area on Jan. 21. Jerome K. D'Eon saw 40-50 at Pinkney's Point on Nov. 16, and 80-100 at Eel Lake a couple of days later. Our MEW GULLS in the Dartmouth area were the real rarities. Fulton Lavender, Clarence Stevens and Ken McKenna saw the first bird, an adult, on Nov. 26; the latest sighting, so far, was Blake Maybank's juvenile on Feb. 12. Richard Stern describes the first-winter bird he saw at Tufts Cove on Jan. 21: "...appeared like a Ring-bill except that the bill was noticeably small and thin, and mostly black fading gradually into a greyish base. It appeared to have a large dark eye...We flushed it, and were struck by the very black terminal tailband, sharply demarcated from the bright white upper tail feathers, which had a few dark spots but no streaks." He then went over to Sullivan's Pond to look at immature Ring-bills, and was "struck by their longer and thicker bills, with much more of a contrast between the black tip and the pink (not grey) base" to their bills, in contrast to the Mew Gull. Bruce MacTavish saw at least 3 birds: an

adult, a second-winter and a first-winter bird, all with cleaner, "spanking" plumage that contrasted with the Ring-bills' "grubby" appearance.

Our other "Europeans", if that's the right word nowadays, were the usual BLACK-HEADED GULLS. They seem to be increasing in numbers and range. Richard Stern's adult in Digby Harbour on Dec. 17, was his first record for Digby. He saw them "all over the place" in Halifax-Dartmouth on Jan. 21, and Eric Mills estimated no less than 70 birds in the Dartmouth area on Feb. 3. Farther south, Donna Crosby saw a flock of 16 in the back harbour at Lockeport, between Jan. 1-5. Raymond d'Entremont saw 6 off Pubnico Point on Dec. 10, and says that they were "more numerous than usual" in the Pubnico area this winter. BONAPARTE'S GULLS, their New World cousins, were relatively scarce--also as usual. In the Halifax-Dartmouth area, Richard Stern saw a single adult on Jan. 21, and Eric Mills counted only three on Feb. 3; compare these with their estimates of Black-headed Gulls on those dates! Blake Maybank has the highest count: 6 Bonaparte's at Conrad's Beach on Dec. 1. From the other ends of the province, there's David Young's 3 in Little Harbour, Shel. Co., on Dec. 13, and the couple Theresa Campbell saw at North Sydney on Jan. 24.

I've already given you the Brier Island Christmas census of BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES. Richard Stern estimates "large numbers" off Brier on Nov. 10-12, probably brought inshore by gales. On the Atlantic side, off Chebucto Head, Eric Mills and the Payzants saw large numbers of Kittiwakes flying past on Dec. 12. Eric's Minimum estimate was 188 birds. Finally, here are three southerly records: the 4 birds that Jerome K. D'Eon saw at Lobster Bay on Nov. 30, Raymond d'Entremont's adult at L. E. Pubnico on Dec. 31, and the Halls' bird at Charlesville Lighthouse on Feb. 3. The Charlesville bird was flying overland--very unusual for a Kittiwake at this time of year.

...and so we come to the auks. The BLACK GUILLEMOT, our semi-resident species inshore, was regularly reported off rocky coasts, especially in the northeast. For example, Bev Sarty estimated ca. 20 between Tribune Head and Sambro on Jan. 24; Nancy and Warren Peters found 3-7 birds in Chedabucto Bay/Canso Harbour on Dec. 22; the Murrants estimated 15 Black Guillemots off Port Morien on Feb. 10. Richard Stern counted 12 off Brier Island on Dec. 18, and 4-5 off Sandy Cove, near Sambro, on Jan. 21. The southernmost sightings are single birds: by Jerome K. D'Eon in Lobster Bay on Nov. 29, and off Pubnico Point, by Raymond d'Entremont on Jan. 21.

Our other auks usually stay offshore at this time of year. The pelagic Christmas Count in Outer Fundy, summarised above, shows this clearly enough. DOVEKIES normally winter out on the fishing banks. However, they're notoriously vulnerable to storms that blow them inshore, and the fall of 1990 had plenty of those. The birds use up all their energy reserves trying to fly back to sea; then they're "wrecked"--blown inland. Among the first reports, passed on by Jim Wolford, were 3 birds in the Blomidon area in the last days of November. Each was picked up on somebody's lawn, and that set the pattern. There were times when I wondered if our lawns carried more Dovekies than garden gnomes! By way of change, Kathleen Spicer found one on Nov. 25, on a dirt road in the woods near Advocate. Inshore, Jerome K. D'Eon saw 300-500 birds off Outer Bald Island on Dec. 5, presumably resting. Raymond d'Entremont saw 3 Dovekies off Pubnico Point on Nov. 17, and picked up a fresh road-kill at Belleville, Yar. Co., on Dec. 23. "I can't recall a winter with more Dovekies," he says. Farther north, Allan and Cathy Murrant saw 3 Dovekies off North Head, Port Morien, on Nov. 22. This is our only report from Cape Breton. Ian McLaren sums up the Halifax area: "obviously abnormal numbers inshore. Some good counts were 25 in Glenhaven Harbour, St. Margaret's Bay, Dec. 1, and 30 between the Northwest Arm and Sambro on Jan. 20". Bev Sarty saw 20+ off Eastern Passage on Jan. 14, 5 at Sambro on Jan. 18 ("heard chattering to each other"), 22 at Lower Prospect on Jan. 22, 40+ near Tribune Head on Jan. 24, but only singletons at Ketch Harbour on Feb. 9 and 10. By then, I suppose, their pelagic life was getting back to normal. To put all this into perspective, dovekie "wrecks" like these are a regular hazard of their winter life, on both sides of the Atlantic. They seem to survive them without much difficulty. Dovekies are the commonest seabirds breeding in the Arctic, with a population of 10-23 million birds.

Almost all of our identified murrens were all THICK-BILLED, in small numbers. Jerome K. D'Eon has the earliest records: 2 Thick-bills off Cape Island on Nov. 16, and

4 off Outer Bald Island on Dec. 5. Bev Sarty's counts show a typical pattern for the Eastern Shore: 3 at Chebucto Head and at Ketch Harbour on Jan. 17, 1 at Seaforth on Jan. 20, and 3 at Ketch Harbour on Feb. 6. "Not hard to find, but I didn't see as many as last winter". The Halls saw 1 at Clark's Harbour on Jan. 6, and 2 at Barrington Passage on Feb. 3. In Fundy, Gordon Tufts and the Forsythes saw our only COMMON MURRE, at Broad Cove on Jan. 27. Gordon also saw an unidentified murre flying off Hampton, Ann. Co., on Jan. 16--unusually far up the Bay of Fundy. RAZORBILLS were scarce, as usual. Don McNeill saw 1 at Brooklyn on Jan. 5, Bev Sarty had another at Hartlen's Point on Jan. 16, and the other record was Fulton Lavender's bird at Sandy Cove on Jan. 23. Our only ATLANTIC PUFFIN, apart from those in the Outer Fundy Christmas Count, was the adult that Fulton Lavender and Bev Sarty saw in Sandy Cove on Jan. 23.

RGBB, ed.



One of the delightful photographs entered in the Photographic Guild Competition for the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund trophy

Photographer--Andrezej Kajetanowks

DOVES, OWLS, KINGFISHER

I read that ROCK DOVES may be renamed Rock Pigeons. Truly wild ones in Nova Scotia might better be named Highway Overpass Pigeons, for that is where we often see them, even in wild country on severe winter days. In one part of Halifax they were thought to be "much fewer than in previous years" (DJ). MOURNING DOVES were stated to be "marginally down" in last winter's report, but have obviously rebounded. They were widely reported in ones and twos. Impressive counts, usually at feeders or around feed mills, included ca. 50 at the W. Pubnicos (JKD,LD); 100+ at Gaspereau (CKC); 4 groups of 10 to 40 in S. Lun. Co. (NS); up to 160 at Avonport (EU); 74 around Canard-Canning on Jan. 9 (JCT,JET); 15-30 in Wolfville (BBT); 15 in Kentville (RBS); 12+ at Little Dover (NWP); 7+ at Glace Bay (JGa); and an astonishing season's total of 366 around Stewiacke (PVB).

A bonanza of 4 birds (2 pairs?) of GREAT HORNED OWLS echoed a tape played by KCK near Cheverie on Dec. 21. Otherwise, 8 scattered birds were reported. The now-legendary, semi-wild female returned to her nest in Cyril Coldwell's front yard on Feb. 17, but her laying status was uncertain by reporting deadline/ *vide* JWW). A sole SNOWY OWL (at Hazel Hill for some weeks, *vide* NWP) makes this an "off" winter. A total of 18 BARRED OWLS (excluding CBC birds) was more than usual for the season. Our only LONG-EARED OWL was a not-too-fresh corpse found near Avonport on Dec. 14 (RH). A record number of SHORT-EARED OWLS (variously reported as up to 15) were seen around the Grand Pré and Wolfville Dykes in early December. However, only 2 were found there after December (var. obs.). Elsewhere, there were 1 through winter around Hartlen's Pt. (var. obs.) and 2 at Grand Desert on Feb. 9 (John Field). Six SAW-WHET OWLS, including 2 road-kills, were noted after early December.

Ten BELTED KINGFISHERS were noted after Jan. 1 at locations from C.B. to Yar. Co. This is perhaps more than usual for winter, although, as pointed out by JSC they seem to have become generally scarcer at other seasons in recent years.

WOODPECKERS

An imm. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER on Dec. 8, at a feeder in Falmouth was presumably the same one that collided with a car there on Dec. 16. After resting overnight with CKC, it was released next morning. Last autumn's male RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER at New Salem stayed until Nov. 26 (KS), while the Amherst female did not seem to make it into winter. However, another female arrived on Christmas day at Alan and Marie Eddy's property in Truro and stayed around town until at least mid-January (CAE). Other individuals appeared at Marjorie Bezanson's feeder in Moser River, Dec. 5-8, and at Wilmot from early January until at least mid-February (var. obs.). The total of fall and winter birds makes our biggest "invasion" yet. Reports of ca. 26 DOWNY and 23 HAIRY WOODPECKERS were about average. A pair of BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS were on territory at White's Lake on Feb. 10 (BMa) and another bird was found about the same time at Head of St. Margarets Bay by Anne Mills. This was undoubtedly the best winter on record for N. FLICKERS, with up to 16 post-CBC birds seen in localities between Yarmouth and Pictou. PILEATED WOODPECKERS were about average, with some 20 reported sightings.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS

A much more favourable early winter saw species and numbers of warblers increase considerably over last year, with 10 species, and about 100 individuals reported.

Not surprisingly, no winter vireos were in evidence.

Six observers sent news of as many ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS. Three Halifax singletons were noted in late Nov. and Dec. (IAM,FLL,Cohrs). It appears that about 3 others were seen in the Wolfville-Port Williams area from Dec. 2 to mid-Jan. (JSB,JWW,Gordon Tufts). The Dec. 2 bird in Wolfville was tempting fate by mobbing a perched Sharp-shinned Hawk. Two NASHVILLE WARBLERS were reported. One was seen in Spryfield, Nov. 20 (FLL), and the Halls in Overton had 1 feeding on their suet log almost daily from Dec. 11 to Jan. 10, a late record.

Seven reports of winter YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS were received, representing over 60 individuals, from Yar. Co. to Canso. The only sizable flock noted was one comprised of 35-40 birds at L. E. Pubnico (LD-date unspecified). Latest reported sightings were in Lun. Co. on Feb. 8, when 3 were seen in Oakland (Morses) and 1 in Petite Riviere (Cohrs).

Our most exciting warbler report was that of a TOWNSEND'S WARBLER, only the third Nova Scotia occurrence if the 2 or 3 Halifax birds of Dec. 1987 are classed as a single event. This bird was seen first by Bernice McLaren behind the Oxford Theatre in Halifax on Dec. 21. Without optics, she nevertheless described it as suspiciously like a female Townsend's Warbler. Appearing in the McLaren's yard on Christmas morning, it was pointed out by Ian's daughter, Mary, then identified by his son, James. With all this family support, all Ian had to do was capture the bird on film, which he was able to manage. Then, the rarity promptly disappeared, with only the McLarens and Marg McCurdy, our **Nova Scotia Birds** typist, having seen it.

The most reports were received of our "rare" PINE WARBLER; eight observers accounted for about 16 individuals. Most were December records, and most were from in and around Halifax-Dartmouth. Several were at suet feeders. The two reports outside Halifax Co. were from opposite ends of the mainland. The Peters had 2 at their Hazel Hill feeders in December, and LD told of a regular at a W. Pubnico feeder from Dec. 11 until Feb. 11, our only February report. A PALM WARBLER was noted Jan. 4 in Broad Cove (Cohrs).

LD reported an AMERICAN REDSTART straggler in W. Pubnico on Nov. 5. Half a dozen late COMMON YELLOWTHROATS were noted. FLL had 4 at Catamoran Pond, Spryfield, Dec. 7; while JWW mentioned one seen on the Wolfville CBC, Dec. 22. The prize goes to Gordon and Judy Tufts, who found one on Cape Sable Is., Jan. 23, a late date record.

A male WILSON'S WARBLER seen by BMa at Fairview Cemetery, Halifax on Dec. 2, was taken by a shrike the same day. The YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, a dependable late fall vagrant, was reported twice. Both reports were on Dec. 2--1 at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth (SDS,BMa) and 1 on the other side of the harbour (CF).

KNK,ed.

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

An EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHER at Fairview Cemetery in early December was reported variously as a Least and a ??Least. Without any descriptions of this unseasonable sighting by any of the observers, I would love to know why it was felt to be this bird rather than some other member of this difficult genus, especially as at the same time there was a mini-invasion of WESTERN KINGBIRDS, with 2 different birds around the St. Margaret's Bay area (IAM,R. Foxall, et al.) and 1 a little later in the Canso area (NWP,SSB,BB).

HORNED LARK numbers seemed down this winter, although they occurred right through the season in various localities, especially, of course, from open areas such as Conrad's Beach (BMa), Cape Island (JKD) etc. The only large flock reported was of 100+ at Lower Canard (FLL,DF). SJF noted their return to Cherry Hill on Feb. 1, having been absent since December.

I have a late report on the Oxford breeding PURPLE MARTIN colony. After some initial setbacks, such as the late spring cold spell and Raven attacks, some 30 birds stayed to occupy eight houses. There were no other Hirundine reports.

JAYS TO GNATCATCHERS

Like last winter, GRAY JAYS were seen in ones, twos and threes all over the province. KS in particular saw plenty this winter, including 1 that came to her feeder in Apple River in late November. BLUE JAYS seem to have benefited from the open winter, and several observers noted numbers down at feeders but up in the woods and open areas (L&PP,JCT, etc.).

CJH found that AMERICAN CROWS were eating the remains of seeds under her feeder in East Chezzetcook. A number of people in Kentville became somewhat alarmed at the roving noisy flock of several thousand Crows that chose different clumps of trees to roost in on different evenings in early January, frequently in non-birders' backyards. Several people alluded to Hitchcock's "The Birds" and called the Dept. of Lands and Forests, and frequently myself, to ask why they were there and how to make them go away. (I could not satisfactorily answer either question). One theory suggested by some of the local wildlife experts was that the flock was part of the huge Boot Island roost, and that this was being partially deserted. In any event, the phenomenon seemed to have stopped by February. Only a few COMMON RAVENS were reported, although I imagine many more were seen. L&PP saw a pair displaying at their reflections in a window at Ragged Lake.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were again widely reported, often in flocks up to 20, and frequently in the vicinity of feeders. L&PP felt there were "more than usual" in Waverley. JGa had them in Sydney and Glace Bay; BS noted they were common in the woods; NS had 12 at one time at her feeder. Perhaps the open winter made for better accessibility to the woods, so more people were able to see these birds other than through the kitchen window. BOREAL CHICKADEES were reported in better numbers than last winter, with small flocks being seen all over the province, perhaps for the same reason. NS saw 3 at a feeder in Hubbards, and RSD found them to be particularly common at Pubnico Point. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were seen mainly in ones and twos coming to suet at feeders, again all over the province with no large migratory flocks reported. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES are better reported than last year, with a total of 19 birds being reported from widely scattered areas although none from Cape Breton. BROWN CREEPERS seemed positively abundant this winter, but again mainly in ones and twos coming to suet feeders all over the province. It seems that every winter recently the status of all this group of birds seems steady with only minor fluctuations, and they all seem to be fond of human assistance (feeders).

No Wrens were reported this winter.

In contrast to the huge roaming flocks of a couple of years ago, GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS were relatively few and far between. LD reported 1 to 15 around Pubnico, JWW mentioned 91 altogether on the Wolfville Christmas Count; CJH noted them irregularly around the spruces at East Chezzetcook and WM and JeM felt that they were scarcer this winter. A few RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS made it well into the winter, with a few around Halifax late November, early December, 1 at Pubnico Head on Jan. 4. (RSD), and 1 in Dartmouth as late as Jan. 31 (JWT), which was not seen again after a cold, wet spell. BS and others saw a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER around Fairview Cemetery in Halifax during the second half of November, at least through to Dec. 2, and also mentioned a bird that somehow got left off the fall report, at Hartlen's Pt. in early October.

THRUSHES TO STARLINGS

A WOOD THRUSH was present in Fairview Cemetery for several days in late November, seen by many and reported by BS. Small flocks of overwintering AMERICAN ROBINS were widely reported (P&WH,JKD,MG,EHC,AMCM et al.). The biggest flock was of 150 birds at Pubnico Pt. on Jan. 14 (RSD). Many reports mentioned feeding on berries, fruit etc. I received a second hand report of an oddly plumaged Robin-like bird coming to a feeder in Maitland all winter, which was checked out by BMA and found to be a partially albino Robin.

A male VARIED THRUSH was coming to a feeder at White's Lake for a couple of weeks in late January and was seen by many observers. Bernard Forsythe and myself, saw it just as we drove up to Mr. Wolfe's (the "owner's") driveway. Another bird was seen in Shag Harbour on Jan. 26. (SDS). BS unexpectedly found a TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE while unsuccessfully searching for the Masked Booby at Herring Cove on Nov. 30. The bird was well described, and as she put it, and excellent "booby prize"!

There were plenty of NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS in the province this winter, with single birds being widely reported from Canso to Pubnico (FLL,DAM,RGT,BET,RBS, NS et al.). BMA and FLL saw 9 different birds in the Metro area on Dec. 1. Two BROWN THRASHERS were reported, 1 at L. W. Pubnico (JKD) and the other on Brier Island (ELM). This or another individual spent all winter at feeders in Westport, and was still present on Mar. 10 (RBS).

Three AMERICAN PIPITS seen at Brier Island, Dec. 18 (ELM) were a little late for migrants, and 1, Jan. 14 at Pubnico Pt. (RSD) and 1, Jan. 27 at Hartlen's Pt. (R. Foxall) undoubtedly represented overwintering birds.

Like last winter, flocks of BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS were again common around the province. They were widely reported from all over, and some notable sightings included 7-200 in the Pictou and Caribou area (KM), 100+ at Canso (GJM,JNJ) feeding on Canadian Holly, 200 at Grand Pré (MG,BBT,JWW), 480 in three separate flocks at Annapolis Royal (BMA), 134 at Bass River (P&WH). Not to be outdone, flocks of CEDAR WAXWINGS also roamed around the province, in numbers more often associated with late summer. Numbers included 40+, with some Robins, in Wolfville, Jan. 9, and 55 there Feb. 12 (JWW), 70 in New Minas feeding on Rose bushes, Dec. 26 (GF), 40 at Plymouth, near Stellarton, Dec. 15 (KM), 12-18 at Hazel Hill, Dec. 18 (NWP,WJP). Nobody reported seeing mixed flocks with both species.

My comments in the fall report concerning the NORTHERN SHRIKE have been borne out. I received reports of a total of 80 birds this winter, making it a possible record year for this species. Reports were from all over the province, and at the time of writing (mid-March) there are still plenty around, at least in Kings Co. Some particular observations include 1 chasing a Junco (HMH), 1 that may have made off with a Townsend's Warbler (!), 7 different birds around Apple River (KS), up to 3 imm. birds at Broad Cove (JSC), and 1 caught when it flew into a shed at White Rock, and subsequently was banded and released at Gaspereau by CKC.

Several people reported EUROPEAN STARLINGS, but the only large flock noted was of 600+ at Cape Island, Nov. 16 (JKD).

RBS, ed.

TANAGERS TO TOWHEE

A hopelessly lost male WESTERN Tanager was discovered in S.W. Port Mouton. Mr. Robert Shivers discovered this bird feeding with White-throats, Juncos and a lone cowbird from Nov. 29 to Dec. 11, at his feeding station. The normal range of this species at this time of year is far to the west from Oregon to Panama. A total of 12 different NORTHERN CARDINALS were reported and seemed to be a little more spread out in distribution this season than past. The records are as follows:

Amherst--female--Jan. 21-Feb.18--Con Desplanque
 Wolfville--female--Nov. 26-Jan. 1--Maynard Stevens
 Petite Riviere--male--Nov.-Feb.--Nellie Snyder
 Liverpool--male--Feb. 12--Hubert Manthorne (**fide**ELM)
 Lockeport--male--Nov. 10-Feb. 16--Donna Crosby
 M. W. Pubnico--pair--Nov. 8--Lisette d'Entremont
 Yarmouth and area--2 male, 1 female--Nov. 9-Feb. 3--H&H Hall
 Westport--pair--Nov. 1--Richard Stern

There was a single record of DICKCISSELS for this period. Two were seen together in W. Pubnico from Feb. 4-22 (LD). Similarly, just one sighting of RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEES has made it in time for this report. A female was found at a Pictou feeder from Dec. 16 to time of writing (KM).

TREE SPARROW TO SNOW BUNTING

TREE SPARROWS, although widespread throughout the province were uncommon this winter. Localized groups of 2 to 5 birds were evident. The largest group was 35 seen at Upper Dyke, Canard area, Kings Co., feeding with an assortment of birds including Juncos, Goldfinches, Snow Buntings and Horned Larks on Jan. 15 (JT). There were 6 CHIPPING SPARROWS at Eel Brook on Nov. 18 (JKD) as well as 6 other records from south and southwestern areas during December, January and February. A VESPER SPARROW provided an extra bonus for Christmas counters Alaha and Carol MacNeill, who discovered a lone bird at Rainbow Haven on Dec. 23.

A rare occurrence this winter was to find a SAVANNAH SPARROW even in its most favourite habitats. Cape Sable Is. held 14 along with 12 of the IPSWICH race from Jan. 5 to Feb. 13. Other most favoured areas such as Cherry Hill Beach and Conrad's Beach, were all but deserted of this species with just 2 at Conrad's and 1 at Cherry Hill. A further 3 Ipswich Sparrows were found at Hemeon's Head on Nov. 20 (DHY). SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS were discovered in only two areas, Cape Sable Is. on Jan. 5 and 23, and at Conrad's Beach on Dec. 23. Single birds were found in both locations. Three immature SEASIDE SPARROWS were discovered by Blake Maybank and Peter MacLeod at Cape Sable Is. on Jan. 5.

FOX SPARROWS were at a premium this winter with 5 birds noted and only 1 of those seen in 1991. The sightings were 1, Nov. 9, at Yarmouth (H&HH; 1 at Wolfville Ridge, Nov. 11-12 (Tufts); 1 singing, Nov. 13, at Crousetown (NS); 1 at Sandy Lake, Nov. 30, and West Lawrencetown, Jan. 20 (BS). SONG SPARROWS were reported from all areas but were unusually scarce. Well stocked feeders seemed to attract one or two birds but not everyone had that good fortune. Lisette d'Entremont had up to 12 at her feeder in W. Pubnico for most of the winter. Always an unusual occurrence in winter is the appearance of LINCOLN'S SPARROWS. Blake Maybank found one of this species at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth on Dec. 2. There are 3 sightings of SWAMP SPARROWS to report. Five were discovered at Russel Lake, Dartmouth on Dec. 12 (Bma); 1 at Pubnico Point, Dec. 7 (RSD) and 1 found at Port Williams on Dec. 30 (GF).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were found throughout the province but as usual single birds were most commonly reported at feeders. A few exceptions were 15 seen at Wolfville from Dec. 10-16 (GMT); up to 10 in W. Pubnico all winter (LD), and 9 at Sambro on Feb. 20 (BS,PM). DARK-EYED JUNCOS were much in evidence in all areas of the province and seemed to take up winter residence at most feeding stations. Flocks of 15-20 were usual, several observers making note of 40 or more frequent visitors. RBS saw huge numbers along Digby Neck and Brier Is., Nov. 10-12.

LAPLAND LONGSPURS were frequently reported with 1 to 30 birds seen at a time. Fourteen were seen at Glace Bay from November to January (AM,CM); 30 were discovered on Grand Pré dyke (RGT), and up to 25 could be found at Conrad's Beach from November to January. Other sightings included birds at Economy, Amherst Point and Caribou Island. SNOW BUNTINGS began to be commonly found by mid-November and could be seen in numbers from 15 to 500. The larger flocks could be expected in the typical habitat in the meadowland of Grand Pré. There were not the clouds of thousands as in more severe winters, but the sightings came from virtually every area of the province which may indicate a more even distribution.

ICTERIDS

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS were by far the most reported species in this group with over thirty reports. Most of the activity could be found in the Annapolis Valley with as many as 40 being seen at one time throughout November, December and January. Other records were from Yarmouth, Halifax, Cumberland and Cape Breton Counties. An EASTERN MEADOWLARK was seen by Christmas Counters on both the Amherst and Broad Cove Counts, Dec. 20 and Dec. 21, respectively. A total of three YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS were noted this winter and all were during the month of January. One was observed at White Rock in late January, a second was at a Wilmot feeder and a third was visiting a feeder at Harbour Centre near Antigonish (MO).

RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were as usual an unusual sighting. There was 1 in W. Pubnico, Nov. 15, 2 at Belcher Street, Kings Co. on Dec. 22 and 3 were found in Hazel Hill on Jan. 9. Economy to Apple River held 90% of the overwintering population of COMMON GRACKLES. Reports of up to 30 birds came from these areas. Other sightings were from widely separated areas and of 1 to 3 birds during December and January. During November and December BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were found in flocks of 20 to 50 in the southern parts of the province. In January and February as the winter progressed the reports came from many areas, although most sightings were of single birds. Some exceptions were 50 at White Rock on Jan. 26 and 38 in Dartmouth on Feb. 14. NORTHERN ORIOLES lingered on well into December and several may have made it through the winter. Last appearances came from the south end of Halifax, Jan. 9, Dartmouth, Jan. 20, and at least 2 in the Yarmouth area.

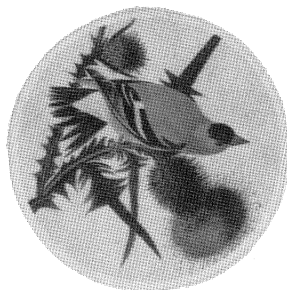
FINCHES

PINE GROSBEAKS were not completely absent this winter but they were a difficult find. Groups of 6 to 8 birds were found in several areas including Head of St. Margaret's Bay, Joggins, Sandy Cove and Glace Bay. A larger flock of 25 were found at Sandy Cove by FLL et al. on Jan. 13. PURPLE FINCHES were down this year, although there were scattered and widely spread sightings of small groups. The largest flock recorded was 25 seen in Spryfield on Dec. 16 (BM). With the many sightings of HOUSE FINCHES this winter and the fact that most were from areas in close proximity to one another, it is difficult to be accurate in the number of individuals. It appears there was a minimum of 4 in Port Williams and Wolfville during November, December, January and February and 1 visiting at the Urban's feeder in Avonport during November.

In the last issue of *Nova Scotia Birds* it was requested that observers classify RED CROSSBILLS according to bill size. Please continue this with any further sightings. Fifty large-billed were found in Spryfield on Dec. 21, and 1 was seen at White's Lake, Feb. 24 (FLL, BM). One other report was of a large flock of 200 at Crescent Beach on Dec. 8 (CF). The only observation of WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL was of 400+ at East Chezzetcook on Dec. 23 (Cohrs, Purchase). A total of 3 COMMON REDPOLLS were all that could be found during this period, except possibly any that may have been included in the Christmas Counts that were not noted separately. One was found in Spryfield on Dec. 16, one in Liverpool on Jan. 9, and 1 at Wolfville Ridge on Jan. 12.

PINE SISKINS were by far the most common winter finches. There were hundreds marauding feeders. Typical of the sightings were 50-100 in Valley areas, Cape Breton, Colchester, Cumberland and Halifax Counties and larger flocks such as 200 at Waverley, December --February and 500 in East Chezzetcook on Jan. 5 (RF). Clair Hilchie of East Chezzetcook describes the first siskin to arrive at her feeder this season. The bird allowed her to approach closely enough to stroke its breast while it continued to eat. Replenishment of energy stores was more important to that individual than the instinct to take flight from danger. It was certainly a good winter for AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES. There were reports from virtually all counties and the story was similar with healthy numbers from 20 to 100 coming to feeders. All months were equally represented with this species with January seeing an increasing population in many areas. EVENING GROSBEAKS were common this winter as well, but more irregular at feeders as is the habit of these birds. Some flocks consisted of as many as 140 but averaged 30-40. Although reported from November to February, January's sightings were more frequent and of greater sized flocks.

HOUSE SPARROWS were noted as returning to locations in Cape Breton where they have been practically absent over the last few years. There are still areas, especially in the Valley, that appear to be showing a decline. The Yarmouth area, which over the last three years has seen a dramatic swing from many to none, is once again seeing small groups turning up in hedges and at feeders.



BON PORTAGE ISLAND - JUNE 22, 1990

Ted C. D'Eon

Through an invitation from Acadia University, The Nova Scotia Bird Society had asked me to be its representative at the unveiling ceremony, on Bon Portage Island, of THE EVELYN AND MORRILL RICHARSON FIELD STATION IN BIOLOGY. The island had been donated to Acadia University in 1960's by the Richardsons and now with the automation of light stations in Canada in recent years, the usual destruction and removal of the lightkeeper's houses had been spared from the bulldozer's blade. Acadia University managed to lease the two houses indefinitely for a nominal fee, to renovate and use as field laboratories. A few years ago, the university also built two more buildings near the boat slip, for use as field laboratories.

Evelyn May Richardson, nee Fox, was born on May 16, 1902, on Stoddart's Island, known locally as Emerald Isle, the nearest large island to Bon Portage, about three kilometers away. Her early years were spent in Clark's Harbour, where her father was the school principal. In 1917, the family moved to Bedford, Nova Scotia, where she completed her education, became a teacher and met Morrill Richardson. They were married on Stoddart's Island on August 14, 1926. The Richardsons then moved to Bon Portage to become the keepers of the island light and to bring up a family.

Evelyn Richardson has become well known in the writing milieu for her published books and magazine articles which have made this part of Nova Scotia better known to the rest of the world. She won the Governor General's Medal in 1945 for her first book, **We Keep A Light**. Other books followed about her Maritime home, **Desired Haven** (1953), **No Small Tempest** (1957), **My Other Islands** (1960), and **Living Island** (1965) and **B...Was For Butter and Enemy Craft**, (1976). **Living Island** dealt with the ecology of Bon Portage, primarily its bird life.

The three and a quarter kilometer long, and almost cigar-shaped, island of Bon Portage is situated near the southern tip of Nova Scotia, about three and a half kilometers from the mainland wharf at Shag Harbour and about ten kilometers north-west of the well known Cape Sable. It is mostly wooded with spruce and fir. The middle of the island narrows a bit and is of a lower elevation; the trees get sparse and the ground is flat and swampy. This is described as the "savannah". The light station is located at the southern end of the island, where fields have been cleared. There has been a lighthouse there since about 1870. The north end of the island contains a large salt water pond and several small fresh water ones. Bon Portage has long been known for its large petrel colony which is still very active. It is also well accustomed to harbouring birds which fall into the accidental or rare categories on mainland Nova Scotia. Some of the birds there on June 22, 1990, included Gadwalls, Pintails, Black and Eider Ducks, a Scarlet Tanager, Snowy Egrets which were probably nesting, Osprey, and lots of Herring and Black-backed Gulls.

Even though I live in the area, I had never set foot on Bon Portage before. I have since acquired some history of the island which I will share with you.

In **We Keep A Light**, a book on the life of the lightkeeper and his family on Bon Portage Island, Evelyn Richardson wrote of the local tradition that Champlain had mentioned this island as the "ile aux Cormorants", in his 1604 writings of his trip along the shores of Acadia. Later, as she mentions in her 1965 book **Living Island**, that "Champlain gave the distance from Cape Sable to "ile aux Cormorants" as one league, which fits not Bon Portage but Green Island, lying between it and Cape Sable". I have been to Green Island, and although it no longer supports a cormorant colony, I have observed the telltale signs of a long extinct colony--low mounds in the typical cormorant colony pattern which I have seen on several other islands, notably on the north end of Mud Island and on Gull Island in Lobster Bay. The age of that Green Island colony could be two or three centuries old--a feeling only--I have no qualifications to substantiate this.

The earliest map I have so far located which shows Bon Portage is one of 1751 of the south-west point of Acadia, by M. de Chabert. It mentions the name of the island as "il du Bon Potage ("Potage"--French for soup), and Green Island as "ile aux Cannes (Cannes"--French for female ducks). I would assume from this that the noun "Potage" inherited an "R" when later maps of the area were drawn or revised. Now, on the newer charts the island is often listed as "Outer Island".

Our fifteen minute boat trip to the island started at about noon at the Prospect Point Wharf, Shag Harbour. The weather was clear and comfortable; the air and sea were calm. The Cape Island lobster boat, "Little Jordan" made two fifteen minute trips from wharf to island to take the forty or so invited guests. Being that there is no wharf on Bon Portage, the "Little Jordan" had to tie to a mooring, about fifty metres from a landing slip. The passengers were then taxied, six to eight at a time, to the slip in a large fibreglass Irish mossaing skiff, powered by an outboard motor. From this slip we had a one kilometer walk, to the lightkeeper's houses and to the festivities.

On arrival at the houses we were immediately directed to the larger of the two for a feast of cold cuts, salads, and sandwiches of all kinds; all the cooking and preparation had been done on the island by Acadia University personnel.

After the meal, there was a short break and some of us ventured to other parts of Bon Portage to see what we could see, and then everyone gathered at the second house for the unveiling ceremony, chaired by Acadia University Department of Biology, professor Merritt Gibson who gave a detailed account of Evelyn and Morrill Richardson's island and the hospitality of the people of the area and the role of Acadia University in the scenario. This was followed by words from two other Acadia University professors and then by reminiscences of the past by the Richardson daughters, Betty June and Anne, and their appreciation and approval that with the new field stations, Acadia University is using the island as their parents had intended.



Unveiled: Photograph and plaque in one of the renovated Lightkeeper's houses
Photo: Ted D'Eon

A framed photograph of Morrill and one of Evelyn Richardson with the inscription "ACADIA UNIVERSITY" -- Evelyn and Morrill Richardson Field Station in Biology --Dedicated June 22, 1990", on a plaque below, was then unveiled. After this the group returned to the first house for dessert, of which there was a fine assortment, most notably a large cake in the shape of the island of Bon Portage.

The time had come for us to leave; it was about 4:30 p.m. The afternoon had passed too quickly. Our boat trip back to the mainland was shrouded in fog. The sea was still calm.



The two daughters of Evelyn and Morrill Richardson--on the left of the sign, Betty June, and on the right, Anne.
Photo--Ted D'Eon

FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Please Note: Jim Taylor had arranged for some "pelagic" field trips but we have had to omit them until we clear this type of trip with our solicitors.

The executive has been advised that our society may be held legally liable in the event of an accident involving the boat and our carriers are not adequately insured.

If and when the executive is satisfied that our society is protected in law, we will gladly include pelagic trips.

Bob Dickie
(President)

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 over subscribed and you can be contacted in case of cancellation. All trips have names and phone numbers listed for your convenience.



Fri.
Apr. 26 Owl Prowl (Cape Breton) Leader
Alan Murrant (737-2684) Meet
at Louisbourg Hwy and Morrison
Road at 6:00 p.m
Alternate-Sat. April 27.

Sun.
Apr. 28 Wolfville Area - Leader: Jim
Wolford (542-7650) Pond hop-
ping for ducks & migrants. Meet
at 10 a.m. at Robie Tufts
Nature Centre on Front Street,
Wolfville. All day, bring a
lunch. Joint trip with the
Blomidon Naturalist Society

Sat.
May 4 Cape Sable Island-The Hawk.
Leader: Joan Czapalay (742-8753)
Meet at 7:30 a.m. Causeway
Plaza. North end of causeway
Bring a lunch

Sun.
May 5 Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary Leader: Alan Smith (H) 506-536-0164
(W) 506-536-3025. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the APBS Parking Lot. Take exit
3 from TCH at the Wandlyn Inn and proceed a few km toward Nappan, the
entrance is on the left side. Bring a lunch and wear appropriate foot-
wear for wet conditions. Enjoy a day of observing water fowl, shore-
birds and early migrants.

Sun.
May 12 Eastern Shore. Leader: Peter MacLeod (454-2006) Meet at 7:30 a.m. at
the golf course gate at Hartlen's Point. Bring a lunch.

Sun.
May 19 Hopewell Area (Pictou County) Leader: Harry Brennan (923-2780). Meet
at 8:00 a.m. at Saint Columbo's Churchyard, about 1 mile south of
Hopewell. 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 Prospect Road at 6:00 a.m., two to
two and one half hours duration.

Sat.
May 25 Warbler Walk (Cape Breton) Leader: Jackie Cretien (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 Mt. Uniacke at 8:00 a.m. Observe abundant birdlife in a
variety of habitats. This trip extends well into the afternoon-bring
a lunch.

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. Yarmouth and Carleton Area Warbler Walk Leader: Hubert Hall (742-4467)
 May 26 Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Carleton School (HWY 340) Bring a lunch and fly dope.
- Wed. Kearney Lake Early Morning Warbler Walk Leader: David Currie (876-8745)
 May 29 Meet at the Hammond's Plains and Kearney Lake Road intersection at 6:00 a.m. Duration 2-3 hours. Scarlet Tanager a possibility.
- Sat. Ross Farm and Tancook Island Leader: Ian Ross (679-6542) Meet at the
 June 1 Ross Farm 8:30 a.m., for birding and visiting the farm, thence to Chester for the 1 p.m. ferry to Tancook Island--back at 6:00 p.m.--if the weather is bad the Tancook Island part will be cancelled. Come for either half or all the day.
- Sun. Kings County Breeding and Woodland Birds Leader: Richard Stern(678-1975)
 June 9 Meet at Cornwallis Inn parking lot, Kentville at 8:30 a.m. Bring a lunch Beginners especially welcome.
- Sat. Eddy Marsh, Chignecto & Cumberland Co. Leader: Fulton Lavender(477-8984)
 June 15 Meet at 8:00 a.m., Fort Lawrence Road, Exit 1 HWY 104 TCH (right side as you head to New Brunswick). Marsh Wren, Black Tern, Purple Martin--a great opportunity to see some new country and birds seldom seen by beginners.
- Sat. Marconi Trail (Cape Breton) Leader: Cathy Murrant (737-2684) Meet at the
 June 22 Heavy Water Plant, Glace Bay at 8:00 a.m.
- Sun. Walton to Stanley Airport, Hants County Contact Karen Casselman
 July 7 (633-2837) co-leader TBA. Meet at Church's Esso Station corner of Route 236 and 215 approximately 1/2 mile north of Brooklyn which is on Route 14 from Exit 5 of the 101 HWY at 8:00 a.m. (gas station is next to Hants West Rural High School) Breeding birds, owls, Spruce Grouse, woodpeckers and rails possible.
- Sat. North River (Cape Breton) Leader: Nancy More (828-2534) Meet at Sydney
 July 27 River Shopping Centre at 8:00 a.m.
- Sun. Wallace Bay Area Leader: James Taylor (434-8516) A variety of habitats
 July 28 including shoreline, woodland, riverside and marsh will be explored. Nesting eagles at lunchtime. Meet at Wallace Wharf at 8:30 a.m. Bring a lunch. No registration necessary for this trip.
- Sun. Economy Area Leader: Francis Spalding (1-647-2837) Meet at the general
 Aug. 4 store at 9:00 a.m. Returning shorebirds and birds of the area. Great scenery and lots of back roads.
- Wed. Crescent and Cherry Hill Beaches Leaders: John & Shirley Cohrs
 Aug. 21 Hfx. (477-6036) Green Bay (688-2131). Meet at entrance to Crescent Beach at 9:15 a.m. Be prepared for a short walk at Crescent Beach in the morning and a more rugged one at Cherry Hill in the p.m. Shorebirds.
- Sat. Fullers Bridge (Cape Breton) Leader: Andrew Gingell (564-8298) Meet at
 Aug. 17 Marion Bridge at 8:00 a.m.

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.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

July 21 - Wallace Area

Report of Wallace area Field Trip, July 21, 1990, led by Jim Taylor and Tony Bidwell.

The weather was fine and the group of 18 bird watchers were enthusiastic. We met at Wallace wharf and set off at 9 am to Fox Harbour and MacKenzie Point to look at the shore birds. Unfortunately the tide was very high and the feeding grounds were covered. However, we did see a number of plovers, sandpipers, both yellowlegs, dowitchers and the more common gulls and terns. A well-identified Artic Tern visited us while we were watching some elusive sandpipers that were nearly invisible on the stoney shore. We then went over to the Bito area of Wallace Bay and walked along the Ducks Unlimited dyke into the marshes. As usual, we called out a Sora that got so agitated that it almost walked up among us. We were also pleased to see a Virginia Rail, and the resident Bittern put on its usual display. We then went to a farming/woodland area up the Wallace River and were able to see some of the expected small birds and raptors, including all the available thrushes. We were especially pleased to spot an elusive Winter Wren, and saw (and heard) Swamp Sparrow - naturally, in a swamp. Our list of woodpeckers was down to only one, a Northern Flicker, and the warblers were not very cooperative - we only counted seven species, far below the usual number for this region. But this disappointment was largely offset by our spotting a Northern Parula, not often seen here. Finally, at lunchtime, we all had a good look through the big telescope at the Rivendell Eagles, alive and well and with twins in the nest. Though we missed a lot of common birds that we all know are here and we should have seen, nevertheless our total count for the day was 78 species - not bad for a morning's outing!

R.G.S. Bidwell

September 30 - Wolfville

Wolfville area's shorebirds and challenging ducks.

The first stop for the 35-40 participants in 17 cars was our Robie Tufts Nature Centre (Front Street ex-dairy chimney, plus pavilion with panels, plus landscaped grounds).

Then we drove to Grand Pré to search the dykelands for shorebirds, none of which were found. But many people had good looks at lots of ravens in one grassy field. Also at least 4 Harrier, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, and a Kestrel were seen on stops to scan the fields.

On and near Boot Island were 10 Great Blue Herons in a group, 6 Double-crested Cormorants, 40+ molting male Common Eiders, a single White-winged Scoter, and 2 adult Bald Eagles.

Shorebirds on the east end of Evangeline Beach were very disappointing in number and diversity; those spotted were 25 Golden Plovers, 10 Semi-Plovers, 1 Dunlin, no Black-bellied Plovers!, 8 Sanderlings and about 20 "peeps". A very small and fast Merlín chasing the peeps was seen by only a few of us. Also a few Palm and Myrtle Warblers were seen.

After lunch we stopped at Grand Pré Historic Park to use the rest-room, and free apples were a nice bonus. Then popular requests demanded a stop for ice-cream cones at the farm market east of Wolfville.

Two more Harriers were in the Canard valley on our way to Harris' Pond in Canning. There we found lots of the predictable brown, challenging ducks, most of them Black Ducks and Green-winged Teal, with 8 Mallards and 6 Blue-winged Teal. Also seen were a Great Blue Heron, 10 Ring-billed Gulls, 3 Greater Yellowlegs, 2 Snipe, 3 Pectoral Sandpipers, 2 Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbirds, Song and Swamp Sparrows.

At the west end of the pond, the farm-yard held big flocks of pigeons and starlings, and among the latter were good numbers of cowbirds.

Canard Poultry Pond held mostly gulls and very few ducks, mostly Green-winged Teal plus a Pintail.

Our final stop was the relatively new Ducks Unlimited pond along the Cornwallis River at New Minas (new bridge). The few car-loads still with us saw a Bittern and 9 Pintails (perhaps a local brood??).

Generally we had a pleasant day, with good viewing conditions, but very low numbers of shorebirds-just unlucky timing?

Jim Wolford

January 20--Riverside Eagles

Twenty-five people met for the field trip. Weather is usually a problem in January but this year weather was great. Eagles co-operated at the Herman Berfelo farm. About 20 eagles were in trees or on the bait with some impressive flying. We then walked down to the edge of the Shubenacadie River where we saw another 30 eagles sitting in trees or on huge blocks of ice in the river at low tide. Eagles often watch for crushed tomcod amongst the ice. Common Mergansers were also fishing the river.

Some of the group stayed on for a drive over the Gosse Bridge and a walk to an eagle's nest.

Species observed included Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Goshawk, Herring, Black-backed and Iceland Gulls, N. Shrike, Tree and Song Sparrow, Common Merganser, Blue Jay, Snow Bunting, and more usual Crow, Raven, Rock Dove and Starling.

Ross Hall

January 13 - Sewer Stroll I

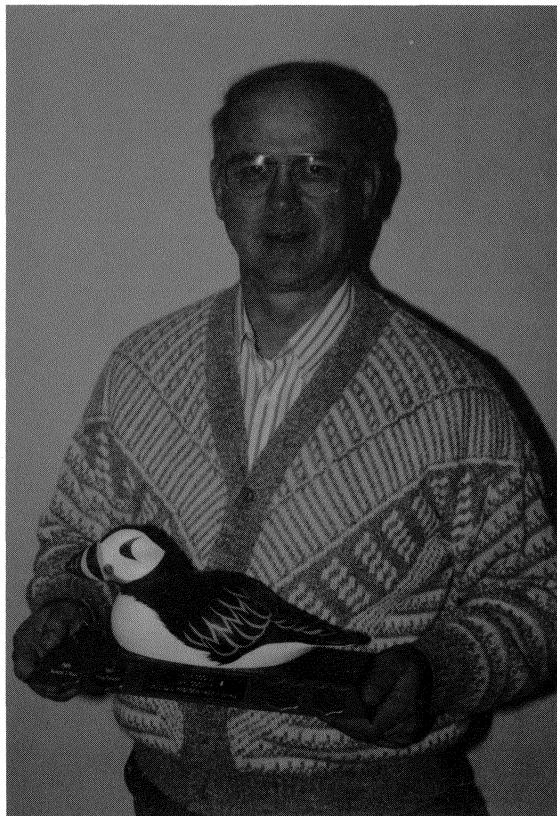
January 13 turned out sunny but the 25 cm of snow the night before kept people away and only seven were at Hartlen's Point at 8:30 a.m. It was obvious that this was going to be a great day because even as we got out of the cars a Kestrel was spotted on the top of the highway power poles. Down on the rocky beach area were 8 Purple Sandpipers and then a Glaucous Gull--both more often found across the harbour at Chebucto Head. A walk around the coast ended with 2 Northern Harriers, 2 Rough-legged Hawks and a Short-eared Owl being among some of the best sightings, with a Lesser Black-backed Gull flying by, not to be sneezed at.

A change in plans and a fast trip over to Sandy Cove got us some Alcid species, Bohemian Waxwings and behind Portugese Cove we got some Pine Grosbeaks, Robins and travelling with them was a lonely Cedar Waxwing.

Bedford got the "Sewer Strolls" their first Canvasback and we also found a Hooded Merganser there. A trip back to Mill Cove produced our Barrow's Goldeneye. On Magazine Hill at the bottom were three nice doe deer inside the DND fence and in the cove outside the fence were 3 Common Merganser. Sullivan's Pond had its usual yield of ducks and gulls (eight species of gulls were seen on the stroll) It was getting close to dark and we were down to Ken McKenna, Fulton and me when we headed to Dartmouth Cove. Fulton sent us upriver to look for a Green-winged Teal while he studied some Scaup. We drew a blank but when we returned to Fulton he felt that one of the Scaup looked different. Scoping the smaller female left us feeling we were looking at Nova Scotia's first Tufted Duck. Confirmation came the next day--another first for the strolls.

These sewer walks continue to be like the famous Credit Card--don't let a year go by without going on one. Sixty-one species were seen in total--a nice effort.

Jim Taylor
for Fulton Lavender



Fred Greene of the Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia with the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund Trophy for 1990

SIX DAYS WITH THE A.B.A.

Richard Stern

The American Birding Association (A.B.A.) is a continent-wide organization that caters to birders in many ways, including the publication of their magazine **Birding** (which, after some shaky years, has now become better and better), an excellent mailorder and personal sales outlet for books, birding optics, etc., and the organization of a biennial convention for birders. In 1990 the convention was a six day affair held in Fort Collins, Colorado in late June, and I was lucky enough to be able to go.

Fort Collins is a small city north of Denver, in the foothills of the Rockies, with the Great Plains immediately to the east. The convention was held in a very pleasant hotel, reached by air to Denver and then shuttle bus. There were some 800 registrants, from all over North America, and the majority, like myself, were there as part of their vacation, at their own expense, to enjoy seeing new birds, meet other birders and learn more.

As part of the preregistration package we had the choice of different field trips and workshops on certain days, so everyone's experience was a little different. Four other Nova Scotian birders also went, so we largely teamed up, but this account is purely from my personal experience.

On the first morning I attended a workshop on shorebird identification given by Jon Dunn, tour leader and principal editor of one of the well known field guides. He described how to distinguish between juvenile and adult breeding and winter plumages, and how important it is to look at individual feather groupings in a consistent order, to thoroughly grasp the basics of shorebird identification. He then dealt with difficult individual problems, e.g., Short- vs. Long-billed Dowitchers, Western vs. Semipalmated Sandpipers, etc. In the afternoon Kenn Kaufman (author of **A Field Guide to Advanced Birding**, etc.) gave a similarly structured workshop on sparrow identification. The standard of both speakers was excellent, with much audience participation and many excellent slides. Many of the audience's comments and questions allayed some of my fears that all the other participants would be far more expert birders than I, and it soon became obvious that there were all standards of birders there, from beginners to experts.

For the entire convention there was an area within the hotel where tour operators, binocular manufacturers, software salesmen and book publishers had their stands. There was also an excellent art exhibition, and this area was constantly full of people milling around and sampling all the wares, so it became a very sociable centrepiece of the convention. In another area was a hospitality suite, where the lists of field trip participants was posted, and there were three quizzes (on visual identification, vocal identification and birding sites) that one could try in one's own time. Everybody wore a name badge with the home town or state or province for easy identification, and there was a great deal of interest expressed in Nova Scotia as a birding location by many people.

The A.B.A. moved their bookstore to the convention hotel, so that for the whole six days this room was available to browse around. In addition to the best collection of birding books for sale that I have ever seen, one could buy the full range of binoculars, telescopes, tripods, etc.

Every evening there was a three course dinner, at tables for ten, in a large dining area, for the whole convention. Each evening at dinner there would be a list taken of the birds seen that day, with the rather expectant and exciting atmosphere that often prevails at Christmas Bird Counts. There was then an after dinner talk, which on the first night was on "Birding Planet Earth" by Arnold Small.

Next day there was a field trip to the Rocky Mountain National Park. We were taken in buses through a spectacular gorge, where American Dipper could be seen on rocks in the river, to the summit of the park, at over 10,000 feet, and then walked

downhill to a valley that was nine miles away, birding on the way and marveling at the spectacular mountain scenery. The "target birds" such as White-tailed Ptarmigan and Rosy Finch were easily seen, as well as Prairie Falcon, Mountain Bluebird, Pine Grosbeak and "Audubon's" Warbler near the top, and such birds as Cordilleran Flycatcher, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, House Wren and Warbling Vireo nearer the bottom. Clark's Nutcracker and Gray Jays were very tame and were fed with picnic scraps at lunchtime. We also had a chance to observe the courtship flight of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds. In some ways just as interesting was the chance to spend the day in the field with some of North America's best known birders and birding authors. That evening the after dinner talk was on taxonomy by Frank Gill, who explained in a very interesting and entertaining manner why some species of birds are being "lumped" and some "split", and how the scientists' concept of what constitutes a species keeps changing.

Most of the following day was devoted to the annual business meeting of the A.B.A. and two brief talks. At lunchtime the other Nova Scotians and I did a "private" field trip to a local park, where in an hour we saw Dusky Flycatcher, Virginia's Warbler, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, etc. That afternoon we formed a long lineup in a marquee in the hotel grounds for a book-signing by no less than Roger Tory Peterson. Many people were armed with whole collections of his books, and he and his wife Virginia were very patient and friendly in making sure that no book went unsigned and everyone was able to meet and chat with them. That evening after another excellent dinner, he gave the talk on "Birding in America".

Inside, another book-signing was taking place, with authors such as Don Robertson, Aileen Lotz, Kenn Kaufman, Chuck Berstein, etc., all present to sign their books, answer questions and generally socialize. The local raptor rehabilitation organization also brought in Red-tailed and Ferruginous Hawks for close inspection.

Next day I was up again at 4:00 a.m. for the next field trip, this time out onto the Pawnee National Grasslands. Again a fleet of buses took us out and several stops were made to walk out onto the grasslands. This was my first ever trip to a prairie and I found the vast skyscape and the occasional tree, the isolated ghost towns and the whole atmosphere fascinating. The "target birds" were again quickly found, and we had excellent looks at breeding McKown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs and Lark Buntings in full song flight, as well as Western Meadowlarks, Say's Phoebes and Western Kingbirds. Several Swainson's and two Ferruginous Hawks were seen perched and in flight. The hoped for Mountain Plover was eventually located. Lunch took place in a picnic park in a small prairie town, with the only tree cover for miles, and consequently plenty of birds, such as Common Nighthawks perched on limbs of trees, House Wrens nesting, Eastern Kingbird, etc. Later, we went to the Pawnee Buttes, sandstone formations looking like the set for an episode of The Lone Ranger, where there was a Prairie Falcon's nest, a Rock Wren, and White-throated Swifts. Nearby we observed a Burrowing Owl colony in a Prairie Dog town. After another fine dinner back at the hotel, the evening's talk was by Ben King on "Birding in Asia".

The next day was another one of workshops. In the morning I went to hear Guy McCaskie, well known California birder, talk about identification of Fall Warblers. Again, his talk was well presented and most informative. By the afternoon however, I was suffering from a surfeit of information and early mornings, so I just slept!

That evening the after dinner talk was by David de Sante on "Vagrants and Vagrancy" and was an account of vagrant birds seen over a number of years on S.E. Farallon Island, California, and an attempt to explain why vagrancy takes place, both there and in other areas (including Nova Scotia).

The next day we were scheduled to visit some local sewage ponds, but the plans changed when it was announced that a Boreal Owl had been discovered using a nest box, and with care it should be "viewable". Thus, next morning, some 200 people disembarked from buses after a two hour ride, and assembled in a group at the edge of a spruce forest in the mountains. Will Russell, the field trip coordinator, instructed everyone to walk in total silence into a clearing, and still maintaining silence, watch the nest box.

The tree trunk would be scratched once only, and if the bird looked out, well and good. If not, tough luck! On no account was there to be any noise, or any further attempt to disturb the bird. When the large silent crowd was assembled, the tree was duly scratched and the Boreal Owl stuck out its head for one minute, looked at the crowd and then retreated back in. The "audience" behaved perfectly, and one could have heard a pin drop. The atmosphere and the sense of quiet ecstasy was like a religious experience! Afterwards the crowd silently filed out and only when back at the buses and well out of earshot, finally cheered and clapped. I have learned that the Owl subsequently went on to successfully rear two chicks.

That experience brought to an end the official convention, but I still had the rest of the day as my return flight was not till the next morning. I therefore rented a car for the afternoon, teamed up with a very pleasant birder from New Mexico that I had met at the convention, and explored some of the local area. We were able to find Western and Clark's Grebes (together for comparison), Cinnamon Teal, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Franklin's and California Gulls, American Avocets, etc., without any problem. We later went back to the end of the "nine mile hike" and found nesting Red-naped and Williamson's Sapsuckers. The only disappointment was not finding the "virtually certain" Lewis's Woodpecker.

My own total bird list for the trip was 98 species, with fourteen new ones. More importantly, I had a thoroughly enjoyable week, with the right mix of birding, socializing, learning more about birds and birding, eating well and meeting new friends. The choice of location was a good one, with a mix of habitat (high mountains, boreal-type and deciduous forest, small lakes, and both short and tall-grass prairie) and a good mix of western and eastern birds. The convention was well organized, and congratulations must go to the A.B.A. officers and the field trip coordinators. If there are any reasonably serious or dedicated birders who do not yet belong to the A.B.A., I would recommend joining, and I hope I will be able to make the next convention in Mobile, Alabama in 1992. Maybe one year we can host one here in the Maritimes?

BIRD NAMES CONTEST

Winner of the challenge to find five North American Nesters with a longer name than Yellow-crowned Night Heron was PAUL DUVAL, whose reply was received first (in fact, a week before any others). Several other readers also came up with five or more species. Paul wins a year's membership in the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

Among them all the entries came up with quite a list:

American Swallow-tailed Kite
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Violet-crowned Hummingbird
Greater White-fronted Goose
Black-bellied Whistling Duck
American Black Oystercatcher

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher
Northern Beardless Tyrannulet
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Black-throated Green Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler

THREE GEESE, TWO DUCKS, TWO HAWKS, AND TWO OTHERS

The April issue of **Nova Scotia Birds** is the traditional annual outlet for "portrait-class" photos. This year's prints all come from colour slides of medium-to-large species, easier for reasonably sharp pictures at a distance.

This was a waterfowl winter. We begin with a spread of relaxed CANADA GEESE. These are common enough, surely, but seldom as approachable as was this group loafing in the shallows at the head of Lake Milo, Yarmouth on Feb. 24. Waterfowl are fed there by the citizenry, and it is possible that these birds are feral. However, they were certainly free-flying and grumbled a bit when I moved closer.

Much more exciting were the BARNACLE GEESE that spent the period from mid-Sept. to Jan. 8 on Cape Sable Island, but which were only "discovered" by local Christmas Counters, who spread the word. The provenance of these birds is discussed on earlier pages by Peter Payzant. Naturally, I would like to think they were genuine vagrants from Greenland. During a hurried trip on Dec. 30, I obtained several photos of these birds on the ground and in flight, some of which are better portraits. However, this one seems best in depicting the whole family, the probable male standing alert and the female and four young in various relaxed poses in Randall Ross' backyard waterfowl haven.

Eric Mills and I thought that this SNOW GOOSE at the head of Yarmouth Harbour on Feb. 24, was a "lesser" Snow Goose; it seemed not much bulkier than a large Mallard. Rough measurements from slides of its bill length relative to those of nearby Black Ducks and Mallards also seem to suggest this subspecies. If true, it was well off its normal migratory track. However, we might wonder if this bird was one of the number released from a captive waterfowl flock on Grand Manan in autumn 1989--arguably the source of the Barnacle Geese as well.

No controversy attends the two duck species shown overleaf. The male CANVASBACK caused a sensation when it appeared at the head of Bedford Basin on Dec. 31. I was among those who rushed out to see it (what are holidays for?), and obtained this photo. As pointed out in the seasonal report, this was one of a veritable invasion of these handsome birds.

This female TUFTED DUCK, first found on Dartmouth Cove by Fulton Lavender on Jan. 13, was photographed there a few days later. After several tries at the cove and at Sullivan's Pond, this slightly soft photo was the best I obtained, but it serves to illustrate the rather tricky identification problems. (The Yarmouth and North Sydney birds were much more well-tufted.) In spite of warnings of possible confusion in some field guides, the bird is not at all like a female Ring-necked Duck, which is a pochard, for the Tufted Duck is a kind of scaup and most like a Greater Scaup. The tuft is barely visible, and even this tiny protrusion had all but disappeared by March. The small white patch at the base of the bill is perhaps similar to that of an occasional first-winter female scaup. The following field marks are useful: the dark back, with no hint of the grayish markings found on dark-backed scaups; the rather narrow bill, less spatulate than a scaup's; the oddly skinny neck and relatively small head compared to a scaup's; and, in this individual, the whitish undertail area and lack of contrast between breast and sides both of which are occasional in young Tufted Ducks, rare in scaups. It was a prize, the moreso because it was obscure.



CANADA GEESE

IAN McLAREN



BARNACLE GEESE

IAN McLAREN



SNOW GOOSE

IAN McLAREN



CANVASBACK

IAN McLAREN



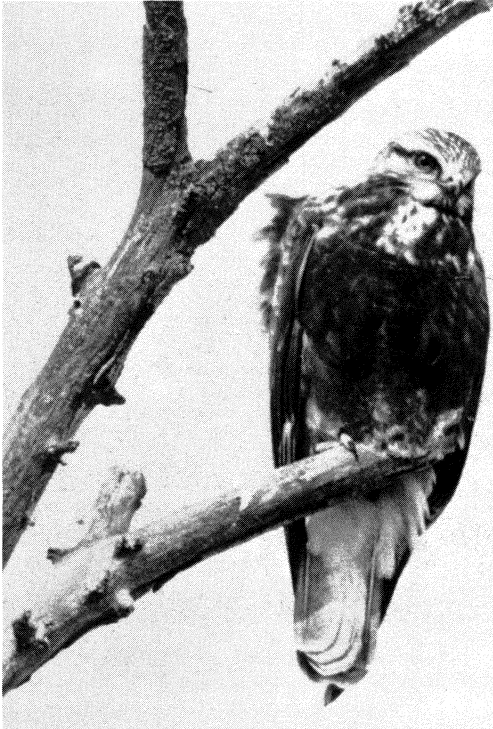
TUFTED DUCK

IAN McLAREN



PEREGRINE FALCON

IAN McLAREN



ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

RICHARD STERN



MOURNING DOVES

RICHARD STERN



COMMON NIGHTHAWK

CLIVE MacDONALD

The PEREGRINE FALCON, photographed on Seal Island on Oct. 7, was a large, first-year female of the continental subspecies *anatum*. I like to think that it was my skillful stalk that led to this closeup of the bird in a rather arrogant pose. However, she is clearly sizing me up and may simply have been a little stupid. Perhaps she was one of those "hacked" in the Maritimes as part of the restoration program of this fine species. Then again, I didn't see any bands on either leg as she lifted into the air and swept out of sight around along the shore. No matter--my heart was pounding throughout.

Richard Stern's ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, photographed in January, probably didn't greatly excite him, as they are routine in the Grand Pré area. However, his photo does capture the dignity of this fine buteo. It is an immature bird, judging from its lack of tail band, and is basically light-phased, although the extensive dark feathering on the upper breast suggests that it is somewhat intermediate in plumage between light and dark phase.

Dr. Stern also captured a backyard scene familiar to those lucky people who help MOURNING DOVES through tough times in winter. They seem to be rather choosy; at least they never favour my feeder. It is hard to believe that they are game birds in parts of North America. The thought of sustaining doves through winter for someone's table fare next autumn seems rather appalling. However, they are hardy birds withal, and increasingly abundant in Nova Scotia at all seasons.

Last June, Clive MacDonald was able to approach a sleepy COMMON NIGHTHAWK for a stunning portrait. Is that eye really closed? Or is the bird watching the photographer, through narrow slits, hoping that its cryptic coloration will render it invisible?

A final plea. Too often I have to fill out these pages with my own efforts. I know there are keen bird photographers out there, but we receive too few photos from them. These must be well-exposed and sharp. Colour negatives and high speed colour slides are normally too grainy to permit much enlargement; the best media are black-and-white film or slower slide film (AS200 or less). Beautiful portraits can be made with very slow (25, 64) slide film, but you need large aperture lenses to permit sufficiently fast shutter speeds. I hope you can oblige for April 1992!

Ian McLaren
Photographic Editor.

BOOK REVIEW

Title: **A Birdwatcher's Cookbook**

Author: Erma J. Fisk

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company. New York. London. 1987
 also: Penguin Books Canada, Ltd., 2801 John St., Markham,
 Ontario L3R 1B4

Pages: 264 plus index

Price: None available. Hardcover

A Birdwatcher's Cookbook is surely intended for the cook who is feeding birders or for use by those birders who have not been tramping all day through the countryside, not for those who keep one eye for the activity outside their kitchen windows and binoculars in the middle of the counter. It is intended for someone who likes to cook and has the time to do so.

There are probably as many reasons for buying cookbooks as there are for watching birds: producing edible meals for the family, developing a healthier diet, acquiring exotic recipes from other cultures or simply to sit and browse through at leisure as an ordinary book. This one is meant to be read.

Anecdotal, unconventional, humorous (sometimes a bit precious) and very personal, it introduces the author's philosophy and gives us a peek at her pantry shelves. It begins with breakfast and lunches, followed by conventional divisions into soups, meats, fish, bread, salads and desserts, etc., interspersed with sections on vegetarian meals, the Christmas Count, cranberries, condiments, drinks and snacks.

The style is conversational. The ingredients are integrated with directions. People and places, experiences and reminiscences, hints and suggestions all flow together. Mrs. Fisk is an imaginative cook, willing to adapt her recipes to the contents of her cupboard and the number of guests. Inexperienced cooks may find some directions too casual (not everyone can decide whether one egg or two is better) and cholesterol counters should beware. Her food is rich and varied, anything from roasted Armadillo to Zucchini-sausage Fritata: lots of lentils, grains, cheeses and fresh season produce. The titles are intriguing: how about Winged Rabbit, Boathouse Special Chili, Grandmother's Toss-on Pancakes, Quiche Potpourri and Mom's Birdwatcher's Casserole. There is even a chapter on feeding birds.

There is an excellent (and very necessary) index. All the royalties from this book have been pledged to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Joyce A. Purchase

SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

Youth Field Trip, September, 1990

Crescent Beach, Lunenburg County.



Eric Cooke and Milton Gregg brief students at the beginning of the trip.
Photo--Ruth Ballem.



Leaders were Milton Gregg, Bill Caudle, Shirley Cohrs, John Cohrs, Eric Cooke.
Photo-- Ruth Ballem.

BETTER BIRDS AND GARDENS

Days are growing longer and now is the time to start thinking about turning your garden into a haven for birds. You can receive a free copy of an article from **Living Bird** magazine that tells you how to get started. **Living Bird** is the quarterly publication of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, a membership organization for the study, appreciation, and conservation of birds, located on a 200 acre wildlife sanctuary in Ithaca, New York.

The Lab recently remodeled its bird feeding area to create a state-of-the-art garden that exemplifies techniques you can use to attract birds to your own property.

Using a design by Cornell landscape architect Marvin Adelman, funds from generous private and corporate sponsors, bulldozers, and a lot of thought and sweat, Lab staff transformed a glorified mudpuddle behind the Observatory into a veritable avian mecca.

First they replaced the straight-edge shore of the pond with a more attractive and accessible curving line. Then they planted trees, vines, shrubs, and groundcover to attract and feed birds year round: conifers, Juneberry, bush honeysuckle, winterberry, trumpetvine. Finally, they added new, squirrel-resistant feeders, a birdbath, and a waterfall.

The area now contains all the elements of an ideal bird attracting garden. It provides a range of elevations for perching and nesting. It produces a variety of seeds, grains, and fruit, and food is present every month of the year. Edges between different types of plants and between water and land are extensive and the curved edge attracts birds and gives the best viewing for observers. Already they have noticed an increase in the number and variety of birds visiting the garden—a goose-ravaged wasteland has become a treat for Lab staff and visitors. In fact, at least one pair of American Robins took advantage of the renovations before they were even completed: it built a nest in an unplanted conifer.

Your budget may not permit you to hire a bulldozer, but for a self-addressed, stamped envelope you can learn more about landscaping for birds, including suggestions of plants, birds they will attract, and sources for detailed plant lists and gardening ideas. Write to:

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
EIS Dept. N1
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

(This article is credited to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology)



IN SEARCH OF THE AVESPECTATOR

It would seem that Bird-watcher-watching is not only a Canadian sport, but is international. A member from England fills us in on some of the British species.

—Editor

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Reading John Cohrs' notes on 'Birdwatchers I have known' (July 1990 issue) and a previous article in a similar vein, 'Who shall watch the watchers' (April 1989 issue) caused me to reflect on the British 'Avespectator' scene.

It seems that there are indeed similar species or sub-species on both sides of the Atlantic.

In the British Isles we are very fortunate to have a large number of nature reserves owned and managed by either the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (R.S.P.B) or by the various county naturalist trusts. Such reserves provide the ardent observer of the avespectator with many excellent opportunities to study the various species at close quarters.

On arrival at such reserves a quick survey of the carpark will immediately give clues as to the possible sightings. If a coach is present then without a doubt the 'FLOCKING AVESPECTATOR' will be present. If more than one coach is present plus mini-buses this may be described as something of a birding disaster. The FLOCKING AVESPECTATOR will be present in large numbers, and not only visible but also definitely audible.

A selection of sporty saloons or battered Fords could mean that a birding rarity is around as these vehicles are favoured by the 'HIGH SPEED TWITCHER' I personally have yet to see a helicopter but these are certainly used by a fanatical sub-species of the group. However an observer must be quick to make a sighting due to the speed at which the species travel.

Range Rovers, 4x4's BMWs and Mercedes tend to indicate that the OCCASIONAL OR ELEGANT AVESPECTATOR is present. There are often problems in separating the species. I suspect that these really are not separate at all, one merely being the sub species of the other. Only by noting the clothing worn and by listening to the calls between members of the party is it possible to make an accurate sighting.

The last of my species a rather delightful, though somewhat noisy species is that of the 'FAMILY FLOCK'. The family saloon or estate wagon being the usual mode of travel. Sometimes identifiable by a copy of "My first bird book" visible on a rear seat, plus various travel pocket games to reduce boredom of travel of the fledgelings of the party. This group may be confused with members of the previous group but is usually better equipped.

Armed with these indicators the tracking down of the various species can be now be pursued with vigour.

The FLOCKING AVESPECTATOR and the FAMILY FLOCKS are usually spotted with ease. The Flocking Avespectator is usually attired in anorak or short length coat, tweed skirts or corduroy trousers, stout shoes or walking boots. All will carry binoculars, occasionally scopes. They will be gathered in groups or spotted walking single file. The FAMILY FLOCKS are immediately identified by accompanying fledgeling members.

The fledglings will usually be wearing bright red or yellow rubber boots, woollen bobble hats and anoraks. The luckier ones might have a pair of binoculars slung around their necks and reaching below the waist or in the case of shorter and less fortunate fledgeling, bouncing on their knees. This species stays close together. The alarm call, particularly of the adult female being of note for identification purposes.

Both the FLOCKING AVESPECTATOR and the FAMILY FLOCK exhibit a lot of movement, noise, excitement or agitation according to circumstances.

THE HIGH SPEED TWITCHER and the rarer sub-species 'MARAUDING TWITCHER' can be identified by age, plumage, equipment and speed of travel (or lack of it). The age range of the species tends to be on the youthful side, between 18 and 25 years. However, more mature members (in age) have been noted. Plumage is very similar for both sexes, though the female is usually tidier. Short weather proof jackets, in varying states of disrepair, jeans and boots are the norm. The more agile members may wear trainers regardless of conditions underfoot, though this may be caused by the excitement to get a 'lifer' and failing to change into boots. Equipment always includes a scope, tripod and binoculars. They usually travel in singles or in groups of up to four, the number being limited by the amount of gear, such as sleeping bags etcetera that can be carried in the vehicle. Food, I understand, is an optional extra. They will be seen either striding rapidly towards the last known sighting of a rarity or gathered in large groups, sometimes hundreds, at such a spot where a sighting has occurred. This behaviour of gathering in large groups is thought to produce sufficient collective will power to cause the rarity to expose itself for identification. The mounting of scopes onto tripods and pointing them in the same general direction of the last sighting is thought to be able to channel that willpower to achieve the required result.

The 'MARAUDING TWITCHER', a rare (fortunately) sub-species may only be identified by its behavior. At times of stress they may be observed trespassing on private land, damaging property and trying to flush a bird into showing itself. Hopefully peer group behaviour may eventually eliminate this sub-species.

In the April 1989 issue, page 36, reference was made to 'THE INDEFATIGABLE LISTER'. This may well be a similar species to the British HIGH SPEED TWITCHER. The comments on the subject of breeding I found of particular interest. My own observations on the matter may be of interest. There have been limited sightings of the female of the species in Britain. They are thought to be few in number compared to the male. I am glad to report however that such females appear to be faithfully attached to a single male. Whether this is out of necessity, hope or desperation it is hard to say. As the contributor pointed out, whether the lack of outward signs of breeding success is due to the speed of travel is anyone's guess.

These observations tend to lead to the view that perhaps they are in fact not a true species at all, merely a developmental stage leading in most cases to the 'FAMILY FLOCK'.

The last of my groupings, the OCCASIONAL or ELEGANT AVESPECTATOR can usually be spotted by their plumage which can vary from the casually smart to the immaculate. Only the colours may separate the sub-species. THE OCCASIONAL is more likely to be dressed in bright colours, such as white or yellow ski anoraks or similar, while the ELEGANT will be seen wearing blue or green waxed cotton jackets or coats. They are usually only equipped with binoculars, often shared, and rarely if ever scopes.

Living as I do in East Anglia I may have only observed the southern species of Avespectator in Britain and so there may well be northern variations which have remained unobserved. However the area in which I live is one of the best birding areas in the British Isles so I would have expected to have seen a reasonable cross section of British avespectator plus a sprinkling of European types as we

The plumage of the EUROPEAN and OLD WORLD TWITCHER mentioned in the article of the April 1989 issue I feel needs some explanation. The plumage of the various species or groups as described in my notes tends to remain the same for all seasons of British weather, otherwise one tends to get either cold or wet or both. The exception being this past summer (1990) which was long and hot when even bare legs and arms were observed. Browns, greens and blues are definitely favoured and encouraged when birding in order to blend, if that is possible, with surrounding habitat. When bright colours are seen this leads to the identification of the OCCASIONAL AVESPECTATOR in particular!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, *Nova Scotia Birds*:

I have read with interest the two articles for and against the control of gulls in order to preserve the tern colony on Sable Island. While wishing to see terns protected I also have difficulty in allowing large numbers of gulls to be destroyed. It is not the gulls fault that they have been able to adapt the multiply to the detriment of the terns.

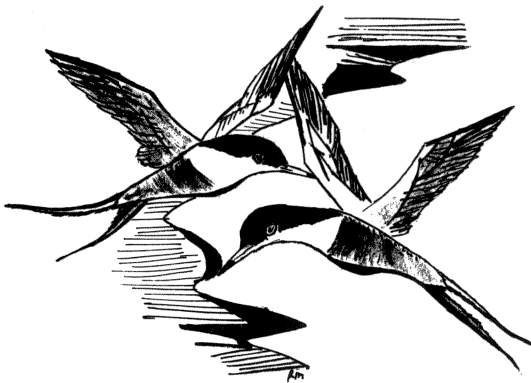
In this country gulls have also learned to scavenge on waste tips and rubbish dumps, adapting to a man-made environment. They have also multiplied, threatening terns where breeding sites are shared. Such a situation occurred on a sanctuary not far from where I live. The matter was resolved over a period of time by dealing with the problem during the breeding season. Once the gulls had laid their eggs they were pierced in order to ensure they did not hatch. This allowed the birds to remain sitting on their eggs attempting to hatch them. Had the nests and eggs been destroyed the birds would have tried again. In this way the population of the gull colony was controlled. If the gulls are not producing young there are less mouths to feed. Also, there must be a point when the gull colony is likely to go into decline. I do not imagine that this would lead to the extinction of the gulls as there would be a certain amount of replacements from other colonies. However, it should at least offer some control of the population.

I should add that the colony I am speaking of was much smaller than that on Sable Island and was easily accessible. Visiting the Island during the breeding season would, I imagine be a major task but perhaps sufficient vounteers could be found to assist in such a project.

Poisoning tends to affect species beyond those for whom it was intended. What of the suffering that must occur while the bird is dying? Surely we humans can do better than this. One would hope so.

I have to agree with Jill Mclean. The end does not justify the means.

Brian Sivyer
Suffolk England



Editor, *Nova Scotia Birds*:

I thought that members might like knows of a couple of good places to stay when they are travelling in the west or southwest.

For people travelling the Kootenay region of British Columbia, an excellent place to stay is Destiny Bay Resort. We first met the owners, Rolf and Hanni Langerfeld, when Barb and I were hitchhiking in Germany in 1971—we've written Christmas cards ever since. In October 1985, we went to visit them. We were driving from Banff to Vancouver. Banff to Kootenay Lake is a good day's drive through spectacular scenery. Destiny Bay is about fifteen miles north of Creston on the eastern side of Kootenay Lake. At Creston there is a sanctuary which, along with the lower end of Kootenay Lake, is an excellent place to see migrating water birds—we saw fifteen species including fourteen Western Grebes, Whistling Swan, White-fronted Goose and, we think, a Redhead. We also saw our first Audubon Warbler there. We tried but failed to see Wild Turkeys—the non-birders saw them, of course!

Last fall, in late November, Barb and I visited New Mexico and Arizona. A friend, who resides in Argyle, N.S. in the summertime, took us to Tucson—he thought we should see the desert. Two of his friends run a superb Bed & Breakfast called Casa Tierra—so called because of its adobe construction. Casa Tierra is in the Sonora Desert and, in fact, the desert is in the B & B—in a central courtyard. Although not yet birders, the owners Lyle and Karen Hymer-Thompson love nature so much that Lyle walked his ten acre property and sited and built (himself) the inn in a location which would result in no damage to any of the magnificent saguaro cactus (there's one just outside the front door, a magnificent couple just off the patio and even one in the courtyard). Early morning walks down the road yielded Gila Woodpeckers and Gilded Flickers (both lifers for us), Verdin, Black-throated and Brewer's Sparrows, Cactus Wrens and Ruby-crowned Kinglets! Later in the day, still in the vicinity, we saw a Cardinal, Northern Mockingbird, Curve-billed Thrashers and a Phainopepla.

Casa Tierra is two and a half miles from the Saguaro National Monument—we'd call it a National Park—which preserves the giant saguaro cactus. It is also only three and a half miles from the not-to-be-missed Arizona—Sonora Desert Museum. We spent a full day there and added Gambel's Quail, Inca Doves, Hermit Thrush, a hummingbird of indeterminate species and House Sparrows to our trip list. There is a marvellous walk-in aviary where one can see (but not check off) numerous species of Sonoran Desert birds. There's also a separate hummingbird aviary which, if I remember correctly, held fourteen species of hummingbirds. The animals, reptiles and various types of habitat along with, of course, over one hundred forty species of cactus, make the Desert Museum a superb place to see.

Incidentally, while on this trip we found the New Peterson **Western Birds** guide to be most useful. We also used two "local" birding guides: **New Mexico Bird Finding Guide**, edited by Dustin Huntington and Dale Zimmerman (available from Ross L. Tenber, Treasurer, New Mexico Ornithological Society, 1612 Kentucky N.E., Albuquerque, N.M. 87110 U.S.A.). Using this book we were able to add a Red-naped Sapsucker, Townsend's Solitaire and a Plain Titmouse to our lifelists. The other book which proved useful was Brad Jacob's **Birding on the Navajo and Hopi Reservations**, which we found at the Navajo Museum, Window Rock, Arizona (for \$7.95 US). This led us to find an American Avocet—a long sought after bird for Barb.

My only regret on this trip was not seeing the Pyrrhoxia—which Barb saw!

Eric Ruff
Yarmouth, N.S.

Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:

Two Pine Warblers arrived the first week of November. At first I was not quite sure if they were Bay-breasted or Blackpolls. But, seeing them at all angles at a close range of two feet, I had no doubt they were Pine Warblers. One was an adult, bright yellow-breasted, the other an immature—lacked the bright colours. They had the plain unstreaked back and white wing bars. When they flew the white patches on the outer tail feathers would show. They, would feed at the suet post like a Chickadee and had no trouble in holding on to the post when swinging in the wind.

Godfrey's Birds of Canada say they creep on branches and tree trunks. They were very tame, would sit in the feeder when I stood beside it. They stayed till the first week of January. The adult disappeared after a few cold days; the other one stayed till about the 10th or 12th of January when we had a very cold snap. For a few days before it disappeared, it would sit in the feeder with its feathers ruffled, looking very cold. I think the cold weather got them.

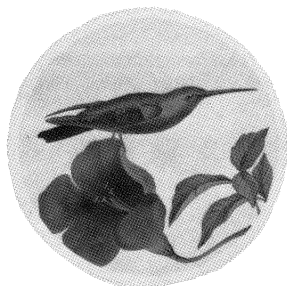
However, a Sharp-shinned Hawk made passes through here as well as a Goshawk. One day in early January there was a Bluejay in the apple tree which it was attempting to get, but the jay was too smart to leave the tree. The jay would move around in the apple tree but would not leave. While screaming blue murder, Sarah went out and put the hawk to wing. The jay, not fearing us, stayed while the hawk took off.

Perhaps another reason the Pine Warblers came here is that there is a small stand of Scotch Pine just above our place. The bird books suggest their association with pine trees.

Other birds here were Pine Siskens—a couple with the Goldfinches, good sized flocks of Goldfinches have been here all winter—sometimes as many as seventy-five to eighty. Large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks have been around—up to a hundred but mostly twenty to thirty. Three Tree Sparrows, a couple of Song Sparrows, twelve to twenty Bluejays and about ten to twenty Black-capped Chickadees have also visited. Chickadees seem to be decreasing in number. Perhaps the Sharp-shinned or cats have something to do with it. Two male Downy Woodpeckers visit every day. There were also a couple of Juncos but they don't seem to stay long. It's amusing to watch the Crows trying to get the suet out of the post. Starlings are here in large numbers, but strangely enough, we have not had a House Sparrow in two years.

Drop around and have a look at the birds here. There are birds here most of the time. If we are not at home, just drive in the yard. Take your camera, you may get some good photos.

Jim Mahon
McCloud Ave.
New Waterford, C.B.



FOR THE RECORD

The most unusual warbler this winter was this female Townsend's photographed near his home on Christmas Day by Ian McLaren



This little hitchhiker is clinging to the sleeve of a birder during a foggy trip home from Seal Island, Oct. 8, 1991. Photo Ian McLaren

The Yarmouth Tufted Duck was more conspicuously tufted, dark headed and dark breasted, and may have been an adult female. Photo-Ian McLaren, Feb. 24, 1991.





This very rainsoaked young Broad-winged Hawk was found at E. Lawrencetown during the Halifax East Christmas Count by Ian McLaren and party.



Two of the winter's Red-bellied Woodpeckers are hereby photographically documented. The female was snapped by Alan Eddy of Truro, when it visited his feeding tray on Jan. 5. The male was photographed by Cindy Spicer as it investigated a tree near the Moorehouse's feeder in New Salem, Nov. 12.

HOW MANY BIRDS NEST ON YOUR PROPERTY?

Most of us have wondered how many birds live on the site where we live, and if pressed, some of us might hazard a guess as to which species nest on our lot, and whether more than one pair of a species did so. This would be easier for a city garden than for larger rural areas, but the only way to be sure would be to find all the nests of all the species, a real challenge for even our best atlasers.

With her nest record cards for 1990, Pat MacDonald of Kingston sent me a map showing that, for the trailer park - campground complex where she works in summer just east of Middleton, she had done it. I was excited at her accomplishment, and wanted to share it with others who enjoy Nova Scotia birds.

The 8-ha area (White's Motel and Cottages) is roughly rectangular, about 400 metres by 200 metres, inside a loop of the Annapolis River. It includes two houses, two motel buildings, nine cottages, a trailer park (44 trailers on site), and a campground (with tent sites and (out-buildings)), in a mixed farming area. A small brook, with a small pond and marshy edge, crosses the area from NE to SW, and another small marsh adjoins the river. Buildings and trailers, with driveways and out-buildings, are scattered amid lawns and tree-rows around the northern, higher, half of the area. The southern half, including the slope to the river terrace, is mostly open grassland (camping areas) with only scattered tree clumps. Trees and shrubs border almost the entire east and west edges of the property, as well as a deep-cut valley which crosses the upper terrace, and parts of the river-bank. The more numerous and larger trees are Black Willows, Trembling Aspens, Black Cherries, Red Maples, Lombardy Poplars, and Red Oaks. Trees and shrubs occupy about 20% of the total area.

Pat surveyed parts of the area nearly every day, with observations at all hours. The numbers of pairs of birds breeding on the property, ranked in descending order from the most common, were:

Song Sparrow 12; American Robin 10; Yellow Warbler 8; Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle 6 each; Chipping Sparrow and Bobolink 5 each; Eastern Kingbird, European Starling and House Sparrow 3 each; Mourning Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Gray Catbird and American Redstart 2 each; Killdeer, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-and-White Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Northern Oriole 1 each.

There were two Ring-necked Pheasant nests on the area, but these birds presumably ranged more widely, as did the swallows and crow and jay. The total on the property was 28 breeding species, with nests located for 84 pairs (or nesting females, in species that do not form pairs - such as pheasants). Not all these nests could be inspected, as some were high up, or in dense cover where a visit would cause excessive disturbance. In addition, Mallard, Red-tailed Hawk, Great-Horned Owl, additional Pheasant and Killdeer, and a small colony of Bank Swallows nested just across the river.

Temperatures in 1990 were near normal, except for cold wet weather during mid-to late May (when many swallows died in the Maritimes), so the bird numbers may be representative of the area. The property includes several different habitats, including a great deal of "edge", so these figures are probably high for farmland in general, even within the Annapolis Valley. They show what can be done, with the opportunity to be out around an area every day in the nesting season - and the interest to keep a record of what you find. Pat has been doing this each year since 1984, more power to her. (She didn't ask me to assemble this report, but I wanted to encourage similar efforts as well as commending hers.)

A.J. Erskine
as Co-ordinator
Maritimes Nest Records Scheme

THE PRINCIPALITY OF OUTER BALDONIA

Eric Cook



OUTER BALDONIA SHOWING THE "CAPITOL"

The coastline of Nova Scotia is fringed by many islands of varying sizes - from a few square yards to several miles - and types - some being just rocky ledges - others brushcovered - others suitable for cultivation and habitation. Many of these islands provide nesting sites and the shallow waters around them are rich feeding areas for various species of pelagic birds.

Some years ago the Society established a Sanctuary and Trust Fund to provide a tax free organization to control and administer sanctuaries for sea birds in order to offer protection during the nesting and fledging season. Since then the Fund has acquired title, through lease or purchase, to several islands. One of these is Outer Bald Island off the south-west coast of the province. In 1974, It transferred to the Bird Society through the Nature Conservancy of Canada by an American, Russel Arundel.

The fascinating story of this island begins a number of years before this when it was the centre of international tension at the height of the Cold War.

The great hoax began in 1949 when Russell M. Arundel, a wealthy businessman and ardent sportsman from Washington, D.C., was tuna fishing near Soldiers Rip, feeding ground for some of the world's biggest tuna. Mr. Arundel studied Outer Bald Island, the flat-topped, wind blown, grassy island near the best tuna fishing waters known at that time and eventually bought it for \$750.00. He ordered a beach-stone clubhouse built on the island and organized a Tuna Fishing Club for members of the Tuna Guides Association and his fishing companions.

This is when his puckish sense of humor asserted itself and the idea of a kingdom of sorts was born. He and his companions decided to turn Outer Bald Island into a new nation - the Principality of Outer Baldonia - peopled only by tuna fishermen, with the stone clubhouse as its Capitol. He declared himself to be Prince of Princes, signed all documents "Russell Rex" and drew up a Declaration of Independence with stated:

"That fishermen are a race alone; that fishermen are endowed with the following inalienable rights: the right to lie and be believed; the right of freedom from questions, nagging, shaving, interruption, women, taxes, politics, war, monologues, cant and inhibitions; the right to swear, lie, drink, and gamble; the right to be noisy or silent; to be up all night and to sleep all day;" etc. etc.

This was as far as Arundel had intended to go; but back at his Washington Office he began to feel that his new "country" had such fine possibilities that he should pursue it further. He had stationery printed with a gold embossed letterhead bearing the Great Seal of Outer Baldonia. Then he listed the Island in the Washington telephone book as "Outer Baldonia, Principality of" and before long, clerks from the State Department, making routine calls to all foreign diplomatic embassies, were phoning the secretary of the Prince of Princes.

Pleased with this fascinating development, Arundel drew up a lengthy "Constitution" signed "Russell Rex", declaring that all citizens of Outer Baldonia would consist only of "Princes" and "Admirals" of a rank no lower than six stars.

Each of the sixty-nine members of his tuna fishing club received a formal commission as a six-star Admiral, and his own boat was named a unit of the Outer Baldonian Navy. To a few of his fishing companions he sent embossed scrolls, making them Knights of the Order of Blue Fin and Hereditary Princes of the Realm. Arundel, a mild-mannered, slight man with a lively sense of humor, then worked up passports and postage stamps and designed the coin of the Realm, the basic unit of which was "Tunar".

In a burst of inspiration, he dictated to Rand MacNally, the map-makers, and to the Dept. of Interior's Board of Geographic Names, letters bearing the Great Seal of Outer Baldonia, which consisted of crossed tunas and rod-and-reel. The letters were royal commands, insisting that the Principality be shown on all future maps of North America. Then the Prince of Princes sat back to see what would happen.

Before long, tongue-in-check articles about Outer Baldonia began to appear in Canadian newspapers, and the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia rallied manfully to the joke by issuing a press statement which declared it was still undecided about recognition of the new kingdom. This story somehow reached Germany, where it was translated and printed, in great seriousness in a trade journal.

In 1952, the German article found its way to Moscow, where Russian propagandists grimly let loose a blast that shook the Kremlin Walls. The article that appeared in the Russian magazine, LITERARY GAZETTE, translated verbatim Outer Baldonia's constitutional right to drink, gamble and raise Cain, and denounced the Prince of Princes as "fuhrer" who had set himself the aim of turning his subjects into savages. It was Red Propaganda at its most furious, couched in the classic terms of its United Nations tirades. That Western Imperialist Prince Russell, declared Moscow, had given his people "the right not adhere to the ethical and moral laws which have been established by mankind."

Said the **Literary Gazette**:

"There have been living on the island from immemorial times fishermen trading in the capture of tuna fish belonging to the mackerel family. As is apparent from the German report, the fishermen lived quietly and peacefully and thanked God that their tuna was not an important strategic material and that the island itself was too small to be turned into a U.S. military base.

"But alas...the modest mackerel fishers rejoiced too soon. On one unlucky day a certain Mr. Arundel, the future Fuhrer of Baldonia, appeared on the island...when Mr. Arundel set foot on the island he was not yet an outer Baldonian, but simply a Washington Businessman. However, this only continued for an hour or two. During this period, Mr. Arundel had time to declare the island to be the sovereign state of Baldonia, the fishermen Baldonians and himself - their supreme ruler...(and) rewarded some of his Washington friends with the designation of honorary citizens of Baldonia.."

"Mr. Arundel has set himself the aim of turning his "subjects" into savages. In the "constitution" which he has devised, the Master of Baldonia, "granted his subjects the unrestricted right to tell lies, to be rude, the right not to answer questions, the freedom to go unshaved" etc...in a word, the "right" not to adhere to the ethical and moral laws which have been established by mankind..."

The Moscow report continues:

"Of course, Mr. Arundel will not succeed in turning the peaceful fisherman into cannibals. For much bigger adventures of a similar kind have ended in utter failure. There is no doubt that the mackerel fishers will not become savages, but the American has he not reached the completest degree of savagery?"

Several months later the Russian article reached America and was gleefully retranslated and reprinted by a Canadian Government Publication. The hoax had come full circle.

Not to be outdone, Outer Baldonia through its diplomatic corps, lodged a formal protest with Russia, defending its right to its own constitution and declaration of independence.

Mr. Arundel alerted the navy of Outer Baldonia, consisting of about two dozen tuna fishing boats commanding it to be prepared in the event of war. However, no reply was received. The Prince of Princes didn't really expect one but he couldn't help wondering happily how many heads rolled in the Kremlin when they realized that they had declared noisy propaganda war on a nation that never was.

Then the great days reached an end and the Principality of Outer Baldonia faded into history like other great nations of the past. Like them too, it left behind its legends and stories of the days of grandure and like them too, there remains its architecture as a legacy for generations to come. Like the pyramids of Egypt, the temples of Greece and the Coliseum of Rome, there stands that stone hut, the Capitol of the Principality of Outer Baldonia. Apart from this, the Principality is gone and great debates about matters of state and international polities are no longer heard. Outer Bald Island is quiet now, with only the sound of waves on the shore and the cries of gulls and terns and petrels that live there, safe under the protection of the Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund.



C.T.M

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED IN
ATLANTIC
CANADA**



1991

The Piping Plover is listed as an endangered species in Canada, and endangered or threatened in the United States. Efforts are being made to conserve the species. To help measure the success of these efforts, an accurate count of the number of Piping Plovers is required now and in the future. The first simultaneous census throughout North America is scheduled for 1991. This is an enormous task. Hence, your assistance is urgently needed. If you can visit one or more sandy beaches in Atlantic Canada during the first two weeks of June 1991, then send us your name, address, and telephone number, and indicate which beach you would like to census. We will forward the census instructions and forms. Thanks for the help !

Bruce Johnson and Stephen Flemming
Canadian Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1590, Sackville, N.B.
EOA 3C0

NB!

PHOTO CONTEST

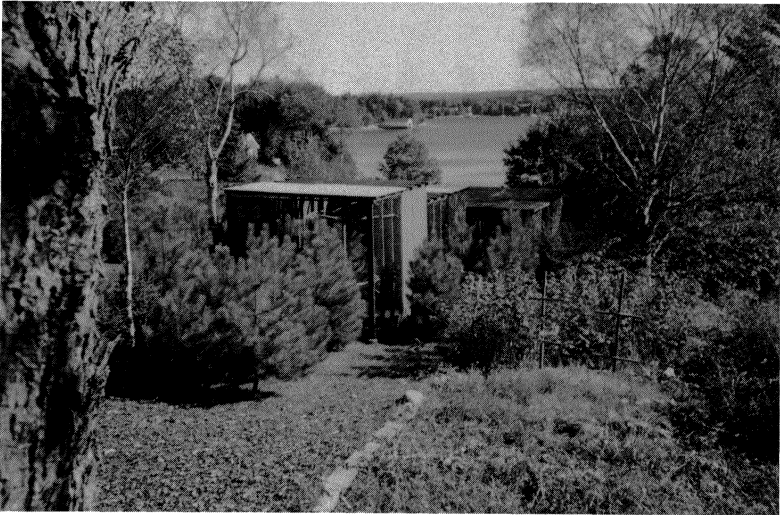
In the July issue of **Nova Scotia Birds**, we will be announcing **RULES AND DEADLINES** for a photography contest. The contest will be open to NSBS members only. So dust off your camera and more importantly, take it with you when you're out enjoying the spring weather and the return of our feathered friends.

SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

Our grateful thanks go to those who contributed to the fund from February 15, 1990 to February 21, 1991.

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SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

This is the new pen completed at the Mason's Point Raptor Rehabilitation Centre during the summer of 1990

WESTERN NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SURVEY

In the spring of 1990, Bowater Mersey asked us to help them in a census of birds found on their lands in Western Nova Scotia here are the results of that survey:

Preliminary results from the bird census conducted early in the summer of 1990 on Bowater Mersey Paper Company Limited lands in western Nova Scotia indicate healthy bird populations on forest lands which have been actively managed for over 60 years. The survey is part of a larger project being undertaken by Bowater Mersey to assess bird and mammal populations by forest types, on its lands in the Lake Rossignol area. The work is being carried out by John Deal, a forester taking his Master's degree in wildlife management at Acadia University.

The survey identified 96 species of birds, ranging in size from the tiny Ruby-throated Hummingbird to the Bald Eagle, in 16 forest types, such as mature stands of hemlock, immature mixed softwood, hardwood, regenerating clearcuts, and cut-over lands. Included were two stands of mature hemlock that had been clearcut in 1987, brush-raked in 1988, and planted and herbicided in 1989. The work was carried out during June and early July. The census was conducted by members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, the Blomidon Field Naturalists Association, and professional "birders", Fulton Lavender and Peter MacLeod.

"The great diversity and density of the bird species can be attributed to the diversity of the forest," said Deal. "Such a range of species of trees and the variety of different aged stands can support many species."

Deal went on to explain that different birds require different forest types.

The dominant species in mature hemlock was the Blackburnian Warbler, while the dominant species in pure white pine were Yellow-rumped Warblers, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets. The bird community in mature mixed hardwoods was comprised primarily of Veerys, Least Flycatchers, Ovenbirds and Pileated Woodpeckers.

There is also a strong population of birds of prey, particularly owls, in the Rossignol area. The census identified 22 Saw Whet Owls, 14 Barred Owls, and 7 Great Horned Owls along a 17 kilometre stretch of road. These numbers are extremely high. Several pairs of Bald Eagles are known to nest in the Lake Rossignol vicinity.

Of the hawks that are common in the region, the Red-tailed Hawk is most abundant. Red-tails, unlike the Broad-winged, required open areas for hunting, and the clearcuts interspersed with mature softwoods have resulted in the high numbers. Great Horned Owls also use the clearcuts for hunting.

The American Kestrel, or Sparrow Hawk, was a close second to the Red-tailed Hawk abundance. Frequently, they were observed perched in dead trees at the edge of clearcuts, which, using Bowater Mersey's definition, are areas which have been clearcut within the past five years. They were found nesting in cavity trees left in clearcuts or in trees that had been forked by lightning strikes.

Edges of clearcuts were found to be very important to many bird groups, particularly woodpeckers. Black-backed Woodpeckers nested in cavity trees on the edge of smaller cuts (10 to 15 acres). Larger cuts (30 to 40 acres) had Pileated Woodpeckers feeding and nesting on the edge. The Rossignol Lake area has what is believed to be one of the highest concentrations of Black-backed Woodpeckers on mainland Nova Scotia. They seem to thrive near areas of small, irregular cuts.

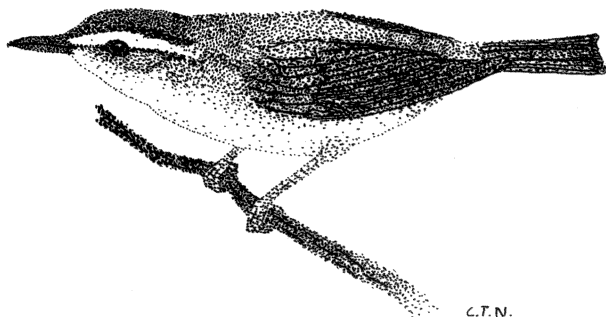
Clearcuts themselves also had abundant bird life, contrary to the popular perception. Generally, clearcuts proved to be low in species diversity but high in density. They provide excellent nesting habitat for Nighthawks, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Palm Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, White-throated Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Juncos. More important, the clearcuts provide feeding areas for over 80 bird species in the area.

The census did not offer a conclusive study of the effects of herbiciding with Vision on bird populations. The areas that were surveyed had been treated in 1989. Most species nesting in sprayed clearcuts were slightly lower in numbers than in a nonsprayed site, but that appeared to be a result of less cover being available. However, the availability of nesting sites was not a limiting factor for birds in the area.

Several Wood Ducks used nesting boxes that had been set out in the area. Spruce Grouse counts were high, despite the concern that exists for this species in the province.

The type and size of bird populations found in the South Shore/Rosignol area during the breeding bird survey indicated that proper, long-term forest management has been compatible with diverse, healthy breeding bird populations.

John Neal
Bowater Mersey Paper Company



SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

Here are two more of the slides which won honourable mention at the Photographic Guild's Competition for the best photograph of a Nova Scotia bird sponsored by the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund. The top one is a Red-tailed Hawk submitted by Fred Greene and "The Resting Bush" by E. Mio is below.



NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1990-1991

The 1990/91 Christmas Bird Count consisted of 25 counts, an increase of one over last year. The total number of individuals spotted were 149,208 which is an increase of 16,804 over 1989/90, and this year's total of 140 species plus 1 additional race is an increase of one over last year.

Editor's note: In accordance with instructions on the new Christmas Count forms, please remember that observers in the field are to be listed separately from feeder watchers and designated clearly as field observers. Unfortunately, due to the fact that many of the counts submitted this year did not distinguish one from the other, only the compiler's name is listed.

ADVOCATE/APPLE RIVER, Dec. 15; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. 28F to 33F. Wind west 20mph. No snow cover. Still water partly open. Moving water open. AM. partly cloudy. PM. cloudy. 9 observers in 6 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 43 (31 on foot, 12 by car). Total party miles 158 (36 on foot, 122 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Gt. Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 42; Am. Black Duck 115; Com. Eider 6; Oldsquaw 8; Wh. Winged Scoter 13; Com. Goldeneye 7; Bufflehead 1; Red-br. Merganser 7; Bald Eagle 1a.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Purple Sandpiper 50; Ring-billed Gull 11; Herring Gull 172; Gt. Bl-backed Gull 3; Dovekie 4; Black Guillemot 1; Mourning Dove 1; Gt. Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 13; Blue Jay 49; Am. Crow 54; Com. Raven 24; Bl-capped Chickadee 139; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-br. Nuthatch 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 17; Am. Robin 3; N. Shrike 7; Eur. Starling 73; Am. Tree Sparrow 8; Song Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 7; Snow Bunting 15; Red-winged Blackbird 14; Com. Grackle 46; Br.-headed Cowbird 22; Purple Finch 3; Pine Siskin 44; Am. Goldfinch 3; Evening Grosbeak 74; House Sparrow 5.

Total 49 species, about 1101 individuals. (CP: Rough-legged Hawk, Brown Creeper). Karl Cole, Bill Mills, Maureen Mills, Bruce Morris, Francis Spalding, Carson Spicer, Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer, (compiler), Lillian Ward.

AMHERST, Dec. 20; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 14F to 20F. Wind NW 5-10mph. No snow cover. Still water frozen. Moving water partly open. Clear. 13 observers in 7-11 parties. Total party hours 53.5 (25.5 on foot, 28 by car). Total party miles 320 (25 on foot, 295 by car).

Great Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 66; Am. Black Duck 6; Com Merganser 95; Red-br. Merganser 3; Bald Eagle 2a.; N. Harrier 10; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 21; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 8; Mew Gull 1; Herring Gull 683; Iceland Gull 13; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 582; Rock Dove 240; Mourning Dove 4; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Horned Lark 25; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 71; Am. Crow 400; Com. Raven 230; Bl-capped Chickadee 171; Boreal Chickadee 15; Red-br. Nuthatch 15; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 29; Am. Robin 1; N. Shrike 9; Eur. Starling 1101; N. Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 57; Savannah Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 14; Snow Bunting 452; Red-winged Blackbird 2; E. Meadowlark 1; Com. Grackle 2; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 50; E. Grosbeak 164; House Sparrow 277.

Total 49 species, about 4855 individuals. (CP: White-breasted Nuthatch). Paul Bogaard, Evelyn Coates, Chris Ellingwood, Nev Garrity, Ron Hounsell, Joel Landry, Colin MacKinnon, Nancy MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Al Smith, Francis Spalding, Russ Tilt, Stuart Tingley.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Dec. 29; 7:30AM to 5:30PM. Temp. 17F to 37F. Wind East 5-15mph. Snow cover $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Still water partly open. Moving water open. AM. cloudy and foggy with light to heavy rain and snow. PM. cloudy and foggy with light to heavy rain. 27 observers in 9 parties, 58 at feeders. Total party hours 53 (35 $\frac{3}{4}$ on foot, $17\frac{1}{4}$ by car). Total party miles 289 $\frac{1}{2}$ (48 on foot, 241 $\frac{1}{2}$ by car).

Com. Loon 25; Horned Grebe 27; Red-necked Grebe 16; Great Cormorant 2; Double-crested Cormorant 21 (no details); Canada Goose 25; Am. Black

Duck 747; Mallard 14; Greater Scaup 451; Com. Eider 38; Oldsquaw 94; Black Scoter 3; Surf Scoter 36; White-winged Scoter 37; Com. Goldeneye 136; Barrow's Goldeneye 2; Bufflehead 329; Com. Merganser 17; Red-br. Merganser 23; duck sp. 175; Bald Eagle 1; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 28; Ruffed Grouse 2; Bonaparte's Gull 8; Herring Gull 840; Iceland Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 37; gull sp. 3; Dovekie 3; Razorbill 6; Black Guillemot 8; Atlantic Puffin 1; alcid sp. 64; Rock Dove 150; Mourning Dove 87; Gt. Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 283; Am. Crow 240; Com. Raven 36; Bl.-capped Chickadee 249; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; White-breasted Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 28; Am. Robin 4; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 1467; Yel.-rumped Warbler 1; N. Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 19; Chipping Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 12; White-throated Sparrow 4; sparrow sp. 9; Dark-eyed Junco 62; Com. Grackle 20; Purple Finch 7; Pine Siskin 13; Am. Goldfinch 295; Evening Grosbeak 538; House Sparrow 323.

Total 66 species, about 7108 individuals. (CP: Gadwall, Hooded Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Com. Black-headed Gull, tern sp., Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill). Julie Turner, compiler. (See editor's note).

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 22; 7AM to 4:50PM. (10:45PM to 11:45PM owling). Temp. 42F to 37F. Wind NW 40mph. No snow cover. Still water and moving water open. AM cloudy & foggy with heavy rain. PM partly clear to cloudy with light rain. 10 observers in 5 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party hours 40 (15 on foot, 25 by car). Total party miles 395 (23 on foot, 372 by car).

Com. Loon 5; Horned Grebe 10; Great Cormorant 2; Canada Goose 350; Green-winged Teal 4; Am. Black Duck 256; Mallard 7; Greater Scaup 18; Oldsquaw 10; White-winged Scoter 8; Com. Goldeneye 81; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 2; Com. Merganser 48; Red-br. Merganser 154; Bald Eagle 53 (28a., 25imm.); Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 3; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 8; Bonaparte's Gull 10; Ring-billed Gull 32; Herring Gull 819; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 64; alcid sp. 1; Rock Dove 20; Mourning Dove 26; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 2; Blue Jay 90; Am. Crow 307; Com. Raven 40; Bl.-capped Chickadee 118; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 18; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 308; Am. Tree Sparrow 30; Song Sparrow 3; Swamp Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 12; Snow Bunting 10; Brown-headed Cowbird 11; Purple Finch 3; Pine Siskin 14; Am. Goldfinch 159; E. Grosbeak 77; House Sparrow 39.

Total 52 species, about 3304 individuals. (CP: N. Harrier, N. Goshawk, Short-eared Owl, Brown Creeper, Lapland Longspur, House Finch). Brian Starzomski, compiler. (See editor's note).

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 22; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 50-63F. Wind SW 35mph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen. Moving water open. Partly cloudy & foggy with light to heavy rain. 12 observer in 5 parties, 25 at feeders. Total party hours 26 (4 on foot, 22 by car). Total party miles 153 (8 on foot, 145 by car).

Com. Loon 14; Horned Grebe 3; Gt. Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 25; Am. Black Duck 18; Com. Eider 42; Oldsquaw 18; Surf Scoter 74; White-winged Scoter 146; Barrow's Goldeneye 5; Red-br. Merganser 26; Bald Eagle 1a.; Red-tailed Hawk 4; bute sp. 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 33; Purple Sandpiper 13; Herring Gull 327; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 16; gull sp. 3; Dovekie 1; Thick-billed Murre 7; Rock Dove 62; Mourning Dove 7; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 102; Am. Crow 267; Com. Raven 34; Bl.-capped Chickadee 80; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-br. Nuthatch 3; White-br. Nuthatch 2; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 1028; Am. Tree Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 10; Snow Bunting 100; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Com. Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 13; Pine Siskin 22; Am. Goldfinch 153; E. Grosbeak 264; House Sparrow 108.

Total 43 species, about 3057 individuals. David Colville, compiler.

(See editor's note).

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 18; 7:30AM to 3:30PM. Temp. 32-45F. Wind SW 20mph. No snow cover. Still water & moving water open. AM. cloudy with snow. PM. heavy rain. 9 observers in 4 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party hours 35 (23 on foot, 4 by car, & 8 by boat). Total party miles 78.5 (24½ on foot, 44 by car & 10 by boat).

Com. Loon 58; Red-necked Grebe 57; N. Fulmar 300; N. Gannet 1; Gt. Cormorant 98; Double-cr. Cormorant 1; Gt. Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 1; Am. Black Duck 27; Mallard 1; Com. Eider 272; Oldsquaw 56; Black Scoter 45; White-winged Scoter 5; Com. Goldeneye 19; Bufflehead 12; Red-br. Merganser 130; Bald Eagle 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruddy Turnstone 6; Purple Sandpiper 30; Herring Gull 395; Iceland Gull 2; Glaucous Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 124; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 579; Dovekie 204; Thick-billed Murre 13; Razorbill 35; Black Guillemot 23; Atlantic Puffin 200; alcid sp. 500; Short-eared Owl 2; N. Flicker 1; Horned Lark 7; Blue Jay 5; Am. Crow 24; Com. Raven 11; Bl.-capped Chickadee 6; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; Am. Robin 1; N. Mockingbird 1; Brown Thrasher 1; Water Pipit 1; Bohemian Waxwing 1; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 29; Yel.-rumped Warbler 3; Am. Tree Sparrow 8; Song Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 6; Snow Bunting 2; Am. Goldfinch 22; finch sp.; House Sparrow 11.

Total 59 species, about 3364 individuals. (CP: Red-throated Loon, N. Harrier, Com. Grackle). Eric Mills, compiler. (See editor's note).

BROAD COVE, Dec. 21; 7:45AM to 4:45PM. Temp. 30-45F. Wind SSW 15-30 mph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen. Moving water open. Cloudy. 20 observers in 9-12 parties. Total party hours 82 (42 on foot, 40 by car). Total party miles 310 (40 on foot, 270 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 2; Com. Loon 38; Horned Grebe 25; Red-necked Grebe 13; Gt. Cormorant 37; Double-cr. Cormorant 2; Gt. Blue Heron 2; Am. Black Duck 86; Mallard 31; Greater Scaup 235; Com. Eider 297; Oldsquaw 67; Black Scoter 145; Surf Scoter 10; White-winged Scoter 20; Com. Goldeneye 75; Barrow's Goldeneye 2; Bufflehead 22; Com. Merganser 8; Red-br. Merganser 28; Bald Eagle 5 (4a., 1imm.); N. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Am. Kestrel 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Black-bellied Plover 1; Sanderling 2; Am. Woodcock 1; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 1361; Iceland Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 601; Dovekie 10; Black Guillemot 7; Rock Dove 76; Mourning Dove 102; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 5; N. Flicker 2; Horned Lark 14; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 157; Am. Crow 208; Com. Raven 46; Bl.-capped Chickadee 177; Boreal Chickadee 18; Red-br. Nuthatch 25; White-br. Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 50; Am. Robin 64; Water Pipit 4; N. Shrike 6; Eur. Starling 694; Yel.-rumped Warbler 12; Am. Tree Sparrow 12; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 32; Swamp Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 112; Red-winged Blackbird 53; E. Meadowlark 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 40; Purple Finch 4; Pine Siskin 643; Am. Goldfinch 114; E. Grosbeak 134; House Sparrow 165.

Total 72 species, about 6137 individuals. (CP: Barred Owl). Ruth Ballem, Karen Casselman, Margaret Clark, Eric Cooke, Brian Dalzell, Ben Doane, Ray Fielding, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Barbara Hinds, Dan Lenihan, Andrew McLaren, Ian McLaren, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Jean Morse, William Morse, Nellie Snyder, Allan Tulip, David Young, Joan Young.

CHETICAMP, Dec. 15; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 16-30F. Wind NW 15mph. Snow depth 0.5 inches. Still water partly frozen. Moving water open. Clear. 13 observers in 6 parties. Total party hours 39 (13.5 on foot, 25.5 by car). Total party miles 131 (27 on foot, 104 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Red-necked Grebe 4; Gt. Cormorant 3; cormorant sp. 2; Canada Goose 6; Am. Black Duck 56; Mallard 1; N. Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 2; Com. Eider 15; Oldsquaw 3; Surf Scoter 6; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 49; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Com. Merganser 1; Red-br. Merganser 4; Bald Eagle 15 (8a., 7imm.); Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull

436; Iceland Gull 186; Glaucous Gull 27; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 543; gull sp. 38; Dovekie 6; Com. Murre 1; Black Guillemot 7; Mourning Dove 2; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 19; Am. Crow 45; Com. Raven 75; Bl.-capped Chickadee 144; Boreal Chickadee 11; Golden-cr. Kinglet 10; Bohemian Waxwing 70; Eur. Starling 57; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Snow Bunting 62; E. Grosbeak 17.

Total 38 species, about 1944 individuals. (CP: Barred Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-br. Nuthatch, sparrow sp.). Marie-Claire Aucoin, Gerald Bourgeois, Sandra Boutilier, Jennifer Hoffman, David Lawley, Jay Morton, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Derek Quann (compiler), Justine Roach, MacWilliam Savoy, Randy Thompson, Elaine Wallace.

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 7:30AM to 5:15PM. Temp. 8-10F. Wind N 20mph. No snow cover. Still water partly open. Moving water partly frozen. Clear. 9 observers in 8 parties, 12 at feeders. Total party hours 65 (61 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 124 (49 on foot, 75 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 3; Green-winged Teal 1; Am. Black Duck 355; Mallard 2; Com. Eider 1; Oldsquaw 18; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 6; Com. Goldeneye 5; Bufflehead 16; Com. Merganser 37; Bald Eagle 3 (2a., limm.); N. Goshawk 1; Gray Partridge 7; Ruffed Grouse 13; Purple Sandpiper 215; Ring-billed Gull 53; Herring Gull 843; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 26; Rock Dove 49; Mourning Dove 3; Gt. Horned Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 101; Am. Crow 164; Com. Raven 48; Bl.-capped Chickadee 218; Boreal Chickadee 44; Red-br. Nuthatch 25; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-cr. Kinglet 63; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 426; Am. Tree Sparrow 31; Dark-eyed Junco 50; Snow Bunting 13; Com. Grackle 9; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Pine Grosbeak 7; Pine Siskin 24; Am. Goldfinch 78; E. Grosbeak 142; House Sparrow 96.

Total 45 species, about 3228 individuals. (CP: Saw-whet Owl, Belted Kingfisher). Ross Hall, Brad McLaughlin, Bill Murphy, Edgar Spalding, Fran Spalding (compiler), Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer, Stuart Tingley, Rob Walker.

GLACE BAY, Dec. 29; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. 10-36F. Wind SW 5mph. A trace of snow cover. Still water frozen. Moving water partly frozen. AM. partly clear. PM. cloudy. 18 observers in 10 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 60 (31 on foot, 29 by car). Total party miles 221.5 (39.5 on foot, 182 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 5; Com. Loon 20; Gt. Cormorant 2; Canada Goose 318; Am. Black Duck 1379; Mallard 20; Greater Scaup 300; Lesser Scaup 24; Com. Eider 36; Harlequin Duck 2; Oldsquaw 418; Black Scoter 10; Surf Scoter 5; White-winged Scoter 28; Com. Goldeneye 203; Bufflehead 81; Com. Merganser 65; Red-br. Merganser 131; Bald Eagle 8 (7a., limm.); Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 20; Ring-billed Gull 6; Herring Gull 666; Iceland Gull 389; Glaucous Gull 4; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 552; Dovekie 42; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 2; Rock Dove 157; Mourning Dove 39; Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 3; N. Flicker 1; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 105; Am. Crow 242; Com. Raven 36; Bl.-capped Chickadee 110; Boreal Chickadee 14; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 10; N. Mockingbird 2; N. Shrike 4; Eur. Starling 868; Yellow-br. Chat 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 11; Savannah Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 7; Dark-eyed Junco 30; Lapland Longspur 20; Purple Finch 6; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 134; E. Grosbeak 281; House Sparrow 197.

Total 59 species, about 7044 individuals. (CP: N. Harrier, Barred Owl, Brown Creeper, Snow Bunting). Cathy Murrant, compiler. (See editor's note).

HALIFAX EAST, Dec. 23; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 46-48F. Wind SW 30mph. No snow cover. Still water & moving water open. Foggy with light to heavy rain. 49 observers in 21 parties. Total party hours 156.5 (99.5 on foot, 57 by car). Total party miles 553.5 (128.5 on foot, 425 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 1; Com. Loon 28; Horned Grebe 3; Red-necked Grebe 17; N. Gannet 2; Gt. Cormorant 1; Gt. Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 3121; Green-

winged Teal 2; Am. Black Duck 749; Mallard 20; Greater Scaup 2; Com. Eider 350; Oldsquaw 27; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 13; Com. Goldeneye 93; Bufflehead 30; Com. Merganser 77; Red-br. Merganser 214; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Broad-winged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 12; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 7; Killdeer 1; Lesser Yellowlegs 3; Purple Sandpiper 2; Com. Snipe 2; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 8; Ring-billed Gull 262; Herring Gull 899; Iceland Gull 3; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 328; Dovekie 6; Rock Dove 123; Mourning Dove 77; Gt. Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 2; N. Flicker 10; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 2; Gray Jay 11; Blue Jay 130; Am. Crow 631; Com. Raven 63; Bl.-capped Chickadee 722; Boreal Chickadee 129; Red-br. Nuthatch 87; White-br. Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 18; Golden-cr. Kinglet 243; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1; Am. Robin 2; N. Mockingbird 2; Bohemian Waxwing 12; N. Shrike 6; Eur. Starling 938; Orange-cr. Warbler 1; Yel.-rumped Warbler 14; Am. Tree Sparrow 43; Vesper Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 9; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 66; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-thr. Sparrow 11; Dark-eyed Junco 176; Lapland Longspur 25; Snow Bunting 5; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Com. Grackle 3; Pine Grosbeak 5; Purple Finch 5; Red Crossbill 6; White-winged Crossbill 400; Pine Siskin 103; Am. Goldfinch 371; E. Grosbeak 164; House Sparrow 78.

Total 86 species plus 1 additional race, about 11014 individuals.

(CP: Brown-headed Cowbird, N. Oriole). Kert Arseneault, Phyllis Bryson, Karen Casselman, Bill Caudle, Margaret Clark, Shirley Cohrs, Louis Coutinho, David Currie, Joan Czapalay, Brian Dalzell, David Diller, Chris Field, Deborah Flemming, Roger Foxall, Bill Freedman, Sylvia Fullerton, Jean Hartley, Mike Heaney, Barbara Hinds, Donald Keith, Janos Kovacs, Fulton Lavender, David MacKinnon, Carol MacNeill, Donald MacNeill, Marcel Maessen, Blake Maybank, Bob McDonald, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Bernice Moores, Alana Murray, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Patricia Pocklington, Roger Pocklington, Joyce Purchase, Bev Sarty, Bruce Smith, Sean Smith, Cindy Stacer, Clarence Stevens, Clarence Stevens, Derek Tay, Karl Tay, Jim Taylor (compiler), Azor Vienneau, Joan Waldron, Marty Zelenietz.

HALIFAX WEST, Dec. 16; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. 40-45F. Wind SW 10-12mph. No snow cover. Still water & moving water open. Foggy with heavy rain. 28 observers in 12 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party hours 106.5 (49 on foot, 57.5 by car). Total party miles 522 (45 on foot, 477 by car).

Com. Loon 15; Red-necked Grebe 2; N. Gannet 1; Gt. Cormorant 24; Double-cr. Cormorant 1; Am. Black Duck 1436; Mallard 68; Greater Scaup 3; Com. Eider 22; Oldsquaw 9; Surf Scoter 11; White-winged Scoter 12; Com. Goldeneye 4; Com. Merganser 2; Red-br. Merganser 14; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 4; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 10; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 136; Herring Gull 4163; Iceland Gull 182; Lesser Bl.-backed Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 3; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 1590; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 190; Dovekie 28; Thick-billed Murre 5; Razorbill 2; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 428; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 96; Am. Crow 392; Com. Raven 4; Bl.-capped Chickadee 341; Boreal Chickadee 22; Red-br. Nuthatch 14; White-br. Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 12; Golden-cr. Kinglet 84; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1; Am. Robin 3; N. Mockingbird 2; Water Pipit 1; Bohemian Waxwing 48; Cedar Waxwing 1; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 666; Pine Warbler 4; Am. Tree Sparrow 8; Savannah Sparrow 2; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 18; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 12; Dark-eyed Junco 136; N. Oriole 2; Purple Finch 37; Com. Redpoll 1; Am. Goldfinch 49; E. Grosbeak 31; House Sparrow 181.

Total 64 species plus 1 additional race, about 10553 individuals.

(CP: Orange-cr. Warbler, Gt. Horned Owl). Keith Allsebrook, Marion Allsebrook, Bill Caudle, Margaret Clark, Louis Coutinho, Alan Covert, David Currie, Paul Daval, Chris Field, John Field, Roger Foxall, Sylvia Fullerton, Barbara Hinds, Fulton Lavender, Anne-Margaret MacKinnon, David MacKinnon, Don MacNeill, Bob McDonald, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Blake Maybank, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Bev Sarty, Jim Taylor, Azor Vienneau, Joan Waldron, Peter MacLeod (compiler).

HIGHLANDS, Dec. 30; 8:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 42-48F. Wind E 3-5mph. No snow cover. Still water frozen. Moving water partly open. AM. cloudy. PM. cloudy & foggy with light rain. 24 observers in 13 parties, 14 at feeders. Total party hours 116.7 (17.1 on foot, 99.6 by car). Total party miles 183 (26 on foot, 157 by car).

Com. Loon 4; Red-necked Grebe 2; Double-cr. Cormorant 1; Am. Black Duck 16; Mallard 2; Com. Eider 9; Oldsquaw 24; Black Scoter 5; White-winged Scoter 15; Com. Goldeneye 60; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Com. Merganser 3; Red-br. Merganser 16; Bald Eagle 2; Ruffed Grouse 3; Purple Sandpiper 9; Herring Gull 83; Iceland Gull 4; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 42; Dovekie 13; Com. Murre 3; Black Guillemot 1; Mourning Dove 22; Downy Woodpecker 6; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 21; Blue Jay 64; Am. Crow 114; Com. Raven 9; Bl.-capped Chickadee 97; Boreal Chickadee 14; Red-br. Nuthatch 8; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 4; Bohemian Waxwing 35; Eur. Starling 61; Am. Tree Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 36; Snow Bunting 20; Pine Siskin 192; Am. Goldfinch 19; E. Grosbeak 99.

Total 44 species, about 1145 individuals. (CP: Gt. Blue Heron, Green-winged Teal, Surf Scoter, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cedar Waxwing, N. Shrike). James Bridgland, compiler. (See editor's note).

KEJIMKUJIK NATIONAL PARK, Dec. 16; 7:45AM to 5PM. Temp. 44-45F. No wind. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen. Moving water open. AM. foggy with light rain. PM. foggy with light to heavy rain. 22 observers in 12-13 parties, 10-11 at feeders. Total party hours 66 (48½ on foot, 17½ by car). Total party miles 164 (41½ on foot, 122½ by car).

Ring-necked Duck 1; Com. Merganser 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 15; Mourning Dove 1; Barred Owl 4; Downy Woodpecker 7; Hairy Woodpecker 5; N. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 19; Blue Jay 42; Am. Crow 11; Com. Raven 10; Bl.-capped Chickadee 116; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-br. Nuthatch 17; White-br. Nuthatch 9; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-cr. Kinglet 74; Dark-eyed Junco 6; Am. Goldfinch 41; E. Grosbeak 144.

Total 24 species, about 537 individuals. (CP: Bald Eagle, Eur. Starling, Snow Bunting, Brown-headed Cowbird, Pine Siskin, House Sparrow). Peter Hope, compiler. (See editor's note).

MARGAREE, Dec. 15; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. 28-32F. Wind SW 7mph. Snow depth 2 inches. Still water partly frozen. Moving water open. Clear. 4 observers in 2 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 16 (3 on foot, 13 by car). Total party miles 75 (4 on foot, 71 by car).

Am. Black Duck 11; Com. Goldeneye 38; Com. Merganser 74; Bald Eagle 30 (27a., 3imm.); Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 2; Herring Gull 49; Iceland Gull 15; Mourning Dove 3; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 38; Am. Crow 137; Com. Raven 59; Bl.-capped Chickadee 32; Boreal Chickadee 2; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 2; Bohemian Waxwing 31; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 65; Dark-eyed Junco 6; Snow Bunting 11; Pine Grosbeak 3; Pine Siskin 4; Am. Goldfinch 24; E. Grosbeak 75; House Sparrow 24.

Total 30 species, about 755 individuals. Frances Hart, compiler. (See editor's note).

PICTOU HARBOUR, Dec. 31; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. 0C to -7C. Wind NW 30mph. Snow depth 2 inches. Still water & moving water partly open. Partly clear to cloudy with light snow. 8 observers in 5 parties. Total party hours 29 (4.5 on foot, 24.5 by car). Total party miles 514km (25 on foot, 489 by car).

Gt. Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 58; Green-winged Teal 2; Am. Black Duck 180; Mallard 5; Am. Wigeon 1; Greater Scaup 121; Oldsquaw 23; Black Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 98; Bufflehead 1; Com. Merganser 273; Red-br. Merganser 22; Bald Eagle 7 (5a., 2imm.); Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 798; Glaucous Gull 18; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 95; Rock Dove 136; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 1;

Blue Jay 19; Am. Crow 206; Com. Raven 11; Bl.-capped Chickadee 37; Red-br. Nuthatch 2; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 8; Bohemian Waxwing 118; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 382; Am. Tree Sparrow 13; Song Sparrow 2; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 20; Snow Bunting 46; Pine Siskin 2; Am. Goldfinch 39; E. Grosbeak 10; House Sparrow 56.

Total 45 species, about 2831 individuals. (CP: Com. Eider, Surf Scoter, Hooded Merganser, Brown Creeper). Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Calder Frazer (compiler), Anne Fraser, Margaret Kenney, Ken McKenna, Michael Olsen.

PORT L'HEBERT, Dec. 16; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. 40-46F. Wind SW 10-15mph. No snow cover. Still water & moving water open. AM. cloudy with light rain. PM. foggy with heavy rain. 13 observers in 11 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party hours 82 (64 on foot, 18 by car). Total party miles 308 (65 on foot, 243 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 2; Com. Loon 31; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 23; Red-necked Grebe 7; N. Gannet 1; Gt. Cormorant 2; Gt. Blue Heron 3; Canada Goose 1522; Am. Black Duck 290; Mallard 2; N. Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 3; Com. Eider 119; Oldsquaw 38; Surf Scoter 3; Com. Goldeneye 8; Bufflehead 5; Com. Merganser 2; Red-br. Merganser 35; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Am. Kestrel 3; Merlin 2; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 20; Black-bellied Plover 3; Dunlin 1; Com. Snipe 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 3; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 1354; Iceland Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 629; Dovekie 16; Black Guillemot 10; Rock Dove 52; Mourning Dove 29; Gt. Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; N. Flicker 13; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 69; Am. Crow 166; Com. Raven 8; Bl.-capped Chickadee 181; Boreal Chickadee 25; Red-br. Nuthatch 29; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 208; Am. Robin 14; Water Pipit 1; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 261; Yel.-rumped Warbler 85; N. Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 16; Chipping Sparrow 6; Savannah Sparrow 5; Seaside Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 122; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-thr. Sparrow 40; Dark-eyed Junco 263; Snow Bunting 54; Red-winged Blackbird 19; Red Crossbill 4; Pine Siskin 191; Am. Goldfinch 230; E. Grosbeak 30; House Sparrow 50.

Total 73 species, about 6342 individuals. (CP: Green-winged Teal, White-winged Scoter, Red-tailed Hawk, Bonaparte's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Thick-billed Murre, Downy Woodpecker, N. Mockingbird, Com. Redpoll). Trevor Bebb, Mark Butler, Donna Crosby, Russel Crosby (compiler), Bill Curry, Emerson Fiske, Danny Mason, George Perry, Robert Turner, Carmen Williams, Danielle McAuley-Williams, David Young, Joan Young.

PUBNICO, Dec. 30; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 40-44F. Wind S 5mph. No snow cover. Still water & moving water open. Foggy. 26 observers in 5 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 35 (16 on foot, 19 by car). Total party miles 237 (25 on foot, 212 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Gt. Cormorant 1; Gt. Blue Heron 1; Com. Eider 3; Com. Goldeneye 33; Red-br. Merganser 5; N. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 27; Ruffed Grouse 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 819; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 528; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 1; Dovekie 1; Rock Dove 10; Mourning Dove 92; Barred Owl 1; N. Flicker 7; Gray Jay 39; Am. Crow 118; Com. Raven 13; Bl.-capped Chickadee 116; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-br. Nuthatch 10; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 45; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1; Am. Robin 122; N. Mockingbird 1; Brown Thrasher 1; Eur. Starling 516; Yel.-rumped Warbler 29; Pine Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 19; Song Sparrow 33; White-thr. Sparrow 35; Dark-eyed Junco 32; Purple Finch 1; Pine Siskin 39; Am. Goldfinch 109; E. Grosbeak 26; House Sparrow 69.

Total 45 species, about 2928 individuals. (CP: Red-necked Grebe, Canada Goose, Greater Scaup, Oldsquaw, Bufflehead, Red-tailed Hawk, Am. Kestrel, Killdeer, Gt. Horned Owl, Short-eared Owl, Saw-whet Owl, N. Shrike, Yellow-br. Chat, Brown-headed Cowbird, White-winged Crossbill). Daryl Amirault, Albert D'Entremont, Delisle D'Entremont, Germain D'Entremont, Lisette D'Entremont, Peter D'Entremont, Raymond S. D'Entremont, Serge D'Entremont, Claire D'Eon, Jerome D'Eon, Lance D'Eon, Lester

D'Eon, Milton D'Eon, Reginald D'Eon, Ted C. D'Eon (compiler), Michael Hawkwood, Ellen Hurlburt, Carol Jacquard, Gerald Jacquard, Goldie Jenkins, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters, Barbara Ruff, Eric Ruff, Robin Rymer, Belinda Tucker.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 23; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 46-51F. Wind SE 12mph. No snow cover. Still water & moving water open. Cloudy and foggy with light rain. 12 observers in 6 parties, 11 at feeders. Total party hours 36 (22 on foot, 14 by car). Total party miles 76 (7 on foot, 69 by car).

Canada Goose 64; Am. Black Duck 22; Mallard 125; mallard hybrid 17; Blue-winged Teal 2; Ring-necked Duck 7; Bald Eagle 9 (6a., 3imm.); N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 59; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 3; Rock Dove 228; Mourning Dove 2; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 110; Am. Crow 568; Com. Raven 91; Bl.-capped Chickadee 163; Boreal Chickadee 27; Red-br. Nuthatch 31; White-br. Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 86; Am. Robin 3; Cedar Waxwing 12; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 1163; Am. Tree Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 39; Brown-headed Cowbird 10; Pine Siskin 18; Am. Goldfinch 107; E. Grosbeak 254; House Sparrow 89.

Total 40 species, about 3356 individuals. (CP: N. Cardinal).
Roslyn MacPhee, compiler. (See editor's note).

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 22; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 10C. Wind SW 30mph. No snow cover. Still water & moving water open. AM. partly cloudy & foggy with light rain. PM. partly cloudy with light rain. 7 observers in 4 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 44½ (4 on foot, 40½ by car). Total party miles 224½ (5½ on foot, 219 by car).

Pied-billed Grebe 1; Double-cr. Cormorant 1; Am. Black Duck 72; Mallard 3; Com. Merganser 3; Bald Eagle 3 (2a., 1imm.); Red-tailed Hawk 2; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Herring Gull 64; Iceland Gull 5; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 2; Rock Dove 279; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 60; Am. Crow 242; Com. Raven 17; Bl.-capped Chickadee 91; Boreal Chickadee 14; Golden-cr. Kinglet 12; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1; Eur. Starling 383; Com. Yellowthroat 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 7; Swamp Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 11; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 2; Am. Goldfinch 34; E. Grosbeak 167; House Sparrow 156.

Total 34 species, about 1648 individuals. (CP: Am. Wigeon, Ring-necked Pheasant, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, N. Shrike, Snow Bunting, Com. Redpoll). Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Calder Fraser, Margaret Kenney (compiler), Ken McKenna, Richard Murphy.

STRAIT OF CANSO, Dec. 16; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. 35-42F. Wind SE 30-50mph. No snow cover. Still water partly open. Moving water open. AM. light rain. PM. heavy rain. 3 observers in 2 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 14 (14 by car). Total party miles 150 (150 by car).

Double-cr Cormorant 2; Am. Black Duck 1; Com. Eider 20; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 10; Bonaparte's Gull 5; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 550; Iceland Gull 25; Lesser Bl.-backed Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 150; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 10; Dovekie 5; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 1; Mourning Dove 22; Belted Kingfisher 1; Blue Jay 3; Am. Crow 80; Com. Raven 10; Bl.-capped Chickadee 15; Eur. Starling 12; Am. Tree Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 13; Pine Siskin 18; Am. Goldfinch 40; E. Grosbeak 20; House Sparrow 6.

Total 29 species, about 1030 individuals. (CP: Red-thr. Loon, Com. Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Gt. Cormorant, White-winged Scoter, Com. Merganser, Ruffed Grouse, Downy Woodpecker, Red-br. Nuthatch, Golden-cr. Kinglet, N. Mockingbird, Bohemian Waxwing, Song Sparrow, White-thr. Sparrow, Com. Grackle, Purple Finch). Kerstin Mueller, compiler. (See editor's note).

TRURO, Dec. 29; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -7C to -2C. No wind. No snow cover. Still water frozen. Moving water partly frozen. Cloudy. 9 observers

in 6 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 45 (32.5 on foot, 12.5 by car). Total party miles 239 (25 on foot, 214 by car).

Gt. Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 7; Am. Black Duck 527; Mallard 74; Bald Eagle 8a.; N. Harrier 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Gray Partridge 5; Ruffed Grouse 1; Herring Gull 1138; Iceland Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 71; Rock Dove 138; Mourning Dove 56; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 48; Am. Crow 737; Com. Raven 38; Bl.-capped Chickadee 109; Boreal Chickadee 25; Red-br. Nuthatch 6; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 37; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 2175; Am. Tree Sparrow 10; Savannah Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 3; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 19; Snow Bunting 30; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Am. Goldfinch 64; E. Grosbeak 120; House Sparrow 126.

Total 38 species, about 5610 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Horned Lark). Ross Baker, Allan C. Eddy, Ross Hall (compiler), Ralph Hudgins, Joan Hudgins, Brian Kinsman, Lynda McLean, Edgar Spalding, Francis Spalding.

WEST HANTS, Dec. 30; 5:45AM to 4:45PM and 9:30PM to midnight. Temp. 40F. No wind. No snow cover. Still water & moving water partly open. AM. cloudy and foggy. PM. cloudy with light rain. 24 observers in 9 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 68 (54 on foot, 14 by car). Total party miles 380 (60 on foot, 320 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 3; Canada Goose 4; Am. Black Duck 1932; Mallard 3; Com. Eider 1; Harlequin Duck 1; Hooded Merganser 1; Com. Merganser 218; Bald Eagle 4 (2a., 2imm.); N. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 16; Am. Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 37; Spruce Grouse 6; Ruffed Grouse 9; Purple Sandpiper 18; Ring-billed Gull 148; Herring Gull 899; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 155; Rock Dove 381; Mourning Dove 31; Gt. Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 3; Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 6; N. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 10; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 330; Am. Crow 463; Com. Raven 219; Bl.-capped Chickadee 281; Boreal Chickadee 18; Red-br. Nuthatch 41; White-br. Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 92; Am. Robin 26; Cedar Waxwing 103; N. Shrike 3; Eur. Starling 1763; Am. Tree Sparrow 30; Song Sparrow 24; Dark-eyed Junco 33; Snow Bunting 193; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Com. Grackle 1; Purple Finch 10; White-winged Crossbill 1; Pine Siskin 20; Am. Goldfinch 274; E. Grosbeak 719; House Sparrow 282.

Total 56 species, about 8849 individuals. (CP: Com. Loon, Merlin, Saw-whet Owl). Karen Casselman, compiler. (See editor's note).

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 22; 7:15AM to 5:15PM. Temp. 37-55F. Wind SW 12mph. No snow cover. Still water partly open. Moving water open. Cloudy & foggy with light rain. 49 observers in 22-25 parties, 23 at feeders. Total party hours 147.25 (70.5 on foot, 76.75 by car). Total party miles 638.25 (70.5 on foot, 567.75 by car).

Canada Goose 295; Green-winged Teal 7; Am. Black Duck 1087; Mallard 18; Com. Merganser 4; Bald Eagle 108 (48a., 59imm., 1 unknown); N. Harrier 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 81; Rough-legged Hawk 11; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 161; Ruffed Grouse 2; Ring-billed Gull 1056; Herring Gull 10163; Iceland Gull 11; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 1720; Rock Dove 1511; Mourning Dove 400; Short-eared Owl 3; Downy Woodpecker 22; Hairy Woodpecker 9; N. Flicker 8; Horned Lark 9; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 551; Am. Crow 9575; Com. Raven 299; Bl.-capped Chickadee 755; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-br. Nuthatch 14; White-br. Nuthatch 10; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-cr. Kinglet 91; Am. Robin 21; N. Mockingbird 2; Bohemian Waxwing 32; Cedar Waxwing 6; N. Shrike 4; Eur. Starling 15285; Yel.-rumped Warbler 5; Com. Yellowthroat 1; N. Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 106; Savannah Sparrow 12; Song Sparrow 104; Swamp Sparrow 11; White-thr. Sparrow 17; Dark-eyed Junco 564; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Rusty Blackbird 2; Com. Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 289; blackbird sp. 4; N. Oriole 1; Purple Finch 27; House Finch 2; Pine Siskin 176; Am. Goldfinch 679; E. Grosbeak 866; House Sparrow 536.

Total 62 species, about 46769 individuals. (CP: N. Pintail, White-winged Scoter, Orange-crowned Warbler). Richard Stern & Gordon Tufts (compilers). (See editor's note).

YARMOUTH, Dec. 23; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. 45-52F. Wind SW 25-35mph. No snow cover. Still water & moving water open. AM. foggy. PM. foggy with light rain. 18 observers in 7 parties, 9 at feeders. Total party hours 46½ (17½ on foot, 29 by car). Total party miles 362½ (17½ on foot, 345 by car).

Com. Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 1; Gt. Blue Heron 3; Canada Goose 135; Green-winged Teal 5; Am. Black Duck 554; Mallard 61; Am. Wigeon 1; Canvasback 1; Com. Eider 18; Oldsquaw 7; Surf Scoter 1; Bufflehead 30; Red-br. Merganser 50; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Ruffed Grouse 3; Greater Yellowlegs 3; Dunlin 9; Ring-billed Gull 36; Herring Gull 1171; Iceland Gull 5; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 503; Rock Dove 302; Mourning Dove 48; Gt. Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 6; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 67; Am. Crow 202; Com. Raven 8; Bl.-capped Chickadee 185; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 45; Am. Robin 3; N. Mockingbird 2; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 695; Yel.-rumped Warbler 56; Pine Warbler 1; Palm Warbler 2; N. Cardinal 4; Am. Tree Sparrow 5; Chipping Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 16; White-thr. Sparrow 22; Dark-eyed Junco 143; Com. Grackle 8; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; N. Oriole 4; Purple Finch 12; Pine Siskin 12; Am. Goldfinch 85; E. Grosbeak 30; House Sparrow 103.

Total 63 species, about 4693 individuals. (CP: Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, N. Saw-whet Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, House Finch). Margaret Churchill, Peter Comeau, Raymond d'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Jennifer Hall, Michael Hawkswood, Mavis Haycock, Nicholas Hayes, Phyllis Hayes, Hazel Macdonald, Arthur Porter, Barbara Ruff & Eric Ruff (compilers), Robin Rymer, Gerry Somers, Belinda Tucker.

Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals 1990 Christmas Count

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

Three new species were added to the species list this year, bringing the all-time provincial list to 226 plus 3 additional races.

New all-time high counts (numbers underlined) were established for 14 species, compared with 17 last year.

Wolfville led the high count list this year with 33, followed by Halifax East with 24, Port L'Hebert 13, Brier Island 12, and Glace Bay 11.

Red-thr. Loon 5 (Glace Bay); Com. Loon 58 (Brier Island); Pied-billed Grebe 1 (Port L'Hebert & Springville); Horned Grebe 27 (Annapolis Royal); Red-necked Grebe 57 (Brier Island); N. Fulmar 300 (Brier Island); N. Gannet 2 (Halifax East); Gt. Cormorant 98 (Brier Island); Double-cr. Cormorant 21 (Annapolis Royal); Gt. Blue Heron 3 (Port L'Hebert & Yarmouth); Canada Goose 3121 (Halifax East); Green-winged Teal 7 (Wolfville); Am. Black Duck 1932 (West Hants); Mallard 125 (Shubenacadie); N. Pintail 1 (Cheticamp & Port L'Hebert); Blue-winged Teal 2 (Shubenacadie); Am. Wigeon 1 (Pictou Harbour & Yarmouth); Canvasback 1 (Yarmouth); Ring-necked Duck 7 (Shubenacadie); Greater Scaup 451 (Annapolis Royal); Lesser Scaup 24 (Glace Bay); Com. Eider 350 (Halifax East); Harlequin Duck 2 (Glace Bay); Oldsquaw 418 (Glace Bay); Black Scoter 145 (Broad Cove); Surf Scoter 74 (Bridgetown); White-winged Scoter 146 (Bridgetown); Com. Goldeneye 203 (Glace Bay); Barrow's Goldeneye 5 (Bridgetown); Bufflehead 329 (Annapolis Royal); Hooded Merganser 1 (West Hants); Com. Merganser 273 (Pictou Harbour); Red-br. Merganser 214 (Halifax East).

Bald Eagle 108 (Wolfville); N. Harrier 10 (Amherst); Sharp-shinned Hawk 5 (Wolfville); N. Goshawk 1 (Amherst, Annapolis Royal, Economy, Shubenacadie, West Hants & Wolfville); Broad-winged Hawk 1 (Halifax East); Red-tailed Hawk 81 (Wolfville); Rough-legged Hawk 21 (Amherst); Am. Kestrel 3 (Port L'Hebert); Merlin 2 (Halifax East, Port L'Hebert,

Pubnico & Wolfville); Gray Partridge 7 (Economy); Ring-necked Pheasant 161 (Wolfville); Spruce Grouse 6 (West Hants); Ruffed Grouse 20 (Port L'Hebert); Black-bellied Plover 3 (Port L'Hebert); Killdeer 1 (Halifax East); Greater Yellowlegs 3 (Yarmouth); Lesser Yellowlegs 3 (Halifax East); Ruddy Turnstone 6 (Brier Island); Sanderling 2 (Broad Cove); Purple Sandpiper 215 (Economy); Dunlin 9 (Yarmouth); Com. Snipe 2 (Halifax East); Am. Woodcock 1 (Broad Cove).

Com. Bl.-headed Gull 20 (Glance Bay); Com. (Mew) Gull 1 (Amherst); Bonaparte's Gull 10 (Antigonish); Ring-billed Gull 1056 (Wolfville); Herring Gull 10163 (Wolfville); Iceland Gull 389 (Glance Bay); Lesser Bl.-backed Gull 1 (Halifax West & Strait of Canso); Glaucous Gull 27 (Cheticamp); Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 1720 (Wolfville); Bl.-legged Kittiwake 579 (Brier Island); Dovekie 204 (Brier Island); Common Murre 3 (Highlands); Thick-billed Murre 13 (Brier Island); Razorbill 35 (Brier Island); Black Guillemot 23 (Brier Island); Atlantic Puffin 200 (Brier Island); Rock Dove 1511 (Wolfville); Mourning Dove 400 (Wolfville); Gt. Horned Owl 2 (Economy); Barred Owl 3 (West Hants); Short-eared Owl 3 (Wolfville); N. Saw-whet Owl 1 (Glance Bay & Halifax East).

Belted Kingfisher 3 (Glance Bay & Halifax East); Downy Woodpecker 22 (Wolfville); Hairy Woodpecker 9 (Wolfville); Black-backed Woodpecker 1 (Halifax West & Highlands); N. Flicker 13 (Port L'Hebert); Pileated Woodpecker 10 (West Hants); Horned Lark 25 (Amherst); Gray Jay 39 (Pubnico); Blue Jay 551 (Wolfville); Am. Crow 9575 (Wolfville); Com. Raven 299 (Wolfville); Bl.-capped Chickadee 755 (Wolfville); Boreal Chickadee 129 (Halifax East); Red-br. Nuthatch 87 (Halifax East); White-br. Nuthatch 10 (Wolfville); Brown Creeper 18 (Halifax East); Golden-cr. Kinglet 243 (Halifax East); Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1 (Halifax East, Halifax West, Pubnico & Springville); Am. Robin 122 (Pubnico); N. Mockingbird 2 (Glance Bay, Halifax East, Halifax West & Wolfville); Brown Thrasher 1 (Brier Island & Pubnico); Water Pipit 4 (Broad Cove); Bohemian Waxwing 118 (Pictou Harbour); Cedar Waxwing 103 (West Hants); N. Shrike 9 (Amherst).

Eur. Starling 15285 (Wolfville); Orange-cr. Warbler 1 (Halifax East); Yel-rumped Warbler 85 (Port L'Hebert); Pine Warbler 4 (Halifax West); Palm Warbler 2 (Yarmouth); Com. Yellowthroat 1 (Springville & Wolfville); Yellow-br. Chat 1 (Glance Bay); N. Cardinal 4 (Yarmouth); Am. Tree Sparrow 106 (Wolfville); Chipping Sparrow 6 (Port L'Hebert); Vesper Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); Savannah Sparrow 12 (Wolfville); Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1 (Halifax East & Halifax West); Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); Seaside Sparrow 1 (Port L'Hebert); Fox Sparrow 2 (Annapolis Royal); Song Sparrow 122 (Port L'Hebert); Swamp Sparrow 11 (Wolfville); White-thr. Sparrow 40 (Port L'Hebert); Dark-eyed Junco 564 (Wolfville); Lapland Longspur 25 (Halifax East); Snow Bunting 452 (Amherst).

Red-winged Blackbird 53 (Broad Cove); E. Meadowlark 1 (Amherst & Broad Cove); Rusty Blackbird 2 (Wolfville); Com. Grackle 46 (Advocate/Apple River); Brown-headed Cowbird 289 (Wolfville); N. Oriole 4 (Yarmouth); Pine Grosbeak 7 (Economy); Purple Finch 37 (Halifax West); House Finch 2 (Wolfville); Red Crossbill 6 (Halifax East); White-winged Crossbill 400 (Halifax East); Com. Redpoll 1 (Halifax West); Pine Siskin 643 (Broad Cove); Com. Goldfinch 679 (Wolfville); E. Grosbeak 866 (Wolfville); House Sparrow 536 (Wolfville).

Mary Anderson
David Currie

Notes

Notes

Notes

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