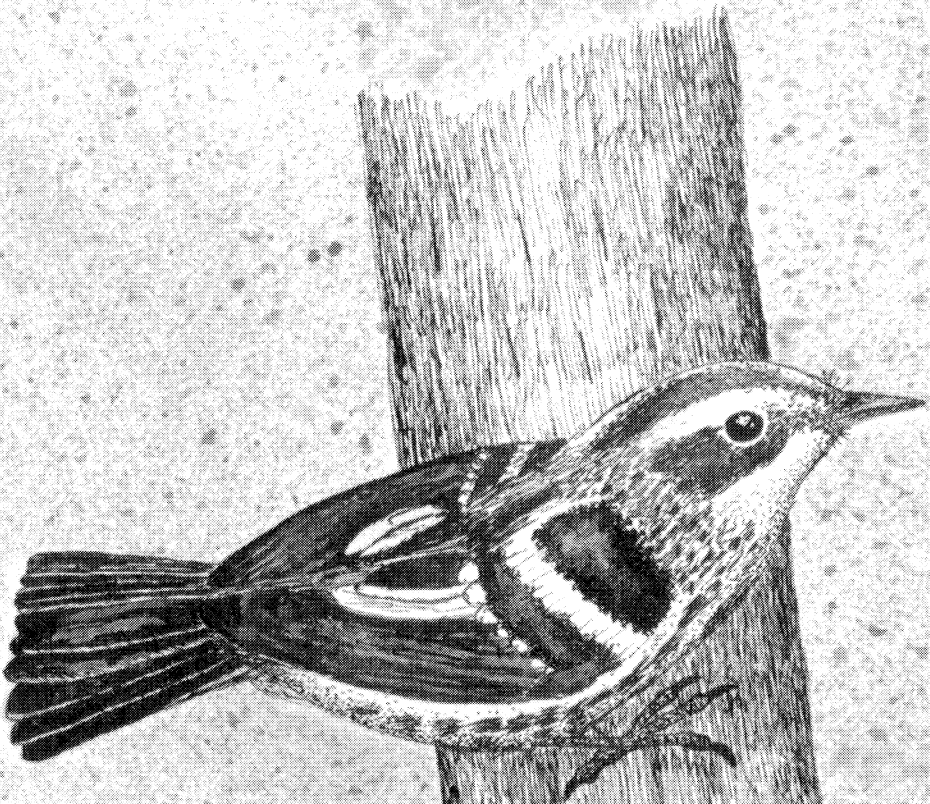


Nova Scotia Birds



April 1992

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
A Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society

Volume 34 Number 2

April 1992

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Bird Report - Winter 1991 - 1992	5
Field Trip Reports	23
Forthcoming Field Trips	25
Birding St Pierre and Miquelon	29
A Native-watcher's Window Box	37
Living Island VI	41
Letters to the Editor	44
The Art of Misidentification	45
Unsung Heros	46
Christmas Counts 1991 -1992	51

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RECORDS EDITOR'S REPORT

Among the bird reports were several comments about an unhappy incident on an Annapolis Valley farm earlier in the year. The report was of the deliberate poisoning of a large number of birds by a farmer. In fact, I had been advised of this incident in a phone call from a member who had actually seen the dead birds. Louis Coutinho, a director of our society investigated the incident and found that the Department of Natural Resources (Lands and Forests) had acted promptly in getting the matter stopped. Our society sent a letter to the Minister and the warden, commending them for their swift and decisive action. The pesticide used in this incident is under investigation by the Government of Canada and a letter was sent to the government by our society urging that it be banned for use in this country. Because of the media coverage it seems very unlikely that there will be a repeat of this incident.

We are very please that reporters are using the new forms. They make our sorting and studying of them a lot easier.

I want to thank Keith Keddy for sending along the weather reports. Because the weather impacts on birds, it is interesting to compare our sightings with atmospheric conditions at the time. Often, big storms bring unusual birds (even tropical birds) with them. After big storms some birders head out to places like Chebucto Head to see what the wind blew in. Fulton Lavender tells me that this has been a western winter and thus a number of unusual western birds have shown up. The weather reports don't tell us where the storms originate but there were big storms on November 10 and 11 (mostly rain and high winds) and a substantial snowstorm on December 3, that closed schools and many businesses. Heavy winds toppled a Dartmouth apartment building in January, but February was the snow month with two major storms during the first week--one on the 5th and another on the 9th. It's been a long cold winter, so let's all hope for an early, sunny spring.

A special thanks to the following for their bird reports.

Bob Dickie,
Records Editor.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

for

the **July, 1992** issue

May 30, 1991

Bird Reports to the RECORDS EDITOR

Mr. Bob Dickie,
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R E P O R T E R S

Bay	Pearl	PVB
Blanchard	Val	VB
Bleakney	Sherman	SB
Bond	Fred	FB
Brennan	Calvin	CB
Brennan	Harry	HB
Bryson	Phyllis	PB
Caldwell	Cyril	CKC
Casselman	Karen	KLC
Casselman	Ted	TC
Caudle	Bill	WGC
Clifford	Joe	JC
Cohrs	John	JLC
Cohrs	Shirley	JSC
Cooke	Eric	EC
Covert	Alan	AC
Cretien	Jacqueline	JCr
Crosby	Donna	DC
Czapalay	Joan	JCz
Day	Cecil	CD
D'Entremont	Raymond	RSD
Dickie	Bob	RBD
Dickie	Brian	WBD
Dickie	Helen	HD
Digout	George	GD
Digout	Sharon	SD
Dobson	Harold	HDo
Elderkin	Mark	ME
Ellis	Bert	BE
Ellis	Margaret	MEE
Erickson	Vera	VE
Field	Chris	CF
Flecknell	Bob	BF
Flemming	Deborah	DF
Forsythe	Bernard	BLF
Foxall	Roger	RF
Freedman	Bill	BFr
Fullerton	Sylvia	SJF
Gates	Joy	JGA
Gibson	Jamie	JG
Gibson	Merritt	MG
Graves	June	JGr
Hall	Helen	HJH
Hall	Hubert	HGH
Hall	Jennifer	JH
Harris	Eileen	EH
Harwood	Avril/John	AJH
Hawkeswood	Michael	MHW
Hemeon	Ward/Phyllis	WPH
Herman	Tom	TBH
Hilchie	Claire	CJH
Hover	Chris	CH
Hudson	Steve/Laura	SLH
Jackson	Robert/Beverley	RBJ
Keddy	Keith	KNK
Kochanoff	Peggy	PK
Lavender	Fulton	FLL
Lucas	Zoe	ZL
MacDonald	Peter	PMa
MacLean	Angus	ASM
MacLeod	Peter	PM

MacNeil	Jack	JM
Martell	Pat	PMA
Martell	W.R.	WRM
Maybank	Blake	BM
McConnell	Jane	JM
McKenna	Ken	KJM
McLaren	Ian	IAM
Mills	Eric	ELM
Morse	Jean/Bill	JBM
Mullins	Jeremy	JMu
Murrant	Cathy	CM
Murrant	Allan	AM
Payzant	Linda/Peter	LPP
Porter	Arthur	AP
Pratt	Mary	MP
Purchase	Don	DP
Purchase	Joyce	JP
Robinson	Carl	CR
Ross	Christine	CRO
Ross	Oliver/Muriel	OMR
Ruff	Barb	BR
Ruff	Eric	ER
Rymer	Robin	RR
Sarty	Bev	BS
Shanks	Bev	BSh
Shortt	Doreen	DS
Smith	Bruce	BSm
Smith	Peter	PS
Smith	Sean	SS
Spalding	Francis	FS
Spicer	Kathleen	KS
Stern	Richard	RBS
Stevens	Clarence	CS2
Stracer	Cindy	CS
Sutcliffe	John	JS
Tams	Miriam	MT
Taylor	Jim	JWT
Thexton	Bill/Brenda	BBT
Thexton	Don	DT
Thorpe	Gordon/Diane	GDT
Trueman	Gerry	GT
Tufts	Judy/Gordon	JGT
Urban	Eva	EU
Urban	Deanna	DU
Waldron	Joan	JW
Williams	Sherman	SW
Wolford	Jim	JWW
Young	David	DHY
Zinck	Marion	MZ

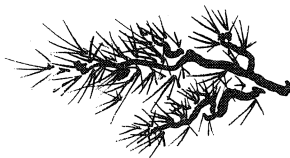
Total number of reporters = 119

Bob Dickie,
(Records Editor)

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, Linden, Port Howe
Hants Co.	Shubenacadie, Noel Shore
Digby Co.	Brier Island
Guysborough Co. (Guys. Co.)	Hazel Hill
Cape Breton (C.B.)	Big Pond, C.B. Highland National Park (C.B.H.N.P.)

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



BIRD REPORTS

LOONS AND GREBES

RED-THROATED LOONS were reported in groups of 2-5 during November, but by December nobody saw more than one at a time. Two observers (JBM) felt that COMMON LOON numbers appeared to be down this winter, and indeed there were no more than 6 reported from any locations until January 30, when ASM saw 21 at Blue Rocks and Green Bay. Two days later, BM had 35 at Conrad's Beach.

It seems that someone always finds a PIED-BILLED GREBE or two during the winter. JBM reported one at Mader's Cove on Nov. 17, and BM saw one at Whynacht's Cove on Dec. 28.

HORNED GREBES seemed to be somewhat down in numbers, with most reporters mentioning 1 to 4 birds. However, there were 15-20 at East Chester on Dec. 21 and again on Jan. 5 (CF), and 12 between Liverpool and West Berlin on Feb. 7 (SDS,FLL). There were 30 RED-NECKED GREBES at Kingsburg, Lun. Co. on Dec. 8 (BM), and several observers reported small numbers, up to 12, from other locations.

LPMP, ed.

FULMARS TO CORMORANTS

The pickings in this section are very slim indeed. Blake Maybank had a good view of a NORTHERN FULMAR on Dec. 1, flying north ca. 1 km off Cow Bay, Hfx. Co. Anonymous saw another off Chebucto Head on New Year's Day. In our corner of the Atlantic, most Fulmars winter well NE of Nova Scotia, off Newfoundland and Labrador. There were a few late reports of NORTHERN GANNETS: single immatures off Hemeon's Head on Dec. 1 (DHY), Kingsburg, Lun. Co., on Dec. 8 (BM,ELM,IAM), and Hartlen's Point on Dec. 14 (SDS). Deborah Flemming and Bruce Smith saw 3 unidentified Cormorants at the Head of St. Margaret's Bay on Feb. 17, also on Feb. 21. The Cohrs report a DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT in Broad Cove on Dec. 11, and another on a rock in Sullivan's Pond on Feb. 18. Blake Maybank saw one off West Dover on Jan. 11, along with 3 GREAT CORMORANTS. The Murrants' Double-crested at Sydney River, on Jan. 10, was our northernmost report. The southernmost were the 6 Greats and Hubert Hall and Eric Ruff saw at the end of the Forchu causeway on Dec. 16, and "a few" Greats on the Brier Island CBC, next day.

RGBB, ed.

HERONS

At least 9 GREAT BLUE HERONS lingered in December, with later individuals near Sydney (AM) and Yarmouth (HGH) on Jan. 1, Pictou on Jan. 4 (KJM), 3 on Cape Sable Is. on Jan. 10 (JCz) and, perhaps the only one to survive the winter, a bird at Lr. W. Pubnico in Mid February (JKD,RSD).

The GREAT EGRET and LITTLE BLUE HERON that frequented the W. Chezzetcook marshes in late November stayed until Dec. 1 (BM,JWT), a record late date for the latter. A CATTLE EGRET was at Glace Bay on Nov. 12 (AMCM). A clearly discomfitted imm. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, found in a ditch at Sheffield Mills during the Wolfville Christmas count (JG,MG; good details), was our latest on record. What may have been the same bird was seen that day nearer Kentville (JC, *vide* JWW).

IAM, ed.

GEESE AND DUCKS

Only one report of SNOW GOOSE made this issue: June Graves (**fide** JWW) had one at Yarmouth on Feb. 18.

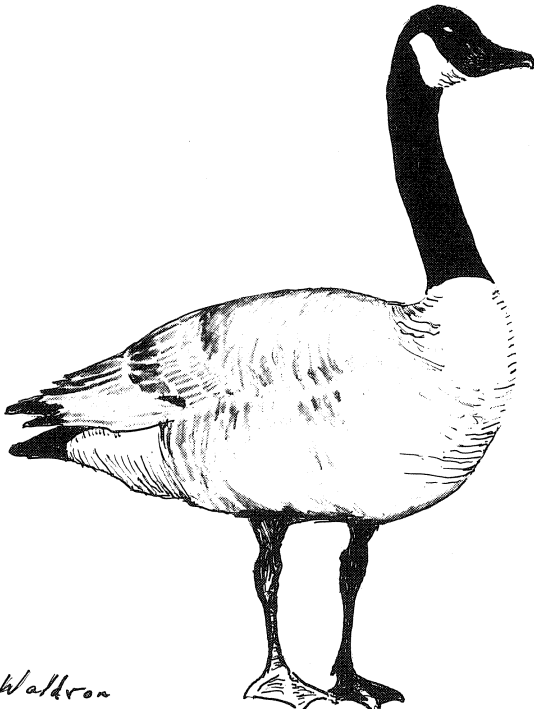
A few BRANT showed up--RBS had a total of 11 for the Brier Island Christmas Count on Dec. 17, BS & PM saw 5 from Hartlen's Point on New Year's Day, and there were 7 at Cape Sable Island on Jan. 12 (BM).

There were reports of up to 200 CANADA GEESE from various Annapolis Valley locations, over 3500 at the Martinique sanctuary on Feb. 21 (FLL), and 200-300 stayed the winter in the warm outflow from the Trenton power plant (KJM).

Single WOOD DUCKS were reported from Trenton (Dec. 8, KJM), Dartmouth (Dec. 11, JWT), and Purcell's Cove (Jan. 7, PB).

Up to 70 GREEN-WINGED TEAL lingered in the Port Williams-Canning area as of Nov. 24 (JWW). Twos and threes were reported throughout the winter from various locations, including 2 males of the nominate **crecca** race at Yarmouth on Jan. 20 (ER, BR, H&HH) and a single male **crecca** at Stirling's Pond, Greenwich from Jan. 29 through Feb. 6 (JGT). A single male **crecca** was still present at Yarmouth on Feb. 18 (JG **fide** JWW).

BLACK DUCKS are so ubiquitous that they receive scant attention from most observers. However, KJM mentions "hundreds" all winter at Trenton, the Pictou causeway and Quarry Island, and there were 150-200 more at Crescent Beach and St. Margaret's Bay. Halifax Harbour/Bedford Basin/Sullivan's Pond were home to 1000-2000 birds, by my estimate.



Thirty - 40 MALLARDS were in a pond near Bridgewater from Jan. 1 at least through Feb. 10, and a few could be found at various ponds in the Annapolis Valley.

Single NORTHERN PINTAILS were reported from Sullivan's Pond (Jan. 1 - BS), Russell Lake (Jan. 10 - JWT), Wentworth Park pond (Jan. 26 - Am,CM) and Trenton (Feb. 1 - KJM). A solitary, late and probably malodorous NORTHERN SHOVELLER was seen in the Windsor sewage pond on Dec. 29 (PM,BS,JW).

Two GADWALLS were reported from Canning on Nov. 24 (JWW). There was one at Lawrencetown on Dec. 15 (JSC), and 2 at Crescent Beach on Dec. 27 (SJF).

A flock of 6 EURASIAN WIGEON was present on Sable Island on Dec. 15 (ZL **fide** IAM), and a single male at Tufts Cove from Dec. 24 to at least Jan. 11 was reported by many observers.

There were five reports of about a dozen AMERICAN WIGEON from Canning, Kingsburg, Yarmouth and Tufts Cove.

A single REDHEAD returned to Wentworth Park in Sydney for the 3rd year in a row (CM, AM), and another was at Lawrencetown on Dec. 15 (JSC).

About 30 RING-NECKED DUCKS in Rocky Lake, Bedford on Nov. 30 were soon frozen out (L&PP), but a few had started to return by late February. Ones and twos were at Petite Riviere, Green Bay and Yarmouth.

What's happening with TUFTED DUCKS? Are they going to be a regular feature of winter birding in Nova Scotia from now on? We had 2 females in the Bedford Basin/Halifax Harbour area from Dec. 20 to at least Jan. 31, and a male was at Yarmouth on Feb. 18 and Feb. 29 (JG). Convincing descriptions were furnished by RBS & IAM.

Over 2000 GREATER SCAUP were at the Pictou Causeway/East River area all winter (KJM), and JSC saw 450 at Crescent Beach on Dec. 12. LESSER SCAUP were reported on the Broad Cove Christmas Count (2), and there were 3+ around Halifax (IAM). One of the Broad Cove birds was present from February of 1991 until at least Jan. 12 of 1992 (SJF,BM).

COMMON EIDER were noted in small numbers at most locations in early winter. By mid February they had begun to raft, with 2400 from Herring Cove to Sandy Cove on February 10 (PM). JSC felt that there were lower than usual numbers around Cherry Hill Beach.

A single 1st-year male KING EIDER was "studied at fairly close range for thirty minutes" by BM at Peggy's Cove, on Jan. 11. It was not relocated later.

Three female HARLEQUIN DUCKS were in their proper place, "feeding in the breaking surf" when H&HH spotted them at Cape Forchu on Dec. 15. A lone male provided "a bright spot on a blustery winter day" during the Kingston Christmas Count at Margaretsville on Dec. 28 (JGT). There was another single bird at Cape Sable Island on Jan. 12 (BM) and a pair at Sandy Cove on Feb. 11 (BS).

It seems that there were fewer OLDSQUAW around than we usually see. As usual, there were reports of up to 40 from many locations including Mahone Bay, St. Margaret's Bay, East Chester, Margaretsville, Melmerby and Neil's Harbour. However, no one saw more than 50 at any location--CF had 50 at Eastern Passage on Jan. 25.

There were six reports of BLACK SCOTER, including a surprising 238 at Green Bay on Dec. 28 (JSC). Other reports included single males at Pictou Causeway all winter (KJM) and Yarmouth Harbour on Dec. 16 (HGH), 6 at Little Smokey on Dec. 29 (ASM), 15 at Western Head on Feb. 7 (BM), and 1 at Conrad's Beach on March 1 (BM). The other Scoter species were very sparse--SURF SCOTERS were only reported in ones and twos, with the exception of 12 at Little Bass River on Nov. 12 (WPH). There were 90

WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS at Green Bay on Dec. 28, and 15 at Eastern Passage on Jan. 10 (WGC).

The Pictou Causeway/Trenton area had over 300 COMMON GOLDENEYE (KJM) and tens could be seen in many other locations including Mahone Bay, St. Margaret's Bay, Wallace and Black Brook/Little Smokey in CBHNP. BARROWS GOLDENEYE were also present in usual numbers--ones and twos--and most often with Commons. There were seven reports of 9 birds.

RBS reports 100+ BUFFLEHEAD at Annapolis Royal DU pond on Nov. 26, and there were reports of 10-20 at Petite Riviere, Parrsboro, Grand Desert, Glace Bay and Digby.

Five HOODED MERGANSERS stayed most of the winter in Bedford Basin. Nine were at Whynacht's Cove on Dec. 7 (CF), and Eric Cooke saw 8 at Head of St. Margaret's Bay on Dec. 13. Hundreds of COMMON MERGANSERS were at the Pictou Causeway/Trenton site all winter (KJM,FLL). On Dec. 8, BLF had 12 at the Lumsden Dam and BM saw 25 in the LaHave River. There were ten other reports of eight or fewer birds.

KJM reported a group of 2000 RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS on Nov. 18, off Big Island, Pictou County. JBM, felt that the 4 at Mader's Cove, Mahone Bay were fewer than usual. BLF saw "a strange-looking male...had its upper bill askew upward at an angle--how can it feed itself?" at Lumsden Dam on Dec. 8. Ones and twos could be seen at coastal locations through the winter, as usual.

RUDDY DUCK is becoming a regular feature of the April issue--could we be seeing the same individual(s) each year? A lone male was at Pictou Harbour on Dec. 11 (BS,PM), and another male was in Green Bay on Jan. 20 (ASM).

LPMP, ed.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

A distressed TURKEY VULTURE on Brier Is. at the end of the reporting period (**fide** RRBS) may have been the same bird present there on Dec. 16 (JBM). Continuing a recent tradition, another was seen from time to time in eastern King's Co. from early January through February (var. ob.).

About 25 scattered BALD EAGLES were reported from the mainland, plus perhaps another dozen or so from Pictou Co., and a few adults from Cape Breton. That said, we turn to King's County. There seems to have been no "official" Eagle Count. The Wolfville Christmas count was probably too high (**fide** RBS **et al.**). About 88, mostly adults, were seen on Jan. 18, when snow hampered visibility (MG). About 120 were seen on a field trip on Jan. 26 (**fide** JWW). The record seems to have been 144 on Jan. 30 (anon.). Good numbers of NORTHERN HARRIERS stayed this winter. Other than Christmas count birds, about 23 were reported, 6 as males and 7 as females.

By contrast, only 18 individual SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS were actually reported, and they were commented on as being scarcer this winter by four observers. They may have been partly responsible for diminution of the late-winter robin flocks; I saw two robins being eaten in west-end Halifax. NORTHERN GOSHAWKS are always scarce. I reckon, discounting probable repeats, that we have reports of 1 from King's and 2 from Halifax Co.

An ad. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK at S. Deerfield, Yar. Co., on Dec. 26 (MHW, RR), may have been the same one that took up residence through the winter near the Yarmouth Airport. Another bird, an imm. with distinctly red shoulders, was also found from time to time in the same area (June Graves). A tradition seems to be developing in that area. William S. Clark, author of the Peterson guide to hawks, has written me expressing skepticism about our winter records of BROAD-WINGED HAWKS north of Florida, so we must improve our documentation. Our December laggards in past years, two of which were photographically confirmed, are not in contention, and there are photos, hopefully diagnostic, of the bird that overwintered in Wolfville into 1983. This winter, we have undocumented (but plausible) reports of immatures from Tatamagouche on Dec. 12 and the Yarmouth area on Dec. 26 (2 birds). We also have good descriptions of immatures seen near Portuguese Cove, Hfx. Co., on Feb. 18 (PM,BS) and near Chester, Lun. Co., on Feb. 27 (JSC). The possible confusion is with a small round Red-shoulders, which can be quite "dumpy" when fluffed up in winter. The 2 February Broadwings were immatures, with no hint of rufous and, most importantly, the narrow dark tail bands on grayish tails, pale underwing coverts and dark-margined wings were noted on both. The Chester bird was also noted as being smaller than nearby crows. Other useful features worth noting in future are the tendency for young Broad-wings to have less streaked upper breasts and strong malar stripes than the Red-shoulder. To convince our skeptics, please detail field marks and if possible photograph all future winter buteos other than the usual ones.

Far, far less expected here was a frustrating bird with the field marks of a SWAINSON'S HAWK. These birds winter in South America, and there are no accepted winter records from North America outside Florida and, possibly, Alaska, so I include details for others to judge. The bird was first observed late in the day on Feb. 15 by Peter MacLeod near the railroad right-of-way in west-end Halifax. It was perched about 10 m up in bright light and was studied for a few minutes with 8 x 42 binoculars at about 40 m. The bird was "slimmer than a Red-tailed" and "its wing tips came to the tip of the tail". Peter's notes and sketches also illustrate several very narrow dark bands, and one broader subterminal one, on its gray tail. The underparts were decidedly buffy, whiter on the belly, with dark streaks on the flanks and with more extensive dark markings around the upper breast, not forming the complete "bib" found most light-phase adults. The bird flushed and soared over the area before disappearing behind trees to the north. Long, pointed wings with three conspicuous primaries, buffy underwing coverts, dark flight feathers, and uptilted wings were all noted. In addition, a little white was evident on the upper tail coverts. All these field marks seem to exclude anything except a near-adult Swainson's Hawk. Peter, who last year had studied large flocks during their migration in Texas, rushed off to telephone the word, but the bird had perhaps gone to roost when other joined the search, and it could not be found on subsequent days. The next report, on Clarence Steven's feeder-watcher's "hotline", was much less satisfactory. A woman from south-end Halifax, apparently without knowing anything of the previous sighting, phoned anonymously on Feb. 23 to ask if she could have observed what, from her field guides, appeared to fit an "adult" light-phase Swainson's Hawk". She reported that the bird was last seen being chased by crows north along the railroad line in the direction of the first sighting. (If anyone knows about this sighting or of any others in the area, we are anxious to have written details.) This led to renewed searching, and Peter found the bird again, sitting in the developing rain on Feb. 29, near the original site. He quickly confirmed his previous observations, except that the "bib" appeared more complete, perhaps because of different feather dispositions, and that there was some rufous on the sides of the head. He left to alert others, but the bird did not remain for their relatively prompt arrival. That night, the temperatures dropped to -20°C , and the bird was not seen again. One wonders if the immature bird banded in New Jersey in September 1988, and found dead on Spencer's Is., next spring (seen July 1990 issue), had also attempted to overwinter here after a reverse migration from the east coast; it would seem less likely to have returned that spring from South America. It is also worth noting that there is a spring record for Norway!

There were about 22 reports of more than 40 scattered RED-TAILED HAWKS, in addition to the concentrations in eastern King's Co. (max. 17 birds by CF, B. Moores). Some of the latter were found dead after the notorious feed-lot poisoning of starlings

in January. Sean Smith notes that they are becoming scarcer in the southern parts of their range, but evidently not here. The almost-full albino wintering near Sheffield Mills (sev. ob.) was probably the same bird found there last year. Another less completely white bird near Gaspereau (**fide** JWW) was, again, perhaps the same as last year's. A third rather mottled partial albino wintered near Antigonish (HB,KJM). Fourteen reports of about 20 ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS, with allowance for replicates, were slightly more than average. As usual, hot spots were King's Co. (max. 3 in a report), and the Truro (max. 3) and Amherst (max. 2) areas.

A bird inspected during the N.S. Museum "eagle trip" near Grand Pré on Jan. 25 was thought to be a very peculiar imm. GOLDEN EAGLE (PM **et al.**). It had an extensively white back and breast and golden head, a sharply dark banded tail, and small, solid white wing patches. It was mantling what appeared to be a hare, which it defended fiercely from an inspecting raven. I could find no reports of partial albinism of this species. Such extensive white on the body might be found in a very unusual 4th year Bald Eagle, but the wings, tail, head colour, and possibly its behaviour, were not right.

There were 5 reports of 6 AM. KESTRELS for the new year, all in early January, except for a male near Pubnico Pt. on Feb. 17 (RSD). I imagine the snow was hard on them. Only 2 MERLINS were reported during the same interval, which seems unlikely to represent the number seen. A large, dark falcon was glimpsed around Halifax from time to time, and at least two non-birders reported aerial kills of pigeons on the Dalhousie campus. Finally, the bird was seen well by ELM who pronounced it a dark young female of the **anatum** race. At least 2 Peregrines wintered on Sable Island: immature(s) were seen through Dec.-Jan. and adults on Dec. 12 and 27 (ZL).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

GRAY PARTRIDGES are in serious decline in Nova Scotia, with perhaps only 100+ remaining W. King's Co., according to surveys organized by the Dept. of Natural Resources (**fide** JGT). This winter, up to 8 were reported from the Wellington Dyke area (sev. ob.), 2 near the Windsor sewage pond (BM,JWT), and 9 near Economy (FS). The Valley RING-NECKED PHEASANTS are suffering no such decline, although perhaps this winter's snows were troublesome, with reports of 14, 15, and 30 at various feeders in the Wolfville area. We have otherwise the usual scattered reports, from Halifax to Yarmouth. A half-dozen reports of 11 SPRUCE GROUSE, from C. B. Co. to Lun. Co., included 6 in Pictou and Guys. Co. (KJM). Ten reports of RUFFED GROUSE listed about 35 birds (allowing for possible repeats), which is above average.

RALLIDS

An AM. COOT was at the New Minas Pond on Nov. 14 (RBS). Two were present in late fall at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, but only one made it into winter. It was at times hard to find, but evidently survived the winter.

IAM, ed.

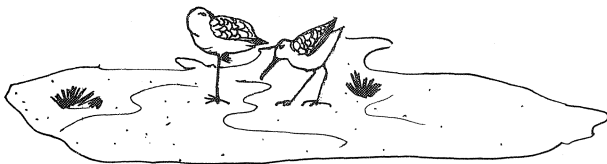
SHOREBIRDS

Only a few BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER delayed their departure last fall: one was at Big Is., Pictou Co., Nov. 24 (KJM); 2 each were still at Cherry Hill and Crescent, Jan. 1 (SJF). Last were 3 at Little Harbour, Shel. Co., Jan 6 (DHY). A dozen KILLDEER were noted in December, the latest being 2 at Hartlen's Point on Christmas Day (L&PP) and 3 at Lockeport, Dec. 29 (DJC). One last was at Parrsboro, Jan. 3 (FS).

The only tardy GREATER YELLOWLEGS was 1 at Matthew's Lake, Nov. 24 (DHY). Scarce this winter, 4 RUDDY TURNSTONES were noted from Nov. 8 to Dec. 1 in Hfx. and Shel. Cos. (BM, JT, BS, PM, DHY). On Dec. 21, on the Mid Is., Yar. Co., one was shot by a local from a flock of 20 birds which may or may not have been turnstones (RSD). There were still 47 SANDERLINGS at Little Harbour, Nov. 4 (DHY); elsewhere a number of beaches sheltered a total of 36 through December. By mid- January that number had declined to 6--5 at Crescent and 1 at Conrad's Beach, February 1 (BM) and 6 at Cherry Hill, Feb. 22 (JSC, SJF). November reports of WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS come from Little Harbour (DHY), Hartlen's Point (BS, PM), Economy (FS), and Big Is., where there were still 4 on the 24th (KJM). A PECTORAL SANDPIPER was at Cherry Hill, Nov. 17 (SJF). Most of the dozen reports of PURPLE SANDPIPERS speak of flocks of 10-20 birds, but the CBC counts are higher--for example, 59 at West Apple River (KS) and 145+ on Brier (many obs.). At Little Harbour there were 35 DUNLIN, Nov. 11 had dwindled to 7 by Dec. 21 (DHY). Of the three dozen noted elsewhere in December the last were 3 at Cherry Hill on the 31st (SJF).

There were more COMMON SNIPE about than usual this winter. In the Valley 1 was at Grand Pré, Nov. 2 (ASM), another on the Wolfville C.B.C. Dec. 29 saw 1 at Green Bay (JSC) and 5 at Allendale (*vide* DHY); at Conrad's Beach sightings were of 1 on Dec. 16 (PM) and Jan. 2 (J&BT), and 2 on Jan. 3 (BS, PM). Late winter sightings were of singles by the side of Rte. 103 near exit 10 on Feb. 7 (FLL *et al.*) and by the roadside in a wet area in Lr. W. Pubnico, Feb. 15 (RSD). An AMERICAN WOODCOCK was seen in a motel parking lot at Coldbrook, King's Co., Dec. 13 (*vide* JT), beside a house at White's Lake, Hfx. Co. Dec. 17 (BM), and at Clark's Hbr., Dec. 29 (the Doanes). Last was one Jan. 26 at Lockeport "about 3 feet from the Historic Houses Monument--in a small patch of rosebushes--trying to probe for worms in ground that had been frozen rock-solid for at least ten days" (DC).

FS, ed.



PHALAROPES TO AUKS

We start with the surprising RED PHALAROPE that Fulton Lavender and others saw on Feb. 21, at close range, in Eastern Passage. All the field marks were noted. As Fulton says, "I've heard of 'Too Late the Phalarope', but this took the cake!" The bird ought to have been off Peru or West Africa at this time of year.

Peter MacDonald had a good view of an unidentified SKUA near Kingsport, on Dec. 21, during the Wolfville CBC. The brown body and brilliant white flashes at the base of the primaries were well seen. Out on Sable Island, Zoe Lucas (*vide* Ian McLaren) found a dead Skua on the beach of Sable Island in December. Ian thinks it may prove to be the first Nova Scotian specimen of a GREAT SKUA.

As usual, I'm taking the abundance of HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS as a fact of Nova Scotian life. Ian McLaren has identified at least 3 individual LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS this winter, in the area of the Volvo Plant in Dartmouth. They include one with a very pale back. Another bird arrived at Lockport beach in September, and was still there in mid-February (DJC). Richard Stern saw several ICELAND GULLS in the Grand Pré/Gaspereau area in late November, but notes that they weren't as common as in the Halifax area. He saw 6 at the Westport fish plant on Dec. 17, along with a 2nd- and a 1st-winter GLAUCOUS GULL. He reports 'hundreds' of Icelanders on the Metro Sewer Stroll on Jan. 11. Among other reports, Jim Wolford and others saw a juvenile Iceland and 2 adults on Wolfville sewage ponds on Jan. 1-2; one of the adults was a 'Kumlien's Gull'. He also saw an adult and a subadult Iceland at Canard on Feb. 16. On the Atlantic side of the province, Donna Crosby reports an immature Iceland and an adult 'Kumlien's' at Lockeport beach on Jan. 25-27, and Bill Morse saw an Iceland at Blue Rocks, Lun. Co. on Jan. 29. Additional Glaucous Gull sightings are of singletons from Kingsburg, Lun. Co. on Dec. 8 (BM,ELM,IAM), Bedford Basin on Jan. 24 (the Payzants), River Bourgeois on Jan. 2 (GD), and Sackville River and Martinique Beach on Jan. 22 and Feb. 21, respectively (SDS,FLL).

We've had an interesting crop of the smaller gulls. An adult LITTLE GULL, well seen, and a distant immature were feeding among about 200 Black-headed and Bonaparte's Gulls off the Pictou Causeway on Dec. 7 (BM, IAM), and there was an adult near Grand Anse, C.B., on Jan. 13 (ASM). Eric Mills and Roger Foxall saw a FRANKLIN'S GULL at Conrad's Beach on Dec. 15-16. On Nov. 17, Ken McKenna saw a feeding-frenzy of 1,000 BONAPARTE'S GULLS at Caribou Is., with another 500+ in the West River Pictou. He estimated at least 1,000 birds in the Lyons Brook area on Dec. 1, but the numbers there had fallen to ca. 100 by Dec. 16. The MacLeans saw 7 Bonaparte's, along with a possible Little Gull, near Grand Anse, C.B., on Jan. 13. Richard Stern saw a bird in Dartmouth Cove on Jan. 11, Donna Crosby saw another on the beach at Lockeport on Jan. 25 and David Young saw one in Little Harbour, Shel. Co., on Nov. 25. Reports of BLACK-HEADED GULLS are now commonplace in Nova Scotia in winter, though we seldom see more than 1-2 at a time. However, the Murrants counted 19 in Glace Bay harbour on Jan. 19, and Bev Sarty and Peter MacLeod saw 12 in Dartmouth Cove on Jan. 26. Among our other reports are Raymond d'Entremont's couple at Lr. W. Pubnico on Dec. 10, the Morses' two at Second Peninsula, Lun. Co., on Feb. 11, and singletons at Grand Anse on Oct. 28 (GD), Little Harbour, Shel. Co., on Nov. 23 (DHY), and at the Wolfville CBC on Dec. 21. Jim Wolford saw 110 widely scattered RING-BILLED GULLS on Nov. 24, feeding in fields near Kingsport, and the Wolfville CBC came up with a total of 957 birds on Dec. 21, mainly in the Canning area. Ian McLaren saw a 1st.--winter MEW GULL at Tufts Cove, Dartmouth, on Nov. 9, and it stayed in the area at least until Dec. 22. BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES round off this impressive list. Our reports of these are all of single birds: an immature off Cole Harbour on Dec. 1 (BM,JWT); off Pubnico Point on Dec. 9 (RSd'E), and off Middle West Pubnico the next day (Jerome K. D'Eon); from the Petite Passage ferry, Digby Co., on Dec. 17 (Tufts and Morses); by the Ruffs, in Yarmouth harbour, on Jan. 11; and at the Woodside Sewer, Dartmouth, by the Metro Sewer Strollers on Jan. 11; and by the Ruffs, in Yarmouth harbour on Jan. 13.

Our furious storms have been hard on the DOVEKIES that winter off Nova Scotia. There are too many reports of 'wrecked' birds to cite every one, but here are some to give you the general picture. In Cape Breton, from Dec. 9 to Jan. 12. Angus MacLean estimated that 7-8 birds were coming ashore daily between Neil's Harbour and Little Smokey. Peter MacLeod saw 6 in Ketch Harbour, on Feb. 10; the Cohrs saw 6 off Chebucto Head/Sambro on Feb. 15; Chris Field saw a bird in Eastern Passage on Jan. 26; Blake Maybank *et al.* saw one off Western Head, Queen's Co., on Feb. 7; Jim Wolford *et al.* found several live birds on the Acadia campus, Wolfville, at the beginning of February. Mary Majka tells me that there was a major 'wreck' on Feb. 2 at Shepody, in Northumberland Strait. However, Bev Sarty at Lr. Prospect and Donna Crosby at Lockeport note that Dovekies were scarcer than usual during the winter so far. The only pelagic sighting is relayed by Raymond d'Entremont. Friends of his, fishing on Brown's Bank south of Cape Sable, have seen hundreds of Dovekies this winter. Raymond himself has seen only one, blown into the woods behind Lr. W. Pubnico, on Dec. 4.

Among the other auks, small numbers of BLACK GUILLEMOTS were reported inshore around the province, as usual. Blake Maybank, Eric Mills and Ian McLaren saw a RAZORBILL off Kingsburg, Lun. Co., on Dec. 8. Bev Sarty and Peter MacLeod saw a THICK-BILLED MURRE off Herring Cove on Feb. 18, and Sylvia Fullerton saw another off Broad Cove on Feb. 21. Donna Crosby found a 'wrecked' murre on the shore at Lockeport on Jan. 23, took it out into the bay, and released it. She doesn't give the species. Finally we come to **our** bird. Blake Maybank *et al.* saw an ATLANTIC PUFFIN off Western Head on Feb. 7, noting that this is a rare bird here in winter. Earlier in the winter, however, David Young saw 25 Puffins from the ferry near Digby on Nov. 20.

RGBB, ed.

DOVES, OWLS, KINGFISHER

JWW says of the 39 ROCK DOVES at his feeder in Wolfville, "I'm enjoying them--all colours". Personally, I could do without them; they're a distraction when scanning for better things, especially in the vicinity of highway overpasses. King's Co. continues to sustain the largest MOURNING DOVE populations, with the huge count on the Wolfville C.B.C. followed by day counts of **e.g.**, 212 around Avonport on Jan. 5 (EU) and 120 near Kentville on Jan. 3 (SDS). From elsewhere around the province, we have 12 reports of 100+ birds at most, all at feeders. No one gave any impression that the doves suffered during the extreme cold this winter.

There were 6 sightings or hearings of GREAT HORNED OWLS. Once more, Cyril Caldwell's semi-wild female was back on her nest platform on Feb. 20 (JWW). I reckon, discounting repeats, that about 12 different SNOWY OWLS were noted around the province, between Nov. 8 and the end of February, making this the biggest influx since 1987-88. This will go down in the annals as the winter of the N. HAWK OWLS. We have generally been beyond the fringes of their cyclical dispersals from the northern forests, even although they nest as near as New Brunswick. Our first was near Tatamagouche on Nov. 28 (KJM). Another spent a few days in mid-December on Brier Is., but did not stay for the C.B.C. That bird had taken to preying on a small flock of free-ranging bantam chickens, whose owner showed remarkable tolerance, rating it as something of a spectacle! In early January, another bird was found near Tatamagouche (HB). Later it joined the first, and on Jan. 18 they were clearly courting, with much vocalization and inspection of a possible nest site by the apparent (larger) female (BM,AC). Others witnessed such courtship through the reporting period. Another bird was observed on Pictou Is., beginning in January (KJM *et al.*). Finally, we have become part of the continental pattern. Apart from Christmas count birds, we received reports of 6 BARRED OWLS. Doubtless we'll get a better impression of them after the breeding season. No details were received on a rumoured GREAT GRAY OWL in W. Lawrencetown in December. A LONG-EARED OWL watched near the Ruff's feeder in Yarmouth on Feb. 13, gave double pleasure by catching a Starling. The only reports of SHORT-EARED OWLS were of single birds near Wolfville on Nov. 24 (RBS), Grand Desert Beach on Dec. 1 (ED), and Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co., on Dec. 31 (BM,JWT). Richard Stern submitted a fully convincing account of a BOREAL OWL that perched uncharacteristically

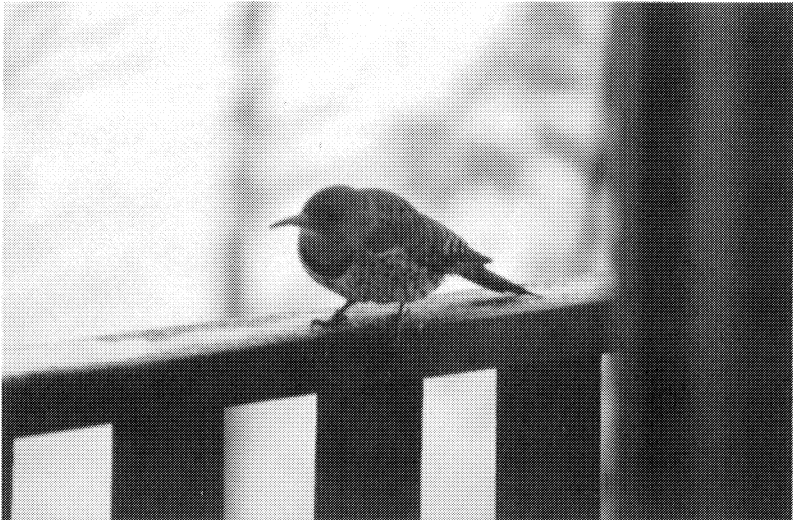
in the open near Lakeville. King's Co., on Feb. 9. He rushed off to alert others and fetch his camera, but the bird was, alas, gone on his return 45 minutes later. A live SAW-WHET OWL in Hants Co. on Dec. 29 (BM) doubtless gave more pleasure than a fresh road-kill near Melanson on Dec. 22 (**file** JWW).

At least 14 BELTED KINGFISHERS, a record number, made it into the new year, almost half of them were reported for February, in spite of the daunting cold.

WOODPECKERS

An imm. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, discovered in south-end Halifax on Nov. 24 (CF), was last reported to have been seen there on Dec. 31 (RF). It or another seen near Ketch Hbr. in early March supplied our first overwintering record. As usual, we total the reports of our common woodpeckers for comparisons through the years. There were 24 reports of about 40 DOWNY WOODPECKERS (more than usual), and 16 reports of about 20 HAIRY WOODPECKERS (about average). Our only reports of BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER were of a bird near Rockland, Shel. Co., and a female on the previous nesting territory at White's Lake, Hfx. Co., in February (BM,BS). From some 25 reports of N. FLICKERS, I estimate that at least 35 birds were observed, many of them in February in spite of snows and cold. This species has become decidedly more common as a winter straggler. Fifteen reports of about 22 PILEATED WOODPECKERS were about average for recent years.

IAM, ed.



This female NORTHERN FLICKER, one of numbers in the province this winter, came to Harold Dobson's feeder in Liverpool during February.

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

Not surprisingly, there were no Flycatcher reports for this winter period, although I received a late report of an OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER on Oct. 26 at Port Mouton (R. Chivers, **fide** IAM).

HORNED LARKS were seen all winter in expected numbers and in expected habitats, that is, fields, beaches and roadsides, and often as usual, in mixed flocks with Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs. Numbers seemed to be building up again by late February and there were reports from all over Nova Scotia (JGT,SDS,ER,BR,SJF,BBT **et al.**).

An apparent TREE SWALLOW was reported to RBD by an observer in Musquodoboit Hbr on Feb. 24. The observer was "very familiar with the species but not a birder". If a true sighting, this is, of course, an extraordinary date.

JAYS TO GNATCATCHERS

There were 15 reports of GRAY JAY, of 35 individual birds, seen singly or in small groups all over the province all winter, sometimes coming to feeders (JKD,CJH,KS,MHW **et al.**). This apparent increase may represent an increased number of observers, or increased visibility of hungry birds during the hard winter.

There were plenty of BLUE JAY reports. Some people seem to enjoy them at their feeder, but LPP completely eliminated these egg/nest predators from her feeder by switching to a special guarded one. PB noted them to be only sporadically present in the south end of Halifax, and DP and JP mentioned also that there were fewer than usual. On the other hand, others found them plentiful, and CH at Meadowville thought he had twice as many as last year. DF and BSm did a proper daily count, and had a maximum of 13 on Jan. 2. I think these apparent contradictions emphasise the importance of surveys such as Christmas Bird Counts in estimating wintering numbers throughout the province.

Considering the apparent abundance of AMERICAN CROWS there were relatively few reports. Several people mentioned them coming to their feeders for cracked corn etc. (JKD,CH,DF,BSm **et al.**). There used to be a crow roost of many thousands of birds at Boot Island, off Grand Pré. This seems to have somewhat dispersed in the last few years, and at least part of it has probably gone to Kentville. This flock of 3-10,000 spent several days at a time roosting in the evenings in different areas of town in late December and January, streaming in to the roost each dusk. This is the third winter now that this phenomenon has taken place (RBS, JWW).

CH in Meadowvale had 1 or 2 COMMON RAVENS at his feeder this winter, thus joining the company of people such as Cyril Coldwell in Gaspereau, who still has many Ravens at his somewhat unique feeder. One was seen over Lawlor's Island carrying a branch on Feb. 25, and a pair were courting over the Armdale Rotary at the same time (SDS). I have also noticed many courting pairs in King's County by the end of February. They are, of course, early nesters.

PM found and described a TUFTED TITMOUSE on Dec. 10, in the Marlborough Woods area of Halifax, with some Chickadees. It did not hang around unfortunately. The only previous report for Nova Scotia was one last year on Bon Portage Island. (As both sightings were by single individuals and no photographs were taken, these must remain, by the rules, hypothetical records--Ed.)

There seemed to be no great shortage of BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES this winter. I saw them in the woods around Kentville every time I went outdoors, and several observers had up to 15 at a time at their feeders. CH noticed that they seemed to disappear elsewhere when the weather got really cold. JWW saw 3 chasing each other around in a bush on Feb. 6--early mating behaviour or territorial? BOREAL CHICKADEES are of course less tame and more dependent on boreal habitat, and thus less frequently reported than Black-capped. They sometimes come to feeders (SDS,CJH), but usually stay in the spruce. CJH described an unusually highly coloured chickadee that, after careful scrutiny by JWT, was tentatively diagnosed as an aberrant Boreal.

Oliver and Muriel Ross of Stoney Island, Cape Sable Island, watched and described a possible MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE at their feeder on Feb. 3. This species has not previously been observed in the province. Interestingly, there were rumours of a second bird elsewhere in the province at the time, and a second amazing rarity from the same habitat (2,000 km west and 2,000 metres higher)--a Mountain Bluebird--see below, was only a few km up the coast at the same time. Perhaps these birds felt quite at home in -10 to -20 degree temperatures, thick snow cover, and coniferous habitat, just like back home in the Rockies! Unlike the highly migratory Bluebird, however, which has been recorded before in New England, the Mountain Chickadee is sedentary, and thus if confirmed would be an extraordinary record.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES like the same habitat as Black-capped Chickadees, namely woods and suet feeders, and were reported, often by the same observers, in the same areas all winter and in the usual numbers (WGC,CRO, BS,WPH, JGT,JBM et al.). There were 14 reports of WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES, numbering 21 individuals, scattered around the province, very similar to last year (MEE,HJH,HGH,LPP et al.), and the usual smattering of BROWN CREEPERS was also reported from several areas, all winter.

There were 2 WINTER WREN reports, one in November at Advocate (MEE) and one on Cape Sable Island in February (OMR). Small numbers of GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS were seen all winter from all areas, both in the woods and occasionally visiting suet feeders (JBM,CJH,KS,CF). A few RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS often make it into early winter, but 1 in Dartmouth till Feb. 1 and another till at least Feb. 22 are remarkable (JWT,BM).

There is one late report of a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER near Port Mouton on Sept. 28 (fide IAM).

THRUSHES TO STARLINGS

A tantalising glimpse was obtained of a WHEATEAR on the Grand Pré dyke on the Wolfville Christmas Count by Sherman Boates, but it was brief and the bird could not be relocated.

This winter will go down in posterity as the winter of the Bluebird. The EASTERN BLUEBIRD in Nova Scotia normally occurs as a rare breeder, although there is one previous winter record, for Dec. 1961. This year, however, the Halls had 7 on a wire at Ellis Rd., Yarmouth, for the Christmas Bird Count. By Dec. 22, the number had grown to 9 (RR,MHW). At least 2 were still present in Yarmouth till Feb. 5 or beyond. These birds made the front page of the Chronicle Herald, and upon reading this, the Harwoods, of Woodside, near Canning, realised that the 8 birds that had been visiting their multiflora rose bushes since Nov. 8, were worth mentioning to somebody! The local birding community was alerted, and many observers from far and wide got to see these birds (probably 5 m and 3 fe/imm.), which are still around as of the end of February. Their neighbour, Mr. Bateman, informed me that these birds had been using his Tree Swallow box since at least the spring of 1991, and he thought they had nested there. The Harwoods have put up some Bluebird nest boxes, so here's hoping for this season!

Equally unprecedented was the province's first documented MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD, as mentioned above, present at the home of Robin Anthony in Brooklyn, Queen's Co., from Jan. 27 to Feb. 10, also seen by many observers, and well described to be a first. Winter male, with gray rather than blue outer greater coverts and primary coverts (IAM,JWT,ELM,JGT).

I would like to express particular appreciation to both the Harwoods of Woodside and Mr. Anthony and his mother Mrs. C. Williams of Brooklyn, for being such good hosts and so welcoming to large numbers of birding strangers.

Wintering HERMIT THRUSHES were present on Stony Island, Cape Sable, Herring Cove (Jan. 12, BM,JWT,IAM) and visiting a feeder in Lr. W. Pubnico on Feb. 6 (RSD). Almost unprecedented was SWAINSON'S THRUSH well described by JSC at the end of February at Green Bay. (The former species regularly overwinters in very small numbers, the latter almost never, although there are apparently previously documented sightings).

It was definitely an AMERICAN ROBIN winter. There were abundant reports of large numbers of birds from all over the province all winter. They were frequently seen to be feeding on rose hips, old apples and other fruit, and sometimes in the company of waxwings. There seemed to be a large increase in numbers around Feb. 10-14, possibly coincident with a large drop in robin numbers in Newfoundland a few days previously. A few observers mentioned seeing a few of the large, dark-backed race that occurs in Newfoundland, but most of the birds even in that province this winter were of the common or garden variety (B. MacTavish *vide* IAM). (There were apparently large flocks of Bohemian Waxwing with the Robins in Newfoundland, but these did not show up here.) Some flock sizes mentioned included 100+ in Lr. W. Pubnico (JKD), 150+ (DC), 20s, 30s and 40s all over Halifax (JSC), 200+ Herring Cove to Sandy Cove (BS,PM), 40 to 50 in Wolfville (GDT,BBT) etc. There were some large flocks around even in late December (300+ Cherry Hill, SJF, 300+ Morden, JGT), but what their relationship was to the more widespread later flocks must remain a matter of speculation.

One GRAY CATBIRD was still struggling through at Cape Forchu on Nov. 14 (HGH). A total of 25 NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS was reported, mostly in ones and occasionally twos, often at multiflora roses, all winter from locations as varied as Yarmouth, Dartmouth, River Bourgeois, Barrington Passage, Sydney River, Kentville, Stellarton, Pubnico, etc. (CF,SDS,MT,PK,RSD,RBS, etc.). These birds are certainly becoming more and more an established part of our winter bird scene.

Three separate BROWN THRASHERS stayed around feeders all winter--1 at E. Chezzetcook (CJH), 1 at 9 Medford St., Dartmouth (JWT *et al.*), and one at White Rock, (BLF). There was also a sighting at Lr. Argyle on Dec. 29, at a feeder for the eighth successive year (JKD).

As usual the occasional AMERICAN PIPIT stayed around, mostly on exposed coastlines--Hartlen's Point, Pubnico Point, Conrad's Beach. The sightings were all in December and the first half of January (RSD,KJM, PM *et al.*)

As mentioned above, there were only small numbers of BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS compared to some really good irruption years. Flocks of 31 (CM,AM), 23 (GD), 27 (JGT), 10 (KJM), 51 (PM) were reported, from scattered locations, often in the company of robins, from mid-January on. There were perhaps more CEDAR WAXWINGS reported from around the province, but also in small scattered flocks (JWW,AP, JCz).

Fifteen NORTHERN SHRIKES were reported, from various locations, usually sitting prominently on a branch or tree top. CJH had one chasing birds at her feeder, and SDS, FLL had one dangerously close to the Canning Bluebirds, but luckily it must have had other fare on which to feast.

KJ, CSII *et al.* reported a LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE from Tatamagouche on Dec. 1, first noticed as that species by its "different" mode of feeding, more like a robin than a Northern Shrike, and then by the appropriate field marks

There were several EUROPEAN STARLING reports, including large numbers--2000+ at Starr's Point, Nov. 24, and at least 10,000 all winter at a cattle farm north of Canning. JGT observed a Sharp-shin taking one in Wolfville, and I saw a Merlin take one in Canning. Poison was illegally put out to kill Starlings at Jawbone Corner, King's Co., resulting in a large kill, and unfortunately a kill of at least 11 Red-tailed Hawks that fed on the bodies, but successful prosecution was not achieved.

RBS, ed.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS

A mild November allowed a SOLITARY VIREO to linger in Halifax, seen by PB in her garden on Nov. 14.

A cold December and January, followed by a stormy February, made things much more difficult. The ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, however, persevered as it has in recent winters. Reports of about 7 individuals were received. Besides the Halifax-Dartmouth area, The Valley, as well as Shel. and Queens Cos., were represented. The last report was of one in Halifax, Feb. 3 (PM).

The YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER was widely noted, with 16 cards received; although numbers reported were generally small. Much of mainland Nova Scotia was represented, from Overton to Caribou Island, Pic. Co. (HGH,KJM *et al.*), with sightings well into February as expected.

CF got a quick look at a female TOWNSEND'S WARBLER at Hartlen's Point on Dec. 26. This may have been the same bird seen there in November by PM, and reported in our January issue (that date should have read Nov. 5, not Nov. 11--my error).

Big Pond, C.B. was in the limelight from about Dec. 20 to Jan. 23, as it played host to a YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (several obs.). This was of the white-lored Mississippi Valley race, rather than the southeastern U.S. coastal race, says IAM.

The PINE WARBLER was once again well reported, with 11 individuals accounted for. Though IAM found 4 in Halifax on Dec. 1, later Metro birds could not be found. Instead, outlying areas such as Annapolis Royal, Pictou, Sand Lake Rd. (C.B.), Windsor, Little Harbour (Shel. Co.) and Cape Sable Island were represented. The Little Harbour and Cape Sable Island singles were seen in January (JHY,JCz,BMIAM,JWT). Two PALM WARBLERS were seen at Sambro, Hfx. Co., on Nov. 14 (BS,PM).

A COMMON YELLOWTHROAT was noted at Port Williams, King's Co., on Dec. 4 (MT).

A late adult male WILSON'S Warbler was present in Halifax on Nov. 16 (ASM). November YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT singletons showed up in Halifax (CF) and E. Chezzetcook (CJH); and in December were seen at Glace Bay (AM,CM) and in Dartmouth (JWT).

KNK, ed.

TANAGERS TO TOWHEE

With the incredible western strays that arrived in the fall and winter came two separate sightings of WESTERN TANAGERS. The first was a female bird seen at the back cove area of Hartlen's Point on Oct. 22 by Helen and Hubert Hall. The second was a male, spotted by Robert Chivers at Port Mouton on December 5. This is the

second consecutive year that this species has been reported in Port Mouton in December.

NORTHERN CARDINALS were not as commonly found as in past winters. All 7 sightings were in the southernmost parts of the province from November through to February. A lone female bird was frequenting the feeders of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Ross of Cape Sable Island from Nov. 25 to Feb. 13. There was a female at Lr. W. Pubnico and another at Karsdale in late December (RSD,DT); a male and female were found at Mr. Jerry Somers' feeder in Arcadia (H&HH) on Jan. 9 and the last was a female at Port Mouton in early December (RC). There were just 2 sightings of DICKCISSELS recorded, both were adult males. The first was one at a feeder in Halifax on December 23 and the second at River Bourgeois, Richmond Co. at George and Sharon Digout's feeder on Jan. 11. A single report of a RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE came from Kentville. This female was visiting the feeding station of Steve and Laura Hudson on Jan. 3.

SPARROWS

The only place that AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were found in numbers was along the roadsides and fields of Kings Co., especially during December. Other areas were very spotty with small groups of 3-8 found daily or at least regularly at feeders throughout the province. Almost all accounts indicate a slow build up in their numbers until late December, than a gradual thinning by mid-January. CHIPPING SPARROWS were extremely well documented this season. There were fifteen reporters with 36 different birds showing up at feeders or in the company of other sparrows foraging in fields and roadsides. Most sightings were in the Valley areas of Greenwich, Kentville and Wolfville, but there were single reports from New Salem, White's Lake and Overton. A lone and rare CLAY-COLOURED SPARROW was found at Greenwich on the farm of Harold Forsythe, Nov. 22. This bird was seen by many observers until at least Jan. 3. This is only the second winter record I know of for Nova Scotia, the first of which was one seen in 1990, during the West Hants Christmas Bird Count.

A single VESPER SPARROW was found attempting to overwinter near Canning. This bird was discovered on the Wolfville Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 21. It was last seen on Jan. 26 (BMA, RF) SAVANNAH SPARROWS were very difficult to find in many of the normal wintering spots. However, as usual, they were still to be found in the Grand Pré, Wolfville area. There, observers counted 95 during the Christmas Count on Dec. 21. Eight to 9 were found at Rainbow Haven on Jan. 26 and 31.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS are occasionally discovered in late fall and early winter, generally among other sparrows in fields and coastal areas. This season there were two records. The first was one found at Grand Pré on Dec. 21 and subsequently seen there again on Jan. 12 (JSB,MFE,BLF). This bird's description with the bright yellow face and throat and obscure breast streaking tend to indicate that it may well belong to the inland, James Bay subspecies, *Ammodramus caudacutus altera*. This subspecies can be found in fall and winter along the eastern coast, especially in New England. The other recorded sighting was of a bird at Rainbow Haven on Jan. 31 (BMA,JWT).

It is encouraging to receive reports of SEASIDE SPARROW in our area as they are now a rarely encountered bird. A single bird was located by Jim Taylor and Blake Maybank at Rainbow Haven on Jan. 31. This bird was well seen (which is commendable, considering the habitat) and was determined to be of the *Ammodramus maritimus maritimus* subspecies which is the most northerly species. A second bird was found there on Feb. 3 by J. Taylor and M. Heaney. A further record came from Mr. Robert Chivers, who identified 2 of these birds at Port Mouton on Nov. 7. These birds were described by IAM as being quite dusky in colouration, which indicates a more southern version of the species, possibly *A.m. macgillivraii*.

Just a handful of FOX SPARROWS were sighted mostly at feeders. Three were found in the more southern areas of Barrington Passage, Lockeport and Little Harbour in late December to mid-January. A notable record was 3 at Broad Cove from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, with one lingering there until at least Feb. 22. Other sightings were 1 at St. Margaret's Bay, 1 at Black Point, Hfx. Co., and 1 at Dartmouth from Dec. 20 until at least Feb. 22. Although there were several reports of SONG SPARROWS, the overwintering population of these birds seems to have been thinner than in other years. During the Christmas Count at Wolfville 396 were tallied. Other areas were not so fortunate with single birds at feeders in most instances. Exceptions were 10 at E. Chezzetcook from Nov. 24 throughout the winter (CJH); up to 4 at Black Point, Hfx. Co. and 2 each at White's Lake and Apple River.

SWAMP SPARROWS were found in Yar., Shel., Lun., Hfx. and Hants Cos. A total of 10 individual birds was noted. They were all single sightings, mainly at or very near feeders from Dec. 8 through to Feb. 14. At the back cove area of Hartlen's Point, 3 were located on Dec. 18 (BS,PM,JW).

There were very significant numbers of WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS this period, compared to the last few years. They were very well reported from all areas of the province, especially in the more rural areas. In another year it would have been expected to see one or two of these birds at a feeder, but this season it was common to have 10-20 visiting regularly. Notable were 50 at Cape Sable Island on Jan. 12 (BMA,IAM,JWT), 18 at E. Chezzetcook throughout the period (CJH); and 12 at Green Bay on Dec. 10. DARK-EYED JUNCOS seemed to follow the same pattern as the preceding species, where they were particularly well represented in the rural areas. All reports indicated an abundance of these birds throughout December, January and February. Typical were flocks of 10-25 around feeders, hedgerows and fields. Notable were large numbers of over 100 commonly flushed from roadside alders from Pictou to Tatamagouche (KJM). Bev Sarty shared a recipe of peanut butter and corn meal as a favourite food for these birds during the cold months. She said that they clung woodpecker fashion from the trees to get at the food which was spread in the grooves of the bark.

LAPLAND LONGSPURS were quite uncommon with only eight sightings with a total of 35 birds. The largest number seen at one time was a flock of 15 near Bunker's Island, Yar. Co., Feb. 2 (JCz). Other reports were of 8 at Grand Pré during February and single reports during November, December and January from various locations. SNOW BUNTINGS were uncommon in November, December and virtually unreported in January. February brought these northerly moving birds to all areas of the province. Large flocks descended in the Grand Pré area and many feeding stations throughout the province reported from 30 to 150 briefly stopping to feed. The largest single flock seen was 700 at Grand Pré on Feb. 22 (CF,BMo).

ICTERIDS

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS, although seen in all months, were uncommon. The Valley areas of Wolfville and Falmouth had several sightings at feeders. By reporting time 3 birds were still coming to a Dartmouth feeder and 2 were to be found at Falmouth (JWT,JMc). EASTERN MEADOWLARKS were found attempting to overwinter in three areas of the province. One was discovered on the Halifax East Christmas Count at Chezzetcook on Dec. 15 (SJF). A second sighting was 1 at Lr. LaHave on Dec. 24 (EC) and 4 birds were found together at a small marsh in Lr. W. Pubnico on Jan. 25 (RSD).

A single sighting of YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD occurred on Jan. 26, when Keith Allsebrook found an immature male near Waverley travelling with a mixed flock of blackbirds. This bird was subsequently seen by others with the last date recorded of Jan. 31. There are just two reports of RUSTY BLACKBIRDS. On Dec. 15, Ken McKenna found 1 bird travelling with starlings in Pictou and the Tufts discovered 2 on Dec. 28 near Aylesford during the Kingston Christmas Count. COMMON GRACKLES were rarely encountered. The "hotbed" seemed to be in the Apple River area where a total of 9 were frequenting feeders throughout December, January and February. Other records were 1-2 birds in Bass River, Little Harbour, Wolfville and Greenwich. BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were practically non-existent. Just three flocks were noted. One about 20 at Lake Echo, Hfx. Co. on Dec. 15; eighteen at Advocate during January and February and 40 were found at Waverley on Jan. 31.

NORTHERN ORIOLES were evident in many areas visiting feeding stations where berries and fruit were available. Halifax/Dartmouth tallied at least 9 birds during December with at least 3 still enduring the cold at time of writing. Other birds were found at Port Mouton, Hammond's Plains and Kentville. Among the 4 orioles that visited the Langille's feeder in Dartmouth on Dec. 1, was a female which was clearly identified as one of the "BULLOCK'S" race as was 1 seen in Halifax on Dec. 12.

FINCHES TO HOUSE SPARROW

Once again a NORTHERN CHAFFINCH has been identified in the Halifax area! This time, only the second ever in the province and third for Canada, was a female discovered by Ian McLaren on Nov. 15 in the Halifax southend. This finch's arrival was at the same time that thousands of native finches were entering the province and apparently felt driven to continue its journey as it unfortunately was not seen again. Ian writes that "for what it is worth, no European ships had arrived in Halifax the previous few days".

After two years of poor reports of PINE GROSBEAKS, it is nice to be able to write that at least these birds were to be found on occasion. There were eleven separate reports of approximately 40 birds. All sightings were from Northern and Central areas including Col., Cumb., Pic., and Guys. Cos., with the exceptions of 8 at Robert's Island on Dec. 29; 5 at White's Lake, Hfx. Co. and 1 seen at East Meadow, Hants Co., Jan. 26. PURPLE FINCHES were a big story this season, with large numbers invading the province and converging on feeders after the heavy snowfalls in early February. The movement was earlier noted, especially in Green Bay, Lun. Co., Dec. 29. I was witness to as many finches as I can ever remember seeing at any one time. The Christmas Count at Broad Cove totaled 1623 Purple Finches that day! These birds now (at time of writing) have become rather settled, visiting feeders regularly in small groups of 5 - 10.

HOUSE FINCHES were evident in the Valley areas of Avonport, Port Williams, Wolfville and Canning from November through to February, with one or two birds being seen somewhat irregularly at feeders. The big news was 12 -15 of these birds visiting the Ruff's feeder in Yarmouth from Nov. 16 to mid-February. To date this is the largest group of these birds ever seen in Nova Scotia.

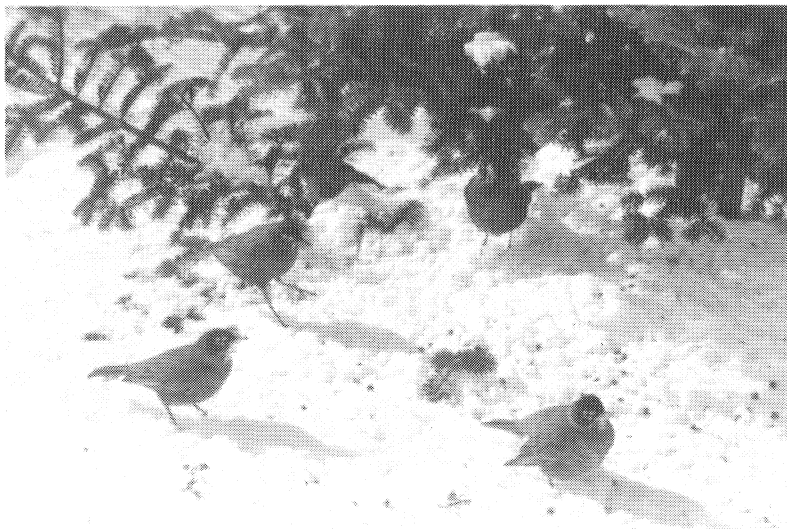
There were relatively few records of crossbills. RED CROSSBILLS were found in small groups of 4 - 12 in Aldershot and Eastern Shore during December, Herman's Island, Lun. Co. in January and White's Lake and Mount Uniacke during February. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were more commonly seen with flocks of 10 -15 being usual. A single flock of about 70 was witnessed on Nov. 14 in Pubnico and flocks of up to 60 were found throughout the season near Apple River (JKD,KS).

COMMON REDPOLLS made a dramatic entry into the province in November but converged primarily along a band of the province which included King's, Cumb., Col., Pic., Ant., and Inv. Cos. Although there were scattered reports of single birds or smaller groups elsewhere, there were at times, thousands seen at once in those more northerly counties. Larger sightings were 150 seen at Tatamagouche on Jan. 18 (Bma,AC), 75 at Kentville on Jan. 26 and flocks of 100-1000 at Pictou throughout the season (KJM). PINE SISKINS began arriving in large numbers in late November primarily in the same northerly band as did the Redpolls. Toward the end of December they were found in large concentrations in very specific areas. One place was Green Bay, where most of the 1907 were counted, on the Broad Cove Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 29. That same day 441 were tallied on the Wolfville Count. Most areas saw smaller flocks arriving at feeders by the time of the heavy snows of early February. AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES were very common this year. Almost all counties reported flocks of 25-225 coming regularly to feeders. These birds settled into the feeding stations in November with no noticeable signs of increase or decrease in numbers throughout the winter months.

EVENING GROSBEAKS were very well reported from all sectors of the province. Large flocks could be found quite readily at feeders or roaming from one area to another. The more rural areas seemed to see the greater numbers leaving many people in the towns and cities unable to attract even one with the most expensive sunflower seed. Mid-December seemed to be the time when most significant sightings occurred with January and especially February showing a marked increase in more urbanized areas. These birds were found traveling most commonly in flocks of 50 or more. On the Broad Cove Count 777 were counted on Dec. 29.

HOUSE SPARROW reports seem to indicate an improvement in their visibility. Although we are still receiving information that indicates a decline in some areas, most are confirming stabilized or increasing local populations. It is a difficult one to call, but we will continue to depend on your valued observations.

DAC, ed.



These American Robins were among a flock of about 40 that appeared at the Spier's feeder at Apple River, Feb. 4. The lure was frozen mountain ash berries.--Photo Kathleen Spicer.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

July 27 -- North River, Cape Breton

Some determined birdwatchers met in driving rain under very low cloud for the trip to North River. We were joined by our regular visitors from Ontario, and a decision was made to set off, but to stop at the Cedar House--just short of the Seal Island bridge--before making a final decision on whether to continue. We lingered over coffee and as the weather improved and the wind dropped, we were on our way.

Under the circumstances this was a most successful and enjoyable outing. A stop at St. Ann's yielded a group of eighteen Red-breasted Mergansers and several diving kingfishers. The saplings down by the water were full of little birds: we could see their movements and hear their twittering, but they were so well hidden among the leaves that we were unable to identify them. We were just thankful that there were so many about.

We made many roadside stops at the small inlets of St. Ann's Bay, since traffic was light and we could stop in safety. We saw loons, a Bald Eagle, and Great Blue Herons, and were able to identify three Surf Scoters among a group of five ducks some way off shore. (The other two were a White-winged Scoter and an unidentified female). None of us had seen a Surf Scoter before, and so were delighted with this sighting.

We reached North River Park, about five kilometres by gravel road from the Cabot Trail, in time for lunch. We could hear, rather than see, a good supply of Juncos, and White-throated and Chipping Sparrows, and we added a Pine Grosbeak, an immature Magnolia Warbler, an Eastern Wood Peewee, and a Hairy Woodpecker to our list.

After lunch came another highlight of the day. Two people had settled at the other picnic table, and presently a small bird began to chatter away at them as it flitted lower and lower in the branches of an old fir tree. Out came the bird books and we learned that these visitors had decided to begin to watch the birds that very day. It was a delightful chance encounter, and everyone agreed that the bird in question, who obliged us by coming in to full view, was a female Ruby-crowned Kinglet

On the way home, we saw the mergansers again, this time out in the bay. We also checked the Osprey nest on the power pole at Leitches Creek to make sure breeding had been successful again this year. We so often start in rain and end in satisfaction, and this outing was no exception.

Nancy More

September 21--Shorebirds at Grand Pré

This joint trip with the B. N. Society had a sunny but windy and chilly day, with occasional rain showers. Our caravan of eight vehicles included a van loaded with tourists from Germany.

As usual, at high tide we drove across the Grand Pré dykelands. We hadn't gone far when a soaring Bald Eagle stopped us and a few people spotted a Turkey Vulture.

We didn't find any shorebird roosts among the fields, but there were the usual abundant Crows and Ravens, plus three kinds of gulls. A highlight for everyone was trying to avoid the muffler that fell off my car!

At the Shorebird Reserve sign at Evangeline Beach, there were about 75 molting male Common Eiders and 6 White-winged Scoters. Some also saw a Red-throated Loon and 2 Black Scoters.

Farther east along the beach, we found 4 Black-bellied Plovers, 5 Semipalmated Plovers and a group of 8 sleeping "peeps". As I approached the latter, I very nearly stepped on 3 roosting Least Sandpipers on the upper beach. The peeps were 4 Least and 4 Semipalmated Sandpipers.

Also there were several flying flocks of peeps, totaling at least 200 with occasional Sanderlings among them.

As we watched the rain being swept across the Minas Basin toward us, a very probable Rough-legged Hawk (newly arrived?) glided over us from the north. Also scanning by one of the German birders found 2 very distant soaring raptors that may have been Peregrine Falcons.

A very unusual sighting was initially made by two Acadia University students. Flying low over Minas Basin, off Kingsport and Starr's Point, were 8 definite shearwaters. These were quite far from us but were light-bellied and almost surely had to be Greater Shearwaters. They were flying toward the mouth of the Cornwallis River. Therefore, a few of us drove to Kingsport hoping for a closer look, but we couldn't see them.

Finally, we visited Harris' Pond in Canning in the continuing rain. Among the Black Ducks were 2 Mallards, 3 American Wigeons, 4 Blue-winged Teal and a Common Snipe.

Jim Wolford

January 11--Sewer Stroll I

Fifteen people came in for the start at Hartlen's Point and were treated to a number of American Pipits as a starter. Part of the group went around the point and saw a Red-throated Loon. The other group that went up to the gate got a Ring-necked Pheasant. A stop along the shoreline before the village of Eastern Passage located two Tufted Ducks in with the Greater Scaup and Joan Waldron's eagle eyes got a Red-tailed Hawk well hidden in the far corner of a field on Lawlor's Island. The Woodside sewer gave a brief look at a Kittiwake for some; those who stopped at Tim Horton's missed this one. The Snowy Owl on the Halifax wharf couldn't be located.

Everyone got a good look at a Brown Thrasher at a feeder near Sullivan's Pond, but as these trips go sometimes we couldn't locate the American Coot, Mockingbird or Yellow-breasted Chat. However, we did find the Wood Duck and Green-winged Teal.

Tufts Cove still held its three American Wigeon and best of all, its European Wigeon as well. Bedford gave us Hooded Merganser, Common and Barrow's Goldeneye and then we headed for the outer side of the Halifax Harbour entrance. Ketch Harbour yielded a nice surprise, a Belted Kingfisher that Azor Veinneau had located. Fifty-four species were seen during the day, much enjoyed by everyone

--James Taylor

January 19--Riverside Field Trip

About twenty-five people, including members of the Cobequid Naturalist Club, braved this cold, windy day to attend the field trip. From Stewiacke we drove to the Berfelo farm at Riverside along the Shubenacadie River. We saw about a dozen eagles, fewer than in other years, yet a successful venture.

The highlight probably was watching the tide coming up the Shubenacadie River--millions of tons of broken, floating ice travelling up stream.

A dozen people continued over the Bosse Bridge and had a pleasant (protected from the wind) walk into an eagle nest location.

Ross Hall

FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

REMINDER: Please be sure to phone the field trip leader or contact person ahead of time to register for the trip. In this way no trip is oversubscribed and you can be contacted in case of cancellation.

APRIL



- Sat. 25 Lingering Winter Birds (C.B.)
Leader: Andrew Gingell (564-8298)
Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the site of the heavy water plant, Glace Bay.
- Sun. 26 Wolfville Area Leader: Jim Wolford (542-7650). Pond hopping for ducks and early migrants. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Robie Tufts Nature Ctr., Front St., Wolfville. Joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalist Soc.

MAY

- Sat. 2 Cape Sable Island - The Hawk.
Leader: Joan Czapalay (742-8753)
Meet at 8:30 a.m., Causeway Plaza, north end of the Causeway to Cape Sable Island.
- Sun. 3 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 the TCH at the Wandlyn Inn and proceed a few km toward Nappan, the entrance is on the left side. Wear appropriate footwear for wet conditions. Enjoy a day of observing water fowl, shorebirds and early migrants.
- Sat. 9 Eastern Shore. Leader: Fulton Lavender. (477-8984). Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the old golf course entrance, Hartlen's Point.
- Fri.-Mon. 15-18 Bon Portage Island. Leader: Peter MacLeod(454-2006). Meet at the wharf in Shag Harbour, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a charge for the crossing and accommodation. Bring food, drinking water, sleeping bag and necessary clothing and footwear. Preregistration is necessary. Depart island 3:00 p.m. Monday afternoon.
- Sun. 17 Hopewell Area (Pictou County) Leader: Harry Brennan (923-2780). Meet at St. Columbia Churchyard, about 1 mile south of Hopewell at 8:00 a.m. General birding--excellent for beginners.
- Wed. 20 Halifax County Warbler Walk. Leader: Bev Sarty (852-5209). Meet at the parking lot at the junction of the Prospect Road, Rte 333, and the St. Margaret's Bay Road at 6:00 a.m. 2-3 hours duration.
- Sat. 23 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.
- Sat. 23 Yarmouth and Carleton Area Warbler Walk. Leader: Hubert and Helen Hall (742-4467). Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Carleton School, Hwy 340. Bring a lunch and fly dope.
- Sun. 24 Shubenacadie Area. Leader: Roslyn MacPhee (758-3265). Meet at 6:00 a.m. in front of Scott's Restaurant in Shubenacadie.

- Wed. 27 Kearney Lake Early Morning Warbler Walk. Leader: David Currie (876-8745) Meet at the Hammond's Plains and Kearney Lake Road intersection at 6:00 a.m. Duration 2-3 hours.
- Sat. 30 Warbler Walk (Cape Breton) Leader: Jackie Chretien (564-4640). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Cape Breton Shopping Centre, Sydney River.
- Sun. 31 Tancook Island. Leader: Bill Caudle (766-4465) for information call before 8:00 p.m., Friday 29. Arrive in Chester at 9:30 a.m. for parking. Ferry leaves for Tancook Is. at 10:00 a.m. It returns at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. No registration necessary.

JUNE

- Sat. 6 Argyle Islands Bird Colonies (Yarmouth County). Leader: Ted D'Eon (H) 1-762-2097, (W) 1-762-2793. Tern colonies including Roseate, Great Blue Heron, gulls and eiders. Meet at Abbot's Hbr. Wharf in Middle West Pubnico at 8:00 a.m. Lobster fishing boat can accommodate up to 30-35 (cost \$10-\$15) Reservations necessary.
- Sun. 7 Birds of the Kentville Area. Leader: Richard Stern (678-1975). Meet at Cornwallis Inn parking lot, Kentville at 8:30 a.m. Beginners especially welcome.
- Sat. 20 Eddy Marsh, Maccan, Cumb. Co. Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-8984). 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, Sora, Purple Martin, Vesper Sparrow. A great opportunity to see birds seldom seen by the beginner.
- Sat. 27 Schooner Pond (Cape Breton) Leader: Cathy Murrant (737-2684) Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the site of the Heavy Water Plant in Glace Bay.

JULY

- Sat. 25 North River (Cape Breton). Leader: Nancy More (828-2534). Meet at 8:00 a.m., Cape Breton Shopping Centre, Sydney River.
- Sun. 26 Wallace Bay Area. Leader: James Taylor (434-8516). A variety of habitats including shoreline, woodland, riverside and marsh. Nesting eagles for a finish. Meet at Wallace Wharf at 8:30 a.m. No registration necessary for this trip.

AUGUST

- Sat. 1 Economy Area. Leader: Francis Spalding (1-647-2837). Meet at the general store at 9:00 a.m. Returning shorebirds and birds of the area. Great scenery and lots of back roads.
- Sat. 8 Yarmouth Area. Leader: Eric Ruff (H) 1-742-8145, (W) 1-742-5539. Meet at CPR Station at 9:00 a.m. Bring a lunch and suitable footwear for rocky and wet walking.
- Sat. 15 Fullers Bridge (Cape Breton). Leader: Bob More (828-2534). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Marion Bridge.

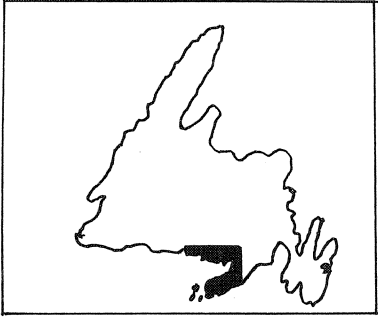
Any questions or suggestions should be directed to the Field Trip Co-ordinator, Jim Taylor (434-8516), 69 Woodlawn Rd., Dartmouth N.S. B2W 2S2.



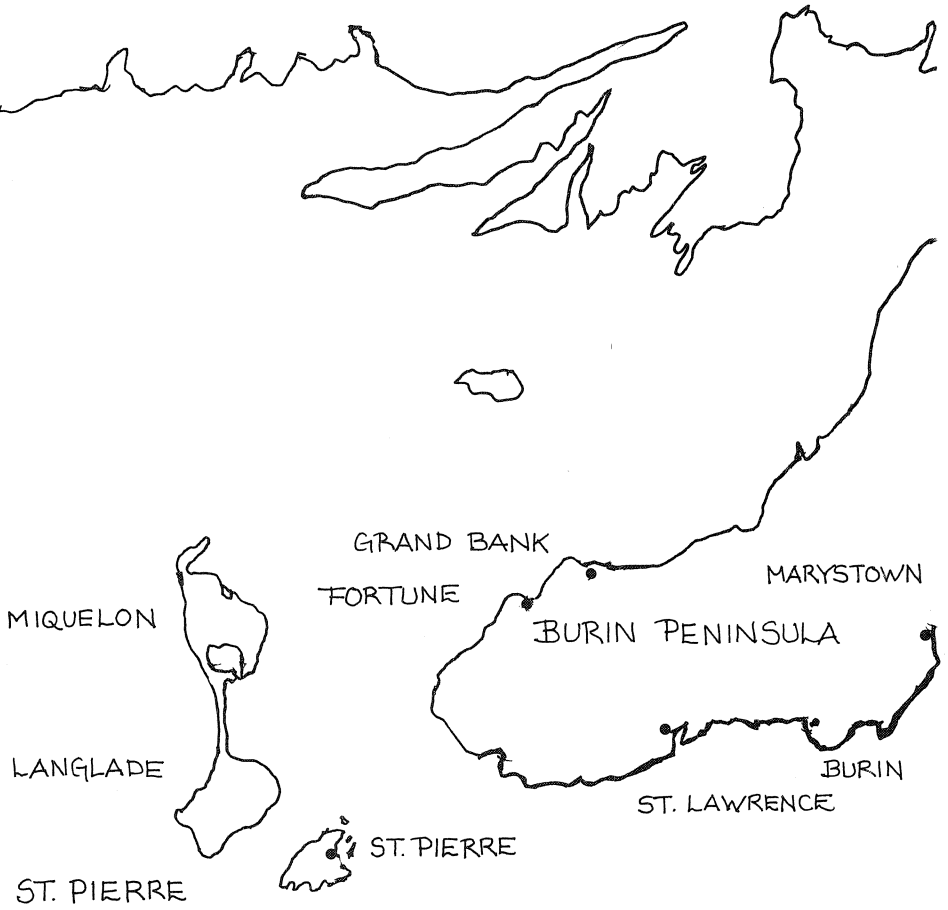
The apparent male (from size and vocalizations) of the evidently paired-up NORTHERN HAWK OWLS at Tatamagouche, is documented here by Alan Covert



Richard Stern was lucky to manage a reasonably close approach to the wary albino RED-TAILED HAWK wintering near Greenwich, but had much less difficulty with the "normal" adult.



SOUTH COAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND



BIRDING IN ST PIERRE ET MIQUELON

Roger Etcheberry

The islands of St. Pierre et Miquelon are located only twelve miles off the Burin Peninsula on the south coast of Newfoundland. Their surface area of only 242 square kilometres was termed a "Natural Geology Museum" by Aubert De la Rue, a geologist who spent several years studying it in the thirties and forties. Indeed, in such a small area: St. Pierre and Miquelon are volcanic, the Cape of Miquelon is metamorphic and Langlade is mostly sedimentary. Large areas are covered with peat bogs and small lakes--wooded areas are restricted to river valleys and other sheltered spaces. On the isthmus uniting Miquelon and Langlade we have beautiful sand beaches and on the northern part, the most fascinating area, is a salt lagoon called the Grand Barachois. The low coasts of Miquelon contrast with the steep cliffs of Langlade and Northern St. Pierre, while those of Cape Miquelon are remarkably picturesque.

About 680 species of vascular plants have been recorded since 1816. Some have disappeared, some were not correctly identified and others were introduced. The present flora comprises more than 450 native species and about 100 introduced species.

Being an archipelago and due to glaciations, the native land mammals are quite scarce. The Red Fox's origin is uncertain, the Meadow Vole (*Microtus pensylvanicus*) is present only in St. Pierre and is believed to have been introduced. The White-tailed Deer, introduced in Miquelon-Langlade in 1953, has adapted remarkably well, in spite of the scarcity of its prime habitat, and is now withstanding considerable hunting pressure. The Snowshoe Hare was introduced around 1870 for hunting purposes. The Arctic Hare, introduced in Miquelon-Langlade in 1982 is still present but its numbers are apparently checked by poachers. There are two species of Pinnipeds: The Harbour Seal is a permanent resident and the Grey Seal is present from spring to late fall. Several species of whales--Humpback, Minke, Finback and two species of dolphins--the White-beaked and White-sided are also a fairly common sight at sea, mostly in spring and fall.

The bird life is fairly rich. The first scientific article about our avifauna was only written in 1951 by Burleigh and Peters, who visited our islands for three days in 1945, while engaged in the study of the Birds of Newfoundland. They recorded thirty-five species. The next study took place twenty years or so later, when Austin Cameron (1967) spent nine weeks in our islands in 1963 and 1964. He recorded 118 species. Then Michel Borotra, (the first inhabitant of the islands to get involved in bird watching) published an addition of 68 species with Dr. L.M. Tuck (1972). Then several people got the virus! We are now a group for which I compile all the data. We moved from 168 species in 1972 to 217 in 1976 (Etcheberry and Borotra), 248 in 1982 (Etcheberry), 268 in 1985 (Etcheberry and Desbrosse) to 292 today with a Rufous Hummingbird last August and a Franklin's Gull in late October--early December. Eighty-five species are known to nest, 73 are considered common and 35 species have been seen only once.

On the dark side, we have not signed the Migratory Bird Treaty. Several species are still hunted here like Murrees (as in Newfoundland) even Dovekies, Yellowlegs, Whimbrels, Dowitchers, Godwits, etc. The hunting season is also longer than in Newfoundland. Although some efforts have been made recently, we still have some work to do before the regulation becomes acceptable.

St Pierre: the smallest and the most populated of the three main islands (6000 people on 28 square kilometre). A mere one half hour walk from downtown to the south will bring you to "la Pointe Blanche". In spring and summer this is a good spot for migrating and nesting shorebirds (Least Sandpiper, Snipe, Semipalmated Plover), swallows, warblers and sparrows.

On the north-west shore of St. Pierre, there is a small seabird colony called "les Cailloux Rouges" with a few pairs of Razorbills, Black Guillemots, Kittiwakes, Great Cormorant, Herring and Great Black-backed Gull, a pair of Ravens and at times a pair of Rough-legged Hawk.

ENROUTE TO LANGLADE: in late spring, in summer and early fall, there is a boat leaving every morning at 8:00 a.m., arriving at Langlade around 9:00 a.m. and departing at 4:30 p.m. A few minutes after leaving St. Pierre you'll see Grand Colombier Island, the only nesting site of Atlantic Puffin, 400-500 pairs; a Rough-legged Hawk is usually hovering on top. This is the most reliable site to see Puffins. To really appreciate Grand Colombier, you must try to accompany the local naturalists that spend a night there from time to time. You'll be treated to an estimated 100,000 pairs of Leach's Storm Petrels! Manx Shearwaters are actively prospecting there, they were found inside artificial burrows last summer and they might well be nesting in natural deep crevices, although breeding has not been proven yet. These birds are heard "singing" there every night. This is also a good site for nesting American Pipits. Minke, Humpback and dolphins are often seen around the island.

The so-called "la baie" (a misnomer) in fact, a strait between Langlade and St. Pierre is not usually rich in bird life, except during the Capelin run, then hundreds of Sooty and Greater Shearwaters could be present as well as Gannets and Fulmars. The cliffs of Langlade were once rich in Kittiwake colonies but most of them have now moved to the Cape of Miquelon in the extreme north of the archipelago. Only a few remain near "Cape Perce"(a cape with a hole) together with a few Great Cormorants and lots of Black Guillemots.

LANGLADE: Landing at Langlade is a bit unusual for modern times, as there is no wharf there; you land by zodiac. This is a beautiful island, but with a few good paths, so, if you really want to explore, be sure to come with a map and compass. Alternatively, you could visit the nice "Belle riviere" valley (its estuary is just where the boat is landing) and see most of the warblers and sparrows of the area. A pair of Northern Harrier has been known to nest there as well as Northern Goshawk. Up on the plateau you could see in spring and summer, breeding Red-throated Loons, reaching; this is their southern-most limit in North America (in Newfoundland they are known to nest only in the northern peninsula).

THE ISTHMUS: This is a fascinating area, on the southern part a nice marsh usually has several broods of ducks in spring and summer: Black Duck, Pintail and Green-winged Teal. In spring and fall other species like herons, bitterns, sometimes Pied-billed Grebe or Bufflehead. Bank Swallows have been nesting there recently, managing to dig burrows in fine sand!...Dune vegetation and prairies are home for large numbers of Savannah Sparrows and numerous Horned Larks (some of them often overwintering).

The northern part of the isthmus has the richest ponds of the islands which support several broods of ducks including Red-breasted Mergansers. Whimbrels usually arrive in the first week of July and stay well into August. Only the Least Sandpiper, Common Snipe and Semipalmated Plover breed there, and recently the endangered Piping Plover. The Greater Yellowlegs is apparently only a migrant. The first fall shorebirds arrive around mid-July and linger into October and some into November. I will not give more details as I am convinced it would appear rather pale to Nova Scotians used to thousands of individuals in the Bay of Fundy area.

Arctic and Common Tern nest near Grand Barachois and, unlike many other places in eastern North America, their numbers have increased in recent years. Unfortunately, some of them are nesting in portions of the beach used in summer by cars....About a thousand pairs of Ring-billed Gulls also nest there, when not too disturbed by humans.

The lagoon itself is quite shallow and has extensive patches of eel grass *Zostera marina*, food for 150 to 250 Black Ducks, sometimes more, from September to December, some of them usually overwintering as did the Canada Goose. Recently the geese have nearly abandoned the site, probably due to disturbance. From fall to spring the Grand Barachois has also a population of about 100 Common Goldeneye and several Red-breasted Mergansers. At low tide this is the best spot to observe both Harbour and Grey Seals.

Gannets and shearwaters are often observed on both sides of the isthmus in the Capelin season, the latter numbering sometimes several thousands.

MIQUELON: The coasts all around Miquelon are of easy access. The west coast is rather monotonous, bordered chiefly with peat bogs. It is interesting in spring, and to a lesser extent in winter and fall, with concentration of thousands of Eiders, hundreds of Oldsquaws, mergansers and numerous Red-necked Grebes (we have the most important concentration of this grebe for the whole area). The east coast is more appealing, with numerous ponds and lakes separated from the sea by sand or gravel bars. The largest one" Mirande Lake, more than three kilometres in length, has more broods of Red-breasted Merganser than the rest of the islands.

On the east coast, the road goes only a quarter of the way, from the village to Grand Barachois. The walking is easy, on grass or on beaches for several kilometres. Woods there are nice and have numerous species of warblers and sparrows, and also in one spot a rather aggressive Goshawk.

THE CAPE OF MIQUELON: Do not miss it, this is the most picturesque area, wonderful steep cliffs with thousands of pairs of Kittiwakes nesting with other gulls, Black Guillemots, a few rare Razorbills and whales are often seen there. Gently rolling hills will lead you to the tip of the Cape where a pair of Bald Eagles has nested since 1979.

Be sure to bring some warm clothes, the temperature here in summer rarely reaches 20°C and could come down to 14 or 15°. Rubber boots are indispensable. Good maps are available locally.

Roger Etcheberry
B. P. 328 St. Pierre
St. Pierre & Miquelon Islands

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- TUCK, LESLIE M. & M. BOROTRA. 1972. "Additions to the Avifauna of St. Pierre and Miquelon", Canadian Field Naturalist, Vol. 86, No. 3.

BIRDWATCHERS TO CONTACT

Roger Etcheberry, telephone: 41-42-77 in St. Pierre
41-62-64 or 41-60-67 in Miquelon

Michel Borotra tel: 41-30-97 in St. Pierre
41-33-96 (Agriculture Dept)

Jackie & Christine Hebert tel: 41-63-88 in Miquelon

HOW TO GET HERE

By plane from Halifax: with Air St. Pierre

In June: Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays

From July 1 to mid-September: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays

From Sydney: July 1 to mid-Septmeber: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

More details: contact Canadian Airlines.
Reservations: 873-3566

From Newfoundland: St. Pierre is 25 miles away from Fortune, Newfoundland, at the tip of the Burin peninsula. You have to get there to take one of the available ferries.

The **Arethusa** is a nice little passenger boat, taking about 90 to 100 passengers to St. Pierre in about one and one half hours. You could go out on the deck and watch for gannets, shearwaters, Murres, puffins, etc.--and whales.

Contact in Fortune: 832-0429 in business hours or 832-1199 after hours

SPM tours, with a mini-bus links St. John's to Fortune and connects with the **Arethusa** in Fortune in early afternoon.

SPM tours: St. John's, Newfoundland, 38 Gear Street, A1C 2J5--phone: 722-3802

Saint Eugene: is a 200 passenger boat reaching St. Pierre in fifty-five minutes at the top speed of 32 knots in good weather. This is a very nice and comfortable boat. Unfortunately, you are not usually allowed to go out on the deck.

Schedule: Daily service from June 12 to September 23
Leaving St. Pierre at 1:30 p.m., St. Pierre time
Leaving Fortune at 2:15 p.m. Newfoundland time

Note: no trips to Fortune on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays June 12 to 25 and from September 8 to 23.

Reservations: Lloyd G. Lake, Ltd., P.O. Box 70, Fortune, Newfoundland, A0E 1P0
Phone: 832-2006/832-1955 business hours
Phone: 832-2791/832-1784 after hours
Fax: 832-2529

Saint Eugene; to Miquelon three times a week: Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays, departing St. Pierre--8 a.m., departing Miquelon around 6:00 p.m.

WHERE TO STAY

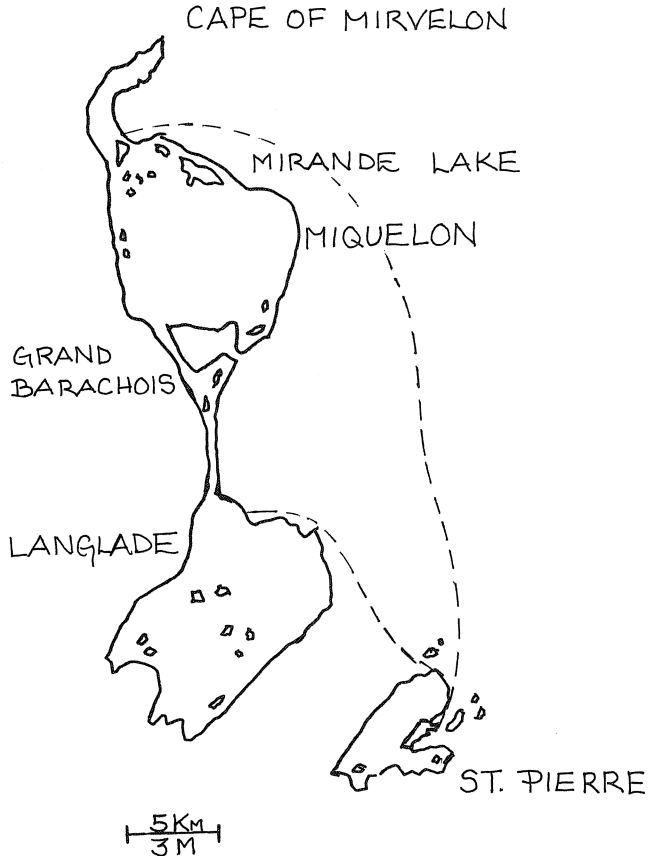
There are a few hotels in St. Pierre but several bed and breakfasts

In Miquelon, accommodation was not easy, except for a couple of boarding houses, but a motel is scheduled to open next summer.

Useful phone numbers: (dial 011-508 to get St. Pierre)

Hotel Ile de France, St. Pierre: 41-28-36
 Hotel Robert, St. Pierre: 41-24-19
 Tourist Bureau St. Pierre: 41-22-22
 Tourist Bureau Miquelon 41-61-87

Camping: There are few interesting sites in St. Pierre, but a lot of exciting places to camp in Miquelon and Langlade. Water is drinkable everywhere, except on some parts of the isthmus, where it is brackish.



OWLS AND OTHERS

Owls are endlessly fascinating. They also look good in black and white, as pattern is everything. Our first photograph is a break from the tradition of bird portraiture in our April issue. When I saw Richard Stern's photograph projected on members' slide night, I was instantaneously transported to the King's County dykelands. The browns and greys of autumn are not yet submerged by the first winter snows, the mist obscures the distant wood, and--what is that lump on a distant fencepost? The telescope reveals the lump to be a SHORT-EARED OWL that has certainly seen us long before we have seen it.

The owls of the season were clearly the two NORTHERN HAWK OWLS that wintered near Tatamagouche, well seen "lifers" for most birders who sought them. Furthermore, they didn't simply sit around and stare at the watchers, but showed lots of interesting behaviour, at times indulging in apparent courtship, complete with vocalizations. The scientific name, *Surnia ulula*, refers to these ululations by the male. Alan Covert took fine portraits of both. The smaller male appears elsewhere in this issue. It seems to me that there is no owl with fiercer mein than this one. There is no somnolence in those eyes, nor is there the diurnal alertness of our Short-eared, above. This female Northern Hawk Owl seems to be signalling the photographer: "don't push your luck!"

Blake Maybank's BLACK-HEADED GULL is in full summer plumage. Some of our wintering birds reach this state before they leave for parts northeast, and others reappear in this plumage, somewhat worn, in late summer. They are at their best in spring, when some are washed with pink on the underparts. There is great individual variation, with some birds almost white and others of quite deep rosy hue. This results from interaction between the seasonal hormonal cycle and diet, from which, like the flamingos, the gull probably obtains the appropriate pigments. I have been unable to find evidence that the pinkest birds are the oldest or most fit, but it seems likely to have something to do with the mating game.

It is slightly bad form to include my picture of the same female TUFTED DUCK that I exhibited in last April's issue. However, I do so to make a point. Last year's photo was taken on January 23. She had undergone considerable plumage change by the time I again photographed her on Sullivan's Pond on April 8. You might want to compare the two pictures. In January she had a distinct white facial patch, a brownish cast and pale marginations on back and head feathers, little demarcation between neck and breast, and no pale band near the bill tip. By April she was, as you see, a crisply plumaged female ready to undertake the season's duties in Iceland, or wherever.

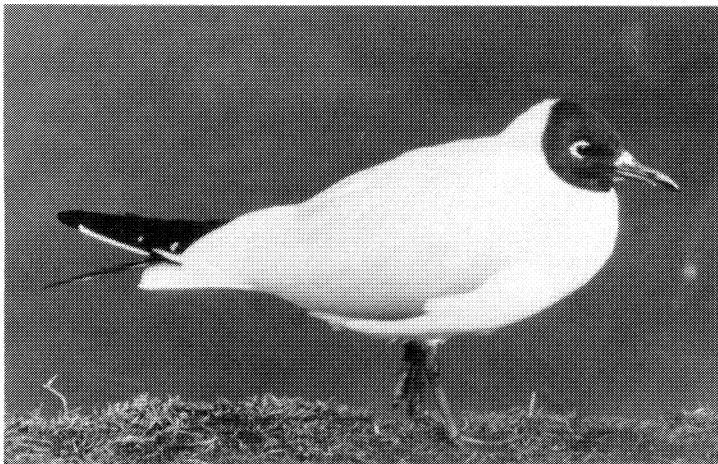
Blake Maybank gives us portraits of two very different woodland birds. To photograph a brooding RUFFED GROUSE may be easy, but first you have to find her nest. I have come across on little stumbles of young (from time to time), but have never been lucky enough to find a nest. No wonder; if she sits tight, she is a confusing blend with background, even in full light like this bird. I especially like his RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Certainly these are neither cryptic nor particularly wary. However, they are hyperactive, and to catch one in a typical "don't-come-around-this-side" pose, in needle-sharp focus, is art (and perhaps just a little bit of luck?).



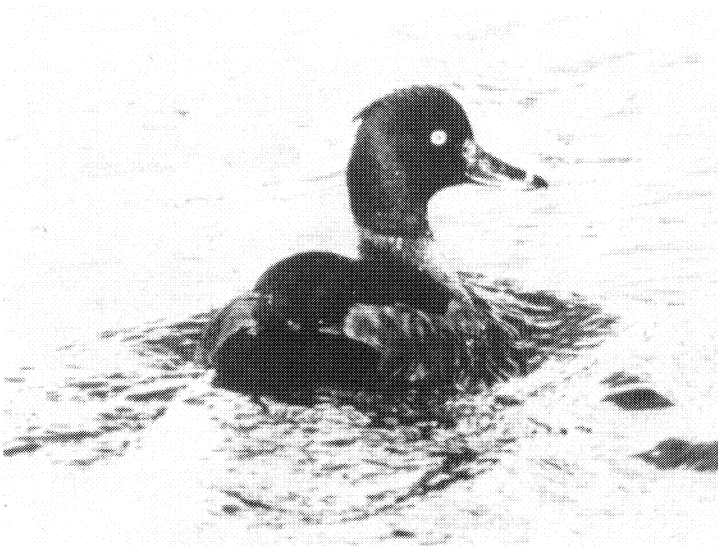
Short-eared Owl, Grand Pré - Richard Stern



Northern Hawk Owl - Alan Covert



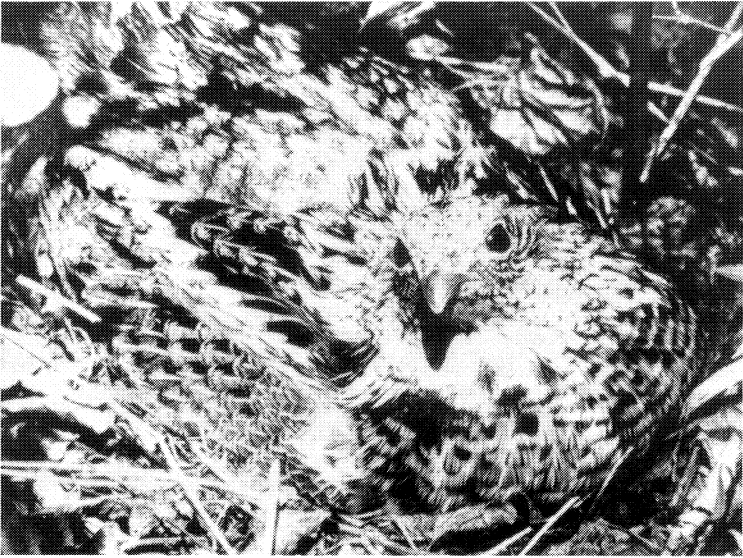
Common Black-headed Gull - Blake Maybank



Tufted Duck - Ian McLaren



Red-breasted Nuthatch - Blake Maybank



Ruffed Grouse - Blake Maybank



Brewer's Sparrow - Ian McLaren



Savannah Sparrow - Blake Maybank

Two sparrows complete our offerings. One of **the** birds of 1991 was surely the BREWER'S SPARROW. The only accepted previous record of this species east of midwestern North America was for Massachusetts, years ago. With Eric Cooke on Seal Island one October day in the early 70's, I did see very briefly what I retrospectively thought was this species; hardly good enough. Following a sighting (PM,BS) of one on Brier Island a week earlier, this one appeared along the Halifax Harbour shore at Hartlen's Point on Oct. 6, where it was meticulously identified by Roger Foxall and Blake Maybank, and subsequently seen by several lucky searchers. Taken in fading light at the end of the following soggy day, this slightly "soft" photo is the best of several attempts. The bird was gone next morning. My slides turned out to be more than mere confirmation of the species, in revealing characteristics of the dry-prairie subspecies **breweri** rather than the more northerly, montane **taverni**. Note, for example, the pale stubby bill, rather than the thinner, dark bill of the latter race. Since there are indications that these two may be "split" as separate species, all the lucky tickers now should await **taverni**, which would seem to be more likely on geographical grounds to occur here as a stray.

Some of you have gathered that I enjoy scouting subspecies almost as much as species. Three subspecies of SAVANNAH SPARROW routinely occur in Nova Scotia. Our common nesting birds are the eastern **savanna**, which generally arrives after mid-April. The subspecies **princeps**, a nice name for our very special "Ipswich Sparrow", begins arriving on our beaches in late March. Blake Maybank's photo is of the subspecies **labradorius**, which nest in Newfoundland and the Labrador-Ungava Peninsula. I have spotted these on our coasts and islands, often feeding on the beach wrack, still on their way north in May. They are very dark on the back, with broad, blackish streaks on both back and breast. There are many other named races of this species throughout North America, although some may merely be parts of a continuous pattern of variation. A couple of years ago I photographed individuals of the threatened **beldingi** in the samphire marshes of souther California--as distinctive in its own way as our "Ipswich Sparrow". All this is evolution in action; the point at which a subspecies becomes a species is much a matter of definition.

COMMENTS AND ERRATA FROM THE PHOTO EDITOR. It was probably obvious that the captions for Fork-tailed Flycatcher and Western Kingbird on p. 58 of the last issue got exchanged. Less obvious was my mental slip in misattributing the picture of the N. Fulmar on p. 59; apologies to the real photographer, Linda Payzant.

Checks of specimens in the Canadian Museum of Nature by Michel Gosselin indicate that "individual variation in Piping Plovers is greater than geographic variation". So much for my suggestion that the photograph on p. 57 of the last issue might be of a bird of the prairie population.

IAM.

PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION RESULTS

Milton Gregg

Forty-one slides entered in the Photograph Competition by eleven members of N.S.B.S. were judged on January 7 by Dr. Keith Vaughan, Ruth Vaughan and Mary Primrose at the home of Milton and Norma Gregg. The slides were shown during Members Slide Night, January 23, and the trophy presented to the winner by our President.

Many excellent slides were entered in this first annual N.S.B.S. Photograph Competition which made it difficult for the judges to select the top slide which was entitled "Female Flicker on Nest" by Fred Greene.

Slides awarded eleven or more points (out of a possible 15) are listed below:

Chipping Sparrow	J. Purchase	12
Pileated Woodpecker	F. Greene	14
Least Flycatcher	F. Spalding	11
Immature Bald Eagle	P. Wall	15
Loon Shelters Young	L. Keizer	14
Barn Swallow Feeding Young	F. Spalding	12
Immature Great Blue Heron	P. Wall	11
Immature Red-tailed Hawk	F. Greene	15
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	F. Spalding	11
Great Cormorant	P. Wall	11
Yellow Warbler Feeds Young	L. Keizer	12
Immature Cormorant Trio	F. Greene	14
Lovely Sparrow	L. Keizer	11
Willet	P. Wall	13
Common Loon	L. Keizer	13
Long-billed Bald Eagle (sic)	F. Greene	13
Great Blue Heron	S. Cohrs	11
Female Flicker on Nest (winning slide)	F. Greene	15

The trophy, which will be competed for every year, was a Black-capped Chickadee carved by Bev Sarty's father, Mr. George Crowell.

The N.S.B.S. Photograph Competition will be held every year, probably during Members' Slide Night, mid-winter. We encourage a greater interest in photographing birds and more entries in the competition. Any suggestions members may have in regard to improving the competition would be welcomed.

The organizers of the competition were Bev Sarty and Milton Gregg.

CONFUSED ABOUT PHOTO CONTESTS?

NSBS is involved in TWO such projects.

1. The Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund offers a trophy each year to the Members of Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia for the best photograph of a wild bird. This contest has been running for four years and is designed to increase interest in the birds of the province and to obtain a variety of photographs to add to the NSBS slide collection.

This is "THE PUFFIN TROPHY".

2. The Executive of the NSBS sponsors an annual competition for Members of NSBS for much the same reasons as "1". 1991 was the first year for this competition (although we did have a competition some years ago) and it will be repeated with amended rules and categories this year. Watch for details in the July issue of **Nova Scotia Birds**.

This is "THE CHICKADEE TROPHY".

NSBS PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTEST WINNING PHOTOGRAPH

(Chickadee Trophy)



Female Flicker at Nest by Fred Greene

V O L U N T E E R S N E E D E D

FOR

PIPING PLOVER CONSERVATION IN NOVA SCOTIA AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

The Piping Plover is listed as an endangered species in Canada. Only 5500 individuals remain, 525 of those in Atlantic Canada. Human disturbance is a major cause of poor reproductive success in the region. Active protection of the birds is urgently needed. This year, with the help of volunteers, we hope to protect the Piping Plover in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island by initiating a Piping Plover Guardianship Program. Volunteer Guardians will help erect information signs around plover nesting areas, and reinforce the "Do Not Disturb" request on the signs by making the same request in person on days in which human disturbance is high. Volunteers will be asked to attend an evening workshop and to donate twenty hours of time to the project during May-July. To help identify Plover Guardians to the general public, we hope to provide a jacket, T-shirt and ball cap with an identifying insignia. If you can donate twenty hours of your time to help conserve this endangered bird, please forward your name and address, and more information will be provided. This project is co-sponsored by the Halifax Field Naturalists, Island Nature Trust and Canadian Wildlife Service. Thanks for the help!

Stephen Flemming
c/o Canadian Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1590
Sackville, N. B. E0A 3C0

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE???

The Bird Society receives many requests for support of various kinds from individuals and groups concerned with environmental conservation. Up to now the Executive has dealt with these. Perhaps it is time to reactivate our Conservation Committee.

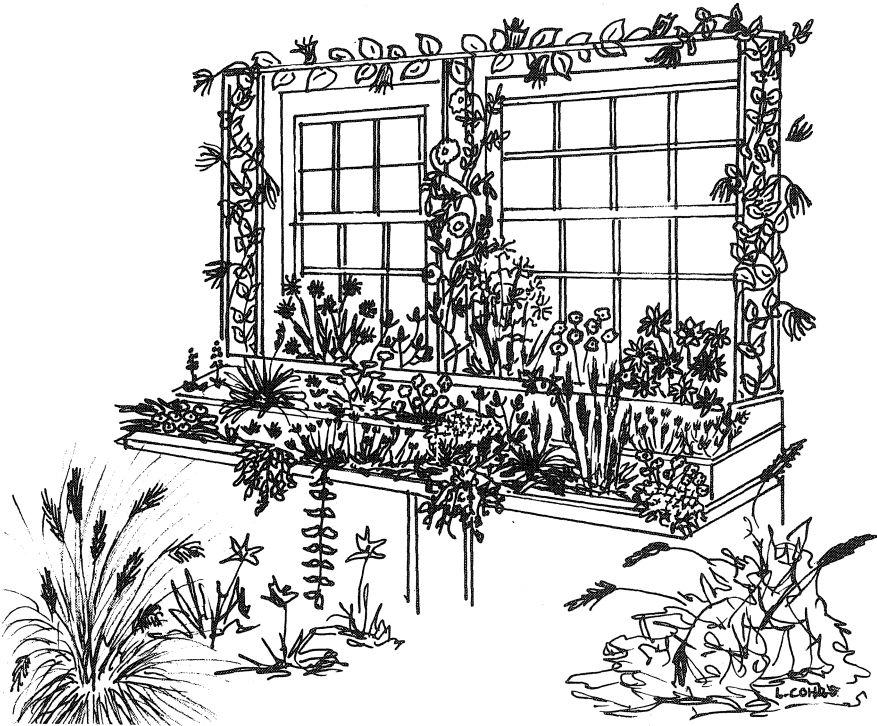
We would like to hear from members as to whether we need such a committee, and if so, whether they would be willing to work on it or contribute their knowledge of pertinent matters.

Ultimately any such committee would be appointed by the President. Those interested please write to the Society at the Museum address by June 30, 1992 and mark the envelope "attention Lou Coutinho".

A NATURE WATCHER'S WINDOW BOX

Build a stage for hummingbirds

Harry Oakes

From *Fine Gardening*, January 1992.

Three tiers of containers and a trellis support nectar-producing plants that entice hummingbirds and butterflies to the author's windows.

Outside my window, only a few feet away from where I stand, a hummingbird darts for nectar in a honeysuckle blossom; an elusive hairstreak butterfly settles on the strawflower. I can observe these beauties in such close proximity because I've created a window box stage for them. The box is a three-tiered form that holds plastic tubs filled with nectar-producing flowers. I built the box to fit a particular window, but you can modify the design to suit your own needs.

What makes my window box unique are the plastic tubs I use as planters. They serve as units in a modular garden that I can change at will. If I want to experiment with different colour combinations, I just rearrange the tubs. If a plant grows bigger than I planned, I can put a smaller plant in its place. Faded plants can be discarded and immediately replaced.

Designing the window box

To create your own bird and butterfly stage, first choose a large window, one that lets you enjoy the display. Butterflies hate wind and love sun. Most plants are sun

lovers too. So, the best site for your window box is a sheltered, southern exposure. If you have a choice of sites, hang the box outside a window you pass by frequently so you'll have the best chance to see some action.

Three wood tiers form the main structure of the window box which is strengthened with a surrounding trellis. The two upper tiers are actually frames that hold the individual planting tubs by their rims. The lowest tier has a plywood bottom, creating a trough for smaller containers. The window box is attached to the house, and wooden legs help carry the weight of the planted frame. You can build the structure from redwood, but I don't think that's necessary. I used number 2 grade white pine. (Because the legs sit on bricks, the wood doesn't come in contact with the ground.) The construction is simple—butt joints fastened with nails, glue and drywall screws turned into pre-drilled holes. Assemble the window box as a structural unit before attaching it to the house.

I attached the box to the wood-framed house with drywall screws. If you have a brick house, you'll need to use a masonry bit to drill holes for lead anchors or you'll need to attach wood strips to the side of the house with masonry nails.

Drainage is important for plants in containers. So, before you plant, use a 1/2 inch spade bit to drill three holes in the bottom of each planter and to drill a string of holes in the plywood bottom of the lowest tier. In the window box containers I use a soilless mix that is both fast draining and lightweight.

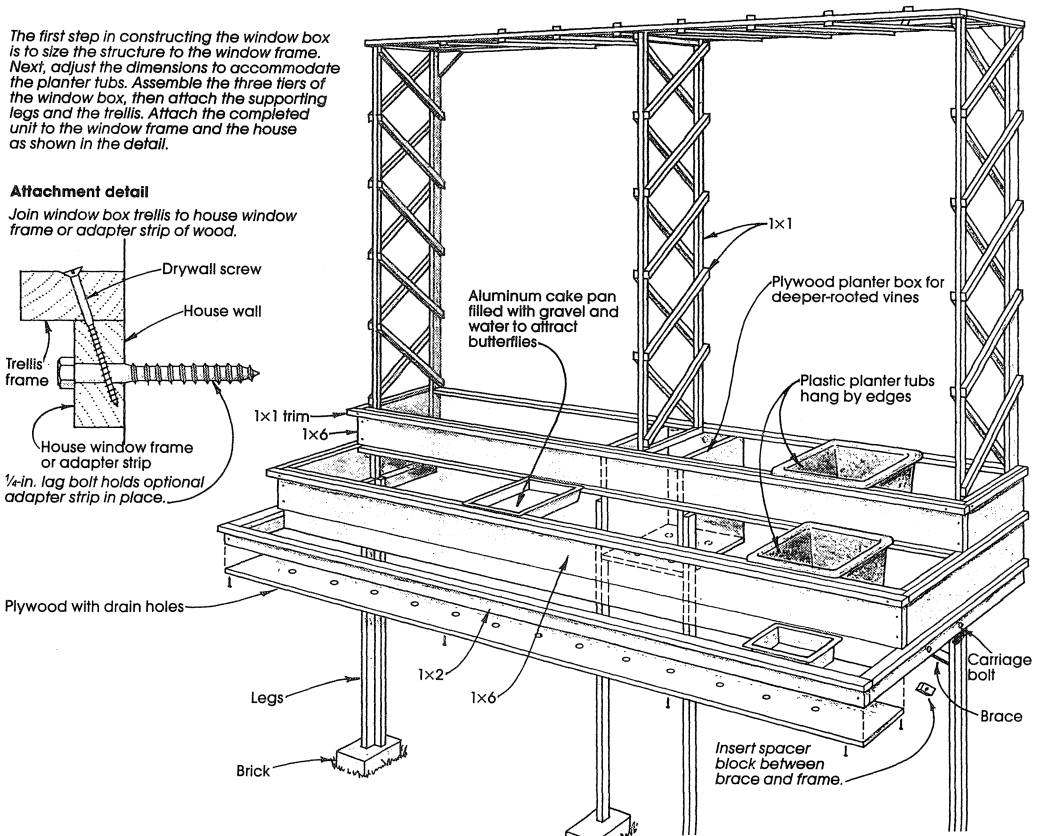
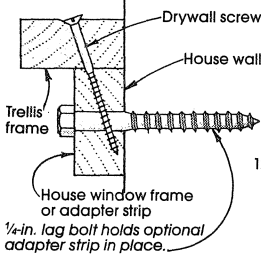
Maintenance

With the scale of the window box so small, maintenance is a small job too. Watering is the only onerous task. Like most container-grown plants, those in the window box must be watered frequently—twice a day in hot weather. A regular sprinkling with a

The first step in constructing the window box is to size the structure to the window frame. Next, adjust the dimensions to accommodate the planter tubs. Assemble the three tiers of the window box, then attach the supporting legs and the trellis. Attach the completed unit to the window frame and the house as shown in the detail.

Attachment detail

Join window box trellis to house window frame or adapter strip of wood.



dilute solution of 20-20-20 fertilizer helps keep my plants looking their best. If a group of plants starts to flag, I just pop in a tub of reserves. At the end of the season, I dump tubs of annuals onto the compost heap. Perennials and woody plants, can overwinter in their tubs, but I sink the tubs into the ground and over them with mulch to avoid frost damage to the roots.

When the window garden comes alive, I find it a microcosm of the larger, natural world. Partly, it's a world I can control; partly it's a world I can only watch. But from this close viewpoint I see things I'd miss otherwise.

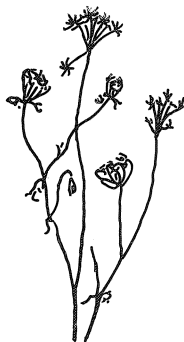
ADAPTED FOR A NOVA SCOTIA CLIMATE

Lise A. Cohrs B. Hort., Dip. Design

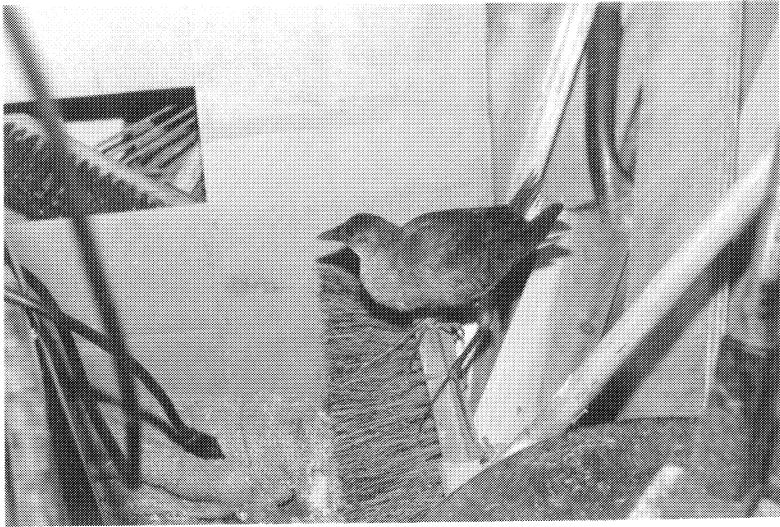
Choosing the plants

When selecting plants for the window box, keep in mind that butterflies and birds prefer different flowers. Butterflies like a place to perch while they feed. Daisies, sweet william, strawflowers, marigolds, gallardia, asters, Queen Anne's lace, and verbenas are some I recommend. Hummingbirds on the other hand, prefer the colour red and tubular shaped flowers such as salvia, honeysuckle, beebalm, touch-me-not, cardinal flower and impatiens. Hummingbirds are here and gone in a matter of seconds while butterflies will stop to sunbath if it is warm and calm. To encourage them to stay, place a cake pan filled with pea gravel (5/8" stone) and water. At the end of the growing season, the window box can be filled with evergreen boughs, bayberry, deciduous holly, and ornamental grass seed stalks. This offers a veritable cornucopia of winter bird food.

Create a planting below the window box to screen the support legs of the frame and to attract birds and butterflies. Select plants that have an abundance of nectar, edible fruits, seed stalks, and that will provide protection for the birds. Make certain that the plants are hardy to zone 5. In the Halifax-Dartmouth or Shelburne-Yarmouth area, zone 6 plants will overwinter. Suggested plants include: viburnum bayberry, evergreen and deciduous holly, shrub and climbing roses, elderberry, blueberry, blackberry, dogwood, butterfly bush (Zone 6), and a variety of ornamental grasses. Hybrid honeysuckle called **Lonicera brownii** 'Dropmore Scarlet' easily climbs up the trellis and its red tubular flowers attract hummingbirds. Climbing roses, morning glory, clematis, and grape vines offer a vast array of colours and provide food for birds and butterflies.



The heavenly blue (literally) of this Mountain Bluebird is obviously missing in this picture, but the original picture by its "owner", Robin Anthony of Brooklyn, serves to document this extraordinary stray.



This is, by my recollections, the third PURPLE GALLINULE to have turned up in a Nova Scotia outbuilding. This one, with developing subadult plumage, appeared in David and Joan Young's garage at Little Harbour on Oct. 23, 1991.

LIVING ISLAND VI

by

Evelyn Richardson

More of the Hypothetical and Incredible...

The "blue-winged warbler day" brought me a puzzle that took some time to resolve. As I was crossing the field I saw, lying on the grass, part of a bird's bleached skull with an attached long, decurved bill. I picked it up, of course, and took it home, thinking that such a bill must have belonged to one of the curlews, locally known as sickle-bills. I had once sighted a small flock which I judged to be Hudsonians and, at another time Morrill had reported one "big as a hen" which must have been a long-billed. But this bill was just five inches in length--according to my books, too long for the Hudsonian, too short for the long-billed. I put it away in my "culch-box", among unidentified rocks, shells, seaweeds and plants, which I save, pretty sure that sooner or later someone will come along who can identify one item or another. I showed the bill to Dr. Lewis the following autumn. The length puzzled him too, and he suggested that he send it to Mr. Godfrey of the National Museum who could compare structure of skull, etc., with specimens to hand. Mr. Godfrey wrote that the bill had belonged to a glossy ibis (also known as the black curlew), a southern bird. A few strays of this species have been recorded in Nova Scotia and I remembered that in 1958 our local paper had a story on three which came in April and tarried for some two weeks in this county. How and where this bird's head had reached our shore, or if the ibis had perished on the island, there is no telling. Skeletons or, more often, wings and bits of the frames of seabirds, are not infrequently washed in among the seawrack which may have come from considerable distances. This bird could have reached Bon Portage and died here, lain hidden in a swamp or among trees until this bleached and fleshless head was picked up by a curious gull or crow and then discarded where it fell for me to find.

I discovered the chestnut-collared longspur feeding along our driveway when I went out to empty the kitchen ashes early on the morning of May 29, 1962. I supposed it had arrived during the night; at any rate it was plainly hungry and feeding avidly. Its back was to me and, in my hurry to get breakfast under way, I almost missed seeing the chestnut nape which distinguished it from the sparrow which, from my angle of vision, it resembled. But as I was realizing that the nape fitted none of the sparrows I knew, the bird turned to reveal the black of its underparts and strong facial markings. I ran for my Peterson's and the page depicting longspurs. This bird spent several days about the yard, for some reason favouring the area under my clothesline, and offered me repeated chances to check on every detail, from colours to the distinctive tail pattern it disclosed as it made short flights--if movements of a foot or so, barely clearing the grass, could be called flights. Often I was too close to use binoculars in viewing him. He also paid frequent visits to the lighthouse yard where Carroll and Sylvia made independent identifications. The chestnut-collared longspur is a bird of the interior plains and Dr. Lewis wrote in his column: "The nearest record is that of a male collected on a small island in the Grand Manan archipelago, New Brunswick, on June 2, 1914." I am grateful to whatever wind brought this stranger to Bon Portage.

I don't really expect my records of warbling vireos to be admitted, although I am convinced I have seen at least six members of this variety. They have not yet been accepted as occurring in Nova Scotia, and they would offer difficulties to making a positive identification from any distance, since they lack any striking characteristics and the song (which I have never heard), though it distinguishes it from other vireos, is said to be easily confused with that of the purple finch. As with most of our strays, I have seen these vireos under what is called optimum conditions, since they arrived too exhausted to want to fly and too hungry to stop eating even at the close approach of a human. I almost stepped on the first one I saw. It was feeding along a path through our yard and its always inconspicuous black blended with grass and weeds. To my knowledge I had never seen a vireo but this bird differed from the warblers I knew. I went to the house and returned with the **Field Guide** open to vireos. By comparison and elimination, I decided this must be one of the warbling variety; only later did I find this bird was not listed for the province. Since then I have seen the Philadelphia, red-eyes,

blue-headed, yellow-throated and additional warbling vireos, as well as some which could not be observed closely enough for positive identification--to these I shrug and say, "Oh well, I know you're a **vireo**".

A favourite stray of mine is the wood thrush. I have seen seven of these, five in their vivid spring cinnamon and bright spots. The first came into sight at the end of fog and rain when the afternoon sunlight was gilding the wet mosses and leaves under the trees, and splashing the bird feeding amongst them. There are handsomer birds, yet one of the loveliest pictures my memory retains is of this wood thrush in the golden light. Though I have heard more than one spring arrival utter his rich bell-like note, the only song I've heard was rendered by a fall stray--a short run intermittently repeated. I expect the wood thrush will shortly be added to the provincial list, since one of last winter's mainland strays was killed by a cat and thus, I presume, provided a specimen to reinforce the several sight records.

The family had scarcely become involved as bird watchers when Anne reported a fall turkey vulture (a bird I have not yet sighted) which swooped down over her yard on its huge wings and sent her running in terror towards where her baby son sat playing.

On an October day of a later year, as she was at her clothesline, she watched a most unusual flight of yellow-billed cuckoos; unusual because this "rare visitor" is seldom seen in any numbers. She wrote: "One flock after another passed in a southwesterly direction. There were from half-a-dozen to a dozen in each flock, and I saw that the birds which passed close to me had very reddish-brown wings. I thought they were cuckoos, perhaps, but when so many kept coming I decided they couldn't be. After school Dick (her son) brought me a bird he had found in the road. I believe it must have struck an electric-light wire as it was not mangled, as it would have been if hit by a car. This was like those birds I had seen earlier, and was easily identified as a yellow-billed cuckoo."

I have seen only one bird with albino markings and that a readily identified song sparrow whose tail, and approximately an inch of its rump, were white, or barely tinted.

More puzzling to me was the bird, conveniently studied among the fall bean-poles, which had all the characteristics of a rusty blackbird except for a well-notched tail. My SOS to Dr. Lewis brought the suggestion that this might be a bird which had not completed its autumn moult, a possibility which had never crossed my mind.

NEXT ISSUE will have Evelyn's truly "incredibles"--Ed.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, *Nova Scotia Birds*:

Reading Mr. Peter Payzant's review of *Where Have all the Birds Gone*, caused me once again to question our priorities in the Nova Scotia Bird Society. So many times we seem so caught up in the quest of adding another species to our special list or driving around the province in search of a recent stray, we forget our responsibilities to preserve and protect the very objects of our enjoyment and interest. Maybe we should rethink our priorities, our *raison d'etre*.

Too often we hear fellow birders denying any responsibility for the many problems and threats to our avian friends. Although we of the NSBS can't possibly deal with all the problems which face the birds who either visit us each year or who make Nova Scotia their permanent home, there is still much we can do.

Disregarding the greatest problem of all, that of human over-population, we still can do much to rectify some of the harm we have done. The effects of pollution (a direct result of overpopulation and human carelessness) are well documented and something in which we all can have a positive (or negative) effect.

Several recent studies have clearly shown the loveable house cat to be one of the greatest threats to garden birds (especially during the nesting season) and yet many owners argue that the destruction of "a few birds" makes no difference and besides, "it's natural". I even talked to one cat owner (feeds the birds year round) who refused to put a bell on his free-roaming cat because "it would make it frustrated"!

Similar arguments are made by owners who allow the family dog to romp unrestricted along beaches, flushing every shore bird in sight, often to the greatest amusement of the owner. Such activities during the spring and early summer must result in the demise of countless young and unhatched birds. What the dog doesn't destroy, the owner will...later, "riding the dunes on his ATV".

Man's great "back to nature" philosophy of recent years had added again another obstacle to continued success of many birds. This preoccupation with having a second home in the forest or along the lake (or sea) shore, has effectively eliminated major habitats for numerous species. Our natural shore lines are disappearing at an alarming rate as many rush to build that special cottage (or shopping mall) on the prime piece of land with the great view and the fresh air.

Many of our birds are disappearing (except nuisance birds such as gulls, blue jays, cowbirds, etc.), man's population and destruction is increasing, and birders continue to be content with "listing" the ever decreasing numbers while the demise goes on.

I submit that our priorities should change. It may be necessary for the NSBS members to become more vocal and active in securing a future for the very birds we watch and enjoy. If we are seriously concerned, then we must be prepared to act as a united force and present our views to other organizations, groups, and government. We must become involved and not merely be content to purchase a twelve dollar membership once a year and buy a few bags of bird seed as our part in the overall scheme of things.

Let us not just be takers but protectors and do something important in turn for the joy each of us experience when we wake up on a May morning to the choralling of a robin, as we watch in amazement the synchronized flights of thousands of peeps as they funnel and reel in perfect unison over the seashore, or the grandeur we feel while watching a bald eagle soar effortlessly high over head. We must accept our responsibility and make sure these birds always have a home with us and not allow a single species to disappear because of our own selfishness, apathy or greed. If we really care, if we really want to make a difference, and if we are really serious, we can make the Nova Scotia Bird Society the effective voice for the birders of Nova Scotia.

T. Dale Mullen
Yarmouth, N.S.

CORNELL ORNITHOLOGISTS WARN AGAINST ANTIFREEZE CHEMICAL IN BIRD BATHS

(This article is a release from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology)

Mixing glycerine with water in winter bird baths could harm the birds that drink and bathe in the water warn experts at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Furthermore, the risky practice is not particularly effective for lowering the freezing point of water, the ornithologists found, and they recommend electric heaters instead.

"There's no question that birds need help finding liquid water in the winter when their natural water sources freeze," says Todd Culver, the Lab's Education Specialist. "Bird baths that don't freeze are a good supplement to feeders for attracting birds."

However, recent articles in magazines and newspapers around the country have recommended using glycerine, an alcohol-like chemical, as a bird bath antifreeze. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has responded to dozens of inquiries from concerned bird watchers.

The Cornell ornithologists conducted experiments and consulted with wildlife veterinarians. They found two problems with using glycerine in bird baths:

"Rather large concentrations of glycerine must be used to prevent a water bath from freezing," says Gregory Butcher, director of the Lab's Bird Population Studies Program. "In order to lower the freezing point to 15 degrees Fahrenheit, for example, you need a 30 per cent glycerine solution," he said of the chemical, which is a low level toxin and has a sweet taste. "Birds that ingest large amounts of the substance will experience elevated blood sugar levels, causing hyperglycemia and possibly death."

"Many birds bathe and preen themselves in cold weather," says Culver. "If you use enough glycerine to prevent the water from freezing, it causes the feathers to mat. Birds bathe and preen to enhance the insulation value of their feathers. Matted feathers are poor insulators and can be fatal in cold temperatures."

A better solution to the frozen bird bath problem is an electric immersion-style heater, which costs only pennies per day to operate, the Cornell ornithologists recommend. More information on providing a watering hole is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope (international postal coupon required) to:

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
EIS Dept. N4C
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, NY, USA
14850

The Blackpoll Warbler, which migrates 2,400 miles (3900 km) from Nova Scotia to South America in four days and nights, is showing an estimated fuel efficiency of 720,000 miles per gallon (0.00033 litres per 100 kilometres) for an automobile.

THE ART OF MISIDENTIFICATION

by Pete Dunne

Reprinted from Living Bird, Winter 1991

I have a wall full of books, mostly field guides. Field guides to places that even Rand McNally has never heard of. Field guides to every avian conglomerate conjured up by science. First, second, and third editions of field guides to birds I've never even dreamed of seeing.

But among all these guides, there is not one that deals with one of birding's most common problems. There is not one book dealing with the art of **misinformation**--the ability to blow an identification and then bamboozle your way clear.

Sure. Anyone can misidentify a bird--and most people do. But blowing enough smoke to cover your boo-boo or convincing the gallery that you really saw a Cooper's hawk while everyone else was busy looking at a sharp-shinned hawk takes real talent. It takes a misidentification expert.

How can you tell a misidentification expert when you see one? It's easy. Misidentification experts have loud voices, and in the midst of group of novice birders they are invariable the first to shout out a bird name.

Ah, but get a bunch of misidentification experts together, drop an immature jaeger in their midst and all you'll hear is:

"Ah ha!"

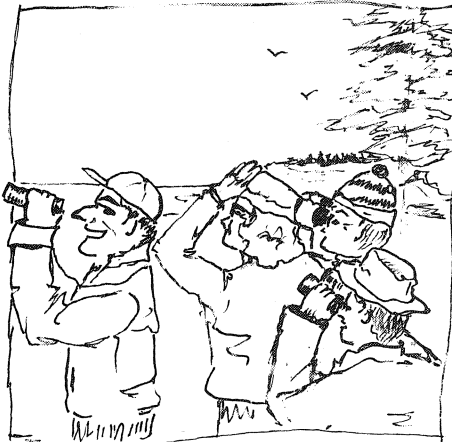
"Ummmmmm. Nice."

"Good one!"

"First one of **those** today."

Note! Nobody actually identifies the bird. Why? Because they're experts. Experts don't have to identify birds. Experts know what birds are. And if you never actually put a name to a bird, then you can never be proven wrong (which to a misidentification expert is much more important than ever being right).

So the first trick in the art of misidentification is to establish yourself as an expert. You can accomplish this by purchasing roof prism binoculars and writing long, rambling rebuttals to articles on the use of wing formulas to separate the races of **M. georgiana**.



That way ... into the Sun.

Incidentally, this is another thing that distinguishes identification experts from misidentification experts. Identification experts initiate; misidentification experts snipe from the outside.

Here's another. Real experts make identification errors because they are always trying to become better than they already are. Misidentification experts never make mistakes, because they are already better than anyone else could ever hope to be.

Misidentification experts are incredibly skilled at finding birds that sit on branches for about as long as the green flash sits on the horizon.

"Anyone **else** get a good look at that bird? No? Oh, too bad. **Beautiful** Lawrence's warbler."

Misidentification experts are amazingly adept at finding birds flying at altitudes that are barely suborbital.

"Aaaaah...waaaay up thaaahr...No reference. Can't drop my binoculars or else...ahhh...ah. Disappeared in the haze. Peregrine for sure."

And misidentification experts are unsurpassed at identifying birds going dead away, into the sun, just below the horizon.

"Skua!"

If the bird doubles back, a veteran misidentification expert will have "dropped the bird." If it lands in the chum slick and seems, at least to the novices present, to be indistinguishable from a first-winter herring gull, then "It's not the bird I had."

In the event of an argument, misidentification experts will have had a "better angle" than you did, can claim "**extensive** experience with the species," and will be able to draw upon new field marks gleaned from the paper they are reviewing on "Tuberoses of the Ogallala Aquifer" (or something like that). And...

"By the way, did you know that your new \$1,300 binoculars have a serious chromatic aberration? Too bad."

Misidentification experts are not born. Becoming one is a long, hard process—in many respects, a more difficult process than just learning how to identify birds correctly in the first place.

Misidentification experts are not that uncommon, so it astonishes me that no one has written a field guide to the misidentification of North American birds. Just consider. There is only one correct identification for each species, but almost an infinite number of misidentifications. Think of all the possibilities. Think of all the sequels. Come to think of it, I might write one myself. Then wait for all the rebuttals to come in.

THE UNSUNG HEROES

or

We've come a long way since the addressograph

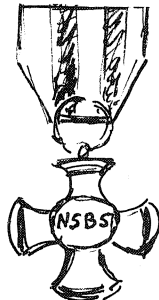
Shirley Cohrs

For twenty years Ethel Crathorne looked after the membership of the NSBS. This involved not only keeping track of who had paid and who had not, their addresses and changes thereof, but the mailing of the then **Newsletter**. This latter procedure meant a session with the addressograph, a machine into which was fed metal tape impressed with each member's name and address. These were then inked and stamped onto the envelopes, each one needing a hefty thump from the operator (Ethel). Four times a year a party took place at the Museum--and it **was** a party. The "guests" filled envelopes, liked flaps and stamps helped out by a few damp sponges and a bag of hard candies provided by the supervisor (Ethel). Then each guest took a bundle of stamped, addressed envelopes and pushed them into the nearest letterbox. Great fun was had by all--except possibly Ethel, whose arm must have become sore from the pounding. Many members came to help from time to time, including children young and old, who later grew up to become birders. Ah, "those were the days".

Then came the COMPUTER AGE and SECOND CLASS MAIL. These were not synonymous, but both took place during Shirley Brothers' term of office as Membership Chairman. At first computerized labels--easy to stick onto the envelopes--appeared (incidentally at about the time of the self-stick envelopes) and things progressed quite smoothly. Candies were still required for stamp-lickers. Then SCM (Second Class Mail) was arranged, a great saving in cost and just in time too, for it was about that time that the cost of mailing (anything) began to soar upward and ever upward. At first it was simple--just put the SCM number on the envelopes and take them to the post office. THEN--we had to do our own sorting and bundling. This was and is done using Postal Codes. Easy? Oh no, so complex that a P. O. representative arrived at Shirley's apartment to demonstrate the technique. To give a few examples: ...magazines are sorted in bundles of six with the same code...if you have fewer than six it is different...top one is turned in or out depending...towns are different from county...foreign (outside Canada) is different altogether...(have to be slit up one side as well)...In addition all these headaches bundles must be placed in separate mail bags (we use 10 - 12) obtained from the P.O., which have to be specially labelled.

Shirley managed superbly and when she retired Dave Currie took over. When he wanted to retire, he couldn't--no one else could DO it. Eventually, we were lucky enough to find Bev Sarty to mastermind the affair.

As I mentioned before, all this goes on four times a year. Over the years many, many people have come out in January storms, April rain and July birding time to help out with "the packing" and no one has thought much about it. We owe them a lot and it is time to thank them all very much for "getting out the magazine".



SCENES FROM THE MATTHEW'S LAKE FIELD TRIP LAST FALL (Sept. 14)



Bill & Jean Morse



End of Day

SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

DIRECTORS 1991 -1992



Left to right: Milton Gregg, Dave Currie, Bob Dickie, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Ken Gregoire, Alan Covert Photo--Helen Dickie



COLLECTORS ITEM

A number of copies of a booklet, published c. 1915, **Key for Identifying** (in the Bush) **Our Common Maritime Land Birds** by Chesley Allen, have become available. These collectors items may be obtained from the Yarmouth County Historical Society. Those interested should contact them at 22 Collins Street, Yarmouth, N. S. B5A 3C8.

The booklet is 5" x 3" , 44 pages and soft covered.



Two young owls. The young BARRED OWL, rescued and photographed by Ray Field, can be identified by its pale beak and dark eyes. The young GREAT HORNED OWL photographed by Ted Casselman was one of two fledged at Chevarie in late May, 1991. This one was less fully developed, and is here shown on its favourite "roost" at high tide mark in late June. Alas, it was found fatally tangled in wire on July 14 (KLC).



NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1991-1992

The 1991/92 Christmas Bird Count was a successful one with 26 counts participating. The total number of individuals spotted were 179,404, an increase of 30,196 over last year. This year's total of 145 species, compared with last year's 140 species plus 1 additional race. Four new additions to the species list for Nova Scotia are: Black-crowned Night Heron, Redhead, Yellow-throated Warbler and Clay-coloured Sparrow. Sadly, there were no sightings of Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow this year.

ADVOCATE/APPLE RIVER, Dec. 22; 7:45AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -7 to -4C. No wind. Still water frozen. Moving water open. Partly cloudy AM. Partly clear to cloudy PM. 10 observers in 6 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 35½ (24½ on foot, 11½ by car). Total party miles 251.2km (48km on foot, 203.2km by car). (Snow cover 26cm.)

Com. Loon 1; Canada Goose 1; Am. Black Duck 205; Com. Eider 3; Oldsquaw 15; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 2; Red-br. Merganser 11; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Ruffed Grouse 5; Killdeer 1; Purple Sandpiper 59; Herring Gull 94; Black Guillemot 3; Rock Dove 1; Mourning Dove 3; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Horned Lark 6; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 52; Am. Crow 79; Com. Raven 13; Blk.-capped Chickadee 105; Boreal Chickadee 11; Red-br. Nuthatch 11; Golden-cr. Kinglet 28; Am. Robin 48; Bohemian Waxwing 8; N. Shrike 3; Eur. Starling 106; Am. Tree Sparrow 16; Dark-eyed Junco 31; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 72; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 29; Brown-headed Cowbird 17; Pine Grosbeak 11; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 313; Com. Redpoll 65; Pine Siskin 25; Am. Goldfinch 28; Evening Grosbeak 98; House Sparrow 11.

Total 50 species, about 1628 individuals. (CP: Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Spruce Grouse, Gt.Bl.-backed Gull). Karl Cole, Darren Fletcher, Billy Mills, Jane Mills, Maureen Mills, Sunday Mills, Bruce Morris, Fran Spalding, Blaine Spicer, Kathleen Spicer (compiler).

AMHERST, Dec. 17; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -16 to -11C, Wind NW 15-20 kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen. Moving water open. Partly cloudy. 11 observers in 6-9 parties. Total party hours 48 (18 on foot, 30 by car). Total party miles 495 (31km on foot, 464km by car).

Com. Goldeneye 5; Com. Merganser 17; Bald Eagle 1a; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Rough-legged Hawk 21; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 8; Herring Gull 1189; Iceland Gull 4; Glaucous Gull 1; Gt. Bl-backed Gull 629; Rock Dove 183; Mourning Dove 1; Snowy Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 2; N. Flicker 1; Gray Jay 17; Blue Jay 81; Am. Crow 362; Com. Raven 247; Bl.-capped Chickadee 148; Boreal Chickadee 36; Red-br. Nuthatch 18; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 74; Am. Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 1; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 1210; Am. Tree Sparrow 7; Bark-eyed Junco 40; Snow Bunting 253; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 15; White-winged Crossbill 165; Com. Redpoll 235; Pine Siskin 34; Am. Goldfinch 68; Evening Grosbeak 258; House Sparrow 211.

Total 42 species, about 5564 individuals. (CP: White-br. Nuthatch). Paul Bogaard, Evelyn Coates, Bill Fairbanks, Ron Hounsell, Colin MacKinnon, Nancy MacKinnon, Harold Popma, Theo Popma, Al Smith, Francis Spalding, Stuart Tingley (compiler).

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Dec. 28; 7:30AM to 5:30PM. Temp. -4 to -2C. Wind N 5mph. Snow cover 12cm. Still water frozen. Moving water open. Clear. 24 observers in 9 parties, 23 at feeders. Total party hours 54½ (36½ on foot, 18 by car). Total party miles 508 (60km on foot, 448km by car).

Red-thr. Loon 1; Com. Loon 19; Horned Grebe 13; Red-necked Grebe

8; N. Fulmar 1; Double-cr. Cormorant 47; Gt. Blue Heron 1; Am. Black Duck 547; Mallard 12; Am. Wigeon 1; Greater Scaup 10; Lesser Scaup 5; Com. Eider 29; Oldsquaw 85; Black Scoter 16; Surf Scoter 11; White-winged Scoter 28; Com. Goldeneye 259; Bufflehead 332; Com. Merganser 6; Red-br. Merganser 38; Bald Eagle 2a.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; accipiter sp. 1; Red-tailed Hawk 14; buteo sp. 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 46; Ruffed Grouse 6; Purple Sandpiper 18; Bonaparte's Gull 6; Herring Gull 581; Gt. Bl-backed Gull 33; gull sp. 1; Com. Murre 2; alcid sp. 2; Rock Dove 172; Mourning Dove 141; Gt. Horned Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 10; Hairy Woodpecker 5; N. Flicker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Horned Lark 5; Blue Jay 309; Am. Crow 381; Com. Raven 36; Bl-capped Chickadee 324; Red-br. Nuthatch 10; White-br. Nuthatch 8; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 74; Am. Robin 31; N. Mockingbird 1; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 507; Yel.-rumped Warbler 1; N. Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 13; Chipping Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 14; White-thr. Sparrow 27; sparrow sp. 38; Dark-eyed Junco 228; Lapland Longspur 21; Rusty Blackbird 20; Com. Grackle 5; Brown-headed Cowbird 49; blackbird sp. 4; Pine Grosbeak 4; Purple Finch 40; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 53; Com. Redpoll 65; Pine Siskin 21; Am. Goldfinch 295; Evening Grosbeak 687; House Sparrow 180.

Total 74 species, about 5988 individuals. (CP: Gray Jay, Snow Bunting, Pine Grosbeak). James Bennett, Ted Brown, Mary Cameron, Helen Ellis, Rebecca Ellis, Robert Ellis, Dorothy Evert, Sharon Hawboldt, Stephen Hawboldt, Charlotte Hollett, Andrew Horwood, Cornelia Horwood, Harold Horwood, Leah Horwood, Clifford Jones, Eric Muntz, Philip Muntz, Shelley Muntz, Valerie Mount, Gini Proulx, Mick Scromeda, Jack Turner, Julie Turner (compiler), Charlotte Wade.

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 21; 7AM to 4:40PM. Temp. -10 to -2C. Wind NW 10kmph. to 40kmph. Snow cover 5-45cm. 11 observers in 4-5 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 53 (18 on foot, 35 by car). Total party miles 312 (22 on foot, 290 by car).

Com. Loon 4; Horned Grebe 6; Red-necked Grebe 5; Canada Goose 74; Am. Black Duck 43; Mallard 1; Oldsquaw 2; Black Scoter 72; Surf Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 100; Bufflehead 2; Com. Merganser 144; Red-br. Merganser 30; Bald Eagle 17a, 2imm.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Ruffed Grouse 4; Com. Bl-headed Gull 3; Bonaparte's Gull 5; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 293; Iceland Gull 7; Gt. Bl-backed Gull 64; Rock Dove 73; Mourning Dove 35; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 89; Am. Crow 184; Com. Raven 29; Bl-capped Chickadee 134; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-br. Nuthatch 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 23; Am. Robin 1; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 354; Am. Tree Sparrow 34; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 7; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 129; Purple Finch 29; White-winged Crossbill 13; Com. Redpoll 2; Pine Siskin 125; Am. Goldfinch 42; Evening Grosbeak 143; House Sparrow 64.

Total 54 species, about 2428 individuals. (CP: Yellow-throated Warbler). Brian Starzomski (compiler).

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 28; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -4 to -2C. Wind W 20kmph. Snow cover 8cm. 8 observer in 6 parties, 16 at feeders. Total party hours 23 (6 on foot, 17 by car). Total party miles 181 (26 on foot, 155 by car).

Com. Loon 11; Horned Grebe 5; Red-necked Grebe 1; Gt. Cormorant 1; Am. Black Duck 6; Com. Eider 30; Oldsquaw 34; Surf Scoter 8; White-winged Scoter 32; Red-br. Merganser 19; Bald Eagle 1a; N. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; accipiter sp. 1; Red-tailed Hawk 8; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 37; Purple Sandpiper 36; Herring Gull 204; Gt. Bl-backed Gull 6; Rock Dove 149; Mourning Dove 13; Downy Woodpecker 10; Hairy Woodpecker 5; N. Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 170; Am. Crow 226; Com. Raven 53; Bl-capped Chickadee 60; White-br. Nuthatch 3; Am. Robin 1; N. Mockingbird 1; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 539; Am. Tree Sparrow 55; Song Sparrow 17; White-thr. Sparrow 13; Dark-eyed Junco 124; Snow Bunting 57; Red-winged Blackbird 10; Brown-headed Cowbird 77; Am. Goldfinch 211; Evening Grosbeak 177; House Sparrow 128.

Total 44 species, about 2548 individuals. (CP: Rusty Blackbird). David Colville (compiler), Justin Colville, Marion Graves, Marguerite Hirtle, Audrey Kennedy, Jerry MacDonald, Eric Porter, Donnie Trooper.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 17; 7:15AM to 4PM. Temp. -10C. Wind NNW 40kmph. Snow cover 4cm. Still water partly open. Moving water open. Partly cloudy with light snow AM. Partly clear PM. 10 observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 49 3/4 (45 3/4 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 170 (88 on foot, 82 by car).

Com. Loon 40; Red-necked Grebe 43; N. Gannet 57; Gt. Cormorant 61; Brant 11; Am. Black Duck 7; Com. Eider 405; Oldsquaw 160; White-winged Scoter 3; Com. Goldeneye 67; Bufflehead 1; Red-br. Merganser 77; N. Harrier 2; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Purple Sandpiper 145; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 324; Iceland Gull 8; Glaucous Gull 3; Gt. Bl-backed Gull 116; Bl-legged Kittiwake 300; gull sp. 13; Thick-billed Murre 25; Black Guillemot 45; alcid sp. 15; Mourning Dove 2; Horned Lark 5; Blue Jay 4; Am. Crow 96; Com. Raven 7; Bl-capped Chickadee 2; Boreal Chickadee 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 17; Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1; Am. Robin 5; Water Pipit 1; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 65; Am. Tree Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 7; White-thr. Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 1; Snow Bunting 8; Com. Grackle 2; Com. Redpoll 9; Am. Goldfinch 2; Evening Grosbeak 25; House Sparrow 18.

Total 47 species, about 2227 individuals. (CP: Turkey Vulture, N. Hawk Owl, N. Mockingbird). Ian McLaren, Eric Mills (compiler), Bill Morse, Jean Morse, Richard Stern, Liz Stern, Jim Taylor, Gordon Tufts, Judy Tufts, Jim Wolford.

BROAD COVE, Dec. 29; 7:45AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -6 to 2C. Wind SW 3kmph. Snow cover 2cm. Still water frozen. Moving water partly open. Partly cloudy. 24 observers in 13-16 parties. Total party hours 114.25 (75 on foot, 39.25 by car). Total party miles 525 (114 on foot, 411 by car).

Red-thr. Loon 6; Com. Loon 100; Horned Grebe 70; Red-necked Grebe 39; Gt. Cormorant 39; Gt. Blue Heron 1; Am. Black Duck 104; Mallard 171; Ring-necked Duck 1; Greater Scaup 163; Lesser Scaup 2; Com. Eider 493; Oldsquaw 290; Black Scoter 240; Surf Scoter 26; White-winged Scoter 134; Com. Goldeneye 83; Bufflehead 40; Hooded Merganser 3; Com. Merganser 65; Red-br. Merganser 144; Bald Eagle imm.; N. Harrier 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; N. Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 9; Bl-bellied Plover 2; Sanderling 17; Purple Sandpiper 30; Dunlin 4; Com. Snipe 1; Herring Gull 990; Iceland Gull 4; Gt. Bl-backed Gull 168; Dovekie 9; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 12; alcid sp. 2; Rock Dove 131; Mourning Dove 114; Belted Kingfisher 4; Downy Woodpecker 14; Hairy Woodpecker 13; N. Flicker 6; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 7; Gray Jay 14; Blue Jay 330; Am. Crow 344; Com. Raven 51; Bl-capped Chickadee 399; Boreal Chickadee 71; Red-br. Nuthatch 55; White-br. Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 165; Am. Robin 338; N. Mockingbird 1; Water Pipit 2; Cedar Waxwing 8; Eur. Starling 889; Yel-rumped Warbler 15; Pine Warbler 3; Dickcissel 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 23; Savannah Sparrow 6; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 83; Swamp Sparrow 5; White-thr. Sparrow 124; White-cr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 662; Snow Bunting 7; Com. Grackle 22; Brown-headed Cowbird 33; Pine Grosbeak 24; Purple Finch 1845; Red Crossbill 75; White-winged Crossbill 63; Pine Siskin 2250; Am. Goldfinch 998; Evening Grosbeak 1065; House Sparrow 196.

Total 87 species, about 13,958 individuals. (CP: Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Red-winged Blackbird). Ruth Ballem, Lise Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie, Ben Doane, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Paula Gosse, Irma Haverkamp, Barbara Hinds, Roy John, Ian McLaren, James McLaren, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Jean Morse, Nellie Snyder, Bob Steele, Bob Taboski, Alan Tulip, David Young, Joan Young.

CALEDONIA, Dec. 22; 7:45AM to 5:15PM and 8PM to 8:30PM. Temp. -5 to

-2C. Wind NW 3-15kmph. Snow cover 5-15cm. Still water partly open. Moving water partly frozen. Cloudy AM. Partly clear PM. 38 observers in 17-19 parties, 19-45 at feeders. Total party hours 57½ (39 on foot, 13 3/4 by car, 4 3/4 by skis). Total party miles 302½ (65 on foot, 227 by car, 10½ by skis).

Com. Goldeneye 10; Com. Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 1 imm.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 12; Rock Dove 6; Long-eared Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 13; Hairy Woodpecker 12; Pileated Woodpecker 9; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 145; Am. Crow 38; Com. Raven 63; Bl.-capped Chickadee 327; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-br. Nuthatch 101; White-br. Nuthatch 18; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 66; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 208; Am. Tree Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 7; White-cr. Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 176; Purple Finch 9; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 26; Com. Redpoll 212; Pine Siskin 335; Am. Goldfinch 294; Evening Grosbeak 740; House Sparrow 104.

Total 38 species, about 2963 individuals. Gabe Boros, Thelma Bowers, Pat Canning, Leigh DeLong, Miriam DeLong, Alice Drysdale, Cliff Drysdale, Connie Eaton, Ron Eaton, Judy Flemming, Jerry Frail, Lynn Frail, Wendy Grant Marguerite Holdright, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope (compiler), Sean Hope, Stephen Hope, Jennifer Hopper, Pamela Hopper, Peggy Hopper, Steve Hopper, Leslie Jones, Len MacDonald, Paul MacDonald, Nancy MacGregor, Daniel Mansfield, Nadine Mansfield, Clarence McGinty, Erich Muntz, Eric Mullen, Shelley Porter, Peter Rogers, Betty Ross, Jim Ross, Althea Rowter, Rong Sigston, Rick Swain.

CHETICAMP, Dec. 14; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -1 to 5C. Wind E 5kmph. No snow cover. Still water open. Moving water open. Clear AM. Cloudy PM. 17 observers in 7-10 parties. Total party hours 46.25 (37 on foot, 9.25 by car). Total party miles 241 (58km on foot, 183km by car).

Red-thr. Loon 3; Com. Loon 2; loon sp. 1; Horned Grebe 6; N. Gannet 11; Gt. Cormorant 4; Double-cr. Cormorant 4; Gt. Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 4; Am. Black Duck 66; Mallard 2; Com. Eider 3; Oldsquaw 2; Com. Goldeneye 91; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Com. Merganser 4; Bald Eagle 16a., 14imm.; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 8; Herring Gull 566; Iceland Gull 268; Glaucous Gull 36; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 578; Dovekie 2; Black Guillemot 3; Mourning Dove 1; Snowy Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; N. Flicker 2; Gray Jay 11; Blue Jay 41; Am. Crow 146; Com. Raven 122; Bl.-capped Chickadee 50; Boreal Chickadee 51; Red-br. Nuthatch 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 56; Am. Robin 1; N. Shrike 3; Eur. Starling 349; Yel-rumped Warbler 5; Am. Tree Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 9; Snow Bunting 67; Com. Redpoll 83; Pine Siskin 33; Am. Goldfinch 45; Evening Grosbeak 38; House Sparrow 4.

Total 50 species, about 2827 individuals. (CP: Brown Creeper, Bohemian Waxwing). Donna Arsenault, Marie-Claire Aucoin, Michel Battet, Andrew Gingell, Jennifer Hoffman, David Lawley, Clarence LeLievre, David McCorquodale, Cheryl Mouldy, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Derek Quann, Justine Roach, Mac Savoy, Lloyd Stone, Randy Thompson, Elaine Wallace (compiler).

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -9 to -16C. Wind N 20kmph. Snow cover 12cm. Cloudy with light snow. 9 observers in 8 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 67 (59.5 on foot, 7.5 by car). Total party miles 210km (65km on foot, 145km by car).

Am. Black Duck 549; Mallard 5; Oldsquaw 21; Surf Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 16; Bufflehead 22; Com. Merganser 15; Bald Eagle 2a., 2imm.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 12; Purple Sandpiper 194; Herring Gull 460; Iceland Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 27; Rock Dove 56; Mourning Dove 4; Downy Woodpecker 12; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 81; Am. Crow 116; Com. Raven 44; Bl.-capped Chickadee 228; Boreal Chickadee 28; Red-br. Nuthatch 58; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 153; Am. Robin 1; N. Shrike 2; Eur. Starling 203; Yel.-rumped Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 35; Song Sparrow 3; White-thr.

Sparrow 9; Dark-eyed Junco 272; Snow Bunting 34; Pine Grosbeak 12; Purple Finch 61; White-winged Crossbill 846; Com. Redpoll 553; Pine Siskin 936; Am. Goldfinch 172; Evening Grosbeak 350; House Sparrow 81.

Total 48 species, about 5706 individuals. (CP: Barred Owl).

Brad McLaughlin, Bill Murphy, Sean Smith, Edgar Spalding, Fran Spalding (compiler), Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer, Stuart Tingley, Rob Walker.

ESKASONI, Dec. 26; 8AM to 4:30PM and 8PM to 10PM owling. Temp. 5 to 7C. Wind NW 20kmph. Snow cover 10cm. Still water frozen. Moving water partly open. Partly clear. 22 observers in 9 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 45½ (9½ on foot, 36 by car). Total party miles 484km (16 on foot, 468km by car).

Com. Loon 2; Am. Black Duck 29; scaup sp. 18; Com. Goldeneye 75; Com. Merganser 14; Red-br. Merganser 24; Bald Eagle 12a., 3imm.; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Com. Snipe 1; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Herring Gull 210; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 12; Mourning Dove 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 45; Am. Crow 95; Com. Raven 26; Bl.-capped Chickadee 152; Boreal Chickadee 15; Red-br. Nuthatch 8; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 102; Cedar Waxwing 23; Eur. Starling 62; Am. Tree Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 7; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 24; Snow Bunting 30; Com. Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 12; Purple Finch 21; White-winged Crossbill 17; Com. Redpoll 287; Pine Siskin 9; Am. Goldfinch 162; Evening Grosbeak 168; House Sparrow 5. Additional species: Yellow-throated Warbler.

Total 42 species, about 1687 individuals. George Ball, Brian Boone, Susan Boone, Terry Boone, Donald F. Campbell, George Digout, Sharon Digout, Andrew Gingell, Dave Harris, Jeremy Harris, George MacInnis, John MacInnis, Jack MacNeil (compiler); Kevin MacNeil, Laurie MacNeil, David McCorquodale, Cheryl Mouldley, Bernard Murphy, Pat Murphy, Allan Murrant, Kathy Murrant, Melvin White.

GLACE BAY, Dec. 28; 7AM to 5PM and 8PM to midnight. Temp. -4 to -12C. Wind W 20kmph. Snow cover 15cm. Still water frozen. Partly clear to cloudy. 18 observers in 9 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 66 (43.5 on foot, 22.5 by car). Total party miles 327km (52km on foot, 275km by car).

Red-thr. Loon 3; Com. Loon 6; Horned Grebe 7; Gt. Cormorant 25; Canada Goose 181; Am. Black Duck 651; Mallard 42; Greater Scaup 506; Com. Eider 17; Oldsquaw 298; White-winged Scoter 167; Com. Goldeneye 161; Bufflehead 6; Com. Merganser 17; Red-br. Merganser 100; Bald Eagle 3a., 1imm.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; N. Goshawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Bl.-bellied Plover 1; Sanderling 1; Purple Sandpiper 3; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 28; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 805; Iceland Gull 281; Glaucous Gull 8; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 651; Dovekie 5; Black Guillemot 4; Rock Dove 89; Mourning Dove 49; Gt. Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 76; Am. Crow 292; Com. Raven 35; Bl.-capped Chickadee 119; Boreal Chickadee 25; Red-br. Nuthatch 5; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 20; Am. Robin 1; N. Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 45; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 824; Yel.-rumped Warbler 5; Dickcissel 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 16; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 36; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 12; Pine Grosbeak 547; Purple Finch 3; White-winged Crossbill 50; Com. Redpoll 433; Am. Goldfinch 130; Evening Grosbeak 223; House Sparrow 284.

Total 66 species, about 7337 individuals. Steve Bray, George Crowell, Joy Gates, Andrew Gingell, John W. MacInnis, Gordon MacLean, Edie MacLeod, Jacky MacNeil, Dave McCorquodale, Hugh Metcalfe, Cheryl Mouldley, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant (compiler), Della Murrant, Jim Murrant, Margret Williams, Dixie Williams, Reese Williams.

HALIFAX EAST, Dec. 15; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 3.6 to 2.2C. Wind W 30-40kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen. Moving water open. Cloudy with light rain. 15 observers in 7-9 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 61.5 (29 on foot, 32.5 by car).

Total party miles 570km (46km on foot, 524km by car).

Red-thr. Loon 2; Com. Loon 29; Horned Grebe 4; Red-necked Grebe 4; cormorant sp. 1; Gt. Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 3020; Wood Duck 2; Green-winged Teal 53; Am. Black Duck 367; Mallard 14; Gadwall 1; Greater Scaup 8; Com. Eider 50; Oldsquaw 57; Black Scoter 4; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 51; Com. Goldeneye 2; Bufflehead 31; Com. Merganser 12; Red-br. Merganser 145; Bald Eagle 3a., imm.; N. Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Ruffed Grouse 2; Sanderling 9; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 11; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 435; Herring Gull 691; Iceland Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 102; Dovekie 2; Rock Dove 50; Mourning Dove 59; Snowy Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 4; N. Flicker 1; Horned Lark 1; Gray Jay 9; Blue Jay 36; Am. Crow 323; Com. Raven 23; Bl.-capped Chickadee 259; Boreal Chickadee 39; Red-br. Nuthatch 27; White-br. Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 92; Am. Robin 2; Water Pipit 1; Eur. Starling 327; Yel.-rumped Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 15; Song Sparrow 18; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 20; Dark-eyed Junco 75; E. Meadowlark 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 20; Purple Finch 21; White-winged Crossbill 25; Pine Siskin 180; Am. Goldfinch 66; Evening Grosbeak 334; House Sparrow 45. Additional species: Redhead 1.

Total 75 species, about 7217 individuals. Ruth Ballam, Bill Caudle, John Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie (compiler), Bob Dickie, Jim Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton, Jean Hartley, Barbara Hinds, Bob McDonald, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Christine Ross.

HALIFAX WEST, Dec. 22; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -1 to 1C. Wind 20kmph. Snow cover 10cm. Still water partly open. Moving water open. Light snow AM. Partly clear to cloudy PM. 21 observers in 13 parties. Total party hours 87.25 (46 on foot, 41.25 by car). Total party miles 504.5km (70.5km on foot, 434km by car).

Red-thr. Loon 1; Com. Loon 28; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 12; N. Gannet 1; Gt. Cormorant 104; Double-cr. Cormorant 5; Gt. Blue Heron 2; Green-winged Teal 1; Am. Black Duck 2421; Mallard 281; Am. Wigeon 3; Com. Eider 828; Oldsquaw 37; Black Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 54; Com. Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 2; Hooded Merganser 1; Com. Merganser 5; Red-br. Merganser 75; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Coot 1; Purple Sandpiper 2; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 32; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Mew Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 101; Herring Gull 3489; Iceland Gull 60; Lesser Bl.-backed Gull 2; Glaucous Gull 9; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 945; Bl.-legged Kittiwake 3; Black Guillemot 6; Rock Dove 546; Mourning Dove 36; Downy Woodpecker 5; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 125; Am. Crow 584; Com. Raven 16; Bl.-capped Chickadee 223; Boreal Chickadee 10; Red-br. Nuthatch 5; White-br. Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 28; Am. Robin 7; N. Mockingbird 3; Eur. Starling 1944; Yel.-rumped Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 3; warbler sp. 1; Dickcissel 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 46; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-thr. Sparrow 43; Dark-eyed Junco 48; Brown-headed Cowbird 8; N. Oriole 4; Pine Grosbeak 1; Purple Finch 1; Pine Siskin 1; Am. Goldfinch 66; Evening Grosbeak 281; House Sparrow 141.

Total 71 species, about 10,537 individuals. Ruth Ballam, Phyllis Bryson, Bill Caudle, John Cohrs, Lise Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs (compiler), Eric Cooke, Dave Currie, Bob Dickie, Evelyn Dobson, Fred Dobson, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton, Barbara Hinds, Bob McDonald, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Roger Pocklington, Christine Ross, Bob Taboski.

HIGHLANDS, Dec. 28; 6AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -8 to -2C. Wind NW 4kmph to W 6kmph. Snow cover 18cm. Still water frozen. Moving water partly open. Clear AM. Cloudy with light snow PM. 16 observers in 9 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 24.8 (15.5 on foot, 9.3 by car). Total party miles 219.5km (26.5km on foot, 193km by car).

Com. Loon 5; Gt. Cormorant 1; Am. Black Duck 7; Com. Eider 3; Oldsquaw 95; White-winged Scoter 6; Com. Goldeneye 91; Com. Merganser

13; Red-br. Merganser 5; Bald Eagle 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 6; Purple Sandpiper 4; Herring Gull 37; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 20; Dovekie 43; Thick-billed Murre 6; Black Guillemot 6; Mourning Dove 9; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 75; Am. Crow 109; Com. Raven 9; Bl.-capped Chickadee 172; Boreal Chickadee 22; Red-br. Nut-hatch 20; Golden-cr. Kinglet 11; Eur. Starling 6; Dark-eyed Junco 51; White-winged Crossbill 98; Pine Siskin 22; Am. Goldfinch 87; Evening Grosbeak 112.

Total 37 species, about 1175 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, Com. Redpoll). James Bridgland (compiler), Al Gibbs, Wendy Gibbs, Chris Gorey, Anita Hardy, George Hardy, Ellen Ingraham, Ross Ingraham, Roderick MacLeod, Ruth McLagan, Derek Quann, Allen Reynolds, Tim Reynolds, Gerard Rooney, Donna Ryckman-Rooney, Hazel Stockley.

MARGAREE, Dec. 20; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. -3 to 0C. Wind NW 18kmph. Snow cover 8cm. Still water partly frozen. Moving water open. Partly cloudy AM. Light snow PM. 4 observers in 2 parties. Total party hours 16 (4 on foot, 12 by car). Total party miles 115km (10 on foot, 105km by car).

Am. Black Duck 7; Com. Goldeneye 24; Com. Merganser 35; Bald Eagle 29a., 2imm.; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ruffed Grouse 7; Herring Gull 45; Iceland Gull 6; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 17; Mourning Dove 5; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 62; Am. Crow 165; Com. Raven 77; Bl.-capped Chickadee 55; Boreal Chickadee 3; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-cr. Kinglet 9; Eur. Starling 108; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Snow Bunting 11; Pine Siskin 31; Evening Grosbeak 118; House Sparrow 52.

Total 27 species, about 895 individuals. Frances Hart (compiler), Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham.

PICTOU HARBOUR, Dec. 31; 7:45AM to 4:15PM. Temp. -5C. Wind NW 20kmph. Snow cover 35cm. Still water frozen. Moving water frozen. Clear. 6 observers in 3 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 20 (3.5 on foot, 16.5 by car). Total party miles 348km (5km on foot, 343km by car).

Gt. Cormorant 1; Double-cr. Cormorant 1; Green-winged Teal 1; Am. Black Duck 457; Mallard 1; Am. Wigeon 1; Greater Scaup 2055; Black Scoter 10; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 2; Com. Goldeneye 289; Bufflehead 1; Com. Merganser 119; Red.-br. Merganser 8; Bald Eagle 6a., 7imm.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 1; Herring Gull 327; Iceland Gull 15; Glaucous Gull 6; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 67; Rock Dove 188; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 4; N. Flicker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 85; Am. Crow 249; Com. Raven 21; Bl.-capped Chickadee 62; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 5; Am. Robin 21; Eur. Starling 765; Am. Tree Sparrow 11; Song Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 136; Snow Bunting 4; Purple Finch 19; White-winged Crossbill 10; Com. Redpoll 12; Pine Siskin 9; Am. Goldfinch 47; Evening Grosbeak 70; House Sparrow 55.

Total 49 species, about 5168 individuals. (CP: Canada Goose, Oldsquaw, Com. Eider, Red-tailed Hawk, N. Harrier, Ring-billed Gull, Gray Jay, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Yel.-rumped Warbler). Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Margaret Kenney, Kenny McKenna (compiler), Stephen Vines.

PORT L'HEBERT, Dec. 15; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. 0 to 3C. Wind SW 20-40 kmph. No snow cover. Still water open. Moving water open. Cloudy with light rain and snow AM. Cloudy with light snow PM. 12 observers in 11 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 59.75 (46.75 on foot, 13 by car). Total party miles 413km (82km on foot, 331km by car).

Com. Loon 23; Horned Grebe 19; Red-necked Grebe 31; N. Gannet 21; Gt. Cormorant 25; Gt. Blue Heron 5; Canada Goose 829; Green-winged Teal 4; Am. Black Duck 521; Mallard 3; Greater Scaup 261; Com. Eider

117; Harlequin Duck 5; Oldsquaw 24; Black Scoter 44; Surf Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 7; Bufflehead 14; Hooded Merganser 2; Com. Merganser 2; Red-br. Merganser 13; N. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 2; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 9; Bl.-bellied Plover 5; Killdeer 5; Sanderling 32; Purple Sandpiper 15; Dunlin 8; Com. Snipe 5; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 3; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 977; Iceland Gull 1; Lesser Bl.-backed Gull 1; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 306; Dovekie 4; Black Guillemot 7; Rock Dove 22; Mourning Dove 61; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; N. Flicker 10; Gray Jay 17; Blue Jay 66; Am. Crow 115; Com. Raven 6; Bl.-capped Chickadee 142; Boreal Chickadee 13; Red-br. Nuthatch 5; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 21; Am. Robin 3; N. Mockingbird 1; Eur. Starling 277; Yel.-rumped Warbler 102; Am. Tree Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 4; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 45; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 31; Dark-eyed Junco 45; Snow Bunting 13; Com. Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 10; Purple Finch 1; Am. Goldfinch 39; Evening Grosbeak 69; House Sparrow 53.

Total 73 species, about 4540 individuals. (CP: N. Fulmar, Bonaparte's Gull, Horned Lark, Orange-cr. Warbler, Brown-headed Cowbird). Trevor Bebb, Lloyd Cameron, Bill Crosby, Donna Crosby, Russel Crosby (compiler), Emerson Fiske, Danny Mason, Robert Turner, Carmen Williams, Danielle MacAulay-Williams, Joan Young, David Young.

PUBNICO, Dec. 29; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. -3 to 5C. Wind W 2kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen. Moving water open. Clear. 19 observers in 5 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party hours 35 (24 on foot, 11 by car). Total party miles 245km (20 on foot, 225km by car).

Com. Loon 34; Red-necked Grebe 4; Gt. Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 26; Am. Black Duck 97; Com. Eider 3; Oldsquaw 37; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 4; scoter sp. 8; Com. Goldeneye 338; Bufflehead 8; Com. Merganser 8; Red-br. Merganser 40; duck sp. 3; Bald Eagle 1a., imm.; N. Harrier 2; N. Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Am. Kestrel 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Ruffed Grouse 2; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 16; Herring Gull 1589; Iceland Gull 17; Glaucous Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 951; Rock Dove 2; Mourning Dove 109; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 5; N. Flicker 9; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 49; Am. Crow 201; Com. Raven 7; Bl.-capped Chickadee 192; Boreal Chickadee 16; Red-br. Nuthatch 17; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-cr. Kinglet 96; Am. Robin 59; N. Mockingbird 4; Brown Thrasher 1; Cedar Waxwing 15; Eur. Starling 242; Yel.-rumped Warbler 47; Am. Tree Sparrow 27; Chipping Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 28; White-thr. Sparrow 64; Dark-eyed Junco 60; Com. Grackle 22; Brown-headed Cowbird 23; Pine Grosbeak 8; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 15; Pine Siskin 6; Am. Goldfinch 169; Evening Grosbeak 289; House Sparrow 109.

Total 63 species, about 5117 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Snow Bunting, N. Cardinal). Albert d'Entremont, Lisette d'Entremont, Raymond S. d'Entremont, Serge d'Entremont, Claire D'Eon, Jerome D'Eon, Lance D'Eon, Lester D'Eon, Milton D'Eon, Nigel D'Eon, Reginald D'Eon, Ted D'Eon (compiler), Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Gerald Jacquard, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters, Barbara Ruff, Eric Ruff.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 28; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -11C to -5C. Wind NW 0 to 12kmph. Snow cover 50cm. Still water frozen. Moving water partly open. 15 observers in 8 parties, 16 at feeders. Total party hours 54 (10 on foot, 44 by car). Total party miles 220km (19km on foot, 201km by car).

Com. Merganser 200; Bald Eagle 10a., 6imm.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; N. Goshawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 12; Ruffed Grouse 4; Herring Gull 19; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 3; Rock Dove 229; Mourning Dove 27; Downy Woodpecker 17; Hairy Woodpecker 14; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 181; Am. Crow 320; Com. Raven 104; Bl.-capped Chickadee 191; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-br. Nuthatch 27; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 18; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 1352; Pine Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 44; Chipping Sparrow 1; Song

Sparrow 5; White-thr. Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 245; Com. Grackle 5; Brown-headed Cowbird 16; Pine Grosbeak 1; Purple Finch 44; White-winged Crossbill 98; Com. Redpoll 2; Pine Siskin 86; Am. Goldfinch 216; Evening Grosbeak 904; House Sparrow 132.

Total 42 species, about 4492 individuals. (CP: Gt. Blue Heron, Snow Bunting). Barbara Aitken, Mark Anthony, Ivan DeLong, Cathy Etter, Herbert Fasset, Glennys Hutton, Ernest Jarvis, Joan Jarvis, Anne MacDonald, Eric MacDonald, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler), Eldon Pace, Marilyn Smith, Roger Wardrope, Lorne Weaver.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 14; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 3 to 5C. Wind W. Snow cover 5cm. Still water frozen. Moving water open. Partly clear with fog AM. Clear PM. 7 observers in 4 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 44. Total party miles 352km (15km on foot, 337km by car).

Green-winged Teal 1; Am. Black Duck 65; Com. Merganser 24; Bald Eagle 2a., imm.; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 108; Iceland Gull 6; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 5; Rock Dove 572; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 68; Am. Crow 241; Com. Raven 17; Bl.-capped Chickadee 115; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-br. Nuthatch 14; Golden-cr. Kinglet 15; Am. Robin 2; Eur. Starling 879; Am. Tree Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 5; White-thr. Sparrow 8; Dark-eyed Junco 61; Snow Bunting 2; Purple Finch 83; White-winged Crossbill 179; Com. Redpoll 39; Pine Siskin 311; Am. Goldfinch 90; Evening Grosbeak 289; House Sparrow 72.

Total 38 species, about 3311 individuals. (CP: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Mourning Dove, Brown Creeper, Pine Warbler, Pine Grosbeak). Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Margaret Kenney (compiler), Ken McKenna, Richard Murphy, Stephen Vines.

STRAIT OF CANSO, Dec. 27; 7:40AM to 4:40PM. Temp. -5 to 1C. Wind W 10-30kmph. Snow cover 30cm. Still water frozen. Moving water partly open. Cloudy. 12 observers in 5 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 23½ (8 on foot, 12½ by car, 2 ¾ by skis). Total party miles 156.3km (7.3km on foot, 143km by car, 6km by skis).

Com. Loon 13; Red-necked Grebe 9; Gt. Blue Heron 1; Green-winged Teal 2; Am. Black Duck 2; Com. Eider 8; Oldsquaw 64; Black Scoter 5; Com. Goldeneye 12; Com. Merganser 7; Red-br. Merganser 26; Bald Eagle 2a.; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 9; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Herring Gull 162; Iceland Gull 21; Glaucous Gull 3; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 19; Black Guillemot 7; Rock Dove 7; Mourning Dove 34; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 52; Am. Crow 135; Com. Raven 9; Bl.-capped Chickadee 85; Boreal Chickadee 21; Red-br. Nuthatch 7; Golden-cr. Kinglet 20; Am. Robin 20; Bohemian Waxwing 106; Eur. Starling 126; Am. Tree Sparrow 12; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 15; Lincoln's Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 55; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Com. Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Bullock's Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 8; Purple Finch 2; Red Crossbill 1; White-winged Crossbill 182; Com. Redpoll 32; Pine Siskin 27; Am. Goldfinch 26; Evening Grosbeak 184; House Sparrow 21.

Total 57 species, about 1593 individuals. (CP: Gt. Cormorant, Greater Scaup, King Eider, Red-tailed Hawk, Dovekie). Victoria Bunbury, Murdock Digout, William Digout, Dan Harvey, Jacinta Harvey, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope, Harriet MacMillan, Truman MacPherson, James Meagher, Kerstin Mueller (compiler), Brian Starzomski.

TRURO, Dec. 29; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -13 to -4C. Wind W 5kmph. Snow cover 20cm. Still water frozen. Moving water partly frozen. Clear AM. Partly clear PM. 9 observers in 8 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 47 (34 on foot, 13 by car). Total party miles 317.2km (43.2km on foot, 274km by car).

Green-winged Teal 1; Am. Black Duck 50; Mallard 51; Bald Eagle 2a., 2imm.; N. Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Gray Partridge 6; Ring-necked Pheasant 7; Ruffed

Grouse 2; Herring Gull 993; Iceland Gull 5; Glaucous Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 397; Rock Dove 229; Mourning Dove 11; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Horned Lark 75; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 106; Am. Crow 1086; Com. Raven 63; Bl.-capped Chickadee 99; Boreal Chickadee 10; Red-br. Nuthatch 21; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-cr. Kinglet 66; Am. Robin 1; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 1019; Am. Tree Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 10; Song Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 85; Lapland Longspur 50; Snow Bunting 450; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 10; White-winged Crossbill 82; Com. Redpoll 3; Pine Siskin 235; Am. Goldfinch 44; Evening Grosbeak 233; House Sparrow 123.

Total 51 species, about 5666 individuals. Ross Baker, Ross Hall (compiler), Joan Hudgins, Ralph Hudgins, Lynda McLean, Clifford Sandeson, Sean Smith, Edgar Spalding, Fran Spalding.

WEST HANTS, Dec. 29; 4:45AM to 7:45AM and 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -3 to 3C. Wind light and variable. Snow cover 0-14cm. Still water partly open. Moving water partly frozen. Clear AM. Partly cloudy, with light rain after 4PM only. 38 observers in 9-14 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 190 (89 on foot, 101 by car). Total party miles 999km (174km on foot, 825km by car).

Gt. Cormorant 1; Gt. Blue Heron 5; Canada Goose 60; Am. Black Duck 397; Mallard 2; N. Shoveler 1; Com. Eider 1; Hooded Merganser 1; Com. Merganser 70; Red-br. Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 5a., 4imm.; N. Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 14; Rough-legged Hawk 4; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 67; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 20; Purple Sandpiper 17; Ring-billed Gull 9; Herring Gull 1057; Iceland Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 602; Rock Dove 440; Mourning Dove 185; Gt. Horned Owl 5; Barred Owl 10; Saw-whet Owl 3; Downy Woodpecker 25; Hairy Woodpecker 21; Bl.-backed Woodpecker 4; N. Flicker 7; Pileated Woodpecker 14; Horned Lark 108; Gray Jay 12; Blue Jay 354; Am. Crow 749; Com. Raven 201; Bl.-capped Chickadee 758; Boreal Chickadee 37; Red-br. Nuthatch 227; White-br. Nuthatch 8; Brown Creeper 9; Golden-cr. Kinglet 332; Hermit Thrush 1; Am. Robin 9; N. Mockingbird 1; Cedar Waxwing 11; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 3055; Pine Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 106; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 28; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-thr. Sparrow 9; Dark-eyed Junco 532; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 729; Brown-headed Cowbird 9; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 422; Red Crossbill 45; White-winged Crossbill 261; Com. Redpoll 243; Pine Siskin 979; Am. Goldfinch 727; Evening Grosbeak 1132; House Sparrow 750.

Total 71 species, about 14,917 individuals. (CP: Snowy Owl, Gray Partridge, N. Oriole). Brad Amirault, Stephen Barbour, Carol Bradley, Karen & Ted Casselman (compilers), Bill Caudle, Art Crowell, Elinor Currie, Gail Davis, Elizabeth Ferguson, Shirley Foote, Glenys Gibson, Helen Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Dana Harvey, Dan Kennedy, Janos Kovacs, Fulton Lavender, Peter MacLeod, Blake Maybank, Pat McKay, Mary Pratt, Sheila Robarts, Christine Ross, Bev Sarty, Beverley Shanks, James Taylor, Brenda Thexton, Bill Thexton, Judy Tufts, Gordon Tufts, Azor Vienneau, Joan Waldron, Rueben Ware, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Beth Woolaver, Frank Woolaver.

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 21; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -10 to 1.5C. Wind SE 20kmph. Snow cover 16cm. Still water frozen. Moving water open. Cloudy with light snow. 53 observers in 21-36 parties, 61 at feeders. Total party hours 178.75 (88 on foot, 90.75 by car). Total party miles 1086km (164km on foot, 922km by car).

Com. Loon 4; Canada Goose 186; Am. Black Duck 2056; Mallard 34; Com. Eider 12; White-winged Scoter 30; Com. Goldeneye 2; Bufflehead 1; Com. Merganser 45; Bald Eagle 187a., 141imm.; N. Harrier 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk 11; Red-tailed Hawk 154; Rough-legged Hawk 10; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 284; Ruffed Grouse 3; Com. Snipe 1; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 957; Herring Gull 6267; Iceland Gull 10; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 2649; Rock Dove 1193; Mourning

Dove 959; Gt. Horned Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 8; Downy Woodpecker 60; Hairy Woodpecker 19; N. Flicker 11; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Horned Lark 152; Blue Jay 1037; Am. Crow 5959; Com. Raven 451; Bl.-capped Chickadee 448; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-br. Nuthatch 49; White-br. Nuthatch 18; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-cr. Kinglet 126; Eastern Bluebird 6; Am. Robin 105; N. Mockingbird 2; Brown Thrasher 1; Cedar Waxwing 33; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 17,363; Yel.-rumped Warbler 4; Com. Yellowthroat 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 114; Chipping Sparrow 3; Clay-coloured Sparrow 1; Vesper Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 95; Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 396; White-thr. Sparrow 66; Dark-eyed Junco 1130; Snow Bunting 100; Brown-headed Cowbird 28; Purple Finch 76; House Finch 3; Red Crossbill 14; White-winged Crossbill 57; Com. Redpoll 181; Pine Siskin 441; Am. Goldfinch 2696; Evening Grosbeak 1962; House Sparrow 813. Additional species: Black-crowned Night Heron 1; skua, sp. 1.

Total species 73, about 49255 individuals. (CP: Gt. Blue Heron, N. Goshawk, Barred Owl, Saw-whet Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Lapland Longspur, N. Oriole). George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Peter Austin-Smith, Joanne Bezanson, Sherman Bleakney, Sherman Boates, Larry Bogan, Soren Bondrup-Nielsen, Karen Casselman, Ted Casselman, Curtis Chipman, Lana Churchill, Cyril Coldwell, Donna Crossland, Gail Davis, Don Dodds, Pearl Dodds, Mark Elderkin, Fred Forsyth, George Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Allison Foster, Jamie Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Tom Herman, Fulton Lavender, Peter MacDonald, Jackie MacDonald, Angus MacLean, Pam Matthews, Blake Maybank, Pat McLeod, Randy Milton, Reg Newell, Ruth Newell, Mike O'Brien, Carolyn Power, Terry Power, Mary Pratt, Stan Riggs, Richard Stern (compiler), Jim Taylor, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Gerry Trueman, Gordon Tufts (compiler), Judy Tufts, Reuben Ware, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Frank Woolaver, Barry Yoell.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 15; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. 0 to -5C. Wind NW 55kmph. Still water open. Moving water open. Cloudy with light snow AM. Partly cloudy with light snow PM. 22 observers in 7 parties, 12 at feeders. Total party hours 47.5 (11 on foot, 36.5 by car). Total party miles 569km (22 on foot, 547km by car).

Com. Loon 22; Red-necked Grebe 7; Double-cr. Cormorant 1; Gt. Blue Heron 5; Snow Goose 1; Canada Goose 243; Wood Duck 2; Green-winged Teal 10; Am. Black Duck 875; Mallard 112; N. Pintail 1; Com. Eider 43; Harlequin Duck 3; Oldsquaw 39; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 3; Com. Goldeneye 45; Bufflehead 21; Com. Merganser 4; Red-br. Merganser 56; Bald Eagle 2a.; N. Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Am. Kestrel 3; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 3; Com. Bl.-headed Gull 1; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 20; Herring Gull 3672; Iceland Gull 2; Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 1140; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 283; Mourning Dove 124; Snowy Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 7; N. Flicker 21; Horned Lark 35; Blue Jay 152; Am. Crow 1637; Com. Raven 77; Bl.-capped Chickadee 101; Boreal Chickadee 6; Red-br. Nuthatch 4; White-br. Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-cr. Kinglet 51; Eastern Bluebird 7; Am. Robin 144; N. Mockingbird 1; Cedar Waxwing 12; N. Shrike 1; Eur. Starling 960; Yel.-rumped Warbler 5; N. Cardinal 2; Am. Tree Sparrow 4; Chipping Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 44; White-thr. Sparrow 63; Dark-eyed Junco 65; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 20; N. Oriole 1; Purple Finch 10; House Finch 26; Am. Goldfinch 120; Evening Grosbeak 184; House Sparrow 122.

Total 74 species, about 10,660 individuals. (CP: Gt. Cormorant, Greater Scaup, Black Scoter, Osprey, Broad-winged Hawk, Gt. Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Water Pipit, Yellow-br. Chat, Pine Siskin). Charles Allen, Margaret Churchill, Cecil Day, Raymond d'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, Phyllis Dobson, June Graves, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Mavis Haycock, Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Hazel MacDonald, JoAnn Newell, Arthur Porter, Ingrid Prosser, Lloyd Prosser, Sandra Pustowka, Barbara Ruff (compiler), Eric Ruff (compiler), Gerry Somers, Paulette Surette.

Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals 1991 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.

Four new species were added to the species list this year, bringing the all-time provincial list to 230 plus 3 additional races.

New all-time high counts (numbers underlined) were established for 31 species, compared with 14 last year.

Wolfville led the high count list this year with 30, followed by Broad with 20, West Hants with 15, Halifax West with 13 and Port L'Hebert and Yarmouth, each with 11.

Red-thr. Loon 6 (Broad Cove); Com. Loon 100 (Broad Cove); Pied-billed Grebe 1 (Halifax West); Horned Grebe 70 (Broad Cove); Red-necked Grebe 43 (Brier Island); N. Fulmar 1 (Annapolis Royal); N. Gannet 57 (Brier Island); Gt. Cormorant 104 (Halifax West); Double-cr. Cormorant 47 (Annapolis Royal); Gt. Blue Heron 5 (Port L'Hebert, West Hants & Yarmouth); Black-crowned Night Heron 1 (Wolfville); Brant 11 (Brier Island); Canada Goose 3020 (Halifax East); Snow Goose 1 (Yarmouth); Wood Duck 2 (Halifax East & Yarmouth); Green-winged Teal 53 (Halifax East); Am. Black Duck 2421 (Halifax East); Mallard 281 (Halifax West); N. Pintail 1 (Yarmouth); Gadwall 1 (Halifax East); Am. Wigeon 3 (Halifax West); N. Shoveler 1 (West Hants); Redhead 1 (Halifax East); Ring-necked Duck 1 (Broad Cove); Greater Scaup 2055 (Pictou Harbour); Lesser Scaup 5 (Annapolis Royal); Com. Eider 828 (Halifax West); Harlequin Duck 5 (Port L'Hebert); Oldsquaw 298 (Glance Bay); Black Scoter 240 (Broad Cove); Surf Scoter 26 (Broad Cove); White-winged Scoter 167 (Glance Bay); Com. Goldeneye 338 (Pubnico); Barrow's Goldeneye 1 (Cheticamp); Bufflehead 332 (Annapolis Royal); Hooded Merganser 3 (Broad Cove); Com. Merganser 200 (Shubenacadie); Red-br. Merganser 145 (Halifax East).

Bald Eagle 328 (Wolfville); N. Harrier 7 (Wolfville); Sharp-shinned Hawk 11 (Wolfville); N. Goshawk 3 (Shubenacadie); Red-tailed Hawk 154 (Wolfville); Rough-legged Hawk 21 (Amherst); Am. Kestrel 3 (Pubnico & Yarmouth); Merlin 4 (Wolfville); Gray Partridge 6 (Truro); Ring-necked Pheasant 284 (Wolfville); Spruce Grouse 2 (Broad Cove, Caledonia & Port L'Hebert); Ruffed Grouse 20 (West Hants); Am. Coot 1 (West Hants); Black-bellied Plover 5 (Port L'Hebert); Killdeer 5 (Port L'Hebert); Sanderling 32 (Port L'Hebert); Purple Sandpiper 194 (Economy); Dunlin 8 (Port L'Hebert); Com. Snipe 5 (Port L'Hebert).

Com. Bl.-headed Gull 32 (Halifax West); Com. (Mew) Gull 1 (Halifax West); Bonaparte's Gull 6 (Annapolis Royal); Ring-billed Gull 957 (Wolfville); Herring Gull 6267 (Wolfville); Iceland Gull 281 (Glance Bay); Lesser Bl.-backed Gull 2 (Halifax West); Glaucous Gull 36 (Cheticamp); Gt. Bl.-backed Gull 2649 (Wolfville); Bl.-legged Kittiwake 300 (Brier Island); Dovekie 43 (Highlands); Thin-billed (Com.) Murre 2 (Annapolis Royal); Thick-billed Murre 25 (Brier Island); Black Guillemot 45 (Brier Island); Rock Dove 1193 (Wolfville); Mourning Dove 959 (Wolfville); Gt. Horned Owl 5 (West Hants); Snowy Owl 1 (Amherst, Cheticamp, Halifax East & Yarmouth); Banded Owl 10 (West Hants); Long-eared Owl 2 (Caledonia); Short-eared Owl 8 (Wolfville); N. Saw-whet Owl 3 (West Hants).

Belted Kingfisher 4 (Broad Cove); Downy Woodpecker 60 (Wolfville); Hairy Woodpecker 21 (West Hants); Bl.-backed Woodpecker 4 (West Hants); N. (Yel.-sh.) Flicker 21 (Yarmouth); Pileated Woodpecker 14 (West Hants); Horned Lark 152 (Wolfville); Gray Jay 17 (Amherst & Port L'Hebert); Blue Jay 1037 (Wolfville); Am. Crow 5959 (Wolfville); Com. Raven 451 (Wolfville); Bl.-capped Chickadee 758 (West Hants); Boreal Chickadee 71 (Broad Cove); Red-br. Nuthatch 227 (West Hants); White-br. Nuthatch 18 (Caledonia & Wolfville); Brown Creeper 9 (West Hants); Golden-cr. Kinglet 332 (West Hants); Ruby-cr. Kinglet 1 (Brier Island); E. Bluebird 7 (Yarmouth); Hermit Thrush 1 (West Hants); Am. Robin 338 (Broad Cove); N. Mockingbird 4 (Pubnico); Brown Thrasher 1 (Pubnico &

Wolfville); Water Pipit 2 (Broad Cove); Bohemian Waxwing 106 (Strait of Canso); Cedar Waxwing 33 (Wolfville); N. Shrike 3 (Advocate/Apple River & Cheticamp).

Eur. Starling 17,363 (Wolfville); Yel.-rumped (Myr.) Warbler 102 (Port L'Hebert); Yellow-throated Warbler 1 (Eskasoni); Pine Warbler 3 (Broad Cove & Halifax West); Com. Yellowthroat 1 (Wolfville); N. Cardinal 2 (Yarmouth); Dickcissel 1 (Broad Cove, Glace Bay & Halifax West); Am. Tree Sparrow 114 (Wolfville); Chipping Sparrow 6 (Annapolis Royal & Yarmouth); Clay-coloured Sparrow 1 (Wolfville); Vesper Sparrow 1 (Wolfville); Savannah Sparrow 95 (Wolfville); Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1 (Wolfville); Fox Sparrow 1 (Broad Cove & Port L'Hebert); Song Sparrow 396 (Wolfville); Lincoln's Sparrow 1 (Strait of Canso); Swamp Sparrow 5 (Broad Cove); White-thr. Sparrow 124 (Broad Cove); White-cr. Sparrow 2 (Caledonia); Dark-eyed (S-c) Junco 1130 (Wolfville); Lapland Longspur 50 (Truro); Snow Bunting 729 (West Hants).

Red-winged Blackbird 10 (Bridgetown); E. Meadowlark 1 (Halifax East); Rusty Blackbird 20 (Annapolis Royal); Com. Grackle 29 (Advocate/Apple River); Brown-headed Cowbird 77 (Bridgetown); N. (Baltimore) Oriole 4 (Halifax West); N. (Bullock's) Oriole 1 (Strait of Canso); Pine Grosbeak 547 (Glace Bay); Purple Finch 1845 (Broad Cove); House Finch 26 (Yarmouth); Red Crossbill 75 (Broad Cove); White-winged Crossbill 846 (Economy); Com. Redpoll 553 (Economy); Pine Siskin 2250 (Broad Cove); Com. Goldfinch 2696 (Wolfville); Evening Grosbeak 1962 (Wolfville); House Sparrow 813 (Wolfville).

Mary Anderson
David Currie

Participants in the Halifax East Christmas Count figure out the list at the home of Don and Joyce Purchase.



Left to right are: half of Jim Elliott, Bob Dickie, Don Purchase, John Cohrs, Bill Caudle, Christine Ross, Shirley Cohrs, Bob McDonald, Dave Currie (compiling) and three quarters of Sylvia Fullerton

Photo--Ruth Ballem

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Bird Report - Winter 1991 - 1992	5
Field Trip Reports	23
Forthcoming Field Trips	25
Birding St Pierre and Miquelon	29
A Native-watcher's Window Box	37
Living Island VI	41
Letters to the Editor	44
The Art of Misidentification	45
Unsung Heros	46
Christmas Counts 1991 -1992	51

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