

Nova Scotia Birds



April 1993

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
A Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society

Volume 35 Number 2

April 1993

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

ISSN 0383-9567

Publications Mail
Reg. No. 4628
Published four times a year

BIRD REPORTS, WINTER 1992-1993

LOONS AND GREBES

November reports of RED-THROATED LOONS tallied 11 off Evangeline Beach on the 10th (AAM) and 2 at Edgett's Beach, Cumb. Co., near month's end (KFS). The only other record was on Dec. 17, when 9 birds were counted during the Brier Island CBC (BLM,JOR).

Do people consider the COMMON LOON too "common" to warrant writing a report? Of the 13 reports received most were for 1 - 2 birds but 13 were noted on Dec. 17 at Brier Island (JGT,RBS,JWW) and BLM reported 15 at West Dover, Feb. 21. It was easy to see 15 - 20 birds in the Terrence Bay/Lr. Prospect area throughout February (BDS).

I don't think that 5 species of grebes have ever been recorded in one single issue of **Nova Scotia Birds**. This is about to change...read on!

Observers succeeded in turning up 3 PIED-BILLED GREBES, one at each of these locations: Nov. 22 at Caribou River (KJM,CGB), Dec. 18 in Prospect Bay (BDS,GEM), and the Cohrs had 1, surprisingly enough, in full breeding plumage on the Petite Riviere at Crousetown on Feb. 23 -- "migrant?!?!".

HORNED GREBES were sparsely reported in December and January, and mainly from Lunenburg and Digby Counties. February produced several reports of 1--20 birds along the coast from Halifax to West Dover. Although the Cohrs counted 23 at LaHave on Feb. 23, they note that Horned Grebe numbers were down in the Green Bay area this winter.

RED-NECKED GREBES must have been around but they received little comment from observers. Several parties reported up to 41 on the Brier Island CBC and SJF saw 32 at Broad Cove on Dec. 29. There were only 2 January reports, each of a single bird and both on the Fundy shore (BJA, JGT). Through February one could readily see 10 - 15 birds in the Prospect area of Halifax Co. (BDS).

Nova Scotia has its third record for EARED GREBE. Not one, but 2 basic-plumaged adults were sighted briefly at Hartlen's Point on Dec. 12. No further details were provided. However, an independent observer (R. Hamilton), quite unaware of the first sighting, reported 2 Eared Grebes off Point Pleasant Park, Halifax on Jan. 7 (**fide** NSBS Bird Info. Line).

A walk to Ketch Head on Dec. 16 was worth every muddy step of the way for myself and PML, for sitting on the water right at the foot of the cliff was a WESTERN GREBE. This large grebe with a long, tapered bill and an extremely long, slender (swanlike) neck obligingly sat long enough for us to note that the black cap extended below the eye. In flight the wing showed no white on the leading edge--only the single white bar across the inner trailing edge, extending slightly to the base of the primaries. The bird flew toward Sandy Cove but unfortunately could not be relocated. **Birds of Nova Scotia** (Tufts) lists one sight record in 1970 for this species but this is somewhat uncertain in light of the Western-Clark's Grebe split in the '80s. There have been a couple of possibles/probables, but this is the first record I can find where the observers were able to make a definite differentiation between Western and Clark's. If anyone has better information on this please let me know.

FULMARS TO CORMORANTS

Bev Sarty and Peter MacLeod saw our only NORTHERN FULMARS. Three (3) birds off Chebucto Head. Daryl Amirault saw a late GREATER SHEARWATER off Lobster Bay, Yar. Co., Dec. 1. Roger Foxall was off Brier Island on a whale-watching cruise on Aug. 9, and saw at least 30 Greater and 2 MANX SHEARWATERS--to say nothing of an abundance of humpbacks, minke whales, dolphins and porpoises. He also saw our most intriguing tubenose: a highly probable AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER, well seen. His detailed description is published elsewhere in this issue. It's a pity there isn't a photograph to clinch the identification, but Roger's description covers the key field marks that I've seen on Audubon's in the tropics. The bird clearly wasn't a Manx Shearwater. Nor did it have the fast, Dovekie-like flight of the Little Shearwater, the other likely candidate. Over the last 10-15 years, Nova Scotia Birds has recorded at least five sightings of small, black-and-white shearwaters off southern Nova Scotia. There's every reason to believe that these were Audubon's, a tropical species that regularly follows the Gulf Stream to the latitude of Cape Cod. The surprise is that there's only been one Canadian specimen record so far: a storm victim picked up in eastern Ontario, of all places!

There were several reports of late NORTHERN GANNETS this fall. Blake Maybank and Joan Waldron saw an adult off Chebucto Head on Dec. 13, and 15 birds, 12 of them adult, heading south past Brier Island on Dec. 17. On the Halifax West CBC on Dec. 20, Bev Sarty, Peter MacLeod and Gwen MacDonald counted 31 Gannets in the course of a 6-hour watch from Chebucto Head. Azor Vienneau saw a singleton off Indian Harbour, Hfx. Co., on Jan. 5, and Bradford Amirault saw another off Peggy's Cove on the same day. Finally, Bev Sarty and Peter MacLeod saw an adult and a second year bird on Jan. 25--from Chebucto Head, I assume, though they don't actually say so.

The Tufts, Richard Stern and Jim Wolford saw 21 GREAT CORMORANTS on the Digby Co. CBC on Dec. 17. Blake Maybank saw one at Bayside, Halifax Co., on New Year's Day. Angus MacLean saw 2 at Neil's Harbour, Cape Breton, on Jan. 4. The Halls saw 5 off Baccaro Point on Feb. 3. Christine Ross saw "small groups" of Great Cormorants in Lunenburg Bay during January-February, 1993. As usual, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS were the minority species at this time of year. Sylvia Fullerton saw 1 at E. Pennant on Dec. 20. The Cohrs saw 1 in the Halifax Harbour Narrows on Dec. 20, and another at the LaHave Islands on Dec. 31. Jean and Bill Morse saw an imm. Double-Crest in Mahone Harbour on Jan. 3. Angus MacLean saw a bird near Neil's Harbour, Cape Breton, Jan. 16.

--RBBB,ed.

HERONS

It was a hard winter for GREAT BLUE HERONS. The usual numbers were seen up to Christmas count time, but the only later ones reported were at L.W. Pubnico to Dec. 31 (RSD), Overton on Jan. 1 (HGH&HJH), Conrad's Beach to Jan. 6 (JWT), and at the Trenton power plant outlet until Jan. 23 (CGB,KJM). A late GREAT EGRET was video'd at River Bennet, Vic. Co., on Nov. 12 (*fide* Dan Banks). A CATTLE EGRET seen on the same day at Advocate, Cumb. Co (KFS et al.), may have been the bird that earlier had stayed at Avonport across the water (see last issue). I neglected to include an important sighting of the province's 6th WHITE IBIS IN THE LAST ISSUE. This one, an adult, spent much of the day on Sept. 15 perched in trees overlooking Randall Ross's waterfowl pond at Clam Pt., Cape Sable Island. Alas, it did not stay, but I have no doubt of the identification.

--IAM, ed.

GEESE AND DUCKS

Several reports of a SNOW GOOSE in the Canard River Valley area from Dec. 24-28, presumably all refer to the same individual.

There were 11 BRANT off Hawk Point, Cape Sable Island on Dec. 12 (RSD), while the Halifax East CBC on Dec. 27 had a good showing with 75 at Lawrencetown Beach (LAC, BOT).

Best counts of CANADA GEESE were 1500 at Rainbow Haven on Dec.27 (HFx. E. CBC) and 1300 in the Sand Point-Tatamagouche area Dec. 28 (RBD,HBD). Smaller flocks were 78 at Apple River on Dec. 6 (KFS) and 40-125 Dec. 9-11 in the Wolfville area (JGT,BBT). After Jan. 1, when FRS saw a "large flock" flying SW over Bass River, Canada Geese were hardly mentioned at all. An estimated 7000 geese in the Martinique Beach-Petpeswick Harbour region received a lot of media attention in February when hundreds of kilograms of grain were dropped to feed the hungry honkers--hats off to Department of Natural Resources and Canadian Wildlife Service for their timely action.

In the "exotic" department, 2 RUDDY SHELDUCKS were in a pond near the Hortonville-Hwy. 101 Interchange for several days in December (JWW).

Three (3) WOOD DUCKS (2m., 1f.) wintering at Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth were a bright spot for many observers. The Cohrs reported 2 separate individuals at Petite Riviere in late November, early December. Perhaps the female they saw is the same one sighted in mid-January by several parties in this area.

Thirty-three (33) GREEN-WINGED TEAL lingered at Port Williams from Dec. 1-6 (JGT). Reports of 1's and 2's throughout the winter came from Dartmouth (many obs.), Yarmouth (LSD,HJH,HGH) and Greenwich (JWW).

BLACK DUCKS were widespread--nobody mentioned fewer than 20, some reported flocks of 100, 200, all the way up to the 800 at Eel Brook, Yar. Co. on Feb. 14 (RSD - "more this winter than usual". The customary hundreds overwintered in the Halifax-Dartmouth area.

Most of the MALLARDS were at the estuary of Petite Riviere, Lun. Co., where the regular flock of 60-80 birds expanded remarkably to nearly 300 by mid-December (JSC,JLC). Much smaller flocks (1-21) were scattered over the more southerly sections of mainland Nova Scotia.

Two (2) NORTHERN PINTAILS at Five Islands on Dec. 27 (BLM) were a new species for the Economy CBC. Two (2) at Sullivan's Pond on Feb. 8 (AJV) eluded many searchers.

A male NORTHERN SHOVELER was reported three times from late December to mid-February (BDS,JWT). All reports were from in or near Dartmouth and likely involve the same bird.

Single GADWALL reports were: Nov. 21 at Canard Pond (JWW), the Northwest Arm on the Dec. 20 (Hfx. W. CBC)(LAC), and the last 1 at the Trenton Power Plant outflow from mid January to the end of the report period (KJM,CGB).

In mid November, a duck hunter at The Hawk (Cape Sable Island) shot and retrieved a duck he was not familiar with. After checking a couple of books, he was able to positively identify it as a drake EURASIAN WIGEON. The duck taken was keeping company with two others thought to be the same species (fide Sid and Betty June Smith).

There were no new reports of American Wigeon but the 4 birds at Sullivan's Pond on Nov. 26 (BJA) had dwindled to 1 by Jan. 8 (JGT). Speaking of Sullivan's Pond, how many saw the otter that moved in during February? It was seen several times at the Hawthorne St. end of the pond dining on--you guessed it--duck!

For those who had difficulty discerning the female Tufted Duck that IAM discovered on Jan. 26 in with a flock of Greater Scaup at Eastern Passage, I'll pass on Ian's description: "no hint of tuft and with small white lore spots, small head, thin neck, narrow bill broadly tipped with black--head pale and the breast concolor with flanks--a juvenile condition not found on scaups at this season; she also leaps when diving--a good mark." Now, isn't that easy?!

To make things still trickier, this flock of GREATER SCAUP, numbering up to 40 birds at times, also harboured several LESSER SCAUP, 2 of which were noted on Jan. 24 (BLM,ROF). There were also 5 Lesser Scaup at the Pictou Causeway on Jan. 23 (CGB,KJM). Other Greater Scaup reports were: 200 on Nov. 28 in Tatamagouche Bay (HBD,RBD), 6-8 on Jan. 3 in Mahone Harbour (JBM), 100+ at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. on Jan. 17 (RBS,BLF) and last, but definitely not least, the great flock of 1700 all winter long in the Pictou Causeway-Trenton area (CGB,KJM).

While there were several reports of small groups or single birds, the only concentrations of COMMON EIDERS were at Broad Cove-Green Bay, where the Cohrs saw 300+ on Dec. 13 and Brier Island, where JGT,RBS and JWW counted 167 on Dec. 17. Chris Field pointed out that a flock of 200 at Sandy Cove, Hfx. Co. on Jan. 24 was 10% adult males--hopefully harbingers of the great rafts that usually gather in the Halifax Harbour approaches. Careful scrutiny of a mixed flock of eiders/scoters at Tribune Head, revealed a female KING EIDER present from Feb. 8 until at least the 14th (BLM,RBS).

The Brier Island CBC on Dec. 17 tallied 7 HARLEQUIN DUCKS (JGT,RBS,JWW) while 10+ were at Mahone Bay in early January (Mike Dadswell). Many obs. saw 5, including 3 drakes, in the surf along the rugged shore at Prospect. Singletons, mostly males, were at Pollock Pt., Lun. Co. from November to January (JSC), Chebucto Head on Dec. 13 (BLM), Jan. 24 and 27 at Hemeon Head (DHY) and Dort's Cove, Guys. Co. on Feb. 15 (CGB,KJM,MAK,KJM). Two (2) were present, on and off, at Tribune Head from Jan. 24 to Feb. 14.

A dozen reports of OLDSQUAW is fewer than usual and DJC comments that although 1-24 were in Lockeport Bay through this winter, "they are becoming more scarce each year in this area." Digby Harbour hosted 100+ in small, scattered flocks on Feb. 18 (RBS). Smaller numbers (15-60) were reported from Anna., Digby, Hfx. and Lun. Counties.

BLACK SCOTERS were scarce: 5 at Baccaro Point on Feb. 3 (HGH,HJH), up to 25 at Tribune Head on Feb. 14 (RBS,BLM), and 3 several days later at Terrence Bay (BDS,GEM).

SURF SCOTERS fared only slightly better. On Jan. 22 46 were along the Fundy shore, mostly at Parker Cove (JGT). Single birds were at Mader's Cove (JMB) and Riverport (BJA), while a lone male at Tribune Head had been joined by a few others by mid February (BLM,RBS).

About 200 WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS in the Halifax Harbour approaches since early January, had increased their ranks to over 400 by mid February (BLM,PML,BDS). JGT counted 305 on Jan. 22 between Margaretsville and Delaps Cove on the Fundy Shore; small flocks were noted by RBS along the same shore throughout January and February.

COMMON GOLDENEYE were present throughout Nova Scotia, from Sydney to Yarmouth and many points in between--not to be outdone, even Sable Island had 1 on Jan. 28-29 (ZOL). Flock size averaged 15-25 birds although 50+ were at Sand Point on Nov. 28 (RBD,HBD). BARROW'S GOLDENEYE seem to be showing up in the same four locations year after year. As many as 6 were in Bedford Basin throughout most of the winter (many obs.). Two (2) females were at the Annapolis Power Plant on Jan. 26 (RBS); one was in Sydney River on Feb. 6 (JAC), while on the same day at the Pictou Causeway there were 3 (1 male and 2 female)--up to 3 males had been present earlier (CGB,KJM).

BUFFLEHEAD were widespread but in no great numbers. There were 20-25 at three locations: D U Pond at Annapolis Royal (AAM,SMM) in early November; at Five Islands on the Economy CBC (BLM), and at Digby on Jan. 7 (BJA). Reports after that date were of small flocks, 6 or less.

Good counts of HOODED MERGANSERS were 20+ (mostly f./imm.) at Annapolis Royal on Nov. 17 and 30 on Nov. 28 at East River, New Glasgow (KJM,CGB). RSD saw his first live male "Hoodie" with 4 females at Pubnico Head on Dec. 7 and the Halls reported 3 a week later at Pleasant Lake, Yar. Co. The final report was 7 birds on Jan. 1 not yet frozen out at Whynacht's Cove, Hfx. Co. (BLM,M. Dufresne).

COMMON MERGANSERS didn't quite live up to their name with a total of just over 50 birds. Most of the 9 birds at White Rock, Gaspereau Valley, on Nov. 20 had moved on by Dec. 12, when 1 lingered on (JGT). Fifteen (15) were at the mouth of the LaHave River from Dec. to Feb. (BJA,WGC,CMR). Others mentioned only 1-3 birds but RBS had 5 in Kentville in January and found them "common on and over the Cornwallis River". Eight reports tallied about 260 RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS, more than half of which were on the Fundy shores of Anna. and Digby Counties (BJA,JGT, RBS, JWW). Port Morien Bay held 60 birds on Nov. 29 (AMU,CMU0 and the 40 on Dec. 12 at Hartlen's Point (BLM,ROF) account for most of the remaining birds. Much smaller numbers were in the Mahone Bay-Lunenburg area throughout the winter (JBM,WGC,CMR).

For the fifth year in a row, RUDDY DUCK makes the winter report with a lone bird on Jan. 9 at Three Fathom Harbour (RBD,HBD).

--BDS, ed.



For the third winter a LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL returned to Lockeport, where it was photographed by Donna Crosby in early January. Comparison of its mantle tone with that of the nearby Herring Gull shows clearly that, as usual, it is one of the graellsii subspecies, probably from Iceland.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

This will be remembered as the winter of the **BLACK VULTURE**, of which two and probably three appeared, as suggested (more in hope than conviction) in the January issue. A number of us were able to scrutinize the bird that turned up on Jan. 13 at the home of Shirley and Graham Knickle, Green Bay. The Knickles, who are NSBS members, spread the news of their visitor and sustained it for four days on "dog food and peanut butter sandwiches (which it really liked) plus warm mice freshly caught in the basement" (JSC). Three days later it flew off, with crows in hot pursuit, but what was presumably the same bird then turned up for a couple of days in nearby Lunenburg. We have unconfirmed reports that one appeared shortly after near Shelburne. It seems clear that a bird that died in Stewiacke around January 15 (specimen to Acadia University) was not this South Shore individual. Finally, an immature Black Vulture found in a weakened condition near Windsor on Feb. 8, could well have been a third individual. It was captured by personnel of the Department of Natural Resources and taken to Cyril Coldwell for rehabilitation. Do all these birds date from an invasion last spring, when one was seen in Yar. Co., or did they arrive last fall? One **TURKEY VULTURE** was at a deer kill for several days up to Nov. 22 at Hortons Cove, Guys. Co. (**fide** JWT), but there were no later reports of this "regular". I neglected to include the date and locale of the apparent Mississippi Kite reported in the last issue. For the record, it was seen on Sept. 15 in Spryfield, Halifax.

Big counts of **BALD EAGLES** in Kings Co. sent in by a number of observers, and even the 300+ on the Wolfville CBC, were upstaged by the carefully designed survey by the Blomidon Naturalists during a one-hour period on Jan. 31, which produced a stunning total of 442 (data courtesy JWW). This far outdid similar surveys in past years: 22 in 1979, 36 in 1985, 56 in 1988, 123 in 1990, and 138 in 1991. Highest numbers in the 1993 survey were around Pereaux to Kingsport (143), Sheffield Mills to Woodside (142), Grand Pré (39), Avonport (33) and White Rock to Black R. (17). Among them were 179 adults, 237 immatures, and 26 undetermined. That same evening (Jan. 31) 70+ were seen going to roost near White Rock. An even more impressive concentration was ca. 150 at one "feeder" at Pereaux on Jan. 24 (JFF, **fide** JWW). The Kings Co. gathering was doubtless augmented by eagles that had deserted frozen coasts and waterways. For example, the Shubenacadie count, usually about 70 birds, was only about 30 this year. The good residents of King's Co. are to be commended for sustaining the eagles and keeping track of numbers. New-year reports from other localities were mostly of ones and twos, and came from Cape Breton Co. to Yar. Co. One imm. on Sable Island, Jan. 11-21 (ZOL) was unusual. In February, geese at Martinique Sanctuary, weakened by starvation (although later fed by wildlife authorities) became prey to a gathering of a dozen or so Bald Eagles.

NORTHERN HARRIERS seemed scarce this winter. Considering only birds that made it into 1993, and discounting probable "repeats", there were reports of a female and possibly 2 males in the Metro-Lawrencetown area, a male around Yarmouth, and individuals in King's Co., near Digby, around the Pubnicos; compare these with last winter's 20+ birds. Only 11 observers thought fit to report on new-year **SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS** (some 18 birds) but, with no comments received on perceived abundance, presumably they were about as usual. Good details were submitted on an imm. **COOPER'S HAWK** seen on the Wolfville CBC (BM, JWT). The N. **GOSHAWK** was seen a mite more often--an ad. wintering on the Wolfville Ridge (var. obs.), another (?) near Centreville (WGC, CMR) Jan. 2, individuals at Petite R. Feb. 21 (Cohrs), Port Morien, Dec. 25 and Jan. 12 (CMU,AMU) and in Pic. Co., Near Westville Jan. 14 and Hopewell on Feb. 4 (CGB). It is nice to be able to offer confirmatory evidence (see photo) of the **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** spotted by most Brier Island Christmas counters on Dec. 17. A belated report of fledgling **BROAD-WINGED HAWKS** being fed by an adult at Pine Grove Pk., Queen's Co., on July 17 (Jean Swayer et al.) is worth noting. There were no reports of them wintering this year, which is just as well for them. The latest was an imm. seen by JWT in Cole Hbr. on Nov. 26. Also noteworthy is his report of another at E. Lawrencetown on Nov. 21, at almost the exact site of two previous C.B.C. sightings. What is the magnetism of that locality? By late November, at least 25 **RED-TAILED HAWKS** were noted around Sheffield Mills (JWW), and the King's Co. eagle

count also produced a record total of ca. 100, again mostly around Sheffield Mills and Canning. About 20 were reported from elsewhere in the province. The almost complete albino returned for the fourth winter to the Sheffield Mills area by late November (JGT et al.), but two other partial albinos--a pink-tailed bird near Port Williams on Jan. 22 (MFE) and a slightly mottled one at the east end of Wolfville on Jan. 7 (JGT)--may have been "new". A consensus total of up to 7 ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were present in mid-January around Grand Pré (JGT et al.). Otherwise, there were only four reports of 5 birds from Halifax to Yar. Co. Among all sightings, 6 were deemed light and 4 dark morphs. Two were further detailed as "imm. dark morph" (AAM) and as "light phase, prob. ad. f. plumage" (RBS); see the **Peterson Field Guide to Hawks** (Clark & Wheeler) for such discrimination.

Among the gathering of Bald Eagles preying on weakened geese at Martinique Sanctuary in February, a pair of GOLDEN EAGLES was reported by Ivan Kent of Ostrea Lake (**fide** FLL). Evidently this pair has turned up regularly in recent winters, although not sought by birders.

There was only 1 sighting in December and 3 in the new year of the much diminished AM. KESTREL. The MERLIN was even less evident, with only 1 new-year report--a male near Sheffield Mills on Jan. 22 (AAM). A well-described PEREGRINE FALCON was reported near Halifax on Jan. 10 (S. & H. Samian) and an ad. wintered on Sable Island (ZOL). While he was window gazing during a conference luncheon in Dartmouth on Feb. 24, Roy John was astonished to see a white-phase GYRFALCON fly by at close range and sail off past the MacDonald Bridge; none of his luncheon colleagues seemed excited.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Several submissions on GRAY PARTRIDGE in King's Co. suggest that 8-10 wintered around Starr's Pt., a different group (?) of up to 8 along Wellington Dyke, and another 6 along the Canard Valley. There were no later reports on 4 seen on Nov. 26 at Economy (FRS) and on 15 reported at Portapique, Col. Co. on Nov. 30 (a new locality: **fide** FRS). Four of 5 reports on RING-NECKED PHEASANTS involved feeder birds, keeping their tenuous hold during hard winters. A male and 3 females at Arcadia on Feb. 3 were perched "in the upper branches of a tall tree--very unusual" (HGH,HJH). Four reports of 9 SPRUCE GROUSE were about par, but 5 reports of 14 RUFFED GROUSE were fewer than usual. Perhaps there was less bushwhacking this winter.

RALLIDS, CRANE

For the first winter since 1986 there was no AM. COOT on Sullivan's Pond. Our only reports were of individuals in Yarmouth Hbr. on Nov. 7 (HGH) and on Sable Island (an imm.) on Dec. 24 (ZOL).

The number of birds in the "astonishing group" of SANDHILL CRANES seen by AAM and SSM near Kentville last Nov. 3 got left out of the last issue. For the record, there were 18 of them flying at 100 m, noted as being low altitude for this species. Another well-described individual appeared at Camp Aldershop on Dec. 3 (Jeanette Simpson, **fide** JWW).

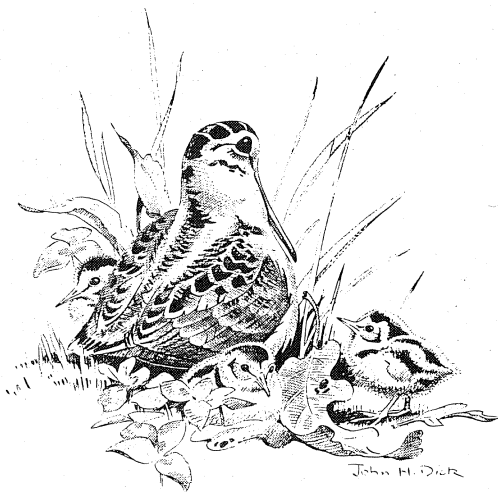
--IAM, ed.

WINTER SHOREBIRDS

A flock of 22 BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS lingered in Cape Breton Co. until Nov. 8 (C & AMU). After 2 at Cherry Hill, Nov. 29 (SJF) only singles were seen: at Hartlen's Pt., Dec. 15 (JWT), at Rose Bay in breeding plumage, no less, Jan. 16 (WGC,CMR), and at Little Hbr., Shel. Co., Jan. 16 and Feb. 2 (DHY). Late SEMIPALMATED PLOVER were at Cherry Hill Nov. 21 (SJF) and, on the Northumberland shore, at Middle River, Pic. Co., Dec. 1 (CGB). Two KILLDEER were at Little Hbr., Jan. 13 (DHY); the last of 2 at Hartlen's Pt. stayed until Jan. 24 (BDS).

Two GREATER YELLOWLEGS were at Cherry Hill Nov. 14 (SJF) and 1 at Crescent, a "latest record" there for JSC. Three RED KNOTS were at Cherry Hill, Nov. 29, with 1 still there Dec. 14 (J&SC). Small flocks of SANDERLINGS were at Cherry Hill (SJF) and at Crescent (J&SC) in December, with a few still there in mid-January (BLM *et al.*, RBS *et al.*). Almost 100 were on Sable Island as late as Jan. 4, with 27 still there in early February (ZOL). Last noted were 5 at Cherry Hill Feb. 5 (SJF). Nine WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS were at Hartlen's Pt., Nov. 22 (L&PP), with 6 each at Caribou and Munroe's Island about the same time (CGB,KJM). Singles were still at Grand Pré Nov. 28 (JGT) and at Big Island, Jan. 8 (CGB). A dozen observers reported PURPLE SANDPIPERS, none until Nov. 24, when there were c. 20 at Lwr. Prospect (BDS,GEM). Winter numbers were generally very low, although at Economy Pt. the CBC total reached its normal three digits. At the other extreme, the Brier Count found only one; elsewhere Apple River yielded c. 50 Jan. 16 (KFS). A note of special interest comes from Economy, where B. McLaughlin photographed a small flock on the Brick Kilns ("Brick I.") in late Sept.; accessible only by boat at high tide in good weather the site is rarely visited and whether early migrants regularly visit it (in passing?) is not clear (*vide* FLS). Late DUNLIN were at Grand Pré (RBS,JGT) and Cherry Hill (SJF). In mid-Jan. singles were still to be found at Crescent (BLM *et al.* JSC) and Little Hbr. (DHY). Hardy, not to say foolhardy, were 3-5 on Cape Sable Island, Feb. 3 (H&HJH) and 1 at Hartlen's Pt., Feb. 14 (BLM). Highlights of the season were 2 RUFFS at Rainbow Haven, Nov. 8 (ROF), one of which was still present Nov. 25 (JWT), and an immature LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER at Conrad's Beach, Oct. 18 (ROF,BLM,FLL). Late COMMON SNIPE were still in Cape Breton Co., Nov. 12-19 (AMY) and on the Pubnico CBC. Very late were singles at L.W. Pubnico, Jan. 20 (RSD) and at Windsor on Jan. 27 (BJA). Three or 4 AMERICAN WOODCOCK also overstayed: at Windsor, Dec. 11 and Jan. 11 (JWT), at Ketch Hbr., Jan. 2 (FLL) and at W. Pubnico, Jan. 18 (JKD).

--FLS, ed.



PHALAROPES TO PUFFINS

Roger Foxall saw **ca. 4,000 PHALAROPES** off Brier Island on Aug. 9, divided evenly between RED and RED-NECKED.

On the Brier Island CBC on Dec. 17, Blacke Maybank and J. Waldron saw a GREAT SKUA. It was flying south, and they suggest that it had been blown into the Bay of Fundy by the three preceding days of SW gales.

We had an interesting fall crop of "little gulls", in every sense of the term. Ken McKenna and Calvin Brennan actually saw a LITTLE GULL on Nov. 20, sitting with a flock of BONAPARTE'S GULLS on Pictou Causeway; it stayed at least until Dec. 7.

Bev Sarty and Peter MacLeod saw an ad. SABINE'S GULL in winter plumage off Chebucto Head on Dec. 20, as part of the Halifax West CBC. They saw and sketched the "triangle" patterns on the upper wing: black on the outer primaries, white on the inner ones, and grey on the inner wing. It even showed its forked tail: they usually don't. Bev and Peter saw it for less than a minute, and it was blowing and raining at the time, but as Peter says, it's hard to mistake an adult Sabine's for anything else. An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake is the likeliest alternative, but this bird's wing pattern was wrong for that. The bird may have been heading for the Sabine's wintering area off West Africa.

Alan and Cathy Murrant were the first to report the imm. IVORY GULL at the Government Wharf at Port Morien, Nov. 29-30. This is an unusually early record; the first Ivories don't even reach Newfoundland until February. Could the Port Morien bird be the same as the possible Ivory Gull seen at Oxford on Oct. 5, 1992 (**Nova Scotia Birds**, Jan. 1993)? An early arrival perhaps--or a bird that forgot to go home last spring?

John and Shirley Cohrs saw an ad. MEW GULL in "pristine plumage" on Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, Dec. 20. Bev Sarty and Gwen MacDonald saw an adult at Dartmouth Cove on Jan. 21. Blake Maybank and Jim Taylor identified a COMMON GULL (a Mew Gull of the European race) on Feb. 7, feeding at the sewer outlet on Cusack St., Dartmouth. Blake Maybank and Roger Foxall saw 7 BLACK-HEADED GULLS at Three Fathom Harbour on Dec. 12. Fulton Lavender saw 10 of them in Lunenburg Harbour on Jan. 28. Raymond d'Entremont saw 1 at Abram's River. Yar. Co., Dec. 10. I've already mentioned the BONAPARTE'S GULLS on Pictou Causeway at the end of November. Allan and Cathy Murrant saw 25 in Port Morien Harbour on ("a rare sighting") on Nov. 29-31; the Cohrs saw 3 adults off Canal Street, Dartmouth, Dec. 20, and Raymond d'Entremont saw an imm. Bonaparte's on Dec. 31, at Lr. Wl. Pubnico.

I'll cut the story short by noting that the usual hordes of HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS were their happy and hungry selves. Donna J. Crosby reports an adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL at Lockeport Beach from September to January, though it seems to have moved out, now the ice has moved in. Blake Maybank saw an adult, perhaps the Volvo Plant bird, feeding at the Fairview sewer on Dec. 13. Richard Stern saw single birds at Mill Cove and the Volvo Plant on Feb. 14. (Only a birder would welcome St. Valentine with a Sewer Stroll!). Overall, Ian McLaren estimates at least 4 Lesser Blackbacks in Metro Halifax this winter, including 1 with an exceptionally large bill, and a "very dark bird"--on its back and wings, I assume. On Dec. 13, Blake Maybank saw 27 ICELAND GULLS at Chebucto Head and 20 at Tribune Head; there were 40 at Tribune Head on Feb. 8. Bev Sarty saw 100+ at Mill Cove, Bedford on Jan. 27, as well as a single GLAUCOUS GULL: an unusually large number in her experience. Outside Halifax, Donna Crosby saw an adult Iceland at Lockeport on Nov. 30, and an imm. and a first-winter on Jan. 3. Jim Wolford saw 2 Icelands at the Wolfville sewage ponds on Feb. 7, Bill Caudle saw 1 in Lunenburg Bay on Feb. 17, a refugee from one of those blasted storms in early 1993. Blake Maybank et al. saw single Glaucous Gulls in Dartmouth Cove on Dec. 12, and Fairview Cove next day, and an immature at LaHave on Jan. 15. The Cohrs saw a second-year Glaucous at Broad Cove on Dec. 13.

Bev Sarty and Peter MacLeod, on Chebucto Head, counted 45 BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES in a six hour watch on Dec. 20, and 20+ in thirty minutes on Jan. 25. Brad Amirault saw 2 in Peggy's Cove on Jan. 5, and Raymond d'Entremont saw an imm. bird in Lr. W. Pubnico on Feb. 14.

I haven't heard of any major "wreck" of DOVEKIES, but it's probably out there waiting to happen. There are plenty of them off southern Nova Scotia. Raymond d'Entremont hasn't been out himself, but the Pubnico fishermen tell him of "thousands" of Dovekies on Brown's Bank on Dec. 28. "They were especially numerous when the nets were being hauled up at night. The inshore records are all probably storm-driven birds, because wintering Dovekies normally stay far out. Blake Maybank *et al.* saw a bird off Hartlen's Point on Dec. 12; a flock of 6 were flying ENE off Chebucto Head on Dec. 13; 24 heading south past Northern Light, Brier Island on Dec. 17; a bird in Purcell's Cove on Jan. 7; 1 at West Dover on Feb. 21. Bev Sarty and Peter MacLeod, on Chebucto Head, saw 8 on Feb. 11, 20+ on Dec. 20. They also saw 9 Dovekies at Ferguson Cove on Dec. 17. Richard Stern saw 1 on the water in Eastern Passage on Jan. 17, and Calvin Brennan saw 3 off Sober Island on Jan. 22. There's no word so far from Cape Breton or Northumberland Strait. I'm also interested in zero reports: "we looked--, but there weren't any!"

Blake Maybank reports at least 1,650 murres, 4 RAZORBILLS, 6 ATLANTIC PUFFINS and 35 BLACK GUILLEMOTS off Brier Island on Dec. 17. They were heading south past Northern Light, after being blown inshore by a gale. Many of the murres were too far out to identify, but the great majority were THICK-BILLED MURRES. However, Blake saw at least 6 COMMON MURRES as well. He also saw a Common Murre in Ferguson's Cove on Feb. 14; Richard Stern saw one in a patch of open water off Hartlen's Point on Feb. 14. Bev Sarty and Peter MacLeod saw a Common Murre off Chebucto Head on Jan. 25, and another on Feb. 11. Blake Maybank saw a Razorbill in St. Margaret's Bay on Jan. 9. Bev Sarty and Peter MacLeod saw one at Prospect on Boxing Day. C. Fled reports a Black Guillemot in Purcell's Cove on Dec. 11, and John and Shirley Cohrs saw a couple in the LaHave Islands on Dec. 31.

On Jan. 22, Daryl Amirault found an imm. Puffin stuggling beside the road in Lr. W. Pubnico--probably blown ashore. Bev Sarty and Peter MacLeod saw a Puffin sitting on the water off Chebucto Head on Jan. 25. They also saw one at Sandy Cove on Feb. 11.

--RBB, ed.

DOVES, OWLS, KINGFISHER

ROCK DOVES are not peaceful, but are prolific. One was severely wounded in a fight involving several at a nest site in Wolfville on Dec. 1, and another was carrying nesting material at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre on Feb. 15 (JWW). Although MOURNING DOVES were "very abundant" on Nov. 21 along roadsides from Port Williams to Canning (JWW), all 12 subsequent reports referred to feeder birds. These totalled some 175 birds, perhaps somewhat fewer than usual.

About 10 GREAT HORNED OWLS were reported from around the province--slightly more than usual. (Note that references to the fledgling with porcupine quills on p. 20 of the January issue was misattributed to KFS at Apple R.; this should be to KLC at Chevarie.) What was probably the hand-reared female that had nested for some years in CKC's yard in Gaspereau, died after becoming tangled in netting in early January. Nevertheless, a pair continued hooting in his orchard and the nest platform showed signs of use (by offspring, perhaps?) in late January (JWW). A SNOWY OWL at Prospect on Nov. 25 encountered "a red squirrel...sitting and scolding...no more than 2 feet from the owl...as if they were old friends. Guess the owl wasn't hungry" (BDS). Apart from Christmas count birds, there were only 3 later reports of this visitor: near Lantz on Dec. 12 (bird-line), near Windsor, Jan. 7-9 (IRR,ARS), and at Hartlen's Pt. from Jan. 21 through February (PLM,BDS, *et al.*). A N. HAWK OWL was well seen and photographed

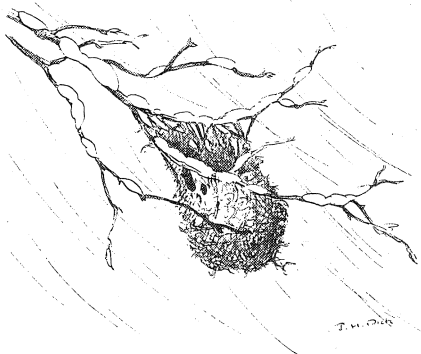
south of Middleton on Nov. 29 (LLD,Hugh Fairn). BARRED OWLS were certainly under-reported. One hunted daily in December and early January in KLC's backyard ("not fields nearby") at Cheverie, and another in late January warmed itself for about a week on a chimney in M.S. Pubnico (JKD). A road-killed LONG-EARED OWL was found near Marshalltown, Digby Co., on Jan. 8 (BJA, to N.S. Museum). Living individuals gave more pleasure to the Casselmans at Goshen, Hants Co., on Jan. 10 (hooting) and next day along highway 101 near Halifax. Another frequenting backyards in Jollimore, Halifax, and reported on Jan. 31 by Dorothy Jackson, was seen by several observers during the next few days. Among several reports of SHORT-EARED OWLS on the Grand Pré dykes from late December through January, the maximum was of 11 on Jan. 17 (DAC,JSC,AJV). Individuals at Canard on Jan. 3 (RBS) and Port Williams on Jan. 11 were presumably from this group. Our only other report was of one on Monroe's Island, Pic. Co., Dec. 11-13 (KJM,CGB). In late January a N. SAW-WHET OWL frequented a feeder in Chevarie, and another was caught in a shed and released at nearby Cambridge (KLC,TDC); these were our only reports.

Latest BELTED KINGFISHERS to be reported were individuals on Dec. 31 at Chegoggin (HGH,HJH), Jan. 1 at Glen Margaret (BLM) and at Bass R. (fide FRS), Jan. 15 near Riverport (WGC et al.), Jan. 23 near Sheffield Mills (MG), and through February at Glenwood. Perhaps only the last one survived the severe ice buildup.

WOODPECKERS

The only reported RED-HEADED WOODPECKER turned up at the Walker home on Trout Brook Rd., Cape Breton Co., where it was seen on Jan. 17 by CMU and AMU. Last November's RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER at Canning (see last issue) stayed through winter, giving pleasure to many visiting birders. There were 15 reports of 24 DOWNY and 10 reports of 18 HAIRY WOODPECKERS, mostly at feeders. This about as usual. Only 1 BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER was reported, from Pt. Pleasant Park, Halifax, on Feb. 8 (ANM). Surely this was a record winter for N. FLICKERS. There were a dozen new year reports of at least 18 birds. In coastal Hfx. Co., some were seen eating bayberries in company of Yellow-rumped Warblers. Fifteen reports of 23 PILEATED WOODPECKERS were about average, although two observers thought they were scarce locally (LPP in Bedford) and widely (AAM in King's Co. and Cape Breton Co.)

--IAM, ed.



FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

There were no reported Flycatchers over-wintering.

Most of the HORNED LARKS reported this winter were from King's Co., with flocks of between 10 and 100 seen by many observers in December, January and February, all as expected in open country such as Grand Pré, Middle Dyke Rd., etc.

There were, not surprisingly, no reported Swallows over-wintering.

JAYS TO GNATCATCHERS

There were only scattered sightings of GRAY JAY, with the exception of KFS, who had 5 coming to her feeder in Apple River.

There were plenty of reports of BLUE JAY, with some larger numbers including 12 at JKD's feeder in L.W. Pubnico, Nov. 20, 25+ at CMR's feeder in New Ross all in January and February, and 25 were counted in Upper Falmouth by BJA on Jan. 27 (for CBC totals please refer to individual counts).

Several people reported small flocks of AMERICAN CROW. Some of the more noteworthy sightings included 1 on Sable Island, Jan. 4-24 (ZOL), unusual as the resident population died out last year; 1 with white primary feathers at Joggin Bridge, Digby Co., Jan. 7 (BJA), up to 15 coming to JKD's L.W. Pubnico feeders in late January, and 10,000+ coming to a nightly roost in Kentville, usually behind the United Church, as usual in recent winters (RBS). There were only a few reports of COMMON RAVEN, but I have already noticed several pairs displaying in aerobatic fashion, and BLF has found a pair building a nest in Wolfville, before the end of February.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were widely reported, frequently from feeders. The Wolfville CBC had a record year for this species (1,484), DJC found them "extremely numerous" in Lockeport, AM mentioned that they were "very common" throughout King's Co., etc. One seen in Halifax by CF in January had a pure white tail. BOREAL CHICKADEES were also well represented from their more localized habitat, with 5 from Bush Island, Lun. Co., Jan. 16 (WGC, CMR), 12 along Louisbourg Lighthouse trail (AMU,CMU). More unusually, the Tufts had 1 at their feeder, on Wolfville Ridge from December to mid-January.

There were 13 reports of RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, some of up to 8 birds each, again often visiting feeders, from all over the province all winter. Numbers appear to be well maintained. However, just 7 reports of WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH were only half as many as last year, mostly as usual from backyards, residential areas, etc. There was however, an excellent total of 16 BROWN CREEPER reports, including several of more than 1 bird, -3 together at Camp Hill Cemetery, Halifax on Dec. 23 (Cohrs) and 5 at Millstream Rd., Hopewell, Dec. 29 (CBr). DJC commented that they were present in Lockeport in increased numbers compared to most winters.

One HOUSE WREN was seen (on the Brier Island CBC, RBS) and another was heard (on the Wolfville CBC, --BLM, JWT). Two MARSH WRENS were present, most unusual for a winter report: 1 at Broad Cove, Nov. 29 (JSC,BAH, SJF) and 1 at Rainbow Haven, Dec. 12 (BLM,ROF). Normally this species, marginal and rare at the best of time in our province, is indeed most frequently sighted in late fall and early winter.

There were only 3 reports of GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET this winter, from LSD in W. Pubnico, Nov. 29, JC in Petersfield, Dec. 3 and KFS in Apple River, Jan. 10--poor fare after the large wintering population of 1989-90. A few RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS made it as usual into early winter, but this year the latest was JWT's in Dartmouth on Dec. 10.

THRUSHES TO STARLINGS

EASTERN BLUEBIRDS wintered again in the same locations as last year. HJH, HGH report a flock of 5 males along the Flatiron Rd., Arcadia, with a large flock of American Robins, Jan. 30. Another flock, of 2 males and 5 female/imm. birds was found along Middle Dyke Rd., Sheffield Mills, Dec. 10 (RBS) and they stayed in the same general area for several days, seen at one point to be eating grapes (JWW). Three males and 2 females then resurfaced just up the road, at the Harwoods in Woodside, where they spent all last winter, on Feb. 9-10. Overwintering close to the breeding site is apparently quite common in this species, although most northerly populations move farther south for the winter. Nevertheless for two years running now small flocks have survived very low temperatures and heavy snowfalls in Yarmouth and King's Counties, and last summer was a banner year for breeding in the province. Hopefully we are seeing a true resurgence of the species.

A TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE was present at Apple River, Nov. 26 (KFS), after a small influx of this rarity in late fall. An excellent description was submitted.

Two HERMIT THRUSHES were reported, 1 by JWT in Woodlawn, Dec. 20 and 1 at Tribune Head on Jan. 22 (BSa, PM)—par for the course in winter.

Many people reported large numbers of AMERICAN ROBINS all over the province all winter. Not surprisingly they tended to be in flocks, and tended to be around berry trees and bushes, especially hawthorn and multiflora rose. Some noteworthy flocks included 350+ Petite Riviere, Jan. 1-7 (Cohrs), 100+ Petite Riviere, Jan. 15 (BLM et al., 120+ near Middleton, Jan. 21 (RBS), up to 100+ all late January and early February in Lockeport (DJC), "everywhere from Yarmouth to Baccaro Pt. and Cape Sable", Feb. 3 (HJH, HGH).

A splendid rare vagrant from the west, a VARIED THRUSH, was present at the Joudrey's house in Cherryfield, Lun. Co., from late January at least to mid-February. Most observers identified it as a female, but AAM, SSM wondered about it being an imm. male in view of the deep orange on the throat and wings, despite the light breastband.

There are only a handful of sightings of GRAY CATBIRD during the winter for the province, and this year one was present till December. Two at W. Pubnico (LSD) and 1 close by but even later, at L.W. Pubnico, Jan. 31 (RSD). Reports were received of 15 NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS from around the province all winter, a few less than the 25 reported last winter. BROWN THRASHERS were at feeders in Lockeport (DJC) from mid-December to early February, and in Falmouth Jan. 3 (JM, PK).

There were just 2 sightings of wintering AMERICAN PIPITS, 1 at Pucnico Pt., Jan. 6 (RSD) and 1 at Pond Cove, Brier Island, Feb. 27 (RBS). Incidentally there has in recent years been a reclassification of Pipits by taxonomists, and this is now in general use by the A.O.U. etc. "Our" usual Pipit, which was the Water Pipit, Anthus spinoletta, was in 1989 renamed the American Pipit, and the Latin name changed to Anthus rubescens, because of a taxonomic split involving what was thought to be a race of this species dwelling in Siberia. Just to confuse matters even more, what was the European race of this bird is still called Water Pipit, A. spinoletta, and the European race of this bird is still called Water Pipit, A. rubescens, the Ruff-bellied Pipit! So much for immutable classification!

It has been a good winter for BOHEMIAN WAXINGS. Many roving flocks were reported like the Robins often around hawthorn berries after late January. Examples included 110+ at Delaps Cove, Ann. Co., Jan. 22 (JGT), 300+ Lyons Brook, Feb. 6 (KJM,CGB), 79 at Sand Lake, Pt. Morien, C.B., Feb. 7-13 (CMU,AMU), 150 Greenwich, Feb. 10 (JWT), 50+ W. Wolfville, Feb. 22 (BBT), 200+ in Wolfville the same day (BBT). There were also exceptional numbers of CEDAR WAXWING for the season, this winter, often in mixed flocks with the Bohemians. Some examples included 100 in Wolfville on Jan. 4 (JWW), 85 at Avonport, Jan. 17 (AJV), 85 at Ross Rd., Jan. 16 (DWP,JAP), 70 near Annapolis Royal, Jan. 22 (JGT), and even 4 in the unlikely habitat of Sable Island (ZOL).

There were just 5 reports of NORTHERN SHRIKE, making it a non-irruptive year for this species.

As usual there were several reports of EUROPEAN STARLING, including one of 1,000+ resident at the B.I.O., Dartmouth (L&PP), but nothing so far to compare with the usual hordes that hand around some of the feed lots of the Canning/Middle Dyke/Port Williams area (36,268 on the Wolfville CBC this year).

--RBS, ed.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS

A rather late RED-EYED VIREO was reported from Canning, King's Co., on Nov. 3 (AAM,SMM).

Reports of single passing ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS came in from Tribune Head, Hfx. Co., on Nov. 16 (PML), Broad Cove on Nov. 29 (SJF,BAH), and Halifax on Dec. 3 (IAM) and Dec. 23 (JLC,JSC). Three widely-separated individuals persisted at feeders until the winter turned bitterly cold, feeding on such things as suet, chopped egg, fruit and even seed. One at Sydney stayed from Dec. 11 to Jan. 20 (AMU,CMU), a Lockeport bird lingered from Dec. 25 to Jan. 20 (DJC) and one in Halifax hung on from Dec. 23 to Jan. 30 (Cohrs).

An imm. "Audubon's" Warbler, a western race of the YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, was reported around Dartmouth on Sept. 20, with another imm. on Seal Island on Oct. 11 (ROF). Wintering "Myrtles" were hanging tough, with flocks of up to 20 or 30 reported, mostly in Hfx. Co., but also in the Pubnicos and on Sable Island. Though most reports were from early winter, 1 or 2 survived on Sable into February (ZOL), and the Purchases found 5+ at The Dikes, Hfx. Co., on Feb. 15.

The PINE WARBLER was also found in widely-scattered localities--Westmount, C.B. Dartmouth, Lunenburg, Wolfville, Boylston (Guys. Co.) and Blandford (Lun. Co.), with about 9 individuals accounted for. Though most sightings were in November and December, the Boylston bird was seen on Feb. 15 (KJM,CGB), the Blandford singleton on Feb. 28 (FLL) and 3 Dartmouth birds (2 males and 1 female) from Nov. 16 to deadline (JWT).

A late BLACKPOLL WARBLER was found at Egerton, Pic. Co., on Dec. 2 (CGB).

A COMMON YELLOWTHROAT was sighted at Hartlen's Pt. on Nov. 21 (PML,KJM,IAM), with another the following day near Pictou (KJM,CGB).

Two WILSON'S WARBLERS were found in Halifax--1 bright male seen from Nov. 29 to Dec. 2 (IAM), and 1 on Dec. 20 (LAC).

Two YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT reports round out the wintering warbler record--1 in Musquodoboit Harbour, Hfx. Co., on Nov. 20 (GRM), and 1 at Russell Lake, Dartmouth (that pre-development hot spot) on Dec. 4 (JWT).

--KNK, ed.

TANAGERS TO TOWHEE

On Dec. 2, Calvin Brennan discovered an ad. male WESTERN Tanager at Lr. Barney's River, Pic. Co. The timing of this individual is typical of several reports of this species in the province over the years. Unfortunately, this bird did not stay in the area and was not seen again.

NORTHERN CARDINALS have been fewer over the last two winters than previously. Only two records of over-wintering birds were submitted, both males, 1 at Freeport, Brier Island (IAM) and 1 on January 30 in Arcadia, Yar. Co. (JHJ,JGH).

A single BLUE GROSBEAK appeared briefly and periodically at Lisette d'Entremont's feeder from Oct. 15 through Nov. 1. The date for this female bird is not entirely out of line, but notably late. There were 5 DICKCISELS found during this reporting period, of which one at least managed to survive until mid-January. These birds were found in W. Pubnico, Nov. 1-4; Lr. Sackville, Nov. 18; Dartmouth and Terrence Bay on Nov. 22 and Grand Desert Station Rd., Hfx. Co. on Jan. 13.

RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEES were discovered at or near feeders from November until February. A male was seen by many obs. at the Black's feeder in Kentville throughout the period (RBS,JGT); a female was seen in New Glasgow from Dec. 19 through Jan. 30 (KJM,CGB); a male was located at E. Pennant on Dec. 15 (JWT) and an imm. male was found in Dartmouth on Feb. 7. These large "sparrows" seem to fair very well during our winters provided that the food source is adequate.

SPARROWS

AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were a relatively uncommon sight this winter. Although they were widely reported throughout the province, the flocks were of only 4-6 individuals. The largest flocks were of 25 at Argyle Sound on Dec. 9 (RSD) and Lr. Prospect on Dec. 26 (BDS,PML). There are several records of over-wintering CHIPPING SPARROWS this period. Up to 5 individuals were found coming regularly to feeders but only in Kings, Hants, Yar. and Cumb. Counties. There were two late records of CLAY-COLOURED SPARROWS. The first was 1 seen at Petite Riviere from Nov. 30 through Dec. 4 (Cohrs) and 1 was an imm. found by Angus and Stella MacLean near Sheffield Mills on Dec. 11. This rare sparrow is seemingly a more frequent visitor to this province and increasingly stays on longer into the winter months. There were six separate sightings of FIELD SPARROWS. The first, was 1 at W. LaHave at Don Linehan's feeder, seen on Dec. 22 and subsequently as late as Jan. 2. Others were of single birds: 1 at Cole Harbour, Dec. 27 (ROF); 1 at Boutilier's Cove on Jan. 9 (BLM); 1 at Chester on Jan. 11 (PAC); 1, Dartmouth, Jan. 16; and Salmon River Rd., Hfx. Co., Feb. 5 (C F).

A VESPER SPARROW was found during the Wolfville Christmas Count on Dec. 19 at Grand Pré and was last seen there on Jan. 11 (JWT). A second bird was found at Blandford on Jan. 28 (FLL). A beautiful LARK SPARROW began frequenting Lisette d'Entremont's feeder in W. Pubnico on Nov. 14 and was seen throughout December, January and until Feb. 5.

SAVANNAH SPARROWS were few this winter with birds seen only in four areas of the province. There were up to 20 at Sheffield Mills, Kings Co. Throughout December and January. Twenty-five (25), including just 1 "IPSWICH" race were found at Rainbow Haven (ROF,BLM) on Dec. 12. There were 9 at Pubnico Head, Yar. Co (RSD) and 1 at Apple River, Dec. 5-17 (KFS). A single observation of 2 SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS was submitted. This was at Rainbow Haven on Dec. 12 when ice and tide action concentrated a mixed flock of birds into a grassy area there.

There were very few FOX SPARROWS noted. Of the five records, three were during November. The later "hangers-on" were of 1 at Advocate from Dec. 14-22 (KFS,BAS,MSM) and one at Little Harbour, Shel. Co. (DHY). SONG SPARROWS were not at their usual wintering numbers according to most observations. Feeders were fortunate to have one bird regularly and to have as many as four was exceptional. In the Valley areas of Wolfville and Port Williams up to 35 were found in mid-December and the only other large numbers were of about 20 seen at Hartlen's Point on Jan. 22 (BDS,PML). To find a LINCOLN'S SPARROW during winter in Nova Scotia is very unusual but in recent years we have been seeing a few individuals attempting to over-winter. This time an imm. bird was located at a feeder in W. Pennant, seen by many obs. from Feb. 8-14.

Just a half dozen sightings of SWAMP SPARROWS were submitted for the period. One bird lingered on at Canning until at least Nov. 21. Other over-wintering birds included 1 at Cow Bay on Dec. 12; 3, possibly 4 at Hartlen's Point on Jan. 22; 2 at Little Harbour on Feb. 1 and 1 at Lockeport on Feb. 4. It was a good winter for WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS with birders noting these birds with more frequency than in recent years. As usual, most feeders attracted small groups of 2 to 8 birds. Two notable exceptions were "dozens" around the Crosby's feeder in Lockeport throughout the season and up to 15 at Lisette d'Entremont's feeder in W. Pubnico. It isn't every year that WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS are found during late Fall and Winter, but 3 separate individuals were found this year. Single immature birds were at Avonport from Nov. 14-25 and Greenwich on Nov. 19. Later, two immatures were found with a mixed flock of sparrows at Sheffield Mills on Dec. 12 and 13 (RBS,JGT).

DARK-EYED JUNCOS were very well reported. These endearing sparrows were abundant throughout the season with numbers from as few as 2 to as many as 45 at feeders all over the province. As happens when numbers like these show up, oddly marked or differing races occur with them. On Dec. 25, Raymond d'Entremont observed a junco with bright rusty brown sides and black lores which together with the pale overall appearance certainly suggest a "Pink-sided Junco" (*hyemalis mearnsi*). Other oddities were not one but two separate individuals in the Halifax area which sported white wing bars suggesting the larger, paler White-winged Junco. These two birds were probably not the genuine articles because they lacked other diagnostic features.

There were over 25 LAPLAND LONGSPURS at Grand Pré on Jan. 1 with other reports of fewer numbers seen at Cherry Hill, Rainbow Haven, Brier Island and Cheboque Pt.

SNOW BUNTINGS were scarce this winter. Flocks began arriving in November but these flocks were small and they did not stay in one area for long. They were virtually absent from the province during December, but as January progressed, there were more being seen until February, when the largest flocks were found. Flocks of 20-50 were normal but 100-250 individuals were found during late January and early February at Three Fathom Harbour, The Halifax International Airport, and Apple River.

ITRIDES

There were several wandering groups of blackbirds which included with them, RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS. Most reports were of 1-4 birds, either females or imm. males, with one exception, that of a group of 12 associating with Grackles, Cowbirds and Starlings in Timberlea throughout January, February and March. EASTERN MEADOWLARKS were well reported with 14 individual birds seen from late November until the end of January and all occurring in Yar. and Hfx. Counties. Raymond d'Entremont sighted 9 at a small marsh in Lr. W. Pubnico on Jan. 12. He also notes that they have once again returned after several years of absence, the absence possibly due to disturbance by all-terrain vehicles. Other sightings were at Rainbow Haven, Conrad's Beach and Yarmouth Airport.

A single RUSTY BLACKBIRD was discovered on Dec. 17 at Hopewell, Pic. Co. (CGB). A very interesting record of an ad. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD came from the Murrant's in Port Morien, C.B., who observed this bird at their feeder from Nov. 17 to 20. COMMON GRACKLES were uncommon with only a few sightings of over-wintering birds. There was at least 1 at Sheffield Mills and W. Pennant until late January and early February. Two (2) were making good use of the feeder on Sable Island from Dec. 22 to Feb. 16 and there were 5 in Timberlea throughout January and February. Generally BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were difficult to find, but there were several flocks found during December, January and February that were of note. Forty (40) were at a feeder at Martock on Dec. 31, about 30 at Sheffield Mills on Jan. 23 and 16 with Grackles and Red-wings in Timberlea during January and February.

A few NORTHERN ORIOLES made it at least until late January. The 2 birds that stayed on at the Purchase feeder in Cole Harbour were last seen on Jan. 11. One (1) was still in Dartmouth, near Woodlawn on Jan. 12 and 1 lingered in northerly Westmount, C.B. until Jan. 24. Lisette d'Entremont had up to 8 at her feeder in W. Pubnico throughout November and up to December 17.

FINCHES TO HOUSE SPARROW

It is safe to say that after two years of an almost total absence, PINE GROSBILLS have returned in fine fashion. These large, beautiful finches were found in nearly all areas of the province. Most spectacular were several flocks totalling over 350 in the Valley areas of Canning, Greenwich and Gaspereau during the period from Jan. 31 to Feb. 5. Other areas, not so fortunate, still had groups of 8-14 on a regular basis through the months of January and February. It wasn't a great winter for seeing PURPLE FINCHES anywhere in Nova Scotia. There were isolated groups of 2-5 gracing a few feeders from Yar. Co. to the Sydney area. The largest flock found was 15 seen during January in Lockeport (DJL). HOUSEFINCHES continue to be counted during winter in the Valley and southern areas of the province. There was a female in Port Williams during the month of December; a male was visiting a feeder in Canning during the same period. Three (3), a male and two females, were discovered along a roadside in Yarmouth by the Halls on Feb. 3 and Brad Amirault saw 6 in Digby on Jan. 7

Although neither crossbill species were a common occurrence this winter, RED CROSSBILL slightly edged out its close relative in sightings. They were found either singularly or in groups of up to 20 from Lockeport to Halifax County. There were no sightings for Northern and Eastern Nova Scotia. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were found in Lun. Hfx. and Pic. Counties. These counties each had one sighting. Lunenburg had 15 on Jan. 16 (WGC, CMR); a flock of 9 were found in Pictou at Middle River on Nov. 28 (KJM, CGB) and 2 were seen in Halifax on Nov. 19 (JCM).

Two sizable flocks of COMMON REDPOLLS were noted. The first was of about 20 at Evangeline Beach on Nov. 10 (AAM) and the second was of 30 on Jan. 3 at Up. Burlington, Hants Co., during the CBC there (JGT). Others sightings were of 1 or 2 in Lahave, Port Morien, Waverley and Green Bay. PINE SISKINS became apparent by the end of December in most areas. Although there were many sightings, the flocks were, on the whole, very small. Most feeder-watchers recorded only 1 or 2 as regular visitors with a few exceptions of 20-70 arriving to feast on niger seed. The largest flock was one of about 250 at Green Bay during the Broad Cove CBC on Jan. 30. AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES were much more numerous this year than in recent times. Flocks began arriving in December and seemed to settle in at feeders from Yarmouth to Cape Breton. Several observers remarked about the great numbers and it was not uncommon to see flocks of 100 during January and February.

EVENING GROSBILLS were not very well represented this winter, although there were reports from all areas except Yarmouth-Pubnico. The few birds that were seen arrived during the last days of December and increased slightly in numbers during January and February. Sixty (60) came to the Ross' feeder in New Ross during January, and 84 were found in the Cheverie-Burlington area on Jan. 3. Most other sightings were of much smaller numbers, making brief visits to feeders.

HOUSE SPARROWS were recently become a novelty at feeders being not unwelcome at all. Their reducing numbers in the province brings about much speculation as to the causes. One thought is that if the European starling has become the most numerous passerine, its dominance over nesting sights must certainly have a negative impact, especially on this species. Even on the farming areas of Hants and Kings Counties, where these birds have traditionally been common, only 76 were found on the Wolfville CBC and 61 were found on the West Hants Count.

--DAC, ed.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

for

the July, 1993 issue

May 30 , 1993

Bird Reports to the RECORDS EDITOR

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

Articles, sketches and letters to the EDITOR

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

Photographs to

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

NOTE:

The Editors of the Seasonal Bird Reports would like more reports of our COMMONER BIRDS. While rarities and strays are exciting, it is the population trends, scarcity or abundance of our resident and non resident but nesting species that show long-run trends. So please remember Black Ducks, Song Sparrows, Grackles and the like when sending in your sightings. The absence or low number of a usually common bird can be of importance. —Ed.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS ISSUE:

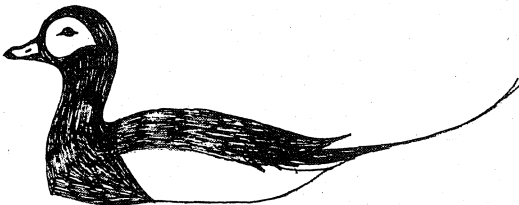
Amirault	Bradford	BJA
Boates	Sherman	SNB
Bondrup-Neilson	S.	SBN
Brennan	Calvin	CGB
Brennan	Harry & Jean	HJB
Bryce	Steve	STB
Caldwell	Cyril	CKC
Carpenter	Carol	CAC
Casselman	Karen	KLC
Casselman	Ted	TDC
Caudle	Bill	WGC
Codling	Don	DOC
Cohrs	John	JLC
Cohrs	Lisé	LAC
Cohrs	Shirley	JSC
Connell	Christine	CHC
Cretien	Jacqueline	JAC
Crocker	Paul	PAC
Crosby	Donna	DJC
Crossland	Greta	GRC
Currie	Dave	DAC
Dadswell	Mike	MID
d'Entremont	Lisette	LSD
d'Entremont	Raymond	RSD
D'Eon	Jerome	JKD
Dickie	Bob	RBD
Dickie	Gerry	GED
Dickie	Helen	HBD
Ducharme	Sophie	SOD
Duncanson	Lloyd	LLD
Eagles	Ev. & Ed.	EEE
Elderkin	Mark	MFE
Flecknell	Bob	BOF
Forsyth	George	GEF
Forsythe	Bernard	BLF
Foster	Jennifer & Jim	JJF
Foxall	Roger	ROF
Fullerton	Sylvia	SJF
Gates	Joy	JDG
Gonsalves	Jerry	JEG
Hall	Helen	HJH
Hall	Hubert	HGH
Hancock	Jim	JJH
Harwood	Avril & John	AJH
Hawkeswood	Mike	MIH
Hemeon	Ward & Phyllis	WPH
Hill	Sue	SLH
Hinds	Barbara	BAH
Jones	David	DLJ
Keddy	Keigh	KNK
Kenney	Margaret	MAK
Kochanoff	Peggy	PEK
Lavender	Don	DNL
Linehan	Don	DNL
Lucas	Zoe	ZOL
MacAulay	Judy	JUM
MacDonald	Gwen	GEM

MacDonald	Peter	PEM
MacKay	Pat	PAM
MacLean	Angus	AAM
MacLean	Stella	SMM
MacLeod	Peter	PML
MacNeill	Don	DAM
Matthews	Gerry	GRM
Maybank	Blake	BLM
McLaren	Ian	IAM
McConnell	Jane	JAM
McKenna	Ken	KJM
Mills	Eric	ELM
Mills	Maureen	MSM
Moore	Susan	SUM
Moores	Bernice	ABM
Morris	Bruce	BRM
Morris	Paul	PUM
Morrison	Ann	ANM
Morse	Jean & Bill	JBM
Murphy	Terry	TEM
Murrant	Allan	AMU
Murrant	Cathy	CMU
Newell	Reg	REN
Nickerson	Nancy	NAN
Payzant	Linda & Peter	LPP
Porter	B. A.	BAP
Purchase	Don	DWP
Purchase	Joyce	JAP
Reynolds	Irene	IRR
Richmond	Vicki	VIR
Ross	Christine	CMR
Sarty	Bev	BDS
Sheffield	Mable	MAS
Shepherd	Pippa	PHS
Smith	Amie	ARS
Smith	Helena	HES
Spalding	Fran	FRS
Spicer	Blaine	BAS
Spicer	Kathleen	KFS
Stern	Richard	RBS
Tabosko	Bob	BOT
Taylor	Jim	JWT
Thexton	Brenda & Bill	BBT
Thorpe	Deanne	BDT
Timpa	Jean	JET
Toews	Don	DPT
Trueman	Gerry	GMT
Tufts	David	DJT
Tufts	Judy & Gordon	JGT
Tutt	Kevin	KET
Urban	Eva	EVU
Vienneau	Azor	AJV
Waldron	Joan	JOR
Williams	Sherman	SHW
Wolford	Jim	JWW
Young	David	DHY

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

Yarmouth Co. (Yar. Co.)	Arcadia, Pinkney's Point, Tusket, Cranberry Head, Eel Brook, Chegoggin, Melbourne, Overton, all the Pubnicos, Glenwood, Dayton, Quinan
Shelburne Co. (Shel. Co.)	Cape Sable Is., Cape Sable, Matthews Lake, Lower Ohio, The Hawk, Seal Is., Sand Hills, Little Harbour Port L'Hebert W.
Queen's Co	Port Joli, Port L'Hebert E.
Lunenburg Co. (Lun. Co.)	Cherry Hill, Broad Cove, Petite Riviere, Green Bay, Crousetown, Crescent Beach
Halifax Co (Hfx. Co.)	Three Fathom Hbr., Conrad's Beach, Lawrencetown, Cole Hbr., Martinique Beach, Hartlen's Point, Oakfield Park, Laurie Park, Powder Mill Park, Chezsetcook
Colchester Co. (Col. Co.)	Economy, Glenholme
Annapolis Co. (Anna. Co.)	Wilmot, Round Hill, Paradise, Sandy Bottom Lake Annapolis Royal, Clementsport, Eleven Mile Lake
Kings Co.	Wolfville, Greenfield, Canard, Black River Lake, Gaspereau, Grand Pre, White Rock, Starr's Pt., Lumsden Reservoir
Cumberland Co. (Cumb. Co.)	Lusby Marsh, APBS*, Lorneville, Linden, Port Howe
Hants Co.	Shubenacadie, Noel Shore
Digby Co.	Brier Island
Guysborough Co. (Guys. Co.)	Hazel Hill
Cape Breton (C.B.)	Big Pond, C.B. Highland National Park (C.B.H.N.P.)

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



MEMBERS PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS

(Chickadee Trophy)

This year only twenty-four slides competed for the Chickadee Trophy, almost 50% fewer than last year. However, the rather disappointing lack of "quantity" was almost forgotten in light of the high "quality" of the entries that were received.

The three judges were: Fred Joyce, an accomplished nature photographer and long-time member of the Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia, Barbara Hinds and myself, Bev Sarty. Listed below, by category, are slides which received a score of 11 points or more:

Flight;

Pomarine Jaeger L. Payzant

Backyard:

Blue Grosbeak B. Maybank

Rarity:

Fork-tailed Flycatcher B. Maybank

Warbler/Vireo:

Cape May Warbler P. Payzant

Open:

Little Blue Heron R. Stern
 Mallard P. Payzant
 Savannah Sparrow A. Covert
 Sora C. Cornell
 "Ipswich" Sparrow B. Maybank
 Common Moorhen C. Spicer
 Great Blue Heron A. Covert
 Snowy Egret R. Stern
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 A. Covert

Top scoring slide in each category wins a one-year membership in N.S.B.S. The judges' task became a difficult one when two slides tied for top position. Since both were entered in the "OPEN" category, it was decided that the winner would, of course, receive the Chickadee Trophy, and the runner-up would receive the year's membership.

Richard Stern's stunning photo of a sunlit Snowy Egret poised against dramatic, steely-storm clouds, is the type of photo that immediately draws "oohs and aahs" from its viewers.

Small and fast, hummingbirds are technically a difficult subject for the photographer. Alan Covert's shot "oozed" with the vitality of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, yet succeeded at the same time in capturing the bird's fragile grace as it fed at gold-coloured lilies which complemented the delicate "feel" of the scene as a whole--congratulations, Alan, on your award-winning effort and, indeed, to all of the category winners.

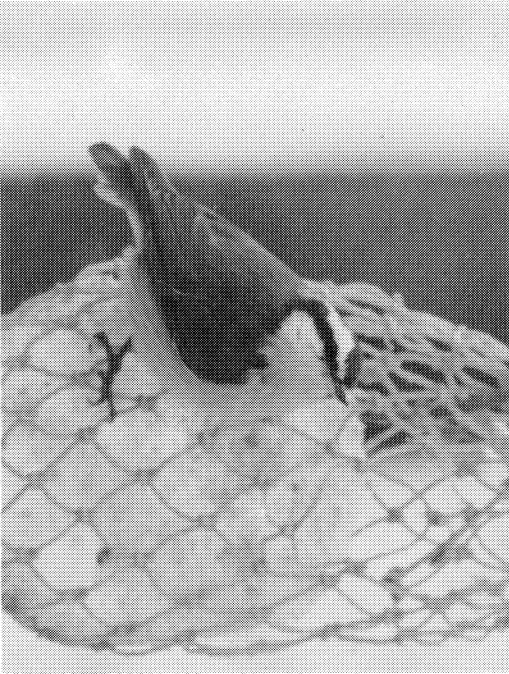
Thanks to all of you who took time to enter. Does anyone have any suggestions on ways to encourage more entries next year? The rules for next year's contest will probably be similar but there may be a change in some of the categories--watch the July issue for details.

Bev Sarty

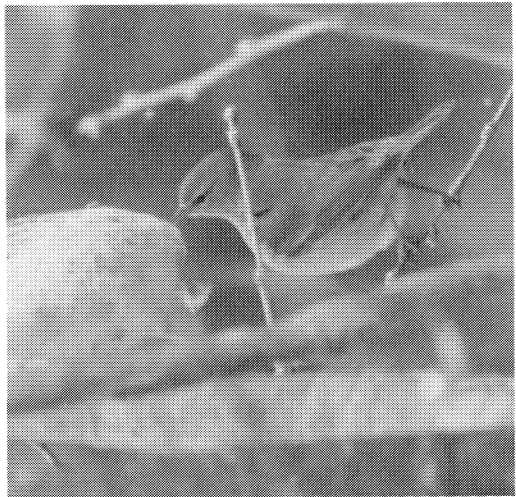


Linda Payzant submitted two pictures in the "flight category" of our recent photo competition. Her POMARINE JAEGER, frozen in flight with its twisted tail feathers very evident, won a first in the category, and her young BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, skimming the waves, was also much admired.





Donna Crosby stocks her parents' feeder in Lockeport, and it managed to attract some interesting visitors during January. With a borrowed camera, she got nice portraits of a RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH and an ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER. The latter is a first for these pages, and is identifiable, even in black and white, by its unmarked back, lack of wingbars, and weak supercilium plus eyering.



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

August 1--Economy Field Trip

Five participants braved the forecast of rainy weather to take part in the Economy Field Trip. The forecast proved true, few birds were seen, and everyone got soaked. Even the shorebirds that had been present a few days earlier were, for the most part not in evidence. The only plus to be squeezed from a very wet day was that one participant got a couple of lifers, a pair of Bay-breasted Warblers feeding young, and Sharp-tailed Sparrows in the marsh.

--Francis Spalding

November 16--Cape Perce--Cape Breton

In benign weather conditions on November 16, 1992, a keen group of members, led by Cathy Murrant, hiked from Schooner's Pond to North Head and back via David's Shortcut and a few later visited Glace Bay Sanctuary. Most of our time was spent looking for birds on the ocean. Migrating Northern Gannets, 2 Razorbills, and 2 Dovekies were the highlights. Numerous ducks including Oldsquaw, Red-breasted Mergansers and White-winged Scoters were seen. There were a number of lingering shorebirds. White-rumped Sandpipers were seen in three different spots and at Glace Bay there were Black-bellied Plovers, a Semipalmated Sandpiper, a Semipalmated Plover and Sanderlings. The hike back via David's Shortcut, through spruce woods and associated wet areas, added only about an hour to the walk, plus a few wet feet. Stops to view Pine Grosbeaks kept the group focussed on its goal of looking at birds as opposed to teasing the navigator.

--David McCorquodale

January 17--Riverside Eagles, Stewiacke

Weather and eagles co-operated. Members of the Bird Society were joined by members of the Cobequid Naturalist Club at Stewiacke. We probably turned the heads of residents as a parade of twenty-three vehicles travelled to the Berfelo farm at Riverside. Herman had baited his field early that morning and about 15 eagles were feeding or in queue along the Shubenacadie River or sitting on broken chunks of ice in the river. With the mild weather, we were able to comfortably walk down to the river's edge or view the river from the Caddell Rapids lookoff. Eagles on the river were interested in tomcod as were Common Mergansers, also present. A smaller group of people continued across the Gosse Bridge and walked to look at an eagle's nest.

--Ross Hall.

February 6--Second Annual Cape Breton Harbour Hop

It was cold on February 6, 1993. It was not a day to be comfortable, but if you wanted to freeze your eyes to your binoculars looking into the breeze off the ocean, conditions were ideal. Five hardy individuals toured Glace Bay Harbour, Glace Bay Sanctuary, including the power plant, Lingan power plant, Wentworth Park in Sydney and the Sydney River area. Ducks and gulls were concentrated in these areas, where there was food and open water. The highest concentration of birds was around the warm water outflow at Lingan. There were about 600 Greater Scaup, 300 Common Goldeneye, 200 Black Ducks, 75 Red-breasted Mergansers, 50 Great Cormorants, plus Common Mergansers, Oldsquaw, a Bald Eagle, along with hundreds of Herring, Great Black-backed and Iceland Gulls and about 20 Common Black-headed Gulls. Black Ducks were numerous at all locations, while Mallards were concentrated in the parks where they are fed by people. Two different American Wigeon were seen, a female at Glace Bay and a male in Wentworth Park. The highlight at Sydney River was 3 male Barrow's Goldeneye amongst the Common Goldeneye, Common Mergansers and Black Ducks.

David McCorquodale

Unfortunately no reports were received from either of the Sewer Strolls. I wonder if they went? I wonder if they saw anything? --Ed.

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. 24 Lingering Winter Birds--Cape Breton
Leader: Andrew Gingell (562-0012)
meet at the old site of the Heavy
Water Plant, Glace Bay at 8:00 a.m.
- Sat. 24 Owl Prowl--Brooklyn Leaders: Fulton
Lavender (477-7808) and Jim Taylor
(434-8516). Meet at Church's Esso
Station, Corner Rte 236 & 215, approx.
1/2 mile north of Brooklyn, which is
off Rte 14, Exit 5 on Hwy 101 at 7:00
p.m.
- Sun. 25 Wolfville Area Leader: Jim Wolford
(542-7650) Pond hopping for ducks and
early migrants. Meet at 10:00 a.m.
at the Robie Tufts Nature Ctr., Front
St., Wolfville. Joint trip with the
Blomidon Naturalist Society.

MAY

- Sun. 2 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 104 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 waterfowl,
shorebirds and early migrants.
- Sat. 8 Eastern Shore. Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-7808). Meet at the old
- Sat. 15 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.
- Wed. 19 Halifax County Warbler Walk. Leader: Fred Dobson (852-3042) Meet at
the parking lot at the junction of the Prospect Rd., Rte 333 and the
St. Margaret's Bay Rd. at 6:00 a.m.; 2-3 hours duration.
- Fri. to Mon. Bon Portage Island. Leader: Bob McDonald (443-5051). Meet at the
21-24 wharf in Shag Harbour, May 21 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a charge for
crossing and accommodation. Bring food, drinking water, sleeping bags
and necessary clothing and footwear. Reservations are necessary.
Depart the island at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24.
- Sun. 23 Hopewell Area (Pic. Co.). Leader: Harry Brennan (923-2780). Meet at
St. Columbia Churchyard, about 1 mile south of Hopewell at 8:00 a.m.
General birding, Saw-whet Owl and Barred Owl possible--excellent for
beginners.
- Wed. 26 Kearney Lake Early Morning Warbler Walk. Leader: David Currie
(876-8745). Meet at Hammond's Plains and Kearney Lake Rd inter-
section at 6:00 a.m.

- Sat. 29 Warbler Walk--Peters Field Park, Sydney, C.B. Leader: Jackie Cretien (564-4640) meet at the Sydney River Shopping Centre at 8:00 a.m.
- Sat. 29 Hants County Day. Leader: Marg. Clark (443-3993). Meet at the railway crossing in Mt. Uniacke at 8:00 a.m. Observe abundant bird-life in a variety of habitats. This trip extends well into the afternoon.
- Sun. 30 Shubenacadie Area. Leader: Roslyn MacPhee (758-3265). Meet at 6:00 a.m. in front of Scotts Restaurant in Shubenacadie.

JUNE

- Sat. 5 Dalem Lake Provincial Park, C.B. Leader: Dave McCorquodale (794-2172) Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the North Sydney Mall.
- Sat. 4 Argyle Islands Bird Colonies (Yar. Co.) Leader: Ted D'Eon (H-762-2097) (W-1-762-2793). Tern colonies, including Roseate, Great Blue Heron, gulls and Eiders. Meet at Abbot's Hbr. Wharf in M.W. Pubnico at 8:00 a.m. Lobster fishing boat can accommodate up to 30-35 (cost \$10-\$15) Reservations necessary.
- Sun. 6 Birds of the Kentville Area. Leader: Richard Stern (678-1975) Meet at Cornwallis Inn Parking Lot, Kentville at 8:00 a.m. Beginners especially welcome, bring a lunch.
- Sun. 13 Tancook Island. Leader: Bill Caudle (766-4465) for information call before 9:00 p.m. Friday 11. Arrive at Chester at 9:30 a.m. for parking Ferry leaves for Tancook Island at 10:00 a.m. and returns at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Bring a lunch etc. Joint effort with the South Shore Naturalist Club. No need to register for this one.
- Sat. 19 Eddy Marsh, Maccan, Cumb. Co. Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-7808) Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Fort Laurence Rd. Exit 1 TCH 104 (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.
- Sun. 20 Big Day--Cape Breton Leader: Cathy Murrant (737-2684) Meet at 6 a.m. at Cathy Murrant's house, Sandlake Road, Port Morien. A Christmas Bird Count in June.

JULY

- Sun. 4 Bird Island Tour Cape Breton. Leader: Cathy Murrant (737-2684). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Bird Island Boat Tours, Big Bras d'or. Must register 4 days in advance with leader (\$17.50/person for 15 people or more) See Razorbill Auk, Atlantic Puffin, Black Guillemot, Black-legged Kittiwake, all on their nests and in the water.
- Sun. 25 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. Bring a lunch.
- Sat. 31 North River--Cape Breton. Leader: Nancy More (828-2534). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Cape Breton Shopping Centre, Sydney River.

AUGUST

- Sat. 7 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. 14 Fuller's Bridge--Belfry Beach, Cape Breton. Leader: Dave McCorguodale (794-2172). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Marion Bridge.
- Sat. 14 Yarmouth Area. Leader: Eric Ruff (H-1-742-8145)(W-1-742-5539). Meet at the CPR Station at 8:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and suitable footwear for rocky and wet walking.
- Sun. 22 Eastern Shore--PRESIDENT'S FIELDTRIP. Leader Carol MacNeill (454-5337). Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Martinique Beech, first parking lot. Bring boots for some wet walking and lunch.

EXTRAESPECIALLY FOR BEGINNERS

There will be several Field Trips suitable for beginners in the Port Dufferin area on June 11, 12 and 13. For details please call Blake Maybank at 852-2077.

ATTENTION LEADERS: YOU ARE REMINDED TO SEND A FIELD TRIP REPORT TO THE EDITOR of **Nova Scotia Birds**, Nova Scotia Bird Society, c/o Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N. S. B3H 3A6.



BON PORTAGE--THEN

Shirley Cohrs

Nowadays, Bon Portage Island, from early spring to late fall, is a busy little place. It is owned by Acadia University, and their Biology Department operates a field station there. University staff, students, Department of Environment personnel, and several large, organized birdwatching trips keep the place (only three kilometers by one half kilometer) humming and well covered with people. Boats tend daily with people and supplies. Something is always going on, day or night (some of the experiments are done during the dark hours). In 1975, when I first visited the island, it was quite different--it was indeed an "Island of Desire".

Bon Portage had fascinated me ever since I had read Evelyn Richardson's **We Keep a Light**, the story of a young couple who tended the light and brought up a family of three during the depression without either much money, or the amenities taken for granted today. It was obvious that Evelyn and her Husband Morrill loved their island in all it's moods and her writing about each beloved pond and cove made me long to see it all.

Then I found **Living Island**, her later book written after her family were grown and after she had discovered birdwatching. That did it--I just had to go. I knew from the last chapter that Evelyn and Morrill had retired to Barrington and as she was a member of the Bird Society, I was able to get her address and write to her for permission and advice about logistics. Almost by return mail came a letter from Evelyn explaining the travel arrangements but also telling me that she and Morrill, when they left the island, had given it to Acadia University. I must write to the President, Dr. Beveridge, for permission to land. This I did and received an encouraging reply in which he said it was a very good idea and requested a copy of any bird sightings I might make.



BON PORTAGE SHORELINE

So on a Thanksgiving Saturday morning in 1975, my husband John and I were set ashore by Bradford Shand of Wood's Harbour. It was a beautiful sunny day with a light breeze and a calm enough sea to get our gear ashore to the very small slipway without any disasters or soakings. Mr. Shand took off and there we were, alone except for the lightkeeper. There was next to no clearing in the brush near the slip—just room enough for our two small tents—one for us and one for supplies.

These had to include drinking water—in fact all the water we'd need, as there was no well other than at the light, and no drinkable stream. As we unpacked and set up camp, we were surrounded by birds, mainly warblers and sparrows. We decided to gulp down a quick lunch and start on our walk around the isle.

As we proceeded up the path to the light, we saw hundreds of the commoner warblers with one or two exotics thrown in to keep us busy—and thousands of Myrtle Warblers (as they were then called and always will be by me!) Progress was understandably slow. At the light there was no one to be seen. We knew from Evelyn that Bubby Nickerson was the keeper and we had hoped to meet him and say hello, but all was quiet in the strong sunlight. I was completely bemused, my attention divided between the many birds, and all the familiar (from my reading) landmarks. We passed the Lighthouse Pond where the Richardson children had skated in winter and "boated" in summer turning past the southerly tip of the island to proceed down the west side. Seal Island could be seen in the far distance, with many Gannets diving in the waters between. We passed Red Bank and Kelp Cove where we encountered several hundreds of Water Pipits. They were impossible to count as they rose in clouds and settled again, sometimes behind and sometimes ahead of us. Guillemots and Common Eiders were all around the offshore. It was low tide but we were surprised to see no shorebirds on the sandy beach. The first of these seen was in Woody Pond, at the end of Kelp Cove. It turned out to be a Lesser Yellowlegs swimming and spinning in the water pretending to be a phalarope. On the bank of the pond stood a Little Green (Green-backed) Heron.

Just as we approached Northern Point, we encountered the cows—about a dozen large reddish beasts, quite benign but raggy looking, like highland cattle. They had, by custom, been brought on by boat in the spring to spend the summer free-grazing on the island. Presumably they were about ready to be taken off, for they had already grown rough winter coats. We took a path through the boggy area of stunted trees and swamp grasses—Evelyn's gooseberry and bakeapple picking place—and came out at Saltwater Pond.



TREES BEHIND THE BERRY PATCH

There were the shorebirds, hundreds of them--Dunlin, White-rumped Sandpipers, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plovers and Sandpipers, Yellowlegs, and a few Knots. Even as we watched and identified them they rose in a panic as a Peregrine Falcon came out of the spruce and dived among them. He missed and returned to the trees. The shorebirds returned but were understandably agitated, their groupings changing constantly. As we looked on, back came the falcon for another pass, an unforgettable sight.

Reluctantly tearing ourselves away we turned south again to begin our walk down the eastern side back to camp. According to both books, the two small ponds here were a good place for ducks. Indeed, there they were, both Blue and Green-winged Teal and a few Blacks as well. The walk from North East Pond to the slip is the hardest part of the island to navigate. None of the island is easy to walk on. Here and there is a short path, and occasionally there is a bit of beach if the tide is low. To get around most of the rest one must walk on the rocky berm. Inside the berm is mostly swamp, grassy tussocks, surrounded by deep holes full of water, and outside the berm, beach rocks. This "berm" consists of turf, studded with round cobble rocks and covered with pieces of smashed lobster pots and other flotsam, including bits of wire and wood studded with nails. An hour or two of this type of walking can punish the feet, especially if unsuitably shod. Ever since this first and many subsequent trips to the island, our family expression for sore, aching toes and bruised heels is "Bon Portage feet". This last piece of shore is particularly difficult and was slow going with eyes on the ground, then a halt to look for birds then eyes earthward once more.

On this glorious sunny day it took two hours to walk the two kilometers back for the "path" was full of sparrows--hundreds of sparrows--as well as more Pipits and Myrtles. The majority of these were Chipping, Song and Savannah Sparrows but there were a hundred or more White-crowned both adult and immature, many White-throated, a few Fox, and three Lincoln's. We also identified a Clay-coloured which was a lifer for both of us.

It was dusk when we got back to the tents and by the time supper was ready we could enjoy it looking across the water to the glittering lights on the mainland. It was a clear night with the stars hanging low as we turned into our sleeping bags with no foreboding of the weather that was on the way.

It was overcast in the morning but not cold, so after breakfast we decided to return to Northern Point, (sore feet or no). It was only 7:30 so the tide would not be full (low tide the previous afternoon had been about 4:00 p.m.). Also the sparrows beckoned. As it looked a bit threatening we took rain gear with us just in case.

We were viewing the shorebirds when it began to rain, quite gently at first and then heavily. We retreated to the trees behind the berry-picking area and were joined there by the cows. The wind sprang up and inside half an hour was blowing hard. It looked as though it might last sometime so we decided that it was no good lurking in the trees, we might as well get back to the tents.

On emerging onto the beach, we were shocked at the force of the wind. John said, "gale force at least". We staggered down the "path" directly into the wind. It was difficult to see as the rain was blowing horizontally and it was advisable to keep the mouth shut, as the force of the gusts drove the air from the lungs. I weighed about a hundred pounds at that time and found it difficult to make much forward progress, indeed, when the gusts came I found it hard to even stand and had to drop to my knees now and then. I'm sure that John thought I was going to blow away to sea for he kept a tight clamplike grip on one arm as we made our slow progress "home". We had, of course, put on our rain gear but we needn't have bothered as the rain was forced through the seams and we were soaked underneath.

About eleven o'clock we reached camp--two collapsed tents in a puddle of water. There was an ancient Cape Island boat drawn up on the slip and into this we crawled for shelter. Fortunately it wasn't cold, just wet, wild and nasty. Fortunately too, the storm didn't last long and by noon the rain had stopped, a pale sun came out and the wind diminished to a light breeze.

We made our way up to the lighthouse and finally met Mr. Nickerson who was extremely surprised to see us not knowing that anyone was on the island. Over a mug of tea he told us that we had experienced a hurricane and that the wind force on the lighthouse anemometer had reached 85 miles per hour (approximately 125 kilometers). We were suitably impressed but still very wet, so we made our way back to the camp and began to dry out.

We took off all our clothes (replacing only the rain gear for decency's sake) and draping them, together with the sleeping bags over the huge pile of wrecked lobster pots that lined the beach. The sun and breeze dried them out by teatime and we thankfully crawled into them--rain gear worn next to the skin is not recommended. As indefatigable birder's should, we looked around until dusk but found that almost all the birds had gone. Few sparrows, no warblers, it was all very quiet. We made a huge bonfire of lobster traps (beyond repair) and driftwood and spent a pleasant evening finishing off our supplies both solid and liquid and doing up bird lists before struggling exhausted into our still somewhat damp sleeping bags.

Next day confirmed the dearth of birds. Of the many hundreds before the hurricane there were just a few Myrtles and Savannah Sparrows gleaning along the path. The day was gray and colder so that we did not have too many regrets when the boat came to take us off.

We have returned to Bon Portage many times since 1975, always in good company and always seeing exciting birds, but no trip can match that first experience. I thrilled to see all the places Evelyn had loved and all the places where she had found her "rare and incredible" birds. I enjoyed the feeling of remoteness and thought of those who even before the Richardsons came, had struggled to make a life on such a rugged shore.

Bon Portage then was still a solitary magic isle full of ghosts and birds and memories.



SALTWATER POND FROM THE SEA

--looking inland

A SIGHT RECORD OF AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER IN NOVA SCOTIA

Roger A. Foxall

On Sunday, August 9, 1992, my son Andrew and I took the morning whale-watching cruise out of Westport, Brier Island, Nova Scotia. The weather was sunny, with some high cloud, and very calm. For almost the entire trip the water was so calm as to have a glassy appearance, reflecting the few clouds clearly. Although such conditions are excellent for watching whales, it is not so good for watching shearwaters, which depend on waves for their dynamic soaring. Cetaceans were plentiful, particularly Atlantic White-sided Dolphins. Other species were Humpback and Minke Whales and Harbour Porpoise. Bird numbers were not high. Besides about 5,000 phalaropes (roughly equal numbers of Red and Red-necked), there were about 30 Greater Shearwaters, 2 Manx Shearwaters, about 10 Gannets, 2 immature Atlantic Puffins, 1 Murre (sp), 2 Arctic Terns, and one bird which, on the basis of the following account, was identified as an Audubon's Shearwater, *Puffinus Therminiere*. All observations described below were made using 10 x 25 Leitz Trinovid compact binoculars.

At about 11:45 a.m. the boat was about five miles east of Northern Light, heading back towards Westport. As we approached a feeding flock of phalaropes, I noticed amongst them a small, seemingly all dark shearwater at rest. The bird flushed as the boat approached to within about 75 metres, and flew about 300 metres before it settled ahead of the boat. Again the boat approached and flushed the bird at about 50 metres. This time it flew off at a 45 degree angle to my right before settling again. No further observations were possible. A complete description follows:

When settled, the profile of the bird from a side view was very compact, reminiscent of a teal, with a relatively small head. The back, wings, crown, hindneck, and sides of the head to just below the eye were a uniform blackish-brown; the cheeks, throat, foreneck and sides of the underparts were a dull white. The boundary between the dark side of the face and the white cheek was diffuse, not sharp.

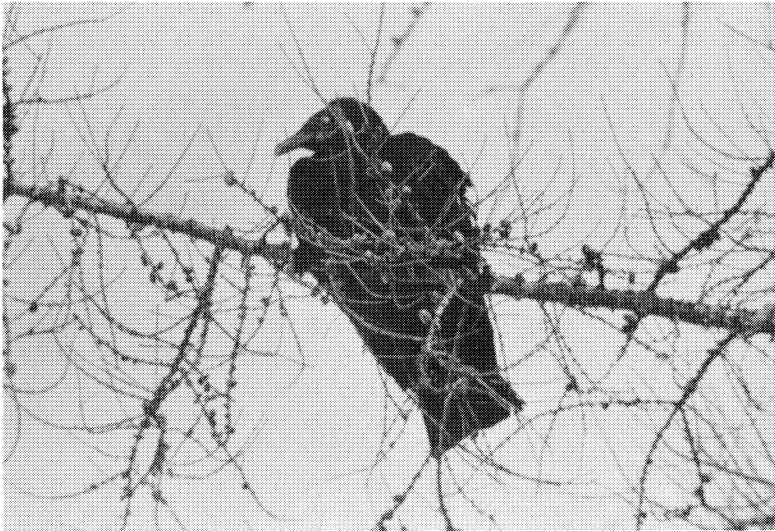
My impressions of the bird in flight were its smaller size compared to Manx Shearwater (two of which had been seen a few minutes earlier), the reasonably uniform blackish-brown upper surfaces of the wings, rump and tail (not black as in Manx), an obviously long tail (which seemed out of proportion to the wingspan), and an overall dingy appearance compared to the immaculate black and white contrast typical of a Manx Shearwater. There were some irregular paler brown areas in the outer wings, which may have been pale primary shafts. The tips of the tail feathers were clearly visible, giving a ragged appearance to the end of the tail.

Each time it flew, the flight consisted of about fifteen quite rapid (compared to Manx and Greater Shearwaters) wingbeats followed by a brief glide with the wings held horizontally.

Because the bird flew horizontally very close to the water surface, the complete underwing surfaces were not seen. It did, however, bank away from me at one point, giving me a view of one side of the bird. Dark feathering extended as an irregular line from the side of the head and neck, through the axillars (separating the white belly from the white undercoverts of the wing) and flanks to what seemed to be dark undertail coverts (although the latter were not seen well due to the angle of observation).

The combination of field marks noted above is consistent with Audubon's Shearwater and eliminates similar species (two forms of Little Shearwater and three forms of Manx Shearwater—nominate, Balearic and Yelkoan) at all likely to be present in north Atlantic waters. However, the dark axillars are problematic. According to Palmer's **Handbook of North American Birds**, and Blake's **Manual of Neotropical Birds**, the narrow dark band through the axillars is expected in Audubon's, but is not mentioned for either Little or the nominate subspecies of Manx. Photographs and various other sources do not show or refer to dark axillars in Audubon's, although they are mentioned for Balearic/Yelkoan (which average larger than the nominate Manx). This discrepancy may reflect variation within Audubon's Shearwater, or the occurrence of an unexpected subspecies.

There are few records of Audubon's Shearwater in Canada. The first (and the only specimen record) was of a bird referable to the Panamanian subspecies **loyemilleri** found dead at Almonte, Ontario, on September 8, 1975 (**Birds of Canada**, W. E. Godfrey). Previous sight records for Nova Scotia are of one on Western Bank, October 7, 1979, and one in the Gulf of Maine on August 27, 1980 (**Birds of Nova Scotia**, 1986). A subsequent record was of one in the Gulf of Maine on September 13, 1992 (Alan Ruff, **vide** Ian McLaren).



Hopefully better portraits will be forthcoming of the Green Bay BLACK VULTURE, but this photo shows it as a number of us added it to our Nova Scotia lists on Jan. 15. It was clumsily perched on a ragged tamarack, and seemed to be "wall-eyed" on the left—not a pretty sight. Evidently this was a temporary condition, as its eye was fully open later in the morning. Photo Ian McLaren.

20 YEARS AGO

N.S.B.S. in 1972-73

Christmas Counts

Twenty-nine (29) were done, including some that are no more, like Port Hood, Salmon River, St. Peters, Northport, Bass River, Digby, Chester, Wedgeport and Port Clyde

Two counts had single compilers: Wedgeport (Isreal Poithier) and Port Hebert (Ralph Widrig).

Other Activities

The President's Field Trip at Brier Island (Pres. Eric Cooke) was a resounding success with 112 species counted.

At the A.G.M. the dues were raised from \$2.00 to \$4.00, due to the increasing inflation rate!! (originally the dues were \$1.00-- Ed.)

The new executive for 1973-74 was

President	Roger Pocklington
Vice President	Jim Elliott
Secretary	Fred Dobson
Treasurer	Hazel Carmichael
Membership	Ethel Crathorne
Editor	Phyllis Dobson
Cape Breton	
Branch Rep.	Archie Levy
Directors	Eric Mills
	Ross Anderson

Field Trips that year were numerous--only the following remain today:

Prospect Road led by Fred Dobson
 Hants Co Day led by CRK Allen (and now by Margaret Clark)
 Brier Island led by Ross Andersen and Eric Mills
 April Trip to Heavy Water Plant, Glace Bay led by George Spenser (now Andrew Gingell)

An article entitled "Feeder Report" with no name beneath (but the odds are it was P.R. Dobson) ends with a reckoning of profit and loss:

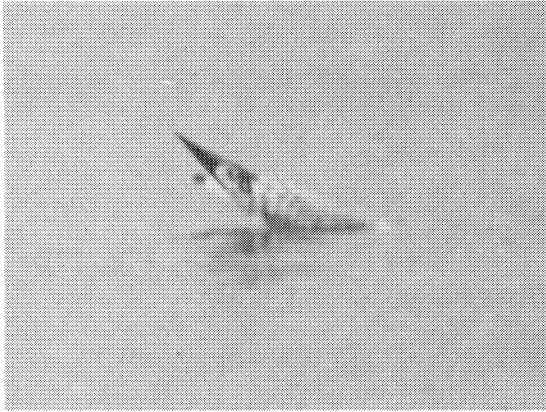
Debit

- Cost of 300 lbs. of sunflower seed and 150 lbs. of small bird seed
- Time spent replenishing feeders and in sweeping snow from same and from the ground below
- Time spent watching the doings of our customers--time which could have been spent more usefully in duller pursuits

Credit

- Healthful exercise in servicing feeders
- A few additions to the store of lore on bird behavior
- Alibi for not taking constructive notes
- Opportunity to exercise oneupmanship on proprietors of other feeding stations

MYSTERY BIRD WINNER

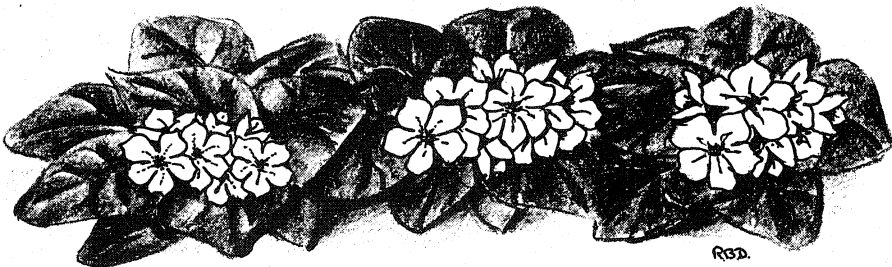


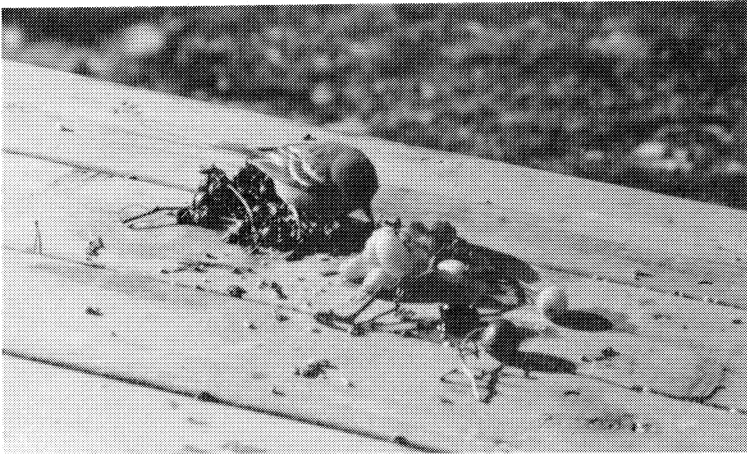
Identification: No winner. Answer: Bonapartes Gull (Kittiwake, Mew Gull and Ring-billed Gull were some of the good tries)

Captions: Winner: Karen Casselman--"But you said I could be Puffin-of-Year.

Runners up: "I'll never get this darned drownproofing right"
 "I came in on a wing--now for the prayer"
 "It's a bird, it's a plane...it's a bird?"

And from one who knew what it was..."I normally only hide one wing" (Figure that one out !)





Lisette d'Entremont had as many as 8 NORTHERN ORIOLES at her feeder during November through mid-December. Her photograph shows one demolishing locally grown (small, dark) and store-bought grapes on her patio.



Richard Stern's portrait of a Bald Eagle at Sheffield Mills in January shows its noble expression--or is it just indigestion?

SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

DIRECTORS 1992-1993



Left to right: Dave Currie (Treasurer), Eric Cooke (Director), Alan Covert (Secretary), Shirley Cohrs (Director), Ken Gregoire (Chairman)

HAWK MOUNTAIN BECOMES A SANCTUARY

Maurice Broun

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Word of the annual hawk slaughter reached conservationists, and, in 1934, under the guiding spirit of Rosalie Edge, nearly 1,400 acres of mountaintop and forest were purchased for \$2.50 an acre. But would the new Hawk Mountain Sanctuary become a sanctuary in fact? Mrs. Edge hired a young ornithologist named Maurice Broun, who, with his wife Irma, was destined to spend over three decades on the mountain. Here Broun recalls that first dicey autumn, when about the only weapons he had to use against the shooters were bluff and bad weather.

Dreherstown (we found) was a cluster of tidy houses surrounding a tiny church. Hardly a soul was in sight. Hushed tranquility, deep repose, the feeling that all was well with the world pervaded the little village. This was not at all what we had anticipated; this was alien to what we had read about: blood and thunder, and swarms of gun-toting men.

I decided that we had better run into Schuylkill Haven, some twelve miles toward Pottsville, to call on the real estate agent. We had hoped to learn from him about the mountain. We also needed quantities of "no trespassing" posters.

My first act in Schuylkill Haven was to phone four local newspapers, requesting each to carry a notice, for three successive days, announcing the new status of the mountain property, that it was henceforth an inviolate wildlife sanctuary, and that the trespassing laws would be enforced. Then we called on Gordon Reed, the agent for the property. Oh, yes, he knew all about the mountain and all about the hawk-shoots; and he succeeded in filling us with gloom. I told him that I was about to put up "no trespassing" posters along the road, especially at the beginning of the trail that led through the woods to the shooting stands. When we parted, Mr. Reed suggested, "After you get your posters up, take my advice and **scram!**"

Early morning found me putting up posters along the rocky road. Where did the bound of the property run through the woods? Not even the neighboring owners could tell exactly. Five years later a costly survey revealed to us the extent of the 1398 acres. For the time being, it was necessary to post both sides of a stretch of road one and a half miles; for the road, a public thoroughfare, bisected the Sanctuary. It was dreadfully hot. I was surprised that no hunters had come. I did not know that it was too early in the season, nor did I realize that the hawk-hunters knew just when to flock the mountain.

By mid-afternoon the lonely road flaunted posters every few yards. A local game warden, apparently startled by my newspaper notices which had just been printed, came to find out what it was all about. The warden tried to impress me with the utter futility of my job. "Wait till the coalminers from Tamaqua come along; then you'll see," he warned me. While we argued, two carloads of hunters drove up—the vanguard. There was much gutteral, explosive language from the visitors. But they left the mountain, bewildered, to say the least. In the days to follow, I was to meet many such men, many of whom I tried to reason with as to why hawks should not be killed indiscriminately. Generally, these men were irritated, unwilling to listen. The game warden, a man named Jones, concluded his visit with the statement that I had the hardest job on my hands that I'd ever have in my life. "you can't stop those guys from shooting hawks up here," he said, despite the fact that I had already done so, before his eyes!

It suddenly came to me that, after all, in spite of our right, our duty to stop the hawk-shooting, we were, from the standpoint of the hunters, meddling outsiders, and as such we were bound to arouse indignation. Of course, it did not matter to the hunters that most of the hawks also came down from New England and New York. Did they ever give a thought to the rights of others?

Before the close of the day I prepared a thousand word statement--"A New Deal for Hawks"--defending the action of the Emergency Conservation Committee in leasing the mountaintop to prevent the killing of hawks. It hammered out the theme of unjust persecution and the economic importance of the hawks. Every trip up and down the mountain was agony to tires, but I sent the article off the same evening to three local newspapers, whose combined circulation exceeded 200,000. The article promptly appeared in print, and was copied in other newspapers, as far away as Scranton.

Daybreak of our third day on the mountain found me patrolling the road. I was anxious to see some hawks, but was utterly ignorant of the hawk-flights and their modus operandi. And naively, I expected to see hunters at that ridiculous hour. During the night someone had ripped off most of the "no trespassing" posters.

As I patrolled the road that day, replacing posters, I was impressed with the countless numbers of old cartridge shells scattered along a quarter-mile stretch of road above the present entrance to the sanctuary. In the early afternoon I was thrilled to see my first flight of hawks, some fifty birds, including three bald eagles, three peregrine falcons, a few broad-wings and sharp-shins, all passing fairly low over the road.

During the day three more cars came up, with seven inquiring faces, and shotguns ready for business. But they departed promptly. One of the men made a slurring remark about the "New York chiselers going to hog all the shooting."

The following morning I found that every one of my sixty-odd posters along the road had been removed. It began to rain, for which I rejoiced, since no one was likely to venture up the mountain to make trouble. I drove into Hamburg, the nearest large town, to obtain more posters, and to make contact with game wardens and the State Police. I thought, naively, that I could obtain official protection on weekends. I went over to the police barracks and learned that the police had their hands full with strikes in the local industries.

The weekend was upon us. I drove up the mountain after breakfast and in a drizzling rain I managed to nail up an entirely new set of posters. The weather cleared in the early afternoon. A few hawks passed low over the road. Only two cars appeared, each emptying gunners--five in one car. These men asked if they could walk to the pinnacle, and I allowed them to do so, without their guns. Returning, an old man in the group had this to offer: "A fellow doesn't want a gun up there; he should bring a pair of field glasses and a camera." These were the first heartening words I had heard on the mountain since our arrival.

Sunday brought raw, nasty weather, which suited me immensely. At 5 a.m. I was at my post of duty on the mountain road, expecting hunters and the promised trouble. Nothing happened, except the weather, and obligingly it poured all through the day.

Looking back on those early, disquieting experiences, I marvel at our great good luck with the weather. Providentially, torrents of rain fell on three successive weekends, and the anticipated hordes of hawk-killers did not materialize. The game wardens had warned me, however, that early October would bring plenty of hawks and plenty of trouble in the form of toughs from the coal region.

Mrs. Edge and her son Peter came out to the mountain in the middle of the second week to see how everything had been going. The situation was well in hand, and we had had no trouble--not yet--but it behooved us to engage a deputy sheriff, I advised Mrs. Edge. Obviously we must secure the services of someone who was authorized to make arrests, if necessary. I had already begun to cast around for the right man and, through the help of a sympathetic notary in a nearby town, I hoped to engage Bob Kramer, if Mrs. Edge approved. She did. The cost of maintaining Kramer for ten weeks was another worry for Mrs. Edge, but she did not hesitate. Bob Kramer, of nearby Auburn, a sturdy man of forty-two, good-humored and dependable, possessed an important weapon which I lacked: the Pennsylvania Dutch tongue. He had been engaged in police work for years. Kramer would have agreed to work for us on weekends only, but we took him on daily, beginning the end of September. I also engaged a surveyor, who successfully determined our important west boundary, the one nearest the hunters of Dreher'sville.

Meanwhile, I continued my vigil, day after day, at the entrance to the sanctuary, where few hawks are seen unless the wind is in a southerly quarter. All sorts of men with high-powered rifles and shotguns came to indulge in the old "sport", only to learn that on **this** mountain it was a thing of the past. A few hunters came from New Jersey, and two from Delaware. My tongue wagged incessantly those first few weeks. It was no fun trying to convince those men of the folly of shooting hawks. Many were surly, and some went off with with pent-up truculence. My only weapons that entire season was a ready tongue and a bold front--under which I sometimes quailed! But Kramer had a gun which was respected.

The evening of the seventeenth two young men said they had been gunning few miles up the ridge, during the afternoon. They asked me whether or not I had seen the big hawk flight. No, I had not. Then I learned that they had counted almost two thousand hawks passing high over the ridge that afternoon; a broad-wing flight, I gathered. I was chagrined that I had missed the spectacle. Not until October 7th did I make daily visits to the mountain summit to observe the wonderful hawk-flights, while Kramer patrolled the road.

The possibility of an "invasion" of hunters how became very real. Kramer's daily presence had deterred the local hotheads from forcing their way, but I was advised that it might be necessary for me to stand guard at the old shooting-stands on the crest of the mountain. From there it was possible to observe the various approaches to the summit, through the woods from the north or from the west.

One day I learned almost with disbelief that a certain obstreperous character in Dreher'sville, who worked cheek by jowl with the officials of the numerous hunting clubs, had been obtaining sworn affidavits from many of the local farmers that the hawks often came down and carried off young pigs! This same man killed a red-tailed hawk and, to taunt us, he hung the bird, with wings spread, from the girder of the little bridge over which we passed twice daily. There the bird hung for about ten days. I took a picture of it which helped us in our money-raising campaign.

Now a great hullabaloo was raised in gunning circles throughout two counties against the out-of-state "chiselers." The farmers in the vicinity made the loudest squawk. They not only resented us and our assumed arrogance in taking over "their" mountain, they resented the name "Hawk Mountain" and claimed that there never had been such a place. Local newspapers belabored us and carried the usual stale message that the hawks were killing off game. A great to-do was made by the Pottsville merchant "sportsman" who used to come up the mountain on weekends, his truck loaded with cartridges to sell. We learned that the local sportmen's clubs, representing 15,000 hunters, had engaged a lawyer to search all land titles and find loopholes which might break Mrs. Edge's lease, and to buy the mountain, if possible. The hunters were holding frequent meetings to decide what to do.

A few days later, the agitated hawk-shooters, though still contemplating the purchase of "Hawk Mountain", leased a considerable tract of land near Port Clinton. I saw their advertisement in a newspaper, urging gunners to kill hawks in this new place, about four miles down the ridge, and offering gunners "a new line of shells, at \$.60 a case". Kramer investigated the Port Clinton hawk-shoots. These could be serious on days when the wind was easterly, but at no time was the slaughter comparable to that which had occurred formerly on our mountain. The place was also much more difficult of access.

Most of the hunters that I encountered had been killing hawks on this mountain for many years. Most of them were obdurate in their opinion of hawks in general and, they insisted, all hawks should be exterminated. It was useless to argue that the hawks do not feed while migrating, and that the good habits of the bird of prey involved mainly rodents. One farmer, in spite of his carping, allowed his large flock of white leghorns to roam the fields at the foot of the mountain. Why, I asked the gunners, were there so many grouse drumming in these upland woods? Here, at the greatest concentration point for hawks in the entire country, the ruffed grouse abounded; one day I had counted thirty-three of the birds in different parts of the Sanctuary. Rabbits, quail and pheasants were plentiful in the excellent cover of the old fields in the vicinity of Dreher'sville. But perhaps I was "seeing things", for the hawks kill off the game!

In early October much of the opposition had quieted, but it looked like the calm before the storm, and throughout the month Kramer and I anticipated trouble daily. With the fourth week approaching, a group of local hunters was planning to mob Kramer and me and force their way to the summit.

Late Friday afternoon two husky young men, built like fullbacks, appeared without guns at the Sanctuary. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that they had been recruited by Richard Pough to help us protect the place for a week or so. Pough, one of the "discoverers" of the hawk-shoots, had been in constant touch with Mrs. Edge. Knowing only too well what we might be up against with the lawless elements among the hawk-shooters, Pough generously arranged to have Charlie French and Dudley Wagar, both of Philadelphia, help us.

The following day it poured again--the fourth soggy Saturday! The four of us, Kramer, the newcomers and I spent a few hours on the mountain road, nevertheless, hunched in our cars. We even turned away a few hunters who had come from Reading.

Sunday, October 7th brought beautiful weather and ideal hawking conditions. Kramer and Wagar took the road, while French and I posted ourselves at the summit rocks. It was a day of many surprises, and some drama--but not the drama we had expected. We had plenty of company, some of it very talented. Ten members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, of Philadelphia, including Richard Pough, Samuel Scoville, Jr., the writer, Julian K. Potter, the ornithologist, and Jacob B. Abbott, the artist, were among the observers at the Lookout that day. The hawk flight was disappointing--only a hundred birds of thirteen species. But to me it was tremendously exciting to see so many kinds of hawks. A special feature was an adult golden eagle. The great bird came obligingly close, an eye-opener to the ornithological gathering--and the first of many golden eagles that were to lure bird watchers from all over the country.

Early in the afternoon we heard some shooting on the ridgetop, about a half mile directly behind us. Charlie French and I and one of the D.V.O.C. men took off through the woods and presently reached the west boundary of the Sanctuary. There, on the edge of our line, marked by "no trespassing" posters, were ten men, two of them perched high in a tree, blazing away at occasional hawks passing just out of shotgun range. The men were just off the Sanctuary property. There was nothing I could do, except perhaps to wait until they killed a protected species (ten ospreys and a bald eagle were the only "protected" birds that passed), and then I would prosecute the killer. So we leaned against a tree and waited, silently. The shooting stopped, the men were maddened that we just stood there and stared at them. Each passing minute increased the tension till one of the men snapped, "Well, whatch goin' to do about it?" I replied, "Just stay here and see what you fellows might do." The fellow lowered his gun, came

up to me menacingly and said, "I'll knock your--block off." For a moment it looked like a fight--and it might have been bad business, three unarmed men against ten with guns and hot tempers--but the fellow suddenly stopped and spluttered, "You damn hawk-lovers; you're just a bunch of barbarians."

Returning to the Lookout, I found more visitors. a "mob" had indeed come! That day seventy-four men, women and children climbed to the Lookout to enjoy the beautiful scenery and the birds. It was an inspiring sight, and it augured well for the successful outcome of our "new deal for the hawks." At the entrance, Kramer had turned away thirty-two gunners, including a few women. Ten times that number of gunners might have been on hand that day had we not spent the previous weeks impressing the hunting elements that we meant business on the mountain. Pleasant weekends thereafter brought increasing numbers of bird-students and protectionists to enjoy the hawking.

Hawk-hunters, some of them hard-bitten fellows who looked as though they would as soon shoot a mother-in-law as a hawk, continued to come late into November--a month **after** the opening of the small game season--so deep-rooted was the urge to follow this perverse and cruel "sport". But in spite of all the threats and warnings and the hub-bub of the shotgun squads, we had a singularly peaceful time of it along the old mountain road. At the summit, in the few weeks that it was possible to observe the hawk-flights, we had the satisfaction of seeing more than ten thousand hawks pass safely; not a single bird was killed.

One of the finest gifts for a bird watcher is the **Treasury of North American Birdlore**, (Paul S. Eriksson Publisher, 208 Battell Building, Middlebury, Vt. 05753, 388 pages, \$24.95) edited by Paul S. Eriksson and Alan Pistorius. This rich and comprehensive collection has been around for a few years, but is not well known. It ought to be. It includes essays by virtually all the birding greats of our past: Mark Catesby, William Bartram, John James Audubon, John Muir, William Burroughs, Edward Howe Forbush--you name them, they're all here. It also includes a fine selection of anecdotal, sentimental or funny, as well as scientific writings by more recent writers--Henry Beston, Joseph Wood Krutch, Will Cuppy, Rachel Carson, Edwin Way Teale, Louise de Kiriline Lawrence (she turns out to be the one who counted the 22,000 songs of the Red-eyed Vireo), Roger Tory Peterson, Barry Lopez and many others.--Ed.



Donna Crosby's picture of the, shall we say underappreciated, EUROPEAN STARLING is another first for our journal.

BOOK REVIEWS

TITLE: **Birds on a Rock**

AUTHOR: Frank Robertson

PUBLISHER: University College of Cape Breton Press
Box 5300
Sydney, N.S. B1P 6L2

NUMBER OF PAGES: 177

PRICE: \$14.95

A fascinating new book on birds in Cape Breton, **Birds on a Rock** by Frank Robertson was published in late 1992. Who will enjoy this book? Everyone who listened to Frank Robertson on the radio or read his column "For the Birds" will surely find this book informative and enlightening. Those who have a backyard bird feeder or notice gulls in the harbour or who feed ducks in the park will appreciate the stories about Cape Breton birds.

The book is based on seventeen years of columns about birds in the **Cape Breton Post** (1968-1986) and seven years of morning broadcasts on CBC Radio in Cape Breton. The best of the stories have been collected and provide a backdrop from which to learn about the common birds of Cape Breton. The book is lettered with interesting anecdotes which range from the gripping (an injured Sharp-Shinned hawk who puts a talon through Frank Robertson's hand), to the heartwarming (the Song Sparrow who used the engine of a car to keep warm through cold winter evenings), to the adventurous (the excitement of finding a rare bird like a Yellow-headed Blackbird), to tales about old friends (the joy of seeing Evening Grosbeaks at the feeder).

The book is about birds, but it is also about people. Frank Robertson's personality shines through as an example to all of us. His patience, respect for birds and people is obvious throughout. He was a late bloomer and watched birds for only twenty-four years. After he retired he became interested in birds through his wife Ada's interest in natural history. He soon volunteered (was volunteered?) to write a newspaper column to assist in a campaign to increase membership in the local chapter of the Nova Scotia Bird Society. He started with no expertise and within a few years Cape Bretoners looked to him for reliable bird information. In this book his knowledge about birds is combined with his gift for relating interesting anecdotes. The result is most entertaining.

For years Frank Robertson was a clearinghouse for information and stories on Cape Breton birds. Therefore in a way this book is really by all of his friends who were his sources of information. It is the best of Frank Robertson's stories, which really means the best stories of his Cape Breton birdwatching friends. This little book of bird stories, like wine and lifelists, will improve with age.

--David McCorquodale

TITLE: **Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces**

AUTHOR: Anthony J. Erskine

PUBLISHER: Co-published by Nimbus Publishing Limited and the Nova Scotia Museum

NUMBER OF PAGES: 270

PRICE: \$29.95

When their enthusiastic efforts can be channelled towards a common goal, volunteer naturalists can contribute mightily to the advancement of our knowledge of natural history, and to the protection of nature. The **Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces**, authored by A. J. Erskine, is the result of one such co-operative project. This intense, four-year effort by many skilled birders focused on discovering as much as possible about the geographic distribution and approximate abundance of all of the species of bird that breed in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Similar co-operative efforts of birders have produced breeding-bird atlases elsewhere in Canada, the United States and western Europe, and small groups of naturalists have also worked towards studies of the distribution of plants and other "less charismatic" (at least, in comparison with birds!) biota. The **Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces** has successfully followed this valuable pathway, but has added an innovative and important wrinkle to the standard portrayals of species distributions--an attempt to forge estimates of the abundance of all of the atlased species. Assuming that the estimates of population in this atlas are reasonably accurate, they are a very important addition to the avian database. I am not, unfortunately, able to comment on the validity of the mathematical procedures by which these quantitative estimates were derived from essentially categorical data. The acid tests of these procedures and numbers will come from validations based on actual census data of bird communities and the extent of particular habitat types in the Maritimes, and by the adoption of the procedure by atlasing groups elsewhere.

Knowledge of the distribution and abundance of species is central to natural history, and also to the discipline of ecology, along with an understanding of those environmental influences that affect distribution and abundance. The wealth of information in the **Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces**, and in the much-more detailed databases that support the summaries presented in the book, represent a "snapshot" at a particular time, of the status of birdlife in the Maritime Provinces. This knowledge is valuable for many reasons.

Additionally important, however, are some potential, value-added benefits of this knowledge of the present distribution and abundance of birds, which would be gained if Maritime birders were to undertake additional activities that build on this admirable atlasing effort. If the residual euphoria and momentum build into a program of acquisition of further information about breeding (and wintering and migrating) avifauna¹, and if the breeding-bird atlasing is repeated so as to build up a longer-term, monitoring database, then the knowledge of regional avifauna will become extremely useful to environmental management in the Maritime Provinces. Data showing longer-term changes in the abundance of species indicate important ecological trends, both degradation and

1 Most useful in this respect would be the establishment of permanent plots for repeated censusing of the abundance of forest-interior, migratory species, which may be threatened by habitat changes occurring throughout their ranges. Also important is continuation of the roadside breeding-bird surveys and the Christmas bird counts, perhaps with a better design to provide data that are more thorough and accurate.

improvement, depending on the direction and quality of the monitored changes. Such information will be critical to the protection of birdlife and other biota of the Maritime Provinces (and also of Canada, and globally). The longer-term test of the success of the process that, in the shorter-term, produced the **Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces**, will be its future influence on the co-ordinated gathering of additional information about the distribution and abundance of Maritime birds.

So much for my proselytizing, with particular apologies to those who may already be converted. What about the book itself? In short, my considered opinion, is that this atlas is a truly excellent product, that justifies the outstanding efforts of the so-many field volunteers and so-few salaried staff, and the equally daunting efforts towards syntheses and presentation of the data and species accounts.

The introductory material is appropriate, informative, and well written. I would, perhaps, have liked a more-detailed treatment of historical changes in the distribution and abundance of birds in the Maritime Provinces, to give more context to the present condition of birdlife. This is not, however, an important criticism, and it may just reflect my own, idiosyncratic, way of viewing avian knowledge.

The species accounts are, of course, the core of the **Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces**, and Erskine has produced uniformly informative and interesting modules. These accounts are very pleasing for casual reading, the graphics (developed by Linda and Peter Payzant) and drawings (by Azor Vienneau) are terrific, and there is a wealth of information and natural history for everyone.

I heartily commend Erskine and his many atlassing colleagues on their excellent effort, and I recommend their book as required reading to anyone interested in the birdlife of the Maritime Provinces. This book will have a prominent place on my own avian bookshelf, and I and my students will consult it regularly.

--Bill Freidman



The narrow lateral crown stripes, broad supercillium, and extensive pale lores suggest that this young WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW might have been a mid-western *gambelli*, but there seems to be little or no information on distinguishing subspecies among immatures of this species. Photograph by Richard Stern at Canning in December.



It was a dismal day, and the bird was distant, but nevertheless its shape and especially its broadly dark-barred tail confirm this RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, a good find by Christmas counters on Brier Island. Photo Ian McLaren.



Christmas bird counters on Cape Sable Island, Dec. 19 included, from the left, Murray Newall, Skipper Atwood, and John Skipper. Their striped hats have the West Nova Bird Watchers' logo. It seems to have been pretty balmy on our southernmost Christmas count. Photo Joan Czapalay.

NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1992-1993

The 1992/93 Christmas Count period was particularly varied with regard to weather conditions. Several counts were conducted in pouring rain while others were held in bitterly cold and windy conditions. However, never before have so many birds been counted. About 220,222 individuals were seen or heard which is an increase of over 40,000 from the previous high in 1991. The Wolfville Count itself made up almost 42% of all the birds seen! Interestingly, observers in the field were fewer, party hours and kilometres were down slightly, but over one hundred more people watched feeders than ever before.

This year, an unprecedented 150 species plus 1 additional race were spotted. Three new species to the Provincial Christmas Count list are: Parasitic Jaeger, Great skua and House wren.

Notable are the 3 Osprey, the ever-increasing Mourning doves and record numbers of Northern flickers and Cedar waxwings.

ADVOCATE/APPLE RIVER, Dec. 21; 7:45AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -7 to -5C. Wind W. 40kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Partly cloudy all day. 7 field observers in 4 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 31.75 (11.25 on foot, 20.5 by car). Total party kilometres 237 (13 on foot, 224 by car).

Common loon 1; Red-necked grebe 1; American black duck 179; Common goldeneye 3; Sharp-shinned hawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 2; Ring-necked pheasant 2; Ruffed grouse 9; Herring gull 155; Great black-backed gull 2; Mourning dove 8; Great horned owl 1; Downy woodpecker 4; Hairy woodpecker 2; Pileated woodpecker 1; Gray jay 16; Blue jay 39; American crow 64; Common Raven 15; Black-capped chickadee 88; Boreal chickadee 6; Red-breasted nuthatch 4; Brown creeper 4; Golden-crowned kinglet 16; American robin 8; European starling 98; American tree sparrow 17; Chipping sparrow 1; Song sparrow 3; White-throated sparrow 2; Dark-eyed junco 12; Red-winged blackbird 1; Common grackle 2; Brown-headed cowbird 16; Pine grosbeak 7; Pine siskin 3; American goldfinch 77; Evening grosbeak 22; House sparrow 3.

Total species 39, about 896 individuals. (CP. Bald eagle, Spruce grouse, Black guillemot, Northern shrike, **Fox sparrow**, Snow bunting). Karl Cole, Jane Mills, Maureen Mills, Sunday Mills, Fran Spalding, Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer (compiler).

AMHERST, Dec. 21; 7:45AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -6 to -2C. Wind NW 20-50kmph. Snow cover 0-20cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies clear all day. 18 field observers in 8 parties. Total party hours 61.5 (25 on foot, 35 by car, 1.5 by ATV). Total party kilometres 656 (50 on foot, 586 by car, 10 by ATV).

American black duck 15; Common merganser 67; Bald eagle 4; Sharp-shinned hawk 1; Red-tailed hawk 2; Rough-legged hawk 10; Ring-necked pheasant 4; Ruffed grouse 15; Herring gull 621; Iceland gull 7; Great black-backed gull 476; Rock dove 179; Mourning dove 4; Downy woodpecker 7; Hairy woodpecker 4; Horned lark 5; Gray jay 13; Blue jay 87; American crow 463; Common raven 108; Black-capped chickadee 262; Boreal chickadee 22; Red-breasted nuthatch 14; White-breasted nuthatch 1; Brown creeper 6; Golden-crowned kinglet 38; American robin 13; Northern shrike 1; European starling 502; Yellow-rumped warbler 2; **Pine warbler** 1; American tree sparrow 17; Song sparrow 4; White-throated sparrow 1; Dark-eyed junco 12; Snow bunting 116; Common grackle 4; Brown-headed cowbird 6; Pine grosbeak 8; Pine siskin 1; American goldfinch 139; Evening grosbeak 233; House sparrow 350.

Total species 43, about 3845 individuals. Chris Ellingwood (compiler), Paul Bogaard, Merlin Brown, Dan Busby, Lee Calkins, Roger Calkins, Evelyn Coates, Nev Gerrity, Ron Hounsell, Joel Landry, Colin MacKinnon, Nancy MacKinnon, Neil MacKinnon, Andrew MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Harold Popma, Theo Popma, Al Smith.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Jan. 2; 7:30AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -12 to -10C. Wind NW 20-40kmph. Snow cover 2cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. cloudy, light snow; P.M. partly cloudy. 31 field observers in 14 parties, 58 at feeders. Total party hours 54 (23.75 on foot, 30.25 by car). Total party kilometres 436 (39.5 on foot, 396.5 by car).

Common loon 8; Horned grebe 4; Red-necked grebe 1; Great cormorant 1; Double-crested cormorant 13; American black duck 801; Mallard 2; Greater scaup 40; Common eider 27; Oldsquaw 350; Surf scoter 67; White-winged scoter 60; Common goldeneye 29; Barrow's goldeneye 18; Bufflehead 279; Common merganser 3; Red-breasted merganser 35; Bald eagle 3; Sharp-shinned hawk 3; **Broad-winged hawk** 1; Red-tailed hawk 5; Gray partridge 1; Ring-necked pheasant 72; Ruffed grouse 7; Ring-billed gull 1; Herring gull 706; Iceland gull 2; Great black-backed gull 112; Rock dove 138; Mourning dove 155; Downy woodpecker 6; Hairy woodpecker 4; Northern flicker 1; Gray jay 3; Blue jay 319; American crow 287; Common raven 17; Black-capped chickadee 367; Boreal chickadee 2; Red-breasted nuthatch 12; White-breasted nuthatch 4; Golden-crowned kinglet 45; American robin 49; Bohemian waxwing 22; Cedar waxwing 38; European starling 718; American tree sparrow 10; Song sparrow 15; White-throated sparrow 17; sparrow species 20; Dark-eyed junco 74; Snow bunting 8; Brown-headed cowbird 18; Pine grosbeak 32; Purple finch 71; Pine siskin 1; American goldfinch 318; Evening grosbeak 90; House sparrow 154.

Total species 58, about 5666 individuals. (CP. Northern goshawk, Bonaparte's gull, Great horned owl, Snowy owl, Barred owl, Pileated woodpecker) Bob Bennett, Ted Brown, Faith DeWolfe, Jane DeWolfe, Helen Ellis, Rebecca Ellis, Dorothy Evert, Sharon Hawboldt, Stephen Hawboldt, Rita Hearne, Peter Hope, Andrew Horwood, Corkie Horwood, Harold Horwood, Leah Horwood, Clifford Jones, Scott Leslie, Laurie McGowan, Valerie Mount, Kati Poikonen, Gini Proulx, Joe Proulx, Frances Rafuse, Charlie Richards, Valerie Richards, Mick Scromeda, Angela Turner, Greg Turner, Jack Turner, Julie Turner (compiler), Alice White.

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 20; 8:00AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -7 to 5C. Wind NW 20kmph. Snow cover 3cm. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. partly cloudy, P.M. cloudy, rain. 14 field observers in 7 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party hours 29.5(8 on foot, 21.5 by car). Total party kilometres 198 (15.5 on foot, 182.5 by car).

Common loon 4; Horned grebe 36; Red-necked grebe 7; Double-crested cormorant 2; Great blue heron 1; Canada goose 221; American black duck 174; Mallard 2; Greater scaup 28; Common eider 9; Oldsquaw 3; White-winged scoter 1; Bufflehead 16; Common merganser 16; Red-breasted merganser 15; **Osprey** 2; Bald eagle 28; Northern harrier 1; Red-tailed hawk 4; Ruffed grouse 4; Ring-billed gull 1; Herring gull 655; Glaucous gull 20; Great black-backed gull 119; Rock dove 83; Mourning dove 38; Belted kingfisher 1; Downy woodpecker 2; Hairy woodpecker 1; Pileated woodpecker 4; Gray jay 1; Blue jay 58; American crow 297; Common raven 16; Black-capped chickadee 75; Boreal chickadee 8; Red-breasted nuthatch 15; Golden-crowned kinglet 41; Northern shrike 1; European starling 135; American tree sparrow 3; Dark-eyed junco 27; Snow bunting 90; Pine grosbeak 39; Pine siskin 6; American goldfinch 59; Evening grosbeak 52; House sparrow 59.

Total species 48, about 2480 individuals. (CP. Pine warbler) Bob Bancroft, May Bancroft, Avon Brophy, Martha Brown, Vicky Bunbury, D.J. Kennedy, Harriet MacMillan, Celia Mallon, Kerstin Mueller, Duncan Pulsifer, Mark Pulsifer, Agnita Sand, Brian Starzomski (compiler), Stephen Starzomski.

BRIDGETOWN, Jan. 2; 8:00AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -12 to -11C. Wind NW 30kmph. Snow cover 10cm. Still water frozen, moving water frozen. A.M. partly cloudy, light snow. P.M. partly cloudy, light snow. 11 field observers in 6 parties, 34 at feeders, .5 hours owling. Total party hours 27.5 (8 on foot, 18 by car, 1.5 on skis). Total party

kilometres 269 (21 on foot, 245 by car, 3 by skis).

Common loon 2; Common eider 5; Oldsquaw 17; Black scoter 15; White-winged scoter 72; scoter species 30; Barrow's goldeneye 1; Common merganser 7; Bald eagle 2; Sharp-shinned hawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 4; Ring-necked pheasant 47; Ruffed grouse 6; Purple sandpiper 53; Herring gull 239; Great black-backed gull 19; Rock dove 177; Mourning dove 14; Barred owl 1; Downy woodpecker 16; Hairy woodpecker 5; Northern flicker 2; Blue jay 214; American crow 228; Common raven 41; Black-capped chickadee 110; Red-breasted nuthatch 8; White-breasted nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned kinglet 1; American robin 4; Cedar waxwing 3; European starling 376; **Dickcissel** 1; American tree sparrow 27; Song sparrow 13; White-throated sparrow 6; sparrow species 3; Dark-eyed junco 67; Snow bunting 46; Red-winged blackbird 25; Common grackle 13; Brown-headed cowbird 5; Purple finch 11; White-winged crossbill 4; Pine siskin 3; American goldfinch 327; Evening grosbeak 90; House sparrow 114.

Total species 46, about 2478 individuals. (CP. Great blue heron) Lawrence Bent, Winnie Bent, Don Bowlby, Pearl Chambers, David Colville (compiler), Justin Colville, Jan Coulter, Anita Devillez, Juana Devillez, Doris Durling, Marilyn Durling, Marie Gaul, Jackie Grant, Marion Graves, Graham Graves, Sharon Hamilton, Danny Harlow, Nathalie Harlow, Avora Howse, Marguerite Hirtle, Audrey Kennedy, Maude Joudrey, Paul Joudrey, Penny Joudrey, Jerry MacDonald, Danny Phinney, Eric Porter, Jane Racine, Erma Rains, Jory Smith, Margaret Smith, Frances Saunders, Freda Tobin, Donnie Troop, Gladdie Weir, Roger Weir, Stewart Whitman, Jim Whitman, Marion Whitman.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 17; 7:30AM to 3:00PM. Temp. 8C. Wind calm to SE 20kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, P.M. cloudy, foggy, light rain. 10 field observers in 3 parties. Total party hours 17.5 (14 on foot, 3.5 by car). Total party kilometres 53.6 (24 on foot, 29.6 by car).

Red-throated loon 10; Common loon 84; loon species 2; Horned grebe 4; Red-necked grebe 60; Northern gannet 22; Great cormorant 135; Great blue heron 2; Canada goose 1; American black duck 62; Mallard 3; Common eider 493; Harlequin duck 8; Oldsquaw 52; Surf scoter 2; White-winged scoter 5; Common goldeneye 9; Bufflehead 10; Red-breasted merganser 108; accipiter species 1; **Red-shouldered hawk** 1; Red-tailed hawk 1; Rough-legged hawk 1; **Ruddy turnstone** 4; **Red knot** 1; Purple sandpiper 1; **Dunlin** 1; **Great skua** 1; Herring gull 303; Great-black-backed gull 110; Black-legged kittiwake 519; Dovekie 24; Common murre 6; Thick-billed murre 1200; Razorbill 4; Black guillemot 59; Atlantic puffin 6; murre species 503; Rock dove 4; Mourning dove 6; Snowy owl 1; Northern flicker 1; Horned lark 5; Blue jay 2; American crow 82; Common raven 16; Black-capped chickadee 23; Golden-crowned kinglet 16; **Ruby-crowned kinglet** 3; **House wren** 1; American robin 29; Water pipit 1; European starling 33; Chipping sparrow 2; Song sparrow 5; sparrow species 1; Dark-eyed junco 1; Lapland longspur 1; Snow bunting 1; Common grackle 1; American goldfinch 134; House sparrow 21.

Total species 58, about 4208 individuals. (CP. Great horned owl). Brad Amirault, Blake Maybank, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills (compiler), Richard Stern; Jim Taylor; Gordon Tufts; Judy Tufts; Joan Waldron; Jim Wolford.

BROAD COVE, Dec. 30; 7:30AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -2 to 3C. Wind NE 10-45kmph. No snow cover. Still water party open, moving water open. A.M. light rain, P.M. cloudy. 27 field observers in 10-15 parties. Total party hours 106 (64.5 on foot, 41.5 by car). Total party kilometres 570 (101.5 on foot, 468.5 by car).

Common loon 24; Horned grebe 13; Red-necked grebe 12; Great cormorant 49; Double-crested cormorant 1; Canada goose 70; **Wood duck** 1; American black duck 100; Mallard 161; Greater scaup 112; Common eider 223; Oldsquaw 127; Black scoter 19; Surf scoter 32; White-winged scoter 40; Common goldeneye 229; Bufflehead 23; Common merganser 10; Red-breasted merganser 65; duck species 32; Bald eagle 1; Northern harrier 2; Sharp-shinned hawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 1;

Rough-legged hawk 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked pheasant 7, Ruffed grouse 11; Killdeer 1; Sanderling 13; Dunlin 1; Common snipe 1; Ring-billed gull 2; Herring gull 1229; Great black-backed gull 586; Black guillemot 1; Rock dove 170; Mourning dove 116; Downy woodpecker 7; Hairy woodpecker 2; Northern flicker 3; Horned lark 7; Gray jay 1; Blue jay 93; American crow 343; Common raven 41; Black-capped chickadee 397; Boreal chickadee 45; Red-breasted nuthatch 39; Brown creeper 2; Golden-crowned kinglet 41; American robin 392; Bohemian waxwing 3; Cedar waxwing 13; European starling 1008; Yellow-rumped warbler 44; American tree sparrow 13; Field sparrow 1; Savannah sparrow 5; Savannah (Ipswich) sparrow 2, Song sparrow 52; White-throated sparrow 77; Dark-eyed junco 509; Snow bunting 18; Common grackle 4; Brown-headed cowbird 1; Pine grosbeak 1; Purple finch 19; Red crossbill 21; Common redpoll 2; Pine siskin 314; American goldfinch 611; Evening grosbeak 121; House sparrow 105.

Total species 72, about 7846 individuals. (CP. Hooded merganser, Iceland gull, Belted kingfisher) Ruth Ballem, Barbara Byrd, Bill Caudle, Margaret Clark, Johns Cohrs, Lise Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie, Ben Doane, Brendan Frauzel, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Barbara Hinds, Ian McLaren, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Bill Morse, Jean Morse, Chris Naugler, Nellie Snyder, Bob Steele, Bob Taboski, Azor Vienneau, David Young, Joan Young.

CALEDONIA, Dec. 20; 7:30AM to 5:00PM. Temp. 2.4 to 10.3C. Wind SE-SW 3-40kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. Heavy rain all day. 12 field observers in 8-9 parties, 25-33 at feeders. Total party hours 21.75 (14 on foot, 7.75 by car). Total party kilometres 134.5 (17.5 on foot, 117 by car).

Common merganser 2; Ring-necked pheasant 2; Ruffed grouse 24; Herring gull 1; Rock dove 4; Barred owl 2; Downy woodpecker 4; Hairy woodpecker 5; Gray jay 8; Blue jay 75; American crow 26; Common raven 20; Black-capped chickadee 231; Red-breasted nuthatch 23; White-breasted nuthatch 9; Golden-crowned kinglet 8; Cedar waxwing 7; European starling 61; Song sparrow 3; Dark-eyed junco 29; Snow bunting 16; blackbird species 2; Pine grosbeak 18; Purple finch 22; American goldfinch 160; Evening grosbeak 251; House sparrow 11.

Total species 26, about 1024 individuals. (CP. Common goldeneye, Bald eagle, Red-tailed hawk, Spruce grouse, Mourning dove, Pileated woodpecker, Boreal chickadee, Brown creeper, Winter wren, American robin). Edith Ball, Thelma Bowers, Pat Canning, Lorna Cole, Harry DeLong, Leigh DeLong, Miriam DeLong, Jean Douglas, Connie Eaton, Ron Eaton, Hester Frail, Jerry Frail, Lynn Frail, Arthur Frayle, Nancy Frayle, Marguerite Holdright, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope (compiler), Jennifer Hopper, Pamela Hopper, Peggy Hopper, Steve Hopper, Leslie Jones, Megan Jones, Peter Jones, Sarah Jones, Rod Keirstead, Paul MacDonald, Daniel Mansfield, Eric Mullen, Lesley Rogers, Peter Rogers, Althea Rowter, Tom Sheppard, Tom Shupe, Ron Sigston, Shirley Smith.

CAPE SABLE ISLAND, Dec. 19; 7:45AM to 4:15PM. Temp. -4 to -2C. Wind SW 2-5kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 5 field observers in 1-2 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 42.5 (20 on foot, 22.5 by car). Total party kilometres 410 (20 on foot, 390 by car).

Common loon 8; Red-necked grebe 4; grebe species 1; Northern gannet 1; Great cormorant 2; cormorant species 6; Great blue heron 6; American black duck 19; MallardxBlack duck hybrid 12; American wigeon 1; Common eider 90; Oldsquaw 16; Black scoter 3; Surf scoter 1; White-winged scoter 6; Red-breasted merganser 21; Bald eagle 1; Ruffed grouse 3; Red knot 1; Common snipe 1; Herring gull 800; Great black-backed gull 1200; Dovekie 1; Rock dove 7; Mourning dove 58; Snowy owl 1; Northern flicker 8; Gray jay 1; Blue jay 30; American crow 150; Common raven 3; Black-capped chickadee 33; Boreal chickadee 5; Red-breasted nuthatch 15; Golden-crowned kinglet 12; American robin 73; thrush species 1; European starling 160; Yellow-rumped warbler 90; Palm warbler 1; Common yellowthroat 1;

Savannah sparrow 1; Song sparrow 30; Swamp sparrow 1; White-throated sparrow 32; Dark-eyed junco 37; Rusty blackbird 3; Brown-headed cowbird 12; American goldfinch 68; Evening grosbeak 13; House sparrow 21.

Total species 47 plus 1 additional form, about 3071 individuals. (CP. Northern cardinal, Purple finch, Pine siskin). "Skipper" Atwood, Joan Czapalay (compiler), Murray Newell, John E. Nickerson, Lillian Perry.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Dec. 27; 7:00AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -10 to -9C. Wind NW 18kmph. Snow cover 20cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies cloudy, light snow all day. 18 field observers in 11 parties, 18 at feeders. Total party hours 26.75 (9.75 on foot, 17 by car). Total party kilometres 285.75 (27.25 on foot, 258.5 by car).

Common loon 2; American black duck 19; Common eider 2; Oldsquaw 12; White-winged scoter 14; Common goldeneye 34; Common merganser 2; Red-breasted merganser 13; Bald eagle 2; Purple sandpiper 33; Herring gull 124; Iceland gull 12; Glaucous gull 1; Great black-backed gull 14; gull species 1; Dovekie 56; Common murre 4; Thick-billed murre 1; Black guillemot 1; Mourning dove 9; Downy woodpecker 1; Gray jay 6; Blue jay 154; American crow 72; Common raven 6; Black-capped chickadee 136; Red-breasted nuthatch 14; Golden-crowned kinglet 1; European starling 18; Song sparrow 4; sparrow species 22; Dark-eyed junco 7; Snow bunting 2; Pine grosbeak 3; White-winged crossbill 1; Pine siskin 7; Evening grosbeak 5.

Total species 35, about 815 individuals. (CP. Spruce grouse, Ruffed grouse, Hairy woodpecker). James Bridgland, Audrey Budge, Doreen Collingwood, Lorie Collingwood, Lisa Dixon, Nelson Dixon, Gordon Doucette, Chris Gorey, Anita Hardy, George Hardy, Ellen Ingraham, Ross Ingraham, David Lawley, Frances McEvoy, Jessie McEvoy, Jim McEvoy, John McEvoy, Ruth McLagan (compiler), Marjorie Murray, John Parker, Tim Reynolds, Maureen Scobie, Hazel Stockley, Paul Verner, Ken Verner, Stefan Verner, Elaine Wallace, Martin Walsh, Valerie Walsh, Fred Williams.

CHETICAMP, Dec. 19; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -4 to -2C. Wind NW 15kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Partly cloudy all day. 13 field observers in 5 parties. Total party hours 45 (43 on foot, 2 by car). Total party kilometres 72.5 (21 on foot, 51.5 by car).

Red-throated loon 1; Common loon 3; Horned grebe 2; Northern gannet 51; Great cormorant 19; Double-crested cormorant 5; American black duck 55; Mallard 1; Common eider 5; Oldsquaw 9; Black scoter 1; Surf scoter 1; White-winged scoter 6; Common goldeneye 41; Bufflehead 1; Red-breasted merganser 5; Bald eagle 7; Red-tailed hawk 1; Ruffed grouse 6; Common black-headed gull 11; Ring-billed gull 1; Herring gull 77; Iceland gull 273; Glaucous gull 1; Great black-backed gull 109; Black-legged kittiwake 600; gull species 60; Black guillemot 3; Rock dove 1; Short-eared owl 3; Downy woodpecker 2; Hairy woodpecker 3; Gray jay 6; Blue jay 34; American crow 88; Common raven 24; Black-capped chickadee 79; Boreal chickadee 6; Red-breasted nuthatch 1; White-breasted nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned kinglet 10; Bohemian waxwing 140; European starling 57; Yellow-rumped warbler 1; Snow bunting 99; Pine grosbeak 13; Pine siskin 6; American goldfinch 34; Evening grosbeak 13; House sparrow 1.

Total species 49, about 1977 individuals. (CP. Great horned owl). Marie Claire Aucoin, Cheryl Bray, Andrew Gingell, Jennifer Hoffman, David Lawley, John MacInnis, David McCorquodale, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Mike Novak, Derek Quann, Justin Roach, Randy Thompson (compiler).

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 8:00AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -12 to -9C. Wind NW 30kmph. Snow cover 5cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. Skies cloudy all day. 10 field observers in 8-9 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 78 (54 on foot, 24 by car). Total

party kilometres 294 (64 on foot, 230 by car).

American black duck 583; Mallard 3; **Northern pintail** 2; Common eider 5; Oldsquaw 35; White-winged scoter 1; Common goldeneye 12; Bufflehead 24; Common merganser 20; Red-breasted merganser 1; Bald eagle 2; Red-tailed hawk 1; Ruffed grouse 19; Purple sandpiper 106; Ring-billed gull 35; Herring gull 490; Great black-backed gull 23; Rock dove 58; Mourning dove 15; Great horned owl 1; Downy woodpecker 25; Hairy woodpecker 12; Black-backed woodpecker 1; Pileated woodpecker 1; Gray jay 3; Blue jay 76; American crow 345; Common raven 53; Black-capped chickadee 213; Boreal chickadee 38; Red-breasted nuthatch 31; White-breasted nuthatch 2; Brown creeper 8; Golden-crowned kinglet 96; American robin 1; Northern shrike 1; European starling 303; American tree sparrow 48; Song sparrow 8; White-throated sparrow 7; Dark-eyed junco 62; Snow bunting 50; Rusty blackbird 1; Brown-headed cowbird 1; Pine grosbeak 8; Purple finch 1; Common redpoll 3; American goldfinch 122; Evening grosbeak 58; House sparrow 96.

Total species 50, about 3110 individuals. (CP. Surf scoter, Belted kingfisher, White-winged crossbill). Ross Hall, Blake Maybank, John Marshall, Brad McLaughlin, Bill Murphy, Edgar Spalding, Fran Spalding (compiler) Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer, Rob Walker.

ESKASONI, Dec. 26; 8:00AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -4 to -8C. Wind N 20kmph. Snow cover 8cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. A.M. partly clear, P.M. cloudy, light snow. 21 field observers in 8 parties, 5 at feeders, 3 hours and 20 kilometres owling. Total party hours 48 (38 on foot, 20 by car). Total party kilometres 490 (20 on foot, 470 by car).

Common loon 3; American black duck 33; White-winged scoter 30; Common goldeneye 23; Common merganser 41; Red-breasted merganser 26; Bald eagle 24; Ruffed grouse 3; Common snipe 1; Bonaparte's gull 8; Herring gull 104; Great black-backed gull 34; Mourning dove 11; Great horned owl 1; Barred owl 3; Belted kingfisher 1; Downy woodpecker 1; Pileated woodpecker 1; Gray jay 12; Blue jay 120; American crow 86; Common raven 16; Black-capped chickadee 156; Boreal chickadee 16; Red-breasted nuthatch 5; Golden-crowned kinglet 29; American robin 1; European starling 86; American tree sparrow 1; Song sparrow 4; Dark-eyed junco 20; Common grackle 1; Pine grosbeak 20; Purple finch 1; Common redpoll 3; Pine siskin 41; American goldfinch 84; Evening grosbeak 81.

Total species 38, about 1131 individuals. George Ball, Terry Boone, Donald F. Campbell, Theresa Cash, Jackie Chretien, George Digout, Sharon Digout, Joe Donovan, David Harris, Margaret MacDonald, Gordon MacEachern, Cyril MacInnis, George McInnis, John W. MacInnis, Lydia MacInnis, Duncan MacNeil, Jack MacNeil (compiler), Kevin MacNeil, Laurie MacNeil, Bruce McCorquodale, David McCorquodale, Bernard Murphy, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Mike Novak, Melvin White.

GLACE BAY, Dec. 31; 7:00AM to 5:00PM. Temp -10 to -2C. Wind SE 10kmph. Snow cover 12cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. partly cloudy, P.M. cloudy. 22 field observers in 11 parties, 8 at feeders, 2 hours and 6 kilometres owling. Total party hours 68 (32 on foot, 36 by car). Total party kilometres 294 (41 on foot, 253 by car).

Common loon 13; Horned grebe 1; Great cormorant 15; Double-crested cormorant 2; Canada goose 397; Green-winged teal 4; American black duck 765; Mallard 35; **American wigeon** 1; Greater scaup 510; Common eider 10; Oldsquaw 441; Surf scoter 2; White-winged scoter 99; Common goldeneye 147; Bufflehead 93; Common merganser 8; Red-breasted merganser 118; Bald eagle 10; Northern harrier 1; Sharp-shinned hawk 4; Ruffed grouse 6; **Black-bellied plover** 1; Common black-headed gull 24; Ring-billed gull 4; Herring gull 1114; Iceland gull 249; Glaucous gull 13; Great black-backed gull 1404; Dovekie 33; Thick-billed murre 2; Black guillemot 3; alcid species 1; Rock dove 104; Mourning dove 57; Great horned owl

4; Barred owl 1; Belted kingfisher 1; Downy woodpecker 16; Hairy woodpecker 7; Pileated woodpecker 1; Gray jay 6; Blue jay 134; American crow 795; Common raven 20; Black-capped chickadee 232; Boreal chickadee 49; Brown creeper 1; Golden-crowned kinglet 12; American robin 1; Northern shrike 1; European starling 1500; Yellow-rumped warbler 3; Dickcissel 1; Rufous-sided towhee 1; American tree sparrow 20; Savannah sparrow 19; Song sparrow 16; Dark-eyed junco 35; Lapland longspur 51; Snow bunting 12; Common grackle 1; Pine grosbeak 13; Pine siskin 39; American goldfinch 107; Evening grosbeak 81; House sparrow 204.

Total species 66, about 9075 individuals. (CP. Sanderling, Bohemian waxwing) Cheryl Bartlett, Cheryl Bray, Steve Bray, Leslie Crewe, George Crowell, Jean Crowell, Joy Gates, Betty Gentile, Andrew Gingell, Bill MacDonald, Cyril MacInnis, John W. MacInnis, Gordon MacLean, Jack MacNeil, Elsie MacRury, David McCorquodale, John McKay, Kay McIntyre, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant (compiler), Della Murrant, Jim Murrant, Mike Novak, Byron Peach, Winnie Peach, Ruth Peters, Art Spencer, Jennifer Watson, Pixie Williams, Rhys Williams.

HALIFAX (EAST), Dec 27; 7:15AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -15.3 to -9.5C. Wind WNW 25kmph. Snow cover 1cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. partly clear, P.M. clear. 21 field observers in 10 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 74 (39 on foot, 35 by car). Total party kilometres 427.5 (56.5 on foot, 371 by car).

Red-throated loon 1; Common loon 7; Horned grebe 1; Red-necked grebe 9; Northern gannet 1; Great cormorant 1; Great blue heron 1; Brant 75; Canada goose 2225; American black duck 606; Mallard 17; Northern pintail 1; Common eider 52; Oldsquaw 135; Black scoter 16; White-winged scoter 9; Common goldeneye 40; Bufflehead 38; Hooded merganser 2; Common merganser 69; Red-breasted merganser 97; Bald eagle 7; Northern harrier 5; Sharp-shinned hawk 3, **Cooper's hawk 1**; Red-tailed hawk 4; Rough-legged hawk 2; Merlin 1; Ring-necked pheasant 21; Ruffed grouse 2; Killdeer 2; Common black-headed gull 5; Bonaparte's gull 1; Ring-billed gull 169; Herring gull 1594; Iceland gull 12; Glaucous gull 1; Great black-backed gull 186; Dovekie 2; Rock dove 110; Mourning dove 108; Great horned owl 1; Downy woodpecker 4; Hairy woodpecker 4; Northern flicker 2; Gray jay 1; Blue jay 61; American crow 415; Common raven 38; Black-capped chickadee 338; Boreal chickadee 91; Red-breasted nuthatch 39; White-breasted nuthatch 2; Brown creeper 3; Golden-crowned kinglet 61; American robin 2; European starling 701; Yellow-rumped warbler 72; Pine warbler 1; Dickcissel 1; American tree sparrow 67; Savannah sparrow 36; Savannah (Ipswich) sparrow 2; Sharp-tailed sparrow 3; Song sparrow 60; Swamp sparrow 4; White-throated sparrow 47; Dark-eyed junco 241; Red-winged blackbird 1; **meadowlark species 2**; Rusty blackbird 1; Northern oriole 2; Pine grosbeak 14; Pine siskin 105; American goldfinch 379; Evening grosbeak 243; House sparrow 91.

Total species 75, plus 1 subspecies, about 8774 individuals. (CP. American kestrel) Ruth Ballem, Bill Caudle, Margaret Clark, John Cohrs, Lise Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie (compiler), Bob Dickie, Jim Elliott, Barbara Hinds, Janos Kovacs, Peter MacLeod, Bob McDonald, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Christine Ross, Bev Sarty, Karl Tay, Wendie Tay, Bob Taboski, Azor Vienneau.

HALIFAX (WEST), Dec. 20; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 4C. Wind S. 30kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Cloudy, heavy rain all day. 22 field observers in 13 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 81.25 (29 on foot, 52.25 by car). Total party kilometres 567 (47 on foot, 520 by car).

Red-throated loon 1; Common loon 10; Horned grebe 2; Red-necked grebe 10; Northern gannet 31; Great cormorant 98; Double-crested cormorant 2; Wood duck 1; Green-winged teal 1; American black duck 2468; Mallard 197; Gadwall 1; American wigeon 7; Common eider 494; Oldsquaw 17; Black scoter 9; White-winged scoter 31; Common goldeneye 19; Bufflehead 2; Red-breasted merganser 48; Bald eagle 1;

Sharp-shinned hawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 2; Ring-necked pheasant 1; Spruce grouse 2; Ruffed grouse 10; Parasitic jaeger 1; Purple sandpiper 2; Common black-headed gull 49; Bonaparte's gull 3; **Common (Mew) gull** 1; Ring-billed gull 102; Herring gull 5744; Iceland gull 114; **Lesser black-backed gull** 2; Glaucous gull 8; Great black-backed gull 1942; Black-legged kittiwake 45; **Sabine's gull** 1; Dovekie 28; Thick-billed murre 2; Razorbill 2; Black guillemot 9; Atlantic puffin 2; Rock dove 829; Mourning dove 25; Downy woodpecker 13; Hairy woodpecker 3; Northern flicker 2; Gray jay 5; Blue jay 83; American crow 2428; Common raven 7; Black-capped chickadee 349; Boreal chickadee 23; Red-breasted nuthatch 28; White-breasted nuthatch 1; Brown creeper 8; Golden-crowned kinglet 48; **Ruby-crowned kinglet** 1; American robin 316; Northern mockingbird 1; Cedar waxwing 12; European starling 4246; **Orange-crowned warbler** 1; Yellow-rumped warbler 2; **Pine warbler** 1; **Wilson's warbler** 1; American tree sparrow 22; Savannah sparrow 8; Song sparrow 69; Swamp sparrow 4; White-throated sparrow 28; Dark-eyed junco 281; Common grackle 4; Brown-headed cowbird 1; Purple finch 1; Pine siskin 52; American goldfinch 96; House sparrow 107.

Total species 80, about 20630 individuals. (CP. Pied-billed grebe, Northern harrier, Evening grosbeak) Ruth Ballem, Phyllis Bryson, Bill Caudle, John Cohrs, Lise Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs (compiler), Eric Cooke, David Currie, Bob Dickie, Helen Dickie, Sylvia Fullerton, Bill Freedman, Gwen MacDonald, Wendy McDonald, Peter MacLeod, Don MacNeill, Bob McDonald, Ian McLaren, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Christine Ross, Bev Sarty, Bob Taboski, Azor Vienneau.

MARGAREE, Dec. 21; 8:00AM to 4:00PM. Temp. -4 to 0C. Wind NW 20kmph. Snow cover 5cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. A.M. clear, P.M. partly cloudy. 4 field observers in 2 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 16 (3 on foot, 13 by car). Total party kilometres 125 (6 on foot, 119 by car).

Canada goose 31; American black duck 47; Common goldeneye 38; Common merganser 78; **Osprey** 1; Bald eagle 15; Red-tailed hawk 3; Ruffed grouse 16; Herring gull 33; Iceland gull 4; Great black-backed gull 36; Mourning dove 3; owl species 1; Belted kingfisher 1; Downy woodpecker 4; Hairy woodpecker 5; Pileated woodpecker 5; Gray jay 8; Blue jay 38; American crow 132; Common raven 71; Black-capped chickadee 62; Boreal chickadee 2; Red-breasted nuthatch 3; Brown creeper 3; European starling 159; Dark-eyed junco 4; Pine grosbeak 21; Pine siskin 5; American goldfinch 7; Evening grosbeak 42; House sparrow 82.

Total species 31, about 960 individuals. Frances Hart (compiler), Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham.

PICTOU HARBOUR, Jan. 2; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -15 to -17C. Wind NW 60kmph. Snow cover 25cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Cloudy, blowing snow all day. 8 field observers in 4 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 23.5 (2 on foot, 21.5 by car). Total party kilometres 363 (4 on foot, 359 by car).

Double-crested cormorant 1; Canada goose 473; American black duck 461; Mallard 6; Greater scaup 1690; Oldsquaw 4; Surf scoter 3; White-winged scoter 1; Common goldeneye 215; Bufflehead 1; Common merganser 294; Red-breasted merganser 17; Bald eagle 20; Sharp-shinned hawk 1; Red-tailed hawk 2; Rough-legged hawk 2; Ruffed grouse 1; Ring-billed gull 5; Herring gull 1185; Iceland gull 20; Glaucous gull 2; Great black-backed gull 215; Rock dove 42; Belted kingfisher 2; Downy woodpecker 2; Hairy woodpecker 1; Northern flicker 1; Blue jay 39; American crow 298; Common raven 51; Black-capped chickadee 95; Red-breasted nuthatch 1; White-breasted nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned kinglet 2; **Ruby-crowned kinglet** 1; American robin 4; European starling 212; Yellow-rumped warbler 1; American tree sparrow 20; Song sparrow 2; Dark-eyed junco 51; Snow bunting 1; Pine grosbeak 10; Pine siskin 1; American goldfinch 63; Evening grosbeak 63; House sparrow 65.

Total species 47, about 5648 individuals. (CP. MallardxBlack

duck hybrid, Great cormorant, Great blue heron, Green-winged teal, Common eider, Black scoter, Merlin, Common black-headed gull, Bonaparte's gull, Mourning dove, Pileated woodpecker, Horned lark, Cedar waxwing, Northern shrike) Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Kaye Davidson, Margaret Kenney, Ken McKenna (compiler), Lorne McKenna, Richard Murphy.

PORT L'HEBERT, Dec. 20; 7:00AM to 5:00PM. Temp. 3 to 5C. Wind SW 30-40kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Cloudy, heavy rain all day. 12 field observers in 10 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 68 (47.5 on foot, 20.5 by car). Total party kilometres 617 (79 on foot, 538 by car).

Red-throated loon 5; Common loon 54; Horned grebe 17; Red-necked grebe 4; Northern gannet 7; Great cormorant 33; Great blue heron 1; Canada goose 3005; Green-winged teal 7; American black duck 970; Mallard 3; Common eider 190; Harlequin duck 2; Oldsquaw 28; Black scoter 11; Surf scoter 1; White-winged scoter 12; Common goldeneye 19; Bufflehead 7; Red-breasted merganser 11; Northern harrier 1; Spruce grouse 1; Ruffed grouse 16; **Black-bellied plover** 2; Sanderling 1; Purple sandpiper 2; **Dunlin** 6; Common snipe 1; Common black-headed gull 3; Herring gull 364; **Lesser black-backed gull** 1; Great black-backed gull 218; Black guillemot 1; Rock dove 13; Mourning dove 54; Barred owl 1; Downy woodpecker 3; Hairy woodpecker 2; Northern flicker 22; Gray jay 5; Blue jay 40; American crow 103; Common raven 6; Black-capped chickadee 219; Boreal chickadee 22; Red-breasted nuthatch 48; White-breasted nuthatch 5; Brown creeper 2; Golden-crowned kinglet 71; **Ruby-crowned kinglet** 4; American robin 8; Northern mockingbird 2; European starling 226; Yellow-rumped warbler 50; American tree sparrow 13; Savannah sparrow 2; **Fox sparrow** 1; Song sparrow 32; Swamp sparrow 6; White-throated sparrow 62; Dark-eyed junco 162; Snow bunting 15; Red-winged blackbird 2; Purple finch 29; Red crossbill 20; Common redpoll 5; Pine siskin 4; American goldfinch 90; Evening grosbeak 4; House sparrow 21.

Total species 70, about 6378 individuals. (CP. Bald eagle, Sharp-shinned hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Ring-billed gull, Belted kingfisher, **Brown thrasher**, Northern shrike, **Yellow-breasted chat**, Rusty blackbird, **Northern oriole**) John Brown, Lloyd Cameron, Bill Crosby, Donna Crosby, Russel Crosby (compiler) Bill Curry, Emerson Fiske, Danny Mason, Robert Turner, Carmen Williams, David Young, Joan Young.

PUBNICO, Dec. 27; 7:45AM to 4:00PM. Temp. -10 to -6C. Wind W 20kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies clear all day. 18 field observers in 12 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 35 (10 on foot, 25 by car). Total party kilometres 326 (21 on foot, 305 by car).

Common loon 9; Red-necked grebe 2; Great blue heron 2; American black duck 150; Greater scaup 1; Common eider 5; Oldsquaw 25; Common goldeneye 140; Red-breasted merganser 38; Northern harrier 3; Sharp-shinned hawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 5; Rough-legged hawk 4; American kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked pheasant 8; Ruffed grouse 1; Common snipe 1; Ring-billed gull 7; Herring gull 715; Great black-backed gull 292; Rock dove 5; Mourning dove 70; Great horned owl 1; Barred owl 1; Downy woodpecker 3; Northern flicker 8; Blue jay 36; American crow 210; Common raven 11; Black-capped chickadee 194; Boreal chickadee 32; Red-breasted nuthatch 43; Brown creeper 2; Golden-crowned kinglet 26; American robin 196; Northern mockingbird 1; Water pipit 5; European starling 128; Yellow-rumped warbler 23; **Northern cardinal** 1; American tree sparrow 34; Chipping sparrow 6; **Lark sparrow** 1; Savannah sparrow 1; Song sparrow 39; White-throated sparrow 136; Dark-eyed junco 291; **Eastern meadowlark** 2; Purple finch 2; Pine siskin 32; American goldfinch 163; House sparrow 51.

Total species 53, about 3166 individuals. (CP. Bufflehead, Bald eagle, Belted kingfisher, Common grackle, **American woodcock**). Albert D'Entremont, Delisle J. D'Entremont, Germain D'Entremont, Gisele D'Entremont, Lisette D'Entremont, Lucius D'Entremont, Raymond S. D'Entremont, Serge D'Entremont, Claire D'Eon, Jerome D'Eon, Lester

D'Eon, Reginald D'Eon, Ted D'Eon (compiler), June Graves, Albert Lennox, Ethelda Murphy, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 27; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -16 to -8C. Wind NW 20-25kmph. Snow cover 8-10cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies clear all day. 14 field observers in 8 parties, 23 at feeders, 0.25 hours owling. Total party hours 42.5 (10 on foot, 32.5 by car). Total party kilometres 204.5 (19 on foot, 185.5 by car).

American black duck 34; Mallard 14; Bald eagle 13; Sharp-shinned hawk 1; Northern goshawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 3; Ring-necked pheasant 16; Ruffed grouse 12; Herring gull 32; Great black-backed gull 5; Rock dove 192; Mourning dove 55; Barred owl 3; Downy woodpecker 18; Hairy woodpecker 15; Pileated woodpecker 11; Gray jay 7; Blue jay 158; American crow 418; Common raven 349; Black-capped chickadee 237; Boreal chickadee 8; Red-breasted nuthatch 29; Golden-crowned kinglet 7; European starling 1674; American tree sparrow 26; Chipping sparrow 1; Song sparrow 7; White-throated sparrow 21; Dark-eyed junco 177; Red-winged blackbird 1; Rusty blackbird 1; Brown-headed cowbird 25; Pine siskin 2; American goldfinch 314; Evening grosbeak 232; House sparrow 240.

Total species 37, about 4360 individuals. (CP. Cedar waxwing, Pine grosbeak) Barbara Aitken, Herb Fassett, Brenda Grantmyre, Glennys Hutton, Ernest Jarvis, Joan Jarvis, Herman Jwerlink, Anne MacDonald, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler), Eldon Pace, Nancy Smallwood, Audrey Tyler, Lorne Tyler, Lorne Weaver.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 19; 8:00AM to 4:15PM. Temp. -1 to 4C. Wind N 3-7kmph. Snow cover 20cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. Skies partly cloudy all day. 9 field observers in 4 parties, 2.25 hours and 25 kilometres owling. Total party hours 30 (5 on foot, 25 by car). Total party kilometres 405 (6 on foot, 399 by car).

American black duck 66; Common merganser 9; Bald eagle 6; Sharp-shinned hawk 3; Red-tailed hawk 3; Ring-necked pheasant 1; Ring-billed gull 3; Herring gull 114; Great black-backed gull 5; Rock dove 379; Mourning dove 7; Barred owl 1; Downy woodpecker 6; Hairy woodpecker 2; Pileated woodpecker 1; Gray jay 8; Blue jay 72; American crow 380; Common raven 29; Black-capped chickadee 133; Boreal chickadee 11; Red-breasted nuthatch 4; White-breasted nuthatch 4; Golden-crowned kinglet 9; Cedar waxwing 142; European starling 478; Rufous-sided towhee 1; American tree sparrow 16; Song sparrow 1; Swamp sparrow 1; Dark-eyed junco 44; Snow bunting 1; Pine grosbeak 41; American goldfinch 85; Evening grosbeak 116; House sparrow 211.

Total species 36, about 2393 individuals. (CP. Spruce grouse, Ruffed grouse, Iceland gull, Brown creeper, Rusty blackbird, White-throated sparrow). Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Margaret Clark, Ethel Crathorne, Margaret Kenney (compiler), Ken McKenna, Richard Murphy, Stephen Vines.

STRAIT OF CANSO, Dec. 29; 7:20AM to 4:40PM. Temp. .5 to 4C. Wind NW 5kmph. Snow cover 10cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. A.M. cloudy, P.M. cloudy, light rain. 12 field observers in 5-6 parties, 8 at feeders. Total party hours 25.25 (11 on foot, 13.25 by car, 1 by snowmobile). Total party kilometres 278.5 (13.5 on foot, 253 by car, 12 by snowmobile).

Common loon 1; Pied-billed grebe 1; Horned grebe 1; Red-necked grebe 6; Common eider 1; Oldsquaw 85; White-winged scoter 9; Common goldeneye 15; Red-breasted merganser 41; duck species 100; Bald eagle 6; Ruffed grouse 5; Common black-headed gull 6; Bonaparte's gull 38; Ring-billed gull 13; Herring gull 554; Iceland gull 63; Glaucous gull 207; Great black-backed gull 131; gull species 22; Black guillemot 10; Rock dove 24; Mourning dove 22; Downy woodpecker 4; Hairy woodpecker 2; Gray jay 4; Blue jay 27; American crow 148; Common raven 1; Black-capped chickadee 56; Boreal chickadee 16; Red-breasted nuthatch 12; Golden-crowned kinglet 17; Bohemian

waxwing 2; Cedar waxwing 1; European starling 205; American tree sparrow 5; Chipping sparrow 1; Song sparrow 14; White-throated sparrow 6; Dark-eyed junco 14; Common grackle 2; Pine grosbeak 3; Purple finch 3; Pine siskin 6; American goldfinch 62; Evening grosbeak 92; House sparrow 54.

Total species 46, about 2123 individuals. (CP. Black scoter, Sharp-shinned hawk, White-breasted nuthatch, **Pine warbler**, Rusty blackbird). Vicky Bunbury, Murdoch Digout, William Digout, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope, Sean Hope, Jim Meagher, Kerstin Mueller (compiler), Duncan Pulsifer, Mark Pulsifer, Agneta Sand, Brian Starzomski.

TRURO, Dec. 29; 8:00AM to 4:20PM. Temp. -1 to 3C. Wind 5-10kmph. Snow cover 8cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. cloudy, light rain, P.M. cloudy. 5 field observers in 3 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party hours 28.5 (10 on foot, 11.5 by car). Total party kilometres 200 (20 on foot, 180 by car).

American black duck 37; Mallard 75; Bald eagle 7; Sharp-shinned hawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 3; Ring-necked pheasant 1; Ruffed grouse 6; Herring gull 496; Iceland gull 3; Great black-backed gull 156; Rock dove 125; Mourning dove 13; Downy woodpecker 4; Hairy woodpecker 3; Pileated woodpecker 1; Horned lark 12; Blue jay 77; American crow 1524; Common raven 38; Black-capped chickadee 70; Boreal chickadee 1; Red-breasted nuthatch 2; Brown creeper 3; Golden-crowned kinglet 2; American robin 1; European starling 1552; American tree sparrow 13; Savannah sparrow 1; Song sparrow 16; White-throated sparrow 3; Dark-eyed junco 10; American goldfinch 52; Evening grosbeak 2; House sparrow 87.

Total species 34, about 4398 individuals. Ross Baker, Allan Clark, Allan Eddy, Ross Hall (compiler), Francis Spalding.

WEST HANTS, Jan. 3; 7:30AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -18 to -7C. Wind W 10-25kmph. Snow cover 10cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. partly cloudy, P.M. clear. 33 field observers in 8-10 parties, 4 at feeders, 3 hours and 30 kilometres owling. Total party hours 93 (30 on foot, 63 by car). Total party kilometres 560 (48 on foot, 512 by car).

Canada goose 9; American black duck 457; Mallard 3; Common merganser 126; Red-breasted merganser 20; Bald eagle 33; Sharp-shinned hawk 10; Northern goshawk 1; Red-tailed hawk 29; Rough-legged hawk 6; Merlin 2; Gray partridge 1; Ring-necked pheasant 145; Spruce grouse 1; Ruffed grouse 13; Purple sandpiper 1; Ring-billed gull 15; Herring gull 485; Iceland gull 3; Great black-backed gull 254; Rock dove 512; Mourning dove 137; Great horned owl 2; Barred owl 2; **Saw-whet owl** 2; Downy woodpecker 37; Hairy woodpecker 32; Northern flicker 9; Pileated woodpecker 6; Horned lark 21; Gray jay 6; Blue jay 496; American crow 842; Common raven 246; Black-capped chickadee 685; Boreal chickadee 16; Red-breasted nuthatch 23; White-breasted nuthatch 17; Brown creeper 4; Golden-crowned kinglet 52; American robin 54; **Brown thrasher** 1; Bohemian waxwing 38; Cedar waxwing 254; European starling 2980; Yellow-rumped warbler 2; **Pine warbler** 1; American tree sparrow 73; Chipping sparrow 4; Savannah sparrow 1; Song sparrow 31; White-throated sparrow 49; Dark-eyed junco 381; Lapland longspur 1; Snow bunting 1101; Brown-headed cowbird 175; Pine grosbeak 46; Purple finch 12; Red crossbill 1; Common redpoll 30; Pine siskin 2; American goldfinch 662; Evening grosbeak 565; House sparrow 803.

Total species 64, about 12,028 individuals. (CP. Common eider, White-winged scoter, Northern harrier, Common grackle, **Northern oriole**). Brad Amirault, Carol Bradley, Karen Casselman (compiler), Ted Casselman (compiler), Bill Caudle, Louis Coutinho, Art Crowell, Elinor Currie, Gail Davis, Heidi de Boer, Elizabeth Ferguson, Helen Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Janos Kovacs, Fulton Lavender, Jill MacLean, Blake Maybank, Pat McKay, Mary Pratt, Sheila Robarts, Christine Ross, Beverley Shanks, Clarence Stevens, Jim Taylor, Brenda Thexton, Bill Thexton, Judy Tufts, Azor Vienneau, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Beth Woolaver, Frank Woolaver, Marty Zelenietz.

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 19; 7:30AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -2 to 2C. Wind 0-10kmph. Snow cover 0-10cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy all day. 54 field observers in 25-30 parties, 64 at feeders. Total party hours 190 (111.75 on foot, 78.25 by car). Total party kilometres 1201 (226.5 on foot, 974.5 by car).

Common loon 1; Great blue heron 1; Canada goose 15; American black duck 1674; Mallard 4; **Northern pintail** 1; Greater scaup 4; Oldsquaw 13; Black scoter 2; White-winged scoter 10; Common goldeneye 7; Bufflehead 1; Common merganser 13; Red-breasted merganser 2; Bald eagle 377; Northern harrier 1; Sharp-shinned hawk 6; **Cooper's hawk** 1; Northern goshawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 217; Rough-legged hawk 16; American kestrel 2; Merlin 5; Gray partridge 5; Ring-necked 290; Ruffed grouse 10; **Killdeer** 2; Ring-billed gull 162; Herring gull 27771; Iceland gull 3; Great black-backed gull 5175; Black guillemot 1; Rock dove 1359; Mourning dove 972; Great horned owl 2; Barred owl 2; Short-eared owl 7; Belted kingfisher 1; **Red-bellied woodpecker** 1; Downy woodpecker 69; Hairy woodpecker 32; Northern flicker 18; Pileated woodpecker 13; Horned lark 58; Gray jay 5; Blue jay 851; American crow 10155; Common raven 428; Black-capped chickadee 1484; Boreal chickadee 20; Red-breasted nuthatch 32; White-breasted nuthatch 20; Brown creeper 2; **House wren** 1; Golden-crowned kinglet 72; American robin 136; Northern mockingbird 1; Bohemian waxwing 24; Cedar waxwing 194; Northern shrike 1; European starling 36268; **Orange-crowned warbler** 1; American tree sparrow 30; Chipping sparrow 5; **Vesper sparrow** 1; Savannah sparrow 14; Song sparrow 169; Swamp sparrow 3; White-throated sparrow 90; Dark-eyed junco 1449; Red-winged blackbird 4; Common grackle 1; Brown-headed cowbird 3; Pine grosbeak 29; Purple finch 60; **House finch** 1; White-winged crossbill 1; Pine siskin 111; American goldfinch 681; Evening grosbeak 214; House sparrow 1523.

Total species 81, about 92412 individuals. (CP. **Rufous-sided towhee**). Joanne Bezanson, Sherman Boates, Soren Bondrup-Neilsen, Rob Cameron, Curtis Chipman, Margaret Chipman, Cyril Coldwell, Donna Crossland, Mark Elderkin, Fred Forsyth, George Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Jamie Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Lorna Hart, Tom Herman, Dave Johnson, Fulton Lavender, Virginia Lee, Charles Lennox, Charlotte Lennox, Peter MacDonald, Angus MacLean (compiler), Stella MacLean, Blake Maybank, Melissa McDonald, Rosaleen McDonald, Pat MacLeod, Randy Milton, Paul Morris, Reg Newell, Mike O'Brien, Terry Power, Mary Pratt, Barry Sabeau, Pia Skaarer-Neilsen, Richard Stern, Miriam Tams, Jim Taylor, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Julie Towers, Gerry Trueman, Gordon Tufts, Judy Tufts, Sherman Williams, Stephen Williams, Jim Wolford, Ping Wong, Frank Woolaver, Jeni Wright, Barry Yoell.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 20; 8:00AM to 5:00PM. Temp. 6 to 8C. Wind SW 30kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Cloudy, heavy rain all day. 22 field observers in 7 parties, 16 at feeders. Total party hours 47.25 (5.25 on foot, 42 by car). Total party kilometres 741.6 (11.6 on foot, 730 by car).

Common loon 7; Red-necked grebe 6; Great cormorant 1; cormorant species 2; Great blue heron 6; Canada goose 6; Green-winged teal 3; American black duck 158; Mallard 179; **Ring-necked duck** 1; Greater scaup 29; **Lesser scaup** 1; Common eider 8; Oldsquaw 43; Surf scoter 1; Common goldeneye 14; Bufflehead 25; Red-breasted merganser 69; Bald eagle 1; Sharp-shinned hawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 1; Ring-necked pheasant 14; Ruffed grouse 3; **Dunlin** 8; Ring-billed gull 80; Herring gull 2165; Iceland gull 4; Glaucous gull 2; Great black-backed gull 2067; gull species 74; Black guillemot 1; Rock dove 101; Mourning dove 128; Belted kingfisher 3; Downy woodpecker 1; Hairy woodpecker 2; Northern flicker 7; Horned lark 32; Blue jay 50; American crow 572; Common raven 19; Black-capped chickadee 236; Boreal chickadee 4; Red-breasted nuthatch 18; Brown creeper 2; Golden-crowned kinglet 12; American robin 90; European starling 2691; Yellow-rumped warbler 2; **Pine warbler** 1; American tree sparrow 2; Chipping sparrow 1;

Savannah sparrow 1; Song sparrow 37; White-throated sparrow 24; Dark-eyed junco 42; Red-winged blackbird 5; Common grackle 11; Brown-headed cowbird 31; Northern oriole 2; Purple finch 1; **House finch 3**; Common redpoll 1; American goldfinch 197; House sparrow 20.

Total species 63, about 9330 individuals. (CP. **American wigeon**, American kestrel, Common snipe, Barred owl, Gray jay, White-breasted nuthatch, Northern mockingbird, Cedar waxwing, **Yellow-breasted chat**, **Northern cardinal**, **Rufous-sided towhee**, **Fox sparrow**). Peter Comeau, Cecil Day, Raymond d'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, June Graves, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Jennifer Hall, Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Hazel MacDonald, Ethelda Murphy, Arthur Porter, Ingrid Prosser, Lloyd Prosser, Sandra Pustowka, Barbara Ruff (compiler), Eric Ruff (compiler), Robin Rymer, Gerry Somers, Billy Tait, Belinda Tucker.

1992 Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals

The following list comprises of all 150 species seen during the 1992 Christmas Counts and where the highest number of individuals were recorded in the province.

There were three new species (underlined> added to the list this year, bringing the all-time provincial list to 233 plus 3 additional races. There are 30 species (emboldened) which broke previous all-time high counts.

Wolfville led the high count list once again this year with 33, distantly followed by Brier Island with 16, Halifax West with 15, Halifax East with 13, West Hants with 11 and Port L'Hebert with 10.

Red-throated loon 10 (Brier Island); Common loon 84 (Brier Island); Pied-billed grebe 1 (Strait of Canso); Horned grebe 36 (Antigonish); Red-necked Grebe 60 (Brier Island); Northern gannet 51 (Cheticamp); Great cormorant 135 (Brier Island); Double-crested cormorant 13 (Annapolis Royal); Great blue heron 6; (Cape Sable Island); **Brant 75** (Halifax East); Canada goose 3005 (Port L'Hebert); Wood duck 1 (Broad Cove, Halifax West); Green-winged teal 7 (Port L'Hebert); American black duck 2468 (Halifax West); Mallard 197 (Halifax West); Northern pintail 2 (Economy); Gadwall 1 (Halifax West); American wigeon 7 (Halifax West); Ring-necked duck 1 (Yarmouth); Greater scaup 1690 (Pictou Harbour); Lesser scaup 1 (Yarmouth); Common eider 494 (Halifax West); Harlequin duck 8 (Brier Island); Oldsquaw 441 (Glace Bay); Black scoter 19 (Broad Cove); Surf scoter 67 (Annapolis Royal); White-winged scoter 99 (Glace Bay); Common goldeneye 229 (Broad Cove); **Barrow's goldeneye 18** (Annapolis Royal); Bufflehead 279 (Annapolis Royal); Hooded merganser 2 (Halifax East); Common merganser 294 (Pictou Harbour); Red-breasted merganser 118 (Glace Bay); **Osprey 2** (Antigonish); **Bald eagle 377** (Wolfville); Northern harrier 5 (Halifax East); Sharp-shinned hawk 10 (West Hants); **Cooper's hawk 1** (Halifax East, Wolfville); Northern goshawk 2 (Shubenacadie, Wolfville); **Red-shouldered hawk 1** (Brier Island); **Broad-winged hawk 1** (Annapolis Royal); **Red-tailed hawk 217** (Wolfville); Rough-legged hawk 16 (Wolfville); American kestrel 2 (Wolfville), Merlin 5 (Wolfville); Gray partridge 5 (Wolfville); **Ring-necked pheasant 290** (Wolfville); Spruce grouse 2 (Halifax West); Ruffed grouse 24 (Caledonia); Black-bellied plover 2 (Port L'Hebert); Killdeer 2 (Halifax East, Wolfville); Ruddy Turnstone 4 (Brier Island); Red knot 1 (Brier Island, Cape Sable Island); Sanderling 13 (Broad Cove); Purple sandpiper 106 (Economy); Dunlin 8 (Yarmouth); Common Snipe 1 (Broad Cove, Cape Sable Island, Eskasoni, Port L'Hebert, Pubnico); **Parasitic Jaeger 1** (Halifax West); **Great skua 1** (Brier Island); Common black-headed gull 49 (Halifax West); **Bonaparte's gull 38** (Strait of Canso); **Common (Mew) gull 1** (Halifax West); Ring-billed gull 169 (Halifax East); **Herring gull 27771** (Wolfville); Iceland gull 273 (Cheticamp); Lesser black-backed gull 2 (Halifax West); **Glaucous gull 207** (Strait of Canso); **Great**

black-backed gull 5175 (Wolfville); Black-legged kittiwake 600 (Cheticamp); Sabine's gull 1 (Halifax West); Dovekie 56 (Cape Breton Highlands); Common murre 6 (Brier Island); Thick-billed murre 1200 (Brier Island); Razorbill 4 (Brier Island); Black guillemot 59 (Brier Island); Atlantic puffin 6 (Brier Island); Rock dove 1359 (Wolfville); **Mourning dove 972** (Wolfville); Great horned owl 4 (Glace bay); Snowy owl 1 (Brier Island, Cape Sable Island); Barred owl 3 (Eskasoni, Shubenacadie); Short-eared owl 7 (Wolfville); Northern saw-whet owl 2 (West Hants); Belted kingfisher 3 (Yarmouth); **Red-bellied woodpecker 1** (Wolfville); **Downy woodpecker 69** (Wolfville); **Hairy woodpecker 32** (Wolfville); Black-backed woodpecker 1 (Economy); **Northern flicker 22** (Port L'Hebert); Pileated Woodpecker 13 (Wolfville); Horned lark 58 (Wolfville); Gray jay 16 (Advocate); Blue jay 851 (Wolfville); American crow 10155 (Wolfville); Common raven 428 (Wolfville); **Black-capped chickadee 1484** (Wolfville); Boreal chickadee 91 (Halifax East); Red-breasted nuthatch 48 (Port L'Hebert); White-breasted nuthatch 20 (Wolfville); Brown creeper 8 (Economy); **House wren 1** (Brier Island, Wolfville); Golden-crowned kinglet 96 (Economy); **Ruby-crowned kinglet 4** (Port L'Hebert); American robin 392 (Broad Cove); Northern mockingbird 2 (Port L'Hebert); Brown thrasher 1 (West Hants); Water pipit 5 (Pubnico); Bohemian waxwing 140 (Cheticamp); **Cedar waxwing 254** (West Hants); Northern shrike 1 (Amherst, Antigonish, Economy, Glace Bay, Wolfville); **European starling 36268** (Wolfville); Orange-crowned warbler 1 (Halifax West, Wolfville); Yellow-rumped warbler 90 (Cape Sable Island); Pine warbler 1 (Amherst, Halifax East, Halifax West, West Hants, Yarmouth); Palm warbler 1 (Cape Sable Island); Common yellowthroat 1 (Cape Sable Island); **Wilson's warbler 1** (Halifax West); Northern cardinal 1 (Pubnico); Dickcissel 1; (Bridgetown, Glace Bay, Halifax East); Rufous-sided towhee 1 (Glace Bay, Springville); American tree sparrow 73 (West Hants); Chipping sparrow 6 (Pubnico); Field sparrow 1 (Broad Cove); Vesper sparrow 1 (Wolfville); **Lark sparrow 1** (Pubnico); Savannah sparrow 36 (Halifax West); Savannah (Ipswich) sparrow 2 (Broad Cove, Halifax East); Sharp-tailed sparrow 3 (Halifax East); Fox sparrow 1 (Port L'Hebert); Song sparrow 169 (Wolfville); Swamp sparrow 6 (Port L'Hebert); White-throated sparrow 136 (Pubnico); **Dark-eyed junco 1449** (Wolfville); Lapland longspur 51 (Glace Bay); Snow bunting 1101 (West Hants); Red-winged blackbird 25 (Bridgetown); Eastern meadowlark 2 (Pubnico); Rusty blackbird 3 (Cape Sable Island); Common grackle 13; (Bridgetown); Brown-headed cowbird 175 (West Hants); Northern oriole 2 (Halifax East, Yarmouth); Pine grosbeak 46 (West Hants); Purple finch 71 (Annapolis Royal); House finch 3 (Yarmouth); Red crossbill 21 (Broad Cove); White-winged crossbill 4 (Bridgetown); Common redpoll 30 (West Hants); Pine siskin 314 (Broad Cove); American goldfinch 314 (Broad Cove); Evening grosbeak 565 (West Hants); House sparrow 1523 (West Hants).

David Currie



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NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
A Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society

Volume 35 Number 2

April 1993

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

ISSN 0383-9567

Publications Mail
Reg. No. 4628
Published four times a year