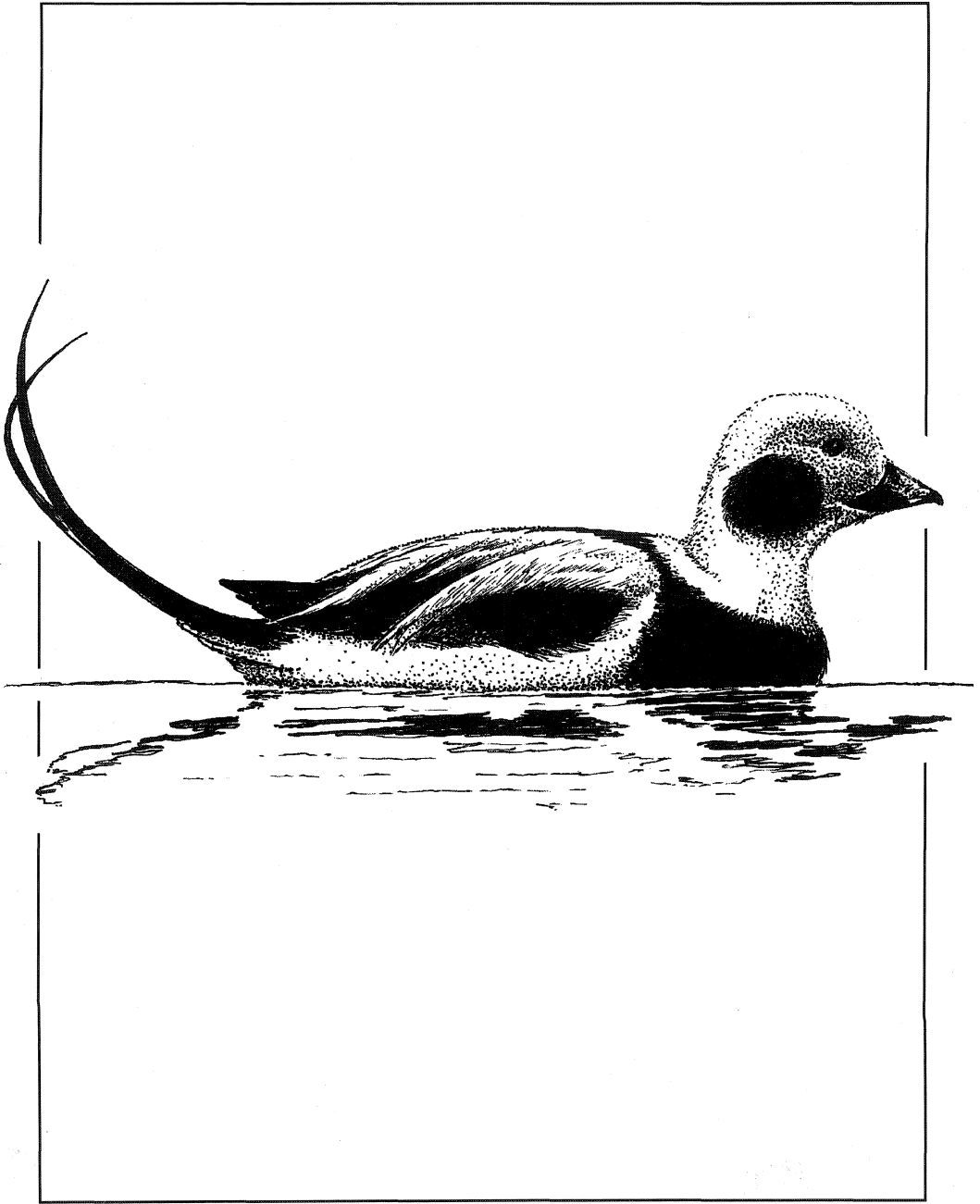


# Nova Scotia Birds



January 1994

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS  
A Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society

---

Volume 36 Number 1

January 1994

---

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief	Shirley Cohrs
Records Editor	Bob Dickie
Photographic Editor	Ian McLaren
Christmas Counts	David Currie Francis Spalding
Seasonal Bird Reports	R.G.B. Brown David Currie Keith Keddy
Cover: Oldsquaw by Bob Dickie	Ian McLaren Peter Payzant Francis Spalding Richard Stern

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Report	2
Record Editor's Report	5
Fall Migration Bird Reports	6
Puffin of the Year	37
The Readers Speak	40
Ornithocrostic	42
The Feeder Page	46
About Field Trips	49
Field Trip Reports	51
Forthcoming Field Trips	57
Annual General Meeting 1993	62

Use of any material from NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS  
requires written permission from the Editor.

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

☆ ☆  
☆  
*Happy  
New Year!*  
☆ ☆ ☆  
☆ ☆

FROM YOUR

1993-1994 Executive



Left to right: Louis Coutinho, Bernice Moores, Christine Ross, Lisé Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs, Bob Dickie, Carol MacNeill, Bill Caudle and Jim Taylor

--Peter Payzant

PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
October 1993

We started off the year on a sad note when we learned of the death of one of our Life Members, Frank F. Robertson, affectionately known as the "Dean of Ornithology" for Cape Breton.

On a happier note, the long awaited Nova Scotia Bird Society "Pins" finally arrived after much follow-up, and all the orders which had been collecting could be filled at last.

Unhappily, our financial situation required that dues be raised in 1994. This is the first increase since 1987. The executive is also looking at other ideas for increasing our income and membership as well as ways of cutting expenses.

It was decided to make contact with some of the young people in the province who might possibly develop an interest in our Society now or in the future. In September, every Grade 12 Honours Biology class in Nova Scotia was sent 1993 issues of **Nova Scotia Birds** as well as a letter providing some information about the Society. Many thanks to Margaret Clark, who was able to compile the list of classes for us.

A committee looked into the feasibility of setting up a 1-800 line for the Nova Scotia Bird Information Line which would make it more accessible to our members outside of the Halifax/Dartmouth area. Unfortunately, the cost of this is beyond our own means and attempts to get financing from government sources were unsuccessful.

Each year we present trophies for two bird photography competitions. This year the winner of the "Chickadee Trophy" for the Nova Scotia Bird Society Contest was Alan Covert, for his Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Lorris Keizer took top honours at the Photographic Guild's competition with his Common Flicker, for the "Puffin Trohpy". The quality of the photographs submitted was very high and the pictures wonderful.

I would like to thank the members who contributed binoculars at the request of the Fairfax Audubon Society for use by birders in Latin America who lack the resources to buy equipment.

As a first step in an effort to make the Society more reflective of the wishes and interests of the allover membership, a Questionnaire was sent out with the April newsletter, to find out what members wanted, liked, disliked, thought, were willing to do, etc. Although many people did not take advantage of this opportunity to express themselves, over 100 replies were received and the executive is in the process of analyzing the information received and trying to act on some of the ideas expressed. A report will be published in the January issue of **Nova Scotia Birds**.

A number of conservation issues were dealt with during the year. For the Canadian Wildlife Service, input was provided as requested on the Migratory Birds Convention Act, Regulatory Review and also suggestions as to what the Society *might be able to* contribute to the Migratory Birds Oil Spill Contingency Plan. Our thanks go to Donna Crosby of Lockeport, who represented the Society at the Port Joli Basin Conservation Society Environmental Awareness Day and to Ian McLaren who, among others, led nature walks. Letters were sent to various government representatives regarding proposed construction on the mud-flats at Crescent Beach, an important staging area for shorebirds and breeding ground for Willets. Shirley Cohrs attended several locally organized meetings. Currently this project is on hold, awaiting results of an environmental impact study.

Some good news for the last: This summer I wrote yet again on behalf of the Society to the Premier and many other government ministers with the request that the Osprey be proclaimed as the Provincial Bird. On September 7, 1993, I received the following letter from Premier John Savage.



THE PREMIER  
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA  
B3J 2T3

September 7, 1993

Ms. Carol MacNeil  
President  
Nova Scotia Bird Society  
c/o N.S. Museum  
1747 Summer St.  
Halifax, N.S.  
B3H 3A6

Dear Ms. MacNeil:

Re: Provincial Bird

Thank you for your letter of August 25, 1993, regarding previous recommendations to proclaim the Osprey as the official bird of Nova Scotia and the lack of action to date.

I am pleased to advise that it is the intention to have the Osprey proclaimed the official bird of Nova Scotia as soon as conveniently possible. We will give consideration to introducing legislation during the upcoming session. If so, it should be possible to make a formal announcement at the 23rd Annual Conference of the Canadian Nature Federation scheduled for Halifax next August.

The efforts of the Nova Scotia Bird Society in this regard are sincerely appreciated and I look forward to making the designation of an avian symbol in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Savage".

John Savage

cc: The Honourable Don Downe  
The Honourable John MacEachern  
The Honourable Robert Harrison  
The Honourable Ross Bragg

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the other members of the executive who have worked hard over the past twelve months and have helped and supported me with their knowledge and experience. In addition, I would like to thank the many other members whose contributions make the running of our Society possible: Chris Field for hosting the monthly meetings, Bev Sarty for our mailings, Cathy Murrant for acting as our Cape Breton contact, Bernice Moores for arranging the speakers for our monthly meetings, Blake Maybank who runs the Bird Information Line, Milton Gregg who is responsible for our slide collection, those who have volunteered to do the juice and cookies, John Cohrs for carving the Puffin of the Year, Jim Morrow, our Auditor and Tony Robinson, our Solicitor, the Sanctuary Scholarship and Trust Committee, our Editorial Board, those who have contributed articles to *Nova Scotia Birds*, as well as all of the field trip leaders, far and near. A special thank you to Jim Taylor, who has done an excellent job as Field Trip Coordinator for the past several years and who is retiring from the position this year and a big welcome to Angus MacLean from the Valley, who is taking over from Jim. Last but not least, thank you to Giselle d'Entremont and Joan Harbinger for providing us with the wine and cheese to come.

Carol MacNeill



DIRECTORS OF THE SANCTUARY  
AND  
SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND  
1993-1994



Left to Right: Eric Cooke, Ken Gregoire,  
Shirley Cohrs, Dave Currie (absent Alan  
Covert) --Photo Peter Payzant

## RECORDS EDITOR'S REPORT

We feel that there is a need for more extensive documentation of rarities reported in **Nova Scotia Birds**. The magazine is of course, many things to many people but it does provide a place to record the sighting of birds in the province over time. The revision of Robie Tuft's **Birds of Nova Scotia** made full use of our records. In recent years, however, reports have become less easily judged than in those days when the few active birders were known to all.

In future, reports of rarities which do not include specific details as to what was seen or heard will not be published in **Nova Scotia Birds**. Those that do include such details will be published along with the reporter's statement of the characteristics that prompted the identification and, perhaps, a comment by the editor if it is deemed necessary. For example, a report of a Cooper's Hawk without supporting documentation will not appear in the magazine. A report of this bird which describes it as "somewhat smaller than a Crow" will be published but the editor may add a comment such as "Unfortunately the rounded, broadly white tipped tail and other pertinent field marks were not mentioned." In this way readers can judge for themselves what was actually seen.

"Rarities" are as follows:

1. All birds that do not appear on our Society's current (blue) field check list.
2. All species (including some on the check list) that had been recorded less than ten times in Tufts (1968).
3. The following "difficult" species among those on the check list (most are marked with a \* on the list).

Pacific (Arctic) Loon  
 Eurasian Wigeon (female)  
 Less. vs Greater Scaup  
 King Eider (female)  
 Cooper's Hawk  
 Red Shouldered vs Broad-winged Hawk (imm.)  
 Golden Eagle  
 Clapper Rail  
 Marbled Godwit  
 Western Sandpiper  
 Curlew Sandpiper (eliminate others with abnormal bills)  
 Long-billed Dowitcher  
 Great Skua (distinguish from South Polar)  
 Immature jaeger  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (unseasonably late)  
 Empidonax flycatchers  
 N. Rough-winged Swallow  
 House Wren  
 N. Wheatear  
 All late thrushes other than Hermit  
 Philadelphia Vireo  
 Nashville Warbler (very late) eliminate Orange-crowned.  
 Blackpoll/Bay-breasted Warblers (eliminate Pine)  
 Seaside Sparrow  
 Brewer's Blackbird

In addition to the above, our accounts of common or regular species would be greatly improved if those submitting records remember that we are most interested in arrival and departure dates (spring and fall migration), major movements, concentrations and trends.

Bob Dickie, Records Editor.

## BIRD REPORTS - FALL 1993

## LOONS AND GREBES

Most of our 16 reports of RED-THROATED LOONS mention only 1 or 2 birds but 48 were at Big Is., Pic. Co. on Oct. 15 (CGB) and 12 were at Port Howe Oct. 9 (JWT). Too seldom seen in our waters, a Red-throated Loon in full breeding plumage was at Cherry Hill Beach on the unusual date of Sept. 19 (ELM)—Eric wonders if its origin could be the small breeding population in St. Pierre et Miquelon; 5 birds lingered in the Cherry Hill/Green Bay area to Nov. 9 (JSC,JLC).

A report of a possible Arctic? Pacific loon came in from ROB, seen at Port Joli Bay on Oct. 24. He writes "it was slightly larger than the Red-throats (with which it was seen—Ed.) and much smaller than the Commons with a finer, darker bill, dark line under the eye, whiter neck and white near the tail." (The latter field mark would suggest an Arctic Loon of which there have been no eastern records—Ed.)

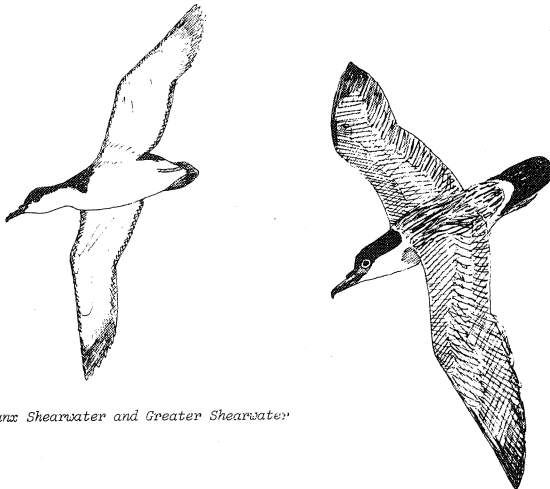
Reports of breeding COMMON LOONS came from North Range, Dig. Co.), Porter's Lake, APBS, and Lake Torment, Kings Co., where the Dowds report "an adult on a nest on the only patch (very small patch) of undeveloped shoreline left on this lake." Reports of Common Loons on salt water were sparse for the most part. Exceptions were 49, Oct. 24 in Port Joli Bay (ROB), "lots" off Brier Is. on Nov. 7 (RBS) and on Nov. 13 SJF counted 38 at Cherry Hill.

PIED-BILLED GREBE reports were about average for the period although a count of 10 at APBS on June 5 (BML et al.) seems low for that area. Two adult birds with at least 2 young were in the marsh at Apple River on July 18, while a week later at Wallace Bay one was still on a nest (JWT). Eight fall reports tallied 15 birds in all.

The only HORNED GREBES noted were 5 on Oct. 23 at the mouth of Sandy Cove in Mahone Bay (RDH) and 2 at Three Fathom Hbr., Nov. 13 (BLM,ROF). A RED-NECKED GREBE was at Brier Is. on the unusual date of Aug. 12 (RBS); a month later 2 were at Brier (EPS). The only others were 2 Oct. 15 at Green Bay (JSC).

On Oct. 15 Roger Burrows saw a grebe in Port Joli Bay that he considered was possibly a WESTERN GREBE; he had a better look nine days later (24th), in the same location, and has submitted a drawing and full description in which he compared the Western with the 2 Red-necks with which it was seen—"slightly larger size; longer neck; longer, slimmer bill (bright yellow)". The black-cap covered the eye, eliminating "Clark's".

BDS, ed.



*Manx Shearwater and Greater Shearwater*

RB.



## FULMARS TO CORMORANTS

On July 5, Raymond d'Entremont saw about 500 NORTHERN FULMARS on Brown's Bank. As he says, it's unusual to see many fulmars there at that time of year. The only other report was Angus MacLean's bird off Neils Harbour, Cape Breton on Sept. 5. Raymond had a good summer for shearwaters. On June 13, he estimated at least 3,000 SOOTY SHEARWATERS on Georges Bank--presumably new arrivals from the colonies off Cape Horn. As usual, these birds moved quickly through the area, heading for the NE Atlantic. However, Raymond saw a few Sooties in the area as late as October. He also saw a CORY'S SHEARWATER among the fulmars on Brown's Bank on July 5, and he found that Cory's were quite common on Georges Bank in October. I can't do justice to all the other large shearwater reports in what was clearly a very good summer for them. They include Ian McLaren's 8+ Cory's Shearwaters about 20 miles south of Cape Sable on Sept. 25, Cory's is a subtropical species and, as Ian says, the waters off southern Nova Scotia were unusually warm this summer, but Greater and Sooties, birds of cooler waters, were also abundant. Richard Stern, for example, saw 25+ late Sooty Shearwaters off Brier Is. on Sept. 25 that were "swamped" by huge numbers of Greater. Blake Maybank and Margaret Bain report 300 Greater off Sober Is., Hfx. Co., Oct. 10, in a spectacular feeding frenzy, mixed up with skuas and jaegers. This is one of the latest reports, and one of the most northerly. Its latitude is beaten only by Alan Murrant's single Sooty Shearwater off Port Morien, C.B., June 4, and the 25 Greater that Ian McLaren saw off Neil's Harbour on Sept. 5. This tubenose bonanza did not extend to the smaller species. Cathy Murrant saw a MANX SHEARWATER off Port Morien on July 22; Raymond d'Entremont saw 2 on Georges Bank on July 14 and the Payzants saw 1 off Brier Island on Aug. 21. However, Richard Stern saw 20+ off Brier on Aug. 28, and thinks that Manx were commoner there than in previous years. Storm-petrel reports were scarce. Our reports of LEACH'S STORM-PETRELS include several brought inshore by storms. For example, Nancy and Connie Dowd's bird in Riverport Harbour on May 20; David Young's bird on Sept. 27 in the narrows above Louis Head Beach, and the 1 Raymond d'Entremont found by the roadside in L. W. Pubnico on Oct. 16. Alan Longhurst saw a probable Leach's swimming off the B.I.O. dock in Dartmouth on July 22. Tom Herman saw at least 20 Leach's off Brier Island on Sept. 29, but I don't count that as abnormally close inshore. The earliest WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS were reported by the Thextons, who saw 3 birds on June 24, close inshore at Windsor. The last were the 5 that Ken Kechegua and Calvin Brennan saw off Big Island, Pic. Co., on Oct. 25. Offshore, Raymond d'Entremont saw a Wilson's on Georges Bank on October 6, and notes that he doesn't usually see Wilson's out there in October. The bonanza was over by Nov. 8, when I spent the day off the Eastern Shore, steaming for Halifax. There wasn't a tubenose to be seen.

NORTHERN GANNETS were common--sometimes very common indeed. The prize goes to Carl Haycock, who caught the spring migration going past Brier Island on Apr. 19. He estimated that 4,000 birds went past in an hour. This is our only spring report. In the fall we had the usual scattered Gannets throughout August and September. Richard Stern, for example, saw 20+ Gannets off Brier Island on Sept. 19, none of them in adult plumage. The Cohrs saw 'many passing east off Cape LaHave Island on Oct. 10. On Nov. 5, ROB saw 71 adults passing Port Joli in 30 minutes and 2 adults and 2 subadults off Allen's Point on Nov. 5. On Nov. 8, from CSS Hudson, I saw about 30 gannets heading SW off Ecum Secum.

On June 19, Helen and Hubert Hall saw about 10 GREAT CORMORANTS nesting on a point of rock at the north end of Port Hood Is., C.B. Sue Hill saw 40-50 DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS with young in Kejimikujik National Park on July 17-18. Illegible Signature saw 100+ Greats on Scatarie Island on Sept. 1-3; the Morses saw an immature bird at Medea's Cove, Lun. Co., on Sept. 16; the Cohrs saw 1 at Petite Riviere on Oct. 1. Roger Burrows regularly saw small numbers of Great and DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS in the Port Joli area in September-November, up to Nov. 5. Blake Maybank's party had daily counts of up to 500 Double-crests on Seal Is. between Sept. 27 and Oct. 2.

## HERONS AND RELATIVES

Am. BITTERNs were widely reported in summer, from Yarmouth to Cape Breton. One on Scaterie Is., Sept. 1-3 (AMU,CMU) was clearly a migrant. The latest of 8 other fall birds was at Hartlen's Pt. on Nov. 10 (Mike Heany). Large summer feeding concentrations of GREAT BLUE HERONS included 31 on Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., on July 31 (JSC), and 30 near Boot Island, Kings Co. (where they nest), on Aug. 24 (GWT). In contrast, DJC in the Lockeport area thought they were "scarce again this year, with 7 being the highest number counted". In mid-October there were still 70-80 in the River Phillip estuary, Cumb. Co., and 30-40 in nearby Goose Creek (JWT). Other late gatherings were of 32 in Pubnico Hbr. on Oct. 21 (JKD) and 20+ at Cole Hbr. on Oct. 24 (BLM).

Were there only two GREAT EGRETS this summer? One was at Conrad Beach, Hfx. Co., on June 18 (BJA) and subsequently farther up the shore until at least June 28 (sev. ob.). Another was found on Big Is., Pic. Co., on Sept. 25 (CGB, KJM). A SNOWY EGRET near Port Morien on May 30 (AMU) can be added to last spring's sightings. No one reported on the summer residents on Bon Portage Is., or on the traditional LITTLE EGRET. Fall SNOWYS included one at Three Fathom Hbr. on Sept. 15 (CGB, KJM), another at Half Is Cove, Guys. Co., on Nov. 6 (RAM), and finally a bird on Cape Sable Is. on Nov. 7). (Please note that sentences were dropped in the July issue, bottom of p. 2, which should read, after "...(NSBS field trip)": "Other snowy Egrets included at least 2 in Lun. Co. from Apr. 25 (var. obs.), one May 1-8 at Three Fathom Hbr. (var. obs.), one May 2 Sable Is. (ZOL), one May 13 at Rockland (DHY), and up to 3 on Seal Is. on May 25 (ETM).") An ad. LITTLE BLUE HERON arrived on Sable Island May 18 (SOL), and a slate-streaked subad. was at L. Echo, Hfx., May 20-22 (JWT)." Little Blue Herons were quite prominent during summer and fall, with at least 10 reported from Yarmouth to Cape Breton Is.--the earliest on Aug. 1 near Port Morien (AMU,CMU) and the latest on Nov. 28 on Cape Sable Is. (sev. obs.). All but one were white, imm. birds. Two early CATTLE EGRETS stayed briefly in Pic. Co. on July 6 (fide KJM), and another arrived on Seal Is. on Oct. 10 (sev. obs.). The latest was near Windsor from Oct. 17-20 (fide JWW). The only reported GREEN-BACKED HERON was on Sable Is. on Sept. 29 (ZOL). BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS were probably under-reported even in their southwestern strongholds, with up to 8 during summer (M. Nickerson et al.) and one on Sept. 3 (RSD) at Cape Sable Is., and up to 3 on Seal Is. in early Sept. and on Oct. 9-10 (sev. ob.). Were they completely absent elsewhere? A YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON at Martinique Beach on Aug. 21 (PML, Don MacNeill) was still there on Aug. 27 (BLM), and an imm. at Conrad's Beach in early September (sev. obs., to at least Sept. 6) could have been the same bird. The only reported GLOSSY IBIS was one that appeared on SABLE Is. on Sept. 29 (ZOL).

--IAM, ed.

## GEESE AND DUCKS

A Mute Swan of unknown origin was at W. Apple River, June 14 (KFS et al.).

There was a "reliable report of 50-75 Snow Geese on Brjer Is. in early October" (fide RBS). Four adults and 5 juveniles were at Grand Pré on Oct. 8 (RBS). The Brennans report an immature bird from mid-October to Nov. 1 but didn't give a location - Pictou area? Two less fortunate Snow Geese were found injured by gunfire Nov. 3 on Cape Sable Is. (MUN, WIA).

BRANT were not reported at all, and CANADA GEESE only sparingly. Only a few observers commented on seeing "V's" of geese flying south this fall and the only notable concentration was at the Port Joli Sanctuary where the assembly peaked at 4800+ on Oct. 17 (ROB). A smaller flock of 500 was in the Cole Harbour approaches Nov. 13 (BLM, ROF).

Thirteen reports of WOOD DUCKS add up to about 70 birds. More than one third of these (25) were at the North Amherst Marsh, Sept. 11 (ROB). "Woodies" numbered 10 at Argyle Head, Oct. 3 (JKD) but other observers mentioned only 2-6 birds each. Immatures were reported at only 2 locations--Publicover Lake, Lun. Co. (JSC) and Canard Poultry Pond (JCT).

Most GREEN-WINGED TEAL were seen in September in the southern half of the province. On Sept. 19 75 were at Little Hbr. (DHY) while 13 at Goose Creek Marsh, Yar. Co., on Sept. 12 had increased to about 500 by the first week of October (JKD). One hundred seventy in the Amherst area marshes September/October (ROB) and 100+ in the Canning /Canard area in October (RBS) were the only other sizeable counts--six additional reports involved much small numbers of birds.

Seven summer reports of BLACK DUCKS mentioned broods and most were from the Wolfville area (JCT). Fair sized flocks gathered this fall at Goose Creek Marsh--200+ on Sept. 12 (JKD), and by Oct. 24 a flock at Port Joli Sanctuary had grown to nearly 400 birds (ROB). MALLARDS were noted in 3 widely separated areas. JCT had 2 males, possible "x's", at Canard Pond, May 31, 6 m and 1 fe. at Port Williams sewage pond June 26, and 7 on Nov. 7 at Harris' Pond, Canning. Mallards turned up again on Sable Is.--is nowhere safe?--up to 10 through September and most of October (ZOL). North Amherst Marsh hosted 54 on Sept. 11 (ROB).

Comparatively small numbers of NORTHERN PINTAILS showed up this fall beginning with 6 at North Amherst Marsh Sept. 11 (ROB) and a pair at Goose Creek Marsh, Yar. Co. on the 12th (JKD); two days later 5 were at Brier Is. (EPS,FLS). Canard Pond had 2 pintails Oct. 2-3 and 7 on Nov. 7 (JWW). The only other pintails were a drake at Cherry Hill on Oct. 22 and a female there the following day (SJF).

No breeding records were submitted for BLUE-WINGED TEAL but 2 (a pair?) were on the Cheticamp River in June (BLM). Best counts of this species were in Cumb. Co: 17 on Sept. 4 at Apple River dyke (KFS) and a fantastic 293 at North Amherst Marsh, Sept. 11 (ROB). There were several September reports from the off-shore islands involving 15 or fewer birds each. The final report was of 1 at Black Point, Pic. Co., Oct. 24 (KJM).

Two NORTHERN SHOVELERS were at APBS Aug. 28 and nearby North Amherst Marsh had 3 on Sept. 11 (ROB). Our only other shoveler was a female at Petite Riviere Estuary, Oct. 31 (JLC,JSC).

A pair of GADWALL observed at Conrad's Beach on June 4 (BLM et al.) was still present on July 3 (IAM,ROF). Three were at North Amherst Marsh Sept. 11; a singleton at Port Joli Sanctuary and 3 at Crescent Beach, all during the last week of Oct. (ROB), complete the Gadwall report. AMERICAN WIGEON reports were below average. The best showing was in the Amherst area marshes, where 39 were tallied on Sept. 11 (ROB). Harris' Pond in Canning held 15-22 wigeons from early October until at least Nov. 7 (JWW,RBS). The only others were reported from Seal Island: 3 on Sept. 4 and 5 on Sept. 27 (BLM).

A REDHEAD (m) appeared on Sable Is., July 3 (ZOL). A number of observers were fortunate enough to see another drake Redhead, this time at Hartlen's Pt., Sept. 5.

Reports of RING-NECKED DUCKS were few (only 9), but widespread: from Lun and Hfx. Cos. to the Amherst Marshes, the Cheticamp River and even Sable Island. Only 2 mentioned ducklings, both in Lun. Co. (Cohrs, JBM) and the best count was 75 on Bissett Lake, Oct. 31 (IAM). One hundred twenty-five GREATER SCAUP had already gathered at Middle River, Pic. Co. by July 24. On Sept. 17, 700 were at this location and 1000+ by Oct. 17 (CGB,KJM). Much smaller flocks, 3-8, were at Mahone Bay, Brier Is. and Conrad's Beach in October/November. JWW reports a probable f. Or imm. LESSER SCAUP at Canard Pond, Oct. 3 and a male was at Boat Hbr., Pic. Co., Oct. 29 (CGB).

The Cohrs report a good breeding season for COMMON EIDERS: June 25 there were 5 crèches (15-40 babies in each) in Green Bay, and 6-8 crèches there in July; off Crescent Beach on July 9 there were 140+ babies in 4 crèches with several adults guarding each group. Flocks of eiders were recorded from one end of the province to the other, from 180 at Economy Point, Aug. 28 (FLS) and 36 on Scaterie Is. in early Sept. (A & CMU); to 250 on Seal Island Sept. 27 (BLM).

Four OLDSQUAW lingered at Crescent Beach through June until at least July 9

(ELM,JLC,JSC). There were only five fall reports, the earliest being 12 birds at Argyle Sept. 28 (JKD). By Nov. 10 30+ had reached Mader's Cove (JBM) and three days later 18 were at Cherry Hill (SJF).

Some BLACK SCOTERS lingered through June: 35 at Little Bass River until June 9 (WPH) and 28 at Green Bay through the 25th (Cohrs). The first fall report was of 9 at Aspy Bay, Vic. Co., Sept. 3 (AAM). Fifteen reached Cherry Hill, Oct. 29 (SJF) and ROB counted 34 on Nov. 4 at Risser's Beach. Small flocks swam on Port Joli Bay through most of Oct. (ROB). At Little Bass River, the Hemeons had frequent sightings of SURF SCOTERS from Sept. 22 to mid-Nov., peaking Oct. 26 with a count of 19. A flock of about 200 scoters at Big Is., Oct. 30 was mostly SURFS (KJM,CGB) and a raft of approx. 60 was in Riverport Hbr. from Oct. 8 to at least Nov. 5 (Dowds). Seven other widespread reports tallied 100 individuals altogether. Aside from a flock numbering 800 in the Annapolis Basin at Digby in Oct. (RBS) WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS went largely unnoticed--five other reports account for only 29 birds--a very poor showing.

We have several reports of COMMON GOLDENEYE: 4 at Canard Pond, Oct. 14 (RBS) and the same in Sydney Hbr., Oct. 18-23 (JAC). A lone bird in Apple River, Oct. 27 (KFS) and a pair at Lawrencetown Lake in mid-November (BLM,ROF) conclude the Goldeneye report.

The first BUFFLEHEAD showed up Oct. 5 at Canning Aboiteau (JWW et al.). The Cohrs' 2 Buffleheads at Petite Riviere Estuary on Oct. 16 had increased to 25 by Nov. 4 (ROB). Oct. 22 saw 40 at Joggins Bridge, Dig. Co. (BJA) and by Nov. 13 Dottie's Pond hosted 14 Buffleheads (BLM,ROF).

Belying their actual population in the province, HOODED MERGANSERS were reported more often than our 2 other mergansers combined. We received thirteen reports, including records of breeding at: Port Howe--7 young (JWT), Maple Lake, Pic. Co.--9 young (CGB), and Porcupine Lake, Guys Co.--3 young (CGB). Other Hoodies were scattered over the mainland in small groups (1-8) with one noteworthy exception --75, mainly eclipse m., f. and juv., on Nov. 11 at the freshwater impoundments at Annapolis Royal (ELM,AHM).

We have a belated spring record for COMMON MERGANSER of 140 at Lyon's Brook, Pic. Co. on May 12 (KJM,CGB), and two breeding reports: f. with 10 young July 5 at Hains Lake, Dig. Co. (BJA) and one with 9 young at Tusket Falls, July 15 (MIH). Five birds skimming and rushing along the waters of Mahone Bay on Sept. 2 (RDH) and 6 on Nov. 13 at Conrad's Beach (BLM,ROF) were the only fall reports.

Of half a dozen RED-BREADED MERGANSER reports, the only mention of young birds came from Barachois River, Cape Breton where ELW observed an adult with 10 ducklings about 3 weeks old on July 4. The Cohrs had the first fall migrants -- 12 at Crescent Beach, Sept. 5. As usual, the big numbers were in Pictou Co.--500+ at Black Point, Oct. 29 and 1500 a week and a half later at Big Island (KJM,CGB). BLM and ROF found them "more numerous than Common Eider" on Nov. 13, when they travelled the Eastern Shore of Hfx. Co.

It is heartening to receive word of a brood of RUDDY DUCKS produced at APBS this summer (COD); a drake was still present there Oct. 6 (ROB). At Sandy Cove on Mahone Bay on Oct. 7, a Ruddy Duck appeared "just before dark, swimming near our wharf" (RDH). Yet another was at Sydney Mines Nov. 13 (KJM,CGB,AMU).

## DIURNAL RAPTORS

A BLACK VULTURE was a surprise guest in Nancy Peters' backyard at Hazel Hill, Guys. Co., on June 22. Although no details were submitted, the verbal account of this distinctive species was convincing. TURKEY VULTURES were, as usual, most prominent on Brier Is., with reports (var. obs.) of up to 6 in August, 4 in September and early October, and an impressive 12-15 on Oct. 26 (JWT). Another concentration of 4 birds was noted in Yarmouth on Sept. 19 (RSD). Elsewhere there were individuals on May 18 near Kingsville, Inv. Co., and on July 3 at Melford, Inv. co. (both fide DAB), on Aug. 25 near Belleville, Yar. Co. (JKD) and on Sept. 23 at Economy (fide FLS).

OSPREY reports were, as usual, spotty, with no indications of local losses or gains of nesting birds. Although they certainly begin to leave earlier, there appeared to be a migration spurt in late September and early October, with sightings from a number of localities. The latest reported was over Yarmouth Hbr. on Oct. 30 (HGH). BALD EAGLE pairs were noted at the usual localities, including Greenwich and Wallbrook, Kings Co. (JWW), and at a new site (former Osprey nest on a power pylon) in A.P.B.S. (COD). Some were reported as unusual for particular localities, but of course these birds can soar anywhere over the province at any time of year. Robert Campbell sent a fascinating account of an eagle almost succeeding to "fish" for a cormorant, and also noted that he has seen them take gulls in Sydney Hbr. One on Sept. 13 over Long Is., Dig. Co., had a yellow band on the bend of its right wing (EPS,FLS); can someone enlighten us? We have only three reports of NORTHERN HARRIERS in the nesting season, with no hints on trends. On Seal Island, there were peaks of 10 on Oct. 1 and 12 on Oct. 9. Elsewhere, ones or twos were noted through November.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS are always with us, although a bit cryptic in the breeding season. Among the few reported, one at Pleasant L. on July 28 was the "first summer bird I have seen in Yar. Co., in fourteen years of bird watching" (MIH). Only one migrant was noted on Seal Is. on Sept. 2 (sev. ob.), and 3 on Scaterie at about the same time (AMU,CMUO), but on Sept. 16 there were some 40 on Brier Is.(BJA). Later counts on Seal Island rose from 5 on Sept. 29 to 50 on Sept. 30, 200 on Oct. 1, and down to 5 on Oct. 2 (BLM et al.). On Brier Is. there were "lots" on Oct. 2 (LPP). A later migration peak was evident on Seal Island, where there were 4 on Oct. 9, 75 the next day, and 50 on Oct. 11. Later reports have them waiting at feeders; three loitering around RID at Riverport and WHM and MSM at Apple River were probably not appreciated. Well described imm. COOPER'S HAWKS were reported, from Eddy Marsh, Cum. Co., on June 19 (FLL), and from Seal Island on Sept. 29 (BLM et al.) and Oct. 11 (ROF). All noted discriminating shape features (large, projecting head, long, rounded tail, straight leading edge of wing in flight), and also the relatively fine ventral streaking, largely on upper breast. The terminal white tail band was noted by ROF, but the tail was worn on FLL's bird. A novel field mark noted by FLL on the perched bird--the "wrist" (wing bend) positioned well below the neckline, giving a slope-shouldered appearance--seems to check out in photos, although would be subject to posture. A pair of N. GOSHAWKS at Kentville "aggressively defended nest site--same location but different nests, since 1987" (RBS). One flashing through the Tufts' garden on Wolfville Ridge on Aug. 23 nearly collided with their son, and an "unidentified large hawk" attacked Dan Toews as he dug his garden in nearby Gaspereau on Sept. 11. One hopes this behaviour doesn't spread! Otherwise there were reports of 10 autumn birds (about average), from Port Morien to the southwestern islands.

A few reports of summering BROAD-WINGED HAWKS, including a nesting pair at Churchville, Pic. Co. (CGB), do not suggest any trends. Although I heard that there were many Broad-wings over Brier Is. in mid-September, only 3 birds were reported for September-October, the latest over Brier Is. and on Oct. 26 (JWW). A fully fledged imm. RED-TAILED HAWK was still begging to be fed at Grand Pré on Aug. 13 (JCT). Fifteen migrants were over Brier Is. on Oct. 26 (JWT), and the Valley's winter buildup was under way Nov. 15, when 9 were noted between Berwick and Lawrencetown (JWW). Otherwise, there were 10 reports of 13 scattered birds. An ad. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK near Kentville on June 6 (RBS,NSBS trip) was unusual, but not unprecedented. The first fall returnee was near Windsor on Oct. 10 (ROB), and others appeared at Central Caribou, Pic. Co., on Oct. 23 (KJM), and next day at Cherry Hill Beach (JLC,LAC). At least 5 more were noted through mid-November. An all-dark ad. GOLDEN EAGLE, golden nape visible from some distance, was gliding south near Amherst Head on June 11 (JWW). Whither and when such a bird at this season? No details were available for immes. reported from Wycogomagh in early September and Middle Musquodoboit on Sept. 6.

The few reports of AM. KESTRELS during the breeding season did not add to Atlas patterns, but suggest that this species continues in a slump. Four recently fledged young were teetering on fence posts at Hortonville, Kings Co., on July 20 (JCT). Migratory movements were evident on the southwestern islands (sev. obs.): on Brier Island up to 10 in mid-August and again on Sept. 16; on Seal Island, 2, 125, 50, and 2 from Sept. 29 through Oct. 2 (also 15 on nearby Mud Is. on Sept. 29). Later there were 1, 20, and 8 and Seal Is. from Oct. 9 through Oct. 11. Only a few were reported from other localities. Three nestings or apparent nestings of MERLIN--near Cape North (BLM), at Mader's Cove, Lun. Co. (JBM), and Halifax (two young fledged, MAC), were all in previously "confirmed" Atlas squares. Up to 3 were harassing shorebirds around Evangeline Beach during August. An ambitious f. or imm. bird was consuming a freshly killed Rock Dove near Meteghan on Labour Day weekend (MIA). Migration peaks were evident on Seal Is.: 1-3 from Aug. 29 to Sept. 6; the 1, 6, 60, 25, and 5 from Sept. 28 through Oct. 2 (also 10 on Mud Is. on Sept. 30); finally, 1, 10, and 8 from Oct. 9 through Oct. 11. Scattered migrants were reported from elsewhere. About 24 fall-migrant PEREGRINE FALCONS were reported, which is about normal for recent years. Among them, 4 were noted on Seal Is. on Sept. 29 and again on Oct. 10 (sev. obs.).

#### GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

No one reported on GRAY PARTRIDGE, which were presumably still about. A dozen CHUKARS were released near Canard in September (along with Bobwhites, see below) for bird-dog trials (*vide* JWW). What next? Summer reports of RING-NECKED PHEASANTS give no indication of spread to novel localities; they can now turn up almost anywhere in the province. SPRUCE CROUSE broods were noted at Atkinson, Cumb. Co. (BLM) and near Sandriver, Cumb. Co., and Apple River (both KFS), and in Yar. Co. (RPF). About 10 birds were noted in autumn, including one (see photo) that wandered into Halifax. Reports of 9 RUFFED GROUSE (excluding broods) during summer, and some 20 in autumn (almost all by KFS), do not suggest a bountiful year. I heard of only one window kill, which are more frequent when the woods are overstocked. A few dozen N. BOBWHITES were released near Canning for the above-mentioned dog trials; some were retrieved, but "lots got away" (*vide* JWW). This practice explains the two coming to a feeder in New Minas this fall, and also the covey of 6-8 flushed near Canard on Oct. 2 (JWW).

#### RALLIDS AND CRANE

Nesting-season VIRGINIA RAILS were heard at Malagash Pt. (JWT) and North Amherst Marsh (CGB). Migrant individuals were noted at Little Hbr., on Seal Is., and (the latest) at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 23 (PLM et al.). Individuals or pairs of the more widespread SORA were found at Beaverbank, Canard Pond, Malagash Pt., and Grafton, while migrants were noted at Meteghan on Oct. 8 and Seal Is. on Oct. 9-10.

One COM. MOORHEN at Eddy Marsh on June 5 (BL M et al.) and 2 there Aug. 7 (KJM) could have nested. Migrants at Sydney Mines on Nov. 7 (AMU), another on Sullivan's Pond during November (var. ob.), and 4 on Sable Is. between Sept. 12 and Oct. 19 (ZOL) were more than usual. The only report of AM. COOT in summer was 2 at A.P.B.S. on July 28. Migrants included 2 at Sydney Mines, another at Glace Bay, 2 at Three Fathom Hbr., and 1 on Sable Is., all between Oct. 19 and Nov. 13.

A SANDHILL CRANE appeared in late May on Brier Is. (sev. obs.), and another fed in a cornfield on May 25-27 near Windsor (Sally Fergusson, JCT).

--IAM, ed.



Young BALD EAGLES, successfully produced from a power-pylon nesting Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary last summer, were testing life on the wing in mid-August. Photo--Elly Desplanque, Aug. 17, 1993.

## SHOREBIRDS

Fifteen lingering BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS were still at Conrad's, June 5 (BLM); 14 early migrants were at Grand Pré July 24 (JCT), but the fall migration began in earnest in mid-August: 200 were at Grand Pré on the 14th, with a maximum of 393 on the 21st (JCT); 300 were at Cape Sable, Aug. 22 (BLM et al.), 100+ at Economy most days (FLS), 95 at Cherry Hill (SJF), 60-90 at Crescent (JSC) and 50 at Fox Hbr., Cumb. (WPH). Fewer reporters rather than fewer migrants may account for lower September - October numbers, for regularly visited Crescent showed only a slight dip 50+ to 100+ throughout (JSC), and at Cherry Hill numbers (60) in early Nov. were the highest on record (since 1976-JSC). It has been a mild, open fall, and stragglers were still with us at mid-month. The AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER, formerly the Lesser, but now split from its Pacific cousin by the A.O.U., was thoroughly reported, with 15 submissions from Aug. 22 at Cape Sable (BLM,ELM et al.) to Oct. 22 at Grand Pré (BBT), but the numbers involved exceeded half-a-dozen in only four instances: 15 at Truro, Aug. 29 (KJM,CGB), 25+ on Sable Is., Sept. 24 (ZOL), and 23 at Yarmouth, Oct. 12 (HJ&HGH), in addition to the Grand Pré flock.

News of a COMMON RINGED PLOVER, seen and more importantly, heard comes from Cherry Hill on Nov. 8. Experienced observers (JSC & JLC) were alerted by the unfamiliar call of a small charadriid flying past; the note is described as musical and two-toned and quite unlike that of any of our regularly occurring plovers. The bird, in juvenile plumage, was studied at a range of twenty-five feet for two minutes. The breast band was "broad...just joining in the middle, but narrowed there like a lady's dress collar, legs dull brownish-yellow-orange, bill black, very pale back and head". Viewing conditions were ideal. The bird, travelling alone, called continuously both before alighting and on departure. Aside from the palmation of the toes, only the call is considered a certain way to identify this very close relative of the Semipalmated.

Four SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS were at Glace Bay July 17 (CAM). Most unusual was JWT's discovery next day of a pair with 1 downy chick at "Smelly Cove", Three Fathom Hbr. Not only is the date, coinciding with that of returning migrants, noteworthy but it adds a new area to those recorded in the Atlas. Only a handful of others had arrived by month's end but there were 600 at Grand Pré on the 13th (JCT) and 250 at Little Dyke, Col. Co., Aug. 17 (WPH). In the southwest there were 1000 on Peases Is. (Tuskets) Aug. 15 and 800 on Cape Sable, Aug. 22 (BLM et al.) and Sept. 3 (RSD). The peak had passed; though numbers at Crescent were still 120 on Oct. 17, they had dwindled to 17 on Oct. 31 (JSC). A lone straggler was at Port Joli, Nov. 7 (ROB). There is no word on whether the pair of PIPING PLOVERS in the Summerville parking lot raised a brood; she was still on the nest June 11, with mate nearby. Another pair with one young was also on the Summerville beach (JSC). At Cherry Hill there were no successful nesters although one pair tried twice (SJF); no word at all of plovers from Conrad's until Aug. 8 when there were 2 in non-breeding plumage (DHH). Single summer birds from Lockeport (DJC) and Glace Bay (CAM) and fall migrants from Lockeport (DJC) and Joggins, the latter on the latish date of Sept. 16 (fide IAM), a P.E.I. bird perhaps, round out a dismal survey. Judging by the number of reports KILLDEER may be down a little this year: breeding data comes from Apple River--a nest with 3 eggs found June 6, 4 eggs hatching July 3 (KFS) and from Rissers Beach - adults with 2 imm., June 16 (BJA). At Upper Canard 8-9 were present in late June (JCT), at the Halifax airport 11 on July 21 (DHH). A stray was on Sable, July 27 (ZOL); a flock of 8 was at Pubnico, Sept. 25 (JKD), but a tour of Yar. Co. and Seal Island a few days later yielded only 1 (BLM et al.). Last report was of 1 on Oct. 14 at Pubnico (JKD).

TWO AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS were at Matthews Lake, July 10-12 (DHY), scouting out, one hopes, territory suitable for next year's breeding season.

Exciting news comes from Pic. Co., where a pair of GREATER YELLOWLEGS with 4 young was discovered at McKinnon Lake, June 17 (CGB). Whether the record indicates an extension of its limited N.S. breeding range (see Atlas) or better coverage is not clear. Elsewhere, late spring records come from Port Howe, Cumb. Co., June 5 (BLM et al.) and from Canning, June 11 (JCT). The earliest migrants were in the Valley, July 20-21, c. 25 in all, rising to 64 Aug. 5 (JCT), but with few thereafter until early October,



when 47 were at Canning (JWW) and 48 at APBS (ROB), with numbers from 20 to 30 reported later in the month at Conrad's (BLM) and the Valley (RBS), where there were still 7 on Nov. 7 (JWW). Two last were at Economy, Nov. 12 (FLS). LESSER YELLOWLEGS arrived early and in numbers (35) July 1 at W. Lawrencetown, where there had been none four days earlier (IAM). In the Valley, the July maximum was 14 on the 21st, with a peak of 30 on Aug. 5 (JCT). Scarcely any were left in September, 2 at Apple River on the 6th (KFS) and 1 at Pubnico on the 12th (JKD). One last was at the Port Williams sewage ponds Oct. 3 (JWW). Of the 10 reports of the SOLITARY SANDPIPER all but 2 are for the last week of August, 3 on Cape Sable (MUN,WIA), 1 each at Broad Cove (JSC), Pubnico (JKD), Martinique (BLM) and Brier (KJM). This year's WILLET notes remind us that the species nests early and leaves early: 4 fledglings were being led on a quarter-mile marshward trek at Arcadia, June 12 (HG&HJH). Unaged young are reported from Brighton, Digby Co., July 3 (BJA) and River Philip, July 10 (JWT). Reports of what are perhaps gathered local populations date from July 7-9 at Wolfville (max. 16, JCT), July 11 at Matthews Lake (15, DHY) and Windsor, July 20 (30, JCT). At Lockeport 33 on July 23 was a new high for the area (DJC). At Crescent, 32 on July 22, 45 on Aug. 1, and only 12 on Aug. 10 further define the Willet's habit of departing early. By July 29-Aug. 2 adults were definitely on the move, with 35 on Brier (IAM), only 1 there two weeks later (FLS). Evidence of late nesting (second attempt?) comes from Lockeport, where a family group was still present in early September (DJC). Two, quite late, were still on Caribou Beach, Oct. 17 (CRH). No less than nine nesting reports of the SPOTTED SANDPIPER were submitted this year; true, half of them come from remote and atypical Sable Is. (ZOL). At Upper Canard 3 pairs took advantage of repairs underway at the sewage ponds (which prevented the raising of water levels) to raise broods (JCT). At Pubnico a nest with 3 eggs was discovered June 22 (JKD). An unusual "mass" migration of 30 on Seal Is. occurred Sept. 5, where only a few were present the day before and after (BLM); 3-4 were still at Port Howe, Sept. 16 (JWT), with 3 true laggards still in the Port Joli area Oct. 23-24 (ROB). FOUR UPLAND SANDPIPERS were at Grand Pré, Aug. 20-23 (JC&GWT,BBT); for want of earlier sightings, they should be considered migrants (and searched for next June). Keen ears heard 1 flying in the fog over Seal Is., Sept. 5 (FLL,KJM,CCB fide BLM). WHIMBREL were well reported, 23 reports submitted in all, dating from July 13, when 12-15 were already in Yar. Co. (HG&HJH) to Oct. 7, when 1 was still on Big Is., Pic. Co. (KJM). The largest flocks were 23 at Port Morien, July 17 (CAM), 35 at Hemeon's Head, Aug. 14 (DHY), 30 on Scatarie Is., Sept. 1-3 (CAM), and 20+ on Seal Is., Sept. 9-13 (ZOL). Three HUDSONIAN GODWITS at Cole Hbr on July 10 (IAM) were the first of about 35 reported this fall. The largest gathering was only 5-10 on Aug. 28 at, as might be expected, Matthews Lake (HG&HJH). Most reports are for August, none in September, 4 still at Conrad's on Oct. 24 (BLM,ROF) and 1, very late, on Cape Sable on Nov. 7 (MUN,WIA). One immature and reluctant migrant spent almost the entire time at Crescent, from July 14--Oct. 31 (JSC).

Three RUDDY TURNSTONES were still on Brier, May 30 (GHG); the only July report is of 18 at Matthews Lake on the 19th (JWT). In August the only high numbers come from Brier, 200 all in breeding plumage, on the 10th (GHG&HJH) and Conrad's, 110 on the 20th. "A terrible year for turnstones--late coming, early going" is the word from Lockeport (DJC), and it seems to apply elsewhere. All but one of 40 on Seal on Sept. 5 were gone next day (BLM et al.). Six were still at Cherry Hill on Oct. 24 (JSC). Only 7 observers report RED KNOTS, from 15 at Fox Pt. Cumb. Co., July 22 (JWT), to 3 at Crescent on Sept. 13 (SJC); 90% of the less than 200 noted came and went in the last week of August. The SANDERLING fared somewhat better: at Crescent, anywhere from 200 to 500+ were present from early September through October, the highest numbers on record since '76 (JSC), while at Matthews 117 on Oct. 10 were "the most seen during an otherwise scarce year...(DHY). At Perea, Kings Co., there were still 200 on Oct. 16 (RBS), but a surprising absence of Nov. reports province-wide; surely some are waiting to be reported on the CBCs. The passage of SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS is always the most significant event of our shorebirds' fall: 5000 had arrived at the Windsor causeway on July 16, the number rising to 30-40,000 July 20, to 60,000 on July 31 and still at high levels at Evangeline Beach on Aug. 13 (JCT). Elsewhere there were 25,000 on Cape Sable, July 25, a very high number for N.S. in an area outside the Minas Basin (IAM); there were still 700 on Cape Sable, Aug. 22 (JCT) and 100+ on Scatarie Is., Sept. 3 (CAM), after which numbers dropped sharply. It should be remembered that these numbers are well below the hundreds of thousands noted in many past years. One last

was at Cherry Hill on Oct. 24 (LAC). Two WESTERN SANDPIPERS are reported: 1 at Conrad's on Aug. 20-21, described as an immature--"weak supercilium; rufous scapular edges; bill curved and fairly long; head less 'capped' than on Semipalmateds." (BLM). The other on Brier, Sept. 25, also a juvenile, was identified by its very long, curved bill and rufous scapulars (EP&FLS). A minimum of 22 pairs of LEAST SANDPIPERS nested on Sable Is. this summer. Fall migration brought some unusually large flocks: 700 at Little Bass River, Col. Co. (WPH), 600-800 at Avonport, Aug. 17 (JCT) and 500 on Cape Sable on Aug. 22 (BLM et al.), scarcely any thereafter, and 4 last at Crescent on Sept. 25 (SIF). The largest gatherings of WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS were 50 at Cape Sable and Conrad's (BLM et al.) in late August, with 35 still at Hartlen's Pt. in late October, including one with a gray rump thought to be melanistic (IAM). Single BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS were on Brier, July 29 - Aug. 1 (IAM), Conrad's Aug. 20 (BLM), Scaterie, Sept. 1-3 (CAM), Brier, Sept. 15 (FLS) and Hartlen's Pt., Oct. 2 (RBS). The earliest PECTORAL SANDPIPER was 1 at Sunday Pt., Aug. 14 (HG&HJH), but most of the 50+ noted were here in October, with the last 3 still at Grand Pré Nov. 9 (PCS). Two PURPLE SANDPIPERS at Crescent, Oct. 17 were the earliest ever there (JSC), but the other 20 or so that made our deadline were mostly farther north, on Caribou Is. (KJM,CGB) and Cheticamp (DAL), with 3 at Pollack Pt., Lun. Co. (JSC). DHY rightly calls 6 DUNLIN at Little Hbr., Shel. Co. on Aug. 8 fairly early; the next sighting was of 24 at Crescent, Sept. 25 (JSC), with numbers rising in October--83 at Matthews Lake (DHY), 50+ at Grand Pré and 45 on Big Is., Pic. Co. (KJM,CGB). Some are surely still with us. TWO CURLEW SANDPIPERS were discovered on Cape Sable July 11, both in breeding plumage (WIA). Even without reports in the interval, it is possible that an adult in moult there Aug. 22 (BLM et al., ELM et al.) was one of them. A STILT SANDPIPER in breeding plumage was at Canard, June 27 (JCT). One was at Three Fathom Hbr., where most of our reports usually come from on July 20 (IAM). This year reports also come from Wolfville (CGB) and Shelburne (PEY) in August, from Brier in September (RBS), from Pic. Co. (KJM,CGB) and Conrad's (BLM) in October. One, very late, was at Grand Pré on Nov. 9 (PCS). No less than 18 BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS were sighted this fall, from 2 on Cape Sable, Aug. 22 (BLM,ELM et al.) to 1 on Seal, Oct. 1 (BLM et al.), the last almost three weeks later than the rest. Two RUFFS were seen, one at Dominion, C.B., Aug. 26 (PEY), the other, a juvenile male, at Conrad's, Aug. 30 (BLM). From Crescent comes word that the peak number of SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS was down from the usual 300 or so to 72 (JSC). The slack was taken up elsewhere, however, with 500 in the Halifax area on July 10 (IAM), 300 at Windsor, July 20 (JCT) and 2500 on Cape Sable, July 25 (IAM). Aug. 10 there were still 110 on Brier (HG&HJH). At Lockeport DJC notes a sharp drop in early August, one that appears to have occurred province-wide. A "dowitcher sp." on Oct. 17 (JWW) may belong here and if so, is the only late laggard. A LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER AT Cherry Hill was heard to call twice, and its "white on black tail" and "extra long bill" were noted (JSC). Another at Conrad's, Sept. 7 was reported without details. Five obs. note summering COMMON SNIPE including a nesting report from Canning (JCT). Last of the 6 migrants reported was at Glenwood, Nov. 1 (JKD). A nesting report of the AMERICAN WOODCOCK comes from Apple River (KFS). There are only four other reports of the species, but one, for a Big Day count in the Musquodoboit Valley, totals 25 (BLM,FLL et al.) and suggests that this secretive species is usually underreported.

--FS, ed.



## PHALAROPES TO TERNS

As usual, Brier Island was the place for RED and RED-NECKED PHALAROPES. On the NSBS seabird/whale cruise on July 31, we put the numbers at a conservative 100,000 birds. It wasn't possible to come up with a species ratio, but both phalaropes were abundant. Elsewhere, Hubert Hall saw 15-20 Reds from Bluenose in the area of Lurcher Shoal on July 22. Raymond d'Entremont saw about 400 Red-necked south of Seal Is. on Aug. 15, and adds that other fishermen saw large flocks of phalaropes in the Bay of Fundy at that time. The Payzants saw 'thousands' of Red-necked off Brier on Aug. 21, and Fulton Lavender's party saw 3 off Seal Is. on Sept. 6. Francis Spalding saw a WILSON'S PHALAROPE in Pond Cove, Brier Is., Sept. 16. Bruce Mctavish saw a Wilson's at Conrad's Beach on Aug. 18-21; Linda Payzant saw 1 on Apple River marsh on Sept. 6, and Joan Czapalay and others saw 1 at Centreville, Long Island, on Sept. 10.

Fulton Lavender and Blake Maybank have filed a detailed Rare Bird Report on a possible LONG-TAILED JAEGER they saw off Hartlen's Pt. on Sept. 18. It appeared to be a second-year bird. An ad. PARASITIC JAEGER, 2 adult POMARINE JAEGERs and 3 unidentified jaegers in the area allowed species comparisons. They were struck by its greyer plumage, lighter build and more graceful flight. There's nothing unlikely in seeing Long-tails off Nova Scotia on migration. However, the light was poor, the wind was strong and the sighting lasted less than a minute. Identifying immature jaeger sightings include Richard Stern's 2 dark adult Parasitic and 3-4 Pomarines off Brier Is. on Sept. 25, and Alan Murrant's Pomarine off South Head, Port Morien on Oct. 15.

Raymond d'Entremont saw a dark Parasitic Jaeger on Georges Bank on June 19. He also saw several GREAT SKUAS out there on that trip, as well as a possible ANTARCTIC SKUA. Ian McLaren found a moribund Great Skua on Sable Is. on Oct. 20. Blake Maybank and Margaret Bain saw a large jaeger off the south point of Sober Island on Oct. 10. It was joining in a feeding frenzy of 'hundreds' of shearwaters.

I'll start the gulls with my usual disclaimer. HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS were their usual exuberant selves, and I've nothing more to say about them--with one exception. Ian McLaren notes that the number of Herring Gulls and Great Blackbacks on Seal Is. in late August was 'only' 1,300 and 480 birds, respectively. There were few juveniles, and more dead adults than usual. He and Ron Kenney suggest that this is due to the decline of the ground-fishery, and the fish offal that the gulls eat. Ian also passes on the sighting of Robert P. Fox of an ad. LESSER BLACKBACK at Peggy's Cove on July 24. The yellow legs and grey-black back were well seen. Blake Maybank and Margaret Bain found that the Volvo Plant Lesser Blackback was back on Oct. 8, ready for yet another winter, and Donna Crosby saw the Crescent Beach, Lockport bird on Aug. 21. The Halls saw a late ICELAND GULL at Port Hood, C.B. on June 19.

Among the smaller gulls, Sue Hill saw 40 RING-BILLED GULLS in the parking lot of Rainbow Haven on Sept. 1, Richard Stern regularly saw a few in October, in the fields around Canning, Kings Co.; Blake Maybank and Roger Foxall saw 40 at Three Fathom Harbour on the Nov. 13 Big Day. Zoe Lucas saw a first-year LAUGHING GULL on Sable Is. on June 14, and another there on Sept. 15. BLACK-HEADED GULLS were scattered in small numbers. Bruce Mctavish saw 1 on Sept. 2 in the Ducks Unlimited marsh at Glenwood. On Nov. 13, Blake Maybank and Roger Foxall saw 2 at Conrad's Beach. The BONAPARTE'S GULLS include Chris Helleiner's trio at Caribou Harbour, Pic. Co., Aug. 5, and Shirley Cohrs' immature at Crescent Beach on Nov. 8, and Angus McLean saw 4-5 adults at South Harbour Pond, northern Cape Breton, on Sept. 5. He sees Bonaparte's Gulls so often in this area that he wonders if they are breeding there. Calvin Brennan saw a LITTLE GULL in winter plumage at Middle River, Pictou on Oct. 3; Alan and Cathy Murrant saw an immature at Scatarie on Sept. 3. Alan McLean saw our only MEW GULL, an adult, in Aspy Bay, Cape Breton, on Oct. 1. Cathy Murrant saw 200 BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES off Cap Perce, Port Morien, Sept. 1, but the birds were otherwise scarce. Francis Spalding saw only about 30 Kittiwakes off Brier Is. on Sept. 15; Tom Herman and Jim Wolford only saw 2 there on Sept. 9 during a 5-hour cruise. I saw none on Oct. 8, during my day's steaming along the Eastern Shore to Halifax.

Blake Maybank and Jim Taylor have sent in a Rare Bird Report for their brief but close view of an immature FORSTER'S TERN off Seal Is. on Sept. 30. This species breeds in the interior of North America and in Florida, but it is sometimes brought to Nova Scotia by storms, such as Hurricane Gladys in October, 1968. Instead of the dark cap and white forehead characteristic of our regular terns in the fall, this bird had the winter Forster's unmistakable white head and large, circular, black eye-patches. I agree—a highly probable sighting. I wish I could say the same of the possible ROYAL TERN that Fred Scott's party saw off East Dover on Sept. 6, but there's no supporting documentation. The same goes for the SANDWICH TERN in basic plumage, that Ian McLaren and Fulton Lavender saw on a buoy off Clark's Harbour on Sept. 6. A photograph was taken, but I haven't seen it. This has been a good fall for CASPIAN TERNS. Ian McLaren notes that, for at least the last four years, they've been using the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary as a fuelling station at the end of the summer. Among other sightings, Blake Maybank's Big Day party on June 5, saw 50 moving south off Sober Is., Hfx. Co., and a singleton at Port Hood, Cumb. Co; Alan McLean saw 2 off New Harbour, Cape Breton on Sept. 5, and the Cohrs saw 2 birds in summer plumage on Oct. 5 in Green Bay. Zoe Lucas believes that only about 4 pairs of ROSEATE TERNS bred on Sable Is. this summer. She also saw a stray BLACK TERN in winter plumage there on Sept. 1. However, Black Terns, as usual, were commonest on the other side of the province. On June 5, the Big Day observers notched up a total of 140 Black Terns in Amherst Marsh and Cumberland County. On July 28, Raymond d'Entremont saw a Roseate off the tern colony on Twin Islands in L. W. Pubnico. COMMON and ARCTIC TERNS were commonly reported, and I'll spare you the details. The latest Arctic Tern records are the adult and juvenile that the Halls saw off Lockeport Harbour on Sept. 14, and 2-3 birds reported by Richard Stern off Brier Island on Sept. 25. The last Common Terns were Richard Stern's bird off Porter's Point in Minas Basin, on Oct. 14, and the adult and juvenile that Ian McLaren saw off Cow Bay on Oct. 31.

On my Hudson cruise off the Eastern Shore on Oct. 8, the only auks were 3 DOVEKIES and a winter BLACK GUILLEMOT, all at the outer buoy off Halifax Harbour. Other Black Guillemot records include Blake Maybank's singleton on Sept. 4 and quintet on Sept. 30, all off Seal Island; Ruth Hebb's bird, moulting into white plumage, in Sandy Cove on Aug. 15. Stella and Angus McLean saw a THICK-BILLED MURRE off Western Bruce Island on Sept. 25; Fulton Lavender saw 2 unidentified murrelets off Brier Island on July 21. Sylvia Fullerton saw 2 ATLANTIC PUFFINS flying past Baccaro Point, Shel. Co., Aug. 12; Linda and Peter Payzant saw 2 off Brier Island on Aug. 21; Blake Maybank's party saw 2 Puffins off Hartlen's Point on Sept. 18, probably brought inshore by a SE gale; and Alan and Cathy McLean saw 1 off Flint Island on July 22.

—RGG, ed.



Eva Urban hosted and photographed this BARRED OWL in her yard at Avonport during early October.

## DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHER

MOURNING DOVES were widespread in summer, sometimes visiting feeders. An early migrant reached Sable Is. on July 24 (ZOL), but there were only two later reports of good numbers arriving at feeders--16 on Nov. 7 in Dartmouth (SLH) and 13 at Advocate Hbr. on Nov. 10 (JRM). A mating pair of BLACK-BILLED CUCKOOS near Brule on July 12 (KJM) and a migrant on Seal Is. on Aug. 31 (IAM) were the only ones reported. A stunned YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO was brought to MAC in Halifax on July 13, and released soon after. It was perhaps the earliest "fall" migrant of this species recorded in the province. The only other report was of a dead bird at W. Lawrencetown in late September (to N.S. Mus.) and one on Seal Is. on Sept. 29 (BLM et al.).

The traditional GREAT HORNED OWLS of Apple R. again produced at least one young (KFS). A few others were heard in scattered localities. Six reports of 6 calling BARRED OWLS were fewer than usual. At Grand Pré, a family of 2 ad. and 3 imm. SHORT-EARED OWLS were readily observed (JCT) on Aug. 9, and 3 were hunting there at dusk on Nov. 9 (PCS). Three probable migrants were on Scaterie Is. on Sept. 1-3 (AMU,CMU). Three N. SAW-WHET OWLS were heard in N.E. Halifax Co. on June 5 (BLM et al.), and a migrant was spotted in Spryfield on Oct. 29 (FLL). More exciting were a BOREAL OWL "singing" at Port Dufferin, Hfx. Co., on June 5 (BLM et al.), and a migrant calling on central Brier Is. on Oct. 13 (FLL). Although there were a mere three reports of COM. NIGHTHAWKS in early summer, there was gratifying coverage of migration. The first was a group of 12 strung out along the highway near Shelburne on July 24 (IAM), followed by 30+ in Apple River on July 29 (KFS). However, most reports were for mid-to-late August: 15 near Truro on Aug. 13 (JWT), 50-60 over Green Bay on Aug. 14 (Cohrs), 100+ in Apple River and 20+ over New Salem on Aug. 18 (KFS), and 24 over Centredale, Pic. Co., on Aug. 26 (CGB). A few singles were reported up until mid-September, and an unusually late bird was at Shubenacadie on Oct. 12 (ROF). There were no reports of WHIP-POOR-WILLS during summer or fall. The only report on the Wolfville CHIMNEY SWIFTS was of "dozens" leaving the Robie Tufts Centre chimney at midday July 30 (BBT). A pair nesting in a hayloft in E. Dalhousie arrived May 22 and produced hatched 5, but only fledged 2 young, before departing on Aug. 5 (fide JWW). One over downtown Halifax on Nov. 6 was noted (ANH) as not discriminated with certainty from Vaux's Swift--not impossible on such a late date.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS attended rural feeders during summer, and two nestings were noted in Lun. Co. Others first appeared at feeders in August, and precisely specified last sightings were between Aug. 29 and Sept. 13, except for one wisely submitted as "hummingbird (sp.?)" briefly at Avonport on Nov. 6 (Eva Urban, Sherman Williams). Late hummingbirds must be looked at closely. One that arrived at the M. McGrath's feeder in New Glasgow on Oct. 14 was gradually recognized by them as an apparent RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD. It was seen on Nov. 1 and diagnosed (CGB) as an imm. m., with little or no rufous on the back, a few coppery red feathers on the throat, deep rufous tail base, and pale rufous flanks. It was seen and photographed next day (IAM), minutes before it was captured, to elude its certain death, for holding in an aviary and release at a better time and place. This bird was almost certainly a young Rufous, rather than a young Allen's Hummingbird, which migrates earlier and for which there is only one August record in northeastern U.S.A. But, at present, it is best left as a Selasphorus sp.

No patterns or trends are evident in the few reports of BELTED KINGFISHER. Fledglings were noted in mid-July, and some birds were still with us in late November.

## WOODPECKERS

A RED-HEADED WOODPECKER on Brier Is. on June 3 may have been the same one seen next day at Tiverton (RBS). Another was seen briefly on Cape Sable on Nov. 27 (WIA et al.). Five reports of YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS included a nest excavation on June 10 at Greenfield, King's Co. (GWT) and a juv. at N. Kemptville, Yar. Co. on July 30 (MIH). The latest were 2 on Seal Is. on Oct. 11. Ten reports of 24 DOWNY WOODPECKERS were about normal. One m. stayed on treeless Sable Island from May 29 to June 15 (ZOL). Twelve observers reported 21 HAIRY WOODPECKERS, again about as usual. The only BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS noted were a f. at her nest at Centredale, Pic. Co., on June 14 (CGB,HLB), and another near the Gaelic College, Cape Breton Is., on Oct. 21 (SLH). There was the usual handful of reports on summering N. FLICKERS. Early migratory movements seem implied by 10 near Port Morien on Aug. 22 (AMU) and 8+ at Apple River on Sept. 4 (KFS). On Seal Is., there were peak estimates of 75 on Sept. 30 (plus 40 on Mud Is., BLM), and 30 on Oct. 10. Few were reported from elsewhere. There were reports of 5 PILEATED WOODPECKERS in summer and 16 birds in autumn, which are about as usual.

--IAM, ed.



Puffin Trophy 1993

Fred Green's Pileated Woodpecker

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

There were reports of 24 EASTERN KINGBIRDS, scattered throughout the province, in the breeding season, as expected, and corresponding to the species' known dates and distribution. More unusually a WESTERN KINGBIRD was reported by KJM in New Glasgow on June 11. This is a relatively frequent stray in late fall, but unusual in early summer. Another bird was more seasonal, at West Head, near Lockeport, Oct. 19 (DJC et al.).

The decline in neotropical migrant songbirds continues to be well documented in the scientific and popular literature, and unfortunately gives credence to the individual observations made by our own NSBS reporters in recent years. IAM commented that there were very few flycatchers on Seal Is in late August and early September, normally their peak time. Single OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS were seen in appropriate habitat in breeding season in various locations (RBD,HBD,KFS,RDH) and MIH and RR saw several birds, including up to 4 juveniles, on July 30 at Kemptville.

MUN et al. saw the seasons's only reported GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER, near Clark's Harbour, Sept. 12.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEES are better reported, perhaps because they hang around more accessible habitat than the former species, and also tend to sing all day long. Many individuals were reported throughout the summer. Individuals seen on Sable Island (ZOL) June 11-16 might have been later returning migrants. A bird on July 2 is of more puzzling status. Several were present at Mink Lake, Yar. Co. Aug. 22 (HGH,HJH). A very late individual was at Hartlen's Pt., Nov. 6 (KJM,BAM). It was positively identified as this species (as against the Western Wood-pewee) by its typical call-note, heard by BAM who is familiar with the Western's different call-note, from her visit to the Okanagan Valley this summer.

Eight EASTERN PHOEBES were reported, mostly around and under bridges, where they like to nest, from various locations during early summer. This is one of the earliest spring migrants to arrive and one of the last fall migrants to leave. One on Brier Is., Nov. 7 (RBS) was not out of line.

ZOL saw a SAY'S PHOEBE on Sable Is., Sept. 17-18. She noted its salmon-coloured breast, etc. This record is 19 years to the day since the previous Sable Is. record, but there are now at least a dozen records for the province.

There were eleven reports of YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER representing 42 birds, throughout the early summer, from throughout the province, with no unusual locations etc. 1 was on Sable Is., Aug. 31 (ZOL), presumably a migrant. Twenty ALDER FLYCATCHERS were reported, also from around the province. There were only 4 actual reports of LEAST FLYCATCHER, but from my experience in the Valley they were present in wooded areas in normal large numbers during the breeding season.

The "Empidonax of the year" award goes to the WILLOW FLYCATCHER. There were at least 3 at Avonport in June, first identified by Sherman Williams. I will take the liberty of quoting the notes I made after seeing these birds on June 29.

### Location

Avonport. In an open area near a railway track, with extensive alders and isolated clumps of poplar, on the edge of Horton Bluff cliff.

### Observer(s)

Sherman Williams (original observer), Tufts, Angus MacLean, Merrit Gibson, myself

### Optical Equipment

B&L 8 x 42 Elite, Kowa TSN-2, Canon T70 with 500 mm. mirror lens and Ektachrome 100 film.

### Behaviour

Typical Alder/Willow behaviour. Would sit perched on a branch, calling and singing, then fly briefly, sometimes to a different branch and sometimes back to the same branch. Seemed to prefer poplars about 30 ft. up, rather than low alders. Vigorously chased away a marauding Yellow Warbler at one point.

### Detailed Description

A typical large "Empid", with greyish upper parts and wings, and off-white under parts. The posterior belly had a slightly yellowish tinge. There was a slight, dull, narrow eye-ring visible mainly behind the eye. The lower mandible was dull orange, with no dark tip. The wing-bars were prominent and off-white, not as bright as the breast.

The diagnostic feature was the voice. It kept repeating a harsh, high-pitched "Fitz-bew" with the accent on the first syllable--higher pitched and less rolling than the Alder Flycatcher's more familiar note. It also frequently uttered an ascending "Whit". Angus MacLean and the Tufts, who were with me, had heard Willow and Alder many times, and were sure this was a Willow. We also had a tape, with both birds on it, and the Willow was what we were hearing.

Sherman Williams had first heard this bird about a week before, and was struck by its unfamiliar and "different" call.

We heard two different birds, and Sherman has felt there are three altogether.

### Other Sources Consulted

At the time, just the tapes. Later, back home, numerous articles in "Birding" and in "Advanced Birding"--Kaufman, etc., but the subtle differences in shading etc., between the two species were not apparent to me in the field. I was, however, convinced by the song!

JCT played a tape of this species and one of the birds responded by calling back and becoming agitated. Sadly, the whole area was bulldozed over a few weeks later.

Two other examples of this species were seen (and more importantly, heard) by JSC and JLC at New Cumberland, Lun. Co., June 15, and at Hartlen's Pt. on June 20. JSC described the song in both cases, with the emphasis definitely on the first syllable as against the more familiar Alder's vocalisation, and she is also familiar with it from elsewhere.

Large flocks of HORNED LARK have by now been noted. Some examples are 75 at Matthews Lake, Oct. 17 (DHY), 250+ at Cherry Hill, Oct. 24 (JLC et al.), 100+ on Brier Island, Oct. 26 (JWT), 120 at Cherry Hill next day (SJF). This seems an increase on last year's numbers at the same time.

There is so far only 1 sight record of VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW, normally seen west of the Rockies, for the province (Oct. 30, 1965 at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., by John and Rachael Erskine). However, the following descriptions seem to clinch a second and third (or ? the same bird): John and Shirley Cohrs saw a "possible" individual at Petite Riviere, at 09:30 under overcast conditions, on Oct. 15. The bird was seen for five minutes, on a wire and flying. It was grey-brown above, with wings extending out beyond the tail. The crown was very dark, with a slightly lighter forehead. Wing feathering was outlined. There was some darkening of the breast, with a thin necklace, dark to a point. When it flew it had very rapid wingbeats. JSC saw a possible white rump-patch. They did not describe the wing colour, which would be brown in a juv. bird and greenish in an adult. The same observers then saw 2 swallows flying over the dunes at Cherry Hill Beach on NOV. 5, which resembled Tree Swallows but had white patches at the sides of the tail, which seemed squarer and shorter than Tree Swallows. They had a decidedly green sheen. Three days later on Nov. 8, in the same location, they saw one of these birds again, this time with good 'scope views, and as well as the above field marks, white cheeks extending above the eye, and a white rump, were seen. Again the short stubby tail was noted. The base of the wings also seemed broad compared to Tree Swallows.



Meanwhile, on Nov. 7, SJF also noted 2 swallows at the same place that also fitted a similar description. She describes "prominent white patches were very visible on sides of bird, extending onto rump, giving the appearance of a white rump with a black line running through it. However, if they were Violet-greens, they did not look smaller in flight, nor did the tail appear short unless forked. "I could not see white ear coverts or white circling the eye."

Not too many TREE SWALLOWS have been reported this season, as in the last few years. Are numbers down, or are we taking them for granted? No large fall movements were seen, although IAM commented that "good numbers" of all our common swallows were on Brier Is., July 29.

Several BANK SWALLOW colonies and flocks were noted during summer. SLH noted terns harassing the colony at Keji. adjunct, and BBT saw 20-25 at Grand Pré, Aug. 21, presumably a post-breeding flock. However, on the same date, FLS saw some still feeding at the nest holes at Five Islands Park.

On Oct. 29 at Black Pt., Pic. Co., CGB saw "2 large buffy-brown swallows with quick darting flight similar to a Barn Swallow flight", i.e. possible NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS.

KFS had 6 CLIFF SWALLOW nests near her (Apple River) house in June. DHH found a large colony of 124 nests under the SE overhang of the Air Canada hangar at Halifax International Airport. All the young fledged between July 29 and Aug. 2. FLL saw 2 birds with pale rumps, i.e. possibly of the Great basin race, Conrad's Beach, Oct. 14. There were the expected numbers of BARN SWALLOWS reported from various locations.

#### CORVIDS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS

BLUE JAYS were well reported as usual. SLH, in Dartmouth, felt that the spring birds had stayed late this year. KFS in Apple River had 4 adults and 3 fledglings on July 18, and probable migrant flocks were represented by 20+ overhead at Pubnico, Oct. 14 (JKD) and "lots" on Digby Neck Oct. 1 (LPP). They certainly seemed abundant (? more so than usual) to me in Kentville, Wolfville, etc. this fall. As usual a few groups and individual GREY JAYS were noted from around the province. KFS (who seems lucky with Jays) had 3 adults and 3 fledglings at her feeder in Apple River on June 4. ELW also had a family group visit her yard at Skir Dhu.

COMMON CROWS are well reported and widespread. MAC noticed one in Halifax with a distinctive white patch on its breast. White feathers and partial albinism is relatively common in this species, or perhaps with the black background it is just very noticeable. JKD had 60+ on mudflats at low tide at Glenwood Nov. 7, and by mid-November the usual dusk gathering of 10,000+ in Kentville was well established. The early fall roost seems to be around the Valley Regional Hospital, and later in the fall/early winter, they seem to prefer the trees across town, around the United Church. Any significance?

COMMON RAVENS are, I suspect, more commonly seen than reported. There was a large movement of 60+ over Seal Island, flying west on Oct. 11 (FLL).

Twelve people reported BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES, usually in small groups as expected. BLM reported 45 trying to migrate across Chedabucto Bay from Cape Argos. BOREAL CHICKADEES were also reported in usual and expected numbers. RSD had a family group of 6 visited his suet feeder in L. W. Pubnico on July 9.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES remain abundant and widely reported from all over the province, and often from feeders. No large migratory movements were reported this fall. A few WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were also reported. (BJA,RBD,HBD,JWT, et al.). Fourteen reports of BROWN CREEPER, mostly single birds, is about average for summer and early fall.

One - 3 HOUSE WRENS were on Mud and Seal Islands, Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 (BLM,JWT), and as expected several WINTER WRENS were around the province. A cooperative MARSH WREN stayed in the same patch of reeds at Hartlen's Pt. for several days in late October, seen by many observers, and up to 4 were on Seal Is. Oct. 9-11 (FLL et al.).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS were noted as a "large migrant flock" at Cape Argos, Guys. Co., Oct. 14 (BLM) and 100+ were at Belliveau's Cove, Digby Co. Nov. 4. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS were numerous and widely reported; 35 were migrating on Seal Is., Oct. 11 (FLL). There was a mixed flock of several hundred of both species, together with a few Boreal Chickadees, at Blomidon Prov. P. on Aug. 19 (RBS).

The BLUE-GREY GNATCATCHER seems to be almost common this year! KJM has seen several, i.e. Harbour Light Campground, near Pictou on June 7, Braeshore, Sept. 25, and Hartlen's Pt. Back Cove, Oct. 2. Several other observers saw 1 in the same spot Oct. 15. BLM had sightings at Seal Is. 29 and Sept. 30, and Cape Argos, Oct. 14 with Black-capped Chickadees; 1 reached Port Morien, seen by CMU, Oct. 3.

Four NORTHERN WHEATEARS were seen this fall--1 was at Delaps Cove Aug. 28, 1 was a "superb plumaged" male at Risser's Beach, Sept. 25 (Cohrs) and 2 distinctly different birds were on Sable Is., Sept. 17-18, and 24, both immature plumaged individuals (ZOL).

#### BLUEBIRDS THROUGH STARLINGS

The EASTERN BLUEBIRD continues to hold its won in selected localities in the province. There were two confirmed nests, 1 at Economy Pt., in a cavity in an apple tree (FLS), and 1 at Upper Stewiacke (BLM). Other birds seen in likely nesting habitat, in the breeding season, were at Apple River (KFS,WHM,MSM), North Pt., Cumb. Co. (E. Coates), Westport, (RBS), and near Canning (RBS et al.). These are nearly all traditional sites that the species has nested in for the last few years. Other sightings of note were of larger groups in the post-breeding season, i.e., 10 at New Salem Sept. 6 (LPP), 12 in the same spot Sept. 14 (KFS) and 5 at Melvern Square Sept. 27 (BLF). It will be interesting to see if any of these over-winter, as has been the case in the last few years.

The remarks I made earlier about the decline in numbers of neotropical migrants, apropos of flycatchers, presumably also applies to thrushes. Reported numbers have been uniformly low for the last few summer and fall seasons, and the trend continues. There were only 4 VEERY reports, but they included one of 4 birds singing on July 21 around Saxon St. Pond, Kings Co. (JCT). Several GREY-CHEEKED THRUSH were reported, mostly from Cape Breton, its stronghold in the province (BLM,RPF), but also from Seal Is., at the other end of Nova Scotia, where they are listed as possible breeders in Yar. Co., and have bred on Seal in the past. These birds were all noted to be of the "Bicknell's" race, which is native to upland New England and the Maritimes, and which is recognizable if carefully studied by its warmer brown tones and the fact that the song rises towards the end. However, 1 seen at Hartlen's Pt., Oct. 9 (BLM,MAB,IAM et al.) was noted to be very cold, dark olive grey on the dorsum, probably one of the more northerly races. Another "non-Bicknell's" was seen by ZOL on Sable Is., Sept. 13 and 21. Apart from being observationally satisfying to be able to separate races on careful viewing, this particular pair may be important to hard-core listers, as taxonomists feel that the "Bicknell's" may be a true species and "split" off in the near future.

A few SWAINSON'S THRUSH were reported as expected. One met an untimely end at the hands (or feet!) of a Northern Shrike on Sable Is., Oct. 21 (ZOL). A laggard was still near Advocate Nov. 10 (KFS et al.). However, a bright note is the reporting of a total of 45 HERMIT THRUSHES at various localities around the area during the summer and early fall.

A single WOOD THRUSH was reported by JAC on May 27 at Westmount.

Not surprisingly there were many AMERICAN ROBIN reports, with large fall movements noted Oct. 23 over Pubnico Pt. ("hundreds"-RSD), Oct. 23 Kentville and Canard (RBS), Oct. 27, Apple River (KFS), and "many bright migrants during the first

week of Nov., Economy (FLS).

There were 12 reports of GREY CATBIRD, with no major deviation from the usual summer and fall pattern. There were 32 reports of NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD, a species that is becoming almost commonplace. It is interesting to compare this number of reports of a species for which the **Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas** estimates the Maritimes population to be about 250 pairs, with, e.g., the above-mentioned numbers for Hermit Thrush (population estimate 280,000 pairs). Admittedly the Mockingbird tends to be very noticeable when present, and tends to occur in urban areas. An active and successful nest was noted by JWT at Amherst Shore. RIP was woken several times in the early hours by a pair in this backyard in New Minas all summer. RBS saw 2 determinedly chasing Starlings away from a roost tree and claim it for themselves, in Wolfville, Sept. 30.

BROWN THRASHERS were present in June on Sable Is. (ZOL) and in Stewiacke (SHG). Six others were seen in various locations in late September, early October.

The first fall AMERICAN PIPIT was noted on Aug. 20 at Grand Pre (JCT). Flocks of up to 50 were then seen, as expected, from various windswept beaches around the province. BLF saw several hundred at Pond Cove, Brier Is. in early October.

Flocks of BOHEMIAN WAXWING were already being seen by Oct. 19-25, on Sable Is. (ZOL), Melmerby Beach, Oct. 20 (CGB), and Nov. 10 in C.B. Co. (AMU,CMU). I have heard of a flock of 150+ in Wolfville, and thus it promises to be a good winter for this irruptive species. There were numerous sightings, as expected, of small flocks of CEDAR WAXWING from around the province.

Apart from the above-noted thrush-eating NORTHERN SHRIKE, on Sable Is., others have been seen during November in Pt. Morien (CGB,KJM,CMU), Conrad's Beach (M. Heany), and Apple River (WHM, MSM).

EUROPEAN STARLINGS were noted as being numerous. There were flocks of 1,000+ in Yarmouth (BAP) and Port Williams (RBS). As usual numbers seem to be increasing with the advancing fall.



PUFFIN TROPHY--Steve Shearer entered this study of a Red-breasted Nuthatch

## VIREOS AND WARBLERS

Breeding SOLITARY VIREOS were reported from Skir Dhu, C.B., with the nest nine feet up in the fork of a small spruce (ELW). Migrants were sparsely reported, beginning with 4 near Advocate, Cumb. Co., on Sept. 30 (KFS et al.), and 1 on Mud Is., Yar. Co., the same day (BLM et al.). One of the 2 or 3 at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 1-2 was of the plumbeous race, seen by several, and meticulously described by IAM, as "evenly mouse-grey tone on back, perhaps a little olive over wing coverts, with dirty white sides, yellowish only on posterior flanks, boundary of 'hood' on throat and cheeks obscure, rump more olive". Though extremely rare there, one was noted on Seal Is. in October, 1992. The last Solitary individual, of the eastern race this time, was seen on Sober Is., Hfx. Co., on Oct. 10. Also rare and also at Hartlen's Pt. were a YELLOW-THROATED VIREO found by JWT on Sept. 25, and a WARBLING VIREO the following day (KJM). No details were included on either sighting. A Warbling Vireo was also sighted on Seal Is., on Oct. 1 (BLM et al.). A PHILADELPHIA VIREO was also listed at Hartlen's Pt. on Sept. 25 (JWT), though no details were provided. RBD and HBD frequently encountered the RED-EYED VIREO over the summer in Hfx. and Hants Cos. What appeared to be a family of 5 or 6 was seen at Mink Lake, Yar. Co., on Aug. 22 (HGH,HJH). Four on Seal Is. on Sept. 5-6 (BLM), and 1 at Pubnico on Sept. 20 (JKD) were the only migrants reported.

SJF comments that in general, warbler populations have been quite consistent on her Breeding Bird Surveys over the past five to ten years. Should we worry though, about breeding success in 1993 if the spring migration numbers were up from the spring of 1992 for nearly all species, but fall migration figures were down from the fall of 1992 for 70% of breeding species?

Two BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS showed up in Cape Breton during the latter part of the summer, 1 at Port Morien on Aug. 26 and 1 at Sand Lake on Sept. 4 (AMU,CMU). One was added on Sept. 5 at Hartlen's Pt. (ROF). Late spring TENNESSEE WARBLER migrants were noted on Sable Is. (ZOL), 1 on June 4-5 and 1 on June 26. Though mentioned during the breeding season from Brier Is. to Cape Breton, the fall migration, as usual, was largely unnoticed. One at North Range, Digby Co., on Aug. 28 (BJA), and 1 on Seal Is. on Sept. 4 (BLM et al.) were the only fall migrants reported. Though down 50% from 1992, ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER numbers were still on the high side, with 9 reported. Singletons were observed in Hfx. Co. on Oct. 9 and 10 (BLM,MAB), on Cape Sable Is. on Oct. 11 (MUN,WIA), near Port Joli, Queens Co., on Oct. 16 (ROB), at Pubnico Pt. on Oct. 26 (RSD) and in Dartmouth on Nov. 10 (JWT); with 3 (very pale birds) at Hartlen's Pt. on Nov. 13 (BLM,ROF), likely of the western race. SJF thought that NASHVILLE WARBLER numbers were down, and she was probably right, if the reports of only 3 individuals during June, and of 2 migrants (1 at Hartlen's Pt on Oct. 24 and 1 at Pubnico Pt. on Oct. 25) were any indication.

Noted in Hfx., Hants, Col. and Cumb. Cos., as well as in Skir Dhu, C.B., during the summer, NORTHERN PARULAS were thought to be low in number around Port Mouton, Queens Co. (ROC). Indeed, only 4 scattered migrants were reported, with the last one at Portuguese Cove, Hfx. Co., on Oct. 17 (ROJ).

June reports of the YELLOW WARBLER included a late spring migrant on Sable Is. on June 15 (IAM), and a nest with 4 young hatched on June 27 at Apple River, Cumb. Co (KFS). Summer reports were down from 1992, however, and ROC found them very low around Port Mouton. Yellows were on the move at Overton and at Mader's Cove, Lun. Co., by mid-August (HGH,HJH,JBM), and even earlier if the 6 on Sable Is. between July 22 and Aug. 2 (ZOL) were early fall migrants. Only 2 post-August birds were sighted, the last one on Brier Is. on Oct. 26 (JWT).

Quite a few reports of resident CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLERS were received, with small movements noted in Yar., Lun. and Digby Cos., Aug. 22-24. The final report was of 1 on Seal Is. on Sept. 6. A scattering of MAGNOLIA WARBLERS was observed during summer, including a late spring migrant on Sable Is., June 12-14 (ZOL). Magnolias were "common" on Port Hood Is., C.B., on June 19-21 (HGH,HJH), but SJF felt breeding numbers were down. Five at Hartlen's Pt. on Aug. 27 were part of a migrant flock. Subsequent migrants reported numbered only 4--1 at APBS on Aug. 28 and another there on Sept. 10 (ROB), 1 on Seal Is. on Sept. 29 (BLM) and 1 at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 24 (BLM). Five scattered summer singleton CAPE MAY WARBLERS were noted. Only a handful of migrants were reported, from late August through early October, including a peak of only 6 on Seal Is., Aug. 29- Sept. 5, and 2 which hung on at Sable Is. until Oct. 4. The popular BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER was successfully sought over the western half of the mainland during June, mostly in Kings Co., where 10 were reported (GWT,JWT). Farther east, a pair with 4 young were discovered at White Hill, Pic. Co., on June 18 (CGB). A female on Seal Is. on Oct. 11 (ROF) and another female around Port Joli on Oct. 13 (ROB) were the only observed migrants.

Seemingly well-distributed in summer, the YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER began to grow restless in late August in Lun. and Digby Cos., and at APBS, where 54+ were counted on Aug. 28. Peak numbers were reported in October, with hundreds at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 11 (LPP), a peak of 120 on Seal Is. on the same day (FLL et al.), "dozens" foraging on the beach at Pubnico Pt. on Oct. 14 (RSD) and 40 still at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 24 (BLM,ROF). The latest reported were 6+ at Western Head, Queens Co., on Nov. 8 (ROB), but undoubtedly, a goodly number will attempt to overwinter if they have not been discouraged by our cool, wet October.

An adult BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER, singing from the top of an ash tree in Petite Riviere on Sept. 29 (JLC), was the province's first since May 1990 (Cohrs at Green Bay) and, so far as I can determine, the first autumn record since 1984. The BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER appeared to be in its usual spots during the breeding season, though nobody commented on its numbers. The fall migration consisted of scattered 1's and 2's in Cumb., Hfx and Yar. Cos., and a peak of only 4 on Seal Is. Aug. 29-Sept. 5. The last one reported was in the company of Yellow-rumps on Oct. 25 at Pubnico Pt. Reports indicated that the BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER was more common during the summer in Cape Breton, as expected. A small movement (5-10) was noted at Mink Lake on Aug. 22 (HGH,HJH), and 1 was on Brier Is. on Sept. 13 (KJM), our only "fall" reports.

The YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER had a bullish year, with 6 individuals accounted for, namely: 2 males on Aug. 4 at Port Mouton (ROC), 1 on Aug. 17 in Shel. Co. (PEY fide STT), 1 on Sept. 8 on Sable Is. (ZOL), 1 male in "excellent plumage" on Oct. 4 and 8 at Green Bay (JSC felt there was only 1 bird involved, even though sightings were a mile apart), and a male on Nov. 10 in Dartmouth (JWT), which spent about 1½ hours at a feeder and around the yard. Fewer PINE WARBLERS were observed than in recent years, with only 3 noted: a pale immature at Mud Is., Yar. Co., on Sept. 30, a very bright male at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 24 (both BLM et al.) and a dull bird on Sable Is. on Oct. 24-25 (ZOL). Fall PRAIRIE WARBLER numbers seem to be exploding. After 16 or so in 1992, about 25 individuals were accounted for during the fall, spread across the province from our southwestern islands to Sable Is. and Cape Breton. The first of the onslaught was a solitary at Port Morien on Aug. 15 (AMU,CMU), and the last sighting was on Sable Is., where 6 or more September birds hung on until Oct. 23 (ZOL).

Only one comment was heard regarding PALM WARBLER numbers, and it was to the effect that they were low, though I found Palms common in their usual haunts around New Ross, Lun. Co., during the summer. Although coverage was quite good, migration figures were down. Palms may have started to flock up as early as late August, but numbers remained small even in October when the migration normally peaks. A peak of 15 occurred on Seal Is. on Oct. 11 (IAM et al.), while 6 were at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 24 (BLM,ROF). The last report was of 1 on Brier Is. on Oct. 26 (JWT). Of perhaps 45 migrants mentioned, around 10 were thought to be of the western race. Although 5 widely-scattered BAY-BREADED WARBLERS were seen in June and July, only 2 fall migrants were noted, on Seal Is. on Sept. 27 (BLM), unless the 1 on Sable Is. on July 6 (ZOL) was an early migrant. Summer reports of the BLACKPOLL WARBLER included 50 at Cape North, Vic. Co. (BLM), on June 18. Other than 10 at Risser's Beach, Lun. Co., on Sept. 26, only a few singletons were seen during migration, the last of which occurred at E. Port L'Hebert, Queens Co., on Oct. 16. A CERULEAN WARBLER was reported on Cape Sable Is. on Aug. 17 (MUN,WIA), and an immature female was found at Tuskett Falls, Yar. Co., on Sept. 20 (MIH). No details were provided.

A couple of late spring BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER migrants passed through Sable Is. in early June, and summer reports came in from Hfx., Hants, Col. and Yar. Cos., as well as Port Hood Is. and Skir Dhu, C.B. (RBD et al.). Only a few birds were reported during migration, the last, a female near Port Joli on Oct. 17 (ROB). The AMERICAN REDSTART was well reported during the breeding season. A pair of adults having a bath and a drink in an Overton backyard on Aug. 16 (HGH) were probably migrating, and redstarts were part of a small mixed flock in Mader's Cove on Aug. 22 (JBM). There was a peak of only 6 on Seal Is. between Aug. 29 and Sept. 5 (IAM), with 4 there on Sept. 27 (BLM). A female-plumaged bird on Sable Is. on Oct. 25 (ZOL) was our last report.

A PROTHONOTARY WARBLER was noted on Sable Is. on Aug. 2 (ZOL), somewhat earlier than reverse fall migrants normally appear. More timely was the Prothonotary which showed up at Hartlen's Pt. on Sept. 12 (sev. obs.). Two WORM-EATING WARBLER reports also came in 1 at Cape Sable on Sept. 3 (CGB,KJM) and 1 on Sable Is. on Sept. 7 (ZOL).

Summering OVENBIRD numbers were up to scratch, but as usual, migration reports were spotty (no pun intended). The last one on Sable Is. went through on Sept. 9 (ZOL), 2 were at APBS on Sept. 10 (ROB) and the final report was of 1 at Pubnico Pt. on Sept. 12 (RSD). Though summer reports were received from Hants, Co., Inv., Yar. and Digby Cos., the first NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH which was a definite fall migrant died after an altercation with a window on the outskirts of Halifax on Aug. 20 (MAC). Thereafter, singles were reported in the southwest--on Cape Sable Is., at Pubnico Pt. and on Seal Is. The only other (and our last) report was of 1 on Sable Is. on Sept. 16.

A CONNECTICUT WARBLER was found at Pubnico Pt. on Sept. 14 (RSD). Its bold, unbroken eye ring and dull yellowish underparts suggested this bird rather than the more common MOURNING WARBLER. Mournings had good summer coverage once again, including a singing male "territorializing" at Conquerall Mills, Lun. Co., on June 4. Breeding along our southern coastline is very unusual, with more northern portions of mainland N.S. being favoured, as well as Cape Breton, where BLM found 20 (at Cape North) on June 18. Our only post-July report was of 1 on Seal Is. on Sept. 5 (BLM et al.). ROC felt that COMMON YELLOWTHROAT numbers were low around Port Mouton, but no others ventured a comment. Though quite a few were reported during the summer, once again the migration went unnoticed. Two pair at Mink Lake on Aug. 22 (HGH) which, he says, "investigated my 'pissing' in alders" (I'll reluctantly refrain from wisecracks), were probably still on territory, as likely were the 9+ at APBS on Aug. 28 (ROB). In September, a few were noted around Apple River (KFS), 3 were on Mud Is. on Sept. 30 (BLM) and a male was seen at East Port L'Hebert on Oct. 16 (ROB), our final report. A male HOODED WARBLER was on Sable Is., Sept. 7-17 (ZOL). A male was also found at Glace Bay on Oct. 18 (AMU,CMU), even more unusual in that it was a non-island occurrence. From WILSON'S WARBLER individuals in Hfx. Co., and 1 in

Cumb. Co., were reported in June. September singles were at Seal Is., Apple River, Pubnico Pt. and Sable Is., while one was in south-end Halifax on Nov. 13 (CHF). I am concerned about the CANADA WARBLER, so it was reassuring to see some late spring and summer reports from Hfx, Yar. and Kings Cos., as well as Sable Is., but RSD says of his solitary male at Pubnico Pt. on June 7, "This bird was singing at the same place last year, but like last year I was unable to detect any females." As a species begins to dwindle, finding a mate becomes more difficult, and an even more rapid collapse in numbers may result. An immature at Hartlen's Pt. on Aug. 27 was the only migrant reported. A total of 9 YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS were reported between Aug. 22 and Oct. 11, all on Cape Sable, Seal or Sable Islands, except for 1 in Lr. Sackville, Hfx. Co., on Sept. 5 (PEL).

--KNK, ed.

#### TANAGERS TO TOWHEE

All three of the tanagers that have occurred in Nova Scotia were represented during this period. An adult male WESTERN TANAGER was discovered by Zoe Lucas on Sable Is. July 5. Her detailed drawing and description leaves no doubt as to its identity. This bird must have been very disoriented as it should have been on territory in the western mountains of Canada or the United States at that time. There was just one record of SUMMER TANAGER, that being of an immature feeding along the beach on Seal Island September 28 (BLM,JWT). SCARLET TANAGERS were found in Cumb., Pic., Hants and Digby Cos. during summer. Most reports were of males singing in suitable breeding habitat from mid-June to late July. There was a pair found at Thompson Station, Cumb. Co., June 27 (BLM). The only fall migrant reported was one on Sable Is. (ZOL).

After several years of very few NORTHERN CARDINALS seen, it appears weather forced more of these birds into the province this fall. Of the 10 sightings all but one occurred on or after October 25. The first was a juvenile male bird feeding on chokecherries at Petite Riviere on Oct. 10 (JLC). There were at least 2 at Apple River and reports from New Salem and Advocate, Oct. 25-31. Other records were of 2, possibly 3 at Cape Sable on Oct. 28; a male at Osbourne Hbr. on Nov. 4 (fide DJC) and 2 were discovered at Brier Is. on Nov. 7.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS as usual were well reported in north-central parts of the province. Pairs or singing males could be found throughout Cumb. and Col. Cos. from late May on into July. Other areas with summer residents were Digby on June 8 and Berwick on June 25. Just three records of migrating birds were recorded. The first was 1 found Sept. 3 on Scaterie Is., C.B. (AMU,CMU); a first year male was discovered on Sable Is., Sept. 13-14 (ZOL) and another first year male was seen at Bald Rock, Hfx. Co., Oct. 2 (DAC). BLUE GROSBEAKS were seen 5 times, the earliest migrant being one found on Seal Is., Sept. 6 (BLM et al.). One was discovered on Sable Is. on Sept. 12 (ZOL); one was at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 2 (IAM); a female was at Pubnico Pt. on Oct. 15 (RSD) and one was found on Seal Is. once more during Oct. 10 and 11 (IAM).

Along with all the other surprise avian visitors this year came 4 PAINTED BUNTINGS between May 22 and June 4. The first was one visiting several locations in the Pubnico area on May 22. (CLT,RSD,HOD). Next came two, a male and female to a feeder in the Red River area, Inv. Co., June 2-4. Both the male and female were photographed by Phillip Augusta who was fortunately visiting the area at the time (DAL,ALT). The last was of another male found at a feeder in Pictou on June 17 (TEB). Our sightings in Nova Scotia match quite well the phenomenon which dropped many of these birds in Ontario, Quebec and the northeastern United States. The much more regular INDIGO BUNTING was not as easy to find during the fall migration. Single birds were found in only 2 locations, Little Hbr., Shel. Co., Oct. 26 (DHY) and Mahone Bay on Aug. 8 (RDH). A total of 4 birds were found on Seal Is. by many observers Oct. 10 (fide IAM). An interesting record came from Jane and Maureen Mills who saw a male at Advocate Hbr on July 2. Cumb. Co. with its suitable habitat could very well host breeding Indigo Buntings.

25 were at Apple River on Nov. 8 (KFS). There were just three records for EASTERN MEADOWLARK. The first was one at Brier Is. on Oct. 26 (JWT) with two seen on Oct. 30, one at Cape Sable Is. (MUN,WIA) and one at Lower West Pubnico (RSD). YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS were also sighted in three locations. The first was one at the Morris' feeder in Advocate on Aug. 15. This bird stayed in the area visiting several feeders for at least three weeks. The second one, from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3 was discovered at the Lockeport Elementary School for the second consecutive year. This bird appeared to be different in colouration than the bird of the previous year (DJC). The third one was spotted on Cape Sable Is. on Oct. 8 (CGB,KJM). RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were not well reported with only a few summer reports. The largest concentration was about 24 with starlings and grackles at Durham, Pic. Co. during August and September. Other late records include one seen on Seal Is. on Oct. 11 and one at Apple River on Nov. 8.

COMMON GRACKLES continue to be abundant during breeding season and by late July and early August most start banding in large noisy flocks in search of feeding and roosting areas as they make their way southward. Large flocks were seen at Tusket Falls, Yar. Co. on July 31 (MIH) and hundreds passing through the Waverley area on Aug. 8 (LPP). A late flock of about 50 were seen at a feeder in Westport on Nov. 7 (RBS). It seems encouraging that only two reporters found BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS throughout the period. This may be a function of our disdain for this species and not that they have suffered from any misfortune. Two birds were found at Newport on June 9 and a single bird at Shubenacadie on June 13 (RBD,HBD). The only other sighting was three at Apple River on July 25 (KFS).

Over 65 NORTHERN ORIOLES were reported this period. Most were migrants from late August to mid November. Pairs were seen at Apple River from during May and June. A male was seen trailing nesting material there on May 23 (KFS). A second pair was found at Plymouth on June 13 and a nest was located in the area once the leaves had fallen in November (KJM,CGB). Over 25 birds were seen on Sable Is. from Aug. 30 through to Oct. 20 (ZOL). There are several reports of single birds visiting feeders in Halifax, Port Morien, Economy, Bedford, Portugese Cove, Dartmouth and Cape Sable Is. well into November.

#### FINCHES TO HOUSE SPARROW

PINE GROSBEAKS were typically elusive during summer and it is no surprise that there was only one report, that of 1 seen at Dufferin Mines, Hfx. Co. on June 5 (BLM). During fall 4 were found at Upper Sackville on Oct. 29 (BJA) and 2 were spotted in woods near Spencer's Is. on Nov. 3 (KFS,MSM,JRM,SCM).

PURPLE FINCHES were quite evident all summer with small flocks of 5-10 most common regularly attending feeders. As fall approached numbers began to decline and visits were less regular. By October in all but the Northern areas of the province a few birds were reported. The largest flock was about 20 at Apple River on Nov. 1. A male and female HOUSE FINCH were discovered at Overton on June 24 feeding with goldfinches and siskins and 5 were found there later on Aug. 6 (HGH,HJH). Other reports were one at Sable Is. on Aug. 30 (ZOL) and one at Cape Sable on Nov. 6 (MUN,WIA).

RED CROSSBILLS were routinely found throughout the reporting period but there was no particular time frame in which they were more commonly found. They were sighted in all areas of the province with the exception of Cape Breton. Of particular interest was 20 of the large-billed Newfoundland subspecies *L. c. pusilla* seen at the LaHave Islands on June 20 (ELM). WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were uncommon. There were only two records for summer, one June 14-17 on Sable Is. (ZOL) and 12 seen in Halifax on June 16 (RBD,HBD). Other birds were found in small flocks of no more than 7 during August, September and November.



It appears that we may have a banner winter for COMMON REDPOLLS. These birds began pouring into the province keeping close to coastal areas on Oct. 19. The first report was of three on Sable Is. that day seen by Zoe Lucas. On Oct. 20 there were over 300 at Melmerby Beach, Pic. Co. (CGB) and by the first of November most birders had seen a flock or two. RSD says that he was overjoyed to see 20 in a flock at Pubnico Point on Nov. 20, as it was February of 1988 that he had last seen one. PINE SISKINS were regular at feeders all summer in most areas. Flocks of 6-25 were seen daily in Yarmouth, Halifax area, Apple River and Amherst. A flock of 70 migrants appeared on Sable Island on Oct. 11 (ZOL). There won't be any disagreement that AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES were common throughout the summer. Almost all observers commented on the larger than normal numbers of this species especially at feeders. Typically 12-35 could be regular daily visitors at feeders throughout the province. A group on Mud Is., Yar. Co. noticed 200 in strong north winds on Sept. 30.

EVENING GROSBEAK AND HOUSE SPARROW

Although there were a few isolated sightings of EVENING GROSBEAKS through the summer months flocks began to arrive in earnest during mid-October. This first was on Oct. 4 when 8 were seen at Pubnico with several more flocks there in the next few days (JKD). Most of these newly arriving flocks were small with only 5-15 individuals grouping together. Larger numbers occurred at East Chester where 30 were seen on Oct. 31 (CHF) and 20 were found at Lower West Pubnico on Oct. 17 (JKD). If the number of reports are a sign of what is to come, feeder watchers should take advantage of any special prices on sunflower seeds.

HOUSE SPARROWS continue to be noted as declining or steady in numbers by observers. The one pair that seems to be doing its part to bolster the population was one at Mader's Cove that successfully raised three broods this year (JBM). Several flocks including one of about 30 at Sambro and one of 12 at Dartmouth were noted during early November.

DAC Ed.

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS**

for

the **April, 1994** issue

**February 28, 1994**

**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

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

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

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

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Allen	Mike	MIA
Allsebrook	Keith & Marion	KMA
Amirault	Brad	BJA
Atwood	Wilfred	WIA
Baicich	P.	PAB
Bain	Margaret	MAB
Banks	Dan	DAB
Bradshaw	Dave	DVB
Brennan	Calvin	CGB
Bunbury	Teresa	TEB
Burrows	Roger	ROB
Clark	Marg	MAC
Cohrs	John	JLC
Cohrs	Lis <sup>ce</sup>	LAC
Cohrs	Shirley	JSC
Covert	Alan	ALC
Chivers	Robert	ROC
Chretien	Jackie	JAC
Crosby	Donna	DJC
Crossland	Errol	ERC
Czapalay	Joan	JOC
D'Entremont	Diane	DID
D'Entremont	Howard	HOD
D'Entremont	Raymond	RSD
D'Eon	Jerome	JKD
Desplanque	Con	COD
Dickie	Bob	RBD
Dickie	Helen	HBD
Doane	Ben	BED
Dowd	Connie	CND
Dowd	Michael	MID
Dowd	Richard	RID
Ellis	Margaret	MEE
Field	Chris	CHF
Fisk	Dean	DEF
Fletcher	Darren	DVF
Fox	Robert	RPF
Foxall	Roger	RPF
Fraser	Eldon	EQF
Fullerton	Sylvia	SJF
Gay	Sharon	SHG
George	Linda	LIG
Hagman	Doris	DOH
Hall	Helen	HJH
Hall	Hubert	HGH
Hartley	Jean	JEH
Hawkswood	Mike	MIH
Hebb	Ruth	RDH
Helleiner	Chris	CWH
Helpern	Hal & Sheila	HSH
Hemeon	Ward & Phyllis	WPH
Herman	Tom	TBH
Hill	Sue	SLH
Hippern	Dennis	DHH
Horne	Andy	ANH
Hover	Chris	CRH
Jackson	Dowgie	DOJ
Kochanoff	Peggy	PEL
Lavender	Fulton	FL
John	Roy	ROJ
Lawley	David	DAL
LeBlanc	Peter	PEL

Lucas  
 MacTavish  
 MacLean  
 MacLean  
 MacLeod  
 Mannis  
 Mark  
 Marriott  
 Maybank  
 McKay  
 McKenna  
 McLaren  
 McLeod  
 Mills  
 Mills  
 Mills  
 Mills  
 Mills  
 Mills  
 Mills  
 Mills  
 Moores  
 Morris  
 Morris  
 Morse  
 Murrant  
 Murrant  
 Nells  
 Newell  
 Novak  
 Payzant  
 Penny  
 Pickrem  
 Pine  
 Porter  
 Raymond  
 Robb  
 Smith  
 Spalding  
 Spalding  
 Spicer  
 Spicer  
 Spicer  
 Stern  
 Taylor  
 Thexton  
 Thorburn  
 Thorpe  
 Timmons  
 Timpa  
 Tingley  
 Toews  
 Tufts  
 Tufts  
 Tull  
 Waldron  
 Waldron  
 Weaver  
 Wolford  
 Yankee  
 Young

Zoe  
 Bruce  
 Angus  
 Stella  
 Peter  
 Bruce  
 ED  
 Roy  
 Blake  
 Pat  
 Ken  
 Ian  
 Alan  
 Anne  
 Danny  
 Edwin  
 Eric  
 Jane  
 Maureen  
 Sunday  
 William  
 Bernice  
 Bruce  
 Ruth  
 Jean & Bill  
 Allan  
 Cathy  
 Janet  
 Murray  
 Mike  
 Linda & Peter  
 Rick  
 Rich  
 Kathy  
 Arthur  
 Kelsey  
 Don  
 P.C.  
 Edgar  
 Fran  
 Blaine  
 Cindy  
 Kathleen  
 Richard  
 Jim  
 Brenda & Bill  
 Claudette  
 Diane  
 Alfred  
 Jean  
 Stu  
 Dan  
 Gordon  
 Judy  
 E.  
 Eleanor  
 Joan  
 Joyce  
 Jim  
 Peter  
 David

ZOL  
 BAM  
 AAM  
 SMM  
 PML  
 BWM  
 EDM  
 RAM  
 BLM  
 PAM  
 KJM  
 IAM  
 ALM  
 AHM  
 DWM  
 EAM  
 ELM  
 JRM  
 MSM  
 SCM  
 WHM  
 BAM  
 BRM  
 RUM  
 JBM  
 AMU  
 CMU  
 JAN  
 MUN  
 MIN  
 LPP  
 RIP  
 RAP  
 KAP  
 BAP  
 KER  
 DOR  
 PCS  
 EPS  
 FLS  
 BAS  
 CDS  
 KFS  
 RBS  
 JWT  
 BBT  
 CLT  
 BDT  
 ALT  
 JET  
 STT  
 DAT  
 GWT  
 JCT  
 EAT  
 ELW  
 JOW  
 JAW  
 JWW  
 PEY  
 DHY

## PUFFIN OF THE YEAR

1993

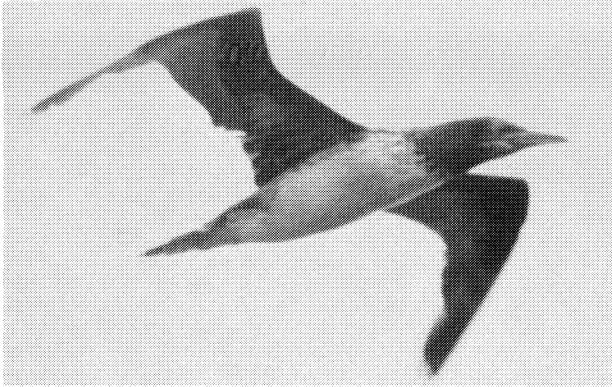
One of the more pleasant duties of the president is to award the Puffin of the Year to one of our members in recognition of that person's contributions to the aims of the Society. This year I would like to present it to someone who has had a lifelong interest in nature, particularly birds and still has the list of spring arrivals of 1929 to prove it. Born and raised in Lunenburg County, she took her Grade 12 in Halifax, and received her R. N. in Montreal. Widowed now, she has one son and one daughter. She enjoys an active life, gardening, cross-country skiing, snow-shoeing, camping and fishing in addition to birding. She is a charter member of the Society and over the years has contributed reports to **Nova Scotia Birds**, has taken part in the Maritime Nest Record Scheme, the Piping Plover Provincial Survey, Christmas Bird Counts, the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas and for the past two years has been a Piping Plover Guardian on Cherry Hill Beach. She has given many talks on birds to school groups, Guides, Brownies, Cubs and Beavers, several garden clubs, the SPCA and at the DesBrisay Museum. In June, she led two field trips for a group from the Catherine Parr Trail Club of Ontario. She is the "Bird Lady" to thousands of readers, having written her column "Bird Notes" for the two local weekly newspapers since 1986 and has inspired and encouraged others with her love and enjoyment of birds and their environment. She is a good friend to the Society, the birds and birders. Nellie Snyder, please come up and receive your Puffin Of The Year.

Carol MacNeill  
President

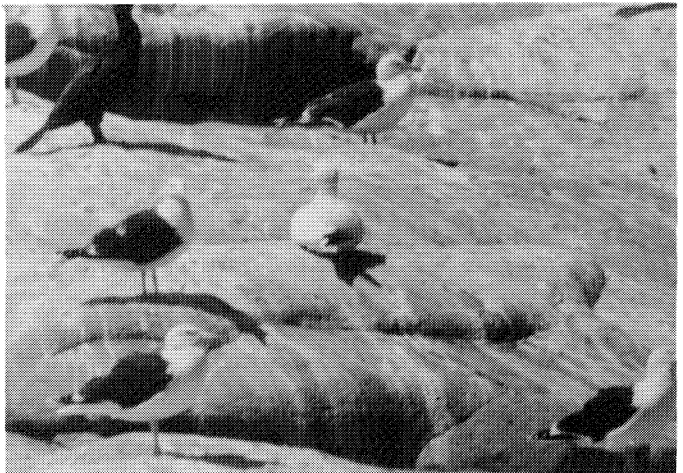


Nellie receiving the Puffin from Carol MacNeill--Photo: Peter Payzant

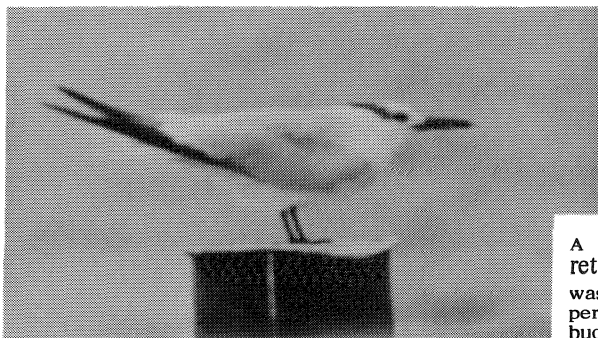
## A SHOW OF SHOREBIRDS



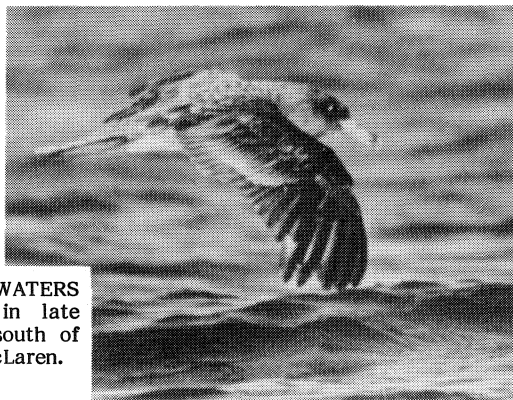
This smallish N. GANNET, closely following the whale-watching boat off Brier Is. on June 16, 1993, was photographed as a possible booby. It was indeed an oddly plumaged bird. Boobies at this age (e.g., when the belly becomes whitish in a young Brown Booby) have strikingly white underwings. Another problem is posed by 3-year-old N. Gannets, which rarely can have pure-black secondaries and pure-white upper wing coverts, very like Masked Boobies, but unlike field-guide illustrations of N. Gannets. A real "clincher", which should always be looked for to discriminate a booby from an oddly plumaged N. Gannet, is the deep bill-gape of the latter. All the boobies have "squared off" bare facial areas and short bill-gapes. Photo--S. Lonergan, BIOS.



Was this N. GANNET (centre, facing away) prospecting for nesting sites on the Bird Islands, C.B. Co. on July 1, or just resting? Photo Blake Maybank



A lifer for several birders on returning from Seal Is: on Sept. 6 was this SANDWICH TERN, perched nonchalantly on the outer buoy of Clark's Hbr. Photo--Ian McLaren.



Exceptional numbers of CORY'S SHEARWATERS occurred last year off our coasts in late summer. This one was about 30 km south of Cape Sable on Sept. 25. Photo--Ian McLaren.



Zoe Lucas was lucky enough to come across two different groups of five LONG-TAILED JAEGERS on the beach on Sable Island during summer 1993. These two, which she photographed on Sept. 3, show very nicely the unmistakable tail of the adult, and the immature's diagnostic whitish belly and strong, black-and-white flank and tail-covert markings (on the slide, without the buffy ground colours of the other species).

### THE READERS SPEAK

Included in the July, 1993 issue of this magazine, your executive included a questionnaire to seek your opinions on various subjects, to obtain your reactions to requests to assist in various projects, and any comments you could offer to improve the responsiveness of the executive to your needs and desires. We were told that the response to such questionnaires would be disappointing and if we received five percent response we would be doing far better than surveys with paid return postage. Were those pessimists ever wrong!

From a mailout to some five hundred members, some of them Institutional and some from outside the province and even the country, we received more than 120 replies. Of these, 120 were deemed usable for a statistical data base, and since some were signed by more than one member they represented the opinions and demographics of 128 members. A response of about 25 percent of membership is deemed to be exceptional for such surveys, and certainly sufficient to use as a guide for future action by your executive.

Before dealing with some of the comments for expanding or improving the Society, you may be interested in looking at some of the statistics derived from the replies. I am not a statistician so I cannot give you the degree of accuracy to be assigned but I have been assured that a sample of 25 percent is very representative of the whole membership. After all, political polls use samples of one to three thousand as representative of all voters in the country.

Here are the numbers:

1. The 120 replies used represented the answers of 128 members.
2. In terms of gender 67 replies were from males and 61 from females.
3. In terms of ages of respondents (116 replied), 3 (or 2.6%) were under 26 years old; 18 (or 15.5%) were 26 to 40; 57 (over 49%) were 41 to 65; and 38 (or 32.9%) were over 65.
4. In the first of the categories where members volunteered to actually work, that is, to participate in a conservation project if asked, the response was a healthy 78 would or 65% of replies.
5. Volunteers to act as contact points for birdwatchers visiting their areas numbered 51, or 42.5 percent of replies.
6. The question on best day for field trips got 82 replies: 27\* for Saturday, 24 for Sunday, and 31 for any day of the week.
7. There were two multiple choice questions and since some respondents indicated more than one activity or subject, some weighting had to be applied to the data. The first of these questions dealing with preferred activities showed the following:

Feeder Watching	40	33.9%
Field Trips	25	21.2%
Christmas Counts	18	15.3%
Bird Surveys	10	8.5%
Pelagic Trips	14	11.9%
Big day/Big year	4	3.4%
Other	7	5.9%



8. The question dealing with interest in the articles appearing in **Nova Scotia Birds** revealed the following:

Scientific Articles	13	11.0%
World Birding	10	8.5%
Letters to Editor	6	5.1%
Seasonal Reports	31	26.3%
Field Trip Reports	18	15.2%
List of Field Trips	18	15.2%
Photographs	13	11.0%
Other	9	7.6%

9. The use of the Society sponsored rare bird line called the CHATLINE was requested in terms of FREQUENT, once a week or more; OCCASIONAL, once a month or so; and NEVER. The responses were: frequent, 9 (7.6%), occasional 30 (25.4%); never 79 (67%).

Far more important were your comments on ways to increase membership, and improve service to members. These cannot be reduced to statistics but will be considered by the executive in the coming year. Some areas of activity are already indicated by the survey, and action will commence shortly in response.

The very great interest in feeder watching as an activity has been noted and commencing in this issue of **Nova Scotia Birds**, we have begun a new series on feeding the birds, drawing on your experience which we can pass on to all members. We would love to receive your input on such subjects as best foods, best feeders, best locations, planting gardens for birds, and especially how to attract the rarer, or shyer species in both rural and urban settings.

Many of you suggested that regular meetings should be held in areas other than Halifax. This has been done in the past, on occasion, but it presents some serious problems to a group with little money to spare and managed solely by volunteers. Although we only hold seven meetings a year, the executive hold a further ten meetings, and as you have no doubt experienced yourself, those people who are recruited to the executive and make a meaningful contribution are invariably active in one, two or three other volunteer groups. (I am permitted to say this because I have just been asked to write this piece and am not a member of your executive.) To hold even half our meetings outside the Halifax area would certainly burden the executive even more. Nevertheless, the November meeting will be held in Bridgewater, and perhaps some other solution may be found. In the past there was a very active chapter in Cape Breton, which met regularly and arranged for their own speakers. In any case, the matter will be investigated in the next year. Perhaps if each region arranged their own programmes locally, the executive could seek out speakers who might occasionally be willing to travel. Certainly aids like slide selections, some videos, and perhaps the scripts of talks given in one area might be made available. If you have any constructive ideas on this matter, a letter to the President or the Editor is all that is required.

Finally many of you suggested that to reach new members, we should start with the young. There is no doubt that this is an excellent idea. The Society has no paid staff and cannot do this. You, the members CAN and SHOULD. In fact, I know that many members give talks to schools, cubs, beavers, brownies, guides, Sunday Schools, garden clubs and homes for the elderly. I will not start list such members, lest I omit some who do the most, but if you want to see a shining example, look at the winner of this year's Puffin of the Year Award. What I am really saying is that if you feel that turning the young onto bird watching is a solution to the membership problems, there is no one better able to do this than you yourself. If you aren't a persuasive speaker, give someone a gift membership!

Thank you for your participation, there will be further reports as we digest all your good comments.

## O R N I T H O C R O S T I C

by Linda Payzant

**HOW TO SOLVE ANACROSTICS:** Use the DEFINITIONS on the opposite page to fill in as many WORDS as possible. Transfer the letters from the WORDS to the diagram below. Fill in blanks in the diagram where possible and transfer letters back to the WORDS. Work back and forth until all WORDS and the diagram are complete. The diagram will then yield a quotation. The first letter of each word in the WORDS column will spell out the author and source of the quote.

1	C	2	L		3	X	4	D	5	N	6	Y	7	C	8	N	9	P	10	O	11	V		12	O	13	X		
		14	H	15	F	16	I	17	N		18	AA	19	O	20	M	21	N	22	C	23	P		24	L	25	AA		
26	Y	27	A	28	P			29	X	30	A	31	T	32	V	33	W	34	E	35	A	36	L	37	C		38	E	
39	T	40	E	41	S	42	L	43	Q	44	F			45	M	46	E	47	A	48	H	49	X	50	A	51	O	52	X
		53	Z	54	E	55	O	56	Q			57	W			58	G	59	C	60	A			61	G	62	Z	63	C
64	V			65	V	66	S	67	V	68	X			69	L			70	N	71	Y	72	B	73	U	74	X		
75	E	76	H	77	Y	78	J			79	L	80	S			81	C	82	D	83	O	84	R	85	E	86	N	87	X
88	G			89	A	90	D	91	Y	92	J			93	AA	94	B	95	V	96	AA			97	Y	98	P	99	O
100	O	101	A			102	Y	103	M	104	C	105	U			106	C	107	F	108	I	109	Q			110	A	111	H
112	C	113	E	114	V	115	C			116	U	117	S	118	V	119	H	120	H	121	L			122	Y	123	K	124	L
125	G			126	W	127	E	128	H	129	H	130	J			131	AA	132	N	133	G	134	K			135	J	136	U
137	B			138	R	139	B	140	H	141	D	142	M	143	C			144	D			145	H	146	V	147	H	148	D
		149	N	150	Y	151	J	152	L			153	H			154	K	155	Y	156	P			157	Z	158	B	159	C
160	AA	161	AA	162	U			163	L	164	P	165	C	166	P	167	R	168	O			169	N	170	D	171	E	172	S
173	L	174	O	175	D	176	C			177	R	178	V	179	T	180	L	181	Z	182	M	183	J	184	A	185	G		
186	A	187	AA	188	S	189	P	190	V	191	J	192	U			193	X	194	I	195	B			196	A	197	G	198	V
199	D	200	M	201	R	202	D	203	C	204	O	205	H	206	I	207	K	208	F	209	U	210	Y	211	I	212	N	213	O

## DEFINITIONS

## WORDS

A. flowery queen of hummers	<u>186</u> <u>27</u> <u>30</u> <u>184</u> <u>196</u> <u>50</u> <u>35</u> <u>110</u> <u>101</u> <u>47</u> <u>89</u> <u>60</u>
B. escaped	<u>139</u> <u>72</u> <u>94</u> <u>137</u> <u>158</u> <u>195</u>
C. going north in winter, e.g.	<u>203</u> <u>176</u> <u>165</u> <u>104</u> <u>143</u> <u>37</u> <u>63</u> <u>106</u> <u>81</u> <u>115</u> <u>7</u> <u>59</u> <u>159</u> <u>1</u> <u>112</u> <u>22</u>
D. precocious birds	<u>82</u> <u>144</u> <u>141</u> <u>90</u> <u>199</u> <u>4</u> <u>202</u> <u>148</u> <u>170</u> <u>175</u>
E. having two forms	<u>38</u> <u>34</u> <u>85</u> <u>127</u> <u>171</u> <u>75</u> <u>54</u> <u>113</u> <u>40</u> <u>46</u>
F. not clear	<u>15</u> <u>107</u> <u>208</u> <u>44</u>
G. what causes cause	<u>197</u> <u>133</u> <u>61</u> <u>88</u> <u>58</u> <u>125</u> <u>185</u>
H. in no time at all	<u>153</u> <u>205</u> <u>147</u> <u>48</u> <u>76</u> <u>140</u> <u>14</u> <u>145</u> <u>129</u> <u>120</u> <u>111</u> <u>128</u> <u>119</u>
I. fig leaf required?	<u>194</u> <u>16</u> <u>108</u> <u>211</u> <u>206</u>
J. hennaed duck	<u>78</u> <u>151</u> <u>191</u> <u>92</u> <u>183</u> <u>135</u> <u>130</u>
K. needs scratching	<u>207</u> <u>134</u> <u>154</u> <u>123</u>
L. bird food	<u>24</u> <u>124</u> <u>2</u> <u>36</u> <u>163</u> <u>180</u> <u>79</u> <u>152</u> <u>42</u> <u>69</u> <u>173</u> <u>121</u>
M. nice place	<u>103</u> <u>142</u> <u>200</u> <u>20</u> <u>45</u> <u>182</u>
N. shrinking habitat	<u>70</u> <u>86</u> <u>8</u> <u>212</u> <u>149</u> <u>132</u> <u>5</u> <u>21</u> <u>169</u> <u>17</u>
O. curse	<u>55</u> <u>51</u> <u>19</u> <u>213</u> <u>99</u> <u>100</u> <u>12</u> <u>204</u> <u>83</u> <u>174</u> <u>168</u> <u>10</u>
P. immensity	<u>189</u> <u>164</u> <u>23</u> <u>98</u> <u>156</u> <u>166</u> <u>28</u> <u>9</u>
Q. achievement without an F	<u>109</u> <u>43</u> <u>56</u>
R. time for nocturnals	<u>167</u> <u>84</u> <u>201</u> <u>177</u> <u>138</u>
S. bird in Pigeon Post	<u>80</u> <u>188</u> <u>41</u> <u>172</u> <u>66</u> <u>117</u> *
T. add feathers (to improve flight)	<u>39</u> <u>31</u> <u>179</u>
U. retention of juvenile features	<u>136</u> <u>209</u> <u>192</u> <u>162</u> <u>73</u> <u>116</u> <u>105</u>
V. separating the Orient & Australasia	<u>65</u> <u>178</u> <u>64</u> <u>198</u> <u>190</u> <u>95</u> <u>32</u> <u>11</u> <u>146</u> <u>118</u> <u>114</u> <u>67</u>
W. possessive pronoun	<u>57</u> <u>33</u> <u>126</u>
X. offensiveness	<u>68</u> <u>193</u> <u>29</u> <u>87</u> <u>49</u> <u>74</u> <u>13</u> <u>3</u> <u>52</u>
Y. all toes webbed	<u>122</u> <u>97</u> <u>91</u> <u>77</u> <u>6</u> <u>155</u> <u>26</u> <u>210</u> <u>71</u> <u>102</u> <u>150</u>
Z. backwards tide	<u>62</u> <u>157</u> <u>181</u> <u>53</u>
AA. investigate systematically	<u>18</u> <u>160</u> <u>131</u> <u>93</u> <u>25</u> <u>187</u> <u>161</u> <u>96</u>

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

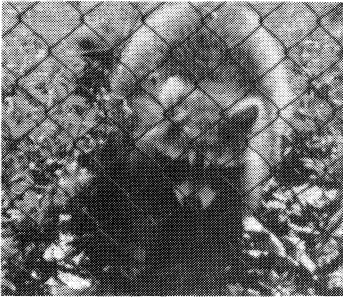
Editor, *Nova Scotia Birds*:

I wish to reply to Mr. Rodgers' article on cat control.

I live in the centre of Halifax where there are ten cats and four dogs on one short block. Most of us have bird feeders and baths as well as household pets and I have only heard of three bird kills in several years (cats are inclined to show off their prizes and the word gets around). The only complaint regarding any of the animals from anyone is that a few dog owners from other areas do not clean up after their dogs and that cats dig in gardens.

However, we are not certain that they are always the culprits. Many of the holes and droppings are large and bits of sod are dug out of lawns. We thought for a time that dogs from somewhere else might be guilty, but enclosed yards were suffering as well. The culprits are raccoons! Although they are born in the city, raccoons, and I am told there are about 10,000 within the city, are still considered wild animals. One assumes the problems with these animals would be a major concern of the organization under whose name Mr. Rodgers wrote his article. There seems to be plenty of work to be done in this area before getting into the domestic pet situation. This picture of a raccoon digging in the garden was taken at noon three feet from the animal and not fifteen feet from the back door, and this is one of the small ones; the Dept. of Lands and Forest's live trap was too small for the big one.

Living in the heart of the city we see neither dog packs nor deer but I understand from a friend in a rural district that the situation is not effectively controlled regardless of all the regulations or how "absolute" the laws may be. I suspect efficient enforcement of regulations regarding cats would be equally difficult. Where barn cats are used for rodent control around feed and are often quite wild, it would be ridiculous.



Be that as it may, I am in agreement with the spaying/neutering and licensing of both cats and dogs—for their sakes, not ours, and of course this seems a more constructive approach than shooting. The cost of licensing cats might deter many people from acquiring animals for which they are unwilling to take the responsibility, thus lowering the numbers of abandoned, neglected and often diseased animals. The incentive of a discount in license fees for a certificate proving an animal has been spayed/neutered or perhaps withholding the license until a certificate is presented might be effective. A special, more expensive license and SPCA approved facilities could be necessary for breeding purposes. Is there a birth control injection for a small fee as opposed to an expensive operation which might make the objective more attainable? These are at least constructive possibilities.

Regardless of "studies" which are highly suspect and are as easily manipulated as political polls to show the bias of any interested group or party—and are hardly transferable from country to country, the fact remains that if construction continues to eat away at wildlife habitat we can expect wild visitors and wildlife can expect domestic interference. We are all aware of this situation so rhetoric along this line and placing the blame on domestic pets is short-sighted, unproductive and bound to create an adversarial situation rather than cooperation. A REALISTIC solution other than shooting would surely be more appropriate.

In his capacity as a member of the Wildlife Federation Mr. Rodgers must be aware of the program of birth control injections with regard to the deer population at Pelee as well as the sterilization program of male lamprey eels in the Great Lakes with the projected eradication of this introduced species in three generations. Perhaps his organization would be interested in leading the way to find a comparable raccoon control. Surely governments and organizations such as Mr. Rodgers' could find a common

ground or some form of cooperative effort rather than haggle over jurisdiction (which is usually the excuse for inaction), blame and threats of violence.

Responsibility is a learned quality and since cost efficiency is a prime objective of governments right now, assistance from an organization with money-saving ideas in educating the public would probably be welcome.

Margaret McCurdy

**Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:**

Our Society is a small group of about 700-800 members. In ten years of trying we have not succeeded in lobbying our elected representatives to proclaim a "Provincial Bird". Evidently our political clout is not significant.

It would appear that we are being asked to tell our elected representatives to legislate leashes on cats that go outdoors.

We rely more than most groups on the good will of people who let us go onto their land to see birds and in fact, we are usually welcomed by land owners. I wonder how welcome we would be if we decided to shoot cats as suggested.

"Thanks for letting us on your land, Mr. Farmer...Oh by the way, we caught your cat stalking a Starling so I shot her. Would we be able to come back again next year?"

"It was nice of you to tell us about the Eurasian Bullfinch in your yard, Miss Friendly. I noticed your cat in your yard without her leash. There are laws against that sort of thing you know. You will have to pay the fine. Our society worked hard to get these laws. I'm afraid if it happens again a member of our Feline Extermination Committee will have to shoot her."

It is true that cats kill birds, but the species most commonly predated by cats are also the most populous and in absolutely no danger of disappearing from the face of the earth. If we really want to save birds let's stop spraying millions of gallons of poison over everything, let's stop clear-cutting the forests, let's stop removing every weed or ugly bush from our yards, let's stop luring birds so that cats are sure to catch them.

Before our society takes a stand against cat owners, we should think about what the consequences might be.

Bob Dickie



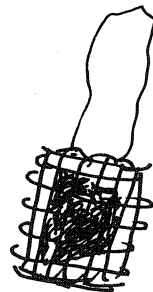
## THE FEEDER PAGE

According to our 1993 survey of the membership, feeder-watching is one of the birding activities most enjoyed by readers. Now we will have a special page (or pages) devoted to various aspects of feeding and feeders. Whether this feature continues will depend entirely on input from members. We would like to hear any of your ideas and comments.

One lady who has been feeding the birds for a long time is Eva Urban in Avonport. She writes:

"Through fifty years or more from this location, I have taken great pleasure watching birds feeding on the feeder outside the kitchen window. I feed them throughout the four seasons and enjoy seeing them bring their young to the feeder.

Some of the highlights over the years have been the sighting of two Prairie Horned Larks, of which one specimen was collected by Robie Tufts and sent to the National Museum in Ottawa. In the winter of 1993, I had a Chipping Sparrow during the winter storms. In the spring, I put horse hair on the little hemlock tree to the right of the feeder. It was soon carried away and put in a nest not far away. Later, they brought three young back to the feeder. Chickadees also took advantage of the horse hair, taking it to a house in the lilac tree to the left of the feeder. They brought five young back to be fed.



I watched Mourning Doves taking nesting material from the feeder, but not until June, 1978, did I find a nest in the apple tree about 100 feet from the house. Many people came to see the nest, eggs, and later, two young. This was the first reported nest in Nova Scotia.

My feeder is a busy place all year long with birds eating cracked corn, sunflower seeds, wild bird seed, suet, water, and niger seed. After a rain, I clean and hose the 4 x 6 feeder to keep the seeds from spoiling.

In the spring, there are as many as three Indigo Buntings on the feeder at one time. The sugar water hanging over the feeder attracts Northern Orioles as well as Hummingbirds. The Northern Orioles also enjoy oranges.

Living near an elementary school, I have been able to share the enjoyment of bird watching with a new generation when the classes come to the house to see and identify the birds at the feeder."

From Mary Cameron in Annapolis Royal comes a letter which will be helpful to beginners:

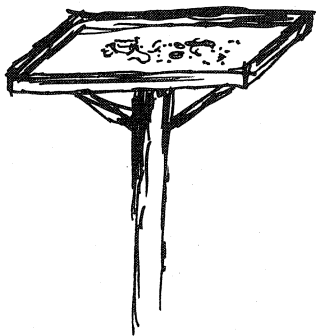
"Fellow Feeder Watchers:

I've been a feeder-watcher for almost twenty years.

What to feed:

I've been using

- mixed seed
- sunflower seeds
- niger seed
- suet
- cracked corn (when there's no mixed seed available)



Mixed seed: is in a large feeder and also I scatter some on the ground. Some birds--Pheasants, Juncos, Fox Sparrows, buntings are ground feeders. (The Bluejays can be relied on to scatter some seeds as they "dig" for the sunflower seeds).

Sunflower seeds: I use 2 feeders - for the Bluejays and 1 for the Chickadees and smaller birds.

Niger: that's a feeder for the goldfinches.

Suet: I buy only the suet balls from the grocery store. I purchased a suet feeder from Nature Canada--it is plastic-coated wire. My biggest problem has been the crows and ravens--they not only want the suet but also the feeder! I've solved this problem by chaining my feeder to the tree. They had worked on the rope until they broke it! I place the suet feeder away from the other

When: I start on the Thanksgiving Weekend and end in mid-April--usually after the Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles have returned.

What not to feed: The finch seed--I've not had good luck with this. The Goldfinches, at least the ones here, do not like it; they prefer the niger seed.

Some brands of the mixed seed have seeds that are not eaten--either the birds don't care for it or I don't have the 'right birds'.

Note: I have an allergy to peanuts, so I don't purchase mixed seeds with nuts.

Position of feeders: My feeders are near trees/shrubs, but are in the open so they can see hawks and my neighbour's cat cannot have cover to hunt.

There's a grape vine very close to the feeders and the birds love it, providing both protection from predators and 'a good place to eat'.

Great successes:

The birds!!!

Everything from sparrows to hawks. Birds not only come to feed during the winter, such as Fox Sparrows, House Sparrows, Pheasants, Bluejays, Snow Buntings, Mourning Doves, Robins, Chickadees--also stay to nest. This year a family of Juncos (raised 4 young) stayed around our property. Chickadees have 'made their home' here and Mourning Doves also nest here. Cedar Waxwings have, for the past two years, made their 'home' in our pear tree and raised their family.

Nest boxes:

I really don't know what they like. I've had more success with homemade wooden, unpainted nestboxes than the purchased ones, but we've only had nest boxes for about five years.

We've attracted Tree Swallows with our nest boxes (They're new here). This year two families were raised. I had a friend make me a nest box, but I had him make the opening  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " -  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", it had to be a little larger than  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " but not  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (sparrows and Starlings would take it). This box was definitely a success--it was occupied the next day!

We have woodpeckers, but no suitable trees for a nest, so we had a friend make a nest box the proper size for a woodpecker, but with a smaller hole (so Starlings and sparrows would not take it) and now the woodpecker has found it, but has enlarged the hole!

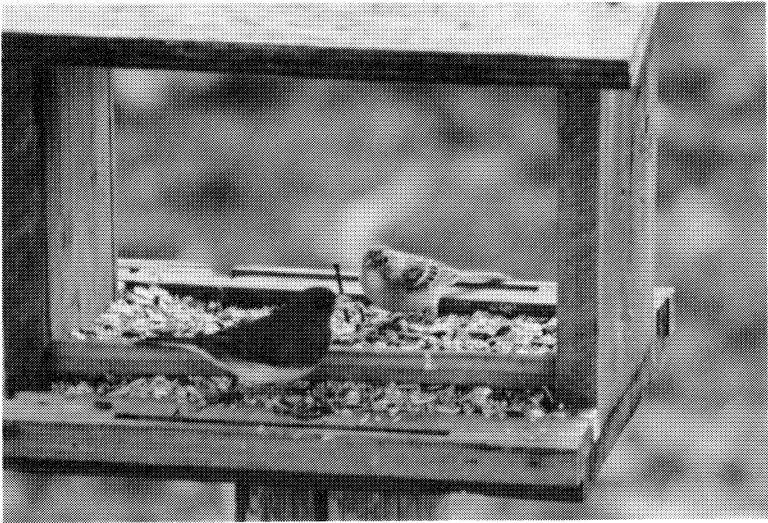


The woodpecker has made the openings on almost all our nest boxes bigger, but the box was too small, so it was unsuitable. I hope he likes our latest effort.

Failures: Pigeons! Does anyone have any idea how we can keep them from destroying our roof? We tried a plastic owl, but that did not work. We contacted the Dept. of Natural Resources and their suggestions were not very practical. It is not feeding them that we object to (we do feed Starlings!) it's where they rest--on our roof. The harrier does help--but...

So, if anyone has any suggestions, we would appreciate it.

Can anyone help? --Ed.



Katherine Spicer sent this photo, taken by Cindy Spicer of her feeder in Apple River. The foremost bird is obviously a junco--but what is the other one??? Names of those with correct answers will be published.



## ABOUT FIELD TRIPS

### THE LEADERS:

When the answers to the recent questionnaire sent in the July, 1993 issue of **Nova Scotia Birds** came in, they showed one of the features most eagerly sought out and read was the Field Trip Reports.

Most of the "old hands" at leading trips faithfully send in their trip descriptions at the right time, and they have proved to be informative, topical, interesting and even amusing at times.

Some other leaders have not sent in reports at all, or if they have, they are beyond the deadline and had to be held over for a subsequent issue at which time they are not so interesting. Should the leader not be willing or able to write a report, he/she should designate another participant to do so. To help new leaders write their reports, here are a few tips on doing an interesting Field Trip Report.

1. Have it in before the deadline for the first issue after the trip--preferably right after the trip.
2. Include:
  - a. name of the trip, the date and the name of the leader
  - b. the weather conditions
  - c. an estimate of the number of participants. A complete list is not necessary or desirable (can be tedious).
  - d. types of habitat encountered
  - e. highlights of the birds seen--any large numbers of species, unusual sightings, or interesting behavior. Again a complete list is not necessary or desirable (see above).
  - f. comment on the lack of or small numbers of the usual birds. Total number of species is interesting.
  - g. any amusing happenings--like being stopped by the RCMP, etc. Keep it light.

N.B.: All people write in their own individual style, and that is what makes the reports good reading.

A photograph (slide or print) is always a good addition. Remember to identify the people in the picture and send it with the report (NOT to the photographic editor).

Here's hoping for many interesting reports all being sent in on time.

--JSC, Ed.

### THE FOLLOWERS:

#### A MODERN PARABLE

It came to pass in the autumn of the year, when the shorebirds were thick along the sands, that a certain shepherd agreed to lead his flock to a new land. They came together in the early morning and walked about happily in the sun exclaiming over the strange sights and wondrous birds to be seen.

And the time came to move on but, lo, the group became separated and the sheep began to cast anxious glances over their shoulders, for their shepherd was far ahead and some of their brethren were not yet in sight on the road behind them.

And they spoke amongst themselves, saying, "What shall we do, for we know not our destination or the way and we shall surely be lost if we do not hurry to follow the others". So they hurried to catch up with the rest, for although they were ashamed of deserting their brothers, they reasoned amongst themselves, saying it were better for most of them to reach their goal than to fall among the rocks and strange paths along the way. For, although they were of good intention, they were like the well-known bear of little brain and knew not what else they could do.

And, behold, as they tarried late by the wide and lovely river, their eyes were gladdened by the sight of their lost brethren who had finally found them. A great feast was spread for the company and the remainder of the journey was passed in contentment (and much singing of birds).

But later, when the sheep had assembled with others of their kind, they spoke of their experiences, looking to their elders for guidance, and the wise ones came forth and told them:

On a long journey, IT IS WELL IF EACH AND EVERY ONE KNOWS BOTH THE PATH TO TRAVEL, THE HIGH ROAD AND THE LOW, AND THEIR FINAL DESTINATION. BUT IF ANY STRAY OR DELAY OR MEET WITH DISASTER, THE LAST ONE IN THE LINE SHOULD WAIT WHERE THE ROAD FORKS OR TURNS, SO ALL MAY BE GUIDED ARIGHT: IF BOTH FALL BEHIND, THEN THE NEXT (last) IN THE GROUP SHOULD WAIT TO SHOW THE WAY, AND SO ON... IN THIS MANNER WILL ALL BE REUNITED AT LAST, REJOICING TOGETHER.

This was written by Joyce Purchase in 1979 when she and her husband Don were Field Trip Co-ordinators. It seems just as pertinent today.

--Ed.



This SPRUCE GROUSE was rescued from a stalking cat near Cherry Street, Halifax, Oct. 19. It was released in its deep-woods habitat next day. Photo--Steve Friet.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

May 29 - Point Edward and Petersfield Provincial Park, C.B.

Our small group of six observers left the Herring Gulls and the Woolco parking lot at 8:00 a.m. in chilly, damp uncertain weather. But as soon as we passed the pigeons (Rock Doves) on the Sydney River bridge, the sun came out. Nearby a Song Sparrow sang. Wanting to reach the North-West Arm at low tide--8:55 a.m.--we drove down Keltic Drive towards Campbell's Hill encountering Juncos, Flickers, Bluejays and Starlings.

Side-tracking down a little dirt road, we were stopped by a symphony of sounds coming from White-throated Sparrows, Robins, Warblers, American Goldfinches, Redstarts, Yellow Warblers. Even the harsh notes from the Crows and Grackles blended in well. At the end of the road a magnificent view of North Sydney and Sydney Harbours and of Pt. Edward in between, spread out before us. Here in the pastures on top of the hill, Bobolinks and Tree Swallows gleefully flew and flittered about.

We then took a quick drive to Leitcher's Creek, to view the progress of the Osprey's nest built high on top of the power lines. All proclaimed that the nest had shrunk considerably in size. We observed an Osprey carrying a fish in its claws to feed its mate. A few feet below the nest, a Herring Gull patiently waited for its chance of getting a "meal on wings".

Facing the opposite side of the nest, the little white barn still stood but today it had a herd of cattle around it. Their big dark eyes were wide open, staring at us, wondering in utter amazement what we were doing there. The staring went on back and forth on both sides of the fence for some time. No Tree Swallows were seen this year but in their place sparrows, Starlings and pigeons were flying in and out of the hay loft. Nearby, two Downy Woodpeckers, Evening Grosbeaks and Crows carried on. Remembering the low tide, sadly we left their heartwarming landscape and made our way back to the North-West Arm highway.

Occasionally stopping, we slowly proceeded along the harbour's edge and around Edwardsville, sighting Terns, Black-backed Gulls, Kingfishers, Black Ducks, Spotted Sandpipers, Mallards and Cormorants. We stopped in front of a residence which had several well-stocked feeders. What did we find there, but a big gray cat sitting under the largest feeder, leering at us as only cats can do! On a spruce bough above, a chickadee was peeking down at it. Behind the spruce, only a few feet away, a Song Sparrow was busily picking up the seed droppings. All around us, the other birds were waiting for the cat's and by then, our departure as well! Continuing around a bend in the road, we were richly rewarded in sighting a large colony of Bank Swallows and on the other side a Kingbird. Around another bend, we came upon Barn Swallows flying in and out of a little red barn or garage.

There was plenty of action as well. We witnessed Crows chasing a Raven over Rudderham Creek; Grackles chasing a crow over Mr. Grant's field; a Red-winged Blackbird chasing Grackles around the lighthouse pond. Two Great Blue Herons perched in trees, along a ravine's edge, were unfortunately disturbed and driven off by our party in four cars.

After that episode, we retreated to Petersfield Provincial Park for lunch. In the park, we only made a small attempt to find the male Black-throated Green Warbler but saw a male Yellow Warbler instead.

Our last stop was at a large field and swamp in the middle of Westmount. Even at that hour, Song Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows and several other birds were singing and flying over and around the pond. Even a Hummingbird flashed by us. Further up above in the hayfield a few male Bobolinks had arrived and had begun vying for their territory.

August 7 - Economy --Not Received

August 14 - Fuller's Bridge --Not Received

August 14 - Yarmouth Area

The tides are all-important when conducting shorebird walks. As leader of this trip I should have checked the tide tables last February when I agreed to this trip and suggested that we should meet at 8:30 a.m. High tides were 8:10 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

A group of 11 birders (two joined later) in four cars left the rendezvous at 8:30 sharp and headed nonstop to Cook's Beach where we hoped we would be in time to see thousands of shorebirds (mainly Semi-palmated Sandpipers and Semi-palmated Plovers) on their rocky roost. We were too late, none were there--previous years have yielded anywhere from two to fifteen thousand birds. Along the shore however, was a small mixed flock of birds--Least, Semi-palmated or White-rumped (?) Sandpipers, Semi-palmated Plovers, and a single Black-bellied Plover. Herring, Great Black-backed and Ring-billed Gulls, two terns (specie unidentified), Double-crested Cormorants, several Great Blue Herons and a Belted Kingfisher helped to start our list.

The gravel ridge on the Pinkney's Point Marsh yielded little on the ridge itself (a single Least Sandpiper less than 10 feet from the observers) but a small flock of Whimbrel, several Short-billed Dowitchers, Willets, Yellowlegs, and Killdeer helped keep up the spirits. We spotted in the distance two perched birds--a white Egret and a hawk with a rich brown breast--a wisp of fog rolled in and when it left they were gone. We presumed them to be the Great Egret (which Charlie Allen had seen there a few days earlier) and an immature Northern Harrier (based on habitat and presence of an adult). Could we count them as such? Before leaving the marsh we added Black Duck, Common Eider, and an American Bittern which performed marvellously for everyone at close range.

On the way to and from the Melbourne Sanctuary we added twelve land birds including five Warbler species (Palm, Yellowrumped, Black-throated Green, Parula, and Yellow). The sanctuary itself was extremely quiet and no new shorebirds made the list.

We next travelled to the Ruff's back lawn for lunch, where we added Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and, Oh Joy!, Rock Doves and House Sparrows.

In the afternoon, the group visited Sand Beach, Sunday Point, and Chebogue Point. Only four new species were evident at Sand Beach--including a Merlin which gave us various views of itself.

Sunday Point was perhaps the best shorebirding of the day. While there we added Ruddy Turnstones, Lesser Yellowlegs, a Pectoral Sandpiper and a (certain) White-rumped Sandpiper.

An Osprey, heading in from the sea, was the last bird at Chebogue Point. The party broke up there but, on discovering a list of 48, 4 intrepid birders decided to make it 50. A male and female pair of Kestrels playing about the telephone wires half a mile up the road meant we needed only one more. We went in search of a "for certain" Great Horned Owl but came up with a Junco instead.

We all had a great day, the weather was super. While relaxing outside in the yard afterwards Barb and I saw the bird that had eluded us all day--the lovely Black-capped Chickadee--51!

--Eric J. Ruff

We were lucky to the end. A male and female Yellow Warbler directed us to their nest. Finally a male Evening Grosbeak flew from bush to bush, seemingly escorting us along the path until we reached our vehicles and then posed for us before departing. It was a most hospitable ending after viewing thirty-eight species on a lovely spring day in pleasant company!

--Jacqueline Chretien

### June 13 - Tancook Island

The 13th of June fell on a Sunday in 1993. It may have been unlucky for some, but for those who chose to join us birdwatching, it was a perfect day. The day was sunny, but with just enough cloud to keep it from getting too hot. There were 25 of us, approximately seven from the Nova Scotia Bird Society, four or five from the South Shore Naturalists Club and the rest were come-alongs. A local newspaper had given some free advertising! We arrived at the island by school bus, it had managed to drive on water by thumbing a ride on the replacement ferry. The regular ferry was in for much needed repairs after struggling through ice during the past winter. Time of arrival was 11:00 a.m., a bit late for some of the birds, but, that was the first ferry of the day. You get to sleep in when you do this trip. The return ferry was at 5:00 p.m., so we had six hours for a leisurely walk.

We took a trail to the other side of the island, turned west towards the village, visited the ice cream store, and then strolled back through the dusty streets to the wharf. A total of 55 species of birds were seen, the total number of birds was a little higher, but not by much, where have they all gone? My count of 55 does NOT include Eric Cooke's group's 'Wild' turkey....Well, they would not allow us our two 'snow geese'. So ...fair's fair. Just for the official record, the most numerous species was the rusty sided tow-me's, they were lying about every where.

The weather was sunny with some clouds, 20 °C, wind SW 15 to 20. Time--6 hours. Distance walked 10 km.

--Bill Caudle and Christine Ross, co-leaders.

### July 25 - Wallace Bay, Cumb. Co.

Thanks to a plug in the Nova Scotian bird column by Barbara Hinds we got 25 people, many from the local area but others from the South Shore, Valley and Economy area. So it was a nice mix as we set off to view the Wallace Bay aboiteau area. The day was plagued with sudden rain showers of varying length but a good variety of birds was seen in this area of which many present were not aware.

We had lunch at the Fox Harbour Provincial Park and continued what tended to be a social gathering, there being great camaraderie among those present.

I got the tides right at Fox Harbour this year, a good number of shorebirds being present when we got caught in the heaviest shower of the day and everyone ran back to their cars. The shower continued right to the final stop at the Rivendale Farm, but no matter, now everyone knew where to go by themselves at a future date and that's what it's really all about. All in all we had a great day and 67 species were seen in all.

--James Taylor.

August 22 - Eastern Shore

The President's field trip started at Martinique Beach on a clear sunny day. Petpeswick Inlet was full of Great Blue Herons as the 13 participants (including one from Scotland) drove up to meet at the parking lot. Three Whimbrel on the beach were an auspicious start and Peter LeBlanc found us a Solitary Sandpiper. We saw an additional eighteen species in the sanctuary.

As we left the area we stopped to admire an immature Yellow-crowned Night-heron that Azor Vienneau had staked out for us. We continued on around the head of Petpeswick Inlet picking up further birds and drove up the other side to Mines Road which crosses over to Chezzetcook Inlet. This road was fairly quiet but two more Solitary Sandpipers and a Common Merganser flew over. Mike Crowell found two Wood Ducks as well as a Swamp Sparrow carrying food. Boreal Chickadees were lifers for some.

Stopping at Meisner's Head to have our lunch in the sunshine, we watched plovers and sandpipers trying to maintain a foothold on the rocks sticking up out of the water. Azor saw a Northern Gannet fly by, far out at sea.

We continued down one side and up the other of Chezzetcook Inlet and then to Three Fathom Harbour and Conrad's Beach. Giselle d'Entremont found the three Little Blue Herons that had been reported at Conrad's. They were sitting in trees a long distance across the water and were recognizable only as three white lumps.

Certain individuals wouldn't let us turn a Common into an Arctic Tern or a Bald Eagle into a Turkey Vulture but nevertheless we managed to see 64 species during the day.

--Carol MacNeill

September 4-6 - Bon Portage Labour Day Trip

Labour Day week-end this year found me a novice but enthusiastic leader of a Nova Scotia Bird Society field trip with Donna Ensor and Cathy Holmes from Ohio, Shelburne Co., Rachel and Stewart Smith from Truro; Alain Clavette and Paul Lalonde from Fundy National Park and Claire Diggin from Middleton. With the help of Murray Newell, "Skipper" Wilfred Atwood Jr., Joe Waybret and Terry Crowell from the South West Bird Watcher's Club, we visited all areas of a very quiet island.

The weather was mild, often overcast, there was little wind and very little movement of birds. Our list follows: 2 Common Loons, many Leach's Storm Petrels, 40 Double-crested Cormorants, 2 Great Blue Herons, 2 Snowy Egrets, 60 Common Eiders, 1 Osprey, 3 Northern Harriers ( 1 m., 1 fe., 1 imm.) 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1 Kestrel, 2 Merlins, 2 Peregrine Falcons, 3 Black-bellied Plovers, 45 Semi-palmated Plovers, 8 Greater Yellowlegs, 2 Lesser Yellowlegs, 1 Willet, 30 Spotted Sandpiper, 10 Ruddy Turnstones, 4 Sanderlings, 2 Least Sandpipers, 1 Baird's Sandpiper, 20 Herring Gulls, 60 Great Black-backed Gulls, 2 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 1 Belted Kingfisher, 1 Hairy Woodpecker, 30 American Crows, 5 Common Ravens, 2 Boreal Chickadees, 5 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 22 Bobolinks in a flock, 3 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 1 Hermit Thrush, 1 Grey Catbird, 5 Tennessee Warbler, 5 Yellow Warblers, 1 Magnolia, 1 Cape May, 1 Yellow-rumped, 1 Black-throated Green, 1 Pine, 2 Blackpolls, 1 Am. Redstart, 6 Common Yellow-throats, 1 Vesper Sparrow, 40 Savannah Sparrows, 1 Fox Sparrow, 50 Song Sparrows, 1 White-throated Sparrow and 1 (much photographed) Blue-winged Warbler. The Blue-wing was a lifer for several in our group and was present on both Sunday and Monday. A total of 52 species may seem disappointing for a lister but for our group it represents a wonderful Living Island.

--Joan Czapalay

September 11 - Chetecamp --Not Received

September 11 - Matthew's Lake

The odds were finally with us and we were greeted by a brisk cold front and no fog for our trip to Matthew's Lake on September 11. Some six to seven hundred shorebirds, of twelve species, seemingly tired but friendly, gave the fourteen of us many close-up looks. The "friendly" part may have been due to the two or three Peregrines, a Sharpie or two, a Merlin and a Harrier, seen in the area during the day.

Best birds were a Pectoral Sandpiper, a Red Knot and a few Whimbrel. Also a Black-headed Gull and a Bonaparte's Gull seen side-by-side and two Northern Orioles in our yard on our return for refreshments.

My ISS counts so far this year have produced nearly half the formerly normal number of individuals and such species as Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Dowitcher, and Dunlin are down more than that. On the other hand, White-rumped Sandpiper and possibly Semipalmated Plovers are holding their own. I hope I am wrong, but the future of our birds appears bleak and this opinion is appearing in print more and more often these days.

--Dave Young

September 19 - Tidnish --Not Received

October 2 - Hartlen's Point --Not Received

October 3 - Wolfville

We had a very warm day, but windy, and the sky was ominously dark when we started. About a dozen people participated, from all three groups (N.S.B.S., Blomidon Naturalists Society and Annapolis Field Naturalists Society). A bonus was the presence of a CBC-TV "Land and Sea" crew for the entire trip.

Our first stop was for a walk into the Port Williams sewage ponds. At the same time a light, wind-driven rain made our day look very unpromising. There we got excellent views of Pectoral Sandpipers and a Lesser Yellowlegs. Nice bonuses were 2 immature Bald Eagles that flew over us, and then a full rainbow over Port Williams. Also, a Rock Dove with nesting material was spotted on a barn roof.

We then drove to Canard Pond, where we were lucky that 2 Northern Pintails and a female or immature Scaup (very probably a Lesser) were close to the road. Also several Robins flew over us.

We motored on to our lunch-location, Harris' Pond in Canning. We had good looks at 2 Common Snipe, about 10 Greater Yellowlegs, a Great Blue Heron, 15 American Wigeons, 3 Mallards, 2 Green-winged Teal, Black Ducks, and 4 Pheasants.

In the Habitant River at the Canning Aboiteau, there were 4 immature Double-crested Cormorants, 2 Hooded Mergansers, a female or immature Bufflehead, etc.

Finally we drove across the Grand Pre dykelands, where we saw a female Northern Harrier and then a male. Also a Short-billed Dowitcher flew by my car.

Just when we disbanded in late afternoon, the sky was very threatening again and soon there was a downpour, so we were very lucky today. Now we'll have to watch for a future "Land and Sea" show for this field trip, plus Stu Tingley's earlier in the year.

--Jim Wolford

October 8 - 11 - Bon Portage --Not Received

October 16 - Belfrey Beach --Not Received

November 13 - Northern Head --Not Received

Eight trips were reported and eight were not received--not a record to be proud of. Many thanks to leaders who made their trips enjoyable to our readers.

--Editor



A beautiful male SUMMER TANAGER, part of last spring's early flood of southerners in the province, was photographed by Blake Maybank along the Purcell's Cove Rd., Halifax, on Apr. 25.

Erratum The cover on the July 1993 issue should be entitled Ruffed Grouse rather than Spruce Grouse.



## 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.



## FEBRUARY

- Sat. 5 Harbour Hop, C.B. Leader: Cathy Murrant (737-2684). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Renwick Park (Brookside & Commercial St., Glace Bay)
- Sat. 12 Sewer Stroll II (rain day 13th) Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-7808). Meet at Hartlen's Point at 8:00 a.m. This is an all-day trip and ends at Herring Cove via Bedford.

## MARCH

- Fri. 25 Owl Prowl, C.B. Leader: Allen Murrant (737-2684). Meet at 6:00 p.m. at Morrison Rd. & Broughton Rd. (rain date 26th).

## APRIL

- Sat. 2 Eastern Shore, Martinique Beach. Leader: Ian McLaren (429-7024). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Scotia Bank parking lot, Bridge Plaza, Dartmouth.
- Sun. 17 Eastern Shore. Leader: Joyce Purchase (434-5199). Dartmouth, Conrad's Grand Desert, etc. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Scotia Bank parking lot, Bridge Plaza, Dartmouth.
- Sat. 23 Lingering Winter Birds, C.B. Leader: Andrew Gingell (562-0012). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the old site of the Heavy Water Plant, Glace Bay.
- Sat. 23 Owl Prowl--Brooklyn. Leader: Karen Casselman (633-2837). Meet at 7:00 p.m. at Church's Esso Station, corner Rte. 236 & 215, which is on Route 14 from Exit 5 on Hwy. 101. The gas station is next to the Hants West Rural High School.
- Sun. 24 Wolfville Area. Leader: Jim Wolford (542-7650). Pond hopping for ducks & early migrants. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Front St., Wolfville. Joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalist Society.

## MAY

- Sun. 1 Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary. Leader: Alan Smith (H 506-536-0164 or W 506-364-5038). 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. Wear appropriate footwear for wet conditions and bring a lunch. Enjoy a day of observing waterfowl, shorebirds and early migrants.
- Sat. 7 Eastern Shore. Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-7808). Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the old golf course entrance, Hartlen's Point.
- Sat. 14 Yarmouth & Carleton Area Warbler Walk. Leader: Hubert & Helen Hall (742-4467). Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Carleton School, Hwy. 340. Bring a lunch and fly dope.

- Wed. 18 Halifax County Warbler Walk. Leader: Fred Dobson (852-3042). Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the parking lot at the junction of the Prospect Rd., Rte. 333 and the St. Margaret's Bay Rd.; 2-3 hours. duration.
- Fri. to Bon Portage Island. Leader: TBA. Contact Angus MacLean (679-5878) for  
 Mon. 20 reservations and information. Meet at the wharf at Shag Harbour, Fri.  
 -23 May 20. There will be a charge for crossing and accommodation. Bring food, drinking water, sleeping bag and necessary clothing, footwear. Reservations are necessary. Depart island Mon. afternoon. Leader & departure times (latter depending on tides) will be in April issue.
- Sun. 22 Hopewell Area (Pic. Co.). Leader: Harry Brennan (923-2780). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at St. Columba Churchyard, about 1 mile south of Hopewell. General birding, Saw-whet & Barred Owls possible—excellent for beginners.
- Wed. 25 Kearney Lake Warbler Walk. This event had to be abandoned due to destruction of habitat caused by a quarry operation.
- Sat. 28 Warbler Walk, Peter's Field, C.B. Leader: Jackie Cretien (564-4640). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Cape Breton Shopping Centre.
- Sat. 28 Hants County Day. Leader: Margaret Clark (443-3993). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the railway crossing in Mt. Uniacke. Observe abundant birdlife in a variety of habitats. This trip extends into the early afternoon.
- Sun. 29 Shubenacadie Area. Leader: Rosyln MacPhee (785-8265). Meet at 7:00 a.m. in front of Scott's Restaurant in Shubenacadie.

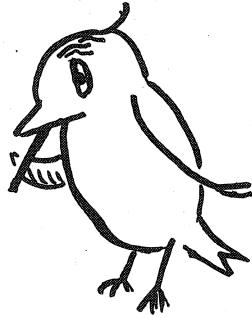
Any questions or suggestions should be directed to the Field Trip Co-ordinator, Angus MacLean (679-5878) 2992 Lovett Road, Coldbrook, N.S. B4R 1A4.



#### SOCIETY PROGRAMMES FOR LATE WINTER AND SPRING

- February 24 David Young -- on Birding southwest Nova Scotia
- March 24 Blake Maybank -- on Birding in Hong Kong and Eastern Tibet
- April 28 Andy Horne -- Bird Songs, their design and function

All meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N..S. B3H 3A6



## Solution to Ornithocrostic

Author: Bernd Heinrich

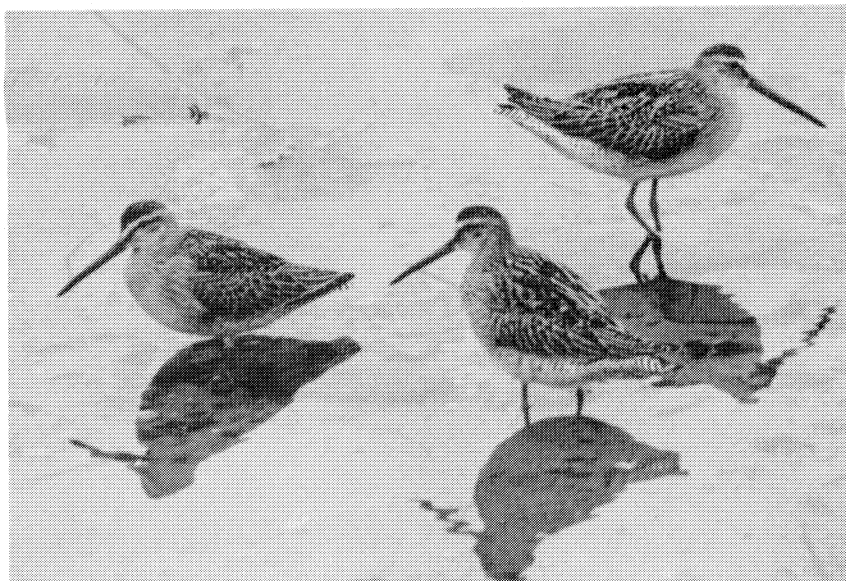
Work: **Ravens in Winter**

"It surprises me that...ravens' calls sometimes display emotions that I...can feel. When a raven pair is intimate with each other they make cooing noises that sound soft and tender. I also feel I can detect...raven's surprise, happiness, bravado and self-aggrandizement."

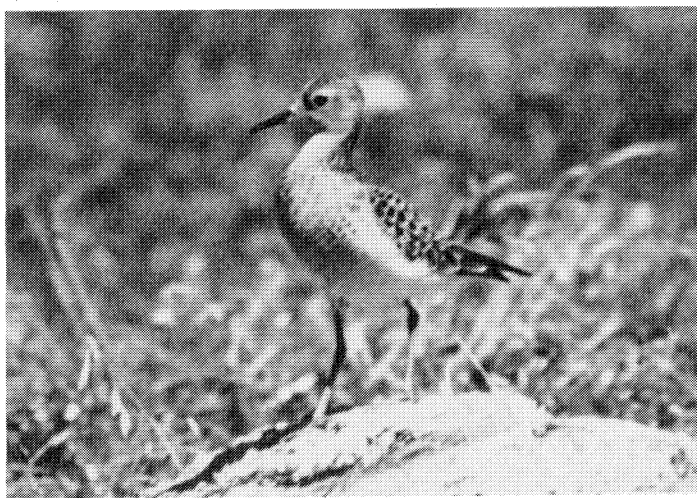
Word List

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| A. Blossomcrown      | O. anathematis    |
| B. evaded            | P. vastness       |
| C. reverse migration | Q. eat            |
| D. nidifugous        | R. night          |
| E. dimorphism        | S. Sappho         |
| F. hazy              | T. imp            |
| G. effects           | U. neotony        |
| H. instantaneous     | V. Wallace's Line |
| I. naked             | W. its            |
| J. Redhead           | X. nastiness      |
| K. itch              | Y. totipalmate    |
| L. caterpillars      | Z. edit           |
| M. heaven            | AA. research      |
| N. rainforest        |                   |

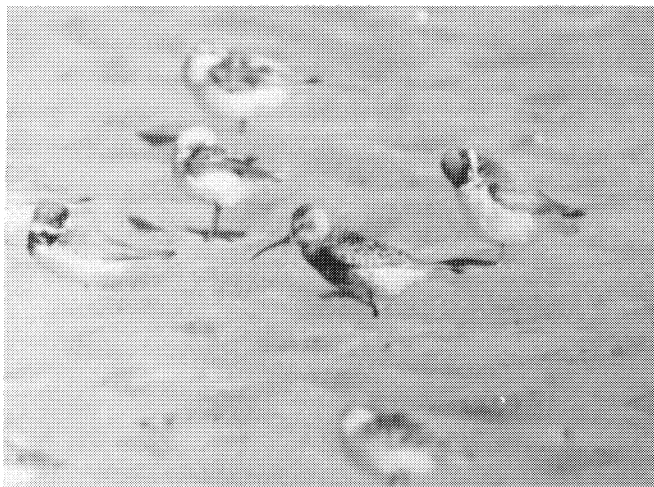
## A SHOW OF SHOREBIRDS



Peter Payzant's shot of juvenile SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS at Crescent Beach, Sept. 4, shows nicely the barred tertial feathers that clearly distinguish them from young Long-billed.



Young BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS can be quite boldly marked on the upper breast and without much buffy tone. Such a plumage is not well illustrated in field guides, and can be a little confusing. Photographed by Blake Maybank on Cape Sable, Aug. 22, 1993.



This high-stepping CURLEW SANDPIPER, was one of the two found on Cape Sable by Wilfred Atkinson et al. on Cape Sable last year. Photo-- Blake Maybank, Aug. 22, 1993.



Peter Payzant photographed some juvenile SANDERLINGS snoozing and preening on Sept. 4 at Crescent Beach, away from their usual sandy substrates.

## 1993 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

The 1993 A.G. M. of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held on Thursday, October 18 at 8:00 p.m., in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The President Carol MacNeill chaired the meeting attended by 49 members.

Carol MacNeill called for the adoption of the minutes of the 1992 A. G. M. which had been distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Don MacNeill moved and Lorne Tyler seconded--carried.

#### Business Arising from the Minutes

##### 1. Bird Information Line. Louis Coutiuhg gave the following report:

At the A. G. M. in 1992, the Executive was asked to explore the feasibility of making the Nova Scotia Bird Line accessible (toll free) to all members of the Society. Members outside Halifax expressed a desire to have the same benefits/opportunities (viz a viz free calls) as the Halifax members.

Jim Taylor and I took this matter up and began discussions with MT&T and the following is a summary of our investigation.

Several options were investigated.

- a. 1-800 number
- b. 1-900 number
- c. calling card for select members in strategically located points around Nova Scotia

These options were discussed with Mr. Scott Fraser of MT & T on January 12, 1993, who provided costs and related information for their consideration. Additionally, Jim and I obtained a commitment from Mr. Fraser to have MT&T monitor our 852-CHAT line in February, April and May and give us the information on which to base the costs and feasibility of expanding our telephone networking.

In May, we contacted Scott Fraser, who advised us that MT&T could not afford us the luxury of monitoring our line over the period discussed but it was monitored over a two-week period in February. Their monitoring confirmed that 84% of calls to the line got through and 16% had to try again after getting a busy signal. The majority of users were local callers--over 90%. This was not the information we were hoping to get and we therefore pursued it ourselves through other sources in MT&T.

##### 1.) The 1-800 option:

In a nutshell, the 1-800 option, while being the next attractive option is by far the most expensive option. Our estimate on what it would cost to operate this line ranges between \$1,200 and \$2,400 per year. As an example, if only 4 calls of 3 minutes each were made in one day from Halifax or anywhere in Nova Scotia, it would cost \$132.00 a month or \$1,584 per year.

##### 2.) The 1-900 option:

There would be a monthly cost (minimal charge) to operate this line but each call to the line would be tolled directly to the caller. There would be no significant advantage to any caller as the minimum charge would be .50 per call. If you called the line once a week, this would represent a cost of \$26.00 per year minimum to each member. There is also a monthly charge for this service--\$1,500 per month...any suggestion to look into the viability of the service is therefore redundant.

##### 3.) The calling card option:

It was felt that perhaps a calling card against 852-CHAT could be distributed to select members at strategically located points around Nova Scotia. If only 5 representatives were selected, say at Brier Island, South Shore, Kentville, Bridgewater,

etc., and each of these representatives made only two phone calls a week, not exceeding 2 minutes in length, the cost of operating this line was a minimum of \$1,100.

**BOTTOM LINE:**

Our membership dues are sufficient to cover the very basic expenses required to produce a newsletter, hold meetings and publication of **Nova Scotia Birds**. We recently increased our membership dues just to keep our finances at a break-even point.

Support for a toll-free line or other option will require financial support either from a sponsor or from the membership. There were no willing takers/sponsors who would donate \$2,000 ± towards the toll-free line. If the membership is to pay for this toll-free line, we are of the opinion that this would require a minimum of \$3.00-5.00 increase to our membership dues.

It is our recommendation that should the membership still wish to pursue the toll-free line that:

- a. A sponsor be found who will pay the entire bill
- b. The membership be polled individually by mail on whether they support an increase in their dues of a minimum of \$3.00 -5.00 per membership.

2. Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists. Bill Caudle gave the following report, having investigated the options at the request of the executive.

On Saturday, June 19, 1993, I attended the A.G.M. of the F.N.S.N. at Cheticamp, Cape Breton. The president gave a ten minute philosophical talk about environmentalists and then called the meeting to order thirty-five minutes late. Most reports were short and to the point, but when Colin Stewart was called upon to give his report on Endangered Species, he took thirty minutes to give a 'brief summary'. The President provided a typed 'aide memoir' for distribution to those attending the meeting.

Items of interest were, and these are quotes from his text not my words:

- 1.) The Federation was asked to raise \$5,000.00 toward the World Wildlife Fund Endangered Species campaign: No director was willing to chair or even join a committee. The task was probably too hastily undertaken in the first place.
- 2.) The President turned in a final submission to the Nova Scotia Wildlife Advisory Council. One month late.
- 3.) The N.S. Trails Federation has a seat on its board for a representative. The FNSN has been unable to find someone. They have been looking for months.
- 4.) Attendance at last year's A. G. M. was about 60 people. This year 125 registered, and took part in field trips, seminars, etc., but only 27 were in attendance at the A. G. M. The quorum was 25!

In addition, when the federation was formed they hired Colin Stewart. This arrangement has been terminated. However, there is still about \$6,000 owing to Stewart out of his termination settlement.

It is also worth noting that if at some time in the future, the NSBS does join the Federation, we, with about 600 members would only get one executive vote, the same as a small club with, say, only 25 members.

My overall conclusions are that we should not at this time become members. We should wait until:

- 1.) They become a more dynamic organization, with a more favourable (to us) executive board arrangement.

- 2.) They get organized and do some of the things they set out to do--on time.
- 3.) They become debt free, i.e., Colin Stewart is paid off. This is planned in about two years.
- 4.) They get their Charitable Status re Tax Deductions sorted out with Revenue Canada.

There being no further business arising from the minutes, Reports were presented:

#### Financial Report (please see page 69)

Presented by Don MacNeill. Total receipts were \$11,314.75. Total Disbursements were \$13,180.48. The excess disbursements over receipts was \$1,865.73. Membership dues have been increased and only one half of the Nova Scotia Museum grant has been received, these factors should even us out by next year. Membership dues were down by almost a thousand dollars. It was moved by Don Purchase, seconded by Bernice Moores for the adoption of the report. Carried.

#### Membership Report (please see page 66)

Peter Payzant presented the report. This job is shared with Bob Dickie. As noted earlier, membership dues are down by almost a thousand dollars. Total membership represented by single and family memberships for 1993 is 783 people. Moved by Peter Payzant and seconded by Lisë Cohrs that the report be adopted. Carried.

#### Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund

Given by Ken Gregoire.

Highlights in the year 1993 for the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund started with our participation in the Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia best bird photo contest. Loris Keizer's Common Flicker was this year's winner. A lecture on the use of light aircraft in aerial photography was given by Ken Gregoire.

Raptor Rehabilitation continues with Elaine and Mike Kew at Mason's Point going along smoothly. Presently three Eagles and a Merlin--no gunshot cases this year so far. One unusual case an immature Great Horned Owl presented with 600 Porcupine quills. Four hundred were removed then after a two week recuperation period 200 more quills were removed and the bird was eventually released.

Dave Currie is to be congratulated on completing the computerization of the Ross Anderson Collection of N.S. Christmas Count data. I'll ask Dave to comment on this extensive project when he gives the financial report.

The Youth Field Trip sponsored by the late Bob Kanigsberg was held in September with the Grade XII Baccalaureate Biology class at Parkview Education Centre in Bridgewater. Twelve students enjoyed an outing at Crescent Beach. I would like to thank leaders, John Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Bill Caudle and Shirley Cohrs for a successful trip.

Our major project in the spring of 1993, was back on Peter Island. With breeding failure in 1991 and 1992, one is thrilled to report that after much hard work the terns returned and fledge from Peter Island. On April 25 we arrived on Brier Island with Peter MacLeod as warden. The terns were late in returning with 50+ birds nesting, including two pairs of Roseates. A northwest storm on June 25, resulted in 75% mortality in the colony. The terns reestablished the colony and when Peter left on August 1, the 400+ terns were using Peter Island as home. I feel certain most of these birds will return to nest on Peter Island in the spring of 1994.

I would like to thank Peter MacLeod for his tenacity, Tony Locke, CWS, Virginia Tudor, and Dave Currie for making this project a success.

I would like to thank our executive for their attendance and use of their homes for our meetings.



Secretary	Dr. Alan Covert
Treasurer	Dave Currie
Directors	Shirley Cohrs Eric Cooke

In closing, Dave Currie will give our financial statement and comment on the Christmas Count data.

--Ken Gregoire

Dave Currie then presented the SSTF financial report (please see page 68). He reported on the completion of the Ross Anderson Papers--a five year project, computerizing the Christmas Count data for the whole of Nova Scotia from 1950 to date. This is now completed and Dave will keep it up to date, adding each year's counts. The information is available to anyone who requires it and this year parts of the collection were used by Sean Timpa for a paper he wrote at McGill University.

President's Report: (please see page 2)

The adoption of the reports was moved by Don MacNeill and seconded by Audrey Tyler.

The President thanked Joan Harbison and Gisele d'Entremont for preparing the wine and cheese party to follow.

The President present **The Puffin of the Year Award** to Nellie Snyder. (please see page 37).

Nominating Committee Report

Bob Dickie presented the report prepared by himself and Bill Caudle. James C. Morrow has agreed to serve another year as Honorary Auditor and Tony Robinson will continue to serve as Honorary Solicitor. The following slate of officers for 1994 was presented:

President	Bob Dickie
Vice President	Louis Coutinho
Secretary	James Taylor
Treasurer	William Caudle
Membership/ Secretaries	Peter MacNeill Carol MacNeill

After three calls for further nominations and none being received, the above were duly elected. Carol MacNeill is also the Past President. Under our new constitution the Editor is appointed by the Executive. In June, 1993, the Executive appointed Shirley Cohrs as Editor for 1993-1994.

Nominations for the three Director positions were called for and the following nominations were received.

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Mover</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Lisè Cohrs	Don Purchase	John Cohrs
Bernice Moores	Linda Payzant	Joyce Purchase
Christine Ross	John Cohrs	Sylvia Fullerton

Don MacNeill was nominated by James Morrow but he declined. There being no further nominations the President declared nominations cease. Seconded by Bob Dickie.

The above were duly elected. Don MacNeill was thanked for his many years of service.

New Business

Dirk Van Loon has spoken to Roger Burrows concerning the Kelsey Property Development in Lunenburg County. The Nova Scotia Bird Society is interested and Ken Gregoire will contact Mr. Van Loon.

Mark Austin advised he is currently doing a TV series on birds and may approach the membership in the future for assistance.

There being no further business, Bill Caudle moved the meeting be adjourned.

A wine and cheese party followed.

Respectfully submitted  
James Taylor

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Membership Report as of October 27, 1993

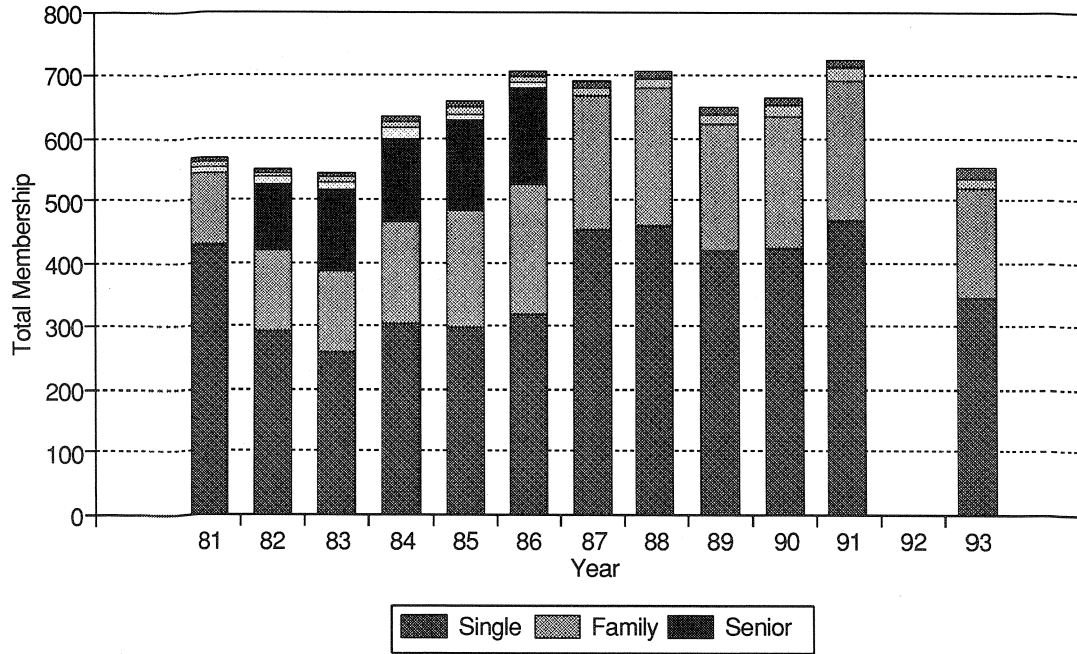
Year of Expiry	Single	Family	Institutional	Exchange	Total
1993	308	164	16	6	494
1994	27	14	1	1	43
1995	7	1	0	0	8
1996	2	0	0	0	2
1997	0	1	0	0	1
1998	1	0	0	0	1
1999	0	0	0	0	0
2000	1	0	0	0	1
Life	17	-	-	-	17
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>567</b>

I regret that, owing to a misunderstanding one year ago, there are no comparative figures for 1992.

Peter Payzant

# Nova Scotia Bird Society

## Membership Levels



Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund  
Financial Statements to Sept. 30 1993  
(with comparison for the 12 months ended Sept. 30, 1992)

**Statement of Receipts and Disbursements**

Receipts	CURRENT YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
Contributions	892.00	6,845.00
G.I.C. Interest	1,989.27	2,331.49
Bank Interest	89.39	215.92
Surrender of G.I.C.	6,000.00	.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>8,970.66</b>	<b>9,392.41</b>

**Disbursements**

Bank Charges	89.06	66.56
Taxes	814.07	533.80
Raptor Rehab. Project	37.45	33.81
Purchase of G.I.C.	.00	6,000.00
Youth Field Trip	37.16	.00
Peter Is. Tern Project	6,685.76	3,416.00
C.B. Piping Plover Beach Proj.	.00	360.00
Photo Guild Annual Competition	.00	.00
Christmas Bird Count Project	29.79	.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	82.37	431.11
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>7,775.66</b>	<b>10,841.28</b>

Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	1,195.00	-1,448.87
Opening Bank Balance	3,794.99	5,243.86
<b>Closing Bank Balance</b>	<b>4,989.99</b>	<b>3,794.99</b>

**Assets** **Balance Sheet**

Guaranteed Investment Cert.	21,400.00	27,400.00
Outer, Middle, Little Half and Mossy Bald Islands	1,000.00	1,000.00
Hertford Island	160.00	160.00
Indian Island	12,000.00	12,000.00
North Kemptville Property	1,500.00	1,500.00
Peter Island	20,000.00	20,000.00
Kelsey Property, Port Joli	13,000.00	13,000.00
Bank Balance	4,989.99	3,794.99
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>74,049.99</b>	<b>78,854.99</b>

**Statement of Surplus**

Opening Balance	78,854.99	74,303.86
Excess of receipts over Disbursements	1,195.00	-1,448.87
Inc/Dec in G.I.C.	-6,000.00	6,000.00
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>74,049.99</b>	<b>78,854.99</b>

# NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

(Incorporated 1957)

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended September 30, 1993

(With comparative figures for the year ended September 30, 1992)

	1993	1992
<b>STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
<i>Receipts</i>		
Membership dues	\$7,764.00	\$7,919.00
Sale of publications, etc.	1,834.54	2,845.72
Nova Scotia Museum grant	1,000.00	2,000.00
Interest - savings account	91.86	144.02
- guaranteed investment certificates (net)	509.02	701.39
Mailing list cost recovery	25.00	50.00
Miscellaneous income	90.33	119.72
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>11,314.75</b>	<b>13,779.85</b>
<i>Disbursements</i>		
Nova Scotia Birds and Fall Flyer	9,473.65	9,000.92
Printing and stationery	1,122.75	1,028.47
Postage	551.97	590.57
Bird Information Line	357.90	274.52
Editor's expenses	315.81	301.94
Insurance	300.00	200.00
Cost of publications and other items for sale	295.43	167.99
Annual general meeting expenses	241.98	326.80
Telephone	158.23	
Monthly meeting expenses	115.71	56.27
Miscellaneous expenses	84.72	282.03
Slide collection	64.08	95.71
Field trip coordinator's expenses	49.13	42.35
Photography and other awards	49.12	139.30
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>13,180.48</b>	<b>12,506.87</b>
<i>Excess receipts over disbursements</i>	<i>(1,865.73)</i>	<i>1,272.98</i>
Sale (purchase) of GIC's	717.61	(845.39)
Cash increase (decrease)	(1,148.12)	427.59
Opening bank balance	5,173.06	4,745.47
Closing bank balance	<u>\$4,024.94</u>	<u>\$5,173.06</u>

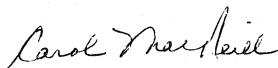
## BALANCE SHEET

### Assets

Electric typewriter (cost \$296.45)	\$1.00	\$1.00
Steel filing cabinet (cost \$99.96)	1.00	1.00
Steel filing cabinet (cost \$98.99)	1.00	1.00
Computer and printer (cost \$1,034.22)	355.00	507.00
Guaranteed investment certificates	9,677.65	10,395.26
Bank balance	4,024.94	5,173.06
<b>Total assets and members' equity</b>	<b>\$14,060.59</b>	<b>\$16,078.32</b>

## STATEMENT OF MEMBERS' EQUITY

Opening balance	\$16,078.32	\$15,026.34
Excess receipts over disbursements	(1,865.73)	1,272.98
Fixed asset purchases (net)		
Less: depreciation	(152.00)	(221.00)
Closing balance	<u>\$14,060.59</u>	<u>\$16,078.32</u>



C. MacNeill, President



D. MacNeill, Treasurer

Audited and found correct  
according to the books

  
J. Morrow, Auditor

## CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION RETURNS TO NOVA SCOTIA

It has been twenty years since the Canadian Nature Federation held its Annual Conference in Nova Scotia. Many NSBS members, over the years, have attended CNF Conferences across the country from St. John's to Victoria and points in between. And, of course, there are those of you who were involved in hosting and planning that first CNF Conference in Nova Scotia. Those among you will be pleased to learn that the 23rd CNF Conference will be held in Halifax during the period August 4-7, 1994. The meeting is being hosted by the Halifax Field Naturalists and the venue will be Mount Saint Vincent University.

Since the Nova Scotia Bird Society is also a CNF affiliate, we were certain that its members would be interested in learning of our plans to date and perhaps helping with the conference planning and organization during the next 6-7 months.

The organizing committee, composed of members of the HFN, the N.S.B.S. and the N.S. Wild Flora Society, have been busy on many fronts. A two-day symposium has been arranged around our conference theme "**A Journey from Forest to Sea**". Highlighted will be the Cape Breton highlands, the Acadian forest, the Atlantic coastal plain flora, the seashore and our off-shore islands. Birds and their habitat will be among the flora and fauna discussed.

Our field trips committee has been particularly busy; 22 field trips have been arranged including 4-day tours around Southwest Nova Scotia (pre-conference) and Cape Breton (post-conference) and shorter trips to Brier Island for birds, whales and rare plants, the Fundy shore for shorebirds and Pearl Island for pelagics. One day and early morning field trips will explore most of the local birding hot-spots in and around Halifax.

Social events have not been forgotten. A Thursday evening wine and cheese reception, a Friday evening seafood feast and harbour cruise and the traditional Saturday evening CNF Awards Banquet are all being planned. We anticipate having several special guests present at these functions!

Several of us on the planning committee attended the 1993 Conference in Vernon, B.C. We were there, among other reasons, to promote the Halifax Conference. From the enthusiastic response we received, we anticipate having lots of delegates from Western Canada and Ontario. However, the success of the Conference will hinge on local participation and so we invite all NSBS members to register for the Conference. We all know that birders are the most enthusiastic of naturalists and many CNF delegates are keen birders. We have an excellent selection of birding trips for those folks anxious to add North Atlantic coastal species to their life lists. Several NSBS members have been asked to lead these trips but more leaders, drivers, and helpers are needed.

Any NSBS members who would be willing to volunteer their services to insure the success of the conference are asked to contact Bob McDonald at one of the phone numbers below. Specifically, we need a volunteer coordinator, drivers for 15-seater vans used on the field trips (a class 4 or chauffeur's permit is required) and drivers (and cars) to pick up and deliver registrants travelling by air. Also needed are helpers for the children's Young Naturalist programme and others willing to serve at the registration table, collect tickets, etc. Any and all offers of assistance will be gratefully accepted.

For further information about the conference, please contact: Peter Payzant, Conference Registrar, P. O. Box 2, Waverley, N. S. B0N 2S0. Phone: 861-1607 (Registration kits will be available after 15 January, 1994.) We hope to see many of you from around the province at the Conference.

Bob McDonald  
CNF '94 Conference Committee  
443-5051 (h)  
457-6263 (w)









NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS  
A Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society

Volume 36 Number 1

January 1994

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief	Shirley Cohrs
Records Editor	Bob Dickie
Photographic Editor	Ian McLaren
Christmas Counts	David Currie Francis Spalding
Seasonal Bird Reports	R.G.B. Brown David Currie Keith Keddy Ian McLaren
Cover: Oldsquaw by Bob Dickie	Peter Payzant Francis Spalding Richard Stern

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Report	2
Record Editor's Report	5
Fall Migration Bird Reports	6
Puffin of the Year	37
The Readers Speak	40
Ornithocrostic	42
The Feeder Page	46
About Field Trips	49
Field Trip Reports	51
Forthcoming Field Trips	57
Annual General Meeting 1993	62

Use of any material from NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS  
requires written permission from the Editor.

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