



Nova
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April 1994

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Winter 1993 - 1994	2
Ammodramus Sparrows in Nova Scotia-I.McLaren	23
The Terns of Peter Island--Ken Gregoire	33
Stalking the Wild Bird	35
The Feeder Page	37
Letters to the Editor	39
Book Review --Tony Erskine	40
Willow Flycatcher and Sonograms-I. McLaren	42
Field Trip Reports	45
Forthcoming Field Trips	47
Nova Scotia Christmas Counts 1993-1994	49
Francis Spalding & David Currie	

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RECORDS EDITOR'S REPORT

I have decided, after doing the job for nine years to resign as Records Editor. The task has been an interesting one, since the Records Editor gets to be first to find out what everyone has been seeing. Your reports have been excellent and we are very pleased that you are using the reporting forms. We had originally planned to sell the forms to recover our expenses but, mainly due to the cost, they didn't sell. The main reason for the standardized form was to ensure that we receive appropriate information.

We are running low on report forms and will, most likely, stop handing them out. We hope that for the sake of our editors, reporters will continue to report on pieces of paper similar in content and size to our standardized forms.

Many of you have suggested to me that individual acknowledgement of receipt of your reports is both costly and redundant since we publish the names of Reporters in each issue of **Nova Scotia Birds**. I agree with this and actually stopped that practice, but I resumed it when I started sending out the free report forms. I will recommend to my successor that she not send out separate acknowledgements in the future.

We have recently stressed the necessity of documenting rarities so that our records will clearly indicate the appearance of unusual species or usual species at unusual times and places. Remember, a rarity is any species that does not appear on our Society's current (blue) check list. If you do not have a check list they can be purchased from the Society at 4 for \$1.00. Send you request to:

The Nova Scotia Bird Society,
c/o The Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer Street,
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6

or they can be picked up at the museum at 6 for \$1.00

Please remember that we are a society of people with a common interest, BIRDS. In a recent questionnaire members gave the seasonal birds reports a VERY high priority. The credit for these write-ups must go to Bev. Sarty, Dick Brown, Ian McLaren, Fran Spalding, Richard Stern, Keith Keddy and Dave Currie for their wonderful volunteer service. As Records Editor, I have become aware of the chore of studying hundreds of little pieces of paper and turning the information on them into accurate and interesting narratives that will make sense to our members and provide useful data for future generations of birders.

Your next reports should go to...

Mrs. Wendie Tay,
5 Berwick Street,
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 3B6

To those of you who have regularly sent in bird reports -- Thanks and... Keep up the good work.

Bob Dickie
Records Editor (Retired)

BIRD REPORTS

LOONS AND GREBES

RED-THROATED LOONS were present in ones and twos at five locations. The Cape Sable Island area had 6 on Jan. 9 (JCZ). COMMON LOONS were reported in surprisingly low numbers. The only locale with more than five birds was Lunenburg Bay-- 5 to 10 through Jan./Feb. (WGC). Nine showed up in W. Pubnico, Feb. 7 (LSD) but a lone bird at the Pictou Causeway on Feb. 19 was actually the first of the year for Pic. Co. Numbers in the Prospect area were picking up after mid-February. The spring reports should show an improvement.

Five PIED-BILLED GREBES are slightly more than usual for Nov./Dec. but there were no reports in the new year. The Dowds saw a mink attempting to sneak up and grab one from below as it swam near a wharf at Riverport on Nov. 13.

The other two species of grebes were even more sparse than last winter; even in Lun. Co., where fair numbers usually gather, the Cohrs report that during a week (Feb. 21-28) at Green Bay and environs, they saw only 1 Horned Grebe and not a single Red-necked. Ice conditions in the interior may have contributed to the one bright spot in the grebe showing this winter--the Annapolis Royal Christmas Count tallied a totally unprecedented 251 HORNED GREBES. Four of six reports of this grebe mention only single birds: the other two are: 8 on Jan. 29 at East Chester (CJF) and 5 at Hawk Point, C.S.I., Feb. 18 (RSD). Dec. 4, SJF counted 14 RED-NECKED GREBES at Broad Cove/Cherry Hill; 10 were at Digby on Jan. 21 (BJA); and the Tufts and Forsythes spotted 9 between Vogler's Cove and Crescent Beach, Feb. 6. Five other reports had only 1-4 birds each, including 1, Feb. 22 at Port Morien, C. B., where they don't often see Red-neckeds (ALM).

B.D.S., ed.

FULMARS TO CORMORANTS

People who dreamed of a White Christmas got what they asked for--in spades and shovels. Snowstorms have been dropping on us ever since. (By contrast, the big storms of last winter didn't hit Halifax until mid-February) I don't know if there has been a genuine scarcity of seabirds or an understandable reluctance of birders to trudge through the drifts to look for them, but there is little to report in this section. The only NORTHERN FULMARS reported were singletons seen on Brier Island and Pt. L'Hebert Christmas Counts. On the same week-end there were 224 NORTHERN GANNETS off Pt. L'Hebert. I'm not sure to what extent that these overlap with the 100+ Gannets that Angus MacLean and his party saw off Brier Island on Dec. 21, but these must have been among the last of the migrants. Brad Amirault saw a 10 in Digby Gut the next day. Angus MacLean's party saw 3 GREAT CORMORANTS of Brier on Dec. 21, and Richard Stern saw a DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT there on Feb. 20. Nancy and Richard Dowd saw their first Great Cormorants of the year--2 immatures--, at the mouth of the LaHave River on Nov. 13. Jean and Bill Morse saw a Great off Blue Rocks on Feb. 6, and Bill Caudle saw 10 in Lunenburg Bay on Feb. 19. Lillian and Judy Tufts saw 1 immature DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT off Port Howe on Nov. 15, and Joan Czupalay saw at least 1 on Feb. 27 of West Head. Judy Tufts' party saw 4 Double-crests on the Brier Is. CBC on Dec. 2, and Richard Stern saw 1 off Tribune Head on Jan. 15.

Ted d'Eon has an interesting Gannet Project for the summer. He will be putting out decoys on Gannet Rock, off Yarmouth, to attract the birds back to the colony that they abandoned in the 1870s, after the lighthouse was built. The light is automatic nowadays, so Gull Rock would make an ideal sanctuary. The odds are good. Subadult Gannets are quite common in Fundy in summer and, even without the help of decoys, a pair recently tried to nest off SW New Brunswick.

RGBB, ed.

HERONS AND ALLIES

A good number of GREAT BLUE HERONS hung back at first, including 32 on nine Christmas Counts. Surprisingly, only 1 was reported for the new year--a "rather tatty looking specimen" at Overton on Jan. 2 (HHG). Doubtless few if any made it through winter. (As confirmed by the photo, the late Little Blue Heron reported in the last issue was actually a Snowy Egret).

I.A.M., ed.

GEESE AND DUCKS

An escaped MUTE SWAN which made the news a year ago has successfully overwintered a second time in Bedford Basin (LPP).

The Cape Sable Island Christmas-counters must have been thrilled to discover 8 SNOW GEESE. By the last week of February, BRANT had returned to a couple of their usual haunts: 25+ at Brier Island--fewer than usual (RBS), and 150 at The Hawk, C.S.I. (JCZ). CANADA GEESE numbers appear to have fallen off drastically following the Christmas Count period, when 6882 was the high count recorded (Halifax East). The only January report was 10-30 in the Yarmouth area, where LSD felt that ice in the harbour may have deterred the huge flocks that sometimes gather there. February drew only three reports: two flocks on the South Shore totalling 160 birds and by Feb. 17, 4000 had assembled at Three Fathom Harbour (RBD,HBD).

There was one belated fall report of a WOOD DUCK at White Rock in the Gasperreau Valley on Oct. 26 (GWT,JCT) but not a single winter report.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL were present in their usual small numbers into January at the following locations: Eel Lake, Yar. Co.; East River, Pic. Co.; and Dartmouth. The latest report was 1 at Tantallon, Jan. 18 (BJA). Few observers bothered to report on AMERICAN BLACK DUCKS but 75 were at Riverport Bridge through most of the winter (NAD,COD) and the Hemeons say that 35 on Feb. 12 at Little Bass River were "unusual as normally ice conditions discourage them". The provincial total for the CBCs--8409--doesn't seem so very high but then again, living in the Halifax/Dartmouth area, where 1900 of these were counted, may have an unfair influence on my opinion.

At least 10 MALLARDS lingered until Nov. 10 at Harris Pond, Canning (JWW) and 3 paid a visit to Sable Island in early December (ZOL). Although the only other report was 50 at Broad Cove on Feb. 6 (Forsythes, Tufts), I know several dozen were in Renwick Brook, Glace Bay in February and who knows how many in the Dartmouth area!

Ten NORTHERN PINTAILS is more than usual for the winter months. A drake at Canard Pond, Nov. 20 (JWW) is actually a late-fall bird, but overwintering individuals were at New Glasgow and Plymouth (Pic.), Middle Country Harbour (Guys.) and Point Pleasant Park (HFX.). Four were at the mouth of Gold River (Lun.) on Feb. 12 (WGC,CMR). The last report was a lone female at the Trenton Power Plant Feb. 25 (KJM, CGB).

Late NORTHERN SHOVELERS were 2 at Bissett Lake near Dartmouth for several weeks in Dec. (IAM,JWT) and 1 Dec. 10 on Sable Island (ZOL).

A couple of winter GADWALLS is about all we should expect. One was at the power plant in Trenton, Dec. 28--Jan. 2 (CGB,KJM). The other was discovered at Sullivan's Pond on the Jan. 15 Sewer Stroll (FLL,RBS et al.), and is surely the same female that showed up a few days later at Point Pleasant Park and remained there through February.

Although 20-25 AMERICAN WIGEON were still at Harris Pond, Canning on Nov. 20 (JCT,JWW) and as many as 11 were on Sable Island in early Dec. (ZOL), this species was absent for the rest of the winter, exceptions being: 1-2 at Sullivan's Pond/Tuft's Cove, Dartmouth (sev. obs.) and a drake at Wentworth Park, Sydney (ALM,CAM).

A CANVASBACK on the St. Peter's CBC is worth a mention although a report wasn't sent to the Records Editor so I have no further details.

For the first time in several years, no one was able to uncover a Tufted Duck. Overwintering RING-NECKED DUCKS were: 2 on Jan. 15 at Dartmouth Cove (FLL-NSBS Sewer Stroll) and 1 at Pleasant Lake, Yar. Co. on Jan. 30 (RSD).

There must have been smaller flocks of GREATER SCAUP along the coast but observers commented almost exclusively on the larger concentrations: 500 Nov. 24 at Digby (BJA); 130 at Crescent Beach, Dec. 5 (Cohrs); 1843 on the Pictou Harbour CBC on Jan. 2, mostly at the Causeway and the Trenton power plant outflow (KJM et al.)-- a similar number remained to the end of February; there were about 800 through Jan./Feb. at the Lingan power plant outflow (ALM,CAM). The only LESSER SCAUP were 2 at Dartmouth Cove on Feb. 19 (Cohrs).

On Dec. 21 The Tufts counted 100 COMMON EIDERS on their segment of the Brier Island CBC; 250 were at nearby Tiverton on Feb. 1 (RBS), and a few days later 100 were off Hartlen's Point (DHH). There was no sign of the great rafts of Eiders preparing for their push northward and smaller flocks which must have been in coastal waters went unnoticed.

In mid-February Peter MacLeod and I were pleasantly surprised while checking a flock of small ducks off Prospect to discover that they were all HARLEQUIN DUCKS, 28 in all. Hunting regulations granting full protection for this species didn't come into effect in Nova Scotia until 1988. Checking through past records I haven't yet found a report of a flock this size in Nova Scotia, so hopefully this is a sign that the hunting restrictions are helping the eastern population of Harlequins to recover. On a down note, however, I must add that there were no other sightings.

At a glance, our reports indicate that OLDSQUAW were more common than they have been the past few winters with many reports numbering 25-70 from all around the province, and a higher count of 150 sheltering in Lunenburg Harbour on Jan. 30 following a storm the previous day (ELM). Still, I am at a loss to explain the exceptionally high count of 3246 on the Annapolis Royal CBC.

Three reports of BLACK SCOTER added up to fewer than 20 birds. Likewise, SURF SCOTERS were very sparse with four reports each mentioning only 1-3 birds. The only exception was 100+ on Feb. 1 between Parker's and Young's Coves on the Fundy shore. This same area harboured over 100 WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS (AAM,SMM). The only other area with a concentration of White-wings was the Halifax Harbour approaches with up to 200 through Jan./Feb. Otherwise, this species was widespread, albeit in much smaller numbers, all the way from Cape Sable Island (2), and Apple River (2), and north to Mira Gut, C.B. (8).

Christmas Count participants throughout the province found slightly over 2000 COMMON GOLDENEYE but through all of January and February less than a quarter of that number were reported--458 to be precise and 300 of these were at one location, Crescent Beach on Feb. 22 (Cohrs). It was probably observers, not the ducks, that were absent, especially in January, when we experienced some of the coldest temperature on record for that time of year. Those who did brave the deep freeze found BARROW'S GOLDENEYE in their usual winter haunts: 3 at the Annapolis Power Station, Jan. 2 (RBS); 2 on Jan. 12 at the NSPC station at the Head of St. Margaret's Bay (BJA); 4 at the Pictou Causeway, Feb. 19 (KJM et al.); and 4-5 throughout the winter in the Bedford Basin/Tuft's Cove area (many obs.).

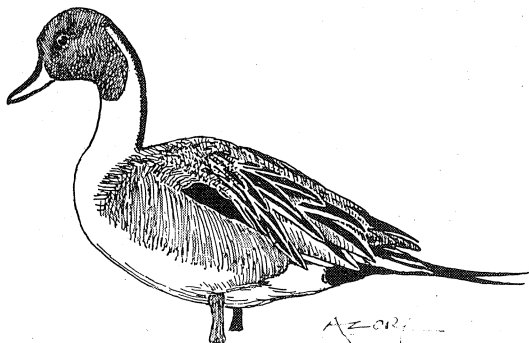
A scant 115 BUFFLEHEAD were counted--in the dozen reports that came in, only three mention more than 10 birds: 20 at Digby Nov. 24, and again Jan. 21 (BJA); 15 on Dec. 12 at Lyon's Brook (KJM); and 16 at Bridgewater Feb. 6 (Tufts, Forsythes).

Thirty-three HOODED MERGANSERS showed up, mostly in groups of 2-4; the one exception to this was 8 at the Head of St. Margaret's Bay on Jan. 9 (CJF). The only one that ventured north of Hfx. Co., was a female at Trenton Gut on Jan. 30 (KJM).

Since we lacked reports of COMMON MERGANSERS in the fall reports, JCT's flock of 32 at White Rock, Gaspereau Valley on Oct. 31 deserves mention here. It should not come as any surprise that more than half of the 1222 "commons" tallied on the CBCs--688-- were found on the Jan. 2 Pictou Harbour Count (KJM et al.). Aside from this flock, they went virtually unnoticed in January; February reports were limited to Hfx and Lun. Cos.: up to 16 through February at the mouth of the LaHave River (WGC,JBM,Cohrs); 20 at Indian Path on the 18th (COD,NAD) and by month's end 14 had arrived at Conrad's Beach (RBD,HBD). The only notable assembly of RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS was, once again, in the Pictou area (mostly Merigomish Hbr.) where Christmas Counters found 427 in total. Eight other reports involving 10-40 birds each is about average. Most of these were from the Bay of Fundy and South Shore regions.

RUDDY DUCKS in the winter report are truly becoming old-hat. A female was at Big Island (Pic.) on Dec. 3 (CGB) and a drake, probably the one seen earlier in the month at Ketch Harbour, was off McNab's Island Dec. 19 (**vide** IAM).

B.D.S., ed.



DIURNAL RAPTORS

The half-dozen TURKEY VULTURES on the Brier Island CBC were evidently present for most of the winter (**vide** RBS).

A very late, but convincingly described, OSPREY was seen carrying a fish over Sullivan's Pond on Dec. 19 (Mark McIntyre). The annual BALD EAGLE count in King's Co. on Jan. 30 (**vide** JWW) produced a near record 408 birds (183 ad., 216 imm.). (An admirable two-person effort, by MIH and ALH on Feb. 6, produced 104 birds.) This winter's "hot spot" seemed to be around Wallbrook and S. Grand Pré (RBS). Another concentration of 40 birds reported in the press as frequenting a chicken farm at W. Northfield, Lun. Co., were not found in early February (ELM). From elsewhere, we have only the usual smattering of sightings of 1-5 individuals with no notes of behaviour or trends. Although (a record?) 25 N. HARRIERS were found on seven CBCs, only 6 were reported from later dates.

A dozen reports of single SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS were about as usual. A description of an imm. COOPER'S HAWK at Smithville, near Baccaro, Shel. Co. (JOC)-- "the roundness of the tail was very obvious...and the larger size noticeable" lacked critical discrimination from imm. N. GOSHAWK (e.g., zig-zag, white-bordered tail barring, difference in belly and undertail covert streaking). At least 10 Goshawks were noted from Cape Breton to Yar. Co. The unmistakable ad. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, first found near Lr. Hortonville, Kings Co., on Feb. 8 was reliably present in the vicinity until at least Feb. 17 (sev. obs.). Last fall's latest BROAD-WINGED HAWK was at Digby on Nov. 24 (BJA). The Kings Co. eagle count on Jan. 30 produced 84 RED-TAILED HAWKS, slightly below last year's level. They were also widely reported on CBCs. They can always be seen during highway travel around the province, and the half-dozen later reports from other places reveal no trends. The albino around Sheffield Mills through winter was "presumably" (JWW) the same one noted there since early winter 1989. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS did not appear in peak numbers on CBCs. Later sightings suggest that only about 4 might have stayed in Kings Co. and a like number was reported from other places. After the CBCs, only 4 scattered AM.KESTRELS and about 7 MERLINS were reported; both seem to have tumbled in recent years. Two well-distinguished PEREGRINE FALCONS were noted: one near Coldbrook, King's Co., on Jan. 10 (AAM) and the other on Sable Is. on Jan. 14 (ZOL). A dark GYRFALCON was reported from Round Bay, Shel. Co. in mid-December (B. Doane), and the gray bird on the Broad Cove CBC was meticulously documented (SJF).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Are GRAY PARTRIDGE making a modest, natural comeback in Kings Co., or are they being augmented? Flocks of 12, 9 and 8-9 were around Starrs Pt. and Port Williams in October, of which two flocks of 8 and 7 were seen through February (**vide** JCT). A possibly separate group of 7 was at Canard Acres subdivision on Jan. 7 (**vide** JWW), and a clearly different 6 were at Windsor on Feb. 16 (GWT,JCT). Two at Economy on Nov. 30, not noted thereafter (FLS), were a dwindling remnant, whereas 14 on Marshland Drive, Truro, may represent a less established introduction. We have a few reports of RING-NECKED PHEASANTS from around the province, none from Kings Co., where they certainly continue to provide stylish meals. After a good showing on CBCs, three subsequent reports of 4 scattered SPRUCE GROUSE were not exceptional, but KFS managed to find up to 5 m. and 2 f. during December in the woods behind her house in Apple River, 2 m. and a f. still there on Feb. 20. We know where to send hopeful "tickers". The 135 RUFFED GROUSE on twenty-two CBCs seem impressive, but were only about 65% of last year's total. Further, there were merely three reports of 11 later birds. Finally, 4 of the recently introduced (as yet "untickable") N. BOBWHITES were sustained at a Gaspereau feeder through at least mid-January (**vide** JWW).

RALLIDS

Our first YELLOW RAIL (small size and white wing patches thoroughly evident) in some years was flushed from a patch of wet marsh grass on Big Is., Pic. Co., on Dec. 15 (CGB); alas, but typically, it could not be found later by others. Late AM. COOTS were near Plymouth, Pic. Co., on Dec. 18 (CGB,KJM), on Bisset Lake, Cole Hbr., until Dec. 19 (sev. obs.), and on the Springville CBC. Much more exciting was the PURPLE GALLINULE ON THE Port L'Hebert CBC, for which we await details.

I.A.M., ed.

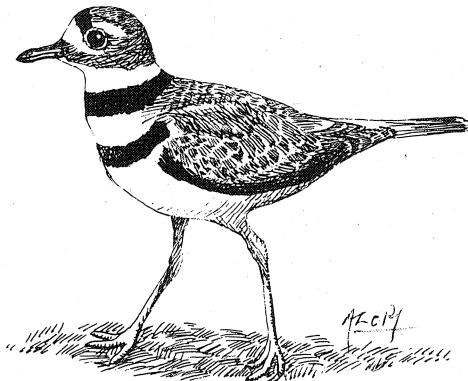
SHOREBIRDS

The only laggard BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS were singles at Cherry Hill, Dec. 29 (SJF) and at Little Hbr., Jan. 1 (DHY). Five KILLDEER lingered long enough to be counted on CBCs; it is not surprising, in view of the harsh weather, that none was seen thereafter.

A GREATER YELLOWLEGS was recorded on the Port L'Hebert CBC; 2 LESSER YELLOWLEGS were still in the Pugwash area Nov. 15 (JC&LIT). A HUDSONIAN GODWIT on the Cape Sable count (a CBC first) was most unusual. One or 2 RUDDY TURNSTONES remained as far north as the Pictou shore until mid-Dec. (CGB,KJM) and 2 wayward individuals, one perhaps oiled, were on Sable Island Jan. 24 and Feb. 12 (ZOL). The only others were on the Port L'Hebert count. SANDERLINGS persevered through the worst of the winter. On Sable Is. there were 121 Jan. 25 and 97 on Feb. 12 (ZOL). An overwintering flock of 20 at Broad Cove, or parts of it, was reported through Feb. (BLF, GW & JCT,JC&JLC). Also overwintering was 1 at Crescent on Feb. 23 (JLC).

The last WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS were 2 at Hartlen's Pt. on Nov. 17 (BJA). In addition to the 190 PURPLE SANDPIPERS seen on seven CBCs about 230 more were reported this winter. ZOL suggests their slightly oiled condition accounts for 6 seen on the sand beaches of Sable Is. in late Jan. RSD comments on the small size ("only a few square meters") of a favoured feeding area at Lr. W. Pubnico. Most late DUNLINS were found along the South Shore, 50 on the Port L'Hebert Count and 35 at Little Hbr. on New Year's Day (DHY). Last was 1 at Argyle on Jan. 2 (JKD). Three COMMON SNIPE hung on long enough to be counted on CBCs in the southwest.

F.S., ed.



JAEGERS TO AUKS

Eric Mills and others had a brief view of a probable POMARINE JAEGER off Brier Island on Dec. 21, during the Brier Island CBC. Visibility and sea state were poor. The bird was in a stream of Gannets and assorted gulls: a rather large, brownish bird with pale underparts crossed by a breast-band. It had the darting flight typical of jaegers, Eric's identification, based on his extensive experience of jaegers at sea, and the 'jizz' of this one, is that it was probably a juvenile Pomarine.

I note as usual that HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS were present in their usual numbers, and will not be discussed in detail. The Nova Scotian CBC total counts included 36,664 Herrings, and 11,011 Great Black-backs. The count turned up our only LESSER BLACK-BACKED Gull in Halifax West. Fulton Lavender's party saw a first-year THAYER'S GULL in intermediate plumage in the Bedford area on Jan. 15. Photographs were taken, but I haven't yet seen them. Thayer's is a Low Arctic relative of the Iceland Gull that breeds in the central Arctic but normally winters on the West Coast. The Nova Scotia CBC turned up 294 ICELAND GULLS, but it was really too early to catch these migrants from the Arctic. Donna J. Crosby saw an adult and an immature KUMLIEN'S GULL, another Iceland Gull relative, at the Lockeport sewage plant during January and February. By mid-January Richard Stern saw 'plenty' of Icelandals around Brier Is. However, Hubert Hall's first Iceland Gull of the fall was a first-year bird that was roosting on Yarmouth airport as early as August 10. GLAUCOUS GULLS always arrive later: the CBCs only saw four. Other early Glaucous Gulls to reach southern Nova Scotia include Judy Tufts' bird at Canning on Jan. 2, Richard Stern's bird on the Kentville dump on Jan. 11 and Joan Czapalay's bird near the Baccaro Light on Jan. 5.

We've had an unusually good crop of the smaller gulls. The Christmas count totals gave us 66 COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULLS, 205 BONAPARTE'S GULLS and 413 RING-BILLED GULLS. On Crescent Beach on Dec. 4, the Cohrs had a mix of 6 Herring Gulls, 1 Great Black-backed, 2 Black-headed, 5 Bonaparte's and 2 Ring-billed. I'm not sure about their northern limit, but the Black-headed Gulls spread as far south as Lr. W. Pubnico, where Raymond d'Entremont saw one on Christmas Eve. Another concentration was the 1,000+ Bonaparte's that Ken McKenna saw at Lyons' Brook, Pic. Co. on Nov. 22. Fulton Lavender, the Tufts and others saw a 2nd-winter MEW GULL (EUROPEAN COMMON GULL) at Sullivan's Pond on Feb. 12. They noted its general resemblance to a Ring-bill of the same age except for a more Kittiwake-like droop to its bill and a white tail. However, our most surprising gull is the first-year the CALIFORNIA GULL that Zoe Lucas picked up as a fresh corpse on Sable Island in early December. This is now in the Nova Scotia Museum. Ian McLaren has identified it in the hand by its plumage, pink legs and bill, and by diagnostic body measurements. The bird normally breeds between Lake Superior and the Rockies, wintering on the West Coast, so Zoe's bird was, to put it mildly, off course. This is the species' first record for Nova Scotia, and one of the few from east of Ontario--though New Brunswick beat us with a sighting in 1993.

The CBCs came up with a total of 4,647 BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES, 2511 of which were seen off Brier Is. However, there were few other reports: Bill Caudle saw 1 at Feltzen South on Jan. 26, and Calvin Brennan saw 60+ sheltering inshore in Merigomish Hbr. on Dec. 16.

Terns are out of season, of course. However, the last issue left out the details of the SANDWICH TERN that Ian McLaren's party saw perched on a buoy off Clark's Hbr on Sept. 6, 1993. Ian notes that the bird's long, black, yellow-tipped bill was well seen.

Finally, the Provincial CBCs provided us with totals of 72 DOVEKIES, 13 COMMON and 155 THICK-BILLED MURRES, respectively, 14 RAZORBILLS, 41 BLACK GUILLEMOTS and 10 ATLANTIC PUFFINS. As you might expect, the stormy winter has blown plenty of auks inshore. Black Guillemots were regularly reported along the SE and SW coasts of the province. These of course, are semi-resident. However, the numbers of large auks reported along the same shores are on the high side. So far, the totals on your

record slips suggest a winter murre species ratio of roughly 20 Thick-billed to 1 Common; Razorbills, as usual, are scarce. Finally FLL saw a PUFFIN off Herring Cove on Feb. 11.

R.G.B.B.,ed.

DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHER

ROCK DOVES (which may soon "officially" be renamed Rock Pigeons) were most evident as bridge pigeons throughout Kings and Lun. Cos. (WGC,CMR). What is the "carrying capacity" (roosts or nests?) of such highway bridges? Someone should make systematic counts. In Halifax, with the departure of Oxford Street's "pigeon lady", more pigeons turn up on city feeders. One laid an egg on my back porch on Feb. 8! Although MOURNING DOVES were somewhat more common on this year's CBCs than on last year's, only small flocks of 10 or fewer were reported at most traditional feeders, except in well-stocked Kings and Yar. Co. A group of up to 8 were first-time winterers at a Lewis Lake, Hfx. Co., feeder (AJV). Two reached Sable Island Dec. 4-10, but did not stay (ZOL).

Three other GREAT HORNED OWLS in December add to the numbers on CBCs, but there was only one subsequent report. The season's first SNOWY OWLS were at Melanson Mt. on Nov. 23 (DLC) and Port Morien on Nov. 30 (ALM). Thereafter, a half-dozen were noted, including a very faithful male on Cape Sable from mid-December (JCZ et al.) and another from time-to-time at Hartlen's Pt. A few scattered BARRED OWLS were noted, with no hints on trends. BLF began "feeding" his resident pair again just before Christmas, but their sporadic appearance made him wonder if, even then, they were getting down to serious business. Up to 6 SHORT-EARED OWLS were on Grand Pré in early December (MAO,JCT), but only 1 was found by Dec. 14. Elsewhere, there were 4 singles between Glace Bay and Yar. Co., the latest on Cape Sable Is. from Jan. 21 through February (JCZ et al.). Four post-CBC SAW-WHET OWLS were noted, 2 coming to feeders.

A surprising 5 BELTED KINGFISHERS made it through mid-January, but the latest noted was at Little Hbr., Pic Co., on Jan. 31.

WOODPECKERS

A fem. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER stayed around a feeder at Glenwood, Yar. Co., Dec. 15-Jan. 14 (JKD). We received no further reports on the CBC bird at Annapolis Royal. DOWNY WOODPECKERS were markedly less common (by 45%) on CBCs compared with last year's, and there were only 10 reports of 16 (mostly feeder) birds, again down from last year. HAIRY WOODPECKERS were only slightly less common on this year's CBCs, and the dozen post-CBC reports of about 20 individuals were par with last year. Six post-CBC BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS were more than usual of this chancy bird. N. FLICKERS were found in about the same numbers on CBCs as last year. A total of 18 post-CBC birds, including probably "repeats" around the Pubnicos and in Kings Co., implies good overwinter survival, despite the weather. PILEATED WOODPECKERS on CBCs matched last year's total, although eleven other reports of 16 birds were down slightly. Perhaps all the above woodpecker statistics reveal a real change only in our familiar Downy.

I.A.M., ed.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Not surprisingly there were no flycatcher reports for the winter months, although there was a late EASTERN PHOEBE at Cape Forchu, Nov. 10 (HGH,HJH).

Flocks of HORNED LARK were being seen as expected through the winter around the province, mostly at or near coastal locations (BJA,HGH,HJH,GWT,JCT,JRM,DAF etc.). A few were reported from a variety of locations throughout the season, e.g. 4 at Feltzen South, Nov. 19 (BJA), 8 at Walton Woods, Hants Co., Jan. 2 (JWT), 4 all winter in one location at Ohio (DOE), and up to 6 at KFS's feeder at Apple River. A total of 111 were seen on CBCs. Pretty much the same could be said of BLUE JAYS, with small

groups seen around the province and coming to feeders. 3947 were present in toto on CBCs, not very different from last year's total of 3526, suggesting a stable wintering population.

As in recent winters, Kings Co. seems to be the AMERICAN CROW capital of the province. SHM noted 10,000+ on some roofs in Wolfville, Nov. 18, and again during December there was a movement of 10,000+ to various roost sites in Kentville and Port Williams at dusk (RBS). The total CBC number was 15,383, of which half were on the Wolfville count, and that number was low compared to early December, and some previous years when the Boot Island roost was intact.

There were only 4 COMMON RAVEN reports, although 1592 birds were seen on CBCs. Notable was the appearance of approx. 40 at AJH's feeder, near Canning, on December 23.

DJC felt that BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were scarce at her feeder (Lockeport) compared to last winter, and JCT also thought that numbers were down, particularly when the weather got very cold. DOE had flocks of up to 12 at her feeder and in the woods (Ohio), most of the winter. 5669 were seen on CBCs compared to 6481 last year, so although the total in late Dec./early Jan. was down, the change was not dramatic. Six reports noted BOREAL CHICKADEES, including AJV (Lewis Lake), RSD (Lr. W. Pubnico) and KFS (Apple River), all of whom had them coming to feeders. 267 were seen on CBCs, that is, some 5% of the Black-capped total, and indicating their relative abundance.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were as usual present in 1s and 2s, mostly at feeders, in various locations through the season (CJF,ALM,CAM,DOE,LSO,etc.) There were eleven reports, of 26 birds, about the same as last winter. 426 were reported on CBCs. Twelve WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES, reported by nine people (CJF,SHB,DOE,MIH,LPP,etc.) were received. There were 75 on CBCs, giving a Red-breasted to White-breasted ratio of 5.7 to 1, and indicating that Red-breasteds are under reported by individuals compared to White-breasted. Eight BROWN CREEPERS were reported from expected habitats (AJV,KFS,AAM,SSM etc.).

The only wren species reported this winter was MARSH WREN, with 1 in the Back Cove at Hartlen's Pt. being present at least till the last week of December (IAM,JWT) and another being present at the East River, New Glasgow, Dec. 4 (CGB,KJM). This seems to be the best time of year to find one of these rare visitors, although they do of course breed on the edge of the province, in the Amherst area, as well.

Only a few GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS were reported this winter, e.g. 2-8 flocking with nuthatches in Ohio (DOE), 8 on Boularderie Island Nov. 28 (ALM), 3 in Yar. Co., Dec. 3 (MKH), etc., 631 in toto on CBCs seems low, although numbers of this species can vary enormously from year to year. Unlike last winter's over-wintering RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, there were just three reports of this species (IAM, KJM,KFS), the latest being Dec. 8 in Halifax. One was seen on each of 3 CBCS (Hfx. West, Port L'Hebert and Wolfville).

BLUEBIRDS THROUGH STARLINGS

HGH and HJH saw 2 female EASTERN BLUEBIRDS perched and feeding on berries at Cape Forchu Nov. 10. RBS saw 1 male, together with 6 or 7 unidentified birds that were of similar size and shape, flash across the road in front of his car in a snowstorm on Dec. 26 north of Kentville, but it was impossible to stop safely to investigate.

A late, but not unprecedented, HERMIT THRUSH was present at Petite Riviere, Dec. 27 (AJV,JSC,JLC). Small numbers of AMERICAN ROBIN were seen, including a flock of 45+ in a blueberry field at W. Apple River, Nov. 16 (KFS) and up to 40 in Yar. Co. (LSD). There were 132 seen on CBCS. Two much rarer relatives were well seen amidst much excitement this winter. The first was a western vagrant, a TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE. This was found at Tribune Head by FLL and BJA in early January, was then seen at leisure, and photographed, by the NSBS Sewer Stroll on Jan. 10, and has subsequently been seen on and off ever since in the same location (the same bush!). I will take the liberty of giving a full description, as it appeared to the NSBS field trip,

for the record:-

Behaviour. Initially seen flying, later studied for 15 minutes resting in a Canada Holly bush and eating berries.

Detailed Description. Initially, I was aware of a bird flying over the spruce trees at Tribune Head, from the road towards the house down the track at the sewage outfall. It gave the impression of an American Robin in general shape, but it had a longer tail with white outer tailfeathers, and paler patches were noticeable on the inner wings. The bird then dropped out of sight

After some searching. Liz Stern relocated the bird, sitting in a low Canada Holly bush. The whole group then spent 15 minutes leisurely studying and photographing it. It was thrush-sized, dark gray, had a bold complete eye ring, some buffy on the wing (the bold buff wing bar was never clearly seen as it did not raise its wings and it remained covered by the coverts), and some buff on the outer primary fringes. The tail was long and notched at the tip, with some worn feathers, and the white edges were noted. The bill was thin, weak and black. We did not attempt to flush the bird since it was resting and other people would no doubt appear later.

Photographs were taken by KJM and RBS.

Other possible species. In the air, the bird was the wrong shape and the wing patches were too dull for a Mockingbird, and an American Robin does not have such a long tail or white outer tail feathers. In the bush the bird was unmistakable.

Other sources consulted. All standard field guides confirmed the identification.

Conclusion. Adult Townsend's Solitaire. The first documented record of the species for Nova Scotia (photographed) was in Halifax, in Tony Lock's garden from Jan. 2 to Feb. 28, 1979. Another was photographed on Seal Island, Nov. 1980.

The second was a Eurasian (? from Iceland or Greenland) vagrant--the province's first well-documented FIELDFARE. Again, I make no apologies for giving a detailed description:-

Date. 1 Feb. 1994

Location. Two miles east of Granville Ferry on Hwy #1.

OBSERVER(S) R.B. Stern (initially), then A. MacLean, J. and G. Tufts, J. McCormack, etc.

Optical equipment. B & L Elite 8x42, Canon AE-1 camera/500mm. mirror lens.

Conditions. Sunny, very cold, moderate wind.

Behaviour. Initially seen flying, it landed in a bush, rested and started to eat berries. It then flew into some taller trees with Blue jays. Later, I saw it feeding on the ground in the manner of an American Robin.

Detailed description. I was driving slowly along the road at 10:45 when I became aware of a dark, robin-shaped bird with prominent white patches on the undersides of the wings flying low, parallel with the car. It landed in a bush and I was able to observe it from about 15 m for about five minutes, and identify it as a Fieldfare. I had to leave, but returned at 12:30, at which time I watched it for five minutes feeding on the ground, and took approximate twenty pictures. The overall appearance was like a rather large robin, but very differently marked. The initial impression, particularly on the flying bird, was of the steel-gray head and rump, and brown wings and back. On the ground, more details became apparent. The head was gray, with a dark eye, a slight pale supercilium, dark marks in front of and below the eye, a dark moustachial stripe extending towards the ear coverts and curving upward, and a pale sub-moustachial stripe.

The top of the head, neck and rump were plain but bright blue-gray. The tail was dark brown/black. The chin, throat and breast were buffy-yellow, with large dark spots all over, extending towards the belly, and giving a dark splotchy appearance to the breast. The belly and under-tail coverts were white.

The bill was narrow and yellow, with a dark tip to the upper mandible. The legs were dark.

Other possible species. none.

Other sources consulted. I have seen the species in Scotland, and immediately knew what it was. The picture and description in the Nat. Geo. Field Guide, and Birds of Europe by L. Jonsson, fit the bill nicely.

Numerous other observers watched and photographed the bird over the next week, while it co-operatively stayed around the same field, feeding mostly on hawthorn berries. There are two possible previous sight records for Nova Scotia from the early 1970's, and about twenty previous occurrences for North America (including 4 in St. John's, Nfld. in 1985-6). Special thanks to the Nelsons and Mrs. Scott of Upper Granville, who kept watch over the bird in their field, put out grapes and raisins, and hosted numerous birders, over the period in question.

There were 20 reports of NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD, similar to the last few winters. All were from the southern portion of the province, and none from north of Dartmouth. Twenty-five were seen on CBCs. There were 3 BROWN THRASHERS, 1 at Newcombe's Woods, Port Williams mid-Nov. (JCT), 1 from Lr. Argyle (JKD) and 1 coming to a feeder in Lockeport late January through Feb. 14 (DJC). Numbers of these two species of "mimic thrushes" seem to be stable over the last few winters, and Mockingbirds in particular seem to be very noticeable where they occur, and so get well reported.

AMERICAN PIPITS were present from late October through January, with one flock of 100+ at Grand Pré, Oct. 30 (JCT), and late birds on Sable Island, Dec. 6-Jan.22 (ZOL), as well as birds at Hartlen's and Pubnico Points.



This fine photo of Nova Scotia's first confirmed Fieldfare was taken by Judy Tufts near Granville Centre, Ann. Co., Feb. 1.

In terms of sheer numbers and visibility, the species of the season would have to be the BOHEMIAN WAXWING. Years in which this formerly rare winter visitor are irruptive in large numbers are clearly becoming more frequent, and this winter was one of the best yet. There are 32 reports, totalling approximately 4,800 birds. 2475 were seen on CBCs. Particularly spectacular sights must have been 1,000+ feeding on cherries at Belavista Drive, Dartmouth, Jan. 19 (JWT), 2-300 at Pictou Dec. 23 (AJV), 500+ at Hillside Ave, Wolfville, Jan. 20 (JCT etc.). No large flocks were reported after late January, although smaller numbers have lingered on. Perhaps all the berries in the province have been eaten! A number of people not normally too interested in birds have said to me this winter, "I had this flock of pink and yellow sleek-looking birds with crests in my bush yesterday--they are so beautiful and so tame. What are they, and where are they from?" I think there is a great deal of interest in this species, and the potential for them to create new birders out of "ordinary" people!

A few CEDAR WAXWINGS have also been noted, mostly with the Bohemians. However, there were several larger groups early in the winter. For instance there were 30+ at Middle W. Pubnico on Nov. 15 (LSD), 30 at Petite Riviere, Nov. 24 (JLC) etc.

Several NORTHERN SHRIKES have been noted, making it a better winter for this species than last year. CGB and KJM saw 10 individual birds in different locations in Pic. Co. during the winter. FLS had 1 at Economy, Feb. 21, and the Murrants at Sand Lake the next day, having already experienced on chasing Redpolls at their feeder in January.

EUROPEAN STARLINGS continue to be rather disparagingly reported. A partially albino individual was seen by HGH on Nov. 26. 41,171 birds were counted on CBCs, of which 25,887 were on the Wolfville count, mostly at one farm near Canning and by the bridge at Port Williams.

R.B.S., ed.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS

A WHITE-EYED VIREO on the Port L'Hebert CBC (details provided to DAC), and a late SOLITARY VIREO at Tusket Falls, Yar. Co., on Nov. 26 (MIH) were the only Vireos reported.

A total of 6 ORANGE CROWNED WARBLERS were seen; all were observed along our Atlantic coastline, before the weather turned bitterly cold in the new year. One in Lockeport, Shel. Co., on Nov. 20 (DJC), 1 on Cape Sable Island on Nov. 27 (IAM et al.), 2 in Broad Cove on Dec. 4 (Cohrs), 1 on Sober Island, Hfx. Co., on Dec. 12 (CGB) and 1 on the Port L'Hebert CBC made up the total, which was about average for recent years. A well-described late NASHVILLE WARBLER (*vide* IAM) was seen in Dartmouth on Dec. 19. The yellow extending to the undertail coverts (whitish around thighs), green back, grey head with eye-ring and lack of wingbars were all noted.

A provincial total of 304 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS on the CBCs likely diminished as the winter's weather deteriorated. Reports were received of small flocks though, into January and February, in Shel., Yar. and Lun. Cos. DOE noted that her sighting of just 4 on Jan. 29 at Round Bay, Shel. Co., was "down from flocks of 20+ of other years". 20+ were on Sable Island in December, with 15+ still there from Jan. 15 to Feb. 11 (ZOL).

A TOWNSEND'S WARBLER west end Halifax, first found by IAM on Dec. 7 and last seen on Dec. 24, was gazed upon by many in the interim, including birders on the Hfx. West CBC. Following is IAM's meticulous description, made within minutes of the first sighting: "Yellow throat, face, breast, with strongly marked eye patch outlined in yellow. No dark throat except for some smudginess, but strongly blackish on sides of upper breast and streaks along flanks. Two conspicuous white wing bars and white outer tail feathers flashed when flitting--not a tail wagger. Back was khaki-green in tone with no obvious dark streaking. Bird feeding mostly in inner parts of a tall spruce. Evidently a first-winter female, later confirmed from extensive black centre in the white wingbars." IAM would also like to point out for the record, that the bird illustrated on page 42 of the April, 1991 issue of *Nova Scotia Birds* labelled as a female Townsend's

Warbler is in fact a first-winter male, judging from its "clean" wingbars.

After two October sightings of a YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER at Green Bay, JSC saw one there on Nov. 28, and another on Dec. 4. All these sightings may have possibly been of the same bird. The white-lored male Yellow-throated at the home of JWT in Dartmouth (see January issue) was seen by many as late as Dec. 2, at which time it was tailless. Please remember to provide lots of details for those rare and/or "tricky" birds.

PINE WARBLERS have become rather commonplace in early winter. Eight widely-distributed individuals were accounted for this time: 1 at a Wolfville feeder on Nov. 20 (JWW), 1 at Sand Lake, C.B., on Nov. 28 (ALM,CAM), 1 at a Port Williams, Kings Co., suet feeder from Dec. 15 to 18 (MIT), 1 in Bedford on Dec. 17 (BJA), 2 at a suet feeder in New Glasgow on Dec. 18 (KJM,DVM), 1 at a Dartmouth feeder on Jan. 15 (RBS) and a male which was regular at a feeder in the western outskirts of Halifax from mid-December until Jan. 23 (KNK). A total of 8 Pine Warbler individuals were counted on the Canso, Springville and Wolfville CBCs (likely overlapped several of the above reports). A record late PRAIRIE WARBLER in the Dartmouth-Cole Harbour area on Dec. 19 and 22 was originally found by CJF, with a description provided by IAM. Bright yellow underparts all the way to the tail, the dark streaking on the sides, lack of a strong head pattern, two distinct wingbars and (on Dec. 22) tail-twitching were noted. Yet another Dendroica, the PALM WARBLER, was in evidence, with a total of 6 on the Cape Sable, Hfx. East and Hfx. West CBCs; and 1 found on Sober Island on Dec. 12 (CGB).

A BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER was found at Waterside Park, Pic. Co., on Nov. 22 (KJM), the latest in recent years.

A provincial total of 11 COMMON YELLOWTHROATS was listed on the CBCs, with the Springville count netting 7 of these (KJM,CGB,HJB). A male was present on Sable Island from Dec. 4 to 14 (ZOL).

Single YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS were observed in November and December at Green Bay, Wolfville and Dartmouth. Three remained for the CBCs (1 each on Cape Sable, Hfx. West and Wolfville), but none persisted into January.

KNK, ed.

CARDINAL TO TOWHEE

There were 19 individual NORTHERN CARDINALS recorded, not counting the birds spotted on CBCs. During fall there were indications that there were more cardinals than usual seen and as the weather worsened and feeders became a necessity for survival these birds became even more apparent. Of the nineteen sightings 12 were identified as females, 6 were males and 1 was not identified as to sex. Although birds were found throughout the province, Yar Co. and the Annapolis Valley areas seemed to have more "dense" populations. Lisette d'Entremont of Lr. W. Pubnico had 3 females at her feeder at one time and 1 male and 1 female another time. Ken and Cathy Gregoire had 2 females at their feeders throughout the winter in Mahone Bay. Other reports came from New Glasgow, Whynauht's Cove, Kentville, New Minas, Port Williams, Gaspereau, West Dublin, Wolfville, Yarmouth and Overton. Suffice it to say that if one is inclined to list birds seen in Nova Scotia and Northern Cardinal was missing from the list, the fall of 1993 and winter of 1994 could have helped.

SAVANNAH SPARROWS were almost non-existent with only three records. There was a single bird at Economy on Nov. 30 (FLS), 4 at Rainbow Haven on Dec. 4 (they did not make it into February) (IAM) and only 40 of the "IPSWICH" race were found on Sable Island where it is not uncommon to have up to a few hundred wintering there annually. With all the hundreds of observers during CBCs in December, only 45 of these sparrows were found.

Usually there are several accounts of SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS but this season only 1 was discovered and that during the Hfx East CBC on Dec. 26 at Hartlen's Point. A rare SEASIDE SPARROW was found at Economy on Nov. 13. This bird struggled with the elements until it no doubt perished after a violent winter storm Dec. 27-28 (FLS).

FOX SPARROWS were very rarely found with only five records. During December there was 1 at W. Pubnico from 1-28 (LSD); 1 was at Tusket Falls from Dec. 1-7 (MIH), 1 was discovered on the Strait of Canso CBC on Dec. 29. January records included 2 at Ohio on Jan. 3 and 17th (DOE) and 1 found frequenting feeders in Lockeport from Jan 1-Feb. 11 (DJC). SONG SPARROWS were seriously lacking in numbers this winter. It was uncommon to find one of these birds this year and sightings with only two exceptions, were of single birds totally dependent on feeding stations. Those exceptions were 2 at Feltzen South (WGC) and up to 10 at W. Pubnico (LSD) throughout December, January and February. SWAMP SPARROWS were found only on seven of the thirty CBCs and were very much noted in their absence. One record was 1 at Little Hbr., Shel. Co., Dec. 17 (DHY).

As it seems with most of the sparrows, WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were in lower than usual numbers. Although sightings were well distributed over the province, the number of individual birds were few with only 1 or 2 at feeders. Notable were 6 at Wolfville from November to February (GMT,JCT); up to 6 at Lockeport throughout the winter and 1-10 at W. Pubnico until at least Feb. 18 (LSD). After a strong showing of WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS during the fall, it was to be expected that there would be records for winter. Two sightings were noted beginning with 1 imm. found during the Antigonish CBC on Dec. 19. The second was 1 found associating with Tree and House Sparrows at Grand Pré from at least Jan. 1 through to Feb. 15. This bird was an imm. bird but had a very strongly coloured yellow bill. This characteristic almost certainly identifies it as a bird of the **gambelli** race which would make its birthplace last summer anywhere from Hudson's Bay west to Alaska.

One of the few exceptions of to "near normal" numbers for a species this winter was for DARK-EYED JUNCOS. These birds were fairly abundant until the new year, then there was noted a shift downward. Examples were 70 at Port Williams on Dec. 18 with a total of 616 seen on the Wolfville CBC but after Jan. 6-7 were seen at Ridge Road on Jan. 15 and up to 20 were there but only during intense storms. However, Donna Ensor in Ohio, Shel. Co., reports that in her area they were more abundant than usual, with up to 60 at her feeder at one time throughout the winter. Interestingly, 1 junco managed to make it to Sable Island and stayed there from Dec. 4-12 (ZOL).

It is obvious that LAPLAND LONGSPURS were encountered far more often than most years. There were 14 reports submitted mostly of single birds seen associating with either Horned Larks or Snow Buntings. Exceptional was a flock of 100 seen at Daniel's Head, Cape Sable Island on Nov. 1 (JCZ). Other sightings were 25 at Gaspereau on Jan. 7, 6 at Conrad's Beach on Feb. 6 (DHH) and 11 at Hartlen's Point on Feb. 12 (FLL,NSBS). SNOW BUNTINGS were very well reported throughout the winter. Numbers built up throughout the last part of November and into December but the truly large flocks were seen during January. Examples were over 400 on Dr. Guy Faulkner's property in Bass River on Jan. 25 (WPH). There were flocks of up to 200 roaming the open country in Kings Co. during several visits there in January (WGC,CMR) and up to 100 in Lockeport and Little Hbr., Shel. Co. during January and February (DJC,DHY).

ICTERIDS

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS were seen much more often than most winters. There were 25 in Ohio, Shel. Co. on Feb. 4 (DOE), 7 at Lockeport on Jan. 19-22 (DJC) up to 40 at Apple River during November (KFS) and single birds, mostly immatures at Timberlea, Waverley, and W. Pubnico. Although not a single EASTERN MEADOWLARK was spotted during the CBCs, 1 found its way to a feeder in Lr. W. Pubnico and stayed for two to three weeks from Jan. 10-30.

RUSTY BLACKBIRDS normally do not make it through our winters. However, a few immature or sick or injured birds tempted fate and depended on handouts. Two were at Gerald Thompson's feeder in Avondale, Pic. Co., from Dec. 8-Jan. 31, (CGB,KJM); 1 was seen at Argyle on Jan. 2 (JRD); and the last 1 seen in Bass River was on Nov. 20 (WPH). Cumb. Co. seemed to be the place for over-wintering COMMON GRACKLES. There were 40 at Apple River during November which, after cold and stormy weather gradually dropped until there were only 3 there in February. Other reports were of 1 at Bass River until it was last seen on Jan. 7 (WPH). There were a total of 56 tallied on twelve CBCs from Dec. 17-Jan.3. In recent years BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS have had difficulty surviving the winters (not a bad thing), but it appears that they have done fairly well this winter. There was a flock of 35 at Waverley on Jan. 28 (BJA), a flock of 16-20 in Timberlea throughout the winter (DAC) and numerous sightings of 1-6 birds throughout the period.

The very delicate NORTHERN ORIOLE is not designed to withstand the cold temperatures and stormy weather of January in Nova Scotia. There may be only 1 survivor of the many November and December sightings and that was 1 Fran Spalding had coming to his back porch up to at least our deadline of Feb. 26. This bird had been coming to feed on grapes since early October and had become not only dependent but quite tame and approachable. Other late records were 1 at Dartmouth on Jan. 15 (JWT) and 1 at Avonport on Jan. 6 (vide JCT). Sadly of the 7 at Lr. Argyle on Dec. 10, all perished after very cold temperatures.

FINCHES TO HOUSE SPARROWS

The largest flock of PINE GROSBEAKS was 14 found at Apple River on Feb. 1 (BAS). All of the other 8 sightings were of groups of up to four. The CBCs collectively accounted for 117 birds throughout the province. PURPLE FINCHES had pretty much disappeared by the end of November, leaving just single birds or very small groups lingering at a few feeding stations. The larger flocks were 12 at Lockeport throughout December and January (DJC) and 6 at Dartmouth on Dec. 9 (JWT). During January and February all other sightings were of single birds. There were 5 HOUSE FINCHES tallied during the CBCs, 2 males seen at Overton, Yar. Co. on Dec. 19, 2 were counted at Wolfville on Dec. 18 and 1 turned up on the West Hants CBC on Jan. 2.

The CBCs indicated that RED CROSSBILLS were more common than WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS with thirty Reds seen compared to 6 White-winged. The sure thing is that they were both very rarely found. Besides the CBC information, only 2 sightings of Reds and 3 of White-wings were received. The latest reports of Red Crossbills was of 6 at Apple River on Feb. 21. The last record for White-wingeds was of 8 at Coldbrook on Jan. 5 (AAM).

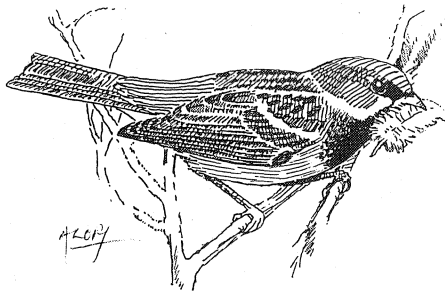
There can be no doubt that the highlight of the season was the return after seven years of COMMON REDPOLLS. They were everywhere! Flocks of 100-200 were not unusual especially during late December and throughout January. By February the flocks started thinning out leaving still good numbers visiting feeders and wandering, swarming about the countryside. Notable were 200 at Grand Pré on Dec. 14, 200 at Sable Island in mid-January and 200 at Port Morien between Jan. 1 to Feb. 25. An interesting report came from Eric Mills who heard 2-3 flying in a SW direction at 9:00 p.m. in Halifax. It is very unusual to hear birds moving like this during winter. With these tremendous flocks of Common Redpolls it would not be impossible to have the occasional sighting of HOARY REDPOLLS. Two such records with details have been submitted. The first was one at Port Clyde on Jan. 16 (JCZ) and the second was 1 at Little Hbr., Shel. Co. on Jan. 20-22. Both sightings describe the smaller bill, clear white rump and only a trace of streaking on the flanks.

PINE SISKINS were far less common than the Redpolls, especially as the winter progressed. In late November siskins were in their largest numbers with 50-100 seen in several locations. As December finished and January pushed on, the numbers became far less. Common were small groups of 2-20 coming to feeders in all parts of the province. AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES, although not in the great swarming flocks like the redpolls were overall the most common finch this year. There were over 4,000 counted on the CBCs (1000 more than redpolls). These birds were at almost every feeder in small flocks of 10-30. The best month was December with numbers dwindling in January and February.

EVENING GROSBEAKS were unpredictable as usual, coming and going and never following any sort of pattern. These birds were well reported with flocks of up to 100 stopping briefly at feeders, then not being seen again for weeks. There seemed to be fairly constant numbers in the province throughout the winter, regularly heard overhead or seen dropping into a feeding area. As February began these birds seemed to become more evident which may be as a result of a northerly movement into Nova Scotia.

HOUSE SPARROWS have not made any shifts up or downward in numbers. This is one of the few reporting periods that no one has written to say these birds have diminished. Almost 4500 were counted during the CBCs which is a bit better than normal.

DAC, ed.



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APRIL 1994

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Karen Casselman	KLC
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Shirley Cohrs	JSC
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Mike Hawkeswood	MIH
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Ken McKenna	KJM
Ian McLaren	IAM
Anne Mills *	ANM
Billy Mills	BIM
Christine Mills *	CHM
Eric Mills	ELM
Jane Mills	JRM
Maureen Mills	MSM
Vincent Mills *	VIM
Jean / Bill Morse	JBM
Allan Murrant	ALM
Cathy Murrant	CAM
Judy O'Brien *	JUO
Mark Otter *	MAO
Linda & Peter Payzant	LPP
Arthur Porter	BAP
Christine Ross	CMR
Eric Ruff	EJR
Mabel Sheffield	MAS
P.C.Smith	PCS
Fran Spalding	FLS
Kathleen Spicer	KFS
Richard Stern	RBS
Miriam Tams	MIT
Jean Timpa	JET
Gerry Trueman	GMT
Gordon Tufts	GWT
Judy Tufts	JCT
Lillian Tufts *	LIT
Kevin Tutt	KET
Azor Vienneau	AJV
Jim Wolford	JWN
David Young	DHY



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

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

NEW RECORDS EDITOR

This April 1994 issue marks the retirement of BOB DICKIE as Records Editor. Bob has been organizing the seasonal Bird Reports for many years now, faithfully sorting all the bits of paper, getting them to the Seasonal Editors, making lists of Contributors, sending out report forms and keeping everything running smoothly. He has always been efficient, punctual, patient and a pleasure to work with.

On my own behalf, as well as that of all our members I sincerely thank him for his contribution.

JSC, Ed.

I would like to welcome the new Records Editor **WENDIE TAY** to the staff of **Nova Scotia Birds**. Wendie and her husband Carl are long-time members of our society and on your behalf I thank her for taking on this position.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

for

the **July, 1994** issue

May 31, 1994

Bird Reports to the RECORDS EDITOR

Wendie Tay
5 Berwick Street
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 3B6

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

BIRD LINE

The BIRD SOCIETY now has a Bird Information Line. By calling 1-852-2428 or for ease in remembering 852-CHAT, you will hear news of what birds are around provincewide and any other Society news of note—field trips, meetings, etc.)

Members may also leave messages regarding birds they may have encountered. This does NOT replace the RARE BIRD ALERT which remains the fastest way to hear of rarities. The new line is a useful way to decide where to bird on any particular day while the RBA calls rarities immediately to its participants.



RARE BIRD ALERT

As is usual every second year, the RARE BIRD ALERT is about to be reorganized. We will start again from "scratch" as many participants have left, returned or newly joined since 1992 when last it was done. Any member in the society may be on the R.B.A. but must assume the responsibilities of passing on the message immediately, leaving messages, and CALLING BACK (sometimes several times) when contacts are difficult to make.

If you wish to be on the alert, please send your name, your work and/or home telephone numbers and a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

James Taylor
69 Woodlawn Road
Dartmouth, N.S. B2W 2S2

If you live outside of the Metro area, you may still be included as long as you are willing to take collect telephone calls.

THE DEADLINE IS MAY 31, 1994.

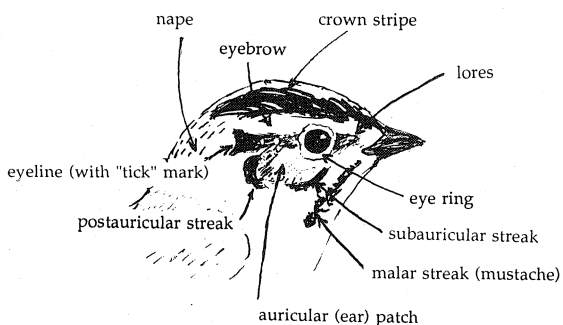


AMMODRAMUS SPARROWS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Only one of the six species of small grassland sparrows of the genus *Ammodramus* is regular in Nova Scotia — our familiar Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*A. caudacutus*). Yet all the others, except the Baird's Sparrow (*A. bairdii*), have been found here. Identifying them can be challenging, as they are obscure and often wary. Furthermore, they have some field marks and some geographical variations that are not adequately dealt with in the familiar field guides. My purpose here is to sharpen our knowledge and curiosity about this interesting group of birds. I also alert life-listers to a possible seventh species in the offing, from a potential "split" of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

I refer to four well-known field guides as: "Master Guide" (Farrand 1983), "National Geographic guide" (National Geographic Society 1987), "Peterson" (Peterson 1980), "Golden Guide" (Robins et al. 1985). A recent article on the genus by Pyle and Sibley (1992) is very useful, although I differ from them on some points.

NECESSARY TERMS FOR IDENTIFYING OBSCURE SPARROWS



We cannot consider the differences among the species without using the terms given on the sketch at left to describe the feathering of the head region. Reports of the more unusual species should refer to some of these features.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *A. caudacutus*, is a familiar species in our salt marshes during summer, but local birders tend to ignore it at other times of year. Three of the four races are quite well depicted in all field guides (not that nesting around James Bay), and good details are given by Peters (1942). Sight identification of races of Sharp-tailed was a traditional skill among pioneer birdwatchers of New England, but this seems to have been abandoned in the enthusiasm for species life-lists.

Our local "Acadian" Sharp-tailed, *A. c. subvittigus*, nests from Maine to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is the grayest race, with little buffy around the face (the buff seems exaggerated in most field guides). The edges of their scapulars, which show as white or whitish streaks in the other races, are at most somewhat paler gray than the rest of the dingy, olive-gray back, especially in winter.

We have also have sight and photographic records of wintering "Nelson's" Sharp-tailed (*A. c. nelsoni*) which nests on the prairies, but migrates to the east coast, generally farther south. These richly coloured birds are orange-buffy around the face, with very contrasting gray nape, and strongly marked white streaks (scapular margins) on a brown back. Their buffy flanks and breast have dark dark streaks that are better defined than those of our local race. There is an excellent photo in the Master Guide, but illustrations in other field guides seem to underemphasize the breast and side streaking compared to birds that I have seen here, perhaps because they depict worn summer adults. Ours may be mostly first-winter birds.

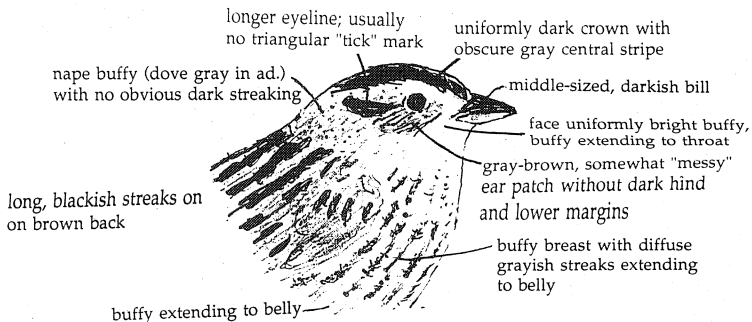


The photograph at left, of a bird on Cape Sable Island in early January 1989, does not reveal the bright buffy face and breast on the colour slide, but does show the strong flank streaking and white scapular margins of this first-winter individual of the prairie race, "Nelson's" Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

In January 1992, an individual near Wolfville was identified as possibly of the race nesting around James Bay (*A. c. alterus*). These birds are intermediate in appearance between the brightly marked prairie birds and our duller local ones. They would most frequently have grayish-white streaks on brown backs, be less brightly buffy and less heavily streaked than the prairie birds. Although winter *alterus* are said to be inseparable from "the more rufescent specimens" of *subviritigus* (Peters, 1942), I have not seen rufescence on backs of our locally nesting birds in late fall.

Finally, the race *A. c. caudacutus*, nesting south from extreme southern Maine, has not been reported here, but might be looked for as "overshooting" spring migrants to our salt marshes, probably before our summer residents arrive in late May or early June. A bird on Cape Sable I. on May 26, 1985, could have been of this or the prairie race; my photograph does not show the diagnostic underparts. Although they don't move very far south along the U.S. coast in winter, they might also occur here as reverse migrants in late fall, like the Seaside Sparrow (see below). The coastal U.S. birds are rather like those from the prairies, but not so brightly buffy below and with less contrastingly white back stripes. Most importantly, they have blackish streakings, narrower and better defined than those of the other races, extending across the upper breast. All the field guides illustrate them rather well, with the Master Guide photograph as a most reliable likeness.

Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sparrow are distinctly different from adults. Features to be looked for are shown in the sketch below, and on the photos on the next page.



SHARP-TAILED SPARROW
(juv. of local race)



The above photos of a juvenile Sharp-tailed Sparrow of the local race at Hartlen Pt., September 20, 1992, show the strong, blackish back streaks, diffuse grayish streaks on (buffy) breast, unmarked (buffy) nape, and rather "tick"-like eyeline that might lead to confusion with Le Conte's Sparrow.

Seaside Sparrow, *A. maritimus*, which, as its names suggests, is a bird of salt marshes, is an occasional vagrant here. It is especially likely to be discovered during very high tides in autumn, or later as the marshes freeze, forcing it to the margins. When flushed it gives an impression of having the size, long pointed tail, and overall dark tone of a Swamp Sparrow, but with the short wings and "buzzy" flight of a Sharp-tailed. According to Fulton Lavender, this species tends to pump its longer tail throughout flight, like a Song Sparrow, but unlike the Sharp-tailed, which usually only pumps just before landing. Closely studied, it is very unlike all other sparrows, with its long bill and legs, generally dark gray plumage, and yellowish lores (see photo). Juveniles, which are buffier and more strongly streaked below, are said to moult into first adult-like plumage on the breeding grounds, but one in partial juvenile plumage was found in late August 1985 at Hartlen Point.



Our only specimen (Godfrey 1985) and most sightings and photos are of the northern race *maritimus*, breeding from coastal Massachusetts to Virginia. The bird shown at left, photographed at Conrad Beach on Jan. 13, 1974, is clearly of this race, which is very gray, and shows little or no blackish streaking above or below

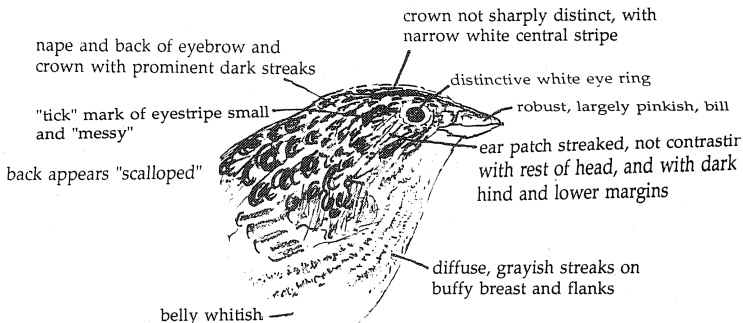
The race *macgillivraii* is not illustrated among the several shown in field guides, but detailed descriptions (e.g. Griscom, 1944) emphasize its blackish streaking above and below. The situation is complicated, as Tomkins (1937) concluded, and Griscom (1944) concurred, that dark, light, and intermediate-plumaged birds breed together in southeastern U.S.A., and have been the basis for questionable descriptions of other races. In one sense, the northernmost race *maritimus* "is really a northward extension of the light phase of *macgillivraii*" (Griscom 1944). Dark birds ("typical" *macgillivraii*) are much in majority in populations breeding between Virginia and Georgia, while light ones prevail again in South Carolina and Georgia. For our purposes, it is important that among northern *maritimus* "the black phase is absent . . . and the light phase is common . . ." (Griscom 1944). The dark *macgillivraii* are known to migrate, at least partially (Tomkins 1937). Thus, any bird with strongly blackish streaking above and below (including the malar streak) found here in fall or winter could be a reverse migrant from the southeastern U.S.A. This would parallel the winter occurrence in the Maritimes of specimens of the partially sedentary Marsh Wrens that breed in the same salt marshes in southeastern U.S. (see Godfrey 1985).



Specimens or good photos are needed to confirm occurrences of the race *macgillivraii*. In the meanwhile, the photo at left, taken on Jan. 2, 1980 at Rainbow Haven, is at least suggestive of this more southern race. Unfortunately, the light was very dim, and the photo is not too revealing.

Grasshopper Sparrow, *A. savannarum*, is the most regular vagrant of the genus in our province. Any small buzzy-flighted sparrow that is flushed in spring or fall away from salt marshes is likely to be this species. Fulton Lavender suggests that their lack of tail pumping during their bee-line flights into safer cover is also distinctive. Adults are plain-breasted, but there are differences in the literature about the extent to which juvenile ventral streaking is retained in first winter plumage.

Birds that most commonly occur here have the characteristics shown on the sketch below.



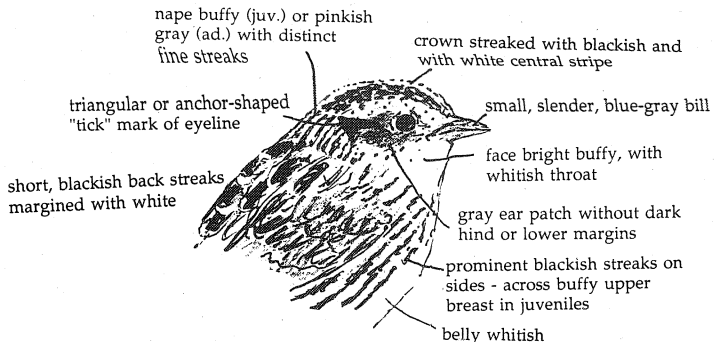
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

The best field marks of the Grasshopper Sparrow are their prominent eye ring on a rather bland face, and their particularly flat-crowned head with a white central stripe. Breast and flank streaking, although certainly not as marked as on the juvenile illustrated in Peterson, commonly occurs. Most field guides underemphasize their buffiness — they would not be found here in the less buffy juvenile plumages illustrated in Peterson, the Golden Guide, and the Master Guide, and the buffiness may be most pronounced in the eastern race *pratensis*, as in the National Geographic guide's illustration.

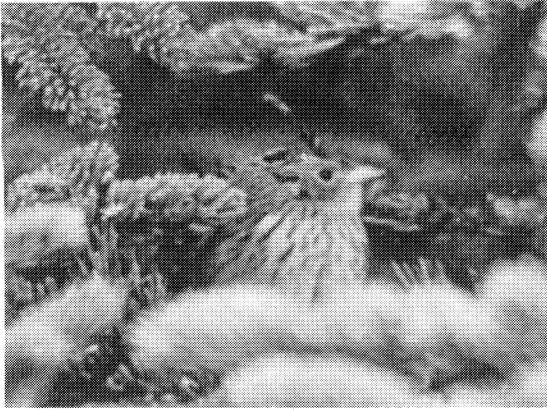


The above Grasshopper Sparrow photographed on Wedge I., Hfx. Co., on Dec. 22, 1979, shows the white crown streak, "bland" face with eye ring, scaly back and, in this individual, quite prominent breast streaking retained from the juvenile plumage.

Le Conte's Sparrow, *A. leconteii*, was photographed on Seal Island in October 1974 (see Tufts 1986) and has been reported at least four times since. They are probably quite regular as autumn vagrants, but seeing them is another matter. Adults are striking little birds, rather delicately built, with smaller bills than those of the other *Ammodramus* species, and with gray auricular patches and pale gray, chestnut-streaked napes giving a pinkish gray impression that contrasts with their generally richly buffy faces. Other features are evident on the sketch below.



Le CONTE'S SPARROW



The Le Conte's Sparrow at left, on Seal I. on Oct. 9, 1993, was only the second to be confirmed photographically in Nova Scotia. It was in first-winter plumage, with blackish streaks extending across the buffy breast, but with a gray, post-juvenile nape, finely streaked with chestnut.

It is known that this species may migrate in juvenile plumage, which is similar to that of adults, but with a buffy nape. They also resemble juvenile Sharp-tails, so common hereabouts in autumn, and these may have supplied one or two of our supposed records of Le Conte's Sparrow. Although prairie Sharp-tailed in juvenile plumage (as opposed to first-winter) should not occur here, their sharper breast and flank streaking might make them even more likely to be confused with Le Conte's. However, the buffy napes of juvenile Sharp-tailed are unstreaked, and they have less pronounced pale crown streaks; local ones have more extensive, diffuse ventral streaking than would be found on Le Conte's in any plumage (compare above photos). Le Conte's Sparrows, although much smaller, also look somewhat like autumn Bobolinks -- which have given me a brief rush of adrenalin during one or two autumn rambles in the dunes.

Henslow's Sparrow, *A. henslowii*, has been documented twice on Seal Island (see Tufts, 1986) and has occurred perhaps once or twice elsewhere (not documented). They could be more regular than we suppose as autumn vagrants in coastal dunes or in weedy, brushy fields. These small, flat-headed, large-billed *Ammodramus* are readily distinguished by their dark olive-gray faces and napes, with little difference in tone throughout the head. The adult or first-winter birds that should be seen here have both subauricular and malar streaks, the latter otherwise found only on the very different Baird's and Seaside Sparrows.

Baird's Sparrow, *A. bairdii*, has never been reported in Atlantic Canada, although there is at least one record for the U.S. east coast. This prairie bird, which might occur here a vagrant in late fall, is readily distinguished from the other *Ammodramus*. In fact, it is more like a Savannah Sparrow, but with ochre face, nape and, especially, crown stripe, with dark ventral streaking forming a distinctive "necklace", and with scaly back markings. It may migrate in juvenile plumage. These juveniles would differ from those of other *Ammodramus* in having pronounced a malar streak, although this mark is also acquired by post-juvenile Henslow's and Seaside Sparrows, which are otherwise very different from Baird's. Field guides are quite helpful on this one.

A Seventh Species? In a recent paper, Greenlaw (1993) argues that the race nesting on the U.S. east coast is in fact a different biological species from the other Sharp-taileds. The most interesting difference is in the song type of these birds. The familiar "primary"

* Jim Wolford, with the eyes and ears and expertise of

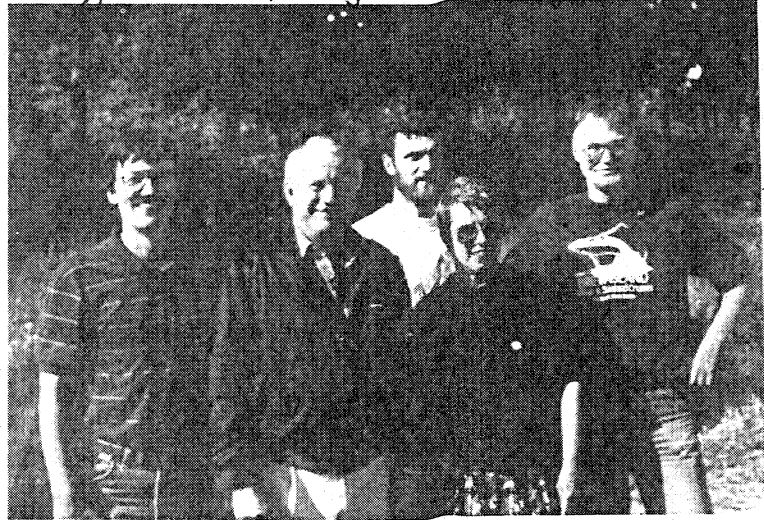
Dear Friend:

Clarence Stevens, is hoping for your support of this very worthwhile undertaking. Please pledge or send your money,

What bird do you consider the harbinger of spring? Is it that first Killdeer flying north over frozen fields? Or perhaps the tinkling refrain of the Horned Lark? Or the familiar "cheer-up, cheer-up" of a Robin? Whatever your choice, that first bird is an integral part of your yearly cycle, a moment awaited and cherished.

What if spring arrived one year and you missed that first signal? Not because you didn't get out to look for it but because the birds never arrived! All across our country, committed people just like you are working to make sure that day never comes. Their hard work is being assisted by the Baillie Birdathon.

Each May hundreds of Canadians participate in the Baillie Birdathon, spending a day in the field counting as many species as they can. Not only do they have fun doing it, but they are sponsored for every species they observe. The money they raise goes directly to conserving Canada's birds through dozens of amateur and volunteer projects nationwide.



CNF Team members: Lance Laviolette, Doug Cook, Jamie Bastedo, Mary Gilliland and Jim Wolford.

Canadian Nature Federation

This May, as spring sweeps north across Canada and a flood of migrants returns to the land, a dedicated team of CNF Board members will be birding from Yellowknife to Nova Scotia, participating in CNF's Baillie Birdathon. The money they raise, with your assistance as a sponsor, will be used by CNF, the Long Point Bird Observatory and the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund to continue the work that's needed to save Canada's birds.

Our CNF team includes CNF Board members Jamie Bastedo of the Northwest Territories, Doug Cook of Ontario, Mary Gilliland of Saskatchewan, Lance Laviolette of Québec and Jim Wolford of Nova Scotia. Each will spend a day in May on their home ground attempting to locate as many birds as possible. You can help by sponsoring the CNF team's

and feel free to recruit support. For further info

aggregate species total of the team member of your choice. With a little help from everyone, we can do our part to conserve Canada's birds.

Lance Lavolette

Mary Cook

Bastardo

Mary Gilliland

Jim Wolford



Yes, I'll sponsor:

- Jamie Bastardo Northwest Territories
- Doug Cook Ontario
- Mary Gilliland Saskatchewan
- Lance Lavolette Québec
- Jim Wolford Nova Scotia
- CNF Team Aggregate Species Total

\$0.25/species
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 \$0.50/species
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Flat donations can be sent in right away.
 Receipts will be automatically sent for all donations of \$10 or more and for any lesser amount, upon request.

- I will pay with my Visa: # _____ Mastercard # _____ Expiry Date: _____
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- Please send receipt.
- I want to participate in the Birdathon myself. Please send me a kit.

Please return to: CNF TEAM, Baillie Birdathon
 Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, Canada, N0E 1M0
 (519) 586-3531

592-2201
 or
 (work)

nation or pledge forms, phone Jim Wolford at 592-1650

song of the other races -- the oft-repeated "pshhhh-tik" so often heard around our salt marshes in summer, is entirely suppressed in the U.S. east coast birds. Instead, they give a "complex whisper song" of the sort produced by many juvenile sparrows in fall. They also seem not to have the flight song given by the other races. Greenlaw also mentions forthcoming evidence that the U.S. east coast birds are genetically distinct from the other three races as a group. Birds in a single locality in extreme southern Maine seem to be on average intermediate between more southern ones and our "Acadian" race. However, Greenlaw gives some evidence, which needs following up, that the two kinds CO-OCCUR in that locality without interbreeding.

The characteristics of the U.S. east coast race of Sharp-tailed Sparrow are described above, and can be found in most field guides. For local birders seeking novelties, Greenlaw's work means that they should keep their eyes open for and promptly report any bird that seems to have characteristics of this race; they may be some day be able to add a species to their Nova Scotia list!

In conclusion, these somewhat "difficult" sparrows offer much challenge and pleasure to serious birders. All of us can add to understanding of their occurrences and origins in Nova Scotia. I thank Roger Foxall, Fulton Lavender, and Eric Mills for comments on the manuscript.

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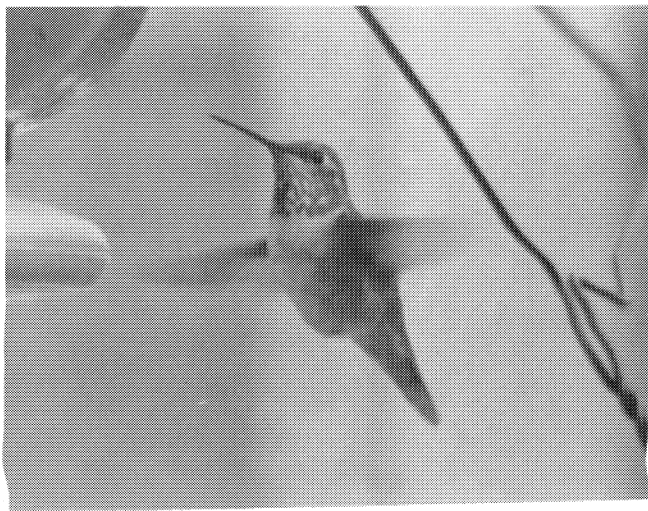
Ian A. McLaren



FOR THE RECORD



Andrew Macfarlane obtained this fine picture of an imm. Prairie Warbler on Nov. 28, 1993. Note the diffuse flank streaks and prominent "split" eyering on the otherwise dark face.



The only indication in black-and-white of this bird's identity as a young male Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird is its heavily marked throat. The rufous flanks and few coppery feathers below the chin are only evident on the original slide. Photographed at New Glasgow, Nov. 2, 1993, by Ian McLaren



Andrew Macfarland photographed this juvenile Purple Gallinule on Sable Island on Sept. 22, 1993. It should always be kept in mind that an individual of the somewhat smaller Azure Gallinule of South America turned up in New York State in Feb. 1987. Anything is possible. Adults of this species are distinctive, but juveniles may be trickier. One source says they have darker back streaks and darker rumps.



Francis Spalding photographed this classically long-billed (fe) Western Sandpiper on Brier Island on Sept. 15, 1993. Note also the dark feathers along the back: these are actually deep rusty on the original slide.

GUESS WHAT THESE OBJECTS HAVE IN COMMON

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| a lobster buoy | a leaf |
| a tuft of grass | a lump of ice |
| a white plastic bag | a seal's head |
| a piece of rag | a small rock |
| floating seaweed | the tip of a spruce tree |



ANSWER:

- a. at middle distance, a bird
 b. at far distance, an unusual bird
 c. at telescope limit, a fantastic rarity!

All objects can, under certain conditions resemble:

PROJECT TANAGER NEEDS YOUR HELP. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is looking for birders nationwide to assess the breeding status of four tanager species in forests of different sizes. Tanagers are neotropical migratory birds whose populations may be declining due to fragmentation of their forested habitats. Project Tanager draws upon the expertise of local birders to locate tanagers, monitor their reproductive behavior, and search for nests. This effort is part of the Lab's volunteer-based National Science Experiments, sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

In 1993, a successful pilot study was conducted in which more than 70 teams of volunteers studied tanagers at nearly 1,000 sites in thirty-two states and two Canadian provinces. Their data suggest that Scarlet Tanagers in the east may disappear from small woodlots (under three acres), whereas Summer and Western Tanagers may be less sensitive to small habitat areas. The validity of these findings will now be tested with the full-scale launching of Project Tanager, beginning in spring 1994. By incorporating the comments and suggestions of our pilot tanager-watchers, we have revised and streamlined Project Tanager's methodology. For example, study sites will be selected largely by professional land managers and biologists, while birders will concentrate their efforts on finding and observing the birds. All participants will receive a kit with full instructions, data forms, and cassette tapes for learning tanager vocalizations.

So, lend us your ears! (and eyes). Join the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's National Science Experiment to collect information that will help us protect neotropical migratory birds. There is no charge to participate in Project Tanager, and organized efforts by bird clubs are most welcome. For more information or to sign up, write:

Mindy Westgate/project tanager
 Cornell Lab of Ornithology
 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd.,
 Ithaca, NY 14850
 (607)254-2446

THE TERNS OF PETER ISLAND

At 8:00 a.m. on April 25, 1993, Dave Currie and I arrived on Brier Island with Peter MacLeod, our warden and a fourteen foot aluminum boat with a 9.5 Hp motor provided by Sealand Industries, Chester Basin. By late morning we had the warden's shelter erected and supplies secured on Peter Island. Virginia Tudor had arranged for Peter to stay in a rented cottage near the Brier Island Lodge until the terns arrived and weather had warmed to the point where life in the warden hut was tolerable.

The cool spring weather delayed the terns' arrival at Peter Island with only an occasional sighting. On May 14, before abandoning the project, an aerial search was mounted to locate the terns in the Gulf of Maine. A Cessna Cutlass RG11 was flown to Brier and then set up to fly two mile Loran C Arcs west of Brier Island. After twenty-five minutes of flying on a bearing of 280° mag from Brier we found a flock of 25-30 terns feeding in a calm patch littered with flotsom.

The birds returned slowly to Peter Island and every day a few more would settle down until 35-40 pairs were nesting by the end of May. Early removal of gull nests plus a human presence on the island resulted in gulls moving back to Brier to nest, thus freeing the terns from constant predation.

The colony was split 80% Common, 20% Artic and two pairs of Roseate. Everything went well in the colony and an aerial survey on June 18 confirmed birds feeding off the west tip of Brier Island where abundant food was available. An estimated 40+ chicks hatched.

Disaster struck June 23, with severe storm force winds from the northwest, reaching peak gusts of 100+ km/h and heavy rain. Almost all of the chicks died that night, probably from hypothermia. Fortunately our tenacious warden survived but the boat and motor were not so lucky and lay wrecked on the beach. Peter improvised--he jury-rigged the boat and learned to row the treacherous current between Peter and Brier Island. The terns returned to try again with even more recruits to the colony; an aerial survey on June 25 confirmed the increase. Early evening of July 2 we made a flight to Brier to air drop supplies to Peter, one of which was antibiotics to contain a persistent sinus infection until he could get medical treatment on Long Island,--also a hot-off-the-press **Nova Scotia Birds**.



Warden's hut and light on Peter Island
Photo Ken Gregoire



Tern chick nearly ready to fly
Photo Ken Gregoire

On July 25 we rowed to Peter Island and were amazed at the size of the tern colony which had grown to 350-400 birds. Gulls were absent from the island and when a marauding Northern Harrier flew to the island from Brier, 60-70 terns mobbed the hawk and drove it back to Brier. The colony on the southern cliff of Peter had fresh eggs, newly hatched chicks, and chicks 1-2 weeks from fledging, and birds bringing food offerings—thus all stages of breeding and colonial behaviour were represented. There seems to be no answer as to where these birds came from, but it was the most rewarding sight of the summer to see and hear a raucous tern colony on Peter Island.

On August 1, we went to Brier to get Peter who, after a long, hard summer of minimal living conditions and isolation, had succeeded in removing the gull predation, thus facilitating the return of a successful breeding colony to Peter Island. In 1991, we had no terns fledge and in 1992 the terns abandoned the island. In 1993 40-60 terns returned to fledge 5-10 chicks each. One would hope that when we return to the island in the summer of 1994, the 350-400 terns we left in August will return to nest and the colony will be firmly re-established.

I would like to acknowledge the help of the following people: Peter MacLeod, our warden who stayed with the project through thick and thin; Jerry Stevens, of Sealand Industries, Marriotts Cove for the use of his truck and trailer and also providing us with an aluminum boat and motor free of charge; Virginia Tudor of Brier Island Lodge for her logistical help and the many fine people of Brier Island who helped Peter; Tony Locke, CWS, for his technical help, permits and pyrotechnical pistols; the crew of the Coast Guard Station on Brier Island for their patience and help in the summer of 1993; The Department of Natural Resources in Digby; and finally, Dave Currie, who contributed a great personal effort and was a pleasure to work with throughout this project.

Ken Gregoire
Chairman,
Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund.

Editorial Note:

Keeping such projects going costs money. Donations to the S&STF have been waning of late. Anyone wishing to help may make donations by cheques payable to the Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund. Please mail them to the Fund treasurer, Dave Currie, 52 Dorothy Crescent, Timberlea, N.S. B3T 1E2.

STALKING THE WILD BIRD

The following "new look" (or perhaps for some not so new) came into the computer Birdchat line in May 1993

Birders stand to learn a lot from hunters. Whether the final shot is with a gun, camera or binoculars, the means to get that shot is essentially the same. However, most birders today have never learned close approach skills. The following points were presented in a discussion on BIRDCHAT, the computer chat line of the National Birding Hotline Cooperative.

1. Remain silent, stand or sit as still as possible, and wear subtle-coloured clothes.
2. Don't ever rush toward a bird, never run, always go slowly. Don't ever go toward a bird on a straight line between you and the bird. Instead, go in the direction of the bird at an angle of at least 30 degrees to either side of the bird. You may even be able to run or walk quickly as long as you move in this fashion. Occasionally deviate from this course to make it appear that you are walking away from the bird--this will put the bird at ease. However, you do not have to continuously advance. Sit down periodically if necessary to keep the bird calm.

3. Let the bird keep a rough idea of your position. If a bird sees you, and you become quiet and obscured from its view for a while, then the bird will often get nervous.

Birds like to know where potential threats are and if one loses track of you, it will often get edgy and move higher up a tree, across a ditch, etc. This tip applies more to migrants and vagrants, that is, birds that have no particular reason to stay in a given area.

4. Look casual. Stop to admire an orchid, browse on blackberries, inspect an Orb Weaver, or some other harmless activity. Birds are used to people just going about people business, so you do the same. Don't try to imitate a cat on a stalk.

5. Do not look directly at the bird. Put the bird in your peripheral vision. Wear a hat with a bill on it and peek out from under the bill in a "Princess Di" fashion. Even if moving on a parallel tack to a bird, staring at the bird is a no-no; it may think you're trying to move into position to pounce.

In order to keep track of the bird's location focus on some unique object near the bird, for example, a big rock directly under where the bird is perched is perfect. Keep that object in your peripheral vision--the bird will not think you are after it. You may have to check from time to time to make sure that the bird is still where you found it. To do this do not look directly at the bird. Instead look in the general direction either to the left or right of the bird, then pan across the bird's location without stopping.

Get a fix on the bird's location--since you've moved, your landmark may appear different or may no longer be visible so while you pan get another landmark to focus on. Most birds will let you look at them briefly, however, they will not permit you to focus a stare at them.

Birds read eyes, when they are looking at you they are looking at your eyes first.

6. In order to be successful at getting close you need to study the species to know how close it will allow approaches. Do not try to get any closer than the species will normally allow. Pushing the species "space" limit will flush the bird.

Even within a species there is much individual variation in behavior. Thus, try to read the individual before moving. Does it look nervous? Is it looking at you already? Are crest feathers erected (or, as in Hooded Mergansers are they flattened)? Is the bird giving alarm calls or scolding calls? Is it engaged in some activity that makes it likely it will stay for a while (incubating, preening, sunning, sleeping, etc.)?

7. Once a bird is "on to you", it will probably not allow a closer approach. If it appears likely to remain in the area, this may be a good time to have lunch. Sit down, put your back to the bird and be fairly quiet and still for at least twenty minutes--talk quietly to your birding partner, write field notes, eat a snack, do not make loud noises and do not wave your arms around, and do not look at the bird. Let it get used to you being in the area, prove that you are not a threat. Sure, you will lose track of it, but if you are any good you will pick it up again--and this time it should be far less nervous.

8. It is always preferable to get the bird to come to you first. Sometimes this is possible by doing nothing at all with naturally curious species or with very recalcitrant species. In these cases just sit down and be still, the bird will work its way through the vegetation to you, you don't even need to spish. This method works especially for Mourning and MacGillivray's Warblers. If you are patient and can keep from looking around, the bird will move into position in front of you so it can see you face, but before it works up to doing this you may have to suffer 15-20 minutes of hearing it flit around behind you within a few feet or even a few inches. Here you have to learn not to get too excited, keep you head still, looking forward and a little down (so the bird can't see your face from too high a perch). You have to have faith that the bird will really come around to the front of you-- when it does, try not to blink and control your breathing.

If you are really excited at seeing a rare bird inches from you, you may be so excited that your heart rate and breathing may be very fast, and heavy breathing will scare the bird, so you need to consciously control this.

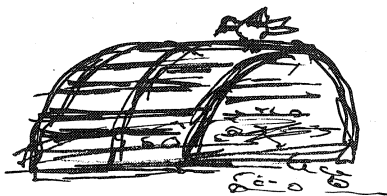
9. An alternative to stalking is the stand. Sit quietly and let whatever birds come to you. Perhaps pick out a water trickle along a dry creek bed. By sitting quietly you may get close views of several species you would otherwise miss.

Nothing will work all the time, if you try some of these things and they don't work then you will begin to loose faith in them. Keep practicing with them until you learn how to make them work for you.

All of the above requires patience, skill, knowledge of birds, and time. If you do not have time then these skills are not for you. Some birders are continuously rushing from one species identification to the next. While they may have many ticks on their life list, they have very few intimate observations and experiences with birds.

--Compiled from items by Byron Butler, Nathan Dias, Dick Payne, Annika Forsten, Larry Gorbet, Joe Morlan, Gary Schiltz, Pat Whittle, Jane Becker-Haven, Nina Mollett, and Gail Mackiernan.

FEEDER PAGE



Typical Bluenose feeding station

THE MYSTERY BIRD

On page 48 of the January issue. No one guessed correctly! Many thought Tree Sparrow and a few voted for White-throated Sparrow. However, the prominent eye ring (a sure give-away) combined with absence of any chest spot point to a FIELD SPARROW.



BACKYARD BIRDING

We live in the centre of the city of Halifax and our household activities include backyard feeder watching. The timetable simply does not allow for field trips, although we have looked longingly at the field trip list for years. The backyard activity however, fills the bill.

All summer long the two hummingbird feeders with their red casings and liquid hang quietly with only a couple of birds stopping by, while close by the scarlet runner beans, the hanging pot of red impatiens and the deep red weigelia have numerous hovering visitors. These are the most fascinating to watch.

Even though we do not keep the regular feeders filled during the summer months, there is no decrease in the number of birds. The chickadees and nuthatches work away on the bark of the birch tree, while the sparrows and the other ground feeders pick away at the left-overs and other interesting tid-bits under the lilac bush where the winter feeders usually hang. Many of the summer warblers, along with finches, mourning doves, robins and even some swallows and a few woodlanders, probably from the park, venture out for the day.

Our winter feeders are of the most basic kind: a couple of plastic tubes with wild mixed seed; another with layers of regular seed and sunflower seed; one with thistle seed and the net bag from onions containing a suet ball situated where the impatiens hangs during the summer. The chickadees and nuthatches still pick at the birch tree but the chickadees cling precariously to the shingles on the side of the garage across the fence and move along systematically, attacking the cocoons just under the lip of each row of shingles. We get good close-ups of the hundreds of little white fuzzy spots through our binoculars while the little Black-caps extract their lunch. They flit back and forth between the garage and the suet ball. The binoculars sit on the windowsill beside the guide books and disappear only when one family member uses them to watch another species of Bluejay at the Skydome. Our homegrown Bluejays are very loyal--at

least as long as the peanuts are forthcoming--and are now in at least the fourth generation. They arrive bright and early and come right up to our window and that of our neighbour to peer in and beg very vocally for handouts of peanuts. They will sit on the rail not two feet away while these are being dispensed and stuff two whole nuts in their mouths, shells and all if they can manage. One, a couple of years ago would regularly take one from my hand. They are here summer and winter with only time out in breeding season, then they introduce the offspring to us and other points of interest including what they consider as "their" private bird bath. They will dive-bomb any robin or other bird trying to take a dip or drink, if they happen to be around.

When it is quiet we look around and usually see several large gulls on roofs and chimneys but in winter, if it is very quiet for a long time we usually see the unwelcome Sharpshin looking for a starling lunch. We have never seen the hawk with a tiny bird--they seem more cautious; the dense, thorny barberry bush is a great sanctuary. Otherwise, the variety is quite extensive, especially for the city. Aside from those already mentioned and a few strangers in the "too-quick-to-be-identified" category, there have been very regular Downy Woodpeckers, an occasional Northern Shrike and Canada Jay, many waxwings, a couple of Brown Creepers, Redpolls, Siskins, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, a few Mourning Doves and of course, the Grackles, Starlings, Crows, Rock Doves and gulls. The whole neighbourhood knows when the almost resident owl has stayed out too late and spends the day in the top of a big elm tree down the street. The heckling of the crows is deafening and this in turn sets off the dog population. These are the fairly regular visitors at our very casual lunch counter, so if we can attract so much interest, I'm sure the more conscientious watchers who entice visitors with gourmet treats in the same area have an even wider variety. If priorities do not include field trips, backyard feeder watching can be very satisfying.

The McCurdys

Editor's Note: We need contributors to this feature. Do you feed all year round? When do you stop? When do you begin? How do you feel about CATS!? Let us know.



Large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls frequent the Pictou region in late fall. Here a flock, many of them plunging like terns, is following a school of young fish into Lyons Brook. Photo--Ian McLaren.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, *Nova Scotia Birds*:

This past summer, for the first time ever, I had mourning doves actually nest in my small back yard. In fact, there were three nests, all with eggs and each located about four to six feet above the ground.

Each day I checked the nests, using binoculars and being careful to remain a safe distance so as not to disturb or frighten the setting doves.

Then one day I noticed that the dove did not return to one of the nests. This worried me so I examined it every few hours for the next couple of days. Still she did not return. However, the others seemed to be doing fine. This upset me but I consoled myself that two out of three could still be considered successful.

Then I noticed that another of the nests had been abandoned. I worried that somehow I might have contributed but this didn't make sense as I was being careful to stay well away from the nest. Again, as with the first nest, the eggs remained which seemed to eliminate a squirrel or raccoon as the culprit. I was becoming very concerned now as there remained only one active nest in my yard. This one was closely guarded by the dove and never once was I able to actually see her eggs as she was on the nest every time I tried to view the nest through by binoculars.

You can imagine my upset when, a few days later, I couldn't manage to see the dove or even the nest. Maybe the trees had somehow grown in front of the nest so I just had to inspect more closely. Still, I couldn't find the nest or see the dove. I've been locating and observing nests for years. Surely, I haven't lost one in my own back yard. On closer inspection, I found the nest, or what was once the nest. Two eggs had been smashed on the ground and the nest hung in fragments in the lower branches of the small spruce tree. The nest had been destroyed by a predator. This sure didn't look like the work of a squirrel, a raccoon, or a blue jay. This looked like the results of a cat attack.

All through the spring and summer I had witnessed my neighbour's cat, complete with small bell (at first) lurking behind shrubs and bushes in my yard. Several times I had watched as the cat leaped into one of my lower feeders grabbing unsuspecting juncos, purple finches, and doves before my yelling and running to the feeder frightened it away.

It's now winter. I still feed the birds but there are far fewer of them now. The long cold of winter seems to have taken a toll on many which might otherwise visit my feeders. The almost constant snow cover shows many tracks and occasional bunches of feathers blowing around the yard. The tracks? No, they are not all bird tracks, nor tracks of raccoons or squirrels. They are cat tracks, dozens of them, all over my yard, and among the trees and bushes of my property, on my deck, on my front and back walks and around my feeders.

Many, if not all, of these cats have owners; owners who would be very irritated if I were ignorant and inconsiderate enough to allow my dog to roam their properties causing destruction and chasing or harming their cat(s).

I know the problems pets can cause to others and this is why my dog remains under control and confined to my property. I am always with my Lab when she is off my property and she is usually leashed. I expect the same of others and their pets. If cat owners feel they cannot provide a suitable pen or other means of control, the solution is simple...do not have a pet.

Numerous studies have shown how often uncontrolled pets have caused serious damage to wild life, whether it is a dog running freely along a beach during nesting season or a cat freely roaming and hunting twelve months of the year. Seriously

declining wildlife populations can stand this no longer. It is not good enough to say "cats will be cats" or some other ridiculous statement. Mankind had dragged domestic animals into nearly all areas of our country (ies) and we must be prepared to take responsibility for our actions. Anything less is simply not acceptable.

If the NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY is to mean or stand for anything positive, we must be prepared to lead the way.

T. Dale Mullen

NOTE: We published an article about CATS in July 1993. Afterwards the only letters received on the subject were surprisingly very pro-cat (see p. 44 Jan., 1994). Mr. Mullen definitely has a point to make! How do other members feel?

JSC, Editor.

BOOK REVIEW

Title: Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Monterey County, California.

Author: D. Robertson and C. Tenney, eds., 1993.

Publisher: Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society, Monterey, California.

No. of pages: 438

**Price: Soft cover--\$19.95 US plus \$2.75 US shipping
Hard cover--\$44.45 US plus \$2.75 US shipping**

**Address: Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society,
P. O. Box 985,
Pacific Grove, California
93950 U.S.A.**

The latest breeding bird atlas is the first from southwestern North America, where more species are permanent residents than elsewhere. Monterey County is half again the area of Prince Edward Island and three times as large as Rhode Island. It rises from sea-level to 1,787m elevation, with habitats from cool sea-cliffs and humid coastal forests to arid shrubland. In 1988-92, 45 observers or teams spent over 3,500 hours afield in documenting the breeding status (with tentative population estimates) for 178 breeding bird species. The results, through desk-top publishing, are now available within a year after completion of field-work, a very creditable achievement. The book also includes a useful summary of historical breeding status in the county for each species. This attractive volume offers good value for its price.

A. J. Erskine.

ERRATA

On page 65 of the January issue in the report of the Nominating Committee, the names of the Membership Secretaries should read Carol MacNeill and Peter Payzant

In the January issue, the list of Seasonal Editors should read: RGB Brown, David Currie, Keith Keddy, Ian McLaren, BEV SARTY, Francis Spalding, Richard Stern.

TWO GOOD BIRDS IN THE BUSH



One of the two Rufous-sided Towhees wintering in Kentville was photographed in January by Richard Stern



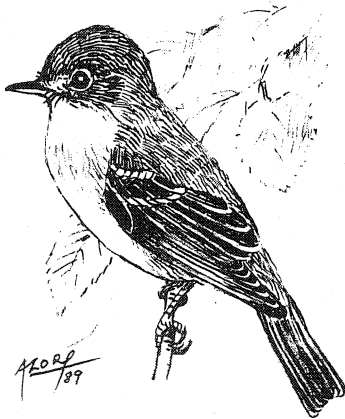
The often elusive Townsend's Solitaire that wintered in Herring Cove was a treat for field-trippers on the first Sewer Stroll on Jan. 15, 1994. Photo by Richard Stern.

THE AVONPORT WILLOW FLYCATCHER AND A LESSON IN SONOGRAMS

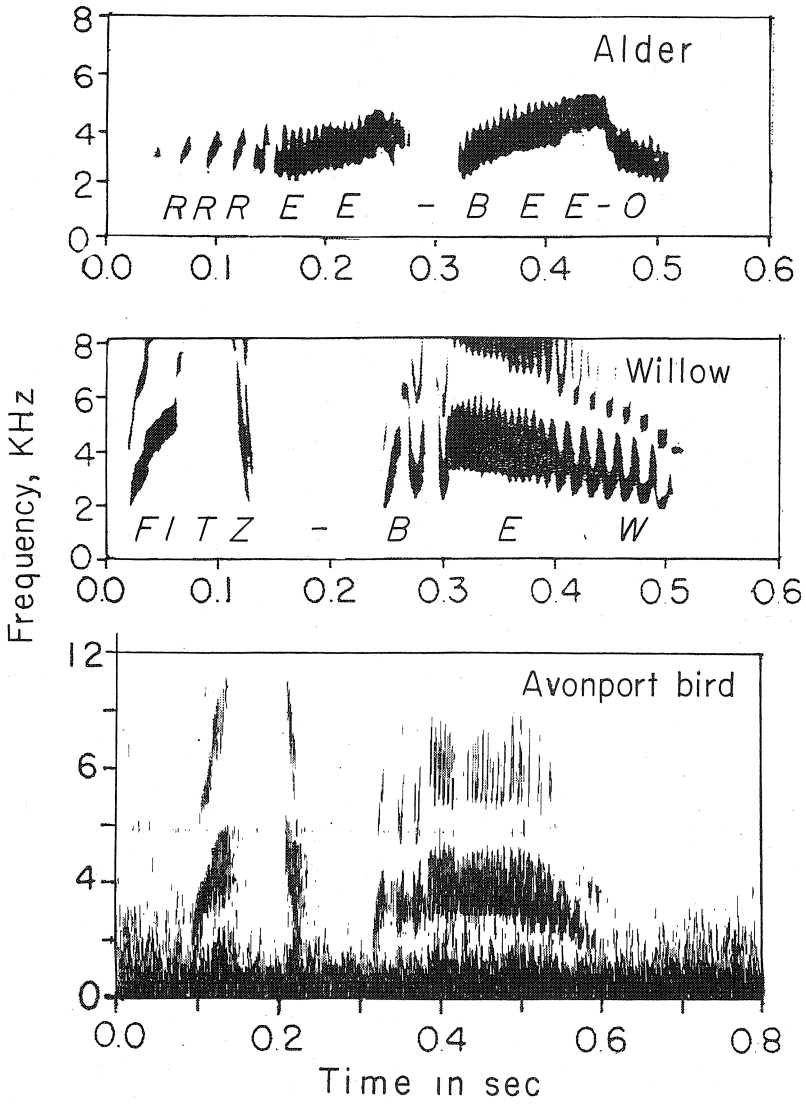
In his description in the last issue of the much studied Willow Flycatchers that evidently nested near Avonport last summer, Richard Stern noted that "the diagnostic feature was the voice". Indeed, the species is hardly distinguishable in appearance from our common Alder Flycatcher. For the record, here is a sonogram of the song of one of the birds from a tape made by Sherman Williams on July 2, 1993. The sonogram was kindly produced by Elizabeth Coscia, Department of Psychology, Dalhousie University. For comparison, we include published sonograms from both species, modified from R. C. Stein (1963, Proc. Am. Phil. Soc. 107 (1): 21-50). Stein's work was the most persuasive in the decision to "split" the two species from the former "Traill's Flycatcher".

Note that both song types are about the same length--half a second or so. The main frequencies are also about the same, between 3-5000 Hz. But, of course they sound, and appear, very different. The Alder illustrated was clearly not just saying "wee-be-o", but began its song, like many of ours, with a rough, "burry" sound. This is indicated by the staccato initial portion of the sonogram. A similar "burry" sound occurs at the end of the Willow's song. Note also that what we hear as "fitz" at the beginning of the Willow's song is actually two-parted--a rising, abruptly terminated aspirant, followed by a short, broad-spectrum "hiss". Both Willow songs show strong overtones, but this is not diagnostic. Sonograms of Alders may also show overtones, but they can be eliminated by reducing the gain in reproduction. Finally, note that the sonogram of the Avonport bird has a lot of low-frequency "hiss", but the bird's song stands out unmistakable as that of a Willow Flycatcher.

Ian McLaren



Willow Flycatcher





The Tricolored Heron is the least frequent of our "regular" southern heron visitors. Photographed by Ian McLaren on Seal Island, May 25, 1993.



Did you know that juvenile Snowy Egrets can have gray-green legs? You won't find this in field guides, and it is not mentioned in most of the more technical literature. This one was accordingly misidentified by several birders, including the photographer, as a young Little Blue Heron on Cape Sable last Nov. 27. However, we felt a bit uneasy, and a hasty photo confirms that it is indeed a young Snowy Egret (other more exotic small white herons would not have the combination of thin, black bill, bright yellow lores, and pale legs.) Photo—Ian McLaren

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

August 7 - Economy Field Trip

Nine birders took part. Our first stop was a field-side marshy area on Economy Point. After a brief diversion caused by some wayward sheep belonging to the leader, we encountered a seemingly endless number of mostly immature sparrows--many Song, some Swamp. The Bluebirds that had nested there this summer were gone, so we had to be content with seeing their nest cavity in an old apple tree. Good looks at some Alder Flycatchers provided a modest highlight. Next stop was Thomas Cove, where we encountered a swarm of frantically active warblers high in the trees. It was a case of *voit qui peut*, and we managed to identify no more than half a dozen species. A sortie up the Economy River yielded little. We lunched near a seldom-visited but spectacular falls in Five Islands. By afternoon the tide was sufficiently high to allow for shorebird-watching. While numbers were small compared to what they can be later on, we did see about thirty turnstones and perhaps a hundred Black-bellied Plovers, five species in all, plus Surf and White-winged Scoters. Early August, once the sun is up, can be a quiet time for birds; we saw only about forty species, but some expertise in the local flora helped liven the quieter intervals.

Francis Spalding

Bridgewater Meeting and Field Trip

On November 26, the monthly meeting of our society was held at the DesBrisay Museum in Bridgewater. The museum was showing an exhibit entitled "Wild in the City" so the programme was intended to complement that theme.

After a brief introduction by Gary Selig, the curator, the meeting got underway. John Cohrs welcomed members and non-members (the turnout was excellent) and after some short items of business and an exchange of bird news, he introduced the speakers.

Shirley Cohrs spoke on bird feeding and showed a number of home-made feeders. There were some slides showing birds eating a variety of comestibles at a number of different types of feeding stations.

Joyce Purchase explained how to attract birds to the property by use of various plantings and showed slides of useful trees, bushes and flowers.

Coffee, mulled cider and snacks were served by the Friends of the DesBrisay Museum and were enjoyed by the company which stayed to chat for a considerable time. The group included two founding members, five Past Presidents and eight Puffin holders!

The following morning thirteen participants gathered at Cherry Hill Beach for a field trip led by Sylvia Fullerton. It was a halcyon day and although birds were scarce (after all, it WAS Nov. 27). The group enjoyed the walk, the company and some views of Snow Buntings, a Goshawk, Guillemots, a Red-throated Loon, Savannah Sparrows, Oldsquaw, Eiders and other sea ducks and grebes.

Shirley Cohrs.

January 16 - Sewer Stroll I

The weather was mostly cloudy with light showers or snow flurries. The temperature was near 0° C most of the morning and near 3° in the afternoon.

The habitats visited included coastal marsh, beach, rocky shoreline, city pond, urban forest, feeders, sewer outflows, sheltered cove and barren headland. The total number of participants was 15 in five cars and the total number of species was 65.

The highlights included: Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Sharp-shinned Hawk and N. Harrier at Hartlen's Point.

Black Guillemot, Red-necked Grebe, C. Loon, Bufflehead and Am. Robin--Eastern Passage Beach.

Common Merganser, Tree Sparrow--Cuisack St., Dartmouth.

Black-headed Gull, N. Harrier, Ring-necked Duck--Canal St., Dartmouth.

Mockingbird, Gadwall, Am. Wigeon, Bohemian Waxwing--Sullivan's Pond

Pine Warbler, N. Oriole, C. Redpoll--Edward St., Dartmouth

Green-winged Teal, Barrow's Goldeneye--Tuft's Cove

Thayer's Gull--mouth of Sackville River, Bedford.

Glaucous Gull, Barrow's Goldeneye--Mill Cove Sewage Treatment Plant, Bedford

Lesser Black-backed Gull--old Volvo plant, Halifax

Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, Horned Grebe--Purcell's Cove.

Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter, C. Eider, Iceland Gull, Townsend's Solitaire--Tribune Head sewer outflow

Ruffed Grouse--Ketch Harbour

Highlight of the day: Townsend's Solitaire, seen, studied, photographed and much enjoyed by at least ten of the original strollers.

Fulton L. Lavender

February 12 - Sewer Stroll II

For this second sewer stroll of the year, the weather cooperated again with sunshine and seasonable temperatures. Twenty-eight participants in fifteen cars began this productive day at Hartlen's Point, where we were treated to a hunting Short-eared Owl and the usual assortment of sea ducks.

At Sullivan's Pond, an American Wigeon and Sharp-shinned Hawk were overshadowed by our leader's discovery of a second year Common Gull which allowed everyone a good look. Our party was momentarily distracted by the necessity of saving the life of a less than sensible boy who ventured out on the ice near open water. Warning shouts from our group sent him scuttling back to safety.

At Tuft's Cove, a female Barrow's Goldeneye was present with the Common Goldeneye.

After warming up at Tim Horton's, our group was off to see the Lesser Black-backed Gull at the Volvo plant. Here we also had a great look at an immature Razorbill.

A stop by Black Rock Beach turned up two female Pintails and a female Gadwall.

At the Herring Cove lookout, all three scoters were present, but some searching around Herring Cove itself did not produce the sometimes elusive Townsend's Solitaire. Our trip ended up at Tribune Head, but some of our group who continued on were treated to a Northern Goshawk at Halibut Bay.

We finished the day with 55 species.

Christine Cornell
for Fulton Lavender

FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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

APRIL



- Sun. 17 Eastern Shore. Leader: Joyce Purchase (434-5199). Dartmouth, Conrad's Beach, 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 at the site of the former Heavy Water Plant, Glace Bay.
- Sun. 24 Wolfville Area. Leader: Jim Wolford (542-7650). Pond hopping for ducks and early migrants. Meet at 10:00 at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Front St., Wolfville. Joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalists Society.

- Sat. 30 Owl Prowl, Brooklyn. Leader: Karen Casselman (633-2837). Meet at 7:30 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.

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 & 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 hrs. duration.
- Fri. 20 Bon Portage Island. Leader: Angus MacLean (679-5878). Meet at the Prospect Pt. wharf (2nd one) at Shag Hbr, Fri., May 20 at 6:00 p.m.
- Mon. 23 There will be a charge for crossing and accommodation. Bring food, drinking water, sleeping bags and necessary clothing, appropriate footwear. Reservations are necessary. Depart Island Mon. afternoon around 4 p.m. See B/C Night Heron, Snowy Egret, perhaps Little Egret. Lots of migrants, usually a few rarities.

- Sun. 22 Hopewell Area (Pic. Co.) Leader: Harry Brennan (923-2780). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at St. Columbia Churchyard, about 1 mile south of Hopewell. Saw-whet & Barred Owls possible. General birding--excellent for beginners.
- 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 Lunenburg County. Leader: Bill Caudle (766-4465). Meet at Exit 11 off Hwy. 103, at 7:30 a.m. Munch a lunch near New Germany. Trip ends near Bridgewater. Slow-paced introduction to birding for beginners. Find new birding spots.
- Sun. 29 Shubenacadie Area. Leader: Roslyn McPhee (785-8265). Meet at 7:00 a.m. in front of Scott's Restaurant in Shubenacadie.

JUNE

- Sat. 4 Dalem Lake Provincial Park, C.B. Leader: Dave McCorquodale (794-2172). Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the North Sydney Mall.
- Sun. 5 Birds of the Kentville Area. Leader: Richard Stern (678-1975). Meet at Cornwallis Inn parking lot, Kentville at 8:00 a.m. Beginners especially welcome; bring a lunch.
- Sat. 12 Birds of Kings County. Leader: Angus MacLean (679-5878). Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the west end of Butler Rd., 20 mins. south of Kentville on Rte 12. Learn to identify warblers & flycatchers by sight & sound.
- Sat. 18 Cumberland Co. Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-7808). Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Wentworth Valley Prov. Park (just north of the ski hill). Trip end at Amherst Point. Marsh Wren, Black Tern, Sora, Purple Martin, Vesper Sparrow. A great opportunity to see birds seldom seen by the beginner.

JULY

- Sun. 24 Wallace Bay area. Leader: Jim Taylor (434-8516). A variety of habitats including shoreline, woodland, riverside and marsh. Nesting eagles for a finish! Meet at Wallace Wharf at 8:30 a.m. No registration necessary. Bring a lunch.
- Sat. 30 North River, C.B. Leader: Nancy More (828-2534). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Cape Breton Shopping Centre, Sydney River.

AUGUST

- Sat 6 Economy Area. Leader: Francis Spalding (647-2837). Meet at the general store at 9:00 a.m. Returning shorebirds and birds of the area. Great scenery and lots of back roads.
- Sat. 13 Fuller's Bridge, Cape Breton. Leader: John MacKay (562-3956). Meet at Marion Bridge at 8:00 a.m.
- Sat. 13 Yarmouth Area. Leader: Eric Ruff (H 742-8145 or W 742-5539). Meet at the former CPR station at 8:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and suitable footwear for rocky and wet walking.
- Sat. 27 Hartlen's Point. Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-7808). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the old golf course entrance.

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

NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1993-1994

Despite weather that grew progressively colder in the course of the Count Period and storms that reduced the number of species and individuals reported on many counts, when all the results were in, a record 151 species had been recorded. There were five new species added to the list. Which one was more surprising? The **Purple gallinule** at Port L'Hebert was certainly most unusual, but the species does occasionally find its way north in winter. The **White-eyed vireo**, again at Port L'Hebert, should have been in Florida, but it breeds as far north as New England and has been noted several times in Fall, especially 1993. A few **Pomarine jaegers** are said (by Harrison in **Seabirds**) to spend the winter in the North Atlantic; even when jaegers are most numerous in our waters it's not usual to see one from land, so here the wonder is that of those putative wintering few one should have appeared within the Count circle at Brier Island.

The **Hudsonian godwit** hanging on at Cape Sable should have been in Argentina, and the **Townsend's warbler** at Halifax, not the first of its kind to have lost its bearings and headed this way, should have been west of the Rockies. I've altered the checklist order to put my own answers last, considering it is a toss-up between the last two.

While newcomers to the list claim pride of place, a **Ruddy duck** at Pubnico was the first since two on the Halifax West Count in 1956. A **Canvasback** appeared at St. Peter's and a **Red-bellied woodpecker** at Pubnico was the province's third record, as were **8 Snow geese** at Cape Sable. **Six** Turkey vultures were a new high for the species; other record high numbers were set for several species including Horned grebe, Northern gannet, Common goldeneye, Bufflehead and Common merganser. The same was true for Mallard, but some of those counted are as tame as Rock doves (whose numbers were also at a new high). In the same category during Count Period, many Mourning doves have probably succumbed since. Bohemian waxwings were present in unprecedented numbers: 2475 were counted this year, more than three times the previous high recorded in 1989. Two species seen in each of the past 20 years escaped detection this year - to allow those interested in guessing a fair chance, the names have been placed at the end of this article.

The crossbills are not our most dependable Count birds, irrupting into the province some years, very scarce in others; it may be of interest to use the records of the past years to compare the two species. Over the past 20 years the average count of Red crossbills has been 42, of the White-winged, 528 or 12 times as many. In years of irruption, numbers for the Red crossbill are 125-150 (max 307 in 1972), for the White-winged it has been 2500+ (max 2714 in 1988), or about 16 times as many. Both species were numerous in 1984 and 1991, with White-wings common in 1988 as well. Shall we have to wait until 1998 for the next irruption of both species? It is curious that for the past two years, when both have been scarce, that more Red crossbills than White-winged have been reported. The only times that this has happened since the early 1970's.

As for those answers...it may come as a surprise that the Eastern meadowlark is, or was, on the 20 year list and that no one saw a Black-backed woodpecker.

Note: The results of the Halifax/Dartmouth Christmas Count are published below, but because its boundaries overlap two established counts, the results are not included in the provincial totals. The records as submitted however, will be entered on computer and tracked as part of the Christmas Count data.

ADVOCATE/APPLE RIVER, Dec. 21; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -4 to 2C. Wind NE 35kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Cloudy. P.M. Cloudy, light rain. 6 field observers in 3 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 22.75 (10 on foot, 12.75 by car). Total party kilometres 253.5 (17 on foot, 236.5 by car).

American black duck 105; Common goldeneye 1; Oldsquaw 3; Surf scoter 2; White-winged scoter 2; Red-breasted merganser 1; Sharp-shinned hawk 1; Ring-necked pheasant 3; Spruce grouse 9; Ruffed grouse 3; Herring gull 98; Great black-backed gull 2; Mourning dove 6; Downy woodpecker 4; Hairy woodpecker 2; Pileated woodpecker 1; Gray jay 16; Blue jay 19; American crow 58; Common Raven 9; Black-capped chickadee 113; Boreal chickadee 13; Red-breasted nuthatch 8; Brown creeper 2; Golden-crowned kinglet 32; American robin 1; Northern shrike 2; European starling 51; American tree sparrow 13; Song sparrow 1; Snow bunting 272; Red-winged blackbird 1; Common grackle 14; Brown-headed cowbird 15; Pine grosbeak 18; Common redpoll 61; American goldfinch 2; Evening grosbeak 38; House sparrow 28.

Total species 39, about 1030 individuals. (CP. Red-tailed hawk, Rock dove, Great horned owl, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine siskin). Donna Barber, Christine Mills, Jane Mills, Maureen Mills, Ted Mills, Fran Spalding, Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer (compiler).

AMHERST, Dec. 22; 7:30AM to 4:45PM. Temp. 3 to 6C. Wind NW 20-40kmph. No snow cover. Partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Cloudy, light rain. P.M. Cloudy, heavy rain. 19 field observers in 7-12 parties. Total party hours 63.5 (26.5 on foot, 36 by car, 1 by ATV). Total party kilometres 573 (47 on foot, 516 by car, 10 by ATV).

American black duck 10; Common merganser 61; Bald eagle 7; Northern harrier 3; Northern goshawk 1; Red-tailed hawk 5; Rough-legged hawk 10; Ring-necked pheasant 8; Ruffed grouse 8; Herring gull 1123; Iceland gull 16; Great black-backed gull 589; Rock dove 169; Mourning dove 6; Downy woodpecker 6; Hairy woodpecker 4; Gray jay 3; Blue jay 33; American crow 235; Common raven 69; Black-capped chickadee 203; Boreal chickadee 14; Red-breasted nuthatch 11; White-breasted nuthatch 1; Brown creeper 8; Golden-crowned kinglet 55; American robin 1; Northern mockingbird 1; Bohemian waxwing 9; European starling 1166; American tree sparrow 24; Dark-eyed junco 8; Lapland longspur 2; Common grackle 2; Brown-headed cowbird 3; Pine grosbeak 30; Common redpoll 164; American goldfinch 7; Evening grosbeak 171; House sparrow 131.

Total species 40, about 4377 individuals. Paul Bogaard, Neil Burgess, Dan Busby, Evelyn Coates, Carol Currie, Con Desplanque, Margaret Elliot, Richard Elliot, Nev Gerrity (compiler), Randy Hicks, Ron Hounsell, Joel Landry, Colin MacKinnon, Nancy MacKinnon, Rob Milner, Ruth Miller, Bill Murphy, Al Smith, Russ Tilt.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Dec. 18; 7:30AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -3 to 3C. Wind NW 5-10kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. clear; P.M. partly clear. 29 field observers in 9 parties, 48 at feeders. Total party hours 65.25 (55.5 on foot, 9.75 by car). Total party kilometres 413.6 (91 on foot, 322.6 by car).

Red-throated loon 2; Common loon 33; Horned grebe 251; Red-necked grebe 16; Great blue heron 6; American black duck 880; Mallard 8; Greater scaup 11; Common eider 14; Oldsquaw 3246; Surf scoter 74; White-winged scoter 15; Common goldeneye 100; Bufflehead 813; Hooded merganser 6; Common merganser 1; Red-breasted merganser 16; Bald eagle 2; Sharp-shinned hawk 1; **Cooper's hawk 1 (no details)**; Red-tailed hawk 5; Rough-legged hawk 2; Ring-necked pheasant 30; Spruce grouse 1; Ruffed grouse 9; Bonaparte's gull 70; Herring gull 513; Great black-backed gull 50; Black-legged kittiwake 7; gull species 1; Common murre 11; Black guillemot 13; Rock dove 104; Mourning dove 203; Barred owl 1; owl species 1; Belted kingfisher 2;

Red-headed woodpecker 1; Downy woodpecker 11; Hairy woodpecker 4; Pileated woodpecker 12; Gray jay 4; Blue jay 318; American crow 232; Common raven 21; Black-capped chickadee 425; Boreal chickadee 5; Red-breasted nuthatch 16; White-breasted nuthatch 5; Golden-crowned kinglet 76; Bohemian waxwing 457; Cedar waxwing 65; European starling 1298; Yellow-rumped warbler 21; Northern cardinal 2; American tree sparrow 14; Song sparrow 6; sparrow species 48; Dark-eyed junco 53; Purple finch 21; Red crossbill 2; Common redpoll 31; **Hoary redpoll** 7 (no details); Pine siskin 29; American goldfinch 136; Evening grosbeak 239; House sparrow 196.

Total species 65, about 10,342 individuals. (CP. Snowy owl, Ruby-crowned kinglet, White-throated sparrow) Ruby Adams, Fred Barret, Joan Bateman, Bob Bennett, James Bennet, Sheila Bestany, Alex Bohn, Ingrid Bohn, Marilyn Brown, Ted Brown, Betty Burrell, Mary Cameron, Dave Chalmers, Dan Coakley, Debbie Cummings, Earl Ellis, Helen Ellis, Rebecca Ellis, Dorothy Everett, Goldie Everett; Harriet Everett, Wylie Everett, Velma Ferguson, Trish Fry, Angela Hall, Leroy Haynes, Nina Haynes, Sharon Hawboldt, Stephen Hawboldt, Millie Hawes, Rita Hearne, Charlotte Hollett, Marg Horsfall, Harold Horwood, Mildred Jefferson, Clifford Jones, Shirley Kerr, Sheila Krant, Ginny Langley, Scott Leslie, Patsy Longmire, Barbara McArthur, Laurie McGowan, Shannon McGowan, Ernie McGrath, Margaret McGrath, John McPhee, Daisy Morrison, Gail Morrison, Phil Muntz, Henry Payne, John Percy, Polly Percy, Gini Proulx, Charlie Richards, Valerie Richards, Bob Sandford, Shannon Sarty, Marj Saunders, Mick Scromeda, Bernie Spicer, Maddy Spicer, Alison Thomson, Faye Tooker, Jack Turner, Julie Turner (compiler), Giselle Vidito, Charlotte Wade, Maureen Wade, Owen Wade, Alice White, Betty White.

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 19; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -8 to -2C. Wind Calm. Snow cover 1cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. A.M. partly cloudy, snow. P.M. partly cloudy. 17 field observers in 9 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 52 (16 on foot, 36 by car). Total party kilometres 395 (43 on foot, 352 by car).

Red-throated loon 1; Common loon 4; Pied-billed grebe 1; Horned grebe 51; Red-necked grebe 7; Great cormorant 2; Canada goose 355; American black duck 100; Mallard 8; Greater scaup 108; Oldsquaw 14; Surf scoter 26; White-winged scoter 10; Common goldeneye 40; Common merganser 258; Red-breasted merganser 4; Bald eagle 53; Red-tailed hawk 5; Ruffed grouse 3; Common black-headed gull 10; Bonaparte's gull 123; Ring-billed gull 3; Herring gull 670; Iceland gull 10; Great black-backed gull 75; gull species 54; Rock dove 277; Mourning dove 48; Downy woodpecker 7; Hairy woodpecker 9; Pileated woodpecker 5; Gray jay 7; Blue jay 133; American crow 897; Common raven 107; Black-capped chickadee 219; Boreal chickadee 15; Red-breasted nuthatch 5; Brown creeper 1; Golden-crowned kinglet 33; American robin 1; Bohemian waxwing 5; Northern shrike 1; European starling 294; **Common yellowthroat** 2; American tree sparrow 37; Chipping sparrow 1; Song sparrow 2; Swamp sparrow 4; White-throated sparrow 4; **White-crowned sparrow** 1; sparrow species 2; Dark-eyed junco 54; Snow bunting 120; Red-winged blackbird 2; Pine grosbeak 5; Common redpoll 70; Pine siskin 10; American goldfinch 95; Evening grosbeak 104; House sparrow 116.

Total species 59, about 4688 individuals. (CP. Pine warbler) May Goring Bancroft, Calvin Brennan, Avon Brophy, Carl Canning, Celeste Chaisson, David Garbary, Annette Goring Gingras, Frank MacDonald, Ken McKenna, Harriet MacMillan, Celia Mallon, Tony Miller, Kerstin Mueller, Marilyn O'Brien, Mark Pulsifer, Norman Seymour, Brian Starzomski (compiler), Pamela Stevenson.

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 28; 8:00AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -16 to -13C. Wind W 50kmph. Snow cover 25cm. Still water frozen, moving water frozen. A.M. partly cloudy, light snow. P.M. partly cloudy, light snow. 4 field observers in 3 parties, 30 at feeders. Total party hours 13 (6

on foot, 7 by car). Total party kilometres 168 (14 on foot, 154 by car).

Common loon 6; Northern gannet 1; Great cormorant 1; Common eider 6; Oldsquaw 19; Black scoter 16; White-winged scoter 28; scoter species 105; Common goldeneye 5; Common merganser 9; American kestrel 1; hawk species 2; Ring-necked pheasant 25; Herring gull 372; Iceland gull 2; Great black-backed gull 18; Rock dove 76; Mourning dove 36; Downy woodpecker 10; Hairy woodpecker 9; Gray jay 1; Blue jay 85; American crow 229; Common raven 36; Black-capped chickadee 130; Red-breasted nuthatch 7; White-breasted nuthatch 2; European starling 490; American tree sparrow 49; Dark-eyed junco 25; Lapland longspur 12; Snow bunting 53; Common grackle 2; Brown-headed cowbird 1; Purple finch 1; Pine siskin 40; American goldfinch 109; Evening grosbeak 124; House sparrow 174.

Total species 37, about 2317 individuals. (CP. Short-eared owl, Bald eagle, Pileated woodpecker) Lawrence Bent, Winnie Bent, Don Bowlby, Pearl Chambers, David Colville (compiler), Jan Coulter, Anita Devillez, Juana Devillez, Doris Durling, Marilyn Durling, Marie Gaul, Marion Graves, Graham Graves, Mike Hamilton, Danny Harlow, Nathalie Harlow, Avora Howse, Maude Joudrey, Jerry MacDonald, Roger Mosher, C. Phinney, Danny Phinney, Eric Porter, Jane Racine, Erma Rains, Jory Smith, Margaret Smith, Donnie Troop, Gladdie Weir, Roger Weir, Jim Whitman, Marion Whitman, Stewart Whitman.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 21; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 4 to 8C. Wind SE 70kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, P.M. cloudy, rain. 13 field observers in 3 parties. Total party hours 24.75 (7.5 on foot, 17.25 by car). Total party kilometres 84 (28 on foot, 56 by car).

Red-throated loon 1; Common loon 49; Horned grebe 1; Red-necked grebe 30; **Northern fulmar** 1; Northern gannet **224**; Great cormorant 109; Double-crested cormorant 4; Common eider 198; Oldsquaw 91; Black scoter 4; Surf scoter 2; White-winged scoter 1; scoter species 5; Common goldeneye 2; Bufflehead 1; Red-breasted merganser 26; **Turkey vulture** **6**; Purple sandpiper 60; **Pomarine jaeger** **1**; Herring gull 430; Iceland gull 1; Great-black-backed gull 185; Black-legged kittiwake **4637**; Dovekie 52; Common murre 1; Thick-billed murre 155; Razorbill 41; Black guillemot 41; Atlantic puffin 10; alcid species 230; Rock dove 9; Mourning dove 7; Horned lark 2; American crow 47; Common raven 19; Black-capped chickadee 21; Boreal chickadee 1; Golden-crowned kinglet 5; Northern mockingbird 1; European starling 26; Savannah sparrow 1; Song sparrow 1; White-throated sparrow 1; Snow bunting 51; Common redpoll 16; Pine siskin 1; American goldfinch 19; House sparrow 2.

Total species 47, about 6829 individuals. (CP. Mallard, Ring-necked pheasant, Northern shrike). Brad Amirault, Karen Casselman, Ted Casselman, Mike Gibbon, Fulton Lavender, Angus MacClean, Anne Mills, Eric Mills (compiler), Janet Radly, Richard Stern; Gordon Tufts; Judy Tufts; Jim Wolford.

BROAD COVE, Dec. 29; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -13 to -8C. Wind NNW 7-12kmph. Snow cover 5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. clear, P.M. clear. 28 field observers in 13-15 parties. Total party hours 92 (51.5 on foot, 40.5 by car). Total party kilometres 436 (76 on foot, 360 by car).

Common loon 37; Horned grebe 23; Red-necked grebe 4; Great cormorant 6; Canada goose 264; American black duck 129; Mallard 100; **Northern shoveler** 1; Greater scaup 95; **Lesser scaup** 4; Common eider 377; Oldsquaw 170; Black scoter 8; Surf scoter 5; White-winged scoter 9; Common goldeneye 128; Bufflehead 31; Common merganser 28; Red-breasted merganser 102; Bald eagle 6; Sharp-shinned hawk 6; Red-tailed hawk 6; buteo species 2; American kestrel 1; **Gyr falcon** 1; falcon species 2; Ring-necked pheasant 7; Ruffed grouse 3; **Black-bellied plover** 1; **Sanderling** 20; Ring-billed gull 2; Herring

gull 1188; Great black-backed gull 327; Black guillemot 9; Rock dove 634; Mourning dove 100; Saw-whet owl 1; Belted kingfisher 1; Downy woodpecker 5; Hairy woodpecker 4; Northern flicker 3; Horned lark 6; Blue jay 348; American crow 302; Common raven 50; Black-capped chickadee 318; Boreal chickadee 6; Red-breasted nuthatch 28; White-breasted nuthatch 4; Brown creeper 1; Golden-crowned kinglet 65; **Hermit thrush** 1; American robin 5; Northern mockingbird 1; Bohemian waxwing 99; European starling 538; Yellow-rumped warbler 6; Northern cardinal 1; American tree sparrow 64; Song sparrow 29; White-throated sparrow 13; Dark-eyed junco 458; Snow bunting 10; Brown-headed cowbird 3; Pine grosbeak 12; Red crossbill 1; White-winged crossbill 2; Common redpoll 25; Pine siskin 356; American goldfinch 139; Evening grosbeak 179; House sparrow 52.

Total species 70, about 7005 individuals. (CP. Hooded merganser, Gray jay, Common grackle, Northern oriole). Ruth Ballem, Barbara Byrd, Rachel Byrd; Bill Caudle, Johns Cohrs, Lise Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie, Andy Dean, Ben Doane, Jim Elliott, Jonathan Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler), Pamela Goss, James Hirtle, Andrew MacFarlane, Ian McLaren, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Chris Naugler, John Robinson, Nellie Snyder, Bob Taboski, Azor Vienneau, David Young.

CALEDONIA, QUEENS CO., Dec. 19; 7:30AM to 5:15PM. Temp. 1.5 to 7.5C. Wind E 2-10kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Cloudy light to heavy rain all day. 34 field observers in 19-21 parties, 30 at feeders. Total party hours 52.25 (37 on foot, 14.5 by car, .75 by bicycle). Total party kilometres 323 (70 on foot, 250 by car, 3 by bicycle).

Black duck 4; Comm goldeneye 3; Sharp-shinned hawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 2; Ring-necked pheasant 2; Spruce grouse 3; Ruffed grouse 34; Great black-backed gull 1; Rock dove 37; Mourning dove 1; Barred owl 4; Belted kingfisher 1; Downy woodpecker 3; Hairy woodpecker 5; Gray jay 4; Blue jay 267; American crow 98; Common raven 37; Black-capped chickadee 253; Red-breasted nuthatch 78; White-breasted nuthatch 12; Golden-crowned kinglet 22; Bohemian waxwing 12; European starling 43; Song sparrow 2; Dark-eyed junco 96; Snow bunting 11; Red crossbill 12; Pine siskin 171; American goldfinch 253; Evening grosbeak 310; House sparrow 14..

Total species 32, about 1797 individuals. (CP. Great blue heron, Bald eagle, Pileated woodpecker, Boreal chickadee, Pine grosbeak). Thelma Bowers, Pat Canning, Lorna Cole, Claire DeLong, Harry DeLong, Margo DeLong, Leigh DeLong, Miriam DeLong, Jean Douglas, Alice Drysdale, Cliff Drysdale, Hester Frail, Jerry Frail, Lynn Frail, Arthur Frayle, Nancy Frayle, Gary Hartlen, Marguerite Holdright, Myra Holdright, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope (compiler), Sean Hope, Stephen Hope, Jennifer Hopper, Pamela Hopper, Peggy Hopper, Steve Hopper, Leslie Jones, Megan Jones, Peter Jones, Mary Keirstead, Peter Keirstead, Rod Keirstead, Diane Kryzalka, Paul MacDonald, Daniel Mansfield, Nadine Mansfield, Clarence McGinty, Janet McGinty, Eric Mullen, Lesley Rogers, Peter Rogers, Betty Ross, Jim Ross, Althea Rowter, Matt Sebastian, Tom Sheppard, Tom Shupe, Ron Sigston, Shirley Smith, Nancy Spencer, Rick Swain, Bill Whitman, Julie Whitman, Eva Zong.

CAPE SABLE ISLAND, Dec. 18; 7:45AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -5 to 1C. Wind NW 10kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 8 field observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 32 (6 on foot, 24 by car, 2 by boat). Total party kilometres 452.3 (16.9 on foot, 389 by car, 46.4 by boat).

Red-throated loon 4; Common loon 22; Horned grebe 16; Red-necked grebe 3; Great cormorant 22; Double-crested cormorant 19; Great blue heron 11; **Snow goose 8**; Canada goose 7; Wood duck 2; Green-winged teal 1; American black duck 20; **Northern pintail 4**; Common eider 205; Oldsquaw 40; Black scoter 51; White-winged scoter 7; Common goldeneye

148; Bufflehead 152; Red-breasted merganser 59; duck species 1; Northern harrier 4; Red-tailed hawk 2; American kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked pheasant 2; Ruffed grouse 1; Hudsonian godwit 1; Sanderling 1; Herring gull 510; Great black-backed gull 1000; Black guillemot 54; Rock dove 10; Mourning dove 148; Snowy owl 3; Northern flicker 9; Horned lark 39; Blue jay 37; American crow 481; Common raven 5; Black-capped chickadee 15; Boreal chickadee 4; Red-breasted nuthatch 21; Golden-crowned kinglet 8; American robin 44; Northern mockingbird 2; Water pipit 3; Bohemian waxwing 83; Cedar waxwing 17; European starling 600; Yellow-rumped warbler 75; **Palm warbler 2**; **Yellow-breasted chat 1**; American tree sparrow 42; **Vesper sparrow 1**; Savannah sparrow 3; Song sparrow 38; Swamp sparrow 5; White-throated sparrow 25; sparrow species 2; Dark-eyed junco 32; Lapland longspur 27; Brown-headed cowbird 16; Purple finch 6; Pine siskin 2; American goldfinch 71; Evening grosbeak 1; House sparrow 74.

Total species 67, about 4337 individuals. (CP. King eider, Harlequin duck, Northern cardinal, Gadwall, Greater scaup, Rough-legged hawk, Fox sparrow, Nashville warbler, Common grackle, White-breasted nuthatch, Common redpoll). Wilfred "Skipper" Atwood Jr., Morton Brackett, Joan Czapalay (compiler), Jonathan Connelly, Rod Mandell, Roland McCormick, Murray Newell, John E. Nickerson, Sandra Nickerson, Don Packingham, Elsa Packingham, Oliver Ross, Joe Symonds.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Jan. 2; 7:30AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -.5 to 4C. Wind WNW 3kmph. Snow cover 13cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Cloudy, heavy rain. P.M. Cloudy, light rain. 21 field observers in 13 parties, 14 at feeders. Total party hours 22.5 (5 on foot, 17.5 by car). Total party kilometres 225.5 (7.5 on foot, 218 by car).

Common loon 4; **Northern gannet 1**; American black duck 11; Northern pintail 7; Common eider 1; Oldsquaw 46; White-winged scoter 14; Common goldeneye 77; **Barrow's goldeneye 5**; Bufflehead 3; Common merganser 26; Red-breasted merganser 43; Bald eagle 2; Ruffed grouse 1; Purple sandpiper 24; **Ring-billed gull 2**; Herring gull 43; Iceland gull 17; Great black-backed gull 130; Dovekie 2; Black guillemot 6; Mourning dove 6; Downy woodpecker 1; Hairy woodpecker 1; **Horned lark 1**; Gray jay 12; Blue jay 102; American crow **168**; Common raven 30; Black-capped chickadee 108; Boreal chickadee 5; Red-breasted nuthatch 14; Brown creeper 1; American robin 2; European starling 83; Song sparrow 1; White-throated sparrow 1; Dark-eyed junco 22; **Rusty blackbird 1**; Common redpoll 29; Pine siskin 4; American goldfinch 26; Evening grosbeak 7.

Total species 43, about 1090 individuals. (CP. Great cormorant, Pileated woodpecker, Bohemian waxwing, Cedar waxwing, Snow bunting, Pine grosbeak, House sparrow). James Bridgland (compiler), Audrey Budge, Charlotte Campbell, Doreen Collingwood, Lorie Collingwood, Jeri Doucette, Alice Doyle, Allan Gibbs, Wendy Gibbs, Chris Gorey, Anita Hardy, George Hardy, George Hussey, Ellen Ingraham, Ross Ingraham, Roderick H. MacLeod, Frances McEvoy, John McEvoy, Patrick McEvoy, Ruth McLagan (compiler), Delores Neal, Allen Reynolds, Sarah Reynolds, Tim Reynolds, Maureen Scobie, Murray Stockley, Karl Verner, Ken Verner, Valerie Walsh.

CHETICAMP, Dec. 18; 8:00AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -3 to -2.5C. Wind NW 30kmph. Trace of snow. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. Cloudy, light snow. P.M. Cloudy. 13 field observers in 6 parties. 1 at feeders. Total party hours 42 (30 on foot, 12 by car). Total party kilometres 424 (58 on foot, 366 by car).

Northern gannet 4; Double-crested cormorant 1; Great blue heron 1; American black duck 59; Common eider 44; Oldsquaw 4; Black scoter 5; White-winged scoter 2; Common goldeneye 31; Bufflehead 1; Common merganser 12; Red-breasted merganser 5; merganser species 1; Bald eagle 10; Sharp-shinned hawk 1; Purple sandpiper 2; shorebird species

1; Herring gull 110; Iceland gull 45; Glaucous gull 26; Great black-backed gull 108; Black-legged kittiwake 3; gull species 17; Dovekie 2; Black guillemot 1; Mourning dove 4; Downy woodpecker 1; Hairy woodpecker 2; Gray jay 8; Blue jay 54; American crow 161; Common raven 93; Black-capped chickadee 73; Boreal chickadee 20; Golden-crowned kinglet 10; European starling 181; Yellow-rumped warbler 2; Savannah sparrow 1; Snow bunting 190; Pine grosbeak 9; Red crossbill 5; American goldfinch 13; Evening grosbeak 30.

Total species 40, about 1353 individuals. Marie Claire Aucoin, Heather Davis, Gordon Delaney, Monique LeBlanc-Delaney, Allan Gibbs, Wendy Gibbs, Jennifer Hoffman, Simone Larade, David Lawley, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Justine Roache, MacWilliam Savoy, Randy Thompson (compiler).

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 7:45AM to 5:15PM. Temp. -22. Wind NW 40-60kmph. Snow cover 6-10cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy all day. 6 field observers in 6 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 33.5 (25 on foot, 8.5 by car). Total party kilometres 201 (38 on foot, 163 by car).

American black duck 180; Bufflehead 2; Common merganser 2; Red-breasted merganser 4; Bald eagle 6; Northern goshawk 1; Ruffed grouse 1; Purple sandpiper 22; Ring-billed gull 2; Herring gull 193; Great black-backed gull 25; Rock dove 18; Mourning dove 21; Downy woodpecker 9; Hairy woodpecker 5; Pileated woodpecker 1; Blue jay 43; American crow 95; Common raven 32; Black-capped chickadee 72; Boreal chickadee 2; Red-breasted nuthatch 8; Golden-crowned kinglet 18; European starling 175; American tree sparrow 69; **Seaside sparrow** 1; White-throated sparrow 1; Dark-eyed junco 43; Snow bunting 40; Common grackle 1; **Northern oriole** 1; Common redpoll 23; American goldfinch 22; Evening grosbeak 45; House sparrow 50.

Total species 36, about 1234 individuals. (CP. Canada goose, Gray partridge, Bohemian waxwing, Northern shrike, Song sparrow). Irene Cooke, Jean Corbett, Phyllis Hemeon, Ward Hemeon, Brad McLaughlin, Bill Murphy, Mark Pulsifer, Edgar Spalding, Fran Spalding (compiler) Joyce Starratt, Rob Walker.

ESKASONI, Jan. 3; 8:00AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -10 to -15C. Wind NW 20kmph. Snow cover 15cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. partly clear, P.M. partly clear. 20 field observers in 7 parties, 7 at feeders, 3 hours and 20 kilometres owling. Total party hours 39 (5 on foot, 34 by car). Total party kilometres 406 (11 on foot, 395 by car).

Common loon 5; American black duck 22; White-winged scoter 5; Common goldeneye 33; Common merganser 3; Red-breasted merganser 43; Bald eagle 42; Red-tailed hawk 2; Ruffed grouse 2; Bonaparte's gull 2; Herring gull 140; Great black-backed gull 58; Mourning dove 15; Barred owl 1; Saw-whet owl 1; Downy woodpecker 5; Hairy woodpecker 1; Blue jay 80; American crow 163; Common raven 23; Black-capped chickadee 111; Boreal chickadee 33; Red-breasted nuthatch 3; Golden-crowned kinglet 4; Bohemian waxwing 15; Northern shrike 2; European starling 93; American tree sparrow 1; Dark-eyed junco 43; Common redpoll 85; Pine siskin 20; American goldfinch 116; Evening grosbeak 57; House sparrow 3.

Total species 34, about 1232 individuals. (CP. Common snipe) George Ball, Terry Boone, Donald F. Campbell, Theresa Cash, Jackie Chretien, George Digout, Sharon Digout, Joe Donovan, David Harris, Margaret MacDonald, Gordon MacEachern, George McInnis, John W. MacInnis, John MacKay; Duncan MacNeil, Jack MacNeil (compiler), Kevin MacNeil, Laurie MacNeil, Bernard Murphy, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Emily Murrant, Erin Murrant, Kevin Murrant, Mike O'Callaghan, Donald Tuttle, Melvin White.

GLACE BAY, Jan. 1; 8:00AM to 5:00PM. Temp -2.6 to -11.1C. Wind W 24kmph. Snow cover 76cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly

open. Skies clear all day. 18 field observers in 9 parties, 1 at feeders, 1.5 hours and 15 kilometres owling. Total party hours 52 (21 on foot, 31 by car). Total party kilometres 269 (26 on foot, 243 by car).

Common loon 6; Great cormorant 5; Canada goose 95; American black duck 530; Mallard 70; Greater scaup 509; Common eider 6; Oldsquaw 171; White-winged scoter 49; Common goldeneye 58; Bufflehead 58; Hooded merganser 1; Common merganser 17; Red-breasted merganser 36; Bald eagle 10; Sharp-shinned hawk 3; Ruffed grouse 1; Common black-headed gull 8; Bonaparte's gull 2; Ring-billed gull 2; Herring gull 289; Iceland gull 129; Glaucous gull 6; Great black-backed gull 221; Dovekie 7; Black guillemot 13; Rock dove 99; Mourning dove 25; Great horned owl 1; Short-eared owl 1; Saw-whet owl 2; Downy woodpecker 11; Hairy woodpecker 3; Pileated woodpecker 1; Gray jay 9; Blue jay 69; American crow 171; Common raven 41; Black-capped chickadee 146; Boreal chickadee 13; Red-breasted nuthatch 14; White-breasted nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned kinglet 11; Bohemian waxwing 45; Northern shrike 2; European starling 327; American tree sparrow 3; Savannah sparrow 2; Song sparrow 9; Dark-eyed junco 7; Snow bunting 1; Purple finch 2; Common redpoll 70; Pine siskin 6; American goldfinch 60; Evening grosbeak 71; House sparrow 228.

Total species 58, about 3651 individuals. (CP. Northern goshawk, **Rufous-sided towhee, Northern oriole**) Cheryl Bray, Steve Bray, Jackie Cretien, George Crowell, Joy Gates, Andrew Gingell, John W. MacInnis, John MacKay, Wally MacKinnon, Gordon MacLean, Jack MacNeil, Geraldine Metcalf, Hugh Metcalf, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant (compiler), Della Murrant, Jim Murrant, Pixie Williams, Rhys Williams.

HALIFAX (EAST), Dec 27; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -22C. Wind NW 25-40 kmph. Snow cover 15cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. cloudy, snow squalls, P.M. partly clear, snow squalls. 16 field observers in 8 parties. Total party hours 37 (17 on foot, 20 by car). Total party kilometres 462.4 (32.4 on foot, 430 by car).

Red-throated loon 1; Common loon 9; Horned grebe 1; Red-necked grebe 1; Great cormorant 5; Double-crested cormorant 1; Great blue heron 1; Canada goose 6882; Green-winged teal 4; American black duck 575; Mallard 28; MallardxBlack duck hybrid 2; **Northern shoveler** 2; American wigeon 4; Greater scaup 28; **Lesser scaup** 3; Common eider 37; Oldsquaw 111; Black scoter 8; White-winged scoter 18; Common goldeneye 7; Bufflehead 19; Hooded merganser 2; Common merganser 27; Red-breasted merganser 90; Bald eagle 5; Sharp-shinned hawk 1; Red-tailed hawk 1; Rough-legged hawk 1; American kestrel 1; Ring-necked pheasant 9; Ruffed grouse 1; Common black-headed gull 3; Ring-billed gull 132; Herring gull 1115; Iceland gull 10; Great black-backed gull 192; Rock dove 206; Mourning dove 197; Downy woodpecker 3; Hairy woodpecker 2; Northern flicker 1; Pileated woodpecker 1; Horned lark 3; Gray jay 2; Blue jay 90; American crow 487; Common raven 46; Black-capped chickadee 150; Boreal chickadee 27; Red-breasted nuthatch 26; White-breasted nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned kinglet 43; American robin 2; Northern mockingbird 3; Water pipit 14; European starling 1436; Yellow-rumped warbler 1; Palm warbler 2; American tree sparrow 42; Savannah sparrow 19; Sharp-tailed sparrow 1; Song sparrow 33; Swamp sparrow 6; White-throated sparrow 8; Dark-eyed junco 131; Lapland longspur 17; **Northern oriole** 1; Brown-headed cowbird 8; Pine grosbeak 2; Purple finch 2; White-winged crossbill 3; Common redpoll 109; Pine siskin 71; American goldfinch 122; Evening grosbeak 199; House sparrow 62.

Total species 77, plus 1 form, about 13920 individuals. (CP **Prairie warbler**) Ruth Ballem, Phyllis Bryson, John Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie (compiler), Joan Czapalay, Sylvia Fullerton, Ian McLaren, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Rich Peckham, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Clarence Stevens, Azor Vienneau.

HALIFAX (WEST), Dec. 19; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 3 to 6C. Wind S. 30kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. Cloudy, light rain, P.M. Cloudy heavy rain. 19 field observers in 9 parties. Total party hours 76.5 (46 on foot, 30.5 by car). Total party kilometres 473.5 (56.5 on foot, 417 by car).

Red-throated loon 2; Common loon 23; Red-necked grebe 2; Northern gannet 4; Great cormorant 90; Double-crested cormorant 2; American black duck 1721; Mallard 132; Common eider 284; Oldsquaw 137; Black scoter 9; White-winged scoter 37; Common goldeneye 8; **Barrow's goldeneye** 5; Common merganser 8; Red-breasted merganser 99; **Ruddy duck** 1; Bald eagle 1; Rough-legged hawk 1; Ruffed grouse 4; Purple sandpiper 52; Common black-headed gull 18; Ring-billed gull 59; Herring gull 2851; Iceland gull 294; **Lesser black-backed gull** 1; Glaucous gull 5; Great black-backed gull 706; Dovekie 2; Black guillemot 24; Rock dove 264; Mourning dove 52; Downy woodpecker 12; Hairy woodpecker 1; Northern flicker 2; Gray jay 2; Blue jay 121; American crow 402; Common raven 16; Black-capped chickadee 348; Boreal chickadee 40; Red-breasted nuthatch 18; White-breasted nuthatch 5; Brown creeper 8; Golden-crowned kinglet 79; **Ruby-crowned kinglet** 1; American robin 2; Northern mockingbird 2; Bohemian waxwing 150; Cedar waxwing 1; European starling 1958; Yellow-rumped warbler 1; Townsend's warbler 1; Palm warbler 2; **Yellow-breasted chat** 1; American tree sparrow 25; Song sparrow 30; Swamp sparrow 1; White-throated sparrow 15; Dark-eyed junco 174; Common grackle 1; Brown-headed cowbird 3; Northern oriole 4; Pine grosbeak 1; Purple finch 7; Common redpoll 35; Pine siskin 6; American goldfinch 57; Evening grosbeak 2; House sparrow 235.

Total species 70, about 11697 individuals. (CP. Eurasian kestrel, Northern goshawk, Red-tailed hawk, **Nashville warbler**) John Cohrs, Shirley Cohrs (compiler), Eric Cooke, David Currie, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Bill Freedman, Sylvia Fullerton, Keith Jenson, Tony Lock, Bob McDonald, Ian McLaren, Chris Mills, Linda Payzant, Peter Payzant, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Bev Sarty.

HALIFAX-DARTMOUTH, Dec. 19; Temp. 3 to 6C. Wind S. 30kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. Cloudy, light rain, P.M. Cloudy heavy rain. 52 field observers in 28-30 parties, 6 at feeders, 2.25 hours and 74.24 kilometres owling. Total party hours 152 (113.75 on foot, 37.75 by car, .5 by boat). Total party kilometres 1139.4 (187.5 on foot, 950.3 by car, 1.6 by boat).

Common loon 33; Horned grebe 1; Red-necked grebe 2; Northern gannet 6; Great cormorant 58; Double-crested cormorant 2; Great blue heron 1; Canada goose 2532; Green-winged teal 1; American black duck 2942; Mallard 165; MallardxBlack duck hybrid 5; **Northern shoveler** 3; **American wigeon** 2; **Ring-necked duck** 3; Greater scaup 25; **Lesser scaup** 15; Common eider 975; Oldsquaw 107; Black scoter 309; Surf scoter 3; White-winged scoter 76; Common goldeneye 55; Hooded merganser 5; Common merganser 10; Red-breasted merganser 171; **Ruddy duck** 1; Bald eagle 1; **Osprey** 1; Northern harrier 1; Sharp-shinned hawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 4; Rough-legged hawk 2; American kestrel 1; Ruffed grouse 6; **American coot** 2; Purple sandpiper 40; Common black-headed gull 37; Bonaparte's gull 1; Ring-billed gull 169; Herring gull 5082; Iceland gull 291; **Lesser black-backed gull** 2; Glaucous gull 4; Great black-backed gull 536; Black guillemot 10; Rock dove 799; Mourning dove 105; Great horned owl 2; Barred owl 1; **Long-eared owl** 1; Northern saw-whet owl 1; Downy woodpecker 30; Hairy woodpecker 8; Northern flicker 3; Horned lark 3; Blue jay 373; American crow 699; Common raven 42; Black-capped chickadee 856; Boreal chickadee 120; Red-breasted nuthatch 50; White-breasted nuthatch 5; Brown creeper 12; Marsh wren 1; Golden-crowned kinglet 221; **Ruby-crowned kinglet** 5; American robin 43; Northern mockingbird 6; Bohemian waxwing 805; Cedar waxwing 9; Northern shrike 1; European starling 4920; **Nashville warbler** 1; **Orange-crowned warbler** 1; Yellow-rumped warbler 3; **Townsend's warbler** 1; Pine warbler 3; **Prairie warbler** 1; **Palm warbler**

3; **Yellow-breasted chat** 3; American tree sparrow 62; Savannah sparrow 22; Savannah (Ipswich) sparrow 1; Song sparrow 86; Swamp sparrow 6; White-throated sparrow 24; Dark-eyed junco 381; Lapland longspur 3; Common grackle 2; Brown-headed cowbird 5; **Northern oriole** 9; Pine grosbeak 1; Purple finch 40; Red crossbill 1; Common redpoll 42; Pine siskin 36; American goldfinch 263; Evening grosbeak 155; House sparrow 479.

Total species 98, 1 subspecies, 1 form, about 24,455 individuals.

Mike Almon, Brad Amirault, Kurt Arsenault, Steve Barbour, Christine Cornell, Louis Coutinho, Alan Covert, Andre d'Entremont, Jennifer d'Entremont, Chris Ellingwood, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Chris Field, Andrew Foxall, Roger Foxall, Syd Franklyn, Bill Freedman, Steve Gleich, Hillary Holt, Keith Jensen, Roy John, Greg Johnson, Arnold Langille, Fulton Lavender (compiler) Peter LeBlanc, Tony Locke, Jennifer MacKeigan, Dave MacKinnon, Marcel Maessen, Freda Matheson, Mark McIntyre, Andrea McIver, Pat MacKay, Bernice McLaren, Ian McLaren, Angus MacLean, Chris Mills, Eric Mills, Bernice Moores, Ann Morrison, Robert Morton, Roy O'Brien, Etta Parker, Richard Peckham, Pat Pocklington, Roger Pocklington, Kevin Tott, Bob Warrior, Terry Waters, Dave Wilson, Jim Wolford, Marti Zelenietz.

MARGAREE, Jan. 3; 7:45AM to 3:45PM. Temp. -6 to -2C. Wind NW 20kmph. Snow cover 10cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Cloudy, P.M. Clear. 4 field observers in 2 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 16 (3 on foot, 13 by car). Total party kilometres 123 (13 on foot, 110 by car).

cormorant species 2; American black duck 3; White-winged scoter 3; Common goldeneye 72; Common merganser 11; Bald eagle 12; Red-tailed hawk 2; American kestrel 1; Herring gull 72; Iceland gull 24; Great black-backed gull 15; Downy woodpecker 4; Hairy woodpecker 1; Pileated woodpecker 1; Gray jay 6; Blue jay 60; American crow 141; Common raven 95; Black-capped chickadee 56; Boreal chickadee 2; Brown creeper 2; Cedar waxwing 12; European starling 117; Dark-eyed junco 7; Snow bunting 23; Pine grosbeak 7; Pine siskin 5; American goldfinch 20; Evening grosbeak 117; House sparrow 23.

Total species 30, about 916 individuals. Frances Hart (compiler), Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, Leslie Ingraham, Alex Miller, Lucille Near, Brenda Timmons.

NORTHPORT, Dec. 25; 8:30AM 12:45PM. Temp. -12 to -8C. Wind E 10-40kmph. Snow cover 10cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Cloudy, light snow. 1 observer in 1 party. Total party hours 2.75 (.75 on foot, 2 by car). Total party kilometres 120 (1 on foot, 119 by car).

Oldsquaw 3; Common goldeneye 3; Common merganser 1; Ring-necked pheasant 3; Ruffed grouse 2; Herring gull 3; Great-black gull 8; Rock dove 76; Mourning dove 18; Hairy woodpecker 1; Blue jay 11; American crow 23; Common raven 7; Black-capped chickadee 5; Bohemian waxwing 16; European starling 24; American tree sparrow 4.

Total species 17, about 208 individuals. (CP. Bald eagle) Robert G. MacNeil (compiler)

PICTOU HARBOUR, Jan. 2; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 4 to 8C. Wind SW 10-20kmph. Snow cover 40cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. P.M. Cloudy, foggy, light rain, P.M. Partly cloudy. 9 field observers in 4 parties, 10 at feeders, 1 hour and 20 km. owling. Total party hours 30 (4.5 on foot, 25.5 by car). Total party kilometres 468 (6 on foot, 462 by car).

Double-crested cormorant 3; Canada goose 353; American black duck 536; Mallard 5; **Gadwall** 1; Greater scaup 1843; Oldsquaw 51; Surf scoter 1; Common goldeneye 644; **Barrow's goldeneye** 2; Bufflehead 2; Common merganser 688; Red-breasted merganser 427; Bald eagle 18; Northern harrier 1; Sharp-shinned hawk 1; accipiter species 1; Red-tailed hawk 2; Ruffed grouse 1; shorebird species 3; Ring-billed

gull 4; Herring gull 1976; Iceland gull 24; Great black-backed gull 212; Rock dove 53; Mourning dove 26; Belted kingfisher 2; Downy woodpecker 12; Hairy woodpecker 8; Northern flicker 2; Pileated woodpecker 3; Horned lark 1; Blue jay 125; American crow 484; Common raven 126; Black-capped chickadee 290; Red-breasted nuthatch 3; Golden-crowned kinglet 4; American robin 21; Bohemian waxwing 460; Cedar waxwing 12; Northern shrike 1; European starling 584; American tree sparrow 20; Song sparrow 17; Dark-eyed junco 72; Common grackle 6; Pine grosbeak 8; Common redpoll 174; American goldfinch 62; Evening grosbeak 89; House sparrow 73.

Total species 51, about 9542 individuals. (CP. Boreal chickadee, White-throated sparrow, Snow bunting, **Hoary Redpoll (no details)**). Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, George Burton, Lois Burton, Kaye Davidson, Chris Ervin, J.A. Gray, Elwin Hemphill, Margaret Kenney, Brundridge MacDonald, Margaret MacDonald, David MacLennan, Ken McKenna (compiler), Lorne McKenna, Bev Milligan, Wendy Skinner, Phyliss Williston.

PORT L'HEBERT, Dec. 19; 7:30AM to 5:00PM. Temp. 4 to 8C. Wind SE 30-40kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Cloudy, light to heavy rain all day. 10 field observers in 9 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 51 (42 on foot, 9 by car). Total party kilometres 409 (92 on foot, 317 by car).

Red-throated loon 1; Common loon 27; Horned grebe 11; Red-necked grebe 5; Northern fulmar 1; Great blue heron 4; Canada goose 1034; American black duck 472; Mallard 4; Northern pintail 4; Common eider 67; Oldsquaw 23; Black scoter 35; Surf scoter 8; White-winged scoter 16; Common goldeneye 7; Bufflehead 5; **Hooded merganser 1**; Red-breasted merganser 10; Northern harrier 1; Red-tailed hawk 1; American kestrel 1; Ring-necked pheasant 1; Spruce grouse 6; Ruffed grouse 29; **Purple gallinule 1**; Killdeer 2; **Greater yellowlegs 1**; **Ruddy turnstone 7**; Purple sandpiper 10; **Dunlin 50**; Common snipe 2; Common black-headed gull 3; Herring gull 347; Great black-backed gull 88; Black guillemot 4; Rock dove 20; Mourning dove 21; Barred owl 1; Downy woodpecker 1; Hairy woodpecker 1; Northern flicker 1; Gray jay 9; Blue jay 29; American crow 114; Common raven 3; Black-capped chickadee 130; Boreal chickadee 17; Red-breasted nuthatch 25; **Winter wren 2**; Golden-crowned kinglet 58; **Ruby-crowned kinglet 1**; American robin 1; Northern mockingbird 1; European starling 232; **White-eyed vireo 1**; **Orange-crowned warbler 1**; Yellow-rumped warbler 99; American tree sparrow 19; Savannah sparrow 4; Song sparrow 15; White-throated sparrow 3; Dark-eyed junco 37; Snow bunting 4; **Northern oriole 1**; Purple finch 7; Common redpoll 5; Pine siskin 68; American goldfinch 151; Evening grosbeak 44; House sparrow 3.

Total species 71, about 3418 individuals. (CP. Great cormorant, Bald Eagle, **Lesser black-backed gull**, Great horned owl, Belted kingfisher, White-breasted nuthatch, Bohemian waxwing, **Palm warbler**, **Pine warbler**, Swamp sparrow, Brown-headed cowbird) Bill Crosby, Donna Crosby, Russel Crosby (compiler) Bill Curry, Andy Dean, Kerry Taylor, Carmen Williams, Danielle MacAulay-Williams, David Young, Joan Young.

PUBNICO, Jan. 2; 7:45AM to 4:00PM. Temp. 4C to 5C. Wind SW 10kmph. Snow cover 10cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. Heavy rain, P.M. Clear. 17 field observers in 4 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 30 (6 on foot, 24 by car). Total party kilometres 304 (8 on foot, 296 by car).

Common loon 35; Red-necked grebe 8; Great cormorant 3; Double-crested cormorant 2; Great blue heron 3; Canada goose 42; Green-winged teal 1; American black duck 220; Greater scaup 11; Common eider 4; Oldsquaw 49; Common goldeneye 635; Common merganser 1; Red-breasted merganser 47; Bald eagle 3; Sharp-shinned hawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 2; Rough-legged hawk 1; Ring-necked pheasant 7; Ruffed grouse 1; Common snipe 1; Common black-headed gull 1; Ring-billed gull 38; Herring gull 213; Great black-backed gull 364;

Black guillemot 12; Rock dove 7; Mourning dove 115; Great horned owl 1; Belted kingfisher 1; **Red-bellied woodpecker** 1; Downy woodpecker 1; Hairy woodpecker 1; Northern flicker 7; Gray jay 1; Blue jay 69; American crow 111; Common raven 14; Black-capped chickadee 95; Boreal chickadee 5; Red-breasted nuthatch 9; Brown creeper 1; Golden-crowned kinglet 13; American robin 32; Northern mockingbird 9; **Brown thrasher** 1; Bohemian waxwing 175; European starling 176; Yellow-rumped warbler 70; **Northern cardinal** 1; American tree sparrow 38; Song sparrow 21; Swamp sparrow 1; White-throated sparrow 40; Dark-eyed junco 25; Snow bunting 10; Red-winged blackbird 4; **Rusty blackbird** 1; Brown-headed cowbird 16; **Northern oriole** 1; Purple finch 3; Common redpoll 90; Pine siskin 48; American goldfinch 119; Evening grosbeak 24; House sparrow 183.

Total species 67, about 3247 individuals. Joan Czapalay, Andrea Doherty, Julie Doherty, Delisle J. d'Entremont, Lisette d'Entremont, Claire D'eon, Ingrid D'eon, Jerome D'eon, Lester D'eon, Lynette D'eon, Reginald D'eon, Ted D'eon (compiler), Virginia D'eon. Carol Jacquard, Gerald Jacquard, Albert Lennox, Ethelda Murphy, Murray Newell, John Nickerson, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters, Sandra Phinney, John Terry, Belinda Tucker.

ST. PETER'S, Dec. 31; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -17 to -13C. Wind NW 50kmph. Snow cover 30cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. Clear, P.M. Cloudy. 7 field observers in 3 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 11 (1 on foot, 10 by car). Total party kilometres 247 (2 on foot, 245 by car).

Red-necked grebe 1; American black duck 1; **Canvasback** 1; Oldsquaw 5; White-winged scoter 7; Common goldeneye 3; Common merganser 5; Red-breasted merganser 9; Bald eagle 2; Red-tailed hawk 1; Spruce grouse 2; Herring gull 170; Great black-backed gull 90; Dovekie 7; Common murre 1; Rock dove 1; Mourning dove 7; Gray jay 2; Blue jay 10; American crow 125; Common raven 50; Black-capped chickadee 46; Boreal chickadee 4; Red-breasted nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned kinglet 2; Bohemian waxwing 3; Cedar waxwing 14; European starling 51; American tree sparrow 13; Song sparrow 6; Dark-eyed junco 14; Brown-headed cowbird 1; Purple finch 2; Common redpoll 11; Pine siskin 7; American goldfinch 41; Evening grosbeak 40; House sparrow 20.

Total species 38, about 777 individuals. (CP. Ruffed grouse, Downy woodpecker, White-throated sparrow, Pine grosbeak) Aloysius Burke, April Digout, Frances Digout, Billy Digout (compiler) George Digout, Murdock Digout, Sharon Digout, Ivan Gouthro, Eva Landry, Keats Landry, Jack Levesconte, Catherine Robertson, Betty Rogers, Ronola Stone.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 19; 7:40AM to 4:10PM. Temp. -4 to 8C. Wind calm to NW 40kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. Cloudy, P.M. Cloudy, heavy rain. 18 field observers in 10 parties, 16 at feeders. Total party hours 46.5 (34.5 on foot, 12 by car). Total party kilometres 340 (32 on foot, 308 by car).

Canada goose 141; American black duck 18; Mallard 1; Bald eagle 11; Sharp-shinned hawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 2; American kestrel 1; Ring-necked pheasant 9; Ruffed grouse 9; Herring gull 348; Great black-backed gull 20; Rock dove 191; Mourning dove 36; Barred owl 1; Downy woodpecker 16; Hairy woodpecker 13; Pileated woodpecker 4; Gray jay 10; Blue jay 205; American crow 468; Common raven 195; Black-capped chickadee 268; Boreal chickadee 19; Red-breasted nuthatch 43; White-breasted nuthatch 1; Brown creeper 2; Golden-crowned kinglet 3; American robin 1; European starling 1180; Dickcissel 1; American tree sparrow 8; Song sparrow 3; White-throated sparrow 1; Dark-eyed junco 63; Common grackle 1; Brown-headed cowbird 1; Pine grosbeak 1; Purple finch 6; Common redpoll 25; Pine siskin 12; American goldfinch 215; Evening grosbeak 415; House sparrow 157.

Total species 43, about 4127 individuals. (CP. Northern goshawk)

Barbara Aitken, Fred Ashley, Douggie Back, Ivan DeLong, Nancy Ettinger, Herb Fassett, Glennys Hutton, Ernest Jarvis, Joan Jarvis, Herman Juurlink, Rikki Juurlink, Donnie Langille, Anne MacDonald, Roslyn MacPhee (compiler), Reg McCurdy, Muriel Miller, Pat Moore, Eldon Pace, Jacques Perron, Darlene Pinnell, Christine Queripel, Judy Queripel, Barbara Scott, Jessie Sinclair, Connie Stott, Audrey Tyler, Lorne Tyler, Linda Vaughan, Faye Wallace, Roger Wardrope, Lorne Weaver, Art West, Myrna West, Peggy Williams.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 18; 7:20AM to 4:40PM. Temp. -2 to 0C. Wind NW 15kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open.

A.M. cloudy, light snow, P.M. partly cloudy. 7 field observers in 3-4 parties, 2.5 hours and 70 kilometres owling. Total party hours 26.5 (6.5 on foot, 20 by car). Total party kilometres 334.5 (5.5 on foot, 329 by car).

American black duck 181; Mallard 2; **Northern pintail** 1; Bald eagle 5; Sharp-shinned hawk 3; Red-tailed hawk 1; Ring-necked pheasant 3; Ruffed grouse 1; **American coot** 1; Ring-billed gull 4; Herring gull 67; Iceland gull 4; Great black-backed gull 6; Rock dove 580; Mourning dove 38; Great horned owl 1; Barred owl 2; Downy woodpecker 6; Hairy woodpecker 8; Pileated woodpecker 3; Gray jay 2; Blue jay 143; American crow 182; Common raven 28; Black-capped chickadee 230; Boreal chickadee 8; Red-breasted nuthatch 8; Brown creeper 2; **Marsh wren** 2; Golden-crowned kinglet 10; American robin 2; Bohemian waxwing 110; European starling 785; **Pine warbler** 2; **Common yellowthroat** 7; American tree sparrow 40; Song sparrow 6; Swamp sparrow 8; White-throated sparrow 1; Dark-eyed junco 82; Snow bunting 34; Common grackle 1; Pine grosbeak 11; Red crossbill 2; Common redpoll 120; Pine siskin 2; American goldfinch 77; Evening grosbeak 360; House sparrow 235.

Total species 50, about 3418 individuals. (CP. Common merganser).

Calvin Brennan (compiler), Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Frank Calder, Dorothy Chisholm, Jim Chisholm, Kaye Davidson, Marjorie Dewar, Claire Foote, Margaret Kenney, David MacLennan, Ken McKenna, Sally Polley, Rita Young.

SPRY BAY, Jan. 2; 8:00AM to 4:00PM. Temp 5 to 8C. Wind S 30kmph. Snow cover 4cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Cloudy, fog, light to heavy rain all day. 2 field observers in 1 party. Total party hours 9 (9 by car). Total party kilometres 105 (105 by car).

Common loon 6; Red-necked grebe 8; Oldsquaw 63; Surf scoter 8; White-winged scoter 5; Common goldeneye 6; Common merganser 2; Red-breasted merganser 3; merganser species 2; Ring-necked pheasant 1; Common black-headed gull 21; Herring gull 52; Rock dove 2; Mourning dove 1; Blue jay 2; American crow 17; Common raven 1; Black-capped chickadee 3; European starling 13; Common redpoll 6.

Total species 19, about 222 individuals. Ben Parsons, Warren Parsons (compiler).

STRAIT OF CANSO, Dec. 29; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -20 to -10C. Wind W 20kmph. Snow cover 30cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Partly cloudy all day. 8 field observers in 3 parties, 11 at feeders. Total party hours 10.5 (2 on foot, 7 by car, 1.5 by snowmobile). Total party kilometres 115.25 (1.25 on foot, 98 by car, 16 by snowmobile).

Common loon 2; Great cormorant 1; Canada goose 1; American black duck 2; Common goldeneye 3; Bufflehead 1; Common merganser 7; Red-breasted merganser 6; Bald eagle 5; Red-tailed hawk 1; Common black-headed gull 2; Bonaparte's gull 7; Ring-billed gull 7; Herring gull 101; Iceland gull 199; Great black-backed gull 43; gull species 53; Black guillemot 1; Rock dove 45; Mourning dove 39; Downy woodpecker 1; Hairy woodpecker 4; Blue jay 19; American crow 95; Common raven 7; Black-capped chickadee 66; Boreal chickadee 4; Red-breasted nuthatch 3; **wren species** 1; Golden-crowned kinglet 4;

American robin 1; Bohemian waxwing 59; Northern shrike 1; European starling 79; **Pine warbler 5; Dickcissel 1; American tree sparrow 24; Fox sparrow 1; Song sparrow 4; White-throated sparrow 2; Dark-eyed junco 48; Red-winged blackbird 2; Common grackle 21; Pine grosbeak 6; Purple finch 2; Common redpoll 6; Pine siskin 1; American goldfinch 7; Evening grosbeak 62; House sparrow 44.**

Total species 49, about 1106 individuals. (CP. Mallard, Oldsquaw, Rough-legged hawk, Gray jay, Cedar waxwing). Mary Hemmings, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope, Sean Hope, Rilla MacLean, Betty Meagher, Jim F. Meagher, Jim M. Meagher, Marge Meagher, Tom Meagher, Kerstin Mueller (compiler), Agneta Sand, Anna Sand, Gillis Strachan, Betty Talbot.

TRURO, Dec. 29; 8:00AM to 4:15PM. Temp. -28 to -23C. Wind NW 5kmph. Snow cover 15cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies clear all day. 7 field observers in 5 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 29.25 (12.5 on foot, 16.75 by car). Total party kilometres 253.7 (29.7 on foot, 224 by car).

Canada goose 210; American black duck 58; Mallard 150; Bald eagle 4; Red-tailed hawk 4; Gray partridge 16; Ring-necked pheasant 2; Herring gull 514; Glaucous gull 2; Great black-backed gull 159; Rock dove 307; Mourning dove 20; Downy woodpecker 5; Hairy woodpecker 2; Pileated woodpecker 1; Horned lark 40; Gray jay 3; Blue jay 71; American crow 686; Common raven 25; Black-capped chickadee 97; Red-breasted nuthatch 6; Golden-crowned kinglet 2; American robin 1; Bohemian waxwing 13; European starling 404; American tree sparrow 29; Song sparrow 3; White-throated sparrow 1; Dark-eyed junco 3; Snow bunting 40; Pine grosbeak 6; American goldfinch 25; Evening grosbeak 70; House sparrow 104.

Total species 36, about 3108 individuals. (CP. Northern Harrier) Ross Baker, Allan Clark, Allan Eddy, Linda Hall, Ross Hall (compiler), Joan Hudgins, Ralph Hudgins, Melanie Laird, Margaret LeMaistre, Ted LeMaistre, Ralph MacDougall, Francis Spalding, John Walker.

WEST HANTS, Jan. 2; 7:30AM to 5:30PM. Temp. -2 to 3C. Wind light. Snow cover 20cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. A.M. rain, P.M. clear. 32 field observers in 9 parties, 7 at feeders, 6 hours and 50 kilometres owling. Total party hours 78 (20 on foot, 58 by car). Total party kilometres 499 (23 on foot, 476 by car).

Common loon 4; Great blue heron 2; Canada goose 1; Green-winged teal 1; American black duck 337; Mallard 2; Greater scaup 1; White-winged scoter 1; Common merganser 31; Red-breasted merganser 11; Bald eagle 9; Northern harrier 1; Sharp-shinned hawk 4; Red-tailed hawk 35; Rough-legged hawk 4; American kestrel 1; Merlin 1; **Gray partridge 16; Ring-necked pheasant 135; Ruffed grouse 10; Purple sandpiper 20; Ring-billed gull 4; Herring gull 828; Iceland gull 2; Great black-backed gull 251; Rock dove 528; Mourning dove 214; Great horned owl 2; Barred owl 4; Saw-whet owl 2; Downy woodpecker 19; Hairy woodpecker 11; Northern flicker 8; Pileated woodpecker 7; Gray jay 8; Blue jay 543; American crow 588; Common raven 125; Black-capped chickadee 679; Boreal chickadee 8; Red-breasted nuthatch 28; White-breasted nuthatch 21; Brown creeper 6; Golden-crowned kinglet 36; American robin 1; Bohemian waxwing 166; Cedar waxwing 23; Northern shrike 1; European starling 1817; **Northern cardinal 2; American tree sparrow 207; Chipping sparrow 1; Song sparrow 14; White-throated sparrow 1; Dark-eyed junco 99; Snow bunting 100; Red-winged blackbird 1; Common grackle 1; Purple finch 3; House finch 1; Red crossbill 6; White-winged crossbill 1; Common redpoll 385; Pine siskin 36; American goldfinch 377; Evening grosbeak 582; House sparrow 1308.****

Total species 67, about 9682 individuals. Karen Casselman (compiler), Ted Casselman (compiler), Bill Caudle, Betty Cox, Garnet Cox, Christine Cornell, Art Crowell, Earl Davis, Gail Davis, Elizabeth Ferguson, Helen Gibson, Mike Gibbon, Dana Harvey, Pat

Kelly, Muriel Gollan, Fulton Lavender, Jane McConnell, Pat McKay, Mary Pratt, Jan Radley, Dorothy Redden, Sheila Robarts, Christine Ross, Geneva Sanford, Beverley Shanks, Susan Spence-Campbell, Ethel Smiley, Clarence Stevens, Jim Taylor, Brenda Thexton, Bill Thexton, Judy Tufts, Gordon Tufts, Kevin Tutt, Shirley Walker, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Beth Woolaver, Frank Woolaver.

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 18; 7:30AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -4 to -1C. Wind calm. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 58 field observers in 24-29 parties, 61 at feeders. Total party hours 174.5 (99.75 on foot, 74.75 by car). Total party kilometres 483 (80 on foot, 403 by car).

Red-throated loon 1; Great blue heron 3; Canada goose 731; American black duck 1911; Mallard 39; Common eider 16; Oldsquaw 7; Surf scoter 2; White-winged scoter 29; Common goldeneye 2; Common merganser 21; Red-breasted merganser 1; Bald eagle 151; Northern harrier 11; Sharp-shinned hawk 11; Northern goshawk 2; Red-tailed hawk 208; Rough-legged hawk 6; Merlin 1; Ring-necked pheasant 137; Ruffed grouse 8; Killdeer 3; Ring-billed gull 81; Herring gull 19634; Iceland gull 9; Great black-backed gull 4550; Rock dove 1176; Mourning dove 895; Great horned owl 1; Belted kingfisher 2; Downy woodpecker 67; Hairy woodpecker 25; Northern flicker 13; Pileated woodpecker 5; Horned lark 4; Gray jay 2; Blue jay 763; American crow 7892; Common raven 257; Black-capped chickadee 854; Boreal chickadee 2; Red-breasted nuthatch 35; White-breasted nuthatch 21; Brown creeper 1; Golden-crowned kinglet 24; Ruby-crowned kinglet 1; American robin 11; Northern mockingbird 3; Bohemian waxwing 477; Cedar waxwing 4; waxwing species 140; European starling 25887; Pine warbler 1; Common yellowthroat 1; Yellow-breasted chat 1; Northern cardinal 1; Dickcissel 1; American tree sparrow 267; Savannah sparrow 15; Song sparrow 67; Swamp sparrow 1; White-throated sparrow 31; Dark-eyed junco 616; Snow bunting 223; Red-winged blackbird 1; Common grackle 4; Brown-headed cowbird 25; Northern oriole 1; Pine grosbeak 1; Purple finch 63; House finch 2; Red crossbill 2; Common redpoll 1367; Pine siskin 110; American goldfinch 842; Evening grosbeak 555; House sparrow 934.

Total species 76, about 71269 individuals. (CP. Short-eared owl).
 Agar Adamson, Elizabeth Adamson, George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Adeline Bayne, Gordon Bayne, Joanne Bezanson, Ron Bezanson, Sherman Boates, Larry Bogan, Soren Bondrup-Neilsen, Richard Cain, Rob Cameron, Karen Casselman, Ted Casselman, Bill Caudle, Curtis Chipman, Margaret Chipman, Lana Churchill, Cyril Coldwell, Ed Connelly, Peggy Connelly, Donna Crossland, Debbie Daigle, Jim Daigle, Andy Davis, Pat Davis, Patricia J. Davis, Ed Eagles, Ev Eagles, Mark Elderkin, Wendy Elliott, Bob Flecknell, George Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Margaret Forsythe, Allison Foster, Mike Gibbon, Jamie Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Robbie Hancock, Eileen Harris, Sharon Harris, Avril Harwood, John Harwood, Blanche Healey, Tom Herman, Tracey Horsman, Isobel Horton, John Horton, Winnie Horton, J.P. Huang, Dave Johnson, Pat Kelley, Charles Lennox, Rosaleen MacDonald, Angus MacLean (compiler), Stella MacLean, Don Marston, Bill Martell, Pat Martell, Pat MacLeod, Randy Milton, Paul Morris, Eric Muntz, Terry Murphy, Gary Ness, Rina Nichols, Huey Nickerson, Pam Nickerson, Nancy Nickerson, Mike O'Brien, Mary Parkin, Linda Pearson, Shelley Porter, Caroline Power, Terry Power, Mary Pratt, Jan Radely, Christine Ross, Barry Sabean, Gladys Saltzman, Jennifer Saltzman, Kathy Schaffner, Rhonda Schofield, Steve Schofield, Jack Scott, Ruth Scott, Ada Smith, Richard Stern, George Stevens, Maeann Stevens, John Sutcliffe, Brad Sweet, Miriam Tams, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Dianne Thorpe, Jean Timpa, Julie Towers, David Tracey, Gerry Trueman, Gordon Tufts, Judy Tufts, Eva Urban, Gertrude Waseem, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Ping Wong, Frank Woolaver, Lance Woolaver, Don Wright, Jeni Wright, Irene Wright, Barry Yoell, Betty Yoell.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 19; 8:00AM to 5:00PM. Temp. 4.8 to 9.3C. Wind SE 19-36kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, heavy rain, P.M. partly clear. 15 field observers in 4-6 parties, 16 at feeders. Total party hours 35.5 (7 on foot, 28.5 by car). Total party kilometres 529.5 (14.5 on foot, 515 by car).

Red-throated loon 1; Common loon 10; Red-necked grebe 5; Double-crested cormorant 3; Great blue heron 1; Canada goose 153; Wood duck 1; Green-winged teal 76; American black duck 324; Mallard 188; **Northern pintail 2**; Common eider 8; Oldsquaw 12; Surf scoter 1; White-winged scoter 1; Common goldeneye 5; Bufflehead 52; Hooded merganser 1; Common merganser 3; Red-breasted merganser 76; Sharp-shinned hawk 3; Red-tailed hawk 1; Rough-legged hawk 1; American kestrel 3; Merlin 1; Ring-necked pheasant 8; Ruffed grouse 3; Bonaparte's gull 1; Ring-billed gull 73; Herring gull 2694; Iceland gull 5; Glaucous gull 2; Great black-backed gull 1518; Black guillemot 1; Rock dove 251; Mourning dove 175; Belted kingfisher 2; Downy woodpecker 3; Hairy woodpecker 2; Northern flicker 4; Horned lark 3; Blue jay 98; American crow 231; Common raven 25; Black-capped chickadee 145; Red-breasted nuthatch 7; Brown creeper 1; Golden-crowned kinglet 14; American robin 3; Bohemian waxwing 121; Cedar waxwing 30; European starling 1063; Yellow-rumped warbler 29; **Common yellowthroat 1**; **Northern cardinal 1**; American tree sparrow 16; Chipping sparrow 1; Song sparrow 7; White-throated sparrow 26; Dark-eyed junco 52; Snow bunting 4; Red-winged blackbird 4; Common grackle 2; Brown-headed cowbird 11; Purple finch 18; **House finch 2**; Common redpoll 35; Pine siskin 3; American goldfinch 114; Evening grosbeak 3; House sparrow 40.

Total species 72, about 7790 individuals. (CP. Northern harrier, Dovekie, Atlantic puffin, White-breasted nuthatch, **Yellow-breasted chat**, **Fox sparrow**). Martyn Bowler, Marilyn Burns, Elsie Crosby, Raymond d'Entremont, Ted D'eon, John Green, Michael Hawkswood, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Jennifer Hall-MacDonald, Carol Jacquard, Gary Leach, Hazel Macdonald, Mary Morton, Dale Mullen, Ethelda Murphy, Leah Murphy, Margaret Newell, Arthur Porter, Hilda Robbins, Marcie Rogers, Barbara Ruff (compiler), Eric Ruff (compiler), Robin Rymer, Vera Sollows, John Terry, Belinda Tucker, John Wainwright, Barbara White, Rose Wilson..

1993 Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals

The following list comprises of all 151 species seen during the 1993 Christmas Counts and where the highest number of these were recorded in the province.

There were five new species (emboldened with underline) added to the list this year, bringing the all-time provincial list to 238 plus 3 additional races. There were 30 Christmas Counts conducted, an increase of three over last year. These newer counts are Northport, Spry Bay and St. Peter's. In addition to the five new species, there are 21 species (emboldened) which broke previous all-time high counts.

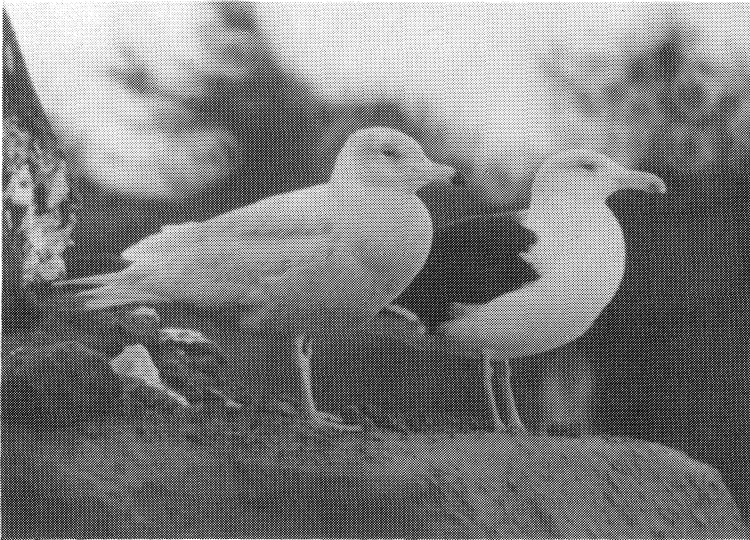
Wolfville once again leads all others with an incredible 35 species breaking long standing records. It is followed by Annapolis Royal with 16, Cape Sable Island with 15, Brier Island with 14, Halifax East with 13, and Port L'Hebert with 11.

Red-throated loon 4 (Cape Sable Island); Common loon 49 (Brier Island); Pied-billed grebe 1 (Antigonish); **Horned grebe 251** (Annapolis Royal); Red-necked Grebe 30 (Brier Island); Northern fulmar 1 (Brier Island, Port L'Hebert); **Northern gannet 224** (Brier Island); Great cormorant 109 (Brier Island); Double-crested cormorant 19 (Cape Sable Island); **Great blue heron 11**; (Cape Sable Island); **Snow goose 8** (Cape Sable Island); Canada goose 6882 (Halifax East); Wood duck 1 (Cape Sable Island); **Green-winged teal 76** (Yarmouth);

American black duck 1911 (Wolfville); Mallard 188 (Yarmouth); Northern pintail 7 (Cape Breton Highlands); **Northern shoveler 2 (Halifax East)**; Gadwall 1 (Pictou Harbour); American wigeon 4 (Halifax East); **Canvasback 1 (St. Peter's)**; Greater scaup 1843 (Pictou Harbour); Lesser scaup 4 (Broad Cove); Common eider 377 (Broad Cove); Oldsquaw 3246 (Annapolis Royal); Black scoter 51 (Cape Sable Island); Surf scoter 74 (Annapolis Royal); White-winged scoter 49 (Glace Bay); **Common goldeneye 644 (Pictou Harbour)**; Barrow's Goldeneye 5 (Cape Breton Highlands); **Bufflehead 813 (Annapolis Royal)**; **Hooded merganser 6 (Annapolis Royal)**; **Common merganser 688 (Pictou Harbour)**; Red-breasted merganser 427 (Pictou Harbour); Ruddy duck 1 (Halifax West); **Turkey vulture 6 (Brier Island)**; Bald eagle 151 (Wolfville); **Northern harrier 11 (Wolfville)**; Sharp-shinned hawk 11 (Wolfville); Northern goshawk 2 (Bridgetown, Wolfville); Red-tailed hawk 208 (Wolfville); Rough-legged hawk 10 (Amherst); American kestrel 3 (Yarmouth); Merlin 1 (Cape Sable Island, West Hants, Wolfville, Yarmouth); **Gyrfalcon 1 (Broad Cove)**; Gray partridge 16 (Truro, West Hants); Ring-necked pheasant 137 (Wolfville); Spruce grouse 9 (Advocate/Apple River); **Ruffed grouse 34 (Caledonia, Queens Co.)**; **Purple gallinule 1 (Port L'Hebert)**; American coot 1 (Springville); Black-bellied plover 1 (Broad Cove); Killdeer 3 (Wolfville); Greater yellowlegs 1 (Port L'Hebert); **Hudsonian godwit 1 (Cape Sable Island)**; Ruddy Turnstone 7 (Port L'Hebert); Sanderling 20 (Broad Cove); Purple sandpiper 60 (Brier Island); Dunlin 50 (Port L'Hebert); Common Snipe 2 (Port L'Hebert); **Pomarine Jaeger 1 (Brier Island)**; Common black-headed gull 21 (Spry Bay); **Bonaparte's gull 123 (Antigonish)**; Ring-billed gull 132 (Halifax East); Herring gull 19634 (Wolfville); Iceland gull 294 (Halifax West); Lesser black-backed gull 1 (Halifax West); Glaucous gull 26 (Cheticamp); Great black-backed gull 4550 (Wolfville); Black-legged kittiwake 4637 (Brier Island); Dovekie 52 (Brier Island); Common murre 11 (Annapolis Royal); Thick-billed murre 155 (Brier Island); Razorbill 41 (Brier Island); Black guillemot 54 (Cape Sable Island); Atlantic puffin 10 (Brier Island); Rock dove 1176 (Wolfville); Mourning dove 895 (Wolfville); Great horned owl 2 (Annapolis Royal, West Hants); Snowy owl 3 (Cape Sable Island); Barred owl 4 (Caledonia, Queens Co.); Short-eared owl 1 (Glace Bay); Northern saw-whet owl 2 (Glace Bay, West Hants); Belted kingfisher 2 (Annapolis Royal, Port L'Hebert, Wolfville, Yarmouth); **Red-headed woodpecker 1 (Annapolis Royal)**; **Red-bellied woodpecker 1 (Pubnico)**; Downy woodpecker 67 (Wolfville); Hairy woodpecker 25 (Wolfville); Northern flicker 13 (Wolfville); Pileated Woodpecker 12 (Annapolis Royal); Horned lark 40 (Truro); Gray jay 16 (Advocate/Apple River); Blue jay 763 (Wolfville); American crow 7892 (Wolfville); Common raven 257 (Wolfville); Black-capped chickadee 854 (Wolfville); Boreal chickadee 40 (Halifax West); Red-breasted nuthatch 78 (Caledonia, Queens Co.); White-breasted nuthatch 21 (West Hants); Brown creeper 8 (Annapolis Royal, Halifax West); Winter wren 2 (Port L'Hebert); Marsh wren 2 (Springville); Golden-crowned kinglet 79 (Halifax West); Ruby-crowned kinglet 1 (Halifax West, Port L'Hebert, Wolfville); Hermit thrush 1 (Broad Cove); American robin 44 (Cape Sable Island); Northern mockingbird 9 (Pubnico); Brown thrasher 1 (Pubnico); Water pipit 14 (Halifax East); **Bohemian waxwing 477 (Wolfville)**; Cedar waxwing 65 (Annapolis Royal); Northern shrike 2 (Advocate/Apple River, Eskasoni, Glace Bay); European starling 25887 (Wolfville); **White-eyed vireo 1 (Port L'Hebert)**; Orange-crowned warbler 1 (Port L'Hebert); Yellow-rumped warbler 99 (Port L'Hebert); **Townsend's Warbler 1 (Halifax West)**; Pine warbler 5 (Strait of Canso); Palm warbler 2 (Cape Sable Island, Halifax East, Halifax West); **Common yellowthroat 7 (Springville)**; Yellow-breasted chat 1 (Cape Sable Island, Halifax West, Wolfville); Northern cardinal 2 (Annapolis Royal, West Hants); Dickcissel 1 (Shubenacadie, Strait of Canso, Wolfville); American tree sparrow 267 (Wolfville); Chipping sparrow 1 (Antigonish, West Hants, Yarmouth); Vesper sparrow 1 (Cape Sable Island); Savannah

sparrow 19 (Halifax East); Sharp-tailed sparrow 1 (Halifax East); Seaside sparrow 1 (Economy); Fox sparrow 1 (Strait of Canso); Song sparrow 67 (Wolfville); Swamp sparrow 8 (Springville); White-throated sparrow 40 (Pubnico); White-crowned sparrow 1 (Antigonish); Dark-eyed junco 616 (Wolfville); Lapland longspur 27 (Cape Sable Island); Snow bunting 272 (Advocate/Apple River); Red-winged blackbird 4 (Pubnico, Yarmouth); Rusty blackbird 1 (Cape Breton Highlands, Pubnico); Common grackle 21 (Strait of Canso); Brown-headed cowbird 25 (Wolfville); Northern oriole 4 (Halifax West); Pine grosbeak 30 (Amherst); Purple finch 63 (Wolfville); House finch 2 (Wolfville, Yarmouth); Red crossbill 12 (Caledonia, Queens Co.); White-winged crossbill 3 (Halifax East); **Common redpoll 1367 (Wolfville)**; Pine siskin 356 (Broad Cove); American goldfinch 1122 (Halifax East); Evening grosbeak 582 (West Hants); House sparrow 1308 (West Hants).

David Currie
Francis Spalding



This pair of self-confident rogues was photographed by Richard Stern near Kentville in January. The first-year Glaucous is a good size match for the Great Black-back.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Winter 1993 - 1994	2
Ammodramus Sparrows in Nova Scotia-I.McLaren	23
The Terns of Peter Island--Ken Gregoire	33
Stalking the Wild Bird	35
The Feeder Page	37
Letters to the Editor	39
Book Review --Tony Erskine	40
Willow Flycatcher and Sonograms-I. McLaren	42
Field Trip Reports	45
Forthcoming Field Trips	47
Nova Scotia Christmas Counts 1993-1994	49
Francis Spalding & David Currie	

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