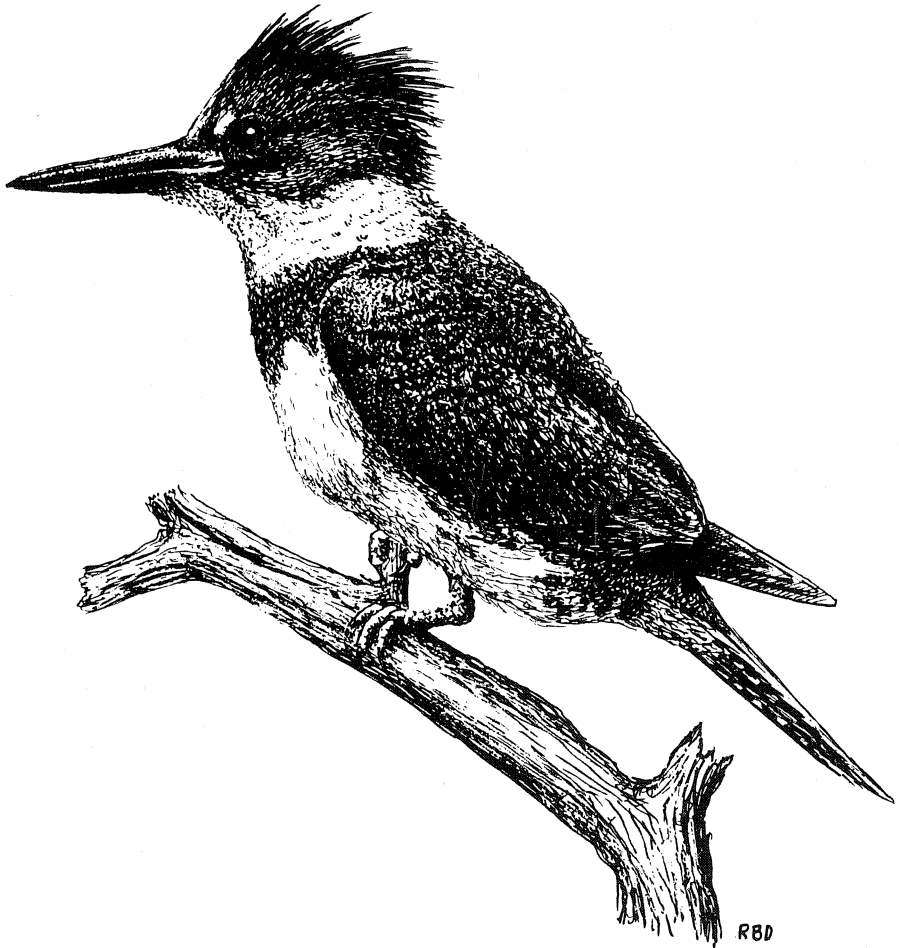


Nova Scotia Birds



July 1994

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief	Shirley Cohrs
Records Editor	Wendie Tay
Photographic Editor	Ian McLaren
Christmas Counts	David Currie Francis Spalding
Seasonal Bird Reports	R.G.B. Brown David Currie Keith Keddy Ian McLaren
Cover: Belted Kingfisher by Bob Dickie	Bev Sarty Francis Spalding Richard Stern

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Spring Migration 1994	3
A Spring Weekend in N. Carolina... R. Stern	27
Field Trip Reports	29
Forthcoming Field Trips	35
Profile--Keith Keddy	37
Living Island VIII	41
The Feeder Pages	44
Seabirds along the Eastern Seaboard..H. Hall	48
Birds with Character.....Bernard Forsythe	50
A Reversible Catastrophe...Rich Stallcup	52

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

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

ISSN 0383-9567

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

RECORD EDITOR'S REPORT

Being the new Records Editor, I don't know who decided it would be a good idea to start with the most heavily reported season, but I'm told the rest will be really easy!! I began having doubts about any part of "really easy" when my first report was a 'phoned one and the next was a letter involving four (of seven) editors.

However, I then began receiving the mailed reports, almost all on either the NSBS report forms or pieces of paper of similar size (10.5 x 7 cm or 4 1/4 x 2 3/4 pages). I really want to thank all of the many contributors for helping make my job easier; you were great!

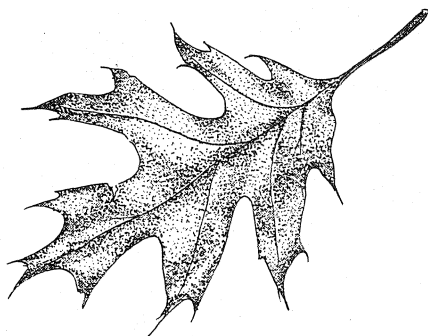
Dick, Dave, Keith, Ian, Bev, Fran and Richard (the Seasonal Editors) became household names as we searched the N.S. Checklist to find who owned each species. Not being completely familiar with the taxonomical order, it took a lot of searching. It seemed amazing that Killdeer and Chimney Swift seemed always to disappear from my checklist. I knew they were not rarities! On the other hand, I searched in vain for American Oystercatcher and House Finch. They are not on our list. I must give equal credit to my husband Karl, who spent nearly as much time as I did on this busy, but enjoyable task.

I thought you might like to know that we received over 1600 pieces of 10.5 x 7 cm reports. Two hundred fifty-one of the two hundred ninety-eight birds on the Checklist were reported and at least ten rarities. The most reported bird (not number of birds, but number of reports) was the Great Blue Heron. I guess we were all anxious to report a true sign that spring had arrived after such a long, cold, snowy winter. Relatively speaking, COMMOM birds like crows, House Sparrows and even Blue Jays were less frequently reported.

This endeavour was done completely by hand--no computer aid. Reports were sorted by editor, then by taxonomical order and mailed off as quickly as possible. I did not keep any records of numbers of birds. This was just a general overview I thought birders might enjoy.

As my predecessor, Bob Dickie suggested in the April issue, I have not sent individual acknowledgements, but I want to say a great big THANK YOU to all the contributors. I hope I have over 2000 reports to sort for the January issue. It has been a busy but interesting experience and I am as anxious as you are to read the Reports of spring migration.

--Wendie Tay, Records Editor.



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

Yarmouth Co. (Yar. Co.)	Arcadia, Pinkney's Point, Tusket, Cranberry Head, Eel Brook, Chegoggin, Melbourne, Overton, all the Pubnicos, Glenwood, Dayton, Quinan
Shelburne Co. (Shel. Co.)	Cape Sable Is., Cape Sable, Matthews Lake, Lower Ohio, The Hawk, Seal Is., Sand Hills, Little Harbour Port L'Hebert W.
Queen's Co	Port Joli, Port L'Hebert E.
Lunenburg Co. (Lun. Co.)	Cherry Hill, Broad Cove, Petite Riviere, Green Bay, Crousetown, Crescent Beach, Publicover Lake.
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

SPRING MIGRATION 1994

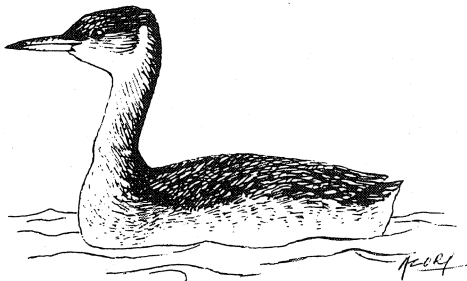
LOONS AND GREBES

RED-THROATED LOONS were scarce this spring. Two were seen regularly in the Cape Sable Island area from early March (JCZ) and the Middle River of Pictou had 4 on May 14 (CGB). Sixty Common Loons were in the Halifax Hbr. area Mar. 20 (BLM,RAF,ROF) and a week later there were still "plenty" along the South Shore (RBS); elsewhere loons continued to be reported in lower numbers than one might expect. One was calling Apr. 1 at Welshtown Lake (DOE,CAH) but most lakes didn't have loons until after the middle of the month.

PIED-BILLED GREBES were at 5 locations. Since we had no reports of overwintering birds, the one that arrived on Mar. 25 at Sherose Is., Barrington Bay was probably an early migrant (MUN,JCZ,WAA). The Amherst marshes had 5 Pied-Billeds on Apr. 25 (KJM) and 10 by May 14 (AJV, BJA). A pair discovered on Apr. 27 at Goose Creek Marsh (Glenwood) were still there May 19 (RSD)—breeding in all likelihood, but it would be nice to confirm it. Another pair was at Apple R. from May 12 to end of the report period (KFS). Last was a single bird May 22 in the D.U. Pond at Annapolis Royal (DHH).

Only a dozen HORNED GREBES were reported in March—half of these were at Prospect (Hfx.), 5 in Shel. Co., and 1 at Digby on Mar. 29 (in breeding plumage already) (RBS). The only other reports were of a rather small spring concentration on the South Shore: 10 on Apr. 1 at East Berlin Bay (BLM,MAD) and 40 in the Port Joli/Port Mouton areas on Apr. 10 (IAM,ELM). RED-NECKED GREBES were also spread thinly on our coastal waters. Fully half of the dozen reports received mention only 1-2 birds each; the few higher counts: 22 on Mar. 16 at Pubnico Point (RSD); 40 around Halifax Hbr on Mar. 20 (BLM,ROF); and a week later RBS noted "plenty" along the South Shore including 20+ at Little Point l'Hebert.

--BDS, ed.



FULMARS TO CORMORANTS

Raymond d'Entremont, out on Georges Bank, saw almost all our tubenoses, beginning with 200 NORTHERN FULMARS on March 26. His first GREAT SHEARWATER was on May 10, about average for first arrivals. SOOTY SHEARWATERS, as usual, arrived earlier. Raymond's first birds were on April 15, through they still weren't very common. His first WILSON'S STORM-PETREL was on May 4: rather late, because he usually expects them in mid-April. His only LEACH'S STORM-PETREL came aboard on April 17, dazzled by the fishing lights. At The Hawk on May 5, Sandra and Johnny Nickerson were taken aback when the Leach's they were watching was swallowed alive by a passing Herring Gull—but life goes on. They heard Leach's singing happily on Bon Portage Island on the weekend on May 21-22.

As usual, NORTHERN GANNETS were common off southern Nova Scotia during their spring migration. Off Brier Island, Eric Mills and others saw 'hundreds' moving NE on May 21-22. Andrew Macfarlane saw a steady movement of birds going past Sable Island between March 18 and May 12. He doesn't mention directions, but these birds must have been heading NE, to the colonies in SE Newfoundland the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Ken McKenna and Calvin Brennan saw at least 60 Gannets going past Pictou Lighthouse on April 9. Dennis Hipperm reports a couple of adults off Hartlen's Point, Halifax Harbour on April 18.

GREAT CORMORANTS were scarce. The only reports are Ken McKenna's bird at Pictou Causeway on March 27, and Bill Caudle and Joan Czapaly's handful of sightings in Lunenburg Bay and LaHave in March-April. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS were widely reported. As usual, I give priority to sequences of observations within a given season, and to comparisons with previous years. Andrew Macfarlane, out on Sable Island, wasn't too far offshore to pick up a movement of returning Double-crests: at least 15 birds between April 29 and May 22. Calvin Brennan and Ken McKenna, on Pictou Causeway area, only saw a singleton on April 1, but counted 70 there on April 7, and at least 1,000 birds on May 4. Wendie and Karl Tay, out in Dartmouth Harbour on May 23, felt that the numbers of Double-crests were definitely down; they could see no sign of breeding.

--RBBB, ed.

HERONS AND ALLIES

The first AM. BITTERN was timely on Apr. 16 at Apple R. (MSM,WLM), 2 more were noted on Apr. 24, and another 3 in May.

Our records editor informs us that the GREAT BLUE HERON is the most frequently reported bird, but most submissions are not very useful for our purposes. There is little point, for example, in reporting two birds at locality X on May 1, when the birds are clearly widespread long before that date. Apparent arrival dates in your areas, large movements or gatherings, and any anecdotes on behaviour, etc., are most welcome for this and any of our common species. This spring's first Great Blue was at Ingrauport, Hfx. Co., on Mar. 17 (LAC,JLC), there were 2 more in Lun. Co. in later March, 6 more widely by Apr. 5, and 10 reports of some 35 birds by mid-April. A GREAT EGRET was spotted at various sites between Lockeport and Matthew's L. between Apr. 20-28 (DLC et al.), and another was on Cape Sable Is., May 1-8 (JCZ et al.). An ad. LITTLE BLUE HERON was at Allendale, Shel. Co., on May 15 (fide DJC). Individual CATTLE EGRETS were discovered in Middle Sackville on Apr. 22-23 (BJA and at E. Maitland, May 2-8 (CRKA et al.). A GREEN HERON that stayed at L. Clark's Hbr. from May 2 to at least May 16 became affectionately known as "Morton" to local residents (CJZ); I wish I knew why! As usual, BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS were on the marshes of Cape Sable Is. from at least Apr. 30 (BLM,JWT), with up to 6 there on May 14. An injured YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON appeared in Halifax in the third week of April, but was not widely reported. An ad. GLOSSY IBIS was at Comeau's Hill, Yar. Co., on Apr. 11 (HJH), and another at L. South River, Ant. Co., from Apr. 28 to May 2 (R. MacIntosh).

--IAM, ed.

GEESE AND DUCKS

On Apr. 23 Judy Tufts watched 37 geese flying toward Boot Is. off Grand Pré. All were smaller than Canada Geese. Thinking they might be Brant she continued to watch but they landed and disappeared amidst the island's gulls and cormorants. Finally, she spotted 9 leaving the island and, with improved lighting conditions, was able to see quite clearly that they were SNOW GEESE--it pays to be patient. Singleton Snows were in Yarmouth Hbr., Mar 6 (HJH) and on May 24 at Advocate (BAS).

As usual, the big flocks of BRANT were at Cape Sable Island, especially The Hawk, where 1000 on Mar. 13 (JCZ) had doubled their numbers a week later (MUN,RSD). Twenty-five Brant at Pond Cove, Brier Island on Feb. 20 (RBS) had built up to 450 birds by Mar. 20, with an additional 200 in nearby Freeport Cove, Long Island (ELM,AHM). None were reported from the Wolfville area this spring but in the last week of April, Northport and Linden (Cumb.) had 90 and 100 birds respectively (KJM,JWT). Much smaller numbers (15-36) were at several South Shore locations. Not many follow the Atlantic coast but 7 made it to Hartlen's Point, May 5 (BJZ,AJV).

Up to 12,000 CANADA GEESE congregated along the Eastern shore by the last week of March (CJH,BDS); in other locales numbers weren't exceptionally high: on Mar. 24, 8-900 at Glenwood (JKD) and 200+ at Advocate (KFS); 225 at Canning, Apr. 1 (JCT). Twelve other reports add about 350 birds to this summary. Reports of 24 WOOD DUCKS included only 2 females. Lone drakes were first discovered Apr. 7 at Apple R. (MSM,WLM) and Petite Riviere (JLC,JSC). Donna Ensor saw 3 of the 7 males that showed up in Herb and Bessie Harris' flooded field on Apr. 23; these were later joined by a female; 7 were also at Boat Hbr. (Pic.) on May 14 (KJM). "Woodies" came by ones and twos to Glenwood, Beaverbank Rd., Drain Lake and Lr. Barney's River (a pair-CGB).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL were mentioned far less frequently than usual with seven of twelve reports tallying fewer than 10 birds each. However, 20 were at Chezzetcook, Apr. 3 (BDS); by Apr. 21, 30+ were at Canard Pond (RBS); and at Goose Creek (Cumb.) JWT counted 40 on Apr. 26. On Sable Island, where there were 2-3 pairs of "our" Green-winged Teal, a drake of the Eurasian race was observed from May 4-20 (AFM).

As winter flocks dispersed and the search for spring arrivals began, BLACK DUCKS drew little attention but were likely present in usual numbers. The first brood was a small one--an adult with 3 young May 20 at Apple R. (KFS). On May 22 the Cohrs were surprised when a second female and her 11 tiny ducklings appeared on a very tiny pond at Green Bay to share the close quarters with another female and her half-grown family of 8. In March JCT saw MALLARDS in "many locations", especially Port LaTour. Port Williams Sewage Ponds and Harris Pond, Canning, hosted 7 birds each, mostly drakes, on Apr. 27 (JCT). Mallards are making in-roads on Sable Island where AFM saw "up to 6, often 3-5 males together, sometimes "paired" with Black Ducks". Andrew included notes on an apparent Mallard x Black hybrid which was nesting. Unfortunately, these hybrids are becoming a common sight in many places.

Three overwintering NORTHERN PINTAILS, all females, were still in Halifax, Mar. 20 (BLM,ROF). Two at Port Joli a week later were probably our first spring migrants (RBS). Lone drakes were at Cape Sable Is., Cole Hbr. and Apple R. and 50 reached the Amherst region by Apr. 9 (FLL et al.). The only broods reported were on Sable Island where on May 20 AFM watched 1 female with 8 larger young and 2 others, each with 10 tiny ducklings.

The first BLUE-WINGED TEAL was an already amorous pair at Daniel's Head, CSI, on Mar. 27 (JCZ). April found Blue-wings, almost always in pairs, throughout the mainland--the only C.B. report was 2 at Ingonish, May 20 (BLM). Most locations had only one pair so combined numbers were not high. The exception was Eddy Marsh with 10 on Apr. 24 (KJM) and double that number on May 1 (NSBS field trip).

Eight RING-NECKED DUCKS, mostly drakes, arrived at Pleasant Lake, Yar. Co., Mar. 22; 18 were there three days later (JKD,RSD). Many other observers mentioned 6-15 birds through April/May at locations such as: Mader's Cove, Canard Pond, Drain Lake, Rocky Lake, Egerton and Apple R. Higher counts were 100 at the "ever-ducky" Amherst marshes May 1 (NSBS field trip) and 30 at George's Meadows, N. Kemptville, May 7 (MRH).

Pubnico Hbr. held 100+ GREATER SCAUP Mar. 23 and at least 300 by the 29th (JKD). During the same week JCZ counted a mixed flock of 38 in Barrington Bay and 50 were off Crescent Beach (RBS). The only other sizable flock was 100 at Lr. South Cove (Dig.) Apr. 3.

Three lingered until May 22 at Three Fathom Hbr (JWW,CLS). A pair of LESSER SCAUP frequented the Port Williams Sewage Ponds from April 8 (GWT) through May 15 (many obs.). Another pair turned up Apr. 13 at Lyon's Brook (Brennans, R. Murphy). A week or so later 3 scaup at Port Maitland pond were scrutinized and determined to be "Lessers" (JCZ).

Several thousand COMMON EIDERS passed through the Halifax Hbr. approaches during late March/early April, but didn't seem to linger as long as they sometimes do. AIM reports that the passage of a cold front and clearing weather on Apr. 17 produced a big flyby of 100s of eiders off Hartlen's Point. Smaller flocks (8-30) were all along the South and Fundy shores throughout spring and 250 were off Seal Island in early May (BLM,JWT). The Victoria Day weekend field trip to Bon Portage saw a hen with only 2 babies but a number of others on nests (JCZ)--let's hope they are more successful. The only KING EIDER was a drake ranging between Chebucto and Tribune Head, Apr. 1-4 (sev. obs.).

On Mar. 27, RBS,BFF & AAM decided to visit Little Point l'Hebert hoping to see 1 or 2 HARLEQUIN DUCKS but were thrilled to find 40--"what a sight!"; 25 were still there Apr. 10 (IAM,ELM). The size of this flock is some compensation for the fact that they weren't found elsewhere this spring.

After a fairly good winter showing, OLDSQUAW numbers dropped off rather early--maybe observers were preoccupied with seeking out signs of spring. Eight reports combined to tally barely over 100 birds, all of these on the South Shore except for half a dozen at Apple R. where 3 lingered until Apr. 28 (KFS), and Digby Hbr. had "small flocks" in late March (RBS).

Aside from 350 WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS in the Halifax Hbr. approaches Mar. 20 (BLM, RAF,ROF), this species and BLACK SCOTERS continued to be very thinly spread through March and April. There was no mention of SURF SCOTERS until Apr. 9 when a male was at Economy (FLS) and a female appeared at the Port Williams Sewage Ponds, which must have been to its liking as it was still there May 6 (JCT,GWT). Just when it was looking like yet another dismal spring for scoters, things changed dramatically at Green Bay (where else!). The assembly began the first week of May with 150 Black Scoters and 300 surfs (SJF,Cohrs) and peaked May 19 with 3000 birds: 50% White-winged, the rest evenly divided Black and Surf (Cohrs)--unusually late, but you know the old saying...

COMMON GOLDENEYE were reported from Yarmouth--18 on Mar. 25 (JKD)--all the way to Sydney--2 on May 15 (JAC). A mere 10 reports for this species is really not enough for a fair assessment but it is surprising nevertheless that more than half of these records noted only 1 or 2 birds each. One of the BARROW'S GOLDENEYE from the winter report was still in Bedford Basin Mar. 20 (BLM,ROF,RAF). RBS saw "lots" of BUFFLEHEAD from Port Joli to Petite Rivere on Mar. 27. On Apr. 2, 7 were at Martinique Beach (Blm, ROF, RAF) and BJA counted 30 at Annapolis Royal Apr. 27. Other locations didn't fare as well, with only 1-3 birds each. (Pleasant Lake, Canard Pond, Parrsboro and Apple R.).

A note of caution to anyone birding the Cape Sable Island area--if you happen upon a CINNAMON TEAL, enjoy the thrill of discovery, admire the beautiful plumage, but don't "tic" any list-two were known to have escaped a local private collection.

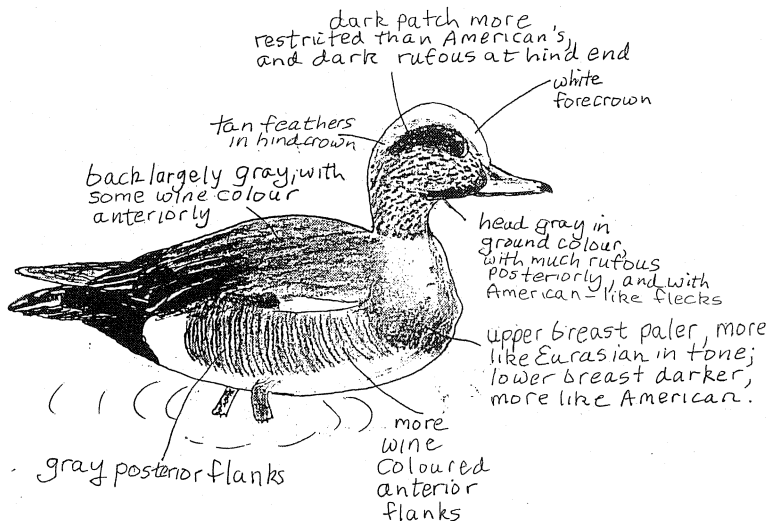
NORTHERN SHOVELERS weren't noticed beyond the Amherst marshes this spring. KJM found 8 at Eddy Marsh, Apr. 24 and on May 14 there were 10 at APBS (BJA, AJV). The GADWALL story is also brief: probably the same overwintering female at Trenton, Mar. 27 (KJM); a pair at Apple R. Apr. 20 were joined by a second female a few days later (KFS); and 8 individuals May 1 in the Amherst marshes (NSBS field trip).

A drake EURASIAN WIGEON was discovered at Big Island Apr. 22 (CGB) and relocated there on May 1 (KJM). Between these dates, on the 26th, Harry and Jean Brennan saw one further along the Northumberland shore at Linden--probably the original one wandering about but it is always possible that there were 2.

The Cohrs submitted the earliest report of AMERICAN WIGEON this spring: a male and female at Petite Riviere Mar. 20-28. Most other Wigeons went to Cumb. Co., especially the Amherst area where there were already 40 Apr. 9 (FLL et al.) and 52 by May 1. Three (2 drakes) were in Canning, Apr. 19 (JWW) and a pair was at the Annapolis Royal D.U. Pond, May 22 (DHH).

Ordinarily this would conclude the Wigeon story but this time we have a "curve ball" of sorts--a hybrid Eurasian x American Wigeon--you have to be on your toes all the time.

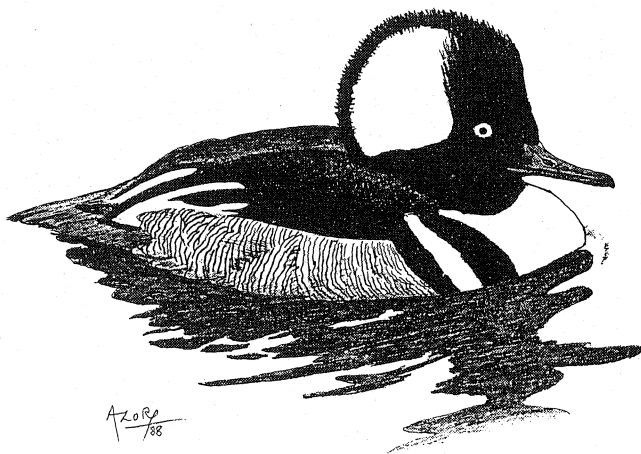
Ian McLaren's sketch and full details, based on his May 8 field notes at Three Fathom Hbr., fit perfectly with the bit of information I have on this hybridization. Ian adds that this hybrid has been sighted regularly on the west coast in recent years but this is the first he knows of it for the Maritimes. Now, where did the deed occur? Am. Wigeon have been found in Iceland, or was it closer to home in Atlantic Canada.



Allowing for possible repeats, observers found about 25 HOODED MERGANSERS--a good spring for our smallest "merg". A pair overwintered at Pleasant Lake and 5 were there Apr. 5 (JKD,RSD). Active courtship displays drew attention at South Milford, Apr. 2 (BLM,MAD) and on Apr. 12 at Drain Lake where 3 males vied for the attention of 2 females (JCT). A pair was at each of the following locations: Merrigomish, Mooseland, LaHave River (near Dayspring) and N. Kemptville.

COMMON MERGANSERS were present in usual numbers. Fourteen (1:1, m:f) were in Mahone Bay, Mar. 19 (JBM) and a day later the Cohrs counted 120+ along the shore from Conrad's Beach to Chezzetcook. Most April reports noted "a pair" but 7 (5 males) were at Apple R., Apr. 8 (KFS) and a mixed flock of 9-11 frequented Rudderham Creek near Point Edward until May 21 (JAC). RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were seen regularly on Sable Island: 35 on Mar. 9; 20 on May 14, after which numbers dropped (AFM). Fifty around Halifax Hbr., Mar. 20, 8 in Mahone Bay Mar. 22 (JBM) and 9 in Apple R., Apr. 28 were all quite representative of what people were seeing. More exceptional were 1100 on Apr. 9 along the Northumberland Shore, Amherst to Pictou (FLL et al.). Last report was May 21 when 11 lingered along the Shore Rd. on Sydney Hbr. (JAC,JOK).

--BDS, ed.



DIURNAL RAPTORS

As usual, TURKEY VULTURES wintered on Brier Island. Although others reported only up to 3, at least 6 survived into early March (DET). After this, only ones and twos were reported over the island, and possibly they had dispersed to as-yet-undiscovered nest sites on Digby Neck or elsewhere. Three wanderers were noted: at Publicover L., Lun. Co. on Apr. 12 (JLC,JSC), Economy on Apr. 16 (FLS), and New Salem and Apple R. Apr. 15-21 (MSM,WLM).

Our first 2 OSPREYS arrived on almost record-early dates: at Ingrampont on Mar. 17 (LAC,JLC) and over Mahone Bay on Mar. 19 (JBM). Others did not report them until mid-April (reports for Apr. 13-20), by which time they were busily reworking their old nests. The only reported early spring concentration of BALD EAGLES away from King's Co., were 10 on Bras d'Or L. on Mar. 26 (JNM). As usual, scattered breeding-season birds were seen throughout the province, including nesting pairs at Lyons Br., Pic. Co. (AJV), Walbrook, King's Co. (JWW), and Economy (FLS). Although there was no clear indication of arrival dates of migrant N. HARRIERS, a male at Apple R. on Mar. 26 and a pair there on Apr. 7 (KFS), and a fem. at Grand Pré on Apr. 4 (JCT) are suggestive. However, five reports for Apr. 21-27 suggest a later influx. Eight reports of SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS are about as expected for this bird which becomes less evident in the breeding season. Adult N. GOSHAWKS were reported from five localities from Cape Breton Is. to Yar. Co. (one being harrassed by a N. Raven at Greenville, MRH).

A BROAD-WINGED HAWK was reported to have been observed in the New Ross and Forties area, Lun. Co., on a number of occasions in March-April (WGC,CMR). If so, it might have been the first to have wintered successfully, but no details were supplied. Otherwise, our earliest was about on schedule on Apr. 24 near Westville, Pic. Co. (CGB), and several more were noted by May. RED-TAILED HAWKS can be seen on any spring trip along Nova Scotia highways, so most reports are uninformative. Reporters might note the status of such partial migrants more usefully by phrases such as : "absent from area throughout late winter, so one on Apr. 2 was probably a migrant". A very dark-plumaged bird was noted at Acaciaville, Digby Co., on Apr. 23 (BJA). ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were scarce this winter, and the latest were 2 at Cape John, Pic. Co., on Apr. 8 (KJM) and 6 around Amherst on Apr. 9 (FLL et al.).

After a dearth of AM. KESTRELS in winter, we received 11 reports of 14 spring individuals, the earliest on Apr. 1 on Brier Is. (ELM) and at two sites in Pic. Co. (CGB, KJM). Most of the others were seen Apr. 23-28, suggesting a movement during that period. Of 16 MERLINS, the earliest was at Bigelow Cove, Fundy Shore, on Apr. 15, and 8 more were noted between Apr. 17-23, again implying a migratory influx.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

A group of 3-4 GRAY PARTRIDGES was at Starr's Pt., Kings Co., on Mar. 28 (**vide** JWW), and a less-expected bird was along the highway between Truro and Stewiacke on Apr. 2 (AJV). As usual, they became cryptic in later spring. RING-NECKED PHEASANTS were still being reported at feeders into early April, but were crowing in Wolfville on Mar. 28 (JWW) and at Green Bay in early April (where their "gronking", per JSC, is now much more widespread). Six reports of 7 SPRUCE GROUSE ^{through spring} are about average, while 10 reports of about 25 RUFFED GROUSE suggest an upward swing of the cycle. Two of the N. BOBWHITES released last year survived to at least Mar. 1 near Berwick (**vide** JWW).

RALLIDS

Three reports of calling SORAS in Pic. Co. on May 8 (CGB,KJM,AJV) apparently all refer to different birds. Another was enjoyed by NSBS field trippers near Hopewell on May 22. A COM. MOORHEN was noted at Apple R. on May 22 (KFS), and surely the AM. COOTS I saw at A.P.B.S. on May 27 had been seen by others earlier.

SHOREBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS were present in almost fall-like numbers this spring, with 15 reports totaling about 500. Earliest were 20 at Cape Sable, Apr. 22 (MUN). In the Avonport-Windsor area the third week in May saw numbers rise from 175 to 334 (JCT,SHW); reports from Sand Point (KJM), Sable Is. (AFM), LaHave (NAD) are of 1-5 birds but 50 were at Brighton, Digby Co., May 22 (BJA) and 25 at Economy, May 28 (FLS). A few were still at Dan's Head, May 29 (JCZ). On Sable Is., 2 LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVERS were present May 10 (AFM), with a further 3 at Dan's Head May 23-24 (JCZ,WAT,MUN). The only SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS were 3 (max) on Sable Island, May 8-24 (ADM). Two PIPING PLOVERS arrived on schedule at Port Mouton, Apr. 10 (ELM,IAM); 2 at Grand Pré, Apr. 25 (BBT) were probably just stopping by. Elsewhere, in May, pairs were found at Baccaro (HGH,HJH) and Dan's Head (JCZ et. al.) and 2 pairs on Bowen Is., Pic. Co., plus a nest with 4 eggs May 26 (KJM); a single bird was at Lockeport, May 5 (DJC). Noteworthy is the absence of reports from the Halifax area. An errant KILLDEER was on Sable Island, Mar. 5, found dead on the 9th (AFM). First noted on the mainland were 2 at Lr. W. Pubnico (JKD) and 1 at Wolfville (fide JWW) Mar. 24, followed by 8 more reports through Apr. 1. A nest at Apple River held 4 eggs on May 23 (KFS). In all nineteen reports of 29 individuals were received.

An AMERICAN AVOCET in full breeding plumage was seen and photographed in the Linden Marsh Apr. 24 (KJM), the fourteenth Nova Scotia record.

Of 22 GREATER YELLOWLEGS, the first appeared Apr. 24 on Digby Neck (RBS), and 5 were at Apple River on the 26th (KFS). Elsewhere 1-2 were noted through May 8, though presumably some are still here. Only 4 LESSER YELLOWLEGS appeared, 3 at Pt. Edward, Apr. 30 (JAC,JOK) and a single on Sable Island, May 8 (AFM). A SOLITARY SANDPIPER, unusual here in spring, was at Economy, May 14 (BJA,AJV). As is to be expected WILLETS were first noticed in the southwest: 2 at Lr. W. Pubnico, Apr. 26 (JKD). Still early, for the area, were 2 at Wolfville on the 29th (JWW). Small numbers reported to mid-month with a maximum of 13 on the 15th at Economy (FLS); thereafter they presumably become part of the birder's landscape, remarkable only by their absence. Both less common and less noticeable, 11 SPOTTED SANDPIPERS were seen, the earliest at Island Park, Apr. 30 (DOE). May reports include 3 from the Advocate area (KFS,MS&JRM) and one from Somerville featuring the male's display flight (MRH). UPLAND SANDPIPERS, 1 at The Hawk May 1 (BLM,JWT et al.), 1 at Brighton, Dig. Co., May 20-21 (BJA), are becoming an almost annual highlight of these reports. Also noteworthy in spring, a WHIMBREL was on Cape Sable May 3 (MUN et al.). A stray RUDDY TURNSTONE was on Sable Island Mar. 25 (AFM) and 5 migrants on Cape Sable Island, Apr. 22 (MUN). Four reports of RED KNOTS from Cape Sable, 6 on Apr. 22 (MUN), 4 May 1 (BLM,JWT), 2 May 7 and 1 May 15-16 (JCZ,WAA) more probably represent a total of 7 than of 13. Elsewhere 1-2 were on Sable Island at mid-month (AFM) and 4 at Economy May 28 (FLS). On Mar. 7, 3 SANDERLINGS were on Sable Island, where 150 migrants appeared May 16, 22 were still present May 22 (AFM). At Broad Cove 10 on Mar. 26 had over-wintered there (JSC). On Cape Sable Island 20 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS were present May 1 (BLM,JWT). Six reports totaling 125 LEAST SANDPIPERS all date from mid-May to the end of the month. Only five sightings PURPLE SANDPIPERS were sent in, the only two-digit flock being of 44 at Sober Island, Pic. Co., Mar. 22 (CGB). At Economy, 3 late migrants were present May 10 (FLS). Among the shorebirds on Cape Sable Is., Apr. 22 were 7 DUNLIN (MUN). All but 4 of the 25 at Avonport, May 20 were gone by the 23rd (JCT).

Two dowitchers, presumably SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS, were on Sable Island, May 12 (AFM); 8 of that species were at Cherry Hill May 17 (SJF) and 2 at Economy May 28 (FLS). A COMMON SNIPE at Amherst could have over-wintered there or nearby (ROA). The first normal migrant was heard at Apple River, April 14, where there were 3 two days later (KFS). Singles were on Sable Island, May 1 and 20 (AFM); only 2 further reports suggest the species is not usually written up unless noted early. The same holds for the AMERICAN WOODCOCK: first sightings come from Little Hbr., Mar. 23 (DHY), Apple River Mar. 28 (KFS) and Wolfville Apr. 3 (GMT). A mother and 3 young were feeding by a roadside in Lun. Co., May 19 (JSC).

A suggestion for contributors wishing to save time: why not use your assigned initials rather than troubling to write out your full name. It would, incidentally, also save the sub-editor having to look them up.

--FLS, ed.



This sprightly young Whimbrel entertained birders on Seal Island last Fall.
Photo Ian McLaren

PHALAROPES TO AUKS

Raymond d'Entremont saw "several hundred" RED-NECKED PHALAROPES on Georges Bank on May 6. He also saw a couple of Red-necked feeding off the tip of Pubnico Point in May, "no more than yards from the beach". It is Red Phalaropes that Raymond usually sees south off Nova Scotia in spring, during the third week of May. Migrating Red Phalaropes, breeding in the High Arctic, have longer to wait before the snow melts.

Raymond d'Entremont saw an adult POMARINE JAEGER on Georges Bank on May 5.

HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS were abundant as usual, and will be given their usual short shrift. Blake Maybank and Roger Foxall saw our winter adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL at the Dartmouth Volvo Plant on March 20, and Donna J. Crosby notes that, for the fourth winter in a row, her faithful bird was back at Crescent Beach, Lockeport. Blake Maybank and Roger Foxall saw an adult GLAUCOUS GULL at Canard Pond on March 20. Wilfred Atfield and Azor Viennieu saw a Glaucous at Hartlen's Point on May 5, and Clarence Stevens and Jim Wolford found a late first-winter bird at Three Fathom Harbour on May 22. Richard Stern reports at least 5 ICELAND GULLS at Port Williams in mid-March--"an unusual location". The Big Day on March 20 produced 200 of them in Halifax Harbour and Ian McLaren and Eric Mills saw several late birds in Eastern Passage, at the sewer outlet on May 8.

Among the smaller gulls, Jerome K d'Eon saw a RING-BILLED GULL at the Glenwood Ducks Unlimited on Mar. 9; Calvin Brennan and Ken McKenna saw their first arrivals, 11 birds, at Pictou on Mar. 20; Kathleen Spicer saw 3 at Apple River, Cumb. Co., on Mar. 30. Fulton Lavender's party estimated that there were 2,500 Ring-bills along the Northumberland shore between Amherst and Pictou. Our first BONAPARTE'S GULLS were 2 adults that Calvin Brennan's party saw at Lyon's Brook on April 13. Calvin also saw 3 adults and 10 juveniles at Loch Broom, Pic. Co., May 14, and Ken McKenna had one on May 28 and saw 50 in non-breeding plumage in the area. Blake Maybank and Roger Foxall saw one at Tufts Cove powerplant outflow on Mar. 20. In Yar. Co., Jerome K. d'Eon saw one at Eel Brook, Yar. Co., on Mar. 4, Calvin McKenna's party claim a COMMON GULL at Big Island on Feb. 28, but give no details, so I can only put it down as a "definite maybe". Blake Maybank and Roger Foxall saw 40 COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULLS, mainly in breeding plumage, in Halifax Hbr, Mar. 20. David Young saw 5 birds at Matthews Lake on Mar. 26.

Raymond d'Entremont saw an adult LAUGHING Gull in summer plumage on Georges Bank on May 4.

Andrew Macfarlane saw about 100 BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES close inshore off Sable Island South Beach on Mar. 3.

Judy Tufts reports the first CASPIAN TERNS of the spring: at the Port Williams sewage ponds on Apr. 23. This was followed by Dennis Hippert's bird, well seen on the Cornwallis River two days later. Among our earliest COMMON TERNS were 3 that Ken McKenna and Calvin Brennan saw at Lyons Brook, Pic. Co., May 7, and 60+ birds that Jerome K. d'Eon saw at the colony on Twin Island, Lr. W. Pubnico, on May 9. Blake Maybank and Roger Foxall saw 40 COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULLS in Halifax Hbr. on Mar. 20, most of them in breeding plumage. David Young saw 5 at Matthews Lake on Mar. 26, and Brad Amirault saw 1 at Drain Lake, Hfx. Co., in April.

Our first and only BLACK TERN so far was spotted by Ken McKenna at Eddy Marsh on May 23.

BLACK GUILLEMOTS, our only resident auks, were seen in small numbers as usual. For example, Blake Maybank's parties saw 15 in Halifax Harbour on Mar. 20, and about 100 on their visit to Seal Island on May 3; Dennis Hippert saw 1 on Brier Island on May 1; Andrew Macfarlane saw 1 in Lunenburg Hbr. on Apr. 4. However, these are just samples of a range that includes almost all of our coastline. Blake Maybank's party saw a THICK-BILLED MURRE at Portuguese Cove, Hfx., Mar. 20. Finally, Raymond S. d'Entremont passes on a note from Daryl Amirault, who saw a couple of COMMON PUFFINS in Lobster Bay, Georges Bank in the first week of May.

DOVES, CUCKOO, OWLS

I don't know what to do with the few reports of ROCK DOVES. (Maybe there'll be renewed interest with the slated change of name to Rock Pigeon.) The first cooing MOURNING DOVE was heard by DOE on Mar. 16. Were 2 that turned up newly at a feeder in Halifax on Apr. 25-27 (JAC) on the move? Some later reports referred to individuals seen, "in the wild", so to speak. The only reported BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO was at Little Hbr., Shel. Co., on May 10 (DHY).

GREAT HORNED OWLS were not reported after March, although were doubtless heard by some. Last winter's persistent SNOWLY OWL on Cape Sable Is., was joined by another on Mar. 1. One was later found dead, but the other was seen until at least Apr. 17 (CJZ et al.). Four reports of BARRED OWLS from widespread localities were fewer than usual. At least 3 SHORT-EARED OWLS were still present at Grand Pré on Mar. 19 (**vide** JWW), but the only later sighting was of a bird there on Apr. 13 (JCT). A N. SAW-WHET OWL was "tooting" at Elgin, Pic. Co., on Mar. 31 (CGB,KJM), and 3 others were heard elsewhere in May. A pair nesting in one of Harry Brennan's nest boxes at Hopewell were a treat for NSBS field trippers on May 22.

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFT, HUMMINGBIRD, KINGFISHER

The Spryfield WHIP-POOR-WILLS were present by early June, and possibly not looked for earlier. The first. COMMON NIGHTHAWK was noted at Apple R. on May 25 (KFS). Others were over Wolfville (JWW) and L. Ohio (DOE) on May 29, but were not at "the usual locations" in Pic. Co. on that date (KJM). The earliest CHIMNEY SWIFTS were, as usual, at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre, where about 20 entered the chimney on May 9 (JWW). They were reported at four other locations by May 14, and widely by month's end. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS are generally well monitored; people look forward to them at feeders. The first were in Bedford (**vide** DOC) and Musquodoboit Hbr. (CJH) on May 5 and near Yarmouth on May 6 (HGH,HJH). One of the two at Bedford was said to be "larger, without red throat, and much larger bill"; such birds should be reported quickly to other birders, as exotic hummers are quite possible. Nine more appeared between May 8-15, but FLS thought their numbers remained "down sharply" in late May.

The BELTED KINGFISHER at the Trenton power plant on Mar. 7 was an "overwintering bird most likely" (KJM). One at Apple R. on Apr. 6 (WLM) was probably our first arrival. Five more appeared between Apr. 15-20, and several more by month's end.

WOODPECKERS

A RED-HEADED WOODPECKER at the Brier Island cemetery on May 22 (sev. obs.) was said by locals to have been present two days earlier, and stayed to month's end. Two exceptionally early YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS were on Mar. 24 (found dead a week later) on Cape Sable Is. (Murray Newall) and in Lockeport between Mar. 29 and Apr. 2 (**vide** DJC). The next was not seen until Apr. 25, and only two were reported for May. Twelve reports of about 35 DOWNY WOODPECKERS, many still at feeders through spring, were about as usual, although JCT asks: "did other birders notice a marked absence of Downys this winter?" HAIRY WOODPECKERS also seemed as usual: 12 reports of some 20 individuals. A male THREE-TOED WOODPECKER, our first since atlassing days, was reported to have been spotted at River L., near Mooseland, on Apr. 10 (KWT). They may be more widespread than we suppose in the deep woods of the northern mainland. The more regular BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER was reported from two sites in Pic. Co (CGB). Three NORTHERN FLICKERS were "at feeders off and on all winter" at Avonport (EVU); 3 at Starr's Pt. on Mar. 17 (BBT), and individuals at Broad Cove on Mar. 26 (SJF), and Feltzen South in early April (WGC) had probably also wintered. Was one on Mar. 29 near Argyle, along the landfall coast of Yar. Co., a spring arrival? On Apr. 11, there were individuals in and near Halifax (JAC) and 5 near Advocate (JRM,MSM), while next day there were 5 reports of 9 scattered birds. Later birds were widely reported, but there was still an "overnight influx" on Apr. 28 on Brier Is. (RBS), and one reached Sable Island on May 3 (AFM). Fourteen reports of 22 PILEATED WOODPECKERS reflect an apparently upward trend in recent years.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Four OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS were seen this spring, from Pictou, Cumberland, Hants and Shelburne Counties (KJM,KFS,MAC,JCZ), from May 22-29, --ie. average dates. It would be interesting to know if they were calling, and on territory, or still migrating at that time. The first EASTERN WOOD-PEEWEE was presumably a migrant, reported from Brier Island by ELM May 22. One was singing in Halifax May 27 (MAC) and they were certainly all over the King's Co. woods by June 6 (RBS).

There are just two reports of YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER, 1 from Hammonds Plains, May 12 (RBD) and the other from the Gaspereau area May 14 (GMA). This is probably our least common regularly breeding *Epidonax*, and is fairly dependent on wet mossy undergrowth in deep woods. The ALDER FLYCATCHER is another late arrival, but JLC and JSC noted one at Petite Riviere on May 13. Once again, a rare WILLOW FLYCATCHER distinguished from the former species only by call and song, has re-appeared in the same location as last year at Avonport (SHW), for a third provincial record. The first LEAST FLYCATCHER reported was right on cue on May 13, at Petite Riviere (JLC,JSC), and birds have since appeared Yarmouth, Digby, King's, Hants, Cumberland and Pictou Counties to date.

A (presumably) migrating EASTERN PHOEBE arrived at Pubnico Point on the expected date of Apr. 11 (RSD), and since then there have been eight further reports, all from the south-western half of the province. The pair noted at the White Rock, King's Co., bridge by GWT, Apr. 25, has once again settled down to breed, and JWT also noted a regular pair at the Wentworth Park bridge, Halifax Co. (Eastern Phoebes like to nest under bridges).

A report of a SAY'S PHOEBE last fall puts me as an editor in an awkward spot. It was sent in by a well-known, respected and reliable birder, but unfortunately I have never received details of any kind, despite a reminder to the person concerned to provide them. In accordance with the guidelines in the Records Editor's report in the January 1994 *Nova Scotia Birds*, I cannot therefore include it as a record of a rarity, although I have no doubt in my own mind that it was carefully seen and correctly identified.

As usual, a scattering of GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS was present, with AAM reporting one from Bon Portage Island, May 22, BLM reporting one from Mt. St. Vincent grounds the next day, and MAC noting another in Halifax from May 23 to 28. An early EASTERN KINGBIRD was on Seal Island, May 2 (JWT, BLM), and subsequently there are 9 reports from around the province. To me they seem pretty common in King's Co. by early June.

Rather surprisingly no-one reported any HORNED LARKS during early spring, but 1 was on Lockeport's Crescent Beach May 5 and 6 (DJC), and 1 appeared to be on a nest on a patch of sand in the middle of C.F.B. Greenwood, seen during an air display, and apparently quite unconcerned at the Snowbirds roaring around overhead (RBS, May 29).

The spring's first TREE SWALLOW was seen at Cape Sable Island on Apr. (MUN), and thereafter not reported till the 15th, with some at Woodside, King's Co. (AJH). Sixty were at Eddy Marsh by the 24th (KJM), and were prospecting nest boxes by early May (CRH). ISD and RSD found a NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW at Goose Creek Marsh, Glenwood, Yar. Co., May 14. They describe its lighter, more uniform upperparts, dusky throat, and lack of breastband as compared to a Bank Swallow, and noted its slower wingbeats with deeper strokes. It did not utter a sound, and flew back and forth at extremely close range. An early BANK SWALLOW was in with Tree and Barn Swallows at Canard Pond May 14 (JWW), and HGH,HJH, and JWT have reported colonies in traditional locations by late May.

An interesting CLIFF SWALLOW sighting was out at sea, on George's Bank, May 12 (RSD), and another unusual location was Sable Island, May 20 (AFM). I heard second-hand about the usual large colony at the Annapolis Royal Bridge by late May, but as usual, this species seems to remain our least common regular *Hirundo*. Barn swallows were widely reported in appropriate locations from Apr. 23 (DOE) on into May. FLS, however, felt that May 10 was a late date for his barn-nesting birds to arrive.

CORVIDS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS

Nine reports of GRAY JAY were received, including 1 of approximately 10 birds at Mooseland, Apr. 9 (KWT). As last year, KFS had them visiting her feeder at Apple River. As usual BLUE JAYS are much in evidence, including a report of 25-30 flying north over Wolfville Ridge on Feb. 1 (D. Jones, reported to JCT). Several observers noted that AMERICAN CROWS were building nests by mid-March. The winter roost of 10,000+ in Kentville had as usual, broken up by early spring, but they all returned to their habitual spot for just one particularly cold and dull stormy evening in May! COMMON RAVENS remain highly visible and audible at this time of year, but are under-reported, as usual. However, ELM and ANM noted 100+ at Sutton's Far, Port Williams on May 20. JWW's pair at Hortonville was already incubating on the nest by Apr. 23.

There were 12 reports of BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, mostly of several birds. CMR had up to 20 visiting her New Ross feeder all spring. BLM and RBS counted 29 along the North Mountain, King's Co., in appalling wet and windy conditions on "Migration Day", May 14. ELM noted 10, presumably migrants, at North Point, Brier Island, May 22. JCT has 2 active nests on her property, Wolfville Ridge. One contained 8 eggs, May 21. The NSBS King's Co. Field Trip on June 5, found an active cavity nest in Kentville. There are just 7 BOREAL CHICKADEE reports, from Halifax, Cumberland, Yarmouth and King's Counties.

AFM had several RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES at West Light, Sable Island from May 4-22, far from their usual dense boreal forest habitat. Many others were found around the province as spring progressed. BLM and MAD found 60 in toto at Kejimikujik N.P. on Apr. 2, and a movement of 30 on Seal Island May 3. There were just 5 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH reports, including 1 of 5-10 birds at Mooseland, Apr. 10 (KWT). Six BROWN CREEPERS were reported, including 1 carrying nesting material at Blomidon Park, Apr. 29 (JCT). There are 14 reports of WINTER WREN. Perhaps numbers are on the upswing in the province. All were during late April and early May, and some were of birds behaving as if "on territory" or nesting (e.g., Apr. 29, Blomidon Park, JCT, Advocate, early May, KFS, Kentville early May on, RBS). No other wrens have been noted this spring.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS continue to be rare, after the huge influx of a few winters ago. There are only 3 reports this spring (KFS, JAC, JSC). RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS were first seen on Apr. 17 (Wolfville Ridge, JCT, GWT), and thereafter numbers built up during late April and early May, by which time several observers found them singing in the woods as expected. AFM had some obvious migrants on Sable Island, Apr. 29 to May 17.

Three BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS were seen this spring--1 in HGH and HJH's backyard in Yarmouth, Apr. 18 (what a nice addition to a yard list!), 1 on Seal Island May 1 and 2 (BLM, JWT), and 1 most uncharacteristically in woods in Kentville on the evening of May 31. The gray-blue back, white underparts, eye ring, thin bill, and white outer tail feathers were all duly noted. It could not be relocated on subsequent searches.

BLUEBIRDS THROUGH STARLINGS

A pair of EASTERN BLUEBIRDS at the cemetery on Brier Island was reported by JBM on May 20, and has subsequently been found to be nesting. This is now the fourth or fifth year at least that a pair has nested at this location. The only other report this spring was of a female at Apple R., Apr. 21 (KFS), which could not subsequently be found. None has been found so far this year in the Annapolis Valley.

VEERIES continue to quietly enter the province. Individuals were seen at N. Point, Brier Island, May 22 (ELM), and others the next few days at Petite Riviere (SJF, B.Hinds), Hopewell (KJM) and Hants Co. (MAC). Their songs seemed quite common in the woods of King's Co. by early June (RBS). Individual migrant (?) GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH were present, Apr. 30 on Cape Sable Island (BLM,JWT) and on Bon Portage Island, May 22 (AAM et al.) --neither, so far, one of the known breeding sites in the province, although the habitat should be suitable. There was just 1 report of 3 SWAINSON'S THRUSH at Greenfield, King's Co., May 11 (GWT). HERMIT THRUSH was being heard in woods around the province from Apr. 20 on NAD et al.), but there are still only seven reports.

The spring AMERICAN ROBIN migration can be traced all across the province. HGH and HJH found the first spring-plumaged migrants in Yarmouth, Mar. 13. There were then reports from Apple R., Riverport and Halifax by early Apr., and an influx of 100+ up in Sydney Forks on Apr. 1 (JAC,JOK). RBD and HBD counted 43 on their front lawn in Halifax one morning. BLM and RBS counted 76 on Territory on the North Mountain, King's Co. in pouring rain on May 14. An albino, mostly white, with a little black on the side of the breast, was in Avonport in late April (K. and S. Smith et al.).

GRAY CATBIRDS were being seen and heard from Yarmouth, Digby, Shelburne and King's Counties from early May on, (JCZ, HGH, AFM, BJA et al.), but so far there have been no reports from points further north or east. Exactly the same pattern was seen this spring for the NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD, with 6 reports (ELM,FLS,DJC et al.), a few less than the last couple of springs. Three were in Westport on Apr. 23-24 Apr. (RBS). The over-wintering BROWN THRASHER in Bedford had departed by Apr. 28 (B. Chalmers), but individual birds were present at Lockeport (DEF), Hartlen's Pt. (JLC,JSC) and Economy (FLS).

After the mammoth invasion this winter by BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS, there were just 8 to 10 birds left by Apr. 21 at Walbrook, King's Co. (JWW). CEDAR WAXWINGS, as expected, were being seen in small numbers by the end of May in Economy, (FLS), Dartmouth (KWT), Shel. Co. (JCZ) and Kentville (RBS). The pattern of NORTHERN SHRIKE invasion of last year was repeated this spring. After very few winter sightings, there were 9 reports, all of individual birds, between Mar. 6 and May 14, from all over the mainland but none from Cape Breton. Some were vocalising. (FLL,MUN,CGB,KJM et al.). Presumably they were migrating north to breed.

A few small flocks of EUROPEAN STARLING were reported, with no huge numbers and no aberrant individuals. Up to 50 were on Sable Island (AFM)--they've even reached there!

--RBS, ed.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS

Our first SOLITARY VIREO report was of 1 in Lockeport, Shel Co., on Apr. 27 (DJC). Early May birds included one at Granton, Pic. Co., on May 4 (CGB). More than half of the 32 individuals accounted for were reported during the week of May 8-14. Most reports came from the west, and none were from Cape Breton. Nearly a month elapsed from the day the first Solitary Vireo was observed until the first RED-EYED VIREOS were noted; these (number unspecified) were heard singing on Brier Island on May 22. One skipped into Durham, Pic. Co., on May 23 (CRH). Only half-a-dozen others were listed by the end of May, with Lun. Cumb. and Hfx. Cos. represented. No documented reports of other Vireo species were received.

Though March and April were mild and quite hospitable, May was marred by heavy downpours of rain, which could have affected some species. Many were late, and numbers generally looked low, but our contributors were down significantly from last year. Reports then, or the lack of same, as I'm sure I have said before, may be more a reflection of birders than birds; at least we can hope that this is so. Very few reports came in from Cape Breton.

JCZ banded a male BLUE-WINGED WARBLER on Bon Portage Island on May 22. She noted, "eye stripe and wing bars visible, strong colour in morning sunlight". She mentioned that though this is not a common warbler, she is familiar with it, "having banded this species and seen several (all here on Bon Portage Island and all in approximately the same area)".

The first TENNESSEE WARBLER of the spring, an adult male, showed up at the Sable Island Weather Station on May 17 (AFM). Singletons were subsequently reported from Brier Island on May 22, Apple R., Cumb. Co., on May 23 (KFS), and in Petite Riviere and Green Bay on May 24 (both JSC). AJV nabbed the first NASHVILLE WARBLER at Lewis Lake, Hfx. Co. (near St. Margaret's Bay), on May 10. RSD found a loudly singing male on May 15 at Pubnico Point, where he mentioned, Nashvilles are scarce. Over the next week, 4 more singletons were reported, from Hfx. (2) and Cumb. Cos., and on Brier Island (BJA et al.).

The NORTHERN PARULA was well-reported. JKD found 2 at Glenwood on May 2, while an adult male was seen the following day on Seal Island (BLM,JWT). Thereafter, new arrivals in Pic. Hfx., Cumb. and King's Cos., were clustered around May 6-8, and apparently another branch of the migration moved along the Shouth Shore from May 14-17, with JLC reporting 8 in a half-mile, along the Green Bay Road on May 16. Ten were on Brier Island on May 22.

A male YELLOW WARBLER at Grand Pré on May 10 (AJV), and a female in Cumb. Co. on that same date (MSM,WLM), were our first reports. The migration was amorphous, with 2 reaching Westmount, C.B., by May 12 (JAC), and 1 on Sable Island, May 14 (AFM). "Dozens" were at Lockeport (DJC), and 20+ were on Brier Island by May 22, with "many" at Hartlen's Point on May 23 (DOC,LOC). The first CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER, a male, appeared at Chute Road, Anna. Co., May 18 (JWT). Nine additional birds were identified between May 21 and 27 in Dig. Cumb., Lun., Pic., Queens and Hfx. Cos. (KFS et al.). Two male MAGNOLIA WARBLERS at Riverport, Lun. Co., on May 4 (NAD) were on the early side. The South Shore, from Shel. Co. to Hfx. Co (DOE et al.), accounted for all of the Magnolias to May 21, when the Cohrs counted 6 to 8 at Petite Riviere. Also on that day, reports came from Digby and Cumb. Cos. On May 22, AFM found an adult male on Sable Island, and 20 were reported on Brier. An early CAPE MAY WARBLER on Seal Island, May 3 (JWT,BLM) was the only bird of its kind seen until mid-month. AFM had singletons at Sable Island's West Light on May 14, 16 and 22 (at least 2 individuals), and JSC found a total of 6 moving through Green Bay from May 18 to 24. One was on Brier Island on May 22. Logging has ruined an area in New Ross where I had been regularly observing the BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, but fortunately, reports of a few were still received. A male at the edge of Pictou town on May 8 (AJV, who covers a wide area) was the first reported. A male on Wolfville Ridge, May 9 (GWT,JCT), 2-4 birds at Greenfield, Kings Co., May 11 (GWT) and a male at Lr. Ohio, Shel. Co., on May 14 (DOE,CAH) rounded out our reports of this beautiful favourite.

The only report of late winter YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS came from Sable Island (AFM), where 10 in March dwindled to 3 or so in April and May. The first possible migrants on the mainland (3 males) were noted at Cape d'Or, Cumb. Co., on Apr. 16 (JRM), with small numbers in King's, Lun. and Hants Cos., Apr. 17-23. Many observers saw their spring first between Apr. 24 and 26, and GWT found them "everywhere" along Butler Road, King's Co., on Apr. 26. Yet, Yellow-rumps seemed slow to drift into some area, with seasonal firsts being reported well into May, but by May 10, they were "common in usual habitats" around Kentville (RBS). A pair at Crawley's Creek, C.B., on May 12 (JAC) were our only Cape Breton sightings.

An early BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER was in the Green Bay area on May 2 (JSC), while on May 8, small numbers were seen in five different counties: Lun., Anna., King's Cumb. and Pic. By mid-May, they seemed to be well established throughout the mainland (no reports from C.B.), and JSC remarked after counting 15-20 on May 14, that it looked like "a good year in Lun. Co.". Thirty + were estimated on Brier Island on May 22, the same date an adult male was noted on Sable Island. A treetop-foraging male BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER at Argyle Head, Yar. Co., on May 17 was our first, and RSD remarked, "Trying to see this bird will give you a stiff neck". Not too many stiff necks were to be had, however, as 2 males near Advocate on May 21, 5 on Brier Island and 1 at Publicover Lake, Lun. Co., on May 22 were the lot.

The PALM WARBLER was certainly well-reported, with so many April sightings that reporters had all but lost interest by May. NAD found the first one at Riverport on Apr. 15. Just singletons were reported over the next week (and 1 had reached Pic. Co. by Apr. 18), but 10-12 were at Nine Mile River, Hants Co., on Apr. 23 (AJV); 8 were at Apple R., and 9 at Green Bay on Apr. 24. DOE, though, thought Palm numbers were low at Lr. Ohio. A male BAY-BREASTED WARBLER on Brier Island on May 22 (GWT,JCT), 2 or 3 singing on territory at Economy on May 23 (FLS) and 3 males at Chapman Settlement, Cumb. Co., on May 29 (JWT) were all that were reported. BLACKPOLL WARBLERS were also hard to come by, with 1 migrating through Upper Sackville, Hfx. Co., on May 17 (BJA), 1 or 2 males on Sable Island on May 22 (AFM) and 3-5 on Brier Island on the same date (Tufts et al.).

The BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER was much more in evidence, with a prompt arrival (3) at Publicover Lake on May 2 (Cohrs). Over the following week, small numbers were reported from Hfx., Pic., Cumb. and King's Cos. (MAC et al.). First reports of larger numbers came from Lr. Ohio on May 10, when DOE saw 9 and remarked that "numbers seem up". A pair had reached O'Neil's Rd., C.B., by May 12 (JAC), with 1 seen on Sable Island on May 14, 16 and 17 (AFM). The migration was quite prolonged, as on May 16 at Riverport, NAD counted 10 passing through, and "numbers build up for a few more days, then diminished".

The AMERICAN REDSTART migration was a mere trickle. Strangely enough, the first sighting was in C.B., where JAC found 2 at Westmount on May 12. Ones and twos in Yar. Anna., Lun., Cumb., Digby, Hfx. and Queens Cos., followed from May 16 to 27 (HGH et al.), with 5 on Brier Island on May 22. JSC's remark of "late" for Lun. Co. was applicable to most Redstart reports.

An adult female PROTHONOTARY WARBLER was on Seal Island May 3 (BLM,JWT). A report was written, but not received by this editor; however, the species is quite distinctive, and I have confidence in the observers in question. Documentation on rare and "tricky" species should be sent to the Records Editor, who will pass it along.

The OVENBIRD'S arrival was prompt at Greenfield, King's Co., on May 11, when 2 were noted (GWT). Several were around Kentville on May 12 (RBS), and a male was in Lr. Ohio on May 14 (DOC). Numbers seemed up to scratch near Advocate, and at North Range, Digby Co., on May 21, when 6 and 3 birds were counted, respectively, but otherwise, coverage was sparse. One of our less common warblers, the NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, nevertheless, had been seen in good numbers in the spring of '93, and it had another good spring this year. The first one was at Exit 4 of Hwy 103 (Hfx. Co) on May 6 (AJV), with 5 at White Rock (Tufts) and 4 near Caribou (KJM) on May 8. Other reports of ones and twos on territory followed from King's, Cumb., Pic. and Lun. Cos.). This species can be depended upon to return to the same spot year after year to breed, as long as the habitat remains unaltered.

A male MOURNING WARBLER singing in low shrubbery on Bon Portage Island on May 22 (AAM) was the first of 7 birds to be reported. Four were singing on territory at Maple Lake, Pic. Co., on May 29 (KJM), and 2 males were in their usual spot at Folly Lake, Col. Co., on May 30 (JWT).

The first COMMON YELLOWTHROAT appeared in Greenfield, King's Co., on the average arrival date of May 11 (GWT). Over the next week, singletons were noted at Kentville, on Sable Island, in Lr. Ohio and Riverport. On May 22, 3 were at North Range, Digby Co., while 10 were seen on Brier Island (down from 45 for the same date last year). Yellowthroats seemed to drift back to their swampy haunts very slowly this year. One at Hartlen's Point on May 23 (DOC,LOC) was the only bird reported from Hfx. Co. to deadline. Two male WILSON'S WARBLERS in alders near Spencer's Island, Cumb. Co., on May 21 (KFS,MSM,JRM) were our first of the season. There were others: 1 on Brier Island, 1 or 2 at Hopewell, Pic. Co. May 22 and 2 males at Boat Hbr. Pic. Co., May 26. No CANADA WARBLERS were reported to deadline. Were there none, or were the swamp-sloggers who normally report Yellowthroats and Canadas lax this year? A YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT on Brier Island on May 22 was very unusual in that it was our first May record for the province.

--KNK, ed.



TANAGERS TO TOWHEE

Three vivid SUMMER TANAGERS were discovered, one on April 8 at Argyle Sound, Yar. Co. (RSD), the second at East Preston on May 12 (**vide** BLM) and the third on May 14 at Westmount, C.B. (JAC,JOK). All three sightings were of males and at least two were immature birds. SCARLET TANAGERS were unusually rare with only four records submitted. A female was found at a feeder in Yarmouth on May 16 (HGJ); males were seen at St. Joseph, Dig. Co. on May 10, on Bon Portage, May 22 and Bush Is., Lun. Co. on May 23 (RAG,JCZ,SJZ,BLH).

NORTHERN CARDINALS were seen in many locations, but only along the coastal and southern areas of the province. There was one March report of a female at Cape Sable Is. (MUN); and 9 birds were discovered during April at Brier Is., Overton, Mader's Cove, Lr. Sackville, Hfx., and Cape Sable Is. The only May record was of a pair seen on Seal Is. from May 1 through May 3. (BLM,JWT).

The earliest ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK was one seen on April 16 in Lr. Sackville (DOC,LOC). There was only one other sighting during April but by the middle of May there were numerous occurrences throughout the province; 20 records in all. They were most often found singularly, but 6 were seen at Bon Portage Is. on May 22 and over 10 were found on Brier Is. on the same day (AAM,ELM). Unlike recent years with the bounties of little blue birds, there were only 3 BLUE GROSBEAKS and 3 INDIGO BUNTINGS sighted. The first Blue Grosbeak was one seen at Glenwood, Yar. Co. on April 22 (JKD). The others turned up at Seal Is. on May 1 and 2 (BLM,JWT) and at Lr. Clark's Hbr. on May 3 (JON). The Indigo Buntings were found at Economy on May 21 (FLS); Musquodoboit on May 24 (**vide** BLM) and Lr. Sackville on May 21-22 (D.MacAdam).

A single RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE was spotted on Bon Portage Is. on May 22 (AAM). A rare spring occurrence of a male DICKCISSEL was documented by Gary Graves and Jacklynn Parker in New Ross on May 24-25. Of the very few Dickcissels that appeared during the fall, one record escaped the write-up in the January issue, that was seen by Calvin Brennan in the Hopewell area from Nov. 25-27.

SPARROWS TO SNOW BUNTING

AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were seen off and on throughout the period with the last birds visiting feeders in late April. Among the later dates were: 1, April 13 at Economy (FLS), 4 at Westport, Brier Island on Apr. 23 (RBS) and 10 at Apple River on Apr. 30 (KFS). Although there were several records of CHIPPING SPARROWS during April (the earliest being April 12 in Lr. Sackville) the real push of migration for these birds seemed to come during the period from May 2-9. Ten were found on Seal Island on May 3 (BLM,JWT) and a notable influx was observed in the Kentville area on May 14 (RBS). Two FIELD SPARROWS were reported, the first visiting a feeder in Advocate on May 15 (KFS,JRM,MSM) and the second observed near the light at Bon Portage Island, May 22. Two male VESPER SPARROWS were found at Bridgeville, Pic. Co. on Apr. 25. These birds were singing on territory in a blueberry field near Maple Lake (CGB,KJM). The only other sighting was of a male singing on territory at Kingston on May 7 (JWT).

The first SAVANNAH SPARROW, *P.s. savanna* was one seen at a feeder at Apple R. on Apr. 9 (KFS). Others followed with most "firsts" seen by mid-month. Notable were the return of approximately 25 at Cherry Hill on April 17 (SJF). The only sighting of the "IPSWICH" race was a single bird viewed at a feeder at Broad Cove on Apr. 1-3 (SJF).

It isn't every year that I can include a SHARP-TAILED SPARROW in the report as these birds tend to arrive in early June. This year we have one record of an individual resting on a lobster pot at The Hawk at Cape Sable Island on May 4 (JCZ). Few sparrows were as well reported as FOX SPARROWS. As usual they began to show up in late March, the earliest being Mar. 27 at Advocate and Apple R. (MSM,KJS). The main movement noticed by all occurred from Apr. 1-13 generally at feeders and in numbers that appeared to be fewer than previous years. A late mainland record was 1 singing and visiting a feeder in Lr. Sackville on May 26 (BJA). Since there were only a few over-wintering SONG SPARROWS it was easier than usual to estimate the first spring

arrival of this species. Eva Urban hosted the first individual at her feeder at Avonport on March 19 and although not an all-time record, it was a welcome sight after a winter without one in her yard. Most other notes were of individuals singing in all parts of the province from late March to early April. A nest with 5 eggs was discovered at Port Howe on May 20 (JWT).

LINCOLN'S SPARROWS with their unfamiliar but melodious song were found in three locations in late May. The first was a single bird at Hartlen's Point on May 22. (CLS). On May 27, 1 was seen at Apple R. (KFS) and at least twelve in all were heard singing on territory near New Glasgow and the Maple Lake area of Pic. Co. (KJM). The first spring SWAMP SPARROWS were noted at Cherry Hill and Petite Riviere on Apr. 8 (SJF,JSC). The largest number was 6 found at Lr. Ohio on May 1 (DOE). It seemed there were few over-wintering WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS but beginning Apr. 25, the first arrivals were noticed. Claire Hilchie writes that she was concerned as she did not have these birds at her feeder in winter as she normally would and it wasn't until May 10 that she finally heard her first in East Chezzetcook. That day she was rewarded by hearing many all around her as she walked near her home. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were seen in six locations, Seal Is. on May 3, Advocate Hbr. on May 8, Sable Island, May 16-23, Apple R. on May 16, Economy on May 17-21 and Westmount, Cape Breton on May 19-20. The latter sighting was of 2 birds, the rest being of singles.

DARK-EYED JUNCOS were quite numerous judging from comments from most observers. Many areas were void of these birds during the winter months but during the latter part of March and especially early April, many returned to stock up on the generous handouts at feeders. Typically 5 to 15 could be found at feeders but at Apple R., there were over 40 seen on Apr. 1 (KFS). A single sighting of a LAPLAND LONGSPUR was submitted by Andrew Macfarlane on Sable Island—a single bird on Mar. 9 and again on Mar. 27. SNOW BUNTINGS have virtually left the province by mid-March, although there are the occasional "hangers-on". The latest was 1 found on Sable Island on May 11, only ten days short of the all-time record found (not surprisingly) on Sable Island as well (AFM).

ICTERIDS

The first BOBOLINK seen this spring was not surprisingly a male seen at Cape Sable Island on May 7 (JCZ). Although there were several reports shortly after this, the mass movement was apparently during May 21-22. The earliest RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS were noted during late March. The first was spotted by Bill Caudle at New Ross on Mar. 19. Other early birds were found at Glenwood and Deer field, Yar. Co., Mar. 24 (KFS). A single sighting of a YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD was provided to Jim Wolford by Dana Harvey who saw a male near Kennetcook on May 27.

Migrating RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were noted at Annapolis Royal on Apr. 2, the earliest record this spring (BLM,MAD). Others occurred in Apple R. on Apr. 5-6 (MSM) but the majority of first observations were during late April and early May. COMMON GRACKLES arrived on time with the first migrants seen from an early date of Mar. 18 to the average date of Mar. 28. Large flocks warranting comments from observers as "too many" were noted in Lr. Ohio, Shel. Co., and Cape Sable Island during April and May (DOE,JCZ). The "dreaded" BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD was first seen as a migrant on Mar. 31 at Apple R. (KFS) and by mid-April these birds could be found, though uncommonly, at feeders throughout the province.

There were 5 separate sightings of ORCHARD ORIOLES. The first was a male, first seen by Walter Urban at Avonport and later watched at leisure by many observers on Apr. 30 and May 1. Others were found at Seal Island on May 2 (BLM,JWT); Sable Island on May 4 (AFM); Glenwood on May 6 (JKD) and Portuguese Cove on May 8 (fide BLM). An early male NORTHERN ORIOLE was spotted feeding on insects among kelp along a beach at Pubnico Point on Apr. 28. There were 13 reports totaling about 30 individuals. The largest number was 10 found at Brier Island on May 22 (ELM). Other records were from Wolfville, Kentville, Bon Portage, Lr. Ohio, Sable Island, Apple R., several areas in Yar. Co. and 1 record near Plymouth, Pic. Co.

FINCHES TO HOUSE SPARROWS

Although PINE GROSBEAKS have always been elusive and virtually silent in the coniferous forests a few sightings were submitted. A single bird was found at Lr. Sackville on Apr. 9 and 2 or 3 were seen at Apple R., Wolfville and East Ragged Lake during April and May. PURPLE FINCHES arrived in numbers by mid-April. The earliest migrant was seen at Riverport on Apr. 9 (Dowds). Reports during Apr. 15, 16, 17 were the norm almost half of all forms submitted were on these dates. HOUSE FINCHES are still slowly expanding into Nova Scotia. This period there are 7 separate sightings. Reports were from Halifax, Apple R., Seal Island, Westport and Overton. The Overton report of Apr. 18 and the Halifax account of Apr. 19 provide information on possible breeding activity (HGH,HJH,JWW).

While there was not a single WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL sighting, RED CROSSBILLS seemed to be fairly easy to find this spring--eleven reports were far more than usual. Birds were found in all months--March, April and May. Notable were 8 of the north-eastern race at Kempt, Queens Co. (BLM,MAD) and over 30 at Lr. Ohio, Shel. Co. on Mar. 29 (DOE). Most recent observations were 12 at Barss Corner (AJV) and 2 at Bon Portage (AAM) on May 22. COMMON REDPOLLS were the obvious story of the winter being extremely plentiful in all areas of the region. The question was how long could they linger before heading back to their northern breeding grounds. Notable flocks of 50 or more were being seen well into April. Over 200 were seen at Port Williams on Apr. 14 (fide JCT). There were up to 40 birds seen in all months including May at Westmount, C.B. The latest record was a single bird trapped in a garage at Wolfville Ridge on May 21 (Evelyn Andrews). With the tremendous numbers of these birds there was that chance that HOARY REDPOLLS could be associating. There were several sightings of very pale redpolls that could easily have been Hoaries but the descriptions did not include all the field marks. PINE SISKINS were irregular at feeders as the winter wore on but they became increasingly more plentiful in April and May. Although there were no reports of large flocks, many observers had from 1-15 coming periodically to their feeding stations. AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES on the other hand were relatively common throughout the winter and stayed as regular visitors as we watched the plumage change from the soft but drab olive colour to that incredible yellow. Flocks of up to 25 were normal in all months from March through May.

EVENING GROSBEAKS lingered on well into April in almost all areas. Reports of sizable flocks of 10-50 were normal. Although these birds breed in north and central parts of the province, birders in the coastal areas and southern haunts are not used to seeing these birds during April and May. 50 were sighted in Broad Cove on Apr. 10 (JSC); 6 were found at Mader's Cove on May 2 (JBM); and about 20 were still lingering at Lewis Lake, Hfx. Co. on May 25 (AJV).

It is difficult to find something noteworthy to say about the lowly HOUSE SPARROW. With only 5 reports (which by the way, are 3 more than usual) it is a challenge to draw a conclusion on their status. It would be safe to say that they have suffered diminishing numbers and that they do not show any significant increase or decrease in their numbers over the last ten years.

CONTRIBUTORS

Allen, Charlie	CRKA
Alliston, George & Margaret	GMA
Amirault, Bradford	BJA
Atwood, Wilfred	WAA
Brennan, Calvin	CGB
Brennan, Harry and Jean	HJB
Caudle, Bill	WGC
Clark, Margaret	MAC
Codling, Don	DOC
Codling, Lois	LOC
Cohrs, John	JLC
Cohrs, Lisë	LAC
Cohrs, Shirley	JSC
Cretien, Jacqueline	JAC
Crosby, Donna	DJC
Czapalay, Joan	JCZ
d'Entremont, Israel	ISD
d'Entremont, Lisette	LSD
d'Entremont, Raymond	RSD
d'Eon, Jerome	JKD
Dickie, Bob	RBD
Dickie Helen	HBD
Dowd, Connie	COD
Dowd, Nancy	NAD
Dufresne, M.	MAD
Ensor, Donna	DOE
Fiske, Dean	DEF
Forsyth, George	GEF
Forsythe, Bernard	BLF
Foxall, A.	RAF
Foxall, Roger	ROF
Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF
Gaudet, Raymond	RAG
Hall, Helen	HJH
Hall, Hubert	HGH
Harris, Jessie	BEH
Harwood, Avril & John	AJH
Hawkswood, Mike	MRH
Hilchie, Claire J.	CJH
Hippern, Dennis	DHH
Holmes, Kathy	CAH
Hover, C. R.	CRH
Keddy, Keith	KNK
Kenny, Margaret	MAK
Klemka, Joe	JOK
Lavender, Fulton	FLL
Macfarlane, Andrew	AFM
MacKay, John	JOM
MacKenzie, Ken	KEM
MacLean, Angus	AAM
Maybank, Blake	BLM
McConnel, Jane	JNM
McKenna, Ken	KJM
McLaren, Ian	IAM
Mills, Anne	ANM
Mills, Eric	ELM
Mills, Jane	JRM
Mills, Maureen	MSM
Mills, William	WLM
Moore, Susan	SUM
Morse, Jean & Bill	JBW

Newell, Murray	MUN
Nickerson, Johnny	JON
Ross, Christine	CMR
Ruff, Eric	EJR
Spalding, Francis	FLS
Spicer, Blaine	BAS
Spicer, Kathleen	KFS
Stern, Richard	RBS
Stevens, Clarence	CLS
Tay, Carl & Wendie	KWT
Taylor, Jim	JWT
Thexton, Brenda & Bill	BTT
Thorpe, Dianne & Gordon	GDT
Timpa, Jean	JET
Tobin, Deborah	DET
Trueman, Jerry	GMT
Tufts, Gordon	GWT
Tufts, Judy	JCT
Urban, Connie	DVU
Vienneau, Azor	AJV
Williams, Sherman	SHW
Wolford, Jim	JWW
Young, David	DHY

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

for

the **January 1995** issue

November 15, 1994

Bird Reports to the RECORDS EDITOR

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

Articles, sketches, Field Trip Reports 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

A "NEW" SPECIES OF THRUSH?



As if the *Catharus* thrushes weren't difficult enough, we will soon have to learn to distinguish between two forms of Gray-cheeked Thrush that show all the signs of being good biological species. Bicknell's Thrush, the form that breeds in the higher peaks of New England, southern Québec, and in the Maritimes, has long been known to be distinctive in measurements, coloration, and song. A recent review by Henri Ouellet¹ (in the *Wilson Bulletin*, 1993, vol. 105, pp. 545-574) stresses its differences (including genetic) from the races of Gray-cheeked Thrush that breed from Newfoundland to eastern Siberia. Note also that Bicknell's Thrush winters in the Caribbean, including ravaged Hispaniola (Gray-cheeks otherwise in South America), and fears have been expressed about its population status.

How will we tell them apart? There is no difficulty in separating them by song. Bicknell's Thrush, which some of us have heard in Nova Scotia, to quote Roger Foxall, "sounds like a Veery with laryngitis". Northern Gray-cheeked Thrushes have a more "jumbled" song. They certainly know the difference, and do not react to one another's songs. Identification of migrants in the field is another matter. They do have different nocturnal flight calls (detailed by W. R. Evans, 1994, *Wilson Bulletin*, vol 106, pp. 55-61), sometimes given by day: "cree-ee" in Bicknell's, and "pe-i-i-r" or "whe-errr" in Gray-cheeked, signifying a rise in frequency in the middle of the latter, but not the former. Bicknell's averages smaller, but there is overlap between the two. Generally Bicknell's is a warmer-coloured bird (although the photograph, clearly of Bicknell's, in the *Master Guide to Birding*, may be printed excessively warmly). Although the backs of Bicknell's are rarely if ever cold olive gray, many individuals of the northern races may be olive brown, like most Bicknell's. The best plumage mark is the tail, which Ouellet classed as "chestnut" in almost all Bicknell's, and (grayish?) "olive" in almost all Gray-cheeked; tails of a few of both forms were classed as "olive brown". An excellent field mark, but one that requires close study, is the "bright pale yellow" basal half of the mandible (lower beak) of Bicknell's. A much smaller portion of the base of the mandible of the true Gray-cheeked is "flesh" or "yellowish flesh" coloured.

The above photograph, taken by Zoe Lucas on Sable Island on Aug. 30, 1983, is clearly of a "true" Gray-cheeked, showing almost no pale base to the mandible. (The entire back, including the tail, is very cold olive grey on the original slide.) I have a slide of another bird on Sable Island on May 24, 1977, which shows a chestnut tail and extensively yellow base of the mandible. It can be done from photos; lets see how well we can do in the field!

--Ian McLaren

¹ Ironically, and distressingly, Dr. Ouellet is one of those scientists recently laid off from the National Museum of Canada, ostensibly because we know everything we need to know about the ornithology of Canada.



Although both of these are also known in Nova Scotia, Peter Payzant's extreme closeups of two paramount raptors were taken at an aviary in Alberta. Both have certainly retained their wild-eyed looks.



A SPRING WEEKEND IN NORTH CAROLINA

Richard Stern

This spring I noticed an advertisement in the American Birding Association's newsletter for a long weekend in April in coastal N. Carolina, led by a local expert, to seek out four specific species that are normally hard to find and which most birders would love to have on their lists--namely Black Rail, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Swainson's Warbler, and Bachman's Sparrow. I decided to join the trip, and when the itinerary arrived by mail it asked participants to tell the leader what other species they would like to find. Never having birded in this habitat before, and after noting what the trip had seen last year, I soon had my "wish list" made up. As well as the four already mentioned, it included other "southern swamp" warblers, such as Worm-eating, Kentucky and Louisiana Waterthrush, and Acadian Flycatcher, Chuck-will's Widow, Seaside Sparrow and Gull-billed Tern. I also looked forward to getting good looks at species that are rare vagrants to Nova Scotia, such as Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, etc.

N. Carolina is not that far south of Nova Scotia as the Blue Grosbeak, or the Air Nova Dash-8 flies, so after leaving Kentville in the morning of the last Thursday in April, I was meeting our leader, John Fussell, at New Bern airport before dusk. The group consisted of nine birders from as far away as Seattle, San Francisco, and Minneapolis, and all were most interested in birding Nova Scotia. Most have over 700 on their N. American list, and all wanted to see a Black Rail in particular. As we checked into our motel at dusk, Common Nighthawks and Ospreys were overhead, and Laughing Gulls and Forster's Terns were flying along the river.

Next day we were up well before dawn and headed by car to the Croatan National Forest, an expanse of swampy bottomland forest interspersed with burnt over open areas in which Long-leaf Pine was thriving amongst patchy bushy countryside. John identified a dozen or so birds by call alone, a few of which I recognized. Both Barred Owls and Wild Turkeys were calling. Wood Thrushes were singing their "ee-o-lay's" from all directions. As it got light, we heard the buzzy trill of a Worm-eating Warbler calling in the distance and we soon had it in the binoculars. Bright golden Prothonotary Warblers were common, and I soon identified the first Acadian Flycatcher (easy--it has a distinctive song and is the only *empidonax* in the area). There were also Yellow-throated, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos. We also soon heard a Swainson's Warbler song, and with the aid of a briefly played tape, John soon had us all getting stunning close-up looks at this elusive denizen of deep damp thickets.

A short drive away, the countryside changed to more open pine woods, and we soon started seeing Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. They are about the size of a Downy, but with large white cheek-patches. They are very specific in their habitat requirements, and need living mature Long-leaf Pine, with running sap, in open woodland maintained by fire and are consequently an endangered species. The National Forest Service has been encouraging the growth of their host tree, and helping the birds by boring cavities for them; the local population there is currently doing well. We also got good views of two other species that also depend specifically on the same type of habitat--the Brown-headed Nuthatch and the Bachman's Sparrow. The latter is rather like a Song Sparrow but with a rustier head and no streaking on the breast or sides.

The first afternoon we again changed habitats, and went to the beach, but on the way stopped at another part of the Croatan, hoping to get one of the "want" birds just for me! However, not only did we immediately see one, a Kentucky Warbler, but as we were looking at it, a Louisiana Waterthrush also appeared, and the two were visible at one point in the same binocular field. Once we got to the beach there were Painted Buntings perched on telephone wires and Sandwich Terns flew overhead. On the beach itself were several species of shorebird, all in breeding plumage, and including many that are familiar to Nova Scotians (Dunlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, etc.), as well as Black Skimmers, American Oystercatchers, and Forster's, Least and yes--Gull-billed Terns.

PICS OF THE YEAR

As usual, a number of our members came through with some fine bird portraits to fill our annual glossy section. This year we had something of an embarrassment of riches. Some excellent portraits had to be relegated to other pages in this issue. I have chosen eight, from five photographers. All are a pleasure to behold, and some offer an instructive point or two.

We begin with two shorebirds. The top one was photographed last autumn on Sable Island by Andrew Macfarlane. The original colour print shows much bright rufous on the cap and back, temptingly like some exotic "stints" from Eurasia. Size is no help in a photo, and sometimes in the field. However, the very long wings, the primaries extending well beyond the ends of the tertial and tail, are a giveaway: even without flushing it to see its white rump patch, we know this is a juvenile White-rumped Sandpiper. The bottom picture was obtained by Ken McKenna at Gull Island, Pictou Co., in September, 1993. The bird looks something like a greenish-legged yellowlegs, but often associates with and behaves more like a dowitcher. However, note the strong white supercillium and particularly long legs. It is a young Stilt Sandpiper.

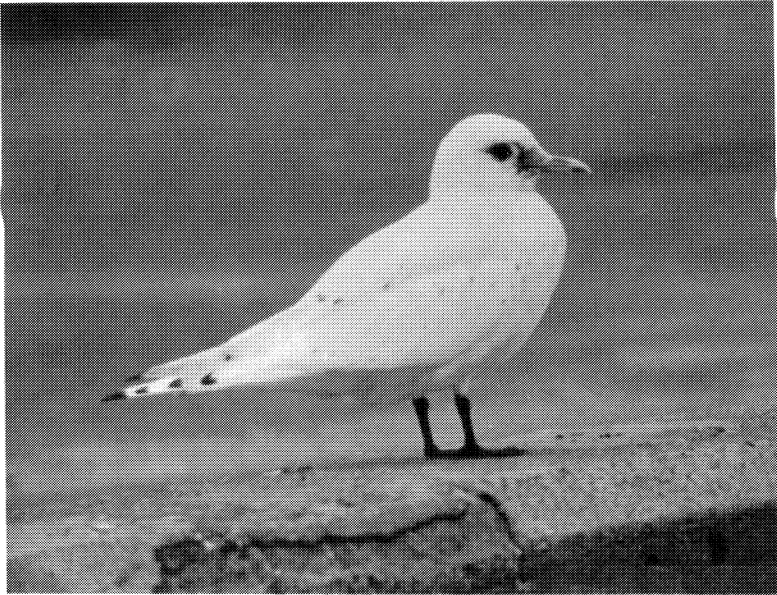
The next page displays fine portraits by Ken McKenna of two rare larids. The Ivory Gull, found in late November, 1992, at Port Morien by Cathy Murrant, who quickly spread the word, was photographed on November 30. It is a particularly handsome first-winter bird; most have much more spotting and grubbier faces. The Sandwich Tern perched prettily on the outer buoy of Clarks Harbour on September 6, last year, to the immense pleasure of a dozen birders returning from Seal Island. My rather poorish photograph was included for the record in last January's issue, but this one is so much more sharp and sparkling, that I thought one good tern deserved another.



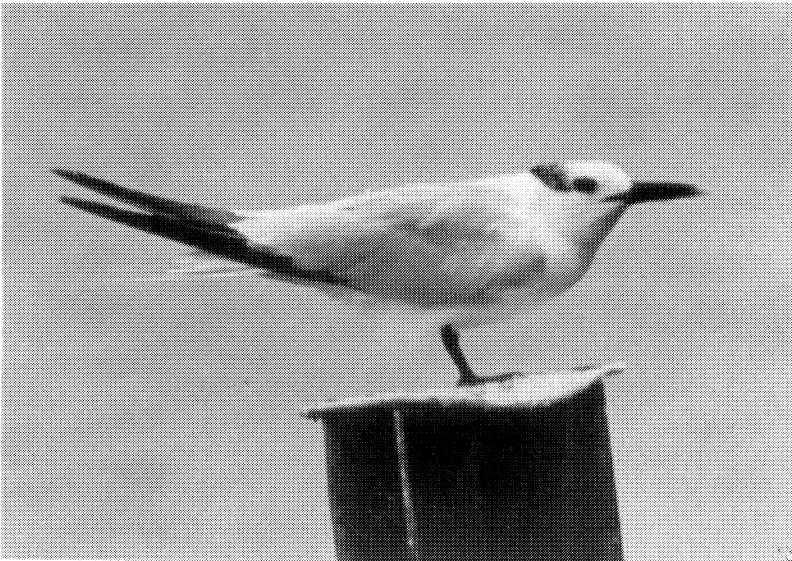
White-rumped Sandpiper - Andrew Macfarlane



Stilt Sandpiper - Ken McKenna



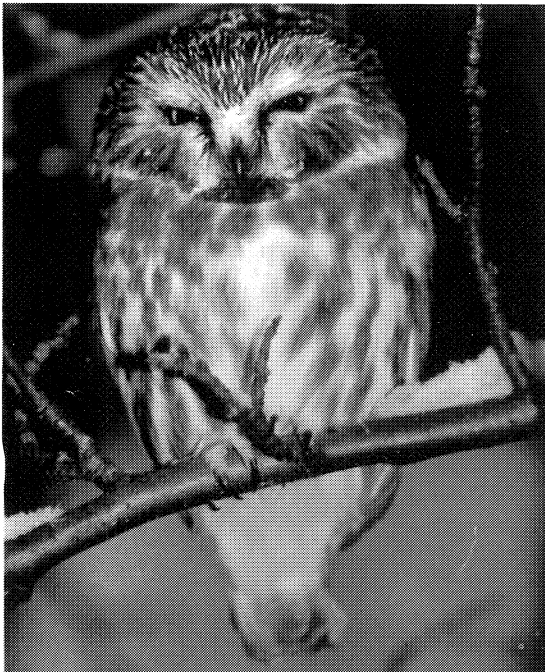
Ivory Gull - Ken McKenna



Sandwich Tern - Ken McKenna



Short-eared Owl - Richard Stern



Saw-whet Owl - Ken McKenna



Eastern Kingbird - Blake Maybank



Seaside Sparrow - Francis Spalding

Next are two owls, of very different sizes and habits. The Short-eared Owl, one of several around Grand Pré during last fall and early winter, was photographed at the roadside during November. It looks as though it is not going to tolerate Richard Stern's through-the-lens gaze much longer. Ken McKenna's Saw-whet Owl, a little more trusting, would probably rather go back to sleep.

Two passerine birds complete our display. All the flycatchers, including several North American kingbirds, are notable wanderers, although it is hard to understand why this should be. Our list includes such exotics as Fork-tailed and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and both New Brunswick and Newfoundland have recently been visited by Sulpher-bellied Flycatchers. Clearly we have not yet exhausted the possibilities. Some flycatchers are not so quickly indentifiable as our familiar Eastern Kingbird, snapped last fall by Blake Maybank as it tattered on a spruce twig on Seal Island. Francis Spalding followed the life and misfortune of last fall's errant Seaside Sparrow at Economy until its disappearance in late December. Characteristically, it was best found and photographed, when forced to the margins of the salt marsh by extreme high tides. Those who waded through my article in last April's issue on *Ammodramus* sparrows, will possibly recognize that this grayish individual, without prominent black streaking, is of the expected northern race, *maritimus*. The article failed to mention two pretty good field marks of this species that are quite evident on the photograph: its very long legs and tendency to cock its tail, wren-like.

That night saw the highlight of the trip. We went to a marsh at dusk and played a Black Rail tape for a long time, but with no response. After much discussion as to whether a rail was more important than a good night's sleep, we went back after dark. This time, after further extended tape playing, a bird called back, just once, out in the marsh. Donning rubber boots and carrying flashlights, we headed off through waist high marsh grass, in the dark with a beautiful starry panorama overhead. Suddenly John, in the lead, stopped and as the rest of us followed almost crashed into him, whispered urgently "there it is!", and as we shone our flashlights into the base of the marsh grass, there, only six feet in front of us was a Black Rail, one of N. America's most elusive and "wanted" birds, standing and slowly looking around in an apparently unconcerned fashion. Those of us who wanted to use our binoculars had to back up to get it in focus and we all had a good look at the glowing red eyes, the brown nape and the white flecks on the black plumage, for about thirty seconds before it suddenly disappeared off into the marsh again and we were left in darkness.

After a good night's rest we were up a little later on the Saturday and spent the day mostly at the coast, along the beach, in the dunes and amongst the piers and deep-sea fishing boats and tourist cottages of the area. There were many shorebirds, more terns, many Common and Snowy Egrets, Tricoloured, Little Blue and Green Herons, Clapper Rails and other birds included Fish Crows, and the ubiquitous Rufous-sided Towhees, N. Cardinals, N. Mockingbirds, etc. We made a special trip back to the Black Rail marsh in daylight, but there was no sign of rails! Instead we saw a Sedge Wren, and many Seaside Sparrows.

That evening we experienced the second nocturnal highlight of the trip. We drove at dusk into an open area that was beginning to grow back after being clearcut, and on the horizon was dense mixed forest. It was still around 25°C, the stars were beginning to appear, and the insects and peepers were buzzing. The whole western horizon was deep red with the sunset. All around us called Chuck-will's Widows, and one play of the tape brought in a pair repeatedly "buzzing" us at head height. We could see the white outer tail feathers, and the very different shape of the bird compared to, say, the Common Nighthawk. Then in the distance was a call with a different cadence--a Whip-poor-will. Again, one play of the tape had that bird almost attacking us. We left that magical place as it got quite dark, with the stars out overhead, the silhouettes of the trees and the sounds of all these night creatures in the distance.

On the Sunday it was wet and cooler and we retraced our steps to fill in any gaps. A colleague of John's turned up and showed us a Bachman's Sparrow nest he had found. We heard Hooded Warblers, saw Pine Warblers, and saw Turkey and Black Vultures, Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Indigo Buntings. Almost the final bird of the morning, and of the trip, was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in a tall tree.

The trip finished at lunchtime on Sunday, May 1. With quick connections through Charlotte and Boston, I landed in Halifax in a thunderstorm, and was home by midnight. I personally saw 118 species on the trip, although the overall total was a little higher. Thirteen of those were "life birds", and the experiences of the Black Rail, Swainson's Warbler and many of the other more common birds were unforgettable. As usual on organized birding trips, an excellent rapport soon built up amongst most of the participants and there was much lively discussion about everything from bird taxonomy to American Gun control laws! Most of the time it was sunny and the day-time temperature was in the high 20s c. Fly dope and sun-screen were essential, as were rubber boots for a few of the habitats. I should highly recommend going on an organized trip like this one, but it should be possible to bird the area independently with a good map and a car. I flew from Halifax to New Bern, N.C., via Boston and Charlotte and the trip was half a day each way. The main towns in the area are New Bern and Morehead City. There is a thriving tourist trade based largely on beach and ocean fishing activities, and consequently there is no shortage of motels. Expensive or lengthy meals were about the lowest on our trip list of priorities, but there seemed to be plenty of seafood restaurants. John Fussell has written "A Guide to the Birds of Cartaret County, N.C.", available from the A.B.A. and a new guide to birding coastal N. Carolina is due out this summer.

I can't wait for my next chance to do something similar!

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

April 17 --Eastern Shore

It may have cleared and become warm inland, but our trip along the edges of the ocean was marred by showers, fog and vigorous on-shore breeze. However, the eight participants who ignored the forecast of heavy rain managed to tally 43 species plus two picked up later by two of the group who continued on to Martinique.

Spring arrivals included Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons (all at the ponds at Conrad's Beach), Osprey on the nest near the Dykes, probably the Northern Harrier at Lawrencetown, a Merlin and Piping Plover at Conrad's (a lethal combination), Tree Swallows around a nest at Grand Desert, Northern Flickers, Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds.

We enjoyed watching lingering Iceland Gulls at Dartmouth Cove, Bufflehead at Dottie's Pond and a flock of Canada Geese resting peacefully near Shore Road in Chezzetcook. The usual off-shore ducks and expected passerines completed the list.

A pit-stop at Ross Road was our only chance to socialize; lunch being eaten in our vehicles and a quick count taken through the windows to keep us out of the biting wind. Birding in early spring is not for the faint-hearted.

--Joyce Purchase

April 23--Lingering Winter Birds--C.B. No report received.

April 24--Wolfville Area.

Our day began with heavy overcast and steady light rain. Later the rain nearly stopped and became an intermittent drizzle. Six cars formed our pond-to-pond caravan--perhaps 20 people included six or seven youths. We were very honoured that Joan Czapalay brought Charlie Allen of Tusket.

We drove first to Greenwich, to a very full church parking lot, where a 'scope showed a presumably incubating Bald Eagle on her nest. A female Grackle landed near us with nest material.

Port Williams sewage ponds were next. We saw a single Tree Swallow, two male Mallards and a pair of Lesser Scaup. The latter were controversial regarding Lesser vs Greater, but viewing conditions were awful (they had been present there for quite a while and seen by others).

Then we drove via Starr's Point and Wellington Dyke to Canard Pond, where there were three Canada Geese, five male Ring-necked Ducks, three Common Mergansers, uncounted Black Ducks and Green-winged Teal, a Great Blue Heron, a few Tree Swallows and two or three Downy Woodpeckers. I was humbled when a "calling leopard frog" turned out to be a drumming Downy Woodpecker!

At the Canning Aboiteau (Habitant River) we saw sixty Canada Geese, a pair of American Wigeons, and two Double-crested Cormorants.

After a "pit-stop" at a Canning service station, we went to Harris' Pond (in Canning). The weather prevented our usual idyllic lunch-spot there (most ate in their cars), but birds there included a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers, a pair of Blue-winged Teal, two more American Wigeons, a Kingfisher, crowing Pheasants, Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles, thirty Tree Swallows, etc.

Three more pond checks yielded no birds at all.

--Jim Wolford.

April 30 -- Owl Prowl, Brooklyn -- No report received

May 1 -- Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary -- No report received

May 7 -- Eastern Shore -- No report received.

May -- Yarmouth and Carleton Warbler Walk.

This should rightly have the title: "Non Event of the Year".

Saturday, May 14 started out like many other May 1994 mornings--with a cold north wind, showers and just plain miserable.

If I had any means of communicating with the few people that I expected would show up for the "Warbler Walk", I would have cancelled it as it was scheduled a week too early for normal weather, let alone the miserable weather of this May.

Two parties were waiting at Carleton School for me and we started out on "Mission Impossible". There were numerous Tree and Barn Swallows swooping down over the Carleton River in search of food, while overhead a Chimney Swift fluttered by.

We then stopped at a usually well attended feeder on the Kelley Road, but the recent high winds had blown the feeder down and as yet, it had not been replaced. Except for a Chipping Sparrow and a few Pine Siskins, it was pretty bleak.

The rest of the party continued on to the Parry road area where they saw only three species of warblers--Yellow rumps, a Black and White Warbler and an Ovenbird. Pretty sparse birding!!

As of this writing (May 20), few of the regular returning warblers have shown themselves in this area. The regulars, such as Northern Parula and American Redstarts are singing heartily, but that is about all; except a Yellow Warbler and three Gray Catbirds with their endless litanies of garbled sounds coming from the trees at Cape Forchu.

One can only hope that **Silent Spring** is not coming true.

--Hubert Hall

May 18 -- Halifax County Warbler Walk

It was gray, cold and rain had threatened: typical of the dreaded NE wind of spring. Five intrepid birders set out from the United Church in Goodwood, along a favourite woods road and away from the roar of the early commuter traffic. We had met at 6:00 a.m. in the Route 333 Park and Ride lot, where we were serenaded by an Ovenbird, a Yellow-rumped and a Black-throated Green warbler: auspicious beginnings for such a morning.

The road first leads past some homes (inhabited by noisy dogs); there we found Tree Swallows huddled quietly at a nest box, a Whitethroat "pinking" at us when we swished, a Black-capped Chickadee or two, a Yellow-rumped (they were everywhere), and a Black-throated Green in the background. Our day was defined there: the birds were not singing reliably, and the warblers in particular were moving so fast through the treetops we couldn't clap glasses to eyes before they were gone. So it was a day of hearing things in the distance, and with that in mind, we "saw" quite a lot, but it was definitely not a day to watch little jewels glowing the brilliant sunshine as they opened their throats to the skies (and their rivals). We walked on, finding--still in the inhabited zone--Pine Siskins at a feeder, a Solitary Vireo which flitted quickly out of sight, and two Hermit Thrushes that didn't, sitting very still within a few feet of us. They were so near they weren't even wagging their tails. We also heard--but never saw--the Swainson's Thrush. The same was true of the Ruffed Grouse: two were heard whirring away before we got to them. Into the deeper woods then, we heard lots of Black-capped Chickadees and a few Boreals, Purple Finches, Whitethroats, Black-throated

Greens, Yellow-rumps, a distant Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Loon's mournful moan, Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Downy Woodpecker Slate-coloured Juncos. However, we made disappointingly few sightings: a glimpse of a Black-throated Green, another of a Magnolia, another of a Palm Warbler. We completely missed three "regulars" for this walk: Bay-breasted and Blackburnian Warblers and the Swamp Sparrow. They simply were not to be found at or near their accustomed habitats. A cormorant flew over, as did Black-backed and Herring Gulls; we saw the usual numbers of Starlings and Song Sparrows. One of the highlights for the day was a little woods-path where a Magnolia Warbler showed himself briefly and a nest-gathering pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets came right to us, the male displaying his fiery ruby to its maximum extent. Later we came upon a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers. The walk home was subdued, but we still all enjoyed it immensely. We found not one blackfly.

--Fred Dobson.

May 20-23--Bon Portage Island

Five of us left the Prospect Point wharf at Shag Harbour on time in the early evening on Friday. The previous week had seen a succession of lows roll through, but the moderate winds we encountered on that evening were the last of the weekend. Imagine spending four consecutive days of sunny, calm weather on any island in the Maritimes at this time of year!!

There was a heavy migration wave on Sunday, the 22nd, and the remainder of the weekend had a few good birds each day to keep us alert. Except for many hundreds of Gannets passing by, the water birds were scarce indeed. In fact, another party on the island for part of the weekend travelled to various islands including Seal, Mud and Noddy, but saw no pelagic birds except for nesting pairs of Puffins on two of the islands. Another surprise and disappointment was the failure to find the small colony of Snowy Egrets and accompanying Little Egret which had been regular for the past three or four years. However, one Snowy Egret was observed flying over the island and perhaps the same one, along with a Great Egret, was on Cape Sable Island during the same period.

Although the final tally was only around 75 species, some exciting birds were found, including Great Crested Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Philadelphia Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Mourning Warbler (very early), Yellow-breasted Chat, (rare in spring), Scarlet Tanager, Rufous-sided Towhee, Field Sparrow and an "Ipswich" Sparrow. However, except for the Towhee and the Field Sparrow, the others were seen briefly, whereas the real highlight for some was perhaps the Blackburnian Warbler at eye level for about ten minutes or the good looks at several Fox Sparrows singing lustily from the tree tops. The group was anxious to see the target bird of the weekend, the Winter Wren, but the leader was unsuccessful in locating a cooperative individual. Many were heard singing but always back in the thick woods, just tantalizingly out of sight!

Saturday night or more precisely, Sunday morning around 4 o'clock, the air was full of Leach's Storm Petrels returning from their food-finding expedition to Georges Bank. The writer was bemused by their ability to find their specific burrow and even better to miss him as he stood outside the cabin. He was careful not to move too fast as he had no desire to intercept the load of liquid intended for the bird in the burrow. There was the very good chance he would not have been allowed back in the cabin if that had occurred!!

Trips are planned for the Labour Day and Thanksgiving weekends, so try to make one or both of them. It's a great experience no matter what the weather.

--Angus MacLean.

May 22 -- Hopewell Area -- No report received

May 28 -- Warbler Walk, Peter's Field, C. B.

The weather, contrary as it often is, was overcast with 30-50 km, cold westerly winds. Two new birders who arrived lightly clad from a balmy 15° C at Albert Bridge, were taken by surprise.

Not even a Herring Gull greeted us at our meeting place at the Woolco parking lot, so we first took a little tour of both sides of Sydney River near the Keltic Drive bridge. There we saw ten species of our old faithfuls: Cormorants, Mallards, Black Ducks, Herring Gulls, a Red-winged Blackbird, etc.--and even four Great Blue Herons flying overhead. The pigeons are not as plentiful around the bridge since the Department of Highways, in their great wisdom, plugged up the nesting and roosting spots inside the trusses.

Taking a gravel road off Keltic Drive, we stepped in a densely wooded area where we now had a lesson in "listening exercises". Our ears picked up--White-throated Sparrows, American Redstart, Crows, the unmistakable Blue Jays, a Hermit Thrush and a dog. However, one sound in particular towered over the others and we finally saw that it came from a wee Tennessee Warbler. High above, an eagle gracefully soared in circles. Farther up the road we saw Bobolinks and Tree Swallows.

Back on Keltic Drive, around Campbell's Hill, a Common Flicker flitted across the road showing its conspicuous white rump. Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, American Goldfinches, House Sparrows, Black-capped Chickadees, etc., patronized the feeders at two residences in the area.

At the Northwest Arm we spied a Spotted Sandpiper. As we turned the corner at Watson's Creek, a Kingfisher screeched and flashed around behind the trees. Rudderham Creek brought us better luck. Among others there were Ravens, Black-backed Gulls and two Greater Yellowlegs. Three Common Terns were fishing as well as a Common Loon. As we were leaving this windy shore, four Great Blue Herons flew over us hesitating to stop--perhaps these were the same four seen earlier in Sydney River on a harbour tour.

Farther up the road we stopped in front of two farm houses surrounded by thick shrubbery and trees. A few Common Redpolls were still there, the remnants of the hundreds seen during the winter. We saw a Yellow-rumped Warbler and, perched on the wire fence near the garden a Kingbird was looking straight at us in a picture perfect pose!

At our next stop at Sydport Industrial Park, the birdwatchers separated. One group explored the area near the mouth of Crawley's Creek under the capable guidance of John MacKay and Hugh and Geraldine Metcalfe. Throughout the morning they had gone out of their way to inform and guide the new birders with whom they graciously shared their scope. They saw three more Common Terns on the piers in front of the Canadian Coast Guard College boatshed. Along the well-groomed trail, three new sightings were added: a Boreal Chickadee, a Downy Woodpecker and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

The second group made their way to Peter's Field Provincial Park, arriving on the scheduled time of 11:00 a.m. No one joined us there so we had our lunch in a former blackberry patch. Warblers, Juncos, Chickadees and squirrels kept us company. In the "Orchard", we startled some European Starlings, a Common Flicker and then more Robins near the picnic area.

Seven of the original group made it to Setchell's Swamp in Central Westmount where there was still a lot of life even at this hour. Grackles, Warblers, Finches, Robins were everywhere. Below the field as we were examining some sinkholes, our lost sheep "Junior", reappeared and drew our attention to a Wilson's Warbler. Forty-five species was a fruitful day in most congenial company.

--Jacqueline Chrétien.

May 28 -- Hants County Day

Under threatening cloudy skies and dressed in heavy sweaters, jackets, winter vests, gloves and boots, nineteen birders set out on the annual Hants County Field Trip. By the time we reached the Uniacke grounds the sun had broken through the clouds; it seemed more birds were singing and the day looked promising.

The route brought some pleasant surprises as well as disappointments. The unmistakable WHEEP of the Great-crested Flycatcher in the wooded area of the Uniacke grounds was a first-ever for the Hants County Field Trip. A pair of American Bitterns at the small lake on Highway 1 was thrilling. For a few minutes they really looked like two brown sticks, side by side, with head and necks moving to the right, front or left as the movements of two synchronized swimmers.

American Redstarts were numerous, busily staking out their territories. Northern Parula, Black-throated Greens, Chestnut-sided, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ovenbirds and American Goldfinches seemed to be singing at most stops.

One Northern Harrier, one Broad-winged Hawk and three species of Flycatchers--Olive-sided, Alder and Least were spotted. Then there were the Veerys--a pair, that were flushed by "Becky". What a treat to see both male and female at such a close range!

The disappointments? No Rose-breasted Grosbeak, no Snipe, not even a Cowbird or a House Sparrow.

The total number for the day was sixty-four.

--Margaret Clark.

May 29 -- Lunenburg Field Trip

The Lunenburg County field trip commenced at 8:00 a.m. at Exit 11 on Highway 103 on May 29. We started out in a light shower with the temperature at 7°C. The skies soon cleared and the temperature climbed to 18°C by midday.

We headed in a generally northern direction, stopping first at Naas Lake where we saw eight warblers and an Eastern Wood Peewee. Midway between Sweetland and Farrville, we saw a Northern Waterthrush singing at the top of a tree in the swamp. While at Farrville we were invited to visit a farm overlooking Lake Langille, where we saw a Pileated Woodpecker and an Eastern Kingbird. We continued north up Upper Northfield where we found a Snipe, Cliff Swallows, a Black Duck with fourteen young in tow.

After lunch we travelled via Stanburne and Maplewood to Texas Lake, where we observed a flock of Nighthawks swooping on flies. On the return we paused at Middle Northfield and found a Spotted Sandpiper.

The trip took about 7 hours (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), we covered just over 100 kms. The party consisted of thirteen people, two of whom were new birders. They indicated that they had enjoyed the day and were considering joining the Society.

We feel that the day was enjoyed by all and are thinking of making this an annual event.

--Bill Caudle

May 29 -- Shubenacadie Area

A day in the wild with one's friends and the birds is an experience to be savoured on less happy occasions. Such a day was the Shubenacadie field trip of the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

From the most common birds in the parking lot through Mallard ducklings, Blue-winged Teal, Black Ducks, Ringnecks, Pied-billed Grebes, Spotted Sandpipers, Kingfishers, Killdeer, Bobolinks, to the forest birds, the viewing was good.

Twice we stood only a few feet from loudly-singing Northern Waterthrushes, but most of us were unable to distinguish the well-camouflaged birds from their backgrounds. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird hovered in the air above and in front of us to be well seen by everybody.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the excellent view of TWO Least Flycatchers building their two separate nests within one hundred meters of each other. Everybody had a clear, if fleeting look at an obviously mated pair of Ovenbirds. A female Blackburnian Warbler flitted back and forth through the trees over our heads as her mate sang nearby.

During the day we identified seventy-four different species of birds with seventeen species of warbler. When we left the woods shortly after two o'clock, we had had a very rewarding outing in an environment alive with birds.

--Roslyn MacPhee.

*
April 2--Eastern Shore

Probably it was the forecast of a truly fine day that encouraged thirty-three people to turn up for this trip. We started with a walk at Conrad's Beach, which produced few birds but got the blood flowing.

Between Lawrencetown and Chezzetcook, our safari of sixteen cars could stop safely at only some hotspots and vistas along the highway, but we did spend a bit of time at the end of Causeway Road. We had hopes for the shore road along Chezzetcook Inlet, but the Canada Geese masses there a week ago had largely gone. Numerous Black Ducks pairs (and, notably, only one pair of Mallards) were everywhere on the salt marshes. We finished the day with a walk along Martinique Beach to Flying Point, where we saw a few sea ducks and other waterbirds. We also flushed at least 20 Ipswich Sparrows there, and perhaps a dozen elsewhere. With some bias, I always think of them as the real harbingers of spring in coastal Nova Scotia. Other candidates, including Great Blue Herons and Piping Plovers, were not in evidence, and altogether our day's list was a mere 45 species. However, no one seemed unhappy--it was a glorious day.

--Ian McLaren

* This report is out of chronological order as it was received later. However, Ian is our very busy Photographic Editor and a Seasonal Editor as well, so he has a special privilege this once! -- Ed.

FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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

LEADERS ARE REMINDED TO SUBMIT A FIELD TRIP REPORT THE EDITOR IN TIME FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF *Nova Scotia Birds*. **PLEASE SEND TO:**

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



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, 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. 20 Matthew's Lake. Leader: David Young (656-2225). Meet at the parking lot at Hemeon's Head at 1:00 p.m. To get there, proceed down Hwy. 103 to Exit 23. Go south for 2 miles (3.6 km) until "Lighthouse Route" turns left at Little Harbour. Proceed down this road for approx. 7 miles (11 km) to stop sign. Continue straight about 2 additional miles (3.6 km) until end of road is reached at Hemeon's Head (approx. 2½ hrs. from Hfx.). Wear waterproof boots or be prepared to wade barefoot for a short distance. Walking distance is about 5-6 miles in 3-4 hours.
- Sat. 27 Hartlen's Point. Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-7808). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the old golf course entrance.

SEPTEMBER

- Sept.2-5 Bon Portage Island (Labour Day Weekend). Leader: Joan Czupalay (637-2402 or Barrington High School (637-2116 and leave message). Arrive at Prospect Point wharf, Shag Harbour, for a Friday, 6:00 p.m. crossing. Depart Island about 2:00 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 5. There is a fee for the boat trip and accommodations on the island. Bring your own food, drinking water, sleeping gear, suitable clothing and footwear, flashlight and a sheet for the mattress.
- Sat. 10 Cheticamp, Cape Breton. Leader: Cheryl Bray (562-0012). Meet at Lake O'Law park on the Cabot Trail, between Middle River and North East Margaree at 8:00 a.m.
- Sun. 18 Tidnish Crossroads & Northumberland Strait. Leader: Stuart Tingley. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Tidnish Bridge on Hwy. 366. Fall migration of loons, grebes, Caspian Terns and Gannets. Bring a lunch.

- Sat. 24 Wolfville Area Fall Birds. Leader: Jim Wolford (542-7650). Meet at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Front St., Wolfville, at 10:00 a.m. Joint outing with the Blomidon Field Naturalists. No need to pre-register.

OCTOBER

- Sat. 1 Hartlen's Point & Eastern Shore. Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-7808). Meet at the old entrance to Hartlen's Point Golf Course at 8:00 a.m.
- Oct. 7-10 Bon Portage Island (Thanksgiving Weekend). Contact Person: Angus MacLean (679-5878). Meet at the Prospect Point wharf on Friday at 3:00 p.m. There will be a charge for the boat trip and accommodations on the island. Bring food, sleeping gear, drinking water, appropriate clothing and footwear, flashlight and a sheet to cover the mattress. Pre-registration is necessary. Leave island at about 2:00 p.m. on Monday.

NOVEMBER

- Sat. 12 Northern Head, Cape Breton. Leader: Alan Murrant (737-2684). Meet at the site of the former Heavy Water Plant at 8:00 a.m. Be prepared for a 1½ hour rugged hike and dress warmly.

DECEMBER

Christmas Bird Counts. Watch for announcements of the Count(s) in your area and participate!!

JANUARY

- Sat. 14 Sewer Stroll I. (if bad weather, the 15th). Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-7808). This is an all day trip. Meet at Hartlen's Point at 8:00 a.m. Trip will end up in Herring Cove via Bedford.

Bald Eagles. Watch for the annual Eagle Day at Sheffield Mills, Kings County, in late January or early February. Guaranteed to see lots of eagles (and Red-tailed Hawks).

FEBRUARY

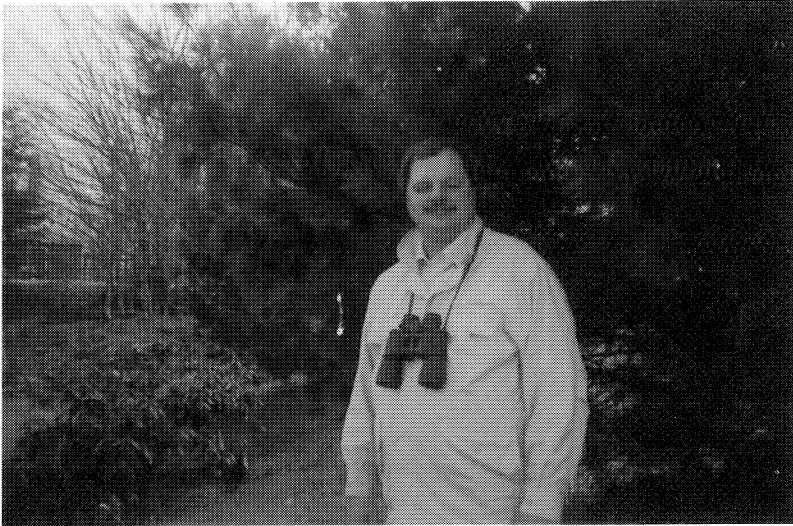
- Sat. 11 Sewer Stroll II. (if bad weather, the 12th). Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-7808). Meet at Hartlen's Point at 8:00 a.m. This is an all day trip and ends at Herring Cove via Bedford.

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

* Just prior to publication this trip was changed to Sunday, Sept 25.



PROFILE: Meet Keith Keddy



Keith Keddy (perhaps better known to newer members as KNK, our Vireo and Warbler Editor) came by his love of the outdoors at an early age. He grew up on a farm at New Ross, Lunenburg County. Nearby was a lake and extensive woodland so that nature surrounded him from childhood.

After graduating from Dalhousie University, he pursued a career in meteorology. This took him to a posting in Goose Bay, Labrador, where (as well as working) he studied birds from 1974-1978. While on leave from Labrador, Keith began to bird "formally", making notes of his sightings, and in 1976 he joined our Society, soon afterwards deciding to become a life member. After returning to Halifax, was very active in the NSBS: Vice-President for a time, leading field trips, doing a Breeding Bird Survey, attempting to establish a regular newspaper column devoted to birds and organizing the yearly NSBS display at the Nova Scotia Museum. He told me that one of the things he liked most about birding was the good friends he made: one especially came to mind--the late Ed. Richard of Halifax and Green Bay.

Keith has been a seasonal bird editor for **Nova Scotia Birds** since 1988 and, although these day family and career commitments of working on stratospheric ozones/UV-V and acid rain have forced his birding to be as he says "somewhat passive", he hopes to be able to become more active again in the future. Together with Rob Tordon he keeps a list of birds seen from his office window overlooking the Sackville River in Bedford. This includes Black-crowned Night Heron, Northern Oriole, Bohemian Waxwing and Bald Eagle, amongst others.

His best bird(s) are two Ivory Gulls found by himself and his cousin and fellow birder, Vernon Keddy at Sambro on February 7, 1979.

Other hobbies and interests include all aspects of nature, especially wildflowers and "wild edibles" as well as all levels of basketball, boardgames and "interesting conversation accompanied by a glass of good wine."

...sounds like a man for all seasons.

FOR THE RECORD



This trio Aythya ducks was observed by many on lakes near Waverley in March 1993. The drake Lesser Scaup was in subadult garb, but the TUFTED and RING-NECKED ducks were in spanking dress. Photo—Ian McLaren, March 23, 1993.



Our first springtime AMERICAN AVOCET was photographed by Ken McKenna near Linden, Pic. Co., on April 24, 1994.



This SUMMER TANAGER, photographed on Sable Island by Andrew Macfarlane in late May 1993, was one of good numbers reported that spring. The shaded cheek area and the darkish bill put one in mind of the much less likely Hepatic Tanager. But, detailed scrutiny confirms it as "just" a SUMMER TANAGER.



Our third COMMON CHAFFINCH, a fine male, was photographed at an Elgin, Pic. Co., feeder, by Ken McKenna on May 13, 1993. It was our first for spring--which has been true of half-dozen other individuals that have turned up elsewhere in the northeastern states and Atlantic Canada.

NSBS on the Chebucto Freenet

You may have seen an article in the Globe and Mail a few months ago, talking about a community-based computer resource known as a "freenet". In contrast to the more familiar computer "bulletin board", freenets emphasize sharing of information within a community, and also sharing information between communities. They are, as the name implies, free to use. Furthermore, freenets are meant to be available to all, regardless of whether you own a computer or not.

Freenets are cropping up in communities all over Canada, and as of June 15, the Chebucto Freenet in Halifax was open for public access. By dialing a phone number in Halifax, anyone can access this service at no charge. Public access terminals are expected to be available in libraries and some government offices. Freenets are also in various stages of planning in Yarmouth, Wolfville, Truro and Sydney. Once they are in operation, it is hoped that all of the provincial freenets will eventually share information with each other.

The services offered by the Chebucto Freenet include discussion groups, question and answer forums ("ask the gardener..."), access to remote databases, global electronic mail, a comprehensive Event Calendar, and detailed information about local organizations such as universities, libraries, municipal governments, technology groups, and societies.

The Nova Scotia Bird Society is participating in the Chebucto Freenet. Details of our meeting calendar, field trips, recent rare bird sightings, news from the birdline and information on how to join the society are among the material we have available. These subjects will be supplemented as we gain experience.

You can access the Chebucto Freenet from home only by computer. There are two ways to access it: Set your communications package to 8-N-1, and dial 494-8006. Alternatively, if you have an Internet connection, you can telnet directly to "cfn.cs.dal.ca". In either case, log in as "guest" for the first time, and then follow the instructions to get your own account. If you don't own a computer, a public access terminal should be available at the main branch of Halifax Memorial Library.

You will discover much that is interesting and useful in Chebucto Freenet. If you have any comments, go to any of the Nova Scotia Bird Society pages and leave a note, or send electronic mail to me: my account number is aa095.

--- Peter Payzant

LIVING ISLAND VIII

After Evelyn and Morrill moved from the lighthouse to the new home two hundred yards away in 1955, she lost her view of the pond and ducks off the point, but had time at last to take off an hour or so a day to indulge in her birding walks. -- Ed.

Evelyn says:

I formed the habit of allowing myself a noon hour in which I walked along the two wooded sides of the mowing-field, then climbed the fence and returned home along the road. In this hour I began to see an amazing number and variety of birds.

Although no portion of the island rises more than twenty feet above sea level, the new house sits on one of the highest ridges. The eastern bank, ten yards from the front door, drops in a sheer clay face to tide line, and from the back door the land slopes abruptly westward to one of the island's many small swamps. Towards the north the ridge widens and flattens more gradually. When we came to Bon Portage, all this ridge and its slopes were covered by trees and underbrush. The making of a productive field out of this unpromising area is probably the most rewarding of Morrill's many successes in his struggle with the reluctant soil. It is also most indicative of his hard work, for he fought tough and stubborn growth for every foot of the four acres. Some evenings the children and I joined him for company's sake and could occasionally lend our weight at the end of a pry, but even the ox was of little help, since the turf and matted roots combined to render ploughing impossible. We could all help, however, when it came time to plant each gained plot with its first crop--potatoes--before it could be sown to grass.

It turned out to be a beautiful field, with three sides sloping towards dark trees and the fourth overlooking the lighthouse and endless blue beyond. My heart has swelled many a still summer evening as I raked the last golden hay wisps across the velvet sod, while black tree-shadows slipped along the slope, the sweet fragrance of cured grass came from the stacks, birds chirped sleepily from the trees, and waves whispered at tide line. Beyond the shore, homing boats drew their perfect reflections along the Sound, while gulls drifted and wheeled above the lazy wakes, dripping the sunset's crimson from their silver-bladed wings. Those busy evenings are no longer part of our lives, but the field holds memories of them. I never walk its soft greensward, or look across its spring emerald, but I think how, for love of dear ones, a poet might pen a haunting verse, an artist fill a glorious canvas, while another man makes a green field with gentle curves against the open sky.

In spring and summer a noon walk takes me down the slope past the garden where warblers flit among the bean and pea poles and sparrows share the vines, or scratch with robins and a catbird between the planted rows. Only a few grassy feet separate the garden from the fence, which here is almost hidden by wild raspberry bushes. I turn and follow a narrow path between the field's green slope on my right and spruce branches pushing through the fence on my left. Mint gives up its fragrance to my bruising foot but the less-forgiving nettles sting an unwary leg or arm. Robins and sparrows move ahead of me, feeding among the grass, while others sing from the deep trees. High over woods and field, swallows circle and call, or dart low to snatch up midges. I like to pause before I quite reach the small enclosure to which Morrill transplanted our gooseberry and currant bushes when the lighthouse garden had proved too exposed for them. They are burgeoning and will later yield all we need of their fruit, and enough more that we need not begrudge the payment taken by many birds in return for their policing against insects. In the trees sheltering the little "currant yard" are kinglets, warblers, flycatchers and robins. While Morrill was clearing the field, he dumped many rocks along this lower edge and our garden bushes are planted among them. Soft hairy fern-moss plasters itself upon the grey granite pieces, and wild raspberry bushes have rooted among them. All the enclosure's bushes are hurrying into leaf, but the wild currants outside the fence are already opening their pink and white blossoms, lovely indeed against the grey rocks and old fence posts.

I next follow several yards of tangled softwoods, alders and raspberry canes, while the bordering mint mingles with patches of sweet-smelling bedstraw, a perfumed white mist that screens both fence and rough stones.

Just before the low reedy corner of the field, I come to the woodroad bars and, if I can spare the time, I climb them. Considering the fact that, even on the "high" ends, the island's wooded ridges are separated by wet swamps, we have a surprising choice of wooded paths. For ninety years the trees of the southern end have supplied the lighthouse stoves, so that the area is dotted with cuttings and crisscrossed by old sled-roads, now almost choked by the desperation of our undergrowth, but still there for feet familiar with them. This road, leading westward at right angles to the field is one of the last Morrill cut while he kept an ox and hauled his wood home over the snow. In spring it runs through stands of softwoods, blueberry and huckleberry bushes and hummocks of dwarf juniper--to name but a few of the plants which gladden me, first with their blossoms and later with their berries, and always with the shelter and feed they provide for birds. The road leads only a short distance westward before it comes to a swamp and here, where it swings north, a few families of rusty-capped swamp sparrows nest. They are shy, dull-coloured birds, but their song is strong and bright and part of spring.

It was along this short road that I saw my first yellow-breasted chat, my first mourning warbler--both listed as uncommon or rare in Nova Scotia--and my first Connecticut warbler, not listed at all. From his size, singular shape and eccentric movements, the chat could not easily be mistaken. The female mourning and Connecticut warblers might be confused except for the latter's eye-ring, and I am fortunate in that if I wait quietly I can almost always watch my birds at close range and on the open branches of our low dense trees for as long as I wish; this allows me to check each possible identification mark. Of course, there are times when I catch only a flash of wings or an unmarked head, and the owner's identity remains a mystery.

Along this same road I once traced a puzzling song and laughed at myself when my quest was ended. This was early in my bird watching, but even yet I do not recognize as many songs as I should; perhaps because I lack a good ear, perhaps because I cannot depend upon this means of identification since a large proportion of island birds are passing through and sing but little, if at all. There was no mistaking that this chap had matrimony and housekeeping in mind; his announcements came from the thick woods beyond the bars, rolling, mellow and full, now from a distant tree, now near at hand. For a week I put all my noon hours into tracking down the singer--through thickets and brier tangles and swamp bushes.

"He shouldn't be so hard to spot," I told myself. "He must be rather a large bird to send out such a volume of song."

Soon I discovered there were at least two birds with similar resounding melodies. "So it can't be a rare species."

Then one noon, as I was hurrying along the wood road towards a distant songster, an aria burst forth from a branch within reach of my hand. I stopped short and held my breath. A tiny olive-green bird flitted out to a twig beside me, cocked a white-ringed eye and erected a ruby crest.

"Not you!" I gasped in utter disbelief.

Yes, me-eee," he replied and, throwing back his head, proceeded to prove it beyond doubt.

After this experience with the little ruby-crowned kinglet, I was not so surprised as I might otherwise have been when, later, I heard the winter wren's rollicking music and then saw the tiny singer.

From the end of the road I retrace my steps, re-climb the bars and turn along the northern end of the field. Although the trees here appear no different from those I have just passed, not quite the same birds haunt them; there are a greater number of black-and-white warblers, nuthatches and chickadees. I next climb the fence at the prettiest spot along my walk--the Brown Pool. Here a moss-edged cup, two or three feet in diameter, holds water from the swamp beyond. When a sunray slants across it, it gleams as brown as well-steeped tea, while it mirrors surrounding trees and ferns along with flecks of sky and cloud. After spring rains it even provides a small sweet tinkle of

falling water at its outlet, a sound almost unheard on the island, which has no brooks, and where only after a deep thaw or heavy rain do the sluggish drains and ditches come alive. About the pool grow wood-sorrel, modest "wax-flower" with its downcast face (monesis), wild lily-of-the-valley, fragrant twin-flowers and many other wood blooms.

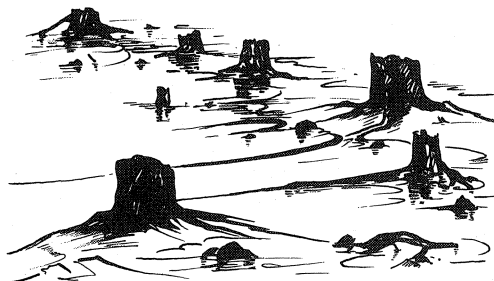
Under the trees are the brittle pink teguments of crabs, bleached lobster-claws, lavender mussel and white sea urchin shells, discarded by the nesting crows above. (Later fragments of olive-green eggshells will dot the bright moss). Black sentinals are posted on the trees about the pool; their raucous caws drown out the sweeter notes of small birds and send the more timid warblers into hiding. From deeper in the woods I hear a raven's harsh croak.

Leaving the Brown Pool I make my way through a narrow stand of firs and, after pausing near a solitary birch to note which birds are visiting it, I come out at Saddleback. This is a shallow indentation in the shore, not deep or curved enough to form a cove, where at every storm the surf breaks across the road, strewn seawrack and boulders which must be thrown off before the tractor can pass. When my children were small, we wound through a band of trees on the road's seaward side to reach our swimming pool; now only a few stumps at tide line remain of those trees and what was then the road is now the shore. With its insect-riddled driftwood as well as its hatching beachflies and sandfleas, this is frequented by many wood and field birds. Our only pair of Swainson's thrushes build each spring among the low trees across the road and come to feed here, though their liquid notes always sound a bit out of place against the sea's voice. Later this is a favourite spot for shorebirds, which haunt the edges of shallow tide pools.

Beyond Saddleback the road is wooded on either side, and this part of my walk yields me the most pleasure, for birds flit back and forth across the road, then perch in full view, as if asking to be studied. Sometimes I forsake the road at Saddleback and follow the rough shoreline a few yards outside the road. This is lined with trees uprooted and felled by hurricanes, stripped and bleached by tides and spray. The tangles of dead trees harbour innumerable insects; woodpeckers, warblers, flycatchers and sparrows all perch among the bare branches between sallies above and among the seaweed rolls where flies appear to hatch incessantly. A thin trickle makes its way from road to shore and provides drinking water for small birds.

Unless I feel particularly prodigal of time, I go only a few yards beyond this, to where road and shore merge; here I turn back towards home, less than a quarter of a mile away, for the road forms the fourth side of the rectangle whose perimeter I follow.

Though I set aside the noon hour and this area for my regular bird-watching walk, I make quite as many observations by happy chance, at odd and unexpected moments and places. As John Burroughs wrote about this aspect of bird study--the occurrence of the unusual amid the utterly familiar: "One may go a blackberrying and make some rare discovery; or while driving his cow to pasture hear a new song, or make a new observation. Secrets lurk on all sides. There is news in every bush."



THE FEEDER PAGES

OLIVER



A flash of orange in the already leafless mock-orange by the back steps was a pleasant surprise. Orioles seldom pass our way and this one, with luck, might yield at least a recognizable record shot before heading south. Fetching the camera via the front door was the work of a moment, but even so the bush was empty on my return. Hope and patience are, they say, virtues; if so, a birder with a long lens qualifies as a saint or, at the very least, is well-acquainted with disappointment. So, it wasn't surprising when the garden produced no orioles.

From time to time one needs to be reminded that the asparagus plant is an unusual member of the lily family in that its plants are dioecious; those that produce the bright red berries are decorative even when the fronds wither. A collection of them had been put in the barn to dry, and there was the oriole, busily reducing their aesthetic value. For the next few days asparagus fronds were tied and tacked to a handy tree and under cover of a blind, the camera was put to use without somehow producing what are called, for purposes of our Christmas slide show, prize-winners. Next to go were some highbush cranberries, also being reserved for decorative use. As the days passed and the weather remained mild, half an orange was added to the menu, a fruit with which the oriole seemed unfamiliar. Grapes were offered and appreciated.

Across the lane Mrs. Norma Lewis, a long-time member of the Society, also received visits from the oriole. She and Mrs. Kaye Richards persuaded it to eat oranges as well as grapes. Because of the brilliance of its orange breast and the stoutness of its blue-black bill, it was in my opinion an immature male and so Mrs. Richards named it Oliver. By early December, two thoughts occurred: first, that he was staying incautiously late and, secondly, that in three weeks it would be time for our Christmas

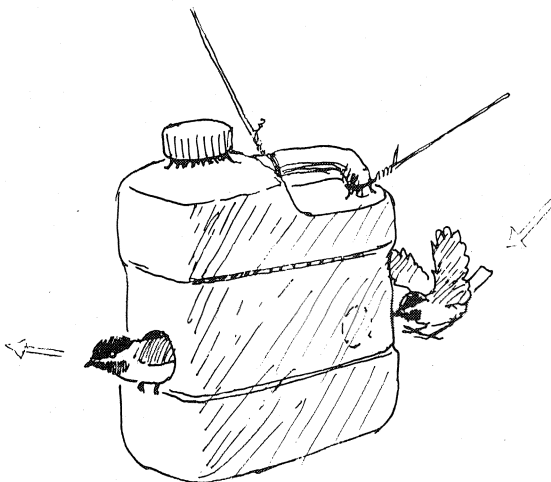
Count. The eve of that day had weather so awful that participants coming from New Brunswick called from nearby Parrsboro and Five Islands asking if there was any place to stay in those towns; however, through dire necessity they finally arrived. Next day was worse, and thought would have been given to calling off the Count had that not been unthinkable. Since Oliver wasn't at our feeder the first stop was, of course, Norma's. In the blizzard that reduced visibility to no more than fifty feet I knew the form being blown away was Oliver but might have had trouble getting the sighting accepted that evening. Fortunately, he showed up for his grapes in the course of the day.

Grapes freeze as hard as cannon balls in an hour or two at twenty below and have to be replaced frequently (rethawed ones are acceptable). To cope with that kind of weather, Oliver spent much of his time huddled and perching on one foot in the mock-orange, or in the shelter of a covered bird feeder. Most nights he spent in the branches of a spruce tree below the bank that overlooks the Economy marsh; it is possible he once stayed in a snow cavity in the fir boughs used for banking at Norma's, and once he sheltered in the wreath on our back porch door, where grapes were put once he'd finished off the highbush cranberry decorations.

January and February were hard months. Starlings discovered that grapes were available; after a few scuffles Oliver became resigned to their depredations and it was up to us to drive them away. Fortunately they knew they were unwelcome and would fly away with single grapes, allowing Oliver to feed unmolested so long as a human presence was suspected. The next milestone was the official arrival of spring (somewhere), and by April it wasn't unreasonable to think the worst was over, especially when a Sharp-shinned Hawk stopped briefly without dire consequences.

For some time I had been waiting for Oliver to begin to acquire his black hood, but it was now apparent that he wasn't going to oblige and would have been called Olivia or Olivette. However, habit is hard to break; it was easier to think of Oliver as a surname. On April 30 she spent the late afternoon as usual surveying the garden from her perch in the mock-orange, whose buds, though green, had yet to open. On May 1 she was gone.

--Francis Spalding



BACKYARD BIRDS; ALL ARE WELCOME!

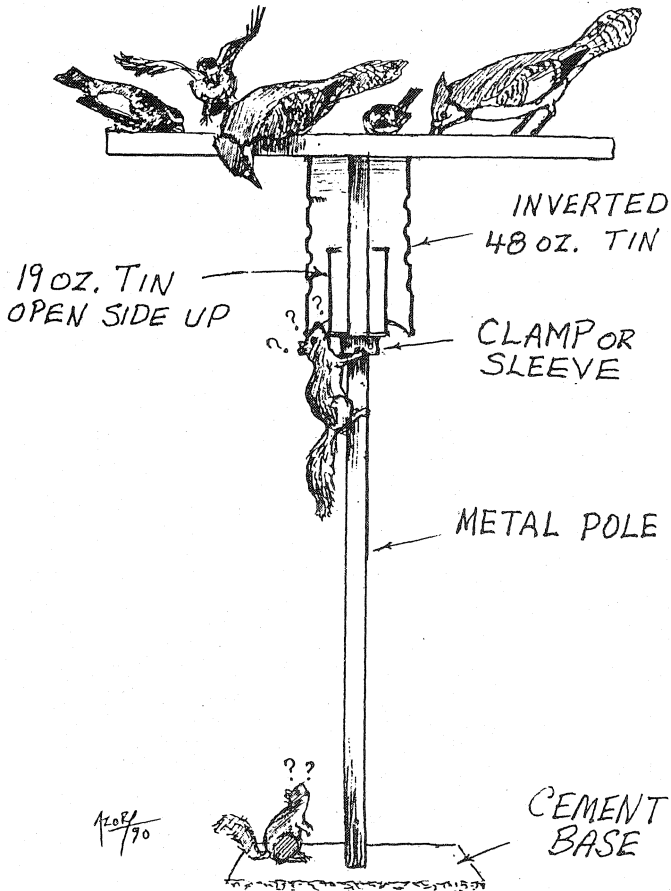


A number of people reported crossbills visiting their feeders at close of last winter, and some continued to bring themselves and their young into summer. These look like one of the large billed species, but giving them a name is difficult as the recent literature is contradictory. Photo by Elly Desplanque, Amherst, March 18, 1994.



Some people understandably resent Sharp-shin raids on "their" feeder birds. Doris Harkness of Amherst, withheld judgement and snapped this one at work on April 11, 1993. We hope it was a Starling.

AZOR VIENNEAU HAS SENT US A SELF-EXPLANATORY DESIGN
FOR A SQUIRREL-PROOF BIRD FEEDER



These Feeder Page items depend on contributions from our readers. What happened in your garden this summer? Do you feed all summer or provide water (still or moving)? Any facet of garden birding is of interest. The deadline for our next issue is November 15. Please send letters to Shirley Cohrs or photographs to Ian McLaren--addresses on page 24.

--Ed.

SEABIRDS ALONG THE EASTERN SEABOARD--A MARINER'S VIEW

by Captain Hubert Hall

On March 22, 1994, I accepted a job as master of a small and very old ship for the remainder of a delivery voyage that began in Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia, in mid-February. I joined her at New Bedford, Mass. on March 23 and we sailed for Caicos Island, one of the Turks and Caicos group of islands about 650 miles south-east of Miami on March 25.

The next day, March 26, we were passing off New York and New Jersey and seeing a few seabirds. Northern Gannets, murre (I am not very good at identifying the two species of murre, especially when they are flying.) and gulls, including Laughing Gulls in breeding plumage. It is still a mystery to me why there are so many Laughing Gulls as close to here as the Maine coast and yet they are so rarely seen in Nova Scotia waters.

A little farther south the next day we ran into strong winds from the south which pretty much neutralized the effects of our two fifty-one-year-old Paxman engines. I was surprised to have a couple of visiting land birds during the day as the wind was blowing directly towards the land from seaward. The first sighting was a Mourning Dove which landed on the ship, forward of the bridge, where we had a good view of it. It blew off the first perch on which it had landed, but found a more sheltered location and stayed with us for a couple of hours. Our next visitor, a Robin, was not successful in its first attempt to land and after making another unsuccessful attempt, flew off downwind from us, not to be seen again. I hope one of the Robins we have around here is that one!

The only reason I can think of for these two species being twenty or thirty miles out to sea in a gale of wind was that they were migrating northwards farther out to sea and were being blown towards land by the strong winds that day. Later that night I decided discretion was better than valour and altered course for a secure anchorage in Chesapeake Bay until the weather moderated. We anchored a few miles inside Cape Henry, Virginia, on the south side of the bay and within viewing distance of the Chesapeake Tunnel-Bridge. During the day we had a good view of many birds flying over and paddling around near us.

There were many Gannets, nearly all adults; always impressive in their flight and feeding habits. I was able to get a good look at the differences in fourth year and adult birds, with the subtle differences in the amount of black feathers in their tails and secondaries.

There were both Great and D. C. Cormorants--I kept looking for a stray Anhinga, but none showed up. Common Loons were just that, Red-breasted Mergansers, gulls, including Laughing and Bonapartes, Caspian Terns--a real treat, American Kestrels, a few Tree Swallows and a Brown Pelican all gave us a showing.

The next day, March 27, we again headed south towards the dreaded Cape Hatteras. Gannets and Common Loons kept us company all afternoon. We rounded that famous cape ten miles off our starboard beam in the pale glow of a waning noon shining on a gently heaving sea and headed on a south-westerly course to stay within a reasonable distance from land off South Carolina and Georgia. There was a noticeable decline in the numbers of birds sighted from Hatteras southward. Except for the odd Gannet and Common Loons, long periods passed with no birds in sight.

We spent Easter Saturday at Port (Cape) Canaveral getting fuel and stores for the remainder of the voyage. I had instructed the cook to get enough groceries to last a week, which he was able to do after some run-around involving a ship's agent and chandler.

A surprising sighting was the presence of a Ruddy Turnstone which kept picking in the loose debris on the pier where we were docked. It was in winter plumage and certainly out of any normal habitat where one would expect to see such a bird.

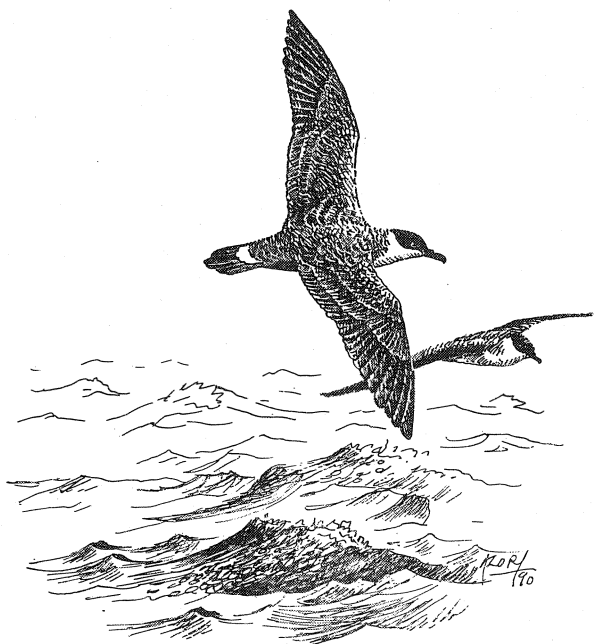
By April 4th, we were in Bahamian waters passing south of Freeport on Grand Bahama Island. Here we saw more birdlife and were treated by the sighting of small flocks of Black Noddies feeding ternlike by diving into the sea. A Pomarine Jaeger gave me a good view of its spoon-like tail feathers as it flew past and a surprise sighting was a pair of Great Blue Herons heading northward for their summer nesting grounds.

Probably the most spectacular sighting was of several White-tailed Tropicbirds. These were soaring fairly high over a choppy sea at the eastern end of Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas. Seen against the brilliantly blue sky, their long tail feathers streamed behind them like the tail on a kite.

We docked on April 7 at Providenciales, referred to as "Provo" by the local people, and unfortunately did not have time to do any birding on the island as we were booked to fly out the next morning at 0800. However, while waiting at the dock for our ride to the airport, I did see a Kingfisher perched on the top of a mast of a wrecked Haitian sailboat. I assume it was a Belted Kingfisher, which is the species we have in Nova Scotia; but realized that without a closer observation with binoculars it could have been a Ringed Kingfisher. This species is quite similar to ours, except it has a thicker beak. Both species are common in that they are of the West Indies. My final sighting for the trip was a small flock of Ruddy Turnstones, still in winter plumage feeding along the edge of a sandy beach near the dock where we were waiting.

One of the things I found surprising was the relatively small numbers of birds over the sea in Florida waters. We went as far south as West Palm Beach before heading eastward to the Bahamas and passed areas where many pleasure and commercial boats were fishing; but there were few birds there.

A book which I consider "a must" for anyone going birding on an ocean voyage is Peter Harrison's **Seabirds—An Identification guide**. This is described as "A complete "Guide to the Seabirds of the World" and has 1600 birds illustrated in full colour and 324 distribution maps as well as ample text. "Don't leave home without it!"



BIRDS WITH CHARACTER

Bernard Forsythe

Reprinted from the **BNS Newsletter** with the permission of the author

My fascination with owls has increased as I follow them through their annual nesting cycle. Much as been written about their highly evolved senses of sight and hearing that enable them to be successful night hunters. Unlike most birds, owls have forward-facing eyes. This supposedly makes them appear wise. However, they have many other characteristics that make them interesting to study. Personality is high on the list. Fifteen or more pairs of Barred Owls are now using my nest boxes. Some individuals have been doing so for many years. It is possible to recognize many of the adults from their actions during my presence. Behaviour ranges from complete acceptance to extreme aggression. Actually it is surprisingly similar to the response one might expect in a human population.

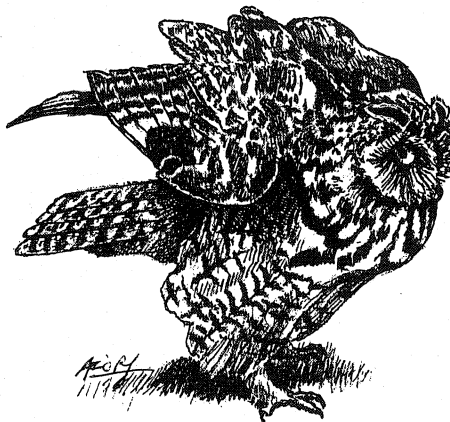
As I approach a nest box, most female Barred Owls will fly to a nearby branch and glare angrily at me. Sometimes the male will fly in from his roost. A look at their flexible facial disk will usually betray how they will react to the visit. Depending on whether the nest contains eggs, newly hatched young, or young about ready to fledge, surprise, fear anger, rage, or even indifference will clearly be seen on their face. It pays to wear a hard hat while inspecting a nest because an owl's mood can change instantly especially from surprise to rage. Most parents will just threaten to attack but some must be watched carefully. In March I make several nest visits to record the first egg date. As I climb to one particular nest the female will appear from a hidden roost, strike me, circle around and strike again. This can be a bit unnerving as there is no warning from an owl's silent wings.

Some females try the opposite method, stay calm and hope I will go away. One female has been very trusting for years. In April of 1992, she showed just how faithful she was to her young. At dusk, just as I reached the nestbox 35 feet up in a hemlock tree, the box broke away from the tree trunk. Luckily I was able to hold onto the box. From inside came the peeping of a newly hatched young while its mother calmly sat on the nest. Slipping out of my jacket, I tied one sleeve around the nestbox and the other around a branch and left the nest hanging. After a fast trip home to obtain some tools and a flashlight, I re climbed the tree to refasten the box to the tree trunk. It was necessary to remove the nest box top. Mother owl watched the procedure without moving or complaining. This incident just wasn't worth getting excited about. Seeing this large bird of prey so gentle and trusting was unexpected by me. During later visits, after the young no longer needed brooding, she became aggressive and flew toward me giving threatening calls and bill snaps.

Will wild owls come to a feeder? Last winter I found the answer is "yes". On January 17, I heard a Barred Owl hooting behind my house. Small mammals and birds (road kills, etc.) were placed in a nestbox and on a platform in nearby trees. The first food was taken January 22. Food was eaten most nights except for three weeks in February and the first egg was laid in the nestbox on March 23. I continued to feed the family until July when I stopped so the adults would teach the two young to hunt for their own food. At dusk on December 1, 1992, a Barred Owl was back at the feeding platform. I placed food out and the owl fed within five minutes and continued to visit most evenings.

Having a family of owls in the backyard gave me more opportunity to observe them. The young leave the nest long before they can fly and would be high up in a different tree each morning. Being flightless was not an impediment to their getting around. They were always begging to be fed. On the evening of June 20 the mother owl was preparing an animal to feed her young which were standing beside her on a branch of a poplar tree. One impatient young jumped and grabbed the food; however, mother held on. The young owl lost its balance and soon found itself hanging upside down from the limb with wings outstretched still hanging on to one end of a now much longer prey item. Mother persisted and after some time the young owl realized it was getting nowhere and let go, righting itself as it dropped to a lower branch. Of course my camera was back at the house.

Many birdwatchers only get an occasional look at an owl as it sleeps hidden for the day. Usually all one gets is a blank stare from the owl. After all, its sleep has been interrupted. As you have read, their behaviour changes completely at the nest site. They can be more exciting and surprising than any other family of birds.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Editor, **Nova Scotia Birds:**

The Nova Scotia Wildlife Federation (with which our Society is not affiliated) has asked the Minister of Natural Resources to open a Spring Bear Hunt in this province. The Minister has requested public opinion on this matter. So, with the agreement of the Executive, I have written to the minister voicing opposition to such a move on behalf of our society.

The basis of our opposition is one of safety. Many birders stay out of the woods and fields during hunting seasons because of the danger of being shot accidentally. We feel that traditionally we have been able to go into the woods in the spring without this concern.

Mr. Downe has answered by letter by indicating that our opinion will be a factor in helping him to make his decision but in his response he gave several reasons for holding a spring hunt of bears which may indicate that his mind has already been made up.

Society members must make up their own minds on this matter, but in view of the minister's request for public opinion, I suggest you write to...

Hon. Don Downe,
Minister of Natural Resources,
P. O. Box 698,
Halifax, Nova Scotia,
B3J 2T9

Yours truly,

Bob Dickie, (President).

A REVERSIBLE CATASTROPHE

Rich Stallcup

Reprinted with permission from **Observer**, quarterly journal of Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Rich Stallcup, an outstanding North American field ornithologist and educator, writes a regular column on bird appreciation identification in **Observer**, which is mailed to PRBO's members.

Songbird Populations on every continent are in steep decline. While pollution, acid rain, clear-cutting of tropical and domestic forests, global warming, and human sprawl are serious environmental adversaries, an agent every bit as detrimental to small birdlife in North America may be crouched in ambush in your back yard--or curled up on your lap.

The problem is cats. How large a threat do they pose? Let's do a quick calculation, starting with numbers of pet cats. Population estimates of domestic house cats in the contiguous United States vary somewhat, but most agree the figure is between 50 and 60 million. On 3 March 1990, the **San Francisco Chronicle** gave the number as 57.9 million, "up 19% since 1984." For this assessment, let's use 55 million.

Some of these (maybe 10%) never go outside, and maybe another 10% are too old or too slow to catch anything. That leaves 44 million domestic cats hunting in gardens, marshes, fields, thickets, empty lots, and forests.

It is impossible to know how many of those actively hunting animals catch how many birds, but the numbers are high. To be very conservative, say that only one in ten of those cats kill only one bird a day. This would yield a daily toll of 4.4 million songbirds!! Shocking, but true--probably a low estimate (e.g., many cats get multiple birds a day).

In the British magazine **Natural History** (July 1989), it is pointed out that "Britain's five million house cats enjoy both indoor comforts and outdoor hunting:" the healthier the outdoor house cat, the more small birds and other animals it will kill. After sleeping, hunting is cats' favorite pastime; it is not a matter of hunger.

Most people who own killer cats--even people who claim to love small wildlife--manage to rationalize their pets' behavior. "He doesn't mean to hurt anything." "He only gets a few." "It's his natural instinct!" Yet the situation is far from natural. The house cat has been bred by people over the centuries and is not a natural member of any food web. Its out-of-control population is vastly larger than all native predators put together.

A PLAGUE OF CATS

Add to this the plague of feral cats. How many? No one knows, but they occur everywhere in temperate North America (except deserts and high mountains), and in some places are abundant. A few years ago Stanford University initiated a control program, because an estimated 2000 feral cats were living on (and eliminating bird life from) that small campus. In parks, foothills, and agricultural areas, feral cats hunting are a common sight. Along the California coast, it is common to see 10 to 15 during a day's outing (and these are nocturnal animals). Certainly there are many millions, countrywide. What do they eat? Wildlife! Nothing but wildlife.

In some places the native animals killed are mostly small mammals, a phenomenon proven (in places) to seriously deplete the prey base for wintering hawks and owls. Elsewhere, feral cats take mostly small birds. While most of the victims are "common" species (though seldom House Sparrows or Starlings), rare animals such as Black Rails and salt marsh harvest mice will also show up in the body count.

Beyond the fact that a single cat can extirpate native fauna from a given site, cats reproduce at alarming rates and, if uncontrolled, will affect huge areas. In the

journal **Wildlife** (February 1976), Henry Tegner writes, "Compared to the truly wild mammalian predators...which in most cases breed only once a year, the domestic cat gone wild is a much more prolific creature, having several litters a year. To give an idea of the productive capacity of a cat, the RSPCA once reported that a single she-cat from Exeter produced more than 1200 identified progeny in the space of ten years, an average of 120 a year."

On islands, where feral cats rapidly fill every niche, elimination of native fauna is thorough. In 1949 five cats were brought to Marion Island in the sub-Antarctic Indian Ocean to control mice at the new meteorological station. These were the only cats present. In 1975, a study estimated that the 2200 cats on the island (nearly 40 per square mile) were killing 600,000 seabirds (mostly prions and petrels) annually!

Attempts to control or eliminate feral cats--and the ensuing damage to wildlife--are few, and mostly haphazard, and in the main unorganized. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Damage Control program reported in 1988 the following selected animals killed by government hunters (numbers in parentheses were killed by licensed private citizens): coyote 76,033 (250,000); raccoon 5348; badger 939; porcupine 799; black bear 289 (21,000); mountain lion 203 (1500); feral cat 178. Licensed private hunters did not list the latter species.

Some parks and refuges eliminate some individual cats, but even those with regular removal programs probably are not keeping up with cat reproduction, even on a very localized scale.

PROCLAIM A SANCTUARY!

Meanwhile, back in the city, gardens (which could otherwise be mini-wildlife refuges, making up a patchwork of significant habitat throughout the country) are only illusions of shelter, luring small birds to the threat of the claw. If you have a garden, why not proclaim it a wildlife sanctuary and protect from non-native predators? If roaming cats come into your sanctuary to poach the wildlife under your stewardship, you have the right and perhaps even the duty to discourage them in a serious way.

If sanctions against the neighbours who allow their animal to trespass your property and assault your avian friends don't work, go the next step. Try calling the animal control officers (the pound) to have the animal removed. If they fail to respond, try a B-B or pellet gun. There is no need to kill or shoot toward the head, but a good sting on the rump seems memorable for most felines, and they seldom return for a third experience. Failing that, a "have-a heart" trap and a trip to the animal shelter might work. Word in catland seems to travel fast. Soon you should have a safe place for small, wild visitors.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP SAVE BIRDS FROM CATS

1. Implore agency officials like park rangers, game wardens, and wildlife agents to permanently remove (not relocate) feral cats from parks and other public lands. If they claim not to have the funds for the job, volunteer yourself.
2. Insist that local animal control units control local exotic animals by removing cats that are living off the land.
3. Give financial and emotional support to projects designed specifically for eradication of unnatural predators throughout the world, especially on islands. The ICBP would be a good organization to support for their work in this area.
4. Support mandatory spaying and neutering policies and feline breeding moratorium issue when they arise, or instigate such action in your area. San Mateo County, California, has initiated one such program. According to a city official, "The response we have received from the public has been incredible--and 98% positive."
5. Proclaim your yard a personal national wildlife refuge. Plant it for wildlife, and defend it against marauding cats.

6. Physically discourage cats from attacking birds. If the cat is your own: A. Keep it in the house. b. Attach obnoxious bells to its collar. One little jingle bell is not enough. c. Sting it if it even thinks about stalking birds; it will still love you.

If you truly care for birds and other small wildlife, please do all you can to intercept violence directed at them by cats.



SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

Contributors from May 1993 to May 1994

Jean Wight-Rosahn	Gillian Rose
Cynthia Murphy	Thomas Parsons
Tina Harriott	R. H. J. Creighton
Patricia Steel	Claire Long
Edith McClearn	Roger Burrows
Ruth Hebb	Mary Ellen Hebb
Sylvia Fullerton	Phyllis Bryson
Robert Jackson	Gerald Edsall
David Young	Currie McCarthy
Leo McKay	S. E. Lewis
Carolyn Walsh	Gertrude Pitcher
William Foote	M. Anketell-Jones
J. Shirley Cohrs	

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
c/o Nova Scotia Museum,
1747 Summer Street,
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6

Executive 1993-1994

President - Bob Dickie
Vice President - Lisé Cohrs
Past President - Carol McNeill
Treasurer - Bill Caudle
Secretary - James Taylor
Membership Secretary - Carol McNeill
 - Peter Payzant
Editor - Shirley Cohrs
Executive Member - Bernice Moores
Executive Member - Christine Ross
Solicitor - Tony Robinson
Auditor - James C. Morrow

Membership Fees

Life Membership	\$375.00
Single Membership	15.00
Family Membership	18.00
Institutional Membership	25.00

Note: Outside Canada please add \$2.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief	Shirley Cohrs
Records Editor	Wendie Tay
Photographic Editor	Ian McLaren
Christmas Counts	David Currie Francis Spalding
Seasonal Bird Reports	R.G.B. Brown David Currie Keith Keddy Ian McLaren Bev Sarty Francis Spalding Richard Stern
Cover: Belted Kingfisher by Bob Dickie	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Spring Migration 1994	3
A Spring Weekend in N. Carolina... R. Stern	27
Field Trip Reports	29
Forthcoming Field Trips	35
Profile--Keith Keddy	37
Living Island VIII	41
The Feeder Pages	44
Seabirds along the Eastern Seaboard..H. Hall	48
Birds with Character.....Bernard Forsythe	50
A Reversible Catastrophe...Rich Stallcup	52

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

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

ISSN 0383-9567

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