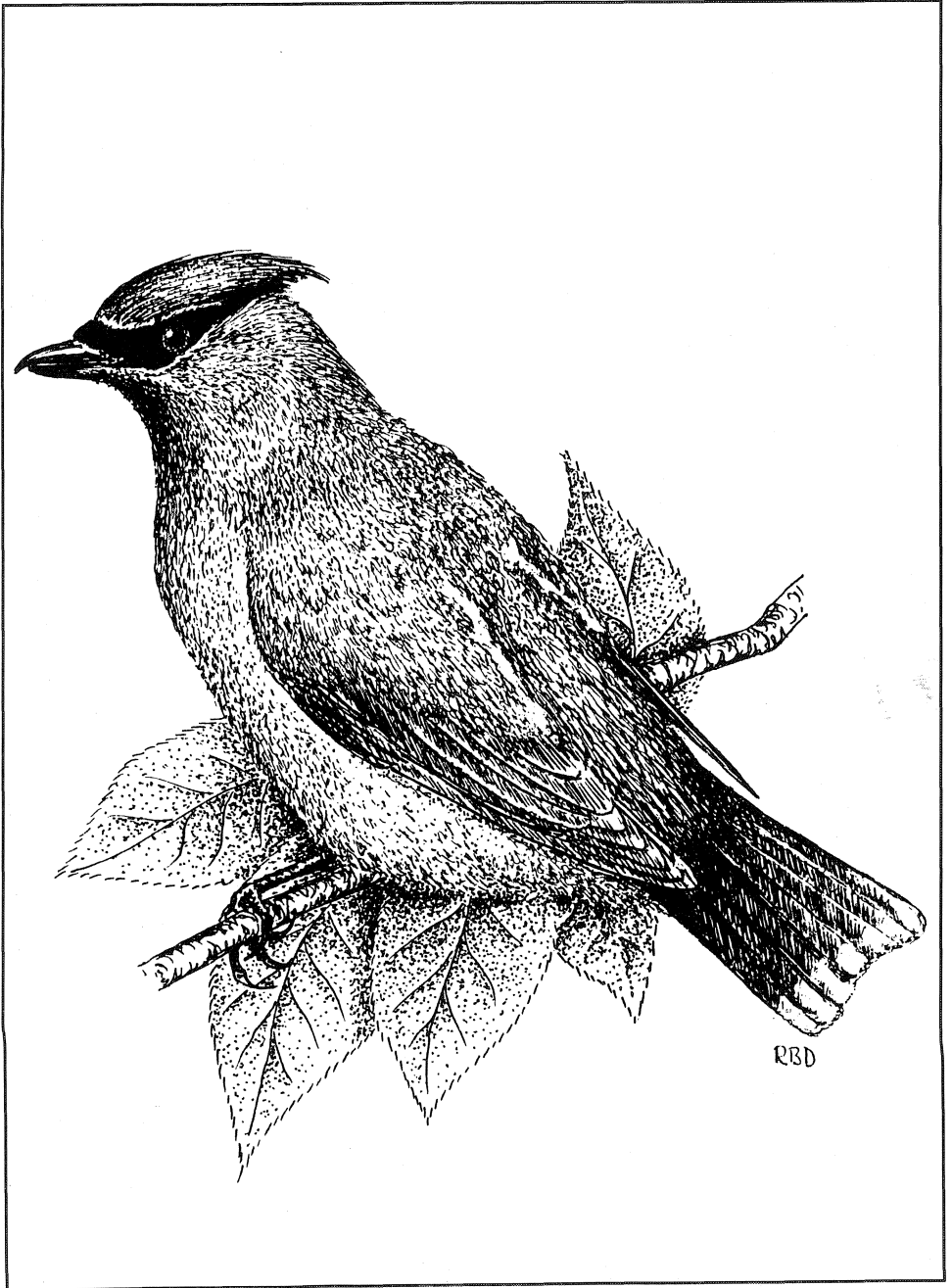


# Nova Scotia Birds



January 1995

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS  
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*Happy  
New Year!*  
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FROM YOUR  
1994 - 1995 EXECUTIVE



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Photo--Peter Payzant

## LOONS AND GREBES

## FALL MIGRATION, 1994

Two RED-THROATED LOONS, both in basic plumage, found the Nova Scotia summer to their liking; one, first spotted off Hartlen's Point June 18 (IAM), was present along the shore until month's end; the second was near the causeway in Cheticamp Harbour on July 4 (KJM). Fall reports were fewer than the past couple of years and mentioned mostly single birds, exceptions being: 5 at Port Morien Nov. 4 (ALM); 30 on Nov. 6 off Waterside Prov. Park (KJM); and 2 in the Greed Bay/Cherry Hill area a week later (Cohrs).

Angus MacLean encountered a family of COMMON LOONS with one half-grown chick near Aspy Bay in northern Cape Breton on July 12. In the same area was a rather large (70+) congregation of non-breeding loons. The only other mention of a juvenile loon was one with two ad. at Green Bay July 20 (Cohrs)-- early on salt water? Fall reports were few and far between with the only concentrations appearing in Lun. Co.- 47 at Crescent Beach Oct. 19 and 63+ at Cherry Hill a month later (Cohrs).

PIED-BILLED GREBES were present at 10 widespread locations, usually in 1's or 2's, but up to 3 on Sable Island in late October (ZOL,AFM). As usual, however, the majority were in the Amherst marshes: 10 at APBS and 15 at Eddy on June 4 (BLM,JOW,FLL); 6 on Sept. 11 at E. Apple River (KFS) was another good count. Noone reported juvenile birds. HORNED GREBES had returned to Big Island (Pic.) by Nov. 13 (KJM) and a few others turned up in the St. Margaret's Bay area. The first RED-NECKED GREBES of autumn arrived at Green Bay Oct. 1 (Cohrs). Only 2 other locations had Red-necks by the deadline for this issue: 2 at Broad Cove Oct. 29 (SJF) and 2 more at Little River (DIG) Nov. 11 (BJA).

-BDS, ed.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, reports compiled by RGBB are not available for inclusion in this issue. They will be printed in the April 1995 edition.

## HERONS AND ALLIES

Eleven AMERICAN BITTERNs were noted at sites from Cape Breton. to Shel. Co., the latest on Cape Sable Is., Nov. 13 (WAA et al.) The only reported gathering of GREAT BLUE HERONS were in early September -- 25 at Blanche, Shel. Co., (BLM), and ca. 60 at the mouth of the Cornwallis R. (fide JWW). One reached Sable Is., Aug. 31-Sept. 12 (AFM). The only reported GREAT EGRET appeared late, near Canning, King's Co., Nov. 27 (fide RBS). A late-spring SNOWY EGRET was at Lr. LaHave, Lun. Co., on June 12 (ELM). SNOWY EGRETS were not reported from their usual summering areas in Shel. Co. One was on Brier Is. Aug. 2 (KJM) and another was somewhat late at Rainbow Haven, Hfx. Co., Nov. 19 (Birdline). Three LITTLE BLUE HERONS were spread seasonally: an ad. at Conrad Beach June 4 (BMA et al.), another on Seal I. Aug. 20 (WAA,MUN), and an imm.on Sable Is. Sept. 25-26 (ZOL). The only reported TRICOLOURED HERON was a fully plumed ad. on Cape Sable Is., June 16-17 (JUN,JON et al.). A CATTLE EGRET in Dartmouth, brought to the attention of birders Nov. 10 by TV news, was still present two weeks later (JWT). The only reported GREENHERON was on Cape Sable Is., June 1-2 (MUN,JON). Summering BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS were noted as usual in the southwest: up to 6 ads. on Cape Sable Is. and a pair on Seal Is. (sev. obs.). One was heard on Brier Is., Sept. 10 (CGB,KJM), and imm. birds were seen on Bedford Basin during August (var. obs.) and on Cape Sable Is., Sept. 10 (RSD). A beautiful ad YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON was on Cape Sable Is., July 16 to Sept. 12 (WAA,MUN, et al.), and an imm. on Sable Is., Aug. 20-21 (ZOL). Probably more "southern" herons were seen, but even so there seem to have been fewer than usual.

--IAM. ed.



## GEESE AND DUCKS

Time to raise the issue of escaped birds once again. This time we received a letter from Robert Chivers. He tells of a hunter who, upon picking up the only duck that fell from a flock of ducks he had taken a shot at, discovered that the prize was a Fulvous Whistling Duck. He went on to say that a second bird of this species was said to be with some tame ducks in the marshes at/near Newellton on Cape Sable Island. Some of you are no doubt aware that a number of ducks were released not long ago in that area and these Fulvous Whistling Ducks are in all likelihood from that collection. If anyone can obtain a list of the species that were released and send it to the Records Editor I would appreciate it.

A lone SNOW GOOSE flew over Jim Taylor's cottage at Port Howe on Oct. 8 and was later seen in with 1000+ Canada Geese at the mouth of the River Philip. Another Snow Goose was behind the Kwik-Way at the Head of St. Margaret's Bay for several days in the last week of October (AJV). Only one BRANT was reported this fall- it was seen through October and well into November, usually at Point Pleasant Park, Hfx.

Pairs of summering Canada Geese were in several locations (Mud Island, Windsor Causeway, West Dover) but the only record of young was a pair at Lake Egmont on June 5 with 6 downy goslings (RBD,HBD). The fall migration didn't attract much attention with only two gatherings of any size (aside from the previously mentioned flock at River Philip): 100 at Glace Bay Sanctuary Sept. 30 (ALM) and 8 times that number on Nov. 16 at Falmouth (JWT,BJA).

A May 30th outing to Boat Harbour produced a fantastic count of 23 WOOD DUCKS- all drakes! (KJM). Reports of this species were widespread and too numerous to mention individually. Family groups (4-7 young) were observed near Brooklyn (JWW), West LaHave (COHRs), Maragretsville (JWW) and Drain Lake (JCT). Israel and Raymond d'Entremont tallied 25 individuals (no breakdown as to sex or age) on Aug. 28 at Goose Creek Marsh. Woodies appear to have had a good summer.

Few observers commented on GREEN-WINGED TEAL and the only breeding record came from Sable Island where there were at least 3 broods in June. The Island also played host to a Eurasian race Green-winged Teal June 18-25 (ZOL,AFM). By early September Green-wings were gathering on the usual ponds in the Wolfville/Sheffield Mills area (sev obs.) but especially on Harris' Pond, Canning where JCT counted 150 Sept. 4. Over 20 were at the marsh in E. Apple River by mid-month (KFS) while at W. Lawrencetown Marsh held 75+ (BDS)

Poor BLACK DUCKS- few obs. bothered to count them. There were small groups throughout summer in the Pubnico area (LID). The fall assembly in the Valley area was noted by JCT: 200 on Aug. 12 at Canard Pond and on Sept. 4 Harris' and Canard Ponds held a combined total of over 300 birds. Judy stopped at an inlet in the Tantalton area and counted 200 Black Ducks there as well. During hunting season ducks are sometimes more difficult to find: 33 in the Cole Harbour/Lawrencetown area on Oct. 20 (RBD,HBD) is low for that area. The only report of MALLARDS was of a brood (including some pos. Black x Mallard hybrids) on Sable Island. More heartening is word of at least 4 broods of NORTHERN PINTAILS on Sable Island in June (ZOL). In September lone Pintails were at Blanch and Florence, C.B., while 4 were on Seal Is. (BLM,DRM). A group of six on Oct. 2 at Crescent Beach were the first seen there in several years; these had increased to 14 three days later (JSC). A female at Kidston Pond, Port Williams on Oct. 12 kept such close company with 11 Greater Yellowlegs so much that when they moved to Van Norstand's Pond at Starr's Point 3 days later, she tagged right along. If she'd waited back at Kidston, she could have joined up with our only other Pintail- a drake on Oct. 31 (JCT).

Big-Day-Trippers at APBS on June 4 found 3 NORTHERN SHOVELERS and 2 GADWALLS (BLM,FLL,JOW). No other shovellers were reported but a few Gadwalls showed up during fall migration: 6 on Seal Island Sept. 19-20 (IAM); 2 at Sheffield Mills for Jim Wolford's field trip on Sept. 24; and at Crescent Beach, 2 on Oct. 2 (still 1 Oct. 19) (JSC).

Paul McClung found a drake EURASIAN WIGEON at the mouth of the Baddeck River on June 9. Except for 12 at Eddy Marsh on June 4 (BLM,FLL,JOW), all of our AMERICAN WIGEONS showed up after mid-September. Harris' Pond in Canning is always a popular stop-over for this species, and true to form, 14 were there Sept. 16 and had increased to 37 by Nov. 3 (JCT,JWW). Other flock sizes ranged from 5 at both Seal Island (BLM) and Florence (DBM), to 18 at both the Glace Bay Sanctuary (AUM) and on Sable Island (AFM). Rounding out the Wigeon scene were a lone drake at Apple R. Oct. 26 (KFS) and another which sampled the city life with a visit to the Halifax Public Gardens Nov. 4 (AJV).

The first REDHEAD of 1994 was a drake on Sable Island June 20-24 (ZOL). (One was there last year at about the same time). Two more REDHEADS, both males, were discovered Oct. 17 in a small pond on Hwy. 106, just beyond the Granton turn-off (KJM).

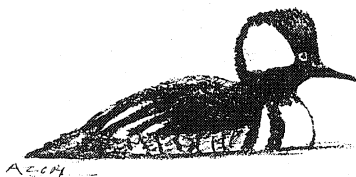
As one would expect RING-NECKED DUCKS were seen in pairs or small flocks on numerous lakes and ponds throughout the province during the summer. The only sizeable fall concentrations were: Florence, where 45 on Aug. 20 doubled their numbers by Sept. 29 (DBM) and at Red Bridge Pond on the Waverley Road in Dartmouth -200 on Oct. 29 (JWT).

GREATER SCAUP don't breed here but some were still around in early summer: on the Middle River of Pictou, 20 on June 25 were joined by an additional 150+ by mid-July. The wintering flock was already well established in this area by Sept. 26 when 1200+ were counted at each of these locations: Tower Rd. (near Glace Bay), Taylor Head, Three Fathom Harbour, Kingsbury and Sable Island. The only LESSER SCAUP were on Penhorn Lake in early November--11 of them (FLL).

We have mixed reviews of the breeding success for COMMON EIDERS this season. Raymond d'Entremont reports them doing well in the Pubnico area- on June 10, off Pubnico Pt., he saw a flock of 10 ad. with 60 chicks. However, the Cohrs found the ratio of chicks to adults much lower in the Green Bay area. On June 5 they saw a group of 20 females and a drake, but only 42 very young chicks. Noone else commented on the breeding success, or lack of it so it's difficult to draw any conclusions. The only fall assemblies noted were 500+ off Brier Is., Sept. 19 (GWT,JCT) and on Nov. 13 AFM counted 350 off Hell Point, Kingsburg.

No HARLEQUIN DUCKS showed up in time for this report. As many as 8 OLDSQUAW lingered along the Eastern Shore through June and 4 were still present July 16 at Conrad's Beach (DHH). The first fall migrants turned up at Green Bay Oct. 23 -4 males (LAC), and in several spots along Brule Point the same day (KJM,CGB). The following day 3 were at Port Morien (ALM) and by Nov. 13 a flock of 27 was at Kingsburg (AFM).

After several months absence, 38 BLACK SCOTERS (all drakes) returned to Green Bay Sept. 11; 65+ had arrived by Oct 20 (Cohrs). Otherwise they were thinly spread (1-4 birds) in October/November throughout mainland N.S. waters. Ten were in Digby Gut Nov. 11 (BJA).



In light of the delayed arrival of scoters last spring, it isn't surprising that there seemed to be more than the usual number of both SURF and WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS in the early part of summer i.e.: Surf- 8 on June 4 at Sand Point (BLM et al.) and 16 drakes at Economy July 21 (FLS); white-winged: 30 on June 4 at Conrad's Beach (BLM et al.), and 25 at Cap LeMoine July 4 (KJM). There was no further mention of either species until mid-September when BLM counted 31 Surf Scoters at Five Islands, and on Sept. 18 the Tufts saw 40 Surf and 16 White-winged Scoters along the Fundy shore between Margaretsville and Delap's Cove. By Oct. 6 about 8 surfs had returned to Green Bay (Cohrs) and on an Oct. 8 ferry crossing of the LaHave River AFM saw approx. 100 scoters but, caught without binoculars, was able to ID only a few and those were White-winged. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mid-winter surveys have revealed a 40% decline in the populations of all 3 scoter species since 1954. In response to this decline, new hunting regulations for 1994 have reduced bag limits for scoters to 4 birds (from previous 10) with a possession limit of 8 (from the previous 20). These regulations will be in effect until they are reviewed in 5 years time. Hopefully this will aid in the recovery of the scoter population- why don't we make a special effort to monitor these species.

Seven COMMON GOLDENEYE on Aug. 7 in the Middle River of Pictou were the first ones reported; by Oct. 2, 300 were nearby in the West River of Pictou (KJM)- seems a bit early for such a large number, even in that popular location. The only others showing up before the reporting deadline were on the Sydney Harbour at Westmount- up to 13 by the first week of November (JAC).

BUFFLEHEAD were on schedule with 12 at Joggins Bridge (Dig.) Oct. 18 (BJA) and by Nov. 10, 26 were "back in the Petite Riviere, as usual" (JSC). Three days later 8 were at Sebin Beach, Shel. (JCZ). Three other reports added only 1-2 birds each.

Lots of pairs of HOODED MERGANSERS were reported in the July issue but there was no mention of young ones this time around. Nevertheless, Hoodies were reported more times than the other two mergansers combined. Most often only 1-2 birds were mentioned but by late October they were banding together: 25 at Lyons Brook and 45 at Tatamagouche on Oct. 22 and 23 (KJM); 15 on Oct. 29 at Head of St. Margaret's bay (BDS); 10 at Sheffield Mills and 5-6 at Port Williams Oct. 30-31 (JCT); and 6 on Remembrance Day at the Glace Bay Sanctuary (DBM). In sharp contrast, all but one of our COMMON MERGANSER reports involve family groups. The first was July 17 at Porter Lake (Dig.) - an ad. with 10 chicks (BJA). A female with 8 nearly full-grown young was on Cloud Lake (King's/Anna. Co. line) on Sept. 4 (JWW) and ten days later 11 young birds were at Mina River Park (JAC). The only fall concentration was 100 on Oct. 22 at MacLellan's Marsh, New Glasgow (KJM). The only brood of RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS was on the Middle River of Pictou Aug. 10 (no count given) (CGB). Best fall counts were 150 at Brighton (Dig.) on Oct. 18 (BJA) and last but definitely not least 900 on Nov. 12 off Powell Pt. (Pic.) (CGB). An interesting report (fide JWW) involved a male Red-breasted Merganser which somehow flew into a chimney and was trapped there for 17 hours, eventually ending up in the fireplace soot-covered but very much alive. It was released on a pond at Woodside (King's Co.) and flew off, apparently none the worse for wear.

A male RUDDY DUCK was spotted along the dyke on the Middle River of Pictou on Oct. 15 and three days later a female was on the DU Pond at Sand Point (KJM,CGB). Not 1 not 2, but 5 of these beautiful little ducks graced Lake Banook in Dartmouth on Oct. 29.

## DIRUNAL RAPTORS

As usual, TURKEY VULTURES were seen on Brier Is. and Digby Neck, various observers reporting up to 7 birds (Sept. 10 ELM). There were still 4 there Nov. 11 (RBS). One over Cole Hbr. on June 21 (NSBS Birdline) was out of place, as was another feeding boldly on a dead calf near Mollie Kernohan's house during July (she also passed along a sighting of 2 near Salem, Cumb. Co.). OSPREY reports included only one oddity: a bird on Sept. 23 on a nest at Durham, Pic. Co., that had been unoccupied since mid-August (CWH). The most far-flung individuals were on Sable Is., Sept. 17 (ZOL) and over Georges Bank on Oct. 8 (the 4th seen there by RSD!). The latter was also the latest reported. Reports of BALD EAGLES included some references to nestings. Three nestlings, one close to fledging, were at Greenwich, King's Co., on June 29 (JWW). In Cape Breton Co., one had become a "branchling" by July 21, while one of two was still on another nest Aug. 20 (DBM). A pair with much white speckling on the breast ("young adults?", FLS) raised one young near Economy. Several reports of N. HARRIER suggest that young ranged widely by mid-August. The only substantial movement was of 15 on Seal Is., Sept. 26 (BLM et al.). One was seen from the Digby to Saint John ferry, Oct. 20 (MLL).

A late spring migrant SHARP-SHINNED HAWK was on Sable Is., June 6. A few summer birds were noted, but the only major fall movements noted were on Seal Is.: ca. 25 on Sept. 16 (IAM), with fewer during the next three days, and ca. 50 on Sept. 26 (BLM et al.). Good details were sent (JSC) on an imm. COOPER'S HAWK on Brier Is., Aug. 24: e.g., broad white terminal band on long, rounded tail, unmarked belly, large head, etc. The same features were noted on 2 imm. birds (one with many white back feathers) on Seal Is., Sept. 18-19 (IAM). No details were submitted of two other possible Coopers -- please remember to supply these for all rare bird sightings. Our only reports of N. GOSHAWK were of ads. near Ironvale, Cape Breton Co., on June 6 (DBM) and at Economy on Oct. 24 (FLS). I hope this doesn't signify true diminution.

The usual scattering of summering BROAD-WINGED HAWKS was noted. Migration seemed apparent Aug. 17 when 6 were iver Williamsdale, Cum. Co. (MSM) and another 6 near River Philip (KFS). There were concentrations of 300 (half imm.) near Digby Sept. 15 (MLL) and 125 over East Ferry and Digby Neck Sept. 19 (GWT and JWT), but no one documented the picture on Brier Is. There were no noteworthy summer sightings or fall movements of RED-TAILED HAWKS. A white bird (again?) returned to Sheffield Mills, King's Co., on Oct 29 (fide JWW). The earliest reported ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK, a dark imm., was at Hartlen's Pt., Oct 16 (IAM et al.). Five reports of 7 subsequent birds suggest that we may expect good numbers this winter. An imm. GOLDEN EAGLE, easily identified by its golden nape and white bases on tail and primaries, was soaring low over Chebucto Head, Hfx. Co., Nov. 11 (FLL, Mike Almon).

A few individuals and nesting pairs of AM. KESTRALS were reported for summer. They were on the move as early as Sept. 3, with one on Scaterie Is. (ALM, CAM) and 10 on Seal Is. (BLM st al.). There were more later on Seal Is.: 12 on Sept. 21 (only 3 the day before, none next day; IAM); 40 on Sept. 26 (only 5 next day; BLM at al.). They were evidently still migrating on Nov. 4, when one was on Sable Is. (AFM). Summering MERLINS were noted at Mader's Cove, Lun. Co. (JBM), Halifax (JAC), Wolfville (3 fledged by July 11, var. obs.), Plymouth, Pic. Co. (2 fledged young, KJM), and Hall's Hbr., King's Co. (begging young heard, JCT). As usual, migration was most evident on Seal Is., where there were 8 on Sept. 3 (BLM et al.), 15 on Sept. 19-21 (IAM), only one bird between Sept. 25 and Oct. 1 (BML), and a goodly 35+ on Oct. 4 (SJF et al.). Eleven reports of some 22 PEREGRINE FALCONS were a good showing. There were peaks of 3-4 individuals on various occasions on Seal Is. between Sept. 3 and Oct. 8. Among them, 4 were identified as anatum, and 3 as tundrius.

## GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

GRAY PARTRIDGES go to grass in King's Co. in summer, so it is not surprising that they were not noted until fall, when 15 were at Starr's Pt. Oct. 4 (J&D Daigle) and alike number at Falmouth Nov. 16 (JWT). RING-NECKED PHEASANTS were in the usual places; a male at Lawrencetown Beach on Oct. 24 (RBD) was mildly extralimital. No one reported on overall trends, although several people have told me that they seemed widely more common this fall. A SPRUCE GROUSE in Shel. Co. in late June had 3 young (BMA, WAA), and two in Rich. Co. had 6 and 4 young respectively (DBM). Four scattered individuals in October were about as usual. RUFFED GROUSE were rated more common this fall in King's Co. (JCT), and KFS's count of "10 on a walk between Advocate and Spencer's Is. of Sept. 21" suggests the same for Col. Co. Apart from broods, there were 9 other reports of 24 birds -- slightly more than last fall's totals.

## RALLIDS AND CRANE

The July issue's sping report on rallids came out misleadingly, and is here corrected and updated. Three reports of calling SORAS in Pic. Co. on May 8 (CGB, KJM, AJV) apparently all refer to different birds. One was enjoyed by NSBC field trippers near Hopewell on May 22, and another was noted that day at Apple River (KFS). Two COMMON MOORHENS were calling at Eddy Marsh on May 23 (JKM). Although I assumed that the AM. COOT I saw at A.P.B.S. on May 27 had been seen by others earlier, KJM reports that he saw no coots at either A.P.B.S. or Eddy Marsh on May 23.

This autumn, 2 CLAPPER RAILS stayed put for birders. The first was flushed from thick grass and bramble along the beach at Hartlen's Pt. late in the day on Sept. 25 (FLL, Christine Cornell, Kevin Tutt). Next day, its identity was confirmed by numbers of birders who noted as distinct from King Rail, its plain brown back (no chestnut or rufous), flank stripes without blackish margins, and smoky gray, almost "hooded", face and neck. It was seen by some during the next two days. Another of these large rails appeared, more characteristically, in the salt marsh on the road to The Hawk, Cape Sable Is., Nov. 18, where it was observed several times up to at least Nov. 27 (JON et al.). These are the first to be reported in Nova Scotia in some years.

The only reported breeding-season VIRGINIA RAIL was at Rushton Beach Prov. Pk., July 11 (KJM). Single migrants were on Seal Is., Sept. 4 (AAM) and Sept. 26 ( fide BLM). Summering SORAS were heard near Glenwood, Yar. Co., Apple R., Col. Co., and Canning and Margarettsville in King's Co. (var. obs.). About 10 calling in Eddy Marsh, June 4 (BLM et al.) were an indication of the good numbers breeding in the larger marshes. The only migrants reported were on Seal Is., Sept. 4 (AAM) and Sable Is., Sept. 26 (ZOL). At least one pair of COM. MOORHENS bred at A.P.B.S., where up to 8 young were noted during July (var. obs.). A migrant was spotted on Seal Is., Sept. 30 (BLM et al.). The single nesting-season report of an AM COOT at A.P.B.S., June 4 (BLM et al.) seems to affirm their recent scarcity as breeders. The usual migrants appeared: 3 on Bissett L., Hfx. Co., Oct. 5 (IAM), one on Tower Rd., C.B. Co., Nov. 5 (ALM,CAM), and 2 on Sable Is., Oct. 26-Nov. 5 (AFM,ZOL).

A SANDHILL CRANE discovered near Donkin, Cape Breton Co., Oct. 31 (ALM,CAM) was seen by several others into at least mid-November.

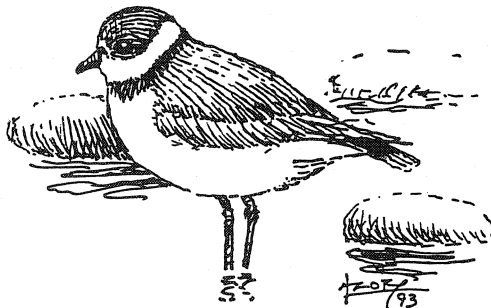
## FALL SHOREBIRDS

Eighty northbound BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS were still in the province June 4, at Sand Point and Lusby (BLM et al.), and 25 spent the summer on Cape Sable Is. (MUN et al.) For the fall migration 45 reports listing about 2000 birds begin with 3 at Little Hbr. July 4 (DHY) and conclude with 14 at Cherry Hill Nov. 12 (SJF). Highest counts were at Grand Pré during the third week of August (max. 700- JWW,JCT) and at Pt. Morien (250+ -DOM). Relatively few were noted in September, but in October there were still 200 on Cape Sable on the 24th (BML et al.). The AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER first appeared at Grand Pré Aug. 18 (JWW), where the maximum was 30 late in the month (B&BT). Only on Sable Is. were similar numbers seen, on Sept. 11 and Oct. 27 (ZOL). Between these dates less than 20 were seen elsewhere.

News of a possible PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER on Sept. 14 comes from Cherry Hill (JS&JLC). This close relative of the American Golden Plover which, before the split, was called the Lesser, is not easy to distinguish from it. In this instance, as compared to nearby Black-bellied Plovers, it's 'very much smaller & thinner & more delicate' appearance, and its size -'at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2" smaller"- were noted. It was 'very yellow - bright spots on the back, buffy breast, a bright yellow supercilium, with a large dark chestnut-coloured spot at back of cheek'. These details, viewed through 10 and 7 power Leitz binoculars, and a 22-power scope at a distance of 40 feet in sunny weather would seem to justify adding the species to the small (5%) portion of the N.S. list that awaits its confirming photos or specimens.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS began arriving in late July, a single at Crescent July 20 (JSC), 16 at Cherry Hill next day (SJF); at both places numbers grew to a peak in mid-August (1350 at Crescent, 595 at Cherry Hill). At the same time there were 1000 at Cook's Beach (RSD). Many remained until the third week of September, then declined sharply, with the last laggard at Cherry Hill Oct. 29 (SJF). The PIPING PLOVER held its own this year; 14 pairs were located, from South Hbr. Beach, northern C.B. (AAM), Bowen Is., Pict. Co. (KJM,CJB) and the Keji Adjunct (GRK), to name the more farflung. Seven nests were found, 3 others strongly suspected, and 15 juveniles were noted. With this species it's a good year when the birds outnumber the reports, which they did about 50 to 22. KILLDEER are not as likely to merit written notice, but perhaps a meagre 7 reports (one nesting, from Guysb. Co. -BLM et al.) indicates a presumably temporary decline. The largest group was 18 at the Sydney airport Sept. 13 (A&CM).

Early GREATER YELLOWLEGS reached Cherry Hill July 9 (SJF) and Crescent July 11 (JSC), but large numbers, ie. 45+ at Canning, didn't appear until Aug. 12, where there were still about 30 Sept. 30 and, not far away, 21 on Oct. 6 (JCT). Groups of that size appeared only once elsewhere, at Crescent Aug. 31 (JSC); one last was at Economy Nov. 3 (FLS). No fewer than 31 SOLITARY SANDPIPERS passed our way, the first on July 16 at Brookville, Pict. Co. (KJM et al.). Two at Pubnico July 25 were considered early for the area (RSD) and, indeed, half those seen were present in late August- early September, including 8 on Seal Sept. 2-3 (BLM et al.) that presumably avoided each other as best they could. A laggard was still on Sable Is. Oct. 11 (ZOL,IAM).



No self-respecting saltwater marsh is without at least one pair of WILLETS; like the dog that didn't bark, their absence would probably elicit more attention than their noisy presence. By mid-July they were gathering for departure, with 31 at Matthew's Lake on the 13th (DHY), 25 on Brier, July 16-18 (IAM) and 75 on Cape Sable, July 30 (BLM et al.). Even earlier, on July 2, 60 at Crescent and 40 at Rose Bay (BLM et al.) had presumably raised their young. The last group of similar size was on Brier, Aug. 6 (BLM). The only late sighting was of 2 at Dominion Beach, C.B. Sept. 26 (DBM). Our summering SPOTTED SANDPIPERS received scant attention (4 reports), but a remarkable 50 present on Seal, Sept. 4 (BLM et al.) suggest many went unreported prior to migration, as do late September sightings of 20+. A straggler was still on Big Is., Pic. Co., on the late date of Oct. 30 (KJM). Mid-July sightings of UPLAND SANDPIPERS in breeding habitat come from the North Shore: July 14 at Seacomb, Cumb. Co. and July 17 at Seafoam, Pic. Co., the former "acting very nesty" (KJM). It's premature to speak of range extension--but not to search hopefully for signs of it. Two early WHIMBRELS were at Shady Cove, Dig. Co., on July 5 (*fide* JCT) and another at Cherry Hill, July 9 (SJF). Small groups (18 birds in all) were noted in August and, except for 25 on Scatarie Is., Sept. 3 (A & CMU) only a few through Sept. 25, when 3 were at Cherry Hill (SJF). HUDSONIAN GODWITS did better: 1, very early, was at Fox Hbr., Cumb. Co., July 2 (BLM), and 1 very late, was at Cole Hbr., Nov. 5 (IAM). About 60 were seen between those dates, including 31 at Matthew's Lake, Aug. 16, "the most at one time here" in the experience of DHY. Only a dozen were counted in September-October.

The BAR-TAILED GODWIT is now on the confirmed list for the province! John Nickerson, a resident of the area, found and identified it, Oct. 21 on The Hawk, Cape Sable Is. The species breeds from arctic Scandinavia across Russia to western Alaska, then heads for such places as Africa and Australia; a few stray to North America, this being the second Nova Scotia sighting. Many of our keenest birders saw it in the following days; the last sighting was on Oct. 24 (BLM et al.). Diagnostic photos were taken and will presumably appear in this issue to make the record official. (Now all we need is the Black-tailed.)

**TWO MARBLED GODWITS** also appeared this fall. The first was on Big Is. Pic. Co., Aug. 22-23 (CGB,KJM); the other stayed around Cape Sable Is. from Sept. 3 (CGB,KJM) to the 18th (RBS et al.).

A RUDDY TURNSTONE summered on Cape Sable Is. (MUN). First migrant was at Economy, July 16 (FLS), with others later in the month at Cherry Hill (SJF) and Crescent (JSC). August saw the main migration, with about 600 in total if the 140-150 on Brier, Aug. 6 (BLM) and Aug. 24 (JSC) aren't a case of double-counting. Numbers declined abruptly in early September except at Cherry Hill, where ca. 40 were still present early in October (SJF). Despite the mild fall "several" at The Hawk, Oct. 22 (JCZ) were the last noted.

CALIDRIDS: a RED KNOT summered on Cape Sable; judging by the low number of fall sightings it should have gone north to nest. Only nine observers sent in sightings for a total of ca. 125 birds, the first on Sable, June 29 (ZOL); an albino was on Big Is., Pic. Co., Aug. 22 (CGB). The largest gatherings were 50+ at Wallace, Cumb. Co., July 24 (JWT) and at The Hawk, Sept. 12 (MUN et al.); there were still 5 on Cape Sable, Oct. 14 (BLM et al.). "Where have all the sanderlings gone?" is DJC's question from Lockport. A partial answer is that SANDERLINGS, which first arrived on Sable Is., June 21 numbered 364+ there Sept. 14, and 235+ on Oct. 26 (ZOL); on Cape Sable there were 350 Oct. 24 (BLM et al.). At Cherry Hill numbers fluctuated around 100 in August-October (SJF), and there were still 75 at Economy, Nov. 4 (FLS), at both of which places a few were present to the end of the reporting period. None of this explains why they didn't favour Lockport this year. A SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER summered on Cape Sable (MUN). Earliest migrants were 2 at Crescent, July 11 (JSC); numbers in that area stayed high through early Sept. (JSC). The 400-450 at Cherry Hill and Crescent in the last week of August (JSC,SJF) also indicate the time of the main migration. Last was 1 at Cherry Hill, Oct. 16 (SJF). (Details are promised for a sighting of Western Sandpipers).

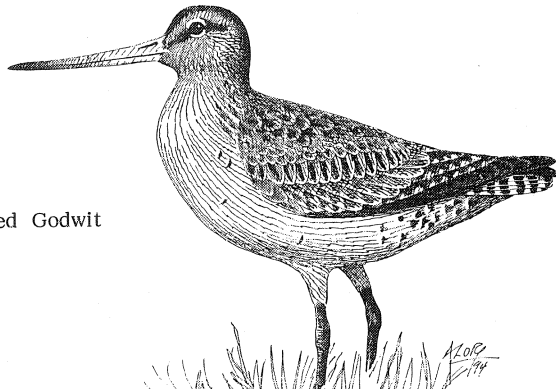
A very tame LITTLE STINT at Crescent Beach, Aug. 20 was thoroughly described by JS & JLC. This is the fourth Nova Scotia record and the first as early as August.

With all the rarities around only six observers sent in slips on the LEAST SANDPIPER. At Economy 4 on July 8 had grown to ca. 100 by the 21st; 8-10 were already at Pubnico on the 12th (LID). Numbers at Cherry Hill reached 88 on July 30; there and on Seal (BLM) there were still 50 or so in early September. Last noted was a single at Cherry Hill, Oct. 10 (SJF). WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS received more attention. One at Conrad's July 9 (IAM) was very early; many mid-August to early September reports are of a dozen or so birds, though Cherry Hill did better than that (max. 80 on Aug. 19- SJF). On Cape Sable there were still 100 Oct. 24 (BLM et al.), with 5 left at Conrad's (BJA) and 12 at Economy (FLS) Nov. 4. An above average 20 BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS were noted this fall. Two were at Cherry Hill Aug. 11 (SJF); 4 from Aug. 22 to Aug. 24 at various localities and 8 in the period Sept. 2-3 (incl. 6 at Blanche, Shel. Co., on Oct. 5 (CGB). Two PURPLE SANDPIPERS were in the Pictou area, Nov. 11-12 (KJM). An early DUNLIN was at Liverpool, July 18 (fide DHY), but few others were noted until Oct., when there were 40 at Grand Pré (JCT) on the 10th (BJA). Seven STILT SANDPIPERS occurred this fall, a good showing. First was 1 at Matthew's Lake, July 13 ("rarely seen here"- DHY), then 3 at Conrad's July 24 (BLM et al.). Singles at Brier, Aug. 31 (SJF), Wolfville, Sept. 12-16 (RBS et al.) and Clark's Hbr., Oct. 9 (MUN,JON) account for the rest. An above average 30 BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS appeared this fall: earliest was 1 at Cherry Hill, Aug. 11 (SJF), with sightings from C.B. (JUM,AAM), Sable Is. (AFM), Conrad's (NSBS), the Keji Adjunct (GRK), Blanche (PEJ) and Lockeport (DJC) later in the month. In Sept. five at Scatarie (A&CMU) and 1-2 from Sable Is. (ZOL), Hartlen's Pt. (DHH), Cherry Hill (GW & JCT,SJF), Brier and, on the 29th, from Seal (BLM) round out the reports. Visiting birders from Colorado, Coen Dexter & Brenda Wright, sent in a rare-bird form adequately documenting a RUFF seen at Fox Hbr. on the North Shore on Aug. 12. Another sighting, from the SW in July, supplied no details.

Seven SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS were already at Little Hbr., Shel. Co., July 4 (DHY). 1200 were in the Conrad's and Three Fathom Hbr. areas July 24 (BLM) 140-175 were at Crescent July 29- Aug. 4 (JSC) and 100 on Brier, Aug. 6 (BLM). Most were gone by mid-Sept., with 1 still at Crescent, Oct. 2 (JSC). IAM notes that many of the 55 at Three Fathom Hbr. July 9 and some on Brier, July 16 were of the western **hendersoni** race. At Cherry Hill, Sept. 11 a LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER, noticed for its extremely long bill and "portly look", called to confirm its identity (JSC). Summering COMMON SNIPE were little noticed (only RB & HBD, LID, and KFS); although this is a case of under-reporting, perhaps they are less common than they used to be. One at Apple River, Nov. 2 (KFS) was, one hopes, preparing to leave. The more retiring AMERICAN WOODCOCK was reported once in summer (LID), thrice in fall (KJM & CGB,MSM), the last on Nov. 3 at Apple River (KFS).

--FLS, ed.

Bar-tailed Godwit





## DOVES THROUGH FINGFISHER

No ROCK DOVE trends or oddities were noted. All other reports of M OURNING DOVES pale besides JSC's "1000's all summer and fall in SW Lun. Co...on the ground, on the beach, on wires, on driveways...never have we seen so many." Others reported individuals and flocks of up to 30+ at feeders in summer and fall. Obvious migrants included 3 new arrivals on Seal Is., in late October (ZOL).

More than usual BLACK-BILLED CUCKOOS were noted in summer: at Seffersville, Lun. Co., July 2 (singing, BLM), E. Apple River July 6-12 (singing, KFS), Sydney R. July 8 (DBM), Petite Riviere July 11 (a window victim, rescued by Wally Lohnes, resuscitated by JSC), and at two sites in Pic. Co., on July 31 and Aug. 7 (singing, CGB). Migrants were on Seal Is., Sept. 4 (BLM et al.), Sept. 16 (IAM), and Sept. 30 (3 birds, BLM et al.), and another was killed by a cat in Halifax Oct. 24 (rep. ti IAM). Of late these seem to have outnumbered autumn YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS, of which our only reports were individuals at Pubnico Pt., Oct. 13 (RSD) and at the once-famous piggery in Dartmouth Nov. 10 (JWT).

We have 5 reports of GREAT HORNED OWLS during summer, including two fledglings and a juvenile -- about normal. Two on Brier Is., during November (KJM,RBS) could have been local or migrant. No details are available on a SNOWY OWL during August in Dartmouth, as reported to WAT, although summer occurrences are not unprecedented. Otherwise, a seasonable bird appeared Oct. 24-Nov. 12 on Cape Sable Is., from June 1 to Sept. 10. A persistent BARRED OWL near Coldbrook, King's Co., from June 1 to Sept. 10 "hooted every evening starting at ca. 6 p.m. early in the period, but later about 8 p.m." and also "had an unusual call -- did not have "you-all" at end" (AAM,SMM). Later birds were noted in Kentville (RBS) and on Boulardarie Is. (ALM). The only reported LONG-EARED OWL was calling near Eagle L., Halifax Co., June 4 (BLM). A SAW-WHET OWL was "bopping" near Elmsdale, Hfx. Co., June 4 (BLM et al.), and another was still calling near Apple River Oct. 19 (KFS). Six young migrants were banded on Bon Portage Is. Oct. 28-30 (fide CGB).

Summer gatherings of COM. NIGHTHAWKS began with 15 near New Ross on July 17 (JCT), not matched until Aug. 9, when two separate observers reported 20+ between Liverpool and Bridgewater (JSC,JWW). On Aug. 12, there were "hundreds" around Petite Riviere (LAC). Between Aug. 19 and Aug. 22, flights of 20+ to 100+ were noted between Liverpool and Chester (GWT), near Elmsdale, Hfx. Co. (AJV), in W. Cumb. Co. (MSM,BAS), and near Jordan Falls, Shel. Co. (RSD). Outliers were over Georges Bank Sept. 2 (RSD), on Sable Is. Sept. 8-10 (AFM,ZOL) and, more sensibly, at Sand Lake, Cape Breton Co., Sept. 10. One over highway 103 near Liverpool Oct. 22 (FLL et al.) was 2 days later than any in Tufts. Our seventh recorded CHUCK-WILL'S WIDOW turned up most unexpectedly on Sable Is. from July 5 to 8. I quote from Zoe Lucas' convincing account: "Heard after 12:30 a.m. each night. Called repeatedly while flying in A-frame area... low over dunes and around house -- not seen [but] sound of flight occasionally heard. I.d by call [which was] loud, clear and consistently chattery-musical, six-seven notes falling and rising, last three in rapid descending succession. Compared with calls on Nat. Geogr. bird sounds audio tape: definitely NOT c. vociferous, and like C. carolinensis in tone, number of notes, and low note(s) ending" -- another one of many extraordinary Sable Island records! As in other recent years, the only summering WHIP-POOR-WILL reported was singing at Herring Cove during June (sev. obs.). A migrant was on Brier Is. Sept. 3 (BLF et al.).

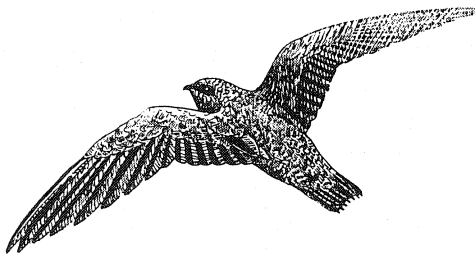
Scattered CHIMNEY SWIFTS were observed during summer from Cape Breton to Yar. Co. They put on their usual show at the Robie Tufts Centre in Wolfville (many evening counts reported by JWW). There were spring peaks of 350+ on May 16, 28, 29 one of 275 on June 4. Thereafter, most counts ranged from 100-150 through July, dwindling through August to below 10 after Aug. 22. The last one was noted Aug. 27. JWW suggests that a mid-July switch to high-altitude gatherings, with sudden plunges into the chimney at dusk, coincided with the nearby fledging of young Merlins. He also notes that the traditional flight into the Middleton High School chimney involved some 450 birds Aug. 2 and 16. Only 4 were at the Temperance St. chimney in New Glasgow Aug. 17 (KJM). A nest in a snag in Black R. Lake contained 3 well-feathered young possibly previously fledged, young Aug. 27 (BLF). The latest was on Sable Is. Sept. 19 (ZOL).

Summering RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS were clearly under-reported. Several were seen through late August, and the latest were 2 in capr Breton Co. (ALM,DBM) and another on Brier Is. (BLM) Sept. 10-13. A hummingbird on Oct. 13 at Fraserville, Col. Co., was sensibly noted as "couldn't be positively identified" (SCM,MSM). No one suggested trends in BELTED KINGFISHERS, although after a summer dearth, good numbers appeared in Lun. Co. Aug. 14-16, and some 10 were seen en route to and on Brier Is. Aug. 24-25 (JSC). Three reached Sable Is. Aug. 30 - Sept. 10 (AFM, ZOL). Of course, some have stayed.

#### WOODPECKERS

Convincing details were given to FLL of a RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER present for some time up to at least June 11 in Simms Settlement, Ann. Co. (Allison McGinnis). A well described imm. (size between a Hairy and a flicker, unstreaked buffy breast, barred back, white rump, red feathers developing on cap and nape), was on Bon Portage Is. Oct. 2 (JCZ et al.). The RED-HEADED WOODPECKER in Westport, Brier Is., remained until at least June 6 (var. obs.), and on June 1, one was seen carrying food (HGH,HJH). Could there have been a nesting pair? An imm. was photographed (KFS) in Fraserville, Co. Co., Sept. 22. Another was in Dartmouth from Nov. 17 until month's end (Elaine Black et al.). Summering YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS were almost unreported. Following the appearance of a birds at Apple River Sept. 23 (MSM), there was a clear movement between Oct. 1-8, when up to 3 were on Seal Is. (var. obs.), 1 on Cape Sable Is. (JON), 2 at Overton (HGH,HJH), and 2 at W. Pubnico, where the last was recorded on Oct. 26 (LID). Five reports of ca. 15 DOWNY WOODPECKERS were fewer than usual, as were 4 reports of 6 HAIRY WOODPECKERS. ROC thought both "seemed very low in numbers." The 9 reports of 11 BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS no doubt represent a more complete accounting of this less common species. NORTHERN FLICKERS were thought "very abundant this year" (RBD,HBD), and were widely reported. Migratory concentrations included small groups scattered on Brier is. Sept. 19 (GWT,JCT), 125 on Seal Is. Sept. 17-20 (IAM), and a peak of 30 there sept. 30 (BLM et al.). On Nov. 13, there were still 3 on the LaHave Islands, where they will doubtless winter (BH,SJF). Reports of 15 PILEATED WOODPECKERS were about as usual.

--IAM, ed.



## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

The Cohrs were on Brier Island on Aug. 24, and observed a significant flycatcher migration, with 1 OLIVE-SIDED, 6 EASTERN WOOD-PEWEEES, 28 EMPIDONAX spp., 5 E.PHOEBES, 1 GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER and 27 EASTERN KINGBIRDS. A family group of OLIVE-SIDEDs was feeding at Clyde River July 31 (BLM,WAA) and another presumed migrant was on Brier Sept. 1 (SJF). There were no other reports of this species, which remains a scarce but prominent summer resident in the woods of our province. There were at least 25 EASTERN WOOD-PEWEEES on Seal Island Sept. 2-4 (RBS et al.), with 5 still in the same location Oct. 1 (BLM), as part of a more general migratory movement. ZOL recorded only 1 on Sable Island on Sept. 14.

BLM, RBS et al saw 40+ EMPIDONAX flycatchers on Seal Is. on Sept. 2-4. There were a few definite YELLOW-BELLIED, 8 were felt to be definite ALDERS (BLM), but most were more safely left unidentified as to exact species. A YELLOW-BELLIED was at Pubnico Point, Aug. 1, a probable early migrant (RSD). Other individuals were seen on Sable, Brier, etc. An empidonax spp. was caught in nets and banded on Bon Portage Is. on the late date of Oct. 29. It was observed in the hand and measurements taken, and thus identified as an ALDER (CGB). There were only 3 reports of LEAST during migration period, perhaps because of the difficulty of identifying non-singing birds out of their normal habitat. We should remember that an out-of-season 'empid.' could be a western vagrant, if only we could identify them!

A pair of EASTERN PHOEBES nested in both early June and mid-July at White Rock, King's Co. (SMM,AAM), in a spot frequently used in the last few years. This species is one of the earliest passerines to arrive in spring, and one of the last to leave in fall. Typical dates this fall were 5, Oct. 1, Seal Is. (BLM); 2, Oct., 4-8, Seal Is. (SJF); 1, Oct. 12, Apple River (KFS).

A pair of GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS nested in an unused Purple Martin hole in a yard in Jordan Falls, Shel. Co. (DJC), and there were two other early summer reports. Two were seen from RSD's fishing boat on Georges Bank, Sept. 14, and 1 was at The Hawk the next day (JON,SAN). A late "Myarchus" flycatcher that may be a pale example of this species, but could possibly have been an Ash-throated was present for ten days in Greenwich in mid-November. Much discussion was engendered, and we may know more when slides have been processed--hopefully there will be more news in the next edition.

It has been a good fall for one of our more regular vagrants, the WESTERN KINGBIRD, with 8 reports, of 13 birds. All of these were from Shel. Co. (Cape Sable Is., Baccaro Pt., etc.--SJF,DHY,IAM et al.) and Seal Is. (BLM,JWT), except 1 in Bedford, Nov. 7 (BJA and 1 at Kingsburg, Nov. 13 (AFM). In contrast, the number of EASTERN KINGBIRD reports in migration seems low this fall, with 14 seen in S.W.Shelburne Co. Sept. 2 (BLM,JOW), about the same number on Seal island over the next few days, and just a few other reports of 1's and 2's (with the exception of the Cohrs' report - see above). 1 was still present at the other end of the province, Schooner Pond, C.B. on Sept. 15 (ALM,CLM).

The first HORNED LARKS were noted on Sept. 17, at Grand Pré (GWT) and Cherry Hill (SJF). Small flocks have subsequently appeared around the province as expected during the fall. There were 60 on Caribou Is., Oct. 15 (KJM) and 100+ at Conrad's Beach Nov. 4 (BJA).

There were just 10 PURPLE MARTINS noted at the usual site, in Oxford, on June 4 (BLM,JOW,FL). An interesting "extralimital" sighting was of 2 F. or juv. birds on Sable Is., on Sept. 8 (ZOL). TREE SWALLOWS were noted by KAT and WAT as being "common all summer" at Mooseland, although my impression in the Valley was that numbers were down. There were no reports of major migratory movements, and just 6 were seen by GWT on Digby Neck Sept. 19. An interesting sighting, apparently of this species, was of 3 on the late date of Oct. 26, on the unusual location of Sable Island (ZOL). This does

raise the possibility of some really odd vagrant species. In contrast the CLIFF SWALLOW, generally thought of as being less common than the former species, was widely noted. Is this just a case of people reporting the "more interesting" birds more than the everyday ones? About 90 nests (180 birds) were occupied on the Air Canada hangar at Halifax International Airport, and all were vacated by July 24 (DHH). 2 small colonies totalling about 20 birds were also present in Digby, July 17 (BJA) and BLM counted about 65 flying around Pond Cove, Brier Is., in a large mixed swallow flock on Aug. 6.

There were many reports of BARN SWALLOW, being present all summer throughout the province. 100+ at New Salem, Cumb. Co., Aug. 19 (MSM) may have represented an early migratory movement. 3 late sightings were of 1 bird each, about as far apart as you can get in the province - North Sydney Oct. 1 (DBM), Sable Is., Oct. 31 (ZOL) and Yarmouth Nov. 13 (MUN).

#### CORVIDS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS

The usual smattering of GRAY JAYS was reported all summer and fall around the province (KFS,KAT,WAT,KNK et al.). The same remarks apply to BLUE JAYS. KFS had 8+ at her feeder in Apple River in September and I have often seen at least that number at feeders in Kentville and elsewhere in the Valley all fall. ALM and CAM had up to 14 at Sand Lake.

500+ AMERICAN CROWS were at Newport Corner June 13 (RBD,HBD), an unusual concentration for early summer. By mid-November the now annual phenomenon of 10,000+ flying around Kentville to their evening roosts has once more established itself. The birds will often stream in from several different directions, circle overhead, and then split up into 2 or 3 different roosting areas around the town trees. KFS, RBD, HBD and LID all reported a few NORTHERN RAVENS, and I saw 40 together at Pereau in early October. They remain common in King's Co.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES remain abundant everywhere, all year round. JCT noted 3 nestings in 2 nest-boxes 45 yards apart, with 21 eggs laid and 17 chicks fledged, in her backyard (Wolfville). Certainly all summer and fall my experience is that any stroll near trees or bushes, almost anywhere, would produce several of the species. By late November there are usually 6 or 7 at a time at my feeder (Kentville). BLM and WAA found 25 at Clyde River on July 31. BOREAL CHICKADEES were also relatively frequently seen this season, although of course their habitat is more restricted to boreal-type forest. KAT and WAT had 1 - 2 each weekend at their cottage (Mooseland). There were 100+ all over Blomidon Prov. Park Aug. 11-12 (RBS), together with warblers, nuthatches and kinglets, and BLM et al found 10 at Clyde River July 3, 20 at Seal Is., Sept. 3, and 30 at Taylor Head (not far from Mooseland) on Oct. 16.

The huge number of birds at Blomidon Prov. Park on Aug. 12 included 100+ RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES (RBS), and there were 10 other reports of this species (BLM,MAD,LID,JBM et al.). Interestingly, though, ELM commented on the complete absence of this species on Brier Is., on Sept. 3 JCT had noted "a large movement" through woods on Wolfville Ridge 2 days later, so perhaps they were a little late in reaching Brier this year. The only WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH reports are of 1 in Clayton Park, Oct. 21 and 29 (RBD,HBD), and of 1 often visiting RBS's Kentville feeder all fall. BROWN CREEPER numbers may also be down, with just 3 reported. DHY also felt that this species has been scarce in recent years.

In contrast, there are more HOUSE WREN reports than usual. This is becoming a relatively regular vagrant, at least in the usual "vagrant trap" locations. At least 4 were on Seal Island in late September, and 2 were still there Oct. 6 (JWT,BLM,SJF et al.). The only "mainland" record this fall was one in bushes along the railway tracks at Greenwich Nov. 5 (RBS), where subsequent attempts to locate the bird the next day turned up a Yellow-breasted Chat instead! There were also a few WINTER WREN reports, including 5 birds in Guys. Co., in June (BLM), 3 at Blomidon Prov. Park in late June (BLM) and several singing at Pubnico Pt. in July (RSD). A migratory movement was in evidence on Seal Is., Oct. 4-6, with 4-6 birds per day seen and/or heard (SJF,JUG,DHY,BH0). Were they departing breeders or arriving over-winterers? 1-2 MARSH WRENS were present on Seal Island in late September/early October.(SJF et al.). Good views were obtained and the relevant field marks described.

An intriguing find was that of a wren, that had all the field marks of a BEWICK'S WREN, that nested and laid 5 eggs in a disused robin's nest below a deck in Bear River (C.Hawse) This is a western species not so far recorded in Nova Scotia. When it became obvious that the bird was un-mated and the eggs were cold and sterile, they were removed and examined by various observers, including members of the N.S. Museum, but they appeared to be the eggs of a CAROLINA WREN (a species recorded a few times, but never having nested in the province), and under-sized, consistent with laying by an un-mated immature bird. Whatever the bird was, it was very intriguing, and we hope it will return more successfully next year! A more definite record of the latter species, 7th for the province, was by Bernard S. Jackson, of Truro, who observed a Carolina wren on Oct. 15, both by sight and sound. He had close looks, and noted the large size compared to Winter wren, the erect tail, the noticeable white-eye-stripe, the reddish brown back and the buffy underparts. It stayed around for just 7 days.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS were fairly well in evidence, with e.g. 100+ at Blomidon Prov. Park, with all the other species (see above) on Aug. 12 (RBS), and there were several other reports. 25+ on Seal Is., Sept. 3, and again at Taylor Head Oct. 16.(BLM et al.) may have been migratory movements. JCL and JSC make the valid point that "once everything else has departed the Golden-crowns are more noticeable". Late RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS included 1 at Apple River Nov. 3 (KFS) and 1 on Sable Is., on the 4th.(AFM).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS were decidedly common (relatively speaking) this summer and fall, with 7 reports. All were from the usual tip of province "hot-spots" except, amazingly, 1 that landed on ALM's fishing boat off Donkin, C.B. on Sept. 12.

NORTHERN WHEATEARS also had a good season in our province this year, with 8 reports, of 8 different birds on Sable Is., Sept. 4-15., and 1 bird - on Wolfville Dyke in early October, got reported by 3 different people. (The Wolfville bird was first seen by a visiting British birder, Simon Allday, who did not realize what a rarity this species is in Nova Scotia, and casually mentioned it to his host, Pat MacLeod, who then passed the word along). JSC's bird, at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 29, was very bright, and hovered like a Kingfisher - evidently this characteristic is quite well known in the British literature.

#### BLUEBIRDS THROUGH STARLINGS

EASTERN BLUEBIRDS did well this year. Single, but apparently, and unfortunately, separate males and females were present in Woods Harbour in early June (JON,MUN,JCZ). A pair raised a family of 4 in a nest box at E. Advocate, one of the now traditional general areas of the province (MSM). A pair nested in the usual location of the Westport cemetery again (HGH,HJH), and a family group was present at Lochiel Lake picnic area, C.B. on Aug. 20 (DOM). 2 were at Summerville Beach in August (ROC). October migrants were present on Digby Neck - 2 ad. and 3 imm. (AJV,BJA), and Apple River - 1 M and 3 F. (KFS). For a change, though, there were no reports from the valley this year.

As usual for the last few years Thrushes are either under-reported or truly becoming much rarer in Nova Scotia. KJM mentioned that the VEERY was "quite common" this summer in Pic. Co., but there were NO fall reports. There were, however, a few October reports of SWAINSON'S THRUSH, from Seal island (SJF et al.), McGill Lake (DHY), Petite Riviere (JLC,JSC), and Portapique (CEM,MSM). The only GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH report is of 2 in Port Methune all summer (ROC). It has been suggested by the scientific community that this species be split into 2 species - the Bicknell's thrush, which would be "our" breeder, and the Gray-cheeked thrush, which would also occur on migration. There have been some enlightening articles in some recent British birding magazines about the identification of these 2 species or races. Bicknell's has more rufous tones to the rump and tail, and a paler proximal lower mandible. Presumably one would have to obtain close looks under good conditions to be sure! There were 10 HERMIT THRUSH reports, including some relatively late ones on Oct. 24 on Cape Sable Is. (KJM,et al.), Oct. 31 at Pubnico Pt. (RSD) and Green Bay Nov. 12 (LAC,JSC).

The last 2 weeks of October seemed to be the peak migration period for the AMERICAN ROBIN. There were 100+ at Apple River (KFS), "hundreds" continuously streaming by at Green Bay Oct. 23 (JLC,JSC), and even 52 on Sable Is., on 29th (ZOL). A partial albino with an entirely white head was seen by JKM and CGB on Oct. 23 at Cape John, Pic. Co. This phenomenon is not all that rare in this species and has been reported in these pages in most years recently.

There were 12 reports of GRAY CATBIRD, usually 1-2 birds, from around the province during the summer. Relatively late sightings included birds in Duncan's Cove and Green Bay in October (AJV,JSC) and 1 on Brier Is., Nov. 17 (RBS). NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS seem always well reported, perhaps because they are very noticeable, especially when singing, and are still relatively rare compared to, say, catbirds or robins. There were 15 reports of individual birds from summer through fall from various locations, plus 3 on Sable Island during October. (ZOL) and a family of 4 or 5 in Pictou in August (KJM,CGB). Single BROWN THRASHERS were present on Brier Island (BLM), Seal Island (BLM), West Pubnico (LID) and on a boat on Georges Bank (RSD), at various times from August to early October.

The first fall AMERICAN PIPIT was seen at Advocate Harbour on Sept. 18 (BLM). Thereafter, small flocks were around the edges of the province as expected, and as in the last few years, the beach at Pond Cove, Brier Island, seemed to have been a "hot spot" for this species, with 50+ during the first half of October (RBS). 27 were counted on Seal Is., and 20 on nearby Mud Island on Sept. 27 (BLM).

It is too early to tell yet if we are due for a report of last winter's BOHEMIAN WAXWING bonanza, but a total of 4 on Sable Island in the first week of November (AFM,ZOL) were decidedly out of range in mid-fall. The same location was also home to the more expected CEDAR WAXWING flocks during September and indeed this species was well represented all summer and fall, usually with flocks of up to 50 birds, and frequently noted feeding on berries, as expected. In all there were 22 different reports, from all areas (JRM,MSM,JAC,LAC,ALM,CAM,AJV et al.).

It may be a good NORTHERN SHRIKE winter this year, with so far 9 birds being seen, from Oct. 9 (1, Duncan's Cove - AJV) on. Others have been at Hartlen's Pt. (JWT), Apple River (KFS), Lunenburg (AFM), Sand Lake (ALM,CAM) etc.

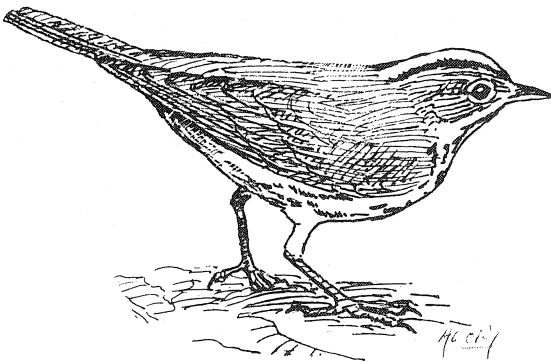
EUROPEAN STARLINGS remain abundant. 1-200+ were at Pubnico all fall (LID), and 150+ were at E.Grand Pré Oct. 20 (BBT,JT). There have been the usual sev. thousand at Meek's farm, north of Canning all fall (RBS), and I noticed one in a large flock near Canard Pond that had broad white outer tail feathers, just like a meadowlark, but it was only a starling!

## VIREOS AND WARBLERS

Small numbers of breeding and post-breeding SOLITARY VIREOS were reported, mainly in western counties. The first definite migrants (3 on Seal Is. on Oct. 1) were "part of a good movement of common and rare birds borne on stormy west winds" (BLM). Only 2 later Solitaries were seen: 1 at Cape John, Pic. Co., on Oct. 23 (KJM,CGB), and a late bird at the Dartmouth Piggery on Nov. 10 (JWT). Although reports were received of 2 WARBLING VIREOS and 10 PHILADELPHIA VIREOS, no corroborating details were mentioned ( see Nova Scotia Birds, January 1994, P.5), except in the case of the Philadelphia seen on brier Is. on Aug. 31. Here, SJF's comments were "yellow throat, line through eye, paler crown all noted". ROC found there was a "good showing" of the RED-EYED VIREO during the breeding season around Port Mouton, Queen's Co., and other observers tended to agree. Photos were taken of one on a nest in an apple tree in canning, King's Co., on July 4 (JWW), and an adult was feeding 2 fledgling young at Upper Sackville, Hfx. Co., on Sept. 9 (BJA). Good numbers were noted during migration, with birds beginning to mobilize in late August and early September. On Seal Is., 6 were seen on Sept. 4, with 5 moving through on Oct. 1 (BLM et al.). Singletons at Hammonds Plains, Hfx. Co., on Oct. 2 (KNK), Little Harbour, Shel. Co., on Oct. 12 (trapped in DHY's garage) and a late bird in the Liscomb Game Sanctuary on Nov. 13 (HJB) were the only Red-eyes seen thereafter.

A rare BLUE-WINGED WARBLER at the Sable Is. Weather Station was identified by AFM, who remarked, "Quick look - but saw yellow face and breast, and dark wings with wing bars". The TENNESSEE WARBLER was noted in June in the counties of Hfx., Guys., and Queen's (RBD,HBD et al.). Some of these may still have been spring firsts, as this is one of the latest warbler species to arrive and become established. No news was received from Cape Breton, a preferred breeding area, hopefully due to an absence of contributors and not birds. A late spring bird was on Sable Is. on June 12-14 (ZOL). "A few in August" around Port Mouton (ROC), 1 in Dartmouth on Sept. 10 (BJA) and 1 on Sable Is. on Sept. 15 (IAM) made up the observed fall migration. Two ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS were found at Port Mouton on Nov. 12 (ROC) and 1 was at Broad Cove on Nov. 13 (JSC,JLC). The NASHVILLE AWRBLER fared a bit better than in 1993, with summer singletons noted in Hfx., Guys., and Lun. Cos. (BLM et al.) One at Melmerby Prov. Park, Pic. Co., on August 26 (KJM) was likely on the move. Singletons at Cloud Lake, on the King's and Anna. Co. line, on Sept. 4 (JWW) and at Pubnoco Point on Sept. 9 (RSD) were the last to be seen on the mainland. However, there were 2 on Seal Is. on Sept. 28, 1 on Georges Bank on Sept. 30, 1 on Seal Is. Oct. 4-5 and the latest, a male, on Sable Is. on oct. 29.

A few reports of summering NORTHERN PARULAS did little to indicate any trend. ROC felt that numbers were lower than in 1993 around Port Mouton, but in the same county, JCZ and LIP found 12 at Hibernia Campground and along an adjacent kilometre of road on June 25. Migrating Parulas, in numbers of 1-4, were found in late August and September in Lun., Pic., Cumb. and Co. Co., and on Sable Is., while 1 lingered on Seal Is. to Oct. 5.



Although observers in Hfx., Guys., and Lun. Cos. didn't appear to notice any change in the abundance of the YELLOW WARBLER during the summer, ROC thought then "very low in number" around Port Mouton. Most reports of Yellow Warblers on the move came in late August and early September, including 30+ on Brier Is. on Aug. 23 (Cohrs). Two at Westmount, C.B., on Sept. 20 (JAC) and 1 on Cape Sable Is. on Oct 2 (BLM) were the last yellows reported. Summer CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER reports included one from Cape Breton (Boisdale, C.B. Co.), where the species is uncommon, on June 13 (DBM). Small numbers were migrating through Mader's Cove, Lun. Co., on Aug. 25 (JBM), and 1-3 were noted at West Pubnico from Aug. 18 to Sept. 3 (LID). BLM scrounged up the last two birds- 1 at Mud Is., Yar. Co., on Sept. 27 and 1 on Seal Is., on Oct. 1. A late spring MAGNOLIA WARBLER migrant was on Sable is., on June 21 (IAM). Though summer reports were scanty, 20 were noted in post-breeding mixed flocks at Clyde River, Shel. Co., on July 31 (BLM,WAA). Most migrants were noticed from late August to the middle of September, including 12 at Melmerby Prov. Park on Aug. 26 (KJM) and 4 at Sand Lake, C.B. Co., on Sept. 10 (ALM,CAM). Two separate individuals on Seal Is., on Sept. 30 and Oct 1 (BLM et al.) were the last reported. A late spring CAPE MAY WARBLER migrant also came through Sable Is. (June 11, ZOL). Three September singletons in the southwestern corner of the province, and a late bird at Green Bay (JLC) on Nov. 6 were the only fall migrants reported. Though only three BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLERS were mentioned during the breeding season, the migration was surprisingly well reported. The first migrant noted was on Seal Is., on sept. 3. A male which may have been looking for easy passage south was found dead at Halifax International Airport on Sept. 4 (DHH). Another male was part of a large warbler movement through Upper Sackville on Sept. 15 (BJA). About 10 were accounted for in October on Seal, Cape Sable, Brier and Sable Islands, with the final bird on Sable (AFM) on Oct. 28.

Reports of breeding YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS came only from Lun. and Queen's Cos., but yellow-rumps came out of the woodwork during migration. Beginning to move in late August and early September, peak numbers were reached by late September. The Cohrs estimated that there were 1200 to 1500 on the old shore trail between Green Bay and Broad Cove on Sept. 25, while on the following day, "hundreds" passed through Pubnico Point (RSD, who was reminded of the large waves of the '70's). Good numbers were reported well into October, then tapered off. RBS saw hundreds leaving North Point of Brier Is., on oct. 11, "flying off to sea into a northwest gale". Another large wave passed through Pubnico Point on Oct. 13. Several Seal Is. reports indicated only 25-30 per day, however. One of the Audubon's race was discovered at East Petpeswick, Hfx. Co., on sept. 18 (ROF,ANF).

BLM passed along documentation on a bird he observed in flight for only 10 seconds at Cape D'Or, Cumb. Co., on Sept. 18, but believed was a TOWNSEND'S WARBLER. Excerpts from his report follow: "...solid, uniform olive-coloured ear coverts, broken only by a yellow 'half-moon' lower eye ring. The ear coverts were bordered by yellow. The ear coverts of Black-throated Green Warblers are normally streaked with yellow, instead of being uniform in colour...The throat was pale yellow, with the yellow extending just barely onto the breast. There was just a trace of streaking on the upper flanks. The head, nape and back were light lime-green. The wings were medium gray, with two noticeable white wing bars. While the brevity of the observation understandably adds a note of uncertainty, as does the obscurity and difficulty of this particular plumage, I believe that the bird was a immature female Townsend's Warbler."

The BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER received good coverage. Well-distributed during the breeding season, post-breeding concentrations of up to 25 or so were found in Blomidon Prov. Park, King's Co., or Brier Is., and at Mader's Cove in August (RBS,JBM). Reports of small numbers (1-6) were quite evenly distributed throughout September and early October, and were province-wide. The last bird was seen on Sable Is., on Oct. 26 (AFM). The uncommon BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER was mentioned only twice during the breeding season., both times on June 25: 3 at Blomidon Prov. Park (BLM,MAD) and 1 at Hibernia Campground (JCZ). The migration consisted of at least 1 in a small mixed flock at Mader's Cove on Aug. 27 (JBM), 1 at Margaree Centre, Inv. Co., on Sept. 14 (BLM) and 1 on Seal Is., on Sept. 29 (BLM).



At least 1 PINE WARBLER in a small mixed flock at Mader's Cove on Aug. 28 was the first one reported. Subsequently, 3 singletons were found on Seal Is., on Sept. 4, Oct. 1 and Oct. 5; 1 was on Mud Is., on Sept. 27 and 1 was in Dartmouth on Nov. 10. It was another good season for the PRAIRIE WARBLER, with 10 individuals reported. The first was on the early date of July 21 on Sable Is., (ZOL). Two (other?) singletons were found on Sable on Sept. 3 and 13. Four were found on Seal Is., 2 at Hartlen's Point and 1, the latest, on Cape Sable Is., on Oct. 23. Fifteen PALM WARBLERS were found around Sherbrooke Lake, Lun. Co., on July 2, with about 25 in a post-breeding mixed flock at Clyde River on July 31 (BLM). Ten or more moved through Apple River on Sept. 11 (KFS), while numbers peaked in the latter part of that month, with 65+ between Green Bay and Broad Cove on Sept. 25 (COHRS), and 30 on Seal Is., on Sept. 26 with only 2 there the next day (BLM). 10+ were still moving off Brier Is., on Oct. 11 (RBS). One on Cape Sabvle Is., on Oct. 24 was of the western race, as was one outside the Halifax law courts on Nov. 10, our last report to deadline (BLM). A pair of BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS were on territory at Pockwock, Hfx. Co., on June 12 (BLA), while 25+ were counted in Blomidon Prov. Park on Aug. 12 (RBS). One was at Five Islands, Co. Co., on Sept. 15 and 1 was on Seal Is., on Oct. 1 (BLM). A male BLACKPOLL WARBLER was a late spring migrant on Sable Is., on June 13-14 (ZOL), and 24 other June individuals were mentioned in Atlantic coastal and island localities. Most reports of migrating Blackpolls were in September, beginning with 1 on Scatarie Is., C.B., on Sept. 3 (ALM,CAM), and including 40+ between Green Bay and Broad Cove on Sept. 25 (Cohrs). Six were at Clyde River on Oct. 2, the last Blackpolls reported.

The BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER was reported, at least in small numbers, in Hfx., Guys., Hants and Queen's Coc., in June. The fall migration saw 1 to a few in widely scattered locations, mainly in September. Ten were on Seal Is., on Sept. 4, while 3 were there on Oct. 1. The last one to leave Sable Is., and our latest bird reported, was seen on Oct. 26. ROC found AMERICAN REDSTARTS very low in number around Port Mouton during the summer, though most other observers seemed to find them in their usual spots in low deciduous growth. A late spring migrant passed through Sable Is., on June 20 (ZOL). Five in Pic. Co., in late August, and 15 on Seal Is., Sept. 3-4 accounted for most of the migration, though a few went through West Pubnico up to Sept. 9, and 1 or 2 were seen regularly on Sable Is., the first half of September. On Oct. 27, a female was seen at Pubnico Point (beating RSD's previous late record by almost a month), and on that same date the last one left Sable Is.

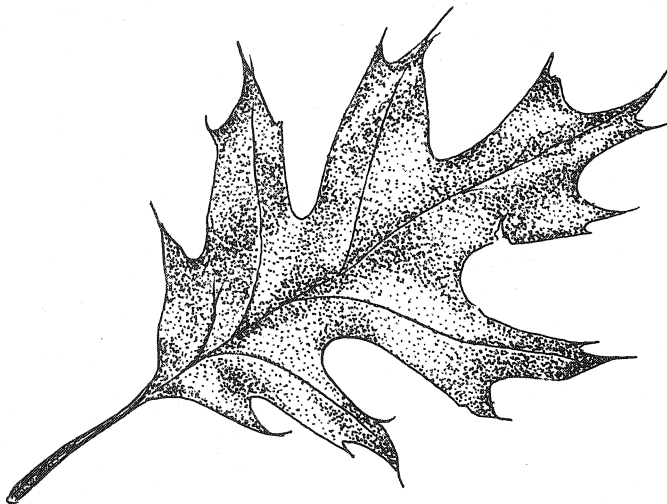
A male PROTHONOTARY WARBLER was seen at Sable Island's West Light on Aug. 25 and 28 (AFM). He had "good looks at deep yellow head and breast, dark wings with no wing bars".

OVENBIRD breeding numbers seemed to be normal in most of their usual haunts. Some half-a-dozen birds were reported over the migration period, which is par for the course. September singles at Cloud Lake (JWW) and Sable Is., (IAM), and 2 near Advocate Cumb. Co., (KFS); and October singles on Cape Sable Is., (BLM) and Sable Is., (AFM) were the lot. The Sable Is. bird (possibly 2) lingered until Hallowe'en. Five NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH in Hfx. Co., and 3 in Guys. Co., were reported in June (BLM,BJA). About double that total were noted during migration, all between Aug. 21 and Sept. 7, and mostly on Seal and Sable Islands. The latest bird (Sept. 7) was seen at Pubnico Point (RSD). A rare LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH, which would be our first record in five years, was identified by JOS at Sandbeach, Yar. Co., on Aug. 24 in a rose bush at the home of Olive Wood. "Said bird drew my attention with its distinctive, loud chirps...It...was not especially shy, and allowed me to give it close observation. My identification is based on the throat, which was pure white and completely unspotted. The white eye stripe was prominent, but would not in itself have allowed me to distinguish this bird from the Northern Waterthrush". The flaring of the eyebrow behind the eye, and the contrast between white underparts and buffy flanks were not mentioned. However, the immaculate white throat does appear to be a reliable means of differentiation. I would welcome comments.

Yet another rarity, a KENTUCKY WARBLER, was observed for several minutes on Seal Is., on Sept. 30, part of a significant movement of birds (BLM and 8 others). From BLM's report, "...head and all upperparts dull brownish-green, and unmarked. No wing bars. Eye dark, with a yellow line extending from the base of the bill to the eye, connecting to a yellow eye ring that was 3/4 complete (top, back and bottom), creating a visually striking yellow spectacle. The underparts, from throat to undertail coverts, were iniformly yellow. There was a slight trace of black on the lower edge of the face and sides of the neck..." A "tshup" call-note was heard.

June and July MOURNING WARBLER individual reports numbered 13- from Guys., King's, Queen's, Lun. and Col. Cos., and in northern Cape Breton. Regarding the latter location, AAM wrote, "This species appears to be fairly common in the area of Smelt Brook- White Point". Post-July individuals numbered 6: 1 at Blomidon Prov. Park on Aug. 8, which may have been still on territory, but was "out in the open (for once!)" (RBS), 4 on Seal Is., on Sept. 3 and 1 there on Sept. 29 (BLM). Few COMMON YELLOWTHROATS were reported during the breeding season, but a goodly number were noted thereafter. On Brier Is., 14 were found on Aug. 6, 50+ on Aug. 20-21 and 50+ again on Aug. 23. Fifteen were at Hartlen's Point on Aug. 27, with 20 on Seal Is., on Sept. 3. Significant movements which normally occur late in September and early in October were not observed. The last bird reported was at Green Bay on Oct. 9 (LAC,JSC). Eleven WILSON'S WARBLERS were reported in June- 3 in Hfx. Co., and 8 in Guys. Co. (BLM). A good number were seen during migration in late August and early September in Digby, Yar. and Shel. Cos., including 5 per day on Brier Is., Aug. 30- Sept. 2 (SJF). In addition, a single bird was found at Hartlen's Point on Aug. 28 (BLM), one came aboard a boat on Georges Bank on Sept. 13 (RSD), and 3 (the last observed) were in Westmount, C.B. on Sept. 20 (JAC). It was good to see a few CANADA WARBLER reports from the summer, but 1 on Brier Is., on Aug. 20, and 1 imm. on Seal Is., on Sept. 3 made up the fall migration. Well, that was 2 more than in '93. The first fall YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT was found at Blanche, Shel. Co., on Sept. 2 (JOW). One on Seal Is., (more than one?) was seen on sept. 21 (IAM), Oct. 1 (BLM et al.) and Oct. 4-5 (SJF et al.). Singles at Middle River, Pic. Co., on Oct. 4 (CGB), at West Pubnico on Oct. 14 (LID), on Sable Is., on Oct. 20 and Nov. 4 (same bird?) (AFM) and at Greenwich, King's Co., on Nov. 5 (JCT) rounded out our fall reports.

--KNK, ed



## TANAGERS TO TOWHEE

With a good movement of migrating birds on Sept. 30, came the first SCARLET TANAGERS reported. These two immature birds were found on Seal Is. (BLM). It wasn't until a month later on Oct. 25 that another was discovered at Caribou Is. (CGB). One more, possibly two, were seen on Sable Is., from Oct. 26-31 (AFM,ZOL). A notable occurrence was 7-8 males found at Coldbrook feeding on a cherry tree together on July 3. (Hazel Wood & Stella MacLean).

There are only two reports of NORTHERN CARDINAL. The first was a female which stopped briefly at the Cohrs front garden on Nov. 1 (LAC,JLC). The second was a male seen at Pubnico Point on Nov. 8 (RSD). There were several accounts of this species during June and July, all of which were single birds briefly appearing at feeders. One exception was a male loudly singing from a treetop in Overton on Aug. 2. (HGH,HJH).

The first immature ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK to start wandering southward was one at Berwick on Aug. 24 (BJA). Other single birds were at Sable Is., Seal Is., and West Pubnico during September and one female found at Portuguese Cove, Hfx. Co., on Oct. 9 (AJV). BLUE GROSBEAKS were found seven times during September and October. Lisette d'Entremont spotted two at her feeder in West Pubnico on Sept. 7. These birds stayed at least until Sept. 10. Other sightings included up to two at Seal Is., from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 (BLM); one at Greenwich on Oct. 8-9 (HF,JCT) and one found at Portuguese Cove on Oct. 9 (AJV). The sixth record of PAINTED BUNTING in Nova Scotia came from Glace Bay on June 21. This male stayed and was video-taped on June 24 at Hugh (Junior) Metcalfe's feeder. Although INDIGO BUNTINGS are not usually common fall visitors, the last couple of years have been bonanzas, so that this season's six birds may seem low. Single birds were found from Brier Is. to Mabou during September, October and November, the last being a juvenile bird viewed at Green Bay, Nov. 10, 11 and 12 (Cohrs).

There were five sightings of DICKCISSELS. Notable was a bird found at a feeder in West Pubnico on July 22-23, certainly a rare find on that date (LID). Fall records included single birds at Brier Is., Sept. 3 (ELM), Sept. 19 at Seal Is., (IAM); Cape Sable Is., on Oct. 1 and Sable Is., on Oct. 29 and Nov. 4.

There were only two records for RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE during the period. One was discovered at a Dartmouth feeder on Oct. 14 (WAT,KAT) and the other at The Hawk on Nov. 13 seen by the members of the South West Bird Club.

## SPARROWS TO SNOW BUNTING

The first TREE SPARROW of the fall was seen at MacLellan Marsh, New Glasgow on Oct. 15 (KJM). Others followed very slowly with most "firsts" being seen by mid-November. CHIPPING SPARROWS were an uncommon sight this fall with just five reports. Small groups of 4-10 were found in Yarmouth and Colchester Counties during September (BLM). Two were attending a feeder in West Pubnico throughout October (LID) and a laggard single bird was seen at Greenwich on Nov. 5 (JCT). Although a rarity CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS have been regular fall visitors in the last few years, this year they seem to have banded together during migration and subsequently we have three of the four reports noting more than one bird. Two adults were found on Sept. 26-27 at Hartlen's Point (Bird Line). On Sept. 30, 2 were found at Seal Is., then the following day 5 more, (all adults) were discovered there! (BLM et al.) The final record was an immature bird seen at Seal Is., on Oct. 4 (SJF,DHY,JG,BAH).

Single FIELD SPARROWS were found at Seal Is., on Sept. 3 (BLM); Sable Is., on Oct. 26 and again there on Nov. 1 (AFM,ZOL). Three of this species were seen at Seal Is., on Sept. 30 (BLM). VESPER SPARROWS were seen at Cape Sable Is., on Oct. 22-23 (South West Nova Bird Club,GWT,JCT) and Zoe Lucas describes an individual with much chestnut streaking seen on Sable Is. on Nov. 1. This interesting plumage variation may be attributed to melanism. Three LARK SPARROWS were spotted with the first going to Calvin Brennan and Ken McKenna who were visiting Brier Is., on Sept. 11 when they saw an adult in Westport. Others were seen on Creighton Ave. on Sept. 21 by Jim Taylor;

one was discovered at Hartlen's Point on Sept. 26, as reported to the Bird-line and the latest was one at the weather station on Sable Is., on Oct. 26 (AFM).

It has been said by many that there are many fewer of the traditionally more common sparrows this fall. SAVANNAH SPARROWS must be included in that statement. Apart from a tremendous movement of 250 at Seal Is., on Sept. 4 (BLM) there was only one other sighting, that of one bird visiting a feeder at Apple River on Oct. 21 (KFS). The only SAVANNAH (IPSWICH) SPARROWS found were 4 at Hartlen's Point on Oct. 29 (Cohrs). Rare GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS were encountered twice. Once at Cape Sable Is., on Oct. 24 (BLM et al.) and a second was seen at Broad Cove on Nov. 6 (SJF,BAH). A beautifully detailed account of HENSLOW'S SPARROW was supplied by Blake Maybank who with several other observers made notes in the field of this rarity while they watched this bird at very close range on Seal Is., on Sept. 26. According to Birds of Nova Scotia, this is only the third record for the province all of which have been seen on Seal Is., in fall. SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS were found at typical breeding areas throughout the summer. Fifteen were seen at Conrad's Beach on July 10 (BLM). Fall records include 20 or more at Big Island Marsh, Pic. Co., on Sept. 23 (CGB) and a single bird was seen at McNab's Is., in October. A SEASIDE SPARROW once again found its way to the Economy Marsh on Oct. 20. Last year one stayed for several weeks there. This year's bird has yet to be re-discovered (FLS).

FOX SPARROWS were quite uncommon this fall. Only eight observers wrote in and all but one report was of single birds. The most was 5 at Apple River on Oct. 31 (KFS) and the latest was one at Lewis Lake on Nov. 10 (AJV). SONG SPARROWS seemed to be by all accounts in normal numbers throughout the breeding season. There were over 50 at Newport Corner on June 13 (RBD,HBD) however fall migration held few reports of any number with the exception of 30 seen at Seal Is., on Sept. 30. It seems that the winter of 94-95 will repeat last year with only a few over-wintering "Songs". The elusive but musical LINCOLN'S SPARROW was to be found in almost all counties of the province. Typically though summer reports are of one or two individuals. Of the few fall records, outstanding were 4 seen on Seal Is., on Oct 1 (BLM et al.). All other sightings were single birds with the latest being one at Apple River on Oct. 5 (KFS).

A sparrow that seems to be having difficulty recently especially with loss of habitat is the SWAMP SPARROW. These beautiful and vociferous birds are almost uncommon even in the few favoured marshy areas we have left. There were just three reports, one at Kennetcook on June 13 (RBD); one at Apple River on Sept. 11 (KFS) and two seen at Starr's Point on Sept. 24 (JCT).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW is another of the many species that has become less common during the breeding season in the province. The familiar song to many of us is cherished much more when heard and no longer taken for granted. Fall records include 30 at Seal Is., on Oct. 1 (BLM) and 5 on Nov. 7 at Apple River most likely settling in for the winter there. The single "most reported" species was WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. There were 25 reports totalling approximately 75 individuals. The most notable occurrence were the 20-55 birds seen between Oct. 1-7 on Seal Is. (BLM,SJF,DHY,JUG,BAH). The first migrant was one seen at Hartlen's Point on Sept. 16 (BJA) and the last lingering and lost individual was one at Sable Is., on Oct. 31 (ZOL).

An extremely rare find goes to the group of birders visiting Seal Island during the last few days of September. A very impressive movement of birds occurred during the days they were on the island and with the birds was a GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW. This far-reaching sparrow has now turned up twice on the same island in as many years. This makes the fourth Nova Scotia record, the first two occurring in spring and the latter two in fall. (BLM et al.).

DARK-EYED JUNCOS were a regular summer and early fall find. They seemed to all but disappear during September and October but have since become fairly numerous along the headlands during early November. A well marked female "Oregon" junco was closely observed on Sable Island during Oct. 29-Nov.1 (ZOL).

Two single LAPLAND LONGSPUR records made it in for this period. The first was one at Point Aconi on Sept. 17 (DBM) and the other was one at Cherry Hill Beach on Sept. 26 (Cohrs). SNOW BUNTINGS seem to be congregating with substantial flocks already noted in the typical "good" areas. A flock of 300 were seen at Grand Pré on Nov. 3 (David Jones) and 120 were found along the Northumberland Shore on Nov. 12 (KJM). The earliest record was one found at Canning on Oct. 17 (fide JWW). From Sable Island Zoe Lucas reported a male in pristine breeding plumage lagging behind there as late as June 5.

#### ICTERIDS

BOBOLINKS were found in appropriate habitat throughout the province. Their ability to court, nest and raise young in a narrow window of time prior to the harvest of hay is amazing. These fluttering and effervescent birds were found in reasonable numbers at Amherst, Newport Corner and Marshalltown during June and July. A group of 10 migrating birds were seen at North Sydney on Aug. 27 (DBM), 10 were found on Seal Is., on Sept. 3 and the latest record we have this year is 4 observed on Seal Is. on Sept. 26 (BLM).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS were well reported through the summer months from most parts of the province. Fall marauding flocks of blackbirds were noted throughout September near Amherst and near Sheffield Mills (JWW). The last record submitted was of 3 males visiting at feeder in Apple River on Nov. 14 (MSM). There were two reports of YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS, both males. The first was one in Dartmouth during Sept. 7-10 (JWT) and the second was one seen first by a British birder, Simon Allday near Canning on Oct. 14. This bird was accompanying cowbirds and starlings (fide JCT). Fall RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were found in various areas singularly or in small family groups. Later records include three adults picked out of a large flock of 2000 grackles near Digby on Oct. 18 (AJV, BJA). The last birds of this species seen for this report were 2 at Villagedale on Nov. 13 associating with other brethren blackbirds (JCZ). COMMON GRACKLES were watched passing through in large noisy flocks throughout September and October. The largest mass was the one previously mentioned in near Digby of 2000. Other groups were 500 at Hammond's Plains on Sept. 3 (KDK) and 200 at Lewis Lake on Oct. 25 (AJV).

There were very few sightings of BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS- it makes one feel that there may be justice after all. It is well known that cowbirds secretly and privately go about their parasitic ways and damage is done to a degree that can not be well measured. There were very few summer records and fall reports are for September with two sightings on Seal Island and one on Brier. The last few were found at a feeder in Apple River on Nov. 1 (KFS).

NORTHERN ORIOLES were found on territory in Plymouth and Trenton as well as possibly two pairs in Wolfville during May and June. Fall movements include 15 on Seal Island on Sept. 3-4 and 8 at West Pubnico during early September. Other records include 20 in all at various headland locations from Herring Cove to Sambro in mid October (DAC).

#### WINTER FINCHES TO HOUSE SPARROW

The secretive and silent nature of PINE GROSBIRDS make them an uncommon find. Sightings came from Yarmouth to Inverness Counties but of the seven accounts only one was of more than 2 birds. Six were seen on Nov. 13 at Big Island, Pic. Co. (KJM). Those of us who kept the feed supply out all summer found only the occasional PURPLE FINCH. Two immature birds were seen in Halifax on Aug. 28 and just one there on Sept. 6 (HBD, RBD). Other later fall sightings include up to 7 at the Sable Island weather station from Oct. 14-30 (AFM), and six were found coming to a feeder in Upper Sackville on Nov. 14 (BJA). HOUSE FINCHES were found in the southern extremities of the province as usual. One was visiting a feeder in late May at Lower Clark's Harbour (JON); a pair nested in a conifer hedge in Lockport at the home of Maggie Mitchell by mid June. No news on the success (DJC). The last sighting was of a pair visiting a feeder at The Hawk on Nov. 13 (IAM, ELM).

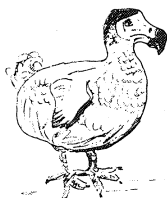
Neither RED nor WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were regularly encountered. Red crossbills numbers were significantly higher than white winged with one flock of 100+ seen at Blomidon Prov. Park on Aug. 12 (RBS). More typical of both species were small groups of 2-15. The greatest number of White-wings was 15 seen at Hartlen's Point on Nov. 9 (JWT). Where possible observers have been aiding us with descriptions of bill size of Red crossbills to monitor the Newfoundland subspecies. Birds seen during this period were not noted as being this larger, thicker-billed specimen.

Although there were a few straggling REDPOLLS still remaining in May after last winter's great profusion there has not been a sighting since. PINE SISKINS were present throughout summer although infrequently seen then. However later sightings in October and November are showing that there is a modest movement into the province. There was a flock of 50 at Mooseland on Nov. 11 (KAT). On the other hand AMERICAN GOLDFINCH has been relatively common all summer, then seemed to almost disappear during August and September. Late October and into November small flocks were easily located. One large flock of about 300 was found at Green Bay on Nov. 8 (Cohrs).

EVENING GROSBILLS were uncommon during the summer even in Cumberland and the Cape Breton counties where they are regularly seen and heard. First fall records were from Mabou on Oct. 8 with 8 birds (ALM) and 2 were seen at Greenwich on Nov, 5 (JCT).

Thanks to Helen and Bob Dickie we now know where the HOUSE SPARROWS are. They found over 1000 at Newport Corner, Kennetcook on June 13! Before seeing that report I was going to concede that McDonald's, Swiss Chalet, Harvey's, Tim Horton's and Kentucky Fried Chicken with their great shrubbery and ready supply of food were the reasons for fewer at feeders. Farmlands such as those in Kennetcook must still hold the greatest attraction for these birds.

--DAC, Ed.



#### REMINDER

Those who report rare or "difficult" birds are reminded to read page 35 of the January 1994 issue. Here is a short excerpt :

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

Your co-operation will make the task of the Seasonal Editors much easier. -- JSC, ed.

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

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Allen, Charlie	CRKA
Amirault, Bradford	BJA
Atwood, Wilfred	WAA
Banks, Dan & Diane	DDB
Brennan, Calvin	CGB
Brennan, Harry & Jean	HJB
Brown, Dick	RGB
Chivers, Robert	ROC
Cohrs, John	JLC
Cohrs, Lise	LAC
Cohrs, Shirley	JSC
Cretien, Jacqueline	JAC
Crosby, Donna	DJC
Currie, Dave	DAC
Czapalay, Joan	JCZ
D'Entremont, Lisette	LID
D'Entremont, Raymond	RSD
Dickie, Bob	RBD
Dickie, Helen	HBD
Dufresne, M.	MAD
Forsythe, Bernard	BLF
Foxall, Andrew	ANF
Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF
Graves, June	JUG
Hall, Helen	HJH
Hall, Hubert	HGH
Hawkeswood, Mike	MRH
Helleiner, C.W.	CWH
Hippern, Dennis	DHH
Hulford, Sheila L.	SLH
Keddy, Keith	KNK
Kenny, Greg	GRK
Kenny, Margaret	MAK
King, Flora	FLK
Lavender, Fulton	FLL
Libby, Mark L.	MLL
Lucas, Zoe	ZOL
MacCorquodale, David B.	DBM
MacFarlane, Andrew	AFM
MacKay, John	JOM
McKenna, Ken	KJM
McLaren, Ian	IAM
MacLean, Angua	AAM
MacLean, Stella	SMM
McRae, Doug	DOM
May, Blake	BLM
Mills, Eric	ELM
Mills, Jane	JRM
Mills, Maureen	MSM
Morse, Jean & BILL	JBM
Murrant, Allan	ALM
Murrant, Cathy	CAM
Newell, Murray	MUN
Nickerson, John	JON
Nickerson, Sandra	SAN
Osborne, Bob	RG0
Paynter, Earl	EAP
Perry, Lillian	LIP
Reimer, Don	DOR



Sarty, Bev	BDS
Sollows, John	JOS
Spalding, Francis	FLS
Spicer, Blaine	BAS
Spicer, Kathleen	KFS
Stern, Richard	RBS
Tay, Karl	KAT
Tay, Wendie	WAT
Thexton, Brenda & Bill	BBT
Tufts, Gordon	GWT
Tufts, July	JCT
Vienneau, Azor	AJV
Waldron, Joan	JOW
Young, David	DHY



**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS**

for

the **April 1995** issue

**February 28, 1995**

**Bird Reports to the RECORDS EDITOR**

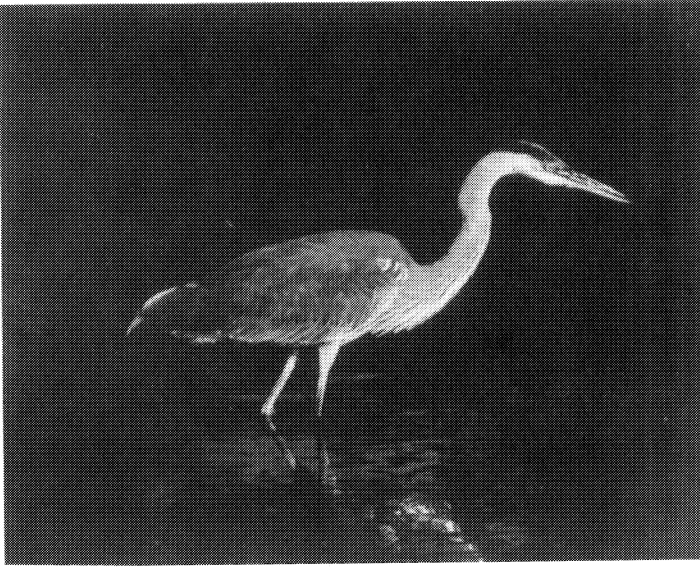
Wendie Tay  
5 Berwick Street  
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 3B6

**Articles, sketches and letters to the EDITOR**

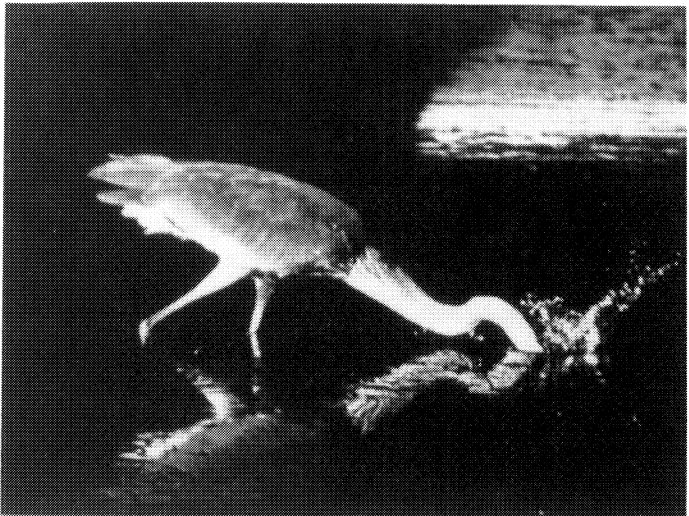
Mrs. Shirley Cohrs,  
8 Rosemount Ave.,  
Halifax, N.S. B3N 1X8

**Photographs to**

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



Ready, aim, fire! Photos by Andrew Macfarlane, near Lunenburg, Sept., 1993.



## FRANK RUDOLPH

1920-1994

At the time of his death Frank lived in Upper LaHave, Lunenburg Co., N.S. He had been a member of the Canadian armed forces during the Second World War and served in France, Belgium, and Germany. He was involved with numerous charities during his lifetime.

Frank was a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion and wrote the Legion News for many years. He was a choir member of the Sons of the Sea in Lunenburg. He was a former president of the Lunenburg Wildlife Association and a charter member of the Nova Scotia Bird Society. He attended the occasion of the celebration of (our) 35th anniversary.

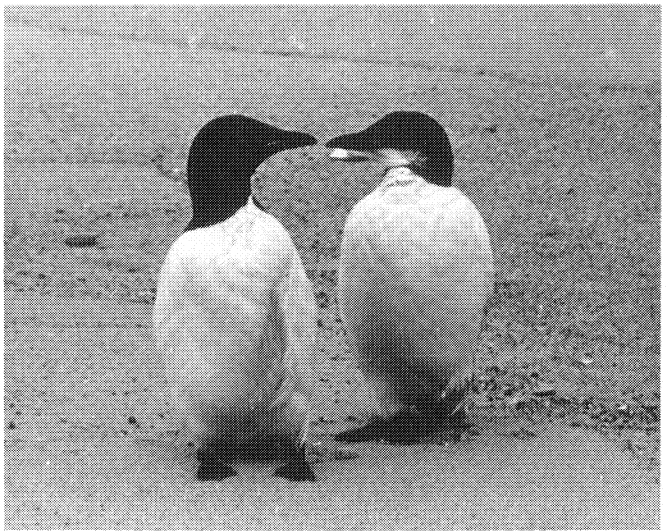
Birds were a big part of his life. He and his wife surrounded themselves with bird feeders and bird houses. He constructed brush piles and took other protective measures to safeguard the wildlife around their natural setting. He contributed to Nellie Snyder's Bird Notes whenever possible. One of his ways of protecting Tree Swallows' nests from House Sparrows was to hang their house on a swinging wire. The swallows used the houses (when around) but the sparrows left them alone. He also used a homemade peanut feeder which was very successful in attracting woodpeckers. He made several and gave them away. They work well. There was a wide variety of birds at their feeders and in the beautiful planted areas around them. He will be remembered as a great promoter of the welfare of all birds and animals.

Frank died after a long illness at the age of 74.





In this remarkable shot, Azor Vienneau "froze" three of our four shearwater species--Sooty, Greater and Manx--during a Brier Is. pelagic trip, Sept. 11.



These Thick-billed Murres, not evidently either oiled or injured, were found on June 8, "beached" on Sable Island, where a few can generally be seen through summer.--Photo Zoe Lucas.

## SIX DAYS IN TRINIDAD

Peter Payzant

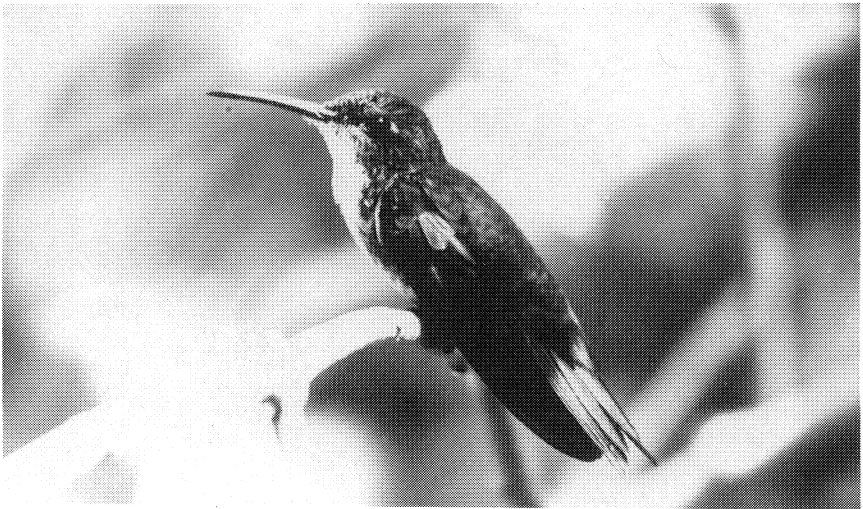
Photos- Linda and Peter Payzant

We're sitting by the swimming pool of a grim airport hotel. It could be anywhere, but the Ruby-Topaz Hummingbirds and Yellow Orioles in the shrubby place us firmly in the neotropics. In Trinidad, actually, at the start of a mid-March break from the cold, wet and generally bird-starved Nova Scotian winter. Almost an hour before schedule, a man strides in, sees our binoculars, and bundles us into his car for the drive up into the hills above Arima. Up into the hills, into the rain forest, and into the 447 acres of the Asa Wright Nature Centre. Smiling staff greet us, and we move into our cool masonry cabana to begin almost a week of relaxed birding.

The rain forest is exactly the medicine we need to cure our winter malaise. It's warm, humid, green, and buzzing with activity. Part of the buzzing is contributed by Manakins, both White-Bearded and Golden-headed. These are chickadee-sized charmers, flying noisily by in straight lines as if intent on some tiny errand. As a matter of fact, they are intent on something. Breeding. The males gather at a lek, and buzz from branch to branch, making a loud snapping sound with their wings as they fly. The air is filled with the sound of finger-snapping, as the male Manakins try to gain the attention of a nearby drab and apparently bored female. They spend up to ninety percent of their day doing this, stopping only to eat.

Bong. Bong. Bong-bong-bong-bong-bong. How did we ever guess? It's a Bearded Bellbird, with his incredibly loud and penetrating call. A few hundred meters away, another Bellbird replies, and thus the two cement the borders of their territories. They call all day, and eventually they fade into the general background of sounds, ignored as we listen for more subtle sounds.

Subtle sounds like the call of the Black-faced Ant-Thrush. This is a starling-sized bird with long legs. Its call sounds like part of the theme from "The Phantom of the Opera". Dark, small, and walking about the forest floor, the first one is always hard to find. After a day or so, we see one crossing the path. It has a bill full of food, but manages to call from time to time anyway. We watch it bathe in a little pool, fly a few metres to the side of a hill, and walk off, still calling. After that, we see them often.



White-chested Emerald, Asa Wright Nature Centre, Trinidad, March 1994

We wake up before dawn each day. We have no choice. Just outside our open window, an alarm clock looking just like a Cocoa Thrush goes off each morning at 5:47. The song is reminiscent of a Robin, but with a jazzy dotted rhythm and catchy tune. After the thrush's spring unwinds, a House Wren takes over, and since the sun is now rising we get up. Shortly after we're down the hill and onto the rear balcony of the main house, sipping coffee and chatting with the dozen or so other early risers. Then, it's off down one of the forest paths, looking for the Little Tinamou that we have heard often but never seen. Nobody sees it. Ever.

Returning to the house just before breakfast, it's back to the balcony. The place is more active now, and not just with people. Hummingbirds have been at the feeders almost since dawn, and people are quietly going cross-eyed staring at magnificent White-necked Jacobins at a range of only inches. I stroke one on the back as he feeds. Down on the lawn, platforms have been laden with fruit and bread. Tanagers, honeycreepers and huge oropendolas are gorging. Photographers lurk behind bushes, and then stop lurking when it becomes apparent that they can stand out in the open and get fine pictures with no trouble at all. The birds are numerous, varied, colourful and active.

Bong-bong-bong-bong! Not the bellbird this time, but the staff ringing a bell to summon us to breakfast. After a few days of this, I begin to salivate when I hear a bellbird. Breakfast, like all the meals, is served buffet style. The food is usually traditional Trinidadian, but breakfast is comfortingly familiar: fruit juice, cereal, eggs, toast and coffee. The coffee is grown on the grounds, and is served strong and dark.

After breakfast, we pile into a van for an all-day field trip with four other birders. Our leader is Rudal Ram Lal, and he has been showing visitors the birds of Trinidad for about ten years, having learned them under the careful tutelage of his brother, Joghi. Our destination is over the mountains and into the coastal town of Blanchisseuse. Several stops in the mountains turn up a good list of birds, including Collared Trogon, Euler's Flycatcher, Tropical Parula, and Swallow Tanager. At one stop, there's a Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, who obliges us with close looks.



Verandah of main building, Asa Wright Nature Centre, Trinidad

Blanchisseuse is a crowded and hot little town, and we're glad to get into the shade of a boat-builder's hut while we eat lunch. A few people try out the nearby beach, and all admire the Magnificent Frigatebirds over the water, and the Yellow-rumped Caciques building nests in the tree just outside the hut. On the return trip, we find Black-tailed Tityra and Piratic Flycatcher, busily inspecting an oriole nest. As always, huge blue Morpho butterflies appear, floating through the trees and over the road as if they owned it.

Of the many birds to be seen here, two rank high in most birders' list. One is the Tufted Coquette, an improbably-designed hummer. We connect with him on our second day, just outside our cabin. He's small and green, but with a wild orange brush on his crown and long reddish tufts on the sides of his neck. For some reason, the vervain bush outside our bathroom window is the chosen spot for his early-morning appearance, and for the rest of the trip our morning ablutions are performed a little self-consciously, knowing as we do that there is a small audience outside, waiting for the bird to appear.

The other "must see" is the Oilbird, one of the strangest birds in the New World. It is nocturnal, social, and usually a cave-dweller. One of the best-known attractions at Asa Wright, a colony of them lives in Dunston Cave, a narrow stream-cut gorge on the property. After a pleasant walk through the rain forest, you come to a small stream. The faint snarling and screaming sounds that you have been hearing on and off are now loud and detailed. The guide directs you upstream towards a massive cleft in the rock, and there in the dark cavity under the overhanging walls are the Oilbirds. They're huge (a wingspan of over 3 feet, with an 18-inch body), and look something like a nightjar, except for the hooked beak. In spite of this menacing front end, they live entirely on fruit, plucked from forest trees while the bird is in flight. Their noise, even during the day, is almost unbelievable. It sounds like the start of a marathon winner-take-all cat fight.



Crested Oropendola in Mimosa, Asa Wright Nature Centre, Trinidad, March, 1994

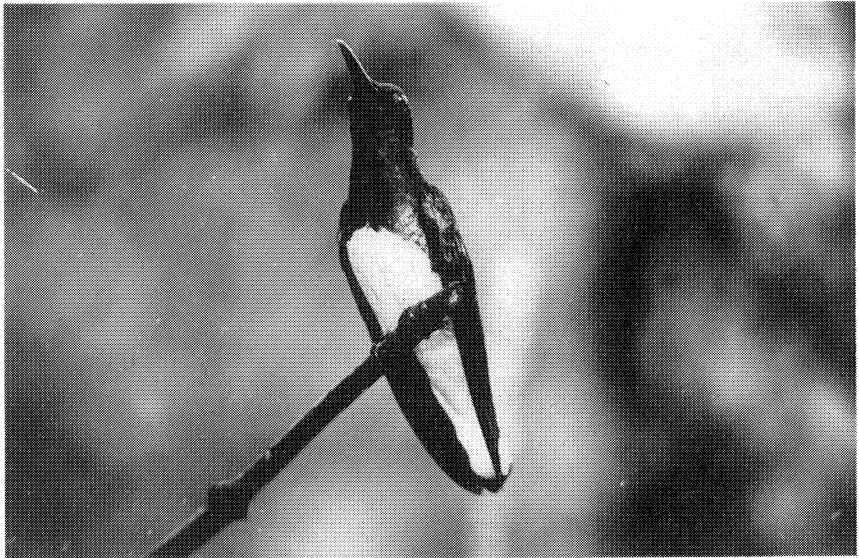
This is a small colony, only about 20 birds. Other colonies in the country are not protected from poaching and disturbance. The total population in Trinidad was estimated at about 1500 birds, in 1962.

So, what about the details of visiting the Asa Wright Nature Centre? First of all, the birds. There are about 246 breeding species on Trinidad, and another 140 migrants. Since Trinidad is only about ten miles from Venezuela, it's not surprising to learn that its avifauna is closely related to that of South America. Representatives of nearly all of the South American bird families can be found either on Trinidad, or on its neighbour Tobago. An excellent field guide ("A Guide to the Birds of Trinidad and Tobago", by Richard French) is readily available.

In six days of birding, we saw over 150 species, of which about 70 were new to us. These six days included day trips to good birding locations near the Asa Wright Nature Centre, including Piarco, Caroni Swamp, the North Range, Blanchisseuse, the Nariva Swamp, the Aripo savannah, the old Waller Field airport, and some arena forest. Some of the families we saw were Parrots, Trogons, Motmots, Toucans, Spinetails, Woodcreepers, Antbirds, Cotingas, Manakins, and 15 species of Tanager, as well as representatives of more familiar groups such as Vireos and Warblers.

What about the Asa Wright Nature Centre itself? It's an old coffee-citrus-cocoa plantation, now administered by a Trust which was formed in 1967. The huge old farmhouse is now mainly used for administration and meals, although there are two bedrooms available and private bath, with hot water. Meals (including afternoon tea and a pre-supper rum punch) are included in the daily rate. Both the accomodations and meals were excellent, in our opinion.

The Centre is largely surrounded by tropical rainforest, but due to the elevation, the temperatures are very comfortable. A "dry" season lasts from January until May, with a shorter dry period on October. The rest of the year is the rainy season -we are told that the rains are "usually intermittent".



White-necked Jacobin, Asa Wright Nature Centre, Trinidad, March 1994



Field trips are booked at the Centre. They vary from a brief walk in the rain forest to full-day trips to prime birding areas. We were quite satisfied with the guides and drivers on these trips. The Centre will also arrange transportation to and from the airport.

A stay at the Asa Wright Nature Centre is an excellent introduction to tropical birding. It's safe, comfortable, and rich in species. And, in the middle of the Nova Scotian winter, it's warm, too!

Bookings: C/O Caligo Ventures, Inc.  
156 Bedford Road  
Armonk, New York 10504  
(800) 426-7781  
(914) 273-6333

\*\*\*\*\*

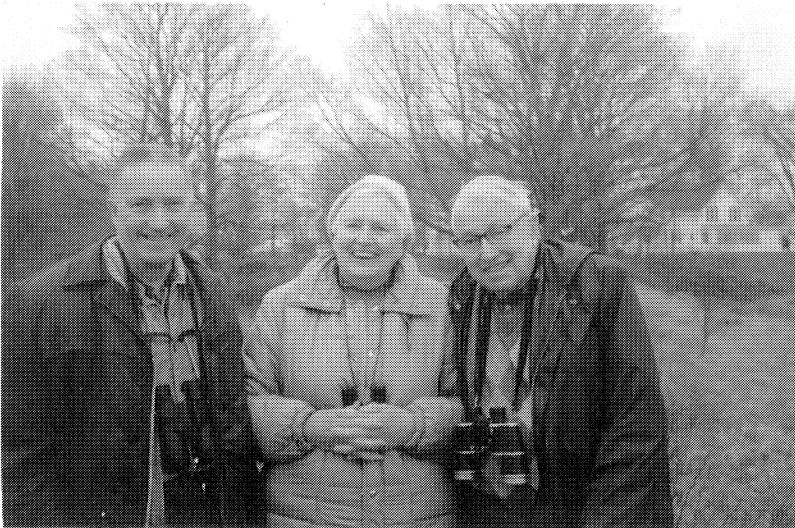
#### A PHOTOGRAPH OF QUALITY BIRDERS

Two Past Presidents, two founding members and three recipients of the Puffin of the Year Award.

Left to right Eric Cooke, Nellie Snyder and CRK (Charlie) Allen.

Photo- Joan Czapalay

These three, over the years have contributed much to birding in general and to our Society in particular. May they continue to contribute their talents to our endeavours for many years to come.- Ed.



## THE PROVINCIAL BIRD



Bob Dickie with Don Downe and stuffed Osprey, August 6, 1994  
 Photo: N.S. Visual Communications.

This was the address given by our then President, Bob Dickie, at the Canadian Nature Federation Convention on August 4, 1994.

Mr. Downe, as president of the Nova Scotia Bird Society I wish to thank you for that wonderful talk and in particular, for your announcement of the proclamation of our new Provincial Bird, the Osprey.

I joined our society in 1980 and was fortunate enough to meet and get out with such stalwarts as Joyce and Don Purchase, Shirley and John Cohrs, Peter and Linda Payzant, and of course Ian McLaren and Fulton Lavender. So I got a great beginning. I am very fortunate that my wife, Helen enjoys birding too, so we go out a lot together. My enthusiasm for this new pastime must have been obvious as I was first elected to the executive as society secretary, the following year and at my very first executive meeting the president, Bill Caudle brought up the matter of the provincial Bird.

I have studied our minutes and discovered an interesting entry dated Monday, May 28th 1979 which reads as follows...

"There was some discussion of a "Provincial Bird", we do not seem to have one...Then it goes on to say...

"Frank Hennessey will get the Provincial Legislature to pass the necessary act...Simple enough...

But that, ladies and gentlemen, was more than fifteen years ago and my hair, believe it or not, was black.

Since that time our executive has debated and discussed this matter at more than forty five of our monthly executive meetings. We have written letters, made phone calls and met with politicians all in an effort to convince the legislature to proclaim an avian symbol for our province. Eight successive presidents of our society have carried the torch and written to and talked with three Premiers, at least four cabinet ministers, the leaders of both opposition parties as well as the Speaker of the House. We even made the Premier an honorary member of our society and wrote a letter to his wife, soliciting her support but, alas, our provincial bird did not hatch.

In early March of 1987 after having submitted (at the government's request) a list of five appropriate candidate birds, I received a phone call from Peter Austin-Smith who asked if we would agree to let him have a "GO" at this and ask the Government to proclaim one bird, the Osprey, as Provincial Bird. Since this bird was on the list and since the rest of us hadn't even gotten to first base, I agreed and from this point, the Osprey became the sole candidate bird.

In 1990, (and please note these steps are three to five years apart) the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation ran two "phone in" radio programs asking people to make their choice of Provincial Bird. In Halifax, the Osprey came first and in Sydney it came second. In the same year the government asked the staff of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History to canvass naturalist groups with which they are associated to see if they would accept the Osprey as Provincial Bird and the Minister stated that the government would abide by the results. Of the eleven responses ten agreed that the Osprey should be our Provincial Bird. Armed with this I wrote yet another letter to the Premier but once again, the ship of state just sailed away without us. Of note is the fact that in that same year a representative of the Department of Tourism, called our president to find out if this province has an official bird. The minutes imply that she got quite an earful.

By now I was starting to gain a sympathetic understanding of why the worlds all time cad Guy Fawks once tried to blow up the British Houses of Parliament.

Of course not everyone voted for the Osprey. I'll tell you a little story. In the summer of 1943 our family spent the holidays at Musquodoboit Harbour. One weekend my Uncle Clarence, who was serving as a Lieutenant Commander in the Canadian Navy, was given a very rare weekend off so arrived in full uniform and a more splendid looking creature you never saw. He had arrived just as we were leaving to rescue young Ospreys whose nest tree had blown down the previous night just days before the birds fledged and he decided to come along with us. We found the young birds right where the nest had crashed to the ground, ruffled but evidently unhurt. Realizing that the adults would probably abandon the young it was decided to take them home. My dad folded one of the young birds under his arm but not wanting to soil his uniform, Clarence picked up the other bird and, holding it out in front of him, with its head facing forward started off. Now Osprey don't ask permission to go to the bathroom, they just let fly with remarkable volume and force. When I turned around and saw this happen all over the front of that navy jacket, I of course, burst out into gales of laughter but Clarence didn't seem to think it was all that funny.

Now I suppose most of you will probably, at some point have to carry an Osprey around so just remember to tuck it firmly under your arm and you shouldn't have any trouble.

If he were alive today I'm just about certain the Clarence wouldn't have supported our choice of Provincial Bird. But just about everyone else likes the Osprey.

The year 1993 brought in a new government to the province. Carol MacNeill our President, of course wrote a letter to the new Premier about the Provincial Bird. Dr. Savage responded that it is the intention to have the Osprey proclaimed the official bird of Nova Scotia and a formal announcement would be made at the annual meeting of the Canadian Nature Federation in August. Our protracted struggle had finally come to an end.

I would like, at this point to read a list of names of key people who devoted their time and effort toward achieving an official Bird for the Province of Nova Scotia. This is not an exhaustive list and there are others, too numerous to mention, who assisted over the years.... Two I wish to single out are Sandra Myers and Carin Somers, members of our executive who have since died and so missed this happy outcome...

After I have read the list I will ask any of those people who are here, today, to stand so that their efforts can be recognized by all present.

The following are past presidents of the Nova Scotia Bird Society and all have served in a variety of other executive positions, as well.

Margaret Clark, Bill Caudle, Shirley Cohrs, Frank Hennessey, Carol MacNeill, Joyce Purchase, Richard Stern,

Add to these...

Peter Austin-Smith, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Deborah Burlson, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History  
Clarence Stevens, Manager the Wild Bird Company  
Joan Waldron, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History

I would be remiss if I failed to mention your chairman, Bob McDonald whose invitation to the government to announce the proclamation at this conference has undoubtedly been instrumental in our final success.

Would these people please stand and be recognized?

Thank you... thank you Mr. Minister, thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you Canadian Nature Federation delegates for sharing this event with us.



One of our overseas members, Audrey Smith from Penrith, England enjoyed a short birding trip to Nova Scotia in June. She is shown here "between warblers" at Lake Road, Lun. Co., accompanied by Becky.

## BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS

All You Want To Know About The What, When, How, Who And Why

### The What

Exactly what is this breeding bird survey that you read or hear about? I speak not as a surveyor but as the native bearer, jack-of-all-trades who accompanies a surveyor, drives her car, records her words verbatim, and who never, never says "you missed a \_\_\_\_\_ at that stop".

Breeding Bird Surveys are among those activities such as "atlassing", shorebird surveys, nesting reporting, and Christmas counts where the capable amateur can contribute greatly to the total body of knowledge of bird distribution and population trends. This knowledge will establish whether bird populations are really declining as many of us instinctively feel or whether such declines are local and temporary.

Of all of the above amateur support activities, the Breeding Bird Survey is without doubt carried out under the most rigorous scientific standards. One person covers a 25 mile-long route crossing a selected block. The blocks and lines are randomly selected. The surveyor stops at a fixed number of stops on the route and for a fixed time at each stop records the total number of individual birds of each species seen or heard. The survey can only be done when defined favourable weather conditions prevail. The parameters of wind speed and direction, visibility, cloud cover, temperature, time and mileage must be recorded throughout. Surveys must be conducted between preset dates, must start at nautical twilight (30 minutes before dawn at the start point), and must be completed within four and one half hours from the start time. No deviations are permitted.

Now we know what a breeding bird survey is. A scientifically conducted census of the birds on specific routes, at the same time of year under defined observing conditions. When such surveys are done for a number of years useful information on long term population trends can be obtained.

### The When

Breeding bird surveys in Nova Scotia are carried out in June. Usually they are not permitted before June 10, (even this is too early for some latecomers). Except for the more northerly routes they should be completed before July 1. The time of start may vary from 4:50AM to 5:30AM depending on your location in the province. The start time is governed by the actual time of sunrise at the start point. The particular survey on which you will be accompanying me today started at 5:07AM on a date between the 12th and 16th of June 1994. The day must not have rainy weather, heavy fog, or winds of more than 8 miles per hour. These conditions are not always easy to find during mid June in our province.

### The How

The best way to describe how a survey is carried out is to take you on one and tell you what we do. I'll do this like a diary.

June 10- At the cottage listening to the weather forecast. It has been "thick of fog" for the past week. They are forecasting a high moving in from the west, centering over the province on June 13. We decide to try for the morning of the 13th and begin to check the route.

This particular survey is in Shelburne County. The first stop is a point 50 meters northwest of the old railway crossing on the road from Jordan River to Shelburne town. The route winds through the town, to the road to Upper Clyde. We then turn right on this road, parallel the Clyde river to Upper Clyde, cross the river and turn south down a single lane dirt road toward Barrington. It ends in a managed pine woods 25 miles and 50 stops past the start point.

June 11- We call for a motel reservation in Shelburne, (we could drive to the start point from the cottage but this would involve a 3:00 a.m.start and a drive in the inevitable morning fog so we make an outing of it).

June 12- We are enroute to Shelburne at 1:30p.m A gale of wind drives unspeakable rain onto the windshield. I say unspeakable advisedly. We are both wondering once again why on earth we do this to ourselves and if either spoke we would turn around and go home. The ever-optimistic recorder finally says "if it is this violent it must be moving fast and we'll be allright". The ever-pessimistic surveyor replies "if pigs had wings they could fly"!

Our one indulgence on these forays is to have a really good meal at our favourite inn. As usual the meal is superb. Back to our room to lay out our gear for our early start. The rain is bucketing down. To cheer up the surveyor I remind her of a previous time ten or more years ago doing the same route. A young soldier billeted in the next room spent from 1:30 to 3:00. trying to entice a young lady to enter his nest. The air was filled with their plaintive calls. "Aaaahh please come in"- "no, I don't think so"- "O please"- "Nooooo it's not nice", on and on ad nauseum. I remind her that rain in these quantities will spare us that.

June 13- 4:10- The buzzing of the alarm clock starts us reeling and staggering to the kettle and tea pot. While inhaling tea and a bread roll we notice a strange sound. It is not raining. Overcast and dark but no wind. The game is afoot! Fed, roughly cleaned, and dressed by 4:45 a.m.load car and off to the start point.

5:00- At the first stop early, ready for 5:07 start. The clouds are breaking up in the west. It is calm. The temperature is 41 degrees F, and there is a drift of radiation fog in the hollows,

5:05- Tired of waiting and start survey. This is the first of 50 stops. At each stop the surveyor gets out, the recorder starts the stop watch and says "go". The surveyor calls out each bird heard or seen. The recorder notes them down, and after three minutes calls "stop". The surveyor gets in and the car is driven exactly one half mile down the route to stop 2. Metric units are not used in the survey since the results of Canada's mouse-like contribution are joined to the elephantine contribution of our southern neighbour. They have not learned metric yet and while the elephant may never forget it cannot remember what it never knew. Over the past 18 years we have decorated our map with little reminders for some stops such as "50 feet from sign JORDAN RIVER" or "park on culvert".

You must remember that many participants do these surveys solo acting as their own recorders. I don't know how they can manage this and I'm sure they have even less fun than we do.

Back to 5:05- I open the window and the recorder gets out. Hordes of mosquitoes swarm into the car. We both paint ourselves with fly dope and long for earlier trips during my pipe-smoking days. The first numbers go on the record sheets. A word about these. There are five, each with spaces to record 10 stops, weather, mileage, times, conditions, and numbers of birds in the columns. The species of birds expected in our habitat "northern coniferous forest" are pre-printed on the lines with blank spaces for rarities.

5:07- Real start time. Two Willets calling. A Yellow Warbler. Two, no three American Robins. Swamp Sparrows, one, two. A White-throated Sparrow calls "O see see". Just before the three minute mark a Hermit Thrush, the first of many.

The first four stops are in the wooded country before entering the town. They yield a Barred Owl, and a Whip-Poor-Will, as well as various sparrows, warblers, and 3 species of flycatchers. Because the terrain is suitable there have been 6 Hermit Thrushes and our first Veery.

5:52- We finish stop ten and the first record sheet while parked in front of the IGA store. Lots of European Starlings, American Crows and Common Grackles here eating from the litter of fast food remains.

6:05- At stop 12 we see our first swallows, Bank, Tree, and Barn in some numbers. A fourth species of flycatcher is heard. The sun is well above the horizon and it is a joy to see the birds but alas our mosquitoes are still with us. We are about to turn up the Clyde river road, and if we are lucky we will get a Belted Kingfisher on the river.

6:32- Stop 20 and time to switch to the third record sheet. We have been passing through an area rich in warblers, finches, and jays. Just before start up a Gray Jay floats silently across the road. The pavement ends here and we proceed on mud and gravel. Yesterdays rain has at the least laid the dust. The next 4 stops we have called "the road through Nowhere". Stop 23 does usually produce several Yellow-bellied Flycatchers.



#### THE COFFEE STOP

##### Coffee Break

6:59- Stop 25 is the spot at which our wicked taskmasters permit a 15 minute coffee break. This presents two problems. Firstly should we do the survey at this stop before or after the break? The burning desire for comfort usually decides that coffee is later. The second problem is what to do with the birds seen or heard during this 18 minute period? Do we cheat and count them all? Do we make this a rarity hunt like so many Christmas counts have become and only count the rarities? Alas, we dutifully ignore the extra birds and stick to the rules. And anyway the computer would undoubtedly note the regular occurrence of three times as many birds at the coffee break stop and the powers that be would sharpen their fingers at us and call out "Tut Tut". You cannot escape the ubiquitous computer!

At the next five stops we pass a lake and a number of well spaced cottages on the left. There is a great variety of deciduous woodland here and the appropriate birds, vireos, thrushes, warblers, woodpeckers, kinglets, chickadees, and nuthatches abound. Our best chance for a Black-throated Blue Warbler will be here.

7:38- At stop 30 we again change record sheets. We are parked at the edge of a power line clearing with a distant view and long for hawks or Nighthawks. It is still early in the day for either although we occasionally see them on the return trip. Since we have already traveled the road to Nowhere the next 5 stops are through the Empty Quarter. There are a few birds but little chance of anything new. We are happy to reach the second farm on our route at stop 37, where there may be goodies and where the terrain again changes.

8:08- The Farm Stop is what we named number 37. We actually park about 50 yards beyond the true stop to escape the outcry of the farm dogs who would drown out any bird song. We often pick up the Cliff Swallow and occasionally a Chimney Swift here. If Bobolinks have returned we will find them here as well.

The next 3 stops take us through some high stands of White Pine, with chances of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and a Pine Grosbeak. Once a Black-backed Woodpecker. Boreal Chickadees are certain, and Blackpoll, Cape May and Blackburnian Warblers are very likely. We often wish that these stops occurred earlier on the route and vow to return at 6:00 a.m. - some day.

8:34- Stop 40 is at a bridge over a tributary brook of the Clyde river. It looks to be teeming with trout but alas this fisherman has 10 more stops. There was a church just before this bridge, but it fell down over ten years ago and with it went our regular Chimney Swifts. Northern Water Thrush, and Eastern Phoebe are possibilities and if the blackflies are about in their customary numbers, there will be many swallows. Once a Red-breasted Merganser flew over, our only one on the survey in 19 years.

The next 4 stops take us through the 5 cottages and one house that form the community of Upper Clyde. There were but one house, one church, and a church hall 17 years ago. This is a territory of swallows, flycatchers, and their food in great abundance.

8:50- Stop 43 and we have crossed the bridge over the river Clyde, and are pointed south east. There are chances for a Belted Kingfisher and a Spotted Sandpiper here. We tend to linger at this stop because the rocks and rapids are so beautiful. It is a poor stop for songs because the noise of the rapids masks the birds.

We call the next 6 stops the road through Desolation. A single lane, rutted and rocky dirt track leads us through spruce and scrub country that is so uniform that we are forced to use the car's trip indicator to define stops. There are no distinguishing features. It is good for Palm Warblers, Pine Grosbeaks, Northern Flickers, and both regular vireos. Beware the roadside underbrush. The blackflies and mosquitoes have subsided but the deer have sown the underbrush with dog ticks.

9:18- Stop 50, the one this recorder has been waiting for since arising. Hurrah.

The stop is in the middle of a small, managed pine forest of mature trees. If we haven't got a Least Flycatcher or Eastern Wood Peewee up to now, they are almost a surety here.

Now you have seen how we do it let us see what you may have seen. On any suitable mid-June day, you will have seen or heard between 50 and 60 species of birds and between 350 and 480 individuals. Over the past 19 years, we have averaged about 56 species and 430 individuals.





At, last--the finish line!

### The Who

Just who should be doing these surveys? Certainly not me! I am not capable of doing one of these surveys. Given that it is important that they be carried out, who should do them.? In my opinion if you are able to do one, you should. To do a breeding bird survey you must have acute hearing and must be able to recognize the songs and calls of the birds that breed here and those that breed close enough to the province to be likely to spread to here. Large frequency bands have been ripped out of my hearing by too many years in the engine rooms of ships. And insofar as recognizing bird songs I know only two tunes "Pop goes the Queen" and "God save the Weasel", and I often mix them up. So I can't do a survey and I serve as a recorder. But so few are sufficiently gifted to do this important work that those who can should.

### The Why

Finally we come to the burning question- why bother? It is important to know the state of the health of our wild life. Ever since people took canaries into coal mines to protect themselves they have known that birds are sensitive instruments which can measure the conditions of our surroundings. We can ignore the signals that they send us as we did the plight of the Ospreys, Peregrine Falcons, and pelicans in the 1950's and 1960's and experience another "Silent Spring", (or is it just a continuation?) until even we have trouble adapting, or we can seek even earlier signals.

Many believe that significant drops in bird populations are warning us of potential danger. How to prove this "gut feel" is the problem. Certainly this kind of survey over long enough periods can provide the proof. Whenever the creators of the problem, whether they be logging companies, sprayers of chemicals, or land developers, are challenged they always escape by reminding us that there have always been cycles in the populations of birds, so where is your proof? And they are correct. Consecutive bad breeding or winter feeding seasons can cause dramatic drops and equally dramatic recoveries in populations in some species. If all the offspring of a pair of Black-capped Chickadees were to live and reproduce there would be 120,000,000 of them in ten years! So some species have enormous powers of recovery. The difficulty is to recognize long term trends. We must have data available for analysis that covers species that nest and winter at diverse locations, at different times of the season, over a wide geographic area, and over long periods of time. This will enable us to sort out the short cyclical swings and recognize the long term trends. The Breeding Bird Survey has the potential to do this.

What can a survey of this nature tell us? First I must warn you that the data I present is not sufficient for hard conclusions. It is given to show how, given a larger data base, over a longer period it can be used to make observations and draw some inferences.

Our anecdotal experience and some articles in journals have suggested that the cold and icy winters of 1977 and 1978 caused a crash in numbers of certain species of songbirds that winter in the southern USA. Using the data of 15 surveys from 1977 to 1991, and using the average number if individuals counted of 13 selected species, I have developed the following table;

SPECIES	77-81	82-86	87-91
Bl. throated Blue Warbler	1.2	2.0	4.0
Black-capped Chickadee	5.6	13.4	11.6
Hermit Thrush	24.2	21.2	22.8
Yellow-rumped Warbler	18.6	23.4	20.6
Least Flycatcher	2.6	4.8	3.6
Solitary Vireo	3.0	4.4	8.0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	11.6	22.8	21.6
Black-and-White Warbler	10.0	7.2	3.8
Common Yellowthroat	38.8	25.8	17.0
Song Sparrow	12.4	8.4	10.8
Magnolia Warbler	14.4	16.6	16.4
Gray Catbird	2.8	.8	.4
Northern Parula	7.2	7.0	4.4
ALL WARBLERS	139.8	117.2	96.8
ALL BIRDS NOT WARBLERS	298.2	344.6	299.0
ALL BIRDS	438.0	472.8	395.8

Note: The numbers are the total of all birds counted in each five year period divided by 5 to smooth out the year to year fluctuations due to wind and weather.

Provided you recognize the meagerness of the data in a single route over only 15 years, and treat the following as an example of the inferences that could be made from a larger body of information, you can make some sample observations.

Imagine that these figures came from 2000 surveys over a longer period and we can observe that;

There was a perception that the severe winters of 1977/1978 had an effect on the populations of certain species of birds that winter in the southern states of USA. There are some articles in literature supporting this perception. Among these species are Solitary Vireos, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Gray Catbird, and some Empidonax Flycatchers. Examining the table shows that the numbers of three of these species were lower in the first period and then showed a recovery. The fourth, the Gray Catbird, continued to decline. This decline has been noted throughout its' range and its' future is viewed with concern.

I, personally have felt that the numbers of birds have declined somewhat in the past 20 years, and the decline for some species has been marked. This one survey shows that the total of all birds has declined some 10%, but the decline in warbler numbers has been 40%! The number of all bird species except warbler remained nearly constant.

Some warbler species numbers have declined steadily (Black-and-White, Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat). Others like the Yellow-rumped, and the Magnolia Warblers seem to have flourished. Since there has been little habitat change on this route over the survey period, it could be inferred that the problems are caused on migration or on the wintering grounds.

One of the dangers of these surveys is that gradual loss of hearing would be reflected in lower numbers recorded. This can be overruled in this survey because I know the surveyor and her ability to hear a pin drop in the next county. Certainly the analyst can easily check this by comparing the changes in numbers reported of the quiet species relative to the changes of the "shouters". A quick review of this survey revealed that as many as the loud species declined as did the quiet ones, and a number of the quiet ones increased in numbers.

Given a large number of surveys of this kind over a long time period, a useful tool can be forged to petition governments to protect the environment. Governments will not carry out such studies because they cannot afford it. Industry will not do it because it is not in their interest to do so. You will have to do it if you are able to. Devote one or two mornings per year of your birding time and perhaps your grandchildren will be able to share your hobby.

#### SURVEYORS ARE NEEDED FOR BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS

Many routes in New Brunswick are vacant, and one in Prince Edward Island. In Nova Scotia the following heed help:

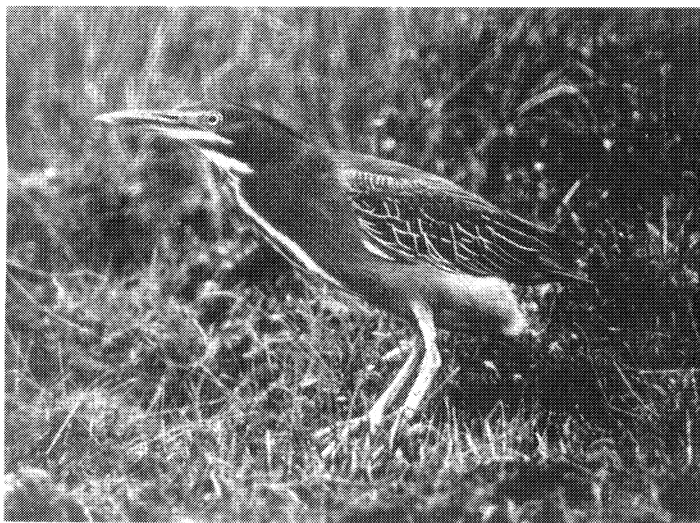
Mabou, C.B.  
Pleasant Bay, C.B.  
Beaverbank  
Bridgetown

Anyone interested in taking on a route--OR anyone interested in going along to observe and learn a route please contact:

Tony Erskine  
c/o C.W.S.  
P.O. Box 1590  
Sackville, N.B.  
EOA 3C0



## RARITIES PAGES



I think this must be the best picture yet taken of a Green Heron in Nova Scotia. Photo by Andrew Macfarlane, Sable Is., May 18, 1993.

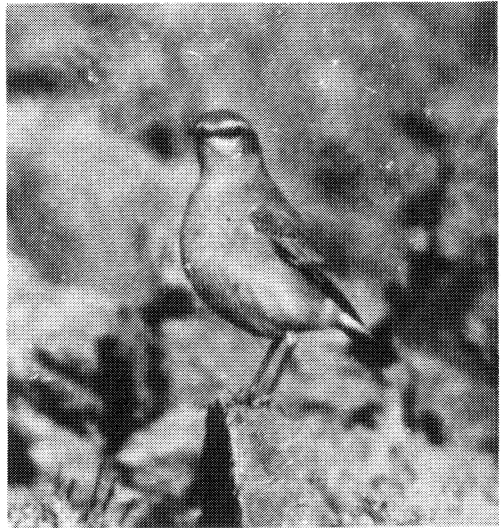


Details for identification of Hoary Redpoll's are sometimes tricky. Cathy Murrant has here caught the strongly suggestive, almost streakless flanks, and the virtually clinching lack of streaks on undertail coverts (more obvious in the less contrasty slide). This one was at her Port Morien feeder last March.



One of last spring's Orchard Orioles was this male, photographed by Judy Tufts on April 30 in Eva Urban's Avonport garden.

This N. Wheatear, one of several this fall, was photographed by Richard Stern near Wolfville in October.



Its beautiful colours not here evident, this is the second Painted Bunting to be photographically documented in Nova Scotia. Phillip Augusta of Plymouth, N.H., also snapped the accompanying female (not suitable for printing), both at Red River, Inv. Co., June 4, 1993.

## 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 TO 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



## FEBRUARY

- Sat. 4 Harbour Hop, C.B.: Cathy Murrant (737-2684). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Renwick Park (Brookside & Commercial St., Glace Bay).
- Sat. 11 Sewer Stroll II. Leader: Fulton Lavender (455-4966). Meet at Hartlen's Point at 8:00 a.m. This is an all-day outing and ends at Herring Cove via Bedford (Alternate storm day, the 12th).

## MARCH

- Fri. 24 Owl Prowl, C.B. Leader: Allen Murrant (737-2684). Meet at 6.00 p.m. at Morrison Rd. & Broughton Rd. (Alternate storm day, the 25th).

## APRIL

- Sat. 15 Eastern Shore, Martinique Beach. Leader: Ian McLaren (429-7024). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Scotia Bank parking lot, Bridge Plaza, Dartmouth.
- Sat. 22 Lingering Winter Birds, C.B. Leader: Andrew Gingell (562-0012). Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the former Heavy Water Plant site, Glace Bay.
- Sun. 23 Wolfville Area. Leader: Judy Tufts (542-7800). Pond hopping for ducks and early migrants. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Front Street, Wolfville. Joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalists Society.
- Sun. 30 Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary. Leader: Alan Smith (H 506-536-0164 or W 506-364-5038). Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the APBS parking lot. Take Exit 3 from the TCH 104 at the Wandlyn Inn and proceed a few km. toward Nappan; the entrance is on the left. Wear appropriate footwear for wet conditions and bring a lunch. Enjoy a day of observing waterfowl, shorebirds and early migrants.

## MAY

- Sat. 6 Eastern shore. Leader: Fulton Lavender (455-4966). Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the old golf course entrance, Hartlen's Point.

- Sat. 13      Spring Arrivals, Peter's Field, C.B. Leader: Jackie Chretien  
(564-4640). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Cape Breton Shopping Centre.
- Sun. 14      Lunenburg County. Leader: Bill Caudle (766-4465). Meet at Exit 11 off  
Hwy. 103, at 7:30 a.m. Munch a lunch near New Germany. Trip ends  
near Bridgewater. Slow-paced introduction to birding for beginners.  
Find new birding spots.
- Wed. 17      Halifax County Warbler Walk. Leader: Fred Dobson (852-3042). Meet at  
6:00 a.m. at the parking lot at the junction of the Prospect Rd., Rte.  
333 and the St. Margaret's Bay Rd., 2-3 hrs. duration.
- Fri. 19      Bon Portage Island. Leader: TBA Contact Angus MacLean (679-5878) for  
to reservations and information. Meet at the Prospect Pt. wharf at Shag  
Mon. 22      Harbour, Fri., May 19. There will be a charge for crossing and  
accommodation. Bring food, drinking water, sleeping bags, necessary  
clothing and appropriate footwear. Reservations are necessary.  
Depart Island Mon. afternoon. Leader and departure times (latter  
depending on tides) will be in the April issue.
- Sun. 21      Hopewell Area (Pic. Co.). Leader: Harry Brennan (923-2780). Meet at  
8:00 a.m. at St. Columbia Churchyard, about 1 mile south of Hopewell.  
Saw-whet and Barred Owls possible. General birding--excellent for  
beginners.
- Sat. 27      Hants County Day. Leader: Margaret Clark (443-3993)  
Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the railway crossing in Mt. Uniacke. Observe  
abundant birdlife in a variety of habitats. This trip extends into  
the early afternoon.
- Sun. 28      Shubenacadie Area. Leader: Roslyn McPhee (758-3265). Meet at 7:00  
a.m. in front of Scott's Restaurant in Shubenacadie.

Any questions or suggestions should be directed to the Field Trip Co-ordinator,  
Angus MacLean (679-5878), 2992 Lovett Rd., Coldbrook, N.S. B4R 1A4. (If there is  
anyone interested in leading any of our three trips to Bon Portage Island, please let  
Angus know).



FOR SALE:

14 volumes of the Dover reprint of Bent's "Life Histories of North American Birds".  
Virtually new condition. \$100.00 for the set.

"The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America", by F.H. Kortright. The classic work  
from 1942, featuring illustrations by T.M. Shortt. In original dust jacket, slightly foxed.  
\$50.00

Peter Payzant, 861-1607 (evenings).

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

April 30 - Hants County Owl Prowl

Owl Prowls are as interesting as owls. A rainy night and very few participants results in close-range calling, and generally sighting, of Barred, Great Horned and Saw-whet Owls. At Least, that's the way it usually goes in West Hants County. But take a brilliantly clear late evening (April 30th), add more than thirty would-be and experienced owlers from Halifax, Dartmouth, Truro, Wolfville, and Windsor, and watch what happens. Our first stop was at the Cogmagun Intervale. Some of us (notably the leader, whose excuse was that she was sick) noisily climbed from vehicles and indulged in a prolonged description of the beauty and clarity of the night. Meanwhile, Ted Casselman and a clutch of others moved swiftly toward the cemetery following the spontaneous but intermittent calling of a Saw-whet Owl. The subsequent playing of a tape persuaded the then-silent owl that we were fraudulent. Our departure was enhanced by Azor Vienneau's spotting of a male Wood Duck that took flight from the river south of the bridge.



Photo- Ted Casselman

The second stop at the landfill site produced (by conservative estimate of two fisheries specialist present) one hundred thousand frogs alive and well on the Walton Woods Road. One of the evening's highlights were several very vocal American Woodcock at our third stop, a bushy clearing south of the Ducks Unlimited site at MacAulay Meadows. Back-tracking to Ashdale, a known owl "hot spot", was an experience that was (in the words of one of the fisheries chaps) "definitely a highlight". Navigating by the stars, and guided by instinct that drew us to the only owl hooting in all of west Hants County, our convoy wound its way up and down hill and dale. When we finally pulled up by the big swamp formed by the Little Meander River, and climbed from our cars, we were greeted not by a reception committee. One million relatives of those Walton Woods Road frogs, peepers and toads comprised was not a "spring chorus" so much as a deafening din. In an attempt to escape, we hiked briskly in the opposite direction. Less than a quarter of a mile away, a Barred owl (the only one who remembered this night WAS the Owl Prowl) raised its voice over the swamp cacophony. The final highlight of the evening occurred as we returned to the cars parked by the swamp. Gail Davis and Brad Amirault unplugged their ears and were rewarded with the barely audible gulps of an American Bittern struggling to be heard.

-Karen Casselman



June 4 - Dolens Lake Provincial Park --No report receivedJune 5 - Birds of the Kentville Area

We left Cornwallis Inn, Kentville at 8:00 a.m. with an eight head count. We travelled SE to a wooded area to check out previous Goshawk nesting territory. The woods were still with only the occasional warbler. As we approached the gravel pit the reason became apparent. The Goshawk gave its alarm call, made a single appearance before disappearing. Gradually songs returned. We left this area to the outskirts of Kentville, walked River Street to the old bottling plant, finding; Killdeer with young, N. Orioles, Catbird, Redstarts, various warblers, Red-winged Blackbirds, Kingbirds, etc.

On to Evergreen in Coldbrook where we hiked the bird sanctuary trail (RBS made his appearance) where on previous scouting we discovered a Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, but much to our dismay, it did not appear. However we did see a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, flycatchers, warblers, etc. with a Raven overhead.

The surrounding countryside provided us with farming territory- Bobolinks, Kingbirds, Cedar Waxwings, warblers and a Common Loon.

Young Katie pointed out a Catbird to Grandad, who with others, was unable to locate it! A real chip off the old block!

The day concluded at 1500 hours in Greenwich with a view of an eagle attending its nest.

In conclusion: we had a great day. Sixty bird species, 2 bats, 3 turtles. We observed a BC chickadee, Tree Swallows nesting in tree trunks as well.

Thanks to Richard Stern for allowing us to lead your trip (rather than cancel when duty called) and also for your expert cameo appearances!

Christine Ross  
Bill Caudle

June 11 - Birds of Kings County

Ideal conditions awaited the five of us at Butler Road for this outing. The aim of the event was to give some insight into the skills of identifying species, mainly warblers and flycatchers by sight and particularly sound, and to point out pitfalls. One of the participants was well versed in bird song recognition, two had a working knowledge and the fourth was a novice. Despite the perfect weather birds were not as vocal as one would expect but still we were able to hear most of the expected warblers and flycatchers and heard and saw a few finches, sparrows and thrushes to boot. Unfortunately the Yellow-bellied and Olive-sided Flycatchers were not cooperative and did not venture close enough for good views although they were both heard in the distance. If I can match the day and date correctly (!) next year hopefully more beginning birders will participate.

Angus MacLean

June 18 - Cumberland County -- No report received

July - 24 - Wallace Bay Area

Upon arrival at the Government Wharf in Wallace, I found Nellie Snyder sitting there in her van, where she had stayed the night with her dog Hamish. We waited an extra 15 minutes then the two of us set off.

Wallace Harbour had a nice number of D C Cormorants and beautiful summer plumage Bonaparte's Gulls. Going over the Livingstone Bridge we got an Osprey and Common Tern. Tides were right so we headed for Fox Point, getting a Kestrel and a flock of Cedar Waxwings. There were lots of swallows and sparrows along the route. A trek out on the sand flats at the point gave us our reward. Lots of Red Knots, Semi palm Plovers and Sandpipers, Willet, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Black-bellied Plover and Short-billed Dowitcher, many still in breeding plumage.

We were so absorbed in our studies that we had to wade through 20 mm of water as the rising tide had sneaked in behind us.

Nellie felt she could best spend the afternoon at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, so after lunch we terminated our small but joyful Field Trip. Let's hope more show up next year, the Northumberland Strait shore is always ready to give up a few surprises.

Jim Taylor

July 30 - North River, Cape Breton

Saturday, July 30, was a beautiful day, clear and warm (25-28°) with a gentle breeze to keep the mosquitoes and blackflies away. Our scheduled leader, Nancy More, was recovering from a leg fracture, and her place was taken by Jackie Chretien, backed by experienced birders Cathie and Allan Murrant, John MacKay, plus three novices.

We left the Sydney River mall at 8 am, crossed the bridge (Rock Dove), and skirted the upper harbour (Herring and Greater Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, cormorant -- but not a duck to be seen). We then drove along Keltic Drive and Campbell's Hill (Bluejay, Grackle, Starling, Crow, Raven, Robin, House and Song Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, Goldfinch, Cedar Waxwing, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red-eyed Vireo, Kestrel), to the Northwest Arm at Low tide (Great Blue Heron, Kingfisher, Ring-billed Gull, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Black-bellied and Semi-palmated Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper).

Instead of going to Groves Point we drove through Milville (Solitary and Red-eyed Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, Magnolia and Black-throated Green Warbler, Savannah and White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Barn Swallow, Hummingbird, a Red-tailed Hawk plus another unidentified hawk, a semi-albino Crow with white underwing, American Redstart, Pine Siskin, Junco, an Olive-sided Flycatcher and a Hermit Thrush). We passed within sight of Bird island, but did not take the boat trip to see the Puffins and the many seabirds in the area.

We stopped at Dalem Lake for lunch, a very pleasant spot but offering us nothing new in birdlife. At St. Anne's Bay we added to our list two Downy Woodpeckers, a Boreal Chickadee, an immature Yellow-rumped and a Parula Warbler. Proceeding north through Tarbotvale we finally spotted our first Bald Eagle of the day, but he presented a beautiful sight, perched on the tip of a tall spruce just beside the road, only forty or fifty feet away. Unfortunately, before I could retrieve my telephoto lens from the trunk of the car a huge truck thundered by -- and goodbye eagle. We passed a spot where two weeks earlier we had been enthralled to watch Tree Swallows on the wing feeding their young on branches below. Although we missed that spectacle this day we did see both Tree and Barn Swallows, but no Bank Swallows.

It was already mid-afternoon, so we bypassed the North River Park (which gave our field trip its name) and returned home by Jersey Cove (Yellow Warbler, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Short-billed Dowitcher, Least, White-rumped and Semi-palmated Sandpiper and Semi-palmated Plover).

After crossing the Englishtown ferry our group broke up, but four of us returned to Sydney harbour, and so finally added a Black Duck to our list. In spite of slowing down at every hayfield we passed during the day -- most had been freshly mowed -- we had failed to spot a Bobolink, but we had recorded fifty-eight species in ten hours, making it an exceptionally rewarding day.

Don Robb

#### August 6 - Economy

Over twenty participants, some from as far away as Moncton and Kentville, not to mention Halifax and Pictou counties, assembled in a rain that was forecast to end in the course of the morning. The good faith of those wearing sneakers (sandals even) was exceptional, but by the time we reached the tip of Economy Point everyone was more or less soaked. A mixed flock of warblers yielded blurry sightings of several species and, further along the path, both species of crossbills, most of them (surprisingly) Reds. Thomas Cove, the next stop, where its landmark dome has been reclaimed by the sea since our last visit, produced 67 Surf Scoters and one Black, plus another flock of warblers, an Olive-sided Flycatcher and still singing Alder Flycatchers. On the gravel bar shorebird numbers were very disappointing - and it was still raining intermittently. A visit to Five Islands Park was our last not very productive stop. Sixty-nine species was a good total given the adverse viewing conditions, and the cheerful hardiness of birders was once more convincingly affirmed.

Francis Spalding

#### August 13 - Fuller's Bridge, Cape Breton

John McKay was unable to lead this trip due to previous commitments and Jacqueline Chretien graciously took over his duties. Other birders in attendance were Hugh, Geraldine and Darrell Mitcalfe, Don Robb, Bill Devoe, Jackie Ingraham, and a last minute arrival Carolyn Raynesford from Long Beach, California, a dedicated birdwatcher doing a solo tour of Nova Scotia.

The weather on this day was warm and sunny with a light breeze which kept the birds moving. The day was so good, it was like doing two separate trips. One could only stop and watch the land birds on the way to Fuller's Bridge.

These included: Gray Jay, Bluejay, Black-capped Chickadee, Boreal Chickadee, Song Sparrow, House Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Cedar Waxwing, Crow, Raven, Starling, Common Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Purple Finch, Northern Junco, Robin, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood Peewee, Rock Doves, Ring-necked Pheasant, Eastern Phoebe, Bald Eagles (perched), Common Yellowthroats, Black and White Warbler, Tree Swallows, Barn Swallow, Common Nighthawk.

On arrival at Fuller's Bridge Jacqueline directed traffic, and let us all know there was a Loon present. Other birds present in that area were: Osprey, Merlin, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Herring Gulls, D.C. Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Common Tern, Artic Tern, Kingfisher, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Black-billed Plover, Red Knot, Willet (sitting on a telephone pole) Black Ducks, Semi-palmated Plover, Semi-palmated Sandpiper.

A Vireo which none of us were quite sure of sang from the tree tops and would not give us a look. All and all, it was a great trip with 47 species seen plus 2 Rabbits, 2 garter snakes, and 1 Gray Seal to add to the excitement!

Hugh Metcalfe (Jr.)

#### August 13 - Yarmouth Area Shorebirds

Eight participants met at 8:30 a.m. on a dullish but promising day. Thick fog was reported in some areas but it kept away for the morning shorebird walk.

The tides, all important for a shorebird walk, were dead against us, low tide being at 9:30 a.m. We set off for the Pinkneys Point marshes and Cooks Beach--the latter to show the participants where they might like to return to at some high tide time. They could then see large flocks of roosting shorebirds--mostly Semi-palmated and Least Sandpipers and Semi-palmated Plovers with the occasional rare species as well. However at low tide the roost was empty--the birds were feeding elsewhere. A few were enjoying the delights of the now vast tidal flats. Here and in the adjacent marshes we counted Greater Yellowlegs, Black-bellied Plovers, a Ruddy Turnstone, Short-billed Dowitchers, Willet, Semi-palmated Sandpipers and Plovers and a couple of Least Sandpipers. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were heard but not spotted. We were treated to a hovering and diving display by about eight Arctic Terns.

At the Melbourne Sanctuary (where the tide was still out) we added only a Killdeer to our shorebird list and a Kingfisher to our list of "other" which by now numbered 14 species (gulls, doves, ducks, Robins, Starlings, etc.

At Chebogue Point no shorebirds were added but we saw several yellow-bellied sparrow-sized birds which upon closer inspection proved to be a small flock of Bobolinks. Gathering swallows allowed us to add Barn, Bank and Cliff Swallows. Song and Savannah Sparrows were spotted and again we heard but could not see the Sharp-tailed.

However at Sunday Point a Sharp-tailed Sparrow not eight feet away calling away to his heart's content gave us all an excellent view. Killdeers were in much evidence in the almost dried out ponds along with Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers and a Lesser Yellowlegs dragging a leg (will he make it?). A solitary Whimbrel high on the beach was the best bird here.

Our species total for the long morning (8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) was 11 shorebirds (all regulars with no unusual species) and 26 others--27 if we counted the 74 pink flamingos which, while we were on the marshes, had all "flown" across the road from one lawn to another!

Eric J. Ruff

#### August 20 - Matthew's Lake

Twelve enthusiastic birders started from the parking lot at Hemeon's Head in the usual thick fog - thick enough to slow our progress toward the beach. All of us apparently having lived the good life, allowed the powers that be to lift the fog as we arrived at the lake and provide good visibility until we returned to our vehicles, then it shut down once more.

We did not experience any vagrant types but did manage to see approximately 500 individuals and thirteen species of shorebirds, plus a couple of Merlins. Nine Hudsonian Godwits, 15 Ruddy Turnstones, 17 White-rumped Sandpipers and over 200 Semi-Palmated Plovers were the best. I tried to dream up reddish legs on a trio of Greater Yellowlegs and thereby create Redshanks but was justly shouted down by a more sensible and better "visioned" group (the light was poor though!).

Most all seemed to have a good time - especially when Joan served refreshments afterwards.

Dave Young

September 2 - 4 Bon Portage Island

We reached the island on a clear evening and were met by Dr. P.C. Smith who had just seen both Tanagers (ie Summer and Scarlet) both Orioles (Orchard and Northern) and a Prothonotary Warbler between the light and the slip. A Prothonotary Warbler!! How quickly can a group of avid birders drop their gear at the camp and head for the light? The light of day was dwindling however, so our excitement came on sunny Saturday, when most of us had good visits with the Prothonotary in good breeding colour. We spent quite a bit of time Egret hunting at Woody pond to no avail - not a single egret- Little, Snowy or otherwise. We found the Summer Tanager but not the Scarlet, 6 Northern Orioles but no Orchard, and many shorebirds. The most exciting find was a Warbling Vireo - well viewed and described in detail by Bob MacDonald. Unfortunately we received a storm warning and had to pack up for a hasty return on Sunday. We saw 92 species, had a couple of great bonfires (yes, someone did bring marshmallows) and had a wonderful time. Our group consisted of Calvin Brennen, Joan Czapalay, Claire Diggins, Terry and Sylvia Paquet, Carol Jacquard, Jill MacLean, Bob MacDonald and son Andrew, Ken MacKenna, Gweneth Reid, Rene Smith and Jeff White.

Joan Czapalay

September 10 - Chetecamp, Cape Breton - No report received

September 18 - Tidnish - No report received

September 24 - Wolfville Area

I feel badly for the three people who showed up on Sunday, Sept. 25, since the leader (myself) had not been informed about any change from Saturday!

However, Saturday was a pleasant calm day with frequent sunny periods, and we had 18 participants in 6 cars, including 2 people from California!

After an uneventful stop at the Port Williams sewage ponds, we drove to Van Nostrand's Pond near Starr's Point. We luckily walked through a field to get to the pond, which was a productive spot. A Pied-billed Grebe was seen diving and then typically disappeared; also seen there were a Sharp-shinned Hawk, a Harrier, 7-8 Greater Yellowlegs, 2-4 "peeps", 2 Snipe, a Kingfisher, several Yellow-rumped Warblers, a Palm Warbler, 100+ Starlings on wires, a Swamp Sparrow, and Song and Savannah Sparrows.

Wendy and Bob McDonald joined us at Canard Pond (where the factory is now The Poultry Company). There we saw a Red-tailed Hawk, 20 Green-winged Teal, and the usual zillions of gulls.

After nothing to be seen at the Canning Aboiteau (Habitant River), we caravanned to our usual lunch-spot, Harris' Pond in Canning. Our checklists were expanded to include the several basking Painted Turtles. Birds there were a Double-crested Cormorant, lots of Black Ducks and Green-winged Teal, 10 or more Mallards, 28 American Wigeons, 8-10 Greater Yellowlegs, and several more Myrtle Warblers.

Unfortunately, after lunch there were only six participants left.

We drove west to the Sheffield Mills area. At Hennigar's Marsh, we spotted 2 drake Wood Ducks together (plus Black Ducks and our first of 3 adult Bald Eagles in the area).

At the Saxon Street Pond there were 2 female or immature Gadwalls, an unidentified distant diving duck, a Spotted Sandpiper, and at least 15 Red-winged Blackbirds in cattails along the stream.

Our next and unplanned stop produced oodles of the latter - at Upper Dyke, a woodlot of deciduous trees held a huge, loud flock of mostly Red-winged Blackbirds, all gurgling and gronking in an oddly pleasant chorus (to my ears). Starlings, grackles, and cowbirds were also present in this assemblage.

A patchy distribution as seen in fall and winter blackbirds means lots of effort is required to encounter the large numbers present (easily missed).

A Double-crested Cormorant was the only bird in the New Minas Pond next to the Cornwallis River.

Then we drove to Grand Pré (as the tide finally approached high). At the Wolfville Sewage Ponds, we all got excellent close views of a Lesser Yellowlegs with a Greater Yellowlegs and 2 Dowitchers (presumably Short-billed). Also there were several Ring-billed Gulls, 30 Green-winged Teal, a Great Blue Heron, and a Spotted Sandpiper.

At the west end of Long "Island" (n. Grand Pré), a perched and then flying Merlin was seen by some of us.

We looked for shorebirds in 2 places along Evangeline Beach. There were at least 20 Semi-palmated Plovers, 15 Semi-palmated Sandpipers, 20 Least Sandpipers, and a White-rumped Sandpiper. Also we saw 25 molting male Common Eiders and a Red-tailed Hawk that was harassed by crows.

At Bob Palmetter's farm (chair of the Grand Pré Marsh Body), I pointed out a sign from the Marsh Body regarding travelling the dykeland roads at the users' own risk, possible dangers from agricultural machinery, and necessity for permission (liability waiver forms are available from Ruth Conrad, Secretary of the Marsh Body).

Anyway, we drove south across the dykeland from eastern Long "Island" (Palmetter's tall silos) to Hortonville. We saw Ravens, gulls, a juvenile Harrier, and sparrows.

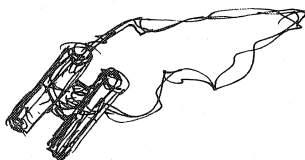
At Hortonville, we saw a mixed flock of 40 Cowbirds with 100 Starlings, and the birders all went home.

Jim Wolford

October 1 - Hartlen's Point - No report received

October 7 - 10 - Bon Portage - No report received

November 12 - Northern Head, Cape Breton - No report received



## PUFFIN OF THE YEAR

1994

In Nova Scotia there dwells an unusual bird species. It is exceptionally rare though its numbers have increased more than twenty-fold since first reported in 1972. It has never been reported more than once in any year though it has been photographed by recognized birders on several occasions. Little is known of its life cycle since neither nests nor young have ever been seen. Its plumage is plain and unspotted and though the eggs might be spotted they have never been spotted. It has webbed feet though it does not swim and is believed to avoid the water at all times. It spends almost all its time in dens and such places and is easily domesticated. We call it the Puffin-of-the-Year.

For many years the distinctive Puffins have been hand carved by John Cohrs and again we are indebted to John for turning out another fine specimen. Each year the society's president has the very pleasant duty of selecting a person or persons to whom the "Puffin" trophy is to be presented. This is a precedent setting year in that the recipient has already been awarded a Puffin-of-the-year and will be the first person to ever have received a second.

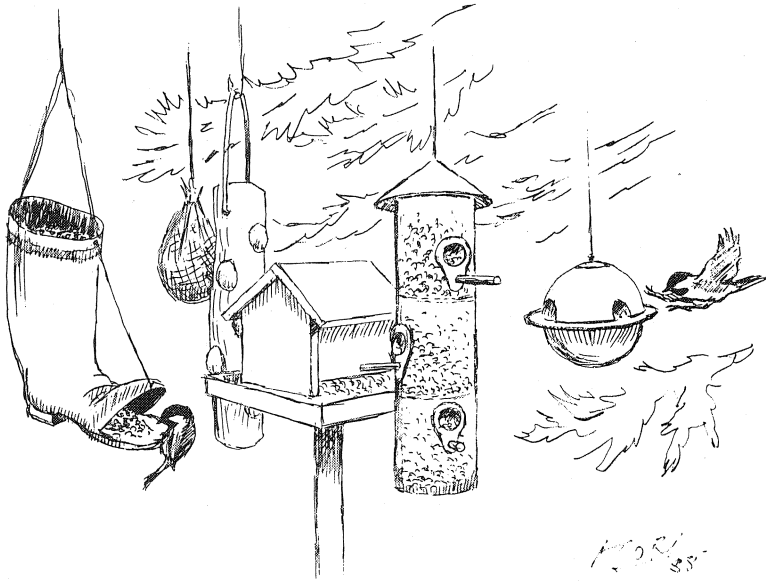
There are times when it is difficult to decide who should receive this award but not this year, the decision was really very easy.

For his strong, good-natured leadership, incredible effort, outstanding dedication, personal financial sacrifice and undeniable success in the rescue of the Tern Colony on Peters Island I award this first, second Puffin-of-the-year to Dr. Ken Gregoire.

Ken, please come and receive your puffin.



## FEEDER PAGE



We did not expect to have much correspondence in feeder matters during the summer months but have been fascinated and thrilled by several letters from Carlene Adams of Shag Harbour, who has kept us posted with news of her nesting pair of Cardinals.

This pair had spent the winter of 1993-1994 coming regularly to Carlene's feeder. On June 23, she noticed courting behaviour with the male feeding the female and on June 25 singing his heart out with two different songs. She seemed quite agitated, flying in circles. (The Cardinal, not Carlene!)

During August, Carlene had sporadic sightings of the birds and on September 3 was treated to the sight of a family of four--parents and two offspring. One of the young seemed very dependent, being fed by both parents, while the other seemed more developed, feeding itself and being somewhat brighter --perhaps two broods close together, as cardinals are wont to do.

I wish to thank Carlene for taking the trouble to write--she has promised to let us know if they all overwinter as she hopes.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR FEEDER EXPERIENCES AND TIPS FOR BUILDING, MAINTAINING AND STOCKING FEEDERS--DEADLINE FOR THE April issue is February 28-- Ed.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, **Nova Scotia Birds:**

As owners of a domestic cat, my wife and I were interested in the article "A Reversible Catastrophe" in the July 1994 edition of "Nova Scotia Birds". After reading it, we were shocked to think that such an article could be published by a serious magazine such as yours.

Mr. Stallcup, despite being described as an outstanding ornithologist and educator, gives no credible evidence to support his contention that cats are as much of a threat to birds as are pollution (sic), loss of habitat, global warming etc. His claim that there are 44 million cats in North America prowling for birds is based on pure quesswork and speculation.

Yes, cats do kill birds and our cat has claimed a few (one or two a year perhaps). However, it will take much more than Mr. Stallcup's guesswork to convince me that cats are as much of a problem as environmental factors.

While I was merely unimpressed with his argument, I was appalled by his advice for dealing with nuisance cats. To state that a BB pellet will leave little more than a memorable sting on the rump is dangerous and cruel nonsense. Our cat has been shot with a BB gun on three separate occasions. In all cases the pellet penetrated the skin causing very painful injuries. Without immediate veterinary help, he would probably have suffered a slow and painful death.

While I would expect that a bird society might show some preference for birds over other forms of animal life, I am amazed that it would advocate such cruelty.

Yours truly  
Trevor Lloyd  
Lantz, N.S.

Editor, **Nova Scotia Birds:**

I wish to thank the Nova Scotia Bird Society for tolerating and supporting my efforts at fund-raising via the Baillie Birdathon. The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, since 1976, has awarded 196 grants totalling \$165,000. to naturalists and other researchers studying Canadian birds.

Two local examples of Baillie-supported projects are the Robie Tufts Nature Centre (swift's chimney) in Wolfville and the Blomidon Naturalists' on-going research on Short-eared Owls and dykelands agricultural practices.

Anyone who might be interested in being a Birdathon participant for 1995 (any 24-hour period in May) should write to Ron Ridout, Baillie Birdathon, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O.Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, NOE 1M0.

Gratefully  
Jim Wolford

Ed. note: In the Fall Flyer we advertised back issues of N.S. Birds which Curtis Chipman was willing to part with. When this request was received, he had already given them to applicants. If any members have more to contribute this would be a most worthwhile recipient. →

**Editor, Nova Scotia Birds:**

Our foundation's library began subscribing to NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS in 1993 with Vol. 33. We now have Volumes 33, 34, 35 and 36. (1991-1994 inclusive).

Yesterday we received the Fall Flyer 1994 with the notice of the availability of back issues of NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS. For our library, we would appreciate receiving copies of all numbers that we lack. We are willing to reimburse individuals or the Nova Scotia Bird Society for shipping expenses.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely  
Jon C. Fisher  
Librarian

Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology  
439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, CA 93012



ENDANGERED SPECIES

Canada does not have endangered species legislation!

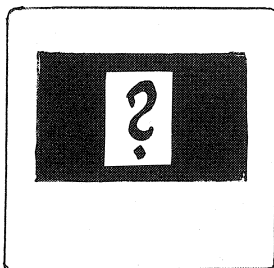
Endangered species in Canada are not protected by Federal Law. Only four provinces (Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and New Brunswick) have their own legislation. This summer, the Canadian Nature Federation through its affiliates and the Sierra Club Legal Defence Fund, with support from the Body Shop began a campaign to have the Federal Government adopt protective legislation. In addition, the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists has encouraged and offered to work with Don Downe and Robbie Harrison and their staff to develop provincial legislation. The signs are encouraging but it would be useful for these politicians to know they have voter support. Please write to:

The Hon. Robbie Harrison,  
Minister of the Environment  
5151 Terminal Road,  
Halifax, N.S. B3J 3B7

The Hon. Donald Downe,  
Minister of Natural Resources  
1701 Hollis Street  
Halifax, N.S. B3J 2T9

The Hon. Sheila Copps  
House of Commons  
Room 436N  
Centre Block  
Ottawa, K1A 0A6

## THE SLIDE COLLECTION



THE SLIDE COLLECTION is now in the hands of **LORNE TYLER**. Members are encouraged to borrow the collection in whole or in part to enjoy by themselves or to use in presentations to other groups. Donations of slides are invited, copies can be made and the original returned to the donor if so desired. Please contact: Lorne Tyler

101 Mill Village Road  
Shubenacadie, N.S.  
BON 2H0 (1-902-758-2642)

## AND MORE ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHS.....

The Sanctuary & Scholarship Trust Fund has two VIDEOS which may be borrowed by members. These consist of slide presentations accompanied by commentaries and are suitable for beginners (or lecturing to beginners):

1. Introduction to Shorebirds
2. Introduction to Garden Birds and Feeders

please contact : SHIRLEY COHRS  
8 Rosemount Ave.,  
Halifax, N.S. B3N 1X8  
(1-902-477-6036)



1994 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

The 1994 A.G.M. of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held on Thursday, October 27 at 8:00 p.m., in the auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The President Bob Dickie chaired the meeting attended by 55 members.

Bob Dickie called for the adoption of the minutes of the 1993 A.G.M. which had been distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Bob Dickie moved and Lorne Tyler seconded them. Motion carried.

Business arising from the Minutes

None

Treasurer's Report --presented by Bill Caudle.

Membership...The increase over last year is due to the fact that membership rates were raised by \$3.00 for 1994 compared to 1993.

Also, when the first batch of renewals for 1995 came in I took the cheques to the bank. I now find that it was the practice of the previous treasurer to hold those cheques until the new fiscal year had started, this meant that the membership figures and the money would be in the same fiscal year's report. There is about \$400.00 of 1995 money included in the report you have in front of you now.

Sales...We had a large number of **Birding Nova Scotia** on hand, the wholesale department of, I think,--the Book Room--offered to sell them for us. About \$2500.00 of the figure in the report is for these and our own retail sales.

Museum Grant... This is another of those fiscal year twists!!, but this time in reverse!! For 1993, the Museum gave us the grant in two allotments. \$1000.00 arrived in 1993, the second half did not get to us until early January of 1994, so it shows up here. Incidentally the grant for 1994, has been promised, but we have seen nothing of it as yet.

GICs...we have two GICs, as they mature they are reinvested at the maturing amount. What you see here is the interest they generated last year.

Miscellaneous income...This results from sales of crests, pins, check lists, etc., here at the museum. We also had sales at the CNF conference at the Mount in August, and at the DesBrisay Museum in Bridgewater last December.

DISBURSEMENTS

**Nova Scotia Birds** and the **Fall Flyer**...This figure covers the typing and printing of these publications.

Printing and stationary...This is Membership forms, envelopes, letterheads, etc.

Postage...We prepay the Post Office to mail the **Nova Scotia Birds** and **Fall flyer**; they have about \$200.00 still on their books towards next year. The rest is for stamps.

Register of Joint Stocks...This is a new item. The province has a deficit. We have to be registered with them because we have non-profit status; now they want us to pay for that registration. It used to be free.

Insurance...This item came up for renewal at about the end of the fiscal year. It has been renewed, but the cheque is in 1995 fiscal year and will be reported then.

Cost of publications, etc....We want to always have a supply of things on hand and spread our purchases over time. This year we needed more crests.

AGM...This is last years wine and cheese.

Telephone...Down from last year, we did more of our business by mail and postage is up.

Monthly Meeting Expenses...Down from last year. At some meetings we were unable to get someone to look after refreshments.

Miscellaneous Expenses...This is made up of a number of small items--slide collection, Field Trip Coordinator's expenses, the Puffin and other awards, bank charges (I needed a new cheque book for example) CNF membership costs, the CNF conference in August, the DesBrisay Museum last November, and other such items.

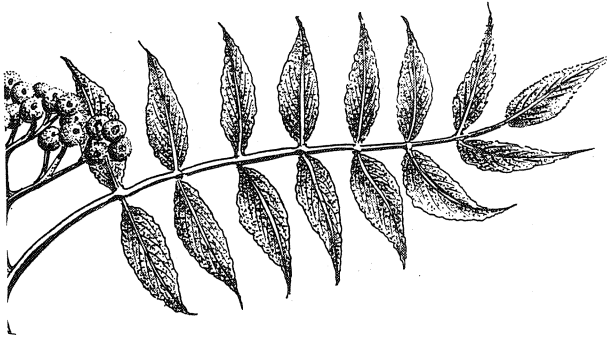
Now looking at the Balance Sheet, you would think that since we took in more than we spent, the bank balance compared with last year would be higher. It is--I have shown the \$1154 in the savings account as a separate item, at the request of the auditor, Mr. Jim Morrow, I will do things differently next year. If you now compare the two bottom lines the difference is about \$1600.00, which is about the amount that came in because of the increase in membership dues.

We have held our own this year. Some costs are up, some are down; we must continue our belt tightening again next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Morrow for his help in putting this report together. This was my first year and I needed my hand held on some of the accounting aspects. Thanks Jim, I think I now know how to make 2+2=4, I will give you an easier job next year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Caudle.

The adoption of his report was moved by Bill Caudle and seconded by Eric Cooke. The motion carried.



# NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

(Incorporated 1957)

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended September 30, 1994

(With comparative figures for the year ended September 30, 1993)

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Receipts	1994	1993
Membership dues	\$9197.00	\$7764.00
Sale of publications, etc.	\$2684.00	\$1834.54
Nova Scotia Museum Grant	\$1000.00	\$1000.00
Interest, Savings Account		\$ 91.86
G.I.C.'s Net	\$ 512.85	\$ 509.02
Bank	\$ 5.47	
Mailing list cost recovery		\$ 25.00
Miscellaneous income	\$ 171.17	\$ 90.33
Chat line adverts	\$ 80.00	
Exchange on US funds	\$ 70.24	
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>\$13720.73</b>	<b>\$11314.75</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Nova Scotia Birds and Fall Flyer	\$7944.49	\$9473.65
Printing and stationary	\$1059.40	\$1122.75
Postage	\$1134.21	\$ 551.97
Bird information line	\$ 311.70	\$ 357.90
Register of Joint Stocks	\$ 10.00	
Editor's expenses	\$ 133.19	\$ 315.81
Insurance		\$ 300.00
Cost of publications, crests, pins, etc for sale	\$ 479.00	\$ 295.43
Annual General Meeting expenses	\$ 362.81	\$ 241.98
Telephone	\$ 89.60	\$ 158.23
Monthly meeting expenses	\$ 85.40	\$ 115.71
Miscellaneous expenses	\$ 405.07	\$ 274.05
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$12014.87</b>	<b>\$13180.48</b>
Excess receipts over disbursements	\$1705.86	(\$1865.73)
Sale(purchase) of GIC's		\$ 717.61
Cash increase(decrease)		(\$1148.12)
Opening bank balance	\$4024.94	\$5173.06
Closing bank balance	\$4063.06	\$4024.94

\*2\*

**BALANCE SHEET****Assets**

Electric Typewriter (cost \$296.45)	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
Steel filing cabinet (cost \$ 99.96)	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
Steel filing cabinet (cost \$ 98.99)	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
Computer and printer (cost \$1034.22)	\$249.00	\$ 355.00
Savings account	\$1154.89	
Guaranteed Investment certificates	\$10190.50	\$9677.65
Bank balance	\$ 4063.06	\$4024.94
Total Assets and members equity	\$15660.45	\$14060.59

**STATEMENT OF MEMBERS' EQUITY**

Opening balance	\$14060.59	\$16078.32
Excess receipts over disbursements	\$ 1705.86	(\$1865.73)
Less: depreciation	\$ (106.00)	\$(152.00)
Closing balance	\$15660.45	\$14060.59



R Dickie, President



W G. Caudle, Treasurer



J. Morrow, Auditor

Audited and found correct  
according to the books.

Membership Report was presented in graph form by Carol MacNeill. Its adoption was moved by Carol MacNeill and seconded by Shirley Cohrs. Motion carried.

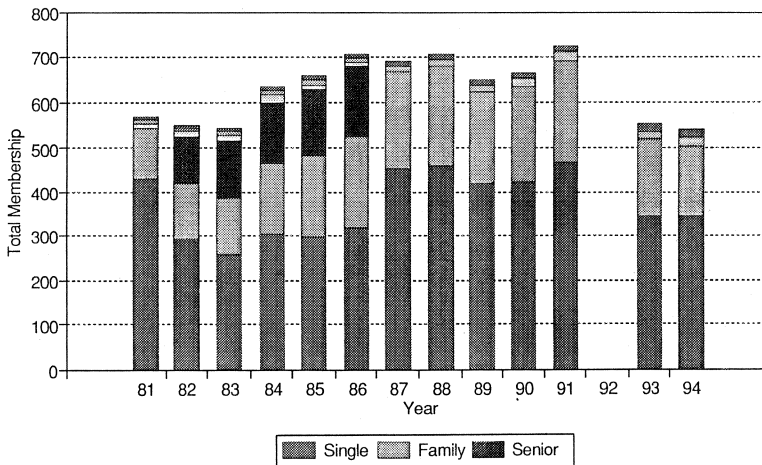
## NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Membership Report as of October 22, 1994

Year of Expiry	Single	Family	Institutional	Exchange	Total
1994	298	153	17	7	475
1995	38	10	1	0	49
1996	2	1	0	0	3
1997	3	1	0	0	4
1998	2	0	0	0	2
1999	0	0	0	0	0
2000	1	0	0	0	1
Life	18	-	-	-	18
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>552</b>

Total membership is at 97% of last year's level.

### Nova Scotia Bird Society Membership Levels





Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund Report--presented by Dr. Ken Gregoire.

Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund Report

In 1994 we continued on with our established programs and greatly reduced our expenditures.

Our Raptor Rehabilitation program at Mason's Point is in its twelfth year. Mike and Elaine Kew report this is to be their busiest year to date with a constant flow of patients. The great success of this project now requires enlargement of the facility and having part-time help to allow the Kews time away from the 365 day commitment now required. I would like to thank Mike and Elaine and the Dartmouth Vets for a superb job in 1994.

The Youth Field Trip from Parkview Education Centre's Baccalaureate Biology Class resulted in 32 students participating in the largest group since the project's inception. Again, we thank leaders, John and Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke and Bill Caudle, who made the day a great success. A good investment for future members.

Increased effort in 1994 on terns produced exciting results on the three islands with which we were involved. We constructed Roseate Tern shelters along with Natural Resources on Grassy Island in Mahone Bay. Eight Roseate nests were built under our shelters and two in shelters on Westhaver's Island, also in Mahone Bay.

The Grassy Island colony, with over 1200 birds, was spectacular this summer despite the eggging. The overflow from Grassy Island returned to Westhaver's Island in Mahone Bay Harbour after a ten year absence with four pairs of Roseates plus 160+ nests.

Peter's Island also produced encouraging results with the establishment of a second colony on the north side of the island. The year started with 200-300 terns in two colonies with the 1994 chick production up by five-fold over 1993. Thanks to Virginia Tudor and Robert MacDorman, who helped patrol the island and made our visits so enjoyable. Special thanks to Dave Currie, who persisted through severe aerodynamic turbulence, currents and fog.

David's help was a major factor in our tern success this summer. We hope in 1995 to get more youth involved in conservation and to continue our work on selected tern colonies. We also welcome new ideas from the membership.

In closing, thank you to our directors for their support and providing their hospitality for our meetings. I would like to thank Dr. Alan Covert, who will be retiring from the board this year, for his secretarial duties and excellent minutes.

Now to call our Treasurer, David Currie for our financial report.

Respectfully submitted  
Ken Gregoire  
Chairman SSTF

David Currie then presented the SSTF financial report. Its adoption was moved by David Currie and seconded by Don Purchase. Motion carried.

Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund  
Financial Statements to September 30, 1994.  
(With comparison for the 12 months ended Sept. 30, 1993)

**Statement of Receipts and Disbursements**

Receipts	CURRENT YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
Contributions	686.50	892.00
G.I.C. Interest	1,343.75	1,989.27
Bank Interest	44.28	89.39
Surrender of G.I.C.	.00	6,000.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>2,074.53</b>	<b>8,970.66</b>

**Disbursements**

Bank Charges	63.56	89.06
Taxes	1,116.61	814.07
Raptor Rehab. Project	237.45	37.45
Youth Field Trip	317.43	37.16
Peter Is. Tern Project	.00	6,685.76
Photo Guild Annual Competition	8.55	.00
Christmas Bird Count Project	39.13	29.79
Miscellaneous Expenses	.00	82.37
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>1,782.73</b>	<b>7,775.66</b>

Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	291.80	1,195.00
Opening Bank Balance	4,989.99	3,794.99
<b>Closing Bank Balance</b>	<b>5,281.79</b>	<b>4,989.99</b>

**Balance Sheet**

**Assets**

Guaranteed Investment Cert.	21,400.00	21,400.00
Outer, Middle, Little Half and Mossy Bald Islands	.00 1,000.00	.00 1,000.00
Hertford Island	160.00	160.00
Indian Island	12,000.00	12,000.00
North Kemptville Property	1,500.00	1,500.00
Peter Island	20,000.00	20,000.00
Kelsey Property, Port Joli	13,000.00	13,000.00
Bank Balance	5,281.79	4,989.99
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>74,341.79</b>	<b>74,049.99</b>

**Statement of Surplus**

Opening Balance	74,049.99	78,854.99
Excess of receipts over Disbursements	291.80 .00	1,195.00 .00
Inc/Dec in G.I.C.	.00	-6,000.00
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>74,341.79</b>	<b>74,049.99</b>

Presidents ReportPRESIDENT'S REPORT  
1994

Throughout the year, your executive meets every month except December, July and August. We take turns acting as host and while there is a very pleasant social aspect to this, it also translates into about 27 hours of Society business each year and on top of this there are several hours of work in conducting our various assigned tasks.

We experienced some difficulty in getting people to devote time to working on the executive but were able to manage a very successful year just the same.

Once again the very consuming job of Membership Secretary was divided between two people, Carol MacNeill who received your membership applications, collected the dues forwarded the money to the treasurer and mailed out the membership cards and Peter Payzant who looked after entering this information into our computer and providing us with mailing labels so that you get your copy of Nova Scotia Birds.

Consistent with national and international trends, membership in the Society has dropped marginally but this appears to be related more to economic conditions than anything else.

It was decided by the executive that the Editor be appointed annually in June for a one year term, that the current editor be asked in April if she or he would serve for an additional year and if the answer is "no" then a new Editor be appointed as soon as possible so that the new and the resigning editors can work together on the January Issue. This year we have been honored by having Nova Scotia Birds listed in the prestigious London Zoological Record. This reflects very favourably on the work of our Executive Editor. Because of the exceptionally high level of satisfaction expressed by our members with the work of our current editor it is my fervent hope that Shirley Cohrs will agree to stay on for many years to come.

This year both the Rare Bird Alert and the Chat Line were updated. The former was re-structured with new names and the cost of the latter was at least partially offset by carrying some advertising. The executive sees the "Chat" Line as a valuable but costly service to a limited number of members so we were pleased that Blake Maybank was able to secure the money-saving ads. I wish to thank Blake for his good work managing this service.

With Bev Sarty's resignation from the job of mailing out Nova Scotia Birds, Brad Amirault agreed to take on the task and has proven a willing and able volunteer. I wish to thank Bev for her work in this and to point out that by sorting our own mail we reduce postal costs so much that without doing so we could not afford to publish our magazine.

This year after nine years as Records Editor I decided to call it quits and have been replaced in that capacity by Wendie Tay who is now carrying out that task with great success.

A couple of years ago we started our own photo contest. A "Chickadee" trophy was donated to the cause and was won once. This year there were insufficient numbers of entries so the contest was discontinued. We still have the trophy and we hope that the contest can, in the future, be re-established.

Our two biggest success stories this year are, firstly the proclamation of the Provincial Bird by the Minister of Natural Resources (Hon. Don Downe) after fifteen years of work by our society with the assistance of museum staff, CWS staff, and the conference committee of the Halifax Field Naturalists who devoted much of the past year working on the Provincial Bird project and without whom the Provincial Bird would probably not have been proclaimed this summer. Secondly, we have had a very successful sale of our popular guide **Birding Nova Scotia**. The pricing of this book was worked out by our past treasurer, Don MacNeill with the result that we recovered our investment and have been able to sell the book through provincial retail outlets thus earning money which will help off-set the cost of reprinting the book in the future.

Ironically this book can now be bought from the Price Club for \$7.95 which is less than we paid for it in the first place yet, apparently, we're all making a profit. I honestly do not understand business.

I wish to thank Louis Coutinho, our vice-president who had to resign earlier in the year due to business pressures, Carol MacNeill, Jim Taylor and Bernice Moores who are retiring from the executive tonight, Lisè Cohrs (who filled in as vice when Louie resigned), Bill Caudle, Christine Ross and Shirley Cohrs who have agreed to remain on the executive for another year and to those who are coming on the executive for the first time, tonight. Without people like this we would not have a Bird Society and I feel they deserve our gratitude.

Bob Dickie

The adoption of the report was moved by Bob Dickie and seconded by Peter Payzant. Motion carried.

The President thanked Joan Harbison, Judy O'Brien and Gisele d'Entremont for preparing the wine and cheese party which is to follow.

The President then presented The Puffin of the Year to Dr. Ken Gregoire. (please see page 51).

#### Nominating Committee Report

The committee consisted of Bill Caudle and Christine Ross; Bill presented the report.

President	Lisè Cohrs
Vice President	Chris Field
Secretary	Inez Roberts
Treasurer	Bill Caudle
Membership/ Secretaries	Christine Ross Peter Payzant

After three calls for further nominations from the floor and none received, the above were duly elected. Bob Dickie is Past President. James C. Morrow has agreed to serve another year as Honorary Auditor and Tony Robinson will continue to serve as Honorary Solicitor. Under the new constitution, the Editor is appointed by the Executive. In July, 1994, Shirley Cohrs was Appointed as Editor for 1994-1995.

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

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Mover</u>	<u>Seconder</u>
Lorne Tyler	John Cohrs	Don Purchase
Gisele d'Entremont	Joan Harbison	Judy O'Brien
Dr. Douglas Roy	Don MacNeill	Chris Field

There being no further nominations from the floor, the above were duly elected.

Carol MacNeill, Bernice Moores, Louis Coutinho and Jim Taylor were thanked for their years of service. The chair was then taken by the new President, Lisé Cohrs. and she thanked Bob Dickie for his dedication to the Bird Society during his time as President.

New Business

NONE

There being no further business, Lisé moved the meeting be adjourned. A wine and cheese party followed.

Respectfully submitted  
James Taylor  
Secretary

SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND DIRECTORS

1994-1995



Left to right: Eric Cooke, David Currie, Shirley Cohrs, Ken Gregoire. --Photo Peter Payzant.



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

Executive 1994-1995

President - Lisë Cohrs  
Vice President - Chris Field  
Past President - Bob Dickie  
Treasurer - Bill Caudle  
Secretary - Inez Roberts  
Membership Secretary - Christine Ross  
Editor - Shirley Cohrs  
Director - Gisele D'Entremont  
Director - Lorne Tyler  
Director - Douglas Roy  
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

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS  
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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: Cedar Waxwing by Bob Dickie	

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