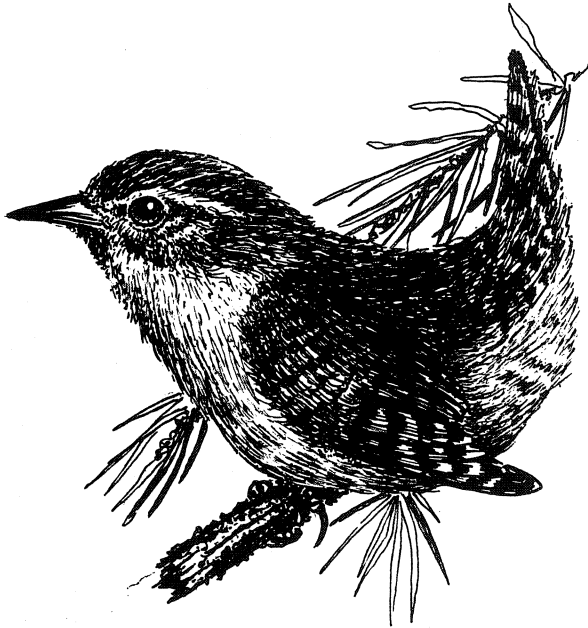


Nova Scotia Birds



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WINTER BIRDS 1995-1996

LOONS TO GREBES

Christmas Counts around the province yielded 14 RED-THROATED LOONS, 5 of which were on the Cape Sable Is. Count. The only other report was 1 lingering at Green Bay, Jan. 6 (JSC). The CBC provincial total for COMMON LOONS--380-- is nearly 50% higher than last year's. Although they continued to be seen in 1s and 2s through January and February, they were generally thought to be scarce: Jan. 14, only 6 from Halifax to Sambro (IAM); Feb. 16, 1 at Three Fathom Harbour--"only one we saw on three trips" (DWP,JAP). Anyone familiar with these areas will agree that these numbers are indeed low. The only concentration was found off Louis Head Beach--19 in late January (DHY).

In Halifax Co., a few PIED-BILLED GREBES showed up in the winter report; 3 were at Bisset Lake on Dec. 1 (BLM) and 1 was seen in mid-month at the Sackville River in Bedford (BJA). Yet 1 other was discovered Jan. 2 on St. Mgt's Bay (AJV). In the south end of the province, 1 was overwintering in the Cape Sable Is. area (JCZ), while RSD found 2 in Yar. Co., Jan. 12, one at Pleasant Lake, the other at Eel Brook.

Wintering HORNED GREBES were average in some areas, with up to 15 at East Chester (CJF) and 20-30 on St. Mgt's Bay (AJV,BDS,PML). The 100s found on the Annapolis Royal CBCs of '93 and '94 failed to materialize this year, so the "high count" honours went to Broad Cove with 79. However, by the frigid first week of February, only 1 could be found in that area. Several other observers mentioned 1-3 birds each.

CBC statistics show the high count for RED-NECKED GREBES occurring at Canso--46 of the province-wide total of 169. Some individuals in a flock of 13 at Broad Cove on Dec. 7, still had red necks (Cohrs). On Jan. 14 IAM counted 20 along the shore between Halifax and Sambro, while 6-10 were seen regularly in the Terrence Bay/Prospect area throughout the winter; about average for these areas. Five other reports, all from the South Shore, add 15 birds to our total.

BDS. ed.

FULMARS TO CORMORANTS

Winter reports of NORTHERN FULMARS have been few in recent years, undoubtedly due to lack of observers offshore. The only report is of 3 off Evangeline Beach on Dec. 23 seen "an hour before the highest tide of the year" (JWW). On Sable Is. 2 GREATER SHEARWATERS were seen on Nov. 6 and unusual this late were 10-15 MANX SHEARWATERS seen there on Nov. 2,6,7 (ZOL).

Scattered reports were received of imm. NORTHERN GANNETS: several dozen in St. George's Bay on Dec. 2-3 (RFL); 21 from Chebucto Head on Dec. 3 (BLM); 2 from Cape Sable Is. on Dec. 4 (JKD,RSD); 20 at Auld's Cove on Dec. 11 (RMC,JAC). One flew over Morash Park on Dec. 7, an unlikely spot, but a "good yard bird," says JWT. To complete the picture there were 33 stragglers on the CBCs, 14 of which were on the Canso Count.

The CBCs produced a high count of 392 GREAT CORMORANTS, 192 being on Brier Is. (Tufts et al.). Other wintering birds were: 5 at Paddy's Head, St. Mgt's Bay on Jan. 2 (AJV); 18 at Prospect on Jan. 22 (BDS,PML); 2 at East Chester on Jan. 25 (CJF); 1 at Pollack Pt., Lun. Co., on Feb. 20, sporting a bright white breeding patch and in similar plumage, 1 at Sober Is. on Feb. 25 (JSC,KJM).

Lingering DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS were sparse: 1 at Chebucto Head on Dec. 3 and 9 at the Pictou Causeway on Dec. 11 (BLM,KJM,CGB). Twelve were counted on the CBCs, 3 of which were on the C.B. Highlands Count and the rest evenly distributed around the province. Later sightings were: 1 at Barrington Bay on Jan. 1 (JCZ,MUN); 1 at Pubnico Pt. on Jan. 22 (RSD); 1 at Cape Sable Is. on Feb. 4 (LID).

SJF, ed.

HERONS AND RELATIVES

As usual, numbers of GREAT BLUE HERONS were noted through December, but fewer than usual were seen later; on Cape Sable Is., 3 dwindled to one on Jan. 11 (CJZ,) and 1 appeared at Lockeport during a mild spell Jan. 18 (DJC). An ad. SNOWY EGRET at Mavillette Beach, Yar. Co., Oct. 7 (JCZ et al.), can be added to those mentioned in the last issue. An imm. CATTLE EGRET found brief companionship among the Sable Is. herons Nov. 16 (ZOL).

IAM, ed.

GEESE AND DUCKS

Let's open this section by getting the escapees out of the way. During the past months I've occasionally heard speculation regarding the origin of the second Mute Swan in Bedford Basin and thought this should be laid to rest once and for all. Last summer a group of local residents, fearing that poor "Swanee" (the escapee of several years back) was quite lonely, put out word that they wished to purchase a swan. In due course they found a male and the two have kept close company ever since. Also in Bedford was a Mandarin Duck--lovely to see but not countable by any stretch of the imagination.

Documentation for Yarmouth CBC's SNOW GOOSE revealed that it had "been around for a long time" and was "hanging around with domestic geese". I think we have to question whether or not this is truly a wild goose. Do local birders have any background information that would clarify this?

BRANT were at two locations: 3 on the Brier Is. CBC in December and from late January through February, up to 135 had returned and were moving between The Hawk and Daniel's Head, CSI (JON,SAN,MUN). It was a good winter for CANADA GEESE. The Halifax East CBC outdid itself with a high count of 7600; 5000 remained off Rainbow Haven until at least Dec. 31 (JDP). At least 50 geese wintered between Yarmouth and West Pubnico Harbours (LID), and Prospect Bay held about 30 for most of the winter (BDS,PML). Larger flocks were: 400 in the Pictou area (KJM,CGB), 375 at Three Fathom Harbour (DWP,JAP) and 1100 at Melbourne Sanctuary (JKD). On Feb. 25 when IAM visited the Port Joli Sanctuary, not a goose was to be found where 3000 had been on the same tide the day before. Chances are they joined the northbound flow of geese noted by several observers the last week of February. Spring comes early to birders doesn't it?

Wood Ducks were sparse this winter. A male and female were at Sullivan's Pond (sev. obs.) and a drake overwintered in Glace Bay (fide BDS). A late fall report was 2-3 remaining on Sable Is. to at least Nov. 2 (ZOL).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL were mostly late fall birds: Nov. 23, 9 at Sheffield Mills and 26 at Porter's Point (JCT); 3 at Bisset Lake, Dec. 1 (BLM); 1 at Albro Lake, Dart., Dec. 12 and a pair a week later at Hartlen's Point (both JWT). The only survivors noted into "true" winter were 1 on Jan. 22 at Prospect Bay (BDS,PML) and 2 at the Trenton Power Plant, Feb. 1 (CGB).

Good numbers of AMERICAN BLACK DUCKS were present throughout the period with flocks in the 150-300 range at numerous locations: Porter's Point, Advocate Hbr, W. Apple River, Pictou, Glace Bay, Whynacht's Cove, and Petite Riviere/L. W. LaHave. The Purchases counted 5-600 along the Lawrencetown loop, Feb. 16. There were few other February reports, but I think it was only enthusiasm of observers that dwindled and not actual numbers of ducks. Halifax West CBC had the high count for Black Ducks--2468, identical to the number they counted two years ago. The provincial total was 11,749. Statistics for MALLARDS revealed 1572 province-wide, with a new record high count of 360 in Truro. Wintering Mallards included up to a dozen birds at many mainland locations. Even out on Sable Is., where Black Ducks and Red-breasted Mergansers are the usual winter ducks, 15 Mallards were still present Jan. 1 (ZOL). However, nothing tops the 250 (50:50, m:f) that the Cohrs found on a bitterly cold day in mid-January, crowded onto a small patch of open water just off the highway near Bridgewater.

Most NORTHERN PINTAIL sightings were in the early part of December: 2 at Lockeport (DJC), 6 at Crescent Beach (Cohrs) and singletons at Bisset Lake (BLM) and New Minas Sewage Ponds (RBS). The only winter reports were 2 females Feb. 3 at Lr. Clark's Harbour (JON,SAN) and a drake on St. Mgt's Bay, Feb. 25 (AJV).

Belated, but worth noting is David Young's discovery at Round Bay of a pair of BLUE-WINGED TEAL with 5 fledglings last June 15; the first he's seen in that area. KJM mentions a female that appeared injured at Churchville (Pic.) but no date.

Since we had no summer reports of NORTHERN SHOVELER, I want to include a pair at Hemeon's Head last June (DHY--and thanks, David, for filling in those gaps). The lone female Shoveler at Bisset Lake (see January issue) remained to at least Dec. 1 (sev. obs.). The GADWALL report, too, is a brief one--a drake at New Minas Sewage Pond, Dec. 7 (RBS) and a female wintering in the Pictou area (KJM,CGB).

Add another EURASIAN WIGEON to the fall report--a female or young male was on Sable Is., Nov. 2 (ZOL). Probably the same Ant. Co. bird recorded in the January issue (a drake) was found at Pomquet Point, Dec. 17 (KJM,CGB). The drake at Sullivan's Pond continued to delight observers through January/February. Yet another drake was discovered Jan. 13, feeding with an American Wigeon on the Hartlen's Point golf course (BDS,PML). He eventually made his way into Dartmouth and was seen with the aforementioned bird. Six AMERICAN WIGEON tarried at Harris' Ponds, Canning, until the end of November (JCT,JWW). This species is usually well-reported if present. The only winter birds were at Sullivan's Pond, as many as 12 in early December (BLM). At least 8 of these lingered through January; a lone female was still at Pictou, Feb. 1 (CGB).

Thirty RING-NECKED DUCKS on Nov. 18 at Bisset Lake dropped to 6 by Dec. 1 (DHH,BLM). All were frozen out before Christmas Counts. Surprisingly, not one turned up for any of the counts. There were, however, a couple of winter sightings: a pair with that huge flock of Mallards the Cohrs encountered near Bridgewater in January and a little female at Sullivan's Pond, Jan. 14, energetically swimming and diving right beside a beautiful TUFTED DUCK (BDS,PML). This "well-tufted" female was present for several weeks. A drake Tufted was discovered Jan. 6 and remained into February at the Trenton Power Plant outflow (KJM,CGB, et al.). In Cape Breton, a pair were spotted occasionally through January and February at Sydney River (JAC et al.); not a bad showing for Tufted Ducks this winter.

Up to 100 GREATER SCAUP gathered on Bisset Lake By Dec. 1 (BLM). There was only one other report but it is a big one; 2400 wintering in the Pictou area (CGB,KJM). LESSER SCAUP were sparsely reported, as one might expect. Four were still on Bisset Lake Dec. 1 (BLM); 15+ stayed off Eastern Passage through January. Lone individuals turned up at Westmount and Yarmouth. The province-wide total of 3530 COMMON EIDERS is more than double last year's. The bulk of these, 1388, were in the Cape Sable Is. area. Only a handful of reports came for January/February: 3-400 off the SW side of Indian Is., (Green Bay) (PHB); 350 off CSI, Jan. 14 (JON,SAN); 200+ on Jan. 22 at Meteghan (LID); and by Feb. 11, 300 had arrived off Chebucto Head (fide BDS). Smaller flocks which must have been scattered along the coast drew no comment.

Although at times they were difficult to find, the HARLEQUIN DUCKS were indeed off Prospect all winter. CJF counted 14 on Feb. 2. A month later, the morning of Mar. 3, icy roads had put an end to the NSBS field trip we'd planned for this area. I couldn't help but wonder "what might have been", so since I was up anyway, I decided to make my way to Prospect and was rewarded with 42 Harlequins, including at least 12 drakes, the most I've ever seen at one time. Other areas hosting Harlequins were: Margaretsville, 3 drakes, Feb. 11 (RBS,AAM), and Little Port l'Hebert, 1 male and 5 females for the first half of February (DJC,DHY).

OLDSQUAW in the 1000s are becoming routine on the Annapolis Royal CBC. This year's tally was 3288! Overall it seems to have been a good winter for this garrulous sea duck with small flocks reported throughout and a few larger assemblies as well: 4-5 dozen at Glace Bay (JAC,RMC); 40-50 at Brier Is. (JCT,GWT); 150 at Blandford (CJF); 100 off Lr. Prospect (BDS); 150+ on Green Bay (JSC).

If it weren't for the CBCs we'd have very few scoters of any kind to report. Count totals were : BLACK SCOTER--259; SURF SCOTER--254; WHITE-WINGED SCOTER--789. RBS observed small flocks of Surf and White-winged Scoters along the Fundy shore, but other observers commented on their absence. The only report of Black Scoters following the count period was of 85 at CSI in Mid-January (JON,SAN), while Surf Scoters showed up at Lr. LaHave, 40 from Jan. 10 to 25 (ERC) and at Prospect, 6 from Jan. 22 to Feb. 28 (BDS,PML). Only 5 reports of White-wings reached us and these tallied a mere 17 birds, not enough of a sample to draw any conclusions.

COMMON GOLDENEYE wintered in coastal inlets from Westmount to Yarmouth and many places in between. A flock of 80 was off Hartlen's Point, Dec. 28 (JDP) but most flocks averaged 30-40 birds, with one notable exception--the Pictou area, where Goldeneye numbered 500 and included 8-10 BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (KJM,CGB). Single Barrow's were found at Crescent Beach, 1 female, Dec. 9 (Cohrs), and Sydney River, where 1 male overwintered (JAC,DOR & W. MacKinnon).

Bufflehead also appeared in good numbers this winter, especially at Annapolis Royal, where the CBC produced 586 (more than half the provincial total). More typical were numbers such as 24 at Sydney River, 15 at Mahone Bay, 16 at Three Fathom River, and 24 at Petite Riviere.

HOODED MERGANSERS were reported more times than any of the other ducks, a testimony to their popularity. With so many reports it is a bit tricky sorting out possible duplicates, but my best estimate is 127 birds. Some of the higher counts were: 18 at the Saxon St. Pond, Nov. 15 (RBS); 36 at Lyon's Brook Gut Bridge, plus 8 others in the surrounding area, all on Nov. 26 (KJM); 25 on Dec. 9 at Head of St. Mgt's Bay; and 14 on Pleasant Lake, Dec. 17-28 (RSD,JKD). The latest reports both came from Hfx. Co.: 8 Hoodies that successfully overwintered at Whynacht's Cove (AJV) and 1 lone male on Feb. 21, still at the mouth of the Sackville River, where he'd been all winter.

COMMON MERGANSERS were also frequently reported. They were spread from one end of the province to the other, with most observers mentioning fewer than 10 birds. Exceptions were a flock of 200 on Dec. 22 at Stewiacke (JDP) and 60-80 on the Shubenacadie River near Grand Lake on Jan. 9 (AEW), and of course, the Pictou area with its wintering population of approximately 600 (KJM). RED-BREADED MERGANSERS were mentioned in only eight reports, but the actual numbers (combined with CBC provincial total of 1682) point to an average winter for our third merganser. Flocks numbering 8-20 were routine at locations such as East Chester, Mahone Harbour, Yarmouth, CSI, Cow Bay, Riverport and Sydney. The Purchases counted 40 Red-breasted Mergansers during a Feb. 16 drive along the "Lawrencetown loop". I feel that this pretty much typifies the numbers we'd expect at this time of year.

We'll close the winter report with 4 RUDDY DUCKS. The first is actually a belated fall report, a drake off Brier Is., Oct. 8 (JCZ et al.). The previously reported female found at Canard Pond, Nov. 11, was joined by a second female and the two travelled between Canard and the New Minas Sewage Pond until Nov. 28 (RBS,JCT,JWW)--and, finally, another female, or imm. showed up at Bisset Lake, Dartmouth and was last seen there Dec. 5 (BLM,JWT,AJV).

BDS, ed.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

Five TURKEY VULTURES on Brier Is. CBC were still there in February (birdline). Elsewhere, one was regular during December and January around The Hawk, Cape Sable Is. (CJZ, MUN, et al.), a wanderer appeared at Avonport, Jan. 8 (BBT, JET), and another surprised an observer Feb. 10 at W. Green Hbr., Shel. Co. (**fide** DJC), and at Chezzetcook the same day (birdline). Could the Cape Sable Is. bird have been moving northeast? Although the Wolfville CBC estimate was about the same as last year's, the organized count of BALD EAGLES in E. King's Co. on Jan. 21, produced only 300 birds (126 ad., 166 imm., 8 unknown), some 100-140 fewer than in the past three winters (JWW). This was attributed to dispersal occasioned by three very warm days prior to the count. Almost as many (268) were counted informally between Sheffield Mills and Kingsport on Jan. 27 (**fide** JWW). Another traditional concentration near Stewiacke included 6 ad. and 3 imm. Dec. 22 (JDP) and 12 ad. plus 6 imm. Jan. 14 (RCM et al.). Slightly upriver at Milford Sta. there were 20 ad. and 5 imm., Dec. 17 (MGW). More than usual were noted elsewhere (var. obs.), with 18 reports of 1-3 individuals from scattered localities, 5 ad. around East Bay, C.B. Co., Dec. 11, and 3 ad. and 2 imm. sporadically around the Sydneys through winter (JAC). An adventurous 2nd-year bird wandered to Sable Is., Jan. 10 (ZOL). Fourteen reports of some 20 N. HARRIERS, including 6 in February, were more than usual. One was boldly hunting at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, Jan. 11 (SJF, BAH), and two days later 1 was benignly (?) sitting among Am. Black Ducks on the shore at Tufts Cove, Dartmouth (IAM).

Eighteen reports of SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS were up from last year's submissions. Nevertheless, all referred to single birds, mostly at feeders, and such visits were thought by two faithful feeder watchers (DWP, JAP) to "have been diminishing for about three years". One took a Bohemian Waxwing in flight at Barrington Passage, Jan. 6, landing with it at the startled observer's feet (JCZ). Eight N. GOSHAWKS were seen in scattered localities--more than in last winter. The 83 RED-TAILED HAWKS on the King's Co. eagle count on Jan. 21 (JWW), like the eagles, were below last winter's count, perhaps again because of widely snow-free terrain. As noted by CJZ, these buteos are often seen along South Shore highways during winter. Reports of 12 or so scattered individuals from around the province do not seem to signal any trends. The recurrent (?) partial albino Red-tail at Gaspereau was noted at least up to early December (sev. obs.). Another (?) was at Sheffield Mills, Jan. 17, and 2 more (one more heavily marked) were around New Glasgow in Jan.-Feb. (CGB et al.). Six ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were noted on the King's Co. eagle count (JWW), but the only later reports from that region were of 2-4 birds at Grand Pré during February (var. obs.). From elsewhere there were six reports of 7 birds; not a peak winter. Lucky JCZ had a "beautiful view" of an imm. GOLDEN EAGLE that circled over the road near Eel Brook, Yar. Co., Jan. 20, showing its characteristic nape colour and white tail band and primary bases. Wintering AM. KESTRELS continued to be scarce, with only 4 birds noted after the CBC period. Two fledgling MERLINS at Little Hbr. last August (DHY) add to the nestings reported in the last issue. Allowing for repeats, there were reports of only ca. 5 post-CBC Merlins. Individual PEREGRINE FALCONS were reported at Dartmouth, Jan. 14 and Whites L., Hfx. Co., Jan. 25 (both PML), and at Economy, Feb. 25 (FLS).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

GRAY PARTRIDGE were noted in their usual places at Windsor (8 in early Jan., var. obs.), near Canard (10 in late Dec., **fide** JWW), and at Starr's Pt. (15 on Dec. 19, **fide** JWW). We have no impressions of numerical trends of RING-NECKED PHEASANTS in the Valley, although 18 were at a Wolfville feeder Jan. 3 (BBT). These were almost matched by the 15 at an E. LaHave feeder (ERC), 8 at JKD's feeder in L. W. Pubnico and the 10+ coming to a feeder in Westmount, C.B. Co., through winter (JAC). The E. LaHave flock included 5 albinos; were these released, or a local mutant? Smaller numbers were widely reported; novel locations included the Halifax Airport (DHH), and a feeder on the Halifax Peninsula (sev. obs.). Two cocks postured for dominance for ten minutes in the middle of a road near Melanson, Dec. 10 (JWW); a less scrupulous gourmet might have fulfilled their death wish. SPRUCE GROUSE sightings included one behind Stanley Airport, Hants Co., Dec. 30 (JWW), another near Upper Ohio, Shel. Co.,

Jan. 28 (MUN), and some 4-5 birds around Apple R. and Joggins through the season (KFS). RUFFED GROUSE on CBCs were up some 70% over last year's. Although we received only six other reports, the total numbers involved (20 birds) also seemed to suggest a peak year for the species.

RALLIDS

No rails were noted during the period. An imm. PURPLE GALLINULE was found frozen, hanging by one leg from a tree fork, by a visitor on Seal Is., Feb. 5 (fide MUN). The specimen will go to the N.S. Museum of Natural History, and supplies one of about 8 winter records. It is also worth reporting belatedly that an adult of this species was seen by David Pugh near his house on Brier Is. in early August last year. The late-fall buildup of AM. COOTS on Bissett L., Dartmouth, reached 12 birds on Dec. 1 (BLM). Others lingered near Canning (2 birds) to late November var.(obs.), at Yarmouth, Dec. 13 (RSD), at Broad Cove, Dec. 26 (JSC), and near Barrington Passage, Jan. 1 (JCZ,MUN). One persisted through winter on the Shubenacadie Canal near its origin in Dartmouth (sev. obs.).

IAM, ed.

WINTER SHOREBIRDS

November and December are the months for laggards; thereafter most shorebirds can be thought of as trying to overwinter. This year 7 BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS were still at Cherry Hill, Nov. 17 (SJF) and 1 as far north as Waterside Pk., Pic. Co., Nov. 20 (KJM). The only CBC report was of 5 at Cape Sable, where 3 were still hanging on Jan. 10 (MUN et al.). A very late imm. PIPING PLOVER was still at Cherry Hill, Nov. 17-19 (SJF). A KILLDEER was on Sable Is., Nov. 16 (ZOL) elsewhere 1 was at L. W. Pubnico, Dec. 15 (RSD), and a total of 4 on CBCs (Brier, Broad Cove and Economy). The only mid-winter bird was 1 at Little Hbr., Feb. 13 (DHY).

A Yellowlegs sp. was at Lockeport, Nov. 15 (DJC); a GREATER YELLOWLEGS was at Cherry Hill Dec. 7 (JSC) and 2 were in the Melbourne Sanctuary, Dec. 12 (JKD).

The only RUDDY TURNSTONES were 6 on the Cape Sable CBC. In early December a few RED KNOTS were at Big Is., Pic. Co. (CGB) and Cole Hbr. (BLM,R&AF); 10 were found on the Cape Sable CBC, 1 on the Brier CBC. 500 SANDERLINGS were counted province-wide through December, more than half of them on Sable Is., Dec. 26 (ZOL) and 214 on the Cape Sable CBC, where there were still 60 through Jan.-Feb. (MUN et al.). Elsewhere, there were 20-16 at Crescent, Jan. 27 to Feb. 19 (PHB,LAC,JSC). A late LEAST SANDPIPER was still at Grand Pré, Nov. 25 (BLM, MAD). Three WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS lingered on Gull Is., Pic. Co., Nov. 20 (KJM) and 2 were found on the Cape Sable CBC. PURPLE SANDPIPERS were well reported--nine sightings of ca. 400 individuals plus 354 on CBCs. DUNLINS numbered about 70 in Nov., 50 of them at Grand Pré (BBT). Numbers declined through December (39 on all CBCs), with 10 still on The Hawk in Jan.-Feb. (MUN et al.).

A late COMMON SNIPE was at MacLellan Marsh, Nov. 26 (KJM) and another at Milford Sta., Dec. 12 (AEW). CBCers found an additional 7. Individuals were still present at Brookside, Jan. 3 (BDS) and L. W. Pubnico, Feb. 7 (RSD). From Windsor come reports of 2 on Jan. 2 (JWT), with further sightings of 1-2 there through Feb. 20 (BBT,AJV). The only AMERICAN WOODCOCK are 2 on the Pt. L'Hebert and Yarmouth CBCs.

FLS, ed.

PHALAROPES TO AUKS

It is almost routine to have at least one report of a GREAT SKUA from Sable Is. Zoe Lucas saw 1 over the west tip on Nov. 16, identified in part by its "very cinnamon underparts."

A LITTLE GULL was reported from the Canso Christmas Count but no details were provided. An unusually high number of 182 BLACK-HEADED GULLS was reported from the CBCs: Halifax West with 43, Glace Bay with 41. Otherwise, there were few reports: 4-5 were at Eel Brook on Nov. 21 and Dec. 7 (RSD,JKD); 5 were at Little Hbr. on Feb. 1 (DHY); 10, well above average numbers, were at the NSPC outflow at Trenton on Jan. 14 (KJM). BONAPARTE'S GULLS were at Lyon's Brook on Nov. 26 in the usual concentration of 1000 plus and on the same day 80 were at the NSPC outflow at Trenton (KJM). Twenty-five were at the Pictou Causeway on Dec. 9 (BLM,DUB). The CBCs totalled 117, of which 94 were on the Canso Count. All seem to have disappeared after this, the last one being seen on Jan. 1 at Trenton (KJM). The only southern report is of an imm. at L. W. Pubnico on Feb. 7 and 19 (RSD).

Of the small larid reports the most interesting is of an adult ROSS' GULL at Chebucto Head on Dec. 3 reported by Blake Maybank. Although overcast conditions and storm-force winds did not allow ideal viewing, the pertinent field marks were noted and comparisons made with other possible species: smaller and paler than the Kittiwakes to which it was flying; small head with dark smudge behind the eye; proportionally longer and more pointed wings than the Kittiwakes; tern-like flight; pale grey under-wing, not dark as in Little Gull; tail white and distinctively wedge-shaped. A thoroughly detailed description was provided and this becomes our fourth sight record for the province.

A total of 383 RING-BILLED GULLS was tallied on the CBCs, 142 being on the Halifax East Count. These are far, far fewer than numbers seen on previous counts. Only two other reports were received: 5 at Cow Bay on Dec. 28 (JDP) and 1 in the school yard in Barrington Passage on Jan. 29, an unusual gull in that area (JCZ).

Gulls are largely under-reported and once again I remind reporters that their observations on numbers, ages and movements and comparisons with previous years would be useful. For example, only two reports of HERRING GULLS were received and I do not know if these are "low" or "normal" counts: 10 were at Cow Bay on Dec. 28 (JDP) and 31 on Jan. 1 on the Shubenacadie River (MGW et al.). Gulls are still out there, however, as a whopping 35,483 was the total count on the CBCs. This figure is just slightly down from last year and again Wolfville hosted more than half of these, 18,194. There were 8668 GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS on the CBCs., 3198 being in the Wolfville area. This figure is far below the previous totals. Small numbers were reported from West Apple River to Mahone Bay. An adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was seen on the Halifax West CBC and probably the same bird was seen by IAM at Sullivan's Pond on Jan. 15. Another adult was at Gaspereau on Nov. 26 and Jan. 20 (**vide** JWW) and another, or perhaps the same bird, was at the Kentville landfill on Jan. 3 (RBS).

Most observers thought that numbers of ICELAND GULLS were up this year and this is borne out by the total count on the CBCs: 2200 as opposed to 697 last year. The Glace Bay Count tallied 769 of these. From Jan. on ones and twos were reported from various sites, from Wolfville to Yarmouth. One opportunist was with other gulls and crows at a food-pile at a farm in Avonport on Jan. 10 (JWW); 1 was in downtown Yarmouth on Jan. 20 when Joan Czapalay and Charlie Allen were aftied; 15 were at Pubnico Pt. on Jan. 14 (RSD) and 100 plus were sheltering on the Hartlen's Pt. Golf Course on Jan. 13, along with 300 other gulls, half Herring and half Great Black-backed (BDS). A GLAUCOUS GULL first appeared at Daniel's Head on Dec. 4 (RSD,JKD) followed by 1 on Dec. 17 at Hemeon's Head (DHY). Forty-two showed up to be counted on the CBCs, 9 on the Louisburg Count. Additional birds were: 1 imm. at Sinclair Is., Pic. Co. on Dec. 24 (KJM); 1 at Mill Cove sewer outlet on Jan. 1 (AJV); 6 imm. at the Kentville landfill on Jan. 27 (RBS).

FORSTER'S TERN is a North American speciality and is not found south much beyond the North Caribbean and it is the only tern which regularly occurs here in

winter. An adult perched at the edge of a tidal inlet at Dyke Rd. in Chezzetcook on Dec. 23, brightened the day of Halifax East CBC counters SJF and BAH. It was unmistakable, all white, with an all black bill and a black triangular patch running back from the eye.

Alcids, other than guillemots, made a poor showing this season and remained largely offshore. From the CBCs we have the following totals: 12 Dovekies, 16 Common Murres, 1 Thick-billed Murre, 4 Razorbills, 258 Black Guillemots, 18 alcid, sp.

The COMMON MURRE, our uncommon murre, that is, is normally seen in ratios of roughly 1 Common to 20 Thick-billed. The Annapolis CBC, however, tallied an astonishing 15. The only other report was 1 at Cape Sable Is. on Feb. 4 (LID). THICK-BILLED MURRES were scarce: 2 were at Chebucto Head on Dec. 3 struggling in SE gales, along with 14 murre, sp. (BLM); 1 was at Indian Pt., Glen Haven, on Jan. 29, stranded on the ice (BDS,PML). RAZORBILLS, normally found closer inshore than murres, were sighted twice: 1 at Chebucto Head on Dec. 3 (BLM) and 4 on the Brier Is. CBC (RBS et al.).

BLACK GUILLEMOTS are semi-resident and this season they were found tucked into harbours and coves and all along our coast from Advocate Hbr. to Cape Sable. Sixty-nine were counted on the Brier Is. CBC; up to 32 were tallied from Indian Hbr. to Seabright on Jan. 29 (BDS,PML). ATLANTIC PUFFINS were few: 7 were at Chebucto Head on Dec. 3 (BLM) and an imm. was found dead on Crescent Beach on Feb. 17 (LAC,PHB).

SJF, ed.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

ROCK DOVES were reported only from Milford Sta., where there were 68 on Dec. 17 (MGW), and Westmount, C. B. Co., where there were "3 to 5 dozen" through winter (JAC); there were of course, thousands in Metro. Much more exciting was the discovery on Dec. 12 at E. Pubnico by Carol and Doug Belliveau of the province's third BAND-TAILED PIGEON. Although RSD was alerted, the bird had departed when he arrived; he felt sure from their description, including its large size and tree-roosting behaviour, that their identification was correct. The record seems to be secured by the appearance at a Yarmouth feeder of what was presumably the same bird for three days in mid-January. It could only be viewed from inside the house, and its "owners" were unwilling to entertain numbers of birders. However, JUG was invited to obtain substantiating photos, which will be published in a later issue. MOURNING DOVES were as usual plentiful at feeders, although some reported them "up", and others "down" from previous winters. Fourteen reports of maximal counts at feeders ranged from 12 to 70 birds, averaging 35+. A BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO at Little Harbour, Oct. 21 (DHY) remedies the lack of fall records noted in the last issue.

Four hooting GREAT HORNED OWLS were reported. On Jan. 16, RFL received a call about an ice-encrusted one, presumably having become wet (at -15°) from trying to catch a duck or gull. It flew off laboriously, probably saved by the overnight warming to 5°. A female was on one of BLF's nest platforms in King's Co., Feb. 18. However, nearby pellets contained only small mammal remains, and the owl had not laid by month's end. BLF believes that a low in the rabbit cycle may reduce nesting success this year. This was certainly an "off" year for SNOWY OWLS, but surely more were seen than one near Wolfville, Dec. 22 (fide JWW). By mid-February, some BARRED OWLS had been visiting several of BLF's nest boxes. Yet, there were only 4 reports, including one of an injured bird, easily picked up as it gripped a slightly eaten rat, in Bedford, Feb. 25 (AJV; see photo). Unfortunately, its injuries proved fatal. Possibly the same SHORT-EARED OWL individual was noted around Canard and Grand Pré between Dec. 16 and Jan. 12 (sev. obs.). Other individuals were at Pomquet Beach in December (RFL) and on Cape Sable Is., Feb. 11 (JON, SAN). Wandering N. SAW-WHET OWLS turned up at a residence in Canning, Dec. 13 (fide JCT) and at two Dartmouth residences on Jan. 28 (KAT,WAT) and Feb. 4 (fide BDS). Others in Pubnico, Nov. 18 (JKD), on Pubnico Pt., Jan. 2 (RSD), and at RLF's Pomquet feeder in early January. One was heard near Apple River, Jan. 9 (KFS), and RLF clearly put some effort into turning up 6+ of these little owls calling during February around Pomquet Beach. A rarely seen BOREAL OWL was found weak but alive by Rolf Jorgansan at Cherry Hill, Jan. 14. Through Nellie Snyder, it was taken to the Kew's Raptor Rehabilitation Centre. It was fully restored and released on Feb. 25.

There were good numbers of BELTED KINGFISHERS on CBCs, and at least 6 made it into January and 3 into February at localities from Sydney to Yar. Co. (var. obs.). This is more than usual.

It seemed to be a bonanza winter for woodpeckers. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS invaded in numbers, but apparently not many persisted. At least 6 began winter around Metro, and single birds were reported throughout the period in Dartmouth and Halifax (var. obs.). Other individuals were noted during late December in Upper Sackville (BJA), until mid-January near Mahoney's Beach and at Antigonish (RFL), in late December at Arcadia, Yar. Co., (RSD), Feb. 5 near Tusket, Yar. Co. (CJZ), in December at Avonport (**fide** JWW), and into February in Kentville (**fide** RBS). Doubtless others were not reported; reports to the birdline suggest that 6-7 more may have been noted in the province. CBC totals of both DOWNY and HAIRY WOODPECKERS were more than double last year's. Eighteen other reports of some 28 Downies and ten reports of some 18 Hairies (var. obs.) were also up from last winter's, especially for the Hairy. The barred back and small amount of yellowish on the forecrown were very apparent on a fem. or imm. THREE-TOED WOODPECKER that made several visits to Martin and Mickie Hasse's feeders in Chester between Dec. 13 and 26. In addition to the 8 found on CBCs, BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS were reported from four localities, including an unusual feeder visitor at Mooseland, Feb. 28 (**fide** WAT). The total number of N. FLICKERS on CBCs equalled last year's, but there were only eleven reports of some 14 post-CBC birds, down from last winter's estimates. PILEATED WOODPECKERS were slightly more common on this year's CBCs, and otherwise seemed about average (six reports of 13 birds).

IAM, ed.



Azor Vienneau came across this very poorly Barred Owl under the Bedford railway bridge on Feb. 25. Although it had been lively enough to capture and partly consume a rat, it was easily picked up for rehabilitation at the Society-supported Raptor Rehabilitation Centre at Mason's Point.

There are a number of reports of albino and partially albino birds, in the following report. I get the impression that this is becoming more frequently observed and I believe we should try to keep a close watch on this phenomenon.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Not surprisingly, the only flycatcher reported during winter was a rarity, although by now more or less an annual one, a SAY'S PHOEBE, a visitor from the west, and seen in Alma, Pic. Co. (HJB and MK) described the bird: a large, buffy reddish-breasted flycatcher, habitually flicking its tail, catching flies against the sunny edge of a house foundation. This is the second or third time this species (? this individual) has been seen in early winter in Pic. Co. in the last three years.

810 HORNED LARKS were counted on CBCs, and other large flocks sighted were of 60 in two flocks at Avonport, Jan. 10 (JCT), and 200+ in different areas of the Grand Pré dikes, Jan. 2 (BBT, 7th (JWW) and 16th (BLM).) 70 others were reported from around the province by various other observers, in small flocks and groups, and of course, often associating with Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings.

ZOL sends in a report of 2 late TREE SWALLOWS ON Sable Is., Nov. 11-16, although this is not a particularly late date for this species to finally depart from our shores.

CORVIDS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS

There were 211 GRAY JAYS counted on the CBCs, a little more than 1994. The largest number was 20 at Economy. There were twenty-nine other reports, from scattered areas, usually in 2s and 3s. The total of 4911 BLUE JAYS seen on the CBCs is almost double 1994's total. Wolfville led the way with 775. There were reports sent in of about 50 other birds. Despite this, one or two people commented that they seemed scarcer than usual this winter. Perhaps the distribution was a little unusual.

The AMERICAN CROW count was 44,373 on the CBCs, of which 31,940 were in the Wolfville area. Most of these ended up at the now infamous Kentville roost. However, as the winter progressed, measures including broadcasting Crow distress noises, Crow predator noises, and shooting a small number, appeared to disperse the flock. By mid-January, it had broken up into several smaller flocks, and the majority were roosting near the county landfill site, and away from the downtown area. An albino was noted in Westmount, C.B., in January by JAC. The CBCs count total of 1791 COMMON RAVENS is similar to last year, and suggests a currently stable population. One flock of 92 was noted by AEW and MGW, eating dead chickens at Milford Sta. on Dec. 17.

The BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE was the third most abundant species in my "editorial group" in the province at CBC time, after the Common Crow and European Starling, with 10,212 individuals being seen in toto. Again, Wolfville was the leader with 1257. There were 16 other reports, of small numbers each, and one of 10-13 at a feeder in E. Chester (CJF), and 46 at Milford Sta. (MGW, AEW). There have been many days this winter when I have gone outdoors in the Kentville area, and seen nothing but this species, in every little group of trees and every subdivision. BLF saw a partial albino at Melanson from Nov. 1995 to late Feb. 1996, at a feeder. It had small patches of black on the crown leaving the black beady eye on a white face. The bib had flecks of white, the back was a very pale gray, the bill was pale, and the legs and feet were bright pink. Another odd, pale bird seen in the Yarmouth area in February was described as looking like a Siberian Tit, or a hybrid Black-capped x Boreal Chickadee.

631 BOREAL CHICKADEES on the CBCs is up from last year, and Louisbourg led the way with 81. There were 9 other reports, as expected, from the more "boreal" type eco-zones of the province. BDS and PML had 2 using their suet feeder, and felt that "numbers were good" in the White's Lake area.

The massive RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH invasion of last fall must have carried over a little into winter, as the number on the CBCs, 1208, was about twice that of 1994. Numerous observers noted 1s and 2s visiting feeders during the winter, and RCM in Enfield had 5 on Jan. 23. JCT saw and photographed a partial albino at a feeder in Auburn on Dec. 5. It had an almost all white head, with light gray crown. The wings had blotchy white patches on the blue background. The bill was yellowish with a black tip, and the underparts were a pale rusty up to the throat. It had evidently been in the area since late October. There were 8 individual reports of WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, often in 1s and 2s, and often at feeders, although 52 in the Wolfville area on CBC day contributed to the provincial total of 190, over three times as many as 1994. A total of 85 BROWN CREEPERS, was high as well, with 13 for the Wolfville count, and an additional 16 reports. These included 5 in Birch Cove, Dartmouth, Dec. 1 (BLM), two flocks of 4 and 6 in Green Bay, Dec. 28 (JSC) and 3 in Lr. Clark's Hbr., Jan. 15 (JON,SAN).

It is of note that all of the preceding few species have shown major increases in numbers on provincial CBCs in the last twelve months. It would be interesting to see if analysis of count data reveals this to be part of a trend, or merely a statistical aberration. It does, however, show that those who think that "all the birds are disappearing", should take a careful look at properly validated data, scientifically measured trends, and trends for different groups of species (e.g. the above are all "half hardy" migrants, or year round residents, as against long-distance migrants that winter in central America).

The occasional MARSH WREN turns up in appropriate habitat in the winter, and this season 1 was in the MacLellan Marsh, Pic. Co., Dec. 9, and 1 was at Lawrencetown marsh, Dec. 23 (JSC). The province's 5th or 6th, and King's Co.'s 1st CAROLINA WREN, was heard calling and singing from an exposed perch by BLF while collecting the mail at White Rock on Feb. 23, and subsequently seen by most of the local birders. It was a large wren with a rusty brown back, decurved bill, white line over the eye, white throat, buffy almost orange underparts, barred tail, and sang its diagnostic "teakettle" song. It only stayed a few days, unlike last year's Truro bird. Evidently the fairly mild winters of recent years have allowed some northward expansion of the range of this species.

1152 GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS on CBCs was only slightly up from 1994. Economy had the highest number, 90. There were just six other reports. A small flock has spent the whole winter in a small group of pine trees right next to an office building in Kentville. One observer was given an "OK description" of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on Feb. 6, but to survive this late into the winter has only one other precedent in the province.

BLUEBIRDS THROUGH STARLINGS

Unlike several recent winters in which small flocks of EASTERN BLUEBIRDS have appeared in the province, the only report this season was of 1 female at The Hawk, Cape Sable Is., Nov. 29 (JON, SAN).

The HERMIT THRUSH is the only "catharus" thrush known to over-winter in N. America, and the odd one even hangs out in N.S.! Those that made it this season were 1 at Cole Hbr, Jan. 3 (JWT) and 1 at Doctor's Cove and Atwood's Brook, Shel. Co., Jan. 6 (JON,SAN, etc.).

There were 516 AMERICAN ROBINS on the CBCs, again the Wolfville count leading with 206, probably because of the ready availability of berries, fallen apples, and fruit trees in that area, as well as the large number of people on that count! There were seventeen other reports, and other larger numbers included 50+ still in Wolfville, Jan. 9 (GDT), 20 still there Feb. 5 (JCT), 30+ feeding on multiflora roses at Sullivan's Pond, Jan. 13(BDS,PML), 20 on the barrens at Prospect (also BDS, PML), and 7 at nearby Terrence Bay on Feb. 5.

The next 2 species are rare, but in recent years, annual, vagrants from the far west. There were evidently 4 VARIED THRUSHES in the province this winter. There were 2 apparently seen in the Yarmouth area, one of which was present for a CBC. ZOL had already seen 1 on Sable Is., Nov. 7, a female, with upperparts brown, and a dusky but strong breast-band. Another brown-backed bird with a moderately dark band across its rusty breast was at a feeder at MacLellan's Brook, Pic. Co., Jan. 6-17, seen by many observers and reported by CGB.

A TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE was first found by RAF at Prince's Lodge, Halifax on Dec. 2, later seen by IAM, AJV et al. It is hoped that a photo will be published. IAM noted it to be a slim gray bird with white outer tail feathers, and buffy wing bars. Another bird was in Barrington on Jan. 22 (MUN), also seen by most of the local birders that day.

There were 19 NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS on CBCs, and 13 other reports from all over the province. This total is up from last winter, and back to the previous three or four winters. The birds are obviously not that uncommon in our province, but still only seem to have established a toe-hold in recent years. A male BROWN THRASHER was at Little Hbr. at a feeder on Nov. 24 (DHY).

As usual in the winter, there were a few AMERICAN PIPITS found, mostly around the edges of the province—e.g. 10 at Pubnico Pt., Dec. 14 (RSD), 6 on Brier Is., Dec. 18 (GWT, JCT), 5 at Hartlen's Pt., Jan. 13 (BDS, PML).

BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS were first recorded in N.S. in 1864, but only started to become regular winter visitors in 1962. Since then, it has become more and more regular to see large flocks roaming around picking off all the available berries. This winter has been another excellent one for this species, with 3399 reported on CBCs, and more individual reports than any other species in this section. Some of the larger flocks included 200 in Dartmouth on and off all winter (JWT), up to 100 in Lockeport all winter (DJC), 4-500, Dec. 8-14, Westmount, C.B. (JAC), 200, Jan. 7, Tantallon (AJV), 450, Jan. 10, Halifax (IAM), 350, Jan. 21, Wolfville (PCS, *fide* JWW), 175, Feb. 8, Ross Rd., Hfx. Co. (DW & JAP), 500, Feb. 16, Wolfville (JET), etc. There was also the odd CEDAR WAXWING. GAB saw a flock of 10 at Diligent River, Dec. 16, JWT saw 10 at the Dartmouth piggery on Jan. 18, and JWW managed to find 1 in with 500 Bohemians in Wolfville, Feb. 25. As an interesting aside, this has apparently been a bumper winter for Bohemian Waxwings in Britain. It has always been assumed that irruptions over there originated in Scandinavia, which is the nearest breeding area. However, a Cedar Waxwing, which only breeds in N. America, was found in a flock there, raising the possibility that some of "our" birds may have even crossed the Atlantic this year.

Another irruptive winter visitor, the NORTHERN SHRIKE, has had a bumper season in this province. There were 109 seen on the CBCs, with 12 in Wolfville and 11 on Cape Sable Is., and there were 36 other reports submitted, including 1 of 3 at Lr. Clark's Hbr, Nov. 28 (JON, SAN), and 7 in Shel Co., during January and February (MUN et al.). Others were seen, mostly singly, all over the province.

The number of EUROPEAN STARLINGS in the province during the CBC period actually exceeded the number of Crows, at 48,463, laying to rest the occasional comment that perhaps they are becoming less abundant. However, the top area, Wolfville (18,247) still had more Crows than Starlings. The only other large flocks reported were of 4-500 all winter around W. Pubnico (LID) and 2-3000 at Pt. Edward, Westmount, C.B., Dec. 22 (JAC et al.).

RBS—ed.



VIREOS AND WARBLERS

A late fall SOLITARY VIREO migrant was reported from Sable Is. on Oct. 26 (ZOL), and at least 2 stragglers were noted in Dartmouth on Dec. 1 (BLM,JWT).

Five ORANGE CROWNED WARBLER individuals were reported, about average for the April issue: an adult at Lockeport, Shel. Co., on Nov. 15 (DJC); 1 at Egerton Pond, Pic. Co., on Nov. 16 (CGB); 2 in Dartmouth on Dec. 2 (BLM,ROF,RAF); and a late but carefully described bird in L.W. Pubnico on Dec. 23 (RSD). An adult male NASHVILLE WARBLER lingered at Lockeport on Nov. 19 and 20 (DJC), while an even later immature was at Green Bay on Nov. 27 (JSC).

A report was received from JCZ, of a rather late (her latest ever) fall adult male NORTHERN PARULA at Hawk Beach, Cape Sable Is., on Oct. 23. Still "in lovely color on a cold day", it was foraging in the seaweed along the tide line for a meal.

A late fall migrant BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER was found on Sable Is. on Oct. 26 (ZOL).

Several late reports were received of fall movements of the YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, including 250-300 at Pomquet Beach, Ant. Co., on Sept. 23 (PCC), and an estimated 10,000+ streaming through Charlesville, Shel. Co., on Oct. 6 (JKD). Despite this mass exodus, some were attempting to winter, with reports from across the mainland in December. January and February reports, however, were confined to southwestern regions, except for up to 15 on Sable Is., in Jan. at least (ZOL), and 2 at Big Island, Pic. Co., on Feb. 1 (CGB). Some will likely survive until spring, but our latest report was of 1 or 2 at W. Pubnico on Feb. 7 (LID).

A very rare BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER in Bedford between Dec. 3 and 21 (IAM) was the latest this bird has been observed in the province. A photo will be published. The "black, white and gray plumage with yellow lore spot make this one self-identifying". Good numbers of September BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS in the Shubenacadie area were noted, as late reports were received from MGW and RCM (14 on Sept. 2, 21 on Sept. 16). A brightly plumaged and very late BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER in Avonport, Kings Co., was seen by several observers on Nov. 30 and Dec. 3 (fide JWW).

A late report was received of a YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER at Lower Canard, King's Co., in late July, 1995 (JCT,GWT). Could this be the same bird that was seen off and on there between Nov. 8 and 20 (JWW,RBS, et al.)? A description of this distinctive bird was provided by RBS.

At least 8 PINE WARBLERS were located, about average, most of these at feeders. Two were in Halifax on Nov. 23 (BJA); an imm. male was around Wolfville, Nov. 29-30 (JCT,GWT,BLF); 1 was in Halifax on Dec. 1 (BLM) and 1 was in New Glasgow on Dec. 4 (KJM,CGB). JWT had 3 (1 male, 2 females) at his Dartmouth feeders for the entire month of February. The male was "trying to sing on Feb. 28; not well, but it was a start, and sounded great". CGB described a late PRAIRIE WARBLER he observed near the Pictou Causeway on Dec. 1. PALM WARBLER reports were conspicuous by their absence.

News of a late date record for a (male) MOURNING WARBLER at a feeder near Canning, King's Co., on Dec. 1 was passed to JCT. There was no confirmation of this report by JCT or other birders. I would consider the appearance of this species at a feeder, at any time, most unusual.

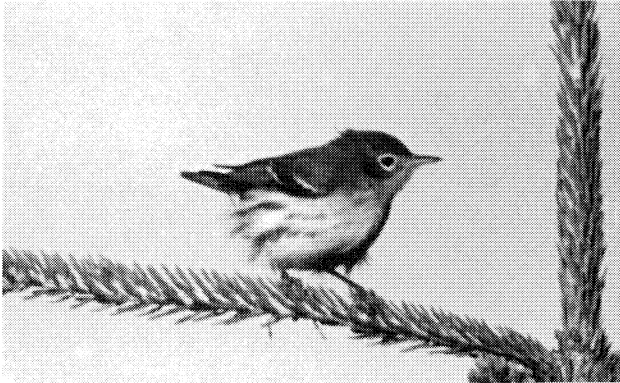
A COMMON YELLOWTHROAT which lingered in Wolfville, Dec. 3-6 (BBT) may have been the same bird which JWW saw in Avonport on Dec. 4. BDS and PML found a male at Terence Bay, Hfx. Co., on Dec. 4 as well. Yellowthroats are quite regular on Halifax CBCs, but this one did not cooperate by tarrying another two weeks.

A late male WILSON'S WARBLER was found in Halifax on Dec. 11 (JWT). Some late news of the CANADA WARBLER from summer '95 is worth mentioning, as reports for the last issue were so few. At least 5 pair were noted during spring and summer on a 2km stretch of pulp road in Urbania, Hants Co., and 3 adult males were singing near Shubenacadie on July 11 (RCM).

About 6 sightings of the YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT brightened up the winter for a number of birders. One was found at Blue Acres, Pic. Co., on Nov. 18 (KJM,CGB). An adult in the vicinity of Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth on Nov. 22 (DHH) may have been the same bird BLM observed there on Dec. 1. One at a feeder in south-end Halifax remained into early December at least (IAM), while one on Patterson St. in Dartmouth (JWT) was seen between Nov. 25 and the end of December (possibly the same bird seen at Sullivan's Pond). According to BAH's Jan. 5 "Bird Watch" column in **The Mail-Star**, one was listed on the Sydney CBC, and at the other end of the province, DJC and family hosted an adult at their Lockeport suet feeder from Nov. 27 until Jan. 3, when severely cold weather arrived.

Thanks again to Judy Tufts for her fall North American migration count figures for the province from Sept. 11, 1995. She hopes to get both spring and fall statistics to the editors in time for the July and January issues, respectively, from now on. Quite a few species (11) in my charge showed higher totals for this one-day count than were reported to me for the fall '95 migration in the January issue. This demonstrates that we witness a very small port of the migration, and often, numbers reported are more a function of birders' effort than of overall numbers as such, and we must be careful not to infer too much from raw numerical data.

KNK, ed.



Richard Stern's photo captures a typical warbler--watching experience on the North tip of Brier Island--a small, windblown waif, teetering momentarily on a branch before launching itself again into the air, bound for Long Island, or perhaps Maine. Here you can study it at leisure. Are you able to identify it as a young Magnolia Warbler?

TANAGERS TO TOWHEE

Several birders were able to add WESTERN TANAGER to their lists and notes after a very distinctive male bird was found at the home of Bill Crowson at Cape Blomidon, King's Co. on Nov. 26. Although this bird may have lingered longer in the area, the last reported sighting was on Nov. 28 (GWT,ICT,JWT).

One species that has taken over the spotlight this winter has been NORTHERN CARDINALS. There were unprecedented numbers in this province. Fifty-four (double the old record) of these beautiful birds were found during CBCs. The records showed a fairly even split of males and females but what was interesting was that they were not confined to the usual southern counties. This incursion may have been the catalyst needed to make Cardinals a more evident breeding species in Nova Scotia. During the Yarmouth CBC, 6 birds were found in one bush! There were 3 together in Digby on Nov. 29 (BJA), pairs of birds regularly seen at feeders were commonplace but nonetheless spectacular. BLF noted a male singing most days at Hillside Ave. in Wolfville and watched as this bird fought its reflection in a house window on February 26. It is hoped that the fallout of this will be resident birds with breeding success this summer.

One INDIGO BUNTING lingered recklessly into winter in Halifax. This bird was present through early December at a feeder on Marlborough Ave (IAM et al.).

There were several DICKCISSELS recorded. Two were found on the Glace Bay CBC and 1 on the Louisbourg Count in December. Others that were recorded late for the last issue were 1 on Sable Is., Oct. 23 (ZOL) and 1 at Port Maitland on Oct. 7 (CRKA,JCZ et al.). For the fifth or sixth straight year one appeared at Lisette d'Entremont's feeder in W. Pubnico. This time it was on Dec. 3-4. There were just 2 sightings of RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE. A male, reported late for the last issue, was found at Little Hbr. on Oct. 10 and a female was discovered at W. Pubnico on Nov. 22 and took up winter residence there until at least Feb. 9 (LID).

SPARROWS TO SNOW BUNTING

Observers felt that sparrows were generally unusually low to the point of total absence in some areas. AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS however, were very well reported. Groups of 2 to 10 were normal, but 40 in a single flock seen near the Cornwallis River near Wolfville on Dec. 16. (JCT) was exceptional and 20 were found at Duncan's Cove on Dec. 1 (BLM). At least 16 were sighted at Apple River and 14+ were counted near Portipique (KFS,CEM). There were 25 CHIPPING SPARROWS recorded during CBCs, that being a high number for winter. Nine of those were in Wolfville, 6 in Yarmouth and 5 in Pubnico. Others were 2 at Avonport on Dec. 27 (Eva Urban) and one still visiting a feeder at L. W. Pubnico on Jan. 13 (RSD).

A single rare FIELD SPARROW was sighted at Herring Cove on Dec. 2 (BLM,RAF,ROF). Although VESPER SPARROWS breed locally in Nova Scotia, it is a very uncommon occurrence to see them in winter. A single bird arrived at a feeder in New Glasgow and was seen there on Jan. 6 (CGB,KJM). Continuing with rarities, there were 3 LARK SPARROWS noted during the period. Louisbourg and the The Sydneys each had 1 during the CBCs there. Another was found at Rainbow Haven on Dec. 17 (IAM,DM). One earlier sighting was 1 seen at Little Harbour on Sept. 19 (DHY).

SAVANNAH SPARROWS have been almost non-existent this winter. Very few observers were able to find them in any reasonable numbers. What were found included several at Rainbow Haven in late December (IAM); 3-5 at Grand Pré in December and January (JWW); 4 at Wolfville Sewage Ponds on Jan. 1 and a single bird at Pictou Landing (CGB,KJM).

100 SAVANNAH (IPSWICH) SPARROWS were counted on Sable Is. (ZOL); one at Cherry Hill Beach, Dec. to Jan. 2 (SJF) and 1 at Grand Pré on Jan. 7 (BLF). There were two "Acadian" race SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS at Rainbow Haven Beach on Dec. 17 (IAM) and a single 1 seen there a week later on the Halifax East CBC.

Twelve FOX SPARROWS were staked out during CBCS in mid to late December in various parts of the province. Six of those were in Annapolis Royal. Five were at a feeder in Elmsdale (fide RCM) and 1 bird was at a feeder in W. Pubnico (LID). SONG SPARROWS were notable by their absence. The few reports were of single birds with only a couple of exceptions. Ten were noted in Terrence Bay on Dec. 4 (BDS,PML); 3 over-wintering in Halifax (JSC); and there were 2 at Advocate and Westmount during December and January (JAC,JRM). SWAMP SPARROWS do over-winter very regularly but they were rarely encountered this winter. There were only 23 (fewer than Fox Sparrows) seen on CBCs. Other sightings include 4 at MacLellan's Marsh, Pic. Co. on Dec. 9 (KJM,CGB); 1 at Purcell's Cove on Jan. 14 (AJV) and 2, one of which narrowly escaped the hook of a Northern Shrike when observed at Conrad's Beach on Jan. 12 (JWT).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS continue to be found in small isolated flocks throughout the province and seem to be a much less common winter resident over the last several years. There were a total of 415 of these beautiful sparrows counted on CBCs of which 122 were found in Cape Sable/Barrington Bay areas. The equally impressive WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were noted in three locations. The first were 2 at Little Harbour in late fall (DHY). One was discovered on Sable Is. from Nov. 7-10 (ZOL), and another at Bedford on Dec. 9 (BLM,DUB).

By far the most numerous of the sparrow group were DARK-EYED JUNCOS. Although most observers indicated they were not as plentiful as usual, they could still be found along roadsides, in alder thickets and when necessary, at feeders. The largest group recorded was two flocks at Green Hill, Pic. Co. on Dec. 9, when 350 were counted (KJM,CGB). The CBCs with thirty-two areas censused, totaled 5091 with 30% of those occurring in the Wolfville area. DARK-EYED (OREGON) JUNCOS were identified at Cape Sable Is., where 4 were found there on their CBC.

LAPLAND LONGSPURS are always an uncommon sight in winter, generally found along roadsides with Snow Buntings or Horned Larks. This winter only 6 were discovered on CBCs, but by mid-January more were noted. 15-16 were counted at Grand Pré on Jan. 7-10 (JWW,JCT). Others were 6 at Conrad's Beach on Jan. 12 (JWT) and 5 at Rainbow Haven on Jan. 21 (IAM). Although there were several reports of SNOW BUNTINGS they were not plentiful. The largest group was about 200 at Halifax International Airport (DHH). There the authorities are testing alarm calls of various species including Snow Buntings, to keep the flocks away from the runways and it appears to be working well. Usual, were flocks of 20-40 from almost all areas of the province with fewer recorded in Cape Breton than on the mainland. There was a total of 2391 counted during December on the CBCs.

ICTERIDS

CBCs tallied 95 RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS with almost half occurring in the Wolfville area. Although most sightings were of 1 or 2 individuals, there were 18 seen at Milford Sta. on Dec. 17, that flock dwindling slightly to 14 by Jan. 13 (AEW,MGW). In late November there were up to 3 EASTERN MEADOWLARKS spotted at Conrad's Beach. At least 1 survived there until Jan. 3 (JWT). Others include 1 at Rainbow Haven on Dec. 17 (IAM) and a meadowlark sp. was seen at Wood's Harbour on Dec. 19, as well as at L. W. Pubnico on Dec. 26 (RSD).

A female YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD was seen in north end Halifax in February, in company with a large flock of starlings. Last date reported was Feb. 25 (JSC).



NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

USE ALSO FOR DIFFICULT IDENTIFICATIONS

This form is designed to help you; please provide as much information as you can, but don't worry if you have to leave some areas blank.

Send the completed form to: The Records Editor, Wendie Tay,
5 Berwick Street, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2Y 3B6.

SPECIES - include number of individuals, and age & sex of the bird(s)

PLACE OF OBSERVATION AND HABITAT

DATE & TIME OF OBSERVATION (and length of observation)

WEATHER AND LIGHT CONDITIONS

WEATHER AND LIGHT CONDITIONS

OBSERVERS - Who else observed this bird? Who discovered it, and who first identified it?
If available please include photographs, etc.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT - What binoculars or scopes were used? How far away was the bird?

Over



There were just two RUSTY BLACKBIRDS in the final results of the CBCs. One was at Kingston and 1 at Annapolis Royal. The only other report was of 2 at MacLellan's Marsh in Pic. Co. on Dec. 9 (KJM,CGB).

As would be expected, there were few COMMON GRACKLES lingering. They could however, be found throughout the winter in Advocate, where 9 were regular feeder visitors (JRM). The latest group was of 18 seen at Up. Sackville on Feb. 26 (BJA). BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS have decreased in the province significantly during winter. Only a few sightings are being currently recorded. Twenty visited a feeder in Westphal on Dec. 16 (DWP,JAP) then 28 arrived near Prospect on Dec. 17 (BDS,PML). Additional reports include 12 at Up. Sackville on Jan. 31 (BJA) and 6 at Lewis Lake on Jan. 29 (AJV).

NORTHERN ORIOLES seem to have become a fairly common late fall and winter birds. The explosion of hobbyists interested in feeding and watching birds in the backyard has led to more sophisticated literature available about those birds that require a specific diet. Orioles and warblers are the recipients of the good will at least until the cold weather becomes severe or the task of stringing grapes becomes too onerous or expensive. There were no fewer than twenty reports of about 45 different birds. Fifteen were included in the CBC totals with 8 of the 32 counts reporting them. Notable were 5 at W. Pubnico from Nov.1 through Dec. 5 (LID). Four were found at Westmount, C.B. on Nov. 26-27 (JAC) and 3 survived until Jan. 16 at a feeder in Halifax (Cohrs).

FINCHES TO HOUSE SPARROW

It was only a year ago that I was lamenting the lack of PINE GORSBEAKS and how much they are missed. Their silent behavior and great beauty have a calming effect on us in the stillness of winter. This year was a banner one with quite large flocks evident in Nov. and Dec. CBCs gave us a cumulative number of 835 during the two week count period. There were 50 in one flock at Wolfville (JET) on Dec. 19. Two flocks were seen at Green Bay, one of 32 and the other of 21 on Nov. 28 (JLC,JSC); 20 were seen at Mt. Denson, Hants Co. on Feb. 9 (BBT) and 25 were discovered at Duncan's Cove on Dec. 1 (BLM). Flocks of fewer birds were regularly encountered by birders throughout the province. Although some years we do host significant numbers of PURPLE FINCHES during winter--this was not one of them. They were difficult to find, particularly on the mainland. The cone crop in Cape Breton counties was very good and was poor elsewhere. This certainly contributed to the distribution of most of the winter finches. Most of the 1100 Purple Finches seen during the CBCs occurred in Cape Breton. Typical of the records submitted were small groups of 2-10 birds. It appears that there were as many as 32 HOUSE FINCHES in Halifax during December. Although there were just 9 birds counted during CBCs, there was a dozen other reports for the period. A male was found at Apple River on Nov. 16 (KFS); a male was frequenting feeders in Wolfville throughout December and into January (GMT,JWW); there were 6 found at Lockeport during December and January (DJC); and 1 was found in New Glasgow throughout the period (KJM,CGB).

RED CROSSBILLS numbered 234 on CBCs, far fewer than the more common WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS which totaled 5228 in the same period. One large flock of 85-100 Reds was discovered at Elgin, Pic. Co. on Feb. 15 (CGB). A large flock of about 200 White-winged Crossbills were seen at Elgin on Feb. 10 (CGB) and there was a flock of 200 at Porter's Lake on Jan. 25 (DAC).

Early in the winter almost all COMMON REDPOLLS were found in Cape Breton taking advantage of the food sources there. Antigonish, Pictou and Guysborough Counties had good numbers by late December. Smaller numbers flowed into more southern parts by late January and into February. Typically flocks were less than 20 in mainland areas. Exceptions were 40 at Pubnico Point on Feb. 16 (RSD) and 25 were found at Durham, Pic. Co. on Feb. 10 (AJV), and 20+ at Fraserville, Cumb. Co. in January and February (SCM,BWM).

PINE SISKINS were numerous in Cape Breton throughout the winter. Only scattered and rare sightings of this finch were reported elsewhere and those were generally not until mid-January. The Wolfville area and Bass River seemed to be the mainland exceptions. Wolfville had about 100 visiting various feeders during December, January and February (JET) and Bass River hosted 110 on Jan. 8-30 (SWH). As winter progressed, small movements reached most parts of the province but were very scarce. AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES were one of the most numerous species counted on CBCS in the province, almost 10,000 with 2332 seen within the Wolfville count circle. An albino bird was found at Westmount, B.B. on Feb. 10 (**file** JAC).

EVENING GROSBEAKS were numerous and well reported. Flocks of a few to dozens would descend on feeders and as is their habit, reappear days or weeks later. Over 12,000 were counted during the CBCs, which is considerable. However, many observers commented on their particularly rare visits at feeders, which contradicts the numbers.

The HOUSE SPARROW is still one of the ten most numerous species in the province with almost 8,000 being counted during CBCs. They remain very devoted to the special neighbourhood hedges, always close enough to feeders during winter. About 50 are frequenting Milford Stn. (MGW) and about 50 can be found in Lockeport town (DJC).

DAC, ed.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

for

the **July** issue

May 29, 1996

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

RARE AND DIFFICULT BIRD REPORT FORM

At a meeting in January, the Editors of the seasonal bird reports again agonized over reporting of rarities to **Nova Scotia Birds**. An earlier effort to encourage more detailed reports on rarities (see **N.S. Birds**, vol. 36 no. 1, p. 5, Jan. 1994) has only been partly successful.

1. Competent observers at times may feel that such "rules" do not apply to them.
2. Rarities may be well seen by a number of competent observers, each one of whom assumes that someone else would handle the tedium of documentation.
3. The "discoverer" of a rare bird is sometimes from out-of-province or a lucky beginner, so that other observers should, but often do not, submit a description of the bird.

With this issue you will receive an updated **RARE BIRD REPORT FORM**. Not all sightings of birds listed below require filling out a full form, but observers should submit enough evidence so that the bird in question has been accurately identified. For example, the crescent-shaped wing "windows", narrow tail-bands, and lack of dark patagial (forewing) marks, would discriminate an imm. Red-shouldered Hawk from other species. Mention of back-streaking and foot-colour would help assure that a reported early winter Blackpoll Warbler was not one of the more regular Pine Warblers.

The seasonal editors will generally not include undocumented sightings of these in **Nova Scotia Birds**, although some may be referred to as having been submitted without details if there is reason to suppose (e.g. several reliable observers) that the identification was indeed correct. Here are the birds for which documentation is required:

1. All species not on the Society's current (yellowish) checklist. Some of these are almost self-identifying, and may require few details. Others need a full rare bird report form.
2. The following species on the Society's checklist are not extremely rare here, but are sufficiently difficult to identify so that, at least, diagnostic field marks should be reported.

Eurasian Wigeon (female)
 Cooper's Hawk
 Red-shouldered Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk (in winter; distinguish from Red-shouldered)
 Golden Eagle
 Clapper Rail (note possibility of King Rail)
 Western Sandpiper (length of bill alone unrealistic)
 Curlew Sandpiper (in non-breeding plumage; eliminate others with abnormal bills)
 Long-billed Dowitcher
 Great vs. South Polar Skua (leave as skua sp. unless distinctions noted)
 Little Gull
 Gull-billed Tern
 Forster's Tern
 Unseasonable hummingbirds (best as hummingbird sp. unless critically identified)
 Unseasonable **Empidonax** flycatchers (late fall birds need critical identification)

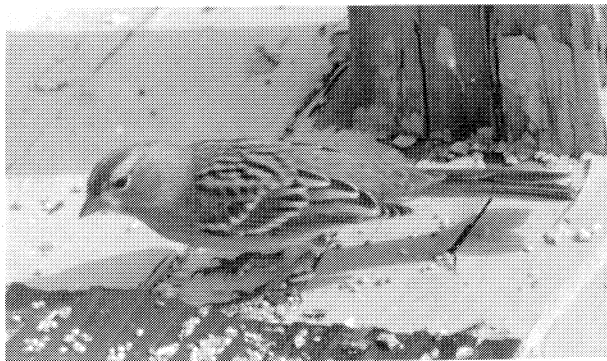


N. Rough-winged Swallow (note sometimes dusky underparts of Tree Swallows)
 Bicknell's Thrush (except on breeding grounds, needs careful distinction from Gray-cheeked Thrush)
 Loggerhead Shrike (distinguish from Northern Shrike)
 Philadelphia Vireo (distinguish from Red-eyed and Warbling)
 Late fall Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers (distinguish from Pine Warbler)
 Late Fall Nashville Warbler (distinguish from Orange-crowned)
 Brewer's Blackbird (distinguish from Rusty).

Nova Scotia Birds enjoys an excellent reputation at the moment and we are anxious to be as accurate as possible with our reporting. We, the Seasonal Editors, the Records Editor and the Editor hope that with your cooperation, we can achieve that aim.

Report forms are free and can be obtained from the Records Editor by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Wendie Tay,
 5 Berwick St.,
 Dartmouth, N.S.
 B2T 3B6

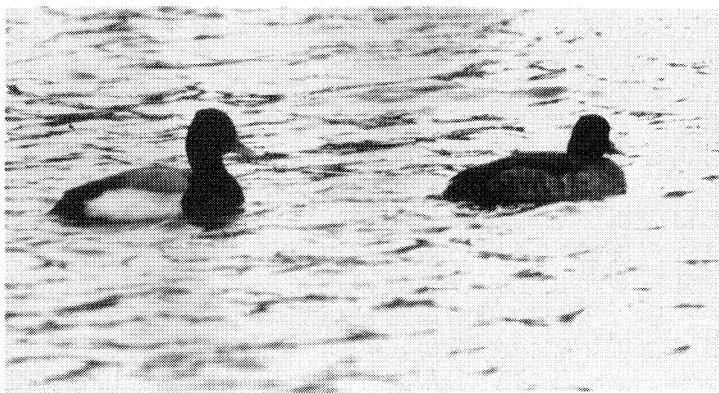


Two rarish sparrows were photographed by Zoe Lucas on Sable Island last October. The imm. Clay-coloured Sparrow (note the gray "collar" and fully streaked crown) was the first thus confirmed on the island and the imm. White-crowned Sparrow was the second of the western "Gambell's" race to be confirmed (note its pale lores).

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April 1996 Issue

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Cohrs, Lise	LAC
Cohrs, Shirley	JSC
Cooke, Eric	ERC
Chretien, Jacqueline	JAC
Chretien, Rose Marie	RMC
Crosby, Donna	DJC
Currie, Dave	DAC
Czupalay, Joan	JCZ
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D'Eon, Jerome	JKD
Dickie, Bob	RBD
Dickie, Helen	HBD
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Field, Chris	CJF
Forsythe, Bernard	BLF
Foxall, Andrew	RAF
Foxall, Roger	ROF
Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF
Gibson, Merritt	MAG
Goring, May	MYG
Graves, June	JUG
Haase, Mickie	MIH
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West, Myrna	MGW
Wolford, Jim	JWW
Young, David	DHY

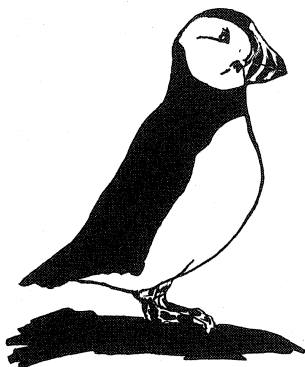


Lesser Scaups seem to be becoming much more frequent visitors to the province during recent winters. The peaked head of the male is very evident in this photo (I.A. McLaren) taken in Yarmouth on Feb. 25, 1995.

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, Eel Brook, Melbourne Overton, all the ubnicos, Glenwood, Dayton, Quinan.
Shelburne Co. (Shel. Co.)	Cape Sable Is., Cape Sable, Matthews Lake, Lower Ohio, The Hawk, Seal Is., 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, Laurie Park, Powder Mill Park, Chezzetcook
Colchester Co. (Col. Co.)	Economy, Glenholme
Annapolis Co. (Anna. Co.)	Wilmot, Round Hill, Paradise, Annapolis Royal, Clementsport.
Kings Co.	Wolfville, Greenfield, Canard, Black River Lake, Gaspereau, Grand Pré, White Rock, Starr's Pt., Lumsden Reservoir
Cumberland Co. (Cumb. Co.)	Lusby Marsh, APBS*, 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
 CSI - Cape Sable Island



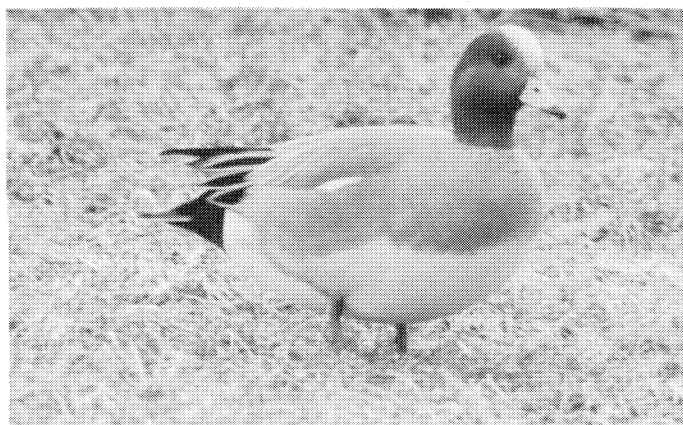


Among the boreal species spotted by Randy Lauff during a ramble on the plateau of C.B. National Park this summer was this Pine Grosbeak, at one point carrying food in her mouth. This would have been confirmation of breeding in the Atlassing days.

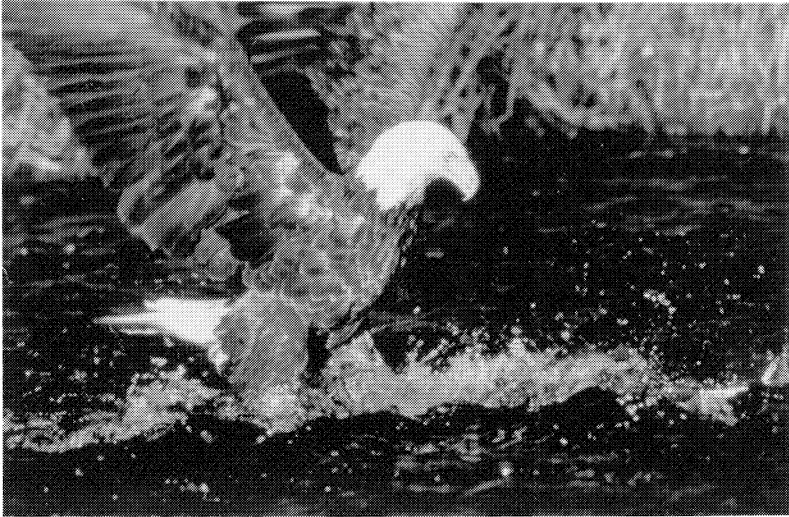


This SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, at Wolfville in mid-February 1995, sat thus for 5-10 minutes. Was he really expecting dinner to come to him? Photo, Judy Tufts.

SULLIVAN'S
POND
SPECIALS



Birders in metro Halifax-Dartmouth almost always include a visit to Sullivan's Pond during a day's outing. This winter, birds of interest on or around the pond included a male Eurasian Wigeon (photo by Richard Stern, Jan. 28), a female Tufted Duck (photo by Ian McLaren, Jan 21), and a plump American Coot (photo by Azor Vienneau, Feb. 25).



SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

The 1995 Winning Slide in our competition for members of the Photographic Guild

Bald Eagle by Loris Keizer

THE ROSEATE TERNS OF SOUTH-WEST NOVA SCOTIA - TED C. D'EON

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*).

Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) status - threatened.

Roseate Tern Recovery Plan established in 1992 - chaired by Dr. Sherman Boates of the Wildlife Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.

There are two small islands near my home in West Pubnico where Roseates have been nesting since at least 1982. On the more recent charts, these islands are referred to as "The Brothers". On older charts they were known as the "Twin Islands". The first time Roseate Terns were noticed there by the local birders was on May 26, 1983, when a group of us, on our yearly census visit to the island bird colonies, stopped on The Northern Brother (Northern "Twin Island".) Delisle d'Entremont of Lower West Pubnico, brought our attention to about 40 Roseates, from a colony of 1000 mostly Common terns. Since then I have been observing their yearly progress. In 1983 we were not aware that during the previous summer, Dr. Tony Lock, of Canadian Wildlife Service, had already located Roseates in this colony.

In Atlantic Canada, Roseates will be found nesting with Common and/or Arctic Terns in only a very few tern colonies. The easiest and fastest way to establish their existence in a colony is by their call. Once the observer's ears become sensitized to their short and raspy "aaak" alarm call, locating the birds becomes quite simple. After hearing its distinctive call, one must look in that direction for a tern of whiter appearance with a longer white streaming tail. Its upperwing is mostly very pale grey, The primaries often appearing as a dark grey leading edge. At the time of their arrival to "The Brothers", around mid-May, the bill of the adult Roseate Tern is usually completely black. Later, as summer progresses, the bill will begin to show more and more red-orange on its basal half. Also, the faintly rosy underparts may help to assure identification.

On May 7, 1991, from a suggestion by Dr. Ian C. T. Nisbet of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, at our 1990 Atlantic Canada Tern Working Group (ACTWoG) meeting, I placed my first Roseate Tern nesting boxes on "The Brothers". These had a 16 in. x 16 in. plywood top and three 5 in. high sides. The fourth side was left open as an entrance to the shelter; there was no floor. A heavy rock was placed on top of the structure so it would not be blown away. The structures worked, and with some nest identification pointers from Dr. Tony Lock, I was even able to identify my first Roseate Tern nests outside of these and other shelters.

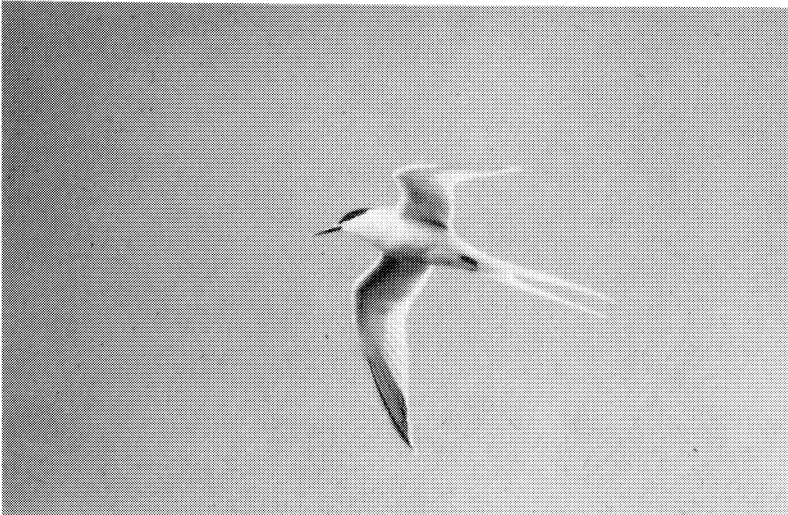
Nest and egg identification is difficult at its best. The preferred nesting habitat generally provides more cover than what we see for Common and Arctic Terns. They usually nest adjacent to clumps of vegetation, under boulders, under washed up wooden boards and planks and other driftwood where they can find shelter or seclusion. They, however, like the proximity of others of their kind and therefore form a sub-colony within the tern colony as a whole.

Roseate Terns usually lay one or two eggs, rarely more. The eggs are laid two or three days apart, and hatch accordingly. The nest itself may be a shallow scrape with little nesting material, but from my observations on the Brothers, the Roseate nests there generally contain more plant material than those of Common and Arctic Tern's. Pieces of plant stalks (6 to 15cm long) from previous years growth, give the nest the appearance of varying amounts of matted straw.

Egg colour and size variations among our three species, present another problem. The eggs are usually longer and narrower than those of Common and Arctic Terns. The eggshell background colour is usually light sandy-brown (rarely with olive, and never with bluish cast) with blackish-brown speckles, spots, and scrawls more apt to be on the larger end. The markings are usually finer than those of the other species.

The Common and The Arctic Tern may lay eggs which also fit the above field marks, but their eggs are more likely to be rounder and darker, with larger spots and speckles, and the eggshells background colour with a bluish, pale greenish or olive cast.

Identifying the Roseate Tern nestling presents no problem, even to the novice. The filament tips of the greyish-brown down of the young Roseate Tern is gathered in tufts (even when dry) giving it a spiky appearance. The legs and feet of the newly hatched start out purplish-pink but within a few days darken to almost black. Those of the Common and Arctic's are yellowish-orange to orange.



Roseate Tern—Photo from NSBS Slide Collection.

Since 1989, I have been collecting data on the tern colonies of the Lobster Bay Area and reporting my findings to Canadian Wildlife Service and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR), Wildlife Division.

The following table shows the tern nest count breakdown from 1991 to 1995 on the Northern Brother.

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total nests	454	413	367	380	457
Roseate nests	20	23	30	34	33

In 1993, the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries issued a permit to some local fishermen to place an aquaculture structure in the waters adjacent to the Northern Brother. This was after the NSDNR, Wildlife Division had been working a couple of years acquiring and getting clear title to the lands of "The Brothers", in an attempt to create a wildlife management area, since, at this time, the Northern Brother had the only recognized Roseate Tern colony in Canada. A couple of years earlier work was begun for a Canadian Roseate Tern Recovery Plan of which I am still a member. We had a concern that the aquaculture operation could disturb the tern colony enough to reduce its productivity, or worse, by the twice daily ins and outs of the fishermen and the possible increase in the gull density near the island. We felt it was very poor judgement on the part of the Minister of Fisheries.

However, it was done. On May 9, 1994, an aquaculture pen was towed in place and anchored to the east of the island. The first fish (Steelhead Trout) were placed in it on May 16.

As it turned out, the aquaculture activities did not seem to disturb the terns, and they nested well. Gulls were not attracted to the area when the fish were being fed. The year 1994 was, however, a poor year for egg hatching and fledgling success. Only about 18% of the eggs hatched and very few chicks fledged. It would be easy to say aquaculture was the cause but from my observations, I do not believe it to be so. Instead, the poor, wet, cold weather during the incubation stage and the appearance of a Snowy Owl in early July were likely the major candidates.

The 1995 nesting season on the Northern Brother was superb, even though the aquaculture project had expanded to four pens. Fledgling success was high. The Roseate Terns did well.

The NSDNR, Wildlife Division has now identified two more tern colonies in Nova Scotia, containing numbers of Roseate Terns similar to those of "The Brothers".

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ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED US SINCE OUR ANNIVERSARY YEAR IN 1980, MAY NOT KNOW OF OUR SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE WHICH CONTAINS THE HISTORY OF THE NSBS, ARTICLES ABOUT OUR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND MANY PHOTOGRAPHS. IT IS AVAILABLE FOR \$2.00 PLUS \$1.00 FOR POSTAGE FROM THE MUSEUM ADDRESS: NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY,
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NOVA SCOTIAN HELPS SAVE THE WORLD'S CRANES

The survival of a number of the world's crane species has been ensured in great measure by a Nova Scotian, George Archibald, and his world-wide team of volunteers and researchers. He is coming home to Nova Scotia in July for a visit and he has agreed to give a public presentation about his wonderful work and also forego his usual fee of a donation of \$1000 for the International Crane Foundation (ICF) since this is a personal visit. The Nova Scotia Bird Society, the Halifax Naturalists and the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, who are co-sponsoring the event, agreed that we should support this important international work.

The Foundation began in the early 1970s, the dream of two enthusiastic young men, Ron Sauey and George Archibald, who met as graduate students at Cornell University. Sadly, Ron Sauey died of a sudden illness in 1987. George grew up in Sherbrooke, Guysborough County, attended Acadia University and graduated from Dalhousie. Together they began a program which now has implications in every part of the world. From the beginning, ICF was pledged to five essential activities: research, education, habitat protection, captive breeding and restocking.

Today, the crane pens at the ICF in Baraboo, Wisconsin, house all fifteen species of crane. Research is done in co-operation with other countries and institutions. Members of Crane Working Groups on five continents share information through publications, visits and international conferences. ICF conducted the first international transfer of crane eggs, bred both Siberian and Hooded Cranes in captivity, bred the first Brolgas and Black-necked Cranes in North America, used artificial lights to stretch daylight, simulated monsoons to trigger egg laying, and were the first to use crane puppets to prepare captive chicks for socializing with wild cranes.



George Archibald with WHOOPING CRANE "GEE WHIZ"

Why cranes? Because of their world-wide distribution, cranes offer a rare opportunity to measure, on several continents, the health of land and water ecosystems. The decline of crane numbers in many parts of the world, is a signal that key habitats, both grasslands and wetlands, are seriously being altered or damaged on a world-wide scale.



RED-CROWNED CRANES

In Canada, the Whooping Crane has been rescued from extinction; from a low of 22 in 1941 to over 220 in the 1990s. Canada's other species, the Sandhill Crane, is the most abundant crane species in the world, although some of its subspecies are in trouble and researchers worry about the diminishing habitat on the River Platte, Nebraska.

George Archibald has some wonderful crane stories to share with us. The time and place of his presentation have not yet been finalized but the details will be well advertised. As well as fund raising through admission to the presentation, there will be a raffle of a hand-painted crane-adorned tote bag with original work by Stephanie Robertson. There will also be a fund-raising pot luck and reception earlier in the evening. The costs are as follows:

Archibald Lecture	\$ 5.00 per person
Tote bag raffle	\$ 2.00 per ticket, 3 for \$5.00
Pot Luck Reception	\$25.00 per person plus pot luck contribution
	This included admission to the lecture.

You can also make a personal donation to ICF. For more information contact Bernice Moores at 1361 Edward Street, Halifax. B3H 3H5 or Tel. 902-422-5292 or E Mail as434@cnn.cs.dal.ca after April 14.

Details will also be available on the Nova Scotia Bird Society WWW page and the Bird Line.

STOP PRESS: The DATE has been finalized--SATURDAY, JULY 6 at 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: To be announced

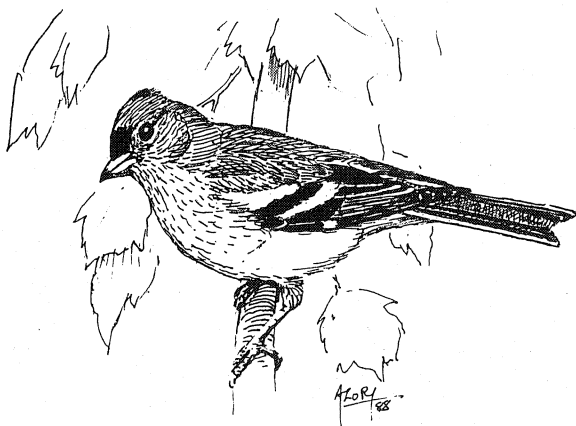
THE WESTERNERS

Among the western vagrants from the West sent to brighten our wintery days were: the briefly-staying Western Tanager on the North Mountain, King's County (photo Judy Tufts, Nov. 27), the long-staying Townsend's Solitaire in Prince's Lodge, Halifax (photo, Ian McLaren, Jan. 10), and the spanking male Black-throated Gray Warbler at a Bedford feeder during December (photo Ian McLaren, Dec. 21). These photos represent the third fully supported (specimens or photos) records of these species, although a few others have been well documented.



BIRDWATCHING IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Cliff & Glennys Hutton



CHAFFINCH

Coming back to England after an absence of twenty-seven years has meant, in bird terms, coming to a new continent. When we left in 1968, in our late twenties, I doubt that we could have named ten species. Now, as "quite knowledgeable Eastern Canadian bird-folk" we are suddenly faced with 250 or so NEW species--from expert to novice in seven flying hours!!! However, we've bought the field guides and dug out the binoculars and set to with a will.

Birdwatching in Gloucestershire
(not birding for heaven's sake, and pronounced Glostershurr)

For Glennys and I, so far, this comes under five headings:

- i. From the window.
- ii. Around the village
- iii. Public footpath/bridleway walks
- iv. Driving hither and yon.
- v. Slimbridge visits.

i. There is a garden back and front. Slightly more than cat swinging size each. We bought feeders, emptied our wallets and filled said feeders. In no time the word gets about doesn't it? Now we can guarantee fifteen to twenty species on a daily basis. Like each of the titles, this will really be a paragraph and a list...

Blue Tit (the ever-flitting blue, green & black little bird)

Great Tit (the blue's larger cousin with black vert. chest stripe)

Coal Tit (uncannily chickadee-like)

Chaffinch (multicoloured in subdued fashion, Britain's most numerous bird)

Collared Dove ("newly" arrived from the Balkans. First nested in 1955. Now very numerous. Mourning-dove-like)

Greenfinch (self-assertive olive, sparrow sized finch)

Robin (THE English bird, rather spherical & sparrow sized with its scarlet breast, very self-assured)

Duncock (once wrongly called the hedge sparrow,) grey/brown ground feeder,

a bit furtive somehow)
 House & Tree Sparrows (...hard to tell apart. The 'house' of course, well known in N.S.)
 Jackdaws (the "small" crow with the greyish cast to its head, very vocal, what did they do before TV aerials?)
 Starlings (just as detestable here!)
 Pied Wagtail (black and white, seems to prefer walking to flying, forever bobbing its tail)
 Wren (tiny, secretive, brown with its oddly erect tail)
 Sparrowhawk (one visit, chasing any or all of the above. The smallest of the UK hawks I think)

Added to these regulars numerous others fly over when season or mood take them...Black-headed Gulls, Carrion Crows, ducks, swans, Buzzard (one sighting), House Martins, swallows, magpies.

ii. Bourton-on-the-water. Apart from wild birds, the village is home to "BIRDLAND". This claims to be world famous. Purely a tourist 'pull', it is worth a visit. When we went there was a big flock of penguins complete with a couple of newly hatched chicks plus all manner of "foreign exotics" and deafening parrots. However, for the purist, it seems that 'zoo-birds' just don't quite belong somehow—or so it seems to me.

A very manicured River Windrush flows through the village paralleling the main street. B.O.T.W. is THE COTSWOLD VILLAGE, awash with tourists in the summer. They seem to come from every corner of the world. I think 25% of the world's population must have been photographed on one of the cute bridges that span the Windrush. Thankfully they stay, sheeplike, within 20 yards of the main street than drive off and wave their cameras somewhere else. All this being said, it really is a beautiful village.

The river is home to a huge flock of Mallard who process tons of bread per annum. We have spotted a Dipper and a Grey Wagtail happily ignoring the tourists. On the edge of the village there is a group of small lakes/ponds; glacial leftovers I think. These yield Great Crested Grebes (can't wait to see their summer plumage!), Mute Swans (20+), Coots and Moorhen. Regular visits will no doubt net migrating wildfowl as they pass through. A field between us and ye village serves as overflow car-park in summer and shire horse grazing in the winter! It's home to a big flock of Chaffinch, Pied Wagtails, Jackdaws and Crows.

iii. Footpaths...for me the footpaths and bridleways are just about the most magical aspect of England. They criss-cross the countryside in staggering profusion. You couldn't walk this country in two lifetimes! The overcrowded isle seems oft deserted; it's easy to walk five miles and not meet a soul. I've always found long walks a bit disappointing in bird-watching terms. Open fields, hedgerows and woods, streams and farmyards. The birds do what they do best—stay hidden, but the surprises do come in time—Grey Heron might drift over, or the stunning iridescence of a Kingfisher's blue/green skimming along a stream. Grand stuff! Often as not you return with not one rare sighting. Of course "they" are there studying "you", but there'll be Rooks, Crows, Black-headed Gulls and Lapwings aplenty.

iv. Driving hither and yon...Road-kill is just as bad as in Nova Scotia. Rabbits, hedgehogs, badger and even foxes pay the price of us fools and our cars. Of course it's sheer delight for magpies and crows and all the others with like tastes—but so sad too.

Pheasants, raised and shot by the thousand amaze us with their mindlessness. They strut proudly about the roads displaying their finery and get killed in their hundreds. The Rook is the bird of the fields with its domed head and whitish beak and face—how fast you learn the fieldmarks! Here the suicidal swoops of the American Robin are replaced by equally mad Blackbirds and thrushes. The hedges are alive with small birds, too briefly seen to be identified but mostly Chaffinches I think.

v. Slimbridge...This wondrous place is but one and a quarter hour's drive away, a wildfowl watcher's paradise on the south side of the Severn estuary. (Like Fundy, they claim the world's highest tides) Slimbridge was founded by Peter Scott. It has become a place of monthly pilgrimage for us, but I can't do it justice on a typewriter. It takes all of a day to "do" the place. A dozen or more hides allow you to gaze forever at lakes and ponds, marshes and meadows. There are glazed slots with elbow level shelves so you can stare through your binoculars in comfort; all this while perched on almost comfortable benches. This is bird watching par excellence! There is plenty of room and folks ever willing to tell you what you are looking at. A list on the back wall tells what others have seen over the last couple of days. The centre of the area is split into sections, each with one of the continents' wildfowl—an unbelievable collection of them. To the unscrupulous, the "life-lists" must grow by a couple of hundred over night! It is, of course, the "native" birds that appeal. It is a major migratory stop for all manner of species. Our last visit netted us 41 species for the day (including garden and journey, he added hastily).

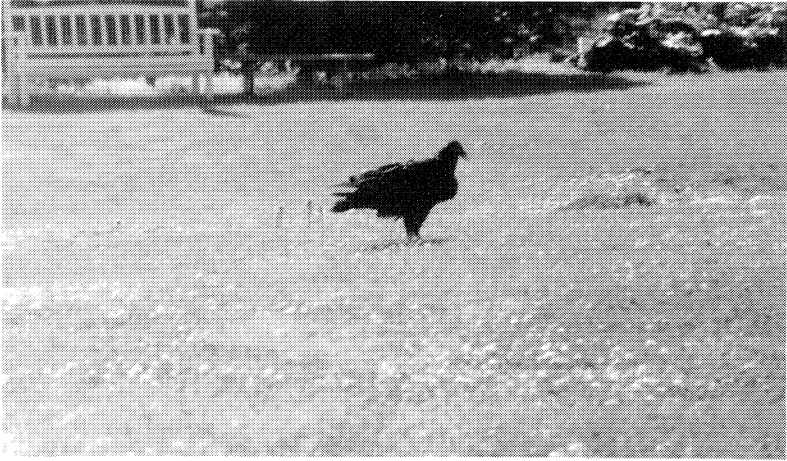
Slimbridge boasts a good restaurant and shop, also an information centre. One heated room (can't call it a hide!) allows you to sit in comfort and watch visiting wildfowl by the hundred. The variety and numbers just numb the mind. Bewick Swans are much in evidence at this time, visiting from Russia. Every visit we get more rather than less impressed by what we are seeing. There is a commercial aspect to the place of course; they need money too! A 30p bag of seed will ensure countless ambushes by various species of geese. Just watching their scrounge techniques is an education, begging holds no shame for these characters.

All I can really add is a list of what we've seen on five visits. The list would be longer if our knowledge were greater I'm sure; and of course, we've only been visiting for a few short months. However, if you visit the U.K. and do nought else...visit Slimbridge!!

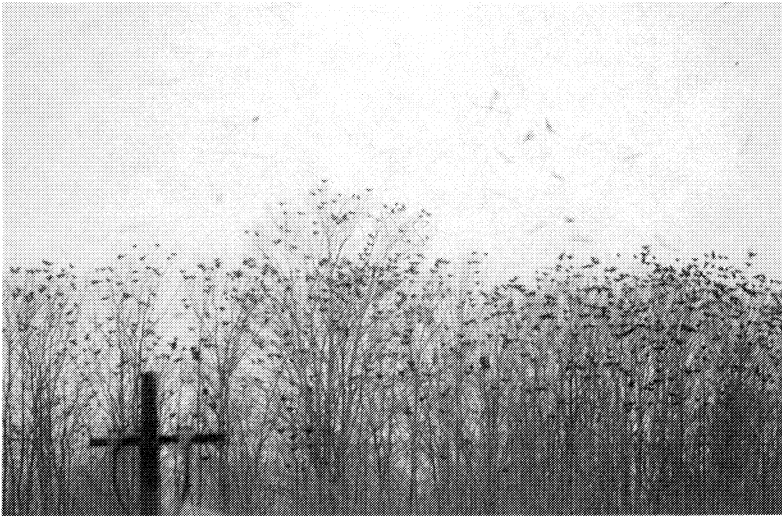
Great Crested Grebe	Herring Gull	Collared Dove
Little Grebe	Snipe	Blackbird
Lapwing	Curlew	House Sparrow
Cormorant	Mute Swan	Tree Sparrow
Black-headed Gull	Bewick Swan	Duncock
Gt. Blk-backed Gull	Canada Goose	Starling
Pintail	Ruddy Shelduck	Jackdaw
Pochard	Ruddy Duck	Chaffinch
Mallard	Crested Pochard	Carrion Crow
Shelduck	Tree Creeper	Rook
Tufted Duck		Pheasant
		Magpie
Shoveler		Pied Wagtail
Teal	Greenfinch	Woodpigeon
Wigeon*	Blue Tit	Wren
Goldeneye	Great Tit	
Moorhen	Coal Tit	Kingfisher
Coot	Long-tailed Tit	

*by the thousands in Nov.

Editor: Many members will remember Cliff and Glennys who lived near Shubenacadie for many years and who were active members of N.S.B.S. before returning to England. We hope to see them on future trips on their visits to Canada.



Lisette d'Entremont was favoured (?) by this Turkey Vulture investigating her compost pile in Pubnico last July. Perhaps her father can be credited (blamed?) for putting out some fish offal on a nearby hill.



Richard Stern submitted this snap of part of the Kentville crow roost as an indication of the problem for those who might have concerns about that town's solution.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD RARITIES IN PERSPECTIVE

Part 3: Pigeons to Pipits

By Ian McLaren

Again I consider birds that are so rare here as to be termed "accidentals", plus some that are less rare, but trickier to identify, or that have identifiable subspecies. Not all have occurred in Nova Scotia, but they might! This is not a definitive, scholarly account. I have certainly not found all pertinent records, and my scribbled notes from North American and regional bird journals have produced some errors. Colleagues have pointed out that the Pink-footed Goose at Cap-Tourmente, Québec, was in 1988, not 1989, and the one in 1990 was in Montreal, not Cap-Tourmente. Also, my reference to a Black-necked Stilt on the Québec North Shore in July 1989 is totally untraceable. Michel Gosselin notes that, in addition to the Lesser Frigatebird in Maine, a Great Frigatebird turned up in Oklahoma in 1975! Any apparent Magnificent Frigatebird should be fully described. Again, "Tufts" is the 3d edition (1985), "NSB" is this journal, and "AB" is *American Birds* and its successor, *National Audubon Society Field Notes*.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON. Our three (two in Tufts, one this winter) are among the ten or so fall-winter records for New England and Atlantic Canada. I don't believe these can be dismissed (as by the A.O.U. Checklist) as escapees.

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE. This species spread rapidly through western Europe during the 1930s. Some escaped a pet store in the Bahamas in the 1970s, and the species colonized Florida by the 1980s. It has since reached North Carolina, and has been predicted to arrive here one day. A related cagebird, Ringed Turtle-Dove, has been seen here from time to time as an escapee. It is smaller, paler overall, with much paler primaries, and has a narrower neck band (see *Birding*, 1994, v. 26, p. 199).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE. This species is a notable wanderer and has turned up a dozen times in Nova Scotia, mostly in late summer and fall. Oddly, there are more recent records for the Maritimes than for New England or southeast U.S.A. Photos suggest that some of ours were of the grayer subspecies of southwest U.S.A., but one with more brownish foreneck and chest at a Dartmouth feeder in late May 1989 might have come from Florida or the West Indies. Detailed notes and photos may help reveal their patterns of vagrancy.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE. Our sight record (Tufts) was a first for Canada (one more since in Ontario). We would be very lucky to receive another, as the breeding population in southeastern U.S.A. has decreased markedly in recent years. A related species to keep in mind is the *Inca Dove* of southwestern U.S.A., which has wandered in recent years, notably to northern Ontario in October 1992.

MONK PARAKEET. This introduced bird now nests as close to us as Massachusetts and an individual at Pt. Pelee, ON, in 1984 might have come from such a feral population. Was one summering in Sussex, NB, in 1992 such a wanderer, or a regional escapee?

COMMON CUCKOO. Totally unpredictable was one of these on Martha's Vineyard, MA, in early May 1981. It probably came by ship, but who knows?

MANGROVE CUCKOO. Evelyn Richardson in her *Living Island* (Ryerson, Toronto, 1965) gives second-hand reports of Mangrove Cuckoos in June 1957 and fall 1963. These were, as she says, "incredibles". Interestingly, there was another such tantalizing bird near Rimouski, QC, on 14 Oct. 1991. One should perhaps eliminate other similar, partially migratory, South American species like the Dark-billed Cuckoo; the Québec bird, though, was noted as having a bill like Yellow-billed.

GROOVE-BILLED ANI. Our two hypothetical sightings (Tufts) may be unique for the region, although the bird has occasionally wanders to the Midwest, and at least five times in autumn to Ontario. A recent Smooth-billed Ani in Ohio was difficult to distinguish from the more usual Groove-billed, even in the hand, stressing the need for meticulous field notes and photos.

COMMON BARN-OWL. We've had about seven of these, mostly found dead. A few have occurred in New Brunswick, and P.E.I.'s first was in Jan. 1989. They nest in southern Massachusetts. Abandoned barns near the New Brunswick border ought to be explored in winter.

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL. Our one old and one more recent record (Tufts) are not well supported. They breed in southwest Québec, but dubiously in Maine and southern New Brunswick (see *Maritimes Atlas of Breeding Birds*). A bird "heard" in hardwoods near St. Peters, P.E.I., in May 1990, might be suspect, as some of our birders have reported Saw-whets making "trilling" sounds.

BURROWING OWL. This bird is not out-of-the-question here. One occurred at Sackville, NB, in June 1978, and there are recent records for Massachusetts in summer 1986 and Maine in spring 1994.

GREAT GRAY OWL. This species should not be on our tantalizing list, given their widespread, periodic eruptions. Winter birds in 1976 and 1986, as well as an extraordinary one on Cape Breton Island in July 1986, seemed convincingly described. However, the bird remains unconfirmed in the province.

EXOTIC NIGHTHAWKS. Some birders in northeastern U.S.A. keep these in mind. A Lesser Nighthawk was photographed at Pt. Pelee, ON, in April 1974. Identification may be tricky; a Common Nighthawk was initially miscalled a Lesser in Washington, DC, in early November 1985. However, an Antillean Nighthawk turned up on Cape Hatteras in Aug. 1994. Good timing for a summer hurricane!

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW. We've now had eight records, most recently during the past two summers on Sable Island, but few of our birders have seen one. They have increased in southeastern U.S.A. and breed on Martha's Vineyard, MA. We might expect more "overshooting" migrants in coming years.

COMMON SWIFT. This Eurasian species has been (doubtfully?) reported from Barbados, and one turned up on St.-Pierre et Miquelon on 23 June 1986 (not in AB). Photos exclude the similar, much less probable, Pallid Swift (*B. Mactavish*, pers. comm.).

V AUX'S SWIFT. This western swift, slightly smaller and paler below than our Chimney Swift, is fairly regular in Florida and the Gulf States, and two were in S. Carolina in Jan. 1994. A number of late-fall Chimney Swifts have been recorded in Nova Scotia, but few have been critically identified.

EXOTIC HUMMINGBIRDS. Four male Rufous Hummingbirds that have appeared here during August (1967, 1983, 1989, 1990) were characteristic of the timing of most earlier records of this species in New England and eastern Canada (3 more such in Atlantic Canada). Our May 1964 sight record of a Black-chinned (Tufts) was of an easily identified male. Exotic hummers in the East are increasingly frequent, mostly during autumn, often quite late. This is undoubtedly related to increased use of hummingbird feeders, often left out until freezeup. There have been several unseasonal hummingbirds in Nova Scotia. Our only fully confirmed one remains the female Black-chinned photographed in Halifax in Nov. 1988. *Selasphorus* hummers have been particularly frequent (e.g., 9 in New England in autumn 1994). A bird photographed in New Glasgow in Oct. 1993 was a Rufous or Allen's; the latter is probably overrated as a possibility in the Northeast, although there are confirmed Massachusetts and New York records. Our potential for truly fabulous hummers is far from fulfilled. These turn up increasingly in southeastern U.S. For example, during fall-winter 1992-93, Magnificent, Black-chinned, Anna's, Broad-tailed, Rufous, and Allen's were identified, most banded, at feeders in Georgia, and a Blue-throated was identified in S. Carolina in Aug. 1993. Also, there are Ontario (first Canadian) records of a Broad-billed in Oct. 1989, and a Green Violet-ear in early summer 1991! Any large, odd, or unseasonal hummer attending a feeder should be carefully studied, photographed and, if possible, shown to knowledgeable birders.

LEWIS' WOODPECKER. An individual in southwestern Newfoundland during Aug.-Sept. 1984 was well off track, and three previous records for New England (perhaps 3 others east of the Mississippi) place this species on our list of remote possibilities. The related Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers are of course now quite regular here.

RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER. Some of us think this migratory, western species, almost identical to our Yellow-bellied (but see Kaufman's *Advanced Birding* for distinctions), might turn up as a vagrant here. Unlike Yellow-bellied, immature Red-naped shows much adult plumage in autumn, and such birds demand a second look. However, not all sapsuckers with red napes are Red-naped. (One such Yellow-bellied nested in Québec in 1988.) Extent of black on throat, ear patch, and back needs to be fully checked.

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE. Flycatchers seem to have exceptional wanderlust. One "identified as" this species was in Massachusetts in Sept. 1991, a "possible" was in N. Carolina in Nov. 1989, and a "probable" in Virginia in Sept. 1983. Confirmation, without a specimen, capture for banding, or tape recorded songs, may be near impossible. Even call notes, once thought useful, are problematic. However, photos, tape-recordings, and careful field notes may some day be decipherable.

EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS. Birders are beginning to tackle the difficulties of identification of species of this group, aided by such works as Kaufman's *Advanced Birding* guide. Our summering or nesting Willow Flycatchers have been readily identified by song. Their (to me) "khaki" tone and almost absent eye ring may arouse interest in migrants, which could be confirmed by their calls. A number of late-fall *Empidonax* in Nova Scotia have not been critically identified, and might well have included some western species. A confirmed Hammond's Flycatcher in Massachusetts in Dec. 1987 was the 4th east of the Mississippi. One of these or a Dusky turned up in Ontario Dec. 1994. Two spring Gray Flycatchers have appeared on Pt. Pelee, ON, and another turned up in Delaware in late autumn 1991. The most difficult challenge would be discrimination of the two products of the "split" of Western Flycatcher (The "Western Flycatcher" in NSB, 1985, 27(2), p. 9, is of course a typo for Western Kingbird). To confirm either Cordilleran or Pacific-slope Flycatcher, calls need to be recorded, although there is current dispute about their differences. One that called like the former was in Virginia in Nov. 1993, and one thought to be the latter was in Pennsylvania in Dec. 1991. Of course, not all late *Empidonax* will be exotics; Least, Alder, and Yellow-bellied have all been confirmed in northeastern U.S. during November-December in recent years.

SAY'S PHOEBE. We've had at least ten of this western stray, which is increasingly regular in the East, often late in the year (one survived throughout winter 1994-95 in VT). It should perhaps now be on our list of "regular rarities".

VERMILION FLYCATCHER. Our two spring sightings (Tufts) have not been matched since. The species is very rare in the East in spring (June 1992 in MD, May 1993 in DEL, May 1994 in ME) and fall (Sept. 1987 in NY, Nov. 1994 in ON); one turned up in S.Carolina in January 1984.

MYIARCHUS FLYCATCHERS. The expected vagrant of this genus is the Ash-throated Flycatcher, of which there have been two "possibles" in Nova Scotia (Tufts), including as "well-described" and timely one on Brier I. 14 Nov. 1982 (1983, AB 37, p. 157; not in NSB). All recent East Coast records north of N. Carolina (at least 10 since 1985, including two in NB) have been in November-January, although one turned up in Ontario in May 1990. It was more regular in New England in the 70s than in the 80s. Be careful, because straggling Great-crested Flycatchers do occur, like the one diagnosed after some dispute in Wolfville mid-Nov. 1994. A good identification article is by Murphy (1982, AB, 36, p. 241). The Brown-crested Flycatcher is occasional in the southeastern States, and might be a remote possibility.

SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER. This splendid flycatcher has turned up in Massachusetts in Nov. 1983, Ontario in Sept. 1986, New Brunswick in Oct. 1990, and near St. John's, NF, in Oct. 1993. The last one might well have passed through Nova Scotia; keep alert!

VARIEGATED FLYCATCHER. Individuals of this widespread South American species have appeared in Maine in Nov. 1977, twice in southeastern U.S.A., and in Toronto in Nov. 1993. The similar Streaked Flycatcher has been deemed possible in North America (Roberson, 1988, "The 10 most likely additions to the ABA list", *Birding* 20: 353-363.).

KINGBIRDS. These include some of the most frequently reported "remote" vagrants, probably because they are large and strikingly plumaged. Birders should become thoroughly familiar with the quite routine Western Kingbird (which sometimes loses its

white outer tail feathers, for example), as a basis for dealing with real exotics. (See article by Kaufman, 1992, AB 46: 323-326; a hybrid Eastern X Western Kingbird in Virginia in June 1991 might have been a puzzler.) There are sight records of supposed **Tropical Kingbirds** in Massachusetts and in Nova Scotia (Tufts), but these are probably not separable on appearance from **Couch's Kingbird**. The former was collected years ago in Maine and confirmed by taped call notes in North Carolina during winter 1985-86 and in Connecticut in Nov. 1990. Couch's occurs occasionally along the Gulf Coast and in Florida. A more likely one is **Cassin's Kingbird**, which has occurred in Massachusetts and thrice in Ontario, although there do not appear to be any recent records closer than the southeastern States. **Gray Kingbirds**, with two Nova Scotia sightings (Tufts), plus a "probable" in May 1990, are fairly routine up to New York, and have been confirmed in New Brunswick. **Scissor-tailed** and **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** (both are *Tyrannus* kingbirds) are now almost annual in New England and Atlantic Canada, partly because they are conspicuous and self-identifying. An unmated female of the former even attempted to nest in Maine. We've recorded eleven Scissor-tailed (including 3 in Digby Co. in spring 1991, not in NSB) and six Fork-tailed Flycatchers. All North American specimens of Fork-tailed have been of the race breeding in southern South America and migrating to the tropics. (The non-migratory Central American race, discriminable by its darker back, has occurred in Texas.) Autumn records (i.e., reverse migrants) are twice as common as spring ones (i.e., "overshoots" from the tropics). This pattern of vagrancy by long-range migrants nesting in southern South America should alert us to other possibilities. (See also below under Neotropical swallows.)

CAVE SWALLOW. Our Sable Island and Seal Island specimens supplied the first records of the Caribbean subspecies north of Florida, where it first nested in 1987. Two more sightings are documented in Tufts, and have been followed by a "possible" in April 1989, and an undocumented report for fall 1994. There have been recent spring sightings in New York, New Jersey, and New Brunswick, others in Nov. 1992, 1993, and 1994 in New Jersey, and Feb. 1995 (!) in North Carolina. A bird at Pt. Pelee, ON, in Apr. 1989 (Wormington, 1992, *Birders Journal* 1:176-180) was evidently of the race nesting in southwestern U.S.A., which has been expanding its range of late. These races are discriminable in the field; there is talk of a "split" into two species.

COMMON HOUSE-MARTIN. An individual of this widespread Palearctic swallow was photographed on St.-Pierre et Miquelon, in May 1989. Another, "quite possibly" this species, was seen briefly in St. John's, NF, on 4 Aug. 1993. The species has occurred in Alaska and Greenland. But, how might one distinguish it from a similarly white-rumped vagrant from South America (see below)?

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW. This species very rarely wanders; our Oct. 1965 (Tufts) sighting may have been the second for the East Coast. Since then, there have been one in New Jersey in Nov. 1992, and our recent sightings in Oct.-Nov. 1993. Flight photos, even of distant birds, should be diagnostic.

NEOTROPICAL SWALLOWS. Several swallows breed in southern South America and migrate to the tropics, sometimes to Central America. An imm. **Brown-chested Martin**, astonished birders in Massachusetts, 12 June 1983, and another "possible" was in Florida in 1991. A **Southern Martin** was collected in Florida in 1890. The less southerly **Gray-breasted Martin** is less likely here. The migratory **Caribbean (Snowy-bellied) Martin** has occurred in Florida. As noted by Davis (1994, AB 48, p. 100): "Any martin seen in the [s.e. U.S.] region after October could be something other than a Purple". "Overshooting" martins from the tropics might also occur in early-spring flights of swallows. Discriminating these would be tricky at best. (See Phillips, 1986, *The Known Birds of North and Middle America*, Part I, for details.) On Sable Island last spring, I had a smallish imm. male martin, white-bellied, with dark throat and upper breast, a dark crissum streak, and, I thought, with a deeply notched tail and little evidence of a collar. Poorish photos fail to reveal much more. An errant **Bahama Swallow** ("hypothetical" in Tufts) should be readily identifiable. Another candidate is the **Blue-and-white Swallow**, which nests south to Tierra del Fuego and migrates as far as Panama. It would differ from unseasonable Tree Swallows in being smaller, with more deeply notched tail, and having dark undertail coverts. The migratory Chilean and more northerly **White-rumped Swallows** might seem remotely possible, although there don't appear to be Central American records.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE. Our one photographic record (Tufts), and at least two undocumented reports since, can be added to the half-dozen records for the East Coast during the

last decade, including one in northern Newfoundland in winter 1988-89. Some are uneasy about "ticking" them, as young ones have been released in the East.

EURASIAN JACKDAW. Our Brier I. bird in Apr. 1994 followed one in Massachusetts from Dec. 1983 and up to four on St-Pierre et Miquelon beginning in March 1984. The birds then occurred quite widely. The case for natural origin was put by Smith (1985, AB 39: 255-257). However, the arrival of 50+ by ship at Port-Cartier, QC, in Nov. 1984 gave pause, though "ship-assisted" birds are countable by some rules. The last immigrants evidently disappeared by the early 90s, but Newfoundland's first arrived this winter. Bear in mind that both Rook and Carrion ("Hooded") Crow have occurred in East Greenland. A Cough, almost certainly an escapee, appeared in Connecticut in Nov. 1987.

FISH CROW. Three sight records in Tufts have been followed by at least three subsequent undocumented "possibles". Adequate confirmation of this species might require voice recording and close photos. We need one to stay put for lengthy study. The species is spreading north, and winters in southern Maine, where it first nested in 1985.

TUFTED TITMOUSE. Our two sightings should be repeated, as the bird is spreading north. New Brunswick has had a few since 1982.

BEWICK'S WREN. Now that Carolina Wren has become a "regular" rarity, we might hope for this far less likely one. There appears to be a moderate "comeback" of Bewick's Wren in the s.e. U.S.A., although only a couple have been documented in New England during the last decade. An unmated wren nesting in Bear River in summer 1994 was described by its "owner" as Bewick's, but laid eggs more like a Carolina's. Ironically (or suggestively?), New Brunswick's first Bewick's Wren occurred on 22 Sept. that year.

ROCK WREN. Our 1980 Seal I. sighting (Tufts) could well be repeated, as the species has reached the U.S. East Coast at least 4 times since 1990.

STONECHAT. Let's ignore the N. Wheatear, which has really become so regular in the last few years that any alert birders should come to see it. Ponder, instead, the first North American occurrence of the related Stonechat on Grand Manan, NB, in Oct. 1982. It was of a Siberian race, and might have come via Alaska.

WESTERN THRUSHES AND SOLITAIRE. Varied Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, and even the Mountain Bluebird, have become so regular in the East that any active birder, attuned to rare bird alerts, should in time see them here. More refined skills may be cultivated by looking for Mountain X Eastern Bluebird hybrids, or the western races of Veeries and Swainson's Thrushes.

EUROPEAN THRUSHES. Nothing much can be said about the Fieldfare, except that our first "good" one in Feb. 1994 was long overdue (about 8 records in New England and Atl. Canada in the last decade). The same cannot be said about the Redwing, as our Sable I. bird in early winter 1989 was one of only five or six North American occurrences. Truly unexpected was a male Eurasian Blackbird found dead at Bonavista, NF, on 16 Nov. 1994; two or three previous North American records were probably of escapees.

SAGE THRASHER. This species is a regular vagrant to southern Ontario, and there have been at least four East Coast records this past decade. This is one to think about.

BLACK-BACKED WAGTAIL. This species occurs regularly in Alaska, and occasionally down the West Coast. More surprising were one documented for North Carolina in May 1982, and a bird "believed to be" this species in Brooklyn, NY, Dec. 1992. The related White Wagtail has occurred in Greenland.

PIPITS. The secretive Sprague's Pipit has been spotted at least four times in East Coast States during the last decade, and might be looked for in our grassy coastal beaches in late fall. When in the mood for pipits, keep in mind that the Meadow Pipit has nested in southeast Greenland, and has been predicted as a likely stray to Atlantic Canada (Roberson, *op. cit.*). Newfoundland probably sits in the way!

(To be continued)

A KING'S COUNTY BIG DAY, JUNE 1995

Richard Stern

For the past three years a group of birding friends from the Valley have spent a day each year trying to see how many species of birds can be found, and positively identified, by sight or sound, within King's County in one twenty-four hour period. This exercise has very little scientific or conservation value, but it is challenging, satisfying, and above all, fun. Originally, we set out to see if over one hundred was possible. Each year that goal has been surpassed, so in 1995 hopes were high for a record when Judy and Gordon Tufts, Angus MacLean and I sat down to plan our day.

From experience we have found that early June is the best time, with late spring migrants, such as Mourning Warbler, having already arrived and hopefully singing, and early migrants, such as Killdeer, still around and visible. Although many Nova Scotia birders associate King's County with the fall shorebird migration, it is in fact an area of varied habitat, with farmland, field, woods and shoreline all with their own variety of birds.

We have found that scouting out hard-to-find birds beforehand is essential, so the Tufts and Angus did most of this sterling job (I had to work--they are retired!), although we all relied on local knowledge and previous experience. We also knew that the route had to be varied to take in high tide at the right time at the various coastal locations. We were prepared to play tapes to lure out some species, but were always very careful not to play them more than enough to bring the bird out once, and briefly, or to disturb any nesting species.

Luckily the weather forecast for the chosen day, June 6, was excellent, so we set off at 4:30 a.m. from Wolfville Ridge, still in darkness, for the east end of Butler Road, a logging road that leads from the New Ross Road to Falmouth, and has lots of excellent warbler habitat, and lots of bugs to eat us, and in turn be eaten by the birds! As dawn broke at 5:00 a.m., we started to hear lots of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Black-capped and a few Boreal Chickadees, all the expected Thrushes, and the common vireos and warblers such as American Redstart, Yellow, Palm, Yellow-rumped etc. Olive-sided Flycatchers were calling for their "quick, three beers", and we were lucky to find several easily audible and visible Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and an early Pileated Woodpecker and Red-tailed Hawk--both easily missed species at that time of the year unless a known nesting site had been "staked out". The taller conifers yielded calling Bay-breasted and a Cape May Warbler. The usual Rusty Blackbird spot didn't have any, but they were all a few kms further along. We found a Gray Jay family. We were also lucky in getting a Nashville Warbler in an overgrown orchard, and, just as we were about to quit the area a distant Barred Owl hooted, even though it was well light by then, just once--but that was enough!

From the west end of Butler Road, we headed up the Aylesford Lake Road, stopping at a reedy pond where last year we had found Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. None this year, but we picked up a Spotted Sandpiper, and were later able to find the former species at Bishop's Pond. I knew some lakeside cottage owners and could visit their property, so we 'scoped the lake from a cottage lot to see an Osprey's nest in a tree on the opposite side. This otherwise common species is quite rare in the Valley and this well established nest is the only reliable spot we knew of. The adult was sitting on the large stick nest. We visited another cottage lot, where I had seen a Black-throated Blue Warbler a few days before, and sure enough, a quick burst of tape recording produced the bird. This saved us a potential lengthy walk in an exceptionally blackfly-ridden woodlot that we had to do in 1994 to find that species. On the road back to Kentville we also found a singing Blackpoll Warbler and several other species. By now it was 10:00 a.m. and we already had over seventy species, but we knew that the last few are by far the hardest!

We stopped off at the White Rock Bridge, a known spot for Eastern Phoebe, but horrors! A work crew were repairing the bridge from a storm washout and had bulldozed the nest site and were making an awful noise. We explained that we were counting

birds and looking for a local nesting species, so they took a great interest and were very obliging when we suggested they take their coffee break at that point. A phoebe was heard in the distance by only half the team. A Bald Eagle obliged us by floating by overhead, and nearby we heard a thin, high-pitched call followed by a trill coming from the top of a tall oak, and sure enough, the flaming orange breast of a male Blackburnian Warbler soon showed itself.

We drove into Kentville, via a couple more stops for Cliff Swallow and Kestrel and visited a woodlot with a by now, well-known Northern Goshawk nest, and a very quick visit without any disturbance, confirmed she was on the nest. There were also some nearby Golden-crowned Kinglets, another hard-to-find species in June. We saw as well what was to prove, amazingly, the day's only Purple Finches. From there Kentville town limits also provided Northern Oriole and Eastern Kingbird along the now defunct railway tracks. We were worried that we had not yet seen Hairy or Downy Woodpecker, so we made a quick swing around to my house, where they had been coming to my feeder all and every day, but no luck today--but we needed a pit-stop anyway.

We wanted to be at Black Rock Lighthouse on the Fundy shore before high tide, and then work our way back along the coast to hit the shorebird spots at the right time, so at this point we drove for a birdless half hour down the Route 101 to Kingston turnoff (eating a sandwich lunch in the car on the way), where we found the known singing Vesper Sparrows in their open, sandy, habitat. We then went on to Black Rock, where we found our only Common Loon (we'd missed them on the inland lakes in the morning). There were added bonuses in late stray Red-throated Loon and Red-breasted Merganser offshore.

By now it was mid-afternoon. We walked along a lengthy woods path at Ross Creek and got a Canada Warbler by playing a tape, but we looked in vain for a Mourning Warbler at a nearby spot where one had been singing out in the open on a branch the day before. However, in retrospect, a harsh call-note coming from deep within a bush, was identified several days later as the call-note of this species by one of the team.

We were lucky at Kingsport at high tide, as all three Scoter species were swimming in a large mixed flock on the high tide. From there we went to Canard Pond to get "certain" Great Blue Heron, Green-winged Teal and Belted Kingfisher, but none of them were there. Furthermore, we still hadn't seen Hairy or Downy Woodpecker. The magic hundred was still probable, but by no means certain; the record from two years ago of one hundred and four species looked unbreakable. However, we found a Kingfisher by the New Minas pond, and when we got to Hortonville Dykes, Great Blue Herons were all over the place. Another quick stop at the Tufts' backyard feeders still failed to produce the needed Woodpeckers, so on to the Wolfville Sewage Plant--luckily with both Teal, Willets and a nearby Northern Harrier.

By now there were only a couple more hours of daylight left and we were all feeling the effects of the early start and eating on the fly. We quickly got to the mud flats to search in vain for the Black-bellied Plover flock (which we later heard was just outside the county line near Windsor), and then back to Wolfville to look at a Merlin's nest behind the school. As dusk approached at 9:00 p.m., we were at least assured of one more certain species--Wolfville's famous Chimney Swifts, and indeed they appeared on cue. We made one more attempt for shorebirds in the failing light, then called it quits.

We tallied the final count and indeed had smashed the record with one hundred and ten species. We did have some 'big misses' though, most prominently: White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Tennessee Warbler, and Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, which we simply never stumbled across. What did all this achieve? A fun day of concentrated birding with a goal, in the company of good friends with broadly similar birding skills and a great sense of achievement (and exhaustion) at the end. I imagine we'll be at it again next year. There are huge areas of King's County that we didn't even touch, and I wonder if a higher total is attainable on a different route. I also wonder if one hundred and ten species in one day is easily attainable in other counties in Nova Scotia?

NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS COUNTS
December 16, 1995 - January 2, 1996

Thirty-two Counts were held this year, up from last year's 29; Sable Island, which made it's third appearance since 1969 last year, is absent from the list. Kingston, Louisbourg, The Sydney's and West Hants join the list. A record 568 observers spent almost 1700 (also a record) afield, while an unprecedented 490 kept track of activity at feeders. Party hours per field observer have reached a new high of 3; that suggests that many parties number 3 or more, even supposing that not everybody stays out all day. Parties of 1 or two might be more effective.

148 species, excluding the exotic Chukar, were tallied, the individuals counted or estimated amounted to 279,598, a new high. One species new to the list, an adult **LITTLE GULL** at Canso, was seen By Brian and Halton Dalzell and convincingly described by Brian. The provincial list of Christmas Count birds now stands at 244.

Our 10 most abundant species, in descending order American Crow, Eurasian Starling, Herring Gull, Evening Grosbeak, American Black Duck, Black-capped Chickadee, Canada Goose, American Goldfinch, Great Black-backed Gull, and House Sparrow accounted for 71% of the total number of birds seen. At the other extreme 16 species were only seen once. Especially noteworthy are the second occurrence on the list of the **Eurasian Widgeon**, found by Randy Lauff et al. (Antigonish), and third occurrences of **Forster's Tern**, reported by Sylvia Fullerton (Halifax East) and **Varied Thrush** detailed by the Ruffs (Yarmouth). 6 **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** province-wide constitute an unprecedented influx, only 3 having been recorded in the period 1952-1994. The 12 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at Antigonish are double the previous high total for all counts. Late-fall scouting by Randy Lauff had much to do with this success.

SPECIES ADDED TO COUNTS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD FOR AT LEAST TEN YEARS

ADVOCATE	- Double-crested Cormorant
ANNAPOLIS	- Red-bellied Woodpecker
ANTIGONISH	- Eurasian Wigeon, American Wigeon, Rough-legged Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Red Crossbill
BRIDGETOWN	- Northern Cardinal
BROAD COVE	- Blue-winged Teal
CHETICAMP	- Red-winged Blackbird
ESKASONI	- Barrow's Goldeneye
GLACE BAY	- Cedar Waxwing
HFX EAST	- Forster's Tern
KINGSTON	- Rusty Blackbird
NORTHPORT	- Iceland Gull, American Goldfinch
PT L'HEBERT	- House Finch
SPRINGVILLE	- Palm Warbler
ST. PETER'S	- Black Guillemot
THE SYDNEY'S	- Northern Flicker, Northern Shrike, Pine Warbler, Yellow-Breasted Chat
WOLFVILLE	- Northern Saw-whet Owl
YARMOUTH	- Varied Thrush

COUNTS RECORDING NEW HIGH SPECIES TOTALS

ANNAPOLIS - 74, ANTIGONISH - 66, ECONOMY - 58, ESKASONI - 48,
NORTHPORT - 25, THE SYDNEY'S - 61, YARMOUTH - 79

What stands out about this year's Counts is the huge increase in the number of feeder watchers, almost doubling the average of the last ten years. Numbers of many "feeder species" rose by like amounts; it's possible many a grosbeak, woodpecker and chickadee was counted at more than one feeder, though it's also true that compilers may take that into account. In the woods this year, Ruffed Grouse seemed plentiful (in numbers seen per party hour), but Golden-crowned Kinglets were, by the same measure, scarcer than usual. 190 White-breasted Nuthatches is a high total (Previous high was 109 in 1989); perhaps they shared in the impetus that brought Red-bellied Woodpeckers our way, but personal experience suggests that not all feeder watchers are aware of pale Red-breasted. Too, some may have visited more than one feeder. Whatever allowances one cares to make, it was a big year for the species.

Observers were conscientious about filling reports where rarities were concerned. Perhaps Turkey Vultures in the southwest don't require comment, perhaps Chipping Sparrows should be added to the "details required" list. A meadowlark seen at a distance of 150 feet at Pubnico was properly put down as meadowlark sp.; one at Yarmouth was called Eastern without comment. One wonders if the Snow Goose consorting with barnyard fowl and present for a long time at Yarmouth, perhaps since 1991, still considers itself a wild bird. One puzzling record was what was thought to be 25 tern species seen at 1/2 mile through 7x35's could have been Bonaparte's Gulls. These small gulls have been known to hover and dive when food is plentiful in the water.

The CBCer's of the year are Calvin Brennan and Ken McKenna who managed to help out in 5 separate counts each.

NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1995-1996

ADVOCATE/APPLE RIVER, Dec. 17; 7:45AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -19 to -10C. Wind W 25-45kmph. Snow 5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Clear P.M. Partly cloudy. 6 field observers in 5 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party hours 32.5 (27 on foot, 5.5 by car). Total party kilometres 171 (40 on foot, 131 by car).

Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 1; American Black Duck 401; Mallard 1; Oldsquaw 5; Common Goldeneye 2; Common Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Spruce Grouse 3; Ruffed Grouse 7; Sanderling 14; Herring Gull 186; Great Black-backed Gull 2; Rock Dove 1; Mourning Dove 30; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 14; American Crow 78; Common Raven 7; Black-capped Chickadee 110; Boreal Chickadee 19; Red-breasted Nuthatch 15; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 35; American Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 4; Northern Shrike 3; European Starling 15; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; American Tree Sparrow 23; Song Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Snow Bunting 18; Common Grackle 13; White-winged Crossbill 11; Common Redpoll 1; Evening Grosbeak 116.

Total species 44, about 1178 individuals. (CP. Common Loon,

Bufflehead, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-winged Blackbird, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow). Donna Barber, Jane Mills, Maureen Mills, Sunday Mills, Fran Spalding, Cindy Spicer, **Kathleen Spicer (compiler)**.

AMHERST, Dec. 20; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -7 to -1C. Wind E 0-8 kmph. Snow 0-15cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. Cloudy, light snow. P.M. Cloudy, heavy snow. 16 field observers in 7-10 parties, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 57.75 (20.75 on foot, 37 by car). Total party kilometres 544.5 (42 on foot, 502.5 by car).

American Black Duck 14; Common Goldeneye 2; Common Merganser 16; Bald Eagle 5; Northern Harrier 2; Red-tailed Hawk 3; **Merlin 1**; Ring-necked Pheasant 10; Ruffed Grouse 17; Herring Gull 249; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 376; Rock Dove 233; Mourning Dove 46; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 48; Gray Jay 9; Blue Jay 60; American Crow 316; Common Raven 46; Black-capped Chickadee 294; Boreal Chickadee 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch 15; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 20; American Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 72; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 1054; **Northern Cardinal 1**; American Tree Sparrow 60; Song Sparrow 9; Dark-eyed Junco 8; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 487; Brown-headed Cowbird 8; Pine Grosbeak 3; White-winged Crossbill 25; Common Redpoll 11; American Goldfinch 262; Evening Grosbeak 1272; House Sparrow 273.

Total species 45, about 5355 individuals. (CP. Barred Owl) Paul Bogaard, Adam Campbell, Evelyn Coates, Don Colpitts, George Finney, **New Garrity (compiler)**, Andrew Hicks, Randy Hicks, Ron Hounsell, Keith McAloney, Andrew MacFarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Nancy MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Kathy Popma, Theo Popma, Al Smith.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Dec. 16; 7:30AM to 4PM. Temp. -7 to 0C. Wind W 25kmph. Snow 5cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 26 field observers in 13 parties, 86 at feeders, 1.35 hours and 1.10 km. owling. Total party hours 68.75 (42.25 on foot, 26.5 by car). Total party kilometres 392.1 (72 on foot, 320.1 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 14; Horned Grebe 9; Red-necked Grebe 25; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 4; American Black Duck 1084; Mallard 47; Mallard hybrid 1; Greater Scaup 1; Common Eider 29; Oldsquaw 3288; Black Scoter 13; Surf Scoter 47; White-winged Scoter 92; Common Goldeneye 36; Bufflehead 586; Common Merganser 18; Red-breasted Merganser 93; Bald Eagle 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Merlin 1; Gray Partridge 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 78; Ruffed Grouse 10; Purple Sandpiper 1; Common Black-headed Gull 2; Bonaparte's Gull 11; Herring Gull 425; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 44; gull species 50; unidentified small gull or tern species 25; Common Murre 15; Black Guillemot 3; alcid species 16; Rock Dove 256; Mourning Dove 226; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 3; **Red-bellied Woodpecker 1**; Downy Woodpecker 22; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 455; American Crow 304; Common Raven 37; Black-capped Chickadee 656; Boreal Chickadee 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch 32; White-breasted Nuthatch 10; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 19; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3**; American Robin 53; Bohemian Waxwing 102; Cedar Waxwing 50; Northern Shrike 3; European Starling 543; **Northern Cardinal 8**; American Tree Sparrow 41; Fox Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 3; sparrow species 3; Dark-eyed Junco 86; Snow Bunting 20; Rusty Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 42; Brown-headed Cowbird 10; blackbird species 23; Northern Oriole 3; Pine Grosbeak 40; Purple Finch 8; Pine Siskin 8; American Goldfinch 667; Evening Grosbeak 1267; House Sparrow 300.

Total species 74, about 11,424 individuals. (CP. Great Blue Heron, Northern Goshawk) Aileen Adams, Ruby Adams, Albert Angers, Simone Angers, Bob Bennett, Freda Bohaker, Alek Bohn, Ingrid Bohn, Marilyn and Ted Brown, Betty Burrell, Mary Cameron, Agnes Carmichael,

Angela Chartier, Debbie Cummings, Allison Dalton, Faith DeWolfe, Jane DeWolfe, Lillian Dunfield, Robert Dunfield, Ada, Alek, Alvin, Darlene, Earl, Helen and Rebecca Ellis, Jean Estey, Dorothy Everett, Harriett Everett, Wylie Everett, Maryann Fickes, Stephen Fisher, Barry Frail, Perry Freeman, Trish Fry, Kathleen Graham, Norma Grant, John Haikings, Angela Hall, Joan, Laura and Lisa Hamilton, Millie Hawes, Leroy Haynes, Nina Haynes, Charlotte Hollett, Marg Horsfall, Andrew, Cornelia, Harold and Leah Horwood, Jim How, Dot, Ken, Les, and Vella Hudson, Andrew Ionson, Millie Jefferson, Clifford Jones, Shirley Kerr, Sheila Krant, Ginny Langley, Scott Leslie, Patsy Longmire, Barb McArthur, Ethel and Glendon McCormick, Jennie McGinis, Laurie McGowan, Ernie and Margaret McGrath, Katie McLeod, John McPhee, Abby Marshall, **Arlene Morgan (compiler)**, Wayne Morgan, Jim Morrissey, Valerie Mount, Erich Muntz, Sara Neish, Molly Payne, Jon Percy, Rose Perkins, Flo Potter, Gini Proulx, Frances Rafuse, Kerry Rowe, Bob Sanford, Mick Scromeda, Alma Smith, Ed Smith, Bernie and Maddy Spicer, Juanita Sproule, Allison Thompson, Faye Tooker, Anne-Marie and Ragnar Treiberg, June Trimper, Jack and Julie Turner, John Vanderweit, Giselle Vidito, Charloote and Owen Wade, Anne Wanstall, Barbara and John Wells, Alice White, Marguerite Wiles, Karen Wright.

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 17; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. -10 to 6C. Wind W 0-30kmph. Snow 5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. clear. P.M. clear. 15 field observers in 6-7 parties, 11 at feeders, 12 hours and 174km. owling. Total party hours 31.5 (7.75 on foot, 22 by car). Total party kilometres 343.5 (10.5 on foot, 333 by car).

Common loon 1; Horned Grebe 1; Northern Gannet 1; Great Cormorant 1; cormorant species 1; Canada Goose 9; American Black Duck 233; **Eurasian Wigeon** 1; American Wigeon 2; Greater Scaup 1; Common Eider 1; Oldsquaw 13; Common Goldeneye 30; Common Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 18; duck species 7; Bald Eagle 35; Northern Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 9; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 15; Common Black-headed Gull 4; Bonaparte's Gull 7; Ring-billed Gull 8; Herring Gull 653; Iceland Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 57; gull species 21; Rock Dove 348; Mourning Dove 64; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Saw-whet Owl 12; **Red-bellied Woodpecker** 1; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 84; American Crow 431; Common Raven 73; Black-capped Chickadee 279; Boreal Chickadee 32; Red-breasted Nuthatch 62; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 35; Bohemian Waxwing 124; European Starling 1134; Yellow-rumped Warbler 12; Northern Cardinal 1; American Tree Sparrow 42; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 221; Lapland Longspur 2; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 37; Purple Finch 37; Red Crossbill 9; White-winged Crossbill 217; Common Redpoll 35; Pine Siskin 75; American Goldfinch 381; Evening Grosbeak 180; House Sparrow 64.

Total species 66, about 5158 individuals. (CP. Pine Warbler) Raoul Bouchard, Calvin Brennan, Vicki Bunbury, David and John Garbary, Don George, May Goring, Annette Goring-Gingras, Leslie Klapstein, **Randy Lauff (compiler)**, Aaron, Anne Louise, Frank and Leo MacDonald, Harriet and Lillian MacMillan, Celia Mallon, Jean McGee, Ken McKenna, Kerstin Mueller, Marilyn O'Brien, Duncan and Mark Pulsifer, Agneta Sand, Bunny Smith, Brian Starzomski.

BIG POND-ESKASONI, Dec. 26; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. +3 to +5C. Wind calm. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. cloudy, P.M. cloudy. 28 field observers in 10 parties, 6 at feeders, 15 hours and 40km. owling. Total party hours 49 (16 on foot, 33 by car). Total party kilometres 371 (33 on foot, 338 by car).

Common Loon 9; Red-necked Grebe 3; American Black Duck 27; Oldsquaw 1; White-winged Scoter 52; Common Goldeneye 49; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Common Merganser 15, Red-breasted Merganser 75; Bald

Eagle 24; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Ruffed Grouse 7; Common Snipe 1; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Herring Gull 75; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 16; Rock Dove 4; Mourning Dove 6; Saw-whet Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 17; Blue Jay 114; American Crow 146; Common Raven 31; Black-capped Chickadee 164; Boreal Chickadee 21; Red-breasted Nuthatch 35; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 67; Bohemian Waxwing 58; Northern Shrike 4; European Starling 184; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Song Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 69; Northern Oriole 2; Pine Grosbeak 21; Purple Finch 79; White-winged Crossbill 288; Common Redpoll 9; Pine Siskin 77; American Goldfinch 253; Evening Grosbeak 295; House Sparrow 10.

Total species 48, about 2339 individuals. George Ball, Brian Boone, Donald Campbell, Theresa Cash, George and Sharon Digout, Joshua Donham, Parker Barss-Donham, Silas and Taiya Donham, Joe Donovan, David Harris, Margaret MacDonald, Cyril, George, John and Philip MacInnis, John MacKay, Brian and Duncan MacNeil, **Jack MacNeil (compiler)**, David McCorquodale, Hugh and Geraldine Metcalfe, Bernard and Pat Murphy, Allan, Cathy, Emily, Erin and Kevin Murrant, Christine Thomson, Donald Tuttle, Melvin White.

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 30; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -10 to -5C. Wind NW 20kmph. Snow cover 5-45cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. partly cloudy. P.M. partly cloudy. 12 field observers in 6 parties, 38 at feeders. Total party hours 22 (8 on foot, 13 by car). Total party kilometres 328 (29 on foot, 297 by car).

Common Loon 6; Horned Grebe 3; Common Eider 49; Oldsquaw 33; Black Scoter 2; Surf Scoter 10; White-winged Scoter 109; scoter species 22; Common Goldeneye 3; Red-breasted Merganser 6; Red-tailed Hawk 12; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 78; Ruffed Grouse 11; Purple Sandpiper 47; Herring Gull 79; Great Black-backed Gull 11; Rock Dove 141; Mourning Dove 221; Downy Woodpecker 17; Hairy Woodpecker 16; Black-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 277; American Crow 250; Common Raven 54; Black-capped Chickadee 193; Red-breasted Nuthatch 11; White-breasted Nuthatch 4; American Robin 6; Bohemian Waxwing 400; Northern Shrike 4; European Starling 1531; **Northern Cardinal 2**; American Tree Sparrow 52; Song Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 59; Snow Bunting 92; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 20; American Goldfinch 367; Evening Grosbeak 386; House Sparrow 147.

Total species 44, about 4742 individuals. (CP. Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Great Horned owl, Barred Owl, Short-eared Owl, Northern Flicker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Grosbeak) Thelma and Winnie Bent, Don Bowlby, Malcolm Burgess, Pearl Chambers, **David Colville (compiler)**, Justin Colville, Carolyn Crowell, Anita DeVillez, Doris, Marilyn and Noel Durling, Marie Gaul, Marion and Graham Graves, Mike Hamilton, Connie Hannem, Danny and Nathalie Harlow, Sharon and Steven Hawboldt, Marguerite Hirtle, Avora Howe, Maude Joudrey, Audrey Kennedy, Gerry and Sally MacDonald, Duncan and Harold McLaughlin, Roger Mosher, Dave Nowe, Carl and Danny Phinney, Eric Porter, Frances Saunders, Jory and Margaret Smith, Edgar Strong, Donnie Troop, Gladdie Weir, Jim, Margaret and Marion Whitman, Lib Woolaver.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 19; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -4 to 4C. Wind NW 0-32kmph. Snow 3cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. Partly cloudy, light snow, P.M. Partly clear, light snow. 9 field observers in 6 parties. Total party hours 32.5 (24.25 on foot, 7.75 by car, .5 by ferry). Total party kilometres 91 (36.5 on foot, 49.5 by car, 5 by ferry).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 39; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 24; Northern Gannet 3; Great Cormorant 192; Brant 3; American Black Duck 372; Mallard 4; Greater Scaup 18; Common Eider 259; Harlequin Duck 3; Oldsquaw 94; Black Scoter 3; White-winged Scoter 4;

Common Goldeneye 105; Bufflehead 26; Red-breasted Merganser 128; Turkey Vulture 5; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 18; Killdeer 2; Red Knot 1; Purple Sandpiper 100; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 507; Iceland Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 156; Black-legged Kittiwake 71; Razorbill 4; Black Guillemot 69; Rock Dove 27; Mourning Dove 14; Barred Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Northern Flicker 2; Horned Lark 1; Blue Jay 32; American Crow 112; Common Raven 33; Black-capped Chickadee 56; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; American Robin 2; Northern Mockingbird 1; Water Pipit 4; Northern Shrike 2; European Starling 135; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 18; Song Sparrow 14; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 21; Snow Bunting 70; Red-winged Blackbird 6; Common Grackle 6; Brown-headed Cowbird 9; Pine Grosbeak 10; Purple Finch 7; White-winged Crossbill 4; Common Redpoll 75; American Goldfinch 49; Evening Grosbeak 207; House Sparrow 25.

Total species 64, about 3175 individuals. Alan Covert, Brian Dalzell, Ian McLaren, Peter MacLeod, **Richard Stern (compiler)**; James Taylor, Gordon and Judy Tufts, James Wolford.

BROAD COVE, Dec. 30; 7:30AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -7 to -1C. Wind NW 5kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. clear, P.M. partly cloudy. 24 field observers in 13-17 parties. Total party hours 93.5 (57.5 on foot, 32 by car, 4 hours by boat). Total party kilometres 504 (85 on foot, 393 by car, 26 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 3; Common Loon 95; Horned Grebe 79; Red-necked Grebe 8; Northern Gannet 1; Great Cormorant 10; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 75; American Black Duck 314; Mallard 119; Northern Pintail 4; **Blue-winged Teal** 1; scaup species 1; Common Eider 268; Oldsquaw 417; Black Scoter 113; Surf Scoter 101; White-winged Scoter 23; Common Goldeneye 81; Bufflehead 38; Common Merganser 39; Red-breasted Merganser 131; Bald Eagle 4; **Broad-winged Hawk** 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 25; Ruffed Grouse 23; American Coot 1; Killdeer 1; Sanderling 22; Purple Sandpiper 12; Herring Gull 1110; Great Black-backed Gull 232; Black Guillemot 4; Rock Dove 142; Mourning Dove 106; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 10; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 24; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 272; American Crow 267; Common Raven 33; Black-capped Chickadee 406; Boreal Chickadee 35; Red-breasted Nuthatch 49; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet 56; American Robin 4; Bohemian Waxwing 99; Northern Shrike 9; European Starling 1087; Yellow-rumped Warbler 4; American Tree Sparrow 85; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 27; White-throated Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 283; Snow Bunting 27; Pine Grosbeak 35; Purple Finch 1; Pine Siskin 44; American Goldfinch 79; Evening Grosbeak 312; House Sparrow 80.

Total species 70, about 6979 individuals. (CP. Cedar Waxwing) Ruth Ballem, Peter Bell, Barbara Byrd, Bill Caudle, John Cohrs and Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie, Andy Dean, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, **Sylvia Fullerton (compiler)**, Barbara Hinds, James Hirtle, Blair Hodgman, Earl and Val Meister, Bill and Jean Morse, Christine Ross, Nellie Snyder, Azor Viennau, David and Joan Young.

CALEDONIA, QUEENS CO., Dec. 17; 7AM to 5:10PM. Temp. -14 to -2C. Wind NW 0-50. Snow cover 8cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. clear. P.M. clear. 25 field observers in 15 parties, 45 at feeders, .25 hours owling. Total party hours 53 (38.5 on foot, 14.5 by car). Total party kilometres 289.75 (74.5 on foot, 215.25 by car).

Common Goldeneye 5; Common Merganser 5; Bald Eagle 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 27; Rock Dove 39; Barred Owl 4; Downy Woodpecker 13; Hairy Woodpecker 22; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 11; Blue Jay 171; American Crow 85;

Common Raven 38; Black-capped Chickadee 301; Boreal Chickadee 13; Red-breasted Nuthatch 41; White-breasted Nuthatch 19; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 23; European Starling 169; American Tree Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 47; Red-winged Blackbird 6; Brown-headed Cowbird 18; Pine Grosbeak 8; Purple Finch 1; Common Redpoll 3; Pine Siskin 6; American Goldfinch 295; Evening Grosbeak 767; House Sparrow 34.

Total species 34, about 2183 individuals. Thelma Bowers, Pat Canning, Eric, Judy, John and Lorna Cole, Harry and Merriam DeLong, Jean Douglas, Connie and Ron Eaton, Hester, Jerry and Lynn Frail, Arthur, Donnie, Nancy and Sheila Frayle, Eileen and Ray Goff, Heather Hearn, Marguerite and Myra Holdright, Lorraine Hope, **Peter Hope (compiler)**, Sean and Stephen Hope, Jennifer, Pamela, Peggy and Steve Hopper, Mary and Rod Keirstead, Paul MacDonald, Tina MacKay, Daniel Mansfield, Greta and Ian Morrison, Erich Muntz, Shelley Porter, Barb, Lesley, Peter, Stephanie, and Terje Rogers, Althea Rowter, Jonathan, Sheila and Tom Sheppard, Tom Shupe, Ron Sigston, Shirley Smith, Rick Swain, Bill and Julie Whitman, Eva Zong and the residents of Lakeview Senior's Apartments.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Dec 27; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 1 to -3.5C. Wind N 24kmph. Snow cover 0-5cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. A.M. Cloudy, light rain. P.M. Cloudy, light rain. 26 field observers in 16 parties, 12 at feeders. Total party hours 29 (17.5 on foot, 11.5 by car). Total party kilometres 80.5 (34.5 on foot, 46 by car).

Common Loon 2; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 1; Double-crested Cormorant 3; American Black Duck 28; Common Eider 3; Oldsquaw 20; Black Scoter 1; scoter species 4; Common Goldeneye 43; Red-breasted Merganser 15; Bald Eagle 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 9; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 103; Iceland Gull 12; Great Black-backed Gull 26; Dovekie 2; Common Murre 1; Black Guillemot 3; Mourning Dove 14; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 13; Blue Jay 83; American Crow 112; Common Raven 15; Black-capped Chickadee 96; Boreal Chickadee 15; Red-breasted Nuthatch 20; Golden-crowned Kinglet 28; Cedar Waxwing 29; European Starling 36; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 54; Pine Grosbeak 16; Purple Finch 39; White-winged Crossbill 230; Pine Siskin 885; American Goldfinch 87; Evening Grosbeak 42.

Total species 43, about 2107 individuals. (CP. Great Blue Heron, Northern Pintail, Common Snipe, Belted Kingfisher, Brown Creeper, Northern Shrike, American Tree Sparrow, Northern Oriole, Rusty Blackbird). Audrey Budge, Doreen and Lorie Collingwood, Lisa and Nelson Dixon, Alice Doyle, Allan and Wendy Gibbs, Chris Gorey, **John Gorman (compiler)**, George Hardy, Ellen and Ross Ingraham, Jeanette and Doug Jackson, Richard McCurdy, Fritz and John McEvoy, Ann-Marie and Freeman Morrison, Tim Reynolds, Maureen Scobie, Murray Stockley, Fred Williams.

CAPE SABLE ISLAND, Dec. 16; 7:15AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -8 to -5C. Wind NE 32-40kmph. No snow 10cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. partly clear. P.M. partly clear. 18 field observers in 8 parties, one at feeder. Total party hours 67.5 (7.5 on foot, 57.5 by car, 2.5 by boat). Total party kilometres 431.5 (24 on foot, 399 by car, 8.5 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 5; Common Loon 42; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 10; Northern Gannet 1; Great Cormorant 58; Great Blue Heron 7; Canada Goose 55; American Black Duck 248; Mallard 25; Northern Pintail 2; Greater Scaup 125; Common Eider 1388; Harlequin Duck 2; Oldsquaw 36; Black Scoter 49; Surf Scoter 15; White-winged Scoter 9; Common Goldeneye 80; Bufflehead 71; Hooded Merganser 1; Common Merganser 24; Red-breasted Merganser 27; duck species 500; **Turkey Vulture 1**; Bald Eagle 2; Northern Harrier 10; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Northern Goshawk 1; accipiter species 1;

Red-tailed Hawk 3; buteo species 1; American Kestrel 1; Merlin 3; **Peregrine Falcon** 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 15; Ruffed Grouse 3; Black-bellied Plover 5; **Ruddy Turnstone** 6; **Red Knot** 10; Sanderling 120; **White-rumped Sandpiper** 2; Purple Sandpiper 30; Common Snipe 1; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 493; Iceland Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 372; Black Guillemot 39; Rock Dove 30; Mourning Dove 323; Great Horned Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 6; Northern Flicker 9; Horned lark 49; Blue Jay 60; American Crow 358; Common Raven 26; Black-capped Chickadee 166; Boreal Chickadee 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch 32; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 28; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 6; American Robin 9; Northern Mockingbird 4; Water Pipit 4; Bohemian Waxwing 20; Cedar Waxwing 2; Northern Shrike 11; European Starling 700; Yellow-rumped Warbler 145; Northern Cardinal 2; American Tree Sparrow 66; Chipping Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 47; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 122; Dark-eyed Junco 149; Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco 4; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 4; Red-winged Blackbird 12; Common Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 43; blackbird species 1; Pine Grosbeak 5; White-winged Crossbill 30; American Goldfinch 70; Evening Grosbeak 415; House Sparrow 139.

Total species 92 plus one additional race, about 10,810 individuals. (CP. Double-crested Cormorant, Brant, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, American Wigeon, Golden Eagle (no details), Rough-legged Hawk, Thick-billed Murre, Townsend's Solitaire (no details) Gray Catbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Meadowlark, Purple Finch). Patricia Atkinson, Wilfred "Skipper" Atwood Jr., Terry Crowell, **Joan Czupalay (compiler)**, Jerome D'Eon, Donna Ensor, Raymond D'Entremont, June Graves, Cathy Holmes, Rita Jenkins, Blake Maybank, Bernice Moores, Ethelda Murphy, Murray Newell, John E. Nickerson, Sandra Nickerson, Lillian Perry, Joan Waldron.

CHETICAMP, Dec. 16; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -3 to -2C. Wind NW 20kmph. Snow cover 10cm. Still water frozen. Moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 14 field observers in 6 parties. Total party hours 33 (15.5 on foot, 17.5 by car). Total party kilometres 198.1 (20.1 on foot, 178 by car).

Common Loon 2, grebe species 1; Northern Gannet 8; Great Cormorant 5; cormorant species 1; Canada Goose 1; American Black Duck 67; Mallard 2; Common Eider 1; White-winged Scoter 8; Common Goldeneye 17; Common Merganser 21; Red-breasted Merganser 4; duck species 2; Bald Eagle 12; Northern Harrier 3; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 6; Common Black-headed Gull 2; Herring Gull 74; Iceland Gull 20; Glaucous Gull 8; Great Black-backed Gull 104; gull species 26; Thick-billed Murre 1; Mourning Dove 4; Downy Woodpecker 12; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 1; Blue Jay 29; American Crow 177; Common Raven 32; Black-capped Chickadee 87; Boreal Chickadee 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch 19; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 105; American Tree Sparrow 11; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 1; Swamp Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 39; Snow Bunting 44; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 5; White-winged Crossbill 21; Common Redpoll 12; Pine Siskin 203; American Goldfinch 1; Evening Grosbeak 38.

Total species 49, about 1263 individuals. Marie-Claire Aucoin, Geraldine and Leonard Bourgeois, Gordon Delaney, Jennifer Hoffman, David Lawley, Gail McDonald, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Edward Regan, Justine Roach, **Randy G. Thompson (compiler)**, Eileen and Jean Timmons.

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 7:30AM to 5:15PM. Temp. -3 to 2C. Wind N 20kmph. Snow cover 5-20cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy all day. 9 field observers in 7 parties, 5 at feeders. 1.5 hours and 2.5km. owling. Total party hours 61.5 (51 on

foot, 10.5 by car). Total party kilometres 233.5 (65.5 on foot, 168 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; American Black Duck 567; Mallard 3; Oldsquaw 26; Black Scoter 1; Surf Scoter 15; White-winged Scoter 4; Common Goldeneye 18; Bufflehead 14; Common Merganser 21; Bald Eagle 1; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Gray Partridge 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 14; Killdeer 1; Ring-billed Gull 8; Herring Gull 347; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 14; Rock Dove 138; Mourning Dove 31; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 15; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Black-backed Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Horned Lark 1; Gray Jay 20; Blue Jay 57; American Crow 270; Common Raven 58; Black-capped Chickadee 405; Boreal Chickadee 19; Red-breasted Nuthatch 53; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 90; American Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 4; Northern Shrike 2; European Starling 367; American Tree Sparrow 65; Song Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 34; Snow Bunting 306; Pine Grosbeak 45; Red Crossbill 25; White-winged Crossbill 16; Pine Siskin 4; American Goldfinch 97; Evening Grosbeak 188; House Sparrow 25.

Total species 58, about 3429 individuals. Calvin Brennan, Irene Cooke, Harold Corbett, Ward Hemeon, Blake Maybank, Ken McKenna, Brad McLaughlin, Ken McKenna, Bill Murphy, Edgar Spalding, **Fran Spalding (compiler)**, Kerry Spalding, Joyce Starrett, Joan Waldron.

GLACE BAY, Dec. 30; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp -8.7 to -5.7C. Wind NW 30-40kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. A.M. cloudy, light snow, P.M. partly cloudy, light snow. 25 field observers in 12 parties, 9 at feeders, 3 hours and 5 kilometres owling. Total party hours 68 (18 on foot, 50 by car). Total party kilometres 227 (27 on foot, 200 by car).

Common Loon 6; Horned Grebe 3; Red-necked Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 6; Canada Goose 866; American Black Duck 636; Mallard 41; American Wigeon 3; Greater Scaup 177; Common Eider 6; Oldsquaw 454; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 80; Common Goldeneye 60; Bufflehead 17; Common Merganser 10; Red-breasted Merganser 118; Bald Eagle 6; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 6; Purple Sandpiper 14; Common Black-headed Gull 41; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull; Herring Gull 689; Iceland Gull 769; Glaucous Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 446; Black Guillemot 3; Rock Dove 153; Mourning Dove 67; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern Flicker 1; Blue Jay 79; American Crow 501; Common Raven 28; Black-capped Chickadee 158; Boreal Chickadee 40; Red-breasted Nuthatch 48; Golden-crowned Kinglet 86; American Robin 9; Bohemian Waxwing 213; Cedar Waxwing 2; Northern Shrike 3; European Starling 1854; Yellow-rumped Warbler 40; Dickcissel 2; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 38; Snow Bunting 8; Northern Oriole 2; Pine Grosbeak 87; Purple Finch 179; Red Crossbill 17; White-winged Crossbill 717; Common Redpoll 79; Pine Siskin 137; American Goldfinch 247; Evening Grosbeak 179; House Sparrow 555.

Total species 65, about 10,023 individuals. (CP. Northern Gannet, Wood Duck, Belted Kingfisher, Horned Lark, Northern Mockingbird, American Tree Sparrow). Cheryl, Erik and Steve Bray, Katherine Covell, George Crowell, Andrew Gingell, Brian Howe, Jack MacNeil, Dave McCorquodale, John McKay, Darrell, Geraldine and Jr. Metcalfe, **Allan and Cathy Murrant (compiler)**, Emily, Erin, Jim and Kevin Murrant, Michelle and Mike O'Callaghan, Vince Sparling, Art Spencer, Pixie and Rhys Williams.

HALIFAX (EAST), Dec. 23; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -5 to -1C. Wind NW 10-40 kmph. Snow cover 2-5cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. Partly clear, P.M. Cloudy. 24 field observers in 9 parties. Total party hours 69 (28 on foot, 41 by car). Total party kilometres

508 (52 on foot, 456 by car).

Common Loon 6; Red-necked Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 2; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 7600; American Black Duck 899; Mallard 25; Greater Scaup 1; Common Eider 74; Oldsquaw 149; Black Scoter 59; Surf Scoter 7; White-winged Scoter 138; Common Goldeneye 39; Bufflehead 35; Common Merganser 20; Red-breasted Merganser 111; Bald Eagle 6; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 2; hawk species 1; American Kestrel 2; Merlin 1; **Chukar** 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 9; Ruffed Grouse 4; **American Coot** 1; Purple Sandpiper 3; Common Black-headed Gull 25; Ring-billed Gull 141; Herring Gull 890; Iceland Gull 49; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 62; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; **Forster's Tern** 1; Black Guillemot 1; alcid species 1; Rock Dove 178; Mourning Dove 147; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 5; Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern Flicker 5; Horned Lark 3; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 62; American Crow 487; Common Raven 43; Black-capped Chickadee 358; Boreal Chickadee 56; Red-breasted Nuthatch 32; Brown Creeper 4; **Marsh Wren** 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 62; Northern Mockingbird 2; Bohemian Waxwing 83; Cedar Waxwing 7; European Starling 2718; Yellow-rumped Warbler 16; American Tree Sparrow 43; Savannah Sparrow 9; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 2; Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 22; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 40; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 23; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Pine Grosbeak 3; Red Crossbill 33; American Goldfinch 119; Evening Grosbeak 77; House Sparrow 74.

Total species 74, plus 1 subspecies, 1 escape, about 15123 individuals. Ruth Ballem, Andrew Boyne, Derek Bridgehouse, John and Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Christine Cornell, **David Currie (compiler)**, Jim Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton, Barbara Hinds, Louise Lefebvre, Bob McDonald, Ian McLaren, Ian McQuinn, Patricia Miller, Don and Joyce Purchase, Derek, Julie, Karl, and Wendy Tay, Azor Vienneau.

HALIFAX (WEST), Dec. 17; 7:45AM to 5:00PM. Temp. -9 to -2C. Wind NE 10-30. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies clear all day. 25 field observers in 6 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party hours 87 (40.5 on foot, 46.5 by car). Total party kilometres 556 (65 on foot, 511 by car).

Common Loon 22; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 6; Great Cormorant 70; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Canada Goose 1; American Black Duck 2468; Mallard 168; American Wigeon 9; Greater Scaup 7; Lesser Scaup 8; Common Eider 200; Harlequin Duck 1; Oldsquaw 36; Black Scoter 1; Surf Scoter 6; White-winged Scoter 141; Common Goldeneye 65; Bufflehead 21; Hooded Merganser 5; Common Merganser 6; Red-breasted Merganser 66; duck species 70; Bald Eagle 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; American Coot 1; Purple Sandpiper 6; Common Black-headed Gull 43; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 95; Herring Gull 4199; Iceland Gull 237; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 749; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 53; alcid species 1; Rock Dove 970; Mourning Dove 87; Downy Woodpecker 29; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Black-backed Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 1; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 138; American Crow 762; Common Raven 22; Black-capped Chickadee 580; Boreal Chickadee 34; Red-breasted Nuthatch 36; White-breasted Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 63; American Robin 37; Northern Mockingbird 2; Bohemian Waxwing 29; waxwing species 30; Northern Shrike 2; European Starling 2259; **Orange-crowned Warbler** 2; Yellow-rumped Warbler 8; Pine Warbler 1; Palm Warbler 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; Northern Cardinal 2; American Tree Sparrow 19; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 51; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 24; sparrow species 2; Dark-eyed Junco 259; Snow Bunting 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 28; Northern Oriole 2; Pine Grosbeak 16; Purple Finch 3; House Finch 2; Pine Siskin 5; American Goldfinch 170; Evening Grosbeak 506; House Sparrow 409.

Total species 82, about 15,397 individuals. (CP. Eurasian Wigeon, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Common Grackle). Ruth Ballem, Andrew Boyne, Phyllis Bryson, John, Lise and Shirley Cohrs (compiler), Eric Cooke, Dean and Theresa Covey, David Currie, Gillian and Jim Elliott, Sylvia Fullerton, Jean Hartley; Barbara Hinds, Ron Jeppson, Gwen MacDonald, Peter MacLeod, Bob McDonald, Linda and Peter Payzant, Don and Joyce Purchase, Bev Sarty, Azor Viennau, Andrea Van Wilgunberg.

KINGSTON, Dec. 29; 6:13AM to 4:45PM. Temp. 0 to -3C. NNE 5kmph. Snow cover 8-17cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. Partly cloudy all day. 6 field observers in 4 parties, 43 at feeders. Total party hours 37.25 (10 on foot, 27.25 by car). Total party kilometres 389 (19 on foot, 370 by car).

Common Loon 2; Horned Grebe 3; American Black Duck 15; Mallard 146; Common Eider 3; Oldsquaw 12; Surf Scoter 5; White-winged Scoter 5; scoter species 3; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 15; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 36; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 14; Purple Sandpiper 26; Herring Gull 200; Great Black-backed Gull 6; Rock Dove 96; Mourning Dove 413; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 51; Hairy Woodpecker 48; Northern Flicker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Horned Lark 6; Blue Jay 361; American Crow 1338; Common Raven 92; Black-capped Chickadee 592; Red-breasted Nuthatch 54; White-breasted Nuthatch 50; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 14; Cedar Waxwing 3; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 3584; American Tree Sparrow 326; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 227; Snow Bunting 409; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Rusty Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 25; Pine Grosbeak 126; White-winged Crossbill 21; Common Redpoll 33; Pine Siskin 8; American Goldfinch 614; Evening Grosbeak 403; House Sparrow 1163.

Total species 58, about 10686 individuals. (CP. Broad-winged Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker). Craig Campbell, Barbara and Patrick Giffin (compilers), Pamela Giffin, Terrance Hyson, John Rubin.

LOUISBOURG, Dec. 16; 6:30AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -5 to -1C. Wind NW 15-20kmph. Snow cover 4cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. clear, P.M. partly cloudy. 23 field observers in 13 parties, 16 at feeders, 1 hour and 10km owling. Total party hours 62 (44 on foot, 13 by car, 5 by ATV). Total party kilometres 185.7 (53.5 on foot, 121.2 by car, 11 by ATV).

Common Loon 7; loon species 1; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 10; Northern Gannet 5; Great Cormorant 1; American Black Duck 76; Mallard 2; Common Eider 44; Oldsquaw 261; Surf Scoter 6; White-winged Scoter 15; Common Goldeneye 50; Bufflehead 12; Common Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 23; Bald Eagle 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 14; Purple Sandpiper; Herring Gull 248; Iceland Gull 46; Glaucous Gull 9; Great Black-backed Gull 54; gull species 6; Dovekie 2; Black Guillemot 63; Rock Dove 4; Mourning Dove 37; Great Horned Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Black-backed Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 14; Blue Jay 58; American Crow 128; Common Raven 16; Black-capped Chickadee 116; Boreal Chickadee 81; Red-breasted Nuthatch 100; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 65; American Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 30; Northern Shrike 5; European Starling 201; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 2; Dickcissel 1; American Tree Sparrow 2; Lark Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 41; sparrow species; Dark-eyed Junco 103; Snow Bunting 130; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 71; Purple Finch 176; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 675; Pine Siskin 234; American Goldfinch 376; Evening Grosbeak 408; House Sparrow 100.

Total species 64, about 4186 individuals. (CP. Northern Mockingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Cardinal). Jean and Joe Bagnell, Wallace Barter, Shirley Blayney, Bill and Diane Bussey, Peter Chaisson, David Christianson, Carol Corbin, Bill Devoe, Sam Dollimount, Sheila and Tom Fudge, Carleton, Gwendolen and Nicholas

Lunn, Evelyn MacKenzie, Diane and Gordon MacLean, Joey, Neil and Pearl Magee, Cathy and Frances Mailman, Glen Malay, David McCorquodale, John McKay, Sandy McLain, Junior Metcalf, **Susann Myers (compiler)**, Helen and William O'Shea, Cliff and Josephine Peck, Lee Anne Reeves, Geraldine Touesnard-Joyce, Pixie and Rhys Williams, Roger Wilson.

MARGAREE, Dec 16, 8:00AM to 4:00PM. Temp. -4 to 0C. Wind NW 5kmph. Snow cover 5cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Clear, P.M. Cloudy, light snow. 4 field observers in 2 parties, one at feeder. Total party hours 16 (4 on foot, 12 by car). Total party kilometres 122 (9 on foot, 113 by car).

American Black Duck 14; Common Goldeneye 43; Common Merganser 16; Red-breasted Merganser 7; Bald Eagle 13; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 21; Iceland Gull 9; Great Black-backed Gull 11; Mourning Dove 31; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 15; Blue Jay 33; American Crow 211; Common Raven 30; Black-capped Chickadee 30; Boreal Chickadee 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet 25; European Starling 165; Dark-eyed Junco 4; Snow Bunting 9; Pine Grosbeak 50; Purple Finch 3; Pine Siskin 84; American Goldfinch 9; Evening Grosbeak 141; House Sparrow 32.

Total species 30, about 1029 individuals. Eunice Hart, **Frances Hart (compiler)**, Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, Brenda Timmons.

NORTHPORT, Dec. 24; 7:45AM 3:45PM. Temp. -2 to 2C. Wind W 8-15kmph. Snow 4-6cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. Partly cloudy. P.M. Partly cloudy. 2 observers in 1 party. Total party hours 8.5 (2 on foot, 6.5 by car). Total party kilometres 125 (5 on foot, 120 by car).

Canada Goose 8; Oldsquaw 6; Common Goldeneye 6; Bald Eagle 5; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Spruce Grouse 2; Herring Gull 6; Iceland Gull 1; Rock Dove 12; Mourning Dove 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 1; American Crow 20; Common Raven 7; Black-capped Chickadee 7; American Robin 1; Northern Shrike 2; European Starling 34; American Tree Sparrow 6; Fox Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 140; American Goldfinch 23; House Sparrow 2.

Total species 25, about 298 individuals. Duncan S. MacNeil, **Robert G. MacNeil (compiler)**.

PICTOU HARBOUR, Dec. 31; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -6 to -4C. Wind NW 40kmph. Snow cover 15cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly open. P.M. Cloudy, light snow. P.M. Partly clear. 11 field observers in 4-5 parties, 31 at feeders, 1.5 hours and 20km owling. Total party hours 34.5 (12 on foot, 22.5 by car). Total party kilometres 415 (19.5 on foot, 395.5 by car).

Common Loon 1; Great Cormorant 1; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Canada Goose 330; Green-winged Teal 7; American Black Duck 761; Mallard 8; Gadwall 1; American Wigeon 1; Greater Scaup 2423; Common Eider 2; Oldsquaw 29; Common Goldeneye 409; Barrow's Goldeneye 3; **Hooded Merganser 3**; Common Merganser 325; Red-breasted Merganser **600**; Bald Eagle 24; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 6; Common Black-headed Gull **10**; **Bonaparte's Gull 1**; Ring-billed Gull 24; Herring Gull 2544; Iceland Gull **103**; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull **276**; Rock Dove 144; Mourning Dove 39; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; **Red-bellied Woodpecker 2**; Downy Woodpecker 15; Hairy Woodpecker 17; Northern Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 5; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 141; American Crow 585; Common Raven 181; Black-capped Chickadee 404; Boreal Chickadee 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch 54; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 10; American Robin 21; Northern Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 15; Cedar Waxwing 36; Northern Shrike 3; European Starling 1075; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; **Pine Warbler 2**; **Common Yellowthroat 1**; **Northern Cardinal 1**; American Tree Sparrow 85; Song Sparrow 23; Swamp Sparrow 1;

White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 361; Snow Bunting 20; Common Grackle 1; Northern Oriole 3; Pine Grosbeak 20; Purple Finch 48; House Finch 1; Red Crossbill 1; White-winged Crossbill 347; Common Redpoll 59; Pine Siskin 988; American Goldfinch 275; finch species 165; Evening Grosbeak 613; House Sparrow 153.

Total species 78, about 13,831 individuals. (CP. Surf Scoter, Red-winged Blackbird). Norm Babinec, Calvin, Harry and Jean Brennan, David and Sheila Bunn, George and Lois Burton, Baxter Cameron, Alice Chisholm, Kaye Davidson, Alice Ferguson, Robert Hanes, Alec Hardy, Elwin and Janet Hemphill, Jane Herring, Kate Kennedy, Margaret Kenney, John and Mary Knight, Harold Madore, Mary Mason, Margaret MacDonald, Shirley MacKenzie, Jean and John MacLeod, Duncan MacMaster, Ken McKenna (compiler), Bev Milligan, Fred Popowich, Janet Rowe, Michelle Shu, Wendy Skinner, Henry Snow, June Swanson, Polly Szantor, Patricia Trefry, Joyce Tucker, Gordon Vacheresse, Stephen Vines.

PORT L'HEBERT, Dec. 17; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. -12 to -5C. Wind calm. Snow cover 5-8cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. Clear, P.M. Partly cloudy. 13 field observers in 9 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 58 (39.5 on foot, 18.5 by car). Total party kilometres 404 (69 on foot, 335 by car).

Red-throated Loon 3; Common Loon 80; Horned Grebe 52; Red-necked Grebe 24; Great Cormorant 9; Canada Goose 781; Green-winged Teal 2; American Black Duck 261; Mallard 9; Northern Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 141; Common Eider 595; Oldsquaw 122; Black Scoter 16; Surf Scoter 19; White-winged Scoter 27; Common Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 42; Red-breasted Merganser 10; Bald Eagle 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 1; American Kestrel 2; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 14; Sanderling 58; Purple Sandpiper 50; Dunlin 29; Common Snipe 1; American Woodcock 1; Common Black-headed Gull 10; Herring Gull 342; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 165; Dovekie 3; Black Guillemot 16; Rock Dove 27; Mourning Dove 49; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern Flicker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 3; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 47; American Crow 144; Common Raven 8; Black-capped Chickadee 275; Boreal Chickadee 21; Red-breasted Nuthatch 64; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 55; American Robin 6; Northern Mockingbird 1; Water Pipit 5; Bohemian Waxwing 60; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 366; Yellow-rumped Warbler 24; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; Northern Cardinal 1; American Tree Sparrow 44; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 31; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 81; Dark-eyed Junco 178; Snow Bunting 50; Common Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Purple Finch 6; House Finch 2; White-winged Crossbill 4; Pine Siskin 4; American Goldfinch 166; Evening Grosbeak 228; House Sparrow 11.

Total species 80, about 4,894 individuals. (CP. Snow Goose, Savannah Sparrow) Lloyd Cameron, Bill Crosby, Donna Crosby, Russel Crosby (compiler) Bill Curry, Andy and Leila Dean, Donna Ensor, Dean Fiske, Danny Mason, Mark Townsend, Robert Turner, David and Joan Young.

PUBNICO, Dec. 26; 7:30AM to 4PM. Temp. 0 to 1C. Wind N 10kmph. Snow cover 5cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. Partly cloudy, light rain and snow all day. 18 field observers in 5 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 31 (11.5 on foot, 18.5 by car, 1 by boat). Total party kilometres 430 (16 on foot, 406 by car, 8 by boat).

Common Loon 14; Red-necked Grebe 5; Great Cormorant 10; cormorant species 1; Great Blue Heron 2; American Black Duck 211; Mallard 1; Mallard hybrid 1; Greater Scaup 200; Common Eider 516; Oldsquaw 35; Surf Scoter 16; Common Goldeneye 17; Bufflehead 12; Red-breasted Merganser 28; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; American Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 9; Ruffed Grouse 4; Ring-billed Gull 5; Herring Gull 318; Iceland

Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 399; Dovekie 1; Mourning Dove 184; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 69; American Crow 216; Black-capped Chickadee 133; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 11; American Robin 9; Northern Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 28; Northern Shrike 4; European Starling 805; Yellow-rumped Warbler 12; **Northern Cardinal** 11; **Rufous-sided Towhee** 1; American Tree Sparrow 33; Chipping Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 9; White-throated Sparrow 34; Dark-eyed Junco 49; Red-winged Blackbird 1; meadowlark species 1; Northern Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 7; American Goldfinch 66; Evening Grosbeak 69; House Sparrow 175.

Total species 61, about 3,779 individuals. (CP. Canada Goose, Black Scoter, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, Common Raven, Orange-crowned Warbler, Swamp Sparrow) Terrence Amirault, Albert d'Entremont, Giselle d'Entremont, Lisette d'Entremont, Martial d'Entremont, Raymond D'Entremont, Real d'Entremont, Wendell d'Entremont, Claire D'eon, Geneva D'eon, Jeanette D'eon, Jerome D'eon, Lance D'eon, Lynette D'eon, Reginald D'eon, **Ted D'eon (compiler)**, Virginia D'eon, Wendell D'eon, Brian MacKenzie, Doris and Kenneth Peters.

ST. PETER'S, Dec. 27; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 0 to 2C. Wind NNW slight. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Cloudy, light rain/snow, P.M. Partly cloudy. 11 field observers in 4-5 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 27 (10 on foot, 14 by car). Total party kilometres 265 (25 on foot, 240 by car).

Common Loon 4; Horned Grebe 1; grebe species 5; Canada Goose 7; American Black Duck 17; Oldsquaw 34; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 16; Common Goldeneye 18; Hooded Merganser 1; Common Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 22; Bald Eagle 8; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Herring Gull 302; Great Black-backed Gull 45; Black Guillemot 1; Mourning Dove 43; Downy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 16; Blue Jay 57; American Crow 120; Common Raven 62; Black-capped Chickadee 55; Boreal Chickadee 37; Red-breasted Nuthatch 21; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 19; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 9; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 22; Snow Bunting 30; Pine Grosbeak 61; Purple Finch 89; Red Crossbill 4; White-winged Crossbill 244; Pine Siskin 116; American Goldfinch 190; Evening Grosbeak 195; House Sparrow 30.

Total species 42, about 1,913 individuals. (CP. Ring-necked Pheasant, Belted Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, Spruce Grouse, Pine Warbler). Dorothy Barnard, Aloysius Burke, Floyd and Shelly Carter, **Billy Digout (compiler)**, George Digout, Murdock Digout, Sharon Digout, Wendal Holmes, Eva Landry, Gordie Landry, Jack MacNeil, Jeannie Shermerhorn, Ronola Stone, Annie, Jeffrey, Mark and Marsali Vanderhoeden.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 17; 6:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -12 to -4C. Wind NW 0-35kmph. Snow cover 10cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies clear all day with blowing snow in P.M. 29 field observers in 14 parties, 27 at feeders, 2.5 hours and 5km owling. Total party hours 55.5 (32.5 on foot, 23 by car). Total party kilometres 498.5 (70 on foot, 428.5 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 13; American Black Duck 27; Mallard 12; Common Merganser 163; Bald Eagle 48; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 9; American Kestrel 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 17; Ruffed Grouse 22; Herring Gull 27; Great Black-backed Gull 3; Rock Dove 223; Mourning Dove 112; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 31; Hairy Woodpecker 33; Black-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 11; Gray Jay 14; Blue Jay 234; American Crow 756;

Common Raven 147; Black-capped Chickadee 511; Boreal Chickadee 22; Red-breasted Nuthatch 74; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 58; American Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 14; Cedar Waxwing 4; Northern Shrike 3; European Starling 768; **Northern Cardinal** 1; American Tree Sparrow 64; Song Sparrow 2; Swamp Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 133; Snow Bunting 30; Red-winged Blackbird 18; Brown-headed Cowbird 8; Pine Grosbeak 3; Purple Finch 23; White-winged Crossbill 33; Common Redpoll 5; Pine Siskin 182; American Goldfinch 251; Evening Grosbeak 633; House Sparrow 71.

Total species 51, about 4,826 individuals. (CP. Common Snipe). Barbara Aitken, Fred Ashley, Conrad and Jean Baldwin, Wylie Barbrick, Lloyd Bent, Barbara Bower, Robert Cameron, Gretchen Dawe, Ivan DeLong, Herb Fassett, Irwin Fraser, Wayne Garden, Brenda Grantmyre, Beatrice Howe, Audrey and John Hungerford, Leo Isenor, Ernest and Joan Jarvis, Jim Lighthouse, Anne MacDonald, Joan Mackey, **Roslyn MacPhee (compiler)**, Elsie and Rollen McCulloch, Earl, Linda and Reg McCurdy, Muriel Miller, Pat Moore, Juanita Murphy, Eldon Pace, Marjorie Peppard, Anne Perry, Christine and Judy Queripel, Earle and Nancy Reid, Jean Schwartz, Barbara Scott, Rosalie Selwyn-Smith, Rosalie Stewart, Connie Stott, Julie Towers, Audrey and Lorne Tyler, Jennie and Roger Wardrope, Lorne Weaver, Art and Myrna West, Muriel Willett, Ron Witt, Beth Wright.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 16; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -6 to -3C. Wind WNW 20-25kmph. Snow cover 2-3cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. Cloudy, P.M. partly clear. 11 field observers in 6 parties, 23 at feeders, 4.75 hours and 85 kilometres owling. Total party hours 44.75 (14.25 on foot, 30.5 by car). Total party kilometres 519.5 (26.5 on foot, 493 by car).

American Black Duck 4; Bald Eagle 13; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Ruffed Grouse 13; Ring-billed Gull 16; Herring Gull 176; Iceland Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 7; Rock Dove 718; Mourning Dove 58; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 21; Hairy Woodpecker 13; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 220; American Crow 582; Common Raven 53; Black-capped Chickadee 485; Boreal Chickadee 14; Red-breasted Nuthatch 62; Golden-crowned Kinglet 25; American Robin 5; Bohemian Waxwing 303; Northern Shrike 6; European Starling 1714; **Palm Warbler** 1; American Tree Sparrow 72; Song Sparrow 10; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 212; Snow Bunting 51; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 78; Purple Finch 72; Red Crossbill 11; White-winged Crossbill 351; Common Redpoll 23; Pine Siskin 360; American Goldfinch 301; Evening Grosbeak 546; House Sparrow 295.

Total species 46, about 6,925 individuals. (CP. Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Brown Creeper, Northern Cardinal). Rosemary Bourque, **Calvin Brennan (compiler)**, Donna, Harry, Jean and Tim Brennan, Marion Buck, Frank Calder, Dorothy and Jim Chisholm, Kaye Davidson, Peter Enman, Claire and Ralph Foote, Sylvia Grosskurth, Margaret Kenney, Randy Lauff, Betty MacDonald, Fraser MacLean, Ken McKenna, Helen Melanson, Lena and Richard Murphy, Fred and Sally Polley, Robert Reid, Annie and Bob Sample, George and Marcia Smeltzer, Shirley Stewart, Polly Szantor, Steve Vines, Rita Young.

STRAIT OF CANSO, Dec. 29; 7:45AM to 5PM. Temp. -5 to -2C. Wind NW 30kmph. Snow cover 0-20cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Light snow, P.M. cloudy. 8 field observers in 4-5 parties, 9 at feeders. Total party hours 29.75 (8.5 on foot, 21.25 by car). Total party kilometres 291 (14.5 on foot, 276.5 by car).

Common Loon 14; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 46; Northern Gannet 14; Great Cormorant 2; Double-crested Cormorant 1; American Black Duck 11; Common Eider 12; Oldsquaw 34; Surf Scoter 3; Common Goldeneye 25; Bufflehead 12; Common Merganser 36; Red-breasted Merganser 83; Bald Eagle 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2;

Ruffed Grouse 6; **Little Gull** 1; Common Black-headed Gull 31; Bonaparte's Gull **94**; Ring-billed Gull 6; Herring Gull 95; Iceland Gull 187; Glaucous Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 33; Black-legged Kittiwake 5; gull species 44; Dovekie 3; Black Guillemot 2; Rock Dove 99; Mourning Dove 29; **Red-bellied Woodpecker** 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 75; American Crow 306; Common Raven 31; Black-capped Chickadee **246**; Boreal Chickadee **50**; Red-breasted Nuthatch **35**; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet **70**; American Robin 2; **Northern Mockingbird** 1; Bohemian Waxwing 60; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 279; American Tree Sparrow 20; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 9; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 224; Snow Bunting 19; Pine Grosbeak 16; Purple Finch 76; **House Finch** 1; Red Crossbill 63; White-winged Crossbill 835; Common Redpoll 15; Pine Siskin 274; American Goldfinch 368; Evening Grosbeak 162; House Sparrow 53.

Total species 65, about 4,259 individuals. (CP. Rough-legged Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Grackle). Calvin Brennan, Brian Dalzell, Halton Dalzell, Peter Hope, Ken McKenna, Jim Meagher, **Kerstin Mueller (compiler)**, Agneta Sand.

THE SYDNEYS, Dec. 22; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 1 to 3C. NE 11-26kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, P.M. cloudy, foggy, light rain. 13 field observers in 6 parties, 6 at feeders, one hour and 3km owling. Total party hours 37 (7.5 on foot, 29.5 by car). Total party kilometres 292 (15 on foot, 277 by car).

Common Loon 2; Great Cormorant 24; cormorant species 1; American Black Duck 750; Mallard 257; MallardxBlack Duck hybrid 31; Greater Scaup 2; Oldsquaw 46; White-winged Scoter 66; Common Goldeneye 99; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 30; Common Merganser 4; Red-breasted Merganser 64; Bald Eagle 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 35; Common Black-headed Gull 14; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 821; Iceland Gull 731; Glaucous Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 893; Rock Dove 337; Mourning Dove 64; Downy Woodpecker 12; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern Flicker 6; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 192; American Crow 622; Common Raven 35; Black-capped Chickadee 346; Boreal Chickadee 14; Red-breasted Nuthatch 21; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 23; American Robin 14; Bohemian Waxwing 910; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 2629; Yellow-rumped Warbler 23; **Pine Warbler** 1; **Yellow-breasted Chat** 1; **Lark Sparrow** 1; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 7; sparrow species; Dark-eyed Junco 37; Snow Bunting 61; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; **Northern Oriole** 1; Pine Grosbeak 4; Purple Finch 114; White-winged Crossbill 1055; Common Redpoll 258; Pine Siskin 252; American Goldfinch 455; Evening Grosbeak 159; House Sparrow 688.

Total species 61, about 12250 individuals. (CP. Horned Grebe, Black Guillemot). Donald P. Campbell, Ed Clemens, Jackie Cretien, Bill Devoe, David Harris, Miles MacDonald, John MacInnis, Philip MacInnis, Jack MacNeil, David McCorquodale, **John McKay (compiler)**, Allan and Cathy Murrant, Junior Metcalfe, Donald, Rob, E. Shepard, Christine Thomson.

TRURO, Dec. 29; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -2 to 1C. Wind NW 20kmph. Snow cover 8cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Partly clear all day. 12 field observers in 7 parties, 8 at feeders. Total party hours 46.5 (23.25 on foot, 23.25 by car). Total party kilometres 427.5 (35.5 on foot, 392 by car).

American Black Duck 458; Mallard 360; Bald Eagle 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Gray Partridge 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 42; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 213; Great Black-backed Gull 37; Rock Dove 241; Mourning Dove 68; Downy Woodpecker 13; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 110; American Crow 1243; Common Raven 19; Black-capped

Chickadee 191; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 8; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 11; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; Bohemian Waxwing 102; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 862; American Tree Sparrow 61; Chipping Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 85; Snow Bunting 78; Pine Grosbeak 17; White-winged Crossbill 13; Pine Siskin 60; American Goldfinch 224; Evening Grosbeak 312; House Sparrow 53.

Total species 43, about 4937 individuals. (CP. Glaucous Gull, American Robin, Common Redpoll) Jan Alcorn, Alan Clark, Linda Hall, **Ross Hall (compiler)**, Sandra Hollis, Joan and Ralph Hudgins, Bea MacCallum, Marilyn MacWha, Ina Major, James Miller, Mike Moyles, Jeff Ogden, Kim Richard, James Murray, Bruce, Rachel and Rene Smith, Harold Stewart, Joe Teal, Leroi Tedford.

WEST HANTS, Dec. 30; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -15C. Wind NW 16kmph and variable. Snow cover 30cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies clear all day. 33 field observers in 16 parties, 2 at feeders, 2 hours and 12 miles owling. Total party hours 89.5 (27.5 on foot, 62 by car). Total party kilometres 569.5 (54.5 on foot, 515 by car).

Canada Goose 6; Wood Duck 1; Green-winged Teal 1; American Black Duck 306; Northern Pintail 2; Common Eider 3; Common Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 42; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 34; Rough-legged Hawk 2; American Kestrel 1; Gray Partridge 9; Ring-necked Pheasant 186; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 17; Purple Sandpiper 12; Common Snipe 3; Ring-billed Gull 8; Herring Gull 418; Great Black-backed Gull 141; Rock Dove 788; Mourning Dove 346; Northern Saw-whet Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 31; Hairy Woodpecker 16; Black-backed Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 17; Blue Jay 425; American Crow 1242; Common Raven 128; Black-capped Chickadee 984; Boreal Chickadee 39; Red-breasted Nuthatch 60; White-breasted Nuthatch 16; Brown Creeper 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet 32; American Robin 108; Northern Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 521; Cedar Waxwing 20; Northern Shrike 5; European Starling 2390; American Tree Sparrow 266; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 32; White-throated Sparrow 10; Dark-eyed Junco 345; Snow Bunting 205; Common Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 13; Pine Grosbeak 65; Purple Finch 21; House Finch 2; Red Crossbill 69; White-winged Crossbill 87; Common Redpoll 64; Pine Siskin 155; American Goldfinch 582; Evening Grosbeak 622; House Sparrow 1551.

Total species 79, about 90462 individuals. George and Margaret Alliston, Brad Amirault, Carol Bradley, Art Crowell, Justin Crowell, Elinor Currie, **Gail Davis (compiler)**, Glenn Davis, Trina Fitzgerald, Helen Gibson, Dana Harvey, Fulton Lavender, Peter LeBlanc, Blake Maybank, Barb McKay, Derick Mosely, Sheila Robarts, Bev and Wayne Shanks, Jim Taylor, Bill and Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Gordon Tufts, Kevin Tutt, Joan Waldron, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Beth and Frank Woolaver.

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 16; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -9 to -3C. Wind variable. Snow cover 0-15cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. clear, P.M. partly cloudy. 54 field observers in 22-27 parties, 71 at feeders, 1.5 hours and 4.5km. owling. Total party hours 176.25 (97.75 on foot, 78 by car). Total party kilometres 849 (116 on foot, 733 by car).

Canada Goose 47; American Black Duck 914; Mallard 64; Common Eider 28; Common Goldeneye 25; Common Merganser 36; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 342; Northern Harrier 12; Sharp-shinned Hawk 16; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 167; Rough-legged Hawk 9; Merlin 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 298; Ruffed Grouse 6; Ring-billed Gull 18; Herring Gull 18194; Iceland Gull 9; Great Black-backed Gull 3198; Rock Dove 1421; Mourning Dove 1541; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 5; Short-eared Owl 1; Saw-whet Owl 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 1; Downy

Woodpecker 120; Hairy Woodpecker 39; Northern Flicker 34; Pileated Woodpecker 7; Horned Lark 254; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 775; American Crow 31940; Common Raven 272; Black-capped Chickadee 1257; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 120; White-breasted Nuthatch 52; Brown Creeper 13; Golden-crowned Kinglet 89; American Robin 206; Northern Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 148; Cedar Waxwing 13; Northern Shrike 12; European Starling 18247; **Common Yellowthroat 1; Northern Cardinal 9;** American Tree Sparrow 214; Chipping Sparrow 9; Savannah Sparrow 45; Song Sparrow 203; Swamp Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 40; Dark-eyed Junco 1521; Red-winged Blackbird 42; Common Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 34; Northern Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 109; Purple finch 28; White-winged Crossbill 4; Common Redpoll 12; Pine Siskin 596; American Goldfinch 2332; Evening Grosbeak 1230; House Sparrow 1348.

Total species 69, about 87749 individuals. (CP. Great Blue Heron, Gray Partridge, Snow Bunting). Agar Adamson, George and Margaret Alliston, Jim Amos, Peter Austin-Smith, Darlene Barr, Patricia Bernier, Joanne and Ron Bezanson, Sherman Boates, Larry Bogan, Soren Bondrup-Neilsen, Joe and Pat Clifford, Lana Churchill, Sandy Connelly, Debbie and Jim Daigle, Andy, Gail and Pat Davis, Ed and Ev Eagles, Betty, Joan and Samara Eaton, Mark and Paul Elderkin, Wendy Elliott, Bob Flecknell, Fred, George and Harold Forsyth, Margaret Forsythe, Jamie and Merritt Gibson, Ed and Robie Hancock, Eileen and Sharon Harris, Lorna Hart, John and Avril Harwood, Blanche Healey, Tom Herman, Maxine Hill, Dennis Hippert, Bob Horne, Isobel, John and Winnie Horton, J.P. Huang, Douglas and Shirley Jackson, Dave Johnson, Ian Jonsen, Ann and Jerry Karttunen, Pat Kelly, Andy Kempton, Jean Leung, **Angus MacLean (compiler)**, Stella MacLean, Ron Margeson, Shirley Marston, Bill and Pat Martell, Bernard and Eleanor Mason, Pam Matthews, Randy Milton, Susan Montonen, Terry Murphy, Edna Mutch, Nicole Nadorozny, Gary Ness, Andy and Linda Nette, Rina Nichols, Nancy and Pam Nickerson, Mike O'Brien, Tanya Parker, Caroline and Terry Power, Mary Pratt, Tom Regan, Ladny Richmond, Stan Reigs, Gordon Robart, Lesley Rogers, Marg Russell, Gladys Saltzman, Kathy Schaffner, Meg Scheid, Rhonda and Steve Schofield, Jack and Ruth Scott, Dawn Shaw, Mabel Sheffield, Ada, Allison and Peter Smith, Liz and Richard Stern, Miriam Tams, Bill and Brenda Thexton, Dianne Thorpe, Jean Timpa, David Tracey, Gerry Trueman, Gordon and Judy Tufts, Deanna and Eva Urban, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Lance Woolaver, Don, Irene Wright and Jeni Wright, Barry and Betty Yoell.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 17; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -5.4 to -1.5C. Wind NW 16kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water open. Cloudy all day. 18 field observers in 5 parties, 17 at feeders. Total party hours 39 (8.5 on foot, 30.5 by car). Total party kilometres 570 (18 on foot, 552 by car).

Common Loon 12; Red-necked Grebe 6; Great Cormorant 1; Double-crested Cormorant 1; cormorant species 32; Great Blue Heron 2; **Snow Goose 1;** Canada Goose 360; Green-winged Teal 1; American Black Duck 566; Mallard 278; **American Wigeon 1;** Greater Scaup 2; Common Eider 48; Oldsquaw 43; Black Scoter 1; Surf Scoter 1; Common Goldeneye 20; Bufflehead 14; Hooded Merganser 17; Common Merganser 18; Red-breasted Merganser 50; Bald Eagle 1; Northern Harrier 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; accipiter species 1; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 1; buteo species 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 29; Ruffed Grouse 10; Common Snipe 1; American Woodcock 1; Ring-billed Gull 41; Herring Gull 1479; Iceland Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 733; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 366; Mourning Dove 328; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 14; Northern Flicker 15; Horned Lark 416; Blue Jay 126; American Crow 264; Common Raven 134; Black-capped Chickadee 271; Red-breasted Nuthatch 28; White-breasted Nuthatch 12; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 24; American Robin 19; **Varied Thrush 1;** Northern Mockingbird 4; Water Pipit 3; Cedar Waxwing 5; Northern

Shrike 11; European Starling 1344; Yellow-rumped Warbler 13; **Northern Cardinal 15**; American Tree Sparrow 66; Chipping Sparrow 6; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 37; White-throated Sparrow 72; Dark-eyed Junco 181; Snow Bunting 59; Red-winged Blackbird 2; **Eastern Meadowlark 1**; Common Grackle 28; Brown-headed Cowbird 12; Pine Grosbeak 3; Purple Finch 3; House Finch 1; Common Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 7; American Goldfinch 119; Evening Grosbeak **678**; House Sparrow 104.

Total species 79, about 8609 individuals. (CP. Pileated Woodpecker, Dickcissel, Northern Oriole). Charlie Allen, Martyn Bowler, Marilyn Burns, Paul Comeau, Elsie and Stacy Crosby, Ted D'Leon, Raymond d'Entremont, Bernie Deveau, June Graves, Andre Haines, Helen and Hubert Hall, Phyliss Hayes, Michael Hawkeswood, Carol Jacquard, Gary Leach, Marilyn Lovegrove, Hazel Macdonald, Mary Morton, Dale Mullen, Leah Murray, Margaret Newell, Olive Penney, Arthur Porter, Marcie Rogers, **Barbara and Eric Ruff (compilers)**, Robin Rymer, Clark and Vera Sollows, Jim Thibeau, John Wainwright, Grace Walker, Barbara White, Rose Wilson.

1995 Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals

The following list comprises of all 148 species seen during the 1995 Christmas Counts and where the highest number of these were recorded in the province.

There was a single new species, the Little Gull which was added to the list this year, bringing the all-time provincial list to 244 plus 3 additional races. There were 32 Christmas Counts conducted, an increase of three over last year. It is great to have Kingston, Louisbourg, The Sydney's and West Hants adding their results this year. In the following summary there are species (emboldened) which broke or tied previous all-time high counts.

Red-throated Loon 5 (Cape Sable Island); Common Loon 95 (Broad Cove); Pied-billed Grebe 1 (Cape Sable Island); Horned Grebe 79 (Broad Cove); Red-necked Grebe 46 (Strait of Canso); Northern Gannet 14 (Strait of Canso); Great Cormorant 192 (Brier Island); Double-crested Cormorant 3 (Cape Breton Highlands); Great Blue Heron 7 (Cape Sable Island); Snow Goose 1 (Yarmouth); Brant 3 (Cape Sable Island); Canada Goose 7600 (Halifax East); Wood Duck 1 (West Hants); Green-winged Teal 7 (Pictou Harbour); American Black Duck 2468 (Halifax West); **Mallard 360 (Truro)**; Northern Pintail 4 (Broad Cove); Blue-winged Teal 1 (Broad Cove); Gadwall 1 (Pictou Harbour); **Eurasian Wigeon 1 (Antigonish)**; **American Wigeon 9 (Halifax West)**; **Greater Scaup 2423 (Pictou Harbour)**; Lesser Scaup 8 (Halifax West); **Common Eider 1388 (Cape Sable Island)**; Harlequin Duck 5 (Louisbourg); Oldsquaw 3288 (Annapolis Royal); Black Scoter 113 (Broad Cove); Surf Scoter 101 (Broad Cove); White-winged Scoter 141 (Halifax West); Common Goldeneye 409 (Pictou Harbour); Barrow's Goldeneye 3 (Pictou Harbour); **Bufflehead 586 (Annapolis Royal)**; Hooded Merganser 17 (Yarmouth); Common Merganser 325 (Pictou Harbour); **Red-breasted Merganser 600 (Pictou Harbour)**; Turkey Vulture 5 (Brier Island); Bald Eagle 342 (Wolfville); Northern Harrier 12 (Wolfville); Sharp-shinned Hawk 16 (Wolfville); Northern Goshawk 1 (Antigonish, Cape Sable Island, Pictou Harbour, Shubenacadie, West Hants, Wolfville); Broad-winged Hawk 1 (Broad Cove); Red-tailed Hawk 167 (Wolfville); Rough-legged Hawk 9 (Wolfville); American Kestrel 2 (Halifax East, Port L'Hebert, Shubenacadie), Merlin 4 (Wolfville); **Peregrine Falcon 1 (Cape Sable Island)**; Gray Partridge 9 (West Hants); **Chukar 3, escape (Halifax East)**; **Ring-necked Pheasant 298 (Wolfville)**; Spruce Grouse 3 (Advocate); Ruffed Grouse 27 (Caledonia); American Coot 1 (Broad

Cove, Halifax East, Halifax West); Black-bellied Plover 5 (Cape Sable Island); Killdeer 2 (Brier Island); Ruddy Turnstone 6 (Cape Sable Island); Red Knot 10 (Cape Sable Island); Sanderling 120 (Cape Sable Island); **White-rumped Sandpiper 2 (Cape Sable Island)**; Purple Sandpiper 100 (Brier Island); Dunlin 29 (Port L'Hebert); Common Snipe 3 (West Hants); American Woodcock 1 (Port L'Hebert, Yarmouth); **Little Gull 1 (Strait of Canso)**; Common Black-headed Gull 43 (Halifax West); Bonaparte's Gull 94 (Strait of Canso); Ring-billed Gull 141 (Halifax East); Herring Gull 18194 (Wolfville); Iceland Gull 769 (Glace Bay); Lesser Black-backed Gull 1 (Halifax West); Glaucous Gull 9 (Louisbourg); Great Black-backed Gull 3198 (Wolfville); Black-legged Kittiwake 71 (Brier Island); **Forster's Tern 1 (Halifax East)**; Dovekie 3 (Strait of Canso); Common Murre 15 (Annapolis Royal); Thick-billed Murre 1 (Cheticamp); Razorbill 4 (Brier Island); Black Guillemot 69 (Brier Island); Rock Dove 1421 (Wolfville); **Mourning Dove 1541 (Wolfville)**; Great Horned Owl 2 (Annapolis Royal, Louisbourg); Barred Owl 5 (Wolfville); Short-eared Owl 1 (Brier Island, Cape Sable Island, Economy, Wolfville); **Northern Saw-whet Owl 12 (Antigonish)**; **Belted Kingfisher 5 (Halifax East)**; **Red-bellied Woodpecker 2 (Pictou Harbour)**; **Downy Woodpecker 120 (Wolfville)**; **Hairy Woodpecker 48 (Kingston)**; Black-backed Woodpecker 2 (Economy, Louisbourg); **Northern Flicker 34 (Wolfville)**; Pileated Woodpecker 11 (Shubenacadie); **Horned Lark 416 (Yarmouth)**; Gray Jay 20 (Economy); Blue Jay 775 (Wolfville); **American Crow 31940 (Wolfville)**; Common Raven 272 (Wolfville); Black-capped Chickadee 1257 (Wolfville); Boreal Chickadee 81 (Louisbourg); Red-breasted Nuthatch 120 (Wolfville); **White-breasted Nuthatch 52 (Wolfville)**; Brown Creeper 13 (Wolfville); Marsh Wren 1 (Halifax East); Golden-crowned Kinglet 90 (Economy); **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 6 (Cape Sable Island)**; American Robin 206 (Wolfville); **Varied Thrush 1 (Yarmouth)**; Northern Mockingbird 4 (Cape Sable Island, Yarmouth); Water Pipit 5 (Port L'Hebert); **Bohemian Waxwing 910 (The Sydney's)**; Cedar Waxwing 50 (Annapolis Royal); **Northern Shrike 12 (Wolfville)**; European Starling 18247 (Wolfville); Orange-crowned Warbler 2 (Halifax West); **Yellow-rumped Warbler 145 (Cape Sable Island)**; Pine Warbler 2 (Louisbourg, Pictou Harbour); Palm Warbler 1 (Halifax West, Springville); Common Yellowthroat 1 (Pictou Harbour, Wolfville); Yellow-breasted Chat 1 (Halifax West, Port L'Hebert, The Sydney's); **Northern Cardinal 15 (Yarmouth)**; Dickcissel 2 (Glace Bay); Rufous-sided Towhee 1 (Pubnico); American Tree Sparrow 326 (Kingston); Chipping Sparrow 9 (Wolfville); **Lark Sparrow 1 (Louisbourg, The Sydney's)**; Savannah Sparrow 45 (Wolfville); Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 2 (Halifax East); Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1 (Halifax East); Fox Sparrow 6 (Annapolis Royal); Song Sparrow 203 (Wolfville); Swamp Sparrow 5 (Wolfville); White-throated Sparrow 122 (Cape Sable Island); **Dark-eyed Junco 1521 (Wolfville)**; **Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco 4 (Cape Sable Island)**; Lapland Longspur 2 (Antigonish, Halifax East); Snow Bunting 487 (Amherst); Red-winged Blackbird 42 (Wolfville); Eastern Meadowlark 1 (Yarmouth); Rusty Blackbird 1 (Annapolis Royal, Kingston); Common Grackle 42 (Annapolis Royal); Brown-headed Cowbird 43 (Cape Sable Island); Northern Oriole 3 (Annapolis Royal, Pictou Harbour); Pine Grosbeak 109 (Wolfville); Purple Finch 179 (Glace Bay); House Finch 2 (Halifax West, Port L'Hebert, West Hants); Red Crossbill 69 (West Hants); **White-winged Crossbill 1055 (The Sydney's)**; Common Redpoll 258 (The Sydney's); Pine Siskin 988 (Pictou Harbour); American Goldfinch 2332 (Wolfville); Evening Grosbeak 1272 (Amherst); House Sparrow 1551 (West Hants).

David Currie
Francis Spalding

Enjoying the Broad Cove Christmas Count are:
Christine Ross, James Hirtle and Nellie Snyder—photo, Shirley Cohrs



This Thick-billed Murre was an unexpected summer lingerer near Baddeck, Cape Breton, in late July 1995. Photo by Vivian Keerd.




NEW RARE BIRD ALERT

As is usual every second year the RARE BIRD ALERT is about to be reorganized. We will start again from "scratch" as many participants have left, returned or newly joined since 1994 when last it was done. Any member in the society may be on the R.B.A. but must assume the responsibilities of passing on the messages immediately, leaving messages, **CALLING BACK** (sometimes several times) when contacts are difficult to make.

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

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

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

THE DEADLINE IS JUNE 1, 1996



FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS



Reminder: Please 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 encouraged to submit a field trip report to the editor.

Please send reports to
Shirley Cohrs,
8 Rosemount Ave.
Halifax, NS, B3N 1X8

APRIL

- Sat. 27 Cape Sable Island, the Hawk, and others: Contact person: Joan Czapalay (Home: 637-2402, messages at work: 637-2116). An assortment of field trips will be sponsored by the Southwestern Nova Scotia Bird Watchers. Possible trips include Baccaro and Blanche Peninsula, Bon Portage Island, and Cape Sable. Listen to the CHAT line (852-2428) for more details closer to the event or call for information.
- Sat. 27 Lingering Winter Birds, C.B.: John McKay (562-3956). Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the former Heavy Water Plant site, Glace Bay.

MAY

- Sun. 5 Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary: 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.
- Sun. 12 Spring Arrivals, Prospect Area: Bev Sarty (852-5209). Meet at the Royal Canadian Legion in White's Lake at 7:30 a.m. Bring a lunch.
- Wed. 15 Halifax County Warbler Walk: 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. 17 Bon Portage Island: Fulton Lavender (455-4966).
to Meet at the Prospect Pt. wharf at Shag Harbour,
Mon. 20 Fri., May 17 (time to be announced--contact the leader. 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. See B/C Night Heron, nesting Osprey, and probably Snowy Egret. Lots of migrants, always exciting rarities.

- Sat. 18 Lunenburg County: Bill Caudle (766-4465).
Meet at Exit 11 off Hwy. 103, at 7:30 a.m. Munch a lunch near New Germany. Trip ends near Bridgewater. Slow-paced introduction to birding for beginners. Find new birding spots.
- Sun. 19 Hopewell Area, Pictou County: Harry Brennan (923-2780). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at St. Columbia Churchyard, about 1 mile south of Hopewell. Northern Saw-whet and Barred Owls possible. General birding--excellent for beginners.
- Sat. 25 Hants County Day: 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. 26 Shubenacadie Area: Roslyn McPhee (758-3265). Meet at 7:00 am at Scott's Restaurant in Shubenacadie.

JUNE

- Sat. 8 Warbler Walk, Birch Grove, C.B.: Junior Metcalfe (849-5054). Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the former Heavy Water Plant site, Glace Bay.
- Sat. 15 Birds of Kings County: Angus MacLean (679-5878). Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the west end of Butler Rd., 20 mins. south of Kentville on Route 12. For the beginner through intermediate, learn to identify warblers and flycatchers (in particular) by sight and sound.
- Sat. 22 Cumberland County: Fulton Lavender (455-4966). Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Wentworth Valley Prov. Park (just north of the ski hill). Trip ends at Amherst Point. Marsh Wren, Black Tern, Sora, Purple Martin, Vesper Sparrow are included. A great opportunity to see birds seldom seen by the beginner.

JULY

- Sun. 21 Wallace Bay Area: Jim Taylor (434-8516). Meet at Wallace wharf at 8:30 a.m. A variety of habitats including shoreline, woodland, riverside and marsh are covered. Nesting eagles for a grand finale! No registration is necessary. Bring a lunch.
- Sat. 27 President's Field Day, Crescent Beach: Lisë Cohrs (477-6036). Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the western parking area at the entrance to Crescent Beach, Lunenburg County for a Shorebird Bonanza.

AUGUST

- Sat. 10 Pictou County Area: Ken McKenna (752-7644). Further details to be published in the July issue.
- Sat. 10 Yarmouth Area: Eric Ruff (H 742-8145 or W 742-5539). Meet at the former DAR station at 8:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and suitable footwear for rocky and wet walking.

Any questions or suggestions should be directed to the Field Trip Coordinators, Christine Cornell and Kevin Tutt (479-7667), 232 Purcell's Cove Road, Halifax, NS B3P 1C1.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

The following trips were advertised to take place during this period:

January, 1996:

Sat. 13 Sewer Stroll I. Leader: Fulton Lavender

February, 1996:

Sat. 3 Harbour Hop, C.B. Leader: Cathy Murrant

Sat. 17 Sewer Stroll II. Leader: Fulton Lavender

NO reports have been received--perhaps they did not take place, who knows???



VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED FOR LOON WATCH EVENTS AT KEJIMKUJIK

By Peter Hope

"For many Nova Scotians the presence of loons on a lake is considered an indicator of a wild and natural environment. However, researchers have growing concerns about the stability of our loon population. They recognize that the health of species, such as loons, which are at a high level in the food chain, provide a good measure of environmental quality."

When I wrote that paragraph a year ago it seemed to sum up the concern I felt for our loons. Then in January 1996 the bottom dropped out when Canadian Wildlife Service researcher Neil Burgess reported that adult loons in Kejimikujik National Park had the highest levels of mercury in their blood yet noted in North America. Today as I write this I sit and wonder, uncertain of the magnitude of the problem.

Surveys of common loons and other water-birds, carried out by Dr. Joe Kerekes of the Canadian Wildlife Service, began in Kejimikujik National Park in 1988. This study has determined that territorial loon pairs are known to occur in all 25 lakes, which are greater than 20 hectares, among the 46 lakes within Kejimikujik National Park. The seven year breeding population data indicates the number of residential loons remains stable at around 39 pairs while the number of chicks fledged may vary annually but averages 11. The annual fluctuations of breeding success may be the result of changes in water levels during the nesting period but predation, by raccoons and great black-backed gulls, and human disturbance are probably contributing factors.

To supplement the data gathered in the CWS study, on August 20, 1995 the first Loon Watch was held at Kejimikujik National Park. Volunteers, park staff and Canadian Wildlife Service biologists, twenty-one people in total, dispersed by canoe to survey lakes throughout the eastern part of the park.

During the Loon Watch fourteen different lakes were surveyed by the fourteen teams of participants. The resultant count was 53 adult loons and two young of the year. Nine pairs were noted still together on their home lakes, however most loons had congregated in one huge group of 22 seen on Kejimikujik Lake. The Loon Watch permitted a comparison with the resident loons observed throughout the summer-long survey.

The opinion of volunteers and researchers was that the Loon Watch was both fun and scientifically valuable. So for 1996 two separate Loon Watch events will be scheduled. The first one, scheduled for Sunday June 2, will help to confirm the number of territorial pairs on lakes in the middle of the nesting season. The second Loon Watch, set for Sunday August 18, will compare with the 1995 results.

Volunteers are requested who could assist for either or both of these Loon Watch programs. Volunteers should be experienced birders who are able to canoe and bring the canoeing equipment necessary. All participants will gather at the Kejimikujik National Park Visitor Centre by 8:45 a.m. sharp for a brief orientation session before dispersing to their assigned lakes. The survey will involve approximately two hours of observation around mid-day. After the survey, a debriefing meeting will be held at the Visitor Centre.

These surveys can provide meaningful assistance to biologists trying to understand and protect our common loons. Hopefully, you can volunteer your help and join in a good cause. Interested participants should contact Peter Hope at Kejimikujik National Park (phone 902-682-2770) or write c/o Box 236 Maitland Bridge, N.S. B0T 1B0 (including your phone number) well before either Loon Watch.



NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT DAY

On May 13, 1995, 17 of the 18 counties in Nova Scotia participated in the North American Migration Count (Victoria was the exception). Digby, Queens and Yarmouth only received nominal coverage with single reports. However, there were 331 observers who travelled 4766 miles (by foot, car, boat and bicycle), logging 932 party-hours, and an additional 380 hours were spent watching feeders. A party of two observed in three counties while six other travelled in two counties.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who participated in the fourth annual N.A.M.C. day of observing birds in migration, whether at feeders or out in the field. All your efforts were greatly appreciated and the results were not only most worthwhile, but reflect your enthusiasm and a fascinating overview of our Nova Scotia spring migration. I hope that everyone will be as enthusiastic in 1996 and become involved once again--remember to keep that second Saturday in May open...

Finally, a word of thanks to the county coordinators and those who assisted in compiling data from local groups of bird observers, those who orchestrated areas for observation and those who travelled far to help give a much truer picture of migration through this unique province of ours. Maybe next year we can attempt to have wider coverage in some areas--Victoria County for one, with increased observation needed in the south-west part of Nova Scotia. You might be surprised at the species that await you...and remember this project depends on your input to reflect on what is happening to our feathered friends as they journey northwards in spring.

Sincerely,
Judy Tufts (N.S. Pr. Coord. for N.A.M.C.)

BIRDS SEEN ON THE DAY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1--Red-throated Loon	9--Bald Eagle (age?)
142--Common Loon	45--N. Harrier
29--Pied-billed Grebe	25--Sharp-shin. Hawk
3--Red-necked Grebe	3--N. Goshawk
179--Northern Gannet	12--Broad-winged Hawk
114--Gt. Cormorant	70--Red-tailed Haek
2721--D-c. Cormorant	1--Buteo Sp.
17--Am. Bittern	3 Eagle Sp.
367--Gt. Blue Heron	59--Am. Kestrel
1--Snowy Egret	22--Merlin
83--Brant	4--Gray Partridge
71--Canada Goose	227--Ring-neck Pheasant
20--Wood Duck	5--Spruce Grouse
144--Green-winged Teal	231--Ruffed Grouse
939--Am. Black Duck	1--Virginia Rail
166--Mallard	19--Sora
3--N. Pintail	4--Am. Coot
82--Blue-winged Teal	58--Blk.-bellied Plover
3--N. Shoveler	14--Piping Plover
2--Gadwall	100--Killdeer
20--Am. Wigeon	95--Gtr. Yellowlegs
215--Ring-necked Duck	335--Eastern Willet
97--Gtr. Scaup	33--Spotted Sandpiper
2--Lsr. Scaup	25--Ruddy Turnstone
1532--Common Eider	8--Red Knot
1--Harlequin Duck	50--Sanderling
21--Oldsquaw	17--Least Sandpiper
246--Black Scoter	1--Purple Sandpiper
463--Surf Scoter	44--Dunlin
147--Wht.-winged Scoter	4--S.-billed Dowitcher
50--C. Goldeneye	1--Dowitcher Sp.

- 98--Bufflehead
 4--Hooded Merganser
 139--C. Merganser
 492--Red-br. Merganser
 4--Turkey Vulture
 137--Osprey
 83--Bald Eagle (adult)
 28--Bald Eagle (imm.)
 109--Iceland Gull
 1--Lsr. Blk-bk. Gull
 6--Glaucous Gull
 2773--Gt. Blk-bk. Gull
 35--Blk-legged Kittiwake
 622--Gull Sp.
 144--C. Tern
 5--Arctic Tern
 47--Sterna Sp.
 99--Blk. Guillemot
 13--Gt. Horned Owl
 51--Barred Owl
 16--N. Saw-whet Owl
 7--C. Nighthawk
 278--Chimney Swift
 6--Ruby throated Hummingbird
 163--Belted Kingfisher
 59--Yel. bellied Sapsucker
 254--Downy Woodpecker
 124--Hairy Woodpecker
 574--Yel.-shafted Flicker
 77--Pileated Woodpecker
 1--Olive-sided Flycatcher
 4--Yel.-bellied Flycatcher
 4--Alder Flycatcher
 6--Least Flycatcher
 14--E. Phoebe
 3--E. Kingbird
 22--Purple Martin
 3418--Tree Swallow
 17--Bank Swallow
 84--Cliff Swallow
 754--Barn Swallow
 75--Gray Jay
 1156--Blue Jay
 2736--Am. Crow
 534--C. Raven
 1836--Blk.-capped Chickadee
 172--Boreal Chickadee
 422--Red-breasted Nuthatch
 25--White breasted Nuthatch
 16--Brown Creeper
 72--Winter Wren
 271--Gld.-crowned Kinglet
 874--Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 12--Veery
 9--Swainsons Thrush
 295--Hermit Thrush
 1--Wood Thrush
 4003--Am. Thrush
 1--Gray Catbird
 1--N. Mockingbird
 4--Am. Pipit
 67--Cedar Waxwing
 3--N. Shrike
 2392--Eur. Starling
 96--C. Snipe
 29--Am. Woodcock
 1--R-necked Phalarope
 2--Parasitic Jaeger
 27--C. Blk. headed Gull
 10--Bonaparte's Gull
 196--Ring-billed Gull
 8818--Herring Gull
 188--Solitary Vireo
 13--Red eyed Vireo
 18--Vireo Sp.
 4--Tenn. Warb.
 9--Nashville Warb.
 104--N. Parula
 37--Yellow Warbler
 4--Chestnut-sided Warb.
 13--Magnolia Var.
 2--Cape May Warb.
 9--Blk.-throated Blue Warb.
 2023 Myrtle Warb.
 80--Blk. throated Green Warb.
 2--Blackburnian Warb.
 268--Palm Warb.
 3--Bay-breasted Warb.
 1--Blackpoll Warb.
 156--Blk. & wht. Warb.
 9--Am. Redstart
 50--Ovenbird
 15--C. Yellowthroat
 4--Canada Warb.
 9--Rose-brstd. Grosbeak
 1--Ruf.-sided Towhee
 21--Am. Tree Sparrow
 200--Chipping Sparrow
 2--Vesper Sparrow
 599--Savannah Sparrow
 3--Sharp-tailed Sparrow
 1574--Song Sparrow
 155--Swamp Sparrow
 868--White-throated Sparrow
 21--White-crowned Sparrow
 1286--Dark-eyed Junco
 50--Bobolink
 1242--Red-winged Blackbird
 46--Rusty Blackbird
 2667--C. Grackle
 217--Brown-headed Cowbird
 12--Blackbird Sp.
 18--Pine Grosbeak
 749--Purple Finch
 3--House Finch
 44--Red Crossbill
 90--White-winged Crossbill
 496--Pine Siskin
 2914--Am. Goldfinch
 1136--Eve. Grosbeak
 620--House Sparrow
 458--Mourning Dove
 991--Rock Dove
 5--Sparrow Sp.
 1--Gtr. Golden Plover*
 1--Little Egret*

*denotes rarities

The FALL North American Migration Count Day - Sept. 11, 1995
for the Province of Nova Scotia

Red-thrted, Loon	4
Common Loon	36
Pied-b. Grebe	6
Horned Grebe	1
Red-nk. Grebe	3
N. Gannet	9
Gt. Cormorant	19
D-C Cormorant	2454
Am. Bittern	4
Gt. Blue Heron	400
Little Blue Heron	1*
Canada Goose	427
Wood Duck	49
Green-wing, Teal	350
Am. Black Duck	1698
Mallard	268
N. Pintail	2
Blue-winged Teal	41
Am. Wigeon	50
Ring-necked Duck	82
Gtr. Scaup	2000
C. Eider	566
Black Scoter	5
Surf Scoter	24
Wht-wing, Scoter	19
Scoter sp.	10
C. Goldeneye	1
Hooded Merganser	6
C. Merganser	62
Red-Br. Merganser	5
Osprey	8
Bald Eagle ad.	31
Bald Eagle imm.	1
N. Harrier	21
Sharp-Shin. Hawk	25
N. Goshawk	2
Broad-wing, Hawk	7
Red-tailed Hawk	16
Am. Kestrel	20
Merlin	11
Peregrine Falcon	1
Rng.-nk. Pheasant	14
Spruce Grouse	1
Ruffed Grouse	35
Sora	3
Blk.-bel. Plover	134
Semipalm. Plover	196
Killdeer	18
Gtr. Yellowlegs	188
Lsr. Yellowlegs	25
Solitary Sand.	3
Eastern Willet	3
Spotted Sand.	9
Whimbrel	15
Ruddy Turnstone	12
Red Knot	17

Sanderling	97
Semipalm. Sand.	109
Least Sandpiper	16
Wht-Rump, Sand.	5
Pectoral Sand.	21
Dunlin	13
Peep sp.	30
S-bill, Dowitcher	43
C. Snipe	8
Am. Woodcock	3
Com. Blk-head. Gull	11
Bonaparte's Gull	654
Rng.-billed Gull	513
Herring Gull	5197
Iceland Gull	37
Glaucous Gull	1
Gt. Blk.-bk. Gull	1425
Gull sp.	14
Common Tern	217
Blk. Guillemot	25
Gt. Horned Owl	4
Barred Owl	13
Long-eared Owl	1
N. Saw-whet Owl	3
C. Nighthawk	1
R-t, Hummingbird	5
Belt. Kingfisher	76
Yel-bel. Sapsucker	5
Downy Woodpecker	17
Hairy Woodpecker	27
Blk-Bk. Woodpecker	3
Yel-shft. Flicker	210
Pileated Woodpecker	24
East. Wood Pewee	3
Yel-bel. Flycatcher	2
Lst. Flycatcher	1
Empidonax sp.	1
Tree Swallow	13
Bank Swallow	1
Barn Swallow	15
Gray Jay	49
Blue Jay	645
Am. Crow	1592
C. Raven	182
Blk-cap. Chickadee	905
Boreal Chickadee	91
Chickadee sp.	8
Red-brstd. Nuthatch	272
Wht-brstd. Nuthatch	3
Brown Creeper	8
Winter Wren	5
Gld-crwn. Kinglet	277
Rby-crwn. Kinglet	180
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1*
Veery	4
Swainson's Thrush	10
Hermit Thrush	43
Am. Robin	532
Gray Catbird	22
Am. Pipit	14

Cedar Waxwing	1086
Eur. Starling	3662
Solitary Vireo	73
Warbling Vireo	1*
Red-eyed Vireo	38
Tennessee Warb.	5
Nashville Warb.	28
N. Parula	15
Yellow Warbler	34
Chstnt-side.Warbler	11
Magnolia Warbler	32
Blk-thtd.Blue Warbler	2
Myrtle Warbler	826
Blk-thtd. Grn. Warbler	71
Blackburnian Warbler	3
Pine Warbler	1
Prairie Warbler	2
Palm Warbler	101
Est. Palm Warbler	24
Bay-brstd. Warbler	3
Blackpoll Warbler	122
Blk.& Wht.Warbler	44
Am. Redstart	21
Ovenbird	5
Mourning Warbler	2
Com. Yellowthroat	131
Wilson's Warbler	7
Canada Warbler	4
Yel-brstd.Chat	2
Rose-brstd Grosbeak	2
Chipping Sparrow	32
Lark Sparrow	1*
Savannah Sparrow	182
Sharp-tail Sparrow	8
Song Sparrow	549
Lincoln's Sparrow	12
Swamp Sparrow	65
Wht-thrtd.Sparrow	176
Dark-eyed Junco	323
Bobolink	6
Red-wing. Blackbird	69
Rusty Blackbird	7
C. Grackle	336
Brn-headed Cowbird	2
Baltimore Oriole	12
Pine Grosbeak	13
Purple Finch	123
House Finch	2
Red Crossbill	41
Wht-winged Crossbill	43
Pine Siskin	97
Am. Goldfinch	630
Eve.Grosbeak	35
House Sparrow	143
Rock Dove	381
Mourning Dove	161
Godwit sp.	1
Mississippi Kite	1**

Total 167 Species

Species of note * & **:

Mississippi Kite
 Little Blue Heron
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Warbling Vireo
 Lark Sparrow

Rare and unusual birds seen included a Mississippi Kite (only the second documented visit of this species to N.S.), a Little Blue Heron, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Warbling Vireo and a Lark Sparrow. Twenty-three species of warblers were counted as well as two House Finches, the latter indicating the north-eastern progress of this species.

I wish to thank all those who participated for their great effort in this count and hope that in 1996 everyone will give their support to both counts in whatever way they can so that this valuable information can be documented with N.A.M.C. for future ornithological assessment.

FIFTH ANNUAL "NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT"

MAY 11 AND SEPTEMBER 21, 1996

As you can see, there were **two** counts in 1995--this is to be continued from now on. The spring count takes place on the **2nd** Saturday each May - which this year falls on **May 11** - while the fall count takes place on each **3rd** Saturday in September - this year on **September 21**.

The fall count was introduced in 1995 to compliment the spring count held in May, thus completing the overall series of population counts that now exist. The N.A.M.C. committee in Maryland decided that to be effective in monitoring bird movements throughout the seasons it is just as important to collect data on birds flying southwards as it is watching their progression northwards in springtime.

So now the circle is complete:

Spring: migration northwards--N.A.M.C.
 Summer: evidence of nesting/breeding success - B.B.S.
 Fall: migration southwards - N.A.M.C.
 Winter: movement of wintering birds and stragglers - C.B.C.

Remember, there are NO FEES for participants. Your efforts are needed. Here is an opportunity to enjoy a day of birding during migration gathering valuable information on the abundance and distribution of each species, which together with information gathered by others will present a snapshot of migration progress.

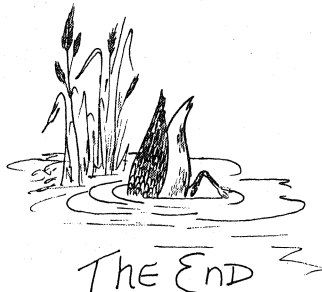
I wish to thank all those who have contributed their time and effort in participating in the 1995 counts. The results were most gratifying and indicative of the enthusiasm shown by the participants.

Anyone interested in participating as a bird counter (in the field or as a feeder watcher) please contact your County Co-ordinator* or area representative, listed below, or the Provincial Co-ordinator for counties not represented, to avoid duplication of county coverage. I realize it is tempting for everyone to want to cover only the best and well-known birding areas for this project, but it is equally important to cover the lesser known areas also to obtain a clearer, more complete picture of bird distribution.

The wider the coverage, obviously the better the results. To facilitate this aim the following is a list of County co-ordinators* and area reps.:

Annapolis:	Rebecca Ellis Shiela Hulford Allison Thomson	467-3470 765-4023 532-2095
Antigonish:	Harriet MacMillan*	783-2646
Cape Breton:	Jackie Chretien Cathy Murrant	564-4640 737-2684
Colchester:	Ross Hall Francis Spalding	893-9665 647-2837
Cumberland:	Kathleen Spicer	392-2815
Guysborough:	Kerstin Mueller*	747-2265
Halifax:	Keith Allsebrook*	861-3160
Hants (East): (West):	Rosalynn MacPhee* Jane McConnell*	758-3265 798-3267
Inverness:	Frances Hart	248-2433
Kings:	Judy Tufts*	542-7800
Lunenburg:	William Caudle*	766-4465
Pictou:	Calvin Brennan* Ken McKenna*	923-2780 752-7644
Queens:	Andy Dean*	683-2775
Richmond:	George Digout	535-3516
Shelburne:	Russell Crosby*	875-4474
Victoria:	?	
Yarmouth:	?	
Digby:	?	

Volunteers for positions as county co-ordinators or area representatives in areas not covered by such, would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Judy Tufts, Tel: 1-902-542-7800 or P. O. Box 1313, Wolfville, N.S. B0P 1X0 (N.S. Provincial Co-ordinator for N.A.M.C.)



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Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6

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