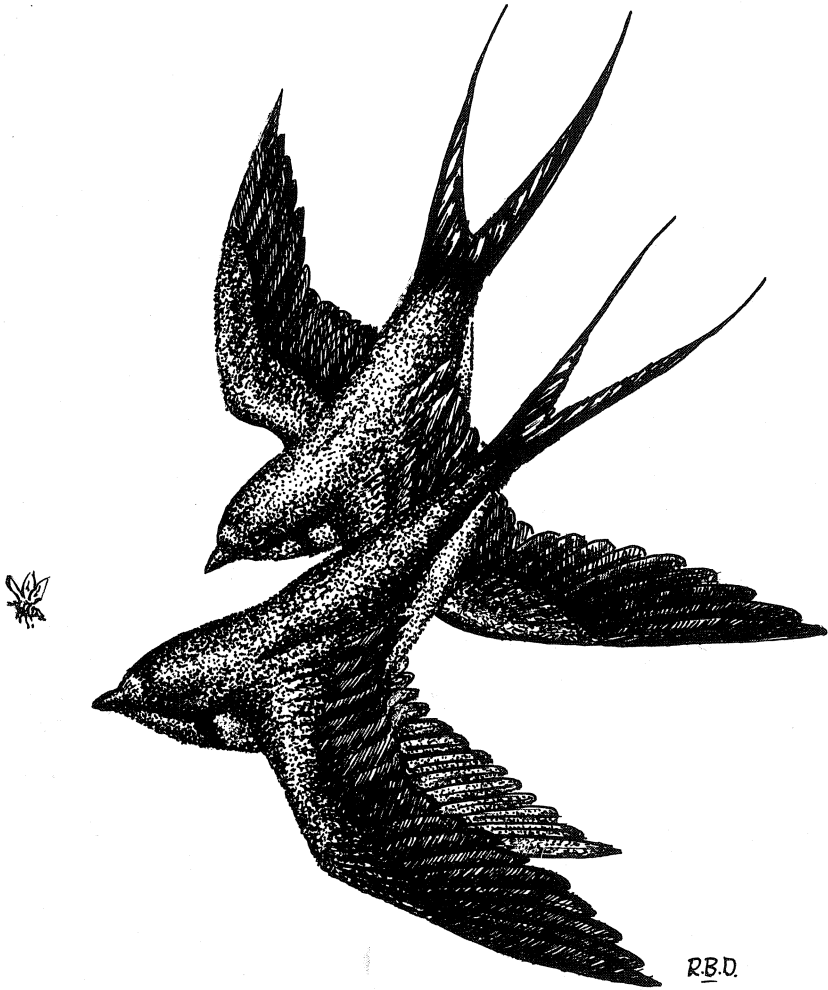


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WINTER BIRDS 1996 - 97

LOONS AND GREBES

The 8 reports of 17 RED-THROATED LOONS were about normal for the period. Several lingered into January which was later than usual. The COMMON LOON, perhaps because they have the word common in their name were little reported. Five observers reported 27 birds. All but one report was of small flocks. I am sure there were more than reported. As RSD reported his 8 were in one small area and he observed "if you were to comb the whole harbour I'm sure you'd find dozens more".

While a number of PIED-BILLED GREBES were noted in late reports for September and Oct. (18+), only one report for this period was received, our faithful tenant of Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth (PLC). On the other hand HORNED GREBES were reported as "common" in flocks of up to thirty, from Halifax to Shelburne, up to mid-Sept.. after that only two reports of single birds were received. The Morse's keep a good watch on Mahone Bay and their report shows a steady decline from Nov. 25 to Dec. 22. I found that RED-NECKED GREBES were scarce in my area and only four reports were received. One was of 43 at East Port l'Hebert, (SJF), with a note "seen regularly in ones and twos all over". Probably the series of rainy weekends this winter reduced the number of observers rather than bird numbers!

JLC for FWD, ed.

FULMARS TO CORMORANTS

The majority of NORTHERN FULMARS which winter in our corner of the world do so northeast of N.S., off Newfoundland and Labrador, but RSD saw 1 on Nov. 27 at Lobster Bay, off Pubnico Pt., only the second time he has seen one in that area. As well, on Dec. 7, 50+ were still lingering off Brier Is. (NSBS Birdline). On the SE Grand Banks where they are expected to be 400 were tallied Jan. 10-Feb. 15 (DEF).

AAM reported tubenoses as being unusually scarce on Aug. 7 on a swordfishing trip 26 miles off Neil's Hbr. Although a very calm day he saw only 3 GREATER SHEARWATERS, 1 LEACH'S and 1 WILSON'S PETREL. Five Leach's were still at Bon Portage Is. on Sept. 21 (Andy Davis et al., fide JCD). A small unidentified black and white shearwater was seen by two separate parties on Feb. 10 off Chebucto Hd., but no details have reached this ed. (NSBS Birdline). Pelagic trips off the Carolinas at this time of year often turn up 1 or 2 Manx Shearwaters so perhaps this too could have been a Manx.

There were few reports of late-migrant NORTHERN GANNETS: 1 adult on Oct. 23 in Chignecto Bay, the only one seen there this fall (JRM); 2 at Hemeon's Hd. on Dec. 22 (DHY); 4 off Brier Is. on Dec. 27; 1 imm. in the Strait of Canso off Pt. Tupper on Dec. 29 (KJM,CGB). A not so lucky adult bird was found dead on Feb. 19 at Green bay (Cohrs). Most adults winter off the Carolinas so perhaps this one was driven here by the strong southerlies we've been having and/or was an early migrant.

Overwintering GREAT CORMORANTS were as usual in good supply. The Cohrs saw 5 flying into Green bay from the south on Nov. 18; 2 were at West Apple River on Dec. 17 (KFS); at least 1 stayed at Westhaver's Is., Mader's Cove, Dec. 29-Jan. 24 (JBM); up to 36 spent the winter off Bull's Is. and the Hawk, C.S.I. (JCZ,LIP); 1 imm. was at the NSPC Trenton outfall on Jan. 20 (KJM); the usual party of 4 were on the jetty at Tufts Cove on Feb. 22, already in courtship display (BLM). DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS were preparing to leave on Aug. 2-3 as 153, adults and imm., fed near shore at Pomquet (RFL). A few overwintered: 1 at Sullivan's Pond on Nov. 23 (PLC); 1 adult at Daniel's Hd., C.S.I. on Jan. 10, sitting next to a Great, allowing a good comparative study (JCZ,LIP); 1 at the NSPC Trenton outfall on Jan. 25 (KJM).

Please note a CORRECTION to the letter from Thomas O. Smythe re possible Bulwer's Petrel which appeared in N.S. Birds, Jan. 97, p.7. Insert at the end of line 2: "It flew close to several Wilson's Storm Petrels, allowing comparison. It appeared about 1.5+ times the size of [i.e., length of] the Wilson's and clearly browner, similar in colour to Sooty Shearwaters."

S.J.F., ed.

HERONS AND RELATIVES

No late fall or winter AM. BITTERNs were reported. Nine GREAT BLUE HERONS around Cole Harbour Dec. 1 were unusual. Ones or twos were noted through December in scattered localities and there were good numbers on CBC's. There were later individuals: at Hartlen's Pt. Jan. 3 (birdline); Sheffield Mills Jan. 10 (JCT); Conrads Beach Jan. 16; the same bird (?) at W. Chezzetcook Feb. 21 (birdline); 2 at Chebogue Pt., Yar. Co., Jan. 4 (IAM et al.); and up to 5 on Cape Sable I. at least through January (MUN, v. obs.). Reports are undoubtedly incomplete, but evidently more than usual survived winter. However, lingering was fatal to a GREAT EGRET near Barrington Dec. 22, (fide MUN) and to another "terribly emaciated" individual at L. W. Pubnico Dec. 23 (RSD). Another GREEN HERON, this one on B.P.I. Aug. 6 (JCZ), should be added to the single report in the last issue. A CATTLE EGRET stayed near Plymouth, Pic. Co., Nov. 5-15 (KJM et al.).

IAM, ed.

SWANS, GEESE, AND DUCKS

Two late reports of a single SNOW GOOSE, Sept. 8 on Sable Island (ZOL) and one Oct. 13 in Cape Breton (fide AAM) are included here because of their rarity.

A GREATER WHITE-FOOTED GOOSE in the Yarmouth area reported by many in Dec. was confirmed as a member of the North American rather than the Greenland sub-species by IAM and ELM. Six BRANT were on Brier Island in an undated report from IAM and ELM, and 60 were reported from Cape Sable Island Jan. 10 (JCZ). The CANADA GOOSE was the subject of 9 reports. To follow up Fred Dobson's comments in the last issue that we seem to report only the rare or glamorous species it also appears that when birds are common we tend to ignore small numbers. Of the 9 reports received one was of 45 birds and the other were of flocks of 100 to 2000! None of us reported the ones and tens. Two interesting reports of the species were: a "collared" bird bearing the number J8C: and 2 members of the sub-species parvipes, or Lesser Canada Goose. The first was seen on Jan. 15 at Canard by Judy Tufts and she determined that it had been banded "in New Jersey in the early 1990's". The second sighting was Yarmouth in the same period as the Greater White Fronted Goose mentioned above (IAM) who notes that both breed in the same general area.

There were 28 WOOD DUCKS in late reports from the previous period, and six reports of a total of seven birds in this period. A point of interest, of the 35 birds in the total 33 were males. Is this because they are easier to identify or do the females disappear earlier? Wintering GREEN-WINGED TEAL were up in numbers and stayed later with sightings at Windsor on Jan. 30 (BJA), and Coxheath, Cape Breton on Jan. 25 where 3 were present (JOK).

The 12 AMERICAN BLACK DUCK reports also concentrated on flocks of birds, groups of 50 to 600. A much better trend report from Advocate Harbour (JRM) described a gradual increase from 26 birds in Nov. to 200 birds in Jan. Numbers appeared to be as in previous years with many around in January. There is no longer

any doubt that the MALLARD is well established here. Flocks of 20 to 30 and more and some of singles have been reported from Sydney (JAC) down both coasts to Yarmouth and even on Sable Island (ZOL). Six reports of NORTHERN PINTAIL of 27 birds shows an increase from the 2 reports of 4 birds in 1993. High report was 12 birds, 6 M and 6 F at Cape Sable Is. (JCZ). Most of the reports were of equal numbers of male and female birds. Are these our most faithful ducks?

The single female NORTHERN SHOVELER, (that is one bird, not an unweeded duck) was at Abercrombie on Dec. 7 (KJM,CGB) and matched our regular one or two winter birds. GADWALL reports are up as well. There were two sightings of three birds near Wolfville (JCT,JWW) in mid-Dec. and 1 on Jan. 4 at Trenton (KJM,CGB).

EURASIAN WIGEON- Does anyone know if they have established a breeding population in North America? In 1993 the fact that one was shot by a hunter on Cape Sable Island was underlined news. This year two sightings, three reports, of 5 birds were received (JCT,JWW,BLM). AMERICAN WIGEON were well reported but totals were difficult to tally. There were 18 present on Sullivan's Pond on Dec. 1 (BLM) thereafter reports in the Halifax area may have been the remains of this flock. At Apple River 12 were sighted by KFS in Sept. IAM passes on an interesting observation of a male on Sullivan's Pond, in early Oct. which showed marked signs of a gene exchange with the Eurasian species.

One CANVASBACK was reported from the New Minas sewage pond by JWW on Dec. 12 and JCT on Dec. 1. This is our usual winter count. RING-NECKED DUCKS were present on a number of Halifax lakes (four reports) and in the open waters of this year, 1 female Dec. 3 at Mergomish (CGB), 1 at Yarmouth Jan. 4 (BLM), and 3 at Vogler's Cove Feb. 9-19 (SJF). One report for each month just to satisfy my tidy mind.

In 1993 IAM reported one of the earliest TUFTED DUCKS seen in the province. In 1995, there were three sightings of four birds, and in 1966 the same. This year five sightings of seven birds came from Cape Breton to Brier Is. This suggests a trend. It is known that both this species and the Eurasian Wigeon breed and are resident in Iceland. Is there a population that now winters in North America or has a breeding group moved to our northern areas? GREATER SCAUP were not greatly reported. Only four reports ranging from North Sydney to Barrington Passage with a high count of 250 in Green Bay from Dec. 14 to Jan. 10 (JSC) LESSER SCAUP saw 5 observers. The high count was 23 on Dec. 1 at Bissett Lake, Dartmouth (BLM), with others in Pictou, Antigonish, Shelburne and Digby counties.

COMMON EIDER is a real example of under-reporting. Only two reports were received. A flock of 140 on Dec. 7 at Blandford (CJF), and a survey by PLC on Feb. 16 showing about 400 in Halifax Harbour out to Tribune Head, 500 - 600 at Bear Cove, and 300 at Chebucto Head. The birds were there but not the reports. One KING EIDER report of 3 females seen on Dec. 22 and well described was sent in by (BLM). HARLEQUIN DUCK were reported by DHY as being at Little Port Hebert from Feb. 4 to Feb. 14. About equally divided M and F, he suspects they were there most of the winter.

OLDSQUAW showed a real decline. Although 10 reports were received, most thought it worth reporting one or two birds. A flock of 5 to 6 dozen wintering off Lockeport noted by DJC was the largest flock. Flocks of 2 or 3 were reported by JSC in Green Bay, Lun. Co. Last year reports were of "150 off Blandford, 150 at Prospect, 150+ in Green Bay". Perhaps a reader can suggest the reasons for such a sudden drop?

An imm. GOLDEN EAGLE, its "broad white tail base and white "windows" clearly seen, was suggestively over the Caribou Barrens, CBH Nat. Park, in early June (CGB, RFL, et al.). An ad. was on Brier I. Jan 24 (Carl Haycock).

Ten wintering AM. KESTRELS were reported, somewhat more than usual in recent years. A late report is of 2 fledged young MERLINS with mother near Seabright, Ant. Co., Aug. 5 (RFL). There were only 6 reports of wintering individuals. A PEREGRINE FALCON was reported near Canning, King's Co., Jan. 3 (birdline), and another on Sable Is. Feb. 28 "circled low over [ZOL] for 4-5 minutes ... making such a racket that a group of horses bolted"! We received good details (ABM) on GYRFALCON found last Sept. 30 on Seal Is. and reported in the last issue. A striking white morph was at Schooner Pond, C.B. Co., Feb. 1 (CAM). An ad. gray morph made one pass near "working" falcons at Shearwater airbase Feb. 17, then flew strongly NW (fide FLL).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Up to 13 GRAY PARTRIDGES were at Starr's Pt. early December (Susan Cox, fide JWW), but only up to 5 were noted on later occasions in King's Co. A dozen were along Marchland Dr., Truro, Jan 12 (CGB, KJM). Question: if they disappear from King's Co. and have been recently stocked near Truro, when can we again "tick" them? Reporters have tired of RING-NECKED PHEASANTS; there were only 6 reports of 17 individuals from the usual places. There were three reports of a healthy 10 SPRUCE GROUSE-about normal for winter. Five winter reports of 7 RUFFED GROUSE reflect low population levels.

RALLIDS

Given the paucity of reports in the last issue, it is worth adding 2 SORAS and a VIRGINIA RAIL June 4 at Machellon's Br., Pic. Co. (KJM, et al.), and another Sora July 12 at Dagger Woods Marsh, Ant. Co. (MAG). There were, however, no reports of winter laggards. Up to 5 AM. COOTS stayed on Bissett L. until, freezeup in late December; a bird on Sullivan's Pond through winter may have been one of these (v. obs.). Another on the New Minas sewage ponds lasted until at least Dec. 24 (JWW et al.), and one of two on Sable I. was last seen Jan. 3 (ZOL).

IAM, ed.

WINTER SHOREBIRDS

Three BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS were recorded in early winter, at Little Hbr. Dec. 22 (DHY), Sable Is. Dec. 27 (ZOL) and Hartlen's Pt. Jan 30 (JWT). A RUDDY TURNSTONE was seen as late as Dec. 14 by KJM & CGB (no loc.); another was on Sable Is. Dec. 29 (ZOL). Over 225 SANDERLINGS lingered into early winter, 115 of them on Sable Is. in late Dec. (ZOL); later 25+ were at Indian Island in Green bay Feb. 13 (Peter Bell), and 24 still at W. Pubnico Feb. 20, the first time they've stayed so late there (RSD). About 550 PURPLE SANDPIPERS were reported this winter. Six late-winter DUNLIN were still at Crescent in mid-February (SJF, JSC).

COMMON SNIPE struggled harder than usual to overwinter; there were December laggards at Halifax Dec. 14 (BLM) and at MacLellan Marsh (2) Dec. 21 (KJM, CGB). One was at Port Dufferin Feb. 8 (KJM, CGB), while 3 at the Windsor Cemetery Jan. 30 (BJA) had dwindled to 1 by Feb. 12 (BBT). An AMERICAN WOODCOCK was still on Cape Sable I. Jan. 24 SJF et al.).

The above totals do not include CBC results.

The following reports are from the many forwarded too late for inclusion in the fall report.

Semipalmated Plover: 2 pairs & 2 young, Sable Is. (ZOL)
5,000, Windsor, Aug. 10 (JOW)

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER: Cape Sable, June 16-29 (MUN, JCY)
Lesser Yellowlegs: 300, Thr.-Fath. Hbr., Aug. 5 (BLM)

Spotted Sandpiper: 4+ nesting pairs, Sable Is. (ZOL)
 Baird's Sandpiper: 4 additional, Aug. 24-Sept. 29 (IAM,BLM)
CURLEW SANDPIPER: details (color, bill shape, white rump
 received from CAM re Sept. sighting)
 Stilt Sandpiper: 1 July 28, 2 Aug. 7, Thr.-Fath. Hbr. (BLM)
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 8 additional, Aug. 26-Oct.4 (BLM,ZOL)
 RUFF: Sept. 15-21, Conrad's Beach to Cole Hbr, good details (BLM et al.)
 Short-billed Dowitcher: 600 July 28, Thr.-Fath. Hbr. (BLM)

FLS ed.

PHALAROPES TO ALCIDS

A female WILSON'S PHALAROPE, perhaps scouting for a nesting site, was at Eddy Marsh June 6-8 (CGB,JOD,KLM).

On Nov. 4, following two days of strong westerlies, 2 imm. POMARINE JAEGERs were well observed as they pursued a Ring-billed Gull along the beach at Big.Is., Pic. Co. (CGM,KJM).

It would be our good fortune if Zoe Lucas stays on at Sable Is. as her reports provide invaluable coverage for that part of the Province. Where else would we receive such a report as hers of Dec. 19 of a GREAT SKUA, "feeding on dead whale...plumage messy...overall dark brown; underparts slightly rufous; upperparts darkish brown with heavy streaks and spots giving mottled appearance; fine whitish streaks on nape; dark bill and legs."

BLACK-HEADED GULLS were present in their traditional spots in usual numbers but had diminished or were less visible in late winter. An adult in basic plumage was on Seal Is. on Sept. 19 (CGB). From Sept. 16-Nov. 11, 3 were at Powell Pt. Park, Pic. Co. (KJM); 9 were at Pt. Edward and Dominion on Dec. 9; 32 were at Antigonish Landing and sewer on Dec. 15; 12 were at Port Hawksbury on Feb. 2 (KJM,CGB). The Halifax-Dartmouth CBC tallied 150+ on Dec. 22 but by Jan. 11 only 15 were counted in Halifax Hbr. and on Jan. 26, 3 were all that were seen in Dartmouth Cove (PLC). Further south there were: 10 at Matthew's Lake Jan. 16-Feb. 5 (DHY); 5 at Eel Brook for most of the winter and 1 at Lower W. Pubnico on Jan. 18 (RSD).

Thirty-six imm. BONAPARTE'S GULLS were at Pictou Landing on June 5 (KJM,JOD). On Aug. 4, 8 adults and 2 1st year birds were at Monk's Hd. Beach, Ant. Co. (RFL,MAG). The first wintering "Boney" turned up at Cow Bay on Dec. 1 (BLM). Among other reports were: 5 on Brier Is. on Dec. 13; 75 at Big Is. on Jan. 17; 1-3 at Port Hawksbury, Big Is. and Trenton mid-Jan. to Feb. 2 (KJM,CJB); 1 at Lawrencetown Lake on Jan. 25 (JWT). Further south a 1st winter bird was at Broad Cove Jan. 9-22 and 3 were at Matthew's Lake on Jan. 16 (SJF,DHY).

RING-BILLED GULLS overwintered in small numbers. Two were in Chignecto Bay on Nov. 14, not a common bird there (JRM). The usual 5-10 were at Grand Pré and the New Minas and Wolfville sewage ponds in mid-December. (JWW,BBT,JCT). On Jan. 18, 15 were at the NSPC outflow in Trenton, not normal overwinterers in Pic. Co. says KJM. There were 21 at Eel Lake on Dec. 9 and the usual flock of 100 at Eel Brook on Feb. 12 (JKD,RSD). JWW has described a "strange gull" seen on Dec. 16 and 25 in the Wolfville area, perhaps a variant Ring-bill or even a small Herring Gull. He notes, "size, mantle, wing-tips, legs (not well seen) and tail looked like an adult Ring-billed, but it had a sharply marked light greyish hood over top of head and face, and bill was too long, pale at base, dark at tip." Gulls display an immense variability in plumages and without details of age, moult, wing-tip patterns and bare-part colours it is sometimes difficult or impossible to ID all those we see, but getting those details is the challenge and the fun! An adult MEW(COMMON) Gull was reported in Glace Bay on Jan. 26, where one has been seen in the exact same location over the last two winters (NSBS Birdline)

At least a few reporters took the time to send in their observations on numbers of HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS, which provide an interesting ratio and help

establish some kind of a baseline. JRM, fishing in Chignecto Bay Oct. 12-Nov. 23, counted on a regular basis only 60, adults and imm., Herrings and 3 adults and 2 Black-backs. At West Apple River on Dec. 22 there were 70 Herrings and 2 Black-backs. At the Sackville landfill on Dec. 6 there were 30,000 Herrings to 800 Black-backs (BLM). In North Sydney from Nov. to Feb. there were 2000+ Herrings and 500+ Black-backs (JAC). At Daniel's Hd., C.S.I. on Dec. 8 there were 800+ Herrings and 400+ Black-backs (JKD). BLM counted 300 Black-backs in the Yarmouth area on Jan. 4 and DEF saw 100 on the SE Grand Banks Jan. 10-Feb. 15.

Please note CORRECTION to Ian McLaren's update on the YELLOW-LEGGED GULL which appeared in N.S. Birds, Jan. 97, p.17. Line 2 should read, "The photo and description have been seen and read by German gull expert, Detlef Greber, who gives (in litt.) cogent reasons for concluding that this was not a Yellow-legged Gull, but rather a yellow-legged morph (so called "omissus" gull) of the northern European Herring Gull."

Blake Maybank sends the only reports of LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS in the Halifax area: an adult and a 1st winter bird were at the Sackville landfill on Dec. 6; an adult was reported at the corner of Young and Robie Streets on Jan. 28 (NSBS Birdline); a 2nd winter bird was at Sullivan's Pond on Feb. 22, carefully described by Blake: gray feathering appearing on upper back and secondaries; head still streaky; dark tail-band still evident; legs dull straw-yellow, contrasting with the pink legs of nearby Herring Gulls; wings comparatively long and narrow; body size and structure consistent with this species and no features at all reminiscent of a Yellow-legged Gull. An adult on Dec. 5 and a 1st winter bird on Dec. 22 were reported at the New Minas sewage lagoon (Phil Taylor et al.).

Five ICELAND GULLS were at the New Glasgow sewer on Nov. 16 (KJM,CGB). JRM carefully described 2 adults she saw on Nov. 23 in Chignecto Bay. Two to three, adults and 1st winter, were regularly seen at the New Minas and Wolfville sewage ponds Dec. 12-24 (JWW); a 1st winter and an adult were in Lockeport Jan. 15 and 30 (DJC). On Dec. 8 there were 250 in Glace Bay and large numbers, which generally go unreported, could be seen throughout the winter at almost any sewer outfall in Halifax Hbr. There were 7 on the SE Grand banks Jan. 10-Feb. 15 (DEF). GLAUCOUS GULLS arrive later than Icelands and the first report is of an imm. at the Antigonish sewage pond on Dec. 1, followed by an imm. at Wentworth Park in Sydney and 5 in Glace Bay Dec. 7-8 (NSBS Birdline). Two, an adult and an imm., were seen in Bedford Jan. 5-26 (BLM,PLC et al.). Sambro Hbr., the usual reliable locale for these birds produced 1 on Jan. 25.

A possible adult THAYER'S GULL, in basic plumage, was seen on Feb. 2 at Renwick Pk., Glace Bay by Clavin Brennan, Ken McKenna, Junior and Geraldine Metcalfe. Thayer's is part of the dreaded Iceland (glaucoides, kumlieni)- Thayer's (thayeri)-Herring (argentatus) complex and always presents a challenge in light of the cline which these present. Ken's description includes: "slightly smaller than Iceland, with rounded, dark mottled brown head; bill thin but thicker at tip than base, yellow with red spot; mantle darker than adjacent Icelands; primaries dark with large windows; under primaries paler; orbital ring red." Slides will be reviewed by our gull expert, Ian McLaren.

On Dec. 21, 45 BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES were seen off Baccaro Point and on Dec. 27, 3200+ were off Brier Is. (NSBS Birdline). Closer inshore 1 imm. was watched on Jan. 11 at Lr. W. Pubnico as it consorted with Herring Gulls near the beach (RSD). Several were seen on Jan. 11 from Chebucto Hd. and 2 on Jan 22 off Hemeon's Hd. (DHY). DEF was out on the SE Grand banks Jan. 10-Feb. 15 and in spite of very rough weather, he estimated seeing up to 2500, mostly adults.

A COMMON TERN was a late straggler on Nov. 2 at Monro Is., Pic. Co. (CGB,KJM). Five BLACK TERNS were at APBS on June 8 (KJM). The person who helped us all identify the Black Tern at Matthew's Lake on Aug. 24 was Jerome D'Eon, not RSD, as credited in the last issue.

DOVEKIES winter out on the Banks and although we had no major "wrecks" small numbers were regularly blown inshore. As these diminutive birds seem to be everybody's favorite they were well reported: 1 on Dec. 1 at C.S.I.; 7 on Dec. 7 at Kennington Cove, Cape Breton; 100+ on Dec. 15 at Brier Is.; 1 on Dec. 21 at Baccaro Pt.; 4 on Jan. 12 at Indian Hbr. (BJA); 1 on Jan. 5. 10 at C.S.I. (JCZ); 1 on Jan. 11 found dead inland at Crousetown (JCS); 1 on Jan. 15 and Feb. 9 off Lockeport's Crescent Beach (DJC); 7 on Jan. 25 near Tribune Hd. (JWT); 1 at Prospect and 1 at Dartmouth Cove on Jan. 26 (BLM,PLC); 1 on Jan. 29 at Green Bay (JSC); 2 on Feb. 2 at Mill Cove, Lun. Co. (BLF); 1 on Feb. 7 at Pt. Pleasant Pk. (PLC).

COMMON MURRES winter mostly on George's Bank and show up at the southern end of the Province: 1 was seen on Dec. 21 at C.S.I.; 3 were off Chebucto Hd. on Dec. 22 (BLM.); 1 was off Brier Is. on Dec. 27 (NSBS Birdline). THICK-BILLED MURRES were common off Brier Is. where "hundreds" were reported Dec. 8-27. Other reports: 1 on Dec. 27 at Argyle Sound, Yar. Co. (RSD); 1 on Jan. 26 at Prospect (BLM); 3,2 dead, 1 moribund, all oiled, on Jan. 26 at Eastern Passage following strong on-shore winds (PLC); 1 on Feb. 2 at Deep Cove, Lun. Co. (BLF). An injured RAZORBILL, which subsequently died, was seen on Dec. 3 at Little Hbr., Shel. Co. (DHY). Three were studied close in-shore at a small cove near Cherry Hill on Dec. 29 (SJF). Others included: on Jan. 12, 1 off Chebucto Hd. and another at Tribune Hd.; 1 on Jan. 25 at Sambro Hbr. (NSBS Birdline). ATLANTIC PUFFINS, which should be somewhere offshore and further south, were common off Brier Is., 50+ were seen there Dec. 8-27. One was at Baccaro Pt. on Dec. 21. An alternate plumaged BLACK GUILLEMONT on Aug. 6 was JCZ's first record for Bon Portage L. About 30 were seen on Aug. 4 off Monk's Hd. Beach, Ant. Co., including one pair carrying food to a nest (RFL,MAG). Wintering birds were common and were easily viewed as they hugged the coast. Twos and threes were seen daily in Halifax Hbr., off Blandford, in Mader's Cove, Lockeport and elsewhere throughout Jan. and Feb. (PLC,CJF,JBM,DJC). One was at Caribou Is. on Dec. 7 where KJM says they are uncommon in the winter.

S.J.F. ed.

DOVES TO KINGFISHERS

There were only 5 reports of wintering MOURNING DIVES, the largest numbers noted being 92 at Avonport feeders Jan. 7 (EVU); CBCs will give a firmer impression. Six late fall or winter reports of 8 GREAT HORNED OWLS included a pair calling at BLF's nest platform near Walbrook, Feb. 6. Unlike central Canada, we did not have a major flight of SNOWY OWLS, but they put on a fair show. The first was near Crousetown Nov. 18 (fide JSC), and individuals appeared near Canning Nov. 22 and Windsor Nov. 23. These were followed by 8 in December, 2 in January, and 2-3 on Cape Sable and one on Sable Is. through February. There was a suggestive report by fishermen of a possible N. HAWK OWL on Seal Is. Feb. 15; there was a good influx of this owl in central North America this winter. A hooting BARRED OWL through winter near Shubenacadie (RCM), one near Bridgetown Jan. 22 (BJA), and a female inspecting a nestbox on Wolfville Ridge Feb. 10 (BLF) were the only ones reported. SHORT-EARED OWL can be added to the list of possible nesters in CBH Nat. Park (not in Atlas); CGB et al. found one or two last summer on the Caribou Barrens. The mother lode of wintering Short-eareds was along the Canard R. dykes north of Port Williams, where Bob Williams found 12 in mid-November, and 10 still there Feb. 19 (fide JCT). Possible pairs also spent part or all of winter on Chebouge Pt., Yar. Co. (v. obs.), Brier Is. (v. obs.), and at Grand Pré, where one was unfortunately found roadkilled Feb. 2 (JET). There were 3 reports of individuals from other localities. No details were submitted on a BOREAL OWL at the Fairview Cemetery, Halifax, Feb. 21 (PLM). Several N. SAW-WHET OWLS were calling along Mill Rd., Pic. Co., by late Jan. (RLF), and individuals were heard during February at Wallbrook, King's Co. (BLF) and Fraserville, Cum. Co. (MSM).

However belated, it is worth recording that 555 CHIMNEY SWIFTS entered the Temperance St. Chimney in New Glasgow after 9 p.m., last June 1 (KJM); surely a record. Also most unusual were two entering the chimney at the Robie Tufts Centre, Wolfville, Nov. 2 (PHT); we've had later birds, but usually over wild headlands or

islands. The open winter persuaded, and permitted, more BELTED KINGFISHERS than usual to winter. In addition to December and CBC birds, individuals were seen as late as Jan. 15 at Pt. Edward, C.B. Co. (JAC, CGB et al.), and Jan. 31 at Rocky Run and E. Chezzetcook (JWT), and 2 stayed through February at W. Pubnico (RSD), and 2 more around Pictou (CGB,KMK).

WOODPECKERS

A RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER stayed Nov. 18-Dec. 26 in Kentville (v. obs.), another in Barrington from Dec. 21 to at least Jan. 5 (v. obs.), and a third in Truro between 8 Dec. and at least Feb. 1 (A. Robinson et al.). Other than CBC birds, the 10 reports of 17 DOWNY and 8 of 15 HAIRY WOODPECKERS were a little paltry, Meaning? A nesting pair of BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS at Marshdale, Pic. Co., fledged young around July 4 (CGB). Other than CBC birds there was only a single report of a fem. at Whites L., Jan. 1 (BLM). N. FLICKERS started winter in some numbers (see CBCs), but only a few were seen later: 1 at EVU's Avonport feeder Jan. 15, 2 near Pictou Jan. 20 (CGB), 1 at L.W. Pubnico Jan. 23 (RSD), 1-2 at N. Grand Pre to at least Jan. 26 (v. obs.), and one at BBT's Wolfville feeder into February. Other than CBC birds, including the startling 27 on the W. Hants count, there were only 6 reports of 8 PILEATED WOODPECKERS.

IAM. ed.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

There are a few reports of migrant Flycatchers of various species during the fall, but no larger numbers or different trends than reported in the last issue of Nova Scotia Birds. However, there were 2 WILLOW FLYCATCHER reports from last summer- from Sand Point (CGB) and Kearny Lake Rd., Halifax Co. (IAM et al.), distinguishable from Alder by song. This species is now at least annual in the province, possibly more frequently being heard as more birders become attuned to its different song.

One of the more exciting finds in recent years was a DUSKY FLYCATCHER, normally resident in the western half of the continent, which spend over a month, from late Nov. to late Dec., being well watched, described, recorded and photographed on several occasions by a number of observers (BLF,AAM,IAM,RAF et al.) in an overgrown orchard near Port Williams. This is just the second record from Eastern N. America and the first from Eastern Canada. It was first discovered by AAM and his wife Stella, Nov. 24. Careful observation by several observers, including the above, revealed the long narrow bill, the fairly prominent eye-ring, the whitish lores, the gray face contrasting with the rather olive back and head, the long tail with white outer-edges, and the "whit, whit" call. Sonograms and photographs confirm the identity, and these, together with a full write-up of all the details, by IAM and AAM, will be published. As an interesting aside, the detailed coverage of that particular orchard by a considerable number of birders for a month also yielded a number of interesting species ranging from Northern Coshawk and Ruffed Grouse to Orange-crowned Warblers and Pine Grosbeaks, and more.

A GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER was seen by ZOL on Sable Island Oct. 13.

The first HORNED LARKS that were noticed was a flock of 15 at Bayswater, Oct. 22 (CJF), and after that various flocks were noted in their usual haunts - open areas, weedy fields etc., around the province. BLM saw 120 at Grand Pré, Dec. 12, RCM saw 100+ foraging along the roadside near Shubenacadie on Jan. 5, etc.

There were no late Swallow sightings, but ZOL saw a NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW on Sable Island June 9, 1996. She noted the diffuse, dark throat and breast. At that time of year there should not be any young Tree swallows or Bank swallows to confuse it with, although knowing what can turn up on Sable Island it might be fun to speculate on even more exotic possibilities.

CORVIDS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS

A few people noted small numbers of GRAY JAY (KFS,JKD et al.). KFS noted that they would come to her feeder, at Apple River, but RSD in Pubnico Point noted that this used to happen, but nowadays they seem to prefer in their own small area on the point. IAM had noted 140+ BLUE JAYS leaving Brier Island Sept. 22, and BLM et al had also noted 120 presumed migrants on Seal Island Oct. 1, but there were enough left in the province that 9 people have reported small numbers during the winter, mostly at feeders, and from around all areas (KAT,JAC,JBM et al.).

This year RBS and Mike Hawkswood counted 19,500 COMMON CROWS flying into Kentville at dusk on Xmas Count day. As usual large numbers have stayed around King's Co. all winter. But measures taken by the town of Kentville have been a little more successful at breaking up the huge flocks and keeping them from the downtown area. Other large numbers included "hundreds" at Pt. Edward, Sydney, all winter (JAC). CGB and KJM saw an all white albino at Old Barns, Colchester Co., Oct. 19. The only large COMMON RAVEN concentration was of 20-30 birds at Pt. Edward, Sydney, all winter (JAC). By mid-Feb., though, there were already signs of pairing off and nesting. (PLC observed them "doing a few tumbles and barrel rolls"), and BLF saw one taking sticks into a farm woodlot at Black River, King's Co., Feb 21.

As usual BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES seem to be about our most abundant winter bird. There were 18 reports, mostly of up to a dozen birds, mostly coming to feeders. Xmas Count figures should give a more accurate overall provincial picture. PLC noted 36 coming to feeders on Crosby St., Bedford by late Dec., but numbers dropped again by late Jan. She also heard birds giving their spring "fee-bee" song on a relatively warm day in mid-Feb. BOREAL CHICKADEES seemed particularly abundant and easy to find in Nov. (RBS), but then numbers seemed to drop off, possibly due to out-migration. After that, there were 11 reports, with several visiting suet feeders, e.g. in Lockeport all winter (DJC), east Advocate (JRM) and Bedford in late Dec. (PLC), and near New Ross in early March (Christine Ross). Several observers noted several birds feeding on rotten apples in the "dusky flycatcher" orchard near Port Williams in Dec. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were either under-reported or missing this winter, with just seven reports, of 1 or 2 individuals each (JBM,KJM,EJF et al). There were also just four reports of WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, generally a rarer bird in Nova Scotia than its smaller cousin, although I get the impression that they seem to be more numerous than a few years ago, at least in the Valley. Twelve reports of BROWN CREEPER is about the usual for a winter season with no large flocks or unusual behavior etc. (BJA,BLF et al.).

A few migrant WINTER WRENS were seen during Oct. by the group on Seal Island, but only 2 were reported during winter- at White Rock, intermittently singing (Ruck Whitman), and near Shelburne, Dec. 2 (N.S. Bird Information Line). Other wrens included several MARSH WRENS migrating through Seal Island in early Oct. and 1 on Dec. 21 in MacLellan Marsh, Springville (JKM,Joel Dunlon), as well as at least 2 SEDGE WRENS on Seal Island also in early Oct., well described by CJB and JON. A HOUSE WREN, present for 5 days in the Tufts' Cove, Dartmouth area in mid-Dec., was reported to the N.S. Bird Information Line.

There were only a few reports of small numbers of GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. As BLF put it, "they were hard to find this winter". This season there was 1 report of a late lingering RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, reported to the N.S. Bird Information Line from Truro on Dec. 15.

There was an imm. NORTHERN WHEATEAR in the Port Mouton area in late Sept., photographed by BLM.

BLUEBIRDS THROUGH STARLINGS

Brier Island seems one of the more reliable spots in the province nowadays for both breeding and migrant EASTERN BLUEBIRDS. This fall there were 5 seen there on Oct. 17.

A TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE was seen at Blandford, by Marg Brady, for 6 days over the New Year period. This species is a more-or less annual winter vagrant from west of the Rockies.

A "real" GRAY-CHEEKED (as against BICKNELL'S) THRUSH was banded by CGB on Seal Island Sept. 24. He noted that the wing measurements and length of the tarsus clinched the ID. Another, which ZOL felt was a gray-cheeked by plumage but which IAM felt the mandible being mostly clear yellow could not rule out Bicknell's, was on Sable Island Oct. 14. Not mentioned in the last edition of N.S. Birds, but of significant note, was the discovery by CGB, RFL et al, of 5 different BICKNELL'S THRUSHES seen over a fairly wide area in cape Breton Highlands Nat. Park, during high breeding season--June 13-19. Late HERMIT THRUSHES were seen by JRM in Eatonville Nov. 21, and ZOL on Sable Island Jan. 2-3, and there is a second hand report of one in the grounds of the Tidewater Senior Citizens' complex in Wolfville Jan. 7 (fide JWW).

CGB et al. saw a WOOD THRUSH on Seal Island Sept. 23. They noted the large size, bold spotting, rusty plumage on the head and upper back, etc.

There were plenty of AMERICAN ROBINS around this winter, particularly where there were berries, old apples etc. for them to eat. There were frequently 100+ at the Kentville Research Station, and in Canning (RBS). BLF reported 100+ on Wolfville Ridge Feb. 1, and JCT saw 150 in the same general area 4 days later. Others were in Lockeport (DJC) and Windsor (130+). However, RSD specifically noted that there were none at Pubnico Point this winter, when he had seen 1000+ on Feb. 8, 1995. I suppose it all depends on the birds finding food in the right place at the right time, and an observer being there to see them.

A Xmas Eve GRAY CARBIRD lingered on Sable Island, and one that was not quite as tardy was at Eva Urban's feeder in Avonport Nov. 19 (JWW). I have reports of at least 10 NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS around the province during the winter months, usually as expected around urban areas. Ann Aikman, of Melvern Square, was graced with the presence of a BROWN THRASHER visiting her feeder from Dec. 11-15., and another was reported to the N.S. Information Line from Pubnico on Jan 30.

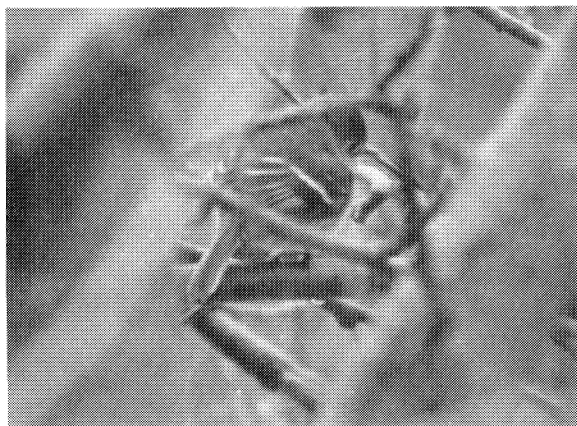
The only over-wintering AMERICAN PIPITS were, as usual, at Pubnico Point (RSD).

It was not an especially productive winter for the now normal influx of BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS. Several flocks were seen, with the largest being 180 at Brown's Point on Feb. 14 (CGB) and 200+ at Sydney River Feb. 3(JAC). But they have now reached the outermost ends of the province, with 3 on Sable Island Jan. 3 (ZOL). CEDAR WAXWINGS are less frequent in winter, but can indeed occur, often in with the former species. There were flocks of 5 on Wolfville Ridge Feb. 1 (BLF), and 20 in Pictou Jan. 26 (KJM) noted this season.

It was a reasonable winter, though, for another of our irruptive winter visitors, the NORTHERN SHRIKE, with 19 reports, all of single birds, from various parts of the province. ZOL observed one kill an Ipswich Sparrow. George Bradshaw, newly resident in Parrsboro from Ontario, reported a LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE there, in mid-December. He is familiar with species in Ontario, and was able to get close looks and note the small bill and more extensive mask compared to the Northern. There was an imm. Northern around at the same time, and he was able to compare the two.

The usual flocks of EUROPEAN STARLING were also duly noted (e.g. hundreds in Westmount-JAC, 700+ in the Pubnico area- JKD, thousands at Port Williams etc.). There was a leucistic bird at the Urban's feeder in Avonport (fide JWW), with an overall pale brown color and whitish flight feathers.

R.B.S. ed.



The BIRD OF THE YEAR was surely the well-documented Dusky Flycatcher found by Angus and Stella MacLean and observed by many between Nov. 24 and Dec. 27. These two pictures are the best available to show critical field marks in black-and-white. Note the relatively "average" head size (not large like a Least's) and thin bill on both photos. The very long tail (here flicked up) is evident on Bernard Forsythe's photo of the bird on a fence wire. The whitish outer webs of the outer tail feathers are clear on the back view by Azor Vienneau. Many more field marks, colour photos and a sonogram, will be published in *Birders Journal*; since this is only the second confirmed occurrence in eastern North America.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS

Because of the deadline mixup for the last issue, many more reports of fall migrants were received for this issue than for January's. In addition, a sheaf of transcripts from the Bird Information Line (BIL) back to July, 1996 added a wealth of "preliminary" data. Generally, these latter undocumented records were of rare and uncommon species, and in many cases, otherwise unreported. The addition of both late reports and the BIL data made my April offering much bulkier than usual. However, I took pains to ensure that there was no duplication of records with the January issue.

An undocumented report was received of a WHITE-EYED VIREO on Seal Is. Oct. 11 (BIL). Fall SOLITARY VIREOS included 10 on Seal Is. Oct. 1, and 6 there Oct. 6 (BLM), one in Economy on Oct. 8 (FLS) and one at Elgin, Pic. Co., on Oct. 30 (CGB). Ken McKenna and STV found a rare, late spring YELLOW-THROATED VIREO in Westville, Pic. Co., on Jun. 2. They noted the "bright yellow throat, 2 white wing bars, yellow eye ring, thickish bill and white undertail". Another on Seal Is. Sept. 15-17 was briefly described (CGB et al., BIL). WARBLING VIREO reports not received in time for the January issue were as follows: a total of 6 on Seal Is. between Aug. 30 and Oct. 5 (BLM,BIL), one at Sambro Halifax Co., on Sept. 15 (BIL), and one on Brier Is. Sept. 22 (IAM). The latter was the only one described: "vireo shape and manner-plain face, dingy, lores without extension of dark eyeline". Late (undocumented) submissions for the PHILADELPHIA VIREO included 2 adults on Brier Is., Aug. 25, one on Seal Is. Sept. 22 and one in C.B. Co. on Oct. 12 (all BIL). The RED-EYED VIREO migration was closely monitored on Seal Is., with a peak of 100+ moving through on Oct. 11 (BIL,BLM,IAM). Four individuals hung on in Halifax to Oct. 20, and a late imm. lingered at Hartlen's Pt. on Nov. 1 (BIL).

September reports of single BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS on Sable Is. (ZOL) and Seal Is. (BIL) were followed by several October sightings at Hartlen's Pt., with one there Oct. 2 and 14 (BIL), and 2 on Oct. 18 (PML). A female "Lawrence's Warbler", a rare hybrid between the Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers, was reportedly on Seal Is. Sept. 19 (CGN et al.). Photos and complete details were to come from PEJ, but were not received. A TENNESSEE WARBLER was found on Sable Is. Sept. 28 (IAM). News of about a dozen fall and winter ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS was received, from Seal Is. and Lockeport to C.B. Co. Several survived into 1997: 2 at the foot of Waegwoltic Ave. in Halifax (IAM) into January, one at Port Williams, King's Co., at least to Feb. 1 (BLF et al.), and one in Upper Sackville, Halifax Co., at Jan. 2 (BJA). The NASHVILLE WARBLER was reported from Seal Is. and Hartlen's Pt. in October (BLM,BIL). A male which appeared in South End Halifax on Nov. 17 was carefully described: "gray 'hood' and eye ring, bright yellow and unstreaked below- not an Orange-crown" (IAM). This or another bird survived at Marlborough Woods, Halifax, into early December, at least.

A late report of 30 NORTHERN PARULAS on West Dalhousie Rd., Anna. Co., on Jun. 8 is significant (BLM). October singletons were found at Seal Is., while SJF watched a late Parula gleaning the underside of beech leaves for about 10 minutes, in Broad Cove on Nov. 16.

The last fall YELLOW WARBLER left Sable Is. on Oct. 5 (ZOL), while an imm. was observed on Brier Is. Oct. 13 (BIL). Five CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER individuals were on Seal Is. Oct. 1 (BLM), while one was on Sable Oct. 28 (ZOL). Has the MAGNOLIA WARBLER population crashed? It's extremely rare to see this species in winter, of course, but I found it strange that not a single Magnolia was mentioned among the many held-over fall reports. Summer CAPE MAY WARBLERS were found in Anna. and Lun. Cos. (BLM). A single young bird on Sept. 20 was the latest seen on Sable Is. (ZOL), while 2 or 3 Cape Mays were on Seal Is. in early October (BLM). It was encouraging to receive reports of summer BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLERS from four counties, and of smaller numbers on Sable (4) and Seal Is.(7) into early October. The latest BTBs seen were 1 at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 13 (BIL).

Some of the more major movements of the YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER during the fall migration should be noted. On Seal Is., there were 350 on Oct. 1, and 100 on Oct. 5 (BLM). About 1200 moved through North Pt., Brier Is., on Oct. 18 (IAM). Other reports of migrants were well-distributed, but numbers were much smaller. Twenty-five were still at Rainbow Haven, Halifax Co., on Dec. 1 (BLM), and there were up to 20 or so on Sable Is. through December (IAM). Latest reports were of singletons at Deep Cove and Blandford, Lun. Co., on Feb. 2 (BLF), and of 5 near Pictou on Feb. 14 (CGB).

Fifteen BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS were on Seal Is. Sept. 30, while 8 were there the following day (BLM). One was still at Baddeck River, Vic. Co., on Oct. 13, and a very late bird was found in Halifax on Nov. 16 (BIL). Twenty BLACKBURNIAN WARBLERS on West Dalhousie Rd. in June (BLM) were worth mentioning.

The YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER on Sable Is. is quite regular there as a stray, according to IAM, and although a report of one there on Aug. 18 (ZOL) contained no details, this is an "unmistakable species". Considerably less likely on the mainland, nevertheless an adult was reported at Hartlen's Pt. on Aug. 25, and one was at Milford, Anna. Co., on Oct. 19-20 (BIL). More regular was the bird on Cape Sable Is. on Nov. 3 (BIL). Single PINE WARBLERS were located on the Clyde River loop, Shel. Co., on Aug. 5 and 18 (BIL), at Duncan's Cove, Halifax Co., on Sept. 15 (BIL), at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 2 (BIL), on Brier Is. Nov. 1 (IAM), at Economy on Nov. 7 (FLS), at Sand Lake, C.B. Co., on Nov. 14 (BIL) and in Dartmouth on Nov. 23 (BIL). There was a veritable outbreak of the PRAIRIE WARBLER, an uncommon vagrant, from late August into December, accounting for 28 birds. Locations where Prairies were noted were Sable Is., Hartlen's Pt., George's Bank, Cape Perce (C.B. Co.), Little Harbour (Shel. Co.), Seal Is., Cape Sable Is. and Chezzetcook Inlet (Halifax Co.). The latest bird was on Sable Is. Dec. 23 (ZOL), and although this species is a "routine" Sable vagrant (IAM), ZOL's bird represents, to the best of my knowledge, a late date record for the province. The PALM WARBLER migration peak on Seal Is. for Sept. 30- Oct 5 was 150 per day on Oct. 1 (BLM), with only 2 of the western race noted. There were 3 "westerns" on Sable Is. Oct. 8, with 2 there on Dec. 18 (ZOL). About 30 were moving through North Point, Brier Is., on Oct. 18 (IAM). There were 2 in Halifax on Nov. 23, while our latest report was of a singleton of the western race at Lake Milo, Yar. Co., on Jan. 4 (BLM, IAM). A few BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS were added to the fall migration total: 2 on Seal Is. Aug. 30 and one there Sept. 30 (BLM), and one on Sable Is. (the latest for the year there) on Oct. 1 (ZOL). Forty BLACKPOLL WARBLERS were moving through Seal Is. on Oct. 5 (BLM). A male CERULEAN WARBLER at Hartlen's Pt. on Aug. 12, and an imm. in a migrant flock at White's Lake, Halifax Co., on Sept. 8 were reported to the BIL (no documentation).

Twenty BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLERS moved through Seal Is. on Aug. 30, while 25 were observed there on Oct. 1 (BLM). A female was on Sable Is. Sept. 15-30, and a later bird was reported from Dartmouth on Nov. 23 (BIL). Thirty AMERICAN REDSTARTS were counted on the West Dalhousie Rd. on June. 8 (BLM). There were 8 on Sable Is. between Aug. 22 and Oct. 2 (ZOL), 12 on Seal Is. Sept. 1 (BLM) and 25 moving through Seal on Oct. 1 (BLM). A female-plumaged PROTHONOTARY WARBLER visited Sable Is. from Aug. 31 to Sept. 4 (ZOL). The WORM-EATING WARBLER on Seal Is. mentioned in the January issue was there Sept. 21-23 (CGB, BIL). Details and photos were expected from PEJ, but were not received.

OVENBIRDS were few and far between, with singletons on Seal Is. Oct. 1 (BLM), Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 13 (BIL) and Dartmouth on Nov. 10 (BIL). A very late, well-documented individual at Glace Bay Dec. 27-30 (Allan LeForte) was seen on the Dec. 28 CBC. Seven NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH were counted on Sable Is. between July 31 and Sept. 9 (ZOL). An undocumented LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH was reported from Cape Sable Is. on Aug. 29 (BIL).

Two or three MOURNING WARBLERS passed through Seal Is. in early October.

Forty COMMON YELLOWTHROAT migrated through Seal Is. on Oct. 1 (BLM). Reports of eight later individuals were received: 1 at Port Williams on Nov. 20 (BIL), 2 in Dartmouth on Nov. 23 (PLC), a male in Dartmouth travelling with a small flock of Juncos on Nov. 29 (KAT), 1 in Wolfville Nov. 28 and 30 (BBT), 1 in New Glasgow on Dec. 21 (CBC), and a very late pair at Pubnico Pt. on Jan. 15, RSD's first January record for this species. A male HOODED WARBLER was reported from Cape Sable Is. on Aug. 12 (BIL). A well-described female or imm. was found on Seal Is. Sept. 1 (BLM et al.). A female showed up on Sable Is. between Aug. 29 and Sept. 1, while a male was seen there on Sept. 6 (ZOL). The last Hooded Warbler was found at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 18 (PML); according to BIL, there may have been 2 at Hartlen's pt. on that date.

Five WILSON'S WARBLERS were reported in September and October from Halifax Co., Sable and Seal Is. (BLM et al.). Four CANADA WARBLERS were on Seal Aug. 30 (BLM), while a rather late individual lingered at Hartlen's Pt. on Oct. 13 (BIL). About 14 YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS were reported on Seal, Brier, Cape Sable and Sable Is. from August through October. There were singles in Halifax and Bedford on Dec. 1 (BLM). One at Little Harbour, Shel. Co., attended a feeder for well over a month, hanging on until Jan. 13 (DHY). One in Halifax's South End lasted well into the new year ("Bird Watch", the Mail-Star, Feb. 7), as did one in Dartmouth, which was observed from Nov. 10 until at least Feb. 2 (JWT,PLC).

KNK, ed

We sincerely regret that a page of script (DAC's) was omitted from the January issue. For the record, we print it here before the current reports--Ed.

TANAGERS TO TOWHEE -- FALL 1996

SCARLET TANAGERS were fairly well reported. Summer records include one in Wood's Harbour, Shel. Co., May 27-29 (DOC); a second one there on June 19; one was discovered on June 22 in Halifax and one observed at Bridgewater on July 25 (JCM). Although there may well have been more, just two fall records were reported. One at Seal Island on Sept. 21 (JOW) and one at Brier Is. on Oct. 12 (GWT,JCT).

After last fall and winter's impressive and unprecedented numbers of CARDINALS it comes as no surprise that we still have many to be seen in the province. The Christmas Bird Counts should uncover the whereabouts of many of them. The pair found nesting in Dartmouth were successful with a brood which eventually fledged. These birds are still in the area of Patterson Street at the time of writing (JWT). The pair which set up home at the Cohrs' residence sang back and forth to each other (as they do) during the spring and apparently were successful in raising a family in that area of the west end of Halifax (JSC). Young birds were also found in Wolfville on Sept. 6, where 2 were frequenting feeders there (fide JWW). Apart from the summer records which there were many, only 2 fall sightings made it to the editors in time to print. One, a female was found at Mader's Cove on Oct. 29 (JBM) and a second fe. was seen at Wolfville on Nov. 2 (RBS).

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK is an uncommon but regular fall migrant but often goes unnoticed. Two birds were discovered in the Canning area on Sept. 21 (fide JCT); 1 was found at Sand Lake, C.B. on Oct. 12 (ALM,CAM) and 1 was at Mader's Cove, Lun. Co. from Oct. 11-15 (JBM). A single BLUE GROSBEAK (fe. or imm.), was observed on Seal Is. on Oct 1 (RBS) INDIGO BUNTINGS are by no means common during fall migration however they certainly are regular. This time 5 reporters counted a total of ten birds beginning with 4 on Sept. 21 on Seal Is. (JOW). Oct. 11 brought 2 to Lr. West Pubnico (RSD); 1 was found at Sand Lake on Oct. 20 (ALM,CAM); 2 were watched at Lr. Clark's Hbr. on Oct. 21 (Crowell, Murphy) and the latest being an imm. or less likely a fe. at Avonport, Nov. 6-8 (BBT,SAW,EVU).

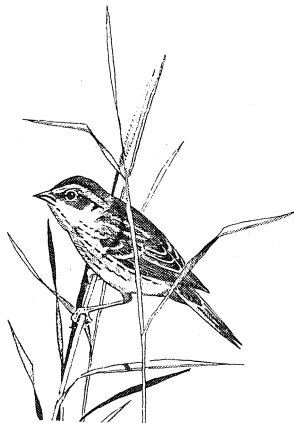
DICKCISSELS were reported beginning Oct. 1-5 on Seal Is., where an imm./fe. was discovered foraging around beached lobster traps followed by 1 Oct. 12-13 at Brier Is. (RBS). One was found at Portuguese Cove on Oct. 20 (AJV,DAC); a single bird seen at Clark's Hbr. on Oct. 21 (Crowell, Murphy); 1 at Glace Bay on Oct. 28 (ALM,CAM) and the last single bird was located at Little Hbr. on Oct. 29 (DHY).

Two EASTERN TOWHEES, both males, were discovered this fall. The first was 1 on Oct. 13 at Taylor Head Prov. Park along the Eastern Shore (BLF). The second was 1 found at Lr. West Pubnico on Oct. 15-18 (RSD).

SPARROWS

The earliest AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were 5 at Culloden, Dig. Co. on Oct. 18 (BBT,JCT). Next accounts didn't occur until Nov. 2, when 2 were seen at Wolfville Dyke (RBS). CHIPPING SPARROWS were notable in their tremendous numbers on Seal Is. during late September and early October, when the island hosted an impressive number. As well, Brier Is. held at least 200 briefly as these birds were migrating from Northlight on Oct. 18 (RBS,IAM). A close relative and regular visitor from the central and western parts of the country is the CLAY-COLOURED SPARROW. Just a single occurrence this fall with 1 identified at Sand Lake, C.B. on Oct. 11 (ALM,CAM).

An adult VESPER SPARROW was observed feeding a juvenile just west of the sewage pond near Wolfville on Aug. 29 (BBB). Another sighting was 1 found at Brier on Sept. 4 (JLC,JSC,DWP,JAP). There were no reports for the usual breeding areas near Kingston and Pic. Co. During the North American Migration Count on Sept. 21, 223 SAVANNAH SPARROWS were counted, 142 of which were found in the King's Co. area (JCT). Two detailed descriptions of GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS were filed. The first was 1 well seen and photographed over a period of several days from Oct. 1-4 on Seal Is. (RBS). The second was barely on the mainland, located at Taylor Head Prov. Park, Hfx. Co. This ad. bird was found on Oct. 13 by BLF. Sharp-tailed Sparrow has now been split into two distinct species. A more detailed description of the differences between these two will be in a future issue.



TANAGERS TO TOWHEE --WINTER 1996-97

There were only offshore island records for SUMMER TANAGER, the first being one seen on Seal I. Sept. 16, again on the 17th, then a presumably second bird was found there on Oct. 11. (PEJ.) ZOL had the only individual, again a female on Sept. 25 at Sable Island. A summer report, missed in the last report of a female SCARLET TANAGER, surprised IAM with its lateness in the west end of Halifax on June 22. Alas, this bird did not stay in the area. Fall records include 1 at Seal Island on Oct. 1 (BLM), 1 female on Sable Island from Oct. 7-10 then 3 males there from Oct. 11-13. (ZOL) The last record was 1 at Brier Island from Oct. 12-14.

NORTHERN CARDINALS were well reported with about twenty reports totaling 30 individuals. Almost all reports were from the Yarmouth and Valley areas of the province. Notable were 5 seen together at a feeder in Wolfville on January 11. Of the five, there was an adult male and female and 3 first year birds, (dark bills). (PSC) The Dartmouth pair at 7 Patterson St. are still claiming territorial rights there as of February. (JWT.)

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS were reported just twice during the fall, the first being 1 on Sable Island on Sept. 21 (ZOL). The second was 1 bird at Seal Island on Oct. 5 (BLM). A late spring record that failed to make the last publication was one first spring male at Sable Island on June 9 (ZOL). There were just three sightings of BLUE GROSBEAKS and all were on Seal Island. The first was 1 bird found on Sept. 15 as reported to the "Nova Scotia Bird Information Line". A second was 1 immature bird seen on Oct. 1 (BLM) and lastly by Oct. 10 there were 2 individuals there. The first INDIGO BUNTINGS noted were 3 which arrived on Seal Island on Sept. 30 with 2 or 3 seen almost daily there until on Oct. 11 at least 50 were counted. Two were found at Brier Island on Oct. 3 and a late record was 1 at Avonport on Nov. 8 (BBF). Even later was 1 at Apple River from Nov. 26-29 (KFS). The latest record, only the second time on a Christmas Bird Count, was 1 female found at Barrington Passage on Dec. 21. (MUN,JOW,LIP,JCZ). The prize gem of this reporting period must go to a female PAINTED BUNTING which was discovered at a feeder in Louisbourg during the Christmas Bird Count there on Dec. 21. It was last seen on Dec. 31. This sighting was supported with excellent written details and photographs.

DICKCISELS were quite numerous judging from the reports submitted. Apart from 1 seen at Portugese Cove, Halifax Co. on Oct. 20 (AJV,DAC), 1 at Petite Riviere on Dec. 3 JSC and 1 at Wolfville Ridge from Dec. 6-12 (JWW) the 20 other individuals were found in the southern parts of the province. During Christmas Counts, 1 was found in each location at Glace Bay, Louisbourg and Strait of Canso during late December. Rufous-sided Towhee is now known as EASTERN TOWHEE and the first reported this fall was 1 at Seal Island on Sept. 30 (BLM). A female was found at Canard Pond on Dec. 22 (TOR). This bird was seen in that location until Jan. 9 when it was discovered very sick and uncoordinated. It was being pecked upon by jays so was captured and sent to the Dept. of Natural Resources for examination. It unfortunately died overnight and no cause of death was noted. (JWW). The only other record was 1 at Apple River on Oct. 12-13. (JRM,MSM).

SPARROWS TO LAPLAND LONGSPUR

The first fall sightings of AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were 22 found at Argyle Sound, Yar. Co. on October 10 (JKD). Other localities, Apple River, and East Pubnico also had October records, the latter registering 35+ in one flock (JKD). The majority of records however were for the period from mid-November through December and were of small flocks of 2-10. Twenty-two were seen at Northport on Jan. 25 (KJM). Fall migration brought large numbers of CHIPPING SPARROWS to island locations as they gathered for the right conditions to continue their journey. 100 were counted at Seal Island on Oct. 1, reducing to about 20 by Oct. 5 there. (BLM). Morning at North Point, Brier Island on Oct. 18 showed about 200 of these delicate sparrows leaving for parts south. (IAM). Late records include 2 at Greenwich on Jan. 5 and 1 at Kentville on Feb. 15 (BLF). There were a total of 18 found during Christmas Bird Counts in late December with 7 being the highest number at Barrington Passage/Cape Sable Island.

CLAY-COLOURED SPARROWS were recorded four times. All but 1 was on Seal Island starting with 1 there on Sept. 1. On Sept. 30, 5 different individuals were counted and by Oct. 1 only 2 remained. (BLM). On Oct. 12, a single bird was identified at Sand Lake, Cape Breton (CAM).

A single FIELD SPARROW was seen at Seal Island on Oct. 1 and 4 (BLM). Another was noted at a feeder in New Glasgow on Jan. 4 (CGB,KJM). There were four fall and winter sightings of VESPER SPARROW. The first was 1 on Seal Island on Oct. 1 (BLM) followed by 1 at Margaree on Oct. 14 (PHB) and then 1 on Brier on Oct. 18 (IAM). The latest was 1 near Bissett Lake on Dec. 1 (KJM,FLL,BLM). LARK SPARROWS turned up in widely separated areas of the province this fall. The first was 1 seen at Seal Island on Sept. 17-21 (CGB); 1 was found at Cape Perce, CB on Sept. 21 (fide CAM); 1 adult was coming to a feeder in White's Lake (BAS) and 2 juvenile birds were discovered at Charlesville, Shel. Co. on Nov. 6 (JKD). A good description of a mystery bird turned out to be an immature LARK BUNTING. The heavily-billed, chunky finch showed the grey-brown plumage with streaking and most notable was the wide white wing patch (CGB).

Our wintering populations of SAVANNAH SPARROWS seems to have become thinner over the last few years. Christmas Bird Counts totalled 54 in all with almost half of that number occurring in the Wolfville area. Interesting were 70 seen at Seal Island on Aug. 30 and 50 still there on Oct. 5 (BLM). SAVANNAH (IPSWICH) SPARROWS totalled 7 from the Christmas Count data with 4 of those found at Cape Sable Island. One individual was seen at Brier Island on Nov. 12. Two GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS were discovered. The first was one on Seal Island from Oct. 1-4 (BLM) and a second, much later, found at Brier Island on Nov. 13 (ELM,IAM). The third confirmed report of a LECONTE'S SPARROW was captured in a mist net on Bon Portage Island in late September. This bird was apparently well documented and photographed before being banded and released. (fide IAM).

The RED-FACED EDITOR discovered too late for retraction in the last issue that he had Sharp-tailed Sparrows split East and West as opposed to North and South and so had the new species reversed. My apologies. Maybe this will help.

Sharp-tailed Sparrows have been split into two separate species and representing five subspecies. The NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW is the species that we in the Maritimes are most likely to see. This is the subspecies A. subvirgatus and is the drably coloured bird we are familiar with along our coastal areas. Included in Nelson's are the more brightly coloured western subspecies, A. alterus from the James Bay area and A. nelsoni from the interior of Manitoba to northern Alberta. These birds can both periodically show up here during migration. The SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROW has yet to be identified in Nova Scotia. This species breeds from southern Maine to North Carolina and has two subspecies, A. caudacutus and A. diversus.

The foregoing isn't going to help you a bit to correctly identify these two species but with a little study it shouldn't be too difficult. The June 1996 edition of BIRDING has a terrific article and there is a new book available by James Rising called Sparrows of the United States and Canada that has the current taxonomy of these birds.

Now onto reports...

It is safe to say that in the January 96 issue of Nova Scotia Birds, the brightly coloured birds seen at Crescent/Cherryhill Beaches were no doubt Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows but of one of the western subspecies and any that were called Saltmarsh were actually the Maritime breeder A. subvirgatus, also Nelson's Sharp-tailed. This fall, there were 2 Nelson's at MacLellan's Marsh, New Glasgow and 3 were totalled during the Christmas Counts of which were discovered at Port l'Hebert in late December.

There were a few FOX SPARROWS lingering at the best feeders around the province. One was first seen at Apple River on Oct. 26 and up to the time of writing it is still there. (JRM,KFS). There were 2 on Sable Island in early October (ZOL); 1 at

Cape Sable Island during November; 1 at Little Harbour, Shel. Co. on Dec. 2 (DHY). There were a good number of SONG SPARROWS reported throughout the period including large numbers of fall migrants in October. Winter reports include 3 at Waegwoltic Ave. Halifax on Nov. 21 (PLC); 3 at Apple River throughout the period (JRM,KFS); one at Stewiacke on Jan. 5 and 12 at Pubnico Point on Jan. 15 (RSD). There were a total of 674 tallied during the Christmas Counts which works out to almost one Song Sparrow for every two birders who took part. LINCOLN' SPARROWS were observed at Seal Island, Brier Island and Economy in the fall. A large number, 20 individuals were counted at Seal Island on Oct. 10. The latest was one found lurking near Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth from Nov. 20-22.

Winter records for SWAMP SPARROWS are few. One was seen at Hartlen's Point on Dec. 1 (BLM); 1 at Apple River on Dec. 10 (KFS) and 1 was discovered at MacLellan Marsh on Dec. 21 (fide KJM). Thirteen were tallied during the Halifax/Dartmouth Christmas Count.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were quite evident with their presence. There were 478 in total during Christmas Count on Dec. 22. There were 6 a Lockeport up to Feb. (DJC); an adult at East Advocate on Jan. 14 (JRM) and 5-6 daily up to mid-Feb. in Wolfville. (GT). WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS were fairly common for a rare migrant. Five were tallied during Christmas Counts. There were many sightings for fall and a few stayed well into winter with at least 2 hanging on until time of writing. They were 1 in Wolfville (PCS) and 1 in Springville (KJM). Noteworthy was 1 of the *gambellii* race at Brier Island on Oct. 17. (IAM). DARK-EYED JUNCOS were one of the few regular feeder birds that could be counted on for some movement in the garden. These birds were quite common throughout the province most often in small flocks of 6-20. There were 5666 tallied during the Christmas Counts. One flock of 45 was regular in Wolfville during November and December (BBT).

LAPLAND LONGSPURS were encountered several times and in good numbers. Notable were 50+ at Grand Pré on Jan. 4 (BBT). Although Grand Pré was the place to find them, others were found at Economy, Sable Island, Hartlen's Point, Caribou Is., Big Island, Seal Island and Cape Sable Island.

DAC ed.



This White-crowned Sparrow, one of many on Brier Island last May 12, was photographed by Richard Stern

SNOW BUNTINGS TO FINCHES

SNOW BUNTINGS were very well reported mostly from central and southern areas. RSD notes that he can't recall seeing so many on the sides of the highway in Yar. and Shel. Co.s in the early part of the winter. The early bird was one on Brier, Oct. 18, followed by 6 at Economy on 26th and 100 on Sable Is. on 29th (IAM,FLS,ZOL). From then on they came thick and fast, along the road edges, on the beaches and even in the bare fields. Largest numbers were 300 at Pt. Howe and 100 at Wallace, both on Jan. 25 (KJM). The last 30 were at Black River on Feb. 21 (BLF).

Fall BOBOLINKS were few (as were summer birds). The only reports are from islands: Aug. 30 and Sept. 30 on Seal (8 & 40) and two on Sable Oct. 6 (ZOL). RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS fared better. Most reports were of small numbers except for 20 at Kathleen Spicer's feeder at Apple River on Nov. 1. There were 3 at E. Chester Oct. 30, 2 in E. Advocate on Nov. 14-16, 4 at Avonport Nov. 9, and 1 at Lockeport Dec. 5 (CJF,JRM,Eva Urban,DJC). Another pair were at Advocate Dec. 7 (KFS) and last seen were 2 at Northport Jan. 25 (KJM).

Brenda and Bill Thexton spotted an EASTERN MEADOWLARK on Dec. 31 on the west side of Long Island (Grand Pré). There were subsequently four other reports of the same bird, 2 of which specified "Eastern" and 2 left question marks. The bird was last seen Jan. 13 (JCT,JET,BBT,JWW). A sighting of 4 meadowlarks was from Lower West Pubnico on Dec. 4. Raymond d'Entremont writes that the birds were silent so identification as to species was impossible. However, whatever they were they had increased in number to 5 by mid February.

No YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS were seen. The sight of RUSTY BLACKBIRDS in their attractive and distinctive fall plumage used to be a regular pleasure, but numbers seem to have fallen off lately. IAM who had one on Brier on Nov. 12 wonders why they have become so scarce in recent years. Phyl Bryson was lucky to see 15+ around her Halifax garden on Sept. 22 & 23 but the other four reports were of but ones and twos.

No BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS were seen.

A definite migration of COMMON GRACKLES took place from mid-October to mid-November. On Oct. 12 Ken McKenna saw a huge flock of 400-500 at Plymouth Rock, Pictou Co. On the 18th JRD had eighty plus at the other end of the province in E. Pubnico. By the 22nd there were 100+ at Cape Chignecto (MSM) on Nov. 11 there were 40 at Apple River (KFS). By Nov. 12-13 there were over a hundred on Brier Is. (IAM). Other reports were of ones and twos from scattered locations. Latest reported were 8 on Feb. 24 at Lower Sackville (JWT).

No longer do we see the large flocks of 100 or more BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS descending upon our feeders in the winter. Indeed, they have become "rare birds". The only cowbirds around (except for one at Apple River on Nov. 1) was a flock of 11-40 from Nov. 14-Jan. 21 at Avonport. (num. obs.).

An immature or female ORCHARD ORIOLE was on Seal Is. on Sept. 6. It was bright yellow and green with a dark gray or black back and was noticeably smaller than an accompanying Baltimore O. (IAM,ROF).

BALTIMORE ORIOLES, all single birds, were well reported from November onwards, staying well into December. A few made it into January and February. They were seen at Lockeport (DJC), Westmount (fide JAC) Sullivan's Pond (PLC) Wolfville, Canard Pond (TOR) Lower Sackville (BJA) and in the South end of Halifax and in Armdale.

FINCHES TO HOUSE SPARROWS

The overall winter finch picture was disastrous this year. Even non birders were asking "where are all the birds" and the Christmas Count Co-ordinators all bemoaned the low numbers or total absence of some species. There were of course, a few around - read on.

Apart from the odd one or two PINE GROSBEAKS were as follows: Nov. 12-13 there were "several" along Digby Neck; Nov. 25th 7 (all female) at Green bay; Dec. 27 42 at Five Islands Park, Col. Co.; Jan. 4, 7 at Wolfville; Jan. 13, 8 at Forest Home (King's Co.); Feb. 8, 11 at Liscomb Game Sanctuary; Feb. 11, 6 at Kentville and Feb. 14, 5 at E. Sable (Shel. Co.).

PURPLE FINCHES were particularly scarce. Judy Tufts had none after September, Donna Crosby had only 2 in Lockeport, and Ken McKenna had only a "slight smattering". There were 39 birds mentioned altogether from Dartmouth, Apple River, E. Chester, Overton, Upper Sackville, Pictou. Dates noted ranged from Nov. 23 to Jan. 18.

A few HOUSE FINCHES were scattered about. KFS saw 1 male at Apple River on Nov. 4. MSM & JRM saw a male there on Nov. 9 & 10 which was probably the same bird. Three were at Bridges St. in Halifax on Nov. 23 and one remained there Feb. 23 (PLC,SJF). A single bird was at Lower Cunard on Dec. 15 (JWW) and two were at a feeder in Overton on Jan. 11 (MUN et al.). The Crosbys in Lockeport had three attending feeders from mid November to mid February (DJC).

There were no RED CROSSBILLS and only two reports of WHITE-WINGED. These were from Apple River where KFS heard them in the woods on 1st and 11th of Dec., and from Sydney River where there were two on Feb. 3. (JAC).

COMMON REDPOLLS fared no better: two sightings: 6 on Oct. 28 in Caribou Provincial Park and 30 on Feb. 2 at Schooner Pond (both reports from KMJ et al.). Lucky KJM!

PINE SISKINS were also thin on the ground- or in the trees- or at feeders this season. In this report period only two flocks were noted; 30 E. Chester Dec. 23-30 (CJF) and 20 at Mader's Cove all Dec., Jan. and Feb. (Morses). The only others seen were singles Dec. 9 at Apple River, and Jan. 11 at Crousetown and at Ohio (RFS,SJF,MAN et al.).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES were a little more visible- reports came from Ohio to Inverness of sporadic visits of 10-30 at feeders from Nov. - Feb. No really large flocks were encountered, the two biggest being 40 birds at Pictou on Jan. 20 and 40 on Feb. 10 at Middle Sackville. (KJM,BJA).

There were a few EVENING GROSBEAKS about, but comments were "not as many as usual" (Shubenacadie), "none in Wolfville this year", "42 at Avonport on Jan. 5, but did not stay". (RCM,BJF,KLM). The Morses in Mader's Cove had 30 on Dec. 13, but only three left on 22nd. All other reports (seven) were of small (15-30) flocks seen occasionally.

A practically albino HOUSE SPARROW spent all fall and winter at Avonport. First seen on Aug. 4, 1996, it was still around on Feb. 11, 1997. Apparently it looked pure white in most lights, but with snow on the ground it looked a creamy off-white with a hint of beige. The legs and feet were pinkish and much lighter than normal House Sparrow's. The bill was yellowish with a hint of pink. Eyes very dark. (JWW and num. obs.). Another partially albino bird was seen at Sullivan's Pond Jan. 26 (PLC). Some places had a plentiful supply of House Sparrows and others did not. 50-100 spent the winter around Lockeport Town and there were "good numbers" in south Dartmouth and in the south end of Halifax (DJC,JWT,PLC). Ten to 30 were in Westmount, C.B. but none in Apple River or Green Bay and "very few in" Advocate and Bedford. (JAC,KFS,JSC,PLC). Reports of changing populations of this species would be welcome.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Czapalay, Joan	JCZ
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DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

for

the July 1997 issue

May 30, 1997

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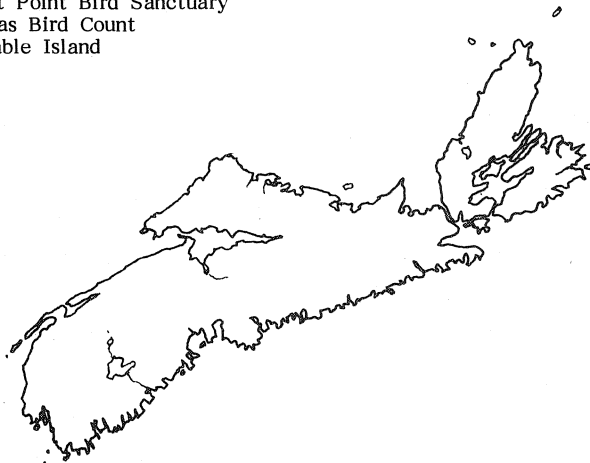
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PLACE NAMES

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 Pubnicos.
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, Mooseland
Colchester Co. (Col. Co.)	Economy, Glenholme
Annapolis Co. (Anna. Co.)	Annapolis Royal, Clementsport.
Kings Co.	Wolfville, Greenfield, Canard, Black River Lake, Gaspereau, Grand Pre, White Rock, Starr's Pt., Lumsden Reservoir
Cumberland Co. (Cumb. Co.)	Lusby Marsh, APBS*, Linden, Port Howe
Hants Co.	Shubenacadie, Noel Shore
Digby Co.	Westport (Brier Island), Brier Island
Cape Breton (C.B.)	Big Pond, C.B. Highland National Park (C.B.H.N.P.) Westmount

*APBS-Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary
 CBC - Christmas Bird Count
 CSI - Cape Sable Island





No one has offered a portrait-class photo of the HERMIT WARBLER at Green Bay in Winter 94-95, but this shot by Azor Vienneau will convince future record keepers of its validity. The bird's head is turned so that its black throat is not visible, but its plain face (no "ear patch"), deep yellow in the original, and pure gray (in the original) back tones are good marks of this species.



Generally more common breeders in the northern part of the province, this WILSON'S WARBLER, with food for nestlings in its mouth, was photographed in June on the Cape Breton Highlands by Randy Lauff

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD RARITIES IN PERSPECTIVE

Part 4: Shrikes to Finches

By Ian McLaren

This concludes our survey of "improbables". Again I have been quite selective in the species considered, and include some that have not yet appeared in Nova Scotia. The relatively modern passerine birds are still evolving rapidly, many with well marked subspecies that are worth studying and listing. Some of these subspecies have recently been given full species status, or probably soon will be. Some are obscurely plumaged and a challenge to identify. Again, *NSB* refers to this journal, *BJ* to *Birders Journal*, *Tufts* to the 3d edition of *The Birds of Nova Scotia*, and other references are spelled out.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE has become endangered in the East, and is now a very rare vagrant in Nova Scotia. All sightings need full documentation, and preferably backup photos.

VIREOS. Neither **White-eyed** nor **Yellow-throated Vireo** appears on our everyday checklist, although there are well over 20 records of each. The less-easily identified **Philadelphia** and **Warbling Vireos** are classed as rare in *Tufts*, but both have nested here and are now quite regular in spring and fall. Someone, some day, may be lucky enough to find a vagrant **Bell's Vireo**, although in recent years they have wandered no closer than New Jersey. I wonder if **Black-whiskered Vireo**, a "Florida speciality" in bird guides, is remotely possible here as a spring overshoot? Such individuals reached North Carolina in 1994 and 1996. (I shouldn't even mention Canada's first **Black-capped Vireo** at Pt. Pelee, ON, Apr. 27, 1991.) The validity of a putative **Yellow-green Vireo** native of Central and South America, found dead at Godbout, Qué., in May 1883, has recently been supported (Holder, 1996, *BJ* 5: 78-89, with a fine painting).

More down-to-earth birders should keep an eye out for subspecies of the **Solitary Vireo** (as shown in most field guides), as it is due to be "split" (Johnson, 1995, *Condor* 97:903-919) into our green-backed, yellow-sided form (*solitarius*) and the very gray form of the Rockies (*plumbeus*). The latter is occasional on the East Coast, and two or three have been reported here; a photo would discriminate. The West Coast *cassinii*, more similar to ours but with a different song, could also be split. It could be more regular here, but may have been overlooked; apparently one was banded at Tadousac, Qué., in Sept. 1995.

SOUTHERN WOOD WARBLERS. Birders now have the 1994 book by Quinn and Beadle to sharpen their skills with plumage variations and subspecies of these beautiful New World birds. Most southern warblers are quite regular here as spring overshoots and reverse fall migrants. Some, like the **Pine** and **Prairie Warbler**, are now so frequent that documentation is not required. The former nests in southern New Brunswick, and the latter in coastal Maine. Ironically, early winter occurrences of our common **Blackpoll** or **Bay-breasted Warblers** require documentation to assure that they were not Pine Warblers. The others - **Blue-winged**, **Golden-winged**, **Yellow-throated**, **Cerulean**, **Prothonotary**, **Worm-eating**, **Kentucky**, and **Hooded Warblers**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, and **Yellow-breasted Chat** - will be "ticked" in time by any active Nova Scotia birder, but four of them deserve comment. Although Blue-winged is extirpating Golden-winged by aggressive hybridization in NE U.S., the latter remains surprisingly regular here, and only two hybrid "Lawrence's" have been reported (one in *Tufts* and another this fall). Subspecies of Yellow-throated Warblers may be trickier than we have supposed. Jaramillo (1993. *BJ* 2:50) notes that not all SE coastal birds have yellow lores, though lores of inland birds are always white. Only the Louisiana Waterthrush poses identification problems, and must be carefully documented.

In a different category is **Swainson's Warbler**, of which there have been one confirmed (Tufts), and one unsupported sight record in Sept. 1992. There are only three other Canadian records (all Pt. Pelee, ON), and this fall Maine got its first. Although not so rare in SE U.S. as once supposed, it is shy and obscure.

WESTERN DENDROICA. These are generally less frequent than the above southerners. Occurrences in eastern Canada of **Townsend's** (our most frequent, with nine records involving some 12 individuals) and **Hermit Warbler** (three individuals here) have been summarized by Jaramillo (1995, BJ 4: 232-236). The **Black-throated Gray Warbler** is fairly regular in NE U.S., and we've had eight here. All three species are surprisingly frequent in the East in spring. I showed (1981, Auk 98:243-257) that such sightings tended to lie 90° off the normal NW migratory path out of Mexico, perhaps reflecting the known phenomenon of "mirror-image misorientation". None is difficult to identify, but of interest is the frequent hybridization of Townsends and Hermit at the north of the latter's range. One such hybrid turned up in N. Newfoundland in May 1995 (Mactavish, 1995, BJ 5:33-34); overall more like a Hermit, it was greenish backed and somewhat streaked below (see also the warbler book by Quinn and Beadle).

SOUTHWESTERN WARBLERS. Virginia's Warbler is a real rarity in the East, with just a handful of records, including three in New England, one in Labrador in Sept. 1994, ours two months later, and one on Grand Manan I., NB, Oct. 1995. Even more exciting would be the related **Lucy's Warbler**, of which the first east of Texas appeared at Ipswich, MA, Dec 1, 1979, after extensive southwesterly airflow. The only other southwesterner with a remote chance of appearing might be **Painted Redstart**, with single records from Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Ontario.

THE OPORORNIS CHALLENGE. Females and immatures of this genus are especially "tricky", and observers should hone their knowledge of these, e.g. from an article by Pyle and Henderson (1990, *Birding* 22:222-229). We have recorded over 25 **Connecticut Warblers** in Nova Scotia, only one of which (Sable Island, anomalously on 12 June 1975) was substantiated by photo. Sight records of this bird must remain "hypothetical" unless meticulously documented. There have been four or five records of **Macgillivray's Warbler** in Massachusetts, one in Ontario, and a "possible" in St. John's, NF, in Nov. 1995, so it could turn up here. Experts note that the occasional male **Mourning Warbler** has distinct "eye crescents", so that all field marks (e.g., in males, blackish lores of MacGillivray's, blackish lower border of hood in Mourning) need to be noted.

TANAGERS. A few **Scarlet Tanagers** nest in Nova Scotia, and **Summer Tanagers** are very regular strays in spring and fall. The **Western Tanager** remains least frequent, with some 15 sightings overall, only three confirmed by specimen or photo. Surprising were three birds in August and a well documented male in July 1990; others have been mostly in November-December. Observers should be aware that imm. female **Scarlet Tanagers** can rarely have wingbars; other Western features, like the well-marked "saddle", should be noted. A putative **Hepatic Tanager** in Montréal, May 1994, has been disputed.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK. These are occasional in the East, and we have 12 reports, half in spring. Only one was photographed, and it is probable that some females or immatures have been misidentified. Field guides can mislead, and a good aid to identification is by Morlan (1991, *Birding* 23:220-223). Their thinly streaked, rich-ochre breasts can be approached on some **Rose-breasteds**, and the diagnostic underwing linings are difficult to see. The lower central breast of **Black-headed** always (?) has some distinct yellow. The bill of **Black-headed**, especially the mandible, is almost always darker than the **Rose-breasted's**. Call notes

are useful: a sharp "eek" in Rose-breasted, and a lower, harsher "kichk" in Black-headed.

LAZULI BUNTING. This western species is very rare as a stray in NE U.S., most recently in Maine in Oct. 1978. Female and immature Indigo Buntings may have temptingly distinct wing bars, but not so broad and white as in most Lazuli Buntings. The latter will also seem less streaky below, and usually have more buffy breast tones. The netting of a female **Varied Bunting** at Long Pt., ON, in spring 1995 makes anything seem possible. If one should miraculously appear, its curved culmen and more uniformly brown (grayish-brown in more easterly populations?) might be evident, but a photo would be mandatory and measurements useful.

PAINTED BUNTING. One on Sable Island in June 1965 was a first for Canada. The 1980s initiated a pattern of occurrences of these birds well north of their normal range in spring and fall, occasionally in early summer or at feeders into winter. We've hosted 6 or 7, mostly bright males. Few now suggest that these are escaped cagebirds.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE. None has been documented here since our 4th on Seal I., Oct. 1989, and indeed the bird seems to have been very rare in the East in recent years.

SPOTTED TOWHEE. This western bird species received scant attention as a vagrant prior to its recent "split" from the Rufous-sided (our routine one is now designated as **Eastern Towhee**), and it may stray more regularly to the East than records suggest. An individual evidently stayed at a feeder at Marble Mt., Inv. Co., in Jan. 1991. Others wintered in Maine and New Brunswick in 1994-95.

SPARROWS. Few birds offers more challenges to birders than the New World subfamily Emberizinae. Many are shy and obscurely plumaged, and there are subtle developmental and subspecific variations in plumage. Several have recently been or probably will be "split" into two or more species. Remarkably, two beautiful books have newly appeared to ease the problems of identification: one on North American sparrows and (largely Old-World) buntings by Clive Byers *et al.*, and the other on North American sparrows and buntings by Jim Rising, illustrated by David Beadle. If I had to choose, I would recommend the latter; Rising's museum background (at Toronto's R.O.M.) shines through, and Beadle's illustrations, which are arguably less "pretty" than those in Byers *et al.*, seem more informative and accurate in some important details.

AIMOPHILA SPARROWS. Our **Cassin's Sparrow**, photographed May 1974 on Seal Island, remains unique for Atlantic Canada, although there is a New Jersey record and about seven for S Ontario, most likewise in spring. **Bachmann's Sparrow** might seem more likely, but it has not wandered much from its SE U.S. range in recent years (older records in New York, S. Ontario), and we have only one "hypothetical" sighting (see **Tufts**, p. 456). It is said to be increasing of late in Virginia, and we may yet be lucky.

SPIZELLA SPARROWS. **Clay-colored Sparrows** and **Field Sparrows** now hardly require documentation, unless very unseasonal. A bird photographed at Hartlen Pt. in early October 1994 was diagnosed as **Brewer's Sparrow** of Great Basin sagebrush; no description is given in the **NSB** report of a sighting a month earlier on Brier I. As both the above sparrow books note, the high-altitude subspecies, **Timberline Sparrow**, may soon be "split" from Brewer's. Neither book is confident about field marks. I was impressed last summer with the overall grayness, strong back and crown streaking, and slender, dark bills of Timberlines in Jasper N.P., as compared with Brewer's Sparrows studied a day later in the Okanagan Valley. Original descriptions also stress the breast and flank streaks of first-winter Timberlines.

SAGE SPARROW. The individual photographed on Brier I., Nov. 13, 1994, stands unique for eastern North America. The photographs show clearly that it is indeed not the recently "split" (and highly improbable) Bell's Sparrow of California. We might rather have anticipated the related **Black-throated Sparrow**, which has occurred occasionally in the NE U.S., once in each of Ontario and Québec, and once on St.-Pierre-et-Miquelon, almost always in fall-winter (Escott, 1994, BJ 3:289-293).

LARK BUNTING. Our four spring and ten fall records (sometimes of more than one bird), make this one of our more expected vagrants. However, it seemed to be more regular in the East during the 1970s; its abundance may be tied to prairie wet-dry cycles.

AMMODRAMUS SPARROWS. I covered these in an earlier article (1994, NSB 36(2):23-29). The above-mentioned sparrow books are very helpful. Most importantly, the **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** has now been "split" into **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (birds from S Maine south) and **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** (our dull, locally nesting subspecies combined with the much more colourful subspecies nesting around James Bay and in the Prairie Provinces). We've had several sightings and photos of inland birds in winter, but the "new" species of the U.S. East Coast could occur here. The most promising possibility is of spring overshoots, before ours arrive in late May and early June. Based on new information, I believe a sparrow I photographed on The Hawk, Cape Sable I., in late May 1988 may have been a Saltmarsh Sharp-tail, although the back view on the slide is somewhat uninformative. Among the other *Ammodramus* species, **Grasshopper Sparrow** is regular, **Seaside** less so, and the rarely seen **Henslow's** and **LeConte's Sparrows** may occur more frequently than our records suggest. **Baird's Sparrow** would be the biggest prize, but has not occurred on the East Coast in many years.

THE FOX SPARROWS. These are probably soon to be "split" into three or four species, of which the Rocky Mountain **Slate-colored Fox Sparrow** is most likely to occur here as a vagrant. (Presumably the "gray-headed Fox Sparrow" in Vermont in Dec. 1992, reported in AB, was one of these.)

WESTERN ZONOTRICHIA. Both **Harris's** and **Golden-crowned Sparrow** are very occasional on the East Coast; we've had two of the former and perhaps five of the latter. Beware that young White-crowned Sparrows can have quite golden crowns.

THE JUNCOS. Distinctive Junco vagrants are routinely "ticked" by birders. The **Dark-eyed Junco** is conveniently divided into subspecies or subspecies groups, some of which are predicted (e.g. in Rising's sparrow book) to become recognized as species, under now fashionable species definitions. The **Oregon** routinely and **Pink-sided Junco** rarely occur here, but I don't know of any claims of **Gray-headed Junco**. We've at least three sightings of juncos with white wing bars, one of which turned out to be a **Slate-colored**, which do occasionally have such bars. One attending a Halifax feeder last winter was reported as having the requisite larger size, paler plumage, and extensively white tail feathers, and should have been sought more vigorously for confirming observations and photos.

VAGRANT LONGSPURS. All three western longspurs have occurred on the East Coast. **Chestnut-collared** is the most regular; we've had six, all but one in spring, as is commonly the case in the East (one stayed last summer on Grand Manan I., NB!). Our two single-observer sight records of **Smith's Longspur** (Tufts), seem convincing, but photos would be much moreso. We've had no **McCown's Longspurs**, and don't hold your breath, as one in Massachusetts in fall 1976 was "the first east of Illinois in a century", and I know of only one East Coast bird since.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK. It is probably much more regular on the East Coast than records suggest, probably because it is difficult to separate from the eastern species. Notably, several fall-winter specimens labelled

Easterns in the New Brunswick Museum turned out to be Western Meadowlarks. Our only one, in Jan. 1982 at Cherry Hill Beach (**Tufts**), was identified by its call note, which is always recommended. However, discrimination by plumage is probably easier than field guides, which illustrate subspecies unlikely here, might suggest. The yellow extending to the cheek area on Westerns can indeed be difficult to see. A back view, even in flight, might show that the bars of tail and tertial feathers are separate, and reach the outer edges of the feathers. These bars on Easterns are joined by central dark areas along the shafts. The Westerns expected here also have less white on the outer tail feathers than do our Easterns.

VAGRANT BLACKBIRDS. The **Yellow-headed Blackbird** is one of our commonest western vagrants, and needs no consideration. The **Brewer's Blackbird** is next of this group in frequency, but has only been confirmed twice by photos, to my knowledge. I have seen Rusty Blackbirds and Common Grackles hastily (though temporarily) misidentified as Brewer's, and care must be taken. Young female Rusties can be quite dark-eyed in autumn, and winter males can be surprisingly glossy. Bill shape, calls, and relative tail length should all be assessed if possible. Our only substantiated large grackle was the **Great-tailed** near Annapolis Royal in winter 1983-84; four other sightings of large grackles are unattributable to species. Although the breeding range of **Boat-tailed Grackle** is closer (Connecticut in 1995), the Great-tailed wanders more widely. An identification problem is posed by the fact that the nearest Boat-tailed populations have light eyes. Details of shape, plumage, and especially calls are needed for discrimination. The apparent **Bronzed Cowbird** on Seal I. in May 1992 was a first for Canada, although they wander from their SW U.S. range regularly to Florida and occasionally to the S Great Plains. The **Shiny Cowbird** is a recent and unwelcome arrival to North America via Florida, and has begun summering in North Carolina. Astonished birders found one on Monhegan I., ME, in May 1991, and another was photographed at a feeder in Lamèque, NB, in August 1993. So, we might hope for a vagrant, but not for colonization!

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE. The recent re-split of the Northern Oriole gives us another species. Adult and first-winter male **Bullock's** (the latter with black throats and large white wing bar) are easily identified, but females are trickier. Hybrids between the two species may occur, and "pure" first-winter female **Baltimores** can be quite gray-backed and yellow-breasted. Look especially for the yellow, rather than dusky, face, dark eyeline, whitish belly with no tinge of yellow, and almost unstreaked back of female **Bullock's**.

SOUTHERN ORIOLES. Expert opinions (P. William Smith, Alvero Jarimillo) suggest that our supposed **Black-cowled Oriole** in May 1971 (**Tufts**) was unlikely to have been of the non-migratory, near-extinct Bahamas race, and is unidentifiable as described. A **Scott's Oriole** wandered to N Ontario in Nov. 1975, and a male **Hooded Oriole** was netted at Long Pt., ON, in May 1992. Both are somewhat migratory in SW U.S. Females and first-winter males of the latter are extremely similar to those of the more routinely vagrant **Orchard Oriole**. Apparent late-fall individuals of the latter should be studied especially closely (see Lehman, 1988, *Birding* 20:98-100).

EURASIAN FINCHES. **Bramblings** have been recorded at many locations across North America (review by Jones, 1995, *BJ* 4:75-79), and our three fit the pattern. The **Common Chaffinch** is much less frequent, with two records for Newfoundland, three for Nova Scotia, one for New Brunswick, and four for New England. Apart from a suspicious record for Louisiana, these seem to reflect a pattern of genuine vagrancy. Occurrences of **Eur. Greenfinch** (New York in winter 1961-62, New Brunswick in March 1977, and Montréal in Winter 1987-88) are more problematic. Reports of **Eur. Siskin**, even those that are not female "green morph" Pine Siskins (McLaren et al. 1988, *AB* 43:1268-1274), are much debated, although some East Coast males might have been genuine. All **Eur. Goldfinch** records are

decidedly suspect, as they are not strongly migratory and are widely kept in captivity. Still, such occurrences as one on a boat off Seal I. in May 1985 do make one wonder. A thoughtful discussion is in AB 42, p. 229, 1988.

WESTERN FINCHES. Might a vagrant **Cassin's Finch**, readily overlooked among our Purple Finches, turn up here? They are somewhat migratory, and one appeared in Manitoba in Spring 1981. Prepare with Kaufmann's *Advanced Birding* guide. Of the recently re-split **Rosy Finches**, the **Gray-crowned** (two races) has wandered routinely to the U.S. Midwest, occasionally to N Ontario, and recently to the Abitibi region of Québec. Beware of melanistic Purple Finches, and note the differences in wing structure. A male ("black-backed") **Lesser Goldfinch** at a feeder in Maine through winter 1992-93, was one of three or four to have occurred E of the Mississippi. However, as noted (AB 47:243): "can the provenance of any wayward finch ever be entirely above suspicion?"

Vagrant birds are always exciting to find, and bring with them a larger sense of history, geography, and the nature of biological species. I hope that this survey has whetted your appetites.



Another picture of a Cape Breton Highlands Northern Hawk Owl by Randy Lauff is hard to resist. This adult clearly does not like large creature in the vicinity of its nest!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor
Nova Scotia Birds

Feb. 3, 1997

Re: Bird Banding

Now that someone else has opened the subject, (See Nova Scotia Birds, Jan., 1997), I feel free to relate my experience with the same bander operating on the property of Acadia University on Brier Island.

In October 1995 I was a member of a small party birding the Acadia grounds on the island four days after the banders had left. As most know when birds are banded, they are sealed in brown paper bags (often for hours) and transported to a central spot to be measured, weighed and banded. I found one of the bags in the middle of the path to the outhouse still sealed, and containing the body, feces and various body fluids of a Yellow-rumped Warbler that had died in the bag. I have photographs in my possession.

Like Dave Young I wrote to Dr. Ogilvie at Acadia expressing my concern. Like David I too got "form letter number nine" telling me what a prestigious university he ran but if I wanted further information I should write Dr. _____, of the Biology department.

I duly wrote the named Doctor acknowledging that despite my personal feelings about banding there probably were situations where important scientific information could not be obtained without banding. I did express an opinion that because of the stress caused we should be very careful to ensure that it was only done when necessary, and when there was a reasonable percentage of returns. A good example is duck surveys, where the birds are harvested and many bands are returned.

I also asked the Doctor to answer six questions;

- 1) Did they have an Animal Care Committee to pass the protocols for each banding operation?
- 2) Were there any lay members on this committee and could I have their names?
- 3) What was their recorded mortality rates of birds in the nets, during holding and while handling? I was satisfied with overall rates.
- 4) Did they have sunset clauses on all their approvals to ensure that projects were critically reviewed?
- 5) What percentage return did they get on their total banding over a ten year period? I asked this question because in a previous request to the CWS I had to threaten with the freedom of information act to learn that in ten years of banding several thousands of passerines (all the records for this province) there had been ten returns, six of which were non-migrants such as Juncos and GC Kinglets, and three of which were recorded as recaptures on the same day or day following the banding.
- 6) What was their criteria for terminating a banding project. Was it no returned band ever, 1 in 10,000, 1 in 1000, 1% or what? At what mortality rate did they cease banding. An experienced bander told me that one to five percent was not unusual.

I am still awaiting a reply from Dr. _____. Perhaps they don't have any band return figures or don't keep mortality records. Perhaps they are reluctant to disclose them. Never mind gentle readers, when I receive the begging letters for donations to a new rink or a new biology laboratory from any university I always have the option of saying that I am leaving my money to the SPCA.

Yours truly
JL Cohrs

Pics of the Year

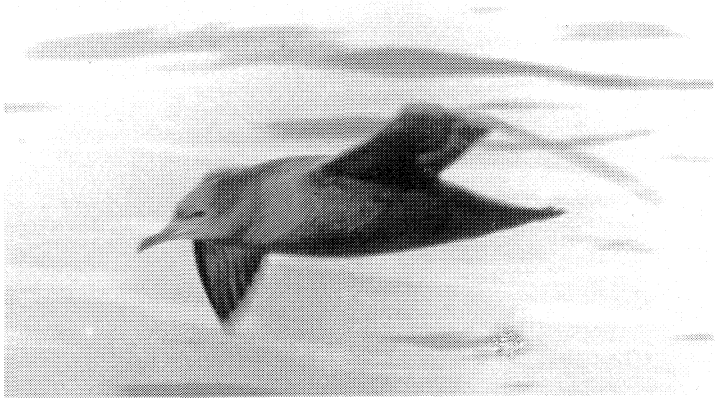
It has been slightly more than a year since we included a centre section with bird portraits on glossy pages. As usual, only a few such photos were submitted, although we know there are more out there. The prints for this display are usually prepared somewhat before the usual deadline for submission of records and other photos. So, send slides, negatives, or prints with sufficiently enlarged subjects, and we'll copy them and hoard them for future issues.

Blake Maybank sent us three slides of commonplace, but elegant, pelagic birds breasting the waves: a NORTHERN FULMAR, a SOOTY SHEARWATER, and a NORTHERN GANNET. I'm not sure where they were photographed, but of course all can be seen off our coasts. They come from very different distances. A few Fulmars nest in Newfoundland, but most much farther north. Gannets breed abundantly in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Newfoundland, and have been prospecting potential sites in the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. Sooty Shearwaters nest on islands off southernmost South America, making heroic annual migrations to and from our waters.

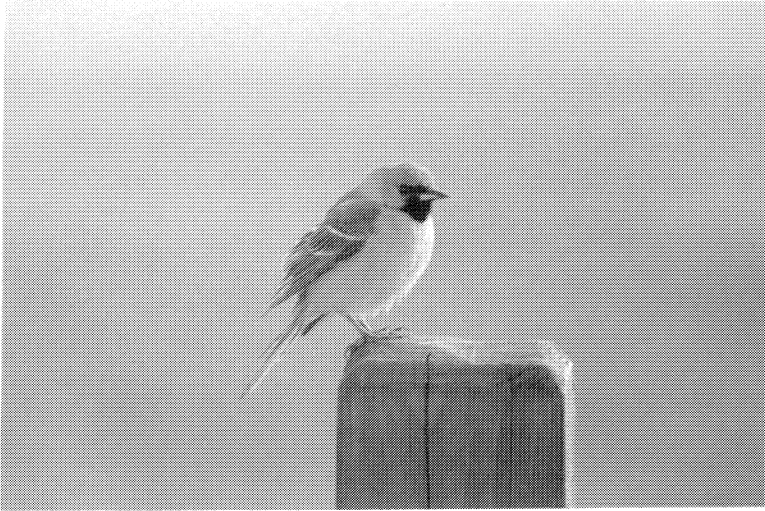
Last spring an exceptional flight of migrants reached our southern islands on May 11-12. Among them was the usual sprinkling of vagrant species. Two were attracted to Carl Haycock's feeders in Westport, Brier Island, where he was able to study and photograph them close at hand. Here we portray a yearling male ORCHARD ORIOLE perched on a corner post of his balcony. Its black throat and, on the colour print, yellow rather than orange, underparts are good field marks. Most young males that I have seen had grayish backs, like this one. Field guides paintings don't generally show this, although field-guide photos do. Although not as striking as the male, the rich orange-tinged plumage of the female SUMMER TANAGER has its own beauty. These tanagers are quite regular "overshoots" here in spring, and are attracted to sample seeds at feeders.

Among the waifs and strays that arrived during last spring's migration was an unusual *Empidonax* flycatcher. The ACADIAN FLYCATCHER, despite its name, is not native to these parts, nesting no closer to us than in Massachusetts. There are a few sight records for the province, but this was the first fully documented one (full writeup and colour photos in *Birders Journal*, Aug. 1996, p. 194-195). It was discovered by Roger Foxall on Brier Island May 26 and was monitored off and on through the day by others. Normally one would never promote a black-and white photo as sufficient proof of such a "difficult" species, but in fact this photo shows several critical features. Note the bird's characteristically lethargic stance, with the wings drooped. Note also the very even tone of the back (dark olive green in the original slide), and the very broad, parallel-sided tail. Its long bill, averaging longer than those of any other eastern *Empidonax*, is matched only by the West's very different Gray Flycatcher.

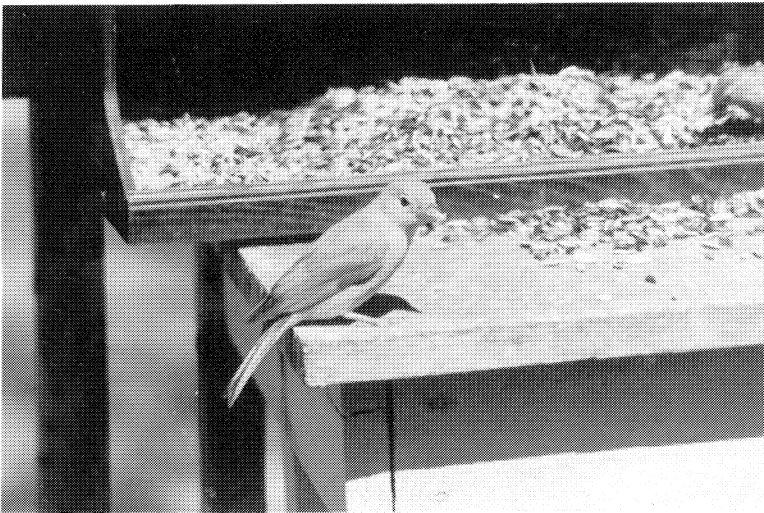
The two uncommon vireo species are often confused, although needn't be. The WARBLING VIREO, one of four found on Seal Island last May 14, was hanging around the lobster traps at West Village. The old wooden traps there have long been an attraction for birds and birders. Unfortunately, the traps were largely burned last summer in a fit of tidiness. The PHILADELPHIA VIREO was foraging at North Point, Brier Island, May 25 and 26. You cannot always rely on the yellowish breast colour of the latter species; this one was very dingy indeed. The best mark is its darkish eyeline extending through its lores, in contrast with the rather blank-faced appearance of the Warbling Vireo. The latter's darker cap and darker primary coverts (that little triangle at the bend of the wing) are sometimes useful clues as well. Our southern



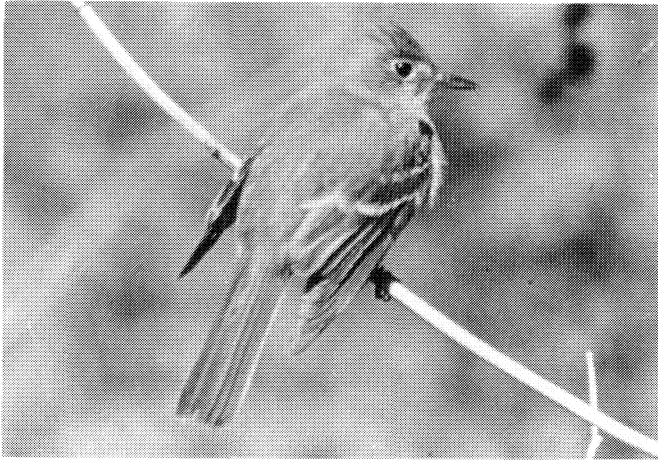
Three pelagic birds - Blake Maybank



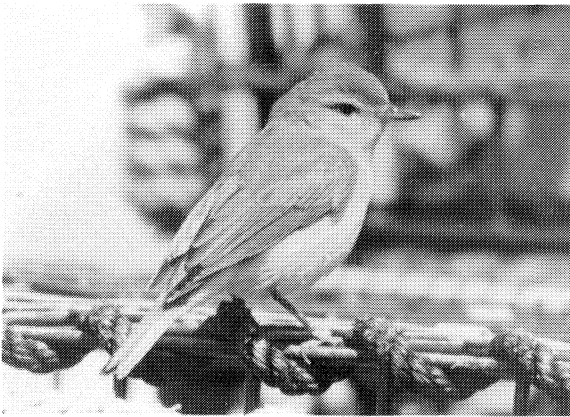
Orchard Oriole - Carl Haycock



Summer Tanager - Carl Haycock



Acadian Flycatcher - Ian McLaren



Warbling Vireo

Ian McLaren

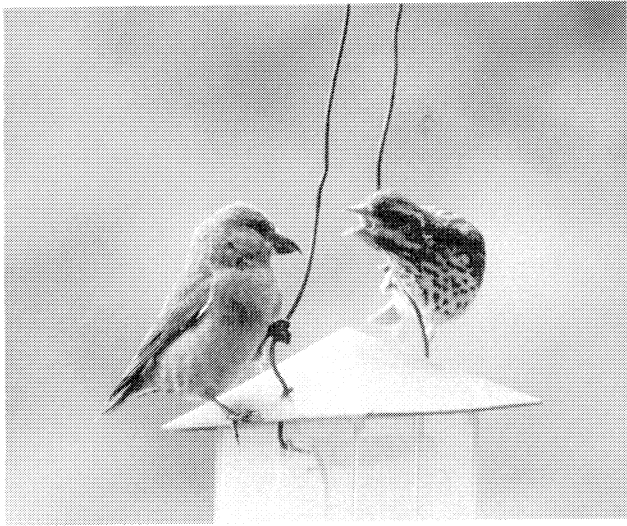
Philadelphia Vireo

Ian McLaren





Northern Wheatear - Blake Maybank



Red Crossbill & Purple Finch - Azor Vienneau

islands are the best places to find them as migrants or vagrants, although the Philadelphia has nested, and the Warbling Vireo has probably nested, in the province.

A NORTHERN WHEATEAR at Port Joli last fall (which will be documented in this issue) was found by Andy Dean on September 22. However, after much agonizing, I chose a picture taken later by Blake Maybank, whose very sharp slide captured perfectly the sprightly stance of this little thrush, so unlike any other species that appears regularly or not in our province. There are indications that this small bird, which nests in our Arctic and normally migrates across the sea to Europe and North Africa, is increasing as a regular migrant within North America. Any active birder should be able to "tick" one in Nova Scotia in due course.

Azor Vienneau's RED CROSSBILL doesn't seem to know how to handle the hostility from its fellow fringillid. Maybe, given his bulk and rather impressive bill, he is simply amused by the cheeky female or young male PURPLE FINCH. Normally they wouldn't be competing for food; the crossbill feeds largely on conifer cones, and the Purple Finch is more eclectic. Of interest to birders (or perhaps to their dismay), there may be two kinds of Red Crossbills, with different songs and call notes, and slightly different bill sizes, in Nova Scotia. In fact there may be up to eight such crossbill "semispecies" in North America. All are nomadic, so that their ranges overlap widely, but they differ in choicest food trees, and are perhaps fully or largely reproductively isolated. If they become "split" as scientifically recognized species, we'll have more fun, won't we? Now, here's a test of your true commitment to the game of birding; how do you know that the Purple finch is not a totally improbable (but never impossible) Cassin's Finch?

Ian McLaren, Photo Editor

The Editor
Nova Scotia Birds

We are responding to the letter in the last issue by David Young, who questions the practice and consequences of banding of migratory birds. His concerns arise from his perceptions of a particular situation on Brier Island, about which we have little to say. However, all of us know more about the practice and purpose of such banding than is evident in David Young's letter.

First, it is true that much banding in the past was somewhat "recreational". Nevertheless, it is also true that the meagre banding returns did produce information on the migratory routes, wintering grounds, and survival rates of many birds. (Much is published in earlier years in such journals as "Bird Banding", now significantly called the "Journal of Field Ornithology".) As to the character of these pioneer banders, we note that some founders of our own organization, like the late Willet Mills and Harrison Lewis, were avid banders. So was the late Ross Anderson, whose meticulous records of Christmas Counts served the NSBS for many years, and who kept similarly meticulous records of his banding activities. Remember that the Brier Island property on which banding still occurs was purchased by Willet Mills and donated to Acadia University for the purpose of banding.

All this has changed. It is no longer possible to obtain a banding permit in Canada or the U.S. except for two broad purposes. 1) These can be granted for a specific research project, usually involving a particular species on its nesting grounds for studies of its behaviour, life-history characteristics, genetic structure, etc. Such studies also have to be approved by university or government committees on animal care in addition to the Canadian Wildlife Service Permits Section. McLaren can attest that these hurdles are not trivial. 2) Anyone who wishes to band migratory birds in passage must be attached to a larger program designed to produce results of importance to the conservation of our birds. For example, in the Maritimes, the banding operations on Grand Manan, Brier, Bon Portage and Seal Islands are all pilot projects of the new Canadian Landbird Monitoring Network. This Network is one of several programs, some new, some of long-standing, under the general Canadian Landbird Monitoring Strategy developed by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) with input and approval of such organizations as the Canadian Nature Federation. Migration monitoring is, in part, being managed under a new program on wildlife biology at the University of New Brunswick, and Acadia and Memorial Universities, funded by CWS and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. (As an aside, it may be noted that in Britain, where animal rights and nature conservation are taken very seriously, great numbers of migratory birds are netted at many banding stations, often seemingly with much less seriousness of purpose than now obtains in North America.)

One of the most important activities of the migration monitoring program is to obtain standardized daily counts of migrants and to maintain a constant-effort mist-netting program. In such work, there is little expectation that banding will supply many returns, although bands are important in discounting the frequent recaptures that occur in such operations. Such captured birds yield information, not only on their relative abundances from year to year, but on their productivity (how many young versus adults), condition (assessed by molt

characteristics, weights, etc.), and even potentially such variables as pesticide load (from single feathers), etc. Some information is available from more long-established banding stations like Manomet, MA, Long Point Ontario, Powdermill Creek, PA, etc. (e.g. Hagen et al., 1992, pp. 115-130 Hagen & Johnston, eds., *Ecology and conservation of Neotropical migrant landbirds*, Smithsonian Inst. Washington). All such data will be increasingly important in future years in understanding and combatting the widely perceived declines of our landbird populations.

Some might argue that there are long-standing, perfectly "non-intrusive" means of monitoring bird populations, in which NSBS members have participated, namely Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS). Christmas counts can obviously be faulted on two grounds: they only monitor winter birds, and they are simply driven by too many "recreational" factors. The BBS are very valuable, but they do have flaws that have been addressed in the recent ornithological literature (e.g. Sauer et al. 1994, *The Auk* 111:50-62). For example, there is strong observer bias that changes with time (increasing skill, decreasing ability to hear, etc.). Also, these roadside surveys confound local trends (due to roadside housing developments, forestry and agricultural changes, etc.) with more widespread trends in the populations being monitored. There is some hope that observations of migrants by birders can be organized on a much wider scale to give a less biased picture; even very large amounts of "sloppy" data collected by such means as the recently developed North American Migration Counts will prove useful. Quebec ornithologists have recently pioneered a much larger program (ÉPOQ) of analysis of daily checklists of bird counts by birders (Dunn et al., 1996, *Wilson Bull.*, 108: 340-349). However, such programs do not yield the kinds of information on variability and trends in bird productivity, survival, and condition to be supplied by the Migration Monitoring Network.

Now we now comment on the other side of the issues raised by David Young: the perception that birds, as individuals or populations, may be harmed by such mist-netting operations. All of us have had experience with mist-netting and banding. Ian McLaren has carried out extensive banding of Ipswich Sparrows on Sable Island as a necessary means of understanding its life-history and population dynamics. He has also observed recent banding operations on Brier and Seal Island. Eric Mills has observed and from time to time assisted with banding on Brier Island with Ross Anderson and with Lance Laviolette. Bernice Moores has assisted with banding operations (as a pilot Network project) on Seal Island. Richard Stern has observed and occasionally participated in banding operations on Brier Island.

First, we consider the effects of mist-netting, "bagging", and handling on the individual birds. It is our experience that birds generally stop struggling soon after being caught in mist nets. They will lie "doggo" if observed from a distance, but can certainly respond by struggling when the net is approached. They also stay quiet soon after being placed in bags for subsequent measurements and banding. However, again they begin to struggle in response to the noises of an approaching bander. Now, these observations do not in themselves mean that the birds are not stressed; they might be "frozen" in fear. However, it is our observation that birds behave with astonishing indifference to their recent experience when released after banding. For example, McLaren has observed numerous Ipswich Sparrows after they had been netted, bagged, measured, weighed, and even contributed a feather or two or a tiny drop of blood for genetic studies, immediately return to sing at a perch or sit on eggs. Similarly, released

migrants are often observed to fly to nearby tree and resume foraging or singing. Birds are much subject to panics and stresses in nature; observe the birds at your feeders. But, they are also blessed with a focus on the here and now. Certainly a bird during migration kept for a long period from its food, or burning up energy through prolonged struggle might pay a penalty in loss of body fat and fitness for continuing migration. But, we doubt such that this could result from retention of a bird for minutes or even hours during banding operations.

We would be remiss not to consider David Young's concern for a specific case of birds "trapped helplessly in the cold wind". While again noting that netted birds will struggle when they see approaching humans, we can accept the possibility that they may indeed have been "blown around and struggling" in the wind on Brier Island that day. Does this really impose physiological stress? Given that these same birds would otherwise probably have been departing into those cold, buffeting winds, we doubt that lying enwrapped in a moving net would be metabolically demanding for these well insulated, active creatures. Those who have seen the Brier Island banding lanes will also know that they are mostly much more sheltered than the open terrain through which migrants move in their morning departures over the sea from North Point.

At this point, we feel that we must specifically defend Lance Laviolette from any accusation of callousness or indifference to the welfare of the birds he was banding. We have all seen Lance Laviolette at work, and have been impressed with his meticulous care and record keeping during his banding activities. Lance is a long-time member of the NSBS, and is a member of the boards of the Canadian Nature Federation and of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, perhaps the most active regional organization of birders in the country on behalf of the welfare of birds and their environments. We also feel that, before such accusations are made public, accused persons should be given the opportunity to defend themselves in an answering letter.

It does have to be recognized that in any large or prolonged banding operation, some individual injuries to and deaths of birds may occur. McLaren recalls with regret an Ipswich Sparrow that was stepped upon in a holding bag, and two (out of hundreds) that simply died without explanation after removal from nets. Unfit individual birds, like people, can indeed die of strokes and heart attacks. These are taken seriously by people managing banding operations. Every injury or death from any cause has to be recorded and protocols reviewed in order to prevent or minimize such events.

David Young's most important question is embodied at the end of his letter. Would a curtailing of such banding operations "be one way to remedy the current decline of some species"? We think we have said enough to indicate, especially given the very small number of banding stations over the vast ranges of our migrating birds, that any such impact is inconceivable. There are many real and suspected causes of declines of our birds from human activities: environmental poisoning, collisions with our structures, fragmentation of forests, filling of marshes, disturbance of breeding sites, etc. One serious factor in the decline is believed to be the combination of increased habitat fragmentation and nest predation and egg parasitism (e.g. Böhning-Gaese et al., *Conservation Biology* 7:76-86). Our winter feedings of birds like cowbirds and Blue Jays, and therefore many well-meaning birders, have been

implicated in this decline (Terborgh, 1989, Where have all the birds gone? Princeton Univ. Press).

We realize that our response to David Young's letter is rather lengthy. But, often, seemingly simple questions require detailed responses. Readers can make up their own minds on this issue, but we do feel strongly that the Nova Scotia Bird Society should not take a negative stand on a practice widely accepted by conservationists, scientists, and birders as being an important means of understanding the natural world and our impact on it.

Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Bernice Moores, Richard Stern

The Editor,
Nova Scotia Birds.

For all of you who care about nature, loss of habitat and special places, here is a chance for you to do something to help a worthy cause. In 1997, I am doing a "Big Year" which means I'll be trying to see as many species of birds as possible. I will be giving up a lot of my spare time to do this in hopes of raising money for the Nova Scotia Bird Society's Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund. This is where you come in. You can contribute by pledging a certain amount per species or by donating a lump sum. I will also donate three Gift Certificates, each for a day of birding or a nature walk for two people with me. For a chance to win one of these, when you send in your pledge, you can include an estimate of how many species I will have seen by each of the following days: Victoria Day, Labour Day and year end. In case you have no idea of how many species are possible in a year in Nova Scotia, here's a hint: the current record, set in 1988, is 292 species.

Obviously, the more birds I see, the more money we can raise. So if you see any rare or unusual birds, you can help by calling me at 852-1228 to let me know about it. Anyone who wants more details on the Big Year can contact me; pledges/donations can be mailed to : Nova Scotia Bird Society,
Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund,
c/o Museum of Natural History,
1747 Summer Street,
Halifax, N. S. B3H 3A6.

Sincerely,

Peter MacLeod



FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS



Please phone the trip leader ahead of time to register for the trip. In this way no trip is oversubscribed and you can be contacted in the event of cancellation.

Trip leaders are encouraged to submit a field trip report to:

Shirley Cohrs, Editor
Nova Scotia Birds
8 Rosemount Avenue
Halifax, NS, B3N 1X8

APRIL

- Sat. 12 Eastern Shore, Martinique Beach: Ian McLaren (429-7024). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Scotia Bank parking lot, Bridge Plaza, Dartmouth.
- T.B.A. Wolfville Area: Date, time, leader, and meeting place to be publicized on the NSBS Bird Information line (852-CHAT) early in April. This trip will include pond hopping for ducks and early migrants.

MAY

- Sun. 4 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.
- Thu. 8 Spring Arrivals, Point Edward Area, Cape Breton: Jackie Chretien (564-4640). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Petersfield Provincial Park in Westmount. Bring a lunch.
- Sun. 18 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.
- Fri. 16 Bon Portage Island: Fulton Lavender (455-4966). Check with the trip leader to
for departure times. There is a fee for the boat trip and accommodations on
Mon. 19 the island. Bring food, sleeping gear, drinking water, appropriate clothing and footwear, a flashlight and a sheet to cover the mattress. Pre-registration is necessary.
- Wed. 21 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.
- Sat. 24 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. 25 Shubenacadie Area: Roslyn MacPhee (758-3265). Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Pharmasave parking lot in Shubenacadie to search for warblers and woodpeckers.

JUNE

- Sat. 7 Warbler Walk, Birch Grove, Cape Breton: Junior Metcalfe (849-5054). Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the former heavy water plant site in Glace Bay.
- Sat. 14 Birds of Kings County: Angus MacLean (679-5878). Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the west end of Butler Road, 20 minutes south of Kentville on Route 12. For the beginner through intermediate, learn to identify warblers and flycatchers by sight and sound.
- Sat. 21 Cumberland County: Fulton Lavender (455-4966). Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Wentworth Valley Provincial Park (just north of the ski hill). Trip ends at Amherst Point. March Wren, Black Tern, Sora, Purple Martin, and Vesper Sparrow are included. A great opportunity to view birds seldom seen by the beginner.

JULY

- Sat. 19 Northside and St. Ann's Area, Cape Breton: Jim Siteman (562-6501 between 5 and 6 p.m.) ~~Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Cape Breton Shopping Plaza.~~ *cancelled*
- Sun. 20 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. 16 President's Field Day, Crescent and Cherry Hill Beaches, Lunenburg County: Lisé Cohrs-Bell (477-6036). Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking area at the entrance to Crescent Beach and bring a lunch. Enjoy a leisurely morning walk and shorebird extravaganza on Crescent beach. In the afternoon join the group for a challenging 6 km hike up Cherry Hill beach searching for interesting migrating shorebirds.

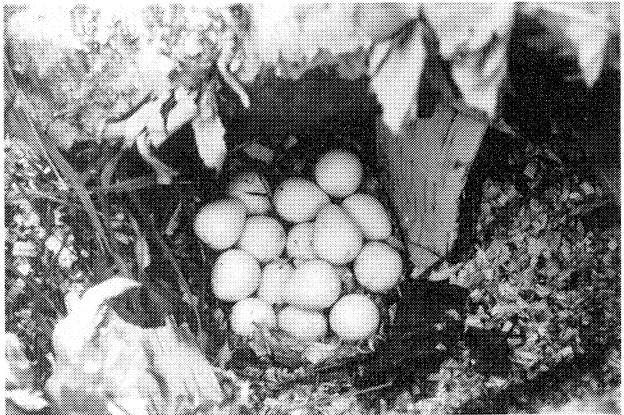
AUGUST

- Sat. 9 Yarmouth Area: Eric Ruff (H 742-8145 or W 742-5539). Meet at the Wendy's/Tim Horton's restaurant at 8:30 a.m. Bring a lunch and suitable footwear for rocky and wet walking.
- Sat. 23 Point Michaud, Cape Breton: George Digout (535-3516) and Billy Digout (535-2513). Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Transport building, Hwy. 4 and Point Michaud turnoff, St. Peters. It is a good idea to wear boots if it is rainy. Lunch at George and Sharon Digout's home. (Alternate weather day Sun. Aug. 24).

New or returning trip leaders, ideas for trips, and excursions in new areas of the province are always welcome. You do not need to be an expert to lead a field trip; you simply need to be willing to share a favourite birding route in your area. 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.



Ring-necked Pheasants, this one lacking a 'ring', are widely established in the province. However, their tenacity is questionable. This one, photographed by Rosemary Eaton at her Cole Harbour home, is one of increasing numbers in that area that stem from releases in the early 1980s in the country rehabilitation centre property. Northern Bobwhites are certainly not yet established, but as this nest, photographed at Black River, King's Co., by Bernard Forsythe, shows, they are on the way to becoming, in time, a cheerful member of our avifauna.



1996 WOLFVILLE CHIMNEY SWIFTS AND MERLINS

by Jim Wolford, Wolfville

PREFACE:

In 1989, we had up to nearly 900 swifts in our Front Street chimney before it was converted into a Nature Centre, and there were pre-roosting "shows" every evening from mid May to mid August. In late May of 1990 there was a die-off, of unknown but probably major magnitude, caused by extended rainy and cold weather (another heavy die-off occurred in May of 1974). Our shows never recovered their former numbers, and, beginning in the early 1990s, the season for seeing impressively large numbers of swifts has become progressively shorter and shorter, this year being less than two weeks in spring.

SUMMARY OF 1996 OBSERVATIONS OF SWIFTS:

Our first spring sighting occurred on May 9. All of the "action" in Wolfville was at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre. Numbers peaked at 180 on May 21, and 240 on May 30 and June 1. Then numbers fell rapidly to 20-40, except for 74 on June 21. We had between 30 and 60 birds (average 45-50) nightly until July 27, and 22 on Aug. 1. On subsequent evenings up to 10 swifts were seen but less than 5 entered the chimney. There were several zeros in mid August. Our last late-summer sighting was on Aug. 21.

Much later there were sightings on Oct. 18 (one in west Wolfville) and on Nov. 8 (two entered RTNC chimney).

In early August, someone in Wolfville? called the local tourist bureau about having numbers (80?) of swifts (roosting?) in a residential chimney. Does anyone out there know anything about whom are where? HELP!

MERLINS (alias PIGEON HAWKS):

One pair has nested successfully only a few blocks from the Nature centre every year since 1992 (i.e., for five years now).

Their presence intown has very probably changed the character of our nightly "shows" of pre-roosting swifts at RTNC. That is, instead of circling the area of the chimney at low altitude while loudly chattering, for five summers most of the birds have gathered and flown about at very high altitude, before the rather sudden descent to briefly circle the chimney and funnel into it. This behavioural change occurred simultaneously with our first sightings of merlins in Wolfville in the summer.

Sometimes when a merlin appears in the air while the swifts are gathering, the swifts form a tight bullet-shaped flock and summarily chase the merlin right out of sight. (On one evening a single aggressive swift was enough to drive a merlin away). I've seen this several times over the years, but perhaps in the past few summers the merlins have adapted to this behaviour and become more cunning and adept at surprising the swifts.

Merlins will take a variety of birds as prey, but, like all raptors, they are opportunists and will respond to local abundance and vulnerability. I suspect that this has happened gradually toward the pre-roosting swifts at dusk and especially toward the departing swifts in the morning.

The first witnessing of a merlin capturing a swift occurred at dusk on May 16, 1995, and the first early morning predation on June 4, 1995. A couple of probable cases of early-morning hunting were seen in previous years.

In 1996, captures of swifts were seen on May 30 (afternoon), June 1 (both adult merlins took single exiting swifts in quick succession in mid a.m.), and July 4 (evening). I believe that swifts are much more vulnerable to predation when they are departing from the chimney; departures occur at quite variable times from near sunrise to noon, or even during the afternoon on rainy days,

IS ANY REMEDIAL ACTION JUSTIFIABLE OR POSSIBLE?

We may well be seeing the progressive and imminent disappearance of a tradition, which is one that has been important to Wolfville and, of course, to the swifts. Our evidence that this problem is merlin-caused is circumstantial but, I believe, strong. I have no information on how often such lost traditions in migration become resurrected. Also, chimney swifts have apparently been declining in total numbers for a couple of decades, and I believe they are threatened now and in the future by forestry practices and by what is happening to chimneys-- i.e., large hollow trees for roosting or nesting are increasingly rare big chimneys for roosting are being torn down and not replaced, and residential chimneys have liners that are not suitable for nesting.

The following thoughts are only my own, and my strong bias in such cases is to let Nature take its course. Human "improvements" on Nature are nearly always very selfish and frequently cause unforeseen problems that are worse than whatever we think needs mending. Also, of course, the merlins are natural, interesting, and very deserving of our respect (as for all components of Nature).

It could be easy for us to rationalize trying to discourage the merlins from staying in Wolfville during the swifts-season. Should we be considering, for example, harassing the birds wherever they are attempting to nest? We would have to actually find them early in their nesting activities and then remove their nesting platform (which is nearly always built and used previously by some other kind of bird, such as crows). Then this action would have to be done again wherever the merlins relocate.

Such questions should be discussed now, during the winter, so that, should we decide that some action is desirable, we have some lead-time to investigate and apply for the necessary permits. The required permits might very well be difficult or impossible to obtain. (And we should be thankful that it's difficult to get a license for such meddling).

OTHER ROOSTING SITES FOR SWIFTS

MIDDLETON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL continued in 1996 to have very good shows of roosting chimney swifts at dusk. I guesstimated 380 on May 23, 160 on June 20, and 280 on July 14. Also about 450 were counted in late July, 1995, and twice in August, 1994. (Perhaps ominously, on June 20, 1996, I also saw a merlin fly by the school's chimney.)

This Middleton site is located one block north from the Tim Horton's doughnuttery along Highway #1. I advise that viewers arrive there by the time of sunset (check a newspaper), take a lawn-chair and sit facing west-northwest, and stay until it's too dark to see any more. Please let me know how many you "count"! And choose a nice evening, since dark or rainy weather is correlated with poor and early swifts-shows.

At BEAR RIVER, Gini Proulx watched about 250+ enter the chimney of the Oakdene School in early June, 1996, at dusk.

Peter and Lorraine Hope occasionally observe roosting swifts at two sites east of Kejimikujik National Park: a chimney of an old N.S. Power Corp. plant at MCGOWAN LAKE, and the north chimney of the Calvary Baptist Church in SOUTH BROOKFIELD. Recent counts were of 250 in early July, 1995, at McGowan Lake, and 220 on Aug. 2, 1996, at South Brookfield.

Other roosting sites that are hopefully still current include the Temperance Street School in NEW GLASGOW, a free-standing chimney of a former foundry in OXFORD (at Duke and Waverley Streets), perhaps the Science Building on the St. Francis Xavier University campus in ANTIGONISH, but NOT at ANNAPOLIS any more-- that chimney adjacent to the Legion Social Hall, which used to host 500 or more swifts in season, was torn down in the winter of 1991-92 before anyone noticed! The latter example is just one way in which chimney swifts are threatened in the future. Are there also roosting sites at Parrsboro? Saulnierville? Where else?

WHAT ABOUT NESTING OF SWIFTS?

We continue to have very little information for Nova Scotia (including Wolfville), At East Dalhousie, one pair has again nested in a hayloft of a barn in both 1995 and 1996 (Greta and Errol Crossland). And at Black River Lake, in a flooded hollow tree-stump that has been used in earlier years, a very late nest still held two young, with two more young out of the nest on the inside walls of the stump, on August 17, 1996 (Bernard Forsythe).

If any readers have information/sightings of nesting or roosting swifts anywhere in the Maritimes, please let me know. Thanks in advance. (When I made a similar request in July, 1990, in the N.S. Bird Society newsletter, I only received one response, from Brian Dalzell, with some detailed observations from both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.)

Jim Wolford
 Site 1, Comp. 61, RR#3
 Wolfville, N.S.
 BOP 1X0
 542-7650

NOTICE OF UPCOMING PROGRAMME

The September meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society will be held on **Friday, September 19, 1997 at 8 P.M. in the Stellarton/NewGlasgow area.** This meeting will be sponsored by the Pictou County Naturalists Club. Field Trips will be organized in the local area on Saturday, September 20, 1997. The guest speaker and the exact location of the meeting will be announced at a later date. The contact person is Ken McKenna (902)752-7644).

The MYSTERY BIRD on Page 37 of the January
 issue is a

GREATER SHEARWATER

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION-MAY 10, 1997 - in N. S.

Our Robins have returned, waterfowl are moving back into rivers and ponds, and once again the loud cry "kill-dee, kill-dee" can be heard as Killdeer reach nesting grounds...all signs of spring and heralding the annual movement of birds returning to our province, or passing through. Within the next few weeks other 'spring' migrating neotropical bird species will be wending their way north. We can again marvel at swallows swooping through the air, skimming the surface of ponds as they search for insects; take pleasure in the sight of tiny hummingbirds as they zip from feeder to spring flowers; hear again the beautiful songs of warblers in their new spring attire- teasing us with glimpses here and there in trees and shrubbery burgeoning with young leaves; watch the acrobatic flycatchers snapping up insects or caterpillars...marvel at the quickness and skill of the kingfishers... These are all glimpses of our migrating avian visitors which bring great pleasure to most of us but for how long will it be fortunate to observe what we all take for granted?

Are you concerned with their plight- the possibility of declining numbers? - the loss of some species due to man's encroachment on their habitat? - loss of their food source? One way we can help the ornithological scientists is by participating in the NAMCounts. The Spring count for NAMC is one way to monitor the movement and distribution of the neo-tropical migrants as they arrive in or pass through our province; each County in N.S. can do its part by encouraging birders to participate in counting birds on Saturday, May 10, 1997. Any amount of time 'counting' is worthwhile and productive whether as feeder watcher or by foot, car, boat/canoe or on bicycle. The important thing is to **get out and count birds**, while having fun spending time outdoors. Remember there is **no fee** for participation. If you would like to participate please contact your County Coordinator, area-representative, or me- your provincial coordinator- if you do not know who to contact.

I am in great need of volunteers in some of our provincial counties- Digby, Halifax, Lunenburg, Victoria and Yarmouth (all excellent birding areas)- who would be willing to act either as a County Coordinator or as a local 'area' representative, to help organize some of their birding friends 'to get out and count' on this date in May in their own County, for this very worthwhile project. If you are willing to do so please contact me.

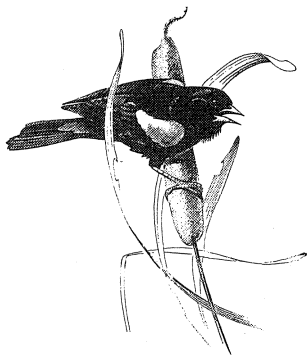
The second count for NAMC throughout the North American continent has been set for Sept. 20, 1997 but regrettably I find I am unable to spare time to coordinate two counts annually, so there will NOT be any more FALL counts in our province unless someone else is willing to take over as Fall coordinator and handle it.

Judy Tufts - N.S. Prov.-Coordinator for NAMC- Spring Counts
P.O. Box 1313 Wolfville, N.S. BOP 1X0 (Tel: 1-902-542-7800)

SPRING MIGRATION COUNT

Please note: this count will always be done on the **SECOND SATURDAY** in **MAY**. This year this is **SATURDAY, MAY 10th**.

J. Tufts.



BOOK REVIEW

Title: **Down and Dirty Birding**

Author: Joey Slinger

Publisher: Key Porter Books

No. of pages: 240

Price: \$19.95 Can.

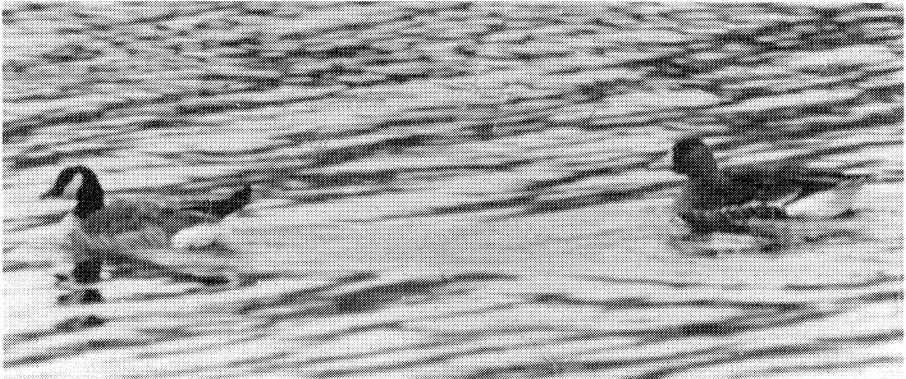
I opened this book hoping to find the Canadian equivalent of the hilarious British gem "Bill Oddie's Little Black Bird Book", which so many of us fell upon with glee in the '80s, ordering extra copies from the UK for gifts to other birders (unfortunately it is not available in Canada).

In a way, the books are similar--humorous chapters on birders and their peculiarities in behavior, apparel, equipment, etc., chapters on birds and their peculiarities, places to go to bird and a recommended list of bird books.

There the similarity ends. While Oddie is genuinely funny, Slinger is smart-aleky. He is obviously a knowledgeable birder of some experience, so there is much to learn from the book, both in bird behavior and identification as well as the location of prime birding areas. However, if the main purpose of the book is to be humorous as is stated on the 'blurb' that, in my opinion is where it fails. Reading becomes tedious in the extreme after encountering sophomoric remarks heavily larded with what the back jacket calls ribaldry, but which is merely gratuitous smut. The language smacks of a high school year book or first year university newspaper, designed to shock rather than to amuse.

You may assimilate some new ornithological facts from this book if you can perservere through the wearisome style--'humour' it is not.

Shirley Cohrs.



This very small Canada Goose, about the size of the Greater White-fronted Goose behind it, and with a short, but not extremely stubby bill, fits the characteristics of the Western Arctic mainland subspecies parvipes. The presence of at least two among the Yarmouth geese in early winter lends credence to the truly wild origin of the accompanying white-front, which hails from the same general breeding range. Photo Ian McLaren, Dec. 15, 1996.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS TWENTY YEARS AGO

The counts for 1976-1977 were quite exciting. In his summary Ross Anderson wrote that there were SIX new species to be added to the list, bringing the total for the province to 187 species plus two additional races.

These were:

Shearwater (sp) in Halifax West

Sandhill Crane in Halifax East

Least Sandpiper in Port Hebert

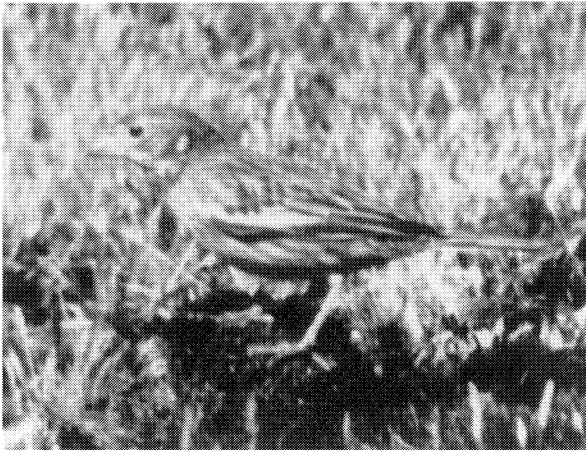
2 Sabine's Gulls found by the Smith family

(Sid, Betty June, Beverley and Locke) on

Cape Sable where they kept the light

Short-billed Marsh Wren in Broad Cove

Hooded Warbler in Halifax West



Blake Maybank snapped this female Lark Bunting--in rather puzzling plumage, but identified by its white wing patches, on Seal Is., Aug. 30, 1996

NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS COUNTS
December 20, 1996 - January 5, 1997

We were saddened with the passing of Robert G. MacNeil, a long time birder and nature enthusiast in December. Bob had been responsible for the counting and compiling of the Northport Christmas Bird Count for 32 years. I'm deeply sorry he's gone and will miss him greatly.

On a happier note I'd like to welcome Bill Caudle (Lunenburg); Helen and Hubert Hall (Yarmouth); George MacInnis (The Sydney's); Jim O'Brien (Baddeck); and Derek Quann (CB Highlands) as new compilers this year. It wasn't that bad was it?

For what appeared to be a winter where very few birds were regular visitors at feeding stations, the Christmas Counts with over 1100 observers (including feeder watchers) in 32 count areas tallied not only the largest number of individual birds but also an unprecedented number of species. There was little doubt that weather, being more co-operative this year than many in the past had something to do with the greater results. Over thirty species set new all-time high records including the number of homo sapiens. The twenty most abundant birds are as follows:

European Starling	- 65,253	Blue Jay	- 5,894
American Crow	- 47,508	Dark-eyed Junco	- 5,666
Herring Gull	- 36,518	American Goldfinch	- 5,647
American Black Duck	- 13,875	Mourning Dove	- 4,192
Black-capped Chickadee	- 11,223	Greater Scaup	- 3,944
Common Eider	- 10,717	Oldsquaw	- 3,768
Canada Goose	- 9,888	Black-legged Kittiwake	- 3,713
Rock Dove	- 8,719	Common Merganser	- 2,376
Great Black-backed Gull	- 8,672	Red-breasted Merganser	- 2,359
House Sparrow	- 6,882	Evening Grosbeak	- 2,058

NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 1995-1996

AMHERST, Dec. 23; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -2 to 4C. Wind calm. No Snow. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. Cloudy. P.M. Cloudy. 18 field observers in 7-10 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 67.25 (29.5 on foot, 37.75 by car). Total party kilometres 528 (56 on foot, 472 by car).

Great Blue Heron 2; American Black Duck 153; Mallard 11; Common Eider 80; Common Merganser 165; merganser species 6; Bald Eagle 8; Northern Harrier 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 8; Ring-necked Pheasant 30; Ruffed Grouse 5; sandpiper species 9; Ring-billed Gull 7; Herring Gull 705; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 735; Rock Dove 309; Mourning Dove 47; Downy Woodpecker 18; Hairy Woodpecker 12; Black-backed Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 9; Horned Lark 36; Gray Jay 16; Blue Jay 140; American Crow 416; Common Raven 84; Black-capped Chickadee 449; Boreal Chickadee 30; Red-breasted Nuthatch 11; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; American Robin 2; Northern Shrike 7; European Starling 1448; American Tree Sparrow 74; Chipping Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 11; Dark-eyed Junco 6; Snow Bunting 133; Red-wing Blackbird 1; Rusty Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 6; Baltimore Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 5; White-winged Crossbill 1; Pine Siskin 6; American Goldfinch 93; Evening Grosbeak 340; House Sparrow 93.

Total species 53, about 5754 individuals. Doug Bliss, Mark Bowes, Sue Bowes, Dan Busby, Evelyn Coates, George Finney, **Nev Garrity (compiler)**, Hinrich Harries, Andrew Hicks, Randy Hicks, Janet Hicks, Ron Hounsell, Jason Hudson, Keith McAloney, Andrew MacFarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Gerry Parker, Al Smith, Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL AND DISTRICT, Dec. 28; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. -5 to -1C. Wind calm. Snow .7cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 26 field observers in 13 parties, 79 at

feeders, .5 hours and 2km. owling. Total party hours 52.25 (30.5 on foot, 21.75 by car). Total party kilometres 355.3 (60 on foot, 295.3 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 39; Horned Grebe 122; Red-necked Grebe 73; Great Cormorant 9; Canada Goose 74; American Black Duck 880; Mallard 8; Ring-necked Duck 1; Greater Scaup 302; Common Eider 30; Oldsquaw 1508; Black Scoter 5; Surf Scoter 45; White-winged Scoter 166; Common Goldeneye 79; Bufflehead 352; Common Merganser 4; Red-breasted Merganser 38; duck species 50; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; American Kestrel 1; hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 60; Ruffed Grouse 6; Common Black-headed Gull 5; Bonaparte's Gull 7; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 664; Iceland Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 58; gull species 22; Razorbill 2; Black Guillemot 9; Rock Dove 254; Mourning Dove 246; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 12; Hairy Woodpecker 14; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 511; American Crow 282; Common Raven 34; Black-capped Chickadee 519; Boreal Chickadee 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch 16; White-breasted Nuthatch 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; American Robin 233; Bohemian Waxwing 2; Cedar Waxwing 30; European Starling 359; **Northern Cardinal** 1; American Tree Sparrow 23; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 4; sparrow species 2; Dark-eyed Junco 221; Common Grackle 2; Pine Grosbeak 13; Purple Finch 13; Pine Siskin 16; American Goldfinch 201; Evening Grosbeak 164; House Sparrow 176.

Total species 68, about 8,036 individuals. (CP. Brown Creeper) Ruby Adams, Albert Angers, Simone Angers, Bob Bennett, Alek Bohn, Ingrid Bohn, David and Mary Bowen, Ted Brown, Gail Bugden, Betty Burrell, Mildred Burrell, Mary Cameron, Debbie Cummings, Paula Dadaro, Allison Dalton, Faith DeWolfe, Jane DeWolfe, Lillian Dunfield, Robert Dunfield, Alex and Darlene Ellis, Alvin and Ada Ellis, Earle and Helen Ellis, Jean and Ron Estey, Goldie Everett, Dorothy and Wylie Everett, Ken Eyre, Velma Ferguson, Maryann Fickes, Freda Fox, Barry Frail, Perry Freeman, Trish Fry, Ron Grant, John Haikings, Angela Hall, Joan Hamilton, Millie Hawes, Leroy and Nina Haynes, Rita Hearn, Charlotte Hollett, Marg Horsefall, Harold Horwood, Jim How, Dot Hudson, Andrew Ionson, Millie Jefferson, Clifford Jones, Shirley Kerr, Sheila Krant, Ginie Langley, Scott Leslie, Keith Longmire, Barb McArthur, Margaret McCaul, Ethel and Glendon McCormick, Jeff McCormack, Laurie McGowan, Ernie and Margaret McGrath, Carol Milligan, **Arlene Morgan (compiler)**, Paula Morgan, Wayne Morgan, Bruce and Gail Morrison, Eric Muntz, Phil Muntz, Jon Percy, Pauline Percy, Gini Proulx, Frances Rafuse, Lillian Roney, Margaret Saunders, Mick Scromeda, Alma Smith, Bernie and Maddy Spicer, Juanita Sproul, Bev and Len Sydenham, Diane Tatriault, Ilda Taylor, Alison Thomson, Bertha Titus, Faye Tooker, Anne-Marie and Ragnar Treiberg, June Trimper, John Vanderweit, Giselle Vidito, Charlotte Wade, Barbara Wells, John Wells, Alice White, Earle Wright, Hilda Wright, Valerie Youngmount.

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 22; 7:45AM to 5PM. Temp. -3 to 2C. Wind W 10kmph. No snow. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 20 field observers in 7-9 parties, 8 at feeders, 10.5 hours and 128km. owling. Total party hours 44.5 (27 on foot, 17.5 by car). Total party kilometres 417.5 (37.5 on foot, 380 by car).

Red-throated Loon 3; Common loon 2; Horned Grebe 5; Red-necked Grebe 8; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 878; Wood Duck 1; Green-winged Teal 2; American Black Duck 623; Mallard 8; American Wigeon 13; Ring-necked Duck 2; Greater Scaup 40; Oldsquaw 16; Surf Scoter 3; Common Goldeneye 49; Bufflehead 2; Hooded Merganser 1; Common Merganser 140; Red-breasted Merganser 9; Bald Eagle 36; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 12; Common Black-headed Gull 12; Bonaparte's Gull 55; Ring-billed Gull 64; Herring Gull 584; Great Black-backed Gull 112; gull species 16; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 335; Mourning Dove 44; Great Horned Owl 3; Saw-whet Owl 3; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 133; American Crow 314; Common Raven 48; Black-capped Chickadee 316; Boreal

Chickadee 22; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 22; American Robin 1; Northern Shrike 2; European Starling 784; Common Yellowthroat 1; American Tree Sparrow 33; Savannah Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 15; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 131; Snow Bunting 11; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 27; Pine Siskin 8; American Goldfinch 80; Evening Grosbeak 17; House Sparrow 93.

Total species 66, about 5190 individuals. (CP. White-winged scoter, Barred Owl) Calvin Brennan, Avon Brophy, Martha Brown, Ian Bryson, Donald Campbell, Carl Canning, Gina Denny, Joel Duncan, David Garbary, Don George, Annette Goring, May Goring, Keith Jensen, Oona Landry, **Randy Lauff (compiler)**, Anne-Louise, Frank and Leo MacDonald, George MacInnis, Harriet MacMillan, Bill Marshall, Jean McGee, Ken McKenna, Tony Miller, Marilyn O'Brien, Rusty Neal, Beth Parker, Jeff Parker, Bunny Smith, Norm Seymour.

APPLE RIVER, Dec. 22; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -3 to 4C. Wind SW 25-30kmph. Snow .5cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Partly clear, light snow. P.M. Partly cloudy, light rain. 8 field observers in 6 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 38.5 (32 on foot, 6.5 by car). Total party kilometres 192 (40 on foot, 152 by car).

Common Loon 4; Red-necked Grebe 2; American Black Duck 245; Mallard 1; Common Eider 6; Oldsquaw 13; Black Scoter 18; White-winged Scoter 2; Common Goldeneye 5; Bufflehead 1; Common Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 12; Bald Eagle 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 7; Purple Sandpiper 8; Herring Gull 246; Great Black-backed Gull 7; Black Guillemot 1; Mourning Dove 53; Downy Woodpecker 7; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Horned Lark 2; Gray Jay 13; Blue Jay 15; American Crow 134; Common Raven 12; Black-capped Chickadee 163; Boreal Chickadee 21; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 19; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 57; American Tree Sparrow 25; Song Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 9; Snow Bunting 8; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Common Grackle 18; White-winged Crossbill 30; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 6; Evening Grosbeak 8; House Sparrow 8.

Total species 46, about 1208 individuals. (CP. American Wigeon, Red-tailed Hawk, Spruce Grouse, Great Horned Owl, American Robin, Purple Finch). Donna Barber, Jeremy Brine, Billy Mills, Jane Mills, Maureen Mills, Sunday Mills, Marjorie Morris, Fran Spalding, Blaine Spicer, Cindy Spicer, **Kathleen Spicer (compiler)**.

BADDECK AREA, Dec. 29; 7:30AM to 4:15PM. Temp. 0 to 4C. Wind calm. Snow cover 5cm. Still water open. A.M. Cloudy and foggy, light rain and snow. P.M. Cloudy and foggy, light rain. 15 field observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 38.5. Total party kilometres 277.

Common Loon 2; American Black Duck 15; Bufflehead 6; Common Merganser 473; Red-breasted Merganser 7; Bald Eagle 15; Red-tailed Hawk 1; grouse species 1; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 59; Great Black-backed Gull 88; Mourning Dove 1; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 54; American Crow 222; Common Raven 22; Black-capped Chickadee 159; Boreal Chickadee 12; chickadee species 10; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; European Starling 244; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Baltimore Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 25; American Goldfinch 53; Evening Grosbeak 77; House Sparrow 8.

Total species 30, about 1505 individuals. (CP. Canada Goose, Northern Shrike, Pine Siskin, White-throated Sparrow) Angie Aucoin, Harriet Aucoin, Lal Coleman, Joan Chaisson, Simon Chaisson, Tim Farmer, Susanna Fuller, Viola Garland, Chris King, Jim Morrow, Burland Murphy, Richard McCurdy, Isobel MacFarland, Sybil MacLennan, Edie MacPherson, Bruce Nunn, Kiera Nunn, Heather O'Brien, **Jim O'Brien (compiler)**, Minga O'Brien, Dave Smith, Lloyd Stone.

BARRINGTON BAY-CAPE SABLE ISLAND, Dec. 21; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -3 to 2C. Wind W 40kmph. No snow. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 19 field observers in 8 parties, 3 at feeders. 1.5 hours and 3 km. owling. Total party hours 64 (18 on foot, 60 by car, 1 by boat). Total party kilometres 551 (56 on foot, 495 by car, 6 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 12; Common Loon 12; loon species 10; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 13; Red-necked Grebe 37; grebe species 1; Northern fulmar 1; Northern Gannet 6; Great Cormorant 348; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 8; Brant 2; Canada Goose 60; Green-winged teal 7; American Black Duck 187; Mallard 18; Northern Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 27; Common Eider 1301; Oldsquaw 38; Black Scoter 14; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 6; Common Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 48; Hooded Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 23; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 6; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Black-bellied Plover 3; **Red Knot** 1; Sanderling 3; Dunlin 3; Common Black-headed Gull 1; Herring Gull 1500; Iceland Gull 3; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 1000; Black-legged Kittiwake 75; Dovekie 3; Common Murre 1; Thick-billed Murre 4; Black Guillemot 94; Atlantic Puffin 1; alcid species 7; Rock Dove 16; Mourning Dove 77; Snowy Owl 1; **Red-bellied Woodpecker** 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 5; Horned lark 8; Blue Jay 51; American Crow 355; Common Raven 16; Black-capped Chickadee 211; Boreal Chickadee 24; Red-breasted Nuthatch 33; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 17; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 2; American Robin 1; Water Pipit 1; European Starling 157; Yellow-rumped Warbler 120; Palm Warbler 1; **Indigo Bunting** 1; American Tree Sparrow 26; Chipping Sparrow 7; Savannah Sparrow 5; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 4; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 24; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 65; **White-crowned Sparrow** 1; Dark-eyed Junco 82; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 1; American Goldfinch 78; Evening Grosbeak 6; House Sparrow 26.

Total species 84 plus one additional race, about 6,333 individuals. (CP. **Great Egret**, American Wigeon, Ruddy Duck, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Cedar Waxwing, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco). Patricia Atkinson, Duncan Bayne, Elizabeth Bayne, Terry Crowell, **Joan Czupalay (compiler)**, Donna Ensor, Linda Ferretti, June Graves, Cathy Holmes, Rita Jenkins, Blake Maybank, Ethelda Murphy, Mary Newell, Murray Newell, Johnny Nickerson, Sandra Nickerson, Heather O'Connell, Lillian Scott Perry, Gloria Sears, Carolyn Smith, Wayne Smith, Joan Waldron.

BIG POND-ESKASONI, Dec. 26; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -8 to -2C. Wind NW 30-50. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. Skies partly clear all day. 27 field observers in 8 parties, 4 at feeders, 5 hours and 50km. owling. Total party hours 50 (11.5 on foot, 38.5 by car). Total party kilometres 396 (28 on foot, 368 by car).

Common Loon 1; Great Blue Heron 1; American Black Duck 49; Common Goldeneye 5; Common Merganser 21; Red-breasted Merganser 55; Bald Eagle 25; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Common Snipe 2; Bonaparte's Gull 58; Herring Gull 111; Great Black-backed Gull 13; Rock Dove 2; Mourning Dove 1; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 31; American Crow 270; Common Raven 30; Black-capped Chickadee 203; Boreal Chickadee 17; Red-breasted Nuthatch 19; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 30; American Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 8; Northern Shrike 4; European Starling 380; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 18; Snow Bunting 10; Northern Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 16; White-winged Crossbill 2; American Goldfinch 71; Evening Grosbeak 11; House Sparrow 24.

Total species 44, about 1514 individuals. George Ball, Terry Boone, Donald Campbell, Theresa Cash, Jackie Chretien, Bart Cunningham, George and Sharon Digout, Joe Donovan, David Harris, Gerry Lunn, Margaret MacDonald, Cyril, George and John MacInnis, Brian and Duncan MacNeil, **Jack MacNeil (compiler)**, David McCorquodale, Hugh and Geraldine Metcalfe, Bernard Murphy, Allan and Cathy Murrant, Alison Nelder, Pat Nelder, Joe and Lorraine Siteman, Christine Thomson, Donald Tuttle, Melvin White.

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 28; 8:15AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -8 to -1C. Wind SE 20kmph. Snow cover 5-12cm. Still water frozen, moving water open.

A.M. partly clear. P.M. cloudy. 10 field observers in 6 parties, 37 at feeders. Total party hours 34 (20 on foot, 14 by car). Total party kilometres 301 (41 on foot, 260 by car).

Common Loon 4; Horned Grebe 6; Red-necked Grebe 6; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 1; Common Eider 47; Oldsquaw 45; Black Scoter 4; Surf Scoter 52; White-winged Scoter 69; scoter species 80; Common Goldeneye 4; Common Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 4; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 39; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 29; Ruffed Grouse 1; Herring Gull 145; Great Black-backed Gull 4; Rock Dove 157; Mourning Dove 270; Downy Woodpecker 23; Hairy Woodpecker 15; Northern Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 267; American Crow 262; Common Raven 102; Black-capped Chickadee 258; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; American Robin 5; Northern Shrike 2; European Starling 1064; American Tree Sparrow 25; Chipping Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 160; Snow Bunting 34; Common Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Pine Grosbeak 5; Purple Finch 3; Pine Siskin 6; American Goldfinch 200; Evening Grosbeak 34; House Sparrow 109.

Total species 51, about 3584 individuals. (CP. American Black Duck, Cooper's Hawk (no details)) Thelma and Winnie Bent, Don Bowlby, Delia Burgess, **David Colville (compiler)**, Justin Colville, Carolyn Crowell, Anita DeVillez, Doris and Noel Durling, Tara Edwards, Jonanne Fiendel, Marie Gaul, Marion and Graham Graves, Laura Hamilton, Sharon and Steven Hawboldt, Marguerite Hirtle, Avora Howse, Maude Joudrey, Don Merriam, Roger Mosher, Doug Parker, Carl, Cathy and Danny Phinney, Eric Porter, Frances Saunders, Jory and Margaret Smith, Phyl Spicer, Donnie Troop, Gladys Weir, Jim Whitman, Lib Woolaver.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 27; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. -1 to 1C. Wind SE-NW 30kmph. No snow. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. Light rain. P.M. Partly clear. 9 field observers in 4 parties, one at feeder. Total party hours 26.5 (20.75 on foot, 5.75 by car). Total party kilometres 91 (33 on foot, 58).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 19; Horned Grebe 8; Red-necked Grebe 47; Northern Gannet 5; Great Cormorant 97; American Black Duck 8; Common Eider 297; Oldsquaw 191; White-winged Scoter 4; Common Goldeneye 30; Bufflehead 12; Red-breasted Merganser 69; **Turkey Vulture 8**; Red-tailed Hawk 1; falcon species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 6; Ruddy Turnstone 1; Herring Gull 379; Iceland Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 207; Black-legged Kittiwake **3630**; Dovekie 16; Common Murre 1; Thick-billed Murre 61; Razorbill 30; Black Guillemot 98; Atlantic Puffin 2; alcid species 360; Rock Dove 9; Mourning Dove 5; Short-eared Owl 1; Blue Jay 9; American Crow 97; Common Raven 2; Black-capped Chickadee 98; Boreal Chickadee 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 22; American Robin 2; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 3; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Snow Bunting 4; American Goldfinch 21; House Sparrow 25.

Total species 50, about 5913 individuals. Carl Haycock, Dawn MacKenzie, Blake Maybank, Anne Mills, **Eric Mills (compiler)**, David Pugh, Elizabeth Stern, Richard Stern, Joan Waldron, James Wolford.

BROAD COVE, Dec. 29; 7:45AM to 4:45PM. Temp. 6 to 8C. Wind WSW 0-5kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, light rain, P.M. cloudy. 24 field observers in 13-14 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 88 (63 on foot, 25 by car). Total party kilometres 482 (99 on foot, 383 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 39; Horned Grebe 12; Red-necked Grebe 6; Great Cormorant 11; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 3; American Black Duck 325; Mallard 121; Northern Pintail 2; **Tufted Duck 3**; Greater Scaup 30; Common Eider 533; Oldsquaw 96; Black Scoter 1; Surf Scoter 41; White-winged Scoter 3; Common Goldeneye 45; Bufflehead 18; Common Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 158; duck species 49; Bald Eagle 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 17; Ruffed Grouse 22; Sanderling 14; Dunlin 6; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 946; Iceland Gull 1; Great

Black-backed Gull 444; Razorbill 3; Black Guillemot 2; Rock Dove 190; Mourning Dove 153; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern Flicker 5; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 121; American Crow 272; Common Raven 19; Black-capped Chickadee 429; Boreal Chickadee 46; Red-breasted Nuthatch 86; White-breasted Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 23; European Starling 453; Yellow-rumped Warbler 23; American Tree Sparrow 35; Song Sparrow 38; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 8; Dark-eyed Junco 161; Snow Bunting 25; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 34; Red Crossbill 6; American Goldfinch 329; Evening Grosbeak 208; House Sparrow 33.

Total species 66, about 5701 individuals. (CP. Pied-billed Grebe, Hooded Merganser, Northern Goshawk, Common Grackle) Bruce Allen, Ruth Ballem, Barbara Byrd, Bill Caudle, John and Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Jim Elliott, Ray Fielding, **Sylvia Fullerton (compiler)**, Pearl Himmelman, Barbara Hinds, James Hirtle, Pat McLarty, Earl and Val Meister, Bill and Jean Morse, Don and Joyce Purchase, Christine Ross, Nellie Snyder, Bob Steele, Clarence Stevens, David and Joan Young.

CALEDONIA, QUEENS CO., Dec. 22; 7AM to 5:15PM. Temp. -2 to 4C. Wind SW 0-10. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. clear. P.M. Partly cloudy. 23 field observers in 13-15 parties, 23-35 at feeders, 1 hour and 1km owling. Total party hours 45.5 (35 on foot, 10.5 by car, 1.25 by canoe). Total party kilometres 260.5 (74.5 on foot, 186 by car, 6 by canoe).

Common Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 1; Hooded merganser 2; Common Merganser 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Ruffed Grouse 15; Rock Dove 15; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 15; Hairy Woodpecker 22; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 124; American Crow 48; Common Raven 47; Black-capped Chickadee 303; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 47; White-breasted Nuthatch 19; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; European Starling 49; Chipping Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 45; Snow Bunting 2; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Common Grackle 19; Baltimore Oriole 1; Pine Siskin 40; American Goldfinch 161; Evening Grosbeak 233; House Sparrow 24.

Total species 35, about 2183 individuals. (CP. Bald Eagle, Saw-whet Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker) Don Baker, Pat Canning, Eric, Judy and Lorna Cole, Jean Douglas, Jerry and Lynn Frail, Arthur and Nancy Frayle, Gabriel, Grizelda, Nick, Owen and Rose Healy, Heather Hearn, Marguerite and Myra Holdright, Lorraine Hope, **Peter Hope (compiler)**, Sean and Stephen Hope, Peggy and Steve Hopper, Mary and Rod Keirstead, Len. Pat and Paul MacDonald, Daniel Mansfield, Greta and Ian Morrison, Erich Muntz, Barb, Lesley, Peter and Terje Rogers, Althea Rowter, Jonathan, Sheila and Tom Sheppard, Tom Shupe, Shirley Smith, Bill and Julie Whitman, Eva Zong.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Jan 4; 7AM to 6PM. Temp. -6.5 to -4C. Wind NW 5kmph. Snow cover 5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Partly clear. P.M. Cloudy. 31 field observers in 8 parties, 10 at feeders. Total party hours 31.5 (14.5 on foot, 17 by car). Total party kilometres 247 (21 on foot, 226 by car).

Common Loon 2; Great Cormorant 4; Canada Goose 11; American Black Duck 13; Oldsquaw 16; Black Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 50; Common Goldeneye 36; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Common Merganser 5; Bald Eagle 6; Spruce Grouse 9; Ruffed Grouse 6; Purple Sandpiper 17; Herring Gull 53; Glaucous Gull 15; Great Black-backed Gull 29; gull species 11; Black Guillemot 4; Mourning Dove 8; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 6; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 45; American Crow 82; Common Raven 13; Black-capped Chickadee 90; Boreal Chickadee 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; Bohemian Waxwing 6; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 73; American Tree Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 20; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Pine Siskin 35; American Goldfinch 53; Evening Grosbeak 1.

Total species 39, about 750 individuals. (CP. Red-breasted Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Snow Bunting, Pine Grosbeak). James and Kathryn Bridgland, Audrey Budge, Holly Dixon, Janssen Dixon, Lisa and Nelson Dixon, Nicolle Dixon,

Aggie Donovan, Tom Donovan, Wendy Gibbs, Chris Gorey, George Hardy, Frances McEvoy, Fritz McEvoy, Ruth McLaggan, Anne Marie Morrison, Freeman Morrison, **Derek Quann (compiler)**, Sarah, Sonia and Tim Reynolds, Karl and Ken Verner, Fred Williams.

CHETICAMP, Dec. 21; 8AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -7 to -3C. Wind NW 60kmph. Snow cover 2cm. Still water open. Moving water open. Skies cloudy with light to heavy snow fall all day. 9 field observers in 5 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 32 (12.5 on foot, 19.5 by car). Total party kilometres 118.5 (11.5 on foot, 107 by car).

loon species 1; Red-necked Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 3; Double-crested Cormorant 4; American Black Duck 83; Common Eider 14; Harlequin Duck 1; Surf Scoter 3; White-winged Scoter 3; Common Goldeneye 23; Common Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Peregrine Falcon 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 24; Herring Gull 77; Iceland Gull 18; Glaucous Gull 9; Great Black-backed Gull 72; gull species 2; Mourning Dove 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 19; American Crow 126; Common Raven 31; Black-capped Chickadee 51; Boreal Chickadee 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 104; American Tree Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 1; Snow Bunting 71.

Total species 36, about 780 individuals. (CP. Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Savannah Sparrow, Pine Siskin) Cyril Aucoin, Marie-Claire Aucoin, Geraldine and Leonard Bourgeois, Rosie Grace, Jennifer Hoffman, David Lolley, Allan and Cathy Murrant, Justine Roach, **Randy G. Thompson (compiler)**.

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -2 to 1C. Wind NE 0-10kmph. Snow cover 3cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Cloudy, light snow. P.M. Partly clear, light snow. 11 field observers in 9 parties, 3 at feeders, 1.5 hours and 20 km owling. Total party hours 73.5 (63.75 on foot, 9.75 by car). Total party kilometres 172.75 (75.75 on foot, 97 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Green-winged Teal 1; American Black Duck 587; Mallard 3; Common Eider 1; Oldsquaw 7; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 3; Common Goldeneye 5; Bufflehead 6; Common Merganser 9; Bald Eagle 4; Northern Goshawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 4; Sanderling 4; Purple Sandpiper 250; Dunlin 40; Ring-billed Gull 72; Herring Gull 235; Great Black-backed Gull 12; Rock Dove 83; Mourning Dove 21; Downy Woodpecker 17; Hairy Woodpecker 19; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 1; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 42; American Crow 201; Common Raven 31; Black-capped Chickadee 172; Boreal Chickadee 61; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet 26; American Robin 1; Northern Shrike 2; European Starling 345; American Tree Sparrow 56; Song Sparrow 7; White-throated Sparrow 3; **White-crowned Sparrow** 1; Dark-eyed Junco 28; Snow Bunting 137; Pine Grosbeak 46; Red Crossbill 1; White-winged Crossbill 14; American Goldfinch 78; Evening Grosbeak 2; House Sparrow 76.

Total species 51, about 2730 individuals. (CP. Barred Owl) Calvin Brennan, Irene Cooke, Jean Corbett, Ken McKenna, Brad McLaughlin, Jane Mills, Maureen Mills, Bill Murphy, Edgar Spalding, **Fran Spalding (compiler)**, Kerry Spalding, Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer, Joyce Starrett.

GLACE BAY, Dec. 28; 7:15AM to 5PM. Temp -5 to -1C. Wind W 0-20kmph. Snow cover 2cm.. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Partly cloudy, P.M. partly cloudy. 20 field observers in 10 parties, 14 at feeders, 2 hours and 5 kilometres owling. Total party hours 225 (29 on foot, 50 by car). Total party kilometres 225 (35 on foot, 190 by car).

Red-throated Loon 4; Common Loon 8; Horned Grebe 3; Northern Gannet 24; Great Cormorant 76; Double-crested Cormorant 4; Canada Goose 640; American Black Duck 407; Mallard 120; American Wigeon 1; Greater Scaup 653; Common Eider 24; Oldsquaw 305; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 11; Common Goldeneye 43; Bufflehead 41; Common Merganser 29; Red-breasted Merganser 125; Bald Eagle 7; Northern Harrier 1; Northern Goshawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 8; Black-bellied Plover

2; Killdeer 1; Sanderling 2; Common Black-headed Gull 15; Bonaparte's Gull 3; Ring-billed Gull 6; Herring Gull 495; Iceland Gull 566; Glaucous Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 155; Black-legged Kittiwake 2; Dovekie 5; Black Guillemot 11; Rock Dove 94; Mourning Dove 103; Great Horned Owl 4; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 12; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Horned Lark 3; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 148; American Crow 503; Common Raven 40; Black-capped Chickadee 378; Boreal Chickadee 23; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; Northern Mockingbird 2; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 2745; Yellow-rumped Warbler 3; **Ovenbird 1; Dickcissel 1;** American Tree Sparrow 14; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 74; Lapland Longspur 24; Snow Bunting 18; Baltimore Oriole 3; White-winged Crossbill 20; Common Redpoll 80; Pine Siskin 4; American Goldfinch 70; House Sparrow 334.

Total species 71, about 8558 individuals. (CP. Sharp-shinned Hawk, Spruce Grouse, blackbird species). Cheryl and Steve Bray, Pat and Donnie Campbell, Jackie Chretien, Leslie Crewe, George and Jean Crowell, Andrew Gingell, Catherine Godwin, DoDo Hopkins, Kaye Hopkins, Joanne Kressner, Allan LeForte, Lillian Legrow, Andrea Lyons, Kaye MacIntyre, Gordon MacLean, Jack MacNeil, John McInnis, Geraldine and Jr. Metcalfe, **Cathy Murrant (compiler)**, Emily, Jimmy and Nelson Murrant, Andy Neary, Leroy Peach, Jim and Pauline Siteman, Margaret, Pixie and Rhys Williams.

HALIFAX/DARTMOUTH, Dec. 22; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. -3 to 4C. Wind SW 9-26. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 70 field observers in 30-39 parties, 36 at feeders. Total party hours 266 (178.25 on foot, 29.5 by car, .25 by boat). Total party kilometres 1187.75 (306.75 on foot, 881 by car, 2 by boat).

Red-throated loon 5; Common Loon 15; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 40; Double-crested Cormorant 6; Great Blue Heron 19; Canada Goose 2026; Wood Duck 2; Green-winged Teal 33; American Black Duck 3609; Mallard 435; Northern Pintail 2; Gadwall 2; **Eurasian Wigeon 2;** American Wigeon 18; Ring-necked Duck 10; **Tufted Duck 1;** Greater Scaup 94; Lesser Scaup 8; Common Eider 7528; **King Eider 5;** Oldsquaw 275; Black Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 127; Common Goldeneye 38; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 9; Common Merganser 85; Red-breasted Merganser 181; Bald Eagle 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk 8; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Merlin 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 19; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 19; American Coot 5; Sanderling 2; Purple Sandpiper 10; Dunlin 14; Common Black-headed Gull 127; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 548; Herring Gull 7583; Iceland Gull 390; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 530; Dovekie 4; Common Murre 3; Black Guillemot 45; Rock Dove 1793; Mourning Dove 281; Barred Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 1; Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 76; Hairy Woodpecker 31; Northern Flicker 10; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Horned Lark 40; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 621; American Crow 1710; Common Raven 64; Black-capped Chickadee 1661; Boreal Chickadee 84; Red-breasted Nuthatch 84; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 16; Golden-crowned Kinglet 52; American Robin 34; Northern Mockingbird 5; Cedar waxwing 1; Northern Shrike 3; European Starling 7405; Orange-crowned Warbler 2; Yellow-rumped Warbler 50; Pine Warbler 1; **Black and White Warbler 1;** Common Yellowthroat 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 4; Northern Cardinal 4; American Tree Sparrow 84; Savannah Sparrow 16; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 3; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 184; Swamp Sparrow 13; White-throated Sparrow 174; **White-crowned Sparrow 1;** Dark-eyed Junco 1119; Snow Bunting 6; Brown-headed Cowbird 6; Baltimore Oriole 15; Pine Grosbeak 15; Purple Finch 10; House Finch 24; Pine Siskin 6; American Goldfinch 744; Evening Grosbeak 27; House Sparrow 1895.

Total species 104, about 42,309 individuals. (CP. Nashville Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird). Daina Aleksis, Mike Almon, Brad Amirault, Harry Arnold, Marilyn Baker, Valery Bancroft, Steve Barbour, Ann Berstrom, Leonard Biggs, Elaine Black, Richard Bone, Joan Brennan, Jill Burgess, Patricia Chambers, Illene Cooper, Margo Corkum, Christine Cornell, Alan Covert, Joanne Creelman, Margaret

Cox, Rosemary eaton, Eroc Eddy, Larry Eisenhauer, Jim Elliott, John Engweiler, Chris Field, Jodi Fishman, Glen Fleming, Helen Fletcher, Andrew Foxall, Roger Foxall, Bill Fraser, Bill Freedman, Phylis Gardiner, Glen Gibson, Sherman Glazebrook, Bruce Greenfield, Richard Hatch, David Henry, Marcia Hirtle, Charlotte Hutchinson, Arthur Irvin, Dorothy Jackson, Greg Johnson, Helen Jones, Arnold Langille; **Fulton Lavender (compiler)**, Peter LeBlanc, Barbara Leedham, John Locke, Viola Lovitt, Joyce and Neil MacAskill, Robert MacKenzie, Andrea MacIvor, Dave MacKinnon, Ralph MacLean, Pearl Mailman, Blake Maybank, Pat McKay, Bernice and Ian McLaren; Doris MacLaughlin; Patricia Melvin; Bob Miller; Mary Miller, Noreen Miller, Pat Miller, Ann Mills, Eric Mills, Doug Milsom, Kris Milsom, Scott Milsom, Bernice Moores, Jean Morris, Bob Morton, Terry Paquette, Scott Pelton, Jill Petrella, Sheila Piecy, Patricia Pocklington, Roger Pocklington, Carl Purcell, Gwenyth Reid, Rick Reid, David Sampson, Peter Serwylo, Albert Sparks, Cindy Staicer, Clarence Stevens Sr., Keith Tappen, Yvonne Taylor, Jim Taylor, Angela Thibodeau, Tong Yao-Sun, Kevin Tott, Dick Vine, Isabel Wainwright, Bob Warrior, George Wells, June Wells, Lew Wentzell, Jennifer Wesseh, Dave Wilson, Scott Yetman, Marty Zelyneitz.

KINGSTON, Dec. 28; 7:30AM to 5:30PM. Temp. -5 to 2C. Wind calm. Snow cover 5cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 11 field observers in 7 parties, 30 at feeders. Total party hours 55.5 (20 on foot, 35.5 by car). Total party kilometres 510 (55 on foot, 455 by car).

Common Loon 6; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 8; Great Blue Heron 1; American Black Duck 65; Mallard 13; Common Eider 26; Oldsquaw 29; Black Scoter 2; Surf Scoter 43; White-winged Scoter 21; Red-breasted Merganser 10; Bald Eagle 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 9; **Broad-winged Hawk** 1; Red-tailed Hawk 32; American Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 26; Ruffed Grouse 8; Purple Sandpiper 24; Herring Gull 140; Great Black-backed Gull 50; murre species 1; Rock Dove 422; Mourning Dove 647; Great Horned Owl 4; Barred Owl 1; Saw-whet Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 46; Hairy Woodpecker 23; Pileated Woodpecker 8; Horned Lark 182; Blue Jay 695; American Crow 2362; Common Raven 78; Black-capped Chickadee 695; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 43; White-breasted Nuthatch 39; Brown Creeper 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 19; American Robin 27; **Brown Thrasher** 1; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 3097; American Tree Sparrow 12; Song Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 526; Snow Bunting 108; Common Grackle 79; Brown-headed Cowbird 111; Baltimore Oriole 1; Purple Finch 3; American Goldfinch 480; Evening Grosbeak 106; House Sparrow 621.

Total species 57, about 10981 individuals. Marc Adam, Ann Aikman, Joan and Mike Black, Marjorie Booth, John and Aline Bossons, Craig Campbell, Bob and Karen Campbell, Tony Chaulk, John Collins, Bea Collins, Ken and Avis Crowell, Murray Decker, Bob Foster, Harold and Lillian Gates, **Barbara and Patrick Giffin (compilers)**, Pamela Giffin, Sheila Guberant, Ron and Donna Hill, Mike Inkpen, Ted Kitis, Len and Diane Legard, Ed and Marilyn Linard, William and carole Long, Dave and Tanya Ludlow, Pat MacDonald, Mary MacMillan, Barbara and Mic Mcnight, Lorna Neilly, Vivian Neily, Joan and Danny Oickle, Adora and Herb Parsons, Alice and Dan Patterson, Jim and Shirley Robinson, Tom Ross, Jim Ross, Eric Rubin, John Rubin, Helen and John Sharp, Herb and Carol Smale, Guy and Joan Stanford, Gordon Tufts, Gary and Kay Weese, Jane and Ruth White, Doug and Gwen Wright.

LOUISBOURG, Dec. 21; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -6 to -2C. Wind WNW 24-90kmph. Snow cover 0-1cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. partly cloudy, P.M. cloudy, light snow. 18 field observers in 2-10 parties, 14 at feeders, .8 hours and 1.5km owling. Total party hours 57 (38.5 on foot, 18.5 by car). Total party kilometres 205 (69.3 on foot, 135.75 by car).

Common Loon 9; Horned Grebe 3; Red-necked Grebe 22; Northern Gannet 1; Great Cormorant 1; American Black Duck 42; American Wigeon 1; Common Eider 120; Oldsquaw 108; White-winged Scoter 2; scoter species 16; Common Goldeneye 29; Bufflehead 13; Red-breasted Merganser 57; Bald Eagle 3; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Common

Black-headed Gull 5; Herring Gull 90; Iceland Gull 7; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 64; gull species 5; Dovekie 2; Black Guillemot 71; Rock Dove 2; Mourning Dove 28; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 34; American Crow 141; Common Raven 17; Black-capped Chickadee 91; Boreal Chickadee 51; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 17; European Starling 175; **Painted Bunting** 1; **Dickcissel** 1; American Tree Sparrow 1; **Chipping Sparrow** 2; Song Sparrow 15; White-throated Sparrow 1; sparrow species 1; Dark-eyed Junco 7; Snow Bunting 21; Purple Finch 1; Pine Siskin 8; American Goldfinch 66; House Sparrow 160.

Total species 48, about 1538 individuals. (CP. Common Merganser, Purple Sandpiper, Brown Creeper, American Robin, Yellow-breasted Chat, Evening Grosbeak). Sandy Anthony, Jean Bagnell, Philip Burke, Bill Bussey, Diane Bussey, Don Campbell, Peter Chaisson, Ken Donovan, Sheila Fudge, Cyneth and Gordon Hutt, Gerry Lalonde, Carleton and Gwendolen Lunn, Miles MacDonald, Walter MacDonald, Minni MacLeod, Mona MacLeod, John MacInnis, David McCorquodale, Sandy McLain, Pearl Magee, Cathy Mailman, Geraldine and Hugh Metcalf, **Susann Myers (compiler)**, Helen and William O'Shea, Lee Anne Reeves, Geraldine Touesnard-Joyce, Roger Wilson.

LUNENBURG, Jan. 4; 8AM 5PM. Temp. -2 to 2C. Wind NE 5kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Cloudy. P.M. Cloudy, foggy, light rain. 20 observers in 11 parties, one at feeder, .5 hours and .01 kmph owling. Total party hours 70 (33.5 on foot, 36.25 by car). Total party kilometres 270 (35.2 on foot, 234 by car).

Common Loon 19; loon species 4; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 38; Red-necked Grebe 1; grebe species; shearwater species 1; (no details) Great Cormorant 12; Canada Goose 136; American Black Duck 48; Mallard 3; Common Eider 3; Oldsquaw 438; Black Scoter 6; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 1; Common Goldeneye 153; Hooded Merganser 39; Common Merganser 90; Red-breasted Merganser 85; Osprey 1; (no details) Bald Eagle 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 38; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 28; Herring Gull 940; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 165; Dovekie 2; Rock Dove 156; Mourning Dove 181; Belted Kingfisher 4; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 227; American Crow 311; Common Raven 16; Black-capped Chickadee 412; Red-breasted Nuthatch 32; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; American Robin 9; Cedar Waxwing 25; European Starling 522; American Tree Sparrow 28; Song Sparrow 34; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 241; Snow Bunting 32; Common Grackle 2; Baltimore Oriole 1; Purple Finch 3; Red Crossbill 25; Pine Siskin 57; American Goldfinch 196; Evening Grosbeak 34; House Sparrow 41.

Total species 57, about 4873 individuals. **William Caudle (compiler)**, James Hirtle, Peter Hope, Len MacDonald, Paul MacDonald, George McKiel, Gerald McKiel, Jean McKiel, Pat McLarty, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Jean Morse, Jill and John Osmond, Hugh Plant, Catherine Pross, Lesley Rogers, Christine and Ian Ross, Nellie Snyder.

MARGAREE, Dec 28, 8:00AM to 4:00PM. Temp. -3 to 0C. Wind NW 6kmph. Snow cover 2.5cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 4 field observers in 2 parties, one at feeder. Total party hours 16 (4.5 on foot, 11.5 by car). Total party kilometres 120 (10 on foot, 110 by car).

Green-winged Teal 2; American Black Duck 69; Common Goldeneye 40; Common Merganser 77; Bald Eagle 8; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Herring Gull 7; Iceland Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 8; Mourning Dove 13; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 43; American Crow 212; Common Raven 32; Black-capped Chickadee 20; Golden-crowned Kinglet 21; European Starling 142; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Snow Bunting 21; Pine Grosbeak 6; Pine Siskin 16; American Goldfinch 26; Evening Grosbeak 6; House Sparrow 18.

Total species 27, about 804 individuals. Eunice Hart, **Frances Hart (compiler)**, Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, Brenda Timmons.

PICTOU HARBOUR, Jan. 1; Temp. -18 to -12C. Wind W 60kmph. Snow cover

0-1cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly open. P.M. Partly cloudy, light snow. P.M. Partly cloudy. 10 field observers in 5-7 parties, 20 at feeders. Total party hours 44.5 (18 on foot, 26.25 by car). Total party kilometres 525 (19 on foot, 506 by car).

Common Loon 1; **Horned Grebe** 1; Great Cormorant 4; Double-crested Cormorant 8; Canada Goose 1281; goose species 200; Green-winged Teal 2; American Black Duck 1471; Mallard 12; Northern Pintail 1; American Wigeon 4; **Tufted Duck** 1; Greater Scaup 2643; Lesser Scaup 7; Common Eider 8; Oldsquaw 258; Common Goldeneye 514; Barrow's Goldeneye 7; Common Merganser 1091; Red-breasted Merganser 1155; Bald Eagle 33; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 1; Common Black-headed Gull 8; Bonaparte's Gull 75; Ring-billed Gull 118; Herring Gull 2880; Iceland Gull 79; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 578; Rock Dove 510; Mourning Dove 43; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 18; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 87; American Crow 405; Common Raven 59; Black-capped Chickadee 437; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch 12; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; American Robin 2; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 1423; Yellow-rumped Warbler 8; American Tree Sparrow 67; Song Sparrow 9; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 143; **Brewer's Blackbird** 2; Common Grackle 7; Brown-headed Cowbird 4; Baltimore Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 12; Purple Finch 1; American Goldfinch 161; Evening Grosbeak 131; House Sparrow 306.

Total species 63, about 16331 individuals. (CP. Gadwall, Hooded Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Snowy Owl, Snow Bunting). Norm Babinec, Calvin, Harry and Jean Brennan, Joel Duncan, Robert Hanes, Alec Hardy, Elwin and Janet Hemphill, Fulton Lavender, Randy Lauff, Brundridge MacDonald, Jean MacDonald, Margaret MacDonald, Jim Maclean, Duncan MacMaster, Faye MacNeil, Harold Madore, Mary Mason, **Ken McKenna (compiler)**, Bernice Moores, Bev Milligan, Janet Rowe, Wendy Skinner, Henry Snow, Patricia Trefry, Stephen Vines, Brian Wong, Ann Wren, Alison Yoshioka.

PORT L'HEBERT, Dec. 22; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. -3 to 2C. Wind S 15kmph. Snow cover 0-1cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Cloudy, P.M. Clear. 14 field observers in 11 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 64 (46.5 on foot, 17.5 by car). Total party kilometres 436.5 (66 on foot, 370.5 by car).

Red-throated Loon 4; Common Loon 67; Horned Grebe 30; Red-necked Grebe 74; Northern Gannet 2; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Blue Heron 3; Canada Goose 3000; Wood Duck 4; American Black Duck 889; Mallard 10; Greater Scaup 116; Common Eider 320; Oldsquaw 101; Black Scoter 44; Surf Scoter 12; White-winged Scoter 41; Common Goldeneye 14; Bufflehead 3; Red-breasted Merganser 14; Bald Eagle 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 17; Black-bellied Plover 1; **Greater Yellowlegs** 1; Sanderling 14; Purple Sandpiper 27; Dunlin 17; Common Black-headed Gull 9; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 876; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 389; Black-legged Kittiwake 3; Dovekie 1; Common Murre 1; Black Guillemot 31; Rock Dove 15; Mourning Dove 99; Great Horned Owl 1; **Short-eared Owl** 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern Flicker 6; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 77; American Crow 206; Common Raven 12; Black-capped Chickadee 179; Boreal Chickadee 13; Red-breasted Nuthatch 71; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 49; American Robin 20; **Gray Catbird** 1; Cedar Waxwing 1; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 335; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 59; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; American Tree Sparrow 22; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 30; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 55; Dark-eyed Junco 89; Snow Bunting 114; Baltimore Oriole 1; Purple Finch 1; **House Finch** 3; Red Crossbill 2; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 89; Evening Grosbeak 7; House Sparrow 35.

Total species 80, about 7770 individuals. (CP. Harlequin Duck, Northern Harrier) Lloyd Cameron, Bill Crosby, Donna Crosby, **Russel Crosby (compiler)**, Bill Curry, Donna Ensor, Dean Fiske, Emerson Fiske, Sylvia Fullerton, Danny Mason, Mark Townsend, Robert Turner, David and Joan Young.

PUBNICO, Dec. 22; 7:30AM to 4PM. Temp. 3 to 6C. Wind NW 30kmph. No Snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Partly cloudy all day. 22 field observers in 6 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 27 (7 on foot, 20 by car). Total party kilometres 293 (14 on foot, 279 by car).

Common Loon 23; Red-necked Grebe 3; Great Cormorant 8; cormorant species 3; Great Blue Heron 6; American Black Duck 108; Greater Scaup 39; Common Eider 31; Oldsquaw 8; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 1; Red-breasted Merganser 52; Bald Eagle 1; Northern Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 2; American Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 1900; Iceland Gull 5; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 900; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 1; Mourning Dove 127; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 11; American Crow 194; Common Raven 14; Black-capped Chickadee 95; Boreal Chickadee 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 11; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; American Robin 9; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 79; Yellow-rumped Warbler 23; Common Yellowthroat 1; Northern Cardinal 2; American Tree Sparrow 14; Chipping Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 9; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 10; Dark-eyed Junco 14; Brown-headed Cowbird 10; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 2; Pine Siskin 6; American Goldfinch 40; House Sparrow 25.

Total species 59, about 3,838 individuals. (CP. Great Egret, White-breasted Nuthatch, Lark Sparrow) Daryl Amirault, Doris Amirault Albert d'Entremont, Germain d'Entremont, Kendrick d'Entremont, Raymond D'Entremont, Real d'Entremont, Claire Marie D'eon, Jerome D'eon, Lance D'eon, Lester D'eon, Nigel D'eon, Reginald D'eon, **Ted D'eon (compiler)**, Wendell D'eon, June Graves, Albert Lennox, Brian MacKenzie, Ethelda Murphy, Murray Newell, Doris and Kenneth Peters.

ST. PETER'S, Dec. 27; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -2 to 2C. Wind NE 50-70kmph. Snow cover 5cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Heavy snow, P.M. Cloudy, light rain. 10 field observers in 6 parties, 10 at feeders. Total party hours 23.5 (7 on foot, 16.5 by car). Total party kilometres 300 (10 on foot, 290 by car).

Common Loon 10; Horned Grebe 2; Double-crested Cormorant 2; American Black Duck 4; Common Eider 17; Oldsquaw 27; Common Goldeneye 32; Common Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 49; Bald Eagle 2; Northern Goshawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 13; Herring Gull 131; Great Black-backed Gull 17; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 4; Mourning Dove 6; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 36; American Crow 89; Common Raven 11; Black-capped Chickadee 48; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; European Starling 38; American Tree Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 9; Dark-eyed Junco 29; White-winged Crossbill 2; Pine Siskin 2; American Goldfinch 96; House Sparrow 26.

Total species 35, about 730 individuals. (CP. Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Shrike). Aloysius Burke, **Billy Digout (compiler)**, George Digout, Leonard Digout, Murdock Digout, Sharon Digout, Candace Fougere, Wendal Holmes, Eva Landry, Keats Landry, John MacInnis, Jack MacNeil, Danny Nightingale, Catherine Robertson, Jeannie Shermerhorn, Annie Vanderhoeden, Trevor Wilkie.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 21; 6:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -5 to -1C. Wind NW 40-60kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 39 field observers in 22 parties, 14 at feeders, 1.5 hours and 2km owling. Total party hours 78.25 (52 on foot, 26.25 by car). Total party kilometres 391 (74 on foot, 317 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 100; American Black Duck 123; Mallard 90; Mallard hybrid 90; Common Merganser 3; Bald Eagle 11; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Rough-legged Hawk 4; American Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 29; Ruffed Grouse 15; Herring Gull 575; Great Black-backed Gull 16; Rock Dove 458; Mourning Dove 121; Barred Owl 2;

Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 223; American Crow 670; Common Raven 105; Black-capped Chickadee 455; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch 30; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 43; American Robin 1; European Starling 2971; American Tree Sparrow 41; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 211; Red-winged Blackbird 51; Rusty Blackbird 3; Common Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 147; Pine Grosbeak 6; Pine Siskin 6; American Goldfinch 182; Evening Grosbeak 215; House Sparrow 210.

Total species 46, about 7209 individuals. Barbara Aitken, Clyde Andrews, Mark Anthony, Conrad Baldwin, Wylie Barbrick, Lloyd Bent, Shirley Bokma, Barbara Bower, Robert Cameron, Terry Carroll, Paul Chaisson, Gretchen Dawe, Irwin Fraser, Brenda Grantmyre, Audrey and John Hungerford, Leo and Myrna Isenor, Ernest and Joan Jarvis, Herman and Rikki Juurlink, Anne MacDonald, Eric MacDonald, Joan Mackey, **Roslyn MacPhee (compiler)**, Sharon MacPhee, Elsie McCulloch, Reg McCurdy, Muriel Miller, Pat Moore, Juanita Murphy, Eldon Pace, Jacques Perron, Annie Perry, Colleen Pridham, Christine and Judy Queripel, Nancy Reid, Barbara Scott, Alice Seif, Dale Smith, Connie Stott, Julie Towers, Greta Wallace, Roger Wardrope, Lorne Weaver, Art and Myrna West, Bernice Williams, Irving Williams, Beth Wright, Judy Zwicker.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 21; 7:10AM to 5:15M. Temp. -7 to -2C. Wind W 20-30kmph. Trace of snow. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 15 field observers in 6 parties, 18 at feeders. Total party hours 48.5 (21.5 on foot, 27 by car). Total party kilometres 534 (30 on foot, 504 by car).

American Black Duck 25; **Hooded Merganser 2**; Common Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 13; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Ruffed Grouse 7; **Common Snipe 2**; Ring-billed Gull 21; Herring Gull 145; Iceland Gull 7; Great Black-backed Gull 19; Rock Dove 717; Mourning Dove 91; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 139; American Crow **2519**; Common Raven 58; Black-capped Chickadee 452; Boreal Chickadee 17; Red-breasted Nuthatch 18; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 3; Marsh Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 14; American Robin 1; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 1068; Common Yellowthroat 1; American Tree Sparrow 32; **Chipping Sparrow 2**; **Field Sparrow 1**; Song Sparrow 5; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 1; **White-crowned Sparrow 1**; Dark-eyed Junco 77; Snow Bunting 50; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 7; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 159; Evening Grosbeak 100; House Sparrow 254.

Total species 50, about 6,071 individuals. (CP. Great Horned Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker). Rosemary Bourque, **Calvin Brennan (compiler)**, Donna, Harry, Jean and Tim Brennan, Marion Buck, Frank Calder, Margaret Cameron, Dorothy and Jim Chisholm, Joel Duncan, Claire and Ralph Foote, Doug and Mary Fraser, Margaret Kenney, Randy Lauff, Betty MacDonald, Dave MacLennan, Mark MacNeill, Lee Maudsley, Jill McIntyre, Ken McKenna, Helen Melanson, Sally Polley, Robert Reid, Joyce Sinclair, Shirley Stewart, Polly Szantor, Ralph Vickers, Steve Vines, Marie Weingartshofer.

STRAIT OF CANSO, Dec. 29; 8:00AM to 4:55PM. Temp. -5 to 2C. Wind SW 10kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Cloudy, foggy, light rain, P.M. partly clear. 10 field observers in 5-6 parties, 10 at feeders. Total party hours 30.5 (16.25 on foot, 14.25 by car). Total party kilometres 280.5 (24.5 on foot, 256 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 5; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 5; Northern Gannet 3; Great Cormorant 2; Double-crested Cormorant 14; cormorant species 1; Canada Goose 24; American Black Duck 50; Mallard 1; Northern Pintail; Common Eider 1; Oldsquaw **253**; Surf Scoter 5; Common Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 7; Common Merganser 91; Red-breasted Merganser 155; Bald Eagle 9; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Ruffed Grouse 5; Common Black-headed Gull 18; Bonaparte's Gull 18; Ring-billed Gull 6; Herring Gull 177; Iceland Gull 108; Great Black-backed Gull 41; Black-legged Kittiwake 3; gull species 14; Black Guillemot 31; Rock Dove 138; Mourning Dove 61; Belted

Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 7; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 84; American Crow 250; Common Raven 24; Black-capped Chickadee 279; Boreal Chickadee 53; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 9; American Robin 2; Northern Mockingbird 1; Northern Shrike 2; European Starling 258; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; **Dickcissel** 1; American Tree Sparrow 47; **Lark Sparrow** 1; Song Sparrow 15; White-throated Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 120; Snow Bunting 18; Common Grackle 15; Baltimore Oriole 2; Pine Grosbeak 10; Common Redpoll 4; Pine Siskin 17; American Goldfinch 84; Evening Grosbeak 27; House Sparrow 66.

Total species 64, about 2673 individuals. (CP. Bohemian Waxwing, Cedar waxwing, Red-winged Blackbird). Marie Bolgar, Calvin Brennan, Mildred Carrigan, May Goring, Andrew Harvey, Mary Hemmings, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope, David Johnston, D. J. Kennedy, Randy Lauff, Donald MacIsaac, Ken McKenna, Jim Meagher, **Kerstin Mueller (compiler)**, Gillis Strachan, Lorna Swain, Betty Talbot, Roy Welsh.

THE SYDNEYS, Dec. 22; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -6 to -2C. Winds calm. Snow cover 2cm. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. clear, P.M. partly clear. 15 field observers in 6 parties, 48 at feeders. Total party hours 34.5 (8 on foot, 26.5 by car). Total party kilometres 642 (18 on foot, 624 by car).

Common Loon 1; Great Cormorant 6; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Canada Goose 13; American Black Duck 775; Mallard 294; Northern Pintail 5; Oldsquaw 3; White-winged Scoter 4; Common Goldeneye 161; Barrow's Goldeneye 11; Bufflehead 15; Hooded Merganser 2; Common Merganser 4; Red-breasted Merganser 28; Bald Eagle 10; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Ruffed Grouse 1; Common Black-headed Gull 21; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 729; Iceland Gull 50; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 759; Black Guillemot 2; Rock Dove 344; Mourning Dove 40; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 168; American Crow 720; Common Raven 138; Black-capped Chickadee 247; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 8; American Robin 11; Northern Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 4; Northern Shrike 2; European Starling 1448; American Tree Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 9; Dark-eyed Junco 18; American Goldfinch 284; Evening Grosbeak 42; House Sparrow 396.

Total species 55, about 6820 individuals. D.F. Campbell, Jackie Cretien, Bart Cunningham, George Digout, Sharon Digout, **George MacInnis (compiler)**, John MacInnis, Jack MacNeil, Geraldine and Hugh Metcalfe, Nancy Moore, Allan and Cathy Murrant, Melvin White, Susann Myers.

TRURO, Dec. 29; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -2 to 2C. Wind S 10kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Cloudy, P.M. Cloudy, foggy. 12 field observers in 7 parties, 13 at feeders. Total party hours 38.3 (19.5 on foot, 18.8 by car). Total party kilometres 500.6 (25.6 on foot, 475 by car).

cormorant species 2; Canada Goose 202; American Black Duck 524; Mallard 357; Common Merganser 8; Red-breasted Merganser 5; Bald Eagle 5; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Gray Partridge 18; Ring-necked Pheasant 12; Ruffed Grouse 1; American Coot 1; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 188; Great Black-backed Gull 10; Rock Dove 348; Mourning Dove 70; Belted Kingfisher 1; **Red-bellied Woodpecker** 1; Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 92; American Crow 1356; Common Raven 22; Black-capped Chickadee 179; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch 11; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; European Starling 2480; American Tree Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 10; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 31; Snow Bunting 10; Pine Grosbeak 5; White-winged Crossbill 12; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 79; Evening Grosbeak 13; House Sparrow 45.

Total species 43, about 6144 individuals. (CP. Common Goldeneye, Cooper's Hawk, Brown Creeper, American Robin) Alan Clark, Allan Eddy, Linda Hall, **Ross Hall (compiler)**, Sandra Hollis, Reg Henderson, Joan Hudgins, Bernard Jackson, Winnifred Kettleon, Ted LeMaistre, Bea

MacCallum, Michael MacPhee, Marilyn MacWha, Mary MacAulay, Ina Major, Jeff Ogden, Kim Richard, Rachel and Rene Smith, Harold Stewart, Leroi Tedford.

WEST HANTS, Dec. 28; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -8 to 3C. Wind NNE 5kmph. Snow cover 1cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. Clear, P.M. Cloudy. 31 field observers in 16 parties, 1.5 hours and 4 miles owling. Total party hours 121 (50.5 on foot, 70.5 by car). Total party kilometres 1191 (73.6 on foot, 1118 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Great Blue Heron 3; Canada Goose 442; Green-winged Teal 2; American Black Duck 781; Mallard 10; American Wigeon 6; Hooded Merganser 2; Common Merganser 37; Red-breasted Merganser 19; Bald Eagle 28; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 55; Rough-legged Hawk 2; American Kestrel 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 115; Ruffed Grouse 5; Purple Sandpiper 34; Ring-billed Gull 12; Herring Gull 639; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 207; Rock Dove 1097; Mourning Dove 407; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 3; Downy Woodpecker 36; Hairy Woodpecker 30; Black-backed Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 8; Pileated Woodpecker 27; Gray Jay 11; Blue Jay 639; American Crow 1431; Common Raven 143; Black-capped Chickadee 765; Boreal Chickadee 13; Red-breasted Nuthatch 18; White-breasted Nuthatch 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet 11; American Robin 190; Northern Mockingbird 1; Cedar Waxwing 20; Northern Shrike 2; European Starling 3720; Palm Warbler 2; American Tree Sparrow 76; Chipping Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 16; White-throated Sparrow 13; Dark-eyed Junco 551; Lapland Longspur 25; Snow Bunting 324; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Common Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Baltimore Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 17; Purple Finch 6; White-winged Crossbill 2; Pine Siskin 4; American Goldfinch 375; Evening Grosbeak 258; House Sparrow 805.

Total species 66, about 13481 individuals. George and Margaret Alliston, Krista Amey, Sylvia Amey, Brad Amirault, Elaine Black, Carol Bradley, Art Crowell, Justin Crowell, **Gail Davis (compiler)**, Heidi DeBoer, Merritt Gibson, Pat Kelly, Carol Klar, Fulton Lavender, Blake Maybank, Barb McKay, Pat Melvin, Sheila Roberts, Bev Shanks, Jim Taylor, Bill and Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Judy Tufts, Joan Waldron, Sherman Williams, Stephen Williams, Jim Wolford, Beth and Frank Woolaver.

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 22; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -3 to 4C. Wind variable, light. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. Partly cloudy, P.M. Cloudy. 53 field observers in 25-28 parties, 76 at feeders. Total party hours 170.25 (108 on foot, 62.25 by car). Total party kilometres 984 (165 on foot, 819 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 2; Great Blue Heron 7; Canada Goose 471; Green-winged Teal 35; American Black Duck 1234; Mallard 195; **Blue-winged Teal** 1; Common Eider 4; White-winged Scoter 3; Common Goldeneye 4; Common Merganser 3; Bald Eagle 352; Northern Harrier 13; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Red-tailed Hawk 151; Rough-legged Hawk 13; Merlin 2; hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 142; Ruffed Grouse 9; **American Coot** 1; Ring-billed Gull 499; Herring Gull 12688; Iceland Gull 16; **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 1; Great Black-backed Gull 1749; **Razorbill** 1; Rock Dove 1027; Mourning Dove 910; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 3; Belted Kingfisher 1; **Red-bellied Woodpecker** 1; Downy Woodpecker 67; Hairy Woodpecker 30; Northern Flicker 25; Pileated Woodpecker 11; **Dusky Flycatcher** 1; Horned Lark 21; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 953; American Crow 31165; Common Raven 276; Black-capped Chickadee 1225; Boreal Chickadee 40; Red-breasted Nuthatch 26; White-breasted Nuthatch 38; Brown Creeper 13; Golden-crowned Kinglet 31; American Robin 242; Northern Mockingbird 2; Bohemian Waxwing 1; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 30808; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Common Yellowthroat 2; warbler species 1; Northern Cardinal 1; Rufous-sided Towhee 1; American Tree Sparrow 141; Savannah Sparrow 23; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 186; Swamp Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 93; **White-crowned Sparrow** 1; Dark-eyed Junco 1416; Snow Bunting 1; Common Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 42; Baltimore Oriole 2; Pine Grosbeak 3; Purple finch 8; White-winged Crossbill 2; crossbill species 2; Common Redpoll 5; Pine Siskin 25; American Goldfinch 1031; Evening Grosbeak 67; House Sparrow 941.

Total species 78, about 88534 individuals. (CP. Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, American Wigeon, Gray Partridge, Dickcissel, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch). Agar Adamson, George and Margaret Alliston, Peter Austin-Smith, Patricia Bernier, Joanne and Ron Bezanson, Diana Bishop, Sherman Boates, Larry Bogan, Soren Bondrup-Neilsen, Carol Buckley, Al Callaghan, Curtis Chipman, Joe and Pat Clifford, John Cline, Brenda Coldwell, Sandy Connelly, Ed Connolly, Chris and Susan Cox, Debbie and Jim Daigle, Andy, Gail and Pat Davis, Ed and Ev Eagles, Betty and Joan Eaton, Mark and Paul Elderkin, Wendy Elliott, Fred, George, George F. and Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Jamie and Merritt Gibson, Terri Hall, Ed and Robie Hancock, Eileen and Sharon Harris, Lorna Hart, Avril and John Harwood, Michael Hawkswood, Blanche Healy, Toby and Tom Herman, Maxine Hill, Bob Horne, Isobel, John and Winnie Horton, J.P. Huang, Douglas and Shirley Jackson, Ian Jonsen, Pat Kelly, Sandy Kempton, Jeanne Leung, **Angus MacLean (compiler)**, Stella MacLean, Ron Margeson, Shirley Marston, Bill and Pat Martell, Jessie Martin; Bernard and Eleanor Mason, Janet McClain, Sheila McCurdy, Melissa McDonald, Rosaleen McDonald, Pat McLeod, Randy Milton, Terry Murphy, Edna Mutch, Gary Ness, Andy Nette, Nancy Nickerson, Mike O'Brien, Terry Pearson, Mary Pratt, Tom Regan, Ladny Richmond, Stan Riggs, Gordon Robart, Marg Russell, Barry Sabeau, Gladys Saltzman, Katherine Saltzman, Meg Scheid, Jack and Ruth Scott, Ada Smith, Richard Stern, George and Maeann Stevens, Miriam Tams, Phil Taylor, Bill and Brenda Thexton, Dianne Thorpe, Jean Timpa, David Tracey, Gerry Trueman, Gordon and Judy Tufts, Deanna and Eva Urban, Gertrude Waseem, Bob and Margie Williams, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Frank Woolaver, Don, Irene and Jeni Wright, Barry and Betty and Chris Yoell.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 21; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. 2 to 5C. Wind W 20kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Partly cloudy all day. 14 field observers in 6 parties, 14 at feeders. Total party hours 35.5 (12.5 on foot, 23 by car). Total party kilometres 466 (16 on foot, 450 by car).

Common Loon 8; Red-necked Grebe 9; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 5; **Greater White-fronted Goose 5**; Canada Goose 527; Green-winged Teal 14; American Black Duck 480; Mallard 44; Common Eider 326; Oldsquaw 33; Common Goldeneye 34; Bufflehead 28; Hooded Merganser 3; Common Merganser 12; Red-breasted Merganser 47; Bald Eagle 1; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Rough-legged Hawk 6; American Kestrel 5; Ring-necked Pheasant 9; Ruffed Grouse 3; Common Black-headed Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 28; Herring Gull 631; Iceland Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 234; Black Guillemot 2; Rock Dove 174; Mourning Dove 89; Short-eared Owl 2; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern Flicker 1; Horned Lark 6; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 55; American Crow 183; Common Raven 27; Black-capped Chickadee 184; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; Northern Mockingbird 1; Water Pipit 2; European Starling 999; Yellow-rumped Warbler 7; Northern Cardinal 10; American Tree Sparrow 4; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 10; White-throated Sparrow 29; Dark-eyed Junco 109; Snow Bunting 52; Common Grackle 15; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Pine Grosbeak 3; Purple Finch 2; House Finch 9; American Goldfinch 61; Evening Grosbeak 1; House Sparrow 9.

Total species 64, about 4573 individuals. Marilyn Burns, Paul Comeau, Elsie Crosby, Cecil Day, Raymond d'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, Bernie Deveau, **Helen and Hubert Hall (compilers)**, Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Fulton Lavender, Hazel MacDonald, Dale Mahoney, Mary Morton, Dale Mullen, Leah Murray, Marguerite Newell, Doris Peters, Ken Peters, Marcie Rogers, Clark and Vera Sollows, Clarence Stevens, Jim Thibeau, John Wainwright, Barbara White, Rose Wilson.

1996 Summary of Highest Counts of Individuals

The following list comprises of all 160 plus one additional race found during the 1996 Christmas Counts and where the highest number

of these were recorded in the province.

There were four new species added to the list, Greater White-fronted Goose, Dusky Flycatcher, Ovenbird and Painted Bunting bringing the all-time provincial list to 248 plus 3 additional races. There were 32 Christmas Counts conducted, Lunenburg being new. In the following summary there are species (emboldened) which broke or tied previous all-time high counts.

Red-throated Loon 12 (Cape Sable Island); **Common Loon** 67 (Port L'Hebert); **Pied-billed Grebe** 2 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Horned Grebe** 122 (Annapolis); **Red-necked Grebe** 74 (Port L'Hebert); **Northern Fulmar** 1 (Cape Sable Island); **Northern Gannet** 24 (Glace Bay); **Great Cormorant** 348 (Cape Sable Island); **Double-crested Cormorant** 14 (Strait of Canso); **Great Blue Heron** 19 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Greater White-fronted Goose** (Yarmouth); **Brant** 2 (Cape Sable Island); **Canada Goose** 3000 (Port L'Hebert); **Wood Duck** 4 (Port L'Hebert); **Green-winged Teal** 35 (Wolfville); **American Black Duck** 3609 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Mallard** 435 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Northern Pintail** 5 (Sydney); **Blue-winged Teal** 1 (Wolfville); **Gadwall** 2 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Eurasian Wigeon** 2; (Halifax/Dartmouth); **American Wigeon** 18 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Ring-necked Duck** 10; **Tufted Duck** 3 (Broad Cove); **Greater Scaup** 2643 (Pictou Harbour); **Lesser Scaup** 8 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Common Eider** 7528 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **King Eider** 5 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Harlequin Duck** 1 (Cheticamp); **Oldsquaw** 1508 (Annapolis Royal); **Black Scoter** 44 (Port L'Hebert); **Surf Scoter** 52 (Bridgetown); **White-winged Scoter** 166 (Annapolis Royal); **Common Goldeneye** 514 (Pictou Harbour); **Barrow's Goldeneye** 11 (The Sydney's); **Bufflehead** 352 (Annapolis Royal); **Hooded Merganser** 39 (Lunenburg); **Common Merganser** 1091 (Pictou Harbour); **Red-breasted Merganser** 1155 (Pictou Harbour); **Turkey Vulture** 8 (Brier Island); **Bald Eagle** 352 (Wolfville); **Northern Harrier** 13 (Wolfville); **Sharp-shinned Hawk** 9 (Kingston); **Northern Goshawk** 4 (Economy); **Broad-winged Hawk** 1 (Kingston); **Red-tailed Hawk** 151 (Wolfville); **Rough-legged Hawk** 13 (Wolfville); **American Kestrel** 5 (Yarmouth), **Merlin** 3 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Peregrine Falcon** 1 (Cheticamp); **Gray Partridge** 18 (Truro); **Ring-necked Pheasant** 142 (Wolfville); **Spruce Grouse** 9 (Cape Breton Highlands); **Ruffed Grouse** 28 (Lunenburg); **American Coot** 5 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Black-bellied Plover** 3 (Cape Sable Island); **Killdeer** 1 (Glace Bay); **Greater Yellowlegs** 1 (Port L'Hebert); **Ruddy Turnstone** 1 (Brier Island); **Red Knot** 1 (Cape Sable Island); **Sanderling** 14 (Broad Cove); **Purple Sandpiper** 250 (Economy); **Dunlin** 40 (Economy); **Common Snipe** 2 (Big Pond, Springville); **Common Black-headed Gull** 127 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Bonaparte's Gull** 75 (Pictou Harbour); **Ring-billed Gull** 548 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Herring Gull** 12688 (Wolfville); **Iceland Gull** 566 (Glace Bay); **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 1 (Wolfville); **Glaucous Gull** 15 (Cape Breton Highlands); **Great Black-backed Gull** 1749 (Wolfville); **Black-legged Kittiwake** 3630 (Brier Island); **Dovekie** 16 (Brier Island); **Common Murre** 3 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Thick-billed Murre** 61 (Brier Island); **Razorbill** 30 (Brier Island); **Black Guillemot** 98 (Brier Island); **Atlantic Puffin** 2 (Brier Island); **Rock Dove** 1793 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Mourning Dove** 910 (Wolfville); **Great Horned Owl** 4 (Glace Bay, Kingston); **Snowy Owl** 1 (Cape Sable Island); **Barred Owl** 3 (West Hants, Wolfville); **Short-eared Owl** 2 (Yarmouth); **Northern Saw-whet Owl** 3 (Antigonish); **Belted Kingfisher** 4 (Lunenburg); **Red-bellied Woodpecker** 1 (Cape Sable Island, Truro, Wolfville); **Downy Woodpecker** 76 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Hairy Woodpecker** 31 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Black-backed Woodpecker** 2 (West Hants); **Northern Flicker** 25 (Wolfville); **Pileated Woodpecker** 27 (West Hants); **Dusky Flycatcher** 1 (Wolfville); **Horned Lark** 182 (Kingston); **Gray Jay** 16 (Amherst); **Blue Jay** 953 (Wolfville); **American Crow** 31165 (Wolfville); **Common Raven** 276 (Wolfville); **Black-capped Chickadee** 1661 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Boreal Chickadee** 84 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Red-breasted Nuthatch** 86 (Broad Cove); **White-breasted Nuthatch** 39 (Kingston); **Brown Creeper** 16 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Winter Wren** 1 (Pubnico); **Marsh Wren** 1 (Springville); **Golden-crowned Kinglet** 52 (Halifax/Dartmouth); **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 2 (Cape Sable Island); **American Robin** 242 (Wolfville); **Gray Catbird** 1 (Port L'Hebert); **Northern Mockingbird** 5

(Halifax/Dartmouth); Brown Thrasher 1 (Kingston); Water Pipit 2 (Yarmouth); Bohemian Waxwing 8 (Big Pond); Cedar Waxwing 30 (Annapolis Royal); Northern Shrike 7 (Amherst); European Starling 30808 (Wolfville); Orange-crowned Warbler 2 (Halifax/Dartmouth); Yellow-rumped Warbler 120 (Cape Sable Island); Pine Warbler 1 (Halifax/Dartmouth); Palm Warbler 2 (West Hants); **Black and White Warbler 1 (Halifax/Dartmouth); Ovenbird 1 (Glace Bay);** Common Yellowthroat 2 (Wolfville); **Yellow-breasted Chat 4 (Halifax/Dartmouth);** Northern Cardinal 10 (Yarmouth); Indigo Bunting 1 (Cape Sable Island); **Painted Bunting 1 (Louisbourg);** Dickcissel 1 (Strait of Canso, Glace Bay, Louisbourg); Rufous-sided Towhee 1 (Wolfville); American Tree Sparrow 141 (Wolfville); Chipping Sparrow 7 (Cape Sable Island); Field Sparrow 1 (Springville); **Lark Sparrow 1 (Strait of Canso);** Savannah Sparrow 23 (Wolfville); Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 4 (Cape Sable Island); Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 2 (Port L'Hebert); Fox Sparrow 2 (St. Peter's); Song Sparrow 186 (Wolfville); Swamp Sparrow 13 (Halifax/Dartmouth); White-throated Sparrow 174 (Halifax/Dartmouth); White-crowned Sparrow 1 (Cape Sable Island, Economy, Halifax/Dartmouth, Springville, Wolfville); Dark-eyed Junco 1416 (Wolfville); Lapland Longspur 25 (West Hants); Snow Bunting 324 (West Hants); Red-winged Blackbird 51 (Shubenacadie); Rusty Blackbird 3 (Shubenacadie); **Brewer's Blackbird 2 (Pictou Harbour);** Common Grackle 79 (Kingston); Brown-headed Cowbird 147 (Shubenacadie); **Baltimore Oriole 15 (Halifax/Dartmouth);** Pine Grosbeak 46 (Economy); Purple Finch 34 (Broad Cove); House Finch 24 (Halifax/Dartmouth); Red Crossbill 25 (Lunenburg); White-winged Crossbill 30 (Apple River); Common Redpoll 80 (Glace Bay); Pine Siskin 57 (Lunenburg); American Goldfinch 1031 (Wolfville); Evening Grosbeak 340 (Amherst); House Sparrow 1895 (Halifax/Dartmouth).

Statistics

Total Species 160; Total Subspecies 1; Total Individual Birds Counted 283,514; Field Observers 638; Feeder Watchers 518; Party Hours 1945.05; Party Kilometres 13,450.9; Number of Counts 32.

David Currie



SPRUCE GROUSE

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
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