

The Christmas Count

Sixteen counts were submitted from members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society this year, and our compiler has noted that this was fewer than he had hoped for, (he would prefer fifty), but that "nevertheless, they do give the outlines of our winter bird population". Following are condensed versions of the counts:

Amherst, Cumberland Co. (Dec. 26, 1961)

Ring-necked Pheasant 4, Herring Gull 5, Blue Jay 3, Common Raven 10, Common Crow 42, Robin 1, Starling 75, House Sparrow 75, Evening Grosbeak 19, Pine Grosbeak 6, Tree Sparrow 3, Snow Bunting 125. Species identified 12; individuals counted about 392. (Miss Evelyn Lowerison, Mrs. Henry Myers).

Bass River, Colchester Co. (Dec. 27, 1961)

Red-throated Loon 2, Black Duck 33, Surf Scoter 18, Common Merganser 43, Ruffed Grouse 8, Great Black-backed Gull 2, Herring Gull 37, Downy Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 6, Common Raven 2, Common Crow 39, Black-capped Chickadee 11, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, Starling 102, House Sparrow 62, Evening Grosbeak 36, Pine Grosbeak 3, Slate colored Junco 2; Species identified 18; individuals counted about 413. (Mrs. Lee Gilbert, Mr. & Mrs. S. W. Hemeon).

Bridgetown, Annapolis Co. (Dec. 26, 1961)

Cormorant sp. 2, Common Goldeneye 8, Common Merganser 7, Rough-legged Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Sharp-shinned Hawk 2, Pigeon Hawk 2, Gray Partridge 9, Ring-necked Pheasant 2, Mourning Dove 1, Herring Gull 145, Great Black-backed Gull 8, Hairy Woodpecker 5, Downy Woodpecker 6, Gray Jay 4, Blue Jay 39, Common Raven 6, Common Crow 128, Black-capped Chickadee 42, Boreal Chickadee 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 3, Robin 2, Eastern Bluebird 1, Starling 430, House Sparrow 675, Brown-headed Cowbird 41, Red-winged Blackbird 5, Evening Grosbeak 76, Pine Grosbeak 14, Purple Finch 22, Common Redpoll 6, Pine Siskin 3, American Goldfinch 6, White-winged Crossbill 2, Slate-colored Junco 4, Tree Sparrow 2, Vesper Sparrow 1, White-throated Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 19, Snow Bunting 25, Species identified 40, individuals counted about 1767. (Harold Baker, Calder Fraser (compiler) Louise Harlow, Walter Harlow, Mona Hicks, Leslie McLaughlin, Wilfred Marshall, Gordon Troop, Donald Troop, Roy Whitman, Stewart Whitman).

Brier Island, Digby Co. (Dec. 29, 1961)

Common Loon 25, Red-throated Loon 2, Great Cormorant 80, Black Duck 115, Common Goldeneye 25, Oldsquaw 200, Harlequin Duck 25, Common Eider 150, Scoters 40; Common Merganser 15, Red-breasted Merganser 25, Rough-legged Hawk 6, Sparrow Hawk 1, Purple Sandpiper 250, Sanderling 30, Glaucous Gull 2, Iceland Gull 2, Great Black-backed Gull 75, Herring Gull 400, Black-legged Kittiwake, 105, Razorbill 2, Thick-billed Murre 3, Dovekie 75, Horned Lark 70, Blue Jay 7, Common Crow 75, Black-capped Chickadee 50, Mockingbird 1, Robin 13, Golden-crowned Kinglet 50, Starling 200, Common Grackle 17, Evening Grosbeak 4, Pine Grosbeak 47, Pine Siskin 40, White-winged Crossbill 100, Slate-colored Junco 17, Tree Sparrow 5, Song Sparrow 4, Snow Bunting 175; Species identified 40; individuals counted about 2528. (Chester Lent, Harry Lent, Wickerson Lent).

Cole Harbour - Chezzetcook, Halifax Co. (Dec. 26, 1961)

Common Loon 1, Red-throated Loon 4, Red-necked Grebe 2, Horned Grebe 2, Canada Goose 1190, Mallard 1, Black Duck 730, Pintail 3, Common Goldeneye 10, Bufflehead 19, Oldsquaw 6, Common Eider 4, White-winged Scoter 6, Common Scoter 24, Red-breasted Merganser 23, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Rough-legged Hawk 2, Bald Eagle 2, Sparrow Hawk 3, Ruffed Grouse 1, Virginia Rail 1, Purple Sandpiper 74, Iceland Gull 8, Great Black-backed Gull 61, Herring Gull 620, Ring-billed Gull 95, Black-headed Gull 11, Dovekie 1, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Horned Lark 12, Blue Jay 4, Common Raven 65, Common Crow 235. (Cont'd)

Cole Harbour - Chezzetcook, Halifax Co. (Cont'd)

Black-capped Chickadee 46, Boreal Chickadee 9, Red-breasted Nuthatch 1, Brown Creeper 1, Long-billed Marsh Wren 1, Brown Thrasher 1, Robin 3, Golden-Crowned Kinglet 3, Starling 880, Myrtle Warbler 1, House Sparrow 175, Meadowlark 3, Redwinged Blackbird 9, Common Grackle 43, Brown-headed Cowbird 63, Evening Grosbeak 12, Pine Grosbeak 25, Pine Siskin 15, American Goldfinch 150, White-winged Crossbill 2, Savannah Sparrow 16, Slate-colored Junco 97, Tree Sparrow 2, White-throated Sparrow 11, Swamp Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 14. Species identified 59; individuals counted about 4811. (C.R.K. Allen, B.W. Allen, John Comer, Ethel Crathorne, Phyllis Dobson, J.A. McCarter, L.B. MacPherson, H.P. Moffatt.)

Halifax, Halifax Co. (Dec. 31, 1961)

Common Loon 3, Red-necked Grebe 3, Horned Grebe 2, Great Cormorant 34, Common Goldeneye 3, Oldsquaw 5, Common Mider 1, White-winged Scoter 1, Surf Scoter 1, Common Scoter 2, Red-breasted Merganser 7, Rough-legged Hawk 1, Ruffed Grouse 5, Common Snipe 1, Iceland Gull 4, Great Black-backed Gull 250, Herring Gull 1500, Yellow-shafted Flicker 1, Hairy Woodpecker 5, Downy Woodpecker 14, Gray Jay 6, Blue Jay 23, Common Raven 7, Common Crow 62, Black-capped Chickadee 90, Boreal Chickadee 22, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Red-breasted Nuthatch 19, Brown Creeper 3, Mockingbird 2, Robin 2, Golden-Crowned Kinglet 4, Starling 5000, House Sparrow 1500, Baltimore Oriole 2, Common Grackle 15, Brown-headed Cowbird 96, Evening Grosbeak 115, Purple Finch 2, Pine Grosbeak 15, Pine Siskin 58, American Goldfinch 5, Slate-colored Junco 46, Tree Sparrow 3, Fox Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 5. Species identified 46; individuals counted about 8948. (C.R.K. Allen, Mrs. G. F. Backman, Mrs. A. A. Baird, Mrs. E. A. Bell, Mrs. P. S. Christie, W. J. Chute, Mrs. Arthur Coffill, John Corner, Ethel Crathorne, Mrs. J. J. Dobson, S. A. Grimm, Mrs. Ralph Hebb, R. H. Helpard, Ward Hemeon, Gordon Larkin, L.B. MacPherson, J. A. McCarter, W. J. Mills, H. P. Moffatt, Mrs. C. L. Torey, Richard Ward.)

Indian Harbour, Halifax Co. Dec. 26, 1961)

Common Loon 1, Black Duck 1, Oldsquaw 2, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Great Black-backed Gull 9, Herring Gull 55, Dovekie 1, Blue Jay 4, Common Crow 2, Black-capped Chickadee 4, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, Starling 50, House Sparrow 20, Brown-headed Cowbird 18, Evening Grosbeak 5. Species identified 15; individuals counted about 175. (Earl Covey, Gilbert Jollimore, Gordon Richardson, Kenneth Richardson Miriam Wetmore).

Kardsale, Annapolis Co. (Dec. 30, 1961)

Herring Gull 16, Blue Jay 9, Common Raven 2, Common Crow 17, Black-capped Chickadee 6, Red-breasted Nuthatch 4, Brown Creeper 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 2, Starling 19, House Sparrow 16, American Goldfinch 48, unidentified 6. Species identified 11; individuals counted about 147. (Joseph Johnson).

Kennetcook, Hants Co. (Dec. 24, 1961)

Gray Jay 1, Blue Jay 5, Starling 14, House Sparrow 1, Brown-headed Cowbird 5. Species identified 5; individuals counted 26. (Mrs. Joan D. McGray).

Pictou, Pictou Co. (Dec. 24, 1961)

Oldsquaw 2, Great Black-backed Gull 9, Herring Gull 156, Iceland Gull 1, Hairy Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Blue Jay 11, Common Crow 41, Black-capped Chickadee 16, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Robin 2, Starling 80, Myrtle Warbler 4, House Sparrow 130, Brown-headed Cowbird 42, Evening Grosbeak 10, Slate-coloured Junco, 12, Snow Bunting 2. Species identified 18; individuals counted about 522. (E. Holdway).

Round Hill, Annapolis Co. (Dec. 30, 1961)

Herring Gull 15, Great Black-backed Gull 7, Downy Woodpecker 2, Blue Jay 5, Common Raven 1, Common Crow 11, Black-capped Chickadee 11, Boreal Chickadee 1, Red-breasted Nuthatch 8, Golden-crowned Kinglet 1, Starling 28, House Sparrow 7, Pine Grosbeak 21, American Goldfinch 7,

Round Hill, Annapolis Co. (Dec. 30, 1961)

Song Sparrow 1, Species identified 15; individuals counted about 126. (Mrs. J. E. FitzRandolph, Mrs. M. Whitehead, W. E. Whitehead).

Springville, Pictou Co. (Jan. 1, 1962)

Red-breasted Merganser 1, Red-tailed Hawk 1, Great Black-backed Gull 29, Herring Gull 100, Belted Kingfisher 1, Hairy Woodpecker 2, Blue Jay 6, Common Raven 11, Common Crow 74, Black-capped Chickadee 22, Boreal Chickadee 6, Robin 1, Starling 250, House Sparrow 200, Common Grackle 3, Evening Grosbeak 21, Pine Grosbeak 6, Slate-coloured Junco 2. Species identified 18; individuals counted about 758. (Fred Kenney, Mrs. Fred Kenney, Cicily Pod).

Stewiacke, Colchester Co. (Dec. 27, 1961)

Common Merganser 7, Bald Eagle 1, Ruffed Grouse 2, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Great Black-backed Gull 5, Herring Gull 9, Hairy Woodpecker 4, Gray Jay 1, Blue Jay 24, Common Raven 12, Common Crow 46, Black-capped Chickadee 19, Boreal Chickadee 14, Red-breasted Nuthatch 19, Golden-crowned Kinglet 7, Starling 290, House Sparrow 162, Brown-headed Cowbird 44, Evening Grosbeak 4, Pine Grosbeak 18, Pine Siskin 5, American Goldfinch 8, White-winged Crossbill 29, Slate-coloured Junco 17, Snow Bunting 120. Species identified 26; individuals counted about 819. (Mrs. Donald Annen, Mrs. Raymond Stewart, Mrs. Jarvis Stewart, Elton Pace and Robert Gibbon).

Wine Harbour, Guysborough Co. (Dec. 24, 1961)

Unidentified ducks 6, unidentified hawk 1, Common Crow 12, Black-capped Chickadee 10, Boreal Chickadee 9, Red-breasted Nuthatch, 13, Starling 20, Pine Grosbeak 17, White-winged Crossbill 10, Slate-coloured Junco 3, other unidentified birds 67. Species identified 10; individuals counted about 168. (Gordon MacLeod).

Wolfville, Kings Co., (Dec. 30, 1961)

Canada Goose 169, Black Duck 302, Green-winged Teal 5, Common Golden-eye 23, Whitewinged Scoter 1, Common Merganser 9, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 5, Bald Eagle 1, Pigeon Hawk 1, Ruffed Grouse 3, Grey Partridge 13, Ring-necked Pheasant 17, Great Black-backed Gull 131, Herring Gull 448, Mourning Dove 3, Snowy Owl 1, Flicker 1, Hairy Woodpecker 3, Downy Woodpecker 2, Horned Lark 5, Blue Jay 77, Raven 29, Crow 404, Black-capped Chickadee 102, Boreal Chickadee 14, White-breasted Nuthatch 12, Red-breasted Nuthatch 12, Brown Creeper 4, Robin 2, Golden-crowned Kinglet 1, Starling 681, Myrtle Warbler, 2, House Sparrow 749, Red-winged Blackbird 1, Cowbird 192, Evening Grosbeak 179, Purple Finch 2, Pine Grosbeak 83, Pine Siskin 58, Goldfinch 150, White-winged Crossbill 44, Savannah Sparrow 4, Slate-coloured Junco 110, Tree Sparrow 9, White-throated Sparrow 3, Song Sparrow 25. Species identified 47, individuals counted about 4093. (S. Bleakney, J. Cameron, J. Erskin (compiler), R. Erskin, R. Harper, C. MacDonald, E. Mullin, P. Smith, R. W. Tufts. Feeding Stations; Mrs. W. Davidson, Mrs. M. Forbes, Mrs. A. Gill, Mrs. W. Urban).

Yarmouth (Wyman Rd) Yarmouth Co., (Dec. 31, 1961)

Hawk, unidentified 1, Blue Jay 5, Black-capped Chickadee 6, Brown Thrasher 1, House Sparrow 12, Slate-coloured Junco 8, Species identified 5, individuals counted about 33. (Mrs. E. G. Sollows).

Unusual additional species noted during this period in addition to those underscored in the Counts.

Vesper Sparrow (Wolfville)
Wood Duck (Stewiacke)
Black-backed 3-toed Woodpecker (Stewiacke)
Mockingbird (Round Hill)
Yellow-breasted Chat (Round Hill)
Peregrine Falcon (Round Hill)
Flicker (Yarmouth)
Great Blue Heron (Indian-Harbour)
Winter Wren (Cole Harbour-Chezsetcook)

(cont'd)

In the above lists, the outstanding observation was the occurrence of an Eastern Bluebird in Paradise, reported by the Rev. J. R. Calder Fraser, and the Whitmans has having been there since Dec. 9. The only food it was seen to accept was apples.

Our Compiler notes further that "this seems to have been a reasonably good year for most winter finches, many species having been noted on the counts whose coverage included suitable habitat. However, Redpolls were notably scarce, being recorded on one count only. Again, this year, Red Crossbills were absent from the Province, as, for the most part they have been for the past 10 to 15 years; probably not more than half-a-dozen individuals having been seen in that time. All winter finches have the reputation of being erratic in abundance and range. For example, Evening Grosbeaks were rarely seen in Nova Scotia prior to the forties; but are now a common winter bird here."

Since Christmas, a number of interesting reports have come in, which are listed below, and included are some Summer and Fall observations received too late for the last Newsletter.

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Reported by</u>
Summer Tanager	1	June 14/61	Yarmouth	Mrs. Verona Moor
Green Heron	4	Oct.21/61	Yarmouth	Mrs. Verona Moor
Western Kingbird	1	Sept.2/61	Big Interval	Dr. J.B. Hardie
Towhee	1	Oct. 20/61	Inverness Co.	
White-fronted Goose	1	Nov. 3/61	Annapolis Valley	Elizabeth Stubbart
(First record in Nova Scotia - Had been shot)			Paradise	W.E. Whitehead
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	Dec.17/61	Jollimore, Hfx. Co.	Mrs. S.O. Monies
(Still around Feb.21st)				
Fox Sparrow	(several)	Dec.17/61	Jollimore, Hfx. Co.	Mrs. S.O. Monies
(Still around Feb.21st)				
Snowy Owl	1	Dec.30/61	Middleton	Murray Bent
Eastern Bluebird	1	Dec.30/61	Pt. Pleasant Park(Hfx)	(Mrs. P. B. F. Smith)
Rusty Blackbird	2	Early Jan./62	Yarmouth	Clark Higby
(1 male, 1 female - at feeder)				
Hermit Thrush	1	Jan.21/62	Halifax City	W. J. Mills
*Seaside Sparrow	1	Feb.4/62	Lawrencetown Beach-Hfx. Co.)	C. R.K. Allen and L.B. MacPherson

*This is not only a First Record for Nova Scotia, but all of Canada, and has been verified by Earle Godfrey, National Museum, Ottawa. Congratulations to Dr. MacPherson and Mr. Allen.

Towhee	1	Feb.18/62	Chester	Winthrop Bell
Towhee	1	Feb.18/62	Annapolis Royal	Mr. & Mrs. Ternan
Towhee	1	Feb.20/62	Sherbrooke	John Hingley
Towhee	1	Feb.21/62	Jollimore, Hfx. Co.	Mrs. S.O. Monies

Once again we wish to thank those members who have written or telephoned to inform us of unusual bird observations. These are valuable records, aside from being of great interest to the other members of the Society.

Since our last mailing, several observers from mainland Nova Scotia have offered to fill out Bald Eagle winter population forms. Many thanks! We would, however, still like to have more observers from west of the Straits of Canso.

One last item of news is that our first Junior Group is in process of formation. An application for affiliation with the Society has been received from a group of young people in Kennetcook. Since our Constitution does not provide for group membership, some adjustments may have to be made, and a Committee of your Executive has been set up to study the situation. It is, of course, highly desirable that everything possible should be done to encourage junior groups in the Society, and members will be kept informed of the progress of the Committee.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
(Incorporated 1957)

Newsletter

June, 1962

In reviewing bird notes and records received from members of the Society since the appearance of the last Newsletter, general curiosity about the appearance of the cattle egret in Nova Scotia makes this bird worthy of more than passing comment.

The editors of Audubon magazine quote "The Handbook of British Birds" as saying that the cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis ibis*) is about 20 inches long; eggs usually 4 or 5, pale blue; nests built largely of sticks, in the reeds of swamps, sometimes in trees; feeds largely on insects disturbed by grazing cattle, and removes many insect parasites from domestic animals. This is a medium-sized heron, appearing almost wholly white, though the adult in breeding season has a tuft of buffish feathers on the crown, buff feathers on the mantle and the breast. The best field mark is its yellow bill, broader than the dagger-like bill of the snowy egret, or the little blue heron - the only two birds for which it might be mistaken. Breeds in both north and tropical Africa, in Europe only in southern Spain and Portugal, and in southwestern Asia.

In 1930, flocks of cattle egret were reported in South America, in British Guiana, but it is not certain that these were the first immigrants, and their origin remains a mystery. According to Haverschmidt (Audubon, Sept.-Oct. 1953), they are still numerous there, in cattle country, their southern limit in Dutch Guiana. In 1954, two cattle egrets were seen in St. Croix, in the Virgin Islands, and the following year, in the same place, a flock of 26 birds was reported. Flocks were observed in Haiti and in Cuba in 1956; and in the same year 1,100 nests were counted near Lake Okechobee, in Florida, by Alexander Sprunt and companions (Audubon, Nov.-Dec. 1956). Actually, the first cattle egret collected in the United States was in Massachusetts, in 1952, but, by 1956, these birds were scattered "from the tip of Texas to Boston" (David E. Davis, The Auk, October, 1960).

The first Canadian record came from Ontario, May, 1956, and the second, in the same year, also from Ontario. A cattle egret flew aboard a vessel fishing off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, in 1952, but since the vessel was 200 miles offshore, the Ontario records are considered first for the mainland of Canada.

What is believed to be the first known occurrence of the cattle egret in Nova Scotia took place on November 23, 1957, at East Sable River, Shelburne County. A careful observation of this bird was made by Mrs. Frank Craig, of that place. On December 10, 1957, Benjamin F. Smith, keeper of the light on Cape Sable, collected a cattle egret that appeared there. The specimen was deposited in the Nova Scotia Museum of Science, Halifax, and is the first Nova Scotia specimen of the cattle egret. It is possible that the egret seen by Mrs. Craig on November 23 and the one collected by Mr. Smith on December 10 were the same bird.

On April 28, 1961, Mrs. Evelyn M. Richardson found on Bor Portage Island, on which she resides, the skeleton and some plumage of a cattle egret. Three other birds that may have been cattle egrets were reported soon afterward by various observers in Shelburne County.

A bird that was almost certainly a cattle egret was seen by various people in the area between Central Chebogue and the south end of Yarmouth Town on May 1, 2, and 3, 1962, and on May 20. A bird that was probably a cattle egret was observed in Louis Head, Shelburne County, on May 10, 1962.

A bird that is believed to have been a cattle egret was reported near Lower Wedgeport, Yarmouth County, on May 31, 1962. On the following day, Lt. Col. J. Israel Pothier saw this bird at a little distance and, on June 3, he succeeded in observing it in detail.

Mr. Robie W. Tufts reports that 2 cattle egrets were seen a number of times in early May, 1962, at Avonport, Kings County, and that another bird of this species was seen at Upper Granville, Annapolis County, at about the same time.

For full and authoritative information about the cattle egret, members are referred to "The Spread of the Cattle Egret", by Alexander Sprunt, Smithsonian Report, 1954: 259-276.

The Editor wishes to thank those members of the Society who have sent in records of early and otherwise unusual observations of birds, since the last publication of the Newsletter. Such records are preserved for future reference, and, in this connection, members should know that these records are available for study. In particular, we are fortunate in having from Mr. J. S. Erskine, of Wolfville, a cumulative bird count from 1948 to 1962, in his vicinity. Also, we have Captain E. Holdway's record of birds seen at Pictou, and at Wood Island, P.E.I., for the year 1961.

In the list following, * indicates further comment below.

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u> 1962	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Reported by</u>
Red-throated loon	1	May 5	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook area	C.R.K. Allen
Red-necked grebe	1	May 4	Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co.	C.R.K. Allen and L.B. Macpherson
" " "	37	Apr. 7	"	L.B. Macpherson
Double-crested cormorant	43	Apr.23	Arcadia, Yarmouth Co.	C.R.K. Allen
" " "	10	Apr.30	Eastern Shore, Hfx. Co.	L.B. Macpherson
Great blue heron	1	All winter	Digby	Mr. and Mrs. Gray
" " "	1	Mar.29	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	L.B. Macpherson and C.R.K. Allen
Bittern	1	Apr. 7	Cole Harbour	L.B. Macpherson
Cattle egret	1	May 1-20	Yarmouth	Mrs. Walter Perry
" "	1	May 7	"	Mr. and Mrs. Higby
" "	1	May 31	Lower Wedgeport	I. Pothier
Glossy ibis	1	May 16	Caledonia	Philip Smith
Canada goose	900+	Mar.17	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	C.R.K. Allen and L.B. Macpherson
" "	1800+	Mar.19	" " "	" " "
" "	2000	Apr. 1	" " "	" " "
" "	1	May 5 (late)	" " "	C.R.K. Allen
Pintail	2	Mar.29	" " "	L.B. Macpherson and C.R.K. Allen
Green-winged teal	11	Apr. 1	" " "	" " " "
Blue-winged teal	20	May 5	" " "	C.R.K. Allen
Baldpate	3	May 9	" " "	" "
Redhead	1	mid-May (1 week)	Bon Portage Island	Mrs. E. Richardson

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u> 1962	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Reported by</u>
Ring-necked duck	9	Apr. 1	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	L.B. Macpherson and C.R.K. Allen
Scaup	300	Mar.10	" " "	" " " "
"	500	Apr. 1	" " "	J.A. McCarter and L.B. Macpherson
Barrow's goldeneye	1	Feb.28	Three Fathom Hbr.,Hfx.Co.	C.R.K. Allen
Common scoter	16	Mar.17	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	J.A. McCarter and L.B. Macpherson
" "	500	May 5	" " "	" " "
Surf scoter	500+	May 5	" " "	C.R.K. Allen
Common merganser	38	Mar.10	" " "	L.B. Macpherson and C.R.K. Allen
Turkey vulture	1	Mar. 1	Shot at Shinimicas, near Amherst	Evelyn Lowerison
*Bald Eagle	2	since Feb. (1 all winter)	Lower Wedgeport	I. Pothier
" "	1	Mar. 1	Yarmouth County	J. B. Ternan
" "	2	Mar.20	Cowie Falls, Queens Co.	R. W. Lavender
" "	2	Mar.30	Stormont, Guys. Co.	A. B. Hodgson
" "	1	Apr. 9	Round Hill, Anna. Co.	W. E. Whitehead
Marsh hawk	1	Feb.21	Lower Wedgeport	I. Pothier
" "	1	Apr. 3	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	Ronald Dicks
Red-shouldered hawk	1	Feb.21	Lower Wedgeport	I. Pothier (withdrawn)
" " "	1	May 5	Round Hill	W. E. Whitehead (")
Osprey	3	Apr.30	Eastern Shore	L.B. Macpherson
Sparrow hawk	1	Apr. 3	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	Ronald Dicks
*Hungarian partridge				
Killdeer	1	May 1	Cape Sable	Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith
Piping plover	4	Apr. 14	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	L.B. Macpherson
Black-bellied plover	1	Apr. 7	" " "	L.B. Macpherson
*Woodcock	1	Mar.26	Halifax (city)	D. Anderson
"	1	Apr. 2	Lower Wedgeport (doing night flight)	I. Pothier
Ruffed grouse	2	May 5	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	C.R.K. Allen
Semi-palmated plover	2	May 5	" " "	" "
Common snipe	2	Apr.23	Arcadia, Yarmouth Co.	" "

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u> 1962	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Reported by</u>
Willet	10+	Apr.27	Eel Brook, Yarmouth Co.	C.R.K. Allen
"	25	May 5	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	" "
Greater yellowlegs	2	Apr. 7	" " "	L.B. Macpherson
Sanderling	2	Apr.14	" " "	" "
Tern (sp.)	1	Apr.27	Eel Brook, Yarmouth Co.	C.R.K. Allen
" "	300+	May 4	Lower Wedgeport	I. Pothier
Black-billed cuckoo	1	Jun. 1	Bedford, Halifax Co.	Mrs. V. Chisholm
" " "	1	Jun. 3	Rockingham, Halifax Co.	Mrs. A. Coffill
Whip-poor-will	1	May 29	Bedford, Halifax Co.	Mrs. V. Chisholm
Nighthawk	1	May 26	Round Hill, Anna. Co.	W. E. Whitehead
Chimney swift	1	May 17	" " " "	" "
Hummingbird	1	May 18	" " " "	" "
Flicker	1	all winter	Digby	Mr. and Mrs. Gray
"	1	Mar.15	White Point, Queens Co.	Mrs. Doggett
Yellow-bellied sapsucker	1	Apr.27	Eel Brook, Yarmouth Co.	C.R.K. Allen
Eastern kingbird	1	Mar.13	Round Hill, Anna. Co.	W.E. Whitehead
Western kingbird	1	Feb.20-23	Sable River, Shel. Co.	Mrs. D. Harlow
Eastern phoebe	1	Apr.23	Bon Portage Island	Mrs. E. Richardson
Least flycatcher	1	May 19	Round Hill, Anna. Co.	W.E. Whitehead
Tree swallow	1	Apr.21	" " " "	" "
" "	4	Apr.22	Tusket area, Yarmouth Co.	C.R.K. Allen
" "	50+	Apr.29	Liverpool	" "
" "	50+	Apr.30	Near Tangier, Halifax Co.	L.B. Macpherson
Barn Swallow	1	Apr.23	Tusket, Yarmouth Co.	C.R.K. Allen
" "	2	Apr.29	Round Hill, Anna. Co.	W.E. Whitehead
House wren	1	Feb.12	Brooklyn, Queens Co.	R. Lavender
Winter wren	1	Apr.15	N.E. Lake, Halifax Co.	L.B. Macpherson
Mockingbird	1	all winter	Halifax (city)	Mr. and Mrs. Torey
"	2 or 3	" "	Near Liverpool	Mrs. A.M. Ryan
Brown thrasher	1	Feb.19	Lower Wedgeport	I. Pothier
" "	1	Apr.25- May 23	Bon Portage Island	Mrs. E. Richardson
" "		early May	Halifax (city)	D. Ward
" "	1	May 4	Cape Sable	Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u> 1962	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Reported by</u>
Robin	24	Mar. 25	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	L.B. Macpherson and C.R.K. Allen
"	250	Apr. 1	" " "	J.A. McCarter and L.B. Macpherson
Hermit thrush	2	May 5	" " "	C.R.K. Allen
" "	1	May 14	Round Hill, Anna. Co.	W.E. Whitehead
Ruby-crowned kinglet	15+	May 5	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	C.R.K. Allen
<u>*Waxwings</u>				
Red-eyed vireo	1	May 23	Round Hill, Anna. Co.	W.E. Whitehead
Yellow warbler	1	May 13	" " " "	" "
Myrtle warbler	2	Apr. 22	Tusket, Yarmouth Co.	C.R.K. Allen
" "	2	Apr. 22	N.E. Lake, Halifax Co.	L.B. Macpherson
" "	9	Apr. 29	Round Hill, Anna. Co.	W.E. Whitehead
Chestnut-sided warbler	1	May 20	Dartmouth	P. Dobson
Bay-breasted warbler	2	May 24	Round Hill, Anna. Co.	W.E. Whitehead
" " "	2	May 30 (+ 3 days)	Rockingham, Halifax Co.	Mrs. A. Coffill
Palm warbler	1	May 2	Round Hill, Anna. Co.	W.E. Whitehead
Yellowthroat	1	May 31	Caledonia, Queens Co.	Mrs. E. Smith
American redstart	2	May 22	Round Hill, Anna. Co.	W.E. Whitehead
Red-winged blackbird	6	Mar. 19	Annapolis	J.B. Ternan
" " "	43	Apr. 1	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	J.A. McCarter and L.B. Macpherson
Common grackle	15	May 17	Dartmouth	L.B. Macpherson and C.R.K. Allen
Scarlet tanager	2	May 12	Brier Island, Digby Co.	Mrs. W. Lent
" "	1	May 23	Bon Portage Island	Mrs. E. Richardson
Summer tanager	1(M)	Apr. 3	Digby	Mr. and Mrs. Gray
Rose-breasted grosbeak	3	May 25-28	Rockingham, Halifax Co.	Mrs. A. Coffill
Blue grosbeak	1	Apr. 29	Sable River, Shel. Co.	Mr. and Mrs. N. Dash
Indigo bunting	1	Apr. 27	Bon Portage Island	Mrs. E. Richardson
" "	1	May 23-25	Middle Ohio, Shel. Co.	Mrs. Earle MacKay
" "	1	(pair) May 31	Bon Portage Island	Mrs. E. Richardson
Red crossbill	12+	May 15-26	Liverpool	Mrs. A. M. Ryan

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u> 1962	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Reported by</u>
Rufous-sided towhee	1	Apr. 24	Cape Sable, Shel. Co.	Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith
" " "	1 (M)	Jan.-May (in song May 1)	Pictou	E. Holdway
" " "	1	all winter	Annapolis	J.B. Ternan
Savannah sparrow	1	Mar. 29	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	L.B. Macpherson and C.R.K. Allen
Sharp-tailed sparrow	1	Feb. 4	" " "	" " " "
Vesper sparrow	3	Feb. 4	" " "	" " " "
White-crowned sparrow	1	early May	Halifax (city)	D. Ward
Fox sparrow (in song)	2	Mar. 31	Waverley, Halifax Co.	L.B. Macpherson
" "	70	Apr. 1	Cole-Hbr.-Chezzetcook	L.B. Macpherson and J.A. McCarter
Song sparrow	3	Mar. 27	Round Hill, Anna. Co.	W.E. Whitehead
" "	47	Mar. 27	Cole Hbr.-Chezzetcook	L.B. Macpherson and J.A. McCarter
Lapland longspur	1	Mar. 24	" " "	R. Dicks
**Chestnut-collared longspur	1 (M)	May 29-Jun. 1	Bon Portage Island	Mrs. E. Richardson

** (A first for Nova Scotia)

For the commoner birds in the above list, only the earliest arrival dates have been recorded. We regret the many omissions we were forced to make. Following are a few notes and comments received from correspondents:

Mr. J. S. Erskine, of Wolfville, saw "a Red-throated loon on Lumsden Dam, Black River, on the 10th December, 1961, a Kingfisher on the Gaspereau River on the 2nd December, 1961.....a Bohemian waxwing - part of the vanguard of that eastern invasion of the species this year. Pigeon hawks were..... abundant, five during the winter, twice males and three times females. On the other hand, Golden-crowned kinglets and Tree sparrows were reasonably scarce. Lapland longspurs were unusually abundant for a spell before the January snows and then disappeared. Bald eagles were at lowest ebb for six years. Never more than one eagle was seen at a time, but these included both adults and young. The reason for this is not necessarily a decline in the eagle population but rather that the co-operative poultry packing plant has found a market for offal and no longer throws it into the river. Noisy Robins were abundant - at least, 10 - in Stirling's marsh on 18th March.....and two Song sparrows were singing there, though this last record may not be significant as song sparrows have been there occasionally throughout the winter.....Starlings here are changing their habits and invading the salt-marshes in winter, seemingly displacing the horned larks....During the early part of the winter we had only Pine siskins; during the latter half, only Redpolls."

Captain Eric Holdway, of Pictou, says: "A flock of 8 Hungarian Partridge survived the winter until the fields were finally clear of snow....There was an increase in number of Woodcock on the regular mating area. A singing ground count during late twilight on April 4th indicated 7 birds, April 21st - 10 birds, during which some were observed in nuptial flight....A flock of 24 Cedar waxwings wintered in Pictou from January 24th to April 2nd....A flock of Bohemian waxwings, 6 birds joined the cedar waxwings from March 7th to 26th....Thereafter these birds remained separate, increasing as follows: March 31st - 10, April 4th - 34, April 6th - 16, and April 12th - 2. The abundance of Hawthorn in this area probably accounts for the waxwings, and also supported a flock of 30 Robins, all

winter. April 15th, for one day only, an albino Robin, completely white except for a full robin-red breast....feeding with other robins and very wary, and an attempt to photograph in color was impossible...."

Speaking of Cedar waxwings, Mrs. A. Coffill, of Rockingham, Halifax County, says a flock of 8 to 10 of these birds has nested in her hedge for the past two years, "getting sheep's wool which I tie out for them for their nests. Today, I noticed the Purple finches also like the wool, as they were carrying it away - apparently, for building."

Catbirds, which have nested in Mr. Dick Ward's garden, in Halifax, for 15 years, consecutively, established an early record by arriving on May 16th this year.

Dr. Harrison Lewis writes of the Chestnut-collared longspur which repeatedly visited Mrs. Richardson's yard, on Bon Portage Island, in late May, that this bird "has not previously been recorded in Nova Scotia. The nearest record is that of a male that was collected on a small island in the Grand Manan Archipelago, New Brunswick, on June 2, 1914."

At the last executive meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, it was decided to hold the Annual Summer Field trip in Colchester County, in honour of the Truro Branch of the Society. Notice of the trip is enclosed with this mailing.

County Field Days are in process of planning in Annapolis-Digby, and in Yarmouth Counties. Dr. Lewis has undertaken to arrange a Field trip in Shelburne-Queens, and Mr. C. R. K. Allen, a late summer "shore-bird" day for Halifax County.

The Editor wishes everyone the best of luck for the summer, bird watching, and looks forward to receiving accounts full of incident and interest, for future publication.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
(Incorporated 1957)

Newsletter

November, 1962

At the Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, held on November 23rd, the President, Dr. Harrison F. Lewis presented to Mr. Robie Tufts an illuminated scroll, as a testimonial expressing our appreciation of his efforts on behalf of the Society, of which he was the first President. The scroll also embodied our wish to pay tribute to Mr. Tufts for his great contribution to students of birds in Nova Scotia, and elsewhere, by the preparation and publication of his fine book, "The Birds of Nova Scotia".

During the meeting, the following Notice of Motion to amend the Constitution was brought in by Miss Ethel Crathorne, Membership Secretary:

Notice of AMENDMENT

WHEREAS there is no special provision in the Constitution of the Nova Scotia Bird Society for the inclusion of junior members or groups,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article 3 of the Constitution be amended by addition of the following provisions:

THAT IS TO SAY, in the event a group of at least six persons of the age of fifteen years or less apply to form a special junior group within the Nova Scotia Bird Society, then the Society shall recognize the group as one member of the Society, enjoying the rights and privileges of such member, and paying the annual membership fee; if the junior group fails, for a continuous period of one year, to maintain a membership of at least six persons, its special status shall terminate.

There have been inquiries about the formation of junior groups, but the present Constitution of the Society does not make provision for such an arrangement, and it seems to many of us highly desirable that it should do so. The matter will be discussed at the next annual meeting.

Following the business meeting, Dr. Garrett Clough, of Dalhousie University, gave a talk on colonial behaviour patterns among birds, with the Herring Gull as an example. Dr. Clough pointed out that certain display activities of birds are rituals which make life in a colony possible. For example, threatening postures frequently serve to by-pass actual physical combat, over food or in the protection of nests. Dr. Clough and his wife raised a young gull, and found that it instinctively knew many of the correct attitudes, albeit in a somewhat rudimentary form. Mrs. Clough's clever line drawings were used to illustrate the lecture, along with some very beautiful colour slides taken at the Eastern Shore Bird Sanctuary.

Officers of the Nova Scotia Bird Society elected for 1962-1963 are:

President	- Rev. J. R. Calder Fraser, Bridgetown, Annapolis County, N. S.
Vice-President	- Dr. L. B. Macpherson, 6057 Fraser Street, Halifax, N. S.
Secretary-Treasurer	- Miss Sylvia Fullerton, 3055 Backus Street, Halifax, N. S.
Editor	- Mrs. J. W. Dabsor, 1444 Seymour Street, Halifax, N. S.
Honorary Solicitor	- Mr. R. A. Kanigsberg, Q.C., Halifax, N. S.
Auditor	- Mr. F. A. Lane, Halifax, N. S.

Dr. E. C. Smith, Head of the Department of Biology of Acadia University, writes as follows:

"Acadia University initiated a graduate program in Wildlife Management during the 1961-1962 session. This program includes courses in conservation, game management and ornithology, and leads to a M.Sc. degree in Biology with a concentration in Wildlife Management. The courses in ornithology, conservation and mammalogy are open to undergraduate students. This venture, the first of its kind in the Atlantic Provinces, has been followed with keen interest by members of the Bird Society among other conservationists.

"Satisfactory quarters have been provided by the University for the conduct of lectures and laboratories, but special rooms are needed to accommodate the growing collection of birds and mammals, and to house the graduate students and others particularly concerned with these collections. Plans include setting up a Wildlife Management Laboratory on one floor of the fire-proof building allocated for the purpose by the University. Funds are needed to purchase insect and dust-proof specimens, storage cases, and to provide a preparation room with dissecting microscopes and other standard equipment.

"The Executive of your Society feels that there will be those among the members who will wish to contribute to a cause such as this. All who do so will be helping to train young Canadians in the conservation and management of our wildlife resources."

THE FOREGOING LETTER IS FOR THE INFORMATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY. THOSE WHO WISH TO MAKE A DONATION SHOULD SEND IT TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT FUND, c/o ACADIA UNIVERSITY, WOLFVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA. THEY WILL RECEIVE A RECEIPT FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

A DAY ON LAKE OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA

T. F. T. Morland

Early in April of 1962, a friend and I decided that before leaving Florida we should add to our life-lists the extremely elusive Everglade Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*). This species has the invidious distinction of being one of the rarest in North America, in company with the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Eskimo Curlew, California Condor and Whooping Crane. It is doubtful whether more than 20 of them are alive today, and these are confined to one corner of Lake Okeechobee in south-central Florida, where they feed solely on large fresh-water snails which live on the stems of reeds standing in the shallow water.

We made inquiries of a number of birding friends and of officials of the local Audubon Society, who sent us to Lakeport, on the west side of the lake, to a fishing camp operated by a Mr. Thayer Stem. This gentleman had acted as a guide to a number of parties who wished to see the kites, and some years ago, assisted in a project for filming them at their nesting sites. A few days later, we left his camp at half past eight in the morning in an outboard boat, moving slowly down a dredged channel through the swamps and marshes which border the lake for several miles. This area was alive with birds, which paid little attention to the noise of our engine; amongst many others, we were able to identify Anhinga, Least Bittern, Gallinule, Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Limpkin, Glossy Ibis and Wood Ibis, as well as the majority of the members of the Heron and Egret families. We soon reached open water and increased speed to cover the 10 miles or so to the areas in which Mr. Stem expected the kites to be feeding. On the way, we spied a group of large white birds resting on the water, and altered course to have a look at them. It was a flock of several hundred White Pelican, which took off and then circled low over the boat. One of the largest of North American birds, with a wing spread of eight to nine feet, pure white

with black wing tips and huge orange bill, it was a glorious sight as they wheeled and shone in the brilliant sunshine. Unfortunately, I had stowed my camera away in a bag to protect it from the flying spray, so I missed an outstanding picture!

For the rest of the morning, we patrolled slowly along patches of reed and between small islands, until we began to think that we had missed our birds. Thayer, who had eyes like a hawk himself, finally saw what he thought was a kite some half mile away. Moving to intercept it as it slowly quartered a large area of marsh he cut the engine and we glided silently in among the reeds, right in its path. As it came closer it looked somewhat like a Marsh Hawk with a shorter and squarer tail, this resemblance being heightened by the distinctive white patch across the base of the tail. The black and dark gray of its coloring indicated that it was an adult male, and as it passed some thirty feet over the top of us, its head held downwards as it searched for its prey, the long strongly hooked bill was clearly visible. This bill is used for extracting the meat of the snail from its shell, a feat usually accomplished without even cracking the shell.

The Everglade Kite is now fully protected but it has probably reached the "point of no return". Lake Okeechobee, one of the largest lakes in the U.S.A., with a diameter of some 35 miles, has been given to bursting its banks in the rainy season, flooding many square miles of rich agricultural land. For this reason, a huge project is now under way to build high retaining levees around its shores, resulting in the draining and clearing of many of the marshes. What effect this will have on the population of the Pomacea snail, the only food of the kite, is not known, but it seems likely that one more attractive species is doomed to extinction in the name of "progress".

The Provincial Field Day of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was held as planned, on June 30th, and covered part of Route 11 (Truro-Tatamagouche), near Truro. Dr. Harrison F. Lewis acted as leader, the weather was clement, and some 50 species were noted. It was late in the season, and many birds had stopped singing, but the members of the Society who took part felt it was a satisfactory trip, and well worth the effort.

The County Field Days were more representative of this summer's weather, being cold and very wet. Nevertheless at 7:00 a.m., on July 4th, Society members from Digby and Annapolis Counties met at Bridgetown, and under the leadership of Rev. J. R. Calder Fraser, spent three hours hunting birds on the South Mountain, followed by a further exploration of the North Mountain. By noon, it was raining so heavily, the trip was discontinued. Twenty people took part, and 53 species were noted.

The Halifax County Field Day, September 29th, was equally unfavourable as to weather, raining continually from start to finish. However, 16 people arrived at the rendezvous, including two brave visitors - Mr. and Mrs. Brennan - from the Quebec Society, and the day was spent along the shore from Lawrencetown Beach to Chezzetcook. In all, 34 species were noted, outstanding being the European Widgeon. Mr. C. R. K. Ailen acted as leader.

BIRD NOTES AND COMMENTS

The following observations have been contributed by, and are for the information of, members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society. Deadlines for contributions to the Newsletter are hereafter to be mid-October, the first week in March, and the first week in June:

- Greater Shearwater Early June to late August, seen regularly while sailing off-shore between Liscombe and Cape Sable, 10 to 15 at a time, up to 100 in a day, about three-quarters being Greater Shearwater.
T. F. T. Morland.
- Sooty Shearwater
- Fulmar June 21. Near Brier Island - 3. Mrs. W. Lent.
July 1. Three miles off Port Mouton - 1. T. F. T. Morland.
July 10. Three miles off LaHave River - 2. T. F. T. Morland.
- Leach's Petrel During July. Off-shore Port Mouton and LaHave, as above, up to 25 per day - T. F. T. Morland.
July 7. Abercrombie, Pictou County - 3. R. Dicks.
- Wilson's Petrel Same dates and places as Capt. Morland's reports above for Leach's Petrel - never more than 10 in a day.
T. F. T. Morland.
July 7. Pugwash - 10 or 11. - E. Crathorne
- White-tailed Tropic Bird Two (found dead) a few days after October 7th (when Hurricane "Daisy" struck Nova Scotia), one on Brier Island, sent by W. Lent to the N. S. Museum of Science; the other found on the shore of Cape Sable, sent by Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith to the National Museum of Canada, Ottawa. There are two previous records for this species in Nova Scotia - one found near Wolfville and one near Shubenacadie.
- Great Blue Heron September 8 and September 22. A concentration of these birds noted at Cole Harbour, Halifax County - 135 and 147 respectively on above dates.
L. B. Macpherson and C. R. K. Allen.
- Cattle Egret May 20-27. Farm at West Brook, Cumberland County - 1, frequently seen and well described. D. Lawson
May 28. Pond by the Truro-Windsor highway near Windsor - 1, well seen and described. C. Tod.
July 5. Annapolis Royal marsh - 1, carefully described.
J. Johnson.
- Snowy Egret August 22. Charlesville, Shelburne County - 1, seen in very good light, Great Blue Heron in background to compare size. Yellow feet seen very distinctly when in flight.
S. W. and P. Hemeon.
- Little Blue Heron August 11. Evangeline Beach - 2 (adult). Identification approved by Mr. Tufts. E. Crathorne.
August 30. Near Yarmouth town - 1, immature.
Bruce Menchions and C. R. K. Allen.
August 31. Eel Brook, Yarmouth County - 1, adult.
Bruce Menchions and C. R. K. Allen.
September 8. Chezzetcook Range - 1, immature.
L. B. Macpherson and C. R. K. Allen.

- Yellow-crowned Night Heron August 11. Cape Sable, Shelburne County - 1, adult.
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith.
- Least Bittern August 13. Nyanza, Cape Breton - 1. First Cape Breton
record. A. J. Erskine.
- Green-winged Teal Fewer broods were noted than in 1960 or 1961.
A. J. Erskine.
- Blue-winged Teal Abundance - about the same as in 1961, more than in 1960.
A. J. Erskine.
- European Widgeon September 22. Lawrencetown Pond, Halifax County - 1.
L. B. Macpherson.
The same bird (probably) noted on several occasions around
this time by C. R. K. Allen and others. Peterson calls it
a "rare visitor to North America".
- Turkey Vulture August 4. Tiverton, Digby County - 1.
Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Kuch and Mr. and Mrs. Griffin.
August 29. Lower Argyle, Yarmouth County - 1.
Bruce Menchions and C. R. K. Allen.
September 1. Ohio, Yarmouth County - 1.
Bruce Menchions and C. R. K. Allen.
- Peregrine Falcon September 7. Round Hill, Annapolis County - 1. A very
tired bird, watched preening and resting, from close range
for 1½ hours. W. E. Whitehead.
- Sparrow Hawk September 16. A movement of these birds was noted through
Halifax County. L. B. Macpherson.
- Coot August 13. Baddeck - one bird in flight, either a Coot
or a Common Gallinule, probably the latter; in either case,
it would be a first record for Cape Breton.
A. J. Erskine.
September 1. Seaforth, Halifax County - 1. R. Dicks.
November 18. East Lawrencetown, Halifax County - 1.
L. B. Macpherson and C. R. K. Allen.
- Golden Plover August 26. Near Amherst, 25 to 27.
E. Lowerison and A. Fox.
This and other observations suggest that these birds are on
the increase.
- Solitary Sandpiper July 20. Near Scotsville - 1 (early?). Regularly since
then in habitat. A. J. Erskine.
- Willet October 2. Round Hill, Annapolis County - 1 (late).
W. E. Whitehead.
- Lesser Yellowlegs July 4. Antigonish - 1. (Date first noted, regularly
since July 30.) A. J. Erskine.

Newsletter

November, 1962

- Knot September 1. Lawrencetown, Halifax County - 3. R. Dicks.
September 8. Cole Harbour, Halifax County - 11.
L. B. Macpherson and C. R. K. Allen.
- White-rumped Sandpiper August 13. Nyanza. Date first noted. A. J. Erskine.
- Least Sandpiper July 22. Lawrencetown, Halifax County, a migration peak of these birds (flocks of 50 and 70). L. B. Macpherson.
- Dunlin October 8. Lawrencetown, Halifax County - 4. R. Dicks.
- Stilt Sandpiper August 13. Chezzetcook Range - 2 (together).
L. B. Macpherson.
September 8. Three-fathom Harbour, Halifax County - 1.
L. B. Macpherson and C. R. K. Allen.
- This bird is very rare. These are the 5th and 6th observations for Nova Scotia. They were seen at 50 yards with a telescope, and one of the birds (August 13) still had considerable barring on under parts, and rusty head patch (breeding plumage).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper September 8. Lawrencetown area - a migration peak (flocks of 50, 100, 50) of these birds. L. B. Macpherson.
- Marbled Godwit August 13. Bartlett's Beach, Digby County - 1.
E. D. H. Johnson.
August 24 and 25. Bartlett's Beach, Digby County - 1.
Probably the same bird. Well observed.
S. W. and P. Hemeon.
August 27. Bartlett's Beach, Digby County - 1. J. C. Higby.
September 29, and following days. Cape Sable, Shelburne County - several, up to a maximum of 25.
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith.
- Hudsonian Godwit July 12. "The usual place at Smith Point, north of Wallace, and, later, at Creignish, Cape Breton - 30." A. J. Erskine.
September 22. Chezzetcook Range - 1, largely in spring plumage. L. B. Macpherson and C. R. K. Allen.
- Sanderling August 14. At Pomquet Beach - 8 (early). A. J. Erskine.
- Black-headed Gull September 16. Lawrencetown, Halifax County - 2 (adults), and, subsequently, up to 8. They will be in evidence there until April. L. B. Macpherson.
- Dovekie July 24. Mahone Bay - 1 (early). T. F. T. Morland.
November 12. Round Hill, Annapolis County - 1, found on highway, uninjured. W. E. Whitehead.
- Ruffin July 8. Five miles off Sable River - 2. T. F. T. Morland.
- Mourning Dove Numbers of summer and fall reports suggest that this species is still on the increase in Nova Scotia.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo November 2. Cape Sable, Shelburne County - 2, found dead, by Sherill Anne Symonds, aged 8 years. Reported by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith.

Newsletter

November, 1962

Snowy Owl

August 26. Ciboux Island, Cape Breton - 1.

Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Kuch and
Mr. and Mrs. Griffin.

Nighthawk

August 27-28. Round Hill, Annapolis County - over 70
birds, congregating. W. E. Whitehead.

Chimney Swift

July 27. At 8:00 a.m., "several hundred were emerging from
chimney of Acadia Engine Company, at Bridgewater." (Some-
thing one could, but probably seldom would, see. Editor).

T. F. T. Morland.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Reported as scarce this year, particularly by E. E. Lowerison.

September 7. Round Hill, Annapolis County - 1 (late).

W. E. Whitehead.

Western Kingbird

September 8. West Lawrencetown, Halifax County - 1.

R. Dicks.

October 10. Queensland, Halifax County - 1. C.R.K. Allen.

November 28. Head of Chezzetcook, Halifax County - 1.

C. R. K. Allen.

Phoebe

June 10. Oakland, Lunenburg County - 2, both seen and
heard. T. F. T. Morland.

Wood Pewee

September 22. Westphal, Halifax County - 3, definite.
One of them "called" several times. This is late.

L. B. Macpherson.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

September 16. Lawrencetown, Halifax County - 1 (late).

L. B. Macpherson.

Tree Swallow

August 31. Beaver River, Digby County - a large
congregation of immatures, 500 - 1000. C. R. K. Allen.

September 22. Lawrencetown Beach, Halifax County - 4 (late)

L. B. Macpherson and C. R. K. Allen.

Cliff Swallow

"Commenced building their nests on May 23rd, on the eave of
a barn at Bass River, Colchester County, and occupied the
nests for two or three weeks; but, on July 2nd, it was
noted that all four nests had been taken over by sparrows,
stuffed with straw, and the swallows nowhere to be found."

S. W. and P. Hemeon.

September 25. Round Hill, Annapolis County - 1. One of
the few seen in 1962. Local nesting site deserted.

W. E. Whitehead.

Purple Martin

May 7. Amherst - 15+. "The Purple Martins seem to have
survived the summer quite well. I saw the last ones about
August 27. Next year, Mr. Fox and I are going to look
after this colony, as Mrs. Black.....will not be able to
carry on.....seeing that the houses are properly cleaned
and taken care of. We both intend erecting houses of our
own."

E. E. Lowerison.

Newsletter

November, 1962

- Blue Jay July 16. Halifax (City), the good intentions of Mr. Harold Hathaway were rudely rewarded when, in attempting to rescue a fledgeling jay from traffic, he was attacked by both screaming parents and had to seek refuge indoors, bleeding from scalp wounds. The angry parent birds then transferred their attentions to Mr. Hathaway's setter, which had to be rescued and housed. Mr. Hathaway was considerably amused, but found it an alarming experience. (Ed.)
- Red-breasted Nuthatch Round Hill, Annapolis County. Of common occurrence during the winter, 1961-62. None seen since April, 1962.
W. E. Whitehead.
- Mockingbird November 4. Rockingham, Halifax County - 1. Feeding on the ground, on a hawthorn tree, and multiflora rose hedge. Still around at latest report. Mrs. A. Coffill.
November 25. Halifax (City) - 1. Dick Ward.
- Catbird September 26. Round Hill, Annapolis County - 1 (late).
W. E. Whitehead.
- Brown Thrasher September 17. Cape Sable, Shelburne County - 1.
Benjamin F. Smith.
- Robin "Have fully recovered from the slump in 1960. All through June, this year, there have been small groups of 3 or 4, apparently without breeding territories and behaving in the rather wild manner of first migrants seen in August-September. Has anyone else noticed this?" T. F. T. Morland.
- Hermit Thrush "In this area (Indian Point, Lunenburg County) have fully recovered in numbers from slump in 1960." T. F. T. Morland.
October 9. Round Hill, Annapolis County - 1 (late).
W. E. Whitehead.
- Olive-backed Thrush November 28. Meagher's Grant, Halifax County - 1 (late).
C. R. K. Allen.
- Eastern Bluebird June 24 and preceding days, Brier Island, Digby County - 3, 2 males and 1 female. Mrs. W. Lent.
October 30. Centreville (McGray P.O.), Shelburne Co. - 2.
Mrs. Wm. Smith.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet October-November. Round Hill, Annapolis County - more numerous than usual. W. E. Whitehead.
- Cedar Waxwing "There appeared to be a concentration of these in south-western Yarmouth County August 23-25. None were observed in the northern part of the County, or in Shelburne County, but sizable groups were seen at Tusket, Melbourne, Little River Harbour, Plymouth and Wedgeport." S. W. and P. Hemeon.
- Prothonotary Warbler One, captured alive in the engine-room of Cape Sable Light station by Mr. B. Smith, September 20th. Mr. Smith studied the bird for half an hour, comparing it directly with descriptions and plates of this species in two bird guides, and then released it. Dr. Harrison F. Lewis says he is convinced that Mr. Smith's identification of this bird is correct.

Newsletter

November, 1962

- Evening Grosbeak June 6. Amherst - "a flock appeared, stayed a few days, and another (possibly the same) flock appeared in the same garden one week later." E. E. Lowerison.
July 12. Halifax - 1. M. Burke.
August 11, 16, 21, and 23. Margaree Forks (probably the same birds). A. J. Erskine.
- Pine Grosbeak September 3. Northeast Lake, Halifax County - birds heard singing repeatedly. L. B. Macpherson.
- Pine Siskin August 12. Cheticamp - 5; August 23. Margaree Forks - 3; August 26. Portree - 2. A. J. Erskine.
October 20. Between Dartmouth and Lawrencetown, Halifax County - half a dozen flocks, numbering in the hundreds. J. A. McCarter.
- Red Crossbill July 18-31. MacKinnon's Neck, Yarmouth County - 1 pair. Mrs. W. I. Gregg.
July 25. Near Antigonish - 6. Mr. and Mrs. Kuch and Mr. and Mrs. Griffin.
- White-winged Crossbill September 8. Seaforth, Halifax County - birds heard singing repeatedly (late). L. B. Macpherson and C. R. K. Allen.
- Rufous-sided Towhee October 12. Cape Sable, Shelburne County - 1. Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith.
November 3. Round Hill, Annapolis County - 1. W. E. Whitehead.
- Lark Sparrow August 13. Bon Portage Island, Shelburne County - 1. Mrs. Evelyn Richardson.
- Field Sparrow October 17. Bon Portage Island, Shelburne County - 1. Mrs. Evelyn Richardson.

Errata:

Captain Morland has corrected us about the White-fronted Goose, reported in the March Newsletter as a first for Nova Scotia. There are at least two previous records, one at Debert, 1949, and one in Cumberland County, 1926; the latter the first known record east of Montreal.

Mr. Robie Tufts has sent word that the two reports of Red-shouldered Hawks in the June Newsletter have been withdrawn, and we are also unable to confirm the report of the House Wren, in February. Mr. Tufts' book, "The Birds of Nova Scotia", now completed, should be of great assistance to members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, hereafter, as a reference and guide.

Newsletter

November, 1962

Captain Eric Holdway, of Pictou, has sent us, at the Vice-President's request, pictures and descriptions of his bird-feeding arrangements. He says: "To make sure of having a variety of birds, it is necessary to have the feeders in position with food available by October 1st and carry on until they can fend for themselves in the spring. It was a hard winter for birds in 1961-62, but I was able to manage with 25 lbs. of sunflower seed and 25 lbs. of mixed seed, supplemented with kitchen scraps." On this, he fed 4 Chickadees, 2 White-breasted Nuthatches, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 1 Song Sparrow, at his cage feeder, and 5 to 25 Evening Grosbeaks, 6 Blue Jays, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 10 to 20 House Sparrows, 4 Juncos, and 10 to 15 Starlings at his weathervane feeder.

The cage feeder is a light frame 12 x 9 x 8 inches with a solid top and back. Stems of goldenrod are stapled all around and at the bottom (to form the cage), with a gap of 1-1/8 inches. Two bars in the middle are slanted towards the bottom to give a 1-1/4 inch gap at a centre horizontal perch. There is a 2-inch gap in the bottom, as woodpeckers and nuthatches prefer to drop through, when alarmed. The cage is screwed (through the solid back) to a wall, and the screws also serve to hang food on (e.g. bacon rinds); and there is a seed trough, which can be filled through the hinged bottom. This trough must not be within reach of birds clinging to the outside bars and should not exceed 5/8 inch in width, or the birds will get into it.

The weathervane feeder is supported at a convenient height on one inch galvanized pipe, driven into the ground. Captain Holdway also uses a suspended "suet log", protected by a net, underneath, stretched between two wire coat hangers, to keep starlings from reaching the fat.

FOR COMPLETE DESCRIPTIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THESE INGENIOUS FEEDERS, WRITE TO THE EDITOR, WHO WILL BE GLAD TO LEND THEM, IN TURN, TO INTERESTED MEMBERS.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Organized 1955 - Incorporated 1957

Newsletter

March, 1963

The Christmas Count

The week between Christmas and New Year's Day was marked by considerable variation in weather. Temperatures ranged from 22° to 37° during Count periods; there was plenty of snow and ice around in most places, but not much wind. A few people reported poor visibility, due to rain or mist, but, on the whole, conditions were much better than they were last year. Approximately the same number of people (about 80) took part in the Counts in 1961 and 1962, but only 14 official records were received this year, as compared with 16 last year. As a matter of interest, in the 1961 Christmas Count, a grand total of 95 species was identified, and 25,700+ individuals counted, and, in the same period in 1962, 100 species were identified, and 25,400+ individuals counted.

In the lists below, species of especial interest are underlined:

Amherst Area, N. S. December 26, 1962.

Rough-legged Hawk, 2; Ring-necked Pheasant, 3; Gray Partridge, 3; Great Black-backed Gull, 4; Herring Gull, 2; Blue Jay, 2; Common Raven, 7; Common Crow, 175; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Boreal Chickadee, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5; Starling, 227; House Sparrow, 178; Evening Grosbeak, 11; Slate-coloured Junco, 2; Lapland Longspur, 2; Snow Bunting, 120. Total: 17 species, about 748 individuals. (Also seen in Count period - Gray Jay.)

A. J. Erskine, Mrs. A. J. Erskine, Dale Lawson, Evelyn Lowerison (compiler), Mrs. Dora Myers, Marjorie Nicholas, and Mrs. Morris Scovil.

Pictou, N. S. December 28, 1962.

Black Duck, 70; Osprey, 16; Red-breasted Merganser, 51; Common Merganser, 2; Bald Eagle, 2; Great Black-backed Gull, 15; Herring Gull, 110; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 10; Common Crow, 31; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Starling, 90; House Sparrow, 80; Brown-headed Cowbird, 4; Evening Grosbeak, 3; Slate-coloured Junco, 3. Total: 19 species, about 499 individuals. (Also seen in Count period - Gray Partridge, Common Grackle.)

E. Holdway.

Stellarton, Pictou Co., N. S. January 1, 1963.

Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 4; Common Crow, 8; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Starling, 60; House Sparrow, 26; Common Grackle, 1; Evening Grosbeak, 16; Tree Sparrow, 1. Total: 10 species, about 121 individuals.

Mrs. F. A. Blenckhorn.

Note: There may be some overlapping of this area with the established Springville count.

Springville, Pictou Co., N. S. January 1, 1963.

Red-breasted Merganser, 6; Hawk (probably Pigeon), 1; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Gray Partridge, 9; Great Black-backed Gull, 60; Herring Gull, 250; Blue Jay, 24; Common Raven, 13; Common Crow, 115; Black-capped Chickadee, 23; Boreal Chickadee, 11; Starling, 400; House Sparrow, 50; Slate-coloured Junco, 2. Total: 14 species, about 957 individuals.

Joan Hudson, Margaret Kerry (compiler), Cecily Tod.

Bass River, Colchester Co., N. S. December 24, 1962.

Canada Goose, 11; Black Lark, 50; Common Merganser, 17; Bald Eagle, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Herring Gull, 60; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 7; Common Crow, 14; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Starling, 75; House Sparrow, 21; Evening Grosbeak, 6; Slate-coloured Junco, 1. Total: 14 species, about 270 individuals.

Mrs. Lee Gilbert, Mrs. Ward Hemeon, Ward Hemeon (compiler).

Wolfville, N. S. December 29, 1962.

Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 1; Black Duck, 35; Green-winged Teal, 7; Ring-necked Duck, 1; Common Goldeneye, 35; Oldsquaw, 10; Common Scoter, 5; Hooded Merganser, 1; Common Merganser, 13; Red-breasted Merganser, 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 5; Rough-legged Hawk, 5; Bald Eagle, 5; Gyrfalcon, 1; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Ring-necked Pheasant, 4; Common Snipe, 6; Iceland Gull, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 220; Herring Gull, 764; Hairy Woodpecker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Horned Lark, 16; Blue Jay, 44; Common Raven, 20; Common Crow, 269; Black-capped Chickadee, 29; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 3; Robin, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Starling, 862; House Sparrow, 687; Brown-headed Cowbird, 50; Evening Grosbeak, 72; Pine Grosbeak, 6; American Goldfinch, 10; Savannah Sparrow, 6; Slate-colored Junco, 52; Tree Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 12; Snow Bunting, 2. Total: 46 species, about 3,292 individuals. (Also seen in Count period - Marsh Hawk, Spruce Grouse, Gray Partridge, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch, White-winged Crossbill.)

Sherman Bleakney, Curtis Chipman, Russell Eagles, J. S. Erstine (compiler), M. Forbes, Eric Mullen, A. Sexton, Peter Smith, R. W. Tufts, W. Urban.

Bridgetown, Annapolis Co., N. S. January 1, 1963.

Common Loon, 8; Gannet, 3; Common Goldeneye, 10; Oldsquaw, 6; Common Eider, 8; Common Scoter, 9; White-winged Scoter, 2; Common Merganser, 4; Red-breasted Merganser, 6; Goshawk, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Ring-necked Pheasant, 8; Great Black-backed Gull, 9; Herring Gull, 115; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Blue Jay, 32; Gray Jay, 1; Common Raven, 6; Common Crow, 85; Black-capped Chickadee, 4; Robin, 4; Starling, 445; House Sparrow, 720; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 5; Evening Grosbeak, 2; Purple Finch, 3; American Goldfinch, 4; Vesper Sparrow, 2; Slate-coloured Junco, 2; Song Sparrow, 11. Total: 35 species, about 1,536 individuals.

Calder Fraser (compiler), Peter Fraser, Louise Harlow, Walter Harlow, Mona Hicks, Harold McLaughlin, Leslie McLaughlin, Wilfred Marshall, Ray Whitman, Stewart Whitman.

Note on Bridgetown Count. They included a Cooper's Hawk but the compiler of the Count realized that the Editor might hesitate to accept it. The standard field mark of the rounded tail was reported by the observer. Your Editor can do no more than resort to quoting Peterson, as follows, "It can be very tricky separating small male Cooper's Hawks from large female Sharp-shins. They are not much different in size and the Sharp-shin's tail can even look slightly rounded when spread fanwise. The tail shape works best when the tail is folded." There is only one satisfactory record of the occurrence of this species in Nova Scotia, plus a few probably correct sight records. However, since two of the latter are for March and November, winter occurrences should not ever be ruled out, in spite of the fact that the normal winter range is south of New York State. In view of the above, it seems best not to include it in the Count but to call attention to it in this note.

Additional species seen in the Bridgetown and Karsdale Count Areas during the Count period. Murray A. Bent, of Bridgetown, made some valuable observations in these established areas. The species which are additional to those listed in those two counts are as follows: Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Gray Partridge, Purple Sandpiper, Snowy Owl, and White-winged Crossbill.

Karsdale, Annapolis Co., N. S. December 27, 1962.

Unidentified diver, 1; Black Duck, 17; Unidentified ducks, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Great Black-backed Gull, 3; Herring Gull, 37; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 4; Common Raven, 2; Common Crow, 35; Black-capped Chickadee, 24; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Starling, 4; House Sparrow, 2; American Goldfinch, 3. Totals: Species identified - 15, about 162 individuals. (Also seen in Count period - Golden-crowned Kinglet.)

Joseph Johnson.

Brier Island, Digby Co., N. S. December 26, 1962.

Common Loon, 21; Red-throated Loon, 1; Horned Grebe, 3; Gannet, 6; Great Cormorant, 136; Great Blue Heron, 3; Black Duck, 150; Common Goldeneye, 17; Oldsquaw, 50; Harlequin Duck, 2; Common Eider, 300; White-winged Scoter, 6; Common Merganser, 17; Red-breasted Merganser, 25; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Rough-legged Hawk, 2; Bald Eagle, 1; Purple Sandpiper, 100; Sanderling, 15; Glaucous Gull, 3; Iceland Gull, 4; Great Black-backed Gull, 175; Herring Gull, 300; Ring-billed Gull, 2; Razorbill, 1; Common Murre, 3; Dovekie, 7; Black Guillemot, 11; Snowy Owl, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Common Raven, 6; Common Crow, 50; Black-capped Chickadee, 25; Robin, 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Starling, 200; House Sparrow, 36; Evening Grosbeak, 17; Pine Siskin, 17; American Goldfinch, 47; White-winged Crossbill, 35; Slate-colored Junco, 26; Tree Sparrow, 4; Chipping Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 15; Snow Bunting, 31.
Total: 47 species, about 1,894 individuals.

Chester Lent, Harry Lent, Wickerson Lent (compiler).

Chebogue Area, Yarmouth Co., N. S. December 29, 1962.

Herring Gull, 1; Common Raven, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 1; House Sparrow, 12; Slate-colored Junco, 10; White-throated Sparrow, 2.
Total: 7 species, about 29 individuals.
Mrs. E. G. Sollows.

Indian Harbour, Halifax Co., N. S. December 22, 1962.

Oldsquaw, 25; Great Black-backed Gull, 3; Herring Gull, 9; Ring-necked Pheasant, 3; Blue Jay, 4; Common Crow, 2; Black-capped Chickadee, 3; Robin, 1; Starling, 12; House Sparrow, 10; Baltimore Oriole, 1; White-winged Crossbill, 20.
Total: 12 species, about 91 individuals. (Also seen in Count period - Great Blue Heron.)

Hilda Allen, Gilbert Jollimore, Melvin Richardson, Miriam Wetmore (compiler).

Halifax Area (West), N. S. December 29, 1962.

Common Loon, 2; Red-necked Grebe, 8; Great Cormorant, 46; Canada Goose, 22; Black Duck, 47; Common Goldeneye, 6; Oldsquaw, 2; Common Eider, 55; White-winged Scoter, 4; Common Merganser, 6; Red-breasted Merganser, 7; Goshawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Purple Sandpiper, 6; Glaucous Gull, 1; Iceland Gull, 21; Great Black-backed Gull, 450; Herring Gull, 3000; Black-headed Gull, 8; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 15; Gray Jay, 6; Blue Jay, 44; Common Raven, 21; Common Crow, 85; Black-capped Chickadee, 105; Boreal Chickadee, 33; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 9; Brown Creeper, 2; Mockingbird, 1; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 9; Northern Shrike, 2; Starling, 5,000; House Sparrow, 1,500; Common Grackle, 1; Brown-headed Cowbird, 53; Evening Grosbeak, 21; Pine Siskin, 30; American Goldfinch, 2; White-winged Crossbill, 5; Slate-colored Junco, 35; Tree Sparrow, 2; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 4. Total: 49 species, about 10,695 individuals. (Also noted in Count period - Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Dovekie.)
C. R. K. Allen, Jack Brayley, W. J. Chute, Miss Molly Claydon, Mrs. Arthur Coffill, John Comer, Mrs. A. D. M. Curry, Mrs. J. W. Dobson, Miss Alice Felkenham, Miss Sylvia J. Fullerton, Mrs. Eric Grant, Gordon A. Larkin, J. A. McCarter, Mrs. Dorothy McKnes, L. B. Macpherson, W. J. Mills, Mrs. P. B. F. Smith, Mrs. George Stairs, Mrs. George S. Unwin. 19 Observers.

Halifax Area (East), N. S. December 22, 1962.

Common Loon, 7; Red-necked Grebe, 3; Horned Grebe, 4; Great Blue Heron, 1; Canada Goose, 1,300; Black Duck, 130; Common Goldeneye, 205; Rufflehead, 1; Oldsquaw, 55; Harlequin Duck, 1; Common Eider, 45; White-winged Scoter, 28; Common Scoter, 6; Common Merganser, 40; Red-breasted Merganser, 75; Peregrine Falcon, 1; Pigeon Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Virginia Rail, 1; Ruddy Turnstone, 1; Common Snipe, 4; Purple Sandpiper, 3; Sanderling, 1; Great Black-backed Gull, 190; Herring Gull, 480; Ring-billed Gull, 31; Black-headed Gull, 1; Barred Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 5; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Horned Lark, 90; Gray Jay, 11; Blue Jay, 23; Common Raven, 32; Common Crow, 400; Black-capped Chickadee, 29; Boreal Chickadee, 17; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 8; Mockingbird, 1.

Halifax Area (East) - Continued

Robin, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 65; Northern Shrike, 1; Starling, 440; Myrtle Warbler, 1; House Sparrow, 165; Brown-headed Cowbird, 3; Evening Grosbeak, 2; Pine Siskin, 24; American Goldfinch, 3; White-winged Crossbill, 22; Savannah Sparrow, 19; Slate-colored Junco, 22; Tree Sparrow, 6; White-throated Sparrow, 14; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 27. Total: 58 species, about 4,063 individuals. (Also noted in Count period - Red-tailed Hawk, Winter Wren, Fox Sparrow.) 18 observers.

C. R. K. Allen, W. J. Chute, Miss Molly Claydon, Garrett C. Clough, John Comer, Ronald Dicks, Fred W. Dobson, Mrs. John W. Dobson, Norman Doucette, Miss Sylvia J. Fullerton, Ernest Jansen, Evelyn Leighton, J. A. McCarter, L. B. Macpherson, H. P. Moffatt, T. F. T. Morland, Mrs. F. B. F. Smith, Mrs. G. S. Unwin.

Country Harbour, Gtysborough Co., N. S. - January 1, 1963.

Common Loon, 6; Black Duck, 200; Common Goldeneye, 200; Oldsquaw, 50; White-winged Scoter, 100; Common Merganser, 10; Red-breasted Merganser, 12; Unidentified Ducks, 100; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 4; Unidentified Hawk, 1; Spruce Grouse, 12; Ruffed Grouse, 10; Ring-necked Pheasant, 2; Great Black-backed Gull, 6; Herring Gull, 25; Black-headed Gull, 2; Great Horned Owl, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Gray Jay, 4; Blue Jay, 4; Common Raven, 10; Common Crow, 25; Black-capped Chickadee, 25; Boreal Chickadee, 10; Robin, 2; Starling, 100; House Sparrow, 25; Evening Grosbeak, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 25; Tree Sparrow, 6; White-throated Sparrow, 5; Snow Bunting, 50. Total: Species identified - 32, about 1,050 individuals counted.

A. Burns Hodgson, A. Clare Hodgson.

Mr. Aaron Bagg, one of the Editorial Advisors of Audubon Field Notes, has written to ask for records of winter finch survivals in Nova Scotia. It seems that there was an influx of Evening Grosbeaks in Massachusetts the first week in February, suggesting that more northerly feeding grounds were becoming depleted. Reports from around the Province of Nova Scotia would indicate a build up in the grosbeak population somewhat earlier here. The first record we have for the winter is December 7, from W. J. Mills of Halifax (City), but, up to and including the Christmas Counts, these birds remained scarce. Margaret Kenny, Springville, Pictou County, wrote at Christmas, "Evening Grosbeaks are not to be found in their usual haunts of other winters". This may still be true in the country at large, but feeding stations in the towns no longer lack customers. Mrs. Backman, of Halifax (City), reported an increase in her flock of Evening Grosbeaks the latter part of January. At about the same time, Jack Brayley, of Prince's Lodge, Halifax County, noticed that his flock of a dozen birds had increased to one hundred, and there were about twenty-five Goldfinches with them. J. D. Orlando, of Bridgetown, reported fifty Evening Grosbeaks on January 18. Mrs. Chisholm, of Bedford, saw her first Grosbeaks at the feeder on January 6 - about fifteen of them, and four Goldfinches. Dr. H. F. Lewis, of Sable River, and Mr. J. S. Erskine, of Wolfville, both saw the peak number of Evening Grosbeaks for the winter so far, during the first week in February. In each case, the birds were seen in town, not in the country.

Up to February, 1963, W. E. Whitehead, of Annapolis, found Goldfinches less numerous than last year, but in Halifax, during February, numbers have been reported at feeders in the city. C. R. K. Allen and L. B. Macpherson saw nine Goldfinches in the Cole Harbour - Chezzetcook area January 26, fourteen on February 2, and twenty or more on February 23.

Concerning the other finches, only one record of Redpolls is on hand; that is, one small flock near Preston, Halifax County, seen by Dr. H. F. Lewis the latter part of January.

Mr. Allen saw a flock of fifteen to twenty Pine Siskins at East River, Lunenburg County, on January 30, and Jack Brayley has seen about one hundred at Prince's Lodge, Halifax County, since Christmas.

C. R. K. Allen reports Pine Grosbeaks much scarcer than last winter in the Cole Harbour - Chezzetcook district.

The real show-stealer in Nova Scotia this winter has been the White-winged Crossbill. Reports of these birds have been received from all over the Province, but the most striking picture is again from the records of Dr. Macpherson and Mr. Allen, in the Cole Harbour - Chezzetcook area: November 1 - 1; January 5, 1963 - 50 or more; January 26 - 42; February 2 - 20, plus two Red Crossbills; February 10 - 5; February 19 - 50 or more; and February 23 - 1,500-2,000. Mr. Allen said that it was extremely difficult to estimate numbers in the restless, constantly-shifting flocks. Many of us went out to watch these birds, which were eating spruce cones in the wooded area back of Lawrencetown beach. They were too busy to mind bird-watchers and put on a wonderful show for us.

Another bird to visit us in unusual numbers, last fall, was the Dovekie. Apparently, this was true along the whole length of the Atlantic Seaboard. Here in Nova Scotia reports of these birds inland began in October. The earliest record is October 9, one found alive at New Minas, Kings County, followed by two reports from Mrs. Frank Hawkins, of a bird found at Wilnot and another at Brickton - both on October 27. On November 10, R. Dicks saw eight at West Lawrencetown. November 12, W. E. Whitehead reported one on the highway at Round Hill, and on the same date one was found dead near Kentville. On November 12, also, one was brought to Mrs. Sollows, at Chebogue, Yarmouth County, for identification, and, near this date, one was found alive at Avonport, and another on the Wolfville dykeland (reported to Mrs. J. S. Erskine). Early in December, Mrs. Raymond saw eight at the edge of the tide, at Smith's Cove, Digby County. There was a high wind blowing. Dovekies are often blown inland during the late fall and early winter; the extraordinary thing this year was the unusually large number.

Other reports of outstanding interest received since Christmas are as follows:

- Red-throated Loon - 1, February 19, seen at Seaforth, Halifax County, by L. B. Macpherson and C. R. K. Allen. This is the first February record for this bird.
- Arctic Loon - 3, October 6 and 8, 1962, seen outside the harbour at Wood's Island, by Captain E. Holdway.
- Barrow's Goldeneye - 2 (male), February 9, 1963, with a flock of Common Goldeneye in Bedford Basin, by L. B. Macpherson and C. R. K. Allen.
- Hooded Merganser - 1, February 23, 1963, seen at Lawrencetown Beach, Halifax County, by F. Cook and P. R. Dobson.
1, Wolfville - see Christmas Count.
- Goshawk - 1, February 12, 1963, at Wilnot, by Mrs. Frank Hawkins.
- Red-tailed Hawk - 2, during January, 1963, at Annapolis, by J. B. Ternan, who reports that these birds are catching rats at the Town Dump.
1, throughout the winter, at Wilnot, by Mrs. Frank Hawkins.
1, December 23, 1962, Dartmouth, by R. Dicks.
1, December 29, 1962, (See Christmas Count, Wolfville).
1, February 17, 1963, West Lawrencetown, by W. J. Mills.
1, February 23, 1963, Lawrencetown area, by L. B. Macpherson.
- Virginia Rail - 1, December 23 and 31, 1962, Dartmouth, by R. Dicks.
- Woodcock - 1, end of February, 1963, St. Margaret's Bay Road. Mrs. G. White saw the bird sheltering close to her house.
1, March 17, 1963, Cole Harbour, W. J. Mills and C.R.K. Allen.
- Common Snipe - During the winter, from 1 to 3 of these birds was noted along the margins of the sink drain leading from the County Home at Cole Harbour, by R. Dicks, L. P. Macpherson, and C.R.K. Allen.

Newsletter

March, 1963.

- Skua - 1, October 2, 1962, off Caribou Harbour, by Capt. E. Holdway.
- Laughing Gull - 1, September 6, 1962, off Pictou, by Captain E. Holdway.
- Mourning Dove - 3, October 12, 1962, Sable River, by Dr. H. F. Lewis.
1, October 27, 1962, Halifax-Lawrencetown, by Dr. H.F. Lewis.
2, November 9, 1962, Sable River, by Dr. H. F. Lewis.
1, November 19, 1962, Sable River, by Dr. H. F. Lewis.
15, December 2, 1962, Dyke Road, Grand Desert, Halifax County, by W. J. Mills.
- Snowy Owl - 1, around in January, near Wolfville, by J. S. Erskine.
- Saw-whet Owl - 1, February 17, 1963, Burnside, Halifax County, by R. Dicks. This bird was killed by a car.
- Kingfisher - 1, December 1, 1962, West Lawrencetown, by R. Dicks.
1, "mid-winter", Wolfville, by Eric Mullen, reported by J.S. Erskine.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker - 1, all last winter, that is, 1961, at Middleton, at Mrs. Helen Vye's feeder. This first record for Nova Scotia was not reported to us before. The identification was confirmed by a movie sent to Earl Godfrey, Ottawa. Congratulations to Mrs. Vye.
- Western Kingbird - 1, November 28, 1962, Head of Chezzetcook, by C. R. K. Allen.
- Bank Swallow - Just a note from Captain Holdway's list, confirming other observations, that numbers of these birds were down about 90 per cent from the year before.
- Winter Wren - 2, December 23 and 31, 1962, Dartmouth, by R. Dicks.
- Mockingbird - 1, December 2, 1962, Grand Desert, Halifax County, by W. J. Mills.
1, since November, 1962, at Miss M. A. Christie's feeder, Bedford. This bird eats anything put out for him, apparently, and has driven away all other birds from the feeding tray and suet bag.
1, December 1, 14, and 16, at Liverpool, by Mrs. G.W. White.
1, March 9, 1963, Dartmouth, by Mrs. A. C. Duncan and Miss Ethel Crathorne.
1, around all winter, Dartmouth, Dr. and Mrs. Trask.
- Swainson's Thrush - 1, November 28, 1962, Musquodoboit Harbour, by C.R.K. Allen.
- Eastern Bluebird - 2, September 23, 1962, in a cemetery at West New Annan, near Tatamagouche, by D. L. Vincent. These birds were well seen and carefully described.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet - Considerably more numerous in the Cole Harbour - Chezzetcook area, 1962-63 than in recent years. It has been normal to see more (8-10) in a single day this year than during the whole of one of the last few winters.
- Water Pipit - 1, February 2, 1963, West Lawrencetown, by C. R. K. Allen and L. B. Macpherson.
- Northern Shrike - 1, January 25, 1963, Round Hill, by W. E. Whitehead. This bird was looking for a meal at a feeding station. It was two hours before the small birds returned.
1, immature, November 24, 1962, West Lawrencetown, by R.Dicks.
3, see Christmas Counts, Halifax Area, East and West.

ATTENTION - MEMBERS IN THE HALIFAX AREA:

The morning field trips enjoyed by early risers in Halifax and vicinity several years ago will be revived this spring. Trips will be held, weather permitting, according to the schedule given below. Note that the starting times are not the same for all trips. The weekday trips will end in time for us to be on the job by 9:00 a.m. Remember that May mornings can be chilly and that walking can be damp, to say the least, at this time of year.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Area to be Visited</u>
Wed., May 1	Tower Road entrance to the Park	6:00 a.m.	Point Pleasant Park
Wed., May 8	Armdale Traffic Circle	6:00 a.m.	Green Head Road
Sat., May 11	Dartmouth end of the Angus L. MacDonald Bridge	7:00 a.m.	Cole Harbour - Chezzetcook. This will be a half or a full day trip, according to choice.
Wed., May 22	Armdale Traffic Circle	6:00 a.m.	Old St. Margaret's Bay Road
Wed., May 29	Armdale Traffic Circle	6:00 a.m.	Green Head Road.

An Oceanographer does some Bird-Watching off the West Coast

Fred Dobson, a member of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, writes:

"June 18. On the North Pacific cruise, the weather was good... I saw a few, but not too many whales, sperm and finback. The most frequently seen mammal was the Fur Seal. What an animal! Not very large, about four feet long usually, but can they play! Whenever they see the ship, over they come, popping their inquisitive heads out of the water, and swim round and round us, sniffing at our bottles and bathythermographs; jumping and somersaulting, rolling on their backs and scratching themselves. Another favorite trick is to sneak up, underwater, and scare the pants off the albatrosses which settle round us when we stop. These birds, being dignified and immensely stupid, fly off resentfully a few yards, settle, and almost immediately rise with a squawk again, while a playful brown porpoise makes a swirl below them.

"Birds were sometimes good, sometimes non-existent, except for the ever-present albatrosses, which follow the ship in flocks up to twenty. These are the Black-footed Albatrosses; we occasionally see the Laysan Albatross, but it generally stays farther away from the ship. Pacific Fulmars, Petrels (Fork-tailed and Leach's), Sooty and Slender-billed Shearwaters were the only members of the tube-noses I saw. Of the Alcide, Pigeon Guillemots, Common Murres, Tufted and Rumped Petrels, Rhinoceros Auklets, Marbled Murrelets, Ancient Murrelets and (perhaps) Parakeet Auklets. Saw a couple of Common (I think) Terns, Glaucous Gulls, lots of Herring, Glaucous-winged, and Mew Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwakes and a number of Bonaparte's Gulls. The Kittiwakes stay with us through the worst of gales, they seem to enjoy it better as the wind gets stronger.

"Saw some beautiful male Common Eiders at Kodiak, and both Mergansers. Ducks are in great abundance inshore as a rule, Coot, Scaup, Goldeneye, and occasionally Baldpate, and sit still to let you look at them.

"The other bird of note was a poor wanderer. He flew in, a small, striped warbler, out of the fog, off the West Coast of Vancouver Island, settled in the captain's alleyway and tucked his head under his wing. Here the Radio Operator found him and took him to me. I let him sleep beside my pillow, out of sight, till

we got ashore, when I let him go. That afternoon when I got back to Nanaimo, whoever had borrowed my Peterson had returned it, and I located the bird at once - a Northern Water Thrush, my first, and what a way to get acquainted! I'll never miss one of those, if I ever see another.....

"January 13. The first week of the cruise, we zig-zagged up the West Coast of Vancouver Island, going into Quatsno Sound on one of our zigs. And the birds there were fabulous - Marbled Murrelets, California Murres by the hundreds, and Bald Eagles. The Sound, as all B. C. inlets are, was beautiful. We came down it at sunset, and there was a gray, sometimes pink, sometimes brilliantly white mist up in the mountains, which were perfectly reflected in the glass-smooth water. We saw some Indian burial grounds, and stopped at a whaling station (wheee-ww!)...Off early the next day, we did Queen Charlotte Sound, and reached the southern tip of the Queen Charlotte Islands, when the weather got bad - it always is there - so we put into a small inlet for a day. I had more ornithological good fortune. On the way in I counted twenty-eight Bald Eagles, and thirty-six more on the way out, of which at least twenty-six were in pairs. I must report to the Bald Eagle counting people. They were everywhere, a pair every hundred yards, all along the shore and on the islands. On the way out to sea, we passed Anthony Island, the main source of Haida-type totem poles on the West Coast, and there saw Cormorants (three species), Scoters, Pigeon Guillemots, and California Murres. And in Queen Charlotte Sound another Laysan Albatross. I will never cease to be thrilled by those birds. There is nothing in the sea more majestic.

"And away again up the west coast of the Queen Charlottes, and I found myself, at five in the morning, balancing on a heaving deck against a 35-knot gale, taking the last station of the cruise. The weather, from then on, got steadily worse. We rolled into Prince Rupert on Monday, where we stayed and licked our wounds. Rupert is an old friend now....

"The weather just blew harder Tuesday, so we were treated to a trip inside from Prince Rupert to Victoria. Most of the way is through narrow, completely calm waters, among green-wooded and snow-capped mountains, which drop steeply to narrow beaches. Deer and bear on the beaches. Once again, Bald Eagles, at least one pair a mile, and there are a lot of miles in the Inside Passage. In my eyes, it ranks with the best scenery anywhere.....

"As you can see, I'm doing pretty well with the sea birds, but have scarcely touched the land birds as yet. Also, in this mountainous region, a beach is a narrow strip of gravel, and shore birds aren't so easily found. That's one of the big things about Nova Scotia bird-watching that I miss, the wide sandy beaches, and the shore birds....."

The Spring Migration

Despite a few very early arrivals of Robins, Red-wings and Rusty Black-birds, the main spring migration in Nova Scotia came along at the usual time, and for the most part, in usual numbers of birds, in 1963. By March 30, in the Halifax area, Fox Sparrows and Song Sparrows had become common, and Robins were around in fair numbers. The main migration of these species was in full swing early in April when a sudden return of winter weather, with heavy snow, stopped the birds in their tracks. Great numbers descended upon the countryside and city backyards, searching for food. Approximately 15,000 Robins were counted in and around Halifax on April 13; they were eating anything they could find. Fox Sparrows were present in the hundreds and were seen on the beaches, in company with Robins and Juncos, competing for food with Piping Flovers in the seaweed at the water's edge.

The forest floor was covered with deep snow, and Woodcock were driven out to the roadsides, to probe any bit of open ground. Several of these shy birds were even seen in the city, working along fences, where the snow had melted.

As suddenly as they had come, the birds dispersed when the snow disappeared, and by April 24 were back to normal distribution.

Starting the 1st of May, members in the Halifax area took part in a number of early morning field trips, four in all. The fifth, an all-day trip, was cancelled because of the weather. This is the first time in the history of the Society that this has happened, our motto being rain or shine. It wasn't rain, but heavy snow and fog, with visibility practically nil, which stopped us, and the snow continued falling all day, so the Shore trip was a total loss. However, the other four expeditions in the parks and woods were rewarding; an average of fifteen people took part, and our species count each day rose from less than ten on May 1, to thirty-four on May 29 in the two hours we were out. We saw and heard the returning Swallows, Vireos, Fly-catchers, Thrushes and Warblers, and on our last trip had a magnificent sighting of a Lincoln's Sparrow, sitting on a bare branch, in full view and constant song. It is a rich and beautiful song. This was a first for many of us, and well worth the effort of rising at five a.m. any day.

Following are early dates and items of interest about the spring-returning birds, from the records of members of the Society:

- Handwritten: 1963*
- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <u>Sooty Shearwater</u> | (1) May 23, off Cape Sable Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith |
| <u>Great Blue Heron</u> | (5) Apr. 15, Cole Harbour, R. Dicks. Earliest record received this spring. |
| | (15) May 27, Bon Portage, Shag Harbour, E. Richardson
... "came in from the sea during early twilight, crying as they flew along the island's western edge, apparently bound for the herons' nesting grounds at the northern end of the island. This was the first such arrival I had ever witnessed". |
| <u>Common Egret</u> | (1) June 2-5, Bartlett's Marsh, Yar. Co. Florence Higby.
"A beautiful sight through the binoculars". |
| <u>Snowy Egret</u> | (1) Apr. 28, for several days, Broad Brook Marsh at Sand Beach, Yar. Co., V. Sollows, C. Higby, and Mrs. W. Perry. |
| <u>Cattle Egret</u> | (1) May 18, same place as above, V. Sollows, M. Kenney and others. Follows the cattle to pasture and then back to the barn. |
| <u>Canada Goose</u> | (1) May 15, Wallace Bay, A. J. Erskine. This is a very late date. |
| <u>Brant</u> | (About 3,000) Mar. 6, Brier Island, W. Lent
(70+) Apr. 13, in flight near Northport, on the shore between Tidnish and Port Howe, H. MacNeil.
(44) Apr. 16, Pictou, E. Holdway, "feeding on eel grass in a lagoon in Pictou Harbour, partly covered with ice. Small flocks of less than a hundred came daily till May 3.
A. J. Erskine reports Brant fewer along the North Shore than during the last three years. |

- Mallard (1) Mar. 31, Cole Harbour-Chezsetcook, W.J.Mills
(1) Apr. 14, Lawrencetown, Hfx Co., C.R.K.Allen. Mr. Allen reports that Black Duck, Canada Geese and Greater Scaup began to build up in numbers at Cole Harbour about the middle of March.
- Pintail (1) Mar. 17, West Lawrencetown, Hfx Co., W.J.Mills
(1 pr.) Mar. 24, West Lawrencetown, W. and P. Hemeon
- Green-winged Teal Mar. 30, first appearance in the Cole Harbour-Chezsetcook area. C.R.K.Allen
- American Widgeon (4 pr., lm.) May 13-24, Amherst Point, A.J.Erskine. "Their usual breeding area, numbers unchanged since 1957".
- Shoveller (2 m., 1 f.) May 7, Long Lake, near Amherst Point, A. J. Erskine, "reported by Prov. Forest Rangers Beatty and Keilly, probably correct - I saw a pair in Sackville, May 12."
(10) May 16, Antigonish, A. J. Erskine. Late date.
- Bufflehead (1) Mar. 30, West Lawrencetown, R. Dicks
Marsh Hawk (1) Mar. 26, Round Hill, Anna Co., W. E. Whitehead.
Osprey (1) Mar. 1, West Lawrencetown, R. Dicks.
Sparrow Hawk (1) Mar. 1, West Lawrencetown, R. Dicks.
Ruffed Grouse May 20, nest containing 18 eggs, Round Hill. W. E. Whitehead and Mrs. J.E. FitzRandolph.
- Sora (2) June 1, 2, 3. Scotsville, reported to A. J. Erskine, only "kee-eek" note heard.
- Killdeer (1) Apr. 6, Mahone Bay, H. F. Lewis
(2) Apr. 10, Shannon Park, Dartmouth, R. Dicks
"with a flock of robins".
(1) Apr. 13, Lawrencetown, Hfx Co., L.B.MacPherson
(1) Apr. 16, Cape Sable, Mr. and Mrs. B. Smith
(2) Apr. 18, near swamp land, White Point, Queens Co.
Mrs. W. H. Doggett
(2) May 15, Centreville, Cape Sable Island, Mrs. W. Smith.
(1) Mar. 1, Cole Harbour, R. Dicks
(1) with 4 downy young, probably 1-2 days old
May 18, Little Bass River, W. and P. Hemeon
(1, with 2 young) May 29, Greenhead Road, Hfx Co., members of the Bird Society on 6 a.m. walk- the adult bird put on a very clever "broken wing" act for us.
- Woodcock (1) Apr. 1, Round Hill, W. E. Whitehead.
(2) Apr. 17, Pictou, E. Holdway.
"winnowing at p.m. twilight".
(2) May 4, West Lawrencetown, R. Dicks.
(1) May 24, Malagash, A. J. Erskine. "seen in winter plumage, with Black-bellied Plovers. I have one other spring record, May 25, 1957, with Dr. H.F.Lewis, in Shelburne Co."
- Common Snipe (1) Apr. 15, West Lawrencetown, R. Dicks.
(5) May 15, Linden, A.J.Erskine.
(1) May 12, Bon Portage, E. Richardson. "Observed at 20', the bird feeding around a pile of rockweed, later in flight". A trans-oceanic stray, according to Dr. H.F.Lewis.
- Greater Yellowlegs (28, flock) May 18, Northumberland Strait, E. Holdway
Knot (4) May 20, " " "
(29) Apr. 6, West Lawrencetown, L.B.MacPherson
Pectoral Sandpiper (1) May 27, Port Dufferin, Guys. Co., L.B.MacPherson
Dowitcher (10+) Mar. 3, West Lawrencetown, R. Dicks.
Ruff Several seen in the distance, May 17, Western Shore, Lunenburg Co., C.R.K.Allen
- Northern Phalarope (1) Mar. 28-Apr.13, Shelburne, Mrs. D. Robertson. Feeding station,
(2) Apr. 6, Centreville, Cape Sable Island, Mrs. W. Smith.
(1) Apr.9-15, Bon Portage, Shag Harbour, E. Richardson. First spring record for the island.
- Black-headed Gull (This is not a spring record, but Mr. C. F. Taylor of R.R.#1, Stewiacke, writes that he received a Hawk Owl for mounting, which had been collected at Mooseland. Two others at least were seen during the winter, one in the Wentworth Valley, one in Lunenburg Co)Ed.
Laughing Gull (1) May 22, heard first on this date at Bedford, A. Chisholm.
Bonaparte's Gull (1) May 25 and since, Northwest Arm, Halifax; D.Ward, W.Chute and others
Common and/or Arctic Tern (1) May (first week) Freeport, Digby Co., W.Lent. One found dead taken to Mr. Lent on Brier Island, who sent it to the N.S.Museum of Science, Hfx. Dr.H.F.Lewis examined it and concurred in the identification.
- Mourning Dove (1) Mar. 28-Apr.13, Shelburne, Mrs. D. Robertson. Feeding station,
(2) Apr. 6, Centreville, Cape Sable Island, Mrs. W. Smith.
(1) Apr.9-15, Bon Portage, Shag Harbour, E. Richardson. First spring record for the island.
- Hawk Owl (This is not a spring record, but Mr. C. F. Taylor of R.R.#1, Stewiacke, writes that he received a Hawk Owl for mounting, which had been collected at Mooseland. Two others at least were seen during the winter, one in the Wentworth Valley, one in Lunenburg Co)Ed.
Whip-poor-will (1) May 22, heard first on this date at Bedford, A. Chisholm.
(1) May 25 and since, Northwest Arm, Halifax; D.Ward, W.Chute and others
Churk-will's widow (1) May (first week) Freeport, Digby Co., W.Lent. One found dead taken to Mr. Lent on Brier Island, who sent it to the N.S.Museum of Science, Hfx. Dr.H.F.Lewis examined it and concurred in the identification.

- Nighthawk (2) May 17, (Halifax - city) P.R.Dobson
May 28, first arrivals in Wolfville, J. S. Erskine
- Chimney Swift (10) May 12, near Wolfville, J. S. Erskine
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1) May 16, Round Hill, W.E.Whitehead
(1) May 18, Halifax (city) D. Ward
(3) May 21 " " W. Chute. Dr. Chute says these birds appear every year just as his Japanese Quince comes into bloom, and prefer this to all other nectar sources.
- Belted Kingfisher (1) Mar. 30, Cole Harbour-Chezetcook area, C.R.K.Allen
(1) Mar. 30, Three Fathom Harbour, W. Hemeon
- Flicker (1) Mar. 21, White Point, Queens Co. Mrs. W.H.Doggett
(1) Apr. 3, Halifax (city), C.R.K.Allen
- Eastern Kingbird (1) May 20, Bedford, A. Chisholm
(1) May 20, Round Hill, W.E.Whitehead
- Crested Flycatcher (1) May 14-25 Bon Portage, E. Richardson. "During a cold, wet fog ... hit against our kitchen window and fell into the wheelbarrow just below it...was only momentarily stunned".
- Eastern Phoebe (1) Mar. 29, Bon Portage, E. Richardson. "Following a SE gale, it was present during the following 2 days and fed along the open shore upon the kelp-flies, one of the earliest insects to appear on Bon Portage."
(1) Apr. 27, Pictou, E. Holdway
"perched in lilac hedge"
(1) May 7, Pictou, E. Holdway
"flycatching in the garden."
(1) May 15, Pictou, E. Holdway
"in song".
(1) May 19, 20, Tusket, Yar. Co. - C.R.K.Allen
"in song".
- Least Flycatcher (1) May 16, Round Hill, W.E.Whitehead.
- Wood Peewee (1) June 1, Little Bass River, Col Co., W. and P. Hemeon
- Olive-sided Flycatcher (1) May 23, River Denys, A.J.Erskine
- Tree Swallow (1) Apr. 10, visiting bird house, Yar. Co., M. Kenney
- Purple Martin (3 prs.) May 20, Amherst, E. Lowerison.
Mrs. J. DeVenne of Amherst reports that she also has a 12-compartment Martin house, which has been well patronized by these birds for many years.
- House Wren (1) May 10, Cape Sable Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith.
- Mockingbird (1) Mar. 28, Rockingham. Hfx Co., Mrs. Coffill reports that her Mockingbird (which has monopolized her feeding station all winter) began to sing on this date, and another bird of this species has joined it.
(1) All last winter, Shelburne, Mrs. D. Robertson. Ate Multiflora rose hips, and began to sing in the spring.
(2 pr.) May 20, Halifax city, W. Chute. These birds are evidently nesting nearby. On first arrival they were seen feeding on suet but no longer go near it.
(1) A day or two after the hurricane of Oct. 7, 1962, J. Symonds found on Cape Sable a dead, banded Catbird. It has been learned that this bird was banded as an immature at Washington Crossing Park, Pennsylvania, on Aug. 18, 1962, by Dr. Paul Fluck. Evidently it was not of Nova Scotia origin. (Note by Dr. H. F. Lewis).
- Catbird (1) Apr. 27, Brier Island, Mrs. W.Lent.
(1) May 5, Cape Sable, Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith
(1) May 6-14, Bon Portage, E. Richardson - "Sang a most pleasing song."
(1) June 1, Bon Portage, E. Richardson
(12) June 4, Brier Island, Mrs. W. Lent
(2) Apr. 1, Brier Island, Mrs. W. Lent
- Brown Thrasher (2) Middle of March, Rose Bay, Lun. Co. Dr. G.A.Bars.
(10+) June 7, Halifax city, W. Chute. This flock is still about feeding on larvae in the trees, frequently passing them down feeding one another.
- Eastern Bluebird
- Cedar Waxwings
- Solitary Vireo (2) May 17, Pictou, E. Holdway. "One gathering nesting material, strips of paper bark from white birch."

Warblers

Throughout April and May the warblers arrived on schedule, according to the records received from A. J. Erskine, the Hemeons, D. Ward, E. Crathorne, R. Dicks, A. Chisholm, E. Holdway and others. Some early dates were: Myrtle and Palm, Apr. 19, 21; Black-throated Green and Parula, May 12; Yellow, May 16, 17; Chestnut-sided, Magnolia and Black and White, May 18; Yellowthroat, May 19; Redstart, May 21; Blackpoll, May 22.

One outstanding report, a first record for Nova Scotia, comes from Mrs Richardson, Bon Portage, Shag Harbour, namely:

Blue-winged Warbler

This bird arrived on May 4, following a storm with strong, cold winds. It was in company with a Parula and a Palm Warbler. It sang repeatedly, and was observed closely for 20 minutes. Mrs. Richardson's careful description leaves no doubt in the minds of the editorial committee that her identification is correct.

Northern Water Thrush

Note. This is not a common bird around the province, but Dr. L. B. MacPherson reports that they are abundant at Donahue and Loon Lakes, Guysborough Co., and have been so for many years.

Bobolink

- (1) May 18, Round Hill, W.E. Whitehead
- (2 m.) May 22, Pictou, E. Holdway
- May 31 " " (first females appeared).

Meadowlark

- (1) Apr. 27, Brier Island Mrs. W. Lent.

Red-wing

- (7) Mar. 26, Pictou, E. Holdway - "vagrant birds in company with starlings."

Baltimore Oriole

- (1) Mar. 28, Cole Harbour-Chezzetcook, C.R.K.Allen
- (2 m.) Mar. 29, White Point, Queens Co., Mrs. Doggett
- (1) May 18-20, Bedford, A. Chisholm and others. Several years ago, Baltimore Orioles nested in the elm trees at Sunny-side, possibly they still do so. Ed.

Rusty Blackbird

- (1) Mar. 30, Cole Harbour-Chezzetcook, C.R.K.Allen

Grackle

- (11) Mar. 30 " " "

Scarlet Tanager

- (1) May 23, Cape Sable Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith

Cardinal

- (1) May 25, Rockingham, Halifax Co. Gordon Larkin. This brilliant bird was perched in a treetop. Congratulations to Mr. Larkin.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

May 11-29. So very many reports of these birds have come in, it seemed worth of comment, for although they are one of our regular nesting species, they are seldom seen so often.

Indigo Bunting

- (1) Apr. 30-May 3 at a feeding station, Hubbards, reported to W. J. Mills by Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Bringloe.
- (2) May (first week) Centreville, Cape Sable, Mrs. W. Smith.
- (1) May 3, Yarmouth town, Clark Higby.
- (1) May 5-13, Bon Portage, E. Richardson.
- (1) May 13, Rose Bay, G.A. Barss
- (1) May 17, Lower E. Pubnico, C.R.K.Allen
- (1) May 30, Bon Portage, E. Richardson. These birds are what Dr. H.F. Lewis designates "regular strays" of southern origin.

Dickcissel

- (1 f.) May 11, Shelburne, Mrs. D. Robertson. Came to the feeding station during the snowstorm.

Red Crossbill

- (1) Apr. 17, Bridgewater, Dr. H. F. Lewis
- (12) Apr. 19, Lower Ohio, Shelburne Co. Mrs. B. Harris
- (1) Apr. 21 (about) Mill Village, Queens Co., J. Donly.
- (some) May 10-26, Liverpool, Queens Co. Mrs. A. Ryan
- (1m., 2 f.) May 20, Round Hill, W.E. Whitehead and H. Fitz-Randolph.
- (4) May 26, Bridgewater, Dr. H. F. Lewis
- (2) June 2 " "
- (12) June 3 " "

This spring there has been an attenuated resurgence of this species along the Atlantic side of Nova Scotia, at least in Lunenburg, Queens, and Shelburne counties.

Note by Dr. H. F. Lewis.

White-winged Crossbill

Further reports have come in since the last Newsletter indicating that this bird was more numerous than usual in Nova Scotia last winter. Among these, the Lighthouse Keeper at Coffin's Island off Liverpool reports a flock of 50+ all winter.

Rufous-sided Towhee

- (1) May 4, Cape Sable Mr. and Mrs. S. Smith.

- Ipswich Sparrow (1) Apr. 16, Lawrencetown Beach, Hfx Co., Bruce Menchions and C.R.K.Allen. Late date.
- Savannah Sparrow (2) Apr. 15, White Point, Queens Co., Mrs. Doggett. Capt. Holdway notes that this bird is much scarcer than usual in the Pictou area.
- Lark Sparrow (1) June 1, Bon Portage, E. Richardson. Another stray, of western origin.
- Junco (100+) May 15, Round Hill, Anna Co., W.E. Whitehead.
"gradually moving S.E."
May 25, nest, with 5 eggs, Cole Harbour, R. Dicks.
- Tree Sparrow (2) Apr. 8, White Point, Mrs. Doggett. Late date.
- Chipping Sparrow (1) May 18, near Wolfville, A. J. Erskine.
(1) May 23, Bedford, A. Chisholm.
(1) May 25, Camp Hill Cemetery, Halifax, P. Dobson. Capt. Holdway of Pictou reports Chipping Sparrows as being in more than usual numbers, very numerous.
- Field Sparrow (1) May 6, Bon Portage, E. Richardson
(2) May 12, " "
- White-crowned Sparrow (3) May 11 and for the following week, Central Chebogue, Yar. Co., M. Kenney, V. Sallows.
(2) in May, Bon Portage, E. Richardson. Mrs. Richardson writes: "While watching one Field Sparrow and one White-crowned Sparrow beside it (binoculars) I was surprised to see that they were eating bites from a dried kelp-blade ... I watched them tear off small pieces and swallow them... I wonder if any other members of the society have seen land birds eating this..."
- Fox Sparrow (1) Mar. 25, White Point, Queens Co. Mrs. W. H. Doggett.
(8) Mar. 27, Pictou, E. Holdway
(12+) Mar. 30, Cole Harbour-Chezzetcook area. C.R.K.Allen (several) Apr. 2-13, Round Hill, W. E. Whitehead.
(15+) Apr. 10, Shannon Park, Dartmouth, R. Dicks.
(30) Apr. 10, Armdale, Hfx Co. Mrs. C.C. Ward
(20) Apr. 11, Pictou, E. Holdway
(16) Apr. 13, Northport, H. MacNeil.
(1000+) Apr. 13, Cole Harbour-Chezzetcook, C.R.K.Allen. Well scattered. These birds continued to be present in comparable numbers for a week following this date, and then quickly disappeared, until by April 24 only one was seen in the area. Reports by C.R.K. Allen, R. Dicks and L. B. MacPherson. Dr. MacPherson later reported a Fox Sparrow at Lundy, Guysborough Co. from May 28 through June 1, in song and apparently "on territory". If this is the case, it is a first record of such an occurrence on the mainland of Nova Scotia.
- Lincoln Sparrow (1) May 20, Portree, Cape Breton, A. J. Erskine
(1) May 29, Greenhead Road, Hfx Co., members of the Society on early morning expedition.
- Snow Bunting (Approx. 200) Feb. 9, Cole Harbour-Chezzetcook, C.R.K.Allen. Mr. Allen reports Snow Buntings almost completely lacking in this area up until the above date, when the Horned Larks also appeared. Thereafter the Snow Buntings appear to have been exceptionally numerous and well distributed about the province.
(30) Mar. 2, Cole Harbour-Chezzetcook, C.R.K.Allen
(23) Mar. 17 " " "
(50+) Mar. 23 " " "
(150-200) Mar. 18-25, White Point, Queens Co., Mrs. Doggett
Rose Bay, Lunenburg Co., Dr. G. A. Barss
"Snow Buntings are numerous this winter".
(100+ Apr. 13, Northport, H. MacNeil. This is a very late date.

Last summer, Mr. W. J. Mills of Halifax was fortunate enough to have a family of Black-capped Chickadees nesting in a Swallow house in his garden. The birds were observed carrying nesting material into the box on May 2. On May 27, the adults first began bringing food to the box and were still feeding the young on June 16. The food appeared to be mostly "fall inch worms". Mr. Mills says a box for chickadees should be in place very early, preferably the first of March, and it is absolutely necessary to keep sparrows away from it, at all times.

THE WILLET IN NOVA SCOTIA

Many of our members who live along the shore will be quite familiar with the loud, ringing, "Pill-will-willet" and the flashing black and white of the wings in flight of this now fairly common bird, the largest of the shore birds which breed in the province. They may be surprised, however, to learn that some fifty years ago the Willet had disappeared from all areas north of Virginia, mainly through the activities of hunters shooting them for the market, and that many persons thought the species was doomed to virtual extinction.

P. A. Tavermer records that about 1916 a few breeding pairs were located in the southwest of the province, and steps were taken by special officers and local residents to protect them. They began to increase almost immediately, small breeding colonies appearing along both coasts, until by the end of the nineteen-forties they had reached Minas Basin on one side and Guysborough County on the other.

The Willets arrive in Nova Scotia usually in the last week of April, and remain with us until the middle of September. They nest in small colonies in grassy or bushy patches not very far removed from salt water. Although individual nests may be hard to locate, the birds generally give away the nesting area by swooping at an intruder, sometimes to within a few feet of his head, and setting up a loud "yip-yip-yip" cry which they continue until he departs. In 1961 I had two nests under observation on a grassy island in Mahone Bay, and oddly enough they were situated right in the middle of a breeding colony of Terns. The two species did not appear to interfere with each other in any way.

In 1951 the Willet was first reported from Cape Breton, when birds that were apparently paired were seen on Isle Madame. They were definitely established as breeding there in 1954 when W. Earl Godfrey observed flightless young on that island. Up to the present there has been no breeding record for the North Shore, although in 1960 J. S. Erskine saw birds at Waugh Island, Cumberland County, acting as if there were young in the vicinity, and in 1961 A. J. Erskine observed birds in the Antigonish and Malagash areas which behaved as if they were breeding. Any of our members who visit the North Shore are requested to watch for any evidence of breeding Willets, which should be reported to our Editor for publication in the Newsletter.

Contributed by Captain T.F.T. Morland.

It has been suggested that members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society keep an eye on the Osprey. Nests, numbers of eggs, and numbers of young successfully reared, are the items of interest at this time.

Word has come from the New England States that the breeding success of Ospreys dropped sharply last year. Nestlings found dead, and sterile eggs were examined, and found to contain a high concentration of one of the pesticides in current use.

It is possible that the birds had fed on fish contaminated by poison spray used to kill insects on the salt marshes.

OSPREY NESTING SURVEY

Observer's name and address:

Exact location of nest:

History of nest:

Year built How many years used to your knowledge

Used 1963?

If not, most recent year used

No. of Young produced that year

1963 Season:

Adults first seen at nest

Eggs laid Eggs hatched

No. of Young successfully reared

PROVINCIAL FIELD TRIP

Saturday, August 17th - Pictou, N. S.

Members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, and friends, who wish to take part in the Annual Field Trip, will meet at the junction of Routes 4 and 6, on the edge of Pictou town, at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, August 17th, 1963. The expedition will be conducted by Dr. L. B. MacPherson, and suggested routes are by courtesy of Captain E. Holdway. Overnight accommodation may be secured at Pictou Lodge, on the Ferry Road, or at Johnson's Motel, on Route 6, (at the junction of Route 4), or at Bedford's Motel, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from Pictou, off Route 6. Reservations should be made in advance.

- - - -

The prize winners in the essay contest for teachers, sponsored by the Nova Scotia Bird Society, were Mrs. Hilary Grant, Halifax Grammer School, First Prize, and Mrs. Emma Brownell, Douglas Street School Truro, Second Prize. The essay was entitled "How I Have Taught My Pupils about Nova Scotia Birds", and the prizes were twenty-five and ten dollars, for the purchase of books which would be helpful in teaching about birds.

Mr. Harold Hatheway has drawn our attention to the fact that Dover Publications Ins., New York, is bringing out a new printing of the Life Histories of North American Birds, by Arthur Cleveland Bent. This is considered to be the definitive work on birds in North America, and had become unobtainable. Mr. Hatheway felt that members of the society should know that it is on the market again.

- - - -

"-- A scant thirty miles from Times Square in New York City is some of the roughest, toughest country this side of the Rockies.

It is the Great Swamp of Morris County, a battleground still for conservationists fighting the bulldozers of would-be real estate developers and the advocates of a jet airport for New York.

The Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior has taken over 2,081 acres of this area as a gift and named it the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

It is a strange country. Only a third of it is swamp, and much of it is hilly and forested.

The conservationists' fight began in 1956, long before the Port of New York Authority announced it wanted to acquire the Great Swamp for a jetport.

Then the Great Swamp Committee of the North American Wildlife Foundation moved in. Most of their workers were neighborhood volunteers.

The Great Swamp Committee to date has expended \$499,200 and deeded its land to the Federal Government, which has accepted the gift. The committee now is seeking \$225,000 to acquire at least 1,000 more acres to link up some of the disconnected tracts it has now acquired.

And it wants all this before the roar of bulldozers starts drowning out the jingling, sleigh bell-like sounds of the spring peepers, the songs of the yellow-splashed warblers that flutter from cattail to cattail, and the rustle of the herds of whitetail deer as they move through the great stands of white oak, red oak, pin oak and hickories to the security of the boglands where even the hardy young surveyors venture only with the greatest caution."

Quoted from The New York Times.

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
(Incorporated 1957)

Newsletter

November, 1963

At the Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, held in Halifax on November 7th, Mr. Fred Payne, of the Provincial Wildlife Service, discussed the status of water fowl in Nova Scotia. It will be recalled that Mr. Payne spoke of the plans of the Wildlife Service, immediately after his appointment, to the members of the Society, in 1961; and he kindly consented to give us a progress report now, two years later.

Ground surveys have been made of 150 areas in Nova Scotia, to study habitat, concentration of water fowl, and breeding populations. Attempts have been made to establish breeding colonies in suitable places; for example, 15 young Canada geese were released at Nyanza (near Baddeck), and more are to be released next year. Artificial colonies of Canada Geese are relatively easy to establish, Mr. Payne says, but colonies of ducks are generally more difficult. Five hundred Mallards were released this year, but no successful colony has been established.

Several more sanctuaries have been set up; and a thorough study made of a 6,000 acre marsh, Missiquash, Cumberland Co., in regard to soil, water, and wildlife population as another possible large protected breeding area. Nearly a dozen species of duck are known to nest in Nova Scotia, the Black Duck being of most general distribution.

Mr. Payne's particular research is into the life history of the Black Duck. Numbers are diminishing, possibly due to the widespread use of pesticides, although there may be other "limiting factors" concerned. In 1963, 703 ducks were banded in spite of the difficulties involved (ice and tides), most of these ducks being Black Ducks. In this connection, Mr. Payne mentioned that the first duck banded in Nova Scotia, an immature Black Duck, was near Kentville, in June, 1913, by our Past-President, Dr. Harrison F. Lewis.

The officers of the Nova Scotia Bird Society for the year 1963-1964 are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| President | - Dr. Lloyd B. Macpherson. |
| Vice-President | - Mrs. Victor Candoza. |
| Secretary-Treasurer | - Miss Sylvia Fullerton. |
| Editor | - Mrs. J. W. Dobson. |
| Executive Members | - Mr. Jack Brayley.
Mr. C. R. K. Allen
Mr. W. J. Mills |
| Honorary Solicitor | - Mr. R. A. Kanigsberg, Q.C. |
| Auditor | - Mr. F. A. Lane. |
-

Plans for Society field trips during the summer met with varying degrees of success. Mrs. Fred Kenney writes:

"On August 17th, thirteen members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society met at the edge of Pictou town for the annual field day, the tour to be conducted by Dr. I. B. Macpherson. The first stop was on the grounds of Pictou Lodge, where there was a good concentration of birds, including warblers, flycatchers, nuthatches and sparrows. Cape May warblers, and Bay-breasted warblers, attracted the most attention. There was ample opportunity for observation, which was fortunate, as most of the warblers were immature or in fall plumage.

Next stop was at Caribou Island to observe migrating shore birds, and other water birds. Here the Bonaparte's gulls attracted most interest. Quite a flock of them were feeding close inshore.

After lunch on the beach, the members motored inland to Calder's Lake. Four pairs of Ring-necked Ducks were raising broods, of eight to eleven ducklings each, on this lake. Two flotillas, parent and young, sailed past in good view.

Then on to Grant's Lake where Pied-billed Grebes were breeding this year, but were not in view that afternoon.

The day was warm and sunny and greatly enjoyed by all, our only regret being that there were not more of us present. Over 60 species of birds were counted."

Mr. and Mrs. Kenney entertained the group at the end of the trip, with coffee and refreshments, on the lawn, giving us a pleasant opportunity to relax and compare notes before proceeding homeward.

Mr. J. B. Tennan has a different story:

"Unfortunately that trip to Isle Haute did not come off. We made two attempts. First time we arrived at the Lorden wharf at 7.00 a.m. Too dirty to make the crossing, so we accepted Dr. Harlow's invitation to have our lunches in his summer place.....just north of Bridgetown on the Bay shore. We had everything but snow and this on the 10th of June.

Second trip was a month later. Same old story. Too rough. We went to a place called the Black Hole and had lunch on the shore.

Each time some twelve interested members planned to make the trip. I have a feeling that the Captain suspected that we were not all housebroke and that as a result he would be unwilling to make the trip except under the most favourable circumstances.

It was my intention to make another start in August....with a small party. We would spend the night and, if the wind was against us, spend another night. That is the way to plan such a trip. However, so many small matters kept popping up that I had to postpone everything until early in 1964. You will be hearing from me again!!"

Members in the Halifax area were able to carry out plans for a Shore Trip in the Lawrencetown-Chezzetcook area on September 28th. The day was showery and the wind raw but visibility was good and birds were plentiful. The feature of the day was the Snow Goose at Cole Harbour, which was in the midst of a flock of Black Ducks, where it stood out sharply among the darker birds. Of special interest too were three Mourning Doves, twenty Common Snipe in one field and a big Gannet, diving offshore. Sixty-eight species in all were identified, and twenty-four members were present.

From Mrs. Victor Cardoza we have received the following account:

"September 15/63. Warm day - no wind. Temp. in 70's. Left Digby 8 a.m. for Westport. Brier Island, Digby Co. - Miss Louise Daley, Miss Edith Lynch, Mr. & Mrs. Victor Cardoza, Miss Elizabeth Cardoza, Mr. W. Arthur Crowe and Mr. George Cardoza took part. Birds were seen: 20 Flickers, 30 Robins, 25 Barn Swallows, 3 Eastern Kingbirds, 58 Starlings, 10 Greater Yellow Legs, 145 Crows, 1 N. Myrtle Warbler, 25 Pine Siskins, 4 Coopers Hawks, 1 N. Ashy Throated Humming Bird, 100 Young Gulls, 1275 Herring Gulls, 102 Great Black Backed Gulls, 1 N. Baltimore Oriole, 1 Sparrow Hawk, 1 N. Meadow Lark, 15 Mourning Doves, 2 Common Tern, 27 Red Tail Hawks, 2 Song Sparrows, 2 Double Crested Cormorants, 6 Cormorants, 3 Savannah Sparrows, 1 Canada Jay, 16 Blue Jays, 1 Blue Warbler, 20 Junco, 2 Chickadees, 1 N. Goldfinch, 1 White Breasted Nuthatch, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 Black & White Warbler, 1 Yellow Warbler, 1 Vesper Sparrow, 1 White-Crowned Sparrow, 80 Tree Swallows, 2 N. Mallard Ducks, 2 Blue Herons, 2 Wilson's Petrels."

Osprey nests were reported in Halifax and Pictou counties. Captain Holdway found one on Caribou Island, Pictou County, which has been used for five years, and was used this year, the birds being first seen at the nest on May 23rd.

Miss Ethel Crathorne spotted a nest on the top of a dead tree on a hill at Eagle Lake, Halifax County, and watched it all day August 7th. One adult bird (Osprey) was sitting on the nest, occasionally moving to a limb of the tree. Two other adults were in attendance nearby.

Mrs. D. Willis found an Osprey nest, with an adult bird "sitting", in a tree at Porter's Lake, Halifax County, behind the N.D. red beacon lights, on July 24th.

(Captain Morland writes from Indian Harbour, Lunenburg County, "Ospreys around here are just as common as usual. Although I know of one nest only, there are several pairs within a few miles.")

Dr. Josenhans reports two Osprey nests on the Lineville river, part way between Lineville and Conrad's beach, one nest on the left, one on the right. About the 10th of August, the young birds were ready to fly, some already flying. Both nests contained five young.

Concerning the breeding season in general, Dr. Tony Erskine says the "season was successful for the most part, in marked contrast to the miserable breeding season of 1962."

Two records of particular interest come from the southern end of the province:

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER: June 18; nest found at Milton, Queens Co.; reported by J. Roy Gordon. He says: The nest was in an old apple tree. The hole was too deep to examine contents. It was at a low elevation. On June 30 the pair were feeding their young. Birds were very shy at feeding times and quickly disappeared when approached, rather than remaining to scold. The young flew on or about July 2. On June 30, while watching the nest, a second male appeared on the scene and fought the original bird. They were seen to clinch and fall to the ground. Finally, one chased the other away. This is the first actual nest of the species recorded for the Province and constitutes the second breeding record.

Contributed by Mr. R. W. Tufts.

Eastern Phoebe: April 15th, started building nest in partly screened porch of summer home (Yarmouth County) of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Dean. Began to lay eggs around May 1st. Again, on June 15th, 4 eggs were found in the nest. These hatched July 21st. The young birds left the nest August 7th and 8th and were still around the garden August 26th. The nest was built of moss, close under the porch ceiling. The eggs were white and about 3/4 of an inch long. The birds were under constant observation by the family all summer, who most considerably vacated the dining porch until after August 8th. Mrs. Dean has written that the field marks of the adults were "as described by Mr. Tufts and Mr. Pough. The male bird was perhaps 1/2 to 1 inch longer than the female (male about 7 inches). The baby birds had a suggestion of an eye-ring but there was none discernible on the adult birds; and the first characteristic we noticed that made us quite sure they were Phoebes was the peculiar sideways motion of their tails, as well as up and down."

A third real contribution to our records comes from Mr. John D. Orlando, of Bridgetown:

"During the summer a pair of Killdeer nested in the vacant millyard of the Hicks Company in Bridgetown. I have an excellent picture of the nest which shows one of the birds in the rear although not too plainly and possibly this is the only Killdeer nest that has been photographed in Nova Scotia.

The birds successfully nested this year and an interested person who lives near the millyard saw the young which took off to the swamps with the parents immediately after hatching."

Captain T.F.W. Norland sends us the following additional information about the Willet:

"In my note on the Willet in the "Newsletter" of June 1963 I stated that in the early part of this century this species had disappeared entirely from our area. Dr. Harrison F. Lewis has pointed out that although various ornithological publications have contributed to this impression, the Willet in fact continued to breed in small numbers in south-western Nova Scotia, even when it had ceased to do so on the north-eastern coast of the U.S.A.

Dr. Lewis published a note in the "Auk" in 1920 stating that he had personally observed willets on the Chebogue River, Yarmouth County, since 1911, although it was not until 1920 that he first discovered a nest.

In his "Life Histories of North American Shore Birds", A.C. Bent suggests that the willets from our province migrate in the fall by sea directly to the West Indies. Lack of any such birds on the New England and New Jersey coasts may have led the various authorities to overlook the small colonies which continued to breed in Nova Scotia - an area which in those days was probably considered as being in the very Far North!"

Newsletter

November, 1963

PERMISSION IS HEREBY GIVEN TO
ALL MEMBERS OF THE NOVA SCOTIA
BIRD SOCIETY TO HAVE FULL AND
FREE USE OF ALL LANDS, RIGHT-
OF-WAYS AND BEACHES BELONGING
TO US - FOR THE PURPOSE OF
FURTHERING THEIR STUDIES.

Dorothy S. Willis
"Birvana"
Lr. 3-Fathom Hbr.

August 20th, 1963.

Our grateful thanks to Mrs. Willis.

Bird Watching Made Easy. On the afternoon of September 3rd, Mrs. Barbara Christie of Halifax had occasion to visit her garage to inspect furniture she had been painting that morning and was somewhat astonished to discover a Great Blue Heron standing in the shadows at the back of the garage. After some moments of mutual contemplation, Mrs. Christie bethought herself of others, and generously shared her discovery with interested friends and neighbors, netted the huge bird, and carried it to the shore, there releasing it.

On July 13th, Dr. A. W. Cunningham of Bedford was disturbed by unusually noisy Bluejays. Upon investigation, he found a number of jays busy demolishing a large wasp's nest. They evidently were not interested in the material of the nest and tore it apart avidly, but whether in search of larvae, or simply for mischief or revenge, Dr. Cunningham could not decide. No adult insects were around.

Mr. C. C. Atkinson, Annapolis Royal, and Mrs. Atkinson, observed an albino Tree Swallow with a flock of other swallows on August 24th at Parker's Cove, Annapolis County. The bird was pure white above, creamy white on the underside, but had the characteristic "fishtail" and other marks of the Tree Swallow, including typical flight pattern.

Partial albinism among birds is more common than the above. On November 2, in Hants County, Mr. C.R.K. Allen saw, among a flock of two to three hundred Grackles, one whose tail was pure white, except for the central feathers, which were of normal coloration. This type of partial albinism, white tail with dark central feathers, has also been noted on two occasions among Starlings, Mr. Allen says.

Two of our commonest and most beautiful birds, the Bluejay and the Cedar Waxwing, have been present in unusual abundance throughout the summer and fall, according to general report. Another bird, not at all common, the Brown Thrasher, has been noted in unusually large numbers. Mrs. Lent, of Brier Island saw seven, all at one time, early in October, and has written "we have seen dozens this fall. I can't believe that so many are stragglers. Would the members of the Bird Society watch for signs of nesting..."

Two other birds, the Lark Sparrow and the Dickcissel, real rarities, are attracting attention throughout the whole Maritime - North-western United States region. Occurring as single birds, or in twos and threes, for the most part, these birds have been widely reported throughout this region from August until the present time. Mr. Aaron Bagg is assembling data on the Lark Sparrow and Dickcissel in an attempt to analyse the present situation, and will publish his findings in a future issue of Audubon Field Notes.

Following is the list of outstanding reports of unusual sightings this season, since the last publication of the Newsletter:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Cattle Egret | 1 - October 18-22. Wine Harbour, Guysborough County. J. C. Hingley. |
| | 2 - During July. Marsh near Yarmouth. Mr. and Mrs. Lent. |
| Snowy Egret | 3 - October 31. Cole Harbour Dyke after the hurricane. C. H. Payne |
| | 1 - November 1. Cole Harbour Dyke. C. H. Payne. |
| | 2 - November 6. Cole Harbour Dyke. Undoubtedly the same birds still around. Drs. McCarter, MacPherson and Nelliener. |
| Yellow-crowned Night Heron | 1 (imm.) August 22. Lawrencetown. E. Crathorne. |
| | 1 (imm.) August 31. Lawrencetown. R. Dicks. |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | 1 - July 4-6. Cape Sable. Mrs. S. Smith. |
| Least Bittern | 1 - September 9. Brier Island. Found in weakened condition, died. Now in the Halifax Museum. Mr. and Mrs. Lent. |

Newsletter

November, 1963

- Snow Goose 1 - September 28. Cole Harbour. Among a flock of duck. Members of Society Field Day
- European Widgeon 1 - October 6. Lawrencetown Lake, Halifax Co. Beside an American Widgeon. W. & P. Hemeon.
- Shoveler 1 pair - June 7. Margaree Forks. Apparently the first Cape Breton record. A. J. Erskine.
- 1 - During September. Brier Island. The Lents.
- Gyrfalcon 1 - October 10. Ironbound Island, Lunenburg County. "Seen at 40 yards, in gray plumage. The apparent power of its flight was impressive. Third sighting of the species in my lifetime." R. W. Tufts.
- Peregrine Falcon 1 - July 17. Goat Island, Annapolis County. Had been shot. J. E. Ternan.
- 1 - September 30. Fictou. E. Holdway.
- Virginia Rail 1 - October 3. Middle Ohio, Shelburne County. Had been killed by a cat. Mrs. E. MacKay. (From Dr. H. Lewis in the Shelburne Coastguard.)
- Purple Gallinule 1 - September 30. Halifax City. Picked up alive by police at a "shopping centre", taken to Mr. Mills. W. J. Mills.
- Killdeer 2 - August 11. Three-Fathom Harbour, Hfx. Co. R. Dicks.
- Golden Plover 1 - August 12. Cape Sable. Feeding in field. Mrs. S. Smith.
- 2 - August 16. Cape Sable. Feeding in field. Mrs. S. Smith.
- 2 - August 29-31. Seal Island. (See note.) L. B. Macpherson et al.
- 1 - October 8. Wallace, Cumberland County. C.R.K. Allen.
- Knot 8 - July 18. Near Wallace, Cumberland Co. quite early. A. J. Erskine.
- 1 - August 25. Port Latour. T.F.T. Korland.
- 3 - August 29-31. Seal Island. (See note.) L.B. Macpherson et al.
- Dunlin 1 - August 29-31. Seal Island. (See note.) L.B. Macpherson et al.

Newsletter

November, 1963

- Stilt Sandpiper 1 - August 4. Three-Fathom Harbour.
C.R.K. Allen.
- 1 - August 30. Covehead National Park, Gulf
Shore, P.E.I. This is a first for P.E.I., not
for our records, but spotted by one of our
members. W. J. Hills.
- Marbled Godwit 1 - September. "just before Labor Day week-
end". Richaud Beach, Guysborough County.
D. D. Findlay.
- Ruff 1 - August 21-31. Seal Island. (See note.)
L. B. Macpherson et al.
- Parasitic Jaeger 1 - August 31. 5 miles off Lockeport,
Shelburne Co. T.F.T. Morland.
- Gull-billed Tern 2 - August 2. Lawrencetown, Halifax Co. (See
note.) C.R.K. Allen and
L. B. Macpherson.
- Caspian Tern 1 - August 29. Charles Harbour, Shelburne Co.
(See note.) L. B. Macpherson et al.
- Black Tern 1 (imm.) or in winter plumage. September 8.
Seaforth, Halifax County.
C.R.K. Allen.
- Mourning Dove 3 - September 28. Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co.
Field Day.
- 1 - October 7. Middle Clyde River, Shelburne
County.
Mr. and Mrs. D. Robertson
(Coastguard)
- 1 - October 11. Cape Sable, Shelburne County.
Mrs. S. Smith.
- 15 - October 15. Westport, Brier Island.
Mrs. V. Cardoza and party.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1 - October 14. Seabright, Halifax County.
Mrs. Dora Bird.
- 1 - October 21. East Lawrencetown, Halifax Co.
C.R.K. Allen.
- Saw-whet Owl 1 - November 3. Porter's Lake, Halifax County
Dead. R. Dicks.
- Pileated Woodpecker 1 - June 30. Fletcher's Lake, Halifax County.
Mr. and Mrs. Chisholm.
- 1 - October 15. Round Mill, Annapolis Co.
W. E. Whitehead.
- 1 - October 15-30. Digby (town).
Mrs. Cardoza and
Miss L. Daley.
- 1 - October 16. Sable River, Shelburne Co.
Dr. H. Lewis notes that this bird is seldom
seen in settled areas.
W. Robart.

Newsletter

November, 1963

Red-headed Woodpecker

1 (imm.) - November 1-3. Cole Harbour, Halifax Co. Many members of the Society have been out to see this bird.
Mrs. J. Rose.

Western Kingbird

1 - October 12. Cape Sable.
Mrs. S. Smith.
1 - October 14. Cole Harbour area.
S. Fullerton and E. Jansen.

Phoebe

1 - August 29-31. Seal Island.
L.E. Macpherson et al.
1 - October 4-12. Digby.
Mrs. Cardoza and
Miss L. Daley.
1 - October 9-11. Sable River, Shelburne Co.
Mrs. W. Robart.

See also note on Phoebe's nest.

Long-billed Marsh Wren

2 - during October. Brier Island.
Mr. and Mrs. Lent.

Mockingbird

2 - August 9 and after. Brier Island.
Mr. and Mrs. Lent.
1 - September 3. Plymouth, Yarmouth County.
C.R.K. Allen.
1 - October 7. West Lawrencetown, Halifax Co.
C.R.K. Allen.
1 - October 8. Bon Portage Island, Shelburne County.
Mrs. E. Richardson.
2 - October 12. Shelburne Co.
Dr. B. K. Doane and
Dr. L.E. Macpherson.
1 - October 13. New Harbour, Guysborough Co.
Miss E. Crothorne.

Brown Thrasher

2 - June 1. Cape Sable, Shelburne County.
Mrs. S. Smith.
1 - June 24. Cape Sable, Shelburne County.
Mrs. S. Smith.
2 - September 25-26. Cape Sable, Shelburne Co.
Mrs. S. Smith.
1 - September 27. Bon Portage Island.
Mrs. E. Richardson.
1 - October 4. Bon Portage Island.
Mrs. E. Richardson.

many, 7 at one time - Late August through
Early October. Brier Island.
Mr. and Mrs. Lent and family

Newsletter

November, 1963

Philadelphia Vireo

1 - July 9. North Aspy River, Victoria Co.
Only 3 previous records for the province.
NOTE: Dr. Erskine says "I had an excellent
view for several minutes at a range of 20 feet
(8X binoculars), and observed all the char-
acteristic field marks. I had seen the
species previously in Ontario."
A. J. Erskine.

Yellow-breasted Chat

3 - during September. Brier Island.
Mr. and Mrs. Lent.

1 - October 5. Cape Sable.
Mrs. S. Smith.

Baltimore Oriole

1 m. - September 15. Westport, Digby County.
Mrs. V. Cardoza and party.

1 (imm.) - September 28. Round Hill, Anna-
polis Co. W. E. Whitehead.

10 - October 15-30. Digby.
Mrs. V. Cardoza and
Miss L. Daley.

1 - October 17. Cape Sable.
Mrs. S. Smith.

1 - October 19-20. Halifax.
Dr. W. Chute.

several - (See Seal Island note)

1 - November 4. Bedford.
Mrs. V. F. Chisholm.

Dickcissel

1 - June 7. Cape Sable.
Mrs. S. Smith.

2 - September 11. Sable River.
Dr. H. L. Lewis.

1 - October 1 and after. Brier Island. Have
been heard or seen almost every day since
early August. Mr. and Mrs. Lent.

1 (f. or imm.) - October 14. King's County.
Picked up dead on the road to Port Williams.
Mr. W. J. Mills.

2 - (1m, 1f) October 30. Halifax City. At
feeder. Mr. and Mrs. W. Hemeon.

1 - November 1. Halifax City at feeder.
Mr. and Mrs. W. Hemeon.

1 - November 3. Halifax City at feeder.
Mrs. C. Awalt.

5 - August 29-31. (See Seal Island note)

1 - November 11. County Home, Cole Harbour.
With a flock of sparrows.
W. J. Mills.

A. SIGHT RECORD OF GULL-BILLED TERNS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

By C.R.K. Allen.

On August 2nd, 1963, Dr. L. B. Macpherson and the writer observed two gull-billed terns (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) at West Lawrencetown Beach, Halifax County, N. S.

The birds were resting on a sand-bar in a 'diverticulum' of the Lawrencetown River surrounded by salt marsh and behind the beach proper.

Arctic and Common Terns, both adult and immature, were present on the same bar, and provided an excellent chance for comparison.

The birds were studied for about an hour at a distance of approximately 150 yards through 20X and 40X telescopes and the following points noted:

- (a) somewhat greater length and stouter build than Arctic or Common Terns;
- (b) entirely black back, slightly shorter and stouter proportionately than those of the commoner species;
- (c) legs and feet black, and legs apparently somewhat longer, as these two birds stood higher than the Arctics and Commons;
- (d) when flushed the tail appeared fan-shaped or, in some positions, notched;
- (e) when on the wing, these two birds joined the adults of the other species in "mobbing" the observers, and during the process uttered a call quite unlike that of Common, Arctic or Roseate Terns - a three-syllable "kek-kek-kek" - rather sharp and piercing and somewhat nasal in quality;
- (f) the upper wing surface and back were definitely paler than the plumage of the other two species;
- (g) when feeding, the adult bird behaved in the manner described for Gull-billed Terns by Pough, flying low over the water and apparently picking something from the surface or just below.

At first an honest attempt was made to identify these two birds as Roseate Terns, but this failed because of the shape of the tail, size, color of the feet and legs, and the voice.

The plumage was identical in both birds except for their caps, in one this was uniformly black, but in the other it presented a stippled appearance as in the winter plumage of the Caspian Tern. This latter bird also showed juvenile characteristics in its behaviour, making begging motions with upraised wings and open beak as it followed the adult about over the sand. Furthermore, it took no part in the feeding forays of the adult bird but remained on the sand-bar until flushed.

Three other members of the N. S. Bird Society observed these terns later on the same day and confirmed the identification.

This seems to be the first sight record of Gull-billed Terns for Nova Scotia, and the only other record for Canada that could be found was in Macoun's Catalogue of Canadian Birds. This record was of a bird shot at Grand Manan, N. B. in August, 1897.

Notes on distribution and migration of Nova Scotia birds:

The seasons have been out of step with the calendar in 1963; winter extending into spring, and summer into fall. The birds, however, appear to have stuck to the calendar, as far as records received indicate; arrival and departure dates being in line with other years. Fall stragglers may be staying longer than usual, as reports are still coming in of swallows and warblers, catbirds, flycatchers, and humming-birds, all of which should have been gone a month or so ago.

Canada Geese, a flock of 10, re-appeared in the Northumberland Strait area September 14th; Brant, a flock of 9, on September 10th.

Two Old Squaw stragglers were noted during the summer, in August, one at Three-Fathom Harbour, one at Hubbards Beach, Halifax Co.

Two female Harlequin Ducks were seen near Pictou September 22nd. Also four White-winged and 4 Surf Scoters September 14th and 16th respectively.

A flock of 130 Common Eiders appeared at Little Bass River July 6th, where no more than 2 at a time had been seen before.

Red-tailed Hawks are reported as very numerous in Digby County this fall, and Kestrels numerous in Kings County, "families everywhere".

Both Semi-palmated and Black-bellied Plover were seen in flocks of 100 to 300 at Cook's Beach, Yarmouth County, August 27th. Six Golden Plover were seen at Overton, Yarmouth County on August 23rd, and 2 at Little Bass River, Colchester County on September 2nd.

Common Snipe were present in unusual numbers at Cole Harbour on September 28th, and a flock of a dozen was seen at Cape Sable October 10th.

A flock of over 20 White-rumped Sandpipers was seen at Lawrencetown Beach October 28th, and 9 others in the nearby area. Other observers report this species to be somewhat more common than usual this year. Yellowlegs arrived "en masse", Head of Chezzetcook, July 9th.

Seven Pectoral Sandpipers were seen at Lawrencetown Marsh, Halifax County, August 31st.

Dowitchers are reported as appearing in the Northumberland Strait area starting July 7th. A flock of 19 appeared at Ecl Brook, Yarmouth County July 12th. July 13, 20 were seen at Cole Harbour. Thirty were seen from River John to Amherst Point July 17-18. A flock of 50 July 27th on Bon Portage Island, increased to 250+ by mid-August. From this date on till mid-September, Dowitchers were seen passing through at Brier Island in greater numbers than ever before noted.

Three Iceland Gulls were seen in the Cole Harbour-Chezzetcook area October 28th.

On October 8th, at Wallace, Cumberland County, at least 20 Common or Arctic Terns were observed. Those seen at close range were immatures, showing brown on back, although several with well-forked tails were seen at a distance.

Only three sightings of Black-billed Cuckoos have been received, one in August at Seal Island, two in October, one at Cape Sable and the other at Lockport.

November, 1963

Newsletter

On August 23rd, flycatchers, both Kingbirds and Epidomax, were observed to be congregating in a number of areas about the province, but a small group (6) of flycatchers was still present in Digby town October 15-28th.

Up until November 6, a few Tree Swallows were still present in Shelburne and Digby Counties. Two Barn Swallows were seen on September 24th in Shelburne County.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were observed flocking in the Annapolis Valley August 23rd.; began to arrive in unusual numbers on Cape Sable September 25th., and a small flock (12) was observed October 13th. at Petite Riviere, Lunenburg County.

Water Pipits began arriving at Cape Sable August 15th, and 50 were seen at Lawrencetown Lake, Halifax County, October 6th.

Four Cedar Waxwings were present in Digby (town) November 2nd. to 6th.

Late dates for Warblers: Black and White, October 12th; Parula, September 15th; Black-throated Blue, September 29th; Myrtle Warblers were moving in large numbers through the Dartmouth - to - Chezzetcook area on August 4th.; were noted to be still present at Cape Sable and increasing in number around Wolfville October 10th.; were reported as still present in Halifax and Annapolis Counties October 14th.; quite numerous at Seabright, Halifax County, on that date. Black-throated Green Warbler, October 9th; Palm, October 8th and 14th; and Yellowthroat October 11th. American Redstarts were noted to be very scarce passing the Lighthouse at Brier Island this fall.

A late date for a Bobolink: 1s September 24th. at Sable River.

Meadowlarks have been seen since September 15th, when one was reported on Brier Island. Subsequently one was seen at Sable River on October 15th., one at Cape Sable on October 17th., and 2 in the Cole Harbour - Chezzetcook area on October 28th.

A Rusty Blackbird was seen on Cape Sable October 8th and 9th., and 8 of these birds in the Cole Harbour area October 14th.

A flock of 100 Common Grackles was seen August 29th in Dartmouth, and flocks of several hundreds in Hants County up to November 2nd.

A pair of Evening Grosbeaks (male and female) was observed at Rockingham, Halifax County, on July 8th. Evening Grosbeaks have appeared much earlier than last year in Shelburne County, 6 were seen October 9th. and 12 on October 10th. On October 13th., a flock of 50 arrived in Bedford, and is still there. October 14th., one bird was seen at Cole Harbour and a sizable flock in Colchester County. October 15th. a flock arrived in Digby, a few of which are still there.

At Cape Sable, Goldfinches were reported to be passing through in 10's and 20's from October 10th. to 20th. Goldfinches also were present as a "large flock" in Seabright, Halifax County, on October 13th.

Fox Sparrows have been reported since October 5th. (at Digby) and were present in large numbers in Halifax County October 20th.

November, 1963

Newsletter

Contributors to the foregoing list of observations are as follows: Captain E. Holdway, C.R.K. Allen, Joan Hudson, Dr. L.B. Macpherson, Mrs. V. Cardoza, Miss Louise Daley, Mr. W. J. Mills, Dr. A.J. Erskine, Mr. J. S. Erskine, Mrs. S. Smith, Mrs. D. Willis, Mr. R. Dicks, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lent, Mrs. E. Richardson, Dr. H. F. Lewis (himself and as quoted in the Shelburne Coastguard), Dr. B. K. Doane, P. R. Dobson, Miss S. Fullerton, Ernest Janson, Captain T.F.T. Morland, Mr. Gordon Larkin, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Hemeon, Miss Frances Cook, Mrs. Alice Chisholm, Mr. W. E. Whitehead, Mrs. Dora Bird, and Miss Ethel Crathorne.

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At the first Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, in his Presidential Report, Mr. R. W. Tufts said that the basic purpose for which the Society was formed was to increase our general knowledge of bird life in the Province. He said, "This we hoped to accomplish through the medium of an ever-expanding membership, made up of more or less active, reliable and observant bird students. Taking for granted their willingness to co-operate, we realized that their respective observational records could thus be made available to all, instead of soon being forgotten or lost, as has happened too often in past years."

The Editor and Committee, on behalf of the whole Membership of the Society, wish to thank the above contributors, as well as many others, not quoted, whose observations have, however, been put on record for future reference.

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PLAN NOW FOR THE CHRISTMAS COUNT.

SEAL ISLAND, 29-31 August 1963

By Lloyd B. Macpherson.

Lying as far south and just about as far west as you can travel and still be in Nova Scotia, Seal Island has an unparalleled fascination for those interested in islands, unusual plants, shipwrecks and especially birds. Oceanic birds, seabirds, shore birds to be sure, but many will not realize the profusion of land birds that manage to find their way to this small, isolated bit of land, particularly at migration time.

Seal Island is two miles long and nearly a mile wide in one place and is for the most part covered in dense but stunted spruce woods. It is divided into north and south parts by a large brackish pond which has considerable savannah around it. The island has a pebble beach on the west and a number of fine sandy beaches on the eastern shore. A few smaller ponds, some boggy places and a considerable amount of bushy "edge" complete the quite varied habitats to be found.

A powerful light, fog whistle and radio direction finding station is manned every hour of the year by three hospitable keepers who live there with their families. The premier inhabitant is Mrs. Hamilton, owner and descendant of owners of the island, who has lived there all her life. Her hospitality during our visit will always be remembered. Formerly more families lived there, as evidenced by a dozen or so houses and a still well-kept church. Some of the houses are now used during the

November, 1963

Newsletter

winter lobstering season when about ten boats may be based there. Much more fascinating description and lore could be recorded but it is relevant only to add that there are some 300 feral sheep on the island, that it is necessary for the fog whistle to be operated about 60% of the time and that landing on the island is usually possible only by dory at either of two inclined ramps, both equipped with power winches.

The weather at the time of our visit was probably not untypical. For the two hour trip there (we landed at noon) and that afternoon it was moderately sunny with fair visibility. This was followed in the early evening by heavy rain and fog until noon the next day, fog only the rest of that day and until we left the following morning. The temperature was probably never far from 60 degrees and the wind light.

During summer the number of resident species of birds is probably small and typified by Common Noddy, Black Guillemot, Herring Gull, Boreal Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren, Blackpoll Warbler and Yellowthroat. However, not too many observers have been there at that season (or at any season) and those species are the ones that drew themselves to the attention of two of the present observers at the time of a three hour visit in early July of 1958. The Gray-checked Thrush is known to have been a breeding bird there but was not found at that time or this.

In the fall, however, it is a different story. We noted 63 species there and in the adjacent waters. The trip started auspiciously with a Caspian Tern at Clarkes Harbour and ended by travelling for 20 minutes through flocks of Phalaropes.

Of the very "ordinary" birds there may or may not have been one English Sparrow - we were never sure. A flock of some 25 Starlings was seen from time to time. Crows numbered about 10 and there was a pair of Ravens as well. The most numerous bird was the Herring Gull, estimated at 3,000, many of them still wheeling around above the large nesting colony to the north of the pond. All of their young seemed to be able to fly but some, rather obviously, had only recently reached this stage. The Great Black-backed Gull numbered less than 100 with few immatures.

Shorebirds were plentiful, 20 species being seen. Our estimates of numbers were as follows: Semipalmated Plover, 250; Black-bellied Plover, 50; Golden Plover, 2; Ruddy Turnstone, 100; Lesser Yellowlegs, 10; Knot, 3; White-rumped Sandpiper, 4; Least Sandpiper, 250; Dunlin, 1; Dowitcher, 2; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 1,000; Hudsonian Godwit, 2; Ruff, 1; Sanderling, 100; as well as Red and Northern Phalaropes whose numbers are discussed below.

The number of Spotted Sandpipers seemed to indicate a migratory movement. The Ruff was an unexpected bonus, although one or more are usually reported in the province each year. It was feeding with a mixed flock of plover, yellowlegs and peep. Shorebird watching in the fog and rain has its amusing as well as frustrating moments. On one occasion some of us were convinced that we were looking at a marbled Godwit and 15 Hudsonian Godwits. We were able to get much closer to them, however, and they turned out to be one Hudsonian Godwit and 15 Greater Yellowlegs! In the fog, size is very misleading and colors very difficult to identify. And, of course, one always hopes at first for the rarer species.

That a typical shorebird group, the phalaropes, gave us what was undoubtedly the most pleasant experience of the trip. As mentioned previously, we came upon them on the way back, half-way between Seal Island and Clarkes Harbour. The visibility was limited by the fog but even so we saw upwards of 200. From the time it took us to pass through them there were undoubtedly thousands in the area. The phalaropes are

known locally as whale birds, the belief being that whales are in the vicinity when the birds are there. Phalaropes on the water behave just like other small shorebirds on the beaches, taking off from the water and landing lightly and abruptly on it, flying in ordered formations. There is no fuss when they take off and no splash when they land. We passed as close as 20 feet to some of them and could clearly identify, in their winter plumage, both the Northern and Red, the former with black caps and the latter, the more common, appearing white on the top of the head.

The Black Guillemot breeds on Seal Island in some numbers but as nearly as we could tell only one adult remained for our visit. Except for this minimum time during the breeding season this species lives at sea. Disappointingly, we did not see the shearwaters that we had hoped to but a Clarke's Harbour fisherman told us that upwards of 500 had flocked around his boat on the 30th, both hags and black hags, the local names for the Greater and Sooty Shearwater.

On the island there were estimated to be more than 25 Hummingbirds, indicating a considerable migratory movement which, in part at least, is obviously over the ocean. Small numbers of six kinds of flycatchers were seen. These included a Phoebe, a rather uncommon bird anywhere in Nova Scotia. We estimated there were at least 10 Brown Creepers, possibly indicative of a migratory movement. Only one Black-capped Chickadee was noted but Boreal Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches were abundant.

Only 12 species of warblers were seen and estimates of their numbers are as follows: Nashville, 1; Yellow, 5; Myrtle, 50; Blackburnian, 2; Chestnut-sided, 1; Bay-breasted, 2; Blackpoll, 2; Palm, 1; Ovenbird, 1; Northern Waterthrush, 3; Yellowthroat, 100+; Redstart, 100+. Obviously there was a large movement of Redstarts - rarely was one out of sight or hearing of them. Our earlier visit had suggested that Blackpolls and Yellowthroats were the common breeding warblers and, as the latter migrate rather later than most warblers, it was assumed that the Yellowthroats seen were the usual summer population. On the other hand the Blackpolls, if they bred in the numbers they did in 1958, must have left before our arrival this year. The Ovenbird and Waterthrushes seemed startlingly out of place around beach boulders and lobster traps.

Most importantly, we were able to record here two of the species becoming known as "regular rarities", western birds that appear in Nova Scotia each fall, two thousand miles east of their summer homes - the Dickcissel and the Lark Sparrow. There were at least two of the latter and five Dickcissels were seen at once. Why they should travel east in the fall is a real mystery, but certainly, once they get into Nova Scotia they seem to stay near the sea and eventually to try to get as far south as they can. One wonders if they all make it back to the "mainland", for from a bird's point of view, Nova Scotia must constitute a large island. Mention should also be made of the several Baltimore Orioles we saw. This species nests in Nova Scotia in very limited numbers but by no stretch of the imagination can these breeding birds account for the frequency with which the species is seen in Nova Scotia in the fall.

Since the visibility was so poor during our visit, we had no opportunity to watch birds leaving the island and so have no observations on the direction they take. More fortunately, we happened to see the arrival of a single Black-billed Cuckoo from the east. It could only be described as exhausted and we had to walk within 10 feet of it to make it leave a fence by the beach that it had first touched down on. A number of Bobolinks were seen to arrive on the island from this direction as well.

Newsletter

November, 1963

Our small expedition didn't solve anything, least of all the vexed question of whether the land birds on Seal Island at this time of year represent a sampling of a vast and widespread over-ocean migration route through and from Nova Scotia or whether most of these birds are in every sense strays. There seems to be enough evidence from other locations to make the latter view unlikely, but much more systematic observation is necessary at this time of year. However, the results of this trip are an example of the way in which such observation can be combined with a considerable degree of pleasure.

We were efficiently conveyed to and from Seal Island by the Cape Islander "Twin Sons" skippered by Captain Bradford Symonds. Making the trip and sharing the observations were Bruce Crawford, B. K. Doane, C. W. Helleiner, J. A. McCarter and the writer of these notes, L. B. Macpherson.
