

Nova Scotia Birds

Spring 1998



NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Putting together my second issue of Nova Scotia Birds turned out to be only a little less frantic than the first! Thanks to everyone for their encouragement, and, of course, to all those who helped.

One of the last minute changes we made to the last issue was to put the table of contents on the back cover. This should make it easier for you if you are searching for an article, but are unsure about in which issue it appeared.

A new checklist based on the latest AOU edition, though promised for this issue, is currently under development and review. We'll publish it as soon as it becomes available.

We are working toward providing you with four full issues a year, aligning them with the bird seasons, with the following deadlines:

Table 1 - Magazine Deadlines 1998

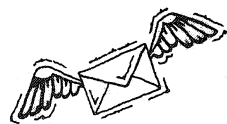
Season	Period	Articles	Observer Reports	Magazine Date
Winter	Dec - Feb	February 15	March 7	Spring (May)
Spring	Mar - May	May 15	June 7	Summer (Aug.)
Summer	June - July	July 15	August 7	Fall (Oct.)
Fall	Oct - Nov	November 15	December 7	Winter (Feb.)

We have also decided to refer to each issue by the corresponding season of the year. The breeding season will be reported in the Fall issue.

The Society now relies heavily on computer technology to maintain its membership list, produce mailing labels, processing its Bird Line information and updating our World Wide Web site. We are currently looking for people who are comfortable with computer technology and who would be willing to share the workload of looking after any of these society resources. With the widespread availability of network capability, volunteers need not be located in the Halifax Regional Municipality. If you'd like to help out, please contact Chris Field (ph: 422-9500, e-mail: field@mscs.dal.ca).

I would like to take this opportunity to join our Records Compiler Karl Tay in welcoming Andrew Horn, Dave McCorquodale and Eric Mills to our Editorial Board as new Seasonal Bird Report Editors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



I recently finished reading the latest issue of Nova Scotia Birds, your first issue as Editor. As an editor myself, as well as a life member of NSBS, I wanted to give you the good news that was obvious to me on first pass through it.

First, the typeface was, for me (a year after cataract surgery), much easier to read than that used previously. I used to plod through the seasonal reports through long evenings, but the new type allowed me to skim that in two sessions — a notable improvement.

Secondly, part of my purpose in skimming season reports is to see the breeding/nesting events that reached Nova Scotia Birds (NSB) but not the Maritimes Nest Records Scheme (MNRS), of which I recently finished compiling the 39th annual report. A copy will come to you once it has been translated (for French contributors) and duplicated. As NSB doesn't have a breeding season issue, this fall issue is the repository for most nestings that come to the Records Editor, and I was impressed by the much larger than usual number of species represented. That may reflect increased selection of such items by the Records Editor, as much as or more than increased reporting by observers? A number (especially those from Bernard Forsythe & Jerome D'Eon) came to us also, but I'd be happy to enlist as MNRS contributors other people who report nestings to NSB, as MNRS can keep on file more details than usually appear in the more general bird mags. I'll append a list of species that were reported in this last issue as breeding/nesting.

Thirdly, please note my new postal address. I haven't moved, but Canada Post is playing games again.

Keep up the good work.

Cheers,

A.J. (Tony) Erskine
16 Richardson St.,
Sackville, N.B. E4L 4H6

P.S. I believe that my mother allowed her NSBS membership to lapse a year or two ago, after she could no longer read. She had been a charter member of NSBS, as was my father (who died in 1981). A few members, besides those in Wolfville where a well-attended memorial service was held 12 November, may be interested to know Ma died 30 October 1997 (*Editor's note: See obituary in this issue*). Another of the founders gone. I missed charter membership (away at grad school), but joined 18 months later.

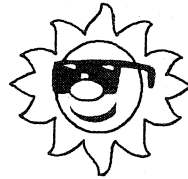
Table 2 - Species with Breeding Records Reported in NS Birds Jan/98

Common Loon	Common Murre
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Razorbill
Canada Goose	Black Guillemot
Wood Duck	Black-billed Cuckoo
American Wigeon	Barred Owl
Common Eider	Chimney Swift
Hooded Merganser	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Common Merganser	Northern Flicker
Bald Eagle	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Northern Harrier	Eastern Phoebe
American Kestrel	Tree Swallow
Merlin	Cliff Swallow
Spruce Grouse	Common Raven
Ruffed Grouse	Black-capped Chickadee
Sora	Red-eyed Vireo
Semipalmated Plover	Ovenbird
Piping Plover	Lincoln's Sparrow
Killdeer	Rusty Blackbird
American Oystercatcher	Brown-headed Cowbird
Black-legged Kittiwake	Red Crossbill
Roseate Tern	



SAFE SUN FACTS

Keith Keddy
Environment Canada



You may all be aware of ozone layer depletion and resulting increases in UV-B radiation, as well as human health and ecosystem effects of UV. My intention here is not to elaborate on the science, but simply to supply a few facts on these topics that may raise your awareness a notch or two.

- The ozone layer will remain in a depleted state for generations, but even if it were to heal today, sun protection would still be advisable.
- Incidence of skin cancer has doubled in Canada over the past 20 years. This sharp increase in cancer statistics is due to lifestyle changes. UV increases are exacerbating this problem.
- More than 60,000 cases of skin cancer were diagnosed in Canada during 1997, at a cost of \$60 million. Of these, 3200 were of the most serious form, malignant melanoma (MM), which will result in an estimated 660

deaths.

- One in five Canadians will develop some form of skin cancer in their lifetimes.
- Some forms of cancer are a result of strong intermittent sun exposure. Protect yourself on those southern vacations! Other types result from continuous exposure — outdoor workers and recreation enthusiasts, as well as chronic sunbathers, are at risk here.
- It's important to develop good sun protection habits early in life, as 75% of sun exposure occurs before age 20.
- Sunscreens will help prevent sunburn (use broad spectrum SPF 15 or higher, and re-apply often), but there is a lack of hard evidence as yet that they help prevent skin cancers. So don't use the sunscreen as an excuse to expose yourself longer.
- Avoidance is safest — stay indoors or seek shade between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on sunny summer days. If you have to be in bright sunshine, UV-protective clothing and sunglasses are musts, in addition to that sunscreen.
- Other health effects that have been attributed to UV radiation include premature aging of the skin, weakening of the immune system and cataracts of the eyes.
- When you're birding at the beach or in the snow, remember that reflection off sand or snow can add greatly to UV exposure, especially exposure of the eyes.
- Human health effects of UV radiation can be avoided or mitigated. Ecosystem effects of increased UV radiation due to ozone depletion may be potentially much worse.
- Though UV-B radiation is 1000 times more effective at causing sunburn than UV-A, UV-A penetrates our skin more deeply and causes most photo-aging. And although UV-B is the chief culprit in causing skin cancers, UV-A also increases the chance of developing these diseases.
- Most tanning beds use UV-A. These are not safe alternatives to tanning naturally.
- It's great to have an active outdoor life, but if you bird from your picture window or automobile, be assured that window glass effectively blocks UV-B, and tinted auto glass with plastic interleaf blocks most UV-A, as well.
- Look for Environment Canada's UV Index Forecast. In Atlantic Canada, it's part of your public weather forecast during the spring through fall seasons.

MEMBER ISSUES

'Member Issues' is a new feature in this issue of *Nova Scotia Birds*. In each magazine, members will be asked for their opinions on topics of broad interest to the membership-at-large. This issue's topic is the concept of group travel for Bird Society Members.

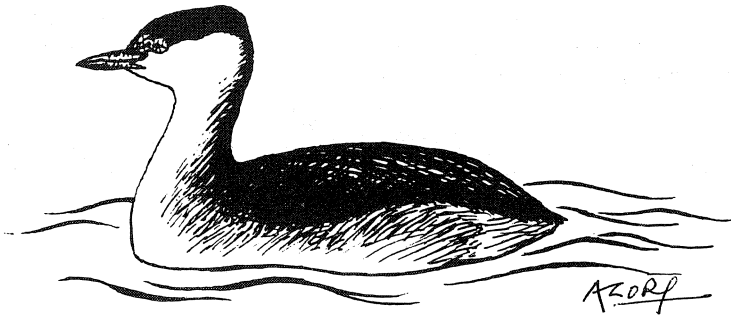
From time to time tour operators and travel organisations approach the Society to inquire whether it is interested in having out-of-province or out-of-country tours organised for its members. Such customised trips are organised with members' requirements in mind, and would be exclusively for members and their guests. Participants would get to enjoy the company of friends while birding in great locations. The operator does all the organising and travel arrangements at no cost to the members and a percentage of each member's tour price is passed along to the society for fund-raising or other purposes. This is a common practice in Audubon Societies and Nature organisations throughout the world. The executive would like members to express their interest or opinions about this.

Please mail your comments to:

Joan Waldron, Secretary,
NS Bird Society,
3 Alderwood Drive,
Halifax,
B3N 1S6

Or e-mail:

waldrojo@nsm.ednet.ns.ca



WINTER BIRD REPORTS 1997-1998

SEASONAL WEATHER REPORT

By Larry Bogan

I have to admit I experienced only half of the winter in Nova Scotia. This report covers November 1997 through February 1998, and I have been in North Carolina for the two later months. However, before I left, it seemed like we had had the entire winter by New Year's Day. That is because the snow came early this year and stayed.

This winter was characterised by a continuous covering of snow from mid-November until late February. The depth averaged about 15 cm (6 inches), but increased briefly in mid-December to 30 cm and decreased for short periods after rainfalls in early and late January (one of those rainfalls being associated with the ice storms in Quebec). The snow started to disappear in mid-February and was washed away by the heavy rains of late February.

One reason that we had such a continuous cover of snow is that we had no extremes warm weather during most of the period. The period was characterised with the normally warmer months being colder (November and December) and the normally coldest months being warmer than normal (January and February). The four-month period as a whole had an average temperature of -1.6 C that is only 0.5 C warmer than the 35-year average for the period. The extremes of temperature occurred at the ends of the period with November being 1.6 C colder than normal while February was 3 C warmer than normal.

Despite the fact that we had snow on the ground almost all winter, we had only about 65% of the expected snowfall for a typical winter. The rainfall was just slightly above normal for the period. We had more cloudy weather this winter than expected and the number of bright sunshine hours were below normal in all four months of the period which ended up providing only 80% of our normal bright sunshine hours for the whole period.

Because we had the snow cover for so long, the frost will not have penetrated as deeply and it should come out of the ground quickly. Hopefully spring will then come sooner with more sunshine than we have seen lately.

In this report I used the statistics available from the Kentville Agriculture Research Centre. This does not characterise exactly the weather of all of Nova Scotia but it can give us an idea of how Nova Scotia fared relative to 'normal' winters.

LOONS THROUGH GREBES

By Fred Dobson

This was the year of the strongest “El Niño” event ever recorded. The forecasts issued in the summer of 1997 indicated no important change in the Maritimes, but there were noticeable changes in the bird populations that can be tied back to the local prevalence this winter season of large, active weather systems with a longer than normal persistence. As it turned out, the forecast wasn’t completely accurate: we were significantly warmer than normal in the Maritimes and (thank heavens, after a serious drought in the previous summer) wetter.

RED-THROATED LOONS, normally reported from all the offshore regions of the province in relatively small numbers, were only reported five times altogether. There were 50 Nov. 16 at Waterside P.P. in Pictou Co. (KJM *et al.*); >100 had been seen in Oct. Two were seen Nov. 22 off Jimtown, Ant. Co. (RFL). The CBC records were thin, with the high count 29 at C. Sable. The only other sighting is of two Jan. 4 at Morden, King’s Co. (BLF). The highlight of the loon sightings was a **PACIFIC LOON** seen from a lookoff near LaHave, Lun. Co. Dec. 9 at 10 a.m. (JSC, JLC). Their Rare Bird Report is exemplary, and is summarized here.

“Dull (no sun) but bright light, calm sea, excellent visibility. Bird ~ 200 yards offshore. Viewed with...binoculars & ... scope. A small very dark loon seen at several different angles ... plain neck with clear vertical division in between the dark grey & the white. Crown very dark and the dark enclosed the eye. Forehead very dark. Chinstrap faintly discernable. Common Loon in vicinity for comparison. Not in the least like Red-throated Loon which are fairly common around here. Two of these birds were in Green Bay... in October 1970 and one in 1978 (see Tufts...)”

COMMON LOONS were found in their usual numbers in the offshore waters all over the province. CJF reports “up to 10” in the E. Chester-Blandford area from Dec-Feb. JBM report a single individual in Mader’s Cove, Lun. Co. from Dec. 6-13, and CSM, TMM had one Dec. 9 and four on Dec. 29 at Port Morien Way in CB. The total for the CBCs was 375; high count 57 at Port Hebert. KJM and CGB report on what must have been memorable winter trips, presumably by water, from Sheet Hbr-Sherbrooke Dec. 22 & 28; 15 and 30 Loons were seen (and many other waterbirds: see below). The largest single “gathering” was 150, reported Feb. 28 at Barrington Bay, CSI (BLM). Once again, reporters are reminded to give some indication of the prevalence and plumage (e.g. winter or breeding) of the more common birds — there are too few records sent in to make more than the sketchiest summary of occurrences for this magnificent species.

The PIED-BILLED GREBE was reported this winter from three areas: Yarmouth Hbr. & CSI, Crousetown (Lun. Co.), and Dartmouth. A total of eight were seen on the CBCs; the high count was three at C. Sable. There were two in Yarmouth Hbr., reported first Dec. 21 by E. Ruff, up to three present in mid-January, and one still on site in late February (var. obs.) The CSI “flock” had dwindled to one by 10 Jan. One individual stayed in Sullivan’s

Pond 10 Jan.-end of Feb., and one was at Crousetown 10 Feb. (LAB, JSC). The HORNED GREBE appeared in its usual numbers this winter. ROS notes, on reporting 12+ Oct. 30 and eight Feb. 10 at Summerville Beach, Queens Co. "It seems to be the same time of year in 1996 that I counted 18 in the same area. They must move in waves, and individuals drop off. Last winter's average no. per daily count was two." The view from Westhaver Beach, Maders Cove, Lun. Co., yielded the dainty but hardy little grebes in a variety of numbers from two-nine from late October through mid-February (JBM), and 10-45 were regularly seen Dec.-Feb. off E. Chester (CJF). There were nine at Mahoneys Beach, Ant. Co., Nov. 16 (MAG) and 10 at Big I., Pictou Co. Nov. 16 (KJM, STV). The CBC total was 127; the high count was 27 at Annapolis. There were 14 in St. Margarets Bay, Hfx. Co., Jan. 10 (BLM *et al.*) and seven on Feb. 23 (AZV). KJM, CGB saw 18 and 20 Jan. 26 and Feb. 22 on two trips Sheet Hbr.-Sherbrooke. BLM reported 40 in Barrington Bay, C. Sable I. and 1 at Blanche Peninsula the same day. RED-NECKED GREBES were also seen in average numbers, if the reports are the judge. The earlier reports come from the NE of the province and the later reports from the SW. RFL reported three off Jimtown Dec. 22; KJM, STV reported 30 at Big I., Pictou Co. Nov. 23. The CBCs found a total of 129 and the high count was 22 at CSI. KJM *et al.* reported 15 & 20 on their Jan. 26 & Feb. 22 trips from Sheet Hbr. to Sherbrooke. There were four at E. Chester Dec. 27 (CJF) and three at Sambro Feb. 1 (JAP, DWP). BLM reported 90 individuals Feb. 28 at CSI and six at Baccaro Pt., Shel. Co.

TUBENOSES THROUGH CORMORANTS

By Blake Maybank

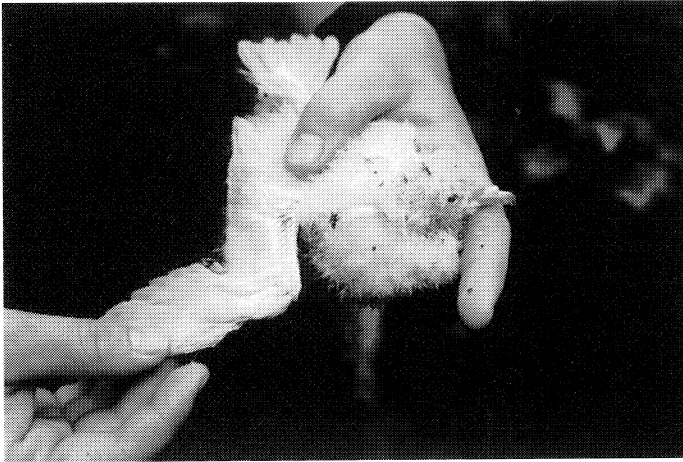
NORTHERN FULMAR are routine offshore in winter, but the only count received was 200 on Brown's Bank Jan. 26 (RSD).

A few shearwater sightings submitted for last issue slipped through the net, but are worth mentioning here, out of season. RSD found a single CORY'S SHEARWATER July 8 on George's Bank, and reported them more numerous in October, when there were several around the boat at any time.

Unusually this past autumn GREATER SHEARWATERS were "very numerous" into October (RSD), and indeed, a few lingered in the Bay of Fundy into early December (CAH), and one was in Lobster Bay Nov. 27 (Daryl Amirault, *fide* RSD) – El Niño again?

Jonathan Oxley passed along a belated report of an albino LEACH'S STORM-PETREL chick on Bon Portage I. this past summer. The bird, raised to at least fledging, was all white, with a dark pink eye (see photo). A normally pigmented Leach's Storm-Petrel forgot to head south, and landed in the Poplar Hill back-yard of Mrs. Sutherland, in late November. KJM *et al.* tried to release it Dec. 1, but it would not fly; rehabilitation was attempted, to no avail. Sixty N. GANNETS were tallied across all the CBC's, with the lion's share on Brier I. (35) and CSI (19). None were reported in January and February away from the Bay of Fundy, where small numbers were seen by CAH while he was lobster fishing. GREAT CORMORANTS tend to be ignored outside of CBCs, but 27 were counted in the Sober I. area Feb. 22 (KLM, *et al.*), and RDS saw a few through the

season near E. Berlin, where he normally doesn't see them. An imm. bird spent all of February by the outflow of the Trenton Power Plant (var. obs.). Notwithstanding the relatively mild autumn and winter, I suspect some of the 35 DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS reported on the CBCs were misidentified, as sightings by careful observers suggest that Double-crested are still quite rare in winter. Double-crested should only be identified after a careful, close look. Given the difficulty of separating immatures of the two species (and even adults before they start to acquire their breeding plumage), I believe it may be necessary to require write-ups for winter Double-crested. The four on the Brier I. CBC were carefully studied, as was one near Sober I. Feb. 22 (KJM, *et al.*), and one at Morden, Anna. Co. Feb. 3 (AAM).



Jonathan Oxley

Leach's Storm Petrel

This all white chick was discovered in its burrow by the Acadia University research team on Bon Portage I. last summer. This photograph was taken when it was about 34 days old, and it lived to at least fledgling in late September (fide JWW). However, it was a rare true albino (most abnormally white birds are not), with pink eyes, bill, and feet. It was probably incapable of tolerating the sunlit world beyond its burrow, even if it were able to leave by night. I have been unable to find such an occurrence in the literature.

- Ian McLaren

HERONS THROUGH VULTURES

By Ian McLaren

A GREAT BLUE HERON at Seaforth Nov. 29 (Purchases) had a drooping wing, which may be the sort of problem that forces some to linger. However, even given the mild weather, few remained this winter after the usual CBC birds. The latest on Cape Breton was at Pt. Edwards Dec. 13 (*fide* JAC). On the mainland, late birds were near Coldbrook, Kings Co., Jan. 28 (*fide* JWW), and at Trenton, Pic. Co., Feb. 7 (KJM *et al.*). More surprising was an imm. **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** on C.S.I. Dec. 25-Jan. 3 (MUN *et al.*), the latest on record.

The upsurge of TURKEY VULTURES around Yarmouth has been marked by many. Various observers reported of 7-20 in the area through January-February. An explicit maximum came from Brian Thompson (via RSD), who counted 22 when he was putting out carcasses in a field at Overton one day in January. Up to four, and probably more, were on Brier I. at least until early January (var. obs.). No doubt they move back and forth between the island and Yarmouth. An individual Jan. 2 on an ice-floe near Sydney was justifiably deemed "weird" (CSM, TMM).

WATERFOWL

By Fred Dobson

The SNOW GOOSE was reported twice in late fall. Two were seen Nov. 17-21 on Bon Portage I. (Gary Thurber), and two ad. and an imm. Nov. 27 at Western Head, Queens Co., had been "tending the pasture for a week previous" (*fide* RDS). The CANADA GOOSE continues to do well. Two individuals even wintered on Sable I. (ZOL), and one on Sullivans Pond Jan. 2 (JCT) was unusual. JSC has an interesting report of two seen Nov. 23 at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co.: "Huge, pale — ~1/3 larger than our usual Canadas (nearby Black Duck & Herring Gulls provided size comparison)." More than a hundred were in a snow-covered, reaped cornfield at Shubenacadie Nov. 29 (RCM), while next day 250+ were in an open field at Starrs Pt., Kings Co. (PAM, JWW). The CBC high count was 5085 at Port Hebert, and later large estimates were 1200 at Seaforth, Hfx. Co., Jan. 15 (JAP, DWP), and 800 at Lower Sable R., Shel. Co., Feb. 10 (RDS *et al.*). The geese were up and flying by the end of February; 14,000 was the Mar. 1 estimate from E. Passage to Martinique Beach., Hfx. Co. (FLL). BRANT were present in slightly higher than normal numbers. The Cohrs reported 250+ Dec. 12 at Cherry Hill Bch., Lun. Co., as "very unusual here". Following the high CBC number of 35 at CSI, there were up to 600 there in late January (var. obs.: presumably returnees), and MUN counted ~4000 in late February. According to IAM: "Many searches produced no stray 'Black Brant' from the west; they have been split by European ornithologists, along with Eurasian 'Dark-bellied Brant', from our 'Pale-bellied Brant' ... we should look for these. The 'Black-bellied' has been identified once in NS (see Tufts)".

The sighting of a swan is always a thrill. The **TUNDRA SWAN** on the Barrington R., Shel. Co., in mid-November (see last issue) was undoubtedly the same bird found during the local CBC, and seen subsequently until Jan. 3 (var. obs.; *see photo in 'Some Winter Rarities', this issue*). The identity of another adult swan Feb. 27 into March at Bartletts

R. Pond, Digby Co., remains uncertain, with several observers split between Tundra and Trumpeter. The bird was unbanded and very wary. All observers agreed that there was no yellow bill spot, but there were differing opinions on the size and shape of the bill, and the size of the bird. One observer heard the bird call, and thought it matched the verbal description of Trumpeter from standard guide references. There was no formal rare bird report for this sighting. I have observed and heard both species extensively in BC, and the field guides are correct: in the absence of the yellow spot on the bill of the Tundra Swan and with no prior knowledge of the calls, adult Tundra and Trumpeter Swans cannot safely be separated in the field, except at point-blank range.) We have no confirmed occurrences of the Trumpeter Swan, but following the recent introductions of the species into Ontario and the U.S. Midwest, it has been turning up along the East Coast further south. So, it may in time wander here.

All reports of WOOD DUCKS were from November-December. There were 16 Nov. 12 at Woolavers Pond, Newport Corners, Hants Co. (JCT), and a fem. Nov. 16 at Ginger Hill Pond, just outside Lockeport town limits (DJC). A pair remained at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, through December (var. obs.). The GADWALL, as usual, was distributed widely but never in large numbers. Our first report is of one and possibly two others ("not seen well enough"; JWW), Dec. 12 at Port Williams sewage Ponds. KJM found two Dec. 6 at East L. pollution control outflow, New Glasgow (KJM). Four of the five seen on the CBCs were in the Halifax-Dartmouth count, and a male and female remained at Tufts Cove, Dartmouth, until the end of February (var.obs.). Another male and female were at Petite Rivière, Jan. 13 (Cohrs), and a female at the Trenton power plant Jan. 17 and Feb. 7 (KJM, var.obs.). The EUR. WIGEON again turned up in Dartmouth, where a pair was reported Nov. 30 through February at either Sullivans Pond or Tufts Cove (var. obs.). The AM. WIGEON was widely if sparsely reported. There were 15 in Antigonish Hbr. Nov. 22 to mid-December, which "disappeared right before count week (CBC) due to freezeup" (RFL). Up to a dozen or more were at Sullivans Pond or Tufts Cove through the season (var. obs.). A male and female reached Sable I. Dec. 27 (ZOL), and a pair were at Kiwanis Pond, Truro, Col. Co. Feb. 3-20 (FLS).

The AM. BLACK DUCK, our most common duck, was reported in usual numbers all over the province (see CBCs). There were 120 at the Glace Bay Sanct. Dec. 12 (CSM, TMM), and the same number the same day near White Point Lodge, Queens Co., where "average no. here in summer lower. Hunting season to blame?" (RDS). Through winter "usual" numbers were in the Pt. Edward, CB, area (JAC), and 150 at the bar of the Apple R., Cumb. Co. RBS reported 500+ at the head of Digby Gut Dec. 16, and "hundreds" were at the New Minas sewage ponds Dec. 17 (JWW). Seven were present Feb. 27 in Antigonish Hbr., which is "is not usually open at this time" (RFL). MALLARDS were in their usual abundance through winter in the Halifax metro area and in Yarmouth (var. obs.), and in the Pt. Edward area, CB Co., were in the "same numbers as previous years" (JAC). In Kings Co., 70-85 at the New Minas sewage ponds Nov. 14-Dec. 12, dropped to 12 by Dec. 17 (JCT, JWW; we duck people thrive on sewage), and in Stirlings Orchard pond there were 100 Jan. 27 and 60+ Feb. 16 (JWW). Since the Mallard has established itself as a NS winter resident there have been more

and more Mallard X Black Duck crosses, although seldom reported: there were 34 on the The Sydneys CBC.

The only winter report of the N. SHOVELER was of a fem. Jan. 23 in Sullivans Pond (AZV, FLL). Most reports of the NORTHERN PINTAIL were from the NE and central province; all were of small numbers. Following the few on CBCs, January reports came from all over — Trenton, Pictou Co. (a fem. Jan. 4: BLM, RAF), St. Margarets Bay (a male Jan. 10-22, var. obs.), Lunenburg Hbr. (two pairs Jan. 25, ELM), Stirlings Pond, Greenwich (two pairs Jan. 27, JWW). Some of the above were still present in February. In addition, a single male was in the Salmon R., Guys. Co., Feb. 9 (CGB, KJM), six were at W. Chezzetcook Feb. 1-8 (FLL), one was at Terra Nova Pond, Loiusburg, CB Co., Feb. 22 (HOS), and a pair near Barrington, Shel. Co., Feb. 22 (var. obs.) Finally, a surprising 31 were found Feb. 28 at Chezzetcook Inlet, Hfx. Co. (FLL). The GREEN-WINGED TEAL was distributed widely but, like the Gadwall, in small numbers. The CBCs found only 13; high count 6 at Yarmouth. One remained into February behind the Heather Motel, Stellarton (KJM, STV). Others included a single fem. Dec. 31 in Broad Cove, Lun. Co. (SJF); two males to at least Jan. 18 at the Kiwanis Pond, Truro (var. obs.); a male at Tantallon, Hfx. Co., Jan. 15 (DWP, JAP), another to Feb. 8 in Yarmouth Hbr. (var. obs.); up to three males and three fem. at various sites at Trenton and Stellarton, Pictou Co. into at least early February (KJM *et al.*). The last report is of a fem. Feb. 23 at Crescent Beach., Lun. Co., where they “seldom have overwintered” (SJF).

A male **CANVASBACK** was present in Yarmouth Hbr. from Jan. 10 to at least Feb. 8 (MUN, RBS, var. obs.), and an equally distinctive male **REDHEAD** was reported Nov. 25 in Bissett L., Dartmouth (JCT). Although most RING-NECKED DUCKS leave the province, some were found right through February this winter. Fifteen RING-NECKED DUCKS were still at Rocky L., Waverly Rd., Hfx. Co. Nov. 28 (DWP, JAP). After the CBCs, there were three at Voglers Cove, Lun. Co., Dec. 27-Jan. 13 (DHY, SJF, Donna Fraser) and a few remained around Waverley-Bedford, Hfx. Co., through February (var. obs.). The Trenton power plant area hosted the winter's only reported **TUFTED DUCKS** (KJM, *et al.*) A rare bird report by CGB notes that on Jan. 1, two males and one fem. at the plant outflow were

“... observed minutes apart with different groups of scaup, in varying degrees of visibility because of the steam ... Second observer Bernice Moores. One of the males ... was the original discovered by Ken McKenna [see last issue]. The males seen this year were ... in peak plumage with ... white sides contrasting with black beak, each with a tuft that should lengthen with the season. The female in direct comparison to accompanying Gr. Scaup was slightly smaller, just a hint of pale behind the bill, darker on the back, paler on the sides, bill was blue-gray with paler area towards tip, eye yellow, just the suggestion of a tuft on the head.”

The males were reported (KJM, CGB) either at the Trenton power plant or in Pictou

Hbr. through the reporting period, the males' plumage described as becoming "full breeding with nice long tufts". This is the third consecutive year that this species has been recorded at this location — a male in 1996 and two males in 1997.

We quote the following observation (JSC) on sea ducks in Lun. Co.; no other reporters remarked on unusual numbers this winter.

"To date (Feb.22) there has been a very poor showing of sea ducks in the Crescent Beach, Green Bay & Broad Cove areas, usually excellent places for duck-watching. Oldsquaw were late in arriving and never built up in number. Largest flock was only 60+ in Green Bay Feb.16. Greater Scaup were nonexistent at their usual haunts — in fact I have seen only one, in Broad Cove. Goldeneye were low in number — a single flock at Crescent Beach in early Feb.was only 60-80 strong — usually there are hundreds there. Scoters too were very low — 40 was the largest concentration of White-winged, 25 Surf and even fewer Common. The only ducks in good number were Common Eider, present all winter in scattered flocks. They have been seen in great numbers from the air, all along the coast."

However, GREATER SCAUP were in numbers elsewhere, with a high count of 3000 on the Pictou CBC and like numbers in Pictou Hbr. into February (KJM, *et al.*). There were also 50 Dec. 9 at Lingan Bay, CB Co. (CSM, TMM), and 60 Jan. 10 at Hartlen Pt., Hfx. Co. (BLM *et al.*). A few were mentioned in two other reports; doubtless they were more widespread. LESSER SCAUP were relatively scarce, as usual. One fem. remained at Broad Cove, Lun. Co. "on and off in cove until mid-Feb." (SJF). Of the 26 on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC, a dozen were still off Hartlen Pt. Jan. 10 (var. obs.). Five fem. and four males were present Feb. 2-7 at the Trenton power plant.

The **KING EIDER**, always a very special find, was reported twice — both times females — Nov. 29 at E. Ferry, Digby Co. (Duane Hoffmann *et al.*) and Feb. 28 at Baccaro Pt., Shel. Co. (BLM). The **COM. EIDER** has been doing very well in recent years (see CBCs and above report by JSC). There are thousands of these ducks along our extended coastline, that is such an excellent breeding and feeding ground for these hardy sailors. Our two reports are again not useful for assessing numbers or trends. CJF reports "up to 60" in the Blandford area through winter, and on Feb. 1 there were 500 at Herring Cove, Hfx. Co. (BLM). Following CBCs, the sprightly **HARLEQUIN DUCK** was seen at three locations this winter: one Dec. 28-29 at W. Dublin, Lun. Co. (E. Mills, DWP, JAP), two at Herring Cove, Hfx. Co., throughout January, and a fem. Feb. 27 at Baccaro Pt, Shel. Co. (MUN *et al.*). No one mentioned the larger group (see last issue) that winters at Prospect, Hfx. Co. The three scoters were well reported from a wide variety of seacoasts. In addition to scattered individuals and small groups of **SURF SCOTERS**, there were larger gatherings of "hundreds" Feb.18 at Digby Hbr. (RBS) Feb. 18, and 20 at CSI Feb. 28 (BLM), but JSC lamented the mere 25 as a "high count [for the winter] for Green Bay & Cresc. Beach: usually good places to watch scoters ... disgusting!" After the CBCs, **WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS** were also reported from

many areas. There were “hundreds” in Digby Hbr. Feb. 2 (RBS) and 250 in Barrington Bay and 25 off Blanche Penin., Shel. Co., Feb. 28 (BLM); however, JSC found only up to 40 wintering in Green Bay, Lun. Co. No very large concentrations of BLACK SCOTER were reported (maximum 76 on the Cape Sable CBC). Where have they gone? The Broad Cove high count for the winter was six (SJF), only a few were reported from Pictou Co. (KJM, STV), and there were four Dec. 10 at Lobster Bay, Yar. Co. (RSD). Slightly better were 30 at Sober I., Hfx. Co., Feb. 22 (KJM, CGB) and 25 at Baccaro Pt., Shel. Co., Feb. 28 (BLM). OLDSQUAWS were in their usual small flocks offshore. Throughout, there were up to 15 off the bar at the W. Apple R., Cumb. Co. (KFS), up to 100 in the E. Chester-Blandford area (CJF), and 12-35 in Maders Cove, Lun. Co. (JBM). Fifty were in Glace Bay Hbr. Dec.12 (CSM, TMM), and CGB & KJM estimated 250 on their Sheet Hbr.-Sherbrooke trip, Jan. 26. Only five were found Feb. 14 at Port Medway Hbr., Queens Co. by RDS who comments “this year they seem less”. They appear to have hived off to Annapolis (see CBCs)!

Before the CBCs, in which half the BUFFLEHEADS were supplied by the Annapolis count, there were few reported sightings: on Dec. 14 there were 10 at Graves I., Lun. Co. (JSC), two at Prospect Bay, Hfx. Co. (JOW, JCZ), and 10 at William’s Pt., Ant. Co. (RFL). RBS found 40+ in Digby Gut Dec. 16. Later on, scattered individuals and groups were found throughout the province, and larger gatherings were of 30 at both W. Dover and Indian Hbr., Hfx. Co., Jan.10 (BLM), and up to 150 at Glace Bay Jan. 31 (CMU). The COMMON GOLDENEYE is holding its own in CB: JAC reports: “From early Nov. & into Dec. appear larger flocks of C. Goldeneyes — several dozens — in Jan. & Feb. flocks of 15 to 25 remain in Sydney Hbr. for the rest of the season.” RDS, in reporting 15 on the Mersey R., Queens Co., Feb. 6, asks why “Goldeneye arrive at Mersey R. much later than in Mahone Bay?” Since they nest inland, often far to the W and N of NS, and arrive here in October-November (old males last, per Kortright), the NF nesters might be expected to follow the NS coastline, arriving first in CB and in sequence E. Shore, then S. Shore. But they are excellent fliers, and so in a given year could “arrive” simultaneously all over the province if they so chose. But, why indeed might they tarry in early winter in Mahone Bay? Among later concentrations, KJM reported 50 on the trip Sheet Hbr - Sherbrooke, Guys. Co., Feb. 22 and FLS found 50 at the head of St. Margarets Bay, Hfx. Co., Feb. 26. Twelve birds instead of the usual six were seen Feb. 27 at Economy (FLS), suggesting “some late winter arrivals?” The BARROW’S GOLDENEYE, rarely seen here two decades ago, is now a more common and widely distributed winter resident as shown by the CBCs. JAC notes, reporting two males Nov. 22-Dec. 31 at Sydney Hbr., that “larger flocks of Barrow’s (8-9) are seen in Nov. & Dec. and then disperse elsewhere” Otherwise, one was at Blandford Dec. 30 (CJF); two males stayed in Bedford Basin to mid-February (var. obs.); four were at the Annapolis R. power station Feb. 4 (IAM); a male was at Pugwash, Cumb. Co., Feb. 14-15; and a pair at Wallace Bridge, Cumb. Co., Feb. 15 (KJM, Cathy Potma).

The HOODED MERGANSER was, as usual, heavily reported. (Who can blame us? They are our most elegant duck.) In Pictou Co., Nov. 16, no fewer than 40 were in the MacLellan Marsh and seven in the Abercrombie Wildlife Management Area (KJM *et al.*). CJF found 22 fem. and a male Nov. 14 at Marriots Cove, Lun. Co. At Head of St.

Margarets Bay, JOW and JCZ counted 30+ Dec. 13, and AZV found 40 Jan. 4 and still 23 at the end of February. Other scattered individuals and small groups (six or fewer) were reported from scattered localities throughout the province. Far and away the most spectacular sighting of the RED-BREASTED MERGANSER was a flock of 1500+ "feeding with ~1500 Bonaparte's Gulls" Nov. 17 in Chance Hbr, Back Pt.-Melmerly Pt., Pictou Co. (KJM, CGB). The Pictou area also produced the highest CBC estimate. Other modest numbers included eight throughout winter in the NW Arm of Sydney Hbr., "compared to other years with flocks of ...10-30" (JAC). Between 10-20 were in the E. Chester area Dec.-Feb. (CJF). KFS reports five off the bar, W. Apple R., Cumb. Co., Dec. 29 and again (after absence?) Mar. 1. There were 28 in the LaHave R. at Riverport, Lun. Co., Feb. 28 (EHC). The COMMON MERGANSER lived up to its name this winter, with substantial numbers on the Bridgetown CBC (that is, in the Annapolis R. and surrounding marshes). In addition to the usual scatterings, good numbers included 25 at the Glace Bay Sanct. Dec. 9 (CSM,TMM); 40 at the head of St. Margaret's Bay, Hfx. Co., Jan. 18 (JAP, DWP); 15 at Riverport, Lun. Co., Feb. 3 (EHC), and a striking 250 Feb. 3-23 in the Shubenacadie R. (RCM). One of three RUDDY DUCKS found earlier at Bissett L., Dartmouth, remained to Dec. 6 (var. obs.), and what may have been the same bird appeared Dec. 14 at the head of Bedford Basin (IAM).

DIURNAL RAPTORS THROUGH RALLIDS

By Ian McLaren

We begin as usual with the annual Kings Co. eagle count, for which all else is footnote. This year, the score was 395 on Jan. 31. This is somewhat below the last five years' average of 456; they may have been ranging more widely in the open terrain. Another small concentration of 13 was along the Shubenacadie R. Feb. 3 (RCM), but most other reports were of ones and twos. On Feb. 15 near Kingsport, Kings Co., Giselle D'Entremont witnessed up to six imm. and six ad. eagles repeatedly attacking an apparently injured Am. Black Duck. The duck dived clumsily (as they will when pressed) but could not avoid being snatched skyward and dropped several times. Eventually, it died, and the eagles abandoned it. Eagles turn to less sanguinary matters in late winter. Pairs were in nuptial flight displays near Westphal, H.R.M., Feb. 7 (DWP, JAP), and at Maders Cove, Lun. Co., Feb. 17. At White Rock, Kings Co., the January ice storm snapped the tree below its nest platform built by BLF. However, the resident eagles began a risky nest on the stump Feb. 22, exhibiting "faithfulness to the extreme" (BLF). Another pair late February at Economy showed interest in a nest restored by NS Power, although then "too early to be sure they've adopted it" (FLS). There was a gathering of four or five N. HARRIERS at Little Hbr. Dec. 3 (RDS); otherwise, only ones or twos were reported from Yar. (BLM), Kings (JWW) and Hfx Co. (JAP). The good numbers on CBCs certainly better reflect the status of this regularly wintering species in the province. Likewise a half-dozen reports of about 10 SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS are unrepresentative, considering that 70 were noted on CBCs. An unusual imm. **COOPER'S HAWK** was found Dec. 22 on the Amherst CBC (N. Burgess, A. Hicks). Well studied on the perched and flying bird were its size, tail shape and banding, and lack of belly streaking. (For the record, another well-described ad. Cooper's Hawk was seen on Brier I. Aug. 30 by AAM and SMM). The 13 N. GOSHAWKS on CBCs were more than usual. Later reports of singles came from

five counties.

A fine description of an ad. **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** at Economy, Jan. 16, comes from FLS. Descriptions were supplied of laggard **BROAD-WINGED HAWKS** on the Brier I. (ELM) and Kingston.(Robert Campbell) CBCs; the former was still on Brier I. Jan. 11 (MUN). No details were submitted on one found during the Glace Bay count, but it was independently identified by two parties (GEM *et al.*), and was possibly the same bird seen Jan. 17 at Pt. Edward (JAC, no details). Again I stress the importance of documenting (especially photographing) this species in winter; some raptor authorities continue to doubt our records. A buteo, soaring near Canning during the Jan. 31 eagle count showed some field marks of SWAINSON'S HAWK. Judy Tufts reports: "The contrast between the wing linings [coverts] and flight feathers reminded me of a 'reverse image' of a dark-phased Rough-legged. Fairly large dark patch observed on upper breast (noted by Jean [Timpa] . .), rest of body appeared light (sev. obs., myself included) ... At least one narrow dark band was seen above the wide dark terminal band." The relative length and characteristic dihedral of the wings were not noted. This species, which has been reported several times in the last few years, remains "hypothetical" until someone secures a photo. Although numbers on the Wolfville CBC were within the usual range, the 43 **RED-TAILED HAWKS** on the Kings Co. eagle count Jan. 31 comprised the lowest count in six years. Snowless terrain may have allowed more to do without chicken carrion this year. One was killing pigeons at Greenwich in late November and early December (Nicole Zinn). Although almost no reports from other counties were received, they were certainly routine along mainland highways. The white red-tail was back for the ninth year at its usual spot Jan. 23 near Coldbrook, Kings Co. (Thextons, *et al.*). Red-tails have made a new nest on Acadia's University Hall at some distance along the ledge from last year's; both adults were present, one sitting, Feb. 18 (*fide* JWW, who also sends an account of a similar nesting in Hartford, CT). The Yarmouth area was the **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** Mecca this year, judging from CBC and subsequent January reports of up to 18 there (MUN *et al.*). Perhaps noteworthy is the fact that this year, as in the past five, the number on the Wolfville CBC exceeded the six on the later eagle count. Maybe they keep moving SW in early winter. Elsewhere, it was an average year at best, with scattered reports of ones and twos.

The AM. **KESTREL** continues to be scarce in winter. Post-CBC reports were of individuals Jan. 18 on Bell I., Lun. Co. (LAB, JSC), Lr. W. Pubnico Jan. 22 (RSD), and several occasions around Yarmouth (var. obs.). They were outnumbered on CBCs and subsequently by **MERLINS**, of which there were a half-dozen in scattered localities. **PEREGRINE FALCONS** have become regular in winter on Sable I., where there were three distinctive individuals from late December on (ZOL). An ad. Jan 25 near Canning (Randy Milton) could have been the same bird (thought to be a male) near Lr. Blomidon Jan. 31 (Anne Woolaver). One crossing the highway near Barrington Feb. 26 startled ELM and IAM. A grey-phase **GYRFALCON** visited Shearwater airbase Dec. 10, identified by resident falconer P. Serwylo.

Presumably the five **GRAY PARTRIDGES** at Starrs Pt. Dec. 4-Jan. 22 were a different group from five near Sheffield Mills Jan. 11 & 27 (var. obs., *fide* JWW). These numbers

are far from their past abundance in Kings Co., but the Truro CBC confirms their continuing increase in that area. RING-NECKED PHEASANTS were in the usual places, often attending feeders. Cape Breton I. may be at their range limit; their numbers around Sydney are sustained by “three to five places raising them and letting them loose” (JAC), and they “have not taken as expected” (CSM). Roslyn MacPhee takes the prize, with 20 at her feeder Feb. 6. She also discovered nine Jan. 29 at Shubenacadie living (dangerously?) in a fox yard, “a good protected area for them with lots of food (fox food).” An all-white female continued to be seen at Maders Cove, Lun. Co. (JBM). There were good numbers of RUFFED GROUSE on CBCs. Although subsequent reports by five observers of 14 birds offer no insights, CSM suggested that “both species are at the lowest level I have ever seen in Cape Breton Co.” Our only post-CBC reports of SPRUCE GROUSE were of one near Apple R. Feb. 13 (KFS) and another along the Stewiacke R. Feb. 23 (KJM, CGB). The N. BOBWHITE may yet become listable, judging from the Annapolis CBC.

Our apologies to the Youngs for crediting David rather than Joan for last issue’s photo of their backyard CORN CRAKE. They both took pictures, but Joan’s won out. This winter’s PURPLE GALLINULE turned up quite dead on a lawn at Clarks Hbr., Jan. 31 (*vide* MUN). An AM. COOT as usual successfully wintered on Sullivans Pond, occasionally visiting Tufts Cove (var. obs.). One tried to get through on Kinsmen Pond, Truro, but disappeared in February. Of two in Renwick Park, Glace Bay, one only one survived through January (CMU, JUM).

SHOREBIRDS

By Sylvia Fullerton

Winter was relatively benign in the southern half of the Province where shorebirds chose to overwinter in greater numbers than usual. There were no reports from the northern half where the weather as usual was harsh. Overwintering birds seemed little effected by the abnormally high tides and winds that played havoc with many beaches, dunes, and marshes. Some roosting and feeding areas could be effected, but unharmed tidal mudflats still provided a rich food source.

A handful of BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER normally linger into early Jan., but few overwinter. Three individuals were counted on CBCs, two at CSI and one at Port l’Hebert, Dec. 21. Two stayed at Cherry Hill until Jan. 11 and at least five were still at CSI in early Mar. (IAM). In a late report RSD notes that he found no nesting PIPING PLOVER at their usual sites at Sand Hills, but three were seen at CSI July 18. Only one CBC recorded KILLDEER, two on the Halifax-Dartmouth Count Dec. 21. The one seen at Hartlen Pt. Jan. 17-18 was perhaps one of these (JOW *et al*). Two others, attempting to overwinter, were at Western Head Jan. 23 (RDS).

A GREATER YELLOWLEGS seen at Thomasville, Shel. Co. Feb. 21-26 provided what must be the earliest spring record for the Province (WIA, MUN, ELM). A LESSER YELLOWLEGS seen at Hartlen Pt. Dec. 21 was only the third record for Dec. (JIT). Another late straggler was a WHIMBREL at Brier Is. Oct. 15-17 (AAM).

The adult **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** that appeared at CSI Nov. 10 lingered until Dec. 11 (MUN). It is of interest that one turned up at Plymouth, MA Dec. 29 and one wonders if it could have been the same individual.

Fifteen hardy **RUDDY TURNSTONE** were at CSI up to Jan. 4, but had diminished to 13 by early Mar. (JON). Two overwintered on Sable Is. (ZOL). Small numbers of late-migrating **RED KNOT** regularly remain into Dec. and a few overwinter. As usual the knot hotspot was at CSI where MUN estimated up to 30 birds Dec. 28-Feb. 1, with 25 still present in early Mar. The Cohrs saw two, newly arrived, at Crescent Beach Jan. 5. **SANDERLING** are among our most successful overwinterers and they were seen on many of our beaches. The CBCs produced a total of 193, 97 at CSI and 56 at Port l'Hebert Dec. 21. Sixty-five were on Sable Is. in late Dec. (ZOL); 7 at Conrad's Beach Feb. 27; 13 at Crescent Beach Mar. 7 (Cohrs, Purchases); 100 still at CSI in early Mar. (MUN). On the other hand the last sighting in the northern part of the Province, at W. Apple R., was of a single bird Nov. 30. The northernmost sighting on the Atlantic coast was as usual at Martinique Beach, where FLL saw two Feb. 21. Rarely do we see **SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER** in winter, but JON saw one at CSI Dec. 18, not a Western, he points out, which would have been more likely at that time of year. Another species that seldom lingers into Dec. is the **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER**, but three were at CSI at least to Jan. 4 (MUN). Few **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** were noted in the fall reports but an unusually high count of 120 was recorded at Conrad's Beach Nov. 3 (JCZ, JOW, LIP). Only three stayed at Cherry Hill until Nov. 17 (SJF). An early **PURPLE SANDPIPER** was at Caribou Is. Nov. 16 (KJM) and by mid-Dec. they were abundant all along the coast. The CBCs tallied a whopping 773 from 11 counts: 117 at Louisbourg, 200 at Economy, 271 at Brier Is., 53 at CSI, 24 at CBHNP, 28 at Apple R. Goodly numbers continued to be seen in Jan. & Feb.: 15 at Blue Rocks, 10 at Crescent Beach, 12 at Western Head, 27 at Peggy's Cove and 80 at Sober Is. (var. obs.). **DUNLIN** were well represented on CBCs: 61 in all were tallied, 30 of which were at Port l'Hebert, 15 at Broad Cove and 13 at CSI. The Cheticamp CBC on Dec. 20 must have been brightened by the appearance of its one Dunlin and the Economy CBC by its two on Dec. 27. Twelve were seen at W. Apple R. Nov. 30, but as to be expected none were seen thereafter. Others overwintering were: 1-2 on Sable I. to Feb. 23 (ZOL); seven at Crescent Beach, three at Cherry Hill, 13 at CSI, all of which were still present in early Mar. (Cohrs, JON).

Few **COMMON SNIPE** were seen in Dec.: one was at MacLellan March, Pict.Co. Dec. 17 (CGB), one on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC Dec. 21 and one in the Windsor Cemetery, a favourite haunt, Dec. 27 (JWW). **AMERICAN WOODCOCK** are often late stragglers. One was seen in Barrington Dec. 18 and two counted on CBCs: BLM was lucky enough to photograph the one he saw at Portuguese Cove Dec. 21; the other was spied by MAD on Brier Is. Dec. 23. Another was still able to find sustenance at Doctor's Cove Jan. 4 (MUN).

First, a few belated sightings from George's Bank, where RSD had four POMARINE JAEGERS Sept. 2, and a GREAT SKUA Oct. 8. In the last issue AAM's sighting of a SABINE'S GULL was included without details; here is his report.

"Sabine's Gull ...1 juv/imm. seen flying by Western Light, Brier Island, Oct. 1 about 10:30 a.m. Watched the individual approaching from the east and the different flight pattern caught my eye ... excellent view of upperwing pattern. Brown "saddle" extended out to front of wing and back to rump. A few small grey areas on mantle indicating start of change to imm./1st winter plumage. Grey hood covering crown to nape and on sides of neck. Could see white around eye but not sure of shape. Flew steadily away from us with no gliding or roller-coaster effect of Kittiwakes."

An adult LITTLE GULL made many observers happy with an extended stay at Ste. Anne du Russeau (Eel Brook), Yar. Co., Feb. 4-15 (var. obs., first identified by JON). There are fewer than 20 records of this delicate gull for the province – did anyone manage to get a photograph of this individual? Nearly 200 BLACK-HEADED GULLS were found on CBCs, and I expect the actual number present across the province this winter was 300-400, as some were missed, and others occur where there are no counts, such as the dozen or so that were in the Eel Brook/Ste. Anne du Russeau area through the winter (var. obs.), and 10 at Captain's Pond, Ant. Co. Feb. 24 (RLF, *et al.*). In Halifax Hbr., with the closing of the famous Dartmouth Cove sewer outfall, the Black-headed Gulls apparently shifted their allegiance to the Tufts Cove and Volvo Plant outfalls (max. count 50+ Jan. 23, (JWP, DWP), the latter location usually providing the best views. KJM kept count of the BONAPARTE'S GULLS in Pictou Hbr. from late autumn into early winter; 1500 Nov. 17, 700 Dec. 6, 60 Dec. 14, and just one by Jan. 4. Elsewhere they were showing up in odd places and numbers, including an unprecedented 82 birds at Crescent Beach Nov. 17 (JSC), 4 at Morden, Kings Co. Jan. 4 (BLF), and 10 in Lower W. Pubnico Jan. 19 (RSD). A few single birds were seen on Brier I., Lunenburg Hbr., and CSI, and two over-wintered in Halifax Hbr. (var. obs.). The immature MEW (Common) GULL in Yarmouth Hbr., found in November, was a first-winter bird, not a second-winter as reported in the last issue of NS Birds (Mew Gulls take only three years to reach adult attire). The bird was last seen around mid-February. There were plenty of RING-BILLED GULLS to go around the CBCs, although Halifax and the Annapolis Valley accounted for most of the birds. KFS noted an unusual concentration in the Apple R. area in November, with a high count of 120+ Nov. 18. In the Lockeporte area up to eight birds were present for much of the winter (DJC).

After the closing of the Sackville landfill over a year ago, it was hoped we'd see a downward trend in numbers of HERRING and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS, but a decline is not yet apparent. Some observers thought gull numbers down a bit, but

CBC numbers don't support that conclusion. An odd third-winter gull reported by JON & MUN was tracked down by IAM Feb. 15, who identified it as a Great Black-backed Gull which apparently lacked the normal melanin in its soft parts -- it had an "almost pure ivory bill, and vivid pink legs." More than 2000 ICELAND GULLS were counted across the province (plus 100+ on Sable I. in late December, ZOL), and as usual a few showed up away from the Atlantic coastline. Several were present all winter at Kings Co. sewage lagoons (JWW, *et al.*), and one was at the West Apple R. bar March 1 (KFS). Two LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were found, a second winter individual on CSI for a week in late December (JON, ph. BLM), and an adult near Canning Feb. 21 (RBS). GLAUCOUS GULLS were widespread, but few in number, with 22 on CBCs, and 21 reported to the Bird Line; the only concentration was eight at Mulgrave Feb. 9 (KJM, CAB). BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES were regular in the southern Bay of Fundy, and offshore in the Atlantic (Brier I., Sable I., Brown's Bank) with hundreds seen on several occasions, but elsewhere sightings were in the single digits, except for 23 on the Cheticamp CBC. This winter Newfoundland enjoyed a remarkable arrival of IVORY GULLS, with hundreds of birds involved, but only two reached Nova Scotia, and neither was cooperative. The first was a well-described short-staying immature bird at the Canso Causeway, Dec. 29-31, found on the local CBC by RAL, MAG, and Tony Miller. The second was an adult bird found dead on Trafalgar Road near Cox Brook Road, in Pic. Co. — this was, unsurprisingly, a first county record (HAB, JEB).

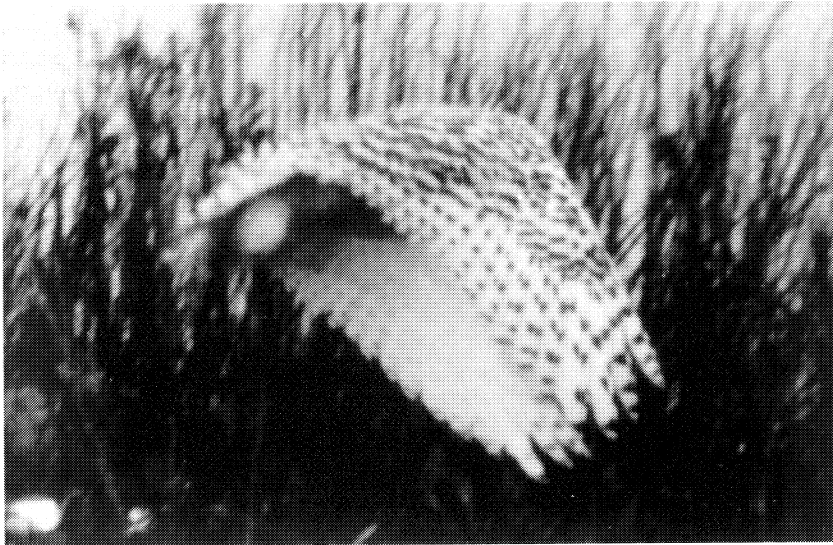
This eventually turned out to be an excellent DOVEKIE winter, although the early signs were not propitious during the CBCs, with but 20 birds across all the counts, except Louisbourg, with an impressive 31 birds. The movement began to be visible by the end of the first week of January, and grew strongest around week three or four; by the end of February it was all over. There were no huge flocks in any one location, but twos, threes, and fours, were noted all along the Atlantic coast, often providing confiding, close looks and excellent photographic opportunities. Shelburne Co. was a good location to seek them out, and some observers (MUN Jan. 18) found more than a hundred in a day, while along the Eastern shore between Sheet Hbr. and Sherbrooke KJM & CGB counted 50+ on Jan. 26. Dovekie reports to the BirdLine were too numerous to cite individually here, and with so much inaccessible coastline the true scope of the arrival is difficult to estimate. And as with Dovekies, so with THICK-BILLED MURREs, although they were much less numerous, and didn't really become widespread until February. There were more than 20 reports totalling 40+ birds, many tame (as with the Dovekies), and some in unexpected locations, including the Pictou Causeway (Steve Vines, *fide* KJM), and the Mersey R. at Hwy 103 (Peter Davies, *fide* RDS). A few COMMON MURRE were reported from the Brier I. CBC, and off CSI, but there were details only for the former. To see a RAZORBILL you had to be in the Bay of Fundy, where a remarkable 378 were found on the Brier I. CBC, 98% of the province's CBC total. None were reported from land anywhere else during the period. Black Guillemot generally attracted little notice, but KJM & CGB did some eastern explorations, and tallied 25 between Sheet Hbr and Sherbrooke Jan. 26, and later (Feb. 9) counted 40 at Canso town, and 40 along the coast between Mulgrave and Isaac's Hbr. The lone ATLANTIC PUFFIN noted was an immature bird off Cape La Have I., Jan. 25 (PHB).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

By Ian McLaren

No one reported trends or unusual events involving ROCK DOVES. I apologise for giving wrong dates for last fall's WHITE-WINGED DOVE at W. Pubnico. As many know, it was present Nov. 15-23, not in October. The very few reports of MOURNING DOVES suggest that they held their own at feeders in Westmount, C.B. (a half-dozen, JAC), Westphal, H.R.M. (up to 30 - "about as usual", JAP), and Apple R. (up to 12, KFS). A YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO at Pubnico Pt. Oct. 29 (RSD) was later than those mentioned in the last issue.

As usual, a pair of GREAT HORNED OWLS was seen and heard near Apple R. through winter (KFS), and they were hooting at Kentville Feb. 11 (RBS) and Elgin, Pictou Co., Feb. 17 (CGB). An odd-ball during November in Milton, Queens Co., preferred "screeches, ranging from a rusty car door to a cat" (RDS). One of a pair was "apparently sitting on eggs in an old raven nest" at Little Hbr. Feb. 26 (DHY). Following the few CBC records, SNOWY OWLS were well reported to the Bird Line. Individuals were noted Dec. 19 near Antigonish (RFL) and at Baccaro Pt. (JCZ), and up to three were seen off and on through winter around both CSI and Yarmouth (var. obs.).



Blake Maybank

Snowy Owl

With deep beats of its broad wings, this bird offered a more dramatic pose than if it had stayed perched for a closer photo. This shot was taken off The Hawk, C.S.I., Dec. 20.

- Ian McLaren

A BARRED OWL was noted by non-birders from time to time through winter on Halifax Penin., but only BLF sent a direct report: a traditional pair investigated his backyard owl box Feb. 19. Location of a vulnerable roost of LONG-EARED OWLS in Kings Co. was sensibly unpublicized. Rarely individuals do wander, like the one discovered by Rick Reid near the Dartmouth Hospital Jan. 25. RAF, who was puzzled by its "overall paleness (more like a Short-eared), and particularly the extensive white streaking on the nape", closely studied it. This description fits the western subspecies *tuftsi*, named by Earl Godfrey in honour of our own Robie Tufts. E-mail consultation indicates that birders in Texas routinely separate wintering eastern and western Long-eareds, although intergrades occur. However, Jeff Marks, co-author of the *Birds of North America* monograph on the species, stressed its variability, and cautioned that ours might have been merely in aberrant plumage. In addition to those on CBCs, there were more than usual SHORT-EARED OWLS. Up to eight were seen from time to time along the Wolfville Dykes (var. obs.), and another eight were discovered roosting in cattails at Belleisle Marsh, Anna. Co., Jan. 31 (T. Power, S. Hawboldt). Two were around the Shearwater Airport through winter (P. Serwylo) and individuals were noted on Sable I. Dec. 25 (ZOL), at Glace Bay Jan. 11 (JUM), and in Yar. Co. at Pembroke Jan. 4 and at Chebogue Pt. Feb. 1-8 (MUN). Post-CBC N. SAW-WHET OWLS were reported from Dartmouth in early December and late January (*vide* FLL), Glace Bay Jan. 31 (CAM), Elgin, Pic. Co., Feb. 17 (CGB), and Apple R., Feb. 21 (KFS).

Here is a greatly condensed account of CHIMNEY SWIFTS at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre in summer 1997, received too late for the last issue (data from JWW). Faithful watchers at dusk logged varying numbers between 15+ and 123+ entering the chimney in June, 35+ and 90+ in July, and 50+ and 100+ in August. There appeared to be no seasonal trend, and one wonders about the breeding status of these birds. The sporadically monitored Middleton High School flock was 182 June 9 and 210 Aug. 6.

BELTED KINGFISHERS had a good winter. Three could generally be found around the N.S.P.C. plant at Trenton throughout (KJM), and individuals were noted into January at Sydney (JUM), Jan. 22 at Lr. W. Pubnico (RSD), Jan. 26 at Sheet Hbr. (KJM), Jan. 31 at Lumsden Pond, Kings Co. (BLF), Feb. 4 at W. Pennant, Hfx. Co. (BLM), Feb. 18 at Bass R. (FLS), Feb. 22 at Ecum Secum, Hfx. Co. (KJM *et al.*). Most of these, like the male at Riverport, Lun. Co. (ERC), probably still remained at the end of the reporting period.

Our only RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, an imm., was present in Shelburne until at least Feb. 13 (var. obs.). RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS have faltered a little in their thrust north. The male at Economy (last issue) was not seen after Dec. 4 (FLS). The lone CBC male in Kingston was a bit elusive, reappearing Feb. 21 after a three-week absence (G. Thompson). We have no word on the earlier or later status of a fem. that appeared in Liverpool Feb. 11 (H. Dobson). DOWNY and HAIRY WOODPECKERS are both clearly under-reported; not much can be made from five faithful correspondents who noted one to three of each species coming to their feeders. The CBCs suggest increases of both from last year (486 Downys, up from 423; 334 Hairys, up from 266). A second-hand report of a rare **THREE-TOED WOODPECKER** was sent by FLS. It was spotted Feb. 2 in "unthrifty spruce and fir" at Economy by Marge Peterson, who is familiar with the Black-

backed, and who noted its striped back and bit of "beige yellow" on the head. The few that have occurred here have often seemed to be on the move, and it could not be found by FLS next day. The only reported post-CBC BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER was at Greenfield, Kings Co., Feb. 14 (BLF). (And please note that last issue's September sightings near Wolfville should be attributed to GWT, not JCT.) The CBC bonanza of N. FLICKERS apparently continued through winter, although under-reported. A substantial 20+ were still in Barrington Jan. 4 (MUN), and eight to ten were reported from Kings Co. in the new year (var. obs.). One has favoured CSM's New Waterford feeder through two years, and another supplied a first wintering record at Economy (FLS). Two were around Maders Cove, Lun. Co., into February. Three were on the Peggys Cove barrens Feb. 4 (BLM), where I saw one feeding on cranberries a week later. Nine reports of a dozen PILEATED WOODPECKERS were about as usual for recent winters.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

By Eric Mills

Our birding sensation of 1997, the first **BROWN SHRIKE** observed in Canada, was found on Nov. 23 near the Fairview container pier, Halifax (RAF, ANF). Many observers saw it in a nearby backyard until Dec. 1, when it apparently perished during bad weather. A full account has appeared in the February/March 1998 issue of *Birders Journal*. Although this eastern Asian species is common within its normal range and has been seen in Alaska and California, no one would have predicted its Canadian debut in Nova Scotia. Almost prosaic by comparison, **NORTHERN SHRIKES** were noted as scarce through the winter by most observers; the 12 records range from 18 Nov.- 15 Feb., including four individuals on the Canso CBC.

There were no reports of vireos submitted during this period.

CORVIDS THROUGH WAXWINGS

By Eric Mills

GRAY JAYS are where you find them, seldom predictable, except for three to six coming to KFS's feeder in Apple R., Cum. Co. from Dec.- Feb. and of course on many CBCs in low numbers. And **BLUEJAYS**, as is their winter custom, vacated many areas to concentrate in others: JAP & DWP noted above average numbers all winter at their feeder in Westphal, Hfx. Co., whereas large areas of the adjacent countryside there and elsewhere were (mercifully?) jay-free. "Thousands" of **AMERICAN CROWS**, reported as an exceptional number, spent the winter around the coke ovens in Sydney, CBI (Walter MacKinnon, fide JAC), and 100+ **RAVENS** were unusual in the Point Edward area, CBI, at the same time (Gilbert Lewis, fide JAC).

Although they are among our first migrants, **HORNED LARKS** winter in small numbers. Up to 25 were reported on CBCs, a few were on the Grand Pre dikelands from Dec.-Feb. (JWW, PAM), but four on Yarmouth Bar, Yar. Co., 26 Feb. (ELM, IAM) may have been migrants. Too early to be true migrants, and among our very few winter records, two **TREE SWALLOWS**, well described by David Croft, flew around a

nestbox at Liscombe, Guys. Co., for an hour on Feb.3, then disappeared. A BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE with an all white tail surprised JWW in Wolfville on Feb. 25. Are there other records of partial albino Chickadees?

After the exceptional abundance of RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES during the autumn migration, low numbers were present throughout the province this winter, except for 175 on the Halifax CBC and 120 in Wolfville. Despite the 35 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES found on the Kingston, King's Co. CBC, the only one seen or heard in their area of Lun. Co. all winter was reported by JSC & JLC on Feb. 17. A pair or two of this scarce resident still hung on in southend Halifax throughout. Not exceptional but decidedly scarce, one WINTER WREN was reported on the Halifax CBC. Also scarce in winter, lone RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS were reported only three times; in Bedford, Hfx Co. on Nov.30 (AZV, DC), at Stellarton, CB Co. on Dec. 14 (KJM), and in Truro, Col. Co. around Feb. 10 (Rene Gould).

A NORTHERN WHEATEAR, at Avonport on Nov. 12 (Deanna & Eva Urban), reported without details, fell into the pattern of increasing autumn appearances indicated in the last season's report. Brightening the Yarmouth CBC, a female EASTERN BLUEBIRD was documented at a feeder in Hebron, Yar. Co. on Dec. 21 (Donna & Jack Himmelman). Two HERMIT THRUSHES were reported during the Halifax CBC, one was seen on the Wolfville CBC, and one lingered in shrubbery outside the Law Courts building in downtown Halifax on Jan. 22 (BLM). Apparently normal numbers of wintering AMERICAN ROBINS survived through February, although above average numbers were noted in the Pubnico area, Yar. Co., in January (RDS) and at Economy, Col. Co. in Feb. (FLS). They were frequent in Pictou Co. throughout the winter, including 100 during a day's birding on Jan. 31 (KJM). Not unique on Sable I., where the species has been seen very late before, a GRAY CATBIRD appeared on Dec. 29 (ZDL). In addition, single Catbirds were at Pictou, Pict. Co. On Dec. 31 (Anne Stright, fide Elwin Hemphill), and South Side, CSI, Shel. Co. on Jan. 4. (MUN). To complete the roster of thrushes and their relatives, NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS coped well with the winter: one in Dartmouth (FLL, BLM et. al.), one in Barrington, Shel. Co. (MUN), and another at Grand Pre, King's Co. (JWW, PAM) were present from at least December through February. Five were found on the Halifax CBC, 6 on the Wolfville CBC. There were individual birds at Louisburg, CB Co., around Dec. 7 (Susann Myers), in Port Williams, King's Co., on Jan.3 (RBS), at Glace Bay, CB Co., on Jan. 4 (ALM, CAM), in Lequille, Anna. Co on Jan. 7 , at the mouth of the Sackville R., Hfx Co. from Jan. 21-28 (AZV), and in Shelburne on March 7 (ELM, IAM, FLL), probably only tokens of the total numbers of this increasingly common winter resident.

It takes a lot to make EUROPEAN STARLINGS interesting, but they were unusually abundant in the Point Edward area of CBI (no numbers given) in Nov. and Dec. (JAC). A flock estimated at 2000 was foraging in the intertidal algae at Chebogue Point, Yar. Co., on March 7 (ELM, IAM, FLL).

Never common in winter, AMERICAN PIPITS were recorded as follows: 15 on the Halifax CBC; one on the The Sydneys CBC; 15 overwintering on Pubnico Point (RSD);

one on Sable I. on Dec. 24 (ZDL); a few always present on the Grand Pre - Wolfville dikelands, King's Co., between December and March (JWW, BLF, ELM); three at Chebogue Pt., Yar. Co., on Dec. 21 (MUN), and two at Stoney I., CSI, Shel. Co., on Jan. 18 (MUN).

This was the 'Winter of the Waxwing' in Nova Scotia. BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS appeared first, beginning in early November, and were still being reported throughout March from CBI to SW Nova Scotia. Many of the big flocks included significant numbers of Cedar Waxwings, which are usually scarce in winter. I estimated that some flocks of Bohemians had 5-10% Cedars, a figure borne out by a number of reports. A flock of 1100 Bohemians was at Ste. Anne du Ruisseau, Yar. Co., on Jan. 9 (BLM). Other large numbers included 400 at Argyle Head, Yar. Co., on Dec. 5 (RSD), 500 in Middleton, King's Co., on 13 Dec. (Jane White, fide Barbara Passmore), and 500 on the Peggy's Cove barrens, Hfx Co., on February 2 (AZV). FLL estimated that 1200 were in the Halifax - Bedford - Dartmouth area between Jan. and Mar. In Yarmouth, MUN counted 1500 on Jan. 11. During Christmas Counts, 1000+ were on the Springville, Pictou Co. CBC (CGB) and 1300+ on the West Hants count. It was not unusual to see flocks of CEDAR WAXWINGS unmixed with Bohemians, ranging in numbers from tens to a maximum of more than a hundred, for example, 100+ in Wolfville, King's Co., on Dec. 13 (JT) and on Feb. 27 (JWW), some of which must have contributed to 385 reported on the Wolfville CBC. FLL estimated 350 in the Halifax area between Jan. and Mar. The elegance of these lovely birds brightened a dark, wet, and windy winter.

WARBLERS

By Andy Horn

Warbler reports presented several rarities and good numbers of expected species, including many individuals that survived well through the winter. **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS** were reported in about average numbers -- approximately seven individuals in all. Five were seen in Halifax-Dartmouth in Nov. and Dec. (var. obs.); three of these survived at least until the CBC, and one just made it into 1998. Subspecies identifications were offered for two of these birds. A bird at Don MacNeill's feeder appeared to be of the eastern race (FLL et al.). Another at Sullivans Pond was described as "rather bright" and perhaps of the West Coast *lutescens* race (RBS), although the Rocky Mt. race *orestera*, somewhat yellower than eastern birds, may be more likely here (IAM). Individuals first sighted at Lockeport, Shel. Co., Nov. 24 (DJC) and in Louisbourg, CB Co., Jan. 23 (HOS, Susann Myers) each survived at least a month; the Louisbourg bird persisted to at least Mar. 15.

A NASHVILLE WARBLER at Eric and Barbara Ruff's feeder in Yarmouth, Yar. Co. survived from Jan. well into March (Ruffs, var. obs.). Its lack of either tail-pumping or bright rump and back suggested that it was of the nominate, eastern race, as would be expected (IAM). Two NORTHERN PARULAS were remarkably late at Broad Cove, Nov. 29-30 (JSC, SJF) and Bisset Lake, Dartmouth, Dec. 5 (JEO).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS routinely winter in good numbers along our Atlantic

and Fundy coasts. This winter, for example, 200+ were at Cape Sable (Brass Hill), Shel. Co., Dec. 20-Jan. 4 (MUN), contributing substantially to the provincial CBC total of 536, and about 40 were at the NatSea Plant in Lunenburg Feb. 22 (ELM). Among seven other scattered reports, individuals at KJM's feeder, Dec. 16-Feb. 16 (KJM) and at Pomquet P.P., Ant. Co., Feb. 23-24 (RLF) were less usual.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS do not appear every winter, but this year there were two: one in Halifax, Jan. 12 (DBM) and another in Sydney R., CB Co. Dec. 23-Jan. 11 (JUM, DAC). The later bird was well described, and kept company with Common Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills.

About twice the average number of **PINE WARBLERS** was reported this winter, with 15 seen on the CBC. Sightings were well distributed from Nov. to Feb., with particularly persistent birds in Barrington, Shel. Co., Jan. 4-Feb. 13 (MUN), Stellarton, Pict. Co., late Dec.-Jan. 17 (3 individuals; KJM), Louisbourg, CB Co., Dec. 1-Feb. 22 (possibly two individuals; HOS, DBM, Susann Myers), Cox Heath, CB Co., into March (*fide* CUM), Birch Cove Park in Dartmouth, Nov. 23-Jan. 1 (JEO, FLL et al.), and Halifax, Jan. 1-deadline (FLL et al.).

The usual smattering of **PALM WARBLERS** was found, in Halifax, Nov. 30 (DAC, AJV), MacLellan Marsh, Pictou Co., Dec. 12-20 (western race; CGB, KJM, JEO), Louisbourg, CB Co., Dec. 20 (Donald F. Campbell, John W. McInnis), and Broad Cove, Feb. 16 (eastern race; SJF). One **BLACKPOLL WARBLER** was sighted, at the CSI, Shel. Co. CBC; no details yet (MUN, BJM). A surprising total of 3 **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLERS** appeared at Sullivans Pond, Dec. 3-4 (var. obs.), Barrington, Shel. Co., Dec. 20 (JCZ), and Pt. Pleasant Park, Halifax, Jan. 1 (Jamie McLaren). During the Halifax CBC, yours truly may well have walked right past the latter bird, to his everlasting shame. **COMMON YELLOWTHROATS** were reported in average numbers, at Bayswater Beach, Lun. Co., Nov. 30 (CJF), MacLellan Marsh, Pict. Co., Dec. 13 (KJM), and CSI, Shel. Co., Jan. 1-3 (MUN).

IAM photographed a late **WILSON'S WARBLER** (*see photo*) in his Halifax backyard, Dec. 13-14: "a very bright bird, back with green rather than olive tones, not very dark cheeks giving little contrast with yellow eyering." These details are characteristic of the northwestern race, *pileolata*. Measurements are needed for this identification, though; fine photographs were not enough.

A very respectable total of ten **YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS** were reported in Nov. and Dec. Of six found in late Dec. in Halifax-Dartmouth (var. obs.), at least one was still extant at deadline, at Birch Cove Park in Dartmouth (*fide* FLL). A bird at Sand Lake, CB Co., might have done the same if a Sharp-shinned Hawk hadn't killed it Jan. 25 (ALM, CUM). Other birds outside metro were in Louisbourg, CB Co., Dec. 1 (Susann Myers), Antigonish Landing, Ant. Co., Dec. 14 (CGB, RLF, Jeannie McGee), and Barrington Passage, Shel. Co., Dec. 20 (on the CBC)



Ian McLaren

Wilson's Warbler

*I photographed this straggling individual in my backyard Dec. 14, after which it disappeared. I was struck by its yellow breast and face. The recent Peterson field guide to the warblers has much to say about subspecies, indicating that the bird might have been of the northwestern subspecies *pileolata*, with yellower, less olive "cheeks", and accordingly less demarcated eyering. Kimball Garrett, one of the authors of that fine book, writes that my slides do suggest *pileolata*, but that only measurements of a bird in hand (our local subspecies is smaller) would suffice for confirmation.*

- Ian McLaren

TANAGERS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

By Dave McCorquodale

This was a spectacular winter for sparrows, both rarities and numbers of the common species that overwintered. Based both on rarities and numbers of the common species, Wolfville has a claim to be the sparrow capital of Nova Scotia. Two extreme rarities were found at the Wolfville Sewage Ponds and the mild winter allowed many lingering sparrows to make it through the winter at feeders in the Wolfville area and throughout the province. Some male sparrows thought the mild, sunny weather in mid-February meant it was spring and started to sing.

Four EASTERN TOWHEES were found on CBCs, including two in Dartmouth. A female visiting the Gardner's feeder in Sydney Mines missed the Christmas Count but

showed itself for many birders until late January. Hardy individuals in Dartmouth (var. obs.) and Tusket Falls were reported from December until at least mid-February .

AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were widely reported in December until mid-January. They were found on all but three of the CBCs, with the most, 202, reported at Wolfville. The only February record was of 16 at a feeder in Apple R., Cum. Co. (KFS). Fewer CHIPPING SPARROWS were found on CBCs than in the previous two years (11 versus 18 and 25). Remarkably, three were still thriving at feeders, Louisbourg (HOS), Avonport (Urbans) and Lower Ohio (Donna Ensor, DHY, SJF), into late February. The only report of a VESPER SPARROW was one at Lower Canard Feb. 8-9 (BLF, RBS).

A LARK SPARROW was in Port La Tour Jan. 23-24 (Gerald Smith, *fide* Roland McCormick). Another spent most of December and January at Jack MacNeil's feeder in Big Pond. A nice portrait of this bird provides documentation for this rare winter visitor. It was not the only excitement at this feeder. In late December a Lincoln's Sparrow and a Song Sparrow accompanied it. A LARK BUNTING made a brief appearance at the Urban's feeder in Avonport on Jan. 10. We have only a handful of winter records for this rarity.

Almost half of the 87 SAVANNAH SPARROWS reported on CBCs were from Wolfville. A few of these were still being seen in mid-February at sewage ponds, dykes and feeders in the area (JWW, Urbans). One IPSWICH SPARROW was on the Halifax CBC, one was at Rainbow Haven Beach, Cole Hbr. on Jan. 18 (IAM) and two were at Martinique Beach Feb. 18 (FLL, PEO).

Sewage ponds are often great places for shorebirds. This winter the Wolfville Sewage Ponds were the place to be for sparrows. A LE CONTE'S SPARROW was found and described on Christmas Day by BLF. Subsequently many birders tracked this individual down to convincingly document the third provincial record. It was still in the area in early March. Besides the Le Conte's, there were also two NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS (one of the James Bay race and one of the local Acadian race), a SEASIDE SPARROW (var. obs.) and of course the more regular wintering sparrows of late December and early January. Will anyone see three species in the genus *Ammodramus* in Nova Scotia in one day again? Other Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were seen on CBC in Economy (good details from EPS and Brad McLaughlin) and Halifax.

Thirteen FOX SPARROWS were found on four CBCs, with a maximum of 7 at Yarmouth. At least two were still coming to the Urbans' feeder in Avonport on Feb. 21. SONG SPARROWS were counted on all except two CBCs, with the most (185) at Wolfville. Most surprising was the first for the Cape Breton Highlands count (DBM, James Bridgland, Candice Stapleton). Many were still at feeders throughout the province in late February. The warm weather in mid-February had some males acting like it was spring. Singing males brightened up the late winter on Feb. 8 in Margaretsville, Anna. Co. (PLC), Feb. 12 in Bedford (KNK) and Feb. 23 in Antigonish (RFL).

There were four reports of LINCOLN'S SPARROW. Two were in Cape Breton and both

spent several weeks at feeders, one in New Waterford from Dec. 27 - Feb. 26 (CSM, TMM) and another in Big Pond in December and January (Jack MacNeil). The other two were in Green Bay in late November to early December (JSC) and Doctor's Cove, Shel. Co. in early January. SWAMP SPARROWS were found on 8 CBCs from Canso to Brier I. Five were found on both the Wolfville and Halifax counts. In late January there was still one in Lower West Pubnico (RSD), and in late February there were still individuals at the Wolfville Sewage Ponds (BLF) and Little Hbr., Shel. Co. (DHY).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were found on 27 CBCs in late December, showing they were widespread in the province from Cape Breton Highlands to Brier I. Overwintering birds, still present in late February, were reported from Advocate Hbr. (JRM), the Halifax area, and Apple R., Cum. Co. (KFS). Many fewer WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS linger in the province. One has spent the winter at a feeder in Little Hbr., Shel. Co. (DHY). In December others were in Economy (FLS) and Wolfville (Peter Smith).

A fascinating report of two brief observations of an immature GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW was received from Clive and Theresa MacDonald of New Waterford. They both had good, but brief, views of a large sparrow (about the size of a small Fox or White-crowned) on Nov. 29 and Dec. 7. The yellow crown was seen. The only other possibility is an immature White-crowned (see IAM's Nova Scotia Bird Rarities in Perspective in the April 1997 NS Birds). They saw the bird a second time, a week after the first sighting and after they had consulted the field guides, giving them an opportunity to confirm some field marks. We have very few records of this western sparrow for the province.

DARK-EYED JUNCOS were found on all except one CBC in NS, with the most, more than 1600, in Wolfville. Reports of up to a dozen at feeders through the winter were received from across the province. In late February singing males instilled some much needed optimism into late winter observers in Halifax (PLC).

Few reports of LAPLAND LONGSPURS were received and only 12 were found on CBCs. In mid-January there were three near Wolfville (JWW), another three on Big I., Pict. Co. on Jan. 17 & 19 (KJM, *et al.*), and on Feb. 24 there were 10 at Morien Bar, CB Co. (CAM). SNOW BUNTINGS were widespread in flocks of a few to 500 throughout the winter. Up to 100 frequented a feeder in Apple R., Cum. Co. (KFS).

NORTHERN CARDINALS continue to be seen in several places. Twenty six were counted on CBCs, with eight in Yarmouth, six in Halifax and five at Annapolis. Many of these were still coming to feeders from Truro to Dartmouth to Wolfville to Cape Sable I. late in the winter.

Six of the seven DICKCISSELS on CBCs were on Cape Breton I., including an amazing four at Louisbourg (Busseys). The other was in Yarmouth where it or another was still lingering in early March (MUN). Another was at Economy from Nov. 21 - Dec. 23. (FLS).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS were reported throughout the province in early winter as expected. The surprising thing was how many were still around in late January and February. Late winter reports came from Canso, Sheffield Mills, Economy and Woodbury, Pict. Co. Three reports of EASTERN MEADOWLARKS came from three distinct areas of the province: MacLellan Marsh, Pict. Co. Dec. 17-19, Brass Hill Shel. Co. Dec. 19-24 and Parrsboro in late December (KJM, CGB, STV, Molly Kernohan). As with red-wings, there were several wintering RUSTY BLACKBIRDS. At least four overwintered in Apple R.(KFS), another four were in Canso on Feb. 9 (KJM, CGB) and one was at Head-of-St. Margaret's Bay through February (Roland McCormick). Only six were seen on five CBCs. Despite some overwintering, there were still few reports of this species. Another blackbird that overwintered in above average numbers was the COMMON GRACKLE. As expected they were widespread in the early winter and on CBCs, with a high of 17 in Apple R. At least three of these overwintered around Kathleen Spicer's feeder. Several others overwintered, for example at northern locations such as Westmount, CB Co. and Guysborough (JAC, KJM, CGB). The rarest blackbird was a YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD that spent Nov. 9 - Dec.15 at the Urban's feeder in Avonport (var. obs)

On October 21 JON found a seemingly exhausted, skulking blackbird, on The Hawk, C.S.I., which he recognized as a BRONZED COWBIRD from its 'hunched shape, large, thick bill (moreso than a Brown-headed Cowbird's), and above all its red eyes. Its charcoal rather than glossy plumage, suggests that it may have been a female or young male.' Later that day MUN and WIA saw the bird and agreed with the identification. Unfortunately, the bird was not relocated on subsequent days. This is the province's second sight record

A year ago the winter report noted that 'No longer do we see the large flocks of 100 or more BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS'. Numbers appear to be up significantly this winter. One hundred were found on the Bridgetown CBC, 81 were at Shubenacadie and 75 in Port Hebert. Up to 50 were still in the Lockeport area in late February (DJC). Has this mild winter allowed more to linger and will we see an increase in numbers this summer? Keep your eyes open for cowbirds this spring.

BALTIMORE ORIOLES were widespread at feeders in the early winter as we have noticed the past few years. Eighteen were found on CBCs, including 8 in Halifax and 4 at Glace Bay. Despite the mild winter, none appear to have survived the winter. Of the four on the Glace Bay CBC two provided food for Sharp-shinned Hawks and two did not survive the weather (CAM).

This was not a great winter for finches, the second in a row. However three species, PINE GROSBEAK, COMMON REDPOLL and WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL, were seen in good numbers across the province. More than 75 Pine Grosbeaks were found on CBCs in Cheticamp, Antigonish, Amherst and Wolfville. Small flocks were in the Halifax area throughout the winter (IAM). This species does not often frequent feeders. Roslyn Macphee had the first ever for her yard in Shubenacadie and a flock of 20 fed at the Urban's feeder in Avonport. In contrast to Pine Grosbeaks, the numbers of PURPLE

FINCHES were lower than usual. Observers from Cape Breton to the Valley commented on the low numbers. Despite this, 48 were found on the Wolfville CBC and 26 on the Annapolis CBC. The only February report was of 3-8 at a feeder in Halifax (ABM). HOUSE FINCHES continue to flourish in several areas. The Halifax CBC totaled 23, two thirds of the total for the province. Most of these were near feeders that the birds frequented throughout the winter. In Lockeport the numbers were down, to a single male, many fewer than a few years ago (DJC). It is not unusual for an invading species to experience dramatic population increases and then similarly dramatic population crashes. We must continue to document the changes in numbers of House Finches.

Crossbills do not usually visit feeders. However, RED CROSSBILLS visited several feeders in industrial Cape Breton and Avonport (Urbans). The Urban's feeder also hosted WHITE_WINGED CROSSBILLS. Combine this with the Pine Grosbeaks, redpolls, Yellow-headed Blackbird, grackles and cowbirds and obviously this was one of the prime feeders in Nova Scotia this winter. Away from feeders, Red Crossbills were found on 9 CBCs with a maximum of 37 at Broad Cove. White-winged Crossbills were more common and more widespread, especially before the end of the year. More than 500 were counted on CBCs with a maximum of 73 in Wolfville.

The most dramatic exception to the lack of winter finches was COMMON REDPOLL. Observers from across the province commented on large flocks and small flocks, from early November until late February. Many feeders had flocks that spent the winter. More than 5,000 were counted on CBCs with a maximum of (an amazingly accurate count) 999 in Wolfville. In February the Canadian Wildlife Service warned of an impending outbreak of salmonellosis. Common Redpolls had been found dead at feeders, especially in New Brunswick. Only one observer reported dead redpolls at feeders (RCM). As expected with a large flight of Common Redpolls, there were a few reports of HOARY REDPOLLS. Identifying Hoary Redpolls can be difficult. They are lighter, the rump is pale and undertail coverts are almost unstreaked. These are the characters most people focus on. However there is overlap in these characters because of variation due to sex (females are darker than males) and age (young birds are darker than older birds). A good source of information for identifying redpolls is a 1996 issue of BIRDING (27(6):447). Our reports come from Louisbourg on the CBC (DBM), New Waterford(CSM, TMM), South Bridgeport (fide Peter Hope), Avonport (Urbans) and Wolfville area (var. obs.) in February

There were few reports from most areas of the province for PINE SISKINS, EVENING GROSBEAKS and AM. GOLDFINCHES. There were few siskins in Cape Breton and northern NS. Goldfinches and grosbeaks were also in relatively small numbers in these areas. Most reports of all three species were from the Halifax, Shubenacadie, West Hants and Wolfville areas. The CBCs in Wolfville, Halifax and Shubenacadie each had more than 100 siskins. These three CBCs plus West Hants each had more than 400 goldfinches. In total there were fewer than half as many goldfinches as were counted on 1995 CBCs. Shubenacadie and West Hants had the most Evening Grosbeaks. It appears that winter finch numbers were much higher in the central part of the province than elsewhere. Feeder reports of all three species also support this conclusion.



Ian McLaren

Baltimore Oriole

*These birds are quite regular in early winter in our gardens, where grapes, suet and other goodies can sustain them. This female, photographed in mid-December, became a probable cat victim Jan. 13. Now that the Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles have again been "split", people are looking more closely at features distinguishing the first-winter females. This orange-breasted, dark-faced bird was an undoubted Baltimore. However, much recent Internet discussion by museum and field experts reveals that first-winter Baltimore females (perhaps undernourished as fledglings) can be quite yellow-breasted, whitish-bellied, and gray-backed. Birders in the East, including Nova Scotia, have used these characteristics to claim first-winter Bullock's Orioles. Genuine female Bullock's have strongly yellowish faces and dark line from lores to behind the eye. I believe **none** of the good number of female Bullock's Orioles claimed in Nova Scotia have been adequately described (or photographed) to be certain of their identity. The handful of males that have occurred here (two photographed) were of course more readily recognised.*

- Ian McLaren

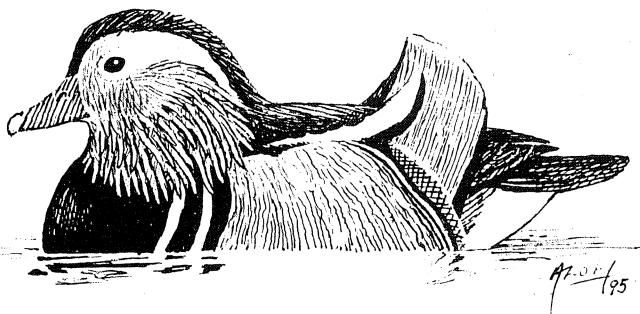
HOUSE SPARROWS were reported from many cities, towns and villages across the province. Only three CBCs did not find them: Cheticamp, Cape Breton Highlands and Brier I. Reporters were about equally divided as to whether there were fewer or more this winter.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks to all of our contributors, including:

Atwood, Wilfred (Skipper)	WIA	Lewis, Miriam and Lloyd	
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Brennan, Calvin	CGB	MacDonald, Theresa	TMM
Brennan, Harry	HAB	MacInnis, George	
Brennan, Jean	JEB	MacIntosh, Eleanor	
Bridgland, James		MacNeil, Jack	
Bussey, Bill & Diane		MacPhee, Roslyn C.	RCM
Campbell, Donald F.		Martin, Pat	PAM
Chalmers, Patricia L.	PLC	Maybank, Blake	BLM
Coddling, Don & Lois		McCormick, Roland	
Cohrs, John	JLC	McCorquodale, Dave	DBM
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Cooke, Eric	EHC	McGee, Jeannie	
Chretien, Jacqueline	JAC	McHarty, Pat	
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Currie, David	DC	McKenna, Kenneth J.	KJM
Czapalay, Joan	JCZ	McLaren, Ian	IAM
Dufresne, Martine	MAD	McLaren, Jamie	
d'Entremont, Raymond	RSD	McLaughlin, Brad	
Ellis, Margaret	MEE	Metcalfe, Junior	JUM
Ensor, Donna		Mills, Eric L.	ELM
Field, Chris	CJF	Mills, Jane	JRM
Forsythe, Bernard	BLF	Mills, Maureen	MSM
Foxall, Andrew	ANF	Mills, Sandy	SAM
Foxall, Roger	RAF	Moores, Bernice	ABM
Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF	Morse, Jean & Bill	JBM
Gardner, Thomas		Murrant, Allan	ALM
Goring, May	MAG	Murrant, Cathy	CAM
Haycock, Carl	CAH	Myers, Susann	
Hope, Peter		Newell, Murray	MUN
Keddy, Keith	KNK	Nickerson, Johnnie	JON
Kempton, Sandy		Nickerson, Nancy	
Kernohan, Molly		Ogden, Jeff	JEO
Klemka, Joe		Oickle, Peter	PEO
Lauff, Randolph	RFL	O'Shea, Helen	HOS
Lavender, Fulton	FLL	Perry, Lillian	LIP
Lewis, Gilbert		Popma, Kathy	

Porter, B. Author	BAP
Pratt, Mary	MMP
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Purchase, Joyce	JAP
Sigston, Ronald D.	RDS
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Smith, Peter C.	
Smith, Ruth E.	RES
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Spalding, Francis	FLS
Spicer, Kathleen	KFS
Stapleton, Candice	
Stern, Richard	RBS
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Stevens, Clarence Sr.	
Taylor, James	JWT
Timpa, Jean	JT
Tomek, Ivan	IVT
Toplack, Chris	
Tufts, Gordon	GWT
Tufts, Judy	JCT
Urban, Eva, Deanna & Walter	Urbans
Vienneau, Azor	AZV
Vines, Steve	STV
Waldron, Joan	JOW
Wolford, Jim	JWW
Yetman, Scott	
Young, David	DHY
Young, Joan	



BIRDING AREAS

Many of the birding areas in Nova Scotia crop up regularly in the reports. To prevent repetition of the locations of these areas in the body of the text, we will occasionally publish a list of references and standard abbreviations. Please see the January 1998 issue for the latest version of the list.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF BIRD REPORTS

For the **Summer 1998** issue: **7 June 1998**

Bird Reports to: Karl Tay
5 Berwick Street,
Dartmouth, N.S.
B2Y 3B6

As an experiment, the deadline for bird reports has been changed to align the reporting period with the March to May spring season. **NOTE:** The deadline for other submissions remains unchanged. Please use the AOU checklist for bird names and sequences if possible.

DEADLINE FOR OTHER SUBMISSIONS

For the **Summer 1998** issue: **15 May 1998**

Nova Scotia Birds welcomes for publication contributions of original articles, photographs, artwork, field notes and field studies. The activities of the society are centred on the observation and study of the bird life of this province and the preservation of habitat. However, our readers are always interested in areas and birds outside our province. Please send articles or other suggestions to:

Email: allsebro@atl.sofkin.ca
Mail: Marion Allsebrook
45 Lexington Ave,
Fall River, NS
B2T 1E7

Electronic submission is preferred, if possible (e.g. WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, ASCII text); an IBM-compatible diskette containing the article is acceptable.

Photographs to: Ian McLaren
1755 Cambridge Street,
Halifax, N.S.
B3H 4A8

PICTURES OF THE SEASON

The central photo pages of the last issue depicted some once-in-a-lifetime birds. Here we offer three pages of portraits, only one of them of a real rarity.

The first bird, a **LE CONTE'S SPARROW**, is indeed rare here. They nest in central Canada and winter mostly in the Gulf States. Bernard Forsythe discovered this errant individual at the Wolfville sewage pond on Christmas day, and photographed it Jan. 3. About a half-dozen have been reported in the province, but this one is only the third to be substantiated. Fortunately, it stayed to be seen by many through winter. All who saw it were impressed with its bright, attractive plumage - dark streaking on the buffy sides and breast, contrastingly white throat, and golden buff and gray on the face. Note also its small, pale bill, blackish crown with whitish central stripe, and "tick" mark behind the eye.

The next bird is one of the province's more common nesting species, but the furtive **LINCOLN'S SPARROW** is rarely seen well by birders. Its finely streaked, buffy breast and flanks, and broad gray supercillium, distinguish it from the closely related Song Sparrow. Richard Stern photographed this one amongst the lobster traps on Seal I. in early October 1996. These obsolete wooden traps long provided a sense of security for migrants on the island, and produced many photo opportunities over the years. Alas, most of the traps were burned in a fit of tidiness last year.

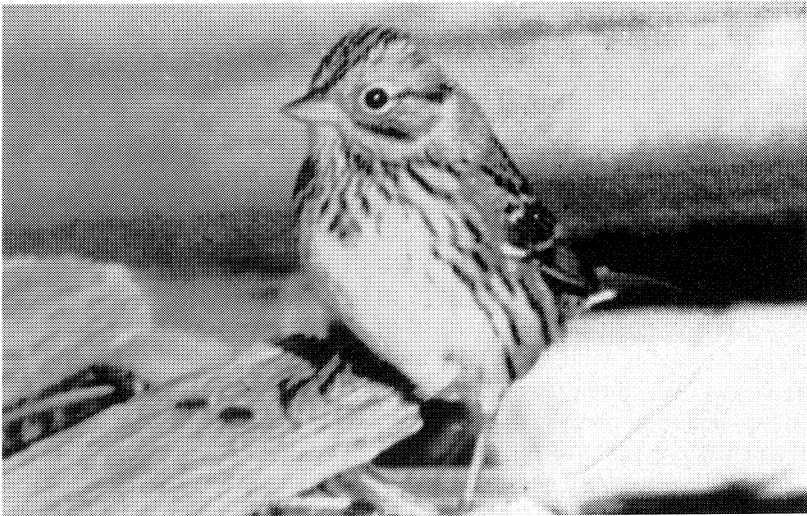
More shorebirds (other than Purple Sandpipers) winter on the mudflats between Cape Sable and The Hawk, C.S.I., than anywhere else in Atlantic Canada, and this year's mild weather allowed most to survive throughout. The most frequent are **SANDERLINGS** and **DUNLINS**, which are easily distinguishable in Blake Maybank's photo taken Dec. 20 during the Barrington-Cape Sable C.B.C.

Another nominal shorebird, the **AM. WOODCOCK**, is seldom seen well by birders. Mostly they burst from underfoot during migration or are heard "peenting" in wet thickets in early spring. Last winter several were found lingering along streams and see pages during Christmas counts. This one was photographed close up by Blake Maybank at Portuguese Cove, during the Halifax count, Dec. 21. Unfortunately, its tameness reflected its weakened condition. Although a few woodcocks have survived winter in Nova Scotia, this one is unlikely to have done so.



Bernard Forsythe

Le Conte's Sparrow



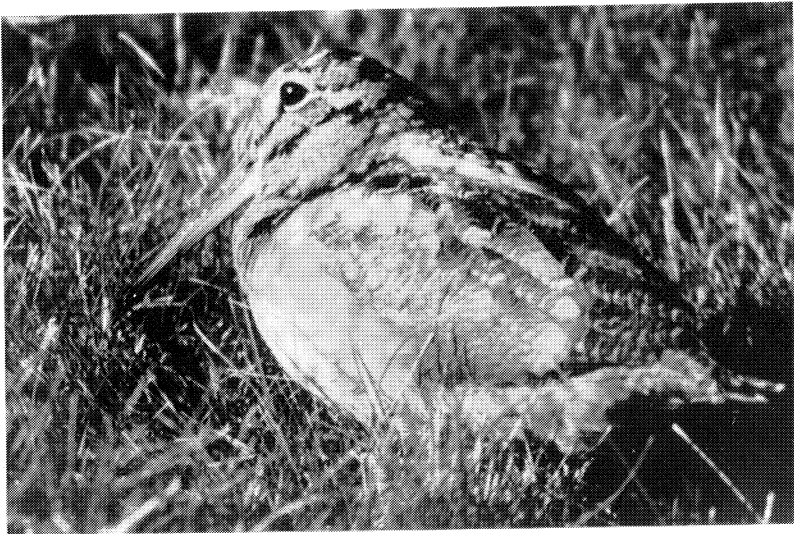
Richard Stern

Lincoln's Sparrow



Shorebirds - Cape Sable Island

Blake Maybank



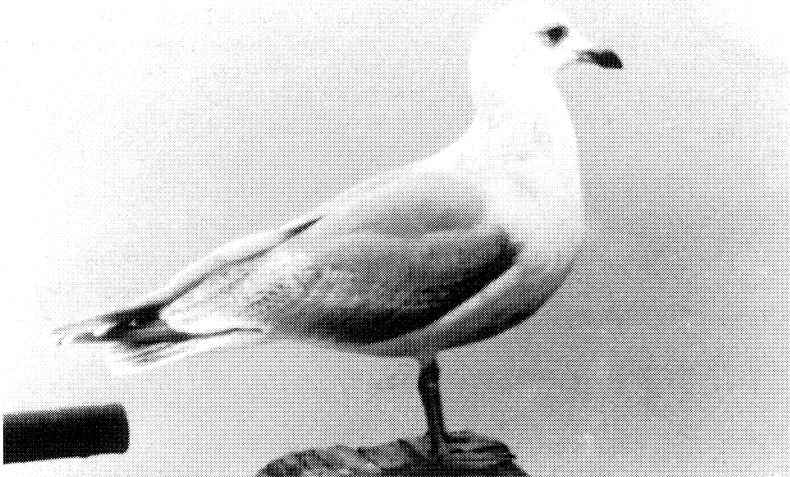
American Woodcock

Blake Maybank



Black-headed Gull

Blake Maybank



Iceland Gull

Blake Maybank

Gulls are the bane of beginning birders who despair of the variability of plumage attributable to age, geographic origin, and hybridization. These two, both photographed by Blake Maybank on the Halifax waterfront Jan. 10, 1998, present no identification difficulties. The upper photo of an ad. BLACK-HEADED GULL shows the dark "ear" spot, white outer primaries (evident along the lower margin of the folded wing), and relatively large bill (compared with the similar Bonaparte's Gull). The lower photo is a second-winter ICELAND GULL of the Canadian eastern arctic subspecies *kumlieni*. Its age is revealed by the combination of smooth gray mantle, still-mottled wing coverts and dusky tail. Its subspecies is evident in its darkish primaries. The real challenge is distinguishing between darker Iceland (*kumlieni*) and Thayer's gulls. Some authorities (including Godfrey in *Birds of Canada*) consider the latter to be the dark extreme within a single species of Iceland Gull. Recently, this view has been disputed via Internet by gull enthusiasts who are largely familiar only with either the East Coast ("Kumlien's") or West Coast (Thayer's) populations. But, specimens from the Canadian High Arctic do indicate extensive interbreeding between the two kinds.

SPRING NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT

Now is the time to be seriously thinking of our next Spring count for NAMC in this province, which will take place on the second Saturday in the month of May - the 9th. Many of our northward-migrating neo-tropical bird species will be back —visible once again in the midst of 'pairing off' or looking for suitable habitats to raise new families. We need to be out in field, woods and mountain, along river, pond and ocean, searching for those species, counting the birds to see what effect migration has had upon their numbers and their distribution. This should be of great concern for all of us. Please take time to consider participating in this very worthwhile project.

NO FEE is involved.

It is important that all those wishing to participate contact local co-ordinators or area reps in their counties to prevent overlaps of areas being surveyed and to help the coverage to be as widespread and thorough as possible. Should you not know whom your local co-ordinator /area reps are, or you wish to 'count' in other counties than the one in which you live, please contact me. I will be happy to help with any queries.

Judy Tufts
NAMC Prov. Co-ordinator
• Tel: (902)-542-7800
• P.O. Box 1313, Wolfville, N.S. B0P 1X0
e-mail: tandove@ns.sympatico.ca

Note: There will not be a Fall Count in 1998 unless someone else takes it on and co-ordinates this count.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

January/February 1998 - Sewer Strolls

Fulton L. Lavender

Both strolls were well attended this year (18 participants in January, and 15 in February). January's stroll produced 58 species, while February's garnered only 52. Most outstanding was the presence of both Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings on both outings. Also of note was the almost total lack of raptors. A single Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen in January, and none were seen in February. For me however, the most rewarding aspect of the trips each year is the gathering of old friends and the making of new. It was especially delightful to see the improved birding skills of one kind South Shore birding compatriot. Sure nice to know someone is listening. See you out there!

24 Jan 1998 - Prospect Point Winter Watch

This trip was moved to Hartlen Point, but was cancelled due to rain.

1 Feb 1998 – Harbour Hop, Cape Breton

Cathy Murrant

The only people to show up for the trip were Junior and Geraldine Metcalfe, and Allan and Cathy Murrant. We saw an American Coot at Glace Bay Park and the other birds were regular, over-wintering birds.

Anyone interested in Cape Breton birds can visit our web site at:

<http://highlander.cbnet.ns.ca/~cmurrant/index.html>

28 Feb 1998 – Barrington and Cape Sable Island

Joan Czapalay

The last day of winter listing was an occasion for over forty birders to join Johnny and Sandra Nickerson and other Southwest Nova birders on Nova Scotia's southern tip. The outing began well with close up views of a Dovekie and a Thick-billed Murre beside the causeway. Winter ducks, Loons and Greater Cormorants were at various places around Cape Sable Island. Although the tide was too high at noon to see the wintering-over shore birds at the Hawk, a Snowy Owl posed on a small thrum just off the shore. All three Scoters were seen. Brants were abundant.

In the afternoon we split into four groups. One went to Baccaro to check out a possible King Eider female and pair of Harlequin Ducks. A second group went to Yarmouth Co. to look at a swan in the Port Maitland area. The other groups visited Blanche Peninsula and returned to the southern part of Cape Sable Island.

Thanks to Johnny and Sandra Nickerson and all those who took part and helped with car-pooling. Between 35 and 67 species were seen, depending on the areas visited, and a beautiful winter day by the ocean was enjoyed by all.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

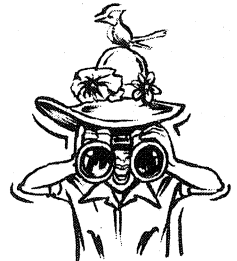
Ideas and suggestions for future trips are welcome. You do not need to be an expert to lead a field trip; you just need to share your favourite birding hotspots. Any questions or suggestions should be directed to the Field Trip Co-ordinator, Joan Czapalay at (902) 348-2803, 8210 Port Greville, NS B0M 1T0 (summer).

Field trips are open to non-members as well as members. Please phone the field trip leader or contact person ahead of time to register for the trip and obtain further information (e.g. directions). In this way no trip is oversubscribed, and you can be contacted in case of cancellation. Field trips range from early morning warbler walks to all day outings, to overnight expeditions to offshore islands. The area code for N.S. is 902.

Leaders are asked to submit a brief (250-word max.) field trip report as soon as possible after the trip. Please send reports to:

Marion Allsebrook
45 Lexington Ave.
Fall River, N.S. B2T 1E7

e-mail: allsebro@atl.sofkin.ca
Fax: (902) 468-3679



Sat 9 May North American Migration Count

See information elsewhere in this issue.

Wed 13 May Spring Arrivals, Cape Breton

Leader: Jackie Chretien 564-4640. Meet at Mayflower Mall parking lot in Sydney near the Bay store at 6 p.m. Visit Grand Lake area for evening birding. Rain date May 14.

Fri 15 May - Mon 18 May Bon Portage Island

Leader: Claire Diggins 825-6152. PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY! Depart late afternoon or early evening on Friday from Prospect Point Wharf. Bring food, drinking water, warm clothing and footwear suitable for rough

(sometimes wet) terrain, a flashlight, mattress sheet and sleeping bag. Carry gear in waterproof bags or containers. Field guides are available on the island, as are cooking pans, dishes and utensils. There is a charge of \$45 to NSBS members for three nights accommodation, as well as a boat trip donation.

Wed 20 May Halifax Co. Early Morning Warbler Walk

Leader: Fred Dobson 852-3042. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the parking lot at the junction of Prospect Rd. Rte. 333 and St. Margarets Bay Rd. Duration: 2 to 3 hours.

Wed 20 May Pt. Edward, Westmount, Cape Breton

Leader: Jackie Chretien 564-4640. Meet at the United Farmers' Co-op on Celtic Dr. at 8 a.m. Wear appropriate footwear for wet conditions and bring a lunch. Look for a variety of spring arrivals and resident birds.

Sat 23 May Warbler Walk, Yarmouth Co.

CANCELLED.

Sat 23 May Hants County Day

Leader: Peter LeBlanc 864-6551. Meet at 8 a.m. at the railway crossing in Mt. Uniacke. Bring a lunch, insect repellent, suitable footwear for a variety of habitats. This is the NSBS' longest running field trip. Spring birds are usually abundant. Rain date May 24.

Sun 24 May Hopewell, Pictou Co.

Leader: Harry Brennan 923-2780. Meet at St. Columbia Churchyard at 8 a.m. about 1 mi. south of Hopewell. Look for owls and warblers in a good birding area. This is an excellent trip for beginners and experienced birders alike. Bring a lunch. **Note change in date from January issue.**

Sun 24 May Blomidon Warbler Walk

CANCELLED.

Sun 24 May Shubenacadie Area

Leader: Roslyn MacPhee 758-3265. Meet at Miller's Restaurant in Shubenacadie at 7 a.m. Bring a lunch and insect repellent. Warblers and woodpeckers are common on this trip.

Sat 30 May The Hawk Picnic Day

Lillian Scott Perry 637-2844. Bird Cape Sable Island with the Southwest Nova Birders and enjoy a picnic lunch on our own Hawk Hill. This is a good day for beginners and out-of-towners to visit our favourite hot spots. No registration is necessary. Meet at Tim Horton's in Barrington Passage at 7:00 a.m. Plan to have supper and spend night at an old farm homestead in Upper Clyde. Bring sleeping bags, picnic food, and insect repellent. Lots of space for tenting by the Clyde R. Take the early morning warbler walk Sunday, May 31st.

Sun 31 May Upper Clyde Warbler Walk

Lillian Scott Perry 637-2844. See The Hawk Picnic Day, Saturday 30 May, above.

Sat 6 June – Sun 7 June Joint Weekend Field Trip with Halifax Field Naturalists and Wild Flora Society

On Saturday meet at 7 a.m. at the Advocate Fire Hall to join Jane Mills and others to visit Cape d'Or. On Sunday meet at 7 a.m. at the entrance to the new Cape Chignecto Provincial Park in West Advocate to join Maureen Mills, our guide to this new provincial park. Enjoy the warblers and flycatchers of the boreal forest, alpine plants near the cliffs, butterflies and other insects in the clearings, and lush ferns in the shady places. Also expect Dutchman's breeches, wild ginger, red trillium, Black-throated Blue Warblers, woodpeckers, and thrushes. Trails are usually dry. There are easy woods-road trails and more challenging cliff-side walks. Participants may make each day's outing a ½ day or a full day. Bring lunches, binoculars, hand lens, field guides, insect repellent and suitable footwear. Accommodations available at B&B's, a private campground, and Five Islands Provincial Park. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY.**

Contacts: Jane Mills (902) 392-2027 (for B&B info, etc.) OR
Bernice Moores (902) 422-5292

Directions: Bicentennial Hwy. (102) to Truro. Trans-Canada (104) to Glenholme. Route 2 (Glooscap Trail) to Parrsboro. In Parrsboro take extreme right at the bandstand and continue on Route 2. Left onto Hwy. 209 to Port Greville and Advocate. Note — the road to Chignecto Park is known locally as the Red Rocks Road.

Difficulty: Fairly easy to medium difficulty.

Sat 6 June Warbler Walk, Cape Breton

Leader: Junior Metcalfe 849-5054. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the former heavy water plant site in Glace Bay for spring migrants.

Sat 13 June Birds of Kings County

Leader: Angus MacLean 679-5878. Meet at 7 a.m. at the west end of Butler Rd., 20 minutes south of Kentville on Rte. 12. For beginner through intermediate birders. Learn to identify warblers and flycatchers by sight and sound.

Sat 20 June Cumberland/Colchester Counties

Leader: Fulton Lavender 455-4966. Meet at 7 a.m. at the Masstown Market. Bring lunch, boots and bug repellent. The trip ends in the Amherst area. Marsh Wrens, Black Terns, Soras, rails, Purple Martins and Vesper Sparrows are usual. This is a great opportunity to view birds seldom seen by beginners.

Sat 04 July Chignecto Park, Cumberland Co.

Leader: Joan Czapalay 348-2803. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Park entrance, West Advocate. Pack a lunch and fly repellent. Somewhat challenging hike, but at a leisurely pace. Not suitable for pets or young children. Beautiful ferns, wildflowers and nesting boreal birds.

Fri 10 July Springhill – Robert Bateman

The world-renowned wildlife artist, Mr. Robert Bateman, will be making a two-hour presentation on his work and commitment on environmental issues in general. Hosting the event will be the Springhill Chamber of Commerce, which is working with the Cumberland Solid Waste Reduction Committee in a co-operative effort to raise funds for county environmental projects including educational programs. For further information or to obtain tickets for the event, please contact 597-2000 or 597-2967.

Sat 11 July Port Greville Beginners Field Day

Leader: Joan Czapalay 348-2803. Meet at 8 a.m. at the FPW Fire Hall in Port Greville. Bring a lunch and insect repellent. Old growth forest, new growth forest, blueberry fields, salt marsh estuaries, and borders provide a variety of birds. The trip ends at the Age of Sail Museum tea-room at 3 p.m.

Sun 19 July Wallace Bay

Leader: Jim Taylor 434-8516. Meet at Wallace Wharf at 8:30 a.m. A variety of habitats are covered. Bring a lunch. No registration necessary.

Sun 19 July Crescent Beach

Leader: Lisë Cohrs 477-6036. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking area and bring a lunch. Enjoy Crescent Beach for a leisurely walk and plan to spend the afternoon in a challenging 6-km hike up Cherry Hill beach searching for migrating shorebirds.

Sun 26 July Mahone Bay

Leader: Clarence Stevens 835-0098. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot across from the three churches. See a variety of habitats on a new field trip. A good trip for beginners. Bring a snack. Trip will conclude about 1 p.m. PLEASE PRE-REGISTER.

Thu 6 Aug – Sun 9 Aug 1998 CFN Annual Conference, Sackville, New Brunswick

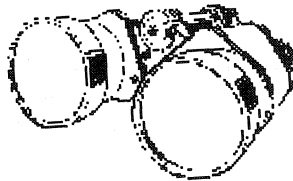
The Canadian Field Naturalists Annual Conference will be hosted by Chignecto Naturalists' Club. Further details are available on the World Wide Web at <http://personal.nbnet.nb.ca/maryspt/CNF/>.

Sat 15 Aug Matthews Lake

Leader: David Young. Details to be announced in July's *NS Birds*.

Sat 22 Aug The Hawk

Leader: Murray Newell 745-3340. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Tim Horton's and plan to spend the day on Cape Sable Island. See the migrating shorebirds between the Hawk and Cape Light and look for rarities.

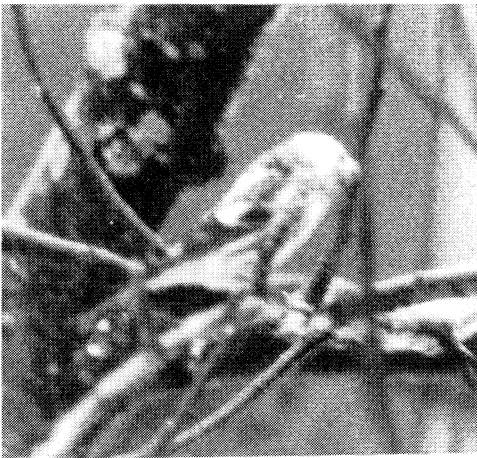
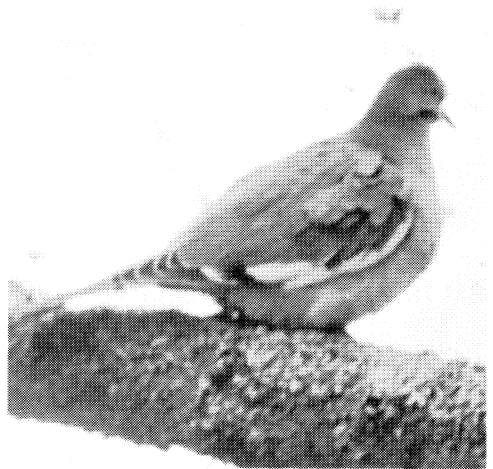


SOME WINTER RARITIES



This Tundra Swan was discovered on the Barrington R. in mid-November and later photographed by Blake Maybank Dec. 20. Its yellow bill spot, a field-guide distinction, was so tiny as to be invisible in this photo. Indeed, some Tundra Swans may lack this yellow altogether. However, the shortish, somewhat concave culmen, and especially the narrowness of the black skin extending from bill to eye, are diagnostic.

Richard Stern's photograph of last November's White-winged Dove in W. Pubnico substantiates our 14th record of that lovely visitor from the U.S. Southwest. The diagnostic white patch along the lower margin of the wing is much flashier in the flying bird.



So far, of this winter's several reports of Hoary Redpolls, this photo of one in early February (in Wolfville) by Sheila McCurdy is the only one to be thus substantiated. Her photo stresses the value of even distant, unfocussed shots in confirming some rarities. It shows the bird's overall frostiness, especially the (tilted) head, and the diagnostically unstreaked undertail coverts.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The September meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society will be held at the University College of Cape Breton.

Fri 25 Sep 1998 – “Are Bird Numbers Declining on Cape Breton Island?: The Changing Bird Life of Cape Breton” - David McCorquodale

Media publicity about declining numbers of birds in eastern North America has many people wondering what the situation is in Nova Scotia. During the past 40 years dedicated volunteers have counted birds during the breeding season, during migration and at Christmas time on Cape Breton. They have frozen fingers and toes, donated blood to countless mosquitoes and blackflies, travelled thousands of kilometres by foot and car and seen many spectacular birds from Bald Eagles to Northern Gannets to Evening Grosbeaks. Their counts give us some information to start answering the questions: Are birds disappearing from our forests? Are populations declining? Are as many Common Loons nesting on our lakes? Counts, such as the Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Surveys, do not give the whole story, but they are an excellent way to start answering the questions. This talk will review some of the species that have declined, some species that have become more common, the birders who count and most importantly it will have lots of colourful slides of the birds of Cape Breton Island.

On Saturday, 26 Sept. 1998, there will be field trips to see fall migrants and vagrants. Probable destinations include Glace Bay Sanctuary, Schooner Pond, Morien Bar, Framboise and South Bar.

Leaders will be Cape Breton NS Bird Society Members: Hugh (Junior) Metcalfe, David McCorquodale and others. A great chance to find out about some of the superb birding locales in eastern Cape Breton.

For more information about the meeting and field trips contact either Junior Metcalfe (902) 849-5054 in Glace Bay or David McCorquodale (902) 563-1260 or 794-2172, in Georges River.

Updates to the schedule may be found on the NSBS Bird Line and Web-site. Ideas and suggestions for future programs are welcome. Any suggestions or questions should be directed to Gisèle d'Entremont, 1325 Dresden Row, Apt. 9, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2J9 or call (902) 422-7739.

NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS – 1997-1998

The 1997/98 Christmas Bird Count period (December 19, 1997 - January 4, 1998) was notable for the huge numbers of Bohemian Waxwings and Common Redpolls. Unprecedented numbers of these birds are included in the following counting areas.

There was a record total of 34 counts conducted, including two new this year. Joan Czupalay has taken on the task of a second count to compile in Port Greville and Debbie Parrish took on the Bedford/Sackville. Special mention goes to Scott and Mary Jane MacNeil who are continuing the family tradition in Northport. Welcome as well to new compilers, David McCorquodale (The Sydneys) and Donna Crosby (Port L'Hebert).

A Tundra Swan at Barrington/Cape Sable became the 249th species added to the all-time list and a Three-toed Woodpecker at Amherst was the first since 1979 and only the second in the 45 years of data we've compiled on N.S. Christmas Counts.

Table 3 - Most Abundant Species 1997-1998

European Starling	64,871	Dark-eyed Junco	5,959
American Crow	38,690	House Sparrow	5,871
Herring Gull	33,761	Common Eider	5,077
American Black Duck	15,467	Common Redpoll	5,026
Canada Goose	13,213	American Goldfinch	4,965
Bohemian Waxwing	10,681	Mourning Dove	4,590
Rock Dove	10,230	Oldsquaw	4,160
Black-capped Chickadee	9,066	Evening Grosbeak	3,536
Great Black-backed Gull	7,869	Greater Scaup	3,463
Blue Jay	6,363	Snow Bunting	3,161

The top twenty species this year are shown in Table 3 above.

Table 4 (below) lists all 156 species plus 1 additional race found during the 1997 Christmas Counts and where the highest number of these were recorded in the province. There was one new species added to the list, Tundra Swan bringing the all-time provincial list to 249 plus 3 additional races and two exotics. **Bold type** indicates species that broke or tied previous all-time high counts.

Table 4 - Highest Species Totals and Locations

Red-throated Loon	12	Cape Sable
Common Loon	57	Port L'Hebert
Pied-billed Grebe	3	Cape Sable
Horned Grebe	27	Annapolis
Red-necked Grebe	22	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
Northern Gannet	35	Brier Island
Great Cormorant	172	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable

Double-crested Cormorant	13	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
Great Blue Heron	10	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
TUNDRA SWAN	1	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
Brant	35	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
Canada Goose	5085	Port L'Hebert
Wood Duck	1	Halifax/Dartmouth
Green-winged Teal	6	Yarmouth
American Black Duck	3434	Halifax/Dartmouth
Mallard	478	Yarmouth
MallardXBlack hybrid	34	The Sydneys
Northern Pintail	5	Broad Cove
Gadwall	4	Halifax/Dartmouth
Eurasian Wigeon	2	Halifax/Dartmouth
American Wigeon	23	Halifax/Dartmouth
AmericanXEurasian hybrid	2	Halifax/Dartmouth
Ring-necked Duck	16	Bedford/Sackville
Tufted Duck	3	Pictou Harbour
Greater Scaup	3030	Pictou Harbour
Lesser Scaup	26	Halifax/Dartmouth
Common Eider	1908	Halifax/Dartmouth
Harlequin Duck	4	Annapolis
Oldsquaw	2566	Annapolis
Black Scoter	76	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
Surf Scoter	82	Annapolis
White-winged Scoter	143	Annapolis
Common Goldeneye	569	Port L'Hebert
Barrow's Goldeneye	10	Annapolis
Bufflehead	337	Annapolis
Hooded Merganser	52	Lunenburg
Common Merganser	536	Pictou Harbour
Red-breasted Merganser	521	Pictou Harbour
Turkey Vulture	7	Brier Island
Bald Eagle	495	Wolfville
Northern Harrier	6	Halifax/Dartmouth, Yarmouth
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	Kingston, Wolfville
Cooper's Hawk	1	Amherst
Northern Goshawk	2	Apple River, Shubenacadie, Wolfville
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Brier Island, Glace Bay, Kingston
Red-tailed Hawk	143	Wolfville
Rough-legged Hawk	18	Yarmouth
American Kestrel	3	Yarmouth
Merlin	4	Wolfville
Peregrine Falcon	1	Apple River, Cheticamp, Wolfville
Northern Bobwhite†	9	Annapolis

Gray Partridge	72	Truro
Ring-necked Pheasant	282	Wolfville
Spruce Grouse	1	Apple River, Caledonia, Halifax/Dartmouth, Kingston, Louisbourg
Ruffed Grouse	15	Kingston
American Coot	2	Glace Bay, Halifax/Dartmouth
Black-bellied Plover	2	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
Killdeer	2	Halifax/Dartmouth
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	Halifax/Dartmouth
Ruddy Turnstone	1	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
Sanderling	97	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
Purple Sandpiper	271	Brier Island
Dunlin	30	Port L'Hebert
Common Snipe	1	Halifax/Dartmouth, West Hants
American Woodcock	1	Brier Island, Halifax/Dartmouth
Common Black-headed Gull	87	Halifax/Dartmouth
Bonaparte's Gull	52	Antigonish
Ring-billed Gull	258	Halifax/Dartmouth
Herring Gull	12613	Wolfville
Iceland Gull	667	The Sydneys
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	Cape Sable
Glaucous Gull	3	Glace Bay, Halifax/Dartmouth, Louisbourg
Great Black-backed Gull	2498	Wolfville
Black-legged Kittiwake	146	Brier Island
Ivory Gull	1	Strait of Canso
Dovekie	31	Louisbourg
Common Murre	74	Annapolis
Thick-billed Murre	40	Brier Island
Razorbill	378	Brier Island
Black Guillemot	155	Louisbourg
Rock Dove	2071	Halifax/Dartmouth
Mourning Dove	1024	Wolfville
Great Horned Owl	2	Apple River, Economy, Kingston
Snowy Owl	3	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
Barred Owl	1	Annapolis, Barrington Bay/Cape Sable, Halifax/Dartmouth, Pictou Harbour, St. Peters, Shubenacadie, Springville, West Hants, Wolfville
Short-eared Owl	7	Wolfville
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	Antigonish, Glace Bay
Belted Kingfisher	4	Pubnico
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	Kingston

Downy Woodpecker	77	Wolfville
Hairy Woodpecker	48	Wolfville
Three-toed Woodpecker	1	Amherst
Black-backed Woodpecker	2	Wolfville
Northern Flicker	48	Wolfville
Pileated Woodpecker	16	West Hants
Horned Lark	94	Yarmouth
Gray Jay	12	West Hants
Blue Jay	1065	Wolfville
American Crow	14706	Wolfville
Common Raven	404	Wolfville
Black-capped Chickadee	1242	Halifax/Dartmouth
Boreal Chickadee	112	Halifax/Dartmouth
Red-breasted Nuthatch	175	Halifax/Dartmouth
White-breasted Nuthatch	35	Kingston
Brown Creeper	17	Halifax/Dartmouth
Winter Wren	1	Halifax/Dartmouth
Golden-crowned Kinglet	120	Halifax/Dartmouth
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Halifax/Dartmouth
Eastern Bluebird	1	Yarmouth
Hermit Thrush	2	Halifax/Dartmouth
American Robin	482	Wolfville
Northern Mockingbird	6	Wolfville
American Pipit	13	Halifax/Dartmouth
Bohemian Waxwing	2107	Wolfville
Cedar Waxwing	385	Wolfville
Northern Shrike	4	Strait of Canso
European Starling	26668	Wolfville
Orange-crowned Warbler	3	Halifax/Dartmouth
Yellow-rumped Warbler	243	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
Pine Warbler	4	Halifax/Dartmouth, Louisbourg
Palm Warbler	1	Broad Cove, Louisbourg, Springville
Black and White Warbler	1	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
Common Yellowthroat	2	St. Peters
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable, Glace Bay, Halifax/Dartmouth
Northern Cardinal	8	Yarmouth
Dickcissel	4	Louisbourg
Eastern Towhee	2	Halifax/Dartmouth
American Tree Sparrow	202	Wolfville
Chipping Sparrow	5	Wolfville
Lark Sparrow	1	Big Pond/Eskasoni
Savannah Sparrow	41	Wolfville
Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow	1	Halifax/Dartmouth

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1	Economy, Halifax/Dartmouth, Wolfville
Fox Sparrow	7	Yarmouth
Song Sparrow	185	Wolfville
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	Big Pond/Eskasoni
Swamp Sparrow	5	Halifax/Dartmouth
White-throated Sparrow	83	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
White-crowned Sparrow	10	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable-some details missing
Dark-eyed Junco	1608	Wolfville
Lapland Longspur	4	Broad Cove, Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
Snow Bunting	547	Wolfville
Red-winged Blackbird	5	Apple River
Eastern Meadowlark	1	Barrington Bay/Cape Sable
Rusty Blackbird	2	Strait of Canso
Common Grackle	17	Apple River
Brown-headed Cowbird	100	Bridgetown
Baltimore Oriole	8	Halifax/Dartmouth
Pine Grosbeak	249	Wolfville
Purple Finch	48	Wolfville
House Finch	23	Halifax/Dartmouth
Red Crossbill	37	Broad Cove
White-winged Crossbill	73	Wolfville
Common Redpoll	999	Wolfville
Hoary Redpoll	1	Louisbourg
Pine Siskin	212	Wolfville
American Goldfinch	963	Wolfville
Evening Grosbeak	581	Shubenacadie
House Sparrow	1813	Halifax/Dartmouth.

† Northern Bobwhite is regarded as an escape or released bird and is not included at this point in the all-time CBC species list.

STATISTICS

Total Species 155; Total Subspecies 1; Escape 1; **Total Individual Birds Counted 291,841**; Field Observers 608; Feeder Watchers 501; Party Hours 1,849.5; **Party Kilometres 14,092.9**; **Number of Counts 34**.

INDIVIDUAL CHRISTMAS COUNT REPORTS

AMHERST, Dec. 22; 7:30AM to 4:20PM. Temp. -17 to -10C. Wind NW 10kmph. Snow, 30cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Clear skies all day. 22 field

observers in 7 parties, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 74.5 (33.75 on foot, 40.75 by car). Total party kilometres 677 (76 on foot, 601 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; American Black Duck 90; Mallard 10; Common Eider 120; Common Merganser 30; Bald Eagle 7; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; **Cooper's Hawk 1**; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 9; Rough-legged Hawk 11; Ring-necked Pheasant 60; Ruffed Grouse 10; Herring Gull 262; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 323; Rock Dove 316; Mourning Dove 111; Downy Woodpecker 13; Hairy Woodpecker 10; **Three-toed Woodpecker 1**; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 134; American Crow 439; Common Raven 82; Black-capped Chickadee 459; Boreal Chickadee 18; Red-breasted Nuthatch 44; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 21; American Robin 3; Bohemian Waxwing 137; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 1313; American Tree Sparrow 48; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 36; Snow Bunting 342; Rusty Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 2; Pine Grosbeak **135**; White-winged Crossbill 16; Common Redpoll 48; American Goldfinch 58; Evening Grosbeak 172; House Sparrow 143.

Total species 49, about 5,061 individuals. Peter Austin-Smith; Doug Bliss, Paul Bogaard, Andrew Boyne, Neil Burgess, Evelyn Coates, George Finney, Liam Finney, **Nev Garrity (compiler)**, Hinrich Harries, Andrew Hicks, Doug Hounsell, Ron Hounsell, Jason Hudson, Josette Maillet, Keith McAloney, Andrew MacFarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Bill Murphy, Al Smith, Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer, John Wile.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL AND DISTRICT, Jan. 3; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. 3 to 5C. Wind SW 20kmph. Snow 3-15cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Partly cloudy, P.M. Partly Cloudy, light rain. 36 field observers in 15 parties, 88 at feeders, 1.5 hours and 4km. owling. Total party hours 60 (34 on foot, 26 by car). Total party kilometres 490 (80 on foot, 410 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 29; Horned Grebe 27; Red-necked Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 23; Green-winged Teal 2; American Black Duck 952; Mallard 3; Greater Scaup 32; Common Eider 29; Harlequin Duck 4; Oldsquaw 2566; Black Scoter 2; Surf Scoter 82; White-winged Scoter 143; Common Goldeneye 79; Barrow's Goldeneye 10; Bufflehead 337; Red-breasted Merganser 51; duck species 6; Bald Eagle 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 8; **Northern Bobwhite 9 (escapes)**; Ring-necked Pheasant 98; Ruffed Grouse 2; Herring Gull 727; Great Black-backed Gull 73; gull species 37; Common Murre **74**; Razorbill 8; Black Guillemot 33; Rock Dove 335; Mourning Dove 349; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; owl species 1; Downy Woodpecker 29; Hairy Woodpecker 17; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 526; American Crow 426; Common Raven 62; Black-capped Chickadee 402; Red-breasted Nuthatch 36; White-breasted Nuthatch 13; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 24; American Robin 260; Northern Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 510; Cedar Waxwing 162; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 930; Yellow-rumped Warbler 4; **Northern Cardinal 5**; American Tree Sparrow 18; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 10; White-throated Sparrow 4; sparrow species 15; Dark-eyed Junco 210; Snow Bunting 5; Pine Grosbeak 41; Purple Finch 26; Common Redpoll 30; Pine Siskin 9; American Goldfinch 199; Evening Grosbeak 250; House Sparrow 160.

Total species 72, about 10,535 individuals. (CP. Lapland Longspur) Frank and Ruby Adams, Albert and Simone Angers, Wada Auld, Bob Bennett, Alex and Ingrid Bohn,

Marilyn Brown, Stan Brown, Ted Brown, Gail Bugden, Betty Burrell, Mildred Burrell, Shirley Burrell, Mary Cameron, Jerri Costa, Debbie Cummings, Allison Dalton, Gary Darnell, Ann d'Eon, Henry d'Eon, Faith DeWolfe, Jane DeWolfe, Thor Djesdal, Bob Dunfield, Lillian Dunfield, Alex and Darlene Ellis, Alvin and Ada Ellis, Becky Ellis, Earle and Helen Ellis, Jean Estey, Dorothy and Wylie Everett, Ken Eyre, Mary Ann Fickes, Joanne Fiendel, Barry Frail, Perry Freeman, John Haikings, Angela Hall, Glen Hall, Margaret Hall, Joan Hamilton, Laura Hamilton, Sharon and Steve Hawboldt, Millie Hawes, Leroy and Nina Haynes, Rita Hearn, Charlotte Hollett, Penny Hoover, Marg Horsefall, Andrew Horwood, Harold Horwood, Leah Horwood, Jim How, Angela Hudson, Gerald and Millie Jefferson, Clifford Jones, Shirley Kerr, Sheila Krant, Ginnie Langley, Valerie Lawrence, Corine Leek, Scott Leslie, Keith and Patsy Longmire, Barb McArthur, Margaret McCaul, Jeff McCormick, Laurie McGowan, Ernie and Margaret McGrath, Ann and Ken McLaren, Katie and raymond McLeod, John MacPhee, Abby Marshall, Carol Milligan, **Arlene Morgan (compiler)**, Wayne Morgan, Valerie Mount, Phil Muntz, Molly Payn, Fred Peach, Nora Peach, Jon Percy, Pauline Percy, Ginni Proulx, Dan Proulx, Frances Rafuse, Phil Rafuse, Lillian Roney, Kerry Rowe, Margaret Saunders, Barb Selig, Mick Scromeda, Alma Smith, Ruth Smith, Bernie and Maddie Spicer, Olive Staples, Elbert and Ruby Thompson, Alison Thomson, David Tinker, Annee-Marie and Ragnar Treiberg, June Trimper, Jack Turner, Julie Turner, Giselle Vidito, Barbara Wells, Alice White, Earle Wright, Karen Wright.

ANTIGONISH, Dec. 21; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -6 to 1C. Wind NW 30kmph. Snow 10cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy with light rain all day. 19 field observers in 7-9 parties, 11 at feeders, 5.25 and 101 km. owling. Total party hours 53.25 (23.5 on foot, 29.72 by car). Total party kilometres 524.75 (33.75 on foot, 491 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common loon 2; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 10; Northern Gannet 1; Canada Goose 464; American Black Duck 643; Mallard 7; Lesser Scaup 11; Common Eider 20; Oldsquaw 12; Surf Scoter 4; Common Goldeneye 127; Common Merganser 25; Red-breasted Merganser 433; duck species 30; Bald Eagle 50; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 8; Ruffed Grouse 6; Common Black-headed Gull 17; Bonaparte's Gull 52; Ring-billed Gull 8; Herring Gull 336; Iceland Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 29; gull species 9; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 402; Mourning Dove 93; Short-eared Owl 1; Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 12; Northern Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 163; American Crow 996; Common Raven 59; Black-capped Chickadee 357; Boreal Chickadee 28; White-breasted Nuthatch 19; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 31; American Robin 36; Bohemian Waxwing 372; Norther Shrike 1; European Starling 740; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 96; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 9; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 168; Snow Bunting 72; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Common Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Pine Grosbeak 87; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 12; Common Redpoll 260; Pine Siskin 5; American Goldfinch 124; Evening Grosbeak 108; House Sparrow 211.

Total species 69, about 6825 individuals. (CP. White-winged Scoter, Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Swamp Sparrow) Calvin Brennan, Avon Brophy, Annette Goring,

May Goring, Don and Grace George, Jason Klapstein, Leslie Klapstein, Oona Landry, **Randy Lauff (compiler)**, Anne-Louise MacDonald, Linda MacLellan, Harriet MacMillan, Celia Malon, Jean McGee, Ken McKenna, Tony Miller, Meghan Mulcahy, Marilyn O'Brien, Beth and Jeff Parker, Christina Phillips, Frank Randall, Agneta Sand, Prachi Sony, Brian Starzomski, Zina van Heighton.

APPLE RIVER, Dec. 29; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -18 to 3C. Wind SW 10kmph. Snow 35cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. Partly clear. P.M. Cloudy. 8 field observers in 5 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 37.5 (16.5 on foot, 21 by car). Total party kilometres 204 (36 on foot, 168 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Great Cormorant 1; American Black Duck 418; Mallard 3; Oldsquaw 11; Bufflehead 2; Red-breasted Merganser 5; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Northern Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Peregrine Falcon 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Purple Sandpiper 28; Herring Gull 215; Iceland Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 2; Mourning Dove 45; Great Horned Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 10; Hairy Woodpecker 13; Black-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 5; Gray Jay 9; Blue Jay 66; American Crow 79; Common Raven 16; Black-capped Chickadee 145; Boreal Chickadee 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch 55; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 23; American Robin 82; Bohemian Waxwing 208; Northern Shrike 3; European Starling 184; American Tree Sparrow 53; Song Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 33; Snow Bunting 51; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Rusty Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 17; Brown-headed Cowbird 4; Pine Grosbeak 22; Purple Finch 2; White-winged Crossbill 32; Common Redpoll 15; Pine Siskin 22; American Goldfinch 26; Evening Grosbeak 14; House Sparrow 17.

Total species 57, about 1981 individuals. Donna Barber, Karl Cole, Mike Collins, Joan Czupalay, Billy Mills, Jane Mills, Maureen Mills, Cindy Spicer, **Kathleen Spicer (compiler)**, Joan Waldron, Gladys Warren.

BEDFORD-SACKVILLE, Jan. 4; 8AM to 6PM. Temp. 2 to 5C. Wind NW 20kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, Moving water open. Skies clear all day. 20 field observers in 12 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party hours 47 (23 by foot, 24 by car). Total party kilometres 510 (33 on foot, 477 by car).

Common Loon 5; Great Cormorant 2; American Black Duck 1341; Mallard 35; Northern Pintail 2; Ring-necked Duck 16; Common Goldeneye 161; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Bufflehead 1; Hooded Merganser 42; Common Merganser 15; Red-breasted Merganser 42; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 14; Ruffed Grouse 2; Ring-billed Gull 6; Herring Gull 896; Iceland Gull 34; Great Black-backed Gull 44; Rock Dove 627; Mourning Dove 97; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 32; Hairy Woodpecker 14; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 258; American Crow 2934; Common Raven 22; Black-capped Chickadee 425; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 32; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 22; American Robin 4; Northern Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 86; European Starling 1659; American Tree Sparrow 11; Song Sparrow 10; White-throated Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 235; Snow Bunting 4; Common Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 23; Pine Grosbeak 16;

Purple Finch 3; Common Redpoll 290; Pine Siskin 11; American Goldfinch 243; Evening Grosbeak 72; House Sparrow 227.

Total species 56, about 10,051 individuals. Mike Almon, Steve Barbour, Dennis Bicknell, Wayne Caskell, Patricia Chalmers, Lois Codling, David Jackson, Betty Kulin, Ed Kulin, Brenda Langille, Fulton Lavender, Marina LeBlanc, Peter LeBlanc, Colonel MacLellan, Shirley McIntyre, Patricia Millar, Pat Mines, Maureen Nowlan, Betsy O'Neil, **Debbie Parrish (compiler)**, Rick Peckham, Walter Regan, Marvin Silver, Jim Tremel, Azor Vienneau.

BARRINGTON BAY-CAPE SABLE ISLAND, Dec. 20; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. - 4 to 4C. Wind SW 15-20kmph. No snow. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. Clear, P.M. Partly clear. 18 field observers in 8 parties, 6 at feeders. 1 hour and 2km. owling. Total party hours 65 (22.5 on foot, 40.5 by car, 2 by boat). Total party kilometres 548 (45.5 on foot, 494.5 by car, 8 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 12; Common Loon 45; Pied-billed Grebe 3; Horned Grebe 26; Red-necked Grebe 22; Northern Gannet 19; Great Cormorant 172; Double-crested Cormorant 13; Great Blue Heron 10; **Tundra Swan 1**; Brant 35; Canada Goose 104; American Black Duck 293; Mallard 24; American Wigeon 2; Greater Scaup 150; Common Eider 1908; Harlequin Duck 3; Oldsquaw 92; Black Scoter 76; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 131; Common Goldeneye 26; Bufflehead 61; Hooded Merganser 9; Common Merganser 4; Red-breasted Merganser 86; Northern Harrier 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; American Kestrel 2; Merlin 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 18; Ruffed Grouse 7; American Coot 1; Black-bellied Plover 2; Ruddy Turnstone 1; Sanderling 97; Purple Sandpiper 53; Dunlin 13; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 2135; Iceland Gull 6; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 980; Black-legged Kittiwake 87; Dovekie 5; Thick-billed Murre 6; Black Guillemot 151; murre species 42; Rock Dove 10; Mourning Dove 121; Great Horned Owl 1; Snowy Owl 3; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 33; Horned lark 20; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 129; American Crow 383; Common Raven 18; Black-capped Chickadee 79; Boreal Chickadee 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch 23; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 48; American Robin 4; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 667; Yellow-rumped Warbler 243; Pine Warbler 2; **Black and White Warbler 1**; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; warbler species 1; Northern Cardinal 1; American Tree Sparrow 18; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 13; Song Sparrow 39; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 83; White-crowned Sparrow 10 (some details missing); Dark-eyed Junco 77; Lapland Longspur 4; Snow Bunting 26; Snow Bunting 26; **Eastern Meadowlark 1**; Common Grackle 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Baltimore Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 4; Purple Finch 5; House Finch 1; Red Crossbill 4; White-winged Crossbill 8; Common Redpoll 15; American Goldfinch 64; Evening Grosbeak 25; House Sparrow 66.

Total species 101, about 9,230 individuals. (CP. Northern Pintail, Red Knot, White-rumped Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Northern Mockingbird, Bohemian Waxwing, Red-winged Blackbird, Pine Siskin). Wilfred Atwood Jr., Johnathan Atkinson, Dorothy Cameron, Edna Crowell, Terry Crowell, **Joan Czapalay (compiler)**, Donna Ensor, Faith Guay, Cathy Holmes, Blake Maybank, Murray Newell, Johnny Nickerson, Sandra Nickerson, Lillian Scott Perry, Aileen Smith, Carolyn Smith, Wayne Smith, Joan

Waldron.

BIG POND-ESKASONI, Dec. 26; 7:45AM to 5PM. Temp. 1C to 4C. Wind SW 15-20. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 27 field observers in 8 parties, 6 at feeders, 3 hours and 12km. owling. Total party hours 45 (15.5 on foot, 29.5 by car). Total party kilometres 412 (24 on foot, 388 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 6; cormorant species 1; American Black Duck 97; Mallrd 1; Greater Scaup 2; Oldsquaw 5; White-winged Scoter 66; Common Goldeneye 120; Common Merganser 36; Red-breasted Merganser 105; Bald Eagle 37; Northern Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Ruffed Grouse 4; Bonaparte's Gull 4; Herring Gull 102; Iceland Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 35; Rock Dove 6; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 120; American Crow 225; Common Raven 57; Black-capped Chickadee 179; Boreal Chickadee 25; Red-breasted Nuthatch 12; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 37; American Robin 1; European Starling 472; Yellow-rumped Warbler 3; American Tree Sparrow 1; **Lark Sparrow 1**; Song Sparrow 4; **Lincoln's Sparrow 1**; Dark-eyed Junco 6; Snow Bunting 5; Pine Grosbeak 37; White-winged Crossbill 17; Common Redpoll 44; American Goldfinch 30; Evening Grosbeak 38; House Sparrow 27.

Total species 49, about 2,005 individuals. George Ball, Donald Campbell, Theresa Cash, Bart Cunningham, Bill Digout, George and Sharon Digout, Joe Donovan, David Harris, Margaret MacDonald, Gordon MacEachern, George MacInnis, John MacInnis, Phillip MacInnis, Brian MacNeil, Duncan MacNeil, **Jack MacNeil (compiler)**, Laurie MacNeil, David McCorquodale, John McKay, Hugh and Geraldine Metcalfe, Bernard Murphy, Allan and Cathy Murrant, Suzanne Myers, Alison Nelder, Pat Nelder, Jim and Pauline Siteman, Christine Thompson, Donald Tuttle, Melvin White.

BRIDGETOWN, Dec. 27; 8:15AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 0 to 5C. Wind SW 20kmph. Snow cover 0-22cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. clear. P.M. partly cloudy, light rain. 7 field observers in 4 parties, 35 at feeders. Total party hours 21 (7 on foot, 14 by car). Total party kilometres 345 (20 on foot, 325 by car).

Common Loon 7; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 4; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 11; American Black Duck 60; Common Eider 38; Oldsquaw 63; Black Scoter 44; Surf Scoter 68; White-winged Scoter 123; scoter species 18; Common Goldeneye 8; Red-breasted Merganser 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 24; Ring-necked Pheasant 78; Herring Gull 149; Great Black-backed Gull 15; Dovekie 4; Razorbill 1; Rock Dove 161; Mourning Dove 223; Snowy Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 15; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Horned Lark 25; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 229; American Crow 191; Common Raven 48; Black-capped Chickadee 112; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; American Robin 8; Bohemian Waxwing 1665; Northern Shrike 2; European Starling 1533; Northern Cardinal 1; American Tree Sparrow 11; Song Sparrow 9; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 162; Lapland Longspur 1; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 100; Pine Grosbeak 1; Purple Finch 6; Common Redpoll 78; American Goldfinch 129; Evening Grosbeak 21; House Sparrow 75.

Total species 55, about 5,567 individuals. (CP. Bald Eagle, Ruffed Grouse, White-

wing Crossbill) Fred Bent, Don Bowlby, Joyce Burbridge, Pearl Chambers, Bill Chambers, **David Colville (compiler)**, Jan Coulter, Anita DeVillez, Doris Durling, Marilyn Durling, Noel Durling, David Eisnor, Marie Gaul, Graham Graves, Marion Graves, Sharon and Steven Hawboldt, Danny Harlow, Nathalie Harlow, Marguerite Hirtle, Avora Howse, Maude Jodrey, Audrey Kennedy, Bev Marshall, Don Merriam, Roger Mosher, Doug Parker, Carl Phinney, Danny Phinney, Eric Porter, Bob Rains, Erma Rains, Margaret Smith, Donnie Troop, Gladys Weir, Jim Whitman, Margaret Whitman, Marion Whitman, Lib Woolaver.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec. 23; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -5 to -3C. Wind SE 15-25kmph. No snow. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 12 field observers in 6 parties. Total party hours 28.5 (20.5 on foot, 2 by car, 6.5 by boat). Total party kilometres 77.5 (21.5 on foot, 24 by car, 32 by boat).

Common Loon 33; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 17; Northern Gannet **35**; Great Cormorant 142; Double-crested Cormorant **4**; Great Blue Heron 2; Brant 19; Canada Goose 5; Green-winged Teal 1; American Black Duck 40; Mallard 2; Greater Scaup 1; Common Eider 273; Oldsquaw 96; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 15; Common Goldeneye 140; Common Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 50; **Turkey Vulture 4**; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; **Broad-winged Hawk 1**; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Purple Sandpiper 271; American Woodcock 1; Common Black-headed Gull 1; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Herring Gull 698; Iceland Gull 22; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 266; Black-legged Kittiwake 146; Thick-billed Murre 40; Razorbill **378**; Black Guillemot 66; alcid species 4; Rock Dove 4; Mourning Dove 14; Snowy Owl 1; Horned Lark 12; Blue Jay 17; American Crow 86; Common Raven 28; Black-capped Chickadee 15; Boreal Chickadee 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 13; American Robin 6; American Pipit 1; Bohemian Waxwing 26; European Starling 41; American Tree Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 3; Swamp Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 51; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Common Grackle 8; Pine Grosbeak 51; White-winged Crossbill 32; Common Redpoll 138; American Goldfinch 14.

Total species 66, about 3,366 individuals. Martine Dufresne, Carl Haycock, Peter Hope, Len MacDonald, Blake Maybank, Ian McLaren, Anne Mills, **Eric Mills (compiler)**, Richard Stern, Jim Taylor, Angela Thibodeau, James Wolford.

BROAD COVE, Dec. 28; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -4 to 8C. Wind NW 8-30kmph. Snow cover 3cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy, light snow all day. 28 field observers in 13-16 parties. Total party hours 105.5 (70.5 on foot, 35 by car). Total party kilometres 499 (101 on foot, 398 by car).

Common Loon 48; Horned Grebe 24; Red-necked Grebe 3; Great Cormorant 8; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Canada Goose 96; American Black Duck 678; Mallard 87; Northern Pintail 5; Ring-necked Duck 6; Greater Scaup 2; Common Eider 405; Harlequin Duck 1; Oldsquaw 143; Black Scoter 9; Surf Scoter 51; White-winged Scoter 30; Common Goldeneye 66; Bufflehead 44; Hooded Merganser 23; Common Merganser 15; Red-breasted Merganser 87; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 25; Ruffed Grouse 3; Sanderling 26; Purple Sandpiper 14; Dunlin 15; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 887; Iceland Gull 7; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-

backed Gull 478; Black-legged Kittiwake 3; Black Guillemot 4; Rock Dove 178; Mourning Dove 124; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 6; Northern Flicker 4; Horned Lark 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 61; American Crow 436; Common Raven 77; Black-capped Chickadee 278; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 19; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 19; American Robin 39; Bohemian Waxwing 183; Cedar Waxwing 28; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 512; Yellow-rumped Warbler 19; Pine Warbler 1; Palm Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 28; Savannah Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 30; White-throated Sparrow 10; Dark-eyed Junco 310; Lapland Longspur 4; Snow Bunting 189; Pine Grosbeak 12; Purple Finch 6; Red Crossbill 37; White-winged Crossbill 30; Common Redpoll 92; Pine Siskin 6; American Goldfinch 283; Evening Grosbeak 368; House Sparrow 37.

Total species 77, about 6,763 individuals. (CP. Green-winged Teal, Northern Harrier, Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Common Black-headed Gull, Dovekie, Barred Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Mockingbird) Bruce Allen, Ruth Ballem, Lise Bell, Barbara Byrd, John and Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie, Gillian and Jim Elliott, Donna Ensor, **Sylvia Fullerton (compiler)**, James Hirtle, Blair Hodgman, Ian McLaren, Pat McLarty, Earl and Val Meister, Ann Mills, Eric Mills, Jean Morse, William Morse, Don and Joyce Purchase, Nellie Snyder, Azor Vienneau, David and Joan Young.

CALEDONIA, QUEENS CO., Dec. 21; 7:45AM to 5:15PM. Temp. -11 to -8C. Wind NW 5-15. Snow cover 15-30. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 30 field observers in 16 parties, 30-45 at feeders, .75 hour and 5km owling. Total party hours 57.75 (34 on foot, 19.25 by car, 4.5 by skis). Total party kilometres 296.75 (68.75 on foot, 220 by car, 8 by skis).

Canada Goose 300; American Black Duck 16; Common Goldeneye 2; Common Merganser 8; Bald Eagle 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 13; Herring Gull 1; Rock Dove 9; Mourning Dove 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 22; Hairy Woodpecker 30; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Blue Jay 252; American Crow 77; Common Raven 35; Black-capped Chickadee 316; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 98; White-breasted Nuthatch 25; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 31; Bohemian Waxwing 120; European Starling 147; American Tree Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 89; Snow Bunting 30; **Rusty Blackbird 1**; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 1; White-winged Crossbill 4; Common Redpoll 75; Pine Siskin 5; American Goldfinch 157; Evening Grosbeak 386; House Sparrow 5.

Total species 41, about 2,287 individuals. (CP. Barred Owl, Gray Jay, Purple Finch) Don Baker, Gabe Boros, Pat Canning, Eric, Judy and Lorna Cole, David Currie, Harry DeLong, Jean Douglas, Jerry and Lynn Frail, Arthur and Nancy Frayle, Eileen and Ray Goff, Bruce and Nancy Gurnham, Heather Hearn, Marguerite Holdright, Myra Holdright, Lorraine Hope, **Peter Hope (compiler)**, Sean Hope, Stephen Hope, Jennifer Hopper, Pamela Hopper, Peggy Hopper, Leslie Jones, Peter Jones, Mary Keirstead, Rod Keirstead, Roger Lewis, Len MacDonald, Pat MacDonald, Paul MacDonald, Jody MacGregor, Nancy MacGregor, Danny Mansfield, Greta Morrison, Ian Morrison, Dawn Payzant, Elliott Payzant, Leslet Rogers, Terje Rogers, Peter Rogers, Althea Rowter, Ashley Selig, Kayle Selig, Shannon Selig, Jonathan Sheppard, Tom Sheppard, Tom

Shupe, Ron Sigston, Shirley Smith, Azor Vienneau, Bill Whitman, Jessy Whitman, Julie Whitman, Eva Zong.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Jan 3; 7:30AM to 4:15PM. Temp. -3 to 0C. Wind NW 5kmph. Snow cover 10cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Cloudy. P.M. Cloudy, light rain. 14 field observers in 10 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party hours 32.75 (8.75 on foot, 14.5 by car). Total party kilometres 213 (15.5 on foot, 197.5 by car).

Red-throated Loon 3; Common Loon 2; Red-necked Grebe 3; Great Cormorant 9; American Black Duck 61; Mallard 5; Oldsquaw 73; White-winged Scoter 28; Common Goldeneye 74; Bufflehead 13; Common Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 69; Bald Eagle 4; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 24; Herring Gull 95; Iceland Gull 69; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 34; Dovekie 10; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 8; Rock Dove 50; Mourning Dove 2; Downy Woodpecker 8; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 43; American Crow 177; Common Raven 9; Black-capped Chickadee 80; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 13; Brown Creeper 1; American Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 62; European Starling 90; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 10; Snow Bunting 1; Purple Finch 4; White-winged Crossbill; Common Redpoll 13; Pine Siskin 4.

Total species 44, about 1,172 individuals. (CP. Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Great Horned Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, American Goldfinch). James Bridgland, Michael Bridgland, Audrey Budge, Jill Campbell, Chris Gorey, George Hardy, Ellen Ingraham, Ross Ingraham, David McCorquodale, John McEvoy, Ruth McLaggan, Ann-Marie Morrison, Freeman Morrison, John Parker, **Derek Quann (compiler)**, Maureen Scobie, Cheryl Verner, Ken Verner.

CHETICAMP, Dec. 20; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -3 to -2C. Wind W 30kmph. Snow cover 15cm. Still water open. Moving water open. Skies cloudy with light to heavy snow fall all day. 9 field observers in 7 parties, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 29.5 (17.5 on foot, 12 by car). Total party kilometres 140 (12 on foot, 128 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 2; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 1; Northern gannet 1; Double-crested Cormorant 1; American Black Duck 41; Common Eider 21; Common Eider 21; Harlequin Duck 1; Oldsquaw 2; Common Goldeneye 37; Common Merganser 11; Red-breasted Merganser 37; Bald Eagle 17; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Peregrine Falcon 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 11; Ruffed Grouse 1; Sanderling 1; Dunlin 1; Herring Gull 105; Iceland Gull 36; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 122; Black-legged Kittiwake 23; Black Guillemot 1; Mourning Dove 5; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 62; American Crow 139; Common Raven 75; Black-capped Chickadee 67; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; American Robin 1; Bohemian waxwing 75; European Starling 197; Yellow-rumped Warbler 7; American Tree Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Snow Bunting 122; Pine Grosbeak **99**; Common Redpoll 39; Pine Siskin 6; American Goldfinch 9; Evening Grosbeak 40.

Total species 52, about 1,443 individuals. Marie-Claire Aucoin, Clarence Barrett, Geraldine and Leonard Bourgeois, Gordon Delaney, Jennifer Hoffman, David Lawley,

Allan and Cathy Murrant, **Randy G. Thompson (compiler)**.

ECONOMY, Dec. 27; 7:45AM to 5PM. Temp. -2 to 3C. Wind SW 25kmph. Snow cover 5cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. A.M. Clear. P.M. Partly cloudy. 9 field observers in 5 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 41.25 (26 on foot, 15.25 by car). Total party kilometres 197 (39 on foot, 158 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Horned Grebe 2; Green-winged Teal 2; American Black Duck 601; Mallard 5; Common Eider 5; Oldsquaw 15; Black Scoter 16; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 4; scoter species 2; Common Goldeneye 15; Bufflehead 18; Common Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Gray Partridge 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 9; Purple Sandpiper 200; Dunlin 2; Ring-billed Gull 43; Herring Gull 378; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 17; Rock Dove 103; Mourning Dove 19; Great Horned Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 10; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Horned Lark 8; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 89; American Crow 108; Common Raven 34; Black-capped Chickadee 215; Boreal Chickadee 11; Red-breasted Nuthatch 137; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 25; European Starling 529; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; American Tree Sparrow 43; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 2; **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1**; Song Sparrow 16; White-throated Sparrow 10; Dark-eyed Junco 46; Snow Bunting 321; Pine Grosbeak 46; White-winged Crossbill 4; Common Redpoll 75; Pine Siskin 70; American Goldfinch 44; House Sparrow 101.

Total species 60, about 3,448 individuals. Calvin Brennan, Irene Cooke, Harold Corbett, Jean Corbett, Joan Czapalay, Ross Hall, Ken McKenna, Brad McLaughlin, Jeff Ogden, Edgar Spalding, **Fran Spalding (compiler)**, Joan Waldron.

GLACE BAY, Dec. 29; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp -9 to -1C. Wind W 20kmph. Snow cover 10cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies clear all day. 17 field observers in 9 parties, 8 at feeders, 1.5 hours and 10 kilometres owling. Total party hours 54 (14.5 on foot, 39.5 by car). Total party kilometres 221.5 (9 on foot, 212.5 by car).

Common Loon 10; Horned Grebe 5; Red-necked Grebe 2; Northern Gannet 2; Great Cormorant 66; Double-crested Cormorant 4; Canada Goose 540; American Black Duck 728; Mallard 162; American Wigeon 4; Greater Scaup 125; Common Eider 30; Oldsquaw 320; White-winged Scoter 6; Common Goldeneye 123; Bufflehead 47; Common Merganser 71; Red-breasted Merganser 122; Bald Eagle 3; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; buteo species 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; American Coot 2; Common Black-headed Gull 40; Bonaparte's Gull 3; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 663; Iceland Gull 561; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 256; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 5; Rock Dove 218; Mourning Dove 85; Great Horned Owl 1; Saw-whet Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 2; American Crow 327; Common Raven 23; Black-capped Chickadee 156; Boreal Chickadee 18; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 16; Northern Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 38; Cedar waxwing 17; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 2159; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; **Dickcissel 1**; American Tree Sparrow 16; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 10; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 19; Snow Bunting 39; Baltimore Oriole 4; Purple Finch 1; Red Crossbill 5; Common Redpoll 164; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 102; Evening

Grosbeak 4; House Sparrow 340.

Total species 72, about 7,709 individuals. Cheryl Bray, Pat Campbell, George Crowell, Betty Gentile, Rusty Gentile, Barbara Guy, David Harris, John MacInnis, Gordon MacLean, Stephanie MacMullin, John McKay, Geraldine Metcalfe, Junior Metcalfe, Laurie Murchison, ASllan Murrant, **Cathy Murrant (compiler)**, Emily, Jim and Kevin Murrant, Shirley Pettigrew, Edie Phillips, Pixie Williams, Rhys Williams.

HALIFAX/DARTMOUTH, Dec. 21; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -12 to -6C. Wind NW 11-25. Snow cover 0-5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies clear all day. 63 field observers in 30-39 parties, 50 at feeders. Total party hours 242 (174 on foot, 68 by car, .5 by boat). Total party kilometres 1333.5 (227.5 on foot, 1102.75 by car, 3.25 by boat).

Common Loon 9; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 3; Northern Gannet 1; Great Cormorant 47; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Great Blue Heron 7; Canada Goose 4042; Wood Duck 1; American Black Duck 3434; Mallard 469; Northern Pintail 1; Gadwall 4; **Eurasian Wigeon 2**; American Wigeon 23; AmericanX Eurasian Wigeon Hybrid 2; Greater Scaup 97; Lesser Scaup 26; Common Eider 1544; Oldsquaw 63; Black Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 63; Common Goldeneye 148; Barrow's Goldeneye 2; Bufflehead 26; Hooded Merganser 4; Common Merganser 23; Red-breasted Merganser 288; Bald Eagle 11; Northern Harrier 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 30; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 11; American Coot 2; Killdeer 2; **Lesser Yellowlegs 1**; Sanderling 13; Purple Sandpiper 3; Common Snipe 1; American Woodcock 1; Common Black-headed Gull 87; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 258; Herring Gull 3661; Iceland Gull 143; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 341; Thick-billed Murre 1; murre species 1; Black Guillemot 23; Rock Dove 2071; Mourning Dove 217; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 48; Hairy Woodpecker 24; Northern Flicker 5; Horned Lark 4; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 584; American Crow 1541; Common Raven 66; Black-capped Chickadee 1242; Boreal Chickadee 112; Red-breasted Nuthatch 175; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 17; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 120; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2; Hermit Thrush 2; American Robin 94; Northern Mockingbird 5; American Pipit 13; Bohemian Waxwing 80; Cedar waxwing 26; Northern Shrike 2; European Starling 8236; Orange-crowned Warbler 3; Yellow-rumped Warbler 40; Pine Warbler 4; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; Northern Cardinal 6; Eastern Towhee 2; American Tree Sparrow 87; Savannah Sparrow 18; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 166; Swamp Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 74; Dark-eyed Junco 748; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 46; Common Grackle 2; Baltimore Oriole 8; Pine Grosbeak 17; Purple Finch 19; House Finch 23; Red Crossbill 5; White-winged Crossbill 32; Common Redpoll 136; Pine Siskin 109; American Goldfinch 458; Evening Grosbeak 11; House Sparrow 1813.

Total species 108 plus one additional subspecies, about 33,474 individuals. Peyter Ackerman, Harry Arnold, Marilyn Baker, Valery Bancroft, Steve Barbour, Ann Bergstrom, Leonard Biggs, Murray Bissett, Elaine Black, Richard Bone, Joan Brennan, Alice Buchanan, Berstrom, Jill Burgess, Bob Campbell, Patricia Chalmers, Ilene Cooper, Margo Corkum, Elizabeth Corser, Louis Coutinho, Alan Covert, Margaret Cox, Joanne

Creelman, Michelle Crowe, Vance Crowe, Michael Downing, Giselle d'entremont, Heather Drope, Rosemary Eaton, Eric Eddy, Gerald Edsall, Jim Elliott, John Engweiler, Chris Field, Judi Fishman, Helen Fletcher, Andrew Foxall, Roger Foxall, Bill Fraser, Bill Freedman, Phyllis Gardiner, Sherman Glazebrook, Margaret Granelli, Richard Hamilton, Richard Hatch, Shirley Hearn, Roy Hemming, David Henry, Marcy Hirtle, Andy Horne, Marilyn Hourihan, Charlotte Hutchinson, Arthur Irvin, Dorothy Jackson, Greg Johnson, Helen Jones, Tod Keith, Arnold Langille, **Fulton Lavender (compiler)**, Don and Isabel Learmont, Barbara Leedham, Viola Lovitt, Gerry Lunn, Joyce and Neil MacAskill, Robert MacKenzie, Ralph MacLean, Don MacNeill, Chris Majka, Blake Maybank, Pat McKay, Bernice and Ian McLaren; James McLaren, Doris MacLaughlin; Patricia Melvin; Noreen Miller, Pat Miller, Eric Mills, Doug Milsom, Kris Milsom, Scott Milsom, Bernice Moores, Joanne Morris, Bob Morton, Maureen Nowlan, Peter Oickle, Terry Paquette, Debbie Parrish, Etta Parker, Richard Peckham, Scott Pelton, Jill Petrella, Carl Purcell, Donna Rammo; Rick Reid, Peter Serwylo, Gilbert Slaunwhite, Albert Sparks, Clarence Stevens Jr., Clarence Stevens Sr., Angela Sykes, Keith Tappen, Yvonne Taylor, Jim Taylor, Angela Thibodeau, Dick Vine, Maureen Vine, Joan Waldron, Bob Warrior, Lew Wentzell, Scott Yetman, Marty Zeleneitz.

KINGSTON, Dec. 29; 8AM to 5:05PM. Temp. -16 to 1C. Wind calm. Snow cover 10cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Clear P.M. Cloudy. 5 field observers in 4 parties, 44 at feeders. Total party hours 29.75 (9.75 on foot, 20 by car). Total party kilometres 344 (27.5 on foot, 316.5 by car).

Common Loon 4; Horned Grebe 1; American Black Duck 12; Common Eider 11; Oldsquaw 12; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 4; Red-breasted Merganser 7; Bald Eagle 2; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 8; Northern Goshawk 1; **Broad-winged Hawk 1**; Red-tailed Hawk 23; Ring-necked Pheasant 69; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 15; Purple Sandpiper 20; Herring Gull 54; Great Black-backed Gull 6; Rock Dove 434; Mourning Dove 601; Great Horned Owl 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 53; Hairy Woodpecker 34; Northern Flicker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Horned Lark 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 537; American Crow 2666; Common Raven 68; Black-capped Chickadee 462; Red-breasted Nuthatch 106; White-breasted Nuthatch 35; Golden-crowned Kinglet 32; American Robin 16; Bohemian Waxwing 953; European Starling 2108; American Tree Sparrow 24; Song Sparrow 13; White-throated Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 715; Snow Bunting 16; Rusty Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 5; Brown-headed Cowbird 21; Pine Grosbeak 16; Purple Finch 6; Red Crossbill 27; White-winged Crossbill 63; Common Redpoll 154; Pine Siskin 13; American Goldfinch 302; Evening Grosbeak 149; House Sparrow 228.

Total species 57, about 10,134 individuals. Marc Adam, Ann Aikman, Vic Barnes, John and Aline Brunt, Bob and Karen Campbell, Tony Chaulk, John Collins, Bea Collins, Ken and Avis Crowell, Murray Decker, Claire Diggins, Bob Foster, **Barbara and Patrick Giffin (compilers)**, Lloyd and Mary-lou Graham, Len Gregory, Ron and Donna Hill, Terry Hyson, Mike Inkpen, Ted Kitis, Heather Lazar, Len and Diane Legard, Ed and Marilyn Linard, William and Carole Long, Dave and Tanya Ludlow, Pat MacDonald, Mary MacMillan, Barbara and Mic McKnight, Tom and Susan Meers, Gary Mulcaster, Gary and Marry Myers, Joan and Danny Oickle, Adora and Herb Parsons, Alice and Dan Patterson, Twila Robar-Decoste, Jim and Shirley Robinson, Barry Rody, Eric Rubin,

John Rubin, Herb and Carol Smale, Guy and Jean Stanford, Emily Stewart, Glenn Thompson, Gordon Tufts, Jane and Ruth White, Grace Wile, Gwen Wright.

LOUISBOURG, Dec. 20; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -4 to -3C. Wind N-NW 10-40kmph. Snow cover 0-2.5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. partly cloudy, P.M. partly clear. 25 field observers in 13 parties, 19 at feeders, 3 hours and 42km owling. Total party hours 62.25 (47.25 on foot, 15 by car). Total party kilometres 191.7 (61.7 on foot, 130 by car).

Common Loon 19; Horned Grebe 3; Red-necked Grebe 10; Great Cormorant 1; American Black Duck 141; Mallard 6; Greater Scaup 1; Common Eider 87; Oldsquaw 171; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 36; scoter species 2; Common Goldeneye 38; Bufflehead 44; Common Merganser 14; Red-breasted Merganser 53; Bald Eagle 4; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 117; Herring Gull 109; Iceland Gull 84; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 57; gull species 7; Dovekie 31; Black Guillemot 155; Rock Dove 11; Mourning Dove 30; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 50; American Crow 235; Common Raven 40; Black-capped Chickadee 80; Boreal Chickadee 76; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 62; American Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 150; Cedar Waxwing 1; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 214; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 4; Palm Warbler 1; **Dickcissel** 4; American Tree Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 2; sparrow species 23; Dark-eyed Junco 40; Snow Bunting 3; Pine Grosbeak 5; Purple Finch 2; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 56; Common Redpoll 80; **Hoary Redpoll** 1; Pine Siskin 19; American Goldfinch 84; House Sparrow 76.

Total species 66, about 2,632 individuals. (CP. Great Horned Owl). Jean Bagnell, William Baldwin, Cathy Brousseau, Philip Burke, Bill Bussey, Dianne Bussey, Eddie Bussey, Margie Cameron, Donald Campbell, Peter Chiasson, Carol Corbin, Barc Cunningham, Dorothy Cunningham, Bonnie Dalziel, Ken Donovan, Sheila Fudge, Ian Harte, Cyneth Hutt, Gordon Hutt, Shirley Kennedy, Elizabeth Lalonde, Gerry Lalonde, Carlton Lunn, Gwendolen Lunn, Miles MacDonald, John MacInnis, Minnie MacLeod, Mona MacLeod, David McCorquodale, John McKay, Pearl Magee, Cathy Mailman, Francis Mailman, Geraldine Metcalfe, Hugh Metcalfe, Florence Miron, **Susann Myers (compiler)**, Helen O'Shea, Lee Anne Reeves, Carter Stevens, Sylvia Trimm, Margaret Williams, Pixie Williams, Rhys Williams.

LUNENBURG, Jan. 3; 8AM 4:30PM. Temp. -2 to 4C. Wind S 10kmph. Snow cover 3-4cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Partly cloudy, foggy. P.M. Partly cloudy 9 observers in 5 parties. Total party hours 35 (5 on foot, 30 by car). Total party kilometres 64 (10 on foot, 54 by car).

Common Loon 40; Horned Grebe 4; Red-necked Grebe 20; Great Cormorant 1; Double-crested Cormorant 3; American Black Duck 42; Mallard 57; Common Eider 66; Oldsquaw 192; Surf Scoter 11; White-winged Scoter 1; Common Goldeneye 311; Barrow's Goldeneye 5; Hooded Merganser 52; Common Merganser 106; Red-breasted Merganser 66; Bald Eagle 4; Northern Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 16; Ruffed Grouse 1; Herring Gull 715; Great Black-

backed Gull 187; Black Guillemot 10; Rock Dove 294; Mourning Dove 140; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 104; American Crow 1654; Common Raven 10; Black-capped Chickadee 84; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 9; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; American Robin 17; Bohemian waxwing 190; European Starling 615; American Tree Sparrow 13; Chipping Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 12; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 47; Snow Bunting 20; Common Grackle 8; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 3; White-winged Crossbill 30; Pine Siskin 20; American Goldfinch 82; Evening Grosbeak 48; House Sparrow 42.

Total species 57, about 5,380 individuals. William Caudle (compiler), Jill Commolli, Robert Chivers, Peter Hope, Paul MacDonald, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Christine and Ian Ross, Nellie Snyder.

MARGAREE, Dec 20, 7:45AM to 4PM. Temp. 0 to 3C. Wind NW 5kmph. Snow cover 10cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M Cloudy. P.M. Heavy snow. 4 field observers in 3 parties, one at feeder. Total party hours 15 (4.5 on foot, 10.5 by car). Total party kilometres 109 (10.5 on foot, 98.5 by car).

American Black Duck 26; Common Goldeneye 48; Common Merganser 7; Bald Eagle 12; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 2; Herring Gull 8; Iceland Gull 18; Great Black-backed Gull 12; Mourning Dove 11; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 29; American Crow 156; Common Raven 20; Black-capped Chickadee 29; Boreal Chickadee 4; Bohemian waxwing 40; European Starling 189; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Snow Bunting 12; Pine Grosbeak 21; Pine Siskin 23; American Goldfinch 18; Evening Grosbeak 27; House Sparrow 10.

Total species 29, about 756 individuals. Glen Covey, Eunice Hart, **Frances Hart (compiler)**, Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham.

NORTHPORT, Jan 2; Temp. -22 to -17C. Wind, NNW 15-20kmph. Snow cover 20cm. Still water frozen, moving water mostly frozen. Skies clear all day. 2 field observers in one party, one at feeder. Total party hours 8.5 (2.75 on foot, 56 by car). Total party kilometres 62 (3 on foot, 56 by car).

Common Merganser 2; Herring Gull 307; Great Black-backed Gull 14; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 5; American Crow 342; Black-capped Chickadee 13; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 18; American tree Sparrow 2; House Sparrow 3.

Total species 12, about 709 individuals. Mary Jane MacNeil, **Scott MacNeil (compiler)**

PICTOU HARBOUR, Jan. 1; Temp. -12 to -15C. Wind, NW-W 40kmph. Snow cover 8cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies partly clear, light snow all day. 16 field observers in 8-9 parties, 17 at feeders, one hour and 10 km owling. Total party hours 45.5 (18 on foot, 27.5 by car). Total party kilometres 540 (32 on foot, 508 by car).

Common Loon 1; Great Cormorant 1; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 629; American Black Duck 934; Mallard 21; Northern Pintail 1; Gadwall 1; American Wigeon 3; **Tufted Duck 3**; Greater Scaup 3030; Lesser Scaup 2; Common

Eider 6; Oldsquaw 142; Surf Scoter 1; Common Goldeneye 569; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Hooded Merganser 2; Common Merganser 536; Red-breasted Merganser 521; Bald Eagle 19; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 20; Ruffed Grouse 8; Common Black-headed Gull 6; Bonaparte's Gull 3; Ring-billed Gull 10; Herring Gull 2292; Iceland Gull 134; Great Black-backed Gull 235; Rock Dove 269; Mourning Dove 48; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 24; Hairy Woodpecker 15; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 129; American Crow 608; Common Raven 99; Black-capped Chickadee 446; Boreal Chickadee 11; Red-breasted Nuthatch 20; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 14; American Robin 48; Northern Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 377; Cedar Waxwing 69; European Starling 1005; Yellow-rumped Warbler 5; Pine Warbler 2; American Tree Sparrow 47; Song Sparrow 12; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 204; Snow Bunting 14; Brown-headed Cowbird 4; Pine Grosbeak 31; Purple Finch 4; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 10; Common Redpoll 393; Pine Siskin 35; American Goldfinch 55; Evening Grosbeak 62; House Sparrow 73.

Total species 73, about 13,290 individuals. (CP. Northern Harrier, Glaucous Gull, Gray Catbird, Chipping Sparrow). Calvin, Harry and Jean Brennan, Donald Campbell, Tom Chevarie, Agnes Chisholm, Joan Czapalay, Bob Haines, Sylvia Hayward, Elwin Hemphill, Randy Lauff, Brundage MacDonald, Margaret MacDonald, Ron MacDonald, George MacInnis, Jean MacLeod, Harold Madore, Mary Mason, **Ken McKenna (compiler)**, Stan McNeill, Tony Miller, Bev Milligan, Bernice Moores, Rob Reid, Janet Rowe, Wendy Skinner, Henry Snow, Polly Szantor, Joan Waldron, Amy Walsh, Brian Wong, Ellen VanVeen, Steve Vines.

PORT L'HEBERT, Dec. 21; 7:15AM to 5PM. Temp. -8 to -2C. Wind NW 15-25kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies clear all day. 16 field observers in 11-12 parties. Total party hours 73 (49.5 on foot, 21.5 by car). Total party kilometres 540 (91 on foot, 449 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 57; Horned Grebe 20; Red-necked Grebe 20; Great Cormorant 4; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 5085; Green-winged Teal 2; American Black Duck 352; Mallard 5; Northern Pintail 2; Common Eider 358; Oldsquaw 40; Black Scoter 43; Surf Scoter 32; White-winged Scoter 60; Common Goldeneye 38; Bufflehead 22; Common Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 35; Bald Eagle 4; Northern Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Ruffed Grouse 7; Black-bellied Plover 1; Sanderling 56; Purple Sandpiper 25; Dunlin 30; Ring-billed Gull 7; Herring Gull 589; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 341; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 33; Rock Dove 41; Mourning Dove 56; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 6; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 67; American Crow 173; Common Raven 19; Black-capped Chickadee 131; Boreal Chickadee 22; Red-breasted Nuthatch 26; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 60; American Robin 28; American Pipit 9; European Starling 265; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 165; Common Yellowthroat 1; American Tree Sparrow 40; Fow Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 40; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 17; **White-crowned Sparrow 1**; Dark-eyed Junco 127; Snow Bunting 40; Brown-headed Cowbird 75; Purple Finch 15; **House Finch 1**; Red Crossbill 6; White-winged Crossbill 2; Common Redpoll

22; Pine Siskin 9; American Goldfinch 116; Evening Grosbeak 53; House Sparrow 45.

Total species 75, about 8,994 individuals. (CP. Greater Scaup, Long-eared Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak) Trevor Bebb, Lloyd Cameron, Bill Crosby, **Donna Crosby, (compiler)**, Andy Dean, Lelia Dean, Donna Ensor, Dean Fiske, Emerson Fiske, Sylvia Fullerton, Barbara Hinds, Danny Mason, Mark Townsend, Robert Turner, David and Joan Young.

PORT GREVILLE, Dec. 30; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. -4 to 0C. Wind SE 15kmph. Snow cover 10-20cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Partly cloudy all day. 3 field observers in 2 parties, 2 at feeders .5 hours and .5 kilometres owling. Total party hours 16 (6 on foot, 10 by car). Total party kilometres 142 (12 on foot, 130 by car).

American Black Duck 36; Mallard 20; Common Goldeneye 4; Bufflehead 9; Bald Eagle 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 7; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 195; Great Black-backed Gull 4; Rock Dove 18; Mourning Dove 17; Blue Jay 17; American Crow 125; Common Raven 18; Black-capped Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; American Robin 28; Bohemian Waxwing 20; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 130; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 16; Pine Grosbeak 1; White-winged Crossbill 2; American Goldfinch 2; House Sparrow 7.

Total species 32, about 704 individuals. (CP. Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Meadowlark, American Tree Sparrow, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin). Edith Allen, **Joan Czapalay (compiler)**, Mollie Kernohan, Fran Spalding, Joan Waldron.

PUBNICO, Jan 4; 7:45AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 3 to 8C. Wind SW 20kmph. No Snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Partly cloudy all day. 13 field observers in 5 parties, 8 at feeders. Total party hours 29 (12 on foot, 15 by car, 2 by boat). Total party kilometres 359 (18 on foot, 321 by car, 20 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 29; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 8; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 230; American Black Duck 70; Common Eider 72; Oldsquaw 33; Surf Scoter 7; White-winged Scoter 8; Common Goldeneye 49; Hooded Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 65; Bald Eagle 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 1; American Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Ruffed Grouse 4; Bonaparte's Gull 14; Ring-billed Gull 35; Herring Gull 746; Iceland Gull 21; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 439; Black-legged Kittiwake 3; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 7; Rock Dove 2; Mourning Dove 94; Belted Kingfisher 4; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 9; Horned Lark 8; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 65; American Crow 264; Common Raven 6; Black-capped Chickadee 99; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 39; American Robin 46; American Pipit 6; Bohemian Waxwing 237; Cedar Waxwing 76; European Starling 283; Yellow-rumped Warbler 21; Northern Cardinal 2; American Tree Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 17; White-throated Sparrow 19; Dark-eyed Junco 33; House Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 1; Common Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 4; American Goldfinch 58; House Sparrow 63.

Total species 65, about 3,338 individuals. (CP. Barred Owl, Common Grackle, Red Crossbill, Northern Bobwhite) Daryl Amirault, Joyce Cunningham, Albert d'Entremont, Kendrick d'Entremont, Lisette d'Entremont, Raymond D'Entremont, Real d'Entremont,

Ben D'eon, Claire D'eon, Jerome D'eon, Milton D'eon, Reginald D'eon, **Ted D'eon (compiler)**, Brian MacKenzie, Ethelda Murphy, Doris and Kenneth Peters, Eric Ruff.

ST. PETERS, Dec. 27; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -1 to 2C. Wind W 10kmph. Snow cover 0-5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. Clear. P.M. Partly cloudy. 12 field observers in 6 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party hours 18.5 (9 on foot, 9.5 by car). Total party kilometres 390 (20 on foot, 370 by car).

Common Loon 5; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 4; Red-necked Grebe 1; Northern Gannet 1; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Common Eider 28; Oldsquaw 19; Black Scoter 5; White-winged Scoter 9; Common Goldeneye 84; Common Merganser 9; Red-breasted Merganser 78; Bald Eagle 3; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 1; Bonaparte's Gull 14; Herring Gull 138; Great Black-backed Gull 8; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 15; Mourning Dove 20; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 37; American Crow 139; Common Raven 7; Black-capped Chickadee 78; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; European Starling 228; Common Yellowthroat 2; American Tree Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 15; White-winged Crossbill 7; American Goldfinch 32; Evening Grosbeak 11; House Sparrow 22.

Total species 44, about 1,053 individuals. (CP. American Black Duck, Northern Goshawk, Spruce Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak). Donnie Campbell, Floyd Carter, **Billy Digout (compiler)**, George Digout, Murdock Digout, Sharon Digout, Eva Landry, Keats Landry, George McInnis, Danny Nightingale, Jeannie Shermerhorn, Ronola Stone, Adrian Touesnard, Annie Vanderhoeden, Melvin White, Trevor Wilkie.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec. 20; 6:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -6 to 3C. Wind NW 15-25kmph. Snow cover 0-16cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. Partly cloudy. P.M. Cloudy. 24 field observers in 11 parties, 25 at feeders, 2.5 hours and 6km owling. Total party hours 45 (16.75 on foot, 28.25 by car). Total party kilometres 473 (33.5 on foot, 439 by car).

Canada Goose 27; American Black Duck 75; Mallard 41; Common Merganser **332**; Bald Eagle 28; Northern Harrier 2; Northern Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 60; Ruffed Grouse 10; Herring Gull 46; Great Black-backed Gull 10; Rock Dove 860; Mourning Dove 162; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 23; Hairy Woodpecker 26; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 318; American Crow 1097; Common Raven 126; Black-capped Chickadee 475; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 49; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 24; American Robin 3; Bohemian Waxwing 82; Northern Shrike 1; European Starling 3134; American Tree Sparrow 79; Song Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 7; Dark-eyed Junco 201; Snow Bunting 342; Common Grackle 15; Brown-headed Cowbird 81; Pine Grosbeak 26; Purple Finch 2; White-winged Crossbill 12; Common Redpoll 176; Pine Siskin 127; American Goldfinch 426; Evening Grosbeak 581; House Sparrow 186.

Total species 49, about 9,299 individuals. Barbara Aitken, Mark Anthony, Dougie Back, Conrad Baldwin, Wylie Barbrick, Alexander Benoit, Barb Bower, Robert

Cameron, Terry Carroll, Paul Chiasson, Herb Fassett, Brenda Grantmyre, Audrey and John Hungerford, Joan Jarvis, Herman and Rikki Juurlink, Leo Isenor, Myrna Isenor, Donnie and Helen Langille, Anne MacDonald, Joan Mackey, **Roslyn MacPhee (compiler)**, Sharon MacPhee, Elsie McCulloch, Earle McCurdy, Barb Miller, Muriel Miller, Albert Moore, Juanita Murphy, Eldon Pace, Marjorie Peppard, Jacques Perron, Annie Perry, Christine and Judy Queripel, Connie Stott, Julie Towers, Roger Wardrope, Lorne Weaver, Art and Myrna West, Irving Williams, Beth Wright.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec. 20; 730AM to 5M. Temp. -3 to -1C. Wind NW 20-30kmph. Snow cover 2-5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. Partly cloudy, light snow. P.M. Clear. 13 field observers in 8 parties, 17 at feeders, 4.5 hours and 53 km. owling. Total party hours 65 (29 on foot, 36 by car). Total party kilometres 751.5 (42.5 on foot, 709 by car).

Canada Goose 39; American Black Duck 34; Mallard 1; Northern Pintail 1; Common Merganser 20; Bald Eagle 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 9; American Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Ruffed Grouse 6; Ring-billed Gull 21; Herring Gull 631; Iceland Gull 12; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 45; Rock Dove 560; Mourning Dove 48; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 13; Hairy Woodpecker 20; Black-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 243; American Crow 3381; Common Raven 71; Black-capped Chickadee 502; Boreal Chickadee 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch 69; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 22; American Robin 20; Bohemian Waxing 1032; Cedar waxwing 56; European Starling 938; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 1; Palm Warbler 1; Common Yellowthroat 1; Eastern Towhee 1; American Tree Sparrow 81; Savannah Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 11; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 10; Dark-eyed Junco 176; Snow Bunting 23; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 55; White-winged Crossbill 17; Common Redpoll 406; Pine Siskin 44; American Goldfinch 142; Evening Grosbeak 128; House Sparrow 220.

Total species 58, about 9,176 individuals. (CP. Northern Goshawk, Common Snipe, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Meadowlark). Rosemary Bourque, **Calvin Brennan (compiler)**, Donna, Harry, Jean and Tim Brennan, Marion Buck, Frank Calder, Jim Chisholm, Kay Davidson, Mary Fraser, Sharon Gallant, Rene Gould, Keith Jensen, Margaret Kenney, Randy Lauff, Betty MacDonald, Connie MacKenzie, Dave MacLennan, Greg Martin, George McInnis, Jill McIntyre, Ken McKenna, Helen Melanson, Jeff Ogden, Carol Reid, Robert Reid, Shirley Stewart, Chris Tobin, Steve Vines.

STRAIT OF CANSO, Dec. 29; 7:30AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -5 to 0C. Wind calm. Snow cover 15cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open frozen. Skies clear all day. 10 field observers in 5 parties, 11 at feeders. Total party hours 34.75 (19.25 on foot, 15.5 by car). Total party kilometres 307 (23 on foot, 284 by car).

Common Loon 11; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 5; American Black Duck 27; Northern Pintail 1; Common Eider 32; Oldsquaw 25; Black Scoter 1; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 1; Common Goldeneye 98; Common Merganser 87; Red-breasted Merganser 185; Bald Eagle 3; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ruffed Grouse 3; **Purple Sandpiper 6**; Common Black-headed Gull 8; Bonaparte's Gull 18; Ring-billed Gull 6; Herring Gull

223; Iceland Gull 246; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 67; **Ivory Gull 1**; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; gull species 18; Black Guillemot 43; Rock Dove 94; Mourning Dove 43; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 1; **Horned Lark 1**; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 110; American Crow 270; Common Raven 40; Black-capped Chickadee 207; Boreal Chickadee 34; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 21; American Robin 25; Bohemian Waxwing 125; Northern Shrike 4; European Starling 283; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; American Tree Sparrow 14; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 17; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 107; Snow Bunting 8; **Rusty Blackbird 2**; Common Grackle 4; **Baltimore Oriole 1**; Pine Grosbeak 37; Purple Finch 4; White-winged Crossbill 3; Common Redpoll 57; American Goldfinch 22; Evening Grosbeak 43; House Sparrow 40.

Total species 65, about 2,765 individuals. (CP. Great Blue Heron, Pine Warbler). Marie Bolgar, Calvin Brennan, Floyd Carter, George Digout, Sharon Digout, May Goring, Mary Hemmings, David Johnston, Warren Johnston, Randy Lauff, Thelma MacPherson, David McCorquodale, Ken McKenna, Jim Meagher, **Kerstin Mueller (compiler)**, Robert Reid, Gillis Strachan, Lorna Swain, Betty Talbot, Roy Welsh.

THE SYDNEYS, Dec. 22; 6AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -4 to 0C. Wind W-N 10kmph. Snow cover 0-2cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy all day. 9 field observers in 5 parties, 5 at feeders, 1.25 hours and 25 km. owling. Total party hours 31.5 (13.5 on foot, 18 by car). Total party kilometres 303 (13 on foot, 290 by car).

Common Loon 1; Great Cormorant 24; cormorant species 2; American Black Duck 1151; Mallard 318; mallard hybrid 34; Northern Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 11; Oldsquaw 41; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 59; Common Goldeneye 228; Barrow's Goldeneye 6; Bufflehead 8; Common Merganser 10; Red-breasted Merganser 25; Bald Eagle 16; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Merlin 1; Common Black-headed Gull 13; Ring-billed Gull 5; Herring Gull 954; Iceland Gull 667; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 159; gull species 3; Rock Dove 377; Mourning Dove 39; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 7; Northern Flicker 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 162; American Crow 889; Common Raven 43; Black-capped Chickadee 122; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; American Pipit 1; Bohemian Waxwing 375; European Starling 2868; Dickcissel 1; American Tree Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 15; Dark-eyed Junco 18; Snow Bunting 300; White-winged Crossbill 5; Common Redpoll 375; American Goldfinch 83; Evening Grosbeak 4; House Sparrow 410.

Total species 51, about 9,861 individuals. (**Yellow-throated Warbler**) Betty Gentile, David Harris, Barbara MacDonald, Miles MacDonald, Walter MacDonald, Yvonne MacDonald, Joan MacFadden, Jack MacNeil, **David McCorquodale (compiler)** John MacKay, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Susann Myers, Chris Thomson.

TRURO, Dec. 29; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -14 to -3C. Wind calm. Snow cover 15cm. Still water frozen, moving water frozen. Skies clear all day. 13 field observers in 9 parties, 9 at feeders. Total party hours 53.5 (24.5 on foot, 29 by car). Total party kilometres 559 (36 on foot, 523 by car).

American Black Duck 52; Mallard 429; Common Goldeneye 2; Bald Eagle 7; Northern

Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Gray Partridge 72; Ring-necked Pheasant 16; Ruffed Grouse 1; American Coot 1; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 257; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 33; Rock Dove 552; Mourning Dove 92; Short-eared Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Northern Flicker 1; Blue Jay 86; American Crow 1054; Common Raven 13; Black-capped Chickadee 236; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 66; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; European Starling 2147; Northern Cardinal 1; American Tree Sparrow 35; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 19; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 92; Snow Bunting 425; Pine Grosbeak 12; White-winged Crossbill 7; Common Redpoll 50; Pine Siskin 9; American Goldfinch 102; Evening Grosbeak 149; House Sparrow 34.

Total species 44, about 6104 individuals. (CP. Brown Creeper) Jim Blackburn, Allan Eddy, Rene Gould, Linda Hall, **Ross Hall (compiler)**, Ralph Hudgins, Winnifred Kettleton, Amanda Lavers, Matthew Lavers, Margaret LeMaistre, Martha MacLaughlin, Simone Mevey, Bea MacCallum, Marilyn MacWha, Mary MacAulay, Jeff Ogden, Kim Richard, Joy Ross, Shawn Smale, Rachel Smith, Frances Spalding, Harold Stewart.

WEST HANTS, Dec. 27; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. -12 to -2C. Wind N 10-30kmph. Snow cover 0-10cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. Clear, P.M. Cloudy. 32 field observers in 14 parties, 1.25 hours and 18 kilometres owling. Total party hours 90.25 (51 on foot, 39.25 by car). Total party kilometres 627 (86.4 on foot, 540.8 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 4; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 19; American Black Duck 1361; Mallard 4; Common Goldeneye 9; Common Merganser 49; Bald Eagle 42; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 31; Rough-legged Hawk 1; American Kestrel 1; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 94; Ruffed Grouse 8; Purple Sandpiper 12; Common Snipe 1; Ring-billed Gull 50; Herring Gull 1615; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 269; Rock Dove 588; Mourning Dove 512; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 29; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Northern Flicker 13; Pileated Woodpecker 16; Gray Jay 12; Blue Jay 511; American Crow 1899; Common Raven 122; Black-capped Chickadee 570; Boreal Chickadee 19; Red-breasted Nuthatch 37; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet 80; American Robin 138; Bohemian Waxwing 1382; Cedar Waxwing 243; Northern Shrike 2; European Starling 3484; American Tree Sparrow 101; Song Sparrow 10; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 157; Snow Bunting 100; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 6; Pine Grosbeak 51; Purple Finch 19; House Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 33; Common Redpoll 751; Pine Siskin 22; American Goldfinch 329; Evening Grosbeak 439; House Sparrow 399.

Total species 62, about 15,685 individuals. George and Margaret Alliston, Elaine Black, Carol Blackmore, Carol Bradley, Sandy Creighton, Art Crowell, Justin Crowell, **Gail Davis (compiler)**, Heidi DeBoer, Martine Dufresne, Merritt Gibson, Jamie Gibson, Lyn Hebb, Pat Kelly, Fulton Lavender, Peter LeBlanc, Don MacNeill, Blake Maybank, Brenda Preeper, Michelle Reid, Sheila Richardson, Neil Robarts, Sheila Robarts, Jim Taylor, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Gerry Trueman, Sherman Williams, Bill Williams, Jim Wolford, Beth Woolaver, Frank Woolaver.

WOLFVILLE, Dec. 21; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -10 to -4C. Wind NW 5-10kmph. Snow cover 0-12cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Clear. P.M. Partly

clear. 50 field observers in 25-27 parties, 62 at feeders. Total party hours 159.5 (91.25 on foot, 68.25 by car). Total party kilometres 1043 (156 on foot, 887 by car).

Great Blue Heron 6; Canada Goose 453; American Black Duck 956; Mallard 116; Greater Scaup 2; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 6; scoter species 60; Common Goldeneye 10; Common Merganser 5; Bald Eagle 495; Northern Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 8; Northern Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 143; Rough-legged Hawk 10; Merlin 4; **Peregrine Falcon 1**; Ring-necked Pheasant 282; Ruffed Grouse 11; Ring-billed gull 131; Herring Gull 12613; Iceland Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 2498; Rock Dove 1290; Mourning Dove 1024; Barred Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 7; owl species 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 77; Hairy Woodpecker 48; **Black-backed Woodpecker 2**; Northern Flicker 48; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Horned Lark 74; Blue Jay 1065; American Crow 14706; Common Raven 404; Black-capped Chickadee 871; Boreal Chickadee 10; Red-breasted Nuthatch 120; White-breasted Nuthatch 18; Brown Creeper 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 64; **Hermit Thrush 1**; American Robin 482; Northern Mockingbird 6; Bohemian Waxwing 2107; Cedar Waxwing 385; European Starling 26668; Northern Cardinal 2; American Tree Sparrow 202; Chipping Sparrow 5; Savannah Sparrow 41; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 185; Swamp Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 36; Dark-eyed Junco 1608; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 1; Common Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 15; Baltimore Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 249; Purple finch 48; Red Crossbill 1; White-winged Crossbill 73; Common Redpoll 999

Pine Siskin 212; American Goldfinch 963; Evening Grosbeak 290; House Sparrow 711.

Total species 73, about 73,515 individuals. (CP. **Yellow-headed Blackbird**). Agar Adamson, Margaret Alliston, Jim Amos, Patricia Bernier, Diana Bishop, Sherman Boates, Larry Bogan, Mike Boudreau, Carol Buckley, Sandy Connelly, Susan Cox, Peggy Crawford-Kellock, Debbie Daigle, Jom Daigle, Gail Davis, Pat Davis, Ed Eagles, Ev Eagles, Joan Eaton, Mark Elderkin, Paul Elderkin, Bob Flecknell, George Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Glenys Gibson, Jamie Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Ed Hancock, Lorna Hart, Blanche Healey, Tom Herman, Maxine Hill, Dennis Hipburn, Blair Hodgman, Bob Horne, Isobel Horton, John Horton, Winnie Horton, Nicole Humble, Douglas and Shirley Jackson, Mark Johnston, Ian Jonsen, Ann Karttunen, Jerry Karttunen, Pat Kelly, Sandy Kempton, **Angus MacLean (compiler)**, Stella MacLean, Shirley Marston, Bill and Pat Martell, Jessie Martin, Bernard and Eleanor Mason, Sheila McCurdy, Pat McLeod, Randy Milton, Terri Milton, Susan Montonen, Barney Morison, Edna Mutch, Gary Ness, Nancy Nickerson, Pam Nickerson, Joe Nocera, Mike O'Brien, Ian Paterson, Linda Pearson, Terry Pearson, Mary Pratt, Ton Regan, Stan Riggs, Gordon Robart, Benita Rogers, Marg Russell, Barry Sabean, Meg Scheid, Kathy Schaffner, Jack and Ruth Scott, Mabel Sheffield, Ed Shynal, Peter Smith, Richard Stern, George and Maeann Stevens, Mirriam Sullivan, Hugh Swandell, Meredith Sweeney, Phil Taylor, Bill and Brenda Thexton, Dianne Thorpe, Jean Timpa, Chris Toplack, David Tracey, Gerry Trueman, Gordon Tufts, Deanna and Eva Urban, Gertrude Waseem, Heather watts, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Frank Woolaver, Jeni Wright, Barry and Betty Yoell.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 21; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. -5 to 2C. Wind NW 30kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water open. Partly cloudy all day. 13 field observers in 6 parties, 18 at feeders, one hour and 5 km. owling. Total party hours 40.5 (8 on foot,

32.5 by car). Total party kilometres 598 (18 on foot, 580 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 6; **Pied-billed Grebe 2**; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 4; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 1169; Green-winged Teal 6; American Black Duck 705; Mallard 478; American Wigeon 1; Greater Scaup 10; Common Eider 24; Oldsquaw 24; Black Scoter 2; Surf Scoter 14; Common Goldeneye 88; Bufflehead 32; Hooded Merganser **12**; Common Merganser 24; Red-breasted Merganser 92; Turkey Vulture 7; Northern Harrier 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 19; Rough-legged Hawk **18**; American Kestrel 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 9; Ruffed Grouse 3; Ring-billed Gull 89; Herring Gull 959; Iceland Gull 7; Great Black-backed Gull 470; Rock Dove 334; Mourning Dove 147; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downey Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Northern Flicker 16; Horned Lark 94; Blue Jay 93; American Crow 475; Common Raven 20; Black-capped Chickadee 125; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 19; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 29; **Eastern Bluebird 1**; American Robin 44; American Pipit 3; Bohemian Waxwing 49; Cedar Waxwing 27; European Starling 885; Yellow-rumped Warbler 23; Northern Cardinal 8; **Dickcissel 1**; **Eastern Towhee 1**; American Tree Sparrow 19; Chipping Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 31; White-throated Sparrow 66; Dark-eyed Junco 245; Snow Bunting 7; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Common Grackle 6; Brown-headed Cowbird 27; Baltimore Oriole 2; Purple Finch 18; House Finch 5; American Goldfinch 209; House Sparrow 80.

Total species 76, about 7530 individuals. (CP. Bald Eagle, American Coot, Barred Owl, Rusty Blackbird, Evening Grosbeak). Sandra Andrews, Martyn Bowler, Marilyn Burns, Paul Comeau, Peter Comeau, Elsie Crosby, Ted D'Eon, Raymone d'Entremont, Bernie Deveau, June Graves, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Hazel Macdonald, David Mahoney, Dale Mullen, Leah Murray, Joann Newell, Arthur Porter, Marcie Rogers, **Barbara and Eric Ruff (compilers)**, Robin Rymer, Clark Sollows, David Sollows, Vera Sollows, Paulette Surette, Jim Thibeau, Grace Walker, Barbara White.

David Currie – Ed.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This is a collection of information that will be published from time to time. It is useful for those new to the NSBS, and a reminder/refresher to others. When information is not published in detail, a reference will be given to a previous issue, so you can easily look it up.

A. The NSBS

Formed in 1955, the Nova Scotia Bird Society is directly affiliated with the Canadian Nature Federation. The activities of the society are centred on the observation and study of the bird life of this province and the preservation of habitat.

B. NSBS Bird Line

The Nova Scotia Bird Society maintains a telephone hot line for reporting sightings and finding out what's around. The number is **(902) 852-CHAT (2428)**. This is a local call from the Halifax-Dartmouth area.

A transcript is also available - to receive an email copy of transcripts, contact Blake Maybank <maybank@ns.sympatico.ca> or (902) 852-2077. The transcript is also posted on the NSBS Web-site.

C. NSBS Web-site

The Nova Scotia Bird Society maintains a Web-site. The URL is:

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NS-BirdSoc>

D. REGIONAL CONTACTS

Please see the January 1998 issue for a list of current regional contacts.

E. Membership and the magazine

Membership in the Nova Scotia Bird Society runs from January 1 to December 31 each year. Each issue of *Nova Scotia Birds* includes a membership renewal form. The timing of your renewal can coincide with the Christmas mail rush and the mailing of the January issue of the magazine so the process is more complicated than at other times of the year. The membership secretary receives your renewal, purchase requests and donations. Each of these must be processed separately so that all the legal accounting rules are followed. Donations and the information associated with them are forwarded to the Scholarship and Trust Fund. The renewal lists then go to Peter Paysant who works miracles with the Bird Society's mediaeval computer and software to separate the addresses of the paid from the unpaid. The labels also have to be sorted according to Canada Post regulations so that the Society is eligible for a reduced postal rate. The mailing labels then go to Shirley Brothers and her helpers who stuff and bag the magazines in the proscribed manner. And the next stop is you. We share this with you because this process becomes less complicated if you renew your membership before the end of the year. Otherwise the late renewer's magazines must be stacked until there are enough to send at the reduced rate. Just when you need your copy of *Nova Scotia Birds* to check the date of a field trip, you find it hasn't arrived. Please remember to renew as early as possible to avoid any delays in getting your first magazine of the New Year. The January issues of *Nova Scotia Birds* will be mailed **ONLY TO MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AT THE TIME OF MAILING**. Others will receive a second reminder. On receipt of their membership dues, late joiners will receive the January issue, **BUT NOT IMMEDIATELY**. Because of the prohibitive cost of mailing single copies by first class mail, we wait until we have enough copies on hand for a second class mailing. Payment of dues prior to December 31 is the best way to ensure your receipt of *Nova Scotia Birds* on time.

F. About Field Trip Reports

See Volume 36, No. 1, January 1994 for guidelines on writing Field Trip Reports.

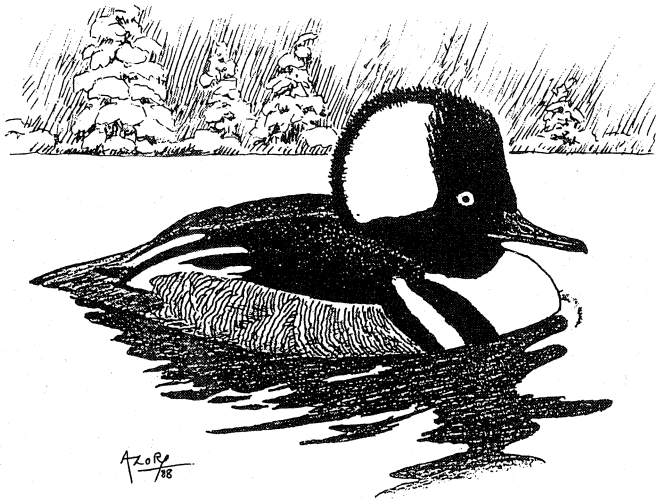
G. Bird Reports - What to Report

Please see Volume 31, No. 1, January 1989 page 4. See also Volume 38, No. 21, April 1996 "Rare and Difficult Bird Report Form".

H. Submitting Photographs

We are pleased to receive photographs from readers for use in NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS. Especially welcome are sharp images of birds of any sort photographed in Nova Scotia. Also valuable are photographs of species that have rarely been recorded in the province. Publication of these can be substantial evidence for future compilers of birds that have occurred here. For these, even distant or out-of-focus images can be helpful. "Point-and-shoot" cameras have sometimes produced the only evidence to document extreme rarities in the province.

Photographs can be submitted as slides or as colour or black-and-white prints. Black-and-white negatives are made for enlargements from the slides. If the image of the bird on a submitted print is too small for easy identification, we require the negative for greater enlargement. We can also obtain prints from video sequences and from digital cameras. Contact the photo editor (*see 'Deadlines for Other Submissions' section, this issue*) about these.



NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
Membership Application/Renewal Form

Membership in the Nova Scotia Bird Society is open to all. The membership fee includes a subscription to *Nova Scotia Birds*. Membership runs from Jan. to Dec. Rates are:

Individual:	\$15/year, for	_____ years	\$ _____
Family:	\$18/year, for	_____ years	\$ _____
Institutional:	\$25/year, for	_____ years	\$ _____
Life:	\$375		\$ _____
Additional for addresses outside of Canada:			
	\$2/year, for	_____ years	\$ _____

Membership Total: \$ _____

The following items are also available:

_____ NSBS crests, \$4 each	\$ _____
_____ NSBS decals, \$1 each	\$ _____
_____ Bird Checklist, four for \$1	\$ _____
_____ Birding Nova Scotia, \$12	\$ _____
Supplies Total:	\$ _____

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to our Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund.

Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund Donation: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 e-mail: _____

Renewal
 You already have my correct address

I WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP WITH: Leading Bird Walks
 Hospitality Magazine Publicity Leading School Group
 Conservation Other _____

Please mail to the Membership Secretary: Joan Czapalay,
 Nova Scotia Bird Society,
 c/o Nova Scotia Museum,
 1747 Summer Street,
 Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6

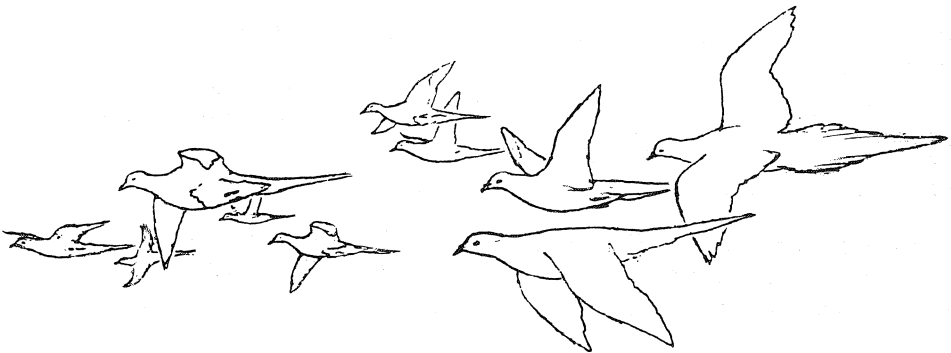
OBITUARY

RACHEL ERSKINE (1903-1997)

By Joan Waldron

Rachel Erskine cared about nature and the environment long before it became fashionable. This wonderful lady who did things in her own inimitable way died in Sackville, New Brunswick on October 30, 1997, aged 94. Rachel lived in Wolfville from 1936 until 1987. Her husband John Erskine, who enriched our knowledge of Nova Scotia's natural world and its unique prehistory, died in 1981. Before moving to Wolfville the Erskines were world travellers, visiting and working in places that are inaccessible even today. Both John and Rachel Erskine were charter members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society and of the Blomidon Field Naturalists.

Bird Society member and naturalist Bernard Forsythe was the Erskine's next door neighbour for more than 40 years. "John was the bird person," says Bernard, "and Rachel loved plants, although it was Rachel who started me collecting nesting records, as well as my 21 years of running a breeding bird survey. And it was she who started me on my long love affair with orchids. Few people cared about nature in those days but I was lucky enough the live next to the Erskines and they shared their knowledge and concern with me" Family members recall Rachel Erskine's three loves — nature, music and corresponding on an almost daily basis with friends all around the world. Rachel Erskine enriched the lives of her community, family and friends in Nova Scotia and beyond.



NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

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

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Life Membership	\$375
Single Membership	\$15
Family Membership	\$18
Institutional Membership	\$25

Note: Outside Canada please add \$2.

NSBS Web Site: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NS-BirdSoc>

NSBS e-mail: ip-bird@chebucto.ns.ca

NSBS Bird Line: (902) 852-CHAT or (902) 852-2428

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