



Nova Scotia Birds



A Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society

Volume 40, Issue 4

Autumn 1998

Special points of interest:

- Christmas Bird Count Information
- Report of Common Goldeneye Breeding on Mainland Nova Scotia
- Summer breeding seasonal bird reports

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In 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman was disturbed, as were many conservationists, at the slaughter of birds in the annual holiday event called the "side hunt." The team that shot the most birds and other small animals was the winner.

As a protest, Chapman organized 27 friends in 25 locations on Christmas Day, 1900. Instead of shooting birds, they counted them.

Today over 45,000 people from all 50 states of the US, every Canadian province, the Caribbean, Central and South America and the Pacific Islands (all areas where the breeding birds of North America spend their winter) participate in about 1700

Christmas Bird Counts

counts held during a two and one-half week period.

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) itself has evolved into the largest and longest-running wildlife survey ever and is undertaken under the auspices of the National Audubon Society.

As an annual hemispheric early-winter bird census, Christmas Bird Count data over time in any given area can provide valuable insights into the long-term health of bird populations and the overall health of our environment.

During a CBC, volunteers count every individual bird and bird species over one calendar day (from midnight to midnight), within well-defined geographic areas.

Each bird count is a circle 15 miles in diameter — approximately 177 square miles. Bird counters try to cover as much of the circle area as possible within a 24-hour calendar day, counting each individual bird and species they see or hear in their designated sector of the circle.

Representatives from each counting group meet at the end of the day to compile the master list and eliminate double-counting of birds. Bird feeders within the circle are also censused.

Last year in Nova Scotia, a record 34 CBC's were conducted.

See below for information on participating in a Christmas Count in your area.

Nova Scotia's Christmas Counts

This year the Christmas Count Period is from Friday, December 18th through to Sunday, January 3, 1999.

Christmas Count Packages will be sent out to compilers no later than November 15th.

The Halifax-Dartmouth Count will be held Sun Dec

20, 1998 - compiler: Fulton Lavender, 455-4966.

Anyone wishing to start a new Christmas Count, participate, or have general questions can contact:

David Currie
52 Dorothy Cres.,
Timberlea, NS
B3T 1E2

Phone: (H) 876-8745
(W) 466-6096

Fax: 461-4136

Email: dacurrie@istar.ca

Results for the 1998 NS CBC will be summarized in *Nova Scotia Birds* Spring 1999 issue.

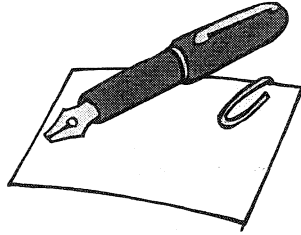


From The Editor's Desk

BY MARION ALLSEBROOK

This Autumn issue replaces the Fall Flyer of years previous. It is not a full scale issue, but it does contain the seasonal bird reports for the summer season June-July, i.e. the breeding season. This used to be merged with the fall reports in the January issue. Hopefully this has encouraged you to submit more bird reports and a better picture of the breeding season will be available, e.g. to the Maritime Nest Records Scheme (see letter to editor in Spring 1998 issue).

We have included an introduction to Christmas Bird Counts (CBC), for those who are new to birding, or are unfamiliar with this winter event.



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Randy Lauff to the *Nova Scotia Birds* Editorial Board as our new Records Compiler. We look forward to working with Randy during the coming seasons.

Reporting Deadlines

Winter 1998 issue:	Dec. 7, 1998
Spring 1999 issue:	Mar. 7, 1999
Summer 1999 issue:	June 7, 1999
Fall 1999 issue:	Aug. 7, 1999

Bird Reports to:

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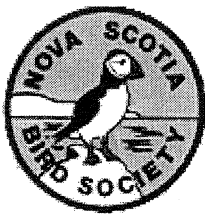
New Field Trip Co-ordinator

Fulton Lavender has agreed to serve as NSBS Field Trip Co-ordinator as of October 1, 1998. Any questions or suggestions should be directed to him at (902) 455-4966. 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. The most up-to-date schedule for Field Trips is always available on the NSBS Birdline and on the NSBS World Wide Web site.

Contact:

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Common Goldeneye Breed On Mainland NS

BY KEN MCKENNA

To those who know him, Harry Brennan, has always been one of the leaders in NS in having various species of birds use his nest boxes and platforms. One of the regular stops on Harry and Jean's treks close to their Elgin, Pict. Co. home is the Liscomb Game Sanctuary. The sanctuary is dotted with lakes and bogs, many being suitable habitat for various species of ducks. On previous occasions, Harry has had Hooded and Common Mergansers as well as Wood Ducks use his homemade nest cavities. On several occasions over the past three years, Com. Goldeneye females have been spotted in breeding season in the Honeymoon Bog area of the Sanctuary in Guys. Co. but there have been no documented breeding records for the mainland of NS (Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces – Erskine, 1992).

The presence of the Goldeneye was incentive for Harry to make a couple of boxes and trudge through the boggy areas to place these boxes in a position that would be attractive to the ducks, about 12 feet high in a conifer. A suitable liner of some witches' broom and grass was placed in the bottom of the boxes. Each year, the boxes were not occupied.

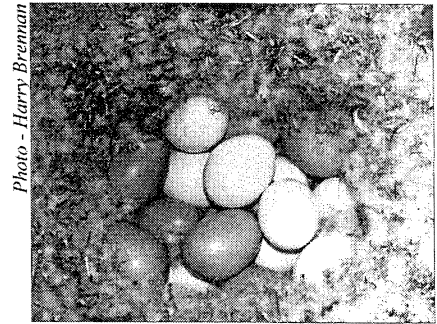
The year of 1998 was to be the reward for all the effort. On a visit to the wooden box on April 18, three eggs were present in the box. Much to

Harry's surprise, a white Hooded Merganser egg was surrounded by two pale green eggs that Harry knew were the Com. Goldeneye that he had been hoping to see in the box. On April 22, there were five Hooded Merganser and four Com. Goldeneye eggs. The female Goldeneye flushed from the nest box on April 25, revealing six Goldeneye eggs and seven Hooded eggs. The male Goldeneye was on the water near the nest.

The female Goldeneye was on the nest on the next visit on April 30 and the egg count was now up to eight Goldeneye and nine Hooded. By May 13, the female Goldeneye was incubating 11 Hooded and nine of her own species. Of the 20 eggs in total, 17 hatched — eight Com. Goldeneye and nine Hooded Mergansers. Harry had not noted the date he checked for hatching, but, Harrison's Peterson Field Guide to Birds' Nests (1975) gives incubation dates of 31 days for Hooded merganser and 28 days for Com. Goldeneye.

In the same bog, Harry had a second nest cavity, a metal box made with eight inch stove pipe. On April 29, there were four Com. Goldeneye and four Hooded Merganser eggs in the nest with the female Goldeneye nearby the nest. All the eggs hatched, but one of the hatchling Hooded Mergansers was found dead outside the egg shell.

With both boxes having a combination of eggs, one wonders if this is a com-



Goldeneye and Merganser Eggs Share a Nest in Liscomb Game Sanctuary

mon occurrence. In Bent's Life Histories of North American Waterfowl (1987) an observation by a Mr. Brewster of Maine in 1900 says that "several of the rounded pure white eggs of the Hooded Merganser are sometimes included in a set of the green, thin-shelled eggs of the whistler". The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Alberta (Semenchuk, 1992) also notes that Hooded Merganser nests may include joint efforts with wood ducks or Com. Goldeneye.

Through efforts of naturalists like Harry Brennan we get to learn a bit more about the life histories of some of our nesting birds. There are many other lakes that could probably support some of these cavity nesting ducks if suitable nesting sites were available. At the AGM of the Federation of NS Naturalists in Antigonish, I led a field trip on June 7 to Vincents Lake on Eigg Mt. and a female Goldeneye was seen swimming on the lake near some snags over the water that had suitable cavities. On June 20, Steve Vines and I noted another female Goldeneye on Vameys Lake in Pict. Co. Young ducks were not seen at either location but boxes in areas like this might very well be used by these cavity nesting ducks.

Society Joins FNSN

BY CHRIS FIELD

The Bird Society is now a member of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists (FNSN). The Executive believe it is

important that we add our voices to the Federation since we share common goals and values in promoting the understanding and enjoyment of nature, and the conservation of habitat. Indi-

vidual members of the Society can join the Federation for \$5. You can include the fee when you send in your Bird Society renewal or send a cheque for \$5 payable to the NS Bird Society to the membership secretary

Breeding Season Reports

This issue marks the beginning of a new feature for *Nova Scotia Birds* — breeding or summer seasonal reports. We hope this note and the appearance of this new addition to the traditional “Fall Flyer” will encourage observers to send in their reports for the summer months.

Most are on holidays of one sort or another, and at interesting places: an ideal opportunity to keep records of the breeding activities of our avian communities (but no peeping Toms we — only “observers”!). The observer reports for this first attempt were limited, although

containing some very interesting rarities. We are hopeful that these small beginnings will encourage more active reporting. It is, after all, the most important of seasons.

Weather Report

BY LARRY BOGAN

It is not news to the readers that this was a dry summer. The Annapolis Valley area was the hardest hit of any region of Nova Scotia. Unfortunately, I still do not have statistics for other regions of the province. I live in Cambridge Station in the center of the Valley and when there are thundershowers over the Southern Uplands and other regions, we don't see a drop. Rainfall can be quite variable throughout the province since one shower can provide several millimeters of rain. I spend a fair amount of time at Stanley in Hants Co. and am always surprised to find no

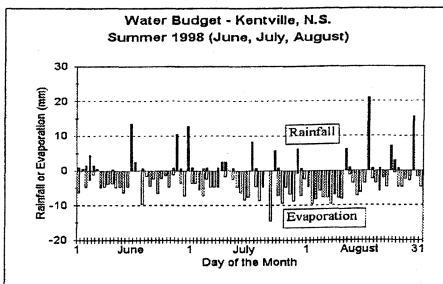


Figure 1 – Rainfall and Evaporation

rain at home when there had been abundant showers at Stanley.

July was the driest month (31 mm of rain) with no day having as much as 10 mm. Rain was more abundant in June and August but still far below normal. The accumulated rainfall for the season was less than 60% of the 37-year average. Evaporation statistics are collected

for comparison with the rainfall. The drop of the level of water in an open pan provides this measurement. I have included these daily measurements in

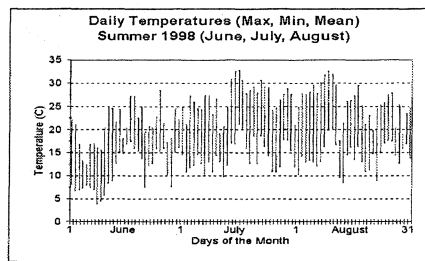


Figure 2 – Temperatures

the graph of the water budget for Kentville, N.S. Evaporation far exceeds rainfall every summer and this year it was 240 mm greater than the 127 mm of rain. Evaporation statistics have not been kept long enough to provide a 37 year average but over the last 5 years it was 434 mm compared with 377 mm for this summer.

We had a warm summer, which pro-

duced a mean temperature 1 C above the 37-year average. June was normal but July and August were 1.0 and 1.5 C above average respectively. Also shown is a graph of the daily temperature extremes for the season. Two things to note: (1) Early June had consistently cool weather (and cloudy) while (2) the period from mid-July to mid-August had a fair number of days with maximums above 30C.

Despite our warm summer, it was not sunnier than normal. June was so cloudy (3/4 of average) that the excess sun in July and August only just made up for the deficit. It is easy to forget that only the second week in June had any consistently sunny days and it was not until mid-July and early August that we had the sunny weather. During late August we had a fair amount of cloud and by the end of the growing season we began to get substantial rainfall. The grass on my lawn was at its best at the end of the summer season.

	Mean Temp C	Rain Fall (mm)	Evap (mm)	Bright Sun (Hours)
June	15.9	51	98	163
(37yr ave)	16.0	69		212
July	20.4	31	139	254
(37yr ave)	19.3	72		231
August	20.0	55	140	251
(37yr ave)	18.5	93		215
Period	18.8	137	377	668
(37yr ave)	17.9	234		658
	+0.9	58.5%		101.5%

Table I – Historical Comparison

Loons Through Grebes

BY FRED DOBSON

A COMMON LOON at the Head of St. Margarets Bay was seen on the nest of choice — in plain view of the motoring world of the S. Shore — again this June and July. No reports are available of the presence of young. Two adults with young were observed June 10 at Murphy L. (off New Ross Rd.) for the “first time in several

years” (MAT, JAC) and two pairs June-August at Marion Bridge and Sydney Hbr., CB Co. (DBM).

Six PIED-BILLED GREBES were reported July 4 at Goose Cr. Marsh, Glenwood (JKD), and one July 17 “in breeding plumage” at Harris Pond, Canning, Kings Co. (JCT). Although HORNED GREBES are normally far to the north in the summer, a

few usually summer in the region. A single male in full breeding plumage was seen June 26 at the Causeway (Fishermens Reserve) at Three Fathom Hbr. (RDS) and another or the same bird July 23 in a stream near Shore Dr. in Bedford at the head of Bedford Basin (JWW). A single RED-NECKED GREBE was observed July 10 at Tor Bay, Guys. Co. “not in full alternate plumage ... perhaps a non-breeding straggler” (SJF).

Tubenoses Through Cormorants

BY BLAKE MAYBANK

N. Fulmar are not usually seen in the Bay of Fundy past last June, so a single bird off Brier I. July 17 (KEM, CAB) was notable. From the limited number of reports of pelagic species it's difficult to draw defensible conclusions, but SOOTY SHEARWATERS again continued to be scarce, outnumbered 200:1 by GREATER SHEARWATERS in the Bay of Fundy (daily counts in single digits, *fide* CAH), and but one on W. Bank in late July (IAM). The best count was 100+ off the eastern tip of

Sable I. June 21 (ZOL). Many more are typically seen off Newfoundland, but the recent low counts in Nova Scotian waters suggests that the species' overall numbers may be down. WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS were similarly scarce, with only five seen off Sable I., and the same number on the W. Bank (*fide* IAM), although some trips in the Bay of Fundy found them more numerous (e.g. 100+ July 19, KEM, CAB), but still down overall.

JAC reports that numbers of DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS are down

in Sydney and Northwest Arm Hbr., but didn't provide any numbers for scale. JWW and PAM tallied 140+ nests at the Pictou Causeway colony, but I have no way of knowing if this constitutes and increase, decrease, or a stable colony. I'd guess this simply means that all available space was being used, as from my memory of previous visits, there didn't seem to be anywhere that particular colony could expand — every piling was in use. Some colonies have disappeared however, as JWW notes that none are now nesting at the tip of Cape Split.

Hérons And Relatives

BY IAN MCLAREN



Although there was only one report of AM. BITTERN (June 22, Yar. Co., JKD), I saw flying individuals in four localities during July. Just as uninformative was a single report of GREAT BLUE HERON; their fall gatherings will evoke more interest. This was a record summer for LITTLE BLUE HERONS. Probably the adult at Louisbourg June 15 (SEM) was one of last spring's Cape Breton birds. The rest were immatures, the later of which were probably reverse-migrant fledglings. A “molting imm.” reached Sable I. June 8 (ZOL). Less daring were up to three June 23-July 26 at Beach Meadows, Queens Co. (*fide* RDS), another near Port Joli (A. Dean), probably two in the general vicinity of Lunenburg, late June-through July (CLS, ELM, var. obs.), and one from late July around Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co. (var. obs.). Finally, an imm. at Cherry Hill Beach

July 15-28 had, oddly, “pure white primary tips” (SJF). A TRI-COLORED HERON was a rarer find at Louisbourg, June 4 (JUM). It is surprising that the only GREAT EGRET reported turned up near inland Frasers Mills, Ant. Co., July 7 (RFL), and that no news of SNOWY EGRETS reached me. A GREEN HERON at Lr. Woods Hbr. in late June (var. obs., *fide* MUN) highlights the potential for nesting here by these small beauties. As usual, a few BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS could always be found on CSI and a moderately extralimital one was near Church Pt., Digby Co., July 18 (KJM). Up to five imm. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS were on Sable Island July 27-28 (ZOL). In addition one was found newly dead July 24 and another less recently so July 31. These were all carefully diagnosed by ZOL. We had no mainland reports until after the reporting period.

New World Vultures

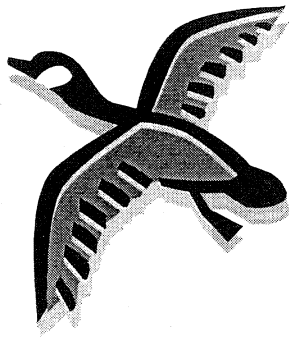
BY IAN MCLAREN

There are indications that TURKEY VULTURES nest here, but no proof as yet. Up to

seven near Nictaux, Ann. Co., July 21 apparently included some immatures (*vide* JCT). And, outmatching the ones and twos found elsewhere in Kings Co. during July,

at least nine (apparently all ad.) were roosting at the Fraser farm in Glenmount July 16 (*vide* JCT). Certainly North Mt. has enough wild, craggy places for nestings.

Waterfowl



BY FRED DOBSON

The most unusual (and well-documented) bird among the waterfowl was the single adult BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK, mentioned in the last issue. It has been seen through July and beyond at Church Pt., Digby Co. by a wide variety of observers. The following is from IAM.

"Here is what we've discovered about the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck that arrived at Church Pt., Digby Co., in late April and at time of writing is still in the area. The last issue noted that some of these birds migrate into the SE U.S. in April and that it was wary at first, later coming with wild Am. Black Ducks for handouts at a pond behind the Gustave Thibodeau residence. Unlike the Fulvous Whistling-Duck, which appeared in flocks in New Brunswick in 1961, and in Nova Scotia in 1976 (see Tufts), the Black-bellied has not had a long history of wandering. However, the situation may be changing. Until recent years, the bird was little known beyond its breeding range in Arizona and Texas and since 1993 in Arkansas. More recently it has begun to breed and spread rapidly in Florida. In the last few years there have been records of wandering birds in such places as Pennsylvania, Iowa, Virginia, W. Virginia, and Nevada. More pertinently, a

flock of 10 in Québec in early June 93 was considered of indeterminate origin in David's (1996) annotated checklist of Québec birds. However, flocks of nine in June and July 1993 in N. Ontario and 12 in S. Ontario late May 1994 have been accepted as natural vagrants by the Ontario Checklist committee (Ron Pittiway, pers. comm.). This spring, there has been a published mention of birds in Iowa and Wisconsin, and Internet inquiries indicate that one appeared for the first time in Georgia earlier this summer.

Of course, the alternative is that our Nova Scotia bird was an escapee from a waterfowl collection. The bird was of the expected northern race; South American birds would clearly be escapees. The fact that the bird became somewhat tame may not mitigate against its natural origin. Brush Freeman, of the Texas Bird Records Committee, e-mailed that Texas birds are often approachable to within 8-10m, and readily adapt to handouts. Inquiries suggest that none are kept in Nova Scotia and a "leaky" waterfowl collection on Grand Manan I., NB, infamous source of previous waterfowl exotics, has apparently closed down (B. Dalzell, pers. comm.). A wider search of web sources indicates that the bird is indeed widespread in North American waterfowl collections, although said to need shelter in the coldest months even in Missouri. None of a dozen or so web-listed wildfowl suppliers included it in their offerings. One correspondent indicated that escapees are usually young birds not yet pinioned. One young bird turned up recently in Vancouver. Ours was an adult. So, although a captive origin cannot be excluded, the evidence suggests that this bird could well have arrived here from wild stock. Although Florida birds are pushing northward, the recent Midwestern U.S. occurrences suggest that southwestern birds have wandered more extensively. One might

speculate that our bird was one of those."

A MUTE SWAN, "a single yearling (?) from the Bedford brood of 1997" (JWW, see also see last issue) was still present up to July 7 in the New Minas sewage ponds.

A pair of GADWALLS was reported June 7 at Conrad Beach (IAM). The only report of the AM. BLACK DUCK, our most common breeder, comes from Sable I., where ZOL reports "several adults + 44+ young". There are more reports of the MALLARD. "Several adults + 13+ young" were seen in June on Sable I. (ZOL). An interesting speculation comes from JWW: "June: Abundant (more than Blacks) with many large broods (likewise for Blacks)" at New Minas & Port Williams Sewage Ponds. "I think these sewage ponds will hasten the gradual predicted demise of the Black Duck. Incidentally, why are the Mallard and the Black Duck still separate species and not lumped? Aren't they nearly genetically identical?"

A single pair of BLUE-WINGED TEAL was seen late May - early June at Southside Boularderie, Vic. Co. "in the pasture pond/grass-hummock swamp. About July 10th, seven appeared, seemingly their full diminutive size, in the ditch in front of our house. A clogged pipe under the driveway formed a pond. Overhanging bushy hardwood, a couple of spruce and lots of cattails gave great hiding places. They would sometimes climb out on the gravel shoulder and waddle up the road. They spent their time between the pasture pond and the ditch and disappeared about 6th Aug. They were quite accustomed to our constant coming and going, even walking 2' away from them did not send them into hiding" (Roberta Fraser).

There are three sightings of the N. SHOVELER in the period. From June 1-8 two

males were at the New Minas sewage ponds, and a pair at the Canning sewage ponds (JWW). A pair was "still at Conrad Beach" June 7 (IAM). "Numerous adults" of the N. PINTAIL were seen in June on Sable I. (ZOL). The RING-NECKED DUCK, although a common breeder in NS, was reported only twice (are numbers down this year?). Twenty-two were at Canard Pond, Kings Co., July 7 and a male was at the Port Williams sewage ponds July 27 (JCT).

We received evidence that at least one TUFTED DUCK stayed into summer, the first ever reported to have done so. From May 30-June 16, an "adult male, glossy head, yellow eye, white sides, obvious tuft at back of head, bluish bill, broad black nail." was seen at the barachois, Fortress of Louisburg National Historic Site, CB Co. (DBM, SEM). Just as interesting is the fact that it was consorting with a fem. GREATER SCAUP June 13. "Apparently larger than male Tufted based on side-by-side comparison; especially noticeable was the heft of the bill, heavier than the Tufted's and head also apparently larger. Body size was not as noticeably larger. Watched closely for more than one hour while preening, in the wind, while sitting after dives and no sign of any tuft on back of head. In these views could see water droplets on feathers through Kowa scopes. Eye was a light yellow, not a bright

yellow. Very obvious ear patch behind and below eye. Obvious light/white patch at base of bill. Base colour of head was a medium to light brown. Brownish overall colour with lighter sides and somewhat darker on sides at rear end. Lighter ring around base of neck. Chest with hints of chestnut. All of the above point to a Greater Scaup. The only hint of Tufted was from looking at the bill from the top. A fairly large nail, but not quite as large as the Tufted, with a light area directly behind the nail. Therefore my conclusion is Greater Scaup, with a remote possibility of hybrid Greater Scaup/Tufted Duck" (DBM).

COMMON EIDERS, 100+ were at Middle W. Pubnico July 6 (JKD). 200+, "lots of adults with groups of ducklings," were at Pond Cove, Brier I. July 11,12 (RBS). Of course, vast rafts are known to molt off Shel. Co., but we have no reports of these. Small numbers of SCOTERS are routine through summer along the Atlantic coast and in Northumberland Str., and we received a few reports of these. Between five and 26 SURF SCOTER were at the South Bar, Sydney Hbr., CB Co. through July (DBM, SEM, RWK), and a single adult was at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., July 9 (ELM). One WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was also seen at the South Bar, Sydney Hbr., CB Co. through the month of July (DBM, SEM, RWK). A single BLACK SCOTER, molt-

ing but with a conspicuous orange bill, was at the South Bar, Sydney Hbr., C.B. Co. through July (DBM, SEM, RWK).

A single male BUFFLEHEAD was seen late May to mid-June at the Louisburg barachois (DBM, SEM). A late COM. GOLDENEYE was at the Canning sewage ponds June 1 (JWW). This duck, one of the easiest to find out of the breeding season, has yielded a first provincial breeding record. This was established by Harry Brennan, and was peculiar in that the female laid eggs that hatched in a HOODED MERGANSER nest - a "not uncommon trick for Goldeneye." (KJM). (See the complete account by KJM and photo by Harry Brennan.) Other than that on the Goldeneye's nest mate, no mergansers were reported, although doubtless they were common enough in the usual places.

The RUDDY DUCK in full breeding plumage is a sight to behold. A "nice adult male with bright blue bill and ruddy back, wings and underparts" was seen by JWW, RBS *et al.* June 12-24 at the New Minas sewage plant.

There is a "moral" to this report: duckwatchers should spend a lot of time at sewage ponds!

Diurnal Raptors Through Rallids



BY IAN MCLAREN

We received only one report of a successful OSPREY nest with two large young at Cameron L. on the Medway R. (RDS). The Halifax Public Gardens birds evidently didn't bring it off. A late migrant N. HARRIER

was on Sable I. June 2 (ZOL). Summering ad. BALD EAGLES, now found widely on the mainland, can be generally assumed to be breeding nearby. We received explicit evidence from Kings Co., where the Wallbrook nest had at least one and the White Rock nest two large young June 21, and where two young had fledged from the Greenwich nest in early July (JWW). The usual pair at Economy raised three young, after having their nest collapse of its own weight last winter, and their site restored by a grate placed by the Power Company (FLS). More surprising was circumstantial evidence of nearby nesting on the St. Marys Bay side of Long I.; in early August a fledged young was attended by two adults. Adults had been seen there in past summers (CAH *et al.*). The only re-

ported *Accipiter* was a nice ad. N. GOSHAWK circling over Wallace Bay Wildlife Refuge June 19 (RBS). As usual, a I saw or heard of a few BROAD-WINGED HAWKS soaring over highways, but only one was formally reported. As we noted in the last issue, Wolfville is not the only urban setting where RED-TAILED HAWKS have taken to nesting on buildings. Several U.S. towns and cities now boast them, notably the pair near Central Park, Manhattan. The three nestlings on University Hall in Wolfville took their "maiden flights" June 24, but at least one was still food-begging July 30 (var. obs., *fide* JWW). Another pair evidently held territory south of the campus (JWW). An ad. GOLDEN EAGLE soaring over Apple R. was a surprise treat for five NSBS field trippers June 6. It was well ob-

served for 4-5 min. by JCZ, JRM, MSM, FLS, and ABM before it headed s.e. towards Advocate. It was meticulously described by ABM, who passed along a quip she heard during a 1996 eagle count in the Rockies: "A Bald Eagle is like a pickup truck, but a Golden Eagle is like a Porche." We received no reports of breeding AM. KESTRELS, but MERLINS continue to be very noticeable; they are often noisy in summer. One pair frequented dense conifers south of the Acadia campus in Wolfville, and probably fledged young around July 11; presumably it was one of this pair that made unsuccessful passes at the Wolfville swifts June 5 and 19 (JWW). Another pair fledged three young July 12 from a nest atop a pine near the Kentville hospital (RBS). Two pairs nested successfully in the Economy area (FLS). Two adults and three immatures were at Pt. Edwards (JAC), and there was an active pair in s.w. Halifax during June-July (sev. obs.). Less urban pairs were tending two fledged young near Blue Rocks, Lun. Co., July 26

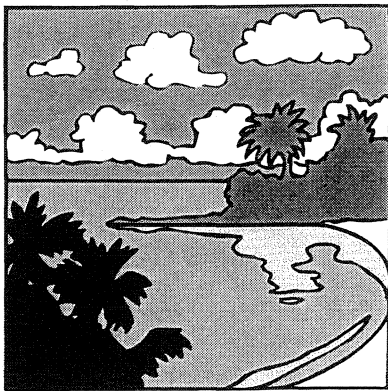
(ELM), and at least one fledgling was at Goldboro, Guys. Co., July 22 (IAM). Mark Elderkin (NS DNR) indicates that this summer there were three nests of PEREGRINE FALCONS in the upper Bay of Fundy of the province, with at least one young fledged from each of two nests, and two young from the third. There was one nest there in 1996 and none in 1997. An inexperienced imm. bird delighted 30 participants on a BNS-NSBS field trip July 25 at Evangeline Beach as it stirred up some 60,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers without achieving a kill.

Only one report was received on the commonplace RING-NECKED PHEASANT, but it's good that at least two GRAY PARTRIDGE were near Truro June 10 (FLL *et al.*), despite spring floods and the plowing of one of their favoured overgrown fields. SPRUCE GROUSE broods of four and five were noted in Kejimikujik N.P. (*fide* PEH) and another with young was at Louisbourg in mid-July (*fide* DBM). They are more wide-

spread and common than we think, but it requires some painful bushwhacking in wet black spruce tickets to turn them up. Such effort, as reported by FLL, turned up a dozen individuals in Hfx. Co. (10 in the N. Dartmouth area), in addition to broods in Mid. Musquodoboit and Admiral Rock, Col. Co. No one thought to report on RUFFED GROUSE numbers or trends.

Doubtless VIRGINIA RAILS were heard calling elsewhere, but the only report was by FLL and CLS of one June 10 at L. Egmont; they also ticked SORA at the same time and place. The Soras at Harris' Pond, Canning, hatched at least two young (JCT). The rallid of the summer was of course the errant PURPLE GALLINULE discovered July 19 by golfers at a pond on the Hartlen Pt. course and remaining until the 25th to be ticked by numbers of happy birders (see photo).

Shorebirds



BY SYLVIA FULLERTON

Shorebird observations for the summer period, June to July, constituted a mixed bag. Included were not only reports of our nesting species but also northbound and early-fall southbound migrants, and any non-breeding birds which had lingered in the area. All reports indicated a normal migration, both in timing and variety. Numbers were respectable, perhaps a reflection of more widespread reporting.

Two southbound adult BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS appeared on schedule July 15 at Cherry Hill. Four were at South Bar, Sydney Hbr. July 26 and by the end of the month numbers were increasing, with a peak of 35 at the Windsor causeway July 30 (DBM, SEM, JCT). An enigmatic AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER showed up at CSI June 28, making it impossible to determine if it were a "late spring" or "early fall" migrant, or a non-breeding individual (MUN). Another or the same bird, not described, was seen there July 19 (ELM, IAM). A single SEMIPALMATED PLOVER formed the vanguard at Cherry Hill July 10. Thirty reached CSI by July 19 and seven were seen at South Bar July 21 (ELM, IAM, DBM). Forty, an increase over previous years, were at Brier I. July 25 (JKD). Maximum counts included 100 at Evangeline Beach and 120 at Cherry Hill July 31 (JCT, SJF). The only report of breeding success, or lack thereof, came from Sable I., where,

sadly, none were observed nesting, and where there had been 20 pairs in 1995 (ZOL). Interim reports of PIPING PLOVER breeding success came from only two locations. RFL and MZG reported that at Pomquet Beach, Ant. Co. July 5 there were four adults with no young, the nests having likely been washed away in a recent storm, and another two pairs with seven young between them. By erecting signs and roping off the area, James Hirtle and Pat McLarty were largely responsible for a single pair's success at Cherry Hill, where three juveniles were doing well July 31. KILLDEER breeding success was probably considered too mundane to report or went unnoticed.

The pair of AMERICAN OYSTER-CATCHERS, which nested unsuccessfully at CSI, was nevertheless still maintaining site-fidelity at the end of the reporting period, suggesting a likely return for another attempt next year. Two cycling tourists from the U.S. saw a single individual June 17 at Redhead

(near Rossway on Digby Neck) (*fide* PLC).

Undoubtedly the most unusual shorebird of the season was the imm. fem. **BLACK-NECKED STILT** (*see photo*) which appeared at Lower W. Pubnico June 28 and provided the fifth record for the Province (JKD, var. obs.). It was seen in a drained lobster pound, and remained for several hours until flushed by a child. It was not seen again, disappointing those of us who arrived after it had flown.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS seen in one's and two's along the coast, such as those reported from Pt. Edward, Round Bay, and Cherry Hill in late June and early July, were probably all non-breeders (JAC, var. obs.). Territorial calls were heard June 24 on the Bog Trail, CBHNP, an established nesting site (DBM). Six at Port Morien July 8 and four at Wolfville Hbr. July 16 were probably early migrants (RDM, BBT). Fifty individuals counted July 19 at CSI were a notable concentration for so early in the season (ELM, IAM). The peak count for Harris' Pond, Canning was 14 July 27 (JCT). **LESSER YELLOWLEGS** were widespread and abundant. Six put in an appearance at South Bar July 5 and increased to 32 by July 21 (DBM, SEM, RWK). Other relatively high counts included 20 July 11 & 12 at Pond Cove, Brier I.; 70 by July 20 (RBS, KJM, CGB); 20 July 19 at CSI (ELM, IAM); and 10 July 26 at Beach Meadows, Queens Co. (RDS).

The earliest **SOLITARY SANDPIPER** was at Blanche July 19 (MUN). Two individuals were spotted in a farm pond in the Margaree Valley July 29, and two were at Paquette L., CBHNP July 31, "behaving as a nesting pair, in appropriate habitat," (BLM *et al.*) This provides further evidence of possible breeding in CB, but unfortunately confirmation is still needed. **WILLETS** assemble early for departure and most adults are gone by the end of July. Fifty were at Pond Cove, Brier I. July 11 & 12, with a notable high there of 100 by July 20. Other relatively high counts

were 75 at CSI July 19 and 50+ at both Evangeline Beach and the Windsor causeway July 25. **SPOTTED SANDPIPERS** thrived. In just one area, at South Bar, up to ten pairs and several downy young were noted throughout July (DBM). The **UPLAND SANDPIPER** was absent from our grasslands during the reporting period. Does anyone, I wonder, ever check the airports, which provide such favorable breeding habitat further south.

Few **WHIMBRELS** were noted. The first to appear was at CSI July 5, followed by two at Port Morien July 8 (MUN, RDM). Maximum count was 10 at CSI July 19 (ELM, IAM). A **HUDSONIAN GODWIT** at CSI July 5 and four July 8 at Port Morien were on schedule (MUN, RDM). Other than the 20 at CSI July 20 (MUN) most reports were of single birds. The **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** that graced Cherry Hill June 8-13 should have been included in this issue rather than the Summer Issue, but at least the photo taken by IAM is included here.

RUDDY TURNSTONES, when they do appear in July, are usually few in number so the 15 which were seen July 20 at Brier I. and the 39 at South Bar July 26 may indicate a somewhat early migration. The status of the **RED KNOT** remains a mystery and reports are typical for the period: seven at CSI July 5; one at Port Morien July 8, three at CSI and four on Sable I. July 19; ten on Brier I. and one at Cherry Hill July 20. The seven **SANDERLINGS** seen at Cherry Hill July 15 were the first to be noted. Numbers were average for the early migration period: 65 at CSI July 19; 15 at Brier I. and 35 at Cherry Hill July 20. As early as July 19 there were over 1000 **SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS** at CSI. On July 20 up to 600 were on Brier I. Numbers increased at the traditional stopover areas and by July 25 up to 70,000 individuals were at Evangeline Beach and by July 30 25,000 was the estimate at the Windsor causeway (JCT *et al.*). Few **LEAST SANDPIPERS** were reported; are they being overlooked or are they, indeed, as

scarce as they seem? What is the status of the Sable birds and those that had once established tiny toeholds elsewhere? The status at Round Bay is still ambiguous, only two individuals were seen June 23 (DHY). Three migrants first appeared July 3 in the marshy edges at Cherry Hill and by July 21 a maximum count of 40 was tallied at South Bar (DBM, SEM, RWK). The **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** is a late migrant so it is not surprising that only a few showed up before the end of July. MUN saw two July 26 at CSI and RBS reported "quite a few" July 28 scattered amongst the huge flocks of Semipalmated Sandpipers at Grand Pré.

One **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** was on the early side July 26 & 27 on Sable I. (ZOL). A **PURPLE SANDPIPER** on the Bird I., off CB June 7 was late, but not unprecedented (Jeff Garner, *fide* BLM). It is a mystery why **STILT SANDPIPERS** turn up in specific areas and not others where the habitat "looks" equally inviting. CSI seems to suit them and an ad. was there July 19 (ELM, IAM). On July 16 one was at Blue Rocks and another at South Bar (FLL, DBM *et al.*). The one **RUFF**, a Reeve, of the season was at Three Fathom Hbr. July 12. Found by Bev Sarty and Peter MacLeod it was later seen by IAM who saw it flushed by a Merlin. **SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS** arrived as usual at Cherry Hill July 3. By July 5 300 were at CSI and had increased to 600+ by July 19 (MUN, ELM, IAM). Other peak counts included the 300+ at both Brier I. and the Windsor causeway July 25 & 26 (RDS, JCT).

COMMON SNIPE were not noted, except for the one RBS saw displaying near Kentville June 16.

Unusual was a juv. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**, well described, on Sable I. July 31 (ZOL). IAM photographed a fem. **RED PHALAROPE** in alternate plumage ashore at Hartlen Pt. June 14. It looked "poorly", otherwise it would have been in its normal habitat, foraging at sea.

Gulls Through Alcids

BY BLAKE MAYBANK



Only one SKUA was sighted on the Sable I. Bank (July 30, IAM) this year. Contrast that to a year ago, when there were regular sightings, at least 10 of which were identified as South Polar. Jaegers were scarce in the Bay of Fundy, with only a couple of birds seen, and those not identified to species. ZOL had 10 PARASITIC JAEGERs off Sable I. June 10, and our only other jaeger report was two POMARINES from the Cabot Strait ferry July 8 (RDM, *et al.*)

If it weren't for ZOL on Sable Island, there'd be almost no gulls to discuss.

The infamous, and frustratingly inaccessible **BLACK-TAILED GULL**, reappeared on Sable I. in late April for its second summer in our fair province, and was seen on and off through the end of July. ZOL counted as many as five **LAUGHING GULLS** on Sable I. June 7 - July 31, and elsewhere singles were off Brier I. June 7 (an immature bird, CAH), and an unaged bird at Middle W. Pubnico July 6 (DCD, JKD *et al.*). There was a remarkable sighting of a first-summer **LITTLE GULL** at Jersey Cove, by the Englishtown Ferry, July 9 (RDM, DBM, *et al.*), a reminder to us all to never stop checking gulls, even in the dog days of early July. An adult **BLACK-HEADED GULL** July 7-9 on Sable I. (ZOL) is unprecedented for the time of year, and raises hopes that the species might eventually begin breeding in Nova Scotia (small colonies already exist on Newfoundland and Îles de la Madelene). Summer **BONA-PARTE'S GULLS** away from the Northumberland shore are now routine, although the following late July sightings may pertain to early migration: an imm. on Sable I. July 26-27 (ZOL), and an adult and two first-summer birds at

Cherry Hill July 28-31 (SJF). ZOL found our only **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** this summer, an individual on Sable I. June 14, with a plumage matching that of a second-winter bird, despite the time of year.

The only rare tern reported this summer was a **GULL-BILLED TERN** at Cherry Hill Beach June 29-30 (SJF *et al.*). There are but 10 or 11 previous occurrences in the province. The only **CASPIAN TERNS** were two seen at the Pictou Causeway June 9 (CWH). TCD continues his superlative work with the terns nesting on The Brothers, near W. Pubnico, and the number of nesting pair this year were estimated at: **ROSEATE TERN** - 35, **ARCTIC TERN** - 60, and **COMMON TERN** - 300. Only one pair of Roseates returned to their former colony on Kitchen I. (Guys. Co.), but some of the former breeding pairs were reported as having nested nearby. For the second time in four years, a **THICK-BILLED MURRE** overwintered in Cape Breton, this time at East Bay, not far (as the murre flies) from Baddeck, the site of the earlier occurrence (*fide* DBM).

A Puzzler

This white finch was flushed from a roadside ditch June 9 near E. Port Medway, Queens Co., by IAM and JOW returning from a trip to see the Bar-tailed Godwit. As it seemed to have a little yellow wash on the upper breast, they first thought it might be an albinistic Am. Goldfinch. It was somewhat wary, and did not seem to have the partly grown plumage of a recent fledgling. But, its weak, fluttery flight (note its short, rounded wings and tail) suggested that it might be an escaped cagebird. Any guesses?

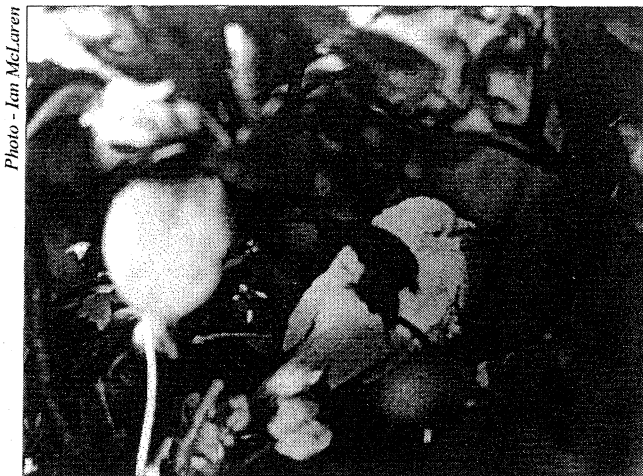
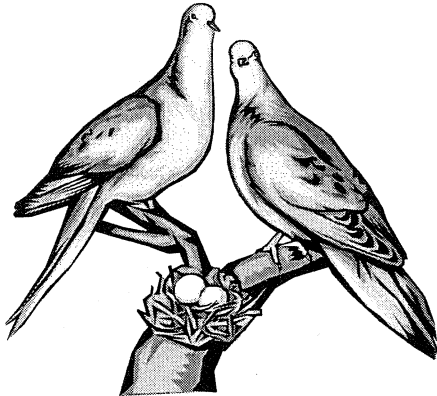


Photo - Ian McLaren

Doves Through Woodpeckers

BY IAN MCLAREN



The Louisbourg **WHITE-WINGED DOVE** reported in the last issue was not seen after June 7 (*vide* SEM). Nothing was submitted on nestings of **MOURNING DOVES**, but a concentration of 42 at E. Pubnico July 16 (JKD) indicates that they still flourish there. There was brief excitement with a second-hand report by PEH of an apparent **RINGED TURTLE-DOVE** near Kempt, Queens Co., beginning in late July. This is because the similar, but "tickable", Eur. Collared Dove is spreading rapidly and wandering widely from its Florida beachhead. However, the Kempt bird turned out to have indeed been a Ringed Turtle-Dove escaped from a local aviary. Another more evident escapee with trimmed flight feathers turned up at Cole Hbr. (*vide* BAH). A singing **BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** was noted near Kejimikujik N.P. in late June by CAS. More surprising were late spring "overshoots" of **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS** - one in Armdale June 2 (JOW), and another at Barrington June 7 (MUN). They are regular only in fall.

GREAT HORNED OWLS not reported, but were doubtless heard here and there. An owl tale comes from Ted D'Eon. Two of his acquaintances, while fishing June 9 on the Barrington R. near Great Pubnico L., were entertained by a bold **BARRED OWL**. First the owl grabbed and flew off with a fish

hooked by Franklyn Surette, dropping it when the line tightened. Next the owl tried the same with a fish hooked by Ellis d'Entremont, and was thwarted only when the fish was jerked from its grasp! Two broods of this owl were noted in Kejimikujik N.P. this summer (PEH). More exciting was a **LONG-EARED OWL** family of two ad. and probably four clumsily flying young found July 9 by RFL and JWW at a woodlot south-east of Canning. This secretive species is probably more widespread than we suppose; this June, FLL and CLS heard them near Burnside and Admiral Rock in Col. Co., and at Egmont, Hfx. Co. At least four **SAW-WHET OWLS** were calling around Carrolls Corner, Hfx. Co., June 10 (FLL *et al.*).

There were no reports of **COM NIGHT-HAWK** apart from a single bird over Wolfville July 6 (JWW) and four in the Sydney area July 31 (DBM). Usually they begin flocking before the end of July. This species may be in trouble. It has all but disappeared from eastern U.S. towns and cities, evidently with the spectacular increase in urban crows and perhaps with the less frequent construction of graveled roofs. The same may be true in Nova Scotia, although it does favour young clearcuts here, which are hardly in short supply. The traditional **WHIP-POOR-WILL** had returned to Herring Cove by early June (FLL). In addition, one in late May was calling at a new location along the Hammonds Plains Rd. (CLS), and another was calling at L. Egmont June 10 (FLL, CLS). These paltry few are nevertheless more than have been reported in years.

As usual, our **CHIMNEY SWIFT** spectacles were well documented by JWW (for himself and others including notably BBT, JCT). At the Robie Tufts Centre chimney in Wolfville, big counts included 511 June 5, 433 next night, 365 June 8, 310 next night, and 150 June 12 and 18. Counts of up to 93-97 were noted in July. Even more impressive were the 639 entering the Middleton High School chimney June 8 (BBT). Finally, flocks entering the Oakdene School chim-

ney, Bear R., included 283 June 10 and 415 June 16 (Rebecca Ellis, Valerie Richard). Although it is sad to report that the traditional nesting stump in Black R. Lake has now rotted (BLF), all certainly seems to be well with our swifts.

As usual, **RUBY-THROATED HUMMING-BIRDS** were taken for granted by most who enjoy their garden visits; only JAC noted some seven pairs in the Sydney area. Presumably no news is good news. Of interest was a "pearly-greyish white hummingbird with the back somewhat darker gray" coming to feeders of Maureen deMoine, some 10 km. outside Port Hawkesbury in early June (*vide* Kerstin Mueller). Presumably it was a albinistic Ruby-throated.

In Cape Breton during June and July, three pairs of **BELTED KINGFISHERS** were noted around Pt. Edward, and a pair around Westmount (JAC). I got the impression that they were more common than usual around the province.

Apparently a wandering **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER** frequented w. end Halifax through June and July, occasionally visiting a Henry St. feeder (*vide* CLS). Nothing can be made out of a single report of **DOWNY** and none of **HAIRY WOODPECKERS**. Two **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS** were found in Kejimikujik N.P. July 19 (PEH), and doubtless more were about, judging from belated reports of eight birds seen by FLL *et al.* during May in Hfx. and Lun. Co. One nest with young was found near South Branch, Col. Co. (FLL). I found young **N. FLICKERS** especially evident along roads in late July, but no one else commented. The only **PILEATED WOODPECKERS** reported were a pair at Irish Cove, Rich. Co., but I'm sure others were seen on our rambles.

Flycatchers Through Vireos

BY ERIC MILLS

Of course there are birds about through the doldrums of summer, ranging from late migrants and strays to breeders, as the summer's reports of these groups reveal. A late migrant OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER was on Sable I. June 21 (ZOL). The first was at Kejimikujik N.P. June 2 (TAD, *fide* PEH). Elsewhere there were reports from Londonderry and the Debert area, both in Col. Co., June 4 (BLM), of four on a breeding bird survey, Pt. Michaud, Rich. Co., June 22 (DBM), one on North Mt., Inv. Co., June 25 (DBM), and one singing in Blomidon P.P., Kings Co., June 28 (RBS). Another late migrant was an E. WOOD PEWEE on Sable I. June 19 (ZOL), and just over a month later a post-breeding wander was on Long I., Digby Co., July 26 (JKD). The first was found in Kejimikujik N.P. May 23 (TAD, *fide* PEH). Our only other record was the singing male recorded at Irish Cove, Rich. Co. on July 2-3 (DBM).

Among the empidonaxes, YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS were reported only from Cape Breton. There were 27 on a breeding bird survey around Pt. Michaud, Rich. Co. on June 22 (DBM). Another 32 were seen on

French Mt., Vic. Co., during the Pleasant Bay BBS June 25 (DBM). An additional 42 were heard singing during three days of surveys on a 15 km transect through the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site, CB Co., in late June (DBM). A single bird was observed on the Cape North tower road July 30 (BLM). IAM commented of only two ALDER FLYCATCHERS heard singing at Hartlen Pt., Hfx Co., June 2 (the day they were first seen in Kejimikujik N.P. - TAD, *fide* PEH), that numbers seemed lower than in previous years. But BLM found them abundant in the Debert-Londonderry area, Col. Co., June 4 and SJF noted that 62 on a BBS in Guys. and Ant. Co's June 11 was well above a 30-year average. Numbers in coastal Lunenburg Co. into July seemed normal to high (ELM). A late migrant "Traill's" Flycatcher on Sable I. June 25 (ZOL) was probably, though not necessarily, an Alder. The summer's only reported WILLOW FLYCATCHER was found June 10 singing near L. Egmont, Hfx. Co., by FLL, CLS, *et al.* (details from FLL).

E. PHOEBES do breed regularly in parts of the province, but the only report is of a nest with 3-4 day-old young in White Rock, Kings Co., July 14 (JWW, JAT). One GREAT-CRESTED

FLYCATCHER was at the beginning of the Roberts I. trail, Yar. Co., on 26 July (MUN). Others were seen during June in Kejimikujik N.P. (TAD, PEH). One pair was at a traditional location on Grafton L. June 12 and 26, and another pair was on Snake L. trail July 12. Sparsely reported too, a lingering E. KINGBIRD was on Sable I. June 3 (ZOL), and two adults were feeding newly fledged young in Grand Pré Historic Park, Kings Co. July 12 (JWW).

Where were the vireos? A singing male BLUE-HEADED VIREO at Lower Rose Bay, Lun. Co., through June and into July (ELM) and records of 1-14 from June 4 through July 16 in widely-separated locales including the Debert-Londonderry areas, Col. Co., Halifax, CBHNP and Whycocomagh P.P., Inv. Co., (BLM) do not give us much idea of their real abundance. RED-EYED VIREOS were on territory in South End Halifax throughout the same period (ELM); there were seven other reports of from one to 14 in the Debert-Londonderry areas, Col. Co., Laurie P. P., Hfx Co., and locations in and outside CBHNP, Inv. and Vic. Co's, June 4 - July 31 (BLM).

Corvids Through Waxwings

BY ERIC MILLS

A pair of GRAY JAYS with the unusual number of three fledged young (one is normal) was in the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site, CB Co., June 23; individuals were seen most other days in the area during a survey (DBM and Roger Morrison). BLUE JAYS appeared to be in normal, if not high, numbers throughout the province and to breed very successfully (ELM), a point that can also be made

for AM. CROWS, which JKD noted as unusually abundant in Lwr. W. Pubnico, Yar. Co.

Only 8-10 PURPLE MARTINS were in their usual stronghold, Oxford, Cumb. Co., by July 8, occupying four active nests in two houses. BBT remarked that six other Martin houses had been removed due to disturbance by Starlings. An unusually early report of a N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW on CSI, Shel. Co. Aug. 21 was apparently

written up, but notes did not reach me (JOW, JCZ). As late as June 5, 350 TREE SWALLOWS and 60 BANK SWALLOWS were reasonably considered to be migrants at New Minas sewage ponds (JWW); early fall migrants of both species were noted on Sable I. July 26 (three of each species) (ZOL). A couple of late migrant BARN SWALLOWS visited Sable I. 21 June; by July 24 the first fall migrants had reached the Island (ZOL). Resident birds had left Southside Boularderie, Vic. Co., by Aug. 5. Nesting

CLIFF SWALLOWS were noted at Stirling and Louisbourg, CB Co., in late June and early July (DBM), on Cloverdale Road, Col. Co., July 28 (BLM), and the Halifax Airport birds were in their traditional haunts in early summer (ELM).

BLACK-CAPPED and BOREAL CHICKADEES appear to have let the universe unfold as it should: Black-caps noted as abundant in the Westmount area, CB. Co (JAC) and Boreals seen and heard regularly at sites in N. Cape Breton (DBM). By late summer young of both species were in abundance in SW Nova Scotia (ELM). DBM noted few RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES seen or heard around French Mt., Inv. Co., June 25. A scattering of other reports of two to six birds came from the Londonderry - Debert areas, Col. Co., and locations in and around CBHNP, Inv. and Vic. Co's, between June 4 and July 31 (BLM). Reports of WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES came from opposite ends of the province: one in Irish Cove, Rich. Co., July 2-3 (DBM) and two in Kemptville, Yar. Co., July 4 (JKD). What became of the remarkable spring invasion reported in the previous season's records?

WINTER WRENS continue to show slow signs of recovery. DBM's records show 19 on the Pleasant Bay, Inv. Co., BBS June 25 and 13 heard in late June during three days of surveys along a 15 km transect of Fortress of Louisbourg

National Historic Site, CB Co. Elsewhere there were four on the Londonderry BBS June 4 and one at the Normaway Inn, Inv. Co., July 29 (BLM).

The nesting pair of E. BLUEBIRDS along the Clyde R. loop, Shel. Co. was seen as late as July 7 (MUN). A GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH was seen on Sable I. June 1 (ZOL). Its close relative, BICKNELL'S THRUSH, was in breeding locations in Northern Cape Breton, including several singing males on French Mt., Vic. Co., June 24-July 10, and one at Money Pt., Vic. Co., June 25 and July 9 (DBM, RDM). A late SWAINSON'S THRUSH nest (second clutch?) of three eggs in a nest halfway up a 2.5-m spruce sapling was discovered in late July by FLS at Economy. They hatched in early Aug. and fledglings were in the area in mid-Aug.

A late spring migrant SWAINSON'S THRUSH was on Sable I. on June 3 (ZOL); elsewhere, SJF noted them "seemingly scarce" in Lun. Co. but at least of average abundance along BBS routes in Ant. and Guys. Co's (17 and 12 on separate routes) June 10-11. Low but probably typical numbers were recorded also on the Londonderry BBS, Col. Co., and at several locations in Inv. and Vic. Co's, between June 4 and July 31 (BLM). HERMIT THRUSHES were late arriving on territory, according to my experience, but once there, were abundant this year. At least eight were along the Londonderry BBS route, Col. Co., June 4 (BLM), several

were seen and heard at Sherbrooke L., Lun. Co., June 9 (JWW), SJF reported "higher than average figures" of 29 and 31 on her BBS routes in Ant. and Guys. Co's. June 10 and 11, and there were scattered reports from Halifax, Vict. and Inv. Co's in July (BLM).

Two adult N. MOCKINGBIRDS were building a nest near the former Grand Pré winery, Kings Co., June 21 (Sheila McCurdy and Chris Toplack), another (?) bird was near the Grand Pré turnout the same day (PAM, JWW), and one was seen at Centreville, Kings Co., July 20. No doubt plenty more of this increasingly common resident were about in the province. Definitely scarcer, but always worth looking for in summer in likely breeding locations, a BROWN THRASHER was feeding on the ground at Avonport, Kings Co., June 7 (Urbans).

After a Waxwing winter and spring, reports of CEDAR WAXWING were low and scattered. One was on Sable I. July 2-6 (ZOL); of this, IAM comments that Cedars "often wander there in numbers at this season." Away from that exotic locale, small groups were seen on the Londonderry BBS, Col. Co., June 4 and in Halifax, Vic., and Inv. Co's in late July (BLM). My experience, despite the dearth of reports, is that resident Cedar Waxwings were abundant on the mainland, at least on the South Shore, throughout the summer.

An Escapee

We've had several occurrences over the years of the beautiful European Goldfinch. This songbird is naturalized in Bermuda, and a thriving population was once present on Long Island, New York. Although there have been natural vagrants in Iceland, all N. American reports since the disappearance of the Long Island birds (except possibly one in St. John's, NF, in spring 1977), have been considered to be escapees. This one, photographed in early May in Catalone, C.B. Co., clearly had escaped from somewhere, as it carried a blue band on its leg. Others in the province have not been banded, so there is always a chance that some of them could have made it across the Atlantic. Wishful thinking?

Photo - Ken McKenna



Warblers

BY ANDY HORN

Observers in Hfx. Co. (FLL) and Kejimikujik N.P. (TAD, PEH, CAS) reported that good winds and good forage seem to have allowed early arrivals for many warbler species, but early in May the weather changed and delayed arrival and breeding. This weather pattern may account for the low breeding populations of late arrivals noted by some observers in the eastern half of the province (FLL). Despite this handicap, many species produced a bumper crop of young at Kejimikujik N.P. (CAS) and perhaps elsewhere, judging by the many young birds at several survey sites in Hfx. Co. (AGH, FLL).

TENNESSEE WARBLER numbers seemed low at survey sites in Hfx. Co. (AGH, FLL), yet a belated report of this species is one of the few in 30 years of records for Kejimikujik N.P.: a singing male May 22 (TAD, PEH). A YELLOW WARBLER on Sable I., July 29 (ZOL), probably represents an early fall record; the last spring migrant passed through June 7. In HRM, this species seemed down in numbers (FLL). Around Spectacle L., Dartmouth, it seems to have been replaced by an unusually high estimate of 100 nesting pairs of CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLERS (FLL). That species

thrives on unstable habitat, so if their increase is province-wide, as some suspect, it could bode ill for species like MAGNOLIA WARBLERS, which prefer more stable habitats and seem to be declining in numbers (FLL).

A hike well into Kejimikujik's Seaside Adjunct, June 6, was rewarded with a singing male PRAIRIE WARBLER (CAS). The remoteness of the location precluded confirmation of breeding later in the season. Breeding populations of BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS can surge with insect abundance; this year seems to have been unremarkable, however, judging from the smattering of reports. AM. RED-STARTS were well into breeding on the mainland by the time one hobbled in to Sable I., June 23 (ZOL). That bird's errancy was outdone, though, by the PROTHONOTARY WARBLER that visited Sable July 25-27 (ZOL).

MOURNING WARBLERS were "one of the most common warblers in shrubby birch and young balsam fir" along the French Mt. and Franey Trails in CPHNP, CB Co. The Fortress of Louisbourg was also a good place to find them, with up to 12 seen/heard along a 15 km transect (DBM). A pair breeding beside Highway 118 was perhaps the first to be noted in Dartmouth

(FLL). Only eight MOURNING WARBLERS were found on the Roman Valley BBS route through Ant. & Guys. Co. (SJF). Although most other warbler numbers on the route have been consistent over 30 years, Mourning Warblers appear to be slowly declining from their average totals of 15 in 70s and 80s (SJF). On a more anecdotal note, one Mourning Warbler at Gays R., Hfx. Co., included in his repertoire a hybrid song, half of his own species and half Com. Yellowthroat (AGH). The bird clearly was not a hybrid, but was so immersed in the other species' racket that his "error" was understandable.

CANADA WARBLERS were noted in odd spots; for example, one was on territory in a deciduous woodlot in the middle of a farmer's field in Masstown, Col. Co. (FLL). Indeed, some observers suggest that habitat destruction is forcing several warbler species into odd and isolated breeding situations, although short-term changes, like local flooding, offer alternative explanations (FLL). When it comes to long-term population trends, only consistent efforts, like the BBS and regular reports and comments from our experienced observers, will help us see the forest for the trees.

Tanagers Through Cardinals

BY DAVE MCCORQUODALE

The only reports of tanagers were SCARLET TANAGERS in the Kejimikujik area in June, strongly suggestive of nesting (CAS, PEH).

CHIPPING SPARROWS are less common on Cape Breton I. than on the mainland. Perhaps for this reason people note them more frequently on Cape Breton, where they were frequenting yards in Louisbourg and Georges R. throughout July (SEM, DBM) and up to

10 were at Normaway Inn, Inv. Co. in late July (BLM). There were also two in Middle River, Pic. Co. in July (Mark Brennan).

Common, widespread species will always be poorly reported because we focus on the unusual. Both reports of SAVANNAH SPARROWS, Brier I. and South Bar, CB Co., were of good numbers in July, indicating successful nesting (RBS, DBM).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPAR-

ROWS, being late migrants, sing much later into the summer than most of our songbirds. More than 20 were still singing July 30 at Conrad Beach (JCT, PCS). The two other reports, from opposite ends of the province, Brier I. and Homeville, CB Co. (KJM, CGB, DBM, RWK), confirm that this species is widespread.

FOX SPARROWS were common in their nesting stronghold in northern Cape Breton from June until early

August (RFL, MAG, DBM) as expected. Less expected were three singing males on two occasions at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site (DBM). They are very localized breeders in CB Co. A migrant was either very early or very late, June 8, on Sable I. (ZOL).

The few reports received for two common sparrows, SONG and WHITE-THROATED suggest they were widespread in the province this summer (BLM, Mark Brennan). No reports of SWAMP SPARROWS were received. However, this does not mean they have disappeared from the province.

LINCOLN'S SPARROWS are more common in the northeastern parts of the province than elsewhere. In keeping, they were considered common on a BBS in Ant. and Guys. Co. (32 on Larry's River route), in Rich. Co. on

the Pt. Michaud BBS, and were heard and seen regularly throughout Cape Breton I. (SJF, DBM). South of Halifax, one was singing June 2 near Crousetown, Lun. Co. (SJF).

Our DARK-EYED JUNCO reports noted they were plentiful, from the New Ross area to Louisbourg and Westmount in Cape Breton (JWW, SEM, JAC).

N. CARDINALS have been widespread in the past year. They continue to thrive in the Halifax area, Wolfville and Lwr. W. Pubnico. In the latter location, the adults, which had been around all year, showed up with two young on June 28 (JKD). At least one pair was still resident in Wolfville, but nesting was presumed unsuccessful (JWW, DLS, GIW, Ev Eagles). The hotbed for cardinals is in the Halifax area. At least seven males, a few with mates, were in the

greater Halifax area through the summer (FLL, CLS). Two Dartmouth pairs successfully reared broods, one of them two broods. Successful cardinal nests are few and far between in the province, so completing two broods is doubly remarkable.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS were found in nesting habitat from Pic. and Rich. Co.'s. and in the Wolfville area in June and July (Mark Brennan, DBM, BBT). One male spent a few days in unsuitable habitat on Sable I. in early June (ZOL).

Despite few BLUE GROSBEAKS in the province this spring a male lingered until June 7, at Baccaro, Shel. Co. (MUN), one of the latest spring sightings ever. INDIGO BUNTINGS also lingered. There was a male on Sable I. in late May and then a fem. from June 1-3 (ZOL).

Blackbirds Through House Sparrow

BY DAVE MCCORQUODALE

BOBOLINKS were widespread from Canard Dyke to Londonderry BBS to Col. Co. to Pic. Co. to CB Co. (RBS, BLM, Mark Brennan, JAC). Several observers thought they had a successful nesting season. A different view comes from the northeast where there were fewer, only two, compared to up to a dozen 25 years ago, on the Larrys River BBS (SJF).

As for our common sparrows, there were few reports of our common icterids, RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD and COM. GRACKLE. Both species were found in pairs to flocks up to 50 from Col., Co. to Pic. Co. and Cape Breton I. through the summer (BLM, Mark Brennan, JAC).

A MEADOWLARK was seen, but not heard, on Cherry Hill Beach, June 14. It is easiest to distinguish Westerns from Easterns based on songs or calls, the differences in plumage being subtle. Most of our records are of Easterns, but observers should be careful to exclude

Westerns. The careful observers were cautious and identified it as a meadowlark sp. (JCT, GWT).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRDS are most frequently seen as fall vagrants. Two in June is very unusual. This June saw a male June 7, in Port Clyde, Shel. Co. (MUN) and an immature male June 14-15 at a feeder in Avonport. Another had been seen at the same feeder earlier in the year (Urbans, *vide* JWW).

Two more locations of presumed nesting RUSTY BLACKBIRDS can be added to the four locations reported in the last issue. There were two, June 22 at Ferguson Lake, Rich. Co. and three Aug. 9 at Grafton Lake, Kejimikujik N. P. (DBM, BLM, David Walsh). Only one BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD, a fem. July 27 on Sable I., (ZOL) was reported.

BALTIMORE ORIOLES are much more frequent in fall than summer. A single male was found in Wolfville June 5 (BBT).

PINE GROSBEAKS were in suitable nesting habitat across the northeast parts of the province including Middle R., Pic. Co., Louisbourg, Whycomagh, Inv. Co., Cape North and Warren L., Vic. Co. in July and near Gabarus, CB Co. in June (SEM, BLM, Mark Brennan, DBM).

No follow up reports on the HOUSE FINCHES nesting in Halifax in May were filed.

RED CROSSBILLS continued to frequent feeders in the Sydney River area into mid-June (JWM). Others were at Grand River, Rich. Co. June 22, and singing in early July at Balancing Rock, Brier I. (DBM, PLC). After being the more common crossbill for the last couple of years, Reds are now being overshadowed by the thousands, if not tens of thousands or even more, WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS. Starting in late June, as the cones developed on spruce and balsam trees, the province was invaded. To quote Blake Maybank from the Bird Information Line "Reports of territorial birds come from

every county, wherever there is coniferous forest. The number of birds involved in this incursion is staggering. Get out and enjoy the show." The last invasion was linked to a similar bumper cone crop in 1995. We should watch for nesting, and document it, through the next 12 months.

Other species will also take advantage of the heavy cone crop. PURPLE FINCHES and PINE SISKINS were

noted in spruces throughout July from Brier I. to Cape Breton. It should be a spectacular year for finches on our CBCs.

A EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH spent early July at a feeder in Wallace (*fide* BAH). A blue band on the left leg was seen (KJM, CGB) and therefore this is the same one (or at least from the same place) that was in Cape Breton in May and almost certainly an escaped cap-

tive. There were lots of AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES in July from Brier I. to Pic. Co. (PLC, Mark Brennan).

EVENING GROSBEAKS are seen less frequently through the summer. A pair copulating in late May at the Cape Breton Naturalists Ecological Monitoring Site in Irish Cove spent the whole summer in the area and presumably nested (DBM).

List of Contributors

Thanks to all of our contributors, including:

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deMoine, Maureen	
d'Eon, Jerome K.	JKD
d'Eon, Ted	TCD
Dowdall, Tanya	TAD
Eagles, Ev	
Ellis, Rebecca	
Forsythe, Bernard	BLF
Fraser, Roberta	
Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF
Gardner, Jeff	
Gertridge, Sybil	
Goring, May	MZG
Haycock, Carl	CAH
Helleiner, Chris	CWH
Hinds, Barbara	BAH

Hirtle, James	
Hope, Peter	PEH
Horn, Andy	AGH
Knaption, Richard	RWK
Lauff, Randolph	RFL
Lavender, Fulton	FLL
Lucas, Zoe	ZOL
MacInnis, John W.	JWM
MacLeod, Peter	
Martin, Pat	PAM
Maybank, Blake	BLM
McCorquodale, Dave	DBM
McCurdy, Sheila	
McKenna, Kenneth J.	KJM
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McRae, Doug	RDM
Metcalfe, Junior	JUM
Mills, Eric L.	ELM
Moore, Bernice	ABM
Morrison, Roger	
Mueller, Kerstin	
Myers, Susann	SEM
Newell, Murray	MUN

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Sarty, Bev	
Sigston, Ronald D.	RDS
Silverberg, David	DLS
Spalding, Francis	FLS
Staicer, Cindy	CAS
Stern, Richard	RBS
Stevens, Clarence Jr.	CLS
Swann, Peter and Cynthia	PCS
Tams, Miriam	MAT
Thexton, Brenda and Bill	BBT
Toplack, Chris	
Tufts, Gordon	GWT
Tufts, Judy	JCT
Urban, Eva & Deanna	Urbans
Waldron, Joan	JOW
Walsh, David	
Westphalen, Gisela	GIW
Wolford, Jim	JWW
Young, David	DHY

Letters to the Editor

On the evening of July 8, 1998, our family participated like many others in the ritual of feeding ducks in the Halifax Public Gardens. Most of the waterfowl were "tame", i.e. conditioned to humans; viz. Feral Black Ducks *Anas rubripes*, and semi-domesticated Mallards *A. latyrhynchos*.

In order to obtain a fair proportion of the offerings, the ducks had to compete with actively moving, noisy and aggres-

sive flocks of adult and HY Starlings *Stumus vulgaris*. The total Starlings in the area probably equaled 100 individuals or more, with HY birds being in the majority. All the Starlings, especially the HY birds, were allowing extremely close approach by humans. Two species of large gulls: Herring *Larus argentatus*, and Great Black-backed *L. Marinus*, were keeping a bit back from the activity, staying close to the water-land interface, and only occasionally secur-

ing the proffered food. As we were preparing to leave, we heard loud alarm calls emanating from a juvenile Starling, as a Herring Gull repeatedly pushed it down into the shallow water of a pond. Simultaneously, a large flock of Starlings flew up to perch in large nearby shade trees. In less than 30 seconds, the adult Herring Gull had subdued the prey and successfully swallowed it. The gull in question stayed on

(Continued on page 18)

Summer Rarities

BY IAN MCLAREN

Summer is often a season of doldrums for the rarity seeker. But not this year! Several outstanding visitors turned up to liven the scene, and four were nicely photographed by members.

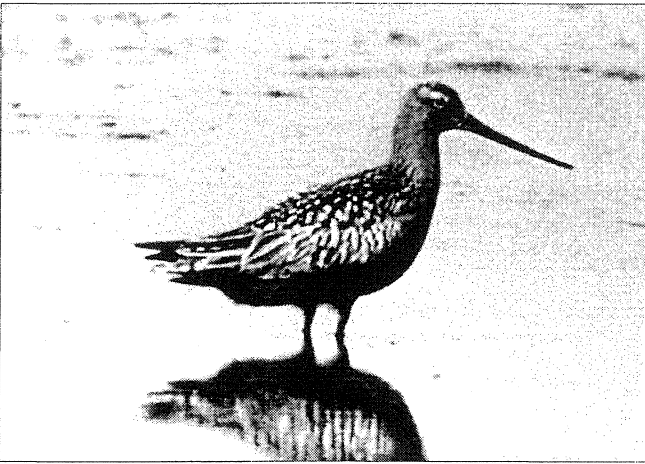
Black-necked Stilt

This elegant species has been spreading north in its U.S. East Coast breeding range, and can be expected more often in Nova Scotia in coming years. This one caused some excitement when it appeared in Lr. W. Pubnico in late June, where it was seen by many birders.

Photo - Eric Mills



Photo - Ian McLaren



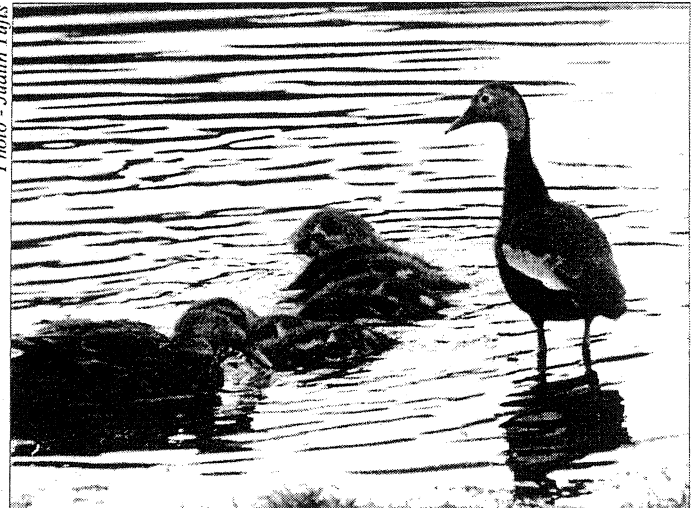
Bar-tailed Godwit

With several prolonged stays of one or more individuals of this striking Eurasian shorebird on Cape Sable Island, most keen Nova Scotia birders have added it to their life lists. However, this one (perhaps the same bird that occurred on CSI in spring) was a male in elegant alternate plumage, and well worth seeing. The photo, taken June 9, cannot do justice to the bright brick-red underparts of the bird, but shows the heavily marked back and paler greyish wing panel as distinctions from other godwit species.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck

Here's the famous, debatable duck. During July, it took up residence with families of Am. Black Ducks which had been attracted to food handouts at the pond behind the Gustave Thibodeau residence at Church Point, Digby Co. There it was "ticked" by many Nova Scotian birders, hoping for a consensus on its origin as a wild wanderer from the southern U.S.

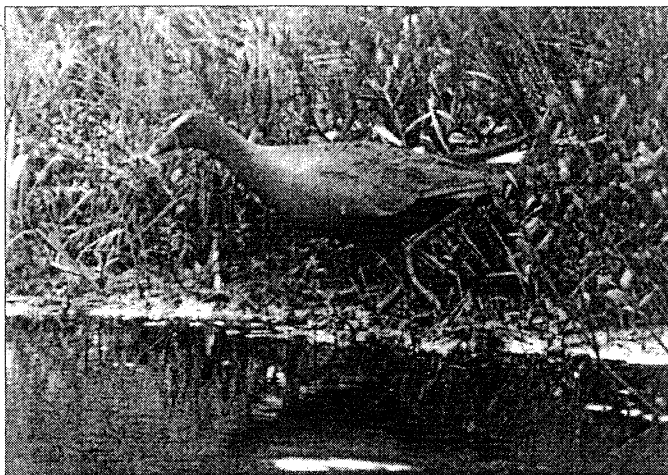
Photo - Judith Tufts



Purple Gallinule

The least rare, but perhaps most beautiful, of this summer's vagrants was this denizen of southern swamplands that turned up in mid-to-late July at a small pond on the Hartlen Pt. Golf Course. Several birders came from around the province to add to their life lists, as it at times stalked the pond shores in plain view.

Photo - Judith Tufts



(Letters - Continued from page 16)

the water surface and remained quiet. On departing the Gardens we noted an adult Great Black-backed Gull that had a noticeable distention to the drop as did the Herring Gull that we witnessed swallowing prey. It's hardly news that gulls will eat almost anything, yet the killing of passerines has to be a bit unusual. Is this learned behavior on the part of these large gulls, and a way of exploiting an available prey item in a situation that renders the latter particularly vulnerable?

The author acknowledges and thanks A. J. (Tony) Erskine, Scientist Emeritus, with the Canadian Wildlife Service, in Sackville, N.B. for comments and improvements to this submission. Did anyone else see similar behavior at the "Gardens"?

Henrik Deichmann
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Dear Field Trip Leaders,

Thank you very much for the work which you have done for the Nova Scotia Bird Society. The field trips are an important part of the NSBS program: they help beginning birders learn about bird species and habitats, how to locate

and identify many common birds, and the etiquette of birding. All of us enjoy sharing some of the beautiful birding "hot spots" to be found here in Nova Scotia. There is always the anticipation that a rare or unusual bird may be found, or a familiar species seen in a different plumage or exhibiting unusual behavior. The field trips give us an opportunity to spend time in a variety of habitats in order to increase our appreciation and interest in the relationship of the birds with the other living things around us. I have enjoyed many of your field trips and send a sincere personal thanks as well as a thank you in my role of field trip co-ordinator for the 1997-98 year.

If I have made errors in reporting your trips, or neglected to reconfirm when you were expecting me to do so, I am very sorry. Your willingness to contribute your time has been very much appreciated, and I hope that you will continue to share your love of birding by leading outings for the Nova Scotia Bird Society in the future. I have resigned as field trip co-ordinator, but am willing to carry on as membership secretary if you wish me to do so. (I have only now "caught on" to a system which seems workable, but which is still very time consuming.)

Enclosed are a few copies of suggestions and some hand-outs for future trips. If there are other items or suggestions which you would like to add, please send them to me before the an-

nual general meeting in the fall. Thank you again and happy birding.

Sincerely,

Joan A. Czapalay
1173 Beaufort Avenue
Halifax, N.S.
B3H 3Y3
(new phone number 902-422-6858)
(summer phone: Port Greville 902-348-2803)

Encl:
ABA Code of Ethics
Group leader responsibilities (NSBS
Exec. Feb. 6, 1997)



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Port Greville Beginners Field Day

BY JOAN CZAPALAY

July 11 started with overcast skies but the predicted rain did not occur. Fourteen birders met at the Fox River, Port Greville, Ward's Brook Fire Hall for the first NSBS field trip ever held in this area. We began the outing with a trip to Port Greville/Shulie Lake too late for the warbler morning chorus, but did hear a Winter Wren and saw a Pileated Woodpecker, a good start for the day. The Com. Loons with two young stayed at the far end of the lake and the Com. Mergansers were shrouded in mist, but the air was filled with thrush music. We have Hermit, Veery and most commonly, Swainson's in this area (all three on my yard list this summer as well as the beautiful Robins).

Mourning Warblers are not uncommon in Port Greville, and we soon found a skulker near a back road. When I started keeping a bird list in 1986 the

Mourning Warbler was my most-wanted bird. Finally I saw one while trying to fly fish on the Dunk River, P. E.I., but couldn't count it for N.S. Upon coming to Port Greville for summer holidays I found a dependable pair in Brookville - dependable that is until I took a group from N. Carolina to see them; they stayed silent and out of sight. The day after the visitors left they sang with bubbly joy and popped in and out of the alders for my benefit alone. Lesson 1: never tell visitors from away that you can show them anything. Now I have located a number of pairs in this area. Lesson 2: learn the songs of the skulkers first. Our most controversial bird was a Purple Finch female which may have been a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The light was poor, so we left it unresolved. Shortly afterward beside a hilltop blueberry field we saw three Vesper Sparrows and heard their song. I have since found several more locations for these not so common spar-

rows. We have lots of Lincoln, Song and Savannah Sparrows here along the edges of fields, and usually good numbers of raptors.

Everyone had a good look at a N. Goshawk which screeched at us, as well as a Red-tailed Hawk on another back road. White-winged Crossbills, Chimney Swifts and Cedar Waxwings were abundant. At "The Porthole Tearoom" overlooking the Red R. we saw Spotted Sandpipers and a nesting Kingfisher while on our a.m. coffee break and p.m. tea break.

The group then broke up, with a few heading back out to look for more birds. We added four warblers to the eleven seen by all for a total of fifteen. We also saw three Com. Nighthawks; not so common around here in recent years. It was a great group of people interested in recreational birding and we hope to make it an annual event.

Matthews Lake Field Trip

BY DAVID YOUNG

August 15, 1998 saw a record 20+ participants make the long 8 km trek out to the tidal flats of Matthews Lake. Unusually, we experienced a fine day with a minimum of troublesome insects, but unfortunately, also a minimum of shorebirds. AM estimated 400 individuals of 14 species were seen.

By far the best bird of the day was a Baird's Sandpiper - the first seen here by the reporter in about three years. Hudsonian Godwits and Whimbrels added to the interest and a lone Merlin managed to stir up some of the shorebirds. However, practically no other birds of note were seen.

My wife, Joan, furnished refreshments

afterwards to brighten the day.

As a footnote, this observer has seen a noticeable down trend in numbers of shorebirds at Matthews Lake for the last three or four years and I hope this is only a local situation.

Member Issues

The executive is always considering ways to make the best use of the Nova Scotia Bird Society money. After some debate, it has been decided that membership cards will not be mailed out individually to members upon receiving membership renewals and dues. Instead, a single card will be mailed out with each Winter 1998 issue of the

magazine. This will save money on postage and envelopes, as well as help to save the environment (less envelopes). The name on the card will be left blank for you to fill in - this helps with packing, since the magazines are sorted according to Canada Post rules for bulk mailing, i.e. by location.

Please mail your comments to:

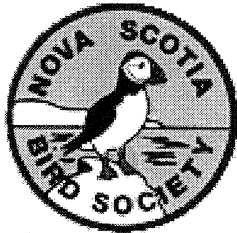
Joan Waldron, Secretary,
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NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

Nova Scotia Bird Society
c/o Nova Scotia Museum,
1747 Summer Street,
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Bird Line: 902-852-CHAT (2428)
Email: ip-bird@chebucto.ns.ca



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Recreation/NS-BirdSoc](http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NS-BirdSoc)

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

Executive 1997-1998

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Director	Shirley Brothers
Director	Doug Roy
Director	Angela Thibodeau
Solicitor	Tony Robinson
Auditor	James C. Morrow

Upcoming Events



NSBS Meeting
NS Museum Auditorium
Thu 26 Nov 1998 – 8:00 p.m.
Soaring with Eagles

Larry Bogan, glider pilot, will discuss aspects of soaring as related to cloud, air currents, and waves in the atmosphere. A major part will be bird flight and the use of soaring by raptors and other birds during long distance flights.

Special Event
Sat 18 Dec 1998 - Sun 3 Jan, 1999
Christmas Bird Counts

See information elsewhere in this issue and watch for announcements of the individual Counts on the NSBS Bird-line (phone line and transcripts) and on the NSBS Web-site.

Field Trip
Sat 9 Jan 1999 Sewer Stroll I,
Halifax/Dartmouth area

Leader: Fulton Lavender 455-4966. Meet at Hartlen Point at 8:00 a.m. to look for rare birds and regular winter visitors. Fulton Lavender will lead this all-day trip which will end at Herring Cove via Bedford. Dress for outdoor weather and bring a lunch. Plan to car pool as much as possible. Please register in advance. Storm date Sun, Jan 10.

NSBS Meeting
NS Museum Auditorium
Thu 26 Jan 1999 – 8:00 p.m.
Members Slide Night

You are invited to bring along ten to fifteen of your most interesting slides that relate to birds and birding. These can be of common birds, rarities, as

well as unusual and amusing sightings. Hope to see you there!

Field Trip
Sat 6 Feb 1999 Sewer Stroll II,
Halifax/Dartmouth area

As above (see Sat 9 Jan). Storm date Sun 7 Feb.

NSBS Meeting
NS Museum Auditorium
Thu 22 Feb 1999 – 8:00 p.m.
Birds of Texas

Joan Waldron and Blake Maybank will talk about their trip to Texas.