

# Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Spring 1999

# NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

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.



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

Bird Line: 902-852-CHAT (2428)  
Email: ip-bird@chebucto.ns.ca

*We're on the Web!*  
[Http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NS-BirdSoc](http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NS-BirdSoc)

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*Nova Scotia Birds* is a quarterly publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

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## Reporting Deadlines

Summer 1999 issue:	June 7, 1999
Fall 1999 issue:	Aug. 7, 1999
Winter 2000 issue:	Dec. 7, 1999
Spring 2000 issue:	Mar. 7, 2000

### Bird Reports to:

Randy Lauff  
Department of Biology  
St. Francis Xavier University  
P.O. Box 5000  
Antigonish, NS  
B2G 2W5

E-mail: rlauff@juliet.stfx.ca  
Ph: 902-867-2471  
Fax: 902-867-2389

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# President's Report

BY GISELE D'ENTREMONT

## President's Report - Annual General Meeting - 1998

The Nova Scotia Bird Society was first organised in January 1955. Sadly, this year we lost one of our founding members, the Society's first Vice-President, and a friend to many — Charlie Allen. Charlie Allen died on April 18, 1998 at the age of 90 years. Fred Dobson and Joan Waldron have written a wonderful tribute to Charlie in the Summer 1998 issue of *Nova Scotia Birds*.

This has been an enthusiastic and dynamic year for the Executive. Bernice Moores, our Treasurer, has done tremendous work looking into applying for Registered Charity Status for the Society, as well as overseeing our financial affairs.

There are two areas that we are still looking for feedback from our membership. One of these is the possibility of selling advertisements in *Nova Scotia Birds*. We have confirmed that advertisements would not affect our present postal rates nor would it affect our eligibility for receiving a grant from the Museum. This issue is still up for discussion. The other area is in regards to members' opinions on the concept of Group Travel for out-of-province or out-of-country tours for the Society's membership. A tour company, for example, could offer a trip for our membership at no extra costs to the members but with a financial benefit to the Society. This is again another area that needs consideration.

The Society is now a member of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists. The Executive believe that it is important to 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.

Education has been a priority for the Executive this year. We co-sponsored with the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, a five part lecture series, *Changing World, Changing Wildlife*, featuring valuable research that is being carried out in Atlantic Canada. A special thank you to Joan Waldron for having been our liaison with the Museum and for having organised this wonderful program.

We have also participated in a number of other educational programs: with *Scientists and Innovators in the Schools*, with Elder Hostel, and with the Museum. Joan Czupalay has done many of these educational sessions on behalf of the Society. Field trips play a major role in educating new birders and providing members with new areas to bird across the Province. Field trips are also a wonderful way for networking within our membership. This year, Joan Czupalay, as our Field Trip Coordinator, has done a marvelous job at expanding the number of trips throughout the Province. Joan has carried two extremely demanding positions, as Field Trip Coordinator and as Membership Secretary. She has decided to continue as Membership Sec-

retary but has resigned from her other responsibility. Fulton Lavender has agreed to take on the role of Field Trip Coordinator. We look forward to working with Fulton. The Society very much benefits from the expertise and generosity of our members who lead our many field trips. I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Museum of Natural History for their support to our Society over the years. The Museum has generously continued to provide us again this year with a grant of \$2,000 to help with the publication of *Nova Scotia Birds*. The Museum also provides us with space for our monthly meetings, as well as a mailbox and filing cabinet that enables us to carry out the Society's business. We look forward to our continued partnership with the Museum.

This year, Marion Allsebrook took on the tremendous task of Editor of *Nova Scotia Birds*. The Editorial Board has worked on aligning the issues to correspond with the bird seasons, and gradually looking at adapting a new look to our publication. I would like to thank Marion and the Associate Editor, Paul Quinn, for their contribution to ensuring the success of this publication. We recognise that there have been delays in the issues but the time lines are now on track. Paul Quinn has been appointed by the Executive to be our Editor for the upcoming year, and has graciously accepted. We are pleased that Marion is staying as Associate Editor. We look forward to continu-

ing to work with Paul and Marion.

This year the Executive had many discussions in regards to the format and costs of *Nova Scotia Birds*. Chris Field, our Vice-President, and Paul Quinn will present on this topic during tonight's agenda.

I would like to express our appreciation to Karl Tay who has been our Records Compiler for the past year. Karl has resigned from this role and Randy Lauff from Antigonish has kindly agreed to take on this responsibility. A word of thanks to our Seasonal Reports Compilers for their contribution to our publication. I would like to express appreciation to all our members who contributed to our Seasonal Bird Reports. These reports are published in *Nova Scotia Birds* and become very valuable records since issues of our publication every year are bound and preserved in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. These then become part of our Province's permanent records.

Each year, the Society presents a trophy to a member of the Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia who wins the competition on bird photography. This year the trophy was won by Lorris Keizer for his slide "Junco and Family". The slides from this competition are donated to our slide collection. We received 13 slides this year. We will be showing these at Members' Slide Night in January. Thanks to Alan Covert for having been our representa-

tive on the selection panel for this competition.

Our September meeting was held at the University College of Cape Breton in Sydney. A special thanks to Junior Metcalfe and David McCorquodale for having hosted and organised this event. David presented on the Friday evening and provided the audience with lots of interesting points to consider in looking at bird populations in the past several decades on Cape Breton Island. There were lots of wonderful, colourful slides for our enjoyment. Junior and David led a field trip on the following day. It was a great day for birding and we saw lots of interesting sightings. It was wonderful to experience the warmth and camaraderie of our Cape Breton members.

The Executive is committed to having at least one meeting a year outside of the Halifax area. We have already started looking into plans for next year's meeting.

This year was the 4th year we've had a booth at the Boat Show. Special thanks to Doug Roy and Shirley Brothers who organised and coordinated our display. This has certainly increased our visibility in the public and has been a worthwhile activity for the Society.

## From The Editor's Desk

BY PAUL QUINN

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Azor Vienneau for his contribution of the wonderful drawings that have often graced the pages of this publication over recent years. A credit for last issue's cover was inadvertently omitted from the magazine, and it's an oversight we'd like to correct here and now. So thanks again, Azor.

While on the topic of artwork and illustrations, I'd like to ask that any other members with an artistic bent submit any drawings, sketches, etc. they might care to share with our other readers. We're always on the lookout for sources of new images and spot illustrations to add interest and make the final product

Peter Payzant has continued to do a wonderful job of keeping an up-to-date membership list, providing labels to facilitate our mailings, and also single-handedly maintaining our Web page. He has also been answering our e-mail requests and inquiries over the years. Joan Waldron has been sharing this last task with Peter in the past year. Peter is also our official photographer for this evening. Thank you, Peter.

Another person who deserves special mention is Blake Maybank. Blake has done a tremendous job of maintaining our NSBS Telephone and Computer Bird Information Lines. These lines provide our membership with recent bird sightings, as well as announcements of upcoming field trips and programs. The information lines were really hot in the past week when Cape Sable Island had its fabulous fall-out.

I would like to express our appreciation to the Directors of the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund: Ken Gregoire, David Currie, Shirley Cohrs, and Peter Bell, for their contribution to the Society. The Executive has met with the SSTF directors in the past year and we hope to continue working more closely in the upcoming year.

We have benefited and enjoyed having

Shirley Brothers as Director. She has also been responsible for the Society's mailings for the past two years. This will be her last year on the Executive. Angela Thibodeau has resigned from her position as Director since she is pursuing her education outside the Province. A special thank-you to these two Directors.

I would like to express our sincere appreciation to our Honorary Solicitor, Mr. Tony Robinson and our Honorary Auditor, Mr. James Morrow.

Many thanks to Chris Field for facilitating our monthly meetings; (the late) John Cohrs for carving the Puffin of the Year; Joan Waldron for looking after our slide collection, answering E-mail requests, housing the Society's books and supplies, as well as collection of past issues of *Nova Scotia Birds*; and Inez Roberts for providing refreshments for our meetings.

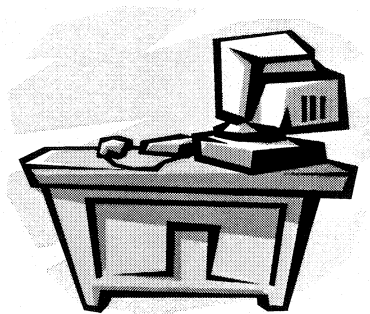
I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Executive for their contribution and support over the past year.

Finally, I would like to thank Doug Roy and Shirley Brothers for organising tonight's Wine and Cheese.

appropriate credit for any we use.

On a related topic, we are always anxious to receive photographs "for the record" of any extraordinary or rarely seen birds visiting our province, and you should continue to send those photographs to Ian McLaren, our Photo Editor. We'd also like to expand that invitation to include any high quality prints or slides of our more common birds for illustrative use. Again, any photograph we use will receive proper accreditation.

This is your magazine, and we need your help to make it an even better one. So let's keep those drawings and photos flowing in!



more eye-pleasing and attractive. So if you or someone you know have been hiding an artistic side from the rest of us, I'd encourage you to send along some drawings for our consideration. We can't promise to use them right away, but we'd be happy to provide

# Winter Seasonal Reports

## Introduction

BY RANDY LAUFF

I am writing this as the Song Sparrows sing, the Grackles arrive and the precious few Shrikes depart. The unusually warm winter, at least our second in a row, has allowed for successful overwintering of many species. Ironically, people wondered why their feeders weren't as busy as in previous years. This apparent absence of birds was likely due to several factors, including the mild weather. The incredible spruce cone crop very likely kept many feeder birds in the woods; other wild foods such as Mountain Ash were also plentiful this year. The low numbers could also have been the result of some birds simply not choosing Nova Scotia as their winter destination – the years in which invasive species actually show up is unpredictable. Species like Common Redpolls belied their names; Bohemian Waxwings were often less common than our summer-resident Cedars. Northern Shrikes were here in paltry numbers relative to 1996.

We know many bird species are declining, but should we be alarmed at the low numbers from this particular season? Their apparent absence *this year* doesn't mean that the populations are

declining. However, to determine what is going on with the populations of these irruptive species, we have to census a much larger area over a much longer time. In other words, we must keep doing Christmas Bird Counts. The NSBS archives all the data from these counts. By submitting our CBC data to a centralised body that receives data covering a huge geographic area, we can all help in the monitoring of the populations of each species; in addition, our information will be easily available to all researchers. That centralised body already exists – it is the National Audubon Society (NAS).

As many of you are aware, the CBC started in 1900. This makes the CBC the longest running scientific experiment in the world. NS started participating in 1914 (Yarmouth was the site of our first Audubon count, thirteen of 34 NS counts reported their data to the NAS last year). The NAS developed the rules for CBCs, and those rules were adopted by the NSBS. The count circles are identical, the count timings are identical, and the tallying procedure is identical...only one thing isn't identical. To participate on an Audubon

CBC, each field participant (but not feeder watchers) must pay \$5.00. Compilers who do not run their counts as both NSBS and Audubon counts may be reticent to ask for each person to contribute the \$5.00 or reticent to lose counters. I must admit that as a CBC compiler, I find the worst part of my role is passing the hat at the end of the day. However, I know that the data are worth it, and so I keep doing it. Several years ago, our local club started paying the \$5.00 for students, a practice that I keep encouraging.

If the count in which you participated is a count that receives good coverage, but isn't doubling as an Audubon count, please ask your compiler to discuss this at your next club meeting. Remember, without long-term, broadly based, accessible data, we will not be able to effectively monitor the birds.

In this issue are the data from our 34 CBCs and the regular winter sightings. This season, 91 contributors helped tally 187 species. Keep up the reporting; we love hearing from you!



## Weather Report

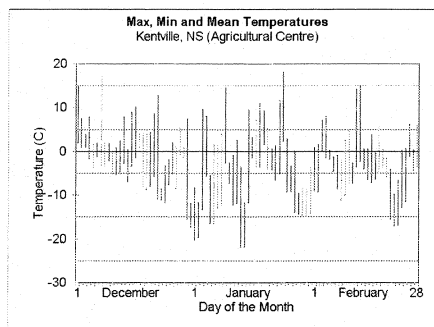
BY LARRY BOGAN

What a mild winter we had! I think anyone would agree with that statement. I live in a passive solar heated home and the winter has had a relatively smaller effect on my fire wood supply. In addition my driveway only need a couple of minor shovelings. I did not get to cross-country ski even one time this year and there may have been only one day that I missed. Exactly how mild a season is reported in the tables below.

The mean temperatures for all three months were above average, which gives the remarkable result that the

mean for the whole period was 3.3 C above the 35-year average. January was interesting because although its mean temperature and mean maximum tem-

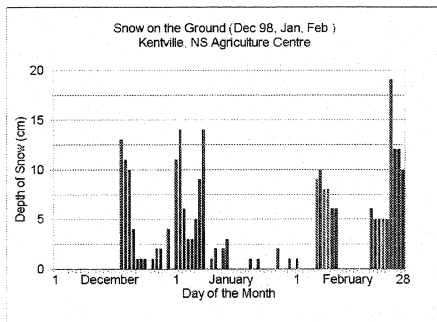
perature were above average, the mean minimum temperature was 1 C below average. This reflects the very wide swings in temperature for the month.



My heating bill was lower for two reasons: (1) the temperatures outside were higher and (2) it was sunnier than usual. December and January had 40% and 50% more bright sunshine hours than average. The season as a whole was about 30% above average. It certainly made for a cheerier winter.

Clear skies imply reduced precipitation.

The winter was "open" meaning many days and weeks of uncovered ground. This undoubtedly kept the birds from my feeders during January. I have included a graph of SOG, Snow on the Ground, which shows that we did not have any snow until mid-December and then for most of January the ground was clear. February had more cover but still below normal. Snowfall for the season was only 40% of the long-term average. We seemed to have an abundance of rain but it still provided only a little more than half of our total precipitation



	Mean Temp. (C)	Monthly Precip. (mm)	Monthly Snow (cm.)	Bright Sunshine (hrs.)
<b>December</b>	-0.7	45.7	16.4	84
<b>(35 yr avg)</b>	-2.4	134.4	58.5	60
<b>January</b>	-4.5	87	34	113
<b>(35 yr avg)</b>	-5.4	121	69	76
<b>February</b>	-2.6	58	31	105
<b>(35 yr avg)</b>	-5.3	103	61	101
<b>Season</b>	-1.0	191	81	302
<b>35 yr avg</b>	-4.3	358	189	237
<b>Difference</b>	+3.3	53%	43%	127%

Table 1 – Historical Comparison

for the winter. I have reported averages using the 35-year averages but five-year averages are also available. These later figures show recent winters to be warmer, drier, and sunnier than the long-term

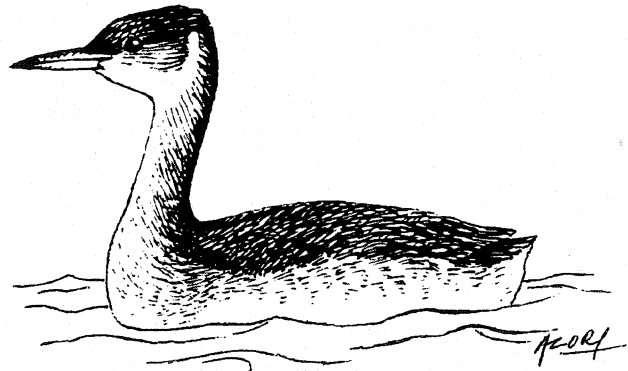
averages. This year seems to be an extreme trend in the short term.

## Loons Through Grebes

BY FRED DOBSON

By rights this should have been a strange winter, and the reports bear this out to some extent. The previous winter was the biggest "El Niño" on record, and this winter was the heart of the "La Niña" that follows all the large events of this type. The Maritimes did indeed have a peculiar winter; none of the lakes S of mid-province froze hard and many remained open all winter. While the Canadian W was inundated and the centre of the country held in the grip of more than usually stormy weather, the Maritimes were mild. As a result many more of the unusual water birds stayed around and did very well.

Reports of the RED-THROATED LOON were scattered, and all of single birds from the S of the province. The COM. LOON was not that commonly seen this winter. The CBC high count of 78 was at CSI, and the highest Counts were all on the S shore of the province. The most recent record was of one seen Feb. 6 at Lingan Hbr. CB Co. (NSBS, *vide* ALM, CAM).



Sightings of the PIED-BILLED GREBE were no more numerous than in a normal winter. None were reported from the CBCs. The only reports are Dec. 9, at Bissett L., HRM (BLM), Dec. 21 at Lower W Pubnico (RSD) and Jan. 10 at Sheet Hbr. Passage (KJM, CGB). The HORNED GREBE was seen regularly all winter in small numbers at coastal locations.

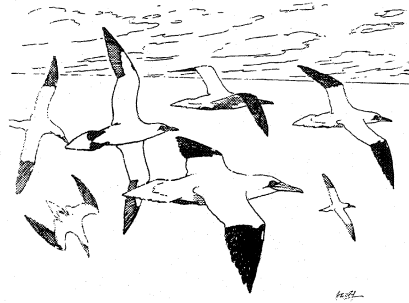
The CBC high count was 38 at Broad Cove, Lun. Co. and the higher counts were generally along the S Shore. A flock of 35 RED-NECKED GREBE was observed Dec. 13 at Rose Bay, Lun. Co. ("Numbers unusual for this location," ELM). The CBC high count was 38 at Antigonish and most of the higher counts were in the north.

## Tubenoses Through Cormorants

BY BLAKE MAYBANK

The only tubenose report was of 25 N. FULMAR from Browns Bank, Jan. 26 (RSD). N. GANNETS were unexpectedly numerous on a few of the CBCs, with the 176 seen off Chebucto Head the most noteworthy, although the 13 on the Antigonish count were a surprise as well. At Chebucto Head an apparent concentration of herring lured many Fin Whales near to shore at this time, where they lingered for three weeks or more, along with the gannets, and rare winter alcids, as noted further in this issue.

For many species in winter, especially cormorants and gulls, the Christmas Bird Counts are more revealing of the birds' abundance and distribution than are the sporadic sightings from other locations and different times. I have therefore, for the more common species, only included and cited observations



that add to, or challenge, the sightings made during Christmas Counts.

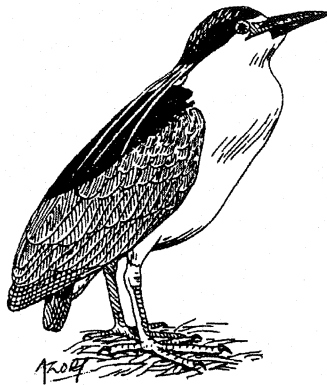
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS, perhaps encouraged by the warm winter, appear to have lingered longer and in greater numbers than is typical. Forty-three birds were tallied during the CBCs (including six in Halifax, nine in Annapolis Royal, and 15 on CSI), although I

would be surprised if some mistakes in identity were not made, as I still do not believe that Double-crested Cormorants make up 10% of our cormorant population in late December, as the CBC data would suggest. My doubts are further fuelled by the almost complete absence of Double-crested Cormorant sightings after the CBC period is over, save for one reported flying by Port George, Anna. Co., Feb. 16 (BBT, GMT), and one at Port Dufferin Feb. 28 (KJM, CGB). Separation of these two species in the winter requires care. Aside from the numerous GREAT CORMORANTS sighted during the CBCs, the only notable sighting was 33 along the coastline from Sober I. to Harrigan Cove, Hfx. Co., Jan. 10 (KJM, CGB), an area not covered in any CBC.

## Hérons Through Vultures

BY IAN MCLAREN

More than usual GREAT BLUE HERONS lingered, including a respectable 31 on CBCs. There were probably more lucky survivors through winter than indicated by the three reports of individuals to at least Feb. 6 in the Pic-tou Hbr. area (KJM *et al.*), and to the end of February on CSI (MUN *et al.*) and at various Kings Co. sites (same bird? BBT, EVU, Jamie Simpson, *et al.*). A late imm. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON was at dockside on Brier I. Dec. 8 (CAH).



TURKEY VULTURES seemed much less common this winter than last. There were only five birds on CBCs, although eight had been seen Dec. 21 on Brier I. (*vide* ELM). There were later sightings of individuals Jan. 11 at Pubnico Pt. (RSD), and Feb. 28 on CSI and at Argyle, Yar. Co. (ELM *et al.*), and evidently a half-dozen or so wintered on Brier I. (*vide* RBS).

## Waterfowl

BY FRED DOBSON

Two GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE were seen Jan. 1-28 in the Economy area by a number of observers (FLS *et al.*). No documentation was provided, but FLS's photos make their identity clear. There is but one report of the SNOW GOOSE — Dec. 3 a "Blue form, present from Nov. 29" at Crescent

Beach, Lun. Co. (SJF). The CANADA GOOSE was present in large numbers everywhere; it is good to see the coverage so complete. Almost every CBC reported some - with the high counts 4,300 at Pt. Hebert, Shel. Co. and 3,685 at Hfx.-Dartmouth. IAM, BLM note Feb. 9: "... four Canadas, keeping sepa-

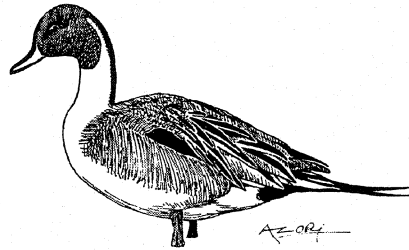
rate from the main flocks at Trenton, were identified as a smaller race, probably *parvipes*". The CBC high count for the BRANT was four at C. Sable, but the count had risen to 3,000 by Feb. 28 and 4,000 by Mar. 13 (MUN, BLM, ELM).

The WOOD DUCK was not widely reported. The CBC high was one at Broad Cove, Lun. Co. A single male was found Feb. 6 in Fishermens Park in N Sydney (NSBS members *fide* ALM, CAM). The most recent sighting was of a single fem. at Conquerall Bank, Lun. Co. "resident with Mallard flock" (ELM).

The GADWALL is one of those ducks we should see more often. There were only four reports: a single bird Dec. 1 at Tufts Cove, HRM, five at the Halifax CBC, two at Antigonish, and three (one male, two fem.) Feb. 6 at Fishermens Pk., N Sydney (NSBS, *fide* ALM, CAM). Although not noted on the CBCs, the beautiful EURASIAN WIGEON was well reported otherwise – individual ad. males through winter around the Trenton power plant (KJM et al.), at Masons Beach Pond, Lun. Co., Dec 12-13 (ELM), at W Lawrencetown Jan. 16 (RAF, IAM), and at Glace Bay Feb. 6 (NSBS field trip). The AM. WIGEON was reported in normal numbers from all across the province. There were "up to 24 between Sullivans Pond & Tufts Cove through winter" (IAM), and two "all winter" at the Kiwanis Pond, Truro (FLS). The high CBC count was 33 in Hfx.-Dartmouth. The AM. BLACK DUCK lived up to its reputation as our most common duck – thanks to all for the excellent record of its distribution we have for this winter! The CBC high count was 4241 individuals in Halifax-Dartmouth; it was reported on every CBC and was in fact widespread with high counts in Pictou Hbr. and W Hants. There were one-two dozen MALLARD all winter in Sydney Hbr. (JAC) and "at least four still on Sable I. through Dec." (ZOL). BLM, ELM, MUN reported 100 Feb. 29 in the Yarmouth area. The only report this winter of the MALLARD X BLACK DUCK hybrid is of 40 seen on the Bedford-Sackville CBC. This record raises questions. There is no doubt that the cross is common locally, but how common is it? We need documentation from other locations to ensure we track the pace of the cross-breeding.

The N SHOVELER was seen in usual numbers this winter. The CBC high count was seven in Hfx.-Dartmouth. The latest record is of one male (imm.)

at Trenton, Pict. Co. Jan. 9 (KJM, CGB) "slightly buffy sides – dull green tinge to the head but otherwise mottled". There were sightings of the N PINTAIL throughout the winter, mostly from the S of the province. ELM reported "late fall-end of February up to seven (up to three drakes) resident with



Mallard flocks, Lunenburg Hbr. and commuting to Upper S Cove, Lun. Co." JWW found up to eight (four males) in Saxon St. Pond and others in the vicinity throughout Dec. The high counts for the CBCs were four in both Hfx.-Dartmouth and Wolfville. An interesting Dec. 31 sighting of a MALLARD-PINTAIL HYBRID by IAM reads "A surprise flock of 18 fed in intertidal of Point Pleasant Pk., Hfx. Among them was a fine drake Mallard x Pintail hybrid. Pintails are common and this hybrid regular around St. John's, NF in winter. I wonder if these had just come from there?" The only reports from the N were of single birds. There were several reports from the end of January onwards of a few from C. Sable and The Hawk (var. obs.).

Reports of GREEN-WINGED TEAL covered the entire winter period and came mostly from the Valley, with a few from the N and one from HRM. The CBC high count was 60 at Wolfville.

The reports of REDHEAD sightings were of three individuals at Pictou Causeway, from 1 Jan. into March (KJM *et al.*). "Rob Reid and FLL found a pair at Pictou Causeway. Subsequently joined by another male..." (KJM). RING-NECKED DUCK sightings were early and sparse. There were several during December on Bissett L., HRM (var. obs.). This year of all years they might have been ex-

pected to stay, since so many of the lakes stayed open. We are approaching the point when the TUFTED DUCK can be considered a regular winter resident. KJM, CGB reported "At least three seen all winter - one fem. with Redheads & Greater Scaup at Pictou Causeway and two ad. males seen from NSPC bridge, Trenton, but ... also at the Causeway." From the Valley RBS reported, "19 Jan. an ad. fem. at Annapolis R. causeway. This bird was a fairly typical ad. fem., although the flanks were dingy-looking and rather pale. There was a tiny pale mark at the side of the base of the bill. The bill was large, had a bluish tinge and a black tip. There was a very small tuft. I didn't see the under-tail area. (subsequently felt by MLH to be an imm. male)."

Halifax had a new rarity in the form of a possible cross; IAM noted "... the Tufted Duck at Sullivans Pond and Dartmouth Cove from early Jan. was an ad. male, not imm. as first reported. There are indications from photos that the first-reported hybrid, TUFTED DUCK X GREATER SCAUP ... differed from a later bird, which had size and other features suggesting Lesser Scaup parentage." This latter bird developed the plumage of a pure male Lesser Scaup and was still at Sullivans Pond into March. The GREATER SCAUP, as usual, was widespread and numerous with most reports coming from the N of the province. The CBC high count was 3,542 at Pictou Hbr. A flock of 7,000 was observed Feb. 9 at Pictou Causeway (BLM, ELM, IAM) and 500 Feb. 28 at The Pubnicos, Yar. Co. (BLM, ELM, MUN). Notable were "150+ newly arrived, Upper S Cove, Lun. Co." Feb. 19 (ELM) and 25 Feb. 28 at Sober I., Guys. Co. (KJM, CGB). The LESSER SCAUP was sparsely reported. There were 20-40 Dec. 1-9 at Bissett L., HRM (BLM, FLL). The CBC high count was 37 at Hfx.-Dartmouth. Individuals were seen from time to time at Purcells Cove, Halifax, and (see above) Sullivans Pond (var. obs.)

The only KING EIDER sighting consisted of two individuals seen on the Hfx.-Dartmouth CBC. There were many COM. EIDER sightings on the CBCs – high count 610 at Hfx.-Dartmouth and

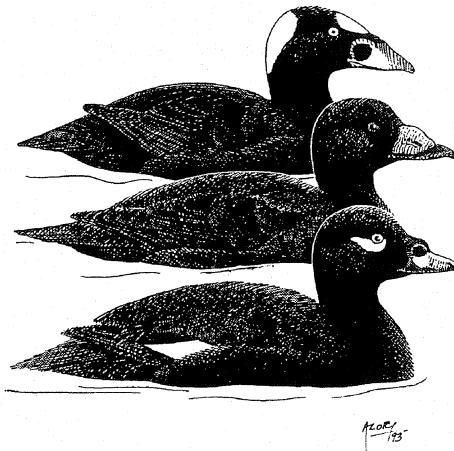


widely reported — but few in the regular reports for December-February; yet they were certainly present. This winter the HARLEQUIN DUCK was reported from late December — mid-February from Pictou and the E Shore in the N and Annapolis in the S. The CBC high count was 12 at Port Hebert. KJM saw one male (imm.) from Chance Hbr. wharf Dec. 31; “not often reported in Pict. Co. in winter”. The best report was Jan. 8 of “two nice drakes in the surf just offshore Annapolis” (RBS) and the latest of one male, two fem. at Port George, Anna. Co. (BBT, GMT). There were no reports on the known concentration off Pennant Pt., HRM.

Reports of the SURF SCOTER come from the E Shore and S Shore. The CBC high count was 96 at Kingston, Kings Co. From late December-end February there were “ca. 50 in estuary of Lahave River, Lun. Co.” (ELM). All the remaining reports were January-March. RBS saw “100+ between Hampton and Parkers Cove, Fundy Shore” Jan. 19 and BLM, ELM, MUN reported 75 in the Yarmouth area Feb. 28. The first WHITE-WINGED SCOTER report was of two (male or imm.) Dec. 9 at Cole Hbr., HRM (DHH). The CBC high count was 98 at Hfx.-Dartmouth; there were 59 seen at Bridgetown. Most reports January-March were from the E Shore. Notable were 100+ Jan. 19 “between Hampton and Parkers Cove, Fundy Shore” (RBS). The earliest BLACK SCOTER sightings were on the CBCs — they were widely distributed with the high count of 100 in the Apple River, Kings Co. Again, most reports were from the E Shore and S Shore. Notable were 400 Jan. 10 and 100+ Feb. 28 at Sober I. (KJM, CGB), 3,000 Feb. 28 at Baccaro Pt., Shel. Co. and 30 Mar. 4 at Redman Hd., Guys. Co. (RFL, MZG). Some 500 off Baccaro Pt., Shel. Co., Feb. 27, may have been moving N (FLL). This winter “up to 100” OLDSQUAW were present off Lockeport, Shel. Co. “... seem to be particularly numerous this year” (DJC); they were “regularly seen & heard off Westhaver Beach, Lun. Co” (JBM). The CBCs indicated a wide distribution with a high count of 348 at Glace Bay (130 Yarmouth). They were common Feb. 6

along the CB coast (NSBS, *fide* ALM, CAM). RFL, MZG reported 90+ Feb. 20 at Isaacs Hbr. and 10 Mar. 4 at Redman Hd., Guys. Co.

The BUFFLEHEAD was widely distributed if relatively sparsely reported this winter. The earliest was of four Dec. 1 at Bissett L., HRM (BLM, FLL). The high CBC count was 94 at Annapolis (70 Cape Sable). NSBS members (*fide* ALM, CAM) reported “flocks of six to 22 birds seen in Glace Bay Sanctuary, Glace Bay Hbr., Lingan Hbr., Sydney Hbr. and N Sydney Hbr.” Feb. 6. The latest report was of five Feb. 28 “in Yarmouth area” (BLM, ELM, MUN). The COM. GOLDENEYE was well reported from all parts of the province. JAC noted “four — five dozen” through December “(a few hundred in Nov. '98)” and JBM counted eight “seen regularly” at Maders Cove, Lun. Co. RFL reported 40 Dec. 13 at Williams Pt., Ant. Co. The CBC high count was 2,143 at Pictou Hbr.; they were widely distributed. In January-March large numbers were seen in the N of the province: 200+ Jan. 12 at Sydney Hbr. (WAM, JAC), and 400 at Trenton, 1,000 at Pictou Causeway Feb. 9 (BLM, IAM). The BARROW'S GOLDENEYE appeared in small numbers in CB, Pict. Co., HRM,



the Valley and on the Fundy Shore. The CBC high count was 16 at Pictou Hbr. Throughout the winter at least two males & one fem. were seen in Bedford Basin (var. obs., *fide* IAM). JWW, BBT mention Feb. 11 “one beautiful male with seven Com. Goldeneyes (four males, three fem./imm.) at New Minas

sewage ponds, Kings Co.” The latest report is of a single male Mar. 15 at Pictou Causeway. (KJM).

There were comparatively few reports this winter of the HOODED MERGANSER — a perennial favourite. BLM saw two Dec. 5 — Jan. 31 in Hfx. Hbr./Bedford Basin and there was a report of 12 Dec. 26 at Eel I., Yar. Co. RSD mentioned “Several were present at the mouth of the Annis R. in Pleasant L. all winter”. The CBC high count was 34, at both Bedford-Sackville and Lunenburg. The latest report is of 20 at Whynaughts Cove, E St. Margarets, Hfx. Co. (BLM, IAM). JBM mention six-eight COM. MERGANSER “seen regularly” at Maders Cove, Lun. Co. In general the reports have come in from all over the province. The CBC high counts were 94 at Annapolis and 91 at Glace Bay; reports were widespread. NSBS members (*fide* ALM, CAM) found individuals Feb. 6 at Glace Bay Sanctuary, Glace Bay Hbr., Lingan Bay, Sydney Hbr. and N Sydney. BLM, IAM counted 200 at Trenton and 1500 Feb. 9 at the Pictou Causeway. ELM found Feb. 14 “a few in every cove along W side of Lahave River from Lahave to Bridgewater, Lun. Co. Total at least 17.”, and Mar. 4-5 JWW, JCT found four males, two fem. in Saxon St. Pond, Kings Co. The earliest report of the RED-BREASTED MERGANSER is two males Dec. 9 at Cole Hbr., HRM; 11 were found Dec. 12 at Rudderham Creek., Pt. Edward, CB (WAM, JAC). The high count for the CBCs was 2,561 at Pictou Hbr. There were 30 Jan. 8 at Annapolis “(Too windy to see much else)” RBS. They were reported in small numbers throughout the winter period from all over the province.

There were few reports of the RUDDY DUCK. BLM, FLL saw one Dec. 8 and two Dec. 9 at Bissett L., HRM. The latest report was of a single male at Lower W. Pubnico, Yar. Co. “It stayed about 10 days” (RSD).



# Diurnal Raptors Through Rallids

BY IAN MCLAREN

BALD EAGLES continued to please birders and other observers in Kings Co., especially during the eagle-watch weekend Jan. 30-31. The 19th annual Cyril Coldwell raptor count Feb. 7 brought out 37 observers in 16 parties to tally 483 birds (54% ad.), somewhat above average (*vide* JWW). Among the few reports from elsewhere, there were up to seven in Sydney Hbr. (JAC), and 12 at Port Howe, Cum. Co. Feb. 8, considered to be an unusual number by KJM. Good numbers of N HARRIERS were on CBCs (69 vs. 44 last year), and later reports of some 16 from 11 locations were more than usual.

The 62 SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS on CBCs almost matched last year's 70, and they were largely deemed unnoteworthy thereafter. The most ambitious predation reported was on a Mourning Dove near Wolfville Jan. 17 (GWT). The only reported COOPER'S HAWKS were in Dartmouth at CBC time (CLS, P. Serwylo; good details) and at W. Pubnico Feb. 7 (MUN). A record 25 N GOSHAWKS were on CBCs, and 10 scattered individuals were noted subsequently (*var. obs.*). We need more complete reporting of this provincial "code yellow" raptor, but these numbers seem reassuring.

The winter's only BROAD-WINGED HAWK was observed at Wellington, Feb. 9 (FLL, et al.). It was described (FLL) as moulting into adult plumage, with rufous barring beginning to show, and as having the characteristic broad tail bars and pale, dark-bordered underwing pattern of this species. Although 315 RED-TAILED HAWKS were found on CBCs, they were not much reported thereafter. Judging by the 133 on the Wolfville CBC, the 38 on the later eagle count were "probably an underestimate" (JWW). The usual near-albino returned for the 10th winter along Saxon St., Kings Co. (*var. obs.*). The Acadia University pair was nest building in January and copulating by Feb. 24 (*vide* JWW). There were scattered

reports from elsewhere. A total of 44 ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were noted on CBCs. Subsequently, a few were noted in Kings Co. (five on the raptor count), and only nine elsewhere. Did they drift away? Among eight assigned as to phase, four were dark.



Fourteen AM. KESTRELS on CBCs almost doubled last year's total, but there were only four later reports of scattered singles (*var. obs.*). MERLINS started out with 18 on CBCs, but only five were noted subsequently. These included one tough bird in Wolfville Jan. 5 that laboriously flew with its Mourning Dove prey to the roof of a nearby barn (BBT). A dark-morph GYRFALCON near the Bedford Institute during the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC was well documented by KAA. A PEREGRINE FALCON on the Economy CBC was noteworthy, as were an individual Feb. 1-3 in Sydney (JAC),

and a male and a possible fem. around Cape d'Or, Cum. Co., Jan. 26 and Feb. 23 (JRM, MSM).

This winter, we had reports of up to eight GRAY PARTRIDGE near Sheffield Mills, Kings Co., Jan. 30 (JWW), and about 20 were said by locals to frequent the vineyards in Falmouth, Hants Co., during late fall. None was reported from Truro, although they were certainly present in late fall. Two individuals on CBCs were at Shubenacadie and Economy respectively. Clearly their hold is tenuous. RING-NECKED PHEASANTS, by contrast, remain boringly plentiful; the three post-CBC reports included no surprises. One early crowing cock was at Grand Pré, Feb. 28 (JWW). There were 185 RUFFED GROUSE on CBCs compared with 149 last year, but a mere three reports of later birds don't reflect this apparent increase. A "male was in full display" to a female Feb. 2 at Pubnico Pt. (RSD). This year's dozen SPRUCE GROUSE on CBCs were also a considerable boost from last year's three, but the only subsequent reports were of two in Guys. Co. Jan. 17 (KJM) and a male near Apple River Feb. 17 (KFS). The single N BOBWHITE on the Annapolis CBC contrasted with last year's nine. Another was at a Falmouth feeder Dec. 12 (Jane McConnell). We'll have to wait before we can legitimately life list them.

The VIRGINIA RAIL near Wolfville Dec. 17 (MAH) was a reminder that these turned up with some regularity in early winter during the 60s and 70s. Two AM. COOTS lingered until at least Dec. 4 at Saxon Pond, Kings Co., and there were up to 14 in Glace Bay and 15 on Bisset L., HRM, until at least Dec. 6 (*var. obs.*). Of the 10 on CBCs, seven were in Halifax-Dartmouth. As usual, one wintered on Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth.



# Shorebirds

BY SYLVIA FULLERTON

This was an excellent season for wintering shorebirds, possibly due, in part, to the unusually mild weather. Typically, the preferred wintering area was in the SW part of the Province and late records were reestablished for several species.

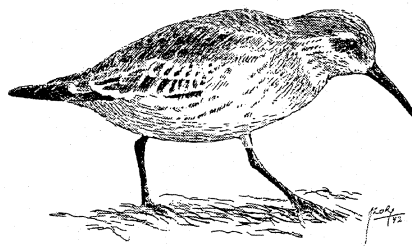
Eight lingering BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER were tallied on the CBCs, an average number. Three were on Sable I. Dec. 30 and three hung on at Little Hbr., Shel. Co. until Jan. 1 (ZOL, DHY). As expected, the only overwintering birds were the 15 still at CSI Feb. 28 (BLM, ELM, MUN). Only three KILLDEER were in evidence on the CBCs; singles were found at Glace Bay, Pictou Hbr., and Port l'Hebert. However, they were unusually widespread in January and Feb., appearing at Habitant and Canning, Kings Co., Sober I., Hfx. Co. and Short Beach, Yar. Co. in early January (var. obs.). One tarried at the Saxton St. Pond, Kings Co. Dec. 20-Feb. 12 (BBT, MAG). TIA spotted three feeding on storm-tossed seaweed at Hartlen Pt. Jan. 17 and one was at Lower W Pubnico Feb. 11 (RSD). Presumably these were all wintering birds.

Seldom do GREATER YELLOWLEGS linger into mid-December., but one was at Melmerby Beach, Pict. Co. Dec. 10 (CGB), another at Lunenburg Dec. 13 (ELM) and one was found on the Wolfville CBC Dec. 20, providing the third CBC record. Even later was the single bird at Eel L., Yar. Co. Jan. 4, which furnished a late record for the species (MUN). Four LESSER YELLOWLEGS were an unusual seasonal find at Eel L., Yar. Co. Jan. 4, providing yet another late record.

RUDDY TURNSTONES made a poor showing, the only ones reported being singles on Sable I. Dec. 24 and at Caribou I. Jan. 1 (ZOL, KJM). A few RED KNOTS regularly linger into December and often can be found at established wintering sites but this year the only ones to be found were at CSI where 25 were still present Feb. 28 (BLM, ELM,

MUN). Next to Purple Sandpipers, SANDERLINGS are our most visible and abundant overwinterers. Of 170 tallied on the CBCs 169 were at CSI, and these dwindled to about 100 by Feb. 28 (BLM, ELM, MUN). On Sable I. 95 were counted Dec. 30 (ZOL). Smaller flocks were seen at several beaches, including five at both Sandy Cove, HRM Jan. 10 and at Cherry Hill Jan. 29 (IAM, SJF). An ind. showed up on the Glace Bay CBC Dec. 28 and another was at Canso Jan. 31, surely establishing records for the season's northernmost sightings.

A SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER was identified on Caribou I., Pict. Co. Dec. 14 (KJM, CGB). Another, first seen Dec. 13 on CSI, was still present Feb. 14 (MUN). This is the second year one has over-wintered in the province; the prior one was also on CSI. Semipalmated Sandpipers winter primarily in northern South America and are rare over-winterers on the eastern seaboard, whereas the Western Sandpiper does winter in some numbers on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. Most "peeps" found on the E coast in winter are therefore considered to be Westerns. Knowing the



ID-challenges presented by Westerns, particularly in basic plumage and by young males with short bills, it may not have been possible to separate the two reported Semipalmateds from possible Westerns, but it does serve to remind us all of the challenges to be faced in identifying problematic species.

Three WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS at CSI were noteworthy overwinterers to at least Feb. 14, establishing

another late record (MUN). The most widely reported of all the shorebirds was of course the PURPLE SANDPIPER. First to be noted were 21 at Kennington Cove, CB Co. Dec. 6 (RNK). CBCs tallied 425 from ten counts; highest counts being 200 at Economy, 84 at Brier I., and 60 at Bridgetown. A respectable 46 were at W. Apple R. Dec. 28 (KFS), as were 65 at Sober I. Feb. 28 (KJM *et al.*). Up to 24 were at Margaretsville, Anna. Co. from Jan. 22 - Feb. 3 (RBS, GWT, JCT). Peggys Cove produced 18 Jan. 7 and 12+ were at Prospect, HRM Jan. 30 (BLM, PLC). Numbers were lower on the CB CBCs: 5 at Glace Bay; 10 at Louisbourg, 3 at Port Morien. In Guys. Co. 16 were at Half I. Cove Jan. 11 & 25 (RFL, KJM *et al.*). RSD found 18 in Lower W Pubnico feeding in the same small area Feb. 11-25. Although a common over-winterer, DUNLIN were present in only average numbers. CBCs produced a total of 32, 18 of which were on the Halifax-Dartmouth count, seven at Broad Cove, Lun. Co., and seven at CSI. Eight were at Rainbow Haven, HRM Jan. 16 (IAM) and up to 20 were still at CSI Feb. 28 (BLM, ELM, MUN).

Late were two LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS seen Dec. 6 on CSI. One lingered to at least Jan. 4, providing the second winter record for the Province (MUN).

Six COM. SNIPE seen on early CBCs were about average. Surprising, considering the severity of weather in CB, was the one, possibly two, which were seen Feb. 4 at Schooner Pond Beach, CB Co. (CAM, ALM). The only report of AM. WOODCOCK was of a single straggler on the Louisbourg CBC Dec. 19.

A bird identified as a RED PHALAROPE flying off Hartlen Pt., Feb. 13 (FLL *et al.*) was described as having the pale gray plumage, prominent wing stripes, and flight characteristics of this species. Although not entirely unprecedented as a winter bird in the N Atlantic, it should have been off S America at this date.

# Gulls Through Alcids

BY BLAKE MAYBANK

A single adult LITTLE GULL was found Feb. 13 at Ogdens Pond, Ant. Co. (RFL, RNK). The distribution of BLACK-HEADED GULLS in the province is accurately portrayed by the CBC data, with the largest concentration in the Halifax Hbr. area (150+ birds), and other groups in Antigonish (30), Glace Bay (30), Sydney Hbr. (30), Canso Causeway (10), and Pictou Hbr. (10). The only concentration not noted on a CBC was the 25 or so resident in Lunenburg Hbr. through February (ELM). The largest group in the southern mainland was in Eel Brook, Yar. Co., where up to 15 were present through the winter (var. obs.). BONAPARTE'S GULLS were, as expected, mostly along the Northumberland shore, with 160+ seen on CBCs between the Canso Causeway and Pictou (most in Antigonish Hbr.). Halifax did well to count 22, and ELM found 33 in Lunenburg Hbr. Dec 5, an unusually high number for the south shore. Also noteworthy were six in Lower W Pubnico in early February (RSD).

At least two MEW (COMMON) GULLS were noted; an adult was at Melmerby Beach, Pict. Co. (CGB) Dec 12, with the same or a different bird at Quarry I., Pict. Co. Jan. 31 (KJM, CGB), with the unmarked bill and large windows in the primaries noted on the latter bird. A "possible" bird was seen at Sullivans Pond Feb. 25 (MLH, ALK), a location where the species has been noted previously. Almost 1400 RING-BILLED GULLS were counted during the CBCs, but most were in two locations, 775 in Halifax, and 265 in Wolfville. Other CBC concentrations of note included 76 in Apple River, 47 in Antigonish, and 28 at Economy. Many other sightings of ones and twos were sent in from other areas of the province, too numerous to mention here. In summary, the species is becoming more common throughout the province. The HERRING GULL situation mirrors that of Great Black-backed Gulls; more than 30,000 were on the Wolfville CBC, and

"just" 4500 in Halifax. The Annapolis Valley is definitely enjoying the legacy of the Sackville Landfill. It's worthwhile commenting that JAC thought both Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls down in numbers in the Sydney Hbr. area, although she gave no numbers.

In the 2nd edition of Godfrey's *Birds of Canada*, the author treats Thayer's Gulls and Iceland Gulls as conspecific. However, as the American Ornithologists' Union has yet to concur, I will still treat the species as separate, although I side with Godfrey. This winter there were several sight records of THAYER'S GULL, but regrettably no photographs. I have no details from the reported sighting from the former Volvo Plant in Halifax Hbr. Feb. 20 (FLL, et



al.), nor the report from the Kentville dump Feb. 25 (MLH, ALK). However, ELM did send along his notes from his two Lun. Co. sightings, and as they are important, I'm including them here.

*"I am aware of the difficulty of separating a questionable specific entity like Thayer's Gull from the range of Iceland (Kumlien's) Gull plumages seen on the East Coast. However, the following two birds stand out from the hundreds of Iceland Gulls I have examined on the South Shore this winter. I pre-*

*sent these observations as my little contribution toward the unresolved problem of species limits in the Iceland Gull complex.*

*23 Jan. - 1 adult, Lunenburg Hbr. ELM. A striking adult with mantle colour at dark end of range of Herring Gull. Head heavily streaked. Did not note eye or eye-ring colour because of brief view compounded by very high wind and -10 C temperature. Restricted black wing-tips with a large white window along length of outermost primary above and no black below except at the extreme end of each outer primary ("String of pearls" effect, with apologies to those who describe Slaty-backed Gull wings).*

*12 Feb. - 1 first year, Lunenburg Hbr. ELM. On the West Coast this bird would have been called a first year Thayer's toward the pale end of plumage intensity. An Iceland-like bird, but with notably dark primary feathers having the pattern above of a first-winter Herring Gull, but pale below, giving a silvery appearance. Overall body colouration more intensely brown and somewhat more chequered than on first year Iceland Gulls in the vicinity, thus appearing superficially Herring-like at first glance. Tail band medium brown and wide, contrasting with the rump in intensity and by being solid colour rather than barred. Head "masked", i.e. with dark brown colouration centered on the eye, but not extending to the nape or to the crown. Interestingly, I think, this bird arrived in the inner harbour while I watched, investigated the masses of feeding Kumlien's Gulls, appeared uncomfortable with them, and left toward the open sea."*

ICELAND GULLS are harbour lovers,

and most of the CBC 1400+ birds were in the harbours of Halifax, Sydney, Glace Bay, Pictou, and Yarmouth. A few could be found elsewhere along most outer coastlines (e.g. "dozens" at Canso, Guys. Co. Jan. 17 (RFL, MZG) and over Annapolis Valley sewage ponds (10 at New Minas Feb. 2 (JWW), although the count of 22 on the Brier I. Dec 22 CBC was unusually high (ELM). With the gull shift westward, it is not surprising that most of the LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were in the Annapolis Valley as well. Although there were fewer sightings than in late autumn, I expect the eight birds counted then were still present among the 40,000+ gulls in the valley. Elsewhere the only Lesser Black-backed were in Pict. Co., with at least two adults present off and on in the Pictou Causeway area through mid-January (KJM, CGB). Nearly 10% of the white-winged gulls seen on CBCs were GLAUCOUS GULLS, although most were found on Cape Breton, with a notable 44 in Cheticamp, unsurprising in that the local climate there is more like that of Newfoundland's than anywhere else in the province. Away from Cape Breton they were present in ones or twos, and some observers thought them hard to locate, but at least 25 individuals were noted across mainland Nova Scotia.

Nearly 10,000 GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS were on the CBCs — enough said, normally, except that Wolfville, with almost 3,600 individuals, had ten times the number seen in Halifax, a solid indication, I think, of where many of the former larid patrons of the now-closed Sackville Landfill have moved. To round out the gulls, just 14 BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES were found on CBCs, with eight off Brier I. and three off Chebucto Head. However, Chebucto Head offered up 25+ birds Jan. 9 (BLM, *et al.*) among the whale feeding frenzy, and 150 were counted on Browns Bank Jan. 28 (RSD). On this latter date AAM had a single bird off Black Rock, Kings Co.

It was a weird alcid winter, with the warm weather likely to blame. The expected DOVEKIE arrival was tardy,

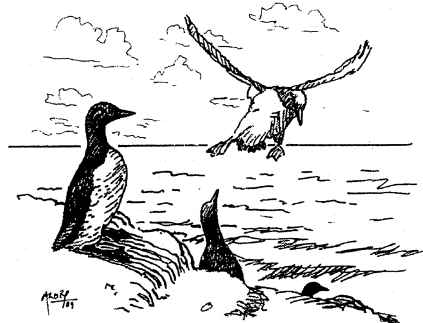
with but 27 birds on CBCs, most in Cape Breton. The best single count later on was 25+ birds in Louisbourg in the second week of January (SEM), just before the birds hit the mainland in mid-month. From then until the end of February there were more than 100 birds reported along the coast of the mainland. Some selected sightings:

- 17 Jan. 4 Lower Prospect, Hfx. Co. (BLM)
- 17 Jan. 6 Canso Hbr., Guys. Co. (KJM, CGB)
- 17 Jan. 1 Advocate Hbr., Cumb. Co. (JRM)
- 16 Jan. many Chebucto Head, Hfx. Co. (IAM, *et al.*)
- 26 Jan. 1 Sober I., Hfx. Co. (BLM)
- 25 Jan. 2 Halls Hbr., Kings Co. (JJN)
- 31 Jan. 2 Port George, Anna. Co. (Brian Starzomski)
- 04 Feb. 4 Port George to Parkers Cove, Anna. Co. (var. obs.)
- 06 Feb. 3 Aspotogan Hbr., Lun. Co. (CJF)
- 07-15 Feb. 15 CSI (various wharves), Shel. Co. (MUN)
- 19 Feb. 20+ Digby Hbr. (MLH *et al.*)
- 28 Feb. 5 Chebucto Head, Hfx. Co. (Meredith Flannery)
- Var. dates 15+ Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. (DJC)

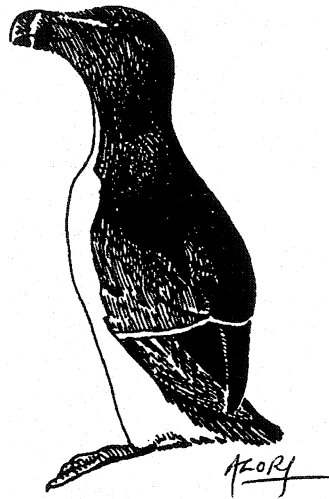
COMMON MURRES almost lived up to their name this winter, as there were frequent sightings of this rarest of Nova Scotian alcids. Mind you, none of the sightings was accompanied by any details, so I can't rule out misidentifications, but even if a few birds were really Thick-billed Murrees, there was clearly a Common Murre movement. Three were found on Cape Breton CBCs, but many more appeared throughout the province, as follows:

- 10 Jan. 2 Chebucto Head, Hfx. Co. (BLM, *et al.*)
- 18 Jan. 8 Port George and Margaretsville, Anna. Co. (John & Trish Rubin)
- 19 Jan. 1 Hampton, Anna. Co. (RBS)
- 24 Jan. 1 Parkers Cove, Anna. Co. (MLH, ALK)
- 25 Jan. 2 Halls Hbr., Kings Co. (JJN)
- 02 Feb. 1 Margaretsville, Anna. Co. (JCT, GWT)
- 09 Feb. 2 Port Morien, CB Co. (ALM, CAM)
- 14-19 Feb. 6 Digby Hbr., Anna. Co. (John Rubin, JJN, PBG)

THICK-BILLED MURREES, whose arrival often coincides with that of Dovekies, were similarly late, and only four birds were found on CBCs. However, by mid-January things picked up, and 100 or more birds were found through the winter, not including oiled birds found off of Cape Breton's shores, victims of passing ships pumping their bilges. Many birds were found along the Fundy shoreline of Kings and Annapolis Counties, which delighted local birders there. Selected sightings, to give a flavour of numbers and distribution:



08 Jan.	1	Sober I., Hfx. Co. (BLM, <i>et al.</i> )
10 Jan.	1	Hubbards Cove, Lun. Co. (BLM, <i>et al.</i> )
17 Jan.	2	Advocate Hbr., Cumb. Co. (JRM)
17 Jan.	3	Main-a-Dieu, CB Co. (SEM)
22 Jan.	3	Margaretsville, Anna. Co. (RBS)
25 Jan.	4	Halls Hbr., Kings Co. (JJN)
28 Jan.	5	Black Rock, Kings Co. (AAM)
31 Jan.	2	CSI, Shel. Co. (MUN)
31 Jan.	2	Tor Bay Prov. Pk, Guys. Co. (KJM, CGB)
02 Feb.	6	Port George to Hamp- ton, Anna. Co. (JCT, GWT)
04 Feb.	10+	Parkers Cove to Phin- neys Cove, Anna. Co. (AAM)
14 Feb.	6	South side Halifax Hbr., Hfx. Co. (PEL, Marina LeBlanc)
19 Feb.	5	Digby Hbr. (MEK <i>et</i> <i>al.</i> )
20 Feb.	7	Lunenburg Hbr. (ELM)
27 Feb.	1	Pond Rd. lobster pound, Lower W Pub- nico. (RSD)
28 Feb.	7	Sheet Hbr., Pict. Co. (KJM)



RAZORBILLS occur in the Bay of Fundy in winter, but inshore sightings are scarce, and Atlantic coast winter sightings most unusual. However, the feeding frenzy off Chebucto Head was productive for a short while, and the Fundy shore counties were rewarded as well.

10 Jan.	20+	Chebucto Head, Hfx. Co. (FLL, <i>et al.</i> )
25 Jan.	1	Halls Hbr., Kings Co. (JJN)
26 Jan.	1	Sober I., Hfx. Co. (BLM)
02 Feb.	3+	Parkers Cove, Anna. Co. (JCT, GWT).
19 Feb.	2	Digby Hbr., Digby Co. (MLH, <i>et al.</i> )

We'll let the CBC data on BLACK GUILLEMOTS speak for itself, except

for the 72 birds counted along the eastern shore between Mulgrave and Goldboro Jan. 17 (KJM, CGB). ATLANTIC PUFFINS, which are not expected in winter, made a modest appearance, especially off Chebucto Head, where up to ten birds were feeding Jan. 6-17 (FLL, *et al.*). One bird was seen intermittently in Digby Hbr. Jan. 3 - Feb. 19 (JJN, *et al.*), while another was off Halls Hbr. Jan. 25 (JJN).



## Doves Through Woodpeckers

BY IAN MCLAREN

The 8,953 ROCK DOVES on CBCs about equalled last year's count of 8,817. By contrast, MOURNING DOVES increased from 4,573 last year, to 6,590 this year. Their continuing increase, if real, may be a mixed blessing. With up to 350 at her E. Advocate feeder, JRM notes that "thank goodness,

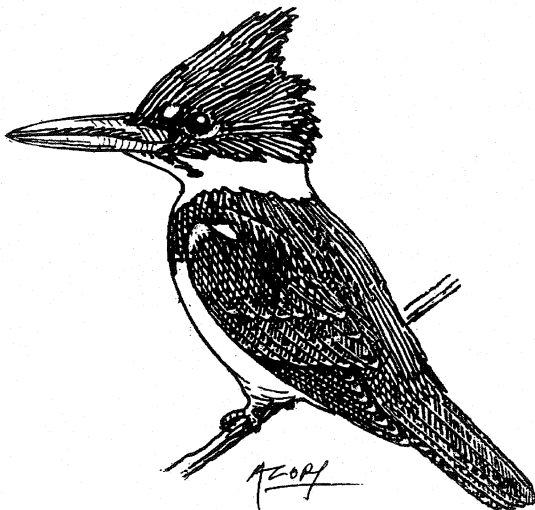
[they sometimes formed] smaller groups and fed at the neighbours [which gave] the sparrows a chance to eat." A few other reports were all of feeder birds.

A number of owl enthusiasts were out listening after mid-February, as the data in Table 1 indicates. I include a few

heard during the first few days of March as these doubtless had begun to "sing" earlier.

Among other, less regular or diurnal owls, SNOWY OWLS were unusually scarce this winter. There was a paltry single on CBCs, and thereafter we had

only two reports — one at S. Alton, Kings Co., Dec. 26 (*vide* MAG), and one on Cape Sable, CSI, Feb. 7 (MUN). We received no details on a N HAWK OWL reported from Lanark, Ant. Co., Dec. 2 (*vide* RFL). In addition to the dozen or so LONG-EARED OWLS roosting in Kings Co. (with correctly vague details), an unexpected one was at Round Hill, Anna. Co., Dec. 5 (PEH, PMD). It was a good winter for SHORT-EARED OWLS. The 19 near Amherst dominated the CBC total of 22 this year. The 15 post-CBC birds were scattered elsewhere, mostly in coastal Annapolis and Kings Co.



The 30 BELTED KINGFISHERS on this year's CBC did not much exceed last year's 24; but more lasted through winter. At least 19 were noted from late January through February, more than twice as many as in last year.

The imm. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER present since fall in Hantsport, Hants Co. acquired its adult plumage through winter (var. obs.). Another immature stayed from early December to about Jan. 10 at a New Glasgow feeder (KJM *et al.*). There were no subsequent reports of the RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER found on the Bedford-Sackville CBC. The few reports of our regular woodpeckers give no hint of their general status, for which CBC results are more pertinent. DOWNY WOODPECKERS continued their CBC increase to 559, up from 486 last year, but HAIRYS stayed about the same at 331 vs. 334 last year. No one reported BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS following the CBC bird at Wolfville, but I heard indirectly that at least a couple were seen. N FLICKERS maintained their recent trend to winter in larger numbers. The CBC tally of 155 about equalled last year's 147. The eight reported post-CBC birds were certainly a small fraction of those actually seen. Most noteworthy were the 102 PILEATED WOODPECKERS on CBCs, compared with 57 last year. Subsequent records don't reflect this apparent increase: eight reports of 12 birds were almost exactly the same as last year's.

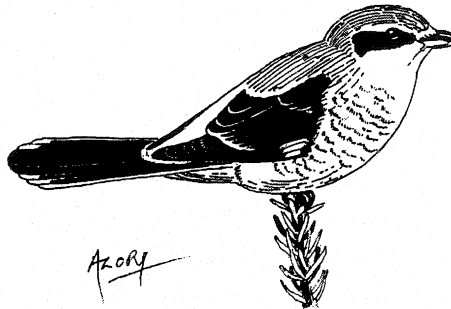
Table 1 – Winter Owl Reports

Species	Locality & county	No.	Observers
GREAT HORNED	Catalone Gut, CB	1	RNK, SEM
	Broughton Rd., CB	4	var. obs.
	Sand Lake, CB	pair	ALM, SEM
	Grande Anse, Rich.	pair	RFL, CHM
	Trafalgar, Guys.	1	CGB, KJM
	Apple River, Cum.	2	KFS
	Shulie, Cum.	2	KFS
	Port Hawkesbury	2 pr.	RFL et al.
	Mill Village, etc., Lun. Co.	1	FLL
BARRED	Broughton Rd., CB	2	var. obs.
	Port Hawkesbury	1	RFL et al.
	Glenelg, Guys.	1	CGB, KJM
	Trafalgar, Guys	1	CGB, KJM
	Macan, Cum.	1	KFS
	Kentville	2	RBS
	Mill Village, etc., Lun. Co.	4	FLL
	Port Medway, Queens	1	BLM, ELM
N. SAW-WHET	Broughton Rd., CB	2	var. obs.
	Catalone Gut, CB	2	RIK, SEM
	Hornes Rd., CB	1	SEM
	R. Bourgeois, Rich.	1	RFL, CHM
	Louisdale, Rich.	1	RFL, CHM
	Port Hawkesbury	1	RFL et al.
	Glenelg, Guys.	1	CGB, KJM
	Trafalgar, Guys.	3	CGB, KJM
	Apple R.iver Cum.	1	KFS
	Mill Village, etc., Lun. Co	8	FLL
	Lr. Rose Bay, Lun.	1	ELM

## Flycatchers Through Vireos

BY ERIC MILLS

Flycatchers of any kind in winter are noteworthy, and although we have not been able to repeat 1996's Dusky Flycatcher, the SAY'S PHOEBE that appeared Dec. 3-9 at Woodside, Kings Co. (MLH) was enjoyed by many. It was not located during the Wolfville Christmas census Dec. 20. KJM and CGB noted that N SHRIKES were uncommon this winter in Pict. Co., an observation borne out by only scattered records from there, Cum., Hfx. and Yar. Co. through Feb.27



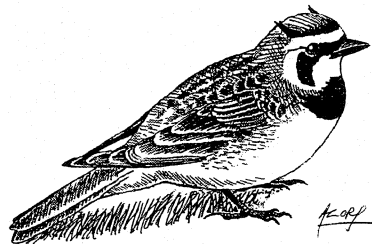
(Billy Mills *et al.*) and observations from New Brunswick that while this species was relatively commonly seen in the N, it was scarcer than usual in the S (*fide* Brian Dalzell and *NatureNS*). Eleven were recorded on CBCs, widely scattered from CSI to Louisbourg, CB. Co. Not unprecedented in early winter, a BLUE-HEADED VIREO was found in Halifax Dec. 9 (DAC, FLL, *et al.*), last seen on the CBC Dec.20.

## Corvids Through Waxwings

BY ERIC MILLS

In Apple River, Cum. Co., KFS's feeder attracted two to three GRAY JAYS in Dec.; she notes that the species was regular along roadsides throughout the winter. There were a few other reports, mainly from eastern and SW NS, including six in the Liscomb area, Guys. Co. Feb. 28 (KJM, CGB) and numbers on many CBCs throughout the province. Observers should keep note of the abundance of this species, in case it begins to show the kind of decline attributed to climatic warming suggested in Ontario. BLUE JAYS were mostly sparsely reported, though evidently locally abundant throughout at least SW Nova Scotia according to my observations, and widely noted on CBCs throughout the province, often in the hundreds, especially in urban areas like Halifax-Dartmouth and Wolfville. Several observers mentioned the abundance of AM. CROWS, although the 17,658 on the Wolfville census Dec. 20 (*fide* JWW) and 7,000 going to a roost in New Glasgow, Pict. Co. (KJM, CGB) Dec. 13 take the prizes for numbers this season. In the Westmount-Point Edward area, CB Co., COM. RAVEN numbers were above average (JAC), but there was little information from elsewhere except on CBCs, which indicated widespread abundance. By early March courting birds were visible and audible throughout the province.

The 280 HORNED LARKS seen on the Wolfville census Dec. 20 indicate the size of the wintering population in the eastern Annapolis Valley, where small flocks were seen regularly near Centreville and at Grand Pré (JWW, PAM, RBS). Approx. 15 overwintered at Halifax International Airport at least through Jan. 20 (DHH). Elsewhere, Christmas counters found 62 at Amherst, Cum. Co., and a scattered few elsewhere, all from the Halifax area westward. February larks make one think "spring migrant"; perhaps this was the case with the 10+ at Sand Lake, CB Co., Feb. 2 (CAM, ALM).



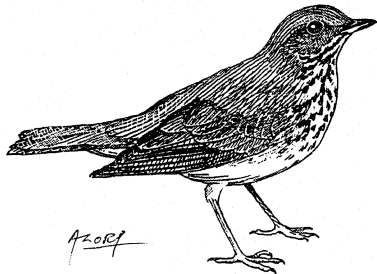
BLACK-CAPPED and BOREAL CHICKADEES were virtually unreported except on Christmas counts; numbers there and from Apple River, Cum. Co. (KFS) appear normal. That does not seem to have been the case with RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES, which were distinctly scarce during casual birding — although not necessarily so during sys-

tematic surveys. For example 140 on the Wolfville census Dec. 20 (*fide* JWW), 101 in Halifax-Dartmouth, and 95 in Bedford-Sackville, Hfx Co. Numbers elsewhere were in the low two digits. Always local, WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES seem to be holding their own in the Kings Co. area: 28 on the Kingston CBC, and 21 on the Wolfville count (*fide* JWW). There were regular individuals in Kentville and Coldbrook in February (RBS), also Mill Village, Queens Co., Jan. 21-Feb.21 (SJF, BAH), and a scattered few from Pict. Co. and W Hants westward. Sur-reptitious as ever, though apparently not scarce, BROWN CREEPERS were scantily reported: for example, 16 on the Wolfville count Dec. 20 (*fide* JWW); single birds in Bedford, Hfx Co., Jan. 31 (EFS); in Whites Lake, Hfx Co., Feb. 15 (BLM); in Hebron, Yar. Co., Feb. 28 (BLM, ELM, MUN), and in several CBC locations in low numbers.

Remarkably late, and scarce at the best of times, a HOUSE WREN was in Portuguese Cove, Hfx Co., Dec. 13 (AZV, DAC) and two appeared on the Halifax CBC Dec. 20. WINTER WRENS were seen only in the Halifax area in late Dec.: three on the Halifax CBC Dec. 20. and one on the Bedford-Sackville count Jan. 3. More to be expected in early winter than most other wren species, CGB found a MARSH WREN in MacLellan Marsh, Pict. Co., Dec. 9;



another was at Hartlen Pt., Hfx Co., Dec. 13 (ANH), last seen during the Halifax CBC Dec. 20. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS were regular, even abundant, but little-reported except on CBCs, throughout the winter. The much scarcer RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET was reported only from Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, Dec. 1 (FLL, BLM); Lanark, Ant. Co., Dec. 19 (Marilyn O'Brien); the Wolfville area Dec. 20 (five on the Christmas count, one in song!) (*vide* JWW); the Halifax CBC (three) Dec. 20; and Pubnico Pt., Yar. Co., Jan. 19 (RSD). And one of last season's late-staying BLUE-GRAY GNAT-CATCHERS was apparently seen last at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, Dec. 1 (FLL, BLM).



Both E. BLUEBIRDS and MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRDS provided some unexpected and very welcome winter excitement in two areas of the province. CAM and ALM at Port Morien wharf, CB CO., Jan. 3 found the first, an immature Mountain Bluebird. Then about Jan. 16 a female Mountain Bluebird appeared in Centreville, Shel. Co. (CSI), accompanied from about Jan. 18 by a female E. Bluebird (MUN, JON, var. obs.); both were photographed and remained in the area until at least Feb. 7. Elsewhere, there was a female E. Bluebird at Charlos Cove, Guys. Co., Jan. 17 (var. obs.). Overshadowed by their Bluebird cousins, and certainly scarce but regular in winter, HERMIT THRUSHES were reported on Christmas counts in Amherst, Cum. Co., Bedford-Sackville, Hfx Co., Halifax-Dartmouth (three), and Lunenburg. Elsewhere they were reported only four times: one in Halifax Dec. 1 (FLL, BLM); one at Clam Point, CSI, Jan 30

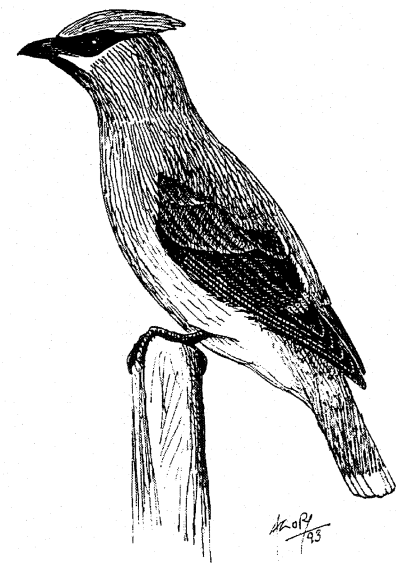
(JJN, TMF, Wanda Fitzgerald); one at E Chester, Lun. Co., Feb. 13 (CJF); and one on Pubnico Pt., Yar. Co., Feb. 24 (RSD). Never scarce as an overwintering species, AM. ROBINS seem to have been unusually abundant on the mainland, perhaps because of our open, nearly snow-free winter in most areas. Peak numbers on CBCs included 934 in Pubnico, Yar. Co. and 531 on CSI, in a province-wide total of 2,511. Other reports included 50 at Louisbourg, CB Co., Dec. 21 (SEM); 15 at Three Mile Lake, Guys. Co., Jan. 17 (RFL, MZG); 137 in the Half Island Cove-Charlos Cove areas, Guys. Co, Jan. 30 (KJM, CGB); 500 on Pubnico Point, Yar. Co., (probably at least 1,000 in the area) Feb. 19 (RSD); at least 100 at Lockport Beach, Shel. Co., Feb. 27 (DJC); and 1,200 between the Pubnicos and Blanche, Shel. Co., Feb. 27 (FLL), including 60+ in settled areas of the Pubnicos, Yar. Co., next day (BLM, ELM, MUN).

A very late-lingering GRAY CATBIRD was in Whites Lake, Hfx Co., Jan 3 (PEM), one was in W Pubnico, Yar. Co., Jan. 4 (MUN), and another (or the same bird?) was found Feb. 22 in Lower W Pubnico, Yar. Co., still there at least through the end of February (RSD). Now a regular feature of our winters (and the rest of the year), 21 N MOCKINGBIRDS were seen on CBCs including seven on the Wolfville count alone and five in Halifax-Dartmouth. Others were in Ketch Hbr., Hfx Co., Dec. 13 (DAC, AZV); Barrington, Shel. Co., the same day (one-two resident through the winter) (MUN); Oak Park, Shel. Co., Dec. 26 (MUN); Bedford, Hfx Co., Jan. 18 (PLC, JEH); and six between the Pubnicos and Yarmouth Feb. 28 (BLM, ELM, MUN). Definitely very scarce in winter, a BROWN THRASHER stayed in Beaverbank, Hfx Co, until at least Jan. 11. Another, seen first Jan. 5 in Port Williams, Kings Co., stayed at least to the 15th (JCT, MLH, ALK). A third was in Doctors Cove, Shel. Co., from Feb. 7 through the end of the month (MUN).

Of more than 82,000 EUR. STARLINGS on our CBCs, more than 50% were in only two areas, Wolfville and Halifax-Dartmouth. The 30,032 reported from Wolfville give it the dubious distinction

of being the Starling capital of Nova Scotia. Wintering AM. PIPITS, in their usual haunts, were reported sparsely: one at Yarmouth on the CBC Dec. 20; 25+ on the Wolfville dikes, Kings Co., Jan. 5 (BLF); 14-20 at Lower W Pubnico, Yar. Co., Jan 31-Feb. 8 (RSD); and 10 at Grand Pre, Kings Co., Feb. 22 (JET, *vide* JCT).

Both CEDAR and BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS were widespread throughout part of the winter, but never abundant, and most observers were probably surprised that the few late winter flocks were mainly Cedars. Significant numbers of Bohemian



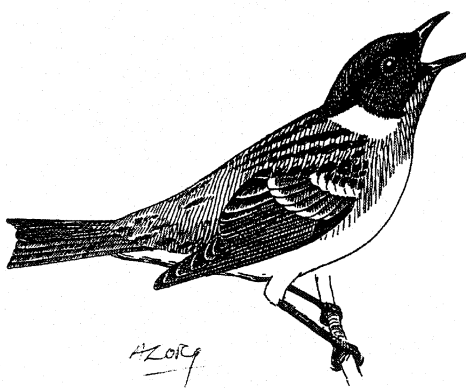
Waxwings were noted as follows: 18 at Sand Lake, CB. Co., Dec. 3 (CAM, ALM); 16 in New Glasgow, Pict. Co., Dec. 5 (KJM); 300 in Louisbourg, CB Co., Dec. 19-21 (SEM); 49 at Glace Bay, CB Co. Dec 28; and 60 on the Strait of Canso CBC Dec. 29. Except for CBCs, where there were 114 at Broad Cove, Lun. Co., Dec. 30, 79 on CSI Dec. 19, 75 at Yarmouth Dec. 20 and lesser numbers elsewhere, 60 Cedar Waxwings at Nictaux, Anna. Co., Feb. 14 (Barbara Thompson) were exceptional among the records reaching me; ones and twos to a dozen or so were far more usual from northern NS to Yarmouth.

## Warblers

BY ANDY HORN

A spectacular fall for warblers foreshadowed the excellent variety and number seen on the CBCs. Few were reported thereafter, perhaps because of this winter's lethal alternations between wet and cold. Over twice the average number of ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS were seen on CBCs. The total of 16 included 10 in Halifax-Dartmouth alone. Only three birds were reported later: one in Shel. Co. (MUN *et al.*) and two in Halifax Feb. 16-18 (ETP, PLC). Three NASHVILLE WARBLERS were still on CSI Dec. 26 (MUN), and one N PARULA in Halifax (PLC) survived until the CBC. A BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC was quite unusual. In contrast to this winter's good totals of more unusual species, the provincial CBC total of 274 for our omnipresent YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER was merely average and, uncharacteristically, no large flocks were reported thereafter. A single winter report of YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER is not unusual; this year it came from W River, Ant. Co. Dec. 18-23 (Gerald Teasdale).

For the second year in a row, the CBC total of PINE WARBLERS, 16 individuals, was twice the average number; perhaps we are seeing a real increase. Feeder birds lasting through January included one, possibly two, in Shel. Co. (MUN *et al.*), one into March in at the Eddy's feeder in Truro, and two in Louisbourg, CB Co. (SEM, HOS), at least one of which survived beyond deadline. A CBC total of nine PALM WARBLERS is also above average; this year it included three birds in Yar-



mouth, four in Halifax-Dartmouth, and one each in Antigonish and Broad Cove.

The prize find among warblers this winter was probably the imm. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER on CSI, Shel. Co., that lasted from the CBC to at least Jan. 3 (MUN). A single BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC, was more expected, but still unusual. Nine COM. YELLOWTHROATS from CBCs across the province added to this year's strong showing by our hardier species, and a WILSON'S WARBLER on the Wolfville CBC Dec. 20 added to this year's impressive diversity. That makes it all the more surprising that there were only two reports of YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, from the Halifax-Dartmouth and Pubnico CBCs; the latter bird lingered to at least Jan. 4 (MUN).

## Tanagers Through House Sparrow

BY DAVE MCCORQUODALE

A bumper crop of cones on spruces throughout the province last summer boded well for finches this winter and several species took advantage of the conditions. The mild weather and lack of snow looked to be ideal for overwintering sparrows and blackbirds. However there seemed to be fewer than during the last several winters. Many more reports, especially of some of the common birds, were received this winter than last. With more records it is much easier write a reasonably accurate and complete report. Thanks for your help.

Belying its name, a female or imm. SUMMER TANAGER spent a week

in mid-December at Greenwich, Kings Co. (var. obs.)

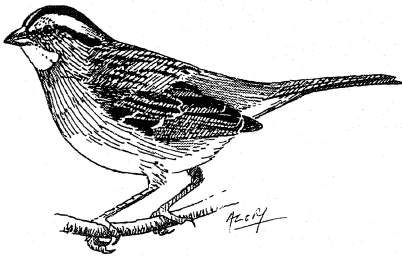
AM. TREE SPARROWS were widespread on mainland NS and much less common on Cape Breton throughout the winter. Only three of eight CBCs on CB found them, while 25 of 26 mainland counts recorded them. The largest concentrations were in Wolfville, more than 300, and Amherst, with almost 150. The nine February reports from Antigonish to Yarmouth suggest they remained reasonably common and widespread through the winter.

Few CHIPPING SPARROWS attempt to winter and many of these are unsuccessful. This winter they were found on four mainland CBCs. Individuals lin-

gered in Halifax to mid-January (RAF), to late January at Broad Cove (SJF) and mid-February in Antigonish (var. obs.). At least two successfully overwintered, one on Sable I. and one in Lower W Pubnico (ZOL, RSD). FIELD SPARROWS are rare in winter and this year was no exception. At least one was in the Halifax area in December, including on the CBC, while another was found Dec. 26, after the Wolfville count, and it stayed until early January (BLF). No VESPER SPARROWS were found on CBCs. However one arrived in mid-January and stayed until mid-February in Oak Park Shel. Co. (MUN). Another was found in mid-February and stayed until early March in the Petite Rivière-Italy Cross area, Lun. Co.

SAVANNAH SPARROWS were widespread and in good numbers in coastal areas in the early part of the winter, being found on half of all CBCs. At least a few successfully overwintered in both the Halifax and Wolfville areas. In Cape Breton, where overwintering is much less frequent, a pale individual was at the Fortress of Louisbourg on Jan. 28 (SEM) and a NSBS trip found one on Feb. 6 at Glace Bay. There were only two reports of "Ipswich Sparrow": 7 on the Halifax CBC and 5 at Conrads Beach earlier in the month (IAM).

Despite the mild winter only two FOX SPARROWS lingered into December for CBCs, down from 13 last year. The one in Antigonish was their first on a CBC (*vide* RFL). In contrast, there were lots of SONG SPARROWS almost everywhere. Only five CBCs did not record them, three of those on CB. In late February there were fewer, but they were



still widespread, overwintering from Louisbourg to Cum. Co. to Wolfville to Halifax to the southern parts of the province. Singing males delighted many observers in late February. One particularly keen male sang for about a week during a warm spell in late January in Halifax (PLC).

SWAMP SPARROWS were found on seven CBCs, the most being 12 in Halifax. At least one was still in the Wolfville area in late February. Guys. Co. would not be my choice to look for sparrows in late January. However a Swamp and four WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS were found there Jan. 30 (KJM, CGB). White-throateds were common and widespread in December. More than 500 were tallied on 23 CBCs, with more than 100 at Port Hebert. Many made it through the winter at feeders from Louisbourg to Pictou to Avonport to Port Joli (SEM, MAB, URB, AND). Eight WHITE-

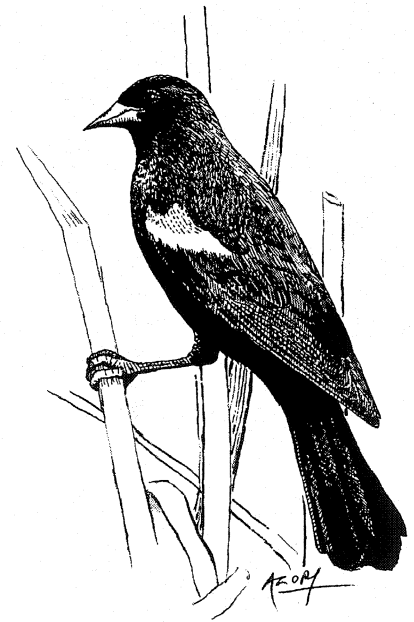
CROWNED SPARROWS were found on four CBCs, with three in Amherst. Two imm. visited Sable I. Dec. 30 (ZOL).

DARK-EYED JUNCOS were again one of the most common birds in the province in early winter. More than 5,000 were tallied on 33, all but one, CBCs. They were very evenly distributed around the province, with more than 20 counts recording more than 50. LAPLAND LONGSPURS were found on four CBCs with the most, 25, at Port Hebert. In late February there were still a few lingering in the Grand Pré and Wolfville area (PLC, ELD). SNOW BUNTINGS were widely, yet thinly, distributed around the province at the time of the CBCs. About 1,800 were tallied on 20 counts, with more than 60% of them in Amherst. Later in the winter small flocks were found from N Sydney to Wolfville to Cum. Co.

N. CARDINALS continue to do well. Thirty-three, up from 26 and 27 the last two years, were found on eight CBCs. Many of these were still coming to feeders late in the winter. Grosbeaks can provide some interesting identification problems in the winter, primarily because of the similarity of female Rose-breasted and Black-headed. A possible ROSE-BREASTED was reported on the Bedford-Sackville CBC. The sighting was brief and identification was by others after the fact, so it must be treated with caution. The rarity highlight of the winter was a **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** that arrived about Feb. 6 at the Buckland-Nicks' feeder in Antigonish. For the next several weeks numerous birders observed and photographed this visitor from the W. It was still at the feeder in early March. After the major fallout of BLUE GROSBEAKS last fall, there was only one report, an imm. or fem. Dec. 27 at a feeder in Avonport (URB). Five DICKCISSELS were on four CBCs, all in the SW, with the highest tally being two at Broad Cove. Two successfully overwintered in the Pubnicos.

Seventy-five RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS were counted on nine CBCs, with the most, 45, at Pubnico. Flocks of up to 30 were noted during January and

February in several places especially in Shel. and Queens Cos. A first year male frequented feeders in Louisbourg and successfully overwintered (BDB, RNK). Meadowlark identification in the fall and winter can be tough. The songs and call notes are usually required for identification. One MEADOWLARK sp. was counted on the Amherst CBC and another was at Frasers Mills, Ant. Co. Dec. 21 (RFL). After the count period two E. MEADOWLARKS were found at Pubnico Head, staying until at least Feb. 3 and others were reported from Shearwater Airport in early February (RSD, Peter Serylo).

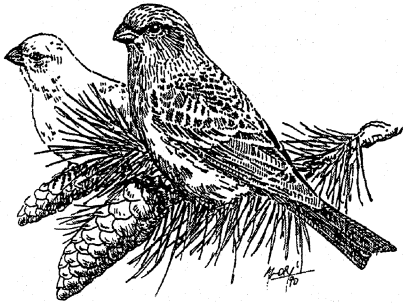


A feeder in Enfield had an interesting assortment of blackbirds in late January and early February. Along with four red-wings, were a YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, RUSTY BLACKBIRD, five COM. GRACKLES and a BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD. Individual Rustys were found on four different CBCs. Earlier and later in the winter there were reports from MacLellans Marsh, Pict. Co. Dec. 6 (KJM), Georges River, CB Co. Dec. 13 (Ruth MacFadden), New Salem, Cum. Co., Jan. 1 (KFS) and two in Advocate Hbr., Cum. Co. the last few days of February (JRM).

As expected COM. GRACKLES were

found across the province, on about half the CBCs. More than 30 were counted at both Apple River and Bedford/Sackville. Small numbers were seen around feeders throughout the winter, including three until late February in Louisbourg, CB Co. Larger flocks, 30 and 40 birds, in Advocate Hbr., Cum. Co. and Eel Brook, Yar. Co. Feb. 28 (var. obs.) undoubtedly were the vanguard of spring migration.

More BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were counted on CBCs than all other blackbirds combined. They were tallied on 14 counts, with five of these having more than 30. The total is similar to that for the last couple of years. Later in the winter reports came from Avonport, Windsor, Mill Village, Queens Co. and several from the SW counties.



As usual BALTIMORE ORIOLES lingered well into December and 14 were on six CBCs, with more than half the individuals on the Halifax CBC. Recently Cape Breton has hosted more than its share of orioles in the winter, however this year only one was found on the eight Island CBCs. After the counts, individuals lingered in Barrington, Shel. Co. until Jan. 4, until Jan. 11 in New Salem, Cum. Co. and the latest was Jan. 15 in Halifax (MUN, KFS, IAM).

Finches were a mixed bag, with some species around in good numbers and others either down or virtually absent. We should expect fluctuations in these irruptive species. There were fewer PINE GROSBEAKS on CBCs this year than the past few. In fact, last year the Wolfville CBC had more than all counts combined this year (249 versus 239). Despite this, Halifax recorded an all-time high, 33. Later in the winter there were scattered reports from around the

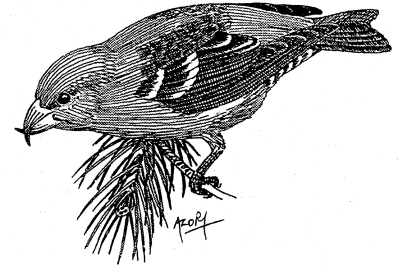
province of individuals or small flocks. In contrast, PURPLE FINCHES were up compared to the last two years. They were also widespread, found on 24 of the 34 CBCs. Unlike last year there were many reports from feeders across the province through the winter, especially in February. By the end of February a male anticipated spring and started singing in Wolfville (JCT). For the second year in a row more than 30 HOUSE FINCHES were counted on CBCs. Again about two thirds of them were in Halifax, concentrated in the S end of town and the rest were in Yarmouth. The only other report was of one on CSI Feb. 21 (MUN).

This was a crossbill winter. The bumper crop of cones last spring, especially on spruces, attracted numerous Crossbills through the summer and many have stayed and even raised families this winter. Both RED and WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were widespread and the latter was also very common. Reds prefer seeds from conifers other than spruces and are not expected to increase on the basis of a great spruce cone crop. They were found on about one third of the CBCs with a high of 25 in Halifax. Later in the winter the few reports came from W Apple River, Cum. Co., Martock, Hants Co., E Chester, Lun. Co., the Pubnicos and Ellenwood Park, Yar. Co. (KFS, RBS, CJF, Paul Gould). The invasion of WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS that coincided with the bumper crop of spruce cones last spring continued. More than 5,000, close to the number counted during the last invasion in '95-'96, were counted on 24 CBCs. The highest numbers were in the central parts of the province, with relatively fewer in Cape Breton and the SW. Courtship flights and singing males were reported from spruce woodlands throughout the province in the late winter.

Last year's invasion by COM. RED-POLLS was not repeated. They were found on only three CBCs, Antigonish, Bedford-Sackville and Baddeck, with a total of only 33 birds, in contrast to more than 5,000 last year. In early January a flock of 61 made a brief visit to Canning (MAG), 10 were in Wol-

ffville Jan. 18 (BBT, JET), four were at Schooner Pond, CB Co., Feb. 4 (CAM, ALM) and eight were in Antigonish Feb. 8 (JCT). That is the complete report on Redpolls this winter.

PINE SISKINS, AM. GOLDFINCHES and EVENING GROSBEAKS were all widespread and reasonably common across the province. There were lots of PINE SISKINS around during the early part of the winter. They were found on 27 of the 34 CBCs, with only Bedford-Sackville tallying more than 100. There were only a few sightings in January and then in mid-February reports from across the province increased. AM. GOLDFINCHES were more common than last winter but not up to the numbers of three years ago. More than 7,000, including over 1,000 in Wolfville, were tallied on 31 CBCs, about 50% more than on last year's counts.



Many livened up backyard bird feeders throughout the winter. In December, melanistic goldfinches were frequenting feeders in Hantsport and in Berwick, Kings Co. (RBS, JWW, SHM). Unusually coloured Evening Grosbeaks were also noted. Two melanic males, one in Aylesford Lake and the other in Mosher River, were at feeders early in the winter (Marjorie Bezanson, Robin Lawrie, *vide* IAM). These birds lack black pigment and therefore look very bright yellow. More typical EVENING GROSBEAKS were common and widespread. It was not a peak winter for their numbers, but more than 2,500 were counted on 26 CBCs from one end of the province to the other.

Lots of HOUSE SPARROWS were counted this year, more than 8,000 of them on 32 of the 34 CBCs. Twelve of the counts tallied more than 100, with a whopping 2,827 on the Halifax count, a new all-time high.

## List of Contributors

Thanks to all of our contributors, including:

Allard, Karel	KA A	Hinds, Barbara	BAH	Murrant, Allan	ALM
Allison, Tim	TIA	Hippern, Dennis	DHH	Murrant, Cathy	CAM
Bezanson, Marjorie		Holder, Matthew	MLH	Myers, Susann	SEM
Brennan, Calvin	CGB	Hope, Peter	PEH	Newell, Murray	MUN
Brennan, Mark	MAB	Horn, Andy	AGH	Nickerson, Johnnie	JON
Buckland-Nicks, John & Leslie		Kingsley, Andrea	ALK	Nocera, Joe	JJN
Bussey, Bill & Diane	BDB	Knapton, Richard	RNK	O'Brien, Marilyn	
Chalmers, Patricia L.	PLC	Krawchuk, Meg	MEK	O'Shea, Helen	HOS
Cretien, Jacqueline	JAC	Lauff, Randy F.	RFL	Parker, Etta	ETP
Crosby, Donna	DJC	Lavender, Fulton L.	FLL	Reid, Rob	
Currie, David	DAC	Lawrie, Robin		Rubin, John & Trish	
Dean, Andy	AND	LeBlanc, Marina		Serylo, Peter	
d'Entremont, Raymond	RSD	LeBlanc, Peter	PEL	Simpson, Jamie	
Dobson, Fred	FWD	Lucas, Zoe	ZOL	Spalding, Francis	FLS
Doull, Elizabeth	DOU	MacDonald, Paul	PMD	Spicer, Kathleen	KFS
Field, Chris	CJF	MacFadden, Ruth		Starzomski, Brian	
Fitzgerald, Trina	TMF	MacKinnon, Walter	WAM	Stern, Richard	RBS
Fitzgerald, Wanda		Marchand, Chris	CHM	Stockwell, Elizabeth F.	EFS
Flannery, Meredith		Martin, Pat	PAM	Teasdale, Gerald	
Forsythe, Bernard	BLF	Maybank, Blake	BLM	Thexton, Brenda & Bill	BBT
Foxall, Roger	RAF	McConnell, Jane		Thompson, Barbara	
Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF	McCurdy, Sheila	SHM	Timpa, Jean	JET
Gibson, Merritt	MAG	McKenna, Ken, J	KJM	Trueman, Gerry M.	GMT
Giffin, Patrick & Barbara	PBG	McLaren, Ian	IAM	Tufts, Gordon	GWT
Goring, May	MZG	McLean, Angus	AAM	Tufts, Judy	JCT
Gould, Paul		Metcalfe, Hugh "Junior"	JUM	Urban, Eva	EVU
Hartley, Jean	JEH	Mills, Billy		Urban, Eva, Deanna & Walter	URB
Haycock, Carl	CAH	Mills, Eric L.	ELM	Vienneau, Azor	AZV
Herschorn, Peter		Mills, Jane	JRM	Wolford, Jim	JWW
		Mills, Maureen	MSM	Young, David	DHY
		Morse, Jean & Bill	JBM		
		Mueller, Kerstin	KEM		



# Christmas Bird Counts – 1998-1999

BY DAVID CURRIE AND J. SHIRLEY COHRS

A total of 1,180 observers were out this year, some seventy more than in 1997-98 and many above the ten-year average of 884. Thirty-four counts were done, the same as last year. These efforts resulted in the all-time highest count of individual birds – **331,394**. (For comparison, the 1997-98 total was 291,841 while the ten-year average is 228,439). Total species seen were **162** (155 in 97-98). It is probable that the number would have been even higher had not some counts suffered appalling weather. Annapolis Royal contended with ¼ mile visibility with blowing snow and high wave heights that decimated their usual high counts of grebes and sea-ducks. The Highlands had high winds and blowing snow, the Lunenburg count the coldest day of the winter with flesh-freezing wind chill, while Broad Cove and Brier I. had pouring rain.

Some observers are drawn to the counts of finding “rarities” – birds that might be common here at other times of the year but should not be here in winter and birds that should not be here at any time. Rarities there were this season – many of them. Nine species of warblers on count day, a Peregrine Falcon, Gyrfalcon, a Field Sparrow, several Red-

heads, and Dickcissels added to the excitement, as well as a Blue-headed Vireo, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. While the hope for the unusual urges us on we should commend those who brave the elements to count the groups of chickadees or estimate eiders in persistently frigid winds, for these are the results we need.

So how did the winter population look this year? As usual there were highs and lows. One thing that jumps out of the results is the huge numbers of crows, starlings and Herring Gulls. There were 82,791 Starlings, 52,626 Herring Gulls and 43,662 Am. Crows counted, the total increase of these three species alone made for the difference in individuals counted this year over last.

Many of the duck species did very well, considerably above average, particularly Blacks, Mallards, Am. Wigeon, Greater Scaup, Com. Goldeneye, and all three mergansers. On the other hand, Com. Eider, Oldsquaw and Bufflehead were very low.

Mourning Doves, predictably more than doubled their average and twenty Short-eared Owls became a new record –

nineteen of them on the Amherst Count. Our winter “woods” birds did well – Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers, Gray and Blue Jays, both Chickadees and Golden-crowned kinglets are thriving.

Winter Finches were, for the most part hard to come by, with the exception of goldfinches which were Com. and White-winged Crossbills which were seen and heard “all over the place”. Both exceeded their averages.

The 1998-1999 count was one of the most interesting to date. We had weather that veered from amazingly warm to unusually frigid, The numbers of birds in species swung from incredibly high to abysmally low (Evening Grosbeaks, most alcids).

Living in a province like Nova Scotia, we should not be surprised – a more changeable venue would be hard to match. This makes birding varied and challenging – every year is different.

## Top 30 Most Numerous Species

European Starling	82,791	Com. Goldeneye	3,415
Herring Gull	52,626	White-winged Crossbill	3,359
Am. Crow	43,662	Mallard	3,102
Am. Black Duck	18,267	Evening Grosbeak	2,720
Canada Goose	14,282	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2,718
Black-Capped Chickadee	10,885	Red-breasted Merganser	2,533
Gr. Black-backed Gull	9,387	Am. Robin	2,511
Rock Dove	8,953	Com. Eider	2,390
House Sparrow	8,532	Com. Raven	2,128
Am. Goldfinch	7,348	Snow Bunting	1,775
Mourning Dove	6,590	Oldsquaw	1,597
Dark-eyed Junco	5,115	Am. Tree Sparrow	1,426
Greater Scaup	5,105	Ring-billed Gull	1,396
Blue Jay	4,535	Iceland Gull	1,247
Com. Merganser	3,842	Pine Siskin	955

**AMHERST**, Dec 21; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -5 to -8C. Wind NW 16kmph. Snow 12cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 22 field observers in 7-10 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party hours 77.25 (38 on foot, 39.25 by car). Total party kilometers 593 (63 by foot, 530 by car).

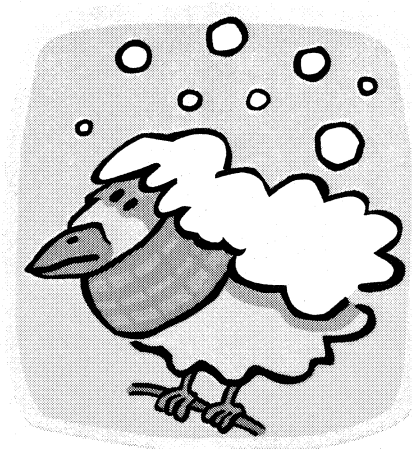
Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 30; **Green-winged Teal 2**; Am. Black Duck 59; Mallard 7; **Oldsquaw 1**; Com. Goldeneye 1; Com. Merganser 152; Bald Eagle **16**; N Harrier 4; Sharpshinned Hawk 2; N Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 21; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant **156**; Ruffed Grouse 3; Ring-billed Gull 15; Herring Gull 432; Iceland Gull 8; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 260; Rock Dove 473; Mourning Dove **185**; Short-eared Owl **19**; Downy Woodpecker 32; Hairy Woodpecker 14; Pileated Woodpecker 13; Horned Lark 62; Gray Jay 17; Blue Jay 186; Am. Crow 582; Com. Raven 83; Black-capped Chickadee 386; Boreal Chickadee 12; Red-breasted Nuthatch 43; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 65; **Hermit Thrush 1**; Am. Robin 1; Bohemian Waxwing 3; N Shrike 1; European Starling 1984; Am. Tree Sparrow 144; Chipping Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 2; **White-crowned Sparrow 3**; Dark-eyed Junco 87; Snow Bunting 1128; **meadowlark species 1**; Rusty Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 8; Purple Finch 1; Pine Siskin 60; Am. Goldfinch 151; Evening Grosbeak 316; House Sparrow 104.

**Total Species 62, about 7619 individuals.** Peter Austin-Smith, Paul Bogaard, Andrew Boyne, Neil Burgess, Adam Campbell, Evelyn Coates, Don Colpitts, Kevin Davidson, George Finney, Liam Finney, Ross Galbraith, **Nev Garrity (compiler)**; Andrew Hicks, Jason Hudson, Andrew MacFarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Keith McAloney, Bill Murphy, Al Smith, Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer, Peter Thomas, John Wile.

**ANNAPOLIS ROYAL**, Jan 2; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. -10 to -20C. Wind NW

50kmph. Snow 10cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy, heavy snow all day. 24 field observers in 10 parties, 91 at feeders. Total party hours 29 (11.5 on foot, 17.5 by car). Total party kilometers 175 (22 by foot, 153 by car).

Com. Loon 3; Double-crested Cormorant 9; Canada Goose 1; Am. Black Duck 205; Mallard 4; Oldsquaw 170; Black Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 51; Bufflehead 94; Red-breasted Merganser 25; Bald Eagle 2; N Harrier 1; Sharpshinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Am. Kestrel 3; **N Bobwhite (escape) 1**; Ring-necked Pheasant 81; Ruffed Grouse 1; Herring Gull 192; Great Black-backed Gull 47; gull species 9; Rock Dove 119; Mourning Dove 306; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 21; Hairy Woodpecker 10; N Flicker 6;



Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 239; Am. Crow 269; Com. Raven 23; Black-capped Chickadee 320; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; Am. Robin 21; Cedar Waxwing 24; European Starling 771; Yellow-rumped Warbler 8; N Cardinal 6; Am. Tree Sparrow 29; Song Sparrow 32; White-throated Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 339; Snow Bunting 52; Com. Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 35; Pine Siskin 9; Am. Goldfinch 390; Evening Grosbeak 120; House Sparrow 180.

**Total Species 51 plus 1 escape, about 4255 individuals.** Ruby Adams, Jim Allen, Bob Bennett, Keith Barry, Sheila Bestany, Alec Bohn, Ingrid Bohn,

Marilyn Brown, Ted Brown, Betty Burrell, Mildred Burrell, Shirley Burrell, Mary Cameron, Joan Chalmers, Dave Chalmers, Ann D'eon, Henry D'eon, Alison Dalton, Faith De Wolfe, Jane De Wolfe, Ada Ellis, Alvin Ellis, Helen Ellis, Hannah Fisher, Jim Fisher, Freda Fox, Barry Frail, Perry Freeman, LeRoy Haines, Nina Haines, Frank Harris, Joan Harris, Robert Hemeon, Charlotte Hollett, Penny Hoover, Marg Horsfall, Corky Horwood, Harold Horwood, Jim How, Dot Hudson, Les Hudson, Linda Isles, Wayne Isles, Millie Jefferson, Camilla Johnston, Cliff Jones, Shirley Kerr, Sheila Krant, Ian Lawrence, Karen Lewis, Don Lowe, Barbara MacArthur, Abby Marshall, Ethel McCormick, Glendon McCormick, Ernie McGrath, Margaret McGrath, Ann McLaren, Ken McLaren, Katie McLeod, Raymond McLeod, Brenda Montgomery, Valerie Mount, Marian Mullen, D. Murphy, Molly Payn, Jon Percy, Doug Potter, Dan Proulx, Gini Proulx, Frances Rafuse, Chris Rowe, Kerry Rowe, Barb Selig, Ruth Smith, Olive Staples, Carol Sullivan, Don Thexton, Doreen Thexton, Alison Thompson, **David Tinker (compiler)**, Anne Marie Triberg, Ragnar Triberg, Jane Trimper, Jack Turner, Julie Turner, Gisell Vidito, Charlotte Wade, Alice White, Earl Wright.

**ANTIGONISH**, Dec 20; 6:30AM to 5PM. Temp. 0 to 6C. Wind NW 10-60kmph. Snow 15cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, P.M. partly clear, light snow. 18 field observers in 6-9 parties, 9 at feeders. Total party hours 44.75 (24.75 on foot, 20 by car). Total party kilometers 470 (38 by foot, 432 by car).

Red-throated Loon 4; Com. Loon 8; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 38; N Gannet 13; Great Cormorant 2; cormorant species 1; Canada Goose 530; Green-winged Teal 13; Am. Black Duck 588; Mallard 40; N **Shoveler 1**; Galloway 2; **Redhead 1**; Greater Scaup 86; Com. Eider 9; Oldsquaw 57; Surf Scoter 9; Com. Goldeneye 36; Com. Merganser 177; Red-breasted Merganser 461; merganser species 5; duck species 8; Bald Eagle 84; N Harrier 9; Sharpshinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 11; Rough-legged Hawk 2; hawk species 3;

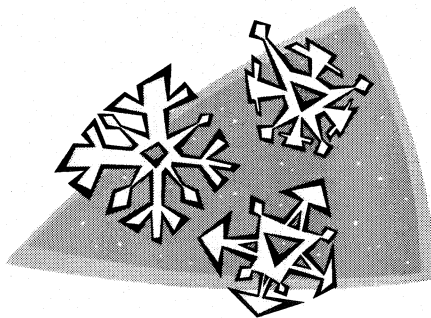
Ruffed Grouse 6; Black-headed Gull 30; Bonaparte's Gull 110; Ring-billed Gull 47; Herring Gull 361; Iceland Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 25; gull species 131; Rock Dove 394; Mourning Dove 164; **Snowy Owl 1**; Saw-whet Owl 4; Downy Woodpecker 7; Hairy Woodpecker 13; Pileated Woodpecker 7; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 145; Am. Crow 442; Com. Raven 111; Black-capped Chickadee 285; Boreal Chickadee 32; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 72; Am. Robin 7; European Starling 1361; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; **Yellow-throated Warbler 1**; Palm Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 55; Savannah Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 9; Dark-eyed Junco 243; sparrow species 1; Snow Bunting 10; Com. Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 7; Purple Finch 65; White-winged Crossbill 112; Com. Redpoll 6; Pine Siskin 75; Am. Goldfinch 164; Evening Grosbeak 133; House Sparrow 130.

**Total Species 68, about 6993 individuals.** (CP. Ring-necked Pheasant, Barred Owl, Short-eared Owl, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, **meadowlark species**). Tony Bezanson, Calvin Brennan, Leslie Buckland-Nicks, David Garbary, Don George, Annette Goring, Mary Goring, May Goring, Vera Goring, Leslie Klapsten, Carol Lamey, Oona Landry, **Randy Lauff (compiler)** Leo MacDonald, Adrienne MacLaughlin, Ernie MacLaughlin, Harriet MacMillan, Jean McGee, Ken McKenna, Tony Miller, Kerstin Mueller, Marilyn O'Brien, Mark Pulsifer, Agneta Sand, Anna Sand, Cina Sand, Bunny Smith, Zina van Heighton.

**APPLE RIVER**, Dec 29; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -2 to 2C. Wind SE 20-30kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Skies clear, P.M. partly cloudy. 10 field observers in 7 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 54.5 (28.75 on foot, 25.75 by car). Total party kilometers 280 (38 by foot, 242 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 1; Canada Goose 33; Am. Black Duck 398; Mallard 4; Com. Eider 2; Oldsquaw 12; Black Scoter 100; Surf Scoter 3; White-winged Scoter 2; scoter

species 9; Com. Goldeneye 4; Com. Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 6; Bald Eagle 5; N Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Ruffed Grouse 7; Ring-billed Gull 76; Herring Gull 67; Great Black-backed Gull 2; Black Guillemot 1; Mourning Dove 58; Great Horned Owl 3; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 9; N Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 15; Blue Jay 24; Am. Crow 101; Com. Raven 38; Black-capped Chickadee 117; Boreal Chickadee 48; Red-breasted Nuthatch 18; Golden-crowned Kinglet 64; N Shrike 2; European Starling 125; Am. Tree Sparrow 32; Song Sparrow 5; sparrow species 1; Dark-eyed Junco 62; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 3; Red-winged Blackbird



16; Rusty Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 5; **Baltimore Oriole 1**; Pine Grosbeak 10; Purple Finch 3; Red Crossbill 9; White-winged Crossbill 525; Pine Siskin 47; Am. Goldfinch 186; House Sparrow 22.

**Total Species 59, about 2352 individuals.** (CP. Bufflehead, **Peregrine Falcon**, Purple Sandpiper, Am. Robin, Evening Grosbeak) Peter Austin-Smith, Donna Barber, Donna Cole, Karl Cole, Margaret Ann Galbraith, Ross Galbraith, Billy Mills, Jane Mills, Maureen Mills, Bill Murphy, Kathy Popma, Cindy Spicer, **Kathleen F. Spicer (compiler)**.

**BADDECK**, Jan 2; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -15 to -17C. Wind W 30kmph. Snow 2cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. 10 field observers in 5 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 40 (34 on foot, 6 by car). Total party kilometers 212 (26 by foot,

186 by car).

Am. Black Duck 7; Mallard 1; Com. Goldeneye 17; Com. Merganser 4; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 5; N Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 18; Great Black-backed Gull 15; Mourning Dove 7; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 20; Am. Crow 61; Com. Raven 19; Black-capped Chickadee 67; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 6; European Starling 41; sparrow species 1; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Com. Grackle 6; Pine Grosbeak 13; White-winged Crossbill 18; Com. Redpoll 2; Pine Siskin 15; Am. Goldfinch 65; Evening Grosbeak 47; House Sparrow 30.

**Total Species 36, about 516 individuals.** Simon Chaisson, Joan Chaisson, Harriet Cheverie, Lal Colman, Viola Garland, Isobel MacFarlane, Sybil MacLennan, Edie MacPherson, Richard McCurdy, Burland Murphy, **Bruce Nunn (compiler)**, Kiera Nunn, Kylee Nunn, Dave Smith, Lloyd Stone.

**BARRINGTON BAY/CAPE SABLE ISLAND**, Dec 19; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -7 to -2C. Wind SW 0-25kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Partly cloudy all day. 17 field observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 51.5 (22.5 on foot, 29). Total party kilometers 380.6 (47 by foot, 333.6 by car).

Red-throated Loon 14; Com. Loon 76; Horned Grebe 24; Red-necked Grebe 3; N Gannet 23; Great Cormorant 179; Double-crested Cormorant 15; Great Blue Heron 8; **Brant 4**; Canada Goose 356; Am. Black Duck 535; Mallard 17; Am. Wigeon 1; Greater Scaup 513; Com. Eider 569; Oldsquaw 103; Black Scoter 39; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 8; scoter species 5; Com. Goldeneye 14; Bufflehead 70; Hooded Merganser 1; Com. Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 82; **Ruddy Duck 2**; Bald Eagle 1; N Harrier 4; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 6; Ruffed Grouse 3; Black-bellied Plover 5; Red Knot 9;



Sanderling 169; Dunlin 7; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 13; Herring Gull 609; Iceland Gull 5; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 603; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 38; Rock Dove 29; Mourning Dove 212; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 5; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 2; N Flicker 31; Horned Lark 10; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 72; Am. Crow 384; Com. Raven 15; Black-capped Chickadee 219; Boreal Chickadee 36; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 145; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; Am. Robin 531; N Mockingbird 2; Cedar Waxwing 79; N Shrike 2; European Starling 970; **Nashville Warbler 2**; Yellow-rumped Warbler 58; Pine Warbler 1; **Bay-breasted Warbler 1**; Com. Yellowthroat 1; N Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 47; Savannah Sparrow 10; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 106; Swamp Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 89; White-crowned Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 163; Brown-headed Cowbird 35; Purple Finch 2; White-winged Crossbill 10; Pine Siskin 5; Am. Goldfinch 250; Evening Grosbeak 15; House Sparrow 52.

**Total Species 91, about 7767 individuals.** (CP. Snow Goose, N Pintail, Turkey Vulture, Orange-crowned Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Com. Redpoll). Jonathan Atkinson, Wilfred Atwood, **Joan Czapalay (compiler)** Raymond D'Entremont, Donna Ensor, June Graves, Paul Gould, James Hirtle, Cathy Holmes, Ethelda Murphy, Murray Newell, Lillian Perry, Aileen Smith, Carolyn Smith, Sidney Smith, Wayne Smith, Clyde Stoddard.

**BEDFORD/SACKVILLE**, Jan 3; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -15 to -4C. Wind SW 0-20kmph. Snow 0-5cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Skies clear, P.M. Partly cloudy. 25 field observers in 17 parties, 15 at feeders. Total party hours 96.5 (54.5 on foot, 42 by car). Total party kilometers 940.5 (99.5 by foot, 841 by car).

Com. Loon 5; Great Cormorant 3; Canada Goose 31; Am. Black Duck 1491;

Mallard 103; Mallard/Black Duck hybrid 40; N Pintail 1; Com. Goldeneye 52; Barrow's Goldeneye 3; Bufflehead 1; Hooded Merganser 34; Com. Merganser 12; Red-breasted Merganser 12; Bald Eagle 4; N Harrier 1; Sharpshinned Hawk 3; N Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 6; Ruffed Grouse 15; Ring-billed Gull 23; Herring Gull 675; Iceland Gull 7; Great Black-backed Gull 36; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 355; Mourning Dove 223; Great Horned Owl 2; **Red-bellied Woodpecker 1**; Downy Woodpecker 75; Hairy Woodpecker 31; N Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 16; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 495; Am. Crow 3808; Com. Raven 55; Black-capped Chickadee



927; Boreal Chickadee 42; Red-breasted Nuthatch 95; White-breasted Nuthatch 6; Brown Creeper 8; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 165; Hermit Thrush 3; Am. Robin 1; N Mockingbird 1; Cedar Waxwing 2; European Starling 1256; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 5; Pine Warbler 1; **Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1**; Am. Tree Sparrow 24; Song Sparrow 32; White-throated Sparrow 20; sparrow species 3; Dark-eyed Junco 500; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Com. Grackle 33; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Baltimore Oriole 2; Pine Grosbeak 32; Purple Finch 48; Red Crossbill 20; White-winged Crossbill 679; Com. Redpoll 25; Pine Siskin 110; Am. Goldfinch 78; Evening Grosbeak 78; House Sparrow 146.

**Total Species 71, about 12590 individuals.** Mike Almon, Dennis Bicknell, Elaine Black, Patricia Chalmers, Beverly Chapman, Lois Codling, Jamie Crosby, Laurie Crosby, Richard Hatch, Lucilla Hiltz, Hilda Holland, Owen Holland, Annette Keith, Todd Keith, Rita Kinney, Betty Kulin, Edward Kulin, Fulton Lavender, Marina LeBlanc, Peter LeBlanc, Don MacNeill, Robert McDonald, Ian McKay, Ian McLaren, Colonel McLellan, Patricia Millar, Gordon Morgan, Maureen Nowlan, **Richard Peckham (compiler)** Walter Regan, Clarence Stevens I, Clarence Stevens II, Azor Vienneau, Joellmer Wiersma, Scott Yetman.

**BIG POND/ESKASONI**, Dec 26; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -10 to -5C. Wind WSW 5kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies clear all day. 27 field observers in 10 parties, 8 at feeders, 1 hour and 2 and 1 km. owling. Total party hours 45.5 (11 on foot, 33.5 by car, 1 by ATV). Total party kilometers 401.5 (18.5 by foot, 373 by car, 10 by ATV).

Com. Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 2; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Am. Black Duck 142; Oldsquaw 1; White-winged Scoter 8; Com. Goldeneye 132; Com. Merganser 48; Red-breasted Merganser 167; Bald Eagle 39; N Goshawk 2; accipiter species 1; Red-tailed Hawk 15; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 6; Black-headed Gull 1; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Herring Gull 112; Iceland Gull 7; Great Black-backed Gull 22; Rock Dove 2; Mourning Dove 8; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 7; N Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 98; Am. Crow 168; Com. Raven 27; Black-capped Chickadee 125; Boreal Chickadee 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 101; Bohemian Waxwing 7; European Starling 347; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 8; Dark-eyed Junco 38; Snow Bunting 10; Pine Grosbeak 15; Purple Finch 38; White-winged Crossbill 32; Pine Siskin 60; Am. Goldfinch 98; Evening Grosbeak 10; House Sparrow 13.

**Total Species 50, about 1955 individuals.** George Ball, Dorothy Barnard, Terry Boone, Donald Campbell, Theresa Cash, Jackie Cretien, Bill Digout, George Digout, Murdock Digout, Sharon Digout, Joe Donovan, Dave Harris, Dennis MacDonald, Margaret MacDonald, George MacInnis, John MacInnis, Alana MacNeil, Ann Marie MacNeil, Brian MacNeil, Duncan MacNeil, **Jack MacNeil (compiler)**, Jim MacNeil, Norman MacPherson, John McKay, Junior Metcalf, Bernard Murphy, Allan Murrant, Kathy Murrant, Simon Murray, Dayna Nelder, Pat Nelder, Jim Siteman, Pauline Siteman, Don Tuttle, Melvin White.

**BRIDGETOWN**, Jan 2; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. -20 to -13C. Wind NW 50kmph. Snow 10cm. Still water frozen, moving water frozen. Skies cloudy, light to heavy rain all day. 2 field observers in 2 parties, 37 at feeders. Total party hours 8 (1.5 on foot, 6.5 by car). Total party kilometers 86 (2 by foot, 84 by car).

Com. Loon 2; grebe species 1; Am. Black Duck 1; Com. Eider 1; Oldsquaw 14; White-winged Scoter 59; scoter species 144; Red-breasted Merganser 15; Bald Eagle 1; N Harrier 1; Sharpshinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 3; hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 59; Purple Sandpiper 60; Herring Gull 230; Great Black-backed Gull 14; Rock Dove 191; Mourning Dove 331; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 24; Hairy Woodpecker 10; Blue Jay 169; Am. Crow 129; Com. Raven 40; Black-capped Chickadee 165; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; N Shrike 1; European Starling 614; N Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 50; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 7; Dark-eyed Junco 129; Brown-headed Cowbird 57; **Baltimore Oriole 1**; Purple Finch 19; Pine Siskin 55; Am. Goldfinch 129; Evening Grosbeak 105; House Sparrow 180.

**Total Species 43, about 3022 individuals.** (CP. N Goshawk, N Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Am. Robin, Cedar Waxwing, White-winged Crossbill). Thelma Bent, Winnie Bent, Don Bowlby, Joyce Burbridge, Pearl Cham-



bers, Bill Chambers, **David Colville (compiler)**, Jan Coulter, Anita DeVillez, Doris Durling, Marilyn Durling, Noel Durling, Tara Edwards, David Eisnor, Marie Gaul, Graham Graves, Marion Graves, Sharon Hawboldt, Steve Hawboldt, Marguerite Hirtle, Avora Howse, Maude Jodrey, Donna Jones, Ron Jones, Audrey Kennedy, Bev Marshall, Fred Marshall, Don Merriam, Don Messinger, Roger Mosher, Doug Parker, Carl Phinney, Danny Phinney, Eric Porter, Bob Rains, Erma Rains, Jory Smith, Margaret Smith, Phyl Spicer, Margie Taylor, Galdie Weir, Jim Whitman, Margaret Whitman, Marion Whitman, Lib Woolaver.

**BRIER ISLAND**, Dec 22; 7:45AM to 3:30PM. Temp. 0 to 5C. Wind SSE/SW 30-60kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water open. Cloudy, heavy rain all day. 7 field observers in 3 parties, 1 at feeders. Total party hours 17.25 (8 on foot, 9.25 by car). Total party kilometers 41.75 (9.5 by foot, 32.25 by car).

Com. Loon 12; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 5; N Gannet 1; Great Cormorant 89; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Blue Heron 1; Com. Eider 113; Oldsquaw 16; Surf Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 38; Red-breasted Merganser 33; Turkey Vulture 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Purple Sandpiper 84; Herring Gull 1543; Iceland Gull 22; Great Black-backed Gull 487; Black-legged Kittiwake 8; Razorbill 15; Black Guillemot 69; Rock Dove 19; Mourn-

ing Dove 43; Am. Crow 53; Com. Raven 7; Black-capped Chickadee 14; Boreal Chickadee 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 21; European Starling 14; Am. Tree Sparrow 15; Song Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Snow Bunting 1; Com. Grackle 6; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; House Sparrow 20.

**Total Species 36, about 2791 individuals.** Peter Hope, Paul MacDonald, Ian McLaren, Anne Mills, **Eric Mills (compiler)**, David Pugh, Richard Stern, Jim Wolford.

**BROAD COVE**, Dec 30; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 3 to 6C. Wind E-SW 3-5kmph. Snow 1cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. Foggy, light rain, P.M. cloudy. 30 field observers in 14-15 parties. Total party hours 91.5 (54 on foot, 37.5 by car). Total party kilometers 485 (75 by foot, 410 by car).

Com. Loon 30; Horned Grebe 38; Red-necked Grebe 7; N Gannet 10; Great Cormorant 28; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 82; **Wood Duck 1**; Am. Black Duck 924; Mallard 152; N Pintail 2; Am. Wigeon 1; Greater Scaup 230; Com. Eider 249; Oldsquaw 108; Black Scoter 54; Surf Scoter 81; White-winged Scoter 5; Com. Goldeneye 143; Bufflehead 57; Hooded Merganser 26; Com. Merganser 108; Red-breasted Merganser 137; duck species 25; Turkey Vulture 2; Bald Eagle 4; Sharpshinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 30; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 25; Purple Sandpiper 6; Dunlin 7; Black-

headed Gull 4; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 1124; Iceland Gull 7; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 504; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; Black Guillemot 3; Rock Dove 294; Mourning Dove 423; Belted Kingfisher 5; Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 4; N Flicker 5; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 139; Am. Crow 451; Com. Raven 36; Black-capped Chickadee 407; Boreal Chickadee 28; Red-breasted Nuthatch 9; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 156; Cedar Waxwing 114; European Starling 595; **Orange-crowned Warbler 3**; Yellow-rumped Warbler 25; Palm Warbler 1; **Dickcissel 2**; Am. Tree Sparrow 63; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 63; White-throated Sparrow 70; Dark-eyed Junco 369; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Baltimore Oriole 1; Purple Finch 30; Red Crossbill 19; White-winged Crossbill 53; Pine Siskin 42; Am. Goldfinch 208; Evening Grosbeak 67; House Sparrow 50.

**Total Species 77, about 8205 individuals.** Bruce Allen, Ruth Ballem, Lise Bell, Barbara Byrd, Bill Caudle, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Donna Ensor, **Sylvia Fullerton (compiler)**, James Hirtle, Ian McLaren, Mary McLaren, Pat McLarty, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Eric Mills, Eileen Morrison, Ken Morrison, Jean Morse, William Morse, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Meg Sircom, Nellie Snyder, Bob Steele, Azor Vienneau, Dave Young.

**CALEDONIA**, Dec 20; 8AM to 5:30PM. Temp. -5 to -2C. Wind SW 15-30kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies partly clear all day. 15 field observers in 10 parties, 28-29 at feeders. Total party hours 22 (20 on foot, 2 by car). Total party kilometers 48.25 (46.5 by foot, 91 by car).

Canada Goose 11; Am. Black Duck 11; Mallard 2; Hooded Merganser 4; Com. Merganser 6; Bald Eagle 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Ruffed Grouse 5; Rock Dove 8; Mourning Dove 6; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 10; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 45; Am. Crow

45; Com. Raven 24; Black-capped Chickadee 126; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 42; White-breasted Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 8; European Starling 151; **Dickcissel 1**; Am. Tree Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 9; Snow Bunting 20; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Purple Finch 106; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 8; Pine Siskin 71; Am. Goldfinch 63; Evening Grosbeak 171; House Sparrow 2.

**Total Species 37, about 993 individuals.** (CP. Barred Owl) Don Baker, Pat Canning, Eric Cole, Judy Cole, Lorna Cole, Harry Delong, Alice Drysdale, Cliff Drysdale, Jean Douglas, Tanya Dowdall, Jerry Frail, Lynn Frail,



Heather Hearn, Marguerite Holdright, Myra Holdright, Lorraine Hope, **Peter Hope (compiler)**, Mary Keirstead, Rod Keirstead, Paul MacDonald, Danny Mansfield, Dawn Payzant, Barb Rogers, Peter Rogers, Althea Rowter, Jonathan Sheppard, Sheila Sheppard, Tom Sheppard, Tom Shupe, Shirley Smith, Nancy Spencer, Dave Wegener, Eva Zong.

**CANSO STRAIT**, Dec 29; 7:50AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 0 to 2C. Wind N 10kmph. Snow 5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Partly clear, P.M. partly cloudy. 5 field observers in 4 parties, 7 at feeders, .5 hours and 1 km owling. Total party hours 19.5 (12.25 on foot, 7.25 by car). Total party kilometers 314 (14 by foot, 300 by car).

Com. Loon 8; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 10; N Gannet 1; Great Cormorant 1; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Canada Goose 95; Am. Black Duck 43; Com. Eider 32; Oldsquaw 20; Surf Scoter 16; White-winged Scoter 4; Com. Goldeneye 133; Bufflehead 14; Hooded Merganser 1; Com. Merganser 22; Red-breasted Merganser 236; duck species 30; Bald Eagle 22; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Ruffed Grouse 2; Purple Sandpiper 3; Black-headed Gull 9; Bonaparte's Gull 27; Ring-billed Gull 8; Herring Gull 153; Iceland Gull 96; Glaucous Gull 8; Great Black-backed Gull 91; gull species 56; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 19; Rock Dove 183; Mourning Dove 91; owl species 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 4; N Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 63; Am. Crow 211; Com. Raven 35; Black-capped Chickadee 201; Boreal Chickadee 83; Golden-crowned Kinglet 97; Am. Robin 29; Bohemian Waxwing 60; Cedar Waxwing 5; European Starling 1400; Yellow-rumped Warbler 8; Pine Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 26; Song Sparrow 9; White-throated Sparrow 9; Dark-eyed Junco 107; Com. Grackle 2; Pine Grosbeak 13; Purple Finch 6; White-winged Crossbill 167; Pine Siskin 12; Am. Goldfinch 65; House Sparrow 82.

**Total Species 63, about 4159 individuals.** (CP. Snow Bunting) Marie Bolger, Calvin Brennan, Dave Johnston, Randy Lauff, Ken McKenna, **Kerstin Mueller (compiler)**, Brian Starzomski, Gillis Strachan, Lora Swain, Betty Talbot, Roy Welch.

**CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS**, Jan 2; 6:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -11 to -15C. Wind SW 20-30kmph. Snow 12cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Partly clear, snow P.M. cloudy, snow. 11 field observers in 7 parties, 13 at feeders. Total party hours 26 (11.5 on foot, 14.5 by car). Total party kilometers 162 (16 by foot, 146 by car).

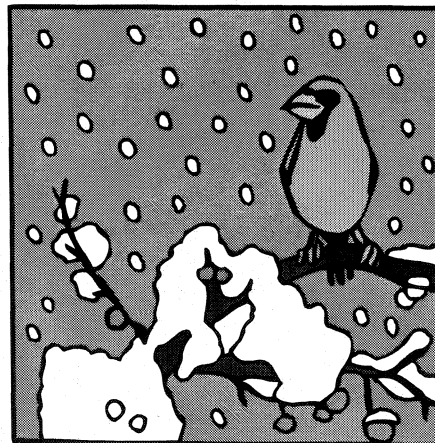
Red-throated Loon 3; Great Cormorant 2; Am. Black Duck 9; Com. Eider 12; Oldsquaw 20; White-winged Scoter 4; Com. Goldeneye 67; Com. Merganser 16; Red-breasted Merganser 18; Bald Eagle 2; Herring Gull 32; Iceland Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 11; Dovekie 4; Thick-billed Murre 3; Rock Dove 18; Mourning Dove 3; Downy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 35; Am. Crow 121; Com. Raven 20; Black-capped Chickadee 63; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; Cedar Waxwing 1; European Starling 51; Am. Tree Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 18; Am. Goldfinch 75; Evening Grosbeak 3; House Sparrow 7.

**Total Species 31, about 635 individuals.** (CP. Hairy Woodpecker, N Flicker, **Baltimore Oriole**, Pine Siskin) James Bridgland, David Burchell, Jennifer Burchell, Chris Gorey, Ellen Ingraham, Ross Ingraham, Jeanette Jackson, Marsha MacDougall, Frances McEvoy, Jessie McEvoy, Jim McEvoy, John McEvoy, Patrick McEvoy, Ruth McLaggan, Anne Marie Morrison, Freeman Morrison, Ken Murray, Marjorie Murray, **Derek Quann (compiler)**, Candice Stapleton, Jody Stockley, Ken Verner, Fred Williams.

**CHETICAMP**, Dec 20; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -2 to 3.5C. Wind NW 15kmph. Snow 12cm. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. Cloudy, P.M. cloudy, light snow. 12 field observers in 6 parties, .5 hours owling. Total

party hours 29.5 (14.5 on foot, 15.25 by car). Total party kilometers 170 (28 by foot, 142 by car).

N Gannet 4; Great Cormorant 6; Am. Black Duck 37; Mallard 1; Harlequin Duck 1; Black Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Goldeneye 70; Barrow's Goldeneye 2; Com. Merganser 44; Red-breasted Merganser 15; Bald Eagle 14; N Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Herring Gull 108; Iceland Gull 64; Glaucous Gull 44; Great Black-backed Gull 51; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; gull species 56; Rock Dove 1; Mourning Dove 7; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 3; N Flicker 1; Blue Jay 15; Am. Crow 400; Com. Raven 44; Black-capped Chickadee 70; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4;



Golden-crowned Kinglet 23; Am. Robin 5; European Starling 339; Am. Tree Sparrow 10; Song Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 2; sparrow species 6; Dark-eyed Junco 31; Snow Bunting 74.

**Total Species 41, about 1568 individuals.** (CP. Com. Loon, Canada Goose, N Goshawk). Marie-Claire Aucoin, Geraldine Bourgeois, Leonard Bourgeois, Natalie Bourgeois, Heather Davis, David Lawley, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Justine Roach, Candice Stapleton, **Randy Thompson (compiler)**, Lauchie Timmons.

**ECONOMY**, Dec 27; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -8 to -5C. Wind NW 20kmph. Snow 0-2cm. Still water partly open,

moving water partly open. Skies clear all day. 9 field observers in 6-7 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 50 (40 on foot, 10 by car). Total party kilometers 239 (51 by foot, 188 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Canada Goose 40; Am. Black Duck 742; Mallard 9; Com. Eider 4; Oldsquaw 9; Surf Scoter 3; Com. Goldeneye 11; Bufflehead 22; ; Com. Merganser 16; Bald Eagle 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; N Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 11; **Peregrine Falcon 1**; Gray Partridge 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 13; Purple Sandpiper 200; Ring-billed Gull 28; Herring Gull 532; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 10; Rock Dove 79; Mourning Dove 80; Great Horned Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 10; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 76; Am. Crow 172; Com. Raven 56; Black-capped Chickadee 204; Boreal Chickadee 24; Red-breasted Nuthatch 41; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 88; Am. Robin 2; N Shrike 1; European Starling 1405; Am. Tree Sparrow 67; Savannah Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 127; Pine Grosbeak 3; White-winged Crossbill 281; Pine Siskin 73; Am. Goldfinch 183; Evening Grosbeak 10; House Sparrow 80.

**Total Species 51, about 4703 individuals.** (CP. Rough-legged Hawk, Snow Bunting) Calvin Brennan, Irene Cooke, Jean Corbett, Ross Hall, Ken McKenna, Brad MacLaughlin, Jane Mills, Maureen Mills, Jeff Ogden, Edgar Spalding, **Fran Spalding (compiler)**, Sandy Wilson.

**GLACE BAY**, Dec 28; 6AM to 5PM. Temp. -6 to 2C. Wind S 10-40kmph. Snow 20cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. partly cloudy, P.M. Partly cloudy, light to heavy rain. 23 field observers in 14 parties, 7 at feeders, 1.5 hours and 5 km owling. Total party hours 102 (37 on foot, 65 by car). Total party kilometers 344 (19 by foot, 325 by car).

Red-throated Loon 3; Com. Loon 12; Horned Grebe 9; Red-necked Grebe 1; N Gannet 1; Great Cormorant 88; Can-

ada Goose 1215; Am. Black Duck 873; Mallard 24; **Am. Wigeon 1**; Greater Scaup 676; Com. Eider 48; Oldsquaw 348; Black Scoter 2; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 43; Com. Goldeneye 79; Bufflehead 91; Com. Merganser 44; Red-breasted Merganser 120; Bald Eagle 16; N Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; N Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; **Am. Coot 1**; **Greater Yellowlegs 1**; Sanderling 1; Purple Sandpiper 5; Black-headed Gull 26; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 398; Iceland Gull 244; Glaucous Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 363; Rock Dove 170; Mourning Dove 86; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 7; Hairy Woodpecker 3; N Flicker 1; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 135; Am. Crow 252; Com. Raven 31; Black-capped Chickadee 172; Boreal Chickadee 25; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 28; Am. Robin 20; N Mockingbird 1; Bohemian Waxwing 49; Cedar Waxwing 55; European Starling 984; Yellow-rumped Warbler 4; Am. Tree Sparrow 28; Savannah Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 16; Snow Bunting 7; Rusty Blackbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 4; White-winged Crossbill 87; Pine Siskin 16; Am. Goldfinch 200; Evening Grosbeak 37; House Sparrow 446.

**Total species 77, about 7658 individuals.** (CP. **Hoary Redpoll**) Cheryl Bray, Pat Campbell, Jackie Cretien, George Crowell, Betty Gentile, Rusty Gentile, Andrew Gingell, Barbara Guy, Jim Guy, Dave Harris, Gordon MacLean, Doreen MacMaster, Stephanie MacMillan, Jackie MacNeil, John McKay, Wally MacKinnon, Geraldine Metcalfe, Junior Metcalfe, Allan Murrant, **Cathy Murrant (compiler)**, Della Murrant, Emily Murrant, Jim Murrant, Kevin Murrant, Winnie Peach, Shirley Pettigrew, Pauline Site-man, Pixie Williams, Rhys Williams.

**HALIFAX/DARTMOUTH**, Dec 20; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. 1 to 6C. Wind W-NW 16-60kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water

open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 95 field observers in 51-55 parties, 73 at feeders. Total parties hours 298.5 (225.5 on foot, 72.5 by car, .5 by boat). Total party kilometers 1237 (350.75 by foot, 884.75 by car, 1.75 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 4; Com. Loon 11; Red-necked Grebe 4; N Gannet 176; Great Cormorant 47; Double-crested Cormorant 6; Canada Goose 3685; Am. Black Duck 4241; Mallard 496; N Pintail 4; Gadwall 5; N Shoveler 7; Am. Wigeon 33; Ring-necked Duck 4; Greater Scaup 34; Lesser Scaup 37; Com. Eider 610; King Eider 2; Harlequin Duck 7; Oldsquaw 102; Black Scoter 2; Surf Scoter 5; White-winged Scoter 98; Com. Goldeneye 58; Bar-



row's Goldeneye 1; Hooded Merganser 3; Com. Merganser 76; Red-breasted Merganser 408; Ruddy Duck 7; Bald Eagle 13; N Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 12; **Cooper's Hawk 1**; N Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Merlin 1; **Gyrfalcon 1**; Ring-necked Pheasant 22; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 18; Am. Coot 7; Black-bellied Plover 1; Purple Sandpiper 10; Dunlin 18; Com. Snipe 2; Com. Black-headed Gull 134; Bonaparte's Gull 22; Ring-billed Gull **776**; Herring Gull 4528; Iceland Gull 397; Glaucous Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 366; Black-legged Kittiwake 3; Dovekie 1; Razorbill 3; Black Guillemot 36; Rock Dove 2382; Mourning Dove 244; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 5; Downy Woodpecker 70; Hairy Woodpecker 19; N

Flicker 10; Horned Lark 8; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 558; Am. Crow 2137; Com. Raven 80; Black-capped Chickadee 2136; Boreal Chickadee 120; Red-breasted Nuthatch 101; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 15; **House Wren 2**; Winter Wren 3; Marsh Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 671; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3; Hermit Thrush 3; Am. Robin 122; N Mockingbird 5; Bohemian Waxwing 2; Cedar Waxwing 44; European Starling 14809; **Solitary Vireo 1**; Orange-crowned Warbler **10**; **Black-throated Blue Warbler 1**; Yellow-rumped Warbler 45; Pine Warbler 9; Palm Warbler 4; **Black & White Warbler 1**; Com. Yellowthroat 2; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; N Cardinal 10; Am. Tree Sparrow 78; Chipping Sparrow 3; **Field Sparrow 1**; Savannah Sparrow 17; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 205; Swamp Sparrow 12; White-throated Sparrow 85; Dark-eyed Junco 803; Lapland Longspur 8; Snow Bunting 43; Red-winged Blackbird 7; Com. Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 10; Baltimore Oriole 8; Pine Grosbeak 33; Purple Finch 67; House Finch **34**; Red Crossbill 25; White-winged Crossbill 120; Pine Siskin 7; Am. Goldfinch 712; Evening Grosbeak 22; House Sparrow 2827.

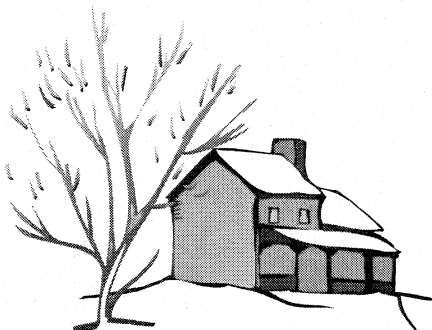
**Total Species 117, about 45,402 individuals.** Karel Allard, Harry Arnold, Marilyn Baker, Brenda Bale, Valerie Bancroft, Ben Bannister, Steve Barbour, Duncan Bayne, Leonard Biggs, Murray Bissett, Elaine Black, Richard Bone, Earl Bradley, Joan Brennan, Gail Bruhm, Phyllis Bryson, Alice Buchanan, Bob Campbell, Patricia Chambers, Carol Clar, Illene Cooper, Margo Corkum, Elizabeth Corser, Alan Covert, Margaret Cox, Joanne Creelman, Vance Crowe, Mike Crowell, Gisele d'Entremont, Renate Deppe, Ron Dicks, Ann Doull, Elizabeth Doull, Michael Downing, Heather Drope, Rosemary Eaton, Eric Eddy, Gerald Edsall, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, John Engweiler, Wanetta Evans, Chris Field, Judy Fishman, Bill Fraser, Glen Fleming, Helen Fletcher, Beverley Flynn, Bill Freedman, Jonathan Freedman, Rachel Freedman, Phyllis Gardiner, Glen Gibson, Chris Gidney, Sherman

Glazebrook, Richard Hamilton, Joan Harbison, Richard Hatch, Shirley Hearn, Roy Hemming, Terry Henson, Barbara Hinds, Marcia Hirtle, Ulli Hoger, Andy Horne, Marion Hourihan, Marilyn Hourihan, Ann Houstis, Dave Houstis, Charlotte Hutchinson, Arthur Irvin, Dorothy Jackson, Patricia James, Helen Jones, Corinne Lacroix, Arnold Langille, **Fulton Lavender (compiler)**, Don Learmouth, Isabel Learmouth, Peter Leblanc, Barbara Leedham, Doug Linzey, Tony Locke, Viola Lovett, Gerry Lunn, Joyce MacAskill, Neil MacAskill, Bob McDonald, Mike MacDonald, Fran MacDonell; Eva MacKay, Robert MacKenzie, Dave MacKinnon, Ralph MacLean, Carol MacNeill, Don MacNeill, Chris Majka, Sue Mathers, Frieda Matheson, Andrea McGiver, Marie Josee McGraw, Barbara McKay, Bernice McLaren, Ian McLaren, Bob McQuinn, Sandra Melanson, Pat Melvin, Bob Miller, Noreen Miller, Pat Miller, Eric Mills, Doug Milsom, Kris Milsom, Scott Milsom, Audrey Moir, Bernice Moores, Joanne Morris, Ann Morrison, Bob Morton, Maureen Nowlan, Judy O'Brien, Peter Oickle, Terry Paquette, Etta Parker, Denise Parsons, Rich Peckham, Jill Petrella, Kate Pike, Rosemary Porter, Joyce Purchase, Don Purchase, Donna Rammo, Rick Reid, Robert Reston, Beth Retallack, Julie Robb, John Robertson, Peter Serwylo, Gilbert Slaunwhite, Albert Sparke, Doug Spence, Clarence Stevens I, Clarence Stevens II, Elizabeth Stockwell, Ed Stoddard, Cathy Fulton-Strugnell, Bonnie Sutherland, Angela Sykes, Keith Tappan, Karl Tay, Yvonne Taylor, Angela Thibideau, Dick Vine, Maureen Vine, Isabel Wainwright, Bob Warrior, Dottie Welsh, Kim Wentzell, Lew Wentzell, Charles Widgery, Morjorie Widgery, Joellmer Wiersma, Mamie Wilkes, Dave Wilson, Roy Yetman, Scott Yetman, Marty Zeleneitz.

**HANTS WEST**, Dec 27; 7:30AM to 5:30PM. Temp. -5 to 2C. Wind NW 0-20kmph. Snow 1-2cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. A.M. Clear, P.M. partly cloudy. 31 field observers in 15 parties, 2 hours and 25 km owl-ing. Total party hours 98.6 (52 on foot, 46.6 by car). Total party kilometers

936.50 (87 by foot, 849.5 by car).

Canada Goose 459; Green-winged Teal 29; Am. Black Duck 2092; Mallard 8; Com. Merganser 14; Red-breasted Merganser 2; Bald Eagle 25; N Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; N Goshawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 33; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 95; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 9; Purple Sandpiper 40; Ring-billed Gull 16; Herring Gull 818; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 153; Rock Dove 681; Mourning Dove 405; Great Horned owl 2; Barred Owl 4; Saw-whet



Owl 1; **Red-headed Woodpecker 1**; Downy Woodpecker 21; Hairy Woodpecker 16; N Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 7; Horned Lark 45; Gray Jay 14; Blue Jay 241; Am. Crow 1269; Com. Raven 189; Black-capped Chickadee 565; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch 28; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 127; Am. Robin 32; Cedar Waxwing 33; European Starling 4443; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 16; Savannah Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 157; Snow Bunting 105; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Com. Grackle 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 51; Pine Grosbeak 14; Purple Finch 31; Red Crossbill 6; White-winged Crossbill 57; Pine Siskin 40; Am. Goldfinch 453; Evening Grosbeak 233; House Sparrow 914.

**Total Species 65, about 14055 individuals.** Elaine Black, Carol Bradley, Art Crowell, **Gail Davis (compiler)**, Heidi DeBoer, Merritt Gibson, Marilyn Greenwood, Lynn Hebb, Kim Hustins, Patrick Kelly, Fulton Lavender, Lee McCarthy, Barb McKay, Don McKay, Sheila Robarts, Neil Roberts, Joan

Robertson, Joe Robertson, John Robertson, Malcolm Robertson, Bev Shanks, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Gerry Trueman, Judith Tulloch, Sherman Williams, Frank Woolaver, Jim Wolford, Scott Yetman.

**KINGSTON**, Dec 27; 7:45AM to 5:15PM. Temp. -2 to -3C. Wind NW 20-40kmph. Snow 1cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 15 field observers in 9 parties. Total party hours 44 (13.5 on foot, 30.5 by car). Total party kilometers 393 (35 by foot, 358 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Horned Grebe 13; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 2; Am. Black Duck 73; Mallard 6; Com. Eider 1; Oldsquaw 57; Black Scoter 29; Surf Scoter 96; White-winged Scoter 46; Red-breasted Merganser 3; Bald Eagle 6; N Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 16; Ring-necked Pheasant 28; Ruffed Grouse 7; Herring Gull 303; Great Black-backed Gull 17; Rock Dove 231; Mourning Dove 413; Downy Woodpecker 30; Hairy Woodpecker 19; N Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Blue Jay 158; Am. Crow 875; Com. Raven 68; Black-capped Chickadee 516; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 42; White-breasted Nuthatch 28; Golden-crowned Kinglet 21; Am. Robin 1; N Mockingbird 1; Cedar Waxwing 2; European Starling 2584; N Cardinal 2; Song Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 191; Com. Grackle 4; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 13; Red Crossbill 10; White-winged Crossbill 2; Pine Siskin 34; Am. Goldfinch 407; Evening Grosbeak 121; House Sparrow 305.

**Total Species 53, about 6825 individuals.** (CP. Barred Owl) Marc Adam, Ann Aikman, Vic Barnes, Aline Bossons, John Bossons, Edna Brunt, Ken Brunt, Bob Campbell, Craig Campbell, Karen Campbell, Tony Chaulk, Bea Collins, John Collins, William Cuttle, Claire Diggins, David Diggins, Bob Foster, Barbara Giffin, Pamela Giffin, **Patrick Giffin (compiler)**, Lloyd Graham, Mary Lou Graham, Donna Hill, Ron Hill, Terry Hyson, Mike Inkpen, Ted Kadjas, Diane Legard, Len Legard,

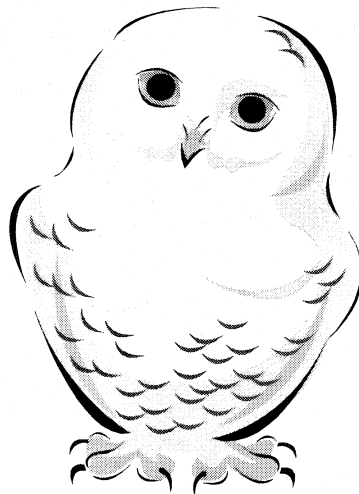
Carole Long, William Long, Dave Ludlow, Tanya Ludlow, Pat MacDonald, Mary MacMillan, Pat MacMillin, Gary Mulcaster, A. Myers, Gary Myers, Merry Myers, Dannu Oickle, Joan Oickle, Adora Parsons, Herb Parsons, Alice Patterson, Dan Patterson, Twila Robar-Decoste, Jim Robinson, Shirley Robinson, Barry Rody, Chris Ross, Tom Ross, Jim Ross, Eric Ruben, John Ruben, Charles Salmom, Carol Smale, Herb Smale, Guy Stanford, Joan Stanford, Gary Weese, Kay Weese, Jane White, Ruth White, B.White, Gwen Wright.

**LOUISBOURG**, Dec 19; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -4 to -2C. Wind N 5-40kmph. Snow 1cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, P.M. partly clear. 27 field observers in 13-14 parties, 3.2 hours and 11 km owling. Total party hours 64.8 (52.5 on foot, 12.3 by car). Total party kilometers 181.2 (66.8 by foot, 114.4 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Com. Loon 13; Red-necked Grebe 12; N Gannet 4; Great Cormorant 6; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Am. Black Duck 84; Com. Eider 113; Oldsquaw 148; Surf Scoter 4; White-winged Scoter 54; scoter species 4; Com. Goldeneye 17; Bufflehead 25; Com. Merganser 6; Red-breasted Merganser 63; duck species 2; Bald Eagle 4; N Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Purple sandpiper 10; **Am. Woodcock 1**; Black-headed Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 183; Iceland Gull 22; Great Black-backed Gull 54; gull species 21; Dovekie 12; Com. Murre 2; Black Guillemot 97; murre species 1; Rock Dove 25; Mourning Dove 43; Great Horned Owl 6; owl species 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; N Flicker 1; woodpecker species 2; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 75; Am. Crow 222; Com. Raven 35; Black-capped Chickadee 119; Boreal Chickadee 124; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 77; Am. Robin 50; Bohemian Waxwing 300; N Shrike 2; European Starling 186; Yellow-rumped Warbler 3; **Dickcissel 1**; Song Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 3; sparrow species 27; Dark-eyed Junco 14; Snow Bunting

3; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 15; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 11; Am. Goldfinch 186; Evening Grosbeak 1; House Sparrow 90.

**Total Species 62, about 2614 individuals.** (CP. Com. Snipe, Brown Creeper, Pine Warbler, Com. Grackle) Jean Bagnell, Warren Bagnell, Mary Lou Blundon, Rob Boone, Philip Burke, Bill Bussey, Eddie Bussey, Margie Cameron, Donald Campbell, Carol Corbin, Bonnie Dalziel, Ken Donovan, Lynn Ellis, Cyneth Hutt, Gordon Hutt, Shirley Kennedy, Gerry LaLonde, Lucille Ley, Tom Ley, Carleton Lunn, Gwendolen Lunn, Janie Lunn, John Lunn, John MacInnis, Minnie MacLeod, Mona MacLeod, Joey Magee, Pearl Magee; Philip Magee, Cathy Mailman, Francis Mailman, John McKay, Geraldine Metcalfe, Hugh Metcalfe Jr., Joan Mills, Florence Mi-



ron, **Susann Myers (compiler)**, Helen O'Shea, William O'Shea, Lee Anne Reeves, Carter Stevens, Margaret Williams, Pixie Williams, Rhys Williams.

**LUNENBURG**, Jan 2; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -25 to -10C. Wind NNW 40kmph. Snow 10cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies clear all day. 11 field observers in 6 parties, 8 at feeders, 1.5 hours and 3 kilometers owling. Total party hours 37.75 (8.5 on foot, 29.25 by car). Total party kilometers 281 (26 by foot, 255 by car).

Com. Loon 7; Horned Grebe 4; Great

Cormorant 8; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 51; Am. Black Duck 48; Mallard 339; Com. Eider 89; Oldsquaw 24; Com. Goldeneye 31; Bufflehead 30; Hooded Merganser 34; Com. Merganser 46; Red-breasted Merganser 28; merganser species 1; duck species 3; Bald Eagle 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 5; buteo species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 55; Spruce Grouse 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Black-headed Gull 1; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 774; Great Black-backed Gull 87; gull species 5; Black Guillemot 5; Rock Dove 178; Mourning Dove 144; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 52; Am. Crow 657; Com. Raven 18; Black-capped Chickadee 65; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 8; **Hermit Thrush 1**; Am. Robin 84; European Starling 161; Yellow-rumped Warbler 5; Am. Tree Sparrow 17; Chipping Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 19; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 7; sparrow species 2; Dark-eyed Junco 135; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 14; Red Crossbill 1; Pine Siskin 72; Am. Goldfinch 146; Evening Grosbeak 3; House Sparrow 62.

**Total Species 62, about 3554 individuals.** (CP. Canada Goose, Black Guillemot, N Flicker). Bill Caudle, **Jill Comolli (compiler)**, James Hirtle, Dee MacDonald, Paul MacDonald, Jean McKiel, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Catherine Pross, Christine Ross, Pat Steele, Bob Weld, Heather Weld.

**MARGAREE**, Dec 28; 7:45AM to 4PM. Temp. -2 to 6C. Wind NW 5kmph. Snow 5cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. A. M. cloudy, P.M. cloudy, light rain. 3 field observers in 2 parties, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 14 (4 on foot, 10 by car). Total party kilometers 105 (10 by foot, 95 by car)

Am. Black Duck 35; Com. Goldeneye 41; Com. Merganser 102; Bald Eagle 16; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Herring Gull 22; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 29; Mourning Dove 20;

Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 36; Am. Crow 187; Com. Raven 32; Black-capped Chickadee 12; Boreal Chickadee 3; European Starling 72; Dark-eyed Junco 2; Snow Bunting 43; Pine Siskin 6; Evening Grosbeak 52; House Sparrow 10.

Total Species 28, about 743 individuals. Eunice Hart, **Frances Hart (compiler)**, Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham.

**NORTHPORT**, Jan 1; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. 0 to 5C. Wind variable. Snow 1-3cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. clear, P.M. partly cloudy. 2 field observers in 1 party, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 9 (3.5 on foot, 5.5 by car). Total party kilometers 61 (5 by foot, 56 by car).

Canada Goose 66; Am. Black Duck 2; Red-breasted Merganser 1; merganser species 1; duck species 1; N Goshawk 1; accipiter species 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Herring Gull 207; Great Black-backed Gull 46; Rock Dove 62; Mourning Dove 8; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 6; Am. Crow 74; Com. Raven 3; Black-capped Chickadee 7; European Starling 460; Am. Tree Sparrow 22; sparrow species 22.

Total Species 18, about 978 individuals. (CP. Bald Eagle). June MacNeil, Mary MacNeil, **Scott MacNeil (compiler)**.

**PICTOU HARBOUR**, Jan 1; 7:15AM to 5:20PM. Temp. -18 to -6C. Wind SW 15kmph. Snow 2cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Clear, P.M. partly cloudy, light snow. 14 field observers in 9-10 parties, 14 at feeders, 2 hours and 30 kilometers owling. Total party hours 60.5 (34.5 on foot, 26 by car). Total party kilometers 562.5 (53.5 by foot, 509 by car).

Com. Loon 2; Red-necked Grebe 1; Great Blue Heron 3; Canada Goose

1010; Green-winged Teal 1; Am. Black Duck 1900; Mallard 49; N Pintail 1; **Redhead 2**; Am. Wigeon 5; **Tufted Duck 2**; Greater Scaup 3542; Lesser Scaup 27; Com. Eider 2; Oldsquaw 110; Surf Scoter 9; Com. Goldeneye 2143; Barrow's Goldeneye 16; Hooded Merganser 6; Com. Merganser 2561; Red-breasted Merganser 481; Bald Eagle 39; N Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; N Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 10; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Ruffed Grouse 5; Killdeer 1; Ruddy Turnstone 1; Black-headed Gull 8; Bonaparte's Gull 23; Ring-billed Gull 36; Herring Gull 4297; Iceland Gull 113; **Lesser Black-backed Gull 2**; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 248; Rock Dove 232; Mourning Dove 107; Barred Owl 3; Saw-whet Owl 3; Belted Kingfisher 6; **Red-headed Woodpecker 1**; Downy Wood-



pecker 20; Hairy Woodpecker 24; N Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 19; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 237; Am. Crow 720; Com. Raven 223; Black-capped Chickadee 638; Boreal Chickadee 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch 44; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 483; Am. Robin 111; N Mockingbird 1; Cedar Waxwing 1; European Starling 1436; Am. Tree Sparrow 81; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 13; Dark-eyed Junco 146; Snow Bunting 15; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Pine Grosbeak 1; White-winged Crossbill 109; Pine Siskin 3; Am. Goldfinch 279; Evening Grosbeak 56; House Sparrow 327.

**Total Species 74, about 21707 individuals.** (CP. Double-crested Cormorant, **Eurasian Wigeon**, Harlequin Duck, Rough-legged Hawk, Purple Finch). Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Mark Brennan, John Clark, Joan Czupalay, Barbara

Ann Grant, Bob Hanes, Elwin Hemphill, Janey Hemphill, Randy Lauff, Fulton Lavender, Jean MacDonald, Fred MacKenzie, Jean MacLeod, Duncan MacMaster, Harold Madore, Mary Mason, **Ken McKenna (compiler)**, Bev Milligan, Bernice Moores, Robert Reid, Janet Rowe, Wendy Skinner, Henry Snow, Tricia Trefry, Steve Vines, Brian Wong.

**PORT L'HEBERT**, Dec 20; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 4 to 8C. Wind NW 15-25kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. Partly cloudy, P.M. clear. 18 field observers in 11-12 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 68.5 (51.25 on foot, 17.25 by car). Total party kilometers 416.5 (90.5 by foot, 326 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Com. Loon 44; Horned Grebe 11; Red-necked Grebe 6; Great Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 4; Canada Goose 4300; Green-winged Teal 1; Am. Black Duck 413; Mallard 9; Greater Scaup 14; Com. Eider 454; Harlequin Duck 12; Oldsquaw 111; Black Scoter 32; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 37; Com. Goldeneye 27; **Barrow's Goldeneye 2**; Bufflehead 39; Red-breasted Merganser 31; Bald Eagle 1; N Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 13; Com. Snipe 3; sandpiper species 8; Black-headed Gull 3; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 8; Herring Gull 822; Iceland Gull 2; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 432; Dovekie 2; Com. Murre 1; Black Guillemot 41; Rock Dove 21; Mourning Dove 135; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 2; N Flicker 10; Horned Lark 8; Gray Jay 14; Blue Jay 48; Am. Crow 161; Com. Raven 23; Black-capped Chickadee 204; Boreal Chickadee 75; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 146; Am. Robin 126; Cedar Waxwing 3; European Starling 432; Orange-crowned Warbler 2; Yellow-rumped Warbler 69; Com. Yellowthroat 1; **Dickcissel 1**; Am. Tree Sparrow 21; Song Sparrow 61; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 106; Dark-



eyed Junco 111; Lapland Longspur 25; Snow Bunting 17; Com. Grackle 2; Purple Finch 14; Red Crossbill 8; White-winged Crossbill 18; Pine Siskin 8; Am. Goldfinch 168; Evening Grosbeak 11; House Sparrow 52.

**Total Species 82, about 9035 individuals.** (Double-crested Cormorant, MallardXBlack Duck hybrid, Brown-headed Cowbird) Michelle Bull, Bill Crosby, **Donna Crosby (compiler)**, Russel Crosby, Bill Curry, Andy Dean, Leila Dean, Donna Ensor, Jonathan Ensor, Ray Fisher, Dean Fiske, Emerson Fiske, Danny Mason, Laura Mason, Linda Ross, Roger Ross, Mark Townsend, Robert Turner, David Young, Joan Young.

**PUBNICO**, Dec 27; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 0 to 1C. Wind NW 30kmph. Snow 20cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies partly clear all day. 11 field observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 29.5 (7.5 on foot, 22 by car). Total party kilometers 323 (19 by foot, 304 by car)

Com. Loon 14; Great Cormorant 16; Great Blue Heron 2; Am. Black Duck 361; Mallard 3; Greater Scaup 10; Com. Eider 30; Oldsquaw 11; White-winged Scoter 2; Com. Goldeneye 29; Bufflehead 2; Red-breasted Merganser 25; Bald Eagle 2; N Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Ruffed Grouse 2; Purple Sandpiper 7; Black-headed Gull 1; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 6; Herring Gull 376; Iceland Gull 10; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 323; Black Guillemot 3; Rock Dove 2; Mourning Dove 165; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 2; N Flicker 4; Horned Lark 6; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 38; Am. Crow 186; Com. Raven 18; Black-capped Chickadee 125; Boreal Chickadee 14; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 55; Am. Robin 946; N Mockingbird 3; Cedar Waxwing 33; European Starling 384; Yellow-rumped Warbler 13; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; N Cardinal 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 58; Song Sparrow 20; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 47; Dark-eyed Junco

255; Snow Bunting 8; Red-winged Blackbird 45; Brown-headed Cowbird 32; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 34; Pine Siskin 17; Am. Goldfinch 132; Evening Grosbeak 3; House Sparrow 63.

**Total Species 63, about 3971 individuals.** (CP. Horned Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Surf Scoter, **Am. Woodcock, Gray Catbird**) Albert D'Entremont, Gisele D'Entremont, Raymond D'Entremont, Benjamin D'Eon, Jerome D'Eon, Lester D'Eon, **Ted C. D'Eon (compiler)**, Paul Gould, June Graves, Murray Newell.



**St. PETER'S**, Dec 27; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -1 to 1C. Wind NW 20kmph. Snow 15cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. clear, P.M. cloudy. 10 field observers in 4 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 24 (8 on foot, 16 by car). Total party kilometers 333 (12 by foot, 321 by car).

Com. Loon 9; Red-necked Grebe 3; N Gannet 1; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Am. Black Duck 38; Com. Eider 20; Oldsquaw 22; Surf Scoter 8; Com. Goldeneye 31; Bufflehead 2; Com. Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 28; Bald Eagle 10; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; **Am. Coot**

1; Black-headed Gull 1; Bonaparte's Gull 7; Herring Gull 128; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 19; tern species 1; Dovekie 1; Com. Murre 1; Mourning Dove 39; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 26; Am. Crow 183; Com. Raven 35; Black-capped Chickadee 39; Boreal Chickadee 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; European Starling 189; Com. Yellowthroat 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 10; Song Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 7; White-winged Crossbill 18; Am. Goldfinch 35; House Sparrow 40.

**Total Species 41, about 985 individuals.** (CP. Great Blue Heron, N Goshawk, Spruce Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Belted Kingfisher, **Dickcissel**, Pine Siskin). Dorothy Barnard, Floyd Carter, **Billy Digout (compiler)**, George Digout, Murdock Digout, Sharon Digout, Eva Landry, Frances MacKay, Jackie MacNeil, Tom Murray, Danny Nightingale, Annie Vanderhoeden, Trevor Wilkie, Joseph Wincey.

**SHUBENACADIE**, Dec 20; 6:30AM to 5:30PM. Temp. 1 to 4C. Wind NW 0-40kmph. Snow 5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. clear, P.M. partly cloudy. 21 field observers in 12 parties, 23 at feeders, 1.5 hours and 10.5 kilometers owling. Total party hours 68 (25.5 on foot, 42.5 by car). Total party kilometers 723 (41 by foot, 682 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 12; Am. Black Duck 58; Mallard 14; White-winged Scoter 1; Com. Merganser 285; duck species 2; Bald Eagle 18; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; N Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Am. Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Gray Partridge 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 59; Ruffed Grouse 13; Herring Gull 225; Great Black-backed Gull 25; Rock Dove 539; Mourning Dove 325; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 3; **Long-eared Owl 1**; Saw-whet Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 21; Hairy Woodpecker 16; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Horned Lark 15; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 351; Am. Crow 599; Com. Raven 127; Black-capped Chickadee 552; Boreal Chickadee 36; Red-breasted Nuthatch 48; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned

Kinglet 153; Am. Robin 3; Cedar Waxwing 1; N Shrike 1; European Starling 2705; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Com. Yellowthroat 1; Am. Tree Sparrow 56; Song Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 98; Snow Bunting 15; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 80; Pine Grosbeak 28; Purple Finch 37; Red Crossbill 9; White-winged Crossbill 377; Pine Siskin 66; Am. Goldfinch 343; Evening Grosbeak 562; House Sparrow 263.

**Total Species 59, about 8187 individuals.** Mark Anthony, Fred Ashley, Dougie Back, Conrad Baldwin, Wylie Barbrick, Barbara Bower, Rob Cameron, Terry Carroll, Gretchen Dawe, Donald Frame, Brenda Grantmyre, Myrna Hambleton, Leo Isenor, Joan Jarvis, Helen Langille, Marilyn Lovegrove, Anne MacDonald, Joan Mackey, **Roslyn MacPhee (compiler)**, Sharon MacPhee, Earle McCurdy, Albert Moore, Juanita Murphy, Jacques Perron, Christine Queripel, Judy Queripel, Earle Reid, Nancy Reid, Barbara Scott, George Searle, Rosalie Stewart, Connie Stott, Julie Towers, Linda Vaughan, Faye Wallace, Roger Wardrope, Lorne Weaver, Arthur West, Myrna West, Irving Williams, Beth Wright.

**SPRINGVILLE**, Dec 19; 7:15AM to 5PM. Temp. -8 to -2C. Wind W 5-15kmph. Snow 25cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. light snow, P.M. clear. 9 field observers in 5 parties, 21 at feeders. Total party hours 44.25 (16 on foot, 25.25 by car). Total party kilometers 447 (19 by foot, 428 by car).

**Wood Duck 1; Green-winged Teal 3;** Am. Black Duck 7; Mallard 1; Com. Merganser 30; Bald Eagle 12; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; N Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 10; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 2; Com. Snipe 1; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 145; Iceland Gull 5; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 27; Rock Dove 479; Mourning Dove 167; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 25; Hairy Woodpecker 30; N Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 129;

Am. Crow 7941; Com. Raven 161; Black-capped Chickadee 483; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 30; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 29; Am. Robin 2; N Shrike 1; European Starling 916; **Pine Warbler 3;** Am. Tree Sparrow 100; Savannah Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 4; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 217; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 137; Rusty Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 2; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 40; Red Crossbill 1; White-winged Crossbill 32; Pine Siskin 30; Am. Goldfinch 244; Evening Grosbeak 233; House Sparrow 240.



**Total Species 57, about 11,967 individuals.** (CP. Great Horned Owl, Com. Yellowthroat, Brown-headed Cowbird). Rosemary Bourque, **Calvin Brennan (compiler)**, Donna Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Mark Brennan, Tim Brennan, Frank Calder, Jim Chisholm, Sonny Cyr, Claire Foote, Mary Fraser, Doug Fraser, Margaret Kenny, Betty MacDonald, Connie MacKenzie, Fred MacKenzie, Jill McIntyre, Ken McKenna, Helen Melanson, Carol Reid, Margie Reid, Cheryl Silver, Shirley Stewart, Jane Thompson, Chris Tobin, Steve Vines, Joan Wood, Rita Young.

**SYDNEY'S**, Dec 22; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. 2 to 6C. Wind variable, 20-60kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies cloudy with rain all day. 12 field observers in 6 parties, 15 at feeders. Total party hours 22.5 (11 on foot,

11.5 by car). Total party kilometers 229 (14 by foot, 215 by car).

Great Cormorant 6; Double-crested Cormorant 1; cormorant species 1; **Wood Duck 1; Green-winged Teal 1;** Am. Black Duck 837; Mallard 296; **N Pintail 1; Am. Wigeon 1; Ring-necked Duck 2;** Com. Eider 1; Oldsquaw 2; White-winged Scoter 40; Com. Goldeneye 149; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Red-breasted Merganser 74; Bald Eagle 12; N Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Black-headed Gull 28; Herring Gull 621; Iceland Gull 165; Glaucous Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 82; Rock Dove 264; Mourning Dove 69; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 14; Am. Crow 448; Com. Raven 9; Black-capped Chickadee 82; Boreal Chickadee 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 11; European Starling 1234; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Snow Bunting 2; **Baltimore Oriole 1;** Am. Goldfinch 47; House Sparrow 153.

**Total Species 42, about 4732 individuals.** George Baille, Ed Clements, Alex Fraser, Roberta Fraser, Gwen Gardner, Tom Gardner, **Betty Gentile (compiler)**, Nathan Laffin, Terry Laffin, Maile MacDonald, Jackie MacDougall, Joan MacFadden, John W. MacInnis, Leigh Ann MacKay, Walter MacKinnon, Donald MacLeod, Marguerite MacLeod, Jack MacNeil, Eric McCorquodale, John MacKay, Eldon Meikle, Winnie Meikle, Susann Myers, Chris Thomson, Noel Thomson, Darlene Whitty, Tim Whitty.

**TRURO**, Dec 29; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -1 to 2C. Wind NE 8kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. partly cloudy, P.M. cloudy. 10 field observers in 8 parties, 8 at feeders. Total party hours 51.5 (23.25 on foot, 28.25 by car). Total party kilometers 600.7 (44.2 by foot, 556.5 by car).

Canada Goose 64; Am. Black Duck 554; Mallard 678; Am. Wigeon 11; Com. Goldeneye 6; Bald Eagle 15; N Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; N Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 3;

Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 44; Ruffed Grouse 9; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 104; Great Black-backed Gull 58; Rock Dove 424; Mourning Dove 229; Downy Woodpecker 18; Hairy Woodpecker 12; Black-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 106; Am. Crow 2349; Com. Raven 7; Black-capped Chickadee 209; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 24; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 16; Am. Robin 3; European Starling 2355; Am. Tree Sparrow 50; Savannah Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 62; Com. Grackle 2; Pine Grosbeak 21; Purple Finch 19; White-winged Crossbill 116; Pine Siskin 3; Am. Goldfinch 196; Evening Grosbeak 207; House Sparrow 58.

**Total Species 45, about 8067 individuals.** (CP. Merlin, Snow Bunting) Allan Eddy, Linda Hall, **Ross Hall (compiler)**, Janet Hoegg, Joan Hudgins, Ernest Erwin, Bernard Jackson, Winnifred Kettleson, Bea MacCallum, Martha MacLaughlin, Marilyn MacWha, Jeff Ogden, Rod Ogden, Cliff Sandson, Rachel Smith, Rene Smith, Fran Spalding, Harold Stewart, Jo Teale.

**WOLFVILLE**, Dec 20; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -2 to 5C. Wind NW 40kmph. Snow 5cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. A.M. cloudy, P.M. Partly cloudy day. 44 field observers in 24 parties, 82 at feeders. Total parties hours 101.35 (64.8 on foot, 36.5 by car). Total party kilometers 863 (99.75 by foot, 763.25 by car).

Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 854; Green-winged Teal **60**; Am. Black Duck 1259; Mallard 504; N Pintail 4; N **Shoveler 2**; Com. Eider 2; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 7; Com. Goldeneye 9; Com. Merganser 13; Bald Eagle 320; N Harrier 16; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; N Goshawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 133; Rough-legged Hawk 7; Merlin 7; Ring-necked Pheasant 235; Ruffed Grouse 5; Killdeer 1; Ring-billed Gull 265; Herring Gull **30610**; Iceland Gull 10; **Lesser Black-backed Gull 1**; Great Black-backed Gull 3586; Rock Dove 873; Mourning Dove 1683;

Barred Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 3; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 90; Hairy Woodpecker 49; N Flicker 46; Pileated Woodpecker 9; Horned Lark 280; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 473; Am. Crow 17658; Com. Raven 432; Black-capped Chickadee 1069; Boreal Chickadee 127; Red-breasted Nuthatch 140; White-breasted Nuthatch 21; Brown Creeper 16; Golden-crowned Kinglet 184; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 5; Am. Robin 34; N Mockingbird 7; European Starling 30032; Com. Yellowthroat 3; N Cardinal 3; Am. Tree Sparrow 308; Chipping Sparrow 13; Savannah Sparrow 16; Song Sparrow 120; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 24; **White-crowned Sparrow 2**; Dark-eyed Junco 573; Snow Bunting 82; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Com. Grackle 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 8; Pine Grosbeak 8; Purple Finch 50; White-winged Crossbill 234; Pine Siskin 53; Am. Goldfinch 1028; Evening Grosbeak 150; House Sparrow 1477.



**Total Species 72, about 95,323 individuals.** (CP. Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, **Virginia Rail**, Bonaparte's Gull, Black Guillemot, Long-eared Owl, **Wilson's Warbler**, **tanager species**, Lapland Longspur). Agra Adamson, George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Jim Amos, Diana Anderson, Patricia Bernier, Diana Bishop, Charlene Bishop, Sue Bissix, Sherman Boates, Sharon Borden, Larry Borgan, Mike

Boudreau, Carol Buckley, Neil Cloghsey, Brenda Colwell, Sandy Connelly, Ed Connelly, Susan Cox, Peggy Crawford, Debbie Daigle, Jim Diagle, Gail Davis, Pat Davis, Pat Dix, Ed Eagles, Ev Eagles, Joan Eaton, Mark Elderkin, Paul Elderkin, Mary Ellis, Wendy Elliott, Trina Fitzgerald, Bob Flecknell, George Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Fred Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Jamie Gibson, Glenys Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Barb Giffin, Pat Giffin, Ed Hancock, Sharon Harris, Lorna Hart, Avril Harwood, John Harwood, Blanche Healy, Gail Herbin, Jack Herbin, Maxine Hill, Ken Hill, Bob Horne, Isobel Horton, John Horton, Winnie Horton, J.P. Huang, Ladney Richmond, Douglas Jackson, Shirley Jackson, Sandy Kemp-ton, Meg Krawchuk, Linda Lusby, Cam MacDonald, Angus MacLean, Ron Margeson, Don Marston, Shirley Marston, Bill Martell, Pat Martell, Jessie Martin, Pat Martin, Bernard Mason, Eleanor Mason, Randy Milton, Terri Milton, Terry Murphy, Edna Mutch, Linda Nette, Andy Nette, Hugh Nickerson, Pam Nickerson, Joe Noccera, Soren Bondrup-Nielson, Silas Bondrup Nielson, Mike O'Brien, Kieram O'Malley, Ian Paterson, Linda Pearson, Terry Pearson, Mary Pratt, Nick Pratt, Janet-Pratt, Tom Regan; **Stan Riggs (compiler)**, Benita Rogers, Marg Russell, Barry Sabean, Gladys Saltzman, Katherine Saltzman, Jennifer Saltzman, Meg Scheid, Kathy Schaffner, Don Shaw, Jack Scott, Ruth Scott, Mabel Sheffield, David Silverberg, Clifford Stanley, Brian Starzomski, Richard Stern, Merriam Sullivan, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Dianne Thorpe, Jean Timpa, David Tracey, Gerry Trueman, Deanna Urban, Eva Urban, Walter Urban, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Jeni Wright, Sheila Young, Earl Young.

**YARMOUTH**, Dec 20; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. 1 to 7C. Wind W-NW, 25-50kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 18 field observers in 7 parties, 12 at feeders. Total party hours 44 (11 on foot, 33 by car). Total party kilometers 575.5 (16.5 by foot, 559 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Com. Loon 23; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 5; Great Cormorant 3; Great Blue Heron 7; Canada Goose 1355; **Green-winged Teal 1**; Am. Black Duck 200; Mallard 335; Com. Eider 29; Oldsquaw 130; Black Scoter 1; Surf Scoter 10; Com. Goldeneye 26; Bufflehead 26; Hooded Merganser 7; Com. Merganser 55; Red-breasted Merganser 61; Ruddy Duck 1; Turkey Vulture 1; Bald Eagle 1; Northern Harrier 4; Red-tailed Hawk 8; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 2; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 14; Spruce Grouse 2; Ruffed Grouse 2; Am. Coot 1; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 66; Herring Gull 1877; Iceland Gull 50; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 1294; Black Guillemot 3; Rock Dove 125; Mourning Dove 161; Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 26; Horned Lark 80; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 36; Am. Crow 347; Com. Raven 7; Black-capped Chickadee 175; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 55; Am. Robin 224; Am. Pipit

1; Cedar Waxwing 75; European Starling 7985; Yellow-rumped Warbler 26; Palm Warbler 3; Northern Cardinal 9; Am. Tree Sparrow 13; Song Sparrow 30; White-throated Sparrow 39; White-crowned Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 96; Brown-headed Cowbird 9; Purple Finch 13; House Finch 8; Pine Siskin 16; Am. Goldfinch 58; House Sparrow 107.

**Total Species 69, about 15354 individuals.** (CP. Boreal Chickadee, Brown creeper, White-winged Crossbill). Beatrice Bain, Martyn Bowler, Marilyn Burns, Paul Comeau, Elsie Crosby, Bernie Deveau, Raymond d'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, Andrea Doherty, Paul Gould, June Graves, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Jennifer Hall, Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Hazel MacDonald, Dale Mullen, Ethelda Murphy, Sandra Phinney, Arthur Porter, Marcie Rogers, **Barbara Ruff (compiler)**, **Eric Ruff (compiler)**, Robin Rymer, Clark Sollows, John Terry, Jim Thi-beau, Grace Walker.

## This Christmas Count is dedicated to the memory of C.R.K. Allen.




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### Request for Information / Assistance

I am working as part of a regional research team, the Northeast Loon Study Group, whose goal is to describe the pollutant burden history of Com. Loons. We have started a continent-wide search for museum specimens containing Com. Loons...the purpose - to assess a few feather samples from each bird for mercury. The information we gather from this study, will allow us to examine the historical uptake of mercury (i.e. when, in history, did mercury start to become a problem?). It will also allow us to finally attribute a source to the mercury problem facing us today.

I am the regional contact in Nova Scotia for this study - and I am looking for any information regarding where I might find some loon specimens in the province AND/OR if I might be allowed to come in and snip off four inconspicuous feathers. I have already enlisted the cooperation of Acadia University, NS Museum of Nat. Hist., and UCCB. Any information, even if a collection has only one loon, would be greatly appreciated.

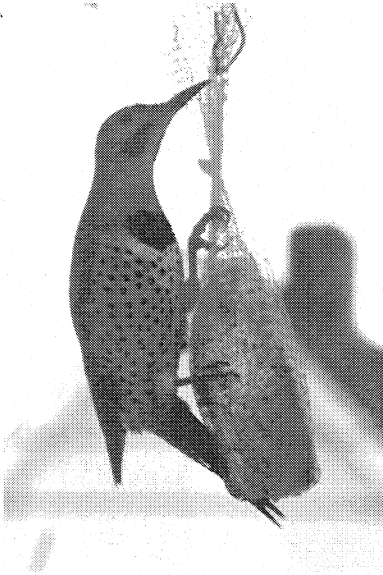
I can be reached at the address and phone number shown below.

Joseph J. Nocera  
Atlantic Coop. Wildlife Ecology Research Network  
Acadia University  
Wolfville, Nova Scotia  
Canada B0P 1X0

e-mail: 023758n@acadiau.ca  
phone: (902) 582-7997  
fax: (902) 585-1059  
<http://dragon.acadiau.ca/~acwern/jnocera/JNOCERA.HTM>

# Photos

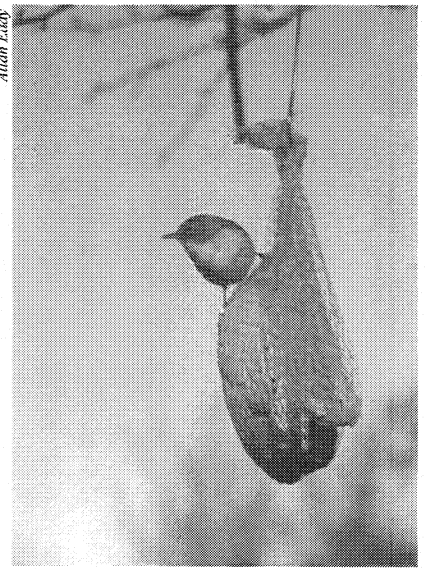
Allan Eddy



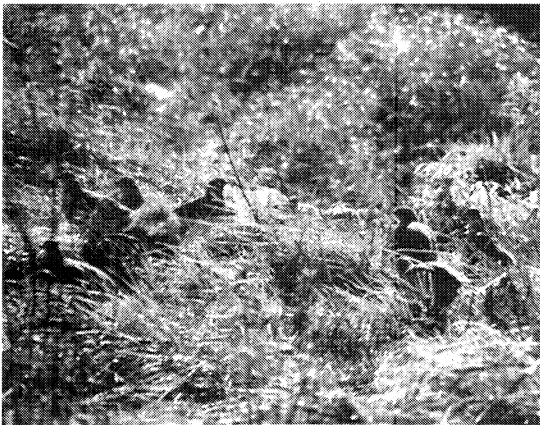
This was an exceptional winter for N FLICKERS, including this one sustained at the Eddy's suet feeder in Truro. The photo was taken at the end of February.

In recent years, some numbers of PINE WARBLERS have reverse-migrated to Nova Scotia and attempted to winter. This one, nourished at suet in the Eddy's backyard in Truro, survived nicely to be photographed Feb. 18. The rather sturdy bill, eye ring, and lighter patch behind the "ear" are all useful marks of this sometimes nondescript species.

Allan Eddy



Allan Eddy



Although there were few reports of wintering GRAY PARTRIDGES from the Truro area, this group (of a larger flock of 18) seemed happy enough when photographed last November along Marshland Drive.

This YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER was an early visitor at Cape d'Or, Cumb. Co., April 21, 1998. Although its yellow lores were suggestive of the southeastern race *dominica*, this feature sometimes occurs on inland *abilora* birds.

Jane Mills





These two young GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE spent much of the winter at Economy, Col. Co., and were a provincial first for a number of birders. Because of their distinctly orange bills, they were initially identified as of the Greenland race *flavirostris*. However, Kaufman (1994, *Birding* 26, pp. 380-382) notes stresses that birds of North Am. populations can also have orange bills. The balance of responses to an internet enquiry supports this view. Furthermore, they were last seen March 10 by FLS as they flew off strongly to the NW with 20 Canada Geese companions. In short, it cannot be assumed that these birds hailed from Greenland.

This handsome stranger had the good sense to turn up at the Buckland-Nicks' feeders in Antigonish. They recognized it as a first-winter male BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK and spread the word so that many birders were able to their life lists. It was only the second to be photographically documented in the province.



This winter's male TUFTED DUCK, when discovered at Dartmouth Cove in January, was accompanied by a first-winter bird with features of both Greater Scaup and Tufted Duck. (Its large, rounded head, lack of white at base of bill, and broad "nail" with strong whitish border on the bill, along with a hint of developing back vermiculations, suggested that it was a 1st winter male, but its palish "ear patch" was a female trait.). Such hybrids are quite regular in Iceland, whence our Tufteds probably come. Then some confusion arose when the Tufted and a smaller scaup-like companion, both began to occur more frequently on Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth. In this photo, taken mid-February, it is still in its dull, first-winter plumage. It gradually acquired the handsome plumage of a male Lesser Scaup. It was obviously not the same bird that had occurred earlier at Dartmouth Cove.

## Erratum

On page 30 of the Winter 1999 issue of *Nova Scotia Birds*, the last sentence of the caption for the Whimbrel photo should read: "The photo also reveals the simple, transverse scales (scutes) on the lower hind leg of the bird, unlike the broken up scales of an Eskimo Curlew."

## Sewer Stroll II

BY KATHY POPMA

Led by Fulton Lavender, seven very hardy birders gathered at Hartlen Pt. at 8 a.m. on Feb. 20. Soon after starting, we were greeted by torrents of rain and freezing rain. Nevertheless, we carried on and had good looks at Greater Scaup, White-Winged Scoter, and unbelievably in those conditions, Savannah Sparrows and Song Sparrows (a complete species list follows.)

A complete circuit of Halifax harbour was made with stops at Sullivans Pond, Tufts Cove, various Bedford feeders, the old Volvo plant on Barrington St., Black Rock Beach, Purcells Cove, Portuguese Cove, Tribune Head, Chebucto Head and Sambro.

The bird of the day had to be the Thayer's Gull at the Volvo plant by the harbour. The bright pink legs first drew our attention. We then went through the other field marks from a distance of about six feet away. The bird looked exactly like the Herring Gulls it was sitting beside except for pink eye ring, brown eye, slightly finer bill, larger white spots on wingtips, and, finally, when it flew, no black under the wingtips. The Tufted Duck at Sullivans Pond was a lifer in Canada for one of the birders.

Our list:

Com. Loon, Red-Necked Grebe, Great Cormorant, Double-Crested Cormorant; Black-Headed, Iceland, Greater-Black Backed, Bonaparte's, Ring-Billed, Her-

ring, and Thayer's Gulls; Com. Eider, Greater Scaup, White-Winged Black and Surf Scoter, Oldsquaw, Com. Goldeneye, Red-Breasted Merganser, Com. Merganser, Am. Black Duck, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Am. Wigeon, Am. Coot, Thick-Billed Murre, Black Guillemot, Sharp-Shinned Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Am. Robin, Blue Jay, Brown Creeper, Am. Goldfinch, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Dark-eyed Junco, Bohemian Waxwing, Golden-Crowned Kinglet, Boreal Chickadee, Black-Capped Chickadee, Snow Bunting (1), Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, White-Throated Sparrow, House Sparrow, Starling, Am. Crow, Com. Raven.

## Baccaro and Blanche Peninsula

BY ANDY DEAN

Here are the highlights of a bird watching trip March 27th conducted by Donna Ensor. The area covered was in the vicinity of Baccaro, Point Negro,

and Blanche Peninsula. A Pine Warbler at a feeder provided the group with ample opportunity to view it closely, and a spectacular gathering of Red-Necked Grebes counted by two members of the group, numbered at least 380. They

were calling which is something of a rarity to experience. A lone Ipswich Sparrow was identified among the shore grasses, and a Glaucous Gull among a flock of Herring Gulls was another of the rarer sightings.

## A Little Stint in Nova Scotia

Although this bird was briefly described in the January 1998 issue of Nova Scotia Birds by Roger Foxall, who went to see it next day, the photos and details of the original sighting have not been published. Doug McRae writes:

*The bird was found on 21 August 1997 during a Field Guides tour led by Chris Benesh and myself. It was ... roosting with other peep ... on the barrier beach [at] Pond Cove ... Mary Ward-Jackson alerted me to a very golden-coloured peep. I just about died when I put my binoculars on the bird and found that the whole head looked pumpkin coloured! We studied the bird for about an hour ... and we were not positive it was Little (as opposed to Red-necked) at the time, but subsequent study of the literature (some of which is surprisingly confusing) and the photos confirmed the original suspicion.*

Although our black-and-white version cannot show the bird's distinctive, "pumpkin-coloured" head and breast, its fine bill, particularly "vacant" face, whitish (as opposed to "pumpkin") chin, and other plumage features all indi-



cate that it was a worn, alternate plumaged adult Little Stint. This was perhaps the 5th to have occurred in the province, although only the second to be fully confirmed by photos.

## Sewer Stroll

BY FULTON L. LAVENDER

Due to inclement weather, the stroll had to be postponed to its alternate date of Sunday, January 11. Only a handful of hardy souls were able to rearrange their schedules and join me for a romp around the harbour in search of storm-wrecked fare and winter mainstays.

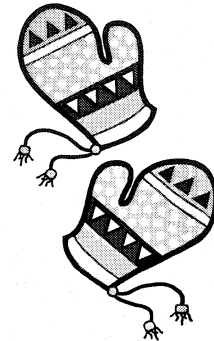
The regular stops produced on cue, with a surprise or two thrown in. The best birds included a Dovekie at Hartlen Point, Tufted Ducks in Dartmouth Cove, Am. Coot in Sullivans Pond, a

Hooded Merganser and Barrow's Goldeneye at Fish Hatchery Park, and Lesser Scaup in Purcells Cove.

However it was at Chebucto Head that we experienced the true highlight of our trip. We arrived there to find a marine feeding frenzy of sorts. The mixed company appeared to be feeding on large schools of Atlantic Herring present near Chebucto Ledge and involved numbers of Fin and Minke Whales, Harbour Porpoises, Gray and Harbour Seals, Gannets, Kittiwakes, Puffins, Razorbills, Com. Murres, and best of all, at least

four Basking Sharks.

Let's hope they are still around for our next trip. See you there!



## Pictou Harbour

BY KEN MCKENNA

A lovely winter day with no snow cover greeted the 18 who assembled on January 23rd to study the over-wintering waterfowl and gulls in Pictou Hbr. A good contingent made the trip from Cape Breton, while others from Antigonish and Economy complemented the locals. The first stop was the Pictou Causeway where two male Redheads were immediately spotted among the thousands of Greater Scaup. A little scouting trip an hour previous also produced a female Redhead with the two males, but she was not relocated during the field trip. Two male and a female N Pintail, a female Tufted Duck and several Barrow's Goldeneye were dissected out of the mass of ducks that also included hundreds of Com. Merganser, Com. Goldeneye and Am. Black Ducks.

Many of the out of town birders had not witnessed the huge wintering duck population before and as we moved on to view the open areas of the East River from Company Rd. and the parking meter plant in Abercrombie they were astonished to learn that the group at the Causeway was only a fraction of what was in the river itself. From the latter locations, more Barrow's Goldeneye, hundreds of Canada Geese and a male Eur. Wigeon was distantly viewed with a couple of Am. Wigeon.

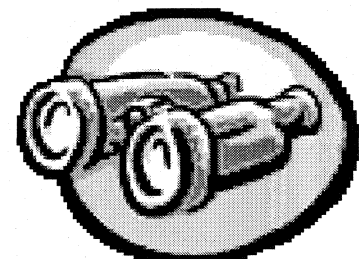
From the area of the Nova Scotia Power Plant in Trenton, two Great Cormorants, four Black-headed, a single Bonaparte's and a couple of Ring-billed Gulls were noted. At least three Belted Kingfisher patrolled this area - two others were also seen elsewhere. A very healthy and wary Great Blue Heron made several passes from the outflow of the power plant to Lauden's Creek. A female Hooded Merganser swam with a number of Greater Scaup that contained a few Lessers as well. Another male N Pintail and a male Green-winged Teal swam the channel from the outflow from the plant.

An odd incident occurred while we were watching from the lift bridge in Trenton. A young man made his way out to a blind on a point of land extending into the river. He was carrying a gun in one hand and a fishing rod in the other and set himself in the blind. A phone call was made to DNR and when we came through the area on our return, we noted the rod and gun had been seized. The folks at DNR had caught their man hunting out of season. What a nervy or stupid thing to do in front a group of naturalists with binoculars and scopes.

A good assortment of various plumaged Iceland Gulls occupied the prime feed-

ing troughs at the East River Pollution Control plant. Another Green-winged Teal flew from here as well and maybe one of the most wanted birds by many for the day, a possible Lesser Blacked-backed Gull, flew before it could be studied thoroughly. Next stop was the Trenton Gut area and with a little patience, everyone saw the male Tufted Duck that was actively feeding with scaup. A second Hooded Merganser was also seen here.

Many of the group left at this time and the weather started to change when a little snow started to fall. A return trip was made to the mouth of the harbour as seen from the Pictou Lodge where Oldsquaw was added to the day list. On the return trip through Pictou, four flocks of gulls on the ice were scanned producing a single Glaucous Gull to be the 43rd species for the final total of the day. It was a very enjoyable day made so by the keenness of the visitors and it was a pleasure to share the day with all.





# Field Trip Reports

## Brier Island

BY FULTON L. LAVENDER

When I saw the weather forecast on channel 30 Wednesday evening I quickly told several people that I felt the upcoming holiday had the potential to be the best birding weekend in at least 20 years. I stated for the record that, somewhere along the South Shore on a line from Brier I. to CSI, a major fallout of birds would occur.

Therefore, despite a terrible weather forecast, ten dedicated birders gathered on Brier I. for Thanksgiving with the hope of seeing and experiencing a major birding event.

I set off for Brier I. with friend and birding colleague Clarence Stevens Sr. on Friday about mid afternoon. The wind direction in Halifax was north-easterly and easterly when we arrived in Digby Co. By the time we arrived on Brier I. the wind was swinging around to the south-east indicating that the system had looped to our south and stalled. About 8:00 p.m. Friday night I went outside the cabin to listen for migrants. I was rewarded for my effort by dozens of

White-crowned Sparrows and Swainson's Thrushes, a small number of Hermit Thrushes, Gray-cheeked Thrushes, Blackpoll Warblers, a Veery, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, a Dickcissel and an Indigo Bunting. All were fleeing the storm's wrath under a damp low ceiling.

The following day the Blackpoll Warblers and White-crowned Sparrows gave ample proof of their presence along with some 5,000 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 1,000 Palm Warblers, 200 Com. Yellowthroats, 50 Black-throated Green Warblers, 15 Blue-headed Vireos, 75 Rusty Blackbirds, an Eastern Towhee, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

On Sunday the centre of the storm hit, and hit hard. Heavy rain and high winds forced us to abandon any thoughts of real birding until later in the day. By mid-afternoon there was a bit of a break in the weather and our party, reduced by four due to prior commitments, decided to chance searching the island's south-west end along Pond Cove. Approaching the pond along the inner beach we flushed two Short-eared Owls and some

Horned Larks. As we began our trek up the beach an immature Com. Tern flew by, followed by a flock of Cliff Swallows. We also enjoyed seeing Peregrine Falcons, Turkey Vultures and a selection of shorebirds before the heavens opened up again and we were driven from the beach by a howling gale.

On Monday the sky began to clear and a small hawk flight took place. This included 400 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 300 Broad-winged Hawks, 30 Am. Kestrels, 20 Merlins, 15 N. Harriers, nine Turkey Vultures, five Peregrine Falcons, three N. Goshawks, two Red-taileds, two immature Bald Eagles and an adult Golden Eagle.

Leaving Brier I. and birding our way home via Long I., we discovered a Scarlet Tanager and a Prairie Warbler near Flour Cove and I had a strange feeling that we had narrowly missed the mother lode. Within 24 hours my suspicions were confirmed. The fun had just begun!

## Hot Spot Birding (Hartlen Pt.)

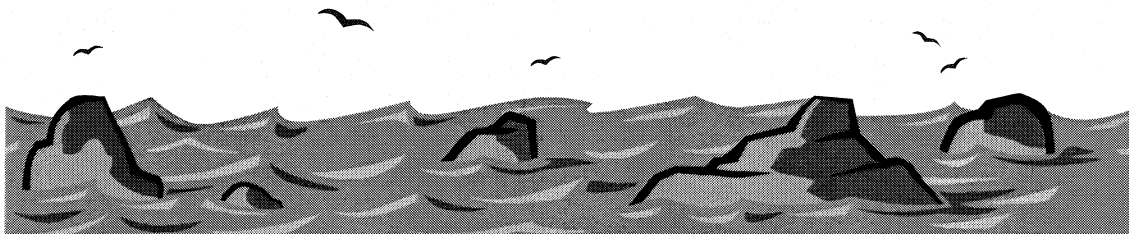
BY FULTON L. LAVENDER

About a dozen birders met at Hartlen Point on November 28th to get a pre-Christmas Bird Count taste of winter birding. We birded from Eastern Passage to Halifax and tallied up 58 species.

Highlights included two Marsh Wrens at Hartlen Point, two Baltimore Orioles and two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Sullivans Pond, four Hooded Mergansers in Bedford, five N. Shovelers, 20 Am. Coots and seven Ruddy Ducks in Bissett L., and one Pine Warbler in the Fairview Cemetery.

It was a fun day for everyone, especially because of Joan Czapalay, who introduced us all to the stalking heron technique while successfully photographing a Blue-Grey Gnatcatcher.

Join us all next year, and bring your cameras.





7739.

This meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Room 244, Beveridge Art Centre, Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S. Speaker to be announced. On Saturday, 15 September, 1999, there will be field trip(s) to see fall migrants in the surrounding area. More details will follow at a later date.

**Thu 28 Oct – NSBS Annual General Meeting, 8 p.m., Museum of Natural History, Summer St., Halifax**

The AGM will be followed by WINE AND CHEESE.

**Thu 25 Nov – ‘Breeding Cycles of Owls’**

**NSBS Meeting, 8 p.m., Museum of Natural History, Summer St., Halifax**

Guest speaker Bernard Forsythe.

Heather Drope



**Bernie and Friend**

Bernard Forsythe has been supporting and monitoring the raptor populations of Kings Co. For many years, as this circa 1992 photo shows. Here he is handling a recently fledged BARRED OWL captured for banding. Through his wonderful efforts, many raptors have been encouraged to use his nest boxes and nest platforms. The owls remain his favourites, despite the fact that the adults sometimes treat him to a clout on the head when he comes around to see how they are doing.



**UPCOMING EVENT**

There will be a joint meeting of the Blomidon Naturalists Society and the Nova Scotia Bird Society in SEPTEMBER, 1999. The meeting will be held on:

**Friday, 17 September, 1999 at 7:30 PM**

in Room 244, Beveridge Art Centre, Acadia University, WOLFVILLE, N.S. Special speaker to be announced. On Saturday, 15 September, 1999, there will be field trip(s) to see fall migrants in the surrounding area. More details will follow at a later date.

Contact persons:

Blomidon Naturalists Society

Randy Milton  
(902)542-1761

Phil Taylor  
(902)542-0437

Nova Scotia Bird Society

Gisèle d’Entremont  
(902) 422-7739

# Inside this issue:

## *Special points of interest:*

- President's Report
- Winter seasonal bird reports
- Christmas Bird Counts
- Request for Assistance from Northeast Loon Study Group

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## Upcoming Events



### **Sun 30 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 5 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 19 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.

### **Sun 18 July – Wallace Bay**

Leader: Jim Taylor 434-8516 or Fulton Lavender 455-4966.  
Meet at Wallace Wharf at 8:30 a.m. A variety of habitats are covered. Bring a lunch. No registration necessary.

### **Sun 25 July – Mahone Bay**

Leader: Clarence Stevens 835-0098.  
Meet at 8 a.m. across from the three churches in Mahone Bay. See a variety of habitats on a new field trip. A great trip for beginners. Bring a snack. Trip will conclude about 1 p.m. Please pre-register.

### **Sat 21 Aug – Matthew's Lake**

Leader: Dave Young 656-2225.  
Meet at the parking lot at the end of the road at Hemeons Head. To get there take Highway 103 to exit 23 and turn south on the "Lighthouse" route for about 4 km. Then turn left on the road marked "West Middle Head, Little Harbour." Follow this road about 11 km to a stop sign at Little Harbour. Go

straight through the stop sign on the road to "Arnolds", which turns to gravel soon after the stop sign. Proceed to the end of the road, about 3.25 km, to the meeting area. Meeting time will be noon and the trip will take 3-4 hours. Walking distance is about 8 km. This is a brisk energetic hike with the possibility of crossing a deep tidal stream. Hemeons Head is about 2 1/2 hours from Halifax. We will mostly be studying shorebirds.

### **Sat 22 Aug – The Hawk**

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

### **Fri 17 Sept – Joint meeting of the Blomidon Naturalists Society and the Nova Scotia Bird Society**

Contact persons: Randy Milton (BNS) 542-1761, Phil Taylor (BNS) 542-0437, Gisèle d'Entremont (NSBS) 422-