

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Autumn 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.

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

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Cover: "Pileated Woodpecker" by Azor Vienneau

Reporting Deadlines

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

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Help Wanted!

BY RANDY LAUFF

NS Birds will be coming to you via a partially new editorial team starting next issue. I will be co-ordinating that team with some new faces, some familiar ones. My goal on the production side is to use a bigger staff to spread out the workload. What follows is a list of vacant positions and their descriptions. It will be highly advantageous for applicants to be computer literate (able to use a word processor and email).

Records Editor: my old job. I think we have a good sys-

tem in place now, so I expect that there will be no more time spent in modifying it. The position includes gathering records from observers via email and regular mail, collating them into packets for the Seasonal Editors and then distributing them to those editors. The editors return reports to you, which you proof read then send to the Editor.

Events Editor: this new position would work with the field trip co-ordinator in preparing the quarterly an-

nouncements of field trips and other events (e.g. meetings) and co-ordinate the gathering of trip reports from trip leaders. The Events Editor would be first to proof read all submissions (check for correct dates, phone numbers, etc.) and then submit them to the Editor.

Proof Readers: We will use proof readers to check both for flow of reading and accuracy of content. Proof readers need not feel compelled to do both (e.g. if you're a novice birder but you're great with

the English language, we'll use you to check the readability of the article only).

Typist: Most works are submitted electronically now, but occasionally we need a hard copy transposed to a word processor file.

If you feel you can contribute to *NS Birds*, you can email me at rlauff@stfx.ca, call me at (902) 867-2471 or write to me at PO Box 5000/St. Francis Xavier University/Biology Department/Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5.

Our Juncos and the MNRS

BY MARION ALLSEBROOK



Home, Sweet Home?

On the 20th of April of this year, we saw Dark-eyed Juncos carrying nesting material into a half-forgotten Christmas wreath in our front porch. A few days later, we were surprised to discover that they had actually built a nest! This seemed to be both an early record and in an (obviously) unusual habitat. Tufts' *Birds of Nova Scotia* says:

"Nest: Composed of coarse grass lined with finer grass often mixed with hair. It is usually placed on the

ground but occasionally in the crevice of a stump or some other opening 1-2 m above ground, and is always well concealed. It may be located in a garden terrace, along the road in a sparsely settled district, or in an area remote from settlement. Eggs: 4-5, usually 4; white or bluish white, with fine specks of light brown or cinnamon, chiefly around the larger end, in the form of a wreath. Of 23 nests examined, 20 contained sets of four eggs, only 3 had sets of five. Lay-



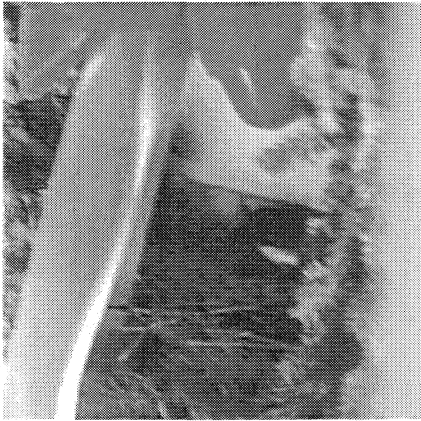
Mom?... Dad?...



Behind the ribbon....

ing begins about mid-May; the earliest complete set was found on 18 May 1927."

The nest could easily be seen through the window by the front door (1 metre from the nest) so it was easy to monitor the proceedings when the adult juncos were off the nest. It wasn't long until we were treated to a clutch of three eggs, soon followed by the frequent appearance of three hungry mouths stretching to greet the attentive parents. We carefully protected the privacy of



What IS she doing?...

the new family, detouring visitors to alternate entrances and otherwise seeking to minimise intrusions. Later in the year the immature juncos were at our feeders – they like niger seed, even from a hanging feeder. Our yard is sheltered from the wind, and they can perch at the

feeders.

As if this event was not amazing enough, later in the season the juncos nested again, making the records even more remarkable. We were the proud adoptive grandparents of another four baby juncos!

I asked around for information, and it was recommended that a record be submitted to the MARITIMES NEST RECORDS SCHEME (MNRS). I sent off to the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville for cards, only to find that much more information is requested than we had noted. I completed the card as best as I could, and vowed to make more people aware of the type of information sought by the MNRS. A replica of the card I filed with the MNRS is shown on the opposite page (see Figures 1 and 2). The actual card is 4" by 6", and you may want to take note of the type of

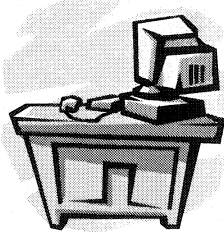


Oooohhhhhh!..

information required, in case you, too, can make a contribution to the MNRS. In the meantime, plans are well under way for next season's Christmas wreath. Wreaths? Trees? And we don't even need an excuse to not take it down until at least August...

From The Editor's Desk

BY PAUL QUINN



Well, it's been an interesting two years, first as Associate Editor, then as Editor-in-Chief, but other demands on my time require that I retire from my position with *Nova Scotia Birds*. I've enjoyed my involvement with the magazine, and hope that the changes we've made (for both financial and/or esthetic reasons) meet with your approval (or at least your acceptance).

The search has been on for a number of months for someone to take over the reins, and our current Records Editor Randy Lauff has bravely chosen to accept the challenge. He has already been making a significant contribution in terms of copy-editing and otherwise helping out. I wish Randy all the best in his new role, and stand ready and willing to advise and assist him in coming up to speed as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, I hope to be able to contribute to the publication from time to time, but on a less formal basis.

As you probably have already seen, our lead article in this issue is a 'Help Wanted' looking for other individuals that may feel they have something to contribute to the production of the magazine. I would encourage any interested member to contact Randy. Many hands make light work, and no contribution is too small. Photos, artwork, articles, ideas, comments, etc. are all gratefully received and appropriately acknowledged.

I personally would like to thank a number of people for their support, guidance and assistance over the past eight issues of *Nova Scotia Birds*:

Marion Allsebrook, for all of her hard work and support. It was 'She Who Must Be Obeyed' that introduced me to both the Bird Society and *Nova Scotia Birds*. The real power behind the throne.

Shirley Cohrs, for her long-time contri-

butions as our predecessor with the magazine, and for providing the foundation upon which we could build.

Randy Lauff, and his predecessor Karl Tay, for their work in getting your records into your magazine.

The rest of the Editorial Board, but most especially Ian McLaren for his work as Photo Editor and all of his behind-the-scenes input and guidance, and Azor Vienneau, without whose artwork the magazine would be a dreary place indeed.

The NSBS Executive for their support in exploring new ground and helping to make the magazine what it is today.

And all the other contributors, authors, Committee members, and birders that have provided materials and inspiration.

See you "out there"!

Paul

MARITIMES NEST RECORDS SCHEME						
CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE						
AOU #	SPECIES				[] Mark X for COWBIRD USE, and fill out separate card for Cowbird (see instruction)	YEAR
567	Dark-eyed Junco					1999
Date (Day/month)	Time (ADT)	Eggs	Young	Comments, or Cowbird data	PROVINCE	NS
20Apr				2 adults building nest (early)	COUNTY	Halifax
29 Apr		3 eggs			Locality	45 Lexington Ave, Fall River
11 May			1 hatched	Therefore 12-21 days to hatch.		
12 May			2		Altitude(m)	70
13 May			3		HABITAT (give full details)	
22 May			1 fledging	Therefore only 11 days to fledge. Other two nestlings were gone by 24/5.	House in subdivision in 1.3 acres of mixed woodland (spruce, maple, birch etc.)	
12 Jun		4 eggs		Probably no eggs 5 June.		
22 Jun			3 hatched	Approx 10-16 days to hatch.		
4 July			3	3 in nest in the morning, but gone in the afternoon (disturbed by people activity?) Approx 12 days to fledge.	NEST DESCRIPTION	Ht from ground 1.4 (m) above porch deck
Name and address of observer (Include Postal Code)					Material:	Mostly coarse grass, lined with fine grass
Paul W. Quinn and Marion Allsebrook 45 Lexington Ave Fall River NS B2T 1E7					Position:	In a Christmas wreath in our front porch (light on until 11pm). Red ribbon provided some concealment.

Figure 1 – Data from front of MNRS Card

OUTCOME OF NEST (Check one or more spaces below)		ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, DATA DIAGRAM, MAP, ETC...
Evidence for Success		Photos attached: Christmas wreath in our front porch 4 eggs in nest (2nd nesting) 3 young in nest (1st nesting) Parent feeding young Parent
Young	<input type="checkbox"/> seen leaving nest naturally, or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> left when nest inspected, or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> old enough at previous visit to have left nest if disturbed, or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> seen or heard near nest	
Nest Empty But	<input type="checkbox"/> parents carrying food, or <input type="checkbox"/> parents giving alarms calls nearby	
In nest	<input type="checkbox"/> droppings; <input type="checkbox"/> feather scale <input type="checkbox"/> hatched shells	
Evidence for failure	Eggs <input type="checkbox"/> damaged <input type="checkbox"/> deserted Young <input type="checkbox"/> dead, injured <input type="checkbox"/> dead, uninjured	Nest checked almost every day from 11 May to 22 May and 12 June to 4 July.
Nest <input type="checkbox"/> empty (too early for young to have left safely) <input type="checkbox"/> damaged <input type="checkbox"/> fallen Outcome unknown <input type="checkbox"/> because evidence for or against success is not conclusive, or <input type="checkbox"/> because observations were not continued		
		Return completed cards by 1 October to: Maritimes Nest Records Scheme Canadian Wildlife Service PO Box 6227, Sackville, NB E4L 1G8

Figure 2 – Data from back of MNRS Card

Summer Seasonal Reports

Introduction

BY RANDY LAUFF

Aaahhh, summer. Birdwatching can be done in shorts (though mind the horse flies!). The birds are perhaps not as vocal as in spring, but they are as noticeable since they must keep rather busy to feed their broods. Many of us have put up nest boxes, perhaps as a way to help out a species, or simply to get a pair of birds to nest within sight of our breakfast table window. I'm sure many birders have felt the anxiety over whether a box will be used that year, felt the rush when a bird comes to check out the lodgings, felt the joy at watching the brood fledge. Some have felt the worry after not having seen an attending parent for some time, or even experienced the pain when they learn a brood has failed.

If you've had experience with nest boxes, you have a ripe source of information for sending in records to *NS Birds*. We'd like to hear about your nest box results. A failed brood is im-

portant too...why did it fail? Was it predation? If so, then life goes on, perhaps for a Merlin family, perhaps for a racoon, perhaps for parasitic insects. Nothing is wasted and although the results may not be what you wanted, it is part of the interplay of nature that would be valuable information to pass on to others. Could the nest have failed because of competition with European Starlings or House Sparrows? Again, we should know about this. With more information disseminated to each other, we can make better decisions about providing nest boxes for native species. Introduced species should never be allowed to breed in nest boxes.

In this issue, you will also read records from another ready source for the reports, the Breeding Bird Surveys. Sharp-eared birders are assigned a 50-stop route and usually work with an assistant. Every 800 m, a three-minute stop occurs where the birder calls out every adult bird seen or heard. Since

this is standardised and done over many years, bird populations can be monitored. This year, 29 BBS routes were run in Nova Scotia. For more information on this program, see <http://bbs.accra.ca/> or write to Canadian Wildlife Service-Atlantic Region, P.O. Box 1590, 63 East Main St., Sackville, NB E0A 3C0.

Whether you're a backyard nest box aficionado or a participant on a BBS, the information that you have is valuable to other birders, biologists and policy makers. This winter, grab some kids, build some nest boxes and put them up before the birds arrive next spring. Then, share your information with us, and we'll make sure all of your fellow readers are informed.

Thank you to the 77 birders who tallied 169 species this season.

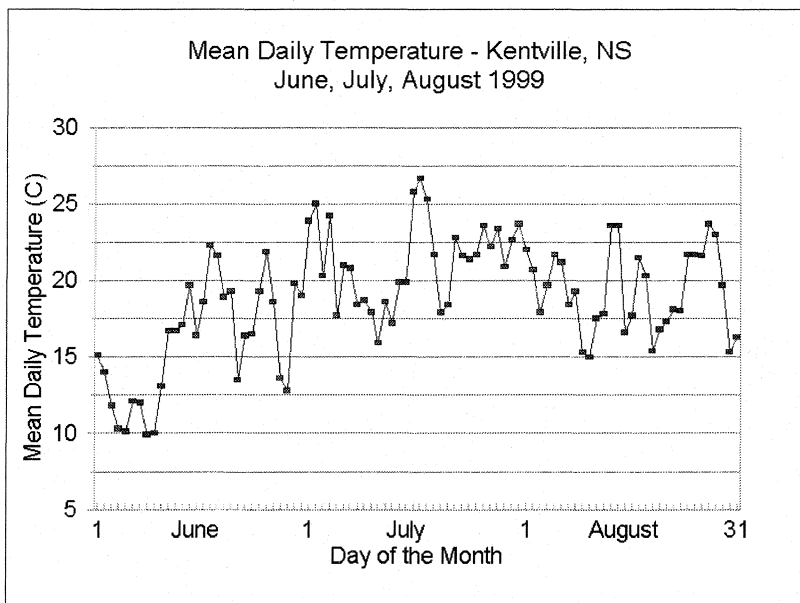


Weather Report

BY LARRY BOGAN

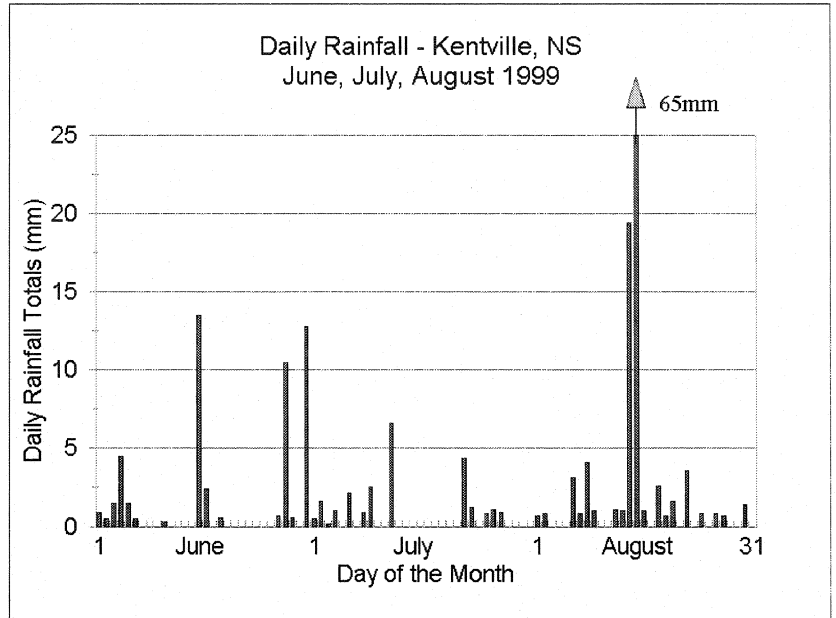
This summer has been a hot, dry one and especially so for the Annapolis Valley. Rain has been very spotty and since my records are only for Kentville, this report may not reflect what has happen across the province. I live in Cambridge Station only 7 km from Kentville, but we got less rain than Kentville did during the mid-August downpour. I have tried to obtain Environment Canada records for other stations in Nova Scotia without success. Since Environment Canada owns the records, the agencies that collect them are not allowed to give them out.

The summer temperatures this year has been consistently hot with fewer cool periods. One can see this in the on the graph of daily mean temperature. In July we had several days when the mean temperature was above 25 C and during the whole



month it only dropped below 17 once. The most impressive statistic is the mean monthly temperature of July which was nearly 2 C above normal. June was a relatively cool month due to a lot of cloudiness but even then its mean monthly temperature was normal compared to the 38 year average.

Despite the cloudiness of June there still was below average rainfall. Every time it would cloud up, the farmers and gardeners would look for rain and get little or none. This continued into July with even more dramatic effects since there was less cloudiness and a drought developed. From the beginning of June to the middle of August the total rainfall was equivalent to that expected in only one month. In mid-August the Annapolis Valley finally got thunderstorms that dropped 84 mm of rain in two days to add to the 26 mm for the rest of the month and get the total for the month above the normal rainfall. Other areas of the province were getting heavy showers earlier in the month and in July but all of those systems tend to build up over the southern uplands south of the Valley and drop the rainfall there. The rain of the whole summer is rather spotty and minimal as you can see in the daily rainfall plot for the season.

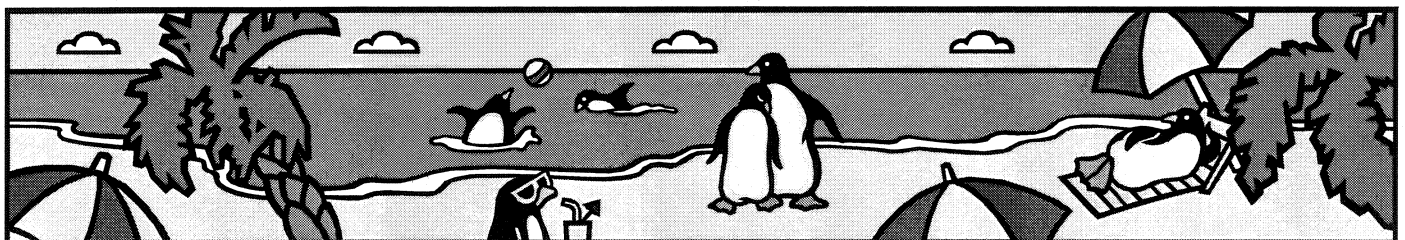


The growth this summer is several weeks ahead of a typical year mostly because we had a warm spring; however, the growing heat units for the summer are also above average and helped advance the season even more. The season as a whole had 11% more than average.

I am looking forward to the cooler temperatures of the autumn.

	Mean Temp. (C)	Growth Heat Above 10C	Monthly Rain (mm.)	Bright Sun- shine (hrs.)
June	15.9	177	51	163
38 yr avg	16.0	181	69	211
July	21.2	347	25	245
38 yr avg	19.3	287	71	232
August	19.3	288	110	235
38 yr avg	18.6	266	92	216
Summer '99	18.8	812	186	643
38 yr avg	18.0	734	232	659
Difference	+0.8	111%	80%	98%

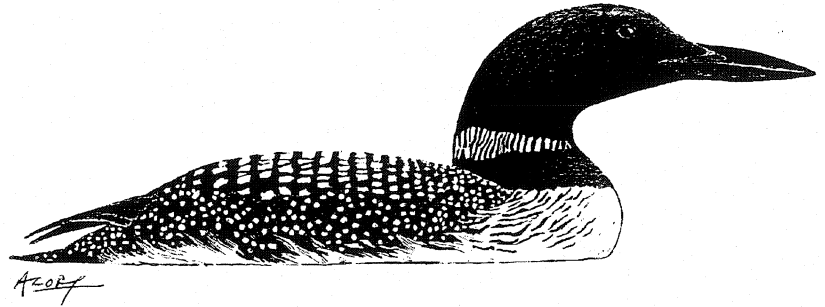
Table 1 – Historical Comparison



Loons Through Grebes

BY FRED DOBSON

Reports of the COM. LOON, although sparse, indicate a normal summer. Two were seen regularly in May and June at East Bay, CB Co. by Bob & Nancy Moore (*vide* JAC) and a pair was present during June on Warren L., CBHNP (RWK). The latest report is one yodeling July 14 at Lake-of-Islands, CBHNP (RWK). Several PIED-BILLED GREBE, some on nests, were observed June 19 at the Eddy marsh, Cum. Co. (RBS): JKD & Benjamin A. D'Eon saw five ad. and young June 24 at the Goose Creek Marsh, Yar. Co. We note that the NS Power Co.



kept the levels of the lake where the Com. Loons breed beside Route 103 high enough for the birds to have man-

aged at least one chick (the nesting area is dry at time of writing).

Tubenoses Through Cormorants

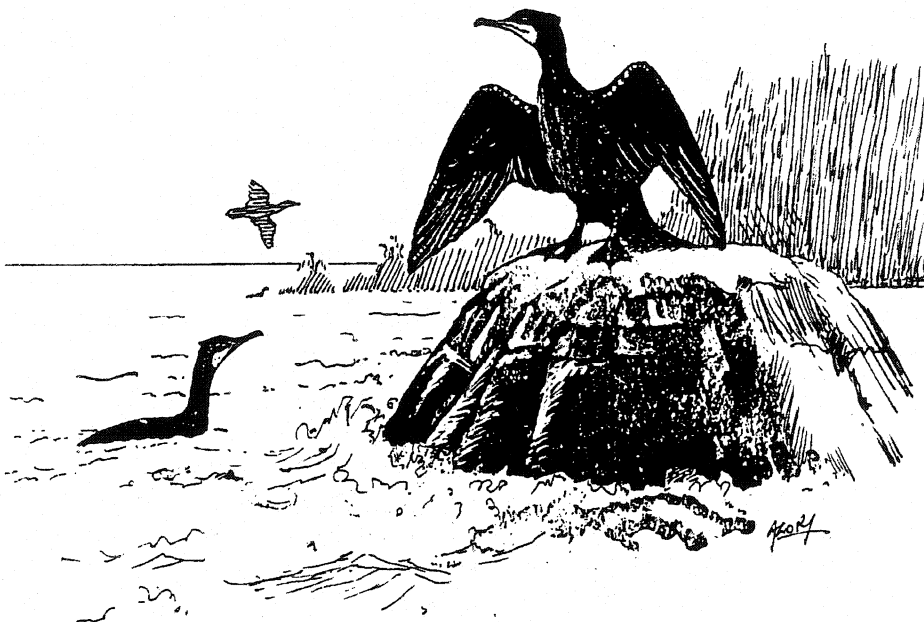
BY BLAKE MAYBANK

The only N. FULMAR reported were five off Baccaro Point June 5 (MUN). At the same time and place, during an excellent (and unusual) land-based pelagic experience, MUN also counted one CORY'S SHEARWATER (no details), 100+ GREATER SHEARWATERS, 1000+ SOOTY SHEARWA-

TERS, and four MANX SHEARWATERS. RSD also reported a Cory's Shearwater from Georges Bank July 29; this sighting also did not have any details. Cory's Shearwaters are rare in Nova Scotian waters, and too easily confused with Greater Shearwaters, and therefore require some documentation.

In late July/early August RSD noted thousands of Greater Shearwaters on Georges Bank, and he had a Manx Shearwater there July 7. As he didn't mention any Sooty Shearwaters, I'll assume they were quite scarce on Georges. We receive little pelagic information from the far eastern shore, so it was nice to have some sightings from RFL made during his bird surveys off Country I. He had one Greater Shearwater near Country I. June 18, and three off Port Bickerton June 30. On June 16 he counted nine Sooty Shearwaters off Country I., and two at Port Bickerton July 2. Greater Shearwater near Country Island June 18, and three off Port Bickerton June 30. On June 16 he counted nine Sooty Shearwaters off Country Island, and two at Port Bickerton July 2. He also had three WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS near Port Bickerton July 2.

N. GANNETS were as usual, seen from shore in June and July along the Atlantic coast, with numbers in the double digits from Shel. Co. (JKD & Benjamin A. d'Eon), Guys. Co. (RFL), Hfx. Co. (BLM), Cape Breton (RWK), and Lun. Co. (ELM). So few cormorant sightings were submitted that there was no useful analysis to be made.



Herons Through Vultures

BY RICHARD KNAPTON

There were a handful of records of Am. BITTERN this summer, from Yar. Vic., CB and Shel. Co.'s., with by far the most (up to six) being seen on various trips at Belleisle Marsh, Anna. Co. (IAM). Harold Dobson had the good fortune to watch one sauntering along the shore at Ponhook L., Queens Co., July 6, in full view, "... snapping up frogs, tadpoles, minnows, and just about anything that looked edible". Reports of GREAT BLUE HERONS were few, and unremarkable. ULH spotted about 30 on a paddling trip July 24 on the islands and rocks of the Lower Prospect area, and wondered if they were already gathering for migration. At least one GREAT EGRET frequented bays and barrachois in CB Co. from early June to the end of July; it (or another) was reported from Glace Bay, Dominion, Port Morien and Louisbourg (var. obs.). Others were reported from Doctors I., Yar. Co., July 4 (Patricia Bernier, Meg Scheid), and Penant Bay, HRM, July 20 (Bonnie Sutherland). A LITTLE EGRET was present June 5 - 6, at Rossway, Digby Co., diagnostically photographed on June 6 (IAM), and it or a different bird was at the Hawk, CSI, June 12 to at least 20 (MUN). It was a rather poor summer for southern herons; there were no reports of Snowy Egrets or Little Blue Herons. TRICOLORED HERON reports were of an adult on Sable I. June 11-12 (ZOL), and one at Daniels Head, CSI, June 16 (MUN). A GREEN HERON turned up at Antigonish Landing, (TOB) but unfortunately was not relocated. Reports of BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS came only from Daniels Head, CSI, where up to eight were counted in early June (MUN), and five juveniles July 27 indicated nesting on the island. A YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON graced Overton Salt Pond, Yar. Co., June 9-16 (H. & H. Hall).

There were only three summer reports of TURKEY VULTURES, somewhat surprising considering the plethora of records in May. One was in the Crescent Beach area, Lun. Co., June 11, and two



at Conquerall Mills, Lun. Co., July 2 (JAH), and one was at Pubnico, Yar. Co., June 24 (JKD). Leonard Paul reported a possible BLACK VULTURE, July 31, perched on overhead wires between poles opposite the salt marsh at Hantsport (*vide* Fred Scott). Con-

ceivably, this could have been the same bird seen last summer (July 1998) by Barry Sawyer at Card L.



GREAT EGRETS, like this spring "overshoot" 6 May on Seal I., are rarely so approachable.

Waterfowl

BY FRED DOBSON

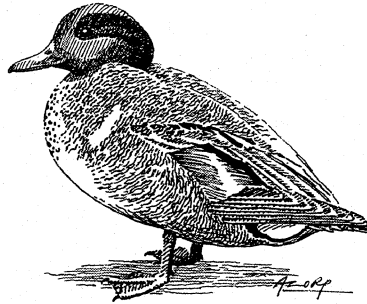
The summer breeding reports were thin, making inferences on distribution difficult. The protracted drought that began in June does not seem to have affected the breeding of most of the species in this section.

The CANADA GOOSE was only recorded by two observers. KFS found six (pair plus four young) May 28 at the impoundment at E. Apple R., Cum. Co. RWK reported June 25 "No sightings within the park (CBHNP). Two pairs at South Hbr. with six and two young respectively."

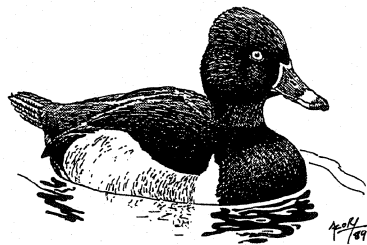
The WOOD DUCK was well reported from all over the province. "Several" were at Eddy Marsh, Cum. Co. June 19 and one male, two fem. were spotted June 24 at the Goose Creek Marsh, Yar. Co. (JKD, Benjamin A. D'Eon). There were five (fem. with four young) July 20 at West R., Ant. Co. (RFL) and seven eclipse males Aug. 8 at Canard Pond, Kings Co. (ELM, AHM).

There is a single report of the comely EUR. WIGEON - a single male June 19 at Eddy Marsh, Cum. Co. (RBS). The AM. WIGEON was reported four times, two indicating they had bred. The earliest report is of "several" June 19 at Eddy Marsh (RBS). IAM reported June 27 "two broods on the pond at Three Fathom Hbr. and one brood on Lawrencetown L., HRM". RWK reported June 28 - July 1 "seven (five male, two fem.) on the 28th, increasing to 12 (nine males, three fem.) on the 1st. Several birds appeared to be moulting". Other records are of two July 7 at Conrad Beach, HRM (BLM) and three July 11 at Ogdens Pond, Ant. Co. (RFL). All the reports of the ubiquitous AM. BLACK DUCK come from the N end of the province though RWK reported "No sightings within the park (CBHNP). Pairs were present at North, South, and Ingonish Hbrs., Vic. Co. RFL found two broods in the West River and three broods of about six, with five more ad." at Ant. Landing, July 20. There were no reports of the almost as ubiquitous MALLARD; can they be assumed to

have had a normal breeding season? Twenty BLUE-WINGED TEAL were seen June 10 at the Belleisle Marsh, Anna. Co. (BLM) and seven (1ad./6 young) June 24 at the Goose Creek Marsh, Yar. Co. (JKD, Benjamin A. D'Eon). The GARGANEY has been reported by many observers from the



beginning of the period. This extremely rare duck (at least for the Maritimes) was last seen at Belleisle Marsh, Anna. Co. July 25 by IAM: "I saw the Garganey several times during June-July, but my last sighting was only ~90% confident - on July 25, when I had a 2-sec. glimpse as it turned from head-on flight view to show its large gray wing panels. If my tick is valid it was clearly in full eclipse then, but still flying ok." There was a single report of the GREEN-WINGED TEAL: ten July 7 at Conrad Beach, HRM (BLM).



Reports of the RING-NECKED DUCK, although sparse, are widespread and indicate a normal breeding season for these dainty denizens of our extensive lake systems. A good number were 20 June 10 at Belleisle Marsh, Anna. Co. (BLM), and many ducklings there later in the month (var. obs.). A fem. with seven ducklings were found June 24 at the Goose Creek Marsh, Yar. Co. (JKD,

Benjamin A. D'Eon). A lone male was at Jigging Cove L., CBHNP, July 9 (RWK). The GREATER SCAUP was observed July 12 in large numbers at both the Pictou Causeway and the Middle River Dyke, Pict. Co. (KJM). Records of the COM. EIDER, though few, cover the period and the province. A flock of 30 was seen just prior to the beginning of the period (May 27-28) at Brier I. (ABM, JCZ); the first record in the period was "many, adults and young off Country Hbr., Guys. Co.," June 16 (RFL). SLH reported June 26 "30+ near shore, Margaretsville" Anna. Co. The latest report is "40 males, no females" July 13 at Pomquet Beach P.P., Ant. Co. (RFL).

There is only one report of the WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: 250 June 13 at South Bar, CB Co. (RWK). The BLACK SCOTER was also reported only once: IAM found eight June 28 "among the eiders off Conrad Beach, HRM." The single COM. GOLDENEYE report came July 15 from RWK, who saw "one female flying south over Tipover L., CBHNP". BLM reported five HOODED MERGANSER in the Wentworth region, Hants Co., during the Tatamagouche BBS. The two reports of the COM. MERGANSER come from the N of the province. RWK sighted a "pair flying east over Big Intervale, CBHNP" June 9, and an ind. was reported June 27 (BLM, KJM) on the Trafalgar BBS, Pict. Co. A single male RUDDY DUCK "in worn alt. plumage" was found July 7 at Broad Cove, Lun. Co. (SJF).



Diurnal Raptors Through Rallids

BY RICHARD KNAPTON

Of 13 reports of OSPREYS received, seven came from Cape Breton I., the others of single birds from Pict., Hfx., Guys., Kings, Cum. and Yar. Co.'s. An unusual record was of a single bird flying west over Big Intervale, CBHNP, June 24 (DBM, RWK, DEQ). Perhaps the bird of the summer was a probable **SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** reported by Tony Lock along Bicentennial Drive between Kearney Lake Road and business park exits, HRM, about 1700h, July 7. The bird was seen soaring and flying slowly for only a couple of seconds, from a traveling car, but the description of such a distinctive species seems diagnostic. Reports of **BALD EAGLES** came mainly from Cape Breton I., with nothing suggesting changing trends. Similarly, reports of N. **HARRIERS** came mainly from Cape Breton I., again revealing little about trends. A male carrying food at Bonnet L. Barrens, Guys. Co., July 1 (RFL) suggests nesting there.

Summer reports of **SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS** came from Vic., Inv., CB and Rich. Co.'s. (DBM, RWK). The ever-increasing number of reports of **COOPER'S HAWKS** continues, including an adult male reported perched on overhead wires at Lake Annis, Yar. Co. July 14 (JOS) and one found in Cape Chignecto Aug. 5, was thought to be a female (JCZ et al.). A N. **GOSHAWK** was seen at Framboise, Rich. Co., June 22 (DBM). There were some remarkable counts of **BROAD-WINGED HAWKS** in Digby Co. in early June; 12 on Brier I., June 5, and four at Tiddville Marsh, June 6 (PLC). Although this species can sometimes be difficult to find in summer, there were nine June records involving 11 birds, from Pict., Col., Guys., and CB Co.'s. and the Tatamagouche and Trafalgar BBS's (var. obs.). One seen at Grand Lake, CB Co., June 13, flew across the road carrying a snake (DBM), and two at Great Pubnico L. (RSD) June 25 were probably a nesting pair. **RED-TAILED HAWK** numbers were unremarkable, although the

species seemed to be well represented on Cape Breton I. (DBM, RWK). A dark morph adult, possibly belonging to one of the western races of Red-tailed Hawks, but not a Harlan's Hawk, was carefully watched at Bonnet L. Barrens, Guys. Co., July 8 (BLM, RFL). A late spring migrating **ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** was seen at Schooner Pond, CB Co., May 30 (ALM, CAM), and an intriguing record was a light-phase, possibly first-summer bird hovering, circling and gliding over open country immediately east of Tipover Lake, CBHNP, July 14 (RWK). An adult **GOLDEN EAGLE** was reported at Aylesford L., Coldbrook, Co., on June 25 (AAM).



Reports of Am. **KESTRELS** and **MERLINS** were few, and did not reflect the true status of either species. Three families of Kestrels were at South Side Harbour, Ant. Co., July 13 (RFL, MZG), and a Merlin's nest with young was found at Caribou P.P. in June (KJM). **PEREGRINES** were noted several times at Grand Pré, Kings Co. during July; one hunted shorebirds, July 17 (RBS), a male easily caught a "peep", July 27 (JWW), and two hunted shorebirds, July 31 (RBS).

No reports of **GRAY PARTRIDGE**, which can be very secretive in summer, and only a couple of **RING-NECKED PHEASANTS**, e.g., one at Louisbourg, CB Co., June 28 (DBM), were received. **RUFFED GROUSE** can be unobtrusive in summer, and few reports were received, mostly coming from Cape Breton I. A female with at least two young were noted at Bonnet L. Barrens July 15 (RFL), as were a family near Lake Annis, Yar. Co. July 7 (Clark H. Sollows, JOS). Several **SPRUCE GROUSE** were reported; a pair at Taylors Head P.P. July 17 (TEP), a female with two+ young along Branch Pond trail, CBHNP, July 13, (RWK), a female with three+ young at Bonnet L. Barrens June 12 (var. obs.) one there on July 8 (BLM, RFL), a male near Harpellville, Guys. Co., July 2 (RFL), and a female near Money Pt., Vic. Co., July 20 (RWK). A N. **BOBWHITE** was heard calling at Clyde R., Coffinscroft, Shel. Co., July 1-3 (*vide* AND).

A belated record of a **CLAPPER RAIL** at Brier I. in Sept. 1998 surfaced. It was photographed and determined to be of the eastern race (see photo in last issue). A **VIRGINIA RAIL** was at Wallace Bay, Cum. Co. in June (*vide* KJM), one was heard at Belleisle Marsh June 7 (but not subsequently; IAM), and both Virginia Rail and **SORA** were reported at the APBS in mid-July (TEP). Soras were also present at Belleisle Marsh, with at least a dozen calling on various visits during the summer, and a probable pair of **COMMON MOORHENS** during the summer at Belleisle Marsh was a nice sighting away from the border counties (IAM).



Shorebirds

BY SYLVIA FULLERTON

The summer season was uneventful, and with a few exceptions, returning shorebirds were on time and in average numbers. There is evidence from spring banding at Delaware Bay that some shorebirds were late departing for the breeding grounds and might therefore be unable to breed. This could account for the species which arrived here early and in higher than normal numbers. No Siberian vagrants graced our shores as has happened further south along the Atlantic coast, but we always have expectations for the fall season.

Typically, few BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER were seen in early summer. A single bird in basic plumage at Cherry Hill Beach, Lun. Co. July 4 could have been a summering non-breeder (SJF). Early migrants were: one at Sable I. July 17 (ZOL); six, in mixed plumage, at Cherry Hill Beach July 18 (ELM); one at Morien Bar, CB July 18 (RWK); two at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. July 21 (JAH). The maximum count was of 20 at CSI July 14 (MUN *et al.*). Rarely are

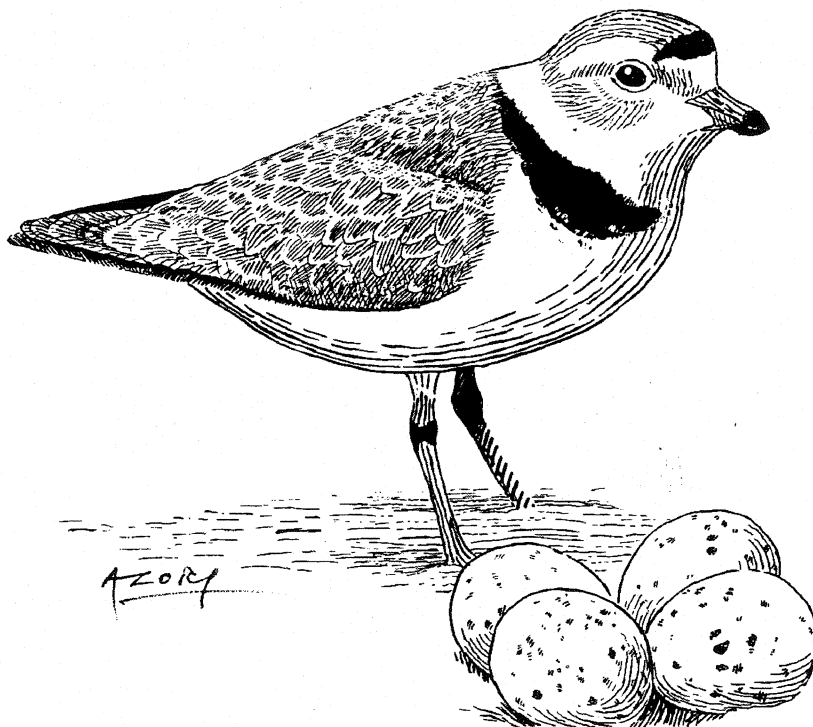
AM. GOLDEN PLOVER seen in July, but one set down at Morien Bar, CB July 18 (RWK, ALM, CAM).

One would like to think that the SEMIPALMATED PLOVER seen in flight at South Hbr., CB June 24 was a local breeding bird (RWK, DBM, CUR). The pair with three fledglings at CSI, reported in the last issue, were doing well June 24 (MUN). The first migrants were on schedule with ten at Cherry Hill Beach July 11 (ELM). Peaks occurred from July 23-25: 45 at Schooner Pond, CB (RWK); 100 at Evangeline Beach (JCT); 200 at Cherry Hill Beach; 400 at CSI (MUN *et al.*). PIPING PLOVER seem to be thriving on some beaches and in spite of recovery efforts by DNR and Piping Plover Guardians, not on others. A bird was seen sitting on two eggs at Round Bay, Shel. Co. June 8, where previous years' nesting had failed (DHY). At least three pairs fledged 11 young on Pomquet Beach P.P., Ant. Co., a significant improvement over last year (RFL, MZG).

After a second nesting the single pair at Cherry Hill Beach was successful in raising only one chick, still present July 30 (JAH). The real success story seemed to be in Shel. Co. where 16 ad. and 14 young were seen July 6 on CSI alone. Another 14 were tallied on Sevim Beach, Villagedale P.P. July 28 (CST, JON, SAN). Stay tuned for the final report in the next issue. The once ubiquitous KILLDEER may or may not be doing well, as few reporters note breeding success. A bird sitting on four eggs was seen in L. W. Pubnico June 23 (RSD); a lone bird was on Sable I. July 7 (ZOL); RWK saw six at Schooner Pond, CB July 23.

The beleaguered AM. OYSTER-CATCHERS on CSI once again appeared to have failed to produce eggs or young, although oddly one was seen carrying food July 24 (MUN, JON). The third bird that had arrived in early June was joined by another July 19, "now a small flock," says MUN. (*Records' Editor's note:* one young was subsequently discovered making the above observation more sensible.)

With more observers exploring remote areas of CB, GREATER YELLOW-LEGS are being found more frequently in suitable breeding habitat. Two were back at their known breeding site at the Bog Walk Trail, CBHNP June 16 and singles were at Benjies Lake June 23, Glasgow Lakes July 1 and near Tipover Lake July 13 (RWK, DBM). Summering birds or early migrants included four at Oxners Beach, Lun. Co. June 15, 13 at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. June 21, and one at Big I., Pict. Co. June 30 (JAH, KJM). By July 16 migration was well underway with three being seen on Sable I. (ZOL), 40 at Morien Bar, CB July 18, nine at Cherry Hill Beach July 18, and 20 at CSI July 24 (RWK, MUN). A handful of LESSER YELLOWLEGS was spotted in June, possibly non-breeders. Early migrants were in above-average numbers: 70+ between Chezzetcook and Conrad Beach, HRM June 27 (IAM); 12 at Big I., Pict. Co. June 30 (KJM, CGB). By mid-July respectable



numbers were being seen from N to S in the province including three on Sable I. July 16 (ZOL).

A SOLITARY SANDPIPER in suitable breeding habitat, feeding at a small pond above Money Pt., CB June 10 was an interesting find (RWK). Only three reports of possible breeding are on record, all in CBHNP. Only two migrants were noted, singles at Rushtons Beach P.P., Pict. Co. July 4, and CSI July 14 (KJM, MUN *et al.*). Breeding WILLETTS were much in evidence from South Hbr., CB to Pubnico, Yar. Co. Post-breeding flocks gathered early for departure from the 35 at Big. I., Pict. Co. June 30 (KJM) south to the 28 on Brier I. July 29 (IAM). SPOTTED SANDPIPERS seemed unusually scarce this season, particularly in the southern part of the Province. A pair was seen near the Dingle Tower, Flemming Park, HRM July 14 (ULH). Further north six pairs were at South Bar, Vic. Co. and one or two pairs at each of Warren and Jigging Cove Lakes, CBHNP, at East Bay, CB, Country I., Guys. Co., and Addington Forks, Ant. Co. (RWK, JAC, RFL).

WHIMBREL showed up in good numbers. An out-of-season bird was at Cherry Hill Beach June 14 (JAH). Three were early at Port Morien, CB Co. July 1 (ALM, CAM), as were two at Matthews Lake July 4 (MUN). Maximum counts were 40 at Taylors Head P.P., HRM July 17 (TEP), and 65 at CSI July 24 (MUN *et al.*). Only a single bird turned up on Sable I. July 12 (ZOL). Further north five were at Tor Bay P.P., Guys. Co. July 28 (RFL, MZG).

Average numbers of HUDSONIAN GODWITS were reported in July. Early were singles at Port Morien, CB Co. July 1 (ALM, CAM), and CSI July 4 (JON). Highest counts were: five at Matthews Lake, July 11 (DHY); seven at Port Morien, CB July 18; six at CBI July 23.

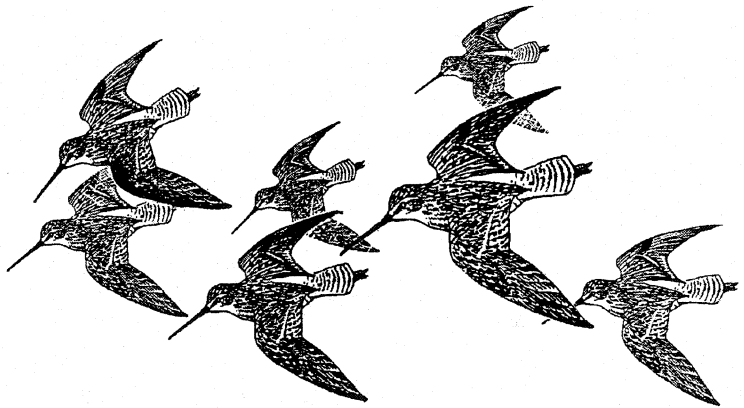
RUDDY TURNSTONES started to turn up toward the end of July: one on Sable I. July 17 (ZOL); two at Cherry Hill Beach July 25 (JAH); five at CSI July 25 (MUN); two at Grand Pré July 31 (RBS). Not unusual, few RED KNOTS had arrived by the end of the reporting

period: three at CSI July 12 (MUN); two at Morien Bar, CB July 18 (RWK); two at Cherry Hill Beach July 25 (SJF). Likewise, returning SANDERLINGS trickled in at the end of July. Ten were on Sable I. July 18 (ZOL), and 31 at Cherry Hill Beach July 25 (SJF).

Out most abundant southward-returning peep, the SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, was on schedule and in good numbers. First to be spotted were five at Cherry Hill Beach July 11 (ELM). Peaks at the major feeding areas were: 100 at Cherry Hill Beach July 18 (ELM); 75 at Matthews Lake July 20 (DHY); 300 at CSI July 24 (MUN, JON); 80,000 at Evangeline Beach and 10,000 at Windsor Causeway July 24 (JCT). RBS notes that the flocks at

with other peeps at Grand Pré July 21 (RBS), and two were at Cherry Hill Beach July 30 (SJF). As usual an early PECTORAL SANDPIPER arrived at CSI July 24 (MUN).

The uncommon STILT SANDPIPER usually turns up in mid- to late- July, but an out-of-season bird, in alternate plumage, turned up at Conrad Beach, HRM June 23 (IAM). Another was on CSI July 24 (MUN). Five BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS were reported at Sevim Beach, Villagedale P.P. July 27, but could not be relocated (TEC). This constitutes the earliest date on record; no sightings have occurred before mid-August. SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS arrived on schedule with four at CSI July 1 (MUN). By July 7 there were



Grand Pré seemed nervous and tended to fly out over the water at high tide, perhaps in response to the two Peregrines which were making frequent passes. The presence of four LEAST SANDPIPERS defending territory at Round Bay, Shel. Co. June 8 certainly continues to indicate possible breeding (DHY). Birds were observed in "nuptial song" in this marsh as far back as 1987, so I would say confirmation is long overdue! Early migrants were 17 ad. at Cherry Hill Beach June 27; by 11 July 75 birds were present, including an unusually early juvenile (ELM). Smaller numbers were seen in CB where 30 were at Morien Bar July 18, and another 30 at Schooner Pond July 23 (RWK). Peak count for the period was 450 at CSI July 24 (MUN *et al.*). WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS were just beginning to appear at the end of July. A "few" were mixed in

120 at Grand Desert, HRM and 30 at Three Fathom Hbr., HRM (BLM). Only four reached Sable I. July 8 (ZOL). Up to 110 were at Martinique Beach, HRM July 11 (ULH). Peaks at traditional stopping areas were average: 2,000+ at CSI July 11, building to 4,000 by July 24 (Benjamin A. d'Eon, JKD, MUN); 109 at Matthews Lake July 7 (DHY); 30 at Morien Bar, CB Co. July 18 (RWK); 17 at Cherry Hill Beach July 25; 550 at Windsor Causeway July 24 (GWT, JCT).

COM. SNIPE were "winnowing" over the Bog Walk and along Benjies Lake Trail, CBHNP in June (RWK). Three ad. and two young were seen in L. W. Pubnico June 4 (JKD), and five were heard at Advocate Hbr., Cum. Co. June 19 (BLM). The only AM. WOODCOCK reported was one taking a stroll on the Annis Rd., Yar. Co. in late morning July 7 (Clark H. Sollows, JOS).

Skuas Through Alcids

BY BLAKE MAYBANK

Three skuas were reported, all likely or definitely **SOUTH POLAR SKUAS**. The first was seen out of Brier I. June 13 (CAH), while the next was a bird noted from Cherry Hill Beach July 11 by ELM, who noted "all dark plumage, heavy flight and body, and white wing flashes, but too distant for a definitive identification. In my opinion, most likely a South Polar Skua." Finally, RSD had a bird with "very light underparts and entire head. The less bulky body and less ponderous flight was evident. I believe South Polar Skuas are more daring and approach the boat closer than Great Skuas." That's a behavioural observation I've not heard before; does anyone else have any related observations? The only reported jaegers were two **PARASITIC JAEGER**s off CSI July 22nd (Bird Line).

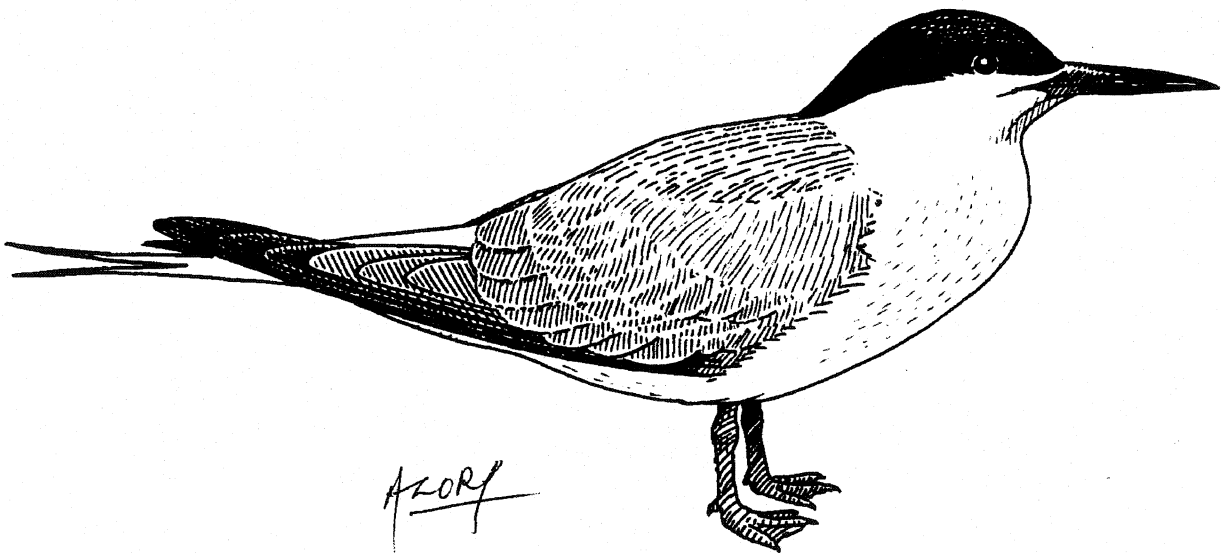
The only **LAUGHING GULL** was on CSI July 23 (MUN). Summer sightings of **BLACK-HEADED GULLS** are rare, but ELM found a second summer bird in Lunenburg Hbr. June 21. At least 75% of the **BONAPARTE'S GULLS** noted by ELM along the Northumberland shore July 22 were adults with fully black hoods; he counted 60 at Mahoneys Beach, Ant. Co., and 110 at Merigomish I., Pict. Co. RFL counted 12 or so Bonaparte's Gulls in Guys. Co., off Port

Bickerton, June 30, while RWK had two at South Hbr., Cape Breton, June 24. Nova Scotia remains the only province in which **RING-BILLED GULLS** have not been proven to breed, but that distinction might soon disappear, as DBM & RWK counted 200 among 2000 gulls in South Hbr., Vic. Co., June 24, and ELM counted a minimum of 500+ birds along the Northumberland Shore from Antigonish Hbr. to Caribou I., Pict. Co. and he found that they easily outnumbered **HERRING** and **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS** in all estuarine habitats. Of course, most are likely non-breeding birds, as the Northumberland shore seems a favourite summering spot for non-breeding gulls, including Bonaparte's Gulls, and now, apparently, **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS** as well. This summer, at least four immature birds hung about Merigomish Hbr. Pict. Co., most often seen at the western tip of Merigomish I. (KJM, *et al.*) -- two were first-summer (i.e., one year-old), and two were second-summer. Another second-summer bird was found at South Hbr., Cape Breton, June 24 (RWK, DBM, CUR).

News of **ROSEATE TERNS** is always welcome, especially evidence of a new colony. DHY counted 10 birds on Louis Head, on a rocky island off the old

wharf area, mixed in with 200 or so Com. Terns. I'm hopeful that the gradual restoration of tern colonies is proceeding, but the news is not all good, despite RWK discovering a small colony in South Hbr., Cape Breton, hosting 30-40 pairs of birds split between **COM.** and **ARCTIC TERNS**. By contrast, and proving that it isn't just the gulls we have to blame for abandoned tern colonies, RFL noted that a 100+ colony at Fishermans Hbr., Guys. Co., was deserted after a local clam digger drove a tractor through the site. The colony was disturbed by people last year as well. Only a few years ago it had hosted several hundred birds. A couple of lost adult **BLACK TERNS** were noted, at Three Fathom Hbr., HRM, July 7 (BLM, Jill McLean), and at Chambers Point, Col. Co., July 18 (PER).

In the south of the province, RSD and TCD counted two **RAZORBILLS** along with 40 **ATLANTIC PUFFINS** on Green I. and 20 birds on Round I. in Lobster Bay. The alcid comeback in the approaches to the Bay of Fundy continues, apparently. RFL saw one puffin off Port Bickerton, Guys. Co., July 2. I wonder which colony it was from?



Doves Through Woodpeckers

BY IAN MCLAREN

The usual doves were as usual, but a rare **WHITE-WINGED DOVE** on Brier I. June 22-24 had the good sense to turn up for its portrait at David Pugh's feeder, thus confirming our 16th occurrence of this vagrant.

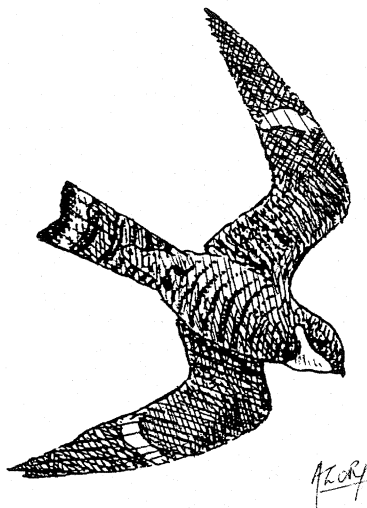
A **BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** June 9 at North East Pt., CSI (MUN), could well have been a late spring migrant. One June 21 at Lyons Brook, Pict. Co. (KJM, Carl Canning), was presumably in nesting habitat. More problematic were one that flew into a window July 8 at Chebogue, Yar. Co. (S. Sollows), one July 13 at E. Chezzetcook, Hfx. Co. (FLL), and another July 15 at South Side, CSI (JON, SAN). These could have been post-breeding wanderers, as was almost certainly a **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** on the latter date at The Hawk, CSI (JON, SAN).

The recent heightened enthusiasm for owling was sustained beyond late spring. A belated report of a nest of a **GREAT HORNED OWL** comes from



Apple River, Cum. Co. where a couple of young fledged May 27 (KFS). There were three reports of scattered individuals during summer. MUN heard a goodly eight **BARRED OWLS** around Carleton, Yar. Co., June 6, and DBM and RWK found six at various CBI sites

in late June and early July. One pair at Lone Sheiling, CBHNP, was with two fledged young June 30 (RWK). Most exciting, but reported with vagueness



appropriate for this rare breeder, were one family of **LONG-EARED OWLS** (three juv. and an ad.) and another lone bird (once seen carrying food) in different areas around Antigonish Hbr. (MZG, RFL). Apparently six-eight **SHORT-EARED OWLS** have been seen around the Minudie dykelands, Cum. Co., and at least one pair around the border marshes this summer (*fide* FLL). The only report of a calling **N. SAW-WHET OWL**, near Trafalgar, Guys. Co., came from BLM.

COM. NIGHTHAWKS were reported in ones and twos from throughout the province. A July 4 gathering of six at Argyle Head, Yar. Co. (JKD), was presumably not outward bound at this early date. During the last week of July, a number of sightings of up to four individuals came from around the province, with more notable flocks of ~25 at Bridgewater, Lun. Co. July 25 (JAH) and the same number at Sydney July 29 (Shirley Holliday). There was some concern that the traditional **WHIPPOOR-WILLS** at Long Pond, Herring Cove, had not returned, but SCY found them during June deeper in the woods than in past years. Some 500 **CHIM-**

NEY SWIFTS entered the Temperance St. chimney in New Glasgow June 4 (KJM) and 200+ into the Middleton High School chimney July 18 (SLH). The seasonal situation at Wolfville will be reported in the next issue. A half-dozen reports of some 11 **RUBY-THROATED HUMMING-BIRDS** were about as usual, though lots more doubtless came to gardens and feeders everywhere. Our half-dozen reports of **BELTED KING-FISHERS** give no hints of trends.

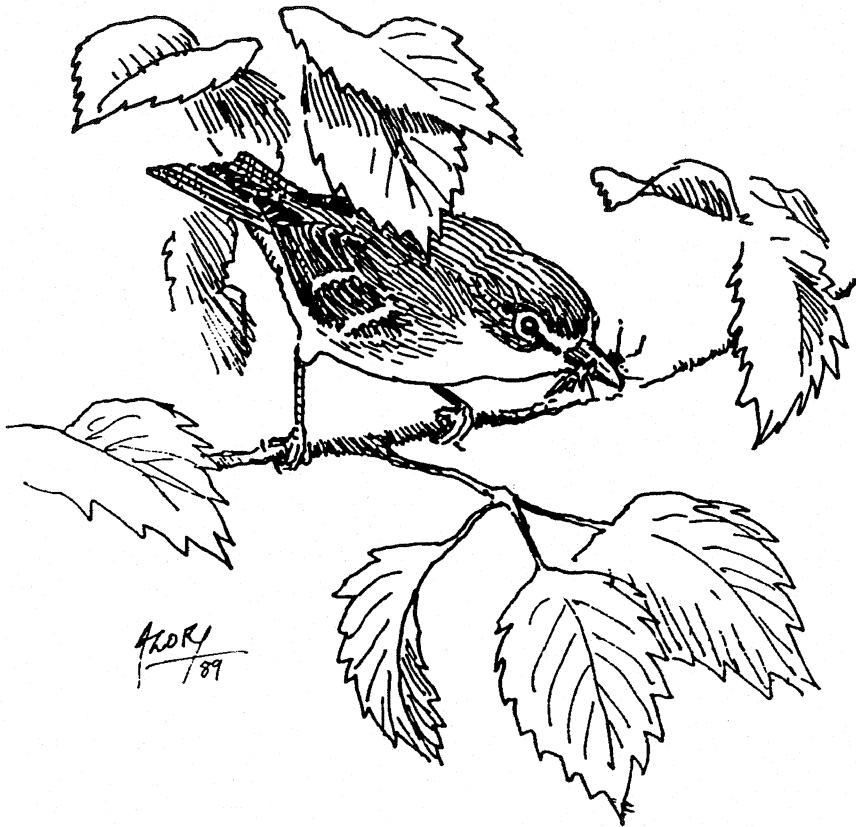
The NAMC statistics reported in the last issue give a better impression of status of our common woodpeckers than do the few summer reports, with no suggestions on trends. Always more fully reported are **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS**, so individuals at Uniake Estates June 7 (ULH), along Skyline Trail, CBHNP, June 10 (RWK), and near Trafalgar, Guys. Co., June 27 (BLM) probably represent more-or-less what were



seen. The only breeding reports for woodpeckers were of **N. FLICKERS** pairs in Yar. Co. using two utility poles near Quinan June 13 and a tree at Pubnico Pt. June 16 (RSD).

Flycatchers Through Vireos

BY ERIC MILLS



As some of the records that follow attest, June and July should not be ignored by birders. Late migrants straggle in through at least the first half of June, and there is the possibility of a truly outstanding rarity at any time.

Widespread in the province, OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS were reported mainly in ones and twos from several locations in central and N CBI, including CBHNP, and also on the adjacent mainland (var. obs.); one in Argyle Head, Yar. Co., July 4 (JKD) was the most south-westerly. An E. WOOD PEWEE on Sable I. June 9 (ZOL) may have been a migrant, but few observers noted the resident birds, except for small numbers in Yar., Lun., Col., Cum., Guys. and Ant. Co.'s. during June (var. obs.). Inconspicuous but really quite common breeders, YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS were arriving on Brier I. May 28 (ABM, JCZ). A lone bird was on Sable I. June 10 (ZOL), by which date the species was common in

breeding habitat according to surveys in Guys., Col., and Cum. Co.'s (RFL, BLM), and in central and N CBI (DBM, RWK). Exceptionally early ALDER FLYCATCHERS were in Apple R., Cum. Co. May 8 & 13 (KFS), although the last season's reports document a late May arrival of the breeding population. During June, records from CBI indicate average to above average numbers (DBM, RWK), and in mid-August birds were still singing on territory in many mainland locations, including SW NS (ELM). Always scarce and noteworthy, although they breed sparsely in New Brunswick, lone WILLOW FLYCATCHERS were found in Advocate Harbour, Cum. Co., June 18 (BLM) and Bishops Woods, near Coldbrook, Kings Co., June 26 (AAM). And finally among the empidonaxes, LEAST FLYCATCHERS, common breeders in suitable moist broad-leaved habitat, were reported sparsely from CBHNP, Guys., Col., and Cum. Co.'s., and Eigg Mtn, Ant. Co., during June (RWK, BLM, RFL). A sparse breeder,

E. PHOEBE was recorded only in Meadowvale, Anna. Co., June 21 (SLH) and Broad Cove, Lun. Co., July 17 (JAH). Even more local in its breeding distribution in NS, GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS were reported only from Coldbrook, Kings Co., June 13 & 18 (a pair; AAM); Argyle Head, Yar. Co., June 17 (RSD); and E. Chester, Lun. Co., June 18 (CJF).

Two E. KINGBIRDS on Sable I. June 6 (ZOL) indicate that this species is still on the move late in the migration season. Elsewhere, this moderately common resident was noted only at Middle River Church, Pict. Co., June 5 (MAB); Tatamagouche, Col. Co., June 13 (BLM); Argyle Head, Yar. Co. (nesting), June 17 (RSD); Margaretsville, Anna. Co., July 12 (SLH); and Antigonish Landing, July 19 (RFL *et al.*). Truly surprising, and the bird of the season, was the adult CASSIN'S KINGBIRD found by DHY at Little Harbour, Shel. Co., July 16. Seen later that day also by DJC, it then disappeared until relocated nearby on July 18 by CLS, RBS and others and was photographed. Throughout the afternoon of the 18th it performed for all comers, often while accompanied by an E. Kingbird, but was not seen the next morning or thereafter. This is the first record for NS and only the fourth for Canada (all the previous records have been from Ontario!).

Widespread throughout NS, RED-EYED and BLUE-HEADED VIREOS were reported only from a few locations including CBHNP; East Bay, CB Co.; Bonnet L. Barrens, Guys. Co.; Apple River and adjacent areas of Cum. Co.; and Cole Harbour, Hfx Co. (var. obs.), despite the evidence of many ears that they were in their usual haunts in good abundance. Where too were our few Warbling and Philadelphia Vireos?



Corvids Through Thrushes

BY ERIC MILLS

Flying young and adult GRAY JAYS were found by RWK in CBHNP during the first half of July. Reports by DBM and Dave Harris from Inv., Rich. and CB Co.'s during BBS's indicate significant numbers, but there were no other reports of this widespread resident. By all accounts BLUE JAYS took advantage of the dry sunny weather to raise record broods, not necessarily a good thing for many smaller species. AM. CROWS and C. RAVENS also did well according to BBS's in CBI (DBM, D.L. Harris).

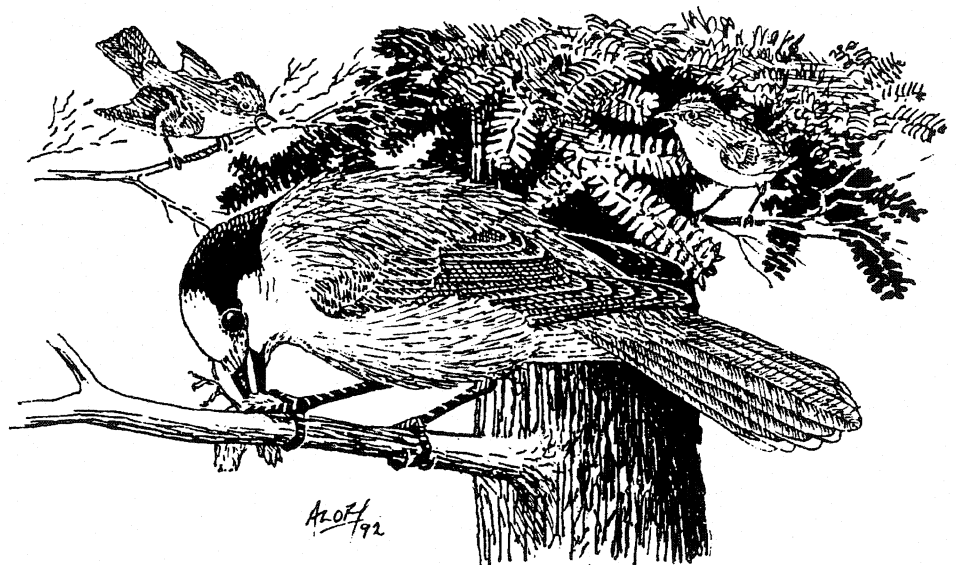
Very few reports of swallows reached me, the most noteworthy among the most common being colonies of BANK SWALLOWS during June at Cabot Landing P.P., Vic. Co. (RWK) and Aug. 2 at Dunns Beach, Ant. Co. (RFL, MZG). Two BARN SWALLOWS reached Sable I. June 25 (ZOL), presumably failed breeders and/or early migrants. CLIFF SWALLOWS returned to Halifax Airport during the second week of May. There they built about 50 nests which the young had left by the first week of Aug., according to DHH's careful notes. Elsewhere, in early June there were nesting birds at Apple River and New Salem, Cum. Co. (KFS), and 35-40 on buildings in the Fortress of Louisbourg, CB Co. (DBM).

According to RWK's observations in CBHNP in June, BLACK-CAPPED and BOREAL CHICKADEES sort themselves out by elevation as well as vegetation; Black-caps were "present in deciduous and mixed forests usually at low elevations", while Boreals were "widespread in coniferous and mixed forests throughout the park." RWK also noted that RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were "infrequent" in CBHNP in June, but there was "an evident influx into the area on July 8 and thereafter frequently seen." Is it a coincidence that ZOL found one on Sable I. July 12? Only one BROWN CREEPER appeared during RWK's

field work in CBHNP during June. Our only other report was of two at Long Hill, Mahone Bay, Lun. Co., July 25 (JAH). WINTER WRENS appear to have been present in normal numbers. In June, RWK documented numbers in deciduous and mixed forest of CBHNP as did DBM on a BBS in Pleasant Bay, Inv. Co. In CBHNP during June, RWK noted GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS as "frequent in coniferous woodlands" and RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS as "abundant in most wooded areas, from lowland mixed forests to stunted spruce forests at high elevations." Ruby-crowns were at average to above average abundance in DBM's BBS areas in CB, Rich. and Inv. Co.'s about the same time.

EASTERN BLUEBIRDS nested successfully in Wards Brook and Parrsboro, Cum. Co. (JCZ, S. Corbett). By late May, VEERIES were established in breeding habitat, for example in Tremont, Kings Co. (SLH); birds on territory were still singing in the Antigonish area, during the first week of July (RFL, MZG). BICKNELL'S THRUSH, as expected, was present in its stronghold, the higher elevations of CBI, according to RWK's notes from the Highlands "in small numbers on

French Mountain, along Tower Road towards Money Point, and in the interior at Tipover Lake." A late migrant SWAINSON'S THRUSH arrived on Sable I. June 2 (ZOL). Throughout June in the CB Highlands this species was the most abundant and widespread thrush in all wooded habitats, including stunted spruce (RWK). RWK also reported HERMIT THRUSHES to be common and widespread in the same area. Records of the latter from elsewhere were sparse, despite the abundance throughout NS of this wonderful songster. By all accounts and my observations, AM. ROBINS had an outstandingly successful and long breeding season this year. Robin song dominated the dawn chorus well past the middle of July in central and SW NS (ELM *et al.*). DBM's BBS counts showed average numbers in CB, Rich., and Inv. Co.'s. Also in CBI, RWK found Robins abundant in developed areas and along the highways, but also in stunted spruce of the barrens at high elevations. They are truly birds for all seasons and all habitats in this province.



Mimic Thrushes Through Waxwings

BY ANDY HORN

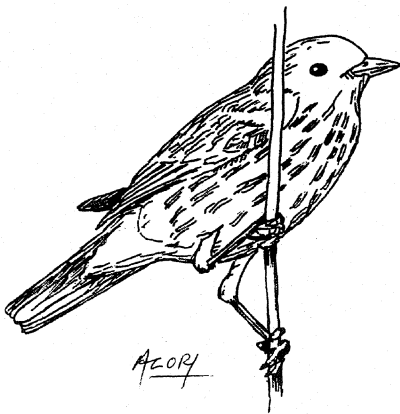
Summer records of NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS always seem worth reporting, so it was surprising to receive only two: one from New Glasgow, June 27 (FHM) and another from Freeport, Digby Co. July 7 (PLC). A BROWN THRASHER persisted at the Murrants'

feeder near Sand Lake, CB Co. to at least July 1 (ALM, CAM). CEDAR WAXWINGS were in good supply, as might be expected from their healthy numbers in late spring; 27 on a BBS route in Boisdale, CB Co. was nearly twice the average of 14.5 found in the preceding seven

years (DBM, DL Harris). One Cedar Waxwing accompanied the N Sydney - Port-aux-Basques ferry all the way across to Newfoundland on July 25 (RWK).

Warblers

BY ANDY HORN



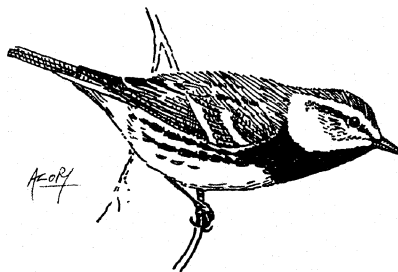
At the long-term monitoring program in Kejimikujik N.P., warblers bred early and synchronously, presumably because foraging was excellent with the early season. The problem was that red squirrels had an excellent season, too, so in the end the warblers did very badly indeed (CAS). Otherwise, the BBS routes that were reported yielded average numbers of most species (DBM, BLM).

Perhaps breeding failure accounted for the small arrivals of warblers at Brier I., July 30 & 31. YELLOW WARBLERS were especially prevalent, with 12 at the North Point July 30, and 20 on July 31 (IAM). Their numbers were about average at three BBS routes near Richmond, Cumb. Co., Boisdale, CB Co. and Inverness which was similar for most of our other common warblers on the same routes (DBM, DL Harris). One MAGNOLIA WARBLER was found apparently eating ants on the ground in the Bonnet L. Barrens, Guys. Co. June 24 (RFL), rather than brushing them through its feathers - the more usual

passerine behavior known as "anting."

Only one CAPE MAY WARBLER report, on a BBS in Trafalgar, Guys. Co. (BLM) was not a surprise, given their very high pitched song, but it is probably not reflective of their abundance, either. Three reports of the local breeder, BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER, at BBS's in Londonderry and Tatamagouche, Col. Co., and Trafalgar, Guys. Co. (BLM) were comforting, given the lack of reports in our spring issue. In contrast, BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS were taken almost for granted, except in CBHNP, where they were listed as "surprisingly scarce," yielding only one sighting, June 11. (RWK).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLERS and BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS, with high songs like the Cape May Warbler.



were nonetheless reported in average numbers on regular BBS and survey routes (RWK, DBM, BLM).

A KENTUCKY WARBLER in Yarmouth July 29 was our rarest find this summer. The description evokes this species to us southerners who know it well: "Bird was chipping and was not



shy. Yellow throat and breast, triangular black sideburn and spectacles." MOURNING WARBLERS were perhaps the best reported species of all in keeping with their conspicuous song. One in Cape Breton Highlands National Park "showed itself decently so an American visitor was able to get one (finally) for her life list" (RFL). Surprisingly, there were just as many reports of Kentucky Warbler as there were of the regularly breeding WILSON'S WARBLER: one road kill male found on the highway near North Harbour, CB Co. June 24 (RWK) and one in Aspen, Guys. Co. June 26 (BLM). Similarly only one report of CANADA WARBLER was received, of a bird near Glace Bay, CB Co. June 5 (SEM, JUM *et al.*). Surely (hopefully) the paucity of reports of *Wilsonia* species reflects observer bias, rather than declines in abundance.

Tanagers Through House Sparrow

BY DAVE MCCORQUODALE

As expected in a nesting season report, there were few rarities or vagrants. Several of our most common and widespread nesting birds are much more abundant along roads than in more natural undisturbed habitats. Species such as Song Sparrows, Com. Grackles and Am. Goldfinches have taken advantage of the edge habitat along roads and have done very well in the past 30 years. I will point out some of the species that are much more common in these disturbed areas than in natural habitats in this report.

Tanagers are regular vagrants, but rarely nest in the province, so no report during this nesting season is not unexpected. Similarly EASTERN TOWHEES are unusual during summer, being most frequent in the fall as vagrants. However there was one in Kejimikujik NP in late June (JJN).

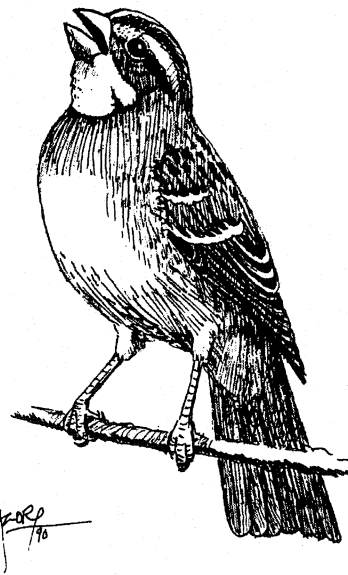
The widespread and common CHIPPING SPARROW was reported in small numbers, including several family groups, from across the province. This spring there were a few VESPER SPARROWS in the Annapolis Valley. In June and July our only report came from Eureka, Pict. Co. (MAB, Fred MacKenzie, KJM).

These reports are much more useful and much easier to write when there are plenty of observations on which to base them. Therefore it was very refreshing to see the number of reports of a common, widespread species, the SAVANNAH SPARROW. They were reported nesting in a interesting variety of habitats from agricultural fields to beach dunes to coastal islands to bogs and barrens in northern Cape Breton and Guys. Co. Normally the mainland race of Savannah sticks to the mainland and Ipswich to Sable I. At least one of each reversed places. There was a Savannah on Sable I. (ZOL) and at CSI a mixed pair of Savannah and Ipswich were feeding one young bird July 24 (MUN).

Most NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS only arrive in the province

at the beginning of June. One of the ancillary benefits of the search for the Garganey at Belleisle Marsh, Anna. Co., was seeing and hearing this often elusive sparrow. Late in July singing males were still widespread from Cape Breton to CSI.

FOX SPARROWS were common in their nesting stronghold in northern Cape Breton. For example the Pleasant Bay BBS tallied 26 along 40 km of highway (DBM, DEQ). On the mainland they are probably most common in Guys. Co., as shown by two on the Trafalgar BBS and another singing male at Bonnet Lake Barrens July 8 (RFL, BLM).



SONG SPARROWS are common roadside birds throughout the province. What may not be appreciated is how infrequent they are away from areas of human disturbance, such as roadsides. In the highlands of Cape Breton they frequent highway edges and are virtually absent elsewhere. LINCOLN'S SPARROWS are less common than Songs and therefore attract more attention. Noteworthy were singing males in Glenholme, Col. Co., near Blomidon and one South Side Harbour, Ant. Co. (TOB, GWT, RFL). They are most common as breeding birds in northeast-

ern NS as shown by seven on the Trafalgar BBS, more than a dozen around Louisbourg in late June, 20 singing males on the Glasgow Lakes Trail, CBHNP and 20 on the Pt. Michaud BBS. Interestingly, numbers have declined along the Boisdale BBS, CB Co. in the past 30 years, from an average of about 14 per year in the early 1970's to about four since 1992. This probably reflects forest succession along this route during that time.

A few singing SWAMP SPARROWS were noted throughout the province from the marshes at Belleisle Marsh, Anna. Co. and Cum. Co., to boggy areas of the Cape Breton Highlands and Guys. Co. The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW is so common many birders virtually ignore it. Just how common and widespread it is can be appreciated by looking at results of Breeding Bird Surveys. These surveys are done by counting all birds heard and seen on 50 stops along a 40-km roadside route. I have results from five surveys from Col. Co. to northern Cape Breton. The lowest number found during the 50 stops was 29, still an average of more than one bird every two stops, to a high of 59 in 50 stops or an average of more than one bird per stop for 50 consecutive stops.

An abundant bird that attracts more attention is the DARK-EYED JUNCO, perhaps because of interesting choices for nest sites. In May a pair raised a brood of young from a nest in a Christmas wreath on a porch in Fall River. That seemed unusual at the time. Maybe it wasn't since the exact same Christmas wreath hosted a second nest, with these young fledging in late June (MEA, PWQ). Maybe this is a normal location for a nest. Ed Dove of Georges River, CB Co., found a nest in a truly bizarre location. He noticed a bird around his truck in mid-June. Then after a day trip to Ingonish he noticed an agitated bird at the front end of his truck. There was a small nest between the grill and the radiator with three eggs. The next morning it had four eggs. The following day

he gently moved the nest to a sheltered location in a mound of earth beside the truck in an attempt to give the birds a more reliable place for their nest. He thought a nest that didn't drive away for several hours at a time would be preferable. Juncos seem incredibly tolerant of what must seem to them completely illogical human behaviour.

N. CARDINALS continue to be found in many locations. This summer there were several reports of pairs and single birds from Kentville, Coldbrook, CSI, Cole Harbour, and Lower West Pubnico.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS were found in suitable nesting habitat from Halifax right across the northern mainland to Cum. and Ant. Co.'s. They are much less common on Cape Breton I. so a pair June 22 at Lake Ainslie, Inv., Co. and a lone male June 2 at Big Intervale, Vic. Co. are noteworthy (Jack Murphy, RWK).

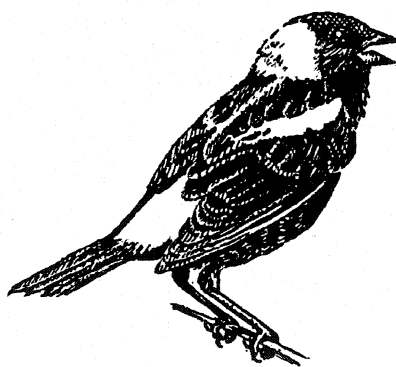
The search for the Garganey at Belleisle Marsh, Anna. Co. also resulted in lots of reports of nesting BOBOLINKS. Agricultural areas from the Annapolis Valley, Pict., Cum. and Col. Co.'s. also hosted breeding birds this summer. A fem. at Hemeons Head, Shel. Co. on July 20, was surely an early fall migrant (DHY).

No RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were found in what looks like reasonable habitat in northern Cape Breton. This species has experienced a major decline in eastern North America in the past 30 years. On a more optimistic note a nest with four fledglings was found June 27 at the Liscomb Game Sanctuary (MAB). Mark Brennan also contributed the only BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD sighting, July 22 on Brier I.

At the other extreme COM. GRACKLES were widespread and common with reports coming from throughout the province. To me these are harbingers of fall migration. The first "autumn" flocks of a dozen or so young birds appeared June 17, just before the official start of summer (DBM). This species has also increased in the past 30 years, especially along roadsides. Along the Boisdale BBS, CB Co., in the early 1970's the

average was about eight or nine per year, and since 1992 the average is more than 20. At the same time the average for RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS has dropped from about 35 to four per year along this route. Elsewhere red-wings were widespread and most common, as expected, in the marshes of the Annapolis Valley and Cum. Co.

Few of the BALTIMORE ORIOLES which visit in the spring, like the male in Apple River, Cum. Co. in late May, remain to breed. This year at least two pairs nested in Pict. Co. and another in Kings Co. (KJM, AAM).



This summer all of our reports of PINE GROSBEAKS come from Cape Breton I. where they are undoubtedly more common nesting birds than elsewhere. On the Cape Breton Naturalists ecological monitoring site at Irish Cove, Rich. Co. a pair was very agitated June 29 and presumably had a nest nearby (DBM, Sean Roach). During two months of studying Bicknell's Thrush in northern Cape Breton, they were found to be widespread and reasonably common at higher elevations in stunted spruce woods (RWK).

HOUSE FINCHES continue to thrive in the vicinity of Dalhousie and St Mary's Universities in Halifax (ABM). PURPLE FINCHES were still frequenting feeders in June including up to 20 in South Harbour, Vic. Co. and 10 at Apple River, Cum. Co. (RWK, KFS). Adults brought their young to a feeder in Sydney River in June (Steve and Bonnie Gray). Otherwise they were widespread, if nowhere very common throughout the province.

With last year's cone crop largely depleted and a much smaller crop this year, there were many fewer finches especially WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS. There were scattered flocks of a few to a couple of dozen White-wings from CSI to northern Cape Breton to Tatamagouche, but the numbers compared to last summer and fall have dwindled dramatically. Surprising, whether there is a good cone crop in the province or not, was the single bird on Sable I. July 4 (ZOL). Since RED CROSSBILLS do not depend on spruce and fir cones as much, their numbers tend not to fluctuate as much. However only one report of Reds was received, two on the Trafalgar BBS in mid-June.

Both PINE SISKINS and AM. GOLDFINCHES were widespread throughout the summer, many at feeders. Both are birds that have benefited from feeders in the past 30 years. In summer we most often see them in small groups rather than large flocks. Two sizeable June flocks of siskins are noteworthy, one of 200 in Apple River, Cum. Co. and another of 265 in Avonport, Kings Co. (KFS, URB). Unusual was a lone siskin on Sable I., in late June and early July (ZOL). Goldfinches, even in the summer, are concentrated along roadsides and in disturbed areas. Probably the combination of consistent feeding and the superb habitat along roads has contributed to its increase along the Boisdale BBS, CB Co. During the early 1970's an average of about 40 a year were counted, since 1992 the average is close to 100 per year.

There were reasonable numbers of EVENING GROSBEAKS in several areas of the province -- Apple River, Cum. Co, Yar. Co. and in the Cape Breton Highlands -- through the summer. Whether this will result in them visiting feeders elsewhere this winter remains to be seen.

HOUSE SPARROWS are common enough in most urban, suburban and agricultural areas of the province that we don't usually notice them. A male at a feeder in Apple River, Cum. Co. was noticed because it had been several years since the last visit (KFS).

List of Contributors

Thanks to all of our contributors, including:

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Brennan, Calvin	CGB	Hoeger, Ulli	ULH	Nocera, Joe	JJN
Brennan, Mark	MAB	Holliday, Shirley		Pacquet, Terry	TEP
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Chalmers, Patricia L.	PLC	Knapton, Richard	RWK	Quann, Derek	DEQ
Corbett, S.		Lauff, Randy F.	RFL	Quinn, Paul	PWQ
Cretien, Jacqueline	JAC	Lavender, Fulton L	FLL	Rendall, Curtis	CUR
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d'Eon, Jerome K.	JKD	McKenna, Ken, J	KJM	Spicer, Kathleen	KFS
d'Eon, Ted	TCD	McLaren, Ian	IAM	Stern, Richard	RBS
Dobson, Harold	HAD	McLean, Jill		Stevens, Clarence, Jr.	CLS
Dove, Ed		Metcalfe, Hugh "Junior"	JUM	Stewart, Cathy	CAS
Field, Chris	CJF	Mills, Anne	AHM	Stoddard, Clyde	CST
Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF	Mills, Eric L.	ELM	Sutherland, Bonnie	
Goring, May	MZG	Moore, Bob & Nancy		Tufts, Gordon	GWT
Gray, Steve and Bonnie		Moores, Bernice	ABM	Tufts, Judy	JCT
Harris, D.L.		Murphy, Jack		Urban, Eva, Deanna & Walter	URB
		Murrant, Allan	ALM	Wolford, Jim	JWW
		Murrant, Cathy	CAM	Young, David	DHY
		Myers, Susann	SEM		

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS IN PLACE NAMES

APBS	Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary
CB	Cape Breton
CBHNP	CB Highland National Park
CSI	Cape Sable I.
Hbr.	Harbour
Hd.	Head
HRM	Halifax Regional Municipality
I.	Island, Isle
Is.	Islands, Isles
L.	Lake
Lwr.	Lower
Mt.	Mountain, Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.P.	National Park
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point, not Port
R.	River

ABBREVIATIONS IN BIRD NAMES

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
Eur.	European, Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S.	Southern
W.	Western

OTHER ABBREVIATIONS

ad.	adult
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
ca.	circa (about, approximately)
CBC	Christmas Bird Count
fem.	female
imm.	immature
juv.	juvenile
male	(no abbreviation)
MNRS	Maritimes Nest Records Scheme

var. obs.

various observers

COUNTIES/AREAS

Anna. Co.	Annapolis County
Ant. Co.	Antigonish County
CB Co.	Cape Breton County
Col. Co.	Colchester County
Cum. Co.	Cumberland County
Digby Co.	Digby County
Guys. Co.	Guysborough County
Hfx. Co.	Halifax County
Hants Co.	Hants County
Inv. Co.	Inverness County
Kings Co.	Kings County
Lun. Co.	Lunenburg County
Pict. Co.	Pictou County
Queens Co.	Queens County
Rich. Co.	Richmond County
Shel. Co.	Shelburne County
Vic. Co.	Victoria County
Yar. Co.	Yarmouth County

Photos

The usual handful of real rarities brighten our summer days, among which this foursome were the most exciting, especially the GARGANEY and CASSIN'S KINGBIRD.



This LITTLE EGRET, with its diagnostic plumes looped over its head by a stiff breeze, stopped briefly at Rossway, Digby Neck, June 6-7. What was possibly the same bird turned up on CSI a little later.

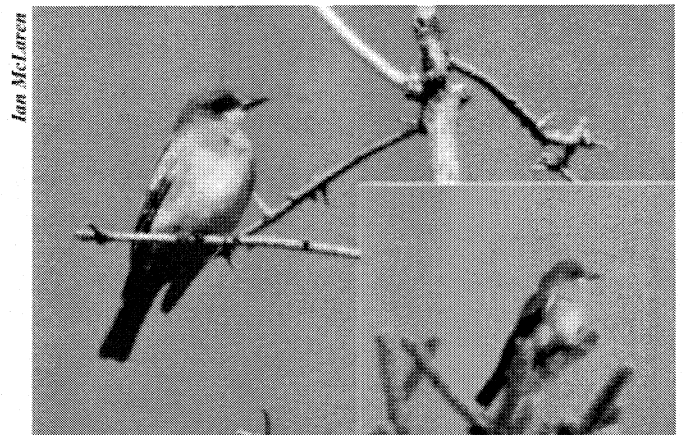


Other, perhaps better, photos were taken of the striking male GARGANEY at Bellisle Marsh, Ann. Co., but this one, taken June 7, serves to confirm its distinctive field marks and substantiate our first confirmed occurrence of this Old-World wanderer.



Not so rare here, but certainly a beauty, was this WHITE-WINGED DOVE on Brier I., June 22-24. The original photo, with rather pale brown back and greyish neck and upper chest, suggests that it was of the SW subspecies *mearnsi*.

Nova Scotia's first CASSIN'S KINGBIRD at Little Hbr, Shel. Co., was quickly publicized by its finder, DHY, but too few rushed down to see it before it disappeared after July 18. These snapshots, on its last day, shows the diagnostic gray head and chest with contrastingly white chin, but not the whitish tail tips, that were so evident in the field.



Hey Kids! Can you name this noisy backyard visitor? Check it out in your favourite field guide and colour the picture below!



Wolfville Area

BY JIM WOLFORD

This early-morning trip on September 18th followed a joint meeting the previous evening for the Nova Scotia Bird Society with the Blomidon Naturalists Society in Wolfville (Ian Jones of Memorial University gave a very informative talk with super slides on the Aleutian Islands and their natural history, especially the seabirds). On an overcast, drizzly, and very windy day (aftermath of Hurricane Floyd?), six enthusiastic birders joined me.

We first headed to Grand Pré, since the tide was high – I showed on a tide-chart that it was a “low high tide”. On our way, we stopped to look over perhaps 2000 Eur. Starlings in a farm field, and among them were a few Cowbirds and Grackles. From the top of the Old Post Rd., we had a good view of the dyke-land fields, Long Island, Boot Island, etc.

Incidentally, the latest figures (1998) for nests of colonial birds on Boot Island were: 311 Double-Crested Cormorants,

50 Great Blue Herons, 1322 Great Black-Backed Gulls, and 134 Herring Gulls.

We drove across the east Grand Pré dykelands, stopping to scan a few times. Seen were 5-10 Bald Eagles, many Ravens and Gulls, a Harrier, a Great Blue Heron, plus “little brown jobs” (lbjs) that were probably mostly Savannah Sparrows. The only shorebirds seen there were a flying flock of 15 dowitcher-sized birds (during the past week, Golden Plovers, Whimbrels, and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper had been seen).

At the east end of Long Island (The Guzzle), we found a roost of about 1000 “peeps”. These were mostly Semipalmated Sandpipers, but there were also a few each of Pectoral Sandpipers, Sanderlings, Semipalmated Plovers, and White-rumped Sandpipers, plus dozens of Least Sandpipers. The very strong north wind plus drizzle made viewing very difficult, despite getting very close to the birds.

I also showed two other spots for exploring Evangeline Beach and emphasized that visiting birders should be very courteous in asking for beach-access among the cottages. Thanks go to Jean Merks and Bob Bearne for their generosity and geniality. (Likewise, when driving the dykeland roads, be very careful not to impede agricultural activities of the farmers who pay for the maintenance of the roads.) We also walked the wooded Sandpiper Lane and noted lots of pretty reddish-orange berries on Canada Holly bushes. Two Black-capped Chickadees were the only birds seen. We were all cold and ready for more coffee, so we headed for Windsor, where 5 Black-necked Stilts were seen yesterday by Joan and Bernice (who were with us). A brief stop at the Causeway mud-flat produced no shorebirds at all – later I saw about 8 Greater Yellowlegs there, plus lots of foraging Ring-Billed Gulls with muddy beaks and legs.

We all retired to Tim Horton’s, after which we disbanded.

Practicing for Thanksgiving?



The dark eye and pale beak are all you can see of this “WILD” TURKEY nesting on Seal I. in early May. They never did occur naturally in the province and are not yet firmly established from scattered introductions. When they are we will be stuck with a totally unnatural stock from the SW subspecies with whitish tail margins, like the domestic breeds. Ah well, they taste good.

Field Trip Reports

Eastern Shore

BY IAN MCLAREN

Editor's Note: This is a correction to the report printed in error in the last issue, which was a resubmission of a previous trip's report.

Fully 24 participants felt that the idea of spring was more important than the rather chilly, overcast reality greeting us on April 10th. Although we met in Dartmouth, we effectively began at Martinique Beach. On rocks at the beach entrance there were four Purple Sandpipers. Along the beach we found groups total-

ling 45 Sanderlings, a little unexpected in such numbers, rhythmically pacing the swash. A Black-bellied Plover and two Com. Snipe made up a fair showing of shorebirds. I estimated that we put up 13 Ipswich Sparrows and an early (or wintered) Savannah Sparrow from the dunes; all saw at least some of these. Lowish tide let us get past the channel half-way along the beach caused by last fall's storms. We rested on the crowberry slopes of Flying Head and, as usual, were able to see some Horned and Red-necked Grebes, and good numbers of Com. Eiders and all three scoters on the heaving sea. After

Martinique Beach, the routine is always less exhilarating – our car safari stopped at hot spots among others, at Chezzetcook (no geese!), Three Fathom Hbr. (the usual Ring-necked and other ducks), West Lawrencetown Marsh (three Gadwalls a bit surprising). Finally a few of us stopped briefly at Sullivans Pond to find that the wintering male Tufted Duck, now in splendidly crisp attire, was still with us. The day's total: 60 species.



Matthews Lake

BY DAVE YOUNG

It was a mostly nice day with only a little rain as a record 40 birders covered the arduous trek to Matthews Lake from Hemeons Head on August 21st. Unfortunately neither the Baird's Sandpiper seen the Monday before, or the possible Long-toed Stint, from two weeks before, were there to greet us.

However, we did see 16 species of shorebirds including 20+ Hudsonian Godwits and nine Whimbrels. Two Spotties and a few Whiterumps added interest. The total number of individuals

probably exceeded 750 but this is a rather small number for this time of the season compared to earlier years.

Other birds worthy of mention were 22 Great Blue Herons standing in a distant row – a record one-day sighting for me – a Cooper's Hawk, a Sharpie and a Harrier. One small flock of seven Terns flew over in a southerly direction just to say "goodbye" for the winter!

Refreshments at the Youngs' finished the day and everyone seemed to be in a good mood!

Wallace Bay

BY KEN MCKENNA

This is a brief report on the field trip to Wallace Bay on July 18th.

Eleven attended including a visitor from Vermont. We started at the museum getting a surprisingly good number of warblers and woodpeckers. A couple of Gray Jays brought great delight to our Vermont visitor. At the dyke along the Wallace Bay bird sanctuary, we had the usual marsh birds including some Hooded Mergansers, an immature loon,

and one person had a good look at a Virginia Rail. There were a few dowitchers and Lesser Yellowlegs there.

At Fox Harbour we caught the tide just right at noon thanks to Jim Taylor, our leader. There were good numbers of Red Knot, Willet, Lesser Yellowlegs, dowitchers, smaller numbers of Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, and a couple each of Black-Bellied Plover and Greater Yellowlegs.

After lunch at the Fox Harbour picnic park, we ended at the Bidwell's on Kerrs Mills Rd., after encountering a Broad-winged Hawk perched on wire. A fledged Bald Eagle was noisily near the nest and an Osprey flew over the Wallace River which was severely "bleeding" very heavy silt, possibly from blasting during the pipeline construction.

We had an enjoyable but very hot day.

Roland Chiasson and/or Sabine Dietz, community conservation planners with Maritime Important Bird Areas Program will present on their work in the past year.

Sun 30 Apr – Wolfville Area

Leader: Jim Wolford 542-7650
Pond hopping for ducks and early migrants. Meet at the Robie Tufts Nature centre, Front St., Wolfville at 10 a.m. This will be a joint field trip with the Blomidon Naturalists Society. No registration necessary.

Sat 6 May – North American Migration Count

Note – this event is always the first Saturday in May. Contact: Judy Tufts 542-7800.

Sun 7 May – Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary

Leader: Alan Smith 506-536-0164 (h) or 506-364-5038 (w).
Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the APBS parking lot. Take exit 3 from TCH 104 at the Wandlyn Inn and proceed a few km toward Nappan; the entrance is on the left. Wear appropriate footwear for wet conditions and bring a lunch. Enjoy a day of observing waterfowl, shorebirds and early migrants.

Sat 13 May – Sun 14 May – Cape d'Or & Advocate Area

Joint Field Trip With Halifax Field Naturalists and Wild Flora Soci-

ety. Contacts: Jane Mills 392-2027, Maureen Mills 392-2096, Joan Czupalay 348-2803, Fulton Lavender 455-4966. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY!** On Saturday Jane Mills will lead us around the Cape d'Or – Advocate area on a number of short trips. Maureen Mills is the leader on Sunday. Meet on both days at 7:00 a.m. at the Advocate Fire Hall. Directions: Bicentennial (102) to Truro. Trans Canada (104) to Glenholme. Route 2 to Parrsboro. In Parrsboro take extreme right at the bandstand and continue on Route 2 for 5 km. Then left onto Hwy 209 to Advocate.

Fri 19 May - Mon 22 May – Bon Portage Island

Leader: Claire Diggins 825-6152
PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY! Depart late afternoon or early evening on Friday from Prospect Point Wharf. Bring food, drinking water, warm clothing and foot-wear suitable for rough (sometimes wet) terrain, a flashlight, mattress sheet and sleeping bag. Carry gear in waterproof bags or containers. Field guides are available on the island, as are cooking pans, dishes and utensils. There is a charge of \$45 to NSBS members for three nights accommodation, as well as a boat trip donation.

Sat 27 May – Hawk Picnic Day, Cape Sable Island

Leader: Lillian Perry 637-2844

Bird Cape Sable Island with the SoWest Nova Birders and enjoy a picnic lunch on our own Hawk Hill. This is a good day for beginners and out-of-towners to visit our favourite hot spots. No registration necessary. Meet at Tim Horton's in Barrington Passage at 7:00 a.m.

Sat 27 May – Bridgetown/Annapolis Royal

Leader: Sharon Hawboldt 665-4150

Meet at the Tidal Power parking lot at 7:30 a.m. There will be a warbler walk in the morning, and a trip to Belleisle Marsh in the afternoon. Bring rubber boots and a lunch.

Sun 28 May – Shubenacadie Area

Leader: Roslyn McPhee 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. Note – this trip is always the last Sunday in May.

Ideas and suggestions for future trips are welcome. You do not need to be an expert to lead a field trip; you just need to share your favourite birding hotspots. Any questions or suggestions should be directed to the Field Trip Coordinator, Fulton Lavender at (902) 455-4966.

WHALES AND SEABIRDS OF THE BAY OF FUNDY February 23-24, 2000

NSBS, Halifax Field Naturalists and the NS Museum of Natural History are pleased to sponsor presentations by Carl Haycock at 7:30 pm on Wed 23 and Thu 24 Feb 2000. Carl has lived and worked on Brier Island since 1984, and has had unique opportunities to observe the surrounding marine life. Through his slides you will meet two Humpback Whale sisters, Lacey and Foggy, both of which returned to the Bay this past summer. You will also see the endangered Right Whale, Finback, Sei, and Pilot Whales, and White-sided Dolphins. Pelagic seabirds also use the rich resources of the Bay of Fundy for feeding. Increase your knowledge of shearwaters, gannets, phalaropes, puffins and even the rare South Polar Skua.

Also watch for information on an upcoming *Series on Seabirds* to take place on Wednesday evenings throughout the month of March.

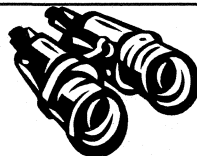
Inside this issue:

Special points of interest:

- Nova Scotia Birds needs you!
- A sample Maritime Nesting Record Scheme card
- Summer Seasonal Reports

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Upcoming Events



Sat Dec 4 – Cape Sable Island

Leader: Murray Newell 745-3340
Meet at Tim Horton's in Barrington Passage at 8:00 a.m. This is an opportunity to have a great start to your winter list.

Thu 16 Dec 1999 - Mon 3 Jan, 2000 Christmas Bird Counts

Watch for announcements of the individual Counts on the NSBS Birdline (phone line and transcripts), on *Nature NS*, and on the NSBS Web-site. Anyone wishing to start a new Christmas Count, participate, or having general questions can contact:

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

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

Fax: 461-4136
Email: dacurrie@istar.ca

Sat 8 Jan 2000 Sewer Stroll I, Halifax/Dartmouth area

Leader: Fulton Lavender 455-4966.
Meet at Hartlen Point at 8:00 a.m. to look for rare birds and regular winter

visitors. Fulton Lavender will lead this all-day trip which will end at Herring Cove via Bedford. Dress for outdoor weather and bring a lunch. Plan to car pool as much as possible. Please register in advance. Storm date Sun, Jan 9.

Thu 27 Jan – Members' Slide Night

The annual members' slide night will be held in the Auditorium, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, at 7:30 p.m. Members are invited to bring along 10 to 15 of their most interesting slides that relate to birds and birding. These may include portraits of common birds, rarities, as well as unusual and amusing sightings. See you there!

Sat 5 Feb Sewer Stroll II, Halifax/ Dartmouth area

As above (see Sat 8 Jan). Storm date Sun 6 Feb.

Thu 24 Feb – NSBS Meeting

The monthly NSBS meeting will be held in the Auditorium, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, at 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Carl Haycock, speaking on the whales and seabirds of the Bay

of Fundy. See special announcement elsewhere in this issue.

Thu 23 Mar – NSBS Meeting

7:30 p.m., Museum of Natural History, Summer St., Halifax. Speaker: Joan Czapalay on 'Birding Adventures in Arizona'.

Sat 1 Apr – Baccaro and Blanche Peninsula

Leader: Donna Ensor 875-4269
Early spring birding with Donna. Rarities have shown up here quite often at this time of year. Dress warmly and bring a lunch. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot opposite the exit to Port Clyde.

Sat 15 Apr – Martinique Beach

Leader: Ian McLaren 429-7024
Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Scotia Bank parking lot, Bridge Plaza, Dartmouth. Look for early migrants such as Piping Plover and Ipswich Sparrow as well as possible rarities. Bring a lunch. Note – this trip is always the first Saturday after Easter.

Thu 27 Apr – NSBS Meeting

7:30 p.m., Museum of Natural History, Summer St., Halifax. Speaker(s):