

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Spring 2000



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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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Reporting Deadlines

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NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
SPRING 2000

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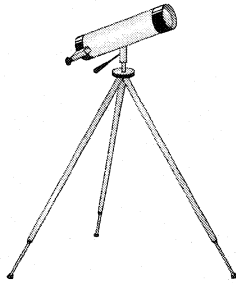
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The Spotting Scope



I write this (my second!) editorial during the beginning of the spring migration; by the time you read this, the North American

Migration Count will have been completed, and spring migration will essentially be over. There is suspense all over the Province in spring... "Will I hear the bittern pumping away in the marsh every evening? Will hummingbirds take advantage of my flowers (planted especially for them) and the feeder? Will the bluebirds use the nest box again?"

Nest boxes – by now, those of you who put up nest boxes will likely know if they are being used or not. Why don't you send us the plans you used and/or a photograph of the boxes (and the residents!) and we'll publish an article prior to the next breeding season based on the submissions we receive. Feel free to include any history of certain nest boxes, anecdotes relating to putting them up or checking them and the species (including non-avian ones) that used them. In this way, more of us will benefit from the successes of others.

Piping Plovers will be back, and Diane Amirault of the Canadian Wildlife Service has asked us to be on the look out for banded birds. More details are in her article in this issue. Remember that birders are poised to contribute massive amounts of knowledge to ornithology. I know of no other science that can claim such participation by non-scientists.

P.S. Thank you to the author(s) of "A Birder's Fantasy." Most publications will not print anonymously contributed material for a variety of reasons, and *Nova Scotia Birds* is no different. We will however, withhold any author's name and address if that is the author's desire.

Speaking of non-scientists contributing to ornithology, the Christmas Bird Count data are reported in this issue. This is the 100th year that the Christmas Bird Count has been run, and most of the thousands of participants are birders that are just having fun, but they also know they are collecting data for ornithologists to use. Here in Nova Scotia, some birds had high counts and some had low counts. One thing to bear in mind though is that just because the *numbers found* may be higher or lower than previous years, doesn't mean there is a *real* increase or decrease in the birds. To rigorously analyse the data, the *birders' effort* must be taken into account. For instance, Great Black-backed Gulls are down numerically from previous years, was this due to a real drop in numbers or were there not as many parties of observers out looking this year? Or was the number of hours spent searching not as great? A very worthwhile project for one of us would be to do this analysis for the history of one of our Christmas Bird Counts, or perhaps one species across several counts.

Finally, I have included a survey that I would like all of you to consider filling out. Is *Nova Scotia Birds* meeting your needs? In what way can we serve you better (bearing in mind that everyone who works on the publication is a volunteer)? I look forward to hearing from you!

Good Birding,

Randy

Eastern Canada Piping Plover Banding Project Initiated

By Diane L. Amirault

After preliminary efforts to determine the feasibility of banding Piping Plovers proved successful, an intensive effort was initiated in eastern Canada during the summer of 1999. A detailed protocol for the banding, focusing on the need for marking birds with a minimum of disturbance, was developed in conjunction with the Piping Plover Recovery Team and Working Group. The overall objectives of the banding research include:

- determine whether juvenile birds are being recruited into the population;
- determine metapopulation dynamics/links with other populations;
- determine survival rates of adults and juveniles;
- identify dispersal and movement patterns;
- answer general questions on the biology/behaviour.

The banding scheme was very straightforward. A single metal band was placed on the lower right leg of adults and a single colour band was placed on the lower left leg. The opposite banding scheme was applied to juveniles - a single metal band was placed on the lower left leg while a single colour band was placed on the lower right leg. Specific colour bands were assigned to each province as follows: Nova Scotia - light green/yellow; New Brunswick - light blue/white; Prince Edward Island - red/dark green; Quebec (Magdalen Islands) - grey. The colour assignment for Newfoundland was pink/dark blue, however no birds were banded in Newfoundland this year.

A total of 105 Piping Plovers were marked, including 24 adults and 81 juveniles (38 in Nova Scotia, 42 in New Brunswick, 25 in Prince Edward Island). Seven of 21 birds banded during 1998 were also re-sighted this year. Two of these birds were re-trapped in the same location as where they were banded last year. The effort will be continued over the next four years.

In order to assist researchers in the study, naturalists or other interested people seeing any banded Piping Plovers should report their sightings to the Canadian Wildlife Service (call collect) or local Department of Natural Resources office. Please provide as much detail on the sighting as possible including date, location, band colour and position (e.g. right or left leg).

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NS Power and Ospreys - Birds of a Feather

By Ray Phillips, Public Affairs, NS Power

Ospreys are a magnificent part of the Nova Scotia landscape. They are elegant, graceful and amazing to watch in flight. As a Good Neighbour, we have taken these birds "under our wing" and help contribute to their well-being through our "Osprey Relocation Management Program".

Introduced in the early eighties, the "Osprey Relocation Management Program" was created in response to the large number of nests being built on our transmission and distribution poles. Some 200 nests are located on our poles and if the nest is located too close to the conductor, the birds risk electrocuting themselves or damaging our equipment.

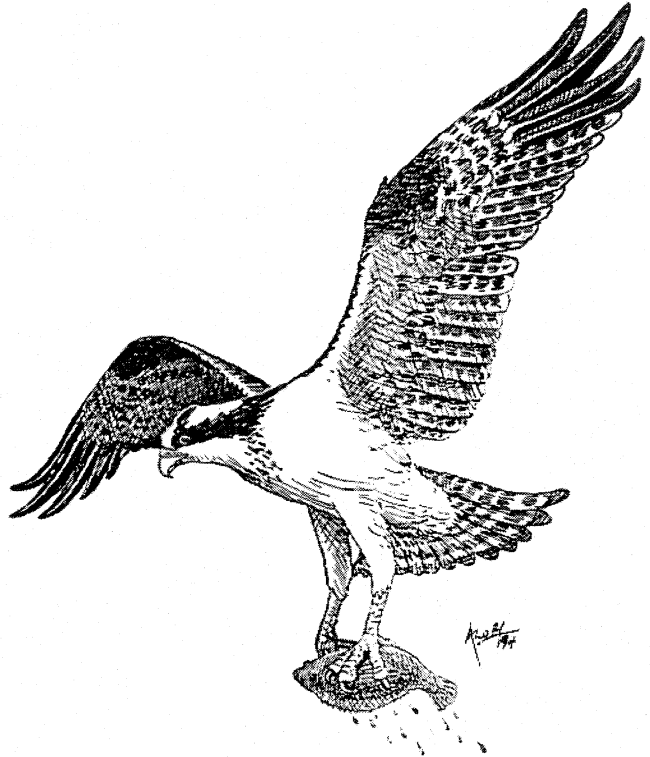
"Every year we relocate 8-12 nests that are incompatible with our systems," says Mary Beth Benedict, Senior Environment Specialist. "Once the birds have gone south for the winter, we remove their nest and install a platform for them to nest on the following year."

To relocate a nest, we erect a pole taller than the standard type and install a platform on top or install a platform on a tall tree adjacent to the easement. The platform is often made of hardwood pallets. The pole is placed as near the original nesting pole as possible. Then we transfer nest material to the platform. A brace, or invalidation structure, is placed over the original nesting site to ensure the osprey does not attempt to build there again. The cost of relocating a nest ranges from \$500 to \$5000 depending on its location.

Recently in metro region, we relocated nests on McNabs Island and in Portland Estates. Bruce Leslie, Field Supervisor in Dartmouth, oversaw the Portland Estates relocation. "The relocation went really well," says Bruce. "The gentleman who owned the land near the original nesting site gave us permission to set the pole on his land and the guys involved, Victor Sampson, Eddie Fox, John Egan, Vernon MacKay and Kevin Murphy, felt good about doing the job. They were innovative and managed to relocate the nest intact by placing it on a sheet of plywood for the transfer."

It is important that alternative nest sites are provided to the osprey because they return to their nests year after year. If a nest platform is not provided, the osprey will rebuild its nest on the original pole or they will rebuild on the next structure down the line.

For more information, contact **Mary Beth Benedict at 428-7503.**



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Weather Report

By Larry Bogan

The graphs that I have chosen to include in this issue are the snow cover and temperatures. The snow cover plot shows the lack of snow (in the Annapolis Valley) until mid-January then continuous cover until the end of February. If I had included the graph of precipitation for this period, you would have noted that it had a fairly even distribution over the three months.

The variation in temperature made the most important difference in our winter weather. In early December we seldom got below freezing and it was not until after Christmas that the air cooled and a little snow fell. Early January had two warm periods and then at mid-January the thermometer dropped to give the coldest period of the season (-22 °C). We also had our first heavy snow at that time (39 cm). The temperature generally stayed down until the last week in February when a warm period melted all the snow and produced unusually high temperatures. The high temperature on 28 February (17 °C) was the warmest of the season. That last week in February was also the sunniest period of the period and my home was toasty warm the whole time without having to burn any wood.

Table I shows the monthly mean values of the important weather parameters and compares them to the averages for the previous 38 years. Our warm December was a full 2 °C above average and had a lot less snow than expected (9 versus 57 cm). Snow fall in January and February made up for December and gave us nearly 50% more than usual in those two months. As a result, our snow fall for the year is just about average. (I think if we were to add in March's snow fall, it would be well above average). We had plenty of rain

Table I.

Month	Mean Temp (°C)	Snow Fall (cm)	Total Precipitation (mm)	Bright Sunshine (h)
December	-0.2	9	120	62
38 yr avg	-2.3	57	130	58
January	-4.7	90	213	74
38 yr avg	-5.3	68	120	77
February	-4.8	94	78	127
38 yr avg	-5.2	60	101	101
Season	-3.2	193	411	263
38 yr avg	-4.2	185	351	236

Table II.

	Percent of Season Snowfall	Storms (more than 10 cm)
Sunday	14.5	Jan 16
Monday	28.3	Jan 17, Feb 7, Feb 21
Tuesday	5.3	-
Wednesday	8.8	Feb 2
Thursday	9.4	-
Friday	21.2	Jan 21, Jan 28, Feb 18
Saturday	12.5	-

during the season and the total precipitation was 17% above average for the season. December had normal rains, while January had heavy rain and snow. February had as much snow as January but very little rain and ended up with a deficit in precipitation.

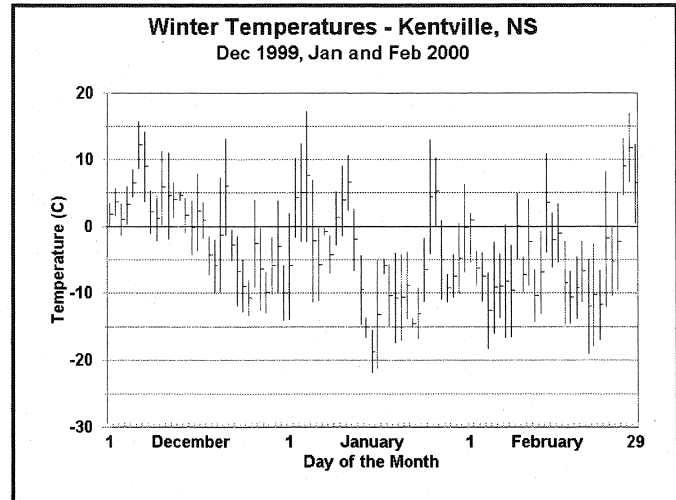
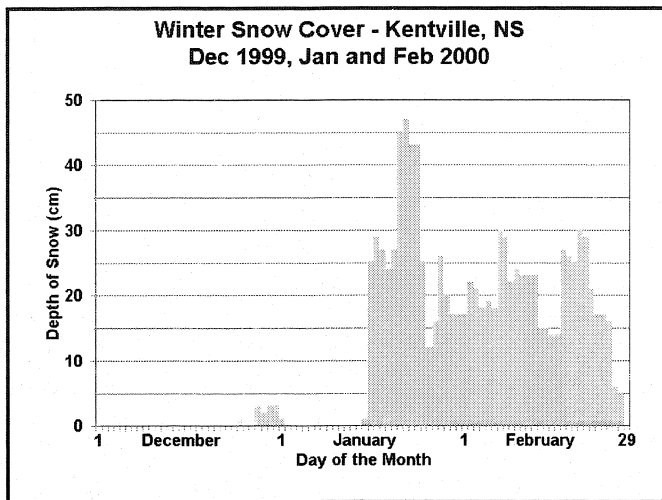
The sunny week that ended February added substantially to the normal sunshine this winter to make the period 11% sunnier than average.

As I am writing this on Friday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) with the

wind blowing the heavy snow around outside, I remember other Fridays this winter when we have had snow storms. The statistics for snowfall on days of the week are shown in Table II.

Actually, Mondays got the most snow of the season but, together, Mondays and Fridays had half of the snowfall of the winter. Six of the eight heavier snowfalls occurred on Monday or Friday. During this winter, the best time to plan a meeting was on Tuesday (lightest snowfall).

Weather Statistics from Kentville Agricultural Centre December 1999, January and February 2000



Brier Island Oceans Studies Fund-Raiser

Pelagic Trip - Bay of Fundy and White Head Island, New Brunswick

Saturday, 23 September 2000 (storm date 24 September)

Join Mariner Cruises/Westport Whalewatch on their third annual unique trip to White Head, N.B., to help raise money for the Brier Island Ocean Studies. The trip this year will occur in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Bird Society's meeting being held in Westport, on Friday, September 22

The boat will leave Westport, Brier Island, at 0730, and head across the Bay of Fundy to White Head Island, where it will dock for four hours, during which time the participants will bird the island, seeking out migrant and vagrant birds. This is an exciting time of year for autumn migrant birds, and almost anything can turn up.

In the early afternoon the boat will depart, returning to Brier Island. On both crossings of the Bay we'll do several hours of whale and seabird watching. Highlights from the previous two trips include the following whales: Right, Fin, Humpback, Minke, and Sei, as well as Harbour Porpoise. We have also had several Basking Sharks. Bird highlights included thousands of Greater Shearwater and Sooty Shearwater, plus Manx Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaeger, Great Skua, Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill, and on land, Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo, Clay-colored Sparrow, Eastern Phoebe, and Prairie Warbler.

The trip will be limited to 40 participants, at a cost of \$50 per person, with profits going to Brier Island Ocean Studies. Make your reservations now. Call Carl Haycock at (902) 839-2960, or Mariner Cruises at 1-800-239-2189. For those who want to get out on the water, but not spend the whole day, there also will be 3-5 hr whale and seabird trips available.

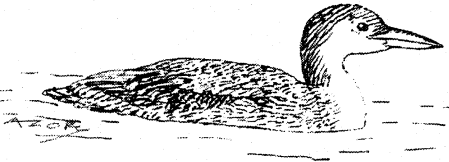
Editor's Note: Bring motion sickness medication and *read the instructions* the day before you go out to sea!

Autumn Seasonal Reports

Loons Through Grebes

By Fred Dobson

There were no outstanding records of loons or grebes this season. All species except the Pied-billed Grebe were found scattered uniformly along the coastline.



RED-THROATED LOON reports were sparse as usual but there were even fewer reports than normal. The CBCs tell a different story: the four highest counts have been in the last four years. The reports (Dec. 4 - Feb. 20) indicate that

birds were distributed more or less evenly along the coastline. COMMON LOON occurred in normal numbers, sighted throughout the reporting period and scattered evenly along the coastline. CBC numbers were slightly below expectations. DWP and JAP say "very scarce all winter, Cole Hbr. to Chezzetcook". RFL reports on Mar. 5: "individuals - small groups in most harbours/offshore" along the Eastern Shore.

PIED-BILLED GREBE stayed around until the ponds froze (ZOL reports there was one on Sable I. until the end of January). The latest mainland sighting was Jan. 7 at Centreville (MUN). The CBCs have had the highest counts ever in

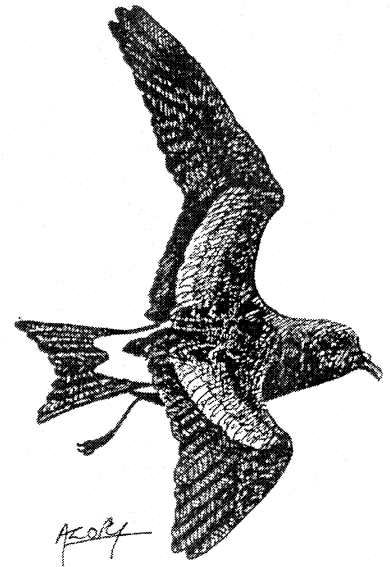
the last four years. The largest numbers were at Lockeport/Crescent Beach, Dec. 9 - 16 (DJC, DEF). The reports indicated the HORNED GREBE was scattered along the coastline in normal (*i.e.* small) numbers. The CBC count was below expectations. There were 38 Jan. 10 along the Eastern Shore (KJM, CGB). The latest report was 11 at Parkers Cove, Anna. Co. Feb. 13 (MLH, ALK, S. Blaney). The RED-NECKED GREBE was also, as expected, scattered along the coastline in normal (*i.e.* small) numbers. The CBC count was below expectations. There were 19 along the Eastern Shore Jan. 10 (KJM, CGB). The latest report was five at White Head, Guys. Co. Mar. 5 (RFL, MZG).

Tubenoses Through Cormorants

By Blake Maybank

A STORM-PETREL, not identified to species, was seen on The Sydneys CBC, Dec. 21. A record high total of 665 NORTHERN GANNETS was counted on Nova Scotian CBCs, more than double the previous high of 234. A total of 596 gannets was counted on the CSI CBC, but there were doubtless many in the Bay of Fundy (the Brier I. count was a minimal effort this year). Aside from the CBCs, no one but myself seemed to keep track of gannet sightings. Two hundred birds-of-the-year were fattening up at Ogdens Pond, Ant. Co., Dec. 4 (BLM, IAM, CGB, KJM), and were likely present until the pond froze over in mid-month. BLM counted 150 off Chebucto Hd., Dec. 11, and 30 were seen in the approaches to Halifax Hbr., Jan. 13, from the HMCS *Ville de Québec* (BLM). Two imms. were on the north side of the Canso Causeway, Jan. 6-7 (BLM *et al.*), perhaps hold-overs from the Ogdens Pond crowd.

Thirty-five DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS were noted on CBCs, a number typical of recent years, although a little more care seems to have been taken this year to ensure accurate identification. Since I believe there were (and sometimes still are) frequent misidentifications, it is difficult to determine if more Double-cresteds are over-wintering than in the early 1990's, although I'd guess it is the case. Post-December records are fewer, and include one imm. at Morien Bay, CB Co., Jan. 1 (BLM, *et al.*), three in the Pictou area Jan. 9 (MAB), one at Port Dufferin Jan. 10 (KJM, CGB), one at CSI, Feb. 10 (MUN), and five at Brier I., Feb. 20 (CAH), the latter sighting possibly pertaining to returning migrants. The 725 GREAT CORMORANTS counted on the CBCs is the second highest total on record, and almost 400 were on the CSI count, with many on Brier I., Halifax Hbr., Sydney Hbr., and Glace Bay. The



only sighting supplied outside the CBCs that was noteworthy was 30 birds at Cap August, Isle Madame, Rich. Co, Feb. 20 (RFL, MZG).

Hérons Through Vultures

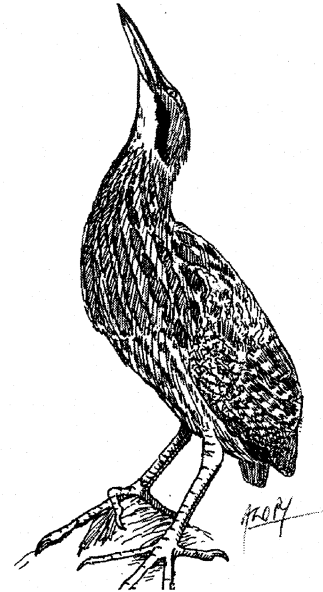
By Richard Knapton

One of the migrant AM. BITTERNs from the fall on CSI stayed into December until at least Dec. 18 (MUN *et al.*), mainly at The Hawk, and was seen frequently perching in trees. Each year, a handful of GREAT BLUE HERONS attempt to overwinter, and this winter was no exception, although the total of 20 reported on the CBCs were considerably fewer than the last few years. December records came from nine areas south and west of Amherst, Windsor and Halifax, usually single birds, with an exceptional six from the Cape Sable CBC, Dec. 18. Late winter records are decidedly scarce, as herons succumb to cold weather and starvation, therefore single individuals at Port Joli, Queens Co., Jan. 8 - 17 (AND), Port Clyde, Shel. Co., Jan. 17 (Sandy Hiltz),

Saxon Pond, Kings Co. (an imm.), Jan 26 (JWW), NSPC Trenton, Pict. Co., Feb. 5 - 20 (*vide* KJM), and on CSI for much of February (*vide* MUN) are noteworthy.

An imm. LITTLE BLUE HERON was discovered in Arcadia, Shel. Co. on the Yarmouth CBC, Dec. 19 (RSD) and was still present the next day (MUN). A CATTLE EGRET was seen Jan. 7 near ponds at the end of Blanche Rd., Shel. Co. (*vide* Sandy Hiltz), but could not be found thereafter.

TURKEY VULTURES attempted to overwinter in the extreme SW. Up to four were seen on CSI and The Hawk during December (MUN) with two remaining until Jan. 7 (MUN, CLS). The



Waterfowl

By Fred Dobson

The duck report gives us an indication of the effects of major climate events on local populations – specifically, populations at or near the maximum extent of their range. The two years previous, dominated by above-average temperatures associated with the largest “El Nino” event on record, have proven ideal in the Maritimes. The Dabblers in particular – Mallards, Pintails and American Black Ducks – have produced good broods and survived the more open winters in increasing numbers; the divers (pochards and mergansers) have not been far behind. This winter has been normal (it is thought however that “normal” is presently in the process of being redefined!), but the fresh water has stayed open long enough for the Christmas Counts to record all-time or next to all-time record numbers of 13 of the 37 duck species seen in Nova Scotia. In every next to all-time record, the all-time record was in the previous winter. Since the CBC records extend back to 1952, we are looking at a significant

event; even allowing for the fact that the effort on the recent counts – number of observers and observer kilometers – far exceeds that of the earliest counts. There is one “special species” to report: a Greater White-fronted Goose, first at Antigonish and later at Canning – most likely (but not necessarily) the same bird.

There are two reports of the **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**. The first was Dec. 20 at Lanark, Ant. Co. and again Dec. 26 “with Canada Geese” at Harbour Center, Ant. Co. (RFL, MZG). “Greenland Race...apparently present since Dec. 8 ... Norm Seymour saw/heard it earlier in the month”. The second report reads “Feb. 28 - Mar. 1, in a wet stubble field on the E. edge of the Wellington Dyke Extension, south of the Canning Aboiteau (RBS). “...while looking through the flock of about 700 Canada Geese. It was well seen, especially with a scope, and I took some distant pictures...The horizontal barring on the breast was minimal, possibly

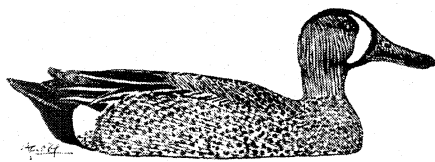
suggesting an imm., although the white ‘face’ behind the bill was very prominent. The bill was the same bright orange as the legs and feet, suggesting the race *flavirostris* from Greenland as against one of the western Canadian races. There were no bands on the legs. Hope it stays around!” There were three reports of the SNOW GOOSE in the Province this winter: it was reported from Windsor until Dec. 21 (*vide* John Robertson), on Sable I. Dec. 26 - Jan. 10 (ZOL), and two at CSI in February/March (*vide* MUN). The CBCs recorded one, at Economy.

The CANADA GOOSE was seen throughout the province all winter in regular numbers. The CBC total was 13,242, with the high count: 6,609 in Halifax/Dartmouth. Large concentrations were reported from HRM, Ant. Co., Pict. Co., Kings Co., Port Joli Bird Sanctuary, Grand Pré in Kings Co. and Lun. Co. Special mention was made of Richardson’s race (see photo in last

issue) on Sable I. (ZOL) and at Sullivans Pond (var. obs.). Cold water has been thrown on our wishful thinking by BRD revealing that an aviculturist released some a few years ago and they have been raising young at White Head I., NB for the past few years. Seven Canadas were seen Jan. 9 & 11 at Sable I., "same group as in December - including one with small white neck band" (ZOL). "The 'one with small white neck band' is the bird shown in the last issue. Richardson's race sometimes has a neck band, although I didn't pick up on that from the photo" (IAM). Sightings of the BRANT were all at CSI (var. obs.); they started with 17 in mid-December, and were up to 3,000 by Mar. 4. There were no swan sightings this winter.

The WOOD DUCK was reported from widely spaced localities. There was a single male at Sullivans Pond, HRM Dec. 8 - Feb. 26 (var. obs.). The CBC total was five, with a high of two in Halifax/Dartmouth. The only other sightings were of one male Jan. 7 at N Sydney, CB Co. (var. obs.) and two males Feb. 20 at Sperry Beach, Petite Riviere (JAH).

The GADWALL produced a nice list. The CBC total was eight, with a high of four in Halifax/Dartmouth. The other report was of three at the Trenton power plant Jan. 1 - Feb. 19 (KJM *et al.*). There was a nice list for the EURASIAN WIGEON, too. There was one male, Dec. 4 - 15 at Antigonish Landing (var. obs.). The CBC total was five (new NS high) with singles scattered through province. In January - mid-February singles were seen at Glace Bay Sanctuary (ALM, CAM), at the Trenton



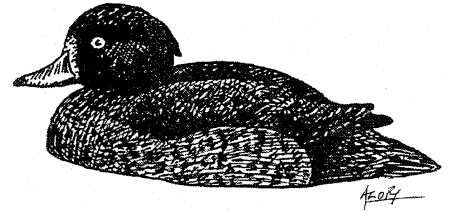
power plant (*vide* KJM), Sullivans Pond or Tufts Cove, HRM (var. obs.) and Yarmouth Hbr. (MUN *et al.*). The AM. WIGEON produced a sparse list, considering the CBC total of 156 (new NS high), high count: 89 Halifax/Dartmouth. Forty were found at

Antigonish Landing (var. obs.) Dec. 4 - 12. There were 35 down to "10+", Dec. 24 - Mar. 4 at Tufts Cove, Dartmouth (var. obs.). The only other record was one fem., Jan. 29 at Bridgewater, Lun. Co. "Among a large flock of Mallards" (ELM).

The AM. BLACK DUCK is doing well in NS: the CBC total was 20,974 (new NS high), high count: 3,471 Halifax/Dartmouth. The reports in December showed 50 in Conrad Marsh "less later but always a few" (DMW), 80+ on Sable I. (ZOL) and 50-200 at the Shubenacadie Reservoir "Until frozen, then Shubenacadie R. Hants Co. till mid-February", (RCM, JPE, AEW, MGW). Our commonest species was widespread and plentiful throughout the province in January and February. The MALLARD is also doing very well and is clearly on the increase. The CBC total was 3,987 (new NS high), high count: 674 Lunenburg. Reports were almost all from the S of the province. The first was 250, Dec. 4 at Truro (BLM, IAM). Four males were seen Dec. 28 at Apple R., Cum. Co. (KFS). Other reports in January and February were from: HRM - 50, Jan 6; 30 at Clayton Park, Lun. Co. "mixed Blacks/Mallards" (RES); 700, Jan. 30 - present in the Lahave R. at Bridgewater, Lun. Co. (ELM). "Concentrated on small patches of open water in the mainly frozen river. Accumulation from surrounding areas." and a single individual, Feb. 27 on Ogdens Pond, Ant. Co. (RFL, MZG). MALLARD/AM. BLACK DUCK hybrids were only reported on the CBCs: total 13, high count: eight Bedford-Sackville.

There was a single BLUE-WINGED TEAL seen this winter: on the Broad Cove CBC. The N. SHOVELER continues to do well. The CBC total was five (2nd highest; highest in 1998), with a high count of four from Halifax/Dartmouth. At least two other individuals were sighted - one fem., Dec. 8 Bissett L., HRM (SJF) and another Jan. 1 at Trenton power plant (*vide* KJM). The N. PINTAIL is also doing very well. The CBC total was 36 (new NS high), high counts: nine Lunenburg, eight Halifax/Dartmouth. This species was distributed widely in the province in small numbers. Higher counts were of one, Jan. 6

growing to nine (four males, five fems.) a week later in Lunenburg Hbr. (ELM, AHM); four to eight, Jan. 5 at Little Salmon R. (*vide* FLL), nine Jan. 12 at Port Joli (DHY); 12-15, Feb. 4-16 at Daniels Hd., CSI (MUN), and 31, Feb.



26 in the Shubenacadie R. near Shubenacadie, Kings Co. (AEW, MGW, RCM). An oddity was seen up to Feb. 26, "A beautiful male at Sullivans Pond, HRM, but it had no long central tail-feathers" (JWW). As with the other dabblers, the GREEN-WINGED TEAL is doing well. The CBC total was 183 (new NS high), high counts: 40 Yarmouth, 38 Amherst. The earliest record was six, Dec. 8 at Hartlen Pt., HRM (BLM). These diminutive dabblers were seen in a variety of habitats. There were two (male, fem.), Jan. 11 and one male, Feb. 23 on Sable I. (ZOL). Green-wings were also seen in Yarmouth, HRM, and Kings Co., Jan. 9 - Feb. 6, at the Trenton power plant in Stellarton until Feb. 19 (KJM, CGB) and, finally, in Lunenburg Hbr. "One male, in residence through February" (ELM).

The RING-NECKED DUCK was plentiful this winter. The CBC total was 27 (new NS high), all at Halifax/Dartmouth. The earliest record was 40, Dec. 8 at Bissett L., Cole Hbr., HRM (BLM). There were seven, Jan. 5 at Little Salmon R. (*vide* FLL). There were six (four males, two fems.) in residence Jan. 30 - Feb. 4 on the Lahave R., Lun. Co. (ELM). The latest record was one fem., Feb. 26 at Sullivans Pond (JWW). The TUFTED DUCK is becoming a regular in winter. All the CBC records were in the last six years; this year the only count was of three at Pictou Hbr. The Pictou bird(s) stayed at the Pictou Causeway until Feb. 20. The first record was an imm. fem., Dec. 16 in Harris Pond, Kings Co. (JWW). "This bird was PROBABLY

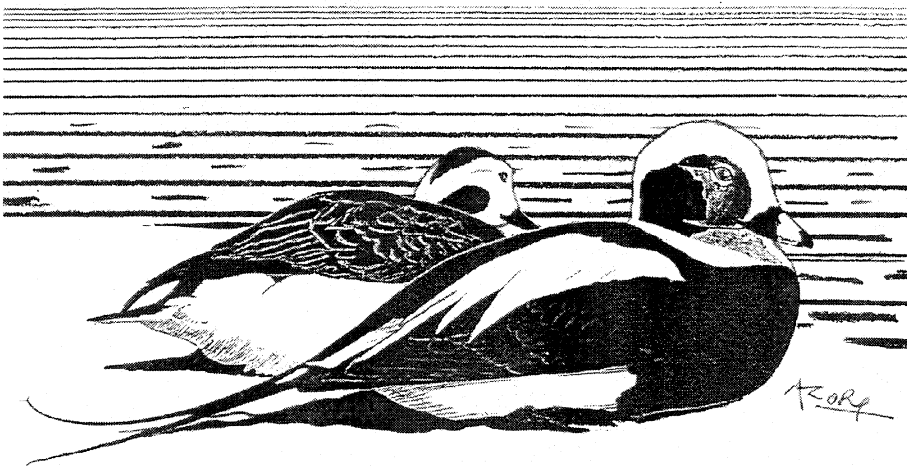
present also on Dec. 19, when IAP got distracted by the Barrow's Goldeneye and also an otter (!) and another diving duck flew away before he could recover!" There was one ad. male, Jan. 3 and later, two fems. (Feb. 12 on), at Sullivans Pond, HRM (var. obs.). "One observer thought one was a hybrid but Tufted Ducks are quite variable. It was much more likely to be an aberrant/delayed plumage individual than a hybrid. If it is a hybrid Tufted x Scaup, it should have vermiculations on the back, visible at close range" (PEL). The other record was one male, Feb. 4 at Lower South Cove, Lun. Co. (ELM) "with 200 Greater Scaup, 100+ Common Goldeneye." The GREATER SCAUP, did well this winter. The CBC total was 5,031 (2nd highest after 1998), high count: 3,224 Pictou Hbr. The earliest report was of 70, Dec. 8 at Bissett L., Cole Hbr., HRM (BLM). From 11 Dec. - 29 Feb. there were 50 at Lockeport, Shel. Co. "Scaup are more plentiful than previous years...scarcer now at the end of winter" (DJC). On Jan. 1 there were 200+ at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. (ELM, AHM) and two fems., Jan. 11 at W pond, Sable I. (ZOL). On successive days (Jan. 8-9) there were 1,200+ at Lingan Bay, CB Co. (DBM, RWK) and 2,500 at East R., Pict. Co. (KJM, CGB); the numbers rose by Feb. 23 to about 5,000 at Pictou Causeway; there were also 600 on the same day at CSI. LESSER SCAUP were also relatively plentiful: the CBC total was 101 (new NS high), high counts: 40 Pictou Hbr., 37 Halifax/Dartmouth. The earliest records were 12, Dec. 4 at Pictou Hbr., and one at Antigonish Hbr. (BLM, IAM, CGB, KJM); there were 10, Dec. 8 at Bissett L., HRM (BLM). Records for

January were all for a few individuals; they came from Lun. Co., HRM and Pict. Co. There were still "a few", Feb. 2 at Hartlen Pt. (NSBS Sewer Stroll II).

The COMMON EIDER was very sparsely reported this year - why? Certainly not from scarcity: the CBC total was 7,362 (largest four totals in last four years), high count: 3,881 CSI. The ONLY other report is of 12 off Conrads Beach, HRM (DWP, JAP) Dec. 22. Reports of the HARLEQUIN DUCK were scattered but persistent. A group of 50 seen in the Prospect area Dec. 4 (BLM) devolved to 16 when last seen Jan. 9 (GDE, Judy O' Brien). Other December reports came from Livingstone Cove, Ant. Co. (BLM, IAM, CGB, KJM) and 2 fems., Dec. 20 Raspberry Hd., Queens Co. (DHY). There were widespread reports in January and February of singles (up to four) along the shoreline from Brier I. to Sober I., HRM. There was a group of 10-20 up to Feb. 4 at Little Port Hebert (DHY), and the latest report was of 45, Feb.16 near Jones Hbr., Shel. Co. (CWS Research Group). The SURF SCOTER was not reported widely, even though the CBC total was 302 (new NS high), high count: 134 Broad Cove. Nine were reported on Jan. 6 - 7 in CB Co. (BLM *et al.*), 11 at LaHave, Lun. Co., Jan. 29 - and then nothing until Mar. 5, when 14 were reported in Dorts Cove, Guys. Co. (RFL, MZG). The WHITE-WINGED SCOTER was not reported often. The CBC total was 811, high counts: 257 The Sydneys, 211 Glace Bay. All the reports were in January and March, and all from the E Shore and CB. One male and one fem. were sighted Feb. 26 in the

Northwest Arm, off Point Pleasant Park., HRM (PLC), "I was surprised to see them so far up the Arm, and close to the city's shores." RFL, MZG saw four, Mar. 5 at Half I. Cove and another four at Fox I., Guys. Co. As with the other *Melanitta* species, the BLACK SCOTER was sparsely reported. The CBC total was 250, high count: 101 Broad Cove. BLM, IAM, CGB, KJM found one Dec. 4 at Merigomish I., Pict. Co. while BLM saw seven, Dec.18 at CSI. That's all!

The OLDSQUAW was reported in normal numbers, from all along the shores of the province. The CBC total was 2190, high counts: 488 Annapolis, 410 Glace Bay. Ten were seen in the waters off Apple R., Cum Co., dropping to four by Dec. 30 (KFS). From mid-December to the end of February there were ~24 at Lockeport, Shel. Co. (DJC) "...last year they were much more plentiful". On Jan. 9 (occasionally after) there were 30 in Maders Cove, Lun. Co. (JBM); the latest report was six, Mar. 5 at White Hd., Guys. Co. (RFL, MZG). The only December report of the BUFFLEHEAD was a single male, Dec. 31 on Sable I. (ZOL). The CBC total was 558, high count: 137 Glace Bay. Most reports were from CB. BLM *et al.* saw 10, Jan. 6 at Mira Gut and 15 at Glace Bay, CB Co.; on the same day 12 were seen at the Causeway and 22 at Grand Desert, HRM (DWP, JAP). The highest numbers were 52, Feb. 20 at Sperry Beach, Lun. Co. (JAH). The latest report was three males and one fem., Mar. 5 in Guysborough Hbr. (RFL, MZG). Reports of the COMMON GOLDENEYE show them scattered throughout the province. The CBC total was 2,861 (three highest reports in last three years), high count: 1,013 Pictou Hbr. There was one fem., Dec. 4 on Sable I. (ZOL) and eight males and seven fems., Dec. 29 - Feb. 28 at Advocate Hbr. (Jane Fletcher). The largest numbers were at coastal locations, with most reports of single birds coming from inland locations. Large numbers (>100) were present in Green Bay and the LaHave R., Lun. Co. throughout the period (var. obs.) The latest reports are eight Mar. 5 in Dorts Cove and 13 in Charlos Cove, Guys. Co. (RFL, MZG). The BARROW'S GOLDENEYE is doing very well; it was a great rarity a decade ago but now is



reported widely in the province. The CBC total was 13 (highest reports in last four years), high counts: five in The Sydneys, four from Pictou Hbr. Most reports of more than a single individual came from the N of the province; the exception was of four-five seen regularly after Jan. 16 at the Annapolis Royal tidal plant (RBS, AAM). There were at least two in the HRM area all winter (var. obs.) and one-four at the Pictou Causeway (KJM, CGB). The latest report is of one, Mar. 2 at Lyles Bay, Shel. Co. (*vide* MUN).

Numbers of the HOODED MERGANSER were the highest ever: the CBC total was 238 (new NS high), with the high count of 100 at Lunenburg, Lun. Co. The earliest reports were 50, Dec. 4 at Pictou Hbr. and six at Antigonish Landing (BLM, IAM, CGB, KJM). Another 50 were at St. Margarets Bay, HRM, Dec 20 (EHC). They were seen in December in twos and threes in Lun. and Queens Cos. (JAH). In the New Year the reports came from all parts of the province. Notable were 38, Jan. 2 at Pleasant L., Yar. Co. (PRG, RSD) "This bird has increased a lot in recent years", "lots" on St. Margarets Bay, HRM (ROG, TRL), and 80-100, Jan. 10 in Whynaughts Cove, HRM (EHC) "...they were diving so much that it was hard to

get an accurate count". Numbers tailed off to one-two individuals per sighting in February and March. The latest report was four fems., Mar. 5 at Prospect Bay, HRM (PLC). It was a banner winter for this lovely species! The RED-BREASTED MERGANSER is also



doing well: the CBC total was 2,510 (2nd highest after 1998); high count: 405 Halifax/Dartmouth. The earliest report was four, Dec. 12 at Monks Hd. Pond, Ant. Co. (RFL, MZG) and one was reported by KFS at West Apple R., Cum. Co. Numbers reached 50 by the end of December and stayed high all winter in Conrad Marsh, HRM (DMW). RFL, MZG reported "many" Feb. 20 throughout Ant., Guys., and Rich. Cos. and again on Mar. 5 "several to dozens in every harbour/offshore." That is, this species was found everywhere on the salt water (but no reports from the Valley). The COM. MERGANSER, like the other

members of the genus *Mergus*, did very well: the CBC total was 2,266 (two highest counts in last two years), high count: 787 Pictou Hbr. Throughout the winter there were up to ten off Maders Cove, Lun. Co. (JBM); all the rest of the December reports were from Ant. Co. (BLM *et al.*). In the New Year notable reports were 650, Jan. 9 in open areas of the Shubenacadie R., Hants Co. (AEW, MGW, RCM) and 200+, Feb.18 at Ogdens Pond, Ant. Co. (RFL, MZG). There were at least 55 in the LaHave R., Lun. Co. Jan. 5 – present. The latest report was two males, Feb. 29 in the river at Canning, Kings Co. (JWW).

The RUDDY DUCK is also increasing in numbers: the CBC total was nine (2nd highest after '98), all in Halifax/Dartmouth. ZOL reported two fems. Dec. 2-5 on Sable I. "top of head all-dark; one dark line across cheek; long stiff tail cocked up". All reports were of one or two individuals, but they were surprisingly widespread: Cole Hbr., HRM (BLM), Shubenacadie Reservoir, Kings Co. (JPE, RCM), Yarmouth Hbr. (MUN *et al.*). The latest report was of two, Feb.19 at the NSPC plant, Trenton, Pict. Co. (*vide* KJM).

All in all, it has been an excellent season for the ducks.

Diurnal Raptors Through Cranes

By Richard Knapton

No late reports of OSPREYS were received.

BALD EAGLES were well reported throughout the province, and in fact the Bald Eagle was the most numerous raptor on CBCs, with 578 reported from 30 out of 32 counts. The Feb. 6 raptor census in eastern Kings Co. turned up 248 eagles, 62% ads. and 38% imms., a low number because of strong cold winds (JWW *et al.*). However, perseverance paid off. The next week, on Feb. 13, the official 20th Annual Cyril K. Coldwell Eagles/Raptors Count for E. Kings County took place, and on an idyllic day weather-wise, results were impressive; a record-high 580, including

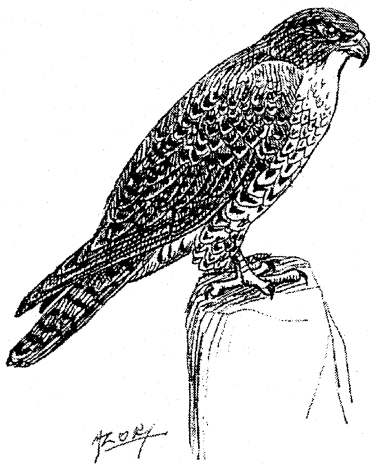
325 ads., 246 imms., and nine of unknown age; the ratio of known-age eagles was 57% ad: 43% imm. (this ratio has varied in the last 7 years from 45:55 to 65:35). Other significant gatherings around the province included 31 on the Antigonish CBC, Dec. 19, 22 on the Glace Bay CBC, Dec 28, 41 on the Pictou Hbr. CBC, Jan. 1, 26 on the Shubenacadie CBC, Dec. 19, 22 on The Sydneys CBC, Dec. 21, and 24 on the West Hants CBC, Dec. 27. Seven ads. and four imms. in one tree near Bridgewater, Lun. Co., Jan 30 (TEP) was also a noteworthy gathering. Bald Eagles are opportunistic predators; nevertheless, reports of an adult capturing an unidentified gull at Tufts Cove, Jan. 26

and another capturing an adult Herring Gull at lower Canard Valley, Kings Co., Feb. 5 (BST) are still impressive. Two ads. and one imm. from December through February fed on Am. Black Ducks almost every day at Advocate Hbr. (Jane Fletcher). Signs of spring include pairs in display flights, reported over the UCCB campus, Feb 21 (RWK), and nest building on top of a Red-tailed Hawk nest, used by the hawks in '98 and '99, in Lower Canard, Kings Co., Feb. 26 (BLF).

N. HARRIERS were reported throughout the province, from CB to the southern islands, usually single birds, but some larger concentrations included three in

the Glace Bay Sanctuary, CB Co., Dec 28 (CAM), three at Grand Pré, Kings Co., Jan. 8 (BLM *et al.*), and the Wolfville CBC turned up 12, Dec. 19. As usual, there were scattered reports of SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS throughout the province and throughout the winter, often as unwanted visitors at bird feeders. Nineteen of 33 CBCs reported Sharp-shins, for a provincial total of 62 birds, the same total as in 1998. Most counts had ones and twos, with the Wolfville CBC reporting an impressive 10 (*fide* JWW). It seems as if starlings are a major prey species during winter; individual starlings ended up as Sharp-shin food in Liverpool, Queens Co. (FWD) and in Glace Bay, CB Co. (DBM, RWK). One caught a Mourning Dove in a backyard, Lawrencetown, Kings Co. Jan. 1 (DMW). Andrew Hebda made an interesting observation of apparent team hunting by three Sharp-shins with a flock of about 50 E. Starlings; two would stay with the back of the flock while the third would dive into the stragglers, and this was repeated several times. A COOPER'S HAWK was reported on the Amherst CBC, Dec. 20. The strong showing of N. GOSHAWKS in the fall carried over into the winter, as reports came in from across the province, from CBI to the southern islands. The CBCs reflected this trend, as 18 out of 33 reported 27 individuals, the highest total in the last six years.

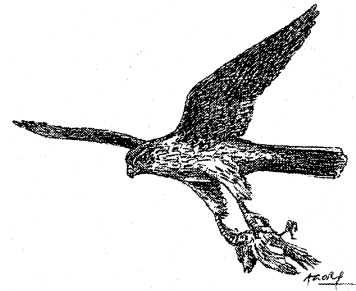
Among rare species that regularly occur in the province in winter, one of the most surprising is the BROAD-WINGED HAWK. This winter was no exception.



One was at South Bar, CB Co., Dec. 21 (CAM), one, an imm., on the Broad Cove CBC at Crousetown, Lun. Co., Dec. 29 (JAH), and one on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC, Dec 19 (Christopher Majka). Wintering RED-TAILED HAWKS are far more numerous in Kings and Anna. Cos. than elsewhere in the province. The Eagles/Raptors field trips in east Kings Co. turned up 75, Feb. 5 and a very high count of 164, Feb. 13, in keeping with the general impression that Red-tails were much more abundant than in recent years. Clearly, east Kings Co. is a winter concentration area for Red-tails just as it is for eagles (JWW, MAG). In fact, Red-tails were fairly widespread throughout the mainland, and were found on most mainland CBCs (21 out of 25). However, they are noticeably scarce on CBI in mid-winter; only four out of eight reported Red-tails. One captured a fairly unusual prey, an Am. Robin, Jan. 29 at Yarmouth (MUN, JON). After so few reports in the fall, ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS were much more widely reported this season, primarily from Pictou Hbr. and Halifax westwards, with multiple sightings of seven on the Wolfville CBC, Dec. 19 and five on the Amherst CBC, Dec. 20. There were still six birds at Grand Pré, Kings Co., Jan. 29 (DOU *et al.*) and seven in east Kings Co., Feb. 13 (JWW *et al.*). Most reports referred to light morphs, but up to five dark morph Rough-legged Hawks, which is a very striking bird, were reported from Kings Co. throughout the winter (JWW *et al.*) and one from CSI, Feb. 11 (JON). Rough-legs are rare on CBI in winter, so one at Cheticamp, Dec. 18 and one in the Framboise area in late February are noteworthy (*var. obs.*).

It was a good winter for reports of GOLDEN EAGLES. An imm. was reported hovering over Lake Banook close to Sullivans Pond, Dec. 14 (DOU) and a possible Golden Eagle was seen on the same date near Meteghan, Digby Co. (Sandy Hiltz). An imm. was soaring over Dartmouth, Dec. 19 (TEP), an imm. at John Fuller's feeding station at Pereaux, Kings Co. Feb. 22 (JWW), and finally yet another imm. was seen at The Hawk, CSI, Jan. 24 (JON) and possibly the same bird at Port Clyde, Shel. Co., Feb. 22 (*fide* MUN).

Predictably, for a half-hardy overwinterer, AM. KESTRELS were reported most frequently in December, and most frequently in the southern counties. January records came from Kings Co., at Grafton, Jan. 1 - 25 (AAM *et al.*) and at Middle Dyke Rd., Jan. 29 (JWW), from Shel. Co., at Port l'Hebert, Jan. 9 (DHY) and at Clyde R., Jan. 27 (Sandy Hiltz), from Halifax. Further sightings were at Martinique Beach, Jan. 3 (TEP) and at Seaview Park, Jan. 29 (ROG *et al.*), and from Sable I. Jan. 9

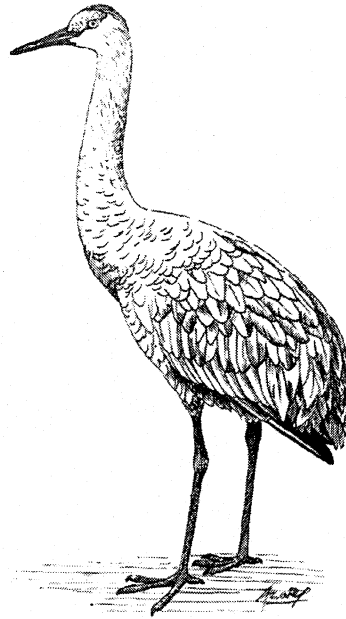


(ZOL). An ad. male overwintered in CB Co. in the Schooner Pond. - Pt. Morien area (CAM *et al.*). The only other February records were of singles noted on the Eagles/Raptor Field Trip in east Kings Co., Feb. 5 (JWW *et al.*) and near Canning, Kings Co., Feb. 28 (S. MacLean, AAM). There was the usual scattering of MERLINS throughout the province, from CBI to the southern islands. The provincial total of 26 on the CBCs was the highest in the last six years, with an impressive seven in the Wolfville area, Dec. 19. One made a meal of a Mourning Dove at Green Bay, Lun. Co., Jan. 23 (JAH). There was only one report of GYRFALCON this winter, a gray-phase individual in Halifax, Feb. 26 (TIA). PEREGRINE FALCONS were seen in Kings Co.: an ad. male east of Canning, Dec. 19 (AAM), an ad. at Habitant and an imm. in lower Canard Valley, Dec. 23 (MLH, ALK, IAP), one in eastern Kings Co., Jan. 1 (RBS *et al.*), one at N. Kingston, Jan. 6 (M. Inkpen, K. Cook), and an ad. at Fox Hill Cemetery, Feb. 5, at Grand Pré, Feb. 13, and at Pereaux, Feb. 22 (*var. obs.*) may have been the same individual. An imm. towered after starlings Feb. 17 at Dartmouth (IAM), and an ad. with a noticeably white breast was on Sable I., Jan. 10 (ZOL). One Feb. 13 at Chipmans Corner, Kings Co., photographed by

Donald Longley, showed head features of the *anatum* race and underparts of the *tundrius* race, most likely the result of mixing various races in the breeding program to bring this species back from the endangered list. As IAM has mentioned before, this unfortunately means that there are probably no "pure" *anatum* left.

There were only two areas where GRAY PARTRIDGE were reported this winter. A flock came to a feeder in Cambridge, Kings Co., through December into January (AAM), and 28 in three flocks on Truro dykelands in December and two flocks opposite Truro Mall were noted in Col. Co. in February (ROH *et al.*). RING-NECKED PHEASANTS were reported widely throughout the province, from Sydney and Cheticamp to Cape Sable. An impressive 257 were counted on the Wolfville CBC, Dec. 19. RUFFED GROUSE were widespread, with 29 of 33 CBCs reporting them. However, the total number (106) was much lower (barely more than half) than

those noted during the previous five years. SPRUCE GROUSE reports came in from the CBHNP, Halifax, Apple R., Lunenburg and Port Hebert, but the



species is clearly underreported. Released WILD TURKEYS and a N. BOBWHITE were noted in Anna. Co. in December (TOB *et al.*).

A VIRGINIA RAIL at Birchtown, Shel. Co., Feb. 16 was in a weak condition (JON). AM. COOTS put on another good show this winter. The fall flock on Bisset L., HRM, still held up to 12 birds in early December (BLM, TOB), and Sullivans Pond, HRM, had 14, Dec. 8 (BLM, Iain Wilkes). Harris Pond, Kings Co., had up to three during December (var. obs.). An unusual record was one with Am. Black Ducks at Port Morien, CB Co., Dec. 5 - 22 (CAM *et al.*). Finally, one was on Sable I. Dec. 4 and on Jan. 30 (ZOL), and one turned up at West Pubnico, Yar. Co., Jan. 8 (MUN *et al.*). The SANDHILL CRANE found last September near Antigonish Landing, was still being seen until Dec. 14, a mere three days prior to the local CBC count week (var. obs.). *Editor's note: grrrrrr...*

The Shorebirds

By Sylvia Fullerton

The fourth mild winter on record and an abundant food supply enticed a goodly number of hardy shorebirds to overwinter. The favoured coastal location continued to be the flats of CSI where MUN estimated over 300 birds on Feb. 22.

A high count of thirty BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER was reached on CBCs. Of these, 25 were at CSI, Dec. 18, decreasing to 15 by Feb. 15 (MUN *et al.*). Among other successful winterers were: two at Little Hbr., Shel. Co., Feb. 1 (DHY); one on Sable I., Feb. 2 (ZOL); singles at Cherry Hill and Crescent Beaches, Lun. Co. to Feb. 17 (var. obs.). Another seasonal high, six KILLDEER at Saxon Pond, Kings Co., Dec. 5 obligingly stayed for the Wolfville CBC, Dec. 19 (RBS). Elsewhere they were scarce: only one on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC, Dec. 19; one at Cherry Hill, Lun. Co., Dec. 31 (JAH); two at Pubnico Pt., Yar. Co., Jan. 2-25 (RSD). However, the 35+ birds which suddenly appeared round the province from late

January to early February provided a record-high count of early migrants (see table below). ELM offered a possible explanation when he noted that the two seen on Irene Falvey's lawn, Jan. 26, had arrived after a "violent southerly gale on the previous day."

The GREATER YELLOWLEGS on the Wolfville CBC, Dec. 19 provided its second CBC record (IAP, MAG, Jamie Gibson). Three at Melbourne Sanctuary, Yar. Co. Jan 2 & 8, with a single bird still there on Jan. 10, provided a record-late date (RSD, MUN *et al.*). A LESSER YELLOWLEGS at the same location, Jan. 10, furnished another late record (MUN *et al.*).

An extremely late UPLAND SANDPIPER was spotted at Meadows Rd., near Sydney, Dec. 2, making it the latest date on record (GEM, JUM). No doubt a wandering juvenile, it should have been in South America by that date.

The three RUDDY TURNSTONES

tallied on the CBCs were all at CSI on Dec. 18. However, up to six were seen there as late as Feb. 26 (JON, HHH). Two visited Sable I., Jan. 2 and four were spotted at Fox Bar, Shel. Co., Feb. 13 (ZOL, DOE *et al.*). RED KNOTS lingered into December in small numbers: two at Grand Pré, Kings Co., Dec. 23 (MLH, ALK); two at Conrads Beach, HRM, Dec. 24 (DWP, JAP); seven at Lockeport's Crescent Beach, Dec. 25 (DJC). CBCs produced 51, the highest total on record; of these, 48 were at CSI, Dec. 28, with 40 still there Feb. 19 (MUN, JON). Birds may have been on the move as counts from other beaches fluctuated as the season progressed: 14 at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. from late January to end of period (var. obs.); six at Port L'Hebert, Shel. Co., Feb. 5 (ELM, IAM). Only one visited Sable I., Feb. 2 (ZOL). SANDERLING wintered in good numbers. A total of 207 was reached on the CBCs, but surprisingly present on only three counts: 116 at CSI, 60 at Port L'Hebert, and 31 at Broad Cove. Again,

Killdeer Sightings

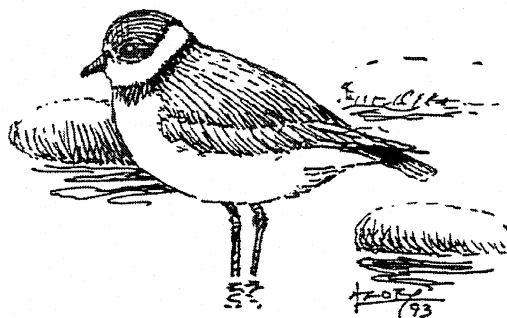
DATE	#	LOCATION	OBSERVERS
Jan. 26	2	Upper Kingsburg, Lun. Co.	Irene Falvey, <i>fide</i> ELM
Jan. 26	2	Little Hbr., Queens Co.	DHY
Jan. 28	2	Kennington Cove, CB	SEM
Jan. 29	2	Sober I., HRM	JEB, HAB
Jan. 29	2	Hartlen Pt., HRM	TEP
Jan. 29-30	10	Sable I.	ZOL
Jan. 30	1	Havenside Barrachois, CB	HOS
Jan. 30	1	Louisbourg Hbr.	HOS
Jan. 30	1	Fourchu Hbr., CB	SEM, JWM
Jan. 30	1	Canso Wharf	HAB, JEB
Jan. 30	5	Canso to Larrys R., Guys. Co.	KJM, CGB
Feb. 4-5	1	Conrad Beach, Lun. Co.	DMW, DWP, JAP
Feb. 5	2	Brier I.	MUN, JON, CST
Feb. 7	7	New Glasgow to Sherbrooke	KJM, CGB

numbers fluctuated: 100+ at Port L'Hebert, Shel. Co., Feb. 5 (ELM, IAM); 55 on Cape Light, CSI, Feb. 26 (HHH, MUN); 40 at Port Joli, Queens Co., Feb. 28 (AND); 30 at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. through February (JSC, JAH). On Sable I., one of their choice wintering sites, numbers peaked at 260+ Feb. 9 (ZOL).

The 14 problematic SEMIPALMATED/WESTERN SANDPIPERS were present at Cape Light, CSI at least up to Feb. 16 (MUN, JON). These birds should have undergone a partial molt into breeding/alternate plumage by the end of February, but being uncooperative and hiding out at the seaward side of Cape Light, I presume close views could not be had. Uncommon overwinterers, five WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS were found on the CSI CBC and a few were

still present Jan. 31 (MUN *et al.*). PURPLE SANDPIPERS were scattered irregularly around the coast, but in comparatively low numbers. Only 286 were tallied on the CBCs. Highest among these were: 125 in Halifax/Dartmouth, 76 in Louisbourg, and 19 in St. Peters. Roving birds seemed more visible later in the season: 40 at Port George, Anna. Co., Jan. 8 (AAM); 300+ close inshore at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., Feb. 5 (JSC); 100+ at Whitehead, Guys. Co., Mar. 5 (RFL, MZG). DUNLIN overwintered in average numbers, but December counts were low. Only 25 were tallied on the CBCs: 20 at CSI, four at Broad Cove, one at Economy. Overwinterers included: two at Little Hbr., Shel. Co., Feb. 1 (DHY); one at New Hbr., Guys. Co., Feb. 7 (KJM, CGB); one on Sable I., Feb. 9 (ZOL). At least two stayed at Crescent

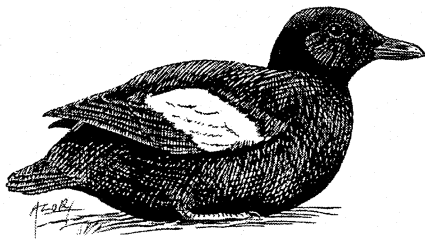
Beach, Lun. Co. to the end of the period (var. obs.). Other wandering birds included 20+ at Port L'Hebert, Shel. Co., Feb. 5. CSI was down to three Feb. 22, perhaps having lost them to Port Joli, Queens Co., where 24 were counted Feb. 28 (AND). COM. SNIPE were found at CSI, Broad Cove, Lun. Co., and W Pubnico, Yar. Co. in early December. Of the ten counted on CBCs, three were in the Pictou area Jan. 1 (KJM). Still surviving in the new year were singles at: Lower W Pubnico Jan. 6 (RSD); CSI Jan. 20 (CST); Petite Riviere, Lun. Co., Feb. 5 & 20 (JAH). AM. WOODCOCK were represented by four stragglers at: Cape Negro, Shel. Co., Dec. 18 (Sandy Hiltz); Yarmouth CBC, Dec. 19; Barrington, Shel. Co., Dec. 27 (MUN); CSI, Jan. 22. The latter, having survived to this date, unfortunately met its fate and was found dead on the road (MUN).



Skuas Through Alcids

By **Blake Maybank**

Single, unidentified JAEGERS were seen on two CBC's: CSI, Dec. 18 (BLM), and Louisbourg, also Dec. 18 (DBM). At least one of the **LITTLE GULLS** at Odgens Pond, Ant. Co., an ad., lingered into December; the only reported sighting was on Dec. 4 (CGB, BLM, IAM, KJM), but the bird likely remained until the pond froze over mid-month. CBC data paints the best picture of **BLACK-HEADED GULL** distribution across the province, and the 343 birds seen are a 40% increase over last year's high count. The following birds may have been missed on CBCs: 15 at First Peninsula, Lun. Co., Jan. 10 (ELM), and six at Little Hbr., Shel. Co., Jan. 3 (DHY). Odgens Pond lost its ice in mid-Feb. and RFL and MZG counted 40 there Feb. 18. Before the cold set in in mid-December, Pictou Hbr. and Odgens Pond were the places to see numbers of **BONAPARTE'S GULLS**. On Dec. 4, BLM, IAM, KJM, and CGB had 800 at the former location and 300 at the latter, but by the CBC period almost all left both locations. Notwithstanding this, there were 375 birds tallied province-wide on the CBCs, well above the previous record count of 205. The following counts had the lion's share: Annapolis (100); Antigonish (189). I found it odd that the other double digit counts were from CBI, including Eskasoni (34), St. Peters (16) and Canso Strait (13). There were few post-CBC reports, the only of any quantity being 10 at Mira Gut, CB Co., Jan. 6 (BLM, *et al.*).

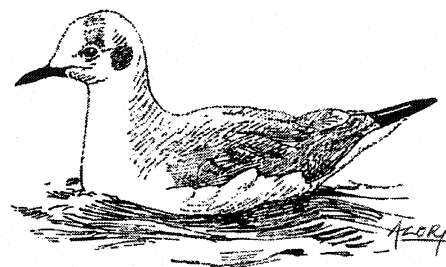


An adult **MEW (COMMON) GULL** was found at Tufts Cove, Dartmouth, in early December (IAM) and it remained in the area through most of the period (*var. obs.*). Another at the Pictou waterfront Dec. 31 (KJM, CGB), did not linger. The

RING-BILLED GULL story is most clearly revealed through CBC data. A record 1,777 individuals were counted, with the following counts reaching three-digit totals: Halifax (653), Wolfville (281), Antigonish (248), Yarmouth (176) and Economy (100); Pictou Hbr. was also notable with 93. **HERRING GULL** CBC numbers were down after last year's unusually high count, but the nearly 30,000 birds suggests that the population is not declining, as similar counts were made through the 1990's. An adult **THAYER'S GULL** was found at the Richmond Terminal Pier (Pier #9, the "old Volvo Plant"), Halifax, on Jan. 15 (FLL *et al.*) and the bird was seen thereafter through the period and was photographed. This is likely the first documented bird of this species for the province. RBS found another adult at the Kentville Sewage Ponds Jan. 26, but this bird did not linger. Many observers sent in sightings of a few **ICELAND GULLS**, with a couple even suggesting numbers were down. The CBC data revealed otherwise. The 2,598 counted across the province is almost 400 higher than the previous high count. Four counts shared most of the birds, including Northport (636), the Sydneys (550), Glace Bay (524) and Halifax (476). The only single point higher count was 800+ birds seen in an enormous feeding frenzy in the approaches to Halifax Hbr., Jan. 13, from the HMCS *Ville de Québec* (BLM), but also of interest were the 200+ birds seen by BLF at the Digby Gut at Victoria Beach, Jan. 9, in a feeding frenzy with alcids and other gulls.

There were at least seven or eight **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS** across the province this winter, likely more. None, however, was very faithful to any single site, unlike birds of yore. Two adults were in Kings Co. and seen at various locales, especially the New Minas sewage ponds, but also the Canard area (BST, JWW, RBS). ELM had an oddly plumaged 2nd winter bird in the Canard area, Dec. 24, with a full black tail band and a black bill tipped with yellow. JAH had a bird in Lunenburg, Dec. 12 and one or two birds were in the

Sydney to Glace Bay area of CB (CAM). An adult was seen twice at the Pictou Causeway in January-February (KLM, CGB) and another bird was noted on the Springville count. Finally, as if a ghost from the past, an adult appeared one day



only at Richmond Terminal Pier on Feb. 18 (IAM). If Iceland Gulls were up, then **GLAUCOUS GULLS** were down, with but 34 seen on the CBC's, 22 on CB. Ones and twos were noted here and there across the province otherwise, with six on CSI, at the Sea Star Plant, Jan. 7 (MUN). The 6,812 **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS** on the CBCs was the lowest total since 1989 which, if reflective of an actual decline in numbers, bodes well for the province's tern colonies. It's too bad the CBC data do not capture the adult/immature ratios. Since **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES** are pelagic, CBC counts aren't reflective of their abundance; unsurprisingly, 500 of the 536 recorded were from Brier I., Dec. 29. There were a dozen or so inshore sightings of single immatures along the Eastern Shore and CB in January and February. In addition, DBM and RWK counted 20 along the CB Co. shoreline Jan. 8. BLM counted 350 off Chebucto Hd., Dec. 11, and had 500 in the same feeding frenzy as the Iceland Gulls in the approaches to Halifax Hbr., Jan. 13, from the HMCS *Ville de Québec*.

This winter would not be considered an alcid winter. First, **DOVEKIES** were hard to find except along the south coast of CB from mid-December (five at Gooseberry Cove, Dec. 5, SEM) through early January (eight at Lorraine and Baleine, Jan. 1, DBM, RWK). More than

half the 86 CBC birds were on the Louisbourg count, but many may have succumbed to oiling according to a duck hunter who reported finding many oiled, dead birds in the Gooseberry Cove area. Elsewhere the only "significant" sightings were six at Baccaro Pt., Jan. 16 (MUN), and three at Margaretsville, Anna. Co., Feb. 13 (MLH, ALK). Murres barely registered on the CBC radar, with but six COMMON MURRES and 13 THICK-BILLED MURRES. BLF had eight Commons at the Digby Gut,

Jan. 9 and MUN had an oiled bird on CSI, Feb. 20. There were seven reports of 11 Thick-billed Murres outside of the CBCs, not including the 22 seen off Brier I., Feb. 20 (CAH). RAZORBILL were also scarce, but that is more expected, with but six on the CBCs. BLM counted 20 off Chebucto Hd., Dec. 11. A handful were otherwise reported, with the most unexpected locales being Port Mouton, Jan. 13 (RSC) and Jimtown, Ant. Co., Dec. 4 (BLM, IAM, CGB, KJM). A total of 326 BLACK

GUILLEMOT on the CBCs was par for the course, and the few other contributed sightings seemed routine in place and number. ATLANTIC PUFFIN are supposed to be rare in winter and this year they were, with two on CBCs (CSI and Halifax) and only two others reported: one oiled bird in Mill Cove, St. Margarets Bay, Jan. 11 (BLM, Artie Ahier) and a storm-wrecked bird at McLellans Brook, Pict. Co., Jan. 21 (KJM), which was released to an unknown fate.

Doves Through Woodpeckers

By Ian McLaren

Great CBC efforts produced the second-largest ever total of ROCK DOVES and the most ever MOURNING DOVES. Other reports revealed no trends, although several noted flocks of 20-30 of the more-welcome wild species at their feeders. In an effort to get rid of Rock Doves at his feeders, TOB tried trapping and displacement. To his astonishment, on checking his trap during the evening of Jan. 18, he found among the pests within the province's 18th **WHITE-WINGED DOVE**. On being released, never to be seen again, the bird lost some tail feathers, now deposited in the NS Museum of Natural History.

It was a good winter for owl watchers, but not necessarily for owls. Barred Owls in particular were frequently seen hunting by day in early winter, and record numbers of Saw-whet Owls were caught by banders in S Canada and the N United States. The very high cone crop in 1998-1999 may have fostered high rodent, and therefore owl, productivity. But, these prey may not have been so available in winter, which could have especially troubled first-winter birds.

The 22 GREAT HORNED OWLS on our CBCs tied the 1998 record. Among the eight post-CBC reports was of one wanderer to central Dartmouth, Feb. 25, after the fierce blizzard. Despite contrary early indications, this was a "low" winter for SNOWY OWLS. Three could be found from late December through February at CSI, generally on the Cape proper (var. obs.), where a mini-plague of rats probably sustained them. One was

at Yarmouth, Jan. 9 (MUN), and individuals (on the move?) materialized in Kings Co., Jan. 23 (MAG) and on Sable I., Feb. 22-25 (ZOL). In the unfortunately little-surveyed area of Canso, local residents enjoyed one for over two weeks in February (*vide* RFL). BARRED OWLS were three times as numerous as ever on CBCs, and 14 reports of 16 individuals during January-February were also more than usual. BLF writes of his backyard pair that "as I



placed food on its feeder (the male) flew in and took it. I felt the wind on my face. By mid-February, the female was visiting the nestbox." Few of us see LONG-EARED OWLS, and in some

winters they are not found at all. Following the single CBC bird, individuals were at Pubnico, Jan. 16 (MUN *et al.*), another was hunting by day, Jan. 20 at The Hawk, CSI (MUN *et al.*), and one, surprisingly, was found near a Barred Owl in a woodlot near Canning, Feb. 23 (*vide* JWW). SHORT-EARED OWLS were more evident: four over dykelands near Bible Hill, Jan. 2 (ROH); one to three at various Kings Co. sites (var. obs.; three together at Grand Pré, Feb. 9, SAW); one at Mt. Denson, Hants Co., Feb. 22 (Cheryl Phillips). There was a near-record CBC total of N. SAW-WHET OWLS on CBCs, but only four were reported thereafter. Like Barred Owls, young Saw-whets may have suffered from prey shortage and other threats; one perched on wires at Barrington Passage, Jan. 22 (*vide* MUN) could have been the road kill found nearby Feb. 24 (GRM).

BELTED KINGFISHERS on CBCs have gone up steadily from eight-fourteen in the early 90's to a record 35 this season. They remained "common at many freshwater outlets along the coast" into February (as summarized by AAM). However, RSD noted Feb. 25 that around Eel Brook, Yar. Co., the preceding "big blizzard seemed to have wiped out several Kingfishers...but one remained stoically on its perch near Eel L."

Two **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS** graced feeders this winter. Both the bird in Wolfville (most often seen at the Herbin's feeders) and the one near Bear R. (at Bev and David

Parker's) appeared shortly after Christmas, but only the former was reported after late February. The modest increases in DOWNY and HAIRY WOODPECKERS on CBCs in recent years probably reflect increased effort. Later reports add nothing to suggest any trends, although BLM thought that the numbers at his feeders reflected a locally good breeding season. In Halifax, PLC heard first courtship drumming by a

Downy, Feb. 22, and by a Hairy, Feb. 26. BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS have shown no increase over the years despite increased CBC effort; i.e., they may actually have decreased over the years. Only three post-CBC birds were reported: at Mt. Uniacke, Jan. 9 (TEP), New Glasgow, Jan. 23 (AAM), and near Louisbourg, Feb. 10 (RWK). N. FLICKERS numbers increased on CBCs during the 90's, but may have leveled off

now. They continued to be reported in good numbers, about 17 in January and eight in February, often at feeders. There was a drop in numbers of CBC PILEATED WOODPECKERS compared with last year's spectacular total. Six reports of about eight post-CBC birds were also fewer than we've had in recent years.

Flycatchers Through Thrushes

By Eric L. Mills

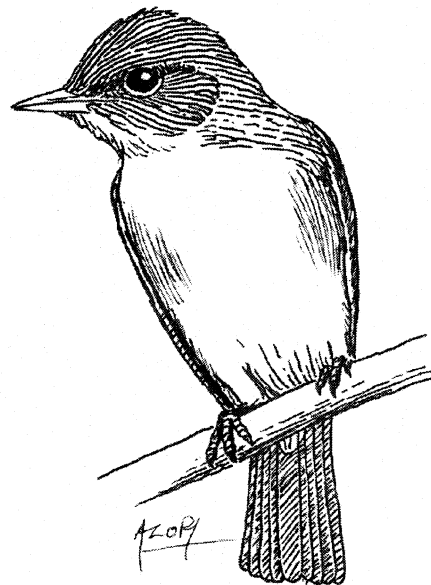
Not unprecedented in winter, but noteworthy nonetheless, was an E. PHOEBE in Middle West Pubnico, Yar. Co., from about Dec. 26 through Jan. 2 (*fide* MUN). Another, or possibly the same bird, was at Oak Park, Barrington, Shel. Co., Jan. 3 (JUG, *fide* MUN). At the other end of the province, the long-staying W. KINGBIRD first found at Coxheath, CB Co., Oct. 15 reappeared on Boularderie I., CB Co., where it was still present Dec. 7, surviving to be recorded on The Sydneys CBC Dec. 21 (DBM).

After their appearance in the Maritimes in significant numbers in October, a few N. SHRIKES remained in the province through February, scattered between Shel., Cum. and Inv. Cos. CBCs revealed a total of 54 throughout the province in early winter, the maximum counts being nine in Halifax/Dartmouth, Dec. 19 and six in W. Hants, Dec. 27.

Any vireo in winter is attention-getting, and a number of us have seen Christmas-season Blue-headed Vireos, but one watched for a few minutes by SCY during the Halifax CBC, Dec. 19, may have been a PLUMBEOUS VIREO from the U. S. Rocky Mountain region (a species recently split from the Solitary Vireo complex), but it disappeared and could not be found again.

GRAY JAYS appear to have been up to usual numbers. Amherst, where 21 were reported Dec. 20, is evidently their provincial capital, but hardly a census

area lacked this species. Two to five were seen most days at KFS's feeder in Apple R., Cum. Co. BLUE JAYS, as is



their custom, retreated from all but urban and the richest country areas after Christmas. They reappeared in numbers at feeders throughout the province during February. Nearly 6,000 in total appeared on the CBCs in December, peak numbers being 831 in Wolfville, 510 in W. Hants and 447 in Halifax/Dartmouth. AM. CROWS remained abundant throughout the period. The 7,645 on the Springville CBC far exceeded the counts anywhere else, and a winter roost in Sackville, HRM, with an estimated 2,500-3,000 birds in January and February, attracted much attention (EHC). It would be interesting to know the origin of these

birds and the dates they assembled and began to disperse. COMMON RAVEN reports were few and far between. One to five were reported, December – March, in the Apple R., Cum. Co. area (KFS).

Sixty-five to one hundred HORNED LARKS remained on the Grand Pré dykelands, Kings Co., throughout the winter until early February, when numbers were augmented by migrants (RBS *et al.*). The CBCs revealed others, including 83 in Truro and 25 in the CSI area during the December count period. Later reports revealed one at The Hawk, CSI, Jan. 3 & 25 (CST), 11 at N Kingston, Kings Co., Jan. 30 (PBG), and six at Martinique Beach, Hfx. Co., Feb. 13 (TEP).

Nova Scotia's parids were disappointingly prosaic compared to the occurrences of Tufted Titmouse in at least two New Brunswick locations between late December and mid-February. Here in Nova Scotia, BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were sparsely reported except on CBCs, though according to my observations they dominated among feeder-birds during a quiet winter. Quietly doing their thing in the woods, BOREAL CHICKADEES were reported in low numbers on nearly every CBC, but otherwise there were only three reports: two, South Side Hbr., Ant. Co., Jan. 9 (RFL, MZG), three at Lower W Pubnico, Yar. Co., Feb. 10, regulars at a suet feeder (RSD), and one, Apple R., Cum. Co. (KFS). Scarce this winter, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES came to feeders in

lower than usual numbers throughout the province and were low on at least the CSI and Broad Cove CBCs (ELM, AHM) although reported on nearly every count from one end of the province to the other. Despite its characterization as "scarce," 235 WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCHES were reported on CBCs, the peak numbers as follows: Wolfville 52, Caledonia 41, Bedford 31, and Halifax/Dartmouth 27. South End Halifax remains a good place to locate this delightful species: up to six were reported through January (JCZ, ELM, ABM). In addition there were two in the Petite Riviere area, Lun. Co., Dec. 11-29 (JAH), one in Purlbrook, Ant. Co., Dec. 22 (Harriet MacMillan *et al.*) and one that stayed at a Wolfville Ridge feeder, Kings Co., from September until Jan. 1, reappearing (if it was the same male) Feb. 29 (GWT, JCT). A scattering of reports ranging from Queens to Ant. Cos. indicated usual numbers of BROWN CREEPERS, even a modest concentration in S End Halifax (RFL *et al.*). The CBCs showed peak counts of 42 in Halifax/Dartmouth, 15 in Bedford, and 11 in Wolfville but very low numbers everywhere else from Yarmouth to CBHNP.

In the wren category too, New Brunswick takes the prize: a Carolina Wren in Fredericton in early January. But only slightly less surprising are three reports (none accompanied by notes) of HOUSE WRENS in Nova Scotia: one in

Greenwich, Kings Co., Dec. 4 (BLF), one in S End Halifax, Dec. 19 (Milsoms, *vide* AAM; CBC), and one in Dartmouth, Jan. 4 (*vide* FLL). A few WINTER WRENS stuck it out into early and mid-winter: one on the Halifax/Dartmouth CBC, Dec. 19; two on the Shubenacadie CBC the same day; one on the W Hants CBC, Dec. 27; one on Second Peninsula, Lun. Co., during a CBC, Jan. 2 (RSC); and one at Port La Tour, Shel. Co., Jan. 16 (MUN *et al.*). A lone MARSH WREN remained at Hartlen Pt., HRM, through Dec. 8 (BLM).

RES's record of two GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS in Clayton Park, Halifax, Feb. 25 and KFS's report of two at Apple R., Cum. Co., Dec. 5 (one of which was still present Feb. 1) are the only reports of this omnipresent but little-remarked species except on CBCs, where they were ubiquitous. Its winter-scarce relative, RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, managed to hang on into the depths of winter: one or two in the Sullivans Pond area, Dartmouth, Dec. 4-24; one in the Wolfville area, Dec. 12; a remarkable 12 on the Halifax/Dartmouth CBC, Dec. 19; one on each of the Wolfville and Pubnico CBCs, Dec. 19 & 26; and one in Woodburn, Pict. Co., Feb. 6 (KJM, CGB). Unreported until now, and worthy of note, was a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER at Economy, Col. Co., Nov. 9-10 (FLS).

Remarkable for its date, a N. **WHEATEAR**, undocumented, was reported Feb. 11 from Fourchu, CB Co. (JWM, *vide* CAM)

Perhaps part of a regional pattern, **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRES** appeared Dec. 20 in W End Halifax (*vide* AAM) and at Debert, Col. Co., about Dec. 29 (*vide* AAM; CBC data). The latter was still present Jan. 20 (FLS, EPS), though it was apparently not as long-staying as one in Albert Co., N.B., Dec. 27 through mid-March. DWP and JAP played host to a HERMIT THRUSH, which ate grapes at their feeder in Westphal, HRM, Jan. 16-20. Earlier, there had been two on the Halifax/Dartmouth CBC, Dec. 19 and one on the Pubnico census, Dec. 26. Well before Christmas, the autumn's abundant AM. ROBINS had moved on, although there were still scattered records totalling about 500 on CBCs, 300 at Blanche, Shel. Co., Dec. 22 (MUN), 11 near Wolfville, Jan. 2 (JWW), and 40+ near Port Williams, Kings Co., Jan. 10 (AAM), and a few at other locations in the eastern Annapolis Valley, Lun. Co., and Cum. Co. (JAH, EHC, MSM) through January and February. Nova Scotia's only **VARIED THRUSH** of the winter, reticent and hard to find in Lower Sackville, HRM, between about Jan. 23 and Feb. 20 (CLS *et al.*), was matched regionally by one in St. Johns, Nfld., in early February and one throughout that same month in York Co., NB.

Corvids Through Waxwings

By Andy Horn

Not surprisingly, only one GRAY CATBIRD was reported, on the West Hants CBC. In contrast, an incredible 43 N. MOCKINGBIRDS appeared on CBCs across the province, nearly double the previous high count. Indeed, the 17 seen in the Wolfville, Kings Co. count alone would have been a respectable provincial total in past years. This year's lone BROWN THRASHER wintered at CAH's feeder in Westport, Digby Co. As one might have predicted from the large flocks seen this past fall, EUR. STARLINGS yielded a CBC total that,

at nearly 75,000 individuals, was second only to last year's total.

An average number of reports of AM. PIPITS came from the usual coastal locations. Pubnico, Yar. Co., provided both the high count of 25, Jan. 6 (RSD), and the dozen that, remarkably, were all that were seen on any Nova Scotian CBC.

BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS celebrated a bumper year by "eating every berry in sight (AAM)." The total of 7,175 seen on the CBC was the second highest of the

peaks that have appeared, roughly every two years, over the last decade. Half of these birds were seen on the Wolfville and West Hants counts, although ample flocks were reported throughout the province. Totals of CEDAR WAXWINGS on the CBC, which vary in rough synchrony with their northern cousins, were of course much lower, but nonetheless were close to four digits for only the second time ever. Most of the 973 reported came from several counts of more than a hundred, all from the Annapolis Valley.

Warblers

By Andy Horn

About half as many ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS were seen this winter as last. Nonetheless, eight seen during CBCs were still double the number on record before 1997, thanks largely to the food and shelter of HRM, where at least five were reported. These birds were more likely to have survived the winter than the respectable, albeit not unprecedented, three NASHVILLE WARBLERS from HRM (var. obs.). At least one of these showed characteristics of the western race, *ridwayi*: "bright yellow-green rump, grayish green back, and much whitish on the belly region. It also pumped its tail quite vigorously at times (IAM)."

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, an uncommon but regular resident along the coast, yielded only 238 individuals on the CBC, over a third of these from the Cape Sable count. This slightly below-average CBC total, coupled with paltry, albeit well-distributed, records bore out the comment that "these seem to be very scarce this year (PLC)." A single **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** in Kentville, not unheard of in winter, was reported as well described, but was only seen Dec. 16 (Diana Bishop *fide* JWW). The NE shore of Lake Banook was the place to see PINE WARBLERS this winter; five dull imms. and two

bright winter ads. were scattered along a few blocks there in January (BLM). Of the remarkable total of 25 sightings on the CBC, 14 were in HRM and seven were in Lunenburg. Either of the latter subtotals would have been a respectable number of reports for the province for any normal winter; the previous provincial record was 16 birds, attained only last year.



Our second and final bold-faced rarity among warblers is a **PRAIRIE WARBLER** reported from Schooner Pond, CB Co., Jan. 8 (JUM, *fide* KJM). High counts of PALM WARBLERS, with 11 lingering to the CBC, and of BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLERS, with a record-breaking high of four on the CBC, make one a believer in global warming. The latter birds were all in HRM, which was also the source of the sole OVENBIRD for this winter, seen during the CBC and not reported thereafter. One of these birds per winter is about par for the course. There were only two reports of COM. YELLOWTHROATS, both provincial CBCs from HRM. There was only a single WILSON'S WARBLER report, from Wolfville, Dec. 12 (BLF).

Not all warblers are showing the same patterns, year to year. Contrast the pathetic showing of the Com. Yellowthroat with the incredible CBC total of 18 YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS. Granted, 15 of these were from the warm, feeder-rich shelter of HRM, but the other half dozen sightings (var. obs.) stretched from Yar. to CB Co. It will be interesting to see which warblers thrive and which decline if our winters continue their warming trend.

Tanagers Through House Sparrow

By David McCorquodale

A highlight of the winter was the invasion by Common Redpolls. There was one outstanding vagrant, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, found by Patricia Chalmers on the Halifax CBC. It was very obliging through the rest of the winter. As has happened in other locations, when one rarity attracts birders, they find others. This was certainly the case in the Rosemount Dr. area of Halifax in late December.

Tanagers should be in Central or South America during the winter. Our only report is of a male W. TANAGER that

spent a few days in Barrington area Dec. 5-10 (L. Stewart, Sid Smith *fide* MUN). E. TOWHEES are rare in the winter. This year there were four reports, a couple more than last year, but similar to the year before. One individual was found in December and then spent the winter in Bedford (ROG). Three others were found later in the winter, in Yarmouth, Shelburne and Pictou. The latter was still at a feeder in Trenton late in February.

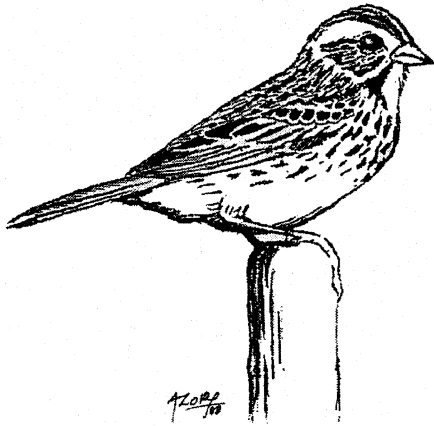
AM. TREE SPARROWS were widespread in December and early

January. The more than 1,100 tallied on CBCs, is a pretty normal total for recent years. The largest concentrations were in the Wolfville area. Only three CBCs missed them, all were on CBI. In late February some were still brightening up roadsides in several localities, especially in Kings Co.

CHIPPING SPARROWS are rare in winter. A few attempted to overwinter at feeders, with limited success. Ten were found on CBCs in late December and early January, with the most, four, at Annapolis. This total is a bit lower than

the average for the past three years. Lingering individuals were found in HRM until at least the end of January, into February in Kentville (RBS) and perhaps most surprising in Guys. Co. at the end of January (KJM, CGB).

Three rarer sparrows were found. A FIELD SPARROW was found during the Halifax CBC and lingered into January. In mid-January a VESPER SPARROW was found in Coldbrook, Kings Co.



(RBS, AAM). This is the third year in a row that the only Vesper Sparrow of the winter has shown up in late January or February. The third rarity was a LARK SPARROW that spent about a week, right at CBC time, near Lake Banook in Dartmouth. Alas, it was missed on the day of the Halifax count.

The CBCs turned up about an average number of SAVANNAH SPARROWS across the province in late December. Some observers thought numbers were down. This may be a result of their concentration in a couple of areas, Halifax and the dykelands near Truro (EPS, FLS). More than half of the provincial total was counted in these two places. Of interest is the number that successfully overwintered around the province. In February there were still several in Kings Co. and more unusual, although not unprecedented, were hardy individuals on three different beaches in CB in late February (DBM, RWK). The larger, paler version, "Ipswich Sparrow" was found on four different CBCs, from CSI to The Sydneys. They do not normally attend feeders nor overwinter on CBI. However, during snowy and

stormy weather one came to a feeder in Louisbourg for much of January and February (RWK).

A few FOX SPARROWS lingered into early December and eight were found on six mainland CBCs, the vast majority at feeders. At least one was still at a feeder in Halifax in mid-February (JCZ). Almost 700 SONG SPARROWS were found on the CBCs across the province, with more than a third of these in the metro Halifax area. Observers in Kings Co. thought the numbers were down compared to the past few years. A few males started their welcome songs as early as Feb. 8 in Halifax. By the end of the month, the hardy males that successfully overwintered were loudly defending territories across the province. LINCOLN'S SPARROWS are extremely rare in winter. Only one was found this winter, near South Bar, CB Co. during The Sydneys CBC (ALM, CAM).

Halifax/Dartmouth again tallied the highest number of SWAMP SPARROWS on CBCs, with more than half of the provincial total of 48. The maximum on seven other mainland counts which reported this species was less than 10. These are hardy birds, but there were no reports of this species after early January this winter. In contrast reports of WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS continued unabated right through until late February. At least one survived the winter at a feeder in Louisbourg, despite none being found on CBCs on CBI. A total of just more than 450 were counted on 21 mainland CBCs. This is slightly above the provincial average for the past 10 years, but well below the all-time high of more than 2000 recorded in 1976. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS made a good showing on CBCs, with four being found on four different counts. None were reported after the first few days of January

A birding highlight of the winter was an *imm.* **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW** found by PLC on the Halifax/Dartmouth CBC. For the rest of the winter it frequented the shrubby growth along the railway off Rosemount Dr. where many birders were able to study it.

DARK-EYED JUNCOS were found on all except two of the CBCs. Two counts, Wolfville and Halifax/Dartmouth, each tallied more than 1,000; combined they accounted for half the provincial total. By late February males were singing on the warm, sunny days. An interesting individual was found along with the Golden-crowned Sparrow on Rosemount Dr. in Halifax. The consensus now is that it was a Pink-sided Junco (*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*). This subspecies has dark lores contrasting with a lighter gray head and as the name suggests pinkish sides. Intriguingly, these juncos breed in the mountains of southern British Columbia, very close to where Golden-crowned Sparrows breed.

LAPLAND LONGSPURS were found on only four CBCs and the overall numbers were down compared to the average for the past ten years. Two thirds of the provincial total were on the Halifax CBC. None were found on count day in Wolfville, however small flocks were seen regularly with Horned Larks in Kings Co. through the latter half of the winter. Individuals on CSI and Whitehill, Pict. Co. Feb. 20 (MUN, MAB) and at South Bar, CB Co. Feb. 27 (DBM, RWK) were likely the vanguard of spring migration. After the invasion of SNOW BUNTINGS in the fall, their numbers declined to what we would consider average through most of the winter. They were found on two thirds of the CBCs, with the total of more than 1,500 about average for the past ten years. Reports of flocks from a few to more than 100 came from diverse locations through January and February.

This has definitely been a banner year for N. CARDINALS. They continue to do well in HRM, Lunenburg, Yarmouth, Kings Co., Anna. Co., Pubnico, CSI and Port Joli. Less expected were individuals at feeders in Mount Uniacke through the winter (Jean Patriquin, BLM) and Pictou in early December (Elwin Hemphill). The CBCs demonstrated just how quickly the population is increasing. Last year an all-time provincial high of 33 was established. This year that all-time high was doubled, 67 were counted on eight different CBCs.



In December there were at least four DICKCISSELS on CBI, including one on the Eskasoni CBC (ALM, CAM) and another on the St. Peters CBC. Only two others were found on mainland CBCs. The total of four is about average for counts during the past ten years. The one found on the Pubnico CBC lingered at least until late February (RSD).

A few RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS lingered from CBI to CSI in early December. Just more than 50 were counted on five different CBCs, with almost half at Shubenacadie. A few hardy individuals frequented feeders in the south in January and February. As expected, the first spring migrants arrived during the last few days of February, including a flock of 20 in Barrington, Shel. Co. (MUN). It can be extremely difficult to distinguish between E. and W. Meadowlarks. Likely most, but not all, of our vagrants are E. Two meadowlark sp. were found this winter. The first was at The Hawk, CSI in very early December and the second on the Antigonish CBC later in the

month. A carefully described E. MEADOWLARK was found by MEK near Kingsport, Kings Co. Feb. 22 and subsequently scrutinized by others. Kings Co. birders noted that most previous records of this species are from late fall and winter. Another rarity was a YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD in Donkin, CB Co. It had been around for much of the fall but had not been seen in December. So it was a pleasant surprise that diligent searching was rewarded on the Glace Bay CBC.

Only two RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were tallied on CBCs. Later in the winter individuals were at feeders in Hebron, Yar. Co. and Coldbrook, Kings Co. (JUG, AAM). More surprising was one in Boylston, Guys. Co. Jan. 30 (KJM, CGB). Almost 100 COM. GRACKLES were on 12 CBCs. This total is slightly lower than average for the past ten years, a little surprising considering the mild weather for much of December. Many of these lingered around feeders in the southern half of the province into late January and February. By the end of

February, early spring migrants were in Barrington, Halifax and Shubenacadie (MUN, BLM, RCM). The BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD was the most numerous of our blackbirds on CBCs, more than 150 were tallied on 11 counts. Almost half of these were at Shubenacadie. A flock of 25 found Feb. 27 in Barrington (MUN) were probably early spring migrants.

In early December feeders across the province hosted BALTIMORE ORIOLES. Later in December they were found on nine CBCs, with an all-time provincial high of 36. The five highest counts of this species are all in the past five years. Just more than half of the 36 were on the Halifax count. A feeder in Howie Centre, CB Co. hosted seven in early December, dwindling to only five by the day of The Sydneys CBC (JWM). One of these hardy individuals accepted the grapes, apples and other fruit provided right through to the end of February. Surprisingly there were at least two other orioles surviving at feeders in CB Co. in late February. Elsewhere, many, but not quite all, of the orioles disappeared in January or early February.

As expected for the finches, the numbers of some species were quite high, others were about average and still others were well below average. The number of many of these species fluctuate in response to food supplies both in NS and in neighbouring parts of their winter range. Through the winter there were good concentrations of PINE GROSBEAKS in northern NS, especially Pict. and Ant. Cos. (KJM, RFL, Rick Ballard). The CBCs reflected this, with more than 100 tallied in Antigonish, just more than a quarter of the provincial total. Overall, the total for the province was slightly below average compared to the last ten years. PURPLE FINCH numbers were well below average. They were found on 18 counts, with the highest counts in Halifax and Wolfville. Through the rest of the winter scattered individuals were at feeders from CBI to CSI. HOUSE FINCH numbers continue to remain high. This invader has established nesting populations in Halifax and Yarmouth. This winter a small group has resided in Wolfville. By the end of February some

of the males were singing as they established territories in the urban habitats they prefer.

Crossbill populations are well known for tracking fluctuating food supplies. During the past few years many observers have noticed an increasing use of feeders by these birds. Normally the number of RED CROSSBILLS does not fluctuate as much as those of White-winged Crossbills. Therefore it is not surprising that their numbers on the CBCs were about average compared to the past ten years. What is fascinating is how many of these were at feeders. Feeders from Lunenburg to Wolfville to Main-a-Dieu, Caribou Marsh and Louisbourg, CB Co. hosted Red Crossbills throughout the winter. Normally WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS feed on the seeds in cones of spruce and fir. The bumper cone crop of last year was exhausted and therefore there was little food available this winter. As expected the numbers were way down. This year on CBCs the total was down more than 90% from last year. Again what was surprising was the number of birds at feeders. Some of these, for example the ones in Louisbourg, frequented feeders during harsh weather throughout the winter.

The situation with COM. REDPOLLS was exactly the reverse of that for White-winged Crossbills. This winter, birders throughout the province found them on most field trips, they were frequent visitors to feeders throughout and the CBCs tallied a new provincial high. This

is in contrast to the dearth of redpolls last winter when only 33 were found on CBCs. This year more than 11,000 were tallied on the CBCs, a new all-time high, more than twice the previous high. Flocks of up to 200 were still around in late February. With a massive invasion of Commons some HOARY REDPOLLS are expected. However there are significant challenges in distinguishing the larger, paler northern birds from their darker, southern relatives. There is some overlap in colouration between the two species and significant variation due to both age and sex. Besides the colouration, it is also important to look at the shape and size of the bill. Hoaries appear to have a bill that has been shoved back into their face. Most of our reports are from December rather than later in the winter and all are from flocks of Com. Redpolls. In early December individuals were found in Florence, CB Co. and Economy (DBM, FLS), the latter staying for much of the winter and joined by at least a couple of others. In early January there was one at Lake Echo, HRM (TOB) and later in the month one in Port Morien (Jimmy Murrant), very close to where the only report originated last winter.

Like many other finches, numbers of PINE SISKINS were way down. They were found on more than half of the CBCs, but the highest total was only 77, in Wolfville. In past winters some feeders would host that many. Throughout the winter numbers remained low and sightings attracted attention. The vast majority of the

sightings this winter originate from Halifax and Kings Co. Numbers of AM. GOLDFINCH were about average, compared to the last ten years of CBCs. They were sparse in many areas, but good numbers in the corridor from Halifax, through Shubenacadie to Kings Co. brought the provincial total on CBCs up to the average. It was not an invasion year for EVENING GROSBEAKS, yet they were widespread and reasonably visible. In early December flocks of a few dozen were noted at feeders from diverse parts of the province from Debert to CBI to Maders Cove, Lun., Co. (Maria Forman, JBM). All except one CBC tallied some, showing just how widespread they were. More than 300 were counted on the West Hants, Shubenacadie, and Amherst CBCs, and several others tallied more than 100.

There were lots of HOUSE SPARROWS noted this winter. The provincial total on the CBCs fell just short of 8,000 and the all-time high from last year. Besides being very common, they were also widespread, with reports from all except two CBCs. What is very encouraging and helpful from my perspective is how many more records I am receiving for this species than when I started writing these reports a few years ago. House Sparrows noticed the changing day length and the approach of spring. In late February PLC noticed the aggressive interactions among several sparrows as they inspected nesting cavities in a Halifax street light. 🐦

Errata: From the Winter 2000 issue:

We apologize for leaving out Ken McKenna's name from the Loons through Grebes report that he wrote in Fred Dobson's absence and for inadvertently substituting Ian McLaren's name in the Corvids through Flycatchers section written by Eric Mills.



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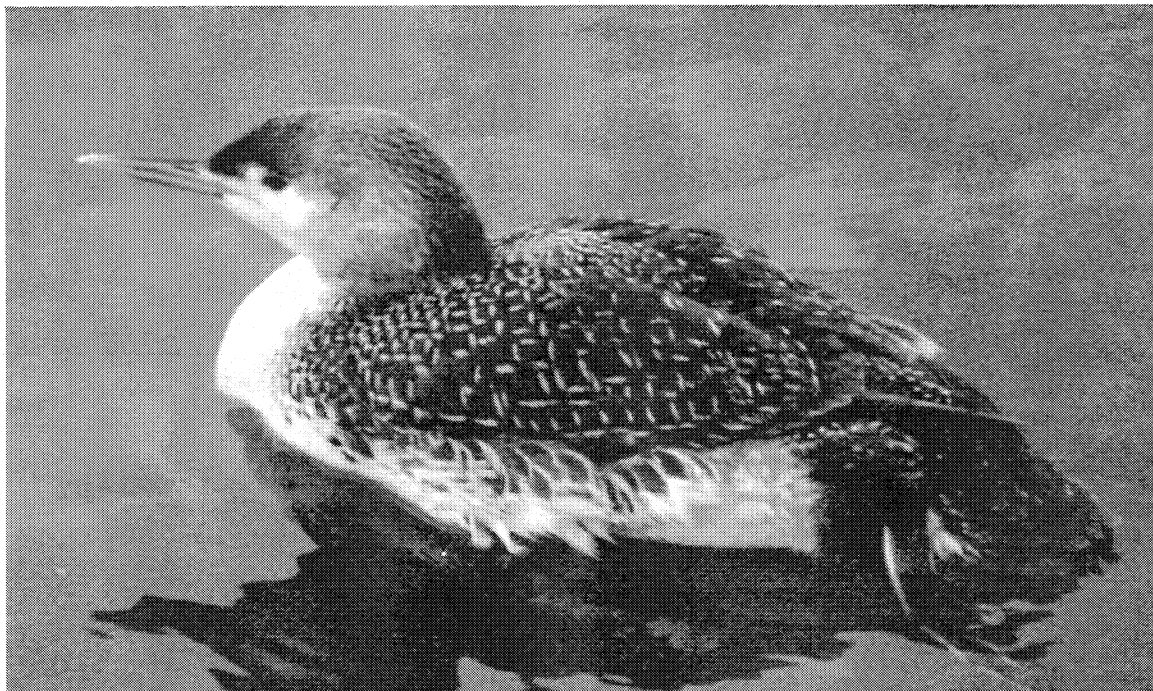
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Abbreviations

Place Names		Bird Names		Counties	
APBS	Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary	Am.	American	Anna. Co.	Annapolis
CB	Cape Breton	Com.	Common	Ant. Co.	Antigonish
CBHNP	Cape Breton Highlands National Park	E.	Eastern	CB Co.	Cape Breton
CSI	Cape Sable I.	Eur.	European, Eurasian	Col. Co.	Colchester
Hbr.	Harbour	Mt.	Mountain	Cum. Co.	Cumberland
Hd.	Head	N.	Northern	Digby Co.	Digby
HRM	Halifax Regional Municipality	S.	Southern	Guys. Co.	Guysborough
I.	Island, Isle	W.	Western	Hfx. Co.	Halifax
Is.	Islands, Isles			Hants Co.	Hants
L.	Lake		Other	Inv. Co.	Inverness
Lwr.	Lower	ad.	adult	Kings Co.	Kings
Mt.	Mountain, Mount	BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	Lun. Co.	Lunenburg
Mts.	Mountains	ca.	circa (about, approximately)	Pict. Co.	Pictou
N.P.	National Park	CBC	Christmas Bird Count	Queens Co.	Queens
P.P.	Provincial Park	fem.	female	Rich. Co.	Richmond
Pen.	Peninsula	imm.	immature	Shel. Co.	Shelburne
Pt.	Point, not Port	juv.	juvenile	Vic. Co.	Victoria
R.	River	male	(no abbreviation)	Yar. Co.	Yarmouth
		MNRS	Maritimes Nest Records Scheme		
		var. obs.	various observers		



John Nickerson



Red-throated Loon - This fine photo taken Feb. 19 at Daniels Head, CSI, supplies final judgement on this loon. Because of its straight, horizontally held bill, and an apparent "chin strap" in some views, it was initially identified as a Pacific Loon - which has never been confirmed by specimen or photos here. The CSI birders soon realized that it was a rather unusual Red-throated Loon. A Pacific Loon would not show much if any white along its flanks, a good clue on distant loons. (The Old-World Arctic Loon has white flanks, without the dark feathers on the upper flank). Other features in the photo - the narrowness of the bill, the white surrounding the eye, and especially the pattern of narrow white marks on the back (other loons are scalloped) distinguish this first-winter bird from other loons.

Redwing No, Brown Shrike Probably Yes

By Ian McLaren

Sometimes, during winter doldrums, web-birding is almost as much fun as the real thing. This winter I decided to search US museum databases of bird specimens that had been collected in Nova Scotia. Among them, I was astonished to find a REDWING (the European thrush *Turdus iliacus*) in the Peabody Museum of Yale University. It was listed as collected by Charles K. Worthen in Yarmouth, NS, in January 1892, which would make it the first ever from North America! The collections manager was on sick leave, so I spent some time finding out about Worthen. He was a well known collector, seldom publishing, whose obituary (1909, *The Auk* 26, p. 332) attests to his reliability. His large personal collections (some 7000 skins) went to the redoubtable Jonathan Dwight (who wrote a fine 1895 monograph on the Ipswich Sparrow) and to J.H. Fleming, well known in Canada. Finally, the word came from the Peabody Museum. The label states that the specimen came from "gt. Yarmouth"; that is, clearly from Great Yarmouth, England. It seems that Worthen, like many collectors of that era, wished to possess specimens of every bird known from N. America (then reckoned to include Greenland), even making do with birds taken elsewhere. The label indicates that he had no intention to deceive.

As one of many who "ticked" our famous BROWN SHRIKE in November 1997, the news from David Christie was a little discomfiting. Late last year he found an Oregon bird-dealer's web site that listed the species. Could our bird have been, after all, a mere escapee? I held off phoning the dealer, perhaps not wanting to strengthen suspicions. Finally I phoned him and got reassuring news: 1) he had received his first ever Brown Shrikes from "Russia" - a half-dozen in late autumn 1999; 2) he supplies such birds only to zoos and public aviaries; and 3) he doubted that the species had ever been imported by other dealers. The web also threw out two more tidbits last fall - yet another Brown Shrike appeared in Alaska and, most astonishingly, one arrived in late autumn in Ireland. The write-up of the latter in the British journal "Birding World" speculates that it could have come via Alaska - thence, like many New World vagrants, crossed the Atlantic. Our Nova Scotia record was actually cited to support such a doubtful scenario. Anyway, it appears that we can hang on to our shrike until dissuaded by other evidence. 🦅



Although up to three **Tufted Ducks** together have been reported in the past, this trio Feb 27 at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, is the first to have been photographically documented in Nova Scotia Birds.

Nova Scotia Christmas Bird Counts 1999-2000

Edited by J. Shirley Cohrs and D. Currie

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the 1999-2000 Christmas Counts were exceptional. Seven new species were added to the provincial list and twenty-six species totaled their highest numbers ever. One less count was done than in 1998 and there were more participants and party hours than ever before. The total number of birds counted was 5,000 lower than in 1998 but the 174 species seen is twelve more than in any previous year.

The duck counts were very interesting. There were more "unusual" ducks this year - Green-winged Teal*, Pintail*Northern Pintail*, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon*, American Wigeon*, Ring-necked Duck* and Hooded Mergansers* - while commoner winter species — Am. Black Ducks, Mallards, Surf Scoters and Red-breasted Mergansers were at an all-time high. On the other hand, Harlequin Ducks took a dive (excuse the pun), there being only one seen, and only during count period. Oldsquaw were much

lower than in the last few years. Both grebes, Red-necked and Horned did not do well.

There is something of a role reversal in the winter gull population. Herring and Great Black-backed Gull numbers diminished by almost half those in the past few years whilst Black-headed, Bonaparte's, Ring-billed and Iceland Gulls all achieved an all-time high.

The weather was "soft" until January, which may account for some interesting lingerers. For the first time we had an Eastern Phoebe, a bird which has been a regular "hanger-on" in Ontario, could be something to watch in the future. Warblers did well with nine species counted. A Storm petrel (probably Leach's), Little Blue Heron, Plumbeous Vireo, Townsend's Solitaire and Golden-crowned Sparrow complete the list of lingerers and vagrants.

Each year there are ups and downs in populations. The most startling this year

were the chickadees. Black-caps reached the greatest number ever counted while Boreals crashed — little more than a third of norm.

What of the peripatetic winter finches? They divide into two groups from abundant to scarce indeed. It was definitely a Redpoll winter with the highest numbers of Common Redpolls ever counted and three well-documented sightings of Hoaries. House finches were well up, too, in their restricted areas. However, the deep woods Pine Grosbeaks, Red and White-winged Crossbills were hard to find and feeder-watchers were disappointed in low numbers of Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, Am. Goldfinches and Evening Grosbeaks.

To end in a more cheerful note, the populations of Rock Doves, Starlings and House Sparrows did not increase - in fact they were a trifle lower this count.

(* Highest Numbers to date)

Top 30 Most Numerous Species

European Starling	74,768	Greater Scaup	5,031
American Crow	45,910	American Goldfinch	4,567
Herring Gull	29,723	Mallard	3,987
American Black Duck	20,974	Evening Grosbeak	2,718
Canada Goose	13,242	Common Goldeneye	2,861
Black-Capped Chickadee	12,031	Iceland Gull	2,598
Common Redpoll	11,524	Red-breasted Merganser	2,510
Rock Dove	9,547	Common Merganser	2,266
House Sparrow	7,966	Oldsquaw	2,190
Common Eider	7,362	Common Raven	1,884
Bohemian Waxwing	7,175	Ring-billed Gull	1,777
Great Black-backed Gull	6,812	Snow Bunting	1,662
Mourning Dove	6,654	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1,491
Blue Jay	5,905	American Tree Sparrow	1,114
Dark-eyed Junco	5,196	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1,046

AMHERST, Dec 20; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -12 to -1 °C. Wind calm. No snow. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies clear all day. 26 field observers in 7-11 parties, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 79.5 (38.25 on foot, 41.25 by car). Total party kilometers 682 (49 by foot, 633 by car)

Great Blue Heron 2; American Black Duck 192; Mallard 4; **Green-winged Teal 38**; Common Merganser 264; Red-breasted Merganser 25; merganser species 30; Bald Eagle 7; Northern Harrier 8; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; **Cooper's Hawk 1**; Northern Goshawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 5; hawk species 1; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 16; Ruffed Grouse 10; Ring-billed Gull 7; Herring Gull 327; Iceland Gull 24; Great Black-backed Gull 386; Rock Dove 448; Mourning Dove 261; Barred Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 18; Hairy Woodpecker 21; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Northern Shrike 2; Gray Jay 21; Blue Jay 262; American Crow 576; Common Raven 65; Horned Lark 1; Black-capped Chickadee 448; Boreal Chickadee 28; Red-breasted Nuthatch 55; White-breasted Nuthatch 5; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 44; American Robin 13; European Starling 2370; Bohemian Waxwing 35; Cedar Waxwing 7; American Tree Sparrow 77; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 32; Lapland Longspur 8; Snow Bunting 348; Rusty Blackbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 38; White-winged Crossbill 3; Common Redpoll 604; Pine Siskin 19; American Goldfinch 16; finch species 65; Evening Grosbeak 322; House Sparrow 66.

Total Species 56, about 7650 individuals. (CP. Northern Cardinal) Doug Bliss, Paul Bogaard, Mark Bowes, Andrew Boyne, Neil Burgess, Adam Campbell, Evelyn Coates, Don Colpitts, Kevin Davidson, George Finney, Liam Finney, Ross Galbraith, **Nev Garrity (compiler)**, Dedreic Grecian, Henrich Harries, Ron Hounsell, Jason Hudson, Keith McAloney, Larry MacDonnell, Andrew MacFarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Reg Melanson, Bill Murphy, Al Smith, Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer, John Wile.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Dec 29; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -6 to -1 °C. Wind NW 10 kph. Snow 20cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. A.M. partly cloudy, light snow, P.M. Partly cloudy. 22 field observers in 9 parties, 71 at feeders. Total party hours 53 (28 on foot, 25 by car). Total party kilometers 324 (42 by foot, 282 by car).

Common Loon 5; Horned Grebe 7; grebe species 2; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 31; American Black Duck 502; Mallard 2; Mallard hybrid 2; Common Eider 19; Surf Scoter 30, White-winged Scoter 1; Black Scoter 1; Oldsquaw 488; Bufflehead 90, Common Goldeneye 111; Common Merganser 8; Red-breasted Merganser 30; duck species 51; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 6; **Northern Bobwhite (feral) 1**; Ring-necked Pheasant 58; Ruffed Grouse 2; Bonaparte's Gull 100; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 532; Great Black-backed Gull 29; Rock Dove 170; Mourning Dove 322; Snowy Owl 1; Barred Owl 3; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 321; American Crow 314; Common Raven 23; Black-capped Chickadee 389; Red-breasted Nuthatch 22; White-breasted Nuthatch 6; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; American Robin 139; Northern Mockingbird 4; European Starling 1185; Bohemian Waxwing 400; Cedar Waxwing **200**; American Tree Sparrow 32; Chipping Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 12; White-throated Sparrow 9; Dark-eyed Junco 101; sparrow species 18; Snow Bunting 3; Northern Cardinal 11; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 16; Purple Finch 13; Red Crossbill 15; Common Redpoll 124; **Hoary Redpoll 1**; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 152; Evening Grosbeak 95; House Sparrow 114.

Total Species 68, about 6375 individuals. Marilyn Adams, Ruby Adams, Jim Allen, Bob Bennett, Renate Bennett, Rick Berry, Sheila Bestany, Ted Brown, Betty Burrell, Shirley Burrell, Mildred Boroughs, Joan Chalmers, Jeri Costa, Doug Cotter, Flo Cotter, Anne D'Eon, Henry D'Eon, Lillian Dunfield, Alex Ellis, Becky Ellis, Darlene (Mrs. A)

Ellis, Darlene (Mrs. T.) Ellis, Helen Ellis, Tom Ellis, Dot Everett, Wylie Everett, Fred Fletcher, Freda Fox, Barry Frail, Geraldine Frail, Perry Freeman, Margaret Hall, Layton Hamilton, Joan Harris, Millie Hawes, Leroy Haynes, Rita Hearne, Connie Horsfal, Marg Horsfal, Dot Hudson, Wayne Isles, Lois Jenkins, Camille Johnstone, Cliff Jones, Phil Kent, Sheila Krant, Ginny Langley, Ian Lawrence, Dr. C. Leek, Andy Lewis, Barbara MacArthur, Abbe Marshall, Ethel McCormick, Glenn McCormick, Jeff McCormick, Ernie McGrath, Margaret McGrath, Ann McLaren, Brenda Montgomery, Wayne Morgan, Valerie Mount, Don Mullen, Marian Mullen, Jon Percy, Ed Proctor, Dan Proulx, Gini Proulx, Kim Purcell, Valerie Richards, Lillian Roney, Kerry Rowe, Mick Scromeda, Barb Selig, Alison Thompson, **David Tinker (compiler)**, Anne Marie Treiberg, Ragnar Treiberg, Greg Turner, Jack Turner, Julie Turner, Marie Wamboldt, Bob Watson, Alice White, Karl White, Angela Woods, Philip Woods, Earle Wright, Marilyn Wright.

ANTIGONISH, Dec 19; 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Temp. -7 to 0 °C. Wind SW, 10-40 kph. Snow 0-1cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. A.M. partly clear, light snow, P.M. clear. 16 field observers in 7-9 parties and 10 at feeders, 6.25 hours and 58 km. owling. Total party hours 37 (15.25 by foot, 21.75 by car). Total party kilometers 431 (28 by foot, 403 by car).

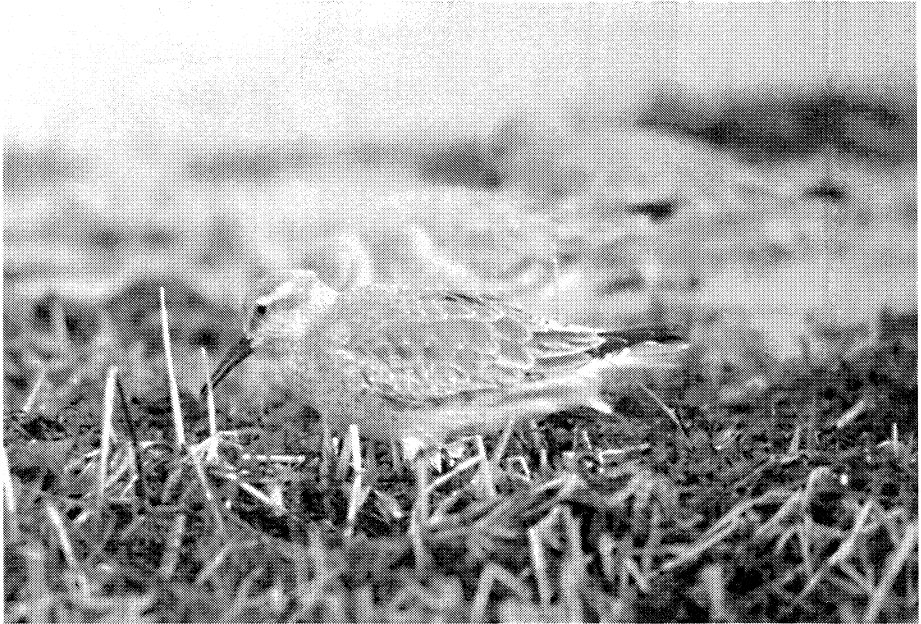
Red-throated Loon 5; Common Loon 6; Horned Grebe 5; Red-necked Grebe 17; Northern Gannet 12; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 974; **Eurasian Wigeon 1**; American Wigeon 28; American Black Duck 1007; Mallard 22; Northern Pintail 1; Green-winged Teal 1; Greater Scaup 43; Lesser Scaup 2; Common Eider 2; Surf Scoter 11; White-winged Scoter 2; Black Scoter 8; scoter species 10; Oldsquaw 20; Common Goldeneye 158; Hooded Merganser 9; Common Merganser 219; Red-breasted Merganser 313; merganser species 20; Bald Eagle 31; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; hawk species 1; Merlin 1; falcon species 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Black-headed Gull 14; Bonaparte's Gull

189; Ring-billed Gull 248; Herring Gull 367; Great Black-backed Gull 36; gull species 5; Dovekie 1; Razorbill 1; Rock Dove 167; Mourning Dove 177; Great Horned Owl 2; Long-eared Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; woodpecker species 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 123; American Crow 519; Common Raven 40; Black-capped Chickadee 231; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 12; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 16; American Robin 1; European Starling 1308; Bohemian Waxwing 91; American Tree Sparrow 71; Chipping Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 34; sparrow species 5; Snow Bunting 55; **meadowlark species 1**; Pine Grosbeak 107; Purple Finch 26; Common Redpoll 299; Pine Siskin 7; American Goldfinch 223; Evening Grosbeak 96; House Sparrow 91.

Total Species 70, about 7518 individuals. (CP. **Greater White-fronted Goose**, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Pheasant, Barred Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Belted Kingfisher, blackbird species). Calvin Brennan, David Garbary, May Goring, Vera Goring, Leslie Hart, Dale Humphries, Gary Humphries, Leslie Klapstein, Carol Lamey, Larry Lamey, Oona Landry, **Randy Lauff (compiler)**, Shelagh MacCulloch-Taylor, Anne Louise MacDonald, Leo MacDonald, Ernie MacLaughlin, Harriet MacMillan, Jean McGee, Ken McKenna, Tony Miller, Kerstin Mueller, Marilyn O'Brien, Beth Parker, Jeff Parker, Mark Pulsifer, Bunny Smith, Cyril Smith, Doreen Smith, Gerald Teasdale.

APPLE RIVER, Dec 30; 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Temp. -7 to 2 °C. Wind SW 30 kph. Snow 10 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. cloudy, heavy snow, P.M. light rain and clearing. 7 field observers in 5 parties, 8 at feeders. Total party hours 39 (22.5 on foot, 16.5 by car). Total party kilometers 281.25 (30.25 by foot, 251 by car)

Common Loon 2; Horned Grebe 3; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 162; American Black Duck 521; Mallard 8;



Red Knot - The mud flats around Cape Sable probably support more kinds and numbers (excepting Purple Sandpipers) of wintering shorebirds than any East Coast locality N. of Cape Cod. These Red Knots were among 35 or more still present Feb. 26. (Ian McLaren Photo)

Green-winged Teal 6; Common Eider 1; Black Scoter 2; Oldsquaw 4; Common Goldeneye 5; Common Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 137; Great Black-backed Gull 9; gull species 60; Dovekie 1; Mourning Dove 74; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 1; Blue Jay 35; American Crow 81; Common Raven 14; Black-capped Chickadee 125; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 9; Northern Shrike 3; European Starling 151; American Tree Sparrow 19; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 3; **White-crowned Sparrow 1**; Dark-eyed Junco 31; Snow Bunting 9; Common Grackle 10; Brown-headed Cowbird 4; Pine Grosbeak 15; Red Crossbill 1; Common Redpoll 129; Pine Siskin 18; finch species 3; Evening Grosbeak 22; House Sparrow 10.

Total Species 55, about 1774 individuals. (CP. Red-throated Loon, Spruce Grouse, Iceland Gull, Great Horned Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Gray Jay, American Robin, American Goldfinch) Bill Anderson, Pam

Anderson, Donna Barber, Donna Cole, Karl Cole, Jane Fletcher, Ross Galbraith, Andrew MacFarlane, Maureen Mills, Peggy Reid, Cindy Spicer, **Kathleen F. Spicer (compiler)**, Lauralie Spicer.

BARRINGTON BAY/CAPE SABLE ISLAND, Dec 18; 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Temp. -1 to 1 °C. Wind SW 16 kph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. partly clear, P.M. clear. 15 field observers in 7 parties. Total party hours 120.5 (60 on foot, 60 by car, 0.5 by bicycle). Total party kilometers 478 (63 by foot, 412 by car, 3 by bicycle).

Red-throated Loon 7; Common Loon 59; Pied-billed Grebe 4; Horned Grebe 22; Red-necked Grebe 68; Northern Gannet 596; Double-crested Cormorant 2, Great Cormorant 394; cormorant species 204; **American Bittern 1**; Great Blue Heron 6; **Turkey Vulture 3**; Canada Goose 313; Brant 17; American Black Duck 478; Mallard 13; Green-winged Teal 21; Greater Scaup 321; Lesser Scaup 1; Common Eider 3881; Surf Scoter 7; White-winged Scoter 31; Black Scoter 58; scoter species 2; Oldsquaw 47; Bufflehead 33; Common Goldeneye 1; sea duck species 1500; Red-breasted Merganser 53; Bald Eagle 1; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3;

Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; American Kestrel 2; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Ruffed Grouse 4; Black-bellied Plover 25; **Ruddy Turnstone 3**; Red Knot 48; Sanderling 116; **Semipalmated Sandpiper 10**; **White-rumped Sandpiper 5**; Dunlin 20; Common Snipe 1; shorebird species 30; **jaeger species 1**; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 2532; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 981; Black-legged Kittiwake 5; gull species 3300; Dovekie 4; Common Murre 2; Thick-billed Murre 2; Razorbill 1; Black Guillemot 27; Atlantic Puffin 1; alcid species 600; Rock Dove 9; Mourning Dove 258; Snowy Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; Northern Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 5; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 7; Northern Shrike 2; Blue Jay 58; American Crow 1116; Common Raven 35; Horned Lark 25; Black-capped Chickadee 313; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 193; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 68; American Robin 12; European Starling 854; Bohemian Waxwing 40; Yellow-rumped Warbler 83; Pine Warbler 1; Palm Warbler 2; American Tree Sparrow 16; Savannah Sparrow 5; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 52; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 97; Dark-eyed Junco 96; Snow Bunting 23; Northern Cardinal 3; Common Grackle 9; Brown-headed Cowbird 21; Baltimore Oriole 3; Purple Finch 1; Red Crossbill 2; Common Redpoll 3; Pine Siskin 20; American Goldfinch 88; Evening Grosbeak 15; House Sparrow 95.

Total Species 100, about 19534 individuals. (CP. Harlequin Duck, **Broad-winged Hawk**, Gray Jay, Fox Sparrow). Wilfred Atwood, Phyllis Bryson, **Joan Czapalay (compiler)**, Raymond d'Entremont, Donna Ensor, Paul Gould, James Hirtle, Cathy Holmes, Blake Maybank, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Grant Milroy, Carla Newell, Murray Newell, Lillian Perry, Aileen Smith, Betty June Smith, Carolyn Smith, Sidney Smith, Wayne Smith, Clyde Stoddard, Joan Waldron.

BEDFORD/SACKVILLE, Jan 2; 7:45 AM to 5:00 PM. Temp. 0 to 5 °C. Wind

SW 0-15 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 32 field observers in 16 parties, 21 at feeders. Total party hours 102 (54 on foot, 48 by car). Total party kilometers 770 (108 by foot, 662 by car)

Common Loon 4; Great Cormorant 5; Canada Goose 1; American Black Duck 1 3 3 1 ; Mallard 6 5 ; MallardXBlackMallard x Black Duck hybrid 8; Bufflehead 3; Common Goldeneye 111; Barrow's Goldeneye 3; Hooded Merganser 59; Common Merganser 8; Red-breasted Merganser 46; Bald Eagle 3; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 14; Ruffed Grouse 5; Ring-billed Gull 46; Herring Gull 3401; Iceland Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 35; Black Guillemot 3; Rock Dove 442; Mourning Dove 106; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 70; Hairy Woodpecker 32; Northern Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Blue Jay 424; American Crow 1789; Common Raven 61; Black-capped Chickadee 852; Boreal Chickadee 12; Red-breasted Nuthatch 83; White-breasted Nuthatch 31; Brown Creeper 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet 92; American Robin 9; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 2241; Bohemian Waxwing 797; Cedar Waxwing 2; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 7; Chipping Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 52; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 9; Dark-eyed Junco 459; Brown-headed Cowbird 7; Baltimore Oriole 2; Pine Grosbeak 4; Red Crossbill 1; White-winged Crossbill 12; crossbill species 2; Common Redpoll 716; Pine Siskin 5; American Goldfinch 270; Evening Grosbeak 65; House Sparrow 240.

Total Species 63, about 13,087 individuals. Matt Barron, Dennis Bicknell, Barry Boehner, Brad Boehner, Suzanne Burkofsky, Rosemary Burns, Pat Chalmers, Lois Codling, Jamie Crosby, Daisy Dauphinee, Jack Dauphinee, Margaret Ellis, Anna Graham, Bruce Henderson, Hilda Holland, Margot Kaufman, Gerald Kennedy, Rita Kinney, Betty Kulin, Edward Kulin, Fulton Lavender, Marina

LeBlanc, Peter LeBlanc, Sterling Levy, Colonel MacLellan, Don MacNeill, Gail MaGee, Robert McDonald, Shirley McIntyre, Ian McKay, Ian McLaren, Don McLaughlin, Patricia Millar, Gordon Morgan, Grant Mosher, Tracey Noel, Allen Owen, Terry Pagnet, Gloria Patterson, **Richard Peckham (compiler)**, Joe Pitzel, Andrea Regan, Walter Regan, Clarence Stevens I, Clarence Stevens II, Frances Stevens, Darlene Stone, Jack Stone, Brian Sykes, Carol Sykes, Azor Vienneau, Herra Wiersma, Joelmer Wiersma, Scott Yetman.

BIG POND/ESKASONI, Dec 26; 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM. Temp. -5 to -1 °C. Wind NW 0-20 kph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 28 field observers in 9 parties, 5 at feeders, 2 hours and 21 km. owling. Total party hours 42 (9 on foot, 33 by car). Total party kilometers 390 (15 by foot, 375 by car).

Common Loon 3; American Black Duck 226; Mallard 1; Common Goldeneye 139; Common Merganser 76; Red-breasted Merganser 116; Bald Eagle 19; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; hawk species 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Black-headed Gull 19; Bonaparte's Gull 34; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 57; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 12; Rock Dove 1; Mourning Dove 13; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 4; American Crow 183; Common Raven 25; Black-capped Chickadee 133; Boreal Chickadee 19; Red-breasted Nuthatch 15; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 30; European Starling 168; Yellow-rumped Warbler 5; American Tree Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 5; Baltimore Oriole 2; Pine Grosbeak 3; Purple Finch 1; Common Redpoll 90; **Hoary Redpoll 1**; American Goldfinch 10; Evening Grosbeak 16; House Sparrow 26.

Total Species 51, about 1489 individuals. George Ball, Donald Campbell, Theresa Cash, Linda Courey,

George Digout, Sharon Digout, Joe Donovan, Lynn Ellis, John Gainer, Dave Harris, Dennis MacDonald, Margaret MacDonald, George MacInnis, John MacInnis, Alanna MacNeil, Ann Marie MacNeil, Brian MacNeil, Duncan MacNeil, **Jack MacNeil (compiler)**, Dave McCorquodale, Geraldine Metcalfe, Junior Metcalfe, Bernard Murphy, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Dayna Nelder, Pat Nelder, Elliott Siteman, Jim Siteman, Pauline Siteman, Wendy Rae Siteman, Fred White, Melvin White.

BRIDGETOWN, Dec 28; 8:15AM to 4:15PM. Temp. -10-6 °C. Wind WSW 20 kph. Snow 3-5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. cloudy, light snow, P.M. partly clear, light snow. 10 field observers in 4 parties, 40 at feeders. Total party hours 19 (6 on foot, 13 by car). Total party kilometers 327 (16 by foot, 311 by car).

Common Loon 7; Horned Grebe 1; Canada Goose 24; American Black Duck 12; Common Eider 17; Surf Scoter 5; White-winged Scoter 58; scoter species 36; Oldsquaw 22; Red-breasted Merganser 10; duck species 65; Bald Eagle 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 11; Rough-legged Hawk 1; hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 39; Ruffed Grouse 1; Herring Gull 110; Great Black-backed Gull 5; Rock Dove 271; Mourning Dove 451; Barred owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 42; Hairy Woodpecker 17; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 230; American Crow 396; Common Raven 57; Black-capped Chickadee 238; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 6; American Robin 7; European Starling 1386; Bohemian Waxwing 43; Cedar Waxwing 200; American Tree Sparrow 42; Chipping Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 57; Northern Cardinal 3; Common Grackle 12; Pine Grosbeak 8; Purple Finch 8; Common Redpoll 286; Pine Siskin 3; American Goldfinch 211; Evening Grosbeak 114; House Sparrow 180.

Total Species 48, about 4721 individuals. (CP. Great Blue Heron, Short-eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher). Thelma Bent, Winnie Bent, Don Bowlby,

Joyce Burbridge, **David Colville (compiler)**, Justin Colville, Jan Coulter, Earl Duncan, Eleanor Duncan, Marilyn Durling, Noel Durling, Tara Edwards, David Eisnor, Marie Gaul, Marion Graves, Dan Harlow, Sharon Hawboldt, Steve Hawboldt, Marguerite Hirtle, Avora Howse, Maude Jodrey, Donna Jones, Ron Jones, Bev Marshall, Fred Marshall, Don Merriam, Marg Messinger, Roger Mosher, Doug Parker, Carl Phinney, Danny Phinney, Eric Porter, Erma Rains, John Rubin, Trish Rubin, Jory Smith, Heather Spicer, Phyl Spicer, Phyl Spicer, Marg Taylor, Maribelle Warren, Robin Warren, Sr., Gladdie Weir, Jim Whitman, Mar Whitman, Lib Woolaver.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec 29; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Temp. -5 to -3 °C. Wind NW 20-30 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M.



Peregrine Falcon - This adult bird, photographed Feb. 13 near Chipman Corner, Kings Co., has a solid hood (rather than moustaches), which is a feature of the original, almost-extirpated, continental race, *anatum*. Some criticism has been leveled at the successful reintroduction program of this species, as birds of mixed ancestry are now occur even in places (e.g. some cities) where Peregrines never before nested. It's good to see one of the original stock (or an expression of genes there from) in our area. (Donald "Buck" Longley Photo)

cloudy, light snow, P.M. partly clear. 2 field observers in 1 party. Total party hours 8 (2.5 on foot, 5.5 by car). Total party kilometers 56 (2 by foot, 54 by car)

Common Loon 10; Red-necked Grebe 9; Northern Gannet 6; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Cormorant 37;

Turkey Vulture 3; Canada Goose 120; American Black Duck 4; Common Eider 14; Oldsquaw 16; Common Goldeneye 23; Red-breasted Merganser 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 12; Herring Gull 215; Iceland Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 64; Black-legged Kittiwake 500; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 16; Rock Dove 28; Mourning Dove 6; American Crow 72; Common Raven 7; Black-capped Chickadee 14; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 27; American Tree Sparrow 15; Common Redpoll 30; House Sparrow 1.

Total Species 31, about 1250 individuals. Elizabeth Stern, **Richard Stern (compiler)**.

BROAD COVE, Dec 29; 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Temp. -2 to -8 °C. Wind NW 5

kph. Snow 2cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. light snow, P.M. partly cloudy. 25 field observers in 13-18 parties, 3.5 hours and 64 kilometers owling. Total party hours 70.25 (49 on foot, 21.25 by car, 3 by boat). Total party kilometers 383 (73 by foot, 310 by car, 9 by boat).

Common Loon 68; Horned Grebe 75; Red-necked Grebe 7; Northern Gannet 1; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 12; Canada Goose 127; American Black Duck 657; Mallard 162; **Blue-winged Teal 1**; Northern Pintail 7; Green-winged Teal 1; Greater Scaup 409; Lesser Scaup 2; Common Eider 2612; Surf Scoter 139; White-winged Scoter 4; Black Scoter 101; Oldsquaw 297; Bufflehead 49; Common Goldeneye 117; Hooded Merganser 14; Common Merganser 81; Red-breasted Merganser 166; duck species 150; Bald Eagle 3; Northern Harrier 4; Northern Goshawk 1; **Broad-winged Hawk 1**; Red-tailed Hawk 4; American Kestrel 1; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 12; Ruffed Grouse 4; Black-bellied Plover 2; Red Knot 3; Sanderling 31; Purple Sandpiper 13; Dunlin 4; Black-headed Gull 50; Ring-billed Gull 10; Herring Gull 1997; Iceland Gull 9; Great Black-backed Gull 637; Dovekie 13; Thick-billed Murre 6; Razorbill 3; Black Guillemot 39; Rock Dove 326; Mourning Dove 290; Barred Owl 4; Northern Saw-whet Owl 4; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 10; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern Flicker 3; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 175; American Crow 455; Common Raven 48; Black-capped Chickadee 315; Boreal Chickadee 12; Red-breasted Nuthatch 16; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 51; American Robin 1; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 654; Bohemian Waxwing 527; Yellow-rumped Warbler 23; Palm Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 43; Song Sparrow 25; White-throated Sparrow 29; Dark-eyed Junco 232; Snow Bunting 55; Purple Finch 1; Red Crossbill 9; Common Redpoll 75; Pine Siskin 2; American Goldfinch 89; Evening Grosbeak 141; House Sparrow 8.

Total Species 83, about 11745 individuals. (CP. Killdeer, Cedar Waxwing, **Prairie Warbler**). Bruce Allen, Ruth Ballem, Lisé Bell, Peter Bell, Wallace Brown, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Donna Ensor, **Sylvia Fullerton (compiler)**, Barbara Hinds, James Hirtle, Blair Hodgman, Ian McLaren, Mary McLaren, Pat McLarty, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Eileen Morrison, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Nellie Snyder, Dave Young,

Joan Young.

CALEDONIA, Dec 19; 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Temp. -6 to -2 °C. Wind NNW 10-20 kph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 33 field observers in 18 parties, 43 at feeders. 0.5 hours and 4 kilometers owling. Total party hours 103 (38.5 on foot, 13.5 by car). Total party kilometers 326 (90 by foot, 236 by car).

American Black Duck 20; Mallard 4; Hooded Merganser 1; Common Merganser 7; Bald Eagle 4; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Ruffed Grouse 11; Rock Dove 8; Mourning Dove 16; Barred Owl 6; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 17; Hairy Woodpecker 18; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Northern Shrike 1; Blue Jay 212; American Crow 52; Common Raven 41; Black-capped Chickadee 420; Red-breasted Nuthatch 52; White-breasted Nuthatch 41; Golden-crowned Kinglet 25; European Starling 266; Bohemian Waxwing 1; Cedar Waxwing 43; American Tree Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 7; Snow Bunting 17; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 1; White-winged Crossbill 3; Common Redpoll 37; American Goldfinch 19; Evening Grosbeak 123.

Total Species 34, about 1482 individuals. (CP. Gray Jay, Ring-necked Duck) Don Baker, Pat Canning, Eric Cole, Judy Cole, Lorna Cole, Harry Delong, Matthew Delong, Riley Delong, Jerry Frail, Arthur Frayle, Nancy Frayle, Bruce Gurnham, Nancy Gurnham, Marguerite Holdright, Myra Holdright, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope, Peggy Hopper, Steve Hopper, Jackie Jorrisen, Mary Keirstead, Rod Keirstead, Amanda Lavers, Roger Lewis, Larry MacAdam, Paul MacDonald, Blaine Mailman, Lena Malay, Steve Malay, Danny Mansfield, Liam McNeil, Chelsa Meisner, Emily Meisner, Julie Meisner, Orval Meisner, Greta Morrison, Ian Morrison, Dawn Payzant, Elliott Payzant, Allison Punnett, Barb Rogers, Lesley Rogers, Marcy Rogers, Peter Rogers, Terje Rogers, Jonathan Sheppard, Sheila Sheppard, Tom Sheppard, Jessie Shupe, Tom Shupe, David Small, Shirley Smith, Dave Wagener, **Bill Whitman (compiler)**, Julie Whitman, Megan Whitman, Eva Zong.

CANSO STRAIT, Dec 29; 7:45 AM to 4:45 PM. Temp. -5 to 0 °C. Wind NW 10-25 kph. Snow 2-10cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Snow all day. 8 field observers in 4-5 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 21.75 (9.25 on foot, 12.5 by car). Total party kilometers 258 (12.5 by foot, 245.5 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 6; Northern Gannet 3; American Black Duck 53; scaup species 2; Common Eider 11; Surf Scoter 6; Oldsquaw 1; Bufflehead 20; Common Goldeneye 61; Common Merganser 59; Red-breasted Merganser 123; duck species 1; Bald Eagle 4; hawk species 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Bonaparte's Gull 13; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 149; Iceland Gull 95; Great Black-backed Gull 10; gull species 53; Black Guillemot 10; Rock Dove 110; Mourning Dove 53; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Northern Shrike 3; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 32; American Crow 228; Common Raven 13; Black-capped Chickadee 92; Boreal Chickadee 15; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 10; European Starling 365; Bohemian Waxwing 5; American Tree Sparrow 9; Chipping Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 4; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 8; Dark-eyed Junco 18; Pine Grosbeak 16; Common Redpoll 104; Evening Grosbeak 34; House Sparrow 82.

Total Species 47, about 1860 individuals. (CP. Glaucous Gull, Purple Sandpiper, Hairy Woodpecker, Purple Finch) Marie Bolger, Calvin Brennan, Peter Hope, Dave Johnston, Carol Lamey, Larry Lamey, Randy Lauff, Ken McKenna, Jim Meagher, **Kerstin Mueller (compiler)**, Les Ryter, Gillis Strachan, Betty Talbot.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Jan 2; 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM. Temp. -.5 to 2 °C. Wind SW 3kph. Snow 5cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. A.M. Partly cloudy, P.M. cloudy. 22 field observers in 10 parties, 16 at feeders. Total party hours 36 (21.25 on foot, 14.75 by car). Total party kilometers 162 (33 by foot, 129 by car).

Common Loon 12, Great Cormorant 29; Canada Goose 62; American Black Duck

131; Common Eider 18; White-winged Scoter 140; Black Scoter 9; Oldsquaw 90; Common Goldeneye 115; Common Merganser 13; Red-breasted Merganser 101; Bald Eagle 3; Spruce Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 16; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 68; Iceland Gull 41; Glaucous Gull 8; Great Black-backed Gull 47; Black-legged Kittiwake 2; Dovekie 5; Black Guillemot 8; Rock Dove 23; Mourning Dove 18; Great Horned owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 110; American Crow 141; Common Raven 15; Black-capped Chickadee 80; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 19; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; European Starling 64; Song Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 24; Pine Grosbeak 1; Common Redpoll 3; Pine Siskin 2; American Goldfinch 12; Evening Grosbeak 47.

Total Species 47, about 1510 individuals. (CP. Northern Gannet, Great Blue Heron, Cedar Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, Common Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, House Sparrow). James Bridgland, Kathryn Bridgland, Michael Bridgland, Audrey Budge, Bill Budge, David Burchell, Keith Capstick, Mary Daisley, Chris Gorey, Lynn Gorey, George Hardy, Steven Hardy, Douglas Jackson, Jeanette Jackson, Ronnie MacEachern, David McCorquodale, Frances McEvoy, Jessie McEvoy, Jim McEvoy, John McEvoy, Ruth McLaggan, Anne Marie Morrison, Freeman Morrison, Daniel Murray, Ken Murray, Linda Murray, Marjorie Murray, Susann Myers, **Derek Quann (compiler)**, Candice Stapleton, Fred Williams.

CHETICAMP, Dec 18; 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Temp. -1 to -2 °C. Wind W 30-40 kph. Snow 8cm. Still water open, moving water open. Cloudy, light to heavy snow all day. 9 field observers in 6 parties. Total party hours 22.75 (10 on foot, 12.75 by car). Total party kilometers 155 (27 by foot, 128 by car)

Northern Gannet 3; Double-crested Cormorant 2; American Black Duck 138; Mallard 2; White-winged Scoter 4; Common Goldeneye 288; Red-breasted Merganser 68; Common Merganser 40;

Bald Eagle 13; Northern Harrier 5; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 6; Ruffed Grouse 1; Herring Gull 133; Iceland Gull 12; Glaucous Gull 7; Great Black-backed Gull 327; Black-legged Kittiwake 2; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 2; Black-capped Chickadee 12; Golden-crowned Kinglet 2; European Starling 80; Dark-eyed Junco 1; Purple Finch 1; Evening Grosbeak 14; House Sparrow 4.

Total Species 41, about 1568 individuals. (CP. Snow Bunting). Gerald Bourgeois, Rick Cook, Elyse Delaney, Gordon Delaney, Louis Delaney, **Denis Hache (compiler)** David Lawley, Geraldine Levert, Justine Roach.

ECONOMY, Dec 27; 7:30 AM to 5:15 PM. Temp. -3 to 1 °C. Wind WNW 5 kph. Snow 0-1cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. clear, P.M. Partly cloudy, light snow. 9 field observers in 8 parties, 2 at feeders, 1.5 hours and 17 kilometers owling. Total party hours 55.25 (43.75 on foot, 11.5 by car). Total party kilometers 206 (54 by foot, 152 by car)

Snow Goose 1; American Black Duck 788; Mallard 12; Green-winged Teal 1; Surf Scoter 8; White-winged Scoter 17; Black Scoter 8; Oldsquaw 11; Bufflehead 47; Common Goldeneye 21; Common Merganser 22; Bald Eagle 7; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 16; Dunlin 1; Ring-billed Gull 100; Herring Gull 624; Great Black-backed Gull 11; Rock Dove 34; Mourning Dove 69; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 15; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 37; American Crow 156; Common Raven 33; Black-capped Chickadee 186; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 29; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 91; American Robin 11; European Starling 286; Bohemian Waxwing 46; American Tree Sparrow 18; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 3; **White-crowned Sparrow 1**; Dark-eyed Junco 46; Snow Bunting 21; **Baltimore Oriole 1**; Pine Grosbeak 37; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 14; Common Redpoll 316; **Hoary Redpoll 1**; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 7; Evening Grosbeak 46; House Sparrow 47.

Total Species 55, about 3284 individuals. (CP. Northern Shrike) Calvin Brennan, Irene Cooke, Harold Corbett, Jean Corbett, Ross Hall, Ken McKenna, Brad MacLaughlin, Jane Mills, Bill Murphy; Edgar Spalding, **Fran Spalding (compiler)**.

GLACE BAY, Dec 28; 6:00 AM to 5:15 PM. Temp. -9 to -5 °C. Wind NW 20 kph. Snow 3cm. Still water partly open, moving partly open. Partly cloudy all day. 18 field observers in 11 parties, 14 at feeders, 2 hours and 10 km owling. Total party hours 68 (21 on foot, 47 by car). Total party kilometers 280 (9 by foot, 271 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 4; Horned Grebe 10; Red-necked Grebe 1; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Cormorant 132; Canada Goose 367; **Eurasian Wigeon 1**; American Wigeon 25; American Black Duck 1338; Mallard 87; Greater Scaup 809; Lesser Scaup 2; Common Eider 23; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 211; Black Scoter 4; scoter species 9; Oldsquaw 410; Bufflehead 137; Common Goldeneye 65; Hooded Merganser 2; Common Merganser 33; Red-breasted Merganser 208; Bald Eagle 22; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; American Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Purple Sandpiper 6; Common Snipe 1; Black-headed Gull 37; Bonaparte's Gull 4; Ring-billed Gull 13; Herring Gull 782; Iceland Gull 524; Glaucous Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 442; gull species 70; Dovekie 5; Black Guillemot 9; alcid species 5; Rock Dove 233; Mourning Dove 183; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 7; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Northern Shrike 4; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 223; American Crow 303; Common Raven 31; Horned Lark 7; Black-capped Chickadee 260; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 15; American Robin 3; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 1703; Bohemian Waxwing 93; Yellow-rumped Warbler 4; **Yellow-breasted Chat 1**; American Tree Sparrow 7; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 17; Snow Bunting 20;

Dickcissel 1; **Yellow-headed Blackbird** 1; Purple Finch 12; Red Crossbill 3; White-winged Crossbill 2; Common Redpoll 63; Pine Siskin 16; American Goldfinch 73; Evening Grosbeak 159; House Sparrow 213.

Total species 82, about 9499 individuals. (CP. White-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Grosbeak). Lynn Baechler, Cheryl Bray, Wayne Burton, Pat Campbell, John Crewe, Leslie Crewe, George Crowell, Barc Cunningham, Art Gillard, Andrew Gingell, Barbara Guy, Dave Harris, Lillian LeGrow, John MacInnis, Gordon MacLean, Stephanie MacMullin, Dave McCorquodale, Helen McLeod, Geraldine Metcalfe, Hugh Metcalfe Jr., Laurie Murchison, Allan Murrant, **Cathy Murrant (compiler)**, Della Murrant, Emily Murrant, Erin Murrant, Jim Murrant, Kevin Murrant, Susann Myers, Winnie Peach, Shirley Pettigrew, Sean Roach.

HALIFAX/DARTMOUTH, Dec 29; 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Temp. -7 to -3 °C. Wind WNW 9-20 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 100 field observers in 43-53 parties, 81 at feeders, 2 hours and 25 km. owling. Total parties hours 339 (300.25 on foot, 38.5 by car, 0.25 by boat). Total party kilometers 1604 (445 by foot, 1158 by car, 1 by boat)

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 18; Pied-billed Grebe 2; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 1; Northern Gannet 9; Double-crested Cormorant 20; Great Cormorant 41; Canada Goose 6809; Wood Duck 2; Gadwall 4; **Eurasian Wigeon** 1; American Wigeon 89; American Black Duck 3471; Mallard 457; **Northern Shoveler** 4; Northern Pintail 8; Green-winged Teal 6; Ring-necked Duck 27; Greater Scaup 163; Lesser Scaup 37; Common Eider 279; Surf Scoter 14; White-winged Scoter 24; Black Scoter 8; Oldsquaw 61; Bufflehead 14; Common Goldeneye 25; Hooded Merganser 6; Common Merganser 55; Red-breasted Merganser 405; Ruddy Duck 9; Bald Eagle 14; Northern Harrier 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 9; Northern Goshawk 4; **Broad-winged Hawk** 1; Red-tailed Hawk 11; **Golden Eagle** 1;

American Kestrel 1; Merlin 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 50; Ruffed Grouse 6; Spruce Grouse 1; American Coot 10; Black-bellied Plover 1; Killdeer 1; Purple Sandpiper 125; Common Snipe 1; Black-headed Gull 163; Bonaparte's Gull 6; **Mew Gull** 1; Ring-billed Gull 653; Herring Gull 4483; Iceland Gull 476; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 216; Dovekie 3; Common Murre 3; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 40; Atlantic Puffin 1; Rock Dove 2602; Mourning Dove 411; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 1; Northern Saw-whet Owl 3; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 109; Hairy Woodpecker 31; Northern Flicker 21; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Northern Shrike 9; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 447; American Crow 2177; Common Raven 111; Horned Lark 1; Black-capped Chickadee 2675; Boreal Chickadee 121; Red-breasted Nuthatch 193; White-breasted Nuthatch 27; Brown Creeper 42; **House Wren** 1; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 462; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 12; Hermit Thrush 2; American Robin 25; Northern Mockingbird 9; European Starling 13622; Bohemian Waxwing 401; Cedar Waxwing 9; **Plumbeous Vireo** 1; Orange-crowned Warbler 5; **Nashville Warbler** 3; Yellow-rumped Warbler 12; Pine Warbler 14; Palm Warbler 6; **Black and White Warbler** 4; **Ovenbird** 1; Common Yellowthroat 2; Yellow-breasted Chat 15; American Tree Sparrow 67; Chipping Sparrow 1; **Field Sparrow** 1; Savannah Sparrow 20; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 5; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 277; Swamp Sparrow 26; White-throated Sparrow 111; **Golden-crowned Sparrow** 1; Dark-eyed Junco 1043; Lapland Longspur 21; Snow Bunting 100; Northern Cardinal 18; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Common Grackle 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 30; Baltimore Oriole 20; Pine Grosbeak 21; Purple Finch 32; House Finch 16; Red Crossbill 22; White-winged Crossbill 78; Common Redpoll 154; Pine Siskin 16; American Goldfinch 948; Evening Grosbeak 106; House Sparrow 2280.

Total Species 131, about 47,384 individuals. Peter Ackerman, Karel Allard, Marilyn Baker, Melanie Ball, Valerie Bancroft, Laurel Banks, Steve Barbour, Sue Belford, Tony Bezanson,

Leonard Biggs, Elaine Black, Barry Boehner, Suzanne Borkowski, Earl Bradley, Gerry Brennan, Joan Brennan, Alice Buchannon, Jill Burgess, Bob Campbell, Jill Ceccolino, Patricia Chambers, Illene Cooper, Margo Corkum, Elizabeth Corser, Alan Covert, Evelyn Cox, Margaret Cox, Joanne Creelman, Michelle Crowe, Vance Crowe, **Mike** Crowell, Gail Davis, Gisèle d'Entremont, Renate Deppe, Ann Doull, Michael Downing, Heather Drope, Ann Eaton, **Rosemary** Eaton, Eric Eddy, Gerald Edsall, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Tim Ellison, John Engweiler, Wanetta Evans, **Chris** Field, Judy Fishman, Glen Flemming, Helen Fletcher, Bill Fraser, Bill Freedman, Jonathan Freedman, Rachel Freedman, Phyllis Gardiner, Glen Gibson, **Fred** Greig, Jane Greig, Marion Guptill, Richard Hamilton, Richard Hatch, **Gary** Halton, Michael Heaney, Roy **Henning**, David Henry, Terry Henson, James Hirtle, Andy Horne, Marilyn **Houri**han, Marion Hourihan, Ann **Huetis**, Dave Huetis, Bill Hughes, Shirley **Hughes**, Charlotte Hutchinson, Arthur **Irvin**, Patricia James, Helen Jones, **Dorothy** Jackson, Keith Todd, Tom **Kelly**, Corinne Lacroix, Arnold Langille, **Fulton Lavender (compiler)**, Don **Learmouth**, Isabel Learmouth, Peter Leblanc, Barbara Leedham, Doug Linzey, **Barbara** Locke, Tony Locke, Steen **Lovitt**, Viola Lovett, Annette Lutterman, Joyce MacAskill, Bob McDonald, Mike MacDonald, Eva MacKay, Robert MacKay, Robert MacKenzie, Ralph MacLean, Carol MacNeill, Don MacNeill, Bill McCormick, Chris Majka, Muriel Marriott, Sue Mathers, Frieda Matheson, Blake **Maybank**, Adrian Maynard, Andrea **McIvor**, Barbara McKay, Pat McKay, **Bernice** McLaren, Ian McLaren, Mary **McLaren**, Don McLaughlin, Dianne **McQueston**, Robert McQueston, Bob **McQuinn**, Paul Melanson, Sandra Melanson, Bob Miller, Mary Miller, Doug **Milsom**, Kris Milsom, Scott Milsom, **Bernice** Moores, Joanne Morris, Bob **Morton**, Maureen Nowlan, James O'Brien, **Judy** O'Brien, Minga O'Brien, Terry **Paquette**, Etta Parker, Rich Peckham, Leah Pelton, Scott Pelton, Manfred Pendl, Martha Poirier, Rosemary Porter, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Rick Reid, Denise Reston, Robert **Reston**, Beth Retallack, Peter

Richard, Julie Robb, Ned Robb, Heather Robertson, John Robertson, Barry Scott, Gilbert Slaunwhite, Beatrice Smith, Linda Smith, Tasha Smith, Thea Smith, Doug Spence, Clarence Stevens I, Clarence Stevens II, Fran Stevens, Darlene Stone, Jack Stone, Keith Tappan, Yvonne Taylor, Dick Vine, Joan Waldron, Bob Warrior, Dottie Welsh, Kim Wentzell, Lew Wentzell, Charles Widgery, Marjorie Widgery, Dave Wilson, Scott Yetman, Marty Zeleneitz.

KINGSTON, Dec 19; 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Temp. -6 to -4 °C. Wind NW 6 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 12 field observers in 9 parties, 32 at feeders, 0.5 hours and 0 km. owling. Total party hours 30 (14 on foot, 16 by car). Total party kilometers 279 (37 by foot, 242 by car)

Common Loon 3; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 1; American Black Duck 28; Mallard 28; Common Eider 55; Oldsquaw 11; Common Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 2; Bald Eagle 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Ring-necked Pheasant 30; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 11; Herring Gull 170; Great Black-backed Gull 25; Rock Dove 393; Mourning Dove 196; Great Horned Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 37; Hairy Woodpecker 26; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 325; American Crow 1843; Common Raven 36; Black-capped Chickadee 326; Red-breasted Nuthatch 49; White-breasted Nuthatch 16; Brown Creeper 5; American Robin 3; European Starling 793; Bohemian Waxwing 206; Cedar Waxwing 177; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 21; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 277; Common Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 11; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 7; Red Crossbill 23; White-winged Crossbill 1; Common Redpoll 465; Pine Siskin 14; American Goldfinch 412; Evening Grosbeak 196; House Sparrow 381.

Total Species 51, about 6640 individuals. Marc Adam, John Aikman, John Bossons, Ruth Brown, Edna Brunt, Ken Brunt, Bob Campbell, Karen Campbell, Tony Chaulk, John Collins,

Ken Crowell, Murray Decker, Bob Foster, Barbara Giffin, **Patrick Giffin (compiler)**, Len Gregory, Donna Hill, Ron Hill, Mike Inkpen, Bob Kadjas, Ted Kadjas, Diane Legard, Len Legard, Carole Long, William Long, Dave Ludlow, Tanya Ludlow, Pat MacDonald, Art MacIntosh, Judy MacKenzie, Mary MacMillan, Gary Myers, Danny Oickle, Joan Oickle, Adora Parsons, Herb Parsons, Tom Ross, Tom Ross, Jim Ross, Charles Salmon, Carol Smale, Herb Smale, George Wells, Jane White.

LOUISBOURG, Dec 18; 5:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Temp. -2 to 3.5 °C. Wind NW 10-30 kph. Snow 0-2.5cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, heavy snow, P.M. partly clear. 32 field observers in 18 parties, 28 at feeders, 3.25 hours and 7 km owling. Total party hours 78 (57.5 on foot, 20.5 by car). Total party kilometers 197.6 (86.6 by foot, 111 by car)

Common Loon 19; Red-necked Grebe 25; Northern Gannet 24; Great Cormorant 14; American Black Duck 80; Mallard 4; Greater Scaup 1; Common Eider 71; Surf Scoter 34; White-winged Scoter 11; Black Scoter 3; Oldsquaw 124; Bufflehead 9; Common Goldeneye 48; Common Merganser 27; Red-breasted Merganser 175; Bald Eagle 3; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Purple Sandpiper 76; **jaeger species 1**; Black-headed Gull 1; Bonaparte's Gull 4; Herring Gull 138; Iceland Gull 74; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 38; Black-legged Kittiwake 25; gull species 68; Dovekie 46; Common Murre; Thick-billed Murre 3; Black Guillemot 123; alcid species 3; Rock Dove 26; Mourning Dove 97; Downy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Northern Shrike 2; Gray Jay 17; Blue Jay 62; American Crow 185; Common Raven 40; Black-capped Chickadee 153; Boreal Chickadee 62; Red-breasted Nuthatch 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet 52; European Starling 300; Bohemian Bohemian Waxwing 51; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; **Yellow-breasted Chat 1**; American Tree Sparrow 2; Chipping Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 11; Dark-eyed Junco 32; Snow Bunting 5; **Dickcissel 1**; Common Grackle 7; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple

Finch 2; White-winged Crossbill 5; Common Redpoll 84; Pine Siskin 6; American Goldfinch 57; Evening Grosbeak 56; House Sparrow 96.

Total Species 66, about 2713 individuals. (CP. Canada Goose, Spruce Grouse, Great Horned Owl, White-throated Sparrow, Red Crossbill) Sandy Anthony, Jean Bagnell, Warren Bagnell, Brent Baker, Mary Lou Blundon, Philip Burke, Bill Bussey, Eddie Bussey, Donald Cameron, Margie Cameron, Peter Chiasson, Bonnie Dalziel, Ken Donovan, Lynn Ellis, Sheila Fudge, Tom Fudge, Sam Gallagher, Jennifer Gledhill, Rose Gledhill, Cyneth Hutt, Gordon Hutt, Elizabeth LaLonde, Gerry LaLonde, Lucille Ley, Tom Ley, Carleton Lunn, Gwendolen Lunn, Miles MacDonald, Walter MacDonald, John W. MacInnis, Brian MacLeod, Minnie MacLeod, Ramona MacLeod, Pearl Magee; Philip Magee, Cathy Mailman, Francis Mailman, David McCorquodale, Eric McCorquodale, Sandy McLain, Geraldine Metcalfe, Hugh Metcalfe Jr., Joan Mills, Florence Miron, Val Monahan, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, **Susann Myers (compiler)**, Helen O'Shea, Terry Power, Carter Stevens, Chris Thompson, Pixie Williams, Rhys Williams.

LUNENBURG, Jan 2; 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Temp. 0 to 6 °C. Wind SSW 0-10 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. Foggy all day. 32 field observers in 8 parties, 8 at feeders, 2 hours and 13 kilometers owling. Total party hours 52.5 (22.5 on foot, 30 by car). Total party kilometers 444 (58 by foot, 386 by car).

Common Loon 18; Horned Grebe 18; Great Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 26; American Wigeon 1; American Black Duck 40; Mallard 674; Northern Pintail 9; Green-winged Teal 9; Oldsquaw 202; Bufflehead 19; Common Goldeneye 90; Hooded Merganser **100**; Common Merganser 115; Red-breasted Merganser 60; duck species 20; Bald Eagle 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 16; Ring-necked Pheasant 14; Spruce Grouse 4; Ruffed Grouse 1; Black-headed Gull 4; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 17; Herring Gull 1359; Iceland Gull 17; Glaucous Gull 1; Great

Black-backed Gull 245; gull species 1; Black Guillemot 7; Rock Dove 234; Mourning Dove 251; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 10; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Northern Flicker 9; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 187; American Crow 596; Common Raven 47; Black-capped Chickadee 321; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 16; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; **Winter Wren 1**; Golden-crowned Kinglet 19; American Robin 13; Northern Mockingbird 2; European Starling 974; Bohemian Waxwing 185; Cedar Waxwing 1; Pine Warbler 7; American Tree Sparrow 39; Savannah Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 23; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 28; Dark-eyed Junco 183; sparrow species 8; Northern Cardinal 1; Pine Grosbeak 1; Purple Finch 13; Red Crossbill 18; Common Redpoll 114; Pine Siskin 4; American Goldfinch 97; Evening Grosbeak 58; House Sparrow 31.

Total Species 73, about 6617 individuals. (CP. Snow Bunting). Andrew Bald, Anna Bald, Bobby Chivers, **Jill Comolli (compiler)**, Dave Currie, Arlene Davis, Leighton Davis, Sylvia Fullerton, Laurel Hazlett, James Hirtle, Paul MacDonald, Winnifred McCarthy, Jean McKiel, Pat McLarty, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Pat Morrison, Scottis Morrison, Sheevaun Nelson, Pat Oldfield, Ed Porter, Lainie Porter, Catherine Pross, Paul Pross, Nellie Snyder, Azor Vienneau, Bob Weld, Heather Weld Bruce Wiseman, Phyllis Wiseman.

MARGAREE, Dec 18; 7:45 AM to 4:00 PM. Temp. 2 to 6 °C. Wind NW 10 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, P.M. cloudy, light snow. 3 field observers in 2 parties, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 15 (5 on foot, 10 by car). Total party kilometers 71 (10 by foot, 61 by car)

American Black Duck 46; Common Goldeneye 17; Common Merganser 118; Bald Eagle 18; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Merlin 2; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 55; Iceland Gull 8; Great Black-backed Gull 41; Mourning Dove 13; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 4;

Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 11; Blue Jay 34; American Crow 260; Common Raven 41; Black-capped Chickadee 18; Brown Creeper 2; European Starling 154; Cedar Waxwing 84; Dark-eyed Junco 9; Snow Bunting 27; Pine Grosbeak 5; Purple Finch 16; Pine Siskin 23; Evening Grosbeak 99; House Sparrow 6.

Total Species 29, about 1123 individuals. Eunice Hart, **Frances Hart (compiler)**, Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham.

NORTHPORT, Jan 2; 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Temp. -1 to 2 °C. Wind NNW 1-5 kph. Snow 25cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. Partly clear all day. 1 field observers in 1 party, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 5 (2 on foot, 3 by car). Total party kilometers 10 (2.5 by foot, 7.5 by car)

Canada Goose 72; American Black Duck 142; White-winged Scoter 36; Northern Goshawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Herring Gull 143; Iceland Gull 638; Great Black-backed Gull 32; Rock Dove 102; Mourning Dove 16; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 13; American Crow 82; Common Raven 3; Black-capped Chickadee 11; European Starling 404; American Tree Sparrow 3; Snow Bunting 80; Evening Grosbeak 11; House Sparrow 15.

Total Species 20, about 1808 individuals. (CP. Cedar Waxwing, Pine Siskin), **Mary Jane MacNeil (compiler)**, June MacNeil.

PICTOU HARBOUR, Jan 1; 7:20AM to 5PM. Temp. -18 to -6 °C. Wind SW 10 kph. Snow 8cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly open. Skies clear all day. 15 field observers in 9 parties, 18 at feeders, 2 hours and 35 kilometers owling. Total party hours 47.5 (23 on foot, 24.5 by car). Total party kilometers 425.75 (30.75 by foot, 395 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 3; Horned Grebe 3; Northern Gannet 1; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Canada Goose 1703; Gadwall 3; **Eurasian Wigeon 1**; American Wigeon 4;

American Black Duck 2025; Mallard 57; Mallard x Black Duck hybrid 2; Northern Shoveler 1; Northern Pintail 3; Green-winged Teal 2; **Tufted Duck 3**; Greater Scaup 3224; Lesser Scaup 40; Surf Scoter 6; White-winged Scoter 6; Black Scoter 1; Oldsquaw 99; Bufflehead 3; Common Goldeneye 1013; Barrow's Goldeneye 4; Hooded Merganser 15; Common Merganser 787; Red-breasted Merganser 267; duck species 100; Bald Eagle 41; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 1; hawk species 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Common Snipe 3; Black-headed Gull 1; Bonaparte's Gull 3; Ring-billed Gull 93; Herring Gull 2567; Iceland Gull 92; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 139; gull species 177; Rock Dove 151; Mourning Dove 210; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 5; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 16; Northern Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 10; Northern Shrike 1; Blue Jay 191; American Crow 740; Common Raven 79; Black-capped Chickadee 438; Boreal Chickadee 12; Red-breasted Nuthatch 15; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 21; American Robin 39; European Starling 1824; Bohemian Waxwing 401; Yellow-rumped warbler 6; American Tree Sparrow 38; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 11; Dark-eyed Junco 121; Snow Bunting 95; Common Grackle 5; Baltimore Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 25; Common Redpoll 447; Pine Siskin 6; American Goldfinch 98; Evening Grosbeak 129; House Sparrow 293.

Total Species 77, about 17961 individuals. (CP. Common Eider, Ring-necked Pheasant; **Mew Gull**, Northern Mockingbird, Swamp Sparrow). Margie Beck, Calvin Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Lillian Bryan, Agnes Chisholm, Kathy Dodds, May Goring, Bob Hanes, Elwin Hemphill, Janet Hemphill, Randy Lauff, Margaret Leahey, Jean MacDonald, George MacInnis, Fred MacKenzie, Cathy Madore, Harold Madore, Mary Mason, Pat McCarron, **Ken McKenna (compiler)**, Tony Miller, Bernice Moores, Gary Murray, Joan Panting, Robert Reid, Wendy Skinner, Henry

Snow, Polly Szantor, Steve Vines, Joan Waldron, Ann Wren.

PORT L'HEBERT, Dec 19; 7:30 AM to 4:45 PM. Temp. -8 to -1 °C. Wind NW 7-20 kph. Snow 0-.5cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 21 field observers in 13-14 parties, 2 at feeders, 0.75 hours and 14 km. owling. Total party hours 74 (54.25 on foot, 19.25 by car). Total party kilometers 498.25 (102.25 by foot, 396 by car)

Red-throated Loon 7; Common Loon 45; Horned Grebe 46; Red-necked Grebe 8; Great Cormorant 8; Great Blue Heron 3; Canada Goose 838; American Black Duck 519; Mallard 4; Green-winged Teal 11; Greater Scaup 22; Common Eider 265; Surf Scoter 17; White-winged Scoter 4; Black Scoter 30; Oldsquaw 62; Bufflehead 53; Common Goldeneye 7; Hooded Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 46; Bald Eagle 3; Northern Harrier 2; Northern Goshawk 1; Merlin 2; Ruffed Grouse 11; Spruce Grouse 1; Black-bellied Plover 2; Sanderling 60; Purple Sandpiper 3; Black-headed Gull 16; Herring Gull 859; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 187; Black Guillemot 32; Rock Dove 30; Mourning Dove 138; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 8; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 12; Blue Jay 99; American Crow 195; Common Raven 11; Black-capped Chickadee 358; Boreal Chickadee 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch 33; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 123; American Robin 20; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 340; Bohemian Waxwing 44; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 46; Pine Warbler 1; Palm Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 17; Chipping Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 42; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 33; Dark-eyed Junco 63; Snow Bunting 1; Red Crossbill 3; Common Redpoll 39; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 48; Evening Grosbeak 33; House Sparrow 25.

Total Species 74, about 4977 individuals. (Northern Gannet, Sharpshinned Hawk, American Kestrel, Common Snipe, Iceland Gull, Purple

Finch) Bill Crosby, Bryce Crosby, Chris Crosby, **Donna Crosby (compiler)**, Russel Crosby, Bill Curry, Andy Dean, Lalia Dean, Donna Ensor, Eric Ensor, Frances Fisher, Ray Fisher, Dean Fiske, Emerson Fiske, Sylvia Fullerton, Barbara Hinds, Danny Mason, Laura Mason, Roger Ross, Robert Turner, David Young, Joan Young.

PUBNICO, Dec 26; 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Temp. -4 to 1 °C. Wind SW 60 kph. Snow 5cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 19 field observers in 5 parties, 4 hours owling. Total party hours 32.5 (9.5 on foot, 23 by car). Total party kilometers 444 (18 by foot, 426 by car)

Common Loon 9; Great Cormorant 1; cormorant species 2; Canada Goose 14; American Black Duck 321; Mallard 1; Greater Scaup 36; Common Eider 6; Oldsquaw 6; Common Goldeneye 38; Hooded Merganser 10; Common Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 12; Bald Eagle 4; Northern Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 8; Rough-legged Hawk 4; hawk species 1; American Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 6; Ring-billed Gull 26; Herring Gull 942; Iceland Gull 11; Great Black-backed Gull 1308; Mourning Dove 147; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 1; **Eastern Phoebe 1**; Northern Shrike 2; Blue Jay 43; American Crow 445; Common Raven 43; Black-capped Chickadee 86; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 13; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1**; Hermit Thrush 1; Northern Mockingbird 2; European Starling 292; American Pipit 12; Bohemian Waxwing 100; American Tree Sparrow 39; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 23; White-throated Sparrow 56; **White-crowned Sparrow 1**; Dark-eyed Junco 23; Northern Cardinal 6; **Dickcissel 1**; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Red Crossbill 8; Common Redpoll 9; American Goldfinch 29; Evening Grosbeak 1; House Sparrow 51.

Total Species 57, about 4232 individuals. (CP. Wood Duck, American Robin, Swamp Sparrow) Donnie Burns, Albert D'Entremont, Germain D'Entremont, Gisèle D'Entremont, Helene D'Entremont, Lisette

D'Entremont, Raymond D'Entremont, Benjamin D'Eon, Claire D'Eon, Jerome D'Eon, Reginald D'Eon, **Ted C. D'Eon (compiler)**, Paul Gould, June Graves, James Hirtle, Ethelda Murphy, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters.

ST. PETERS, Dec 29; 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Temp. -3 to -1 °C. Wind S 20 kph. Snow 2-5cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. heavy snow, P. M. light snow. 12 field observers in 8 parties, 13 at feeders. Total party hours 28.5 (10 on foot, 18.5 by car). Total party kilometers 245 (20 by foot, 225 by car)

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 5; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 2; Double-crested Cormorant 1; American Black Duck 14; Common Eider 43; Oldsquaw 76; Common Goldeneye 76; Hooded Merganser 1; Common Merganser 18; Red-breasted Merganser 57; Bald Eagle 4; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 19; Common Snipe 1; Black-headed Gull 33; Bonaparte's Gull 16; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 149; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 22; Dovekie 3; Black Guillemot 6; Mourning Dove 85; Belted Kingfisher 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 12; Blue Jay 58; American Crow 165; Common Raven 30; Black-capped Chickadee 63; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 8; American Robin 1; European Starling 262; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; American Tree Sparrow 4; Savannah Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 18; Snow Bunting 4; **Dickcissel 1**; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 6; Red Crossbill 6; White-winged Crossbill 12; Common Redpoll 5; American Goldfinch 23; Evening Grosbeak 10; House Sparrow 90.

Total Species 41, about 985 individuals. (CP. Red-tailed Hawk, Spruce Grouse, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Great Horned Owl). Tony Burke, Fr. Donnie Campbell, Floyd Carter, **Billy Digout (compiler)**, George Digout, Murdock Digout, Wendell Holmes, Dell Landry, Eva Landry, Keats Landry, Fr. George MacInnis, John MacInnis, Frances MacKay, Dave McCorquodale, Tom Murray, Danny

Nightingale, Frances Oram, Walter O'Toole, Terry Power, Kaye Robertson, Annie Vanderhoeden, Melvin White, Trevor Wilkie, Joseph Wincey.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec 19; 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Temp. -12 to 0°C. Wind NW 25 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. Skies partly clear all day. 39 field observers in 16 parties, 23 at feeders, 0.75 hours and 2 kilometers owling. Total party hours 52.75 (24.75 on foot, 28 by car). Total party kilometers 435.4 (48 by foot, 387.4 by car).

Canada Goose 30; American Black Duck 448; Mallard 437; Common Merganser 184; Bald Eagle 26; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 8; falcon species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 42; Ruffed Grouse 9; **American Coot 1**; Herring Gull 164; Great Black-backed Gull 7; gull species 19; Rock Dove 467; Mourning Dove 300; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 20; Hairy Woodpecker 22; Black-backed Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 298; American Crow 1046; Common Raven 174; Black-capped Chickadee 620; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 54; Brown Creeper 5; **Winter Wren 2**; Golden-crowned Kinglet 93; American Robin 1; European Starling 3903; Bohemian Waxwing 8; American Tree Sparrow 22; Song Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 91; Snow Bunting 285; Red-winged Blackbird 25; Common Grackle 12; Brown-headed Cowbird 70; Pine Grosbeak 1; Purple Finch 6; White-winged Crossbill 17; Pine Siskin 9; American Goldfinch 252; Evening Grosbeak 358; House Sparrow 160.

Total Species 54, about 10028 individuals. Barbara Aitken, Mark Anthony, Fred Ashley, Conrad Baldwin, Wylie Barbrick, Barbara Bower, Rob Cameron, Terry Carroll, Carol Goswell, Hambleton, Audrey Hungerford, John Hungerford, Myrna Isenor, Joan Jarvis, Marilyn Lovegrove, Pat Lynds, Anne MacDonald, Joan Mackey, **Roslyn MacPhee (compiler)**, Sharon MacPhee, Elsie McCulloch, Reg McCurdy, Juanita Murphy, Brenda Norwich, Jacques

Perron, Annie Perry, Christine Queripel, Judy Queripel, Robie Quinn, Barbara Scott, Dale Smith, Rosalie Stewart, Connie Stott, Julie Towers, Roger Wardrope, Lorne Weaver, Arthur West, Myrna West, Irving Williams, Beth Wright.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec 18; 7:00 AM to 5:15 PM. Temp. -4 to -2°C. Wind W 15-30 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Partly clear, light snow, P.M. clear. 10 field observers in 7 parties, 15 at feeders, 5 hours and 90 km. owling. Total party hours 60.75 (24 on foot, 36.75 by car). Total party kilometers 669.5 (36 by foot, 633.5 by car).

American Black Duck 88; Mallard 3; Green-winged Teal 9; Hooded Merganser 2; Common Merganser 29; Bald Eagle 8; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 5; hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 4; Common Snipe 2; **Bonaparte's Gull 1**; Ring-billed Gull 25; Herring Gull 111; Iceland Gull 3; **Lesser Black-backed Gull 1**; Great Black-backed Gull 6; Rock Dove 500; Mourning Dove 159; Barred Owl 3; **Northern Saw-whet Owl 1**; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 19; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Northern Shrike 4; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 182; American Crow 7645; Common Raven 74; Black-capped Chickadee 517; Boreal Chickadee 14; Red-breasted Nuthatch 32; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 32; European Starling 871; Bohemian Waxwing 104; American Tree Sparrow 66; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 112; **Baltimore Oriole 1**; Pine Grosbeak 20; Common Redpoll 165; Pine Siskin 14; American Goldfinch 98; Evening Grosbeak 83; House Sparrow 192.

Total Species 50, about 11,245 individuals. (CP. Pied-billed Grebe, Common Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, Purple Finch). **Calvin Brennan (compiler)**, Donna Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Mark Brennan, Tim Brennan, Frank Calder, Sonny Cyr, Claire Foote, Ralph Foote, Doug Fraser, Mary Fraser, Joan Kearley,

Randy Lauff, Susan Martin, Jill McIntyre, Ken McKenna, Helen Melanson, Gary Murray, Margie Reid, Rob Reid, Shirley Stewart, Polly Szantor, Chris Tobin, Steve Vines, Rita Young.

THE SYDNEYS, Dec 21; 6:15M to 4:30PM. 4:30 PM. Temp. 1 to 8 °C. Wind WSW, 10-30 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy light to heavy rain all day. 22 field observers in 12 parties, 32 at feeders, 0.5 hours and 20km. owling. Total party hours 46 (10.75 on foot, 35.25 by car). Total party kilometers 398.5 (13.5 by foot, 385 by car)

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 3; **storm-petrel species 1**; Great Cormorant 50; Wood Duck 1; Gadwall 1; American Black Duck 1470; Mallard 484; Northern Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 1; **Lesser Scaup 1**; Surf Scoter 17; White-winged Scoter 257; Oldsquaw 57; Bufflehead 21; Common Goldeneye 285; Barrow's Goldeneye 5; Common Merganser 12; Red-breasted Merganser 87; Bald Eagle 22; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; **Broad-winged Hawk 1**; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Ruffed Grouse 2; Black-headed Gull 15; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 5; Herring Gull 1003; Iceland Gull 550; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 261; Black Guillemot 3; Rock Dove 335; Mourning Dove 85; Great Horned Owl 3; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; **Western Kingbird 1**; Blue Jay 107; American Crow 1053; Common Raven 35; Black-capped Chickadee 283; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 30; European Starling 2139; Bohemian Waxwing 25; **Orange-crowned Warbler 1**; Yellow-rumped Warbler 54; American Tree Sparrow 6; Savannah Sparrow 1; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 6; **Lincoln's Sparrow 1**; Dark-eyed Junco 21; sparrow species 1; Lapland Longspur 1; **Baltimore Oriole 1**; Pine Grosbeak 8; Common Redpoll 226; Pine Siskin 3; American Goldfinch 144; Evening Grosbeak 116; House Sparrow 874.

Total Species 66 plus one subspecies, about 10201 individuals. Stuart Anderson, Charles Andrews, Jessie

Andrews, Graham Benvie, Jean Boone, Donald F. Campbell, Barc Cunningham, Sharon Cunningham, Randy Davidson, Lynn Ellis, David Forrester, Gail Forrester, Jim Gardner, David Harris, Barb MacDonald, Walter MacDonald, Yvonne MacDonald, Joan MacFadden, George MacInnis, John W. MacInnis, Walter MacKinnon, **David McCorquodale (compiler)**, Eric McCorquodale, Bill McInnis, Paul McInnis, Winnie Meikle, Judy Mercer, Roger Mercer, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Terry Power, Amelia Prester, Bill Reeves, Sean Roach, Freda Robb, Pierre Sampson, I. Thomas, Chris Thomson, Jack White, Darlene Whitty, Tim Whitty, Ambrose Young, Denise Young.

TRURO, Dec 29; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Temp. -4 to -1 °C. Wind W 5 kph. Snow 4cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, light snow, P.M. partly cloudy. 8 field observers in 7 parties, 8 at feeders. Total party hours 38 (16.5 on foot, 21.5 by car). Total party kilometers 512.5 (27.5 by foot, 485 by car).

Canada Goose 260; American Wigeon 4; American Black Duck 561; Mallard 472; Northern Pintail 1; Green-winged Teal 4; Common Merganser 6; Bald Eagle 18; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 10; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Merlin 1; Gray Partridge 28; Ring-necked Pheasant 32; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 334; Iceland Gull 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 68; Rock Dove 537; Mourning Dove 373; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 81; American Crow 1726; Common Raven 15; Horned Lark 83; Black-capped Chickadee 107; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 17; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 8; **Townsend's Solitaire 1**; American Robin 4; European Starling 3189; Bohemian Waxwing 150; American Tree Sparrow 79; Savannah Sparrow 37; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 69; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 375; Pine Grosbeak 5; Common Redpoll 638; American Goldfinch 114; Evening

Grosbeak 238; House Sparrow 118.

Total Species 54, about 9799 individuals. (CP. White-breasted Nuthatch) Winnifred Bigney, Allan Eddy, Rene Gould, Linda Hall, **Ross Hall (compiler)**, Winnifred Kettleson, Martha MacLaughlin, Marilyn MacWha, Bea McCallum, Jeff Ogden, Heidi Rix, Rachel Smith, Edgar Spalding, Fran Spalding, Harold Stewart, Sheila Stewart.

WEST HANTS, Dec 27; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Temp. -1 to 1 °C. Wind calm. Snow 3cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. Partly cloudy, P.M. cloudy, light snow. 26 field observers in 8 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 121 (40 on foot, 81 by car). Total party kilometers 670 (46 by foot, 624 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 393; **Eurasian Wigeon 1**; American Wigeon 4; American Black Duck 586; Mallard 22; Northern Pintail 6; Green-winged Teal 20; Common Merganser 22; Bald Eagle 24; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Northern Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 27; Rough-legged Hawk 4; American Kestrel 1; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 59; Ruffed Grouse 2; Purple Sandpiper 1; Common Snipe 1; Ring-billed Gull 60; Herring Gull 1188; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 226; Rock Dove 837; Mourning Dove 575; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 17; Saw-whet Owl 3; Downy Woodpecker 21; Hairy Woodpecker 17; Northern Flicker 12; Pileated Woodpecker 10; Northern Shrike 6; Gray Jay 14; Blue Jay 510; American Crow 942; Common Raven 173; Black-capped Chickadee 488; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 22; White-breasted Nuthatch 18; Brown Creeper 1; **Winter Wren 1**; Golden-crowned Kinglet 33; American Robin 135; **Gray Catbird 1**; European Starling 8259; Bohemian Waxwing 1607; Cedar Waxwing 51; Palm Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 37; Savannah Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 17; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 169; Snow Bunting 29; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Pine Grosbeak 13; Purple Finch 17; Red Crossbill 8; White-winged Crossbill 40; Common Redpoll 1497; Pine Siskin 3; American Goldfinch 218; Evening Grosbeak 380; House Sparrow 779.

Total Species 68, about 19684 individuals. (CP. **Snow Goose**) George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Art Crowell, Gail Davis, Elizabeth Ferguson, Harold Forsythe, Merritt Gibson, Fulton Lavender, Peter LeBlanc, Barb McKay, Don McKay, Pat Martin, Blake Maybank, Mick O'Neill, Sally O'Neill, Peter Richard, Sheila Robarts, Joe Robertson, **John Robertson (compiler)**, Bev Shanks, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Gerry Truman, Jim Wolford, Frank Woolaver, Scott Yetman.

WOLFVILLE, Dec 19 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Temp. -9 to 2 °C. Wind variable 5-20kph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. Skies partly clear all day. 50 field observers in 22 parties, 88 at feeders, 2 hours and 0.5 km. owling. Total parties hours 166.2 (78.2 on foot, 88 by car). Total party kilometers 1155.5 (199.5 by foot, 956 by car)

Great Blue Heron 2; **Turkey Vulture 1**; Canada Goose 131; American Black Duck 3317; Mallard 651; Black Duck x Mallard hybrid 1; Green-winged Teal 14; Surf Scoter 6; White-winged Scoter 1; Black Scoter 17; Common Goldeneye 27; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Common Merganser 36; Red-breasted Merganser 4; Bald Eagle 254; Northern Harrier 12; Sharp-shinned Hawk 10; Northern Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 137; Rough-legged Hawk 7; American Kestrel 2; Merlin 7; **Peregrine Falcon 1**; Ring-necked Pheasant 257; Ruffed Grouse 5; American Coot; Killdeer 6; **Greater Yellowlegs 1**; Ring-billed Gull 281; Herring Gull 4981; Iceland Gull 8; **Lesser Black-backed Gull 2**; Great Black-backed Gull 789; murre species 4; Rock Dove 910; Mourning Dove 1089; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 3; Short-eared Owl 1; Northern Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 102; Hairy Woodpecker 52; Black-backed Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 29; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Northern Shrike 4; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 831; American Crow 19793; Common Raven 381; Horned Lark 79; Black-capped Chickadee 1225; Boreal Chickadee 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch 62; White-breasted Nuthatch 52; Brown Creeper 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet 118; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1**;

American Robin 65; Northern Mockingbird 17; European Starling 20034; Bohemian Waxwing 1785; Cedar Waxwing 195; Pine Warbler 1; warbler species 1; American Tree Sparrow 331; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 9; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 81; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 22; **White-crowned Sparrow 1**; Dark-eyed Junco 1697; Snow Bunting 107; Northern Cardinal 8; Red-winged Blackbird 12; Common Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 16; Pine Grosbeak 20; Purple Finch 30; House Finch 3; Red Crossbill 15; White-winged Crossbill 10; Common Redpoll 4511; Pine Siskin 77; American Goldfinch 774; Evening Grosbeak 226; House Sparrow 1403.

Total Species 89, about 67207 individuals. (CP. **Tufted Duck**, Glaucous Gull, Yellow-rumped Warbler, **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**). Agar Adamson, George Alliston, Jim Amos, Diana Anderson, Peter Austin-Smith, Patricia Bernier, Charlene Bishop, Diana Bishop, Sue Bissix, Sherman Bleakney, Sherman Boates, Larry Bogan, Silas Bondrup-Nielsen, Soren Bondrup-Nielsen, Sharon Borden, Mike Boudreau, Carol Buckley, Ron Buckley, Dick Cain, Mary Ellen Carpenter, Lana Churchill, Sandy Connelly, Ed Connelly, Chris Cox, Susan Cox, Peggy Crawford, Debbie Daigle, Jim Diagle, Andy Davis, Pat Davis, Pat Dix, Ev Eagles, Joan Eaton, Mark Elderkin, Paul Elderkin, Wendy Elliott, Mary Ellis, Annie Ferraro, Trina Fitzgerald, Bob Flecknell, George E. Forsyth, George F. Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Glenys Gibson, Jamie Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Mary Sue Goulding, Carina Gjerdrum, Ed Hancock, Charlotte Harper, Eileen Harris, Luke Harris, Robert Harris, Tracey Horsman, Lorna Hart, Avril Harwood, John Harwood, Blanche Healy, Gail Herbin, Matt Holder, Bob Horne, Isobel Horton, John Horton, Winnie Horton, J.P. Huang, Mark Johnston, Sandy Kempton, Andrea Kingsley, Meg Krawchuk, Linda Lusby, Angus MacLean, Ron Margeson, Don Marston, Shirley Marston, Bill Martell, Pat Martell, Jessie Martin, Bernard Mason, Eleanor Mason, Randy Milton,

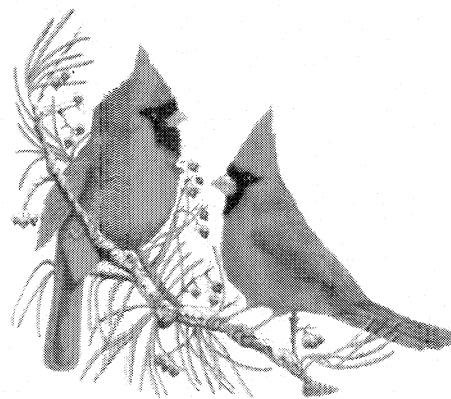
Terri Milton, Dawn Miner, Sheila McCurdy, Ruth Murphy, Terry Murphy, Edna Mutch, Gary Ness, Nancy Nickerson, Joe Nocera, Mike O'Brien, Mick O'Neill, Ian Patterson, Linda Pearson, Terry Pearson, Dorothy Perkin, Janet Pratt, Mary Pratt, Tom Regan; Ladney Richmond, **Stan Riggs (compiler)**, Gordon Robart, Benita Rogers, Marg Russell, Barry Sabeau, Linda Sacouman, Gladys Saltzman, Katherine Saltzman, Kathy Schaffner, Meg Scheld, Jack Scott, Ruth Scott, Mabel Sheffield, David Silverberg, Peter Smith, Brian Starzomski, Richard Stern, Art Steward, Fran Steward, Merriam Sullivan, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Dianne Thorpe, Jean Timpa, David Trueman, Gerry Trueman, Tracey Trueman, Deanna Urban, Eva Urban, Walter Urban, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Don Wright, Barry Yoell, Betty Yoell, Earl Young, Sheila Young

YARMOUTH, Dec 19; 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Temp. -5 to -2 °C. Wind N, 15 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 15 field observers in 6-7 parties, 12 at feeders. Total party hours 48 (13 on foot, 35 by car). Total party kilometers 551 (27 by foot, 524 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 18; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 11; Great Cormorant 3; cormorant species 9; Great Blue Heron 3; **Little Blue Heron 1**; Canada Goose 785; Wood Duck 2; American Wigeon 1; American Black Duck 410; Mallard 311; Green-winged Teal 40; Lesser Scaup 16; scaup species 5; Common Eider 28; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 2; Oldsquaw 86; Bufflehead 60; Common Goldeneye 37; Hooded Merganser 16; Common Merganser 10; Red-breasted Merganser 132; duck species 51; Bald Eagle 2; Northern Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 10; hawk species 1; American Kestrel 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 14; Ruffed Grouse 5; grouse species 1; American Coot 1; American Woodcock 1; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 176; Herring Gull 648; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 173; Black Guillemot 3; Rock Dove 153; Mourning Dove 212; Barred Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 3;

Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Northern Flicker 18; Northern Shrike 1; shrike species 1; Blue Jay 189; American Crow 460; Common Raven 31; Horned Lark 17; Black-capped Chickadee 234; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 23; American Robin 2; Northern Mockingbird 4; European Starling 4300; Cedar Waxwing 4; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; American Tree Sparrow 8; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 14; Swamp Sparrow 9; White-throated Sparrow 40; Dark-eyed Junco 108; Snow Bunting 3; Northern Cardinal 17; Red-winged Blackbird 13; Rusty Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 22; Brown-headed Cowbird 6; House Finch 21; Red Crossbill 3; White-winged Crossbill 3; Common Redpoll 7; Pine Siskin 15; American Goldfinch 85; Evening Grosbeak 2; House Sparrow 34.

Total Species 83, about 9,193 individuals. (CP. Pied-billed Grebe, Great Cormorant, Northern Goshawk, Spruce Grouse, Iceland Gull, Purple Finch). Marilyn Burns, Paul Comeau, Peter Comeau, Elsie Crosby, Darlene Davis, Raymond d'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, Bernie Deveau, Paul Gould, June Graves, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Tim Hall, Hazel MacDonald, Peter MacDonald, David Mahoney, Dale Mullen, Leah Murphy, Arthur Porter, Judy Raynard, Marcie Rogers, **Barbara Ruff (compiler)**, **Eric Ruff (compiler)**, Clark Sollows, Vera Sollows, Jim Thibeau, Grace Walker. ✎



Honorary Life Member – Dr. Ian McLaren

By Gisèle d'Entremont

I have a special presentation to make this evening to one of our members who has contributed to the Nova Scotia Bird Society in many ways throughout many years.

A long time member of our society, this person served as our President in 1967-1968 and 1968-1969. Under his term of office our Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund was set up and the Society became affiliated with the Canadian Audubon Society (now Nature Canada). In 1979, The Puffin of the Year was awarded to Dr. Ian McLaren, and it is he whom we honour tonight.

In 1975, Ian, with W.T. Stobo, published *The Ipswich Sparrow*, the definitive book on the endemic sparrows of Sable Island. Ian's work was recently referred to in *Living Bird*, a publication of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, in its Winter 1999 issue.

In 1986, Ian coordinated the revisions for the Third Edition of Robie W. Tufts', *Birds of Nova Scotia*. This was a monumental task.

Ian has been an active field trip leader, and many of us have been humbled trying to keep up with him on one of his many jaunts along Martinique Beach. He is always supportive of beginners and respectful of other birders.

Ian continues to be an active member of the Editorial Board of our publication, *Nova Scotia Birds*, as Photo Editor and as one of our Seasonal Reports Editors. He writes on rare birds with exactness and attention to detail.

Ian's involvement with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and the Sable Island Preservation Trust, as well as his work at Dalhousie keep him very busy. We all know he loves to slip away to Seal or Cape Sable Island for a day or two of birding now and then.

In the President's Report in 1968, Ian wrote: "Good works versus entertainment is a recurrent dilemma in societies such as ours..." Continue your good works, Ian, and also continue to enjoy your passion for birds and birding.

We the Executive, on behalf of the membership, are pleased to present you with an honorary Life Membership. 🐦

Presented at the NSBS Monthly Meeting, March 23, 2000.

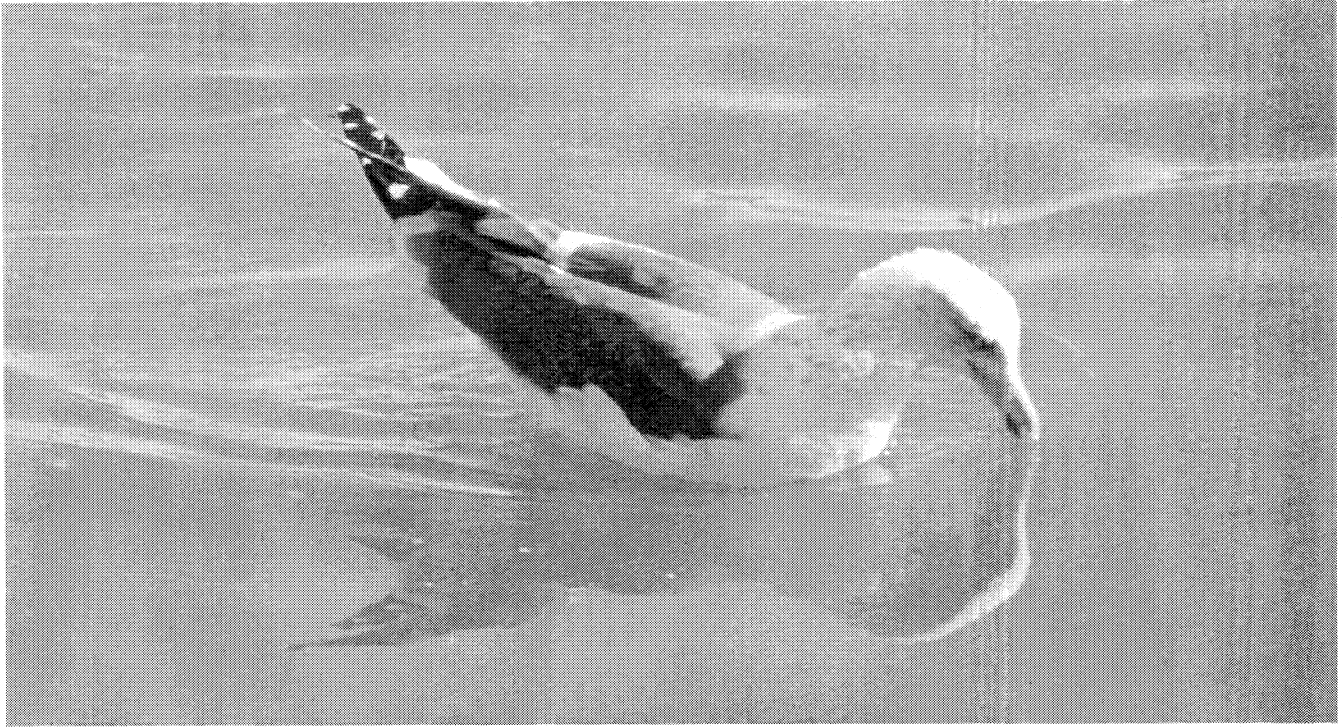


This **Red-breasted Nuthatch** posed for several minutes, fluffed-out and flattened against a log at Murray Newell's lavish feeder on CSI. There were no hawks in evidence, and perhaps it was just having a rest after its suet and peanut butter meal.

Seasonal Gulls

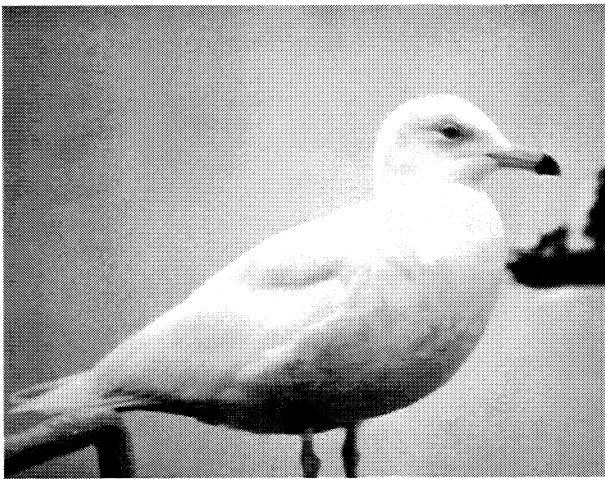
By Ian McLaren

Ian McLaren



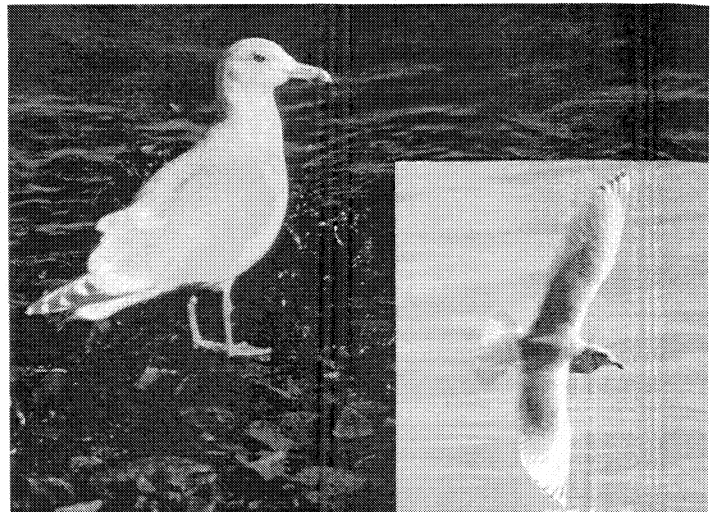
Lesser Black-backed Gull - This spanking adult bird was a one-day wonder Feb. 18 at Pier 9 in Halifax, where the decade-long regular failed to return a few years ago.

Ken McKenna



An Odd Gull - Ken McKenna and colleagues puzzled over this gull found Jan. 9 and subsequently at the Pictou wharf. Despite its bill pattern, like that of a Glaucous Gull, they thought from its smallish size and rounded head that it might be an albino Herring Gull. Another possibility is that it was a Glaucous Gull of the rather more delicate race *barrovianus* from the far NW of Canada and Alaska. Iceland Gulls of the nominate Greenland race also often have such bicoloured bills, although the bill of this one seems rather straight and sturdy for that species.

Ian McLaren



Thayer's Gull - First identified Jan. 15 by Fulton Lavender, this apparent Thayer's Gull was reliably found at Pier 9 in Halifax through the rest of the reporting period. These photos taken Feb. 5 show its dark eye, rather large bill, and restricted blackish primary tips. Some of our "Kumlien's" Gulls approach it in one or another of these characteristics, but combined they seem convincing.

Book Review

By **Blake Maybank**

**A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO POINT PELEE (and surrounding Region)
Tom Hince, 1999, Wild Rose Guest House, Wheatley, ON, \$24.95**

190 pages. Coil Bound. ISBN # 0-9685310-0-8

Ahh, Pelee. Among North American, and particularly Canadian, birders, the name resonates, like a mantra, replete with wonder. And if the reality falls short of mythology, it is still a rewarding place to visit. Clearly many others believe the same, and Point Pelee National Park is visited by more birders each year than any other site in the country, and is ahead of most sites on the continent. Although some commentators may argue with the author's assertion that "Simply put, Point Pelee is the best migrant trap in inland North America," the place produces the ornithological goods. And now, unsurprisingly, we have the first Birder's Guide to the area. Tom Hince has the credentials to write this book, as he worked as the birding naturalist at Point Pelee National Park for more than a decade, and has been birding most of his life. My first reaction was, "Is this guide needed?"

This is a fair question, because Point Pelee National Park, almost alone among the national parks of Canada, has staff that knows the ins and outs of birding in the park, and there is an impressive informational support system for visiting birders. In addition, the area has been covered in print previously, including an extensive series of articles in the former *Birdfinding in Canada* newsletter, as well as sections in the *Bird-finding Guide to Ontario*, and *A Bird-Finding Guide to Canada*. However, the newsletter is no longer available, and this new entry into the field has much more depth than the other publications, and few birders object to receiving too much information regarding a place they wish to visit.

So, if we are agreed that such a popular birding locale needs an in-depth informational tool, does this tool deserve a place on your birding reference workbench? The quick answer -- yes.

The book is cleanly laid out, with a coil binder to allow it to lie open, a feature that the American Birding Association's series of Birding guides has shown to be very useful. The first part of the book provides an extensive orientation to the area, including weather, geography, timing visits, hazards, travel logistics, etc. An interesting section is "Pelee Pitfalls," describing common misidentifications made by eager visitors. Part two of the book details the birding areas, first within the boundaries of the national park itself, and then sites within 15 minutes of the park, one hour of the park, and a few sites further afield that are often linked with a visit to the region. The inclusion of sites beyond the park's boundaries is useful, because the park itself is only a few square miles in area, and if reworking the same areas day after day doesn't become boring, most will surely want a break from the hordes of other birders present, at least in May, when most birding visits occur.

The numerous appendices include the expected Seasonal Status charts for all the species that have occurred in the area, supplemented by brief accounts of species of special interest to visitors. There is also a list of recommended web sites, and lists of herptiles and mammals, with brief mention of their abundance.

Throughout, the book contains pleasing B&W bird photos, which help break the text flow. The maps in the book are adequate, although not up to the standards of the A.B.A. series. Watch the scale of each map carefully; a few are not drawn to scale (this is mentioned in small print), and others lack any scale at all. Still, I expect few users would find it difficult to navigate using the text directions combined with the maps. The only other suggestion I'd make for future editions of the book is to include a list of butterflies and dragonflies alongside the herptiles and mammals, as birders are increasingly focusing their binoculars on these colourful winged insects.

If you're planning a trip to Pelee, either as a first-timer or as a veteran, this book will assist your exploration. The only surprise you may face is the book's retail price, which, at \$24.95, seems steep, but this may simply be a reality of the self-publishing world. Regardless, if Pelee is in your plans, the book is a worthwhile investment. 🐦

**Blake Maybank, Canadian Birding,
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maybank@bigfoot.com or canadainbirding@hotmail.com**

Winter Rarities

By Ian McLaren

Francis Spalding

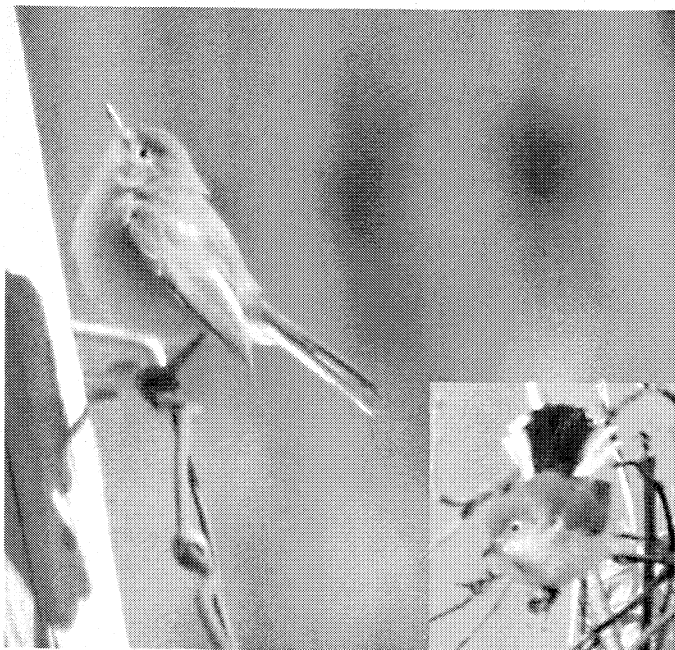


Jane Fletcher



A few **Hoary Redpolls** were reported among the numerous Common Redpolls at feeders this winter; these are only the second and third to have been photographically documented in Nova Scotia Birds. The one at left, at Economy, Col. Co., from late November through February, was possibly a well-marked male; note especially the almost unmarked white rump. The one at right was present Jan. 28 through February at Advocate Harbour, where it was well diagnosed as a probable immature female; its almost unmarked white rump is obscured by wingtips. Look closely to see that its large, dark "bill" is actually a sunflower seed gripped in its stubby bill.

Francis Spalding



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - These sprightly reverse migrants, have become a bit less common here in the past couple of autumns. This one lingered at Economy, Col. Co., Nov. 9-10, sometimes flashing its fancy tail.

Patricia Chalmers



Golden-crowned Sparrow - Patricia Chalmers discovered and identified this western wanderer during the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC, and photographed it a few days later. First-winter birds, like this one, are a bit obscure, but the photo shows the dark margins to the (dull yellow) forecrown, the rather blank face, and the pale throat bordered by a dark moustachial stripe (the last is not found on young White-crowns).

Field Trip Reports

Brier Island - October 9 - 11, 1999

By Fulton Lavender

Another great Brier Island trip was enjoyed by a dozen or so dedicated Thanksgiving-weekend birders. We began early Saturday morning with a flyby of at least 80 Turkey Vultures, a flock of 18 Snow Geese, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Pond Cove. An accumulated total of 18 N. Goshawks over the three days was also outstanding. Other highlights included Razorbill, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, N. Fulmar, and Parasitic Jaeger during our boat trip, and a small passerine flight at Northern Light. The list total was 117 species, with best passerines including Yellow-headed Blackbird, Vesper Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Prairie Warbler, and E. Phoebe. A brief owling session produced two N. Saw-whet Owls.

Sewer Strolls - 2000

By Fulton Lavender

This year's sewer strolls produced a combined total of 80 or more species, the best accumulated total since their inception. Participation continues to be 15-20 observers. Highlights of the two trips included all six alcid species, over 20 species of waterfowl, most of our common winter raptors, and best of all the CBC Golden-crowned Sparrow. If our winters continue their milder trend, the potential for these two trips seems enormous. Please plan to help us discover future surprises!



Chebucto Head (L) and Sullivans Pond are regular and productive stops on every Sewer Stroll. (S. Levy Photos)



**NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
Membership Application/Renewal Form 2000**

Membership in the Nova Scotia Bird Society is open to all. The membership fee includes a subscription to *Nova Scotia Birds*. Application for membership assumes that you have read and agreed to the waiver below. Membership runs from January to December. Rates are:

Individual:	\$15/year, for _____ years	\$ _____
Family:	\$18/year, for _____ years	\$ _____
Institutional:	\$25/year, for _____ years	\$ _____
Life:	\$375	\$ _____
Additional for addresses outside of Canada:		
	\$2/year, for _____ years	\$ _____
Fed. of NS Naturalists:	\$5/year, for _____ years	\$ _____
Membership Total:		\$ _____

The following items are also available:

_____ NSBS crests, \$4 each	\$ _____
_____ NSBS decals, \$1 each	\$ _____
_____ Bird Checklist, four for \$1	\$ _____
_____ Birding Nova Scotia, \$5	\$ _____
Supplies Total:	\$ _____

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

Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund Donation: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Name: _____
First Name Mid. Initial(s) Last Name

Renewal

Additional Name(s): _____

Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

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

In signing this membership application I/we hereby waive and release the Nova Scotia Bird Society, its executive committee and members from all claims for injury and/or damage suffered at any function or field trip organized by the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

Signature: _____

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

(Continued from back cover)

Sun 20 Aug: The Hawk, Cape Sable Island

Leader: Murray Newell 745-3340

Meet at 7:30 at Tim Horton's in Barrington Passage to spend the day on Cape Sable Island. See the migrating shorebirds between The Hawk and Cape Light and look for rarities.

Fri 1 Sept - Mon 4 Sept: Bon Portage Island

Contact: Joan Czapalay 422-6858 or 348-2803 (July to mid-Aug); joancz@ns.sympatico.ca

Pre-registration is necessary!

Meet late afternoon or early evening on Friday at Prospect Point Wharf in Shag Harbour. Bring food, drinking water, change of clothing, sturdy and/or waterproof footwear, flashlight, mattress sheet, and sleeping bag. Carry gear in waterproof bags or containers. Field guides, cooking pans, dishes and utensils are available on the island. There is a charge of \$45 to NSBS members for accommodation, as well as a boat trip donation. In the event of bad weather, the weekend will be spent birding Cape Sable Island and other Shelburne County hot spots.

Fri 22 Sept - NSBS Monthly Meeting: Brier Island

Contact: Carl Haycock 839-2960

Meeting will be held on Friday evening, followed by field trip(s) on Saturday.

Sat 23 Sept: Fundy Pelagic Trip

Contact: Carl Haycock 839-2960

BIOS Fundraiser in conjunction with the NSBS September meeting on Brier I. See details in this issue.

Sat 30 Sept: Changing of the Yard, Cape Breton

Leader: Junior Metcalfe 849-5054

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the former heavy water plant in Glace Bay.

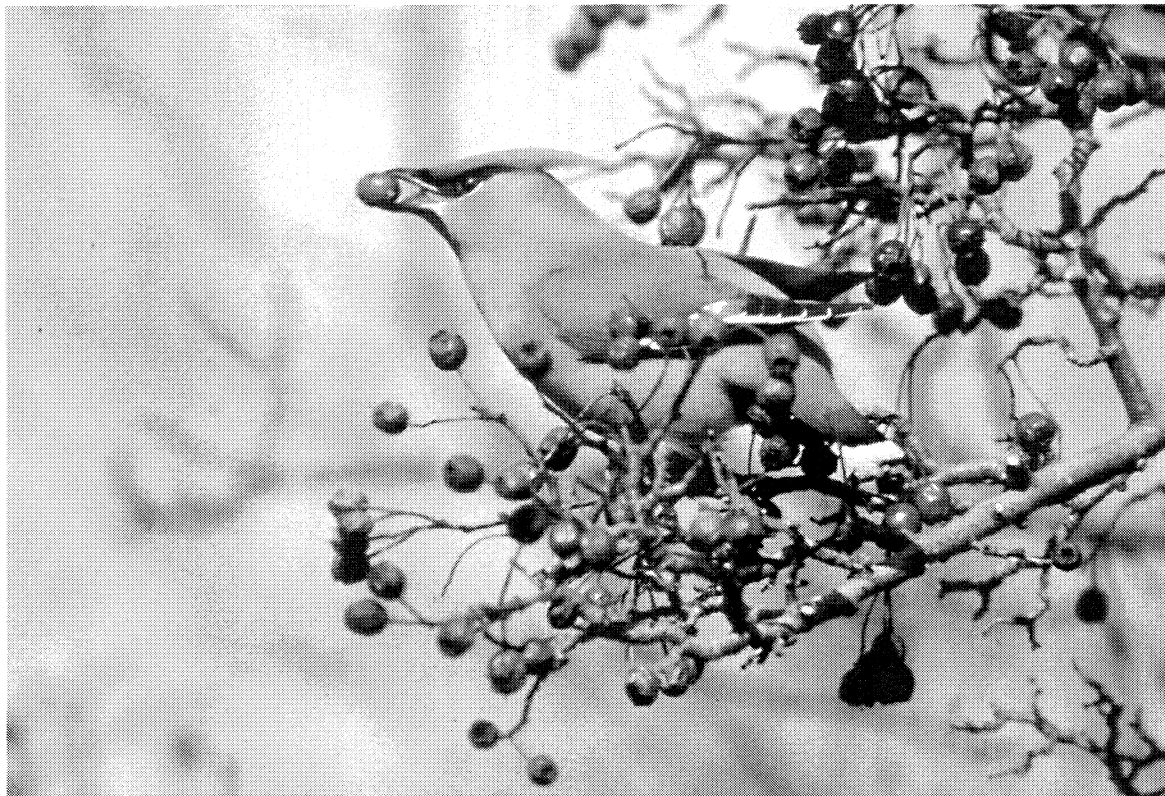
**Sun 1 Oct: Port Joli Property/
Keji Seaside Adjunct Park.**

Leader: Clarence Stevens, Jr. 902-835-0098

Pre-registration is necessary!

Joint Field Trip with the South Shore Naturalists Club. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of Keji Seaside Adjunct Park to see what birds there are in the park and in the NSBS property nearby. Bring a lunch.

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. 🐦🐦🐦



Bohemian Waxwing - Large flocks of Bohemian Waxwings turned up as usual in early winter. With shortages of preferred food like rowan berries and multiflora rose hips, they turned to second choices like hawthorn berries. (Ian McLaren Photo)

Upcoming Events



Field trips are open to non-members as well as members. Please phone the field trip leader or contact person ahead of time to register for the trip and obtain further information (e.g. directions). In this way no trip is oversubscribed, and you can be contacted in case of cancellation. Field trips range from early morning warbler walks to all day outings, and overnight expeditions to offshore islands. The area code for N.S. is 902. NSMNH = The Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer St. Halifax.

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: Bridgetown/Annapolis Royal

Leader: Sharon Hawboldt 665-4105

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 7:00 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.

Fri 2 June - Sun 4 June:

Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists'

11th Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting

Hosted by the Blomidon Naturalists' Society, Acadia University, Wolfville.

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FNSN/agm2000.html>

Sat 10 June: Warbler Walk, Cape Breton

Leader: Junior Metcalfe 849-5054

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the former heavy water plant site in Glace Bay for spring migrants.

Sat 10 June and Sun 11 June: Joint weekend field trip with the Halifax Field Naturalists and the Wild Flora Society to Cape d'Or & Advocate area

Contacts:

Jane Mills 392-2027,

Maureen Mills 392-2096,

Joan Czapalay 422-6858,

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 the extreme right at the bandstand and continue on Route 2 for 5 km. Then turn left onto Hwy 209 to Advocate.

Sat 17 June: Cumberland/Colchester Counties

Leader: Fulton Lavender 455-4966

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Masstown Market. Bring lunch, boots, and bug repellent. The trip ends in the Amherst area. Marsh Wrens, Black Terns, Soras, Purple Martins, and Vesper Sparrows are usual. This is a great opportunity to view birds seldom seen by beginners. Rain date: Sun June 18.

Sat 5 Aug: Mahone Bay

Leader: James Hirtle 688-1696

Please pre-register.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. across from the three churches in Mahone Bay. See a variety of habitats. A great trip for beginners. Bring a lunch. The trip will conclude about 3:00 p.m. Rain date: Sun. 6 Aug.

Sat 19 Aug: Matthews Lake

Leader: David Young 656-2225

Meet at the parking lot at the end of the road at Hemeons Head. 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 7:00 a.m. 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 2.5 hours from Halifax. We will be mostly studying shorebirds.

(Continued on previous page)