

# Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Night Flight

G.E. Newsome Jan. '96

**Autumn 2000**  
**(The Birds of Summer)**



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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

**Winter 2001 issue: Dec. 7, 2000**

**Spring 2001 issue: Mar. 7, 2001**

**Summer 2001 issue: June 7, 2001**

**Fall 2001 issue: Aug. 7, 2001**

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- Rare Bird Alert - Re-organization
- Manitoba Birding Trip
- Black-tailed Godwit
- Summer Seasonal Reports
- Bird Conservation Organizations
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*Cover Artwork: Night Flight - by G. E. Newsome*

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AUTUMN 2000

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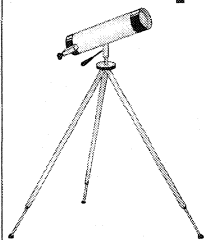
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Cost of the publication of this periodical is partially borne by the Nova Scotia Museum.

ISSN 0383-9537. Publications Mail Reg. No. 09838.

Published four times a year.

## The Spotting Scope



The outbound land bird migration is essentially over...let's hope that all of our neotropical migrants have found a place to call home this winter. We should still expect to see more land birds coming in though, Northern Shrike, Bohemian Waxwings, Common (and Hoary?) Redpolls, as well as American Robins. Robins? Yup, some those overwintering robins could be cfa's...you can tell by their accent. This month's cover, last in a series by G.E. Newsome, shows a common migratory sight over Nova Scotia at this time of year. As an aside, we're always looking for good cover art...do you know someone who draws birds well and would like exposure? Get them in touch with me!

While many of you were partaking in September's monthly meeting on Brier Island, I had the pleasure of representing the Nova Scotia Bird Society at the Atlantic Canada Consultation Meeting of Bird Studies Canada (just *who* was responsible for *that* brilliant scheduling conflict?...grumble, grumble, grumble). Fifteen speakers representing local clubs, NGOs and government agencies spoke on what their organizations have been doing for the birds. The tight scheduling did not allow for a lot of discussion, and the 'mix-and-mingle' session at the end was all too short (ferries and planes wouldn't wait, and as an aside, the captain puts on a really weird face when asked to steer towards the gull that you see, but couldn't quite identify).

What kind of ornithology and conservation work is being done in Atlantic Canada? More than I thought, but the general consensus was, "not enough." Some organizations are defined geographically, others by bird group, still others by habitat preservation initiatives. Projects that many of you are aware of include: the Important Bird Areas (tragically facing funding cutbacks at the moment), the Atlantic Bird Observatory (Bon Portage and Seal Islands), the Fundy Bird Observatory and the Maritimes Nest Record Scheme (see our Autumn 1999 issue for details).

BirdLife International was there...their mandate is to actively work to protect and conserve wild birds and their habitats around the world. Another organisation of which many people may not be aware, is the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre. Its mission is to act as a repository and disseminator of data for species at risk, ornithological and other, in Atlantic Canada. This whole meeting was coordinated by Bird Studies Canada, whose mission is to advance the understanding, appreciation and conservation of wild birds and their habitats. Sound familiar? There are a lot of organizations, the Nova Scotia Bird Society included, who have variations of this statement as their mission. Elsewhere in this issue, I have assembled a list of the attendant groups and their contact information. In addition, this issue contains an article on one research project in Nova Scotia; I hope to be able to bring you more news of this nature in future issues.

Penultimately, I'd like to welcome Peter Richard on board as our Events Editor. Please send him all your information about field trips that you'd like to run and your field trip reports, too. Thanks for tackling this, Peter.

Finally, this will be your last issue before the end of the year. Therefore, I encourage you all to renew your memberships (after you finish reading this ish!) and, if Christmas or other gift-giving is in the near future, why not give a membership to your neighbour with the bird feeders, the senior's home in your area, your local library or your grandchild? Let's spread the wonderful news about Nova Scotia's Birds with *Nova Scotia Birds*!

Good Birding,

*Randy*

## Book Review

By Peter Richard

### BIRDS OF INDIA:

PAKISTAN, NEPAL, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, SRI LANKA, AND THE MALDIVES.

Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp, Tim Inskipp:

Princeton Field Guides. Princeton University Press, 2000 US \$29.95.

ISBN 0-691-04910-6

I've heard and read much about species diversity in the tropics, but the full force of reality did not strike me until I browsed through this field guide: 1,300 species! For example, twenty-one of these are species of tits, compared with Nova Scotia's Black-Capped and Boreal Chickadees! But mixed in with the exotics are birds most of us have no trouble identifying: the Mallard, Northern Pintail, Red-necked Grebe, the Winter Wren—birds with a near world-wide distribution.

This book is a compact, one-volume field edition of *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (1998), written by the same authors. The text is concise, and concentrates on the most distinguishing field marks for each species. The 153 colour plates include all the known species of the subcontinent, with all relevant identifiable subspecies, as well as ages and sexes. The text on the facing pages covers identification, voice, and distribution.

The text is concise, and concentrates on the characteristics of each species most helpful to identification. The plates, range maps, and text are all on separate pages, so some page flipping is required, but from my own browsing through the book, not much more than, for example, Peterson's *Eastern Birds*. The introduction is a nice summary of the climate, habitat types, and conservation issues.

One oddity that didn't really sink in until the third or fourth browse: the ordering of species and genera is not what I expected. The majority of field guides I'm familiar with begin with loons and grebes—but in *Birds of India*, they don't appear until plate 75!

Of course the primary question that one has to answer about any field guide is: "How useful is the book as a guide in the field?" I won't be able to answer that question directly (well, not unless I start buying lottery tickets that are guaranteed winners), but a friend is going on a two-week adventure holiday to India this November, and my copy of the book will likely make the trip too. But if I were going on a trip to India, I'd certainly bring this book along with me. ☐

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## Rare Bird Alert

The Rare Bird Alert is to be re-organized. Those who responded to last year's announcement need not reapply - they will be included.

Any member of the Society may be a part of the Alert but must be prepared to assume the responsibilities involved. These consist of promptly calling their contacts when a rarity is reported and making sure that the message is passed down the line.

If you wish to be included, please send your name, address and work and/or home phone numbers together with a stamped and self-addressed envelope to:

Shirley Cohrs  
RR 1 Petite Rivière Bridge  
Nova Scotia B0J2P0

## Notice of Manitoba Birding Tour

As you know the April 2000 Cuba birding tour was very successful. For June 2001, Nature Travel Holidays is organizing a one-week trip to Southern Manitoba, followed by an optional extension side trip to Churchill. The approximate dates are June 9 to 16, and June 17 to 21 respectively. The trip will be limited to 12 participants. If you are interested in learning more about this event, contact Blake Maybank at 852-2077 or [maybank@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:maybank@ns.sympatico.ca)

## Effects of delayed hay harvest on grassland bird populations in Belleisle Wildlife Management Area

By Joe Nocera

Declines in grassland bird populations across their North American range have been detected within the last few decades. Monitoring programs such as the Breeding Bird Survey have observed declines in some species of up to 60% of their 1970 population estimates. Nova Scotia is consistent with the rest of the continent in witnessing such decreases in grassland bird populations. This has largely been attributable to a synergistic effect where bird species that were once dependant upon expansive native grass habitats in the Midwest were forced out by habitat loss to fire, human degradation of habitats, and introduction of exotic grass species that made these native grass fields inhospitable. In eastern North America, where managed hayfields mimicked native grasslands of the Midwest, grassland birds moved into the area, seeing grassland bird populations seemingly flourish in the region with this influx. However, that these species have now settled in the region may belie that harvested grasslands in the area, including Nova Scotia, may serve as population sinks.



The BOBOLINK is one of the many birds negatively affected by the early harvesting of hay. [Photo Davis Finch]

That newly adopted grassland areas in this region provide nesting habitat only fulfils one requirement of reproduction. The ability to successfully rear young is considered by many to be the limiting factor for low reproduction in the region due largely to hay harvests that occur before the nestlings can escape. To ameliorate the potential for this type of tragedy on public lands in Nova Scotia, a co-operative agreement between the provincial government (Dept. Natural Resources), NGO's (Ducks Unlimited, Wildlife Habitat Canada) and private landowners and users was initiated where agriculture could be implemented on public land and still provide a window for grassland bird reproduction by delaying hay harvests until such time as nestlings of grassland bird species have had a chance to fledge. In the Belleisle Marsh Wildlife Management Area, along the Annapolis River in Nova Scotia, this program was begun as one side of a

multifaceted approach to managing wildlife and habitat while still accommodating human land use. Belleisle has been identified as having the highest nesting density of Bobolink and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, per unit area, in the province. Another species that is a common grassland inhabitant here is the Savannah Sparrow, which seems to nest more ubiquitously throughout the province in oceanic shoreline vegetation. Currently, hay harvest initiation at Belleisle begins on July 1 of each year, slightly after most fields in Nova Scotia are already harvested.

To determine the effectiveness of this delayed harvest, the Department of Natural Resources began a grassland bird-monitoring program in the summer

of 2000. All grassland nesting species were censused at least twice weekly, and the reproductive phenology of those species in the area then described. Two fixed-route census patterns were laid out across a large portion of the licensed (i.e. harvested) land in the WMA. A 4.5 km survey route (Primary Route) was created through the largest contiguous area of managed land (the western portion of the WMA) and consisted of nine transect portions of varied length. The eastern route (Secondary Route), 2.1 km long, consisted of three transects of varied length. The Secondary Route was implemented to control for the possibility of all hayfields being cut along the Primary Route in a short period of time following the legal hay harvesting date (July 1).

Along each transect, all passerine species were counted (visually and by song) within ~100m of the transect line. Each census began at dawn. The primary grass cover types were determined along each route, and haying dates were documented along any portion of the census routes. We then statistically analyzed our census data to determine the effect of date on adult grassland bird abundance (with normally distributed data).

As expected, a significant effect of date was observed for the occurrence of nestling grassland species. Peak fledging occurred on July 4 for Bobolink, July 3 for Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and

June 30 for Savannah Sparrow, thus supporting the delayed hay harvest, and indicating that a postponement of even three or four more days would be appropriate. Anecdotally, most hay fields in areas outside the WMA were cut during the third week of June, at which point zero fledging had taken place in Belleisle.

This monitoring program has led to several novel inquiries regarding the general biology of these species in Nova Scotia, and brings to bear the foresight in establishing a delayed hay harvest. Future management plans in the area should consider an additional delay of

several days to maximize the uniqueness of Belleisle as one of the few population sources in the province. The results from this pilot season also suggest that an expanded, multi-year study on movements and dispersal in managed and unmanaged hayfields in Nova Scotia should be considered.

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## New Books

The Nova Scotia Bird Society occasionally receives books from publishers for review purposes. We require a review of about a few hundred words which will be printed in *Nova Scotia Birds*; the reviewer gets to keep the book. Reviewers should have some experience in the topic of the book, so a critical review can be written. Reviewers should be able to write clearly and concisely and must be current members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

The following books are available for review. The review is due one month after receiving the book and will be subject to editing.

**Prairie Water: Wildlife at Beaverhills Lake, Alberta** by D. Dekker and E. Jones. The University of Alberta Press.

This book should be reviewed by someone experienced with birding in the Prairie wetlands, especially in Alberta.

**Birds of North America** by Kenn Kaufman. Houghton Mifflin.

Just another field guide? This long-awaited book should be reviewed by someone who has used a number of guides in the field.

Given the great discrepancy in communication speeds of the postal service and email, I will pool all replies for three weeks after delivery of the issue of *Nova Scotia Birds* in which the books are advertised. A lottery system will be used to choose the books' recipients if necessary.

If you are interested please contact:

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The following three books are all children's books, so should be reviewed by people who currently have children or grandchildren of suitable age and interest.

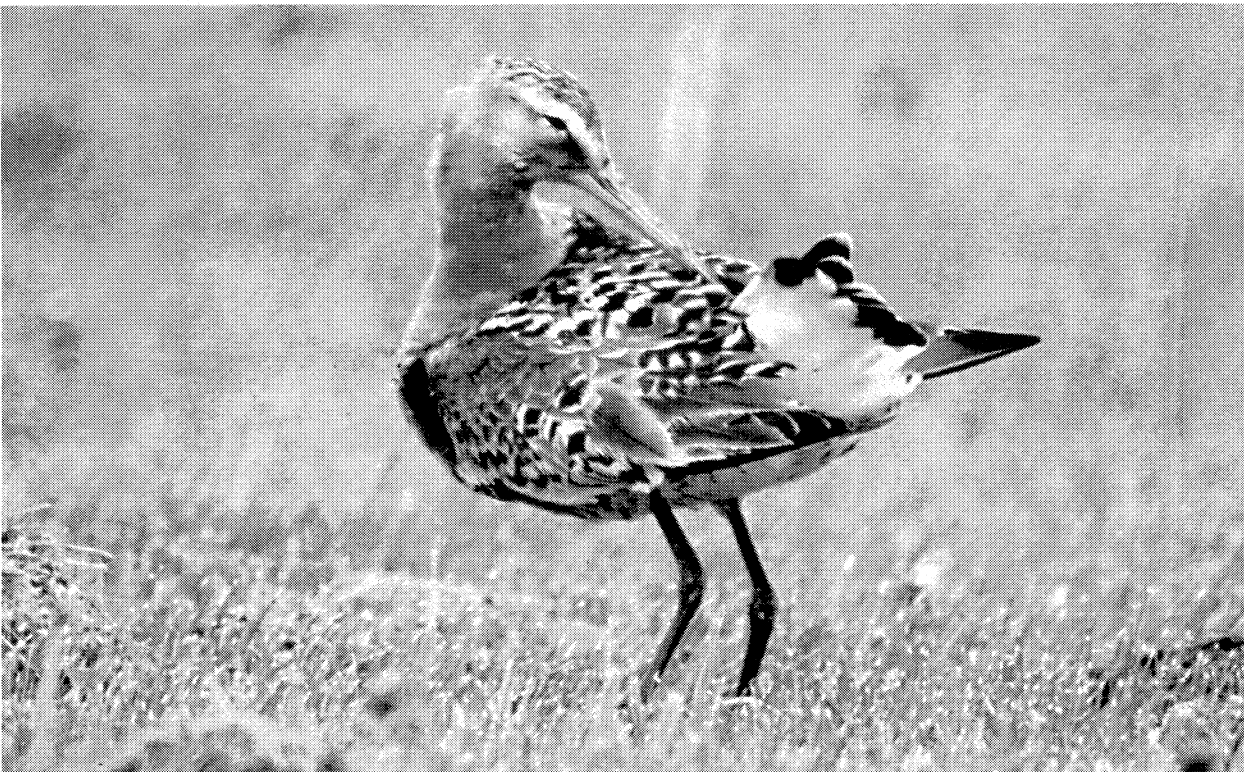
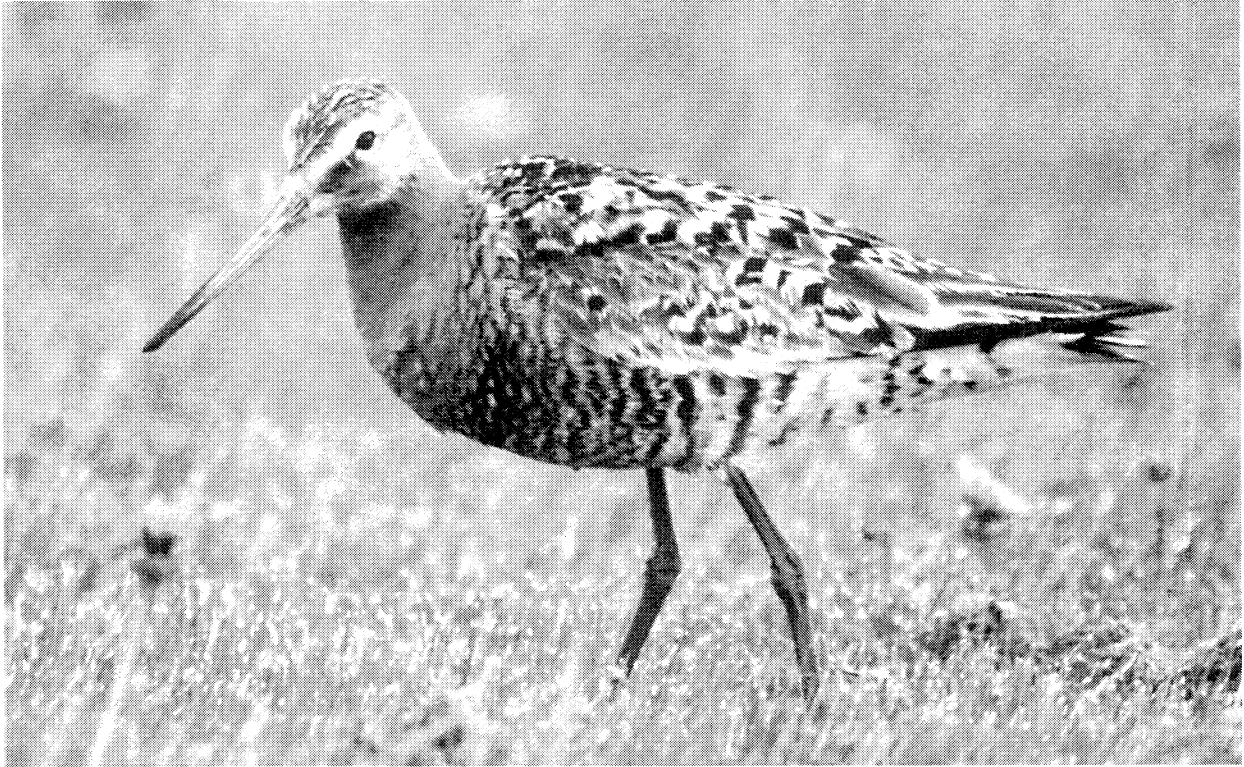
**Welcome to the world of Owls** by D. Swanson. Whitecap Books. For young children. Whitecap Books.

**Flight of the Golden Plover** by D. Miller and D. van Zyle. For children around 10 years old. Northwest Books.

**Sky Dancers** by D. Swanson and D. Penhale. For children around 10 years old. Whitecap Books.

## BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

These beautiful photos of the province's first documented BLACK-TAILED GODWIT were secured 9 June during its brief stopover at Glace Bay. The heavily barred, extensively chestnut underparts suggest that it is a male of the expected subspecies *islandica*, and the retained immature plumage of the head suggest that it is in its first breeding plumage. [Photos Susann Myers]



## Contact Information for some of the Organizations involved in Bird Study and Conservation in Atlantic Canada

### Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Center

Rob Rainer, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 6416  
Sackville, New Brunswick, E4L 1G6  
(506) 364-2661, fax: (506) 364-2656

rrainer@mta.ca <http://www.accdc.com/>

### Atlantic Co-operative Wildlife Ecology Research Network

Tony Diamond  
Faculty of Biology/Forestry  
University of New Brunswick  
P.O. Box 45111  
Fredricton, New Brunswick E3B 6E1  
(506) 453-5006, fax (506) 453-3583

diamond@unb.ca <http://landscape.acadiau.ca/acwern/>

### BirdLife International

Ian Davidson, Head/Director  
Americas Division Americas  
BirdLife International  
Casilla Postal 17-17-717  
Quito, Ecuador  
593-2-453645 Fax: 593-2-459627

davidson@birdlife.org.ec  
general enquires: [birdlife@ecnet.ec](mailto:birdlife@ecnet.ec)  
<http://www.geocities.com/Birdlife1>

### Bird Studies Canada/Études d'Oiseaux Canada

P.O. Box 160  
Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0  
1 (888) 448-BIRD, fax: (519) 586-3532  
[generalinfo@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:generalinfo@bsc-eoc.org) [www.bsc-eoc.org](http://www.bsc-eoc.org)

### Canadian Wildlife Service

George Finney  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
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fax: (506) 364-5062  
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<http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html>

### Eastern Habitat Joint Venture

Reg Melanson  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
PO Box 6227  
17 Waterfowl Lane  
Sackville, N.B. E4L 1G6  
(506) 364-5036  
[reginald.melanson@ec.gc.ca](mailto:reginald.melanson@ec.gc.ca)  
[www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/sauvagine/html/ehjv.html](http://www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/sauvagine/html/ehjv.html)

### Important Bird Areas

Christie Chute, IBA Outreach Co-ordinator  
Canadian Nature Federation  
606-1 Nicholas St., Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7  
(613) 562-8208 ext. 245 fax: (613) 562-3371  
[iba@cnf.ca](mailto:iba@cnf.ca)

### local co-ordinators:

Sabine Dietz/Roland Chiasson  
Box 8, Site 9, R.R. 2  
Tabusintac, N.B. E0C 2A0  
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### Maritimes Nest Records Scheme

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### Bird Observatories

#### Fundy Bird Observatory

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#### Atlantic Bird Observatory

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<http://landscape.acadiau.ca/acwern/field/FIELD-AU.html>

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# Weather For the Summer of the Year 2000

By Larry Bogan

The summer of 2000 had an even distribution of warmth and sunshine through out its length.

The daily mean temperature has been surprisingly constant from the middle of June to the end of August. Only early June was much cooler (Fig. 1); the heat-days\* were very small in that early period. After that the growing heat-days stays mostly between six and 13 degree-days for the rest of the season. Gardeners will remember that the growing season was delayed due to a cool late spring. The mean temperatures of the months do not deviate much from the long term averages: June was average, July was 0.6 °C cooler but August was 0.6 °C warmer (Table 1). Usually July is the hottest month but this year August took that honour. We had few extreme temperatures and only two days in June reached the 30 °C mark or over.

**Table 1.** Weather statistics from the Kentville Agriculture Centre. Data for the current season are followed by the 39 year average.

Month	Mean Temp (°C)		Daily Rainfall (mm.)		Bright Sunshine (h)	
	Current	Average	Current	Average	Current	Average
June	16.4	16.1	45.2	67.8	238	211
July	18.7	19.3	72.4	70.0	238	232
August	19.2	18.6	36.7	92.2	223	216
Season	18.1	18.0	154.3	230.0	699	659

We were dry once again this summer with only two-thirds of the normal rainfall in the season (Table 1). The two above-average temperature months (June and August) were short of rain while July just managed to receive a little more than the expected amount. Half of the rainfall in July occurred on the 18<sup>th</sup> while nearly half of June's fell on the 6<sup>th</sup> (Fig. 2). The rainfall on those two days accounted for over one-third of the total rainfall for the season.

In the same trend as the temperature, the summer was very uniform in bright sunshine hours (Table 1). This is easily seen in the very similar number of hours of sunshine for the three months. The only protracted cloudy period occurred from August 6 through 15 (three-quarters of the rain for the month fell in this period). However, the second half of August was almost continuously sunny with only one day having less than five hours of bright sunshine.

Over-all it was a very pleasant summer although we could have had more rain.

\* *Growing Degree-days is calculated by subtracting 10 °C from the mean temperature for the day. If the temperature is less than 10 °C then the value is zero.*

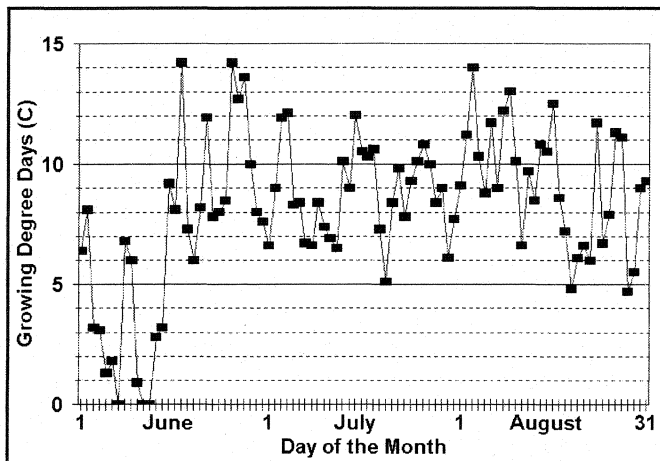


Figure 1. Growing heat-days above 10 °C, Kentville; Summer 2000.

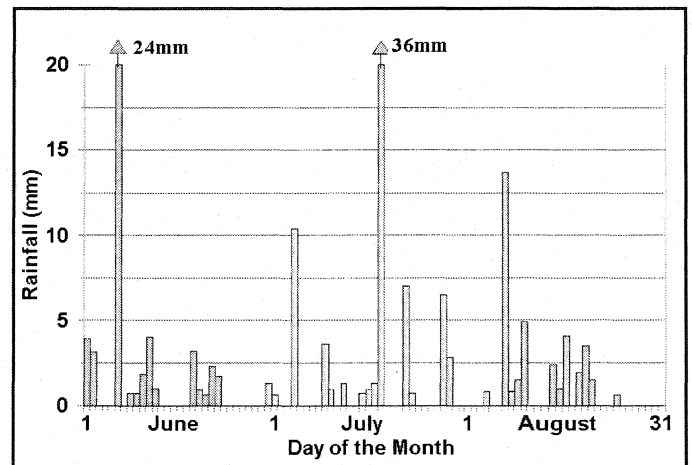


Figure 2. Daily rainfall, Kentville; Summer 2000.

## Seasonal Reports

A new duck takes residence within our waters? Nope - the grand Oldsquaw has undergone a name change to Long-tailed Duck. Why has the name changed? The American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) is the organisation responsible for bird names in North America. The name change was petitioned by biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Oldsquaw is declining in Alaska and the conservation management plan requires the help of Aboriginal peoples. However, there was some concern that the term 'squaw' was offensive.

The AOU refused to change the name of the Oldsquaw based on political correctness alone. They chose to rename the bird based on the long-standing use of "Long-tailed Duck" in other parts of the Anglophone world. However, is this any better of a name? The duck's name has gone from one with racist overtones to a sexist one (only the male has the long tail), so once again, we see a species defined by the plumage of the male.

Other countries have their own names for this bird: in German (*Eisente*), Polish (*Lodowka*) and Lithuanian (*Lodowka*), the names all mean "Ice Duck", which reflects well on the bird. Perhaps "Ice Duck" should have been the choice of the AOU as well.

On a totally different topic...normally, we print county names for all but the most obvious sites quoted here in the seasonal reports. I have opted to increase readability by editing out the county names for the most frequently referred to Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS). For the record, the Trafalgar BBS is in Guys. Co.; the James River BBS is in Ant. Co.; the Londonderry BBS resides in Col. Co.

Welcome back to Ken McKenna who is taking over the role of Seasonal Editor while Andy Horn is away.

### References:

Thanks to Chris Majka for some of the translations.

American Ornithologists' Union. 2000. Forty-second supplement to the A.O.U. check-list of North American Birds. The Auk 117: 847-858. □

## Loons and Grebes

### By Fred Dobson

COM. LOONS were seen and heard regularly on breeding territory in lakes throughout the province. Reports came from CB (June and July, on several lakes in Rich., CB & Inv. Cos. - DBM) and the Halifax area (the storied pair at Mill L.,

Head of St. Margarets Bay, Hfx. Co. were observed at the end of June with "two half-grown young" (EHC)). PIED-BILLED GREBES were reported in early June at Meadow Rd. Pond, Sydney Forks, CB Co. "nesting again at this

pond" (DBM). As usual there were up to 30 in June and July at the APBS, Cum. Co. (BLM, ELM, JAH). An adult with young was observed in early July at Cape Jack, Ant. Co. (RFL). There were no other reports of loons or grebes. □

## Tubenoses Through Cormorants

### By Blake Maybank

NORTHERN FULMAR lingered late, and were more common than usual, in the Bay of Fundy. Perhaps this was a result of the cool spring and early summer. CAH reported "lots" through June, and as late as July 18 still counted 15 a day. On July 18, CAH saw a **CORY'S SHEARWATER** on Fundy, his first in more than 17 years of searching. This was our only report of the species this year. CAH also had the high count of **GREATER SHEARWATERS**, with 3,000+ July 18.

Two days earlier RWK had a modest 57 from the Cabot Strait Ferry, along with a single **SOOTY SHEARWATER**. The Bay of Fundy also led the Sooty count, with CAH's 2,000+ July 18, quite the highest Fundy total in many years. **MANX SHEARWATERS** were reported only from Fundy, and CAH's high count was 30 birds, July 18. Clearly, CAH had a great day July 18, because he also tallied 1,000+ **WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS**. RWK had 78 **LEACH'S STORM-PETRELS** on his July 16 Cabot

Strait crossing, eclipsing the much smaller numbers reported from Fundy. I AM heard numerous **Leach's** around the North Home on Seal I., with some evidently burrowing their nests under the house. The only systematic count of **N. GANNETS** was from the Cabot Strait Ferry, when RWK had 78 July 16. The only **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** report of note was a count of the Boot I., Kings Co., colony, which RBS estimated at 200 birds. □

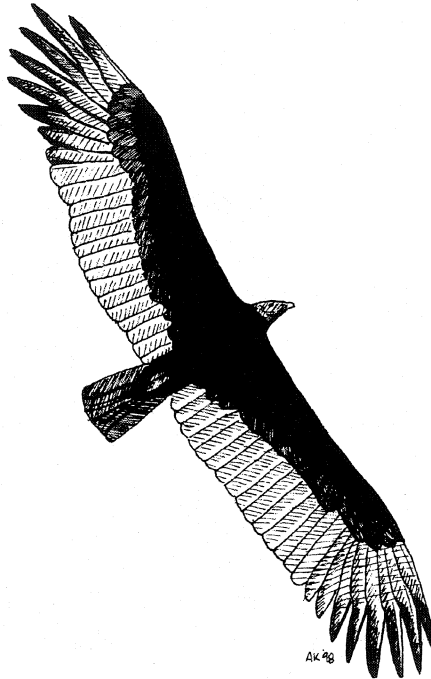
## Herons and Vultures

By Richard Knapton

There were the usual scattering of records of AM. BITTERNs this summer, from CSI to CB Co. (var. obs.). On July 3, KJM had six observations of individuals flying over APBS, Cum. Co., and up to six were reported from Belleisle Marsh, Anna. Co. during July (var. obs.). As mentioned in the spring seasonal report, this is a species that should be watched fairly closely, in case it is indeed losing ground in the province. GREAT BLUE HERON reports were few, however there were 23 in Fox Hbr. and 41 in Wallace Bay, Col. Co., July 31 (DOM), indicating post-breeding gathering. A colony at Alder Pt., CB Co., contained at least 12 nests during June, with large young visible in some nests (DBM, CET). There were interesting sightings from CB Co. of birds well offshore: three flew ENE past Flint I., June 2, until out of sight, possibly heading for Newfoundland. Nine on June 19 and one June 24 flew past Flint I. heading west to Cape Perce (CAM).

Following their fantastic spring, GREAT EGRETS continued to be reported well into the summer. One was at Dominion, CB Co., June 8 (*fide* Darnell Young), one at Cherry Hill Beach, Lun. Co., June

28 (JAH), one at Conrads Beach, HRM, July 1 (IAM), and one at The Hawk, CSI July 11 (JON). Other southern herons put



on a fairly good show this summer. A SNOWY EGRET was on Brier I., June 5 (PBG), single adult LITTLE BLUE HERONS were at Black Oler Marsh, Lun. Co., June 23 (JAH), and either at

The Hawk or at Daniels Head, CSI, from July 20 into August (MUN, JON). CATTLE EGRETS are not often seen in summer, therefore the two birds reported this summer is a respectable showing. One was reported by Chris Helliner, June 2 at Waterside, Pict. Co. (*fide* KJM), and one foraging in fields and lawns near Westport, Brier I., June 25 had apparently been around for a couple of days (CAH). After the mini-influx this spring of GREEN HERONS into Shel. Co., singles continued to be reported occasionally throughout the summer, with one at the Guzzle, CSI, June 17 (MUN), and one at E Baccaro, July 1 (CST). BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON reports came in from the traditional localities on CSI during the period, with up to 12 ads. there June 2 (MUN). An ad. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON was seen in Lower Clarks Hbr. across from Geneva's Restaurant, July 29 (MUN).

Surprisingly, there were no reports of TURKEY VULTURES this summer, most likely indicating that observers did not send in records rather than its absence from the province. □

## Geese, Swans and Ducks

By Fred Dobson

June and July were relatively dry. There was heavy plant growth in all the ponds, so the fresh-water dabblers should have done well; coastal waters should have been productive, at least in July. There was a distinct paucity of reports so no conclusions can be drawn on numbers or distribution. There were no extraordinary sightings.

The CANADA GOOSE was reported once, June 17 "about six .. in field" near Baddeck R., Vic. Co. (CET). There were no records of other geese.

The WOOD DUCK was mostly reported from CB Co. DBM observed one or two

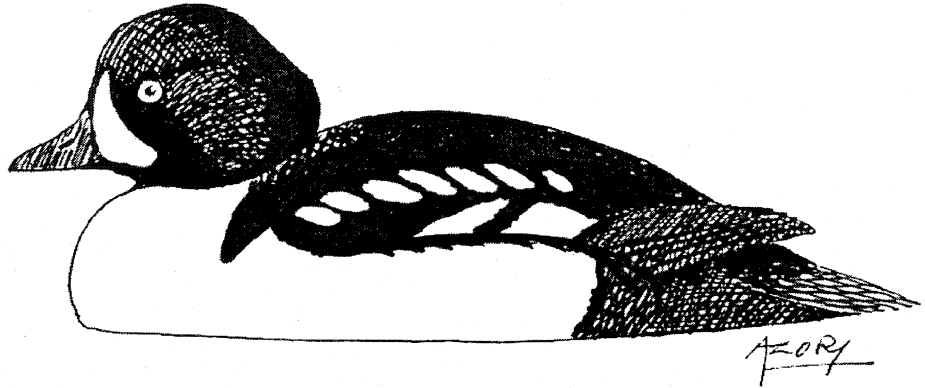
males throughout June and July at N. Sydney, CB Co. Two males were seen in early June at Hammonds Plains, Hfx. Co. (EHC) and the only other records were from CB Co.: two males, June 9 at Prime Brook (Albert Zwicker), six males, July 3 at Sydney Mines and three, July 7 at Glace Bay (DBM). Two GADWALL were found June 10 at Eddy Marsh, Amherst, Cum. Co. (BLM, ELM). A report of EUR. WIGEON was interesting since it was in the breeding season: a pair ("male starting to eclipse, female with him"), July 5 at Lawrencetown Marsh, Hfx. Co. (JAH, CSS). AM. WIGEON was reported widely if sparsely. There were two, June

11, at Captains Pond, Ant. Co. (RFL), two pairs, June 12, at Round Bay, Shel. Co. "may be breeding" (DHY) and one fem. with three young in late July at Rotary Park, Sydney, CB Co. (DBM). AM. BLACK DUCK was reported in early July at Cape Jack, Ant. Co.: "Two families. One of seven chicks, one of two." (RFL). The MALLARD was not reported. The greatest number of BLUE-WINGED TEAL was 20 seen June 10 at Eddy Marsh, Amherst, Cum. Co. (BLM, ELM). One or two males were seen in June and early July in East Bay, Florence/Big Pond and the Settling Pond at Sydney Mines, CB Co. (DBM), Cape Jack, Ant. Co. (RFL) and Grand Desert,

Hfx. Co. (JAH, CSS). GREEN-WINGED TEAL was reported twice: two, June 11 at Captains Pond, Ant. Co. (RFL) and nine in late July at the Wolfville Sewage Plant (RBS). RFL found six male RING-NECKED DUCKS, July 3, at Cape Jack, Ant. Co. There was one report of GREATER SCAUP: a single male in early July at the Settling Pond, Sydney Mines, CB Co. "Yes a Greater, although expected a Lesser here. Hanging with male Ring-necks." (DBM). COMMON EIDER was reported throughout the period; this is the time when the young are commonly seen foraging along the shore, often in flocks watched over by small groups of moms. The earliest record came from Lun. Co.: eight fems. and 26 imms., June 21 at Lower LaHave (EHC). The two other reports are from DBM, both in CB: 20 June 25 at Pt. Michaud, Rich. Co. (with Dave Harris) and July 2, 30 at Louisbourg, Black Rock, CB Co. Twenty WHITE-WINGED SCOTER were found July 4 at South Bar, CB Co. (DBM). BLACK SCOTER was reported several times including three in early June in Green Bay, Lun. Co. (JAH), and one June 10 at Apple R., Cum. Co. (BLM, ELM). Single LONG-TAILED DUCKS were reported at the beginning of June "in winter female plumage", Govt. Wharf, N. Sydney, CB Co. (DBM) and "injured?" Pubnico Pt., Yar. Co. (RSD). The only other report was one male and

two fems., end of May at Broad Cove, Lun. Co. (EIM, BAH, SJF) "All were in summer/alternate plumage. May have been summering birds, as two or three

(*Editor's note:* For this perennial favourite of ducks not to be reported is odd...were they truly sparse or are people's interests changing?) The single



lingered into June in the area." Single BUFFLEHEAD were reported by JAH at the end of May in Broad Cove and "a male in eclipse" at the end of June at Petite Rivière, Lun. Co. COM. GOLDENEYE was not reported. A single male **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE** was seen Jun 11 at Port Clyde, Shel. Co. (SAH). HOODED MERGANSER was not reported.

COMMON MERGANSER report is of a "nest with six eggs in nest box", June 3 at White Rock Pond, Kings Co. (BLF). RED-BREASTED MERGANSER was reported only from the north of the province. With Dave Harris, DBM reported three, June 25 in the Grand R. area, one fem., July 11 at Irish Cove, Rich. Co. and 10, July 22 in Margaree Hbr., Inv. Co. □

## Diurnal Raptors, Galliforms, Rails and Cranes

**By Richard Knapton**

There were 22 reports of OSPREYS, scattered throughout the province, and 14 of which came from CB. Many reports were of ads. at well-known active nests. Adults were present at a nest along Pt. Aconi Rd., CB Co., from June 10 through the summer (DBM), and three at Morien Bar, CB Co., July 7 (RWK) behaved as if they were a family party. Four at Eddy Marsh, Amherst, Cum. Co., June 10 was a good number (BLM, ELM). The few BALD EAGLE reports mainly concerned nesting birds. There were three large eaglets still at the nest at Greenwich, Kings Co., June 30, and all three left the nest around July 5-6 (JWW). At the nest on Shady Nook Rd., near Bass R., Col. Co., an ad. was

watched approaching the nest, which contained three nestlings, July 29 with not only an eel but evidently also with a hook and part of a net in its beak. It became entangled in the net and dangled over the side of the nest, until it was freed by local cottage owners, flew away, but still with the hook in its beak (*vide* JAF). Officials from DNR concluded that the hook was not in a place that could be to threatening to the eagle. The two larger young left the nest at the end of July, and the smallest chick flew from the nest Aug. 3. Few N. HARRIERS were reported, with nothing suggesting changing trends. A N. Harrier found dead on the road near Sand L., CB Co., in spring, had been banded, so the

band number was sent in; it had been banded Sept. 27, 1995, as a juvenile bird at Cape May, New Jersey (CAM). (*Editor's note:* See elsewhere in this issue for information on how to report a banded bird.)

There were eight reports of SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS, from Inv. Co. to Shel. Co.; however, all *Accipiter* hawks are secretive during the nesting season, therefore it is not surprising to have so few reports. One harassed a Common Raven along the Skyline Trail, CBHNP, July 23 (DBM), and one carrying food in the Gaspereaux Valley, Kings Co., June 3, suggests successful breeding (RFL *et al.*). In contrast with last year, there were

no COOPER'S HAWKS reported this year. There were a mere five N. GOSHAWK reports this summer. One involved a female calling repeatedly and diving over the top of a large white pine, July 16, at North Mt., CBHNP, probably indicating the presence of a predator close to its nest (RWK). The BROAD-WINGED HAWK is a widely but thinly distributed breeding raptor in the province. Reports came from several counties: Hammonds Plains, HRM (MUN), APBS, Cum. Co. (KJM), Argyle Hd., Yar. Co. (MUN), Daniels Hd., CSI (MUN), Trafalgar, Guys. Co. (BLM), New Glasgow, Pict. Co. (RFL, MZG), Gully L. and Londonderry, Col. Co. (BLM), and Louisbourg and Sydney, CB Co. (DBM, RWK). RED-TAILED HAWK numbers were unremarkable, although the species is widespread in the province. In contrast, however, there were several reports this summer of ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS. Eastern Kings Co. was a hotspot for this species during spring, and perhaps one of the spring birds stayed into June, as a light-phase imm. or female was seen sitting on a telephone pole along the main road at Grand Pré, June 4 (RBS). Two imms., one light-phase the other dark-phase, were seen at Minudie, Cum. Co., July 3 (KJM, STV), and two imms. were reported from Upper Clements, Digby Co., by Harold Horwood (*vide* Steve Hawboldt).

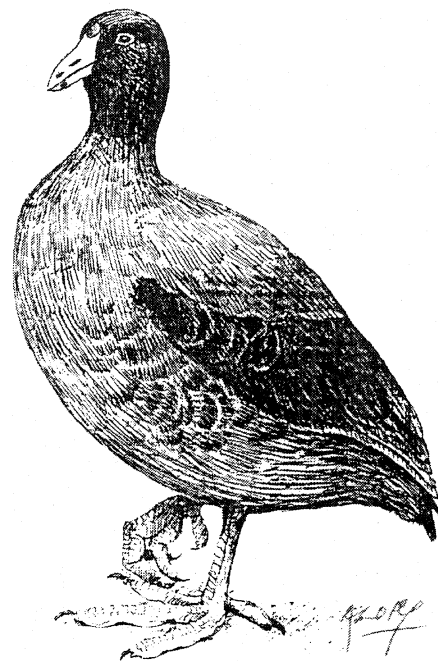


There were several AM. KESTREL reports this year, more reflective of the real status of the species in the province. Kestrel reports came from Kings Co., the northern mainland and throughout CBI. A pair nesting in a Kestrel nest box put up by MAB in Pict. Co. had 5 eggs June 5, and fledged young by July 15.

Seven Kestrel nest boxes in Rich. Co. had at least three pairs of kestrels nesting in them, and maybe two more (BID, Trevor Wilkie). MERLINS went largely unreported, with only nine records. A nesting pair was noted at Caribou PP, Pict. Co., July 5 (*vide* KJM), a well-established site for nesting Merlins. An ad. was carrying food to young that were flying awkwardly from tree to tree, presumably recently fledged, at Berwick, Kings. Co., Aug. 2 (RBS).

PEREGRINE FALCONS were reported frequently this summer, mainly in eastern Kings Co. where at least one bird appears to have spent the summer and was seen often in the Cape Split - Canning area (var. obs.). One was soaring over the main shopping area in downtown Kentville July 24, and an ad., possibly a female from its size and with head markings indicating *anatum*, half-heartedly chased shorebirds in the Minas Basin, Kings Co., July 29 (RBS). Up to three were seen along the coast at Cape D'Or and Advocate Hbr., Cum. Co., during June, possibly indicating a locally successful breeding attempt (JAF). One had killed a Ring-billed Gull in a field north of Lusby Marshes, Cum. Co., June 20 (NSBS).

No reports of GRAY PARTRIDGE were received, not surprisingly as the species is elusive in summer, and only a few reports of RING-NECKED PHEASANTS were noted, with nothing too remarkable. A family party of a female pheasant with 12 chicks in Sydney R., CB Co., in July was reduced to a female with seven chicks by early August, likely as a result of Red Fox predation (E. Zodrow). Summer reports of both RUFFED and SPRUCE GROUSE are also usually few and not really indicative of the true status of either species in the province. This year was no exception: there were a mere six reports of Ruffed and four of Spruce



Grouse, scattered across the province. No reports were received of WILD TURKEYS or N. BOBWHITE this summer.

The only VIRGINIA RAIL reported was from the APBS, Jun. 11 (MUN). Was it absent from Belleisle Marsh this summer? There were a dozen reports of SORAS this summer, from CB to the southern isles (var. obs.). BLM had five at the Little Dyke Marshes, Col. Co., June 13. The superbly plumaged PURPLE GALLINULE, first seen on Gorsebrook Rd., Halifax, near the campus of St. Mary's University May 30, was still present on June 21, at the former Stanfield property at the south end of Robie St., much to the delight of the many observers who went to see it. The only reports of COM. MOORHEN (up to two birds) came from APBS in June and July (MUN, BLM, KJM, STV). Were they also absent from Belleisle Marsh, Anna. Co., this summer? The number of AM. COOTS was disappointingly low after a good spring migration; in fact, the only reports were from APBS this summer, with up to three birds there in early July (KJM, STV, MUN), and from Eddy Marsh, Amherst, Cum. Co., June 10 (BLM, ELM). □

# The Shorebirds

By Sylvia Fullerton

The summer season, with one exception, was uneventful, although several observers commented on the lower-than-average concentrations of shorebirds at traditional stopover-sites. JCT counted only 800 "peeps" at Evangeline Beach, July 29, where she has had up to 20,000 in previous years. Birds were elsewhere, however. On the same day she saw 4,000 at nearby Avonport, up to 20,000 at the Windsor Causeway and MUN estimated 20,000 at CSI. A partial explanation came from Peter Hicklin, CWS, who reported on behalf of a colleague working on the breeding biology of shorebirds in the Arctic, that spring migrants generally arrived on the breeding grounds two weeks later than usual. We should therefore expect to see higher numbers in the next report period. As well, an unusually high number of Merlins and Peregrine Falcons were effective in clearing the beaches and flats during their frequent forays and may have been responsible for shifting concentrations on beaches and roosts. An exceptional rarity, a Black-tailed Godwit,

Scattered BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER seen in late June and early July, most in basic/winter plumage, were probably summering non-breeders. Ten were at The Cape, CSI, June 17 (ELM, IAM) and singles were at Cherry Hill Beach, Lun. Co. and Matthews L., Shel. Co. Not until the end of July did numbers of migrants begin to appear. About 40 were at Fox Hbr., Cum. Co., July 30 (DOM, Barry Boehner). An early seasonal high, 200 were at the Windsor Causeway, July 29 (JCT). Surveys on The Cape, CSI throughout July netted only an average of 15 birds (Betty June & Sid Smith, JON).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER maintained their foothold on The Cape, CSI with two pairs observed in distraction displays June 18 (ELM, IAM). The pairs fledged two young, first seen June 30 (MUN). Presumably a migrant, and on the early side, one was spotted at Morien Bar, CB Co., July 7 by two visiting birders, Ned Brinkley and Doug McRae. Also early were three at

Cum. Co., July 30 (DOM, Barry Boehner); 200 at Windsor Causeway, July 29 (JCT).

A summary of PIPING PLOVER breeding success should be available in the next issue. Peter MacDonald, DNR, who monitored Queens and Shel. Cos., found productivity levels down compared to last year: 1.2 young per pair for Shel. Co. and 1.4 for Queens. For the fifth year in a row, Pomquet Beach, Ant. Co., hosted four pairs; nine ads. and 12 chicks were counted there July 2 (RFL, MZG). A single pair at Cherry Hill Beach, Lun. Co., produced one chick from a second nesting, which lingered until end of report period. As is often the case, four ads. appeared there July 6, probably failed nesters from other beaches, still half-heartedly engaged in courtship behaviour (JAH, SJF). A significant observation was made by Diane Amirault (Wildlife Biologist - Species at Risk, CWS) of a banded fem. which had successfully nested twice on adjacent CSI beaches in the same season. In both cases, care of the fledglings was left to the male, not an unusual event, according to Diane. This is the first report of a second brood-rearing in Canada, but has been documented once before on Assateague I., MD, in 1994. Details will be published elsewhere.

Shorebird surveys turned up two KILLDEER at Pinkneys Pt., Yar. Co., July 3 (HHH) and five at The Cape, CSI, July 26 (Betty June & Sid Smith). A post-breeding gathering of 16 birds at Sidney Airport, July 28 was a notable concentration (DBM).

The pioneering efforts of the AM. OYSTERCATCHERS, together with the help of the CSI birders, have paid off. Six birds were present this summer and by July 3 two pairs were seen nesting within 150 m of one another (ELM, JON, MUN). By July 13 one pair had produced two fledglings which were still being carefully guarded by the ads. July 25 (DHY *et al.*). The second pair has since produced one fledgling; the status of the third is as yet unknown (MUN).



graced the region and delighted the Cape Breton birders who were lucky enough to see it during its one day stay.

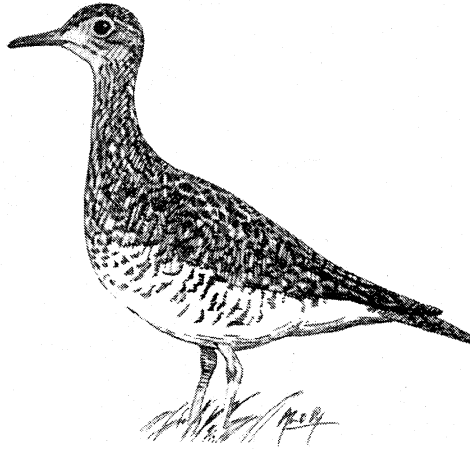
Cherry Hill Beach, Lun. Co., July 9 (JAH). Typically, numbers peaked towards the end of the month: 500 at CSI, July 21 (JON); 200 at Fox Hbr.,

Our small enclave of breeding GREATER YELLOWLEGS was still intact in CBHNP with two seen at French L. and one at North Mt., June 23 (DBM). A single bird at Big Bras d'Or, Vic. Co., June 2 may have been a non-breeder or on its way to prospecting for a breeding site (DBM). Five at CSI, June 11 were probably all summering non-breeders (MUN). Five at Chezzetcook, HRM, July 5 could have been early migrants (JAH, CSS). Small numbers of returning migrants began trickling in towards the end of July: 12 at CSI, July 26 (Betty June & Sid Smith); 20 at Fox Hbr., Cum. Co., July 20 (DOM, Barry Boehner). LESSER YELLOWLEGS breed farther north than Greater, migrate farther south and appear here earlier, often in greater numbers. Early, if returning migrants, were 12 at Framboise, Rich. Co., June 25 (DBM, Dave Harris). By July 5 there were 20 at Big I., Pict. Co., with 38 present July 23 (KJM). Other peaks included: 25 at CSI, July 20 (MUN, JON); 40 at Fox Hbr., Cum. Co., July 30 (DOM, Barry Boehner); 36 at Dominion Beach, CB Co., July 30, which included several young of the year, mostly ad. size, although one was still 'half-size' (DBM, Prudence Hall). Only two visited Sable I., July 20 (ZOL).

A noisy flock of 16 ad. WILLETS was at Conrads Beach, HRM, July 1, which IAM presumes were "failed breeders, getting ready to move on." Otherwise, they seemed to have had a successful season judging by the sizes of the post-breeding flocks. A traditional assembly point, Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., hosted 70 July 8, a high number for so early in July (JAH). Peaks at other beaches included: 58 at CSI, July 21 (JON); 43 at Cherry Hill Beach, Lun. Co., July 29. Smaller numbers of up to 10 were at Morien Bar, CB Co. and larger numbers were spread out in nearby coves up to July 23 (SEM).

Based on his work done in the early 1970s, AJE has suggested that most SPOTTED SANDPIPERS leave E Canada in the last half of July and that imms. depart between mid-August and mid-September. As they are highly territorial most reports received for this period may have been of family groups,

such as the six seen at Taylors Hd., HRM (TEP), and the four at CSI (Betty June & Sid Smith), both on July 10. Several reports of up to five seen on beaches from Vic. Co. to Lun. Co. indicate a successful breeding season.



A single UPLAND SANDPIPER showed up on The Cape, CSI, June 15 (JON). It lingered, tantalizingly, for up to three weeks, but lacking a mate it moved on.

An early WHIMBREL was at Conrads Beach, HRM, June 25 (IAM). Small numbers appeared throughout in early July and by mid to late July numbers were respectable. Thirty were at Taylors Hd., HRM, as early as July 10 (TEP). Betty June & Sid Smith counted 44 during their shorebird survey at CSI, July 19. By July 25 SEM reported 24 at Fortress of Louisbourg, and she notes that "this reflects the usual pattern; once Whimbrel arrive in good numbers they retreat mainly to coastal barrens rich in berries." On the same day 45+ were on Sable I. (ZOL), but what they feed on there I do not know.

Undoubtedly, the bird of the season was the **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT**, found and identified by JUM at Fisherman's Memorial Park, Glace Bay June 9. An ad. in alternate/breeding plumage, ssp. *islandica*, it must have been a spectacular sight in its rufous summer plumage (see photos). First spotted in early morning, it stayed in the same location "feeding hungrily" until evening when it was chased by a dog, took flight and was not seen again

(SEM). Many of the CB birders had good looks as it was approachable within 20 feet. This constitutes the first documented record for the Province. HUDSONIAN GODWITS, heading for the pampas of South America, were much in evidence on our mud flats in July. Early were two on The Cape, CSI, June 25 (JON). Fourteen, a large concentration for CB, arrived at Morien Bar, CB Co., July 7 and lingered until July 23 (DBM, SEM *et al.*). The count for CSI peaked at 35 July 21 (JON).

RUDDY TURNSTONES arrived on schedule late in July. Earliest was one on Sable I., July 22 (ZOL). A sizable flock of 12 were foraging on the Bird Is., Vic. Co., July 29 (CET, Prudence & Rick Hall). Small numbers appeared at Cherry Hill Beach, Lun. Co., Fox Hbr., Cum. Co., and CSI from July 26 on.

The 20 RED KNOTS at CSI, June 17, were mostly in basic/winter plumage, and no doubt were summering birds (ELM, MUN *et al.*). Peaks for early migrants were on the high side: 43 at CSI, July 21 (JON) and 55 at Fox Hbr., Cum. Co., July 30 (DOM, Barry Boehner). Seven ads. were at Morien Bar, CB Co., July 23, one of which was colour-banded (SEM, RWK). SEM has since learned that this bird had been banded in Delaware Bay in May, and that this date constituted the earliest record for a southward-returning colour-coded bird.

Fourteen SANDERLING reached Cherry Hill Beach, Lun. Co. by July 21, and on the same day 376 were counted at CSI, an unusually high number for so early in the season (JON). A single bird appeared at Dominion Beach, CB Co., July 30 (DBM, Prudence Hall).

As noted above, SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER numbers were significantly down in their traditional stop-over sites in the Minas Basin. Only 200 were tallied at the Windsor Causeway, July 12 (JCT) and RBS reports but a "few thousand" at Grand Pré at high tide July 31. At CSI they peaked at 3,165, July 26, a high count for this area (Betty June & Sid Smith). At Fox Hbr., Cum. Co. there were up to 300, July 30 and 77 at Cherry Hill Beach, Lun. Co., an average number

for this beach. The only WESTERN SANDPIPER reported was one seen by visiting birders on The Cape, CSI July 21, and no details were available (*vide* MUN). LEAST SANDPIPERS seen in June are always problematic, as one does not know if they are attempting to breed or just summering non-breeders. Their continuing presence at Round Bay, Shel. Co. is ambiguous; this year only one was seen there June 12 (DHY). Five were at Matthews L., Shel. Co., June 26 and DHY thinks they were possibly breeding. Generally, the ones and twos turning up in early July on many of our beaches are considered early migrants. So far they have made a poor showing: peak numbers were 100 at Grand Pré, July 23 (RBS); 38 on CSI, July 26 (Betty June & Sid Smith).

Late migrants, only one WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER turned up to make the deadline, at Dominion Beach, CB Co., July 30 (DBM). Likewise, seldom do BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS turn up in July, but one was early at CSI, July

19 (Betty June & Sid Smith). Two early PECTORAL SANDPIPERS appeared in July, one at Cherry Hill Beach, Lun. Co., July 15 (SJF) and one on Sable I., July 20 (ZOL). As is the norm the only STILT SANDPIPERS were seen on CSI. One was on The Cape, July 10 & 28 (Betty June & Sid Smith). An unusual gathering of five was at The Hawk, CSI, July 22 and they lingered for about a week (MUN *et al.*).

A SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER at CSI, June 11 was unusually early, but numbers grew rapidly from then on. By July 16 5,000+ were tallied there (JON, MUN, Betty June & Sid Smith). Numbers were below average in other areas: 39 at Chezzetcook, HRM, July 5 (JAH, CSS); 85 at Windsor Causeway, July 12 (JCT); 12 at Morien Bar, CB Co., July 10 (CAM, ALM); 16 on Sable I., July 20 (ZOL).

COM. SNIPE were noted only in the N part of the Province, but I suspect they may be underreported. Four were tallied

on BLM's Breeding Bird Survey in Londonderry, Col. Co., June 13; nine on the Roman Valley Route, June 14 (SJF). Single birds were at South Side Hbr., Ant. Co. and Eigg Mt., Ant. Co., June 1 & 11 (RFL, MZG). Perhaps birders are not rising early enough to listen for AM. WOODCOCK, as those running BBS's or checking nesting boxes do. BLM had one at Glenelg, Guys. Co. on that Survey, June 18. A pair were still performing at South Side Hbr., Ant. Co., June 1 (RFL). CAM and ALM were fortunate to see an ad. and three young cross the road in Port Morien, July 1.

The only reports of phalaropes came from those on whale and seabird trips off Brier I. It appeared to be a good season. CAH estimated up to 5,000 RED-NECKED and 1,000 RED PHALAROPES on one trip, July 19, when ideal feeding conditions were provided by morning flood tides and foggy conditions, which kept the plankton near the surface. □

## Skuas Through Alcids

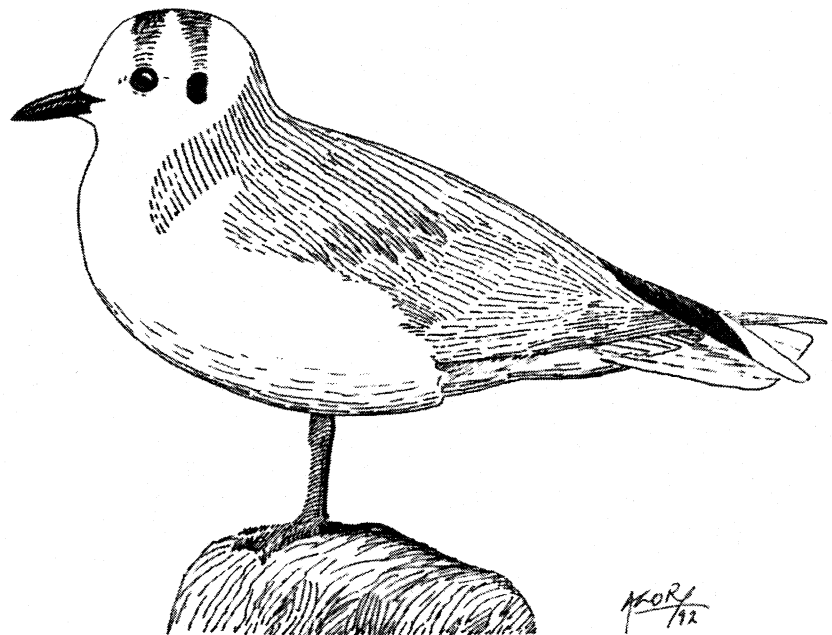
**By Blake Maybank**

On July 11, RSD reported four GREAT SKUA from Georges Bank, and he based his identification on the "warm tones" of the birds. This is suggestive, but by no means conclusive, and given the time and place, and the numbers of birds involved, S. Polar Skua are much more to be expected. Great Skua are very rare from Nova Scotia waters in summer, and any that occur would be young birds, which are tricky to separate from S. Polar Skua. CAH had numerous sightings of S. POLAR SKUA in the Bay of Fundy between June 28 and July 2, and with detectable plumage differences thinks that at least six individuals were involved (there were several multiple sightings, and some extended views). RSD had two PARASITIC JAEGERs on Georges Bank July 14, and ZOL noted two off Sable I., July 11. There were no other jaeger reports.

LAUGHING GULLS seemed to favour the Cotton Mill in Yarmouth, as at least two ads. and an imm. showed up there

between June 3-17 (var. obs.). An ad. was on Sable I., June 28 (AGH), while another was at Morien Bar, CBI, July 7 (DBM, *et al.*). A first-summer LITTLE GULL was on Sable I., June 22 (AGH),

and possibly the same bird was re-sighted July 23 (ZOL). The presence of three apparently ad. BLACK-HEADED GULLS on Big (Merigomish) I., Pict. Co. July 7 (KNK), is intriguing, but

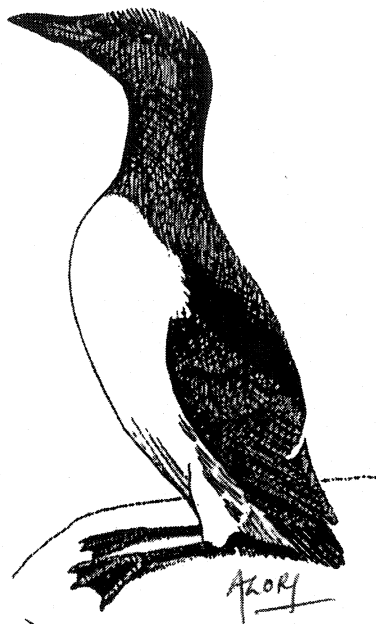




perhaps they were young adults (2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> summer). Or perhaps they merely emulate the numerous BONAPARTE'S GULLS, many seemingly ads., that loaf along the Northumberland shore in summer -- KNK counted 570 on Big I. July 23. A third-summer LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL spent the summer at the western tip of Big I. (KNK). This is the second summer this locale has produced imm. Lesser Black-backed -- it will be interesting to see if this becomes a pattern. An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was at the Beacon Street Dam, July 22 (CAM). The only GLAUCOUS GULL was on Sable I., June 6 (ZOL).

A CASPIAN TERN flew off South Bar, in Sydney Hbr., July 16 (RWK). An adult ROYAL TERN, the eighth or ninth provincial record, was present one day only at the Morien Bar, CB Co., July 7 (Doug MacRae, DBM, JUM, *et al.*). However, despite the number and experience of the observers involved, no documentation for this sighting has been submitted. TCD began his work with ROSEATE TERNS on The Brothers, Yar. Co., in 1991, when his census noted 20 nests. Through his dedication and hard work, the number of nests increased to 61 in 1999, and this year, as the new century begins, the nest count was an

amazing 86 nests, with at least 27 chicks in early July, despite apparent owl predation. Another (new?) colony has been discovered off CSI., with perhaps



10+ pair involved. Other single birds were noted in Lun. and Hfx. Cos., but only two pair were on Sable I., a former stronghold (AGH). I received no information on the Country I. colony in Guys. Co. Taken together, it's an

encouraging situation for Roseate Terns, but their survival is still precarious. COMMON TERNS also seem to be continuing their comeback. One of the more unusual colonies they've established is on two concrete wharf blocks alongside the ferry dock in North Sydney. On July 16 RWK counted 67 ads., 28 imms. of varying ages, and at least three nests still with eggs, two per clutch. For the second summer in a row, an ad. BLACK TERN was hanging around the Common/Arctic Tern colony off the Fisherman's Reserve, Three Fathom Hbr. HRM, with sightings between June 25 and July 5 (IAM *et al.*). The only count of Black Terns from their Amherst Pt. colony was 12 birds, July 3 (JAH).

CAH reported the only COM. MURRE, out in the Bay of Fundy, June 28. ATLANTIC PUFFINS also seem to be slowly expanding their range and their numbers. DHY noted three off Ram I., Shel. Co. and suspects breeding may be close. They've already likely recolonised Round and Noddy Is., just N of Seal I. and the Pearl I., Lun Co. colony is hanging on, as well. CAH had as many as 200 puffins on some whale-watching trips this summer. □

## Doves Through Woodpeckers

By Ian McLaren

An errant ROCK DOVE on Sable I., July 5 (ZOL), was one of few that have turned up there over the years. Most have been banded (racing pigeons?), but this one wasn't. A WHITE-WINGED DOVE, no longer astounding in our region, appeared at JON's feeder on CSI, July 16 and stayed about a week for many to savour. MOURNING DOVES were noted casually, though no one reported nestings.

Only a couple of BLACK-BILLED CUCKOOS were reported in their usual breeding places. Two on Brier I., June 22 (RBS) and another on Sable I., June 28 - July 14 (AGH, ZOL) were not seasonable migrants, although a juv. once occurred on Sable I. in mid-July (Tufts). Another feasting on web worms and calling loudly, July 25 in Sydney,

was unlikely to have nested in the area (one confirmed Atlas record for CB). A similarly unexpected YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO was at The Hawk, CSI, June 23 (*vide* MUN).

Only one GREAT HORNED, three BARRED and three N. SAW-WHET OWLS were reported for June - July, obviously far fewer than actually seen or heard. Mark Brennan did monitor a late nesting in one of his boxes: the fem. was still sitting June 11, along with a store of seven or eight dead mice, one young hatched June 14, and fledged by July 11, leaving one unhatched egg in the box.

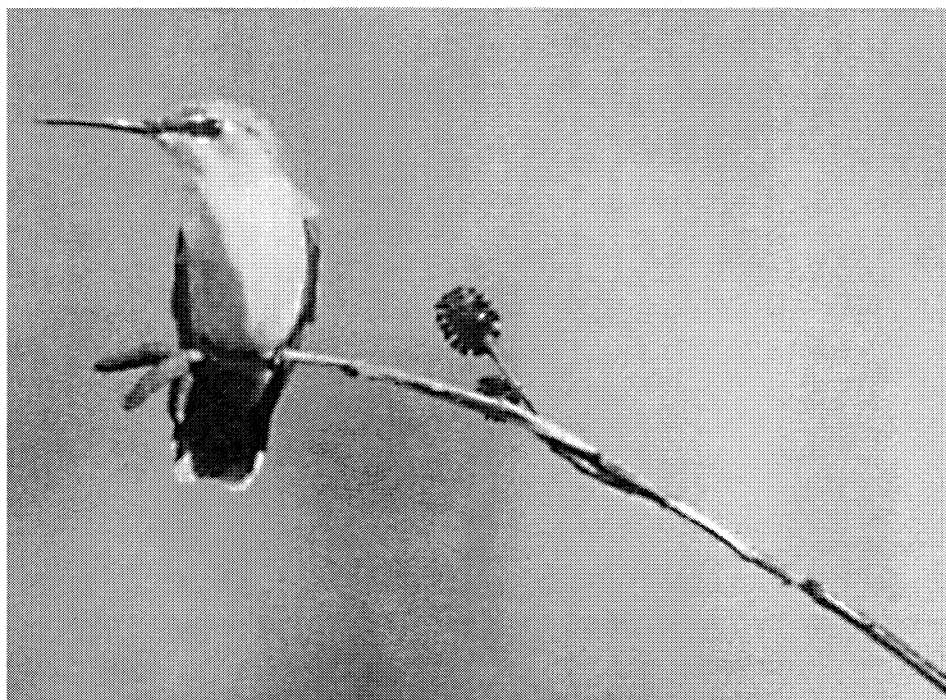
David and Alison Webster started an e-mail exchange on NatureNS about summering COM. NIGHTHAWKS by commenting that these had declined over

the years in Kentville. This was echoed for Wolfville and peninsular Halifax, where they probably no longer nest on flat roofs. In U.S. cities, an increase of egg-robbing crows has been implicated, and our coastal communities are also now more heavily patrolled by gulls. Yet JWW noted that, whereas nighthawks have decreased, killdeers in Wolfville have taken to nesting on flat roofs, and he wondered if there is some negative interaction between the two. By contrast, a number of people reported them in the usual numbers in rural areas, occasionally in association with clearcuts, and in smaller communities like Coldbrook, Kings Co. (AAM). Fall migration should give us a better overview. This usually begins in late July, and indeed GRM reported ~20 near Concession, Digby Co., July 31. As

usual, a pair of WHIP-POOR-WILLS could again be heard at night near Long Pond, Spryfield (*fide* JOW) during early

(KNK). Forty-four at month's end at the Robie Tufts Centre, Wolfville (JWW), were fewer than have occurred in some

areas, and presumably such summer flocks are of non-breeders. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS were reported from a few feeders in the usual numbers in June - July, although LPP thought that 10 at their feeders in Waverley in late July were exceptional.



This female RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD has temporarily paused from drinking sugar water, perhaps to ponder the nearby garden full of insects. Pomquet, Ant. Co. What flowers attract hummers to your garden? Why don't you let us know with either a short note or a full article on gardening for the birds. [Photo Randy Lauff]

summer. I hope this isn't the only pair now to be found in Nova Scotia.

A July 26 descent of 160 CHIMNEY SWIFTS into the Temperance St. School chimney, New Glasgow, was rated as an unusual number for that time of summer

past years. Donna Ensor at Ohio, Shel. Co., reports that in spring she spotted 37 entering her house chimney, "four foot square, big enough for a party...of swifts, anyway," and that these guests returned through summer. Swifts nest at large in hollow trees throughout forested

A RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, June 11 along the road to Schooner Cove, CB Co. (ALM, CAM) was out of place and season. The regular woodpeckers were under-reported; only DBM listed a couple of YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS. Fledged DOWNY WOODPECKERS were being fed at suet feeders during July at Hd. of St. Margarets Bay (EHC) and Woods Hbr. (D. Cameron). A nest with loud young HAIRY WOODPECKERS was found at Irish Cove, Rich. Co., June 10 (DBM). The pair of BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS at Mt. Uniake, reported in the last issue, apparently fledged young successfully in early July (TEP). Another pair at Taylor Hd. PP was reported to have fledged young at about the same time (*fide* KJM). Other individuals of this uncommon woodpecker were seen at St. Esprit, Rich. Co., June 25 (DBM) and near Bear R., Digby Co., July 10 (GRM). Two fledgling N. FLICKERS were being fed on the ground at Georges R., CB Co., July 28, and a PILEATED WOODPECKER pair apparently fledged young by July 7 at McLellans Brook, Pict. Co. □

## Flycatchers Through Thrushes

By Eric L. Mills

This summer was characterised by lots of natural food, an early start to the breeding season by many species, and abundant offspring. Despite these casual observations, reports from June through July were relatively sparse, reflecting more the activities of birders than of birds.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS were reported only in June from Col., Cum., and Guys. Cos. and from CBI (BLM, ELM, RFL, DBM), in low numbers except for four on the Trafalgar BBS, June 18 (BLM). Reports of E. WOOD

PEWEES were scanty but widespread, from Kings, Ant. and Rich. Cos., until singing stopped in mid-July (SLH, RFL, DBM). Common but inconspicuous, YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS were reported from the ends of the province: breeders on Pubnico Pt., Yar. Co., June 2 (RSD) and at Irish Cove, Rich. Co., June 10 (DBM); and abundantly (13) on the Trafalgar BBS, June 18 (BLM) and at a few other locations in Cum. and Col. Cos. ALDER FLYCATCHERS did not reach full abundance until the first week of June, reported only from Col. and Cum. Cos.

in the N, including 29 on the Londonderry BBS, June 13 (BLM). In E NS, BLM reported 32 on the Trafalgar BBS, June 18. LEAST FLYCATCHERS appear to have been less abundant than usual this summer: only three on both the Londonderry and Trafalgar BBS's, June 13 and 18 respectively (BLM). Elsewhere, they were widespread in low numbers in the CBI counties (DBM). A pair of GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS, apparently breeding in a traditional location, appeared on June 15 at Coldbrook, Kings Co., and was still there July 12 (AAM). Single birds were

at Little Salmon R., HRM, June 19 (E. Ackerman) and at Economy, Col. Co., June 28 (FLS), typical of early summer wandering by this species. Perhaps breeders, a pair of Great Cresteds greeted some Purple Gallinule viewers on the old Stanfield property, S End Halifax, on and around June 25 (S. Borkowski). EASTERN KINGBIRDS in Weston, Kings Co., June 3 (SLH), on the Londonderry BBS, 13, June 13 (BLM), and in Auburn, Kings Co., July 4 (SLH) were presumably summer residents.

BLUE-HEADED VIREOS, widespread, abundant and very vocal breeders, were reported only from Kings, Col. and Guys. Cos. and CBI. Peak numbers on BBS's were 12 at Londonderry, Col. Co., and 21 at Trafalgar, Guys. Co. (BLM). RFL and his nephews found a nest, July 24, 1.7 m up a beech at Morrison L., Vic. Co. WARBLING VIREOS are sparse breeders in Nova Scotia, mainly in the NE and CBI, so a report of three or more at Amherst, June 18 (NSBS) deserved documentation. Another was reported from Coombes Rd. and the Old Truro Hwy., Hants Co., June 22, again without details. A single PHILADELPHIA VIREO reported from Lunenburg May 20 (STH) was likely a migrant. More unusual, but undocumented, is the report of one in Pine Grove Park, Queens Co., June 17. This species breeds in very low numbers in NE NS and CBI, so records from elsewhere are noteworthy.

GRAY JAY reports were few and scattered: one on the Trafalgar BBS, June 18 (BLM); one on Gaff Pt., Lun. Co., June 24 (JAH); and three on Pt. Michaud, Rich. Co., June 25 (DBM). BLUE JAYS did well - too well for the health of many passerine populations - but were almost unrecorded. Eighteen on the Londonderry BBS, June 13, were, according to BLM, the "highest count in six years." This comment was repeated for AM. CROW on the same BBS: 106, June 13, although BLM reported that COM. RAVEN was at its lowest for the same period on that BBS, only 29. Elsewhere, both species appear to have been present in normal numbers, including the "hundreds" of crows going to roost in Sydney from Sydney R., June 26 (Matthew Kerr, *vide* DBM).

A singing male HORNED LARK was at Sydney airport, June 9 and July 4 (DBM).

PURPLE MARTINS apparently did well in their traditional locations in Amherst, according to local residents (*vide* ELM, BLM). A fine feeding aggregation of at least 100 TREE SWALLOWS was at Eddy Marsh, near Amherst, June 10 (BLM, ELM), along with a lone ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (perhaps a spill over from New Brunswick), 500+ BANK SWALLOWS and 500+ BARN SWALLOWS. Tree Swallows had fair to good nesting success at several locations in Ant. Co. according to RFL, while Bank Swallows nested in about 20 burrows in their colony at Hd. of St. Margarets Bay, HRM, (EHC), and were observed widely in CB and Inv. Cos. throughout June and July (DBM). Apart from a few notes on resident Barn Swallows on the mainland, the only report of note was one on Sable I., an early migrant, July 14 (ZOL). CLIFF SWALLOWS nested successfully and conspicuously in a number of locations throughout the province: five nests were found at Quinan, Yar. Co., July 5 (RSD); forty occupied nests were at Fortress Louisbourg, in late July (DBM, SEM). About 115 nests at Halifax International Airport, according to DHH, were the highest number since the beginning of his counts in 1993.

DHH's notes bear quoting for their details:

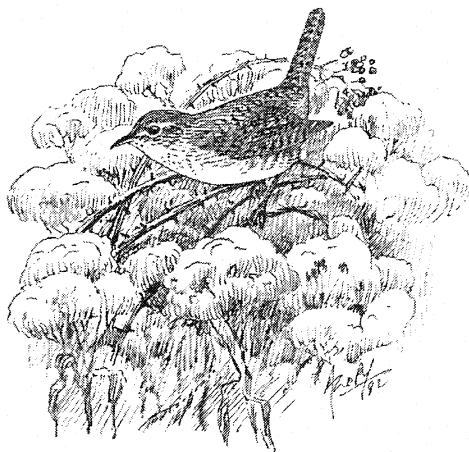
"This year about 230 Cliff Swallows tended 115 nests at the Halifax International Airport. This is the largest number since the 124 nests that I counted in 1993, which was the first year that I counted them. It's good to see that the numbers are recovering from the low of 75 nests in 1997 which is the year that they were forced away from their traditional site at the Air Canada hangar. They now occupy 4 different sites up and down the hangar line. This year's operation was right on schedule with the arrival in the second week of May and nests abandoned the last week of July."

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES appear to have done well: BLM reported his highest BBS count in six years, 19 on the Londonderry route, June 13; and RFL found six chicks in a bluebird box, June 18 at South Side Hbr., Ant. Co. A family group of BOREAL CHICKADEES on the Cape St. Lawrence trail, near Meat Cove, Inv. Co., July 12 (RFL), indicates that nesting was finished at that northerly location. Elsewhere in CBI the species was sparse but widespread according to DBM's



BLUE-HEADED VIREOS normally nest in conifers. This one, found this summer, was nesting in a beech, near Cape North, Vic. Co. [Photo Randy Lauff]

report. An early migrant RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH arrived on Sable I., July 16 (ZOL). On the mainland, BLM reported average numbers (five) on his Londonderry BBS, June 13, although our only other records are of low numbers in CB, Rich., and Inv. Cos. from mid-June to late July (DBM). WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH reports were few: one on the MacIntosh L. Trail, Col. Co., June 4 (BLM); two in Irish Cove, Rich. Co., June 27 (DBM); and three at Tremont, Kings Co., July 6 (SLH).



A single HOUSE WREN in Maitland, Hants Co., June 10 appears to have been an early summer wanderer. Most records have been in the fall, when this species is a regular but rare visitor to our migrant trap islands. Despite a paucity of records of only a few individuals in Col., Guys., Rich., and Inv. Cos. (BLM, DBM), WINTER WRENS, according to my observations, were widespread and reasonably abundant. Nineteen RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS on the Londonderry BBS, June 13, were below average, according to BLM.

At least 13 E. BLUEBIRDS were reported, all in June, indicating widespread attempts by this lovely

species to spread more widely in the province. Two pairs "hanging around" in Middleboro, near Wallace, Cum. Co., June 8-11, apparently did not breed, but according to Tony Bidwell were the first in that area since 1969 or 1970. Two at Wentworth, Cum. Co., June 6, also indicate increased numbers visiting the area. Elsewhere in Cum. Co., a pair nested at W. Advocate in early to mid-June (JAF, ELM, BLM). Other records include single birds (mainly males) at Westville, Pict. Co., June 4 (HAB, JEB, *fide* KJM); The Hawk, CSI, June 5 (MUN); W. Pubnico, Yar. Co., June 5 (*fide* MUN); Diligent R., Cum. Co., June 6 (JAF), Petite Rivière, Lun. Co., June

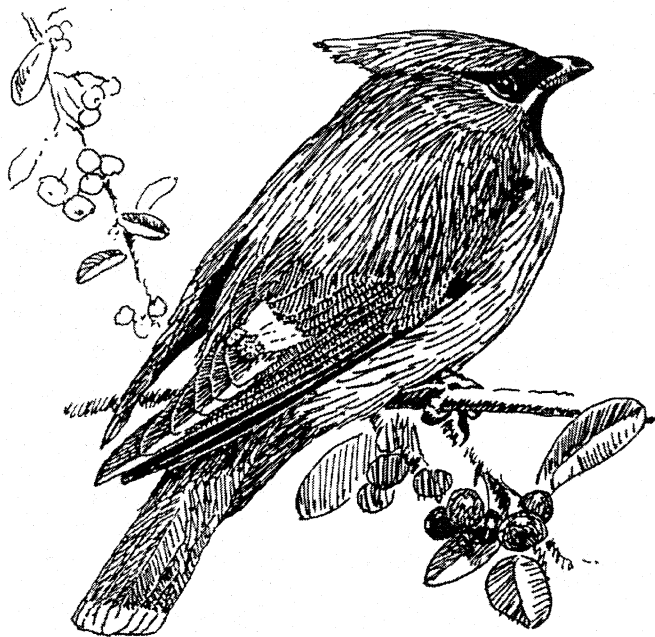
18 & 23 (JAH); and Maitland, Hants Co., June 28 (Stephanie Smith). Presumably these were all unpaired birds on the move. The last migrant VEERY was likely the one reported from Bridgewater, Lun. Co., May 27 (JAH). Thereafter, the few reports indicate normal numbers from Kings, Col., Ant., and CB Cos. (var. obs.). A BICKNELL'S THRUSH along the Benjies L. Trail, CBHNP, was the only one reported this summer (DBM); only a few of our abundant and widespread SWAINSON'S and HERMIT THRUSHES made it into the records, although they were reported from one end of the province to another. BLM reported the highest count of Hermit Thrushes (20) in six years from his Londonderry BBS route, and RBS also found them abundant along his route from New Ross, Lun. Co., to Windsor, Hants Co. Finally, AM. ROBIN numbers, to my eyes and ears, appeared at least normal if not high. Representative counts during BBS's were 90 on Londonderry and 44 on Trafalgar during BLM's devoted early morning travels. □

## Mimics Through Waxwings

By Ken McKenna

GRAY CATBIRD was the only mimic thrush reported in the summer season. One report by JAH at the Hank Snow Museum raises speculation of a catbird belting out "I've Been Everywhere". In early June, RBS was distracted from his tennis by a bird constantly singing behind the court in Kentville. He also reported a pair with four eggs on June 7 elsewhere in town. The 144 EUR. STARLINGS on the Londonderry BBS, was the highest total in six years (BLM).

CEDAR WAXWING counts on BBS routes reported varied from 13 in Trafalgar to 32 in James R. in mid-June. A high number of 100 on June 12 fed on poplar catkins and apple blossoms in Georges R., CB Co. (DBM, CET and Eric McCorquodale). □



## Warblers

By Ken McKenna

Beside the 22 common nesting warblers, two other species were recorded this season. On June 10, a song described by BLM as being a buzz and a trill but the buzz repeated four times instead of once was thought to be a **BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** but because the bird could not be coaxed into view, a hybrid could not be ruled out.

Most of the regular nesting reports of warblers came from three Breeding Bird Surveys: Londonderry, June 13 (BLM), James R, June 17 (KJM), and Trafalgar, June 18 (BLM). **TENNESSEE WARBLER** numbers ranged from eight on James R. BBS to 22 from the Trafalgar BBS. The only CB report was one on the Cape St. Lawrence Trail, Inv. Co., July 12 (RFL). The Londonderry BBS with six **NASHVILLE WARBLERS** was the largest number reported.

Of 15 species of warbler on the James R. BBS, **N. PARULA** was the most numerous with 26 noted but Trafalgar had a high of 30. On June 3, BLF found two **YELLOW WARBER** nests in Wolfville, one with three eggs and the other with five. He reported the adults returning to the area in the second week of May. The Londonderry BBS, with 12 **CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLERS** and 18 **MAGNOLIA WARBLERS** had its highest counts in six years for these species.

In the New Ross-Falmouth BBS, RBS notes his 17 Magnolias as the most numerous of the 14 species of warbler he recorded. Breeding **CAPE MAY WARBLER** numbers continue to be low with only a single report of one individual on the Londonderry BBS. **BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLERS** were noted in West Advocate, Cum. Co., June 10 (BLM, ELM) and on the Londonderry BBS. Both **YELLOW-RUMPED** and **BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS** were common on BBS's to which RBS

comments that the latter were common all June in woods he visited. The

of 10 singing **N. WATERTHRUSH** on the James R. BBS. In late July, BBM



**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** was heard eight times in the James R. BBS. Seal I. provided reports of two different **PRAIRIE WARBLERS** on July 28 and 30. These birds are probable breeders from further south that move out early. Tuft's *Birds of Nova Scotia* notes other late July movements. The Trafalgar area has a number of breeding **PALM WARBLERS** and four were noted in the BBS route. At Pubnico Pt., RSD comments that a **BLACKPOLL WARBLER** on June 2 was nice to see as he finds very few spring Blackpolls in that area. All three BBS reports had 10-12 **BLACK AND WHITE WARBLERS**. AM. **REDSTARTS** at nine on the Londonderry BBS were half the regular number but James R. with 19 and Trafalgar with 28 had more normal numbers.

The Londonderry BBS had 17 **OVENBIRDS**. The banks of the James and Ohio Rs., Ant. Co., produced a high

observed an aggressive **N. Waterthrush** chasing Pine Siskins from feeders. June reports of **MOURNING WARBLER** were two-three on BBS routes to single birds at Long Pt. Beach and Blomidon PP (RBS). Single birds at North Mt., CBHNP, July 13 (RFL) and Cape Chignecto PP on July 25 (RFL, MZG), round out sightings from extreme ends of the province. As the name implies, **COM. YELLOWTHROAT** were recorded in the range of 20-26 birds on the three BBS routes. **WILSON'S WARBLER** was recorded twice in CB (DBM). The first was June 2 in Big Bras d'Or, Vic. Co. and the second in the Framboise Intervale, Rich. Co., on the Pt. Michaud BBS, June 25. Although DBM reports Wilson's Warbler is not regular in summer in this area, he had one in the same place a few years ago. The Trafalgar BBS also contained two Wilson's Warblers as well as the only report of **CANADA WARBLER**, which was of three birds. □

# Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By David McCorquodale

Tanagers are regular vagrants in Nova Scotia, usually in the spring and fall. Therefore, a female SUMMER TANAGER on Sable I. for four days in



early June was unexpected (ZOL). The handful of sightings of SCARLET TANAGERS on southern islands this spring did not translate into reports from nesting habitat – only one male singing in Kings Co. in early June (BLF). In nearby Kentville, there were no birds in the woods where they have nested in the recent past (RBS).

The widespread and common CHIPPING SPARROW was reported in small numbers, including several family groups, from nine counties across the province. VESPER SPARROWS were not reported for the second summer in a row. Do they still nest in the blueberry fields of Cum. Co.?

SAVANNAH SPARROWS were found in good nesting habitat in 10 counties. On the last day of July, males were still singing at the Fortress of Louisbourg, CB Co. Again this year there were "Ipswich" Sparrows on CSI and also another individual at Rainbow Haven Beach, HRM (Sid and Betty June Smith, IAM).

Through June and July NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS continued to sing from coastal marshes from Annapolis Valley, along the south shore, through the Halifax area, along the Northumberland shore and onto CBI.

Many were still extremely vocal during the last few days of July.

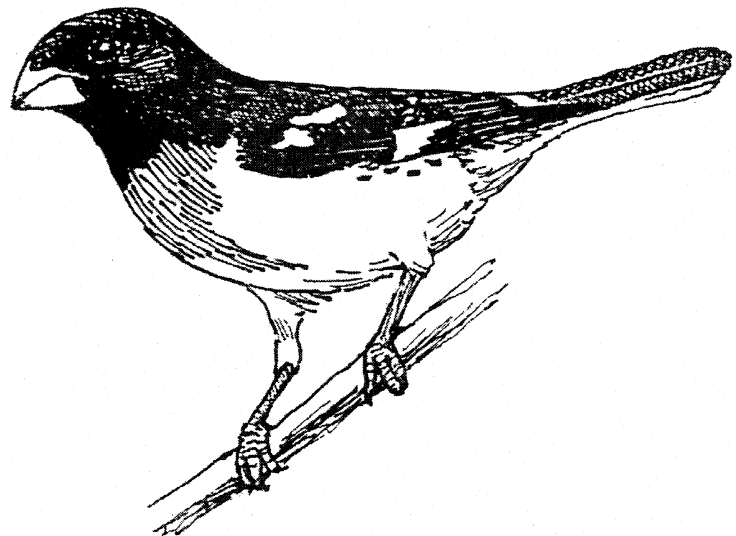
Nesting FOX SPARROWS were most noticeable at two opposite ends of the province. They were frequently heard in northern CB; at the other end of the province, young were brought to feeders on CSI (MUN). Elsewhere in the province it was SONG SPARROWS that were noticed. A tally of almost 70 was the highest in BLM's six years of surveying the Trafalgar BBS in Guys. Co. LINCOLN'S SPARROW are most common as nesting birds in the northeast parts of the province. Therefore it is not surprising that most of the reports this summer came from CBI and Guys. Co. The few reports of SWAMP SPARROWS come from all corners of the province. A male was still singing during the last week of July at Pleasant Bay, Inv. Co. The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW is so common many birders ignore it. In early June some were feeding in blossoming apple trees on Big I, Pict. Co. (DOU).

An abundant bird that attracts more attention is the DARK-EYED JUNCO. They were abundant on CBI and the northern mainland. They are not regular breeders on Brier I, but there were three fledged young there in early July (CAH). The first ever N. CARDINALS for the CSI BBS were found in June, and not

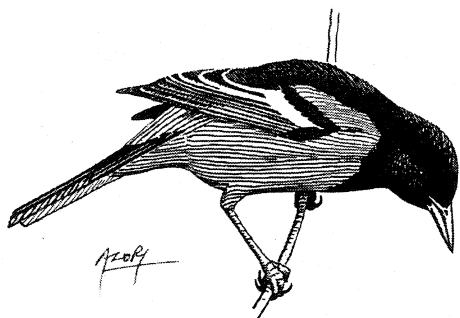
just one but seven (AND). Elsewhere there was a pair in Dartmouth (PER).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS were found in suitable nesting habitat on the mainland from Lunenburg to Guys. Co. and west to Col. and Cum. Cos. They are much less common on CBI where they breed most frequently in the shrubby deciduous growth of the hillsides in northern Inv. and Vic. Cos. They were found in this habitat near Bay St. Lawrence and Ingonish this June (Tamara Rasmussen, C. Aalgar). Unexpected was a fem. BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK that made a brief appearance at a feeder in Louisbourg, CB Co. (Pearl Magee). This feeder has hosted more than its share of interesting vagrants in the past few years. INDIGO BUNTINGS are unusual in summer -- it has been a few years since the last summer record on the mainland. However there were three this year in June, in Fraserville, Cum. Co., Wentworth and Bridgewater (JAF, Sylvia Bone, Charles Keating *fide* CLS).

BOBOLINKS were most frequently reported, as expected, in agricultural areas from the Annapolis Valley, Hants, Pict., Cum. and Col. Cos. A fem. carrying food at Barrington, Shel. Co. (MUN) and a pair near Port Morien, CB Co. (ALM, CAM), come from areas where they are less common.



Both RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS and COMMON GRACKLES were found



in the wet areas they use for nesting in many places in the province. Last year only one nest of RUSTY BLACKBIRDS was reported, this year none. This species has experienced a major decline in eastern North America in the past 30 years. The only BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD sighting received was of one on the Trafalgar BBS in June (BLM).

Again this year a few of the BALTIMORE ORIOLES that arrived in the spring stayed to breed. In June there was one in Maitland, a fem. in Barrington, Shel. Co., and a nest that produced noisy young in West Pubnico, Yar. Co. (SCY, MUN, RSD).

Again this summer most of our reports of PINE GROSBEAKS come from CBI

where they are undoubtedly more common nesting birds than elsewhere. There was one on the Trafalgar BBS (BLM).

There were a few PURPLE FINCHES at many locations through the summer. HOUSE FINCHES continue to thrive in the vicinity of Dalhousie and St. Mary's Universities in Halifax (ABM) and both adults and young frequented a feeder in Petite Rivière, Lun. Co. (JAH).

RED CROSSBILLS continue to visit feeders in Gabarus and Louisbourg, CB Co. and Port Joli, Queens Co. (Joan Mills, SEM, AND). Traditionally this is not a bird associated with feeders. A fascinating sighting was the three young and five adults, including one male that fed the young, that regularly attended a the feeder in Louisbourg throughout June and July (SEM). With the cone crop from two years ago completely gone, WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were very scarce this spring and into June. As this year's good crop of spruce and balsam cones matured, they arrived. The first were more than 50 on the Pleasant Bay, Inv. Co. BBS, June 23 and another flock at the Highland Links, Ingonish, Vic. Co., the same day (DBM, C. Aalgar). By the end of the first week of July they had reached Yar. Co. (GRM); there was a major influx in mid-July in

LaHave, Lun. Co. (JAH) and in late July in Shel. Co. By late July they were again heard and seen in coniferous woodlands throughout the province.

Both PINE SISKINS and AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES were widespread throughout the summer, many at feeders. Both are birds that have benefited from feeders in the past 30 years. There were reasonable numbers of EVENING GROSBEAKS in several areas of the province – in Kejimikujik NP, Lun., Col., and Guys. Cos. and in all four counties on CBI.

HOUSE SPARROWS are common enough in most urban, suburban and agricultural areas of the province that we don't usually notice them. The highest count in six years, still only a dozen, was made on the Londonderry, BBS. Birding can be slow during meals...perhaps that is why our editor noted a few through a restaurant window in Cheticamp in mid-July. Interesting behaviour can perk our interest and even make birding, including watching House Sparrows, at a shopping mall interesting. In New Glasgow, a half dozen sparrows approached a recently stopped car. They then proceeded to pick away at the insects killed and maimed on the grill (Bob Stevens). Perhaps that is why it is called a grill. ☐

## 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	CB 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		<b>Other</b>	Hants Co.	Hants
L.	Lake	ad.	adult	Inv. Co.	Inverness
Lwr.	Lower	BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	Kings Co.	Kings
Mt.	Mountain, Mount	ca.	circa (about, approximately)	Lun. Co.	Lunenburg
Mts.	Mountains	CBC	Christmas Bird Count	Pict. Co.	Pictou
N.P.	National Park	fem.	female	Queens Co.	Queens
P.P.	Provincial Park	imm.	immature	Rich. Co.	Richmond
Pen.	Peninsula	juv.	juvenile	Shel. Co.	Shelburne
Pt.	Point, not Port	male	(no abbreviation)	Vic. Co.	Victoria
R.	River	MNRS	Maritimes Nest Records Scheme	Yar. Co.	Yarmouth
The Cape	Cape Sable	var. obs.	various observers		☐☐☐

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Thanks to all of our contributors, including:

Sorted by Initials				
MacLean, Angus	AAM	Hirtle, James	JAH	Aalgar, C.
Moores, Bernice	ABM	Tufts, Judy	JCT	Ackerman, E.
Horn, Andy	AGH	Brennan, Jean	JEB	Amirault, Diane
Mills, Anne	AHM	Nickerson, Johnnie	JON	Ballard, Rick
Erskine, Anthony J.	AJE	Waldron, Joan	JOW	Bidwell, Tony
Murrant, Allan	ALM	Perron, Jacques	JPE	Boehner, Barry
Dean, Andy	AND	Metcalfe, Hugh "Junior"	JUM	Bone, Sylvia
Hinds, Barbara	BAH	Wolford, Jim	JWW	Borkowski, S.
Digout, Billy	BID	McKenna, Ken, J	KJM	Crowell, George
Forsythe, Bernard	BLF	Keddy, Keith	KNK	Hall, Prudence
Maybank, Blake	BLM	Payzant, Linda and Peter	LPP	Hall, Rick
Haycock, Carl	CAH	Brennan, Mark	MAB	Harris, Dave
Murrant, Cathy	CAM	Newell, Murray	MUN	Hawboldt, Steve
Thomson, Chris	CET	Goring, May	MZG	Hicklin, Peter
Stevens, Clarence Sr.	CSS	NS Bird Society Field Trip	NSBS	Horwood, Harold
Stoddard, Clyde	CST	Giffin, Patrick & Barbara	PBG	June, Betty
McCorquodale, Dave	DBM	Richard, Peter	PER	Keating, Charles
Hippert, Dennis	DHH	Stern, Richard	RBS	Kerr, Matthew
Young, David	DHY	MacRae, Doug	RDM	MacDonald, Peter
Cameron, Dorothy	DOC	Lauff, Randy F.	RFL	MacInnis, John W.
Ensor, Donna	DOE	Speirs, Robert J. N.	RJS	MacRae, Doug
MacLaughlin, Don	DOM	Chivers, Bobby	RSC	Magee, Pearl
Doull, Elizabeth	DOU	d'Entremont, Raymond	RSD	McCorquodale, Eric
Cooke, Eric	EHC	Knapton, Richard	RWK	Mills, Joan
Morrison, Eileen	EIM	Hiltz, Sandy	SAH	Rasmussen, Tamara
Mills, Eric L.	ELM	Yetman, Scott	SCY	Smith Betty June
Spalding, Francis	FLS	Myers, Susann	SEM	Smith, Stephanie
Metcalfe, Geraldine	GEM	Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF	Smith, Sid
Milroy, Grant	GRM	Hulford, Sheila	SLH	Stevens, Bob
Brennan, Harry	HAB	Hiltz, Stephen	STH	Webster, David and Alison
Hall, Hubert and Helen	HHH	Vines, Steve	STV	Wilkie, Trevor
McLaren, Ian	IAM	d'Eon, Ted	STV	Young, Darnell
Fletcher, Jane	JAF	Pacquet, Terry	TCD	Zodrow, E.
		Lucas, Zoe	TEP	Zwicker, Albert
			ZOL	

□□□

## Reporting Banded Birds

In Canada, banded birds should be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Service. To report a banded bird, use one of these contact methods:

Bird Banding Office  
National Wildlife Research Centre  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Hull, Quebec  
K1A 0H3

1-800-327-2263  
bbo\_cws@ec.gc.ca  
<http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc/bbo/birdband.htm>

The information that they would like to know is:

1. your name and address
2. the band number
3. the date the band was found (or observed)
4. the exact location where it was found (or observed)
5. the species of bird, if known
6. how the bird was found
7. the condition of the bird (alive or dead)
8. any other markers on the bird (e.g. colour bands)



# Photo Page

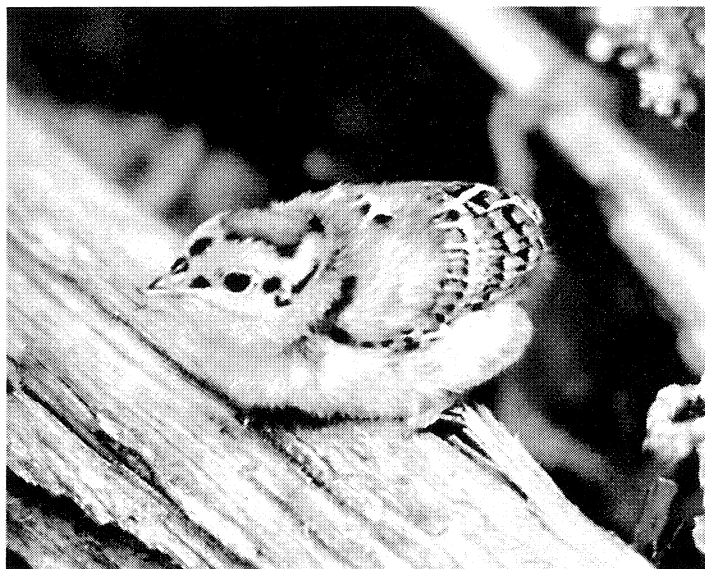
by Ian McLaren



A male SPRUCE GROUSE strutting his stuff during June near French Cove, Rich. Co., is a beautiful sight, but his accompanying vocalizations would not pass as musical. [Photo Tony Burke]



A full male BALTIMORE ORIOLE was a rare "catch" at Jeannie Shermerhorn's house at Cape George near St. Peters, Rich. Co., last June. [Photo Tony Burke]



A different scale of fowl is this appealing young RUFFED GROUSE, also near French Cove, also this June. Note the well developed wings; it will be capable of short flights when less than half grown. [Photo Tony Burke]



Someone must have obtained better photos of the exceptionally tame PURPLE GALLINULE on the St. Mary's University campus last spring, but in the meanwhile one taken in early June this serves to document this ungainly/beautiful bird. [Photo Ian McLaren]

## Field Trip Reports

### Mahone Bay

5 August, Leader: James Hirtle

August 5 started out as overcast in the morning. Our meeting place was at the three churches in Mahone Bay where we started the day with about 20 Common Terns and two Roseate Terns feeding. Osprey were seen also over the bay.

We proceeded a short way up the road to the cemetery behind the Mahone Bay Tourist Bureau, where mallards were seen in the bay and a few Mallard/Black Duck crosses. At the cemetery two White-breasted Nuthatches were found going up and down the side of a tombstone, along with a variety of other birds which were in migration. Evening Grosbeaks were seen along with Song Sparrows, Blue Jays, Red-eyed Vireos, Yellow-rumped Warblers, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Northern Parula and others.

After leaving the cemetery with a line-up of ten vehicles in tow we went to Long Hill. There we saw an immature Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, really great views of Eastern Wood Pewees, a White-winged Crossbill, and a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak along with other birds. There was also a large mystery flycatcher there, in which no one could get a look at the whole bird. A few members heard a Lincoln Sparrow calling, but could not see it.

Station Road in Maitland was the next stop. This spot normally very productive was disappointing. The majority of the species I had seen two days before had migrated out. Out of a potential 18-20 species only four were found, which included a Red-eyed Vireo which severely chattered at us from about a foot away, likely having a nest. A Common Loon was seen with one chick, Common Yellowthroats and Cedar Waxwings.

A quick bathroom stop and a momentary disorientation of the leader due to circumnavigating Mahone Bay as the Wooden Boat Festival was going on was followed by a stop at Westhaver Beach, where Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Terns, and Arctic Terns were seen. Two Roseate Terns did a close fly by right overhead giving all an excellent view. At Princess Inlet Drive all got to see the pair of Northern Cardinals there and some saw the young one. 2nd Peninsula was our lunch stop, which was at the park and by the ocean with a nice breeze, which kept bugs away and was a respite from the now hot, clear day.

After lunch a quick stop was made at Back Oler Marsh. The tide was up so little was seen there. An American Kestrel was seen only by the leader and some swallows were seen which were not identified due to distance. A wood tick was removed from the leg of one of the group by the leader. This being a surprise and really late for such. A stop at the trail by Starr Road in Lunenburg was also very quiet. Target birds were not located. This area usually very productive was quiet other than common birds and a nesting American Goldfinch.

The temperature by now was 85 degrees in Lunenburg. By Mason's Beach in a pond we located the female Ring-necked Duck with young. A quick stop was made at Corkum's Island and then we took the ferry across to Crescent Beach, where shorebirds were in good numbers. There were lots of Semi-palmated Plovers and Sandpipers, Sanderling, Black-bellied Plovers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Willets and a Hudsonian Godwit.

Although not all species seen are listed in this write-up the count for the day of positively identified birds was 71. I enjoyed leading the field trip and look forward to another next year. ☐

### Matthews Lake

19 August, Leader: David Young

A very water-logged eleven members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society slogged to Matthews Lake in moderate rain and recorded fourteen species of Shorebirds. As to be expected, the sun returned just as most of us arrived back at the parking lot.

Best bird of the day was certainly the American Avocet that had remained there a number of days so as to be viewed as a Life Bird by some of the trip members. This bird was a first Nova Scotia sighting for the reporter!

Other birds seen were six Hudsonian Godwits, 24 Red Knots, 12 White-rumped Sandpipers, 8 Ruddy Turnstones and five Lesser Yellowlegs. Also, six Bobolinks were seen by some at the end of the trip.

I believe a mostly enjoyable time was had by all in spite of the fact that the over all numbers of shorebirds at Matthews Lake continues to be much lower than it was four or five years ago. ☐

## Bon Portage Island

01 - 04 September

By Joan Czapalay

Rain and Fog - not unusual for BPI.

Eight NSBS members and friends made the trip to the island in Acadia University's island boat "Eider". The island manager, Mike Kellog, had the camps cleaned and well supplied when we arrived Friday evening. We found the birds scarce on Saturday, Yellow breasted Chat being the "Bird-of-the-Day" and Leach's Storm Petrels were "Birds of the Night". On Sunday we awakened to the full song (finch like to my inaccurate ear) of Cross-bills. A pair of Red Crossbills were singing around the sheds and there were good numbers of White-winged in the spruce forest. We don't hear a lot of bird song in the autumn, but crossbills court year around, (and I say, "Good for them!") Also in song were Fox Sparrows in good number, and Winter Wrens with their partial song of this season. The usual Prairie Warblers were putting in appearances, and I saw one Blue-winged Warbler (a BPI Labour Day special). Olive-sided Flycatcher was the only representative of that family.

The Great Horned Owl was active around the Gunning Camp. We found a broken winged immature Black-crowned Night Heron by Salt Pond, Northern Harriers were hunting the Savannah, and Merlins were hunting around the Light. Our trip total was 58 birds. The most interesting bird of the week-end was a Kentucky Warbler. It was in the net, so not "countable" but a joy to see. Most of us had a good look at a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Kelp Cove. The beginning birders were able to pick it out several times in the flock of Semis (both plovers and pipers), Sanderlings, Least Sandpipers and Ruddy Turnstones. There were 3 White-rumped Sandpipers, and at least 2 Baird's. Both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were seen at the ponds.

Each day we enjoyed a feast of raspberries from the lighthouse field; rainy weather did not deter us from picking and birding. Four Garter Snakes were counted on the island for the Herp atlas. Thanks to Claire, Jeff, Faith, Bob, Shirley, Sam and Vernon for joining me on a special island. □

## Brier Island

23 - 24 September - Terrestrial trip

by Richard Stern

On Saturday morning most of the birders that had been on Brier Island went off across the Bay of Fundy by boat, but some landlubbers remained. Most joined one of two groups, who kept meeting up anyway in the Pond Cove area. A walk along the Lighthouse road and then down the Pond Cove Lane found several groups of mixed Vireos and Warblers, with some Black-capped Chickadees, both Kinglets and White-throated Sparrows. There were several Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos, and two people got brief but adequate looks at a White-eyed Vireo. One Spruce snag briefly held two Red-eyed, one Blue-headed, two Cedar Waxwings, one Magnolia Warbler, one Yellow-rumped, and two Chipping Sparrows at the same time. The other group also found an excellent flock of Warblers foraging in the alders and spruce between Little and Big Ponds, including Am. Redstarts, Wilson's and Palm Warblers, and best of all a very tame and confiding Blue-winged. Unfortunately, the first group couldn't find it subsequently. Other birds in the area included Gray Jay, Winter Wren and calling White-winged Crossbills.

On the beach and mud-flats at Pond Cove was a smattering of shorebirds, including a few Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, several Greater Yellowlegs and dowitchers, and a Baird's Sandpiper. An Osprey cruised by. On the Friday evening I had seen a pair of Caspian Terns roosting on a rock and flying around Pond Cove, and luckily they kept returning to the same area on and off all Saturday. At one point they became "lifers" for three people simultaneously! As usual, Belted Kingfishers and Great Blue Herons were fishing in the pond, Eiders were prominent there too, as were up to 16 Harbour Seals that kept us all under close observation.

A few of us spent some time at West Light 'scoping the ocean, and saw Gannets, an early pair of Red-necked Grebes, very distant views of Shearwaters, some Guillemots, and several Humpback Whales in the distance doing their tail "thing" around two tour boats.

All over the island, all day, were Sharp-shinned Hawks whizzing about and chasing Flickers, but the real hawk show came in the afternoon, when a "kettle" of about 300 Broad-winged, with several Goshawks, a few Sharpies and up to six Turkey Vultures spent about an hour drifting around in the clear blue sky - a wonderful sight - and to cap it all, they were joined for an all too brief moment by an imm. Mississippi Kite - unfortunately for the list hounds, only seen by the two birders present who had seen one before in Nova Scotia!

On Saturday evening the landlubbers and the mariners gathered together for a social hour and to "do the day's list" (ending up at about 115 species) at The Lodge.

Several birders stayed for the rest of the weekend, but unfortunately on Sunday the rain and fog came in - not before 4 Pectoral Sandpipers and a Lesser Golden Plover, and more Sharpies, had turned up at Pond Cove, and a Ruffed Grouse was added to the list. All in all, a good time was had by all those present.

**Editor's note:** we hope to have a report on the pelagic trip and the meeting in general for next issue...stay tuned! □

# Book Review

**By Terry Paquet**

## THE BIRDER'S JOURNAL

Edited by Bob Waldon

Waterlane Editions (1998) ISBN 1-55110-773-2

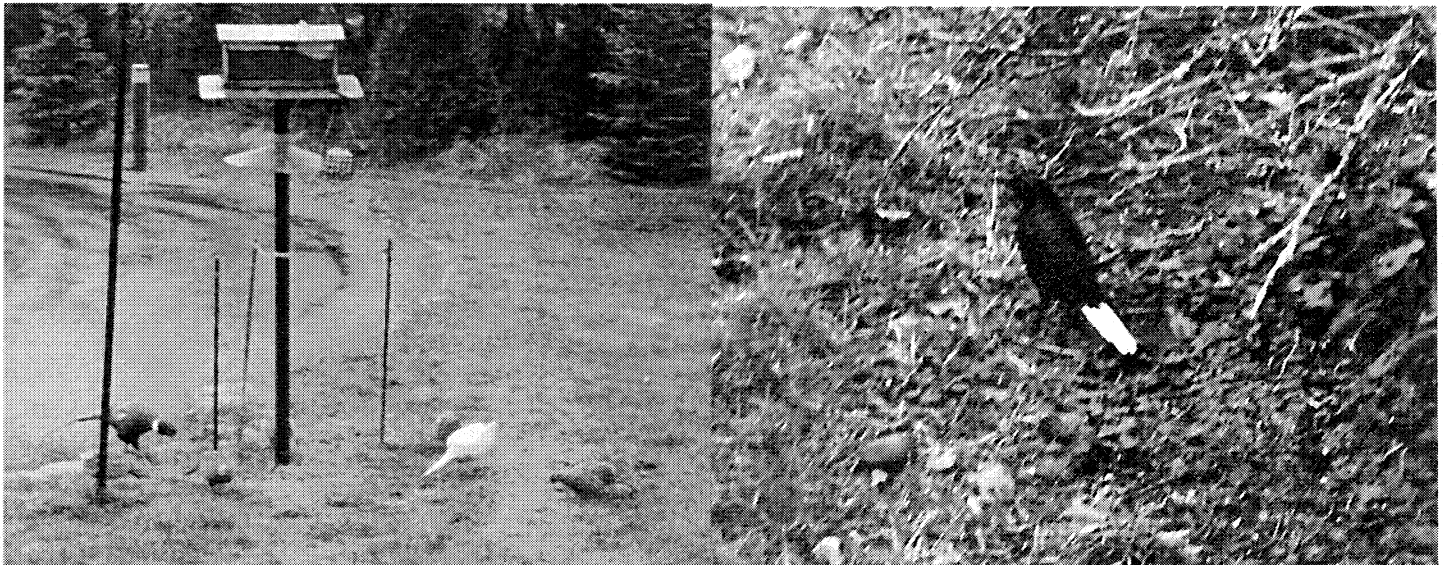
As the title suggests "The Birders Journal" is basically a journal or diary for the birder. The first twenty six pages contain some very basic birding information on birding destinations, as well as some coverage of feeding birds and bird houses. There is also a list of birding organizations with ways to contact them. The information is however very elemental and would likely be useful only to a novice or beginning birder.

The rest of the book is devoted to the business of journal keeping, note taking and maintaining records. These remaining one hundred and sixteen pages are broken into sections, the first and largest devoted to "Notes on New Bird Sightings". In this section on the left page some partial sketches are provided, with the intention of the birder finishing these. There are four different types, bird of prey, songbird, shorebird, and waterfowl with which you can finish sketching the bill, tail, legs etc. The right side of the page is for notes on species type, description etc. There are also sections for "Notes on Birding Trips" and "Notes on Birds at the Feeder". Most of the pages for noting birds seen, for example on birding trips, have a limited number of spaces per page to note species, in this case sixteen.

The cost on this book is \$12.95. The volume is roughly the size of a standard field guide with a well bound, hard cover. The book should fit into a jacket pocket, but likely wouldn't fit into an average shirt or pants pocket

As I mentioned earlier this book appears to me to be directed towards the beginning birder. The half completed sketch idea was not particularly appealing to me. This book does provide a means of tracking sightings and making field sketches, however in the opinion of this reviewer it is not portable or small enough for field notes and too small for transcribing extensive field notes or trip reports. □

70 Nappan Drive, Lower Sackville, NS B4C2E3, [terrypaquet@hotmail.com](mailto:terrypaquet@hotmail.com)



Partly and fully white birds are quite common among birds, but are seldom true albinos, as pigment of eyes and various hard parts are generally unaffected. The wholly white-plumaged RING-NECKED PHEASANT attended the Woods' feeder in Mahone Bay in November 1996, and the white-tailed COMMON GRACKLE was at Kathleen Spicer's feeder in Apple River in November 1999. [Photos Shirley Woods - pheasant and Kathleen Spicer - grackle]

# Christmas Bird Count 2000 - Compilers

Christmas Bird Counts always need more people to help out, whether in the field or at home watching your feeder. Feel free to contact the following compilers for information on their counts.

## Amherst

Ross Galbraith  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Box 6227, 17 Waterfowl Lane  
Sackville, NB E4L 1G6

## Annapolis Royal

David Tinker  
RR 2 Box 2030A  
Granville Ferry, NS B0S 1K0

## Antigonish

Harriet MacMillan  
North Lochaber  
RR 5, Antigonish B2G 2L3

## Apple River

Kathleen Spicer  
Apple River  
RR 3 Parrsboro, NS B0M 1S0

## Barrington Bay/Cape Sable Island

Joan Czapalay  
1173 Beaufort Ave  
Halifax, NS B3H 3Y3

## Bedford/Sackville

Rich Peckham  
21 Summit St  
Bedford, NS B4A 2P7

## Big Pond/Eskasoni

Jack MacNeil  
RR 1 East Bay  
Big Pond, NS B0A 1H0

## Bridgetown

David Colville  
RR 4  
Middleton, NS B0S 1P0

## Brier Island

Richard Stern  
40 MacDonald Park Rd  
Kentville, NS B4N 5C7

## Broad Cove

Sylvia Fullerton  
609-1030 South Park St.,  
Halifax, NS B3H 2W3

## Cape Breton Highlands

Derek Quann  
CBHNP  
Ingonish Beach, NS B0C 1L0

## Cheticamp

Denis Hache  
CBHNP  
Box 158  
Cheticamp, NS B0E 1H0

## Economy

Fran Spalding  
17 Wharf Rd  
Economy, NS B0M 1J0

## Glace Bay

Cathy Murrant  
466 Sand Lake Rd.  
Port Morien, NS B1B 1J6

## Halifax/Dartmouth

Fulton Lavender  
3207 Hemlock Ave  
Halifax, NS B3L 4B5

## Kingston

Patrick Giffin  
Box 159, Kingston, NS B0P 1R0

## Louisbourg

Susann Myers  
41 Upper Warren St.  
Louisbourg, NS B1C 1M9

## Lunenburg County

Jill Comolli  
RR 1 Rose Bay, NS B0J 2X0

## Margaree

Frances Hart  
Box 24  
Margaree Centre, NS B0E 1Z0

## Northport

Mary Jane MacNeil  
RR 4 Northport, NS B4H 3Y2

## Pictou Harbour

Ken McKenna  
Box 218, Stellarton, NS B0K 1S0

## Port l'Hebert

Donna Crosby  
Box 133,  
Lockeport, NS B0T 1L0

## Pubnico

Ted D'Eon  
Box 100  
West Pubnico, NS B0W 3S0

## St. Peters

Billy Digout  
RR 2, 8495 West Bay Hwy  
St. Peters, NS B0E 3B0

## Shubenacadie

Roslyn MacPhee  
Box 241  
Shubenacadie, NS B0N 2H0

## Springville

Calvin Brennan  
RR 1  
Hopewell, NS B0K 1C0

## Strait of Canso

Kerstin Mueller  
Box 117  
Mulgrave, NS B0E 2G0

## Truro

Ross Hall  
19 Clover Drive  
Truro, NS B2N 5P2

## West Hants

John Robertson  
RR 1 Windsor, NS B0N 2T0

## Wolfville

Ian Patterson  
Biology Dept., Acadia University  
Wolfville, NS B0P1X0

## Yarmouth

Barbara and Eric Ruff  
39 Alma St.  
Yarmouth, NS B5A 3G5

□□□

# Book Review

**By Robert S. McDonald**

**A Bird-Finding Guide to Canada. Revised Edition.**

**Edited by J. Cam Finlay.**

**McClelland and Stewart Inc., Toronto, ON. 2000. 449 p. \$24.99.**

When asked if I was interested in reviewing the revised edition of Finlay's *A Bird-finding Guide to Canada*, I jumped at the chance since the first edition, published in 1984, was given to me as a Christmas gift by my in-laws in that year. Since then, I have carried it with me on birding excursions to every province outside NS. Recently, however, I have noticed that some material is out-of-date and, of course, some sites have disappeared while others have been "discovered". I also wanted to find out just what is meant by a "revised edition"! Worth noting here is that in his preface to the first edition, Finlay hoped that a revised edition would appear within five years! Clearly, this edition is long overdue.

The book begins with a general and brief overview of equipment (clothing, optics, field guides) and includes sections on attracting birds and a code for using the out-of-doors. As the title suggests, the bulk of the book includes sections for each of the ten provinces and two territories (NWT and Nunavut are combined). The length of these sections pretty much mirror their size and diversity, although Alberta's is the longest (61 pages), presumably because this was Finlay's home province. The entry for Newfoundland is also surprisingly long and comprehensive (50 pages), being longer than that for any other province except Alberta and Ontario! Coverage of the more remote northern regions of the western and central provinces and the territories has been expanded considerably, presumably due to increased accessibility and improved reporting.

Just to get a feel for what is included for each province/territory, I read in some detail the write-up for Manitoba (28 pages), my home province, which seems to be representative of the others. The introduction includes the little-known facts that Manitoba birders hold the North American "Big Day" records for June and July and Canadian records for all months from May through September! Also included is a listing of "Most Wanted" species and where to find them, names and contact phone numbers of birders willing to help visitors, a description of local bird-finding guides and government contacts for maps and vacation guides. Where applicable, this section also includes phone numbers and addresses of bird clubs and bird status phone numbers.

The province is then sub-divided into 15 regions or specific sites (e.g. Winnipeg, Churchill). More detailed information, including more specific site guides where available and local contacts, is then given for each. The entry under Winnipeg, for example, gives birding features and access information for four city parks and a raptor-watching location. That for Churchill, the most readily accessible Arctic location (go by air or rail), details where to find Yellow Rail, Willow Ptarmigan, Hoary Redpoll, Harris's Sparrow and the increasingly elusive Ross's Gull.

Of course, I also reviewed the entry (30 pages) for Nova Scotia. What surprised me most about our entry is that the whole section was written by one individual (Jim Wolford). The only other single-author chapter is that for PEI (10 pages). Perhaps Jim should have taken on an editorial role; in this province there is considerable local expertise from Cape Breton to Yarmouth, and from the South Shore to the Northumberland Shore. The coverage seems uneven; the Halifax/Dartmouth area which includes the cities, Hartlen Point and the Lawrencetown Loop to Chezzetcook, as well as Chebucto Head and St. Margarets Bay, receive the same coverage (2+ pages) as Sable Island, a location which I suspect few of us will ever visit. Although well written, there was a heavy reliance on our provincial guide "Birding Nova Scotia", last updated in 1991.

The final section of the book is a complete listing of all birds which have been documented in Canada, complete with status in each province/territory (breeding, transient migrant, accidental). Even the Brown Shrike is included, with NS as the only province in which it has occurred.

So, would I recommend the purchase of this guide? For those who are content to do all their birding in NS, for those who will only be birding outside the province with a guided tour group and/or visiting areas which have their own site guides (Point Pelee, Churchill, Calgary area, for example), then the answer is no. However, if you love to explore new areas and discover birds on your own as I do, then this guide is for you. I have already used my copy on a short holiday to Montreal; following the guide Wendy and I found lots of interesting spots to explore on the east coast of NB. □

**Department of Chemistry, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3M 2J6**

**Robert.McDonald@MSVU.Ca**

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

Membership in the Nova Scotia Bird Society is open to all. The membership fee includes a subscription to *Nova Scotia Birds*. 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 Foreign Addresses:  
 \$2/year, for \_\_\_\_\_ years \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. of NS Naturalists:  
 \$5/year, for \_\_\_\_\_ years \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Gift Memberships:**

An excellent way to mark a special occasion! List recipient's name and mailing address on a separate sheet or on the back of this form.

Number of Gift Memberships: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gift Memberships Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund:**

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

**Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund**

**Donation:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NSBS Supplies**

The following items are available to members:

NSBS crests @ \$4 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NSBS decals @ \$1 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bird Checklist @ Four for \$1 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Birding Nova Scotia @ \$5 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Supplies Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** (Make cheque payable to N. S. Bird Society) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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:                       Leading Bird Walks  
 Hospitality    Magazine    Publicity    Leading School Group  
 Conservation    Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail to:

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

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Upcoming Events



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

Ideas and suggestions for future trips are welcome. You do not need to be an expert to lead a field trip, and the trip does not need to last all day; you just need to share your favourite birding spots. Any questions, comments or suggestions should be directed to the Events Editor, Peter Richard 221-5366. Email: [prichard@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:prichard@ns.sympatico.ca)

## **Sat. 4 Nov. 2000 - The Pubnicos**

Leader: Gisèle d'Entremont 422-7739 (Halifax) or 762-2439 (Pubnico). [gdentremont@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:gdentremont@ns.sympatico.ca)

Enjoy autumn birding. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Red Cap Motel & Restaurant, Middle West Pubnico, Yarmouth County. If people express interest, we could have another trip for the following day. Rain date: Sun. 5 Nov.

## **Sat. 18 Nov. 2000 – Antigonish Coastal Waters**

Leader: Randy Lauff 867-2471: [rlauff@stfx.ca](mailto:rlauff@stfx.ca)

This trip covers the waters of St. Georges Bay and the harbours of Antigonish County; we'll end the day at Ogdens Pond, a very active place at this time of year. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Uncle Ron's Coffee Shop on the TCH just east of exit 35 (Lower South River). Rain date: Sun 19 Nov.

## **Sat. 2 Dec. 2000 - Cape Sable Island**

Leader: Murray Newell 745-3340. [murcar@klis.com](mailto:murcar@klis.com)

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Tim Horton's in Barrington Passage. This is an opportunity to have a great start to your winter list.

## **Sat. 6 Jan. 2001 Sewer Stroll I, Halifax/Dartmouth Area**

Leader: Terry Paquet. [terrypacquet@hotmail.com](mailto:terrypacquet@hotmail.com)

Meet at Hartlen Pt. at 8:00 a.m. to look for rare birds and regular winter visitors. Dress for cold weather and bring a lunch. Plan to carpool as much as possible. Storm date: Sun. Jan. 7.

## **Sat. 20 Jan. 2001 Halifax Field Naturalists Sewer Stroll, Halifax/Dartmouth Area**

Leaders: Linda and Peter Payzant. 861-1607 (evenings). [aa095@chebucto.ns.ca](mailto:aa095@chebucto.ns.ca)

Dress warmly and bring a lunch, binoculars, field guides and telescope (if you have one). Meet at 8:30 am at NSMNH staff parking lot **OR** 9:15 am at entrance to Hartlen Pt.

## **Thu. 25 Jan 2001. Members' Slide Night**

NSMNH, Summer St., Halifax, 7:30 p.m. Members are invited to bring along 10 to 15 of their most interesting slides relating to birds or birding.

## **Sat. Jan. 27 Pictou Harbour overwintering Gulls and Waterfowl.**

Leader: Ken McKenna. 752-7644 [kenmcken@north.nsis.com](mailto:kenmcken@north.nsis.com)

Meet at 9:00 at the parking lot behind the Heather Motel in Stellarton. Dress warmly and bring a lunch. Storm date Sun. Jan. 28.

## **Sat. 3 Feb. 2001. Sewer Stroll II, Halifax/Dartmouth Area**

Leader: Blake Maybank. 852-2077 [maybank@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:maybank@ns.sympatico.ca)

Meet at Hartlen Pt. at 8:00 a.m. Dress for cold weather and bring a lunch. Plan to carpool as much as possible. Storm date: Sun. 4 Feb.

## **Thu. 22 Feb. 2001. Regular Meeting**

NSMNH, Summer St., Halifax, 7:30 p.m.

"Dancing in mud: ecology and conservation of shorebirds in the Bay of Fundy." Guest speaker Dr. J. Sherman Boates, Manager, Biodiversity, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

## **Thu. 22 Mar. 2001. Regular Meeting**

NSMNH, Summer St., Halifax, 7:30 p.m.

"The history and current status of the Peregrine Falcon Recovery program in the Bay of Fundy." Guest speaker: Diane Amirault, Lead biologist for the Canadian Wildlife Service's Species at Risk Program in Atlantic Canada.

## **Sat. 31 Mar 2001. Baccaro and Blanche Peninsula.**

Leader: Donna Ensor 875-4269.

Early Spring birding with Donna. Rarities have shown up here quite often at this time of year. Dress warmly and bring a lunch. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot opposite the exit to Port Clyde. Rain date: Sun. 1 Apr. ☐