

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Spring 2001
(The Birds of Winter)

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

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

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Reporting Deadlines

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Cover Photo: This NORTHERN HAWK OWL, carrying a meadow vole, was found several years ago near Tatamagouche. [Photo Ross Hall]

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
SPRING 2001

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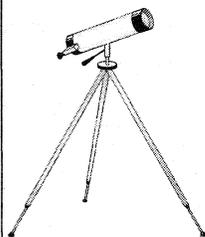
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The Spotting Scope



Nova Scotia...not really the world's hub of birding, but were you aware that membership in the Nova Scotia Bird Society spans nine provinces and one territory within Canada (surely someone must know people in Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and Nunavut who would like a gift membership in our society!) and six other countries in both the New and Old Worlds? Do our foreign members see parallels in their countries with the issues we deal with here? Do they anticipate the seasons as we do? I suspect the answer is "yes" to both questions. I sometimes wonder which birds our foreign members would most like to see if they visited us. (Ok foreign members, that was a hint...let us know which birds you'd most like to see, and why they are the ones that are most attractive to you.)

The majority of this issue deals with the birds of winter, the whole season in general and the Christmas Bird Counts in particular. Following the trends across the years is the ultimate goal of the CBCs, but for many of us, it's just a lot of fun. By the time you read this, the Spring Migration Count will also have just been completed and the compilers will be tallying figures for reasons similar to those for the CBCs. There are all sorts of birding opportunities available that will help conservation efforts on local and global scales. Three are described in this issue, and while many of you are likely aware of the Breeding Bird Survey and the Piping Plover Guardian Program, you may not have heard of the Bird Surveys of Salt Marshes being co-ordinated by the Canadian Wildlife Service. The latter program would be ideal for those with very limited time available, yet still wishing to contribute to conservation efforts.

If you're like many, many other people, not only do you enjoy birding, but gardening may also be in your repertoire of hobbies. The two are easily combined by planting a bird-friendly garden or landscaping your yard to support wildlife. Do you have a bird-friendly yard or garden? I think a gardening for birds/wildlife article would be fantastic...any takers?

Nest boxes are a great way of attracting birds to your yard. They're also a great way of getting kids interested in birds. Several of our cavity nesters will be on the nest by the time this issue goes to press, but you still have time to get nest boxes up for several ducks, Tree Swallows, Black-capped Chickadees and if you're lucky enough to be living near the New Brunswick border, Purple Martins. We'd really like to hear about your results, whether it be for inclusion in our Seasonal Reports, or a full description of your project. And for the next winter issue, I'd really like to include the plans for a number of nest boxes, preferably written by someone who's done a lot of nest box work. Let me know if you'd like to do this! Having the article in next winter's edition will give people a winter project to do, and be prepared for next spring's nesters. In fact, I'm going to make a commitment right now, that there's going to be a picture on the cover of the winter edition which shows a bird at its nest box. Will it be yours?

Until next time, good birding!

Randy

The Piping Plover: An Endangered Species Needs Your Help!

By Anna McCarron

Piping Plovers are small shore birds that breed and struggle to raise their families on some of our Nova Scotian beaches. They are officially listed as an Endangered Species in Canada. This is mostly due to inadvertent disturbances by humans on nesting beaches that disrupt the normal behaviours of Piping Plovers, often resulting in the loss of nests and chicks. Such disturbances include sport and recreation activities near the nests, campfires, A.T.V. activity in nesting habitats, beachcombing, unleashed pets, and litter, which attracts natural predators such as crows.

The Nova Scotia Piping Plover Guardian Program was formed in 1992 to assist in conservation and recovery efforts of the Piping Plover in Atlantic Canada. Volunteer Guardians encourage the beach public to simply give these birds room to raise their chicks. The Program has been promoting a "Share the Beach" campaign since 1992. During the breeding season - from approximately May to mid-July - volunteer guardians post signs, spend time at the posted boundaries, enhance public awareness of the plover's plight, and ask the public to please avoid the posted areas.

The Nova Scotia Piping Plover Guardian Program is a program of the Nova Scotia Bird Society with support from the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. It is a cooperative, largely volunteer effort, involving people from all walks of life including students, families, and seniors. Training, uniforms and public education materials are provided. This season, volunteer guardians are especially needed in the counties of Antigonish, Pictou, Halifax, Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne, and Cape Breton. If you would like to become a volunteer Piping Plover Guardian, or if you would like more information, please contact Anna McCarron by phone at (902) 860-1263 or by email at plover@istar.ca.

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NSBS members participated in the Spring Break program at the NS Museum of Natural History. This year the theme was 'For the Birds'. (Left) The Piping Plover display with Etta Parker (on the left wearing baseball hat) and Anna McCarron (white cap). (Right) Pat Chalmers at the Environment Canada display. [Photos (L) David Currie (R) [Gisèle d'Entremont]

The Breeding Bird Survey in Nova Scotia

By Dan Busby

The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is a large-scale avian survey program initiated in 1966 to monitor the status and trends of breeding bird populations across North America. Throughout the US and Canada there are over 4,000 BBS routes, of which about 3,000 are surveyed annually. The BBS is one of our longest-running bird surveys and is a valuable source of data on bird population status and trends.

Each year, in early summer, volunteers embark on their mission to count all birds seen or heard along 40 km routes, consisting of 50 evenly-spaced stops where three-minute counts are made. Surveys may only be conducted under acceptable weather conditions and must begin 30 minutes before sunrise. BBS volunteers must have good hearing ability and should be able to identify all birds either seen or heard along their routes. All data are compiled by volunteers and submitted to the Canadian Wildlife Service where the data are statistically analyzed and published.

Nova Scotia has a long history of participation in the BBS and remains one of the best-covered areas of the country. Unlike most regions which have vast areas of wilderness beyond the reach of roads, Nova Scotia is well covered by routes spaced throughout the province. And, with a uniquely-dedicated group of bird enthusiasts, Nova Scotia has an extremely high percentage of routes assigned and covered each year. There are currently 29 active routes which are covered by 22 volunteers, several of whom cover multiple routes each year.

Although the results of Nova Scotia's surveys are normally lumped with the other two Maritime provinces for the purpose of trend analyses (known as the Atlantic Maritime Region), I have teased apart some of the results for Nova Scotia to look at differences in species among the provinces. While not statistically valid, it does provide some insight into species that are declining in this province.

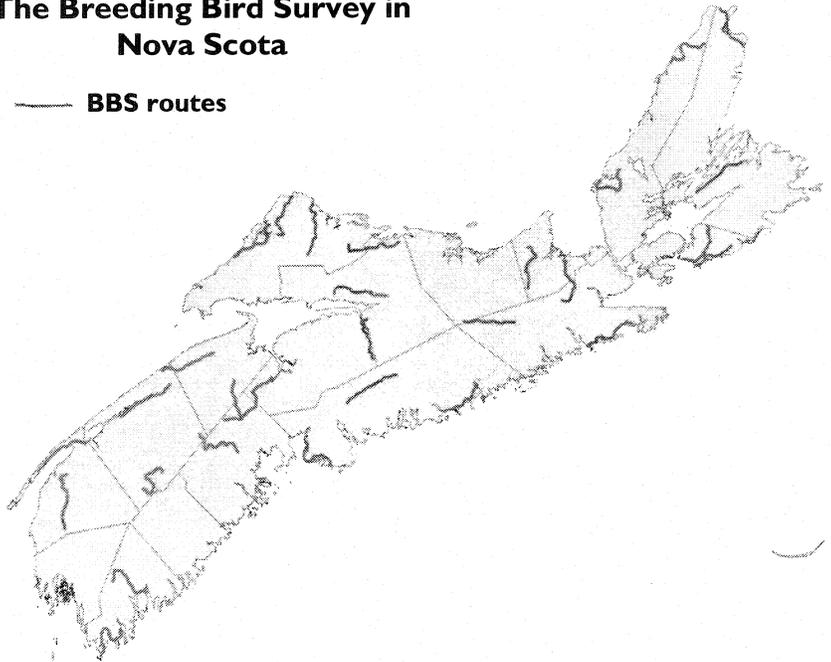
And which species does the BBS suggest may be declining in Nova Scotia? Bank and Barn Swallow, Blackpoll Warbler, Boreal Chickadee, Brown-headed Cowbird, Chimney Swift, Common Snipe, Eastern Kingbird and Rusty Blackbird to name a few. Other species show more complex historical patterns of fluctuations while others – those that adapt well to human settlements – are increasing. While not all increases or decreases are biologically important, the Breeding Bird Survey serves as a useful program to help us all be more aware of the changing environment we live in and of the role we can all play in doing our part to protect birds and their habitats.

For more information, check out my regional BBS web site at <http://bbs.tantramar.com>.

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The Breeding Bird Survey in Nova Scotia

— BBS routes



Second brood produced and sequential polyandry documented in Nova Scotia Piping Plover

By Diane L. Amirault

The reproductive biology of the Piping Plover is thought to be fairly well understood. The species is primarily monogamous with males and females sharing responsibility for incubating eggs and caring for young. A single brood is normally produced each year. Re-nesting is possible if eggs are lost though rarely if a brood is lost.

There may occasionally be variations to this general reproductive strategy. Haig (1992) reported cases of sequential polyandry in Piping Plovers nesting in Manitoba. In Haig's study, Piping Plovers produced several nests and with different mates in response to nest destruction caused by storms and predators [Haig and Oring (1988)]. There have also been documented cases of Piping Plovers producing two broods within a nesting season in the north eastern United States [e.g. Massachusetts (Bottita *et al.*, 1997) and Connecticut (MacIvor, 1990)]. Since eastern Canada represents the northern limit of the Piping Plover's breeding range, it was generally thought that the possibility of producing two broods within one nesting season was remote. In 2000, during the course of an ongoing banding study, the production of two broods within a single nesting season at a Nova Scotia beach was documented.



This photo of a PIPING PLOVER chick "hiding in the seaweed", was taken at Cherry Hill Beach in 1983. [Photo Stephen Fleming - NSBS Collection]

During the 2000 nesting season in Nova Scotia, 19 adults and 43 juveniles were banded within Shelburne and Queens Counties; in 1999, 10 adults and 28 juveniles had been banded. Six banded plovers were recaptured in 2000. Four of the recaptures were birds banded in 1999 - two banded as juveniles and two banded as adult birds. In addition, two recaptures of birds banded during 2000 occurred. One of the within season recaptures provided interesting insight into the reproductive behaviour of the species.

An adult female was captured and banded on South Side beach, Cape Sable Island, on May 24, 2000. The female was incubating four eggs. Four chicks subsequently hatched from this nesting on May 30. One young from this brood fledged on June 25. The male remained with the fledgling until July 5. The female was not observed with the young after June 13. A nest containing three eggs was discovered on the adjacent Stoney Island Beach on June 23. The nest contained four eggs on June 25. The female from this nest was trapped on June 29. The band number confirmed that the individual was the same female banded on May 24 that had already fledged one chick earlier in the season. Observations at the nest confirmed that the female had located another mate to produce this second clutch.

This record of the production of a second brood is the third documented case of such an occurrence, and the first documented in Canada. This behaviour is thought to be extremely rare in the species. It elevates the significance of having first broods succeed thereby providing sufficient time and opportunity for producing a second brood. This information also suggests caution in counting late nesting pairs as new individuals since these plovers may have been counted in previous population surveys.

The documentation of sequential polyandry is also significant. Previously, this occurrence had only been documented in circumstances associated with high rates of depredation and catastrophic storm events. It suggests that plovers may have some intrinsic capability to take advantage of opportunities to increase their productivity. In the past, researchers have hypothesized that the early departure of females may have been a result of high energetic expenditures related to egg production (Gautreau, 1999). Our observations suggest that there may be other explanations. They propose the role of male plovers in brood rearing is fairly significant, and in some cases possibly more significant than the female. The increased parental investment of the male results in enhancing the likelihood that his offspring will survive to contribute his genes to future generations. In contrast, the female strategy appears to rely on producing many young thereby increasing the likelihood of survival of at least some of her offspring. It should

be stressed that this type of reproductive behaviour is thought to be fairly uncommon among Piping Plovers, therefore the significance of this incident on the species scale remains unclear.

Naturalists and other beach users are reminded to report any banded Piping Plover observations to the Canadian Wildlife Service at (506) 364-5060 (call collect).

A more detailed account of these observations is in preparation for eventual submission to a scientific journal. This research was made possible through the cooperation and contributions of the Canadian Wildlife Service - Atlantic Region, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Environment Canada's Science Horizons program. In particular, the efforts of DNR regional biologists Peter MacDonald and John Mills, and field expertise of Jonathan Kierstead, Larry MacDonnell and Julie McKnight are gratefully acknowledged. Other participants in the Eastern Canada Piping Plover research study include Canadian Wildlife Service - Quebec Region, Parks Canada, Newfoundland Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy, Piper Project and the Irving Eco-center.

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Research Being Conducted on Bird Communities of Coastal Wetlands

By Alan R. Hanson

Volunteers and Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) staff are currently conducting a study to determine the abundance and diversity of birds using salt marshes and coastal wetlands in the Maritimes. A second objective is to identify habitat factors which explain the observed patterns of distribution.

The loss of coastal wetlands (saltmarshes, barrachois ponds, brackish marshes) in Atlantic Canada is one of the most severe and publicised cases of wetland loss in Canada. It has been estimated that 65% of salt marshes have been lost in the upper Bay of Fundy. Recently, there has been much public support for the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands including salt marshes in the Maritimes. However, there is little information on how these activities should be directed in order to conserve and restore wildlife populations that use these habitat types.

Whereas the loss of coastal wetlands have been severe, there may have also been declines in populations of birds that are dependent on coastal wetlands. Bird surveys conducted for this project provide valuable information required for updated population estimates. Special wetland conservation and restoration projects may be required for species such



Saltmarshes, such as this one at Baie Verte provide critical habitat to a number of bird and other wildlife species. [Photo Alan Hanson]

as Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) whose populations may only be 2,500 and 750 pairs respectively in the Maritimes (Erskine 1992).

The abundance and species of birds using coastal wetlands will be determined using standard methods developed by the Audubon Society for synoptic surveys of salt marshes in the US Gulf of Maine. Using the same methodology will allow for valid comparisons between the Maritimes and New England.

Habitat data is collected by CWS staff on local and landscape scales. Local data includes information on wetland size, vegetation, number and size of ponds, and frequency of flooding. Landscape-level data includes information on adjacent natural features such as estuaries, rivers, mud flats, as well as disturbance features such as dwellings and roads.

By developing a better knowledge of the habitat requirements of coastal wetland bird species, saltmarsh restoration and conservation activities can be planned to provide relevant wildlife-habitat benefits.

Participants are still required for many areas of the Maritimes, especially Nova Scotia. Surveys last approximately one hour and are repeated three times during the breeding season (June - July). Volunteers are given information packets, as well as personalised training as required. Participants provide valuable information on the status and habitat requirements of coastal bird species with a time commitment of as little as three hours for the entire year. The number of marshes is large and the breeding season short, which means that the success of this program depends on everyone doing a little. If you live along the shore, it can be done in the morning as a nice way to start your day, and you could learn more about the wildlife in your neighbourhood. If you are interested in participating, or would like more information, please contact Al Hanson, or visit Environment Canada's web site: www.atl.ec.gc.ca

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Book Review

By Richard Knapton

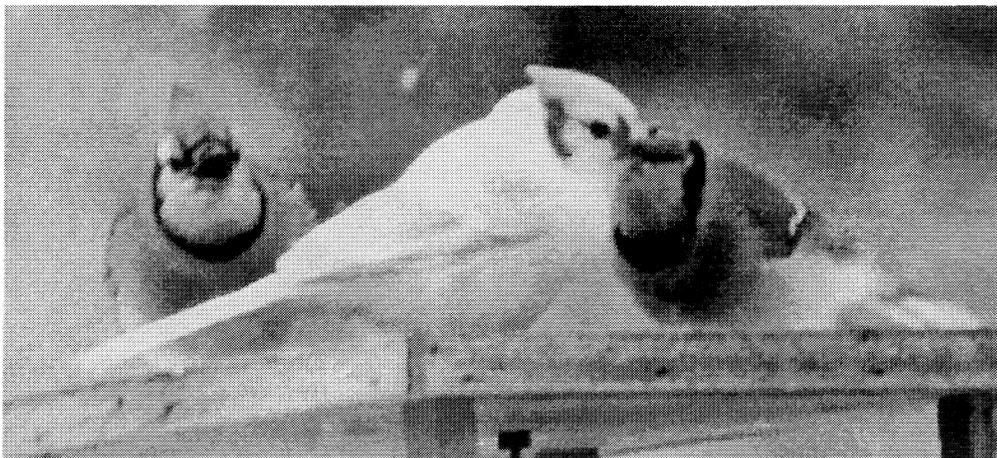
Prairie Water: Wildlife at Beaverhills Lake, Alberta
 By Dick Dekker, photographs by Edgar T. Jones
 University of Alberta Press
 Revised Edition 1998

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I have been to Beaverhills Lake many times - it is a superb wildlife area, and Dick Dekker's evocative and informative writing plus Edgar Jones's fine photographs bring back many pleasant memories. Moreover I learned much more about the history of the lake, both ancient and recent, the birding seasons, the fascinating and careful observations Dekker has made over the decades on wildlife of the region, the problems of land management and the "bovine bulldozer" (what to do about cattle grazing and drinking along the shorelines), and waterfowl hunting and management.

The book is a revised edition first published in 1991. Dekker, who knows Beaverhills Lake better than just about anyone else, dedicates his book to "further appreciation and understanding of the Big Slough near Tofield". And well he might appeal to greater appreciation and understanding. Beaverhills Lake, the closest thing to an ocean in land-locked Alberta, has had a turbulent history, both natural and human-induced. There are stories of the many attempts to dam, dyke and drain the lake (it is very shallow - barely deep enough to cover the blade of a canoe paddle). Natural water level fluctuations have resulted in water stabilization and manipulation projects, there have been massive fish mortalities, and ongoing problems with run-offs of fertilizers, pollutants and pesticides, not to mention oil and coal explorations. At present, the future of the lake seems bright and secure. It has been designated a Ramsar site as a wetland of international importance, a National Nature Viewpoint by the Canadian Nature Federation, and contains provincial natural areas, one of which houses the Beaverhills Bird Observatory. Since 1991, the date of the first edition, the area has received Important Bird Area status, as well as a site in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (although shorebird occurrence here can be notoriously unpredictable), and the recently established Snow Goose Festival, held annually, is proving very popular. Time will tell if the future is indeed bright and secure.

The chapters are intended to be readable and entertaining, which they are. They are arranged by groups, so we start with grebes and go through 15 chapters to woodland songbirds and rarities, then into mammals and other vertebrates, finishing with an epilogue. There is much evidence of meticulous field notes over more than 20 years of observations, with clear emphasis on bird behaviour. As an example, Dekker has witnessed Peregrine Falcon attacks on 1,478 occasions, with a success rate of 7.5%, which may seem low but is in fact well in line with success rates of other predators. Over half the prey were shorebirds, of 11 species, followed by ducks of eight species, at about 30%, and then three passerines, a gull and a tern. A large data set like this allows him to note differences in hunting strategies between adults and immatures, and the fact that most attacks were surprise attacks, catching the prey on the ground or just as it took flight, rather than the classic text-book "knock the prey out of the sky with clenched talons".

The book is not intended to be an exhaustive treatment of wildlife at Beaverhills Lake - that work has yet to be completed. There are checklists of birds, mammals and other vertebrates at the end. However, as an introduction and a highly enjoyable read of an intriguing area, I would highly recommend this book. ☞



This beautiful, white-plumaged BLUE JAY appeared last autumn at the Foster feeders in Tremont, King's Co., and was photographed in late December. [Photo Bob Foster]

Weather Report - Winter of 2000 and 2001

By Larry Bogan
Cambridge Station, N.S.

The main characteristics of our 2000-01 winter were the cold temperatures and snow cover. Most Nova Scotians were very tired of the winter at the time of this writing (mid-March) with just cause. We have had a longer, cold period than the usual winter and have had significant continuous snow-cover since mid-December.

I have included graphs that shows the daily depth of snow cover and temperatures for the winter. These are for Kentville in the Annapolis Valley and will be different only quantitatively from other areas of Nova Scotia.

The past winter has been on an average nearly 1.5 °C colder than the long-term norms. In typical winters there are warmer and colder months during a season but this year all three months were at least one degree colder than average. Daily temperatures remained consistently low over the season (Fig. 1).

Snow cover was the aspect of weather that was most noticeable. At the end of January, it was 3/4 meter deep. The snowfall data shows why. We had average or above snowfall all three months of the winter (145% of normal) with January getting the most. The surprising comparison is with total precipitation. We actually had lower than normal precipitation (5/8 of normal), the reason being that we had little rain during the winter. We have a maritime climate and normally have a freeze thaw cycle that brings frequent rains. That did not happen this year because of the colder than normal season; the result was more snow and snow cover (Fig. 2). Would you believe, we had a dry winter?

The precipitation throughout the winter was also evenly distributed during the periods. There was not a single week when there was none. During most of the winter the jet stream was over Nova Scotia and directed storm after storm our way.

Sunshine makes us feel cheerier and winter has less than the other seasons of the year. This winter was a normal winter in this regard. December was a bit sunnier but February was cloudier than normal while January was just average. I usually rely on the longer days of February to start getting me ready for spring - that did not happen this year.

Hope springs eternal for the coming season.

Table 1. Weather Statistics, Kentville, N.S. Atlantic Food & Horticulture Research Center; data for the 40 year average are in parentheses.

	Mean Temp (°C)	Snowfall (cm)	Precipitation (mm)*	Bright Sunshine (h)
December	-4.0 (-2.3)	86 (56)	97 (130)	84 (58)
January	-6.8 (-5.3)	122 (69)	74 (123)	78 (77)
February	-6.2 (-5.2)	62 (61)	52 (101)	82 (101)
Season	-5.6 (-4.2)	270 (186)	223 (354)	244 (236)

*The precipitation data above include both melted snow and rain. Rainfall is no longer recorded separately. December had some rainfall but there was very little in January and February.

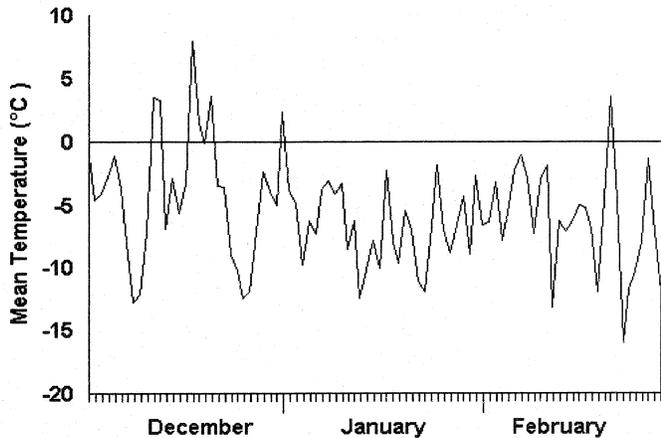


Fig. 1. The average daily temperature at Kentville, Winter 2000/2001

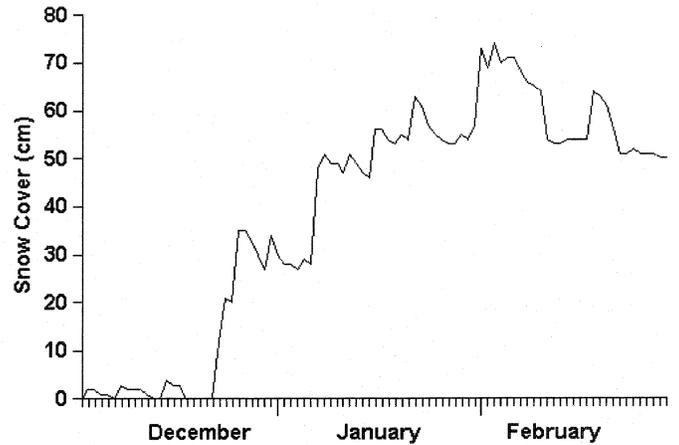


Fig. 2. Snow cover at Kentville, Winter 2000/2001.

Seasonal Reports

Loons and Grebes

By Fred Dobson

Except for the Pied-billed Grebe, this group does well in the harsh weather. For the first time in five years very little fresh water stayed open in a winter more on the "normal" side than any we have had in the last decade. The only waterfowl that showed up in their "normal" numbers and places were those well adapted to life on the foaming brine.

RED-THROATED LOON reports were sparse – as usual. The earliest reports were in early December from Hfx. Co. and the southern end of the province. The CBCs showed scattered numbers from all shores of the province; the total was 55 and the highest count was 28 at Cape Sable, Shel. Co. One or two were reported in January and February off Big Pond, Florence, CB Co. (DBM). COMMON LOONS occurred in normal numbers, scattered evenly both in time and along the coastline. The CBCs highlighted this. The total was 427 with the high count of 121 at Cape Sable, Shel. Co. The earliest report was of four, Dec. 1, Sydney R., end of Weeks Lane, CB Co. "This is freshwater - picking feathers from breast, swimming in circles." (Bill English, Barc

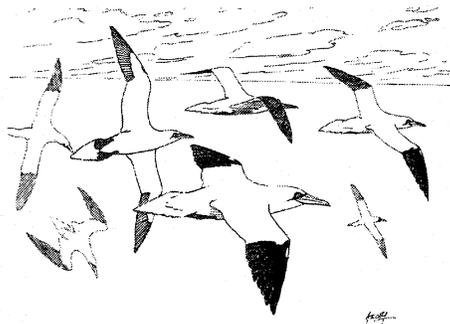
Cunningham); the last report also comes from CB Co. On Feb. 4 one or more were at Indian Head Beach, N. Sydney (DBM) "... usually one or a few in harbour ... through winter, depending on ice conditions." There were no reports in the new year from anywhere except CBI (thanks to DBM!).

PIED-BILLED GREBES were rare and beset with trouble, as expected. There was one, Dec. 3 at Bissett L., Hfx. Co. (BLM *et al.*). There was only one CBC report, of a single straggler at Broad Cove, Lun Co.. Other reports were of single individuals. An indication of the fate of such vulnerable stragglers is the following series of reports from CBI. "Dec. 4 - 8, one in a small pond at Fortress of Louisbourg, CB Co. ... This was a first-winter bird, still retaining some striping on the face and without the full reddish winter plumage as yet. It became trapped by ice in this small pond and I last saw it in bitterly cold weather on Dec. 8, struggling to maintain a three foot area of open water, from which it could not take flight. Seen also Dec. 5 (DBM, CAM, ALM). "Dec. 5 - Dec. 11, one ad., large barrachois at Fortress of

Louisbourg. This was a different bird, in full winter plumage and with no juvenile markings. Enough open water remained for it to take flight." (CAM, ALM, SEM). There were two, Jan. 6, St. Anns Bar and off River Bennett, Vic. Co. (DBM) and Jan. 18 individuals at Pleasant L., Yar. Co. and Blanche (near bridge), Shel. Co. (*vide* AAM). The largest number was three Jan. 25 at Gabarus, CB Co. (DBM). The sprightly, tough-as-nails HORNED GREBE was scattered along the coastline in normal (i. e. small) numbers. The CBC total was 192, spread along the coast sparsely; the high count was 56 at Lunenburg. The hardy RED-NECKED GREBE was reported mostly from the shorelines of the southern part of the province, in the usual numbers. That the highest concentrations were at the southern end of the province, was evidenced by the CBCs: the total count was 323 with the highest count 206 at CSI, Shel. Co. In the new year four were seen Jan. 3 at Ketch Hbr., Hfx. Co. (BLM), one Jan. 8 at the Digby ferry dock (GWT, JCT) and two Jan. 28 at Black Rock, Louisbourg. (RWK, DBM). ☞

Tubenoses Through Cormorants

By Matt Holder



The only tubenose report of the winter was of a N. FULMAR on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC, Dec. 17. N. GANNETS were reported on seven CBCs, the highest recorded coming from Brier I., Dec. 19, with a count of 69 (BLM *et al.*). January was devoid of reports except of one flying past Chebucto Head, Hfx. Co., Jan. 5 (BLM).

The Halifax-Dartmouth CBC reported the greatest number of DOUBLE-

CRESTED CORMORANTS of all Nova Scotia counts with 11, while Brier I. and CSI each tallied four birds. The provincial CBC total for this species was a respectable 34 birds. Provincial CBCs also reported a good showing of GREAT CORMORANTS, with 1,188 birds counted. The 395 birds at CSI, Dec. 16 (BLM *et al.*) and the 334 at Brier I., Dec. 19 (BLM *et al.*) were significant totals. ☐

Hérons and Vultures

By Richard Knapton

HERONS AND VULTURES

There were no reports this year of AM. BITTERNs lingering into December. Each year, a handful of GREAT BLUE HERONS attempt to overwinter and this winter was no exception. There was a flurry of early December records coming from areas S and W of an Amherst to HRM line; for example, six concentrated at Cole Hbr., HRM, Dec. 2 (BLM). The total of 21 reported on the CBCs was more or less the same as last winter's CBC total. The Halifax-Dartmouth CBC report of six was a good total for that count area. Thereafter, records were very few. Herons succumb to cold weather and starvation, and that was likely the

situation this winter. One was reported in the Berwick area, Kings Co., Jan. 24 (Burdette Uhlman *vide* JCT), where there was "no known local open patch of water, except where a small stream flows through a culvert under the road", and another was reported at Thomasville, Shel. Co., Feb. 2 (SAH).

One of the more surprising records this winter was the discovery of an imm. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, Feb. 17, Daniels Hd., CSI (MUN). The bird had a few feathers missing from one wing, which cannot have helped its survival chances; however, the bird was still alive Feb. 24 (MUN).

In recent years, several TURKEY VULTURES have attempted, clearly successfully, to overwinter in the extreme SW. The overwintering flock on Brier I. started at about five, Dec. 3 - 4 (ELM, IAM), increased to eight on the Dec. 19 CBC, and peaked at ten, Jan. 13 (BLM) with eight at one time over Western Light (RBS). Also, smaller numbers have been seen in Yar. and Shel. Cos. during recent winters, with up to five around a farm at Chebogue, Yar. Co. (MUN); some sightings this winter include two on the Yarmouth CBC, a single at Yarmouth, Jan. 21 (MUN), and one at Blanche, Shel. Co., Feb. 20 (MUN). ☐

Geese, Swans and Ducks

By Fred Dobson

The duck report gives us an indication of the effects of the harsher weather on local populations - there was very little open water to be found, so although the birds were less scattered, there were fewer of the predominantly freshwater species. There is one "special sighting": a widely reported MUTE SWAN with believable credentials as a wild bird.

There are two reports of SNOW GOOSE in the Province this winter. The most reported was a bird in the Back Oler Marsh, Lun. Co., that first showed up as

the only CBC record and was subsequently reported until Jan. 18 (JAH, JBM). On Jan. 21 MUN informs us wryly: "There is one still near the hospital in Yarmouth (probably doesn't know about the poor health system in NS!)" CANADA GEESE were seen throughout the province all winter in regular numbers. The first report, from JSC, gives us evidence of more "short-stopping" by this amazingly adaptable fowl: "Late November to end of period 85, building to 400 by end of February, at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. - First time

for over wintering at this location." They will stay through the harshest conditions if they can find food - in this case presumably the ample supplies of eelgrass in the immediate area. The total for the CBCs was 10,413 with the highest count 4,350 in Hfx. Co. - where Cole Hbr. supplies the eelgrass and many local residents supplement the diet with grain. Over the Christmas season DMW noted "at least 2,000 on the Grand Desert Dyke Rd., Eastern Shore, Hfx. Co., feeding in the marsh grass" and the number was 3,000 on Jan. 11 (BLM) and



This young SNOW GOOSE was first sighted mid-December at Hacketts Cove, Hfx. Co., and fed happily for about a week with the local Am. Black Ducks. [Photo Irene Jollimore]

1,500, Feb. 9 at Fishermens' Reserve, Three Fathom Hbr., Hfx. Co. (ABM, Jennifer Moores and Angela Moores). On Jan. 20 one was reported "on ice with ducks looking for food" at Renwick Brook, Glace Bay (DBM, EMC). The big geese were reported in tens to fifties throughout January from a variety of locations on CBI (DBM, RWK). The latest reports were of 500, Feb. 25, Jones Hbr., Shel. Co. (DHY) and 300, Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. (EHC). It is interesting to speculate on the survival rate of these flocks in the absence of extensive grazing areas in this snowy winter. There are no reports of large scale mortality - or are there? A single BRANT, seen during the CBC at CSI constitutes the only early winter record. The only other record is 50, Feb. 19, Pond Cove, Brier I. (ELM) "Arrived the previous day, according to George Garron."

One of the most interesting records of the season was of two separate sightings of MUTE SWAN. The first was seen Jan. 8 and last reported Jan. 31 in the area of Freeport and Westport, Digby Co. (GWT, JCT, BLM *et al.*). The descriptions are indicative of its status as a wild bird wandered north. "Unbanded legs, 'pinkish' tone noted on grey bill." (GWT, JCT) Initially reported from the French Shore but moved to the vicinity of Brier I., New Year's Eve (CAH). This is the first record for the province of an individual considered to

be from an established population, likely from the eastern seaboard of the U.S. There is some (still unconfirmed - AAM) indication it may also have been seen on the S. Shore near Liverpool. The second sighting is a familiar one: two feral swans, Jan. 28, Mouth of Sackville R., Bedford (PLC). Given the interest in the Westport swan, it would be helpful if Nova Scotia Birds could document what is known about the Bedford swans better. I suspect that the present pair may both be offspring of the "tame", introduced pair, so if they breed this year they will produce the second generation to be "wild". It is to be regretted that CWS didn't band this family of birds when they captured them a couple of years ago. I think CLS has kept track of them better than anyone else.

WOOD DUCKS were reported only sparsely. The two at Kiwanis Park Pond, Truro wintered there, last seen Feb. 22 (JWW, BLM), and the two (one male) at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth (*fide* AAM) were still present Jan. 27. The CBC total was three, with a high of two at Sullivans Pond. The only other sighting was of a single male during the first two weeks of the new year at Wentworth Park, Sydney. "First time here for several weeks" (DBM). The GADWALL is a dabbler hardy enough to survive some ice, and some did this winter - ones and twos in the counties of Pict., Hfx., Shel., Lun. and CB. The earliest report was of

three, Dec. 2, Haliburton Gut, Pict. Co. (KJM), followed by two in the Halifax area, Dec. 4 - one at grand Desert (JAH) and a fem. at Tufts Cove (DHH). The total count on the CBCs was four, being split equally between CSI and Hfx. Co. There was a pair (male still in partial eclipse), Dec. 27, Masons Beach, Lun. Co. (ELM, AHM) and a single fem., Jan. 9, Smeltbrook Park, N. Sydney (DBM, Beth Kent) "was here on CBC". The remainder of the reports were from Lun. Co.: single (but different) birds Jan. 13, Lunenburg and Tannery Rd. (JAH, ELM) and a single fem., Feb. 4 at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. (JSC). No later reports - did the watchers not brave the snows, or did the Gadwalls leave us? The EUR. WIGEON was reported in small numbers from a wide variety of localities until the end of January. At the beginning of the period there were still three at Beacon St. Dam, Glace Bay (ALM,CAM), singles at Abercrombie and Pictou Hbr. (KJM), one at Sullivans pond, Hfx. Co. (var. obs.) and one in Antigonish Hbr. (RFL). In mid-December pairs were sighted at Tufts Cove and Sullivans Pond, Hfx. Co. (IAM, BLM) and Antigonish Hbr. (RFL). The CBC total was eight with a maximum count of three at Glace Bay, CB Co. Until late January there were pairs at Tufts Cove/Sullivans pond, Hfx. Co. and Yarmouth and one at the Trenton power plant, Pict. Co. (*fide* AAM). The AM. WIGEON, plentiful in early winter (particularly in Hfx. Co.), was reported in later winter only in Lun. and CB Cos. In early December there were reports of three (two males, one fem.) at Beaver R., Digby Co. (PRG), 40-85 at Tufts Cove/Sullivans Pond, Hfx. Co., "less common thereafter" (PLC, BLM) and four at Port Maitland Pond, Yar. Co. (MUN). The CBC total was 132 with a high count of 85 in Hfx. Co. A single individual haunted Lunenburg Hbr. throughout January (JAH, ELM). All the later reports were from CBI. The latest being "a couple" at Dominion, CB Co. (RWK).

The AM. BLACK DUCK. is doing well in NS. In early December and right through the reporting period there were up to 350 to be seen in the Conrad Marsh, Lawrencetown and Grand Desert, Hfx. Co. (DMW). RFL reported they are "always" at Antigonish Landing when it

is ice-free. The CBC total was 18,040, high count 3,573 in Halifax-Dartmouth. Then almost all reporting stopped. Thanks to DBM there were numerous reports from CBI throughout January and February; highlights are "200+" Jan. 2, Smeltbrook Park, N. Sydney and (the latest report) 21, Feb. 13, Jersey Cove, Vic. Co. The only early report of MALLARDS was of four, Dec. 6, Antigonish Landing (RFL). The CBC total was 3,935 (within 50 of last year's total!), high count 670 in Wolfville. After Christmas the reports came mostly from CBI, the highest numbers being 120, N. Sydney "there are hybrids in these parks ..." and about 90 at Glace Bay, CB Co., Feb. 1 (DBM, RWK). The latest report was of a now long-standing flock: 350, Jan. 31, Bridgewater (EHC) "Just below bridge, only six Black Ducks among them. First time I've seen a concentration of Mallards like this in NS." MALLARD/BLACK DUCK crosses were first reported on the CBCs: total 38, with a high count of 35 from The Sydneys. The only other report was from the Bridgewater Mallard flock: three, Feb. 19, Tannery Rd., Lun. Co., (JAH) "Crosses are very evident at Bridgewater across from the Naval ship." Since crosses are regular when the two species intermingle, every good-sized flock should be scrutinized and the crosses singled out for reporting; any such blurring of species boundaries is interesting.

As might have been expected BLUE-WINGED TEAL were reported only twice. The total for the CBCs was three, of which two were at Cheticamp, Inv. Co. There were two seen Feb. 1, Barrington, Shel. Co. (SJF, DHY, DOE). The N. SHOVELER was only found on the CBCs: total two - one at Halifax-Dartmouth and the other at Yarmouth. Bissett L., Hfx. Co. was a reliable hot spot for the hardy N. PINTAIL, with sightings beginning in early December (DOU, BLM), followed by a flock of 21, Dec. 13 (DAC). By mid-December sightings continued to pour in, best summarised by the CSI sighting on Dec. 13 of "plenty on Cape Light and Daniels Hd., Shel. Co." (JON, SAN). The CBC total was 26, with a high count of eight at CSI. Single males wintered in Lunenburg Hbr. (ELM) and Sullivans Pond, Hfx. Co. (JEH, PLC). After Christmas and

into early February almost all the reports were of single birds from CBI (DBM). As with the other dabblers, the GREEN-WINGED TEAL fared poorly after things got iced over. The CBC total was 28, with a high count of nine at Wolfville. All later reports were in February from Lun. Co.; the latest was of one, Feb. 24, Corkums I., Lun. Co., (JAH) "Male in bright breeding plumage".

Reports of RING-NECKED DUCKS came early and late this winter. In early December there were 35 at Port Maitland Pond, Yar. Co. (MUN) and 40 at the still unfrozen Bissett L. (BLM, JOW). The CBC total was six, high count three at CSI. The latest records were all from CBI: one Feb. 4, Glace Bay Hbr. (NSBS *fide* RWK) and two males at Renwick Brook bridge, Glace Bay (RWK, DBM). The TUFTED DUCK is now a regular winterer in Pictou Hbr. and Sullivans Pond, Hfx. Co. All the CBC records have been in the last seven years; this year the only count with this bird was Pictou Hbr. Both "populations" (one at Sullivans Pond, three at Pictou Hbr.) were seen at their locations until the end of January. GREATER SCAUP, like the other members of the Pochards (genus *Aythya*) common here, did well this winter. The expected winter assembly of thousands in Pict. Co. was confirmed Dec. 2 with KJM reporting 2,000+ at Abercrombie Pt. and 200 at NSPC

Trenton. Bisset L., Hfx. Co. held a few Dec. 2 (BLM, JOW). The CBC total was 7,124, high count 4,441 in Pictou Hbr. Throughout January and February DBM reported flocks of three - 50+ on CBI; the latest report was of 30, Feb. 21, N. Sydney (DBM). LESSER SCAUP were not seen until December, when KJM noted one Dec. 2, Abercrombie Pt., Pict. Co. The CSI field trip observed one on Dec. 3 and on that date, a fem. was seen in Pond Cove, Brier I. (ELM *et al.*). The CBC total was 15, high count of ten in Pictou Hbr. The latest record was of three, Jan. 1, Masons Beach, Lunenburg Co., (JAH).

The largest reported group of COM. EIDER was 100+ at Herring Cove, Hfx. Co., Dec. 2 (DOU) which stayed around until at least Feb. 17 (Betty Learmouth). They are certainly not scarce: the CBC total was 9,073, high count 6,248 at Cape Sable. After Christmas all reports were from CBI (DBM). The latest and largest report was of 60, Jan. 28, Black Rock, Louisbourg (DBM). Early reports of the HARLEQUIN DUCK - in fact almost all the reports - were of one to three from the southern end of the province (Anna., Digby, and Yar. Cos.). The CBC total count was 15, with a high count of 11 at Port L'Hebert, Shel. Co. There was one in early January, Green Bay, Lun. Co. (JSC, SJF) and singles throughout January at Sober I. (near Sheet Hbr., Hfx. Co.). The regular flock was present



The young MUTE SWAN lingering at Westport and Freeport provided the first "tickable" one for many birders. One some time ago on Sable I. was well out of reach. [Photo Carl Haycock]

through February as well at Lower Port L'Hebert, Shel. Co. (DHY) "This afternoon at the usual place near Little Port L'Hebert there were approx. 25 Harlequin Ducks. There were two more out by the crazy stone house. This seems to be about the average population there at this time of year. It is arguable, but I think this one of the most beautiful birds ever conceived!!" Piebald SURF SCOTERS were first reported on the CBCs - total 395, and a high count of 135, Broad Cove, Lun. Co. The high counts for the remainder of the period were 20, Dec. 20 & 25, Feb. 10 at W. LaHave, Lun. Co., "Unusual to see Surf Scoters so far up the river" (EHC) and 85, Jan. 25, Gabarus, CB Co. (DBM). As with the Surf Scoter, WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS were first reported on the CBCs: total 603, high count 116 at The Sydneys. Aside from small flocks Dec. 31 at Parkers Cove, Anna. Co. (BLM) and Feb. 10 at Hartlen Point, Hfx. Co. (PLC), all the other reports were by DBM from CBI - typically flocks of 20-100, mostly in January. The largest count was of 125, Jan. 9, off Big Pond, Florence, CB Co. (DBM, Beth Kent). The BLACK SCOTER was sparsely reported. The CBC total was 322, with high counts of 88 at Broad Cove, Lun. Co. and 89 at Cape Sable. The only other report was of six, Jan. 5, Crystal Crescent Beach, Sambro Loop, Hfx. Co. (BLM). The CBCs reported a total of 953 SCOTER SP., with a high count of 717 at Louisburg, CB Co. LONG-TAILED DUCKS was also first reported on the CBCs - a total of 1,722 with a high count of 399, Broad Cove, Lun. Co. These gregarious and elegant sea ducks were reported from late December to early February in all coastal areas; they are at home in the worst of conditions. JBM reports: "all winter, flocks of 20-30, Maders Cove, Mahone Bay - smaller numbers than usual?". Small flocks of 40 birds were seen in CB Co. off Big Pond and Little Pond, Florence, Jan. 9 (DBM, Beth Kent); and 60 from Alder Pt. to Florence to N. Sydney (DBM). The latest report was one male and two fems., Sandy Cove, Hfx. Co., Feb. 24 (Betty Learmouth).

The only December report of the BUFFLEHEAD was of "some" Dec. 10, Kennington Cove, Louisbourg (SEM).

The CBC total was 284, high count of 53, Broad Cove, Lun. Co. Most later reports were from CB (DBM). There was a flock of 15 (even mix of males and fems.), Dec. 31, Grand Desert Dyke Rd., Hfx. Co., "Diving in water at outer end of marsh." (DMW). "Small flocks" were to be found at Freeport, Digby Co. throughout the period (GWT, JCT); there were "about 20" Feb. 4 from Alder Pt. to Florence to N. Sydney (DBM). The latest report was of two fems., Feb. 26-27, Conrad Marsh, Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co., "Diving in the open water by the bridge" (DMW). Reports of COM. GOLDENEYE show them scattered throughout the province. The largest numbers were at coastal locations, with most reports of single birds coming from inland locations. There were "flocks of 10 - 12, all winter" at Maders Cove, Mahone Bay (JBM). The CBC total was 3,845, with the high count of 1,263 from Pictou Hbr.; reports were scattered throughout the province. Throughout the reporting period there were sightings of flocks ranging from 10 - 64, mostly from CBI (DBM) but also from Bedford Basin (PLC), Bridgewater (EHC) and Freeport, Digby Co. (GWT, JCT). The BARROW'S GOLDENEYE was a great rarity a decade ago but now is reported widely in the province. There were "three males", Dec. 11 - Jan. 18, Bedford Basin (BLM). The CBC total was 24, with a high count of six, Pictou Hbr. On Jan. 18 AAM stated "Reliable at the mouth of the Sackville R., Bedford Basin (three males); the tidal plant at Annapolis Royal (up to five), and at the Pictou Causeway (seven). Reported occasionally from other locations." In February almost all the locations were on CBI (DBM).

Numbers of the HOODED MERGANSER were large early in the period: the CBC total was 155, with a high count of 76 in Lunenburg. The earliest reports were from EHC: from the LaHave R., Riverport, Lun. Co., several individuals, Nov. 14 and Jan. 14 and from 32 down to five birds, Nov. 26 - Jan. 2 from Head of St. Margarets Bay. "This species appears to be getting more plentiful than they used to be." AAM states, "They were literally seen everywhere, particularly in Yar. Co., where on Dec. 3, MUN counted over 65

in seven different locales in that county." Three pairs were seen at Maders Cove, Mahone Bay, Dec. 16 and Jan. 14 (JBM). There were scattered reports of one to 10 individuals into February from the LaHave R., Lun. Co. (JAH), Little Salmon R., Westphal, Hfx. Co. (PLC, RSM) and at the bridge at Conrad Beach, Hfx. Co. (ABM, Jennifer Moores and Angela Moores). This is one species that seems to have "kept going" in spite of the harsh conditions. The COM. MERGANSER was regularly reported from Ant. Co. and seen throughout the reporting period in groups of one to 100+ in late December around Antigonish Hbr. (RFL, MZG, NSBS). The CBC total was 2,185, with a high count of 1,229 in Pictou Hbr. Throughout the winter there were one to six, Maders Cove, Mahone Bay (JBM). All reports in January were from CBI (DBM); they were mostly of a few individuals and were seen in all CB counties. There were 80, Jan. 11, Cole Hbr., Hfx. Co. (BLM) and 33, Jan. 23, False Bay L., Louisdale, Rich. Co. (DBM). The species can adapt itself well, as evidenced by the report Feb. 6, 13 & 26, Conrad Marsh, Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co., "Fist sighting of two males; then 74 males and 54 fems.; then 25 males and 10 fems. feeding in open water by bridge" (DMW). The RED-BREASTED MERGANSER was seen from December - February in flocks of two to 11, Maders Cove, Mahone Bay (JBM). The CBC total was 2,863, high count 760 at Antigonish. Through the rest of the reporting period almost all the reports came from CBI (DBM); flocks of from "a few" to 75 were seen in all CB counties. JEH and PLC found this species "common in small groups from Purcells Cove to Chebucto Hd., Hfx. Co." There was a single report from the valley, a pair, Feb. 4, Margaretsville, Anna. Co. (PLC). In summary, this species was found everywhere on the salt water but only in very special conditions on fresh water. There were 907 MERGANSER sp. counted on the Antigonish CBC. There were no RUDDY DUCK seen during the reporting period this year. There were 694 DUCK sp. counted in the CBCs, with a high count of 479 at Antigonish. All in all, it has been a difficult season for the fresh water ducks. ☐

Diurnal Raptors, Galliforms, Rails and Cranes

By Richard Knapton

There were two late reports of OSPREYS, one on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC, Dec. 17 and the other on the Margaree CBC on the remarkably late date of Dec. 28.

As usual, BALD EAGLES were well reported throughout the province, more so than any other raptor, and, also as usual, the Bald Eagle was the most numerous raptor on CBCs, with 541 reported from 28 out of 32 counts. The Wolfville CBC alone reported 259 birds. Other significant gatherings on CBCs around the province included: Antigonish (40), Eskasoni (19), Glace Bay (26), Pictou Hbr. (24), Shubenacadie (19), The Sydneys (17), and West Hants (16). The Blomidon Naturalists and friends carried out their annual Eagles/Raptors Count on Feb 10 in eastern Kings Co. and turned up 387 eagles, 59% ads. and 41% imms. (JWW *et al.*). Bald Eagles are opportunistic predators; reports came in of eagles feeding on dead birds on ice at Conrads Beach, HRM, Feb. 24 - 26 (DMW), an imm. capturing Black Ducks and Mallards (and hybrids) at Wentworth Park, Sydney, CB Co., throughout Jan. and Feb. (*vide* RWK), an ad. feeding on a dead seal and an imm. attacking goldeneyes and mergansers in St. Anns Bay, CB Co., Feb. 13 (DBM), and an imm. attempting to catch an injured Canada Goose, Jan. 11 (BLM). Signs of spring in our province during February include both the spectacular display flights and the start of nest building of Bald Eagles; reports of both activities came in from CB, Kings and Hfx. Cos.

In early winter, reports of N. HARRIERS came in from CB to the southern islands, usually of single birds. Some larger concentrations included 11 on the Wolfville CBC, Dec. 17 and eight on the Amherst CBC, Dec. 18. Late winter records of harriers tend to be fewer, as the cold weather sets in. However, there were still plenty of reports, about 20, from CB Co. to Shel. Co. during January and February. As usual, there were scattered reports of

SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS throughout the province and throughout the winter, often as unwanted visitors at bird feeders. Nineteen of 32 CBCs reported Sharp-shins, for a provincial total of 67 birds, a few more than the total of 62 for both 1998 and 1999. Most counts in most years have ones and twos, but the Wolfville CBC reported an impressive 11 (*vide* JWW). Because Sharp-shins often frequent feeders, observations of prey are frequently made. This year, a junco ended up as Sharp-shin food at Wolfville Ridge, Jan. 1 (GWT). Many Sharp-shins, usually inexperienced imms., apparently do not survive the winter. Barry Sawyer found one Feb. 19, without any mark on it; it had presumably starved to death. Single COOPER'S HAWKS were reported on the Brier I. CBC, Dec. 19 and the Truro CBC, Dec. 29. N. GOSHAWKS did not put on the same good showing as last winter, but nevertheless several reports came in, from CBI to the southern islands. The CBCs totalled 10 individuals from only five counts, with the Economy, CBC, Dec. 27, accounting for four birds. One was chasing feral pigeons at Marion Bridge, CB Co., Jan. 25 (DBM). There was also a small flurry of six records, in late February from Halifax to CSI, perhaps indicating an early northward movement of returning migrants.

A raptor reported as a dark morph juvenile BROAD-WINGED HAWK was seen along Battery Point Rd., Lun. Co., Feb. 24 (JAH). It is worth noting that dark morph Broad-wings nest only at the western edge of the species' breeding range, are very rare, and are unknown in E. Canada. It seems that RED-TAILED HAWKS are far more numerous in Kings and Anna. Cos. than elsewhere in the province during winter. The Blomidon Naturalists and friends Eagles/Raptors field trip in east Kings Co. turned up 94 on Feb. 10, probably an underestimation (JWW). Red-tails were fairly widespread throughout the mainland, and were found on most mainland CBCs (248 birds on 23 out of

24 counts). However, they are decidedly scarce on CBI in mid-winter; only three out of eight CBCs reported Red-tails. An unusual cause for a traffic jam occurred on Jan. 12, at lunchtime, in Windsor. RBS saw an adult Red-tailed Hawk barrel down onto a feral pigeon that was by the roadside, carry it in its talons onto the middle of the road, cause three or four cars in each direction to stop while it mantled its prey, and then drag it over to the snow bank at the side, allowing the flow of traffic to resume. On Feb. 12, MEK, IAP, BST and Kim Woody spent a good deal of time looking at a partially albino/leucistic Red-tail near the Hortonville exit, Highway 101, Kings Co.; the majority (~90%) of the bird was white, with several dark brown feathers present on the head and the tail retained much of its red pigment. There was a moderate influx of ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS in the fall, and numbers carried over into the winter. Nineteen birds were reported from the CBCs, with six coming from the Wolfville CBC. There were a further 17 reports in January and February, with three in HRM, Jan. 8 (BLM) and three on Devils I., HRM, Feb. 3 (TEP). Most reports referred to light morphs, but dark morph Rough-legged Hawks, very striking birds, were reported from Brier I., Jan. 13 (RBS), two at Chebogue Pt., Yar. Co., Jan. 29 (MUN), and one on the Eagles/Raptors Count in Kings Co., Feb. 10. As is often the case, no Rough-legs were reported from CBI during the winter, where they are particularly rare. There was one report of a GOLDEN EAGLE, of undetermined age at the turn-off to Metegan, Highway 101, Digby Co., Dec. 6 (SAH).

AM. KESTRELS were reported most frequently from the southern counties in December, predictable for a half-hardy overwinterer, especially during this more severe winter. Only three CBCs reported Kestrels, each along the south shore, with four on the CSI CBC. January and February records were very few: singles at Sandy Cove, HRM, Jan. 3 (BLM), Lawrencetown L., HRM, Jan. 8 (BLM),

and Yarmouth, Feb. 18 (MUN). There was a scattering of MERLINS throughout the province, from CBI to the southern islands, mainly in December, although there seemed to be fewer this winter. The provincial total of only 10 on the CBCs reflects this impression and no count managed more than two. JWW relates the following story of chain-reaction among opportunistic, hopeful predator-scavengers. "On top of a power-pole along the Grand Pré dykes, Kings Co., an adult male Merlin was perched, eating a largish songbird, perhaps a Horned Lark. A Red-tailed Hawk showed up, the Merlin flew east with its prey, with the Red-tail in pursuit. Surprisingly, the Red-tail overtook the Merlin quickly, which dropped its only-slightly-eaten prize and flew away, back to the poles. The Red-tail landed at the prey. Very quickly a Com. Raven showed up, whereupon the Red-tail mantled its prize. But the raven soon outmanoeuvred the Red-tail and took the prey, so the Red-tail took off. A second raven then landed there but apparently got nothing. Then an ad. Bald Eagle landed and, a couple of minutes later, an imm. eagle. Presumably, the winner in this contest was the first raven."

One, perhaps two, GYRFALCONS spent December in the Yarmouth area, last seen on Jan. 1 (MUN). A white-phase bird was reported at Bayswater Beach, Lun. Co., Jan. 27 (CJF), and a dark-phase bird perched on a tussock at Baccaro, Shel. Co., Feb. 19 (DOE, SJF). Only a few PEREGRINE FALCONS were seen this winter. One was at the Hortonville exit, Hwy. 101, Kings Co., Dec. 5 (Sherman Boates), and four singles were reported from the Halifax-Dartmouth, Economy, Wolfville and Cape Sable CBCs.

Seven GRAY PARTRIDGE were reported on the Truro CBC, Dec. 29. A discussion on the use of grit prompted the following observation from PMD on the rise and fall of Gray Partridge numbers: "Many years ago, I grew up on a small island where there was no snowplough, never mind salted roads. Gray Partridge were very plentiful - my grandfather would feed 80 - 120 per winter. He was always very careful to put out fine grit for them also as we were



One of two SANDHILL CRANES last fall was near Lanark, Ant. Co., until at least early December. It was elusive and flighty, but this photo unmistakably depicts this rare species. [Photo Randy Lauff]

in a heavy snow area. Sometime in the 50s a good road was installed with plows and salt as necessary. The partridge disappeared in two years and we saw them eating salted grit from the roads and later found them dead. Birds, especially seed eating birds such as Bobwhite, eat a lot of grit - and the roads are the only place they can find it. Of course, hawks, owls and so on prey on the sick birds so we never find many dead. It has been my opinion that road salt in areas of heavy snow kills a great many birds." Like last winter, RING-NECKED PHEASANTS were reported widely throughout the province, from Sydney and Cheticamp to Cape Sable. There were 766 reported, with the Wolfville CBC once again leading in absolute numbers, 274, Dec. 17. RUFFED GROUSE were also widespread, with 27 of 32 CBCs reporting them. However, once again the total number was much lower than those noted during the late 1990s, but close to last year's tally. This year, 124 were reported, compared to 106 from last year. SPRUCE GROUSE reports came in from the Kingston, Lunenburg, Port L'Hebert, Shel. Co. and Pubnico CBCs, but the species is clearly underreported. Other reports came in from Apple R., Cum. Co., a male, Feb. 25 (KFS), Pict. Co., Jan. 9 (MAB), and Coddles Hbr.,

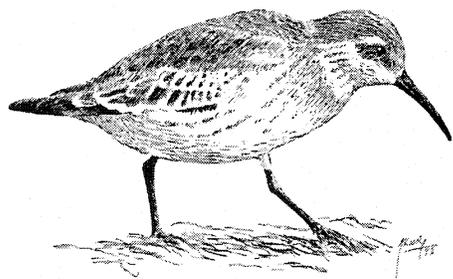
Guys. Co., Jan. 31 (KJM). On Jan. 17, MAB reports that "whilst out for a ski in our woods I saw a small grooved out trail going for about five yards in the snow. The strange thing was that it stopped completely and disappeared. There was a small hole about two cm wide so with my ski pole I slowly scraped back the snow to reveal the biggest pile of grouse 'poop' I've ever seen just under the surface. Obviously the bird had been under the snow for a while and had come out to feed." The introduced flock of WILD TURKEYS at Torbrook, Anna. Co., is evidently doing fine (TOB) and a group of N. BOBWHITES came regularly to a feeder near Richfield, Digby Co. over the winter (*vide* IAM).

AM. COOTS put on another good show this winter. The fall flock on Bisset L., HRM, held three birds in early December (BLM, TEP). Sullivans Pond, HRM, had one that survived to the end of the reporting period (var. obs.), and Bartletts Beach, Digby Co. had two, Dec. 1 (PRG). The SANDHILL CRANE present at Shubenacadie in the fall survived into mid-January, and obligingly was found on the CBC, Dec. 17. However, the one in the Antigonish area left just prior to count week...for the second year in a row. (Editor's note: next year, we're penning it in!) ♀

The Shorebirds

By Sylvia Fullerton

No unusual shorebirds enlivened the winter season, and those overwintering to the end of the period were few, no doubt a reflection of the harsh winter. However, there was an exception at that southern oasis, Cape Sable Island, where JON tallied 280 individuals February 19, comprising Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, and Dunlin.

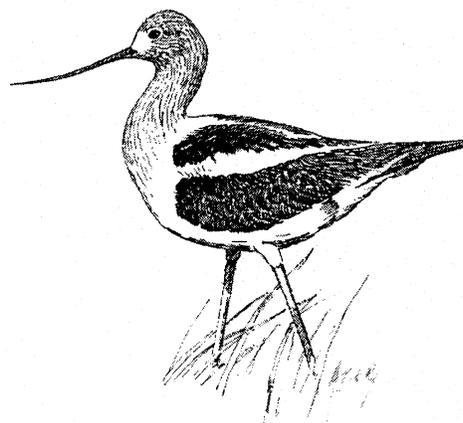


Lingering BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER included singles at Brier I. and Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. in early December (ELM, SJF) and three at Port Morien, CB Co. to Dec. 4 (ALM, CAM), but not one was visible on the CBCs in those areas. For the second year in a row the CSI CBC hosted 31, a record high, Dec. 16. Twenty-one were overwintering there Feb. 1 (JON, SAN). The only other CBC appearance was one at Yarmouth, Dec. 17. The errant Crescent Beach bird reappeared and was seen up to Jan. 8 (JSC) and two wanderers were at Blanche, Shel. Co., Jan. 13 (MUN). Other than those on CSI there were no reports of overwintering birds. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER seldom linger into December and there have been only two or three previous CBC records. The count of four on the Glace Bay CBC, Dec. 30 was therefore notable and provided a record-late date. KILLDEER must have fled before the onslaught of winter as only one was reported in the late fall/early winter period, at Lower LaHave, Lun. Co., Nov. 27 (EHC). Another, or perhaps the same, on the Lunenburg CBC, Dec. 30, made the only CBC appearance. Likewise, early migrants were slow to appear, only one was reported, at Pt. Pleasant Park, HRM, Feb. 9 & 16 (JEH).

As is usual, only a few RUDDY TURNSTONE were sighted. Two were at St. Anns Bar, Vic. Co., Dec. 20 and one remained until Jan. 27, when the pebbly beach became ice-encrusted (Beth Kent, DBM). Two were at Brier I., Jan. 13 (BLM, RBS). Nine were wintering on The Cape, CSI, Feb. 1 (JON, SAN). RED KNOT were noted at their traditional wintering sites: two lingered at Glace Bay Sanctuary until Dec. 10 (ALM, CAM), two at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. to Jan. 20 (JSC) and two at Martinique Beach, HRM, Feb. 18 (TEP). The mother lode, as usual, was at CSI where 48 were tallied Feb. 18 (JON, SAN). SANDERLING were present in good numbers. CBCs produced a total of 266: Yarmouth, 200; Broad Cove, 41; CSI, 25. Among the roving overwinterers were: 76, The Cape, CSI, Feb. 1 (JON, SAN); 15, Cherry Hill Beach, Lun. Co., Feb. 11 (SJF); 25, Martinique Beach, HRM, Feb. 25 (TEP). Three SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS were reported on the CSI CBC, Dec. 16. I still need to be convinced that these were Semipalmateds and not Westerns, but it is of interest that last year an out-of-season Semipalmated was recorded in Massachusetts as late as Dec. 19. I might also add that this bird was accompanied by four Westerns! Very late-lingering were three WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS at Schooner Pond, CB Co. to Dec. 4 (ALM, CAM). CSI continues to be the only location which has supported wintering White-rumps, three were there on the CBC, Dec. 16. For the second year in a row only moderate numbers of PURPLE SANDPIPERS were tallied on the CBCs, a total of 247 on 13 counts. Of these, the highest count was 50, Apple R., Dec. 29. KJM and CGB estimated an average of 50 at each location on their travels to Wine Hbr., Guys. Co., Petit Anse, Rich. Co. and Sober I., HRM, Jan. 28 - Feb. 12. RSD had seven regulars at Lower W Pubnico from Jan. 6 until the end of the period. TEP's monitoring of Martinique Beach, HRM, produced a high of 30, Feb. 18. ELM found 15, Brier I., Feb. 19. MUN, who seems to cover all of the SW

part of the Province on a regular basis, found 18, Mavillette Beach, Digby Co., Feb. 25. The CBC total of 128 DUNLIN provided a record-high count. Of these, 111 were at CSI, Dec. 16; 23 were still there Feb. 1 (JON, SAN). The remaining CBC distribution was: one at Brier I.; six at Broad Cove; four at Economy; six at Yarmouth. Overwinterers were: seven at Martinique, HRM, Jan. 28 (TEP); five at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. to Jan. 31 (JSC).

Two lingering COM. SNIPE were at W Pubnico and one was at Baccaro, Dec. 3 (MUN). Seven were counted on the CBCs, an average number. One of these was at Apple R., Dec. 26 - 30 and was videotaped on count day, Dec. 30 (KFS). A few were noted as late as mid-February, but whether they survived the winter is anybody's guess. One was in the Sydney area, Jan. 6 (BLM). One was at the famous ball field in L'Ardoise, Rich. Co., Jan. 23 (DBM). Another was still finding sustenance in snowbound Trenton, Pict. Co., Feb. 10 (KJM, CGB). How lucky can one be, to have an AM. WOODCOCK in one's backyard. MUN had such a resident at CSI, Dec. 12 - 25. Another was at Lydgate, Shel. Co., Jan. 15, which stayed around for a few days (DHY). The last of these surprisingly hardy birds was at Stoney I., CSI, Feb. 1 (MUN). ☿



Skuas Through Alcids

By Matt Holder



Last winter's THAYER'S GULL returned to the same small, tar-coated beach at Richmond Pier Halifax, and stayed to be photographed Feb. 4, but not much longer. [Photo Ian McLaren]

Jaegers are seldom reported in Nova Scotia during the winter but two species were reported this winter, both on CBCs. On Dec. 19, Brier I. had a POMARINE JAEGER (BLM) for the count's second ever record, while a sea watch at CSI, Dec. 16, was rewarded with a very late PARASITIC JAEGER (BLM).

Winter is the season for gull-watching and the winter of 2000/2001 provided gull watchers with ample fodder. On the Port l'Hebert CBC, an imm. LAUGHING GULL was reported at Hemeons Hd., Shel. Co., Dec. 17 (DHY, SJF). BLACK-HEADED GULLS were across the province in fairly good numbers, with a total of 275 birds reported from Nova Scotia CBCs this winter. Participants of the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC tallied the greatest number, 150 birds, Dec. 17. Other CBCs reporting ten or more were Glace Bay (42), The Sydneys (40), Antigonish (13) and Lunenburg (12). Away from Halifax, the greatest concentration of Black-headed Gulls was found at Lunenburg Hbr., where up to 20 were present from late December through February (ELM *et al.*). Strong SW winds preceded the discovery of nine BONAPARTE'S GULLS at Broad Cove, Lun. Co., Dec. 15 (SJF), while five at Lower W

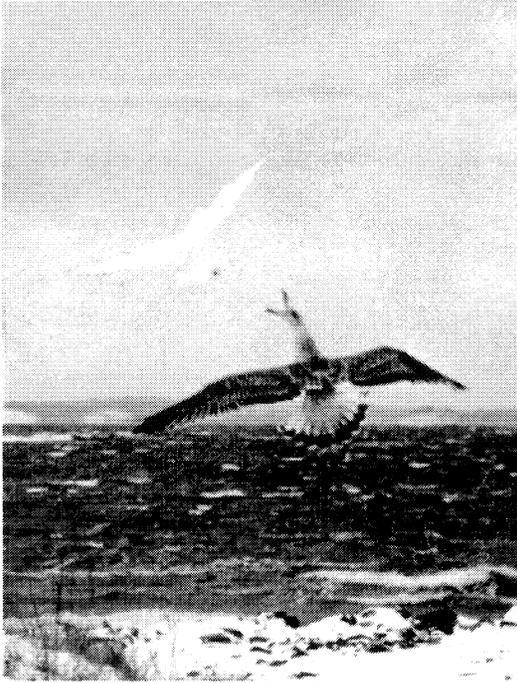
Pubnico, throughout the winter were also noteworthy (RSD). The provincial tally of Bonaparte's was low this year, totalling only 70 individuals. As expected, most came from CBCs in CB, including the highest count of 22 at Eskasoni, although 11 were reported on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC.

Two MEW (COMMON) GULLS were noted on Nova Scotia CBCs: one at Halifax-Dartmouth and the other on the Pictou Hbr. CBC. The latter was found at Weirs Gut, stayed through January and was well documented (KJM). Just over 1,200 RING-BILLED GULLS were reported from provincial CBCs, most coming from Halifax-Dartmouth (492) and Wolfville (369). Small groups were noted throughout the province during the winter, becoming less frequent and fewer as the season progressed. Ring-billed Gulls are becoming a more regular and common winter bird in Nova Scotia, but they still don't hold a match with our commonest gull, HERRING GULL. Over 27,000 were counted on provincial CBCs, with the highest counts coming from the usual locations: Wolfville (7,031) and Halifax-Dartmouth (4,783).

Presently, the American Ornithologists' Union treats THAYER'S GULL as a

distinct species, despite the widespread opinion that it is part of a complex including Iceland Gull and Herring Gull in the Nearctic, and may not even be a distinct taxon. The AOU's decision appears to be based on inertia, waiting until opinions to change the taxonomy have been supported with scientific evidence. Until they do, we can "officially" consider Thayer's Gull a separate species and "tick" it. This year, many were given a chance to add Thayer's to their provincial lists if they missed it last year. An adult spent the winter in Halifax, although it was not especially consistent in where and when it showed up. Most of the winter, it could be found at the Richmond Terminal Pier, and appeared on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC Dec. 26, the first time the species has appeared in our provincial tallies. Regardless of whether Thayer's Gull is a distinct species (or even subspecies) understanding the variation exhibited by gulls, especially in the Herring Gull complex, and noting variation in structure and plumage pattern will help us all learn more about gull identification and taxonomy. It was a good CBC year for ICELAND GULLS in Nova Scotia, with a provincial total of over 2,300 birds. The Sydneys CBC had a whopping 933 Iceland Gulls. Other CBCs with good totals were Northport (550), Glace Bay (431) and Halifax-Dartmouth (242). In contrast, not a single LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was found on a Nova Scotia CBC this year. Indeed, numbers of this species seemed to drop from the autumn. An adult was compared with adult Great Black-backed Gulls at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, Feb. 2 (SJF, BAH) and a banded bird was in Digby. In the Annapolis Valley, one or two lingered into early December, but were difficult to find. One unusual Lesser Black-backed Gull, first seen in November, may have been of the race *Larus fuscus intermedius* (MLH, ALK). Due to its potential significance, I include a description of the bird from field notes taken during the Nov. 4, 2000 observation:

"The bird was in a flock of about a



This IVORY GULL Dec. 27 at L'Ardoise, CB Co., a rare treat for several local observers, is beautifully portrait for all the unlucky folk who missed it. [Photos Susann Myers]

thousand Herring Gulls, a hundred or so Great Black-backed Gulls and one adult *graellsii* Lesser Black-backed Gull. It was seen at the north end of Fred Thomas Rd., Kings Co., at about 10 a.m. The viewing conditions were bright overcast with even light, and it was seen from both north and south sides, in flight and in direct comparison with the aforementioned gulls within the flock.

Bare parts: Eye and bill appeared all dark. Gonydeal angle slight. Legs fleshy coloured.

Head: Head appeared rounder in profile than the Herrings and maybe the adult *graellsii*. Dark streaking on crown and nape, with some coalescing around the eye, but not as much as I find typically. More heavily marked than adult Herrings and other Lesser Black-backed.

Underparts: Dark mottling on upper breast. Rest of underparts white. Underwings with white coverts contrasting with grey on underside of remiges, darker toward outer primaries.

Upperparts: Black on outer primaries, little on p5 to complete on p8-10. No white primary tips. Thin white secondary crescent seen on perched bird. Black also on primary coverts. Very dark back and upperwings, very slightly paler than the

black on the outer wing. Appeared to be approximately same shade as nearby adult Great Black-backed in direct comparison, much darker than adult *graellsii* Lesser Black-backed present at same location. Tail and rump white, some dark -spotting coalescing as a subterminal band on the inner rectrices. Considerable wing extension, appearing long-winged both in flight and especially standing, but absence of white primary tips made relative lengths impossible.

It approximated the size of nearby Herrings, perhaps a little smaller. I identified as a Lesser Black-backed Gull, *L. f. intermedius*, and aged it as a third-winter by plumage, although its bare part coloration is more typical of second-winter."

This is not the first Nova Scotia report of what may be Scandinavian Lesser Black-backed Gull. ELM reported what he thought may have been *L. f. intermedius*, Apr. 2, and for the purpose of completion, I include some of his comments below:

"Today just after noon there were two fully adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls with the usual Herrings and Great Black-backs on the intertidal flats of the Petite Rivière mouth (just inside Rissers

Beach), Lun. Co. One was a typical *Larus fuscus graellsii*, ...[but] the other was strikingly different and appears to have been *L. f. intermedius*... or an *intermedius-graellsii* hybrid. I noted it first as an exceptionally small Great Black-backed Gull, until it moved, showing brilliant yellow legs and feet... it was noticeably smaller than nearby Herring gulls, and the mantle colour was similar to the palest Great Black-backs, merging with black wing tips without any demarcation both when the wings were folded and in flight. The wing tips extended only a short distance (perhaps three primaries) beyond the tail, giving this individual a short-bodied appearance compared to the nearby *graellsii*, whose wingtips extended farther. In flight the main wing marking was a single white window in the outermost primary in addition to the usual small white tips of the inner primaries. Rather than having the usual longish neck and sloping head profile of typical *graellsii*, this bird appeared shorter-necked and had a steep forehead and rounded crown, the effect being of a rounder-headed bird. Its bill shape appeared to me to be stouter than is usual in *graellsii*, in effect being exactly a scaled-down Great Black-back shape."

Although most reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull pertain to the paler subspecies *L. f. graellsii*, records of *L. f. intermedius* have been documented in North America. Sadly, neither of these birds were photographed. However, as I stated earlier, whether or not you can solidly attribute a bird to a particular species or subspecies, it is still worthwhile to carefully note and document birds you think are interesting.

GLAUCOUS GULLS were present throughout the mainland in ones and twos throughout the winter, although they were not consistently seen at any one location. Numbers reported on CBCs were lower in CB, the highest count being nine at Cheticamp. However, fairly good counts were made on some mainland CBCs, including six at Yarmouth and five at Halifax. Over 7,200 GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS were reported from CBCs in the province. Nowhere near a record, Wolfville still had about five times the number of Great Black-backed than Halifax, but the highest count of 1,397 came from CSI. Normally, Great Black-backed Gull would be the second most abundant gull on Nova Scotia CBCs, but not this year. An amazing 9,513 BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES were -

counted on CBCs. Conditions must have been just right for seeing kittiwakes at Brier I., Dec. 19, as 9,500 were counted during their CBC. However, this number had apparently decreased from Dec. 4 when over 10,000 were counted off North Pt., Brier I., as the kittiwakes flew past to the SW in a strong NW wind (ELM, IAM). In one two-minute period, 359 were counted as they left the Bay of Fundy! Although overshadowed by this amazing count, the 370 kittiwakes seen Dec. 18, Sandford, Yar. Co., were noteworthy.

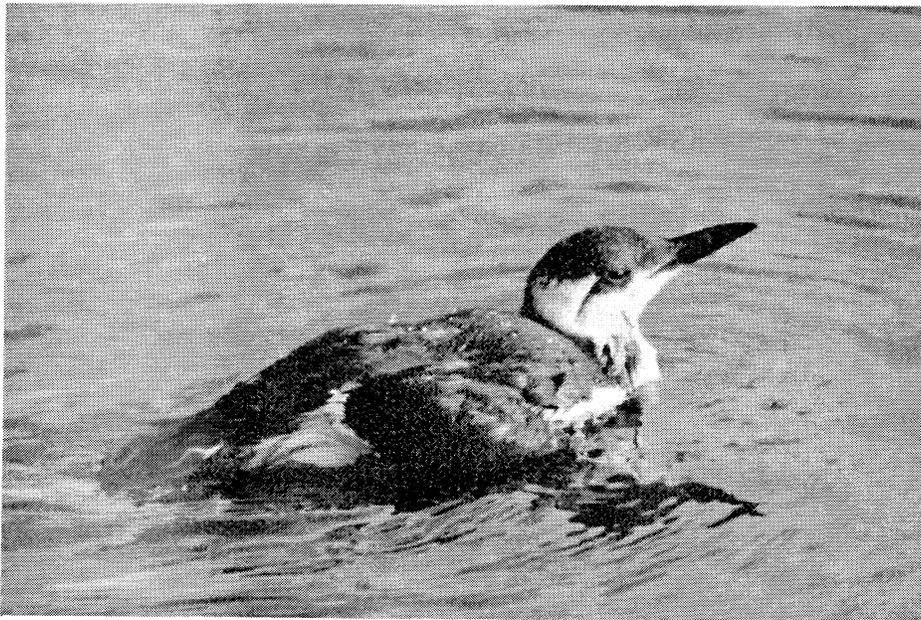
Finally, with respect to gulls, there were two immature **IVORY GULLS** this winter. The first near l'Ardoise, Rich. Co., Dec. 27 (DBM, SEM), the second at Hunts Pt., Queens Co., Jan. 25 (SAH). Unfortunately, neither bird stayed very long. A super find was a **FORSTER'S TERN** that visited Pembroke L., Yar. Co. from Dec. 1 - 4 (MUN).

As far as alcids were concerned, there was a fairly good selection but it wasn't a remarkable year. On the Fundy coast, observers noted fewer birds than the previous two years, but some counts elsewhere were noteworthy. **DOVEKIES** were in especially good numbers during December. A high count of over 1,000

was made at North Pt., Brier I., Dec. 4 (ELM, IAM). Associated with the flight of kittiwakes, Dovekies were flying SW in the strong NW wind, heading out from the Bay of Fundy, with 70 counted within a span of five minutes. Elsewhere, Dovekies were counted at a rate of 244 per hour as they flew past Hemeons Hd., Shel Co., Dec. 17 (DHY, SJF), and 65 were seen at Sandford, Yar. Co., the next day (BLM). At Louisbourg, strong winds preceded the CBC, bringing many alcids near shore. The 81 Dovekies seen on the Dec. 16 CBC was a much higher number than usually recorded. Although numbers dropped after mid-January, birds were still noted here and there into February.

COMMON MURREs were seldomly reported this winter. One was found dead by Helen and Bill O'Shea at Louisbourg Hbr., CB Co., Jan. 6 (*fide* SEM). Only one was reported on a CBC, that being St. Peters, Dec. 27. The arrival of **THICK-BILLED MURRE** in our waters appeared to be late or relatively nonexistent. Only 12 were reported from CBCs, including seven on the Louisbourg CBC. Besides those on CBCs, only a handful of reports were submitted. One dead bird washed up at Conrad Beach, Hfx. Co., Feb. 28, although the cause of death was not obvious. Similarly, **RAZORBILLS** were much sought after for winter lists across the province. Although 8,602 Razorbills were tallied on CBCs, 8,600 came from the Brier I. Count, Dec. 19. Sightings from the Atlantic shore included one at Riverport, Lun. Co., Jan. 17 (JSC) and one at Fort Pt., Lun. Co., Feb. 20 (SJF).

Observations of the flypast at North Pt., Brier I., also provided significant counts of **BLACK GUILLEMOTS**. Over 100 birds were involved on Dec. 4 (ELM, IAM), but the island's CBC, Dec. 19, resulted in a total of 435 guillemots, over half of the provincial tally. The sea watchers at North Pt. also spotted 10 **ATLANTIC PUFFINS**, Dec. 4 (ELM, IAM). One was reported at Brier I., Dec. 19, and two were reported on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC, Dec. 17. The only other report was of one at Pembroke Beach, Yar. Co., Dec. 18. ☒



More **COMMON MURREs** than usual were seen inshore this winter. This is not always a good sign, as some like this one at Daniels Head, CSI, were probably burdened by oiling. [Photo John Nickerson]

Doves Through Woodpeckers

By Ian McLaren

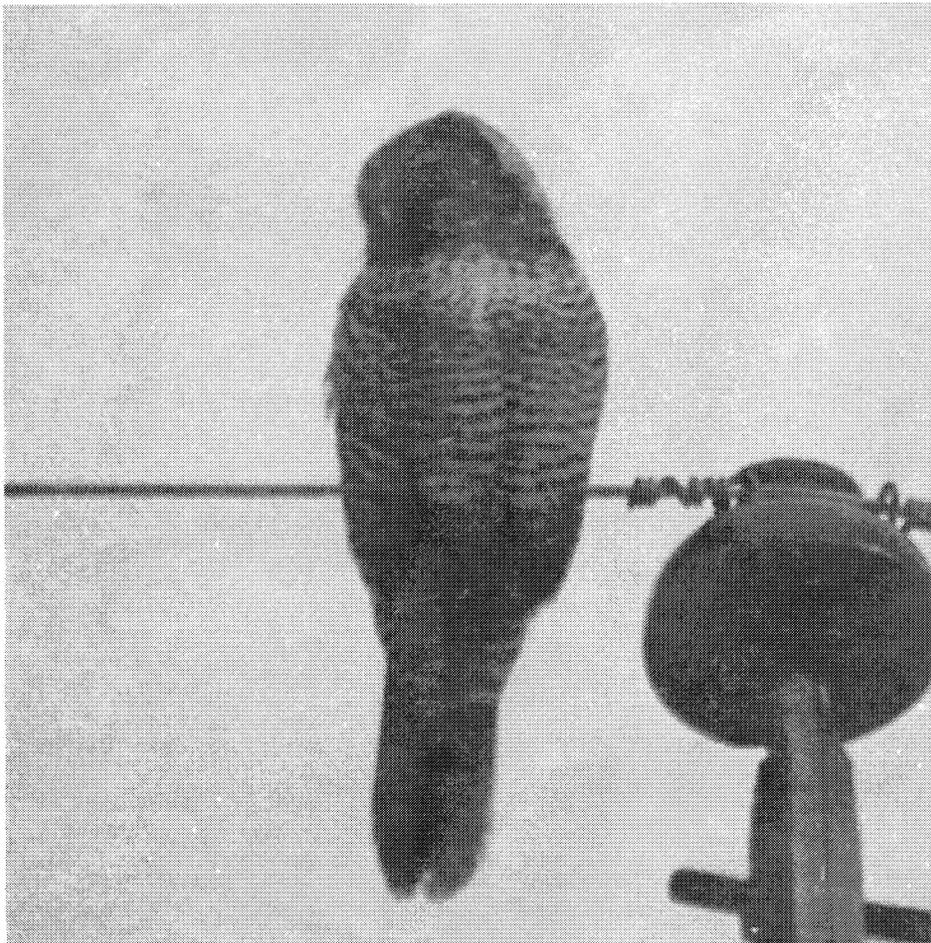
ROCK DOVE numbers were lower than the recent average for CBCs, but MOURNING DOVES almost exactly matched last year's count. The latter continued to do well at feeders the length of the province. There were up to 24 on Long I. Rd., CB Co. (*fide* DBM), 35 at Grand Pré (JWW), about 25 in W. Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co. (var. obs.), 45 at Whites L., HRM (BLM), "about two dozen" at Lower LaHave, Lun. Co. (EHC), and 65 were counted at W. Baccaro during the CBC (ELM). Oddities were a piebald one at Grand Pré (JWW), and JAF's report that two doves were killed and eaten, but of course not carried off, by a shrike at her feeders.

This winter, even more so than the last, was a good one for owl spotters, but not apparently for some owls. Deep snows

probably made it difficult to detect and capture their rodent prey. Interestingly, after the CBC there were almost no reports of calling birds. Deep snows may also have kept people away from the back-country roads at night. We await wider adoption of the nocturnal owl surveys, ably initiated by SEM and colleagues (see last issue), to get a handle on trends and year-to-year fluctuations. Surprisingly, no post-CBC GREAT HORNED OWL was reported, although it's hard to believe that some weren't seen or heard. There were slightly more SNOWY OWLS this winter than last but not, I think, a clear peak. Post-CBC birds were up to five, Feb. 1 (Russ Nickerson) through winter on CSI and its nearby islands, and singles Jan. 5, Lun. Co. (*fide* JAH), mid-January, Cum. Co. (JAF), and Feb. 23,

Pict. Co. (JAF). Far more exciting were this winter's N. HAWK OWLS, which are very rare here. These were part of a large excursion into central Canada and the N. US, with at least a half dozen reaching New Brunswick. The most persistent and reliable bird was found Dec. 11, E. Advocate, Cum. Co. (JAF, MSM), where it stayed through winter to be savoured by many others. Three others were reported without any details; one near the Halifax International Airport in late January (Arnold Langille), one near Chebogue Pt., Yar. Co., Jan. 16 (SAH), and another "elusive" one spotted twice at the end of February at Rainbow Haven, Hfx. Co. (CLS). At the start of winter, Dec. 1, a BARRED OWL was uttering "screeches, raspy hisses, followed by the repetitive call notes" at Ridge Rd., Wolfville, Dec. 1 (JCT); what was it up to? After the CBC period, only one was reported - a day-flier in Anna. Co. (PLC). A dead LONG-EARED OWL was reported from Lun. Co. in mid-February (JAH), and another much alive was calling at Northeast Pt., CSI, Feb. 25 (MUN). Their SHORT-EARED congeners were somewhat more evident, although only one occurred on a CBC. Thereafter, there were two or three in coastal Hfx. Co. (BLM, DOM), two on CSI or the Cape proper (MUN), two near Chebogue Pt., Jan. 20 (HUH, MUN) and the same bird (?) there Feb. 4 (RSD). Although only seven were noted on CBCs, thereafter about 20 N. SAW-WHET OWLS were reported from throughout the province. Of these, at least eight were found dead or in poor condition. Attempts to feed three were unsuccessful. One dead bird, near Kentville, Feb. 25, however, was not emaciated (AAM). In addition to inaccessible food, collisions with vehicles may be an amplified threat to wide-ranging owls in winter.

Wintering BELTED KINGFISHERS need open water, usually brackish and sometimes marine. This year's CBC total was a little below last year's, but there were January to February sightings of some 14-16 birds between CB and Yar. Cos. (var. obs.), including in "at least



To Jane Fletcher goes the credit for finding and continually reporting through winter the most persistent N. HAWK OWL ever to reach Nova Scotia. [Photo Jane Fletcher]

eight or 10 different locations" along the complex and accessible shorelines of Lun. Co. (JAH).

Some of the RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS noted in the fall report probably made it into spring. The



Among several RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS this winter was this adult frequenting the Hippern feeder in Cole Harbour, where it was photographed Dec. 16. [Photo Dennis Hippern]

bird in Cole Hbr. was last seen in mid-January (DHH), but the one in Shelburne was still there Feb. 16 (DOE, DHY). The bird found during November in S. End Halifax was relocated Jan. 2 (DOU) and

still there Feb. 24 (CWH). One found in Birch Cove, Dartmouth, Dec. 3 (CLS, PLC) was also seen until at least Feb. 24 (PLC). Will the successful birds stay or migrate out? Less smart or lucky was one that appeared mid-November at Jerry Allen's feeders in Liverpool; it was

found dead without apparent injury Dec. 14 (*vide* SJF). There were no further reports on the one at the Ruff's Yarmouth feeder to at least Dec. 26. Almost unprecedented here in winter

was a **YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER** Jan. 20, Jollimore, HRM. The description by DOU of the bird in imm. plumage eliminated the possibility of the western Red-naped Sapsucker, which I have always felt might turn up here one fall or winter. The bird was rediscovered Mar. 5 (PLC). Among scattered reports of HAIRY and DOWNY WOODPECKERS, only those from DBM were fairly comprehensive for some CB areas. We are probably best to rely on the CBC estimates for trends. A rare **THREE-TOED WOODPECKER** was reported, without details but from a plausible location, at St. Anns, Vic. Co., Feb. 10 (*vide* Bethsheila Kent). Only TEP turned up a post-CBC **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER** - Jan. 2, Taylors Hd., Hfx. Co. Many commented on the numbers of N. FLICKERS, of which a somewhat guesstimated, 40-50 were reported during January - February, mostly via NatureNS. I found individuals apparently feeding on bayberries at Rainbow Haven, Hfx. Co., and Round Bay, Shel. Co., and KJM noted that most wintering sites in Pict. Co. have bayberries. Reports of the spectacular **PILEATED WOODPECKER** are probably pretty representative from year to year. A dozen non-CBC birds were about average for the season. ☒

Flycatchers Through Thrushes

By Eric L. Mills

The cold and snowy winter hardly affected the numbers of many species in these groups, notably Northern Shrikes and American Robins, which were exceptionally abundant, along with many other species dealt with by other reporters. Presumably this shows that food supply means more than snow cover and low temperatures for many hardy species. Certainly there were lots of birds to look at, although rarities were relatively few.

Rare at any time in the province, but exceptionally so in winter, a **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** was documented at Pleasantville, Lun. Co., Feb. 15 (JAH). "The shrike was first identified by a local lady who told me

about it and pointed it out as a Loggerhead in her bird book as she had observed it at about a foot away as it was at her feeder after a bird. I was a bit sceptical as there have been a lot of Northern Shrikes around this year. I drove up the road back out towards the river and spotted the shrike on the wires. It flew and landed further away at the top of a hill on the wires beside the road. I drove up relatively close and observed it through the scope for a time. It then flew and landed at the top of a coniferous tree and I was able to get an excellent side view for quite some time. It then flew to the back of a forested area and I could no longer see it. Unfortunately I did not get a good look at or note the breast so I

cannot comment on that. What sold me was the very thick, black and dark mask. More so than in any other shrikes I have observed. The black ran over the top of the eye and right to the beak and the beak was shorter. Very prominent, the difference between night and day in comparison to all the Northern Shrikes I have observed this winter." It was an exceptional winter for N. SHRIKES, which were reported on more than 30 occasions (apart from CBCs) from locations throughout the province as far apart as Cum. Co., SW NS, and CB Co. (var. obs). The CBC shrikes, 45 in all, also came from one end of the province to the other, the largest number being seven at Louisbourg, Dec. 16 (*vide* SEM).

Not unprecedented as late lingerers, lone BLUE-HEADED VIREOS were at Birch Cove Park, Dartmouth, Dec. 3 (PLC) and Broad Cove, Lun. Co., Dec. 5 (JSC). Far rarer and unexpected so late, but unfortunately undocumented, was a PHILADELPHIA VIREO reported from Clayton Park, Halifax, Dec. 2.

GRAY JAYS are always where you find them. In the case of this season, mainly in CBI, where DBM and BLM noted ones and twos in late January in Rich., Vic., and CB Cos. KFS's feeder in Apple R., Cum. Co., as always, hosted 1-2 from December through January. One at Blanche, Shel. Co., Dec. 15, was the only bird reported from SW NS except on CBCs. On those counts low numbers were reported nearly everywhere. The peak was 13 Louisbourg, Dec. 16. BLUE JAYS typically withdraw from some areas, or become irregular as the winter proceeds. This pattern was documented in DBM's notes; jays at his feeder in Georges R., CB Co., began to visit less regularly after mid-January despite the presence of low numbers throughout CB and Vic. Cos. through February. This seems to have been a general phenomenon judging by observations in Lun. Co. at the same time (ELM): boom or bust, depending on location (and probably food supply). Feeders in Kings Co., HRM and Cum. Co. maintained low numbers throughout (SLH, DMW, KFS). Nearly 50% of the 5,307 Blue Jays on CBCs were in the Annapolis Valley region and in HRM. Apparently immune to environmental degradation, 1,700 AM. CROWS were feeding and drinking at the Tar Ponds, Sydney, Jan. 6 (DBM). Crows are mainly abundant in winter around agricultural fields, cities, or tidewater and in low numbers in inland areas. For example, a regular flock was at Conrads Beach, HRM from December to February (DMW), and a flock of 70 was on Brier I. (scattered individuals elsewhere on the island), Dec. 3 (ELM). This generalization is borne out by the CBCs which show a distinct preference by Crows for the bright lights and the more moderate shorelines. COM. RAVENS "calling and tumbling in the sky," as PLC reported them at Margaretsville, Anna. Co., Feb. 2, are a wonderful feature of windy late winter days. The highest numbers reported



This sanguinary photo of a N. SHRIKE at its larder should be applauded for its conservation efforts... the victim is an introduced House Sparrow. [Photo Richard Stern]

(apart from on CBCs) were 30-40 in the Tar Ponds region, Sydney, throughout January (DBM), but numbers were high in the Kentville-Wolfville areas of Kings Co. from at least December (for example 368 on the Wolfville CBC Dec. 17) through February and in March, paired birds were evident throughout the province (ELM).

Heavy snow seems to have prevented any HORNED LARKS staying in their traditional wintering area at Halifax Airport this year (DHH). But mid- and late-wintering birds were regular in various locations on the South Shore and especially on the dykelands of Kings Co., for example 50, Grand Pré, Dec. 24 (ELM) and 30, Woodside, Feb. 10 (JCT, JET, SHM), supplemented by spring arrivals by the end of February (ELM). A flock wintered in the Pond Cove area, Brier I., ranging in size from two to 90 but averaging below 20 (ELM, AHM, BLM). Of the 120 recorded on the CSI CBC, Dec. 16 (fide JCZ), 103 were on Cape Sable alone (BLM). The results on CBCs, in descending order of abundance, were Truro 250, Cape Sable 120, Brier I. 90, Yarmouth 36, Amherst 13, Wolfville 5, Pictou Hbr. 3, and Broad Cove 2, indicating the December distribution even before heavy snow pushed them shoreward.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were noted regularly all winter in small numbers throughout the province and were ubiquitous on CBCs, but only in HRM as "very abundant everywhere" (PLC). DBM's detailed records indicate small flocks widely spread in CB, Rich., and Vic. Cos., apparently the same pattern as on the mainland from Cum. Co. to the South Shore (KFS *et al.*). Quiet and inconspicuous as ever, BOREAL CHICKADEES were sparsely reported from the South Shore to Vic. Co, CBI, the highest being eight to ten Tribune Hd., Herring Cove, HRM, Jan. 13 (PLC, JEH). The CBC data show birds throughout the province, but with the highest numbers in CBI and where habitat is ideal (which must be true of Louisbourg, the Boreal Chickadee capital of the province with 183). Decidedly scarce this winter (JCT commented "rare here this winter" on the Ridge Rd., Wolfville), RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were recorded only six times on the mainland (apart from CBCs), mainly in the Halifax and Kings Co. areas. Ones and twos at a few feeders in CB and Vic. Cos. (DBM) appear to have been typical of CBI through January and February according to DBM's records. On CBCs, 307 were widespread throughout, mainly in small

numbers, nearly two-thirds in HRM, on the South Shore, and in Pict. Co. Small numbers (one to four) of winter-resident **WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES** were noted in Lunenburg, Dec.30 - Jan.1 (JAH, PML), in Tremont, Kings Co., Dec. 1 (SLH), and in Dartmouth, Halifax and Bedford, from December through February (PLC, BLM). The CBCs reveal more: 72, of which more than half were in the HRM and Annapolis Valley areas. Only a few **BROWN CREEPERS** were recorded during regular birding mainly in December and early January: in the Bedford and Dartmouth areas, HRM (PLC, BLM); near Advocate, Cum. Co. (KFS) and in N. Sydney (Randy Davidson *vide* DBM). They were also sparse on CBCs, though reported throughout the province, mainly in proportion to the number of observers in the field.

A lone **MARSH WREN**, first reported Nov. 19 at the Wolfville sewage ponds, was still there for the Wolfville CBC, Dec. 17, but was not reported thereafter. DBM's comment that "there seemed to be more **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS** than normal" in CBI was not borne out on the mainland, where only a handful of small flocks was recorded (mainly in Cum. Co., Lun. Co., and HRM) in late December through February. CBC numbers show that Golden-crowns were seen nearly everywhere in numbers almost identical to last year. Scarce in winter, and probably rarely surviving the onset of really bad weather, a single **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET** was in Dartmouth, HRM, Dec. 4. Two were found on the St. Peters CBC, Rich. Co., Dec. 27 (*vide* BID), along with nine others scattered from there to Yarmouth on seven other counts.

A **N. WHEATEAR**, undocumented and much later than normal, was reported from Port Morien, CB Co., Dec. 31 during the CBC. A much observed and much appreciated **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE** found by Gary Murray (*vide* KJM) at Melmerby Beach, Pict. Co., pleased many observers Jan. 19 - Feb. 14. It had been spotted by another birder at least two weeks before. A few **HERMIT THRUSHES** lingered and some may have survived the winter: one

was in Clayton Park, Halifax, Dec. 4 (RSM), other individuals were on the Bedford-Sackville and St. Peters CBCs, and one from mid-February through March, near Bible Hill, Col. Co. (Marjorie Fletcher *vide* GDE). The **FIELDFARE**, unfortunately reported without details, from Clarks Hbr, Shel. Co., Dec. 8 (S. Fidler *vide* CST) may fit into a pattern of occurrences in the Atlantic Provinces; others appeared at Ferryland, Newfoundland Jan. 12 and in Fredericton, NB, in the last half of January.

Who could forget the **AM. ROBINS** of this winter? Until the truly wild and wintry weather of early March they were everywhere, at least on mainland NS, making their way from one fruit-bearing tree or shrub to another. The CBC totals tell the tale: 3,651 Robins this year province-wide, compared to only 504 last year at the same time. Many individual count totals were large, the records being 574 on the Shubenacadie CBC; 481 Pictou Hbr.; 478 Springville, Pict. Co.; 420 Wolfville; 291 CSI; 257 Broad Cove; and 230 Lunenburg. At other times there were flocks of 200 near Canning (MAG) and 140 in the Wolfville area (JCT) Feb. 16; not surprisingly, many noted, as did BID (*vide* DBM), in the St. Peters area, Rich. Co., "many more than usual" around the same time. The main concentrations of feeding birds were most evident after the snows of February, sometimes at feeders (25+ in Apple R., Cum. Co., Feb. 14 - KFS) or even on exposed barrens (15 North Pt., Brier I., Feb. 19 - ELM, AHM). High numbers were not restricted to NS; David Christie (*vide* BRD) found 700 in Riverside-Albert, NB, Jan. 29. A thoughtful analysis by AJE of Sackville, NB, (letter to ELM, Mar. 18, 2001) outlines the dearth of Robins in southern NB and northern NS last autumn, when they were superabundant in the rest of NS (see my account in the last Nova Scotia Birds) and continues as follows "My first hypothesis ... was that 'our' Robins had found excellent fruit crops, coupled with a mild fall, farther north, so they didn't come south to us until later than usual. Your summary of NSBS reports suggests rather that Robin fall migration, in most of NS, was late by only a week or two (expected early

October) and heavier than usual. Maybe 'our' birds moved south(west) nearer the Atlantic coast of NS than usual? If (some of) those birds reverted to their 'normal' route in late November, that might explain the source of our late arrivals, whose subsequent wintering was a response to the heavy fruit crops here that remained unharvested then. Flocks of 50 or even more were scattered across southern Westmorland and Albert counties (NB) through December, January & February, with fruit crops largely gone by late February when some flocks were foraging on saltmarshes. A few still linger, but most either left or perished. We've had over 60 cm of snow cover (quite uniform) since Jan. 6 hereabouts, so only tree fruits were generally accessible to Robins." Dr. Erskine's ideas and observations make it clear that the "Robin events" of the late autumn and winter were widespread and require a regional perspective rather than a local one.

Finally, to cap a truly interesting winter, two reports of **VARIED THRUSHES**. A male at Mill Village, Queens Co., Jan. 22-24 (SJF, JSC), did not stay after being chased by a Sharp-shinned Hawk, but another male in New Glasgow, Pict. Co., was present from Feb. 6 through March (*vide* KJM). ☐



Mimics Through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

The Wolfville CBC recorded the only GRAY CATBIRD for this reporting season. The earliest report of a N. MOCKINGBIRD comes from Jill Camolli who had one at Rose Bay, Lun. Co., Dec. 2. There were 19 mockingbirds reported on CBCs with Wolfville producing a high of seven and Pictou Hbr., four. There were January reports from Long I., Digby Co. (BLM) and Little Hbr., Shel. Co., (DHY). Reports from Kings Co. into February indicates probable successful wintering. Peter Richard had the latest report on Feb. 26, Sullivans Pond, Hfx. Co.

Several reports of over wintering EUR. STARLING indicate there was no shortage around with Sue Hill

Annapolis and West Hants accounted for 45 each. Small numbers were seen in December in Plympton, Digby Co. (PRG) and Martins Brook, Lun. Co. (JBM). In CB, DBM reports 11 sightings beginning Christmas Eve. Numbers in CB were reported in all months of this reporting period with a peak of 850 (minimum count) near Baddeck Academy, Vic. Co., Jan.24. and 200, Sydney Mines, Feb. 4 (DBM). CEDAR WAXWINGS were more abundant than normal this winter. There were flocks of 10 - 30 around Vict. and CB Cos. from December - February (DBM, RWK). One of the largest mainland flocks, 100+, was noted at Fort Needham Park, Hfx. Co., Dec.3 (PLC). The wide-spread distribution of Cedar Waxwings was

Waegwoltic Ave., Halifax. as, "a few cinnamon-orange feathers not as obvious as a kinglet's" (PLC) Jan. 8; this bird was still seen as late as Feb. 16. On Jan. 12, SJF listened to an Orange-crowned at Tufts Cove, Hfx. Co. perched in alders and in partial song. A NASHVILLE WARBLER was noted on the CSI CBC, Dec.16. YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS were noted on 14 of the CBCs with CSI leading with 242 of the 372 noted. At Martinique Beach, Hfx. Co., Jan. 8, BLM reported 25 Yellow-rumps and in CB, DBM noted that he found "no Yellow-rumps in my usually reliable locations". On Dec. 29, a Yellow-rumped Warbler, identified as an Audubon's, was seen on LaHave I., Lun. Co. (BLM). This was a first for NS CBCs. In Broad Cove, Lun. Co., Nov. 30, SJF saw a first year and an ad. male Pine Warbler. The former was seen for about a week and the latter until Feb. 22, surviving on black-oil sunflower seed. A total of nine Pine Warblers were seen on six CBCs with Halifax- Dartmouth having the largest total of four. Single PALM WARBLERS were spotted on the Glace Bay and Halifax-Dartmouth CBCs. A BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER was found by PLC and JAH at Sullivans Pond, Hfx. Co., Dec. 3. A very late, quite yellowish N. WATERTHRUSH was found at the Fairview Cemetery, Dec. 3 (DAC) and last noted Dec. 4 (BLM). The MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER from Halifax south end, described in detail in the previous issue of Nova Scotia Birds, was not noted after Dec. 4. COM. YELLOW-THROATS were seen on two CBCs, CSI, Dec. 16 and a young male seen in the MacLellan Marsh near the Museum of Industry, Pict. Co. on the Springville CBC (KJM). In early December, YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS were noted in Bell I., Lun. Co., Dec. 4 (JSC), Dec. 8 at the feeder of RSD, Lower W Pubnico, Yar. Co. and at Sullivans Pond, Hfx. Co. There were four on CBCs with two in Halifax-Dartmouth and singles in Lunenburg and CSI. The latest reported Chat was near the Lunenburg town limits on Dec. 30, JAH. ☐



There were fewer than usual BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS this winter, but numbers increased somewhat as winter progressed. These were part of a flock of 52 at Spencers I., Cumb. Co., Apr. 1. [Photo Jane Fletcher]

commenting there were "too many" in Dartmouth, Jan. 12. Starlings were seen on every CBC with a total of about 74,000 counted ranging from 23 on Brier I. to about 15,000 in both Wolfville and Halifax-Dartmouth. Brier I. had the highest counts of AM. PIPIT this winter with 55 on the CBC, Dec. 19 (BLM). Fifteen were still present Feb. 19 (ELM). Despite a heavy berry crop in most areas of the province this winter, BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS were "conspicuously absent" (PLC) at least on the mainland. Only four CBCs had these roamers with a total of 94 birds. Two counts,

noted by RSD, "I can't recall a winter with more". He saw 35 at Pubnico Pt., Yar. Co., Jan. 12. Cedar Waxwings were noted on 17 CBCs with Lunenburg garnering 222 of the 1,262 seen.

There were 397 warblers on the various CBCs, 372 of which were Yellow-rumped. Not surprisingly, Pine and Orange-crowned made up the bulk of the remaining warblers. A total of seven ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS were seen on CBCs. The orange crown, a feature seldom seen, was noted on a bird that frequented suet offered by ETP,

Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By David McCorquodale

At first glance this winter is not what I expected. Last summer with the cone crop on the spruces and balsams, I would have predicted White-winged Crossbills to be more widespread. With the ever increasing piles of snow through the winter, I would have predicted relatively few sparrows at feeders through the winter. With the few reports of orioles in the late fall, I would not have predicted finding a Bullock's. In fact crossbills were scarce, there was a veritable plethora of overwintering sparrows and a co-operative Bullock's Oriole brightened the winter for birders in Halifax. One prediction I made that was fulfilled, was that Common Redpolls would not be common.

This winter there were at least six E. TOWHEES, a couple more than the past few years. They were spread over the province with at least two in the Halifax area, two in CB, one in Wolfville and one in Pubnico. All were around in December and several were adept at remaining out of sight for days or weeks at a time. The individuals in Wolfville and Ingonish were still thriving in late February (GMT, Ruth McLagan).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were widespread, being found on 27 CBCs, with three of the five missing out on CBI. Two counts, Wolfville and Economy, tallied more than 100. In Cum. Co. some feeders hosted more than a dozen birds through the winter (KFS). Elsewhere, small groups lingered along the coast and near feeders through the winter.

A record high 27 CHIPPING SPARROWS were found on CBCs, including a phenomenal 11 at CSI. Most of the rest were along the south shore, Avonport and Economy; the outlier was one in Glace Bay. This species is not very hardy in harsh winter conditions and so it is not really surprising that most were found on the first weekend of CBCs. What was surprising were the lingerers at feeders in Shel. Co. and in Avonport in February (MUN, DOE, EVU).

For only the second time, the first being 1991, more than 100 SAVANNAH SPARROWS were found on CBCs, with the vast majority on just three counts, CSI, Wolfville and Halifax. As expected numbers dwindled through the rest of the

winter. 'Ipswich' Sparrows were found on the Halifax CBC as expected and one was also at Glace Bay. A very high tide in mid-January at Cole Hbr. forced one out into the open (BLM), while another was seen at Eastern Passage a few days later (JCZ, CLS) that may have been a hybrid with a mainland Savannah.

The most unusual sparrow found this winter was GRASSHOPPER SPARROW, and there was not just one, but two. On Dec. 3 an adult was found and well described on Brier I. (IAM, ELM, AHM) and then the next day another (or the same one?) was found along a roadside near McArras Brook, Ant. Co. to be studied by KJM. NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS were on both the CSI and the Halifax, CBCs. In mid-January during an extremely high tide BLM found one in Cole Hbr., HRM. Presumably a few winter in salt marshes along the coast, but the difficulty in finding and seeing them means we have relatively few records.

The number of FOX SPARROWS counted on CBCs was nine, about average for the past dozen years. What was surprising was the number of birds that found feeders in January and that many of those survived, even thrived, through February and into March. All reports from January and February come from along the coast from Halifax through to Yar. Co. The latest away from this arc were at Big Pond, CB Co. and Apple R., Cum. Co. on Christmas Day (JAM, KFS).

The number of SONG SPARROWS tallied on CBCs and the number lingering (or was it thriving?) at feeders until the end of February was phenomenal. More than 1,300 were tallied on CBCs, more than 500 more than the previous high in 1991. Only three of the 32 counts missed them. In January and February many were at feeders throughout, several feeders in CB Co. had at least three through the winter (SEM, Joan MacFadden). Despite the snow several were found away from



GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS are occasional in fall, especially on our southern islands. This one at Lismore, Ant. Co, Dec. 3 was less expected. [Photo Ken McKenna]

feeders, near beaches and on wharves in amongst lobster traps through the winter. I was surprised with the number of overwintering Song Sparrows, given the amount of snow we had this winter. A LINCOLN'S SPARROW was found at Apple R. on the CBC and another was found and well described at Mill Village, Queens Co. in mid-January. This was only the fifth individual on CBCs in NS in the past 10 years, highlighting how rare they are in winter. SWAMP SPARROWS are a little more common in the early winter. In early December several were noted lingering in marshy areas from Pict. Co. south. Later in December about half of the 28 found on CBCs were on CSI, and the furthest north were two at Springville, Pict. Co. None were reported from CB or Cum. and Col. Cos.

As surprising as the number of overwintering Song Sparrows was the number of overwintering WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS. Almost 1,800 were tallied on CBCs with more than 400 at Broad Cove, more than 100 on five other coastal counts from Halifax south. This total is just shy of the record high, more than 2,000, counted in 1976 and about three times the third highest total in 1992. Many survived through the whole winter, with many feeders along the southern coast hosting more than a dozen. There were certainly more in coastal and southern locales, especially late in the winter. However, at least three overwintered successfully in Vic. Co. including one in Cape North (Dave Algar, DBM). WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS are always rare in winter and this winter was no exception. Only two were found, one on the Pubnico CBC (MUN) and another on CSI in early February at a feeder (JON, TEC).

DARK-EYED JUNCOS were also counted in record numbers on CBCs. The total, more than 10,000, is close to twice the previous high. Almost a third of those were on the Broad Cove CBC and this one count total was higher than the provincial total for four of the past dozen years. It is also very close to the all-time high for any count in Canada. Many feeders hosted a dozen or two throughout the winter. The "Oregon" form of this species can be very difficult to pick out from the browner form of the 'Slate-

coloured", however BLF was able to find one near Wolfville in late January.

The highest total of LAPLAND LONGSPUR for ten years, 62, was tallied on the CBCs. The vast majority, more than 50, were at Amherst. Elsewhere a few were found on counts from St. Peters, Rich. Co., Halifax, CSI, to Yarmouth. Through January and February small numbers were found regularly from Halifax and south along the coast to Brier I. and a few in Kings Co. More surprising was one at Egerton, Pict. Co. in early February (KJM). Larger groups, up to 20, were along the coast near Halifax late in February (CLS, NED), possibly the vanguard of a northward movement. As expected SNOW BUNTINGS were found along with many of the longspurs, but in larger numbers. Through January and February, flocks of a few to several dozen were spotted along the coast. These are not normally feeder birds, but sizeable numbers, more than 200 in Advocate Hbr. and about 120 in Gabarus, CB Co., frequented feeders in mid-winter (MSM, DBM).

The total for N. CARDINALS on CBCs slipped slightly from the record high last year. Still, 54, was the second highest total ever. On CBCs numbers were down in the Halifax area, but doubled in Annapolis. Kentville had a surprise visitor, a ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, in early December and he obligingly stayed for the CBC. This was only the fourth on a NS CBC. In early December DICKCISSELS were found in Louisbourg, CB Co., Barrington, Shel. Co., and West Pubnico, Yar. Co. (Warren Bagnell, JCZ, MUN). Only the latter lingered for the CBCs. The total of only one on CBCs is the lowest for the province since 1990.

As expected, lingering RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS were widespread, if not numerous, early in December. They were found on more than a third of the CBCs, with more than 20 on both the Pubnico and Yarmouth counts and the furthest north, two at St. Peters, Rich. Co. The most surprising report of the winter was of five in Sherbrooke, Guys. Co. late in January (KJM). Later in the winter larger flocks, up to 75 around CSI and more than 30 in Mill Village, Queens Co.,

were conspicuous. One overwintered at a feeder in Advocate Hbr., Cum. Co. (MSM), however one in Halifax late in February (JCZ) could equally have been one that overwintered locally or a recent spring arrival. Four different meadowlarks, probably all E. MEADOWLARKS, were found. In late December and early January one spent some time near Ste. Anne du Ruisseau, Yar. Co. and at the same time another played hide and seek at SJC's feeder in Petite Rivière, Lun. Co. Later in January Lionel Wadden spotted two meadowlarks along the coast at the Fortress of Louisbourg. Many CB birders braved the winds to look for the birds and tried to see if they had feathers with dark centres and the diagnostic pattern of the facial markings. After a few tries most were able to get good looks and confirm they were both E. Meadowlarks.

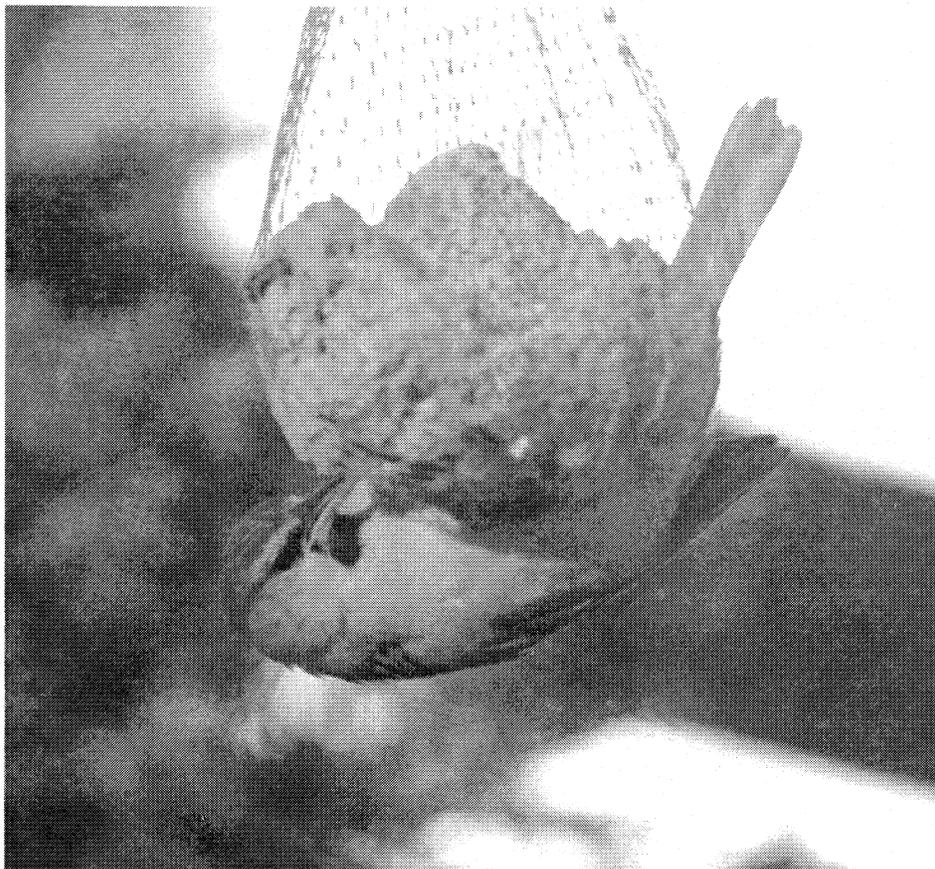
A YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD visited feeders at Apple R., Jan. 16 (KFS). Only one RUSTY BLACKBIRD was found on CBCs, in Wolfville. This is the lowest total since 1994. Otherwise there were only five reports from five different counties, Queens and Ant. in December (SJF, RIB), Lun., Yar. and Pict. in January (Barry Boehner, MUN, KJM). All except the-latter, a flock of five, were of individuals. COMMON GRACKLES lingered in many places in early December. They were found on more than half of all CBCs, with more than 75% of them, 335 to be precise, at Yarmouth. Most were in the southern part of the province, but there were a few at Glace Bay, Springville and St. Peters. Later in the winter the pattern was the same. The larger flocks were concentrated along the southern coast, with sizeable flocks in Yarmouth and near CSI (MUN, RSD). Elsewhere, a few hardy individuals survived the winter in Halifax (JCZ), Cum. Co. (MSM, KFS) and even a few on CBI (CAM, ALM, DBM). Most of the BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were on two CBCs, Halifax and Yarmouth. The total of 270 was about average for the past dozen years and well below the high counts from the early 1970s. Like the other blackbirds most were in Queens, Shel. and Yar. Cos. late in the winter. A couple overwintered at feeders in East Advocate, Cum. Co. (MSM). The only report from CBI,

where cowbirds are much less frequent than elsewhere, was one in Dominion, Dec. 3 (CAM, ALM).

Early in December there were a few **BALTIMORE ORIOLES** in Yar., Shel. and CB Cos. (MUN, CAM, ALM). However the Halifax area was the place to be for orioles this winter. All of the 12 on CBCs, the lowest count since 1994, were on Halifax area counts. Most of these were concentrated at Fred Greig's feeder in Jollimore. There were about seven in early December dwindling to two in late February. However it wasn't these that many birders made the pilgrimage to see, it was the young male **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE**. There are only a handful of records for the province. For those interested in the nuances of identifying first year and female orioles, 'Birding' published a comprehensive article last year.

More than half of the CBCs recorded **PINE GROSBEAKS** with the two highest counts coming from the northern end of the province, Springville, Pict. Co. and Sydney. The second highest tally ever, almost 1,900, was made for **PURPLE FINCHES** on CBCs and they were widespread. Two counts, West Hants and Broad Cove had more than 250, while five others had in excess of 100 and only a handful had none. Many feeders hosted a few to dozens for the rest of the winter. **HOUSE FINCHES** are concentrated in Halifax and Yarmouth, the vast majority on CBCs were from these two places. Only two other counts, Annapolis and Pictou Hbr. found them. Later in the winter there were a couple of reports, probably of wandering birds, in Hants Co. (Pam Bower, Marian Fulton).

RED CROSSBILLS were found on seven CBCs from across the province. The highest tally was only 13 at Louisbourg. For most of the winter the bulk of the reports came from the interior of Queens Co., especially the Kejimkujik area. With a reasonable cone crop on spruces and firs last summer, I expected it to be a winter for **WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS**. There were just over 600 on CBCs, but this is well below the few thousands found in very good cone years, most recently in 1998.



The young male **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE**, was nurtured through a difficult Halifax winter by Fred Grieg, giving many birders their first sightings of this beautiful western species. It was photographed Dec. 13, hard at work on a "bird pie." [Photo I. McLaren]

Last year more than 11,000 **COM. REDPOLLS** were tallied on NS CBCs, this year every individual deserved its own Rare Bird Report form. Fewer than 100 were on the CBCs just like every even numbered year in the 1990s. The odd numbered years have many times more. Redpolls arrive in numbers to spend the winter with us every other year.

There were lots of **PINE SISKINS**. For the first time since 1995 the total exceeded 1,000. Two counts topped 200, West Hants and Shubenacadie, while Glace Bay tallied more than 100. Later in the winter a few sizeable flocks frequented feeders such as a peak of about 120, Georges R., CB Co. (DBM). This year it was **AM. GOLDFINCHES** that broke through the 10,000 mark and in fact the 11,000 mark on CBCs. The previous all-time high was about 9,500 in 1995. This year's total was more than twice last year's. They were virtually everywhere in numbers, with ten counts tallying more than 400 and Wolfville with the highest at more than 1,000.

PLC's comment, "generally abundant near feeders this winter" sums it up.

EVENING GROSBEAKS were scarce in the southwest this winter. Two of the five CBCs that missed them were there, interestingly one of the others was on CBI. However, away from the southwest they were widespread, if not abundant in any one place. Eight counts tallied more than 100. The CBC total of just more than 2,500 is slightly below the average for the past dozen years.

HOUSE SPARROW numbers were down on CBCs compared to last year, about 5,000 compared to 8,000. However this is still close to the average for the past half dozen years. In Nova Scotia they are closely tied to people and the food people provide either intentionally or inadvertently. People on some counts, such as Cape Breton Highlands and Eskasoni, take pride in looking and finding none in the count circle. Elsewhere counters seek out and count the flocks, hoping to find that elusive rarity hanging out with them. ☐

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Erskine, Anthony J.	AJE	Hartley, Jean	JEH	Crowell, Terry	TEC
Doull, Ann	ALD	Timpa, Jean	JET	Pacquet, Terry	TEP
Kingsley, Andrea	ALK	Nickerson, Johnnie	JON	Bezanson, Tony	TOB
Murrant, Allan	ALM	Waldron, Joan	JOW	Algar, Dave	
Hinds, Barbara	BAH	Cohrs, Shirley	JSC	Allen, Jerry	
Digout, Billy	BID	Wolford, Jim	JWW	Bagnell, Warren	
Forsythe, Bernard	BLF	Spicer, Kathleen	KFS	Boates, Sherman	
Maybank, Blake	BLM	McKenna, Ken, J	KJM	Boehner, Barry	
Dalzell, Brian	BRD	Bell, Lise (Cohrs)	LAB	Bower, Pam	
Starzomski, Brian	BST	Brennan, Mark	MAB	Byers, Francis	
Haycock, Carl	CAH	Gibson, Merritt	MAG	Camolli, Jill	
Murrant, Cathy	CAM	Krawchuk, Meg	MEK	Caudle, Bill	
Brennan, Calvin	CGB	Holder, Matthew	MLH	Christie, David	
Stevens, Clarence, Jr.	CLS	Mills, Maureen	MSM	Cunningham, Barc	
Stoddard, Clyde	CST	Newell, Murray	MUN	Davidson, Randy	
Helleiner, Christopher	CWH	Goring, May	MZG	English, Bill	
Currie, David	DAC	Duffy, Nancy	NED	Fidler, S.	
McCorquodale, Dave	DBM	NS Bird Society		Fletcher, Marjorie	
Hipperr, Dennis	DHH	Field Trip	NSBS	Fulton, Marian	
Young, David	DHY	Giffin,		Garron, George	
Welch, Dottie M. K.	DMW	Patrick & Barbara	PBG	Hill, Sue	
Ensor, Donna	DOE	Chalmers, Patricia L.	PLC	Langille, Arnold	
Doull, Elizabeth	DOU	MacDonald, Paul	PMD	Learmouth, Betty	
Cooke, Eric	EHC	McLarty, Pat	PML	MacFadden, Joan	
Mills, Eric L.	ELM	Gould, Paul	PRG	MacKay, John	
McCorquodale, Eric	EMC	Stern, Richard	RBS	McLagan, Ruth	
Parker, Etta	ETP	Smith, Ruth E.	RES	Moores, Angela	
Urban, Eva	EVU	Lauff, Randy F.	RFL	Moores, Jennifer	
d'Entremont, Giselle	GDE	Ballard, Rick	RIB	Murrant, Della	
Metcalfe, Geraldine	GEM	Speirs, Robert J. N.	RJS	Murrant, Jim	
Trueman, Gerry M.	GMT	d'Entremont, Raymond	RSD	Murray, Gary	
Tufts, Gordon	GWT	McDonald, Robert S.	RSM	Nickerson, Russ	
Hall, Hubert	HUH	Knapton, Richard	RWK	Ruffs, The	
McLaren, Ian	IAM	Hiltz, Sandy	SAH	Uhlman, Burdette	
Paterson, Ian	IAP	Nickerson, Sandra	SAN	Wadden, Lionel	
Fletcher, Jane	JAF	Myers, Susann	SEM	Woody, Kim	
Hirtle, James	JAH	McCurdy, Sheila	SHM		
MacNeil, Jack	JAM	Smith, Sid	SIS		

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Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists Meeting

The 12th Annual Conference will be held in Lunenburg June 1 - 3, 2001. The program will include coastal bird walks, presentations on protecting special places, gold mining, and cold water corals. The meeting will be hosted by the South Shore Naturalists. Questions? Email Catherine Pross at mcpross@yahoo.com or phone her at (902) 766-4667. Visit the Web Site <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FNSN/agm2001.html>

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		Other	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		☐☐☐

Cape Sable Important Bird Area

By Grant Milroy

The Cape Sable area is well recognised within the naturalist community of Nova Scotia for its unique situation as Atlantic Canada's most southerly land projection. Because of this we enjoy abundant bird life all year round. Every season offers special attractions for those who want to learn and experience nature's delights.

Blake Maybank describes well the natural bounty to be found in this area of Nova Scotia. "Cape Sable Island is the finest year-round accessible birding locale in Nova Scotia. The island, with its roads, trails, and beaches, and its causeway to the mainland, provides easy access for birders. It is the southernmost land in Nova Scotia, and juts into the Atlantic Ocean, acting as a funnel for migrant land birds. The Cape itself provides a fine vantage point to view pelagic birds during onshore winds, and the extensive mudflats between the island and the Cape are a rich feeding ground for shorebirds year-round, but especially in late summer."

The beaches, dunes and intertidal flats of Cape Sable Island form strategic migratory and nesting habitat for many bird species. Thousands of Atlantic Brant in the winter and spring, tens of thousands of shorebirds in summer and fall and significant numbers of nesting Piping Plovers give to Cape Sable Island an ecological significance which we want to protect and promote. No other IBA site in the Maritimes has so many species (five) that meet the IBA criteria: the Atlantic Brant (globally significant), the Semipalmated Sandpiper (globally significant), the Semipalmated Plover (globally significant), the Short-billed Dowitcher (globally significant) and the endangered Piping Plover (nationally significant).

The Cape Sable Local Action Committee was formed to promote the recognition of the Cape Sable area as an ecologically unique and important area for birds, including a nationally endangered species and other wildlife. The committee seeks to promote the conservation and stewardship of species and habitats in the Cape Sable area by: (1) improving public awareness through interpretive and educational programs and (2) supporting existing conservation programs.

Our immediate tasks are to: 1. Produce interpretive and directive signage for the Cape Sable Area. 2. Build an educational program which will foster community awareness and pride in our Important Bird Area. 3. Do all we can to cultivate and encourage community conservation consciousness of our important bird habitat.

The Town of Clark's Harbour, the Municipality of Barrington and the Nova Scotia Bird Society have thrown their support behind this local initiative. The members of the Local Action Committee are Murray Newell, Clyde Stoddart, Peter MacDonald, Reg Newell and Grant Milroy. ☐

Field Trip Reports

Cumberland and Colchester Counties

18 June 2000, Leader: Fulton Lavender

I want to begin this report by stating that I have been leading this field trip for more than a decade and have thoroughly enjoyed the tenure. It has been a pleasure serving the Nova Scotia Bird Society in this regard. I hope you will continue to support this trip and its new leader.

This year's trip sported fine weather, moderate temperatures and the usual group of seven to ten participants. Our total list for the day was 103 species seen and/or heard.

The highlight species for the day included Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Mourning Warbler, Eastern Phoebe, Purple Martin, Black Tern, Warbling Vireo and Peregrine Falcon.

Look for details concerning next year's trip and come join us!

Brier Island

6 - 9 October 2000, Leader: Fulton Lavender

A small group of Brier I. patrons joined myself and Peter Richard for a weekend of birding fun. The weekend weather did not dampen the enthusiasm for exploration and discovery.

The complete trip tallied 101 species. Some of the highlights included five Peregrine Falcons, four Great-horned Owls, two N. Saw-whet Owls, six Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, two E. Phoebes, **19** Pomarine Jaegers, one adult S. Polar Skua, two Indigo Buntings and a Dickcissel.

I look forward to next year's trip. Please plan ahead and join us for a romp on the rock!

Pictou Harbour

27 January 2001, Leader: Ken McKenna

The day dawned cold at -20 °C, but apparently that did not damper the spirits of the 23 participants from Cape Breton, Colchester and Halifax Co. in joining the members of the Pictou Co. Naturalists on Jan. 27. At a conference at the meeting time of 9:00 am, a decision was made to travel to the Kings Head - Melmerby area where all the participants were treated to stunning views of a staked-out **Townsend's Solitaire** which was coming to an upright Juniper laden with berries - a favorite of this species. This yard also gave us sightings of the first of many Robins for the day as well as a White-throated Sparrow.



(Left) Participants viewing the TOWNSEND'S SOLITARE, (Right) A few more of the happy birders [Photos Gisèle d'Entremont]

The caravan headed back to New Glasgow, to the Pollution Control Plant, where some saw a female Pintail emerge from the settling ponds with hundreds of Black Ducks and some Mallards. The finer features of about 10 Iceland Gulls were shown to some of the newer birders. Greens Point Road opposite the NSPC Power Plant was lined with trees draped in a lovely silver-thaw. The first of five Red-tailed Hawks made a pass at a productive feeder here that had a couple of Song Sparrows. The rising temperature began to reduce the steam effect from the warm water from the power plant enough to allow observers to note a Northern Flicker, four Hooded Merganser, and a female Bufflehead from the hoards of Canada Geese and Greater Scaup seen from the lift bridge.

On our way to the Pictou Causeway, everyone had good scope look of a Northern Shrike perched along the road in the Abercrombie Management Area. At the spillway along the causeway, two male **Tufted Ducks**, a White-winged Scoter, and 14 Barrow's Goldeneye were dissected from the thousands of waterfowl and gulls present, mostly Common Goldeneye, Common and Red-breasted Merganser, Black Ducks and Greater Scaup. A quick swing by the Haliburton Gut bridge in Lyons Brook flushed a Belted Kingfisher and a first winter Black-headed Gull.

A ship loading lumber at Pier C in Pictou hampered viewing of gulls normally lingering for handouts along the wharf, but several Iceland Gulls were observed as well as a mystery possible hybrid Glaucous - Herring Gull that has been present for two years now.

Further west, Weirs Gut bridge was iced-in with the normal flock of birds there dispersed. A few ducks were in the vicinity of the Caribou R. bridge. Three Ruffed Grouse were spotted on a return trip to the power plant in Trenton where another male **Tufted Duck**, several Lesser Scaup, and a second winter Ring-billed gull completed the day's sightings of 49 species. The temperature warmed nicely and the sun made the day a great one for winter birding. ☿

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 (or less for smaller books) 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; children's books should be reviewed in conjunction with a child or children. 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.

Puffin's Homecoming by D. Bailer, K. Lee. Smithsonian. For younger children.

Ahmed and the Nest of Sand by K. Bieber Domm, J. Domm. Nimbus. For children.

Voices of Amazonian Birds by T.S. Schulenberg, C.A. Marantz, and P. English. CD ROM. Library of Natural Sounds.

The FeederWatcher's Guide to Bird Feeding by M.A. Barker and J. Griggs. Harper Collins.

Garden Bird Songs and Calls by G. Sample. Collins.

The complete Backyard Birdwatcher's Home Companion by D.S. Heintzelman. Rocky Mountain Press.

Watching Birds – Reflections on the wing by A. Taylor. Rocky Mountain Press.

Gardening for the Birds by T.G. Barnes. University of Kentucky Press

Birds, Birds, Birds by the National Wildlife Federation. McGraw Hill.

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

If you are interested please contact:

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Errata:

In the previous issue, Maia Jensen's name was erroneously left off the article she wrote for us on the terns of Country Island. This was a technical error on the side of the printing company, but none the less we wish to offer our apologies to Ms. Jensen.

Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund Annual Report 2000

By Ken Gregoire

It has been a quiet year for the NSBS SSTF. We started out with two major events - the divesting ourselves of the Port Joli property and secondly the relinquishing control of Hertford Island to the Department of Natural Resources. On the Port Joli matter, a great protest came from local groups and nothing was heard from Keji Adjunct so we put the matter on hold.

The executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society negotiated with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources to turn Hertford Island into a Wildlife Management Zone and Important Bird Area with a \$5,000 gift. There were certain restrictions such as, no research without the Society's consent. Nothing has been heard from Natural Resources. A follow up letter was sent six months later and there has still been no reply.

Again this year we contributed to the North American Migration Count.

Indian Island experienced its best year ever. We were fortunate to do 55 over flights of the island to monitor events in that area. Although recreational activity has increased in the LaHave area, the island has a very difficult shoreline which helps reduce human disturbance. The eiders returned in great numbers and even the cormorants had a year without any cull. Hopefully the guillemot population will spread and restore the numbers lost in the Mahone Bay area from Flight 111.

The two Hertford Island tour boats are operating with the number of tourists down. A weekly census was carried out over a six week period and populations seemed stable with the kittiwakes nearing 2,000 individuals. The year went well for the colony with weather and food co-operating until the eagles arrived 2.5 weeks early and the alcids left. The eagle population peaked at 32 birds and the lack of alcids greatly affected the tour operators.

Grassy Island had eiders nesting on top of rocks and one to fifteen pairs of Roseate, 350+ Commons and 20+ Arctic Terns. Roseate shelters were taken to the island but one week later all eggs and eider chicks were predated by gulls.

In Mahone Bay Westhavers Island, the tern colony had a good year with limited predation and disturbance. It was great to see the effort made by the Bluenose Atlantic Coastal Action Project on erecting signs on Westhavers Beach and the kayaking facility on Main Street. The signage stated the presence of a colony on the island and encouraged people not to disturb the terns during the breeding season. Unfortunately for those who liked watching the local Osprey nest, Bald Eagles once again preyed on the young.

Lack of funding by Government will result in most of the workload in conservation being downloaded to groups like ourselves, or it simply won't get done. The Piping Plover project is an example of this. We must network with other similar groups and pool resources to achieve results. The Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy is an example of local success with a small group of dedicated people.

In closing, I would like to thank our directors for their help and support this year. ☘

**NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
SANCTUARY AND SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND**

Financial Statements to September 30, 2000 (with comparison for the twelve months ended September 30, 1999)

	Current Year	Previous Year
Receipts		
Contributions	1,671.44	1,591.75
G.I.C. Interest	983.84	935.44
Bank Interest	6.98	7.50
Insurance Refund	0.00	250.00
Total Receipts	2,662.26	2,784.69
Disbursements		
Bank Charges	71.11	77.31
Property Taxes	1,043.72	819.25
Insurance	250.00	0.00
Bank Swallow Project	45.00	0.00
Christmas Bird Counts	0.00	53.36
N.A. Migration Count	0.00	285.87
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
Total Disbursements	1,409.83	1,235.79
Excess of Receipt Over Disbursements	1,252.43	1,548.90
Opening Bank Balance	4,992.27	3,443.37
Closing Bank Balance	6,244.70	4,992.27

BALANCE SHEET

Assets		
Guaranteed Invest. Cert.	26,400.00	26,400.00
Bald Islands	1,000.00	1,000.00
Hertford Island	160.00	160.00
Indian Island	12,000.00	12,000.00
Kemptville Property	1,500.00	1,500.00
Peters Island	20,000.00	20,000.00
Port Joli Property	13,000.00	13,000.00
Bank Balance	6,244.70	4,992.27
Total Assets	80,304.70	79,052.27
Statement of Surplus		
Opening Balance	79,052.27	77,503.37
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	1,252.43	1,548.90
Closing Balance	80,304.70	79,052.27

Book Review

By Colin Daniel Cook Rennie, age 9, Halifax

Welcome to the World of Owls

by Diane Swanson

Published by Whitecap Books, Vancouver/Toronto, 1997

26 pp, index

I think this is a good book. It tells you about owls, where they're from, where they live, how they catch their prey, and how they carry it.

I learned something I didn't even know about, that burrowing owls use animal droppings to cover their nest. That makes it harder for predators to smell the owls.

Some owls pretend to be dead to trick their enemies into leaving them alone. Some grown owls, such as the short-eared, pretend to be injured, not dead. That's how they lead enemies away from their owlets.

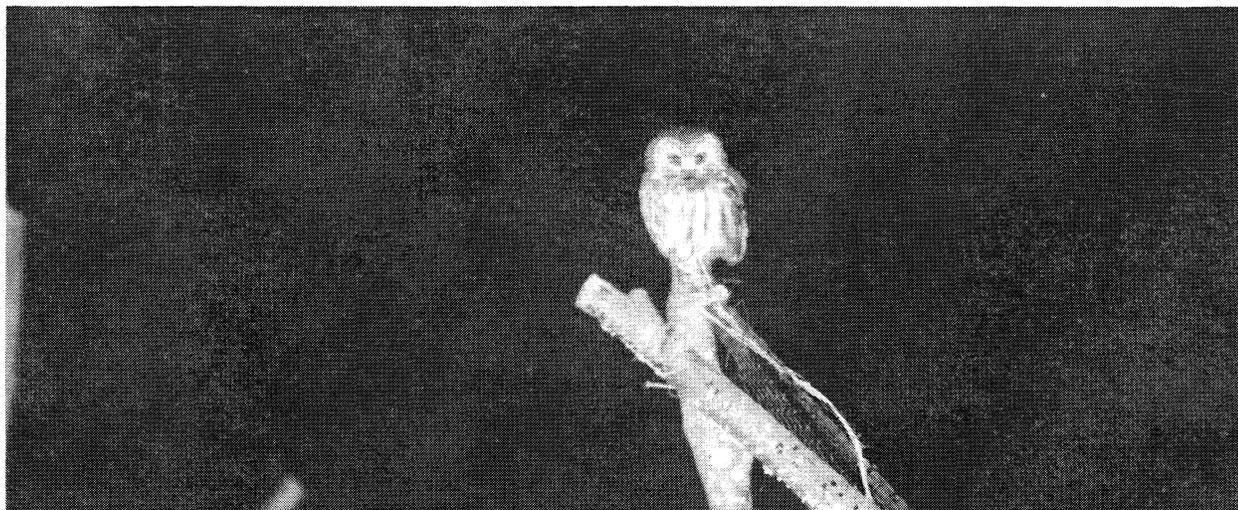
I'm in grade three, and I understood all the words in the book. I found the photographs helpful. There is one photograph every second page. I think the index is helpful, even though I didn't read it.

As the book says, "owls are a hoot."

[Parental comment: this is a useful book for elementary school-aged children. It reviews owl distributions, behaviour, prey, and habitats, and is written in straightforward, entertaining language. It is not a field guide, rather it's a natural history. -- Joanne Cook]



Deep snows this winter sent SAW-WHET OWLS searching widely for mousy prey, often ending up in urban areas. This sleepy individual was photo'd early January in Wolfville. [Photo Judy Tufts]



Nova Scotia Christmas Bird Counts 2000 - 2001

Edited By D. Currie & J. Shirley Cohrs

The counts this season were interesting in that so many species reached an all time high in number whilst others were low almost to the point of crashing, the two extremes sometimes within the same family of birds. Three new species were added to the Provincial CBC list: **Northern Hawk Owl**, **Thayer's Gull** and **Northern Wheatear**. This brings the total to 260 species in 49 years of records. For those keeping track, one species, Plumbeous Vireo, was removed from the list, not because it was impossible, but that there was just not enough information to confirm it from last year's CBC.

Red-throated and **Common Loons** fared well, considerably above the average number. Amongst the duck family, **Greater Scaup**, **Surf Scoter**, **Common Goldeneye** and **Red-breasted Mergansers** were thriving while the other twenty-six species of duck on our list were lower than usual - as were Canada Geese. Raptors showed little fluctuations, but amongst the shorebirds **Black-bellied Plover**, **Sanderling** and **Dunlin** reached unprecedented highs. Gulls continue to decline and most alcids were low except for **Razorbills** and **Black Guillemots**. Northern Shrikes were above average at 45 but did not come near to last year's numbers (109). Both nuthatches continued in their downward curve and Brown Creepers were noticeable by their absence on many counts.

Even non-birders noticed the proliferation of over-wintering **American Robins** and of "those little black and white (sic) sparrows" that crowded every feeder and this was borne out by count numbers. Robins tripled their average while **Dark-eyed Juncos** were double the usual number. The waxwing picture was unusual. The Bohemians, normally thought of as the "winter waxwings" were almost non-existent, leaving all the berries to the highest ever number of **Cedars** which were common in all parts of the province.

All warbler species were low. **Chipping Sparrows** did very well, as did whitethroats, while other species were a little above average.

Pine Grosbeaks continued to drop as did both Crossbills, particularly Reds. It was definitely not a Common Redpoll winter. A mere 65 were counted as against 11,524 last year. The finch picture brightened somewhat when Purple Finch numbers came up over average, and shone even more as American Goldfinches rose to over eleven thousand.

All in all it was a very up and down count year. Two of the larger counts (as well as others) suffered from bad weather and one less count was run.

The number of participants was down, as were the total numbers of species and individual birds. However, there were some incredibly high numbers of some species and as aforementioned, three new ones to add.

(**Emboldened species indicate all-time high number recorded in 49 years of records**).

There were 1,172 participants on 32 counts with a total of 311,527 birds in all representing 169 species and two races/subspecies.

Top 30 Most Numerous Species

European Starling	73,798	House Sparrow	5,212
American Crow	30,301	Mallard	3,935
Herring Gull	28,075	Common Goldeneye	3,845
American Black Duck	18,040	American Robin	3,651
American Goldfinch	11,423	Red-breasted Merganser	2,863
Canada Goose	10,413	Evening Grosbeak	2,569
Dark-eyed Junco	10,408	Common Merganser	2,185
Black-legged Kittiwake	9,513	Purple Finch	1,895
Black-capped Chickadee	9,212	White-throated Sparrow	1,797
Common Eider	9,073	Iceland Gull	1,795
Razorbill	8,602	Long-tailed Duck	1,722
Rock Dove	7,712	Common Raven	1,690
Great Black-backed Gull	7,246	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1,401
Greater Scaup	7,124	Song Sparrow	1,379
Mourning Dove	6,647	Cedar Waxwing	1,262
Blue Jay	5,307	Ring-billed Gull	1,229

AMHERST Dec. 18; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 5 to 11°C. Wind SW 90 kph. No snow. Still water partly open, moving water open. A.M. partly clear, p.m. partly cloudy. 22 field observers in 7-11 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 67 (30 on foot, 37 by car). Total party kilometres 716 (49 by foot, 667 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 3, American Black Duck 2; **Green-winged Teal 1**; Common Goldeneye 1; Common Merganser 15; Bald Eagle 11; Northern Harrier 8; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Rough-legged Hawk 5; Ring-necked Pheasant 42; Ruffed Grouse 6; Common Snipe 1; Herring Gull 266; Iceland Gull 15; Great Black-backed Gull 199; Dovekie 1; Rock Dove 419; Mourning Dove 73; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern Flicker 1; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 10; American Crow 634; Common Raven 40; Horned Lark 13; Black-capped Chickadee 181; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 52; American Robin 1; European Starling 2,860; American Tree Sparrow 15; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 17; Lapland Longspur 52; Snow Bunting 148; Common Grackle 3; White-winged Crossbill 3; Pine Siskin 2; American Goldfinch 93; Evening Grosbeak 255; House Sparrow 26.

Total Species 49, about 5,510 individuals. Doug Bliss, Paul Bogaard, Mark Bowes, Andrew Boyne, Neil Burgess, Adam Campbell, Evelyn Coates, Kevin Davidson, George Finney, Liam Finney, **Ross Galbraith (compiler)**, Rachel Gautreau, Henrich Harries, Ron Hounsell, Jason Hudson, Andrew MacFarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Ellen McAloney, Keith McAloney, Bill Murphy, Harold Popma, Al Smith, Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer, John Wile.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -15 to -5 °C. Wind NW 25 kph. Snow 25 cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, light snow, p.m. Partly cloudy. 25 field observers in 15 parties, 29 at feeders. Total party hours 53 (33 on foot,

20 by car). Total party kilometres 372 (32 by foot, 340 by car).

Common Loon 4; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Canada Goose 22; American Black Duck 924; Mallard 8; Greater Scaup 35; Common Eider 6; Surf Scoter 15, White-winged Scoter 5; Black Scoter 4; Bufflehead 42, Common Goldeneye 114; duck species 1; Red-breasted Merganser 24; Bald Eagle 1; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 15; Ring-necked Pheasant 52; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Herring Gull 533; Great Black-backed Gull 13; Razorbill 1; Rock Dove 169; Mourning Dove 358; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 22; Hairy Woodpecker 17; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Northern Shrike 1; Blue Jay 330; American Crow 301; Common Raven 52; Black-capped Chickadee 279; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; American Robin 95; European Starling 2,489; Bohemian Waxwing 45; Cedar Waxwing 1; American Tree Sparrow 9; Song Sparrow 26; White-throated Sparrow 30; Dark-eyed Junco 281; sparrow species 9; Snow Bunting 4; Northern Cardinal 22; Red-winged Blackbird 8; Brown-headed Cowbird 10; blackbird species 9; Pine Grosbeak 17; Purple Finch 70; House Finch 1; Red Crossbill 7; Pine Siskin 6; American Goldfinch 318; Evening Grosbeak 69; House Sparrow 108.

Total Species 58, about 6,999 individuals. (CP. Northern Flicker) Ruby Adams, Jim Allen, S. Baltzer, Bob Bennett, Betty Burrell, J. Colter, J. de Wolfe, Becky Ellis, Geraldine Frail, F. Fletcher, F. Fox, Perry Freeman, T. Fry, C. Hearne, M. Hemeon, Marg Horsfal, Cliff Jones, Sheila Krant, Ginny Langley, J. Larkman, Dr. C. Leek, M. Little, Marian Mullen, J. Palmer, B. Potter, S. Potter, Dan Proulx, Gini Proulx, F. Rafuse, C. Richards, Valerie Richards, Alison Thompson, **David Tinker (compiler)**, Jack Turner, Julie Turner, D. Wilson, Marie Wamboldt, Alice White, S. Wright.

ANTIGONISH Dec. 17; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 0 to 1 °C. Wind calm. Snow cover not indicated. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. cloudy, p.m. foggy, light rain. 19 field observers in 7 parties and 3 at feeders.

Total party hours 48 (8 by foot, 40 by car). Total party kilometres 282 (21 by foot, 261 by car).

Red-throated Loon 3; Common Loon 3; Horned Grebe 5; Red-necked Grebe 7; Great Cormorant 1; cormorant species 1; Canada Goose 928; American Black Duck 476; Mallard 3; Common Eider 1; Surf Scoter 20; White-winged Scoter 2; Black Scoter 2; scoter species 24; Common Goldeneye 262; Barrow's Goldeneye 2; Common Merganser 147; Red-breasted Merganser 760; merganser species 907; duck species 479; Bald Eagle 40; Northern Harrier 4; Red-tailed Hawk 4; hawk species 2; Ruffed Grouse 10; Black-headed Gull 13; Bonaparte's Gull 16; Ring-billed Gull 14; Herring Gull 524; Iceland Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 74; gull species 6; Rock Dove 406; Mourning Dove 65; Snowy Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 10; Northern Flicker 7; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 75; American Crow 431; Common Raven 27; Black-capped Chickadee 160; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 43; American Robin 158; European Starling 1,181; American Tree Sparrow 40; Dark-eyed Junco 96; Snow Bunting 4; Pine Grosbeak 24; Purple Finch 17; Pine Siskin 12; American Goldfinch 344; Evening Grosbeak 76; House Sparrow 131.

Total Species 54, about 8,087 individuals. (CP. Sharp-shinned Hawk). Beverley Fraser, David Garbary, Bob Healey, Leslie Klapstein, Larry Lamey, Oona Landry, **Harriet Macmillan (compiler)**, Shelagh MacCulloch-Taylor, Ernie MacLaughlin; Ken McKenna, Tony Miller, Marilyn O'Brien, Mark Pulsifer, Frank Randall, Agneta Sand, Norm Seymour, Bunny Smith, Carol Young, Hendrika deCaluwe.

APPLE RIVER Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -1 to 2 °C. Wind NW 30-50 kph. Snow 20 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 11 field observers in 5-7 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party hours 38.75 (25 on foot, 13.75 by car). Total party kilometres 170.4 (34.7 by foot, 135.7 by car)

Common Loon 2; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 1; American Black Duck 679; Mallard 8; Common Eider 1; Surf Scoter 3; Long-tailed Duck 4; Common Goldeneye 26; Red-breasted Merganser 2; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 10; Purple Sandpiper 50; Common Snipe 1; Ring-billed Gull 5; Herring Gull 248; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 7; Mourning Dove 80; Great Horned Owl 1; **Northern Hawk Owl 1**; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Northern Shrike 6; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 36; American Crow 128; Common Raven 19; Black-capped Chickadee 177; Boreal Chickadee 22; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 33; American Robin 64; European Starling 314; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; warbler species 1; American Tree Sparrow 51; **Lincoln's Sparrow 1**; Song Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 62; Snow Bunting 33; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Common Grackle 14; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 20; White-winged Crossbill 79; Pine Siskin 27; American Goldfinch 209; Evening Grosbeak 8; House Sparrow 38.

Total Species 57, about 2,532 individuals. (CP. Barred Owl, Brown Creeper, House Finch). Sapphire Brine, Donna Cole, Karl Cole, George Finney, Jeremy Finney, Jane Fletcher, Margaret Ann Galbraith, Ross Galbraith, Andrew MacFarlane, Maureen Mills, Harris Nuttall, Kathy Popma, Peggy Reid, Cindy Spicer, **Kathleen F. Spicer (compiler)**.

BARRINGTON BAY/CAPE SABLE ISLAND Dec. 16; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -1 to 4 °C. Wind NW 4-8 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. partly clear, p. m. cloudy. 18 field observers in 8 parties. Total party hours 144 (43.5 on foot, 100 by car, .5 by boat). Total party kilometres 355 (60 by foot, 294 by car, 1 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 28; Common Loon 121; Horned Grebe 47; Red-necked Grebe 206; Northern Gannet 8; Double-

crested Cormorant 4, Great Cormorant 395; Great Blue Heron 4; Canada Goose 578; Brant 1; American Black Duck 564; Mallard 27; Black Duck/Mallard hybrid 1; Northern Pintail 8; Green-winged Teal 3; Ring-necked Duck 3; Gadwall 2; Greater Scaup 1,115; Common Eider 6,248; Harlequin Duck 1; Surf Scoter 44; White-winged Scoter 54; Black Scoter 89; scoter species 200; Long-tailed Duck 102; Bufflehead 21; Common Goldeneye 75; Hooded Merganser 2; Common Merganser 5; Red-breasted Merganser 80; Bald Eagle 2; Northern Harrier 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 1; American Kestrel 4; Merlin 1; Peregrine Falcon 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 12; Black-bellied Plover 31; **Ruddy Turnstone 4**; Red Knot 36; Sanderling 25; **Semipalmated Sandpiper 3**; White-rumped Sandpiper 3; Purple Sandpiper 11; Dunlin 111; **Parasitic Jaeger 1**; Ring-billed Gull 7; Herring Gull 2,004; Iceland Gull 2; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 1,397; Black-legged Kittiwake 4; Dovekie 5; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 147; alcid species 2; Rock Dove 10; Mourning Dove 535; Snowy Owl 4; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 30; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 62; American Crow 747; Common Raven 36; Horned Lark 120; Black-capped Chickadee 216; Boreal Chickadee 32; Red-breasted Nuthatch 24; Golden-crowned Kinglet 47; American Robin 291; Northern Mockingbird 2; European Starling 1,231; American Pipit 3; Cedar Waxwing 39; Orange-crowned Warbler 2; **Nashville Warbler 1**; Yellow-rumped Warbler 242; Pine Warbler 1; Common Yellowthroat 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; warbler species 1; American Tree Sparrow 26; Chipping Sparrow 11; Savannah Sparrow 31; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 130; Swamp Sparrow 13; White-throated Sparrow 147; Dark-eyed Junco 62; Lapland Longspur 4; Snow Bunting 7; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Common Grackle 12; Brown-headed Cowbird 29; Purple Finch 28; White-winged Crossbill 2; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 347; Evening Grosbeak 18; House Sparrow 42.

Total Species 105, about 18,475 individuals. (CP. Lesser Scaup, Ruffed Grouse, American Woodcock, Winter Wren, Northern Cardinal, Vesper Sparrow, Common Redpoll). **Joan Czapalay (compiler)**, Brian Dalzell, Raymond d'Entremont, Donna Ensor, Paul Gould, Felicity Goulden, James Hirtle, Blake Maybank, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Grant Milroy, Carla Newell, Murray Newell, Lillian Perry, Myrna Rennehan, Maxine Shand, Aileen Smith, Betty June Smith, Robert Smith, Sidney Smith, Clyde Stoddard, Joan Waldron.

BEDFORD/SACKVILLE Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -5 to 0 °C. Wind calm. Snow 5 cm. Skies partly cloudy all day. 36 field observers in 21 parties, 23 at feeders, 2.5 hours and 72 km owling. Total party hours 125.25 (79.75 on foot, 45.5 by car). Total party kilometres 648.5 (140 by foot, 508.5 by car).

Common Loon 3; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 1; American Black Duck 865; Mallard 45; Lesser Scaup 2; Bufflehead 3; Common Goldeneye 123; Barrow's Goldeneye 3; Hooded Merganser 28; Common Merganser 18; Red-breasted Merganser 40; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 15; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-billed Gull 34; Herring Gull 892; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 31; Rock Dove 435; Mourning Dove 190; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 1; Saw-whet Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 52; Hairy Woodpecker 20; Northern Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Northern Shrike 2; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 572; American Crow 4,225; Common Raven 33; Black-capped Chickadee 874; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 50; White-breasted Nuthatch 11; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 69; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2**; **Hermit Thrush 1**; American Robin 37; European Starling 2,064; Bohemian Waxwing 1; Cedar Waxwing 129; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 7; Fox Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 84; White-throated Sparrow 45; Dark-eyed Junco 576; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Common Grackle 3; Baltimore Oriole 2; Pine Grosbeak 1; Purple Finch 105; Red Crossbill 1;

White-winged Crossbill 26; Pine Siskin 31; American Goldfinch 959; Evening Grosbeak 79; House Sparrow 215.

Total Species 64, about 13,046 individuals. Bill Billington, Eileen Billington, Barry Boehner, Brad Boehner, Brad Burkowsky, Pat Chalmers, Lois Codling, Charlie Cron, Daisy Dauphinee, Jack Dauphinee, Davina Davis, Heather Drope, Margaret Ellis, Stu Faulkner, Jean Hartley, Hilda Holland, David Hughes, Janet Hughes, Shirley Hughes, William Hughes, Phonse Jessom, Margot Kaufman, Gerald Kennedy, Betty Kulin, Ed Kulin, Fulton Lavender, Marina LeBlanc, Peter LeBlanc, Sterling Levy, Don MacLaughlin, Alana MacNeill, Carol MacNeill, Don MacNeill, Robert McDonald, Ian McKay, Ian McLaren, Bernice Moores, Gordon Morgan, Hay Mortimer, Tracey Noel, Allen Owen, Terry Paquet, Glorena Patterson, **Richard Peckham (compiler)**, Joe Pitzel, Walter Regan, Helga Sansom, Mike Sansom, Sybil Spriggs, Scott Yetman.

BIG POND/ESKASONI Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Temp. -9 to -14 °C. Wind NW 15-25 kph. Snow 8 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies cloudy all day. 31 field observers in 12 parties, 5 at feeders, 6 hours and 5 km owling. Total party hours 49.45 (19 on foot, 30.45 by car). Total party kilometres 388 (19.5 by foot, 368.5 by car).

Common Loon 4; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Canada Goose 6; American Black Duck 133; Mallard 3; White-winged Scoter 9; Common Goldeneye 105; Common Merganser 122; Red-breasted Merganser 39; Bald Eagle 19; Northern Harrier 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Purple Sandpiper 6; Bonaparte's Gull 22; Ring-billed Gull 1; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 12; Rock Dove 3; Mourning Dove 20; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 101; American Crow 201; Common Raven 14; Black-capped Chickadee 125; Boreal Chickadee 19; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 80; European

Starling 234; American Tree Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 109; Snow Bunting 12; White-winged Crossbill 15; American Goldfinch 122; Evening Grosbeak 148.

Total Species 41, about 1,727 individuals. George Ball, Terry Boone, Donald Campbell, Theresa Cash, Linda Courey, Billy Digout, George Digout, Murdoch Digout, Joe Donovan, Lynn Ellis, John Gainer, Dave Harris, Dennis MacDonald, John MacInnis, Philip MacInnis, John McKay, Alanna MacNeil, Ann Marie MacNeil, Brian MacNeil, Duncan MacNeil, **Jack MacNeil (compiler)**, Dave McCorquodale, Geraldine Metcalfe, Junior Metcalfe, Bernard Murphy, Pat Murphy, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Pat Nelder, Elliott Siteman, Jim Siteman, Pauline Siteman, Don Tuttle, Christine Thompson, Fred White, Melvin White.

BRIDGETOWN Dec. 29; 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 0 to 1 °C. Wind NW 25 kph. Snow 20 cm. Still water frozen, moving water frozen. Skies partly cloudy all day. 12 field observers in 8 parties, 36 at feeders. Total party hours 27 (8 on foot, 19 by car). Total party kilometres 257 (20 by foot, 237 by car).

Common Loon 11; Canada Goose 1; Common Eider 21; Surf Scoter 52; White-winged Scoter 66; Black Scoter 12; Long-tailed Duck 58; Common Goldeneye 1; Barrow's Goldeneye 3; Red-breasted Merganser 4; Bald Eagle 2; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 9; Ring-necked Pheasant 36; Ruffed Grouse 2; Herring Gull 60; Great Black-backed Gull 3; Rock Dove 384; Mourning Dove 261; Barred owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 19; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 226; American Crow 336; Common Raven 31; Black-capped Chickadee 232; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; American Robin 68; European Starling 2,755; Cedar Waxwing 55; American Tree Sparrow 40; Song Sparrow 30; White-throated Sparrow 18; Dark-eyed Junco 338; Snow Bunting 36; Northern Cardinal 3; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 2; Brown-headed

Cowbird 2; Purple Finch 35; Pine Siskin 20; American Goldfinch 337; Evening Grosbeak 74; House Sparrow 89.

Total Species 48, about 5,773 individuals. (CP. American Kestrel, Northern Flicker, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Shrike, crossbill species). Thelma Bent, Joyce Burbridge, **David Colville (compiler)**, Justin Colville, Jan Coulter, Doris Durling, Marilyn Durling, Noel Durling, Tara Edwards, David Eisnor, Marie Gaul, Sharon Hawboldt, Steve Hawboldt, Avora Howse, Maude Jodrey, Donna Jones, Ron Jones, Bob Maher, Bev Marshall, Fred Marshall, Don Merriam, Roger Mosher, Doug Parker, Carl Phinney, Danny Phinney, Eric Porter, Erma Rains, John Rubin, Trish Rubin, Jory Smith, Phyl Spicer, Heather Stewart, Marg Taylor, Wade Troop, Robin Warren, Sr., Gladdie Weir, Jim Whitman, Marion Whitman, Lib Woolaver, Faye Young.

BRIER ISLAND Dec. 19; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Temp. 0 to 2 °C. Wind NW 10 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 6 field observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 23 (17 on foot, 6 by car). Total party kilometres 93 (13 by foot, 80 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 72; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 28; Northern Gannet 69; Double-crested Cormorant 4; Great Cormorant 334; Great Blue Heron 1; Turkey Vulture 8; Canada Goose 11; American Black Duck 20; Mallard 4; Greater Scaup 1; Common Eider 256; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 8; Long-tailed Duck 87; Bufflehead 8; Common Goldeneye 93; **Barrow's Goldeneye 1**; Red-breasted Merganser 47; **Cooper's Hawk 1**; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 9; Dunlin 1; **Pomarine Jaeger 1**; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 7; Herring Gull 1,050; Iceland Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 300; Black-legged Kittiwake **9,500**; Dovekie 85; Thick-billed Murre 2; Razorbill **8,600**; Black Guillemot 435; Atlantic Puffin 1; Mourning Dove 10; Northern Flicker 4; American Crow 87; Common Raven 9; Horned Lark 90; Black-capped Chickadee 11; Golden-

crowned Kinglet 5; European Starling 23; American Pipit 55; Yellow-rumped Warbler 3; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 62; Common Grackle 2; American Goldfinch 176; House Sparrow 1.

Total Species 56, about 21,606 individuals. Brian Dalzell, Blake Maybank, Anne Mills, **Eric Mills (compiler)**, David Pugh, Richard Stern, Joan Waldron.

BROAD COVE Dec. 29; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -5 to 2 °C. Wind NW 5 kph. Snow 2 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 29 field observers in 14 parties. Total party hours 108.5 (68.5 on foot, 37 by car, 3 by boat). Total party kilometres 458 (78 by foot, 355 by car, 25 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 5; Common Loon 65; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Horned Grebe 25; Red-necked Grebe 6; Great Cormorant 70; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 658; American Black Duck 1,324; Mallard 665; Northern Pintail 2; Ring-necked Duck 1; Greater Scaup 370; Common Eider 894; Harlequin Duck 1; Surf Scoter 135; White-winged Scoter 4; Black Scoter 88; Long-tailed Duck 399; Bufflehead 53; Common Goldeneye 110; Hooded Merganser 12; Common Merganser 78; Red-breasted Merganser 198; duck species 165; Bald Eagle 6; Northern Harrier 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Rough-legged Hawk 1; American Kestrel 2; Merlin 2; hawk species 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 25; Ruffed Grouse 3; Red Knot 2; Sanderling 41; Purple Sandpiper 38; Dunlin 6; Black-headed Gull 3; Ring-billed Gull 13; Herring Gull 885; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 210; Dovekie 12; Thick-billed Murre 2; Black Guillemot 40; Rock Dove 284; Mourning Dove 364; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 13; Hairy Woodpecker 18; Northern Flicker 7; Northern Shrike 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 307; American Crow 423; Common Raven 53; Horned Lark 2; Black-capped Chickadee 391; Boreal Chickadee 72; Red-breasted Nuthatch 12; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 143; American

Robin 257; European Starling 1,699; Cedar Waxwing 163; Yellow-rumped Warbler 24; **Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler 1**; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 21; Savannah Sparrow 12; Song Sparrow 199; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 455; Dark-eyed Junco 2,899; Snow Bunting 8; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 3; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 250; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 162; Pine Siskin 32; American Goldfinch 475; Evening Grosbeak 80; House Sparrow 2.

Total Species 85, about 15,481 individuals. (CP. Northern gannet, Double-crested Cormorant, Bonaparte's Gull, Snowy Owl). Bruce Allen, Ruth Ballem, Lisë Bell, Peter Bell, Barbara Byrd, Kay Casselman, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Donna Ensor, **Sylvia Fullerton (compiler)**, Gary Hartlen, Irma Haverkamp, Blair Hodgman, Blake Maybank, Ian McLaren, Jamie McLaren, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Eileen Morrison, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Nellie Snyder, Clarence Stevens Sr., Francis Stevens, Dave Young.

CALEDONIA Dec. 17; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 0 to 8 °C. Wind S gusts to 50 kph. Snow 0-4 cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies partly clear/cloudy all day. 22 field observers in 13 parties, 27 at feeders. Total party hours 63.75 (17.25 on foot, 8 by car). Total party kilometres 88.25 (37.25 by foot, 51 by car).

American Black Duck 5; Bald Eagle 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Ruffed Grouse 9; Herring Gull 6; Rock Dove 1; Mourning Dove 27; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Blue Jay 71; American Crow 14; Common Raven 51; Black-capped Chickadee 171; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 8; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 8; European Starling 63; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 20; Dark-eyed Junco 59; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Common Grackle 1; Purple Finch 26; Pine Siskin 7; American Goldfinch 79; Evening Grosbeak 258; House Sparrow 6.

Total Species 29, about 350 individuals. (CP. Pileated Woodpecker) Colleen Anderson, Don Baker, Eric Cole, Judy Cole, John Cole, Lorna Cole, Harry Delong, Riley Delong, Jean Douglas, Alice Drysdale, Cliff Drysdale, Bruce Gurnham, Nancy Gurnham, Myra Holdright, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope, Pamela Hopper, **Peggy Hopper, Steve Hopper (compilers)**, Jackie Jorissen, Rod Keirstead, Paul Lewis, Roger Lewis, Blaine Mailman, Carla Malay, Steve Malay, Julie Meisner, Orval Meisner, Dawn Payzant, Elliott Payzant, Barb Rogers, Leslie Rogers, Stephanie Rogers, Terje Rogers, Sheila Sheppard, Tom Sheppard, Tom Shupe, David Small, Shirley Smith, Eva Zong.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp. 0 °C. Winds light. Snow 10 cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies partly clear all day. 9 field observers in 5 parties, 11 at feeders. Total party hours 11.5 (4 on foot, 7.5 by car). Total party kilometres 97 (11 by foot, 86 by car).

Common Loon 7, Red-necked Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 41; Canada Goose 116; American Black Duck 17; Common Eider 80; White-winged Scoter 60; Black Scoter 3; Long-tailed Duck 84; Common Goldeneye 84; Common Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 44; Bald Eagle 7; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 4; Herring Gull 30; Iceland Gull 31; Great Black-backed Gull 5; Dovekie 24; Black Guillemot 26; Rock Dove 20; Mourning Dove 20; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 116; American Crow 78; Common Raven 9; Black-capped Chickadee 86; Boreal Chickadee 11; Red-breasted Nuthatch 12; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; European Starling 120; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 7; Dark-eyed Junco 105; Purple Finch 5; Common Redpoll 2; American Goldfinch 58; Evening Grosbeak 6.

Total Species 39, about 1,330 individuals. (CP. Spruce Grouse, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, American Robin, Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Siskin). James Bridgland, Greg Ferens, Lori Ferens, Chris Gorey, Ross Ingraham, Ellen Ingraham, Douglas Jackson, Jeanette Jackson, Beth Kent,

David McCorquodale, Ruth McLaggan, Anne Marie Morrison, Freeman Morrison, Heather Morrison, Heidi Morrison, Ken Murray, Marjorie Murray, Gord Rideout, Iris Rideout, **Michael Rose (compiler)**, Steve Warren.

CHETICAMP Dec. 16; 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -3 to 0 °C. Wind W 20-25 kph. Snow 25 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Partly clear, p.m. partly cloudy. 10 field observers in 5 parties. Total party hours 26 (15.5 on foot, 10.5 by car). Total party kilometres 138.5 (24.5 by foot, 114 by car).

Northern Gannet 3; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 3; American Black Duck 141; **Blue-winged Teal** 2; Common Eider 15; White-winged Scoter 1; Common Goldeneye 289; Common Merganser 94; Red-breasted Merganser 42; Bald Eagle 12; Northern Harrier 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 1; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Herring Gull 198; Iceland Gull 13; Glaucous Gull 9; Great Black-backed Gull 296; Black-legged Kittiwake 5; Black Guillemot 1; Northern Shrike 1; Blue Jay 20; American Crow 222; Common Raven 35; Black-capped Chickadee 35; Boreal Chickadee 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 4; European Starling 748; Cedar Waxwing 30; American Tree Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 122; Pine Grosbeak 4; American Goldfinch 34; House Sparrow 32.

Total Species 36, about 2,428 individuals. (CP. Red-throated Loon, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Dovekie, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, meadowlark species). Gerald Bourgeois, **Denis Hache (compiler)** David Lawley, Erich Muntz, Eileen Rickard, Marie Claire Roach, Marie Justine Roach, Ceiridwen Robbins, Jean Timmons, Margo Timmons.

ECONOMY Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -5 to -2 °C. Wind W 5-20 kph. Snow 3-6 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy all day. 12 field observers in 8 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 52.5 (39.75 on foot, 12.75 by car). Total party

kilometres 171 (49 by foot, 122 by car).

American Black Duck 891; Mallard 7; Green-winged Teal 1; Surf Scoter 2; White-winged Scoter 6; Long-tailed Duck 1; Bufflehead 22; Common Goldeneye 3; Common Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 7; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Merlin 1; Peregrine falcon 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Dunlin 4; Ring-billed Gull 41; Herring Gull 308; Great Black-backed Gull 18; Rock Dove 96; Mourning Dove 112; Downy Woodpecker 14; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Northern Flicker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Northern Shrike 2; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 86; American Crow 170; Common Raven 37; Black-capped Chickadee 198; Boreal Chickadee 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 67; American Robin 47; European Starling 392; American Tree Sparrow 110; Chipping Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 23; White-throated Sparrow 59; Dark-eyed Junco 444; Snow Bunting 2; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 19; Purple Finch 163; White-winged Crossbill 20; Common Redpoll 23; Pine Siskin 58; American Goldfinch 357; Evening Grosbeak 14; House Sparrow 88. -

Total Species 54, about 3,968 individuals. Irene Cooke, Jean Corbett, Linda Corbett, Liz Cormier, Jane Fletcher, Ross Hall, Ken McKenna, Brad MacLaughlin, Holly MacLaughlin, Audrey McLellan, Maureen Mills, Bill Murphy; Gary Murray, Jeff Ogden, Edgar Spalding, **Fran Spalding (compiler)**.

GLACE BAY Dec. 30; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. -4 to 1 °C. Wind NW 20 kph. Snow 8 cm. Still water frozen, moving partly open. Partly clear/cloudy all day. 18 field observers in 10 parties, 9 at feeders, 3.25 hours and 8.7 km owling. Total party hours 62 (16.5 on foot, 45.5 by car). Total party kilometres 235.5 (8 by foot, 227.5 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 6; Horned Grebe 35; Northern Gannet 1; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 152; Canada Goose 133; **Eurasian Wigeon** 3; American Wigeon 31; American Black Duck 1,193;

Mallard 99; **Blue-winged Teal** 1; Northern Pintail 1; **Ring-necked Duck** 2; Greater Scaup 930; Lesser Scaup 3; Common Eider 6; Surf Scoter 20; White-winged Scoter 23; Black Scoter 1; Long-tailed Duck 312; Bufflehead 12; Common Goldeneye 183; Hooded Merganser 1; Common Merganser 15; Red-breasted Merganser 115; Bald Eagle 26; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 8; **Semi-palmated Plover** 4; Purple Sandpiper 2; Black-headed Gull 42; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 778; Iceland Gull 431; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 293; Dovekie 11; Black Guillemot 2; Rock Dove 135; Mourning Dove 111; Great Horned Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 4; woodpecker species 1; Northern Shrike 7; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 166; American Crow 361; Common Raven 14; Black-capped Chickadee 362; Boreal Chickadee 32; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 35; **Northern Wheatear** 1; Northern Mockingbird 2; European Starling 2,155; Yellow-rumped Warbler 8; Palm Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 7; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 1; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 12; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 58; Snow Bunting 14; Common Grackle 3; Pine Grosbeak 4; Purple Finch 12; Pine Siskin 169; American Goldfinch 217; Evening Grosbeak 44; House Sparrow 350.

Total species 75, about 9,190 individuals. (CP. Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Red Knot, Bohemian Waxwing, White-winged Crossbill). Cheryl Bray, Stephen Bray, Wayne Burton, Pat Campbell, George Crowell, Art Gillard, Andrew Gingell, Barbara Guy, Dave Harris, John MacInnis, Gordon MacLean, Archie Macmullin, Nina Macmullin, Jack MacNeil, John MacKay, Geraldine Metcalfe, Hugh Metcalfe Jr., Laurie Murchison, Allan Murrant, **Cathy Murrant (compiler)**, Della Murrant, Emily Murrant, Jim Murrant, Susann Myers, Winnie Peach, Shirley Pettigrew, Margaret Williams.

HALIFAX/DARTMOUTH Dec. 17; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 3 to 9 °C.

Wind ESE 31-44 kph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving partly frozen. Skies cloudy, heavy rain all day. 77 field observers in 41-44 parties, 46 at feeders, 2.5 hours and 43.5 km owling. Total parties hours 197.5 (129.5 on foot, 68 by car, 1 by boat). Total party kilometres 1,253.5 (230.25 by foot, 1,022.75 by car, 1.5 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 16; Red-necked Grebe 13; Northern Fulmar 1; Northern Gannet 2; Double-crested Cormorant 11; Great Cormorant 42; Great Blue Heron 6; Canada Goose 4,350; Wood Duck 2; Gadwall 2; **Eurasian Wigeon 2**; American Wigeon 87; American Black Duck 3,573; Mallard 509; **Northern Shoveler 1**; Northern Pintail 2; Green-winged Teal 2; Greater Scaup 74; Common Eider 1,021; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 6; Black Scoter 30; Oldsquaw 60; Bufflehead 12; Common Goldeneye 106; Barrow's Goldeneye 4; Hooded Merganser 7; Common Merganser 36; Red-breasted Merganser 236; **Osprey 1**; Bald Eagle 7; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Merlin 1; Peregrine Falcon 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 18; Ruffed Grouse 5; American Coot 1; Purple Sandpiper 56; Common Snipe 1; Black-headed Gull 150; Bonaparte's Gull 11; **Mew Gull 1**; Ring-billed Gull 492; Herring Gull 4,783; **Thayer's Gull 1**; Iceland Gull 242; Glaucous Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 335; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; Dovekie 6; Black Guillemot 24; Atlantic Puffin 2; Rock Dove 1,614; Mourning Dove 145; Great Horned Owl 1; Northern Saw-whet Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; **Red-bellied Woodpecker 1**; Downy Woodpecker 33; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Northern Flicker 18; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 387; American Crow 1,522; Common Raven 42; Black-capped Chickadee 1,026; Boreal Chickadee 34; Red-breasted Nuthatch 26; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet 212; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1**; American Robin 135; Northern Mockingbird 3; European Starling 15,116; American Pipit 7; Cedar Waxwing 145; Orange-crowned Warbler 4; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; Pine Warbler 4; Palm Warbler 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 2; **Eastern Towhee 2**;

American Tree Sparrow 20; Savannah Sparrow 19; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 3; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 4; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 200; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 272; Dark-eyed Junco 475; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 1; Northern Cardinal 10; Common Grackle 8; Brown-headed Cowbird 100; Baltimore Oriole 10; **Bullock's Oriole 1**; Purple Finch 28; House Finch 7; Pine Siskin 2; American Goldfinch 639; House Sparrow 1,345.

Total Species 108, about 40,028 individuals. Marilyn Baker, Brenda Bale, Laurel Banks, Steve Barbour, Leonard Biggs, Elaine Black, Richard Bone, Suzanne Borkowski, Earl Bradley, Peggy Cameron, Patricia Chambers, Illene Cooper, Margo Corkum, Alan Covert, Margaret Cox, Joanne Creelman, Charles Cron Sr., Vance Crowe, Mike Crowell, Gisele d'Entremont, Horst Deppe, Renate Deppe, Ann Doull, Elizabeth Doull, Heather Drope, Eric Eddy, Gerald Edsall, Tim Ellison, John Engweiler, Bill Fraser, Bill Freedman, Chris Field, Glen Flemming, Jane Fletcher, Phyllis Gardiner, Glen Gibson, Fred Greig, Richard Hatch, Gary Halton, Shirley Hearn, Roy Hemming, Barbara Hines, Dennis Hippert, James Hirtle, Ann Huetis, Charlotte Hutchinson, Patricia James, Lynn Karshewski, Keith Todd, Corinne Lacroix, Arnold Langille, **Fulton Lavender (compiler)**, Peter Leblanc, Barbara Leedham, Sterling Levy, Doug Linzey, Steen Lovitt, Annette Lutterman, Joyce MacAskill, Mike MacDonald, Eva MacKay, Robert MacKenzie, Judy MacLean, Ralph MacLean, Don MacNeill, Chris Majka, Lori Mamchur, Sue Mathers, Bob McDonald, Andrea McIvor, Barbara McKay, Don McKay, Pat McKay, Ian McLaren, Mary McLaren, Don McLaughlin, Dianne McQueston, Robert McQueston, Mitch Meredith, Bob Miller, Maureen Mills, Doug Milsom, Scott Milsom, Bernice Moores, Joanne Morris, Bob Morton, Maureen Nowlan, Judy O'Brien, Minga O'Brien, Roy O'Brien, Liz O'Neill, Terry Paquette, Etta Parker, Rich Peckham, Brigitte Petersmann, Martha Poirier, Carl Purcell, Donna Rammo, Rick Reid, Julie Robb, Ned Robb, John Robertson, Barry Scott, Angelica Silva, Gilbert Slaunwhite, Linda Smith, Thea Smith, Albert Sparks,

Doug Spence, Clarence Stevens, Clarence Stevens Jr., Jack Stone, John Stone, Cathy Fulton Strugnell, Keith Tappan, Bonnie Thomson, Dick Vine, Bob Warrior, Dottie Welsh, Charles Widgery, Marjorie Widgery, Dave Wilson, Scott Yetman.

KINGSTON Dec. 17; 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -1 to 6 °C. Wind SSW 40 kph. Snow 3 cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M partly cloudy/foggy, heavy rain. p.m. partly cloudy. 11 field observers in 8 parties, 35 at feeders. Total party hours 39.5 (17.25 on foot, 22.25 by car). Total party kilometres 273 (34 by foot, 239 by car).

Common Loon 3; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 22; American Black Duck 156; Mallard 119; White-winged Scoter 70; Long-tailed Duck 4; Common Goldeneye 2; Common Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 6; Bald Eagle 4; Northern Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 10; Ring-necked Pheasant 32; Ruffed Grouse 1; Spruce Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 40; Herring Gull 113; Great Black-backed Gull 21; Rock Dove 176; Mourning Dove 498; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 22; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Northern Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 190; American Crow 1,228; Common Raven 86; Black-capped Chickadee 378; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 17; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 11; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1**; American Robin 31; European Starling 3,632; Cedar Waxwing 86; American Tree Sparrow 30; Chipping Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 19; White-throated Sparrow 31; Dark-eyed Junco 341; Snow Bunting 15; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Purple Finch 12; Pine Siskin 10; American Goldfinch 357; Evening Grosbeak 84; House Sparrow 87.

Total Species 52, about 7,994 individuals. Ann Aikman, Vic Barnes, Doug Beaman, John Belbin, Aline Bossons, John Bossons, Edna Brunt, Bob Campbell, Karen Campbell, Tony Chaulk, Heather Cluett, John Collins, Ken Crowell, Murray Decker, Betty Donovan, Norman Donovan, Bob Foster, Barbara Giffin, **Patrick Giffin (compiler)**, Carole Gregory, Donna Hill,

Ron Hill, Marge Hurley, Kathy Inkpen, Mike Inkpen, Ted Kadjas, Diane Legard, Len Legard, Carole Long, Dave Ludlow, Tanya Ludlow, Art MacIntosh, Mary Macmillan, Adora Parsons, Herb Parsons, Dan Patterson, Jim Robinson, Shirley Robinson, Tom Ross, Eric Rubin, John Rubin, Carie-Lynn Sammut, Jean Stanford, Ralph Swinamer.

LOUISBOURG Dec. 16; 7:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. - 8 to -1.5 °C. Wind NW 3-20 kph. Snow 2-4 cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. a.m. clear. p.m. partly cloudy. 29 field observers in 18-19 parties, 25 at feeders, 5.5 hours and 17 km owling. Total party hours 75.25 (60.5 on foot, 14.75 by car). Total party kilometres 186.2 (87.7 by foot, 98.5 by car).

Red-throated Loon 3; Common Loon 25; Horned Grebe 9; Red-necked Grebe 30; Great Cormorant 45; American Black Duck 86; Common Eider 243; Harlequin Duck 2; Surf Scoter 79; White-winged Scoter 86; scoter species 717; Long-tailed Duck 173; Bufflehead 24; Common Goldeneye 112; Common Merganser 34; Red-breasted Merganser 130; duck species 3; Bald Eagle 7; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Purple Sandpiper 24; Black-headed Gull 1; Bonaparte's Gull 11; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 88; Iceland Gull 14; Great Black-backed Gull 17; gull species 32; Dovekie 81; Thick-billed Murre 7; **Razorbill 1**; Black Guillemot 93; alcid species 10; Rock Dove 21; Mourning Dove 78; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 7; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 3; woodpecker species 1; Northern Shrike 7; Gray Jay 13; Blue Jay 121; American Crow 284; Common Raven 40; Black-capped Chickadee 301; Boreal Chickadee 183; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 90; American Robin 3; European Starling 336; Bohemian Waxwing 3; Song Sparrow 13; Dark-eyed Junco 60; Snow Bunting 15; Pine Grosbeak 10; Purple Finch 27; Red Crossbill 13; White-winged Crossbill 80; Common Redpoll 16; Pine Siskin 25; American Goldfinch 608; Evening Grosbeak 5; House Sparrow 261.

Total Species 63, about 4,833 individuals. (CP. Common Grackle) Sandy Anthony, Jean Bagnell, Warren Bagnell, Mary Lou Blundon, Rob Boone, Philip Burke, Bill Bussey, Diane Bussey, Eddie Bussey, Donald Cameron, Margie Cameron, Peter Chiasson, Barclay Cunningham, Ken Donovan, Sheila Fudge, Jennifer Gledhill, Ian Harte, Cyneth Hutt, Gordon Hutt, Harry Kennedy, Bethsheila Kent, John Lahey, Gerry LaLonde, Lucille Ley, Tom Ley, Carleton Lunn, Gwen Lunn, Miles MacDonald, Walter MacDonald, John W. MacInnis, Minnie MacLeod, Ramona MacLeod, Jack MacNeil, Pearl Magee; Philip Magee, David McCorquodale, Sandy McLain, Hugh Metcalfe Jr., Joan Mills, Florence Miron, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, **Susann Myers (compiler)**, Helen O'Shea, Bill O'Shea, Darrell Peck, Lee Anne Reeves, Carter Stevens, Sylvia Trimm, Margaret Williams.

LUNENBURG Dec. 30; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -5 to 0 °C. Wind SW 0-5 kph. Snow 10 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. a.m. clear. p.m. cloudy. 25 field observers in 14 parties, 20 at feeders, 4.5 hours and 15 kilometres owling. Total party hours 73.75 (35 on foot, 38.25 by car, .5 by boat). Total party kilometres 378.5 (47.5 by foot, 326 by car, 5 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 4; Common Loon 29; Horned Grebe 56; Red-necked Grebe 13; Great Cormorant 28; Great Blue Heron 1; **Snow Goose 1**; Canada Goose 212; American Wigeon 4; American Black Duck 94; Mallard 473; Northern Pintail 5; Green-winged Teal 1; Greater Scaup 30; Common Eider 3; White-winged Scoter 5; Black Scoter 54; scoter species 8; Long-tailed Duck 215; Bufflehead 2; Common Goldeneye 255; Hooded Merganser 76; Common Merganser 66; Red-breasted Merganser 98; duck species 9; Bald Eagle 6; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 66; Ruffed Grouse 2; Spruce Grouse 2; Killdeer 1; Black-headed Gull 12; Ring-billed Gull 11; Herring Gull 810; Iceland Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 118; gull species 18; Black Guillemot 40; Rock Dove 172; Mourning Dove 469; Barred Owl 2;

Belted Kingfisher 5; Downy Woodpecker 20; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Northern Flicker 15; Northern Shrike 2; Blue Jay 255; American Crow 1,160; Common Raven 30; Black-capped Chickadee 427; Boreal Chickadee 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch 26; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 44; American Robin 230; European Starling 1,374; Cedar Waxwing 229; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 24; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; warbler species 1; American Tree Sparrow 18; Chipping Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 5; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 91; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 76; Dark-eyed Junco 675; sparrow species 11; Northern Cardinal 4; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 152; Red Crossbill 4; White-winged Crossbill 36; Common Redpoll 10; Pine Siskin 22; American Goldfinch 649; Evening Grosbeak 57; House Sparrow 151.

Total Species 80, about 9,333 individuals. (CP. Lesser Scaup, Barrow's Goldeneye, Gray Jay, Snow Bunting). Joyce Allen, Edith Burgess, Bill Caudle, **Jill Comolli (compiler)**, Dave Currie, Margery Dahn, Arlene Davis, Leighton Davis, Martha Farrar, Sylvia Fullerton, Mae Glen, Norman Glen, Marnie Gent, James Hirtle, Anne Hughes, Bob Hutchinson, Sheila Hutchinson, Sally Kirwan, Paul MacDonald, Jean McKiel, George McKeil, Earl Meister, Val Meister, John Mills, Eileen Morrison, Pat Morrison, Scottie Morrison, Bill Morse, Jean Morse, Margaret Nauss, Sheevaun Nelson, Ed Porter, Laine Porter, Catherine Pross, Chris Pross, Paul Pross, Steve Shewchuk, Nellie Snyder, Azor Vienneau, Bob Weld, Heather Weld, Howard Wiseman, Phyllis Wiseman, Mary Young, Murray Young.

MARGAREE Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Temp. 0 to 4 °C. Wind NW 3-7 kph. Snow 13 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. a.m. partly clear. p.m. cloudy, light snow. 5 field observers in 3 parties, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 15 (4 on foot, 11 by car). Total party kilometres 100 (5 by foot, 95 by car).

American Black Duck 15; Bufflehead 3; Common Goldeneye 80; Common Merganser 108; Red-breasted Merganser 40; Osprey 1; Bald Eagle 9; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ruffed Grouse 4; Purple Sandpiper 1; Herring Gull 87; Iceland Gull 2; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 159; Mourning Dove 16; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 9; Blue Jay 39; American Crow 155; Common Raven 31; Black-capped Chickadee 35; Boreal Chickadee 6; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 8; European Starling 286; Cedar Waxwing 16; Dark-eyed Junco 22; Snow Bunting 221; Pine Grosbeak 15; Purple Finch 15; Pine Siskin 11; American Goldfinch 14; Evening Grosbeak 21; House Sparrow 11.

Total Species 38, about 1,462 individuals. Eunice Hart, Frances Hart (compiler), Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, David Lawley, Margo Chisholm Timmons.

NORTHPORT Dec. 30; 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Temp. -6 to 0 °C. Wind calm. Snow 18 cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. A.M. partly clear. p.m. clear. 1 field observer in 1 party, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 5.5 (2 on foot, 3.5 by car). Total party kilometres 27 (2 by foot, 25 by car).

Common Merganser 2; Bald Eagle 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Herring Gull 550; Iceland Gull 25; Great Black-backed Gull 25; Rock Dove 234; Mourning Dove 12; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; American Crow 83; Common Raven 2; Black-capped Chickadee 2; European Starling 912; American Tree Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 4; Snow Bunting 51.

Total Species 17, about 1,914 individuals. (CP. Spruce Grouse, American Goldfinch), June MacNeil, Mary Jane MacNeil (compiler).

PICTOU HARBOUR, Jan 2; 7:20 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 0 to 2 °C. Wind W 0-35 kph. Snow 15 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies clear all day. 13 field observers in 7 parties, 24 at feeders, .5 hours and 5 kilometres owling. Total party hours 45.25 (25.5 on

foot, 19.75 by car). Total party kilometres 499.5 (32.5 by foot, 467 by car).

Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 892; **Eurasian Wigeon 1**; American Wigeon 2; American Black Duck 1,552; Mallard/Black Duck hybrid 2; Mallard 32; Northern Pintail 1; Green-winged Teal 2; **Tufted Duck 1**; Greater Scaup 4,441; Lesser Scaup 10; Common Eider 12; Surf Scoter 6; White-winged Scoter 8; Long-tailed Duck 81; Common Goldeneye 1,263; Barrow's Goldeneye 6; Hooded Merganser 9; Common Merganser 1,229; Red-breasted Merganser 617; Bald Eagle 24; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 5; **Mew Gull 1**; Ring-billed Gull 16; Herring Gull 2,051; Iceland Gull 31; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 214; gull species 76; Rock Dove 309; Mourning Dove 284; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 26; Hairy Woodpecker 27; Northern Flicker 13; Pileated Woodpecker 7; Northern Shrike 3; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 237; American Crow 1,330; Common Raven 94; Horned Lark 3; Black-capped Chickadee 422; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 25; Golden-crowned Kinglet 43; American Robin 481; Northern Mockingbird 4; European Starling 3,356; Cedar Waxwing 42; waxwing species 18; Yellow-rumped Warbler 3; American Tree Sparrow 62; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 15; White-throated Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 399; sparrow species 2; Snow Bunting 21; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 22; Purple Finch 77; House Finch 2; Red Crossbill 1; White-winged Crossbill 7; Common Redpoll 6; Pine Siskin 30; American Goldfinch 483; Evening Grosbeak 138; House Sparrow 253.

Total Species 72, about 20,864 individuals. (CP. Black Scoter, Bufflehead, Northern Harrier, Black-headed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Pine Warbler). Harvey Bate, Margie Beck, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Lillian Bryan, Agnes Chisholm, Bonnie Davidson, Chris Ervin, Barb Gould, Bob Hanes, Elwin Hemphill, Brian Jollita, Jean MacDonald, Fred MacKenzie, Jean

MacLeod, Isabel MacMaster, Harold Madore, Blake Maybank, Pat McCarron, **Ken McKenna (compiler)**, Bev Milligan, Gary Murray, Joan Panting, Robert Reid, Tee Roberts, Wendy Skinner, Doreen Snow, Henry Snow, Polly Szantor, Steve Vines, Joan Waldron, Rob Whitman, Samantha Whitman, Ann Wren, Alison Yoshioka.

PORT L'HEBERT Dec. 17; 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Temp. 6 to 9 °C. Wind SE-SW 30-50 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy light/heavy rain. p.m. partly cloudy/foggy, light rain. 17 field observers in 10-11 parties, 1 at feeders, 1 hour and 1 km owling. Total party hours 49.5 (35.5 on foot, 14 by car). Total party kilometres 310 (81 by foot, 229 by car).

Red-throated Loon 6; Common Loon 14; Horned Grebe 8; Red-necked Grebe 1; Northern Gannet 6; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 6; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 230; American Black Duck 112; Mallard 20; Green-winged Teal 2; Greater Scaup 28; King Eider 3; Common Eider 81; Harlequin Duck 11; Surf Scoter 8; Black Scoter 16; Long-tailed Duck 11; Bufflehead 17; Common Goldeneye 12; Common Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 11; Bald Eagle 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 13; Spruce Grouse 2; shorebird species 2; **Laughing Gull 1**; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 275; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 115; Black-legged Kittiwake 3; Dovekie 296; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 20; Mourning Dove 76; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Northern Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 16; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 45; American Crow 107; Common Raven 14; Black-capped Chickadee 122; Boreal Chickadee 30; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 53; American Robin 112; European Starling 205; Cedar Waxwing 3; Yellow-rumped Warbler 42; American Tree Sparrow 5; Chipping Sparrow 7; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 89; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 110; Dark-eyed Junco 140; Snow Bunting 62; Purple

Finch 12; Red Crossbill 6; White-winged Crossbill 22; American Goldfinch 127; Evening Grosbeak 19; House Sparrow 15.

Total Species 73, about 2,810 individuals. (White-winged Scoter, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Glaucous Gull, Black-bellied Plover) Lloyd Cameron, Kay Casselman, **Donna Crosby (compiler)**, Russel Crosby, Bill Curry, Andy Dean, Donna Ensor, Emerson Fiske, Sylvia Fullerton, Joyce Hipson, Danny Mason, Laura Mason, Linda Ross, Roger Ross, Tony Stewart, Mark Townsend, David Young, Joan Young.

PUBNICO Dec. 31; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp. 2 °C. Wind SW 40 kph. Snow 5 cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies partly cloudy, light rain/snow all day. 10 field observers in 4 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 24.5 (6 on foot, 18.5 by car). Total party kilometres 281 (9 by foot, 272 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 22; Red-necked Grebe 4; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Great Cormorant 4; cormorant species 1; Great Blue Heron 1; American Black Duck 88; Mallard 1; Greater Scaup 2; Common Eider 47; Black Scoter 5; Long-tailed Duck 20; Common Goldeneye 46; Hooded Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 8; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 7; Ruffed Grouse 1; Spruce Grouse 1; Common Snipe 1; Black-headed Gull 4; Ring-billed Gull 45; Herring Gull 284; Iceland Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 295; Black Guillemot 6; Mourning Dove 290; Belted Kingfisher 5; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 5; Blue Jay 54; American Crow 195; Common Raven 11; Black-capped Chickadee 111; Boreal Chickadee 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1**; American Robin 574; European Starling 416; American Pipit 3; Cedar Waxwing 43; Yellow-rumped Warbler 12; **Eastern Towhee 1**; American Tree Sparrow 6; Savannah Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 48; White-throated Sparrow 214; **White-crowned Sparrow 1**; Dark-eyed Junco 102; Snow Bunting

3; Northern Cardinal 1; **Dickcissel 1**; Red-winged Blackbird 22; Common Grackle 23; Brown-headed Cowbird 10; Purple Finch 120; American Goldfinch 243; House Sparrow 79.

Total Species 63, about 3,522 individuals. (CP. Canada Goose, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Red-breasted Nuthatch) Lisette D'Entremont, Raymond D'Entremont, Benjamin D'Eon, Claire D'Eon, Jerome D'Eon, Lester D'Eon, Nigel D'Eon, Reginald D'Eon, **Ted C. D'Eon (compiler)**, Wendell D'Eon, Paul Gould, Ethelda Murphy, Murray Newell, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters, Megan Vardy, Steve Vardy.

ST. PETERS Dec. 27; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -13 to -7 °C. Wind NW 40-60 kph. Snow 6-10 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. cloudy, p.m. cloudy, light snow. 28 field observers in 8 parties, 15 at feeders. Total party hours 19.5 (11.5 on foot, 18 by car). Total party kilometres 255.5 (14.5 by foot, 241 by car).

Common Loon 5; Horned Grebe 3; Red-necked Grebe 2; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 11; Canada Goose 12; American Black Duck 44; Common Eider 34; Surf Scoter 5; White-winged Scoter 66; scoter species 2; Long-tailed Duck 17; Common Goldeneye 46; Common Merganser 4; Red-breasted Merganser 105; Bald Eagle 18; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Purple Sandpiper 5; Black-headed Gull 7; Bonaparte's Gull 6; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 207; Iceland Gull 7; Great Black-backed Gull 70; **Ivory Gull 1**; gull species 2; Dovekie 3; Common Murre 1; Black Guillemot 4; alcid species 2; Mourning Dove 41; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Black-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 9; Blue Jay 52; American Crow 211; Common Raven 55; Black-capped Chickadee 79; Boreal Chickadee 20; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 22; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2**; **Hermit Thrush 1**; European Starling 241; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 13; White-throated Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 52; sparrow species 1; Lapland

Longspur 3; Snow Bunting 19; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 9; Purple Finch 16; American Goldfinch 182; Evening Grosbeak 19; House Sparrow 22.

Total Species 59, about 1,828 individuals. (CP. Mallard, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Horned Owl, Savannah Sparrow, Bohemian Waxwing). Dorothy Barnard, Jim Brown, Tony Burke, Floyd Carter, Alfred Cotie, **Billy Digout (compiler)**, George Digout, Murdock Digout, Sharon Digout, Wendell Holmes, Dell Landry, Eva Landry, Gordie Landry, Keats Landry, Bernie MacDonnell, Donnie MacDonnell, John W. MacInnis, Frances MacKay, Helen Macmillan, Jack MacNeil, Dave McCorquodale, Tom Murray, Susann Myers, Frances Oram, Walter O'Toole, Jeannie Shermerhorn, Annie Vanderhoeden, Trevor Wilkie.

SHUBENACADIE Dec. 17; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 2 to 8 °C. Wind ESE 20-50 kph. Snow 0-8 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy, heavy rain all day. 19 field observers in 16 parties, 19 at feeders, 1 hour and 2 kilometres owling. Total party hours 46 (19.5-on foot, 26.5 by car). Total party kilometres 277 (25 by foot, 252 by car).

Canada Goose 178; American Black Duck 37; Mallard 173; Common Merganser 157; Bald Eagle 19; Northern Harrier 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 68; Ruffed Grouse 14; **Sandhill Crane 1**; Herring Gull 46; Great Black-backed Gull 3; gull species 20; Rock Dove 351; Mourning Dove 320; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 10; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Black-backed Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 154; American Crow 1,195; Common Raven 109; Black-capped Chickadee 387; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 21; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 107; American Robin 31; European Starling 3,350; American Tree Sparrow 23; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 129; Pine Grosbeak 11; Purple Finch 39; White-winged Crossbill 76; Pine Siskin 140;

American Goldfinch 576; Evening Grosbeak 285; House Sparrow 159.

Total Species 43, about 7,223 individuals. (CP. Northern Flicker) Barbara Aitken, Mark Anthony, Fred Ashley, Conrad Baldwin, Barbara Bower, Terry Carroll, Brenda Grantmyre, Mryna Hambleton, Jean Isenor, Myrna Isenor, Joan Jarvis, Marilyn Lovegrove, Anne MacDonald, Joan Mackey, **Roslyn MacPhee (compiler)**, Sharon MacPhee, Elsie McCulloch, Rollen McCulloch, Earle McCurdy, Albert Moore, Juanita Murphy, Brenda Norwich, Annie Perry, Jacques Perron, Christine Queripel, Judy Queripel, Roby Quinn, Earle Reid, Barbara Scott, George Searle, Dale Smith, Blanche Tanner, Olive Tays, Linda Vaughn, Roger Wardrope, Faye Wallace, Lorne Weaver, Arthur West, Myrna West.

SPRINGVILLE Dec. 16; Temp. -13 to -1 °C. Wind SW 5 kph. Snow 5 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving partly frozen. Skies clear all day. 8 field observers in 6 parties, 28 at feeders, 5 hours and 68 km owling. Total party hours 50 (23 on foot, 27 by car). Total party kilometres 548 (36 by foot, 512 by car).

Canada Goose 50; American Black Duck 24; Mallard 8; Bald Eagle 8; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Northern Goshawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 7; Ring-billed Gull 30; Herring Gull 204; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 18; Rock Dove 540; Mourning Dove 272; Barred Owl 3; Northern Saw-whet Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 42; Hairy Woodpecker 35; Northern Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Northern Shrike 4; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 332; American Crow 6,230; Common Raven 143; Black-capped Chickadee **598**; Boreal Chickadee 20; Red-breasted Nuthatch 20; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 34; American Robin 478; European Starling 2,266; Cedar Waxwing 85; **Common Yellowthroat 1**; American Tree Sparrow 49; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 28; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 48; Dark-eyed Junco 575; Snow Bunting 7; Common Grackle 2; Pine Grosbeak 44;

Purple Finch 125; Pine Siskin 99; American Goldfinch 742; Evening Grosbeak 290; House Sparrow 305.

Total Species 49, about 13,802 individuals. (CP. Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, White-winged Crossbill). Rosemary Bourque, Donna Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Mark Brennan, Betty Calder, Frank Calder, Ed Cormier, Sonny Cyr, Claire Foote, Ralph Foote, Doug Fraser, Mary Fraser, Sylvia Grosskull, Joan Kearley, Carla Marshall, Eleanor MacKay, Connie MacKenzie, Fraser MacLean, Gordon MacLean, Ken McKenna, Maria McKenna, Helen Melanson, Gary Murray, Fred Polley, Sally Polley, Margie Reid, Rob Reid, Chris Robinson, Judy Schuhlein, Miriam Sears, Cheryl Silver, Shirley Stewart, Polly Szantor, **Steve Vines (compiler)**, Rita Young.

SYDNEYS Dec. 21; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -3 to 1 °C. Wind NW, 30-70 kph. Snow 2-5. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 16 field observers in 11 parties, 28 at feeders. Total party hours 50 (19 on foot, 31 by car). Total party kilometres 402 (22 by foot, 380 by car).

Common Loon 2; Northern Gannet 2; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 55; cormorant species 14; American Black Duck 1,021; Mallard 284; Mallard/Black Duck hybrid 35; Green-winged Teal 2; Greater Scaup 95; White-winged Scoter 116; Black Scoter 1; Long-tailed Duck 32; Bufflehead 25; Common Goldeneye 385; Barrow's Goldeneye 5; Common Merganser 21; Red-breasted Merganser 139; duck species 3; Bald Eagle 17; Northern Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Black-headed Gull 40; Herring Gull 1,559; Iceland Gull 993; Glaucous Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 449; gull species 72; Dovekie 1; Rock Dove 329; Mourning Dove 55; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Northern Shrike 3; Blue Jay 102; American Crow 939; Common Raven 65; Black-capped Chickadee 288; Boreal Chickadee 4; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 27; American Robin 1; European Starling 2,556; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; American

Tree Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 17; Dark-eyed Junco 61; Pine Grosbeak 35; Purple Finch 12; White-winged Crossbill 1; Pine Siskin 8; American Goldfinch 365; Evening Grosbeak 12; House Sparrow 285.

Total Species 53, about 10,505 individuals. (CP. Bohemian Waxwing). Jessie Andrews, George Baillie, Marilyn Baillie, Donald F. Campbell, Judy Cartwright, Peyton Chisholm, Joan Cunningham, Vince Cunningham, Randy Davidson, Keith Demone, Ken Donovan, Don Dunbar, Eleanor Dunning, John Dunning, Lynn Ellis, John Gainer, Gwen Gardner, Tom Gardner, Betty Gentile, David Harris, Beth Kent, Walter MacDonald, Yvonne MacDonald, Gordon MacFadden, Joan MacFadden, John W. MacInnis, Bob MacNeil, **David McCorquodale (compiler)**, John McKay, Hugh Metcalfe Jr., Susann Myers, Ronald O'Handley, Terry Power, Amelia Prestera, Bill Reeves, Mona Reeves, Emile Roach, Sean Roach, Thomson, Mabel Virick, Jack White, Darlene Whitty, Tim Whitty, Denise Young, .

TRURO Dec. 29; 7:50 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. Temp. -1 to 2 °C. Wind NW 30 kph. Snow 15 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. cloudy, light snow, p.m. cloudy. 10 field observers in 7 parties, 10 at feeders. Total party hours 39.75 (18.5 on foot, 21.25 by car). Total party kilometres 380.5 (26.5 by foot, 354 by car).

Wood Duck 1; American Black Duck 100; Mallard 560; Northern Pintail 1; Common Goldeneye 1; Common Merganser 2; Bald Eagle 7; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Cooper's Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Gray Partridge 7; Ring-necked Pheasant 30; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 134; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 12; Rock Dove 600; Mourning Dove 213; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 14; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Northern Flicker 2; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 124; American Crow 1,357; Common Raven 20; Horned Lark 250; Black-capped Chickadee 164; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet 16; American

Robin 33; European Starling 4,173; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 26; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 16; White-throated Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 225; Snow Bunting 258; Purple Finch 184; White-winged Crossbill 40; Common Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 89; American Goldfinch 341; Evening Grosbeak 249; House Sparrow 51.

Total Species 50, about 9,360 individuals. (CP. American Wigeon, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing) Allan Eddy, Linda Hall, **Ross Hall (compiler)**, Winnifred Kettleton, Joan Hudgins, Bernard Jackson, Martha MacLaughlin, Don MacLaren, Marilyn MacWha, Bea McCallum, Jeff Ogden, Janet Roberts, Cliff Sandeson, Rachel Smith, Edgar Spalding, Fran Spalding, Harold Stewart, Sheila Stewart, Sunny Tait.

WEST HANTS Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -9 to -4 °C. WNW 14-40 kph. Snow 15 cm. Still water frozen, moving open. a.m. cloudy, p.m. cloudy, light snow. 22 field observers in 8 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party hours 72.1 (18.1 on foot, 54 by car). Total party kilometres 839.9 (31.6 by foot, 808.3 by car).

Canada Goose 1; American Black Duck 806; Mallard 8; Green-winged Teal 3; Surf Scoter 1; Bald Eagle 16; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Red-tailed Hawk 31; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 58; Purple Sandpiper 1; Ring-billed Gull 7; Herring Gull 452; Great Black-backed Gull 67; Rock Dove 245; Mourning Dove 248; Downy Woodpecker 20; Hairy Woodpecker 13; Northern Flicker 13; Pileated Woodpecker 3; woodpecker species 1; Blue Jay 374; American Crow 563; Common Raven 111; Black-capped Chickadee 326; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 29; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1**; American Robin 95; European Starling 1,372; Bohemian Waxwing 45; Cedar Waxwing 32; American Tree Sparrow 40; Song Sparrow 20; White-throated Sparrow 15; Dark-eyed Junco 778; Snow Bunting 82; Common Grackle 3; Pine Grosbeak 15; Purple Finch 293; Red Crossbill 9; White-winged Crossbill 46; Pine Siskin

240; American Goldfinch 864; Evening Grosbeak 192; House Sparrow 404.

Total Species 49, about 7,958 individuals. (CP. Northern Shrike) George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Art Crowell, Gail Davis, Heidi de Boer, Muriel Gollan, Lynn Hebb, Margot Kaufman; Patrick Kelly; Peggy Konchanoff, Blake Maybank, Jane McConnell, Dorothy Redden, Peter Richard, Neil Robarts, Sheila Robarts, Joe Robertson, **John Robertson (compiler)**, Geneva Sanford, Bev Shanks, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Gerry Truman, Sherman Williams, Frank Woolaver, Scott Yetman.

WOLFVILLE Dec. 17; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 1 to -3 °C. Snow 10 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. cloudy, heavy rain. p.m. cloudy, light rain. 45 field observers in 23 parties, 97 at feeders. Total parties hours 121.7 (52.5 on foot, 69.2 by car). Total party kilometres 1,105 (98.7 by foot, 1,006.3 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 1,063; American Black Duck 2,463; Mallard 670; Northern Pintail 6; Green-winged Teal 9; Surf Scoter 3; White-winged Scoter 8; Black Scoter 17; scoter species 2; Common Goldeneye 5; Common Merganser 11; Red-breasted Merganser 18; duck species 34; Bald Eagle 259; Northern Harrier 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk 11; Red-tailed Hawk 110; Rough-legged Hawk 6; Merlin 1; **Peregrine Falcon 1**; Ring-necked Pheasant 274; Ruffed Grouse 6; Common Snipe 2; Ring-billed Gull 369; Herring Gull 7,031; Iceland Gull 10; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 1,340; Rock Dove 616; Mourning Dove 1,211; Barred Owl 3; Downy Woodpecker 65; Hairy Woodpecker 18; Northern Flicker 38; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 611; American Crow 4,797; Common Raven 368; Horned Lark 5; Black-capped Chickadee 840; Red-breasted Nuthatch 9; White-breasted Nuthatch 18; Marsh Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 86; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1**; American Robin 420; **Gray Catbird 1**; Northern Mockingbird 7; European Starling 15,270; Cedar

Waxwing 78; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 108; Chipping Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 29; Song Sparrow 250; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 74; Dark-eyed Junco 1,208; sparrow species 17; Northern Cardinal 2; **Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1**; Red-winged Blackbird 2; **Rusty Blackbird 1**; Common Grackle 22; Brown-headed Cowbird 11; Pine Grosbeak 1; Purple Finch 37; Pine Siskin 56; American Goldfinch 1,040; finch species 20; Evening Grosbeak 59; House Sparrow 650.

Total Species 71, about 41,807 individuals. (CP. Long-tailed Duck, American Pipit, Bohemian Waxwing, White-winged Crossbill). Agar Adamson, George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Diana Anderson, Peter Austin-Smith, Patricia Bernier, Diana Bishop, Sherman Bleakney, Sherman Boates, Larry Bogan, Soren Bondrup-Nielsen, Mike Boudreau, Carol Buckley, Ron Buckley, Lana Churchill, Brenda Coldwell, Sandy Connelly, Ed Connelly, Chris Cox, Susan Cox, Graham Daborn, Debbie Daigle, Jim Diagle, Pat Davis, Glen Davison, Ruth Davison, Pat Dix, Ed Eagles, Ev Eagles, Betty Eaton, Joan Eaton, Mark Elderkin, Paul Elderkin, Wendy Elliott, Mary Ellis, Trina Fitzgerald, Bob Flecknell, Fred Forsyth, George E. Forsyth, George F. Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Hilma Frank, Glenys Gibson, Jamie Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Mary Sue Goulding, Ed Hancock, Charlotte Harper, Eileen Harris, Luke Harris, Sharon Harris, Lorna Hart, Avril Harwood, John Harwood, Blanche Healy, Gail Herbin, Janet Herbin, Maxine Hill, Bob Horne, Isobel Horton, John Horton, Winnie Horton, J.P. Huang, Doug Jackson, Shirley Jackson, Patrick Kelly, Sandy Kempton, Meg Krawchuk, Jean Leung, Linda Lusby, Angus MacLean, Stella MacLean, Ron Margeson, Don Marston, Shirley Marston, Pat Martell, Jessie Martin, Pat Martin, Bernard Mason, Eleanor Mason, Sheila McCurdy, Randy Milton, Terri Milton, Dawn Miner, Carolyn Moore, Adele Mullie, Terry Murphy, Edna Mutch, Gary Ness, Nancy Nickerson, Pam Nickerson, Joe Nocera, Mike O'Brien, Ian Paterson, Linda Pearson, Terry Pearson, Dorothy Perkin, Pat Pocklington, Roger Pocklington,

Janet Pratt, Mary Pratt, Tom Regan, Ladney Richmond, **Stan Riggs (compiler)**, Gordon Robart, Benita Rogers, Marg Russell, Barry Sabean, Gladys Saltzman, John Saltzman, Meg Scheid, Mabel Sheffield, Dave Shutler, Ed Shynal, David Silverberg, Peter Smith, Richard Stern, Sandy Stevens, Merriam Sullivan, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Dianne Thorpe, Jean Timpa, Gerry Trueman, Deanna Urban, Eva Urban, Walter Urban, Gertrude Waseem, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Don Wright, Barry Yoell, Betty Yoell, Earl Young, Sheila Young.

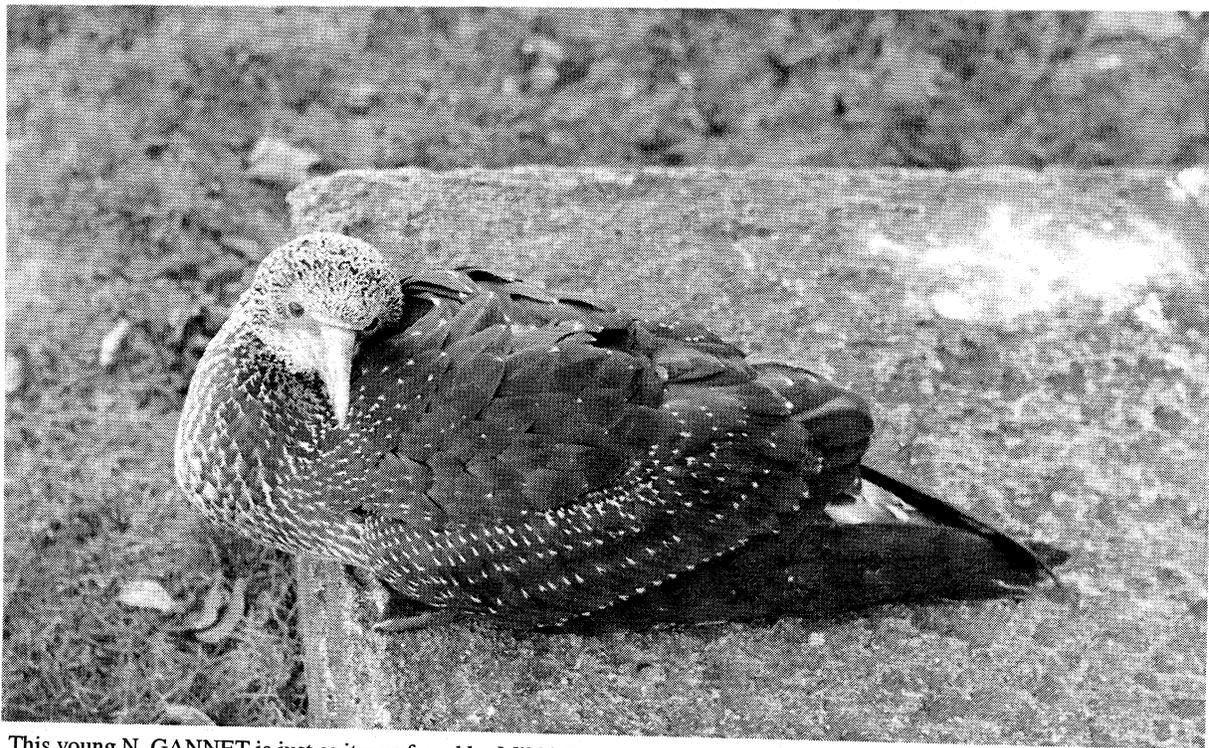
YARMOUTH Dec. 17; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 7 to 11 °C. Wind SE, 30 kph and gusting. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, light to heavy rain. p.m. cloudy and foggy, light rain. 21 field observers in 7 parties, 14 at feeders. Total party hours 49 (9 on foot, 40 by car). Total party kilometres 595.8 (16.8 by foot, 579 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 13; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 11; cormorant species 11; Great Blue Heron 1; **Turkey Vulture 2**; Canada Goose

947; **Eurasian Wigeon 2**; American Wigeon 8; American Black Duck 635; Mallard 209; Northern Shoveler 1; Green-winged Teal 2; Greater Scaup 3; Common Eider 104; Long-tailed Duck 57; Bufflehead 40; Common Goldeneye 64; Hooded Merganser 18; Common Merganser 10; Red-breasted Merganser 62; Northern Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; American Kestrel 1; Merlin 2; **Gyr Falcon 1**; Ring-necked Pheasant 13; Ruffed Grouse 1; Black-bellied Plover 1; Sanderling 200; Dunlin 6; Common Snipe 1; Bonaparte's Gull 3; Ring-billed Gull 121; Herring Gull 1,599; Iceland Gull 10; Glaucous Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 1,130; gull species 100; Rock Dove 123; Mourning Dove 193; **Snowy Owl 1**; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern Flicker 5; Blue Jay 52; American Crow 587; Common Raven 9; Horned Lark 36; Black-capped Chickadee 208; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2**; American Robin 9; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 1,609; American Pipit 25; Cedar Waxwing 86; Yellow-rumped Warbler 7; American Tree Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 30; White-throated Sparrow

147; Dark-eyed Junco 66; sparrow species 6; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 3; Northern Cardinal 12; Red-winged Blackbird 20; Common Grackle 335; Brown-headed Cowbird 104; Purple Finch 15; House Finch 14; American Goldfinch 69; Evening Grosbeak 10; House Sparrow 6.

Total Species 76, about 9,215 individuals. (CP. Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Bald Eagle, Dovekie, alcid species, Black-legged Kittiwake, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Shrike, Pine Warbler). Wilfred Allan, Siva Appavoo, Martyn Bowler, Marilyn Burns, Paul Comeau, Elsie Crosby, Brian Dalzell, Darlene Davis, Cecil Day, Raymond d'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, Bernie Deveau, Paul Gould, June Graves, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Brian Matthews, Carol Matthews, Blake Maybank, Leah Murray, Arthur Porter, Dick Pothier, Judy Raynard, **Barbara Ruff (compiler)**, **Eric Ruff (compiler)**, Robin Rhymer, Clark Sollows, Vera Sollows, Paulette Surette, Jim Thibeau, Joan Waldron, Grace Walker, John Wainwright. ☒



This young N. GANNET is just as it was found by Mikki Carr early on Dec. 9 on her front step in Timberlea, some distance from the sea – to which it was returned ASAP. [Photo Ian McLaren]

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

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 checklists @ 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.

Signature: _____

Mail to:

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

(Continued from back cover)

Sun. 1 July 2001 Parrsboro/Port Greville

Leader: Joan Czapalay 348-2803
(Before 01 June: 422-6858 Email joancz@ns.sympatico.ca)

Join Joan in her native habitat between Parrsboro and Advocate on Route 259 as she guides us around her favourite spots. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Port Greville Age of Sail Museum parking lot. Bring a lunch.

Sun. 15 July 2001 Wallace Bay

Leader: Paul MacDonald 627-2568
Email rita.paul@ns.sympatico.ca

Meet at the Wallace Wharf at 8:30 a.m. Primary points of interest are the impoundments at the Wallace Bay National Wildlife Area. A variety of habitats are covered. Bring a lunch. No registration necessary.

Sat. July 28 Pictou County

Leader: Ken McKenna 752-7644
Email kenmcken@north.nsis.com

We will tour some back roads of Pictou Co. for lingering nesting birds and probably end up at the shore in the afternoon for early shorebird migration. Meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot behind the Heather Motel in Stellarton at Exit 24. Bring a lunch.

Sat. 4 Aug. 2001 Mahone Bay

Leader: James Hirtle 624-0893 Email jrhbirder@hotmail.com
Please Pre-register.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. across from the three churches in Mahone Bay. See a variety of habitats. This is a great trip for beginners. Bring a lunch. The trip will conclude about 3:00 p.m. Rain date: 05 August.

Sat. 11 Aug. 2001 Matthews Lake

Leader: David Young 656-2225
Email dyoung000@ns.sympatico.ca

Meet at the parking lot at the end of the road to Hemeons Head. Take Highway 103 to exit 23 and turn south on the Lighthouse Route for about 4 km. Then turn left on the road marked "West Middle Head, Louis, Little Harbour." Follow this road about 11 km to a stop sign at Little Harbour. Go straight through the stop sign on the road to "Arnolds" which

turns to gravel soon after the stop sign. Proceed to the end of the road, about 3.25 km, to a parking area.

Meeting time will be 8:30 a.m. The trip will take 3 to 4 hours. Walking distance is about 8 km and ankle- to calf-high water will be encountered. Hemeons Head is about 2.5 hours from Halifax. We will be mostly studying shorebirds.

Sun. 19 Aug. 2001 The Hawk

Leader: Murray Newell 745-3340 Email murcar@klis.com

Meet at the Tim Horton's in Barrington Passage at 8:00 a.m. See the migrating shorebirds between The Hawk and Cape Light and look for rarities. Bring proper footwear and a lunch if you wish.

Sat. 25 Aug. 2001 Point Michaud, Cape Breton

Leaders: George Digout 535-3516
Email george.digout@ns.sympatico.ca
Billy Digout 535-2513

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Dept. of Transport building, Hwy. 4 and Point Michaud turnoff, St. Peters. It is a good idea to wear boots if it is rainy. Lunch at George and Sharon Digout's home. Rain date Sun 26 August.

Sat. 1 to Mon. 3 Sep. 2001 Bon Portage Island

Leader: Joan Czapalay 348-2803 (1 July to 12 Aug.)
(Before 01 June and after 12 Aug: 422-6858
Email joancz@ns.sympatico.ca)
Pre-Registration is necessary!

For details see the description of the 19 May 2001 trip.

Sat. 6 to Mon. 8 Oct. 2001 Brier Island

Leader: Fulton Lavender 455-4966

Meet at the parking lot of the Brier Island Lodge on Saturday at 8 a.m. Enjoy a complete package of fall migration, highlighted by hawk flights. Weather permitting, there will be a boat trip on one of the days if at least 10 people register in advance.

Sun. 7 Oct. 2001 Cape Sable Island

Leader: Murray Newell 745-3340 Email murcar@klis.com

Meet at the Tim Horton's in Barrington Passage at 8:00 a.m. See late migrants and shorebirds. Bring proper footwear and a lunch if you wish. ☐

Photos Needed

We would like to have better photo coverage of your field trips and other birding activities. Whether you have a "point-and-shoot" or a digital camera, why not take it along whenever you go on a field trip? We can use photos of birders (in action!), birds and pictures of birding areas as well. Slides, prints or negatives are all useable, although slides and negatives allow more flexibility in editing. Send your items along to the editor (who will expeditiously return them). Thank you!

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

Sat. 19 May 2001 Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary

Leaders: Terry Paquet. Email terrypaquet@hotmail.com
Andrew Macfarlane (506) 364-5033
Email Andrew.Macfarlane@ec.gc.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the APBS parking lot. Take exit 3 from the TCH 104 at the Wandlyn Inn and proceed a few km toward Nappan. The entrance is on the left. Wear appropriate footwear for wet conditions and bring a lunch. Storm date will be 20 May 2001.

Sat. 19 to Mon. 22 May 2001 Bon Portage Island

Leader: Claire Diggins 825-6152
Pre-Registration is necessary!

Depart approximately 6:00 p.m. on Friday from Prospect Point Wharf, Shag Harbour, Shel. Co. Bring food, drinking water, warm clothing and footwear suitable for rough (sometimes wet) terrain, a flashlight, mattress sheet, and sleeping bag. Carry gear in waterproof bags or containers. Field guides are available on the island, as are cooking pans, dishes, and utensils. There is a charge of \$45 for NSBS members for three nights accommodation, as well as a boat trip donation.

Wed. 23 May 2001 Halifax Country Early Morning Warbler Walk

Leader: Fred Dobson 852-3042. Email efdobson@hfx.eastlink.ca

Meet at 6:00 a.m. sharp at the parking lot at the junction of Prospect Rd. Rte. 333 and St. Margaret's Bay Rd. Duration 2 to 3 hours. Waterproof boots and fly dope are recommended.

Thu. 24 May 2001 Regular Meeting

NSMNH, Summer St., Halifax, 7:30 p.m.
"Nature Notes from Eastern Cuba" Guest speaker: Ken McKenna. Ken will show slides and talk about the trip to Cuba many NSBS members were on in the spring of 2000.

Sat. 26 May 2001 Annapolis Royal/Belleisle

Leader: Sharon Hawboldt (902) 665-4105.
Email s.hawboldt@ns.sympatico.ca

Meet at the Tidal Power parking lot at 7:30 a.m. to tour the Mickey Hill Pocket Wilderness, have lunch at my place in Belleisle, and hike the marsh in the afternoon. Anyone wishing to come for the afternoon only could meet the group in the

parking lot at the Belleisle Marsh. Bring lunch, fly repellent, and wear appropriate footwear

Sun. 27 May 2001 Shubenacadie Area

Leader: Roslyn McPhee (902) 758-3265

Meet at Miller's Restaurant in Shubenacadie at 7 a.m. Bring a lunch and insect repellent. Warblers and woodpeckers are common on this trip.

Fri. 1 to Sun. 3 June 2001 Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists 12th Annual Conference and AGM

Hosted by the South Shore Naturalists. See further information elsewhere in this issue, or contact: Catherine Pross 766-4667
Email mcpross@yahoo.com

Sat. 9 June 2001 Warbler Walk Cape Breton

Leader: David McCorquodale 563-1260
Email dmccorqu@uccb.ns.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. Spend a morning looking and listening for nesting birds starting at Petersfield Provincial Park in Westmount, Cape Breton.

Sat. 9 and Sun. 10 June 2001 Cape Chignecto and Advocate

Leaders: Jane Fletcher 392-2027 Email jfletchad@hotmail.com
Maureen Mills 392-2096
Joan Czapalay 348-2803 (Before 01 June: 422-6858
Email joancz@ns.sympatico.ca)
Pre-registration is necessary.

On Saturday Jane Fletcher will lead us around the Cape d'Or and Advocate area on a number of short trips. Maureen Mills is the leader Sunday. Meet on both days at 8:00 a.m. at the Advocate Fire Hall.

Sat. 30 June 2001 Bass River/Five Islands

Leader: Fran Spalding 647-2837 Email fsecon@ns.sympatico.ca

Join Fran for the first part of the Parrsboro Shore Weekend. Meet at the Post Office parking lot in Bass River at 8:30 a.m. Bring a lunch.

(Continued on inside back cover)