

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Spring 2002
(The Birds of Winter)



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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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Inside This Issue

Special points of interest:

- Piping Plover Update
- Oiled Birds
- Laughing Gulls Breeding on Sable Island
- Winter Seasonal Reports
- Christmas Bird Counts
- Trip Reports
- Book Reviews

Piping Plover Update	2
New Books	3
Oiled Birds on Our Shores	4
Rare Birds on Parmbelle Lane	5
Empidonax Flycatcher in December	6
Gyr Falcon Drama	7
Winter Bird Reports	10
CD & Book Reviews	32, 33
Field Trip Reports	30, 31, 33
Christmas Bird Counts	34
Upcoming Events	Back Cover

Cover Photo: Laughing Gull found nesting on Sable Island in June 2001. [Photo Sabrina Taylor]

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
SPRING 2002

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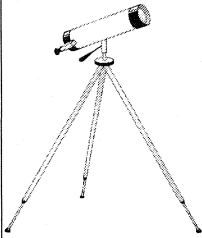
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The Spotting Scope



As I write this, winter has, in its own conniving manner, taken the first hints of spring away from us, and returned us to cool temperatures. Has the vanguard of spring (one robin, one grackle in neighbouring trees) survived? There are risks in coming back too early, but for some, the rewards may outweigh those risks.

Recently, I was contacted by a library which itself took a reasonable risk. It allowed several back issues of *Nova Scotia Birds* to be loaned out. In this case, the borrower never did return the issues, and the library now has an incomplete set. Occasionally, back issues turn up in used book stores, but this is an unpredictable source of replacements, and the likelihood of getting the three or four needed issues is rather slim. So, I am putting out the call to all members: when it comes to the time that you no longer want your back issues, please contact me and I will make sure they get to a library, a school, a museum... somewhere where they can be best used. Thanks for considering this!

For this issue, it's too soon to report on three bird surveys recently completed or ongoing. The Nocturnal Owl Survey (April - May), the Spring Migration Count (May 11th) and the Breeding Bird Survey (May - June) will all help us understand our birds better. Look for the reports on these surveys in the next issue. However, in this issue, we do have a lengthy summary on the Christmas Bird Counts, the most popular of the birding surveys. My thanks to Dave Currie and Shirley Cohrs for once again co-ordinating the 34 counts in Nova Scotia.

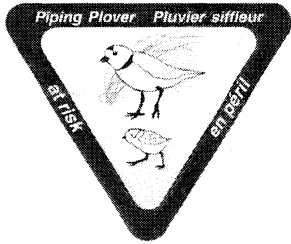
Tying together the themes from the last two paragraphs allows me to reflect on the Christmas Bird Counts in Nova Scotia from 1977 (25 years ago...not that I was actually birding yet, I didn't even have my driver's license!). There were 33 counts that year, about half of them also reporting to Audubon. Twenty-two of them are still running today, although some may have had shifts in the exact area surveyed. Amazingly, four of the counts today have the same compiler as they did 25 years ago: Eric Mills, Brier Island; Sylvia Fullerton, Broad Cove; Francis Spalding, Economy; and Roslyn MacPhee, Shubenacadie. Congratulations to all four of you, and thanks for the help!

The cover shot for this issue celebrates the return of the Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) to our breeding avifauna. During the atlassing days, the breeding status of "possible" was listed for this species at Machias Seal Island (New Brunswick). Records are scant for the breeding of this bird in the middle of last century, so we don't really know when the last nest occurred, but it was likely prior to 1960. And as a reminder folks...we're still the only province to not have Ring-billed Gull on our list of breeding birds...it's GOT to breeding here...somewhere...let's make the Ring-bill the next "cover bird" for this magazine!

Last time in this column, I expressed my great pleasure about the number of people submitting material for this magazine (*your* magazine!). I even *dared* you to keep making my job so fun. This season, it was the photographers' turn, with about 20 of you submitting photographs. The sheer volume of submitted photographs meant that we had to make some choices about which ones to print, so if you did submit your work recently, please be patient if you do not see your photos in this particular issue. Until next issue,

Good Birding!

Randy



News from the Nova Scotia Coastal Guardian Program

By Anna McCarron
Program Co-ordinator

April is here, so are the Piping Plovers and so is the funding! Terry Crowell reported the first Piping Plover report of the year at Daniels Head Beach at 7:30 a.m. on March 31. This is almost a week earlier than the first report last year!

To help protect these and the other birds yet to arrive, I am pleased to announce that our funding proposals to the Habitat Stewardship Program and The World Wildlife Fund have been accepted, with conditions of course. In the last issue of *Nova Scotia Birds* I mentioned that the Guardian Program (Note: now called the Coastal Guardian Program) would be taking on protection of Roseate Terns. This part of the proposal was not accepted and the protection of Roseate Terns will carry on as before, perhaps with some assistance from the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The protection of Piping Plovers and their habitat will carry on with the Coastal Guardian program. With this new funding, however, we will be able to hire more staff in the Cape Sable Island area to provide a more consistent effort to protect the birds there. With staff in the Barrington area, I will be able to focus on other areas like the Sable River area, where there are many Piping Plovers, but very few guardians. If you are from anywhere near this area – we need you! The following responsibilities encompass a Guardian's role, though not every Guardian will necessarily do each of them:

- Report sightings of Piping Plovers and specific behavioural activity;
- Report any deliberate harassment or harm caused to this Endangered Species or its habitat to conservation officers to 1-800-565-1633;
- Help to keep beaches clean, which helps to deter predators;
- Attend a two hour training workshop to learn about the program, the species and its problems;
- Spend time at posted boundary lines talking to people about Piping Plovers and requesting that they remain out of the posted areas and keep their pets on a leash;
- Report to the Department of Natural Resources where signs are needed and where signs are not in good order;
- Visit their designated beach regularly to raise awareness of Nova Scotia Piping Plover issues and provide information about sensitive habitat areas and how humans can preserve it;
- Volunteer approximately 20 hours of time on the beach, plus travel, over the breeding season (May through August);
- Conduct presentations to school and community groups.

Remember, anyone can help protect Piping Plovers by reporting threatening activity. On the NatureNS email list serve there has been recent debate about reporting procedures and off-road vehicle use on beaches. **The Migratory Bird Act** protects bird species of all sorts from being harassed anywhere. On provincial beaches, the **Provincial Parks Act** prohibits ATVs and prohibits dogs off leashes. **The Beach Act** prevents vehicle use below the high water mark. Above the high water mark, unfortunately, is where vehicles are permitted (on private land only) but this is also exactly where Piping Plovers nest. If you see off-road vehicles in areas where there are known to be Piping Plovers, it is important that the ATV operators be reported; these birds are being harassed (as defined under the Migratory Bird Act) by this activity, despite the location. The more calls that are received the more presence in those areas there will be by conservation officers from both the federal and provincial departments. We need your help!

Wherever you are, if you are interested in being a Coastal Guardian please contact me at (902) 860-1263 or email: plover@istar.ca. Thanks for keeping your eyes and scopes out for those banded birds and any other Piping Plovers and letting us know what you see! ☺

Errata

In the Winter issue, two errors appeared. The 100,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at the Windsor Causeway were spotted Aug. 5 (BLM). The singing Philadelphia Vireo at the Whitman Inn was heard between July 30 – Aug. 2 (BLM). Our apologies for any inconveniences.

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 (i. e. the only cost to the reviewer is the written review). 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. 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.

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

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

Raven's End A Tale from the Canadian Rockies. by B. Gadd. McLelland and Stewart. Suitable for older children, but a darn good read for adults, too.

Exploring Alaska's Birds. Ed. P. Rennick. Alaska Geographic Society.

Field Guide to Advanced Birding by K. Kaufman. Houghton Mifflin. Yes, it's available again!

Hawks of North America by W.S. Clark and B.K. Wheeler. Houghton Mifflin.

A Passion for Birds – American Ornithology after Audubon by M.V. Barrow, Jr. Princeton.

Finches and Sparrows by P. Clement. Princeton.

The Complete Guide to the Birds of Europe by K. Mullarney, L. Svensson, D. Zetterström, P.J. Grant. Princeton.

Pheasants, Partridges, & Grouse by S. Madge and P. McGowan.

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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Have you noticed how foraging BOHEMIAN WAXINGS alternate between “sentry duty,” usually high up in the trees, and snatching a quick meal on low berry bushes, where they are more vulnerable to predators? At any one time, only part of a flock is engaged in one role or the other – perhaps a case of “reciprocal altruism”. This group was a small fraction of a flock of about 300 in Dartmouth Jan. 6, members of which were darting down in successive waves, apparently to lap up snow. [Photo Ian McLaren]

Oiled Birds on Our Shores

By Tony Lock

Every year, tens of millions of pelagic seabirds winter in the productive waters over the continental shelf of eastern Canada. Unfortunately this habitat is also used by marine traffic, not only ships using Canadian ports, but also ships on a great circle route from European to east coast U.S. ports. These ships are required by law to discharge their engine room wastes at dockside, but some save the cost of legal discharge by dumping their wastes at sea. A rigorous study currently under way at Memorial University of Newfoundland suggests that in an area of ocean south of that province, about 300,000 seabirds may be killed by the effects of oil at sea in most years. This is as many birds as were killed in the much publicised Exxon Valdez disaster.

This senseless mortality is usually most evident in Newfoundland, but this year Nova Scotians have been witness to the results of illegal oil discharges. In early January 2002 there were reports of oiled eiders shot off Cape Breton Island, but the main event began in early February when naturalists in southern Nova Scotia began reporting oiled birds coming ashore. For the next month it got worse, with oiled birds reported from Grand Manan Island to northern Cape Breton and Sable Island. Birds were even recovered from oil rigs offshore, and were reported climbing aboard a fishing boat on Emerald Bank in an effort to remove themselves from the cold ocean, the insulation of their plumage impaired by oil.

In total fewer than 500 oiled birds were reported, mostly Thick-billed Murres, but these are only a tiny fraction of the kill. Much of our coast is inaccessible and we know that thousands of birds must have stranded on un-visited islands and coasts. We know that birds dying more than about 30-40 kilometers from shore are likely to disintegrate at sea and not be cast ashore, so the oiled birds we saw this winter may represent tens of thousands killed at sea.

The question remains: why did we see so many oiled birds this winter? Was it a single rogue ship that trailed oil all the way up the Nova Scotia coast, or was it just that winds blew more inshore this year? Analyses of the oil from birds recovered in this incident shows that it was not a single rogue ship, the oil came from several different ships. In winter, winds in Nova Scotia prevail north and west, carrying oil and birds offshore. This February we had a longer period of southerly and easterly winds carrying oiled birds inshore. The depressing conclusion is that illegal oil discharges and bird kills are chronic off our coast, and that this winter we saw the evidence that is usually carried offshore. ☐

**Marine Issues Biologist,
Canadian Wildlife Service,
Environment Canada.**



Two of the many oiled THICK-BILLED MURRES discovered along Nova Scotia beaches this winter. (L) Stephen Bushell recovering one at Black Duck Cove Provincial Park, Guys Co. and another found at Canso Harbour. [Photos Randy Lauff]

Rare Birds On Parmbelle Lane

By: **Suzanne M. Borkowski**

November was a pretty exciting month for me. I started counting birds for Project FeederWatch and, as a result, saw more rarities in my own backyard than I did on some fieldtrips. Worthy of mention are a White-winged Crossbill, a Northern Oriole, a White-crowned Sparrow, a Merlin, and, of course, a Wilson's Warbler and a not so common Common Chaffinch!

When the Chaffinch first arrived (Nov.20th), I couldn't identify it. I searched through my field guides and reference books; but, nothing quite fit! Its bill was finch-like, but its colouring: dark, with a rosy wash on the breast and cheek, prominent pale yellow wingbars, a grey collar and a green rump, just didn't match anything! I called Bob McDonald and Fulton Lavender for assistance. They made several good suggestions, but none that seemed quite right. Finally, on Dec.6th, they came to my house with Hans Toom and positively identified my mystery bird. It was a young male Common Chaffinch! Since there was no apparent feather wear, there was little chance of it being an escaped caged bird. So, where had it come from? How had it arrived here?

The word went out, excitement built, and by the end of the day a dozen birders had visited my yard trying to catch a glimpse of this rarity.

In the weeks that followed, Parmbelle Lane became a popular birding "hot spot". Everyone wanted to see this bird. Some were lucky enough to see it on their first or second attempt; others had to return many times before seeing it; and quite a few never got to see it at all, including some Americans who came from as far away as California and Oregon.

Meanwhile, a bright little Wilson's Warbler had shown up on Nov.29th. As excited as I was to have a Chaffinch in my yard, my heart went out to this tiny bird that hopped up and down trying to catch the last flies of the season. I couldn't help worrying about him. This, surely, was a doomed bird! How could he ever make it through winter? I doubted he'd make it till Christmas!

I put some mealworms out for him, but the starlings beat him to it, making short work of my offerings. They did attract his attention, however; and the warbler watched me closely every time I went out. When he saw me put branches down over a dish, he flew in to investigate. The starlings were also checking out the branches, but couldn't get under them. The Wilson's could, and did! While the starlings milled about, squawking in protest, a triumphant Wilson's Warbler flew out from under the branches with a wriggling mealworm in his beak!

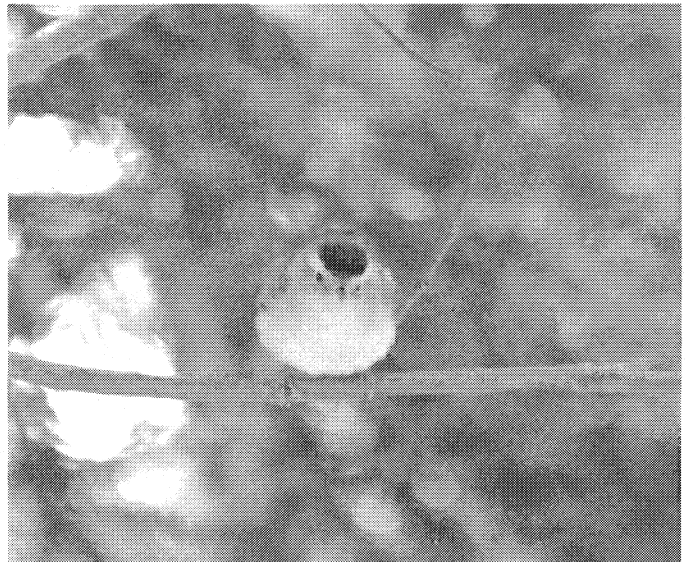
Things got more complicated as the weather grew colder. The mealworms kept freezing, and the starlings got smarter. They figured out how to get down through the branches. Acting on

a tip from a fellow birder, I decided to put the top half of a rabbit cage over his food. I widened the slats in several places so the warbler could pass through but the starlings couldn't. I served the mealworms on the lid of a small Tupperware container filled with warm water (which had to be replenished several times a day) and I added grape jelly to his diet, and peanut butter with small seeds mashed in, and rendered beef suet.

"Willy", as I nicknamed him, made it to Christmas. He made it to the Bedford/Sackville Christmas Bird Count on Dec.29th - the 4th record of a Wilson's Warbler on a Nova Scotia CBC. And he's still doing fine as I write this account on March 10th, 2002!

The Chaffinch, on the other hand, was considerably more elusive. It was seen several times in early December, but never regularly, and never in the same place twice. It was often in the company of juncos; it was also seen alone. It liked to feed at the back of my house, but, also on the side, in the blackberry bushes, and, sometimes, across the street on a neighbour's lawn. It was even seen several streets away, and often, in a treetop! It disappeared altogether, for almost two weeks, showing up again in time to be counted, by Richard Stern for the Bedford/Sackville CBC - the second record of a Chaffinch on a Nova Scotia Christmas Bird Count, (the first was in 1988), and the third official sighting for the Province!

The Chaffinch was last seen on January 13th, 2002. I often wonder what happened to him, and if I'll ever see him again. Next winter promises to be very interesting. Keep checking your own backyards. You never know what you'll see! ☺



This portrait of 'Willy' the WILSON'S WARBLER at Suzanne's feeder in Halifax was captured by Judy Tufts.

Empidonax Flycatcher at Schooner Pond in December 2001

By Richard Knapton and David McCorquodale

Around noon on December 3, 2001, Richard Knapton and Dave McCorquodale found an *Empidonax* flycatcher at the end of the road into the Donkin Mine site, near Schooner Pond, Cape Breton Co. The bird was in a cleared area beneath old transformers. It spent its time perching on the transformers, the surrounding fence and in the dense alders surrounding the cleared area. We watched it for about 25 minutes as it perched and made brief sallies to catch flying insects, especially during the sunny breaks. Most of the time we watched using Bausch and Lomb Elite 8x42 binoculars, only a brief glimpse or two was possible through a Kowa scope with a 30 power eyepiece. An attempt to refind the bird and record calls was unsuccessful two days later.

It was an *Empidonax* flycatcher, small, brownish-gray above, light below, with two wing bars on dark wings, and a conspicuous eye-ring.

In more detail, the upperparts were brownish-gray, but showed a slight olive hue on the head and back in full sunlight. The two prominent wing bars looked white; they did not appear to be edged with buff or have any yellowish tinge. The tail looked dark, and could have been black or dark brown, but appeared to be distinctly lighter at the base than the outer half. It did not look particularly short or long. When perched, it frequently flipped its tail, first up, then down, then back to the original position.

The underparts appeared grayish white, with a white throat, and a touch of yellowish immediately beside the bend of the wing. Otherwise, there was no hint of yellow or brownish on the underside. In bright sunlight, the bird fluffed out its

feathers and appeared pale gray underneath. There was no noticeable contrast from upper breast to undertail coverts.

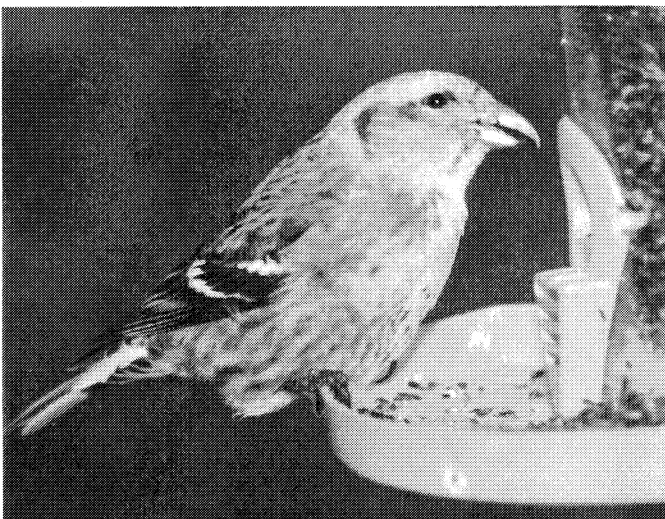
The eye ring was complete, unbroken, white and conspicuous, and appeared to be thicker and perhaps almond shaped behind the eye. The bill looked dark; there was no obvious light-coloured lower mandible, a feature we looked for. The bill did not appear small for an *Empidonax*.

What attracted our attention originally was its call, a short but liquid "wilp". This call was repeated frequently during our observations.

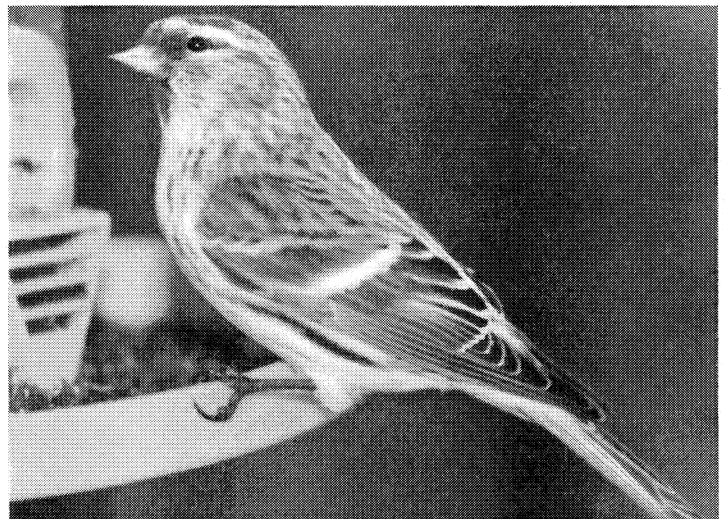
We are not sure what species we observed, but we suspect it was a Dusky Flycatcher. We used a process of elimination, using colouration, pattern and behaviour based on characters in Pyle (1997) and Sibley (2000). The lack of yellow on the underparts eliminated Yellow-bellied and the Western complex. Eye-ring, colouration and the call note eliminated Alder, Willow and Gray. This leaves us with Dusky, Least and Hammond's. The shape and colour of Hammond's fit reasonably well, but the bill size and especially the call do not. Least fits well for overall shape and colour, however the call did not fit and the lower mandible appeared dark. The Dusky fits for all characteristics, including the call.

Pyle, P. 1997. Identification Guide to North American Birds. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, California.

Sibley, D. 2000. The Sibley Guide to Birds. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. ☐



A number of observers remarked on the frequency of crossbills at feeders this winter, especially WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS, which are not lured as often as are their Red cousins. [Photo Fenton Isenor.]



This was, for reasons doubtless traceable to their arctic-boreal breeding range, a "redpoll winter." As usual, most were COM. REDPOLLS, like this one Jan 12 at a feeder in Howie Centre, CB. Co., but some Hoary Redpolls were seen among them. [Photo Fenton Isenor]

Gyr Falcon Drama

By Ian McLaren

Robert Gantz, a photographer, now of Montreal but formerly of Nova Scotia, returned here over the holidays and chanced upon a magnificent white-phase GYRFALCON. His resulting photos were discovered on a web site devoted to digital photography, and he was approached to see if he would be willing to let us use some of them in this issue, to which he kindly agreed. Here is his graphic account of the event that produced these extraordinary photos.



"I had just bought myself a used 300 mm lens for my Canon D30 digital camera, and it was Boxing Day 2001, so I was determined to give it a trial. I had seen some pheasants out on the Truro marsh earlier that week, so I thought I might get a shot of one of those. As I drove down Marshland Road, there were lots of crows wheeling through the sky ahead. I then saw three or four ducks dropping from higher up and travelling very fast, with a Gyr Falcon making it look easy as it caught up with the ducks and hit one of them hard. At that point I had to find a spot to pull over. It also took me time to get my camera gear together, and I couldn't see where the duck had fallen, but the gyr was being mobbed by all the crows at that point. My hands were shaking as I fired off as many shots as I could, silently cursing that I was not more familiar with the new lens. The gyr finally landed in the field, maybe 25 m from the road. I tried to approach it as closely as I could, but it was pretty skittish and took off again. At that point I saw the duck and that it was in bad shape, sitting with a massive wound on the back of its neck. Every so often it would raise its head from the ground and noiselessly open its bill, before flopping forward again. The gyr was not coming back with me so close, so I backed off, and it landed near the duck. At that point, a snow squall was moving in, so I headed off toward Old Barns to look for something else. When I returned about 35 min. later, the gyr was hunched over the duck and plucking feathers, and I got the only photo of it actually at its meal. But, by the look of its bloody beak in some of the earlier photos in the series, it must have already torn into the duck. It's odd that, once the gyr was on the ground, the crows appeared to leave it alone and disappeared from the scene." ☞



Winter Weather

By Larry Bogan
Cambridge Station, N.S.

This winter, the interplay of temperatures and snow cover were the most interesting aspects of the season. We had a respectable snow cover but it did not stay as long as last winter because we have had a much warmer season this year.

The statistics in the table are for Kentville, and if one traveled the Province, it was quite obvious that the snowfall varied dramatically in just a few tens of kilometres. Annapolis Royal and Brooklyn, Hants Co. had smaller snow falls than the eastern Valley. I have included a plot of the snow depth over the three months and it shows the slow buildup of snow cover during late December and all of January (fig. 1). The snow stayed during the cold spell in early February but then disappear from fields by the end of the month. Eastern Nova Scotia was hit with more snow in mid-February that missed the western part of the province though that is not shown in the graph.

In early December, the temperatures were quite warm; the mean temperature for the rest of the month stayed around -3°C , with a few minimum temperatures below -5°C (fig. 2). Actually, this trend continued through to the end of January with only slightly colder temperatures touching -10°C a half dozen times. The jet stream was over or near Nova Scotia the whole time with low pressure systems repeatedly passing through the area. In late January and the first half of February the temperatures dropped to an average closer to -8°C with a few days getting minimums of -15 to -20°C . This was due to colder, drier air moving over us. The precipitation nearly stopped but we lost no snow cover. On February 15 the temperature jumped up and averaged around zero after that. Almost all the precipitation in this period was in the form of rain and the snow quickly melted away in the associated warm winds.

There was no frost in the ground when the snows melted in February because in December when the snow blanket was first laid down on the ground, the soil temperature had not yet dropped to the freezing point. The snow blanket got continually thicker and insulated the warm ground from the cold of the later parts of the winter. The snow melt did not flood the land this year because it could penetrate directly into the ground.

The overall averages are shown in table 1. I have included the averages for the last five years in addition to those for the usual 40 year average. This shows how this year is certainly more like the last few years than the longer period. In general the winters are warmer, drier, and a bit more cloudy now than they were in the past. This winter we had three-quarters of the average precipitation over 40 years and enjoyed temperatures that were 1.8°C warmer. Our snowfall this winter was above the 5 year average but less than the 40 year average for a winter.

Table 1. Monthly weather data from the Atlantic Food & Horticulture Research Centre, Kentville.

	Mean Temp. ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Total Snow (cm)	Total Precipitation (mm)	Bright Sunshine (h)
Dec 2001	0.2	58	69	87
40yr	-2.3	56	129	58
5yr	-1.7	39	105	52
Jan 2002	-3.8	85	123	46
40yr	-5.4	70	121	78
5yr	-5	63	123	77
Feb 2002	-4.1	25	67	89
40yr	-5.3	61	100	101
5yr	-4.2	40	68	96
Winter Season	-2.5	168	259	222
40yr	-4.3	187	350	237
5yr	-3.6	142	296	225

After having a marvelous December with lots of sunshine (160% of the average), January was dimly dark with only 60% of the bright sunshine hours we usually expect. Even February was a bit cloudier than average but in the end the whole season was about average with respect to sunshine.

Summary of the months of this winter: December started very warm, sunny and pleasant (month 2.5 °C above average) then became snowy with more than average snow fall but still only half the expected precipitation. January was cloudy, with moderate temperatures and above average snowfall that included little rain. February was the coldest and driest month of the winter with mostly rain in the later half that melted all the accumulated snow of the winter. ☐

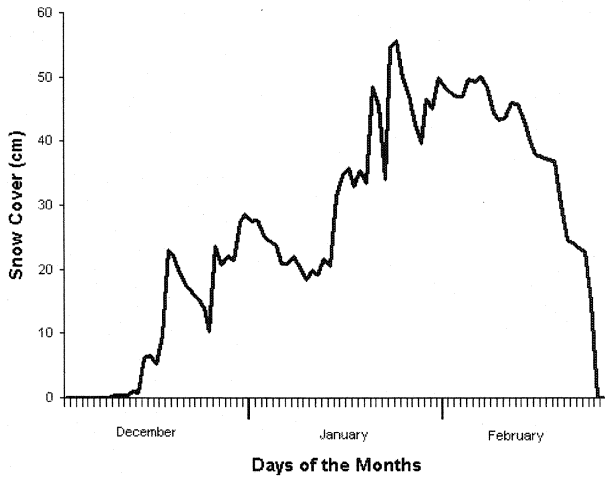


Figure 1. Snow depth for Winter 2001/2002 from the Atlantic Food and Horticultural Centre, Kentville

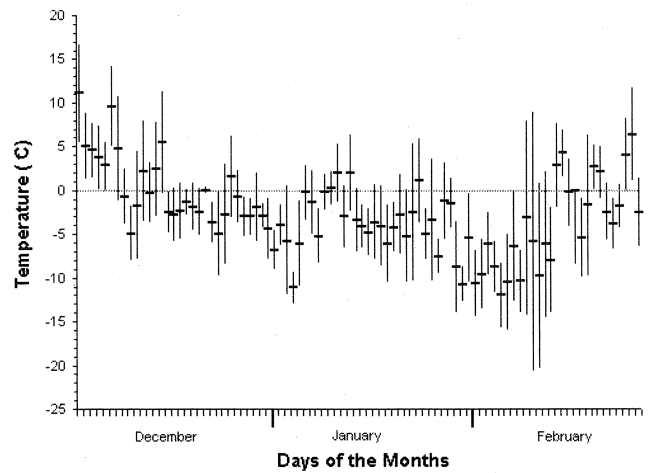


Figure 2. Daily temperature (mean and range) for Winter 2001/2002 from the Atlantic Food and Horticultural Centre, Kentville.

Laughing Gull Breeding on Sable Island



During a study of Common and Arctic terns on Sable Island in summer 2001, Sabrina Taylor and Kathryn Dillon discovered a pair of Laughing Gulls nesting within the largest tern colony at East Light. On June 17, when discovered, the pair had two eggs that were still present on July 8, but had hatched by July 14. Given the small size of the chicks, the hatch date was probably close to July 14. The chicks dispersed from the nest a few days after July 14, so they were unable to monitor their success. However, they continued to spot the adults on the island until August 6 when their fieldwork ended. This is the first confirmed nesting in Nova Scotia since 1941 (see Tufts). The record and a past history of the species in Atlantic Canada will be enlarged upon elsewhere, but we are pleased to have this brief, illustrated contribution. [Photos Sabrina Taylor]

Seasonal Reports

Loons and Grebes

By Fred Dobson

Winter was on the mild side; the snowfall was below normal in most areas and many lakes had some open water (typically near the inlet and outlet streams). As a result, there was a good count of fresh water birds, and they were distributed more widely than normal. Did the early departure of Red-throated Loons indicate milder conditions to the north as well? Probably. We had the usual list of rarities – one hesitates to call the Tufted Ducks in Pictou County and the Greater White-fronted Geese in the southern end of the province or the Valley rare any more! The question remains open: is there a breeding pair of Tufted Ducks? There were two sightings of Canvasbacks – always a pleasure to see.

RED-THROATED LOONS were found on salt water throughout the period. The CBCs recorded 28 altogether, with a high of eight, Dec. 15 at CSI (there were 12, New Year's Day at The Hawk [PRG, MUN]). The latest report was

surprisingly early: Jan. 19 in Louisbourg Hbr., CB Co. (SEM & Lynn Ellis). COMMON LOONS were found in normal abundance on the open water throughout the province, the highest numbers in the south. There were 30+, Dec. 17 at Brier I. (ELM) "mostly in Pond Cove". An interesting report was the latest: four, Feb. 26 in Kennington Cove, Fort of Louisbourg (SEM & LAR), "trapped in drift ice; the ice was only in along the coast for two days, so hopefully they will have survived."

Reports of PIED-BILLED GREBES indicated a winter of open water. There was one Dec. 3 in Bisset L., Dartmouth, HRM (BLM). Three CBCs reported them, Halifax-Dartmouth, Antigonish and Glace Bay. PRG found one, Dec. 23 at Pleasant L. and the latest report was one at Riverport, NS (ELM). HORNED GREBES were distributed widely in small numbers on the salt water throughout the period. There were 127 seen on the CBCs; the high count was

52, Dec. 30 at Broad Cove, Lun. Co. Along with the report of one, Feb. 17 at Gabarus, CB Co. SEM says "Normally, a fairly good number ... overwinter at Mira Bay, seen most easily at Mira Gut. This year I counted 21 there on the Glace Bay CBC on Dec. 29, which was only about half the number I had counted the previous year. The birds did not seem to stay in such large numbers this winter – although I checked the bay a few times in January and February, I didn't see more than three at one time ...". Reports of RED-NECKED GREBES were a trifle sparse. Aside from a total count of 135 on the CBCs (high 38, CSI) they were seen in twos and threes for the most part, distributed broadly in the province. The latest report was of one, Feb. 24 at Louisbourg Hbr. (SEM) "In recent winters, a group of 25-30 ... have overwintered at Kennington Cove. This year, I saw 25 there, Nov. 18, but only small numbers stayed for the winter." ❧

Tubenoses Through Cormorants

By Blake Maybank

CAH, while lobster fishing off Brier I., noted N. FULMAR through the period and thought that there were more intermediate and dark-phase birds than in other years. GREATER SHEARWATERS were common in early December, with the last seen near the end of the month. A LEACH'S STORM-PETREL was found grounded at Belle Cote School near Margaree, CB, Dec. 13, and was later released to an unknown fate (*fide* DAC).

NORTHERN GANNETS might be as good an indicator species as any with respect the changes in winter bird life wrought by global warming. Numbers of gannets were high through December off southern coasts and in the Bay of Fundy, with more than 80% of the 550+ noted on

CBC's occurring there. The CBC numbers pale, however, next to the 20,000+ gannets that MUN estimated were engaged in a herring feeding frenzy between CSI and Seal I. in the second week of December. Fishermen were impressed by a 30+ km 'cloud' of gannets all enthusiastically gorging on extensive herring shoals. Away from the southern bounty, CB also hosted heretofore unprecedented numbers of winter gannets, with nearly 125+ between Dominion and Morien Bay, Dec. 3 (DBM, RWK), and 20 on the Glace Bay CBC. The only late season sightings from shore were 10 off Chebucto Hd., Jan. 28 (BLM), and eight at the Canso Causeway, Feb. 3 (GED, SID).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT



Only 20 years ago, wintering DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS, like this first-year bird on pilings off the Pictou Causeway Jan. 18, might have required a rare-bird report for acceptance, but they have become more and more frequent. [Photo Ian McLaren]

numbers on CBC's continue to rise, with 52 tallied, including 22 on the CSI count, a number that still needs to be substantiated. A group of 14 lingering at Sydney R., Dec. 6, shrank to one by Jan. 28, after which none were seen (DBM). Other January sightings include two at the

Pictou Causeway, Jan. 19 (KJM *et al.*), and one off Chebucto Hd., Jan. 26 (BLM *et al.*). There were no February reports. CBC totals for GREAT CORMORANTS were below recent years at 821, but the two traditional count leaders of CSI and Brier I. experienced rough count-day

weather. DBM kept track of this species' numbers in the Sydney area, with Lingan being the favoured locale for great's, with 110 the peak count. Elsewhere they remained easy to locate along the outer Atlantic Coast throughout the winter. ✕

Hérons and Vultures

By Richard Knapton

There was one report of an AM. BITTERN this winter, a bird at Kiwanis Pond, Truro, on Jan. 26 (JBO). As in previous years, a handful of GREAT BLUE HERONS attempted to overwinter. There was a flurry of early December records, coming from areas primarily south and west of a Pictou to HRM line. There were still seven at CSI, Dec. 2 (MUN). The total of 17 reported on the CBCs was actually less than totals in the last ten years or so, and certainly less than the long-term average of 26. In fact, recently there has been a gradual decline in the number of Great Blue Herons on CBCs since the high of 59 in 1996. The maximum was five on the Port L'Hebert CBC on Dec. 16. Thereafter, records were very few, as most herons succumb to cold weather and starvation, likely the situation once again this winter. One successfully overwintered at Cranberry I., Lockeport, Shel. Co., at least to Feb. 25 (DJC). Singles were at Mavillette, Digby Co., Jan. 5 (PRG), Lyles Bay, Shel. Co., Jan. 12 (SAH), and Yarmouth Hbr., Jan. 21 (PRG). At CSI, singles were seen Jan. 6 and 18 (MUN) and Feb. 23 (BLM, RBS). CATTLE EGRETS turn up fairly often in late fall, and one reported at Aylesford, Kings Co., Dec. 11, is part of this continuing pattern (*vide* SHA).

Remarkably, there were two reports of BLACK VULTURES in the province. The first was at L'Ardoise, Rich. Co., Dec. 22 (*vide* BID). It was found and photographed by Vernon Burke of the Department of Natural Resources and



This remarkable BLACK VULTURE Dec. 22 at L'Ardoise, Rich. Co., was nicely documented for us in a photo taken through his window (!) by Vernon Burke.

the pictures were sent to Kentville DNR for identification. An imm. Black Vulture was reported from Dayton, near Yarmouth, Jan. 19 (MUN): it was sitting on a pole near the Foodmaster Store in Dayton and allowed great looks both perched and in flight. The bird was seen a few days later on Jan. 28 near Moods Rd., Pleasant L., Yar. Co. (*vide* MUN). In recent years, several TURKEY VULTURES have successfully overwintered in the extreme SW; Brier I. usually holds the largest concentrations. The flock there peaked at 20, including 15 in the air at once, Dec. 17 (ELM). Thereafter, numbers on the island were: at least 10

at Pond Cove, interested in a seal carcass, Dec. 27 (RBS), five, Jan. 31 and 12, Feb. 4 (June Swift), four, Feb. 18 (ELM, AHM), and nine, Feb. 23 (JCZ). One was near Digby Neck, Jan. 21 (June Swift). Elsewhere, in Yar. Co., singles were seen at Melbourne, Jan. 6 (PRG, RSD), Overton, Jan. 20 (PRG), and Yarmouth, Jan. 20 (MUN). One on the Wolfville CBC, Dec. 15, was a good record. Surprisingly, there were two winter records for CB, one at Ingonish, Vic. Co., Dec. 23 (James Bridgland, Kathryn Bridgland), and one at New Haven, Vic. Co., Jan. 5 (AAM). ✕

Geese, Swans and Ducks

By Fred Dobson

There were reports of a single GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE in early December at Silver L., Lakeville, near Waterville, Kings Co. (BLM & JCT) " ...Keeping company with 400 Canada Geese." It did not turn up in the CBCs. CANADA GEESE were well reported in large numbers throughout the province. One was reported Dec. 5 & 20 at Sable I. (ZOL). There were counts of 500 or more, Dec. 3 at Bissett L., HRM (BLM), Feb. 3 at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. (JAH) and Feb. 23 at Port Joli, Queens Co. (RBS *et al.*). BRANT were seen in normal numbers in the south of the province. They were missed on the CBCs. There were 50, Dec. 14 and 2,000, Feb. 23 at CSI (BLM, RBS *et al.*).

Single sightings of WOOD DUCKS were made in four areas: the Sydneys (a male, Dec. 1 – Jan. 27 [DBM, SEM, Janice Drodge]); New Minas sewage pond; Kiwanis Pond, Truro (1 fem., Dec. 13 [RBS] and Feb. 10 – 13 [KJM, BLM]), Barrington, Shel. Co. (a male, Dec. 16 [PRG, RSD]) and Halifax (a fem., Dec. 27 – Jan. 6 [BLM]). The latest report was one male, Jan. 27 at Sydney Hbr. (DBM, SEM) "When Sydney Hbr. filled with ice in February, it moved to an area of open water with Am. Black Ducks at Blacketts L. LAR reports that it was still present there Mar. 2, courting both Black Duck and Mallard fems."

The earliest GADWALL report was Dec. 3 – two at Bissett L., Dartmouth, HRM (BLM). The Pictou Hbr. CBC, Jan. 1, found the provincial total – three. By Feb. 6 there were 24 at Barrington, Shel. Co. (PRG, RSD) and one remained, Feb. 23 at CSI (BLM). KJM saw three males and one fem., Feb. 9, rising to eight individuals by Feb. 18 at the NSPC generating plant, Trenton, Pict. Co. The beautiful EUR. WIGEON turned up at four locations this winter: Yarmouth Hbr., 16, Dec. 2 and one, Dec. 14 (PRG, RSD); Glace Bay – one male at the Sanctuary, three males and two fems. at Beacon St. Dam, Dec 3 (DBM, RWK); Trenton – one male and

one fem. at NSPC, Trenton, (KJM *et al.*); and one male, Dec. 22 at Tufts Cove, Dartmouth (RBS, BLM). There was a total of seven on the CBC with a high count of three at Glace Bay. The preponderance of AM. WIGEON reports were from CB Co. and HRM. There were three, Dec. 1 in the East R. New Glasgow sewer (KJM), 10, Dec. 3 at Beacon St. Dam, and 14 at Sanctuary, Glace Bay (DBM, RWK). A count of 16 was made Dec. 8 in Yarmouth Hbr. (PRG, RSD). RBS reported 50+ at Tufts Cove, Dartmouth, HRM on "several dates in January and February"; there were still 30 there Feb. 2. AMERICAN BLACK DUCKS were observed in large numbers throughout the province, but still they were not reported often considering their numbers. They were "common all winter" in open water in Kings Co. (RBS), the same at Conrad Marsh, HRM (DMW) and in "winter most days" 30-40 were seen in Lockeport's back harbour, Queens Co. DJC writes, "Numbers are down from previous years. Dec. 25 I observed a pair head bobbing and then copulating. Talk about unusual weather causing unusual behaviour." There was a total of 17,110 seen on the CBCs with the high count 3,120 in Halifax-Dartmouth. The latest report was 550+, Feb. 20 at Wentworth Park, Sydney (DBM). MALLARDS, too, were "Common all winter in open water in Kings Co." (RBS). The CBC total count was 3,686 (high 686, Jan. 2 at Lunenburg). In CB Co. the highest count (and the most recent) was 175 at Wentworth Park, Sydney (DBM). The three reports of BLUE-WINGED TEAL were from the south of the province – all individuals. In early December, BLM reported singles at Centreville, CSI and Richmond, Rd., Yar. Co. JAH found one fem., Feb. 15 at Bridgewater, Lun. Co. The two N. SHOVELER reports were also from the south. The only CBC sighting was one male, Dec. 16 at E. Port L'Hebert, Shel. Co. A single fem. was seen Jan. 6 - 20 at "The Guzzle", CSI (BLM). NORTHERN PINTAIL were sighted throughout the province throughout the period. Early reports

were 16, Dec. 1 in Yarmouth Hbr. (PRG, RSD) and single males at Beacon St. Dam and the Glace Bay Sanctuary, CB Co. (DBM, RWK). The CBC total was 24 with a widespread distribution (high count 11, Jan. 2 Lunenburg). There were 13, Feb. 17 - 23 at CSI (BLM, RBS *et al.*). The latest report was of a male, Feb. 26 at Glace Bay (DBM, RWK). Sightings of the diminutive GREEN-WINGED TEAL came from a few widely separate localities (in order of numbers: Kings and Hants Cos., Yarmouth, HRM, CB and Lunenburg) throughout the province – presumably places where moving water kept the ice off the fresh water. At these sites numbers were typically large: 10s or 20s mostly. The CBC total was 108 (high count was 53 at Wolfville). There were 15-20 in Yarmouth Hbr. throughout the period, two pairs in the Glace Bay Sanctuary and 15, Feb. 9 at Lower Three Fathom Hbr. (BLM).

The regal CANVASBACK does not always appear in the winter in NS, but this year there were two sightings. A male was observed Feb. 21 - Mar. 3 in N Sydney (DBM, SEM) "in open water near sewer outlet." One fem. was seen Feb. 9 - 23 in the Yarmouth area (BLM, RBS *et al.*). RING-NECKED DUCKS normally migrate away from NS in winter, but this time a significant number stayed on. The CBC total was 32 of which 31 were seen on the Halifax-Dartmouth count(s). Individuals were observed in a variety of ponds in Kings Co. (BLM, JCT, RBS). There were eight, Feb. 9 at Lower Three Fathom Hbr., HRM (BLM), and a single male, Feb. 23 at Bakers Flats, CSI (RBS *et al.*). TUFTED DUCKS were recorded again this year in the same location – the Pictou area – by KJM and others. The first record was Jan. 2 of one male at the NSPC plant in Trenton (KJM, JCZ). "It was a male and easily spotted in a small (100 or so) group of scaup. I had missed this bird the day before for the official Pictou Hbr. count. It was next seen Jan. 12 (one male and one(?) fem.) in the East R., Pict. Co. (KJM)

"... a male Tufted Duck in very close association with a fem. bird I think may be a fem. Tufted Duck. I would like to get a closer look, but there was minimal white at the base of the bill and what looked to be a small tuft. No other scaup were present here.". The latest record was Feb. 18 – an imm. male at Pictou Causeway (KJM). Once again – is a breeding pair a possibility? The majority of GREATER SCAUP sightings were from CB. The CBC total was 5,654 with a high count of 5,184(!) in Pictou Hbr. Other CBC reports, although of small numbers, indicated a wide distribution. DJC reported 48+ all winter from Dec. 22 off Lockeport's Crescent Beach, Queens Co. "... Good numbers from my observation point." There were 250, Feb. 2 at Hartlen Pt. (BLM) and 800+, Feb. 16 in Lingan Bay, CB Co. The latest report was 140, Feb. 26 at Glace Bay (DBM, RWK). Sightings of LESSER SCAUP came (in order of numbers) from HRM, Yarmouth, Pictou and Glace Bay. There were 23, Dec. 3 at Pleasant L., Yar. Co. (PRG). The CBC total was 38 with a high count of 31 at Halifax-Dartmouth. "Several" were seen Feb. 16 -18 at the NSPC plant at Trenton and on the Pictou Causeway. (KJM). A male and two fems. remained until Feb. 26 at Glace Bay (DBM, RWK).

The only report of the magnificent KING EIDER was one fem., Jan. 26 at Chebucto Hd., HRM (BLM). The earliest report of COM. EIDER was of five fems. and a young male at Sable I. (ZOL) "resting on S. Beach...(unusual there)". Most of the reports were from CB. Notable reports were 500, Jan. 26 at Chebucto Hd., HRM (BLM) "including one of the Hudson Bay race, and two of the eastern Arctic race" and Jan. 27, "numerous winter dates – small flocks off the Fundy Shore (Halls Hbr., Parkers Cove etc.), Brier I., CSI (RBS). "I got the subjective impression that there are less than usual. However, there were about 200 off Tribune Hd." The latest report was 30, Feb. 18 at Lakeys Hd., CBHNP (DBM).

The beautiful and sprightly HARLEQUIN DUCK was observed from HRM south. The CBC total was seven with a high of five, Dec. 16 at

Port L'Hebert, Queens Co. There were 25, Dec. 31 off Prospect Barrens, HRM (BLM). The latest report was a pair, Feb. 17 at the Weber Graveyard on Sober I. (KJM).

Reports of SURF SCOTER were widespread. The CBC total was 289 with a high at the Broad Cove count. Notable were reports of 20+, Dec. 4 off Parkers Cove, Anna. Co. (RBS) and up to 200 all winter at Gabarus, CB Co. (DBM, Lynn Ellis, Mary Lou Blundon). The majority of the reports of WHITE-WINGED SCOTER were from CB. There were 200, Dec. 3 in Mira Gut, CB Co. (DBM, RWK) but the distribution was really province-wide: 20+, Dec. 4 off Parkers Cove, Anna. Co. (RBS) and 16, Dec. 5 at Pinkneys Pt., Yar. Co. (PRG, RSD). The CBC total was 801 with a high of 260, at Glace Bay. The latest report was eight, Feb. 22 at Gabarus, CB Co. (DBM, Lynn Ellis). Most of the BLACK SCOTER reports were from the north of the province – but by far the greatest numbers were to be found in Green Bay, Lun. Co. The CBC total was 251; the high count was 92, at Broad Cove. KJM reported "flocks", Feb. 17 from the Weber Graveyard on Sober I. The latest report was of two, Feb. 24 at Louisbourg (SEM).

LONG-TAILED DUCKS were found in their usual numbers and distribution this winter – lots, and everywhere on the salt water. The earliest reports were from CB – 20 to 50 in small flocks in early December at Florence, Dominion, Louisbourg and Sydney Hbrs., CB Co. (DBM, RWK, SEM). From Dec. 9 on JBM observed a "flock around all winter, pairing up Feb. 25, one pair seen." From Dec. 24 all through the winter there were up to 15 off Lockeport's Crescent Beach, Queens Co. (DJC). There were 100+, Jan. 13 in the harbour and off the beach, Glace Bay (DBM, RWK), and 50, Jan. 25-26 in the Halifax Hbr. area, HRM (BLM). The latest report was 10, Feb. 26 in the harbour, Glace Bay (DBM, RWK).

Early reports of BUFFLEHEADS were all from CB. There were 10 all winter in Louisbourg Hbr. (SEM), 18, Dec. 3 at Big Pond, Florence, and 35, Dec. 14 at

Lingan Bay, CB Co. (DBM) "Stayed through winter and into March here. Seemed to be good numbers in several places." The CBC total was 668 with a high of 206 at Annapolis. There were up to 50 in January and February in all the bays and inlets visited by DBM in CB and KJM in Pict. Co. The latest report was 30, Feb. 25 at Glace Bay (DBM). COMMON GOLDENEYE mostly frequent the north of the province in winter. Early December records showed 75 & 80 at Little & Big Ponds, Florence, CB Co., and 100+ from Sydney Mines to N Sydney (DBM). The CBC total was 2,461 with the high count 601 at Pictou. There was a small flock, Dec. 27 at Brier I (RBS), 40, Jan. 6 in Mahone Bay, Lun. Co. and 50, Feb. 2 at Tufts Cove, Dartmouth, HRM (BLM). In late February small flocks were seen in the Cornwallis and Gaspereau Rs., Kings Co. (RBS). BARROW'S GOLDENEYES were reported in small numbers in HRM and CB, Anna. and Pict. Cos. The early December reports were from the Sydney area, e.g. two pairs, Dec. 9 at the hospital, N Sydney (DBM). The CBC total was 14; the high count was five, Dec. 24 at Bridgetown, Anna. Co. There were three males and one fem., Jan. 15 at Westmount, CB Co. (DBM) and three in Pictou Hbr. (BLM). There were 10, Jan. 27 in Sydney Hbr., between Sydney R. and N Sydney (DBM, SEM). "Barrows are found reliably in winter in this area of Sydney Hbr. This count of 10 today is the highest for the winter. Pretty typical for this area for a high count." On the same day there were six (two ad. males, two fems. and two imm. males) at the tidal power plant at Annapolis Royal (BLF). The latest report was five, Feb. 18 at the Pictou Causeway., Pict. Co. (KJM).

HOODED MERGANSERS were found on fresh and salt water throughout the province throughout the winter. There were "up to eight, seen off and on" (and 20+, Feb. 13) in the Mahone Bay area, Lun. Co. (JBM), 25 at Haliburton Gut, Lyons Brook (KJM) and 20, Dec. 1 in the East R. at Abercrombie, Pict. Co. (KJM). Dec. 23 found 13 at Lower South Cove, Lun. Co. and four at Ritcey Cove, Lun. Co. (ELM, AHM). The CBC total was 214 with a high of 75 (!),

Jan. 2 at Lunenburg. PRG and RSD reported 24, Feb. 3 at Barrington, Shel. Co. The latest report was three, Feb. 16 at the NSPC generating plant (KJM). COMMON MERGANSERS, as usual, were not the most common Merganser species. The earliest report was 30, Dec. 3 at the Glace Bay Sanctuary (DBM, RWK). One was seen Dec. 15 "flying over downtown Kentville!" (RBS). The CBC total was 1,959 with a high count of 1,076, Jan. 1 at Pictou (the harbour must have been something to see that day!) They were present Feb. 5-12 at Conrad Marsh, Hfx. Co. (DMW); 22

were seen Feb. 6 at R. Bourgeois, Rich. Co. (GED, SDI). SEM reported 16, Feb. 17 on a "small area of open water, Mira R., Albert Bridge, CB Co. This was the first week that there was open water at this location, and the mergansers were back immediately. Still present at the end of February." RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were found everywhere in their usual numbers. DBM reported 25, Dec. 1 at Little Pond, Florence, CB Co. "A few most places along coast through the winter ...". There was a similar report by DBW of a few tens throughout the winter at

Conrad Marsh, Hfx. Co. and RBS saw "plenty", Dec. 27 around Brier I. There were 18, Feb. 6 in the Pondville Beach area, Isle Madame, Rich. Co. (GED, SDI) and 12, Feb. 10 in Port Mouton inner harbour, Queens Co. (RES). All reports after Feb. 10 were of 1-15 individuals and came from the north of the province (DBM, KJM, SEM).

The three RUDDY DUCKS seen first Dec. 3 at Bissett L., Dartmouth, HRM (BLM) were still present for the CBC, Dec. 15. An individual turned up in late February at CSI (BLM). ☘

Diurnal Raptors, Galliforms, Rails and Cranes

By Richard Knapton

No late lingering OSPREYS were reported this winter. As in previous years, BALD EAGLES were well reported throughout the province, more so than any other raptor and, as usual, the Bald Eagle was the most numerous raptor on CBCs, with 723 reported from 28 out of 34 counts. The Wolfville CBC alone reported a staggering 354 birds. Other significant gatherings around the province on CBCs included Antigonish (42), Eskasoni (40), Pictou Hbr. (30), Strait of Canso (20), Shubenacadie (30), Springville (27), The Sydneys (19), and West Hants (28). The Blomidon Naturalists and friends carried out their annual Eagles/Raptors Count on two dates, Feb. 9 and 16, in eastern Kings Co. The first count turned up 333 (67% ads. and 33% imms.), and the second 312 (maybe 317) eagles (JWW *et al.*). Those numbers are a little below numbers from the last few years. A gathering of 16, with only two ads., at Lingan Bay, CB Co., Feb. 16, was a noteworthy concentration (DBM).

Bald Eagles are opportunistic predators. JWW related the following very interesting observation at Lumsden Reservoir. "BLF is used to seeing at least a few Com. Mergansers there (like today), and he watched a Bald Eagle (I forget the age) make what he thought was a hunting pass at them but the bird apparently missed by a meter or so and ended up in the water! After a while it



Managing SHARP-SHINNED HAWK predation around feeders is challenging. This one in Canso town was seen taking two Blue Jays, a half-dozen doves, at least a dozen starlings (one shown here), and a few little brown jobs. Most regrettably, a carefully nurtured Baltimore Oriole disappeared after Feb. 5. When bird feeding was curtailed for a spell in February, the hawk became less frequent and feeder birds began to return. [Photo Tom Kavanaugh]

became obvious that the eagle had not missed at all, but had something sizeable and struggling in its talons. Eagles in such situations have to laboriously row to a shore with their wings. When it got there, it showed that it had a nice big Am. Eel, one of their favourite prey-items! "It had rowed 60 m while it was struggling with the eel. Afterwards, it climbed up the bank

dragging the eel, rested, and then flew off with its squirming prey. The eel was probably brought to the surface by the feeding mergansers. 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 and Kings Cos. in early winter.

Reports of N. HARRIERS in early winter were scattered throughout the province, from CB to the southern islands, usually of single birds. There were three on CSI, Dec. 2 (MUN) and three in late January hunting rodents on the Hartlen Pt. golf course, HRM (ULH). There were 60 reported on 18 CBCs, with 12 on Wolfville and 10 on Amherst. CBC totals over the last few years have remained quite constant, ranging from 56 to 69 birds. Late winter records of harriers tend to be fewer, as the cold weather sets in. However, there were still plenty of reports, about 24, from CB Co. to Shel. Co. during January and February. Four were reported around Louisbourg and Kennington Cove, CB Co., Feb. 26, scavenging oiled murrelets (SEM, LAR).

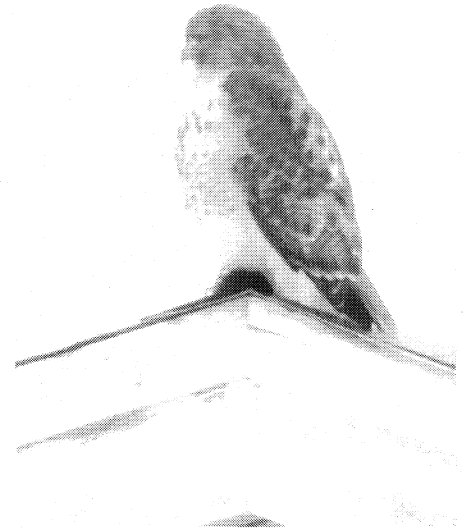
As usual, there were scattered reports of SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS throughout the province and throughout the winter, often as unwanted visitors at bird feeders. Twenty-one of 34 CBCs reported sharp-shins, for a provincial total of 78 birds, quite a few more than the 69 in 2000, and 62 reported in both 1998 and 1999. Most counts in most years have ones and twos, but the Wolfville CBC reported 10 and Halifax-Dartmouth reported a very impressive 16. Sharp-shins often frequent feeders and, because of this, observations of prey are frequently made. This year, Mourning Doves ended up as sharp-shin food in Central Argyle, Yar. Co., Dec. 27 (PRG), and Portuguese Cove, HRM, Jan. 23 (Hans Toom). Hans also witnessed a Sharp-shinned Hawk capture prey, fly to the ground with it, and a N. Goshawk swoop down and scare away the Sharp-shin and steal the victim. One went after Com. Redpolls at DBM's feeder at Georges R., CB Co., Feb. 25. There was only one report of COOPER'S HAWK at CSI Feb. 20 (MUN *et al.*). NORTHERN GOSHAWKS were reported in low numbers from throughout the province, from CBI to the southern islands. The CBCs totalled 11 individuals from 11 counts, and the numbers this winter were about the same as last winter.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK is one of the more unusual birds that fairly regularly winters in the province. These

birds are almost always immatures, and they may have wandered into our area, and become essentially trapped for the season. This winter there were more reports than usual. One was at Tantallon, HRM, Dec. 2 (FLL *et al.*), one was reported from Wallbrook, Kings Co., Dec. 15 (George and Margaret Alliston), an immature was at Belleville, Yar. Co., Dec. 23 (PRG), and one was at Argyle, Yar. Co., Jan. 11 (MUN). One at the Glace Bay Sanctuary, CB Co., Dec. 24, stayed around for the CBC, Dec. 29 (CAM). One was perched on wires along the Circumferential Highway near Woodside, HRM, Jan. 13 (TEP).

As in previous years, RED-TAILED HAWKS appear to be 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 57, Feb. 9 and 94, Feb. 16 (JWW). Red-tails were fairly widespread throughout the mainland, and were found on most mainland CBCs (242 birds on 22 out of 24 counts, with 129 on the Wolfville CBC). However, they are decidedly scarce on CBI in mid-winter; only three out of nine CBCs reported red-tails. An almost completely white adult red-tail was near the Hortonville exit, Highway 101, Kings Co., on Feb. 26 (JWW, PAM). It was described as very white with a beautiful normal bright reddish tail, and the back of the head was dark greyish or blackish and the leading edge of the folded left wing was blackish (very thin line showing). The importance of such descriptions is underscored by the fact that a very similarly plumaged bird was seen at the same location last year, also in February (Feb. 12), quite possibly the same bird. A sign of spring is when red-tails begin to rebuild their nests; the pair nesting at Acadia University were watched carrying sticks to their nest site during late January and February (Elaine and Don Hendricks).

There were more ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK reports this winter than in the last couple of years, and this was reflected in the totals on the CBCs. Thirty-five birds were reported from nine counts, with 17 coming from



Not many of us have RED-TAILED HAWK on our yard list, like this one photographed by Richard Stern from his house deck near Kentville, 24 Feb.

Amherst CBC alone. There were a further 26 reports in January and February, although they were reported as rare at Grand Pré, (JWW), normally a reliable place for Rough-legs. Most reports referred to light morphs, but dark morph Rough-legged Hawks, very striking birds, were reported from Kentville Dyke, Feb. 14 (RBS), and at Wellington Dyke, Starrs Pt., Kings Co., Dec. 6 (JCT). On Nov. 22, SAW picked up an injured, dark morph rough-leg, which had probably been hit by a car when attracted to a road-killed pheasant carcass. He took the hawk to Elaine and Mike Kew of the Atlantic Raptor Rehabilitation Centre at St. Margarets Bay. It recuperated well under their dedicated care, and the Kews and SAW released the bird at Grand Pré, Jan. 4. Thereafter, a dark morph bird was seen until the end of February near the Canard R. bridge along the main highway to Canning, quite likely the same bird. As is often the case, no rough-legs were reported from CBI during the winter, where it is particularly rare. There were no reports of Golden Eagles this winter.

AMERICAN KESTRELS were reported most frequently in December, and most frequently in the southern counties., predictably, for a half-hardy

overwinterer. There were four on CSI, Dec. 2 (MUN). Many more were reported on CBCs this winter than last year; 18 birds on eight counts, with five on the Yarmouth CBC. January and February records were very few: singles were at St. Alphonse, Digby Co., Jan. 5 (PRG), and at Chegoggin Pt., Yar. Co., Jan. 5 (PRG). As usual, there was a scattering of MERLINS throughout the province, from CBI to the southern islands, mainly in December, and perhaps a few more than last year. The provincial total of 18 on the CBCs was the second highest in the last ten years. Five on the Wolfville CBC was a good number, and PES simultaneously had a Red-tailed Hawk (on top of a locust tree), a Sharp-shinned Hawk (close to the trunk of a cedar) and a Merlin (on the outer limb of a maple) in his garden in Wolfville Jan. 12. A Merlin stooped at a flock of Bohemian Waxwings Jan. 10 at Georges R., CB Co. (DBM, EMC). There were three reports of GYRFALCONS this winter. A dark phase bird was reported Jan. 19 near Stewiacke, HRM (JCZ), and one or perhaps two grey phase birds reported from Long I., Kings Co., in January (Neil Van Nostrand). A highlight of the winter season was a superb white phase bird photographed at Truro, Dec. 26. Robert Ganz, a photographer from

Montreal, captured incredible digital shots of a white-phase Gyrfalcon killing and devouring a Mallard, on Marsh Drive, Truro, on Boxing Day.

Several PEREGRINE FALCONS were seen this winter. Birds were reported from Lun. Co., one at Second Peninsula, Jan. 26 (JAH), Kings Co.; two ads. were frequently reported during January and February around Grand Pré (JWW, BLM, RBS); one at The Hawk, Dec. 27 (PRG, JON). A Eur. Starling ended up as food for one of the Kings Co. birds, Jan. 24 (RBS). A *tundrius* was photographed at Canard Pond, Kings Co., Feb. 26 (RBS). Sable I. records are always interesting, because of the remoteness of the island: a Peregrine was there Dec. 2, 5 and 12 (ZOL).

Only one GRAY PARTRIDGE, of uncertain origin, was reported on a CBC, at Annapolis Dec. 29. There were eight in a covey at Central Onslow, Col. Co., Feb. 13 (BLM). Like last winter, RING-NECKED PHEASANTS were reported widely throughout the province, from Sydney and Cheticamp to Cape Sable. There were 624 reported, with the Wolfville CBC once again leading in absolute numbers, 223, Dec. 15. A count of 23, Jan. 2, on Tancook I., Lun. Co., was indicative of local

abundance (ELM, AHM). RUFFED GROUSE were also widespread, with 26 of 34 CBCs reporting them. Springville, Pict. Co., tallied the largest number at 18 birds. The total number of 131 was comparable to the 124 reported in 2000 and they were possibly more frequent on CBI this winter, for example at Georges R., CB Co. (DBM). Only the Port L'Hebert CBC reported SPRUCE GROUSE, two were found there Dec. 16. Other reports came in from W Middle Sable, Shel. Co.; a male and fem., Jan. 2 (DHY); Fortress of Louisbourg, CB Co., a fem., Feb. 4 (SEM); and Yar. Co., Jan. 31 (MUN). Hans Toom reported a fem. at his home at Portuguese Cove, HRM, Jan. 26. No Wild Turkeys or N. Bobwhites were reported this winter.

AM. COOTS put on another good show this winter, with remarkable similarity to last winter. Like last year, the fall flock on Bissett L., HRM, held three birds, at least until the CBC, Dec. 15. Similarly, one on Sullivans Pond, HRM, survived to the end of the reporting period (var. obs.). Finally, one stayed on Kiwanis Pond, Truro, Col. Co., at least until Feb. 11 (KJM *et al.*). Unlike last winter, there were no reports of Sandhill Cranes this winter. ☞

The Shorebirds

By Sylvia Fullerton

Numbers of over-wintering shorebirds have increased noticeably over the last three or four years, no doubt influenced by the warm weather. This was particularly the case at our wintering shorebird capital, CSI, where MUN estimated at least 600 birds in residence from mid-January to the end of the reporting period, an unparalleled number. The dramatic increase so late in the season was also intriguing.

A tardy BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER at Little Pond, CB Co., Dec. 1, was unusually late for CB (DBM). CBCs produced only 19 on CSI, Dec. 15, and two at Broad Cove, Lun. Co., Dec. 30. Three were still at Cherry Hill Beach, Lun. Co., Jan. 19 & 27, including the

ad. in alternate plumage seen earlier in the fall (SJF, JAH). This ad. may have been the same bird spotted by JON at CSI, Feb. 6. The peak seasonal count of 75 at The Hawk, CSI, Jan. 27, established a record-high (MUN). As they were not around to be counted on the CBCs, one wonders where they had originated.

Surprising was a lone SEMIPALMATED PLOVER at Pinkneys Pt., Yar. Co., Jan. 6 (PRG, RSD). It was rediscovered at nearby Cooks Beach Jan. 11, calling continuously (JON, MUN). This established a record-late date, the previous one being Dec. 20, 2000, when four were tallied on the Glace Bay CBC.

Several of the fall KILLDEER held on into December: one, Indian Hbr., HRM, Dec. 1 (*vide* Anna McCarron); three, Yarmouth Hbr., Dec. 2 (MUN); four, Mavillette Beach, Digby Co., Dec. 8 (MUN). Only three were counted on the CBCs, one at Wolfville, Dec. 15 and two at Broad Cove, Dec. 30. One at Martinique Beach, HRM, Dec. 22 & 27 was apparently outside any count circle (TEP). Hardy singles were still at Yarmouth Hbr., Jan. 22 (PRG) and at Broad Cove, Jan. 27 (JAH).

The two GREATER YELLOWLEGS at CSI, Dec. 1, stayed to be counted on the CBC, Dec. 15, and were last seen Dec. 29 (MUN). Another late sighting on the same date was at the Windsor sewage

ponds on the W Hants CBC. A LESSER YELLOWLEGS at CSI, undoubtedly the same bird present in late fall, stayed until the CBC, Dec. 15, and was not seen again. An unprecedented find for the season was a WILLET, Dec. 2, CSI (RBS, AAM, BLF). As to be expected, it had all the characteristics of the W subspecies. Present for the CBC, Dec. 15, it supplied a first CBC record for NS. Still there Feb. 28, it also established an exceedingly late-date for the species.

A few RUDDY TURNSTONES usually linger into winter and this year was no exception. Three or four were at CSI, Dec. 2 (RBS), and by Jan. 27 up to 25 had assembled from parts unknown (MUN). One was at South Bar, CB Co., Dec. 1, one of the few shorebird species seen in CB in late fall and winter (JUM).

RED KNOTS often winter at a few favoured beaches. The CBCs produced 23 at CSI, Dec. 15, and two at Morien Bar, CB Co., Dec. 29 (SEM, Margaret Williams). Elsewhere, wintering birds included: one, Lockeport Beach, Shel. Co., Jan. 24-late Feb. (DJC, DHY); one, Cherry Hill Beach, to Feb. 14 (SJF). Numbers grew to an amazing 95, an all-time high, at CSI, by Jan. 27 (MUN).

A single SANDERLING at Florence, CB Co., Dec. 1, was late for the area (DBM). Another all-time high of 390 was reached on the CBCs, but restricted to only two locations: 270, CSI, Dec. 15; 120, Port L'Hebert, Shel. Co., Dec. 16 (SJF). Peak numbers at other beaches

were: 13, Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., Dec. 24 (JSC); 500, CSI, Jan. 27 (MUN); 12, Cherry Hill Beach, Feb. 8; 50, Martinique Beach, Feb. 17 (TEP). Two small, enigmatic sandpipers on The Cape, CSI, Feb. 20 (MUN) posed the question once again, SEMIPALMATED or WESTERN? Over-wintering WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER are becoming regular on CSI where up to four were seen on and off to the end of the reporting period.

PURPLE SANDPIPERS were widely reported in average numbers. Earliest were 50 at Mahoneys Beach, Ant. Co., Dec. 6 (BLM). A total of 321 was the CBC tally, highest being: 120, Brier I.; 40, Apple R.; 41, Economy; 33, CB Highlands; 27, Chignecto E/Canso. Peaks at other traditional spots were: 25, Cape Fourchu, Digby Co., Dec. 12 (PRG); 80, Louisbourg, Jan. 6 (SEM); 22, Lower W Pubnico, Yar. Co., Feb. 9 (RSD); 50, Sober I., HRM, Feb. 17 (KJM).

Of the 66 DUNLINS tallied on the CBCs, 46 were at CSI, and 12 on the Halifax/Dartmouth CBC, both Dec. 15. Less common in CB, two tarried for the Cheticamp CBC, Dec. 16. Reports from other beaches included: two, Pinkneys Pt., Dec. 16 (PRG, RSD); 30, Martinique Beach, Dec. 22 (TEP); two, Cherry Hill Beach, Jan. 19; five, Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., Feb. 10 (JSC).

Unprecedented in number and for the period were up to eight DOWITCHERS at CSI, Feb. 20-28 (MUN *et al.*). These



This distant shot, Feb. 23 on the mudflats off CSI, confirms its earlier identification by local birders as the first Willet known to have overwintered here. Its pale plumage and lanky structure also supports their conclusion that it was of the prairie-nesting subspecies. [Photo Ian McLaren]

were thought to be Short-billed, and if so, they were extraordinarily early migrants.

COMMON SNIPE were reported in average numbers, with five on the CBCs. Singles were at Cole Hbr., HRM, Dec. 23 (IAM) and at Martinique Beach, Dec. 27 (TEP). One survived the season at CSI from Feb. 6 to the end of the period (MUN *et al.*). Two AM. WOODCOCK were foraging at Upper Woods Hbr., Shel. Co., the week of Dec. 22 (MUN). Hardy individuals were still at CSI, Jan. 3 (MUN) and near Barrington, Shel. Co., Jan. 12 (PRG). ☞

Skuas Through Alcids

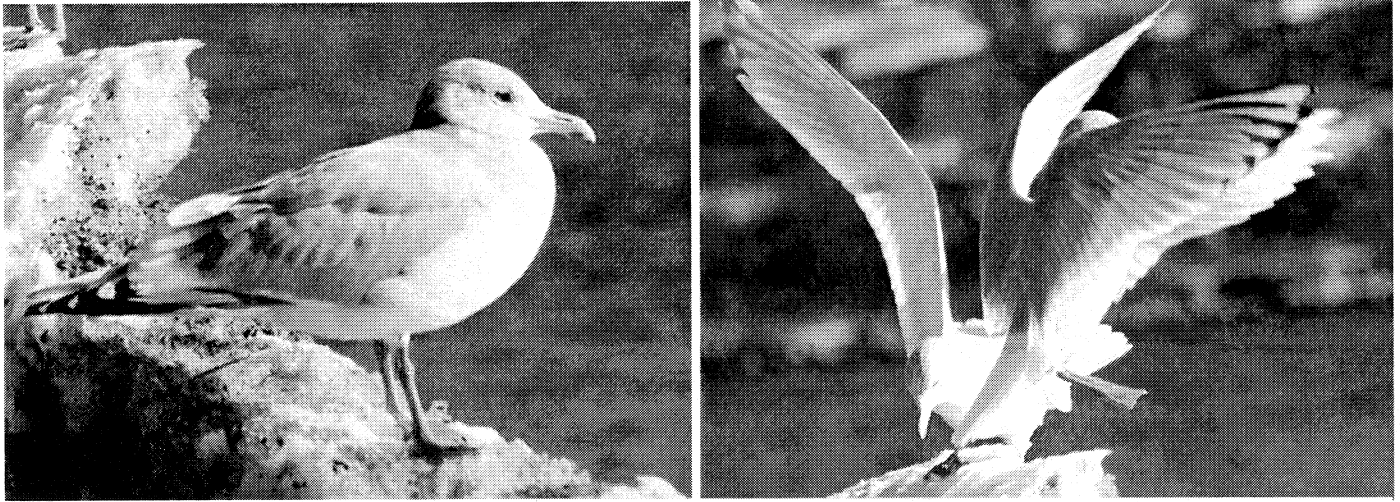
By Blake Maybank

As hard as CAH works lobstering, he still looks up from time to time and he noted a couple of GREAT SKUA in the Bay of Fundy, some miles SW of Brier. He was also impressed by large numbers of POMARINE and PARASITIC JAEGERs through mid-to-late December.

A record 430 BLACK-HEADED GULLS were found on provincial

CBC's, with Halifax leading the way with 167 and Lunenburg an unexpected second with 123. Nearly a hundred were counted between Glace Bay and Sydney Hbr., while Port Hebert had a respectable 32. In the past I've roughly estimated the province's winter population at 400, but I'd be inclined to raise it to 600 now. An increase, certainly. BONAPARTE'S GULLS always start strong in winter, then

quickly taper off as most head for warmer southern climes. The largest early-December concentration was 1,500+ at Ogdens Pond, Dec. 6 (BLM *et al.*). Unsurprisingly the Pictou and Antigonish CBC's had the lion's share of the 464 birds found across NS, with 228 and 133 respectively. The Lunenburg CBC had 23, a good number away from the Northumberland shore, and they lingered, as ELM counted 20



Apparently the same, recurrent THAYER'S GULL hung around at Richmond Pier, Halifax, for the third winter. Its dark eyes contrast with the pale ones of Herring Gulls, and its primary tips are much darker than the dark gray found in extreme examples of "Kumlien's Gull." The remarkable action shot catches it at the act of landing, perhaps to the annoyance of the Herring Gull behind it. Note again the restricted black of its primary tips; its vivid pink legs are also striking on the colour originals. [Photos Judy Tufts]

at Upper South Cove, Jan. 3. JAH still found two as late as Feb. 15. A dozen were on CB Co. CBC's, with the last sighting there Jan. 13 (DBM, RWK). A few late winter birds showed up in odd locales, with one imm. at W Dover, Jan. 13 (BLM, first record for the harbour), an adult in Ketch Hbr., Jan. 28 (BLM), and 11 at Lower W Pubnico Feb. 9 (RSD). 'COMMON' MEW GULLS evaded CBC's, but BLM and TEP, independently saw a second-winter bird in Halifax Hbr., Dec. 30, BLM at the Richmond Terminal Pier and TEP at Tufts Cove (a short distance apart as the gull flies). MUN and JON also reported an ad. from Barrington Passage in December, before CBC count day. 1,190 RING-BILLED GULLS was a good, but not record-breaking, provincial CBC total, and the majority were in Halifax Hbr. as expected. Elsewhere, DJC thought the species "very plentiful" around Lockeport, with a high count of 25, while singles at Harris Pond, Canning, Dec. 1, (RBS), and N Sydney, Feb. 21 (DBM) were both thought by their respective reporters to have been unusual for the location.

More than 37,000 HERRING GULLS on CBC's at least ensured there was something to look at when rarities were absent, especially in Kings Co., the current winter Herring Gull stronghold. The birds are undoubtedly drawn to the same poultry attractions as Bald Eagles

and Red-tailed Hawks. The Halifax Richmond Pier ad. THAYER'S GULL returned for a third winter. BLM first sighted it Dec. 30 and JCT took some excellent photos Jan. 1. The last reported sighting was Jan. 26 (BLM *et al.*). ICELAND GULLS seemed late arriving last autumn, but arrive they eventually did, and the CBC total of 3,166 was a record high, well above the previous record of 2,598 of two years ago. Northport, a traditional favourite site for this handsome gull, edged out The Sydneys for top honours, 849 to 705. Most of the rest were elsewhere in CB or the Northumberland Shore, as well as Halifax Hbr., where a 229 total was on the low side. Individual reports were not illustrative of too much, save for ELM's note of unusually good numbers around Brier I. through the winter, including the 12 seen on the CBC. All three CBC LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were on the Wolfville Count and various observers reported seeing one or two in Kings Co. through the winter (JCT *et al.*). Elsewhere JON and MUN reported a second-winter bird on CSI throughout February, perhaps the same bird noted there this past autumn by IAM. ELM and AHM turned up two different birds in Lun. Co. in February, a second-winter bird in Lunenburg Hbr. on the 2nd and an ad. in Lower South Cove on the 16th. GLAUCOUS GULLS showed in average numbers on CBC's; interestingly, half the 42 birds were on

the Cheticamp CBC. Elsewhere, province wide, they seemed scarce, albeit widespread, with sightings, usually of singles, from most counties, including the southern ones. The more than 10,000 GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS found on CBC's suggests a recovery, with nearly half the birds joining Herring Gulls in Kings Co. for the previously mentioned reason. RBS passes along the following encounter from The Hawk beach on CSI:

One memorable sighting happened right in front of us as we were eating sandwiches by the beach. There was an adult GBB Gull that repeatedly attacked a Dovekie that was swimming on the ocean just offshore, forcing it to repeatedly dive. Eventually it picked up the weakened and struggling Dovekie in its bill. We could see it still trying to flap its wings between the mandibles of the Gull. Finally, once it had stopped struggling, the Gull swallowed it whole! We could see the bulging crop, which made the whole bird look bigger in front of a second GBBG which seemed to be looking on. Then it flew off, leaving us amazed. Nature in the raw!

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES spend the winter offshore (CAH always noted many in the Bay of Fundy), but near shore sightings can occur with suitable winds. CBC totals are more

indicative of weather than the species' abundance, with Halifax (Chebucto Hd.) and Lunenburg (Tancook I.) the beneficiaries this year. The best total from shore was 1,000+ past Brier I.'s Northern Pt., Dec. 17 (ELM). In the latter part of winter BLM noted seven off Chebucto Hd., Jan. 28. The oddest record was a an imm. bird flying a bit inland over the forest bordering the Atlantic shore of Hartlen Pt., Feb. 7 (IAM, BLM). An ad. **IVORY GULL** was at Dominion Beach, CB Co., Feb. 10-13 (var. obs.), feeding on a dead seal.

The alcid event of the winter was a tragic one, the result of deliberate oil dumping by ship. See the article in this issue by Dr. Tony Lock, the Marine Issues Biologist for the Canadian Wildlife Service. And this report from SEM of Louisbourg:

Having helped to enlist volunteers for the first year of the CB Beached Bird Survey (organised by Bird Studies Canada on behalf of the Canadian Wildlife Service), I received reports from many birders and volunteers of oiled birds found on beaches. During the period of Feb. 21 to Feb. 28, at least 125 dead and dying murrets (all Thick-billed, that could be identified) were found along the east coast of CBI, between Cape North and Isle Madame. One Dovekie and one Common Eider - both oiled - were also

found. The numbers peaked around Feb. 26 - 27. On Feb. 26, we found 8 murrets at Kennington Cove that had died that day (drift ice came in only the night before), along a stretch of shoreline one-quarter km long. On Feb. 27, 12 freshly-dead murrets were found at another stretch of shoreline at the Fortress of Louisbourg, half a km long. The following day, strong offshore winds (60 km) blew both drift ice and birds away from the shore. Only one day of onshore winds have followed, on Mar. 3, so the numbers of deaths since Feb. 27 cannot be estimated. Approx. 25 beaches were surveyed during this period, a small percentage of the CB coastline. Also, many of the birds will have died at sea. At a conservative estimate, each of the 125 birds on shore represents 100 or more birds that have died. Beach surveys have been conducted by volunteers in Newfoundland since 1984, and have made a large contribution to documenting the scope of the oiling problem. It is most unfortunate that our first year of volunteer surveys in CB have been able to do the same.

The offshore spill(s) was the most devastating, and thousands of Thick-billed Murrets and Dovekies likely fell victim; the smaller Dovekies were less

likely able to reach shore to die, and so were less often encountered during shore surveys.

Aside from this sad event, it was not an alcid winter, at least in terms of "typical" arrivals on the teeth of NE gales. A paltry 20 DOVEKIES were found on CBC's, and 17 of those were in Louisbourg, which had its Dovekie "peak" in mid-December. JOW and JCZ had a Dovekie in Ketch Hbr., Jan. 27. COMMON MURRETS were scarce away from the centre of the Bay of Fundy, with two at Pondville, Isle Madame, Feb. 6 (GED, SDI), one oiled bird off Baccaro, Feb. 8 (MUN), and two there Feb. 17 (BLM, IAM). These likely all were oiled birds. Broad Cove had all 15 of the THICK-BILLED MURRETS reported on CBC's. The day after Ketch Hbr. hosted a Dovekie, BLM *et al.* had a Thick-billed Murre (Jan. 28). RAZORBILLS don't winter in the open Atlantic, so were not affected by the oil spill. Only three were on CBC's, but that included one in Louisbourg. BLM counted 10 off CSI, Dec. 1, and noted three off Halls Hbr., Jan. 27. ELM had 10 off Brier I., Dec. 17, the day before the local CBC. BLACK GUILLEMOT were widespread and welcome, but not notably so. There were but three ATLANTIC PUFFINS reported: Baccaro Pt., Dec. 1 (BLM); Lunenburg CBC; and off the Louisbourg lighthouse, Feb. 24 (SEM). α

Doves Through Woodpeckers

By Ian McLaren

ROCK DOVES on the combined CBCs were in about their usual numbers for the last decade; fortunately, their high reproductive potential is countered by many hazards. Although winter nesting is routine (though rarely successful) in Metro, DJC was surprised to learn of fresh eggshells at the Lockeport wharf over the Christmas period. By contrast, MOURNING DOVES continued their steady increase, with this winter's CBC total almost 30% above the previous high counts of about 6,600 during the past three years. The cornfields of Kings Co. are doubtless behind the fact that

Wolfville, as usual, again produced by far, the highest CBC number. Several observers reported 20 or more at feeders through winter. One early bird was "singing" at West Springhill, Anna. Co., Feb. 23 (MCN).

GREAT HORNED OWL numbers were below-average on CBCs, and only eight were noted subsequently. This was, however, clearly an invasion year for SNOWY OWLS. Although the CBC total of seven seems modest, it was the largest since the late 80's. I estimate, with an attempt to account for repeats,

that at least 26 were spotted around the province through winter. Mousing can be tough and some won't make it back; one of at least four CSI birds died in early January (MUN). Another, having been nurtured from late fall by the Kews at their rehabilitation centre, was successfully released at Grand Pré, Jan. 4. Numbers of BARRED OWLS on CBCs were back to the recent norm following peaks in 1999-2000; about a dozen were reported for later dates. In early February, JAH heard from a woman in Mahone Bay who feeds wild ducks at her house and who was

surprised to see a large, fluffed-out owl squatting on her driveway. Naturally, she investigated and the owl fled, releasing a doubtless grateful duck. Her description indicated to JAH that it was a Barred Owl, which would make the event even more surprising. A pair was dueting in Wolfville at night Jan. 13-14, "most unusual behaviour for this time of year" (PES). BLF reports that his backyard pair was back at his owl feeder for the 11th winter and that the female made her first nest box visit of the season Feb. 23. Intriguing was a report by Steve Rhude to RFL of a possible GREAT GRAY OWL on the handle of a chopping-block axe at Fox I. Main, Guys. Co. It was described as large, with yellow eyes and no ear tufts, and its low perch is characteristic of this species. There have been no confirmed provincial records of this elusive northerner since the last century, and many would love to see one. Two LONG-EARED OWLS were in fact more than in any CBC since 1982, but there were no other reports of this scarce and retiring owl. The CBC total of SHORT-EARED OWLS was also not impressive and possibly only about eight others were seen in localities between HRM and CSI. Four at Hartlen Pt., Jan. 27 (ULH), probably gathered from elsewhere, and may also have given rise to reports of up to four Snowy Owls there during the same period (when others found only one). Distant Short-eareds in flight can appear remarkably white. Close up, they can be delightful; Derek Bridgehouse writes of one at Hartlen Pt., Feb. 3, putting on "quite an aerial display of soar - stall-swoop, almost like a little Harrier jump jet." There was a modest showing of N. SAW-WHET OWLS on the CBCs. One other, in late February on the St. Francis Xavier campus, was reported to RFL, who hoped it wasn't "a sign of another hard winter for the species." This spring's owl surveys may give more promise.

Wintering BELTED KINGFISHERS maintained the good numbers evident since the mid-1990s, both on CBCs and



DOWNY WOODPECKERS, this one in Sydney, are familiar at most feeders that supply suet or other energy-rich meals. [Photo Lynn Ellis]

subsequently. At least six were noted after early February, including one through that month near Louisbourg (SEM).

This winter's lone RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, at Mahone Bay since autumn, was last reported (last seen?) in early January (var. obs.). The CBC total for DOWNY WOODPECKER was not far short of the record highs of 1998-1999, and the usual reports came of feeder birds. JAH reported an apparent arrival, Feb. 27, of three new fems. joining a male at his Blockhouse, Lun. Co., feeders, precipitating much dispute among them. HAIRY WOODPECKERS maintained their high CBC totals of the last few years (after last year's anomalous drop). The usual feeder reports included no indications of trends or unusual behaviour. A possible THREE-TOED WOODPECKER off a back road on Economy Mt. was reported to FLS, but alas could not be relocated. This is another species on the avid ticker's want list. BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS were, as usual, almost absent from the CBC list and

only three others were reported: near Five Islands, Col. Co., Feb. 13 (BLM), and at traditional sites on the Mt. Uniake Estate, Dec. 30 (TEP) and Jan. 17 (H. Kwindt) and Black R., Kings Co., Feb. 24 (BLF). More bushwhacking is needed. The CBC total of 122 N. FLICKERS was the lowest of the past five years, although still above those of earlier years. They fared well subsequently, as indicated by reports of at least 25 in the New Year. A report of "RED-SHAFTED" FLICKER, said to have been present for three weeks at Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., in late January and early February, was followed up by JAH to no avail. Such possibilities need careful checking to determine if a bird of this western subspecies group is involved, or one from the broad hybrid zone with our "Yellow-shafted" birds. The CBC total of PILEATED WOODPECKERS was close to last year's but well below the peaks of the mid-1990s. Reports of about 10 later birds, including one coming to suet in New Minas (*vide* JWW) were about average for the season. ☿

Flycatchers Through Thrushes

By Andy Horn

We start this section with some house cleaning involving two reports from last issue. First, the Western Kingbird sighting from Lower Eel Brook, Yar. Co., Aug. 26, in fact never occurred, but was the figment of a minor transcription error. Second, the possible Dusky Flycatcher originally reported as seen Dec. 5 was in fact seen Dec. 3 (see the full report in this issue).

There was no mistake, however, about the **A S H - T H R O A T E D FLYCATCHER** that stayed in Voglers Cove from late November until Dec. 7 (var. obs.). Providing the cover for our last issue and the first documented record for the province, this bird was widely admired and is thoroughly described and illustrated in that issue. Somewhat overshadowed but still appreciated was the W. **KINGBIRD** at Lockeport, Shel. Co., that probably stayed to Dec. 9, over two weeks beyond what was reported in the last issue (DJC). November is when this species is most likely, but birds occasionally appear in December, too.

Perhaps more unexpected was the very slow winter for N. **SHRIKES**. Only nine were seen on Christmas counts across the province – the lowest total in nine years – and only three other reports were submitted: one from Victoria Hbr., Kings Co., Jan. 27 (BLM) and two from along highways in Yar. Co., Jan. 5 (near Metegan) and Jan. 6 (near Yarmouth, PRG). In contrast, vireos are supposed to be scarce in winter, and when they do appear they are most likely to be Blue-headed Vireos, so the **RED-EYED VIREO** seen in Halifax, Dec. 3 (IAM) was quite a nice find, occurring over two weeks after the latest bird seen last fall.

GRAY JAYS were well reported throughout the Province, especially from CB. Of the 111 seen on CBCs, 21 were in Louisbourg and 26 in St. Peters, Rich. Co. **BLUE JAYS** followed their spectacular fall in some areas (see last issue) with their second highest CBC total (6,020, compared with 6,363 in

1997). Nearly one sixth of those were on the Wolfville count alone. **AMERICAN CROWS** and **COM. RAVENS** had an average CBC year. The huge crow roost in Kentville seemed to decline by mid-December (RBS). Perhaps many of the birds shifted to New Minas, where 8,000-10,000 were counted Feb. 28 (JCT). Large, noisy groups were also found Feb. 2 on the ice at the Marine Terminal in Sydney (650 birds) and on the mud flats at Lingan Bay, CB Co. (350 birds, DBM). Sydney also had the high count of Com. Ravens, with 65 lurking around a McDonald's restaurant there Feb. 2 (DBM).

Flocks of 20-50 **HORNED LARKS** were seen at numerous coastal locations (var. obs.), although just over half of the 406 seen on CBCs were from the Wolfville area alone. A remarkably misguided but rugged **TREE SWALLOW** foraged over a sewage pond, in Sand Lake, CB Co., Dec. 7 (ALM, CAM). **BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES** clocked a record total **C B C (13,222)**. **BOREAL CHICKADEES**, in contrast, totalled 459, close to their all-time average. Some observers remarked on the latter species' predilection for suet at feeders (RFL, RSD). Its acceptance of carrion in one backyard (RFL) perhaps hints at how this preference used to be expressed long before the days of bird feeders.

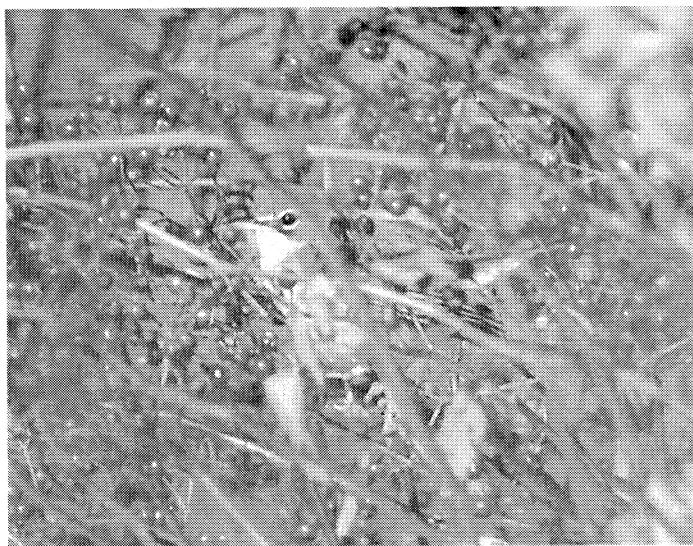
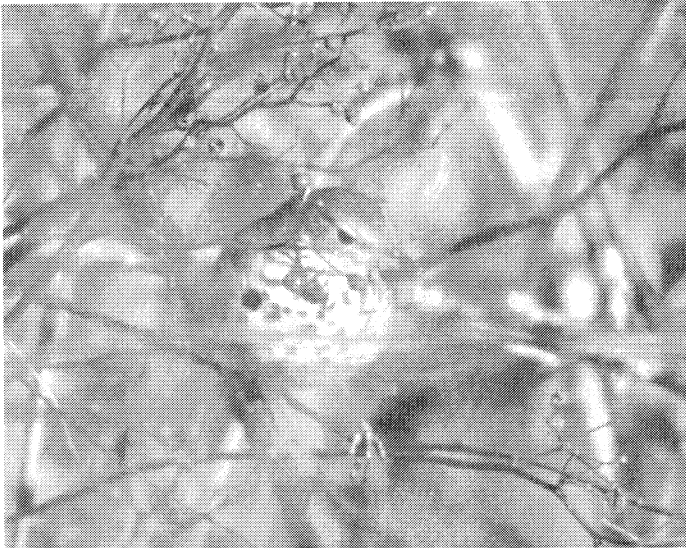
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were reported from CBCs and independent observers in about average numbers, but **WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES** had their second highest CBC of 202 (compared to 235 in 1999). Remarkably, they outnumbered robins on the Wolfville CBC, 50 to 30. Many observers commented on their appearance or persistence at feeders; one feeder in Louisbourg had its first bird to stay throughout the winter (SEM *et al.*). Almost twice the average number of **BROWN CREEPERS** were recorded on the CBCs, a tribute to sharp ears and keen listeners.

The **CAROLINA WREN** in Dartmouth (see last issue) was last reported Jan. 12 (BLM), but the Halifax bird sings yet. **HOUSE WRENS** are more usual, but not seen every winter, so one in Halifax, Dec. 2-15 (TEP) and another in Dartmouth, Dec. 17, are notable. Ironically, the rarest wren this winter seems to have been the **WINTER WREN**; reports only show one, in Dartmouth, Dec. 15. Even **MARSH WRENS** fared better, with one at CSI, Dec. 2-25 (JON *et al.*), and another in Westville, Pict. Co. (CBC, Dec. 15).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS had an average CBC without particularly high totals for any one locality, although interest in reporting them tends to be less than for **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS**, which were noted in CBCs in Bedford, CSI, and Louisbourg (two individuals in the latter case), and in separate sightings in Halifax, Dec. 5, and Canso, Guys. Co., Dec. 6 (both BLM).

An E. **BLUEBIRD** was in Upper Canard, Kings Co., Dec. 19 (RBS), and three of them lasted until Dec. 22 in Bayfield, Ant. Co., after which one remained until early February (Frank Randall *fide* RFL). At first the trio survived on berries from a Christmas decoration on a window ledge. Then, offered a choice between blueberries, cranberries, and bits of apple, they chose only the blueberries. Frank also kindly offered a tree swallow box where they could roost. He reported: "They remind me of kids who don't want to go to bed. They fly back and forth from the box to the feeder several times and sometimes go in under the roof of the lawn swing for a while before finally going in the box. As soon as one goes in the other is right behind him." On very cold days they would snuggle on a branch, conserving heat by sitting "in opposite directions so their bodies fit closer together."

A **TOWNSENDS SOLITAIRE** occupied a rose bush in Tantallon for most of December and January, during



Some of our half-hardy laggard and vagrant birds are wary, often hiding in brambles, rose thickets, and other such tangles. The HERMIT THRUSH was one of three found in Dartmouth during the NSBS "sewer stroll," Jan. 5 [top left, photo Ian McLaren]. This winter's GRAY CATBIRD near Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, proved frustratingly difficult to photograph, so here is a stand-in that stayed in the same thickets during winter 1985-1986 [top right, photo Ian McLaren]. YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS, like this one in South End Halifax in late November [bottom left, photo Ian McLaren], stay routinely into winter but run into trouble when their supply of multiflora rose hips runs out. EASTERN TOWHEES, like this male at Bayfield, Ant. Co., in December [bottom right, photo Oona Landry], often forage at feeders, but always with thick, brushy cover nearby.

which time it was closely observed and well photographed (Steve King). An unidentified thrush was at Lower W Pubnico on New Year's Day (PRG). Deciding not to assume that this bird was the most likely thrush species was wise; winter thrushes are always worth a second look. For proof, consider the SWAINSON'S THRUSH at CSI, Dec. 15, the first ever on a CBC in this province. Much more likely in winter are HERMIT THRUSHES, which were represented in eight reports, mostly of

single birds at various locations throughout the province, including a "very wet and stormy" Sable I., Dec. 17 (ZOL), and as far north as Sydney Forks, CB Co., Jan. 19-31 (Lynn Baechler, BCU, JWM). Two were in Pictou Hbr., Jan. 1; they were the "last birds of the day, great looks!" (RFL, Bob Healey).

Reports of AM. ROBINS, however, were notably low, with a CBC total of 503 that was less than half the average.

Few large wintering groups were noted, although at least 75 overwintered feeding on hawthorn berries, on the southern exposure of the ridge behind Wolfville (BLF). **VARIED THRUSHES** don't show up every winter, but this year two did: one in Lower W Pubnico, Dec. 22-Mar. 5 (PRG, RSD), and another in Lower Harmony, Col. Co., Jan. 16-26 (Liz Spicer *vide* BLM). The former bird was "very aggressive, even driving all the Blue Jays away." ☞

Mimics Through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

A few people sent reports of EUR. STARLINGS attending winter feeders and RBS sent a report of huge flocks at usual roosts in Port Williams, Avonport and around chicken barns in Kings Co.

All three of our regular mimics were noted this period. A GRAY CATBIRD was seen at Duncans Cove, Dec.3 (BLM) and many observed one present all winter at Sullivans Pond, last seen into March by PLC. MUN had great luck with this bird for his winter listing, seeing ingles at Argyle, Yar. Co., Dec. 29, The Hawk, Jan. 21, and Hebron, Yar. Co., Feb. 26. NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD numbers are starting to stabilize at about the 40 level on the last three CBCs. Prior to that, numbers were more in the 15-20 range. Of the 38 on eleven of the 2001 CBCs, 12 were from Halifax-Dartmouth and 11 from Wolfville. Several people commented on the antics of mockingbirds' attempts to protect their winter cache of berries. SEM was thankful that a first winter bird tallied on the Louisbourg CBC in her yard moved on to her neighbours, the O'Sheas, and allowed a Yellow-breasted Chat to spend a couple of weeks hassle-free in her yard. This young mocker made it through the winter with the help of care-packages of specially-made suet mixtures with raisins provided by the O'Sheas as well as pears, millet, multiflora rose hips, apple and Mountain Ash berries. MUN saw a BROWN THRASHER at 27 Kenny Rd., CSI, Dec. 1, but only one, a stakeout found by Fred Greig at the Dingle, Hfx. Co., made the CBC statistics. This bird was seen regularly throughout the winter. STV confirmed a Pictou Brown Thrasher that had been present for a couple of weeks at the feeder of Jayne MacCarthy. Another thrasher reported at the Regal Rd. yard of Joan Keith in Dartmouth, Mar. 2 was likely present in a nearby area for the winter months (*fide* CLS).

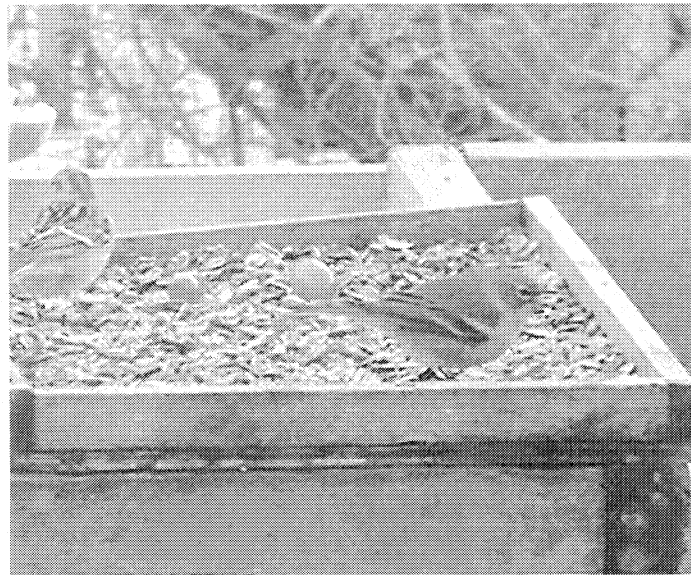
A new high number of AM. PIPITS was tallied on this years CBC, 115 versus the previous high of 93. Most of the Pipits were seen in the southern counts.

PRG and RSD reported about 50 at Pubnico Pt., Yar. Co., Dec. 26. Smaller numbers were found in February from CSI and Brier I. Unlike last year, BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS were present in above average numbers on the CBCs. In early December, Bohemian Waxwings tended to be in more northern sections of the province although, while 250 were at Halfway Cove, Guys. Co., Dec.2 (KJM, Jean McGee), 500 were found the same day at Mahone Bay, Lun. Co. (BLM). The more northern CBCs, in particular Springville, Pict. Co., Glace Bay and The Sydneys had the highest numbers. The more southern counties seemingly received the throngs in January and February after the food supply was exhausted in the north. BLF reported flocks of up to 200 in the Wolfville area through the winter. Over 600 CEDAR WAXWINGS represent an average number of the last few years CBCs. East Hants, Springville, Bridgetown and Glace Bay made up the bulk of the sightings. Only a few were reported after December with RBS noting 20 at Grand Pré, Jan.16. A single at the feeder of SEM, Jan.23-25 arrived with a flock of Bohemians, but unlike them, stayed all day at the feeders wolfing down Mountain Ash berries. She noted it spent a good deal of the time shivering.

I have received reports of 16 species of warbler for the winter period, 12 of which were found on the various CBCs. The individual numbers of non-Yellow-rumped Warblers on CBCs were up considerably over last year, 73 versus 25. A **BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** discovered by DAC at Portuguese Cove, Hfx. Co., Dec. 2, was reported to be in good shape when seen by DOU, Dec.4. A Blue-winged Warbler discovered by TIA in the vicinity of the Tallahassee School, Eastern Passage, Hfx. Co., Dec. 15 - Dec. 30, was new to the all-time list of CBC warblers. The 15 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS were above the average of six seen on CBCs but not a record number. Eight were seen on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC and four were seen on the Broad Cove count. Early

December was a good time to see this warbler with three - four reported from Portuguese Cove, Hfx. Co. and Canso. A late report from MUN was of one at The Hawk, Jan. 20. However, the place to be was certainly Pt. Pleasant Park in Halifax where AGH started the ball rolling Dec. 4 when he discovered a group of warblers that provided much entertainment for many over the next few days. One of the probable four Orange-crowned Warblers there was felt to be of the bright *lutescens* race (RBS). A similar western subspecies bird was seen Jan.2 at Tancook I., Lun. Co., by ELM and AHM. The bird was described as a "very yellowish bird, nearly totally yellow below and on under tail coverts, with only a few obscure streaks below; head and back grayish-olive, noted broken eye-ring and eye-line". These birds were foraging on or near the ground with an apparent western NASHVILLE WARBLER, sub race *ridgwayi*. Again a convincing description of this sighting follows; "brilliant yellow below and on the throat, complete white eye-ring on grey background conspicuous; head grey merging with only slightly greener back so that the grey of the head merged insensibly with back making the bird hard to distinguish from the Orange-crowned from above; wagged or flicked tail conspicuously" A similar bird was in the group at Pt. Pleasant Park as seen by AAM Dec. 7. A third CBC Nashville was noted on the CSI CBC. Dec. 26, FLL and Hans Toom found an eastern race at Tallahassee School, Eastern Passage.

Schooner Pond, CB Co., hosted a MAGNOLIA WARBLER Dec.5 and a BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER was described to RFL from Ant. Co., Dec. 19. The 293 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS were seen on half the CBCs, but the majorities were from CSI (119) and Port L'Hebert (80). ZOL had 30+ in late December around the Main Station, Sable I. There were February sightings from CSI (RBS) and Pondville Beach, Rich. Co. (GED, SDI). Mona MacLeod from Catalone, CB Co.,



ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS (left, photo Ian McLaren) are among our hardier warblers and can be distinguished by their grayish-olive backs, weakly streaked, varying yellowish underparts, and rather bland, grayish faces, with pale eye crescents. Some, like this one in Halifax in early January, are particularly yellowish below, perhaps hailing from the Rockies (subspecies *orestera*). PINE WARBLERS (right, photo Randy Lauff), are equally hardy, and are known to glean small seeds at feeders, like this one in Canso town in late December.

had up to three coming to a soft suet mixture through February but only one remained to month's end. A YELLOW-RUMPED (AUDUBON'S) WARBLER was one of the exciting group of warblers discovered by AGH at Pt. Pleasant Park and was seen by many birders until about Dec. 15. The bird was described by BLM as an imm. with yellow throat quite evident and calling frequently. IAM comments "The Audubon's is perhaps the most "valuable" of these ticks for local enthusiasts, as it is very rare here and, although classed as a subspecies, it will likely once more be designated a full species in light of more recent studies showing that it is genetically quite distinct from the "Myrtle," with which it does not interbreed freely." A BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER was noted on The Hawk, by MUN, Jan. 20. A white-lored YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER was found by AGH at Pt. Pleasant Park Dec. 4. A second bird was seen on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC and distinguished as being yellow-lored. Many of the PINE WARBLERS seen in early December lingered for the CBC with an above average total of 24 recorded. Several counts had good numbers including Halifax-Dartmouth with nine and Truro, Strait of Canso, Canso Town, and St. Peters all having three. Most of the Pine Warblers did not make it through the winter like the three at Betty Talbot's in Port Hawksbury

which came Nov. 30 and stayed until Feb. 7 when a temperature drop to -15 led to their not returning along with a Yellow-breasted Chat she had attending her yard. ROH and Linda Hall in Truro were successful in keeping their Pine Warbler alive into March with homemade suet placed in a roof-covered feeder on her deck with the suet replenished three times a day. ZOL discovered a PRAIRIE WARBLER on Sable I., Dec. 2. Four PALM WARBLERS on the CBC was a little lower than normal. The only eastern race report was one of two on the new Canso Town CBC (RFL, MZG, Steve Bushell). Other *palmarum* Palms were noted at Crescent Beach and LaHave I., Dec. 2 (BLM); Schooner Pond, Dec. 3 (DBM, RWK); and Greenwich, Kings Co., Dec. 28 (BLF). A BLACKPOLL WARBLER was seen in Pt. Pleasant Park, Dec. 10 and managed to stay to be counted in the CBC, another new bird to the all-time list for NS CBCs.

DOM reported an OVENBIRD Dec. 29 at Lodge Drive, on the Bedford CBC. He described it to be on the last leg of life. It was scruffy, shivering and trying to get sun on multiflora rose. There were about nine reports of COM. YELLOWTHROAT but only three on the CBCs. SJF was adept at finding this species with two, Dec. 30 at Broad Cove, Lun. Co., and another Jan. 2 in Lunenburg, the latest report received.

In the early days of December DBM saw a WILSON'S WARBLER in Florence, CB Co., and BLM an imm. fem. at Lakeside Terrace, Dartmouth. A special award should go to Suzanne Borkowski of Halifax for her efforts in bringing a Wilson's Warbler nicknamed "Little Willy" through the winter. She protected its special foods from Starlings and what a gourmet meal she placed in the feeding table! Here is an excerpt from her notes from Jan. 16: "He's eating copious amounts of grape jelly now, along with the mealworms, and some peanut butter, which he seems to prefer to beef suet. He looks fat and sassy!" In late January a CBC film crew did a show on Project FeederWatch with "Little Willy" as the guest star. Another warbler that is benefiting from generous feeder watchers is the YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT with 16 recorded on CBCs. This is higher than the average of six but in line with three of the last four years. Beside the usual reports from Halifax-Dartmouth, there were December reports from Yarmouth (MUN); Lockport (DJC); Port Hawksbury (Betty Talbot); Wolfville (PES); Louisbourg (SEM); Mulgrave (KEM); and CSI (PRG, RSD). A tail-less Wolfville chat seen by Lorna Hart and the Talbot chat both disappeared in the cold weather of the first week of February. ☞

Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By David McCorquodale

It was a good winter for rare vagrants, starting with the tanager show in Canso, the Common Chaffinch lingering through to be the second ever on a NS CBC, and ending with a Seaside Sparrow in a phenomenal group of sparrows on CSI in late February. In between, both species of crossbills frequented feeders, redpolls were everywhere and the expected array of regular vagrants on the CBCs were found.

Tanagers continued to make news for variety, numbers and for making it through the winter. The spectacular concentration of tanagers: SUMMER, SCARLET and WESTERN lingered in the town of Canso during the first few days of December. Another Western Tanager, first found in November, was seen a few times through December and January in Halifax (ETP), although this one was difficult to pin down. On Feb. 1, an imm. male appeared at a feeder in Lower Sackville where many were able to find it for the rest of the month (PEL). Three Western tanagers in a winter is unprecedented, as is one overwintering. A Summer Tanager was not as successful, a dead one was found south of Sydney in early January (Darryl MacAulay *fide* JWM). There were a handful of E. TOWHEES this winter. From mid-December at least until late in January one frequented a feeder in Bayfield, Ant. Co. (Oona Landry, RFL). Two were found on CBCs, one at Port Hebert and another, found earlier in the fall, at L'Ardoise, Rich. Co. Later in the winter, another made sporadic appearances in Dartmouth (CSS *fide* PLC).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were widespread and common on the mainland, being found on all but one CBC, with a high of 139 in Wolfville and more than 100 in W Hants. As expected, the situation was a little different on CBI with two counts not finding any and a high count of only 13 in Glace Bay. It was interesting to see several reports from late February along the east coast of CBI from R. Bourgeois

to Main-a-Dieu (SDI, GED, Lynn Ellis, DBM). For the second year in a row, the all-time high for CHIPPING SPARROWS on CBCs was broken. Thirty-one were found, up from last year's 27. Nine different counts found them, with a high of nine in Truro. In early December individuals were at feeders in nine different counties, including Yar. Co., CSI, Apple R., Cum. Co., one out on Sable I. and another in Louisbourg. As expected most of these disappeared late in December or early January. However, late in the winter there were still several in Kings Co. (AAM), and individuals at feeders in Lower W Pubnico (PRD, RSD), Dartmouth (CSS *fide* PLC), Pictou (KJM) and Louisbourg (SEM). The combination of so many on CBC and the survival of several until late in the winter is surprising. For only the third time a CLAY-COLORED SPARROW was found on a CBC, this year near L'Ardoise on the St. Peters count (SEM, DBM). Given that four others were around during the count period, it was surprising that there was only one on CBCs. Early in December one arrived in Sable R., Shel. Co. and was seen sporadically through the winter until late February (DHY). There were two in eastern Kings Co., found on Boxing Day and then seen into at least early February (BLF). Finally, another was in Garden Lots, Lun. Co., from late December. Most of these individuals provided an identification challenge to eliminate the more expected Chipping Sparrow and the possibility of the much rarer Brewer's Sparrow. Rising's book, *A Guide to the Identification and Natural History of The Sparrows of the United States and Canada*, sets out some of the best ways to distinguish these species. For Clay-colored, the light lores, brown rump and the distinct malar streak are characters to focus on. Interestingly, FIELD SPARROW reports were concentrated late in the winter, starting with one at Grand Pré, Jan. 19 (IAM), another the next day on CSI (MUN) and another that stayed at the feeder of Linda Corbett in Five Is., Col. Co. through much of February.

Two VESPER SPARROWS were found on CBCs, one on CSI and another in Lower Sackville that stayed at a feeder into February (PEL). These were the first two on counts since 1993. On Dec. 22, one was found in Middle Musquodoboit and another near Grand Pré (TEP, BLF). Through January and into February there, this one and at least one other were seen in various locations in eastern Kings Co. In addition there was an ad., Jan. 1 in LaHave, Lun. Co. (ELM), rounding out at least six, and probably seven or eight sightings for the winter. The highest total ever for LARK SPARROWS was achieved on the CBCs, with three, one each in Antigonish, Halifax and Lunenburg. A few days after the Antigonish count another was located in nearby Bayfield, Ant. Co. at Oona Landry's feeder. In mid-January one was frequently seen at Blue Rocks, Lun. Co., later in January a dull bird was in Berwick, Kings Co. (Bob and Connie MacMahon, AAM) and the latest was one at a feeder in Lower Sackville in mid-February (Lois and Don Codling).



This photo, taken Feb. 9, catches our first wintering WESTERN TANAGER at the Sackville, HRM, feeder of Peter and Marina LeBlanc, who kept it happy with mealworms, among other goodies. Its small and worn wing bars, retained from juvenal plumage, indicate that it was a first-winter male. [Photo Tim Allison]

About average numbers of SAVANNAH SPARROWS were found on CBCs, with about two thirds of the total on three counts: Halifax, St. Peters and Wolfville. Through February the agricultural areas of Kings Co. and coastal locations from CSI to R. Bourgeois, Rich. Co. hosted overwintering birds. Three "Ipswich" Sparrows were found on the Halifax CBC. Other reports include two at Martinique Beach, Jan. 26 (TEP) and on the NSBS trip to CSI, Dec. 1.

A spectacular find on the Lunenburg CBC was a GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. This was the first on a count since 1994 and only the fourth year since 1971. The bird stayed from at least Jan. 2 until the 6th (JAH). Daniels Hd. hosted a phenomenal assortment of sparrows in late February. Digging up part of Basil's Water Hole may have caused the birds to move to more accessible locations. Even with this advantage, these were difficult birds to track down and then see well. NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS are common enough in the summer, but because of their secretive habits, how many stay into the late fall or the winter is not clear. At least four, if not more, were seen by many between Feb. 17 & 23. Along with these was a SEASIDE SPARROW, rare at any time in the province, certainly not expected late in February (MUN, JON, var. obs.). Along with these were some of the more expected Savannah Sparrows. It took some effort and patience to get good views of this spectacular concentration of winter sparrows.

A good number of FOX SPARROWS were on the CBCs, 20, the highest total in the past 20 years. Almost half were on the Halifax count with the others scattered over seven other mainland counts. By late January frequency of reports dropped dramatically and only one, in Dartmouth, was reported in February (CSS *fide* PLC).

The second highest total of SONG SPARROWS, almost 1,100, was counted. Only last year's count has ever been higher. Close to half were found on two counts, Halifax and Wolfville

with more than 250 on each. They were also widespread with all but four counts finding some, with several of these exceeding 20. As expected with this many around, many overwintered successfully. In February a few males were singing with reports from Kings Co., Halifax and the industrial CB area. The only report of LINCOLN'S SPARROW was of two on the Amherst CBC. More than 40 SWAMP SPARROWS were found on CBCs, above average but not quite the highest total, 57, from 1987. Halifax recorded the most, 13, with the rest spread out over another 11 counts. In February a few were still being seen in Ketch Hbr., Three Fathom Hbr., Wolfville, CSI and Gabarus, CB Co.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW numbers on CBCs dropped by more than a half from last year, but at 640, it was still the second highest count in the past 10 years. Halifax tallied the most, 132, and all but five of the 34 counts found at least one. Into February one frequented a feeder in Louisbourg (SEM) and several feeders in the south end of the province still had a dozen or more at the end of the month. The much less common WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW was found on five CBCs, with half of the eight on the Wolfville count. At least two in Kings Co. and one in Plymouth, Pict. Co. were still going strong well into February. In mid-January two different imms. of the *gambeli* race were seen in Pict. Co. (BLM).

Numbers of DARK-EYED JUNCOS declined from last year on CBCs but this was the second highest total ever, almost 8,700. All except one count recorded some, the highest being more than 2,000 in Wolfville and more than 1,000 in Halifax. In late February they were still common and widespread with a few males even starting to sing, presaging the arrival of spring.

Only 18 LAPLAND LONGSPURS were found on CBCs, with all but one on the Amherst count and the other at Pt. Michaud on the St. Peters count. Throughout the winter reasonable numbers, flocks of up to 50, were seen in eastern Kings Co. and smaller flocks

less frequently on beaches such as Rainbow Haven (IAM, Mary McLaren) and Cherry Hill (JAH, David Walmark). SNOW BUNTINGS were widespread and common this winter, although numbers on CBCs were down. Not surprisingly the highest count, 340, comes from Amherst, but what is surprising is that no other count topped 100 and the total of just under 1,000 is the lowest in the past 20 years. Late in the winter several larger flocks were reported, more than 100 in Clementsport, Feb. 15 (MCN) and 150 near Grand Pré, Feb. 17 (BBT), probably indicating the start of the northward spring movement.

Numbers of N. CARDINALS continue to increase. Throughout the winter they were conspicuous at feeders in their strongholds in places such as Dartmouth and Anna., Yar. and Shel. Cos. They were found on 15 CBCs, but none on counts north and east of a line from Halifax to Truro and at least some on virtually all counts south and west of the line. Three different counts, Halifax, Annapolis and Yarmouth, all tallied more than 10. Elsewhere wandering individuals were in Pictou, Feb. 9 (KJM) and in Sydney and Sydney R. an elusive bird through much of the winter.

Early in December there were a few DICKCISSELS in places where they regularly occur in the late fall, such as Glace Bay, Pictou, Hebron, Yar. Co. and in the Halifax area. The good numbers were reflected in the eight on CBCs, tying the highest ever from 1994. Halifax tallied the most at three, while four were in CB, one in Ingonish, two in Louisbourg and one in Glace Bay. Some of these birds successfully overwintered including at least one in Dartmouth (CSS *fide* PLC) and a couple in Louisbourg (*fide* SEM).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS were also counted in record numbers on CBCs, with the highest tally 127 in Wolfville. Small flocks and scattered individuals were seen off and on through the winter in the southern parts of the province. In late February a few were showing up, for example in Beaver R., Anna. Co. and even singing in Yarmouth, suggesting the start of spring



Four unusual sparrow species, several of each, were present in a number of places this winter. A LARK SPARROW (top left photo Oona Landry), with its distinctive face markings, came to a feeder at Bayfield, Ant. Co., during December. A CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (top right photo Ian McLaren), coming to Ron and Sue Hrushowy's feeder near Lunenburg since Jan. 1, was finally seen and identified by James Hirtle Feb. 23, and photo'd three days later. It was a very pale, evidently adult, bird with the characteristic face markings of this midwestern-western species – pale lores, and dark malar below white submoustachial stripe, in turn below dark moustachial stripe. A FIELD SPARROW (bottom left photo Ian McLaren) was found at Grand Pré 17 Jan. Its well marked "ear patch" suggests that it was of the eastern subspecies. A VESPER SPARROW (bottom right photo Richard Stern), with a smaller Savannah Sparrow crouching in the foreground, was photographed in the same area about a month later. Its large eye-ring is a good field mark.

migration. Most surprising were two males and a fem. that arrived in New Waterford, Feb. 19 and stayed for a few days (Greg Boone, Rob Boone). In early February there were two reports of E. MEADOWLARK in the Lunenburg area (Vida Rordan *vide* JAH). Then, Feb. 11, one was found on CSI (JON, SAN). When birders came to look for this one, they found more, with counts of four and five being made in the area for the next two weeks. In the process the spectacular concentration of sparrows noted before was also found. Despite few reports for RUSTY BLACKBIRDS in early December, the

CBC total was the highest in 10 years, although still only 17 birds. Just more than half were at Apple R., Cum. Co. The four on the Lunenburg count lingered at Masons Beach until at least early February as did the one on the Glace Bay count (ALM, CAM). In late February individuals still lingered on CSI, in Kings Co. and a male that started (attempted?) to sing in Dartmouth (MUN, TEP). Most COM. GRACKLES were found in the southern parts of the province. In December small flocks were widespread and even into late February a flock of 25 was in Yarmouth (RBS). On CBCs four of the

nine counts on CBI recorded grackles, with a maximum of four in Glace Bay, but these birds disappeared soon after the counts. On the mainland the highest count was 134 in Shubenacadie. BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS were found on 12 of the 34 CBCs. The two highest counts were from Wolfville and W Hants, while none were recorded from CBI. An intriguing observation comes from the W Hants count where several cowbirds were feeding on a freshly killed farm animal (John Abati, JCT, Heidi DeBoer). Throughout the winter, right into late February, small flocks of cowbirds were still frequenting

feeders from Halifax to CSI to Yarmouth and to Kings Co. Reports of several BALTIMORE ORIOLES at a feeder in early December were received from Coxheath, CB Co., Canso and area, Yarmouth and Pictou amongst several others. Many stayed for the CBCs, with the highest total ever, 46, being tallied. The old high was exceeded partly because of the 15 found on the first ever Canso Town CBC. As expected, numbers dwindled through January. For example, four at a feeder in Coxheath dwindled to one, with the last sighting Jan. 12 (Yvonne and Walter MacDonald). However at least one successfully overwintered on CBI at R. Bourgeois (SDI, GED) as did others further south in the Halifax area and in Yarmouth (RBS).

The vagrant of the fall, the **COM. CHAFFINCH**, stayed at the feeder of Suzanne Borkowski in Clayton Park through December and obliged the counters for the Bedford-Sackville CBC. Amazingly, considering it is only the fourth provincial record, this is the second record, the first since 1988, on CBCs in NS. Many people saw it in early January with the last report Jan. 13.

PINE GROSBEAKS continued to be widespread and common in early December. The fall invasion was reflected in the high total, more than 850, second only to the count in 1977. Distribution was spotty as none were found on eight counts while Amherst, Antigonish and Wolfville each tallied more than 100, including a staggering 288 in Wolfville. Sightings waned through January and in February only a handful of reports were received from Kings and CB Cos.

Like many finches, PURPLE FINCH numbers fluctuate wildly from year to year. Although reports came from many locations this winter, they were usually of one or a few birds. Only three were of 10 or more individuals, 10 at Canso Town, Dec. 6 (BLM), about 10 at Mahone Bay, Lun. Co., Jan. 1 (JAH) and 11 feeding on White Ash near Greenwich, Kings Co., Jan. 28 (JWW). The CBCs reflected the paucity of Purple Finches. The 150 tallied is less than 10% of last year's tally. Yet it is

still twice the lowest count in the last ten years, reflecting the dramatic year to year changes we see. HOUSE FINCHES seem to be holding their own in Halifax and Yarmouth.

Again this winter RED CROSSBILLS spent some time at feeders. In CB Co. feeders in Howie Centre (JWM, Fenton Isenor), Gabarus (Steven and Mary Lou Blundon) and Louisbourg (SEM) all hosted them. On the mainland, feeders in Stellarton (KJM), Barrington (RMC), Hubley (SHU) did the same. They were found on 12 CBCs with the most being 12 at Pictou Hbr. Through much of the winter a flock of about a dozen frequented the Maders Cove area (JBM). Many people noticed more WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS at feeders than usual as was noted last fall. From Brier I. (CAH) to Barrington (RMC) to Clayton Park (Suzanne Borkowski) to Fairmont, Ant. Co. (RFL) and especially in CB Co., many spent from a few days to several weeks at feeders. I saw a remarkable video of Sylvia Deveaux stroking the back and breast of one while it sat on her feeder in Balls Creek, CB Co. While it was stroked and the snow storm continued to howl, the bird continued eating. Away from feeders there were a reasonable number in the woods after the moderate spruce cone crop of last summer. Late in January on Rainbow Haven Beach, two White-winged Crossbills were feeding on Evening Primrose. As IAM noted, it is surprising given the specialized bill that they can switch to feed on primrose and at feeders.

It was a COM. REDPOLL winter, with reports of both small and large flocks coming from around the province all winter. Thirty of the 34 CBCs recorded some, with eight tallying more than 100, including almost 1,200 in Wolfville. The provincial total of about 3,200 is well below the all-time high of 11,524 in 1999 and significantly higher than last year's 65. This pattern of several thousand in odd numbered years and then less than 100 the next has held through the 1990's, except that only about 700 were tallied in 1995. This pattern of an invasion every other year breaks down in the mid-1980's. HOARY REDPOLLS often accompany the invading commons and this year

was no exception. One was found on a CBC, this one on the Annapolis count. Later in the winter two or three obliged observers in Kings Co., another in Lun. Co. (JAH). They can be tough to identify, partly because of the range of variation in colour of the more expected Com. Redpolls. RBS captures this issue as he writes about a bird seen Feb. 16.

After years of gazing hopefully at every slightly pale redpoll I've seen in NS, this afternoon I went to look at Lana Churchill's back yard in Port Williams in the rain, scanned the 20 or so redpolls there, and one stood out like a sore thumb as being whiter. It obligingly lit in a tree and turned, revealing, as well as the whiter ground colour to the whole bird, the white unstreaked rump (there were a few darkish marks at the base of the tail), the white underside to the tail with no dark streak, and the short bill giving the face a rather squashed look.

During February there were also three reports from CB Co. of individual Hoary Redpolls in the large flocks of commons. Numbers of both PINE SISKINS and AM. GOLDFINCHES on CBCs reflect about average counts and their widespread distribution.

EVENING GROSBEAKS were also widespread, showing up at feeders in widely scattered locations throughout. However, numbers on CBCs were low, with the just under 2,000 being the lowest total since 1989. Some feeders continued to host grosbeaks through February such as those in Tremont, Kings Co. (SLH), Barrington (RMC), West Springhill, Anna. Co. (MCN) and Louisbourg.

HOUSE SPARROW numbers on CBCs increased from last year's low count. As expected for a species so closely tied to humans, the highest count came from Halifax, with other big counts from agricultural areas. Normally the CBC in the Cape Breton Highlands does not find any, but this year there was one in Neils Hbr. ☐

List of Contributors

Thanks to all of our contributors, including:

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A sometimes-elusive WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, was found periodically into early December among Canada Geese loafing on Silver Lake, Kings Co. It is the smaller, darker goose, in the centre of the photo, taken Nov. 13. [Photo Judy Tufts]

Field Trip Reports

Antigonish Harbours and Coastlines

24 November 2001, Leader: Ken McKenna

It was a beautiful day in Antigonish Co. today for the NSBS field trip. Finches, gulls and waterfowl made up the bulk of birds seen. Pine Grosbeaks were present at many stops as were other winter finches such as White-winged Crossbills and Redpolls. A couple of Myrtle Warblers and a Flicker were seen from Pomquet Point. Bohemian Waxwings were present at at least three stops with a good number at the Tim's on Main Street, Antigonish. There were fairly large numbers of Horned Grebes and Red-throated Loons. A Razorbill was present not far off-shore at Monks Head. A group of 120 Scaup (nearly all Greaters) were at the cove on the access road to Monks Head. A Goshawk flew overhead at the access to Dunns Beach.

The sewage treatment plant at Antigonish provided several Black-headed Gulls and a close examination of the Ring-billed Gulls present revealed a single Mew (Common) Gull, a highlight for most. As usual, the pond at Jimtown was filled with gulls – several thousand with the majority being Bonaparte's but also a few Iceland and Black-headed with the usual Herring, Ring-billed and Great Black-backed Gulls. A Belted Kingfisher was also present there. A couple of Lesser Scaup and eight Ring-necked Ducks were in the inlet at Lakevale.

Antigonish Landing had hundreds of Black Ducks, lots of Common Mergansers and 50+ Hooded Mergansers. The view of the Landing from Williams Point revealed 18 American Wigeon. A Snow Goose was noted prior to the field trip in the early morning about 4 km south on Route 7 but two visits during the field trip failed to produce a sighting of the goose. About 63 species were noted on the trip and a very pleasant day was had by all participants. ☞

Sewer Stroll #1

05 January 2002, Leader: Terry Paquet

The Sewer Stroll went as scheduled on Saturday, Jan 5 with around 20 participants meeting on a cold morning at Hartlen Point. We strayed away from the traditional circuit around the harbour in favour of some rarity chasing. Unfortunately a lot of the rarer birds shied away from our large group of enthusiastic birders.

Some of the birds we did find: Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, American Pipits, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Bohemian Waxwing, White-winged Crossbill, Yellow-breasted Chat, Wilsons Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Grey Catbird, Baltimore Oriole, American Coot, Wood Duck, Eurasian Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, and Glaucous Gull.

The owls (Short-eared and Snowy) which had been present at Hartlen Point were not seen. The same outcome was had for both Carolina Wrens and the Chaffinch, which was 'heard only'. The warblers at Point Pleasant Park were a no show as well.

Despite the big misses, it was a nice day of birding. Thanks to all those who came out.

Halifax Field Naturalists' Sewer Stroll

19 January 2002, Leader: Peter Payzant

We began at Fishermans Cove in Eastern Passage. There were several Black Guillemots (and indeed, these could be seen at almost every stop), about six Long-tailed Ducks and a few Red-breasted Mergansers.

At the sewer outfall behind the old South Woodside School we got our first Iceland and Black-headed gulls, as well as more Red-breasted Mergansers. There was nothing much of interest in Dartmouth Cove, but there was a good group of gulls in the water just south of the ferry wharf which merits closer attention. Unfortunately with over forty people we were somewhat restricted in the places we could get to.

At Sullivans Pond we saw three Cardinals. Several members of the group had a Catbird. An adult Bald Eagle flew over. In the pond itself, apart from the usual numerous species, we had an American Coot, a Green-winged Teal and several American Wigeon. Tufts Cove had several more American Wigeon, one Eurasian Wigeon and a couple of Green-winged Teal.

We got both American and Barrow's Goldeneye from the bridge over the Sackville River in Bedford. The Mill Cove sewage treatment plant was unproductive, and at the old Volvo plant we dipped out on both the Mew Gull and the Thayer's Gull. We did get fine close views of Iceland and Black-headed Gulls, though.

At Fleming Park we found the Brown Thrasher under his usual bush, and there was one Common Loon in the Arm. Tribune Head was beautiful with perhaps 600 Common Eiders warmly lit by the late afternoon sun. Alas, no Harlequin, and only one Scoter sp. Due to lack of time we had to skip the planned final stop at Chebucto Head.

Sewer Stroll #2

02 February 2002, Leader: Blake Maybank

For the second year in a row Sewer Stroll #2 has enjoyed invigorating weather, sufficiently bracing to discourage all but the most hardy birders.

Pat McKay and I arrived early at Hartlen Point, and were rewarded with a view of a Snowy Owl on the golf course, although the bird didn't linger for the tardy participants who began straggling in 20 minutes after the official start of the field trip.

We were a small, tenacious band, once in place. Pat and I were joined by Terry Paquet, Tim Allison, Suzanne Borkowski, Bob McDonald, and Ian McLaren.

It was cold with gales at Hartlen, so we retreated inland, and watched a flock of 250+ Greater Scaup at Eastern Passage, that contained a Lesser or two. Sullivans Pond produced the coot and a Glaucous Gull, and Terry relocated the Grey Catbird, a bird for which he seems to have an affinity.

Tufts Cove was breezy, and the snow flurries were thick, but we had a male Barrow's Goldeneye among the Commons and the Bufflehead, and there was the male Eurasian Wigeon and two female Green-winged Teal.

We crossed the bridge, but the tide was high at Richmond Pier, and few gulls were present. So it was off to Tim Horton's to warm up, though Ian left the group at that point. After coffee we headed to Sambro, but there was little joy there. Bob and Suzanne misplaced us for a while, and they found a Swamp Sparrow at Ketch Harbour while separated.

Tim spotted some birds in a tall spruce tree by the exit to Chebucto Head, and we were all surprised to discover they were Snow Buntings, a flock of 20. I'd never seen them in trees before.

At Tribune Head the ocean was not too productive, but in the coastal forest we had a confiding Yellow-rumped Warbler, and a Brown Creeper. Two Common Redpolls were at Purcells Cove.

We went to the Dingle, and found the Brown Thrasher easily, and it put on quite a show. Then we headed to Suzanne's to see Willy, her faithful Wilson's Warbler, although Terry and Tim left at this point.

While the four of us watched the Wilson's, Bob received a call on his cell phone to advise him of the Western Tanager in Sackville, so we all piled into my van and went on a chase. Immediately upon arrival, we found Richard Stern in the driveway, and he pointed out the tanager to us, which was bird #300 for Bob McDonald's Nova Scotia list. Congratulations, Bob!

Peter Leblanc then directed us to his backyard, where we were soon looking at the Vesper Sparrow that Peter has had for many weeks. And there were a couple of White-breasted Nuthatches to help round out our day.

Our final species list was not too large, as the weather was poor, but any February day in Nova Scotia that provides Snowy Owl, Grey Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Snow Bunting, Common Redpoll, Wilson's Warbler, Eurasian Wigeon, Western Tanager, and Vesper Sparrow, can't be considered scruffy.

My thanks to those who braved the elements, and joined me on what turned out to be a fine day.

Baccaro and Blanche Peninsula

30 March 2002, Leader: Donna Ensor

We had about 10 people and clear, cool and a tad WINDY weather; it started to rain about the time we were to go home, pretty lucky. We had 45 species, lots of robins and black ducks; we had great looks at N. Gannets very close to shore, plus a Thick-billed Murre coming at us like a prop plane! It was nice to beat the weather odds, but again this is the South Shore. Thanks to the crew and see you next year.

Compact Disc Review

By Richard Knapton

Voices of Amazonian Birds

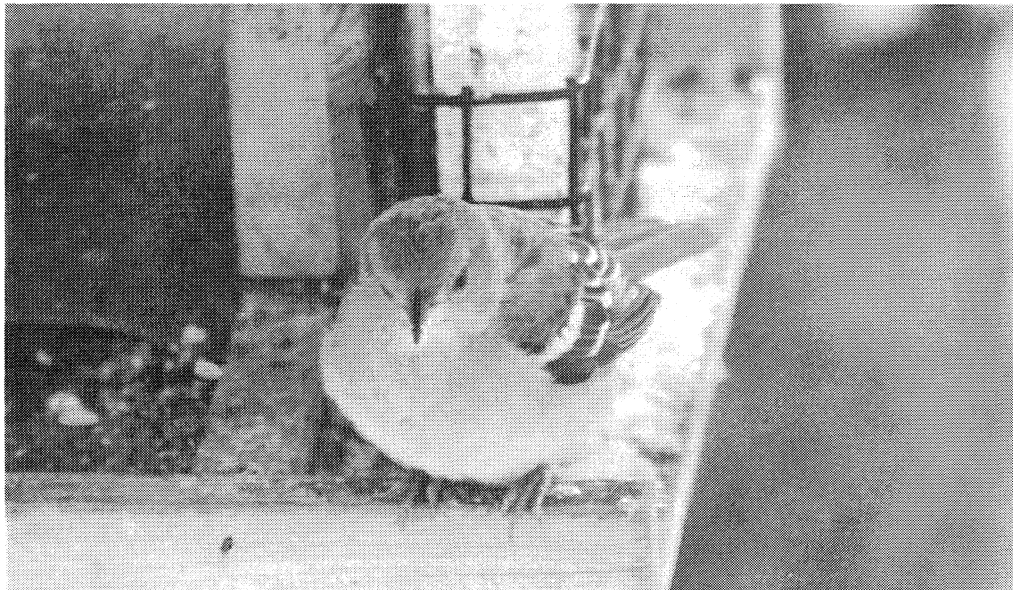
**Birds of the rainforest of Southern Peru and Northern Bolivia
Vol. 1; Tinamous (Tinamidae) through Barbets (Capitonidae)**

**By Thomas S. Schulenberg, Curtis A. Marantz and Peter H. English.
Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
Ithaca NY 2000**

As the authors state in their opening preamble, the rainforests of the Amazon basin contain the most diverse bird faunas of any area on earth. This CD presents the vocalizations of 99 bird species found in the lowland forests of the western Amazon basin, and covers several non-passerine families. There are two other CDs covering the rest of the non-passerines as well as all the passerines in this series on *Voices of Amazonian Birds*. To put the diversity of bird fauna in South America into context, these three volumes cover over 300 species, which occur in a relatively small area of the continent, in southern Peru and northern Bolivia. There is a companion two volume set *Voices of Andean Birds* which covers the Andes in Peru and Ecuador. The total area is but a fraction of the landmass of South America - no wonder it is called the Bird Continent.

I have traveled quite widely in the Neotropics, and have visited the Amazon basin in Peru and Ecuador. Hence some of these recordings brings back vivid memories of the neotropical rainforest, walking quietly along a path among magnificent trees and listening to the wondrous sounds all around me. The calls and songs of some families are truly tropical. For example, there is an oddly haunting quality about the calls of tinamous, ground-dwelling chicken-like birds of the forest floor, which seems to "fit" with the lush diverse dense tropical rain forests. The sounds uttered by trogons, barbets and jacamars have no equivalent in our temperate woodlands. The call of the Great Potoo must have engendered all kinds of fanciful myths and stories - it does not even sound like a bird. Nor do the utterly unworldly noises uttered by Spix's Guan - listening to the incomprehensible sounds causes you to shake your head in wonder! I recall hearing this species in Peru, and being struck at just how bizarre those sounds were!

A word about the quality of recordings nowadays. Sound recordings in general have made huge leaps forward in their intricacy in recent years, and continue to do so, and this CD reflects such advances in quality. The clarity and detail of some of the recordings on this CD are so remarkable. The clear pure tones of the calls of tinamous, for example, are captured almost to perfection. So are the calls of owls, parrots, wood-quails, pigeons, forest-falcons, and quetzals. Because of that, it is a pleasure just to sit back and listen to a CD such as this. ☐



Among good numbers of BALTIMORE ORIOLES attempting to winter in the province last winter, this one in Sydney was sustained with oranges and grapes. [Photo Lynn Ellis]

Book Review

By Ulli Höger

Getting Started in Bird Watching

by E.W. Cronin Jr.; Houghton Mifflin Company. 216 pages. April 1999.
ISBN 0-395-97637-5

Full of anticipation, I opened this small book when I got it in the mail. We all want to advance in our favorite hobby, and so I hoped that I would find one or the other helpful secret in this little book.

The first impression was a bit disappointing. Regional checklists covering areas south of the border take up more than half of the pages. Checklists are valuable tools, and our bird society provides us with one for Nova Scotia, and so do parks and organizations all over the continent for their own territory. If you ask me, there is a lot of wasted space in this small book which is intended to get people into birding.

So, the remaining 60 pages should reveal the secrets to successful birding? Well, I didn't find anything new, but I am not exactly a beginner. Would it have got me started a couple of years ago? From the very beginning I had the luck to be guided into birding by experts, and since all that took place during my early years in university it came with some background lectures. Not exactly a typical start into birding, but surely the best because of the skilled mentors at hand. So my first advice to a beginning birder would be to find like-minded people, and join guided fieldtrips.

Back to the book. Some of the theory and advice from those university days I also found in this book. Know what to look for on a bird, know what birds you can expect in a given place, don't be lured into seeing rarities...most likely it is "only" one of the usual suspects. Get a good field guide (drawings are better than photos), get a suitable pair of binoculars, learn and practise to use both. Let time train your eyes to see those birds hidden in the woods, your ears are at least as valuable for birding as your eyes.

All this advice is straightforward. Similar tips are given in the introductory chapters of better field guides, the sections most people don't read. It is simply too tempting to get out, find an unknown bird and start flipping pages trying to ID it. This will not usually be very successful, since those bad birds move fast and won't sit still for extended periods of time. If this little book gets the message out to get some background and to do some homework, it is worth the money since it can save you a lot of frustration.

However, space used for the checklists in the book should have been used to point out the distinguishing field marks of bird families. Such characterizations are given for flycatchers, warblers, and sparrows. This would have been invaluable advice for beginners, but for families other than the ones previously mentioned you have to figure these things out by yourself or look it up in other books. Anyway, this small book may be helpful for beginners with nobody around to help them with their first steps, but I think the cover text and introduction promises more than it can keep. ☒

Field Trip report

Brier Island

5-8 October, 2001, Leader Fulton Lavender

When you plan a Brier Island field trip for October, two things are fairly certain: an assortment of weather and a wide variety of birds. This pattern held true in 2001, when a fast-moving low-pressure system produced good seabirding conditions followed by some passerine movement, yielding a nice sprinkling of rarities. Hawk migration was modest, but a highlight none the less. The total species list for the long weekend was 102, and included the following surprises:

N. Fulmar 3; Manx Shearwater 15; Wilson's Storm-Petrel 4; Gyrfalcon 1; Great Skua 1; Pomarine Jaeger 3; Great Horned Owl 1; White-eyed Vireo 1; E. Bluebird 4; Pine Warbler 1; Summer Tanager 1; Blue Grosbeak 3; Indigo Bunting 4; and Dickcissel 4.

The trip attracted 15 participants, including five from out-of-province. As always, Brier Island had something new for everyone. We're looking forward to October 2002.

Nova Scotia Christmas Bird Counts 2001-2002

Edited By D. Currie & J. Shirley Cohrs

There's no doubt that the lure of the rare and unexpected motivates many of our count participants to get out and go in all vicissitudes of our Nova Scotia winter weather. This year they were not disappointed as four new species were added to the provincial total now standing at 264. One was a real "rarity" - a Blue-winged Warbler; whilst the others were unusual for the time of year - a Willet, a Swainson's Thrush and a Blackpoll Warbler.

As always there were ups and downs in the bird numbers, but there were more ups than downs this year, twenty-seven species achieving an all-time high (hereafter noted as ATH). For the second year in a row both Northern Gannets and Great Cormorants were well over the average.

The duck family seemed steady except for all the scoters, which were higher than in the last few years, and the Long-tailed Ducks which crashed, numbers being the lowest since 1991. Apart from a probable escaped Gray Partridge in Annapolis Royal, none of these birds were found in their traditional haunts and many believe they may now be extirpated in NS.

Shorebird numbers were average except for Sanderlings, which were at an ATH. The gull population changed little over last year however Black-headed, Bonaparte's and Iceland were at an ATH while Glaucous dropped considerably. All the alcid were very low.

It was not a "N. Shrike winter", a mere nine we seen. On the other hand, Black-capped Chickadees were at an ATH with more than twice as many as in 2000. There were lots of White-breasted Nuthatches about and Brown Creepers stayed a spectacular ATH comeback following last year's very low numbers. The up and down picture continued with American Robins which were only one-eighth as many as last year's crowds while Bohemian Waxwings, so scarce in 2000, flocked in, doubling their average.

Twelve species of warbler were an excellent showing with Blue-winged, Nashville, Yellow-throated, Blackpoll, Ovenbird and Wilson's all being happy surprises. Fifteen Orange-crowned Warblers was over double the 2000 number and only one short of the record.

In the sparrow family, numbers were steady with Swamp Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos over average and both Chipping Sparrows and White-crowned at ATH. Two exciting finds were Clay-coloured and Grasshopper Sparrows.

Two more ATH's were Northern Cardinal and Dickcissel, while amongst the blackbird family Redwing Blackbirds were at an ATH while cowbirds continue to drop. The other blackbirds were at normal levels.

Some members of the unpredictable finch family did a complete reversal from 2000. Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks fell heavily from last year's highs while the previously low Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls reversed their direction.

The weather was poor for some of the early counts: rain, snow or fog, sometimes all three. Later counts fared better and even enjoyed some sunshine.

Some Statistics

Count Areas - 34
Total Observers in the field - 637
Total Observers at feeders - 597
Total species seen - 169
Total individual birds counted - 297,577

High tallies on Nova Scotia's Christmas Bird Counts 2001 - 2002.

Red-throated Loon 8, (Cape Sable); Common Loon 65, (Cape Sable); Pied-billed Grebe 1, (several counts); Horned Grebe 52, (Broad Cove); Red-necked Grebe 38, (Cape Sable); Northern Gannet 235, (Cape Sable); Double-crested Cormorant 22, (Cape Sable); Great Cormorant 162, (Cape Sable); Great Blue Heron 5, (Port L'Hebert); Turkey Vulture 2, (Brier I); Canada Goose 5154, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Brant 4, (Cape Sable); Wood Duck 1, (several counts); Gadwall 3, (Pictou Harbour); Eurasian Wigeon 3, (Glace Bay); American Wigeon 46, (Glace Bay); American Black Duck 3120, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Mallard 686, (Lunenburg); Northern Shoveler 1, (Port L'Hebert); Northern Pintail 11, (Lunenburg); Green-winged Teal 53, (Wolfville); Ring-necked Duck 31, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Greater Scaup 5184, (Pictou Harbour); Lesser Scaup 31, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Common Eider 1446, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Harlequin Duck 5, (Port L'Hebert); Surf Scoter 77, (Broad Cove); White-winged Scoter 260, (Glace Bay); Black Scoter 92, (Broad Cove); Long-tailed Duck 319, (Broad Cove); Bufflehead 206, (Annapolis); Common Goldeneye 601, (Pictou Harbour); Barrow's Goldeneye 5, (Bridgetown); Hooded Merganser 75, (Lunenburg); Common Merganser 1076, (Pictou Harbour); Red-breasted Merganser 746, (Pictou Harbour); Ruddy Duck 3, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Bald Eagle 354, (Wolfville); Northern Harrier 12, (Wolfville); Sharp-shinned Hawk 16, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Northern Goshawk 1, (several counts); Broad-winged Hawk 1, (several counts); Red-tailed Hawk 129, (Wolfville); Rough-legged Hawk 17, (Amherst); American Kestrel 5, (Yarmouth); Merlin 5, (Wolfville); Peregrine Falcon 3, (Wolfville); Ring-necked Pheasant 223, (Wolfville); Ruffed Grouse 18, (Springville); Spruce Grouse 2, (Port L'Hebert); American Coot 3, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Black-bellied Plover 19, (Cape Sable); Killdeer 2, (Broad Cove); Greater Yellowlegs 2, (Cape Sable); Lesser Yellowlegs 1, (Cape Sable); Willet 1, (Cape Sable); Ruddy Turnstone 2, (Cape Sable); Red Knot 23, (Cape Sable); Sanderling 270, (Cape Sable); Purple Sandpiper 120, (Brier I); Dunlin 46, (Cape Sable); Common Snipe 2, (Eskasoni); Black-headed Gull 167, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Bonaparte's Gull 228, (Pictou Harbour); Ring-billed Gull 523, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Herring Gull 13730, (Wolfville); Iceland Gull 849, (Northport); Lesser Black-backed Gull 3, (Wolfville); Glaucous Gull 21, (Cheticamp); Great Black-backed Gull 4048, (Wolfville); Black-legged Kittiwake 26, (Brier I); Dovekie 17, (Louisbourg); Thick-billed Murre 15, (Broad Cove); Razorbill 2, (Cape Sable); Black Guillemot 75, (Cape Sable); Atlantic Puffin 1, (Lunenburg); Rock Dove 2376, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Mourning Dove 2123, (Wolfville); Great Horned Owl 2, (Eskasoni); Snowy Owl 5, (Cape Sable); Barred Owl 4, (Wolfville); Long-eared Owl 1, (Brier I, West Hants); Short-eared Owl 1, (Amherst, Springville); Northern Saw-whet Owl 1, (several counts); Belted Kingfisher 7, (Pictou Harbour); Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, (Lunenburg); Downy Woodpecker 73, (Wolfville); Hairy Woodpecker 42, (Wolfville); Black-backed Woodpecker 1, (West Hants); Northern Flicker 30, (Wolfville); Pileated Woodpecker 11, (Bedford Sackville); Northern Shrike 2, (Bridgetown); Gray Jay 26, (St. Peters); Blue Jay 1032, (Wolfville); American Crow 9711, (Wolfville); Common Raven 429, (Wolfville); Horned Lark 240, (Wolfville); Black-capped Chickadee 2055, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Boreal Chickadee 90, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Red-breasted Nuthatch 91, (Springville); White-breasted Nuthatch 50, (Wolfville); Brown Creeper 34, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Carolina Wren 1, (Halifax-Dartmouth); House Wren 1, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Winter Wren 1, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Marsh Wren 1, (Springville); Golden-crowned Kinglet 171, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2, (Louisbourg); Eastern Bluebird 2, (Wolfville); Swainson's Thrush 1, (Cape Sable); Hermit Thrush 2, (Pictou Harbour); American Robin 145, (Canso Town); Varied Thrush 1, (Pubnico); Gray Catbird 2, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Northern Mockingbird 12, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Brown Thrasher 1, (Halifax-Dartmouth); European Starling 15638, (Wolfville); American Pipit 41, (Wolfville); Bohemian Waxwing 1083, (Springville); Cedar Waxwing 255, (West Hants); Blue-winged Warbler 1, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Orange-crowned Warbler 8, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Nashville Warbler 1, (Cape Sable); Yellow-rumped Warbler 119, (Cape Sable); Yellow-throated Warbler 2, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Pine Warbler 9, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Palm Warbler 2, (Canso Town); Blackpoll Warbler 1, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Ovenbird 1, (Bedford Sackville); Common Yellowthroat 1, (several counts); Wilson's Warbler 1, (Bedford Sackville); Yellow-breasted Chat 4, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Eastern Towhee 1, (Port L'Hebert, St. Peters); American Tree Sparrow 139, (Wolfville); Chipping Sparrow 9, (Truro); Clay-coloured Sparrow 1, (St. Peters); Vesper Sparrow 1, (Bedford Sackville, Cape Sable); Lark Sparrow 1, (several counts); Savannah Sparrow 20, (Wolfville); Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 3, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Grasshopper Sparrow 1, (Lunenburg); Fox Sparrow 8, (Cape Sable); Song Sparrow 299, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Lincoln's Sparrow 2, (Amherst); Swamp Sparrow 13, (Halifax-Dartmouth); White-throated Sparrow 132, (Halifax-Dartmouth); White-crowned Sparrow 4, (Wolfville); Dark-eyed Junco 2087, (Wolfville); Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco 1, (St. Peters); Lapland Longspur 17, (Amherst); Snow Bunting 340, (Amherst); Northern Cardinal 19, (Yarmouth); Dickcissel 3, (Halifax-Dartmouth); Red-winged Blackbird 127, (Wolfville); Rusty Blackbird 9, (Apple River); Common Grackle 134, (Shubenacadie); Brown-headed Cowbird 59, (Wolfville); Baltimore Oriole 15, (Canso Town); Common Chaffinch 1, (Bedford Sackville); Pine Grosbeak 288, (Wolfville); Purple Finch 24, (Annapolis); House Finch 31, (Yarmouth); Red Crossbill 12, (Pictou Harbour); White-winged Crossbill 183, (Eskasoni); Common Redpoll 1187, (Wolfville); Hoary Redpoll 1, (Annapolis); Pine Siskin 97, (Halifax-Dartmouth); American Goldfinch 1438, (Wolfville); Evening Grosbeak 347, (Shubenacadie); House Sparrow 1915, (Halifax-Dartmouth). ☐

AMHERST, Dec 19; 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -5 to 1 °C. Wind NW 15-35 kph. Snow 5-30 cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. Partly cloudy all day. 30 field observers in 7-8 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 81 (35.5 on foot, 45.5 by car). Total party kilometers 753 (42 by foot, 711 by car)

Canada Goose 203, American Black Duck 5; Common Merganser 55; Bald Eagle 19; Northern Harrier 10; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Rough-legged Hawk 17; Merlin 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 14; Ruffed Grouse 5; **Common Snipe 1**; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 674; Iceland Gull 25; Great Black-backed Gull 273; Rock Dove 405; Mourning Dove 233; Barred Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 128; American Crow 495; Common Raven 113; Horned Lark 24; Black-capped Chickadee 602; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 16; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 51; American Robin 1; European Starling 2656; Bohemian Waxwing 143; American Tree Sparrow 99; Song Sparrow 2; **Lincoln's Sparrow 2**; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 71; Lapland Longspur 17; Snow Bunting 340; **Northern Cardinal 1**; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 3; Pine Grosbeak 128; White-winged Crossbill 16; Common Redpoll 159; American Goldfinch 90; Evening Grosbeak 135; House Sparrow 19.

Total Species 54, about 7300 individuals. Sean Blaney, Doug Bliss, Sydney Bliss, Paul Bogaard, Andrew Boyne, Sarah Chisholm, Evelyn Coates, Linda Cooper, Kevin Davidson, Carol Fahey, George Finney, Liam Finney, Maida Follini, **Ross Galbraith (compiler)**, Hinrich Harries, Ron Hounsell, Jason Hudson, Andrew Kennedy, Andrew MacFarlane, Colin MacFarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Keith McAloney, Julie McKnight, Abbey Porter, Chris Porter, Al Smith, Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer, Russell Tilt, Kyle Wellband, John Wile, Shane Wood. **ANNAPOLIS ROYAL**, Dec 29; 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Temp. -5 to 0 °C. Wind NW 0-10 kph. Snow 40 cm. Still water

partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. clear, P.M. partly cloudy. 19 field observers in 8 parties, 33 at feeders. Total party hours 34 (22 on foot, 12 by car). Total party kilometers 241 (39 by foot, 202 by car).

Common Loon 10; Red-necked Grebe 4; Double-crested Cormorant 8; Canada Goose 5; American Black Duck 1721; Mallard 3; Greater Scaup 33; scaup species 3; Common Eider 16; Surf Scoter 30, White-winged Scoter 26; Black Scoter 17; scoter species 100; Long-tailed Duck 4; Bufflehead 206, Common Goldeneye 36; Common Merganser 4; Red-breasted Merganser 44; Bald Eagle 4; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Rough-legged Hawk 1; **Gray Partridge (escape) 1**; Ring-necked Pheasant 53; Bonaparte's Gull 3; Herring Gull 660; Great Black-backed Gull 38; Black Guillemot 5; Rock Dove 362; Mourning Dove 343; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 14; Hairy Woodpecker 12; Blue Jay 167; American Crow 316; Common Raven 41; Black-capped Chickadee 301; Red-breasted Nuthatch 16; White-breasted Nuthatch 8; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 2; American Robin 8; European Starling 1359; Bohemian Waxwing 111; Cedar Waxwing 11; American Tree Sparrow 16; Song Sparrow 8; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 15; Dark-eyed Junco 159; Snow Bunting 30; Northern Cardinal 12; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Pine Grosbeak 16; Purple Finch 24; Common Redpoll 9; **Hoary Redpoll 1**; Pine Siskin 38; American Goldfinch 111; Evening Grosbeak 51, House Sparrow 33.

Total Species 60, about 6615 individuals. (CW Snowy Owl, Northern Flicker) Ruby Adams, Jim Allen, S. Baltzer, Sheila Bestany, M. Brown, Betty Burrell, S. Burrell, Sarah Clark, Murray Covert, Paula Dodaro, Fred Fletcher, Freda Fox, Perry Freeman, Joan Harris, Sharon Hawboldt, Steve Hawboldt, Millie Hawes, Fran Higgs, Connie Horsfal, Marg Horsfal, Harold Horwood, Cliff Jones, Sheila Krant, Ginny Langley, Corinne Leek, Karen Lewis, Alex Marshall, Jeff McCormick, Brenda Montgomery, Wayne Morgan, Valerie Mount, Marian Mullen, B. Olsen, Jon

Percy, S. Potter, Gini Proulx, Kaylee Proulx, Andie Rierden, Jim Robinson, Barb Selig, Myrtle Selig, **David Tinker (compiler)**, Jack Turner, Julie Turner, Joyce Wilson, Roger Wilson, M. Wright.

ANTIGONISH, Dec 16; 7:50 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -2 to 4 °C. Wind NW 40 kph. Snow 10 cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. A.M. cloudy, light snow. P.M. cloudy, light rain. 15 field observers in 7-9 parties and 14 at feeders. Total party hours 42 (19.25 by foot, 22.75 by car). Total party kilometers 380 (27 by foot, 353 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 3; **Pied-billed Grebe 1**; Red-necked Grebe 1; Canada Goose 270; American Wigeon 7; American Black Duck 529; Mallard 10; **Green-winged Teal 1**; Greater Scaup 174; scaup species 1; Surf Scoter 32; scoter species 20; Long-tailed Duck 7; Common Goldeneye 30; Common Merganser 155; Red-breasted Merganser 195; duck species 5; Bald Eagle 42; Northern Harrier 2; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 1; hawk species 6; Ruffed Grouse 7; Black-headed Gull 4; Bonaparte's Gull 133; Ring-billed Gull 12; Herring Gull 256; Great Black-backed Gull 51; gull species 457; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 252; Mourning Dove 177; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; woodpecker species 1; Blue Jay 72; American Crow 441; Common Raven 7; Black-capped Chickadee 291; Boreal Chickadee 15; Red-breasted Nuthatch 29; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 16; warbler species 1; European Starling 734; American Tree Sparrow 33; **Lark Sparrow 1**; Song Sparrow 9; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 237; Snow Bunting 1; Pine Grosbeak 106; Purple Finch 2; Red Crossbill 7; White-winged Crossbill 48; Common Redpoll 30; Pine Siskin 34; American Goldfinch 115; finch species 8; Evening Grosbeak 67; House Sparrow 46.

Total Species 57, about 5210 individuals. (CW Horned Grebe, **Northern Shoveler**, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Bohemian Waxwing, **Black-throated Blue Warbler**). Martha Brown, Anne Camozzi, Regina Cozzi, Annette Goring,

May Goring, Bob Healey, Kyle Higgins, Sue Holm, Leslie Klapstein, Oona Landry, **Randy Lauff (compiler)**, Anne Louise MacDonald, Brian MacIsaac, Adrienne MacLaughlin, Ernie MacLaughlin; Bill Marshall, Heather Mayhew, Paul McClung, Ken McKenna, Kerstin Mueller, Norma Mitchell, Mary Murphy, Marilyn O'Brien, Mark Pulsifer, Rob Reid, Bunny Smith, Carol Young.

APPLE RIVER, Dec 28; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -6 to -2 °C. Wind W 30-60 kph. Snow 20 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Clear, P.M. partly clear. 15 field observers in 5 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 36.25 (10 on foot, 26.25 by car). Total party kilometers 304 (20 by foot, 284 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Horned Grebe 1; American Black Duck 386; Common Eider 2; White-winged Scoter 3; Long-tailed Duck 8; Common Goldeneye 12; Red-breasted Merganser 5; Bald Eagle 6; Northern Harrier 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 3; Ruffed Grouse 3; Purple Sandpiper 40; Ring-billed Gull 10; Herring Gull 306; Great Black-backed Gull 9; Black Guillemot 1; Mourning Dove 75; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 15; American Crow 80; Common Raven 34; Horned Lark 2; Black-capped Chickadee 136; Boreal Chickadee 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet 14; European Starling 93; Bohemian Waxwing 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 19; Song Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 16; **Rusty Blackbird 9**; Common Grackle 5; Pine Grosbeak 3; Purple Finch 3; White-winged Crossbill 36; Common Redpoll 15; American Goldfinch 8; House Sparrow 24.

Total Species 47, about 1428 individuals. (CW Sharp-shinned Hawk, Spruce Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird). Sapphire Brine, Karl Cole, Joan Czapalay, Christie Finney, George Finney, Jeremy Finney, Liam Finney, Keith Galbraith, Kiran Galbraith, Margaret Ann Galbraith, Jason Hudson, Andrew MacFarlane, Peggy Reid, Blaine

Spicer, Cynthia Spicer, **Kathleen F. Spicer (compiler)**, Ross Wehrell.

BARRINGTON BAY/CAPE SABLE ISLAND, Dec 15; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 2 to 5 °C. Wind NE 40 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. Partly cloudy, light to heavy rain all day. 14 field observers in 8 parties. Total party hours 83 (39 on foot, 44 by car). Total party kilometers 520 (41 by foot, 479 by car).

Red-throated Loon 8; Common Loon 65; Horned Grebe 14; Red-necked Grebe 38; Northern Gannet **235**; Double-crested Cormorant 22; Great Cormorant 162; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 320; Brant 4; **Wood Duck 1**; American Black Duck 224; Mallard 38; Northern Pintail 2; Greater Scaup 16; Lesser Scaup 3; Common Eider 451; Surf Scoter 4; White-winged Scoter 34; Black Scoter 13; Long-tailed Duck 71; Bufflehead 39; Common Goldeneye 10; Red-breasted Merganser 56; Northern Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 10; Ruffed Grouse 1; Black-bellied Plover 19; **Greater Yellowlegs 2**; **Lesser Yellowlegs 1**; **Willet 1**; Ruddy Turnstone 2; Red Knot 23; Sanderling 270; Dunlin 46; shorebird species 300; Black-headed Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 1600; Iceland Gull 2; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 996; Black-legged Kittiwake 5; Razorbill 2; Black Guillemot 75; Rock Dove 22; Mourning Dove 330; **Snowy Owl 5**; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker **20**; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 161; American Crow 465; Common Raven 15; Horned Lark 5; Black-capped Chickadee 480; Boreal Chickadee 23; Red-breasted Nuthatch 24; Brown Creeper 4; wren species 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 17; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; **Swainson's Thrush 1**; American Robin 17; Northern Mockingbird 3; European Starling 724; American Pipit 19; **Nashville Warbler 1**; Yellow-rumped Warbler 119; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; American Tree Sparrow 18; Chipping Sparrow 2; **Vesper Sparrow 1**; Savannah Sparrow 5; Fox Sparrow 8; Song Sparrow 73; Swamp Sparrow 7; White-throated Sparrow 111; Dark-eyed Junco 160; Snow Bunting 66;

Northern Cardinal 8; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Common Grackle 4; Baltimore Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 18; Purple Finch 11; Red Crossbill 7; White-winged Crossbill 15; Common Redpoll 20; Pine Siskin 33; American Goldfinch 130; House Sparrow 16.

Total Species 95, about 8385 individuals. (CW Common Snipe, American Kestrel, **Greater Shearwater**, **Field Sparrow**, Brown-headed Cowbird, Merlin, Common Murre, Cedar Waxwing, Saw-whet Owl). Joan Czapalay, Edna Crowell, Terry Crowell, Raymond d'Entremont, Donna Ensor, Paul Gould, James Hirtle, Grant Milroy, **Murray Newell (compiler)**, Johnny Nickerson, Sandra Nickerson, Betty June Smith, Sidney Smith, Clyde Stoddard.

BEDFORD/SACKVILLE, Dec 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. -3 to 3 °C. Wind S to W 0-15 kph. Snow 0-10 cm. A.M. Mixture of cloudy and foggy with light snow, P.M. Partly clear. 39 field observers in 27 parties, 24 at feeders. Total party hours 137 (70 on foot, 67 by car). Total party kilometers 1072 (96 by foot, 976 by car).

Common Loon 2; Horned Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 2; Canada Goose 19; American Black Duck 848; Mallard 48; Bufflehead 3; Common Goldeneye 113; Hooded Merganser **51**; Common Merganser 6; Red-breasted Merganser 96; Duck sp. 19; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 6; Ring-billed Gull 36; Herring Gull 1275; Great Black-backed Gull 63; Rock Dove 500; Mourning Dove 213; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 57; Hairy Woodpecker 30; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 11; Northern Shrike 1; Blue Jay 254; American Crow 5109; Common Raven 38; Black-capped Chickadee 748; Red-breasted Nuthatch 43; White-breasted Nuthatch 23; Brown Creeper 17; Golden-crowned Kinglet 83; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1**; American Robin 16; thrush species 1; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 2628; Bohemian Waxwing 192; waxwing species 30; **Ovenbird 1**; **Wilson's Warbler 1**; Yellow-breasted Chat 2; American Tree Sparrow 15; Chipping

Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 99; Swamp Sparrow 1; **Vesper Sparrow 1**; White-throated Sparrow 46; Dark-eyed Junco 853; sparrow species 6; Northern Cardinal 4; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Common Grackle 2; Baltimore Oriole 1; **Common Chaffinch 1**; Pine Grosbeak 12; Purple Finch 7; Red Crossbill 7; White-winged Crossbill 13; Common Redpoll 6; Pine Siskin 55; American Goldfinch 472; Evening Grosbeak 34; House Sparrow 92.

Total Species 67, about 14339 individuals. Bill Billington, Eileen Billington, Suzanne Borkowski, Russ Boyd, Marilyn Challis, Pat Chalmers, Margaret Clark, Don Codling, Lois Codling, Charlie Cron, Jamie Crosby, Davina Davis, Heather Drope, Margaret Ellis, Rosemary Gallinger, Jean Hartley, Elliot Hays, Judy Hays, Betty Hollebene, Andy Horn, David Hughes, Janet Hughes, Shirley Hughes, William Hughes, Rita Kinney, Lori Dawn Krueger, Betty Kulin, Ed Kulin, Fulton Lavender, Marina LeBlanc, Peter LeBlanc, Sterling Levy, Don McLaughlin, Colonel MacLellan, Don MacNeill, **Bob McDonald (compiler)**, Ian McLaren, Pat Millar, Bernice Moores, Gordon Morgan, Hay Mortimer, Catherine Mott, Tracey Noel, Maureen Nowlan, **Rich Peckham (compiler)**, Joe Pitzel, Walter Regan, Helga Sansom, Mike Sansom, Larry Smith, Richard Stern, Clarence Stevens III, Sabrina Taylor, Hans Toom, Azor Vienneau.

BIG POND/ESKASONI, Dec 26; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -1 to 2 °C. Wind NW 15-20 kph. Snow 5 cm. Still water open, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 30 field observers in 11 parties, 5 at feeders, 1 hour and 1km owling. Total party hours 44.5 (18.5 on foot, 26 by car). Total party kilometers 241.75 (24.5 by foot, 217.25 by car).

Common Loon 23; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 2; Great Cormorant 2; Canada Goose 61; American Black Duck 142; Greater Scaup 62; White-winged Scoter 54; Long-tailed Duck 13; Common Goldeneye 117; Common Merganser 39; Red-breasted Merganser 289; Bald Eagle 40; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Common Snipe 2; Black-headed Gull 2; Bonaparte's Gull

8; Herring Gull 108; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 21; Rock Dove 9; Mourning Dove 16; Great Horned Owl 2; Northern Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 3; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 94; American Crow 255; Common Raven 36; Black-capped Chickadee 294; Boreal Chickadee 51; Red-breasted Nuthatch 36; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 54; American Robin 1; European Starling 383; Bohemian waxwing 55; Yellow-rumped Warbler 4; Pine Warbler 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; American Tree Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 113; Snow Bunting 8; Baltimore Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 40; Red Crossbill 1; White-winged Crossbill 183; Common Redpoll 254; American Goldfinch 24; Evening Grosbeak 53; House Sparrow 51.

Total Species 59, about 3048 individuals. George Ball, Terry Boone, Donald Campbell, Theresa Cash, Linda Courey, Billy Digout, George Digout, Murdoch Digout, Sharon Digout, Anne Marie Donovan, Joe Donovan, Lynn Ellis, John Gainer, Dave Harris, Carol MacDonald, Dennis MacDonald, George MacInnis, Alanna MacNeil, Ann Marie MacNeil, Brian MacNeil, Catherine MacNeil, Duncan MacNeil, **Jack MacNeil (compiler)**, Dave McCorquodale, Eric McCorquodale, Geraldine Metcalfe, Junior Metcalfe, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Pat Nelder, Elliott Siteman, Jim Siteman, Pauline Siteman, Don Tuttle, Fred White, Melvin White, Joe Wickens.

BRIDGETOWN, Dec 29; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -3 to 0 °C. Wind W 10 kph. Snow 15 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies partly clear all day. 5 field observers in 4 parties, 36 at feeders. Total party hours 12.5 (3 on foot, 9.5 by car). Total party kilometers 170 (3 by foot, 167 by car).

Common Loon 5; American Black Duck 2; Common Eider 10; Surf Scoter 61; White-winged Scoter 24; Black Scoter 17; Long-tailed Duck 34; Bufflehead 8; **Barrow's Goldeneye 5**; Red-breasted

Merganser 10; Northern Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 8; hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 22; Herring Gull 93; Great Black-backed Gull 5; Rock Dove 101; Mourning Dove 340; Downy Woodpecker 16; Hairy Woodpecker 20; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Northern Shrike 2; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 189; American Crow 328; Common Raven 29; Black-capped Chickadee 230; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 5; American Robin 60; European Starling 832; Bohemian Waxwing 14; Cedar Waxwing 75; American Tree Sparrow 17; Song Sparrow 10; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 186; Snow Bunting 4; Northern Cardinal 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 8; Purple Finch 12; Pine Siskin 21; American Goldfinch 254; Evening Grosbeak 145; House Sparrow 121.

Total Species 47, about 3345 individuals. (CW Sharp-shinned Hawk). Thelma Bent, Joyce Burbridge, Bill Chambers, Pearl Chambers, **David Colville (compiler)**, Jan Coulter, Eleanor Duncan, Doris Durling, Marilyn Durling, Noel Durling, David Eisnor, Marie Gaul, Sharon Hawboldt, Steve Hawboldt, Marg Hirtle, Avora Howse, Maude Jodrey, Donna Jones, Ron Jones, Rosaire MacNeil, Bev Marshall, Fred Marshall, Marg Messinger, Roger Mosher, Doug Parker, Danny Phinney, Erma Rains, Jean Smith, Jory Smith, Phyl Spicer, Marg Taylor, Wade Troop, Gladdie Weir, Jim Whitman, Marion Whitman, Lib Woolaver, Faye Young.

BRIER ISLAND, Dec 18; 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Temp. -1 to 2.5 °C. Wind ENE 20-40 kph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. light rain, snow. P.M. heavy rain, snow. 5 field observers in 3 parties. Total party hours 17.25 (9.25 on foot, 8 by car). Total party kilometers 123 (12 by foot, 111 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 42; Red-necked Grebe 1; Northern Gannet 184; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 93; Turkey Vulture 2; American Black Duck 20; Common Eider 27; Harlequin Duck 1; White-winged Scoter 7; Long-tailed Duck 47; Common Goldeneye 14; Red-breasted

Merganser 20; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 9; Purple Sandpiper 120; Common Snipe 1; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 1060; Iceland Gull 12; Great Black-backed Gull 560; Black-legged Kittiwake 26; Dovekie 2; Black Guillemot 15; Rock Dove 25; Mourning Dove 45; **Long-eared Owl 1**; Blue Jay 16; American Crow 109; Common Raven 19; Black-capped Chickadee 68; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; American Robin 9; European Starling 40; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 7; White-throated Sparrow 7; Dark-eyed Junco 8; Northern Cardinal 2; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 25; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Purple Finch 3; Common Redpoll 80; Pine Siskin 2; American Goldfinch 8; House Sparrow 22.

Total Species 50, about 2781 individuals. (CW Mallard, Bald Eagle, Glaucous Gull, Razorbill, Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, Evening Grosbeak), Blake Maybank, Ian McLaren, Anne Mills, **Eric Mills (compiler)**, Karen Mills, David Pugh, Sharon Pugh.

BROAD COVE, Dec 30; 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp. -4 to 2 °C. Wind NW 6 kph. Snow 0-2 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. partly cloudy. P.M. Cloudy. 29 field observers in 15 parties, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 173.5 (70 on foot, 99.50 by car, 4 by boat). Total party kilometers 575 (75.50 by foot, 493.5 by car, 6 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 13; Horned Grebe 52; Red-necked Grebe 8; Northern Gannet 9; Great Cormorant 24; Great Blue Heron 2; Canada Goose 196; American Black Duck 383; Mallard 359; Northern Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 80; Common Eider 1091; Harlequin Duck 1; Surf Scoter 77; White-winged Scoter 7; Black Scoter 92; Long-tailed Duck 319; Bufflehead 91; Common Goldeneye 92; Hooded Merganser 34; Common Merganser 17; Red-breasted Merganser 192; Bald Eagle 3; Northern Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 2; American Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 14; Ruffed Grouse 13; Black-bellied Plover 2; Killdeer 2; Purple Sandpiper 20; Dunlin 3; Black-headed Gull 8; Ring-

billed Gull 27; Herring Gull 816; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 271; Thick-billed Murre 15; Black Guillemot 25; Rock Dove 228; Mourning Dove 315; **Northern Saw-whet Owl 1**; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 15; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Blue Jay 278; American Crow 475; Common Raven 38; Horned Lark 11; Black-capped Chickadee 503; Boreal Chickadee 23; Red-breasted Nuthatch 21; White-breasted Nuthatch 10; Brown Creeper 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet 88; **Hermit Thrush 1**; American Robin 1; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 577; American Pipit 23; Bohemian Waxwing 91; Cedar Waxwing 2; Orange-crowned Warbler 4; Yellow-rumped Warbler 17; American Tree Sparrow 40; Savannah Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 30; White-throated Sparrow 30; Dark-eyed Junco 321; Snow Bunting 2; Northern Cardinal 1; Red-winged Blackbird 14; **Rusty Blackbird 1**; Common Grackle 5; Brown-headed Cowbird 11; Pine Grosbeak 16; Purple Finch 1; Red Crossbill 4; White-winged Crossbill 10; Common Redpoll 54; American Goldfinch 172; Evening Grosbeak 10; House Sparrow 1.

Total Species 86, about 7848 individuals. (CW **Northern Fulmar**, **Peregrine Falcon**, Glaucous Gull, Gray Jay, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, **Vesper Sparrow**, Pine Siskin). Bruce Allen, Lise Bell, Peter Bell, Barbara Byrd, Kay Casselman, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Donna Ensor, **Sylvia Fullerton (compiler)**, Gary Hartlen, Janet Hartlen, Pearl Himmelman, James Hirtle, Blair Hodgman, Michael Kieley, Ian McLaren, Mary McLaren, Pat McLarty, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Karen Mills, Eileen Morrison, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Nellie Snyder, Clarence Stevens Sr., Francis Stevens.

CALEDONIA, Dec 30; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -5 to 0 °C. Wind calm. Snow 20 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies partly clear/cloudy all day. 16 field observers in 10 parties, 21 at feeders. Total party hours 15.5 (11 on foot, 4.5 by car). Total party kilometers 42.5 (20 by foot, 22.5 by car).

American Black Duck 16; Bald Eagle 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Mourning Dove 38; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 103; American Crow 5; Common Raven 22; Black-capped Chickadee 60; Red-breasted Nuthatch 19; White-breasted Nuthatch 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; European Starling 30; sparrow species 4; Dark-eyed Junco 12; Common Redpoll 4; Pine Siskin 4; American Goldfinch 56; Evening Grosbeak 77.

Total Species 24, about 493 individuals. (CW **Ruddy Duck**, **Snowy Owl**), Rick Brunt, Pat Canning, Eric Cole, Judy Cole, Harry DeLong, Frank Emsoff, Jennifer Hopper, Pamela Hopper, **Peggy Hopper (compiler)**, Steve Hopper, Jackie Jorrisen, Mary Kierstead, Rod Kierstead, Amanda Lavers, Julie Meisner, Orval Meisner, Dawn Payzant, Elliott Payzant, Barb Rogers, Leslie Rogers, Peter Rogers, Jonathan Sheppard, Sheila Sheppard, Tom Sheppard, Jesse Shupe, David Small, Shirley Smith.

CANSO TOWN, Dec 29; 9:20 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 2 to -1 °C. Wind calm to NW15 kph. Snow 2-15 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies partly cloudy, light snow. P.M. partly cloudy. 3 field observers in 2-3 parties, 8 at feeders. Total party hours 7.25 (2.25 on foot, 5 by car). Total party kilometers 92.5 (5.5 by foot, 87 by car).

Common Loon 5; Red-necked Grebe 12; Great Cormorant 1; cormorant species 13; American Black Duck 1; Common Eider 310; White-winged Scoter 6; scoter species 20; Long-tailed Duck 3; Bufflehead 8; Common Goldeneye 2; Red-breasted Merganser 11; duck species 20; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Purple Sandpiper 27; shorebird species 5; Herring Gull 90; Great Black-backed Gull 32; gull species 53; Black Guillemot 23; Rock Dove 19; Mourning Dove 72; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Northern Flicker 2; Blue Jay 16; American Crow 63; Common Raven 11; Black-capped Chickadee 117; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; American Robin 145; Northern

Mockingbird 1; European Starling 153; Bohemian Waxwing 1; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 8; Pine Warbler 3; Palm Warbler 2; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; warbler species 1; American Tree Sparrow 11; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 1; **White-crowned Sparrow 1**; Dark-eyed Junco 19; sparrow species 2; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Baltimore Oriole **15**; Pine Grosbeak 3; Purple Finch 5; White-winged Crossbill 4; Pine Siskin 12; American Goldfinch 35; finch species 65; House Sparrow 33.

Total Species 50, about 1496 individuals. (CW Bald Eagle, Merlin, Hairy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Brown Creeper, **Dickcissel**, Evening Grosbeak), **Stephen Bushell (Compiler)**, May Goring, June Jarvis, Tom Kavanaugh, Randy Lauff, Rose Ann Macmullin, Clyde MacKenzie, Isabelle Munroe, Nancy Peters, Grace Walsh, Joe Walsh.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Dec 29; Temp. -4 °C. Winds calm. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, flurries, P.M. clear. 25 field observers in 9 parties, 23 at feeders. Total party hours 26.2 (12.2 on foot, 14 by car). Total party kilometers 174.3 (23 by foot, 151.3 by car).

Common Loon 8, Great Cormorant 44; Canada Goose 36; American Black Duck 214; Common Eider 1; White-winged Scoter 96; Black Scoter 2; Long-tailed Duck 66; Common Goldeneye 165; Bufflehead 2; Common Merganser 19; Red-breasted Merganser 86; Bald Eagle 7; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 33; Herring Gull 103; Iceland Gull 69; Great Black-backed Gull 208; Black-legged Kittiwake 2; Black Guillemot 44; Rock Dove 40; Mourning Dove 57; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 15; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 223; American Crow 134; Common Raven 4; Black-capped Chickadee 200; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 31; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; Bohemian Waxwing 171; Cedar Waxwing 2; European Starling 96; **Yellow-breasted Chat 1**; **Dickcissel 1**; American Tree Sparrow 1; Song

Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 45; Snow Bunting 1; Pine Grosbeak 6; Common Redpoll 27; Pine Siskin 8; American Goldfinch 12; Evening Grosbeak 40; House Sparrow 1.

Total Species 51, about 2344 individuals. (CW Northern Gannet, Surf Scoter, **Turkey Vulture**, hawk species, Spruce Grouse, Ring-billed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Gray Jay, American Robin, blackbird species, Purple Finch). Adam Algar, Dave Algar, The Bridglands, Dave Burchell, Alina Crompton, Cliff Crompton, Chris Gorey, Doug Jackson, Jeanette Jackson, Peter Johansen, **Sheldon Lambert (compiler)**, Gordon MacLean, David McCorquodale, Frances McEvoy, Fritz McEvoy, John McEvoy, Anne-Marie Morrison, Freeman Morrison, The Muntz's, Ken Murray, Marjorie Murray, Joe O'Neil, Tim Reynolds, Ken Verner, Heather Wilson, Tom Wilson.

CHETICAMP, Dec 16; 7:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp. 0 to 2 °C. Wind strong NW . Snow 0-3 cm. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. Cloudy, light snow, ice pellets. P.M. partly clear, light snow. 10 field observers in 6 parties. Total party hours 33.6 (18 on foot, 15.6 by car). Total party kilometers 207.5 (24.5 by foot, 183 by car).

Common Loon 1; Northern Gannet 2; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 10; American Black Duck 64; Mallard 4; Common Eider 22; Common Goldeneye 112; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Common Merganser 60; Red-breasted Merganser 7; Bald Eagle 5; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Dunlin 2; Ring-billed Gull 9; Herring Gull 245; Iceland Gull 266; Glaucous Gull 21; Great Black-backed Gull 201; gull species 50; Black Guillemot 3; Rock Dove 7; Mourning 41; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Northern Flicker 1; Blue Jay 39; American Crow 216; Common Raven 41; Black-capped Chickadee 81; Boreal Chickadee 11; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Bohemian Waxwing 28; European Starling 386; sparrow species 3; Snow Bunting 46; Pine Grosbeak 13; Common Redpoll 34; House Sparrow 28.

Total Species 39, about 2068 individuals. (CW scaup species, Red-tailed Hawk, Dovekie, Downy Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak). Alfred Aucoin, Geraldine Bourgeois, Laurette Deveau, Heather Davis, **Denis Hache (compiler)** David Lawley, David McCorquodale, Marie Claire Roach, Marie Justine Roach, Jean Timmons, Margo Timmons.

ECONOMY, Dec 27; 7:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp. -5 to 0 °C. Wind N 1-20 kph. Snow 15 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. Cloudy, P.M. partly cloudy. 5 field observers in 4 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party hours 33.25 (24.5 on foot, 8.75 by car). Total party kilometers 145 (29.5 by foot, 115.5 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; American Black Duck 782; Mallard 6; Green-winged Teal 1; Surf Scoter 13; White-winged Scoter 9; Long-tailed Duck 13; Bufflehead 20; Common Goldeneye 9; Common Merganser 2; Bald Eagle 2; Northern Harrier 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 5; Purple Sandpiper 41; Dunlin 1; Ring-billed Gull 52; Herring Gull 454; Great Black-backed Gull 7; Rock Dove 42; Mourning Dove 93; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 26; American Crow 206; Common Raven 17; Black-capped Chickadee 151; Boreal Chickadee 13; Red-breasted Nuthatch 12; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 23; American Robin 2; European Starling 388; Bohemian Waxwing 20; American Tree Sparrow 17; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 52; Snow Bunting 77; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 7; Baltimore Oriole 1; Common Redpoll 72; American Goldfinch 104; Evening Grosbeak 11; House Sparrow 31.

Total Species 52, about 2824 individuals. (CW Black-backed Woodpecker), Irene Cooke, Jean Corbett, Linda Corbett, Betty Loeffler, Brad McLaughlin, Ken McKenna, Patti Smart, Betty Spalding, Edgar Spalding, **Fran Spalding (compiler)**.

GLACE BAY, Dec 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 0 to -1 °C. Wind SW 20-30 kph. Snow 5 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving partly open. Partly clear/cloudy all day. 17 field observers in 9 parties, 17 at feeders, 2 hours and 12km owling. Total party hours 55 (17.5 on foot, 37.5 by car). Total party kilometers 236.5 (14.5 by foot, 222 by car).

Red-throated Loon 3; Common Loon 16; **Pied-billed Grebe** 1; Horned Grebe 21; Northern Gannet 20; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Cormorant 122; Canada Goose 419; **Eurasian Wigeon** 3; American Wigeon 46; American Black Duck 1031; Mallard 198; Northern Pintail 2; Green-winged Teal 18; Greater Scaup 35; Lesser Scaup 3; Common Eider 7; Surf Scoter 40; White-winged Scoter 260; Black Scoter 2; Long-tailed Duck 162; Bufflehead 88; Common Goldeneye 243; Hooded Merganser 1; Common Merganser 39; Red-breasted Merganser 194; Bald Eagle 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; **Broad-winged Hawk** 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Red Knot 2; Black-headed Gull 50; Bonaparte's Gull 10; Ring-billed Gull 5; Herring Gull 612; Iceland Gull 470; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 232; Black Guillemot 8; Rock Dove 135; Mourning Dove 176; Barred Owl 2; **Snowy Owl** 1; Saw-whet Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 15; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Northern Flicker 9; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 140; American Crow 415; Common Raven 59; Horned Lark 4; Black-capped Chickadee 192; Boreal Chickadee 21; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 11; American Robin 1; European Starling 797; Bohemian Waxwing 1017; Cedar Waxwing 93; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 6; Pine Warbler 2; Palm Warbler 1; Common Yellowthroat 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; American Tree Sparrow 13; Savannah Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 11; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 47; Snow Bunting 25; **Dickcissel** 1; Red-winged Blackbird 1; **Rusty Blackbird** 1; Common Grackle 4; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 5; Common Redpoll 167; Pine Siskin 23; American Goldfinch 177; Evening Grosbeak 130; House Sparrow 248.

Total species 84, about 8363 individuals. (CW Northern Harrier,

Rough-legged Hawk, Baltimore Oriole, Pine Grosbeak). Cheryl Bray, Wayne Burton, Pat Campbell, Leslie Crewe, George Crowell, Art Gillard, Andrew Gingell, Barbara Guy, Dave Harris, Lillian LeGrow, Bill MacDonald, John W. MacInnis, Archie Macmullin, Nina Macmullin, Jack MacNeil, Geraldine Metcalfe, Hugh Metcalfe Jr., Fraser Morrison, Allan Murrant, **Cathy Murrant (compiler)**, Della Murrant, Emily Murrant, Jim Murrant, Laurie Murchison, Winnie Peach, Ralph Peters, Ruth Peters, Shirley Pettigrew, Susann Myers, Beverly Sarty, Charlene Wadden, Stan Wadden Sr., Margaret Williams, Fred White.

HALIFAX/DARTMOUTH, Dec 15; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 1 to -3 °C. Wind NE-N 15-26 kph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving partly open. A.M. partly cloudy, light to heavy snow or rain. P.M. cloudy, light snow. 77 field observers in 40-47 parties, 52 at feeders, 1.75 hours and 11.7 km owling. Total parties hours 266.50 (213 on foot, 53.5 by car, .5 by boat). Total party kilometers 1,220.8 (310.62 by foot, 908.48 by car, 1.67 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 9; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 1; Northern Gannet 64; Double-crested Cormorant 8; Great Cormorant 131; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 5154; Wood Duck 1; **Eurasian Wigeon** 1; American Wigeon 41; American Black Duck 3120; Mallard 387; Northern Pintail 3; Green-winged Teal 4; Ring-necked Duck 31; Greater Scaup 50; Lesser Scaup 31; Common Eider 1446; Surf Scoter 4; White-winged Scoter 8; Black Scoter 2; Long-tailed Duck 55; Bufflehead 26; Common Goldeneye 18; Hooded Merganser 2; Common Merganser 54; Red-breasted Merganser 313; **Ruddy Duck** 3; Bald Eagle 18; Northern Harrier 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 16; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Rough-legged Hawk 2; American Kestrel 1; Merlin 3; hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 29; Ruffed Grouse 7; American Coot 3; Purple Sandpiper 17; Dunlin 12; Black-headed Gull 167; Bonaparte's Gull 4; Ring-billed Gull 523; Herring Gull 3833; Iceland Gull 229; Glaucous Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 330; Black-legged

Kittiwake 1; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 6; Rock Dove 2376; Mourning Dove 269; **Snowy Owl** 1; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 61; Hairy Woodpecker 27; Northern Flicker 15; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 621; American Crow 1913; Common Raven 63; Black-capped Chickadee 2055; Boreal Chickadee 90; Red-breasted Nuthatch 74; White-breasted Nuthatch 13; Brown Creeper 34; **Carolina Wren** 1; **House Wren** 1; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 171; Hermit Thrush 1; American Robin 58; **Gray Catbird** 2; Northern Mockingbird 12; **Brown Thrasher** 1; European Starling 15344; American Pipit 5; Bohemian Waxwing 66; Cedar Waxwing 35; **Blue-winged Warbler** 1; Orange-crowned Warbler 8; **Nashville Warbler** 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 14; **Yellow-throated Warbler** 2; Pine Warbler 9; **Blackpoll Warbler** 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 4; American Tree Sparrow 37; **Lark Sparrow** 1; Savannah Sparrow 15; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 3; Fox Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 299; Swamp Sparrow 13; White-throated Sparrow 132; White-crowned Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 1177; Snow Bunting 32; Northern Cardinal 11; **Dickcissel** 3; Common Grackle 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Baltimore Oriole 7; Pine Grosbeak 4; Purple Finch 4; **House Finch** 6; Red Crossbill 3; White-winged Crossbill 20; Common Redpoll 149; Pine Siskin 97; American Goldfinch 1122; Evening Grosbeak 32; House Sparrow 1915.

Total Species 116, about 44638 individuals. Harry Arnold, Marilyn Baker, Valerie Bancroft, Lenard Biggs, Bill Billington, Illene Billington, Elaine Black, Richard Bone, Suzanne Borkowski, Earl Bradley, Joan Brennan, Jake Bryant, Peggy Cameron, Pat Chalmers, Beverley Chapman, Freeman Churchill, Illene Cooper, Margo Corkum, Francine Cosman, Evelyn Cox, Margaret Cox, Charles Cron, Mike Crowell, Dave Currie, Renate Deppe, Ron Dicks, Pat Dodd, Ann Doull, Heather Drope, Joyce Drope, Catherine Early, Rosemary Eaton, Laura Elliot, Tim Ellison, Wanetta Evans, Glen Flemming, Helen Fletcher, Bill Fraser, Bill Freedman, Glen Gibson, Sherman Glazebrooke, Fred Grieg, Richard Hatch,

Gary Hatton, Barbara Hines, Ulli Hoeger, Andy Horn, Marilyn Hourihan, Dave Huestis, Bill Hughes, Dave Hughes, Janey Hughes, Shirley Hughes, Jeff Hutching, Dorothy Jackson, Patricia James, Lynn Karchewski, Todd Keith, Corinne LaCroix, Arnold Langille, **Fulton Lavender (compiler)**, Peter LeBlanc, Jack Leedham, Sterling Levy, Viola Lovitt, Joyce MacAskill, Leslie MacDonald, Mike MacDonald, Eva MacKay, Ann-Margaret MacDonald, Dave MacKinnon, Carol MacNeill, Chris Majka, Muriel Marryatt, Sue Mathers, Bob MacDonald, Barb McKay, Pat McKay, Ian McLaren, Mary McLaren, Don McLaughlin, Judy MacLean, Ralph McLean, Bob McQuestion, Dianne McQuestion, Bob McQuinn, Bob Miller, Maureen Mills, Pam Mills, Doug Milsom, Kris Milsom, Bernice Moores, Joann Morris, Bob Morton, Minga O'Brien, Roy O'Brien, Liz O'Neal, Peter Oickle, Terry Paquet, Etta Parker, Richard Peckham, Brigitte Petersmann, Martha Poirier, Carl Purcell, Rick Reid, Denise Restin, John Robertson, Barry Scott, Doug Sherman, Angelica Silva, Gilibert Slaunwhite, Albert Sparks, Lorne Spates, Cindy Staicer, Clarence Stevens II, Clarence StevensIII, Jack Stone, Angela Sykes, Sabrina Taylor, Hans Toom, Kathleen Tucket, Azor Vienneau, Bob Warrior, Dottie Welsh, Ann Wetmore, Marjorie Widgeny, **Scott Yetman (compiler)**.

KINGSTON, Dec 15; 7:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 0 to -5 °C. Wind N 0-25 kph. Snow 0.5 - 15 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy. P.M. partly cloudy. 14 field observers in 8 parties, 40 at feeders. Total party hours 45.7 (18.3 on foot, 27.4 by car). Total party kilometers 338 (32 by foot, 306 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 1; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 25; American Black Duck 24; Mallard 9; Common Eider 2; Surf Scoter 8; White-winged Scoter 3; Black Scoter 11; Long-tailed Duck 3; Red-breasted Merganser 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; **Broad-winged Hawk 1**; Red-tailed Hawk 12; hawk species 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 29; Ruffed Grouse 4; Purple Sandpiper 4; Herring Gull 69; Great Black-backed Gull 11; Rock Dove 420; Mourning

Dove 641; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 38; Hairy Woodpecker 28; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Blue Jay 226; American Crow 1552; Common Raven 23; Black-capped Chickadee 597; Red-breasted Nuthatch 36; White-breasted Nuthatch 32; Brown Creeper 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet 15; American Robin 4; European Starling 2889; Cedar Waxwing 13; American Tree Sparrow 11; Song Sparrow 21; White-throated Sparrow 7; Dark-eyed Junco 371; Northern Cardinal 1; Common Grackle 26; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Pine Grosbeak 33; Red Crossbill 7; Common Redpoll 174; Pine Siskin 33; American Goldfinch 639; Evening Grosbeak 83; House Sparrow 82.

Total Species 52, about 8245 individuals. (CW Bald Eagle, Northern Flicker, Fox Sparrow) Ann Aikman, Merry Atwood, Gerald Baker, Doug Beaman, Abby Beaman, John Belbin, Edna Brunt, Ken Brunt, Bob Campbell, Karen Campbell, Bill Caudle, Tony Chaulk, Helene Cluett, John Collins, Ken Crowell, Gordon Delaney, Claire Diggins, Norman Donovan, Betty Donovan, Byron Fenwick, Bob Foster, Paul Gertridge, Sgeila Gertridge, Barbara Giffin, **Patrick Giffin (compiler)**, Carole Gregory, Len Gregory, Shirley Harris, Ron Hill, Donna Hill, Sheila Hulford, Kathy Inkpen, Mike Inkpen, Bob Kadjas, Ted Kadjas, Carole Long, Dave Ludlow, Tanya Ludlow, Pat MacDonald, Art MacIntosh, Mary Macmillan, Gary Myers, Adora Parsons, Herb Parsons, Alice Patterson, Dan Patterson, Arthur Peck, Twila Robar-Decoste, Jim Robinson, Tom Ross, Christine Ross, Chuck Salmon, Herb Smale, Emily Stewart, Ralph Swinamer, Barb Thompson, George Wells, June Wells, Jane White, Grace Wile, Cecil Wile.

LOUISBOURG, Dec 15; 6:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Temp. -1 to 1.5 °C. Wind N-NW 5-20 kph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy. P.M. partly cloudy. 27 field observers in 16 parties, 32 at feeders, 2.5 hours and 7 km owling. Total party hours 77 (51 on foot, 26 by car). Total party kilometers 178.5 (81.5 by foot, 97 by car).

Red-throated Loon 3; Common Loon 19; Horned Grebe 12; Red-necked Grebe 5; Northern Gannet 1; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Cormorant 21; American Black Duck 72; **Green-winged Teal 1**; Common Eider 154; Surf Scoter 17; White-winged Scoter **182**; Black Scoter **36**; scoter species 50; Long-tailed Duck 174; Bufflehead 33; Common Goldeneye 135; Common Merganser 24; Red-breasted Merganser 113; Bald Eagle 7; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 10; Purple Sandpiper 5; Bonaparte's Gull 6; Herring Gull 109; Iceland Gull 33; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 79; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; gull species 4; Dovekie 17; **Razorbill 1**; Black Guillemot 63; Rock Dove 12; Mourning Dove **160**; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 5; woodpecker species 2; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay **21**; Blue Jay 130; American Crow 244; Common Raven 32; Black-capped Chickadee 342; Boreal Chickadee 67; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; **White-breasted Nuthatch 1**; Brown Creeper 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet 94; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2**; kinglet species 2; American Robin 2; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 236; Yellow-rumped Warbler 3; Pine Warbler 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; American Tree Sparrow 1; Chipping Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 11; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 90; sparrow species 1; Snow Bunting 35; Dickcissel 2; **Rusty Blackbird 1**; Common Grackle 7; **Baltimore Oriole 2**; Pine Grosbeak 1; Purple Finch 7; White-winged Crossbill 66; Common Redpoll 72; Pine Siskin 32; American Goldfinch 211; Evening Grosbeak 18; House Sparrow 140.

Total Species 72, about 3474 individuals. (CW Mallard, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Pileated Woodpecker) Victor Anderson, Sandy Anthony, Lynn Baechler, Jean Bagnell, Joe Bagnell, Warren Bagnell, Brent Baker, Mary Lou Blunden, Judy Burke, Bill Bussey, Dianne Bussey, Eddie Bussey, Peter Chiasson, Carol Corbin, George Crowell, Barc Cunningham, Lynn Ellis, Sheila Fudge, Jennifer Gledhill, Cyneth Hutt, Gordon Hutt, Glenda Kennedy, Harry Kennedy, Shirley Kennedy, Bethsheila Kent, John

Lahey, Gerry LaLonde, Miles MacDonald, Walter MacDonald, John MacInnis, Ramona MacLeod, Jack MacNeil, Philip MacPhail, Viola MacPhail, Pearl Magee, Philip Magee, David McCorquodale, John McKay, Sandy McLain, Hugh Metcalfe Jr., Joan Mills, Florence Miron, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, **Susann Myers (compiler)**, Helen O'Shea, Bill O'Shea, Darrell Peck, Laura Saunders, Marmon Smith, Carter Stevens, Eugene Taylor, Martha Timmons, Sylvia Trimm.

LUNENBURG, Jan 2; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. -5 to -2 °C. Wind W 5 kph. Snow 5 cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. Mostly clear and sunny all day. 23 field observers in 11 parties, 12 at feeders, 1 hour and 15 kilometers owling. Total party hours 67.5 (27.5 on foot, 39 by car, 1 by boat). Total party kilometers 482 (61 by foot, 411 by car, 10 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 8; Horned Grebe 11; Red-necked Grebe 4; Great Cormorant 92; Canada Goose 389; American Wigeon 2; American Black Duck 60; Mallard 686; Northern Pintail 11; Green-winged Teal 11; **Ring-necked Duck 1**; Greater Scaup 4; Common Eider 50; Long-tailed Duck 48; Bufflehead 12; Common Goldeneye 127; Barrow's Goldeneye 4; Hooded Merganser 75; Common Merganser 20; Red-breasted Merganser 123; duck species 17; Bald Eagle 5; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 5; American Kestrel 2; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 62; Ruffed Grouse 2; Black-headed Gull 123; Bonaparte's Gull 23; Ring-billed Gull 20; Herring Gull 1453; Iceland Gull 23; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 346; Black-legged Kittiwake 25; Black Guillemot 33; **Atlantic Puffin 1**; Rock Dove 157; Mourning Dove 266; Belted Kingfisher 1; **Red-bellied Woodpecker 1**; Downy Woodpecker 13; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Northern Flicker 5; Gay Jay 2; Blue Jay 175; American Crow 1192; Common Raven 34; Black-capped Chickadee 508; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 13; White-breasted Nuthatch 12; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 59; American Robin 34; European Starling 1521; Bohemian Waxwing 345;

Nashville Warbler 1; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 7; Yellowthroat 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; American Tree Sparrow 21; Chipping Sparrow 2; **Lark Sparrow 1**; **Grasshopper Sparrow 1**; Song Sparrow 40; White-throated Sparrow 20; Dark-eyed Junco 280; sparrow species 1; Northern Cardinal 4; Red-winged Blackbird 1; **Rusty Blackbird 1**; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Pine Grosbeak 11; Purple Finch 2; Red Crossbill 5; White-winged Crossbill 6; Common Redpoll 82; Pine Siskin 35; American Goldfinch 46; Evening Grosbeak 9; House Sparrow 93.

Total Species 84, about 8912 individuals. (CW Barred Owl, Cedar Waxwing). Joyce Allen, Edith Burgess, Bill Caudle, Shirley Cohrs, Jill Comolli, Margery Dahn, Arlene Davis, Leighton Davis, Peter Davis, Catherine Earley, Martha Farrar, Sylvia Fullerton, Marnie Gent, Gary Hartlen, Brenda Hiltz, Steven Hiltz, **James Hirtle (compiler)**, Joanne Hubley, Paul MacDonald, Ron McClendon, Jean McKiel, Pat McLarty, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Pat Morrison, Scottie Morrison, Bill Morse, Jean Morse, Sheevaun Nelson, Ed Porter, Laine Porter, Catherine Pross, Steve Shewchuk, Nellie Snyder, Clarence Stevens, Francis Stevens, Bob Weld, Heather Weld, Mary Young, Murray Young.

MARGAREE, Dec 29; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -4 to 5 °C. Wind NW 7 kph. Snow 7 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy. P.M. clear. 4 field observers in 3 parties, 1 at feeder. Total party hours 13 (5 on foot, 8 by car). Total party kilometers 86 (18 by foot, 68 by car).

American Black Duck 10; White-winged Scoter 7; Bufflehead 10; Common Goldeneye 31; Common Merganser 25; Bald Eagle 13; Ruffed Grouse 1; Herring Gull 103; Iceland Gull 7; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 107; Rock Dove 3; Mourning Dove 7; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 49; American Crow 126; Common Raven 24; Black-capped Chickadee 28; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; European

Starling 124; Cedar Waxwing 23; Dark-eyed Junco 11; Pine Grosbeak 7; Purple Finch 8; Common Redpoll 7; Pine Siskin 4; Evening Grosbeak 31; House Sparrow 2.

Total Species 33, about 782 individuals. (CW **Leach's Storm Petrel**). Eunice Hart, **Frances Hart (compiler)**, David Ingraham, David Lawley, Margo Timmons.

NORTHPORT, Jan 5; 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Temp. -8 to -12 °C. Wind calm. Snow 15 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies clear all day. 1 field observers in 1 party, 2 at feeder. Total party hours 4 (1 on foot, 3 by car). Total party kilometers 47 (2 by foot, 45 by car).

Bald Eagle 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Herring Gull 93; Iceland Gull 849; Great Black-backed Gull 10; Rock Dove 131; Mourning Dove 2; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 1; woodpecker species 1; Blue Jay 5; American Crow 193; Black-capped Chickadee 6; European Starling 1420; American Tree Sparrow 22; Fox Sparrow 2; Snow Bunting 55.

Total Species 16, about 2800 individuals. (CW American Black Duck), June MacNeil, **Mary Jane MacNeil (compiler)**.

PICTOU HARBOUR, Jan 1; 7:20 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -11 to -3 °C. Wind W 20 kph. Snow 50 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy to clear all day. 20 field observers in 8 parties, 22 at feeders, 4 hours and 47 kilometers owling. Total party hours 58.75 (28.5 on foot, 30.25 by car). Total party kilometers 469 (42.5 by foot, 426.5 by car).

Horned Grebe 2; Double-crested Cormorant 5; Canada Goose 1810; Gadwall 3; **Eurasian Wigeon 1**; American Wigeon 3; American Black Duck 1644; Mallard 93; Green-winged Teal 2; Greater Scaup 5184; Lesser Scaup 2; Common Eider 1; Long-tailed Duck 128; Bufflehead 4; Common Goldeneye 601; Barrow's Goldeneye 4; Hooded Merganser 31; Common Merganser 1076; Red-breasted

Merganser 746; duck species 59; Bald Eagle 30; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 9; Rough-legged Hawk 4; **Merlin 2**; hawk species 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 2; Black-headed Gull 4; Bonaparte's Gull 228; Ring-billed Gull 98; Herring Gull 2629; Iceland Gull 104; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 218; gull species 160; Rock Dove 281; Mourning Dove 183; Barred Owl 1; Northern Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 7; Downy Woodpecker 52; Hairy Woodpecker 24; Northern Flicker 11; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 287; American Crow 1995; Common Raven 152; Black-capped Chickadee 590; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch 84; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 15; **Hermit Thrush 2**; American Robin 24; Northern Mockingbird 2; European Starling 1098; **American Pipit 3**; Bohemian Waxwing 99; Cedar Waxwing 12; Yellow-rumped Warbler 7; American Tree Sparrow 29; Chipping Sparrow 3; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 24; White-throated Sparrow 2; White-crowned Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 335; Snow Bunting 40; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 41; Red Crossbill 12; White-winged Crossbill 74; Common Redpoll 185; Pine Siskin 2; American Goldfinch 82; Evening Grosbeak 16; House Sparrow 409.

Total Species 79, about 21127 individuals. (CW Common Loon, **Tufted Duck**, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Lapland Longspur, Northern Cardinal), Margie Beck, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Lillian Bryan, Agnes Chisholm, Joan Czapalay, Amber Goodwin, Barb Gould, Bob Hanes, Bob Healey, Cecil Hebb, Elwin Hemphill, Janet Hemphill, Ann Lank, Randy Lauff, Jean MacDonald, Fred MacKenzie, Jean MacLeod, Duncan McMaster, Harold Madore, Cathy Madore, Mary Mason, Pat McCarron, Jean McGee, **Ken McKenna (compiler)**, Cheryl McLane, Bev Milligan, Bernice Moores, Gary Murray, Dan Panting, Joan Panting, Robert Reid, Tee Roberts, Wendy Skinner, Henry Snow, Polly Szantor, Steve Vines, Bob Whitman, Judy Whitman, Samantha Whitman, Alison Yoshioka.

PORT L'HEBERT, Dec 16; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -3 to 3 °C. Wind NNW 12-40 kph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 13 field observers in 9 parties, 5 at feeders, .5 hour and .5 km owling. Total party hours 55.75 (44.75 on foot, 11 by car). Total party kilometers 280.8 (77.3 by foot, 203.5 by car).

Common Loon 15; Horned Grebe 8; Red-necked Grebe 9; Northern Gannet 36; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 10; Great Blue Heron 5; Canada Goose 1026; American Black Duck 279; Mallard 1; **Northern Shoveler 1**; Green-winged Teal 7; Greater Scaup 2; Common Eider 426; Harlequin Duck 5; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 26; Black Scoter 36; Long-tailed Duck 10; Bufflehead 17; Common Goldeneye 68; Red-breasted Merganser 27; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 1; American Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 12; Spruce Grouse 2; Sanderling 120; Black-headed Gull 32; Ring-billed Gull 23; Herring Gull 776; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 137; Black-legged Kittiwake 5; Black Guillemot 3; Rock Dove 30; Mourning Dove 174; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 64; American Crow 197; Common Raven 10; Black-capped Chickadee 271; Boreal Chickadee 39; Red-breasted Nuthatch 23; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 43; American Robin 14; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 89; American Pipit 14; Bohemian Waxwing 28; Yellow-rumped Warbler 80; Palm Warbler 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; **Eastern Towhee 1**; American Tree Sparrow 5; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 30; Swamp Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 67; Dark-eyed Junco 60; Snow Bunting 21; Northern Cardinal 1; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 2; White-winged Crossbill 4; American Goldfinch 95; House Sparrow 9.

Total Species 81, about 4564 individuals. (CW Northern Saw-whet Owl, Cedar Waxwing) Michelle Bull, Lloyd Cameron, Kay Casselman, Bill Crosby, Bryce Crosby, **Donna Crosby (compiler)**, Bill Curry, Donna Ensor, Frances Fisher, Ray Fisher, Dean Fiske, Sylvia Fullerton, Danny Mason, Linda Ross, Roger Ross, Bill Sutherland, Gloria Sutherland, David Young.

PUBNICO, Dec 30; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 1-2 °C. Wind NW 30 kph. Snow 10 cm. Still water open, moving water open. Skies partly cloudy, light snow all day. 6 field observers in 3 parties, 5 at feeders. Total party hours 22 (4 on foot, 18 by car). Total party kilometers 267 (8 by foot, 259 by car).

Common Loon 12; Red-necked Grebe 3; Great Cormorant 22; Great Blue Heron 1; **Turkey Vulture 1**; American Black Duck 58; Common Eider 21; White-winged Scoter 1; Black Scoter 1; Long-tailed Duck 8; Common Goldeneye 13; Hooded Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 9; duck species 25; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; American Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 7; Ring-billed Gull 133; Herring Gull 453; Iceland Gull 11; Great Black-backed Gull 515; Black-legged Kittiwake 4; gull species 1; Black Guillemot 1; Mourning Dove 172; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 31; American Crow 179; Common Raven 2; Black-capped Chickadee 89; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 29; American Robin 2; **Varied Thrush 1**; Northern Mockingbird 2; European Starling 191; Bohemian Waxwing 263; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; American Tree Sparrow 22; Chipping Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 16; White-throated Sparrow 61; Dark-eyed Junco 46; Northern Cardinal 4; **Dickcissel 1**; Red-winged Blackbird 12; Brown-headed Cowbird 6; Baltimore Oriole 1; Common Redpoll 3; American Goldfinch 25; House Sparrow 92.

Total Species 58, about 2573 individuals. (CW Evening Grosbeak) Lisette D'Entremont, Raymond S. D'Entremont, Benjamin D'Eon, Claire

D'Eon, Ingrid D'Eon, Jerome D'Eon, Reginald D'Eon, **Ted C. D'Eon (compiler)**, Paul Gould, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters.

ST. PETERS, Dec 28; 7:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp. -2 to 0 °C. Wind NW 20-50 kph. Snow 25 cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. A.M. clear, P. M. partly cloudy. 9 field observers in 5 parties, 16 at feeders. .5 hours and 5 kilometers owling. Total party hours 28 (18 on foot, 10 by car). Total party kilometers 188 (18 by foot, 170 by car).

Common Loon 6; Red-necked Grebe 34; Northern Gannet 3; Great Cormorant 4; American Black Duck 18; Green-winged Teal 1; Common Eider 80; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 4; Black Scoter 12; scoter species 1; Long-tailed Duck 26; Common Goldeneye 9; Common Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 28; Bald Eagle 14; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Purple Sandpiper 4; Black-headed Gull 4; Bonaparte's Gull 21; Herring Gull 268; Iceland Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 33; Black Guillemot 12; alcid species 3; Rock Dove 16; Mourning Dove 40; Downy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 1; Gray Jay 26; Blue Jay 65; American Crow 146; Common Raven 48; Black-capped Chickadee 152; Boreal Chickadee 15; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; European Starling 244; Yellow-rumped Warbler 6; **Eastern Towhee 1**; American Tree Sparrow 14; **Clay-coloured Sparrow 1**; Savannah Sparrow 16; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 93; **Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco 1**; sparrow species 10; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 41; **Rusty Blackbird 1**; Common Grackle 1; Baltimore Oriole 4; Pine Grosbeak 4; White-winged Crossbill 12; Common Redpoll 86; American Goldfinch 176; Evening Grosbeak 40; House Sparrow 31.

Total Species 57, 1 additional race, about 1913 individuals. (CW Canada Goose, Harlequin Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Pipit, Bohemian Waxwing, **Dickcissel**, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin). Floyd Carter, **Billy Digout (compiler)**, George Digout, Murdock Digout, Sharon

Digout, Wendell Holmes, Dell Landry, Eva Landry, Keats Landry, Anna MacDonald, Annie MacDonald, Donnie MacDonald, Frances MacKay, Noreen MacLeod, Weldon MacPhail, Dave McCorquodale, Tom Murray, Susann Myers, Daniel Nightingale, Frances Oram, Walter O'Toole, Peter Pelletier, Jeannie Shermerhorn, Trevor Wilkie, Joe Wincey.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec 16; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -5 to 0 °C. Wind NW 30-50 kph. Snow 4 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, P.M. partly clear. 23 field observers in 18 parties, 29 at feeders. Total party hours 59.25 (27 on foot, 32.25 by car). Total party kilometers 426.75 (36.25 by foot, 390.5 by car).

Common Loon 1; Canada Goose 48; American Black Duck 277; Mallard 177; Common Merganser 125; duck species 40; Bald Eagle 30; Northern Harrier 5; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 25; Ruffed Grouse 7; Ring-billed Gull 11; Herring Gull 79; Great Black-backed Gull 10; gull species 2; Rock Dove 521; Mourning Dove 322; Downy Woodpecker 15; Hairy Woodpecker 16; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 259; American Crow 754; Common Raven 120; Black-capped Chickadee 409; Red-breasted Nuthatch 33; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 79; American Robin 1; European Starling 1771; Bohemian Waxwing 17; American Tree Sparrow 92; Song Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 390; Snow Bunting 57; Red-winged Blackbird 10; Common Grackle 134; Pine Grosbeak 7; Common Redpoll 30; Pine Siskin 61; American Goldfinch 278; Evening Grosbeak 347; House Sparrow 163.

Total Species 46, about 6748 individuals. (CW Baltimore Oriole) Barbara Aitken, Mark Anthony, Conrad Baldwin, Wylie Barbrick, Barbara Bower, Terry Carroll, Carol Goswell, Brenda Grantmyre, Myrna Hambleton, Jean Isenor, Myrna Isenor, Joan Jarvis, Helen Langille, Pat Lynds, Anne MacDonald, Helen McDonell, Joan Mackey, **Roslyn MacPhee (compiler)**,

Sharon MacPhee, Jenna Marshall, Elsie McCulloch, Rollen McCulloch, Muriel Miller, Albert Moore, Pat Moore, Juanita Murphy, Brenda Norwich, Eldon Pace, Jacques Perron, Christine Queripel, Roby Quinn, Earl Reid, Nancy Reid, Barbara Scott, George Searle, Catherine Spares, Rosalie Stewart, Connie Stott, Blanche Tanner, Everett Tanner, Faye Wallace, Roger Wardrope, Lorne Weaver, Arthur West, Myrna West.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec 15; Temp. -3 to 3 °C. Wind W 15 kph. Snow 5 cm. Still water partly open, moving open. Skies cloudy, light snow/rain all day. 13 field observers in 9 parties, 32 at feeders, 5 hours and 63 km owling. Total party hours 55 (27 on foot, 28 by car). Total party kilometers 707.5 (34.5 by foot, 673 by car).

Canada Goose 5; Mallard 10; Green-winged Teal 2; Hooded Merganser 7; Common Merganser 118; Bald Eagle 27; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; hawk species 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 18; Ring-billed Gull 21; Herring Gull 114; Iceland Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 8; Rock Dove 402; Mourning Dove 267; Barred Owl 1; Short-eared Owl 1; Northern Saw-whet Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 18; Hairy Woodpecker 19; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 323; American Crow 4423; Common Raven 178; Black-capped Chickadee 760; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch 91; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 6; **Marsh Wren 1**; Golden-crowned Kinglet 33; American Robin 3; European Starling 1388; Cedar Waxwing 53; Pine Warbler 1; Common Yellowthroat 1; American Tree Sparrow 20; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 9; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 3; **White-crowned Sparrow 1**; Dark-eyed Junco 361; Red-winged Blackbird 13; Common Grackle 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 6; Pine Grosbeak 56; Red Crossbill 4; White-winged Crossbill 108; Common Redpoll 95; Pine Siskin 3; American Goldfinch 150; Evening Grosbeak 139; House Sparrow 159.

Total Species 61, about 10557 individuals. (CW Purple Finch). Rosemary Bourque, Donna Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Mark Brennan, Tim Brennan, Betty Calder, Frank Calder, Murray Clish, Ed Cormier, Sonny Cyr, Rick Ferguson, Claire Foote, Doug Fraser, Mary Fraser, Amber Goodwin, Sylvia Grosskurth, Joan Kearley, Randy Lauff, Carla Marshall, Robert Marshall, Lee Maudsley, Eleanor MacKay, Kathy McKay, John MacKarney, Joyce MacKarney, Fraser MacLean, Ken McKenna, Helen Melanson, Gary Murray, Fred Polley, Sally Polley, Margie Reid, Rob Reid, Chris Robinson, Judy Schuhlein, Cheryl Silver, Grant Stewart, Dan Stewart, Polly Szantor, Donnie Uhren, **Steve Vines (compiler)**, Bob Whitman, Rita Young.

STRAIT OF CANSO, Dec 23; 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp. -1 to 1 °C. Wind N, 30-40 kph. Snow 25 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy light snow all day. 7 field observers in 4-5 parties, 6 at feeders. Total party hours 24 (6.5 on foot, 17.5 by car). Total party kilometers 261 (9 by foot, 252 by car).

Common Loon 2; Horned Grebe 3; Red-necked Grebe 4; Northern Gannet 3; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 4; American Black Duck 32; Common Eider 28; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 6; Long-tailed Duck 25; Bufflehead 19; Common Goldeneye 88; Hooded Merganser 2; Common Merganser 26; Red-breasted Merganser 85; Bald Eagle 20; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Ruffed Grouse 2; Black-headed Gull 1; Bonaparte's Gull 23; Ring-billed Gull 5; Herring Gull 86; Iceland Gull 324; Great Black-backed Gull 109; Black-legged Kittiwake 3; gull species 68; Black Guillemot 6; Rock Dove 73; Mourning Dove 51; Downy Woodpecker 5; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 41; American Crow 214; Common Raven 18; Black-capped Chickadee 126; Boreal Chickadee 21; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; American Robin 2; European Starling 435; Bohemian Waxwing 59; Yellow-rumped Warbler 6; Pine Warbler 3; **Yellow-breasted Chat 1**; American Tree Sparrow 14; **Savannah Sparrow 1**;

Song Sparrow 22; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 11; Dark-eyed Junco 87; Snow Bunting 4; **Red-winged Blackbird 3**; Common Grackle 8; Baltimore Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 33; White-winged Crossbill 1; Common Redpoll 3; American Goldfinch 16; Evening Grosbeak 18; House Sparrow 56.

Total Species 62, about 2333 individuals. (CW Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, **White-crowned Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird**, Purple Finch). Marie Bolger, Stephen Bushell, David Chiasson, George Digout, Mary Hemmings, David Johnston, Randy Lauff, David McCorquodale, Ken McKenna, Adair Meagher, Kerstin Mueller (compiler), Betty Talbot.

SYDNEYS, Dec 22; 5:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -2 to 1 °C. Wind SW-NW, 0-15 kph. Snow 1-5. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. Skies cloudy all day. 23 field observers in 11 parties, 32 at feeders, 1.25 hours and 18 kilometers owling. Total party hours 50.5 (27 on foot, 23.5 by car). Total party kilometers 273 (36 by foot, 237 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 3; Great Cormorant 71; Canada Goose 1; Wood Duck 1; American Black Duck 899; Mallard 314; Mallard/Black Duck hybrid 48; Northern Pintail 1; Greater Scaup 14; Common Eider 1; White-winged Scoter 2; Long-tailed Duck 48; Bufflehead 36; Common Goldeneye 387; Red-breasted Merganser 109; duck species 13; Bald Eagle 19; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Ruffed Grouse 2; Black-headed Gull 33; Bonaparte's Gull 2; Ring-billed Gull 5; Herring Gull 1018; Iceland Gull 705; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 320; gull species 21; Rock Dove 321; Mourning Dove 155; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 20; Hairy Woodpecker 17; Northern Flicker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 221; American Crow 746; Common Raven 122; Horned Lark 5; Black-capped Chickadee 542; Boreal Chickadee 20; Red-breasted Nuthatch 44; White-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 23; European Starling 4172; Bohemian Waxwing 418; Cedar Waxwing 15;

Yellow-rumped Warbler 11; American Tree Sparrow 2; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 14; Dark-eyed Junco 197; sparrow species 1; Snow Bunting 30; Common Grackle 2; Baltimore Oriole 4; Pine Grosbeak 26; Purple Finch 6; White-winged Crossbill 82; Common Redpoll 56; Pine Siskin 52; American Goldfinch 210; Evening Grosbeak 15; House Sparrow 150.

Total Species 64, about 11807 individuals. Jessie Andrews, Bev Archibald, Mary Lou Blunden, Rob Boone, Judy Cartwright, Peyton Chisholm, Joan Cunningham, Vince Cunningham, Randy Davidson, Glen Drodge, Lynn Ellis, Gwen Gardner, Tom Gardner, Betty Gentile, Heather Gillis, David Harris, Jacquelyn Holmes, Beth Kent, Sharon Lewis, Barbara MacDonald, Barbara MacDonald, Jim MacDonald, Miles MacDonald, Walter MacDonald, Yvonne MacDonald, Gordon MacFadden, Joan MacFadden, John W. MacInnis, Jack MacNeil, **David McCorquodale (compiler)**, John McKay, Joan Mills, Susann Myers, Ronald O'Handley, Terry Power, Amelia Prestera, Emile Roach, Laura Saunders, Brian Seville, Pam Seville, Jim Siteman, Pauline Siteman, Chris Thomson, Meg Turner, Lazlo Urban, Fred White, Jack White, Tim White, Darlene Whitty, Tim Whitty, Denise Young, Albert Zwicker .

TRURO, Dec 29; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -5 to 0 °C. Wind W 0-15 kph. Snow 15 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. partly clear, snow, P.M. partly cloudy. 14 field observers in 8 parties, 10 at feeders. Total party hours 49.5 (24.25 on foot, 25.25 by car). Total party kilometers 470 (34.75 by foot, 435 by car).

American Wigeon 1; American Black Duck 936; Mallard 397; Green-winged Teal 4; Hooded Merganser 1; Bald Eagle 6; Northern Harrier 3; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; Ring-necked Pheasant 37; Ruffed Grouse 4; **American Coot 1**; Ring-billed Gull 7; Herring Gull 134; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 43; Rock Dove 474; Mourning Dove 390; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 13; Hairy Woodpecker 13; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 146; American Crow 2588; Common

Raven 7; Horned Lark 60; Black-capped Chickadee 220; Red-breasted Nuthatch 19; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; European Starling 2997; Cedar Waxwing 4; Pine Warbler 3; American Tree Sparrow 40; Chipping Sparrow 9; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 17; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 196; Common Grackle 4; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 8; Common Redpoll 40; American Goldfinch 148; Evening Grosbeak 91; House Sparrow 186.

Total Species 47, about 9267 individuals. (CW Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Red Crossbill) Kim George, Emili Gratton, Linda Hall, **Ross Hall (compiler)**, Barb Hildebrand, Joan Hudgins, Rip Irwin, Bernard Jackson, Martha MacLaughlin, Marilyn McWha, Bea McCallum, Ina Majors, Murdo Messer, Jeff Ogden, Janet Roberts, Don Roland, Eric Rubin, John Rubin, Trish Rubin, Harold Stewart, Sheila Stewart, Neil Taylor, Helene Van Donick.

WEST HANTS, Dec 29; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -3 to 0 °C. Wind calm. Snow 35 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. partly clear, heavy snow, P.M. partly clear. 21 field observers in 8 parties, 4 at feeders, 2.5 hours owling. Total party hours 75 (17.8 on foot, 57.2 by car). Total party kilometers 769.3 (39.3 by foot, 730 by car).

Common Loon 1; Canada Goose 250; American Black Duck 2006; Mallard 8; Mallard/Black Duck hybrid 1; Northern Pintail 2; Green-winged Teal 3; Common Merganser 30; Bald Eagle 28; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 16; American Kestrel 3; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 58; **Greater Yellowlegs 1**; Purple Sandpiper 10; Ring-billed Gull 19; Herring Gull 1915; Iceland Gull 3; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 210; Rock Dove 143; Mourning Dove 519; Barred Owl 2; **Long-eared Owl 1**; Northern Saw-whet Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 22; Hairy Woodpecker 10; Black-backed Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 9;

Pileated Woodpecker 5; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 305; American Crow 1472; Common Raven 73; Horned Lark 43; Black-capped Chickadee 517; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 11; White-breasted Nuthatch 11; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 15; American Robin 60; European Starling 2881; American Pipit 4; Bohemian Waxwing 213; Cedar Waxwing 255; American Tree Sparrow 103; Chipping Sparrow 5; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 20; White-throated Sparrow 11; Dark-eyed Junco 499; Northern Cardinal 2; Red-winged Blackbird 10; Brown-headed Cowbird 31; Pine Grosbeak 12; Purple Finch 2; Red Crossbill 7; White-winged Crossbill 3; Common Redpoll 138; Pine Siskin 14; American Goldfinch 361; Evening Grosbeak 130; House Sparrow 456.

Total Species 66, about 12956 individuals. John Abati, George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Art Crowell, Heidi de Boer, Muriel Gollan, Lynn Hebb, Margot Kaufman; Patrick Kelly; Peggy Konchanoff, Blake Maybank, Jane McConnell, Mary Pratt, Peter Richard, Neil Robarts, Sheila Robarts, Joe Robertson, **John Robertson (compiler)**, Geneva Sanford, Bev Shanks, Judy Tufts, Walter Urban, Sherman Williams, Frank Woolaver, Jim Wolford.

WOLFVILLE, Dec 15; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -5 to 1 °C. Wind W 10 kph. Snow 15 cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, light snow. P.M. cloudy. 48 field observers in 21 parties, 91 at feeders. Total parties hours 155 (76 on foot, 79 by car). Total party kilometers 1005 (140 by foot, 865 by car).

Common Loon 1; Red-necked Grebe 2; Great Blue Heron 2; **Turkey Vulture 1**; Canada Goose 704; American Wigeon 2; American Black Duck 1007; Mallard 678; Northern Pintail 1; Green-winged Teal 53; Common Eider 3; White-winged Scoter 2; Black Scoter 8; Long-tailed Duck 2; Common Goldeneye 9; Common Merganser 7; Bald Eagle 354; Northern Harrier 12; Sharp-shinned Hawk 10; Northern Goshawk 1; **Broad-winged Hawk 1**; Red-tailed Hawk 129; Rough-legged Hawk 4; American

Kestrel 4; Merlin 5; **Peregrine Falcon 3**; Ring-necked Pheasant 223; Ruffed Grouse 3; Killdeer 1; Ring-billed Gull 149; Herring Gull 13730; Iceland Gull 22; **Lesser Black-backed Gull 3**; Great Black-backed Gull 4048; Rock Dove 656; Mourning Dove 2123; Barred Owl 4; Downy Woodpecker 73; Hairy Woodpecker 42; Northern Flicker 30; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 5; Blue Jay 1032; American Crow 9711; Common Raven 429; Horned Lark 240; Black-capped Chickadee 1338; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 30; White-breasted Nuthatch 50; Brown Creeper 12; Golden-crowned Kinglet 76; **Eastern Bluebird 2**; American Robin 32; Northern Mockingbird 11; European Starling 15638; American Pipit 41; Bohemian Waxwing 9; Cedar Waxwing 35; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; American Tree Sparrow 139; Chipping Sparrow 5; Savannah Sparrow 20; Song Sparrow 269; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 44; **White-crowned Sparrow 4**; Dark-eyed Junco 2087; Snow Bunting 44; Northern Cardinal 6; Red-winged Blackbird 127; Common Grackle 34; Brown-headed Cowbird 59; Baltimore Oriole 1; Pine Grosbeak 288; Purple Finch 7; White-winged Crossbill 12; Common Redpoll 1187; Pine Siskin 75; American Goldfinch 1438; Evening Grosbeak 138; House Sparrow 653.

Total Species 82, about 59448 individuals. (CW Wood Duck, Glaucous Gull, Great Horned Owl, Fox Sparrow). Agar Adamson, George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Jim Amos, Diana Anderson, Peter Austin-Smith, Patricia Bernier, Diana Bishop, Sherman Boates, Larry Bogan, Soren Bondrup-Nielsen, Sharon Borden, Mike Boudreau, Dennis Brannan, Carol Buckley, Ron Buckley, Renske Buik, Dick Cain, Lana Churchill, Neil Cloghsey, Brenda Coldwell, Sandy Connelly, Chris Cox, Peggy Crawford, Debbie Daigle, Jim Diagle, Pat Davis, Glen Davison, Ruth Davison, Pat Dix, Ev Eagles, Betty Eaton, Joan Eaton, Mark Elderkin, Paul Elderkin, Wendy Elliott, Mary Ellis, **Trina Fitzgerald (compiler)**, George Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Hilma Frank, Merritt Gibson, Mary Sue Goulding, Ed Hancock, Charlotte Harper, Eileen Harris, Sharon Harris, Lorna Hart, Gail Herbin, Maxine Hill, Bob Horne, Marg

Horne, Isobel Horton, Winnie Horton, J. P. Huang, Paul Illsley, Lana Isenor, Shirley Jackson, Dave Jones, Patrick Kelly, Meg Krawchuk, Jean Leung, Del MacInnes, Mac MacInnes, Angus MacLean, Stella MacLean, Ron Margeson, Don Marston, Shirley Marston, Jessie Martin, Pat Martin, Bernard Mason, Eleanor Mason, Sheila McCurdy, Rosaleen McDonald, Randy Milton, Terri Milton, Dawn Miner, Adele Mullie, Terry Murphy, Edna Mutch, Gary Ness, Andy Nette, Linda Nette, Rina Nichols, Hugh Nickerson, Nancy Nickerson, Pam Nickerson, **Joe Nocera (compiler)**, Mike O'Brien, Mick O'Neill, Linda Pearson, Dorothy Perkin, Roger Pocklington, Chris Pratt, Janet Pratt, Mary Pratt, Shirley Prescott, Ladney Richmond, Stan Riggs, Gordon Robart, Marg Russell, Barry Sabean, Linda Sacouman, Kathy Schaffner, Meg Scheid, Ruth Scott, Dave Shutler, Ed Shynal, Peter Smith, Richard Stern, Sandy Stevens, Phil Taylor, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Chris Toplack, Dave Tracy, Judy Tufts, Deanna Urban, Eva Urban, Walter Urban, Gertrude Waseem, Mohammed Waseem, Jackie White, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Lance Woolaver, Don Wright, Barry Yoell, Betty Yoell, Earl Young, Sheila Young.

YARMOUTH, Dec 16; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. -3 to 1 °C. Wind NW 40-60 kph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 17 field observers in 7 parties, 12 at feeders. Total party hours 36 (8.5 on foot, 27.5 by car). Total party kilometers 476.5 (14.5 by foot, 462 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 18; Red-necked Grebe 7; Northern Gannet 1; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 6; Great Blue Heron 3; Canada Goose 1085; **Eurasian Wigeon 2**; American Wigeon 2; American Black Duck 300; Mallard 238; Northern Pintail 1; Green-winged Teal 1; Common Eider 62; White-winged Scoter 34; Black Scoter 2; Long-tailed Duck 78; Bufflehead 46; Common Goldeneye 20; Hooded Merganser 8; Red-breasted Merganser 39; Bald Eagle 5; Northern Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Rough-legged Hawk 2; American Kestrel 5; hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Ruffed Grouse 4; Dunlin 2; Common Snipe 1; Bonaparte's Gull 3; Ring-billed Gull 20; Herring Gull 2171; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 559; gull species 2; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 81; Mourning Dove 186; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern Flicker 9; Blue Jay 119; American Crow 413; Common Raven 19; Horned Lark 12; Black-capped Chickadee 218; Boreal

Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 11; White-breasted Nuthatch 6; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 27; American Robin 6; Northern Mockingbird 3; European Starling 1098; American Pipit 6; Bohemian Waxwing 1; Cedar Waxwing 6; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 24; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 23; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 47; Dark-eyed Junco 117; Northern Cardinal 19; Common Grackle 21; Baltimore Oriole 7; Pine Grosbeak 5; Purple Finch 9; House Finch **31**; White-winged Crossbill 10; Common Redpoll 36; Pine Siskin 50; American Goldfinch 88; Evening Grosbeak 8; House Sparrow 30.

Total Species 80, about 7517 individuals. (CW Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Red Crossbill). Martyn Bowler, Lori Colbeck, Leonard Cottrell, Michelin Cottrell, Timothy Cottrell, Elsie Crosby, Raymond d'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, Matthew Fry, Paul Gould, June Graves, Helen Hall, Phyllis Hayes, Carol Jacquard, Jackie MacDonald, Peter MacDonald, Brian Matthews, Dale Mullen, Ethelda Murphy, Leah Murray, Arthur Porter, Marcie Rogers, Veralyn Rogers, Robin Rhymer, **Barbara Ruff (compiler)**, **Eric Ruff (compiler)**, Clark Sollows, Vera Sollows, Paulette Surette, Jim Thibeau, Dorothy Ward. ☞



Although we have already published several photos of white-plumaged birds, including Juncos, this one taken at Kentville in October 2001 deserves a slot. Although it had a few dark feathers (stained?), its rather ghastly pale eye and pink legs suggest that it may have been a rare true albino, completely unable to produce melanin. [Photo Judy Tufts]

(Continued from back cover4)

Sun 14 July 2002. 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. The morning will be a 3-hour walk so come prepared with sturdy footwear, water, sun block, repellent and a lunch. The dyke is good walking but in order to see anything we need to get away from the parking lot. The primary interest will be broods of various kinds. No registration necessary.

Sat 27 July 2002. Pictou County

Leader: Ken McKenna 752-7644 (Home) 752-0044 (off.)

Email: kenmcken@north.nsis.com

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot behind the Heather Motel in Stellarton at Exit 24. 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. Bring a lunch.

Sat 3 Aug 2002. Mahone Bay

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

Pre-registration is necessary!

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: 04 August.

Sat 24 Aug 2002. 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 25 August.

Sun 25 Aug 2002. 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 31 Aug to Mon 02 Sep 2002. 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 17 May 2002 trip.

Sat 12 to Mon 13 Oct 2002. Brier Island

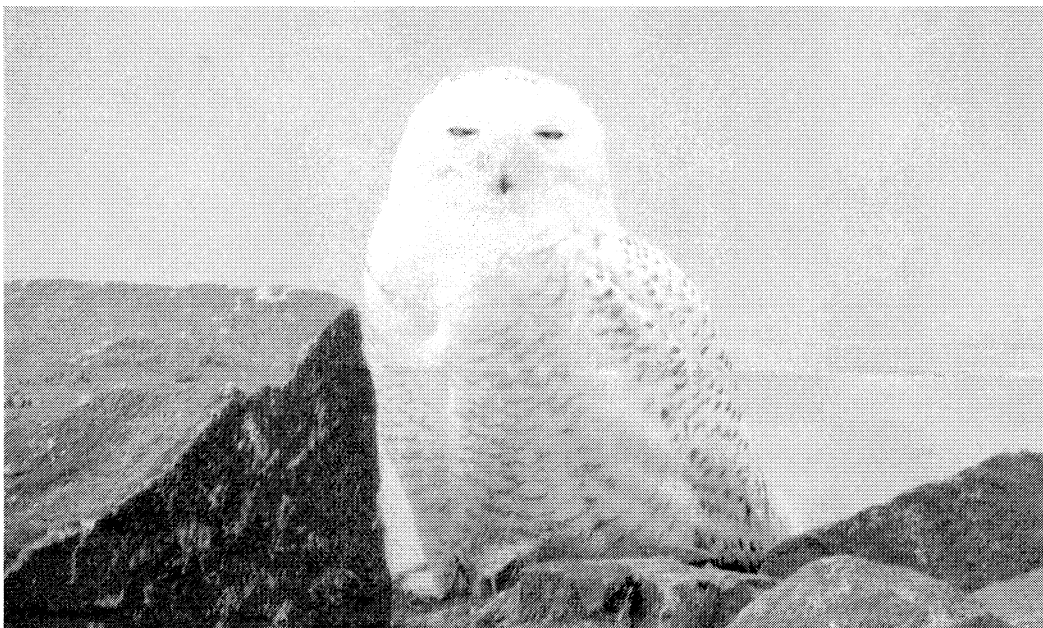
Leader: Fulton Lavender 455-4966

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 13 Oct 2002. 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. ☼



This SNOWY OWL, one of many this winter, was digitally photographed through a telescope ("digiscoped" in current parlance) at Grand Prè, Feb. 27. [Photo Richard Stern]

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

Fri 17 May 2002 to Mon 20 May 2002. Bon Portage Island

Leader: Claire Diggins 825-6152

claire.diggins@hotmail.com

Pre-Registration is necessary!

Depart late afternoon or early evening on Friday from Prospect Point Wharf, Shelburne 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.

Sat 18 May 2002. Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary.

Leader: Terry Paquet 452-3622.

Email terrypaquet@hotmail.com

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 Sun 19 May 2001.

Thu 23 May 2002. Regular Meeting

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

"Fall in Veracruz - a Mex-Eco Adventure." Guest speaker: Richard Stern

Sat 25 May 2002. 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 26 May 2002. Shubenacadie Area.

Leader: Roslyn McPhee (902) 758-3265.

carpe@annapolisriver.ca

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 31 May to Sun 02 Jun 2002. FNSN Annual Conference and AGM

Hosted by the Nova Scotia Bird Society. See further information at <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Environment/FNSN/agm2002.html>, or contact: Joan Czapalay 422-6858 Email joancz@ns.sympatico.ca

Sat 08 Jun 2002. Canso and Area.

Leaders: Randy Lauff (902) 867-2471 rlauff@stfx.ca and Steve Bushell.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Chapel Gully Trail parking lot. Come down Main St. to the old post office, look for the sign indicating the Chapel Gully Trail, turn right onto Union St., pass the marina and take the next right onto Wilmot. The parking lot is at the top of the hill. We will be surveying a number of habitats, and there will be some moderate terrain to walk to get to the barrens. Rain date Sun 09 Jun 2002.

Sat 08 Jun 2002 Warbler Walk Cape Breton

Leader: David McCorquodale 563-1260

Email david_mccorquodale@uccb.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Petersfield Provincial Park, Westmount. Spend a morning looking and listening for nesting birds starting at Petersfield Provincial Park, Cape Breton and ending up around lunch time at Ben Eoin Provincial Park.

Fri 05 Jul to Sat 06 Jul 2002. Port Greville and Cape Chignecto

Leader: Joan Czapalay 348-2803

Before 27 June: 422-6858 Email joancz@ns.sympatico.ca

After 04 Jul: 348-2803

Pre-Registration is necessary!

Friday evening meet at the Age of Sail Heritage Centre in Port Greville for evening birding 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

On Saturday, meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Cape Chignecto Park parking lot for a full day "Parks are for People" trip. Bring a lunch, water, and wear sturdy footwear. Saturday in particular will be a strenuous walk of several hours duration. Rain date is Sunday.

(Continued on inside back cover)