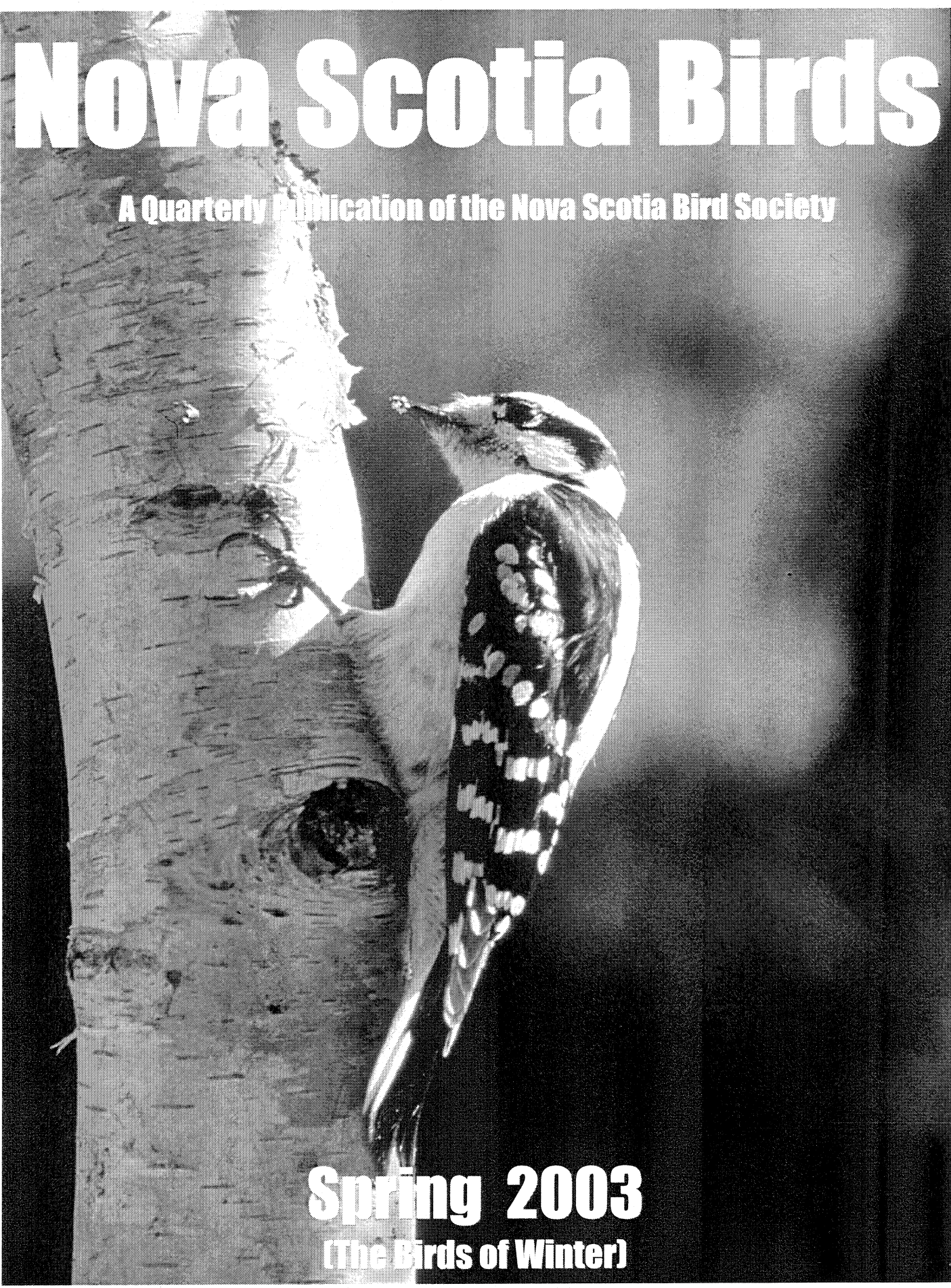


# Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



**Spring 2003**  
(The Birds of Winter)



# NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

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

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## Reporting Deadlines

Winter 2004 issue: Dec. 7, 2003  
 Spring 2004 issue: Mar. 7, 2004

Summer 2003 issue: June 7, 2003  
 Fall 2003 issue: Aug. 7, 2003

## Inside This Issue

### *Special points of interest:*

- Piping Plover Update
- Christmas Bird Counts
- Project NestWatch
- Winter Seasonal Reports
- Trip Reports
- Book Review

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*Cover Photo:* [The DOWNY WOODPECKER is a common Winter visitor to our yards and feeders. This shot was taken by Etta Parker and was an entry in the 2003 NSBS/PGNS Slide Competition.]

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 SPRING 2003

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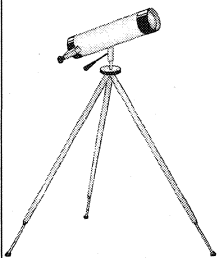
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# The Spotting Scope



This was fun. My tenure as editor, I mean. When I was first invited to the position, I thought that I may do this for a considerable time, perhaps retire from this position when I retire from my real job. Goals change, life's challenges ask or force a re-evaluation of one's volunteer time, and as I fledge from the nest of *Nova Scotia Birds* with this issue, it is not for more free time, but to lend my hand at other volunteer activities. I won't be absent from the publication entirely, but will stick around to help in my favourite area, the book reviews. Veteran writer, birder and long-time member of the Society, Blake Maybank has agreed to steer *Nova Scotia Birds* through the next phase of its life and I look forward to working with him on this endeavour.

Over the past three years (this is my thirteenth issue at the helm), I have received numerous compliments about this magazine. I have passed on the compliments to my staff, and usually informed the person who issued the compliment that it takes a team effort to put this magazine together. I *am* indebted to the folks in the masthead – thank you all for your time and professionalism. Thanks for making this editorship a great experience!

I have prejudices and I likely let them show in these pages. These prejudices derive from the biologist in me, and I have steered *Nova Scotia Birds* to revealing *somewhat* more of the ornithology of the Province than I think had been done. However, I also asked for and received articles from birders. During my tenure as editor I only chose not to print one article which was submitted to me, and that was because that article was out of the scope of this magazine. As members, you have read about restoring habitat on a southern island, bird boxes from a number of folks, and a stunning, moonlit trip through a forest to visit a Barred Owl, among others. You've also read about the different surveys in which birders participate, from the 100 year old Christmas Bird Counts (the latest of which is summarized in this issue) to the one year old High Elevation Landbird Program. And, you've read about what some of our own ornithologists are doing on their own, or in conjunction with the results from volunteer surveys.

Photographers have eagerly contributed their works, from the sometimes-fuzzy documentary shots that are necessary for us, to the elegant works that have appeared in all the issues. My thanks to all of you as well, and if you haven't seen your shot in the magazine yet, please be patient...we have a large surplus at the moment. That is *not* an excuse to stop contributing though! In a parallel sense, we're still overloaded with book reviews, so please be patient, yours will be printed! And for those of you who have books, but have yet to submit your review (some of you from three years ago!), please send it, or the book, back (but I would really, really prefer the review).

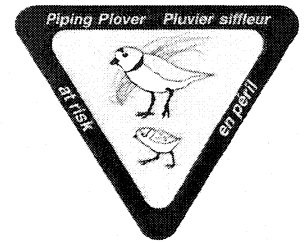
Well, it's now time to dust off my real spotting scope, and go do some birding. I hope to see you all in the field sometime soon,

Good Birding!

*Randy*

# News from the Nova Scotia Coastal Guardian Program

By Anna McCarron  
Program Co-ordinator



To follow-up from last season's article in which I focused on the banded bird sightings, three Nova Scotia banded birds were spotted this past winter; two birds from Cherry Hill Beach were spotted on separate North Carolina beaches and one banded at the Kejimikujik Seaside Adjunct was spotted in Florida. The 2003 banding season will be downgraded this season. No chicks will be banded, and recaptures may occur to follow-up on a previously banded bird. Subsequent years will involve only monitoring currently banded birds. You can help keep track of these birds, using binoculars or a scope to avoid disturbing the birds. Please report band sightings to: Diane Amirault, Canadian Wildlife Service P.O. Box 6227, Sackville, N.B. E4L 1G6, phone (506) 364-5060 or fax: (506) 364-5062 or email: [diane.amirault@gc.ca](mailto:diane.amirault@gc.ca).

I am really looking forward to a third season as coordinator of the Nova Scotia Coastal Guardian Program. The first reported sighting of a PIPL on Nova Scotia's beaches this year was by Clyde Stoddart on March 27 on Daniels Head Beach. These reports illicit excitement and the time of year when the guardian program kicks into gear with the need to remind people about what we all can do to help protect Piping Plovers. April is the time when males stake out their territories, pairs choose their mates and they begin their nesting activity. May, June and July are the busiest and most critical times for nesting success. This also happens to be the time when human activities on the beaches increase. Posted signs must be respected, people should stay out of PIPL territory, keep dogs on leashes and keep vehicles off the beaches. If it is necessary to take a vehicle on a protected beach to collect wayward lobster traps after a storm, for instance, then permits must be issued from your local Department of Natural Resources.

The Guardian program's primary focus is to protect the Piping Plover from human-centred activity impacting it and its habitat. Staff and volunteers in highly concentrated PIPL nesting areas like Cape Sable Island and the Antigonish area, talk to people and keep records of what is observed while visiting the beaches. Some of the data collected may be about how many PIPL were observed feeding at the waters edge, how many other shorebirds were observed, the numbers of gulls, crows and other potential predators on the beach, and of course how many humans and their pets are on the beaches as well. Guardians do not monitor Piping Plover nesting areas. *Monitors* are people designated with Canadian Wildlife Service Scientific Disturbance permits.

Last season, many of you may have met Sean LeMoine conducting monitoring activities on many South Shore beaches. This year, Sean LeMoine is coordinating monitoring on the South Shore, once again. This year he and Amy Marsters have been designated with Scientific Disturbance permits allowing them to minimally disturb the birds in order to erect enclosures and put up fencing. Sean and Amy avoid disturbing the birds at any other time simply because it is not necessary to do so once the enclosures and fencing are in place. They, like guardians, may observe the birds conducting their natural activity through scopes and binoculars without disturbing the birds. Even though they have permits, Sean, Amy and a few others who have been previously designated with permits only check nests to determine when the time is right (when all the eggs have been laid) to place enclosures (fencing to keep predators away from the nest), and then only when they are deemed to be necessary. Once the enclosures and fencing are carefully placed, the tracks of the monitors are swept away, to put predators like foxes off the scent that may lead them to disturb the birds within the enclosures. After this time, monitors leave the nesting area alone. There is no need to "check nests" at any other time. This is a critical time to let the birds incubate their nests. The more human activity around the nesting areas, the more disturbance of the birds and possible abandonment of the nest and the greater chance that predators will pick up and follow the human scent to the nesting area.

Besides, it is more fun to watch Piping Plovers engage in their natural activities while undisturbed. I recall with great amazement my experience watching a PIPL defend the feeding territory of its chick two seasons ago. But before I even saw the PIPL or its chick, it let me know I was approaching its territory and where my boundary was by flying to me and peeping at me. I took this as my cue to back off, which I did. When it was satisfied that I was not going to approach any further, it flew back to its chick to continue to defend the feeding territory. At the spot where the bird was comfortable with my presence (about 100 feet away), I sat and watched, through my binoculars and scope, as the PIPL adult shooed away a small flock of Semipalmated Plovers, and a Willet, while the chick feasted away, trusting in the guarding activity that the adult was conducting on its behalf. This was fascinating to me, and a sight I could not have witnessed had I approached further. Had I approached further, the chick would have been herded to the grassy area, where not only could I not see it, but where it may not have eaten the amount or quality of food it desperately needed to grow to fledge.

Guardians help to curb curious onlookers by explaining this type of information to people, and to monitor activity on an incidental basis only, i.e. to take note of PIPL and potential predator behaviours at a distance that does not disturb the birds.

With a little experience, it becomes quite apparent when Piping Plovers are disturbed. They will let you know by displaying varying degrees of behaviour. As described above, the most frequent warning sign is of course the call that gives them their name, i.e., its piping call. Piping indicates that something undesirable is in its territory and/or they are calling to warn their chicks to hide because danger is near. Another behaviour indicating that it is extremely disturbed is the “broken wing display”. This behaviour is demonstrated when something is too near its nest or chicks. When this happens the bird wants to be followed until it flies away or until it stops displaying this behaviour. By following the bird it knows that it has been successful in leading the disturbance away from the sensitive area.

The best way to prevent disturbance is to practice these behaviours while on the beach:

1. Keep pets on a leash;
2. Walk close to the edge of the water – (it’s easier to walk in this area anyway);
3. Walk on the beach at low tide;
4. Avoid signed areas. If you must walk past a posted area, walk past quickly and do not linger;
5. Do not litter (even and especially not the biodegradable kind, i.e. food that attracts predators) – you can help by carrying a garbage bag with you to collect garbage while you are visiting the beach.

There are laws protecting Piping Plovers including:

- Migratory Birds Convention Act
- The Beaches Act
- The Endangered Species Act (Nova Scotia) and
- The new federal Species at Risk Act or SARA

Details on these Regulations and Acts are available on the internet.

Another new way you can help support Nova Scotia’s effort to protect Species at Risk, if you own a car (seems rather ironic), is to purchase the Conservation – Species at Risk license plates available at Access locations throughout Nova Scotia. Fifty dollars of the \$70 paid to own this plate goes toward conservation programs like the Nova Scotia Coastal Guardian Program, and is tax deductible.

Upcoming Guardian Activities you and your family may want to participate in are Piping Plover beach presentations at:

- Sand Hills Beach – May 24
- Martinique beach – June 7
- Summerville Beach – June 21
- Pomquet Beach – July 12

Each activity will rendezvous at 2:00 at the main gate of the respective park. Rain dates are the following Saturday at the same time. Please call the number below to register.

Funding sources that have gratefully committed funds to the program this year are: the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, the World Wildlife Fund and Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada through the Endangered Species Recovery Fund, and through BirdLife International by the Community Action Fund of the Canadian Important Bird Areas Program, a joint initiative of the Canadian Nature Federation and Bird Studies Canada. But most of all we rely on the generous volunteer time of over 100 guardians on Nova Scotia PIPL beaches. Without them, this program would not be a success. We greatly appreciate their support.

If you are interested in getting involved with the guardian program or if you have any questions or know of a school class, community group or organization that is interested in a presentation about the Piping Plover and Species at Risk please call (902) 860-1263 or email: [plover@istar.ca](mailto:plover@istar.ca). Keep your binoculars and scopes at the ready for those banded or other Piping Plovers! See you on the beaches! ☐

# Project NestWatch: a glance into birds' nesting attempts

By Catherine Poussart and Becky Whittam, Bird Studies Canada

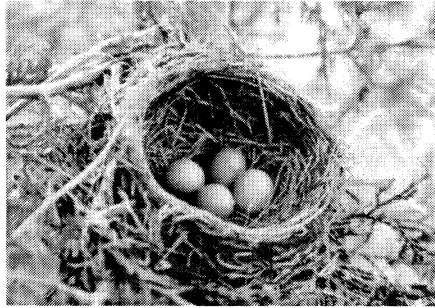
Are you someone who pricks up your ears when you hear a bird sing? Or is tempted to follow a bird flying with a branch or a worm in its beak? If so, **Project NestWatch** will be of interest to you! Launched nationally in spring 2002, Project NestWatch is coordinated by Bird Studies Canada (BSC), a not-for-profit organization that has developed and coordinated volunteer-based programs for the past 40 years with a focus on studies of birds and their habitat across Canada.

## How to get involved

Project NestWatch invites "citizen scientists" to gather information pertaining to nesting birds. To participate, observers must find an active bird nest (with eggs or young), monitor its activity through the nesting season and submit the information on interactive web pages. Information to be recorded includes: 1) species, 2) location of the nest, 3) nest contents (number of eggs and/or young), and 4) brief habitat description. To facilitate data recording and for scientists to compare data submitted by different observers, a set of choices is provided on the web pages for describing activity seen at the nest during a visit and habitat components.

The American Robin was chosen as a species of special interest for the program. The robin is a common, easily observed bird that builds nests in a variety of places, but particularly in trees and shrubs in cities, often not far from houses. Of course, BSC encourages volunteers to submit data for any bird species for which a nest has been located. Participating volunteers are provided with detailed information explaining how to participate while minimizing the intrusion into birds' lives, so as not to affect their nesting success.

Data from nests visited more than once (we recommend one visit every 3-5 days) will allow BSC scientists to assess reproductive parameters such as nesting



Robin nest. [Photo Denis Lepage]

success and predation rates; these variables can then be used in studies of bird breeding behaviour and/or conservation. Nests visited only once can be used to map species distribution.

For more details on how Project NestWatch works, visit Bird Studies Canada's web site [www.bsc-eoc.org/national/nestwatch.html](http://www.bsc-eoc.org/national/nestwatch.html).

## Project NestWatch and the Maritimes Nest Record Scheme: a natural collaboration

Nest recording as practiced by Project NestWatch participants is not new; each province or region of Canada has been operating a *Nest Records Scheme* for the past 30 years or more. The Maritimes Nest Records Scheme (MNRS) was established in 1960 by Tony Erskine of the Canadian Wildlife Service. Participants submit their data on nest cards; by the end of 2002, the MNRS had received more than 49,000 cards! Highlights of MNRS's last (2002) season include: 1) the second report of Scarlet Tanager in Nova Scotia (near Wolfville); and 2) rather poor nesting success of Tree Swallows and American Robins in May and June (Nova Scotia and New Brunswick combined). Bird Studies Canada is working in partnership with regional nest record schemes, like the MNRS, to transfer the wealth of paper data into computerized databases. Such collaboration has been in place with the MNRS since late 2001, and much of the data is now available computerized as scanned digital images and a partial database. In addition, Project NestWatch shares all data

received online with regional schemes. Last year, Project NestWatch received 21 nest records from participants in the Maritimes; these records were sent to the MNRS for incorporation into the long-term database. The most common species recorded were American Robin, Osprey, and European Starling.

In 2003, Project NestWatch and the MNRS are continuing their collaboration by providing new scannable nest cards to MNRS participants. The coded information on the cards can be scanned and read by a computer and automatically entered into a database, thus speeding up data processing and allowing for uniformity across the country (codes are the same in each region). A handbook explaining the project and the use of the new codes accompanies the cards.

Project NestWatch is a joint effort between Bird Studies Canada and regional Nest Records Schemes, and is made possible with funding and support from the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada, Atlantic and Quebec regions, the Canadian Information System for the Environment (CISE) and the George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation.

For more information on **Project NestWatch**, or the **Maritimes Nest Records Scheme** (to receive scannable or regular paper nest cards), contact:

**Project NestWatch**  
Bird Studies Canada  
1-888-448-2473  
[generalinfo@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:generalinfo@bsc-eoc.org)  
[www.bsc-eoc.org/national/nestwatch.html](http://www.bsc-eoc.org/national/nestwatch.html)

**Maritimes Nest Records Scheme**  
c/o Canadian Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 6227 Sackville  
New Brunswick E4L 1G6  
506-364-5044  
[Tony.erskine@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Tony.erskine@ec.gc.ca)

## For the Birds Eco-tourism Conference February 27 through March 1, 2003

By Diane Smith - Conference Coordinator

"It was a ground-breaking Conference on tourism and birding." Peter Hicklin

A total of 107 delegates from all over the Maritimes, along with visitors from California, Texas, Kansas, Ontario, and Alberta attended the three day *For the Birds* Eco-tourism Conference at White Point Beach Resort from February 27 to March 1. Among the delegates were two instructors and 22 students from the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program at the Nova Scotia Community College, Burrige Campus in Yarmouth. A delegate mix from birders to municipal and town representatives, along with regional development authorities and private sector tourism operators, participated in the conference. There was also representation from many nature and wildlife organizations including many avid birders.

The conference opened on Thursday with Blake Maybank as lunch speaker. Special guest speakers were Mr. Tom Hince from Point Pelee National Park, owner of The Wild Rose Bed and Breakfast near Point Pelee, who talked about birder impacts, while Linda Campbell nature tourism coordinator for Texas Parks and Wildlife, elaborated on the development and marketing of birding. Linda added 10 new species to her bird list while here, including the Greater Black-backed Gull and the Common Eider. Cathy MacDonald, Development Office for Nova Scotia Department of Tourism & Culture, talked about the development of birding in Nova Scotia from a tourism perspective. MacDonald expressed that 9% of out-of-province visitors to Nova Scotia bird while they're here.

Ted D'Eon delivered an interesting talk about the recovery of the Roseate Tern, while Laurel Bernard, Stewardship Coordinator-Birder for the Nature Conservancy of Canada and June Swift, Stewardship Officer, Brier Island

Nature Preserve delivered a presentation on bird habitat. Harry Delong, Superintendent, Kejimikujik National Park & National Historic Site of Canada and Kejimikujik Seaside Adjunct, stressed the importance of sustainable tourism development and the importance of being able to "reverse" development if need be.

The day ended on Friday with speakers Peter MacDonald, Regional Wildlife Biologist for the NS DNR, giving a presentation on the endangered Piping Plover. Leif Helmer, Protected Areas Coordinator for Western Nova Scotia, NS DEL, talked about touring Nova Scotia's wilderness and showed slides from inside the Tobetic.

Gary Hartlen and Peter Davies from Northern Diver Adventure Birding Ltd. offered early morning birding outings on Thursday and Friday mornings. Two buses from White Point took the delegates to Baccaro Point, where they enjoyed a pleasurable birding experience, and then onto Cape Sable Island to join the Brant and Winter Birding Festival that was well organized by the Cape Sable Important Bird area committee. A total of 110 people gathered at the Seaside Heritage Centre in Clarks Harbour to listen to Sid and Betty June Smith talked about living as lighthouse keepers on Cape Sable and their birding experiences. They amused those gathered for this event, by telling stories about cooking duck stew and plucking diving Dovekies from the well after a storm. A spectacular slide show presentation was delivered by Grant Milroy, displaying beautiful images of the birds found locally on and around Cape Sable Island.

Joan Czapalay presented awards to well-known birders from CSI, Murray Newell and Johnny Nickerson, (who was not present, but probably still out on The Hawk waiting for a rare

sighting), for their dedication to the birding community. Ms. Czapalay also participated along with Meg Schied, Co-owner of Discover Acadia Vacations, on a panel discussion about visiting birders and meeting their needs, during the conference. Mr. Peter Hicklin, presented Sid and Betty June Smith an award for their many years of dedication of counting shorebirds.

A lovely seafood chowder luncheon was enjoyed by the delegates, and was followed by a drive to The Hawk, to watch the Brant fly away at 6:32 p.m.

Delegates returned to White Point Beach Resort to join others who gathered for a wonderful buffet at the closing banquet. Closing remarks were given by Lynne Perry, South Shore Tourism Association Executive Director and organizer of the *For the Birds* Eco-tourism Conference. Perry expressed her thanks to all those who attended and displayed much pride in the fact the feedback from the conference was so positive.

Birding delegates commented that they were pleased to know the importance of promoting Birding and Eco-tourism in a way that would be environmentally friendly is a priority along the South Shore. The private sector remarked about the network opportunities they had within the tourism industry. They gained much knowledge in marketing and promoting their product to birders, while wildlife and nature organizations were please to know steps were being taken to preserve bird habitat. Evaluations were taken, and along with suggestions of additional outside activities, the responses were 96% favourable for having another birding conference in the future. 100% showed interest for an annual Brant & Winter Birding Festival. Maybe for next March!! ☐

# Winter Weather 2002-2003

By Larry Bogan

What a winter to remember! Most of us thought it would never end. Was it very unusual? The weather data for December, January and February from Kentville, N.S. are listed in the table below.

Table 1. Monthly Summaries of Weather Statistics (with 42 year average in parentheses) from Kentville, N.S.

	Average Daily Temperature (°C)			Heating Days (°C days)	Snow Fall (cm)	Total Precipitation (mm)	Sunshine (h)
	maximum	minimum	mean				
December	1.4 (1.6)	-7.1 (-6.1)	-2.8 (-2.2)	642.2 (624.0)	43.4 (56.0)	129.0 (127.0)	80.7 (59.0)
January	-4.1 (-1.1)	-12.4 (-9.6)	-8.3 (-5.3)	814.6 (725.0)	53.6 (70.3)	69.8 (121.4)	68.2 (76.2)
February	-3.2 (-0.9)	-13.0 (-9.6)	-8.1 (-5.2)	731.0 (656.5)	36.3 (60.0)	97.5 (98.8)	107.5 (100.6)
Season	-1.9 (-0.1)	-10.8 (-8.4)	-6.3 (-4.2)	2191.8 (2005.5)	133.3 (186.3)	296.3 (347.2)	256.4 (235.8)

## Temperature:

The most obvious difference between our last winter and the average of those we have had over the last 42 years is that it was much colder (Table 1). Every month had a below average temperature with both January and February 3 °C lower. Deviation from the average is common but not to have the deviation by 3 °C. The whole season was 2.1 °C below average and as a result the heating degree days\* for the winter was 9% above normal. I certainly used more wood to heat my home than most years.

I have include a graph (Figure 1) of the daily temperature for the winter showing the maximum, minimum and mean for each day. The smooth lines show the average expectation in temperatures.

## Precipitation:

By the end of February, I was having trouble moving the snow away from my driveway so I remember lots of snow. Indeed the graph of snow cover shows that the snow accumulated and stayed with no large snow melts as are usual (Figure 2). There was no January thaw, which normally comes in second week of that month, to reduce the snow depth. After Christmas (in the Annapolis Valley), the ground by the bird feeder was continuously covered until April. The surprising thing is that the snowfall for the winter was less than 3/4 of the usual snowfall. The total precipitation (rain plus snow) was 85% of the average.

Most readers will remember the flooding in the spring which was the culmination of a very large rainfall and the melting of the snow accumulation for the winter. More on that in my spring weather report.

## Sunshine:

The winter was as bright (or dim, depending on your point of view) as most winters and, in fact, we had 8% more sunshine hours than average. This did not seem to help my firewood pile even though I have some solar heating. January was the dull month while December was the sunnier despite its shorter days. Of course January is when the solar heat is much more valuable because is it colder then. February was better with 7% more sun than expected.

\* The "heating degree-days" is the seasonal sum of the amount each day's mean temperature is below 18 °C. The heat lost by a typical heated building is proportional to this number.



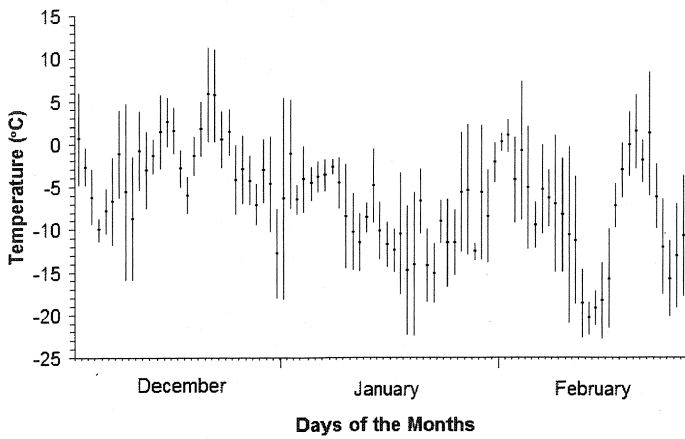


Figure 1. Daily winter temperatures from Kentville, N.S.

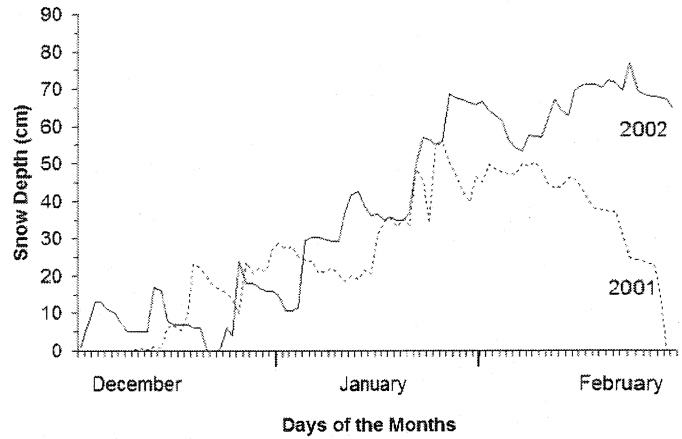


Figure 2. Daily depth of snow from Kentville, N.S. comparing the winters of 2001-2002 and 2002-2003.

## Photo Album - Winter Birding Activities



Participants in the *For the Birds* Eco-tourism Conference field trips February 27 through March 1, 2003. [Photos Wally Hayes]



One of the pleasures of Christmas Bird Counts is the get-together at the end of day, like this one at Ken McKenna's following the Pictou Harbour Count. [Photo Ken McKenna]

Like many of David Sibley's "fans" that attended his lecture Dec. 2 in Halifax, Eileen Billington took the opportunity to get an autographed copy of his "Guide to the Birds." [Photo Richard Stern]

## Seasonal Reports

### Loons through Grebes

By Fred Dobson

The winter began mild, perhaps because of the influence of a weak "El Nino" in the tropical Pacific. As has been the case for the past decade, the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) came up with new high counts for eight of the 44 species of loons, grebes and waterfowl listed. Thirty-one of these species have been seen in record highs since 1995. When January came however, the Maritimes were subjected to a deep freeze that didn't really begin to let up until mid-March. Most fresh water froze in early January and by February some salt water harbours and inlets were frozen (or ice-filled) for the first time in a decade. The older ones among us had to hearken back to the 40's and 50's to remember such prolonged and intense cold weather. The wind chill factors were below -20 °C for weeks at a time.

RED-THROATED LOONS were found in normal numbers in offshore saltwater locations everywhere in the province. The CBC total was 36 with a maximum of 13 at Eskasoni. COMMON LOONS were distributed uniformly in all offshore areas. The CBC total was a record high of 474, with a maximum of 61 in Yarmouth (58 Broad Cove, 56 Lunenburg). There were one or two all winter at Pt. Michaud, Rich. Co. (Weldon MacPhail). There were 11, Jan. 3, off Eskasoni in Little Bras d'Or, CB Co. (JWM, SEM) "raft of adults and juveniles swimming together, lake still almost entirely ice-free." By mid-February, SEM reported "sea along much of coast from Sydney to Gabarus ice-covered, loons have moved out of some areas."

HORNED GREBES were distributed widely in small numbers on the salt water throughout the period. The CBC total was 151, with a high count of 35 at White Pt. Beach (32 Broad Cove). In January and February they were pushed out of areas that had iced over completely. The latest report was of 20, Jan. 13, at Westhaver Beach, Lun. Co. (JAH). The CBC's were the best indicator of numbers and distribution of RED-NECKED GREBES. The total was 228, with a maximum of 83 at Halifax-Dartmouth. In general, they were found in the same locations as Horned Grebes and in similar numbers. □

### Tubenoses Through Cormorants

By Blake Maybank

Such was the harsh nature of the winter of 2002/2003 that observers were relatively inactive, and the paucity of reports supports this view. For the commoner species the small number of incidental submissions were of little

utility in assessing trends, so I'm relying much more than normal on the CBC data. This also applies to the 'Jaegers through Alcids' written up later in this issue.

From Brier I. comes an impressive count of 200 N. FULMAR on the CBC, as favourable winds brought Fundy wintering birds close to shore. The same winds offered up 10 GREATER SHEARWATERS, a record CBC count for the province, and indicative of this species' recent tendency to linger in the Bay of Fundy through late December. Eighty-five DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS were noted on provincial CBC's, the second-highest total thus far. The Cape Sable count recorded 12, a reasonable number, and 33 were on the Halifax count. Elsewhere there were ones and twos,

except in Cheticamp, where 17 were counted as opposed to only five Great Cormorants. This ratio is so out of step with results anywhere else that I suspect a mix-up. There were more than 800 GREAT CORMORANTS province wide, a typical number. They were otherwise reported by many observers in small numbers all along the Atlantic coastline from CB to Brier I. The N. GANNET CBC total is more dependent upon the wind direction during the various count days than any other factor and this year's total of 96 birds was on the low side. Nearly two thirds of the birds were from Brier I. alone, but a respectable total of 20 was found on the Louisbourg count. The latest sighting reported was an ad. off Glace Bay, Jan. 25 (SEM *et al.*) . □



## Hérons Through Vultures

By Ulli Höger

Firstly, I have to point out an error in the Fall 2002 report. The two Little Blue Herons reported from CB's Gardiner Mines/Dominion Beach area were in fact only one bird. Multiple, slightly different reports, led to the wrong conclusion that more than one individual was present in the area.

Winter with ice-covered ponds, marshes and coves is not the prime season for herons and egrets in NS. Most head south with the end of fall, only a few stick around until ice makes foraging nearly impossible for them.

GREAT BLUE HERONS were still fairly regularly sighted throughout December. The falling temperatures at the end of December and the icing over of their foraging habitats forced them eventually to leave the province. On Jan. 4 GED spotted one of the last ones looking for food at River Bourgeois, Rich. Co. The very last report for the period of a winter-hardy individual came Jan. 31 from NW Hbr., CSI (MUN). GREAT EGRETS stayed until the end of the old year. All reports came from the Conrad Beach – Lawrencetown area in Hfx. Co., and may have represented the same

individual. One was spotted in the area by DMW and RHL, Dec. 2, and BLM saw it last Jan. 2. A highlight for the annual CBC at Barrington, Yar. Co., Dec. 14, was an imm. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (MUN).

TURKEY VULTURES, were a common sight on Brier I. last fall. Up to five over-wintering TV's were reported by JUS throughout January and February from the island. Individuals were sighted in Arcadia, Dec.22 (PRG, RSD), and CSI, Yar. Co., Jan.15 (GRM). □

## Geese, Swans and Ducks

By Fred Dobson

There were two reports of a single SNOW GOOSE: one through December at Bissett L., HRM "Bissett L. froze shortly thereafter" (BLM), and one on the Yarmouth CBC. CANADA GEESE were well reported in large numbers throughout the province, at least until the freeze-up in January. During December and January there were 2,000 in and around Bissett L., HRM (BLM). The CBC total was 14,096, and the high count was 7,320 at Halifax-Dartmouth. The most recent reports were 50, Feb. 22, at Lingan Bay, CB Co. (JWM and SEM) and one the same day at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, HRM (JCT). A single BRANT was seen on the CSI CBC.

There was a single, male WOOD DUCK seen Dec. 7 – Feb. 8 at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, HRM (JCT) and noted during the Bedford-Sackville CBC. GADWALL were not often seen. There were four, Dec.13 and three, Jan. 5, at Pt. Michaud, Rich. Co. (Weldon MacPhail). One fem., Jan. 25, was in Glace Bay Hbr., CB Co. (NSBS *vide* SEM). There were 11 on the CBC's of which nine were seen on the Pictou Hbr. count. There were only two reports of

EUR. WIGEONS: one Dec. - Jan. in Yarmouth (PRG, EBR), and three during the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC. All the AM. WIGEON reports were from HRM. There was one, Dec. 7, at Sullivans pond, HRM, (RHL) and 25-30 on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC. A single male was seen Jan. 25 at Pier 9, Halifax Hbr. (PLC).

The AM. BLACK DUCK – a boreal dabbler if there ever was one - was observed in large numbers throughout the province and throughout the season in spite of the prolonged and intense cold weather. The CBC total was a record high of 26,449, with a high count of 13,651 at Halifax-Dartmouth. "They have steadily patrolled the lakes of Hfx. Co. since mid-February, looking for the first sign of open water" (FED). The latest report of 90, Mar. 1 at Albert Bridge, Mira R., CB Co. (SEM), was typical: "Blacks have been concentrating at this location, as it is one of (the) few areas of fresh water remaining open. Bald Eagles regularly take advantage of their concentration here." AM. BLACK DUCK X MALLARD hybrids were reported only from CB, although they are sure to be

found wherever the two species intermingle – which these days is most places in the province. The CBC total was a record high of 67, with a high count of 55 at The Sydneys. There were six, Feb. 22 at Wentworth Park, Sydney and four at Glace Bay, CB Co. (JWM, SEM). MALLARDS were distributed as widely as Am. Black Ducks, but in smaller numbers. The CBC total was 3,921, with a high count of 738 at Wolfville and 665 in Halifax-Dartmouth. There were about 50, Feb. 9 at the Middle Dyke Rd, Canard Valley, Kings Co. (JCT, JET, SHM, CTO) "... feeding in corn-stubble field, along with Snow Buntings!"

Blue-winged Teal were not reported this winter. A single N. SHOVELER was seen on the Port Hebert CBC. NORTHERN PINTAIL were sighted in small numbers throughout the province. There was an individual throughout the season at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth (BLM, JCT). There were 24, Dec.1 at Port Joli, Queens Co. (JAH, Peter Davies and Gary Hartling). The CBC total was 20, with a high count of 13 at CSI. The most northerly sighting was one, Feb. 9, at the sewage treatment

plant in New Glasgow, Pict. Co. (KJM, John Rubin). There were 37 GREEN-WINGED TEAL at Grand Desert and nine at Clam Hbr., HRM throughout December and January (BLM). The CBC total was 48, with a high count of 30 at Yarmouth. A fem. was reported Dec. 28 in the Back Oler Farm Marsh, Garden Lots, Lun. Co. (JAH, Anne Hughes), and at least seven, Feb. 9, behind the Heather Motel in Stellarton, Pict. Co. (KJM, John Rubin).

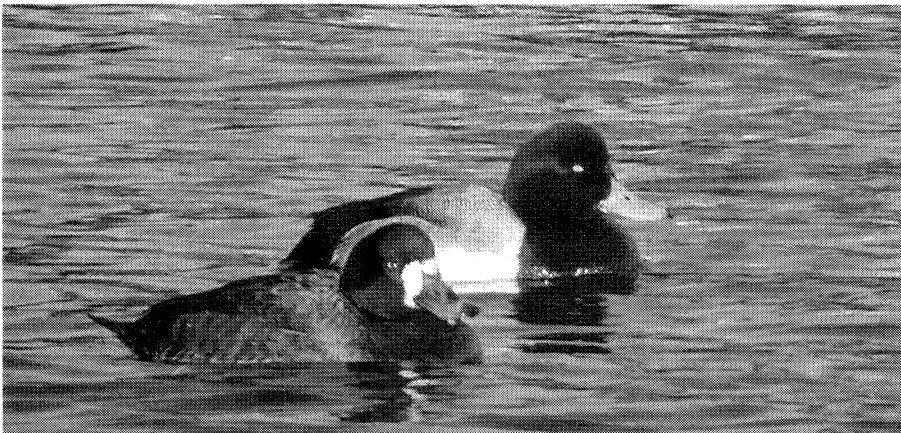
A single male **REDHEAD** braved the Nova Scotia midwinter Brier I., Jan. 24. "There is a male redhead hanging out with the Black Ducks in front of my house...Spotted it late yesterday and confirmed it this morning...I'm now headed back to my woodstove to keep warm" (CAH). The Redhead continued to be seen at a variety of nearby locations until Feb. 11 (Robbie Denton, JUS, MUN, DOU). There were few reports of RING-NECKED DUCKS. Only one was seen on the CBC's - at Pubnico. One ad. male was spotted Feb.16 and two, Feb. 28 at Albert Bridge, Mira R., CB Co. (SEM) "report of a single male at East Bay, L. Bras d'Or, CB Co. 10 days earlier may have been same bird - East Bay had frozen over entirely before 16/02. As at East Bay, was tending here with eight Greater Scaup." **TUFTED DUCKS** were found this year in the Pictou area and HRM. The CBC total was three, two in Pictou Hbr. and one in Halifax-Dartmouth. There were two males, one an ad., Feb. 9 at the NSPC plant in Trenton, and a male with a short tuft at nearby Laudens Creek, Pict. Co. (KJM, John Rubin). The majority of

GREATER SCAUP sightings were, as last year, from CB. The CBC total was 4,976 with a high count of 3,990 in Pictou Hbr. It was seen there again Feb. 9 (KJM, John Rubin). Other CBC reports, although of small numbers, indicated a wide distribution. There were up to 100, December to early March off Lockport's Crescent Beach (DJC). "More than I usually see here. Flock peaked in late January. Now, in early March, I see only about 20. Did the weather get the rest or did they leave?" The latest report was 200, Feb. 22 at New Waterford, CB Co. (JWM, SEM). The CBC total for the LESSER SCAUP was 83, with a high count of 50 at Pictou Hbr. There were 25, mid-December to Jan. 3 at Rainbow Haven, HRM (RHL), and one was reported Dec. 15 at The Hawk, CSI, (RHL, JCZ, AIS). The latest report was of three, Jan. 18 at Eastern Passage, HRM (RBS) "... in with Greater - diagnosed by head shape." There were 370 SCAUP SP. on the CBC's; the majority were at Annapolis.

The beautiful KING EIDER was seen twice in the same area: one on the Lunenburg CBC and a fem. Jan. 5 at Big Tancook I., Lun. Co. (BLM, IAM). The CBC total for COM. EIDERS was 5,031 (high counts of 1,671 and 1,440 at Halifax-Dartmouth and CSI respectively). There were 41 - 700, Dec. 8 - Feb. 4 at Pt. Michaud, Rich. Co. (Weldon MacPhail). They were regularly reported off Halifax Hbr. (FED, PLC) and Port George and Margaretsville, Anna. Co. (PLC). There were 67, Jan. 25 (BSK) "... mainly fem. and imm. birds, but raft included four

ad. males; 40-90 seen here throughout January." **HARLEQUIN DUCKS** didn't mind the winter weather. They were seen throughout the season from Annapolis to Pt. Michaud, in larger numbers than ever before. The earliest reports were one fem., Dec. 5 at Rainbow Haven, HRM, (RHL) and one male, Dec. 8 at Pt. Michaud, Rich. Co. (Weldon Mac Phail). The CBC total, an all-time high, was **89**, of which 76 were at Port Hebert. There were two males, three fems. at Cottage Cove and a pair at Port George, Anna. Co., Feb. 7 (PLC) "The lone pair of Harlequins in Port George were diving and feeding as usual. It was fascinating...to watch the little flock of five Harlequins "surfing" - they would push their way up onto the rock ledges after a wave had retreated, and sat there briefly, only to be washed down into the surf again as the next roller swept over and then drew back from the shore. If ducks have a sense of play, then these ones were having fun!" There was one fem., Feb. 9 in Weirs Gut in the Caribou area, Pict. Co. (KJM, John Rubin) "This little lady was initially passed over as a scoter, but I was puzzled by the small bill, the well-defined white spot and size of bird smaller than nearby Com. Goldeneye. When we got the scope on the bird we could see the three white spots on the head. It was interesting to watch how it fed. Since this area was more like a tidal river...than coastal, the behaviour was probably more like how the bird feeds on its summer breeding grounds. Nice to see this bird up close. Not a very common sighting in Pict. Co. especially in mid-winter!" The latest report was three ad. males, Feb. 28 at Lighthouse Cove, Louisbourg (JUM & GEM *vide* SEM).

Reports of SURF SCOTERS were widespread. The CBC total was 290 with highs at the Halifax-Dartmouth (57) and Broad Cove (51) counts. All the other records were from CB Co.: 20, Dec.31 at Mira Bay and 50, Feb. 16 at Gabarus (SEM). **WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS** were also distributed widely. There were 11 - 200+, Dec. 8 - Feb. 25 at Pt. Michaud, Rich. Co. (Weldon MacPhail). The CBC total was **2,093** (another all-time high) with a high count of 1,591 at The Sydneys. There



The large, rounded heads of this pair of GREATER SCAUP give away their identity as this species. They were "digiscoped" in Digby Hbr. last January. [Photo Richard Stern]



This congregation of HOODED MERGANSERS, the males raising their crests to a flashy extreme, was at Pleasant Lake, Yar. Co., Dec. 10. [Photo Grant Milroy]

were reports of several tens at locations in CB Co. through January and February (SEM). The latest reports were six, Feb. 7 at Port George and five+, Feb. 9 at Margaretsville, Anna. Co. (PLC). There were only a few BLACK SCOTER reports. The CBC total was 470, another all-time high; the high count was 166 at Broad Cove. A single male was seen Feb. 16 at Gabarus, CB Co. (SEM), and 3-40 were to be found Dec. 8 - Feb. 26 at Pt. Michaud, Rich. Co. (Weldon MacPhail).

LONG-TAILED DUCKS were found in their usual numbers and haunts (i.e. salt water) this winter. Up to 25 were present Dec. 1 off Mahone Bay, Lun. Co., and Dec. 8 - Feb. 25 there were 20 - 30 at Pt. Michaud, Rich. Co. (Weldon MacPhail). The CBC total was 1,670 and the high count 237 at Annapolis. There were several found by SEM in December to January in the bays of CB Co., and a male and fem. were located, Feb. 7 - 9, at Margaretsville, Anna. Co. (PLC). The latest report was of 94, Feb. 16, reduced to 30, Mar. 3, at Louisbourg. (SEM) "Many birds moving out of area, due to ice."

BUFFLEHEAD were widely reported. There were 14 including one pair, Dec. 12 - Jan. 3, at Rainbow Haven, HRM (RHL). The CBC total was 599 with a high of 136 at Broad Cove (129 at Annapolis). Throughout the period SEM and Weldon MacPhail reported numbers in the tens in the bays and coves of CB

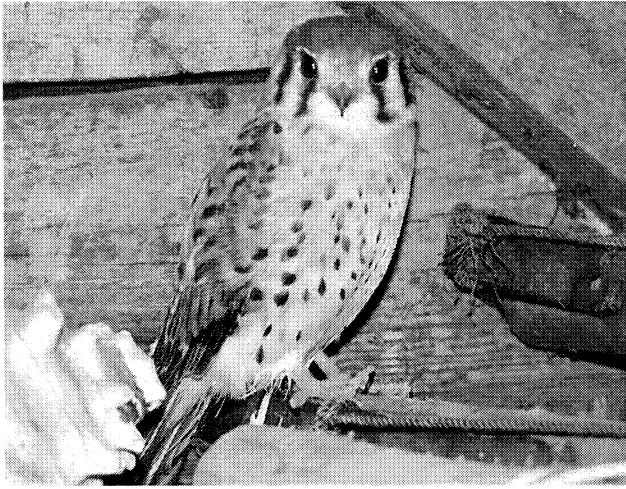
Co. There were 36 seen Feb. 3 at Oakland, Lun. Co. (JAH). Two to six COM. GOLDENEYE were present December to February in Mahone Bay, Lun. Co. (JEM). BLM reported 500, Jan. 10, in Pictou Hbr. The CBC total was 2,959, with the high count 809 at Pictou. On a NSBS field trip Jan. 25 from Sydney to Louisbourg, SEM reported a total of 57, at a variety of CB Co. locations, and on a second trip, Feb. 22, the total was 89. There was one, Jan. 25 at Purcells Cove, Northwest Arm, Halifax (PLC), and still "hundreds", Feb. 9 at the Pictou Causeway. (KJM, John Rubin). BARROW'S GOLDENEYES were reported in small numbers. The CBC total was 18; the high count was seven at The Sydneys. There were two males, Dec. 28 - Jan. 8, in Mahone Bay, Lun. Co. (JEM) and four, Jan. 9, at Bedford, HRM (BLM). There was a pair in late January at Annapolis Royal (RBS) in their "usual spot." Three males were seen Feb. 9 at Pictou Causeway (KJM, John Rubin) and one fem., Feb. 20, at Conrad Beach, HRM (RHL).

HOODED MERGANSERS were found on fresh and salt water throughout the province - but besides the CBC there were very few records. Why? There were seven, Nov. 30 - Feb. 10, in Maders Cove, Lun. Co. (JEM, JAH) reported 42, Dec. 7, in Mahone Bay Hbr., Lun. Co., and 35 were seen Dec. 8 in Pleasant L., Yar. Co. (PRG, RSD). Weldon MacPhail reported four males, Dec. 9, at Lower River Inhabitants,

Rich. Co. The CBC total was 214, distributed widely, with a high of 74 at Lunenburg. Then the sightings stopped coming. There were but two other records: one ad. male, Dec. 15, in the Petite R. estuary (FED - at time of writing, near the end of March, there is a male in the Petite R.) and one, Jan. 25, at the Milton end of Yarmouth Hbr. (EBR). Did this species leave the province when the weather turned cold? The earliest report of COM. MERGANSERS was 40+, Dec. 2 at Bissett L., HRM (DOU). During the entire period they were found in small numbers throughout the S of the province. The CBC total was 1,598, fairly widely distributed, with a high count of 662 at Pictou (they were still there Feb. 9 (KJM, John Rubin). There were 24, Feb. 8, at East Bay, L. Bras d'Or and 50, Feb. 16, at Albert Bridge, Mira R., CB Co. (SEM). "This is one of very few spots remaining open on the Mira R.; ducks usually concentrate here in late winter." The latest report was a pair, Feb. 17, at Conrad Beach, HRM (RHL). RED-BREADED MERGANSERS were to be found everywhere in its usual numbers. In December and early January there were seven at Rainbow Haven, HRM, 10 at Conrad Beach, HRM (RHL) and three to 12 in the same period at Pt. Michaud, Rich. Co. (Weldon MacPhail). The CBC total was 2,201 with a wide distribution; the high count was 396 in Halifax-Dartmouth. Scattered flocks were seen in late January in the Halifax Hbr. area (PLC). There were 83 seen Jan. 25 in a variety of locations from Sydney to Louisbourg (NSBS). PLC reported several, Feb. 7 - 9, at Port George and Margaretsville, Anna. Co. A partial albino was seen Feb. 13 at Petite Passage, Digby Co. (Jeff Teed *fide* JCT) "Seen on ferry crossing by several observers. Bird mostly white with white head and prominent crest; beige-buff markings on wings where usually black feathers." There were 22 seen Feb. 16 in a variety of locations from Louisbourg to Gabarus, CB Co. (NSBS *fide* SEM). The latest record was one male and two fems., Feb. 20 at Conrad Beach, HRM, (RHL). Four RUDDY DUCKS were seen Dec. - Jan. 2 at Bissett L., Dartmouth, HRM (BLM); two were still present for the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC. □

## Diurnal Raptors Through Cranes

By Ulli Höger



This male AM. KESTREL, seemingly benign in appearance and nature, roosted during December in Philip Jones' shed on CSI. [Photo Grant Milroy]



The MERLIN, a small falcon of fiercer appearance and nature, was photographed near Sheffield Mills, Kings Co., on eagle-count day. [Photo Richard Stern]

Our provincial bird, the OSPREY, is supposed to head south in fall. Most of them know this, and act accordingly. Not the one who shared the contents of a garbage bag with some gulls at Powells Beach, Hfx. Co. Jan. 30. RMC had the impression that he looked hungry and a bit ragged.

BALD EAGLES are abundant year round in NS, and were reported from all counties throughout winter. A hotspot for eagle watchers was, as in previous years, the Sheffield Mills/Canning/Kingsport area in Kings Co. Eagle watch weekend in January is a winter attraction in the region. On Jan. 25, JCT and JET counted 41 ads., 26 imm. and seven of undetermined age around Sheffield Mills. For the annual Cyril K. Coldwell Eagles/Raptors Count of Eastern Kings Co. held Feb. 9, JWW reported a total of 425 individuals (215 adults, 200 imm. and 10 of unknown age.

Reports of N. HARRIERS came mainly from Hfx. and Yar. Cos. Conrad Beach, Rainbow Haven, and Hartlen Pt. were reliable spots to find individuals throughout the period in Hfx. Co. (JCT, RHL, PLC, JEH). December 8, PRG and RSD reported a male from Melbourne, Yar. Co. March 1 they found another "grey ghost" on The

Hawk, CSI, where up to six at once were reported by MUN, Feb. 5.

Those with feeders in their yards very likely had SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS as "guests", looking for inattentive feeder visitors, aka supper. Often the feeder birds were quick enough to escape, sometimes not. A much easier meal for a sharpie was a window killed junco handed out by BLF, Feb. 16, at Wolfville Ridge, to the hungry raptor. Others managed to sample feeders without human support. On Feb. 28 only one of what were once five robins was left on SDI & GED's feeder in River Bourgeois, Rich. Co. A COOPER'S HAWK visited Shag Hbr., Shel. Co., Dec. 11 (TEC). In the new year we received a number of reports for N. GOSHAWKS. An imm. was observed by SEM in Louisburg, CB Co., Jan. 1. Adult birds were reported from White Rock Mt., Kings Co., Jan. 6, (BLF), from Antigonish, Jan. 13 (RFL) and from Cambridge, Hants Co., Jan. 26 (BLM). On Feb. 15 a Blue Jay wasn't quite fast enough at MCN's feeder in West Springhill, Anna. Co.

There were two reports of BROAD-WINGED HAWKS in February. Mike Russell spotted one during the Annual Cyril K. Coldwell Eagle/Raptors count of Eastern Kings Co., Feb. 9. Three

days earlier, JCZ reported an imm. bird from the Bridgewater area in Lun. Co. Even if listed in most books as wintering in Central and South America there have been confirmed winter sightings in NS. IAM encourages observers to document their winter sightings of this species with photographs, if possible, for even more convincing documentation. RED-TAILED HAWKS are like Bald Eagles, abundant in the province, with a hotspot in the valley. On Feb. 9 the Annual Cyril K. Coldwell eagles/raptors count of Eastern Kings Co. tallied 83 individuals (JWW). Single individuals were reported from all over the province. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS are our winter hawks. TEP reported four wintering at Hartlen Pt., Hfx. Co., Dec. 28. A light-phased bird was spotted by JCT and JET over the Port Williams, Kings Co. dykeland, Jan. 25. RHL reported single observations throughout the period from Conrad Beach, Hfx. Co. and three, two reported to be dark phase birds, spent Jan. 9 on Devils I., Hfx. Co. (BLM). The above-mentioned Cyril K. Coldwell Count on Feb. 9 in E Kings Co. recorded six birds in the one-hour count period (JWW).

An imm. GOLDEN EAGLE was seen Feb. 6 in Barrington, Shel. Co. by MUN. Days earlier JON had seen one

on The Hawk, CSI, with another observation from there, Feb. 15 (MUN). Maybe it was the same individual?

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the period there were quite a few reports on NatureNS for AM. KESTRELS. Individuals were sighted on CSI, Feb. 15 (MUN *et al.*), Conrad Beach, Hfx. Co., Jan. 18 (GDE), and Cambridge, Hants Co., Jan. 26 (BLM, IAM). TEP reported the small falcons Dec. 28 and Jan. 26 from Hartlen Pt. and Three Fathom Hbr. in Hfx. Co. On Feb. 27 a MERLIN chased a Mourning Dove into GED & SDI's workshop in River Bourgeois, Rich. Co. Both the birds were released okay. I assume GED & SDI gave the dove a head start. During both eagle-watch weekends Merlins hung out at the Sheffield Mills Community Centre (*fide*

JCT, JET *et al.*). Throughout the period many birders reported PEREGRINE FALCONS from the Cape Blomidon and Grand Pré, area. On Jan. 1 one was patrolling Lun. Co.'s Cherry Hill Beach (SJF).

Richard Hatch saw GRAY PARTRIDGE in the Truro area feeding on a grain spill, Jan. 12. More numerous were sightings and reports of RINGNECKED PHEASANTS. RHL *et al.* reported two from Stoney I., Shel. Co., Dec. 15. Up to five were visiting a feeder in Grand Pré, Kings Co., Jan. 9 (PLC).

Reports of RUFFED GROUSE often listed groups of birds. In the Fortress of Louisbourg, SEM counted nine, Feb. 17, and eight, Feb. 27. In W Springhill,

Anna. Co., a single bird was feeding high up in a white birch during a frigid gale, Feb. 13 (MCN). Other observations came from Marion Bridge, CB Co., Feb. 16 (SEM), Margaretsville in Anna. Co., Feb. 8 (PLC), and Apple R., Cum. Co., Jan. 14 & Feb. 6, (KFS). SPRUCE GROUSE were seen by Weldon MacPhail in Oban, Rich. Co., Dec. 14, and by HAT in Portuguese Cove, Hfx. Co., Jan. 19. Both observers reported single birds.

An imm. PURPLE GALLINULE was found dead on the roadside in Oban, Rich. Co. by Weldon MacPhail, Feb. 5. The cause of death was unknown. MUN reported AM. COOTS, Dec. 8 and Dec. 28. from the Yarmouth area, and JAH *et al.* found one near Hermans I. in Maders Cove, Lun. Co. □

## The Shorebirds

By Sylvia Fullerton

The harsh winter, which caused marshes, estuaries and even tidal beaches to be choked and encrusted with ice, was undoubtedly largely responsible for the scarcity of overwintering shorebirds. Ten species lingered into December but only a hardy few managed to last to the end of the period. Nonetheless, CSI once again provided a haven, where MUN estimated 500 individuals in residence, February 10. It was no surprise that there were no early migrants.

A single BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER at Martinique Beach, HRM, Dec. 14, survived until at least Jan. 19 (TEP). Black-bellies were represented on only one CBC, CSI, Dec. 14. An amazing 57 established a record high for the season, as well as for CBCs. Nine were still present Feb. 15 (MUN, JON, CST).

Lingering KILLDEER were few: one, Cooks Beach, Yar. Co., Dec. 8-15 (PRG, RSD); one, The Hawk, CSI, Dec. 11 (JON); five, Yarmouth, Dec. 15 (MUN). None stayed to be counted on the CBCs.

Two GREATER YELLOWLEGS were spotted, one, disappointingly, not on the

day of the CSI CBC, but the day after, Dec. 15 (RHL, JCZ, AIS). The other obliged the Yarmouth CBC, Dec. 22, perhaps one of the nine that was at Pinkneys Pt. in November. A late LESSER YELLOWLEGS was at Melbourne, Yar. Co., Dec. 8-24 (PRG, RSD, MUN).

RUDDY TURNSTONES were absent from all beaches except CSI's, where 15 were tallied on the CBC, Dec. 14; seven were still poking about, Feb. 15 (MUN, JON, CST).

The single ad. RED KNOT, which was at Lockport Beach in November, remained for the Port l'Hebert CBC, and was last seen Jan. 14 (DJC). All others preferred the more southerly beaches of CSI, where 45 were tallied on the CBC and 18 were still holding on, Feb. 18 (MUN, JON, CST). Hardy SANDERLINGS, all 520 of them, provided a record high for CBCs. CSI hosted 400 and Port l'Hebert 104, both favoured wintering sites. Small numbers were reported elsewhere from late January to early February: 20, Crescent Beach, Lun. Co. (JAH); 40, Martinique Beach (TEP); five, Conrads Beach, HRM (Rob Woods). Wintering

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS now seem annual on CSI. Four were present on the CBC, Dec. 14, and were seen again Jan. 1 (MUN).

Of all the wintering shorebirds, PURPLE SANDPIPERS are accustomed to coping with harsh conditions and seemed undeterred by this winter's challenges. Earliest of the December reports was 15 at Port George, Anna. Co., Dec. 6 (DOU). CBCs produced a total of 419, an average number, with the high being Halifax-Dartmouth (103) and the low (of those reporting the species) was Pubnico (one). As expected, Purples were the only wintering shorebirds reported in CB. The CBCs produced: 66, Cape Breton Highlands; 79, Louisbourg; four, The Sydneys. Fifteen were at Pt. Michaud, Rich. Co., Feb. 4 (Weldon MacPhail). SEM commented that heavy-ice build-up on rocks and moving sea-ice probably caused many of these birds to move on. Last to be reported there were two, Black Rock, Louisbourg, Feb. 16. Elsewhere, roving flocks appeared to be more visible as the winter progressed: 20, Crescent Beach, Lun. Co., Jan. 11 (BLM); 30, Margaretsville, Anna. Co., Jan. 13

(PBG); 85, Pond Cove, Brier I., Jan. 13 (JUS); 30+, Port George, Anna. Co., Feb. 2 & 7 (PLC, JCZ). The tally of 575 DUNLIN provided another record high for CBCs. Of these, 450 were at CSI and 110 at Port l'Hebert, exceptionally high numbers. By Feb. 15, 75 were still at CSI (MUN, JON, CST) and of the six or seven present at Crescent Beach in December, two lasted until Feb. 17 (JAH, JSC). The star of the winter show had to be the cooperative RUFF at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth. It first appeared Nov.

23 and stayed around to establish a first record for December (RHL, BLM, JCT *et al.*), as well as a CBC first, the Halifax-Dartmouth Count, Dec. 14.

A late DOWITCHER, *sp.* was spotted along the Cole Hbr. Salt Marsh Trail, HRM, Jan. 12. FLL suggested that there was a good chance it was a Long-billed, but he could not be absolutely sure.

WILSON'S SNIFE were scarce. BLM, who is much afield, reported seeing only

one in the entire period, at Conrads Beach, HRM, Dec. 2. The Shubenacadie and W Hants CBCs hosted one each. The only AM. WOODCOCK appeared on the Canso CBC, Jan. 5. STB reported that it stayed in a yard in the middle of town until at least Jan. 10, trying to feed by probing the snow over and over; ultimately, the bird starved and has been deposited at St. Francis Xavier University. Similar situations no doubt awaited other unfortunate birds that had lingered too long. ☐



The much-observed RUFF (actually a Reeve) at Sullivans Pond was perky enough in early December, but obviously unhappier when snows came shortly after. [Photos (L) Blake Maybank and Denise Restin]

## Skuas Through Alcids

By Blake Maybank

A few jaegers were noted in early December in the middle of the Bay of Fundy, but a PARASITIC JAEGER at Main-a-dieu on the Louisbourg CBC, Dec. 14, was much more unusual (JUM, GEM). Not to be outdone, those on the Brier I. CBC found a POMARINE JAEGER, Dec. 22, though the species' presence there was less of a surprise. SJF and DHY observed a jaeger at E Berlin, Queens Co., Dec. 6, but could not pin it down to species. Only 227 BLACK-HEADED GULLS were counted during the CBCs, but the weather was mostly poor on those key counts that traditionally tally the largest numbers, such as Halifax. Through the winter several observers estimated more than 200 between Halifax Hbr. and the

E Shore alone, and I'd guess that there were 400+ birds throughout the province unless worsening ice conditions pushed some of them further south. There were only 87 BONAPARTE'S GULLS on the various counts, a low total, and likely reflective of the harsh winter, as the appearance of some birds (e.g. six at Crescent Beach on the Broad Cove count) suggested that the Northumberland Boney's moved south early in response to ice conditions. The lone post-CBC report was a single bird with Black-headed Gulls at Halifax's Pier 9 (PLC).

The only MEW "COMMON" GULL was an ad. reported in Barrington Passage and nearby CSI in December

and January (MUN *et al.*). The count of roughly 1,300 RING-BILLED GULLS on CBCs was an average number, and more than half were on the Halifax count, but birds were otherwise well distributed province-wide in small numbers, though there were only about a dozen around CB. The HERRING GULL provincial CBC total was below average at "only" 28,000 or so, but I expect the poor weather was the factor, and that there was not any actual significant decline in the numbers of this common bird. Still, perhaps the winter was hard on gulls, as at least three Herring Gulls began visiting KFS's feeder in Apple River in February. The Halifax THAYER'S GULL returned for a fourth winter to



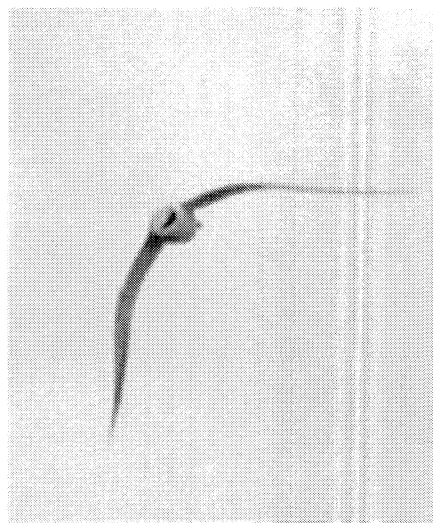
Pier 9, though it was not often seen, and at least one other bird was reported in Halifax Hbr., but without details. The 1,700 or so ICELAND GULLS were an average CBC total, with Sydney and Halifax Hbrs. holding the lion's share. Twelve together at Lockport, Dec. 12, was a local high count for DJC. Throughout the winter there were reports of at least five LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS about. Two or three ads. were noted in Kings Co. (AAM), and singles were found on the West Hants (FLL) and Lunenburg CBCs. Additionally, Tree DeLeskie photographed a third-winter bird in Sydney's Wentworth Park, Feb. 25, that is likely a Lesser Black-backed, although a hybrid cannot yet be ruled out. The total of 53 GLAUCOUS GULLS on various CBCs was a below-average count, and observers sent in reports of ones and twos from many locations in the province, none unexpected. The 7,000 or so GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS counted on CBCs was less than half the all-time record, and somewhat below the long-term average.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES are "out there" during the winter, but you need the right conditions to see them from shore. The Brier I. CBC had the "right stuff," with 95% of the 711 kittiwakes seen on all the counts. The remainder was divided among Cape Sable, Halifax, Louisbourg, and Yarmouth. The only other report was of four birds off Cow Bay, HRM, Dec. 1 (BLM).

There was a remarkable influx of **FORSTER'S TERNS**. The two birds at

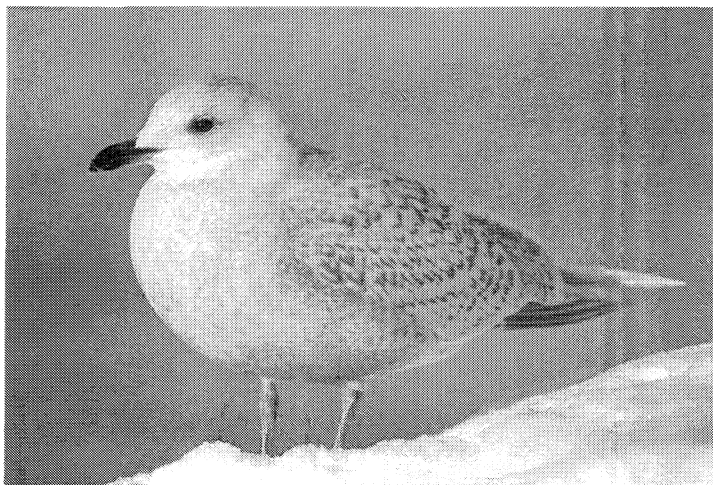
Conrads Beach in late November ranged between there and Cow Bay until at least Dec.14, with one still present Jan. 11 (var. obs.). MUN found six birds at W Baccaro, Dec. 8, while one bird was found on the Broad Cove CBC, Dec. 30 (DHY) and one flew by at Sand Beach, Yar.Co., Jan. 6 (MUN).

I think it's safe to conclude that it was not an "alcid winter". If you discount the 500+ DOVEKIES seen on the Brier I. CBC that were blown into viewing range by onshore winds, there were only 50 or so birds across the province on the rest of the CBCs, all from CB or the Atlantic Coast, save for a single bird on the Antigonish count. Only a handful were noted in the new year, and almost none in February (though Weldon MacPhail had one at Pt. Michaud, Feb. 25), but at least there was no sign of any repeat of last winter's massive oiling of birds. The 16 COM. MURREs represented an average CBC count, and all but one were at Halifax, with the single bird at Louisbourg (GEC, SEM). There were almost no THICK-BILLED MURREs this winter, which may reflect the mortality the species experienced last winter during the oiling incident. A mere six were tallied on all the CBCs (four different counts), and no others were reported at all. RAZORBILLS are typically well offshore in winter, but winds drove them shoreward to augment the totals of three different CBCs; Brier I. outscored Halifax 640 to 117, while Annapolis managed three – these were the only reports for the entire winter. The 387 Black Guillemot counted on all the



Among the several **FORSTER'S TERNS** lingering after last autumn, the two at Conrads Beach, HRM, were seen by many. This photo taken Dec. 1 shows the diagnostic black mask on the turned head of one. [Photo Richard Stern]

CBCs was a typical number, and 17 counts shared the largesse, with none dominating. SEM kept track of guillemot numbers through the winter in Louisbourg, and she estimated the local winter population at around 40 individuals. As with Razorbill, so with ATLANTIC PUFFINS, with the 111 birds noted on the CBCs found on just two counts, 100 off Brier I., and 11 at the mouth of Halifax Hbr. The only other puffin reported was an imm. at Pt. Michaud, Dec. 24 (Weldon MacPhail). □



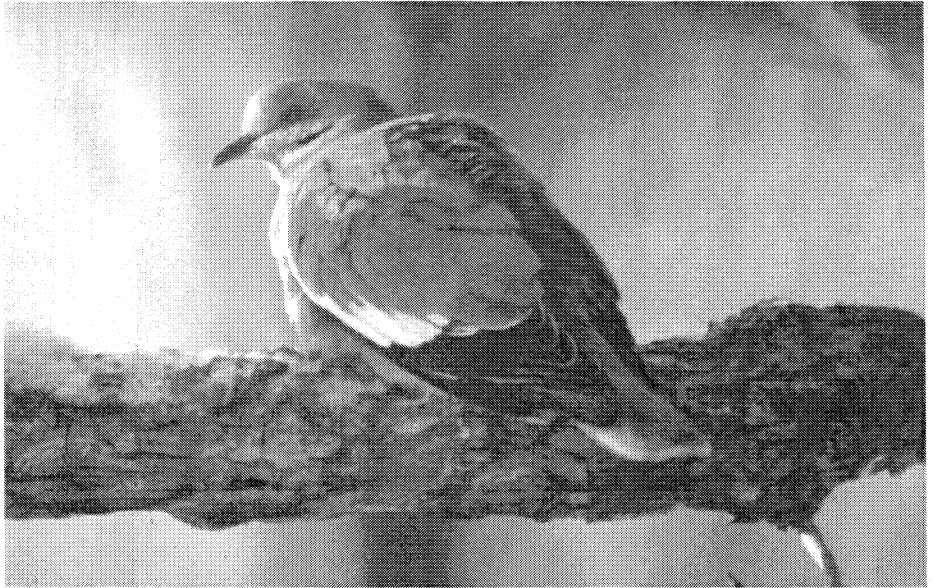
These photos illustrate clearly the differences between first-winter GLAUCOUS GULL (L), with its flat head-profile and massive, pale-based bill, and ICELAND GULL (actually a "Kumlien's version), with its rounded head and small, almost all-dark bill. The former was photographed at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, and the latter in Sydney. [Photos (L) Richard Stern and Tree DeLisle]

# Doves Through Woodpeckers

By Ian McLaren

The CBC ROCK DOVE total of almost 7,000, was at the low end of the range since the mid-1990s of between about 7,000 and 10,000, but beyond the 2,500 to 5,000 during the previous decade. Predictably, they began nesting in the snow and cold; PAC watched a crow egg-robbing, Feb. 24, while “an undemonstrative Rock Dove (female?) roosted close by.” The province’s 22<sup>nd</sup> **WHITE-WINGED DOVE** appeared Dec. 7 at KJM’s feeders in Stellarton and was last reported there Dec. 23, very fluffed up and probably stressed by cold. Photos by KJM suggest that it was of the Caribbean subspecies *asiatica*, which has been increasing in numbers and spreading beyond Florida in recent decades. At least some that occurred here in earlier years were of the paler, greyer SW form *mearnsi*. **MOURNING DOVE** numbers have about doubled on CBC’s since the mid-1990s, despite a much more modest increase in effort (number of party miles, observers, etc.). This year’s CBC total was only slightly below last year’s record high. Such numbers may have led to disinterest, as thereafter they were only reported from a few feeders.

**GREAT HORNED OWLS** do not seem to have recovered from a drop of numbers evident in CBC’s following 1999. Following this year’s CBC, there were reports of only six birds from around the province, including what became a dueting pair, Feb. 5, near Louisbourg (SEM). It was not a peak winter for **SNOWY OWLS**, with only a single CBC sighting. Thereafter, there were reports of one at Middleton, Jan. 3 (PBG), one on Reef I., Yar. Co., Jan. 12 (PRG, RSD), another at the Lunenburg dump in early January (*vide* JAH), and one or two on Cape Sable and CSI at least through the period (*var. obs.*). **BARRED OWL** numbers seem more stable than those of Great Horned Owls, as about 20 (22 this year) have been ticked on CBC’s every year since the mid-1990s, except for an unusual 60 in 1999. They were thought by BLF in Kings Co. “to be doing well despite the hard winter,” and he saw and heard



Nova Scotia’s 22<sup>nd</sup> **WHITE-WINGED DOVE**, at Ken McKenna’s Pictou area feeder last December, seemed a little uncomfortable so far from its normal range in extreme SW U.S.A. [Photo Ken McKenna]

them at four of his nest boxes in mid-February. A single **LONG-EARED OWL** was found at Baccaro, Jan. 5 (MUN, CST). Then one took to patrolling open terrain around Cape Sable from Jan. 15 (JON *et al.*), along with more numerous **SHORT-EARED OWLS**. The latter were unusually common this winter, with 16 as the second largest CBC total on record. Following this there were: one at Conrad Beach, HRM, after mid-December (IAM); up to three at Hartlen Pt. from late December (DBR); one at Lower W Pubnico, Dec. 29 (PRG, RSD); three at Melmerby Beach, Pict. Co., Jan. 12 (J. Kearney); up to two at Baccaro, Shel. Co., from Jan. 5 (MUN, CST); two at Pinkneys Pt., Yar. Co.; and at least four in the areas from Port Williams to Grand Pré from early January (*var. obs.*). The big show, however, was around CSI, where JON reported a dozen on the Cape proper, Jan. 15. By late January, up to 13 of these birds dispersed to The Hawk and South Side on CSI, where many observed them close at hand. By the end of the reporting period, it appeared that not all was well for these mousers as they searched for prey hiding under deep snows. Finally, our smallest owl,

the N. **SAW-WHET**, with only five on CBC’s, has evidently not fully recovered from the harsh winter of 2000-01. There were reports from New England that almost all the Saw-whets captured last fall for banding were aged 2+ years, indicating that very few young had been produced by the diminished populations to the north. One at Port La Tour, Shel. Co., Feb. 14, was the “first on my own” for MUN, but others were lucky enough to have them appear as yard birds. One of these attended Helen Teed’s feeder at Freeport, Digby Co., in late January, eating starlings among other things (*vide* JCT), another was in KFS’s yard at Apple R., Cum. Co., Jan. 10, and one was at a Lockeport feeder, Feb. 20 (*vide* DJC). The only persistent guests were in HAT’s yard in Portuguese Cove, HRM, starting with a single bird, Jan. 25, that became a pair occupying a nest box by late February. Their forays could be monitored when they triggered the yard’s security lights!

A total of 32 **BELTED KINGFISHERS** on CBC’s almost matched the record 35 in 1999-00. Yet, after Jan. 1, there were reports of only about five birds between Rich. Co. and Yarmouth, suggesting that the severe cold was a problem for them.

The CBC RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER in south end Halifax was not reported thereafter, and there were no other sightings. This erstwhile regular winter visitor, along with the Red-headed Woodpecker, seems to have become scarcer of late. A well-described, apparent fem. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, spotted in mixed forest by Jane and Jim Ludlow during the Kingston CBC, was the second ever on our CBC's. Another was reported Feb. 2 to JAH as coming to suet at Chester, Lun. Co., and was identified by him as an apparent imm. bird, excluding the remote possibility (but keep looking!) of Red-naped.

Both DOWNY and HAIRY WOODPECKERS were seen in record numbers on this year's CBC's, but only a dozen or so of each, mostly at feeders, were otherwise reported by a handful of observers. Opinions on their status varied: they were considered scarce on CSI (MUN), but "rapidly increasing" around Kingston (John Belbin). Individual BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS were reported from Pockwock L., Jan. 5 (AGH), and along the Saltmarsh Trail across Cole Hbr., HRM, Feb. 23 (TEP).

Many commented on the conspicuousness of N. FLICKERS this winter, and indeed there was a record

total on the CBC. At least 25 others were reported, excluding possible repeats. Some reported one-time or sporadic visits to their suet feeders, so the harsh winter may have induced them to range more widely. The 61 PILEATED WOODPECKERS on CBC's were gratifying, though not quite up to the record counts of 1996-1998. Six later reports were fewer than usual. Among them, was an account by MAB on NatureNS of one observed, Jan. 11, hanging upside down on thin twigs to feed on a highbush cranberry. This stimulated others to report observations of seemingly unlikely and comical postures of birds feeding on Virginia creepers. □

## Flycatchers Through Thrushes

By Andy Horn

EASTERN PHOEBES are the flycatchers most likely to be encountered in winter here. This year one was at Starrs Pt., Kings Co., Dec. 7-11 (LCH and James Churchill, *vide* JWW) and another in Gaspereau, Kings Co., Jan. 5 (Stephen Pedersen *vide* JWW).

NORTHERN SHRIKES were certainly not present in full force; the CBC turned up only nine across the province, the same number as last year. Individual reports, however, were certainly higher than last winter, with at least 19 reports throughout the province (*var. obs.*).

The GRAY JAY CBC provincial total was just below average, at 107, and the BLUE JAY total was just above average, at 5,947. High provincial CBC totals of AM. CROWS and COM. RAVENS have become routine; this year they were 30,442 and 1,554, respectively.

HORNED LARKS were downright scarce. Only 60 were seen on the CBC, one fifth the average, tied with 1990 for the lowest seen since 1971. Two observers took the care to note one individual of the arctic race among 40 birds seen in a trip along the Fundy shore, Hants Co., Jan. 26 (BLM, IAM). Keying this species down to race adds

interesting information, well worth the slightly extra effort involved.

Hardest of the swallows, TREE SWALLOWS are the most likely to be seen in winter, but since 1952 they have been seen on NS CBCs in only three years: 1969 (7), 1981 (12), and now, 2002 (6). All six birds seen this year were on the Halifax-Dartmouth count. Four were likely the same birds seen regularly between Rainbow Haven and Seaforth, Hfx. Co., starting Dec. 1 (DOU), dwindling to two birds by Dec. 11 (AGH, IAM) and last seen Dec. 16 (RHL). At least one other was in Pembroke, Yar. Co., Dec. 7-8 (PRG, MUN).

Both species of chickadee were common on the CBC. BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES were seen in average numbers, and while many observers commented on a scarcity of BOREAL CHICKADEES, this impression was belied by an average number of reports and the only slightly low CBC total of 393 (the average being 505). Observers had a similar impression of RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH numbers, but scarcity is hard to glean from individual reports of a species so often taken for granted. Again, though, the CBC tells the tale: only 378, or just under half the long-term average of 719, were found in the province. Even though this species is



CAROLINA WRENS, like this one photographed in January near Welsford, Kings Co., have become almost regular winter rarities in the province. [Photo Elizabeth Doull]

known for its ups and downs, its 2002 total is the second lowest in the last decade, and so this bird might be worth keeping an eye on. In contrast to their abundance last year, **WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES** had an average showing, both on CBCs and in individual reports, which were all from feeders in the Annapolis Valley and HRM, where they are regular (var. obs.).

Atypically, numerous observers picked up on the unobtrusive **BROWN CREEPER**, one of the few species in this section of the seasonal reports to have a CBC total well above average, 108 to be specific. One observer commented, apparently without irony, that this species was "not hard to find." I suppose that this was more a comment on their abundance than on their habits, since he added "seemed more common than usual" (RBS).

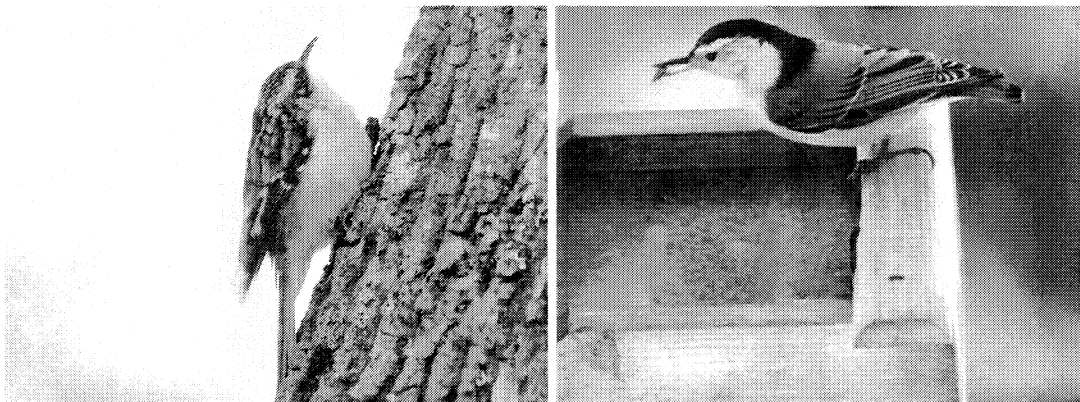
Highlights of this section of reports were two **CAROLINA WRENS**. One was at Welsford, Kings Co., from at least early November to Feb. 14 (var. obs.). This individual "appeared similar to [that illustrated on] Sibley's page 384, a little less colourful than the 'Adult Northern'" (PBG). The other was the bird at Maders Cove, Lun. Co., which persisted from our last reporting period (var. obs.). Speculation that two birds were present there, perhaps courting or attempting to nest, could not be confirmed, nor could a report that one of them had fallen prey to a hawk (*vide* JAH). Certainly one bird was still present at deadline. Similarly, a late January report of an individual in

southend Halifax, where one had spent last winter, could also not be confirmed (*vide* PLC). **WINTER WRENS** skulked through almost unnoticed, save for one on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC, Dec. 14, and one in Halifax, Jan. 9 (BAH). A pale wren at Graves I., Lun. Co., Jan. 1-3, foraging amid the seaweed wrack with 15 cm hops and burrowing into 5 cm snow could have been something very interesting indeed, but in the end eluded positive identification (Paul McDonald). Of the handful of **MARSH WRENS** known to linger every winter, this year individuals were seen at CSI, Dec. 1 (NSBS), Westville, Pict. Co., Dec. 7-15 (STV *vide* KJM), and Pembroke, Yar. Co., Dec. 8 (MUN).

Both kinglets had CBC totals safely above average. **GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS** were reported from all quarters, with a provincial total of 1,714. **RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS** showed up at eight widely scattered CBC's, yielding a total of 12 individuals across the province, just two short of the all-time high. They were also well represented in individual reports, which is not always the case in winter.

One E. **BLUEBIRD** appeared at Rivière Bourgeois, Rich. Co., Dec. 7 (GED), and five were found in Canso, Guys. Co., Dec. 30 (var. obs. *vide* TOK). By Jan. 5, only four, two of each sex, could be found there. More striking still were two separate reports of **MT. BLUEBIRDS**, one of the bird at CSI, Shel. Co. reported in our last issue, which reappeared there Jan. 15-17 (JON *vide* GRM); the other report was of another (perhaps the same?) fem. at

Little River Hbr., Yar. Co., Dec. 22-24 (PRG, RSD, TCD). The bird at the latter location ended up being a first for any NS CBC. A **SWAINSON'S THRUSH** is most unusual in winter, but one studied well at close range was reported from Spencers I., Cum. Co., Dec. 30 (MSM, JCZ). **HERMIT THRUSHES**, our more regular winter *Catharus* thrushes, were, remarkably, absent from the submitted reports, and only one was reported in the CBCs, from the Halifax-Dartmouth count. **AMERICAN ROBINS**, by contrast, were perhaps the most noted bird of the winter. They had their second highest CBC total ever, 2,931, compared to 3,651 in 2000. The Lunenburg count alone had a higher total, 684, than the whole province did in ten out of the last twenty years. Robins showed up in big flocks throughout the province, including flocks of 200 in Lunenburg., Dec. 28 (JAH, Anne Hughes) and in Louisbourg, during the CBC and again, perhaps representing a second wave, Jan. 17 (SEM). Flocks of 100 were on the ridge above Wolfville, in January and February, when late afternoon flocks may have been heading to a still larger night roost (JCT). Much as we appreciated the robins this winter, it's nice to end with a species that's not seen every winter. A male **VARIED THRUSH** appeared Jan. 15 at a feeder in Baddeck, Vic. Co., keeping loose company with a flock of Evening Grosbeaks (Lloyd Stone *vide* BSK). Last seen at that location Jan. 27, its description fit that of what may have been the same bird at a feeder across Bras D'Or Lake in Big Pond, CB Co., Jan. 29-30 (SEM). □



Two of our three "bark birds," **WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES** (R) and **BROWN CREEPERS**, were in above-average numbers on this year's CBCs. [Photos (R) Joyce Allen and Terry Lutz]

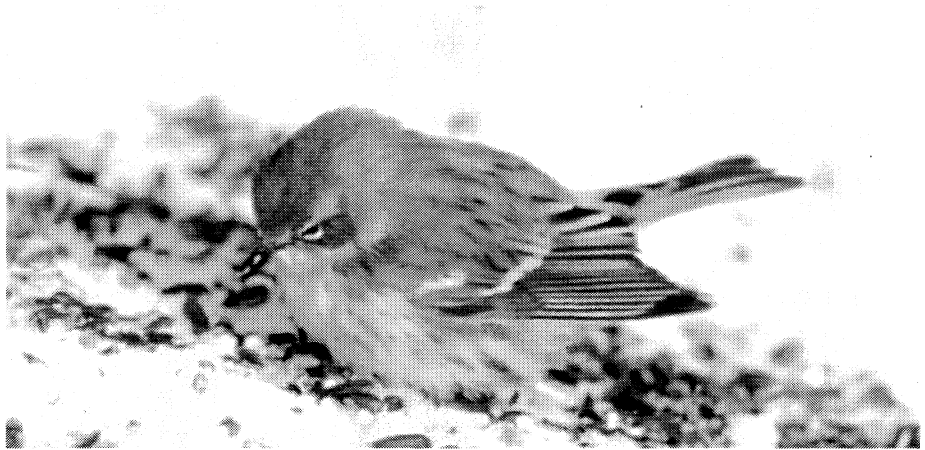
## Starlings Through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

EUROPEAN STARLINGS were counted on all CBCs with the total being about 65,000 birds. This is average for the last number of years. The bulk of starlings was counted on the Halifax-Dartmouth and Wolfville counts (12,000 and 10,000 respectively) but this may be related more to the number of observers. One GRAY CATBIRD was found Dec. 27 at Dennis Point Wharf Rd., Yar. Co. (MUN). An average 22 N. MOCKINGBIRDS was seen on about ten of the CBCs with Wolfville being the oasis for this bird with 12, five of which were tallied by MAG (*vide* JWW). Mockingbirds were noted from other areas of the Province through the winter including Louisbourg, Glace Bay, Melbourne, Yar. Co., Stoney I., Shel. Co., New Glasgow and Brier I. On Dec. 30, SJF had occasion to hear a mocker imitate one of the songs of a Yellow-breasted Chat which had been present in Broad Cove for a couple of weeks. Two BROWN THRASHERS were noted in Lun. Co. in mid-January, one at Lower Rose Bay and the second at New Zealand Rd. near Cherry Hill. The latter bird had been present for three weeks (*vide* JAH).

AMERICAN PIPITS were in low numbers this winter with sightings of six from Hartlen Pt., Dec. 28 (TEP), two from same location Jan.19 (DAC), four at Whipple Rd., Brier I., Dec. 2 (JUS) and several Jan. 31 at CSI (JON *et al.* *vide* MUN). Only eight were recorded on CBCs.

Most observers considered themselves lucky to see BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS this winter and this low number is in line with a trend in the last decade with one poor year followed by a year with high numbers. Bohemian Waxwings (340 in total) were recorded on six CBCs with highest numbers in CB from Eskasoni (140) and CB Highlands (72). By mid-January, more Bohemians started to show, with DBM encountering four flocks with a total of ~ 175 birds in Baddeck, Vic. Co. and



This YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER seemed content to feed on fragmented sunflower seeds in early January at Paradise, Anna. Co. [Photo Mike Russell]

80+ in Bras d'Or, CB Co., Jan. 23. Smaller numbers were seen in River Bourgeois, Rich. Co. (GED, SDI) and Apple R., Cum. Co. (KFS). For most observers, CEDAR WAXWINGS outnumbered Bohemians this winter and this follows a trend of the last six years when good numbers (800 this year) were found on CBCs. Cedars were widespread and noted on 18 counts with Wolfville (131) and The Sydneys (85) having the most numbers. Reports of smaller numbers continued into the latter part of this period in both CB and the mainland with one of the latest reports of 75+ at Greenwich, Kings Co. by BLF. He considered it the largest of several flocks overwintering in the Wolfville area.

This was not an outstanding winter for warbler varieties, which hopefully meant these birds had landed where they were supposed to overwinter and thus had a better chance of survival. Eight species were tallied on CBCs and only eleven for the whole winter. The report period began Dec.1 with an ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER seen by KJM in New Glasgow and rediscovered later in the day as a lifer for HAB, JEB, GMU and Robert Reid. An average eight were tallied on CBCs with Halifax-Dartmouth recording six, four alone by HAT in Portuguese Cove. Reports from the New Year were Jan. 6 at Louisbourg (SEM), and a bird first

reported Jan. 17 at East Port Medway, Queens Co., (Gary Hartlen and Peter Davies). A photo of this bird posted to a web site prompted much discussion on the NatureNS internet group. Labelled as a mystery warbler, many thought it to be a Nashville and one thought it to be a MacGillivrays. IAM felt the bird was a first winter male of the Rocky Mt. Race (*orestera*) and after consulting with Kimball Garrett, coauthor of Peterson Field Guides Warblers, the conclusion was a fem. Orange-crowned Warbler, *orestera* race. An earlier Orange-crowned seen at Shag Hbr. and posted to Grant Milroy's web site was initially labelled Nashville as well. The exercise in labelling these birds was considered a good review of these confusing warblers. A NASHVILLE WARBLER was seen by JUG *et al.* at Woods Hbr. on the CSI CBC, the only Nashville report this winter.

A MAGNOLIA WARBLER was seen at Pine Grove Park just outside Liverpool on the White Pt. CBC. This is only the second record for this species on a CBC, the last being in the 1970's. On Dec. 3, a niger feeder at the new home of RFL on the Fairmont Rd., Ant. Co., attracted a male BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER although it did not feed from the feeder. It stayed only a couple of days. Interestingly, last year's only winter report of this species was also from Ant.

Co. Out of the 516 warblers spotted on the CBCs, 483 were YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS which is a little above average. They were noted from 17 counts with highest numbers from the Atlantic coast from Canso to Pubnico and the latter with the high count of 141. In Paradise, Jan.19, Mike Russell noted one going to remains of husks of sunflower seeds and roosting on the sunny shingles of his roof. I received about ten reports of PINE WARBLER. In Economy, one first seen Dec. 4 at the feeder of FLS stayed long enough to be the first of this species on the Economy CBC. The 11 seen in CBCs was about average, but considerably less than the 24 last year. Although I did not receive any reports of any making it to February, there were a number of January reports as follows: Jan. 4, one at Ohio (DOE); two, Jan. 19 South of New Minas (MAG); Jan.23, Shelburne (MUN); Jan. 26, Eastern Passage (TEP) and Jan. 31, Princess Inlet Drive, Lun. Co. (LAB, JSC *fide* JAH). Only two PALM WARBLERS were reported. One was on CSI, Dec.1 (NSBS *fide* MUN), and the other on the Louisbourg CBC, Dec.14 (SEM). For only the second time on a NS CBC, a BAY-BREASTED WARBLER was reported, this time by JCZ at Barrington and not surprisingly, the only one reported for the winter.



YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS are quite regular winter rarities here, but are rarely approachable. This one, photographed Jan. 10 at a feeder in Margaretsville, Anna. Co., was not quite prepared to come fully out from behind its food source. [Photo Elizabeth Doull]

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT sightings were early in the reporting period with three, Dec.1 at CSI (NSBS) and one at each of the back cove at Hartlen Pt. (IAM) and Kenny Rd., CSI (MUN), Dec. 11. For the first time in 16 years not a single Com. Yellowthroat was seen on a CBC. The only WILSON'S WARBLER was a male at Greenwich, Kings Co., Dec. 1 (*fide* JCT). As usual for the winter period, there were a number of YELLOW-

BREASTED CHAT reports. December started off with a flurry of reports in the first week from around the province. Five of eight Chats seen on CBCs were seen in the Halifax-Dartmouth count. Eight is average but only half of last year's total. A couple of chats survived into January: until Jan. 10 in Margaretsville (photographed by DOU) and to Jan. 19, feeding from a window feeder, at Lower Clarks Hbr., Shel. Co. (MUN). □

## Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By David McCorquodale

The dearth of winter finches was the talking point with respect to this group of birds this winter. Despite a reasonable crop of cones in much of the province there were no major concentrations of crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks were scarce, redpolls difficult to find and siskins and Evening Grosbeaks were both scattered and in small numbers. In contrast, the two commonest wintering sparrows, Song and White-throated were in good numbers, even late in the winter after the snow and bitter cold.

A lone vagrant represented tanagers, this year a SCARLET TANAGER that arrived in late November and lingered to the first of December at the St. Marys

Boat Club in Halifax (EBB). The only two E. TOWHEES reported were on CBC's, one in Lunenburg and the other at a feeder in Bedford.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were widespread and numerous. They were found on 31 of the 35 CBC's with the highest counts close to 300 in Wolfville and almost 200 more at Amherst. A sizeable mid-winter concentration was more than 300 seen during a day of birding along the Noel Shore, Hants Co., Jan. 26 (BLM, IAM). Some persisted through the snow and the cold, in mid to late February, small flocks at feeders in many locations including St. Peters, Rich. Co. (BID), Canso, (TOK), Apple R., Cum. Co. (KFS) and Lower

Prospect, HRM (BLM). There have been more reports of CHIPPING SPARROWS in the winter in the past five years. This trend continues, with a few dozen reported at feeders in early December. Some were found on 10 CBC's, with the total of 28 the second highest ever, just behind last year. On CBC's the high count was 12 at Kingston and there were three on CBI. A very few lingered at feeders after the beginning of the new year, and in to the cold and snow of February. The exceptions included those at feeders on CSI (MUN), in Kings Co. (AAM, ASM) and Bedford (Garth and Joyce Chalmers). Only one FIELD SPARROW lingered into December, last seen Dec. 14 at Conrad Beach. This

was an interesting individual thought to be of the western subspecies *arenacea* because of its very pale appearance and grey, unmarked face (IAM).

There was also only one VESPER SPARROW report. It was noticed at a feeder in Wolfville the first week of December and lingered at least until the Wolfville CBC a week later (JWW, AAM). Two LARK SPARROWS were found in Shel. Co. the first week of December (DHY, MUN), one of them spent most of the winter at a feeder in Clarks Hbr., CSI.

Almost half the CBC's tallied SAVANNAH SPARROWS. Halifax had the most, while St. Peters, mostly on the beaches near L'Ardoise, and the agricultural fields near Wolfville, were the two other places with concentrations. Some hardy individuals found sustenance on wind swept beaches or at feeders through January and into February. A very hardy one was still at a feeder in Canso, Guys. Co., in the bitter cold of mid-February (TOK). A few Ipswich Sparrows were located on beaches in early December with fewer, only three, lingering until CBC's mid-month in Halifax and CSI.

Memories of the concentration of sparrows at Daniel Hd. last winter prompted searches of the area in the early winter. A couple of hardy NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS were found early in December and into the first few days of January (MUN, JON). Another two were at Rainbow Haven, HRM, at the end of the first week of December (BLM, LEL).

Ten different CBC's found FOX SPARROWS, with the total a couple fewer than the high of 20 last year. As expected there were fewer reports after the first couple of weeks of December. A few toughed it out through the snow and cold, most at feeders in the 'banana belt' of Shel. Co. (GRM, MUN, DJC), but at least one was still in Canso in late February (TOK).

For only the third time, and the third year in a row, more than 1,000 SONG SPARROWS were tallied on CBC's.



SWAMP SPARROWS, are not common in winter, especially at feeders. This one favoured John Nickerson's well stocked feeders on CSI, in early January. [Photo Grant Milroy]

Given the number it was not surprising they were widespread, with only three of the 35 counts missing them. Three counts Halifax, Wolfville and Lunenburg all counted more than 100. Many spent the winter at feeders from Louisbourg to Canso and further south. By Feb. 10 the first strains of song were heard at Conrose Field in Halifax (PLC), but song was less frequent, some of the coldest days of the winter, later in the month. Two LINCOLN'S SPARROWS were found, both at feeders. One spent part of Dec. 7 in Portuguese Cove (HAT) and another ate some suet on CSI, Jan. 3 (JON, RSD, PRG). SWAMP SPARROWS lingered into the first few weeks of December as expected and were counted on eight CBC's. The total was lower than in recent years. Two of the few reports in the new year were of one at the Fortress of Louisbourg, Jan. 5 (SEM), and a couple at feeders in Shel. Co. into mid-February (JON).

The CBC count of WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS was the third highest, behind 1976 and 2000. As expected when so many were counted, they were widespread, found on 29 counts, with the two highest in the neighbourhood of 200, Halifax and Cape Sable. Many survived through to the bitter cold and snows of February, for example still more than 40 at a feeder in Portuguese Cove and several at several feeders in Yarmouth and area in mid-February (HAT, MUN). The three WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS found on CBC's were about average. The one in Wolfville

stayed at the same feeder from early December into late February (JWW).

DARK-EYED JUNCOS were found throughout, with some notable concentrations, for example more than 1,400 on the Wolfville CBC. Later in the winter numbers declined in many areas, but a count of more than 200 along the Noel Shore, Hants Co. (BLM, IAM) and the highest count all winter, 22, in early February at one feeder in Apple R. (KFS), show that many survived through a tough winter.

Early in the winter, there were small flocks of LAPLAND LONGSPURS on beaches from HRM south to CSI. They were found on only three CBC's, Halifax, Pictou Hbr. and Amherst. Of these, only Halifax managed double figures, and it was just 10. Later in the winter most reports were from the agricultural areas of Kings Co., with flocks of 20 to 40 from late January through February (GRM, DOU, JWW, BLF).

SNOW BUNTINGS were reported widely both in space and time. Small flocks and a few larger ones of more than a hundred were along the coast and in agricultural areas such as Hants, Cumberland and Kings Cos. Despite this, the CBC total was the lowest in 20 years and only the second total of less than 1,000 in this period. The other count of less than 1,000 was last year. More than a third of those counted were on one count, Northport, and Snow Buntings were the second most numerous species on this count. This species is not a regular visitor to feeders in most places. A few more than usual came to feeders during the snows and bitter cold of mid-February. A flock of more than 100 "ate us out of house and home" according to the Dean's in Freeport, Digby Co. A much smaller flock visited Murdock Digout's feeder in St. Peters. It was noteworthy because for the many decades Murdock has been feeding birds, this was the first visit by Snow Buntings, on a cold and snowy day in February.

NORTHERN CARDINALS are holding their own. They spent the winter near feeders in the big cities and small



Last fall's **PAINTED BUNTING** at Clarks Hbr. may or may not have been the same as the one that appeared later at W. Pubnico, where it was photographed Dec. 2. [Photo Grant Milroy]

towns, from Halifax south and west through Lunenburg, Shel. and Yar. Cos. and then around the southern tip and through the Annapolis valley to Wolfville. They were found on nine different CBC's in this area. The only report away from these areas this winter was one on the Apple R. CBC. An imm. **ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK**, a lone straggler, visited a feeder in Oban, Rich. Co. Dec. 15 (Weldon MacPhail).

The spectacular male **PAINTED BUNTING** moved from CSI to spend a couple of weeks, from Dec. 7, at feeders in W Pubnico (Athelda Murphy). Three **DICKCISSELS** frequented a feeder in December in Canso, Guys. Co., with at least two surviving to mid-February (TOK). Three others were found on CBC's in widely scattered locations, Louisbourg, CSI and Pubnico.

The second highest CBC tally of **RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS**, 159, was topped only by last year's 200. Most of them were on the Shubenacadie CBC, with a handful to a dozen on eight others, all on the mainland. As expected a few lingered later in the winter, for example one at a feeder in Apple R., Jan. 24 (KFS) and a few in Yarmouth the next day (MUN). **EASTERN MEADOWLARKS** returned to the Daniels Hd. area of CSI by early December. All three found on CBC's were there and at least two lingered until Jan. 25 (MUN). During the first

two weeks of February a larger blackbird with a yellow throat came to a feeder in Clementsvalle, Anna. Co., along with the more usual starlings and cowbirds (Flo and Doug Potter *vide* MCN). A photo (not the best quality, but it is suggestive) shows these features of a **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD**. A few **RUSTY BLACKBIRDS** lingered in early December, in Yarmouth and until Dec. 10 on CSI (JON, MUN). However the only one on a CBC was in Apple R.

**COMMON GRACKLES** were widespread, found on 17 CBC's, with a high of close to 100 in Pubnico and 20 being a high count for CBI in Margaree. Later in the winter a few flocks of 100 and more were in the Barrington to Yarmouth area (MUN, PRG, RMC). There were a few more **BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS** on CBC's than grackles. They were concentrated from Kingston and Bridgetown around the south to CSI. None were on CBC's or reported through the winter from CBI. Late winter reports were mostly from the Shel. Co. and Yarmouth, where they were most numerous on CBC's.

The bulk of the **BALTIMORE ORIOLE** reports come from the first ten days of December. They were scarce on CBC's. Only three were counted, two at Port Hebert and one in Wolfville, the lowest total since 1989 and far below the record count of 46 last year. Not all

were found on CBC's, for example a feeder that hosted four last year for the Sydneys CBC had none this year for the count, but the next day, Dec. 22, one arrived (Walter and Yvonne MacDonald). In late December there were several in the Yarmouth area (MUN). Two survived until mid-January in Lockport, Shel. Co., when one provided a meal for a hawk and then the other disappeared a few days later (DJC, DEF, Autumn Fiske). There was one report of the much rarer **BULLOCK'S ORIOLE**, a male in Parrsboro, Jan. 17 (David Beal *vide* BLM).

Many observers commented on the dearth of winter finches and the tallies from CBC's bear this out. Only House Finch and American Goldfinch totals were above the averages of the past 10 years and many of the others were only 10% of these averages. **PINE GROSBEAKS** continue to be scarce, in contrast to the influx of the fall of 2001. It was the lowest tally on CBC's, only 48, since 1990. More than half of those found on CBC's were on CBI and only Pictou Hbr. reached double digits on the mainland. Reports in the new year were similarly scarce, with a few reports from Oban, Rich. Co. (Weldon MacPhail, SEM), near Antigonish (RFL) and a group of up to eight seen regularly at Apple R., Cum. Co. (KFS).

The number of **PURPLE FINCHES** that were around depended on both the location and the date. Often when there were few in one area, there were some in another, and then a few weeks later the situation reversed. For example in late December numbers peaked, more than two dozen, in Apple R., Cum. Co. (KFS). While in Canso there were none in late December and early January, but nine arrived Jan. 9 (TOK). Similarly in Louisbourg one arrived at a feeder, Jan. 5, and they peaked at 15 later in January (SEM). Some were counted on most CBC's, 26 of the 34, but the high count was only 58 at Broad Cove. The total was more than 350, just under the average for the past ten years. **HOUSE FINCHES** continue to survive in Halifax and Yarmouth, with peak counts of more than 30 at one feeder in Yarmouth in February (MUN) and a dozen consistently at



one in Halifax through the winter (ABM).

Numbers of both crossbills were low this winter. RED CROSSBILLS were found on only four CBC's, with the highest only six at W Hants. The total on CBC's was the lowest in more than 10 years. Through the rest of the winter only one other report was received, five at Pockwock L., Jan. 5. Despite the reasonable crop of spruce cones, there were few WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS. Most reports came from Cum. Co. (KFS) and CBI (SEM, BSK, BID), where they were around throughout the winter. A few males were singing in eastern CB in late January and early February (SEM). The CBC numbers paint a similar picture, with more than half of those counted on CBI, including a high of 120 in Cheticamp. On the mainland, Springville and Apple R. accounted for another quarter of the provincial total.

As expected, COM. REDPOLL sightings were way down from last year. Since 1990 they have shown up in considerable numbers in late fall of odd numbered years and been scarce in the other years. By Christmas several observers remarked on the difference from the invasion last winter. I did find it surprising that so many were found on CBC's and on how many different CBC's they were found. Typically fewer than 100 are counted on CBC's the year after an invasion, this year it was more than 600. This was partly due to a large flock, estimated at 500, along the shore at Catalone Gut on the Louisbourg CBC (JUM, GEM) and partly due to 12 different

counts recording some. Through January and February individuals and small flocks attracted notice because of their scarcity. A flock of six found at Hectanooga, Digby Co. (MUN) warranted a message to a rare bird alert, reflecting the difficulty in finding them this winter. Like redpolls, PINE SISKINS were also scarce this winter. The CBC tally was the lowest, only 126, since 1989. Thirteen widely scattered counts found some, with the most only 25 at Caledonia. Many reports were of a few birds, and often with the note that they were the only ones of the winter, for example six at River Bourgeois, Jan. 23 & 25 (GED, SDI) and one West Bay, Inv. Co., Feb. 11 (Helen MacMillan). In contrast, at Fairmont, Ant. Co., the handful that spent the winter were considered about normal (RFL). The largest flock, and the only one of more than a dozen reported all winter, was 75 at Pockwock L., HRM, Jan. 5 (AGH). The exception to the dearth of finches was AM. GOLDFINCH. Feeders through the province hosted a few to several dozen for the winter. The CBC total was a little more than the average for the past ten years and all but three of the 35 counts tallied some. The most on the CBC's was more than 1,000 at Wolfville.

Like most other finches EVENING GROSBEAKS were scarce. The lowest total on CBC's since 1967 was tallied, almost 12,000 fewer than counted in 1995 and only half of last year's count. The latter is significant because last year was the lowest total in 10 years. They were found on 20 CBC's right across the province, with the 157

in Shubenacadie the highest. Several observers commented on the scarcity of sightings this winter, for example SLH saw 15 at Tremont, Feb. 8, but only one or two through most of the winter. A flock of 20 at Black River L., Feb. 15, was only one of two sightings during the winter for BLF in Kings Co. There were exceptions to this, giving the impression that distribution was very patchy. In CB a few feeders in the Sydney R. to Gillis L. area hosted a couple of dozen through the winter, while others in neighbouring areas did not see any through the winter. Similarly in Baddeck and Cape North, Vic. Co. they were regular visitors to feeders (FMC). In Apple R., Cum. Co., more than 30 were regular through the winter and a peak of more than 60 in late December prompted, "never had so many" from KFS, a meticulous observer of birds in the area.

The number of HOUSE SPARROWS on CBC's was down about 20% from the average over the past 10 years. A few observers noted a lack of them in their areas while others thought numbers had rebounded from lows a few years ago. About a quarter, more than 1,100, of all those counted on CBC's were on the Halifax count, with W Hants and Wolfville combining to contribute another quarter. Therefore, more than one half of the provincial total came from just three of the 30 counts where House Sparrows were found. Late in the winter large flocks, for example 75 in Canso, Guys. Co. (TOK), stayed close to feeders during the severe cold and deep snows. □



AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were found in record numbers on this winter's CBCs both in Nova Scotia, and throughout Atlantic Canada. [Photo Elizabeth Doull]

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Thanks to all of our contributors, including:

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xxx

## In Memoriam Peter Ackerman

Peter was born on Long Island, New York in March of 1942. He graduated from Colgate University and the University of Toronto. In 1967, he moved to Nova Scotia. He taught English at both Saint Patrick and Queen Elizabeth High Schools in Halifax. Later in his career, Peter was appointed Special Program Coordinator for the Halifax School Board, where he was instrumental in the implementation of the 4 Plus Program. Following his early retirement due to a heart condition, Peter continued to work in the profession he loved, by tutoring students.

Peter held the position of Secretary on the Executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society for three years, from October of 1999 until October of 2002. He was a tremendous asset to the Board. He was always thoughtful and direct in his manner

and used his wisdom and intellect to help us look at issues thoroughly and to consider alternatives. His wit was exceptional. As part of his role as Secretary he answered bird-related questions received through our website, and provided information to birders planning trips to the Province. These, and other contacts with birders far and near, he enjoyed very much.

Sadly, Peter died in February of this year. He is certainly greatly missed by those of us who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him.

Gisele d'Entremont  
Past President

# Nova Scotia Christmas Bird Counts

## Dec 14, 2002 - Jan 5, 2003

Edited By David Currie

**AMHERST**, Dec 18; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 0 to 10 °C. Wind NW 5-20 kph. Snow 0-2 cm. Skies clear all day. 25 field observers in 7-8 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 87 (41.5 by foot, 45.5 by car). Total party kilometers 771 (74.75 on foot, 696 by car).

Canada Goose 2; American Black Duck 11; Common Merganser 23; Bald Eagle 20; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Northern Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 11; Rough-legged Hawk 18; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 36; Ruffed Grouse 8; **Laughing Gull 4**; Ring-billed Gull 16; Herring Gull 464; Iceland Gull 18; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 168; Rock Dove 330; Mourning Dove 271; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 13; Northern Flicker 1; Gray Jay 18; Blue Jay 118; American Crow 747; Common Raven 77; Black-capped Chickadee 419; Boreal Chickadee 13; Red-breasted Nuthatch 28; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 89; American Robin 2; European Starling 2107; American Tree Sparrow 191; Song Sparrow 5; Swamp Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 159; Lapland Longspur 7; Snow Bunting 129; Common Grackle 2; Pine Grosbeak 7; Purple Finch 17; White-winged Crossbill 26; Common Redpoll 6; Pine Siskin 6; American Goldfinch 330; Evening Grosbeak 86; House Sparrow 3.

**Total Species 51, about 6035 individuals.** Sean Blaney, Doug Bliss, Sydney Bliss, Paul Bogaard, Evelyn Coates, Don Colpitts, Kevin Davidson, Carol Fahey, George Finney, Liam Finney, **Ross Galbraith (compiler)**, Andrew Hicks, Andrew Kennedy, Percy Landry, Andrew MacFarlane, Colin MacKinnon, JoAnn Martell, Keith McAloney, Julie McKnight, Ruth Miller, Luc Patterson, Matt Robinson, Al Smith, Cindy Spicer, Kathleen Spicer, Becky Whittam, John Wile.

**ANNAPOLIS ROYAL**, Dec 28. 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -5 to 1 °C. Wind calm. Snow 36 cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. A.M. clear, P.M. cloudy. 24 field observers in 14 parties, 34 at feeders. Total party hours 49.5 (31.4 on foot, 18 by car). Total party kilometers 258 (46 by foot, 212 by car).

Common Loon 24; Red-necked Grebe 6; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 3; American Black Duck 711; Mallard 10; scaup species 361; Common Eider 2; Surf Scoter 31, White-winged Scoter 79; Black Scoter 33; Long-tailed Duck 237; Bufflehead 129, Common Goldeneye 94; Common Merganser 4; Red-breasted Merganser 18; Bald Eagle 3; Northern Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 8; Rough-legged Hawk 4; hawk species 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 24; Ruffed Grouse 1; Bonaparte's Gull 4; Herring Gull 766; Great Black-backed Gull 27; Thick-billed Murre 1; Razorbill 3; Black Guillemot 5; Rock Dove 148; Mourning Dove 390; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 16; Northern Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Blue Jay 317; American Crow 237; Common Raven 47; Black-capped Chickadee 207; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; American Robin 53; European Starling 1620; Cedar Waxwing 50; American Tree Sparrow 19; Song Sparrow 20; White-throated Sparrow 34; Dark-eyed Junco 165; sparrow species 1; Snow Bunting 25; Northern Cardinal 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 30; Purple Finch 15; House Finch 5; Common Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 14; American Goldfinch 89; Evening Grosbeak 2; House Sparrow 39.

**Total Species 60, about 6171 individuals.** (CW Osprey, Short-eared Owl) Ruby Adams, Bob Bennett, Renalda Bennett, Sheila Bestany,

Marilyn Brown, Betty Burrell, Mildred Burrell, Shirley Burrell, Jan Coulter, Dinah Dalton, Graham Dalton, Valerie Davis, Joyce Dobson, Paula Dodaro, Ken Eyre, Hannelore Fisher, Fred Fletcher, Freda Fox, Barry Frail, Geraldine Frail, Perry Freeman, Fran Higgs, Penny Hoover, Marg Horsfall, Connie Horsfall, Andrew Ionson, Cliff Jones, Ginny Langley, Janet Larkman, Karen Lewis, Abby Marshall, Ashley McCormick, Jeff McCormick, Luke McCormick, Jane McDowell, Ernie Miller, June Miller, Carol Milligan, Brenda Montgomery, Valerie Mount, Don Mullen, Marion Mullen, Gini Proulx, Lisa Proulx, Valerie Richards, Andie Rierden, Mick Scomed, Barb Selig, **David Tinker (compiler)**, Jack Turner, Julie Turner, Carl White.

**ANTIGONISH**, Dec 15; 7:20 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp. 5 to 7 °C. Wind W 30-60 kph. Snow variable, patchy. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Partly cloudy, light rain all day. 16 field observers in 7 parties and 12 at feeders. Total party hours 39.75 (17.25 by foot, 22.5 by car). Total party kilometers 395 (28 by foot, 367 by car).

Red-throated Loon 7; Common Loon 5; Horned Grebe 12; Red-necked Grebe 4; Great Cormorant 8; cormorant species 1; Canada Goose 652; American Black Duck 375; Mallard 23; **Green-winged Teal 2**; scaup species 1; Surf Scoter 34; White-winged Scoter 3; Long-tailed Duck 50; Common Goldeneye 177; Common Merganser 32; Red-breasted Merganser 45; merganser species 2; duck species 57; Bald Eagle 62; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 5; hawk species 1; Ruffed Grouse 10; Black-headed Gull 30; Bonaparte's Gull 20; Ring-billed Gull 34; Herring Gull 328; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 80; gull species 75; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 2; Rock Dove 275; Mourning Dove 213; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Pileated

Woodpecker 3; woodpecker species 1; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 152; American Crow 390; Common Raven 28; Black-capped Chickadee 227; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 11; Golden-crowned Kinglet 50; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2**; American Robin 89; European Starling 1164; American Tree Sparrow 54; Song Sparrow 13; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 65; sparrow species 1; Common Grackle 1; Common Redpoll 15; Pine Siskin 4; American Goldfinch 73; finch species 8; Evening Grosbeak 17; House Sparrow 11.

**Total Species 56, about 5020 individuals.** (CW White-breasted Nuthatch). Martha Brown, Leslie Buckland-Nicks, Steve Bushell, Anne Camozzi, Regina Cozzi, Jean Gillis, Mary Goring, Vera Goring, Shirley Kirk, Leslie Klapstein, **Randy Lauff (compiler)**, Anne Louise MacDonald, Leo MacDonald, Adrienne MacLaughlin, Ernie MacLaughlin; Bill Marshall, Paul McClung, Ken McKenna, Kerstin Mueller, Kevin O'Brien, Marilyn O'Brien, Beth Parker, Jeff Parker, Monica Schuegraf, Norman Seymour, Bunny Smith, Roth Wehrell.

**APPLE RIVER**, Dec 30; 7:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp. -14 to -5 °C. Wind N 20-30 kph. Snow 25 cm. Still water frozen, moving partly frozen. A.M. Clear, P.M. partly cloudy. 13 field observers in 4-5 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 37.25 (9.5 on foot, 25.25 by car, 2.5 by skis). Total party kilometers 265 (19.5 by foot, 243 by car, 2.5 by skis).

Common Loon 2; Horned Grebe 2; cormorant species 3; Canada Goose 10; American Black Duck 402; Mallard 4; scaup species 1; Common Eider 6; Surf Scoter 6; White-winged Scoter 2; Long-tailed Duck 4; Common Goldeneye 18; Common Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 6; duck species 1; Bald Eagle 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 4; hawk species 1; Ruffed Grouse 13; Spruce Grouse 2; Purple Sandpiper 35; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 196; Great Black-backed Gull 9; gull species 30; Mourning Dove 106; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 2;

Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Northern Shrike 2; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 29; American Crow 112; Common Raven 18; Black-capped Chickadee 62; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 20; **Swainson's Thrush 1**; European Starling 238; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; American Tree Sparrow 53; Song Sparrow 11; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 23; **Rusty Blackbird 1**; Northern Cardinal 1; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Common Grackle 23; Purple Finch 6; White-winged Crossbill 42; Common Redpoll 1; American Goldfinch 43; finch species 2; Evening Grosbeak 32; House Sparrow 8.

**Total Species 56, about 1627 individuals.** (CW Ring-necked Pheasant, Pine grosbeak). Sapphire Brine, Karl Cole, Joan Czapalay, Christie Finney, George Finney, Ross Galbraith, Jason Hudson, Andrew Kennedy, Andrew MacFarlane, Bruce MacFarlane, Maureen Mills, Kathy Popma, Blaine Spicer, Cynthia D. Spicer, **Kathleen F. Spicer (compiler)**.

**BARRINGTON BAY/CAPE SABLE ISLAND**, Dec 14; 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Temp. 2 to 5 °C. Wind SE 70 kph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Cloudy, light to heavy rain all day. 28 field observers in 10 parties, 2 at feeders. 2 hours and 15 kilometers owling. Total party hours 65 (24 on foot, 40 by car, 1 by boat). Total party kilometers 450 (30 by foot, 416 by car, 4 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 3; Common Loon 49; Horned Grebe 3; Red-necked Grebe 35; Northern Fulmar 3; Northern Gannet 4; Double-crested Cormorant 12; Great Cormorant 139; Great Blue Heron 5; **Black-crowned Night Heron 1**; Canada Goose 645; Brant 1; American Black Duck 553; Mallard 68; Northern Pintail 13; teal species 1; Greater Scaup 249; Common Eider 1440; Harlequin Duck 5; Surf Scoter 5; White-winged Scoter 26; Black Scoter 38; Long-tailed Duck 75; Bufflehead 50; Common Goldeneye 20; Hooded Merganser 25; Common Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 84; Bald Eagle 1; Northern Harrier 6; Sharp-shinned

Hawk 2; American Kestrel 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 14; Ruffed Grouse 4; Black-bellied Plover 57; **Ruddy Turnstone 15**; Red Knot 45; Sanderling 400; **Semi-palmated/Western Sandpiper species 15**; **White-rumped Sandpiper 4**; Purple Sandpiper 43; Dunlin 450; **Common Gull 1**; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 1523; Iceland Gull 4; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 859; Black-legged Kittiwake 15; Dovekie 4; Black Guillemot 22; Rock Dove 11; Mourning Dove 321; Short-eared Owl 1; Snowy Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 8; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 15; Blue Jay 67; American Crow 422; Common Raven 14; Horned Lark 4; Black-capped Chickadee 114; Boreal Chickadee 12; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 46; American Robin 15; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 1922; **Nashville Warbler 1**; Yellow-rumped Warbler 53; **Bay-breasted Warbler 1 (no details)**; American Tree Sparrow 8; **Lark Sparrow 1**; Savannah Sparrow 9; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 8; Song Sparrow 98; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 196; Dark-eyed Junco 102; Northern Cardinal 6; Dickcissel 1; **Easter n Meadowlark 3**; Common Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 55; Purple Finch 1; American Goldfinch 36; House Sparrow 60.

**Total Species 90, about 10679 individuals.** (CW Pied-billed Grebe, Greater Shearwater, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, **Cooper's Hawk**, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, **Greater Yellowlegs**, Bonaparte's Gull, White-breasted Nuthatch, Common Yellowthroat, Chipping Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird). Jonathan Atkinson, Edna Crowell, Terry Crowell, David Currie, Joan Czapalay, Donna Ensor, Paul Gould, James Hirtle, June Graves, Eric Harding, Michael Kieley, Grant Milroy, Joyce Milroy, Ethelda Murphy, Blake Maybank, Carla Newell, **Murray Newell (compiler)**, Johnny Nickerson, Sandra Nickerson, Lillian Perry, Ailene Smith, Betty June Smith, Sidney Smith, Wayne Smith, Clyde Stoddard.

**BEDFORD/SACKVILLE**, Dec 29; 7:30 a.m. to 5 P.M. Temp. -4 to -1 °C. Wind WNW 0-10 kph. Snow 15-20 cm. Still water partly open, moving water partly frozen. Skies cloudy all day. 38 field observers in 22 parties, 25 at feeders. Total party hours 109 (67.5 on foot, 41.5 by car). Total party kilometers 811 (120 by foot, 691 by car)

Common Loon 4; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Cormorant 10; Wood Duck 1; American Wigeon 9; American Black Duck 785; Mallard 120; Black Duck/Mallard hybrid 10; Northern Pintail 2; White-winged Scoter 1; Bufflehead 1; Common Goldeneye 118; Barrow's Goldeneye 6; Hooded Merganser 50; Common Merganser 8; Red-breasted Merganser 12; Bald Eagle 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 7; Broad-winged Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Ring-necked Pheasant 14; Ring-billed Gull 41; Herring Gull 605; Iceland Gull 9; Great Black-backed Gull 43; Rock Dove 706; Mourning Dove 263; Belted Kingfisher 5; Downy Woodpecker 68; Hairy Woodpecker 29; Northern Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Blue Jay 615; American Crow 5335; Common Raven 34; Black-capped Chickadee 902; Boreal Chickadee 25; Red-breasted Nuthatch 36; White-breasted Nuthatch 20; Brown Creeper 18; Golden-crowned Kinglet 126; American Robin 27; Northern Mockingbird 2; European Starling 2408; Bohemian Waxwing 2; Cedar Waxwing 6; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 2; **Yellow-breasted Chat 1; Eastern Towhee 1;** American Tree Sparrow 30; Chipping Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 81; White-throated Sparrow 66; Dark-eyed Junco 914; sparrow species 5; Northern Cardinal 1; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 1; Purple Finch 17; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 5; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 682; finch species 19; House Sparrow 434.

**Total Species 63, about 14,767 individuals.** (CW Canada Goose, Evening Grosbeak) Bill Billington, Eileen Billington, Suzanne Borkowski, Marilyn Challis, Pat Chalmers, Garth Chalmers, Margaret Clark, Lois Codling, Charles Cron, Jamie Crosby, Davina Davis, Gisele d'Entremont,

Heather Drope, Margaret Ellis, Rosemary Gallinger, Diedrich Grecian, Jean Hartley, Elliot Hays, Judy Hays, Betty Hollebhone, Andy Horn, David Hughes, Janey Hughes, Shirley Hughes, William Hughes, Jeff Hutchings, Elizabeth Keizer, Carol Klar, Lori Dawn Krueger, Betty Kulin, Ed Kulin, Fulton Lavender, Pat Leader, Marina LeBlanc, Peter LeBlanc, Tracey Lutz-Noel, Don McLaughlin, Colonel MacLellan, Don MacNeill, Jean MacPherson, Hugh MacPherson, **Bob McDonald (compiler)**, Wendy McDonald, Ian McLaren, Bernice Moores, Hay Mortimer, Marc Noel, Maureen Nowlan, **Rich Peckham (compiler)**, Anne Pellerine, Joe Pitzel, Walter Regan, Helga Sansom, Mike Sansom, Barry Sawyer, Jean Sawyer, Sibyl Spriggs, Azor Vienneau.

**BIG POND/ESKASONI**, Dec 29; 8:00 a.m. to 5 P.M. Temp. -3 to -1 °C. Wind NW 5-10 kph. Snow 15 cm. Still water frozen, moving partly water open. A.M. Partly clear, P.M. partly cloudy. 20 field observers in 7 parties, 5 at feeders, 1.5 hour and 17 km. owling. Total party hours 35.25 (15.5 on foot, 19.75 by car). Total party kilometers 229.4 (24 by foot, 205.4 by car).

Red-throated Loon 13; Common Loon 5; loon species 1; Horned Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 3; cormorant species 1; Canada Goose 40; American Black Duck 52; White-winged Scoter 13; Common Goldeneye 106; Common Merganser 45; Red-breasted Merganser 241; Bald Eagle 19; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Northern Goshawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Herring Gull 41; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 10; Rock Dove 7; Mourning Dove 16; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 7; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Pileated Woodpecker 9; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 107; American Crow 182; Common Raven 23; Black-capped Chickadee 227; Boreal Chickadee 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch 12; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 60; American Robin 189; European Starling 145; American Pipit 2; Bohemian waxwing 140; Cedar Waxwing 147; American Tree Sparrow 24; Chipping Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 15; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 94; Pine Grosbeak 12;

Purple Finch 8; White-winged Crossbill 5; Pine Siskin 2; American Goldfinch 176; Evening Grosbeak 26; House Sparrow 30.

**Total Species 49, about 2305 individuals.** George Ball, Terry Boone, Donald Campbell, George Digout, Sharon Digout, Joe Donovan, Dave Harris, John MacInnis, John MacKay, Alanna MacNeil, Brian MacNeil, Duncan MacNeil, **Jack MacNeil (compiler)**, Weldon MacPhail, Dave McCorquodale, Eric McCorquodale, Geraldine Metcalfe, Junior Metcalfe, Susann Myers, Jim Siteman, Pauline Siteman, Don Tuttle, Christine Thompson, Fred White, Melvin White.

**BRIDGETOWN**, Dec 28; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -5 to -1 °C. Wind W 10 kph. Snow 17 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies clear all day. 4 field observers in 2 parties, 33 at feeders. Total party hours 12 (3.5 on foot, 8.5 by car). Total party kilometers 184 (16 by foot, 168 by car).

Common Loon 9; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 8; American Black Duck 1; Common Eider 122; Harlequin 2; Surf Scoter 26; White-winged Scoter 78; Long-tailed Duck 55; **Barrow's Goldeneye 2;** Red-breasted Merganser 5; Bald Eagle 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 12; Rough-legged Hawk 2; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 24; Herring Gull 58; Great Black-backed Gull 6; Rock Dove 140; Mourning Dove 314; Downy Woodpecker 9; Hairy Woodpecker 15; Blue Jay 228; American Crow 193; Common Raven 29; Black-capped Chickadee 183; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; American Robin 71; European Starling 1110; Bohemian Waxwing 55; Cedar Waxwing 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 2; American Tree Sparrow 43; Song Sparrow 35; White-throated Sparrow 11; Dark-eyed Junco 142; Common Grackle 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 25; Purple Finch 4; American Goldfinch 201; Evening Grosbeak 5; House Sparrow 84.

**Total Species 46, about 3337 individuals.** (CW Ruffed Grouse, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl,

Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal). Thelma Bent, Joyce Burbridge, Bill Chambers, Pearl Chambers, **David Colville (compiler)**, Justin Colville, Jan Coulter, Eleanor Duncan, Marilyn Durling, Noel Durling, Marie Gaul, Sharon Hawboldt, Steve Hawboldt, Marg Hirtle, Avora Howse, Donna Jones, Ron Jones, Bev Marshall, Fred Marshall, Marg Messinger, Doug Parker, Carl Phinney, Danny Phinney, Linda Phinney, Erma Rains, Jean Smith, Jory Smith, Phyl Spicer, Marg Taylor, Alberta Wade, Gladdie Weir, Jim Whitman, Marion Whitman, Lib Woolaver, Faye Young.

**BRIER ISLAND**, Dec 22; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 2 to 7 °C. Wind W 5-30 kph. Snow cover 0-5 cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. Cloudy light rain all day. 7 field observers in 1-4 parties. Total party hours 22 (8 on foot, 5 by car, 9 by boat). Total party kilometers 74 (15 by foot, 35 by car, 24 by boat)

Common Loon 22; Horned Grebe 4; Red-necked Grebe 8; Northern Fulmar 200, **Greater Shearwater 10**; Northern Gannet 59; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 132; Turkey Vulture 1; American Black Duck 21; Mallard 1; Common Eider 58; Black Scoter 1; Long-tailed Duck 94; Common Goldeneye 70; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Red-breasted Merganser 35; Northern Harrier 1; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 54; **Pomarine Jaeger 1**; Herring Gull 465; Iceland Gull 15; Glaucous Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 108; Black-legged Kittiwake 681; Dovekie **501**; Razorbill **640**; Black Guillemot 23; Atlantic Puffin 100; Rock Dove 14; Mourning Dove 11; American Crow 43; Common Raven 8; Black-capped Chickadee 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; European Starling 100; Song Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 1; House Sparrow 18.

**Total Species 40, about 3517 individuals.** (CW Horned Lark, White-throated Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Purple Finch), Louise Garron, Barbara Giffin, Pat Giffin, Carl Haycock, **Richard Stern (compiler)**, June Swift.

**BROAD COVE**, Dec 30; 7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp. -6 to -8 °C. Wind NW 15-40 kph. Snow 6 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. partly cloudy, light snow. P.M. Partly clear. 27 field observers in 13 parties. 2 hours and 23 kilometers owling. Total party hours 88.5 (47.75 on foot, 34.75 by car, 6 by boat). Total party kilometers 623.5 (65 by foot, 538.5 by car, 20 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 4; Common Loon 58; Horned Grebe 32; Red-necked Grebe 29; Great Cormorant 21; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 601; American Black Duck 490; Mallard 458; Greater Scaup 50; Common Eider 118; Surf Scoter 51; White-winged Scoter 20; Black Scoter 166; Long-tailed Duck 170; Bufflehead 136; Common Goldeneye 72; Hooded Merganser 38; Common Merganser 71; Red-breasted Merganser 186; Bald Eagle 6; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 10; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Ruffed Grouse 3; Spruce Grouse 1; Sanderling 10; Dunlin 7; Bonaparte's Gull 6; Ring-billed Gull 33; Herring Gull 854; Iceland Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 263; **Forster's Tern 1**; Thick-billed Murre 2; Black Guillemot 6; Rock Dove 144; Mourning Dove 300; Great Horned Owl 1; Northern Saw-whet Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 14; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Northern Flicker 8; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 283; American Crow 647; Common Raven 44; Black-capped Chickadee 333; Boreal Chickadee 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 50; American Robin 203; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 950; Cedar Waxwing 10; Yellow-rumped Warbler 14; American Tree Sparrow 91; Savannah Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 94; White-throated Sparrow 150; Dark-eyed Junco 799; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Purple Finch 58; White-winged Crossbill 3; American Goldfinch 176.

**Total Species 70, about 8390 individuals.** (CW Northern Gannet, Double-crested Cormorant, Harlequin Duck, **Peregrine Falcon**, Purple

Sandpiper, Dovekie, Snow Bunting), Bruce Allen, Ruth Ballem, Peter Bell, Barbara Byrd, Kay Casselman, Bill Caudle, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, **Donna Ensor, Sylvia Fullerton (compiler)**, Gary Hartlen, James Hirtle, Blair Hodgman, Michael Kieley, Ian McLaren, Blake Maybank, Eileen Morrison, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Christine Ross, Nellie Snyder, Clarence Stevens Sr., Francis Stevens, David Young.

**CALEDONIA**, Dec 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5 P.M. Temp. -5 to -1 °C. Wind NW 10 kph. Snow 15 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies cloudy all day. 22 field observers in 12 parties, 18 at feeders. Total party hours 35 (30.5 on foot, 3 by car). Total party kilometers 42 (32 by foot, 10 by car).

American Black Duck 7; Bald Eagle 2; Ruffed Grouse 7; Spruce Grouse 1; Mourning Dove 33; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 13; Hairy Woodpecker 11; **Black-backed Woodpecker 1**; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 105; American Crow 28; Common Raven 56; Black-capped Chickadee 180; Red-breasted Nuthatch 16; White-breasted Nuthatch 13; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; European Starling 87; American Tree Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 11; White-throated Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 110; sparrow species 20; Common Grackle 1; Purple Finch 34; Red Crossbill 5; Common Redpoll 2; Pine Siskin 25; American Goldfinch 221; Evening Grosbeak 89.

**Total Species 31, about 1097 individuals.** (CW Common Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk), Pat Canning, Eric Cole, Judy Cole, Alice Drysdale, Cliff Drysdale, Judy Flemming, Rod Ford, Myra Holdright, Peter Hope, Jennifer Hopper, **Peggy Hopper (compiler)**, Steve Hopper, John Inkpen, Jackie Jorrisen, Heather Jorrisen-Small, Mary Kierstead, Rod Kierstead, Amanda Lavers, Leslie Lewis, Julie Meisner, Dawn Payzant, Elliott Payzant, Barb Rogers, Peter Rogers, Terje Rogers, Jonathan Sheppard, Sheila Sheppard, Tom Sheppard, David Small, Shirley Smith.

**CANSO TOWN**, Jan 5; 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp. -1 to 1 °C. Wind N 30 kph. Snow 35-40 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. Cloudy, P.M. Partly clear. 4 field observers in 2 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 14.6 (5 on foot, 9.6 by car). Total party kilometers 206.5 (4.5 by foot, 202 by car).

Common Loon 21; Horned Grebe 4; Red-necked Grebe 2; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 16; Great Blue Heron 1; American Black Duck 45; Greater Scaup 4; Lesser Scaup 1; Common Eider 84; Surf Scoter 14; White-winged Scoter 6; Long-tailed Duck 46; Bufflehead 10; Common Goldeneye 67; Red-breasted Merganser 81; duck species 1; Bald Eagle 8; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; hawk species 1; **American Woodcock 1**; Herring Gull 100; Iceland Gull 25; Great Black-backed Gull 29; Dovekie 14; Black Guillemot 24; Rock Dove 56; Mourning Dove 86; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern Flicker 2; Blue Jay 11; American Crow 99; Common Raven 18; Black-capped Chickadee 41; Boreal Chickadee 23; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 6; **Eastern Bluebird 4**; American Robin 233; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 521; Cedar Waxwing 28; Yellow-rumped Warbler 51; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 52; Savannah Sparrow 3; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 18; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 8; Dark-eyed Junco 79; sparrow species 1; **Dickcissel 2**; Pine Grosbeak 1; American Goldfinch 61; House Sparrow 49.

**Total Species 56, about 2072 individuals.** (CW Mallard, Gray Jay, Bohemian Waxwing, Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow, Purple Finch, Evening Grosbeak), **Steve Bushell (compiler)**, May Goring, June Jarvis, Tom Kavanaugh, Randy Lauff, Clyde MacKenzie, Ken McKenna, Roseanne McMullin, Joe Murphy, Grace Walsh.

**CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS**, Dec 28; Temp. -5 °C. Winds calm to 10 kph. Still water frozen, moving water open. Partly clear all day. 18 field observers in

8 parties, 10 at feeders. Total party hours 18 (7 on foot, 11 by car). Total party kilometers 104.5 (10.5 by foot, 94 by car).

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 2; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 4; Great Cormorant 60; Canada Goose 33; American Black Duck 35; Common Eider 37; White-winged Scoter 35; Black Scoter 21; Long-tailed Duck 228; Bufflehead 17; Common Goldeneye 171; Red-breasted Merganser 103; Bald Eagle 10; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Purple Sandpiper 66; shorebird species 1; Black-headed Gull 5; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 46; Iceland Gull 29; Great Black-backed Gull 19; Dovekie 6; Black Guillemot 78; Rock Dove 28; Mourning Dove 48; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Northern Shrike 1; Blue Jay 59; American Crow 241; Common Raven 17; Black-capped Chickadee 86; Boreal Chickadee 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch 8; Golden-crowned Kinglet 60; American Robin 43; European Starling 149; Bohemian Waxwing 72; Cedar Waxwing 54; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; American Tree Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 143; Purple Finch 2; Pine Siskin 9; American Goldfinch 24; Evening Grosbeak 11.

**Total Species 51, about 2107 individuals.** (CW Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Gray Jay). James Bridgland, Julie Dauphinee, Heather Dauphinee-Wilson, Jeanie Doyle, Lynn Ellis, Chris Gorey, Ross Ingraham, Ellen Ingraham, Beth Kent, **Sheldon Lambert (compiler)**, David McCorquodale, Fritz McEvoy, John McKay, Freeman Morris, Ann Marie Morrison, Erich Muntz, Ken Murray, Marjorie Murray, Tim Reynolds, Marlene Scothern, Ken Verner.

**CHETICAMP**, Dec 14; 7:00 a.m. to 5 P.M. Temp. -2 to 2 °C. Wind SSE 10-20 kph. Snow 5 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M Partly cloudy. P.M. Cloudy. 8 field observers in 6 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 19.05 (10.8 on foot, 8.25 by car). Total party kilometers 136.7 (23.7 by foot, 113 by car).

Loon species 2; Northern Gannet 4; Double-crested Cormorant 17; Great Cormorant 5; cormorant species 3; American Black Duck 119; Mallard 2; Northern Pintail 1; Common Eider 2; White-winged Scoter 1; Common Goldeneye 86; Common Merganser 46; Red-breasted Merganser 6; duck species 7; Bald Eagle 13; Northern Goshawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 153; Iceland Gull 10; Glaucous Gull 12; Great Black-backed Gull 85; gull species 39; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 10; Mourning Dove 15; Northern Flicker 3; Blue Jay 20; American Crow 122; Common Raven 18; Black-capped Chickadee 37; Boreal Chickadee 16; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 2; European Starling 1878; American Tree Sparrow 1; Snow Bunting 80; White-winged Crossbill 120; House Sparrow 12.

**Total Species 38, about 2956 individuals.** (CW Red-tailed Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak). Clarence Barrett, David Deveau, **Gordon Delaney (compiler)**, Sheldon Lambert, David Lawley, Edna Poirier, Jean Timmons, Margo Timmons.

**ECONOMY**, Dec 27; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. -20 to -18 °C. Wind N-NW 20-40 kph. Snow 10-20 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 7 field observers in 6 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 48 (37 on foot, 11 by car). Total party kilometers 169 (39 by foot, 130 by car)

American Black Duck 761; Mallard 5; Surf Scoter 14; White-winged Scoter 13; Long-tailed Duck 3; Bufflehead 25; Common Goldeneye 12; Common Merganser 6; Bald Eagle 5; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 3; Purple Sandpiper 8; Black-headed Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 47; Herring Gull 336; Great Black-backed Gull 13; Rock Dove 66; Mourning Dove 94; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Northern Shrike 1; Blue

Jay 38; American Crow 103; Common Raven 28; Black-capped Chickadee 107; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 11; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 26; American Robin 3; European Starling 329; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 41; Song Sparrow 13; White-throated Sparrow 7; Dark-eyed Junco 233; Snow Bunting 73; Common Grackle 1; Purple Finch 3; White-winged Crossbill 17; Pine Siskin 22; American Goldfinch 58; Evening Grosbeak 3; House Sparrow 39.

**Total Species 47, about 2599 individuals.** Shannon Breen, Irene Cooke, Jean Corbett, Linda Corbett, Ken McKenna, Bob McLaughlin, Brad McLaughlin, Audrey McLellan, Bill Murphy, Betty Spalding, **Fran Spalding (compiler).**

**HALIFAX/DARTMOUTH,** Dec 14; 7:30 a.m. to 5 P.M. Temp. 2 to 4 °C. Wind E 10-60 kph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy. P.M. cloudy, heavy rain. 78 field observers in 39-44 parties, 51 at feeders, 2.5 hours and 7km. owling. Total parties hours 230 (191.5 on foot, 38 by car, .5 by boat). Total party kilometers 656.5 (164 by foot, 492 by car, .5 by boat)

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 41; Horned Grebe 2; Red-necked Grebe 83; Northern Gannet 7; Double-crested Cormorant 33; Great Cormorant 184; Great Blue Heron 7; Canada Goose 7320; **Gadwall 1; Eurasian Wigeon 3;** American Wigeon 80; American Black Duck 13651; Mallard 665; Northern Pintail 1; Green-winged Teal 1; **Tufted Duck 1;** Greater Scaup 270; Lesser Scaup 7; Common Eider 1671; Harlequin Duck 3; Surf Scoter 57; White-winged Scoter 37; Black Scoter 77; scoter species 40; Long-tailed Duck 73; Bufflehead 31; Common Goldeneye 176; Hooded Merganser 12; Common Merganser 64; Red-breasted Merganser 396; **Ruddy Duck 2;** Bald Eagle 15; Northern Harrier 8; Sharp-shinned Hawk 11; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 3; American Kestrel 1; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 21; Ruffed Grouse 6; Spruce Grouse 1; Sanderling 6; Purple Sandpiper 103; Dunlin 8; **Ruff 1;** Black-headed Gull

126; Bonaparte's Gull 8; Ring-billed Gull 842; Herring Gull 3034; **Thayer's Gull 2;** Iceland Gull 795; Glaucous Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 388; Black-legged Kittiwake 6; **Forster's Tern 2;** Dovekie 7; Common Murre 15; Razorbill 117; Black Guillemot 30; Atlantic Puffin 11; Rock Dove 1838; Mourning Dove 429; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 1; Northern Saw-whet Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 2; **Red-bellied Woodpecker 1;** Downy Woodpecker 78; Hairy Woodpecker 28; Northern Flicker 29; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 636; American Crow 1342; Common Raven 52; **Tree Swallow 6;** Black-capped Chickadee 1290; Boreal Chickadee 33; Red-breasted Nuthatch 52; White-breasted Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 25; **Winter Wren 1;** Golden-crowned Kinglet 298; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3;** Hermit Thrush 1; American Robin 92; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 12058; American Pipit 6; Cedar Waxwing 3; Orange-crowned Warbler 6; Yellow-rumped Warbler 65; Pine Warbler 2; Yellow-breasted Chat 5; American Tree Sparrow 60; **Field Sparrow 1;** Savannah Sparrow 25; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 238; Swamp Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 219; Dark-eyed Junco 527; Lapland Longspur 10; Northern Cardinal 16; Common Grackle 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Purple Finch 31; **House Finch 10;** White-winged Crossbill 3; American Goldfinch 535; House Sparrow 1190.

**Total Species 111, about 51842 individuals.** Peter Ackerman, Dana Alexis, Marilyn Baker, Brenda Bale, Laurel Banks, Steve Barbour, Jason Bevkens, Bill Billington, Eileen Billington, Elaine Black, Suzanne Borkowski, Andrew Boyne, Peggy Cameron, Robert Cameron, Patricia Chalmers, Gavin Charles, Tony Charles, Sarah Chisholm, Freeman Churchill, Andrea Clouston, Alan Covert, Evelyn Cox, Phyliss Cox, Mike Crowell, Kevin Curry, Gisele d'Entremont, Ron Dicks, Heather Drope, Nancy Duffy, Catherine Early, Eric Eddy, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, Laura Elliott, Wanetta Evans, Chris Field, Bill Freidman, Lou Gass, Glen Gibson, Fred Greig, Richard

Hamilton, Richard Hatch, David Henry, Andy Horn, Bill Hughes, Dave Hughes, Janey Hughes, Shirley Hughes, Jeff Hutchings, Patricia James, Joan Keith, Todd Keith, Elizabeth Keizer, Charles Kron, **Fulton Lavender (compiler),** Peter LeBlanc, John Locke, Pam Lynch, Lesley MacDonald, Mike MacDonald, Dave MacKinnon, Christopher Majka, Candice Malcolm, Gibbon Malcolm, Steve Malcolm, Muriel Marriott, Adrien Maynard, Kelly Maynard, Tom Maynard, Bob McDonald, Andrea McIvor, Eva McKay, Robert McKay, Bernice McLaren, Ian McLaren, Mary McLaren, Don McLaughlin, Bob McQueston, D. McQueston, Pat McKay, Bernice Moores, Maureen Nowlan, Minga O'Brien, Etta Parker, Rich Peckham, Brian Petersman, Don Purchase, Donna Rammo, Jorg Santoval, Doug Sherman, Albert Sparks, Cindy Staicer, Clarence Stevens Sr., Clarence Stevens Jr., Liz Tait, Yvonne Taylor, B. Thompson, Hans Toom, Julie Towers, Bob Warrior, Dottie Welch, Ann Wetmore, Mel Whalen, Dave Wilson, Rob Woods, **Scott Yetman (compiler).**

**KINGSTON,** Dec 14; 7:15 a.m. to 4:00 P.M. Temp. 1 to 4 °C. Wind NE 2-8kph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. A.M. cloudy, foggy, light rain. P.M. cloudy, foggy light to heavy rain. 14 field observers in 9 parties, 67 at feeders. Total party hours 39.25 (6 on foot, 33.25 by car). Total party kilometers 369 (19 by foot, 350 by car)

loon species 3; Horned Grebe 6; Red-necked Grebe 1; Double-crested Cormorant 5; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 9; American Black Duck 51; Mallard 56; Common Eider 8; Black Scoter 39; Long-tailed Duck 10; Common Merganser 4; Red-breasted Merganser 14; Bald Eagle 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Merlin 1; **Peregrine Falcon 1;** Ring-necked Pheasant 29; Purple Sandpiper 14; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 57; Great Black-backed Gull 9; Rock Dove 142; Mourning Dove 402; Barred Owl 1; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1;** Downy Woodpecker 64; Hairy Woodpecker 33; Northern Flicker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Blue Jay 350; American



Crow 610; Common Raven 40; Black-capped Chickadee 677; Red-breasted Nuthatch 17; White-breasted Nuthatch 32; Brown Creeper 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 53; American Robin 53; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 1689; Cedar Waxwing 75; **Yellow-breasted Chat 1**; American Tree Sparrow 13; Chipping Sparrow 12; Song Sparrow 22; White-throated Sparrow 24; Dark-eyed Junco 564; Northern Cardinal 2; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 78; Purple Finch 3; Common Redpoll 20; Pine Siskin 9; American Goldfinch 706; Evening Grosbeak 2; House Sparrow 53.

**Total Species 58, about 6093 individuals.** (CW Ruffed Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, Common Grackle) Ann Aikman, Merry Atwood, Gerald Baker, Vic Barnes, Doug Beaman, Abby Beaman, John Belbin, John Bossons, Aline Bossons, Ruth Brown, Edna Brunt, Ken Brunt, Michelle Bull, Bob Campbell, Karen Campbell, Tony Chaulk, Helene Cluett, John Collins, Ken Crowell, Ella Dalton, Murray Decker, Gordon Delaney, Claire Diggins, Jean Dixon, Norman Donovan, Betty Donovan, Byron Fenwick, Bob Foster, Sheila Gertridge, Barbara Giffin, **Patrick Giffin (compiler)**, Carole Gregory, Len Gregory, Shirley Harris, Ron Hill, Donna Hill, Sheila Hulford, Mike Inkpen, Ted Kadjas, Len Legarde, Diane Legarde, Jim Ludlow, Jane Ludlow, Art MacIntosh, Judy MacKenzie, Mary MacMillan, Tom Meers, Sandy Morrison, Evelyn Mumenick, Phil Mumenick, Gary Myers, Ron Osmond, Mary Osmond, Adora Parsons, Herb Parsons, Alice Patterson, Dan Patterson, Twila Robar-Decoste, Jim Robinson, Tom Ross, Jim Ross, Mike Russell, Helen Sharp, Herb Smale, Emily Stewart, Ralph Swinamer, Barb Thompson, Doris Tye, Angus Weeks, Margaret Weeks, George Wells, June Wells, Audrey Wellwood, Jane White, Cecil Wile, Grace Wile.

**LOUISBOURG**, Dec 14; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. -2 to 3 °C. Wind SSE 5 kph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. cloudy. P.M. partly clear. 23 field observers in 14 parties, 26 at feeders, 1

hours and 6km owling. Total party hours 67.5 (55.8 on foot, 8.7 by car, 3 by bicycle). Total party kilometers 166.2 (68.2 by foot, 83 by car, 15 by bicycle).

Red-throated Loon 3; Common Loon 16; Red-necked Grebe 7; Northern Gannet 20; Great Cormorant 34; cormorant species 3; Great Blue Heron 1; American Black Duck 60; Common Eider 288; Harlequin Duck 1; Surf Scoter 12; White-winged Scoter 76; Black Scoter 10; Long-tailed Duck 116; Bufflehead 22; Common Goldeneye 51; Common Merganser 14; Red-breasted Merganser 162; duck species 1; Bald Eagle 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Northern Goshawk 1; Merlin 1; hawk species 1; Ruffed Grouse 19; Spruce Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 79; **Parasitic Jaeger 1**; Black-headed Gull 12; Bonaparte's Gull 3; Herring Gull 69; Iceland Gull 25; Great Black-backed Gull 37; Black-legged Kittiwake 6; gull species 11; Dovekie 14; Common Murre 1; Thick-billed Murre 2; Black Guillemot 60; Rock Dove 4; Mourning Dove 153; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Northern Flicker 2; woodpecker species 1; Gray Jay 35; Blue Jay 154; American Crow 208; Common Raven 23; Black-capped Chickadee 243; Boreal Chickadee 121; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 192; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1**; American Robin 226; European Starling 363; Bohemian Waxwing 17; Cedar Waxwing 40; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Palm Warbler 1; warbler species 1; Song Sparrow 11; White-throated Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 106; sparrow species 1; Snow Bunting 9; Dickcissel 1; Pine Grosbeak 8; Purple Finch 12; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 67; Common Redpoll 502; American Goldfinch 424; Evening Grosbeak 1; House Sparrow 44.

**Total Species 72, about 4245 individuals.** (CW Horned Grebe, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Mockingbird, Common Grackle, Pine Siskin). Victor Anderson, Sandy Anthony, Jean Bagnell, Joe Bagnell, Brent Baker, Mary Lou

Blunden, Rob Boone, Theresa Boone, Judy Burke, Manning Burke, Philip Burke, Bill Bussey, Dianne Bussey, Eddie Bussey, Peter Chiasson, George Crowell, Barc Cunningham, Ken Donovan, Cyneth Hutt, Gordon Hutt, Chris Kennedy, Shirley Kennedy, Bethsheila Kent, John Lahey, Miles MacDonald, Patsy MacDonald, Walter MacDonald, John MacInnis, Brian MacLeod, Minne MacLeod, Ramona MacLeod, Philip MacPhail, Viola MacPhail, Pearl Magee, Philip Magee, David McCorquodale, John McKay, Geraldine Metcalfe, Hugh Metcalfe, Kevin Mittel, Joan Mills, Florence Miron, **Susann Myers (compiler)**, Bill O'Shea, Helen O'Shea, Lee Anne Reeves, Laura Saunders, Marmon Smith.

**LUNENBURG**, Jan 5; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 P.M. Temp. -2 to 2 °C. Wind N 15 kph. Snow 60-90 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Partly cloudy, light snow all day. 23 field observers in 12 parties, 15 at feeders. Total party hours 64.75 (34 on foot, 29.25 by car, 1.5 by boat). Total party kilometers 513.5 (82.5 by foot, 413 by car, 18 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 56; Horned Grebe 22; Red-necked Grebe 2; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 89; Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 85; American Black Duck 157; Mallard 335; Green-winged Teal 1; Greater Scaup 200; Lesser Scaup 12; **King Eider 1**; Common Eider 13; Surf Scoter 5; Long-tailed Duck 153; Bufflehead 8; Common Goldeneye 193; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Hooded Merganser 74; Common Merganser 107; Red-breasted Merganser 166; duck species 12; Bald Eagle 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 12; Rough-legged Hawk 1; hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 78; Black-headed Gull 9; Bonaparte's Gull 4; Ring-billed Gull 6; Herring Gull 1054; Iceland Gull 31; **Lesser Black-backed Gull 1**; Glaucous Gull 2; Great Black-backed Gull 250; Dovekie 2; Black Guillemot 92; Rock Dove 228; Mourning Dove 309; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 26; Hairy Woodpecker 14; Northern Flicker 7; Blue Jay 326; American Crow 760;

Common Raven 31; Black-capped Chickadee 520; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 13; White-breasted Nuthatch 5; Brown Creeper 4; **Carolina Wren 1**; Golden-crowned Kinglet 27; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; American Robin 684; European Starling 1400; Cedar Waxwing 16; Yellow-rumped Warbler 6; **Eastern Towhee 1**; American Tree Sparrow 78; Savannah Sparrow 2; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 113; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 90; Dark-eyed Junco 386; sparrow species 1; Northern Cardinal 4; Common Grackle 7; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 30; White-winged Crossbill 22; American Goldfinch 364; Evening Grosbeak 25; House Sparrow 91.

**Total Species 76, about 8854 individuals.** (CW Northern Harrier, Merlin, Red Crossbill, Pine Siskin). Joyce Allen, Bill Billington, Eileen Billington, Edith Burgess, Bill Caudle, Margery Dahn, Arlene Davies, Leighton Davies, Peter Davies, Mike Ernst, Nicole Ernst, Martha Farrar, Marnie Gent, Gary Hartlen, David Hasting, Steven Hiltz, **James Hirtle (compiler)**, Joanne Hubley, Fulton Lavender, Paul MacDonald, Don MacNeill, Blake Maybank, Ian McLaren, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Pat Morrison, Scottie Morrison, Jean Morse, Ed Porter, Laine Porter, Catherine Pross, Christine Ross, Steve Shewchuk, Nellie Snyder, Dave Watson, Bob Weld, Heather Weld, Heather Weld.

**MARGAREE**, Dec 18; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -4 to 1 °C. Wind NW 20 kph. Snow 8 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. partly cloudy. P.M. clear. 6 field observers in 4 parties, 3 at feeder. Total party hours 18 (8.5 on foot, 9.5 by car). Total party kilometers 116 (18 by foot, 98 by car)

Common Loon 2; Double-crested Cormorant 4; Canada Goose 6; American Black Duck 28; White-winged Scoter 3; Bufflehead 5; Common Goldeneye 22; Common Merganser 15; Bald Eagle 16; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 13; Herring Gull 90; Iceland Gull 9; Glaucous Gull 11; Great Black-backed

Gull 64; Mourning Dove 2; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 6; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 35; American Crow 175; Common Raven 15; Black-capped Chickadee 39; Boreal Chickadee 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; American Robin 10; European Starling 526; Bohemian Waxwing 54; Cedar Waxwing 39; Yellow-rumped Warbler 5; warbler species 1; American Tree Sparrow 12; Savannah Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 16; sparrow species 4; Snow Bunting 10; Common Grackle 20; Pine Grosbeak 5; Purple Finch 4; Common Redpoll 5; Pine Siskin 16; American Goldfinch 11; Evening Grosbeak 42; House Sparrow 3.

**Total Species 43, about 1382 individuals.** Barrie Fraser, Eunice Hart, **Frances Hart (compiler)**, Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, David Lawley, Maureen MacMillan, Verna MacMillan, Neil MacPhail.

**NORTHPORT**, Jan 5; 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 P.M. Temp. -3C. Wind NE blizzard. Snow 25 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy and blizzard conditions. 2 field observers in 1 party, 3 at feeder. Total party hours 4 (1 on foot, 3 by car). Total party kilometers 47 (2 by foot, 45 by car)

Bufflehead 6; Common Goldeneye 13; Spruce Grouse 1; Herring Gull 57; Iceland Gull 30; Great Black-backed Gull 6; Rock Dove 46; Mourning Dove 11; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 4; American Crow 395; Common Raven 2; Black-capped Chickadee 4; European Starling 17; Song Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 43; dark-eyed Junco 4; Snow Bunting 259; American Goldfinch 18.

**Total Species 19, about 926 individuals.** Wendy Baumann, Walter Brander, Heather MacDougall, June MacNeil, **Mary Jane MacNeil (compiler)**.

**PICTOU ISLAND**, Jan 1; 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 P.M. Temp. -4 to 4 °C. Wind S 7-30 kph. Snow 15-30 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. cloudy light snow and rain, P.M.

cloudy, light snow. 1 field observer in 1 party. Total party hours 4 (2 on foot, 2 by car). Total party kilometers 12 (2 by foot, 10 by car).

Horned Grebe 1; Common Eider 13; scoter species 23; Long-tailed Duck 27; Bald Eagle 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; sandpiper species 2; Herring Gull 9; Northern Flicker 1; Bluejay 7; American Crow 17; Black-capped Chickadee 2; American Robin 25; European Starling 35; Dark-eyed Junco 4.

**Total Species 15, about 168 individuals. Ron MacDonald (compiler).**

**PICTOU HARBOUR**, Jan 1; 7:20 a.m. to 5:00 P.M. Temp. -4 to 4 °C. Wind S 7-30 kph. Snow 15-30 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy with light rain or snow all day. 20 field observers in 9-10 parties, 23 at feeders, 0.5 hours and 1 kilometer owling. Total party hours 54 (28.5 on foot, 25.5 by car). Total party kilometers 575 (52 by foot, 523 by car).

Common Loon 1; Double-crested Cormorant 4; Canada Goose 784; **Gadwall 9**; American Black Duck 1133; Mallard 75; American Black Duck x Mallard (hybrid) 1; Northern Pintail 2; Green-winged Teal 1; Tufted Duck 2; Greater Scaup 3990; Lesser Scaup 50; Common Eider 11; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 4; Black Scoter 6; Long-tailed Duck 57; Bufflehead 8; Common Goldeneye 809; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Hooded Merganser 7; Common Merganser 662; Red-breasted Merganser 134; duck species 10; Bald Eagle 62; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 8; Ruffed Grouse 9; Ring-billed Gull 13; Herring Gull 1472; Iceland Gull 60; Great Black-backed Gull 71; gull species 1; Rock Dove 180; Mourning Dove 191; Belted Kingfisher 4; Downy Woodpecker 14; Hairy Woodpecker 20; Northern Flicker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Blue Jay 126; American Crow 1703; Common Raven 92; Black-capped Chickadee 345; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 20; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 18; American Robin 159;

Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 1964; Cedar Waxwing 34; American Tree Sparrow 70; Song Sparrow 13; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 181; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 40; Pine Grosbeak 10; Common Redpoll 50; Pine Siskin 3; American Goldfinch 234; finch species 10; House Sparrow 166.

**Total Species 60, about 15126 individuals.** (CW Ring-necked Pheasant). Harvey Bate, Margie Beck, Carron Bilodeau, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Pearl Chambers, Ivan Cozzi, Joan Czapalay, Bonnie Davidson, Bev Gale, Amber Goodwin, Barb Gould, Malcolm Gould, Bob Hanes, Elwin Hemphill, Janet Hemphill, Brian Jollita, Ann Lank, Randy Lauff, Eleanor MacKay, Jean MacLeod, Duncan MacMaster, Isabelle MacMaster, Harold Madore, Cathy Madore, Pat McCarron, Jean McGee, **Ken McKenna (compiler)**, Cheryl McLane, Bernice Moores, Gary Murray, Dan Panting, Joan Panting, Robert Reid, Tee Roberts, Henry Snow, Doreen Snow, Steve Vines, Jennifer Whitehouse, Judy Whitman, Donnie Wright.

**PORT L'HEBERT**, Dec 22; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 P.M. Temp. 2 to 6 °C. Wind SW 5-33kph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 13 field observers in 8 parties, 7 at feeders. Total party hours 46.75 (38.75 on foot, 8 by car). Total party kilometers 261 (58 by foot, 203 by car)

Common Loon 49; Horned Grebe 11; Red-necked Grebe 17; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 27; cormorant species 9; Canada Goose 1463; **Gadwall 1**; American Black Duck 396; Mallard 8; **Northern Shoveler 1**; Green-winged Teal 1; Greater Scaup 130; Common Eider 622; Harlequin Duck 76; Surf Scoter 6; White-winged Scoter 44; Black Scoter 50; Long-tailed Duck 47; Bufflehead 23; Common Goldeneye 35; Common Merganser 2; Red-breasted Merganser 74; duck species 30; Bald Eagle 3; Northern Harrier 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Merlin 1; hawk species 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Red Knot 1; Sanderling 104; Purple Sandpiper 2; Dunlin 110; shorebird species 3; Bonaparte's Gull

13; Ring-billed Gull 15; Herring Gull 1060; Iceland Gull 10; Great Black-backed Gull 434; Black Guillemot 22; Rock Dove 20; Mourning Dove 110; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 23; American Crow 118; Common Raven 11; Black-capped Chickadee 120; Boreal Chickadee 11; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 92; American Robin 344; European Starling 274; Yellow-rumped Warbler 86; American Tree Sparrow 18; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 36; White-throated Sparrow 33; Dark-eyed Junco 33; sparrow species 5; Snow Bunting 50; Northern Cardinal 1; **Baltimore Oriole 2**; Purple Finch 4; American Goldfinch 47; House Sparrow 20.

**Total Species 68, about 6392 individuals.** (CW Sharp-shinned Hawk, Dovekie, Chipping Sparrow, Evening Grosbeak). Kay Casselman, Lorraine Chapman, Bill Crosby, **Donna Crosby (compiler)**, Gail Daniels, Donna Ensor, Frances Fisher, Ray Fisher, Autumn Fiske, Dean Fiske, Emerson Fiske, Sylvia Fullerton, Bessie MacKay, Lauchlan MacKay, Danny Mason, Laura Mason, Ondin Pierce, Roger Ross, Clyde Stoddard, David Young.

**PUBNICO**, Dec 29; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 P.M. Temp. -1-2 °C. Wind NE 15 kph. Snow 2 cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, light snow. P. M. cloudy. 12 field observers in 6 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 33.25 (7.5 on foot, 25.75 by car). Total party kilometers 383 (11 by foot, 372 by car).

Common Loon 32; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 10; Great Cormorant 38; Great Blue Heron 3; Canada Goose 5; American Black Duck 168; Mallard 7; Greater Scaup 34; Common Eider 166; Surf Scoter 8; White-winged Scoter 1; Long-tailed Duck 22; Bufflehead 31; Common Goldeneye 68; Red-breasted Merganser 63; Bald Eagle 3; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Rough-legged Hawk 2; American Kestrel 3; Merlin 1; Ring-

necked Pheasant 6; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 1; Black-headed Gull 3; Ring-billed Gull 30; Herring Gull 797; Iceland Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 188; Black Guillemot 2; Rock Dove 8; Mourning Dove 210; Short-eared Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 6; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 15; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Northern Shrike 1; Blue Jay 58; American Crow 224; Common Raven 27; Black-capped Chickadee 88; Boreal Chickadee 9; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 10; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; American Robin 56; European Starling 508; Yellow-rumped Warbler 141; American Tree Sparrow 49; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 4; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 45; White-throated Sparrow 148; **White-crowned Sparrow 2**; Dark-eyed Junco 101; Northern Cardinal 7; **Dickcissel 1**; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Common Grackle 94; Brown-headed Cowbird 8; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 10; American Goldfinch 52; House Sparrow 26.

**Total Species 70, about 3635 individuals.** (CW Horned Lark, **Painted Bunting**) Albert d'Entremont, Lisette d'Entremont, Raymond S. d'Entremont, Benjamin D'Eon, Jerome D'Eon, Lester D'Eon, Nigel D'Eon, **Ted C. D'Eon (compiler)**, Paul Gould, Ethelda Murphy, Murray Newell, Doris Peters, Kenneth Peters, Barbara Ruff, Eric Ruff, Clyde Stoddard.

**ST. PETER'S**, Dec 27; 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp. -4 to -2 °C. Wind WNW 60-80 kph. Snow 15 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. cloudy light snow, P.M. cloudy. 9 field observers in 5 parties, 12 at feeders. Total party hours 34 (15.5 on foot, 18.5 by car). Total party kilometers 278.3 (13.3 by foot, 265 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 3; Horned Grebe 10; Red-necked Grebe 5; Northern Gannet 1; Great Cormorant 8; Canada Goose 4; American Black Duck 25; Mallard 7; American Black Duck/Mallard hybrid 1; **Ring-necked Duck 1**; Common Eider 94; White-winged Scoter 4; Black Scoter 3; Long-

tailed Duck 52; Common Goldeneye 63; Common Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 41; Bald Eagle 11; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Merlin 3; Black-headed Gull 3; Bonaparte's Gull 11; Ring-billed Gull 5; Herring Gull 307; Iceland Gull 14; Great Black-backed Gull 34; gull species 7; Dovekie 5; Black Guillemot 7; alcid species 2; Rock Dove 20; Mourning Dove 69; Downy Woodpecker 2; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 1; Gray Jay 11; Blue Jay 41; American Crow 174; Common Raven 20; Black-capped Chickadee 27; Boreal Chickadee 13; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; American Robin 2; European Starling 254; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 20; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 12; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 10; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 110; sparrow species 4; Purple Finch 13; American Goldfinch 68; Evening Grosbeak 7; House Sparrow 80.

**Total Species 57, about 1722 individuals.** (CW Great Blue Heron, Northern Goshawk, Ruffed Grouse, Razorbill, Atlantic Puffin, Belted Kingfisher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Common Grackle, Pine Grosbeak). Norman Bartholomew, Tony Burke, **Billy Digout (compiler)**, George Digout, Murdock Digout, Sharon Digout, Martha Holmes, Wendell Holmes, Dell Landry, Gordon Landry, Frances MacKay, Weldon MacPhail, Dave McCorquodale, Tom Murray, Susann Myers, Daniel Nightingale, Frances Oram, Sheila Pottie, Annie Vanderhoeden, Trevor Wilkie, Joe Wincey.

**SHUBENACADIE**, Dec 15; 6:50 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 3 to 5 °C. Wind SW-W 15-50 kph. Snow 5 cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. foggy, light to heavy rain, P.M. cloudy, light rain. 37 field observers in 21 parties, 39 at feeders. Total party hours 70.25 (34 on foot, 36.25 by car). Total party kilometers 293.5 (46.25 by foot, 257.25 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 221; American Black Duck 157; Mallard 19; Common Goldeneye 1; Common

Merganser 275; Bald Eagle 25; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 9; Ring-necked Pheasant 59; Ruffed Grouse 14; Wilson's Snipe 1; Ring-billed Gull 23; Herring Gull 377; Great Black-backed Gull 17; gull species 10; Rock Dove 396; Mourning Dove 435; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 30; Hairy Woodpecker 17; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 7; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 291; American Crow 802; Common Raven 196; Black-capped Chickadee 542; Boreal Chickadee 14; Red-breasted Nuthatch 15; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 171; American Robin 9; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 3680; Cedar Waxwing 27; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 46; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 6; White-throated Sparrow 15; Dark-eyed Junco 150; Snow Bunting 12; Red-winged Blackbird 125; Common Grackle 12; Brown-headed Cowbird 2; Pine Grosbeak 3; Purple Finch 32; Common Redpoll 3; American Goldfinch 426; Evening Grosbeak 157; House Sparrow 175.

**Total Species 53, about 9019 individuals.** (CW Northern Cardinal) Barbara Aitken, Mark Anthony, Fred Ashley, Mary Bancroft, Wylie Barbrick, Shirley Bokma, Barbara Bower, Rob Cameron, Terry Carroll, Paul Ettinger, Irwin Fraser, Brenda Grantmyre, Mryna Hambleton, Audrey Hungerford, John Hungerford, Jean Isenor, Myrna Isenor, Joan Jarvis, Donald Langille, Helen Langille, Pat Lynds, Anne MacDonald, Joan Mackey, **Roslyn MacPhee (compiler)**, Sharon MacPhee, Virginia Marshall, Elsie McCulloch, Linda McCulloch, Rollen McCulloch, Earl McCurdy, Helen McDonnell, Barbara Miller, Leon Miller, Albert Moore, Juanita Murphy, Brenda Norwich, Eldon Pace, Jacques Perron, Christine Queripel, Robie Quinn, Earl Reid, Nancy Reid, Barbara Scott, George Searle, Catherine Spares, Rosalie Stewart, Connie Stott, Blanche Tanner, Everett Tanner, Julie Towers, Carman Turner, Faye Wallace, Roger Wardrope, Lorne Weaver, Arthur West, Myrna West, Irving Williams, Linda Wilson, Frank Woodworth.

**SPRINGVILLE**, Dec 14; Temp. 0 to 6 °C. Wind SW 0-10 kph. Snow 5 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. cloudy, P.M. cloudy light rain. 9 field observers in 6 parties, 27 at feeders, 3.5 hours and 36 km. owling. Total party hours 45 (17 on foot, 28 by car). Total party kilometers 511 (28 by foot, 483 by car).

American Black Duck 82; Mallard 5; Green-winged Teal 7; Common Merganser 8; Bald Eagle 15; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Ruffed Grouse 15; Ring-billed Gull 25; Herring Gull 274; Iceland Gull 10; Great Black-backed Gull 25; Rock Dove 346; **White-winged Dove 1**; Mourning Dove 468; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 33; Hairy Woodpecker 29; Black-backed Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 226; American Crow 5168; Common Raven 47; Black-capped Chickadee 433; Boreal Chickadee 17; Red-breasted Nuthatch 36; Brown Creeper 2; **Marsh Wren 1**; Golden-crowned Kinglet 33; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2; American Robin 1; European Starling 1212; American Tree Sparrow 54; Song Sparrow 16; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 134; Snow Bunting 9; Red-winged Blackbird 14; Common Grackle 2; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 1; Purple Finch 28; White-winged Crossbill 61; American Goldfinch 391; Evening Grosbeak 22; House Sparrow 266.

**Total Species 50, about 9553 individuals.** Donna Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Mark Brennan, Tim Brennan, Betty Calder, Frank Calder, Murray Clish, Ed Cormier, Ivan Cozzi, Sonny Cyr, Rick Ferguson, Claire Foote, Doug Fraser, Mary Fraser, Amber Goodwin, Randy Lauff, Eleanor MacKay, John MacKearney, Fraser MacLean, Ken McKenna, Helen Melanson, Fred Polley, Sally Polley, Carol Reid, Margie Reid, Rob Reid, Chris Robinson, Judy Schuhlein, Cheryl Silver, Grant Stewart, Shirley Stewart, Donnie Uhren, Sue Uhren, **Steve Vines (compiler)**, Rita Young.

**STRAIT OF CANSO**, Dec 30; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 P.M. Temp. -4 to -6 °C. Wind NW, 40-60 kph. Snow 25 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies cloudy heavy snow day. 8 field observers in 4 parties, 12 at feeders. Total party hours 21.25 (7.5 on foot, 13.75 by car). Total party kilometers 183.5 (4.5 by foot, 179 by car)

Common Loon 3; American Black Duck 55; Mallard 2; Greater Scaup; 1; Common Eider 18; Long-tailed Duck 12; Bufflehead 14; Common Goldeneye 71; Common Merganser 11; Red-breasted Merganser 76; duck species 46; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Black-headed Gull 1; Bonaparte's Gull 5; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 132; Iceland Gull 65; Great Black-backed Gull 29; gull species 16; Rock Dove 120; Mourning Dove 58; Downy Woodpecker 4; Blue Jay 29; American Crow 148; Common Raven 12; Black-capped Chickadee 25; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; European Starling 235; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 29; Song Sparrow 10; White-throated Sparrow 10; Dark-eyed Junco 73; sparrow species 2; Purple Finch 4; American Goldfinch 58; House Sparrow 41.

**Total Species 36, about 1426 individuals.** (CW Brown Creeper, Snow Bunting, Common Grackle, Pine Grosbeak). Cullen Bolger, Marie Bolger, George Digout, Peter Dunford, Lorena Forbrigger, Alana Hardiman, Mary Hemmings, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope, **David Johnston (compiler)**, Mary Johnston, Sandra Johnston, Randy Lauff, Weldon MacPhail, David McCorquodale, Adair Meagher, Kerstin Mueller, Gillis Strachan, Laura Swain, Betty Talbot.

**THE SYDNEYS**, Dec 21; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 2 to 8 °C. Wind SW, 20-60 kph. Snow 0-5. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy, foggy, light to heavy rain. 22 field observers in 12 parties, 43 at feeders. Total party hours 43.75 (15.75 on foot, 28 by car). Total party kilometers 318 (20 by foot, 298 by car).

Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 22; cormorant species 6;

American Wigeon 1; American Black Duck 1272; Mallard 373; American Black Duck/Mallard hybrid 55; Green-winged Teal 1; Greater Scaup 43; Lesser Scaup 12; Common Eider 1; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 1591; Long-tailed Duck 79; Bufflehead 17; Common Goldeneye 331; Barrow's Goldeneye 7; Common Merganser 26; Red-breasted Merganser 131; duck species 54; Bald Eagle 17; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Ruffed Grouse 4; Purple Sandpiper 4; Black-headed Gull 33; Bonaparte's Gull 9; Herring Gull 1228; Iceland Gull 586; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 363; gull species 99; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Dove 273; Mourning Dove 97; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 29; Hairy Woodpecker 11; Northern Flicker 2; Blue Jay 145; American Crow 1525; Common Raven 62; Black-capped Chickadee 284; Boreal Chickadee 10; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 32; American Robin 6; European Starling 2928; Cedar Waxwing 85; American Tree Sparrow 9; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 22; Dark-eyed Junco 53; Snow Bunting 9; Common Grackle 6; Common Redpoll 1; Pine Siskin 5; American Goldfinch 251; Evening Grosbeak 19; House Sparrow 91.

**Total Species 60, about 12345 individuals.** (CW Northern Pintail, Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Oriole). Janice Beresford, Janice Beresford, Mary Lou Blunden, Adam Brown, Keith Brown, Matthew Brown, Jane Connell, Joan Cunningham, Vince Cunningham, Randy Davidson, Kevin Deveaux, Ken Donovan, Glen Drodge, Don Dunbar, Lynn Ellis, Bill English, Gwen Gardner, Tom Gardner, Betty Gentile, Heather Gillis, David Harris, Beth Kent, Terry Laffin, Andrew Lewis, Brian Lewis, Jason Lewis, Ken Lewis, Laurie Lewis, Sandra Lewis, Miles MacDonald, Walter MacDonald, Yvonne MacDonald, Frances MacFadden, Gordon MacFadden, Joan MacFadden, John W. MacInnis, Bob MacNeil, **David McCorquodale (compiler)**, Eric McCorquodale, John McKay, Joan Mills, Bob Morgan,

Laurie Murchison, Susann Myers, Ronald O'Handley, Anne O'Neill, Terry Power, Amelia Prestara, Pat Redmond, Bill Reeves, Mona Reeves, Bev Sarty, Brian Seville, Pam Seville, Christine Thomson, Lazlo Urban, Lydia Urban, Jack White, Ruth White, Darlene Whitty, Tim Whitty, Denise Young, Albert Zwicker .

**TRURO**, Dec 29; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. -9 to -2 °C. Wind WNW 5 kph. Snow 15 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Skies cloudy all day. 9 field observers in 7 parties, 9 at feeders. Total party hours 44 (20 on foot, 24 by car). Total party kilometers 525.5 (24.5 by foot, 501 by car).

Great Blue heron 1; Canada Goose 8; American Wigeon 1; American Black Duck 647; Mallard 577; Bald Eagle 8; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; **Cooper's Hawk 1**; Northern Goshawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Rough-legged Hawk 2; **Gray Partridge 24**; Ring-necked Pheasant 32; Ruffed Grouse 2; **American Coot 1**; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 303; Iceland 1; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 61; Rock Dove 392; Mourning Dove 612; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 19; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 196; American Crow 2803; Common Raven 9; Horned Lark 19; Black-capped Chickadee 211; Boreal Chickadee 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch 13; Golden-crowned Kinglet 6; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; American Robin 1; European Starling 5105; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; American Tree Sparrow 36; Chipping Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 7; Dark-eyed Junco 193; Purple Finch 2; American Goldfinch 302; Evening Grosbeak 93; House Sparrow 183.

**Total Species 49, about 11913 individuals.** (CW Northern Pintail, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser) Emili Gratton, Linda Hall, **Ross Hall (compiler)**, Sandra Hollis, Joan Hudgins, Rip Irwin, Bernard Jackson, Martha MacLaughlin, Marilyn McWha, Bea McCallum, Jeff Ogden, Janet Roberts, John Rubin, Trish Rubin, Harold Stewart, Sheila Stewart, Eileen Stevens, Helene Van Donick.

**WEST HANTS**, Dec 28; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 P.M.) Temp. 0 to -6 °C. Wind NNW 20 kph. Snow 20-25 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open.) Skies clear all day. 22 field observers in 7 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 67 (31.5 on foot, 35.5 by car). Total party kilometers 605.5 (53.5 by foot, 552 by car).

American Black Duck 1070; Mallard 12; Common Merganser 17; Bald Eagle 15; Northern Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 24; Rough-legged Hawk 2; American Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 50; Ruffed Grouse 1; Spruce Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 10; Wilson's Snipe 1; Ring-billed Gull 11; Herring Gull 832; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 72; Rock Dove 279; Mourning Dove 415; Great Horned Owl 2; Barred Owl 7; Northern Saw-whet Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 29; Hairy Woodpecker 24; Northern Flicker 20; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 381; American Crow 870; Common Raven 108; Black-capped Chickadee 628; Boreal Chickadee 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch 19; White-breasted Nuthatch 8; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 38; American Robin 132; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 2984; Cedar Waxwing 18; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 113; Chipping Sparrow 3; Savannah Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 43; Dark-eyed Junco 518; Snow Bunting 3; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Purple Finch 23; Red Crossbill 6; White-winged Crossbill 12; Common Redpoll 2; American Goldfinch 452; Evening Grosbeak 137; House Sparrow 556.

**Total Species 59, about 9985 individuals.** (Red-winged Blackbird) George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Muriel Gollan, Lynn Hebb, Margot Kaufman; Patrick Kelly; Peggy Konchanoff, Fulton Lavender, Blake Maybank, Jane McConnell, Peter Richard, Neil Robarts, Sheila Robarts, **John Robertson (compiler)**, Tracy Robertson, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Gary Trueman, Bev Williams, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Frank Woolaver, Scott Yetman.

**WHITE POINT**, Dec 21; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 P.M. Temp. -2 to 2 °C. Wind N 15 kph. Snow 60-90 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. Partly cloudy, light snow all day. 10 field observers in 3-4 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 24 (15 on foot, 9 by car). Total party kilometers 291 (43 by foot, 248 by car).

Common Loon 9; Horned Grebe 35; Red-necked Grebe 1; Northern Gannet 1; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Cormorant 8; Canada Goose 19; American Black Duck 174; Northern Pintail 1; Green-winged Teal 2; Common Eider 105; Surf Scoter 5; White-winged Scoter 18; Black Scoter 19; Long-tailed Duck 10; Bufflehead 17; Common Goldeneye 26; Common Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 8; Bald Eagle 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; American Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 981; Iceland Gull 6; Glaucous Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 461; Thick-billed Murre 1; Black Guillemot 8; Rock Dove 115; Mourning Dove 29; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 2; Blue Jay 12; American Crow 195; Common Raven 18; Black-capped Chickadee 58; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 28; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; American Robin 16; European Starling 232; Cedar Waxwing 36; **Magnolia Warbler** 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 44; American Tree Sparrow 14; Savannah Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 12; White-throated Sparrow 10; Dark-eyed Junco 21; sparrow species 1; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; American Goldfinch 23; House Sparrow 21.

**Total Species 56, about 2828 individuals.** (CW Dovekie). Joyce Allen, Bill Billington, Eileen Billington, Edith Burgess, Bill Caudle, Margery Dahn, Arlene Davies, Leighton Davies, Peter Davies, Mike Ernst, Nicole Ernst, Martha Farrar, Marnie Gent, Gary Hartlen, David Hasting, Steven Hiltz, **James Hirtle (compiler)**, Joanne Hubley, Fulton Lavender, Paul MacDonald, Don MacNeill, Blake Maybank, Ian McLaren, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Pat Morrison, Scottie Morrison, Jean Morse, Ed Porter, Laine

Porter, Catherine Pross, Christine Ross, Steve Shewchuk, Nellie Snyder, Dave Watson, Bob Weld, Heather Weld, Heather Weld.

**WOLFVILLE**, Dec 14; Temp. -1 to 2 °C. Cloudy skies light to heavy rain all day. 50 field observers in parties, 79 at feeders. Total party hours 115, **Effort data not submitted.**

Canada Goose 1238; American Black Duck 2044; Mallard 738; Green-winged Teal 2; Surf Scoter 3; White-winged Scoter 29; Black Scoter 3; Bufflehead 1; Common Goldeneye 23; Common Merganser 39; Bald Eagle 349; Northern Harrier 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 11; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 100; Rough-legged Hawk 12; Merlin 2; **Peregrine Falcon 3**; Ring-necked Pheasant 183; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-billed Gull 39; Herring Gull 8062; Iceland Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 2556; Rock Dove 447; Mourning Dove 1528; Barred Owl 4; Downy Woodpecker 99; Hairy Woodpecker 43; Northern Flicker 51; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Northern Shrike 2; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 688; American Crow 3819; Common Raven 312; Horned Lark 20; Black-capped Chickadee 894; Red-breasted Nuthatch 26; White-breasted Nuthatch 34; Brown Creeper 18; Golden-crowned Kinglet 96; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1**; American Robin 79; Northern Mockingbird 12; European Starling 9969; Cedar Waxwing 131; waxwing species 4; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; American Tree Sparrow 277; Chipping Sparrow 5; **Vesper Sparrow 1**; Savannah Sparrow 11; Song Sparrow 170; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 89; **White-crowned Sparrow 1**; Dark-eyed Junco 1402; Snow Bunting 1; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Common Grackle 5; Baltimore Oriole 1; Purple Finch 20; Pine Siskin 10; American Goldfinch 1155; Evening Grosbeak 54; House Sparrow 689.

**Total Species 66, about 37628 individuals.** (CW Great Blue Heron, Greater Scaup, **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, Glaucous Gull, Short-eared Owl, **Eastern Phoebe**, Boreal Chickadee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Brown-headed Cowbird). George Alliston, Margaret

Alliston, Peter Austin-Smith, Charlane Bishop, Fen Bishop-Boates, Sherman Boates, Lary Bogan, Silas Bondrup-Neilsen, Soren Bondrup-Nielsen, Mike Boudreau, Dennis Brannen, Sam Crawford, Katie Daley, Gail Davis, Mark Elderkin, Fred Forsyth, George Forsyth, Harold Forsyth, Bernard Forsythe, Glenys Gibson, Jamie Gibson, Merritt Gibson, Dale Gruchy, Claire Kellock, Patrick Kelly, Patrick Kelly, Doug Linzey, Doug Mackie, Angus MacLean, Randy Milton, Terri Milton, Dawn Miner, Adele Mullie, Mike O'Brien, **Ian Paterson (compiler)**, Mike Peckford, Derrick Potter, Barry Sabean, Dave Shutler, Peter Smith, Sarah Spencer, Richard Stern, Phil Taylor, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Jean Timpa, Chris Toplack, Gerry Trueman, Rick Whitman, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford.

**YARMOUTH**, Dec 22; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p. m. Temp. 4 to 9 °C. Wind W 22-28kph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 18 field observers in 7 parties, 9 at feeders. Total party hours 48 (10.75 on foot, 37.25 by car). Total party kilometers 583.5 (16 by foot, 567.5 by car). Common Loon 61; Horned Grebe 3; Red-

necked Grebe 6; Great Cormorant 1; Great Blue Heron 4; **Turkey Vulture 9; Snow Goose 1**; Canada Goose 948; American Wigeon 2; American Black Duck 911; Mallard 351; Green-winged Teal 30; Greater Scaup 5; Lesser Scaup 1; scaup species 7; Common Eider 152; Harlequin Duck 2; Surf Scoter 11; White-winged Scoter 9; Black Scoter 4; Long-tailed Duck 50; Bufflehead 48; Common Goldeneye 66; Hooded Merganser 8; Common Merganser 106; Red-breasted Merganser 114; duck species 6; Bald Eagle 3; Northern Harrier 7; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Rough-legged Hawk 1; American Kestrel 6; Merlin 2; hawk species 1; falcon species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Ruffed Grouse 3; **American Coot 1; Greater Yellowlegs 1**; Black-headed Gull 4; Bonaparte's Gull 3; Ring-billed Gull 127; Herring Gull 1537; Iceland Gull 4; Glaucous Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 460; Black-legged Kittiwake 4; Black Guillemot 4; Rock Dove 99; Mourning Dove 171; Downy Woodpecker 4; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern Flicker 15; Northern Shrike 1; Blue Jay 70; American Crow 485; Common Raven 18; Horned Lark 17; Black-capped Chickadee 138; Boreal

Chickadee 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 34; **Mountain Bluebird 1**; American Robin 108; European Starling 5572; Yellow-rumped Warbler 8; American Tree Sparrow 9; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 14; White-throated Sparrow 87; Dark-eyed Junco 86; Snow Bunting 5; Northern Cardinal 6; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Common Grackle 14; Brown-headed Blackbird 13; Purple Finch 1; House Finch 12; American Goldfinch 137; House Sparrow 58.

**Total Species 79, about 12304 individuals.** (CW Barred Owl, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**). Marilyn Burns, Peter Comeau, James Colbeck, Leonard Cottrell, Michelin Cottrell, Elsie Crosby, Raymond d'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, Jack Godsoe, Paul Gould, June Graves, Carol Jacquard, Jackie MacDonald, Peter MacDonald, Dale Mullen, Leah Murray, Arthur Porter, Dick Pothier, Marcie Rogers, Veralyn Rogers, **Barbara Ruff (compiler)**, **Eric Ruff (compiler)**, Rachel Smith, Vera Sollows, Paulette Sweeney, Jim Thibeau. □

## Birds of the Winter Beach

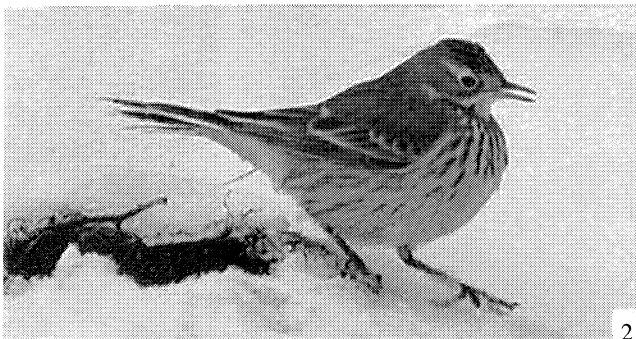
When heavy snows blanket much of the landscape, our ocean beaches, especially along the South Shore, are often the best places to look for open-country landbirds like HORNED LARKS (1), AM. PIPITS (2), and SNOW BUNTINGS (3). There they join the occasional IPSWICH SPARROW (4) that decides to remain near home, instead of migrating to the more salubrious beaches of the middle Atlantic states.



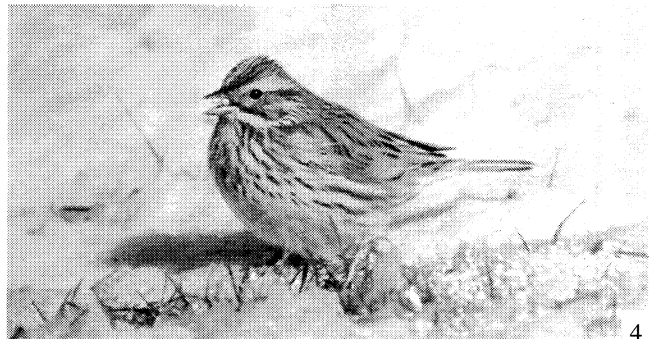
1



3



2



4

[Photos: Ian McLaren (4), Grant Milroy (2 & 3) and Richard Stern (1)]

## Book Review

### Raven's End : A Tale from the Canadian Rockies

by Ben Gadd

McLelland and Stewart ISBN: 1-57805-094-4

If life is just a series of random happenings from birth to death, then what is the point of it all? That creature other than *Homo sapiens* might ponder the meaning of life is one of the many challenging concepts Canadian naturalist and novelist Ben Gadd explores in his 2001 book, *Raven's End : A Tale from the Canadian Rockies*. Gadd weaves fact and fantasy into an enchanting and very enjoyable story around the escapades of the raven named Colin C.C. (*Corvus corax*), and his adopted raven family. Set in the Canadian Rockies between Jasper in the North and Yamnuska to the South, *Raven's End* draws readers into the natural world of ravens in ways that have been compared to Richard Adams' contribution to the world of rabbits in *Watership Down*. Perhaps Kenneth Oppel's bat trilogy, starting with *Silverwing* would also be an apt comparison.

Readers are introduced to Colin just as he literally and figuratively falls from the sky to a place he fails to recognize and with a case of amnesia so pronounced he barely knows how to be a raven. Fortunately he lands next to Zack, one of Raven's End mature males who becomes Colin's mentor and friend. What Colin lacks in raven etiquette, however, he more than makes up with his flying prowess, his ability to find food and his keen sense of things not seen. With these demonstrated qualities, the Main Raven eventually invites Colin to join the Raven's End flock at Yamnuska as they spend the next four seasons living and surviving in the Canadian Rockies.

For those not familiar with the Rockies, Gadd gives a real sense of this rugged, majestic landscape allowing readers to feel right at home following the ravens as they soar through deep canyons, fly over Castle Mountain on the way to Jasper or swoop down for fresh fish out of the Bow River. This is the home they share with predators such as coyotes, martins, lynx, cougars, goshawks and foxes among others. As much as these natural predators are to be feared and avoided, Colin is told that the most fearsome of all are humans. They kill all forms of animals including ravens, but the most destructive of their habits and the most difficult to understand is the cutting down of trees. This loss of habitat is one concern but as the book progresses, there are more mythical reasons why trees are to be preserved and cherished.

The story is really a raven quest, full of all the requisite characters for an exciting, adventurous odyssey. Just as Colin slowly begins to understand his destiny and moves toward disclosure of his beginnings, the reader too is taken deeper and deeper into the mythology of the origin of the raven world and its first beings. Creation mythologies give purpose and meaning to any social group and Gadd does the same for ravens as he suggests that it is important to know your origins and that it's worth the risk in finding this out.

Gadd, a resident of Jasper, brings a decidedly Canadian flavour to *Raven's End* as he pokes a little fun at the creative pretentiousness of the Banff ravens and the cool, hip ways of Calgary's C.C.s. He also takes readers to the garbage cans of Banff and the landfill sites in Jasper where ravens can't quite figure out these caches where the food remains buried, never to be dug up and consumed. Seen through ravens' eyes, our impact on the natural world is often perceived as ridiculous, although these ravens do certainly appreciate the free food our garbage provides.

As with any attempt to create a new world, there can be difficulties with language and the problem of giving characters a universal, ageless appeal. Gadd mostly succeeds but some of his juvenile characters sound too much like adolescents of today and this might not be appealing ten years from now. There are also instances where a young reader might want to keep a dictionary at hand as the vocabulary is challenging in places.

Some discerning readers may recognize names taken from *Lord of the Rings* which Gadd mentions in his Acknowledgements. He also refers readers to Bernd Heinrich's *Mind of the Raven* for additional reading on this intelligent bird some native peoples call the "Trickster".

While recognizing the importance of myth and fantasy, the author overlays scientific and natural history to make this a very worthwhile and entertaining read. Ben Gadd has given ravens a notable place in Canadian literature and for this he has done a valuable service. □

Trish Rubin



## Field Trip Reports

### Eastern Shore

14 September 2002, Leader: Bob Lindsay

Bright and early on one of the last truly gorgeous Saturday mornings of the fall, a small but eager group of five met to "do" the Eastern Shore – from East Chezzetcook all the way to Conrad Beach off the Lawrencetown road. The group likely was small because the trip came just days before its announcement appeared in the magazine. As a preface to the actual account of this trip, it is worth noting that the Eastern Shore is notoriously "underbirded" – especially when you consider it is recognized as prime territory for many species. Now the highlights of our trip.

The first notable observation of the day occurred just a short distance outside of Dartmouth – when we saw a pair of osprey sitting on their nest on a power pole beside the #107. From there to Story Head, we just stopped spontaneously when the spirit moved us, as we found no particularly compelling spots to spend time. It was along this leg of the trip that we saw Great Blue Heron, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Ring-billed Gulls.

Many of the expected families of birds were encountered throughout our trip. Besides the Osprey close to home, raptors included a Merlin, a Northern Harrier, a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks and a Bald Eagle. At the end of the road near Story Head were Common Eider, a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Black-backed Gulls, and the ubiquitous Double-Crested Cormorants. At Miseners Beach, highlights included Common Tern and a pair of Spotted Sandpipers, but we also saw Blue Jays and Northern Flickers. Chezzetcook Inlet provided us with rather distant views of American Widgeon and Green-winged Teal. No fall trip would be complete without a few warblers (more specifically CFW's) - and sure enough, we saw Blackpoll Warblers and Common Yellowthroat.

Next came our side trip to a picnic table just off Petain Station Road where a new park commemorated the once-popular "Blueberry Run" railway, now a trail. Here we saw American Goldfinch, Black-capped Chickadee, and Cedar Waxwing. However, the undisputed highlight of the day was still to come, at the ever-popular Smelly Cove and the path leading to it. Actually, it wasn't too smelly that day, and it provided us with views of Semipalmated Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, and two Dunlin among the others, feeding at low tide. Other species here included Dark-Eyed Junco, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Smelly Cove was certainly as prolific a place for feeding shorebirds as any that I have seen – they were all very happy & noisy campers. Also, thirty or so Ring-necked Ducks were seen at a distance.

On our way back to Dartmouth, we took a turn into Conrad Beach. By this time, the tide was coming in, and the only other species not mentioned earlier was White-rumped Sandpiper. It was getting late in the afternoon, so we decided to part company and head home. Thanks to all participants for helping to make the day a success. Our total for the day - 35 species. □



TURKEY VULTURES are now quite routine in winter around Brier Island. This one photographed Feb. 1 seems to be exploring the possibilities of scavenging fish at dockside. [Photo Elizabeth Doull]

# Nova Scotia Bird Society Annual General Meeting - Minutes October 24, 2002

**Peter Ackerman - Secretary**

Meeting called to order by Andrew G. Horn, President

**1.0** Moved by Peter Richard, seconded by Ian McLaren, that the minutes of the 2001 AGM be approved as submitted. Motion carried.

**2.0** Reports:

**2.1** Treasurer Bernice Moores presented her balance sheet and income statement for the year ended September 30, 2002 (copies attached). Treasurer's report unanimously accepted on a motion from Bernice, seconded by Joan Czapalay.

**2.2** Mary McLaren, membership secretary, presented a table outlining numbers and categories of Society membership for the past five years (copy attached). The current total is 405 members. Mary McLaren's motion to accept the report was seconded by Bernice Moores and approved without opposition.

**2.3** On behalf of the Society's Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund (SSTF), Ken Gregoire reported on the group's activities during the past year. It is anticipated that a written report will be forthcoming and will be attached to these minutes at a later date. David Currie presented the SSTF financial report, which was accepted by the meeting on his motion, seconded by Doug Roy.

**2.4** Sterling Levy informed the meeting that the (Nova Scotia Birds) Editor's report was unavailable at this time, but that Randy Lauff will publish his report in the next issue of our magazine.

**2.5** Andy Horn's President's Report (copy attached) was thorough, detailed and well received. Mary McLaren moved and Peter Richard seconded its acceptance. Motion carried.

**2.6** Past President Gisèle d'Entremont presented the report of the nominating committee:

President - Andy Horn                      Vice President - David Currie  
Treasurer - Bernice Moores              Secretary - Mary McLaren  
Membership Secretary - Bill and Eileen Billington  
Directors - Barbara Hinds, Joan Czapalay, Suzanne Borkowski

Report unanimously adopted on a motion by Gisèle d'Entremont, seconded by Blake Maybank.

**3.0** Puffin of the Year Award: Andy Horn presented this annual award to our much deserving past president, Gisèle d'Entremont.

**4.0** Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

## Field Trip Report

### Cape Sable Island

**01 Dec 2002, Leader: Murray Newell**

Some birds we had on my last fieldtrip were Lark Sparrow, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Palm Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, and Peregrine Falcon. There were 69 species seen on that day. It gave some people a great start to their winter list and a great time was enjoyed by all. ☐

**Sat 6 Sep 2003 – Yarmouth County**

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

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Ford Dealership at the Tusket overpass. (hwy #103, exit #33) We will bird the Wilson Road area looking for fall migrants. Lots of warblers have been found in this location. Afterwards, we'll go to Roberts Island. Carpool as much as possible. Bring fly protection and a lunch. Rain date: Sun 7 Sep.

**Sat 13 Sep 2003 – Hartlen Point**

Leader: Bob Lindsay 434-3438

E-mail: [rhilindsay@accesswave.ca](mailto:rhilindsay@accesswave.ca)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Hartlen Point. We'll spend several hours exploring the back cove, the marshes and the shoreline looking for fall migrants. Unusual vagrants have been spotted here at this time of year. Bring rubber boots. Rain date: Sun 14 Sep.

**Sat 20 Sep 2003 – Wallace Bay**

Leader: Paul MacDonald 627-2568

E-mail: [rita.paul@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto: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 three-hour walk along a woodland trail; so come prepared with sturdy footwear, water and a lunch. No rain date.

**Sat 27 Sep 2003 – Eastern Shore**

Leader: Peter Richard 463-5612

E-mail: [Prichard@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:Prichard@ns.sympatico.ca)

Meet at Lower East Chezzetcook at the end of Storey's Head Road at 8:00 a.m. (Keep going on the East Chezzetcook Road until the pavement ends, then turn right at the next intersection.) This trip will cover the common birding hot spots from Lower East Chezzetcook towards Dartmouth. Please plan to carpool as much as possible since many of the stops have a limited parking area. No rain date. ☐

## Field Trip Report

### Thanksgiving Weekend Trip

**Brier Island Oct. 12 – 14, 2002**

More than 20 people met at the Brier Island Lodge on Saturday morning for the first day of a three-day trip, led on Saturday by Terry Paquet. We headed for the North Light, an area which is the customary first stop. There were some small flocks of birds moving through, consisting mainly of Yellow-rumped Warblers. Six species of warblers were all that could be mustered. A few lucky participants were able to get good looks at a pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos which were otherwise uncooperative. Later we headed to the Pond Cove area where we had looks at a small assortment of shorebirds and ducks, with large flocks of Pipits and Horned Larks. A couple of Peregrine Falcons added a little excitement and most enjoyed good looks. Large numbers of Turkey Vultures hung around most of the time. Other raptors included numerous Sharp-shins, Am. Kestrels, a few Broad-winged Hawks, Harriers, Goshawks & Merlins. An E. Bluebird was found on the wires down the hill from the cemetery, at a yellow house which they have favoured in the past.

Saturday afternoon most of the NSBS group went out with Carl Haycock and Mariner Cruises to see whales and sea birds, and we were not disappointed. A number of Humpback Whales were seen at very close range, as well as Finbacks and other cetaceans. There was a good number of Black Guillemots in variations of black and white dress. Everyone had wonderful sights of Greater Shearwaters in high numbers, as well as a few Sooty Shearwaters, Black-legged Kittiwakes, a petrel sp. or two, and several Northern Fulmar, sometimes flying right beside the boat. There were at least two Red Phalarope but no large "rafts" of them, and some lucky people saw a couple of late Puffins. In the evening June Swift did a special signing at the Hostel of her excellent new "Brier Island's Wildflower Field Guide". A few Saw-whet Owls were reported from the Camp Road area.

Sunday was RAPTOR day, or perhaps I should say Sharpie Day as there were many. Our first bird of the day was an Eastern Bluebird, while the second was a N. Goshawk (but I do not think the two came together!). Peter Richard counted 87 Sharp-shinned Hawks between 8:20 and 9:20 a.m. The day continued with our group counting 44 Turkey Vultures, one Red-tailed Hawk, six N. Harriers, two Osprey, one Rough-legged Hawk, two Am. Kestrels, six Merlins (others saw more of these smaller falcons) and between two and four Peregrines. One Peregrine was exceptionally dark. We had the joy of watching it very close up (chasing a few crows at North Light) in the company of Wayne Neily, a well known birder from Manitoba, and a very cautious "lister". There were shorebirds as Terry mentioned. On Sunday we noted two Black-bellied Plover, one L. Golden Plover, five Semi-palmated Plover, 12-14 Killdeer, six Greater Yellowlegs, one Lesser Yellowlegs, one Sanderling, three or four Dunlin and one White-rumped Sandpiper. Horned Larks and Pipits were still at Big Pond. A Catbird was the only new passerine. The weather held for the entire day and we all enjoyed the hiking around Brier's hot spots.

On Monday, twelve remaining participants braved the rainy weather for a hike to the North Light with Eric Mills and June Swift. As nothing new was seen we ventured along the trail to the banding station where we added Red-breasted Nuthatch to the list. Since most birds had the good sense to seek shelter from the rain we decided to do likewise and returned to the Hostel where June showed us her slides of wildflowers and birds – a great ending to a great birding weekend!

Many thanks to Terry, Carl, Joan, Eric and June.

# Upcoming Events



Field trips are open to non-members as well as members. Feel free to phone or email the field trip leader or contact person ahead of time to obtain further information (e.g. directions). 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, Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922. Email: [sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca)

New for 2003! – Skills Workshops exclusively for members. These tutorials will be held at the Museum, immediately prior to the monthly meetings, and will provide tips and information on difficult areas of bird identification and on other birding topics. ☺

## Sat 14 Jun 2003 – Eastern Shore

Leader: Bob Lindsay 434-3438

E-mail: [rhindsay@accesswave.ca](mailto:rhindsay@accesswave.ca)

Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Zellers Parking Lot in Colby Plaza, just behind the Esso Station on Cole Harbour Road. Visit several sites along the Eastern Shore from Dartmouth to Lawrencetown – one of the best areas around for seeing migrants. Bring proper footwear and a lunch. Rain date: Sun 15 June.

## Sat 21 Jun 2003 – Dawn Chorus at Porters Lake

Leader: Cindy Staicer 494-3533 E-mail: [cindy.staicer@dal.ca](mailto:cindy.staicer@dal.ca)

Meet at 4:30 a.m. at the gate to Porters Lake Provincial Park. Take exit #19 from Highway #107 in Dartmouth. Travel approximately 4 km South, towards Lawrencetown. Gate is on left-hand side. The dawn chorus of warblers will be intense at this time of year. The trip will last about 5 to 6 hours, ending before noon. Bring appropriate footwear and insect repellent. Rain date: Sun 22 June.

## Sat 28 Jun 2003 – Warbler Walk Portugese Cove

Leader: Hans Toom 868-1862 E-mail: [htoom@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:htoom@hfx.eastlink.ca)

Meet at the mailboxes, corner of Camperdown and Ketch Harbour Roads, Portugese Cove, at 7:00 a.m. This warbler walk follows the edge of Portugese Cove Lake and creek and then goes back into mixed forests and thickets west of the lake to a look-off over pine forest. We should be back by 10:00 a.m. There are some wet sections on the trail. Rain date: Sun 29 June.

## Sat 5 Jul 2003 – Pockwock Watershed: Birds and Butterflies

Leader: Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922

E-mail: [sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca)

**Pre-registration is necessary!**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Tim Hortons, Kingswood Plaza, on the Hammonds Plains Road. We'll be entering the Watershed and driving through the woods along the west side of Pockwock Lake, stopping to walk down some of the woodland trails. Peter and Linda Payzant will be on hand to identify butterflies. This half-day trip is excellent for beginners! We'll exit onto Hwy #101, close to Mount Uniacke, where the Payzants will be doing their "Butterflies I" trip in the afternoon, weather permitting. Rain date: Sun 6 July.

## Sat 26 Jul 2003 – Pictou County

Leader: Ken McKenna 752-7644 (Home) 752-0044 (Office)

E-mail: [kennmcken@north.nsis.com](mailto:kennmcken@north.nsis.com)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot behind the Heather Motel in Stellarton at Exit 24. The group will leave promptly at 8:00 to tour some back roads of Pictou County. Look for lingering nesting birds as well as early shorebird migrants. Bring a lunch, bug spray and proper footwear, as some of the trails may be wet. No rain date.

## Sat 2 Aug 2003 – Mahone Bay

Leader: James Hirtle 624-0893

E-mail: [jrhbirder@hotmail.com](mailto: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. Bring a lunch. The trip will conclude about 3:00 p.m. Rain date: 03 August.

## Sat 23 Aug 2003 – Point Michaud, Cape Breton

Leaders: George Digout 535-3516

E-mail: [george.digout@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:george.digout@ns.sympatico.ca)

and Billy Digout 535-2513.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Dept. of Transport Building, Hwy #4 and Pt. Michaud turnoff, St. Peters. It's a good idea to wear boots if it is rainy. Lunch at George and Sharon Digout's home. Rain date: Sun 24 Aug.

## Fri 29 Aug to Mon 01 Sep 2003 – Bon Portage Island

Leader: Joan Czapalay 422-6858 (348-2803 in July) cell: 229-3327

E-mail: [joancz@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:joancz@ns.sympatico.ca)

**Pre-registration is necessary!**

Depart late afternoon or early evening on Friday from Prospect Point Wharf, Shelburne County. 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, plus a boat trip donation.

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