

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Spring 2004
(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.

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

Bird Line: Discontinued
Email: ip-bird@chebucto.ns.ca
Web: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/NS-BirdSoc>

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Inside This Issue

Special points of interest:

- Loon rescue
- Flying Squirrels of Nova Scotia
- Winter Seasonal Reports
- Christmas Bird Counts
- Trip Reports
- Book reviews

Fine Focus

- A Loon Rescue 2
- Winter Photo Gallery 3
- Nova Scotia's Flying Squirrels 4

Winter Bird Reports 6

Weather & Other Reports

- Winter Weather 27
- New Books For Review 28
- N.S. Coastal Guardian Program Report 29
- 2003 - 2004 Christmas Bird Counts 30

Field Trip Reports 41

Book Reviews 43

Coming Events

Back Cover

Cover Photo: [This BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE portrait by Jarvis Darville was entered in the 2001 PGNS/ NSBS Slide Competition]

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
SPRING 2004

Editor

Blake Maybank

Production Assistant

Sterling Levy

Records Editor

Lance Laviolette

Photo Editor

Ian McLaren

Events Editor

Suzanne Borkowski

Seasonal Bird Reports

Sylvia Fullerton

Ulli Höger

Andy Horn

Eric Mills

Dave McCorquodale

Ken McKenna

Ian McLaren

Terry Paquet

Banner Artist

Trevor Herriot

Other Help

Eileen Billington

Peter LeBlanc

Bird Reports to

Lance Laviolette

RR #1, Glen Robertson, ON

K0B1H0

lance.laviolette@lmco.com

Photo Submissions to

Ian A. McLaren

Photo Editor, NS Birds

Biology Department

Dalhousie University

Halifax, NS, B3H4J1

iamclar@ac.dal.ca

All Other Items to

Blake Maybank

Editor, NS Birds

144 Bayview Drive

White's Lake, NS. B3T 1Z1

maybank@ns.sympatico.ca

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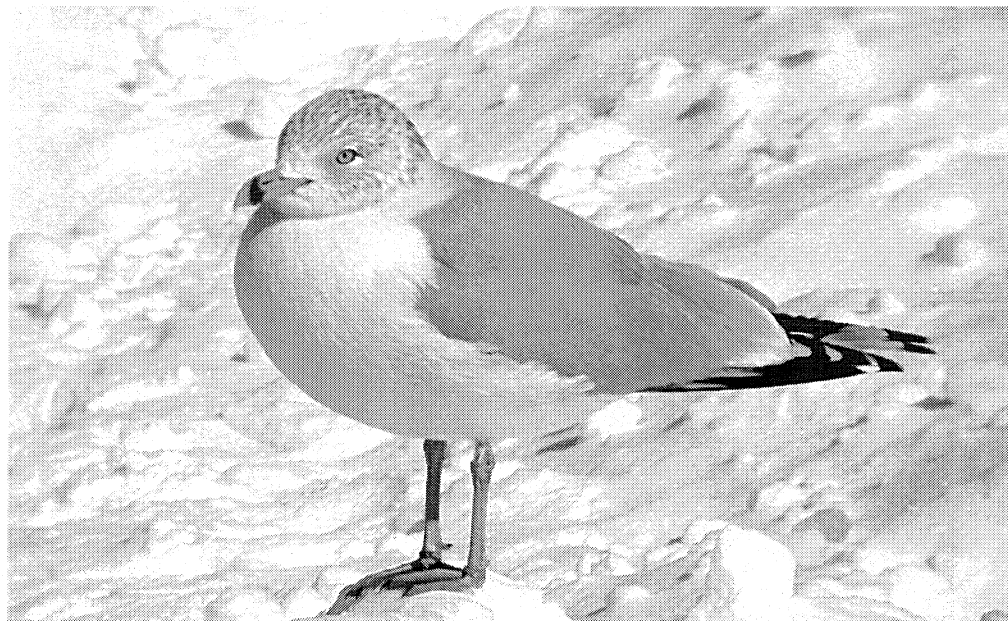
I have but a short editorial this issue, as I am as anxious as the rest of you to enjoy the spring after the long winter we've just endured. Nevertheless, as the seasonal reports indicate, there were still many birds to be seen, at least by those with the fortitude to venture out into Nova Scotia's winter wonderland.

This issue marks another change for the magazine, as we introduce a new method of presenting the birds of the season. I'll let you explore the new format for yourself, but it is hoped this approach will achieve several goals. Most importantly, we believe it will be easier to access the bird sighting information. Our magazine is a journal of record for bird sightings in Nova Scotia, and through the years various writers and researchers have used the information for various purposes. This new manner of laying out the data will make the job of reviewing sightings easier for future researchers.

It is also hoped that it will make the job of the seasonal report editors easier, though the jury is still out on that score. Some have said it is easier, some think it takes just as much time as the old approach. Since none has said it is more difficult, we'll continue experimenting with the new approach. The new format might also save some space, but that is not yet proven. All in all, we're generally pleased with the new look. Let us know what you think.

I'm again putting a call out for you to contribute your birding experiences to share with the readers. As well, I'm encouraging you to get out into the field and investigate breeding birds in June and July, as this period typically results in the least amount of information of any season of the year. This is a pity, as it is arguably the most important season. Our bird life is not just rarities, and though there aren't usually too many rarities in June and July, there are still many rewards to exploring the breeding bird life of our province. Let's keep our seasonal compilers busy, and inundate them with interesting sightings from the breeding season. Have a great summer.

Blake Maybank



Our RING-BILLED GULLS retain their grubby head markings until winter's end. [Photo Blake Maybank]



A Loon Rescue

By Stephen Bushell

On January 6th Harry Delorey and I had been in the woods roaming old foot paths and partly grown-over roads that our relatives had opened up 60-70 years ago. Towards the end of the day we decided to head out for supper and a well-needed "cuppa." We were more than halfway out when we both heard a short but definitely loon-like call coming from the direction of a nearby lake. We puzzled over this, as the lakes had "caught" (iced over) two nights before during a quiet, cold night. We made for the lake and found it entirely frozen save for a small opening; we were quite surprised to see a loon pop up in the center of the hole! We both realized there was not enough water left for the bird to take off and it was condemned to freeze and die.

We decided to monitor the situation for the next few days in the hopes that the hole would remain open, but that the ice would thicken enough to hold a man, which it did after two days. To our dismay however an eagle took to standing by the hole on the edge of the ice, in hopes of an easy meal. On January 8th we decided a rescue attempt could be made.

Not being foolhardy I wore a floater suit, and was equipped with a radio and had a rope attached to me. Harry and his brother Bobby had the other radio and the other end of the rope. I got into a small boat and pushed myself across the ice with a spiked oar. In short order I was at the edge of the 15x40' opening. The loon was diving frantically the whole time that I approached, and upon reaching the edge of the hole I could watch the loon as it swam underwater. Despite it spending less and less time underwater, the relatively large amount of free water allowed it to stay out of my reach even though I had a long-handled net. We decided to abort this rescue attempt and wait for more favourable conditions.

For two more days we checked shortly after dawn to see if the bird was alive, and again just before dark to see if the eagle had been successful. Temperatures were the lowest they had been all year and records were being set all over the Province, but the bird managed to stay alive, keep the hole from freezing, and catch small fish on the many dives it made.

On January 11th, with five inches of ice on the lake and the loon's open water down to the size of a double bed, we decided to make one last attempt. Harry, Bobby, myself and numerous others made preparations and headed for the hole. The loon dove repeatedly and called pitifully as we all approached. The same tiring procedure was attempted and after eight or ten tries, I was finally able to get the net in front of the bird just as its wings folded and it swam right in. Four hands quickly took charge of the slashing beak and flailing legs, and the bird was unceremoniously placed in a large dark nylon bag and quickly quieted down. We rapidly gathered all the gear and headed for shore and the waiting vehicles. The nearest salt water was at Fox Island, a five

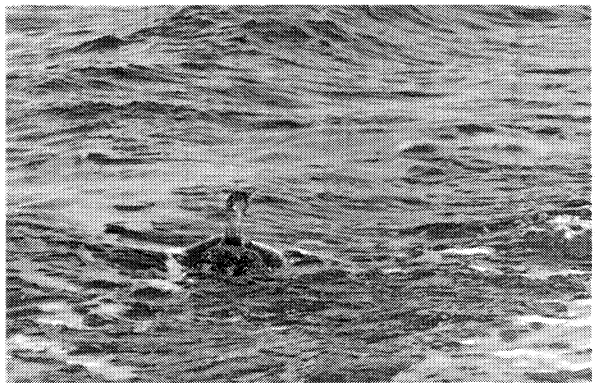


The author on his way out for the first rescue attempt. [Photo Rose Ann Delorey]



The loon is successfully captured (and the lethal bill held in check!). [Photo Rose Ann Delorey]

minute drive from the lake, so we headed there. Upon arrival, the bag was removed from the truck and opened. The first thing that appeared was a needle-sharp bill wildly stabbing the air. After three of four stabs, I managed to gently capture the neck with my left hand and muzzled the beak with my right. As I held the bill, the bird attempted a call and the vibration generated in my hand was something I'll never forget. Twenty steps to the water's edge, a quick release into an oncoming small wave, and the loon was free. It pushed seaward into the next wave and began swimming. The loon swam for a few feet under water, surfaced, flapped its wings as loons will do, settled, and lifted its head for one short, low volume call. It stopped for a moment, turned its head back and forth and started swimming strongly out into Chedabucto Bay. It was last seen 200 yards off shore bobbing comfortably in the one foot swells.



The loon on its way out into Chedabucto Bay. [Photo Rose Ann Delorey]

The next morning I looked out on the lake where the hole had been. It was closed over completely and a new snowfall covered the lake from shore to shore. ❧

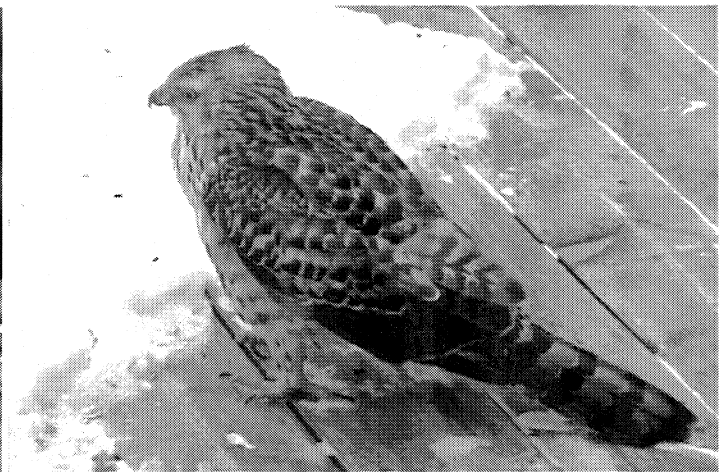
Winter Photo Gallery



When prey is scarce, even the highly nocturnal, and rarely seen, LONG-EARED OWL will hunt by day, like this one frequenting the Daniels Head area of CSI in early February. [Photos Grant Milroy]



MOURNING DOVES are competent winter survivors, here protecting their vulnerable, fleshy feet in a feather blanket on a cold February day. [Photo Blake Maybank]



This young N. GOSHAWK, identifiable as such from its zigzagged tail barring, appeared on the McEvoy's back deck at Sunrise, Victoria, Dec. 3. Presumably it was temporarily stunned by a collision during pursuit of its prey. [Photo Fritz McEvoy]

Flying Squirrels in Nova Scotia

[Editor's Note: For several years I've enjoyed nightly visits by a flying squirrel; it glides onto the window feeder outside my home office, a soft "thump" announcing its arrival. It's never easy to view through the one-way mirror, but as my eyes become adjusted to the dark I can more readily enjoy the sight. I do not begrudge it a single sunflower seed. I tentatively identified it as a Northern Flying Squirrel, and was disappointed that I couldn't manage a good photo of it. Then, via e-mail, I received a note with attached photos from Audree Coyle in Albert Bridge, Cape Breton, who was also hosting a flying squirrel. Unlike me, however, she (or more accurately her husband) had managed to take a wonderful portrait of this rarely-seen resident of Nova Scotia's forests. We're pleased to print this photo here. After I mentioned this event on NatureNS I was contacted by Peter Hope, who passed along the following short article, as well as the instructive series of photos to assist separating the two species of Flying Squirrel that occur in this province.

I realise Flying Squirrels are not birds, nor do they truly fly, but they patronise our feeders and our nest-boxes, and are to be welcomed. Accordingly, I've extended the welcome to the pages of Nova Scotia Birds.]

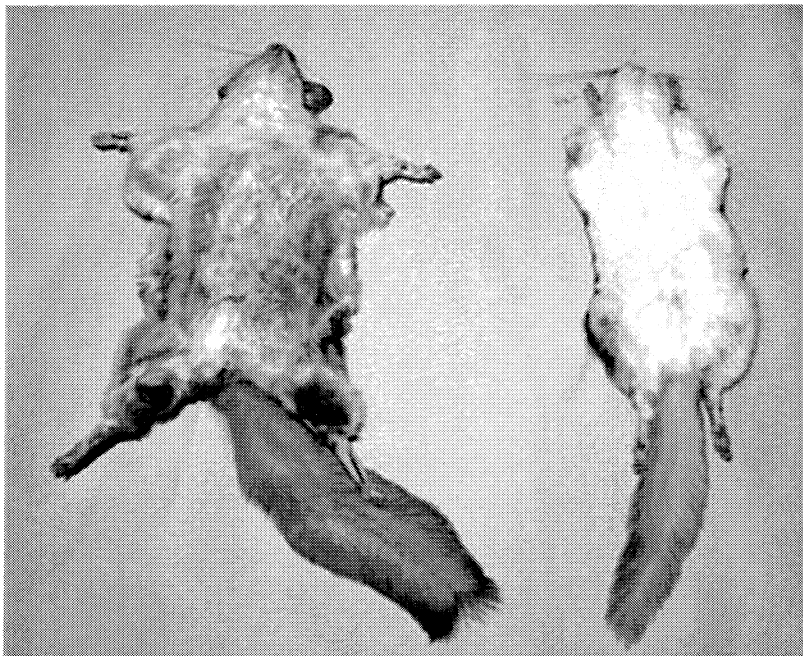


The immensely appealing face of this N. FLYING SQUIRREL, favouring a Cape Breton feeder, demanded its candidacy as an honorary bird. [Photo Andrée Coyne]

Nova Scotia's Flying Squirrels - Distribution and Identification

By Peter Hope

We have two species of flying squirrels in Nova Scotia. The **Northern Flying Squirrel** is found throughout all of Nova Scotia and occurs close to the coast as well as inland, and was officially recorded in province in 1912. It occurs across Canada: north to mid Labrador and Quebec (to north of James Bay); in virtually all of Ontario; across the northern prairies; north into the Northwest Territories up the Mackenzie River valley almost to the Arctic Ocean; and into the Yukon to the Alaska border and beyond. To the south its range extends down the Appalachians to Georgia, and in the southwest down the Rockies and western coastal mountains into California.



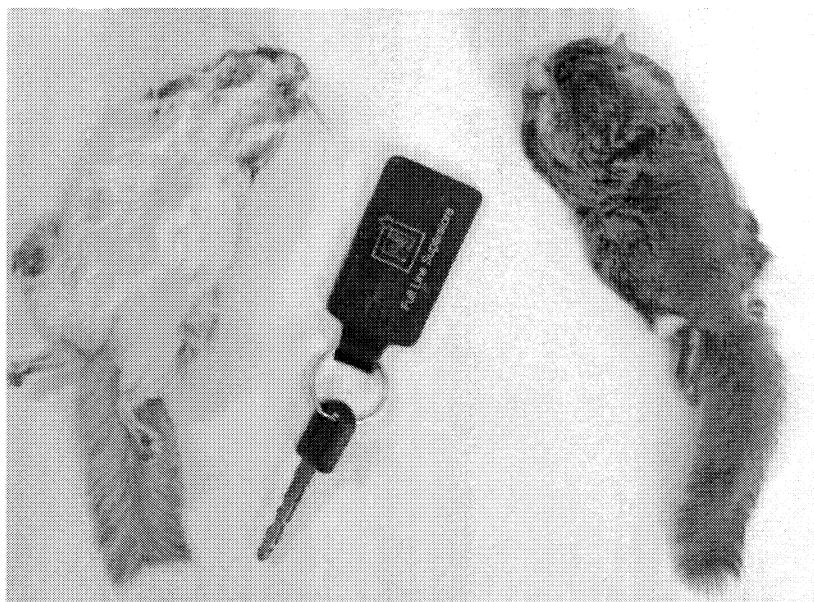
Ventral view of both species of flying squirrels - northern on the left, southern on right. Note the gray belly colour in the northern, as well as its larger tail. [Photo Amanda Lavers]

This species is the larger of the two, is somewhat darker gray in colour, and some describe its face as being more oval shaped; they definitely have bigger ears. This species is most easily distinguished however by having belly fur that is gray at the base, and a large broad tail that is over 110 mm in length.

The **Southern Flying Squirrel** has a much more limited Canadian range, being restricted to southern Ontario (north to Algonquin

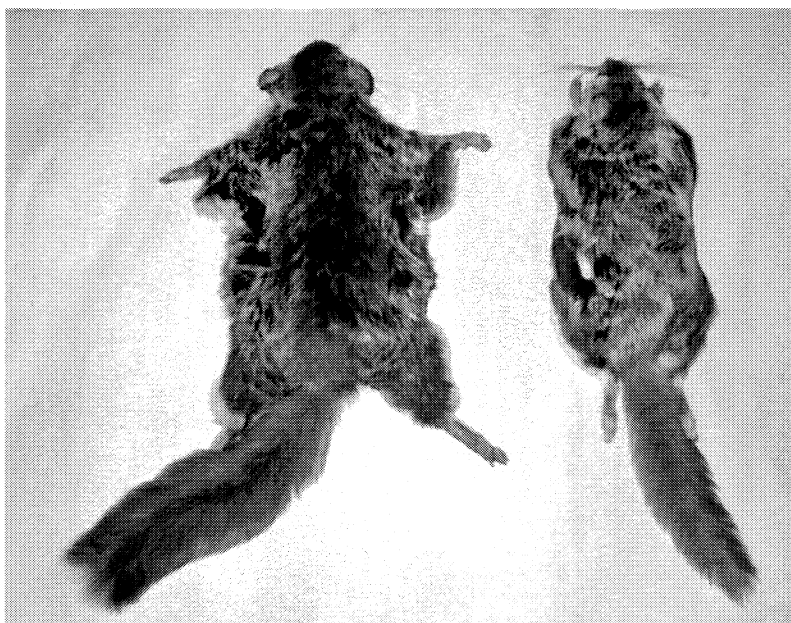
Provincial Park), extreme southern Quebec, and southern Nova Scotia. In N.S., thanks mostly to recent work by Amanda Lavers, Southern Flying Squirrels are now known to be present from Bear River north to Falmouth, and from Cooksville (just north of Bridgewater) to Kejimikujik National Park.

The Southern Flying Squirrel was discovered in N.S. when Tom Wood, working on a mammal survey of Kejimikujik National Park in 1971, trapped two animals. It was later realized that a specimen had been collected in Kejimikujik in the mid 1960's and was in the Acadia University collection. Over the years a few more specimens were found in Kejimikujik. In the 1980's Mark Elderkin, during research on Barred Owls, turned up a population of southern flyers in the Gaspereau Valley, and in 1993 Dr Wayne Davis, a flying squirrel specialist, came to Kejimikujik and live-trapped 10 Southern Flying Squirrels. A couple of years ago Amanda Lavers began her graduate studies on Southern Flying Squirrels at Acadia University under Dr Tom Herman. Through her live-trapping studies she found many new locations for the species, and by requesting the assistance of the public more sites were discovered, when people reported seeing the squirrels at their bird feeders.

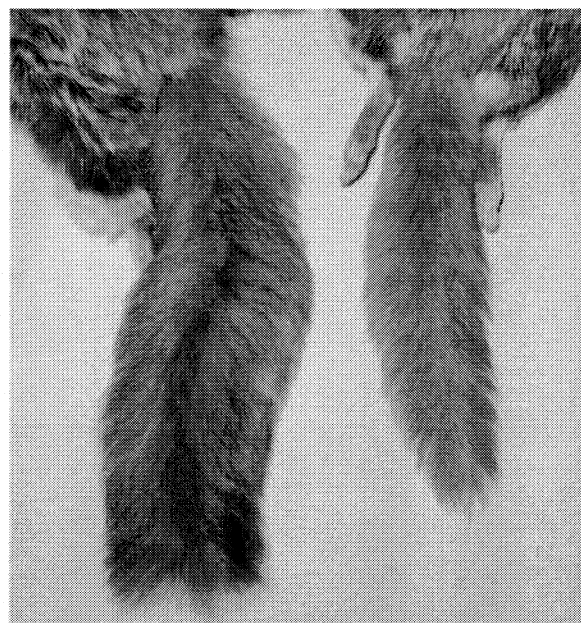


Two Southern Flying Squirrels alongside car keys for size comparison. Note the white belly fur and slim tail. [Photo Amanda Lavers]

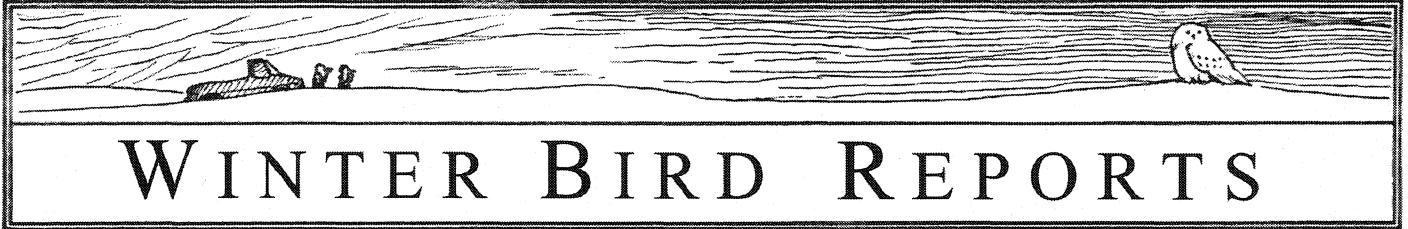
The Southern Flying Squirrel is about half the weight of the northern, it tends to have a rounder face, and is more buffy in colouration. It is best identified by its entirely white underfur (right down to the skin), and a much slimmer tail, is less than 110 mm in length. ♂



Dorsal view of both species of flying squirrel - northern on left, southern on right. From the back the tail differences show. [Photo Amanda Lavers]



A dorsal close-up of the two species' tails; the larger and wider tail of the northern is on the left. [Photo Amanda Lavers]



WINTER BIRD REPORTS

Loons through Grebes

By Terry Paquet

This is a very typical winter report for loons and grebes with the highest concentrations coming from CBC results. The Cape Sable CBC reported 93 COMMON LOONS and 67 RED-NECKED GREBES, while the Broad Cove CBC had the highest reported numbers of RED-THROATED LOONS and HORNED GREBES, with seven and 55 respectively. The only PIED-BILLED GREBE reported came from the Wolfville CBC.

Red-throated Loon

21/12	Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM
30/12	Broad Cove CBC	7	
29/1	LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH, Gary Smith
14/2	Pt Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	3	Weldon MacPhail
27/2	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH, Len MacDonald

Common Loon

16/12	Brier I	10	ELM, AHM
20/12	Cape Sable CBC	93	
3/1	Tancook I, <i>Lun.</i>	11	ELM, AHM
26/2	Brier I	15	ELM
29/2	Baddeck Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	3	BSK
29/2	Louisbourg Hbr, <i>CB</i>	6	SEM

Pied-billed Grebe

21/12	Wolfville CBC	1	
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Horned Grebe

10/12	St Anns Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	3	BSK
30/12	Broad Cove CBC	55	
21/1	St Anns Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	2	BSK
26/2	Brier I.	6	ELM

Red-necked Grebe

10/12	St Anns Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	2	BSK
16/12	Brier I.	2	ELM, AHM
20/12	Cape Sable CBC	67	
31/12	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	14	SEM, LAR

Tubenoses Through Cormorants

By Eric Mills



This rather miraculous **BROWN PELICAN** materialized Dec. 27 on a road south of Yarmouth. Shortly after, DNR captured it and it was turned over to the rehabilitation facility at Seaforth. [Photo Carla Allen]

A stormy early winter restricted pelagic birding, but it also brought some unusual records of storm-driven or straying birds. The only record of winter resident N FULMARS is of three at Canso after a storm Dec 8. Accompanying them, however, were 4-5 CORY'S SHEARWATERS (good confirming details) and 20-25 SOOTY SHEARWATERS, both usually very scarce after late November. NORTHERN GANNETS remained reasonably abundant until early January; HAT and LAE reported one ad "hurrying south" past Chebucto Hd, *HRM*, Jan 1. The most unusual sighting of the season was an imm. **BROWN PELICAN** found Dec 27 on a road in southern *Yarmouth*. It was captured and held for rehabilitation. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS were once the scarcest of winter residents, but times have changed. There were still small numbers from one end of the province to the other well into January; the largest numbers were 22 on the Pictou Hbr CBC Jan 1 (ten days later all had gone from there according to KJM). One lingered at Trenton, *Pictou*, to about Jan 22. Of 647 GREAT CORMORANTS reported on CBCs, 85% were along shores from Halifax to Brier I.

Northern Fulmar

8/12	Canso	3	TOK
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Cory's Shearwater

8/12	Canso	4-5	TOK
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Sooty Shearwater

8/12	Canso	20-25	TOK
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Northern Gannet

2/12	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	ca 100	RFL
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8/12	Canso	75+	TOK
6/12	Chebucto Hd, <i>HRM</i>	20+	PLC
16/12	Brier I.	27	ELM, AHM
1/1	Chebucto Hd, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad	HAT, LAE

Brown Pelican

27/12	S <i>Yarmouth</i>	1 imm. ph	Carla Allen <i>fide</i> BLM
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Double-crested Cormorant

9/12	N Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	7	BSK
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18/12 Seal I., <i>Vic.</i>	2	BSK	Great Cormorant		
16/12 Brier I.	2	ELM, AHM	10/12 Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1 ad	SEM
18/12 Englishtown, <i>Vic.</i>	5	BSK	16/12 Brier I.	175	ELM, AHM
20/12-18/1 Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 ad	DJC	20/12 Sydney Hbr, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
30/12 Lahave, <i>Lun.</i>	1	ELM	2/1 Port Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	102	AND & Lelia Dean
1/1 Halifax	1	PLC, JEH	17/1 Lingan, <i>CBRM</i>	2 ad	SEM <i>et al.</i>
1/1 Pictou Hbr, <i>Pict.</i>	20+	<i>fide</i> KJM	8/2 Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1 ad	SEM
ca 22/1 Trenton, <i>Pict.</i>	1	HAB, JEB			

Hérons Through Vultures

By Ulli Höger

When ponds, lakes and marshes freeze over, most herons and egrets leave our province. Only a very few hardy or foolish individuals stick around during our winter. As expected, reports got fewer as winter progressed. Remarkable in this season is an imm YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, reported in late fall and still around for the CBC held in Annapolis Royal Dec. 14. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time made it the first species record in Canadian CBC history (BLM). Two other outstanding observations were of single **BLACK VULTURES** reported from CB and the Valley area. While the Valley bird was a brief “drive by, fly over” observation, the CB bird stayed for at least two weeks in the Sydney area and was seen by several birders. The following is DBM’s account of the CB bird:

“On Sunday 14 December I noticed three black birds circling over Hwy 125 near Johnson Lake (just outside North Sydney). It was near dusk and at first I was surprised that eagles were still active this late in the day. I then realized that none of the three were eagles. Two were Common Ravens and the other one had very broad wings, a short neck and some lighter patches near the wing tips, a Black Vulture. The Black Vulture was only a little larger and longer winged than the ravens, with a short tail, hunched shoulders, small head and light patches on the undersides of the long fingers (primaries). In the dim light it appeared all black, even the lighter underside of the primaries was hard to see at some angles. I watched as they circled, with the ravens periodically chasing the vulture. After about 3 minutes I lost them behind the trees in the direction of Pottles Lake.”

Great Blue Heron

1/12 CSI	7	MUN, JON, SAN
15/12 Brier I.	1	ELM, AHM
21/12 Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP
24/12 Back Hbr, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
12/12-27/12 Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL
27/12-30/12 Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF, DHY <i>et al</i>
17/01 CSI	1	MUN

Great Egret

30/11 mouth of Caribou R, <i>Pict.</i>	1	Chris Helleiner
1/12-2/12 Big I, <i>Pict.</i>	1	Everette Baudoux <i>fide</i> KJM

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

1/12-14/12 Annapolis CBC	1
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Black Vulture

5/12-15/12 Sydney	1	DBM <i>et al</i>
10/12 Dempsey Corner, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM

Turkey Vulture

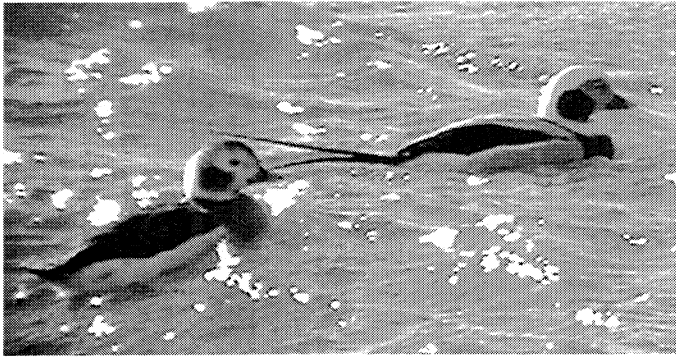
1/12-30/02 Brier I.	1-9	JUS, ELM, AHM
1/02 Yarmouth	1	MUN
30/01 CSI	7	MUN

Geese, Swans and Ducks

By Terry Paquet

The weather through the period was less severe than recent winters, with less freezing rain and the flash freezing conditions which often negatively affect our wintering waterfowl. The February blizzard certainly impacted feeding areas, however reports of mortality were few. Pack ice was a factor once again in CB. In his report on GREATER SCAUP, DBM noted “a few dead on ice, virtually no open water for them. Common Raven chomping on one dead on the ice.”

The juv LESSER SNOW GOOSE which was originally found by IAM at the sports field in Shannon Park, Dartmouth, moved over to Sullivans Pond where it remained through the period. A few EURASIAN WIGEON were found, mostly in traditional locations such as Sullivans Pond, Yarmouth Hbr and Glace Bay as well as a less than usual location, on the Habitant R. in *Kings*. There was a fem. EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL at the sewage lagoon in Windsor, *Hants*, Dec 1, noted by IAM and BLM. An interesting report comes in from the Annapolis CBC of seven CANVASBACK. A rare bird report was received and the details are as follows: “single observer record of 7 birds, 2 females and 5 males in the Annapolis Basin, observed for 10 minutes in good conditions at approximately one half mile, seen through a 15X scope, head shape noted”, end of details. The REDHEAD seen last fall at Freeport, Long I. was likely the same bird that spent most of the winter across the passage at Westport, Brier I. TUFTED DUCKS were in traditional locations, namely *Pictou*, Halifax Harbour and Glace Bay. An imm. male KING EIDER in breeding plumage was a nice find for SEM at Main-a-Dieu, *CBRM*. The largest concentration of HARLEQUIN DUCKS was noted on the Port L’Hebert CBC with 44, followed by a flock of 22 seen at Prospect. BARROW’S GOLDENEYE were seen in average numbers with 11 on the Sydneys CBC, seven on the Bedford-Sackville CBC and five each on the Halifax-Dartmouth and Annapolis CBCs. A pair of RUDDY DUCKS stayed at Bissett L. in Dartmouth until freeze-up.



LONG-TAILED DUCKS, like this twosome on the Pictou Harbour CBC, often seem joyfully indifferent to waves and weather. [Photo Randy Lauff]

Snow Goose

2/12	Shannon Park field, <i>HRM</i>	1 juv	IAM
17/12	Shag Harbour, <i>Shel.</i>	2	MUN
30/12	Broad Cove CBC	1	
1/1-29/2	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	var obs

Canada Goose

6/12	Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	280	SEM
12/12	Crescent Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	108	JAH
14/12	Halifax- Dartmouth CBC	3743	
16/12	Brier I.	63	ELM, AHM
1/1	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	1000	AND, Lelia Dean
6/1	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	500	DMW
24/2	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	60	SEM

Mute Swan

1/2	Bedford Basin, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
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Gadwall

6/12	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	NSBS
6/12	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	1	NSBS
1/1	Pictou Harbour CBC	1	
15/1	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM

Eurasian Wigeon

21/12	Yarmouth CBC	1	
22/12	The Sydneys CBC	1	
1/1	Habitant R, <i>Kings</i>	1 male	BLF
29/12	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 fem	Bernard Burke, var obs

American Wigeon

1/12	Antigonish Landing	3	RFL
14/12	Halifax- Dartmouth CBC	93	
1/1	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	35	SEM
14/2	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	3	PLC

American Black Duck

2/12	Antigonish Landing	100's	RFL
29/12	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	10	RHL
3/1	Frog Pond, <i>HRM</i>	115	PLC
8/1	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	125	DMW
17/1	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	150+	NSBS
31/1	Myra R., <i>CBRM</i>	64	SEM

Mallard

2/12	Antigonish Landing	10	RFL
29/12	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	10	RHL
17/1	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	20	NSBS
31/1	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	6	SEM

Northern Shoveler

1/12	Windsor Sewage Lagoon, <i>Hants</i>	1	IAM, BLM
20/12	Broad Cove CBC	1	
27/12	West <i>Hants</i> CBC	2	
1/1	<i>Lun.</i>	1 fem	JAH, CLS, CSS
11/1	<i>Lun.</i>	1 imm male	ELM

Northern Pintail

1/12	Antigonish Landing	20	RFL
2/1	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	2	AND, Lelia Dean
8/1	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	3	DMW
11/1	<i>Lun.</i>	4	ELM

Green-winged Teal (Eurasian)

1/12	Windsor Sewage Lagoon, <i>Hants</i>	1	IAM, BLM
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Green-winged Teal

14/12	Antigonish CBC	8	
2/1	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	8	AND, Lelia Dean

Canvasback

3/1	Annapolis CBC	7	
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Redhead

16/12-29/2	Brier I	1 male	ELM, AHM
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Ring-necked Duck

6/12	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	15	NSBS
27/12	West Hants CBC	1	
29/1	Rainbow Haven Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL

Tufted Duck

12/1	Trenton Power Plant, <i>Pict.</i>	2 males	KJM
1/2	Tufts Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 fem	TEP, var obs

Greater Scaup

12/12	Crescent Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	500	JAH
30/12	West Dublin, <i>Lun.</i>	42	ELM, AHM
1/1	Pictou Harbour CBC	3138	
29/1	LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	207	JAH, Gary Smith
31/1	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	486	SEM
26/2	Brier I.	13	ELM, CAH

Lesser Scaup

14/12	Halifax- Dartmouth CBC	53	
30/12	West Dublin, <i>Lun.</i>	3	ELM
16-31/1	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	5	SEM
29/1	LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH, Gary Smith

King Eider

31/1-1/2	Main-a-Dieu, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM, many obs
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Common Eider

6/12	Chebucto Head, <i>HRM</i>	50	PLC
22/12	Pt Michaud, <i>Rich</i>	85	Weldon MacPhail
26/12	Herring Cove, <i>HRM</i>	200	PLC
6/1	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	47	DMW
29/2	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	450	SEM
29/2	Wild Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	213	SEM

Harlequin Duck

14/12	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
20/12	Cape Sable CBC	3	
21/12	Port L'Hebert CBC	44	
1/1-29/2	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	15	var obs
3/1	St Anns Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	1 male	SEM, John McKay
24/1	Pt Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	2	Weldon MacPhail, BID
14/2	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	22	David Hughes

Surf Scoter

9/12	North Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	27	BSK
8/2	Main-a-Dieu, <i>CBRM</i>	63	SEM
8/2	Mira Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	6	SEM
21/2	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	3	SEM



This elegant drake spent a few days in early January at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth. A bright green stripe down its crown, nape, and hindneck, and its chestnut-plumaged chest, together with its long central tail feathers, among other features, declared it to be a N. PINTAIL X MALLARD hybrid. This combination is not common here, but for some years good numbers could be found wintering around St. John's, NF, where both species were introduced and seemed to have trouble making mate choices until their populations expanded. [Photo Ian McLaren]

White-winged Scoter

9/12	North Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	40	BSK
10/12	St Anns Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	80	BSK
2/1	Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	6	AND, Lelia Dean
31/1	Main-a-Dieu, <i>CBRM</i>	560	SEM
14/2	Pt Michaud, <i>Rich</i>	63	Weldon MacPhail

Black Scoter

10/12	St Anns Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	2	BSK
11/12	Pt Michaud, <i>Rich</i>	6	Weldon MacPhail
2/1	Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	20	AND, Lelia Dean
8/2	Main-a-Dieu, <i>CBRM</i>	4	SEM

Long-tailed Duck

9/12	North Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	35	BSK
11/12	Pt Michaud, <i>Rich</i>	60	Weldon MacPhail
16/12	Brier I.	57	ELM, AHM
30/12	Dublin Shore, <i>Lun.</i>	86	ELM, AHM
18/1	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	50	SEM
29/2	Wild Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	40	SEM

Bufflehead

24/12	Oakland, <i>Lun.</i>	17	JAH
1/1	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	65	SEM
2/1	Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	16	AND, Lelia Dean
31/1	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	28	SEM

Common Goldeneye

13/12	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	68	JAH
22/12	The Sydneys CBC	450	
18/1	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	26	SEM
21/1	Sydney R., <i>CBRM</i>	59	SEM

Barrow's Goldeneye

3/1	Annapolis CBC	5	
14/12	Halifax- Dartmouth CBC	5	
22/12	The Sydneys CBC	11	
27/12	Strait of Canso CBC	1	
28/12	Bedford- Sackville CBC	7	
1/1	Pictou Harbour CBC	2	
15/1	Sydney R., <i>CBRM</i>	1 male & 1 fem	SEM
21/2	Sydney R., <i>CBRM</i>	3 males & 2 fems	SEM
28/2	Tufts Cove, <i>HRM</i>	3 males	Ray Wershler, var obs

Hooded Merganser

13/12	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	32	JAH
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Although this EUR. WIGEON, discovered by Bernard Burk at Sullivan's Pond in late December, was "ticked" by many as a female, it's status as a male in retarded juvenal plumage, was quite evident by late winter. [Photo Ian McLaren]

24/12	Oakland, <i>Lun.</i>	53	JAH
16/2	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW, RHL
25/2	Sheet Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	6	Ray Wershler

Common Merganser

29/12	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	4	RHL
26/1	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	28	DMW
4/2	Albert Bridge, <i>CBRM</i>	35	DBM

Red-breasted Merganser

10/12	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	18	DMW
31/12	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	19	SEM
8/2	Main-a-Dieu, <i>CBRM</i>	23	SEM
21/2	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	13	SEM

Ruddy Duck

2-14/12	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	2	var obs
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The young (LESSER) SNOW GOOSE that appeared in late November, grazing on the playing field at Shannon Park, Dartmouth, soon began to visit nearby Tufts Cove, where it was photographed Dec. 3. Later it became one of the prize wintering waterfowl at Sullivan's Pond. [Photo T. Paquet]

Diurnal Raptors through Cranes

By Ulli Höger



This lovely portrait of a young, light-phase ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK emphasizes its long wings and benign expression compared with other large buteos. [Photo Richard Stern]



This young ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK took to feeding on a seal carcass on the shore of CSI during late February, but did not exhibit a vulture's fastidious care of plumage. [Photo Grant Milroy]

Sightings of OSPREY during winter fall into the unexpected category. However, a total of three were reported this winter season. [Editor's note: Ospreys, despite being familiar to provincial birders, are extremely unlikely in winter, and there are only a couple of properly documented winter occurrences. Winter reports *not accompanied by documentation* should be treated with suspicion. None of three reports this winter was documented.]

As expected, there was no shortage of BALD EAGLE sightings. The CBC totals below give a good impression how common this species is and show the major NS wintering hotspot is the Wolfville/Canning area. Immature Bald Eagles are often mistaken for Golden Eagles but we had two credible sightings of the latter.

Another 'in the wrong place at the wrong time' species, at least according to the books, was reported several times in early winter. Listen up Field Guide editors: **BROAD-WINGED HAWKS ARE** winter birds in Nova Scotia! We should still use photographic documentation for this species.

After sightings of SWAINSON'S HAWKS last fall, another one was reported from Barrington Passage in early December. The following are passages taken from JCZ's report: "I spotted a large buteo near the highway one km. east of Goose Lake Road. It was 'kestrelling',...seen from below the wings were very light near the body and dark along the under-outside and towards the edge. The tips were very dark. The very dark comma at the under elbow was distinct. There was no distinct belly band, but there was fine speckling on the upper breast near the neck. It flew like a Swainson's (slightly hunched shoulders) across the road and when it made a turn about. I saw what, to me, was the give away field mark- a light rump (almost like a N. Harrier). The tail banding was not noticeable nor distinct. The tail just looked dark (but not solid), especially in contrast to the white area below the belly... A light imm Swainson's "

Osprey

30/12 Tufts Cove, HRM	1	DOM
2/1 St. Anns Bay, Vic.	1	CBC
9/1 Lower South R, Ant.	1	GED

Bald Eagle

On province wide CBCs between mid Dec and early Jan, 702 individuals were recorded. Examples are listed below:

Wolfville 315	Pictou 39
Shubenacadie, Col. 34	West Hants 25
Antigonish 25	Eskasoni, CB 23
Halifax/Dartmouth 21	Amherst 20
Sydney 20	St. Anns Bay, Vic 17
St. Peter's, Rich. 17	Cheticamp, Inv. 15
Margaree, Inv. 15	Truro 13
Lunenburg 13	Apple River, Cum. 11

Northern Harrier

CBC total for the province was 29, with six in the Wolfville count.

Dec-Feb Hartlen Point, HRM	1-3	TEP, ELM, RMA <i>et al</i>
Dec-Feb CSI	>1	MUN, GRM, JAH <i>et al</i>
23/12 Blockhouse, Lun.	1	JAH
1/1 Corkums I, Lun.	1	JAH
1/1 Second Peninsula, Lun.	1	JAH
3/1 Tancook I Lun.	1	CSS, CLS
26/2 Sambro, HRM	1	DMW

Sharp-shinned Hawk

The CBC total for NS was 53, with 13 reported from the Halifax area.

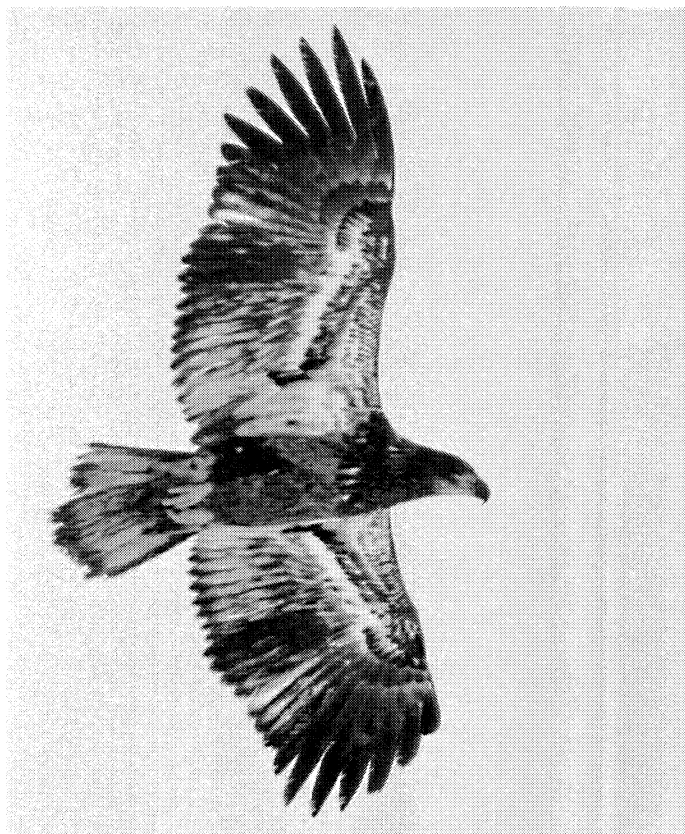
Sharpies were frequently reported from feeders throughout the province.

26/12-29/12 Apple R, Cum.	1	KFS
1/1 Bear R, Digby.	1	MCR
8/2 Conrad Beach, HRM	1	DMW

Northern Goshawk

The CBC total for NS was 11.

6/12 Sunrise Valley, <i>CB</i>	1	FMC
26/12 Sheffield Mills, <i>Kings</i>	1	ELM
Dec (latter half) Spryfield, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm	FLL
4/1 Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	1	AND <i>et al</i>
26/1 & 15/02 Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Broad-winged Hawk		
1/12 Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	1	SAH
10/12 NE Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM
21/12 & 04/01 Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Swainson's Hawk		
6/12 Barrington Passage, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JCZ
Red-tailed Hawk		
The CBC total for the province was 324, with a total of 194 from the Wolfville count. Reports of this common bird of prey were frequent throughout the season.		
Rough-legged Hawk		
Dec-Feb Crystal Crescent Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1-2	HAT
Dec-Feb Hartlen Point, <i>HRM</i>	1-3	TEP
16/12 Brier I.	1	ELM
26/12 Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	ELM
1/2 Grand Pré area, <i>Kings</i>	6	JAH
Dec-Feb CSI	1-3	GRM, JAH, MUN
GOLDEN EAGLE		
1, 5, & 14/01 Crescent Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JSC, LAB, JAH
25/1 Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	1	SAH
American Kestrel		
CBC's in six counties reported a total of six birds.		
1/12 CSI	1	MUN
23/12 Brier I.	2	JUS
8/2 Lawrencetown Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL
Merlin		
1/12 CSI	1	MUN
10/12 CSI	1	GRM
4/1 Blockhouse, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
20/1 Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
14/2 Pt Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	1	Weldon MacPhail
16/2 Conrose Field, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
20/2 Greenwich Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF
Dec-Feb Spryfield, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL
Dec-Feb Woodlawn/Dartmouth	1	FLL
Gyr Falcon		
25/1 Tufts Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP
Peregrine Falcon		
26/12 Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
27/12 Hartlen	1	RSM
6/2 Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF
28/2 Tufts Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	Ray Wershler
Ring-necked Pheasant		
The CBC's totaled 398 with 104 from the Wolfville count.		
Dec-Feb Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1-2	SLH
Dec & Feb Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	David Hughes
Dec & Jan Brier I.	1-7	JUS, ELM
Ruffed Grouse		
A total of 122 was recorded on CBCs in the province. Other reports were scarce.		



This juvenile (first winter) BALD EAGLE is recognizable as such from its dark underbody (darker on the chest) combined with much white on underwings. In later plumages, immatures acquire more white on the underbody. [Photo Jay White]

30/1 CSI	3	MUN
29/2 Louisbourg, <i>CB</i>	1	SEM

SEM noted that this was the only sighting this winter. Quite a change from last winter, when weekly sightings of groups of 3-9 in the area were common.

Spruce Grouse

The only reports came from CBCs. West Hants listed three, Halifax/Dartmouth one, and three were found on the Bedford/Sackville count.

American Coot

2/12 Antigonish Landing, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL
20-22/12 Wentworth Park, Sydney, <i>CB</i>	1	SEM
24-26/12 Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	1-2	MUN, RHL

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The Shorebirds

By Sylvia Fullerton

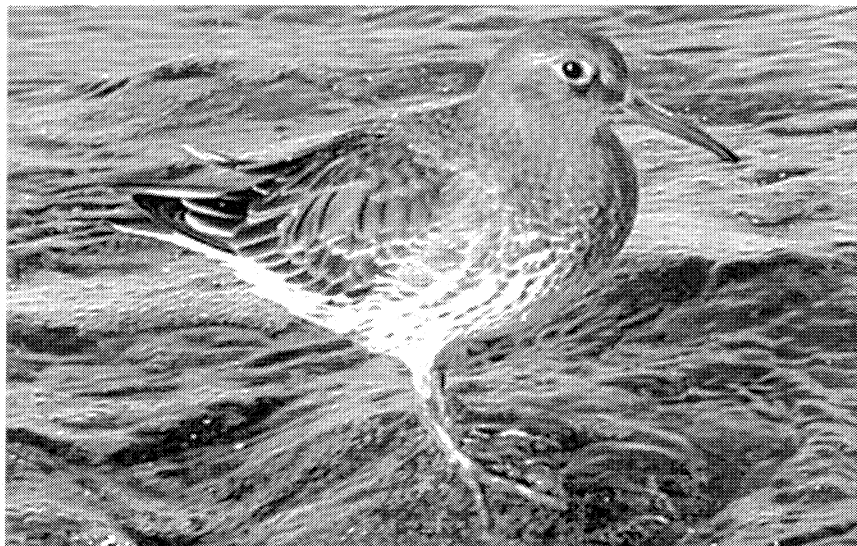
Fourteen species of shorebirds, in average numbers, were noted early in the season. It is no surprise that most, some of which traditionally overwinter, left well before mid-January. Only four hardy species stayed on, many finding an oasis on CSI: Sanderling, Purple Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Wilson's Snipe.

The SPOTTED SANDPIPER found on the CSI CBC, Dec 20, was exceptionally late, although not unprecedented. The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the WHIMBREL which must have buoyed the spirits of the counters on the Canso Town CBC on the late date of Dec 29. It was well observed and described as our species *hudsonicus* and not the European *phaeopus*. It was one of the latter that established a record-late date and a first for a CBC, appearing at Cherry Hill, Oct 13-Dec 29, 1974. Nevertheless, the Canso Whimbrel is the first *hudsonicus* to make such a late appearance, important, as one day it may stand on its own as a separate species.

SANDERLINGS were in good numbers. Of continuing interest are the sizable flocks which latterly have been found on exposed sandbanks in Port l'Hebert Harbour, this year producing a high of 319. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS once again lingered to the end of December. Semipalmated wintering status is still poorly known, but there has been confirmation of wintering in Florida. Bit by bit the picture may become clearer. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS were in low numbers in November and not one lingered into December, ending a six-year record.

No trends can be discerned in the random sightings of WILSON'S SNIPE and AMERICAN WOODCOCK. One does wonder, however, if some of the Wilson's Snipe reported later in the season were early migrants.

Black-bellied Plover				Semipalmated Sandpiper			
1/12-4/01 Crescent Beach, Lun.	1	JSC		20/12-end of Dec CSI	9		CBC, MUN, JON
5/12 Cherry Hill, Lun.	2	SJF		Purple Sandpiper			
10/12 CSI	16	GRM, SIS		14/12-5/01	226	reported on 10	CBCs
20/12 CSI	6	CBC, GRM, MUN		14/12 Halifax/Dartmouth	60		CBC
3/01 CSI	3	CBC, GRM, MUN		16/12 Brier I	70		CBC, ELM, AHM
Killdeer				27/12 Economy, Col	50		CBC
1/12 Antigonish Landing	2	RFL		27/12 Keji Seaside Adjunct	70		PEH
13/12 Yar.mouth	1	MUN, JON		2/01 Crescent Beach, Lun.	17		JSC
20/12 Baccaro, Shel.	1	CSI CBC, GRM		9/01 Baccaro, Shel.	70		MUN
22/12 Pt Michaud, Rich.	1	Weldon MacPhail, SEM, DBM		21/01 Pt Michaud, Rich.	24		Weldon MacPhail
28/12 L'Ardoise, Rich.	1	Weldon MacPhail, SEM, DBM		30/01 CSI	15		MUN, PRG
Greater Yellowlegs				1/02 Herring Cove, HRM	15		DOU
1/12, 2/01 Melbourne, Yar.	3, 2	PRG		8/02 Louisbourg	31		SEM
2/12 Abrams R, Yar.	2	RSD		21/02 Margaretsville, Anna.	50		BLF
Lesser Yellowlegs				28/02 Martinique, HRM	15		TEP
1/12 Melbourne, Yar.	3	PRG		Dunlin			
Spotted Sandpiper				1/12-21/01 Crescent Beach, Lun.	6		JSC, SJF
20/12 Bear Pt, Shel.	1	CSI CBC, GRM		16/12 Brier I	1		CBC, ELM, AHM
Whimbrel				20/12 CSI	63		CBC
29/12 Whitehead, Guys.	1	Canso Town CBC, RFL, STB		21/12 Port l'Hebert, Shel.	4		CBC, SJF
Ruddy Turnstone				18/01, 14/02 CSI	250, 60		BJS, SIS, MUN, JON
10/12, 3/01 CSI	4	GRM, SIS, MUN		28/02 Martinique, HRM	25		TEP
21/12 Port l'Hebert, Shel.	4	CBC		Wilson's Snipe			
Red Knot				10/12 Cole Hbr, HRM	1		FLL
20/12-mid Jan CSI	3	CBC, GRM, JON		13/12 Hartlen Pt	1		TEP
30/12 Crescent Beach, Lun..	1	Broad Cove CBC, IAM et al.		20/12 CSI	1		CBC
Sanderling				27/12 St Peters, Rich.	1		CBC
5/12, 28/02 Cherry Hill, Lun.	5	SJF		10/01 Ketch Hbr, HRM	1		NSBS, RSM
20/12, 3/01 CSI	110, 46	CBC, GRM, JON		11/01 Blue Rocks, Lun.	1		MUN, CST, JAH
21/12 White Pt, Queens	21	CBC		2/02 Dartmouth	2		TEP
21/12, 3/01 Port l'Hebert, Shel.	319, 200+	CBC, SJF, AND, Lelia Dean		21/02 Port Clyde, Shel.	1		SAH
30/12 Crescent Beach, Lun..	9	Broad Cove CBC, IAM et al.		American Woodcock			
28/02 Martinique, HRM	5	TEP		20/12 CSI	1		CBC, GRM
				28/12 Bedford/Sackville	1		CBC



Baccaro Pt., Shelburne, is a well-known winter site for the hardy PURPLE SANDPIPER, this one photographed there Feb. 9. [Photo Grant Milroy]

Skuas through Alcids

By Eric Mills

What began as a quiet winter for gulls turned into an outstanding one, featuring six rare species, one of which was new to the Atlantic Provinces. Alcids of all species were sparsely reported and murres, in particular, were unusually scarce.

An ad **LITTLE GULL**, among Kittiwakes off Blue Rocks, *Lunenburg*, Jan 3, was only a one-day wonder, despite much searching. Of 202 **BLACK-HEADED GULLS** on CBCs, 80% were along shores from Halifax to Yarmouth, but concentrated especially in the Halifax and Lunenburg areas. At least 15 remained in Glace Bay Hbr through Jan 17. **BONAPARTE'S GULLS** staged a mini-concentration in the Back Hbr, *Lunenburg*, area through December until freeze-up in early January; 35-44 were present in late December. On the North Shore, where they are far more abundant, there were still 70+ in Pictou Hbr Jan 1 during the CBC (*fide* KJM). Two lingered at Conrad's Beach, *HRM*, through Feb 7.

An **MEW (COMMON) GULL** was located on the CSI CBC Dec 20, but no details are available. Another, an ad, found and photographed at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, Feb 2, by Bernard Burke and seen there by many, remained in the area into March, apparently spending much of its time at the thermal outflow of the Tufts Cove power plant in a whirling mass of Ring-billed Gulls (*FLL et al.*). **RING-BILLED GULLS** continue to increase, even as a wintering species. CBCs showed that of 1118 Ring-bills recorded in late December - early January, 60 % (880) were in the Halifax and Wolfville areas, with honourable mention to Yarmouth (91), Economy (80) and Pictou (45). A second year bird in Glace Bay Hbr Jan 1, appears to have been the last of the season there. Hybrids of common species were noted at least twice. A **HERRING x GLAUCOUS GULL** ("Nelson's Gull") at Lockeport, *Shelburne*, Jan 23 though late February, was carefully documented by DJC. At Glace Bay, *CBRM*, an apparent ad **HERRING x GREAT BLACK-BACKED** hybrid was present at least from Dec 26 through early January. My notes report that "in flight it appeared darker than the Herrings and lighter than the Black-backs, and on the ground showed dull flesh-coloured legs and mantle colour considerably lighter than the average Lesser Black-back. Size was identical to the Herring Gulls around it. The bill was somewhat more sturdy than Herring bills, but not as big as those of the Great Black-backs. The head was mostly white, but with some fine, light streaking on the side centered on the eye. The underwing appeared quite dark, and there was apparently a single dark spot in the outer primaries (flight views were never good). In short, I was convinced that this was a Herring / Great Black-backed hybrid, maybe even the same bird that was in Glace Bay two years ago."

Three **THAYER'S GULLS** were reported: an imm at Pier 9, Halifax Hbr, Jan 1 (no details); a returning ad at the same location off and on through January and February; and an ad photographed at Glace Bay Jan 2. **ICELAND GULLS** (mainly "Kumlien's") were widespread, notably in Industrial CB (307 on the Sydneys CBC Dec 22) and around Halifax (209 on the CBC Dec 14). Eight **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** records, of at least 11 individuals, span the reporting period. At Lower Canard, *Kings*, Jan 31, AAM reported "a wonderful array of gulls" including "one ad, one 2nd winter and one possible first winter Lesser Black-backed Gull."

Certainly the sensation of the season, indeed of any season, was an ad **SLATY-BACKED GULL** found and photographed by CAM and ALM in downtown Glace Bay, *CBRM*, Dec 26 and present into early February in the nearby harbour area (DBM,



It has been a while since we've featured photos of a rare **MEW GULL** in the province. (Our visitors are the actually the Old-World **COMMON GULL**, which many authorities believe is specifically distinct from the N. Am. Mew Gull). This one was sporadically at Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth, through later winter. Its dark eye and plain, unbanded bill (which actually had a narrower band earlier in winter), and, in flight, its large, white primary "windows," distinguish it from Ringed-billed Gull. [Photos Bernard Burke]

ELM, var obs). This was a long-awaited new species for the Atlantic Provinces, and the only Slaty-back seen closer than Ontario to the west and New York to the southwest. Inspired by DBM's meticulous notes, I recorded the following after spending New Year's Day with this spectacular bird, sometimes as close as five meters: "a very striking dark-backed gull, with bright pink legs and feet, a remarkably wide and conspicuous tertial crescent, brownish mottling on sides and back of neck extending down the sides of the neck, dark area around the eye, yellowish iris and pinkish-red orbital ring..., stout parallel-margined bill with practically no gonydeal angle, row of subapical spots in upper side of primaries and little other white in the wing (except the very broad white trailing edge and narrow leading edge, underwing grayish near the tip and whiter closer to the body except for the limited black at the end of the outer primaries. Mantle colour was blackish, a shade paler than the nearby Great Black-backed Gulls and darker than the average *graellsii* Lesser Black-backed Gull. Overall body size a little larger than the average Herring Gull (some in the flocks approached its size)." These observations and the identification have been borne out by RBS's photographs Jan 4, as well as by the original ones taken by CAM and ALM.

GLAUCOUS GULLS were few and far between, although widely scattered in the province, with peaks on CBCs of eight at Yarmouth, six at Cheticamp and four in The Sydneys. A very small ad was at Pier 9, Halifax Hbr, Jan 26, easily confusable on superficial inspection with an Iceland Gull. BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES, certainly abundant offshore and in the Bay of Fundy, were sparsely reported; the largest number by far was 302 on the Brier CBC Dec 16. To cap an outstanding season for gulls, an imm **IVORY GULL**, found and photographed by CAM and ALM, was off the Glace Bay Hbr sewer outfall Jan 26.

Present since Nov 9, a **FORSTER'S TERN** (one of two earlier in the season) was still at Daniels Hd, CSI, *Shelburne*, Dec 10, after which it appears to have disappeared. Another tern, originally reported as a Common on the Canso CBC Dec 29, could not be positively identified but was believed not to be a Forster's (*fide* TOK).

A feature of the season, although a negative one, was the dearth of alcid records, especially of the murre. DOVEKIES appeared during the first week of December after a Nov 30 gale, but only in numbers on Dec 7, when JCZ found three storm-driven, road-killed Dovekies along Hwy 103 between *Shelburne* and *HRM*. On Dec 8, TOK found 100+ with many other seabirds at Canso, *Gusy*, and one was rescued from a turnip field near Merigomish, *Pict*. Although single and small numbers were reported thereafter from all areas of the province, the only large numbers were 135 on the Louisbourg CBC Dec 14, 75 on the Canso CBC Dec 29, "many" near Bay St Lawrence, *Vic*, Jan 11, and 379 at Louisbourg Jan 18. COMMON MURRES were reported only on CBCs, albeit sparsely: two at Halifax Dec 14 and one at Lunenburg Jan 3. Where, however, were the normally abundant THICK-BILLED MURRES? Probably offshore, although single-digit reports from all over the coastal area of the province extended from mid-December to the end of February. Holding the fort were BLACK GUILLEMOTS, most abundant in the Strait of Canso, CSI and Bay of Fundy regions but widespread in all coastal regions. ATLANTIC PUFFINS, although never very abundant in winter, were reported twice, as individuals only, on the Brier I and Halifax CBCs in mid-December.

Little Gull				9-24/12 Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	2-5	DMW
3/1 Blue Rocks, <i>Lun.</i>	1 ad	FLL <i>et al.</i>		10/12 Jersey Cove, <i>Vic.</i>	11	BSK
Black-headed Gull				10/12 S Gut St Ann's, <i>Vic.</i>	6	BSK
9-23/12 Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	3-36	DMW		10/12 Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	15	GRM
24/12 Back Hbr, Lunenburg	12	JAH		16/12 Brier I.	10	ELM, AHM
24+/12 Back Hbr, Lunenburg	10	ELM		20/12 Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i>	3	RHL
8/1 Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	17	DMW		end12-end 2 Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	8+	DJC
12/1-9/2 Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	2 ad	DJC		1/1 Glace Bay Hbr		DBM, ELM
17/1 Glace Bay Hbr, <i>CBRM</i>	15	SEM		8/1 Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
18/1 Lunenburg Hbr	2	AND & Lelia Dean		30/1 Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	4	RHL
31/1 Glace Bay Hbr, <i>CBRM</i>	4	SEM		6-16/2 Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	6-20	DMW
6/2 Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	1	PLC, SUB		Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull ("Nelson's Gull")		
7-23/2 Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1-6	DMW		23/1-late 2 Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 imm	DJC
13/2 Mira Gut, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM		Herring Gull x Great Black-backed Gull		
Bonaparte's Gull				late2-12 Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>		CAM, ALM, ELM
8/12 Canso	A few	TOK		Thayer's Gull		
16/12 Brier I.	1	ELM, AHM		1/1 Halifax Hbr	1 imm	FLL <i>et al.</i>
18/12 Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	2 ad	DJC		2/1 Halifax Hbr	1 ad	var obs
19/12 Lunenburg area	21	ELM		2/1 Glace Bay	1 ad	CAM, ALM
20-30/12 Cherry Hill, <i>Lun</i>	1	SJF, DHY <i>et al.</i>		Iceland Gull		
22/12 Pt Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	7	Weldon MacPhail		03/12 Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	8	DJC
24/12 Back Hbr, Lunenburg	44	JAH		9/12 N Sydney Hbr, <i>CBRM</i>	14	BSK
27+/12 Back Hbr, Lunenburg	35	ELM		22/12 Pt Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	1	Weldon MacPhail
1/1 Pictou Hbr, <i>Pict.</i>	70+	<i>fide</i> KJM		28/12 Hartlen Pt, <i>HRM</i>	7	DMW
18/1 Lunenburg Hbr	8	AND & Lelia Dean		2/1 Pt Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	1	AND & Lelia Dean
21/1 Pt Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	2	Weldon MacPhail		31/1 Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL, MZG
7/2 Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW		14/2 Halifax Hbr.	1 ad	ELM
Mew Gull				Lesser Black-backed Gull		
20/12 CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN <i>et al.</i>		14/12-23/1 Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 ad	DJC
2-3/2 Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	1 ad	Bernard Burke <i>et al.</i>		19/12 Back Hbr, Lunenburg	1	ELM
Ring-billed Gull				19/12 Amherst, <i>Cum.</i>	1	CBC
8/12-26/2 Canso	1	TOK		21/12 Port Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	1	CBC

1/1	Pictou Hbr, <i>Pict.</i>	1	CBC	13/2	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
3/1	Lunenburg area	2	<i>vide</i> JAH	15/2	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	3	JCZ, Lillian Perry
31/1	Lower Canard, <i>Kings</i>	3	AAM	25/2	Sober I, <i>HRM</i>	1	Ray Wershler
27/2	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1 juv	JAH, Len MacDonald	26/2	Sambro, <i>HRM</i>	1	Ray Wershler
Slaty-backed Gull				29/2	Wild Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	4	SEM
26/12-ca 4/2	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1 ad	CAM, ALM <i>et al.</i>	Murre sp.			
Glaucous Gull				8/12	Trenton, <i>Pict.</i>	1	<i>vide</i> KJM
6/12	Sable R, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JCZ	8/2	Wild Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	250	SEM
8/12	Canso	2	TOK	Thick-billed Murre			
18/12	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 imm	DJC	16/12	Brier I.	2	ELM, AHM
2/1	Pt Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	1	AND, Lelia Dean	31/12	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	2	SEM, LAR
26/1	Halifax Hbr	1 ad	ELM, AHM	18/1	Louisbourg Hbr, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
8/2	Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	2 imm	DBM	31/1	Pt Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	1	Weldon MacPhail
10/2	Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	1 ad	DBM, Ian Barber	10-25/2	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	4	DJC
24/2	Tufts Cove, Dartmouth	1	Ray Wershler	11/2	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	4	MUN <i>et al.</i>
Black-legged Kittiwake				15/2	Green Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, Gary Smith
6/12	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2+	PLC	24/2	Louisbourg Hbr, <i>CBRM</i>	2	SEM
16/12	Brier I	32	ELM, AHM	24/2	Hartlens Pt area, <i>HRM</i>	3	Ray Wershler
Ivory Gull				26/2	Ketch Hbr/Sambro, <i>HRM</i>	2	Ray Wershler
26/1	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1 imm	CAM, ALM	29/2	Louisbourg Hbr, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Forster's Tern				Razorbill			
1-10/12	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN, JON, SAN	12/12	Crescent Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Tern sp.				16/12	Brier I.	6	ELM, AHM
20/12	Canso CBC	1	TOK	21/2	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Alcid sp.				Black Guillemot			
6/12	Brier I.	300	ELM, AHM	8/12	Canso	15+	TOK
Dovekie				9/12	N Sydney Hbr, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BSK
6/12	Ketch Hbr, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC	10/12	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	6	GRM
7/12	<i>Shel., Queens, HRM</i>	2	JCZ	16/12	Brier I.	52	ELM, AHM
8/12	Canso	100+	TOK	1/1	NW Arm, Halifax	3+	PLC, JEH
8/12	Merigomish, <i>Pict.</i>	1	Wally MacLean <i>vide</i> KJM	2/1	Port Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	2	AND, Lelia Dean
10/12	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	1	GRM	2/1-5/3	Jersey Cove, <i>Vic.</i>	3-5	BSK
14/12	Louisbourg CBC, <i>CBRM</i>	135	SEM <i>et al.</i>	18/1	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	32	SEM
15/12-late 2	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	2	DJC	8/2	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	3	SEM
16/12	Brier I.	2	ELM, AHM	8/2	Main-Dieu, <i>CBRM</i>	6	SEM
22/12	Pt Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	3	Weldon MacPhail	13/2	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	12	SEM
26/12	NW Arm, Halifax	1	PLC	14/2	Pt Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	11	Weldon MacPhail
29/12	Wild Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	4	SEM	/21/2	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	25	SEM
1/1	NW Arm, Halifax	1	PLC, JEH	21/2	Main-a-Dieu, <i>CBRM</i>	6	SEM
4/1	Blue Rocks, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH	29/2	Wild Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	30	SEM
11/1	Bay St Lawrence, <i>Vic</i>	Many	FMC	29/2	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	37	SEM
18/1	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	379	SEM	Atlantic Puffin			
11/2	Cottage Cove, <i>Kings</i>	5	JOB	16/12	Brier I.	1	ELM, AHM

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Doves Through Woodpeckers

By Ian McLaren

Numbers of ROCK PIGEONS were close to the all-time average on CBCs, but ELM commented that 50 signalled an "unwelcome, but increasing population" on Brier I. MOURNING DOVES were also near average on CBCs. Most subsequent high counts at feeders were in the 20s, but BLF had up to 40 and BLM up to 46. A courting pair – "lots of soft 'singing' anyway" – surprised MCR, 29 Feb at Sandy Bottom L., *Annapolis*.

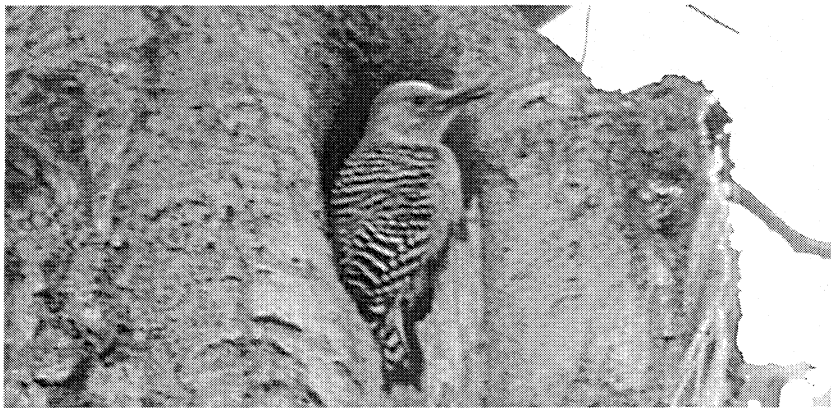
The CBC total of GREAT HORNED OWLS matched last year's, but gave no hint of recovery to mid-90s numbers. The only later reports were by SEM, who heard the season's first duet 10 Feb. at Louisbourg, and MUN, who had a vocal pair on CSI, 27-29 Feb. It was not a SNOWY OWL winter. The only ones noted were an ad. from 20 Dec. on the Cape, CSI, joined by an imm. after 3 Feb. (MUN *et al.*). BARRED OWLS remained close to their average since the mid-90s, ignoring a huge 1999 anomaly. MUN felt there were "lots" in December along forested roads in *Shelburne*, and at least 13 later ones were reported widely. Heavy snows might have been a problem for them, but BLF's (feeder-assisted) backyard female made her first nest-box visit 29 Feb. A single LONG-EARED OWL was hooting on Brier I. 30 Dec. (RBS), and another hunting late in the day 6-9 Feb was a treat for CSI birders. After a poor CBC showing, SHORT-EARED OWLS did a bit better: one on CSI 2 Jan. to at least early February was joined by a second 21 Jan. (MUN *et al.*); two, possibly three were on *Kings* Dykelands, early December through January (m.obs.); one appeared at Hartlen Pt. 7-28 Feb. (D. and J. Hughes, TEP); and one at Chezzetcook, *HRM*, 23 Feb. (Ray Wershler). No significance need be attached to the lack SAW-WHET OWL reports following the CBC; they usually don't tune up until spring. The identity of nine owls early January near Falmouth, as reported to Bob Bancroft 's CBC phone-in, was debated on NatureNS. Some guessed Barred, others Short-eared or even Long-eared (which have occupied unpublicized group roosts in nearby *Kings*).

A paltry 15 BELTED KINGFISHERS on CBCs were followed by reports of about 11 in January, but only two through the period – one at Bear River, *Digby* (MCR), and a particularly hardy one at S. St. Anns Gut, *Victoria* (BSK).

It was a big winter for RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS, beginning with a record seven on CBCs (besting six in 1995). The following table summarizes sightings, mostly at feeders. Latest reports may not signify death or departure, but on balance it looks as though it was a rough winter for these regular “southern” strays. One nurtured by RMC in Barrington, *Shelburne*, was found in distress 17 Jan., and died next day.

Locality	Latest report	Observer(s)
Pubnico, <i>Yarmouth</i> (up to three)	4 Dec.	ETM
South end Halifax	14 Dec.	(CBC)
New Glasgow, <i>Pictou</i>	20 Dec.	(CBC)
Strait of Canso area	27 Dec.	(CBC)
St. Peters, <i>Richmond</i>	27 Dec.	(CBC)
The Sydneys	27 Dec.	NatureNS
Broad Cove, <i>Lunenburg</i>	30 Dec.	(CBC)
Kentville area, <i>Kings</i>	3 Jan.	NatureNS
New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	6 Jan.	NatureNS
Broad St., Lunenburg Town	9 Jan.	JAH et al.
Pleasantville, <i>Lunenburg</i>	9 Jan.	JAH et al.
Sunnybrook, <i>Lunenburg</i>	17 Jan.	CLS, CSS, et al.
Barrington, <i>Shelburne</i>	17 Jan.	RMC
Carleton, <i>Yarmouth</i>	18 Jan.	MUN
Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	20 Jan.	SLH
Rockingham, <i>HRM</i>	29 Jan.	JEH et al.
Birch Cove, <i>Dartmouth</i>	30 Jan.	Bernard Burke

We seldom have YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS in winter, like those lingering 19 Dec. on the Amherst CBC (no details) and 22 Dec. on the Sydneys CBC (imm., fide DBM). Even more exceptional was one at Middle River, *Victoria*, 11 Jan. (BSK, fide Chuck Thompson); probably none of these survived winter. Again I urge readers to check late-fall and winter sapsuckers for possible Red-naped Sapsucker (which would not be in fully imm. plumage). Nothing much can be made of scattered reports of DOWNY and HAIRY WOODPECKERS, which were close to long-term averages on CBCs, and no BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS were reported on CBCs or subsequently. N. FLICKERS began with a near-average CBC total, and “about 20” were seen through the period by MUN during his *Shelburne-Yarmouth* rambles. Elsewhere, there were only seven January sightings, from CB to *Yarmouth*, and fewer through the period – one in Wolfville (JCT), another at Bear River, *Digby* (MCR), and perhaps three in metro *HRM* (var. obs.). Although the CBC total of PILEATED WOODPECKERS was near-average, it is less reassuring that there were many more in the mid-90s. About 13 individuals were reported subsequently. ☞



One of this winter's good show of RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS seems to be inspecting a roost site in Dartmouth, Dec. 14, but may be looking for a good place to store acorns and other goodies. [Photo Terry Paquet]

Flycatchers Through Thrushes

By Andy Horn

It was a relatively good year for N SHRIKES, with an average number of reports and CBC totals. Indeed, most species in this section had about average CBC totals, so I'll only mention the notable exceptions. One shrike, or presumably just one, seen intermittently in and near Westphal, HRM, Nov 27-Dec 14, may have been a Loggerhead, but this was never confirmed (EBB *fide* FLL). Leucistic BLUE JAYS included one bird that was all white with some grey in the shoulders in Springfield, Lunenburg, Dec 5 (JAH; perhaps the bird seen in Lunenburg last year), and a bird with a white head in S Brookfield, Queens (PEH), whose "normal colour pattern could be seen beneath the frosty white appearance [which] made an already attractive bird look distinguished." Among corvids, the highlight of the season was a probable FISH CROW at CSI, Feb 29 (JON *fide* MUN). The bird kept to itself most of the time, was smaller than a Common Crow and had a narrower and longer tail. Overall, it looked "like a giant grackle" and "called as the book says it does."



This young N. SHRIKE hanging about a feeder in Antigonish, seemed to have its eye on a potential victim. [Photo Randy Lauff]

Two species with low CBC totals last year, HORNED LARKS and RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES, were back to average numbers this year (from 60 to 239 and 378 to 719, respectively), though some observers felt both were generally scarce this winter. Reports of the former species, listed in full below, might often under represent their true numbers. In contrast, the CBC total of 210 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES continues the recent increase in winter numbers that has made the individual sightings too numerous to list. Two reports of HOUSE WRENS surprisingly outnumbered those of the more expected wren species this winter. Perhaps the most striking statistic for this section of reports, however, was the low CBC total of GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS: a paltry 520 compared to last year's 1714. A BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER persisted in Canso well into December (*fide* BLM).

Both E BLUEBIRD and, more surprisingly, HERMIT THRUSH reports were few indeed. All five Hermit Thrushes seen on CBCs were in Halifax/Dartmouth, Dec 14. A GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH in winter would be quite a find, so stay tuned for details on a possible sighting on McNabs Island, HRM, Dec 14 (Bill Freedman, Mike Crowell). Many observers noted the late winter influx of AM ROBINS, but most exceptional was a flock of at least 2200 foraging on multiflora rose with about 100 waxwings; "an unforgettable sight. The field appeared to be moving with all the activity." (MAG *fide* JCT).

Northern Shrike

Dec-1/3 Apple River, Cum.	1+	KFS
3/12 CSI	1	MUN
4/12 Sunrise, CBRM	1	(1st winter) FMC
14/12 Pubnico, Yar.	1	MUN
17/12 Porcupine Hill, Lun.	1	RBS
28/12-1/3 Fairmont, Ant.	1	(1st winter) RFL, MZG
1/1 Chebucto Head, HRM	1	NSBS
25/1 Spry Hbr, HRM	1	IAM
25/1 Lower Sandy Pt, Shel.	1	MUN
26/1 Sambro Hd, HRM	1	ELM, AHM
26/1 Portuguese Cove, HRM	1	(1st winter) HAT
4/2 Lockporte, Shel.	1	(1st winter) DJC
4/2 Grand R, Rich.	1	Ethel & Weldon Holmes <i>fide</i> SDI, GED
18/2 Wolfville, Kings	1	(singing) BLF
1/3 Lawrencetown, HRM	1	David Hughes

Horned Lark

11/12 Conrad Beach, HRM	1	DMW
22/12 Pt Michaud, Rich.	5	Weldon MacPhail
13/1 Crescent Beach, Shel.	1	DJC
1/2 Sheffield Mills, Grand Pré, Kings	18	JAH, Gary Smith
9/2 Sable I.	2	ZOL

House Wren

to 14/12 Spryfield, HRM	1	FLL
15-29/12 Doctors Brook, Ant.	1	JOK

Winter Wren

2/1 St Anns Bay, CBRM	1	CBC
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Marsh Wren

20/12 CSI	1	CBC
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Ruby-crowned Kinglet

14/12 Port Latour, Shel.	1	MUN
27/12 Wolfville, Kings	1	BLF

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

to early Dec Canso, Guys.	1	<i>fide</i> BLM
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Eastern Bluebird

15/12 Granville Ferry, Anna.	1	Jan Coulter & Paula Dodaro <i>fide</i> PLC
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Hermit Thrush

10/12; 14/12 Halifax/Dartmouth	5	PLC; CBC
29/1 Port Joli, Queens	1	AND, Lelia Dean
14/2 CSI	1	MUN
24/2 Bear R, Digby	1	MCR

American Robin

26/1 Wolfville	30	JWW
26/1 Lunenburg	100	Paul MacDonald
8/2 Canning, Kings	2200+	MAG <i>fide</i> JCT

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Starlings Through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

EUROPEAN STARLING numbers seemed to be down on the CBC totals. A couple of observers noted starlings meeting their demise at the talons of hawks. A Sharp-shinned took one at the feeder of PMC in Dartmouth and a Red-tail consumed one in Wolfville as observed by JAH.

Although all three species of mimic thrushes were reported this winter, the 11 individuals seen is a rather low number. The two GRAY CATBIRDS noted this winter were both observed on CBC's in Lunenburg and Yarmouth. The Lunenburg bird was observed by JAH until at least Jan 28. Only three N. MOCKINGBIRDS were seen on the CBC this year, a rather low number compared to recent years. Six other mockers were noted outside this period from Barrington, Kentville, Yarmouth, Trenton, CSI and Lockeport with the latest reported bird photographed by GRM in Yarmouth Jan 13. The sole BROWN THRASHER was observed by PRG & RSD at Pinkneys Pt, Yarmouth, Jan 11.

The majority of AMERICAN PIPITS were seen during the CBC period with a higher than normal 130 tallied. Observers on the CSI CBC noted 88 of this total. The four seen at Crystal Crescent Beach Jan 1 were reduced to one Feb 1 (HAT) and three seen Dec 13 at Hartlen Pt (TEP) were also down to one Feb 1 (David Hughes). None were reported after that date.

Most BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS did not arrive until mid-January. Although no reports were received from early December, small numbers were reported on seven CBCs for a total of 237 birds. Counts that supported the larger numbers were scattered from Margaree and The Sydneys, on CBI, to Economy and Annapolis on the mainland. Almost simultaneously, a trickle of Bohemians were reported Jan 14-21 from Louisbourg (HOS) and Georges R, CBRM (DBM); Oban, Richmond (Weldon MacPhail); New Glasgow, Pictou (KJM); Maders Cove, Lunenburg (JAH); Apple River, Cumberland (KFS); Lower Sackville, HRM (LOC); and Shelburne (MUN). The numbers swelled in the latter days of January and into February corresponding to a similar influx into Newfoundland at the same time. In all I noted 75 reports of Bohemian Waxwings for this period indicating just how widespread this wanderer became in late winter. A few of the larger flocks were 500 in Lower Sackville, Jan 29 (PEL), 300 in Dartmouth (IAM) and 1000 in Wolfville (JWW), both Feb 8. An all white Bohemian was found with a flock of 30 in the yard of DAC's mother in Amherst Jan 30. The bird was rewarded with handouts of blueberries. What else would you expect from the blueberry county of NS? Continuing the trend of the last decade, CEDAR WAXWINGS were found on 11 CBC counts and at a total of 237 outnumbered the Bohemians. Only one report of Cedars was from CBI and that was of nine on the Margaree CBC. There were about 20 reports of post-CBC cedars with a nice blip in the same Jan 18-21 range as with Bohemians, but this was restricted to the mainland. High numbers were 50 in Pictou, Jan 18 (KJM) and 30 in Wolfville (JWW) Feb 8. Good numbers of both waxwing species were reported to the end of the report period.

Warblers seemed to be present in lower numbers than usual this winter with 284 individuals of eight species on the CBC and a total of 12 species seen through the winter period.

There were about 12 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS noted for this period but only three on the CBC, much lower than normal. All were found on the mainland except one checking out the border of the tar ponds in Sydney Dec 24 (DBM). One seen



Although PINE and PALM WARBLERS (this one clearly of the colorless western subspecies *palmarum*) have survived past winters in Nova Scotia, these two failed to make it through despite much TLC at Pat McKay's feeders in Dartmouth. [Photos Bernard Burke]

Jan 7 in Centreville, *Kings* had a whitish eye-ring and yellow under parts and was considered by AMM to be a candidate for the *orestra* race from the Rocky Mtn and Great Basin. An Orange-crowned was seen to Jan 19 in south end Halifax (DOU) for the latest report of a surviving bird. The NASHVILLE WARBLER seen Jan 4 by CST at Port LaTour was felt by IAM to be a western race *ridgwayi* because of the gray rather than green back and bright yellow-green rump.

For the second year in a row, a MAGNOLIA WARBLER, quite rare in winter, was found on a CBC, the CSI count. This is just the third record on a CBC. It was discovered by AZV and M. Kieley on Kenny Rd Dec 20. A single CAPE MAY WARBLER dropped in at a cottage on Petit Riviere, *Lunenburg* Dec 2-3 (CSS *fide* JAH). Often quite common even in winter, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS were less so this winter. A total of 244 were seen on 13 Christmas counts with CSI having the high number of 103. Three were seen by Weldon MacPhail at Pt Michaud, *Richmond* Dec 11, but all others were along the Atlantic coast of the mainland at locales such as Martinique, Rainbow Haven and Conrads Beach, HRM, Black Hbr and Tancook I *Lunenburg*, Port L' Herbert, *Queens*, CSI, *Sheburne* and Argyle Hd, *Yarmouth*. A group of about 50 were present at CSI until the end of the report period (MUN). The **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** reported by TOK of Canso in the last issue was seen Dec 1. On Dec 14, a white-lored individual was identified by EBR at a Yarmouth suet log feeder. It lingered long enough to be seen on the Yarmouth CBC about a week later.

By early December, PINE WARBLERS were starting to settle in to feeders. An average 13 were counted on the various CBCs. About nine PALM WARBLERS made the winter reports, but only three, a somewhat low number, were tallied on the CBCs. A Palm at the feeder of PMC nearly made it to the end of the report period, but succumbed after getting stuck in grape jelly set out for food. A valiant effort was made to revive it, but even vet help was not enough. Two BLACK AND WHITE WARBLERS were noted this winter. TOK found one with Black-capped Chickadees while gathering his Christmas tree near Canso Dec 13 and Joyce Starratt of Edgewood, *Colchester*, had one in her yard in early January *fide* FLS.

In the southern end of the province, a NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH was found in the field of JUG Dec 3 (*fide* MUN). The five COMMON YELLOWTHROATS seen on this year's CBCs were a big improvement on the zero seen last year and was about average. All were seen on the mainland and none were reported into the new year. Eleven YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS were an above normal number counted on this year's CBCs. Seven of these were on the Halifax-Dartmouth count. All nine reports of Chats received were from locations along the Atlantic edge of the province.

Pine Warbler

1-7/12 St Peter's, <i>Rich</i> .	1	<i>fide</i> GED	18/12-28/2 Dartmouth	1 w	PMC
1/12-19/2 Chester Basin, <i>Lun</i> .	1	Terry Danks	21/12 Crystal Crescent Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1 w	HAT
4/12-25/1 Dartmouth	1	PMC, TEP	21/12 Martinique Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP
5/12 Greenwich, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF	21/12 Parrsboro area, <i>Cum</i> .	2	JBO
13-28/12 Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP	21/12 E Port L'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	1 w	SJF
15/12 Dartmouth	1	ROW	w = western subspecies		
15/12-?/2 Coxheath, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Jessie Andrews	Yellow-breasted Chat		
21/12-6/2 Dartmouth	1	PMC	2/12-11/1 Dartmouth	1	PMC, RMA
24/12-18/1 Front Centre, <i>Lun</i> .	1-4	JAH	12/12 Sydney Mines	1	Lillian MacKeigan
10-18/01 New Glasgow, <i>Pict</i> .	1	KJM	13/12-8/1 Lockport, <i>Shel</i>	1	DJC
1/2 Dartmouth	1	TEP	15/12 Cole Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	1	DHH
10/2 Mira Gut, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM, Ian Barber	15/12 Dartmouth	1	ROW

Palm Warbler

3/12 CSI	1	MUN	19-21/12 Louisbourg	1	SEM
6/12 Dartmouth	1	TEP	21/12 Dartmouth	1	IAM
8/12 Canso	1	TOK	19/12 Bear Pt, <i>Shel</i> .	1	<i>fide</i> MUN
11/12 Broad Cove, <i>Lun</i> .	1 w	SJF	late Jan Canso	1	<i>fide</i> TOK

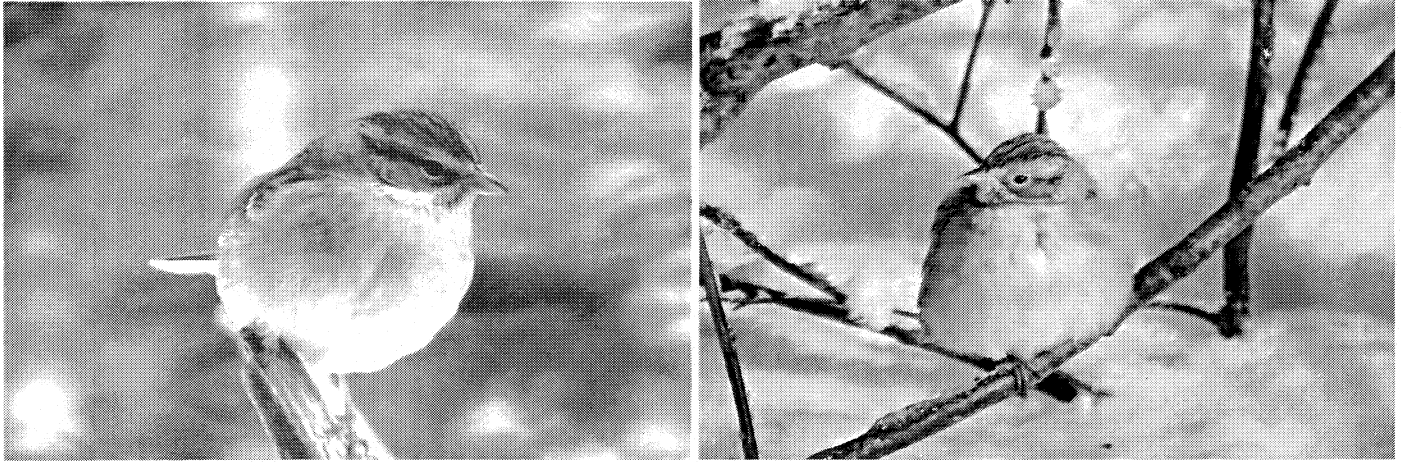
Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By David McCorquodale

The pattern of an influx of Common Redpolls every second year continued. As expected a few Hoary Redpolls were found amongst the 1,000s of Commons. Other winter finches were scarce. It has been several years since there was an influx of crossbills. Lingering sparrows and a tanager provided highlights for many winter birders.

The only tanager reported this winter was the SUMMER TANAGER that lingered at Greenwich, *Kings* until December. Reports of E TOWHEES were about average with three. Two of them, one on Boularderie I, *CBRM*, and one in Lower Sackville, were located on CBCs. They made periodic visits to feeders through most of the winter.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS were widespread, found on 30 of the 35 CBCs, and in about usual numbers. Later in the winter they were still at many feeders from River Bourgeois, *Rich* to Portuguese Cove, *HRM* to Apple R, *Cum* to Kingston, *Kings*. Numbers of CHIPPING SPARROWS were about average on CBCs, down from the record highs of the past two years.



CHIPPING SPARROWS, like this one favouring a feeder at Sunrise, *Victoria* (left photo, Fritz McEvoy), have wintered increasingly in recent years. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS** are rare enough at any season, but this one gratified many birders by hanging on at a Grand Pré feeder (right photo, Richard Stern). Note the different head and face markings; the Chipping Sparrow has rather indistinct markings on its head, compared with the distinct malar stripe and “mustache” and clean gray nape of the Clay-colored.

At least a few, for example in Kingston, *Kings* and Yarmouth, lasted at feeders into February. The fourth ever CBC **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** was at Canso. Amazingly there were a couple of others in Canso that were missed on the CBC and at least a couple survived at feeders into February. Another Clay-colored was found in Grand Pré, *Kings* in December and was still there late in February. The only **FIELD SPARROW** was at Woods Harbour, *CSI* in mid-December. The only **LARK SPARROW** of the winter made an appearance for the Halifax CBC.

Another singleton was an *Ammodramus* sparrow, a **NELSON’S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW** that was seen periodically through the winter on *CSI*. **FOX SPARROWS** were widespread at feeders in early December, from northern *CB* to *Apple R*, *Cum* to Halifax to *CSI*. Numbers did dwindle through December, but the total on the CBC was the highest since 1980 and the fourth highest ever. Even late in February there were still a few at feeders especially in the Halifax area, on *Brier I* and on *CSI*. **SONG SPARROWS** were widespread, especially in the early part of the winter, but numbers on the CBC were the lowest in a few years. Two **LINCOLN’S SPARROWS** were on CBCs and another was found in *E Chezzetcook* in mid-February. An above average 38 **SWAMP SPARROWS** were found on CBCs, including a phenomenal 26 on *CSI*. Later in the winter one showed up on a cold January day in *Florence*, *CBRM* and late in February one was in *Port LaTour*, *Shel*, and another at a feeder in *Portuguese Cove*, *HRM*.

There were fewer **WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS** than last winter, but still they were widespread, especially on the mainland, with some lingering through until late February. There were at least five **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS**, including three still around late in February. **DARK-EYED JUNCOS** were widespread, for example they were found on all but two CBCs, but the numbers were down with the lowest CBC total since 1994. This is a variable species and historically split into a variable number of species. We sometimes see individuals that have some of the characteristics of what was called ‘Oregon’ Junco. According to IAM “The ‘western type’ Junco at 14 Regal Rd, Dartmouth, is just that, as Rob Woods earlier noted. It’s probably largely ‘Slate-colored’ with an infusion of ‘Oregon’ genes.”

Seven CBCs recorded **LAPLAND LONGSPURS** and there were more than the past two years. A refreshing number of sightings from the east coast and the valley were received through the winter. On CBCs there were a few more **SNOW BUNTINGS** than last year, yet this is still only about half the long-term average. There were more reports in February; probably some of these were migrants heading north.

NORTHERN CARDINALS continue to thrive in the Halifax area, and in coastal localities such as *Bridgewater*, *Barrington*, *Shel*, *Yarmouth*, *Annapolis* and inland in the *Annapolis Valley*. Almost 50 were on CBCs, all from these areas, except one in *Shubenacadie*, *Col* and most surprisingly one in *Margaree*, *Inv*. In *Yarmouth* they seem to be doing particularly well, where through January *MUN* made a point of keeping track of how many different cardinals he could find. He ended up with close to 30.

It was another good winter for **DICKCISSELS**. In late January there were at least seven still at feeders. On CBCs five of the seven were on *CB* and another in *Antigonish*. Most of our records are coastal, so the one that spent two days in *Apple R*, *Cum* in December is noteworthy.

The number of **RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS** on CBCs dropped to more usual numbers from the highs of the past two years. As expected, a few hardy individuals persisted through the winter in southern parts. More surprising were two in *Cape North*, *Vic* and six at *Foxbrook*, *Pict*, in January. A concentration of four **E MEADOWLARKS** is unusual in *NS*. The four at *Hartlen*

Pt were found for the Halifax CBC and attracted considerable attention. Then as has happened the last few years, more were found in January. They included a phenomenal group of six in Canso. Singles were also found in January at Main-a-Dieu, *CBRM* and Nine Mile River, *Kings*. In December two meadowlarks were found, one at Brule Pt, *Col* and the other in Economy, *Col*. Only two RUSTY BLACKBIRDS were found on CBCs, below the long-term average, but typical for the past 10 years. About half of the CBCs reported COM GRACKLES, with the highest total in Yarmouth. As expected a smattering survived at feeders into February. One was not as successful, providing a meal for a hawk in Big Pond a few days after Christmas. The flock of 50 in Yarmouth late in February was likely those that overwintered, but perhaps a few early spring arrivals were included.

No one doubts there are fewer BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS than in the 1970s. Counts peaked with the 1974 CBC, more than 4500, and all years had more than 1200 in the 70s. Since 1990 the highest total is 390, in 1990, but the total was always above 100, that is until this year. Only 44 were tallied on five counts. This is the lowest total since 1953 when only two counts were run and none were found. Yarmouth had the highest total on CBCs and some of these persisted at feeders through the winter.

Most of the hardy BALTIMORE ORIOLES were in Yarmouth for the CBCs, 11 of the 14. In CB there were a few in early December but only one was reported in January. Similarly on the mainland, only three were still around in January and there were no reports in February.

Aside from redpolls, it was not a winter for finches. Numbers of PINE GROSBEAK were up from the lows of last year. However sightings later in the winter were very sparse. PURPLE FINCHES were widespread, but nowhere were there very many on CBCs. A similar pattern is seen in reports in the New Year. HOUSE FINCHES continue to thrive in Halifax and Yarmouth. Both RED and WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL numbers were down from the below average numbers on CBCs the year before. White-winged were more widespread, on 13 counts, but only three of these were above 20. This is fifth straight year of small numbers in the province for the winter. The last invasion coincided with the bumper crop of spruce and balsam cones in the summer of 1998 and presumably the next major influx will coincide with the next bumper cone crop.

It was a winter for COM REDPOLLS. There were numbers around in early winter and more than 4,000 were on 33 CBCs. This continues the pattern of every second year being a redpoll winter since the late 1980s. As winter progressed more and more visited feeders. For many feeders this was at the expense of the more regular Am Goldfinches or Pine Siskins. As expected with an influx of Commons, there were a few HOARY REDPOLLS around. Identification is often tricky as we see more females. They are darker and less obvious in comparison to Commons than males. Colouration is a matter of degree and needs to be supported by some physical characters such as bill shape, size and feathering on the legs. ELM's comments on a nice image taken by GRM make these points: "I agree that this is a Hoary Redpoll. The features that look good to me are the small bill with straight culmen, slightly 'dished' (i.e. concave) face, clear unstreaked white rump, and relatively indistinct flank striping. The undertail is not visible, but I would expect it to be white and unstreaked. The whitish-ended scapulars are also said to be diagnostic, and this bird seems to show that feature. Presumably this is a female of the smaller, southern race. I would expect a male to be much paler." There were a few leucistic (lacking some dark pigmentation) Common Redpolls to keep us on our toes. On CBCs the PINE SISKIN total rebounded to a near average 1,040 from fewer than 200 the year before. AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES were also about average with almost 8,000.


There were three times as many EVENING GROSBEAKS on CBCs this year compared to last year, although this is still a third lower than the long-term average of 3,700. They were found on 28 of the 35 counts and sightings later in the winter reflect this widespread distribution. Few sightings of HOUSE SPARROWS were received and some noted low numbers or local



The identity of this young HOARY REDPOLL (left, Photo Andy Dean), one of several in this winter's big incursion of COM. REDPOLLS, is evident from its unstreaked white rump patch. The white rump is not necessary to confirm the one in Dartmouth, Jan. 10 (right, videograb Bernard Burke); its dipped-in-flour plumage and very stubby bill are distinctive enough in comparison with its

disappearance. The Eskasoni and Highlands CBCs often do not count any, because they are very local. The CBC total was the lowest since 1990. Does this reflect a long-term decline? It depends on when you think the decline started because two of the highest counts, including the highest ever are from 1997 and 1998. They continue to thrive in many of the places people live and right now are building nests in cavities around the heating vents of the building in which I'm writing this and in street lamps down the road.

Summer Tanager			Lincoln's Sparrow			
4/12	Greenwich, <i>Kings</i>	1 f	Terry and Heather Hennigar	17/12	Stoney I, CSI 1 MUN	
Eastern Towhee			Swamp Sparrow			
10-25/12	Boularderie I, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Tim and Darlene Whitty	16/12	Cole Hbr, <i>HRM</i> 1 AGH	
about 21/12	Clayton Park, <i>HRM</i>	1	Heather Drope	8/1	Florence, <i>CBRM</i> 1 DBM	
about 23/12 to Feb	Lower Sackville	1	Jan Nielsen, DOU, TEP	15/2	Port Latour, <i>Shel.</i> 1 MUN	
American Tree Sparrow			White-throated Sparrow			
1/12-29/2	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	up to 18	KFS	3/12	Cape North, <i>Vic.</i> 1 FMC	
3/12	Cape North, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC	18/1	Lower Sackville 1 singing TEP	
21/12	Parrsboro, <i>Cum.</i>	25+	JBO	16/12 to Feb	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i> 12 RMC	
8/1	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	lots	JOB	21/12	Dartmouth 20+ IAM	
10/1	Bear R, <i>Digby</i>	2	MCR	Dec into Jan	South Haven, <i>Vic.</i> 1 BSK	
10/1-21/2	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	up to 30+	HAT	Dec to 29/2	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i> 1 (overwintered) KFS	
18/1	West Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	3	MUN	8/1	Kingston, <i>Kings</i> 24+ JOB	
20/1-15/2	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	up to 7	GED, SDI	10/1	Portuguese Cove some HAT	
20/1	Brier I.	some	JUS	11/1	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i> some DOU	
22/1	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	some	JCT	14/1	Newellton, <i>Shel.</i> some MUN	
28-30/1	Louisbourg	1	HOS	19/1	Bear R, <i>Digby</i> 2 MCR	
6/2	Canard, <i>Kings</i>	some	DOU	9/2	Kingston, <i>Kings</i> several JOB	
9/2	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	24	JOB	9/2	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i> 2 JWW	
8/2	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	22	MAG	White-crowned Sparrow		
21/2	Stellarton, <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM	14-21/12	Stoney I, CSI 1 Oliver Ross, MUN	
26/2	River Bennett, <i>Vic.</i>	6	Bruce Kerr	22/12-18/2	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i> 1 PLC, DOU, JWW, JAH	
19/2	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH	18/1-15/2	West Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i> 1 MUN, RSD	
Chipping Sparrow			Lapland Longspur			
6/1	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	1	AND	24/1	Lower Canard, <i>Kings</i> 1 imm BLF	
8/1-9/2	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	up to 4	JOB	Dec to Feb	Falmouth, <i>Hants</i> 1 Jane McConnell	
25/1	Ketch Hbr, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP	White-crowned Sparrow		
23/2	Yarmouth	1	MUN	17/1	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i> 1 TEP	
Clay-colored Sparrow			Lapland Longspur			
1/12 to Feb	Canso	3	TOK	18/1	Martinique Beach, <i>HRM</i> 3 TEP	
26/12-18/2	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	2	PLC, ELM, RBS, JWW	24/1	Starrs Pt, <i>Kings</i> 7 BLF	
Field Sparrow			Lapland Longspur			
17/12	Woods Hbr, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN	26/1	Windsor 1 JOB	
Savannah Sparrow			Lapland Longspur			
21/12	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP	31/1	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i> 7 JAH, Len MacDonald	
8/1	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	3 or 4	JOB	1-29/2	Starrs Pt, <i>Kings</i> 4 AAM	
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			Lapland Longspur			
Dec to Feb	CSI	1	MUN	1-29/2	Hartlen Pt some TEP	
Fox Sparrow			Lapland Longspur			
6/12 to Feb	CSI	up to 7	JCZ, Eileen Smith, MUN	26/2	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i> 4 BLF	
07-21/12	White's L., <i>HRM</i>	3	BLM	Snow Bunting		
13-14/12	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	23/1 (most of winter)	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i> some RBS	
16/12	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	1	RMC	26/1	Windsor some JOB	
19/12-25/2	Portuguese Cove	1	HAT	28-30/1	CSI 10 JON	
21/12	Martinique, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP	1/2	Starrs Pt, <i>Kings</i> 12 AAM	
21/12-29/02	White's L., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM	31/1	Antigonish some RFL	
22/12	Cape North, <i>Victoria</i>	1	FMC	31/1	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i> 50 JAH, Len MacDonald	
8/1	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	1	JOB	8/2	Cape John, <i>Pict.</i> 5 flocks KJM	
9/1 (for a few days)	Lower Rose Bay	1	ELM	11/2	N Kingston, <i>Kings</i> 150 JOB	
10/1	Gardiner Mines, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Pat Campbell	14/2	Margaretsville 21 JET	
9/1	Lower Argyle, <i>Yar.</i>	1	MUN	20/2	Truro 60 Helene Van Donick	
25/1	Ketch Hbr, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP	21/1	Stellarton, <i>Pict.</i> 1 KJM	
4/2	Newellton, CSI	1	MUN	25/2	CSI some MUN	
27/2	Westport, Brier I.	1	ELM	19/2	Avonport, <i>Kings</i> 2 SAW	
Song Sparrow			Dickcissel			
14/1	Newellton, CSI	some	MUN	late Feb	Cornwallis 1 Elizabeth Gidney	
20/1	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	2	The Digouts	29/2	Chebucto Head 40 HAT	
21/1	Pt Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	2	Weldon MacPhail	Song Sparrow		
22/1	Dartmouth	2 (1 singing)	Pat MacKay	Dec through Feb	Canso 6 and dwindling TOK	
2/2	Wolfville	1 singing	JWW	17-20/12	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i> 1 f KFS	
9/2	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1 singing	RBS	23/12-29/2	Lower Sackville 1 LOC	
9/2	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW	9/1	Lower Argyle 3 MUN	
29/2	Catalone, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Ramona MacLeod	Dec to Jan	Louisbourg 1 Warren Bagnell	
			Red-winged Blackbird			
			6/12 Barrington, <i>Shel.</i> 1 f JCZ, Eileen Smith			
			8/12 Apple R, <i>Cum.</i> 1 KFS			
			21/12 Port Williams 25 BLF			
			11/1 Mahone Bay 2 DOU			
			until 12/1 Cape North, <i>Vic.</i> 2 FMC			

18/1	<i>Yarmouth s</i>	one	MUN	5/12	Lockporte, <i>Shel</i>	12	DJC
28/1	Foxbrook, <i>Pictou</i>	6	Sonny Cyr	12/12	Crescent Beach	6	JAH
8/2	Blockhouse, <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH	27/1	Rockingham, <i>HRM</i>	1	JEH
15/2	<i>Shelburne</i>	1	MUN	30/1	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	3	KFS
Meadowlark sp				1/2	Kejimikujik NP	some	GRM
9/12	Brule Pt, <i>Col.</i>	1	JEB, HAB	10/2	East Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	several at feeder	Steve MacKinnon
27-28/12	Economy	1 to 2	FLS	Common Redpoll			
Eastern Meadowlark				1/12	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	3	KFS
16/12-18/1	Hartlen Pt	up to 4	AGH, IAM, TEP, ULH	11/2	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	60+	KFS
13/1 into Feb	Canso	up to 6	TOK, STB	5/1	Antigonish	1 leucistic	RFL
3-14/2	Main-a-Dieu, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM, SEM	Hoary Redpoll			
early Feb	Nine Mile R, <i>Kings</i>	1	Jennifer MacKeigan	2/1	Stoney Island	1	MUN
Rusty Blackbird				17/2	Georges R, <i>CBRM</i>	1 fem	DBM
21/12	Parrsboro	4	JBO	28/2	Westport, Brier I.	1 fem	ELM
27/12	Richfield, <i>Yar</i>	2	MUN	Late February	CSI	1 fem (photo)	GRM
11-19/2	Antigonish	1	RFL, MZG	Pine Siskin			
Common Grackle				6/12	Barrington, <i>Shel</i>	some	JCZ, Eileen Smith
1/12	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	5	KFS	14/12	Hubbards, <i>HRM</i>	small flock	Peter Stow
3/12	Cape North, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC	14/12	Truro	1	Mary MacAulay
6/12	Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1	JCZ	31/12	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	7	KFS
15/12	Cole Hbr, <i>HRM</i>	8	DHH	1/1	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	4	KFS
16/12	Cole Hbr, <i>HRM</i>	2	AGH	15/1	Bear R, Digby	15+	MCR
21/12	Cornwallis	1	Elizabeth Gidney	19-20/1	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
21/12	Parrsboro	2	Jeff Ogden	18/1	Lower Sackville	1	TEP
28/12	Big Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1 (hawk kill)	JAM	27/1	Rockingham, <i>HRM</i>	some	JEH
10/1	New Glasgow	1	KJM	6/2	White's L., <i>HRM</i>	30	BLM
10/1-13/2	Portuguese Cove	1	NSBS, HAT	17/2	Halifax	large flock	Elizabeth Gidney
11/1	Louisbourg	3	Warren Bagnell	American Goldfinch			
18/1	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	1 (last of winter)	KFS	8/12	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	3 (last of winter)	KFS
8/2	New Glasgow	1	KJM	Evening Grosbeak			
9/2	Brier I	1	JUS	12/12	Hantsport	24	Marian Fulton
15/2	<i>Shelburne</i>	1	MUN	about 10/12	Wolfville	10	BBT <i>vide</i> JWW
23/2	<i>Yarmouth</i>	50	MUN	14/12	Hubbards, <i>HRM</i>	small flock	Peter Stow
Brown-headed Cowbird				14/12	Truro	2	Mary MacAulay
21/12	Parrsboro	4	JBO	11/1, 18/1	Lower Sackville	small flock	DOU, TEP
18/1-29/2	<i>Yarmouth</i>	some	MUN	18/12	Boularderie I, <i>Vic.</i>	20+	Sonja Teichert, Mark Johnston
1/2	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	4	AAM	26/12	Indian Field Loop	lots	MUN
6/2	Canard, <i>Kings</i>	1	DOU	11/1	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	some	DOU
15/2	<i>Shelburne</i>	1	MUN	14-29/12	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	up to 34+	KFS
20/2	Lower Sackville	1	LOC	19/2	Bear R, Digby	1	MCR
Baltimore Oriole				7/2	Big Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	flock	JAM
3/12	Louisbourg	2	SEM	House Sparrow			
3/12	Cape North, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC	15/12	Cole Hbr, <i>HRM</i>	8	DHH
4/12	Coxheath, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Yvonne MacDonald	25/12	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	some	MUN
5/12-9/1	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	up to 2	GED, SDI	1/1	West Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	79	MUN
8/12	Wolfville	1 dead	BLF	11/1	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	some	DOU
23/12	Dartmouth	2	Laurel Banks, Heather Drope	11/1	Louisbourg	flock	Warren Bagnell
24/12-4/1	Gold R, <i>Lun.</i>	up to 2	JAH	3/2	Main-a-Dieu, <i>CBRM</i>	10	DBM
1/1	Lower Clarks Hbr, <i>Shel</i>	1	JON, MUN	6/2	Canard, <i>Kings</i>	some	DOU
27/1	Bridgewater	1	JAH	9/2	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	2	JWW
Pine Grosbeak				❧			
12/24	Westmount, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Rod Beresford	White-crowned Sparrow			
1/16	Bayfield, <i>Ant.</i>	2	JAH				
2/2	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	6	KFS	This spanking ad, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW is clearly of the "west-taiga (Sibley's term) subspecies <i>gambellii</i> , evident from its pale lores. [Photo Grant Milroy]			
Purple Finch							
1-3/12	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS				
6/12	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	some	JCZ, Eileen Smith				
8/1	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	4	PBG				
26/1	Brier I	some	JUS				
28-29/1	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS				
Feb-Mar	Wolfville Ridge	up to 4	BLF				
2/2	Westmount, <i>CBRM</i>	2	Rod Beresford				
9/2	Hubbards, <i>HRM</i>	several	Peter Stow				
10/2	Apple R, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS				
20/2	Blockhouse	1 singing	JAH				
21/2	Stellarton, <i>Pict.</i>	1 (first of winter)	KJM				
House Finch							
12/12	<i>Yarmouth</i>	up to 15	MUN, EBR				
1/2	Halifax, Conrose Field	several singing	PLC				
11/2	Halifax	1 singing	ELM				
Red Crossbill							
24/2	CSI	some	MUN				
White-winged Crossbill							

List of Contributors

Thanks to all of our contributors.

Sorted by Initials

MacLean, Angus	AAM	Fiske, Dean	DEF	Morse, Jean & Bill	JBM
Moores, Bernice	ABM	Jones, Dennis	DEJ	Ogden, Jeff	JBO
Atlantic Bird Observatory	ABO	Quann, Derek	DEQ	Morrow, Jim	JCM
d'Entremont, Andre	ADE	Hippern, Dennis	DHH	Tufts, Judy	JCT
Dubois-Laviolette, Andree	ADL	Young, David	DHY	Czapalay, Joan	JCZ
West, Arthur E.	AEW	Thorpe, Dianne	DIT	d'Entremont, Jacqueline	JDE
Horn, Andy	AGH	Crosby, Donna	DJC	Brennan, Jean	JEB
Wellwood, Audrey	AGW	Welch, Dottie M. K.	DMW	Hartley, Jean	JEH
Mills, Anne	AHM	NS Dept. of Natural Resources	DNR	Morse, Jean	JEM
Smith, Aileen	AIS	Cameron, Dorothy	DOC	Timpa, Jean	JET
Erskine, Anthony J.	AJE	Ensor, Donna	DOE	Hipson, Joyce	JHI
Doull, Ann	ALD	MacLaughlin, Don	DOM	Camolli, Jill	JIC
Kingsley, Andrea	ALK	Doull, Elizabeth	DOU	Nocera, Joe	JJN
Murrant, Allan	ALM	Purchase, Don W.	DWP	d'Eon, Jerome K.	JKD
Dean, Andy	AND	Black, Elaine	EBB	Mills, Joan	JMI
Hebda, Andrew	ANH	Ruff, Barbara & Eric	EBR	Belbin, John	JOB
MacLean, Stella	ASM	Cooke, Eric	EHC	Kearney, John	JOK
Vienneau, Azor	AZV	Billington, Eileen	EIB	Nickerson, Johnnie	JON
Hinds, Barbara	BAH	Morrison, Eileen	EIM	Sollows, John	JOS
Boehner, Barry	BBA	Mills, Eric L.	ELM	Verreault, Jocelyn	JOV
Thexton, Bill & Brenda	BBT	Stern, Elizabeth	ELS	Waldron, Joan	JOW
Cunningham, Barc	BCU	McCorquodale, Eric	EMC	Perron, Jacques	JPE
McLaren, Bernice	BEM	Spalding, Edgar	EPS	Alexander, Jane	JQA
Sarty, Bev	BES	Murphy, Thelda	ETM	Mills, Jane	JRM
Billington, Bill	BIB	Parker, Etta	ETP	Rubin, John	JRU
Digout, Billy	BID	Urban, Eva	EVU	Bleakney, Sherman	JSB
Smith, Betty June	BJS	Greig, Fred C.	FCG	Cohrs, Shirley	JSC
Forsythe, Bernard	BLF	Dobson, Evelyn & Fred	FED	Simpson, James	JSI
Maybank, Blake	BLM	MacKenzie, Fred H.	FHM	Graves, June	JUG
Dalzell, Brian	BRD	Lavender, Fulton L.	FLL	Metcalfe, Hugh "Junior"	JUM
Bird Studies Canada	BSC	Spalding, Francis	FLS	Swift, June	JUS
Kent, Bethsheila	BSK	McEvoy, Fritz	FMC	MacInnis, John W.	JWM
Starzomski, Brian	BST	Randall, Frank	FRR	Wolford, Jim	JWW
Haycock, Carl	CAH	Dobson, Fred	FWD	Allard, Karel	KA
Murrant, Cathy	CAM	d'Entremont, Giselle	GDE	Popma, Kathy	KAP
Stewart, Cathy	CAS	Crowell, George	GEC	Black, Keith	KBL
Spicer, Cindy D.	CDS	Digout, George	GED	Mueller, Kerstin	KEM
Thomson, Chris	CET	Lunn, Gerry	GEL	Spicer, Kathleen	KFS
Christmas Bird Count	CBC	Metcalfe, Geraldine	GEM	McKenna, Ken J.	KJM
Brennan, Calvin	CGB	Trueman, Gerry M.	GMT	Keddy, Keith	KNK
Field, Chris	CJF	Murray, Gary	GMU	Bell, Lise	LAB
Stevens, Clarence, Jr.	CLS	Milroy, Grant	GRM	Elliot, Laura	LAE
MacNeill, Carol	CRM	Tufts, Gordon	GWT	Laviolette, Lance	LAL
MacDonald, Clive S.	CSM	Brennan, Harry	HAB	Reeves, Lee Anne	LAR
Stevens, Clarence Sr.	CSS	Dobson, Harold	HAD	Churchill, Lana	LCH
Stoddard, Clyde	CST	Forsythe, Harold	HAF	Ellis, Lynn	LEL
Toplack, Chris	CTO	Toom, Hans	HAT	Codling, Lois	LOC
Rendall, Curtis	CUR	Kwindt, Henk	HEK	Payzant, Linda & Peter	LPP
Algar, Dave	DAA	Halifax Field Naturalists	HFN	Brennan, Mark	MAB
Currie, David	DAC	Hall, Helen & Hubert	HHH	Dufresne, Martine	MAD
Harris, Dave	DAH	Hall, Hubert	HUH	Gibson, Merritt	MAG
Lawley, David	DAL	O'Shea, Helen	HOS	McLaren, Mary	MAM
MacNeill, Don	DAM	McLaren, Ian	IAM	Tams, Miriam	MAT
Pugh, David	DAP	Paterson, Ian	IAP	Nickerson, Maggie (change)	MCN (MCR)
McCorquodale, Dave	DBM	Fletcher, Jane	JAF	Rice, Maggie	MCR
Bridgehouse, Derek	DBR	Hirtle, James	JAH	Allsebrook, Marion	MEA
Christie, David	DCH	MacNeil, Jack	JAM	Krawchuk, Meg	MEK
Codling, Don	DCO	Purchase, Joyce A.	JAP	West, Myrna G.	MGW

Holder, Matthew	MLH	MacRae, Doug	RDM	Hughes, Shirley	SHU
Pratt, Mary	MPP	Smith, Ruth E.	RES	Smith, Sid	SIS
Hawkswood, Mike	MRH	Lauff, Randy F.	RFL	Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF
Mills, Maureen	MSM	Lindsay, Robert H.	RHL	Hulford, Sheila	SLH
Newell, Murray	MUN	Ballard, Rick	RIB	Bushell, Steve	STB
Goring, May	MZG	Hatch, Richard	RIH	Hiltz, Stephen	STH
NA Migration Count	NAMC	Speirs, Robert J. N.	RJS	Vines, Steve	STV
NS Bird Society Field Trip	NSBS	MacDonald, Robert	RMA	Borkowski, Suzanne	SUB
Seymour, Norm	NSE	McCormick, Roland	RMC	Herman, Tom	TBH
Snyder, Nellie	NSN	Gallinger, Rosemary	ROG	Bidwell, Tony	TBI
Comeau, Peter	PAC	Hall, Ross	ROH	d'Eon, Ted	TCD
Martin, Pat	PAM	Loucks, Ronald H.	ROL	Crowell, Terry	TEC
Giffin, Barbara & Patrick	PBG	Woods, Robert	ROW	Paquet, Terry	TEP
Bower, Pam	PBO	Chivers, Bobby	RSC	Allison, Tim	TIA
Hope, Peter	PEH	d'Entremont, Raymond	RSD	Fitzgerald, Trina	TMF
LeBlanc, Peter	PEL	McDonald, Robert S.	RSM	MacDonald, Theresa	TMM
Richard, Peter	PER	Knapton, Richard	RWK	Bezanson, Tony	TOB
Smith, Peter C.	PES	Hiltz, Sandy	SAH	Kavanagh, Tom	TOK
Bell, Peter	PHB	Nickerson, Sandra	SAN	Regan, Tom	TRE
Taylor, Phil	PHT	Williams, Sherman	SAW	Lutz, Tracy	TRL
Chalmers, Patricia L.	PLC	Boates, Sherman	SBO	Hoeger, Ulli	ULH
McKay, Pat	PMC	Yetman, Scott	SCY	Urban, Eva, Deanna & Walter	URB
McLarty, Pat	PML	Digout, Sharon	SDI	Atwood, Skipper (Wilfred)	WIA
Gould, Paul	PRG	Myers, Susann	SEM	Lucas, Zoe	ZOL
Quinn, Paul	PWQ	Hawboldt, Steve	SHA		
Stern, Richard	RBS	Hawboldt, Sharon	SHH		
MacPhee, Roslyn C.	RCM	McCurdy, Sheila	SHM		



New Books for Review

The Nova Scotia Bird Society receives books from publishers for review purposes. We require a review of about a few hundred words (or less for smaller books) which will be printed in *Nova Scotia Birds*; the reviewer gets to keep the book (i.e. the only cost to the reviewer is the written review). Reviewers should have some experience in the topic of the book so a critical review can be written; children's books should be reviewed in conjunction with a child. Reviewers should be able to write clearly and concisely and must be current members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society.

The following books are available for review, with the review due one month after receiving the book; the review will be edited. If you'd like to review one of the following books, please contact Randy Lauff, rlauff@stfx.ca.

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

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

Birds of the West Indies by H. Raffaele *et al.* Princeton.

Field Guide to Advanced Birding by K. Kaufman.
Houghton Mifflin.

Birding Across North America – A Naturalist's Observations. by P.E. Keenan. Timber Press.

Pipits and Wagtails by Per Alström and Krister Mild.
Princeton.

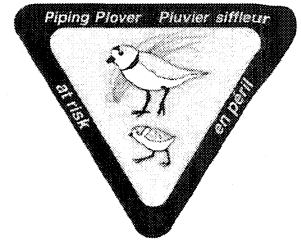
The Bird Almanac by David Bird. Firefly.

A Place between the Tides by Harry Thurston.
Tidewater Books.

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

News from the Nova Scotia Coastal Guardian Program

By Anna McCarron
Program Co-ordinator



This article is a tribute to Colin Stewart, the co-creator of the Nova Scotia Piping Plover Guardian Program, who died March 15, 2004 of cancer, at 50. As I write, Colin's family and close friends are preparing his funeral arrangements. Considering Colin's relentless dedication toward conservation and protecting environmental integrity, the environmental community, for one, will certainly miss him. Even through his last days, as long as Colin could stand and then sit he continued to contribute, with the support of his wife, Betty, and daughter, Jennifer, by attending meetings and providing reports on conservation. Colin never quit.

As long as there is greediness, disrespect and ignorance toward our natural heritage, efforts to conserve what's left of the earth's bounty will continue to be a challenge. Colin, however, seemed to rise to the occasion and took great satisfaction with each successful stride toward conservation. He demonstrated passion and leadership as he facilitated people's understanding and caring attitudes about the impacts humans are inflicting upon ecosystems. Colin seemed to relish pulling up a chair and sitting around a table with sleeves rolled up to haggle with people primarily driven by dollar signs, who did not understand his motivation and questioned it. However, amidst this scepticism or perhaps because of it, Colin's determination convinced the industrialists that he had no ulterior motive; that he was not representing anyone but himself (and the creatures without a voice). This was especially evident as he most often gave his time to protect the environment as a volunteer. In this setting, Colin successfully convinced the sceptics, acre by acre, that natural resources *can* be shared. Once the exercise of bringing people onside was achieved, he proceeded to demonstrate *how* to share the resources. Ultimately, Colin managed to command respect within the industrial community as well as the environmental one. Bridging conflicts between the industrial and environmental communities was his specialty. Colin spoke to me about his strong feelings with regard to the merits of bringing un-like-minded people to the same table. Educating both sides, so that each 'camp' understands where the other is coming from is the best way to overcome conflicting views about how and which resources should be 'managed' or not. Colin was a great facilitator in this respect.

Colin created the Nova Scotia Piping Plover Guardian Program through the Halifax Field Naturalists in 1993, with Stephen Flemming. Colin was recognized for his efforts locally, provincially, and country-wide. As his obituary stated "He is best-known for his role as Nova Scotia Coordinator of the WWF Endangered Spaces Campaign, which resulted in the identification of significant wilderness areas in Nova

Scotia and the legislation to protect them. Colin worked tirelessly with all levels of government, industry and non-governmental organizations to protect areas as provincial parks, protect the integrity of urban parks and to foster understanding and cooperation between environmentalists and industry. One of his greatest talents was his ability to work with people to bring differing groups to a consensus. Colin contributed to many committees and commissions over the years, including the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy and the Nova Scotia Forest Technical Advisory Committee. He was a member of many environmentally oriented organizations including the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, the Halifax Field Naturalists, the Nova Scotia Nature Trust and was involved in the development of groups such as the Nova Scotia Trails Federation and the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists. Colin's work as an environmentalist was recognized by the Canadian Nature Federation with the Douglas H. Pimlott Conservation Award, by the HFN with the creation of the Colin Stewart Conservation Award and by the Friends of McNab's Island and the Eastern Canada Piping Plover Recovery Team with special awards. Until shortly before his death, Colin was actively involved in the project to restore Point Pleasant Park."

Colin has shown industrialists and environmentalists alike the way to a common ground. The Piping Plover guardian program motto; 'share the beach' encompasses what he stood for; whether the beach, the forest, Hemlock Ravine, Point Pleasant Park, or Canada's Parks and Wilderness areas. Thank you, Colin, for the pathways you have carved for others who will come behind you. Colin had asked that donations be given to the Halifax Field Naturalists, Nova Scotia Nature Trust or any other environmental organization.



The Coastal Guardian Program always welcomes new volunteers to help protect the Piping Plover where they breed on any of our beautiful Nova Scotia beaches. If you are interested, or if you know of a school class, community group or organization that is interested in a presentation about the Piping Plover and/or Species at Risk, please contact:

Anna McCarron
Nova Scotia Coastal Guardian Program
19 Thompson Drive,
Wellington, NS B2T 1J4
(902) 860-1263
plover@istar.ca"

Winter Weather, 2003 – 2004

By Larry Bogan

“Cold and Snowy” might best describe the winter of 2003-2004 (consisting of December, January and February).

The following table summarizes the monthly numbers for temperature, precipitation and sunshine.

Summary of Monthly Statistics Winter 2003-2004
Atlantic Food & Horticulture Research Centre, Kentville, N.S.

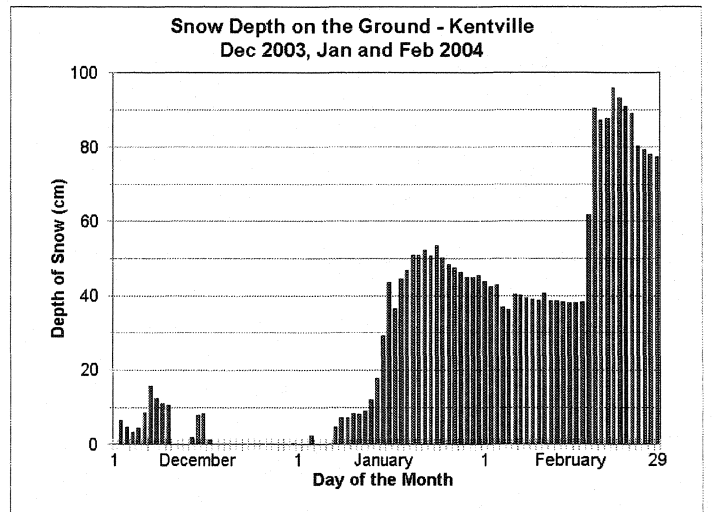
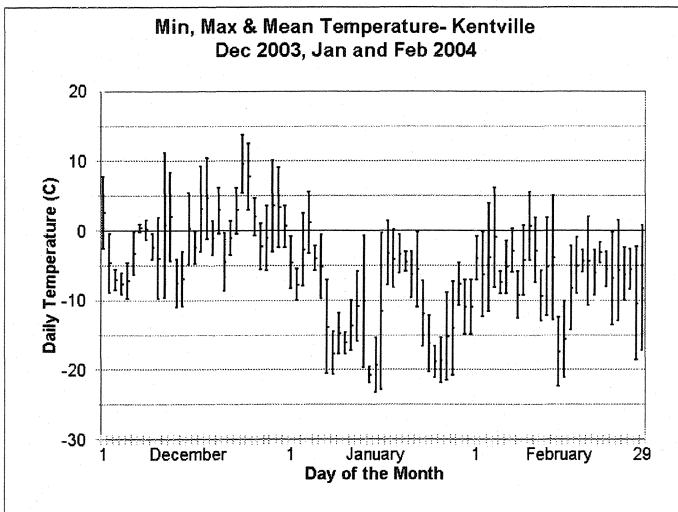
	Mean Temp (°C)	Snow Fall (cm)	Total Percip. (mm)	Bright Sunshine Hours
December	-0.6	33	110	74
(42 year avg)	-2.3	56	127	60
January	-10.5	23	24	81
(42 year avg)	-5.4	70	120	76
February	-6.1	86	97	126
(42 year avg)	-5.3	60	99	101
Season	-5.7	142	231	281
(42 year avg)	-4.3	186	346	237

In preparing this commentary, I plot all the weather factors in graphs of daily values, but can only present a couple here. If you would like others let me know (678-0446 or bogan@glinx.com). This time I've included the ground snow and temperature graphs because I find them the most interesting ones for this season.

The temperatures in January were extreme and resulted in a mean temperature fully 5°C below the long term average. A warm December 1.7°C above average was not enough to compensate, and the overall season which was 2.4°C below average. The graph of temperature shows the variations month to month very nicely. In December we had a warm period near Christmas before the low temperature extremes of early January.

Only a short, warmer period ('January-thaw?') occurred in the middle of the month. February was rather uniform in its temperature around -5°C except for a very brief cold spell in the middle of the month.

Most of the precipitation for the winter was in form of snow, and much of that was from the huge fall on February 18-19 (a.k.a. 'White Juan'). The graph of snow depth on the ground nicely illustrates the variations. We did not have much snow in December,



and then in January the cold spell was accompanied with winds and snow flurries that slowly built up the snow depth. After mid-January the snow depth slowly decreases due to a month-long dry period before the big fall in February.

Overall the precipitation for the winter was only 2/3 the long-term average. Both January and February were dry. Almost all of February's precipitation was in the form of the one large snow fall in the middle of the month. If nature compensates for a dry period, with a wet one, we may be in for a snowy March or wet spring. We shall see.

We had a bright winter with good periods of sunshine so that all three months had above average hours of bright sunshine. Despite the cold February my usage of wood for heat was down because of the plentiful solar heating. ☺

NOVA SCOTIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - 2003-2004

Edited By David Currie

For the second consecutive year 35 Christmas Bird Counts took place in Nova Scotia. Despite this high number, and the participation of more than 1150 observers, only 167 species were found, and a somewhat lower-than-normal 261,000 individual birds. In recent years we've averaged 170-175 species and well over 300,000 individual birds. This year's total birds were the lowest in ten years.

The only species added to the all-time Nova Christmas Count List was a Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Annapolis Royal; the list now stands at 268 species.

Top 30 Most Numerous Species

European Starling	50678	Mallard	3422
American Crow	45726	House Sparrow	3290
Herring Gull	24000	Evening Grosbeak	2700
American Black Duck	16242	Common Goldeneye	2543
Black-capped Chickadee	11049	Long-tailed Duck	1911
Canada Goose	10284	Common Raven	1652
Common Eider	7842	White-winged Scoter	1450
American Goldfinch	7815	American Robin	1447
Rock Pigeon	7587	Common Merganser	1251
Great Black-backed Gull	5959	American Tree Sparrow	1148
Blue Jay	5903	Ring-billed Gull	1118
Mourning Dove	5893	Pine Siskin	1040
Common Redpoll	4525	Iceland Gull	898
Red-breasted Merganser	4419	Bufflehead	852
Greater Scaup	4382	White-throated Sparrow	835
Dark-eyed Junco	3461	Snow Bunting	797

AMHERST, Dec 19; 7:37AM to 5:07PM. Temp. -4 to 0C. Wind NW 5-20kmph. Snow 0-20cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. Sky clear all day. 21 field observers in 7-10 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 87.75 (40.3 on foot, 45.45 by car). Total party kilometres 634.5 (51.5 by foot, 583 by car)

American Black Duck 14; Mallard 2; Common Merganser 64; Bald Eagle 20; Northern Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Rough-legged Hawk 12; Ring-necked Pheasant 52; Ruffed Grouse 2; Ring-billed Gull 30; Herring Gull 480; Iceland Gull 6;

Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 300; Rock Pigeon 395; Mourning Dove 303; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Northern Flicker 2; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1**; Northern Shrike 2; Gray Jay 15; Blue Jay 171; American Crow 483; Common Raven 78; Horned Lark 3; Black-capped Chickadee 704; Boreal Chickadee 6; Red-breasted Nuthatch 43; White-breasted Nuthatch 5; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 54; American Robin 61; European Starling 1591; American Tree Sparrow 227; White-throated Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 36; Snow Bunting 82;

Red-winged Blackbird 1; Rusty Blackbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 47; Purple Finch 9; White-winged Crossbill 14; Common Redpoll 345; Pine Siskin 2; American Goldfinch 163; Evening Grosbeak 293; House Sparrow 7.

Total Species 52, about 6162 individuals.
Krista Baker, Melanie Ball, Paul Bogaard, Evelyn Coates, Pat Ertel, Carol Fahey, Andrew Kennedy, George Finney, **Ross Galbraith (compiler)**, Ramsey Hart, Andrew Hicks, Sean LeMoine, Malcolm Logan, Keith McAloney, Andrew MacFarlane, Colin MacKinnon, Julie McKnight, Luc Patterson, Theo Popma, Abby Porter, Al

Smith, Cynthia Spicer, Kathleen Spicer. **ANNAPOLIS ROYAL**, Jan 3; 8AM to 4PM. Temp. -6 to 2C. Wind NE 0-25 kmph. Snow 1cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy. P.M. Cloudy, heavy rain and/or snow. 26 field observers in 11 parties, 27 at feeders. Total party hours 50.5 (27 on foot, 23.5 by car). Total party kilometres 431 (37 by foot, 394 by car).

Common Loon 12; Horned Grebe 3; Red-necked Grebe 10; Double-crested Cormorant 2; **Yellow-crowned Night Heron 1**; American Black Duck 949; Mallard 11; **Canvasback 7**; Greater Scaup 319; Common Eider 46; Surf Scoter 4, White-winged Scoter 10; scoter species 214; Long-tailed Duck 32; Bufflehead 169, Common Goldeneye 134; Barrow's Goldeneye 5; Red-breasted Merganser 50; Bald Eagle 2; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Ring-necked Pheasant 35; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 565; Great Black-backed Gull 24; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; Razorbill 3; Black Guillemot 2; Rock Pigeon 324; Mourning Dove 332; Downy Woodpecker 21; Hairy Woodpecker 8; Northern Flicker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 445; American Crow 247; Common Raven 57; Black-capped Chickadee 374; Boreal Chickadee 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch 27; White-breasted Nuthatch 14; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; American Robin 222; European Starling 907; Bohemian Waxwing 86; Cedar Waxwing 37; American Tree Sparrow 24; Chipping Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 9; White-throated Sparrow 31; Dark-eyed Junco 80; sparrow species 5; Snow Bunting 21; Northern Cardinal 7; Common Grackle 45; Brown-headed Cowbird 10; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 64; House Finch 1; Common Redpoll 81; Pine Siskin 74; American Goldfinch 617; Evening Grosbeak 194; House Sparrow 23.

Total Species 65, about 7039 individuals. (CP. Great Blue Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, **Broad-winged Hawk**) Ruby Adams, Susan Baltzer, Renada Baltzer, Bob Bennett, Shelagh Bestany, Betty Burrell, Shirley Burrell, Sherry Caldwell, Jerri Costa, Graham Dalton, Ruth Denton, Paula Dodaro,

Rebecca Ellis, Robert Ellis, Barb Fancy, Geraldine Frail, Margaret Hall, Joan Harris, Sharon Hawboldt, Stephen Hawboldt, Millie Hawes, Frances Higgs, Dick Holt, Peter Holt, Cliff Jones, Susan Jost, Ginny Langley, Alex Marshall, Jeff McCormick, Brenda Montgomery, Wayne Morgan, Valerie Mount, Marian Mullen, Jon Percy, Flo Potter, Caylee Proulx, Dan Proulx, Ginny Proulx, Liza Proulx, Andi Rierden, Dave Scarratt, Ryan Scranton, Barb Selig, Myrtle Selig, Jo Stern, **David Tinker (compiler)**, Jack Turner, Julie Turner, Karl White, Roger Wilson, Darlene Wright, Marilyn Wright, Myrtle Wright.

ANTIGONISH, Dec 14; 7:15AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -10 to -5C. Wind variable. Snow 10cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, light snow. P.M. cloudy. 16 field observers in 6 parties and 9 at feeders. 3.25 hours owling. Total party hours 37.7 (18.3 by foot, 19.4 by car). Total party kilometres 398.8 (28.2 by foot, 270.6 by car).

Red-throated Loon 5; Common Loon 4; Horned Grebe 10; Red-necked Grebe 8; Northern Gannet 35; Double-crested Cormorant 10; Great Cormorant 6; cormorant species 2; Canada Goose 688; American Black Duck 1547; Mallard 61; Northern Pintail 2; **Green-winged Teal 8**; Greater Scaup 80; Common Eider 1; Surf Scoter 46; White-winged Scoter 10; Black Scoter 12; Long-tailed Duck 105; Bufflehead 3; Common Goldeneye 385; Common Merganser 149; Red-breasted Merganser 77; merganser species 35; duck species 237; Bald Eagle 25; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Rough-legged Hawk 1; hawk species 2; Ruffed Grouse 3; Black-headed Gull 3; Bonaparte's Gull 122; Ring-billed Gull 34; Herring Gull 402; Iceland Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 41; gull species 42; Black Guillemot 2; Rock Pigeon 321; Mourning Dove 217; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Blue Jay 149; American Crow 517; Common Raven 30; Black-capped Chickadee 271; Boreal Chickadee 15; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 6; American Robin 21;

European Starling 1305; American Tree Sparrow 111; Song Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 104; Lapland Longspur 20; Snow Bunting 66; Dickcissel 1; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 38; Purple Finch 2; Common Redpoll 151; Pine Siskin 5; American Goldfinch 179; Evening Grosbeak 144; House Sparrow 72.

Total Species 67, about 7987 individuals. (CP. American Wigeon). Leslie Buckland-Nicks, Stephen Bushell, Ivan Cozzi, Ron Fraser, Sue Holm, Tom Kavanaugh, Leslie Klapstein, Mary Landry, Oona Landry, **Randy Lauff (compiler)**, Anne Louise MacDonald, Leo MacDonald, Bill Marshall, Blake Maybank, Jean McGee, Ken McKenna, Kerstin Mueller, Mary Murphy, Marilyn O'Brien, Beth Parker, Jeff Parker, Mark Pulsifer, Monica Schuegraf, Bunny Smith, Chris Wilson.

APPLE RIVER, Dec 29; 8:00AM to 5PM. Temp. -6 to 6C. Wind calm. Snow 0-5cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 17 field observers in 5-7 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 40.75 (27 on foot, 13.75 by car). Total party kilometres 265 (28.5 by foot, 236.5 by car)

Red-throated Loon 5; Common Loon 4; Horned Grebe 4; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 1; American Black Duck 46; Common Eider 4; Surf Scoter 6; White-winged Scoter 3; Long-tailed Duck 21; Common Goldeneye 19; Red-breasted Merganser 10; duck species 19; Bald Eagle 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Merlin 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Purple Sandpiper 6; Ring-billed Gull 33; Herring Gull 326; Great Black-backed Gull 23; Thick-billed Murre 11; Black Guillemot 2; Mourning Dove 47; Downy Woodpecker 12; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Northern Flicker 1; Northern Shrike 4; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 21; American Crow 112; Common Raven 20; Black-capped Chickadee 219; Boreal Chickadee 15; Red-breasted Nuthatch 21; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 17; American Robin 1; European Starling 88; Yellow-rumped Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 15; Dark-eyed Junco 25; Snow Bunting 1; Common Grackle 12; Pine Grosbeak 32; White-winged Crossbill 38; Common Redpoll 117; Pine Siskin 5;

American Goldfinch 9; Evening Grosbeak 4; House Sparrow 6.

Total Species 50, about 1420 individuals. (CP. White-throated Sparrow). Sapphire Brine, Doug Campbell, Malcolm Campbell, Amanda Cockshutt, Maeve Cockshutt, Rosemary Cockshutt, Christie Finney, George Finney, Ross Galbraith, Garrett Hart, Pam Hart, Ramsey Hart, Andrew MacFarlane, Luc Patterson, Kathy Popma, Cynthia Spicer, **Kathleen F. Spicer (compiler)**.

BADDECK, Dec 30; 7:00AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -5 to -2C. Wind NE 5kmph. Snow 0-16cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 26 field observers in 6 parties, 16 at feeders. Total party hours 28.5 (23 on foot, 5.5 by car). Total party kilometres 150 (31.5 on foot, 118.5 by car).

Common Loon 2; Canada Goose 32; Green-winged Teal 3; American Black Duck 38; Mallard 1; Common Goldeneye 32; Red-breasted Merganser 29; Bald Eagle 9; Ruffed Grouse 3; Herring Gull 13; Great Black-backed Gull 2; gull species 5; Mourning Dove 23; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 14; Blue Jay 36; American Crow 46; Common Raven 12; Black-capped Chickadee 117; Boreal Chickadee 11; Red-breasted Nuthatch 15; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; European Starling 12; American Tree Sparrow 2; Dark-eyed Junco 12; Common Grackle 10; Pine Grosbeak 10; Purple Finch 1; Common Redpoll 74; Pine Siskin 5; American Goldfinch 23; Evening Grosbeak 6; House Sparrow 2.

Total Species 37, about 611 individuals. (CP. Red-tailed Hawk). Dan Banks, Harriet Cheverie, Lal Colman, R. Coor, Layra Dixon, Hazel Fownes, Mack Garland, Viola Garland, Rod Grant, Margaret Hanam, K147 Royal Canadian Sea Cadets (13), James MacDonald, Marilyn MacDonald, Barb McCurdy, Richard McCurdy, Burland Murphy, Ed Nicholson, Bonnie Nunn, **Bruce Nunn (compiler)**, Jim O'Brien, Minga O'Brien, Corrine Phillips, John Polemic, Tamara Richardson, Dave

Smith, John Smolenaars, Melita Smolenaars, Chuck Thompson.

BARRINGTON BAY/CAPE SABLE ISLAND, Dec 20; 7:30AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -4 to 0C. Wind NW 15kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. Skies partly clear all day. 21 field observers in 10 parties 1.5 hours and 1 km. owling. Total party hours 104.75 (52.5 on foot, 48.25 by car, 4 by boat). Total party kilometres 503 (62 by foot, 426 by car, 15 by boat

Red-throated Loon 4; Common Loon 93; Horned Grebe 10; Red-necked Grebe 67; Northern Gannet 4; Double-crested Cormorant 19; Great Cormorant 143; Great Blue Heron 12; Canada Goose 388; Brant 8; American Black Duck 383; Mallard 22; Northern Pintail 6; Green-winged Teal 3; Greater Scaup 52; Lesser Scaup 2; Common Eider 1353; Harlequin Duck 3; Surf Scoter 11; White-winged Scoter 106; Black Scoter 257; Long-tailed Duck 160; Bufflehead 51; Common Goldeneye 93; Hooded Merganser 15; Common Merganser 1; Red-breasted Merganser 135; Northern Harrier 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 6; Red-tailed Hawk 4; American Kestrel 1; Merlin 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 4; Black-bellied Plover 6; **Killdeer 1; Spotted Sandpiper 1; Red Knot 3; Sanderling 110; Semipalmated Sandpiper 9**; Purple Sandpiper 3; Dunlin 63; American Woodcock 1; Black-headed Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 7; Herring Gull 1413; Iceland Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 923; Dovekie 12; Thick-billed Murre 1; Razorbill 1; Black Guillemot 97; Rock Pigeon 9; Mourning Dove 363; Great Horned Owl 1; **Snowy Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Northern Flicker 27; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 180; American Crow 605; Common Raven 12; Black-capped Chickadee 286; Boreal Chickadee 46; Red-breasted Nuthatch 26; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Marsh Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 15; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3; American Robin 1; European Starling 1070; American Pipit 88; Cedar Waxwing 2; Magnolia Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 103; Common Yellowthroat 1; American Tree Sparrow 58; Chipping**

Sparrow 12; **Field Sparrow 1;** Savannah Sparrow 17; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 2; Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 94; **Lincoln's Sparrow 1;** Swamp Sparrow 26; White-throated Sparrow 181; White-crowned Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 72; Snow Bunting 35; Northern Cardinal 2; Red-winged Blackbird 4; Common Grackle 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Purple Finch 19; White-winged Crossbill 4; Common Redpoll 145; Pine Siskin 30; American Goldfinch 286; Evening Grosbeak 135; House Sparrow 45.

Total Species 104, about 10107 individuals. (CP. Snow Goose, Mew Gull, Glaucous Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-breasted Chat). Jonathan Atkinson, Dorothy Cameron, Edna Crowell, Terry Crowell, David Currie, Raymond d'Entremont, Paul Gould, June Graves, James Hirtle, Micheal Kieley, Grant Milroy, Joyce Milroy, Ethelda Murphy, **Murray Newell (compiler)**, John Nickerson, Sandra Nickerson, Ian Roseby, Betty June Smith, Sidney Smith, Clyde Stoddard, Azor Vienneau.

BEDFORD/SACKVILLE, Dec 28; 7AM to 6PM. Temp. -4 to 3C. Wind NW 30-50. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Skies partly clear or cloudy all day. 33 field observers in 22 parties, 27 at feeders. Total party hours 100.5 (60.5 on foot, 40 by car). Total party kilometres 894 (180 by foot, 714 by car)

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 1; Horned Grebe 1; Great Cormorant 6; Canada Goose 12; American Black Duck 438; Mallard 106; Common Goldeneye 69; Barrow's Goldeneye 7; Hooded Merganser 31; Common Merganser 20; Red-breasted Merganser 35; Bald Eagle 3; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Northern Goshawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 6; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Spruce Grouse 3; **American Woodcock 1; Ring-billed Gull 14; Herring Gull 665; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 38; Black Guillemot 1; Rock Pigeon 440; Mourning Dove 154; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 48; Hairy Woodpecker 25; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay**

198; American Crow 5455; Common Raven 47; Black-capped Chickadee 688; Boreal Chickadee 35; Red-breasted Nuthatch 51; White-breasted Nuthatch 16; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 28; American Robin 2; European Starling 1357; Cedar Waxwing 40; **Eastern Towhee** 1; American Tree Sparrow 6; Song Sparrow 45; **Lincoln's Sparrow** 1; White-throated Sparrow 34; Dark-eyed Junco 468; sparrow species 34; Northern Cardinal 1; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Pine Grosbeak 6; Purple Finch 1; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 5; crossbill species 10; Common Redpoll 256; **Hoary Redpoll** 3; Pine Siskin 90; American Goldfinch 492; Evening Grosbeak 27; House Sparrow 171.

Total Species 62, about 11722 individuals. Bill Billington, Eileen Billington, Suzanne Borkowski, Yvette Buckley, Garth Chalmers, Joyce Chalmers, Pat Chalmers, Lois Codling, Jamie Crosby, Charlie Cron, Cheryl Davis, Heather Drope, Larry Eisenhauer, Giselle d'Entremont, Jean Hartley, Richard Hatch, Elliott Hayes, Judy Hayes, Barbara Hinds, Betty Hollebhone, Andy Horn, David Hughes, Janey Hughes, Shirley Hughes, William Hughes, Jeff Hutchings, Rita Kinney, Fulton Lavender, Pat Leader, Don MacLaughlin, Don MacNeill, **Robert McDonald (compiler)**, Ian McLaren, Bernice Moores, Tracy Lutz Noel, Maureen Nowlan, Peter Oickle, Glorina Patterson, **Richard Peckham (compiler)**, Anna Pellerine, Joe Pitzel, Walter Regan, Denise Restin, Barry Sawler, Jean Sawler, Margaret Slatkin, Sibyl Spriggs, Azor Vienneau, Joan Waldron.

BIG POND/ESKASONI, Dec 26; 7:30AM to 6PM. Temp. 2 to 10C. Wind SSW 16-24kmph. Still water open, moving water open. Skies partly cloudy all day. 22 field observers in 9 parties, 6 at feeders, 3 hours and 25km. owling. Total party hours 47 (20.5 on foot, 26.5 by car). Total party kilometres 240 (36.5 by foot, 203.5 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 3; American Black Duck 68; Mallard 2; White-winged Scoter 7; Long-tailed Duck 3; Common Goldeneye 103;

Common Merganser 21; Red-breasted Merganser 239; Bald Eagle 23; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Black-headed Gull 6; Bonaparte's Gull 110; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 54; Iceland Gull 9; Great Black-backed Gull 20; Rock Pigeon 5; Northern Saw-whet Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 2; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 10; Blue Jay 62; American Crow 157; Common Raven 19; Black-capped Chickadee 201; Boreal Chickadee 33; Red-breasted Nuthatch 11; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; European Starling 236; Bohemian Waxwing 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; Pine Warbler 1; Palm Warbler 1; Song Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 7; sparrow species 1; Snow Bunting 5; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 28; Common Redpoll 43; Pine Siskin 11; American Goldfinch 31; Evening Grosbeak 99.

Total Species 49, about 1670 individuals. George Ball, Terry Boone, Donald Campbell, George Digout, Sharon Digout, Joe Donovan, Dave Harris, George MacInnis, John MacInnis, Alanna MacNeil, Ann Marie MacNeil, Duncan MacNeil, **Jack MacNeil (compiler)**, Kevin MacNeil, Dave McCorquodale, John McKay, Weldon McPhail, Geraldine Metcalfe, Junior Metcalfe, Bernard Murphy, Allan Murrant, Cathy Murrant, Susann Myers, Jim Siteman, Pauline Siteman, Christine Thompson, Don Tuttle, Melvin White.

BRIDGETOWN, Dec 27; 8:30AM to 4:15PM. Temp. 0 to 2C. Wind W 10kmph. Snow 4cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy. P.M. cloudy, light snow. 5 field observers in 3 parties, 35 at feeders. Total party hours 10 (4 on foot, 6 by car). Total party kilometres 115 (10 by foot, 105 by car).

Common Loon 2; Red-necked Grebe 4; cormorant species 1; American Black Duck 1; Greater Scaup 1; Common Eider 93; Surf Scoter 38; White-winged Scoter 57; Long-tailed Duck 24; Bufflehead 7; Red-breasted Merganser 27; Bald Eagle 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 7; hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 5; Herring Gull 254; Great Black-backed Gull 4; Dovekie 2; Rock Pigeon 87; Mourning

Dove 235; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 12; Hairy Woodpecker 10; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 175; American Crow 229; Common Raven 43; Black-capped Chickadee 220; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 2; European Starling 881; American Tree Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 7; Dark-eyed Junco 51; Snow Bunting 143; Northern Cardinal 3; Red-winged Blackbird 5; Common Grackle 11; Purple Finch 7; Common Redpoll 35; Pine Siskin 33; American Goldfinch 357; Evening Grosbeak 57; House Sparrow 16.

Total Species 46, about 3220 individuals. (CP. Pileated Woodpecker, American Robin, Bohemian Waxwing). Thelma Bent, Joyce Burbridge, Bill Chambers, **David Colville (compiler)**, Justin Colville, David Cottenden, Jan Coulter, Vi Doucette, Marilyn Durling, Noel Durling, David Eisnor, Marie Gaul, Sharon Hawboldt, Steve Hawboldt, Marg Hirtle, Avora Howse, Donna Jones, Ron Jones, Chris Lewis, Bev Marshall, Fred Marshall, Marg Messinger, Roger Mosher, Doug Parker, Carl 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 16; 7:30AM to 4:45PM. Temp. -1 to 0C. Wind NNW 80-100kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. Partly cloudy. P.M. Partly clear. 2 field observers in 1 party, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 9.25 (2 on foot, 7.25 by car). Total party kilometres 52 (2 by foot, 50 by car)

Common Loon 10; Red-necked Grebe 2; Northern Gannet 27; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Cormorant 175; Turkey Vulture 3; Canada Goose 63; American Black Duck 111; Mallard 13; Northern Pintail 1; **Redhead** 1; Greater Scaup 2; Common Eider 102; Surf Scoter 6; Long-tailed Duck 57; Common Goldeneye 20; Red-breasted Merganser 34; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 7; Purple Sandpiper 70; Dunlin 1; Bonaparte's Gull 3; Ring-billed Gull 10; Herring Gull 600; Iceland Gull 9; Great Black-backed Gull 1085; Black-legged

Kittiwake 302; Dovekie 2; Thick-billed Murre 2; Razorbill 6; Black Guillemot 52; Atlantic Puffin 1; alcid species 300; Rock Pigeon 50; Mourning Dove 36; Blue Jay 4; American Crow 64; Common Raven 2; Black-capped Chickadee 22; European Starling 51; American Pipit 2; Song Sparrow 4; White-throated Sparrow 3; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 16; Red-winged Blackbird 3; Common Grackle 26; Brown-headed Cowbird 3; Purple Finch 2; Common Redpoll 4; Pine Siskin 2; American Goldfinch 66; House Sparrow 14.

Total Species 52, about 3455 individuals. Anne Mills, Eric Mills (compiler), David Pugh, June Swift.

BROAD COVE, Dec 30; 7:45AM to 5PM. Temp. -5 to 5C. Wind SW 0-6kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. Partly cloudy/foggy. P.M. Cloudy/foggy. 36 field observers in 13-16 parties, 2 at feeders. Total party hours 119.5 (68.5 on foot, 42 by car, 9 by boat). Total party kilometres 610 (65 by foot, 505 by car, 40 by boat).

Red-throated Loon 7; Common Loon 38; Horned Grebe 55; Red-necked Grebe 3; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Great Cormorant 13; cormorant species 1; Great Blue Heron 1; **Snow Goose 1**; Canada Goose 262; American Black Duck 244; Mallard 546; **Northern Shoveler 1**; Greater Scaup 42; Lesser Scaup 3; Common Eider 117; Surf Scoter 89; White-winged Scoter 13; Black Scoter 28; scoter species 100; Long-tailed Duck 313; Bufflehead 130; Common Goldeneye 92; Hooded Merganser 41; Common Merganser 29; Red-breasted Merganser 119; Bald Eagle 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 7; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 5; Black-bellied Plover 1; Red Knot 1; Sanderling 9; Purple Sandpiper 3; Dunlin 6; Black-headed Gull 30; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 20; Herring Gull 657; Iceland Gull 2; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 185; Dovekie 7; Thick-billed Murre 10; Black Guillemot 62; Rock Pigeon 205; Mourning Dove 363; Great Horned Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; **Red-bellied Woodpecker 1**; Downy

Woodpecker 21; Hairy Woodpecker 9; Northern Flicker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 287; American Crow 640; Common Raven 97; Horned Lark 1; Black-capped Chickadee 597; Boreal Chickadee 101; Red-breasted Nuthatch 56; White-breasted Nuthatch 10; Brown Creeper 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 71; American Robin 2; European Starling 689; Cedar Waxwing 42; Yellow-rumped Warbler 3; Common Yellowthroat 1; American Tree Sparrow 64; Song Sparrow 36; White-throated Sparrow 34; Dark-eyed Junco 254; Lapland Longspur 1; Snow Bunting 3; Pine Grosbeak 1; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 21; Common Redpoll 189; Pine Siskin 93; American Goldfinch 481; Evening Grosbeak 113.

Total Species 82, about 7817 individuals. (CP. Northern Gannet, Northern harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Razorbill, Barred Owl, Baltimore Oriole). Bruce Allen, Ruth Ballem, Lise Bell, Peter Bell, Kay Casselman, William Caudle, Shirley Cohrs, Eric Cooke, David Currie, Gillian Elliott, Jim Elliott, David Farner, **Sylvia Fullerton (compiler)**, Gary Hartlen, Janet Hartlen, Barbara Hinds, James Hirtle, Blair Hodgman, Andy Horn, Michael Kieley, Fulton Lavender, Ian McLaren, Pat McLarty, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Eileen Morrison, Scott Pelton, Don Purchase, Joyce Purchase, Judy Robbins, Christine Ross, Nellie Snyder, Clarence Stevens Jr. Clarence Stevens Sr., Dave Young, Azor Vienneau.

CALEDONIA, Jan 4; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. 0 to 2C. Wind 10kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M cloudy, heavy rain. P. M. cloudy. 21 field observers in 10 parties, 22 at feeders. Total party hours 28.5 (22 on foot, 6.5 by car). Total party kilometres 110 (38 by foot, 72 by car).

American Black Duck 11; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 16; Rock Pigeon 30; Mourning Dove 20; Barred Owl 2; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 60; American Crow 20; Common Raven 27; Black-capped Chickadee 238; Boreal Chickadee 3;

Red-breasted Nuthatch 59; White-breasted Nuthatch 16; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 7; European Starling 20; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 28; Purple Finch 10; Common Redpoll 82; Pine Siskin 2; American Goldfinch 208; Evening Grosbeak 216.

Total Species 29, about 1099 individuals. (CP. Common Merganser, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing). Eric Cole, Judy Cole, Judy Flemming, Rod Ford, Wendy Grant, Dave Hales, Myra Holdright, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope, Jennifer Hopper, **Peggy Hopper, Steve Hopper (compilers)**, Jackie Jorrissen, Amanda Lavers, Lesley Lewis, Roger Lewis, Meisner, Orval Meisner, Barb Rogers, Peter Ogers, Terje Rogers, Jonathan Sheppard, Sheila Sheppard, Tom Sheppard, David Small, Rick Swain, Darien Ure.

CANSO, Dec 29; 8:30AM to 4PM. Temp. 0-8C. Winds variable 0-40. No snow. Still water partly frozen, moving water partly open. Skies clear all day. 4 field observers in 1-3 parties, 8 at feeders. Total party hours 8.5 (6.75 on foot, 1.25 by car). Total party kilometres 116.5 (16.1 by foot, 103 by car).

Common Loon 20, Red-necked Grebe 18; Northern Gannet 13; Double-crested Cormorant 5; Great Cormorant 4; Great Blue Heron 2; American Black Duck 2; Common Eider 165; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 29; Black Scoter 48; scoter species 35; Long-tailed Duck 68; Bufflehead 1; Red-breasted Merganser 44; merganser species 2; duck species 219; Bald Eagle 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; hawk species 1; **Whimbrel 1**; Herring Gull 11; Iceland Gull 80; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 48; gull species 28; **Common Tern 1**; Dovekie 75; Black Guillemot 147; alcid species 2; Mourning Dove 96; Downy Woodpecker 3; Northern Flicker 7; woodpecker species 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 22; American Crow 157; Common Raven 12; Black-capped Chickadee 87; Boreal Chickadee 24; Red-breasted Nuthatch 3; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 2; American Robin 981; European Starling 312; Bohemian Waxwing 7; Cedar Waxwing 61; waxwing species 25; Yellow-

rumped Warbler 28; warbler species 3; American Tree Sparrow 6; **Clay-coloured Sparrow 1**; Song Sparrow 9; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 36; sparrow species 14; **Dickcissel 2**; **Rusty Blackbird 1**; **Baltimore Oriole 1**; Pine Grosbeak 3; Purple Finch 13; Common Redpoll 20; Pine Siskin 79; American Goldfinch 104; finch species 23; House Sparrow 41.

Total Species 61, about 3199 individuals. (CP. Mallard, Merlin, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-billed Gull, White-winged Crossbill, Evening Grosbeak) **Stephen Bushell (compiler)**, Bud Cohoon, Terry Crane, Harry Delorey, Roseanne Delorey, June Jarvis, Tom Kavanaugh, Randy Lauff, Emily Lumsden, Gerti MacKenzie, Clyde MacKenzie, Tony Miller, Joe Murphy, Grace Walsh, Joe Walsh.

CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS, Dec 27; 7:30AM to 4PM. Temp. 0 to 2C. Wind N 0-5. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. partly cloudy. P.M. cloudy, foggy, rain and snow. 19 field observers in 12 parties, 13 at feeders. Total party hours 33.5 (13 on foot, 10.5 by car). Total party kilometres 117.6 (23 by foot, 95.6 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 1, Double-crested Cormorant 5; Great Cormorant 22; Canada Goose 40; American Black Duck 43; Common Eider 12; White-winged Scoter 393; scoter species 1; Long-tailed Duck 54; Bufflehead 20; Common Goldeneye 57; Common Merganser 14; Red-breasted Merganser 50; Bald Eagle 10; Northern Harrier 1; Ruffed Grouse 5; Purple Sandpiper 18; Bonaparte's Gull 10; Ring-billed Gull 2; Herring Gull 92; Iceland Gull 8; Great Black-backed Gull 37; Dovekie 5; Black Guillemot 12; Rock Dove 8; Mourning Dove 36; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 6; Blue Jay 110; American Crow 138; Common Raven 3; Black-capped Chickadee 105; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch 33; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; American Robin 1; European Starling 44; **Yellow-breasted Chat 1**; American Tree Sparrow 18; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 7; Pine Siskin 21; Evening Grosbeak 23.

Total Species 45, about 1485 individuals. (CP. Mallard, Lesser Scaup, Black-headed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Great Horned Owl, Song Sparrow, Pine Grosbeak, Purple Finch, White-winged Crossbill, American Goldfinch). Adam Algar, Dave Algar, James Bridgland, Lisa Dixon, Chris Gorey, Doug Jackson, Jeanette Jackson, **Sheldon Lambert (compiler)**, Fritz McEvoy, Ruth McLagan, Ann Marie Morrison, Freeman Morrison, Eric Muntz, Ken Murray, Linda Murray, Marjorie Murray, John Parker, Cathy Pinto, Daniel Pinto, Mario Pinto, Mitchell Pinto, Paula Reynolds, Tim Reynolds, Jill Torrey, Fred Williams, Sharon Williams, Heather Wilson, Tom Wilson.

CHETICAMP, Dec 20; 7:45AM to 5PM. Temp. -4 to -2C. Wind NW 10-20kmph. Snow 0-5cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies partly cloudy, light snow all day. 18 field observers in 8 parties. Total party hours 22 (13.25 on foot, 8.75 by car). Total party kilometres 216.6 (25.4 by foot, 191.2 by car)

Common Loon 1; Northern Gannet 5; Double-crested Cormorant 6; cormorant species 1; American Black Duck 40; Mallard 15; Lesser Scaup 15; Common Goldeneye 64; duck species 1; Bald Eagle 15; Northern Harrier 1; hawk species 1; Herring Gull 167; Glaucous Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 54; gull species 1; Dovekie 3; Mourning Dove 80; Downy Woodpecker 4; Northern Flicker 1; Blue Jay 90; American Crow 187; Common Raven 32; Horned Lark 6; Black-capped Chickadee 49; Boreal Chickadee 10; European Starling 391; American Tree Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 4; Snow Bunting 24; American Goldfinch 7; House Sparrow 10.

Total Species 28, about 1296 individuals. (CP. Common Merganser, Song Sparrow, Pine Grosbeak). Alberte Aucoin, Alfred Aucoin, Geraldine Bourgeois, Heather Davis, Gordon Delaney, Janice Doucet, Archie Doucette, Marie-Jeannette Harris, Sheldon Lambert, Doreen LeFort, Kim Lemky, Johnny McKeown, Edna Poirier, Annie Roach, Henri-Charles

Roach, M. Justine Roach, Marie-Agnes Roach, Marie-Claire Roach, Jean Timmons.

ECONOMY, Dec 27; 7:45AM to 5PM. Temp. -1 to 1C. Wind N 15-30kmph. Snow 2cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies cloudy, light snow all day. 8 field observers in 6 parties, 4 at feeders, 1 hour and 10 km. owling. Total party hours 44.5 (34.5 on foot, 10 by car). Total party kilometres 175 (43 by foot, 132 by car)

Red-throated Loon 4; American Black Duck 859; Mallard 9; Surf Scoter 16; White-winged Scoter 2; Black Scoter 1; Long-tailed Duck 9; Bufflehead 20; Common Goldeneye 20; Common Merganser 23; Red-breasted Merganser 9; Bald Eagle 5; Ruffed Grouse 7; Purple Sandpiper 50; Ring-billed Gull 80; Herring Gull 575; Great Black-backed Gull 28; Rock Pigeon 124; Mourning Dove 56; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 7; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 29; American Crow 150; Common Raven 21; Black-capped Chickadee 175; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 7; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 37; American Robin 1; European Starling 188; Bohemian Waxwing 20; American Tree Sparrow 60; Song Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 18; Snow Bunting 16; **meadowlark species 1**; Common Grackle 6; Purple Finch 1; White-winged Crossbill 7; Common Redpoll 133; Pine Siskin 4; American Goldfinch 57; Evening Grosbeak 8; House Sparrow 23.

Total Species 51 about 2896 individuals. Shannon Breen, Irene Cooke, Harold Corbett, Jean Corbett, Linda Corbett, Ken McKenna, Bob MacLaughlin, Brad MacLaughlin, Bill Murphy, Edgar Spalding, Elizabeth Spalding, **Fran Spalding (compiler)**. **HALIFAX/DARTMOUTH**, Dec 14; 7:30AM to 5:30PM. Temp. -10 to -6C. Wind NW-N 17-7kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, light snow. P. M. cloudy. 90 field observers in 52

parties, 64 at feeders, 4.25 hours and 27.6km. owling. Total parties hours 307 (239.75 on foot, 67 by car, .25 by boat). Total party kilometres 1365.6 (282.8 by foot, 1082.8 by car, 1 by boat)

Red-throated Loon 4; Common Loon 10; Red-necked Grebe 20; Northern Gannet 36; Double-crested Cormorant 14; Great Cormorant 109; Great Blue Heron 6; **Snow Goose 1**; Canada Goose 3743; **Brant 11**; **Gadwall 2**; American Wigeon 93; American Black Duck 2259; Mallard 299; Northern Pintail 13; Green-winged Teal 8; Ring-necked Duck 1; Greater Scaup 183; Lesser Scaup 53; Common Eider 4672; Surf Scoter 1; White-winged Scoter 21; Black Scoter 5; Long-tailed Duck 162; Bufflehead 104; Common Goldeneye 246; Barrow's Goldeneye 5; duck species 70; Hooded Merganser 27; Common Merganser 23; Red-breasted Merganser 150; Ruddy Duck 2; Bald Eagle 21; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 13; Northern Goshawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 2; American Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 7; Ruffed Grouse 4; Spruce Grouse 1; American Coot 2; Purple Sandpiper 60; Wilson's Snipe 1; Black-headed Gull 59; Bonaparte's Gull 1; Ring-billed Gull 440; Herring Gull 3108; Iceland Gull 209; Glaucous Gull 3; Great Black-backed Gull 369; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; gull species 2000; Dovekie 25; Common Murre 2; Thick-billed Murre 3; Razorbill 10; Black Guillemot 47; Atlantic Puffin 1; Rock Pigeon 1249; Mourning Dove 232; Great Horned Owl 1; Northern Saw-whet Owl 2; **Red-bellied Woodpecker 1**; Downy Woodpecker 57; Hairy Woodpecker 15; Northern Flicker 7; Pileated Woodpecker 2; shrike species 1; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 372; American Crow 1611; Common Raven 76; Horned Lark 23; Black-capped Chickadee 1351; Boreal Chickadee 47; Red-breasted Nuthatch 65; White-breasted Nuthatch 24; Brown Creeper 16; Golden-crowned Kinglet 52; **Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2**; Hermit Thrush 5; American Robin 41; thrush species 1; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 8012; American Pipit 22; Cedar Waxwing 2; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 59; Pine Warbler 6; Palm Warbler 1; Common Yellowthroat 2; Yellow-breasted Chat 7; American Tree

Sparrow 42; **Lark Sparrow 1**; Savannah Sparrow 9; Fox Sparrow 7; Song Sparrow 178; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 206; Dark-eyed Junco 633; Lapland Longspur 4; Snow Bunting 20; Northern Cardinal 16; **Eastern Meadowlark 4**; Common Grackle 9; Baltimore Oriole 2; Purple Finch 9; House Finch 14; Red Crossbill 3; White-winged Crossbill 15; Common Redpoll 223; Pine Siskin 207; American Goldfinch 1027; Evening Grosbeak 59; House Sparrow 1071.

Total Species 115, about 35883 individuals. Brenda Bale, Laurel Banks, Steve Barbour, Bill Billington, Eileen Billington, Elaine Black, Suzanne Borkowski, Andrew Boyne, Greg Breed, Derek Bridgehouse, Lee Campbell, Patricia Chalmers, Bev Chapman, Tony Charles, Gavin Charles, Sara Chisholm, Alan Covert, Charles Cron, Mike Crowell, Dave Currie, Gisele D'Entremont, Mike Dowd, Heather Drope, Cheryl Edgett, Laura Elliott, Jim Elliott, Gillian Elliott, Dale Ellis, Chris Field, Bill Freedman, Glen Gibson, Fred Greig, Richard Hamilton, Joan Harbison, Richard Hatch, David Henry, James Hirtle, Andy Horn, Bill Hughes, Shirley Hughes, Jeff Hutchings, Elizabeth Kaiser, Lynn Karchewski, Keith Tod, Henk Kwindt, Elizabeth Kwindt, **Fulton Lavender (compiler)**, Peter LeBlanc, John Loch, Leslie MacDonald, Alexander MacDonald, Robert MacKay, Dave MacKinnon, Chris Majka, Karen March, Muriel Marryatt, Mike McDonald, Bob McDonald, Andrea McIver, Pay McKay, Ian McLaren, Diane Mcqueston, Bob Mcqueston, Scott Milson, Doug Milson, Bernice Moores, Maureen Nowlan, Minga O'Brien, Jim O'Brien, Judy O'Brien, Peter Oikle, Terry Paquet, Etta Parker, Richard Peckham, Scott Pelton, Josh Pennell, Andrew Poplawski, Jen Rock, Jayne Roma, Cindy Staicer, Clarence Stevens Sr., Hans Toom, Azor Vienneau, Richard Wassersug, Dottie Welsh, Ann Wetmore, Dave Wilson, Rob Woods, **Scott Yetman (compiler)**, Marty Zelenietz.

KINGSTON, Dec 20; 7:30AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -6 to -3C. Wind W 0-10kmph. Snow 0-.5 cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M

partly cloudy. P.M. cloudy. 12 field observers in 8 parties, 80 at feeders. Total party hours 49 (19 on foot, 27 by car). Total party kilometres 419.5(50.5 by foot, 369 by car)

Common Loon 2; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Canada Goose 75; American Black Duck 90; Mallard 136; Common Eider 2; Surf Scoter 25; Black scoter 4; Bald Eagle 4; Sharp-shinned Hawk 3; Red-tailed Hawk 20; Ring-necked Pheasant 28; Herring Gull 216; Great Black-backed Gull 14; Rock Pigeon 294; Mourning Dove 621; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 32; Hairy Woodpecker 23; Northern Flicker 7; Pileated Woodpecker 5; Blue Jay 578; American Crow 1071; Common Raven 67; Black-capped Chickadee 495; Boreal Chickadee 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch 34; White-breasted Nuthatch 46; Brown Creeper 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; American Robin 6; European Starling 1226; Pine Warbler 1; American Tree Sparrow 13; Chipping Sparrow 5; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 10; Dark-eyed Junco 256; Northern Cardinal 1; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Common Grackle 4; Brown-headed Cowbird 16; Purple Finch 1; Common Redpoll 211; Pine Siskin 33; American Goldfinch 584; Evening Grosbeak 157; House Sparrow 54.

Total Species 49, about 6490 individuals. (CP. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**). Ann Aikman, Merry Atwood, John Belbin, Ruth Brown, Marlene Brown, Edna Brunt, Ken Brunt, Bob Campbell, Karen Campbell, Patricia Chalmers, Tony Chaulk, Anna Clark, John Collins, Ken Crowell, Ella Dalton, Murray Decker, Gordon Delaney, Claire Diggins, Jean Dixon, Bob Foster, Barbara Giffin, **Patrick Giffin (compiler)**, Mabel Green, Carole Gregory, Len Gregory, Shirley Harris, Donna Hill, Ron Hill, Patricia House, Sheila Hulford, Bob Kadjas, Ted Kadjas, Dave Ludlow, Tanya Ludlow, Jane Ludlow, Jim Ludlow, Art MacIntosh, Mary MacMillan, Sandy Morrison, Evelena Mumnick, Phil Mumnick, Ron Osmond, Mary Osmond, Adora Parsons, Herb Parsons, Lilian Pullerin, Twila Robar-Decoste, Tom Ross, Chuck Salmon, Helen Sharp, Emily Stewart, Ralph Swinamer, Barb Thompson, Jason Timpa, John Timpa,

Shannon Timpa, Doris Tye, Mel Walker, Margot Walker, Angus Weeks, Margaret Weeks, George Wells, Jane Wells, Audrey Wellwood, Jane White, Cecil Wile, Grace Wile, Robert Wolfe.

LOUISBOURG, Dec 14; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. -6.5 to -2.5C. Wind WNW 15-29kmph. Snow 0-2cm. Still water frozen, moving water partly open. A.M. partly clear, light snow. P.M. cloudy. 35 field observers in 17 parties, 33 at feeders, 5.5 hours and 6.2km owling. Total party hours 68.5 (50.5 on foot, 18 by car 1 by bicycle). Total party kilometres 193.9 (67.4 by foot, 118.5 by car 8 by bicycle)

Red-throated Loon 4; Common Loon 20; Horned Grebe 6; Red-necked Grebe 36; Northern Gannet 25; Double-crested Cormorant 2; Great Cormorant 6; cormorant species 3; American Black Duck 82; Mallard 4; Green-winged Teal 3; Common Eider 441; Surf Scoter 29; White-winged Scoter 77; scoter species 11; Long-tailed Duck 185; Bufflehead 44; Common Goldeneye 40; Red-breasted Merganser 62; duck species 25; Bald Eagle 7; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Merlin 1; small hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 3; grouse species 1; Purple Sandpiper 1; Bonaparte's Gull 9; Herring Gull 184; Iceland Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 26; Black-legged Kittiwake 1; gull species 2; Dovekie 135; Thick-billed Murre 3; **Razorbill 1**; Black Guillemot 122; large alcid species 1; Rock Pigeon 5; Mourning Dove 151; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 6; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern Flicker 4; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Northern Shrike 2; Gray Jay 23; Blue Jay 102; American Crow 351; Common Raven 27; Black-capped Chickadee 230; Boreal Chickadee 52; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet 34; kinglet species 1; American Robin 4; European Starling 169; Bohemian Waxwing 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 55; sparrow species 1; Snow Bunting 12; Dickcissel 1; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 22; White-winged Crossbill 25; Common Redpoll 120; Pine Siskin 12; American Goldfinch 203; Evening Grosbeak 134; House Sparrow 102.

Total Species 69, about 3485 individuals. (CP. Common Merganser, Glaucous Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Baltimore Oriole, Purple Finch) Victor Anderson, Jean Bagnell, Warren Bagnell, Brent Baker, Mary Lou Blundon, Melanie Blundon, Rob Boone, Judy Burke, Manning Burke, Philip Burke, Bill Bussey, Diane Bussey, Donald Campbell, Peter Chiasson, Carol Corbin, George Crowell, Barclay Cunningham, George Digout, Ken Donovan, Sheila Fudge, Cyneth Hutt, Gordon Hutt, Harry Kennedy, Shirley Kennedy, Bethsheila Kent, Floyd Kent, John Lahey, Elizabeth LaLonde; Gerry LaLonde, Miles MacDonald, Patsy MacDonald, Walter MacDonald, George MacInnis, John MacInnis, Minnie MacLeod, Ramona MacLeod, Jack MacNeil, Kevin MacNeil, Viola MacPhail, Weldon MacPhail, Pearl Magee; Philip Magee, David McCorquodale, John MacKay, Geraldine Metcalfe, Hugh Metcalfe Jr., Joan Mills, Florence Miron, **Susann Myers (compiler)**, Helen O'Shea, Darrell Peck, Gary Pack, Lee Anne Reeves, Bev Sarty, Laura Saunders, Marmon Smith, Olive Spawn, Carter Stevens, Eugene Taylor, Leta Trimm, Fred White, Melvin White.

LUNENBURG, Jan 3; 8AM to 5PM. Temp. -8 to -1C. Wind W 30kmph. Snow 2.5cm. Still water partly open, moving water open. Skies cloudy all day. 37 field observers in 16 parties, 16 at feeders, 1.25 hours and 40 km. owling. Total party hours 106.5 (46 on foot, 60.5 by car). Total party kilometres 652.5 (70.5 by foot, 582 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 67; loon species 2; Horned Grebe 35; Red-necked Grebe 10; Northern Gannet 1; Double-crested Cormorant 5; Great Cormorant 124; cormorant species 1; Great Blue Heron 4; Canada Goose 42; American Black Duck 169; Mallard 410; **Northern Shoveler 1**; Northern Pintail 5; Greater Scaup 29; Lesser Scaup 4; Common Eider 107; White-winged Scoter 1; Black Scoter 1; Long-tailed Duck 237; Bufflehead 28; Common Goldeneye 69; Hooded Merganser 80; Common Merganser 105; Red-breasted Merganser 170; duck species 2; Bald Eagle 13; Northern Harrier 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1;

Northern Goshawk 1; **Broad-winged Hawk 1**; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Rough-legged Hawk 2; American Kestrel 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 36; Ruffed Grouse 4; Black-headed Gull 55; Bonaparte's Gull 38; Ring-billed Gull 17; Herring Gull 1620; Iceland Gull 40; Lesser Black-backed Gull 2; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 240; **Little Gull 1**; Black-legged Kittiwake 2; gull species 1; Dovekie 1; Common Murre 1; Black Guillemot 14; Rock Pigeon 152; Mourning Dove 382; **Red-bellied Woodpecker 1**; Downy Woodpecker 29; Hairy Woodpecker 22; Northern Flicker 9; Northern Shrike 1; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 335; American Crow 1891; Common Raven 53; Black-capped Chickadee 615; Boreal Chickadee 29; Red-breasted Nuthatch 16; White-breasted Nuthatch 6; Brown Creeper 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 39; American Robin 9; **Gray Catbird 1**; European Starling 1803; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 12; Pine Warbler 3; American Tree Sparrow 38; Savannah Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 66; Swamp Sparrow 2; White-throated Sparrow 57; Dark-eyed Junco 228; sparrow species 1; Northern Cardinal 2; Purple Finch 51; Common Redpoll 185; Pine Siskin 67; American Goldfinch 368; Evening Grosbeak 60; House Sparrow 109.

Total Species 84, about 10461 individuals. (CP. Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Cedar Waxwing, blackbird species). Joyce Allen, Edith Burgess, Bill Billington, Eileen Billington, Bill Caudle, Shirley Cohrs, Carol Collins, John Collins, Jill Comolli, Peter Davies, Gail Davis, Glen Davis, Marjorie Dawn, David Farrar, Martha Farrar, Sylvia Fullerton, Marni Gent, Gary Hartlen, **James Hirtle (compiler)**, Sheri Hobson, Ted Hobson, Joanne Hubley, Sue Kashanski, Fulton Lavender, Paul MacDonald, Gary Masey, Jean McKeil, Pat McLarty, Ron McClenden, Earl Meister, Val Meister, Anne Mills, Eric Mills, Pat Morrison, Jean Morse, Sheevaun Nelson, Lisa Paon, Laura Roblee, Daphne Roseby, Ian Roseby, Christine Ross, Steve Schewchuck, Barbara Shaw, Gary Smith, Judy Smits, Clarence Stevens, Clarence Stevens Jr., Harold Stevens, David Walmark, Dottie Welch, Heather Weld, Claudia Woelky.

MARGAREE, Dec 17; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. 0 to 8C. Wind NE 0-3kmph. Snow 2cm. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 11 field observers in 5 parties. Total party hours 20 (12 on foot, 8 by car). Total party kilometres 122 (20 by foot, 102 by car)

Canada Goose 2; American Black Duck 16; Common Goldeneye 5; Common Merganser 11; Bald Eagle 15; Red-tailed Hawk 1; American Kestrel 1; Ruffed Grouse 11; Herring Gull 6; Rock Pigeon 10; Mourning Dove 13; Downy Woodpecker 7; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 8; Blue Jay 57; American Crow 413; Common Raven 14; Black-capped Chickadee 48; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; European Starling 90; Bohemian Waxwing 14; Cedar Waxwing 9; Dark-eyed Junco 16; Snow Bunting 14; **Northern Cardinal** 1; Common Grackle 8; Pine Grosbeak 32; Purple Finch 2; Common Redpoll 16; Pine Siskin 11; American Goldfinch 6; Evening Grosbeak 32; House Sparrow 3.

Total Species 36, about 909 individuals. Stephen Basker, Clifford Collins, Barry Fraser, Eunice Hart, **Frances Hart (compiler)**, Baxter Ingraham, David Ingraham, Allan MacMillan, Maureen MacMillan, Verna MacMillan, Neil MacPhail.

NORTHPORT, Jan 1; 9:30AM to 2:30PM. Temp. -6C. Wind 0-15kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. Mostly clear all day. 4 field observers in 1 party. Total party hours 5(1.5 on foot, 3.5 by car). Total party kilometres 25 (4 by foot, 21 by car)

American Black Duck 88; Bald Eagle 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Herring Gull 522; Iceland Gull 244; Great Black-backed Gull 186; Rock Pigeon 64; Mourning Dove 6; Downy Woodpecker 1; Blue Jay 12; American Crow 96; Common Raven 1; Black-capped Chickadee 10; European Starling 876; American Tree Sparrow 46; Snow Bunting 28; Common Redpoll 80; Pine Siskin 10; American Goldfinch 29.

Total Species 19, about 2303 individuals. June MacNeil, **Mary Jane MacNeil (compiler)**, James Dalton, Walter Brander.

PICTOU HARBOUR, Jan 1; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. -2 to -1C. Wind W-NW 0-50kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. Skies clear all day. 18 field observers in 7 parties, 25 at feeders, 1 hour and 10 km. owling. Total party hours 49.75 (20 on foot, 29.75 by car). Total party kilometres 511 (38.5 by foot, 472.5 by car).

Common Loon 1; Double-crested Cormorant 22; Great Blue Heron 5; Canada Goose 1070; Gadwall 5; American Black Duck 1165; Mallard/Black Duck hybrid 2; Mallard 141; **Tufted Duck** 1; Greater Scaup 3138; Lesser Scaup 4; Common Eider 2; Surf Scoter 15; Black scoter 12; Long-tailed Duck 39; Bufflehead 9; Common Goldeneye 178; Barrow's Goldeneye 2; Hooded Merganser 5; Common Merganser 302; Red-breasted Merganser 2698; duck species 14; Bald Eagle 39; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 5; Ring-necked Pheasant 3; Ruffed Grouse 2; Bonaparte's Gull 72; Ring-billed Gull 45; Herring Gull 1331; Iceland Gull 50; **Lesser Black-backed Gull** 1; Great Black-backed Gull 135; gull species 73; alcid species 1; Rock Pigeon 236; Mourning Dove 136; Great Horned Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Northern Flicker 2; woodpecker species 2; Blue Jay 109; American Crow 1933; Common Raven 139; Black-capped Chickadee 364; Boreal Chickadee 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch 15; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 1; American Robin 28; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 911; Cedar Waxwing 20; American Tree Sparrow 22; Song Sparrow 5; White-throated Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 70; sparrow species 1; Common Grackle 7; Brown-headed Cowbird 1; Pine Grosbeak 23; Purple Finch 4; Common Redpoll 329; Pine Siskin 26; American Goldfinch 111; finch species 2; House Sparrow 111.

Total Species 62, about 15228 individuals. (CP. Horned Grebe, Northern Gannet, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, White-winged Scoter, Northern Goshawk, Black

Guillemot, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Evening Grosbeak). Margie Beck, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Heather Coll, Joan Czapalay, Bev Gale, Amber Goodwin, Barb Gould, Janet Hemphill, Elwin Hemphill, Charlie Kendall, Ann Lank, Randy Lauff, Jean MacDonald, Eleanor MacKay, Cheryl MacLane, John MacLeod, Jean MacLeod, Duncan MacMaster, Isabel MacMaster, Ann Madore, Cathy Madore, Harold Madore, Pat McCarron, Jane McCarthy, Jean MaGee, **Ken McKenna (compiler)**, Shawn Mitchell, Bernice Moores, Gary Murray, Doreen O'Farrell, Dan Panting, Joan Panting, Rob Reid, Doreen Snow, Henry Snow, Helen Turple, Leonard Turple, Steve Vines, Jennifer Whitehouse, Brian Wong, Donnie Wright.

PORT L'HEBERT, Dec 21; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -6 to 1C. Wind SW 0-20kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. clear. P.M. partly cloudy. 14 field observers in 11 parties, 10 at feeders. Total party hours 54.75 (38.25 on foot, 16.5 by car). Total party kilometres 413 (72.5 by foot, 340 by car)

Red-throated Loon 4; Common Loon 47; Horned Grebe 45; Red-necked Grebe 10; Northern Gannet 2; Double-crested Cormorant 7; Great Cormorant 7; Canada Goose 232; American Black Duck 605; Mallard 5; Northern Pintail 3; Green-winged Teal 7; Greater Scaup 100; Common Eider 396; Harlequin Duck 44; Surf Scoter 6; White-winged Scoter 88; Black Scoter 94; Long-tailed Duck 99; Bufflehead 68; Common Goldeneye 55; Hooded Merganser 34; Common Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 34; Bald Eagle 2; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 14; **Ruddy Turnstone** 4; Sanderling 319; Dunlin 4; Black-headed Gull 12; Bonaparte's Gull 4; Ring-billed Gull 6; Herring Gull 638; Iceland Gull 11; Lesser Black-backed Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 151; Dovekie 1; Black Guillemot 23; owl species 1; Rock Pigeon 21; Mourning Dove 128; Downy Woodpecker 1; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Northern Flicker 3; Gray Jay 11; Blue Jay 51; American Crow 176; Common Raven 12; Black-

capped Chickadee 190; Boreal Chickadee 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet 30; American Robin 57; waxwing species 36; European Starling 282; Orange-crowned Warbler 1; Yellow-rumped Warbler 7; Palm Warbler 1; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; American Tree Sparrow 4; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 13; White-throated Sparrow 57; Dark-eyed Junco 77; Snow Bunting 3; Northern Cardinal 1; **Dickcissel 1**; Purple Finch 10; White-winged Crossbill 3; Common Redpoll 39; Pine Siskin 20; American Goldfinch 41; Evening Grosbeak 22; House Sparrow 27.

Total Species 76, about 4531 individuals. (Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Glaucous Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Mockingbird) Trevor Bebb, Kay Casselman, Bill Crosby, **Donna Crosby (compiler)**, Gail Daniels, Andy dean, Leila Dean, Frances Fisher, Ray Fisher, Dean Fiske, Emerson Fiske, Sylvia Fullerton, Darren Lloyd, Bessie MacKay, Laughlin MacKay, Danny Mason, Laura Mason, Linda Ross, Roger Ross, Carmen Williams, Danielle Williams, Victor Williams, Victor Wolfe, David Young.

ST. ANN'S BAY, Jan 2; 8AM to 3:30PM. Temp. -3 to -1C. Wind NE 0-15kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving water open. A.M. cloudy P.M. cloudy, light snow. 16 field observers in 10 parties, 3 at feeders. Total party hours 24.75 (13 on foot, 11.75 by car). Total party kilometres 106 (37 by foot, 69 by car)

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 5; Horned Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 1; Canada Goose 45; American Black Duck 48; **Harlequin Duck 1**; Surf Scoter 276; White-winged Scoter 140; scoter species 54; Common Goldeneye 169; Common Merganser 11; Red-breasted Merganser 30; Bald Eagle 17; **Osprey 1**; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 53; Great Black-backed Gull 18; Black Guillemot 17; Mourning Dove 2; Downy Woodpecker 5; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 7; Blue Jay 42; American Crow 121; Common Raven 11; Black-capped Chickadee 172; Red-breasted

Nuthatch 32; **Winter Wren 1**; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; European Starling 8; waxwing species 1; American Tree Sparrow 2; Song Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 3; Snow Bunting 1; White-winged Crossbill 1; Common Redpoll 87; Pine Siskin 13; American Goldfinch 3.

Total Species 43, about 1426 individuals. (CP. Long-tailed Duck, Dovekie, Purple Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak) Bev Brett, Veronika Brzeski, Donna Frizzel, Harold Frizzel, Ann Greer, Robert Greer, Murray Hannam, Wendy Hannam, **Bethsheila Kent (compiler)**, Floyd Kent, Dennis Laffan, Judy Laffan, Gerry Lunn, Peggy MacAskill, Jeanette MacDonald, David MacCorquodale, John McKay, Susann Myers, Felella Nicholson, Penny Steele, Marion Thompson, Gary Walsh.

ST. PETER'S, Dec 27; 7:20AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 0 to 2C. Wind NNW 10kmph. No snow cover. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, light rain P.M. partly cloudy. 12 field observers in 7 parties, 16 at feeders. Total party hours 38 (22 on foot, 16 by car). Total party kilometres 168 (18 by foot, 156 by car)

Red-throated Loon 2; Common Loon 18; Horned Grebe 10; Red-necked Grebe 10; Great Cormorant 3; American Black Duck 13; Northern Pintail 1; Common Eider 164; Surf Scoter 19; White-winged Scoter 57; Black Scoter 3; Long-tailed Duck 155; Common Goldeneye 49; Common Merganser 3; Red-breasted Merganser 149; Bald Eagle 17; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 2; **Killdeer 1**; Purple Sandpiper 2; Wilson's Snipe 1; Black-headed Gull 17; Bonaparte's Gull 32; Herring Gull 171; Iceland Gull 2; Glaucous Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 19; gull species 30; Dovekie 25; Black Guillemot 15; Rock Pigeon 28; Mourning Dove 83; **Red-bellied Woodpecker 1**; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 30; Blue Jay 80; American Crow 264; Common Raven 16; Horned Lark 1; Black-capped Chickadee 113; Boreal Chickadee 34; Red-breasted Nuthatch 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet 5; American Robin 7;

European Starling 162; Yellow-rumped Warbler 2; American Tree Sparrow 12; Chipping Sparrow 1; Savannah Sparrow 3; Song Sparrow 8; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 11; Lapland Longspur 5; Red-winged Blackbird 1; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 10; Purple Finch 12; Common Redpoll 33; Pine Siskin 1; American Goldfinch 96; Evening Grosbeak 65; House Sparrow 77.

Total Species 64, about 2177 individuals. (CP. Sharp-shinned Hawk, **Greater Yellowlegs**, Spruce Grouse, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Shrike, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, Snow Bunting) Norman Bartholomew, Tony Burke, Fr. Donnie Campbell, **Billy Digout (compiler)**, George Digout, Murdock Digout, Sharon Digout, Charles Doucette, Martha Holmes, Wendell Holmes, Ethel Kipp, Dell Landry, Eva Landry, Gordie Landry, Fr. George MacInnis, Frances MacKay, Elaine MacNeil, Weldon MacPhail, Dave McCorquodale, Susann Myers, Danny Nightingale, Frances Oram, Norman Oram, Jennie Shermerhorn, Donnie Sutherland, Melvin White, Trevor Wilkie, Joseph Wincey.

SHUBENACADIE, Dec 14; 7AM to 5PM. Temp. -12 to -6C. Wind NW 20-30kmph. Snow 0-6cm. Still water frozen, moving water open. A.M. clear. P.M. Partly cloudy. 31 field observers in 18 parties, 31 at feeders, .5 hour and 1 km. owling. Total party hours 63.75 (25.25 on foot, 38.5 by car). Total party kilometres 348 (46.5 by foot, 301.5 by car).

Canada Goose 240; American Black Duck 78; Mallard 9; Common Merganser 330; Bald Eagle 34; Northern Harrier 2; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 10; Ring-necked Pheasant 51; Ruffed Grouse 6; **Wild Turkey (escape) 1**; Ring-billed Gull 10; Herring Gull 161; Great Black-backed Gull 10; gull species 2; Rock Pigeon 536; Mourning Dove 318; Barred Owl 2; Downy Woodpecker 23; Hairy Woodpecker 18; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 290; American Crow 1171; Common Raven 100; Black-capped Chickadee 466; Red-breasted Nuthatch

25; White-breasted Nuthatch 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 22; American Robin 1; European Starling 3042; American Tree Sparrow 66; Fox Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 9; White-throated Sparrow 5; Dark-eyed Junco 157; Snow Bunting 6; Northern Cardinal 1; Pine Grosbeak 2; Purple Finch 4; Common Redpoll 113; Pine Siskin 10; American Goldfinch 527; Evening Grosbeak 143; House Sparrow 168.

Total Species 44 plus 1 escape, about 8180 individuals. (CP. Great Blue Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk) Fred Ashley, Mary Bancroft, Wylie Barbrick, Shirley Bokma, Barbara Bower, Robert Cameron, Terry Carroll, Paul Ettinger, Carol Goswell, Brenda Grantmyre, Mryna Hambleton, Audrey Hungerford, John Hungerford, Myrna Isenor, Joan Jarvis, Donnie Langille, Helen Langille, Pat Lynds, Anne MacDonald, Harry MacDonald, Jack Mackey, **Roslyn MacPhee (compiler)**, Virginia Marshall, Elsie McCulloch, Linda McCulloch, Rollen McCulloch, Barbara Miller, Muriel Miller, Albert Moore, Pat Moore, Juanita Murphy, Marguerite Newman, Brenda Norwich, Eldon Pace, Jacques Perron, Earl Reid, Robie Scammell, Barbara Scott, George Seale, Dale Smith, Catherine Spares, Rosalie Stewart, Connie Stott, Blanche Tanner, Everette Tanner, Julie Towers, Faye Wallace, Roger Wardrope, Lorne Weaver, Arthur West, Myrna West, Linda Wilson, Frank Woodworth.

SPRINGVILLE, Dec 20; Temp. -4 to 0C. Wind W 0-10kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving open. A. M. party clear. P.M. clear. 10 field observers in 6 parties, 24 at feeders, 1 hour and 5 km. owling. Total party hours 41 (17 on foot, 24 by car). Total party kilometres 386.5 (19.5 by foot, 367 by car).

American Black Duck 108; Mallard 4; Hooded Merganser 1; Common Merganser 43; Bald Eagle 9; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; **Chukar (escape) 1**; Ring-necked Pheasant 8; Ruffed Grouse 11; Ring-billed Gull 4; Herring Gull 157; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 55; gull species 425; Rock Pigeon 227; Mourning Dove 157; Barred Owl 2; **Red-bellied Woodpecker 1**; Downy

Woodpecker 21; Hairy Woodpecker 22; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 4; Blue Jay 223; American Crow 4518; Common Raven 48; Black-capped Chickadee 413; Boreal Chickadee 8; Red-breasted Nuthatch 29; White-breasted Nuthatch 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet 12; American Robin 1; European Starling 764; Cedar Waxwing 2; **Common Yellowthroat 1**; American Tree Sparrow 89; Song Sparrow 15; Swamp Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 10; Dark-eyed Junco 92; sparrow species 7; Dickcissel 1; Red-winged Blackbird 14; Pine Grosbeak 16; Purple Finch 3; White-winged Crossbill 1; Common Redpoll 206; Pine Siskin 10; American Goldfinch 77; Evening Grosbeak 120; House Sparrow 129.

Total Species 49, plus 1 escape, about 8087 individuals. (CP. Snow Bunting). Donna Brennan, Harry Brennan, Jean Brennan, Mark Brennan, Tim Brennan, Betty Calder, Frank Calder, Dave Chiasson, Mary Clish, Ed Cormier, Sonny Cyr, Claire Foote, Ralph Foote, Doug Fraser, Mary Fraser, Amber Goodwin, Randy Lauff, Eleanor MacKay, John MacKearney, Fraser MacLean, Ken McKenna, Helen Melanson, Fred Polley, Sally Polley, Rob Reid, Chris Robinson, Judy Schuhlein, Cheryl Silver, Grant Stewart, Shirley Stewart, Donnie Uhren, Sue Uhren, Steve Vines, Rita Young.

STRAIT OF CANSO, Dec 27; 7:30AM to 5PM. Temp. 2 to 6C. S 15kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving partly open. Skies partly clear all day. 10 field observers in 7 parties, 13 at feeders. Total party hours 28.5 (6 on foot, 22.5 by car). Total party kilometres 207.25 (8.75 by foot, 198.5 by car).

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 9; Red-necked Grebe 2; Northern Gannet 2; Double-crested Cormorant 7; Great Cormorant 3; American Black Duck 34; Lesser Scaup 2; Common Eider 55; Long-tailed Duck 6; Bufflehead 1; Common Goldeneye 38; Barrow's Goldeneye 1; Red-breasted Merganser 123; Bald Eagle 9; Bonaparte's Gull 90; Ring-billed Gull 3; Herring Gull 151; Iceland Gull 79; Great Black-backed Gull 19; gull species 42; Dovekie 6; Black Guillemot 62; Rock Pigeon 178;

Mourning Dove 45; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 3; **Red-bellied Woodpecker 1**; Downy Woodpecker 3; Hairy Woodpecker 2; Pileated Woodpecker 2; Gray Jay 24; Blue Jay 81; American Crow 318; Common Raven 7; Black-capped Chickadee 157; Boreal Chickadee 26; Red-breasted Nuthatch 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet 3; American Robin 3; European Starling 230; American Tree Sparrow 9; Song Sparrow 3; White-throated Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 28; sparrow species 3; **Dickcissel 1**; Purple Finch 4; House Finch 2; Common Redpoll 69; **Hoary Redpoll 1**; Pine Siskin 72; American Goldfinch 21; Evening Grosbeak 108; House Sparrow 101.

Total Species 53, about 2273 individuals. (CP. Bohemian Waxwing) Dorothy Barnard, Cullen Bolger, Mildred Carrigan, Maureen Demone, Billy Digout, George Digout, Lorena Forbrigger, Alana Hardiman, Mary Hemmings, Lorraine Hope, Peter Hope, **David Johnston (compiler)**, Mary Johnston, Mary Landry, Trueman MacPherson, David McCorquodale, Adair Meagher, Kerstin Mueller, Gillis Strachan, Laura Swain, Betty Talbot.

SYDNEY'S, Dec 22; 7PM to 50PM. Temp. -3 to 1C. Wind ENE, 10kmph. Snow 2-5. Still water partly open, moving water partly open. Skies cloudy all day. 27 field observers in 16 parties, 44 at feeders, 1 hour and 11 km. owling. Total party hours 52 (22.3 on foot, 29.7 by car). Total party kilometres 319.5 (30.5 by foot, 289 by car)

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 4; Northern Gannet 2; Double-crested Cormorant 1; Great Cormorant 14; American Black Duck 1723; Mallard 523; Mallard/Black Duck hybrid 45; Green-winged Teal 1; American Wigeon 11; Eurasian Wigeon 1; Common Eider 5; Greater Scaup 432; Lesser Scaup 1; White-winged Scoter 429; Long-tailed Duck 117; Bufflehead 66; Common Goldeneye 450; Barrow's Goldeneye 11; Common Merganser 5; Red-breasted Merganser 77; duck species 67; Bald Eagle 20; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 1; hawk species 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 1; Ruffed Grouse 4; American Coot 2; Black-headed Gull

15; Bonaparte's Gull 8; Ring-billed Gull 8; Herring Gull 1102; Iceland Gull 307; Glaucous Gull 4; Great Black-backed Gull 196; gull species 94; Black Guillemot 3; Rock Pigeon 1054; Mourning Dove 89; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 19; Hairy Woodpecker 14; Northern Flicker 1; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1**; Pileated Woodpecker 1; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 164; American Crow 1873; Common Raven 113; Black-capped Chickadee 475; Boreal Chickadee 18; Red-breasted Nuthatch 22; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 24; European Starling 3052; American Pipit 1; Bohemian Waxwing 20; Yellow-rumped Warbler 8; Pine Warbler 2; **Eastern Towhee 1**; American Tree Sparrow 16; Savannah Sparrow 4; Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 19; White-throated Sparrow 4; Dark-eyed Junco 69; Snow Bunting 6; Common Grackle 7; Pine Grosbeak 10; Purple Finch 9; Common Redpoll 35; Pine Siskin 41; American Goldfinch 326; Evening Grosbeak 142; House Sparrow 373.

Total Species 74, about 13775 individuals. (CP. **Red-bellied Woodpecker, Orange-crowned Warbler**). George Andrews, Jessie Andrews, Cecil Ash, George Baillie, Rod Beresford, Mary Lou Blundon, Bill Bussey, Judy Cartwright, Jackie Chretien, Don Courage, Joan Cunningham, Vince Cunningham, Randy Davidson, Terri Dean, Ken Donovan, Glen Drodge, Lynn Ellis, Bill English, Susan English, Gwen Gardner, Tom Gardner, Betty Gentile, Heather Gillis, Muriel Goldston, Sydney Grant, David Harris, Manny Keagan, Abbey Keeping, Lawrence Keeping, Nadine LeFort, Barbara MacDonald, Jim MacDonald, Miles MacDoanld, Walter MacDonald, Yvonne MacDonald, Paul MacDougall, Gordon MacFadden, Joan MacFadden, Darlene MacInnis, John W. MacInnis, Marguerite MacLeod, Jack MacNeil, **David McCorquodale (compiler)**, John McKay, Laura Mercer, Joan Mills, Bob Morgan, Laurie Murchison, Susann Myers, Ronald O'Handley, Anne O'Neill, Daniel Power, Ryan Power, Terry Power, Amelia Prestara, Pat Redmond, Bill Reeves, Mona Reeves, Emile Roach,

Sean Roach, Bev Sarty, Jim Siteman, Caryn Smith, Clarence Stevens, Chris Thomson, Meg Turner, Lydia Urban, Jack White, Darlene Whitty, Tim Whitty, Albert Zwicker.

TRURO, Dec 29; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. 0 to 5C. Winds calm. No snow cover. Still water partly frozen, moving open. A.M. partly cloudy. P.M. clear. 12 field observers in 7 parties, 4 at feeders. Total party hours 43 (22.3 on foot, 20.7 by car). Total party kilometres 513 (28 by foot, 485 by car).

Canada Goose 555; American Black Duck 370; Mallard 325; Bald Eagle 13; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 10; American Kestrel 1; Merlin 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 29; Ruffed Grouse 1; Ring-billed Gull 1; Herring Gull 513; Great Black-backed Gull 75; Rock Pigeon 745; Mourning Dove 243; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 7; Northern Flicker 1; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Gray Jay 2; Blue Jay 218; American Crow 4014; Common Raven 14; Black-capped Chickadee 171; Boreal Chickadee 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch 23; White-breasted Nuthatch 2; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 6; European Starling 4670; American Tree Sparrow 25; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 6; Dark-eyed Junco 62; Red-winged Blackbird 2; Common Grackle 1; Pine Grosbeak 8; Purple Finch 3; Common Redpoll 122; American Goldfinch 120; Evening Grosbeak 50; House Sparrow 78.

Total Species 46, about 12510 individuals. (CP. Glaucous Gull) Steve Gleich, Kathy Goodwin, Linda Hall, **Ross Hall (compiler)**, Joan Hudgins, Rip Irwin, Bernard Jackson, Bea MacCallum, Marilyn MacWha, Jeff Ogden, John Rubin, Trish Rubin, Cliff Sanderson, Harold Stewart, Sheila Stewart, Helene Van Donick.

WEST HANTS, Dec 27; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -3 to 2C. NE 30-50kmph. Snow 2cm. Still water open, moving water open. A.M. partly cloudy, light snow. P.M. cloudy. 22 field observers in 9 parties. Total party hours 74.25 (28.25 on foot, 61.4 by car). Total party kilometres 788 (55.5 by foot,

732.5 by car).

Great Blue Heron 1; Canada Goose 654; American Black Duck 401; Mallard 19; **Northern Shoveler 2**; Ring-necked Duck 1; Lesser Scaup 1; Bufflehead 1; Common Merganser 40; Bald Eagle 25; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 1; Northern Goshawk 1; Red-tailed Hawk 28; Rough-legged Hawk 1; Ring-necked Pheasant 22; Ruffed Grouse 3; Spruce Grouse 3; Ring-billed Gull 14; Herring Gull 908; Iceland Gull 1; Great Black-backed Gull 162; Rock Pigeon 174; Mourning Dove 191; Northern Saw-whet Owl 1; Downy Woodpecker 15; Hairy Woodpecker 5; Northern Flicker 6; Pileated Woodpecker 6; Gray Jay 3; Blue Jay 284; American Crow 5779; Common Raven 158; Black-capped Chickadee 383; Boreal Chickadee 11; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4; White-breasted Nuthatch 9; Brown Creeper 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet 15; Northern Mockingbird 1; European Starling 2198; American Tree Sparrow 6; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 3; Dark-eyed Junco 86; Snow Bunting 30; Red-winged Blackbird 20; Pine Grosbeak 3; Common Redpoll 307; Pine Siskin 2; American Goldfinch 428; Evening Grosbeak 383; House Sparrow 171.

Total Species 49, about 7958 individuals. (CP. **Snow Goose**) George Alliston, Margaret Alliston, Gail Davis, Glenn Davis, Jim Fanning, Margaret Ferguson, Andrew Harvie, Susan Harvie, Lynn Hebb, Patrick Kelly; Fulton Lavender, Mary Pratt, Neil Robarts, Sheila Robarts, **John Robertson (compiler)**, Bill Thexton, Brenda Thexton, Judy Tufts, Sherman Williams, Jim Wolford, Frank Woolaver.

WHITE POINT, Dec 21; 8AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -4 to -1C. Wind 10-20kmph. No snow cover. Still water partly open, moving water open. A.M. cloudy, P.M. cloudy, light snow. 5 field observers in 3 parties. Total party hours 21 (7.5 on foot, 13.5 by car). Total party kilometres 158 (25.7 by foot, 132.3 by car).

Common Loon 17; Horned Grebe 9; Red-necked Grebe 4; Double-crested Cormorant 4; Great Cormorant 4;

American Black Duck 177; Mallard 49; Green-winged Teal 2; Northern Pintail 4; Common Eider 63; Surf Scoter 17; Black Scoter 6; Long-tailed Duck 31; Bufflehead 74; Common Goldeneye 25; Common Merganser 7; Red-breasted Merganser 17; Bald Eagle 2; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed Hawk 1; Sanderling 21; Herring Gull 991; Iceland Gull 6; Great Black-backed Gull 47; Black Guillemot 21; Rock Pigeon 40; Mourning Dove 26; Downy Woodpecker 8; Hairy Woodpecker 4; Gray Jay 1; Blue Jay 43; American Crow 148; Common Raven 6; Black-capped Chickadee 129; Boreal Chickadee 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch 2; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet 2; American Robin 1; European Starling 66; Yellow-rumped Warbler 13; American Tree Sparrow 13; Chipping Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 1; Song Sparrow 14; White-throated Sparrow 33; Dark-eyed Junco 48; Snow Bunting 1; White-winged Crossbill 12; Common Redpoll 27; Pine Siskin 7; American Goldfinch 33; Evening Grosbeak 2; House Sparrow.

Total Species 49, about 7958 individuals. Eric Harding (compiler), Gary Hartlen, Janet Hartlen, James Hirtle, Hanna Hughes.

WOLFVILLE, no details.

Red-throated Loon 1; Common Loon 3; Pied-billed Grebe 1; Red-necked Grebe 2; Great Blue Heron 5; Canada Goose 744; American Wigeon 2; American Black Duck 3720; Mallard 409; Northern Pintail 4; Green-winged Teal 7; Common Eider 12; White-winged Scoter 5; Bufflehead 1; Common Goldeneye 15; Common Merganser 6; Bald Eagle 315; Northern Harrier 6; Sharp-shinned Hawk 4; Red-tailed Hawk 194; Rough-legged Hawk 16; Merlin 4; Peregrine Falcon 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 104; Ruffed Grouse 3; Wilson's Snipe 1; Ring-billed Gull 240; Herring Gull 5035; Iceland Gull 5; Great Black-backed Gull 1064; Dovekie 1; alcid species 1; Rock Pigeon 453; Mourning Dove 636; Great Horned Owl 1; Barred Owl 2; Short-eared Owl 3;

Downy Woodpecker 41; Hairy Woodpecker 24; Northern Flicker 20; Pileated Woodpecker 3; Northern Shrike 1; Blue Jay 781; American Crow 10494; Common Raven 265; Horned Lark 185; Black-capped Chickadee 823; Red-breasted Nuthatch 20; White-breasted Nuthatch 28; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 8; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1; American Robin 6; European Starling 12936; Cedar Waxwing 20; Yellow-rumped Warbler 3; Yellow-breasted Chat 1; American Tree Sparrow 136; Savannah Sparrow 38; Song Sparrow 125; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 31; White-crowned Sparrow 1; Dark-eyed Junco 346; Lapland Longspur 2; Snow Bunting 250; Pine Grosbeak 4; Purple Finch 19; Red Crossbill 2; White-winged Crossbill 11; Common Redpoll 567; Pine Siskin 30; American Goldfinch 723; Evening Grosbeak 42; House Sparrow 281.

Total Species 77, about 41297 individuals. (CP. Boreal Chickadee). Ian Paterson (compiler).

YARMOUTH, Dec 21; 7:50AM to 4:30PM. Temp. -4.3 to 0C. Wind N 2-15kmph. No snow cover. Still water frozen, moving water partly frozen. A.M. mostly cloudy. P.M. mostly cloudy and foggy, light/heavy rain or snow. 20 field observers in 7 parties, 13 at feeders. Total party hours 48.25 (9 on foot, 39.25 by car). Total party kilometres 662.9 (15.9 by foot, 647 by car).

Common Loon 37; Red-necked Grebe 3; Double-crested Cormorant 3; Great Cormorant 2; Great Blue Heron 7; **Turkey Vulture 13**; Canada Goose 1347; **Eurasian Wigeon 1**; American Wigeon 8; American Black Duck 258; Mallard 300; Northern Pintail 1; Green-winged Teal 5; Greater Scaup 4; scaup species 7; Common Eider 30; Surf Scoter 5; Long-tailed Duck 35; Bufflehead 55; Common Goldeneye 116; Hooded Merganser 6; Common Merganser 41; Red-breasted Merganser 60; Bald Eagle 3; Northern Harrier 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Red-tailed

Hawk 3; Rough-legged Hawk 1; hawk species 2; Ring-necked Pheasant 2; Ruffed Grouse 1; Purple Sandpiper 13; Black-headed Gull 6; Ring-billed Gull 91; Herring Gull 860; Iceland Gull 8; Glaucous Gull 8; Great Black-backed Gull 361; Black Guillemot 6; Rock Pigeon 126; Mourning Dove 178; Barred Owl 1; Belted Kingfisher 1; Downy Woodpecker 11; Hairy Woodpecker 3; Northern Flicker 15; Blue Jay 164; American Crow 334; Common Raven 23; Horned Lark 20; Black-capped Chickadee 206; Boreal Chickadee 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch 22; White-breasted Nuthatch 3; Brown Creeper 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 10; American Robin 21; **Gray Catbird 1**; European Starling 1124; American Pipit 17; Cedar Waxwing 2; Yellow-rumped Warbler 3; **Yellow-throated Warbler 1**; American Tree Sparrow 30; Savannah Sparrow 15; Fox Sparrow 4; Song Sparrow 20; Swamp Sparrow 1; White-throated Sparrow 109; Dark-eyed Junco 51; Lapland Longspur 3; Snow Bunting 34; Northern Cardinal 13; Red-winged Blackbird 14; Common Grackle 31; Brown-headed Cowbird 23; Baltimore Oriole 11; Purple Finch 18; House Finch 14; Common Redpoll 124; Pine Siskin 51; American Goldfinch 232; Evening Grosbeak 56; House Sparrow 19.

Total Species 85, about 6934 individuals. (CP. Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Chat). Martin Bowler, Lori Colbeck, James Colbeck, Peter Comeau, Leonard Cottrell, Michelin Cottrell, Leslie Crosby, Raymond d'Entremont, Ted D'Eon, Marius Gerber, Paul Gould, June Graves, Helen Hall, Hubert Hall, Rachel Hoogenbos, Carol Jacquard, Peter MacDonald, Dale Mullen, Ethelda Murphy, Leah Murray, Arthur Porter, Dick Pothier, Marcie Rogers, **Barbara Ruff (compiler), Eric Ruff (compiler), Kenneth Scoville, Rachel Smith, David Sollows, Vera Sollows, Clyde Stoddart, Paulette Surette, Jim Thibeau, Dorothy Ward. ☐**



Antigonish Coastal Waters

22 November 2003, Leader: Randy Lauff

Well, the weather was so-so, but about a dozen folks chanced it, and we had a fine day. I'm sure if the sun was out and the wind was down, we'd have seen twice as much.

The highlight, found on the first stop behind the old train station in Antigonish, was a CLAY-COLOURED SPARROW. Fulton Lavender was able to tell all of us how to distinguish it from a juvenile Chippy; something I think would have taken me a while to figure out.

We saw an unusually high number of N. PINTAILS in the upper Antigonish Harbour. There was no firm count but I bet the total was close to 20, with at least 11 were counted at once. There was also an unusually high number of MALLARDS (40+) there, and there were plenty of HOODED MERGANSERS were there, too.

A WOOD DUCK was found in the sewage treatment plant.

Ogden's Pond was unusually quiet (so much for being the highlight!), but we had good looks at a variety of seabirds offshore, including RT LOON, N. GANNET and H. GREBE. Last year ("if I could turn back time...") there were 200 Gannets in Ogden's Pond, but only two or three of us left in the poor weather to watch them.

An otter off the tip of Williams Point was a neat sighting for a few.

Overall, we saw about 33 species on the trip. Thanks to all who turned up.

Sewer Stroll I

10 January 2004, Leader: Bob McDonald

Ten hardy souls (initial temperature -18°C) met at 8:00 a.m. at the McCormack's Beach parking lot in Eastern Passage. After a round of introductions and an overview of the day's plan, we set off for Hartlen Point with a short stop enroute to see if the sea smoke would permit us to pick out a Lesser Scaup amongst the Greaters. It didn't!

Hartlen Point yielded Red-breasted Merganser, two groups of White-winged Scoters flying past the island, C. Goldeneye, and C. Eider. Several ravens and two Rough-legged Hawks were patrolling Devil's Island. Several observers noticed a N. Harrier.

Dartmouth Cove produced Black Guillemot, and a Bald Eagle caused all the gulls and ducks on the waterfront to take off, after which it roosted in a tree observing the commotion it had caused.

The N. Cardinal pair at Sullivan's Pond put on quite a show for us, and we also saw N. Pintail and the immature Snow Goose. A brief stop at Birch Cove Park allowed us to add Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, N. Flicker, Brown Creeper and both Downy and Hairy Woodpecker to the day's tally.

An invitation to Pat MacKay's house at this point was most welcome. There we were treated to hot beverages, cinnamon buns and, not incidentally, close-up views of all her warblers - two Pines (one dingy, one tail-wagging bright yellow one), one Palm, and the Yellow-breasted Chat. Many thanks, Pat, for your cosy hospitality!!

Next stop was the Alderney Gate ferry terminal gull roost where we were able to pick out one Bonaparte's Gull among the dozen or so Black-headed Gulls. At Tuft's Cove we observed a very cooperative pair of Green-winged Teal along with American Wigeon (couldn't find the Eurasian), Bufflehead, and several Barrow's Goldeneyes among the Commons.

We then left Dartmouth, drove through Halifax, and found our way to Sambro. We had no luck with either Broad-winged Hawk or the kingfisher, recently reported in the area by Hans Toom. However, a stop in Ketch Harbour gave us views of Greather Scaup, White-winged and Surf Scoter, Hooded Merganser and, alongside the Ketch Harbour East Rd. (about 100m from the main road) a Wilson's Snipe, perhaps the best bird of the day.

Chebucto Head was fairly quiet, and we added only C. Loon to the list. However, on the way out on the Duncan's Cove Rd we spotted a Barred Owl warming itself in the sun by the side of the road about 5 meters up in a spruce tree. I suspect we passed it on the way in but it would have been hidden from our view.

A stop at Hans Toom's extensive array of feeders added White-throated, American Tree and Fox Sparrows to the day's list along with Dark-eyed Junco, C. Grackle and countless M. Doves.

Scanning the hundreds of C. Eider at Tribune Head failed to turn up King Eider but did produce species #55 for the day - a most beautiful Long-tailed Duck. The field trip ended officially at 5:05 pm with the truly crazy trying to pick out a Dovekie in the North-west Arm in the headlights of our cars. Were we successful? Don't ask!

Nine hours of birding in -15°C weather. Great fun!

Sewer Stroll II

14 February 2004, Leader: Fulton Lavender

The weather was great and so was the birding on this sunny Valentine's Day. Fulton, true to his reputation, found us the elusive Mew Gull (European Common Gull) at Tuft's Cove. It was hovering over the sewage outflow with a flock of Black-headed Gulls. Fulton gave us some tips on picking it out, then kept up a running commentary on its exact location; flying left, hovering, dropping down, swooping right, etc. This actually resulted in all of us getting a very good look at the gull.

Other highlights included Red-necked Grebe, a Tufted Duck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Common and Barrow's Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Thick-billed Murre and a Dovekie.

Suzanne M. Borkowski

Beginning Birders Field Trip

28 February 2004, Leader: Suzanne M. Borkowski

Eight of us, including six new birders, braved the cold and the snow and spent the morning at Sullivan's Pond where we all got good looks at 24 species. Highlights were the Snow Goose, N. Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Common Mergansers, Am. Wigeon, a Bald Eagle, a Red-tailed Hawk, Bohemian Waxwings, and the Cardinals. We spent about half an hour tracking these guys down!

By this time we were chilled and went to Pat McKay's for some tea, and added Goldfinch and B.C. Chickadee to our list.

After lunch we drove up Nootka Drive but couldn't access the parking lot because of all the snow! From the road we saw Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye and Greater Scaup (I couldn't distinguish any Lesser Scaup, but then, I didn't have a scope).

We ended the trip at Pier 9 where we saw (finally) Black-headed Gulls and an Iceland Gull. Our total for the day was 30 species.

A special thank-you goes out to Pat McKay for her help and hospitality.

Along the Fundy Shore

21 March 2004, Leader: Richard Stern

One carload of birders set off in heavy snow and deteriorating visibility this morning and arrived safely in Middleton, where we were met by two other intrepid souls. We headed to Margaretsville where we were greeted by a flock of 20 or so PURPLE SANDPIPERS flying in to the rocks by the wharf.

From there we went on to Port George and Cottage Cove. There was a beautiful group of seven HARLEQUIN DUCKS close in to the shore at the Port George bend in the road, while a few COMMON LOONS, W-W SCOTER, COMMON EIDER, LONG-TAILED DUCKS and R-B MERGANSERS were visible offshore.

At this point the snow had turned to freezing rain and rain and we decided not to proceed any further, on safety and comfort grounds. But Claire Diggins kindly invited us back to her house to dry out, have our sandwiches and watch the REDPOLLS at her feeders out of the window. On the way we saw one HORNED LARK amongst the Starlings at a farm. Within a few minutes of arriving at Claire's however, an obvious HOARY REDPOLL appeared (almost pure white background, fainter flank streaking, very faint streak under the tail, and easily picked out from the other Redpolls).

After that we drove home in the rain - a bit different from the same trip last year!



IS BIGGER BETTER?

The Complete Guide To The Birds Of Europe
 by Killian Mullarney, Lars Svensson, Dan Zetterström, and Peter Grant,
 Princeton University Press, 2000.

In May 2000 *Birds of Europe* was published, a first class field guide, setting a new, very high standard, with outstanding illustrations and species descriptions. It soon became favourite with birders in Europe, and others who went there for birding trips. The same team of illustrators (Mullarney and Zetterström) and writers (Svensson and Grant) have now responsible for *The Complete Guide to the Birds of Europe*, published shortly after the field guide. Two books, same topic, same authors, out within one year. How does *The Complete Guide to the Birds of Europe* compare with *Birds of Europe*?

Well, it's the size, and the size only! *The Complete Guide to the Birds of Europe* is hard covered, with page dimensions nearly double that of the soft-covered *Birds of Europe*. This makes for a big and heavy book, much too bulky (and also much too attractive) to take into the field. It has to stay home on the shelf as reference guide.

The good news is that one will not have to forgo the outstanding quality of its illustrations and written descriptions in the field. *The Complete Guide to the Birds of Europe* and *Birds of Europe* feature the same illustrations, the same distribution maps, and the same text. Both books feature more than 750 palaeartic bird species in over 3,500 excellent illustrations on about 400 pages.

Since there is nothing new in it, what would be a reason to go for *The Complete Guide to the Birds of Europe*? When opening the pages of this oversized field guide it becomes obvious. Details and quality of the illustrations make it an art book for birders and alike. In comparison with its smaller size sibling, the illustrations gain exponentially from the larger print size. It is a pleasure to look at the astonishing art work with its crisp detailed display of European birds. The print quality in *Birds of Europe* is excellent as well, and the size of the illustrations in it is sufficient for the purpose of identifying birds in the field, because bigger is sometimes just better.

However the price tag on *The Complete Guide to the Birds of Europe* is significantly higher, almost proportional to its size. Is it worth the extra money? If one is looking for an excellent field guide to carry on birding trips in the old world, *Birds of Europe* is currently the best choice. As a piece for the bookshelf at home I think its big brother is worth the money. For the bookshelf at home *The Complete Guide to the Birds of Europe* offers great wildlife art and viewing pleasure par excellence.

Ulli Höger

Hawks of North America Second edition
 by William S. Clark and Brian K. Wheeler
 Houghton Mifflin Company 2001

The photographs are wonderful in this second edition of the Peterson field guide for hawks. As I first flipped through the guide I noticed Nova Scotia's provincial bird, the Osprey, is shown both perched and in flight in four different phases, including a melanistic adult. The photographs of the Broad-winged Hawk brought to my attention how pointed its wings are for a Buteo.

Then I turned to the Northern Harrier, my favourite raptor, in the plates. I enjoyed the subtle colours of Wheeler's art with arrows pointing out very specific field marks, such as eye colour. Rarely do we see a raptor eye to eye! In the main text, called "Species Accounts" there are four beautiful photographs of harriers with good descriptions of plumage differences among adult male, female, juvenile and basic (sub-adult) male. The range map follows the write-up, although it shows only northern Mexico, the harriers range extending off the page! This is less than adequate for birds such as the Crested Caracara, more common in Mexico than in Florida, Texas or Arizona. That is my only complaint about this fine compact bird book.

As a guide to take into the field, as well as to study at home, I sincerely recommend birders add this book to their library. There is interesting, useful and often (for me) fresh information on every bird. Some things which I especially liked were the notes on behaviour, and the fine points for identification. There are excellent write-ups on the morphs and races of the Red-tailed Hawk

(Florida, Krider's and Fuertes') and on some of the other "look-alikes". The account of the Sharp-shinned Hawk is conveniently followed by that of the Cooper's Hawk, and yes, the more noticeable head and neck of the Cooper's shows in the both the photographs and in the plates. I especially liked the plates showing the Black and Turkey Vultures on the same page for easy comparison in the field.

My favourite book for use in the field is still *Hawks in Flight* by Pete Dunne, David Sibley, and Clay Sutton, because of the emphasis on flight identification, and the black and white illustrations and photographs, which most closely reproduce the way I usually see raptors – as silhouettes against the sun. Both Neal Clark in *Eastern Birds of Prey* and Robie Tufts in *Birds of Nova Scotia*, third edition 1986, give more interesting or unusual details. They describe, for example, the mating behaviours and the contents of the birds' stomachs, respectively, but neither are as full of identification information as the new *Hawks of North America*. Clark and Wheeler have included a number of interesting features which birders will appreciate.

There is a section on vagrants at the end of the book, and the classic silhouettes of raptor types at the front. Measurements, etymology (e.g. Red-tailed Hawk is *Buteo jamaicensis* because the first specimen was collected in Jamaica (makes sense!) and notes on flight, very important for identifying raptors at a distance, are all included. But above all, there are the photographs. See a Ferruginous Hawk in flight as if you were its flight companion. And let your spirit soar with the beautiful adult Red-tailed light-morph hawk photographed against a deep blue sky. Pictures such as these make the book worth while, and there are many of them.

Joan Czapalay

**(A Field Guide to) Hummingbirds of North America,
by Sheri L. Williamson, A Peterson Field Guide,
Houghton Mifflin Press, 2001, 263 pages, hardcover.**

In recent years the Peterson Field Guide series started publishing field guides dedicated to specific groups of birds. Those published so far are invaluable additions to the general field guides, since more attention can be given to the birds' general biology and details in their appearance. I would love to see more bird groups receiving this kind of special treatment in the future; shorebirds and sparrows come to mind.

The layout of *Hummingbirds of North America* resembles the one used in the volume on warblers (by Jon L. Dunn *et al.*, 1999). The book, which focuses on hummingbirds found north of the Mexican border, is structured in three main sections, each taking up about equal space. The first section covers many aspects of hummingbird trivia, and answers many of the questions birders may ask or be asked about the flying gems, topics such as their systematic origin, physiology, ecology, and behaviour are covered, often illustrated by photographs. This section also deals with questions on how to attract and host hummingbirds, and an appendix lists hummingbird plants, surely helpful information to gardeners who want to landscape a hummingbird garden in their backyard.

The second section deals with identification. Colour plates illustrate 35 species of hummingbirds found in North America. Unlike in other field guides, photos are exclusively used to visualize each species. In typical Peterson style arrows point to critical field marks. The section starts with photographs of the entire birds, with several photographs showing the appearance of females, males and immature birds. Next are mug shots for each species. Portrait shots show plumage patterns and bill size and shape, and brief written explanations are facing the colour plates. However, as good as the photos are, I miss drawings of the species. Photos have their limitations, and it takes several photos to show what a skilled artist can combine and emphasize in a single drawing. A combination of photos and drawings, as used in the warbler guide, seems a more appealing solution to me.

The third section has the species accounts. For each species, detailed information on its appearance, similar species, its distribution, behaviour, and habitat preferences are given. The taxonomic status of the species is also assessed here, important because interbreeding is not uncommon between hummingbird species. The appearance of this section of the book is very dense, with the text only broken up by distribution maps. The solution used in the warbler guide, with plates showing drawings in the ID-section and photos in the species account, makes for a more informative and easier to look at layout.

For birding hummingbird hot-spots down south, this field guide may prove invaluable to put names to the variety of hummers buzzing around. Here in Nova Scotia the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the only common species, and few rare stray individuals of one or two other species may occur once in a while. It's the first section of the book which makes it nevertheless interesting reading for birders in Nova Scotia. A lot of hummingbird trivia and biology, otherwise hidden in various chapters of bird handbooks, is here easily accessible, readable, and digestible.

Ulli Höger

(Continued from back cover)

Sun 01 Aug 2004 – Mahone Bay

Leader: James Hirtle 640-2173 E-mail: jrhbirder@hotmail.com

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. No rain date.

Sat 07 Aug 2004 – Taylor Head Provincial Park

Leader: Karl Tay 772-2287

E-mail: swallowhollow2972@hotmail.com

Meet at the main entrance to Taylor Head Provincial Park off Hwy 7, Eastern Shore, at 8:45 a.m. Taylor Head has over 17 km of hiking trails of which we will cover approximately 3 or 4. Many birds breed here such as Red Crossbills, Lincoln Sparrows, Gray Jays and more. It's beach, rocky and wooded terrain, so hiking boots and a hearty lunch are recommended. Rain date: Sun 08 Aug.

Sat 21 Aug 2004 – Point Michaud, Cape Breton

Leaders: George and Sharon Digout 535-3516

E-mail: george.digout@ns.sympatico.ca and Billy Digout

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Tim Horton's in St. Peters, Cape Breton. It's a good idea to wear boots if it is rainy. Lunch at George and Sharon Digout's home. Rain date: Sun 22 Aug.

Sun 22 Aug 2004 - Cherry Hill Beach

Leader: Eric Mills 766-4606 E-mail: E.Mills@dal.ca

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Cherry Hill firehall, corner of Hwy #331 and Henry Conrad Road in Cherry Hill, Lunenburg County. Bring a lunch, insect repellent, sunscreen and rubber boots. Walking distance about 4 km, some parts of medium difficulty on sand and cobbles. Cherry Hill Beach area has a combination of salt marsh, salt marsh ponds, muddy intertidal flats (good for waders) and sand beach. The nearby forested areas have a good diversity of land birds. Specialties of the area include migrating waders, Piping Plovers (may be gone by late August) and occasionally vagrant herons and gulls. No rain date.

Sat 28 Aug 2004 – The Hawk

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

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

Fri 03 Sep to Mon 06 Sep 2004 – Bon Portage Island

Leader: Joan Czapalay 422-6858 E-mail: joancz@ns.sympatico.ca

Pre-Registration is necessary!

Meet at Prospect Point Wharf in Shag Harbour (west of Barrington Passage, Shelburne County) by 6 p.m. on Friday, 3rd September. Bring food, drinking water, extra clothing and footwear suitable for rough (sometimes wet) terrain. Bring your sleeping bag and a sheet to cover the foam bunk mattress.

Bring your own flashlight, personal care items and binoculars. Scope and/or camera are optional. Pack only what you really need, and organize gear in waterproof bags. Field guides, pots and pans, dishes, utensils and a stove are available on the island. There is a charge of \$45.00 to Acadia University for use of the accommodations for the three nights. You will also be expected to make a donation for boat transportation. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. You may register on line at: joancz@ns.sympatico.ca, up to Sept.1st, or phone 422-6858 before Aug. 26th. Alternate contact: Claire Diggins 825-6152.

Sat 04 Sep 2004 – Yarmouth County

Leader: Murray Newell 745-3340 E-mail: 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 repellent and a lunch. Rain date: Sun 05 Sep.

Sat 11 Sep 2004 – Hartlen Point

Leader: Bob Lindsay 434-3438 E-mail: rlindsay@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 and a lunch. Rain date: Sun 12 Sep.

Sat 18 Sep 2004 – Sandy Lake, Tantallon

Leader: Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922

E-mail: sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Tim Horton's in the Tantallon Shopping Plaza, exit #5, Hwy #103. We'll be entering the Bowater Mersey lands and driving up the left fork past the Bank Swallow nesting site, stopping along the way to watch and listen for birds. We'll explore part of the Old Annapolis Hiking Trail on foot and after lunch continue driving up into some old growth forest, then return. Bring a lunch and sturdy footwear. Rain date: Sun 19 Sep.

Thu 23 Sep 2004 – Regular Meeting

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

To be Announced

Sat 25 Sep 2004 – Eastern Shore

Leader: Peter Richard 463-5612 E-mail: Prichard@ns.sympatico.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Lower East Chezzetcook at the end of Storey's Head Road. Keep going on the East Chezzetcook Road, Exit #21, Hwy #107, and turn right after the pavement ends. This trip will cover the common birding hot spots from Lower East Chezzetcook to Dartmouth. Please plan to carpool as much as possible since many of the stops have a limited parking area. No rain date. ☺

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). 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

Sun 06 June 2004 – Chebucto Peninsula Bird Tour

Leader: Hans Toom 868-1862 E-mail: htoom@hfx.eastlink.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the gates of Crystal Crescent Beach Provincial Park. We'll walk the coastal trail to Island Rock Head and return on the old service road, about an 8 km loop. Lunch will be in our backyard in Portuguese Cove followed by a warbler walk on the trails behind Portuguese Cove Lake. Bring a lunch. No rain date.

Sat 12 June 2004 – Dawn Chorus on the Salt Marsh Trail

Leader: Cindy Staicer 494-3533 E-mail: cindy.staicer@dal.ca

Meet at 4:30 a.m. in the parking lot for the Cole Harbor Salt Marsh Trail on Bissett Road. We'll spend several hours walking the trail and learning to identify warblers by sound. Bring appropriate footwear and insect repellent. Rain date: Sun June 13th.

Sat 19 June to Sun 20 June 2004 – FNSN Conference

Contacts: Joan Czapalay 422-6858 E-mail: joancz@ns.sympatico.ca
or Marie Moverley E-mail: mariemoverley@yahoo.ca

The Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists will hold their 2004 AGM at the Wandlyn Inn, Amherst, N.S. An FNSN rate is available at the motel for Friday night for those who wish to arrive early. Field trips include Fulton Lavender's NSBS trip which can be joined at 7:00 a.m. in Wentworth Park or 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary; an afternoon bug trip with Jeff Ogden or a choice of butterfly, botany or geology trips. There will be a Saturday evening banquet and a Sunday morning buffet followed by the AGM. Cost per person, based on double occupancy, for Saturday accommodations, events, banquet and Sunday breakfast will be \$89.00 before May 20th. Call 1-866-823-9330 and ask for Debbie at the Wandlyn Inn to book your room.

Sat 19 June 2004 – Cumberland County

Leader: Fulton Lavender 455-4966

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the entrance to Wentworth Provincial Park, Hwy #4, near the intersection of Rte #246. Take exit #11 off Hwy #104 and drive past Folly Mountain and Wentworth Valley. Park is on the left. We'll explore different habitats between Wentworth and Amherst. Bring lunch, boots and fly repellent. Rain date: Sun June 20th.

Sat 26 June 2004 – Lewis Lake Warbler Walk

Leader: Hans Toom 868-1862 E-mail: htoom@hfx.eastlink.ca

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Margaret's Bay Trailhead on Hwy #3, Lake of the Woods s/d, Hubley. (Exit #4, Hwy #103) This is the point where the BLT Trail ends and the St. Margaret's Bay Trail starts. We'll walk the trail to Lewis Lake, do a circuit of the Park, then continue along the trail to Hubley Mill Lake. I'll arrange to have vehicles waiting at the trail's end to take drivers back to the morning's start location. We should be done by noon. No rain date. ***Parks are for People Event

Sun 27 June 2004 – Eastern Shore

Leader: Bob Lindsay 434-3438 E-mail: rlindsay@accesswave.ca

Meet at 6:00 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.

Sat 03 July 2004 – Cape Chignecto – Birds and Botany Walk

Leader: Joan Czapalay 348-2803 E-mail: joancz@ns.sympatico.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the CCPP public parking lot in West Advocate. Bring a packed lunch, water, bug repellent and sunscreen. Wear sturdy sneakers or hiking boots. We will hike the hills and coastline to McGahey Brook where we will stop for lunch. The walk is moderate to difficult. ***Parks are for People Event

Sun 11 July 2004 – Wallace Bay

Leader: Paul MacDonald 627-2568 E-mail: paulrita2001@yahoo.com

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 consist of a three-hour walk along a woodland trail, so come prepared with sturdy footwear, water and a lunch. No rain date.

Sat 24 July 2004 – Pictou County

Leader: Ken McKenna 752-7644 (Home) 752-0044 (Office)
E-mail: kenmcken@north.nsis.com

Meet shortly before 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot behind the Heather Motel in Stellarton at exit #24, Hwy #104. 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.

(Continued on inside back cover)