

# Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



**Summer 2004**  
**(The Birds of Spring)**



# NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

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

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## Reporting Deadlines

Winter 2005 issue: Dec. 7, 2004  
 Spring 2005 issue: Mar. 7, 2005

Summer 2005 issue: June 7, 2005  
 Fall 2004 issue: Aug. 7, 2004

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Coming Events Back Cover

*Cover Photo:* In March BARRED OWLS sometimes wander a little, seeking territory. This one spent a few days around Duncans Ccove, HRM, and was photographed Mar. 15. [Photo Hans Toom]

**NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS**  
SUMMER 2004

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

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

Published four times a year.



## THE SPOTTING SCOPE

I have little to discuss this foggy summer, so instead invite you to enjoy reading about the birds of spring. Pay particular attention to the North American Migration Count summary, an invaluable source of information regarding this province's bird-life, and reflect upon the important work undertaken each year by Judy Tufts and her volunteers province-wide. The 2005 survey will be the last that Judy will coordinate, and we don't wish the Count to cease. Give some thought to her replacement, and as well, dare I say it, consider recommencing an autumn count.

Many discussions regarding Nova Scotia's nature, including birds, takes place on NatureNS, an internet discussion group. While this is a worthwhile group, it is, for reasons I've never quite understood, structured in a primitive internet manner, one that does not permit archiving of its messages. Once posted, they are gone forever. I do urge the current Moderator of this group to consider switching NatureNS to an archived format, as occurs with NatureNB and NaturePEI. The various bird compilers of Nova Scotia Birds do monitor NatureNS, but it is easy to miss some postings. Unfortunately, many subscribers to NatureNS think that if they post a sighting there, that that is sufficient to have the sighting included in NatureNS, but such is not the truth. I encourage all NatureNS subscribers to also send their sightings on a quarterly basis to Lance Laviolette <lance.laviolette@lmco.com> so that they not be lost.

I also invite Nova Scotia Birds readers and NatureNS subscribers to consider belonging to the NS-RBA, an internet rare bird alert for Nova Scotia. There are now more than 100 members of this discussion group which, unlike NatureNS, is archived for all to read. To learn more about this group go to its website, at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NS-RBA>.

Have a great time this autumn, but keep out of the way of hurricanes.

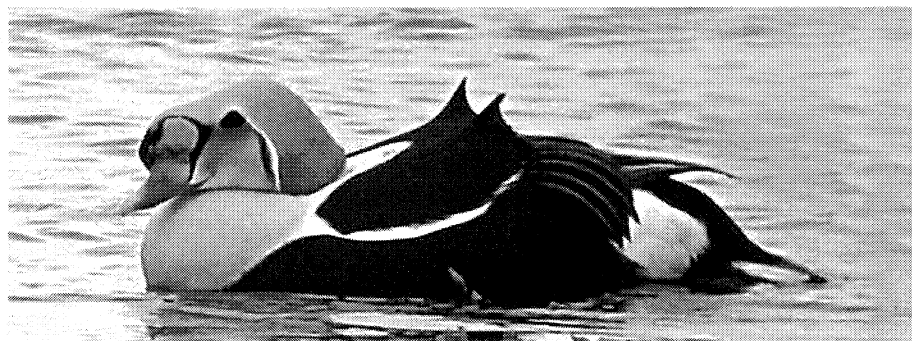
And now a word from our sponsor. . .

### About the Dues Increase

By Andy Horn, President NSBS

As you can see on the membership form in this issue, membership dues have increased slightly, effective for the membership year January to December 2005. The decision was made reluctantly; it's the first dues increase in over a decade. But costs of everything have increased to the point that the Society can't operate without a slight increase in revenue. Nonetheless, we kept the increase low so we don't discourage anyone from renewing. We've also introduced a special rate for students to encourage them to join.

If you have any comments or suggestions about these changes, please don't hesitate to contact me or any other member of the executive. ☐



Ross Baker captured this wonderful close-up of a male King Eider May 30 off Bon Portage Island; breeding-plumaged males are rarely seen in Nova Scotia, and this one was in an unusual location and at an odd time of year.



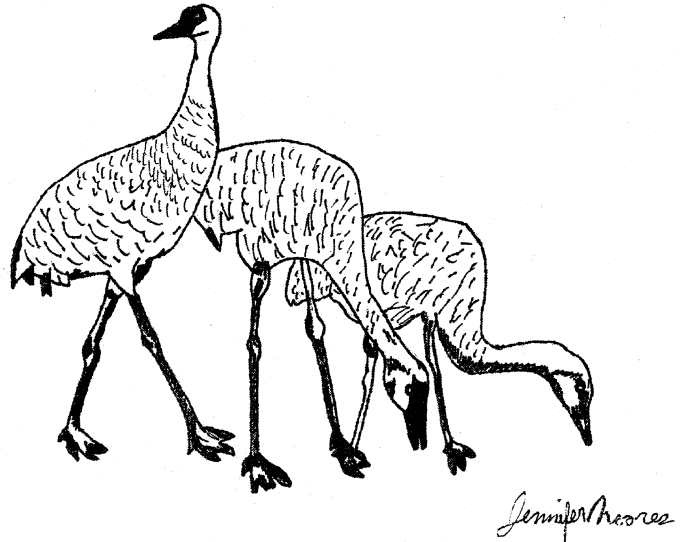
## Sandhill Crane Spring Migration

By Bernice Moores

We all know birders keep wish lists. Some watch for a rare species to arrive in their area, some hope to visit exotic birding destinations, while others hope to witness a particular spectacle in the world of birds.

During early April of this year one of my wishes was realized when I traveled to Nebraska to view a migration stopover of the Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). This is one of North America's two largest wildlife migration spectacles (the other is caribou migration in the far north).

The crane spectacle has a long history: fossils found in Nebraska indicate Sandhill Cranes may have been around for six million years, making them the longest lived of the birds now on earth. Eleven of the world's fifteen crane species are endangered. Two crane species occur in Canada, Whooping Crane, the most endangered, and Sandhill, the most numerous. Sandhill Cranes stand about four feet tall and have a wingspan of six to seven feet, long legs, a long neck, and a bustle. They have a bare red patch on the forehead and crown, and their feathers are slate-gray in colour, with blackish wingtips. They are indeed statuesque!



This sketch of a trio of SANDHILL CRANES was done by the author's granddaughter Jennifer Moores (Age 14) who is also a keen birder.

There are six subspecies of the Sandhill Crane. Mississippi, Florida and Cuban Sandhills are non migratory. Almost all of the 600,000 or so Greater, Canadian, and Lesser Sandhills do migrate, spending about six weeks on an eighty-mile section of the Platte River near Kearney, Nebraska, where first arrivals are spotted in late February each year. Migrating Sandhill Cranes winter in most of the southern United States and in northern Mexico. The majority breed in the northern states, Canada from Ontario to British Columbia and the territories, Alaska, and eastern Siberia. Their migration routes take the shape of an hourglass, the narrowest part being near Kearney.

I was part of a group of 29 led by Dr. George Archibald, a native of Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation, and a world leader in the preservation of the cranes of the world and their habitats. Viewing took place at Audubon Nebraska's Rowe Sanctuary that provides an enclosed wooden blind near the river's edge with lots of room for 36 viewers. Field trips took place on two successive evenings beginning at 5 p.m., and on the morning between beginning at 5 a.m. The evening sights and sounds of tens of thousands of Sandhill Cranes landing in the shallow waters and on sandbars, as beautiful prairie sunsets filled the background, are unforgettable. The air was filled with tens of thousands of cranes and their calls. After landing many performed unison calls as well as elegant and graceful dances until darkness arrived. Equally unforgettable was the morning visit when the cranes' voices again filled the air as we arrived in the dark. Now the sounds were soft and coo-like, and their subtly different colours stunning as the light of day strengthened. In broad daylight we watched them leave as they had arrived, mostly in family groups of two to four, once again using their daytime voices.

Strict rules to ensure the cranes would not be disturbed had been sent by mail and were reinforced before we were led to the blind – no cell phones, no flash cameras, no heads or pointing hands out the windows, whispering only, and only the Audubon person had permission to close and open the door. We were inside the blind for about three hours each time.

Roosting in the Platte's shallow waters, the birds feel safe from predators. Days are spent feeding on leftover corn, as well as invertebrates and small vertebrates in the surrounding cornfields. During their time here Sandhills increase their body weight by

about 40%, renew pair bonds, and establish new ones. While preening they paint their feathers with the local reddish soil, providing effective nesting camouflage. This coloration lasts through the breeding season and was particularly noticeable to me on the morning trip.

From their Platte River stopover they fan out using their different northward routes completing "the hourglass". It is interesting that groups from each wintering ground choose particular nesting destinations. For example, those wintering in southern Florida nest in the Great Lakes states, those from Texas nest in Ontario, Manitoba, and Baffin Island. One group winters in California, migrates through Oregon and Washington and nests in northern British Columbia and southern Alaska. Those from northern Mexico fly to the Northwest and Yukon Territories, northern Alaska, and eastern Siberia, the last a round trip in excess of 10,000 miles!

Threats to the Sandhill Cranes include conversion of land for agriculture and other developments, and changes to wetlands in their wintering, breeding and migration habitats. Hunting is permitted in two provinces, twelve states, and Mexico. The most critical threat facing Sandhill Cranes, however, is steady reduction of the Platte River habitat. The Platte, a braided river originating in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, is historically described as being "a mile wide and an inch deep". The river is no longer "a mile wide". Nearly three quarters of its water is used for town and city water supplies and irrigation, critically reducing migration habitat. A continuing drought, now in its fourth year has further reduced the river's water. The section used by the cranes in spring dried up completely last summer. One result is the birds are much more concentrated during this stopover, increasing the danger of disease problems that could be catastrophic.

The International Crane Foundation and other non-government, as well as government groups, in Canada and the United States, devote a great deal of effort and resources to the protection, restoration and conservation of crane habitats, especially wetlands. Their methods include captive breeding and release, education directed toward the general public, especially landowners including farmers. Let's hope these initiatives together with ongoing research by these groups soon reduce and eventually remove man-made threats to these special birds

My wish list continues to be rather lengthy and the wonders of migration one of my fascinations. While Sandhill Crane migration can now be removed from the list, Whooping Crane migration using ultra-light aircraft is making a strong pitch to take its place.

For more information on the Sandhill Cranes you may contact:

**International Crane Foundation**

E11376 Shady Lane Road  
P. O. Box 447,  
Baraboo, WI 53913-0447

[www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org)



A small group of SANDHILL CRANES takes flight after their night-time rest. [Photo Bernice Moores]



## Loons through Grebes

By Terry Paquet

COMMON LOONS started making their way to fresh water, well before the ice began melting off the lakes. SEM reports small numbers at the outflow of the Myra River in late March and early April "waiting to get onto fresh water". They were not noted on lakes until early May when TEP noted some on lakes in Lower Sackville, *HRM* and *APBS*. A pair was also noted by *JCT* on Lacey Lake, *Hants*, May 25. PIED-BILLED GREBES started showing up in early April, the first being noted by *MUN* on Goose Creek, *Yar.*, April 11. Later in the season, they were abundant as usual at the *APBS*. Seventeen were tallied on the *NAMC* in *Cumberland*, May 8. RED-NECKED GREBES are handsome in their alternate plumage and SEM was lucky to find eight at Kennington Cove, *CBRM*, May 2. Another in breeding plumage was noted by *PLC* at Queensland Beach, *HRM*, April 23.

### Red-throated Loon

Mar. 15	Lunenburg	1	JAH, Len Macdonald, Gary Smith
Mar. 28	Fishermans Reserve, <i>HRM</i>	2	DHU, Janey Hughes
May 5	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
May 13	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	27	PBG

### Common Loon

Mar. 14	Sambro Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	6	PLC
Mar. 15	Blue Rocks, <i>Lun.</i>	23	JAH, Len MacDonald, Gary Smith
Apr. 4	Mira Gut, <i>CBRM</i>	6	SEM
Apr. 4	Lower Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	15	BLM
May 6	Brier I.	12	ELM

### Pied-billed Grebe

Apr. 20	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna</i> .	1	AAM
Apr. 20	Goose Creek Marsh, <i>Yar.</i>	2	PRG

May 24 Tiddville Pond, *Digby* 1 ELM

### Horned Grebe

Mar. 13	<i>HRM</i>	1's & 2's	PLC
Mar. 30	Annapolis Royal, <i>Anna</i> .	3	JOB
Apr. 20	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	4	JOB
Apr. 23	Boutilliers Pt., <i>HRM</i>	12	PLC

### Red-necked Grebe

Mar. 13	Flemming Park, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
Mar. 15	Lunenburg	1	JAH, Len MacDonald, Gary Smith
Mar. 29	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Apr. 4	Lower Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	3	BLM
Apr. 17	Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BES, GEC
Apr. 23	Queensland Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
May 2	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	8	SEM

□□□

## Tubenoses Through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

Although a few shearwaters usually begin to appear off Nova Scotia by the end of May, there were no reports this year, perhaps because of windy cold weather (which affects birders more than the birds). NORTHERN FULMARS in *Shelburne* May 8 during the *NAMC* and off Brier Island in mid-May were late but not unprecedented.

SEM's notes document the passage of NORTHERN GANNETS past Cape Breton during the first three weeks of April. By mid-month the first migrants had reached the Northumberland Strait and overwintering birds in the Bay of Fundy had been replaced by significant numbers of adult migrants. Significant numbers still lingered off northern Cape Breton in late May.

The first migrant DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT was in a traditional area, Pictou Landing, *Pictou*, March 30, and only a day later significant numbers had reached the Bras D'Or Lakes and Ingonish, *Vic*. The major arrival at the traditional colony at the Pictou causeway, occurred on April 7, when 60 overwhelmed only one seen the day before. Significant movements continued through April, as shown by JAH's count of 61 in the Lahave River, *Lunenburg*, and his comments that many others were scattered along the river. RFL's count of 100+ at Ogdens Pond, *Ant.*, April 26 was another example of this. Of 4454 recorded throughout the province during the *NAMC* May 8, more than half were in *Shelburne*, *Pictou* and *CBRM*. Breeding GREAT CORMORANTS reached northern Cape Breton during the first week of April and breeders were at the Crystal Cliffs colony, *Ant.*, beginning about April 26. By the first week of May the replacement of Greats by Double-crests was near-complete in SW Nova Scotia; only 91 were recorded throughout the province during the *NAMC* May 8, more than 2/3 of them in *Inverness*, *CBRM* and *Shelburne*. □

<b>Northern Fulmar</b>			April 7	Pictou causeway	60+	KJM
May 8	<i>Shelburne</i>	4	NAMC	April 9	Grassy I., <i>CBRM</i>	1 SEM
May 19	Off Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	Several	Shelley Barnaby	April 9	Canning Aboiteau, <i>Kings</i>	1 JCT
<b>Leach's Storm-Petrel</b>			April 13	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	2	RHL
May 21-23	BPI	1	KJM, Claire Diggins	April 20	Avon R., Windsor	20-25 JCT
<b>Northern Gannet</b>			April 20	Grassy I., <i>CBRM</i>	20	SEM
April 6	Louisbourg	50 ads. in 5 min.	SEM	April 23	Bear R., <i>Digby</i>	1 MCR
April 9	Louisbourg	70 ads. in 15 min.	SEM	April 23	Rocky L., Bedford	1 RHL
April 15	Dan's Hd., CSI	Lots passing by	MUN	April 24	Dayspring, <i>Lun.</i>	61 JAH
April 17	Pictou Hbr. mouth	First of spring	KJM	April 26	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	100+ RFL
April 18/20	Louisbourg	125+/5 min.	SEM	April 26-29	Bear R., <i>Digby</i>	20-30+ MCR
April 19	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	50+	KJM	May 3	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	5 RHL
April 20	Port George/Margaretsville, <i>Kings</i>	32-37	JOB	May 7/8	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	54/11 KFS
April 22	Morden, <i>Kings</i>	29	JOB	May 8	<i>Shelburne</i>	992 prov. peak NAMC
May 8	Brier I.	138	NAMC <i>fide</i> ELM	May 10	Oakfield PP, <i>HRM</i>	10 LOC
May 8	<i>CBRM</i>	192	NAMC	May 21-22	BPI	35 KJM, Claire Diggins
May 8	Port Lorne, <i>Anna.</i>	33	JOB	May 3-31	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	2-6 DMW
May 8	<i>Shelburne</i>	251	NAMC	<b>Great Cormorant</b>		
May 17	Grand Étang, <i>Inv.</i>	groups moving N	BSK	March 29	Pictou Landing, <i>Pict.</i>	1 KJM
May 21-23	BPI	4	KJM, Claire Diggins	April 4	Little Bras D'Or, <i>CBRM</i>	12 BSK
May 23	Baleine, <i>CBRM</i>	80 circling	SEM	April 6	Grassy I., <i>CBRM</i>	2 SEM
May 24	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	25	FLL/NSBS	April 12	St. Anns Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	4 BSK
May 28	Neils Harbour, <i>Vic.</i>	ca. 200	AAM	April 20	Grassy I., <i>CBRM</i>	50 SEM
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>			April 26	Crystal Cliffs, <i>Ant.</i>	A few on cliffs	RFL
March 30	Pictou Landing, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	May 7	Brier I.	1 RBS
April 1	Baddeck Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	3	BSK	May 8	<i>Inverness</i>	29 NAMC
April 2	Ingonish, <i>Vic.</i>	27	BSK	May 8	<i>CBRM</i>	25 NAMC
April 5	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	7	LOC	May 8	<i>Shelburne</i>	15 NAMC
April 6	Pictou causeway	2	Brian Wong <i>fide</i> KJM			□□□

## Herons Through Vultures

By Ulli Höger

This spring offered some excitement for wader fans. GREAT EGRETS, SNOWY EGRETS, LITTLE BLUE HERONS, and GLOSSY IBISES are found now and then in the province, but this spring there were more reported than usual. One can only wonder how much the greater number of birders out there and the faster information flow contributed to this increase in reports and how many more of these uncommon waders may still go unnoticed in the province.

On a personal note, in 1998 I was shown my first Little Blue Heron. It was an adult and it was during IAM's annual fieldtrip to Martinique. Coincidentally, it was in the exact same spot at Seaforth where an immature was found in April of this year by RSM. Days earlier I had stopped on this year's Martinique expedition at that spot to check if there was one (call it tradition), but I guess I was a couple of days early. □

### American Bittern

Apr. 22	Goose Creek Marsh, <i>Yar.</i>	2	PRG
Apr. 24	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	MUN
May 2	Goose Creek Marsh, <i>Yar.</i>	4	MUN
May 8	province-wide	35	NAMC
May 12	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	3	KFS
May 16	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JWW
May 24	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	3	KFS
May 29	CSI	1	MUN

### Great Blue Heron

Mar. 26	Ritchey Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	ELM
Mar. 27	Upper S Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	2	ELM
Apr. 7	Seawall, <i>Digby</i>	2	JUS
Apr. 8	Annapolis Royal	2	JOB
Apr. 9	Bear R. <i>Digby</i>	1	MCR
Apr. 9	Homeville Marsh, <i>CB</i>	1	SEM
Apr. 13	Lawrencetown Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	5	RHL
Apr. 14	Middle R., <i>Vic.</i>	1	JCM
Apr. 16	CSI	"lots"	MUN
Apr. 23	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT
Apr. 24	Back Oeler Farm, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
By the end of April common in suitable habitat			
May 8	province-wide	457	NAMC



Several people went to seek the GREAT EGRET at Grand Desert, *HRM*, where there have been regular sightings of the species in the past, and it was nicely photographed April 29. [Photo Ulli Heoger]

**Great Egret**

Apr. 7	Halifax	1	Chronicle Herald
Apr. 26	Lower W Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1	RSD, PRG
Apr. 27-30	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC <i>et al.</i>
May 1	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	1	SDI
May 10	Glace Bay	1	BES, GEC
May 20	Boutiliers Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	PST
May 21	Tiddville Marsh, <i>Digby</i>	1	JUS
May 24	Tiddville Pond, <i>Digby</i>	1	ELM
May 25	CSI	1	MUN
May 25	Brier I.	1	Liz & Shane Gidney
May 31	CSI	1	MUN, JON

**Snowy Egret**

Apr. 9	Brier I.	1	Vicky Graham <i>fide</i> JUS
Apr. 10-11	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
Apr. 12-20	Brier I.	1	CAH
Apr. 17-20	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1	SHU <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 18-21	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	MAB
Apr. 18-25	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1	Tom Crane
May 4	Brier I.	1	JUS
May 15	Brier I.	1	JUS
May 18	CSI	1	MUN
May 25	Brier I.	1	Liz & Shane Gidney
May 25	Dayspring, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
May 31	CSI	4	MUN, JON

**Little Blue Heron**

Apr. 9-12	CSI	1 ad.	MUN, JON
Apr. 18-May 3	Seaforth Sellars Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm.	RSM <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 28-May 19	Broad Cove Pond, <i>Lun.</i>	1 ad.	EIM <i>et al.</i>
May 19-20	Grand Pre, <i>Kings</i>	1 imm.	BBT <i>et al.</i>

**Cattle Egret**

May 3-7	Shag Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN, GRM
May 8	Louis Hd., <i>Shel.</i>	1	Ed & Ann Burt <i>fide</i> DHY
May 24	Barrington Passage, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN

**Green Heron**

May 17-18	CSI	1	MUN
May 22	Brier I.	1	AAM, SMM

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**

Apr. 10	Main-a-dieu, <i>CB</i>	1	Lionel Wadden
Apr. 17	CSI	1	MUN
Apr. 25	CSI	2	MUN
May 18	CSI	4-5	MUN
May 21-22	BPI	1	KJM <i>et al.</i>

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**

May 6	Poulamond, <i>Rich.</i>	1 imm.	GED
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**Glossy Ibis**

Apr. 30	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1	Tom Crane
May 8-12	Middle Hbr., Dingwall, <i>Vic.</i>	4	F. McEvoy <i>et al.</i>

**Turkey Vulture**

Mar. 7	Yarmouth	6	MUN
Apr. 7	Tiddville, <i>Digby</i>	1	JUS
Apr. 8	Paradise, <i>Anna.</i>	2	John Belbin
Apr. 17	CSI	5	MUN
Apr. 19	Wentworth, <i>Cum.</i>	1	Heather Drope
Apr. 20	Milton Highlands, <i>Queens</i>	12	PRG
Apr. 22	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	2	Tom Crane
Apr. 28	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
May 8	province-wide	22	NAMC
May 17	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 6-24	Brier I.	4-7	ELM, JUS <i>et al.</i>

□□□

## Geese, Swans and Ducks

### By Terry Paquet

While scanning flocks of Canada Geese near Canning on April 24, JCT spotted a bright orange-billed goose, and determined it to be a **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** of the Greenland Race. It was subsequently seen by many, including IAM who noted, "In addition to its vivid orange bill, its strongly marked sides, with very narrow white upper flanks, robustness and very narrow, clean-cut white tail margins were all good for a Greenland bird". The Sullivans Pond SNOW GOOSE held on until at least April 10 when it was seen by PLC. Other Snow Geese turned up in small numbers in *Antigonish*, *Kings* and *Yarmouth*, a good spring showing. CANADA GEESE were seen migrating in usual numbers this spring with some large concentrations noted in the Canning, Habitant R., and Wellington Dyke area of *Kings*. MAG and JCT found a few of these birds to have neck collars and were able to trace two of these by way of CWS in Sackville, N.B. They were collared during spring rocket netting at Hamilton, P.E.I. One was an adult male captured April 16, 1997 and the other was an adult male captured April 19, 1999. A group of 195 were noted by ELM and IAM at Riverport, *Lun.* between March 1 and April 1. IAM's comment regarding these birds was "most were the expected *Branta canadensis canadensis*, but at least 10 appear to be of the more western race *B. c. interior* (Todd's Canada Goose)". A few of this race were also noted by ELM at Pond Cove, Brier I. in a group of 24 April 8.

While doing their part on the NAMC May 8, JIC and Dave Watson (*fide* JAH) found five AMERICAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Anas crecca carolinensis*) in the company of an EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*A. c. crecca*) at Lower Rose Bay, *Lun.*

JJN reported that TMF and members of the ABO crew located a male **KING EIDER** off BPI May 28. This striking adult male stuck around and became a life bird for several seasoned birders.

**Greater White-fronted Goose**

Apr. 24	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
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**Snow Goose**

Apr. 2	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	Bernard Burke
Apr. 9	Georges Bay, <i>Ant.</i>	5	JOK
Apr. 13	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	12	JWW
May 13	Beaver R., <i>Yar.</i>	2	JUG <i>fide</i> JCT

**Canada Goose**

Mar. 19	Wellington Dyke Rd., <i>Kings</i>	3000	MAG <i>fide</i> JCT
Apr. 7	Habitant R., <i>Kings</i>	8000	MAG <i>fide</i> JCT
Apr. 8	Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i>	12	RHL
Apr. 12	River Bennet, <i>Vic.</i>	36	BSK

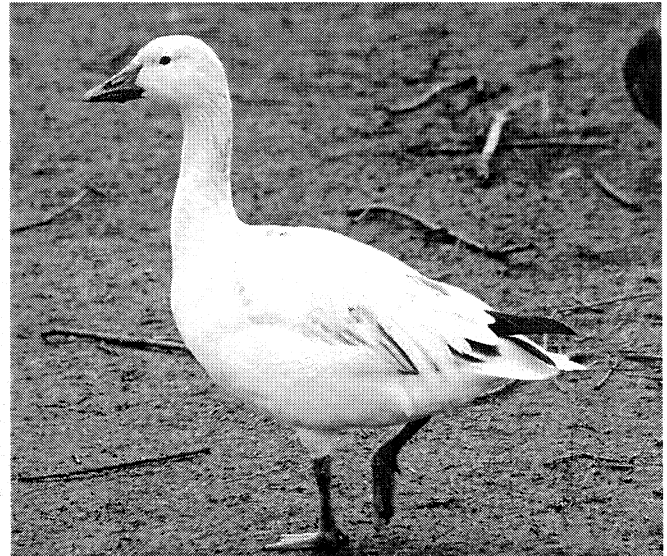
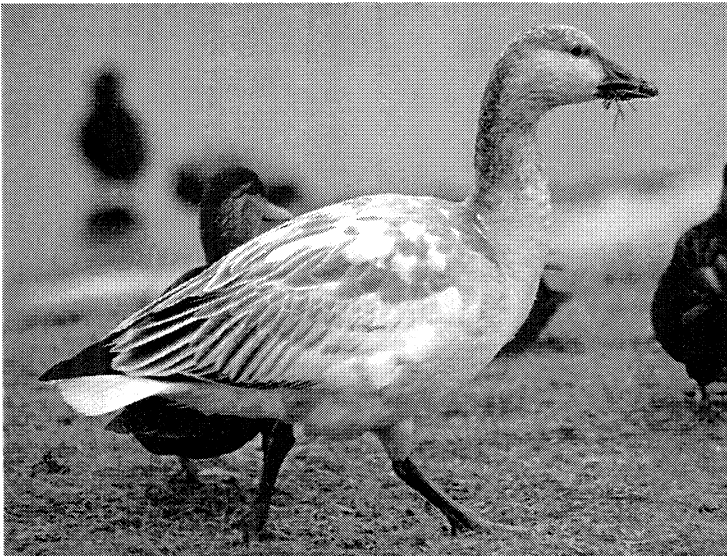
**Brant**

Mar. 21	The Hawk, CSI	3000	MUN
Apr. 6	The Hawk, CSI	12000	MUN
Apr. 8	Brier I.	200	ELM, AHM
Apr. 9	Louisbourg Hbr.	1	SEM
Apr. 26	The Hawk, CSI	1000	MUN
May 13	Brier I.	10	Bernard Burke

**Wood Duck**

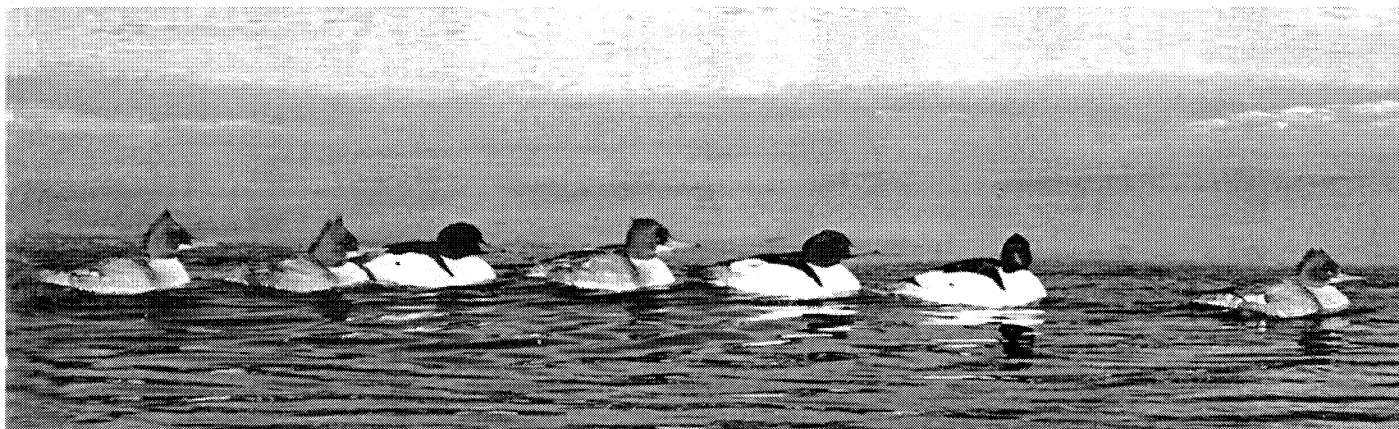
Mar. 17	Williams Lake Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1	FCG
Mar. 27	Riverport, <i>Lun.</i>	1	ELM
Apr. 2	Canard R., <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Apr. 20	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	8	JOB





The young LESSER SNOW GOOSE that arrived last November and later took up residence at Sullivans Pond, HRM, changed from a rather dingy Juvenal plumage in January to Basic I plumage by April, after which it soon departed. It will be another year before it acquires the spanking Definitive plumage of a full adult. [Photos Elizabeth Doull]

May 15	Sutherlands R., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM	May 8	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	<i>A.c.carolinensis</i> JIC, Dave Watson
<b>Gadwall</b>				<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>			
Apr. 10	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	SMB, RSM, PLC	Apr. 2	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	Bernard Burke
Apr. 24	Riverport, <i>Lun.</i>	1 male	ELM	Apr. 8	Tantallon, <i>HRM</i>	20	TEP
Apr. 25	Harris Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT, AAM	Apr. 11	Goose Creek, <i>Yar.</i>	17	MUN
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>				Apr. 20	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	28	AAM
Mar. 7	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	TEP	Apr. 25	Nyanza, <i>Vic.</i>	11	BSK
Apr. 8	Antigonish Landing	2	JOK	May 8	<i>Cumberland</i>	269	NAMC
Apr. 10	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	var. obs.	<b>Greater Scaup</b>			
Apr. 25	West Lakeville, <i>Ant.</i>	3 males	JOK	Mar. 15	Bayport, <i>Lun.</i>	314	JAH <i>et al.</i>
<b>American Wigeon</b>				Mar. 27	Lower South Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	250	ELM
Apr. 4	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	10	PLC	Mar. 29	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	200	RHL
Apr. 9	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	5	SEM	Apr. 16	Prospect Bay, <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
Apr. 24	Harris Pond, <i>Kings</i>	4	JCT	Apr. 17	Glace Bay	25	SEM
May 17	Nyanza, <i>Vic.</i>	3	BSK	Apr. 20	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	10	AAM
<b>American Black Duck</b>				<b>Lesser Scaup</b>			
Mar. 7	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	170	DMW	Mar. 27	Lower South Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	2	ELM
Apr. 6	Rainbow Haven PP, <i>HRM</i>	20	RHL	Apr. 15	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	20	RHL
Apr. 9	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	60	SEM	Apr. 20	Port Williams Sewage Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2	JWW
May 11	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	29	PLC	Apr. 23	New Minas Sewage Plant, <i>Kings</i>	5	JWW
<b>Mallard</b>				May 30	Glace Bay	1	SEM
Mar. 5	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	4	RHL	<b>King Eider</b>			
Apr. 9	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	18	JCT	May 28-31	BPI	1	ABO
Apr. 30	Glace Bay	8 ads., 7 young	SEM	<b>Common Eider</b>			
May 21	New Minas	80	JCT	Mar. 21	Louisbourg	700	SEM
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>				Apr. 20	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	250	JOB
Apr. 9	Three Fathom Harbour, <i>HRM</i>	3	TEP	Apr. 21	Louisbourg	2400	SEM
Apr. 11	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	2	MUN	Apr. 28	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>	500	JOB
Apr. 20	Annapolis Royal Marsh	1 male	AAM	May 3	Rocky Run, <i>HRM</i>	25	RHL
May 8	<i>Cumberland</i>	43	NAMC	<b>Harlequin Duck</b>			
May 31	Conrads Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	6	DMW	Mar. 21	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	7	RBS, NSBS
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>				Apr. 2	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	13	JOB
Apr. 17	New Glasgow	1	DCO	Apr. 12	Prospect High Hd., <i>HRM</i>	15	PLC, JEH
Apr. 20	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	3	JWW	Apr. 19	Brier I.	7	CAH
May 8	<i>Cumberland</i>	58	NAMC	May 13	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	5	PBG
May 21	New Minas	1	JCT	<b>Surf Scoter</b>			
<b>Northern Pintail</b>				Mar. 25	Morden, <i>Kings</i>	12	JOB
Mar. 7	Conrads Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW	Apr. 17	Mira Gut, <i>CBRM</i>	85	SEM
Apr. 17	Sydney	4	SEM	Apr. 27	Second L., Lower Sackville	4	TEP
Apr. 25	Cornawallis R., <i>Kings</i>	2	RBS	May 4	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>	200	JOB
May 8	<i>Cumberland</i>	15	NAMC	May 22	Pond Cove, Brier I.	15	AAM, ELM, IAM
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				<b>White-winged Scoter</b>			
Mar. 26	Riverport, <i>Lun.</i>	1 male	ELM	Apr. 2	Ingonish, <i>Vict.</i>	23	BSK
Mar. 31	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW	Apr. 7	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	23	JOB
Apr. 10	Pond Cove, Brier I.	2	ELM	Apr. 17	Morien Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	340	SEM
Apr. 20	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	9	JWW	Apr. 18	Louisbourg	50	SEM
May 8	<i>Cumberland</i>	160	NAMC				



With the break-up of lake ice COMMON MERGANSERS, such as this group mid-March near Pictou, returned to their favoured freshwater habitats. [Photo Elizabeth Doull]

May 4	Margaretville, <i>Anna</i> .	30	JOB	Mar. 23	New Minas Sewage Plant, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
<b>Black Scoter</b>				Apr. 4	Rocky L., <i>HRM</i>	2	DHU
Apr. 4	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	20	PLC	Apr. 8	Westport, Brier I.	1 fem.	ELM, AHM
Apr. 7	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	35	JOB	Apr. 12	Habitant R., <i>Kings</i>	2	George Forsyth
Apr. 20	Louisbourg	400	SEM	Apr. 23	New Minas Sewage Plant, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW
May 2	First Lake, Lower Sackville	9	PEL	Apr. 24	Masons Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	1 fem.	ELM
May 4	Margaretville, <i>Anna</i> .	40	JOB	Apr. 24	Upper South Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1 fem.	ELM
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>				<b>Hooded Merganser</b>			
Mar. 1	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	6	JOB	Mar. 13	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	3	RHL
Mar. 2	Morden, <i>Kings</i>	8	JOB	Mar. 23	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	3	RHL
Mar. 25	Morden, <i>Kings</i>	25	JOB	Apr. 13	Lawrencetown L., <i>HRM</i>	10	RHL
Mar. 27	Louisbourg	20	SEM	Apr. 20	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna</i> .	2	AAM
Apr. 4	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	2	PLC	Apr. 30	Margaretville, <i>Anna</i> .	3	JOB
<b>Bufflehead</b>				May 6	Sutherlands R., <i>Pict.</i>	3 males, 3 fems.	FLL <i>et al.</i>
Mar. 22	Louisbourg Hbr.	11	SEM	<b>Common Merganser</b>			
Mar. 24	Conrads Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	8	DMW	Mar. 9	St. Anns, <i>Vic.</i>	11	BSK
Apr. 20	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna</i> .	53 males, 20 fems.	AAM	Mar. 11	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	20	RHL
Apr. 20	Annapolis Royal Marsh	18 males, 12 fems.	AAM	Mar. 28	Bedford	6	LOC
May 6	Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	3	BSK	Mar. 30	New Minas	2	JCT
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>				May 5	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW
Mar. 15	Bayport, <i>Lun.</i>	55	JAH <i>et al.</i>	<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>			
Mar. 27	Lower South Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	300	ELM	Mar. 2	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	12	RHL
Apr. 1	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	8	RHL	Mar. 22	Louisbourg Hbr.	9	SEM
Apr. 5	Hartlens Pt., <i>HRM</i>	10	LOC	Apr. 6	Rainbow Haven Beach, <i>HRM</i>	6	RHL
May 1	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	31	SEM	Apr. 10	Crescent Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	70	JAH
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>				May 24	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	74	SEM
Mar. 19	Sydney R., <i>CBRM</i>	11	SEM			□□□	

## Diurnal Raptors through Cranes

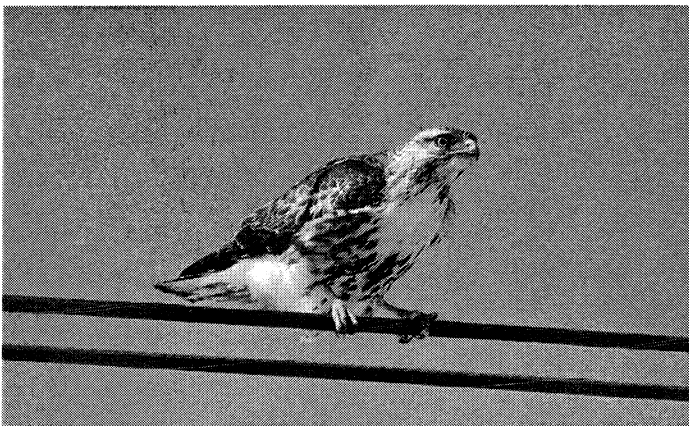
By Ulli Höger

In early April our first OSPREYS returned, and were a common sight by the end of the month. Many pairs were seen rebuilding nest at or near former nesting sites destroyed by hurricane Juan in late September 2003. The BALD EAGLE nesting sites in the Annapolis Valley monitored by JWW had adults on the nests by mid March and, by mid April to early May, there were sightings of nestlings. In May GOLDEN EAGLES were spotted on two occasions in Cape Breton. By May MERLINS were regular evening guests at the known swift roosts in the Valley and JWW confirmed three, possibly four nesting pairs in Wolfville. A PURPLE GALLINULE was observed from April 12 to May 10 in Yarmouth. However, on request of the property owner the find was kept undisclosed until mid May. Lastly, there was word of a pair of SANDHILL CRANES in the northern parts of our province.

<b>Osprey</b>				Apr. 22	Russell L., <i>HRM</i>	2	RHL
Apr. 9	Enfield, <i>Hants</i>	1		Apr. 23	Shearwater, <i>HRM</i>	2	DEJ
Apr. 11	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP	Apr. 23	South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	<i>vide</i> Peggy MacAskill
Apr. 11	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP	<b>Bald Eagle</b>			
Apr. 11	Bridgewater, <i>Lun.</i>	2	Gary Smith	Mar. 3	Sheffield Mills, <i>Kings</i>	30	JWW
Apr. 18	Pictou	1	KJM	Mar. 10	Crystal Crescent Beach, <i>HRM</i>	4	HAT
Apr. 18	West Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	RSM	Mar. 11	Canard, <i>Kings</i>	nest	JWW
Apr. 18	Dartmouth	1	Bernard Burke	Mar. 17	Eye Road Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	nest	JWW
Apr. 21	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	HEK	Mar. 17	Wallbrook, <i>Kings</i>	nest	JWW

Mar. 17	White Rock Pond, <i>Kings</i>	nest	JWW
Mar. 17	Starr Pt., <i>Kings</i>	nest	JWW
Apr. 12	Kentville Ravine	nest	JCT
May 4	Greenwich, <i>Kings</i>	chicks	JWW
<b>Northern Harrier</b>			
Apr. 9	Brier I.	1m	ELM
Apr. 10	Brier I.	1	JUS
Apr. 11	Louisbourg	1m	SEM
Apr. 12	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1m	KFS
Apr. 12	Windsor, <i>Hants</i>	1	LOC
Apr. 16	Louisbourg	1	SEM
Apr. 17	Brier I.	3	CAH
Apr. 20	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	AAM
Apr. 25	Canard Dyke, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Apr. 26	Rainbow Haven Beach, HRM	1	RHL
Apr. 29	Amherst Pt., <i>Cum.</i>	1	HAT
May 16	Brier I.	3	ELM <i>et al.</i>
May 29	Gays River, HRM	1m	PLC, SMB, FLL
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>			
Mar.-May	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
Mar.-Apr	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
Mar. 10	Dartmouth	1	Bernard Burke
Apr. 24	Lower Sackville, HRM	1	LOC
May 8	province-wide	64	NAMC
May 8	Brier I.	1	ELM
May 8	Musquodoboit, HRM	1	RHL & Cheryl Davis
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>			
Mar. 2	Newtonville Mt., <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF
Apr. 10&17	South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
Apr. 25	Elderbank, HRM	1	PAC
Apr. 27	Lower Sackville, HRM	1	Carol Greeno <i>fide</i>
	LOC		
Apr. 29	Lower Sackville, HRM	1	LOC
May 18	Spryfield, HRM	1	FLL
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>			
Apr. 17	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	1	FLL <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 17	Sims Settlement, <i>Lun.</i>	1	FLL
Apr. 20	Middle Musquodoboit, HRM	1	V.J. Higgins
Apr. 30	New Germany, <i>Lun.</i>	2	RBS
May 1	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	1	PLC, SMB, RSM
May 2	Burnside, HRM	1	TEP
May 15	Greenwich, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
May 23	Brier I.	7	ELM, IAM
May 29	Goffs Rd., HRM	1	PLC, SMB, FLL
May 30	CSI	1	MUN
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>			
Mar. 5&7	Clementsvale, <i>Anna.</i>	1	MCR
Mar. 28	Halifax	1	PLC
Apr. 1	Kellys Mt., <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
Apr. 2	Wreck Cove, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
Apr. 12	Windsor	3	LOC
Apr. 25	Skye Valley, <i>Inv.</i>	1	BSK
May 22	White Rock, <i>Vic.</i>	2	BLF

<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>			
Mar. 1	CSI	5	MUN
Apr. 2	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Apr. 24-May 4	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
May 2	Elgin, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
May 2	Williamsport, <i>Kings</i>	1	IAM
<b>Golden Eagle</b>			
May 5	St. Anns, <i>Vic.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> Sam Morrison
May 16	Baddeck, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
<b>American Kestrel</b>			
Apr. 15	Baddeck, <i>Vic.</i>	2	<i>fide</i> JCM
Apr. 21	Schooner Pond, CBRM	4	GEC
Apr. 21	Middle Musq, HRM	1	V.J. Higgins
Apr. 22	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 8	Elderbank, HRM	1	RHL, Cheryl Davis
May 14	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM
Apr. 26-May 15	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC
May 23	Brier I.	1	ELM
<b>Merlin</b>			
Apr. 11	Falmouth, <i>Hants</i>	1	Pat Kelly
Apr. 12	Wolfville	1	JWW
Apr. 23	Lower Sackville, HRM	1	LOC
Apr. 24	Wolfville	3-4 nesting pairs	JWW
Apr. 24	Louisbourg	2	SEM
May 1	Brier I.	1	JUS
May 6	La Domain, Wolfville	1 pair	JCT (no nesting confirmed)
May 8	province-wide	64	NAMC
May 20	Brier I.	1	IAM, ELM
<b>Gyr Falcon</b>			
Mar. 1	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN, JON
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>			
Mar. 8	Wolfville	1	JWW
Mar. 10	Dartmouth	1	Bernard Burke
Mar. 14	Duncans Cove, HRM	1	HAT
Mar. 18	Summersville, <i>Yar.</i>	1	BBT
May 2	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1	IAM
May 8	BLT trail, HRM	1	SMB, ABM
May 22	Brier I.	1	AAM
<b>Ring-necked Pheasant</b>			
Mar.-May	Lower Sackville, HRM	1-2	LOC
Mar.-May	Feeder in Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
Mar. 30	Grand Desert, HRM	1	RHL
March	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	1-2	MCR
May 8	Brier I.	5	ELM
May 16	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Joyce Allen
<b>Ruffed Grouse</b>			
Mar. 22	NE Margaree, <i>Vic.</i>	1	Helen MacLeod
Apr. 11	South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
Apr. 18	Big Baddeck, <i>Vic.</i>	1	Floyd Kent
Apr. 18	Bridgeville, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Apr. 28	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN
May 7-9	Brier I.	5	RBS
May 8	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	4	KFS



RED-TAILED HAWKS, like this one near Canard in April, seldom perch on wires, although Broad-winged Hawks, which are smaller, often do. [Photo Elizabeth Doull]



The elusive SORA is seldom seen, even less so out in the open like this one May 6 at the Margaretsville DU marsh, *Annapolis*. [Photo Elizabeth Doull]

May 8	Brier I.	8	ELM	May 13	Sunrise Valley, CBRM	1	FMC
May 8	Dollar L. PP, HRM	2	RHL, Cheryl Davis	May 15	CSI	1	MUN
May 8	Russell L., HRM	2	RHL	May 17	Annapolis Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JWW
May 13	Palmeto Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM	May 18	Schooner Pond, CBRM	1	GEC
May 16	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Joyce Allen	<b>Purple Gallinule</b>			
May 23	Louisbourg	4	NAMC (SEM)	Mar. 12-May 10	Yarmouth, <i>Yar.</i>	1	<i>vide</i> MUN
<b>Spruce Grouse</b>				<b>American Coot</b>			
Mar. 11-May 23	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	May 8	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JOB
May 1	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	1	GED	<b>Sandhill Crane</b>			
May 7	Mersey Connector, <i>Lun.</i>	1	FLL, BIB, EIB	Apr. 27	Grand Mira North, CBRM	2	Martin & Emily MacLellan
<b>Virginia Rail</b>				May 7	Main-a-Dieu, CBRM	2	Gerry Lalonde
May 2	Stellarton-Westville, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	May 24	Catalone, CBRM	2	SEM
<b>Sora</b>				May	Salmon R. area, <i>Col.</i>	1	<i>vide</i> MUN
May 2	Stellarton-Westville, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	□□□			
May 4	Magaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JOB				

## The Shorebirds

By Sylvia Fullerton

The shorebird migration produced little excitement this spring. With few over-wintering birds to augment the new migrants, numbers seemed low, particularly on the NAMC, but overall numbers were not down significantly. About 350 were at CSI, May 11, an average number. Most of the shorebirds which take a direct route to their northern nesting territories and are seen here only as visitors in ones and twos were well represented.

The single BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER at Little Hbr., *Shelburne*, Mar. 1, may have over wintered, but all other sightings were undoubtedly fresh arrivals. The NAMC total (38) represented a low count in comparison to other years, as did the peaks at CSI (31) and Windsor Causeway (70-75). Uncommon in spring, the reports of three AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVERS were noteworthy.

There was no indication of a breeding pair of SEMIPALMATED PLOVER at CSI, although one bird was present. Let us hope that we have not lost our southernmost breeding-toehold in North America and that there will be good news in the summer report. PIPING PLOVER arrived later than usual but appear to have been very successful in the two locations heard from, Cherry Hill, *Lunenburg* and Martinique, *HRM*. For the full picture see the report from Anna McCarron, Co-ordinator of the NS Piping Plover Guardian Program, in the next issue. The KILLDEER which arrived on the early side at Hartlen, *HRM*, Mar. 1, provided DOU with a happy surprise on a wintery day.

Two AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS returned to CSI and have nested on the same island as last year. They were joined by a third, Apr. 16, but it seems to have disappeared and there has been no sign of additional nesting pairs. This is disappointing, particularly for their faithful guardians at CSI.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS were scattered about in average numbers, but the NAMC produced the lowest numbers in five years. Of the total (234), the majority were on CBI (78) and in *Pictou* (59). WILLETS also made a poor showing on the NAMC (425), down from the last several years. Of these, preferences were for *HRM* (57), *Lunenburg* (100), and *Shelburne* (126).

Almost annual, an UPLAND SANDPIPER set down at CSI, Apr. 17, perhaps having strayed enroute to a breeding site in New Brunswick. Five WHIMBREL on a rocky outcrop at Cherry Hill, *Lunenburg*, May 8, provided an unusual concentration for spring.

Very unusual was the occurrence of an off-course HUDSONIAN GODWIT at CSI, May 11, which should have been on a northern route through the central plains. An earlier sighting was recorded on the NAMC in 1996.

Four over wintering RUDDY TURNSTONES lingered for the NAMC at CSI and the two late-May sightings elsewhere were probably newly arrived migrants. Similarly, RED KNOTS were in diminished numbers and the five on the NAMC may have all been overwinterers. The six SANDERLING at CSI, May 8, were probably all that remained from the 40 counted there Mar. 1. This was one of the lowest NAMC totals on record for this species. Twelve, in bright alternate plumage, at Martinique, *HRM*, May 29 were obviously fresh migrants. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS were more visible this spring and the 38 at Cherry Hill, *Lunenburg*, May 30, represented a record-high seasonal count for this site. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS often do not touch down here in spring, so two sightings of three individuals are worth noting. PURPLE SANDPIPERS were in the usual good numbers into May, although the 14 at Brier I. were the only ones visible on the NAMC. The single at Neils Hbr., *Victoria*, May 28 was a rather late lingerer. DUNLIN, one of our hardest over-wintering shorebirds, showed up 115 strong on the NAMC at CSI. For the second year in a row two were at Morien Bar, *CBRM*, May 24.

MUN spotted the only **RUFF** at Mavillette Beach PP, *Yarmouth*, May 1 as it mingled with Greater Yellowlegs.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS occur irregularly in spring, often at CSI. This year, however, the two early-May sightings of basic-plumaged birds were at Brier I. and Cherry Hill, *Lunenburg*. A **LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER**, unprecedented in spring, appeared at CSI, May 18, where MUN was able to study it in good light and "have great looks at feather colouring and pattern."

WILSON'S SNIPE were a welcome sight when they appeared and well-reported, although only 62 were recorded on the NAMC, about half of the previous years' total. AMERICAN WOODCOCK began appearing in mid-March and as IAM notes, these birds are a "more reliable indicator of spring than robins or blackbirds." They turned up in all locales: yards, middle of roads, carparks and one was even found probing in ten inches of new snow. Further evidence of their abundance was provided by the BSC Nocturnal Owl Surveys, where in *Pictou* and *Richmond* alone, 12+ were heard on each route. □

#### Black-bellied Plover

Mar. 22	Little Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	DHY
Apr. 25	CSI	10	MUN
May 1	Brier I.	1	ELM
May 1-11	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
May 8	<i>Hants, Lunenburg, Shelburne</i>	4, 3, 31	NAMC
May 22-30	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	3	SEM
May 14-27	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	26	SJF, JAH

#### American Golden Plover

May 5-6	Hartlen, <i>HRM</i>	1 basic	IAM
May 8	<i>HRM</i>	1	NAMC
May 14-30	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1 alt	SJF, JAH, ELM
May 31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1 alt	KJM

#### Semipalmated Plover

Apr. 25, May 15	CSI	1	David Seller, SIS
May 8	<i>HRM</i>	1	NAMC
May 22	Brier I.	2	ELM, IAM
May 30	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
May 31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM

#### Piping Plover

Apr. 7	Daniels Hd., CSI	1	CST
Apr. 8	Martinique, <i>HRM</i>	2	TEP
May 1	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
May 2-29	Martinique, <i>HRM</i>	8 ads.	TEP, ULH
Apr. 9	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
May 18	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	4 ads., 8 chicks	JAH

#### Killdeer

Mar. 1	Hartlen, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Mar. 13, Apr. 28	Brier I.	1, 4	JUS
Mar. 25	<i>Yarmouth</i>	several	MUN
Apr. 6	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Apr. 7	Wolfville Ridge	2	JCT
Apr. 8	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	1	Andy Moir, C. Callaghan
Apr. 9	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	2	TEP
Apr. 21	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	V. J. Higgins
May 1	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	3	SEM
May 1	Palmeter Woods, <i>Kings</i>	6+	JCT, JET
May 8		73	NAMC

#### American Oystercatcher

Apr. 8 & 12	The Hawk, CSI	1, 2	MUN
Apr. 16	The Hawk, CSI	3	MUN

#### Greater Yellowlegs

Apr. 18	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP
Apr. 18 & 20	CSI	1, 20	MUN
Apr. 21	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Apr. 24	Melbourne, <i>Yar.</i>	11	PRG
Apr. 25	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	3	RBS
Apr. 26	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL
Apr. 27	West Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	3	PLC
Apr. 28	Sheffield Mills, <i>Kings</i>	5	JCT
May 1	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	11	SEM
May 3	St. Anns, <i>Vic.</i>	3	BSK
May 6	Sutherlands R., <i>Pict.</i>	11	FLL <i>et al.</i>
May 8		234	NAMC
May 8-10	Brier I.	3-6	ELM, AHM
May 27	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH
May 30	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	9	SEM
May 31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM

#### Lesser Yellowlegs

May 8		22	NAMC
May 18	APBS	1+	TEP

#### Solitary Sandpiper

Apr. 29	Wilmot, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JOB
May 13	Middle R., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM

#### Willet

Apr. 23	CSI	1	MUN
Apr. 24	Pubnico Hd., <i>Yar.</i>	3	RSD
Apr. 24	Back Oler Farm Marsh, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Apr. 24	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	6	RHL
Apr. 25	Lyles Bay, <i>Shel.</i>	1	SAH
May 1 & 24	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	4, 63	SEM
May 1	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	5	SJF
May 2	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
May 8		425	NAMC

#### Spotted Sandpiper

May 2	Eureka, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
May 8		15	NAMC
May 17	Second L., Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
May 17	Grand Etang, <i>Inv.</i>	1	BSK
May 19	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	2	SEM
May 30	Morien Bar, Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	4, 5	SEM
May 23-24	BPI	2-3	KJM, Clare Diggins

#### Upland Sandpiper

Apr. 17	Hirtle Pond, CSI	1	MUN
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#### Whimbrel

May 8, 30	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	5, 1	SJF, EIM
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#### Hudsonian Godwit

May 11	The Hawk, CSI	1	MUN
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#### Ruddy Turnstone

Apr. 10, May 8	CSI	4	MUN, NAMC
May 25	Glace Bay	1	BES
May 30	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1 ad.	ELM, AHM

#### Red Knot

Apr. 21, May 8	CSI	3, 5	MUN, NAMC
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#### Sanderling

Mar. 1	CSI	40	JON
Apr. 11	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, SJF
May 8	CSI	6	NAMC
May 29	Martinique, <i>HRM</i>	12 alt. plumage	ULH

#### Semipalmated Sandpiper

May 30	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
May 30	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	38	SJF
May 31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM

#### Least Sandpiper

May 8		6	NAMC
May 15	Port Williams sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i>	20	George Forsyth
May 17	The Hawk, CSI	25	FLL
May 20-23	Brier I.	12-15	ELM, IAM
May 26, 30	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, ELM
May 30	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	25	SEM
May 31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	5	KJM

#### White-rumped Sandpiper

May 22	Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM, IAM
May 24	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	2	SEM

#### Purple Sandpiper

Apr. 9	Cottage Cove, <i>Anna.</i>	42	PBG
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May 2	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	100	SEM	May 5	Big Baddeck, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
May 8	Brier I.,	14	ELM, NAMC	May 8		62	NAMC
May 28	Neils Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	1	AAM	May 19	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
<b>Dunlin</b>				May 19	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Mar. 1, Apr. 25	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	120+	JON, MUN	<b>American Woodcock</b>			
May 8	<i>CSI</i>	115	NAMC	Mid-March	Allendale, <i>Shel.</i>	1	Danny Wolfe, <i>fide</i> DJC
May 24	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	2	SEM	Mar. 17	East Ragged I., <i>Shel.</i>	1	DHY
<b>Ruff</b>				Mar. 18	Sable R., <i>Shel.</i>	1	JCZ
May 17	Mavillette Beach PP, <i>Dig.</i>	1	MUN	Mar. 19	Dartmouth	1	John Moffit
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>				Mar. 19	Lower Clarks Hbr., <i>CSI</i>	1	JON
May 6-7	Brier I.	2 basic plumage	ELM, IAM	Mar. 28	Argyle Sound, <i>Yar.</i>	1	RSD
May 8	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1 basic plumage	SJF, NAMC	Mar. 31	Salmon River Rd., <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
<b>Long-billed Dowitcher</b>				Apr. 5	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 18	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	1	MUN	Apr. 9	South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
<b>Wilson's Snipe</b>				Apr. 14	Caribou, <i>Pict.</i>	12+	KJM
Mar. 13	Brier I.	1	JUS	Apr. 30	Stirling Rd., <i>Rich.</i>	12+	SEM
Apr. 11	Salmon River Rd., <i>CBRM</i>	2	SEM	May 8		44	NAMC
Apr. 14	Caribou, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>			
Apr. 28	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	3	JCT	May 19	mixed flock off Brier I.	Red-necked mostly	Shelley Barnaby
Apr. 28	Oldham-Goffs Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL				
May 3	Goose Creek, Roberts I., <i>Yar.</i>	4	PRG				

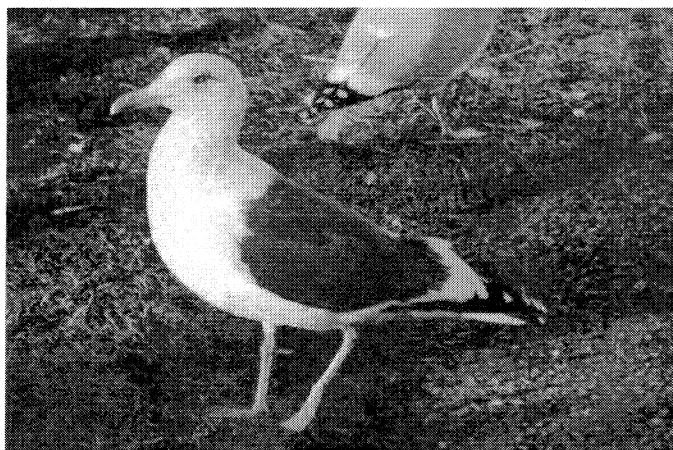
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## Skuas through Alcids

By Eric Mills

By the end of May, it was difficult to find anything but morose-looking non-breeding Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls along our shores, but earlier in the season a reasonable representation of winter diversity remained. An immature **LAUGHING GULL** in northern Cape Breton May 26 was unusual more for location than for date. DMW's and RHL's notes document the decline during March of the wintering population of **BLACK-HEADED GULLS** at a favoured location, Conrads Beach, *HRM*. Other reports were sparse, but an adult lingered at Lockeport, *Shel.*, into early May. **BONAPARTE'S GULLS** appear to have made a minor appearance in mid-April but were little noted later except in only two locations, *Pictou* and *Antigonish* during the NAMC May 8. The wintering population of **RING-BILLED GULLS** east of Halifax began to decline throughout March and was replaced by a trickle of new arrivals, with the exception of "hundreds" feeding on the riches of Ogdens Pond, *Ant.*, April 26 - presumably New Brunswick breeders stoking up for the season. BSK noted the first arrival of Ring-bills in St Anns Bay and Baddeck, *Vic.*, May 25. Earlier, of 432 observed widely scattered through the province during the NAMC May 8, 75% were in *Pictou*, *Colchester*, *Antigonish* and *Victoria*. The hybrid **HERRING x GLAUCOUS GULL** ("Nelson's Gull") found by DJC at Lockeport, *Shel.*, during the winter stayed at least until April 27.

By mid-April **ICELAND GULL** numbers had dropped sharply except for an interesting group of four to six at the New Minas, *Kings*, sewage ponds, April 24-26 and a striking 116 in *CBRM* during the NAMC May 8. After mid-May, scattered individuals remained only in northern Cape Breton. A small floating population of **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS** in the Canard-Grand Pré area, *Kings*, from late March through April contained one adult that appeared to be unusually dark-mantled to be our



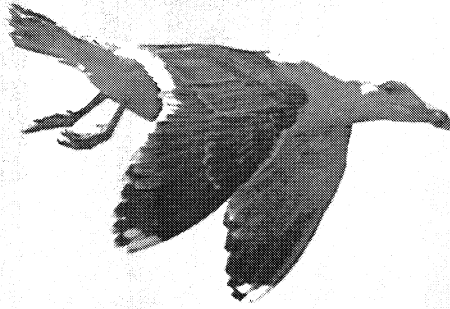
These two photos are sufficient to confirm last winter's "mega-tick," the **SLATY-BACKED GULL** discovered by ALM and CAM during the Glace Bay CBC, Dec. 26. Note on the walking bird, the "smudged" area around the eye, exceptionally broad, white "tertial crescent," and the long, rather narrow bill, with very little gonys bulge. The flight shot shows from below the characteristic grayish, rather than blackish, primaries (the outer, 10<sup>th</sup> one not fully grown) and, most diagnostically, the clear "string of pearls" of white spots inside the black tips of the outermost primaries. The colour originals also show its characteristic vivid pink legs and, in detail, the mauve-red orbital ring. [Photos (Left) Cathy Murrant, (Right) Richard Stern.]

usual *graellsii*, but it was never fully pinned down. At less customary locations, a third-winter bird was at Herring Cove, *HRM*, April 9-10, and two were along KJM's beat, the Northumberland Strait shore, at Linden, *Cum.*, April 12. One was recorded, without details, in *CBRM* during the NAMC May 8. Overwintering GLAUCOUS GULLS lingered, sparsely to mid-April; a surprising three were seen at scattered locations during the NAMC May 8. An adult GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL at Digby March 31, banded with green on both legs, was of unknown origin according to RBS. SEM's notes document the arrival of breeding BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES in the Louisbourg area, *CBRM*, beginning in early March and a stable population by mid-April. At the Bird Islands in St. Anns Bay, *Vic.*, Sheila Van Schaick noted birds on site May 15.

EBR were delighted by a CASPIAN TERN that briefly inspected the impoundments at Annapolis Royal May 7. The next day one was in St. Margarets Bay, *HRM*, and another in *Cumberland*, perhaps indicating a repeat of last year's unusual number of reports. About on schedule, our sparse population of ROSEATE TERNS returned to scattered colonies in the middle of May. Arrivals of COMMON TERNS centered on May 12, although the first were recorded in *Pictou* May 2 and at Jersey Cove, *Vic.*, May 16. Of a total of 158 sparsely scattered during the NAMC May 8, 139 were in *Pictou*. ARCTIC TERN reports were few, but appeared to follow the pattern of mid-May arrival except for two in *HRM* during the NAMC.

Spring alcid records were few, after a winter during which all the usual species were sporadic at best. DOVEKIES lingered no longer than the first week of April except for two reported (no details) in *Digby* during the NAMC May 8. A COMMON MURRE in the inner Bay of Fundy, May 8, was unusual and KJM found a lone and last THICK-BILLED MURRE on the Eastern Shore April 19. "Several hundred" RAZORBILLS flying SW past Northern Point, Brier Island, in early April were likely migrants rather than part of the sizeable wintering population in the vicinity. Summer residents were first detected on the Bird Islands, *Vic.*, May 15. The two ATLANTIC PUFFINS found by Jeff Ertle and Floyd Kent (*vide* BSK) in Baddeck Bay, *Vic.*, March 25 were unusually far from the open sea; date and location suggest that they were late winter strays rather than spring arrivals. A few accompanying Razorbills off Brier Island, April 10 may have been migrants rather than Machias Seal Island birds, whereas those in the same area on May 7 and 19 were likely locals. The first summer-resident Puffins were noted on the Bird Islands, *Vic.*, May 19. □

<b>Laughing Gull</b>				Apr. 25	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i>	2-2 <sup>nd</sup> year	HAT	
May 26	White Pt., <i>Vic.</i>	1-2 <sup>nd</sup> summer	AAM	May 3	Lunenburg Hbr.	1-2 <sup>nd</sup> year	ELM	
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>				May 8	<i>CBRM</i>	116	NAMC	
Mar. 2-31	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	12-1	DMW	May 10	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 imm.	DJC	
Mar. 9	Sydney Hbr.	2	BSK	May 24	Bay St. Lawrence, <i>Vic.</i>	2	AAM	
Mar. 15	Lunenburg Hbr.	6	JAH <i>et al.</i>	May 27	New Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	AAM, SMM	
Apr. 1	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	5	RHL	<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>				
Apr. 26	Antigonish Landing, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL	Mar. 23	Lower Canard, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad., photographed	RBS	
May 5	Lockeport	1 ad.	DJC	Apr. 9	Sheffield Mills, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	JCT	
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>				Apr. 9-10	Herring Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1-3 <sup>rd</sup> winter	IAM, DHU	
Apr. 16	Back Hbr., <i>Lun.</i>	2 ads.	ELM	Apr. 10	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	RBS	
Apr. 17	Lyons Brook, <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM	Apr. 12	Linden, <i>Cum.</i>	2	KJM	
May 8	<i>Pictou</i>	23	NAMC	Apr. 12	Saxon St., <i>Kings</i>	1	LOC	
May 8	<i>Antigonish</i>	6	NAMC	Apr. 25	near Canning, <i>Kings</i>	3 ad. <i>graellsii</i>	ELM	
<b>Ring-billed Gull</b>				Apr. 25	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	LOC, DCO	
Mar. 1-21	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1-4	LOC	May 8	<i>CBRM</i>	1	NAMC	
Mar. 2-16	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	32-1	DMW	<b>Glaucous Gull</b>				
Apr. 1-8	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	3-10	RHL	Mar. to 21	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 imm.	DJC	
mid-Apr.	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	"several"	DJC	Mar. 27	Lower Prospect, <i>HRM1</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> winter	BLM	
Apr. 8	Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM	Mar. 31	Digby	1-1 <sup>st</sup> winter, photo	RBS	
Apr. 16	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	4	KFS	Apr. 10	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC, FLL <i>et al.</i>	
Apr. 18	Port Greville, <i>Cum.</i>	2	JCZ	mid Apr.	Digby	1-1 <sup>st</sup> winter	RBS	
Apr. 24	Wolfville ca.	20	JWW	May 8	<i>CBRM</i>	1	NAMC	
Apr. 26	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	Hundreds	RFL	May 8	<i>HRM</i>	1	NAMC	
May 8	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JOB	May 8	<i>Vic.</i>	1	NAMC	
May 8	<i>Pictou</i>	97	NAMC	<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>				
May 23	Brier I.	1 (scarce in season)	ELM	Mar. 31	Digby	1 ad. banded	RBS	
May 25	St Anns Bay, Baddeck, <i>Vic.</i>	Returned	BSK	<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>				
<b>Herring X Glaucous Gull ("Nelson's Gull")</b>				Mar. 3-27	Green I., <i>CBRM</i>	40	SEM	
Jan. to 27	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC	Mar. 9	Sydney Hbr.	1	BSK	
<b>Iceland Gull</b>				Apr. 6-20	Green I., <i>CBRM</i>	55/60	SEM	
Mar. 9 Mar.	Sydney Hbr.	3	BSK	Apr. 29	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	26	SEM	
Mar. 27 Mar.	Lunenburg Hbr.	2 ads., 2 imm.	ELM	May 2	Louisbourg area	34 on ledges	SEM	
Apr. 1	N. Sydney	7	BSK	May 8	<i>CBRM</i>	20	NAMC	
Apr. 5	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	60	LOC	May 8	<i>Inverness</i>	40	NAMC	
Apr. 10	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1-3 <sup>rd</sup> year	ELM	May 9	Off N. Pt., Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM	
Apr. 10	Off N. Pt., Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM	May 15	Bird Is., <i>Vic.</i>	Returned	S. Van Schaik <i>vide</i> BSK	
Apr. 14	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	2	JWW	<b>Caspian Tern</b>				
Apr. 12	Linden, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KJM	May 7	Annapolis Royal	1	EBR <i>vide</i> ELM	
Apr. 16	Lunenburg Hbr.	1-1 <sup>st</sup> year	ELM	May 8	St Margarets Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, NAMC	
Apr. 17	Dan's Head, <i>CSI</i>	2	FLL <i>et al.</i>	May 8	<i>Cumberland</i>	1	NAMC	
Apr. 24-26	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	4-5	JWW					



Gulls, when suddenly spotting some food, can make some remarkably awkward manoeuvres, but they're always fully in control. [Photo Bernard Burke]

**Roseate Tern**

May 11	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
May 12	Westhaver I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
May 21-23	BPI	2	KJM, Claire Diggins

**Common Tern**

May 2	Lyons Brook, <i>Pict.</i>	7	KJM
May 6	Brothers Is., <i>Yar.</i>	Arrived	RSD <i>vide</i> PRG
May 8	Goose Creek, <i>Yar.</i>	6	PRG
May 8	<i>Pictou</i>	139	NAMC
May 9	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	2	DHU
May 12	Off Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	Robbie Denton <i>vide</i> JUS
May 12	Westhaver I., <i>Lun.</i>	50	JAH

May 15	Burnside, <i>HRM</i>	3	LOC
May 16	Jersey Cove, <i>Vic.</i>	Returned	BSK
May 17	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
May 23	BPI	65	KJM, Claire Diggins
May 24	Glace Bay Sanctuary, <i>CBRM</i>	20+	BES

**Arctic Tern**

May 8	<i>HRM</i>	2	NAMC
May 12	Westhaver I., <i>Lun.</i>	10	JAH
May 12	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	2	SJF, JSC
May 21-23	BPI	2	KJM, Claire Diggins
May 24	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	4	FLL/NSBS

**Dovekie**

Mar. 14	Ketch Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
Apr. 7	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JOB
May 8	<i>Digby</i>	4	NAMC

**Common Murre**

May 8	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JOB, NAMC
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**Thick-billed Murre**

Apr. 19	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
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**Razorbill**

Apr. 10	Off N. Pt., Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	Several hundred	ELM
May 15	Bird Is., <i>Vic.</i>	Returned	S. Van Schaick <i>vide</i> BSK
May 19	Off Brier I., <i>Digby</i>	1	Shelley Barnaby

**Black Guillemot**

Apr. 2	Ingomish, <i>Vic.</i>	13	BSK
Apr. 9	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	3-4	PLC, JEH
Apr. 18	Louisbourg	5	SEM
May 21-22	BPI	2	KJM, Claire Diggins
May 24	Bay St. Lawrence, <i>Vic.</i>	20	AAM

**Atlantic Puffin**

Mar. 25	Baddeck Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	2, far inland	<i>vide</i> BSK
Apr. 10	N. Pt., Brier I.	A few with Razorbills	ELM
May 7	N. Pt., Brier I.	ca. 30	ELM
May 15	Bird Is., <i>Vic.</i>	Returned	S. Van Schaick <i>vide</i> BSK
May 19	Off Brier I.	several	Shelley Barnaby

□□□

## Doves Through Woodpeckers

By Ian McLaren



This obliging HAIRY WOODPECKER posed in a backyard in Portugese Cove, *HRM*, in late March [Photo Hans Toom]

ROCK PIGEON numbers were down to mid-90's levels on the NAMC. A bird appearing briefly Apr. 21 at a feeder in Barrington, *Shelburne*, had the white closed-wing streak and face mark of a **WHITE-WINGED DOVE** (RMC), but alas did not stay for others to see. **Two** arrived May 31 at GEC and BES's Glace Bay feeders (where one occurred in Aug. '91); our total, now 28, is probably the largest claimable by any state or province beyond the fringes of their normal range. **MOURNING DOVES** were about as usual for recent NAMCs and most other reports add no insights on spring arrivals. *Lunenburg* again hosted an escaped parrot – this one a cockatiel (species?) near Blue Rocks (JAH).

All the usual owls were still below their mid-90's levels on the NAMC. Nonetheless, the tabulations suggest some recovery from 2000-2001, despite last winter's snow. Note, in the Owl Surveys, high counts of **GREAT HORNED** on CB, **BARRED** on the mainland, and **NORTHERN SAW-WHET** throughout. The CB Owl Surveys are nicely analysed in three annual reports by SEM to Bird Studies Canada and we hope to have a summary in a future issue.

Sometimes **COMMON NIGHTHAWKS** claimed as heard in April have been "singing" woodcock, but the near-record early one Apr. 20 was viewed overhead (HAT). The mere single on the NAMC (a record low since the mid-90s) and the few late-May arrivals are disturbing. There were no reports of **WHIP-POOR-WILLS**. Hopefully they will show up in June.

The heartening counts of **CHIMNEY SWIFTS** were, as usual, mostly at large chimneys: at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre in Wolfville, the Middleton,



*Annapolis*, High School, Temperance St. school in New Glasgow, the NS Agricultural College at Truro, and the former Oakdene School in Bear River, *Annapolis*. Huge night-to-night variations in numbers in Wolfville and Middleton were related to harassment (and kills) by local Merlins. JWW reminds us that swifts can spend all night aloft. One wonders, though, if there are nightly shifts among roosts by these swift flyers. Notable daytime gatherings of feeding swifts were "3-4 dozen" over Frog Pond, Spryfield, HRM, May 24 (FCG) and 200+ at White Rock Pond, *Kings*, May 26 (BLF). Also remarkable (not tabulated) were 215 leaving the Wolfville chimney at 10:15-10:30 a.m. May 26 (JCT), 27 entering at 11:35 a.m. May 27 (BLF), and a massive ~500 entering the New Glasgow Chimney 08:45-08:48 a.m. May 30. We have much to learn about these amazing birds.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS were rated earliest ever at some feeders, and the male at the Bouque feeder near Stewiacke, *Colchester*, contended with -7°C in early morning Apr. 24 (AAM). The first female reported was at Wolfville Ridge May 13 (JCT). We're not getting all reports, as one sighting Apr. 29, and several others May 4-5 are mapped on the web site <<http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html>>.

Among tabulated BELTED KINGFISHERS the two in early March had certainly survived winter locally, and the April arrivals were not particularly early.

At least four RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS presumably survived from the record fall invasion. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS arrived seasonably, with an evident "spurt" after mid-April. The resident woodpeckers were perhaps down a little from the past few years on the NAMC, but otherwise scantily reported. NORTHERN FLICKERS on CSI and in metro HRM in early March were certainly winter survivors, but there seemed to be a clear spurt of arrivals around mid-April. A male flushed from a nest with six eggs in Kentville, May 20 (BLF). A discussion on naturens of preventing damage to backyard trees by PILEATED WOODPECKERS closed when RFL told of dissecting one that was full of earwigs, concluding "yeah for the Pileateds!" ☐

#### White-winged Dove

Apr. 21 Barrington, *Shel.* 1 RMC  
May 31 Glace Bay, *CBRM* 2 GEC, BES

#### Mourning Dove

Mar. 10-24 Sable I. 2 migrants? ZOL

#### Great Horned Owl

Apr.-May Brier I. pair ELM *et al.*  
Apr. 2 South Annapolis Valley 1 PBG  
Apr. 11 Owl Survey, *Col.* "a few" Helene Van Donick  
Apr. 23 Lower Rose Bay, *Lun.* 1 ELM  
Apr. 30 Owl Survey, *CBRM* 20 (!) SEM  
Early May Greenwood, *Kings* 2 young PBG, RBS  
May 6 Hantsport, *Hants* 2 young JSI  
May 16 Lunenburg ad. FLL  
May 21-24 BPI 3 KJM *et al.*  
May 17-24 Near Highway 8, *Lun.* 2 fledged JAH

#### Snowy Owl

Mar. 1-Apr. 20 Cape Sable, CSI 1 fem. MUN *et al.*

#### Barred Owl

Mar. 29 Middle Musquodoboit, *HRM* 1 V.J. Higgins  
Mar. 29 Owl Survey, *CBRM* 1 SEM  
Apr. 2 South *Kings* 1 PBG  
Apr. 6 Owl Survey, *Anna.* several P. MacDonald  
Apr. 9 Clyde River Rd., *Shel.* 2 MUN  
Apr. 11 Owl Survey, Truro area several Helene Van Donick  
Apr. 12 Owl Survey, *Lun.* 5 JAH  
Apr. 22 Owl Survey, *Guys.* 1 RFL  
Apr. 23 Lower Rose Bay, *Lun.* 1 ELM  
Apr. 23 Owl Survey, *HRM* 5 PLC  
May 1 Kentville pair AAM  
May 1 Long I., *Digby* 1 Jamie Swift *vide* JUS  
May 5 Owl Survey, *Lun.* 10 JAH, SJF  
May 12 Owl Survey, *Col.* 27 (!) SMB, FLL  
May 15 Lewis Lake PP, *HRM* 1 BBA

#### Long-eared Owl

Mar. 1-20 CSI 1 MUN *et al.*  
Mar. 29&31 Owl Survey, *CBRM* 1 SEM *et al.*  
Apr. 4 Granville Beach, *Digby* 1 long dead Scott Leslie  
May 12 Owl Survey, *Col.* 1 SMB, FLL

#### Short-eared Owl

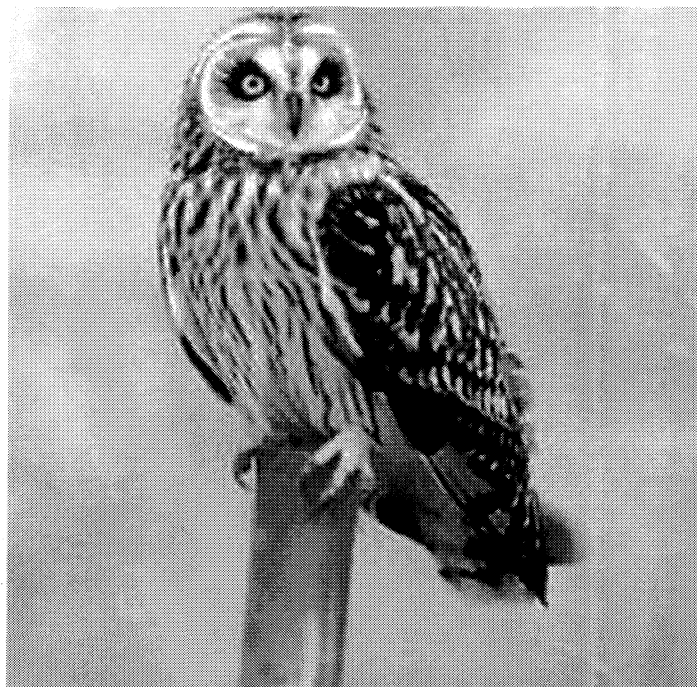
Mar. 1-20 CSI 1-2 MUN *et al.*  
Mar. 27-Apr. 4 Hartlen Pt., *HRM* 1 PLC, DOU, JOW  
Mar. 25 Grand Pré, *Kings* 2 RBS  
Mar. 26 Wellington Dyke, *Kings* 2-3 JCT

#### Northern Saw-whet Owl

Mar. 19-Apr. 7 Wolfville Ridge 1 JCT, BLF  
Mar. 29 Owl Survey, *CBRM* 1 SEM  
Mar. 31 Gaspereau, *Kings* 2 BLF  
Apr. 12 Owl Survey, *Lun.* 5 JAH  
Apr. 22 Owl Survey, *Guys.* 2 RFL  
Apr. 23 Owl Survey, *HRM* 1 PLC  
May 20 Owl Survey, *Rich.* 9 SEM  
May 23 Apple R., *Cum.* 1 KFS

#### Common Nighthawk

Apr. 20 Mt. Uniacke, *Hants* 1 HAT



Hartlen Pt., *HRM*, is one of the more promising places to find SHORT-EARED OWLS from winter through early spring. This one was photographed Mar. 20. [Photo Alice Gidney]

May 20	Wolfville	1	JWW	<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>		
May 30	Annapolis	5-6	PRG	Mar. 2	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	1 JOB
May 30	over Mersey R., Keji. NP	10	PEH	Mar. 3	Bear R., <i>Digby</i>	1 MCR
May 31	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	Apr. 8	Antigonish Landing	1 JOK
<b>Chimney Swift</b>				Apr. 9	Brier I.	1 ELM
Apr. 29-May 11	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	2	JOB	Apr. 9	South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	pair BSK
May 6	New Glasgow	4	FLL	Apr. 17	Oxners Beach., <i>Lum.</i>	1 JAH
May 9-10	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	80-90	JOV	Apr. 19	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1 RHL
May 10	Wolfville	12	JWW	Apr. 20-May 31	widely	many var. obs.
May 11-31	Truro	105-846	Linda Hall, ROH, DBM	<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>		
May 13	Spryfield, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC	Nov 15-Apr.	Mulgrave, <i>Gtys.</i>	1 A. Meagher
May 15	New Glasgow	21	KJM	Mar. 20	Carleton, <i>Yar.</i>	1 MUN
May 15-21	South Brookfield, <i>Queens</i>	3-36	PEH	May 17	Liverpool	1 Eric Harding
May 15-31	Wolfville	5-373	JWW, var. obs.	May 22	Birch Cove, Dartmouth	1 Bernard Burke
May 16-23	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	46-522	JOB, JOV	<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>		
May 20	New Glasgow	516	KNK, J. McGee	Apr. 9	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1 DOC
May 25	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	79+	JET	Apr. 17	The Hawk, CSI	1 MUN, FLL
<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>				Apr. 17	Brier I.	5 CAH
Apr. 23-24	Stewiacke, <i>Col.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> AAM	Apr. 19	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lum.</i>	1 JAH
Apr. 30	Berwick, <i>Kings</i>	1	<i>fide</i> PBG	Apr. 21	Dartmouth	1
May 1	Lunenburg	1	<i>fide</i> JAH	Apr. 24	<i>Pictou</i>	several KJM
May 2	South Mountain, <i>Kings</i>	1	David Smith	May 1-31	widely	many var. obs.
May 3	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	1	SDI	<b>Northern Flicker</b>		
May 6	Waverley, <i>HRM</i>	1	LPP	Mar. 2	Halifax	2-3 JCZ
May 6	Windsor	1	A. Slaunwhite	Mar. 3	CSI	several MUN
May 6	Truro	1	<i>fide</i> ROH	Mar. 26-27	Halifax	4 PLC
May 6	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC	Mar. 27	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1 RHL
May 6	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	Apr. 12-13	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 LOC
May 7	South Ohio	1	<i>fide</i> PRG	Apr. 14	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	mating LOC
May 9	Brier I.	1	JUS	Apr. 15-May 31	widely	many var. obs.
May 9	Wolfville Ridge	1	JCT			
May 9	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC			
May 10-31	widely	many	var. obs.			□□□

## Flycatchers through Thrushes

By Andy Horn

Several observers commented that species in this section seemed to have arrived early. High counts of LEAST FLYCATCHERS and TREE SWALLOWS on the NAMC might bear out this impression, though other species counts were roughly average. Unusual was a NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW, well observed from 20 feet at Goose Creek Marsh, *Shelburne*. "It kept to itself. It was very brown above and brownish white below" (PRG). CLIFF SWALLOWS returned to the Halifax International Airport in the second week of May as usual, but made only about 20 nests compared to the 120 nests made in 2000 (DHH).

The scarcity of BOREAL CHICKADEES and GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLETS was also commented on by several observers this spring. Trends are always hard to discern from the handfuls of reports received for these species (usually 5-10 each), but their NAMC provincial totals were very similar to recent years. Additional highlights include a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER in Canso and what seemed to have been a mini-invasion of WOOD THRUSHES, with individuals appearing in three counties over just two days. □

### Olive-sided Flycatcher

May 16	Conquerall Mills, <i>Lum.</i>	1	SJF, BAH
May 24	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	V.J. Higgins
May 28	Apple River, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 29	<i>Yarmouth</i>	1	MUN
May 31	Bible Hill, <i>Col.</i>	1	DBM
May 31	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM
<b>Eastern Wood-Pewee</b>			
May 1	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
May 21-22	Brier I.	2	ELM, IAM, JUS
May 23	Halifax	1	AGH
May 23	Hartlen Pt.	1	AGH
May 29	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
May 29	Hectanooga, <i>Digby</i>	1	MUN
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>			
May 24	BPI	1	KJM, Claire Diggins <i>et al.</i>
May 31	Halifax	1	IAM

### Alder Flycatcher

May 22	Brier I.	1+	JUS
May 30	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	V.J. Higgins
May 30	Timberlea, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, RIH
May 30	Hartlen Pt.	5+	IAM
<b>Least Flycatcher</b>			
May 1	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	2-3	AAM
May 9	Provincial total	704	NAMC
May 12	Maitland, <i>Lum.</i>	2	JAH, Alan Macleod, Jan Brown
May 20	Lake William, <i>HRM</i>	3	FLL and Mike Crowell
May 24	Hartlen Pt.	1	AGH
May 24	Port l'Hebert, <i>Queens</i>	6	NSBS
May 24	West Wentworth, <i>Cum.</i>	1	PLC
May 29	Lake Egmont, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC, SMB, FLL
May 30	Timberlea, <i>HRM</i>	2	FLL <i>et al.</i>

**Eastern Phoebe**

Apr. 8	Brier I.	2	ELM, AHM
Apr. 10	Brier I.	"lots"	CAH <i>fide</i> JUS
Apr. 15	Yarmouth	1	MUN
Apr. 18	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Apr. 27	Goose Creek, <i>Shel.</i>	1	PRG
Apr. 30	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF
Apr. 30	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	2	AAM
Apr. 30	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM
May 1	Pictou	1	KJM
May 22	Brier I.	1	AAM, SMM
May 24	Wentworth, <i>Cum.</i>	1	PLC

**Great Crested Flycatcher**

May 22	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	2	BLF
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**Eastern Kingbird**

Apr. 26	Yarmouth	1	MUN, JON, CST
May 1	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
May 1	Brier I.	1	Robbie Denton <i>fide</i> JUS
May 7	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
May 10	Brier I.	1	ELM
May 22	Brier I.	6	ELM, IAM
May 21-22	BPI	5	KJM, Claire Diggins <i>et al.</i>

**Northern Shrike**

Mar. 1	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm.	LOC, DCO
Mar. 15-30	Apple River, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Mar. 24	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.	LOC
Mar. 9	Breton Cove, <i>Vic.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> Joan Kerr
Apr. 2	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL
Apr. 7	South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
Apr. 9	Brier I.	1 imm.	ELM, AHM, CAH

**Blue-headed Vireo**

Apr. 29	CSI	1	MUN
Apr. 30	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
May 1	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	6	AAM, JCT, JET
May 1	Rhodes Corner, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
May 1	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	6	JCT, JET
May 2	Jolimore, <i>HRM</i>	2-3	PLC
May 2	Five locations in <i>Pict.</i>	5+	KJM
May 4	South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK

**Warbling Vireo**

May 19	CSI	2	MUN
May 30	CSI	1	MUN

**Philadelphia Vireo**

May 21-23	BPI	1	KJM, Claire Diggins <i>et al.</i>
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**Red-eyed Vireo**

Apr. 30	Rhodes Corner, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
May 3	Rhodes Corner, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
May 18	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	2	BLF
May 20	Lake William, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, Mike Crowell
May 21-24	BPI	3	KJM, Claire Diggins <i>et al.</i>

**Blue Jay**

Apr. 2	Wolfville area, <i>Kings</i>	"substantial movement"	JCT
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**Horned Lark**

Apr. 12	Jersey Cove, <i>Vic.</i>	3	BSK
May 22	Brier I.	1	( <i>alpestris</i> ) ELM, IAM

**Swallows sp.** (Bank 60%, Tree 35%, Barn 5%)

May 10	New Minas	1800-2000	JCT
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**Purple Martin**

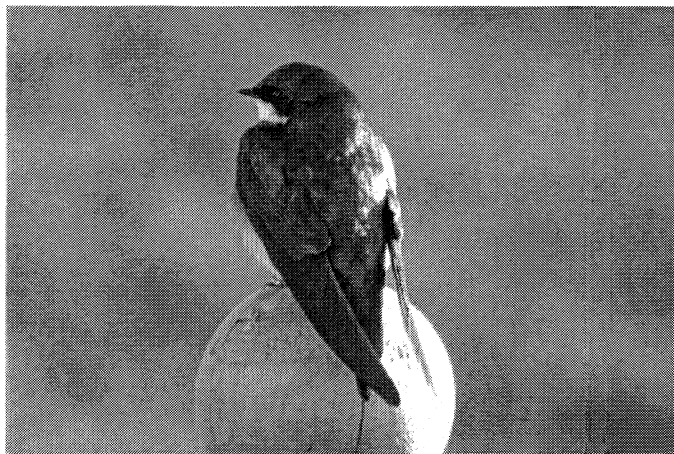
Apr. 15-16	CSI	1	MUN, JON
May 10	Oxford, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KBL <i>fide</i> JCT

**Tree Swallow**

Apr. 8	Brier I.	1	ELM, AHM, CAH
Apr. 10	Brier I.	1	CAH <i>fide</i> JUS
Apr. 10	Carleton, <i>Yar.</i>	1	JCZ
Apr. 11	Dartmouth, <i>HRM</i>	"a few"	DHU
Apr. 12	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	3-4	RBS
Apr. 14	CSI	1	MUN
Apr. 15	Mira Gut, <i>CBRM</i>	3	GEM, JUM, <i>fide</i> SEM
Apr. 20	Goose Creek, <i>Shel.</i>	100	PRG
Apr. 24	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	150-200	JCT
Apr. 26	Yarmouth	1500	MUN, JON, CST
May 8	Provincial total	6726	NAMC

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

Apr. 27	Goose Creek, <i>Shel.</i>	1	PRG
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TREE SWALLOWS bring a touch of elegance when they return to our backyards in April. [Photo Richard Stern]

**Bank Swallow**

May 7	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 21-22	BPI	1	KJM, Claire Diggins <i>et al.</i>
May 30	Tantallon, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC, SMB, JEH

**Cliff Swallow**

May 12	Oakfield Park, <i>HRM</i>	20	FLL, SMB
May 12	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	2	FLL
May 21	Big Baddeck, <i>Vic.</i>	1+	BSK
May 24	Baddeck Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	1+	BSK

**Barn Swallow**

Apr. 9	Oxford, <i>Col.</i>	1	HAT, LAE
Apr. 10	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
Apr. 10	North Kemptville, <i>Yar.</i>	1	JCZ
Apr. 11	New Hbr., <i>Guys.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> TOK
Apr. 15	Catalone, <i>CBRM</i>	3	Philip Magee <i>fide</i> SEM
May 22	Brier I.	(10+ arriving off sea)	ELM, IAM

**Black-capped Chickadee**

May 7	Brier I.	20 (migrants)	ELM
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**Boreal Chickadee**

May 9	Provincial total	107	NAMC
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**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

May 6	Brier I.	4 (arrivals)	ELM, IAM
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**White-breasted Nuthatch**

May 11	North River, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
Mar. 22-25	Sunrise Valley, <i>CBRM</i>	1	FMC

**House Wren**

May 17	Wolfville	1	BLF
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**Marsh Wren**

May 18	Amherst Pt.	1	TEP
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**Golden-crowned Kinglet**

May 9	Provincial total	375	NAMC
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**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

Apr. 16	Brier I.	1	CAH
Apr. 18	Lower West Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1	RSD
Apr. 20	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	"small numbers"	TEP
Apr. 21	Elgin, <i>Pict.</i>	1	HAB, JEB, <i>fide</i> KJM
Apr. 23	Jolimore, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
Apr. 23	3 locations in <i>Vic.</i>	4+	BSK
Apr. 29	Amherst Pt., Wallace Bay	16+	HAT

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

May 9	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1	TOK
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**Eastern Bluebird**

Apr. 29-30	CSI	1	MUN
May 1	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	2	JUS
mid-May	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	2	BLF
May 22	<i>Kings</i>	2	<i>fide</i> JCT
May 22	Woodside, <i>Kings</i>	2	<i>fide</i> JWW
May 22	New Salem, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 23	Ingonish, <i>Vic.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> FMC
May 23	Neils Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> FMC
May 22	Brier I.	2	ELM, IAM
May 24	Brier I.	2	AAM, SMM

May 31	Advocate, <i>Cum.</i>	2	<i>fide</i> JCZ	Apr. 26	Halifax	1	PLC
May 31	Economy, <i>Cum.</i>	2	FLS <i>fide</i> JCZ	May 5	St. Anns, <i>Vic.</i>	2	BSK
<b>Veery</b>				May 10	Big Baddeck, <i>Vic.</i>	2	BSK
May 14	Big Baddeck, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK	<b>Wood Thrush</b>			
May 22	Beechville, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL	Apr. 17	CSI	1	var. obs. <i>fide</i> MUN
<b>Swainson's Thrush</b>				May 14	CSI	1	MUN
May 15	Card Lake, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JRH	May 15	Avonport	1	SAW
May 21-23	Brier I.	1	ELM, IAM	May 15	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	1	AND
May 21-24	BPI	2-4	KJM, Claire Diggins <i>et al.</i>	<b>American Robin</b>			
May 24	Wentworth, <i>Cum.</i>	1	PLC	Mar. 30	Wolfville area	"large flocks"	JCT
<b>Hermit Thrush</b>				Apr. 9	Brier I.	50+ (arrivals)	ELM
Apr. 17	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RLF	Apr. 13	Eastern Shore, <i>HRM</i>	"ubiquitous"	RHL
Apr. 17	CSI	35	var. obs.	Apr. 19	St. Anns, <i>Vic.</i>	30+	BSK
Apr. 23	Lower Eel Brook, <i>Yar.</i>	1	PRG	May 26	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	"hundreds"	JCT
Apr. 25	Waverley, <i>HRM</i>	1	LPP			○○○	

## Mimics Through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

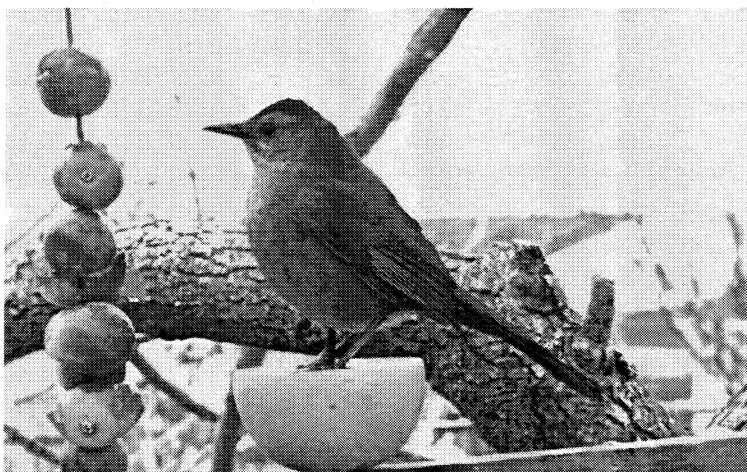
EUROPEAN STARLING numbers were the lowest in the last five years of the NAMC, but at 5126 this total is up about 700 from a similar date in 1999. Mimic thrushes, GRAY CATBIRD and NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD were substantially down in numbers this NAMC, continuing a trend of the last six years. The count was held on a similar, early date in 1999 when there were 12 catbirds (five in 2004) and 15 mockingbirds (one in 2004). On the other hand, BROWN THRASHER reports are on the increase with four on the NAMC this year, all from *Shelburne*. None were noted in 1999 NAMC. Outside of this spring count, there were quite a few reports of thrashers often aggressively driving other birds from yards (MUN).

AMERICAN PIPITS are not seen every year on the NAMC, so the sole individual from *Shelburne* was unusual. The large number of BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS seen in the winter remained into March and mid-April. PLC noted some seen in late March seem to be near starvation as they fought over a couple of discarded half-eaten apples. She also noted that on a warm day in early April she saw some fly-catching over a stream in Lower Prospect. None were tallied on the NAMC. CEDAR WAXWINGS were encountered from time-time in late winter, often in mixed flocks with Bohemians. Early spring birds were found by AAM eating red maple blossoms in his *Kings* backyard May 4.

There were 26 species of warbler reported in the province this spring including rather rare spring reports of a YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER and YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. A male BLUE-WINGED WARBLER seen by those on the NSBS field trip to BPI on the Victoria Day weekend is not as rare but still unusual in spring. A total of 2674 warblers were seen on the NAMC, up from 2425 seen on the similar date in 1999. Comparing data from 1999 NAMC shows a significant increases in NORTHERN PARULA, BLACK-THROATED GREEN, and BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER but a 50% decline in the number of PALM WARBLERS. I received about 25 reports of approximately 45 birds for Northern Parula.

An early YELLOW WARBLER was noted in late April but migration was clearly still on in late May with good numbers seen daily on the offshore islands. No reports were received from CBI for May.

Observations by CAH May 12 reveal many warblers appearing out of the offshore fog to land on sunny Brier I. Robbie Denton fishing in fog off Brier I. that day could hear lots of warblers flying about. A MAGNOLIA and a BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER landed aboard his boat (*fide* JUS). Those that made it to shore included lots of Black and White, Yellow, Myrtle, Blackpoll, Parula, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers. CAH described the scene as amazing and that the birds appeared very tame. By the next day, JAH was noting many of the same species in *Lunenburg* locales and SAH noted a fall-out in Port Clyde area of *Shelburne*. Further to the north, the only warblers noted by FMC in the Sunrise valley, *Victoria*, prior to May 17 were Myrtles. TOK noted this as well on the Chapel Gully Trail in Canso May 24. Also May 24, AAM noted warblers were scarce in Cape North, *Victoria*, due to a late spring there.



GRAY CATBIRDS, such as this one in Canso, don't very often come to feeders. [Photo Tom Kavanaugh]

There were over 40 reports received of YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, with reports to April 10 considered by their observers to be of over-wintering birds. By May 2, there were reports of many birds singing from locations all over the province. May 1, AAM discovered a female gathering nesting material in Palmetter Woods, *Kings* with a male looking on nearby.

From the 30+ notes received, BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS arrived about May 1 and peaked in mid-May. A PINE WARBLER March 3 was most certainly an over-wintering bird, but birds heard singing May 10 (TEP) and May 19 (AAM) might be individuals trying to set-up a breeding territory. As far as I know, I don't think a nest has been found in NS although it is widespread across southern Maine and there are some reports in western NB. From the 27 reports received, PALM WARBLERS made their first appearance in the province April 16 on Brier I. The NE winds that day dropped six on the island and sightings of this species became widespread over the mainland in a short time.

Although seven BLACKPOLL WARBLERS were tallied on the NAMC, I only receive individual reports from later in the reporting period. An OVENBIRD was found dead May 9 in Petite Rivière; the back of the skull apparently hit with a BB or pellet gun. Although seven were noted on the NAMC, I did not receive any observations prior to the count. □

**Gray Catbird**

Apr 21	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM
May 8-9	Brier I., NAMC	1	RBS, ELM
May 8	Melvem Square, <i>Annapolis</i>	2	JOB
May 12	Daniels Hbr., CSI	1	MUN
May 13-15	CSI	1	JON
May 21	Brier I.	1	ELM, IAM
May 22	Broad Cove, <i>Lunenburg</i>	1	NSBS <i>fide</i> JAH
May 22	Lakeside, HRM	1	FLL
May 25	Canso	1	TOK

**Northern Mockingbird**

Apr 10-11	Bridgewater	1	<i>fide</i> JAH
May 1	CSI field trip	3	MUN
May 11	Brier I.	1	JUS
May 18	Wolfville Ridge	1	Dennis Brannen <i>fide</i> JWW
May 21	Indian Pt., <i>Lunenburg</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JAH
May 23	BPI	1	<i>fide</i> Claire Diggins
May 24	Canso marina	1	TOK
May 30	Apple R. <i>Cumberland</i>	1	KFS

**Brown Thrasher**

Apr 4 <sup>th</sup> week	Morden	1	Roger Short <i>fide</i> PBG
May 1	CSI field trip	1	MUN
May 1	Pubnico Pt. <i>Yarmouth</i>	1	AGH
May 4-8	Newellton, <i>Shelbourne</i>	1	MUN
May 7	Daniels Hbr., <i>Shelbourne</i>	1	<i>fide</i> MUN
May 7-18	CSI	1	JON
May 16	Cape I. "forest", <i>Shelbourne</i>	1	JON <i>fide</i> MUN
May 20	Upper Kingsburg, <i>Lunenburg</i>	1	JAH
May 31	"the hole", CSI	1	MUN

**American Pipit**

Mar 6	Hartlen Pt. HRM	2	TEP
May 12	The Hawk, CSI	6	MUN

**Bohemian Waxwing**

Mar 5	Conrose Field, HRM	20	PLC
Mar 7	E. Margaretsville, <i>Annapolis</i>	60	JWW
Mar 7	Elm St., Halifax	3	PLC
Mar 10-22	Apple R., <i>Cumberland</i>	12+	KFS
Mar 11	Lower Sackville, HRM	6	LOC
Mar 11	Beech St., Halifax	6	PLC
Mar 13	Wolfville	40	JET
Mar 14	Wolfville	20	JWW
Mar 15	Blue Rocks, <i>Lunenburg</i>	5	JAH
Mar 19	Beech St., Halifax	20	PLC
Mar 19	Lockeport, <i>Shelbourne</i>	75	DJC
Mar 22	Caribou I., <i>Pictou</i>	100+	KJM
Mar 24-26	Canard St., <i>Kings</i>	45-85	JCT
Mar 24	Wolfville	200+	<i>fide</i> JCT
Mar 24	University of Kings, HRM	12	PLC
Mar 25	Dalhousie U. campus, HRM	25	ELM
Mar 25	Wolfville	100+	JWW
Mar 27	Trenton Gut, <i>Pictou</i>	25	KJM
Apr 2	near Wolfville	8	JCT
Apr 9	Lower Prospect, HRM	8	PLC, JEH
Apr 12	Lake Midway, <i>Digby</i>	30+	Liz Gidney
Mar 13	Yarmouth	12	MUN

Mar 14	Wolfville	4	JWW
Mar 15	Blue Rocks, <i>Lunenburg</i>	30+	JAH <i>et al.</i>
Mar 25	Wolfville	1	JWW
Mar 31	Brier I.	?	JUS
Apr 3	Wolfville	13	JET
Apr 5	Beech St., Halifax	4	PLC
May 4	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	8	AAM
May 18	Lower W. Pubnico, <i>Yarmouth</i>	8	RSD
May 19	Apple R., <i>Cumberland</i>	1	KFS
May 23	Spryfield, HRM	30	FLL, Janice Keating
May 23	BPI	5	KJM
May 28	North R., <i>Victoria</i>	1	BSK
May 31	Lower Sackville, HRM	12	LOC

**Blue-winged Warbler**

May 21	BPI	1	NSBS <i>fide</i> Claire Diggins
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**Tennessee Warbler**

May 22	Petite Riviere, <i>Lunenburg</i>	1	NSBS
May 23	Crousetown, <i>Lunenburg</i>	5	SJF, BAH
May 30	Lewis Lake Park, HRM	1	PLC, JEH, SMB

**Nashville Warbler**

May 2	Spectacle L., Burnside, HRM	1	TEP
May 5	Lewis L., HRM	1	JOW
May 15	Lewis L., HRM	2	BBA
May 15	Burnside, HRM	1	LOC
May 17	Apple R. <i>Cumberland</i>	4	KFS
May 31	Cape Split, <i>Kings</i>	1	HAT

**Northern Parula**

May 1	Palmetter Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT, JET
May 1	West Branch, <i>Pictou</i>	1	KJM
May 2	Goose Creek Marsh, <i>Shelbourne</i>	1	MUN
May 3	Goose Creek Marsh, <i>Shelbourne</i>	7	PRG
May 6	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
May 12	Kentville Ravine	4	JCT
May 16	South Haven, <i>Victoria</i>	1	BSK
May 21	Big Baddeck, <i>Victoria</i>	1	BSK
May 22-23	Brier I.	7 daily	IAM, ELM
May 24	BPI	2	NSBS

**Yellow Warbler**

Apr 30	Lower Sackville, HRM	1	LOC
May 4	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM
May 6	Spectacle L., Dartmouth	1	TEP
May 8	B.L.T. Trail, HRM	1	SMB, ABM
May 12	Kentville	male	RBS
May 12	Lockeporte, <i>Shelbourne</i>	lots	DJC
May 15	Stellarton, <i>Pictou</i>	1	KJM
May 19	Apple R., <i>Cumberland</i>	2	KFS
May 21-23	Brier I.	20 daily	ELM, IAM
May 22	BPI	22	NSBS
May 23-24	BPI	25+	NSBS

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

May 4	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	2	AAM
May 7	Brier I.	1	RBS
May 15	Lewis L., HRM	4	BBA
May 15	Goat L. Trail, <i>Lunenburg</i>	1	FLL
May 15	Burnside, HRM	2	LOC
May 16	East R., <i>Lunenburg</i>	3	FLL <i>et al.</i>

## Spring Warblers



One of the most colourful of our warblers is the **AMERICAN REDSTART**, the more so because of its flashy behaviour. [Photo Richard Stern]



The **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** is more often seen creeping on tree trunks than perched on small twigs. [Photo Richard Stern]



The male **YELLOW WARBLER** is further glorified by its reddish breast striping. [Photo Richard Stern]



The **MAGNOLIA**, like this one near Malagash, is one of our commonest warblers, and likely to be seen in a wide range of habitats. [Photo Bernard Burke]



The **NORTHERN PARULA** often reveals itself in the treetops by its high activity and loud singing. This one was at APBS May 17. [Photo Terry Paquet]



Surely the male **BLACK-THROATED BLUE** is one of the most striking warblers, cherished the more because it is not routinely seen. This one in Sunrise, *Victoria*, was a little beyond its core range in S. Nova Scotia. [Photo Fritz McEvoy]

May 22-23	Brier I.	male	ELM	Apr 18	Sober I., HRM	1	MAB
May 24	BPI	2	NSBS	Apr 18	Canso	1	TOK
May 25	St. Anns, <i>Victoria</i>	1	BSK	Apr 19	West Sable R.	1	DHY
<b>Magnolia Warbler</b>							
May 5	Mt. Uniacke,	1	LOC	Apr 19	Trafalgar, <i>Pictou</i>	1	KJM
May 7	Card L., <i>Lunenburg</i>	1	JAH	Apr 19	Brier I.	3	CAH
May 12	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	many	RBS	Apr 22	Apple R., <i>Cumberland</i>	1	KFS
May 12	offshore Brier I.	1	<i>fide</i> JUS	May 3	St. Anns, <i>Victoria</i>	1	BSK
May 16	Cape I., <i>Shelbourne</i>	1	JON	May 4	South Haven, <i>Victoria</i>	4	BSK
May 16	Eastern Run Trail, HRM	1	RHL	May 8	Apple R., <i>Cumberland</i>	12	KFS
May 19	Apple R., <i>Cumberland</i>	1	KFS	<b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b>			
May 22-24	BPI	2-4 daily	NSBS	May 12 & 31	The Hawk, "The Hole", CSI	1	MUN
<b>Cape May Warbler</b>							
May 17 & 30	APBS	1	TEP	May 16	Mersey Connector Rd.	10	NSBS
May 22	BPI	1	NSBS	May 19	The Hawk, House 38, CSI	1	MUN
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler</b>							
May 8	Quinan, <i>Yarmouth</i>	1	RSD, PRG	May 22	Brier I.	1	JUS
May 12	off-shore Brier I.	1	<i>fide</i> JUS	May 30	APBS	1	TEP
May 15	Lewis L., HRM	4	BBA	May 31	Cape Split, <i>Kings</i>	1	HAT
May 15	Goat L. Trail, <i>Lunenburg</i>	3	FLL <i>et al.</i>	<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b>			
May 21	Mineville, HRM	1	RHL	May 11	Fleming Park, HRM	1	PLC
May 21	Sunrise Valley, <i>Victoria</i>	1	FMC	May 16	Cape I., <i>Shelbourne</i>	1	JON
May 30-31	The Hawk, CSI	male	MUN	May 20	The Hawk, CSI	1	MUN
May 31	Cape Split, <i>Kings</i>	1	HAT	May 20	Lake William, HRM	1	FLL, Mike Crowell
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>							
Mar 3	Kenney Rd., CSI	1	MUN	May 22	Brier I.	4	ELM, IAM
Mar 25	Rainbow Haven PP, HRM	3	RHL	May 22	BPI	12	NSBS
Apr 8	Conrad's Beach, HRM	2	RHL	May 23	BPI	15	NSBS
Apr 10	Conrad's Beach, HRM		TEP	May 24	BPI	17	NSBS
Apr 21	Apple R., <i>Cumberland</i>	1	KFS	May 24	Keji Seaside Adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	several	NSBS
Apr 21	Eastern Shore, HRM	1	<i>fide</i> SMB	<b>Black and White Warbler</b>			
Apr 23	Conrads Beach, HRM	2	RHL	May 1	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT, JET
Apr 23	Fleming Park, HRM	6 males	PLC	May 2	Riverton, <i>Pictou</i>	1	KJM
Apr 25	Van Nostrum's Pond, <i>Kings</i>	4 males	RBS	May 2	Lower Sackville, HRM	few	TEP
Apr 27	Rhodes Corner, <i>Lunenburg</i>	lots	JAH	May 3	North R., <i>Victoria</i>	1	<i>fide</i> Bev Brett
Apr 30	Brier I.	lots	CAH	May 4	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM
May 1	South Haven, <i>Victoria</i>		BSK	May 4	Middle R., <i>Victoria</i>	1	BSK
May 1	Big Baddeck, <i>Victoria</i>		BSK	May 5	Lewis L., HRM	1	JOW
May 2	Kennington Cove, CB	lots	SEM	May 6	Waverley, HRM	1	TEP
<b>Black-throated Green Warbler</b>							
May 1	Palmer Woods <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT, JET	<b>American Redstart</b>			
May 2	Bedford, HRM	2	PLC	May 8	Tarbot, <i>Victoria</i>	2	<i>fide</i> Karen Smith
May 2	Elgin, <i>Pictou</i>	1	KJM	May 12	Kentville	male	RBS
May 2	Goose Creek, <i>Shelbourne</i>	1	MUN	May 12	Kentville Ravine	1	JCT
May 2	Uniacke Estates, HRM	1	TEP	May 15	Card L., <i>Lunenburg</i>	1	JAH
May 3	Goose Creek, <i>Shelbourne</i>	1	PRG	May 15	Burnside, HRM	1	LOC
May 4	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM	May 20	Lake William, HRM	2	FLL, Mike Crowell
May 5	Lewis L., HRM	1	JOW	May 22	BPI	6	NSBS
May 10	Oakfield Park, HRM	5	TEP	May 23	BPI	3	NSBS
May 12	Kentville Ravine	5	JCT	May 24	BPI	11	NSBS
May 13	Oakfield Park, HRM	12	TEP	<b>Ovenbird</b>			
May 15	Mersey Connector Rd., <i>Lunenburg</i>	20	FLL <i>et al.</i>	May 9	Petite Riviere, <i>Lunenburg</i>	1	JAH
May 11	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	11	AAM	May 11	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	3	AAM
May 15	Lewis L., HRM	7	BBA	May 12	Kentville Ravine	2	JCT
May 15	Card L., <i>Lunenburg</i>	9	JAH	May 13	Oakfield Pk., HRM	1	TEP
May 15	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	15	AAM	May 15	Lewis L., HRM	2	JOW
May 16	South Haven, <i>Victoria</i>		BSK	May 15	Stellarton, <i>Pictou</i>	2	KJM
May 16	Big Baddeck, <i>Victoria</i>		BSK	May 15	Card L., <i>Lunenburg</i>	5	JAH
<b>Blackburnian Warbler</b>							
May 13	Oakfield Park, HRM	5	TEP	May 15	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	25	AAM
May 15	Card L., <i>Lunenburg</i>	2	HAF, JAH	May 20	Big Baddeck, <i>Victoria</i>	1	BSK
May 15	Mersey Connector Rd., <i>Lunenburg</i>	3	FLL <i>et al.</i>	<b>Northern Waterthrush</b>			
May 17	Baxters Hbr.	1	RBS	May 1	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1-2	AAM, JCT, JET
May 22	South Haven, <i>Victoria</i>	1	BSK	May 1	Rockfield, <i>Pictou</i>	male	KJM
May 23	Sunrise Valley, <i>Victoria</i>	1	FMC	May 2	Conquerall Mills, <i>Lunenburg</i>	2	SJF, EIM
<b>Yellow-throated Warbler</b>							
May 31	The Hawk, CSI	1	MUN	May 5	Mid. Musquodoboit, HRM	male	V.J. Higgins
<b>Pine Warbler</b>							
Mar 3	Dartmouth	1	TEP	May 6	Second L., HRM	1	TEP
May 10	Oakfield Park, HRM	1	TEP	May 15	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	4	AAM
May 11	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM	<b>Mourning Warbler</b>			
<b>Palm Warbler</b>							
Apr 16	Brier I.	6	CAH	May 31	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF
Apr 17	CSI	lots	MUN	<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>			
				May 1	The Hawk, CSI	1	FLL
				May 8	Brier I.	1	ELM
				May 12	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	RES
				May 15	Palmer Woods, <i>Kings</i>	3	AAM
				May 15	Goat L. Trail, <i>Lunenburg</i>	2	FLL <i>et al.</i>
				May 15	Burnside, HRM	1	DCO
				May 22	Brier I.	4	ELM, IAM
				May 22 & 23	BPI	6	NSBS
				May 24	BPI	10	NSBS

<b>Wilson's Warbler</b>			May 16	Conquerall Mills, Lunenburg	1	SJF	
May 5	Breton Cove, Victoria	1	Joan Kerr <i>fide</i> BSK	May 20	Rocky L., HRM	1	FLL, Mike Crowell
May 8	BLT Trail, HRM	2	SMB, ABM	May 30	Lewis L., HRM	6	FLL, RIH
May 17	APBS	1	TEP	May 31	Fox R., Cumberland	1	JCZ
May 25	Brier I.	1	Liz Gidney	<b>Yellow-breasted Chat</b>			
May 26	Sand L., CB Co.	2	GEC	May 4	East LaHave, Lunenburg	1	Dave Watson <i>fide</i> JAH
<b>Canada Warbler</b>							
May 15	Palmeter Woods, Kings	1	AAM			□□□	

## Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By Ian McLaren

This group was assigned to me after the end of the season, thus I was unable to save the ephemera of NatureNS. Fortunately, our faithful direct correspondents supplied a sense of season, and rarities were well archived on NS-RBA. The NAMC, in addition to giving abundances, supplied a few first spring sightings.

It was a "reds-and-blues spring," the former predominating, although admittedly more blues than reds. Seven SUMMER TANAGERS were outstanding and there were more than usual SCARLET TANAGERS; perhaps more will stay and nest.

There were hints of March movements by some overwintered sparrows and arrivals were timely. Most regulars were somewhat fewer on this year's NAMC, but time will tell if these are trends. No longspurs were reported, although doubtless some were seen. Among rarities, there was a good show of EASTERN TOWHEES, and an unexpected CLAY-COLORED SPARROW on CSI (JON *et al.*) was added to the three that successfully wintered. Study by ELM, RBS, and IAM suggested that one of two FIELD SPARROWS on Brier I. had characteristics of the greyish western race *arenacea*. Comparisons of RBS's fine photos with published and web sources suggest it might have been from the Midwestern "intergrade" zone with the eastern *pusilla*. The only VESPER SPARROWS reported were on the NAMC. The only NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS had probably wintered locally. Among the transient WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS on Brier I., was one of the western "taiga" race *gambelii*, unusual in spring, and again nicely photographed by RBS.

The NAMC suggests that NORTHERN CARDINALS numbers have stabilized in recent years. One female in Dartmouth was seen attacking her image on a car's rear view mirror (PLC). Such behaviour is well known among males of many species, but unusual for females. "Overshooting" BLUE GROSBEAKS were frequent, but INDIGO BUNTINGS about average for recent years. Two overwintered DICKCISSELS departed long before the two May vagrants. Did the latter winter locally, or come from afar?



This spanking FOX SPARROW, having wintered at a feeder in Portuguese Cove, HRM, became very active with the arrival of migrants in early April, and was photographed Apr. 4. [Photo Hans Toom]

The common blackbirds appeared at the usual times in March. It is unsettling to see continuing paucity of RUSTY BLACKBIRDS, which is now rated by COSEWIC as a species of concern. Good numbers of ORCHARD ORIOLES appeared at feeders, but few BALTIMORE ORIOLES compared with the mid-1990s and 2000-2002 bonanzas.

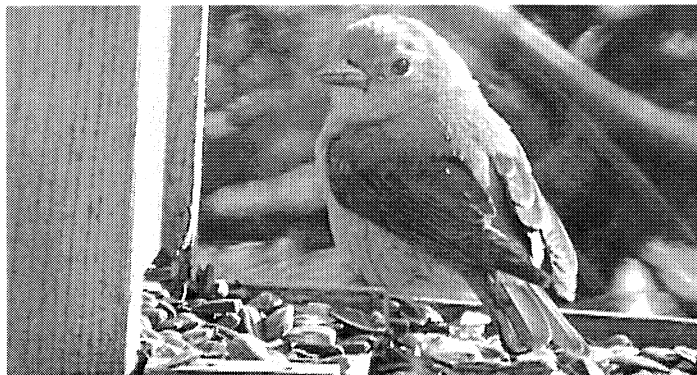
Winter finches generally came and went on schedule. On this year's NAMC, PURPLE FINCH was particularly numerous, PINE GROSBEAK and AMERICAN GOLDFINCH down somewhat, and others held their own.

Finally, NAMCs suggest that HOUSE SPARROWS have sustained their slight 1990s recovery. They have become of conservation concern in the UK and parts of Western Europe. □

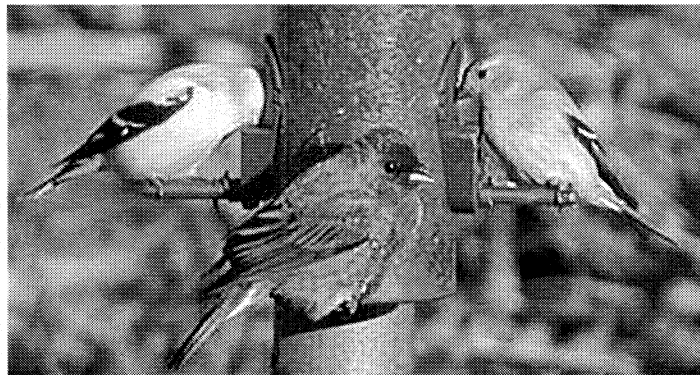


## Photo Gallery

This was a great Spring for reds, blues, and yellows at feeders. Here is a selection of photos of some of these regular, and less-regular, visitors.



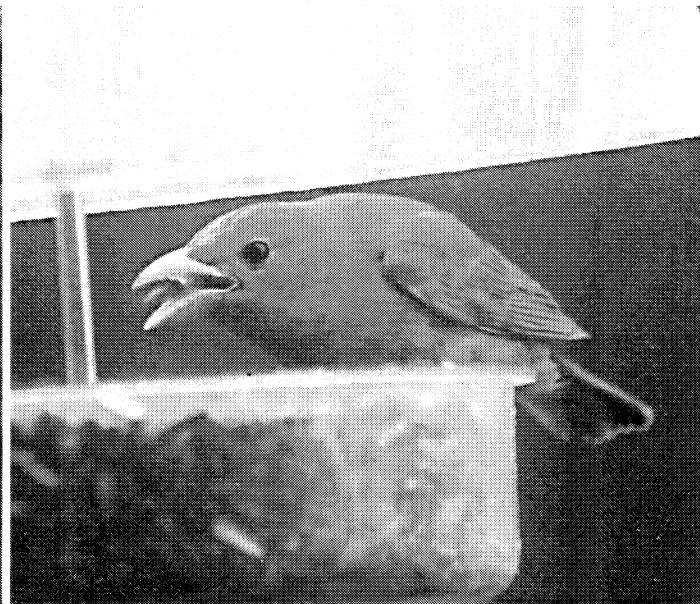
This female SCARLET TANAGER, although hardly as flamboyant as the male, was a welcome guest at a Canso feeder this spring. [Photo Tom Kavanaugh]



An overshooting male INDIGO BUNTING is an eye-catching arrival among regulars at a CSI feeder. [Photo Grant Milroy]



Among the loveliest of migrants attracted to our feeders are ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS, such as this one at Terry Crowell's feeder in Atwoods Brook, Shelburne. [Photo Grant Milroy]



This stunning male SUMMER TANAGER, one of several this season, frequented a feeder at Lr. Rose Bay, Lunenburg, where it was photographed May 4. [Photo Elizabeth Doull]



The BALTIMORE ORIOLES that use our feeders in spring, come in a variety of plumages; this one is a first spring male. [Photo Fritz McEvoy.]



This striking male INDIGO BUNTING at Sunrise, Victoria, May 22, was one of the more far-flung of this spring's "overshooting" migrants. [Photo Fritz McEvoy]



This elegant little FIELD SPARROW on Brier I. in early May seemed sufficiently gray-toned to persuade observers in the field that it might be of the western subspecies *arenacea*. Inspection of this elegant photo (in colour) is not so convincing, as it showed some wash of buff upper breast and flanks. Perhaps it was from some intermediate area between the eastern and western forms, which are really only extremes in what may be a "cline" of geographical variation. [Photo Richard Stern]

#### Summer Tanager

Apr. 30	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	male	KFS <i>et al.</i>
May 3-8	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	male	<i>fide</i> JAH
May 15	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	imm. male	D. Cameron
May 20	Broad Cove	imm. male	SJF, JSC
May 22-26	Cape Forchu, <i>Yar.</i>	imm. male	C. Smalley, EBR
May 22-27	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	fem.	V.J. Higgins
May 30-31	Canso	fem.	TOK

#### Scarlet Tanager

Apr. 17	Hawk Hill, CSI	male	<i>fide</i> MUN
May 6	Canso	male	TOK
May 6	Sutherlands R., <i>Pict.</i>	male, sings	FLL <i>et al.</i>
May 9	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	male	Marion Alward
May 14	Antigonish	male (& fem.?)	<i>fide</i> RFL
May 16-22	BPI	1 banded	ABO
May 22	Brier I. male		<i>fide</i> AAM
May 23-31	Sunshine, <i>Vic.</i>	fem.	FMC
May 30	The Hawk, CSI	male	MUN

#### Eastern Towhee

Apr. 23	CSI	male	MUN
Apr. 30-May 8	Lower Clarks Hbr., CSI	male, feeder	JON <i>et al.</i>
May 2	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	male	KFS <i>et al.</i>
May 6	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	male, singing	FCG

#### American Tree Sparrow

Mar. 12	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	14+, feeder	KFS
Mar. 13	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	18, migrants?	V.J. Higgins
May 13	Sunshine, <i>Vic.</i>	latest	FMC

#### Chipping Sparrow

May 4	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> seen	LOC
May 4	Big Baddeck, <i>Vic.</i>	2, 1 <sup>st</sup> seen	BSK
May 5	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
May 6	Sutherlands R., <i>Pict.</i>	3	FLL
May 6-10	Brier I.	2 to "many"	ELM, RBS
May 8-31	widely	many	var. obs.

#### Clay-colored Sparrow

Mar. ?	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	var. obs.
Apr. 25	Canso	2, from winter	TOK
May 6	Canso	1, from winter	TOK
May 8-30	Lower Clarks Hbr., CSI	1 at feeder	JON

#### Field Sparrow

May 6-9	Brier I.	2 at feeders	ELM, RBS
May 8	Little Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1 at feeders	DHY

#### Savannah Sparrow

Apr. 10	Martinique Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	NSBS
Apr. 24-27	<i>HRM, Kings, Victoria</i>	several reports	var. obs.
Apr. 30-May	widely	several reports	var. obs.

#### "Ipswich" Sparrow

Apr. 5	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	3	DOU <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 10	Martinique Beach, <i>HRM</i>	several	NSBS
May 17	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1 (late)	IAM

#### Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

May 8	<i>Yarmouth</i>	2	NAMC
May 15	Wolfville dykelands	1 ("wintered?")	AAM

#### Fox Sparrow

Mar. 10	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 wintered, song	HAT
Mar. 15	<i>Victoria</i> , var. locations	6 (wintered?)	<i>fide</i> BSK
Mar. 28	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1 wintered	ELM, AHM
Mar. 30-Apr. 6	Whites L., <i>HRM</i>	6 arrived	BLM
Mar. 30-31	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 arrived	V.J. Higgins
Mar. 30-Apr. 15	widely	many reports	var. obs.
May 21-24	BPI	13 breeding	KJM, NSBS

#### Song Sparrow

Mar. 3	Lower Sackville	1 wintered, song	LOC
Mar. 15-21	Sable I.	1 arrived	ZOL
Mar. 22-31	<i>HRM, Vic.</i>	many arrivals	var. obs.
Mar. 30	Bear R., <i>Cum.</i>	30+	KFS
Apr. 8-10	Brier I.	30-50+ migrants	AHM, ELM
May 21-24	BPI	28-32 resident	KJM, NSBS

#### Lincoln's Sparrow

Apr. 24	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 at feeder	V.J. Higgins
May 4-5	South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
May 6	South Hd., <i>CBRM</i>	1	GEC
May 15	Goat L. Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1	FLL
May 20	Brier I.	1	ELM

#### Swamp Sparrow

Apr. 9	Brier I.	1	ELM
Apr. 23	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
Apr. 30	Kentville	several	AAM
May	widely	numbers	var. obs.

#### White-throated Sparrow

Mar. 2-20	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1 wintered	DMW
Apr. 1	South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1 arrived	BSK
Apr. 4	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 arrived	KFS
Apr. 6	Bedford, Halifax, <i>HRM</i>	3 arrived	PLC
Apr. 21+	South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	30+ per day	BSK

#### White-crowned Sparrow

Apr. 22	Brier I.	1	AAM, SSM
May 6-10	Brier I.	2-9 daily	ELM, RBS
May 8-24	widely	many	var. obs.

#### Dark-eyed Junco

Mar. 16	Apple R. <i>Cum.</i>	5 wintered?	KFS
Mar. 18	Argyle Hd., <i>Yar.</i>	"dozens" arrived	RSD
Mar. 18-23	Sable I.	2 arrived	ZOL
Mar. 27	Point Pleasant Park, <i>HRM</i>	10+	PLC
Mar. 30	Apple R. <i>Cum.</i>	50+	KFS
Mar. 30-31	South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	4-8 arrived	BSK
April	widely	numbers	var. obs.
May 2	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	nest building	PLC, JEH
May 30	Lewis Lake PP, <i>HRM</i>	feeding young	PLC, SMB

#### Lapland Longspur

Mar. 25	Cape Sable	2	GRM, SIS
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#### Snow Bunting

Mar. 3	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	150 on wires	M.E.
Higgins			
Mar. 12-13	Apple R. <i>Cum.</i>	2 at feeder	KFS
Mar. 15	Sable I.	15	ZOL
Mar. 28	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	6	M.E. Higgins
Apr. 12	Jersey Cove, <i>Vic.</i>	2	BSK
May 2	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	3, latest report	KJM

#### Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Apr. 22	Tamarack Drive, Halifax	male, feeder	L. Keizer
Apr. 30	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	fem., feeder	LOC
May 7	Lower Clarks Harbour, CSI	male, feeder	JON
May 7-10	Brier I.	2-5 daily	ELM
May 8-31	widely	many	var. obs.

#### Blue Grosbeak

Apr. 23	Brier I.	fem.	JUS
May 1	Brier I.	2 at feeder	JUS
May 17-18	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	male at feeder	FMC
Late May	Allendale, <i>Shel.</i>	fem.	André Fiske <i>fide</i> DJC

**Indigo Bunting**

Apr. 17 The Hawk, CSI 1 MUN  
 May 1 Great Village, Col. 1 male *fide* FSS  
 May 3 Upper Northfield, Lum. 2 *fide* JAH  
 May 5 The Hawk, CSI 2 JON  
 May 8-31 widely ~20 var. obs.

**Dickcissel**

Winter-Apr. 17 Lower Sackville, HRM fem. LOC  
 Winter-Mar. 12 Lockeport, Shel. 1 DJC  
 May 16-17 Port Joli fem. Arrived AND, J. Addelson  
 May 17 Little Hbr., Shel. 1 arrived DHY

**Bobolink**

May 8 Cumberland, Kings, Inverness 4 NAMC  
 May 12 Apple R., Cum. 1 male at feeder KFS  
 May 12 Sunrise Valley, Vic. 1 male FMC  
 May 15-31 var. locations numbers var. obs.

**Red-winged Blackbird**

Mar. 10-12 Apple R., Cum. 4 at feeder KFS  
 Mar. 18 Front Centre, Lun. 2 arrivals ELM  
 Mar. 18 Broad Cove Lun. 2 males on territory SJF  
 Mar. 19 Lower Sackville, HRM 2 males on territory LOC  
 Mar. 23 Middle Musquodoboit, HRM 1 male on territory V.J. Higgins  
 Mar. 30-Apr. widely numbers var. obs.

**Rusty Blackbird**

Apr. 8-12 Sunrise Valley, Vic. 3 at feeders FMC  
 May 5 Highway 104, exit 26, Pict. 1 male FLL  
 May 15 Goat L. Trail, Lun. 1 FLL

**Common Grackle**

Mar. 6 Halifax 1, 1<sup>st</sup> heard PLC  
 Mar. 11 Halifax 1, 1<sup>st</sup> seen PLC  
 Mar. 15 South Haven, Vic. 1 BSK  
 Mar. 18 Front Centre, Lun. 2 arrivals ELM  
 Mar. 21 Tremont, Kings 1 at feeder SLH  
 Mar. 22 Canning, Kings 1 arrival JCT  
 Mar. 24 Blockhouse, Lun. 1 singing JAH  
 Mar. 31-Apr. widely many var. obs.  
 Apr. 5 Bear R., Digby with nest material MCR  
 Apr. 29 Bear R., Digby on nest MCR  
 May 21-24 BPI 1-9, migrants? KJM, NSBS

**Brown-headed Cowbird**

Mar. 20 Lockeport, Shel. fem., wintered? DJC  
 Mar. 30 Annapolis Royal 1 arrival JOB  
 Apr. 1-2 Tremont, Kings 2 males at feeder SLH  
 Apr. 2 Apple R., Cum. 2 males at feeder KFS  
 Apr. 12 South Haven, Vic. male BSK  
 Apr. 19 Apple R., Cum. 2 males, 2 fems. KFS  
 Apr. 19-20 Tremont, Kings 2 males, 1 fem. SLH  
 Apr. 30-May widely several reports var. obs.

**Orchard Oriole**

May 6-23 Canso fem. TOK  
 May 7 Brier I. imm. male ELM  
 May 14 Centreville, CSI imm. male MUN  
 May 18 The Hawk, CSI imm. male MUN  
 May 18-23 Apple R., Cum. fem. KFS  
 May 19 Newellton, CSI imm. male MUN  
 May 21 Brier I. fem. ELM, IAM

**Baltimore Oriole**

May 1 CSI 2 FLL, NSBS  
 May 6-23 Canso up to 6 TOK  
 May 7-10 Brier I. male ELM, IAM  
 May 8-31 widely sev. var. obs.

**Pine Grosbeak**

May 16 Mersey Rd., Lun. male FLL

**Purple Finch**

Mar. 2 White's Lake, HRM 1 male singing BLM  
 Mar. 14 Wolfville Ridge ~10 arrive BLF  
 Mar. 14 Coldbrooke, Kings ~1 fem. arrives AAM  
 Mar. 15 South Haven, Vic. sev. *fide* BSK  
 Mar. 30 Plaister Mines, Vic. sev. *fide* BSK  
 Apr. 1-3 Lower Sackville, HRM 2 males, 1 fem. LOC  
 Apr. 10-May 31 widely many var. obs.

**House Finch**

Mar.-May Halifax, S, W 15+ PLC, var. obs.  
 Late Mar. Clifton St., Halifax N 1 singing BLM

Mar. 31 Yacht Club, Digby 1 male, 2 fems. RBS

**Red Crossbill**

Mar. 11-May 31 White's Lake, HRM 1 pair, breeding BLM  
 Apr. 10 West Dublin, Bell I., Lun. numbers JAH  
 Apr. 16-May 31 Rose Bay, Lun. up to 7 at feeder ELM  
 May 28 Lunenburg 10 JAH

**White-winged Crossbill**

Apr. 16 Lawrencetown, HRM 27 DMW  
 May 27 Mines Rd., HRM ~15 RBS

**Common Redpoll**

Mar. 1-May 31 Sunrise Valley, Vic. up to 80+ FMC  
 Mar. 2-Apr. 8 Lower Sackville, HRM up to 200 LOC  
 Mar. 3-31 Middle Musquodoboit, HRM up to 125 V.J. Higgins  
 Mar. 9-Apr. 16 South Haven, Vic. up to 65 BSK  
 Mar. 10-Apr. 6 Apple R., Cum. up to 100+ KFS  
 Mar. 12 Apple R., Cum. 50+ at feeder KFS  
 Apr. 16 Truro 50-60 S. Gleich  
 Apr. 16-17 Lower Sackville, HRM 500 LOC  
 Apr. 20-May 3 HRM, Kings, Cum., Ant. latest sightings var. obs.  
 Early June Sunrise Valley, Vic. stragglers FMC

**Pine Siskin**

Mar. 8-17 White's Lake, HRM 60 at feeder BLM  
 Mar. 10-12 Lower Sackville, HRM 4 at feeder LOC  
 Mar. 10-24 Apple R., Cum. Up to 100+ KFS  
 Mar. 15-Apr. 22 South Haven, etc., Vic. numbers BSK  
 Mar. 16 Jollimore, HRM male singing PLC  
 Apr. 10-20 Lower Sackville, HRM 1-3 at feeders LOC  
 Apr. 26 Lower Sackville, HRM 1-3 at feeders LOC  
 Apr. 26 Middle Musquodoboit, HRM 4 returned V.J. Higgins  
 May widely occ. at feeders var. obs.

**American Goldfinch**

Mar.-May widely reported many var. obs.  
 Mar. 25-30 Victoria, widely returnees? *fide* BSK  
 Apr. 21 Middle Musquodoboit, HRM returns to feeder V.J.  
 Apr. 22 Apple R., Cum. 4, returnees KFS

**Evening Grosbeak**

Mar. 3, 17 Lower Sackville, HRM 3-4 (rare visits) LOC  
 Mar. 7, 17 White's Lake, HRM 30, 40 at feeders BLM  
 Apr. 10-23 Lower Sackville, HRM 1-3 at feeders LOC  
 Apr.-May Tremont, Kings 4-5 occasionally SLH

□□□



DARK-EYED JUNCOS, whether they have wintered locally or arrived as migrants, very quickly get down to serious business, as with this female carrying nest material Apr. 22 near Kentville. {Photo Angus MacLean}

# List of Contributors

Thanks to all of our contributors.

## Sorted by Initials

MacLean, Angus	AAM	Metcalf, Hugh "Junior"	JUM	Diggins, Claire
Moore, Bernice	ABM	Swift, June	JUS	Driscoll, Andrew
Horn, Andy	AGH	Wolford, Jim	JWW	Ertle, Jeff
Mills, Anne	AHM	Black, Keith	KBL	Fiske, Andre
Murrant, Allan	ALM	Spicer, Kathleen	KFS	Fiske, Dean
Dean, Andy	AND	McKenna, Ken J.	KJM	Forsythe, George
Hinds, Barbara	BAH	Keddy, Keith	KNK	Gidney, Elizabeth
Boehner, Barry	BBA	Elliot, Laura	LAE	Gleich, Steve
Thexton, Bill & Brenda	BBT	Codling, Lois	LOC	Greeno, Carol
Sarty, Bev	BES	Payzant, Linda & Peter	LPP	Hall, Linda
Billington, Bill	BIB	Brennan, Mark	MAB	Harding, Eric
Forsythe, Bernard	BLF	Gibson, Merritt	MAG	Harwood, Avril
Kent, Bethsheila	BSK	Rice, Maggie	MCR	Harwood, John
Haycock, Carl	CAH	Newell, Murray	MUN	Higgins, Verna J.
Murrant, Cathy	CAM	NA Migration Count	NAMC	Hughes, Janey
Stoddard, Clyde	CST	NS Bird Society Field Trip	NSBS	Keating, Janice
McCorquodale, Dave	DBM	Comeau, Peter	PAC	Kelly, Pat
Codling, Don	DCO	Giffin, Barbara & Patrick	PBG	Kent, Floyd
Jones, Dennis	DEJ	Hope, Peter	PEH	Kerr, Joan
Hippert, Dennis	DHH	LeBlanc, Peter	PEL	Lalonde, Gerry
Hughes, David	DHU	Chalmers, Patricia L.	PLC	Leslie, Scott
Young, David	DHY	Gould, Paul	PRG	MacAskill, Peggy
Crosby, Donna	DJC	Stern, Richard	RBS	MacCurdy, Sheila
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Doull, Elizabeth	DOU	Lindsay, Robert H.	RHL	MacDonald, P.
Ruff, Barbara & Eric	EBR	Hatch, Richard	RIH	MacIntosh, Kathy
Billington, Eileen	EIB	Speirs, Robert J. N.	RJS	MacKay, Alisdair
Morrison, Eileen	EIM	McCormick, Roland	RMC	MacLellan, Emily & Martin
Mills, Eric L.	ELM	Hall, Ross	ROH	MacLeod, Alan
Greig, Fred C.	FCG	d'Entremont, Raymond	RSD	MacLeod, Helen
Lavender, Fulton L.	FLL	McDonald, Robert S.	RSM	Magee, Philip
Spalding, Francis	FLS	Hiltz, Sandy	SAH	McGee, Jeannie
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Crowell, George	GEC	Digout, Sharon	SDI	Moffit, John
Digout, George	GED	Myers, Susann	SEM	Moir, Andy
Metcalf, Geraldine	GEM	Smith, Sid	SIS	Morrison, Sam
Brennan, Harry	HAB	Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF	Myers, Gary
Forsythe, Harold	HAF	Hulford, Sheila	SLH	Payzant, Peter
Toom, Hans	HAT	Borkowski, Suzanne	SMB	Peters, Nancy
Kwindt, Henk	HEK	Paquet, Terry	TEP	Richard, Joe
McLaren, Ian	IAM	Fitzgerald, Trina	TMF	Saunders, Laura
Hirtle, James	JAH	Kavanagh, Tom	TOK	Seller, David
Morrow, Jim	JCM	Hoeger, Ulli	ULH	Short, Roger
Tufts, Judy	JCT	Lucas, Zoe	ZOL	Slaunwhite, A.
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Hartley, Jean	JEH	Banks, Christopher		Smith, Gary
Timpa, Jean	JET	Barnaby, Shelly		Smith, Karen
Camolli, Jill	JIC	Brannen, Dennis		Swift, Jamie
Nocera, Joe	JJN	Bret, Bev		Van Donick, Helene
Belbin, John	JOB	Brown, Jan		Van Schaik, Sheila
Kearney, John	JOK	Burke, Bernard		Watson, Dave
Nickerson, Johnnie	JON	Callaghan, Christine		White, Jeff
Verreault, Jocelyn	JOV	Cameron-MacMillan, Maureen		Wolfe, Danny
Waldron, Joan	JOW	Conlin, Mary Louise		Wong, Brian
Cohrs, Shirley	JSC	Crowell, Mike		Wright, Shirley
Simpson, James	JSI	Davis, Cheryl		
Graves, June	JUG	Denton, Robbie		

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## Weather for the Spring of 2004

(Valley of Nova Scotia with Halifax comments)

By Larry Bogan

Weather Statistics from the Atlantic Food and Horticulture Centre in Kentville, N.S. Collected for Environment Canada

	Mean Temperature C	Total Precipitation mm	Snow Fall cm	Total Sunshine Hours
<b>March</b>	<b>-1.7</b> <i>-0.9</i>	<b>59</b> <i>108</i>	<b>11.8</b> <i>46</i>	<b>122</b> <i>139</i>
<b>April</b>	<b>5.4</b> <i>4.5</i>	<b>115</b> <i>82</i>	<b>4.1</b> <i>14</i>	<b>143</b> <i>152</i>
<b>May</b>	<b>10.1</b> <i>10.6</i>	<b>38</b> <i>79</i>	<b>0</b> <i>2</i>	<b>166</b> <i>202</i>
<b>Season</b>	<b>4.6</b> <i>4.7</i>	<b>212</b> <i>269</i>	<b>16</b> <i>62</i>	<b>431</b> <i>493</i>

*Numbers in italics are the 43 year averages for the month*

The biggest events in the spring weather this year, for most people I know, were the deep snow from 'White Juan' that stayed on the ground through April and the coolness and cloudiness of the season. Usually, I only use the data available for Kentville, in the Annapolis Valley but this time I have included some Halifax data. There is the table below for Shearwater Airport and I have put the Shearwater daily data of "snow-on-the-ground" with that of Kentville. For those who wish to have the daily data themselves, it is available on the internet at National Climate Archive of Environment Canada ([http://www.climate.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/climateData/menu\\_e.html](http://www.climate.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/climateData/menu_e.html))

I have included three graphs of the daily information this month, snow on the ground, sunshine hours as well as the usual daily temperatures.

### Temperature:

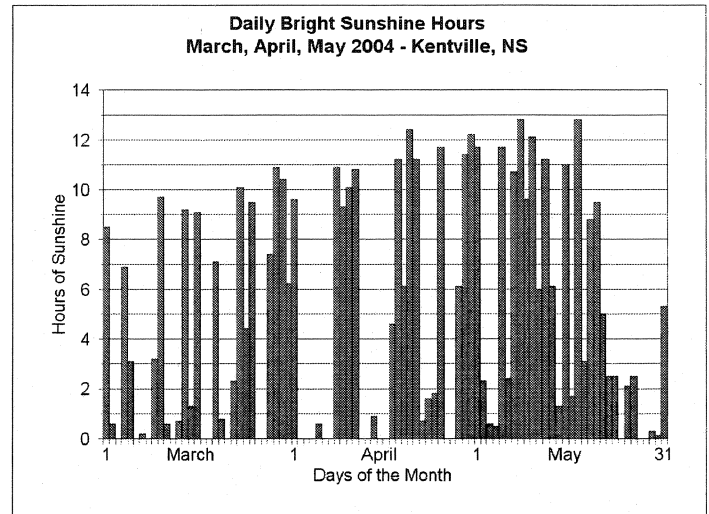
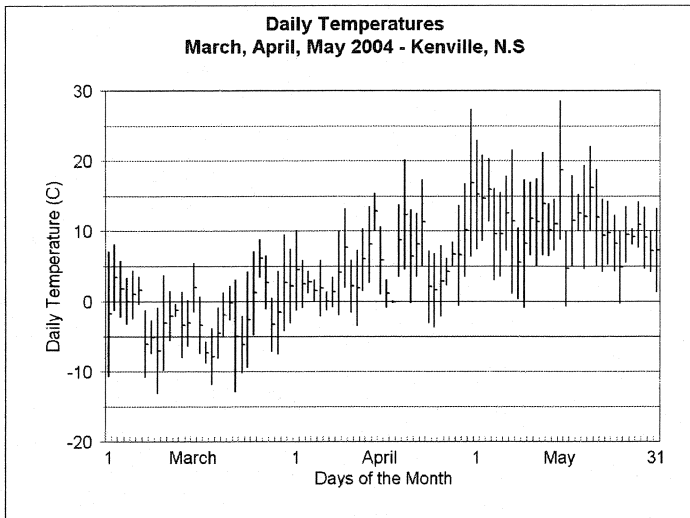
Both March and May were below average in temperature but April was enough warmer to compensate and the season itself has just average temperature. May seemed to be cooler that indicated by the figures considering the late blooming of some flowers and late arrival of song birds. This occurred because May was actually warmer than normal at the beginning of the month with a very cool later half. This can be seen in the graph as the leveling off of the rise in the temperature in May. You can see that Halifax was warmer than the Valley in March but cooler in April and May.

### Precipitation:

It is interesting that the March, which has deep snow on the ground all month, was really very dry. Normally that month gets four times the snowfall and twice the rainfall we saw this year. The graph of snow on the ground is interesting in that it shows the rate at which the snow melted during March and April. Note that the snow in Halifax melted quite a bit faster than that in the Valley. May had only half the expected precipitation for the month but April had 50% more than expected. The net result is that the season as a whole has slightly below normal precipitation. Halifax had slightly more precipitation than the Valley.

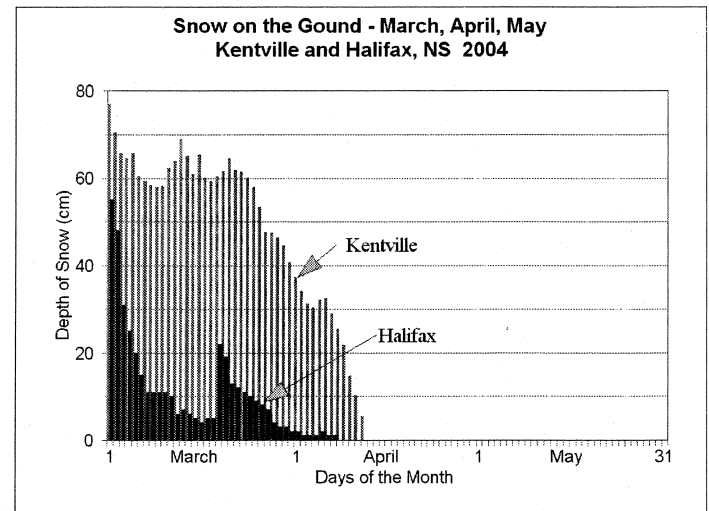
### Sunshine:

Precipitation and cloudiness is usually connected but this spring despite the lack of precipitation, there was excess cloudiness. Ask the amateur astronomers in the area and you will hear complaints of poor viewing of the skies this spring. The graph showing bright sunshine hours illustrates the ups and downs of sunny days. There seemed to be several days of cloudiness every week. Only early May had periods of nice weather. That cool weather hung on into June but now at last we are seeing some nice weather leading into summer.



### Halifax Weather (Shearwater Airport)

Month	Mean T (C)	Total Precip (mm)	Snow Fall (cm)
<b>March</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>87.0</b>	<b>27.2</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>113.4</b>	<b>7.9</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Season</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>35</b>



## Volunteers Needed - Refreshment Committee

The refreshments after our monthly meetings serve as a focus for conversation among new members and regulars alike. For years, Inez and Harry Roberts and their crew provided these refreshments. The Society owes its welcoming atmosphere largely to their efforts.

Now we're hoping a few members out there might volunteer to take up the torch. All it takes is buying, setting out, and packing up the juice and cookies for, at most, six meetings a year -- for which you'll be reimbursed, of course. It's a pleasant but essential task -- a great way to get involved. If you're interested, please contact any member of the executive. ☐

# Spring Migration at the Atlantic Bird Observatory

By Trina Fitzgerald

April 26 marked the beginning of spring migration-monitoring at the Atlantic Bird Observatory (ABO). As expected, Yellow-rumped and Yellow Palm Warblers were spotted during those last few days of April. It wasn't until the May 9-11 period that we spotted the arrival of new warbler species, such as Northern Parula and Black-and-white Warblers. There wasn't any notable movement of migrants detected until May 30. On this day, over 60 Magnolia Warblers were counted. Overall, through a combination of banding, standardized census and casual observations, 101 species (including subspecies) were detected and 205 individuals were banded (48 species). Fig 1 provides a daily summary of the number of species observed on the island. We observed the largest number of species on May 19 (45 species observed).

The top species banded for the season are listed in Table 1, along with the corresponding day that their numbers peaked (banding and observations combined). Banding totals for the past five years are also presented for comparison (Tables 1).

In spite of what appeared to be a slow season, several vagrants were banded and spotted which kept things interesting (Table 2). The male King Eider was, by far, the best bird of the season.

## Recaptures

A total of 64 birds (19 species) were recaptured (birds previously banded). All recaptures were birds that had been previously banded at the ABO. The oldest bird that was retrapped was a Boreal Chickadee that had been originally banded on October 16, 1997 making it, at least, 6 years and 7 months old.

## Recovery Update

The Canadian Bird Banding Office recently informed us that two Sharp-shinned Hawks that had been banded on Bon Portage Island during fall 2003 were retrapped at two other banding stations. The first hawk was banded on August 20, 2003 and retrapped at Cape May Point, New Jersey on September 17, 2003. The second hawk was banded on September 30, 2003 and was retrapped at Robert Moses State Park on Long Island, New York.

For more details concerning observations, bandings and volunteer opportunities, we invite you to visit our web site: <http://landscape.acadiau.ca/abo/>

Table 1. List of the top 6 species banded, the number of individuals that were banded for each species, and the corresponding date that their numbers peaked for spring 2004. For comparison, the number of individuals banded for the past five years is also provided.

Bon Portage – Spring 2004				Past Years				
Rank	Species	Peak	Banded	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
1	Yellow Warbler	May 20	25	23	23	11	50	41
1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	April 29	25	4	28	25	47	28
2	Blackpoll Warbler	May 22/23	14	17	32	4	25	31
3	Yellow-rumped Warbler	May 12	11	8	33	82	29	34
3	Magnolia Warbler	May 30	11	16	12	22	44	33
4	White-throated Sparrow	NA	9	12	28	35	52	21
4	Black-and-white Warbler	May 20	9	9	15	11	14	12
5	Fox Sparrow	NA	7	3	12	7	7	10
5	Blue-headed Vireo	NA	7	2	13	1	2	8
6	Yellow-Palm Warber	May 28	6	6	26	11	7	19
6	Northern Parula	May 18	6	8	6	11	15	13
6	Gray Catbird	May 12	6	12	28	9	28	23
<b>Seasonal Banding Total (individuals)</b>			<b>205</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>489</b>
<b>Number of Species Banded</b>			<b>48</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>58</b>

Table 2. List of vagrant species that were detected on Bon Portage during Spring 2004. Dates provided indicate the first day on which the individual was observed. Sex was unknown if not otherwise noted.

Species	Banded	Observed	Dates
Indigo Bunting	2	3(1)	May 5, 8, 19, 28, 30
Dickcissel		1	May 31
King Eider		1	May 28
Northern Mockingbird		1	May 23
Brown Thrasher		1	May 8

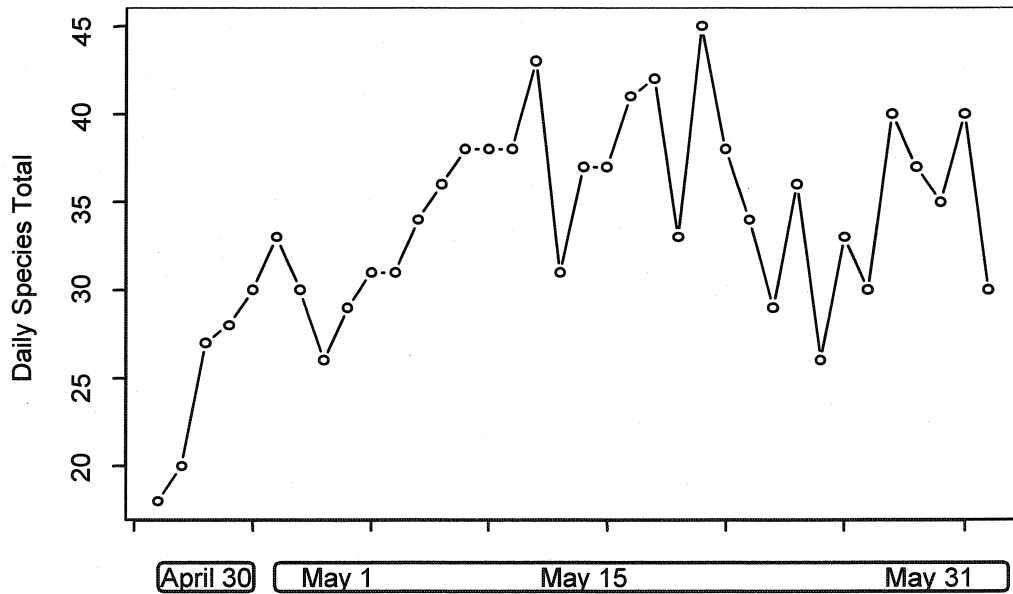


Fig. 1. Daily estimated numbers of species observed throughout the spring season.



The plastic structures on a power pole crosspiece didn't seem to deter perching by an OSPREY, one of a pair nesting behind Shearwater Airport, HRM. [Photo Elizabeth Doull]



## North American Migration Count (NAMC) Summary - May 8, 2004

By Judy Tufts

Provincial Coordinator for NAMC

My heartfelt thanks are extended to everyone who participated in this year's Spring 2004 North American Migration Count. Thank you for all your dedication and enthusiasm. The effort and time you are willing to give to take part in this project is remarkable and so worthwhile. This was another great Count day with some wonderful team effort from all eighteen counties.

Once again the weather had many of us frustrated with very gusty winds - most areas had gusts of 40-60 kph to contend with - and close to freezing temperatures to start our day! Some participants in CBRM and *Victoria* had to cope with snow flurries in the morning. It seems we are destined to be challenged!!

In spite of the weather we still registered over 200 species (207), our third-highest total, after Spring counts in 2000 & 2001. The new species added to our provincial list include the Greater White-fronted Goose in the Canning area, *Kings*, and the Hudsonian Godwit on CSI. A Green-winged Teal of the Eurasian race was found in *Lunenburg* along with several of its North American cousins. 'Not new' species to the list but adding great quality to this NAMC were 7 Glossy Ibis ( 4 - *Dingwall*, *Victoria*, 1 - Little Bras D'Or, *CBRM* , 1 - *Canso*, *Guysborough*, 1 - *Strathrone*, *Inverness*), and a Green Heron in *CBRM*. Egrets were well represented again: single Snowy and Great egrets in *HRM*, a second Snowy in *Guysborough*, and a second Great Egret in *CBRM*; two Cattle Egrets in *Shelburne* with another in *CBRM*. Two Sandhill Cranes caused a stir in the *Louisbourg* area, while a third bird was spotted outside *Windsor*, not far from the location where one was discovered in the '97 NAMC . The Birch Cove Red-bellied Woodpecker remained for the *Dartmouth* tally, and a second over-wintering bird (a female) was still coming to *Carol Jacquard's* feeder near *Tusket Falls*, *Yarmouth*. A Snow Goose who seemed to enjoy frequent visits to *Sullivan's Pond*, *Dartmouth* and *Tuft's Cove*, also lingered for the count, as did a tardy Snowy Owl who was obviously still finding enough food on *Cape Island*, *Shelburne*.

Of note, we had twice as many Northern Gannets counted than last year; *Inverness* had 6600 N. Gannets, of the 7400+ tallied for the whole province. Caspian Terns turned up in *Cumberland* and *HRM*, while a Lesser Black-backed Gull appeared unexpectedly in *North Sydney*. There are always 'hotspots' for birds and indeed *CSI* held the edge for shorebirds with 12 species; with the pair of American Oystercatchers being the stars once again. *Lunenburg* could brag of 5 Whimbrels. *Canso* area produced a bevy of goodies besides the ibis and egret, including Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Orchard and Baltimore oriole, and a Clay-colored Sparrow. A second Clay-colored was found on *CSI*. This is the only second time this latter species has been added to the count. Field Sparrows made it to the list for the third time, one bird found on *Brier Island*, the other in *Shelburne*. There were 20 species of warblers and 15 of sparrows

The only county that seems to have any luck with Virginia Rails for the NAMC is *Pictou*, and *Ken McKenna's* party did it again by registering one that was calling from a local marsh. Brown Thrashers seem to favor *Shelburne*, for all four were found in that county, with one seen on *Bon Portage Island* by the *ABO*, the other three on *CSI* where in the past couple of years breeding took place. The scarcity of Northern Mockingbirds showed up on the count with only one tallied, around the *Gibson* property in *Canning*. This species seems to be in a serious decline in the past two years especially in the *Annapolis Valley*. Last but not least was the unusual and tantalizing birding surprise awaiting *John Rubin* in a pond outside of *Truro* where he found a Ruddy Shelduck!! One assumes this duck to be a recent 'escaped' bird from a private collection.

I wish to close by adding that next year (2005) will be my FINAL year as Provincial Coordinator for the NAMC. I have been coordinating this project for ten years now, have found it most rewarding, but now feel ready for a change, and will be stepping down in 2005. In the course of it I have met some wonderful people, coaxed or 'twisted' a few arms to get birders involved - they have been surprisingly willing to participate - and made many new friends. I have been most grateful for the encouragement and enthusiasm that has helped to make my workload lighter. I would hope that this worthwhile project will continue and that someone else will offer to take it on. If there is anyone who would be willing to do so, please contact me. I will be more than happy to pass along records etc., and help in any way.

Wolfville, NS.

(Tel: 902-542-7800)

# North American Migration Count May 8, 2004

## Nova Scotia Highlights

Special or unusual sightings, names of observers where possible:

### New species for list:

GTR. WH.-FR. GOOSE	(1)	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	Merritt Gibson
HUDSONIAN GODWIT	(1)	CSI	Murray Newell's group

### Other sightings:

Great Egret	(1)	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	Geo. Crowell's group
(1)		<i>HRM</i> Bob McDonald's group	
Snowy Egret	(1)	The Tickle, <i>Guys.</i>	Tom Kavanaugh/Steve Bushell
(1)		<i>HRM</i> Bob McDonald's group	
Little Blue Heron	(2)	<i>Inv.</i>	Frances Hart's group
Cattle Egret	(1)	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	Geo. Crowell's group
(1)		Mainland, <i>Shel.</i>	Donna Ensor's group
(1)		CSI Murray Newell's group	
Green Heron	(1)	<i>CBRM</i>	Allan and Cathy Murrant
Glossy Ibis (4)		nr. Dingwall, <i>Vict.</i>	Fritz McEvoy
(1)		Little Bras d'Or, <i>CBRM</i>	Dave McCorquodale and party
(1)		Chapel Gully, Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	Jimmy Geddes and party
(1)		Strathlorne, <i>Guys.</i>	Barry Bowman
Turkey Vulture	(22)	In 6 mainland counties and one in <i>Inv. Co.</i>	
Snow Goose	(1)	Two reports of single bird. First: Sullivan's Pond, second report from Tufts Cove. (Same bird?)	Pat McKay / Clarence Stevens Snr.
Grn-w. Teal - 'Eurasian' race	(1)	Rose Bay, Lun. Co.	Jill Comolli and David Watson
Peregrine Falcon	(4)	2 were found in <i>HRM</i>	Bob McDonald's group
Virginia Rail	(1)	<i>Pict.</i>	Ken McKenna and party
Sandhill Crane	(2)	Louisbourg area, <i>CBRM</i>	Bill Bussey's group
(1)		Nine Mile River, <i>Hants</i>	Arthur and Myrna West
Am Oystercatcher	(2)	CSI	Murray Newell's group
Whimbrel (5)		Lun. Co.	Sylvia Fullerton's group
Caspian Tern	(1)	Cumb. Co.	Kathleen Spicer's group
(1)		St Margaret's Bay, Halifax Co.	Fulton Lavender
Lsr Blk-bck Gull	(1)	North Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	Dave McCorquodale and party
Mourning Dove		nest with one young, Fenwick, <i>Cumb.</i>	Percy Landry
Snowy Owl(1)		Cape Island, CSI	Murray Newell's group
Red-bell. Woodpecker	(1)	Dartmouth- Birch Cove	Pat McKay
(f)		Tusket Falls, <i>Yar.</i>	Carol Jacquard
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	(1)	Canso Industrial Park, <i>Guys.</i>	Steve Bushell & Tom Kavanaugh
N Mockingbird	(1)	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	Merritt Gibson
Brown Thrasher	(3)	CSI	Murray Newell's group
(1)		Bon Portage Is.	A.B.O.
Scarlet Tanager	(1)	Brier Is.	Eric Mills' group
(1)		Harbour View walkway, Canso	Tom Kavanaugh and party
(m)		Oakfield Park, <i>HRM</i>	David and Janey Hughes
Eastern Towhee	(m)	CSI	Johnny Nickerson - feeder
Field Sparrow	(1)	Westport, Brier Is.	Eric Mill's party
(1)		Little Harbour, <i>Shel.</i>	Dave Young
Clay-colored Sparrow	(1)	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	Tom Kavanaugh- feeder
(1)		CSI. Murray Newell's group	
"Ipswich" Sparrow	(7)	4-Hfx, 2 -Shelb, 1 - C.B. counties	
Orchard Oriole	(1)	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	Tom Kavanaugh- feeder
Ruddy Shelduck (escapee?)	(1)	nr. Truro, <i>Col.</i>	John Rubin.

## NOVA SCOTIA - NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT - May 8, 2004

**Total Species Counted 207**  
**Total Counted Birds 112508**

Species	NS Total	Species	NS Total
Red-throated Loon	9	Sharp-shinned Hawk	64
Common Loon	220	Northern Goshawk	6
Pied-billed Grebe	25	Broad-winged Hawk	11
Red-necked Grebe	8	Red-tailed Hawk	96
Northern Fulmar	4	Rough-legged Hawk	2
Northern Gannet	7448	buteo sp. *	4
Dbl-cr Cormorant	4454	raptor sp *	5
Gt. Cormorant	91	American Kestrel	91
cormorant sp. *	212	Merlin	45
American Bittern	35	Peregrine Falcon	4
Great Blue Heron	457	falcon sp *	3
Great Egret	2	Ring-necked Pheasant	321
Snowy Egret	2	Ruffed Grouse	236
Little Blue Heron	2	Spruce Grouse	18
Cattle Egret	3	Virginia Rail	1
Green Heron	1	Sora	22
Black-cr Night-Heron	1	American Coot	3
Glossy Ibis	7	Sandhill Crane	3
Turkey Vulture	22	Black-bellied Plover	38
Gtr White-fronted Goose	1	American Golden Plover	1
Snow Goose	1	Semipalmated Plover	1
Brant	163	Piping Plover	15
Canada Goose	497	Killdeer	73
Wood Duck	57	American Oystercatcher	2
Gadwall	26	Greater Yellowlegs	234
American Wigeon	173	Lesser Yellowlegs	22
American Black Duck	1902	Willet	425
Mallard	790	Spotted Sandpiper	15
Blk Duck/Mallard hybrid*	43	Whimbrel	5
Blue-winged Teal	111	Hudsonian Godwit	1
Northern Shoveler	64	Ruddy Turnstone	4
Northern Pintail	24	Red Knot	5
Green-winged Teal	338	Sanderling	6
Ring-necked Duck	859	Least Sandpiper	6
Greater Scaup	141	Purple Sandpiper	14
Lesser Scaup	5	Dunlin	115
scaup sp. *	21	Short-billed Dowitcher	1
Common Eider	2467	Wilson's Snipe	62
Surf Scoter	810	American Woodcock	44
White-winged Scoter	195	Bonaparte's Gull	29
Black Scoter	762	Ring-billed Gull	432
scoter sp.*	150	Herring Gull	14094
Long-tail Duck (Oldsquaw)	7	Iceland Gull	124
Bufflehead	105	Lesser Black-backed Gull	1
Common Goldeneye	45	Glaucous Gull	3
Hooded Merganser	48	Great Black-backed Gull	5580
Common Merganser	351	Black-legged Kittiwake	60
Red-breasted Merganser	679	gull sp. *	1404
duck sp*	51	Caspian Tern	2
Osprey	148	Common Tern	158
Bald Eagle adult	271	Arctic Tern	2
Bald Eagle imm. *	77	sterna sp. *	41
Bald Eagle age? *	7	Dovekie	4
Northern Harrier	69	Common Murre	1

Species	NS Total	Species	NS Total
Black Guillemot	33	Cedar Waxwing	9
Rock Dove	1318	Nashville Warbler	1
Mourning Dove	1832	Northern Parula	102
Great Horned Owl	17	Yellow Warbler	24
Snowy Owl	1	Chestnut-sided Warbler	5
Barred Owl	45	Magnolia Warbler	19
Northern Saw-whet Owl	7	Cape May Warbler	3
Common Nighthawk	1	Black-throat. Blue Warbler	2
Chimney Swift	67	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2009
Ruby-throat. Hummingbird	73	Black-throat. Green Warbler	86
Belted Kingfisher	201	Blackburnian Warbler	4
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	Palm Warbler	181
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	55	Bay-breasted Warbler	2
Downy Woodpecker	402	Blackpoll Warbler	7
Hairy Woodpecker	194	Black-and-white Warbler	156
Black-backed Woodpecker	3	American Redstart	3
Northern Flicker	542	Ovenbird	7
Pileated Woodpecker	61	Northern Waterthrush	21
woodpecker sp*	8	Common Yellowthroat	12
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Wilson's Warbler	2
Alder Flycatcher	1	Canada Warbler	1
Least Flycatcher	12	warbler sp *	7
empidonax sp. *	4	Scarlet Tanager	3
Eastern Phoebe	8	Eastern Towhee	1
Eastern Kingbird	13	American Tree Sparrow	29
Blue-headed Vireo	226	Chipping Sparrow	235
Red-eyed Vireo	7	Field Sparrow	2
vireo sp.*	8	Vesper Sparrow	4
Gray Jay	50	Clay-colored Sparrow	2
Blue Jay	1914	Savannah Sparrow	326
American Crow	5923	Ipswich Sparrow	7
Common Raven	980	Nelson's Sharp-tail. Sparrow	2
Horned Lark	1	Fox Sparrow	63
Purple Martin	0	Song Sparrow	1860
Tree Swallow	6726	Lincoln's Sparrow	10
Bank Swallow	324	Swamp Sparrow	107
Cliff Swallow	116	White-throated Sparrow	939
Barn Swallow	704	White-crowned Sparrow	89
swallow sp *	83	Dark-eyed Junco	3448
Black-capped Chickadee	3302	sparrow sp *	55
Boreal Chickadee	107	Northern Cardinal	21
Red-breasted Nuthatch	375	Rose-br Grosbeak	41
White-breasted Nuthatch	96	Indigo Bunting	10
Brown Creeper	15	Bobolink	4
Winter Wren	55	Red-winged Blackbird	1971
Golden-crowned Kinglet	103	Rusty Blackbird	40
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	387	Common Grackle	5557
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	233
Veery	7	blackbird sp.*	79
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Orchard Oriole	1
Swainson's Thrush	3	Baltimore Oriole	8
Hermit Thrush	198	Pine Grosbeak	10
American Robin	5027	Purple Finch	3280
Gray Catbird	5	House Finch	27
Northern Mockingbird	1	Red Crossbill	60
Brown Thrasher	4	White-winged Crossbill	21
European Starling	5126	Common Redpoll	127
American Pipit	1	Pine Siskin	760

Species	NS Total	Feeder Watcher	
American Goldfinch	3413	Hours	1134
Evening Grosbeak	827	#Feeder watchers	452
House Sparrow	955	#Feeder stations	391
<b>Species 207</b>	<b>112504</b>	<b>Weather</b>	
Ruddy Shelduck(escapee?)	1	°C Temperature:	
		Dawn	-2
Time Start	330	a.m.	2 - 6
Time Stop	2330	Noon	5 - 12
		p.m.	4 - 12
		Sunset	0 - 8
<b>Owling</b>		<b>Wind: nw</b>	
Hours owling	21.25	Dawn	0 - 30
Kms owling	167	a.m.	15 - 70
# Parties owling	17	Noon	25 - 70
#Observers owling	31	p.m.	0 - 60
		Sunset	10 - 40
<b>Regular</b>		<b>%Clouds:</b>	
Hours Foot	688	DAWN	0 - 70
Hours Car	714.5	AM	20 - 75
Hours Boat	13.5	NOON	0 - 100
Hours Bike	13.5	PM	0 - 90
Hours other -ATV	10	SUNSET	0 - 40
Km Foot	1038	<b>Precipitation:</b>	0
Km Car	9810	Dawn	
Km Boat	63	a.m. mostly	
Km Bike	37.5	Noon none	
Km other -ATV	12	p.m. some	
# Parties	299	Sunset flurry	
# Observers	472	e. C.B.	

## Report of the NSBS Nominating Committee

By Gisele d'Entremont - Chair

The following have agreed to serve on the Executive for 2004-2005, if elected at the NSBS Annual General Meeting on Thursday, October 28, 2004:

President	Suzanne Borkowski
Vice President	Bill Billington
Past President	Andy Horn
Treasurer	Bernice Moores
Secretary	Pat Mackay
Membership Secretary	Eileen Billington
Director	Joan Czapalay
Director	Barbara Hinds
Director	Terry Paquet

The following have agreed to serve for 2003-2004, if appointed at the NSBS AGM :

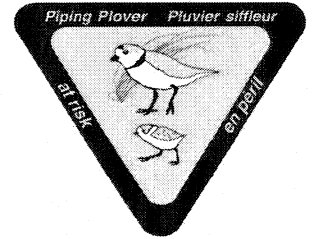
Honorary Solicitor	Tony Robinson
Honorary Auditor	Harold Forsyth

The Editor-in-Chief of *Nova Scotia Birds* (appointed by the Executive) is a de facto member of the Executive.

Further nominations from the floor will be accepted at the AGM.

# News from the Nova Scotia Coastal Guardian Program

By Anna McCarron  
Program Co-ordinator



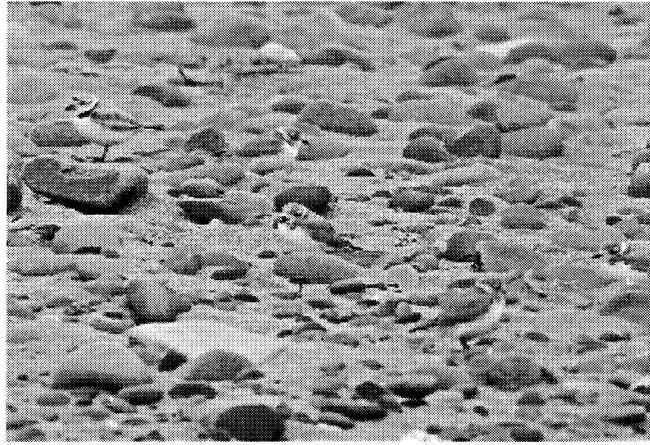
The Nova Scotia Coastal Guardian Program (NSCGP) has changed its host. The Nova Scotia Bird Society executive has, understandably, decided to focus more attention to birding activities rather than administrative tasks. As the NSCGP grew from one staff person to six over the past three years, so did the administrative tasks. Doing payroll, I am sure, was not what volunteers bargained for when they joined the executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society. I wish to express my sincerest thanks and gratitude to Bernice Moores and Dave Currie for their unwavering support throughout the past three years of the program, and to Andy Horn and Giselle d'Entremont for being there at a moment's notice to sign cheques or what have you. As I take the helm of the guardian program in a solo position I greatly appreciate, even more, the work that these charitable people undertook in managing the administrative aspects of the program. Although the NSCGP is being managed a little differently, the Nova Scotia Bird Society remains supportive of the program in many ways. My gratitude goes out to the NSBS for its continued support.

This year, the guardian program has only 4 staff. Two part timers, Tiffany Comley and a newcomer, Ashley Scott are working at the Cape Sable Island Important Bird Area Welcome Centre. Drop in while you are on Cape Sable Island in Clarks Harbour at the corner of the Hawk Road and visit the Centre that Grant and Joyce Milroy have worked so hard to develop. At this time I want to publicly express my gratitude for their help in developing the guardian program in the Cape Sable Island area. Without them, the guardian program would not have been as well received as it has been there. Grant and Joyce have moved to Nepal for a time. Let's hope that they will return to see that their legacy remains in the Welcome Centre, a wonderful place to learn about the birds that are native, rare or a frequent migratory visitor to the second-most significant *Important Bird Area* in Canada! In another *Important Bird Area*, near Antigonish, Corinne Goyetche is coordinating guardian activities. The funding support from the Canadian Nature Federation Important Bird Area *Communities in Action Program* provides the means to employ these capable youth in these locations. For more information on the IBA program please visit: [www.ibacanada.ca](http://www.ibacanada.ca).

Although we have these very capable staff people, the guardian program would not exist without the dedicated guardian volunteers all over Nova Scotia. Most of this year's volunteers have remained from previous years and new ones have been recruited, particularly from the youth sector. May and June were extremely busy with guardian training sessions in Antigonish, Bridgewater, Cape Sable Island, Musquodoboit Harbour, and Lockeport. There is one more scheduled for Cape Breton late in July. There were many class presentations as well. One notable presentation was conducted with the assistance of the new South Shore Monitors, Alexander MacDonald and J.P. Hastey to a grade 10 class at Shelburne High School. Although I admit I was a little intimidated by this debut performance in a high school class, the youth proved to be quite interested and attentive, especially in the story of the two nests which were lost at a private beach last year due to ATV traffic. Their eyes grew quite wide as I recanted the painstaking performance the PIPLs used to clean their nest of the crushed egg shells which resulted from being run over, and then as they continued to incubate the remaining egg. Their eyes continued to widen as I sadly recounted that the ATVers came back resulting in the two pairs of PIPLs abandoning their nests for good.

Although having a guardian presence on such beaches is encouraged to deter such activity, guardians are urged not to get into confrontational situations. The guardian training sessions stressed this point in a lecture format, and through a more animated one this year by role-playing. One notable performance was played expertly by Nelson Melling, the new Conservation Officer of Species at Risk for Environment Canada Atlantic Region and by Mark Pulsifer, Department of Natural Resources, Antigonish County Regional Biologist. These gentlemen were a hit with the spectators at the gathering in Antigonish. Their experience in dealing with the hard-to-handle types really showed through. I wouldn't want to tangle with these gentlemen on the beach! Although guardians are not the authority when it comes to protecting PIPLs, Guardians are recognized by the red vest and/or t-shirt they wear with the yellow 'caution sign' shaped crest depicting the Piping Plover. This uniform signifies that guardians are an authority when it comes to educating the public about PIPL protection and that their knowledge and advice should be respected. If guardians find themselves faced with a confrontational situation, guardians are trained to walk away, take down the license plate number, if possible and /or necessary and call a DNR conservation officer at 1-800-565-2224.

There is public perception that it is useless to contact a conservation officer because they don't respond to a situation right away. I urge everyone that although a conservation officer may not arrive immediately, calls to report ATV activity on a beach, or unleashed pets in nesting areas are very important. The more calls coming from a specific area, the more attention will be paid there. With the few conservation officers available, there are only so many to go around. Be assured that the call will be responded to, eventually. Lots of messages about infractions may send the message to the Premier that more resources are needed in the area of enforcing conservation laws!



One adult with PIPL brood of four in Lunenburg County [Photo Gordon Prince]

Guardians were also reminded that the red vest is not a license to be PIPL monitors. Special disturbance permits are required before any disturbance is permitted to locate nesting sites, for example. Guardians are trained to learn how to spot nesting sites and conduct incidental monitoring of the numbers of chicks, etc, without disturbance, using a telescope or binoculars. Considering we are dealing with an endangered species, these birds are under enough stress without imposing even more disturbances. The most important role for the guardian is being the front-line person between the PIPL and threatening human behaviour. Guardians remind the public that while on PIPL beaches, keep all pets on a leash, walk near the water's edge, do not linger in PIPL areas, and keep litter in it's place, including organic litter which will attract predators like crows and gulls. Guardians who attended the training sessions this year received guardian ID cards to let authorities know that they have been adequately trained by the NS Coastal Guardian Program. If you consider yourself a guardian and have not received a card, please notify me.

Despite the efforts of guardians and the new south shore monitors, the numbers of birds are low this year. The preliminary index count indicates that in fact the number of adult PIPLs in Nova Scotia, at 73 individuals, is the lowest since 1998 when 75 were counted. However, the index count is a preliminary one, and these numbers always rise, but by how much remains to be seen. The good news is that although the numbers of returning birds appears to be down this year, we are seeing more nesting success this year. The county to take the prize in this regard, I am happy to report, is Lunenburg. The guardians there have done a tremendous job of being on the beach at staggered times, thanks to the conscientious effort of their guardian coordinator, James Hirtle. These guardians can take pride in the fact that the two PIPL families there, each have four chicks at last report and one clutch has made it to the fledgling stage! (See photos by Gordon Prince) Way to go to the Good James Gang Guardians! To view more photos like these please check out this website: <http://www.pbbase.com/gordeaux/pipingplover>.

The guardian program has expanded into Cape Breton this year. An employee of the Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission, Vivian Bushell, has expressed an interest in developing a guardian program there. Talk about dedication; Vivian left her home at 5:30 one morning to meet me at a beach to continue her training. Welcome to the program Vivian! This is just in time as a new PIPL beach has recently been discovered (2003) bringing the number of known PIPL beaches in Cape Breton to two! The success on these beaches is wonderful there as well. Two broods with four chicks have been observed on a few occasions this year – another success story.

Queens County, on the other hand, did not see one nesting pair of PIPL this year, other than those at the National Park. An adult was lost to predation by a raptor at one of the adjacent private land beaches in Queens County in 2003, and there is speculation that this may have had something to do with no PIPLs returning there this year. Summerville Beach has had no nesting PIPLs for the past two years. The nesting attempts there, two and three years ago, were to no avail. Each nesting attempt (6) was lost to foxes or crows. One can only speculate as to the reason why the birds no longer stay on that beach since there are many access points and a network of foxholes throughout the boardwalk system. Hurricane Juan actually provided more suitable habitat there. The dedicated guardian for that beach, Jordon Roy, has also noted that the Willet population seems to be down as well as the gull population. Despite the lack of PIPLs, Jordon still patrols that beach to ensure that dog walkers keep their pets on a leash, so those of you who are uncomfortable going to beaches for fear of loose dogs may find safe haven there.

Despite the construction of a road behind a private beach in Shelburne County, one pair of PIPLs at this site has successfully nested and three chicks have fledged. Thirteen cottage lots are in the process of being developed. We'll have to wait until next season to know whether this will impact on the nesting site. The Canadian Wildlife Service and the Department of Natural Resources have been in negotiations with the developer to try to reduce the potential impact. At the moment, stewardship is the

only way private land development in sensitive habitat areas in general can be curbed to protect habitat for species at risk in Nova Scotia. The federal and provincial laws currently in place can't dictate what a person can or cannot do with their land, as long as they follow the current NS *Environment Act* regulations and are not directly disturbing the species as outlined in the *Migratory Bird Convention Act* and the Nova Scotia *Endangered Species Act*. A Coastal Coalition is being developed to examine these and other coastal issues. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact me.

After five years, the banding program is being discontinued. Neither adults nor chicks were banded this year. Most of the coloured bands, indicating which province the bird was banded in, have been removed. Only the USGS band, which depicts a serial number, remains on the birds. Some adults were captured by CWS this year in order to remove the colour bands. This may continue next year if necessary. The silver USGS bands will remain on the birds so that data may be collected if the opportunity arises.

A full report on the numbers of birds in their respective counties will be listed in the next issue of NS Birds. For more information on the Guardian program, please contact me at (902) 860-1263 or plover@istar.ca.



### **Metro "Hot Spot" Birding**

**06 December 2003, Leader: Terry Paquet**

Fifteen participants met at Sullivan's Pond for this NS Bird Society trip. Some of the highlights included a Peregrine Falcon, a Gadwall and three Cardinals at Sullivan's Pond. A co-operative Red-bellied Woodpecker was at a feeder in Birch Cove.

Bissett Lake was about 60% frozen, whereas it had been completely open 24 hours previously. We were still able to see a Gadwall, a few Hooded Mergansers, plenty of both Greater and Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Ducks and a N. Pintail, all of which were out in the middle of the lake. A Ruddy Duck was also seen.

At Hartlen Point there were a few Harriers and 2 Rough-legged Hawks, as well as a flock of Purple Sandpipers, and several Dovekies. We had great looks at a Pine Warbler in Pat McKay's yard on Edward St., and at Tuft's Cove the Snow Goose was easily seen along the shoreline. There was also a male Barrow's among the Common Goldeneyes.

On the Halifax side things were quiet. We did find a Western Palm Warbler on the lane at the bottom of South Street, where there was also an Orange-crowned Warbler playing hide-and-seek.

### **Baccaro and Blanche Peninsula**

**27 & 28 March 2004, Leader: Donna Ensor**

Saturday dawned wet and cold and brought rain and three hearty birders from Lunenburg. Despite the weather we tallied 32 species for the day. We had a beautiful, adult Bald Eagle surveying the geese over Lyles Bay, plus the first Great Blue Heron for most of us this year.

On Sunday we had much better weather but the wind was blowing hard. Nine birders tallied 36 species including Fox Sparrow and Green-winged Teal. Red-winged Blackbirds spoke of spring, and Red Crossbills made the life list of one of the participants. Both days, we looked for a Killdeer but had no luck!

### **Wolfville Area**

**25 April 2004, Leader: Jim Wolford**

Temperatures ranged from -2 C. to +9 C. on this joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalists Society, BUT a very cold west wind made us feel like martyrs!

Ten cars with perhaps 20 participants visited Bernard Forsythe's yard on Wolfville Ridge, where they were shown first a male Barred Owl, then the female and finally a nest box with two very young owl chicks. Prey items in the box included 11 small mammals (meadow voles, short-tailed shrews, deer mice) and a palm warbler! A Yellow-rumped Warbler was heard and seen.



At Van Nostrand's ponds at Starr's Point we all walked around the older pond and then the new one. At least two Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen here, 20+ Tree Swallows with five Barn Swallows, four male Ring-necked Ducks, and one pair of Canada Geese. Two "adult-looking" Bald Eagles flying together gave rise to some speculation: were these failed nesters, or not really adults yet?

At Wellington Dyke a female N. Harrier was flying around. At the Bald Eagle nest, near Jawbone Corner, the male eagle flew off from next to the nest to chase a flying raven. We also saw other aerial harassing going on there high in the air: crow and raven interacting; raven chasing immature eagle; and raven harassing a soaring red-tailed hawk.

We then visited Canard Pond and saw one Great Blue Heron, five N. Shovelers, two Ring-necked Ducks, five Green-winged Teals, and one male Belted Kingfisher.

The next stop was Fred Thomas Rd. where a few participants saw, very well, an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull that was feeding with a large group of gulls in one corner of a plowed field. The LBBG was quite close to the road where we stopped, but flew away before other people could be alerted.

At the Dept. of Transport/Highways Pond we added two Am. Wigeons and a pair of Blue-winged Teals to the list, and at the Canning Aboiteau, we saw a pair of Common Goldeneyes. Along the Habitant River in Canning there were two Greater Yellowlegs. Only 15 Canada geese were seen here, but others were heard in unseen bends of the river.

Harris' Pond in Canning sported a variety of birds allowing us to add two Gadwalls, one Double-crested Cormorant (strangely the only one seen today), and one muskrat (also the only one seen today).

All in all, we did pretty well for diversity of dabbling ducks, mediocorely for diving ducks, and poorly for geese, with several nice bonuses. Thanks to all participants for their good cheer in the face of a cold morning gale!

### **Cape Sable Island**

**01 May 2004, Leader: Murray R. Newell**

A large group of 64 birders participated in the fieldtrip on Cape Sable Island this past Spring. Some highlights were Eastern Towhee, Indigo Buntings, Northern Mockingbird, Baltimore Oriole, Brant, Eastern Bluebird, and American Oystercatcher. We totaled 67 species for the day. Thanks to a great gang of birders!

### **Conquerall Mills**

**22 May 2004, Leader: James Hirtle**

Thirteen people arrived for this outing which covered Conquerall Mills, Fitch Road, Lake Road, part of Wallace Lake Road, and Brown Branch Brook in Petite Riviere. After birding those areas we dropped by a house at Crescent Beach to check out feeders and then went to Broad Cove.

In all it was not a bad day, but cool, with dropping temperatures keeping the birds quiet near the end. The day total for all birds seen and heard was 63 species with highlights being Wood Ducks, Bobolinks, a Tennessee Warbler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, two Eastern Kingbirds and a Gray Catbird. An impressive 14 species of warblers were seen and two heard, those being three Northern Waterthrushes and one Canada Warbler.

### **Bon Portage Island**

**21 - 24 May 2004, Leader: Claire Diggins**

Eight gutsy participants travelled to the island by means of two motor boats on Friday, May 21st, for a weekend of birdwatching. Weather conditions were often cool, breezy, and damp, but hospitality was warm and friendly and no complaints were heard.

Some of our favourite sightings were Roseate Terns, Philadelphia Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Swainson's Thrushes, Black-Crowned Night Heron, several flycatcher species, and various other songsters. The presence of thousands of Leach's Storm-Petrels made this an outstanding weekend.

## Belleisle Marsh

29 May 2004, Leader: Sharon Hawboldt

With rain all night and a morning forecast of rain turning to showers, the outlook for the field trip was certainly not promising. However, the rain surprisingly ceased just before meeting time and by afternoon we were even treated to a brief period of sunny skies. A dozen brave souls met at the Belleisle Marsh parking lot where we watched a male Northern Harrier and an American Bittern. Scott Leslie, a local nature photographer, showed us his floating blind and explained how he uses it to get close to birds without disturbing them. No one was anxious to try it, but it was interesting to learn how he is able to obtain such beautiful close-up photographs.

We noticed Common Loons fly overhead a number of times. Dozens of our four common Swallow species were swooping just above the ponds. Ducks were not numerous; most of them were Ring-necked Ducks and Blue-winged Teals. A handsome male Northern Shoveler was deemed the most colourful. We startled a skunk in the ditch beside us and gave it plenty of room to paddle quickly away up the trail ahead of us. The Bobolinks were back in their usual places with the males hovering over the fields, singing their cheerful songs. We saw flagging where research is being done on them and on Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows. We also saw large flags and streamers used to discourage Canada Geese from fields seeded last Fall.

By late morning we were cold and wet and ready for an early lunch indoors. Several pictures were taken of the finches and two male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks that were visiting my feeders.

We spent the afternoon searching for woodland birds on nearby logging roads. There wasn't a lot of activity, but many Ovenbirds called, several Red-eyed and Blue-headed vireos sang, and the Least Flycatchers were easy to spot. We headed back to our cars as a Barred Owl hooted nearby. Thanks to a great group of patient, good-natured observers.

## Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary

30 May 2004, Leader: Terry Paquet

It rained during most of the drive to Amherst, but the rain stopped and didn't start again until the drive home. There was a gusty wind blowing, turning the temperature of three degrees into a cool zero with the wind chill. Doesn't sound like late May!

Five birders joined me for the walk and we found most of the expected species with great looks at some: Am. Bitterns, a few Black Terns and hundreds of the four Swallow Species (some perching nearby). A good variety of regular warblers were present including Bay-breasted, Blackburnian and Cape May. Eastern Wood-Pewees were calling along with Alder Flycatchers and Bobolinks. There were C. Geese with goslings, a good mix of regular waterfowl, plenty of Sora and PB Grebes. Bald Eagles and a N. Harrier were seen, as well as an Am. Coot, and a C. Moorhen was found at the far end of the marsh by Bill and Shirley Hughes. □



AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS, like this one Apr. 3 at Portuguese Cove, HRM, are still fattening up at our feeders in spring, preparing for the long flight north. [Photo Hans Toom]

(Continued from back cover)

**Fri 08 Oct to Mon 11 Oct 2004 – Brier Island Bonanza!**

Leaders: James Hirtle E-mail: [jrhbirder@hotmail.com](mailto:jrhbirder@hotmail.com);  
Terry Paquet E-mail: [terrypaquet@hotmail.com](mailto:terrypaquet@hotmail.com);  
Fulton Lavender 455-4966  
Contact for info: Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922  
E-mail: [sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca)

Join James Hirtle on Friday and Saturday evenings for owling. Join Terry Paquet on Saturday morning for birding on Brier and join Fulton Lavender on Sunday morning for birding on Long Island and on Monday morning for a last look at birds you may have missed on Brier. All scheduled birding trips depart from the parking lot of the Brier Island Lodge at 8:00a.m. Owl Prowls depart at 8:30 p.m. from the parking lot of the Brier Island Hostel. Feel free in the afternoons to take a whale & seabird cruise with Mariner Cruises, departing at 12:30 p.m. each day; or watch the hawk migration from the top of Hawk Hill! Explore this wonderful island on your own or join other groups of birders to witness the bonanza of birds that fall migration brings to Brier each year!

**Thu 28 Oct 2004 – NSBS Annual General Meeting**

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

As usual, the AGM will be followed by a wine and cheese reception; a great opportunity to meet and mingle.

**Sat 13 Nov 2004 – Canso and Area**

Leaders: Steve Bushell 366-2527 and Tom Kavanaugh  
E-mail: [terri.crane@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:terri.crane@ns.sympatico.ca)

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Chapel Gully Trail parking lot. Come down Main Street, turn right onto Union, go past the Marina and take the next right onto Wilmot. The parking lot is at the top of the hill. Fall migration is in full swing on Canso at this

time of year, so be prepared for almost anything! No rain date. Accommodations will be available just outside Canso and in Antigonish for those wanting to do Randy's trip the following day.

**Sun 14 Nov 2004 – Antigonish Coastal Waters**

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

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Uncle Ron's Coffee Shop on the TCH just east of exit 35 (Lower South River). This trip covers the waters of St. Georges Bay and the Antigonish Harbour. We'll end the day at Ogdens Pond which has hosted thousands of gulls, ducks and, in some years, inland gannets. No rain date.

**Thu 25 Nov 2004 – Regular Meeting**

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

"Forestry and the Ultimate Thrush: the Plight of the Bicknell's Thrush in New Brunswick" Guest Speaker: Sara Chisholm

**Sat 04 Dec 2004 – Cape Sable Island**

Leader: Murray Newell 745-3340 E-mail: [dowitcher@eastlink.ca](mailto:dowitcher@eastlink.ca)

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Tim Horton's in Barrington Passage. This is a good chance to get a start on your winter list. We'll hunt for rare birds, shorebirds, etc. Bring proper clothes, sturdy footwear and a lunch if you wish. No storm date.

**Sun 05 Dec 2004 – Metro "Hot Spot" Birding**

Leader: Terry Paquet 452-3622 E-mail: [terrypaquet@hotmail.com](mailto:terrypaquet@hotmail.com)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Sullivans Pond and dress warmly. We will check local sites for rarities and unusual birds as a prelude to the Christmas Bird Count. Storm date: Saturday 11 Dec. ☐



More GLOSSY IBISES than usual, such as this one at Canso, appeared this spring. [Photo Tom Kavanaugh]



# 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 as well as all field trip reports should be directed to the Events Editor, Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922. Email: [sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca)

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

Leader: Joan Czapalay 422-6858  
E-mail: [joancz@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto: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](mailto:joancz@ns.sympatico.ca), up to Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 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: [dowitcher@eastlink.ca](mailto:dowitcher@eastlink.ca)

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: Fulton Lavender 455-4966

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.

## **Sun 12 Sep 2004 – Shorebirds of Sydney Area, Cape Breton**

Leader: Susann Myers 733-2805  
E-mail: [susann.myers@pc.gc.ca](mailto:susann.myers@pc.gc.ca)

Meet at the Sydney Airport at 9:00 a.m. by the runway fence to the right of the main terminal building. We'll look for a variety of shorebirds at Sydney Airport and Morien Bar. Both locations have parking areas from which birds can be seen without walking.

You are invited to bring a contribution to a potluck picnic lunch at Morien Bar. Hot and cold drinks, cups, plates, cutlery, etc. will be provided. If desired, bring a folding chair. No rain date.

## **Sat 18 Sep 2004 – Sandy Lake, Tantallon**

Leader: Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922  
E-mail: [sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto: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 – Meeting & Skills Workshop**

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

"Tips for Beginning Birders" Presenter: Suzanne Borkowski

## **Sat 25 Sep 2004 – Eastern Shore**

Leader: Peter Richard 463-5612  
E-mail: [Prichard@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto: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.

*(Continued on inside back cover)*