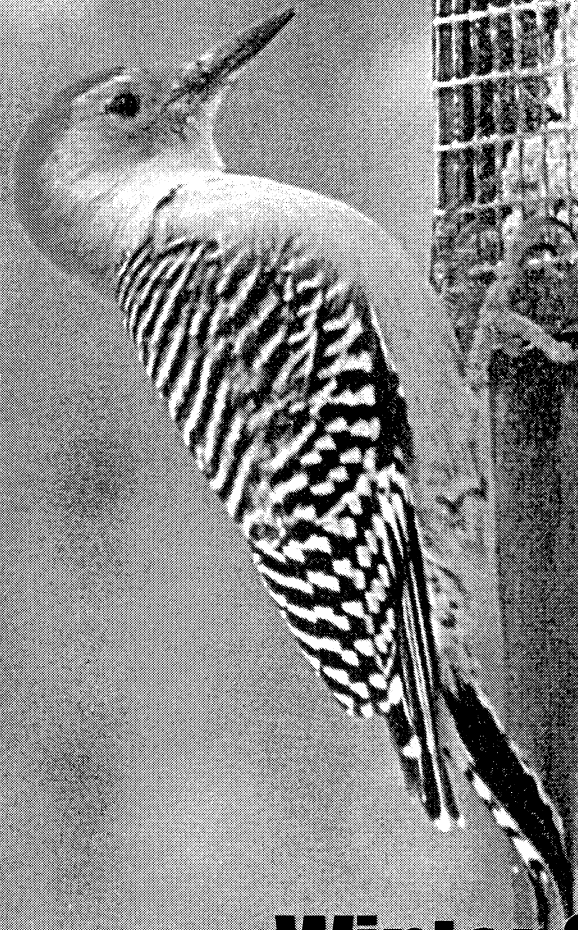


# **Nova Scotia Birds**

**A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society**



**Winter 2005**  
**(The Birds of Autumn)**

# NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

## Executive 2004-2005



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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 2006 issue: Dec. 7, 2005**  
**Spring 2005 issue: Mar. 7, 2005**

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

## Inside This Issue

### Special points of interest:

- Photo Confirmation of Past Rarities
- Autumn Seasonal Reports
- President's Corner
- New Books
- Puffin of the Year
- Trip Reports
- Financial Reports

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*Cover Photo:* This was a bonanza season for RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS, like this female at East Grove, *Hants*, in mid-November.  
[Photo John Smith]

**NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS**  
WINTER 2005

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## THE SPOTTING SCOPE

This issue is a tad behind schedule, but Christmas, my sister's wedding, frequent storms, and the occasional rarity, all conspired to delay publication.

This will be but a brief editorial.

Seasonal Report editors occasionally come and go, rather like the seasons upon which they report. Sylvia Fullerton has written of shorebirds for many years, with passion and expertise, and we're sorry that she's decided to pursue more leisure time, but Susann Myers is very capable and committed, and will do a fine job of filling those big shorebird gumboots.

Terry Paquet has only been writing for a few issue, but he's reluctantly decided to call it quits, but our thanks to him for the fine work he's done.

At press time we had still not confirmed a replacement, but the search continues.



A young COMMON TERN can be distinguished from a young Arctic Tern by its relatively longer legs, longer bill, and blackish forewing (carpal bar). [Photo Bernard Burke]

**We wish to acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program, toward our mailing costs.**





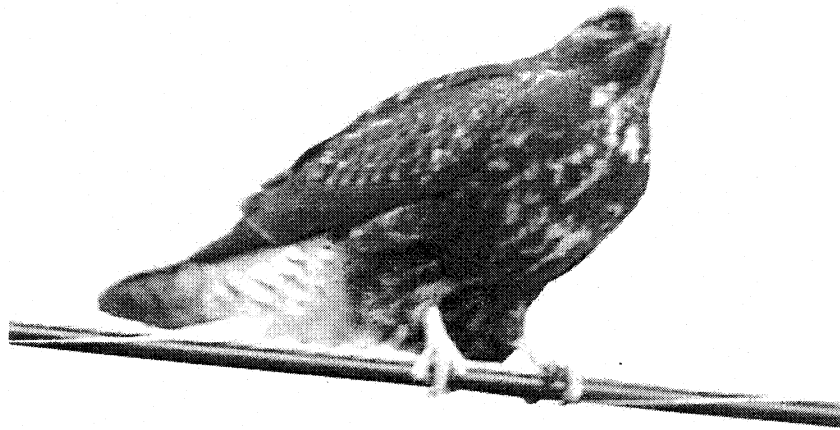
## Photographic Confirmation of Some Past Rarities

By Ian McLaren, Photo Editor

One role of *Nova Scotia Birds* is to document extremely rare birds, so that others in the future can judge for themselves. The most concrete support for these records, short of a museum specimen, is a convincing photograph. Here are five rarity photos that have not hitherto been published. We encourage readers submit more such photos for the record. Note that they don't need to be portrait-class for this important purpose.

### Swainson's Hawk

Tom Kavanaugh has recently been a source of many unusual bird records and photos from Canso Town and vicinity. Among his older photos, he found this one of a hawk that hung around town for a time in late September and early October 1994, thus supplying a first photographic record. Prior to this, there had been one sight record on Brier I. in Sept. 1984 (in Tufts, 1981, *Birds of Nova Scotia*), and a corpse on Spencer's Island, *Colchester* in spring 1989, confirmed from a band placed on the bird at Cape May, NJ the previous autumn. Since 1996 there have been three sight records from the Valley and Brier I., and others photographically documented in CB in fall 1998 (5 birds!), and at Belleisle, *Annapolis*, in fall 2003. We can expect more in coming years.

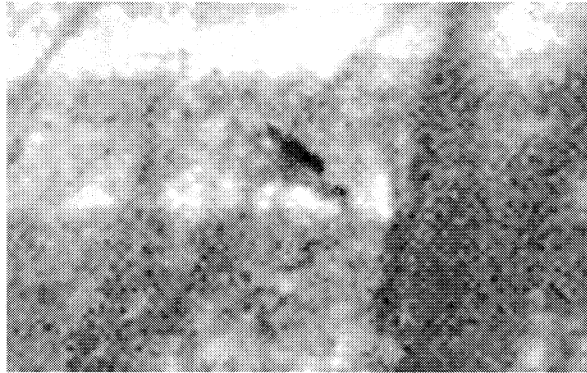


This bird is readily identified as a dark-phase juvenile Swainson's Hawk from the broad, dark ventral streaks, except for pale undertail coverts – the only dark-phase buteo to have these. Additional features typical of Swainson's are its generally light build, bare tarsi, and whitish area on the forehead. [Photo Tom Kavanaugh]

### Black-necked Stilt

The last (1986) edition of Robie Tufts' *Birds of Nova Scotia* listed only two records of this rare wanderer to the province. I know of no details of four found 24 Sept. 1966 near Canning, Kings (reported indirectly to Audubon Field-Notes via the NB Museum of Nature). The next were two said to have been "filmed by Betty June and Sydney Smith." The Smiths, the very bird-aware last Keepers of the Cape Sable Light, gave me the strip of 8 mm film (remember that?) with very tiny images of these birds, the best of which I've resurrected here. There have been only six occurrences of one to five individuals since, of which photos in *Nova Scotia Birds* confirm three.

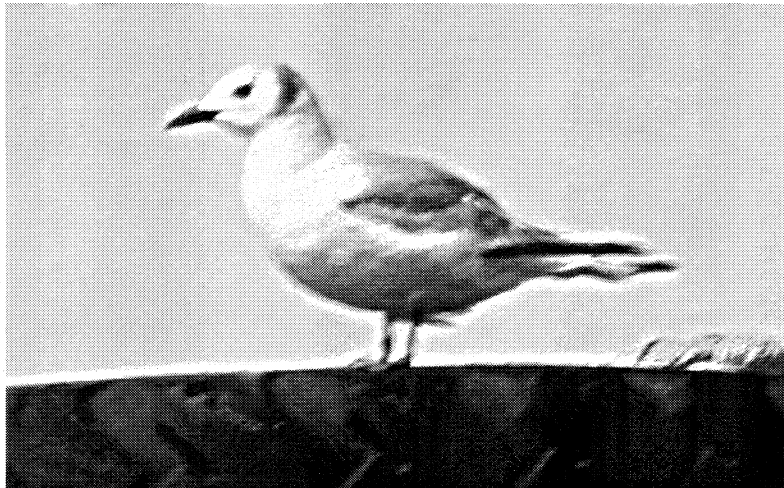




This Black-necked Stilt on the mudflats of Cape Sable was filmed through waving beach grass, 27 May 1979. Although far from clear, its "stilted" stance and striking black-and-white plumage makes it the first confirmed record for Nova Scotia. [from a film by Sydney Smith]

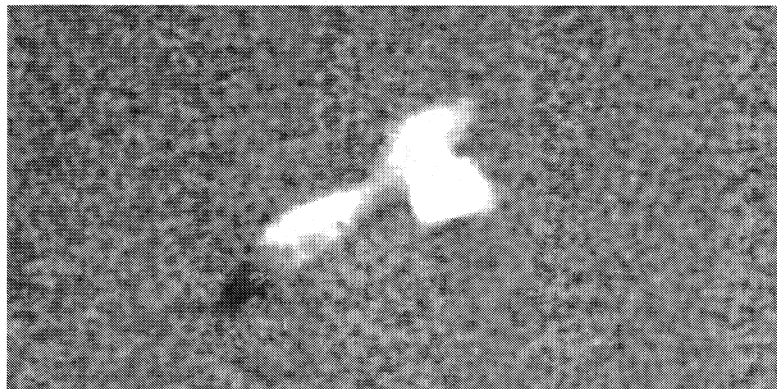
### Ross's Gull

Robbie Denton showed this photo to June Swift, and June showed to Eric Mills, who recognized it as the first of this ultra-rarity recorded in Nova Scotia. Robbie reports that he photographed it in June 1981 on a buoy in the harbour near the present location of the salmon cages in Westport Harbour, Brier I



Although not very sharp, the photo shows the long wings and tail, tiny black bill, short legs (red in the original), dark nape mark forming a hint of a collar, and dark forewing area. These are all characteristics of a first-summer Ross's Gull. [Photo Robbie Denton]

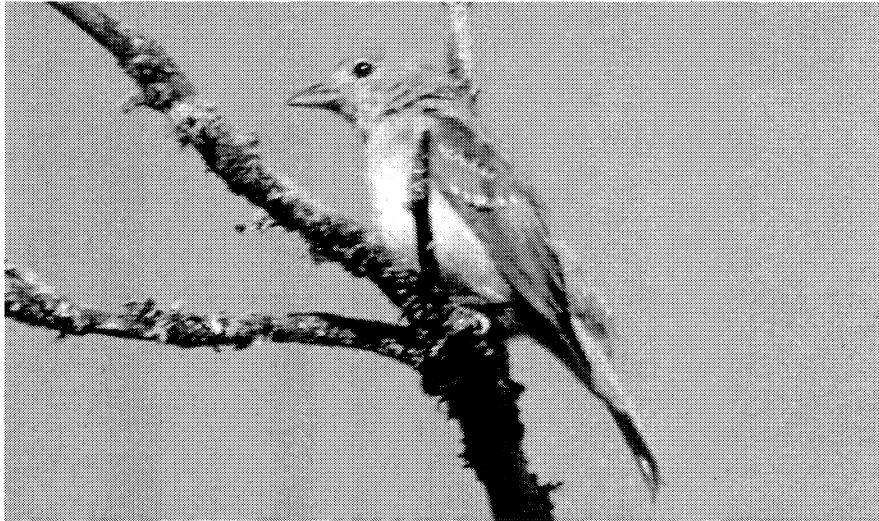
Since then, only five Ross's Gulls have been recorded in *Nova Scotia Birds*. The second of these, the only one to be photographed, was another unseasonable bird 7-9 June 1988 in Canso, observed by Stephen Bushell, June Jarvis and Nancy Peters.



This photo taken in Canso 7-9 June 1988 shows the diagnostic wedge-shaped tail (the bird is flying away to the left, head hidden from view). Together with the description (*NS Birds* 1989, Vol. 31 [1], p. 22-23), this confirms it as Ross's Gull. It is a first summer bird, judging from its darker wing-tips. These usually also have remnants of a carpel wing bar, but this may be partly obscured by the bird's angle. [Photo Nancy Peters]

## Western Tanager

In recent years this species has become almost annual, but it still seems worthwhile to document an early occurrence in Nova Scotia. It was on Seal I. on the seasonally early (but not unprecedented) date of 30 Aug. 1972. I had cautiously submitted the record (1972, *Nova Scotia Bird Society Newsletter* 14, p. 165) as a young Scarlet Tanager with weak wing bars, which occasionally occur in that species. Some years ago, I took another look at the slide, and realized that it was of a typical young "gray-morph" female Western Tanager, largely off-white below, gray-backed, and with a distinctly pink bill. There had been three prior records of the species, one confirmed by a specimen (Tufts 1986).



The grayish wings, with (weakish) wing bars, extensively whitish lower breast and belly, and pink-tinged bill in the original slide (creamy to blackish in other tanagers), mark this as Nova Scotia's second confirmed Western Tanager, probably a hatching-year female. [Photo Ian McLaren]

## NSBS Executive 2004 - 2005



(L-R) Terry Paquet, Andy Horn, Suzanne Borkowski, Pat McKay, Eileen Billington, Bill Billington, Joan Czapalay. Absent: Barbara Hinds, Blake Maybank, Bernice Moores. [Photo Sterling Levy]



# AUTUMN BIRD REPORTS

## Loons Through Grebes

By Terry Paquet

RED-THROATED LOONS were well reported during the fall season, beginning at the end of September in *Pictou* county and continuing in good numbers in that area, which is well covered by KJM.

PIED-BILLED GREBES show up annually in late fall at Bissett Lake, *HRM* and this year was no exception. Six were seen there Oct 30 by DOU. Taking the prize for large concentrations of HORNED GREBES this fall was MUN with 200 at CSI, November 30. ☒

### Red-throated Loon

Sept. 26	Big I, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Oct. 3	Big I, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	5	FLL, NSBS
Oct. 17	Bacarro, <i>Shel.</i>	6	MUN
Oct. 23	Big I, <i>Pict.</i>	6	KJM
Oct. 24	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	40	KJM
Oct. 24	Pinkneys Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	1	RSD
Oct. 31	Lockport, <i>Shel.</i>	2	DJC
Nov. 6	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	75	KJM
Nov. 7	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i>	1/min.	DAC, AZV, FLL
Nov. 9	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	7	JOB
Nov. 11	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i>	many	DAC, AZV
Nov. 19	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JOB
Nov. 23	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	32	JOB
Nov. 21	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	30	GMU, KJM

### Common Loon

Sept. 18	Mira Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	15	SEM
Sept. 26	Big I, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Oct. 2	Brier I.	7	ELM
Oct. 3	Big I, <i>Pict.</i>	8	KJM
Oct. 14	Margaretville, <i>Anna.</i>	5	JOB
Oct. 28	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	10	KJM
Nov. 11	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i>	many	DAC, AZV
Nov. 19	Margeretville, <i>Anna.</i>	3	JOB

### Pied-billed Grebe

Aug. 25	Annapolis Royal Marsh	2	BLM
Sept. 6	Tiddville, <i>Digby</i>	2	PLC

Sept. 11	Florence, <i>CBRM</i>	2	BSK
Sept. 29-Oct. 2	Brier I.	1	ELM
Oct. 9	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
Oct. 19	Mason's Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct. 16	Bissett Lake, <i>HRM</i>	2	PLC
Oct. 30	Bissett Lake, <i>HRM</i>	6	DOU

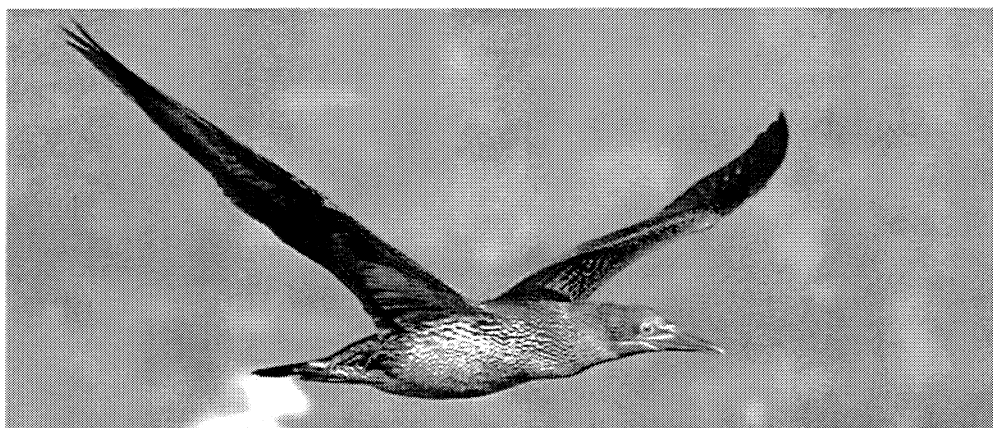
### Horned Grebe

Aug. 24	St. Anns Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	2	BSK
Sept. 18	Mira Gut, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Sept. 27	Pict. Causeway	1	KJM
Oct. 20	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct. 22	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JOB
Oct. 23	Taylor Head PP, <i>HRM</i>	5	PLC, VJH
Oct. 25	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	1	BPG
Oct. 30	Green Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	8	JAH, David Walmark
Nov. 19	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	3	JOB
Nov. 30	CSI	200	MUN

### Red-necked Grebe

Oct. 1	Brier I.	2	ELM
Oct. 23	Big I, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Oct. 25	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	3	BPG
Oct. 25	Cottage Cove, <i>Anna.</i>	1	BPG
Oct. 25	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	17	KJM
Oct. 29	Green Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	16	JAH, David Walmark
Nov. 19	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	9	JOB
Nov. 13	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	7	SEM

☒☒☒



Every autumn NORTHERN GANNETS gather off the Canso Causeway to pursue schools of Atlantic Saury and other fishes that pile up against that barrier. [Photo Bernard Burke]



# Tubenoses Through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

Records of the larger tubenoses were scanty, concentrated, as usual, in the Bay of Fundy with the exception of a CORY'S SHEARWATER Sept. 13 on a pelagic trip off Halifax and large numbers of GREATER SHEARWATERS off the East Spit of Sable I. Oct. 23. In the Bay of Fundy, CAH noted that WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS were gone by Sept. 24, leaving only Leach's. The remains of Hurricane *Ivan* on Sept. 18 & 19 brought about 50 storm-petrels to the Big I., *Pictou*, at least one of which was believed to be a LEACH'S. Significant numbers of NORTHERN GANNETS summered in the Bay of Fundy (e.g. 25 off Brier I. Aug. 25). By early October, gannet numbers off CBI increased markedly, and numbers remained high throughout the province through November, often coinciding with gales. AAM's 5500+ (ca. 75% adults, 25% subadults and juveniles) off Neils Hbr., *Victoria*, Oct. 14 were exceptional.

Migrant DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS appeared, as usual in mid-August and at the end of October were still on the move, the latest birds no doubt from farther north than Nova Scotia. Single immatures lingered at Lunenburg and in Bedford Basin through the end of November. GREAT CORMORANTS had almost fully replaced double-crests at Brier I. by Oct. 29. The first migrants noted were at Brier I. Sept. 29 and at Seal I. Oct. 9. ☿

<b>Northern Fulmar</b>				Aug. 25	Off Brier I.	25+	LAL <i>et al.</i>	
Sept. 13	At sea off Halifax	?	DAC	Aug. 30	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	4	LOC	
Oct. 10	Off Brier I.	25	DOU, <i>fide</i> JUS; FLL	Sept. 10	Tribune Hd., Herring Cove, <i>HRM</i>	"numbers"	IAM, FMC	
<b>Cory's Shearwater</b>				Oct. 8	Near Louisbourg	350	SEM	
Sept. 13	At sea off Halifax	1	DAC	Oct. 12	Chebucto Hd, <i>HRM</i>	100	FLL, Richard Hatch	
<b>Greater Shearwater</b>				Oct. 13	Aspy Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	400-500	AAM	
Aug. 5	Off Brier I.	30	LOC	Oct. 14	Near Neils Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	5500+	AAM	
Aug. 25	Off Brier I.	200+	LAL <i>et al.</i>	Oct. 17	Prospect area, <i>HRM</i>	50	BLM	
Sept. 10	E of Cross I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	BLM	Oct. 23	East Spit, Sable I.	500-1000	ZOL	
Sept. 10	30 mi. E of Halifax Hbr.	4	BLM	Oct. 28	N & W of Brier I.	Hundreds	ELM	
Sept. 13	At sea off Halifax	"Small numbers"	DAC	Oct. 31	Chebucto Hd, <i>HRM</i>	10-20/min	HAT	
Sept. 19	St. John-Digby ferry	"Hundreds"	PRG	Nov. 7	Chebucto Hd, <i>HRM</i>	"Hundreds"	DAC, FLL, AZV	
Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	100	FLL, NSBS	Nov. 7	Canso Causeway, <i>Ant.</i>	2	DCO	
Oct. 10	Off Brier I.	"Some"	DOU, <i>fide</i> JUS	Nov. 7	West Spit, Sable I.	1500	ZOL	
Oct. 23	East Spit, Sable I.	500-1000	ZOL	Nov. 9	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	5	JOB	
Oct. 30	Off Brier I.	1	ELM	Nov. 11	Canso Hbr, <i>Guys.</i>	"Hundreds"	TOK	
<b>Sooty Shearwater</b>				Nov. 11	Jimtown, <i>Ant.</i>	20+	RFL	
Aug. 5	Off Brier I.	2	LOC	Nov. 17	Canso Hbr., <i>Guys.</i>	20-25	TOK	
Aug. 25	Off Brier I.	1	LAL <i>et al.</i>	<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>				
Sept. 19	St. John-Digby ferry	Many	PRG	Aug. 5	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	32	WMA	
<b>Manx Shearwater</b>				Aug. 18	Off Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	ca. 150	RHL	
Sept. 19	St. John-Digby ferry	4	PRG	Aug. 23	Liscombe, <i>Guys.</i>	52	JOB	
<b>Storm-Petrel sp.</b>				Aug. 26	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	20 migrating	Paul MacDonald	
Oct. 17	Conrad's Beach, <i>HRM</i>	2	ROW	Sept.-Nov. 5	Bedford-Halifax Hbr.	Regular	LOC	
<b>Wilson's Storm-Petrel</b>				Sept. 20	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	80	KJM	
Aug. 5	Off Brier I.	7	LOC	Sept. 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	85	KJM	
Aug. 25	Off Brier I.	1	RAR, LIT	Sept. 29	Brier I.	50	ELM	
Sept. 12	Off Seal I.	"A couple"	IAM, NSBS	Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	200	FLL, NSBS	
Sept. 13	At sea off Halifax	"A few"	DAC	Oct. 14	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JOB	
Sept. 20	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	30	KJM	Oct. 28	Brier I.	300 migrating	ELM	
Sept. 24	Off Brier I.	Gone	CAH	Oct. 29	Brier I.	Only 1	ELM	
<b>Leach's Storm-Petrel</b>				Oct. 30	Arisaig, <i>Ant.</i>	2	KJM	
Aug. 15	Off Brier I.	Appearing	CAH	Nov. 7	West Spit, Sable I.	1 imm.	ZOL	
Sept. 10	E of Cross I., <i>Lun.</i>	2	BLM	Nov. 20	Lunenburg Hbr.	1	JAH	
Sept. 10	30 mi. E of Halifax Hbr.	9	BLM	Nov. 28	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC	
Sept. 13	At sea S of Halifax	"Few"	DAC	<b>Great Cormorant</b>				
Sept. 19	St. John-Digby ferry	1	PRG	Aug. 25	Louisbourg	9	SEM	
Sept. 24	Off Brier I.	Still a few	CAH	Sept. 16	West Spit, Sable I.	1	ZOL	
Oct. 10	Off Brier I.	12	DOU, <i>fide</i> JUS; FLL	Sept. 25	Brier I.	3-4	ELM	
Oct. 12	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, Richard Hatch	Sept. 29	Brier I.	50	ELM	
Oct. 24	West Spit, Sable I.	1	ZOL	Oct. 9	Seal I.	25 migrants	BLM	
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				Oct. 24	West Spit, Sable I.	1 imm.	ZOL	
Aug. 5	Off Brier I.	1	LOC	Oct. 30	Arisaig, <i>Ant.</i>	4	KJM	
Aug. 11	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT, LAE	Oct. 29	Brier I.	50+	ELM	
Aug. 16	Cape George, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL					

# Herons Through Vultures

By Ulli Höger

The number of GREAT BLUE HERONS reported declined towards the end of the season as expected. LITTLE BLUE HERONS, mostly immature individuals, were found through late fall, making 2004 a strong year for sightings of this species. Other uncommon herons reported this fall were a TRICOLORED HERON from Pembroke, CATTLE EGRETS and GREEN HERONS from a number of different locations, and a YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON on CSI.

A WHITE IBIS found near Tantallon, HRM, in early August could have been the bird reported on June 26 from Brier I. Additional reports for this species came from Clyde R. and CSI. ☒

## American Bittern

Aug. 29	East Dover, HRM	1	BLM
Aug. 29	Pembroke, Hants	2	PRG
Aug. 17 & 30	Margaretsville, Anna.	1	JOB
Oct. 8	Pembroke, Hants	1	PRG
Oct. 10	Seal I., Yar.	1	ABO
Oct. 17	Sambro Hd., HRM	1	HAT
Nov. 17	Halifax	1	RHL

## Great Blue Heron

Sept. 25	Three Fathom Hbr., HRM	24	IAM
Nov. 11	Wolfville, Kings	1	JET
Nov. 12	CSI	1	MUN
Nov. 19	Pickney Pt., Yar.	1	PRG
Nov. 21	CSI	7	MUN
Nov. 22	Brier I.	1	JUS
Nov. 30	Dartmouth	1	BBU

## Great Egret

Aug. 4-12	Annapolis Royal	1-2	AAM, RBS
Oct. 17	Seal I.	1	ABO
Oct. 24	Crescent Beach, Lun.	1	JSC
Oct. 25	Oler Farm Marsh, Lun.	1	JAH
Oct. 30	Pembroke, Hants	1	MUN
Nov. 7	Sandy Cove, HRM	1 imm.	FLL, AZV
Nov. 7	Ketch Hbr., HRM	1	DAC

## Snowy Egret

Oct. 22	CSI, Shel.	1	MUN
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## Little Blue Heron

Oct. 8-11	Clyde R., Shel.	1 imm.	SAH
Nov. 7	Overton, Yar.	1	MUN
Nov. 12	Clyde R., Shel.	1 imm.	SAH, HAT
Nov. 27	CSI, Shel.	1 imm.	MUN

## Tricolored Heron

Aug. 9	Pembroke, Hants	1	Bob Morrison
Aug. 22	Pembroke, Hants	1	MUN

## Cattle Egret

Oct. 16-17	Head of Jeddore, HRM	1	Jan Foley
Oct. 18	Catalone CBC	1	SEM
Oct. 19-20	Lockeport, Shel.	1-2	DJC
Oct. 20	Louisburg CBC	1	BES, GEC
Oct. 20	Beach Meadows, Lun.	1	AND
Oct. 24	Canso, Guys.	1	Tom Crane
Nov. 7-12	Tusket Overpass, Yar.	2	MUN

## Green Heron

Oct. 20-25	Back Hbr., Lun.	1 imm.	JAH
Oct. 22	Hartlen Pt., HRM	1 imm.	FLL
Oct. 24-31	CSI	1	MUN
Nov. 2	CSI	1	HAT

## Black-crowned Night-Heron

Sept. 9	Seal I., Yar.	1 imm.	AAM et al.
Nov. 2	Clyde R., Shel.	1 imm.	HAT

## Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Oct. 3-4	Clarks Hbr., CSI, Shel.	1 imm.	MUN
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## WHITE IBIS

Aug. 8-14	Tantallon, HRM	1	SMB et al.
Sept. 17	Clyde R., Shel.	1	SAH
Oct. 20	CSI	1	MUN

## Turkey Vulture

Sept. 11	Pembroke, Hants	6	MUN
Oct. 1	Brier I.	18	JAH
Oct. 3	Brier I.	15	ELM
Oct. 8	Pembroke, Hants	12	PRG
Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	25	NSBS
Oct. 9	Brier I.	10	KJM
Oct. 11	Sandford, Yar.	12	MUN
Oct. 12	Bedford Basin, HRM	1	DOM
Nov. 2	Freeport, Digby	10	Andy Moir
Nov. 2	Pembroke, Hants	2	HAT
Nov. 7	Pembroke, Hants	14	MUN

☒☒☒



GREEN HERONS are among our less regular "southern" herons, but this one at "The Guzzle" on CSI Nov. 1, lingered in the area for numbers of visiting birders. [Photo Elizabeth Doull]



CATTLE EGRET. [Photo Bernard Burke]

# Geese, Swans and Ducks

By Terry Paquet

The sighting of the period was an adult GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE discovered at Lakeville, *Kings* in a flock of Canada Geese by JCT Oct. 30. The bird was of the expected Greenland race and was thought to be possibly the same individual that has been seen in the past two years at the same location. For those who missed seeing the bird, here is Judy's brief description "The white front on the WFGO (Greenland race) is very pronounced, bill is a very bright orange, and what could be seen of the lower breast was darkish."

There was some discussion through the period, regarding the AOU's splitting of CACKLING GOOSE and CANADA GOOSE. RBS's discovery and photo of a bird determined to be of the "Richardson's" subspecies of Cackling Goose at the Windsor sewage pond, Oct. 3 and several subsequent messages to NatureNS proved to be very enlightening on the topic. This is certainly a topic people should review, now that they are considered to be separate species.

Visiting British birders Joan and Ian Jones (*vide* KJM) found the periods only TUFTED DUCK, Sept. 27 at the Pictou Causeway. KJM also reports seeing an impressive 2000 GREATER SCAUP at that location on Sept. 27. ☞

## Greater White-fronted Goose

Oct. 30 Lakeville, *Kings* 1 JCT  
Nov. 12 Lakeville, *Kings* 1 Ian Roseby

## Snow Goose

Oct. 28 Spryfield, *HRM* 1 heard FLL

## Cackling Goose

Oct. 3 Windsor sewage pond 1 RBS, BLF

## Canada Goose

Sept. 20 Big I., *Pict.* 60 KJM  
Sept. 21 Harris' Pond, *Kings* 13 JCT  
Sept. 26 Big I., *Pict.* 50 KJM  
Sept. 30 Lakeville, *Kings* 118 JCT  
Sept. 30 Canning, *Kings* 86 JCT  
Oct. 23 Merrigomish Hbr., *Pict.* 1100 KJM  
Oct. 25 Waterside PP, *Pict.* 500 KJM  
Oct. 30 Lakeville, *Kings* 600 JCT  
Oct. 30 Bissett Lake, *HRM* 400 DOU  
Nov. 6 Big I., *Pict.* 650 KJM

## Brant

Sept. 25 CSI 1 MUN

## Wood Duck

Aug. 24 Louisbourg 2 males SEM  
Aug. 30 Margaretville, *Anna.* 5 JOB  
Sept. 18 Glace Bay, *CBRM* 14 males SEM  
Sept. 21 Saxon Street Pond, *Kings* 1 JCT, JET  
Sept. 21 Canning, *Kings* 1 JCT  
Sept. 26 Egerton, *Pict.* 4 JKM  
Sept. 30 Sheffield Mills, *Kings* 3 JCT  
Oct. 1 Brier I. 1 ELM  
Oct. 22 Margaretville, *Anna.* 2 JOB

## Gadwall

Sept. 7 Sullivans Pond, *HRM* 1 BBU  
Sept. 23 Gaspereau Valley, *Kings* 2 GWT  
Nov. 25 Cole Hbr., *HRM* 1 BAH  
Nov. 28 Point Edward, *CBRM* 1 BSK  
Nov. 29 Sullivans Pond, *HRM* 1 BAH

## Eurasian Wigeon

Sept. 5 Glace Bay 1 BES, GEC  
Oct. 17 Galce Bay 1 male SEM

## American Wigeon

Sept. 11 Florence, *CBRM* 2 BSK  
Sept. 21 Saxon Street Pond, *Kings* 1 JCT, JET  
Sept. 21 Canard Pond, *Kings* 10 JCT, JET  
Sept. 22 Grand Desert, *HRM* 64 FLL, CLS  
Sept. 30 Canard Pond, *Kings* 23 JCT  
Oct. 17 Glace Bay 45 SEM  
Oct. 25 North R., *Vic.* 6 BSK

## American Black Duck

Sept. 23 Lower Rose Bay, *Lun.* 74 JAH  
Sept. 26 Big I., *Pict.* 90 KJM  
Sept. 26 Lower Barney's R., *Pict.* 100 JKM

Oct. 3 Bedford 30 LOC  
Oct. 26 Harris' Pond, *Kings* 30 JCT  
Nov. 11 Morien Bar, *CBRM* 120 SEM

## Mallard

Aug. 30 Eastern Passage, *HRM* 3 LOC  
Oct. 22 Margaretville, *Anna.* 5 JOB  
Oct. 26 Harris' Pond, *Kings* a few JCT  
Oct. 26 Habitant R., *Kings* 20 JCT

## Blue-winged Teal

Sept. 19 West Chezzetcook, *HRM* 4 FLL  
Sept. 21 Saxon Street Pond, *Kings* 2 JCT, JET  
Sept. 21 Canard Pond, *Kings* 4 JCT, JET  
Sept. 21 Habitant R., *Kings* 5 JCT  
Sept. 21 Canning, *Kings* 14 JCT  
Sept. 26 Egerton, *Pict.* 1 KJM  
Sept. 27 West Chezzetcook, *HRM* 30 FLL  
Sept. 29 Sheffield Mills, *Kings* 5 JCT  
Sept. 29 Canard Pond, *Kings* 16 JCT  
Oct. 5 CSI 5 MUN

## Northern Shoveler

Sept. 23 Lower Rose Bay, *Lun.* 1 male JAH  
Sept. 29 Canard Pond, *Kings* 1 JCT  
Oct. 18 Canard Pond, *Kings* 6 JCT  
Oct. 26 Canard Pond, *Kings* 7 JCT  
Nov. 11 Bissett L., *HRM* 2 fems. FLL, RIH

## Northern Pintail

Sept. 22 Oxner's Beach, *Lun.* 3 JAH  
Sept. 29 Canard Pond, *Kings* 1 JCT  
Sept. 29 Middle Dyke Pond, *Kings* 3 JCT  
Oct. 5 CSI 5 MUN  
Oct. 26 Canard Pond, *Kings* 2 JCT  
Oct. 30 Antigonish Landing 5 KJM, RFL

## Green-winged Teal

Sept. 22 Grand Desert, *HRM* 42 FLL, CLS  
Sept. 23 Lower Rose Bay, *Lun.* 9 JAH  
Sept. 26 Big I., *Pict.* 1 KJM  
Sept. 27 West Chezzetcook, *HRM* 100 FLL  
Sept. 29 Canard Pond, *Kings* 40 JCT  
Sept. 29 New Minas sewage ponds ~450 JCT  
Oct. 30 Glace Bay 10 SEM  
Nov. 11 Antigonish Landing 6 RFL  
Nov. 21 Hartlens Point, *HRM* 10 FLL *et al.*

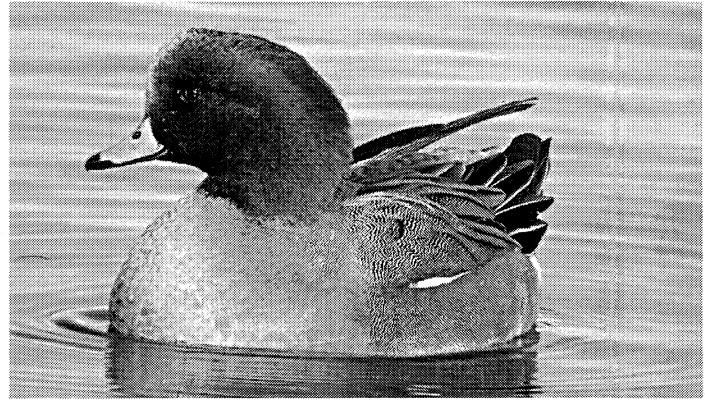
## Ring-necked Duck

Aug. 29 Nyanza, *Vic.* 5 males BSK  
Sept. 21 Harris' Pond, *Kings* 4 JCT  
Sept. 26 Egerton, *Pict.* 3 KJM  
Oct. 17 Sunken Lake, *Kings* 10 JWV  
Oct. 16 Louisbourg 40 SEM  
Oct. 19 Caledonia, *Queens* ~40 PEH  
Oct. 23 Egerton, *Pict.* 13 KJM  
Oct. 24 LaHave, *Lun.* 17 JAH





These male HARLEQUIN DUCKS, Nov. 23 off Port George, Annapolis, reveal their striking plumage from an unusual aspect. [Photo Richard Stern]



EURASIAN WIGEONS, like this beauty in Glace Bay Nov. 24, are always a great find. [Photo Cathy Murrant]

Oct. 26	Harris' Pond, Kings	13	JCT
Oct. 30	LaHave, Lun.	29	JAH
Nov. 11	Bissett Lake, HRM	115	FLL, RIH
<b>Tufted Duck</b>			
Sept. 27	Pictou Causeway	1 male	fide KJM
<b>Greater Scaup</b>			
Sept. 27	Pictou Causeway	~2000	KJM
Oct. 24	LaHave, Lun.	25	JAH
Oct. 30	LaHave, Lun.	31	JAH
Nov. 6	Abercrombie, Pict.	1400	KJM
Nov. 11	Bissett Lake, HRM	50	FLL, RIH
<b>Lesser Scaup</b>			
Sept. 11	Florence, CBRM	5	BSK
Nov. 10	Broad Cove, Lun.	3	SJF
Nov. 11	Bissett Lake, HRM	10	FLL, RIH
<b>Common Eider</b>			
Aug. 30	Eastern Passage, HRM	100	LOC
Oct. 23	Merrigomish Hbr., Pict.	80	KJM
Nov. 9	Port George, Anna.	11	JOB
Nov. 19	Port George, Anna.	32	JOB
Nov. 19	Margaretville, Anna.	62	JOB
Nov. 30	Louisbourg	190	SEM
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>			
Oct. 22	Port George, Anna.	3	JOB
Oct. 25	Port George, Anna.	7	PBG
Nov. 7	Sandy Cove, HRM	2 fems.	FLL, Mary Alward
Nov. 9	Port George, Anna.	2	JOB
Nov. 11	Sober I., HRM	1 fem.	KJM
Nov. 19	Port George, Anna.	14	JOB
Nov. 28	Port George, Anna.	8	Ian Roseby
<b>Surf Scoter</b>			
Aug. 17	Port George, Anna.	25	JOB
Sept. 20	Big I., Pict.	40	KJM
Sept. 26	Big I., Pict.	190	KJM
Oct. 9	Mabou, Vic.	76	RFL
Oct. 17	Bacarro, Shel.	2	MUN
Oct. 23	Merrigomish Hbr., Pict.	many hundred	KJM
Nov. 9	Port George, Anna.	4	JOB
Nov. 19	Port George, Anna.	18	JOB
<b>White-winged Scoter</b>			
Sept. 18	Mira Bay, CBRM	17	SEM
Sept. 26	Big I., Pict.	20	KJM
Oct. 23	Merrigomish Hbr., Pict.	a few	KJM
Nov. 9	Mahone Bay, Lun.	3	JAH
Nov. 19	Port George, Anna.	61	JOB
<b>Black Scoter</b>			
Aug. 30	Port George, Anna.	8	JOB
Sept. 25	Jimtown, Ant.	3	RFL
Sept. 26	Big I., Pict.	2	KJM
Sept. 26	Wild Cove, CBRM	3	SEM
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>			
Oct. 17	Bacarro, Shel.	2	MUN

Oct. 24	Crescent Beach, Lun.	3	JAH
Oct. 25	Sober I., HRM	5	KJM
Oct. 25	Beaver Hbr., HRM	18	KJM
Nov. 9	Mahone Bay, Lun.	72	JAH
Nov. 19	Port George, Anna.	8	JOB
Nov. 30	Louisbourg	22	SEM
<b>Bufflehead</b>			
Sept. 5 & Oct. 2	Glace Bay, CBRM	1 fem.	SEM
Oct. 23	Broad Cove, Lun.	6	SJF
Oct. 25	Bear R., Anna.	4 males, 4 fems.	MCR
Oct. 30	Glace Bay, CBRM	43	SEM
Nov.	Bear R., Anna	8 males, 8 fems.	MCR
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>			
Oct. 2	Morien Bar, CBRM	2	SEM
Nov. 2	Port George, Anna.	6	JOB
Nov. 6	Abercrombie, Pict.	100	KJM
Nov. 11	Ogdens Pond, Ant.	10	RFL
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>			
Sept. 16	Morien Bar, CBRM	5	SEM
Sept. 26	Merrigomish, Pict.	2	JKM
Oct. 8	Spectacle Lake, HRM	2	RHL
Oct. 22	Margaretville, Anna.	5	JOB
Oct. 22	Second Peninsula, Lun.	38	JAH
Oct. 23	Merrigomish, Pict.	16	KJM
Oct. 24	Caribou I., Pict.	10	KJM
Oct. 24	Haliburton Gut, Pict.	90	KJM
Oct. 30	Lakeville, Kings	5 pairs	JCT
Nov. 6	Lyons Brook, Pict.	200	KJM
Nov. 23	Silver Lake, Kings	5	PBG
<b>Common Merganser</b>			
Sept. 22	Seaforth, HRM	28	FLL, CLS
Sept. 26	Merrigomish, Pict.	2	KJM
Oct. 3	Bear R., Anna	11	MCR
Oct. 9	Harbour Center, Ant.	6	RFL
Nov. 6	Lyons Brook, Pict.	100	KJM
Nov. 11	Russell Lake, HRM	60	FLL, RIH
<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>			
Aug. 22	Margaree Hbr., Vic.	70	BSK
Sept. 16	Antigonish Hbr.	small flock	RFL
Sept. 26	Big I., Pict.	1	KJM
Oct. 23	Merrigomish Hbr.,	250	KJM
Oct. 24	Waterside PP, Pict.	200	KJM
Nov. 11	Morien Bar, CBRM	30	SEM
Nov. 19	Margaretville, Anna.	3	JOB
<b>Ruddy Duck</b>			
Sept. 5	Glace Bay	1 fem.	BES, GEC
Sept. 19	Windsor sewage pond	1 ad. fem.	RBS, JCT
Oct. 30	Bissett Lake, HRM	2	DOU
Nov. 11	Bissett Lake, HRM	1	Gavin Charles
Nov. 13	Glace Bay	1 fem.	SEM
Nov. 15	Windsor sewage pond	1 first basic	IAM

# Diurnal Raptors through Cranes

By Ulli Höger

This fall we received several reports of COOPER'S HAWK sightings. Most of these sightings must unfortunately be taken with a grain of salt. Even a short verbal description of the diagnostic field marks seen on the bird may make a big difference for an observation's significance. They visit our province, let's prove it! Similar is the situation with GOLDEN EAGLES. A short description of the critical fieldmarks of these exciting birds to exclude the possibility of imm. BALD EAGLES would be very helpful.

Other raptors were seen in usual numbers all over the province. Brier I. proved once more to be a productive hawk watch hotspot in late September and early October and another migration hotspot, Seal I., visited by several birding parties in early fall, also produced a variety of raptors (amongst other birds). Intense birding on the island over several days gave pretty good estimates of numbers present.

The most notable non-raptor this fall was a SANDHILL CRANE in the Stewiacke area. ☐

## Osprey

Sept. 3-6	Seal I.	1	ABM <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 12	Seal I.	1	IAM
Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	5	FLL
Oct. 9	Little Judique Hbr., <i>Inv.</i>	1	RFL
Oct. 24	Dartmouth	1	BBU
Oct. 29	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	DAM

## Bald Eagle

Sept. 3-6	Seal I.	2	ABM <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 12	Seal I.	1	IAM
Oct. 9-10	Seal I.	3	BLM

## Northern Harrier

Sept. 1	CSI, <i>Shel.</i>	2	MUN
Sept. 3-6	Seal I.	3	ABM <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 12	Seal I.	2	IAM
Sept. 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	4	RBS
Sept. 19	CSI	7	MUN
Oct. 3	Brier I.	4	ELM
Oct. 3	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	5	FLL
Oct. 9-10	Seal I, <i>Yar.</i>	3	BLM
Nov. 18	Brier I.	1	JUS
Nov. 19	Pinckneys Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	1	PRG

## Sharp-shinned Hawk

Sept. 3-6	Seal I.	20	ABM <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 12	Seal I.	9	IAM
Sept. 28-30	Brier I.	>>500	ELM
Oct. 1	Brier I.	20!	ELM
Oct. 9-10	Seal I, <i>Yar.</i>	3	BLM
Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	100	FLL

## Cooper's Hawk

Oct. 1	Brier I.	1	ELM
Oct. 3	Brier I.	1 imm.	ELM
Oct. 9&10	Brier I.	1	CSS, FLL

## Northern Goshawk

Sept. 10	Big Baddeck, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
Oct. 23	Fishermans Hbr., <i>Guys.</i>	1	RFL, MZG
Oct. 27	CSI	1	MUN
Nov. 11	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL

## Broad-winged Hawk

Sept. 12	Seal I.	1	IAM
Sept. 23	Brier I.	1000+	JUS
Sept. 28-Oct. 3	Brier I.	200+	ELM
Oct. 1	Brier I.	300	JAH
Oct. 7	Brier I.	100+	KJM

## Red-tailed Hawk

Sept. 28-Oct. 3	Brier I.	2	ELM
Oct. 1	Brier I.	1	JAH

## Rough-legged Hawk

Oct. 1	Brier I.	3	JAH
Oct. 27	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Nov. 19	Pinckneys Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	1	PRG
Nov. 21	Devils I., <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL

## Golden Eagle

Sept. 25	Pleasant Bay, <i>Inv.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> KJM
Nov. 6	River John, <i>Pict.</i>	1	RFL

## American Kestrel

Aug. 22	Pembroke, <i>Hants</i>	1	MUN
Sept. 3-6	Seal I.	6	ABM <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 8	Seal I.	3	AAM
Sept. 12	Seal I.	5	IAM
Sept. 17	Osborne Hd., <i>HRM.</i>	1 imm.	FLL
Sept. 22	Meadowvale, <i>Col.</i>	8	FLL
Sept. 28-Oct. 3	Brier I.	30+	ELM
Oct. 3	Pembroke, <i>Hants</i>	2	PRG
Oct. 6	Brier I.	2	JUS
Oct. 9-10	Seal I.	1	BLM
Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	40	FLL
Oct. 30	CSI	1	MUN
Nov. 4	CSI	1	MUN
Nov. 19	Pinkneys Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	1	PRG

## Merlin

Sept. 1	CSI	1	MUN
Sept. 8	Seal I.	6	AAM
Sept. 12	Seal I.	10	IAM
Sept. 17	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	FLL
Sept.-Oct.	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	3-4	var. obs.
Oct. 1	Brier I.	18	JAH
Oct. 9-10	Seal I.	2	BLM
Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	25	FLL

## Gyrfalcon

Sept. - Oct.	CSI	1	MUN
Nov. 27	Port Hebert, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN

## Peregrine Falcon

Aug. 14	Evangeline Beach., <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT
Aug. 20	Antigonish Landing, <i>Ant.</i>	1 imm.	RFL
Sept. 3-6	Seal I.	1	ABM <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 11	CSI	1	MUN
Sept. 12	Seal I.	4	IAM
Sept. 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Sept. 30	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 imm.	FLL
Oct. 1	Brier I.	3	JAH
Oct. 2-16	CSI	1-2	MUN
Oct. 9-10	Seal I.	3-7	BLM
Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	2	FLL
Nov. 5	Halifax	1	AGH
Nov. 10	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL
Nov. 11	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL

## Gray Partridge

Aug.	Windsor	6 (family)	<i>fide</i> JCT
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## Ruffed Grouse

Oct. 7	Joggins, <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
Oct.	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	3-4	KFS
Oct. 14	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	FLL
Oct. 23	Taylor Hd., <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC
Oct. 30	Louisbourg	2	SEM

<b>Spruce Grouse</b>			Nov. 5	Pembroke, <i>Hants</i>	1	MUN	
Oct. 2	Bauld Rock, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS, CDS	Nov. 13	Glace Bay	5	JUM
Oct. 18	Simon Pt., <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM	Nov. 18	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1	AHM
Oct. 29	River Hebert, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	Nov. 18	Glace Bay	4	BES, GEC
Nov. 13	Louisbourg	2	SEM	Nov. 21	Bisset Lake, <i>HRM</i>	5	PLC
<b>Sora</b>							
Aug. 18	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC	<b>Sandhill Crane</b>			
<b>American Coot</b>				Sept. 10 – 27	Upper Stewiacke, <i>Col.</i>	1	DAM <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 2	Pembroke, <i>Hants</i>	1	HAT				

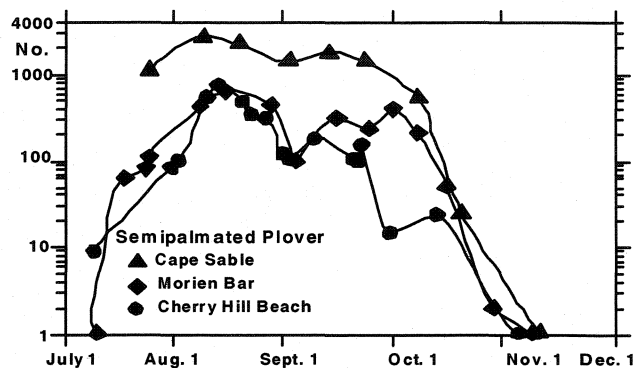
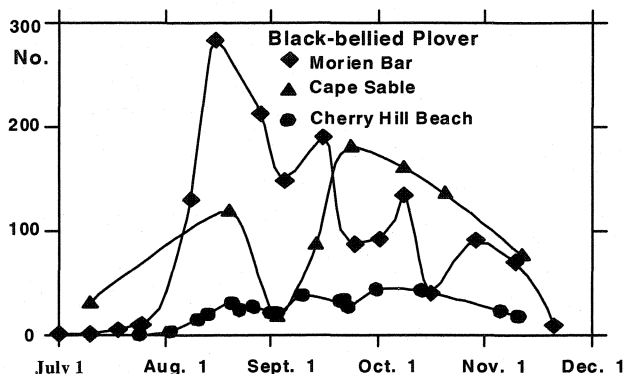
## The Shorebirds

By Ian McLaren

Sylvia Fullerton has compiled this section for many years, and we will miss her enthusiasm and great knowledge. Sylvia's able replacement is Susann Myers who, like Sylvia, has demonstrated her commitment to the subject by doing Maritime Shorebird Surveys (MSS) in recent autumns. Mine will be a one-time-only effort, and I'm going to experiment a little. As with other bird groups, we receive many reports that reveal little about shorebird comings and goings. So, I've graphed counts of eight common migrants from three widespread MSS localities – Morien Bar, *CBRM* (from SEM), Cherry Hill Beach, *Lunenburg* (SJF) and Cape Sable (BJS, SIS). At the same time, I've condensed some less informative tabulation on these and other common species. Perhaps this will persuade our many talented observers to make similar repeated counts in their local shorebird "patch."

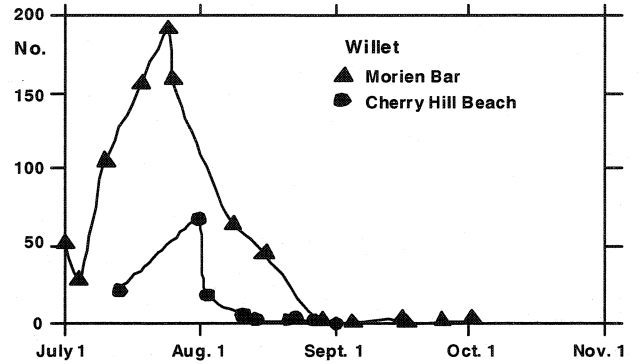
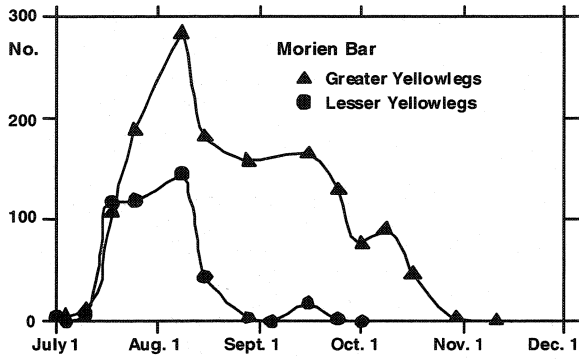
In early summer there were reports of unusually cold weather and massive breeding failures of northern shorebirds and waterfowl, especially in "low arctic" regions. Our observers submitted little information that might reflect this - e.g. by distinguishing counts of adult and juvenile shorebirds. Did thwarted adults arrive earlier than usual, and were there fewer of the later-migrating juveniles? The MSS graphs may be instructive.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVERS as usual peaked after July, most prominently at Morien Bar, *CBRM*, and later at Cape Sable, where they accumulated late fall. Is there a hint of a smaller later peak of arrivals of juveniles? There were no large "fallouts" of AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVERS, deflected from their usual offshore flights to South America. SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS are among our most abundant migrants. The dynamic Cape Sable tides produce sandflats with less mud, which seem especially attractive to this species. The dip of numbers at all three localities at the beginning of September may precede the bulk of juveniles. If so, these were scarcer than the adults. (Note that numbers are on a log scale, so differences between localities and dates appear smaller than they really are).



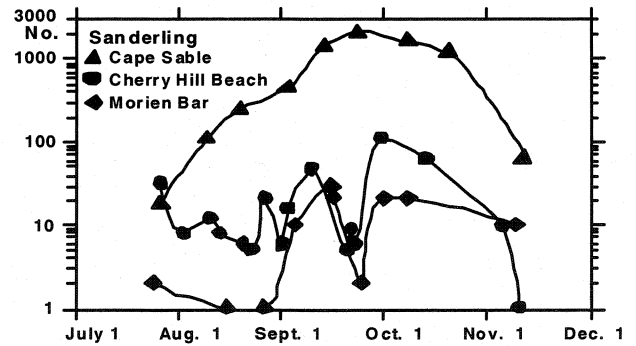
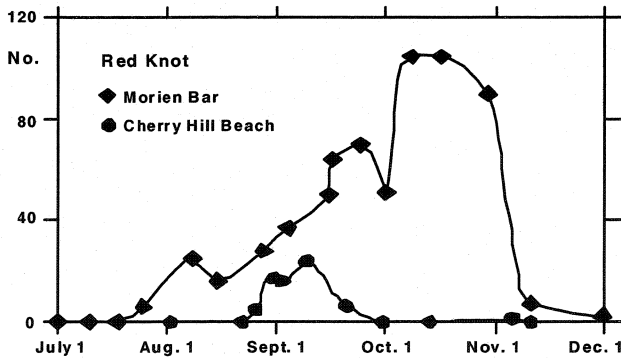
We'll await "official" assessment of the PIPING PLOVER season, but CSI's AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS had a successful year. Nova Scotia's 18<sup>th</sup> (or so) recorded AMERICAN AVOCET was at Grand Desert, *HRM*, in early November (HAT *et al.*). Among the three MSS localities, only Morien Bar attracted substantial numbers of both GREATER and LESSER YELLOWLEGS. Note again the hint of a later, and smaller, peak of juveniles of these boreal-subarctic nesters. The province's 4<sup>th</sup> SPOTTED REDSHANK was spotted Aug. 24 at River Bennett, *Victoria*, by lucky BSK and two US birders. The brief description ("long, bicoloured bill, bright red legs . . . dull winter plumage, but elongated white rump evident in flight") supports its identity. I believe that only one of these very rare Old-World visitors has been photographed here, and that photo is not on file with NSBS. There seemed more SOLITARY SANDPIPERS than expected, although the larger counts should not be taken to imply flocking of these indeed rather solitary birds. As usual, WILLETS largely disappeared in August, following much the largest peak at Morien Bar, *CBRM*. Some of the western subspecies were reported in late August (early), but it would be useful to have good profile photos, which can give 100% discrimination.



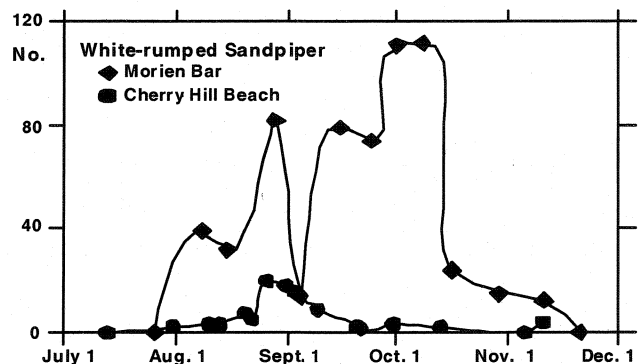
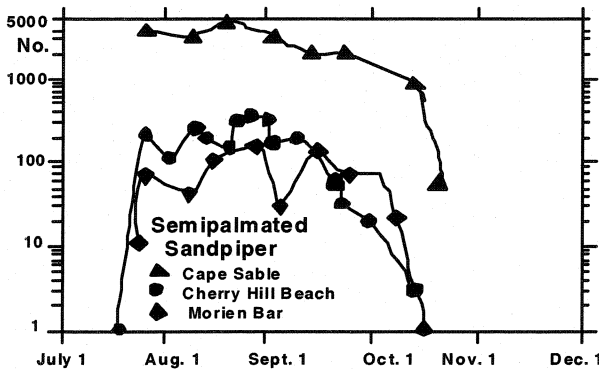


There were fewer SPOTTED SANDPIPERS reported than usual. Yet another EURASIAN WHIMBREL (rated as a full species by some authorities) turned up, but eluded TOK's attempts to photograph it. This season's MARBLED GODWIT was about the 30<sup>th</sup> of this increasingly regular rarity.

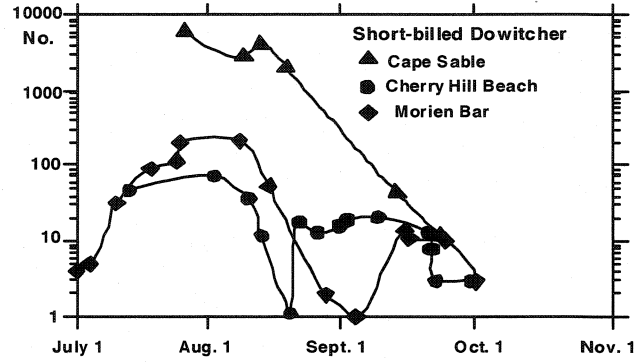
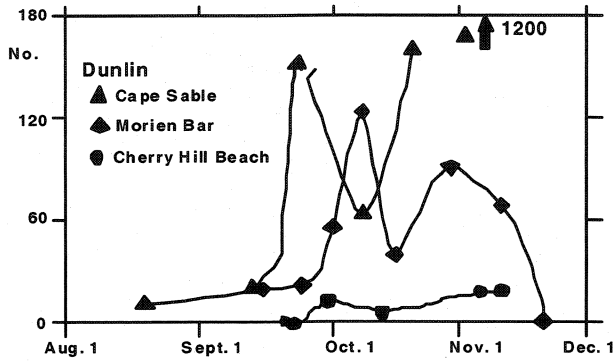
RED KNOTS peaked later at Morien Bar than elsewhere. They were scarce through the MSS season at Cape Sable proper (BJS, SIS), but MUN reported a huge peak Oct. 1 on CSI at large. These large, late peaks (of juveniles?) might imply greater breeding success by this high-arctic nester. The Cape Sable sandflats are clearly critical for SANDERLINGS, peaking with more than ten times as many as anywhere else. Note also the late-September dips at Cherry Hill and Morien Bar, and the steadier build-up at the Cape.



Cape Sable is also clearly favoured by SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS although, as expected, they were outmatched by "peeps" on the Fundy side. The "flat" seasonality may reflect a paucity of young in this low-arctic species. As usual, there were a few reports of WESTERN SANDPIPERS. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, another species that nests farther north than the smaller peeps, showed substantial late peaks on Morien Bar and elsewhere.



The high-arctic BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS - always a treat - was more commonly reported than usual. By contrast, the low-arctic PECTORAL SANDPIPER seemed less common, and did not linger. The late-migrating DUNLIN, had a smallish late peak at Morien Bar, but a huge peak (of juveniles?) did occur in mid November on Cape Sable. Although it summers in the low arctic, maybe its late nesting spared it from failure. Both STILT and BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS, which nest somewhat further west than most of the above, occurred in modest numbers. SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS from the low arctic are early migrants, and the very small second peaks hint at a disastrous breeding season.



A single WILSON'S PHALAROPE was a treat, but our regular phalaropes were not well reported. I attended a conference on RED-NECKED PAHALAROPES, Oct. 25-26 at St. Andrews, NB. Since the late 1980s, they have disappeared from the turbulent waters around Deer and Campobello I., NB, where there were once myriads. The consensus seems that this was probably a spillover effect of a large, probably cyclical, reduction over the Scotian Shelf of their favourite prey, the 2-3 mm planktonic copepod *Calanus finmarchicus*. Nevertheless, CAH and others reported them still abundant (maybe more so) at the marine upwellings on the NS side of the Bay, and more formal surveys were suggested to assess the real situation. ☐

**Shorebird species (mostly roosting "peeps")**

Aug. 2, 17	CSI	~30,000, 19,000	JON, MUN
Aug. 12	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	~75,000	Peter Hicklin
Aug. 15	Evangeline Beach, <i>Kings</i>	~18,000	PBG
Aug. 17	CSI	~19,000	MUN
Sept. 2	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	2-3,000	JCT
Nov. 14	CSI	~2,000+	JON <i>et al.</i>

**Black-bellied Plover**

Aug. 1	W Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	34	JCT
Aug.-Oct.	Sable I.	100s at times	ZOL
Aug. 4 - Oct. 4	Windsor sewage ponds	180+, 50, 120, 500	var. obs.
Aug. 29	Wolfville sewage plant	500+	var. obs.
Sept. 1-19	<i>Kings</i> locales	200-300 roosting	JCT <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 19	CSI	80	MUN
Oct. 9-Nov. 1		8 localities 2-70	var. obs.
Nov. 11-25		3 localities 5-12	KJM <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 27	Three-Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP

**American Golden-Plover**

Aug. 4	Windsor sewage pond	2	JCT
Aug. 19	Sable I.	5	ZOL
Aug. 24, 27	Brier I.	1, 3	LAL <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 25-Sept. 19	widely	10 ones, 2 twos	Var. obs.
Sept. 12	Sydney Airport	16	SEM, NSBS
Sept. 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	20	JCT, RBS
Sept. 21-Oct. 30	8 localities	1-5	Var. obs.

**Semipalmated Plover**

Aug. 4	Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	100+	WMA
Aug. 19	CSI	1,360	JON
Sept. 1-20	8 localities	20-100	var. obs.
Sept. 2	Lockeport area	sev. 100s	DJC
Sept. 19	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	400	JCT, RBS
Oct. 1	Lockeport area	100+	DJC
Oct. 6	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	70	FLL
Oct. 10	Jersey Cove, <i>Vic.</i>	14	BSK
Oct. 14	Cabot Landing Beach, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC
Nov. 1	Lockeport area	1	DJC
Nov. 17	Crystal Crescent Beach., <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT

**Piping Plover**

Aug. 2	Cherry Hill Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	4 juvs.	SJF
Aug. 5	Martinique Beach, <i>HRM</i>	4 juvs.	VJH
Aug. 10	Cherry Hill Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	1 ad., 1 juv.	SJF
Aug. 20	Cherry Hill Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	1 juv.	SJF
Aug. 26	Lockeport pair,	3 chicks	DJC
Sept. 1	Lockeport	1	DJC
Sept. 5	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW
Sept. 14	Windsor Dyke	1	<i>fide</i> FLL
Sept. 24	Cape Sable	1	BJS, SIS

**Killdeer**

Sept. 12	Sydney Airport	6	NSBS, SEM
Sept. 21	Yarmouth	25+ (flyby)	PRG

Oct. 8	Chegoggin, <i>Yar.</i>	14	PRG
Oct. 11-23	5 localities	5-21	var. obs.
Oct. 30	Yarmouth	14	MUN

**American Oystercatcher**

Aug. 16-Sept. 3	CSI	4 ads., 3 juvs.	MUN
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**American Avocet**

Sept. 12	CSI	8	MUN
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**Greater Yellowlegs**

Sept. 15 & 19	CSI	4	MUN
Nov. 8-9	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 4	Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	28	WMA
Aug. 19-30	5 localities	1-12+	var. obs.
Sept. 1-30	6 localities	5-52	var. obs.
Oct. 9-31	5 localities	7-19	var. obs.
Nov. 11	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Nov. 19	Pinkneys Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	1	PRG
Nov. 24	CSI	2	MUN

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

Aug. 4	Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	9	WMA
Aug. 19	CSI	31	JON
Aug. 22	Brier I.	50+	LAL <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 30	Wolfville Hbr. Area	15+	JWW
Aug. 30-Sept. 12	Seal I.	1-6	ABM <i>et al.</i> , IAM
Sept. 10-24	<i>Kings</i> areas	1-6	JCT
Sept. 19	Three-Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	50	FLL
Sept. 20-Oct. 24	5 localities	1-12+	var. obs.
Nov. 17	CSI	4	MUN

**Spotted Redshank**

Aug. 24	River Bennett, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK <i>et al.</i>
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**Solitary Sandpiper**

Aug. 2-5	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
Aug. 8	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Aug. 22	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Aug. 15-31	widely	7 singles, 3 twos	var. obs.
Aug. 29	W Pubnico	9	PRG
Aug. 30	Seal I.	3	IAM
early Sept.	Tancook I., <i>Lun.</i>	8	<i>fide</i> JAH
Sept 1-17	widely	12 singles, 4 twos	var. obs.
Sept. 20-21	Cresecent Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	1	DJC
Sept. 21	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT

**Willet**

Aug. 4-23	3 localities	3-4	var. obs.
Aug. 24-25	E Shore, <i>HRM</i>	5 (2 western?)	IAM, JOB
Aug. 30	Pinkneys Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	1 (western?)	RSD
Sept. 2-6	3 localities	1, 2, 3 inds.	var. obs.
Sept. 10	Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	2 (western?)	IAM
Oct. 2	Morien Bar	2 (western?)	SEM

**Spotted Sandpiper**

Aug. 4	Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	17	WMA
Aug. 4	Windsor sewage pond	1	JCT



BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS, in addition to being somewhat rare, are among the most attractive of our shorebirds. This one was photographed this autumn in Cape Breton. [Photo Cathy Murrant]

The WHIMBREL, very alert on its crowberry patch in *CBRM* Sept. 13, is generally rated as one of our less approachable shorebirds - but digiscoping helps. [Photo Cathy Murrant]

Aug. 6	Brier I.	1	JOB	Sept. 27	W Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	~100	IAM, FLL, FMC
Aug. 11 & 22	Wild Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	2 ads., 2 juvs., 1 ?	SEM	Oct. 1	CSI	300+	MUN
Aug. 19	CSI	11	JON	Nov. 31	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	2 (latest)	SEM
Sept 2-Oct. 2	widely	ones & twos	var. obs.	<b>Sanderling</b>			
Oct. 10	Seal I.	2	BLM <i>et al.</i>	Aug. 4	Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	15	WMA
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b>				Aug. 19	CSI	106	JON
Oct. 7	CSI	1	MUN	Aug. 30-Sept. 12	Seal I.	up to 60	ABM <i>et al.</i> , IAM
<b>Whimbrel</b>				Sept. 1	W Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	140	JCT
Aug. 4	Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	7	WMA	Sept. 1	E Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	200	JCT
Aug. 5-22	5 localities	3-11	var. obs.	Sept. 11	E Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	500	JCT
Aug. 22	W Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	125	MUN	Sept. 18	Schooner Pond Beach, <i>CBRM</i>	28	SEM
Aug. 23	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	42	FLL	Sept. 20	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	100+	KJM
Sept. 1-11	4 localities	1-5	var. obs.	Sept. 22	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	150	CSS <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 8	Dominion Beach, <i>CBRM</i>	48	BES, GEC	Sept. 29	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	110	CSS <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 10	Sable I.	33+	ZOL	Oct. 21	Sable I.	350+	ZOL
Sept. 12	Sydney Airport	28	NSBS	Oct. 24	Crescent Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	47	JAH
Sept. 17-Oct. 1	4 localities	1-11	var. obs.	Nov. 24	Cabot Landing Beach, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC
Nov. 24	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, DOU	Nov. 27	Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	3	TEP
<b>Eurasian Whimbrel</b>				<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>			
July 27-Aug. 6	Canso	1	TOK	Aug. 4	Windsor sewage pond	30	JCT
<b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>				Aug. 4	Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	15	WMA
Aug. 4	Windsor sewage pond	1	JCT	Aug. 19	Dan's Head, CSI	2400	JON
Aug. 6	CSI	~50	MUN	Aug. 29	Wolfville sewage plant	500+	var. obs.
Aug. 8	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	14	SEM	Sept. 1	Brier I.	150+ (peak)	LAL <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 16	CSI	27	MUN	Sept. 1	W Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	2800	JCT
Aug. 19	Cape Sable	12	BJS, SIS	Sept. 1	E Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	4700	JCT
Aug. 29	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	2 ads.	SEM	Sept. 10	Windsor sewage pond	600+	JCT
Aug. 31	CSI	47	MUN	Sept. 11	E Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	3300	JCT
Aug. 22-Sept. 12	7 locations	10	Var. obs.	Sept. 17	E Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	4400	JCT
Sept. 24	Cape Sable	1	BJS, SIS	Oct. 1	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	124 juvs., 1 ad.	FLL
Oct. 9 & 17	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	4, 4.	SEM	Oct. 24	Crescent Beach., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Oct. 24 & 31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	Nov. 10	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Nov. 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1 (latest)	SEM	<b>Western Sandpiper</b>			
<b>Marbled Godwit</b>				Aug. 19	Cape Sable	2	BJS, SIS
Aug. 22-Sept. 4	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM, DOU, ALD	Sept. 2-3	CSI	1	MUN
Sept. 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1 (diff.?)	KJM	Sept. 3	Cape Sable	2	BJS, SIS
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>				Sept. 12	CSI	3	MUN
early Aug.	CSI	55	MUN	Sept. 19	CSI	2	MUN
Aug. 4-11	6 localities	2-13 inds.	var. obs.	Oct. 9	Cape Sable	1	BJS, SIS
Aug. 19	CSI	37	JON	<b>Least Sandpiper</b>			
Aug. 21-30	4 localities	5-29 inds.	var. obs.	Aug. 4	Windsor sewage pond	6	JCT
Aug. 23	Sable I.	50+	ZOL	Aug. 4	Pt. Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	7	WMA
Sept. 1-Oct. 24	widely	ones & twos	sev. obs..	Aug. 19	CSI	85	JON
<b>Red Knot</b>				Aug. 29	Wolfville sewage plant	500+	var. obs.
Aug. 17	CSI	20 (new arrival)	MUN	Aug. 29	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	86 (peak).	SEM
Aug. 19-Sept 5	5 localities	15-35	var. obs.	Sept. 1	Brier I.	200+ (peak)	LAL <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 1-19	widely	ones and twos	var. obs.	Sept. 1, 11 & 17	E Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	40, 400, 900	JCT
Sept. 14	CSI	15	MUN	Aug. 30-Sept. 19	7 localities	1-32	var. obs.
Sept. 16-Oct. 7	Windsor sewage pond	15, 6, 10	var. obs.	Oct. 23	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1 (latest)	SEM



**White-rumped Sandpiper**

Aug. 18-23	4 localities	1-5	var. obs.
Aug. 28	CSI	250	FLL
Aug. 31	Seal I.	22 arrivals	IAM
Sept. 1	E Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	100	JCT
Sept. 17	E Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	10	JCT
Sept. 21	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	6+	JCT
Oct. 1-31	5 localities	3-55	var. obs.
Oct. 16	CSI	100s	MUN
Nov. 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	12 (latest)	SEM

**Baird's Sandpiper**

Aug. 23	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.	FLL
Aug. 23	Sable I.	1	ZOL
Aug. 23-30	Brier I.	3	ELM, JUS, LAL
Aug. 26	Cherry Hill Beach., <i>Lun.</i>	2	SJF
Aug. 28-29	CSI	1-2	MUN <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 29	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1 juv.	SEM
Aug. 30	Economy, <i>Col.</i>	1 juv.	FSS
Aug. 30	Seal I.	3 juvs.	IAM
Sept. 1-15	widely	8 singles, 2 twos	var. obs.
Sept. 5	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	12	HAT
Sept. 16-28	widely	6 singles, 3 twos	var. obs.
Sept. 30	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL

**Pectoral Sandpiper**

Aug. 4	Annapolis Royal	1	AAM
Aug. 11	Sable I.	1	ZOL
Aug. 15	Morien Bar	1 (first seen)	SEM
Aug. 23-Oct. 2	8 locations	1-4	var. obs.
Oct. 4	Windsor sewage pond	20	RBS, LOC
Oct. 6-23	6 localities	2-20	var. obs.
Oct. 19	CSI	20	JON
Oct. 23	Cabot Landing Beach, <i>Vic.</i>	1 (last seen)	FMC
Oct. 30	Caribou Pt., <i>Pict.</i>	2	Steve Gleich
Oct. 30	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	2 (last seen)	SEM

**Purple Sandpiper**

Nov. 15	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Nov. 22	Neils Harbour Pt., <i>Vic.</i>	30	AAM

**Dunlin**

Aug. 28	CSI	2 ads.	FLL
Sept. 1	W. Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	20	JCT
Sept. 1-30	8 localities	2-20	var. obs.
Sept. 17	E Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	120	JCT
Oct. 1-31	7 localities	4-53	var. obs.
Oct. 7	Windsor sewage pond	53	AAM
Oct. 16	CSI	100s	MUN
Nov. 11	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	69	SEM
Nov. 14	Cabot Landing Beach, <i>CBRM</i>	3 (latest)	FMC
Nov. 15	Windsor sewage pond	20	IAM

Nov. 21 Morien Bar, *CBRM*

1 (last seen) SEM

**Stilt Sandpiper**

Aug. 4	CSI	4	JON <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 14-21	CSI	1	JON, MUN
Aug. 28	Beveridge Rd., <i>Yar.</i>	1	RSD
Aug. 29-30	Brier I.	1	ELM, JUS
Oct. 1	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 juv.	FLL

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

Aug. 21	CSI	1	MUN
Aug. 23	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 6	CSI	1	MUN
Sept. 12	Sydney Airport	5	NSBS
Sept. 18	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Sept. 20	CSI	1	MUN

**Short-billed Dowitcher**

Aug. 1	W Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	6	JCT
Aug. 4	Windsor sewage ponds	40	JCT
Aug. 8	Pinkneys Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	2500, roost	PRG
Aug. 19	CSI	190	JON
Aug. 21-24	Brier I.	130+	LAL <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 26	Cherry Hill Beach., <i>Lun.</i>	13 juvs.	SJF
Sept. 1	Brier I.	50+	LAL <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 1-19	6 localities	1-18 inds.	var. obs.
Sept. 27	W Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	20	IAM, FLL
Oct. 2	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	3 (latest)	SEM

**Long-billed Dowitcher**

Oct. 29 & Nov. CSI 1 MUN *et al.*

**Wilson's Snipe**

Aug. 24-Oct. 1	7 localities	1-4 inds.	
Oct. 9	Seal I.	7	BLM <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 10	Seal I.	2	BLM <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 16	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1	SEM
Oct. 19	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	3	FLL, HAT
Oct. 30	Pembroke, <i>Yar.</i>	1	MUN
Oct. 27-Nov. 7	Sable I.	11 total	ZOL

**American Woodcock**

Oct. 21 Hartlen Pt., *HRM* 1 FLL

**Wilson's Phalarope**

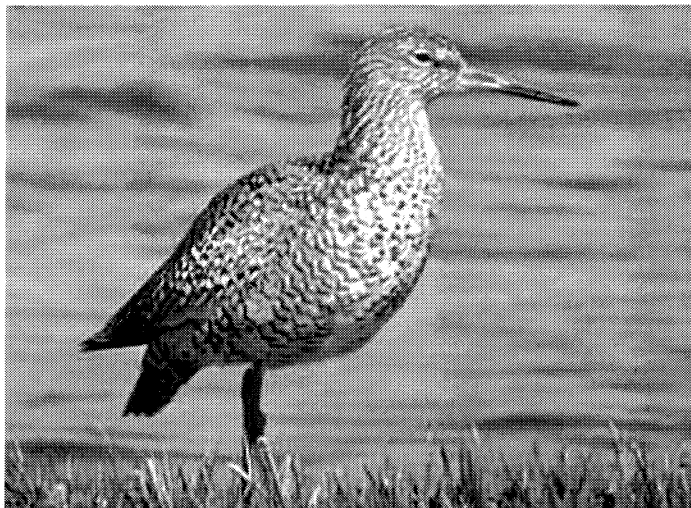
Sept. 19 CSI 1 MUN *et al.*

**Red-necked Phalarope**

Aug. 25	off Brier I.	300+	LAL <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 5	off Brier I.	300	DOC
Sept. 21	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	12 (storm)	KJM, STV

**Red Phalarope**

Aug. 25	off Brier I.	700+	LAL <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 5	off Brier I.	2	DOC



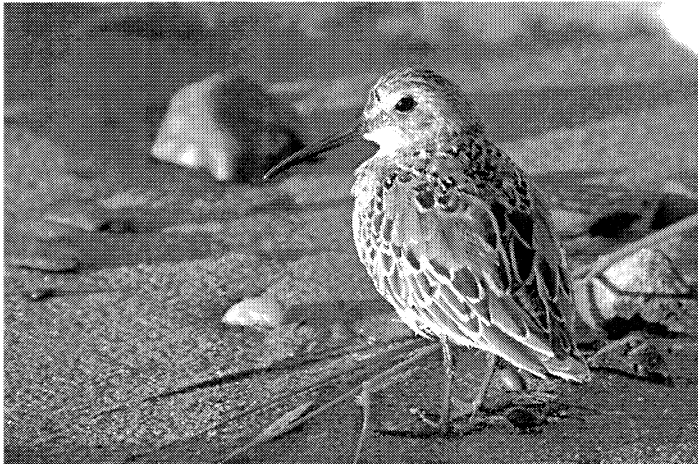
This WILLET Sept. 5 at Hartlen Pt., *HRM*, is readily identified as one of our local adults from its strongly marked underparts and thick bill. Most had left the province soon after this date. [Photo Ulli Hoeger]



An attractively patterned young SANDERLING was photographed Aug. 29 at Crescent Beach, *Lunenburg*. [Photo Elizabeth Doull]

## Shorebird Portraits

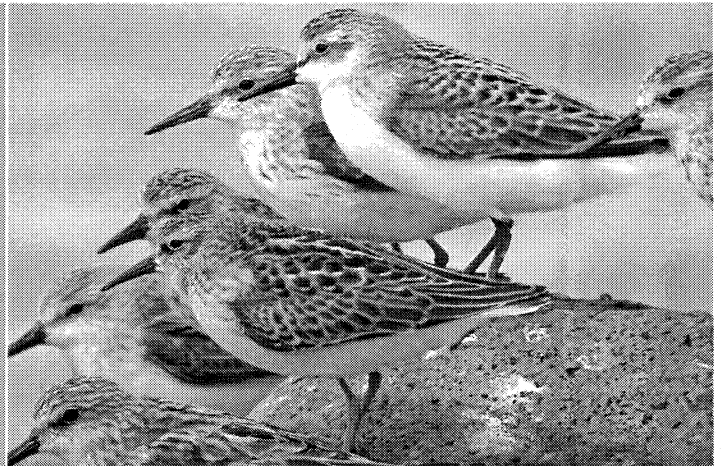
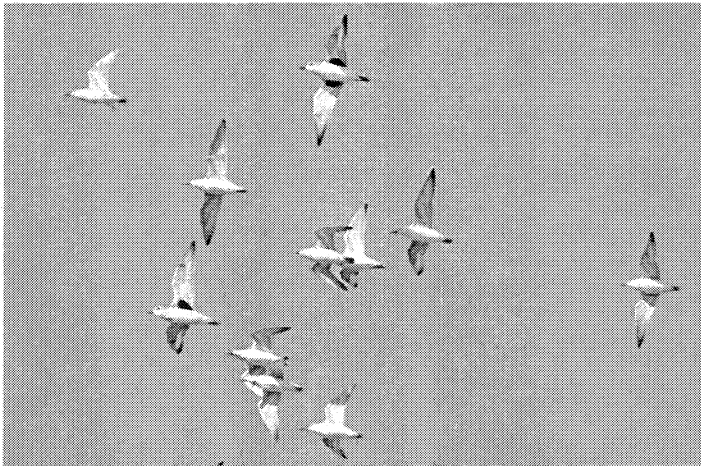
Photos By Richard Stern



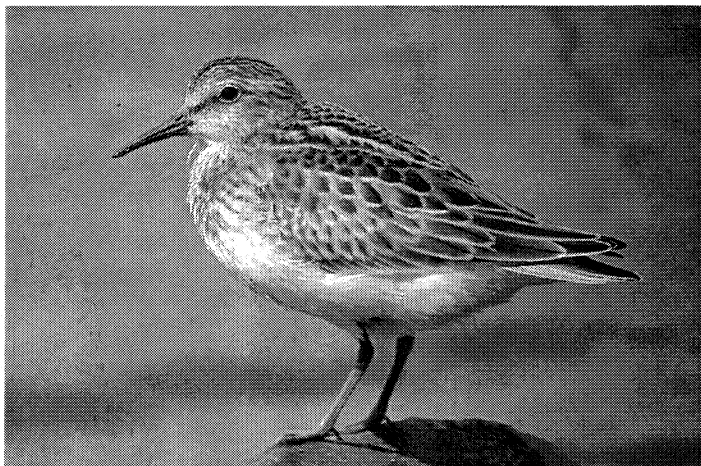
The long, drooping bill gives away the identity of this juvenile DUNLIN at Grand Pré, Kings, Sept. 21



RUDDY TURNSTONES, like this juvenile on Brier I. Sept. 25, often glean seaweed for fly larvae and other delicacies.



Can you identify both species of shorebirds in each of these groups?



A LEAST SANDPIPER posed for a closeup at Grand Pré Aug. 30.



This WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, Aug. 17 at Grand Pré, is readily identified as a moulting adult, with fine streaks still on its breast and flanks, but with much of the back plumage replaced.

# Skuas through Alcids

By Eric Mills

Although the likely presence of Brown Skua in the North Atlantic has complicated skua identification around Nova Scotia, a possible **GREAT SKUA** was reported from nearshore waters of the Scotian Shelf Sept. 10. "A very light gray bird" described from a whale cruise off Brier I. Sept. 26 was likely a **SOUTH POLAR SKUA**, although a light variant of Great Skua was not excluded in the report. Earlier, two south polars were reported without details Aug. 15 on an whale cruise in the same area. **POMARINE JAEGER**S, usually the most abundant jaeger off Nova Scotia, were sparsely reported. KJM met two jaegers flying down the Big I. causeway in a NE gale Nov. 14, one dark, the other light, and on the basis of size concluded that they were Pomarines. JON found a fine **LONG-TAILED JAEGER** on a sandbar off The Hawk, CSI, Aug. 3.

Curiously scarce this autumn, a **LAUGHING GULL** was on Sable I. Sept. 15. The only **LITTLE GULL** of the season was an adult found by KJM in Merigomish Hbr., *Pictou*, Nov. 15 and thoroughly described. A few **BLACK-HEADED GULLS**, as usual, appeared late in August along the Eastern Shore of HRM, but significant numbers began to arrive in South Shore harbours and estuaries only in early November. In late September along the Northumberland Strait shore in *Pictou / Antigonish*, KJM found outstanding numbers of **BONAPARTE'S GULLS** totalling 3200+ (including 1000+ in the Tony R. area, 900 at Waterside PP, and 1000 at Caribou I.). A **MEW GULL** was reported without details from CSI around Sept. 16, and BBU found and photographed an adult of the European race (Common Gull) at Sullivans Pond, *HRM*, Sept. 23. **ICELAND GULLS** (probably mainly *L.g. kumlienii*) began to trickle in beginning at the end of October, often coinciding with gales, but were abundant nowhere until December, after the reporting period. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS** have ceased to be real rarities, and their numbers continue to increase in the area, albeit biased toward adults. Twenty-two reports of up to three individuals at a time from one end of the province to the other between mid-September and mid-November appear to have been of approximately 22 separate birds, including at least three first-winter birds photographed at Sullivans Pond, *HRM*, by BBU. This is only part of a regional phenomenon; for example, on one day, Oct. 11, Bruce Mactavish found 20 Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the Saint John's, Newfoundland area. If lesser black-backs are still arriving in our area from the nearest colonies, in Iceland, and not breeding somewhere in eastern North America, they are coming in increasing numbers for reasons unknown. An out-of-season **GLAUCOUS GULL** was at the West Ponds, Sable I., Aug. 11, and another early arrival was there at the West Spit Oct. 24. **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES** began to build up in the Bay of Fundy before mid-October and at the end of the month, given appropriate gales, were passing Brier I. toward the SW in the hundreds.

**CASPIAN TERNS** continued their pattern of increased abundance: ten reports of at least 14 individuals scattered from *Victoria* to *Shelburne*. **COMMON TERNS** had pretty well pulled out of all regions except the Northumberland Strait shore by early October, but numbers remained in *Pictou* through October and the last was at Caribou Island November 6. No **ARCTIC TERNS** were reported after the first week of August. The only **FORSTER'S TERN** of the season spent four days in the Lockport, *Shelburne*, area, Nov. 15-18. An immature **LEAST TERN** in Economy, *Colchester*, was the only one of the season. A rapidly-flying "tern-like bird" in a gale and rain on Big (Merigomish) I., Oct. 12, may have been a **SOOTY TERN**. A lone **BLACK TERN** passed by the West Spit of Sable I. Sept. 9.

Remarkable for the date, four **DOVEKIES** were seen by CAH during a whale cruise off Brier I. Aug. 16. One found stranded Nov. 1 in *Richmond* after a gale was only at a normal time. The only **COMMON MURRE** of the season was one at Port George, *Annapolis*, Nov. 4-23; there were no reports of thick-bills. Six **RAZORBILLS** near Louisbourg, *CBRM*, Nov. 20, and two nearby on the 30<sup>th</sup>, were the only reports of numbers.

The departure of our breeding **BLACK GUILLEMOTS** and the arrival of wintering birds from Labrador and the Arctic went unnoted, although 38 at Western Light, Brier I., Sept. 24, suggest staging for migration, and 30 at Wild Cove, *CBRM*, Nov. 20 suggest arrival. According to SJF, fishermen reported 15+ breeding **ATLANTIC PUFFINS** on Ram I., off Hemeon Head, *Shelburne*, in mid-August. ☞

## Great Skua?

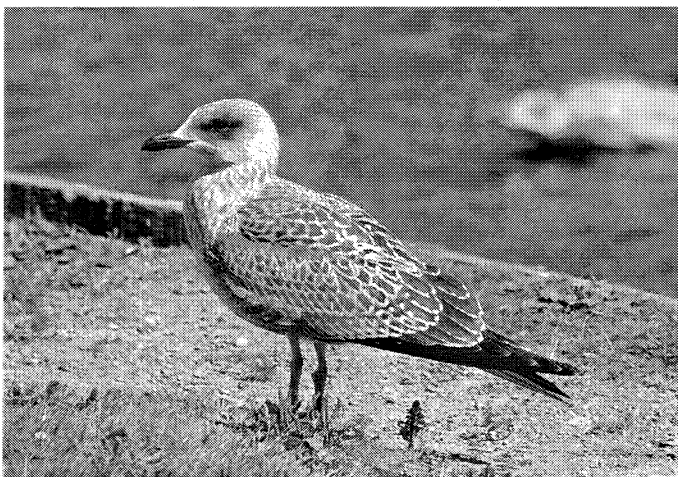
Sept. 10	At sea S of Lunenburg	1	BLM
<b>South Polar Skua</b>			
Aug. 15	Off Brier I.	2	CAH
Sept. 26	Off Brier I.	1	<i>fide</i> RBS; DAM
<b>Pomarine Jaeger</b>			
Sept. 13	At sea off Halifax	1	DAC
Sept. 19	St. John-Digby ferry	1	PRG
Oct. 10	Off Brier I.	1	DOU, <i>fide</i> JUS; CAH
Oct. 24	Canso, <i>Guys</i> .	1	TOK
Nov. 14	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
<b>Long-tailed Jaeger</b>			
Aug. 3	The Hawk, CSI	1	JON
<b>Laughing Gull</b>			
Sept. 1	East Spit, Sable I.	1 imm.	ZOL

## Little Gull

Nov. 15	Merigomish Hbr., <i>Pict.</i>	1 ad.	KJM
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>			
Aug. 25	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	11 ads.	BRM
Sept. 22	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	2 ads.	FLL, CSS
Sept. 27	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	5	FLL <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 24	West Spit, Sable I.	1	ZOL
Oct. 29	Princes Inlet, <i>Lun.</i>	1	DAM
Oct. 30	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, <i>HRM</i>	3	BBU
Nov. 7	Back Hbr., <i>Lun.</i>	10	JAH
Nov. 8	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, <i>HRM</i>	12	DOU
Nov. 8-30	Back Hbr., <i>Lun.</i>	2-7	ELM
<b>Bonapartes Gull</b>			
Aug. 25	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	3 ads., 1 juv.	BRM
ca. Sept. 15	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	Ca. 250	<i>fide</i> DOU



Sept. 19	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	26	FLL,SMB	Sept. 23	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1 imm.	AAM
Sept. 20	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	450	KJM	Sept. 24	Dartmouth ferry terminal, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.	FLL
Sept. 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	220	KJM	Sept. 26	Caribou I., <i>Pict.</i>	1 ad.	KJM
Sept. 26	Northumberland Strait, <i>Col./Pict.</i>	3200+	KJM	Sept. 29	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	2 ads.	RBS
Sept. 27	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	50	FLL <i>et al.</i>	Oct. 2	Ridge Road, Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	3 ads.	RBS
Oct. 3	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	120	KJM	Oct. 4	Near Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	RBS
Oct. 5	Pict. causeway, <i>Pict.</i>	ca. 50	KJM	Oct. 5	Caribou I., <i>Pict.</i>	2 ads.	KJM <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 23	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	500	KJM	Oct. 7	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	1 ad.	AAM
Oct. 24	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	250	KJM	Oct. 10	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	JCT
Oct. 24	Caribou lighthouse, <i>Pict.</i>	350	KJM	Oct. 21	New Minas sewage plant, <i>Kings</i>	1 1 <sup>st</sup> winter	RBS
Oct. 24	Lyons Brook area, <i>Pict.</i>	200	KJM	Nov. 2-30	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 ad.	DJC
Nov. 7	Back Hbr., <i>Lun.</i>	7	JAH	Nov. 7	Falkenham farm, <i>Lun.</i>	1 ad.	ELM, AHM
Nov. 8-30	Back Hbr., <i>Lun.</i>	up to 13	ELM	Nov. 11	Purcells Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.	DAC, AZV
<b>Mew Gull</b>							
ca. Sept. 16	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	1	<i>fide</i> MUN	Aug. 11	West Ponds, Sable I.	1 imm.	ZOL
Sept. 23	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.	BBU	Nov. 6	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	1 ad.	KJM
<b>Ring-billed Gull</b>							
Aug. 5	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	1	WMA	<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>			
Aug. 30 thru Nov.	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	26-35	DMW	Aug.-Nov.	Bedford area & Halifax Hbr.	usual numbrs	LOC, DCO
Sept. 22	Met Station, Sable I.	8+ imm.	ZOL	Aug. 30-Nov. 25	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1-24	DMW
Sept. 27	Rainbow Haven Beach, <i>HRM</i>	ca. 450	IAM, FLL	<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>			
Aug. 1-Nov. 27	Bedford & Halifax Hbr.	1-20	LOC, DCO	Aug. 23	East Spit, Sable I.	20+	ZOL
Nov. 30	S Gut, St. Anns, <i>Vic.</i>	Still present	BSK	Sept. 20	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
<b>Herring Gull</b>							
Aug. 1-Nov. 30	Bedford area & Halifax Hbr.	Usual numbers	LOC, DCO	Sept. 24	Off Brier I.	Arriving	CAH
<b>Iceland Gull</b>							
Aug. 15	Near East Light, Sable I.	1 imm.	ZOL	Oct. 1	Off Brier I.	6	ELM
Oct. 30	Arisaig, <i>Ant.</i>	1 - 1 <sup>st</sup> winter	KJM	Oct. 10	Off Brier I.	"Plentiful"	CAH
Oct. 30	Lismore, <i>Pict.</i>	1 - 1 <sup>st</sup> winter	KJM	Oct. 28	Off Brier I.	Hundreds	ELM
Oct. 31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1 - 1 <sup>st</sup> winter	KJM	Nov. 7	West Spit, Sable I.	Several hundred	ZOL
Nov. 3	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	2 juvs.	SJF	Nov. 20	Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	1?	MUN
Nov. 4	Crescent Beach, Lockport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 imm.	DJC	<b>Caspian Tern</b>			
Nov. 11	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	8	KJM	Aug. 1	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	ROW
Nov. 11	Ballantynes Cove, <i>Ant.</i>	3 imms.	RFL	Aug. 21	Jersey Cove, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
Nov. 18	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, <i>HRM</i>	2	FLL	Sept. 11	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	3	JON, SAN
Nov. 21	First South, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, Gary Smith	Sept. 19	Dartmouth, <i>HRM</i>	1	BBU
Nov. 21	Hartlen Pt, <i>HRM</i>	3	FLL	Sept. 28	Brier I.	2	David Farnier
Nov. 24	Cabot Landing Beach, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC	Sept. 29	APBS, <i>Cum.</i>	1	RMA, ABM
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>							
Sept. 10	Lawrencetown R., <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.	IAM, FMC	Oct. 1-3	CSI	2	<i>fide</i> MUN; JON, SAN
Sept. 11	Off Seal I.	1 ad.	IAM, FLL, NSBS	Oct. 2	Linden, <i>Cum.</i>	2	HAB, JEB
Sept. 12-mid Oct	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, <i>HRM</i>	3+ juvs.	BBU, IAM,ELM	Oct. 2	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Sept. 16-17	Neils Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	1 2 <sup>nd</sup> summer	AAM	Oct. 14	Cabot Landing, <i>Vic.</i>	1 ad., 1 imm.	FMC
Sept. 17	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 juv.	FLL	<b>Common Tern</b>			
Sept. 17	Canard, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	RBS	Aug. 5	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	23	WMA
Sept. 19, 23	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	RBS, JCT, AAM	Aug. 12	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
Sept. 21	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	RBS	Aug. 14	Washabuck, <i>Vic.</i>	Small colony	BSK
Sept. 22	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1 1 <sup>st</sup> winter	FLL, CSS	Sept. 20	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	8	KJM
				Sept. 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	40	KJM
				Sept. 27	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	6	IAM, FLL
				Oct. 2	Caribou lighthouse, <i>Pict.</i>	30	KJM
				Oct. 2	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	12	KJM
				Oct. 2	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN



This juv. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was one of several frequenting Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, in September and October. The long wings, strongly checkered back and wings, dark smudge on the face, and narrow white margins on the tertials are all good marks of this increasingly regular visitor. ]



This juv. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL shows two good field marks of birds in flight – the whitish rump contrasting with the darker tail and back, and the pronounced bar on the greater coverts, almost as dark as the secondaries. [Photos Bernard Burke





The rather pale underparts and hint (even from below) of a paler collar, are distinguishing field marks on this SOUTH POLAR SKUA. It was photographed in late September off Brier I. by a visiting birder. Photo Jens M. Hansen]

Oct. 3	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	90	KJM
Oct. 5	Pict. causeway, <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 9	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	8 (last seen)	SEM
Oct. 23	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	16	KJM
Oct. 24	Caribou lighthouse, <i>Pict.</i>	6	KJM
Oct. 31	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM
Nov. 6	Caribou I., <i>Pict.</i>	1 imm.	KJM
<b>Arctic Tern</b>			
Aug. 3	St. Margarets Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	DCO

Aug. 5	Point Michaud, <i>Rich.</i>	1	WMA
<b>Forsters Tern</b>			
Nov. 15-18	Crescent Beach, Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
<b>Least Tern</b>			
Aug. 30	Economy, <i>Col.</i>	1 imm.	FLS
<b>Sooty Tern?</b>			
12 Oct.	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	DOU
<b>Black Tern</b>			
Sept. 9	West Spit, Sable I.	1	ZOL
<b>Dovekie</b>			
Aug. 16	Off Brier I.	4	CAH
Nov. 1	Cape George, <i>Rich.</i>	1	Anne Rogal, <i>fide</i> GED
Nov. 28	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	2	IRO
<b>Common Murre</b>			
Nov. 4-23	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JOB
<b>Razorbill</b>			
Sept. 26	Off Brier I.	1	DAM, CAH
Nov. 20	Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	1?	MUN
Nov. 20	Wild Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	6	SEM
Nov. 28	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	1	IRO
Nov. 30	Kennington Cove, Louisbourg	2	SEM
<b>Black Guillemot</b>			
Aug. 25-Nov. 30	St. Anns Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	1-5	BSK
Sept. 24	Western Light, Brier I.	38	JCT, GWT, BLF
Oct. 10	Kennington Cove, Louisbourg	30	SEM
Nov. 5	Ketch Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
Nov. 20	Wild Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	30	SEM
Nov. 27	Pt Pleasant Park, Halifax	2	PLC
<b>Atlantic Puffin</b>			
ca. Aug. 10	Off Hemeon Hd., <i>Shel.</i>	15+	<i>fide</i> SJF
Aug. 25	Off Brier I.	3	LAL <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 19	St. John-Digby ferry	1	PRG
Oct. 10	Off Brier I.	"Lots"	CAH
Oct. 30	Off Brier I.	1	ELM

□□□

## Doves Through Woodpeckers

By Ian McLaren

Exciting for this period was our 30<sup>th</sup> **WHITE-WINGED DOVE** at TOK's feeder in Canso, which arrived there at about the same date as last year's. As usual, **MOURNING DOVES** did not build up at feeders until October. In mid-November, JAH reported "several at feeders for first time in years in *Lunenburg*" and on the Halifax peninsula, where they are rated scarce, 20 at Ann Morrison's feeder were "more than ever." It was a relatively "off" year for **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS**.

The usual owls were in the usual places (mostly heard), although no Long-eared Owls were reported. The flurry of **SNOWY OWLS** suggests it might be a good winter for them. The two reports of **BOREAL OWL** were both unusual. The juv. in CBHNP was unbanded, "so it was likely from a third nest somewhere" in the park (RFL). The Sable I. bird was later found dead by station staff, which has been the usual fate of small owls on this mouse-less island.

There were good flights of **COMMON NIGHTHAWKS** mid- to late August, but differing opinions on their status. RBS commented on the Aug. 17 flock over Kentville that it had been "a long time since I've seen that many," whereas JOB thought that there was a "later and smaller build-up" over Kingston. There was only a scattering of reports of **CHIMNEY SWIFTS**. A chimney cleaner found four corpses in Paul MacDonald's chimney and advised grills over active chimneys to prevent this. **RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS** largely disappeared in mid-September, and the late one(s) in the Pubnicos might have been closely scrutinized for other possibilities. As usual, late **BELTED KINGFISHERS** were under-reported, and we'll get a better fix on them in winter.

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS**, less regular in recent years, put on a good show. The season's big event, the province's largest-ever invasion of **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS**, also encompassed Maine and New Brunswick. The early fem. at Birch Cove Park, Dartmouth could have been one that summered, but the Brier I. pioneer presumably arrived from across water. Thereafter, they were widespread, although only one was reported from CB by the end of November. It's hard to be certain of total numbers involved, but by considering overlaps and shifts among localities, I estimate 40-45 individuals. It will be interesting to compare with the CBC results. There appeared to be a weak movement of **YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS** late September through mid-October. The late ad. male in Avonport, *Kings*, might have been worth study, as those with ad.

plumage might be scrutinized for vagrant Red-naped Sapsucker. I could make no sense of casual reports of DOWNY and HAIRY WOODPECKERS, but the two early migrants on Seal I. seemed worth noting. More BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS than usual were noted. Should we look for a build-up in the swath of "Juan?" There was a timely peak of migration of NORTHERN FLICKER in late September. PILEATED WOODPECKERS turn up increasingly in house yards – gradually losing their formerly sensible gun-shyness, I guess. ☿

**Rock Pigeon**

Aug. 1-Sept. 30 Lower Sackville, *HRM* up to 12 at feeder LOC  
 Oct. 1-Nov. 30 Lower Sackville, *HRM* up to 18 at feeder LOC

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE**

Nov. 12-15 Canso 1 at feeder TOK - "Nov. 17 last year"

**Mourning Dove**

Aug. 1-Oct. 21 Lower Sackville, *HRM* up to 6 at feeder LOC  
 Oct. 4 CSI 60 new at feeder JON

Oct. 21 Sable I. 2 ZOL

Oct. 22 Lower Sackville, *HRM* 25 at feeder LOC

Oct. 23-Nov. 30 Lower Sackville, *HRM* up to 17 at feeder LOC

Nov. 3 Sable I. 1 ZOL

early-end Nov. Canso 20-25 TOK

Nov. 22 Masons Beach, *Lun.* 53 JAH

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

Aug. 4 Sable I. 1 ZOL

Aug. 15. Dartmouth 1 DAC

Aug. 29 Sandy Cove, *HRM* 1 HAT

late Sept. Schooner Cove area up to 4 JUM

Oct. 1 Seal I. 1 ABO

Oct. 2 Sandy Cove, *HRM* 1 DAC

Oct. 4 Seal I. 1 ABO

Oct. 16 Seal I. 1 ABO

Oct. 18 Hartlen Pt. 1 BLM

Oct. 19-20 Portuguese Cove, *HRM* 2 IAM, HAT

Oct. 20 Seal I. 1 ABO

Oct. 22 Canso 1 TOK

Oct. 27 Sable I. 1 ZOL

Oct. 30 Canso 1 TOK

**Great Horned Owl**

Aug. 24 Portuguese Cove, *HRM* 1 HAT

Aug. 30-Oct. 29 Brier I. pair calling ELM *et al.*

Sept. 15 Pubnico 1 MUN

early Oct. Port Joli, *Shel.* 1 in yard Joyce Allen

Oct. 24 Apple R., *Cum.* 1 KFS

Nov. 12 Louisbourg, *CBRM* 1 calling SEM

Nov. 20 CSI 1 MUN

**Snowy Owl**

mid-Oct. Canso 1 *fide* TOK

Nov. 10-12 Louisbourg 1 imm. fem. Ian Harte, SEM

Nov. 10 Hartlen Pt., *HRM* 1 FLL, Kevin March

Nov. 18 Freeport, *Digby* 1 *fide* JUS

Nov. 19-20 CSI 1 MUN

Nov. 21 CSI 2 MUN

**Barred Owl**

Aug. 10 & Sept. 29 Mid. Musquodoboit, *HRM* 1 calling

Oct. 15 Port Hawkesbury area 1 calling Jeanie Shermerhorn

Oct. 25 Halifax, Pt. Pleasant Park 1 "mobbed" Ann Morrison

Oct. 28 Brier I. 1 calling ELM

Nov. 8 Freeport, *Digby* 1 *fide* JUS

**Short-eared Owl**

Nov. 19 CSI 1 MUN

**Boreal Owl**

Aug. 26 CBHNP 1 juv. RFL

Oct. 16 Sable I. 1 (died) *fide* ZOL

**Northern Saw-whet Owl**

Sept. 17 Sandy Cove, *HRM* 1 HAT

Oct. 9-10 Port Hilford, *Guys.* 2 RIB

Oct. 10 Chebucto Hd., *HRM* 1 HAT

Nov. 21 Rose Bay, *Lun.* 1 ELM

dates? BPI 3 banded ABO

dates? Seal I. 5 banded ABO

**Common Nighthawk**

Aug. 5 Middle Musquodoboit, *HRM* 2 VJH

Aug. 5 Jollimore, *HRM* 2 PLC

Aug. 8 CSI 10 MUN - "rare in this area"

Aug. 14 Kingston, *Kings* 3 JOB

Aug. 17 Kentville ~50 RBS - "a long time since I've seen that many"

Aug. 18-21 Kingston, *Kings*

12, 20, 37, 20 JOB - "later and smaller buildup than last year"

Aug. 20 Mahone Bay, *Lun.* ~50 DAM

Aug. 27 Middleton, *Anna.* 4

Aug. 30 Kingston, *Kings* 20 JOB

Sept. 4-5 Brier I. 1 PLC

Sept. 4-5 Seal I. 4, 1 ABM *et al.*

Sept. 5 Hartlen Pt., *HRM* 1 imm. FLL

Sept. 9 Kingston, *Kings* 11 JOB

Sept. 11 Sandy Cove, *HRM* 1 FLL, NSBS

Sept. 16 Bridgetown, *Anna.* 1 RBS

Sept. 18 Sandy Lake, *HRM* 1 SMB, NSBS

Sept. 18 Sandy Cove, *HRM* 1 HAT

**Chimney Swift**

Aug. 3 Annapolis Royal 1 AAM

Aug. 12, 18 Kingston, *King* 5, 2 JOB

Sept. 11 Spryfield, *HRM* 1 FLL

Oct. 17 Dartmouth 2 BBU

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

Aug. 7-31 widely 1-5 at feeders var. obs.

Aug. 29 Kingston 10 JOB

Aug. 29 Annapolis Royal Gardens "lots" MUN

Aug. 30-Sept. 6 Seal I. 2-4 ABM *et al.*, IAM

Sept. 1 Portuguese Cove young only HAT

Sept. 3-7 Kingston 4-9 JOB

Sept. 11 Hartlen Pt., *HRM* 7 imm. and fem. BIB, EIB, FLL

Sept. 12 *Antigonish* 1 "last day" RFL, MZG

Sept. 13 Halifax 1 PLC

Sept. 17 Hartlen Pt., *HRM* 1 FLL

Oct. 16 W Pubnico 1 Lizette d'Entremont

Oct. 21-24 Pubnico 1 diff.? *fide* MUM

**Belted Kingfisher**

Aug. 1-Oct. 30 widely 1-5 var. obs.

Sept. 3-12 Seal I. 1, 2 ABM *et al.*

Oct. 16-Nov. Jolimore area 1 male, 1 fem. PLC,

*FCG, et al.*

Nov. 11 Hubbards, *HRM* 1 PST

Nov. 11 Little Hbr., *Pict.* 1 KJM

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**

Sept. 27 Brier I. 1 David Farmer

Sept. 27 BPI 1 male, banded ABO

Sept. 29-Nov. 30 Birch Cove, Dartmouth 1 fem., male obs. Bob Warrior

Sept. 30-Oct. 9 Brier I. 1 JAH, NSBS

Oct. 6 - ? Woods Hbr. 1 DOC

Oct. 7 BPI 1 ABO

Oct. 1-Nov. 30 Halifax W end male Ann Morrison

Oct. 11 Halifax W end fem. Ann Morrison

Oct. 11 Apple R., *Cum.* 1 male KFS

Oct. 15 Halifax, near "Rotary" 1 *fide* PLC

Oct. 15 2<sup>nd</sup> Peninsla. *Lun.* 1 *fide* JAH

Oct. 16-Nov. 25 Halifax, Jollimore 1 male, 1 fem. PLC, *FCG et al.*

mid-Oct.- Nov. 9 Fall R., *HRM* 1 Nadine MacKay

Oct. 21 - ? Truro 1 male DAM

Nov. 4-18 E Gore, *Hants* 1 male *fide* PLC

Oct. 21-24 Beaver Mt. PP, *Ant.* 1 RFL

Oct. 22 Bridgewater 1 *fide* JAH

Oct. 22-Nov. 30 Halifax S end 2 fem., 1 male? ALD,

*AGH et al.*

Oct. 24 New Glasgow 1 KJM

Oct. 20-Nov. 30 Canning area, *Kings* 2 male, 1 fem. MAG *et al.*

Oct. 21 Truro 1 male DOM

Oct. 25-Nov. 13 Doctors Brook, *Ant.* 1 JOK

late Oct.-Nov. 4 Shelburne 2 *fide* MUN

Oct. 30-Nov. 3 Middleton, *Anna.* f *fide* PBG

Oct. 28 Economy 1 EPS

Oct. 28-30-Nov. Mahone Bay 1 Joyce Allen

Nov. 1-13 Westville, <i>Pict.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> KJM	Oct. 20 Hammonds Plains	1 backyard	ROG
Nov. 2 Purcells Cove, <i>HRM</i>	f.	Ann Morrison	Oct. 27 Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad. male	FLL
Nov. 2-3 Meadowvale, <i>Anna.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> PBG	Nov. 7 York Redoubt	1 male	<i>fide</i> PLC
Nov. 5 Annapolis Royal	1	SHA	<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>		
Nov. 5-19 Rockingham area, Halifax	1	<i>fide</i> PLC	Aug. 15 Washabuck, <i>Victoria</i>	1	BSK
Nov. 6-11 E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1 fem.	Darrell J. Adams	Aug. 18 Middle Musquodoboit	1 juv.	VJM
Nov. 6-30 Wolfville	2 or 3, male obs.	Pete Goulet	Sept. 6 Upper Clements Park, <i>Anna.</i>	1 imm.	Gavin Charles
Nov. 6-30 Windsor	1	Angela Slaunwhite	Sept. 25 Lower W Pubnico	1	RSD
Nov. 7-10 Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL	Sept. 27 Brier I.	1	DOM
Nov. 7-27 Fairview area, Halifax	1 male	FLL, PLC <i>et al.</i>	Oct. 1 Brier I.	1 imm,	ELM
Nov. 7 Overton, <i>Yar.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> MUN	Oct. 1 CSI	1	MUN
Nov. 8-11 Berwick, <i>Kings</i>	1	PBG	Oct. 5 CSI	1	MUN
Nov. 6-24 Lunenburg	1 male	JAH	Oct. 7-9 Brier I.	1	NSBS
Nov. 12-13 Glace Bay	1	JUM	Oct. 19 Portuguese Cove	2	ELM, IAM
Nov. 13-20 Bedford	1	Pam Butler	Nov. 10 Avonport, <i>Kings</i>	1 male	EVU <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 15-20 Pictou	1	KJM	<b>Northern Flicker</b>		
early-mid-Nov. Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JCT, MAG	Aug. 30 Seal I.	2	IAM
mid-end Nov. Elmsvale, <i>HRM</i>	1	<i>fide</i> VJH	Sept. 3-4 Brier I.	"lots"	PLC
Nov. 17-30 Avonport	1	JET	Sept. 4, 5 Seal I.	5, 50	ABM <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 18 Kingsburg area, <i>Lun.</i>	2	<i>fide</i> JAH	Sept. 12 Seal I.	12	IAM <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 20 Stellerton	1 (new?)	KJM	Sept. 12 Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	~10 in backyard	RFL, MZG
Nov. 26 Brookside, <i>HRM</i>	1	Aileen Riley	Sept. 25-26 Brier I.	"big migration"	RBS
Nov. 27 Rosemount, Halifax.	1 (new?)	<i>fide</i> PLC	Sept. 29 Brier I.	30+	ELM
Late Nov. Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1 (new?)	JWW	Sept. 30 Brier I.	150+ "arrival"	ELM
Late Nov. Dartmouth	1	<i>fide</i> FLL	Sept. 24 Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	10	FLL
Late Nov. Central Halifax	1	S. Barbour	Oct. 8-11 Brier I.	10	FLL, NSBS
Late Nov. Head of St. Margarets, <i>HRM</i>	1	D. Nettleship	Oct. 9, 10 Seal I.	25, 30	BLM <i>et al.</i>
<b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b>			Oct. 15-Nov. 30 widely	1-2 at feeders	var. obs.
Sept. 21-24 CSI	1 male	JON, MUN	<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>		
Sept. 30-Nov. 30 Dartmouth	1 fem.	<i>fide</i> FLL	Aug.-Nov. Kingston	1	JOB
Oct. 7-9 Brier I.	2	MUN, NSBS	Aug.-Nov. Middle Musquodoboit	1-2	VJH
Oct. 7-9 Northfield, <i>Lun.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JAH	Aug. 19-Nov. 24 Kingston	1	JOB
Oct. 11 BPI	1	ABO	Aug. 24 Liscombe, <i>Guys.</i>	2	JOB
Oct. 23 Clementsport, <i>Anna.</i>	1	SHA	Sept. 12 Hilden, <i>Col.</i>	1	HVD
Nov. 13-30 Canso	1 male	TOK	Sept. 12 Uniacke Estate, <i>HRM</i>	3	PLC
<b>Downy Woodpecker</b>			Sept. 12 Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1 in yard	
Sept. 12 Seal I.	1	IAM <i>et al.</i>	Pct. 9 Harbour Centre, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL
<b>Hairy Woodpecker</b>			Oct. 10 Port Greville, <i>Cum.</i>	2	JCZ
Sept. 4 Seal I.	1	ABM <i>et al.</i>	Oct. 24 Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1 in yard	RFL
<b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b>			Oct. 26 Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
Aug. 16-Sept. 27 Middle Musquodoboit	pair	VJH	Nov. 2 Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	1 at suet	PBG
Sept. 24 Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2 imm.	FLL	Nov. 9 CB Highlands	1	FMC
Sept. 25 Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad. fem.	FLL	Nov. 22 Clementsvale, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JET
Sept. 29 Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	1	FCG	Nov. 27 Bridgewater	1	MUN
Oct. 11 R. Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	1	BBU			



Once again, Tom Kavanaugh's famous Canso feeder was favoured by a rarity, this time an adult RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, in November. [Photo Tom Kavanaugh]

## Flycatchers through Thrushes

By Andy Horn

Good westerly airflow made this fall one to remember, especially if you're a vireo or gnatcatcher fanatic. Most flycatcher reports were typical in quantity and dates -- down to the single **WILLOW FLYCATCHER** report from the valley (alas, no details) and four **WESTERN KINGBIRD** reports (details only for the Canso bird). Not much can be concluded from the scarcity of reports of **EASTERN KINGBIRDS** since they're always scarce for this relatively common bird, but DJC commented that her bird was the "only one I saw all season." Last dates for most species were on the late side, albeit without smashing any records. A strong favourite for the Bird-That-Got-Away Award -- which doesn't exist, but perhaps should -- must surely be the "robin-sized" one day wonder at a feeder in Canso, Sept. 8 (George Murphy *fide* TOK). It looked "rusty" in flight, and had a "bright yellow stomach", white throat, and black eyeline bordered above and below by white. Without further details, I won't go so far as to state its possible identity. Instead I'll leave that as an exercise for the reader (hint: try p. 339 in Sibley's or p. 300-301 in Peterson's eastern guide).



WARBLING VIREO. [Photo Fritz McEvoy]

**NORTHERN SHRIKE** sightings were typical for an average fall, but the vireo reports were remarkable. Eight **WHITE-EYED VIREOS** is a record high for the few years I've been editing this section. Most of them arrived in fall-outs associated with strong westerlies in mid-October, and, remarkably, half of them stayed for at least five days. The highlight of the fall for many of us, however, was a possible **CASSIN'S VIREO**, first sighted in Birch Cove Park, Dartmouth by BBU and much photographed and researched thereafter. A full account will have to await a future issue, but suffice to say, even experts familiar with both this species and the infinitely more likely **BLUE-HEADED VIREO** made equivocal calls on this one.

There was a bumper crop of sightings of **WARBLING** and **PHILADELPHIA VIREOS**, again, easily the most I've received since editing this section, and even **RED-EYED VIREOS** were reported with unusual frequency from otherwise typical late dates, so I've listed all the post-September reports. Interestingly, locally breeding Blue-headed Vireos at two widely spaced locations -- Middle Musquodoboit, *HRM* and the area of Big Baddeck and St. Anns, *Victoria* -- were last seen on the same day, Sept. 29 (VJH, BSK). That suggests a province-wide departure, and on a date that struck BSK as later than usual for *Victoria*.

The abundance of jays, especially **GRAY JAYS**, was a frequent topic of discussion over NatureNS, but the Christmas Bird Count totals in next issue will offer a more definitive impression of their abundance, as well as that of the always spottily reported **HORNED LARK**. A swallow in Dartmouth, Nov. 21, was unusually late no matter what species it was. At that date, anything goes, so the description wisely takes pains to rule out Bahama Swallow: "very white underneath, very dark on tops ... tail was not forked .... white rump [or] white [may have] extended farther up the sides at the hind end (RSM)." The last point answers to Violet-green Swallow, but that species' white face would have been noticed, so the most likely candidate may be the hardy **TREE SWALLOW**, whose white flanks can sometimes also appear quite wide. Several other late swallow sightings are also worth noting, especially the 20-25 **CLIFF SWALLOWS** in Canso, Oct. 6 (TOK). Such flocks are always worth a careful check for Cave Swallows, large flocks of which were seen as far north as Massachusetts this fall. Given the late swallow reports, it's worth noting that Cliff Swallows were still tending a nest Aug. 14 at Port Medway, *Queens* (SJF) and still hanging around one vacated in June as late as Aug. 19 in Middle Musquodoboit, *HRM* (VJH).

Chickadee, nuthatch, creeper, and kinglet reports were all up in number, often with comments on the birds' abundance. That might quell concerns that some of these somewhat erratic species are in steady decline. I've listed most of the **WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** sightings this time because most reports specifically mentioned that the sighting represented the species' first appearance this fall at the observer's feeder. One **CAROLINA WREN** and four **HOUSE WREN** sightings would be respectable for any fall, but 20 (count 'em!) **BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS** is a stunning quantity, for which surely the strong westerlies are to thank.

The thrush records kick off with the usual single **NORTHERN WHEATEAR**, this one from Morien Bar, *CBRM*, Sept. 16-18 (BES, GEC). On Brier I., Oct. 15, CAH was treated to an apparent fall out of **EASTERN BLUEBIRDS** best described in his



own words: "I was amazed to see a flock of eastern bluebirds, on the wires, in the trees, in the yards and even in the gazebo near the Dock and Doze Motel. I just went back up and they are near the Fundy Inn, on both front and back streets down to the Mariner Cruises office. Males, females and a few juveniles. I would say 25-30 birds. Very unusual. Certainly something I have never seen before. I would imagine they will stay until better weather permits them to move on. They are very busy feeding on insects."

**TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRES** appear every year or two in late fall or winter. This year's birds at Hd. of Jeddore, *HRM* (Jan Foley) and Sable I. (*ZOL*) were described quite satisfactorily. A **VEERY** at Hartlen Pt., Oct. 24 (*TEP*) was remarkably late. Other reports of this species were scarce, as usual, but so were reports of other *Catharus* thrushes, so I've listed the post-September sightings in full. The total of 72 **GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSHES** over Brier I., Oct. 10-11 was thanks to listening to night calls by trained ears (*FLL*, *CLS*). Two **WOOD THRUSHES**, from Seal I., Sept. 5 (*AAM*, *BEM et al.*) and Green Bay, *Lunenburg* (*JSC*), are about the most to be expected in an average year. A leucistic **AMERICAN ROBIN** on Tancook I., *Lunenburg*, Sept. 2, was all white except for some red on its chest (*fide JAH*). A huge movement of robins in late October no doubt happens every fall, but seems to have been visible at unusually many locations this year. The endless flocks leap-frogging each other to pillage berry bushes, chortling all the while, is a bizarre sight for those raised like me on the image of the lone robin on a green lawn. ☿

<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>							
Aug. 18	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	2	JOB	Oct. 19-27	Halifax	1	AGH
Aug. 25	Brier I.	2	LAL <i>et al.</i>	Oct. 19	Canso	1	TOK
Oct. 3	St. Anns, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK	Oct. 21	Seal I.	1	ABO
<b>Eastern Wood Pewee</b>				Oct. 27	Green Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JSC
Sept. 5	Seal I.	4	BEM <i>et al.</i>	Nov. 21	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN
Sept. 12	Seal I.	2	IAM <i>et al.</i>	<b>Vireo sp. (Cassin's or Blue-headed)</b>			
Oct. 2	Hartlen Pt.	1	BLM	Nov. 18-Dec. 1	Dartmouth	1	BBU
Oct. 6	Hartlen Pt.	1 imm.	FLL, IAM	<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>			
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>				Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	20	FLL, RIH
Sept. 1	CSI	2	MUN	Oct. 2	Brier I.	2	ELM
Sept. 1	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT	Oct. 2	Hartlen Pt.	1	RBS
Sept. 1-7	BPI	20	ABO	Oct. 3	Baxters Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
Sept. 4	near Tusket, <i>Yar.</i>	1	MUN <i>et al.</i>	Oct. 14	Hartlen Pt.	4	FLL
Sept. 3-6	Seal I.	1	BEM, IAM <i>et al.</i>	Oct. 15	Halifax	1	Ann Morrison
<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>				Oct. 18	Hartlen Pt.	1	BLM
Aug. 23	Brier I.	16+	LAL <i>et al.</i>	Nov. 15	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	1	<i>fide KJM</i>
Sept. 4	Seal I.	1	IAM <i>et al.</i>	Nov. 16	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
Sept. 5	Hartlen Pt.	4 imms.	FLL, BIB, EIB	Nov. 21	Trenton, <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Sept. 11	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2 imms.	NSBS	Nov. 22	Halifax	1	CJF
Sept. 17	Hartlen Pt.	1	FLL	Nov. 23	Spyfield, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL
Sept. 30	Hartlen Pt.	1 imm.	FLL	Nov. 29	Dartmouth	1	TEP
<b>Willow Flycatcher</b>				<b>WARBLING VIREO</b>			
Aug. 21	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	2	JOB	Aug. 30	Seal I.	1	IAM <i>et al.</i>
<b>Least Flycatcher</b>				Sept. 1	CSI	1	MUN
Sept. 1	CSI	6	MUN	Sept. 6	near Tusket, <i>Yar.</i>	1	MUN <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 6	Hartlen Pt.	1 ad.	FLL	Sept. 12	Seal I.	2	FLL <i>et al.</i>
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>				Sept. 25	Yarmouth	1	MUN
Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL	Oct. 19	Hartlen Pt.	1	"probable western race" FLL
Sept. 30	Brier I.	5	Brian Delaney, JAH	<b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>			
Sept. 30	CSI	1	MUN	Aug. 16	Big Baddeck, <i>Vic.</i>	3	BSK
Nov. 17-20	Canso	1	STB	Aug. 29	Mabou, <i>Inv.</i>	1+	BSK
Nov. 20	CSI	1	CST, JON	Sept 2	Brier I.	1	LAL <i>et al.</i>
<b>WESTERN KINGBIRD</b>				Sept. 12	Hartlen Pt.	1	GDE, TEP
Sept. 5	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	Sept. 19	Blanche, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH, David Walmark
Oct. 18-19	Canso	1 juv.	TOK	Sept. 22-24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	FLL, HAT
Oct. 20	Louisburg, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BES, GEC	Oct. 2	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, TEP, AZV
Nov. 24	Donkin, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BES, GEC	Oct. 17	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BES, GEC
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>				Oct. 22	Sunrise, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC
Aug. 12	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	12	JOB	<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>			
Aug. 19	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	20	JOB	Sept. 5	Seal I.	12	BEM <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 20	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC	Sept. 12	Seal I.	9	IAM <i>et al.</i>
<b>Northern Shrike</b>				Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	10	FLL, RIH
Aug. 21	Baddeck Inlet, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK	Oct. 6	CSI	8	MUN
Oct. 17	River Bourgeois, <i>Richmond</i>	1	GED	Oct. 9	Seal I.	1	BLM <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 20	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS	Oct. 14	Hartlen Pt.	8	FLL
Nov. 9	Dollar Lake PP, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad.	HAT	Oct. 14	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
Nov. 20	Sunrise, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC	Oct. 16	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP
Nov. 24	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BES, GEC	Oct. 17	Baccarro, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN
<b>WHITE-EYED VIREO</b>				Oct. 18	Hartlen Pt.	5	BLM
Sept. 18	BPI	1	ABO	Oct. 19	Hartlen Pt.	10	FLL, HAT
Oct. 16-24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	var. obs.	Oct. 18-19	near Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	IAM, ELM, HAT
Oct. 19-24	Hartlen Pt.	1	RSM, SMB	Oct. 24	Hartlen Pt.	1	TEP
				Oct. 27	Halifax	1	FLL

Nov. 9	Halifax	1	IAM, MAM	Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	25	FLL, RIH
<b>Gray Jay</b>				Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	40	NSBS
Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	10	FLL, RIH	Oct. 20	Hartlen Pt.	20	FLL, HAT
Oct-Nov	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	4	KFS	Nov. 22	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	45	JOB
<b>Blue Jay</b>				<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>			
Sept. 24	Brier I.	11	JCT <i>et al.</i>	Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	20	FLL, RIH
Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	100	FLL, RIH	Oct. 1	Digby Neck, <i>Digby</i>	7	JAH
Sept. 29-Oct. 2	Brier I.	100/day	ELM	Oct. 2	Brier I.	5 migrants	ELM
Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	100	NSBS	Oct. 9-11	Brier I.	5	NSBS
Oct. 29	Brier I.	20+	ELM	Oct. 20	Hartlen Pt.	10	FLL, HAT
Nov.	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	9	KFS	Oct. 24	Hartlen Pt.	1	TEP
<b>Horned Lark</b>				Nov. 3	Sable I.	1	ZOL
Oct. 1	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>		SJF	Nov. 6	Dartmouth	1	PLC, JEH, Mary Alward
Oct. 3	Hartlen Pt.	3	FLL	Nov. 18	Halifax	1	PLC
Oct. 6	Brier I.	9	JUS	Nov. 21	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, Gary Smith
Oct. 24	Waterside Beach PP, <i>Pict.</i>	15	KJM	<b>BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER</b>			
Oct. 28-30	Brier I.	50	ELM	Sept. 19	BPI	1	ABO
Nov. 12	Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	4	SEM	Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	eastern race FLL, RIH
<b>Swallow sp.</b>				Sept. 26	Seal I.	1	ABO
Nov. 21	Darmouth	1	RSM	Sept. 28	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	3	<i>fide</i> MUN
<b>Tree Swallow</b>				Oct. 6	Hartlen Pt.	1	FLL, IAM
Oct. 19	Canso	2	TOK	Oct. 9	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	5	BES, GEC
<b>Bank Swallow</b>				Oct. 22-24	Canso	1	TOK
Oct. 17	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	20+	BES, GEC	Oct. 25	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
Oct. 19	Canso	5-6	TOK	Oct. 25	Ecum Secum, <i>Guys.</i>	1	KJM
<b>Cliff Swallow</b>				Oct. 26	Canso	2	TOK
Oct. 6	Canso	20-25	TOK	Oct. 31	Canso	1	TOK
Oct. 19	Canso	1	TOK	Nov. 6-29	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JSC, SJF
<b>Barn Swallow</b>				Nov. 7	CSI	1	MUN
Sept. 9	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BLM	<b>NORTHERN WHEATEAR</b>			
Oct. 4	CSI	6	MUN	Sept. 16-18	Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BES, GEC
Oct. 6	Brier I.	2	JUS	<b>Eastern Bluebird</b>			
<b>Black-capped Chickadee</b>				Aug. 17-19	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	6 (family)	KFS
Oct. 6	New Germany, <i>Lun.</i>	50	BLM	Oct. 7	Brier I.	2	KJM
Nov. 28	Volglers Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	40 in 15 km	JAH, David Walmark	Oct. 15	Brier I.	25-30	CAH
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>				Oct. 18	Seal I.	1	ABO
all Sept.	Seal I.	25	IAM <i>et al.</i>	Nov. 7	Annapolis Royal	3	SHA
Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	20	FLL, RIH	<b>TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE</b>			
Oct. 23	Taylor Hd. PP, <i>HRM</i>	"common"	PLC, VJH	Oct. 27	Hd. of Jeddore, <i>HRM</i>	1	Jan Foley
throughout	Big Baddeck & St. Anns, <i>Vic.</i>	"common"	BSK	Oct. 29	Sable I.	1	ZOL
<b>Red-breasted Nuthatch</b>				<b>Veery</b>			
Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	40	FLL, RIH	Aug. 23	Liscomb, <i>HRM</i>	2	JOB
<b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b>				Sept. 2	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	1	JOB
throughout	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	2	LOC	Oct. 24	Hartlen Pt.	1	TEP
throughout	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	3	JOB	<b>Gray-cheeked Thrush</b>			
Oct. 10	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT	Oct. 10-11	Brier I.	72	FLL, CLS
Oct. 21	Truro	1	DAM, CRM	<b>Bicknell's Thrush (probable; poor lighting)</b>			
Oct. 24	Clementsvalle, <i>Anna.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JET	Aug. 30	Seal I.	1	IAM
Oct. 28	Halifax	1	PLC	<b>Swainson's Thrush</b>			
Oct. 28	Wolfville	2	JET	Aug. 20-31	BPI	13	ABO
Nov. 1	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	2+	<i>fide</i> PBG	Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, RIH
Nov. 19	Bridgewater, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JEM	Oct. 8	Crystal Beach PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Nov. 21	Dartmouth	2	PLC	Oct. 11	Brier I.	1	FLL
Nov. 22	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	7	JOB	Oct. 22	Sable I.	1	ZOL
Nov. 29	Halifax	1	PLC	<b>Hermit Thrush</b>			
<b>Brown Creeper</b>				Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	25	FLL, RIH
over ten reports of one or two birds each, throughout province				Oct. 4	S Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1+	BSK (last date here)
<b>CAROLINA WREN</b>				Oct. 6	New Germany, <i>Lun.</i>	7	BLM
Oct. 19	Canso	1	TOK	Oct. 9	Sandy Bottom L., <i>Anna.</i>	1	MCR
<b>House Wren</b>				Oct. 12	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	1	JET
Sept. 17	Hartlen Pt.	1	FLL	Oct. 15	Big Baddeck	1+	BSK (last date here)
Oct. 6	Crystal Crescent Beach PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT	Oct. 16	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP
Oct. 29	Green Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JSC	Oct. 18-19	Hartlen Pt.	2	FLL, DAM
Nov. 25	Halifax	1	SMB	Oct. 21	Sable I.	1	ZOL
<b>Winter Wren</b>				Oct. 23	Port Joli, <i>Lun.</i>	1	AND, Lelia Dean
nine reports of single birds throughout province				Oct. 24	Clementsvalle, <i>Anna.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JET
<b>Marsh Wren</b>				<b>WOOD THRUSH</b>			
Sept. 27	Seal I.	1	ABO	Sept. 5	Seal I.	1	AAM, BEM <i>et al.</i>
<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>				Oct. 27	Green Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JSC
Aug. 16	Brier I.	20+	LAL	<b>American Robin</b>			
Aug. 23	Liscomb, <i>HRM</i>	27	JOB	Sept. 2	Tancook I., <i>Lun.</i>	1	leucistic <i>fide</i> JAH
Sept. 4	Brier I.	20+ migrants	PLC	Oct. 6	Hartlen Pt.	150	FLL
Sept. 3-6	Seal I.	200	RBS <i>et al.</i>	Oct. 18	Crystal Crescent Beach PP, <i>HRM</i>	500+	HAT
Sept. 24	Brier I.	12	JCT, GWT	Oct. 21	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	100+	KFS

Oct. 22	Lunenburg	"large numbers"	JAH	Oct. 31	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	250-350	PLC
Oct. 23	Halifax	300+	AGH	Nov. 8	Maders Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	100?	JEM
Oct. 28	Brier I.	400+	ELM	Nov. 30	Englishtown, <i>Vic.</i>	200+	BSK
Oct. 31	Lakevale, <i>Pict.</i>	"hundreds"	KJM				

## Starlings Through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

One never knows what might show up in a flock of EUROPEAN STARLINGS but an albino starling stood out in a flock of 200 near the highway exchange previously known as the Mic Mac Rotary Aug. 30 (*vide* BLM). It was subsequently seen nearby Sept. 20 (BBU) and Sept. 22 (RHL). A more exotic cockatiel was spotted travelling with a flock of 200 starlings Oct. 22 near Lunenburg (JAH). In the early days of October, TOK watched a group of starlings in Canso fly-catching ants 70 metres in the air.

Although reports were received for all our regular mimics, no reports were received from CBI. GRAY CATBIRD sightings began to increase in late August and early September, but good numbers were still reported into October. On the other hand, NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD sightings started to peak about mid-October along with a number of more southerly woodpeckers. Many of the mockingbirds were still being noted at the end of this report period. There were four reports of BROWN THRASHER. One visited the Tremont, *Kings*, garden of SLH (*vide* JCT) from Nov. 5-7 giving rise to speculation that it might be one of the nesting family from June at nearby Kingston.

A single AMERICAN PIPIT was spotted at Hartlen Pt. Sept. 8 (FLL). A pipit observation at West Baccaro, *Shelburne*, Sept. 12, led MUN to comment that this was a sign that summer was almost over. ALD observed four pipits the next day on Big I., *Pictou*.

Only two BOHEMAIN WAXWINGS were observed and those were on Sable I. Nov. 7 (ZOL). Flocks of CEDAR WAXWINGS were noted throughout the report period with more than 60 reports received and with a good number of November sightings, it might be expected that many will over-winter. In September, flocks with good numbers were noted in *Queens* (Joyce Allen), *Lunenburg* (JAH), *Colchester* (W. Kettleston) and *Kings* (JOB). October sightings were widespread through the mainland. JOK noted hundreds feeding on mountain ash along the Northumberland Shore of *Antigonish* in advance of a November 13 storm.

Observers recorded thirty-three species of warblers over this report period. By studying the dates of the sightings submitted there appear to have been several dates of significant fallouts. Even as early as Aug.1, JCT watched a good number of migrant warblers at her yard birdbath near Wolfville. In Clearland near Mahone Bay, JAH noted a phenomenal number of warblers Aug. 9. Beginning in mid-August, good numbers of warblers were noted by CAH on Brier I. and MUN in *Shelburne*. In fact, MUN noted one of the largest flock of warblers he had ever seen in inland *Yarmouth*, Aug. 23. A shift of winds to NNE into the Labour Day weekend brought a number of reports of warblers with a boreal-maritime flavour to the Atlantic coast from Halifax to *Shelburne* (IAM, MUN, JCT and Joyce Allen), but it was relatively quiet that weekend on Seal I. By mid-September, another wave was noted Sept. 18 & 23-24. CAH noted Yellow-rumped warblers and Cedar Waxwings landing on whale-watching boats on Sept. 23 and HAT noted the highest visible warbler population he saw that year at Sandy Cove, *HRM* on that same day. The movement seemed widespread as British birders Joan and Ian Jones noted similar sightings of nice warbler waves in CB.

Several of the group on the NSBS field trip to Brier I., spent several hours birding the night of Oct. 10. FLL had gone for a walk while most were having supper and he alerted most that there was a significant arrival of Grey-cheeked Thrush in the air over the island. Indeed, when the group went out the flight calls of this thrush seemed to be everywhere. The weather had gone through a shift and it then started to rain lightly and fog in. A group went to the North light and were able to identify a good number of birds, mostly warblers, circling the lighthouse following the revolving light. A drive to the Western light showed the same phenomenon except the numbers here were much higher. In fact a pair of Great Horned Owls was busy hunting the area. The next morning, CLS made a trip back to the Western light well before sunrise and witnessed the struggle of hundreds of exhausted birds trying to dive for cover while been knocked out of the air by a flotilla of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, as well as raptors such as Sharp-shinned Hawks and Merlin. Even the Turkey Vultures were there to join in on the kill. CLS made several stockpiles of dead warblers, and managed to rescue a few to take back for rehabilitation. He then went to alert the main group who had gone to the North light. The result was the same there, but less dramatic. An hour after sunrise, if one were to go to the lighthouses one would never had known the carnage had taken place. A trip back to the stockpiled birds showed most had been removed by the raptors and gulls. There is a need then on this type of fog-filled night to make an early rise the next day to check for dead birds to get an accurate idea of death near lighthouses.

The last mini-fallout was predicted by IAM for Oct. 18. A strong airflow SSW through SW with close isobars parallel to the coast of the NE USA and winds in excess of 50 knots brought a drift of reverse migrants to Atlantic headlands and this was then followed by a shift of winds to the west bringing the birds to the coast.

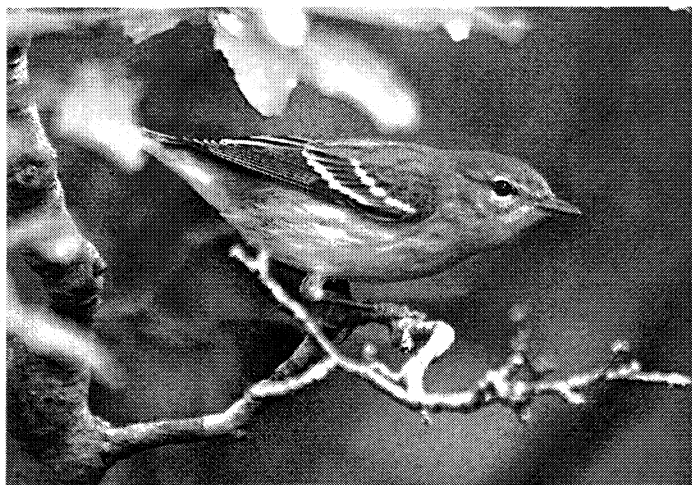
The **GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** in Clearland in early August was probably the same bird observed in June and described in the last issue. I garnered 15 reports of about 38 individual **ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS**. There were 14 reported in October and 16 in November and most of the sightings were in the HRM area. The bulk of **NASHVILLE WARBLER** reports were from August and September with a few October stragglers. The last sighting was one at Eastern Passage, HRM Nov. 29 (AGH).

**NORTHERN PARULA** sightings remained rather constant indicating a number of late migrants with a surprising number of this small warbler in the last week of October and into November. BSK noted the last one in her birding territory in *Victoria*, Sept. 23. Not many people reported **CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER** and VJH commented that the single juv. seen in Middle Musquodoboit Aug.21 was the only one they saw in the area this year where in the past it was a common breeder. **MAGNOLIA WARBLER** migration peaked in mid-late September on the mainland. In *Victoria*, BSK noted her last observation Sept.8. Like the **BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER**, the Magnolia had a second wave of sightings in mid.-October.

As usual, **YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS** were the most numerous warbler reported. Peak numbers were in late September to late October. November sightings were from a number of localities, but numbering in the 5-10 range. ZOL discovered a fem. **TOWNSEND'S WARBLER** at East Light Sable I. Oct. 22- a nice sighting of a western bird not seen every year in the province. Hartlen Pt. was a hotbed of activity in mid-October when a **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** (race *albilora*) was discovered by FLL Oct. 14. More searching Oct. 19 led to the discovery of three fems., race *albilora*, in the same tree at Back Cove, Hartlen Pt. FLL was also informed of another seen the same day at the South Beach of Hartlen Pt. BSK noted that at least eight pairs of **AMERICAN REDSTART** were breeding in the Big Baddeck area of *Victoria* and she noted that the last one was present Sept. 6. The ABO banded a **WORM-EATING WARBLER** on BPI Oct. 7, and retrapped it two days later; this was the only report this autumn.

Don MacNeill had the good fortune to find Nova Scotia's third-ever **SWAINSON'S WARBLER**. His reports: "I saw it on August 25, 2004 at the back of the cove at Hartlen Point. It was on the ground and flew up into a tree and sat there for a while as I looked at it with my 10x50's from a distance of about 30 feet. It was a larger warbler with unstreaked breast and belly, white line above the eye, looked like a line through the eye, rusty cap, and light-coloured bill. The bill appeared larger than some warblers' bills."

Migrant **WILSON'S WARBLERS** began to show in the last week of August with the greatest frequency of sightings in the first week of September. Sightings after September tended to be western race. **CANADA WARBLERS** were observed by a number of birders throughout August with a possible peak in the latter part of the month. In all, 10 observers noted 16 Canada warblers to the end of the first week of September. Sightings were pretty well complete by the end of September. ☐



The rather "messy" markings of head and breast help distinguish this first-fall **BLACKPOLL WARBLER** (Sept. 13 on Brier I.) from the closely related Bay-breasted. Note that black legs are supposedly characteristic of Bay-breasted, although the toes wouldn't be so pale (yellow) on that species. [Photo Hans Toom]

#### European Starling

Oct. 25	Kingston	4000	PBG
<i>Gray Catbird</i>			
Aug. 4	Goose Creek Marsh, Yar.	1	PRG
Aug. 9	Clearland, Lun.	4	JAH
Aug. 12&29	Kingston	2	JOB
Aug. 21, Sept. 2	Kingston	4	JOB
Sept. 4-5	Brier I.	1	PLC
Sept. 5	Kingston	14	JOB
Sept. 12	Hartlen Pt.	1	TEP, GDE
Sept. 12	Clare, Digby	1 heard	PRG
Sept. 12	Black Hbr. Trail, Lun	1	JAH
Sept. 13	Kingston, Kings	3	JOB
Sept. 17	Kingston, Kings	5	JOB
Sept. 24	Brier I.	1	JCT et al.
Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, HRM	6	FLL, RIH
Sept. 29	Brier I.	1	DAM
Sept. 30	Brier I.	1	ELM
Oct. 1&19	Hartlen Pt.	3	FLL
Oct. 10	Brier I.	1	NSBS fide FLL
Oct. 18	Hartlen Pt.	1	IAM
Oct. 19	Hartlen Pt.	3	FLL
Oct. 19	Spryfield-Sambro, HRM	2-3	IAM, ELM
Oct. 21-22	Sable I.	3	ZOL
Oct. 27	Sable I.	2	ZOL
Nov. 7	Sable I.	2	ZOL
Nov. 10	Dartmouth	1	RHL



Nov. 20	Dartmouth	1	CLS	Nov. 15	Canso area	1	STB
<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>				Nov. 21	Halifax	1	Chris Helleiner
Sept. 10	Sable I.	2 ads. 1 juv.	ZOL	<b>Orange-crowned Warbler</b>			
Sept. 25	Mt. Uniacke PP, <i>Hants</i>	1	David Farmer <i>et al</i>	Aug. 16	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
Oct. 2	CSI	1	MUN	Sept. 4-6	Seal I.	3	AAM <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 7	BPI	1	ABO	Sept. 18	Point Pleasant PP, <i>HRM</i>	2-3	PLC
Oct. 7	Seal I.	1	ABO	Sept. 28	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	JUM
Oct. 9	Lower Eel Brook, <i>Yar.</i>	1	PRG	Oct. 2	Hartlen Pt.	1 <i>celata</i>	BLM
Oct. 17	Aspatogan Penn., <i>HRM</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JAH	Oct. 6	CSI	1	MUN
Oct. 19	Kentville	2	RBS	Oct. 23-24	Canso	4	<i>fide</i> TOK
Oct. 19	Lower Argyle, <i>Yar.</i>	1	PRG	Oct. 30	Point Pleasant PP, <i>HRM</i>	2 <i>orestera</i> -like	AGH
Oct. 22	Sable I.	2	ZOL	Nov. 9	Coburg Rd., Halifax	1 <i>orestera</i>	IAM
Oct. 23	Rockingham, <i>HRM</i>	1	JEH	Nov. 11	New Glasgow	2	KJM
Oct. 24	Halifax	4	DAM	Nov. 12	Canso	1	NSBS
Oct. 21&30	Canso Town	1	TOK	Nov. 21	Lilydale L., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, Gary Smith
Oct. 25	Bedford, <i>HRM</i>	1	JEH	Nov. 26	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1 <i>orestera</i>	SJF
Oct. 27	NE Dartmouth	1	Pat Millar	<b>Nashville Warbler</b>			
Oct. 28	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JSC	Aug. 9	Clearland, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
Oct. 30	Lower Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm.	BLM	Aug. 15	Lower Barneys R., <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Oct. 31&Nov. 27	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	2	SJF	Aug. 28	APBS	3	TEP
Oct. 31	CSI	1	JCZ, Lillian Perry	Sept. 24	Hartlen Pt.	5	FLL, RIH
Nov. 3	Sable I.	2	ZOL	Oct. 6	Hartlen Pt.	4	FLL
Nov. 8	Sable I.	1	ZOL	Nov. 1	Spryfield, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL
Nov. 11&26	Ketch Hbr, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC, AZV	Nov. 27&29	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU, AGH
Nov. 14	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1	MAG	<b>Northern Parula</b>			
Nov. 20	New Glasgow	1	KJM	Aug. 9	Clearland, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>				Aug. 28	APBS	3	TEP
Sept. 9	CSI	1	MUN	Sept. 3	Fauxburg trail, <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH
Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL	Sept. 22	Hartlen Pt.	4	IAM
Sept. 26	BPI	1	ABO	Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	3	FLL, RIH
Nov. 6-7	Kingston	1	SLH <i>fide</i> JCT	Sept. 26	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	5	KJM
<b>American Pipit</b>				Oct. 3	Baxters Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	2	RBS
Sept. 8	Hartlen Pt.	1	FLL	Oct. 19	Hartlen Pt.	5	HAT, FLL
Sept. 12	W Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN	Oct. 24	Hartlen Pt.	4	TEP
Sept. 13	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	4	ALD	Oct. 25	Ecum Secum, <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
Sept. 22	Sable I.	20+	ZOL	Oct. 25	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	3	KJM
Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL	Oct. 25	Harrigan Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	KJM
Sept. 25	Sambro, <i>HRM</i>	a few	PLC	Oct. 26	Bear Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
Sept. 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM	Nov. 1	Harrigan Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	KJM
Sept. 30	Hartlen Pt.	10	FLL	Nov. 1	Sable I.	1	ZOL
Oct. 9	Port Graville, <i>Cum.</i>	4	JCZ <i>et al.</i>	Nov. 11	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC
Oct. 11	Brier I.	80	CAH	Nov. 15	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
Oct. 11	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	a few	RBS	Nov. 17	Point Pleasant PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	AGH
Oct. 15	Lower LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	5	JAH	Nov. 20	Dartmouth	1	CLS
Nov. 29	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	?	Ian Roseby	<b>Yellow Warbler</b>			
<b>Bohemian Waxwing</b>				Aug. 15	Lower Barneys R., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
Nov. 7	Sable I.	2 ad	ZOL	Aug. 17	Sable I.	2	ZOL
<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>				Aug. 18-19	Kingston	10-12	JOB
Nov. 6	Purcells Cove, <i>HRM</i>	10	JWW	Aug. 20	CSI	6	MUN
Nov. 6	Caribou I. <i>Pict.</i>	40	KJM	Aug. 23	Lower Sackville	4	LOC
Nov. 7	Windsor	20	JCT	Aug. 28	APBS	4	TEP
Nov. 11	Lakevale, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL	Aug. 29	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	4	KJM
Nov. 11	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	10	GED	Sept. 13	Sable I.	2	ZOL
Nov. 12	Halifax	4	PLC	Sept. 24	Brier I.	1	JCT <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 16	Wentworth Centre, <i>Cum.</i>	45, 75% juv.	BRD	Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL
Nov. 16	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	1	MCR	Sept. 24	Dartmouth	1	FLL
Nov. 18	Maders Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	50+	JEM	Oct. 16	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP
Nov. 19-29	Lockeport	several dozen	DJC	<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b>			
Nov. 20&27	Halifax	20-35	Ann Morrison	Aug. 2	Clearland, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH
Nov. 20	Yarmouth	25	MUN	Aug. 16	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	2	LOC
Nov. 20	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH	Sept. 3	Fauxburg Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, SMB
Nov. 21	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	13	JAH, Gary Smith	Sept. 11	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1	NSBS
Nov. 21	Westville, <i>Pict.</i>	7	Rick Ferguson	Sept. 14	Whites L., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
<b>GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER</b>				Sept. 24	Chebucto Penn., <i>HRM</i>	3	FLL
Aug. 1	Clearland, <i>Lun.</i>	1 fem	NSBS	Sept. 26	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Aug. 9	Clearland, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH	Oct. 1	Hartlen Pt.	1	FLL
<b>Tennessee Warbler</b>				<b>Magnolia Warbler</b>			
Aug. 18	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 juv	VJH	Aug. 15	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	6	KJM
Aug. 27	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC	Aug. 28	APBS	2	TEP
Aug. 29	Mabou, <i>Inv.</i>	1 juv	BSK	Sept. 9	Kingston	3	JOB
Sept. 7	Hartlen Pt.	1 imm	FLL, DOU	Sept. 11	Hartlen Pt.	3+	NSBS
Sept. 11	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	Sept. 11	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	2	NSBS
Sept. 19	Blanche, <i>Shel.</i>	1 1 <sup>st</sup> fall	JAH, David Walmark	Sept. 12	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	2	RFL
Oct. 19	Spryfield-Sambro	1	IAM, ELM	Sept. 14	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	2	PLC

Sept. 26	Big I, <i>Pict.</i>	5	KJM	Nov. 27	Birch Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP
Oct. 18	Hartlen Pt.	2	IAM	Nov. 27	Dorothea Dr., <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP
Oct. 18	Canso	1	TOK	Nov. 29	Burnside, <i>HRM</i>	2	TEP
Oct. 19	Hartlen Pt.	1	FLL	Nov. 29	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	AGH
Oct. 19	Canso	2	TOK	<b>Prairie Warbler</b>			
Oct. 21	Hartlen Pt.	1	JAH	Aug. 16	Brier I.	1	LAL
<b>Cape May Warbler</b>				Aug. 22	BPI	1	ABO
Aug. 20	Lower Sackville	1	LOC	Aug. 26	BPI	2	ABO
Aug. 22	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	Aug. 27	Sandy Cove Rd.	1 ad. male	HAT
Aug. 29	Annapolis Royal	1	MUN	Aug. 28	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	2	KJM
Sept. 3	Brier I.	1 ad. male, 1 imm.	LAL et al.	Aug. 28	West Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	1	NSBS fide MUN
Oct. 2	CSI	1	MUN	Aug. 29	Annapolis Royal	2	MUN
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler</b>				Sept. 2	BPI	1	ABO
Aug. 27	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	LOC	Sept. 3	CSI	1	KJM
Aug. 28	Hectanooga, <i>Digby</i>	9 males	MUN	Sept. 4	BPI	1	ABO
Aug. 30	Lewis L. PP, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	ROW	Sept. 4-6	BPI	3	NSBS fide JCZ
Sept. 4-6	Brier I.	1 male	PLC	Sept. 4-6	Seal I.	4-5	AAM et al.
Sept. 4	Big Baddeck, <i>Vic.</i>	1 pair	BSK	Sept. 4	Port Joli	1 imm.	Joyce Allen
Oct. 17	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 fem	IAM	Sept. 6	Cape Light, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN et al.
Oct. 19	Hartlen Pt.	1	FLL, HAT	Sept. 11	Hartlen Pt.	1 ad male, 1 imm	FLL
Nov. 2	Birch Cove Park, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	FLL	Sept. 11	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	NSBS
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>				Sept. 11	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Aug. 29	APBS	125	TEP	Sept. 22	Hartlen Pt.	1 imm. male	IAM
Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	500	FLL	Sept. 24	Duncan's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm. Fem.	FLL, RIH
Sept. 26	Big I, <i>Pict.</i>	44	KJM	Sept. 25	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1	GDE
Sept. 30	Brier I.	50+	ELM	Sept. 25	BPI	1	ABO
Oct. 2	Brier I.	200+	ELM	Sept. 26	BPI	1	ABO
Oct. 3	Conrads L, <i>Lun.</i>	300	CSS, David Walmark	Sept. 28	Schooner Pd., <i>CBRM</i>	1	JUM
Oct. 6	Canso	100+	TOK	Oct. 2	Seal I.	1	ABO
Oct. 8	Crystal Crescent Beach	100's	HAT	Oct. 6	Hartlen Pt.	1 imm. male	IAM, FLL
Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	300	NSBS fide FLL	Oct. 7	Seal I.	1	ABO
Oct. 14	Hartlen Pt.	50	FLL	Oct. 8	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm fem.	FLL, SMB
Oct. 20	Canso	250-300	TOK	Oct. 18	Broughton, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BES, GEC
Oct. 20	Hartlen Pt.	7	5 FLL, HAT	Oct. 24	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC et al.
Oct. 21	Sable I.	25+	ZOL	<b>Palm Warbler</b>			
Nov. 8	Sable I.	10+	ZOL	Aug. 19	Kingston	4	JOB
<b>Black-throated Green Warbler</b>				Aug. 28	APBS	2	TEP
Sept. 5	Seal I.	7	KJM	Sept. 24	Sandy Cove Rd. <i>HRM</i>	200	FLL, RIH
Sept. 22	Hartlen Pt.	4	IAM	Sept. 25	Sambro I., <i>HRM</i>	3	PLC
Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	10	FLL, RIH	Sept. 30	Brier I.	20+ arrivals	ELM
Sept. 24	Brier I.	4	JCT et al.	Oct. 2	Brier I.	25+	ELM
Sept. 26	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	10	KJM	Oct. 3	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
Oct. 6	CSI	2	MUN	Oct. 5	BPI	1 western	ABO
Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	10	NSBS fide FLL	Oct. 7	BPI	1 western	ABO
Oct. 18	Hartlen Pt.	5	FLL, IAM	Oct. 7	Seal I.	1 western	ABO
Oct. 18	Canso	1	TOK	Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	30	NSBS fide FLL
Oct. 30	West Dublin, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH	Oct. 14	Hartlen Pt.	4 west, 2 east	FLL
Nov. 7	CSI	1	MUN	Oct. 16	Sandy Cove Rd.	1 western	TEP
Nov. 20	Dartmouth	1	FLL	Oct. 17	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	1 eastern	BLM
<b>TOWNSEND'S WARBLER</b>				Oct. 18	Crystal Crescent Beach	4	HAT
Oct. 22	Sable I.	1 fem.	ZOL	Oct. 19	Hartlen Pt.	1 western	FLL, HAT
<b>Blackburnian Warbler</b>				Oct. 19	BPI	1 western	ABO
Aug. 9	Clearland, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH	Oct. 19	Seal I.	5 western	ABO
Aug. 26	Lower Sackville	2	LOC	Nov. 1	Sober I. <i>HRM</i>	1 western	KJM
Aug. 28	APBS	2	TEP	Nov. 7 & 24	Point Pleasant PP, <i>HRM</i>	1 western	AGH
Aug. 29	Annapolis Royal	2	MUN	Nov. 28	Point Pleasant PP, <i>HRM</i>	1 western	RMA
Sept. 14	Victoria latest sighting	BSK		<b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b>			
Sept. 22	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 juv.	VJH	Aug. 1	Holman Marsh L. trail, <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
<b>YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER</b>				Aug. 14	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
Oct. 14	Hartlen Pt.	1 ad. fem. <i>albilora</i>	FLL	Aug. 29	Hartlen Pt.	1	IAM
Oct. 19	Hartlen Pt.	3 ad. fems. <i>albilora</i>	FLL, HAT	Sept. 1	Brier I.	2	LAL et al
Oct. 24	Hartlen Pt.	1	TEP	Sept. 3	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 juv	VJH
Nov. 2	Fairview, <i>HRM</i>	1	DAC	Sept. 18	Sandy L. <i>HRM</i>	1	NSBS fide SMB
<b>Pine Warbler</b>				Sept. 22	Hartlen Pt.	1	IAM
Sept. 4-6	BPI	1	NSBS fide JCZ	<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b>			
Sept. 7	Big Baddeck, <i>Vic</i>	1	BSK	Sept. 3	Fauxburg Trail, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, SMB
Sept. 24	Point Pleasant PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOM	Sept. 5	Hartlen Pt.	1	IAM
Oct. 18 & 19	Point Pleasant PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	AGH	Sept. 11	Hartlen Pt.	10	FLL
Oct. 19	Canso	1	TOK	Sept. 17	Hartlen Pt.	20	FLL
Nov. 7	CSI	1	MUN	Sept. 18	Point Pleasant PP	5-6	PLC
Nov. 13	Canso	2	NSBS	Sept. 19	Whites L., <i>HRM</i>	70	BLM
Nov. 22	Halifax	1	DOU, Ann Morrison	Sept. 24	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	400	FLL, RIH
Nov. 27	Lakeside, <i>HRM</i>	1 dull	IAM	Sept. 26	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	12	PLC, JEH
Nov. 27	Purcells Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1 bright	DAC	Sept. 26	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM

Sept. 27	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	4 last of year	VJH	Aug. 29	St. Anns, <i>Vic.</i>	1 last of season	BSK
Oct. 9	Brier I.	20	NSBS <i>fide</i> FLL	Sept. 3	Kingston	19	JOB
Oct. 15	Cabot Landing PP, <i>Vic</i>	1 last of year	FMC	Sept. 3	Palmeter Woods, <i>Kings</i>	23	RBS
Oct. 19	Hartlen Pt.	2	HAT, FLL	Sept. 4	Port Joli	100 4km walk	Joyce Allen
<b>Black and White Warbler</b>							
Aug. 9	Clearland, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH	Sept. 5	Hartlen Pt.	15	IAM
Aug. 15	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	6	KJM	Sept. 11	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	1	KJM
Aug. 20	Lewis L. PP, <i>HRM</i>	12	ROW	Sept. 24	Brier I.	12	JCT <i>et al.</i>
Aug. 28	APBS	4	TEP	Sept. 26	Big I.	4	KJM
Aug. 29	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	5	KJM	Oct. 3	Big I.	2	KJM
Sept. 6	Seal I.	4	KJM	Oct. 3	Baxter's Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	5	RBS
Sept. 12	Seal I.	20	IAM <i>et al.</i>	Oct. 28	CSI	1	MUN
Sept. 13	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 last of year	VJH	Nov. 18	Crystal Crescent Beach	1	HAT
Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	10	FLL	<b>HOODED WARBLER</b>			
Sept. 24	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC	Aug. 8	Sable I.	1	ZOL
Sept. 26	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	5-6	PLC, JEH	Sept. 1	Brier I.	1 ad male (photo)	LAL <i>et al.</i>
Oct. 18	Hartlen Pt.	1	IAM	Sept. 20	Cherry Hill Beach	1 male	SLF
Oct. 18	Crystal Crescent Beach	1	HAT	Oct. 18	Hartlen Pt.	1 male, 1 fem	IAM
Nov. 7	Victoria	1	BSK	Oct. 18	Hartlen Pt.	1 imm. Male	BLM, IAM
<b>American Redstart</b>							
Aug. 28	APBS	2	TEP	Oct. 20	Hartlen Pt.	3 ad males FLL, HAT	
Aug. 30	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 last of year	VJH	Oct. 20	Hartlen Pt.	1 imm. male	FLL, HAT
Sept. 4	Port Joli	3	Joyce Allen	Oct. 20	Hartlen Pt.	1 unknown sex	FLL, HAT
Sept. 11	Hartlen Pt.	4	NSBS	Oct. 21	Hartlen Pt.	1 ad.	FLL, RIH
Sept. 11	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	10	NSBS	<b>Wilson's Warbler</b>			
Sept. 11	Sable I.	4	ZOL	Aug. 25	Brier I.	first few	LAL
Sept. 30	Hartlen Pt.	1	FLL, Karen March	Aug. 28	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1 fem	JAH
Oct. 10	Brier I.	2	FLL	Oct. 23	Cabot Landing PP, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC
Oct. 16	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP	Nov. 7	South end Halifax	1 western	AGH
Oct. 18	Crystal Crescent Beach	2	HAT	Nov. 13	New Glasgow	1 western	STV, Amber Goodwin
Oct. 19	Hartlen Pt.	1	FLL, HAT	Nov. 18	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 imm male, western	FLL <i>et al.</i>
Nov. 11, 20&21	New Glasgow	1	KJM	<b>Canada Warbler</b>			
Nov. 20	North-end Halifax	1	Cindy Creighton	Aug. 22	Hectanooga, <i>Yar</i>	5	MUN
Nov. 21	New Glasgow	1	KJM	Aug. 28	APBS	2	TEP
<b>WORM-EATING WARBLER</b>							
Oct. 7-9	BPI	1 (banded)	ABO	Sept. 8	Hartlen Pt.	2	FLL
<b>SWAINSON'S WARBLER</b>							
Aug. 25	Hartlen Pt.	1	DOM	Sept. 9	Kingston	1	JOB
<b>Ovenbird</b>							
Aug. 15&29	Big I. <i>Pict</i>	2	KJM	Sept. 12	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1	JEH
Aug. 23	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 last of season	VJH	Sept. 12	Mavallette Beach, <i>Digby</i>	1	MUN
Sept. 17	Big Baddeck, <i>Vic</i>	1 last noted	BSK	Sept. 17	Hartlen Pt.	1	FLL
Sept. 18	Fauxburg Trail, <i>Lun</i>	2	JAH	Sept. 14	Sable I.	1	ZOL
Sept. 26	Big I., <i>Pict</i>	1	KJM	Sept. 19	Blanche, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH, D. Walmark
Oct. 13	Lower Sackville	1	LOC	<b>Yellow-breasted Chat</b>			
<b>Northern Waterthrush</b>							
Aug. 9	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 last of season	VJH	Aug. 23	BPI	1	ABO
Aug. 11-21	Sable I.	1	ZOL	Aug. 26	BPI	1	ABO
Aug. 25	Sable I.	2	ZOL	Sept. 6	BPI	1	ABO
Sept. 18	Sable I.	1	ZOL	Sept. 7& 17	Hartlen Pt.	1	FLL
Aug. 22	Fairmont, <i>Ant</i>	1 on patio	RFL, MZG	Sept. 14	BPI	1	ABO
Aug. 26	Brier I.	20+	LAL <i>et al.</i>	Oct. 4	BPI	1	ABO
Aug. 28	CSI	1	NSBS	Oct. 5	BPI	1	ABO
Aug. 28	APBS	1	TEP	Oct. 7	Seal I.	1	ABO
Sept. 5	Hartlen Pt.	1	IAM	Nov. 8	Point Pleasant PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	AGH
Sept. 24	Williamswood, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL	Nov. 17	Clarks Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	JON <i>fide</i> MUN
<b>CONNECTICUT WARBLER</b>							
Sept. 30	Brier I.	1	JAH	Nov. 17	CSI	1	JON <i>fide</i> MUN
Oct. 7	CSI	1	CST, JON, MUN	Nov. 19	Dartmouth	1	IAM
<b>Mourning Warbler</b>							
Aug. 28	APBS	1	TEP	Nov. 23	Big Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	1	Dan Banks, N. MacInnes
Sept. 1	Brier I.	2	LAL <i>et al.</i>	Nov. 25	Sullivans Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	Judy O'Brien <i>et al.</i>
Sept. 11	Hartlen Pt.	1	NSBS				
Sept. 11	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1	NSBS				
Sept. 17	Hartlen Pt.	1	FLL				
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>							
Aug. 12	Kingston	11	JOB				
Aug. 15	Big I. <i>Pict.</i>	7	KJM				
Aug. 16	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	13	KJM				
Aug. 18	Kingston	18	JOB				
Aug. 28	APBS	10	TEP				
Aug. 23	Brier I.	10+	LAL <i>et al.</i>				
Aug. 28	Sober I., <i>HRM</i>	12	KJM				
Aug. 29	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	5	KJM				



An (Eastern) PALM WARBLER paused briefly for its portrait, Sept. 25, on Brier I. [Photo Richard Stern]

## Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By Ian McLaren

The few SCARLET TANAGERS that were reported were clustered after mid-October like the other "southerners" (see below).

The number of EASTERN TOWHEES was about average, with some bound to winter. Note the exceptionally early AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS in *Victoria* (BSK); could these have nested on the nearby Highlands as believed to have once occurred (see Atlas)? Tabulations of larger counts of our regular sparrows early in the season probably represent local gatherings, but there were apparent migratory peaks of some beginning in late September. Among the less regulars, numbers of CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS were about average and FIELD SPARROWS fewer. Of the VESPER SPARROWS reported, only those in Kingston were presumably of local origin. LARK SPARROW reports were above average in number. Worth noting is an exceptionally early "IPSWICH SPARROW" Sept. 8 at Hartlen Pt. (FLL) – possibly from a mainland brood? Also noted were numbers of autumn singers - a FOX SPARROW at Portuguese Cove, HRM, Oct. 19 (HAT), SONG SPARROWS in Halifax Oct. 16-Nov. 25 (PLC), and a DARK-EYED JUNCO at Lower Sackville, HRM, Oct. 25. It has long been known from experiments that testosterone levels in songbird males respond to *rate of change* of day length, not to day length itself, but that they can confuse the *sign* of this change (- or +). LAPLAND LONGSPURS and SNOW BUNTINGS were timely, the latter with an indication of earlier appearance in northern counties.



In the usual influx of SCARLET TANAGERS this autumn, this Basic-plumaged male was at Hartlen Point, HRM, Oct. 4. [Photo Hans Toom]

NORTHERN CARDINALS nested successfully at Middleton, *Kings* (PBG), and were later widely noted, all at or near feeders. We'll get a better take on their status from CBCs. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS were scarcer than usual. BLUE GROSBEAKS and INDIGO BUNTING here in fall are often deemed "reverse migrants." More correctly, the cluster of birds after mid-October had probably followed northwesterlies to beyond cold fronts moving offshore in SE USA. From there they can be caught up in the strong southwesterly flow beyond these fronts. A couple of such "Carolina cold fronts" did move rapidly offshore in mid-October this fall. Watch the weather maps! Much less routine was a PAINTED BUNTING in unusual plumage in the tangles of "Back Cove", Hartlen Pt., Sept. 15 (IAM). "It was obviously a *Passerina* bunting, with a relatively stouter bill than on an Indigo Bunting . . . overall . . . an olive-grey bird . . . with paler, greenish yellow underparts. No eye-ring and no wing bars. Most striking was a . . . green patch on its back, presumably a sign (with the yellowish underparts) of moult into Basic I" [plumage]. A photo confirms these plumage features. This was the first in this plumage to be reported in the province, although birds in such obscure garb may have been overlooked in the past. DICKCISSELS were back to 2001-03 levels.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS and COMMON GRACKLES were present in the usual numbers at the usual times, with large flocks in late September through October. RUSTY BLACKBIRDS continued scarce, with a few lingering summer residents in late September, and a paltry migration.

As a follow-up to last June's SHINY COWBIRD, here is an intriguing e-mail May 25 from BSK to DBM. "I had . . . [22 May] . . . a pair of blackbirds without any distinguishing marks whatsoever. The eyes were black [and] the bills long, narrow, and dark, reminiscent of an oriole's. Each bird showed two narrow, barely visibly greyish lines down their backs, but otherwise there were no field marks that would indicate what they were . . . size . . . of a grackle." The size and back markings are problematic, and Jaramillo and Burke's "New World Blackbirds" states "any dark-eyed male Brewer's Blackbird should be carefully scrutinized to separate it from Shiny Cowbird." Still, we are again reminded to expect the unexpected, and keep the camera handy!

The recent scarcity of BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS also bears watching, although nobody should regret a reversal of its human-caused spread to the East. It was a "good" fall for BALTIMORE ORIOLES, numbers of which seemed intent on wintering.

Intriguing were a male and a fem. finch that appeared at David Pugh's Brier I. feeder in mid-July and sporadically until Sept. 30. On the last date, ELM identified one as a fem. EUROPEAN GREENFINCH. Both were amply confirmed by video. Although a number have been reported in North America, including one in NB in March 1977, all are taken as escapees (e.g. on the A.O.U. checklist); there are few records for Iceland and none for Greenland. Tellingly, there was a flurry of Old-World cagebirds in the U.S. Midwest and S Ontario in spring 2004 and also a Eurasian Siskin at a NB feeder in early June.

Some "winter finches" - crossbills and siskins - remained in their summer habitats, but there were bursts of PURPLE FINCHES and EVENING GROSBEAKS at feeders in November. It did not appear that a "redpoll winter" was in the offing. JAH noted a pattern around Maders Cove, Lun., whereby large numbers of PINE SISKINS dissipated in late August to be replaced, for only about two weeks, by large numbers of AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES. Only one observer deigned to monitor resident HOUSE SPARROWS, but the little group of would-be migrants at Hartlen Pt. is worth noting; in the past, some have reached Seal I., and even Sable I. ☒

**SUMMER Tanager**

Oct. 18 BPI 1 ABO

**Scarlet Tanager**

Oct. 18-22 Hartlen Pt., HRM 2 male, 1 female var. obs.

Oct. 19 Crystal Cres. Bch., HRM male IAM, ELM

Oct. 20 Cole Harbour, HRM female DHH

**Eastern Towhee**

Oct. 19 Brier I. 1 fide CAH

Oct. 23-24 Windsor 1, feeder obs.?

Oct. 24 Duncans Cove, HRM 1 AZV, DAC

Nov. 18 Wyndholme AvE. Dartm'th 1 female FLL et al.

Nov. 20-27 Day Ave., Dartmouth 1 female Var. obs.

**American Tree Sparrow**

Oct. 3 Big Baddeck 4 BSK

Nov. 7-30 Apple River 1-6, feeder KFS

Nov. 10-17 4 locales 27 indiv. var. obs.

**Chipping Sparrow**

Aug. 21-Sept. 5 Kingston, Kings 12-27 JOB

Sept. 4-5 Brier I. "lots - families" PLC

Sept. 7 Big Baddeck, Vic. last locals BSK

Oct. 1-Nov. 30 widely 1-8 indivs. Var. obs.

Nov. 21 New Edinburgh, Clare 20, flock AND

**Clay-colored Sparrow**

Sept. 26-27 Schooner Pond, CBRM 1 BES

30 Sept-Nov. 13 Canso 1 feeder TOK

18 Oct. Hartlen Pt., HRM 1 BLM, IAM

23 Oct. CSI 1 MUN

Oct. 30 Brier I. 1 ELM

**Field Sparrow**

Oct. 15 Seal I. 1 ABO

Oct. 18 Seal I. 1 ABO

Nov. 18 Brier I. 1, feeder DAP

**Vesper Sparrow**

Aug. 21 Kingston, Kings 5 JOB

Sept. 25 Lr. Rose Bay, Lun. 2 JAH

Nov. 19 Windsor 1 DOU

Nov. 22 CSI 1 MUN

**Lark Sparrow**

Sept. 20 Port Dufferin, HRM 1 fide KJM

Sept. 24 Broad Cove 1 SJF

Oct. 2 CSI 1 MUN

Oct. 6 Hartlen Pt., HRM 2 FLL

Oct. 14 Hartlen Pt., HRM 2 HAT

Oct. 14 Seal I. 1 ABO

Oct. 23 Yarmouth 1 MUN

Nov. 11 Sullivans Pond, Dartm'th 1 FLL

**Savannah Sparrow**

Sept. 25-Oct. 11 5 locales 30-100 indiv. var. obs.

Oct. 29 Brier I. 6 arriving ELM

**"Ipswich" Sparrow**

Sept. 8 Hartlen Pt. HRM 1 m. FLL

Oct. 3 CSI 2 MUN

Oct. 6 Hartlen Pt., HRM 10 FLL

Oct. 21 Hartlen Pt., HRM 1 FLL

Oct. 29-30 Brier I. 2-3 ELM

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

Sept. 17-27 Hartlen Pt., HRM Sev. migr. var. obs.

Sept. 25 Lr. Rose Bay 5++ migr. JAH

Sept. 25 Jimtown, Ant. 1 juv. RFL

Sept. 30 Brier I. 1 ad., migrant ELM

Oct. 14 Hartlen Pt., HRM 1 FLL

**Fox Sparrow**

Sept. 29 Sunrise Val., Vic. 1 migr. ? FMC

Oct. 17-22 4 locales S. end Halifax 1's and 2's var. obs.

Nov. 26 Broad Cove, Lun. 1 SJF

**Song Sparrow**

Aug. 30 Lawrencetown, HRM 6, late brood DMW

Sept. 25 Lr. Rose Bay, Lun. Nos., migr. JAH

Early Oct-Nov widely large nos. var. obs.

**Lincoln's Sparrow**

Sept. 7 Big Baddeck, Vic. last locals BSK

Sept. 24 Broad Cove, Lun. 2 SJF

Sept. 24 Sandy Cove Rd., HRM 5 FLL

Sept. 24 Dartmouth, HRM 6 FLL

Oct. 19-23 4 locales 1's and 2's sev. obs.

Nov. 7-27 3 locales singles var. obs.

**Swamp Sparrow**

Late Sept.-Nov. widely large nos. var. obs.

**White-throated Sparrow**

Sept. 26 Big I, Pictou 60+ KJM

Late Sept.- Nov. widely large nos. var. obs.

**White-crowned Sparrow**

Oct. 1-2 Hartlen Pt., HRM 3, 1 gambelli FLL, BLM

Oct. 3-4 CSI 1 MUN

Oct. 6 Hartlen Pt., HRM 2 FLL

Oct. 8 Brier I. numbers NSBS

Oct. 24 Duncans Cove, HRM 1 AZV, DAC,

Nov. 27 Dartmouth 1 m. DOU

**Dark-eyed Junco**

Aug. 14-Sept. 3 Kingston 17-28 JOB

Oct. 15-Nov 22. widely large nos. var. obs.

**Lapland Longspur**

Sept. 21 Cherry Hill, Lun. 1 SJF, JSC

Sept. 26 Louisbourg, CBRM 1 fide KJM

Oct. 2-24 6 locales singles var. obs.

Oct. 28 Brier I. 6 ELM

November widely small nos. var. obs.

**Snow Bunting**

Oct. 14 Cabot Landing PP, Vic. 1 FMC

Oct. 23 Morien Bar, CBRM 2 BSK

Oct. 24 Baccaro Pt. 10 MUN

Oct. 24 Waterside PP, Pictou 10 KJM

Oct. 31 Big I, Pictou 5 KJM

November widely flocks up to 100 var. obs.

**Northern Cardinal**

Oct. 5-Nov. 30 CSI up to 3 JON, MUN

Oct. 8-Nov. 22 Brier I. up to 3 NSBS, var. obs

Oct. 13-Nov. 30 Sullivan's Pond, HRM 1 male, f. var. obs.

mid-late Oct. Port Williams, Kings fide JCT

Oct. 20, Nov. 19 Apple River, Cumale 1 f. KFS

Nov. 4-20 Shelburne, Yarmouth nos. MUN

Nov. 8 Freeport, Digby 1 fide JUS

Nov. 14-30 Canning, Kings pair MEG

mid-Nov. Springdale, HRM 1 fide PLC

Nov. 21 Day Ave., Dartmouth 1 f. fide PLC



Nov. 24	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	pair	RMC	Sept. 24	NW Arm, Halifax	~1000	FLL
Nov. 27	Spryfield, Halifax	m. f.	FLL	Oct. 16	S. end Halifax	150	DOU
Nov. 25-31	W. end Halifax	male	Ann Morrison	Oct. 16	Annapolis Royal	50-60	JET
Nov. 29	Rockingham, <i>HRM</i>	1	<i>fide</i> PLC	Oct. 17	<i>Lunenburg</i>	500	JAH
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>				Oct. 23-Nov.	widely	flocks, feeders	var. obs.
Sept. 11	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	NSBS	Nov. 14	Kings	most gone	BBT
Oct. 17	Glace Bay	f.	BES, GEC	<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>			
Oct. 23	Canso	1	TOK	Sept. 4-5	Brier I.	1 m.	PLC
<b>Blue Grosbeak</b>				Sept. 17	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 m. male	FLL
Oct. 2	Seal I.	1	ABO	Aug. 30, Sept. 3	Seal I.	2	var. obs.
Oct. 8	Brier I.	1	NSBS	Oct. 14	Dartmouth	1 ad. male	FLL
Oct. 17	Victoria Bridge, <i>CBRM</i>	m. male	BES, GEC	<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>			
Oct. 17	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM	Aug. 30-Sept. 5	Seal I.	up to 5	var. obs.
Oct. 23-Nov. 3	Canso	1	TOK	Sept. 3	Brier I.	5 m.	LAL et al.
Nov. 21	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU	Sept. 13	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 m.	DAM
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>				Sept. 24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	4	FLL
Sept. 30	Seal I.	1	ABO	Sept. 25	Sandy Cove	1 (Bullock's?)	HAT
Oct. 4	BPI	3	ABO	Sept. 28	Schooner Pond	7	<i>fide</i> JUM
Oct. 5	Seal I.	1	ABO	Oct. 8-11	Brier I.	2	NSBS
Oct. 8	BPI	1	ABO	Oct. 17	Portuguese Cove	1	IAM
Oct. 8	Brier I.	3	NSBS	Oct. 19	Crystal Cres. Bch., <i>HRM</i>	2	ELM, IAM
Oct. 15-18	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1-2	HAT, var. obs.	Oct. 22-Nov. 20	Canso	up to 3	TOK, NSBS
Oct. 17	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	2	BES, GEC	Oct. 23-Nov. 20	W. end Halifax	1 male	Ann Morrison
Oct. 17-18	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	AGH, et al.	Oct. 25-Nov. 10	River Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	2	GED
Oct. 17	BPI	1	ABO	Nov. 7-20	13 loc., <i>Yar.-Vic.</i>	total 19	var. obs.
Oct. 18	BPI	2	ABO	Nov. 24	Blue Rocks, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Oct. 18-19	Crystal Cres. Bch., <i>HRM</i>	2	HAT, IAM, ELM	Nov. 25-26	Lr. Sackville <i>HRM</i>	1	DHU
Oct. 19-24	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM, ELM	Nov. 25-28	S & W. end Halifax	up to 9	var. obs.
Oct. 22	Seal I.	1	ABO	<b>Pine Grosbeak</b>			
Oct. 23	Taylor's Hd. PP, <i>HRM</i> male		PLC	Nov. 21	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	3	RFL
Oct. 19	Canso	7	TOK	<b>Purple Finch</b>			
Oct. 22-Nov. 3	Canso	up to 11	TOK, NSBS	Aug.-Sept. 4	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	up to 35	JOB
Nov. 9	Canso	1, feeder	TOK	August	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	up to 10, feeder	LOC
Oct. 30	Brier I.	2	ELM	Sept.-Oct.	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	up to 4, feeder	LOC
<b>PAINTED BUNTING</b>				September	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	"lots" immms.	RFL, MZG
Sept. 15	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 juv.-Basic I	IAM	Oct. 24	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	4 arrived.	RFL, MZG
<b>Dickcissel</b>				Nov. 15	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	Nos. arrived	JCT
Sept. 8	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 ad. f.	FLL	Nov. 22	Lunenburg	Nos. arrived	JAH
Sept. 27	BPI	1	ABO	Nov. 23	Port Hawkesbury	many, feeder	obs.?
Oct. 2, 6	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 m. male	BLM	<b>House Finch</b>			
Oct. 11	Brier I.	3	FLL	Nov. 13	W. end Halifax	4, feeder	Ann Morrison
Oct. 13	BPI	1	ABO	Nov. 27	W. end Halifax	5, different	PLC
Oct. 14	Seal I.	1	ABO	Nov. 28	S. end Halifax	5-6, different?	AGH
Oct. 19	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	FLL, HAT	<b>Red Crossbill</b>			
Oct. 26-Nov. 3	Canso	up to 8	TOK	Aug. 3-4	Mid. Musquod., <i>HRM</i>	7	VJH
Nov. 20	Canso	still 4	TOK	Sept. 6	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	"pair"	Joyce Allen
Nov. 17	Doctors Cove, <i>Shel.</i>	1	TEC	Oct. 25	Trafalgar	"tens"	KJM
Nov. 17-21	Barrington Pass., <i>Shel.</i>	1 male	AND	<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>			
<b>Bobolink</b>				Aug. 1	Holman Marsh L., <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
Sept. 12	Seal I.	2	IAM et al.	Aug. 15-30	5 locales	5 indiv.	var. obs.
Oct. 1	CSI	no.?	MUN	Sept. 4-5	Brier I.	2	PLC
Oct. 14	Hartlen Pt.	4	FLL	Sept. 6-Nov. 30	Sunrise Val., <i>Vic.</i>	6+	FMC
Oct. 19-23	Canso	6-8	TOK	Sept. 25	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	4	BES, GEC
Oct. 21	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	5	FLL				
Oct. 22	2 <sup>nd</sup> Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH				
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>							
Sept. 22	Pt Hawkesbury, <i>Inverness</i>	100's	obs.?				
Oct. 14	Blockhouse, <i>Lun.</i>	42, feeder	JAH				
Oct. 23	<i>Yarmouth</i>	large nos.	MUN				
Oct. 31	<i>Kings</i>	175	DOU				
November	widely	flocks, feeders	var. obs.				
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>							
Oct. 22-29	Canso	1, then 2	TOK				
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>							
Sept. 24	Tidville Marsh, <i>Ann.</i>	4	JCT				
Sept. 26	CBHNP	2, latest	FMC				
Sept. 28	Apple River, <i>Cumale</i>	1, feeder	KFS				
Oct. 24	Mid. Musquod., <i>HRM</i>	male	VJH				
Nov. 7	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	AZV et al.				
Nov. 20	Dartmouth	2	var. obs.				
<b>Common Grackle</b>							
Early Sept.	Plymouth, <i>Pictou</i>	~2500, roost	KJM				
Sept. 8	Spryfield, Halifax	300	FLL				
Sept. 22	Pt Hawkesbury, <i>Inv.</i>	100's	obs.?				



VESPER SPARROWS are uncommon breeders and occasional fall migrants. This one was at a Windsor roadside Nov. 18. [Photo Elizabeth Doull]

Oct. 23 Taylor Head PP, <i>HRM</i>	"flock" PLC	Oct. 31 Lakevale, <i>Ant.</i>	"hundreds" KJM
Oct. 25 Trafalgar	"tens" KJM	<b>American Goldfinch</b>	
<b>Common Redpoll</b>		Early Oct.-Nov widely, incl. feeders	flocks var. obs.
Early Nov. Wollville Ridge	1 feeder <i>fide</i> JCT	<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>	
About Nov. 8Cape George, <i>Cumb.</i>	1, feeder Jeannie Shermerhorn	Aug. 1 Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 heard LOC
Nov. 20 Spryfield, Halifax	2 FLL	Aug. 5 Mid. Musquod., <i>HRM</i>	1, first juv. VJH
Nov. 27 Chester, <i>Lun.</i>	~20 Paul MacDonald	Oct. 4, 19 Big Baddeck, <i>Vic.</i>	11 BSK
<b>Pine Siskin</b>		Oct. 19-315 locales	a few var. obs.
Aug. 21-23Liscombe, <i>HRM</i>	2-5 JOB	Nov. 7-30 8 locales	4-20, feeders var. obs.
Aug. 23 Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 feeder LOC	<b>House Sparrow</b>	
Sept. 27 Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 feeder LOC	Aug.-Nov. Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	up to 40 LOC
Oct. 6 Hartlen Pt.	40 FLL	Oct. 14 Hartlen Pt.	5 FLL
Oct. 25 Trafalgar, <i>Pic.</i>	"many" KJM		

## List of Contributors

Thanks to all of our contributors.

### Sorted by Initials

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 Smith, Gary  
 Vines, Amber  
 Walmark, David  
 Wamboldt, Marie  
 Warrior, Bob  
 Williams, Jane

☐☐☐

## Presidents Corner

Hi Everyone!

One of my first acts as President was to propose, to the Board, a new position in the Bird Society: **Area Representative**. It was passed, unanimously. The idea for this position grew out of my concern that many of our members, who live outside the Halifax area, are unable to attend most of our meetings and might feel “out of touch” with the rest of the Society. An **Area Representative** would:

- Act as a liaison between their community and the Executive of the Society.
- Receive copies of the Minutes of Executive Meetings so they could keep area residents informed of the activities of the Bird Society.
- Take suggestions, comments and opinions of the area residents and pass those on to the President of the Society.
- Take memberships; and forward forms and dues to the Membership Secretary.
- Sell supplies: checklists, decals, etc. and forward monies to the Treasurer.
- Be able to attend a meeting of the Executive if they happened to be in Halifax, but would not have voting privileges.

If you would like to volunteer for this position in your area, please contact me at:

Address: Suzanne Borkowski, 18 Parmbelle Lane, Halifax, N.S. B3M1N3

E-mail: [sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca) , Tel# (902) 445-2922

We have two new members on the Executive this year:

Pat McKay is our new Secretary, and Terry Paquet has joined us as a Director. Gisele d'Entremont has stepped down after ten years of serving on the Executive in various positions, including President. She remains active in the Society however, and is currently chairing our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

This committee has done a super job with the launch of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at our Jan.27<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Members' Slide Night. A big thank-you goes to Gisele, Joan Czapalay, Judy O'Brien, Sterling Levy and Margaret Clark.

Lots of rarities have been spotted recently in different parts of the province. How's your winter list coming along? Be sure to check out Blake Maybank's winter birding list (link is on our website) and add any observations that aren't already there.

We've added a new link to our website! Now, instead of e-mailing Lance Laviolette at the end of each quarter with your sightings, you can submit them anytime via our “Submit Bird Reports” link, and your reports will go directly to Lance. Thanks to Peter Payzant and Lance for their time and effort on this project, and congratulations both!

See you out birding!

Suzanne M. Borkowski

President - Nova Scotia Bird Society



## Autumn Weather 2004 - Eastern Annapolis Valley

By Larry Bogan

Autumn Weather 2004 - Kentville, N.S.

	Mean Temp	Snow cm	Precip mm	Sun hrs	Wind km/hr
September	14.4	-	74	215	8.6
43 yr avg	14.6	-	94	167	-
5 yr avg	16.5	-	124	213	7.5
October	10.0	-	110	131	8.1
43 yr avg	9.2	-	106	141	-
5 yr avg	9.1	-	131	172	9.7
November	2.9	53.5	145	87	11.9
43 yr avg	3.9	12.9	117	81	-
5 yr avg	4.4	13.5	110	73	10.5
Season	9.1	53.5	329	433	9.5
43 yr avg	9.2	14.9	318	389	-
5 yr avg	10.0	13.5	365	457	9.2

Statistic from the Atlantic Food And Horticulture Research Centre, Kentville, N.S.

### Overview:

There was some extreme weather last autumn, but the season was nearly average, with the normal temperatures and only slightly above average precipitation and sunshine. The most extreme event, of course, was the snow storm of November 13-14, causing extensive power outages and lingering snow cover. Over the higher elevations (eg. Cobequid Hills) the snow stayed in the woods into December.

### Temperature:

In the past few years we have been having very warm Septembers, but this year we dropped back to the 43 year average. October had above-average temperature and we did not get a 'hard' freeze until the end of the month. That colder period lasted through November and made that month 1 degree C cooler than the long term average. It is interesting to note that in the last few years September and November have been the above-average-temperature months whereas this year October was the warmer month and the other two cooler.

### Precipitation:

There was also a change in the rainfall trend. In recent years, September and October have tended to be rainier than normal with November nearly average, but this year only November had above-average precipitation. The aforementioned snow storm

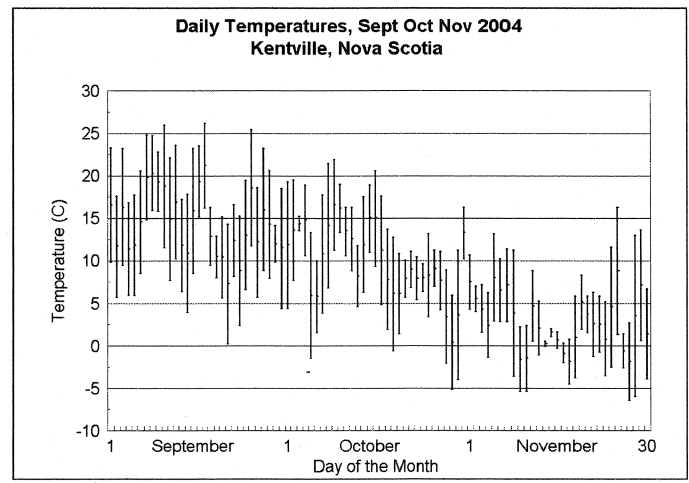
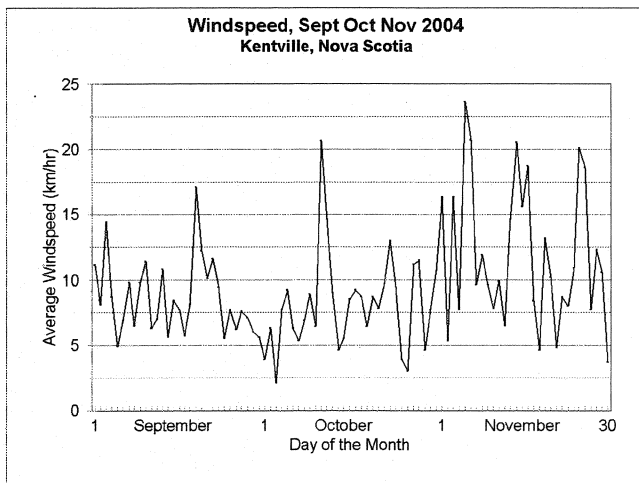
dropped 53 cm of the white stuff whereas we normally average 13 cm in November. (In the Halifax-Dartmouth area there was also a large snowfall but only a maximum of 7 cm accumulated on the ground.) September had about 3/4 of an average rainfall while October was average.

### Sunshine:

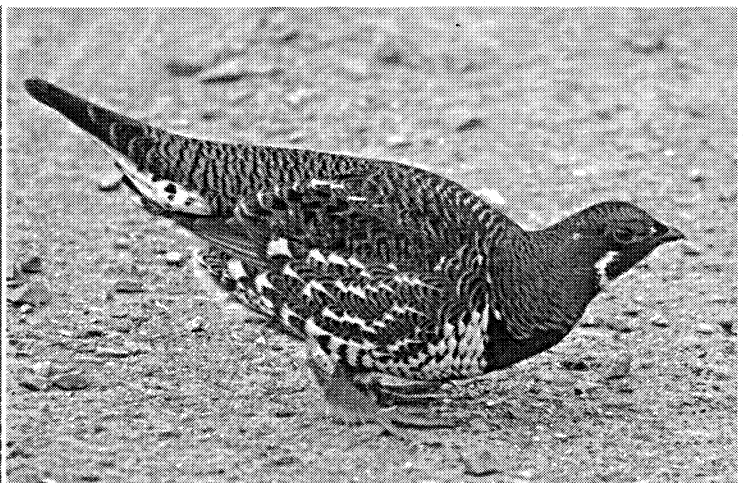
2004 continued the recent trend to above-average autumn sunshine. September, although, cool had a 30 percent more sunshine than normal while October was warmer and ended up with a little less than normal sunshine hours. Overall, the season had 15% more sunshine hours than normal but below that of the average for the last five years.

### Windspeed:

In a typical year the summer season has the lowest mean wind speed. It gets windier during the autumn and that condition continues into winter and early spring. This year we have had a bit more wind than normal; I have included a chart of the average daily windspeeds to show the trends during the autumn -- note the increased number of high-wind days in November. The strong winds accompanying the snow storm is what downed so many power lines. We had three days of winds averaging over 15 km/hr at that time. It was by no means the windiest period because on November 5th and 6th we had mean winds over 20 km/hr. In the Halifax-Dartmouth area the maximum wind gust was 63-73 km/hr on the 13-14th of November, though even stronger winds occurred on the 25th when gusts reached 80 km/hr. ☼



A long-staying **LITTLE BLUE HERON** on CSI was photographed Nov. 27. [Photo Cindy Creighton]



A handsome **SPRUCE GROUSE** gleaned gravel for its crop Sept. 10 near River Bourgeois, Richmond. [Photo Bernard Burke]



# Autumn Migration at the Atlantic Bird Observatory: Fall 2004

By Trina Fitzgerald

## General Summary

The Atlantic Bird Observatory (ABO) opened its doors on 20 August (Bon Portage Island field station) followed by the Seal Island field station on 23 September. Overall, 163 species (including subspecies) were detected and 1219 individuals were banded comprising 62 species.

The top ten species banded at each site are listed in Tables 1 & 2 along with the corresponding date their numbers peaked during the season. Banding totals for the past three years are also presented for comparison. For some species, such as Yellow-rumped Warbler, there appear to be fewer and fewer birds each year. A similar pattern is observed for Golden-crowned Kinglet, where three times as many individuals have been banded in previous years compared with the number banded this fall. However, for other species such as Red-eyed Vireos and Black-and-white Warblers the numbers of individuals banded seem comparable to previous years. However, these patterns may not present cause for concern; a few things must be considered first. Fewer bandings does not necessarily indicate population declines. Poor weather will keep our nets closed and if this coincided with peak movements of a particular species, then we would have lower seasonal totals associated with that species. Secondly, poor weather conditions can ground birds during migration. If weather conditions were suitable for migration, then migrants may leave Nova Scotia without stopping over on our station islands, which would also result in fewer bandings.

Numbers of species observed daily are provided in Figure 1. Overall, there are similar numbers of species observed on each island and the overall patterns are quite similar to what has been observed in previous years – a few notable peaks in the early part of the season, with a decline as the season progresses.

In spite of what appeared to be a slow season, numerous vagrants were banded and spotted on both islands (Table 3 & 4). Interesting highlights included banding a Red-bellied Woodpecker and a Worm-eating Warbler. Also noteworthy, were the high number of Yellow-breasted Chats and Prairie Warblers that occurred this season.

The most unusual bird trapped this season was a Great Horned Owl (see photo). At the time, we were attempting to capture Northern Saw-whet Owls during their migration, as there is little known about their movements within this region. In the process we managed to get more than we bargained for! It was an amazing and unforgettable experience. Overall, we caught three Saw-whet's on Bon Portage and five on Seal Island.

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

Table 1. Top ten species banded during fall 2004 on Bon Portage Island and corresponding date of peak movement. Banding totals are for the entire season. Peak date refers to the date during the season when the highest number of individuals were observed. (\* note that *Traill's Flycatcher* is the vernacular nomenclature used for being unable to distinguish between Alder and Willow Flycatcher in the hand - although the great majority captured on the islands are likely Alder Flycatchers).

Rank	Bon Portage – Fall 2004			Past Years			
	Species	Peak	Band	2003	2002	2001	2000
1	Traill's* Flycatcher	Aug 23	90	115	76	59	83
2	Red-eyed Vireo	mid to late Sep	70	97	73	111	74
3	American Redstart	Sep 6	69	73	71	142	65
4	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Oct 10	59	129	392	378	490
5	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Sep 1	53	51	154	143	151
6	Black-and-white Warbler	Sep 21	52	77	71	168	76
7	Northern Waterthrush	Aug 28	51	98	68	88	82
8	Yellow Warbler	Aug 23 + Sep 26	37	57	46	122	68
9	Black-throated Green Warbler	Sep 20/21	36	36	27	52	80
10	Common Yellowthroat	Sep 12	34	63	69	146	139

Table 2. Top ten species banded during fall 2004 on Seal Island and corresponding date of peak movement. Banding totals are for the entire season. Peak date refers to the date during the season when the highest numbers of individuals were observed. (\* note that 10 additional nets were in place for a portion of the season).

Seal Island – Fall 2004				Past years			
Rank	Species	Peak	Band	2003*	2002	2001	2000
1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Oct 18-21	42	12	21	41	60
2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Oct 11 + 19	34	13	3	19	20
3	Blackpoll Warbler	Oct 1	24	95	19	11	9
4	Red-eyed Vireo	Oct 11	18	12	1	4	2
5	Swamp Sparrow	Oct 19	14	3	1	12	17
6	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Oct 19	12	26	14	13	10
7	White-throated Sparrow	Oct 19	10	18	1	8	25
8	Song Sparrow	Oct 19	9	29	9	18	21
9	Black-throated Green Warbler	Oct 11	9	1	0	4	2
10	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Oct 13	9	1	2	12	15

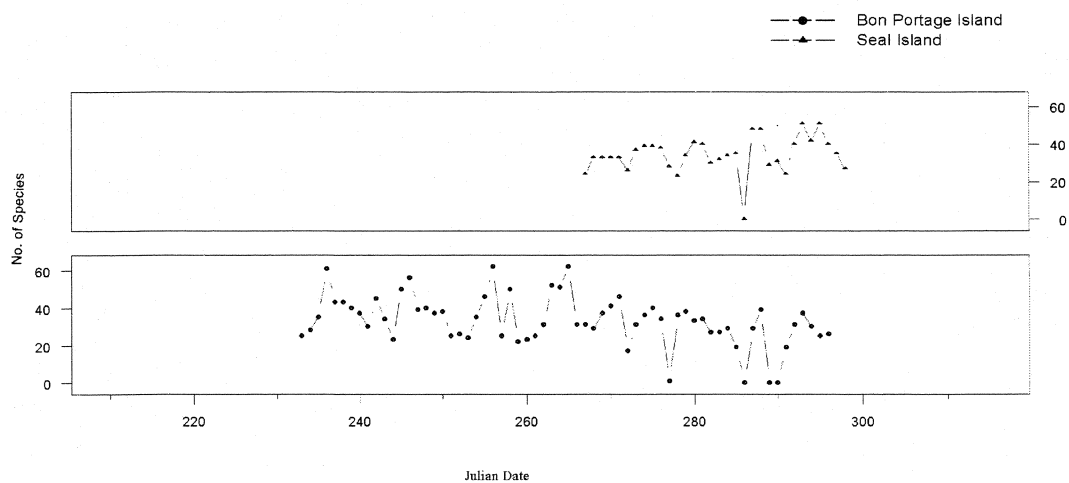


Fig. 1: Number of species that were observed daily throughout the fall season for each island (Bon Portage: Aug 20 to Oct 23, closed circles; Seal Island: Sep 23 to Oct 24, solid triangle).

Table 3. Vagrants detected on Bon Portage. Subscript indicates the number of individuals noted on indicated day. For individuals that were observed on consecutive days the first day that the individual was seen is presented. Sex was unknown if not otherwise noted.

Species	Banded	Observed	Dates
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1 m	1	Sep 27, Oct 07
Red-headed Woodpecker		1	Oct 11
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		1	Sep 19
Northern Mockingbird		1	Oct 07
Brown Thrasher		1	Sep 26
Prairie Warbler	4 m, 1	2	Aug 22, 26 <sub>(2)</sub> , Sep 02, 04, 25, 26
Worm-eating Warbler	1		Oct 17, 19 <sub>(retrapped0)</sub>
Western Palm Warbler		3	Oct 05, 07, 19
Yellow-breasted Chat	3	3	Aug 23, 26, Sep 06, 14, Oct 04, 05
White-eyed Vireo		1	Oct 18
Summer Tanager		1	Oct 18
Indigo Bunting		7	Oct 04 <sub>(3)</sub> , 08, 17, 18 <sub>(2)</sub>
Dickcissel		2	Sep 27, Oct 13

Table 4. Vagrants detected on Seal Island. Subscript indicates the number of individuals noted on the particular day. For individuals observed for consecutive days the first day seen is presented. Sex was unknown if not otherwise noted.

Species	Banded	Observed	Dates
Great Egret		1	Oct 17
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	3	Oct 01, 04, 16, 20
White-eyed Vireo	1		Oct 21
Marsh Wren		1	Sept 27
Eastern Bluebird		1	Oct 14
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		1	Sep 26
Northern Mockingbird		1	Oct 7
Prairie Warbler	1 m	1	Oct 2, 7
Western Palm Warbler		6	Oct 07, 19 <sub>(5)</sub>
Yellow-breasted Chat		1	Oct 07
Field Sparrow		2	Oct 15, 18
Lark Sparrow		1	Oct 14
Dickcissel		1	Oct 14
Blue Grosbeak		1	Oct 2
Indigo Bunting		3	Sep 30, Oct 05, 22



WORM-EATING WARBLERS are nearly annual in Nova Scotia, but their secretive nature makes it difficult to document their occurrence. Banding helps, and this handsome individual was snapped for posterity by banders on Bon Portage Island. [Photo - ABO]



When the ABO banders set up nighttime nets to trap Saw-whet Owls they were unprepared for larger quarry, such as this slightly embarrassed GREAT HORNED OWL, the first time this species has graced their nets. [Photo - ABO].

# The 14<sup>th</sup> annual North American Migration Count (NAMC) - 14 May 2005

By Judy Tufts

The NAMC is held on the second Saturday each May, and no participating fee is involved. This year, the fourteenth annual NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT will be held on the latest 2nd Saturday date possible - May 14th. Possibly better weather conditions, and more birds to count with a wider range of species flooding into our maritime domain. Now wouldn't that be a celebration to remember!

To all birders, feeder-watchers and anyone interesting in counting birds please contact your county coordinator, or area representative, as soon as possible for this Count. If you do not know who that person is please contact me, the provincial coordinator, by e-mail or by phone (see below).

I am retiring from the position of provincial Coordinator following this spring's count, and Hans Toom has graciously agreed to accept the Coordinator's mantle, ensuring the count will continue to improve our understanding of Nova Scotia's birdlife for years to come.

It is impossible to express enough thanks to all my wonderful coordinators over the years. They work tirelessly and without complaint, and bring such credit to their areas and to the final completed provincial tally. I am sincerely grateful to all the participants who have contributed to this count and the support given, and enthusiasm shown, over the years. A big thank you to you all.

So remember, do plan to participate in this final Count; circle May 14 on your calendar NOW. While you may be thinking there's plenty of time & as you read this, keep in mind Spring is only a few months away (such a comforting thought).

See you in May

## New Books

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

The following books are available for review. The review is due one month after receiving the book and will be subject to editing. Please submit all book reviews to Randy Lauff, rlauff@stfx.ca.

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

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

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

**The Bird Almanac** by D. Bird. Firefly.

**Gulls of North America, Europe, and Asia** by K.M. Olsen and H. Larsson

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

If you are interested please contact:

**Randy F. Lauff**  
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**St. Francis Xavier University**  
**Antigonish, NS B2G2W5**  
**rlauff@stfx.ca**

# 2004 President's Report

By Andy Horn

In last year's President's Report, I announced that it had been a busy year, and then, as if to prove my point, I launched into such a long report that everybody must have wondered whether they'd ever see the cheese and wine. Judging from this past year, busy years are here to stay, but for your sakes, I'll be brief this time.

As always, I'll start with our conservation efforts, which have multiplied more than anything. You have already heard from our strongest tool in conservation, the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund, whose long standing members deserve special thanks. Another big effort of course was our administration of the plover guardianship program, generously funded by Environment Canada, the World Wildlife Fund, and others. Anna McCarron again gave her all to running the program, giving educational presentations and coordinating volunteers across the province. David Currie and Bernice Moores again skillfully administered the Society's side of the program, which in future will continue under Anna's own direction.

Perhaps our biggest challenge this year was rapidly drafting responses to numerous environmental issues, including submissions to (my script says "take a deep breath here") the province's Off Road Vehicle consultation, the proposed Highway 113 extension, DNR's persistent scheme to introduce Wild Turkeys, the province's willy-nilly spraying of herbicide as a forestry practice, the development moratorium in HRM, plus several very rapid email responses to emergencies like the vandalism at the tern colony at Peter's Island. Recognizing that we can achieve bigger, more longer lasting effects when we join efforts started by other groups, we have also joined the new Atlantic Canada Nature Network, Anna McCarron's new Coastal Coalition, which acts to preserve coastal habitat and has already landed a meeting with John Hamm's caucus, and various efforts by the Halifax Field-Naturalists' to preserve natural habitats in HRM.

Two such joint efforts are particularly big and go beyond conservation. The first is an update of the Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas, whose initial planning meeting is at the regional Bird Studies Canada office next week. The second is the enhancement of birding tourism by the province's Department of Tourism, which plans to include mutually beneficial projects that they will fund, such as a birding phone line and brochures of local hot spots.

All these efforts help our overall outreach, but of course our main tool for that is our magazine. Under Blake Maybank's outstanding editorship, Nova Scotia Birds still goes from strength to strength. (I should also acknowledge here Blake's newspaper column, which was great for us and is sorely missed!) We're very grateful that the NS Museum continues to recognize the magazine's outstanding contribution with a \$2000 grant to support its publication, and hope that support continues.

Society members continued to help the goals we share with the Museum by giving educational programs at schools and other community groups, and by manning booths at events such as the annual Wildlife Festival in Eastern Passage, the Ecology Action Centre's "Dump and Run" event, and the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists' AGM.

Field trips are of course our core, and Suzanne Borkowski continued to do an outstanding job as Field Trip Coordinator, promoting old favorites and seeking out new additions. That king of field trips, the Christmas Bird Count, and its queen, the North American Migration Count, continue to be incredibly successful and useful, thanks to the sustained efforts of David Currie and Judy Tufts, respectively. Our out-of-province meeting at Cape Sable Island last year was also a great success, thanks to Joan Czapalay and her engaged and friendly local committee.

If I'm to keep this report to a reasonable time period, I can only list some of our numerous other attempts to enhance and expand the Society, conceived in the membership survey conducted last year or just straight from the particularly creative people on the executive. These include welcome hand-outs for new members, eye-catching dispensers for distributing our brochures, certificates of appreciation for special efforts by members, a draft conservation policy, trip leader guidelines, and, of course, delicious, shade-grown Ipswich blend coffee. Another exciting development has come from members in Cape Breton, who are organizing to hold monthly meetings and other activities in their region. We're helping them every way we can; such attempts to enhance Society activities in various regions are encouraging and something to watch for in the future.

Too many people contribute in these and other ways to thank them all, but let me mention just a few. Thanks to Peter Payzant for maintaining our website, now one of our main lines of communication, Jen Gerrits and Suzanne Borkowski, for fielding questions forwarded from the site, Harold Forsyth, our Honorary Auditor, Tony Robinson, our Honorary Solicitor, and Peter LeBlanc for overseeing the magazine mailings. Sterling Levy curates our growing image collection, which was again enriched by the Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia, judged this year by Richard Stern and won, yet again, by Lorris Keizer. Eileen and Bill Billington generously stepped into the breach to provide refreshments at the meetings, as if their gargantuan task of managing the membership lists weren't enough. Ralph MacLean once again carved the Puffin of the Year Award, and Doug Roy, the Billingtons, and their gang once again organized tonight's Wine and Cheese.



Finally, I thank each and every member of the Executive, who take on their increasing loads with increasing enthusiasm. Indeed, since this is my last year as President, I'd like to extend that thanks to all the executive members from the last several years. Little did I know, when Sylvia Fullerton gave me that first fateful call from the nominating committee, how much I would learn from being on the executive, and what an enjoyable and enriching part of my life it would become.

You might think I'm done now, but I'm not; I've saved the best for last. Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, and an anniversary planning committee headed by Gisele d'Entremont has already planned a year of terrific events that will kick off at Member's Slide Night on January 27, fifty years and one day after that first meeting of 55 people at the old home of the museum, the Nova Scotia Technical College. Please watch for more on these celebrations in Nova Scotia Birds, help out the planning committee where you can, but, most of all, come out and join the fun.☺

## Puffin of the Year Award

By Andy Horn

As you all know, the Puffin of the Year Award goes to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the Society, birds, or birding. I am very pleased to award it this year to an individual who fits this criterion on all counts, for efforts right across the province and beyond.

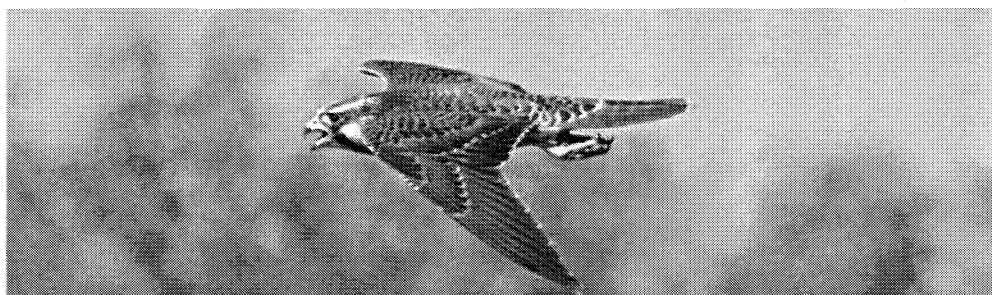
Once this person told me that one of the great gifts of a fellow dedicated naturalist was a positive attitude. Our awardee tonight could have equally have been saying that of herself. She has successfully hit that balance between realism and optimism that keeps ones wheels turning, even when things get thorny or tiresome.

A dedicated educator, this person has encouraged new generations of birders, giving innumerable school presentations and field trips across the province. A tireless conservationist, this person has kept issues affecting birds front and center on our agenda, and is the main reason we have strengthened and broadened our scope through the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists and the Canadian Nature Federation. A naturalist with a province-wide perspective, this person has contributed enormously, through their own birding and by leading numerous field trips, to our appreciation of marvelous birding areas in this province, notably southwest Nova Scotia and Cumberland County.

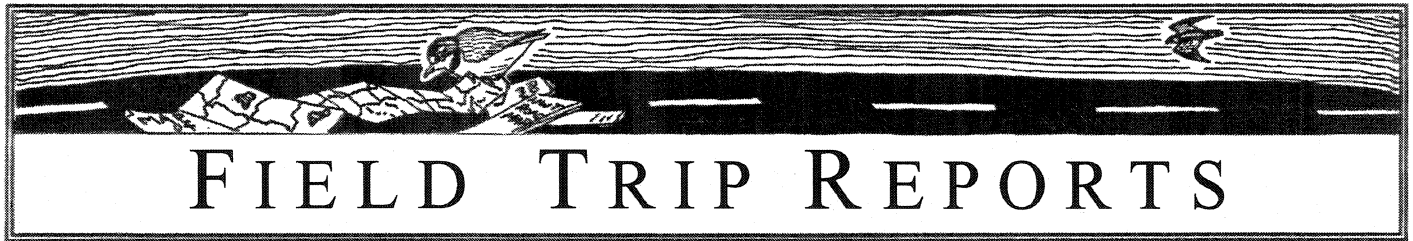
For all of this and more, not to mention serving as membership secretary for years, I would like to award this year's Puffin of the Year to Joan Czapalay.



Joan and her newest friend. [Photo Sterling Levy]



**Young** Peregrine Falcons, like this one at the Windsor Sewage Ponds are routine during autumn in shorebird-rich *Kings*. Most may originate from nestings around the Bay of Fundy. [Photo Richard Stern]



# FIELD TRIP REPORTS

## Point Michaud, Cape Breton 21 Aug 2004, Leader: George Digout

Nineteen birders combed Point Michaud beach on Sat., Aug. 21 in heavy fog and mist. A total of forty six species were seen which included 14 species of shorebirds. Willets, Yellow-throated Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Herring Gull, Double-crested Cormorants, Red-winged Blackbirds, one Merlin, Great Black-backed Gulls, Common Terns, Crows, Common Eiders, Black Ducks, Black-bellied Plovers, Ruddy Turnstones, Whimbrel, Semipalmated Plovers, Short-billed Dowitchers, Greater Yellowlegs, Mourning Doves, Mallards, Blue-winged Teal, Red Knot, Robin, Bald Eagle, Kingfisher, Song Sparrow, White-rumped Sandpiper, GB Heron, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Sanderling, Ring-billed Gulls, Savannah Sparrow, one Hudsonian Godwit, White-winged Scoter, Black Guillemot, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Yellow Warbler, Blue Jays, 1 Piping Plover, American Goldfinch, Bank Swallow and Black-capped Chickadees.

There were several new birders present so we were especially grateful for the expertise and teaching skills of Billy Digout, Ken McKenna, and Susann Myers. Most birders returned to the house for lunch and seemed to enjoy either meeting new people or getting reacquainted.

## Cherry Hill Beach 22 August 2004, Leader: Eric Mills

By the time I arrived from Rose Bay at the meeting place the rain had stopped, the fog cleared, and the wind went down. A few people, all of them from the area between Lunenburg and Liverpool, showed up - nine in all - so we went ahead with the walk down the beach. There was lots to look at, including several Whimbrels, plenty of common waders (quite a few of them arriving), a couple of Blue-winged Teal, and briefly accompanying a small cetacean offshore a bit (maybe a pilot whale) was a small, very light-flying jaeger (unidentified - but probably a Parasitic, and at least possibly a Long-tailed). Apart from the last, it was a pretty ordinary assortment, although pleasant to look at.

We made a few other stops - Broad Cove, Crescent Beach, the Lahave Islands, and a loop inland from Petite Riviere to Mount Pleasant but didn't add much. The mid-day doldrums were evident. At that point, shortly after noon, we all went home.



The NSBS field-trip to Cherry Hill Beach, Lunenburg, Aug. 22 was ably lead by Eric Mills (middle foreground) and Sylvia Fullerton (right). [Photo Mary Ann Teal]

## **The Hawk, Cape Sable Island**

### **28 August 2004, Leader: Murray R. Newell**

The weather was not good for the fieldtrip as it was very foggy all day but we made the best of it. We had 18 species of shorebirds including two Baird's Sandpiper. There was a Prairie Warbler at West Baccaro and a Northern Waterthrush out on the end of the Hawk. There was a total of 42 species seen, with the shorebirds listed below.

Am. Oystercatcher (4) , Baird's Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Willet, White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin, Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Black-bellied Plover, Red Knot, Sanderling, Hudsonian Godwit, Short-billed Dowitcher, Piping Plover, Whimbrel

## **Bon Portage Island**

### **03-06 September 2004, Leader: Joan Czapalay**

The "gale" which was forecast for Friday evening did not develop, but the passage was a bit rough, so our group was transported in a larger boat than the *Eider* (owned by Acadia University) and this delayed the group's arrival on Bon Portage.

I had arrived at noon in order to prepare supper, look for raspberries (which were scarce this year), and scout out some birds. We settled into the "birders' camp" and had the traditional seafood chowder. Then we got acquainted, as there were several newcomers on this trip. Claire Diggins and Jeff White have been coming to the island since 1992, and Donna Ensor had enjoyed previous outings here. Suzanne Borkowski, Mark Butler, Judy Mills, Steve Gleitch and Brian Bartlett were on the island for the first time.

And it was a weekend of "firsts". En route (due to rough water) Claire sat on a carrot cake – which was not too damaged to be enjoyed; Suzanne lost her boot in a bog hole on her first walk about; Brian soaked the weekends' bread in the cooler to prepare it for the French toast; Judy asked pertinent questions, such as "What do Flycatchers eat?" and for the very first time there was Sunday shopping on BPI! The Atlantic Bird Observatory banders (Mike Peckford, Trina Fitzgerald and their team) always contribute greatly to our knowledge of the birds present on the island. This year they have made some beautifully designed T-shirts and postcards of birds to raise money for the station, and we were happy to give them our business. By Sunday the group leaders' wine list was longer than her bird list, but as sometimes happens, we awakened Monday morning to a mini-fallout. There had been a sprinkling of songbirds, the night sounds of the Leach's Storm Petrels which nest under the roots of trees, a number of raptors including a Cooper's Hawk, and still some shorebirds on Saturday and Sunday, but on Monday there were good numbers of passerines. Highlights of our list included Pine and Prairie Warblers, and Baird's Sandpiper.

The wonderful food and the good company made this a very special weekend.

Joan Czapalay

## **Yarmouth County**

### **04 September 2004, Leader: Murray R. Newell**

We started the trip at Wilson's Road, but there was not much in the way of birds at all. It looked like all the bunched up local birds had gone, so 12 of us drove 150 kilometers, stopping whenever, hoping to find something. We came out to the French Shore and birded our way back to Roberts Island.

Some species we found were: Swainsons Thrush, Am. Bittern, Solitary Sandpiper, two Turkey Vultures, two Green-wing and two Blue-wing Teal, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Common Snipe. We had about 75 species in all. Too bad there were no birds inland; but, we made the best of it. Thanks, all.

Murray Raymond Newell

## **Sandy Lake, Tantallon**

### **18 September 2004, Leader: Suzanne Borkowski**

The rain held off for most of the day, which was good for the 5 of us who showed up for this trip. There were not a lot of birds in evidence, and the lighting made identification somewhat challenging.

A couple of spots were loaded with migrants, mostly warblers. We saw Yellow-rumped (lots), Palm, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Common Yellowthroat, and a Bay-breasted that was still showing some pinkish brown colour on its sides. We also saw both Vireo species, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, heard lots of Golden-crowned Kinglets and some Boreal Chickadees. A Bald Eagle perched on a rock eating his breakfast, a Swainson's Thrush and a juvenile Red-tailed Hawk were special treats.

Finally, I saw a bird that could have been a Common Nighthawk. Mid September is a little late in the season for this species; however, it had to be something? Something with long, narrow, pointed wings bent sharply backwards...

We tallied 30 species for the day - 31 if you count our mystery bird.

### **Brier Island Bonanza**

**08 to 11 October 2004, Leaders: James Hirtle, Terry Paquet, Fulton Lavender**

Brier Island at night is full of mysterious sounds, promising great birding as soon as the sun rises. We were sure we could hear a Saw-whet Owl on Friday night, until we discovered one of our number was particularly good at owl calls! That's as close as we came to finding an owl that night, but the walk and the starry sky were both wonderful.

Saturday was slow. Terry Paquet led us from North Light, through the village, past the cemetery and a few other hot spots. There weren't a lot of birds, but what we had was exciting: Red-headed Woodpecker (imm.), Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, White-crowned Sparrow. The group split up and went in different directions, keeping in touch by cell phone or by crossing each other's trail to exchange information.

Sunday morning Fulton Lavender led us around the island, adding some more species to our list. Sunday afternoon, most of us went out on a cruise with Carl Haycock of Mariner Cruises. Lots of Northern Fulmars, Greater Shearwaters, Black-legged Kittiwakes and Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen. Atlantic Puffins were a special treat, and an adult Red-headed Woodpecker greeted us at the wharf on our return!

By Monday morning the wind had risen and changed direction bringing a huge fall-out of birds. Warblers, sparrows, finches and orioles were landing, exhausted, everywhere we looked! Talk about a bonanza! Gulls, Peregrine Falcons, Merlins and other raptors were close behind them. We birded until early afternoon, then had to catch the ferry off the island before the threatening storm broke.

Suzanne Borkowski

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC**

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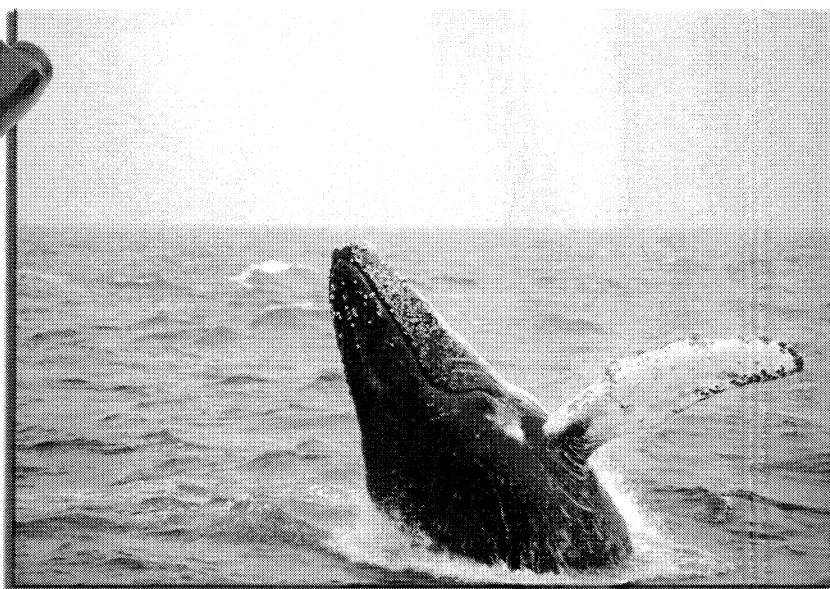


Photo Courtesy Leigh Ogden

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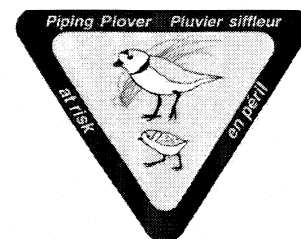
## Antigonish Coastal Waters

28 November 2004, Leader:Randy Lauff

We had a beautiful late fall day for birding areas within and outside Antigonish Harbour, from Williams Point to Ogdens Pond. Overnight freezing temperatures put a skiff of ice on some of the ponds, reducing the diversity we normally see (though the trip had been delayed two weeks due to foul weather [not *fowl* weather] on the original date).

A late Savannah Sparrow was an early perk, but the American Coot at the Antigonish Landing was much more of a highlight. I often see my first American Tree Sparrows of the year on this trip, and this year was no exception. Northern Gannets are always neat to see, but when you can hear the splash of the water as they dive, when you can see the blue of their eyes with just binoculars, when you can almost taste the fish that you see them swallowing, you know you're close. This year, because of ice, the Gannets were just (JUST!) off shore, presumably diving for Atlantic Silversides in the shallows. All of them were immatures, and we wondered how they avoided getting beaks full of sand as they dove into such shallow water. We finished the trip at about 1:00 with 32 species on our list.

Randy Lauff



## News from the Nova Scotia Coastal Guardian Program - Summer 2004 Summary

It is with mixed feelings that I announce that this will be my last article to Nova Scotia Birds as Coordinator of the Nova Scotia Coastal Guardian Program. It is time for the guardian program to continue under new management and/or perhaps under a new format. However, Piping Plovers will still need protection with help from guardians, landowners, and beach users, perhaps more than ever. People are reminded that while on the beach to keep ATVs off, please keep pets on a leash, pick up garbage found on the beach, and respect and obey all signage in the area.

At submission time, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) staff, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR) staff and I were still working out the details on how the program will operate. Some aspects of the program will remain as follows:

- On **Cape Sable Island**, please contact the Important Bird Area Program coordinator, Patty Hudson at 637-2940 or email [kayaker@eastlink.ca](mailto:kayaker@eastlink.ca).
- James Hirtle will continue to lead the volunteer guardian contingent in the **Lunenburg** area. If any of you haven't been a guardian in the past and would like to be one in this area, please call James at (902) 640-2173 or email [jrhbirder@hotmail.com](mailto:jrhbirder@hotmail.com). If you are already a guardian for that area, please continue to don your t-shirts and vests and carry on as usual under James direction.
- With the increase in Piping Plover sightings and nesting in the **Cape Breton** area over the past couple of years, a new wing of the guardian program expects to be developed there, under the direction of the Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission. They will be looking for volunteers, particularly in **Inverness County**. Their number is 379-2024.
- For the remaining Piping Plover areas of the province, which have depended on volunteer guardian protection, please stay tuned. The Canadian Wildlife Service will contact current guardians before the season begins once the program is formulated.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns or questions about the guardian program or have any PIPL sightings to report please contact:

- Canadian Wildlife Service – Andrew Boyne at [andrew.boyne@ec.gc.ca](mailto:andrew.boyne@ec.gc.ca) or (902) 426-1900.
- NSDNR Endangered Species Biologist – Mark Elderkin at [elderkmf@gov.ns.ca](mailto:elderkmf@gov.ns.ca) or (902) 679-6091.

I will really miss working with all of you. Thank you all for your enthusiastic support for the guardian program over the years and for most of all working so hard to protect this little bird. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (902) 860-1263, or [plover@istar.ca](mailto:plover@istar.ca). I hope to remain working, one way or another, in the coastal habitat conservation field. At any rate, I expect I will cross paths with many of you in the future and ...see you on the beaches! Cheers, Anna. ☘



**Nova Scotia Bird Society**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As at September 30, 2004**  
**(With comparative figures as at September 30, 2003)**

	<u>2003/04</u>	<u>2002/03</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Bank account	4,112	23,031
Term deposits	30,000	5,000
Total cash	34,112	28,031
Accounts receivable	1,430	15,655
Accumulated interest	316	-
Prepaid expense	374	469
	2,120	16,124
Total current assets	36,232	44,155
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>36,232</b>	<b>44,155</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	1,836	7,448
Deferred revenue	843	2,721
Coastal Guardian Programme	-	-
Total liabilities	2,679	10,169
<b>Reserve</b>	5,100	5,100
<b>Members' equity</b>		
Opening balance	28,886	25,263
Surplus (deficit)	(433)	3,624
Total members' equity	28,453	28,886
<b>Liabilities and equity</b>	<b>36,232</b>	<b>44,155</b>

A. G. Horn, President

B. Moores, Treasurer

H. Forsyth, Auditor

**Nova Scotia Bird Society**  
**Income Statement**  
**For the year ended September 30, 2004**  
**(With comparative figures as at September 30, 2003)**

	<u>2003/04</u>	<u>2002/03</u>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Memberships	5,758	5,365
Product sales	2,120	1,103
Nova Scotia Museum grant	2,000	2,000
Donations	50	245
Interest	450	320
Foreign exchange	123	182
	<u>10,501</u>	<u>9,215</u>
 FNSN-AGM income	 -	 404
 Piping Plover projects	 <u>13,614</u>	 <u>71,081</u>
 <b>Total revenue</b>	 <u>24,115</u>	 <u>80,700</u>
 <b>Expense</b>		
Cost of items for sale	1,389	70
Nova Scotia Birds	7,189	3,893
Committees	155	108
Printing and stationery	76	72
Promotion	1,241	1,594
Insurance	231	200
Miscellaneous expense	52	59
	<u>10,333</u>	<u>5,996</u>
 Piping Plover projects	 <u>14,215</u>	 <u>71,081</u>
 <b>Total expense</b>	 <u>24,548</u>	 <u>77,077</u>
 Excess revenue over expense (expense over revenue)	 (433)	 3,623

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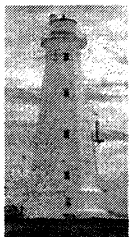
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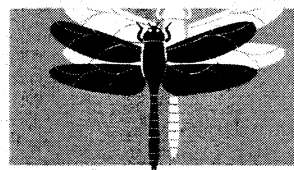


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Joan Czapalay

(Continued from back cover)

**Fri 20 May to Mon 23 May 2005 – Bon Portage Island**

Leader: Clair Diggins 825-6152

E-mail: [Claire\\_diggins@hotmail.com](mailto:Claire_diggins@hotmail.com)

**Pre-registration is necessary!**

Depart 6:00 p.m. on Friday from the Prospect Point Wharf in Shag Harbour, Shelburne County. Bring food, drinking water, warm clothing, footwear suitable for rough (beach cobble) and sometimes wet terrain, a flashlight, a mattress sheet and a sleeping bag. Carry gear in waterproof bags or containers. Field guides are available on the island as are cooking pots, utensils and dishes. There is a charge of \$45.00 for three nights accommodation for NSBS members plus a donation for the boat trip

**Sat 21 May to Sun 12 June – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Big Day Event!**

Co-ordinator: Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922

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

Pick your team; plan your route and register for this big-time fun event! Tally as many species as you can in 24 hours on the day of your choice between Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>. ABA rules will apply. The winning team will be announced and have their picture in Nova Scotia Birds! To register: Send an e-mail to above address; or send a letter to Suzanne Borkowski, 18 Parmbelle Lane, Halifax, N.S. B3M 1N3; or telephone (902) 445-2922.

**Wed 25 May 2005 – The Fred Dobson Warbler Walk**

Leader: Joan Waldron 477-4273 E-mail [waldrojo@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:waldrojo@ns.sympatico.ca)

**Pre-registration is necessary!**

Meet at 6:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the junction of Prospect Road (Rte#333) and St. Margaret's Bay Road in Halifax (Near Exit #2, Hwy #103). Duration: two to three hours. Waterproof footwear and fly repellent are recommended.

**Thu 26 May 2005 – Regular Meeting**

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

"Paternal Care and Paternity in Eastern Bluebirds" – Guest

Speaker: Sue Meek

**Sat 28 May 2005 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Historic Hants County Trip**

Leader: Margaret Clark 443-3993

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

This is the longest running trip in the history of the Nova Scotia Bird Society! Meet at 8:00 a.m. in Mount Uniacke where the railroad tracks cross Hwy #1. Bring a lunch, to be enjoyed at Smiley Park.

**Sat 04 June 2005 – Canso and Area**

Leaders: Steve Bushell 366-2527, and Tom Kavanaugh 366-3476

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

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Chapel Gully Trail parking lot. Come down Main Street, turn right onto Union, pass the Marina and take the next right onto Wilmot. The parking lot is at the top of the hill. We will be walking a number of habitats from Jack Pine woods to the coastal barrens of Louse Harbour. Rain date: Sun, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Sat 04 June 2005 - Kejimikujik Seaside Adjunct**

Leaders: Gary C. Hartlen 354-7250 E-mail: [garych@eastlink.ca](mailto:garych@eastlink.ca) and Peter Davies.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot for the Seaside Adjunct. Please be advised a small entrance fee is now being charged. Take Hwy #103 to exit #22 (unmarked) and drive approx six km down the St. Catherine's River Road to the Park. There are washroom facilities on site and coffee is available at the Port Joli General Store, one km past exit #22. We will be walking from the parking lot to the ocean where Piping Plover will be nesting. Expect warbler species in full breeding plumage and nesting shorebirds on the trail to the headland. Wear waterproof footwear, long pants (wood ticks abound at this time of year) and bring a lunch. No rain date.

**Sun 05 June 2005 - Crystal Crescent Beach PP**

Leader: Hans Toom 868-1862 E-mail: [hoom@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:hoom@hfx.eastlink.ca)  
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Meet at the gates of Crystal Crescent Beach Provincial Park. We'll walk the coastal trail to Mackerel Cove and then go inland on the old wagon road. If time permits we'll do a warbler walk on the trails behind Portuguese Cove Lake and check out other hotspots on the Chebucto Peninsula. No rain date.

**Sat 11 June 2005 – Conquerall Mills**

Leader: James Hirtle 640-2173 E-mail: [jrhbirder@hotmail.com](mailto:jrhbirder@hotmail.com)

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the dam area of the Petite Riviere, near the intersection of Conquerall Mills and the Crousetown Road. Turn left off Hwy #103 at the sign for Conquerall Mills, just past exit #14. Drive 3.5 km along this road. The dam will be on your left. We'll be exploring Fitch Road and Dagley Road along Publicover Lake, as well as Brown Branch Brook, Mount Pleasant and Hebb Mills. In the afternoon we can check out Station Road, Fauxburg, Long Hill and Oakland. Bring a lunch, sturdy footwear, socks that can be pulled up over pant legs (to discourage ticks) and sunblock

**Sat 02 July 2005 – Cape Chignecto – Birds and Botany Walk**

Leader: Joan Czapalay 348-2803 E-mail: [joancz@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:joancz@ns.sympatico.ca)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the CCPP public parking lot in West Advocate. Bring a packed lunch, water, bug repellent and sunscreen. Wear sturdy sneakers or hiking boots. We will hike the hills and coastline to McGahey Brook where we will stop for lunch. The walk is moderate to difficult. No rain date.

**Sun 17 July 2005 – Wallace Bay**

Leader: Paul MacDonald 627-2568

E-mail: [paulrita2001@yahoo.com](mailto:paulrita2001@yahoo.com)

Meet at the Wallace Wharf at 8:30 a.m. Primary points of interest are the impoundments at the Wallace Bay National Wildlife Area. The morning will consist of a three-hour walk along a woodland trail, so come prepared with sturdy footwear, water and a lunch. No rain date.

**Sat 30 July 2005 – Pictou County**

Leader: Ken McKenna 752-7644 (home); 752-0044 (office).

E-mail: [kenmcken@pchg.net](mailto:kenmcken@pchg.net)

Meet shortly before 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot behind the Heather Motel in Stellarton at exit #24, Hwy #104. The group will leave promptly at 8:00 to tour some back roads of Pictou County. Look for lingering nesting birds as well as early shorebird migrants. Bring a lunch, bug spray and sturdy footwear, as some of the trails may be wet. No rain date. ☺



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Field trips are open to non-members as well as members. Feel free to phone or email the field trip leader or contact person ahead of time to obtain further information, directions or restrictions( e.g. dogs are not normally allowed on field trips ). 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)

## **Sun 20 March 2005 – Along the Fundy Shore**

Leader: Jim Wolford 542-9204 E-mail: [jww.triv@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jww.triv@ns.sympatico.ca)

This will be a joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalists Society. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in Wolfville at the town wharf off the east end of Front Street. We'll be visiting various spots along the shore such as Annapolis Royal and Digby to the ferry terminal. Dress warmly and bring a lunch. No storm date.

## **Thu 24 March 2005 – Regular Meeting**

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

“Surveying for Owls” – Guest Speaker: Becky Whittam, Bird Studies Canada

## **Wed 30 March 2005 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bird Lecture Series**

NSMNH, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, 7:30 p.m.

“50 Years of Watching, Recording, Studying & Saving Birds”  
Organizer: Joan Waldron

This series will look at notable birders in Nova Scotia and their contributions to conservation and research. Subsequent lectures will be given on Wed 6 April, Wed 13 April, and Wed 27 April. For more information on topics and speakers see the write-up in the previous issue.

## **Sat 02 April 2005 – Baccaro and Blanche Peninsula**

Leader: Donna Ensor 875-4269 E-mail: [smokeytow@yahoo.com](mailto:smokeytow@yahoo.com)

Early spring birding with Donna. Rarities have shown up here quite often at this time of year. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot at exit 28 off Hwy #103 (Port Clyde). Dress warmly and bring a lunch. Rain date: Sun 3 April.

## **Sat 09 April 2005 – Martinique Beach**

Leader: Ian McLaren 429-7024 E-mail: [iamclar@dal.ca](mailto:iamclar@dal.ca)

Meet at 8:00a.m. at the Scotiabank parking lot, Bridge Plaza, Dartmouth. Look for early migrants as well as possible rarities. Bring a lunch. No rain date.

## **Sun 24 April 2005 – Wolfville Area**

Leader: Jim Wolford 542-9204 E-mail: [jww.triv@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:jww.triv@ns.sympatico.ca)

This will be a joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalists Society. Pond hopping for ducks and early migrants. Meet at the Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Front Street, Wolfville at 10:00 a.m. Dress warmly and bring a lunch.

## **Thu 28 April 2005 – Regular Meeting**

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

“In Search of Breeding Boreal Owls” – Guest Speaker: Randy Lauff

## **Sun 01 May 2005 – Beginning Birders Field Trip**

Leader: Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922

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

**Pre-registration is Necessary!**

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Frog Pond on the Purcells Cove Road. Bring binoculars, a field guide, a snack, and wear rubber boots or hiking boots. We'll spend a couple of hours identifying birds in and around the Frog Pond, and if there's enough interest we'll drive out the Purcell's Cove Road to check out some good birding hot spots. No rain date.

## **Sat 7 May 2005 – Cape Sable Island**

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

Meet at Tim Horton's in Barrington Passage at 7:45 a.m. We will bird the Cape Sable Island hot spots for spring migrants. Bring waterproof footwear and a lunch. No rain date.

## **Sat 14 May 2005 – North American Migration Count**

Provincial Co-ordinator: Judy Tufts 542-7800

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

The fourteenth annual North American will take place this spring on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>. This event is always held on the second Saturday in May. Anyone wishing to participate should contact their local county co-ordinator, area representative or Judy Tufts for more information. All are welcome. No fee involved.

## **Sun 15 May 2005 – Belleisle Marsh**

Leader: Richard Stern 678-1975

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

Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Annapolis Royal tidal generating station (in Annapolis Royal, Rte #1). We'll explore a mixed or wooded area in the morning and Belleisle Marsh in the afternoon. Bring a lunch and suitable footwear for wet, muddy terrain. No rain date.

(Continued on inside back cover)