

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Summer 2005
(The Birds of Spring)

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
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Summer 2006 issue: June 7, 2006
Fall 2005 issue: Aug. 7, 2005

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NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
SUMMER 2005

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This Summer issue (on the Birds of Spring) will be the last in which Judy Tufts authors the North American Migration Count. I've praised her work before, and am doing so again – it is a considerable feat, and she's managed it for 11 years running, and by her efforts (and those of all the county coordinators and participants) our knowledge of the province's bird life has grown, to our (and with hope their) benefit. The count is not ended, however, but now lies in the capable care of Hans Toom, and I wish him well.

I've taken part in the count nearly every year, and this past May I surveyed Long Island, the lesser known (but no less rewarding) neighbour to Brier Island. In Freeport I met Dave and Judy Teed, who live on the east side of the harbour, and who host an impressive feeding station, which they encourage birders to visit. During our long conversation I mentioned that I use discarded lobster traps as bird feeders, both to shelter smaller birds from cats, and to keep larger "feeder hogs" at bay, such as Blue Jays, starlings, and pigeons. They thought this was a great idea, and within a week Dave had constructed a feeder from discarded portions of wire lobster traps, and enclosed a feeding tray within. I confess his is a much more professional job than mine, and I hope his ingenuity might inspire some of you to undertake a bit of productive beach-combing, and make your feeders more safe for birds in the process.



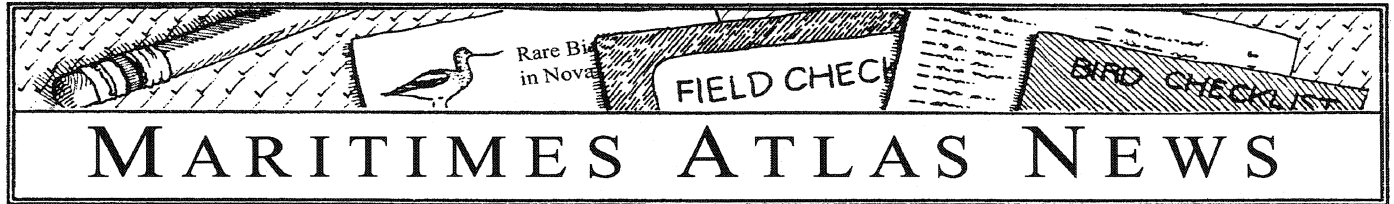
[Photo by Dave Teed]

The Maritimes Nature Travel Club enjoyed a wonderful outing to Panama last March, and a full trip report has been prepared, linked to a site with many photos of the wildlife. The "Club" (no fees, meetings, or obligations) exists only to travel, usually once a year. We've been to Portugal, Cuba, and Panama, and are planning to go to western Mexico this coming winter. For details (as well as a link to the trip report), visit the club's web site:

<http://maybank.tripod.com/MNTC/MNTC-info.htm> or contact me at (902) 852-2077, if you don't have internet access.

This issue is the first to have a regular column on the upcoming Breeding Atlas Project, a repeat of the one undertaken 20 years ago. It is a wonderful, addictive activity, and everyone may participate, regardless of skill level. I encourage everyone to take on a square, or two, or three. . . Read Karel's column for more information.

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



The Second Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas

By Becky Whittam

Twenty years ago Maritime birders were gearing up for an important project – the Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas. With the help of more than 1,200 volunteers, who donated some 43,000 hours in the field, this project provided the most comprehensive study of bird distribution and abundance in the Maritimes to date. The resulting book became a standard reference for birders across the region.

Breeding Bird Atlases have been produced in many European countries and in provinces and states across North America. They are typically repeated every 20 years, as they are one of the few methods able to document changes in bird distribution influenced by forestry, agriculture, urban expansion, climate change, natural disasters, bird feeding, and other natural or man-made forces, and are consequently of great value for long-term conservation planning and environmental assessment.

Spring 2006 marks the 20-year anniversary of the start of field work for the first Maritimes Atlas. With this in mind, a dedicated steering committee consisting of members from various government, university, naturalist, birding, and bird conservation organizations has been working hard to raise funds, make decisions, and develop the infrastructure for the second Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas.

Why conduct a second Atlas now?

Do Whip-poor-wills still breed in the Maritimes? Are Red-bellied Woodpeckers moving in? How severely have Barn Swallows declined over the last twenty years? These questions, and many more, can be answered through a second Atlas. Many factors have influenced bird distribution in the 20 years since work began on the first Atlas. Governments, corporations, municipal planners and environmental consultants all need current information on bird distribution and conservation in order to satisfy new environmental assessment requirements, species-at-risk legislation, and heightened public and industry awareness.

How will it work?

The second Atlas will build on the experience and success of the first using the same basic method and structure. In Ontario, researchers are now in the final year of compiling their second atlas (see www.birdsontario.org). Through a cooperative arrangement with Bird Studies Canada our project will have access to Ontario's sophisticated online data-entry software, which will be modified for the Maritimes.

Atlas fieldwork will be conducted from 2006 to 2010. As in the first Atlas, volunteer birders will be assigned to 10 x 10 km squares. Within these squares, they will be tasked with finding breeding evidence for an expected number of bird species (based on data collected in the first atlas). Breeding evidence, based on clearly defined rules for consistency, includes everything from presence of singing males to observation of actual nests and fledglings. Some atlasers will conduct point counts (10 minute counts of all birds seen or heard from a particular point) to determine the relative abundance of species in their square (conducting such counts will be optional as it requires considerable skill at identifying birds by ear).

The second Atlas book, anticipated in 2012, will be bilingual, and more comprehensive than the first edition in describing population trends and abundance estimates in the context of regional changes. A web-based, on-line version will be accessible to the public, with details of specific observations such as breeding status, locations, and dates, for use by researchers, government agencies, industry, environmental consultants, and naturalists.

Introducing the Atlas staff

Karel Allard has been hired to coordinate the second Atlas. He is an enthusiastic birdwatcher, biologist and communicator, and will be employed by Bird Studies Canada in the BSC Atlantic office, which is housed with the Canadian Wildlife Service in Sackville, New Brunswick. Karel is fluently bilingual, and a skilled and keen birder. He has experience as a park interpreter, a teacher in schools and universities and as a field biologist for the Canadian Wildlife Service. Karel is just completing his Ph.D. from the University of New Brunswick, and started work with the Atlas at the beginning of August.

An Assistant Coordinator will also be hired through Environment Canada's Science Horizons program. In addition, at least 26 volunteer regional coordinators (RCs) will ensure accurate and consistent coverage by local volunteers. Regional Coordinators are now being sought, and they will come together at a fall training workshop.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are the backbone of any atlas project. With that in mind, it's never too early to start thinking about participating. The 2006 season will start as early as February or March, with Great Horned Owls, Gray Jays and crossbills already engaged in breeding activities. The list of Regional Coordinators will be circulated on the NatureNB, NatureNS and PEI Birding listservs, and will eventually be posted on the Maritimes Atlas website. This site has not yet been developed, but the address will be www.mba-aom.ca for "Maritimes Bird Atlas / Atlas des oiseaux des Maritimes". If you're interested in volunteering, contact your local Regional Coordinator for your square assignment(s). You can also contact Atlas Coordinator Karel Allard by email at karel.allard@ec.gc.ca or phone at 506-364-5044.

Sponsors and Partners

The Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas is a multi-partnered project led by a Steering Committee and associated subcommittees. Current Steering Committee members include:

Dr. Richard Elliot (**chair**; Canadian Wildlife Service)
 Dr. Phil Taylor (**vice-chair**; Acadia University and Atlantic Bird Observatory)
 Sandy Burnett (Environmental Writer & Communications consultant)
 Dan Busby (Canadian Wildlife Service)
 Rosemary Curley (PE Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry)
 Mark Elderkin (NS Department of Natural Resources)
 Andy Horn (Nova Scotia Bird Society)
 Mike Leblanc (Atlantic Naturalists' Network)
 Scott Makepeace (NB Department of Natural Resources)
 Becky Whittam (Bird Studies Canada)

Funding for the second Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas has been confirmed from the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund, the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Departments of Natural Resources and Environment Canada's Science Horizons Youth Internship Program. Additional sources of funding from both the private and public sector are being actively pursued. □



Presidents Corner

Hi Everyone!

Our 50th Anniversary Checklist is now out. We launched it at the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists Conference in June, and so far the response has been positive. A complimentary copy is being mailed with your Special Anniversary issue of the magazine (you may already have this). We've had to raise the price a little: 50 cents each or three for a dollar, instead of four for a dollar; however, since we put a vertical line down the middle of the "tick" column, you can use each one twice – for example, on a weekend trip!

We are pleased to welcome Brian Delaney as our new NSBS Area Representative for Mahone Bay. If you live in or near this area and want to renew your membership, join for the first time, ask a question, or make a suggestion, just go see Brian at his shop: "For the Birds Nature Shop", 647 Main Street, Mahone Bay, 624-0784. Brian has a supply of our new checklists (as well as our old ones) and other birding supplies, and will be happy to answer all your questions. I'm still looking for lots of Area Reps, so if you're thinking of becoming one, just let me know.

Our 50th Anniversary is starting to wind down, but it's not over yet. Be sure to join us in Sydney, Cape Breton as we celebrate our new Cape Breton Chapter with a meeting, a talk on the "Birds of the Bird Islands" and a field trip to Schooner Pond and Morien Bar.

In October we're planting a native tree, Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), in Point Pleasant Park to mark our 50th anniversary and symbolize our commitment to work with HRM Park Personnel in their efforts to restore this park. We're also combining our AGM with the launch of Blake Maybank's new book: "Birding Sites of Nova Scotia". Blake will be on hand to autograph your copy.

In November we're going to Pictou for a meeting, a talk on the "Birds of Pictou County" and a field trip. For dates, times and places, check the Upcoming Events column.

Happy Birding,

Suzanne M. Borkowski, 445-2922, sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca

NSBS and BSC Members Invited to Symposium on Citizen Science

By Andy Horn

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists is holding its annual meeting at the Delta Halifax Hotel, 1990 Barrington Street in Halifax, October 20-22. On Saturday, October 22, the conference features a symposium entitled "*The Contribution of Citizen Science to Canadian Ornithology*," featuring a plenary talk by Dr. Erica Dunn, founder of Project FeederWatch and currently research scientist with the Canadian Wildlife Service in Gatineau, Québec.

The symposium offers a rare chance to hear leading figures from Bird Studies Canada address ornithologists from across the country on the promise and pitfalls of projects like Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, and Breeding Bird Atlases. In recognition of their long-standing contribution to Canadian ornithology, NSBS and BSC members are invited to attend the conference for that day, for a reduced fee of \$10. Refreshments will be served. If interested, please pre-register by 14 October by emailing or phoning Andy Horn (aghorn@dal.ca) or Becky Whittam (Becky.Whittam@EC.GC.CA, (506) 364-5047), who can also provide further details on the symposium. For more details on other activities at the conference, or to register as a full delegate, please visit the conference website at <http://www.sco-soc.ca/SCO2005>. □

Report of the NSBS Nominating Committee

By Andy Horn - Chair

The following have agreed to serve on the Executive for 2005-2006, if elected at the NSBS Annual General Meeting on Thursday, October 27, 2005:

President	Suzanne Borkowski
Vice President	Bill Billington
Past President	Andy Horn
Treasurer	Mary Alward
Secretary	Pat McKay
Membership Secretary	Eileen Billington
Director	Barbara Hinds
Director	Susann Myers
Director	Hans Toom

The following have agreed to serve for 2005-2006, if appointed at the NSBS AGM:

Honorary Solicitor	Tony Robinson
Honorary Auditor	Harold Forsyth

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

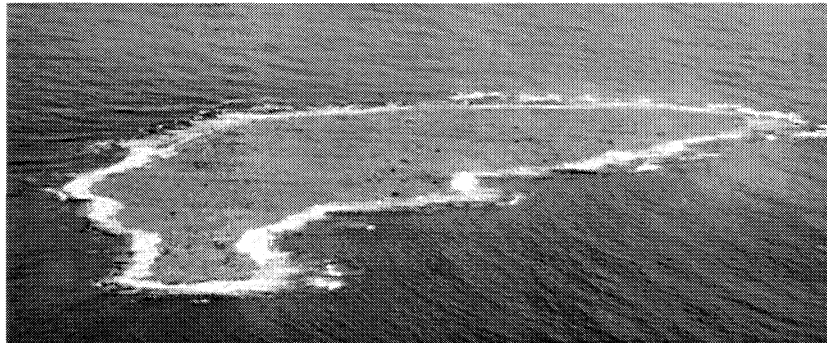
Further nominations will be accepted at the AGM.



Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund (SSTF) Properties Indian Island, Lunenburg County, NS

By Shirley Cohrs

Editor's Note – This is the first in a series of articles by Shirley Cohrs intended to familiarize Society members with the bird sanctuaries owned and administered by Society's Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund (SSTF)



Indian Island, Lunenburg County
(N 44°9'40.9", W 64°24'4.8 ")

The island was purchased by the SSTF in 1980. The July 1981 issue of Nova Scotia Birds included the following description of a trip to the island prior to its purchase.

Indian Island, a twenty acre, uninhabited, inaccessible, and reputedly haunted isle, is situated off the entrance to Green Bay. It is notoriously difficult to land on the island due to treacherous winds and currents and the absence of any natural harbour or beach, which is the (probable) reason it has become a breeding ground for Double-crested Cormorants. We were lucky enough to have optimum landing conditions, and once ashore there was no doubt this was a thriving cormorant colony. The noise was considerable . . . and the smell interesting. The nests varied considerably in size . . . but all were built of small twigs with large pale ribbons of kelp woven in. The Herring and Black-backed Gull nests were by now deserted, but there were many flightless [young] gulls. At the S.W. end of the island we found a small heronry of Great Blue Herons, and there were several storm-petrel burrows. Black Guillemot, Common Eider, Spotted Sandpiper, Black-capped Chickadee, and Song Sparrow completed our list.

Since 1980 the island has changed little. Most of the monitoring has been done by Peter Bell (now a director of SSTF) who passes it frequently in his fishing boat, and by Ken Gregoire (currently Chair of SSTF), who flies over regularly in his Cessna, winter and summer.

The heronry is gone, but the Double-crested Cormorants are thriving. They arrive in Green Bay in late April and make straight for the island. Most now nest on the rocks, and make daily feeding forays into Green Bay. The colony is difficult to census, but seems to average about 200 birds. Many Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls fly around the island all summer, vying with the cormorants for air space. Their status is not in doubt.

The huge success story is that of the Common Eider. The dense thickets of wild raspberry that cover more than half the island make ideal nesting sites, and several hundred eiders raise broods there each year. By early to mid-June the young have fledged and can be seen along the shores of Green Bay and Crescent Beach in crèches of varying size.

Black Guillemots are seen around the island summer and winter, but (as with the storm-petrels) it is necessary to go ashore to find evidence of nesting. A landing is being considered later this year, assuming weather and tides permit. The island's inaccessibility is, however, entirely desirable from the birds' perspective, which is why Indian Island is so valuable as a sanctuary. □



Loons Through Grebes

By Angus MacLean

The return migration of RED-THROATED LOONS was not noted this spring. Do they really migrate that far offshore? From John Belbin's regular observations at Port George and Margaretsville, it appears COMMON LOONS left salt water in early May for their breeding lakes. The PIED-BILLED GREBES noted at Sunken L. by BLF are apparently breeding and if so, it would constitute the first record for *Kings*. □

Red-throated Loon				Apr. 13	South Hd., <i>CBRM</i>	7	BES, GEC
Apr. 5	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	2	JOB	Apr. 30	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	7	JOB
Apr. 30	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	1	JOB	May 2	Sandy Bottom L., <i>Anna</i> .	2	MCR
Common Loon				May 21	BPI	2	KJM <i>et al.</i>
Mar. 11	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	8	JOB	Pied-billed Grebe			
Mar. 20	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	6	JOB	Apr. 7	Glenholme, <i>Col.</i>	1	BLM
Mar. 27	Lower Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	9	BLM	Apr. 20	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
Apr. 6	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	6	JOB	Apr. 22	Wallace Bay, <i>Cum.</i>	1	BLM
Apr. (?)	Maders Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	pair	JEM	May 5	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna</i> .	1	AAM
Apr. 13	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	10	JOB	May 21	Sunken L., <i>Kings</i>	2	BLF
Apr. 13	Margaretsville, <i>Anna</i> .	9	JOB				

Tubenoses Through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

Tubenoses were sparsely reported, but perhaps due to lack of observers, judging by the numbers of NORTHERN FULMARS, SOOTY SHEARWATERS, AND LEACH'S STORM-PETRELS seen by TOK 10-12 km offshore during a trip from Canso to CSI.

ALM and CAM's observations show that NORTHERN FULMARS remain abundant off NE Cape Breton into late May. The early MANX SHEARWATER seen by TOK east of Halifax was moving to the NE. TOK noted that "as we sailed from Canso to Halifax on May 7 we encountered lots of birds migrating NE along the shore. Strangely, nothing was seen during the periods we were ranging 10 or more miles off. The main flow of migrants seemed to be between 6-8 miles off noted by the steady stream of Gannets ~2000+, Sooty Shearwaters ~250+, Greater Shearwaters 20-25, Northern Fulmars 100+ (all light phase and strangely single birds), Leach's Storm-Petrels ~45 (most encountered in the Country Island area in the early morning)."

During the NAMC May 14, although widespread, gannets were still notably concentrated in *Shelburne* waters. By the third week of May, a few WILSON'S STORM-PETRELS were arriving in the Brier I. region.

May 10, TOK found very large numbers of NORTHERN GANNETS SW of Halifax, most abundant near CSI. Near month's-end JOB found unusually large numbers near shore in the inner Bay of Fundy.

The protracted arrival of DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS is well shown below. The NAMC May 14 showed their abundance throughout the province, but by far the greatest numbers were in *Pictou*. By mid-April most GREAT CORMORANTS had left south-western waters and had arrived on their breeding islands in Cape Breton; on the NAMC (May 14), there were a few in *Shelburne* (where some breed), also *Digby*, *HRM*, *Antigonish* and *Inverness*, but significant numbers only on the colonies in *CBRM*. □

Northern Fulmar				Greater Shearwater			
May 7	Canso-Halifax	100+	TOK	May 7	Canso-Halifax	20-25	TOK
May 10	Halifax-CSI	150+	TOK	May 10	Halifax-CSI	ca. 20	TOK
May 14	<i>CBRM</i>	12	NAMC	Sooty Shearwater			
May 21	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	300+	ALM, CAM	May 7	Canso-Halifax	250+	TOK
May 28	Moore's Ledge, Brier I.	6	ELM	May 10	Halifax-CSI	200+	TOK

Manx Shearwater				Double-crested Cormorant			
May 7	30 mi E Halifax	1	TOK	Mar. 18	Dartmouth	2	JOB
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				Mar. 28	Pictou Hbr.	"Flypast"	STV, <i>fide</i> KJM
May 21	Off Brier I.	?	Shelley Barnaby	Mar. 28	Conrads Beach, <i>HRM</i>	9	RHL
May 28	Moore's Ledge, Brier I.	6	ELM	Apr. 2	Yarmouth Hbr.	Abundant	MUN
Leach's Storm-Petrel				Apr. 4	Pictou causeway	3 arrivals	KJM
May 7	Near Country I., Guys.	ca. 45	TOK	Apr. 5	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JOB
May 14	BPI	Thousands on colony	NAMC	Apr. 9	Pictou causeway	ca. 80	KJM
May 10	Sambro Ledges, <i>HRM</i>	ca. 45	TOK	Apr. 14	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	20	RHL
May 21-27	BPI	?? on colony	CLD, KJM, GMU <i>et al.</i>	Apr. 21	Bear River, <i>Anna.</i>	Several	MCR
Northern Gannet				Apr. 23	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	100+	ELM, AHM
Apr. 5	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	3	JOB	Apr. 26	River Ryan, <i>CBRM</i>	10	Andrew MacDonald
Apr. 5	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JOB	May 11	Brier I.	11 arrived	ELM
Apr. 18	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JOB	May 12	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	30	RHL
Apr. 22	Tidnish Dock PP, <i>Cumb.</i>	3	BLM	May 14	<i>Pict.</i>	1332	NAMC
Apr. 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	7	KJM	May 17	NW Arm, Halifax	3	Ann Morrison
Apr. 27	Hemeon Hd., <i>Shel.</i>	6	DHY	May 19	Mader's Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	12	JEM
May 4	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	6	JOB	May 22	Cape Split, <i>Kings</i>	Raft of 10	JWW
May 7	Canso-Halifax	2000+	TOK	Great Cormorant			
May 14	<i>Shelburne</i>	535	NAMC	Mar. 27	Brier I.	"Several"	RBS
May 10	Halifax-CSI	5000+	TOK	Apr. 10	Three Fathom Hbr, <i>HRM</i>	2 flying NE	SEM
May 21	Off Brier I.	?	Shelley Barnaby	Apr. 17	Brier I. Only	1	ELM
May 21-27	BPI	5-38	CLD, KJM, GMU <i>et al.</i>	Apr. 21	Green I., Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	67	SEM
May 24	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i> ca.	100	JOB	Apr. 24	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	4	SEM
				May 8-29	Brier I.	3 imm.	ELM
				May 14	<i>CBRM</i>	72	NAMC

□□□

Herons Through Vultures

By Ulli Höger and Wendy Laforce

Springtime was exciting for birders with a number of interesting sightings reported. It appeared as though *Guysborough*, Cape Breton, Wolfville, Brier I., and CSI were among the hot spots to view some rare species of our feathered friends. There was an evident arrival of Great Blue Herons in *HRM* Apr. 10, including a flock of 15 seen flying in off the ocean at Martinique Beach.

The spring proved enjoyable for birders who saw the **LITTLE EGRET**. This species was sighted twice in Cape Breton. The first report was in the early part of May, and was well documented with photographs. Brier I. proved itself once again as a great location to view birds that are on the rare side. A **LITTLE BLUE HERON**, a **TRICOLORED HERON** and a **CATTLE EGRET** were all found on the island simultaneously. Another pleasant sighting this spring was of **YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON**, seen at both Wolfville and on CSI. A highly interesting finding that was observed throughout the spring season in the Canso area included both a pair and a single **GLOSSY IBIS**. Perhaps the presence of a Glossy Ibis pair may suggest the possibility that this species is breeding or will breed in the future at this location □



This animated **LITTLE EGRET** nicely displayed its diagnostic head plumes May 2 at Homeville, *CBRM*. One wonders if this rarity is the same one that turned up at Stephenville Crossing, SW Newfoundland in late May, to be joined there in June by Canada's first Western Reef-Heron! Could we have missed the latter in Nova Scotia? [Photo Cathy Murrant]

American Bittern			
Apr. 9	Maccan, <i>Cun.</i>	1	Sapphire Brine-Spicer
Apr. 17	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	3	BBA
Apr. 17	Brier I.	1	ELM
Apr. 23	Amherst Pt., <i>Cun.</i>	2	TEP
May 5 & 9	Goose Creek Marsh, <i>Shel.</i>	2	PRG
May 15	Pembroke, <i>Hants</i>	1	MUN
May 15	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2	RBS
May 21	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL
May 29	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM
Great Blue Heron			
Mar. 11	CSI	1	MUN
Mar. 24	Hantsport, <i>Kings</i>	1	Doug Linzey
Mar. 31	Atwoods Brook, <i>Shel.</i>		Harold Hubley
Apr. 3	CSI	1	MUN
Apr. 3	Trenton, <i>Pict.</i>	1	STV
Apr. 5	Dollar Lake PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Apr. 5	Chebucto Hd., <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Apr. 5	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	HEK
Apr. 7	Sydney R., <i>CBRM</i>	1	Andrew MacDonald
Apr. 7	Lower Eel Brook, <i>Yar.</i>	3	PRG
Apr. 7	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW
Apr. 10	Martinique Beach, <i>HRM</i>	15	BLM
Apr. 10	East Quoddy, <i>HRM</i>	9	Wendy Laforce, ULH

Great Egret

Apr. 2	CSI	1	MUN
Apr. 7	Moshers I., Lun.	1	JOW
Apr. 5-23	Ardoise, Hants	1	GED
Apr. 9-17	Heckmans I., Lun.	2	JAH
Apr. 10 & 29	Back Oler Marsh, Lun.	1	JAH
Apr. 12-14	Hemlock Ravine, HRM	1	DHU
Apr. 16-17	CSI	2	MUN
Apr. 22-25	CSI	3	MUN
Apr. 10-17	Advocate, Cum.	1	KFS
Apr. 23	Canso, Guys.	1	Tom Crane
Apr. 26-May 21	Chapel Gulley, Guys.	2	HAT
May 4	Pembroke, Hants	1	PRG
May 4	Pubnico Hd., Yar.	1	PRG
May 4	Canso, Guys.	1	Tom Crane
May 5	Blue Rocks, Lun.	2	Laurel Banks
May 14	Martinique Beach, HRM	1	RSM
May 22	Pubnico, Yar.	1	Lisette D'Entremont
May 30	East Berlin, Queens	1	AND

LITTLE EGRET

May 1-2	Homeville, CBRM	1 (photo!)	fide IAM
May 22	Gardiner Mines, CBRM	1	DBM

Snowy Egret

Mar. 31	Little Dover, HRM	1	IAM
Apr. 9-17	Heckmans I., Lun.	2	JAH
Apr. 11-13	Crescent Beach, HRM	1	HAT
Apr. 16-26	CSI	2-3	MUN
Apr. 23	Canso, Guys.	1	Tom Crane
Apr. 27	Blanche, Shel.	1	MUN
Apr. 29-30	CSI	1	MUN
Apr. 27-30	Sampsonville, Rich.	1	GED
Apr. 29	Bayport, Lun.	1	fide JAH
May 4	Pembroke, Hants	1	PRG
May 8-27	Freeport, Digby	1-2	ELM
May 13	Long I., Digby	2	BLM
May 31	Prospect, HRM	1	BLM
May 31	Brier I.	1	ELM

Little Blue Heron

Apr. 6-20	Brier I.	1	CAH
Apr. 13	Pubnico Hd., Yar.	1	RSD
Apr. 16	Pubnico, Yar.	1	MUN
Apr. 30	Moser River, HRM	1	HAB

May 4-6	CSI	1	MUN
May 15-29	Grande Greve, Rich.	1 imm.	GED
May 17	Yarmouth	1	MUN
May 20-22	Port Joli, Queens	1	AND
May 28	Black Oler Marsh, Lun.	1 imm.	JAH

Tricolored Heron

Apr. 7-21	Brier I.	1	CAH et al.
May 11	Freeport, Digby	1	JUS

Cattle Egret

Apr. 5-20	Brier I.	1	CAH et al.
Apr. 5	Cape Negro, Shel.	1	SAH
Apr. 8-13	CSI	1	MUN
Apr. 12	Elderbank, HRM	1	S. Fraser
Apr. 15	Freeport, Digby	1	Roger Outhouse

Green Heron

May 6	Dartmouth	1	DAC
May 5-13	Upper Woods Hbr., Shel.	1	DOC
May 17-19	CSI	1	MUN

Black-crowned Night-Heron

May 10-14	CSI	1	MUN
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YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON

Apr. 20	Wolfville, Kings	1	JET
May 14-15	CSI	1	MUN

Glossy Ibis

Apr. 25-21	Canso, Guys.	2+1	Tom Crane
May 11	Annapolis Royal	1	PEH
May 14	Chapel Gully, Guys.	4	Tom Crane

Turkey Vulture

Apr. 2	CSI	1	MUN
Apr. 7	Pembroke, Hants	3	PRG
Apr. 10	Charleston, Queens	1	AND
Apr. 17	Pembroke, Hants	3	BBA
Apr. 17	Apple R., Cumb.	3	KFS
Apr. 17	Yarmouth	3	MUN
Apr. 17	Brier I.	4	Cindy Creighton
Apr. 26	Moser R., HRM	1	HAT
May 9	Lower Eel Brook, Yar.	2	PRG
May 11	Brier I.	1	JUS
May 15	Port Clyde, Shel.	1 imm.	SAH
May 22	CSI	4	JAH et al.
May 23	Brier I.	5	RBS

□□□



This high-stepping CATTLE EGRET (L) and up to five GLOSSY IBISES (C) were located around Canso this spring, here May 1 [Photos Cindy Creighton]. A GREAT EGRET, (R) dripping with plumes, pleased many Metro Halifax birders when it spent several days (here May 18) at Julies Pond in Hemlock Ravine Park. [Photo Hans Toom]

Geese, Swans and Ducks

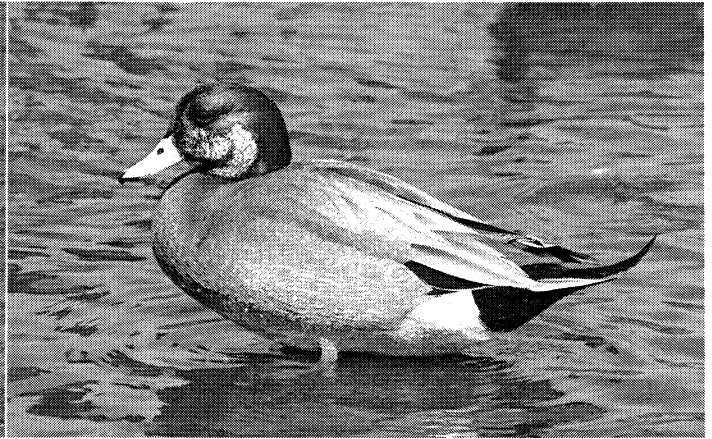
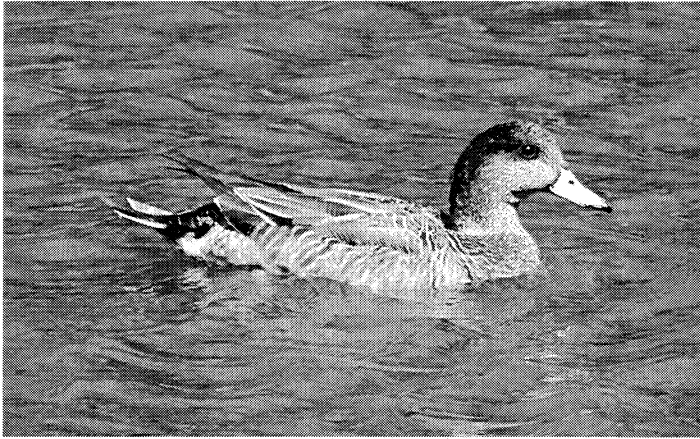
By Angus MacLean

The **PINK-FOOTED GEESE**, one of the highlights of the winter season, returned to PEI in March for a short stay before departing. Will they return to NS again next year? The number of nesting **CANADA GEESE** are increasing each year. Nesting pairs can be found across the province including northern CB.

A late report of **EURASIAN WIGEON** comes from *Antigonish* with two males found by JOK at Captains Cove in September, 2004. **MALLARDS** were not reported well, especially in *Kings* where flocks of 60-80 are not uncommon. It was my belief that pond duck numbers were much lower and the reports bore this out.

There were no reports of **LESSER SCAUP**, perhaps indicative of something unusual occurring with their numbers around NS. There was a nice collection of **BARROW'S GOLDENEYE** at Sydney, Mar. 7, the latest sighting. □

Pink-footed Goose				Apr. 17	Black River L., <i>Kings</i>	2	Murray Porter
>Mar. 15	Trenton, Pic.	3	var. obs.	Apr. 18 & 20	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 male	KFS
Snow Goose				Apr. 30	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	1 male	PLC
May 29	Mavaillette Beach, <i>Dig.</i>	1 blue ph.	MUN	May 9	Annapolis Royal Marsh	2	AAM
Canada Goose				May 13	Annapolis Royal Marsh	2	BLM
Mar. 4	Yarmouth	325	ELM, AHM	May 14	Aylesford L. Rd., <i>Kings</i>	2	AAM
Mar. 4	Rocky Run, <i>HRM</i>	20	RHL	May 15	Brier I.	1 male	ELM
Mar. 5	Shag Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	360	ELM, AHM	Gadwall			
Mar. 5	Clam Pt., <i>CSI</i>	600+	ELM, AHM	Mar. 27	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	2	ELM
Mar. 10-16	Riverport, <i>Lun.</i>	~80	ELM	Apr. 7	APBS	4	BLM
Mar. 11	E Petpeswick, <i>HRM</i>	50	RHL	Apr. 18 & 20	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	pair	KFS
Mar. 15	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	40	RHL	Apr. 22	E Amherst Marsh	2	BLM
Mar. 16	Near Dominion, <i>CBRM</i>	100+	BES, GEC	Apr. 23	Tower Road, Glace Bay	pair	SEM
Mar. 22	Kingston, <i>Anna.</i>	50-60	PBG	Apr. 30- June 5	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	pair	SEM
Mar. 27	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	500+	ELM	May 9	Annapolis Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1 male	AAM
Mar. 27	W Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	45	SEM	May 30	Summerville, <i>Queens</i>	pair	AND
Mar. 27	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	14	SEM	Eurasian Wigeon			
Mar. 27	Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	770	SEM	Mar. 28	Glace Bay	1	BES, GEC
Mar. 28	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	20	RHL	American Wigeon			
Mar. 29	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	75	DMW	Mar. 15	Truro	1 male	Valerie Meredith
Apr. 2	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	180	DMW	Mar. 22	Wallace Bay, <i>Cum.</i>	10	BLM
Apr. 5	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	40+	KFS	Mar. 28	Glace Bay	16	BES, GEC
Apr. 5	W Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	50	RHL	Apr. 14-26	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	pair	RHL
Apr. 5	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	3	PLC	Apr. 23	Harris Pond, <i>Kings</i>	3 males	JCT
Apr. 7	Halifax, <i>HRM</i>	3	PLC	Apr. 23	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	3	JCT
Apr. 9	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	30	RHL	Apr. 26	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	pair	KFS
Apr. 10	W Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	32	SEM	May 8-27	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	pair	SEM
Apr. 10	Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i> 6	SEM		May 10	Pond Cove, Brier I.	2	ELM
Apr. 12	Russell L., Dartmouth	4	RHL	May 12	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1 male	JCT
Apr. 14	Saxon St. Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT	May 13	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	4	KFS
Apr. 14	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	23	JCT	May 19	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	pair	RHL
Apr. 16	Windsor Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	43	JCT	May 27	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	pair	RHL
Apr. 23	Starrs Pt., <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT	May 29	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	4	RHL
Apr. 23	Harris Pond, <i>Kings</i>	pair	JCT	American Black Duck			
Apr. 23	Canard, <i>Kings</i>	pair	JCT	Mar. 4	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	2	RHL
Apr. 30	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	3	PLC	Mar. 16	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	50	DMW
May 5	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Kings</i>	50+, many nesting	AAM	Mar. 17-20	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	2 pairs	RES
May 6	Cornwallis R., <i>Kings</i>	pair	JCT	Mar. 17-20 n. of Kentville, <i>Kings</i>		100+	RBS
May 8-Jun. 3	Peter I., Brier I.	3 pairs nesting	ELM	Apr-May	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	8-20	KFS
May 21	BPI	11	KJM <i>et al.</i>	Apr. 1	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	12	RHL
May 22-27	BPI	6	KJM <i>et al.</i>	Apr. 7	Maccan, <i>Cum.</i>	16	BLM
May 25	Bear R, East, <i>Anna.</i>	2 + 4 young	MCR	Apr. 22	Linden Bay, <i>Cum.</i>	100	BLM
May 28	Smileys Park, <i>Hants</i>	6	NSBS field trip	May 4	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	25	AAM
Brant				May 9	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	4	AAM
Mar. 23	Brier I.	25	JOK	May 14	Nelson Cons. Area, <i>HRM</i>	8	RHL, Chris Pettipas
Mar. 25	Brier I.	100+	ELM, AHM	May 21	BPI	27	KJM <i>et al.</i>
May 8-13	Brier I.	150	ELM, AHM	May 22-27	BPI	29	KJM <i>et al.</i>
May 14	Brier I.	206	ELM, AGM	May 24	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	family/2 young	PLC
May 21	BPI	6	KJM <i>et al.</i>	Mallard			
May 28-early June	Brier I.	45	ELM, AHM	Mar. 25	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	2	PBG
Wood Duck				Apr. 2	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	5 pairs	AAM
Mar. 24	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	2 males	Ken Crowell	Apr. 5	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 male	KFS
Apr. 3	Glace Bay	1	BES, GEC	Apr. 6 & 18	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW
Apr. 7	Sand River, <i>Cum.</i>	2	BLM	Apr. 7	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	BLM
Apr. 9	Liverpool, <i>Queens</i>	1 male	AND, Lelia Dean	May 8	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	pair	KFS



Bernard Burke discovered the probable source of the NORTHERN PINTAIL X MALLARD hybrids, this one (R) Mar. 16, found in HRM in recent years. Several this spring frequented a well-birded pond next to a seed and feed store in Cole Harbour. In addition, there were what appeared to be some AMERICAN WIGEON X NORTHERN PINTAIL or possibly wigeon X (mallard X pintail), like this one Apr. 16. Experts shown the photos had differing opinions. [Photos Bernard Burke]

May 14	Salt Marsh Trail, HRM	1	RHL, Chris Pettipas	Apr. 12	Russell L., HRM	13	RHL
May 19	Conrad Beach, HRM	pair	RHL	Apr. 14	Lawrencetown, HRM	3	RHL
May 20	Morris L., HRM	6	RHL	Apr. 20	Jollimore, HRM	2 pairs	PLC
May 27	Bissett L., HRM	5	RHL	Apr. 20	Lawrencetown, HRM	4 pairs	RHL
May 31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	8 males	ELM	Apr. 22	Wallace Bay, Cum.	25	BLM
Blue-winged Teal				May 5	Belleisle Marsh, Anna.	35	AAM
Apr. 20	Apple R., Cum.	4	KFS	May 9	Annapolis Marsh, Anna.	20	AAM
Apr. 22	Wallace Bay, Cum.	8	BLM	May 13-June 5	Three Fathom Hbr.	10	SEM
Apr. 23	Canning, Kings	6	JCT	May 20	Morris L., Dartmouth	2pr	RHL
Apr. 23	Harris Pond, Kings	1 male	JCT	Tufted Duck			
May 9	Belleisle Marsh, Anna.	4 pairs	AAM	Mar. 8	Glace Bay Hbr.	1 male	BES, GEC
May 9	Annapolis Marsh, Anna.	12	AAM	Greater Scaup			
May 9	Brier I.	2	ELM, AHM	Apr. 1	Three Fathom Hbr.	30	RHL
May 10	Pond Cove, Brier I.	2	ELM	Apr. 1	Rocky Run, HRM	2pr	RHL
May 14	Apple R., Cum.	2	KFS	Apr. 14	Rocky Run, HRM	5	RHL
Northern Shoveler				May 17	Sunnybrook, Lun.	1f	JAH, DAW, CSS
Apr. 9	Canard Pond, Kings	1 male	AAM, RBS	Common Eider			
Apr. 22	E Amherst Marsh	2	BLM	Mar. 17-20	Port Mouton, Queens	1pr	RES
May 5	Belleisle Marsh, Anna.	5	AAM	Mar. 24	Port George, Anna.	30+	RBS
Northern Pintail				Mar. 25-Apr. 7	Brier I.	~200	RBS
Mar. 5	Dublin Shore, Lun.	1 fem.	ELM, AHM	Mar. 28	Rocky Run, HRM	20	RHL
Mar. 19	Glace Bay	4	BES, GEC	Apr. 1	Rocky Run, HRM	10	RHL
Eurasian Green-winged Teal				Apr. 9	Rocky Run, HRM	~90	RHL
May 21	Port Joli, Queens	1	JAH, DAW, CSS	Apr. 10	W Lawrencetown, HRM	110	SEM
Green-winged Teal				Apr. 10	Three Fathom Hbr.	149	SEM
Mar. 19	Glace Bay	1	BES, GEC	Apr. 11	Cow Bay, HRM	3 pairs	RHL
Mar. 26	Grand Pré, Kings	1 fem.	BLF	Apr. 14	Three Fathom Hbr.	50	RHL
Mar. 26	Conrad Marsh, HRM	3	DMW	Apr. 26	Lawrencetown, HRM	10	RHL
Apr. 7	APBS	8	BLM	Apr. 28	Port George, Anna.	225+	JOB
Apr. 18	Apple R., Cum.	8	KFS	May 3	Conrad Beach, HRM	9	DMW
Apr. 20	Apple R., Cum.	5+	KFS	May 10	Rocky Run, HRM	40	RHL
Apr. 22	Wallace Bay, Cum.	5	BLM	May 12	Rainbow Haven, HRM	20	RHL
Apr. 23	Canard Pond, Kings	15	JCT	May 13	E Ferry, Digby	400	BLM
Apr. 23	Saxon St. Pond, King s	1	JCT	May 19	Conrad Beach, HRM	12	RHL
May 9	Annapolis Marsh, Anna.	2 pairs	AAM	May 21	BPI	400	KJM et al.
May 9	Pond Cove, Brier I.	2	ELM	Harlequin Duck			
May 21	BPI	3	KJM et al.	Mar. 6	Prospect Bay, HRM	3	PLC, JEH
May 22-27	BPI	2	KJM et al.	Mar. 7	Port George, Anna.	3	JOB
Redhead				Apr. 5	Port George, Anna.	11	JOB
Mar. 27	Big Pond, Brier I.	1 male	RBS	Apr. 13	Port George, Anna.	13	JOB
The adult male present in Pond Cove, Brier I. since winter was still present at the end of May. Then it was paired (or at least keeping company with) a Black Duck. One observer reports seeing "a pair" of Redheads in Pond Cove, but I think this must be a mistake. I searched the area rigorously at the end of May and found only the long-staying male and its Black Duck companion. ELM							
Ring-necked Duck				Apr. 28	Port George, Anna.	10	JOB
Apr. 7	APBS	4	BLM	May 4	Port George, Anna.	7	JOB
Apr. 7	Glenholme, Col.	4	BLM	May 24	Port George, Anna.	2	JOB
Apr. 9	Canard Pond, Kings	10	AAM, RBS	Surf Scoter			
Apr. 10	Apple R., Cum.	9+	KFS	Mar. 11	Port George, Anna.	8	JOB
Apr. 12	Three Fathom Hbr.	1 male	SEM	Mar. 20	Port George, Anna.	17	JOB
				Apr. 5	Port George, Anna.	17	JOB
				Apr. 13	Port George, Anna.	11	JOB
				Apr. 13	Margaretsville, Anna.	7	JOB
				Apr. 18	Port George, Anna.	14	JOB
				Apr. 30	Port George, Anna.	5	JOB

Apr. 30	Green Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	200	JSC	Mar. 21	Bass River, <i>Col.</i>	2	Valerie Meredith
May 10	Pond Cove, Brier I.	5	ELM	Apr. 5	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	5	KFS
White-winged Scoter				May 14	Aylesford L. Rd., <i>Kings</i>	1 male	AAM
Mar. 11	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	19	JOB	May 29	Black River L., <i>Kings</i> 2 nests;	10 & 12 eggs	BLF
Mar. 11	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	12	JOB	Common Merganser			
Apr. 5	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	11	JOB	Mar. 2 - 6	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	4	DJC
Apr. 5	Margaretsville	10	JOB	Mar. 3	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	14	DMW
Apr. 15	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	15	JOB	Mar. 22	Wallace Bay, <i>Cum.</i>	25	BLM
Apr. 15	Margaretsville	3	JOB	Mar. 23	LaHave R., <i>Lun.</i>	31	PBG
May 29	Beach Meadows, <i>Lun.</i>	27	JAH, DAW, CSS	Mar. 25	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	1 male	PBG
Black Scoter				Mar. 28	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	15	RHL
Mar. 24	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	1 male	RBS	Apr. 10	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	8	KFS
Apr. 5	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JOB	Apr. 10	W Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	2	SEM
Apr. 11	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JOB	Apr. 10	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	4	SEM
Apr. 13	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	4	JOB	Apr. 16	Maders Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	pair	JEM
May 5	Pond Cove, Brier I.	5	ELM	Apr. 18 & 20	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 male	KFS
Long-tailed Duck				Apr. 22	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	1 male	MCR
Apr. 10	W Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	3	SEM	May 1	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	4 fems.	MCR
Apr. 10	Three Fathom Hbr.	3	SEM	May 8	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	4	MCR
Apr. 11	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1 pair	RHL	May 21	W Lawrencetown, <i>H RM</i>	6	RHL
Apr. 18	Crescent Beach, <i>Shel.</i>	2 pairs	DJC	May 23	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	3	RHL
May 1	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1 fem.	JAH	Red-breasted Merganser			
May 14	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	2	SJF	Mar. 2 - 27	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	4	DJC
Bufflehead				Mar. 8	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	10	DMW
Mar. 15	Annapolis Royal, <i>Anna.</i>	6	PBG	Mar. 17-20	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	2 pairs	RES
Apr. 1	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	5	RHL	Mar. 22	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	10	RHL
Apr. 23	Tower Road, Glace Bay	15	SEM	Apr. 1	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	15	RHL
Apr. 24	Annapolis Royal Marsh	10+	RBS	Apr. 1	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	25	RHL
May 9	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	22	AAM	Apr. 10	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
May 9	Annapolis Royal Marsh	~20	AAM	Apr. 10	W Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	6	SEM
Common Goldeneye				Apr. 22	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	16	RES
Mar. 4	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL	Apr. 23	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	350	ELM, AHM
Mar. 8 & 16	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	7	DMW	May 3-4	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	10	RES
Apr. 1	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	10	RHL	May 9	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	20	AAM
May 23	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	4	SEM	May 21	BPI	1	KJM <i>et al.</i>
Barrow's Goldeneye				May 22-27	BPI	2	KJM <i>et al.</i>
Mar. 7	Sydney R.	23	BES, GEC	Mar. 22	Tidnish, <i>Cum.</i>	25	BLM
Hooded Merganser				May 23	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	81	SEM
Mar. 18	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	8	RHL			□□□	
Mar. 18	Glace Bay Hbr.	1 fem.	BES, GEC				

Diurnal Raptors through Cranes

By Ulli Höger

Reports of OSPREY sightings started in early April and by the middle of the month, our provincial icon was occupying many of the known nesting sites in the province. BALD EAGLES are common year round, so reports this spring were numerous as usual. We received several reports of GOLDEN EAGLES, documented by verbal description. Hopefully one day we will be able to get a decent photograph. Similar is the situation with sightings of COOPER'S HAWKS in the province. Reported off and on, the sightings are rarely accompanied by any kind of documentation. □

Osprey

Apr. 6	Lower Eel Brook, <i>Yar.</i>	1	PRG
Apr. 10	Hwy 107 Exit 18	2 (pair)	BBA
Apr. 10	<i>HRM</i>	2	LOC
Apr. 12	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	HEK
Apr. 17	Crystal Crescent Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC, JEH

Bald Eagle

Frequently reported from all counties

Northern Harrier

Mar. 20	Greenwich, <i>Kings</i>	1	Dennis Brennan
Apr. 3	Melmerby Beach, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Apr. 5	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Apr. 15	Pembroke, <i>Hants</i>	2	PRG
Apr. 17	Brier I.	1	ELM
Apr. 18	Goose Creek Marsh, <i>Shel.</i>	1	PRG
Apr. 21	Brier I.	1	JUS
Apr. 23	Amherst Pt., <i>Cum.</i>	1	TEP
Apr. 24	Brier I.	several	DAM
Apr. 30	CSI	several	MUN
May 20	CSI	1	CST

Sharp-shinned Hawk

frequently reported from all counties

Apr. 2	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH
Apr. 7	Long L., <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL
Apr. 15	Sandy Cove Road, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
May 24	Georgefield, <i>Hants</i>	1	ROW

Cooper's Hawk

May 15	Georgefield, <i>Hants</i>	1	ROW
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Northern Goshawk

Mar. 23	Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
Mar. 25	Monks Hd., <i>Ant.</i>	1	JOK
Mar. 26	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, RIH
Apr. 23	Mount Thom, <i>Pict.</i>	1	FLL
May 6	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1 fem. & nest	RBS
May 14	Camperdown, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
May 14	Dartmouth	1	FLL
May 14	CSI	1	MUN
May 29	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM

Broad-winged Hawk

Apr. 30	Sandy Cove Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, RIH
May 2	Summersville, <i>Yar.</i>	1	AND



Raptor nests in and around Wolfville always attract attention and photographers. This spring, a BARRED OWL (L) nested within the town itself, here Apr. 24, and at Starrs Pt. nests were found of a GREAT-HORNED OWL (C) (here Apr. 4) and a BALD EAGLE (R) (Apr. 10). [Photos Richard Stern]

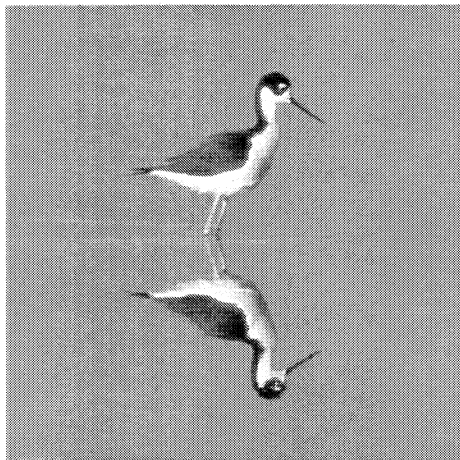
May 3	Lower Eel Brook, <i>Shel.</i>	2	PRG	May 23	Morien Bar, CBRM	1	SEM
May 9	Italy Cross, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF, JSC	Peregrine Falcon			
May 9	Brier I.	1	ELM	Mar. 4	Yarmouth	1	ELM, AHM
May 10	Brier I.	10	ELM	Apr. 7	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW
May 18	Middlewood, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF, JSC	Apr. 30	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL
May 22	Port Medway, <i>Queens</i>	2	JAH, CSS	May 3	Yarmouth	1	MUN
May 22	Port Mouton, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH	May 14	CSI	1	MUN
May 15	Hammonds Plains, <i>HRM</i>	1	BBA	Ruffed Grouse			
Red-tailed Hawk				frequent	Milford, <i>Anna.</i>	ROW	
Apr. 16	Goose Creek Marsh, <i>Shel.</i>	1	PRG	Apr. 10	Dollar L., <i>HRM</i>	2	BBA
Apr. 7	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1 nest	JWW	Apr. 10	Tantallon, <i>HRM</i>	2	PLC
Rough-legged Hawk				Apr. 23	Amherst Pt., <i>Cum.</i>	1	TEP
Mar. 13	Brier I.	1	DAP	May 4	Lumsden Dam, <i>Kings</i>	1	JET, JCT
Mar. 22	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS	May 4	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	14	TOK
Apr. 25	Rainbow Haven Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL	Spruce Grouse			
Golden Eagle				May 10 & 29	Rocky Run, <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL
Mar. 2	Brier I.	1	CAH	May 19	Amherst Pt., <i>Cum.</i>	3	Julie Paquet
Mar. 27	Masstown, <i>Col.</i>	1 juv.	Bernard Jackson	May 24	Georgefield, <i>Hants</i>	1	ROW
Apr. 3	Canso Causeway, <i>Guys.</i>	1	June Jarvis <i>et al.</i>	May 28	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM
American Kestrel				Virginia Rail			
Mar. 10	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL	Mar. 28	Hampton, <i>Anna.</i>	pair	L.V. Nielsen
Apr. 15	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH	Apr. 22	Louisbourg	1	SEM
Apr. 23	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC	May 22	Keji NP	1	SMB
Apr. 24	Brier I.	1	DAM	Sora			
May 11	CSI	1	MUN	May 5	Goose Creek Marsh, <i>Shel.</i>	2	PRG
May 15	Brier I.	1	ELM, AHM	May 15	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	NSBS
May 18	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM	May 19	Amherst Pt., <i>Cum.</i>	3	Julie Paquet
Merlin				May 29	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	2	DBM
Mar. 28	Lower Eel Brook, <i>Shel.</i>	1	PRG	Common Moorhen			
Apr. 2	Falmouth, <i>Hants</i>	2	Patrick Kelly	May 21	Amherst Pt., <i>Cum.</i>	3	DOU
Apr. 12	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW	American Coot			
Apr. 20	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1	JET	May 19	Pembroke, <i>Hants</i>	1	Donna Morrison
Apr. 23	Louisbourg	1	SEM	Sandhill Crane			
Apr. 26	Chappell Gully, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Tom Crane	May 5-30	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	2	TOK
May 1	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	1	AGH	□□□			
May 3	Halifax	1	AGH				
May 11	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	3 pairs	JCT				

Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

The NAMC has done much in recent years to increase observation of spring migrants, which visit in only small numbers, as the majority of shorebirds use the central flyway in spring. This year's NAMC numbers were average, with a few exceptions noted below. Noteworthy vagrants of the season include a Black-necked Stilt, a Eurasian Whimbrel and a Wilson's Phalarope.

The single BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER at Crescent Beach, *Lun.* Apr. 11 may have overwintered but, with only two reported during the winter season, other sightings were probably fresh migrants. The NAMC total of 77 was average and numbers peaked as usual in mid to late May, but with no reports of the concentrations that occur in many springs at sites such as the Windsor causeway, Grand Pré and Avonport Beach. AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER, uncommon in spring, was represented by a single report from CSI.



BLACK-NECKED STILTS, which have occurred annually in recent years, may soon not need photographic confirmation. This one posed nicely April 13 at St. Catherines R., *Queens*. [Photo Andy Dean]

A possible **WILSON'S PLOVER** was seen briefly at Scots Bay, *Kings* Apr. 7 by Ami McKay and son. The field marks they noted certainly suggest Wilson's Plover: a brown plover somewhat larger than a Semipalmated with longer, duller-coloured legs; a single dark neck ring; black bill; and a sharp call of two rapid "wheetwheet" notes on the same pitch. The possibility of Wilson's Plover is supported by sightings this spring in New Jersey (late March) and New York and New Hampshire (first week of May). This species visits Nova Scotia fairly routinely, but less than annually. The Scots Bay bird was not seen again to permit a definitive identification, however, so remains an intriguing possibility.

No SEMIPALMATED PLOVERS were reported from CSI, where one to two pairs bred annually from the mid-1990s to 2003. The 10 reported from Brier I. May 29 were an unusually large concentration for spring. PIPING PLOVER returned on schedule to their traditional beaches and the NAMC total of 17 was above average. One seen May 14 on Conrad Beach, *HRM*, a former nesting beach, was unlikely to remain as both people and unleashed dogs were numerous. The first KILLDEER were an early pair on Sable I. Mar. 9, one of which ZOL noted was unusually coloured, with all normally-white parts (face, neck, underparts) distinctly and uniformly orange-pink. From the end of March reports were widespread. JCT reports that a pair returned Apr. 17 to the traditional nesting site at Wolfville Ridge, but was disturbed by house construction and did not remain.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS, which have nested successfully at CSI since 1999, increased to two nesting pairs this year for the first time since 2000; JON reports one nest at Hawk Inlet and another at Fish Island May 12. AND made the exciting discovery of a **BLACK-NECKED STILT** Apr. 11 at a Port Joli marsh, where it remained to Apr. 15. A rare visitor, the Stilt has been recorded only eight previous times in the province, but may be expanding its range north, as it has been annual since 2003.

The first GREATER YELLOWLEGS arrived early Apr. 5 at Cabot Landing, *Vic.*, and they were widely reported from around the province from early May. The NAMC total of 223 was average, with the greatest numbers as usual in *CBRM* and *Pictou*. LESSER YELLOWLEGS nest to the west of Hudson Bay and few are usually seen in Nova Scotia in spring. They were reported in typically small numbers from three locations from the end of April, but the NAMC total of 42 was unusually high, leading to speculation on whether increased observer effort is the cause, or lack of care in distinguishing from Greater Yellowlegs. SOLITARY SANDPIPER, uncommon in spring, was represented by a single bird found on CSI May 2, which remained for the NAMC.

The first WILLET arrived on schedule Apr. 20 at CSI, with others following quickly, and by mid-May they were widespread and numerous. The NAMC total of 452 was average for this flourishing local breeder. Notable were sightings of up to 15 per day at the end of May on Brier I., where they do not breed. Late for migrants, these may have been non-breeding wanderers, as studies indicate that Willets first breed at two to five years. SPOTTED SANDPIPERS are late migrants and were first seen on schedule in the first week of May. The main inflow was underway by mid-May and the NAMC total of 29 was average. The 14 WHIMBREL counted at CSI Apr. 29 were an unusual concentration. An exciting find for MUN was a **EURASIAN WHIMBREL**, the *phaeopus* subspecies, feeding with the group of *hudsonicus* Whimbrel at CSI Apr. 30. This is only the third spring sighting for the province of this very rare visitor.

Numbers of RED KNOT passing through our area have dropped steadily over the past several years, an indication of the status of this shorebird whose *rufa* subspecies, breeding in the eastern Canadian arctic, is rated 'Highly Imperilled' in the updated 2004 U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan. In Nova Scotia, NAMC totals have fallen from 54 in 2001 to a single bird in 2005. SANDERLING overwintered on Sable I. in usual numbers, with 100+ seen throughout March, but this was the only large flock seen. The NAMC total of 17 was well below the average of 90 set up to 2001; the Sanderling has been designated a 'Species of High Concern' with a significant population decline.

The total count of 44 SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS on the NAMC was a record high for the species. Seventy LEAST SANDPIPERS were also a NAMC high, and concentrations of 28 at BPI and *circa* 40 at Brier I. in late May were good numbers for spring. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS are uncommon in spring, so a single bird at Brier I. and a first-time count of two on the NAMC are noteworthy. PURPLE SANDPIPERS were not much reported this season and the NAMC total of eight was well below average. DUNLIN were reported only from CSI, where the NAMC total of 75 was above average.

Even a single SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER is unusual in spring, so a total of eight migrants for the season is noteworthy. WILSON'S SNIPE arrived on schedule, with the first seen Apr. 18 at Apple R., *Cum*. Although few reports were received in April, the seven heard on an owl survey on the Salmon River Rd., *CBRM*, Apr. 22 show that they were already well established. The NAMC total of 133 was more than 30% above average, despite high winds and fresh snow in Cape Breton that day.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK migration was late this spring, with the first not reported until Mar. 31. The NAMC total of 70 was slightly above average however, and reports of good numbers from nocturnal owl surveys show them to be faring well, at least in Cape Breton.

One of the highlights of the NAMC was a bright female WILSON'S PHALAROPE that JCT reports was found by Dorothy Poole at a pond near West Berlin, *Queens*. The sighting provides a first NAMC record for this uncommon spring migrant. The only reports of RED-NECKED PHALAROPE and RED PHALAROPE were from Brier I. and environs at the end of May, which ELM was fortunately able to observe. □

Black-bellied Plover

Apr. 11	Crescent Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	1	HAT
Apr. 22, May 12	CSI	16, 47	MUN, JON
Apr. 23, May 23	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1, 4	Maureen Cameron-MacMillan, SEM
May 9, 28, 30	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1, 6, 16	ELM, AHM
May 13, 21	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1, 6	SJF
May 14	<i>Shelburne, Yarmouth</i>	64, 10	NAMC
May 23	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	2 ads., 1 imm.	DJC

American Golden Plover

Apr. 23	CSI	1	<i>fide</i> MUN
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Semipalmated Plover

May 20	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
May 22-27	BPI	3	CLD, KJM, GMU <i>et al.</i>
May 29	Pond Cove, Brier I.	10	ELM, AHM

Piping Plover

Mar. 31	Daniels Hd., <i>CSI</i>	1	CST
Apr. 5, 19	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1, 2	DJC
Apr. 6	Martinique, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Apr. 7, May 14	CSI	4	BJS, SIS
Apr. 17, May 2-21	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1, 2	JAH, SJF
May 14	<i>HRM, Shelburne</i>	5, 6	NAMC

Killdeer

Mar. 9, 10, 18-19	Sable I.	2, 2, several	ZOL
Mar. 23	Brier I.	1	JOK
Mar. 25	Summerville Beach PP, <i>Queens</i>	1	Gary & Janet Hartlen
Mar. 26	Sandy Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, RIH
Apr.- May	widely	10 reports	var. obs.
Apr. 17	Wolfville Ridge	2	JCT
May 11	Pond Cove, Brier I.	5	ELM, AHM
May 14	<i>Hants, Kings, Pictou</i>	10, 16, 12	NAMC

American Oystercatcher

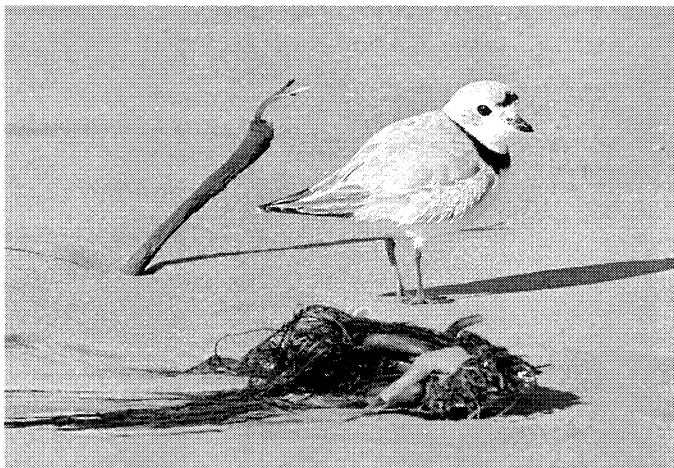
Apr. 6, 27	CSI	3	MUN
May 12	CSI	2 pairs	JON

BLACK-NECKED STILT

Apr. 11-15	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	1	- AND <i>et al.</i>
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Greater Yellowlegs

Apr. 5	Cabot Landing, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC
Apr. 19	Glenwood, <i>Yar.</i>	2	PRG
Apr. 21	Louisbourg	4	SEM



The endangered PIPING PLOVER, here an ad. photographed Apr. 6 with a long lens at some distance on Martinique Beach, *HRM*, continues (at best) to maintain its Nova Scotia population in recent years. [Photo Hans Toom]

Apr. 23	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
Apr. 26	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
May	widely	20 reports	var. obs.
May 1	CSI	14	MUN
May 14	<i>CBRM, Pictou, Cumberland</i>	52, 40, 19	NAMC
May 31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	15	ELM

Lesser Yellowlegs

Apr. 29	Crystal Crescent Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
May 9, 11	Pond Cove, Brier I.	2, 1	ELM, AHM
May 19	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	4	JAH, DAW
May 14	<i>Yarmouth, CBRM, Lunenburg</i>	12, 9, 7	NAMC

Solitary Sandpiper

May 2, 14	Kenney Rd., <i>CSI</i>	1	ELM, IAM; NAMC
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Willet

Apr. 20	Centreville, <i>CSI</i>	1	MUN
Apr. 23	Sand Hills Beach PP, <i>Shel.</i>	4	BJS, SIS
Apr. 24	Pubnico Hd., <i>Yar.</i>	6	PRG
Apr. 27	Martinique, <i>HRM</i>	2	HAT
Apr. 26-May 31	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	3+ pr.	DJC
Apr. 30-May 28	widely	22 reports	var. obs.
May 2	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	26	SJF
May 12	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	12	JON
May 14	<i>HRM, Lunenburg, Shelburne</i>	141, 90, 76	NAMC
May 23	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	51	SEM
May 28-30	Brier I. up to	15	ELM, AHM

Spotted Sandpiper

May 5	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL
May 14	<i>Kings, Hants, Pictou</i>	10, 5, 4	NAMC
May 15	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	1	MCR
May 21-27	BPI	3	CLD, KJM, GMU <i>et al.</i>
May 29	Brooklyn, <i>Queens</i>	4	JAH, DAW
May 29	Mira R., <i>CBRM</i>	2	BES
May 29, 31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1, 2	ELM, AHM

Eurasian Whimbrel

Apr. 30	CSI	1	MUN
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Whimbrel

Apr. 29	Stoney I., <i>CSI</i>	14	MUN
May 14	<i>Queens</i>	1	NAMC
May 20	W Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	1	AND

Ruddy Turnstone

May 12	The Hawk flats, <i>CSI</i>	3	JON
May 14	<i>Shelburne</i>	4	NAMC
May 29, 31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	2, 1	ELM, AHM

Red Knot

May 12-14, June 6	The Hawk flats, <i>CSI</i>	1 ad.	JON, MUN
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Sanderling

Mar. 7-28	Sable I.	100+	ZOL
Apr. 10	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Apr. 27	Martinique, <i>HRM</i>	5	HAT
May 12, 31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	3, 2	ELM, AHM
May 14	<i>Shelburne, HRM</i>	9, 8	NAMC

Semipalmated Sandpiper

May 3	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
May 14	<i>HRM, CBRM, Brier I.</i>	38, 5, 1	NAMC
May 29, 31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	6, 8	ELM, AHM

Least Sandpiper

May 11	Pond Cove, Brier I.	4	ELM, AHM
May 14	<i>Kings, Lun., Queens</i>	38, 15, 9	NAMC
May 15	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BES, GEC
May 21, 22-27	BPI	1, 28	CLD, KJM, GMU <i>et al.</i>
May 22-26	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1-3	DJC
May 29, 31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	40±, 8	ELM, AHM
May 29	Eagle Hd., <i>Queens</i>	3	JAH, DAW



Secretive AMERICAN WOODCOCK are rarely photographed, and this one in *CBRM* in spring shows what peculiar birds they are, with their thick head plumage and large, laterally placed and independently mobile eyes. [Photo Cathy Murrant]

White-rumped Sandpiper

May 11, 29 Pond Cove, Brier I. 1 ad. ELM, AHM
 May 14 Colchester, HRM 1, 1 NAMC

Purple Sandpiper

Mar. 26, May 9 Pond Cove, Brier I. 6, 2 ads. RBS, ELM
 May 14 *CBRM*, Richmond 6, 2 NAMC

Dunlin

Apr. 25; May 12, 14 CSI flock; 63, 75 JON, MUN

Short-billed Dowitcher

May 12 The flats, CSI 2 JON, MUN
 May 14 Shelburne, Victoria 2, 1 NAMC
 May 29 Eagle Hd., Queens 4 JAH, DAW
 May 29, 31 Pond Cove, Brier I. 1 ELM, AHM

Wilson's Snipe

Apr. 18-21 Apple R., Cum. 1 KFS
 Apr. 21 Grand Pré Dyke, Kings 1 BLF
 Apr. 22 Salmon River Rd., *CBRM* 7 SEM
 Apr. 26 Tower Rd., Glace Bay 1 BES, GEC
 May 4-28 5 locations, mainland NS 8 var. obs.
 May 4-31 5 owl surveys, CB 19 var. obs.
 May 14 Hants, *CBRM*, Richmond 51, 28, 19 NAMC

American Woodcock

Mar. 31 Apple R., Cum. 1 KFS
 Apr. 13 Woods Hbr., Shel. 1+ DOC
 Apr. 19 Leitches Creek, *CBRM* 2 K. Aikens, A. MacDonald
 Apr. 22 Salmon River Rd., *CBRM* 9 SEM
 Apr. 26 - May 22 near Cape North, Vic. 1+ FMC
 Apr. 30 - May 2 2 locations, Anna. 2 MCR, PLC
 May 4-30 6 owl surveys, CB 21 var. obs.
 May 14 Hants, Pictou 39, 12 NAMC

Wilson's Phalarope

May 14 near E Berlin, Queens 1 fems. Dorothy Poole

Red-necked Phalarope

May 28 Moores Ledge, off Brier I. 200± ELM
 May 31 Pond Cove, Brier I. 2 fems. ELM

Red Phalarope

May 28 Moores Ledge, off Brier I. 50± ELM

□□□

Skuas through Alcids

By Eric Mills

DOU had the good fortune to see 7 POMARINE JAEGERs on the flats and over the dunes of The Hawk, CSI, May 23. Another remarkable sighting was the well-described LONG-TAILED JAEGER on the Eastern Shore on the seemingly early date of April 25. There is a precedent - an adult near Gaspereau, Kings on April 7-8, 1990.

An early adult LAUGHING GULL at the Dartmouth ferry slip April 25 began the season's expected influx. One at Port Morien, *CBRM*, a month later was unusually far to the northeast. The only MEW GULL of the season was at the New Glasgow sewer outfall April 9. Very large numbers of RING-BILLED GULLS at Ogden's Pond, Ant., April 23, were the vanguard of migrants moving on to New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS are not particularly noteworthy now, but an adult bird apparently of this species on Gaspereau Lake, Kings, on April 17 might indicate a breeding attempt. CAM noted the arrival of BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES at Cape Perce, *CBRM*, March 13, and by April 21 other breeding sites in Cape Breton were occupied.

Terns began to arrive at the Brothers Islands, Yar., May 4, but elsewhere their arrival was slow and late. A lone CASPIAN TERN was at APBS during the NAMC May 14. A single ROSEATE TERN, along with a few COMMONS and one or two ARCTICS, prospected the now defunct colony on Peters Island, Brier I., May 29-31 and then moved on. □

Pomarine Jaeger

May 23 The Hawk, CSI 7 DOU

LONG-TAILED JAEGER

Apr. 25 Jeddore Hbr., HRM 1 ad. Doug Baker, fide Chris Majka

LAUGHING GULL

Apr. 25 Dartmouth 1 ad. Julie McKnight

May 25 Port Morien, *CBRM* 1 BES, GEC

Black-headed Gull

Mar. 15 Lockeport, Shel. 4 DJC

Mar. 16 West Pubnico, Yar. 3 RSD fide PRG

Mar. 18 Dartmouth 5 JOB

Mar. 25 Trenton, Pict. 4 KJM

Apr. 1 Pier 9, Halifax Hbr. 50 FLL

Apr. 2 Trenton, Pict. 4 KJM

Apr. 2 New Glasgow, Pict. 2 KJM

Apr. 9 Trenton, Pict. 4 KJM

Apr. 10 Trenton, Pict. 5 KJM

Apr. 23 Ogdens Pond, Ant. 2 - 1st winter ELM, AHM

Apr. 24 Antigonish Landing, Ant. 4 KJM

Apr. 24 Haliburton Gut, Pict. 1 ad. KJM

ca. May 6 Canso, Guys. 1 TOK

May 14 *CBRM*; Guys. 2; 1 NAMC

Bonaparte's Gull

Apr. 1	Pier 9, Halifax Hbr.	1 - 2 nd winter	FLL, CLS
Apr. 10	West R., <i>Pict.</i>	9	KJM
Apr. 23	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	20 (18 ads.)	ELM, AHM
Apr. 24	Lyons Brook, <i>Pict.</i>	40	KJM
Apr. 26-27	Canso Hbr., <i>Guys.</i>	1 ad.	TOK
May 1	Lyons Brook, <i>Pict.</i>	30	KJM
May 14	<i>Pictou, Victoria</i>	32; 38	NAMC
May 29	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	1 imm.	KJM

MEW GULL

Apr. 9	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Ring-billed Gull			
Mar. 25	Trenton, <i>Pict.</i>	30	KJM
Apr. 2	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	"Increasing no's"	KJM
Apr. 9	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	170	KJM
Apr. 22	Linden Bay, <i>Cumb.</i>	200	BLM
Apr. 23	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	Est. 850	ELM, AHM
May 14	<i>Pictou</i>	172	NAMC
May 29	Pond Cove, Brier I.	2	ELM, AHM
May 30	Pea Jack Cove, Brier I.	1 - 1 st summer	ELM

Herring Gull

Apr. 22	Linden Bay, <i>Cumb.</i>	6000	BLM
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Iceland Gull

Mar. 4	Yarmouth Hbr. area	ca. 40	ELM, AHM
Mar. 14	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	Several ads.	DJC
Mar. 18	Dartmouth	15-20	JOB
Mar. 20	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	2	JET
Mar. 25	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1	JET
Mar. 25	<i>Pictou</i>	50	KJM
Mar. 26	Lunenburg Hbr.	2-3	ELM
Apr. 2	Dartmouth, <i>HRM</i>	225+	IAM, FLL
Apr. 2	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	10	KJM
Apr. 5	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	30+	KFS
Apr. 9	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
Apr. 9	Trenton, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Apr. 10	West R., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM
Apr. 12	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	6+ ads.	JWW
Apr. 23	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	2	JWW
Apr. 23	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	3	JET
Apr. 23	Ogdens Pond, <i>Ant.</i>	4	ELM, AHM
Apr. 24	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	1 imm.	KJM
Apr. 24	<i>Pictou</i>	7	KJM
Apr. 25	Pembroke, <i>Yar.</i>	5	PRG
May 1	<i>Pictou</i>	2	KJM
May 1	Trenton, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
May 3	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	1 - 1 st summer	JWW
May 7	<i>Pictou</i>	1 imm.	KJM
May 14	Off Western Light, Brier I.	1	ELM
May 14	<i>CBRM, Victoria, Pictou</i>	132; 70; 14	NAMC
May 29	Waterside PP, <i>Pict.</i>	1 imm.	KJM

May 29	<i>Pictou</i>	1 imm.	KJM
Lesser Black-backed Gull			
Mar. 20	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	1 - 1 st winter	CLS, <i>fide</i>
BBU, FLL			
Mar. 22	nr Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	RBS
Mar. 24	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	1 ad.	RBS
Mar. 26-May 4	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	2 ads.	PBG, JOB
Mar. 26	Saxon St., <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	RBS, AAM
Mar. 27	Canard, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	ELM
Apr. 13	Canard, <i>Kings</i>	1 ad.	RBS
Apr. 17	Gaspereau Lake,	1 ad. <i>graellsii</i>	FLL, CLS
ca. Apr. 18	Little Dover, <i>Guys.</i>	1 ad.	TOK
Apr. 23	Ogdens Pond, <i>Antig.</i>	1 - 3 rd winter	ELM, AHM
Apr. 30	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1 ad. <i>graellsii</i>	IAM
May 14	Glace Bay	1	CAM, ALM
May 29	Waterside PP, <i>Pictou</i>	1 ad.	KJM

Glaucous Gull

Mar. 4/5	Yarmouth Hbr. area	3	ELM, AHM
Mar. 5	Lower LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	1 - 1 st winter	ELM, AHM
Mar. 25	<i>Pictou</i>	2 imm.	KJM
Mar. 27	Canard, <i>Kings</i>	1 - 2 nd winter	ELM
Mar. 27	Brier I.	1 - 1 st winter	RBS
ca. Apr. 2-9	Point Pleasant Park, Halifax	1 - 3 rd winter	AGH, BBU, ELM
Apr. 9	New Glasgow, <i>Pict.</i>	1 imm.	KJM
Apr. 17	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	1 - 2 nd winter	BBU
Apr. 17	Point Pleasant Park, Halifax	1 - 2 nd winter	AGH
Apr. 17	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 - 2 nd winter	AGH
Apr. 18	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1 - 2 nd winter	AGH
Apr. 24	<i>Pictou</i>	2 imm.	KJM
Apr. 24	Haliburton Gut, <i>Pict.</i>	2 imm.	KJM
Apr. 26	Glace Bay	2	Andrew MacDonald
May 1	<i>Pictou</i>	1 imm.	KJM
May 1	Lyons Brook, <i>Pict.</i>	1 imm.	KJM
May 7-28+	Point Pleasant Park, Hfx	1 - 1 st summer	IAM, AGH, PLC, BBU
May 14	Neils Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	7	FMC
May 14	<i>Pictou</i>	4	NAMC

Black-legged Kittiwake

Mar. 13	Cape Perce, <i>CBRM</i>	4 arrived	CAM
Apr. 21	Green I., Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	10	SEM
Apr. 24	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	31	SEM
May 11	Western Light, Brier I.	4 imm.	ELM
May 14	Western Light, Brier I.	2 ad.	ELM
May 14	<i>CBRM</i>	1	NAMC
ca. May 22	Brier I.	?	RBS
May 24	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	38	SEM

Tern sp.

May 4	Brothers Is., <i>Yar.</i>	Arrival	RSD <i>fide</i> PRG
May 12	Westhaver I., Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	ca. 50	JEM

Caspian Tern

May 14	<i>Cumberland</i>	1	NAMC
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Scattered inland nestings of COMMON TERNS are not uncommon, usually on islets in lakes, but this one adjacent to a footpath at Albro Lake, *HRM*, was risky. [Photo Bernard Burke]



Young Iceland Gulls often linger well beyond winter, but GLAUCOUS GULLS, like this first-summer bird, still at Pt. Pleasant Park, Halifax, May 25, rarely do so. [Photo Bernard Burke]

Roseate Tern			Dovekie						
May 17	Louis Hd., <i>Shel.</i>	1	FLL	Mar. 20	Clarks Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN		
May 17	Westhaver I., Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, DAW	Common Murre					
May 21	Westhaver I., Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	2+	ELM	May 28	Moore's Ledge, Brier I.	2	ELM		
May 31	Peter I., Brier I.	1	ELM	Thick-billed Murre					
Common Tern			Razorbill						
May 1	Lyons Brook, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	Mar. 20	Crystal Crescent, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT		
May 14	Province-wide	Only 145	NAMC	May 11	Western Light, Brier I.	3	ELM		
May 17	NW Arm, Halifax	2	Ann Morrison	May 14	Western Light, Brier I.	7	ELM		
May 19	Point Pleasant Park, Halifax	1	PLC	May 14	<i>CBRM</i>	3	NAMC		
May 19	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL	May 21	Off Brier I.	?	Shelley Barnaby		
May 20	NW Arm, Halifax	1	PLC	Black Guillemot					
May 21	Westhaver I., Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	ca. 20	ELM	Mar. 20	Crystal Crescent, <i>HRM</i>	2	HAT		
May 21-27BPI		45-60	CLD, KJM, GMU <i>et al.</i>	Mar. 27	Lower Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	10	BLM		
May 23	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	30+	SEM	Apr. 18	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JOB		
May 28	Moore's Ledge, Brier I.	1	ELM	Apr. 21	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	15	SEM		
May 29	Peter I., Brier I.	6 arrived	ELM	Apr. 24	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	12	SEM		
May 31	Peter I., Brier I.	20	ELM	Apr. 27	Hemeon Hd., <i>Shel.</i>	1	DHY		
Arctic Tern			Atlantic Puffin						
May 14	<i>HRM</i>	2	NAMC	May 4	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	11	JOB		
May 17	Louis Hd., <i>Shel.</i>	50	FLL	May 14	<i>CBRM</i>	126	NAMC		
May 17	Westhaver I., Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	35	JAH, DAW	May 21	Off Brier I.	?	Shelley Barnaby		
May 21	Westhaver I., Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	ca. 50	ELM	May 21-27BPI		3-4	CLD, KJM, GMU <i>et al.</i>		
May 21	BPI	6	CLD, KJM, GMU <i>et al.</i>	May 24	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	52	SEM		
May 28	Moore's Ledge, Brier I.	25	ELM	Black Tern					
May 29	Peter I., Brier I.	1	ELM	May 19	APBS, <i>Cum.</i>	2	Julie Paquet		
Black Tern						May 21	APBS, <i>Cum.</i>	3	DOU

Doves Through Woodpeckers

By Ian McLaren

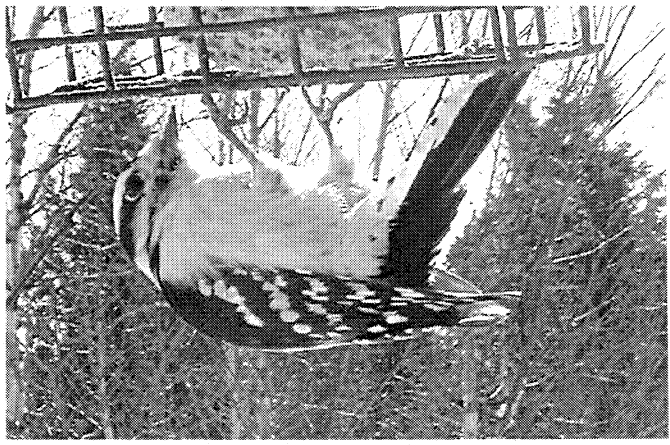
In interpreting the NAMC, it may be noted that there was record coverage on foot, although distances driven were within the range for the past three years. There were no reports of ROCK DOVES, but the highest ever NAMC (but not MOURNING DOVES) suggests that they bear watching. The YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO was unusual for spring.

Owl Surveys and the NAMC suggest a recovery of our regular owls from recent harsh winters. SNOWY OWLS lingered on CSI (where one took a swipe at a Brant Mar. 6, per JON!) and the two calling (well described) LONG-EARED OWLS in *Guysborough* deserve mention. Locations of the two BOREAL OWLS on surveys are vague, with good reason. RFL will enlighten us on his discoveries this spring.

There was a paltry show of COMMON NIGHTHAWKS, but CHIMNEY SWIFTS were timely and maxima at some roosts were similar to those of other years. It would be good to have details of the early RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS reported to www.hummingbirds.net.map.html. Some early ones disappeared during bad weather, which doubtless also delayed most until mid-May. Three migrants were off Brier I. May 28 (ELM). Were BELTED KINGFISHERS late or under-reported? They were as usual on the NAMC.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS continued to linger, and some wandering seemed evident. Although we have as yet no confirmed nestings, at least two pairs showed intentions of doing so. A couple of RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS seemed to arrive as spring migrants. (Note corrections to the last issue: the tabulated individual at Clementsport Oct. 23 was mistakenly included from the previous season, and the November individual in Canso actually became two through winter, *mea culpa*). The other woodpeckers were about as usual, although more DOWNYS and HAIRYS than ever were tallied on the NAMC. One PILEATED WOODPECKER Apr. 23 was a first on CSI for MUN. □

Mourning Dove			Apr. 4	Mooseland-south, <i>HRM</i>	2	Owl Survey, PLC, SMB	
Mar.-May	Widely, at feeders	Up to 16	var. obs.	Apr. 7-10	Starrs Pt., <i>Kings</i>	on nest JWW	
Mar 28-31	May Widely, breeding areas	Pairs	var. obs.	Apr. 17	Chapel Gully area, <i>Guys.</i>	1 Owl Survey, TOK	
Black-billed Cuckoo			Apr. 25-May 30	Brier I.	pair	var. obs.	
May 16	Chebucto Point Rd., <i>Yar.</i>	1	PHT	Apr. 26-May 4	Starrs Pt., <i>Kings</i>	1 branchling JWW <i>et al.</i>	
May 21	Myra Gut, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BES, GEC	May 7	Starrs Pt., <i>Kings</i>	fledged ULH	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			May 21-27BPI		pair ?	NSBS	
May 1	R. Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	1 moribund	GED	Snowy Owl			
Great Horned Owl			Mar. 6	CSI	4	JON, MUN - (1 tried for Brant- JON)	
Mar 11	CSI	1 (from winter)	MUN	Mar. 24	CSI	2	MUN
Apr. 3	Keltic Lodge, <i>CBRM</i>	1 calling	D. Farner	Mar. 27-31	CSI	1	MUN

Apr. 6	Cape Blomidon, <i>Kings</i>	1	Jan Buley, <i>fide</i> JWW	May 12	Mt. Hanley (loc.?)	fem.*	M. & K. Wheaton
Apr. 24	CSI	3	MUN	Mar 1-May 31	Birch Cove, Dartmouth	1 fem.	Wintered BBU, var. obs.
May 2	CSI	2	MUN <i>et al.</i>	Mar. 19	Lunenburg	1	wintered JAH
To May 31?	CSI	1	MUN <i>et al.</i>	Mar. 26	Doctors Brook, <i>Ant.</i>	1 male, last rep.	JOK
May 14	Bay St. Lawrence, <i>Vic.</i>	1	Margrit Gahlinger, NAMC	mid-Apr.-May 31	Fleming Park, Halifax	pair nesting?	FCG
Barred Owl							
7 Mar.-30 May	12 reports., <i>Yarmouth-Victoria</i>	23 inds. + 4 pairs	var. obs.	Apr. 10	W End Halifax	male wintered	ABM
April	Wolfville area	11 nests, eggs	BLF	Mar. 28-Apr. 22	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1 wintered	Joyce Allen
Apr. 4	Mooseland-south, <i>HRM</i>	6	Owl Survey, PLC, SMB	Apr. 4	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	a pair, briefly	Joyce Allen
Apr. 5	Lorne area, <i>Pict.</i>	1	Owl Survey, STV	Apr. 1	E. Gore, <i>E. Hants</i>	1 wintered	John Smith
Apr. 16	<i>Pictou-Guysborough</i>	3+	Owl Survey, KJM, R. Reid	Late Apr.	Wolfville/Greenwich	fem. gone	<i>fide</i> JWW
Apr. 12	Mooseland-south, <i>HRM</i>	4	Owl Survey, PLC, SMB, RMA	Late Apr.	Windsor	wintered fem.	Gone Angela Slaunwhite
Apr. 10	<i>Lunenburg</i>	1 only	Owl Survey, JAH	May 14	Windsor	male still present	Angela Slaunwhite
Apr. 17	Chapel Gully area, <i>Guys.</i>	1	Owl Survey, TOK	May 22	Wolfville/Greenwich	male still present	<i>fide</i> JWW
Apr. 18	<i>Lunenburg</i>	7	Owl Survey, JAH	Mar. 1-	Plymouth, <i>Pic.</i>	1 still present	KJM
Late Apr.-May	Wolfville	uses old crow nest	var. obs.	Apr. 23	Stellerton, <i>Pic.</i>	1 different	KJM
May 29	Wolfville Ridge Rd.	3 young fledged	BLF	Apr. 24	Starrs Pt., <i>Kings.</i>	Last seen?	DOU
Long-eared Owl							
Apr. 17	Chapel Gully area, <i>Guys.</i>	2	Owl Survey, TOK	May 12	Mount Hanley, <i>Ann.</i>	fem.*	M. & K. Wheaton
Short-eared Owl							
Early March.	<i>Kings</i> locations	11	BLF	Late May	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	male last heard	MAG
Mar 22	Kentville area	2	RBS	May 14	near Canning, <i>Kings</i>	fem. last seen	D. Cameron
Northern Saw-whet Owl							
Mar. 9-10	<i>N Pictou</i>	1 calling	RFL	(* = not previously reported in area)			
Apr. 2	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	nest 2 eggs	Eric Higgins	Red-headed Woodpecker			
Apr. 4	Mooseland-south, <i>HRM</i>	3	Owl Survey, PLC, SMB - 1 st in 4 years	Mar. 1-May 25	Canso	1 of 2 wintered	TOK
Apr. 5	Lorne area, <i>Pict.</i>	1	Owl Survey, STV	Apr. 22	Shel. Co.	1 migrant?	<i>fide</i> MUN
Apr. 16	<i>Pictou-Guysborough</i>	3	Owl Survey, KJM, R. Reid	Apr. 24	Starrs Pt., <i>Kings.</i>	1 still present	DOU
Apr. 12	Mooseland-south, <i>HRM</i>	11	Owl Survey, PLC, SMB, RMA	May 12-17	Brier I.	1 male, migrant	<i>fide</i> ELM
Apr. 17	Chapel Gully area, <i>Guys.</i>	17 (!)	Owl Survey, TOK	Downy Woodpecker			
Apr. 18	<i>Lunenburg</i>	1	Owl Survey, JAH	Mar.-May	Widely	4 reports	var. obs.
Apr. 20	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	In RFL nest box	FMC	Hairy Woodpecker			
Apr. 22	Canso area	6	TOK	Mar.-May	Widely	11 reports	var. obs.
Boreal Owl							
Early April	N of Amherst	1	Owl Survey <i>fide</i> Becky Whittam	Black-backed Woodpecker			
Apr. 16	<i>Pictou-Guysborough</i>	1	Owl Survey, KJM, R. Reid	Mar 1	Graves I. PP, <i>Lun.</i>	1 last heard	SMB
Common Nighthawk							
May 16	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT	Mar. 19	Sunnybrae Wildlife Mgmt. Area, <i>Pict.</i>	1	GMU
May 21	BPI	1	NSBS	Mar. 21-May 19	Pt. Pleasant Pk., Halifax	1	AGH <i>et al.</i>
Chimney Swift							
May 2	The Hawk, CSI	1	MUN, ELM, IAM	Mar. 23	near Smileys PP, <i>Hants</i>	5	CLS, Cindy Creighton
May 10	New Glasgow	3*	KJM	Mar. 23	Mt. Uniacke PP, <i>Hants</i>	1	CLS, Cindy Creighton
May 11	Middleton, <i>Ann.</i>	28*	JOB	Early May	Georgefield	pair	ROW
May 11	New Glasgow	56*	KJM	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
May 15	Annapolis Royal	3	NSBS	Apr. 13	Black R., <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF
May 15	Truro	arrived	LHA	Apr. 14	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	DOC
May 17	Middleton	191*	CLD	Apr. 16	Willard's Fraser Rd., <i>Pic.</i>	1	KJM
May 17	Wolfville	80*	Ted Wolkowski	Apr. 16	Newtonville, <i>Kings</i>	1 window kill	Ruth Newell
May 18	New Glasgow	121*	KJM	Apr. 17	Mt. Uniacke	pair courting	JEH
May 18	McGowan Lake, <i>Queens</i>	465-565*	PEH	Apr. 19	CSI	1	MUN
May 21	Truro	71*	LHA	May 1-24	Widely, 6 localities	3 pairs, 4 inds.	var. obs.
May 21	Wolfville	179*	JWW	May 24	Debert	young in nest	DOM
May 23	E Port Medway, <i>Queens</i>	3	JAH <i>et al.</i>	Northern Flicker			
May 23	Wolfville	7*	JWW	Mar. 15	W. End Halifax	1 st calling	PLC
May 24	Jollimore, Halifax		4+ PLC	Apr. 9	Apple R, Cum.	1 st arrival?	KFS
May 24	Kings College, Halifax	1-2*	PLC	Mid-Apr.	Brier I.	peaked	<i>fide</i> ELM
May 27-29	Bear R., <i>Ann.*</i>	12+ to 60+	MCR	Apr. 12-May 31	22 localities	many reports.	var. obs.
(* = usual chimney roost counts)							
Ruby-throated Hummingbird							
Apr. 23-25	three mainland sites	N/A	N/A	Pileated Woodpecker			
Late April?	Kingston	1	<i>fide</i> PBG	1 Mar-31 May	<i>Yarmouth-CBRM</i> , 20 localities	25+	var. obs.
May 1	Woods Hbr.	male	DOC	□□□			
May 13-18	widely	17 males	or unidentified var. obs.				
May 19-31	widely	6 fems.	var. obs.	DOWNY WOODPECKERS, like this one at Port Hawkesbury			
Belted Kingfisher							
Apr. 3	South Hd., <i>CBRM</i>	1	wintered?	BES, GEC	Mar. 26, are adept at getting at feeder suet from all possible angles. [Photo Jeanne Shermerhorn]		
Apr. 11	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS				
Apr. 26	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	arrival?	RHL			
Apr. 27	Fleming Park, Halifax	1	arrival?	PLC			
May	widely, 9 localities	12	inds.	var. obs.			
Red-bellied Woodpecker							
Nov.-May 1	E Gore, <i>Hants</i>	1	male*	M.L. Smith			
Dec. 3-mid Mar.	Mt. Denson, <i>Hants</i>	1	fem.*	Barry Sabean			
Mar. 1-late May	Oxford, <i>Cum.</i>	Nesting?*	Glenda Macdonald				

Flycatchers through Thrushes

By Hans Toom

Brier I. was the place to be this spring to note first arrivals: EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE May 29, YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER May 29, ALDER FLYCATCHER May 12, and our only reported PHILADELPHIA VIREO of the spring period, May 31. The Philadelphia Vireo breeds in Nova Scotia but its numbers are probably underreported since its song is very similar to the common RED-EYED VIREO. Brier I. is the first point of land many birds see when migrating over water in a north-easterly direction. The exhausted birds often drop onto the island for birders to enjoy.

The only reported GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER was found May 21 at Keji NP, probably an underestimate of the actual numbers present. Learning to differentiate the similar call note of the Northern Flicker would likely result in more reports.

Mike Kennie's description of his sighting of a **SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** at Louis Head Beach on May 14 can best be described in his own words, "This lovely bird preceded me up the beach pausing on a stake just long enough for my wife to bring the binoculars. The beautiful pink-orange breast and long tail--it appeared to be dragging something. later realized that it was it's own tail! A remarkable bird to see." The reported sightings of this wanderer have been increasing over recent years perhaps due to the increase in observers that can recognize this elegant bird. This was the province's 13th report.

A NORTHERN SHRIKE found May 14, *Hants*, during the NAMC was unusually late since most depart north by April.

Singles of NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW were found at Freeport Hbr., *Digby*, May 27 and Port Joli, *Queens*, May 30. This swallow nests sparsely in New Brunswick so annual reports can be expected as it wanders in migration.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD reports continue to diminish probably due to nest box competition from European Starlings and Tree Swallows. Only two were reported this spring; Apr. 26 at New Salem, *Cum.*, and May 29-30 at Hilltop Cemetery, Brier I.

A **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** was reported at Long I., *Digby* in mid April. [Ed. Note: The bird lingered for 20 minutes in a front yard, sufficiently long enough for the home owner (who has feeders) to make an identification. This is Nova Scotia's 7th record.] This lovely bird was possibly saved from extinction by the nest box programs throughout western North America. Another western mountain wanderer, a **TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE**, briefly perched in a birch tree outside Mary Ann Gillighan and Kevin Bauer's kitchen window at Clarence, *Anna.*, May 2-3, much to their delight. Unfortunately the bird did not stay long enough for others to see this rarity.

At Jim Daigle's remarkable bird-friendly farm in *Kings*, a WOOD THRUSH visited April 17-24 delighting many observers. If only it had stayed long enough to sing its remarkable flute-like song. □

Olive-sided Flycatcher				Eastern Kingbird			
May 30 E Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	1	SJF, JSC		May 13 Annapolis Royal Marsh	1	BLM	
May 30 Apple R. <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS		May 14 Brier I.	1	CAH <i>fide</i> ELM	
Eastern Wood-Pewee				May 24 Apple R. <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	
May 29-31 Brier I.	1-3	ELM		May 29 W Berlin, <i>Queens</i>	1	JAH, DAW	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				May 30 Brier I.	1	ELM	
May 29-31 Brier I.	1-2	ELM, AHM		SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER			
Alder Flycatcher				May 14 Louis Head Beach, <i>Shel</i>	1	Mike Kennie	
May 12 Brier I.	1	ELM		Northern Shrike			
May 25 Brier I.	1	ELM		Mar. 18 Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	E. Jennings	
May 28 Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH		Mar. 23-Apr. 12 Apple R. <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	
May 29 Brier I.	10	ELM		May 14 NAMC, <i>Hants.</i>	1	NAMC	
May 30 Brier I.	5	ELM		Blue-headed Vireo			
May 31 Brier I.	1	ELM		May 2 Lake Road, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JSC	
Least Flycatcher				May 6 Kentville Bird Sanctuary, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT	
May 14 Various Locations	14	NAMC		May 10-31 Various Locations	16	var. obs.	
Eastern Phoebe				Philadelphia Vireo			
Apr. 15 White Rock Bridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF		May 31 Brier I.	1	ELM	
Apr. 21 Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BES, GEC		Red-eyed Vireo			
Apr. 21 Bisset L., <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL		Apr. 3 Sandbeach, <i>Yar.</i>	1	JOS	
Apr. 22 Wentworth PP, <i>Cum.</i>	1	BLM		May 28-31 Major arrival province wide	numerous	var. obs.	
Apr. 24 Frog Pond, Fleming Park, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC, JEH		Horned Lark			
May 2 Sunrise Valley, Cape North, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC		Mar. 22 North of Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	30+	RBS	
May 4 Lumsden Dam, <i>Kings</i>	1	JET, JCT		Mar. 24 Rainbow Haven PP, <i>HRM</i>	5	RHL	
May 14 Bells L., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JSC		Tree Swallow			
Great Crested Flycatcher				Mar. 10-May 31 Various Locations	lots	var. obs.	
May 21 Keji NP,	1	SMB <i>et al.</i>					

Northern Rough-winged Swallow				MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD			
May 27	Freeport Hbr., <i>Digby</i>	1	ELM	Mid April	Long I., <i>Digby</i>	1 male	<i>fide</i> BLM
May 30	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	1	AND	TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE			
Bank Swallow				Mar. 2-3	Clarence, <i>Anna.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> PBG
May 12	Port Williams Sewage Ponds	2	JCT	Veery			
May 18	Donkin, <i>CBRM</i>	12	BES, GEC	May 1	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS
May 27	Freeport Hbr., <i>Digby</i>	1	JCT	May 6	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
May 30-31	Brier I.	3	ELM	May 13	Brier I.	1	ELM
Cliff Swallow				May 15	Brier I.	1	ELM
Apr. 10	End of Cheboque Rd., <i>Yar.</i>	1	PHT	May 27	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	1	MCR
May 14	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS	May 29	Brier I.	1	ELM
May 11-31	Many locations	numerous	var. obs.	May 31	Goodwood, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Barn Swallow				Gray-cheeked Thrush			
Apr. 9	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	AND and Lelia Dean	Apr. 27	Scotts Bay, <i>Kings</i>	2	Tina Leonard
Apr. 29	Crystal Crescent Beach PP, <i>HRM</i>	2	HAT, LAE	May 14	<i>Richmond</i>	1	NAMC
May 6-31	Many locations	many	var. obs.	May 22	CSI	1	JAH, DAW, CSS
Black-capped Chickadee				Swainson's Thrush			
May 14	NAMC	3685	record count	Apr. 27	Scotts Bay, <i>Kings</i>	1	Tina Leonard
Red-breasted Nuthatch				May 12-13	Brier I.	1	ELM
May 14	NAMC	559	record count	May 22-27	BPI.	1	CLD, KJM, GMU <i>et al.</i>
White-breasted Nuthatch				May 29	Brier I.	2	ELM
May 14	NAMC	99	record count	May 30-31	Brier I.	1	ELM
Winter Wren				Wood Thrush			
Apr. 23	White's Lake, <i>HRM</i>	1 singing	BLM	Apr. 17-24	Starrs Point, <i>Kings</i>	1	Jim Daigle, JWW
Eastern Bluebird							
Apr. 16	New Salem, <i>Cum.</i>	1 male	<i>fide</i> KFS			□□□	
May 29-30	Hilltop Cemetery, Brier I.	1 male	ELM				

Starlings Through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

A couple of observers noted EUROPEAN STARLINGS trapped down chimneys (MUN, Mar. 22; KJM, May 20). Mimic thrushes were not common on the NAMC with GRAY CATBIRDS present only in southern counties and NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS continuing to be an uncommon sighting on a spring count. There were a number of BROWN THRASHER sightings before and after the NAMC, but for the first year in six, none were noted on the count day.

BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS were not observed after mid-March and although some CEDAR WAXWINGS over-wintered, it would appear that new spring migrants arrived in the dying days of May.

Twenty-five species of warbler were noted by observers in this reporting period and 4103 warblers of twenty-one species on the NAMC. The only breeding warblers not noted on the NAMC were Canada and Mourning.

Early migrants such as YELLOW-RUMPED and PALM WARBLER were pretty much on schedule in mid-April and the early May arrivals trickled in with no major wave. Many observers noted warblers did not become common until after a wave that arrived on May 20 with the banding station at BPI reporting a notable fallout.

May 22, AAM described a female YELLOW WARBLER with narrow black streaking flaring from the eye covering the usually indistinct eye patch. A verbal report from one of the bird-banders on BPI noted 35 MAGNOLIA WARBLERS banded that day and another 15 let go without banding. Certainly when the NSBS field trip participants arrived that evening there were lots of warblers present on a walk from the dock to the lighthouse. Many of these warblers must have headed to the mainland overnight as the numbers were much less as heavy rain and gale force NE winds halted migration for the next week.

As the weather cleared May 28, MUN reported three Magnolia Warblers, a single BLACKPOLL WARBLER and three OVENBIRDS at the metal forest on CSI. May 29-30 brought another big movement of warblers which was noted by ELM on Brier I., JCT on Wolfville Ridge, and HAT at Lewis L. PP, *HRM*.

The PINE WARBLER at the feeder of BES and GEC in Glace Bay, which survived to at least April 2, might be considered to have survived through the winter with spring arrivals showing up just a few weeks later. No details were provided for the YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER reported on Brier I. In late May but reports suggest that the same bird may have lingered for a week. The HOODED WARBLER observed by Laura Titus and Sean McDormand Apr. 1 was five days earlier than the Apr. 6, 1984 report from Sable I. (Birds of Nova Scotia, Tufts 1986). A female Hooded Warbler on BPI May 22 was a life observation for many on the NSBS field trip who got down on hands and knees under the alders on the northern end to get a great view of the white outer tail feathers to clinch the identification. MOURNING WARBLERS did not appear to arrive before the end of the reporting period. □

European StarlingApr. 7 Bear R., *Anna*.**Gray Catbird**Apr. 30 CSI 1 *fide* MUN
May 4 CSI 1 MUN
May 21 BPI 5 CLD *et al.*
May 29 & 30 Brier I. 2 0+ "big arrival" ELM**Northern Mockingbird**Mar. 8-Apr. 22 Lunenburg 1 JAH
Mar. 9-27 Sable I. 1 ZOL
Mar. 23 near Kentville 1 RBS
Mar. 23-Apr. 22 Halifax 1 regular in yard DAM
Mar. 25 Yarmouth 1 MUN
Apr. 27 Lower Eel Brook, *Yar.* 1 PRG
May 31 Prospect, *HRM* 1 BLM**Brown Thrasher**Apr. 30 Brier I. (graveyard) 1 CAH
May 2 Indian Fields, *Shel* 1 JCZ
May 2 CSI 1 *fide* MUN
May 3 Whites L., *HRM* 1 seen singing BLM
May 6 CSI 1 MUN
May 15 CSI 2 MUN
May 26 near Canso 1 picked up STB *fide* TOK
May 28 CSI 1 singing MUN**American Pipit**Mar. 26 Grand Pré, *Kings* 2 BLF
Apr. 30 CSI #? *fide* MUN
May 13-15 & 28 Brier I. 2 ELM, AHM**Bohemian Waxwing**Mar. 1-6 Apple R., *Cum.* 1-10+ KFS
Mar. 18 Wolfville 4-5 JET**Cedar Waxwing**Mar. 18 Wolfville 70 JET
Mar. 26 Wolfville Ridge 10 BLF
Mar. 28 Kingston flock cedars? JOB
Apr. 1 Wolfville Ridge 20+ BLF
Apr. 17 Wolfville 25-30 BBA
Apr. 24 Starrs Pt., *Kings* 6 DOU
May 30 E Berlin, *Lun.* 6 "scarce" JSC
May 31 Brier I. 20 "arrivals" ELM**Tennessee Warbler**May 26 Canso 1 male TOK
May 29 Brier I. 1 ELM
May 30 Halifax 1 fem., 3 males MAA**Orange-crowned Warbler**May 14 Harrietsfield, *HRM* 1 taiga singing FLL, RIH
May 25 Cow Bay, *HRM* 1 HEK**Nashville Warbler**May 5 Jollimore, *HRM* 1 PLC
May 10 Kentville 1 AAM
May 14 BLT Trail, *HRM* 8 SMB, JOW
May widely 17 more reports var. obs.**Northern Parula**May 5 Kentville 1 RBS
May 10 Fauxburg trail, *Lun.* 1 JAH
May 10-12 Brier I. 2 CAH
May 14 Waverley-Oakfield Park, *HRM* 10 TEP
May 22 BPI 6 CLD *et al.*
May 29 Brier I. 25+ ELM
May widely 35 reports var. obs.**Yellow Warbler**May 1 Welchtown, *Shel.* 1 JCZ
May 3 Kingston, *Kings* 2 JOB
May 12 Colby Village, *HRM* 1 RHL
May 14 Morris L., *HRM* 2 FLL, RIH
May 21 BPI 15 CLD *et al.*
May 29 Brier I. 25+ ELM
May widely 21 reports var. obs.**Chestnut-sided Warbler**May 3 Kingston, *Kings* 1? JOB
May 10-12 Brier I. 1 CAH
May 29 Brier I. 5+ ELM
May widely 11 reports var. obs.**Magnolia Warbler**May 6 Palmetter Woods, *Kings* 2-3 AAM
May 21 BPI 8 CLD *et al.*
May 25 Goodwood, *HRM* 30 FLL
May 29 Brier I. 10 ELM
May widely 17 reports var. obs.**Cape May Warbler**May 14 Bisset L. Park, *HRM* 1male FLL, RIH**Black-throated Blue Warbler**May 7 Stonehurst, *Lun.* 1 male Earl Meister *fide* JAH
May 19 APBS 2 Julie Paquet
May 19 Jollimore, *HRM* 1 Ann Morrison
May 21-27 BPI 1-2 CLD *et al.*
May 25 Goodwood, *HRM* 1 FLL
May widely 6 reports var. obs.**Yellow-rumped Warbler**~Apr. 17 Conquerall Bank, *Lun.* 2 JSC *fide* JAH
Apr. 17 East Chester, *Lun.* 1 EIB, BIB
Apr. 20 Jollimore, *HRM* 1 male PLC
Apr. 23 APBS 25 TEP
Apr. 23 Apple R., *Cum.* 1 KFS
Apr. 23 Mt. Thom, *Pict.* 2 FLL
May 6 Palmetter Woods, *Kings* 10 AAM
May 25 Jollimore, *HRM* 75+ FLL *et al.*
May 31 Sand L., CBRM 60+ BES, GEC
Apr-May 31 widely 45 reports var. obs.**Black-throated Green Warbler**May 10 Long L. Park, *HRM* 2 FLL
May 14 Waverley-Oakfield Park, *HRM* 15 TEP
May 25 Goodwood, *HRM* 15 FLL *et al.*
May widely 22 reports var. obs.**Blackburnian Warbler**May 3 Kingston, *Kings* 1 JOB
May 6 Palmetter Woods, *Kings* 1 AAM
May 12 Middle Musquodoboit, *HRM* 1 male VJH
May 14 Waverley-Oakfield Park, *HRM* 3 TEP
May 25 Goodwood, *HRM* 5 FLL
May widely 11 reports var. obs.**YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**May 21 or 22 Brier I. 1 DAM
May 29 Brier I. 1 Laura Titus**Pine Warbler**Mar. 17-Apr. 2 Glace Bay 1 feeder BES, GEC
Apr. 22 Wolfville Ridge 1 singing, bright BLF *fide* JWW
Apr. 27 Brier I. 1 at feeder DAP
May 7 Oakfield Park, *HRM* 1 TEP**Palm Warbler**Apr. 12 Bear R., *Anna*. 1 MCR
Apr. 17 Brier I. 1-2 CAH *et al.*
Apr. 17 East Chester, *Lun.* 1 BIB, EIB
Apr. 17 Harten Pt., *HRM* 1 AGH
Apr. 18 Bentley Meadows, *Kings* 1 singing BLF
Apr. 19 CSI 1 MUN
Apr. 23 APBS 2 TEP
Apr. 26 Sunrise Valley, *Vic.* 2 FMC
May 7 Glace Bay 4 BES, GEC
April-May 31 widely 11 reports var. obs.**Bay-breasted Warbler**May 5 Middleton, *Anna*. 1 Stella Hudson *fide* PBG
May 14 Brier I. 1male CAH, ELM
May 21-27 BPI 2 CLD *et al.*
May 25 Goodwood, *HRM* 7 FLL *et al.*
May 28 L' Ardoise, *Hants* 1 RHL *et al.*
May 29 & 31 Brier I. 1 fem ELM
May 30 Apple R., *Cum.* 1 KFS**Blackpoll Warbler**May 14 Musquodoboit Hbr., *HRM* 1 male Lucas Berrigan
May 14 Russell L., *HRM* 2 FLL, RIH
May 17 Jollimore, *HRM* 10 FLL
May 18 E Green Hbr., *Shel.* 1 Vic Williams *fide* DJC
May 21 BPI 11 CLD *et al.*
May 25 Jollimore, *HRM* 21 FLL *et al.*
May widely 25 reports var. obs.

Black-and-White Warbler

May 1	Welshtown, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JCZ
May 10	Kentville	3	AAM
May 10	Fauxburg trail, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
May 11	Dartmouth	1	RHL
May 14	Brier I.	14	ELM, AHM, BLM
May 14	Harrietsfield, <i>HRM</i>	10	FLL, RIH
May 14	Waverley-Oakfield Park, <i>HRM</i>	10	TEP
May 14	Apple R. <i>Cum.</i>	3	KFS
May 17	Donkin, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BES, GEC
May	widely	27 reports	var. obs.

American Redstart

May 10-12	Brier I.	2	CAH
May 14	Brier I.	2	DAP <i>fide</i> ELM
May 21	BPI	6	CLD <i>et al.</i>
May 28	Maccan, <i>Cum.</i>	5	KFS
May 29	Brier I.	10	ELM
May	widely	17 reports	var. obs.
Ovenbird			
May 6	Kentville	1	JCT
May 13	Lake Rd., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JSC
May 14	NAMC route, <i>Kings</i>	14	JCT, Sheila McCurdy
May	widely	21 reports	var. obs.

Northern Waterthrush

Apr. 24	Starrs Pt., <i>Kings</i>	1	Jim Daigle <i>fide</i> DOU
May 4	Palmeter Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM
May	widely	12 reports	var. obs.

Common Yellowthroat

Apr. 20	Brier I.	1	JUS
May 3	Kingston	1	JOB
May 17	Jeddore	1 male, 1 fem.	Lucas Berrigan
May 21	BPI	10	CLD <i>et al.</i>
May 29	Brier I.	20+	ELM
May	widely	17 reports	var. obs.

HOODED WARBLER

Apr. 1	Brier I.	1	Laura Titus, Sean McDormand
May 22	BPI	1 fem., photo	CLD <i>et al.</i>
May 28	landed on boat off Brier I.	1	Laura Titus

Wilson's Warbler

May 14	Russell L., <i>HRM</i>	1 eastern male	FLL, RIH
May 20	CSI	1	CST <i>et al.</i>
May 21	BPI	1 male	CLD <i>et al.</i>
May 28	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 male	DJC
May 28	West & East Berlin, <i>Lun.</i>	2 males	JAH, DAW
May 28-31	Brier I.	1-2 males	ELM
May 29	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 male	KFS
May 29	CSI	1	MUN
May 29	Pt. Pleasant Park	1 singing	AGH

Canada Warbler

May 20	CSI	1	CST <i>et al.</i>
May 21	Uniacke Park	1	PLC, JEH
May 25	Goodwood, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, JCH
May 28	Brier I.	1 male	ELM
May 29	CSI	1	MUN
May 30	Port Greville	1	JCZ

□□□

Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By David McCorquodale

There were at least five SUMMER TANAGERS this spring, the first two arriving in late March and early April and the last lingering towards the end of May. One male SCARLET TANAGER in Port Joli was very early, the first week of April. Then in late April and through May there were several in traditional places such as *Kings* and then outliers to that tanager hotbed in Canso, one across the bay on Isle Madame and another further north and east in Port Morien, *CBRM*. At least two EASTERN TOWHEES overwintered and lingered into April and a couple of others arrived in April.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROWS moved through in March and April with a late individual May 20 on CSI (DOC). Some CHIPPING SPARROWS overwintered in Clementsvale and lingered into March. Individuals that arrived in late March and early April may have wintered locally. By the third week of April they were on territory in many locations.

An overwintering VESPER SPARROW lingered at a feeder in Trenton in early March and another was at Oyster Ponds, *HRM* in April and another was at a feeder in Apple R., *Cum.* in early May.

A few lingering SAVANNAH SPARROWS were reported in early March. The vanguard of the northward movement arrived the second week of April. By April 20 they were widespread. As expected Ipswich Sparrows arrived at beaches in *Lunenburg* and *Yarmouth* the last few days of March. Numbers built up on Halifax area beaches in the last half of April. Most are found on the coast, therefore a good description of one from a feeder in Apple R., *Cum.* (KFS) Apr. 16 & 23 is worthy of note.

A few FOX SPARROWS overwintered like the one on CSI. Spring migrants started arriving Mar. 23 on a wide front from *Lunenburg* to Scots Bay, *Kings* to *Antigonish*. By the end of the month reports were widespread. However a few observers noted many fewer or even none at feeders they usually frequent. Spring snowfalls bring more to feeders, so it may be that better weather means we see fewer. Or it may be that fewer are passing through. Late in May a few were singing in coastal areas such as BPI and CSI where they nest.

Overwintering SONG SPARROWS were widespread in early March. Returning migrants moved through in numbers in early April. An early LINCOLN'S SPARROW or a lingering individual that overwintered was on CSI Mar. 3. The NAMC May 14 coincided with many returning migrants. The first SWAMP SPARROWS returned as expected in the middle of April and by the end of the month many were on territory across the province. The number of overwintering WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS made it difficult to detect returning migrants. By the end of April their song was heard throughout the province. One of the overwintering WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS was a *gambelli*, from the west (FLL, RIH). The first spring arrival was in Apple R. May 13 (KFS) and then through the next two weeks they were widespread, from Brier I. to Glace Bay.

Reports of SNOW BUNTINGS were sparse, with most from Sable I. (ZOL) and the latest a very early April two at West Baccaro (MUN). The lack of reports of LAPLAND LONGSPURS is surprising.

NORTHERN CARDINALS continue to thrive in urban areas and small towns from Halifax and Wolfville south. Outside this range a male visited a feeder in Advocate, *Cum.* April 21 (Edie Fillmore *vide* KFS). A very early ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK was in Barrington March 27 (RMC). Almost a month later there was a minor influx, with reports as far north as Canso, *Guysborough* and Sunrise Valley, *Vic.* (TOK, FMC). The last week of April also brought an influx of BLUE GROSBEAKS. They were concentrated in the south, with a few north to *HRM*, *W Hants* and the Canso area. There were two very early INDIGO BUNTINGS at the end of March, in Port La Tour and on Brier I. Arrivals in the last half of April are more typical and as usual there were more than a few dozen from Gabarus, *CBRM* to Canso to CSI. A few lingered to the last days of May.

DICKCISSELS lingered at feeders in Canso at least until late April. Surprising was a male away from the Atlantic coast at Apple R., *Cum.* in mid-May (KFS). The first BOBOLINKS arrived May 10 and then there were many more a few days later on NAMC. Some observers noticed that as the shrubs invade old fields the habitat for Bobolinks disappears. As the amount of forest increases, habitat for Bobolinks declines.

Male RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS started staking out territory late in March. The first females were noticed starting Apr. 6 in Harrietsfield, *HRM* and a few days later in Georgefield, *Hants*. There were more sightings of RUSTY BLACKBIRDS from a wider range of locations than the past few springs. The down side is that one was the maximum number reported at any one place. A few COMMON GRACKLES arrived in mid-March and then the major influx started Mar. 25 with sightings all across the mainland in the next few days. There were more reports of BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS than the past few springs. As well there were a couple of notable concentrations about 10 in Clementsvale and at least 40 in Canso.

It was a good spring for orioles. Early in May a young male ORCHARD ORIOLE showed up in Canso and a little later there was another on CSI. Rarely do we see more than one Orchard Oriole in a location. This spring there were at least two on CSI in mid-May, three in Allendale late in May and a phenomenal five on Brier I. the last few days of May. BALTIMORE ORIOLES arrived very early in May on CSI and Lockeport. Later in the month they were widespread on the mainland with a peak of 9 on Brier I. Many of these lingered for several days at feeders.

Several of the winter finches were obvious this spring. PURPLE FINCHES were especially obvious once they started singing in earnest in April and they brightened up feeders across the province through the spring. There were more reports of RED CROSSBILLS than any spring in recent memory. They were widespread from Port Hawkesbury, through *HRM*, several reports in Lunenburg area west to Apple R. and south to *Shelburne* and *Annapolis*. Intriguingly after the huge spruce cone crop of last summer there were relatively few WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS. Even in low years for White-wings there are usually more reports than for Reds, but the reverse was true this spring. After last year's invasion few COMMON REDPOLLS were expected. In contrast to many species, reports were concentrated on the northern mainland and Cape Breton. PINE SISKINS were widespread and common. On CBI in April it was difficult to be outside and not hear them and reports from elsewhere suggest the same. EVENING GROSBEAKS are not frequenting feeders in some areas in the numbers they did 10 to 20 years ago. However there are still places such as the Baddeck area and near Port Hawkesbury where feeders hosted a few dozen through the spring. □

Summer Tanager

late March	Sable R., <i>Shel.</i>	1 male	Francis Fisher <i>vide</i> DJC	May 21	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1 male	TOK
Apr. 13	W LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	1	<i>vide</i> HAT	May 29	Brier I.	1 fem.	ELM
Apr. 16	E Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1	MUN	May 30	Brier I.	1 male	JUS
Apr. 27	Brier I.	1 male	DAP	Eastern Towhee			
Apr. 29	Mackerel Cove Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1 fem.	HAT	March-April	Bayfield, <i>Ant.</i>	2	N/A
May 29	Brier I.	1	JUS	Mar. 19	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1, overwintered	Marg Russell, JET
Scarlet Tanager				Apr. 22-24	CSI	1 male	JON, MUN
Apr. 4	Port Joli, <i>Queens</i>	1	Shirley Rolland	Apr. 27	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	1 male	Helen Teed, JCT
Apr. 25	Greenwood, <i>Kings</i>	pair	Glenn Cummings	Apr. 29	Upper Clements, <i>Anna.</i>	1 male	JET
Apr. 25	Upper Kingsburg, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Irene Falvey, JAH	American Tree Sparrow			
Apr. 25-27	Lockeport and Little Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	2+ male	DJC	Mar. 2-16	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	up to 3	DMW
Apr. 26	Atwoods Brook, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DOC	Mar. 13	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	2	VJH
Apr. 26	Scots Bay, <i>Kings</i>	1 male	Tina Leonard	Mar. 16	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	3	DMW
Apr. 26	Arichat, <i>Rich.</i>	1	Brights, GED	Mar. 17	Glace Bay	2	BES, GEC
Apr. 29	Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1 male	JCZ	Apr. 1	Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	2	JAH, DAW
Apr. 29	Fox Pt., <i>Lun.</i>	1 male		Apr. 11	Elgin, <i>Pict.</i>	some	KJM
early May	Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	1 male	<i>vide</i> CAM	Apr. 16	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 3	Shelburne	1 male	CST, MUN	Apr. 17	Brier I.	1	ELM
May 4	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	HEK	Apr. 18	Gammon L. Trail, <i>HRM</i>	some	RHL
May 17	Kentville	1 male	Diana Bishop, JCT	Apr. 30	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	1	MCR
May 20-22	CSI	1 male, 2 fem.	CST	May 20	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	DOC	

Chipping Sparrow

Mar. 12-13	Clementsvale, <i>Anna</i> .	10	JET
Mar. 27-28	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Apr. 1	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	1	JAH, DAW

Vesper Sparrow

early Mar	Trenton, <i>Pict.</i>	1	GMU
Apr. 11	Oyster Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	Lucas Berrigan
May 2	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS

Savannah Sparrow

Mar. 25	Wolfville	2	JET
Mar. 27	Brier I.	some	RBS
Apr. 10	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	1	SEM
Apr. 17	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	5 singing	BLF
Apr. 26	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1	TOK
Apr. 27	Martinique Beach, <i>HRM</i>	lots	HAT
May 2	Sunrise Valley, Vic.	a few	FMC

Savannah 'Ipswich' Sparrow

Mar. 26-27	Cherry Hill Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	2	SJF
Mar. 31	Pembroke, <i>Yar.</i>	1	PRG
Apr. 9	Martinique Beach, <i>HRM</i>	some	PLC
Apr. 15	Crystal Crescent Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Apr. 10-27	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	up to 20	AGH <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 27	Martinique Beach, <i>HRM</i>	lots	HAT

Fox Sparrow

Mar-May	CSI	1	MUN
Mar. 23	Scots Bay, <i>Kings</i>	1	Ian McKay
Mar. 23	Antigonish	1	RFL
Mar. 23	Lunenburg	2	SJF
Mar. 24	Crystal Crescent Beach, <i>HRM</i>	some	HAT
Mar. 24-27	Sable I.	2	ZOL
Mar. 25-31	Various counties	several	var. obs.
March-April	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
Apr. 2	Sydney R., <i>CBRM</i>	1	Andrew MacDonald
Apr. 6	West Bay, <i>Inv.</i>	4	Jeannie Shermerhorn
May 21	BPI	10	CLD, KJM, GMU
May 24	CSI	2	MUN, JON

Song Sparrow

Mar. 3	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	5	DMW
Mar. 4	Jeddore, <i>HRM</i>	2	Jan Foley
Mar. 12	Wolfville	some	JWW
Mar. 14	Halifax	6+	PLC
Mar. 17	Lower Eel Brook, <i>Lun.</i>	some	PRG
Mar. 23	Brier I.	29	JOK
Mar. 24-27	Sable I.	up to 5	ZOL
early Apr	Various counties	many	var. obs.



The western to mid-western LARK SPARROW, like this one on Brier I. May 28, is sufficiently rare in spring to deserve photographic documentation. [Photo Jane White]

Lincoln's Sparrow

Mar. 3	Clarks Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN
May 14	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
May 28	Yarmouth	1	MUN
May 25-30	Halifax	1	JOW, AGH, JCZ
May 25	Goodwood, <i>HRM</i>	2	NSBS
May 28-30	Brier I.	1	ELM

Swamp Sparrow

Apr. 16	Goose Creek Marsh, <i>Shel.</i>	lots	PRG
Apr. 16	Lunenburg	2	JAH
Apr. 17	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	AGH
Apr. 18	Black R., <i>Kings</i>	6+	BLF
Apr. 21	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Apr. 22	Wallace R., <i>Cum.</i>	3	BLM
Apr. 23	Amherst Pt., <i>Cum.</i>	12	TEP
Apr. 24	Georgefield, <i>Hants</i>	some	ROW
Apr. 26	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	2 pair	RBS
May 21-27	BPI	up to 6	CLD, KJM, GMU

White-throated Sparrow

Mar. 1	Jeddore, <i>HRM</i>	up to 10	Jan Foley
Mar. 2-April	Lawrencetown	up to 4	DMW
Mar. 7	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	a few	JOB
Mar. 13	Brier I.	some	DAP
Mar. 19	Dartmouth	a few	PLC
Mar. 28	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	many	JOB
Apr. 15	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 11	Brier I.	20+	ELM

White-crowned Sparrow

Mar. 11-21	Dartmouth	2	BBU, FLL, RIH
May 13	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 14	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	1	BLM
May 14-16	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
May 15-20	CSI	1	JON, MUN, CST
May 15	Annapolis Royal	1	RBS
May 16	Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1	JCZ
May 18-31	Brier I.	up to 4	JUS, ELM, DAM
May 19	<i>Digby</i>		SAW
May 20	Little Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	2	DHY
May 21	Halifax	1	JOW, Dominic Cormier
May 21	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
May 22	Glace Bay	2	BES, GEC
May 22	Kingston, <i>Kings</i>	a few	JOB
May 24	Wolfville	2	<i>fide</i> JWW
May 29	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1	TOK

Dark-eyed Junco

March-April	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	up to 14	DMW
Mar. 1	Jeddore, <i>HRM</i>	17	Jan Foley
Mar. 6	Graves I., <i>Lun.</i>	many	SMB, TEP
Mar. 7	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	many	JOB
Mar. 23-25	Sable I.	up to 3	ZOL
Mar. 29	Brier I.	many	CAH
Mar. 30	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	70+	KFS
Apr. 13	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	many	DOC

Snow Bunting

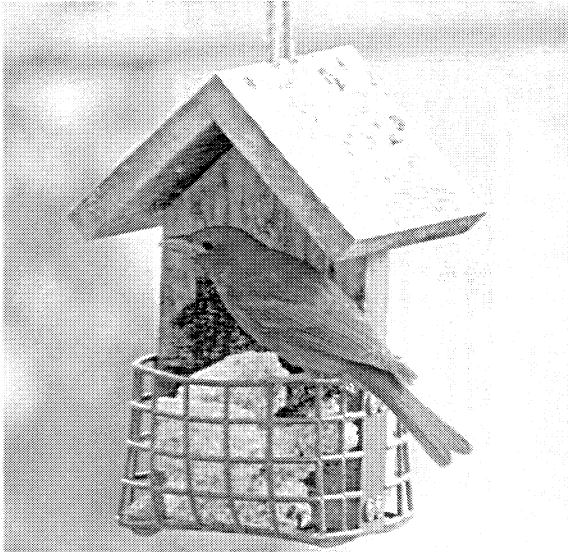
Mar. 7-28	Sable I.	flocks of up to 25	ZOL
Mar. 13	West Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	25	MUN
Mar. 26	Cherry Hill Beach, <i>Lun.</i>	6	SJF
Apr. 2	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	2	DJC

Northern Cardinal

Mar. 7	Blandford, <i>Lun.</i>	1 fem.	CJF
Mar. 24	Hantsport	2	Doug Linzey
Apr. 2	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>		Joyce Allen
Apr-May	Kentville	1 male	RBS
Apr. 21	Advocate, <i>Cum.</i>	1 male	<i>fide</i> KFS

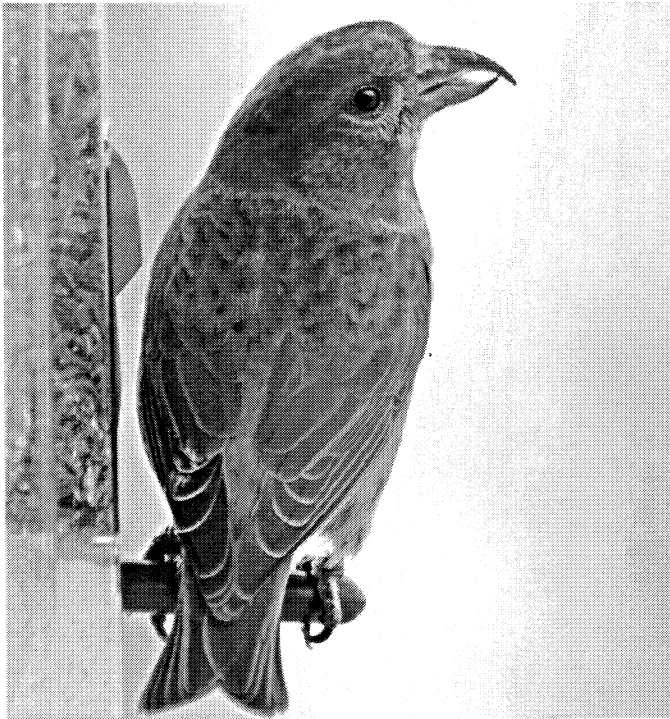
Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Mar. 27	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	1 male	RMC
Apr. 24-27	Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	up to 4	RSD, PRG
Apr. 25	Jeddore, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	Jan Foley
Apr. 25-26	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i>	1 male	SAH
Apr. 25	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	1 male	Glenys Gibson
Apr. 26 - May 31	Brier I.	lots	DAP, JUS, ELM
Apr. 26	Hubbards, <i>HRM</i>	1	EIB
Apr. 29-May 28	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	up to 2 males, 3 fems.	<i>fide</i> TOK
Apr. 29-30	Lunenburg	several	<i>fide</i> JAH, CJF



This spring's exotic "reds and blues" at feeders included a SUMMER TANAGER (L) at Pleasantville, Lunenburg, Apr. 13 [Photo Hans Tom] and an INDIGO BUNTING (R) at Canso May 1. [Photo Cindy Creighton].

Apr. 30	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	1 male	<i>fide</i> JAH	May 14	Port Clyde, <i>Shel.</i> ,	flock	SAH
Apr. 30	Upper Fox I., <i>Guys.</i>	1 male, 1 f	Cindy Creighton	May 14-30	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	several	Ellen Higgins
May 6	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC	May 14	Long I., <i>Digby</i>	2 males	BLM
May 10-22	CSI	up to several	JON, MUN	May 18	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	4	GFO
May 12-25	<i>Kings</i>	several	JCT, JOB, JWW	May 20	CSI	1	CST
May 13	Spencer I., <i>Cum.</i>	2	Winnie Merriam <i>fide</i> KFS	May 25	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 18-22	<i>Annapolis</i>	2	MCR, JET	Red-winged Blackbird			
May 19	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	Mar. 20	E Chester, <i>Lun.</i>	1	CJF
May 19	Maders Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	3 pairs	JEM	Mar. 23	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 21-24	Middle Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	VJH	Mar. 23-24	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1 male	SJF
May 28	Little Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	2 fems.	DHY	Mar. 26-28		widespread on mainland	var. obs.
May 28	near Smileys PP, <i>Hants</i>	1	RHL	Apr. 3	Cheticamp, <i>Inv.</i>	several singing	David Famer
May	Tremont, <i>Anna.</i>	up to 5	SLH	Apr. 6	Harrietsfield, <i>HRM</i>	6 males, 4 fems.	<i>fide</i> FLL
Blue Grosbeak				Apr. 10	Georgefield, <i>Hants</i>	some f	ROW
Apr. 25	Doctors Cove, <i>Shel.</i>	1	TEC <i>fide</i> MUN	Apr. 13	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	13	KFS
Apr. 26-May 21	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1 male, 1 fem.	TOK <i>et al.</i>	Apr. 15	Tremont, <i>Anna.</i>	1 f	SLH
Apr. 26	CSI	1	MUN	Apr. 20	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	many males, 20+ fem	TOK
Apr. 27	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	1 male	<i>fide</i> PBG	Rusty Blackbird			
Apr. 27	Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1 fem.	RSD, PRG	Mar. 3-7	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC
Apr. 28	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	1	RMC	Mar. 3	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> MUN
Apr. 30	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JAH	Apr. 10	Mill Rd., <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM
Apr. 30	Upper Fox I., <i>Guys.</i>	1	Clarence Creighton	Apr. 16	Dagley Rd., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JSC
May 3-5	Brier I.	1	Davis and Judy Teed	Apr. 18	Spryfield, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	FLL
May 5	Fauxburg, <i>Lun.</i>	1	<i>fide</i> JAH	Apr. 23	Mt Thom, <i>Pict.</i>	1 male	FLL, DOU
May 10	Rockingham, <i>HRM</i>	1 fem.	PLC, JEH	Apr. 24-May 14	Georgefield, <i>Hants</i>	1	ROW
May 14	<i>W Hants</i>	pair	Patrick Kelly	May 4	CSI	1	MUN
May 28	Brier I.	1 male	AHM, ELM	May 19	Otter L., <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL
May 29	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL, HAT	Common Grackle			
Indigo Bunting				Mar. 15	West Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1	RHL
Mar. 20	Port La Tour, <i>Shel.</i>	1 male	Pearl Smith <i>fide</i> MUN	Mar. 18	East Chester, <i>Lun.</i>	4	CJF
Mar. 28-29	Brier I.	1 male	CAH	Mar. 20	Lower Eel R., <i>Yar.</i>	2	PRG
Apr. 19	Oyster Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 fem.	Lucas Berrigan	Mar. 23-24	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
Apr. 24	E Chzzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	N/A	Mar. 24-26	<i>HRM</i>	4	FLL, RIH
Apr. 24 - May 10	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 male	DJC	Mar. 25	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	4	BLF
Apr. 25-30	Various counties	many	vars. obs.	Mar. 25	Mt Denson, <i>Hants</i>	1	Barry Sabean
May 3-11	CSI	a few	DOC, MUN, JON	Mar. 25	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 14	R. Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	1	GED	Mar. 26-28		widespread on mainland	var. obs.
May 17	Little Dyke, <i>Col.</i>	1 male	Gary Blaikie	Apr. 1	R. Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	lots	GED
May 21	Brier I.	2 fems.	RBS	Apr. 2	Halifax	many	IAM
May 29	Hammonds Plains, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	ROG	Apr. 20	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	60+	KFS
Dickcissel				Apr. 20	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	many	TOK
Apr. 11	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	3	TOK	Brown-headed Cowbird			
Apr. 27	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1 fem.	TOK	Mar. 13	Clementsvalle, <i>Anna.</i>	10	JET
May 12	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 male	KFS	Mar. 21	Lower Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	2	LOC
May 20	Brier I.	1	RBS	Mar. 31	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	2 male	Dean Fiske, <i>fide</i> DJC
Bobolink				Mar. 31	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 male	KFS
May 10-30	Brier I.	up to 6	CAH, JUS, ELM	Apr. 3	Spryfield, <i>HRM</i>	2 males, 1 fem.	FLL
				Apr. 11	Stellarton, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM



RED CROSSBILLS, like this one at Enfield, HRM, Apr. 17, were reported more frequently at feeders this spring. It would be useful to accumulate photographs of these over the years to help sort out the forms (subspecies, semi-species, species?) that occur here. This one seems to be one of the more slender-billed types. [Photo Cindy Creighton]

Apr. 15	Jeddore, HRM	2	Jan Foley
Apr. 16	Apple R., Cum.	1 fem.	KFS
Apr. 17	Clarks Hbr., Shel.	lots	MUN
Apr. 20	Canso, Guys.	25 males, 15 fems.	TOK
Apr. 24	Hammonds Plains, HRM	2	ROG
Apr. 25-29	Lunenburg	pair	JAH
Apr. 30	Port Hawkesbury, Inv.	a few	David Johnstone
May 19	Amherst Pt., Cum.	2	Julie Paquet

Orchard Oriole

May 3	Canso, Guys.	1 imm. male	TOK
May 12	CSI	1	Craig Nickerson
May 14	CSI	2	MUN
May 20	CSI	1	CST
May 29-31	Brier I	up to 5	ELM, JUS
late May	Allendale, Shel.	3	DJC

Baltimore Oriole

May 2-28	CSI	up to 5	MUN, DOC, JON
May 3-31	Lockeport and Little Hbr., Shel.	2+ males, 2+ fems.	DJC
May 14-31	Brier I	up to 9	BLM <i>et al.</i>
May 16	Chester Grant, Lun.	1 male	Earl Woodworth, Brent Haase
May 21	Apple R., Cum.	1	KFS
May 21-28	Canso, Guys.	3	TOK
May 22-27	Jeddore, HRM	1 male	Lucas Berrigan
May 28	near Smileys PP, Hants	1	RHL
May 21-27	BPI	up to 2	CLD, KJM, GMU

Pine Grosbeak

Mar. 2	W Apple R., Cum.	36+	KFS
Mar. 4	Joggin Shore Rd., Cum.	6	KFS
Mar. 5	New Salem, Cum.	4	KFS
Mar. 25	Dollar L. PP, HRM	3	HAT
Mar. 26	Sandy Cove, HRM	1	FLL
Mar. 28	Kingston, Kings	1 fem.	JOB
Apr. 2	Hubbards, HRM	6	Peter Snow
Apr. 5	Portuguese Cove, HRM	30	HAT
Apr. 6	Long L. Park, HRM	1	FLL
May 20	CSI	1	CST, MUN
May 29	Coldbrook, Kings	3 imm. males, 1 fem.	AAM

Purple Finch

March-April	Tremont, Anna.	up to 30	SLH
March	Antigonish, Kings, Digby, HRM	some	var. obs.
Apr. 29	Canso, Guys.	an influx	TOK
May 5	CSI	many	DOC
May	Tremont, Anna.	up to 20	SLH
Mar. - May	Wolfville Ridge, Kings	up to 22	JCT
Mar. - May	Apple R., Cum.	peak 60+	Apr. 1 KFS

House Finch

Mar. 4	Overton, Yar.	11	IAM, BEM
Mar. - May	Halifax	4	PLC <i>et al.</i>
Mar. 27	Granville Centre, Anna.	4	PBG
Apr. 2	Yarmouth	a few pairs	MUN

Red Crossbill

Mar. - May	Jeddore, HRM	up to 3	Jan Foley
Apr. 5	Dollar L., PP	pair	HAT
Apr-May	HRM	up to 17	FLL
Apr. 13	W LaHave, Lun.	some	HAT
Apr. 16	Lunenburg	1	JAH
Apr. 17	Pleasantville, Lun.	1	BBU
Apr. 17	Enfield, HRM	1	Cindy Creighton
Apr. 23	Petite Riviere, Lun.	10	JAH
Apr. 23	Jollimore, HRM	15	PLC
Apr. 23	Mt. Thom, Pict.	1	FLL
Apr. 24	Maders Cove, Lun.	3	JEM
Apr. 28	Port Clyde, Shel.	some	SAH
Apr. 28	Lunenburg	1 male, 2 fems.	Allison Strachan
Apr. 30	Port Hawkesbury, Inv.	2	David Johnston
Apr. 30	Bear R., Anna.	10	JET
May 4	Kentville, Kings	2 small flocks	AAM
May 10	Cole Hbr., HRM	pair	DHH
May 11	Apple R., Cum.	2	KFS
May 11	Conrad I., Lun.	some	JAH
May 21	Mt. Uniacke, Hants	10	PLC, JEH
May 21	Wolfville Ridge, Kings	4	BLF
May 30	Lunenburg	many	JAH
May	Greenwood, Kings	1 male, 2 fems.	SLH

White-winged Crossbill

Mar. 25	Monks Hd., Ant.	2	JOK
Mar. 27	Cape George, Ant.	30	JOK
Mar. 28	Mt. Uniacke, Hants		HAT
Apr. 22	Kingston, Kings	pair	PBG
Apr. 23	Louisbourg	4	SEM
May 2	Kentville, Kings	a few	AAM
May 11	Conrad I., Lun.	4	JAH
May 23	Louisbourg	3	SEM, Bill Bussey
May 30	Lunenburg	many	JAH

Common Redpoll

Mar. 2	Apple R., Cum.	1	KFS
Mar. 14	Antigonish	2	RFL
Mar. 19-Apr. 2	Pictou	1	HAB
Mar. 24	Apple R., Cum.	14	KFS
Mar. 29	Apple R., Cum.	3	KFS
Apr. 14	Wolfville	1	Mike Peckford
May 14	Victoria	10	NAMC

Pine Siskin

Mar-Apr	Tremont, Anna.	up to 50	SLH
Mar-Apr	Jeddore, HRM	several	Jan Foley
Mar-May	Apple R., Cum.	up to 25+	KFS
Mar. 6	Graves I., Lun.	many	SMB, TEP
Mar. 7	Oakfield, HRM	many	HAT
Mar. 8	Bear R., Anna.	15+	MCR
Mar. 11	Lower Eel Brook, Yar.	6	PRG
Mar. 12-Apr	Falmouth, Hants	25	Patrick Kelly
Mar. 13	Brier I.	many	DAP
Mar. 25	Westport, Digby	7	RBS
Mar. 13	Wolfville, Kings	30+	JCT
Mar. 27	Cape George, Ant.	31	JOK
Apr. 2	Pictou	many	KJM
Apr. 3	Cheticamp, Inv.	many singing	David Farner
Apr. 23	Mt. Thom, Pict.	50, singing	FLL, DOU
Apr. 29	Canso, Guys.	influx	TOK
Apr. 30	Port Hawkesbury, Inv.	many	David Johnston
late Apr	Georges R., CBRM	many singing	DBM

May 5	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	many	DOC	Mar. 12-13	Clementsvale, <i>Anna.</i>	12	JET
May	Tremont, <i>Anna.</i>	up to 20	SLH	Mar-Apr	W Bay, <i>Inv.</i>	several	Jeannie Shermerhorn
American Goldfinch				Mar. 28	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	several	Joyce Allen
Mar-May	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	peak in Mar	JCT	Apr-May	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	a few	JCT
Mar-May	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	up to 40, peak early	Mar. KFS	Apr-May	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	up to 13	KFS
Mar-May	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	peak in late Apr.	DMW	April	Tremont, <i>Anna.</i>	up to 5	SLH
Mar-Apr	Tremont, <i>Anna.</i>	up to 50	SLH	Apr. 1	East Gore, <i>Hants</i>	lots	PLC
Mar. 8	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	35+	MCR	Apr. 11	Elgin, <i>Pict.</i>	several small flocks	KJM
early Mar	Jeddore, <i>HRM</i>	up to 70	Jan Foley	Apr. 13	W LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	some	HAT
Mar-May	Brier I.	many	DAP, JUS, Laura Titus	Apr. 17	Enfield, <i>HRM</i>	2	Cindy Creighton
Mar. 27	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	many	RMC	Apr. 27	Brier I.	1	DAP
Mar. 28	Mahone Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	many	Joyce Allen	Apr. 30	Ohio L., <i>Shel.</i>	some	Frank Lent, JCZ
Apr. 26	Sydney, <i>CBRM</i>	30	Andrew MacDonald	May 4	Black R. Rd., <i>Kings</i>	several	JCT, JET
Apr. 29	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	increasing	TOK	May 11	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	DOC
Apr. 29	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	a few 100	AAM	May 21	Mt. Uniacke, <i>Hants</i>	pair	PLC, JEH
Apr. 20	Port Hawkesbury, <i>Inv.</i>	many	David Johnston	House Sparrow			
May	Tremont, <i>Anna.</i>	up to 20	SLH	April-May	Brier I.	up to 20	ELM
Evening Grosbeak							
Mar. 12	Antigonish	3	RFL				

List of Contributors

Thanks to all of our contributors.

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Digout, George	GED	Stern, Richard	RBS	Crane, Tom	

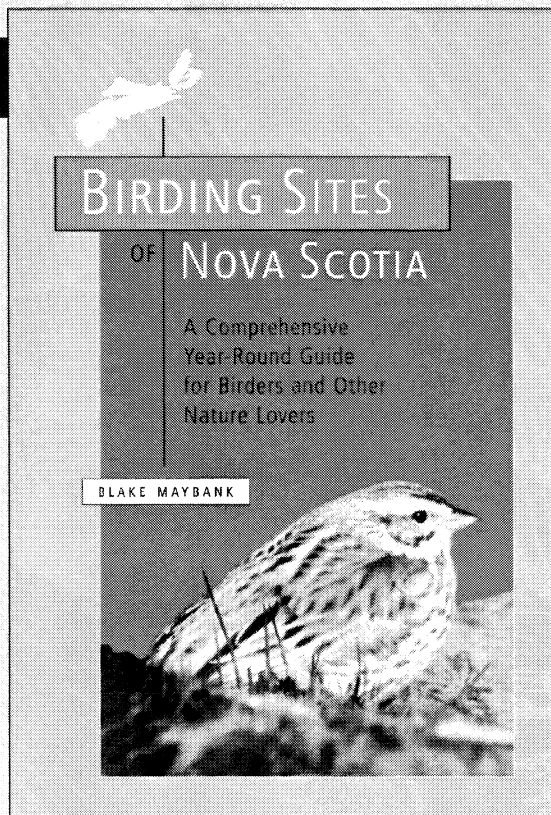
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—IAN MCLAREN (*from the foreword*)

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Nova Scotia Weather, Spring 2005

By Larry Bogan

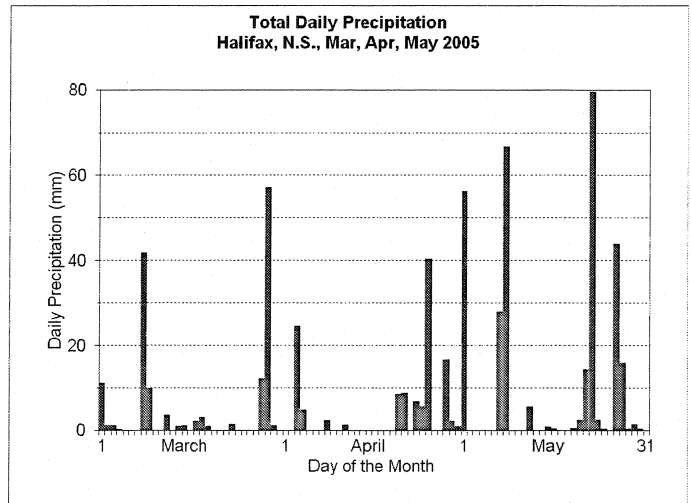
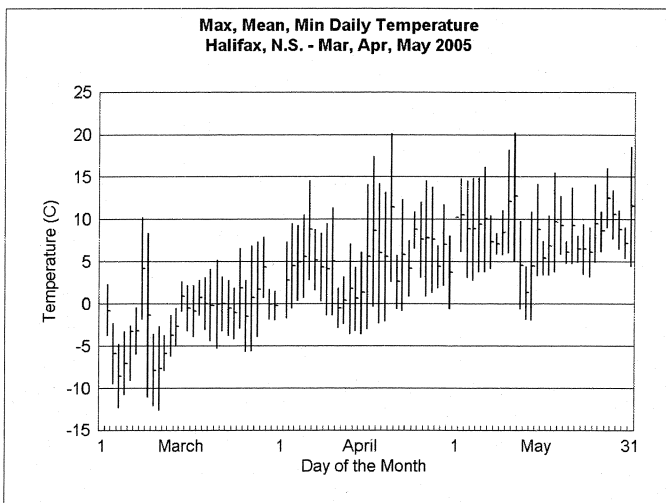
What a good start to spring this year! The snow that had been hanging around during the winter, almost disappeared on the 8th of March, the warmest and windiest day of the month; snow depth in the Valley dropped from 34 to 9 cm, while 33 mm of rain fell. Halifax's snow disappeared even faster since there was half the amount on the ground. More snow fell during a cold snap in the next week but the snow was all gone by the last week of the month. Then there was April.

Monthly Weather Summary
Halifax International Airport

	Max	Temperature		Rain	Total Snow	Precip
		Min	Mean			
March	2.2	-5.4	-1.6	123	26.4	148
norm	3	-5.8	-1.4	96	41	135
April	10	-0.2	5.0	117	5.2	123
norm	8.4	-0.5	4	96	21	118
May	12.3	4.3	8.3	319	0	319
norm	15	4.5	9.8	106	3	110
Season	8.1	-0.4	2.3	559	31.6	590
norm	8.8	-0.6	4.1	298	65	363

Temperature

The season started out with slightly nearly normal temperatures, but in April we had a wonderful month with the averages 1.0° to 1.6° C above normal. May was thus a big disappointment with its mean temperature 1.5° C below normal. In the Valley the season ended up slightly warmer than normal while Halifax was about 1/2° C below average. In the graph of temperatures, notice how the temperature rises during the first half of the season then levels off and stays constant for the last half of April and all of May.



While the mean temperatures in March and May were below normal, the mean minimum temperatures were not. It was the mean maxima which was high in March and April, and 3° C low in May. Despite being a cold month, Halifax had only three days with the minimum temperature below 0° C (The Valley had only one.)

Sunshine

As might be deduced from the temperatures, April was the brightest month of the three. May was a dark month with less than half of the expected bright sunshine hours. I have not seen many months with this small a fraction of normal sunshine. Whereas May should have 1/3 more sunshine than April, it actually had 1/2 of April's sunshine. March was also short on sunshine but by only 13%. The season overall had 83% of the normal sunshine.

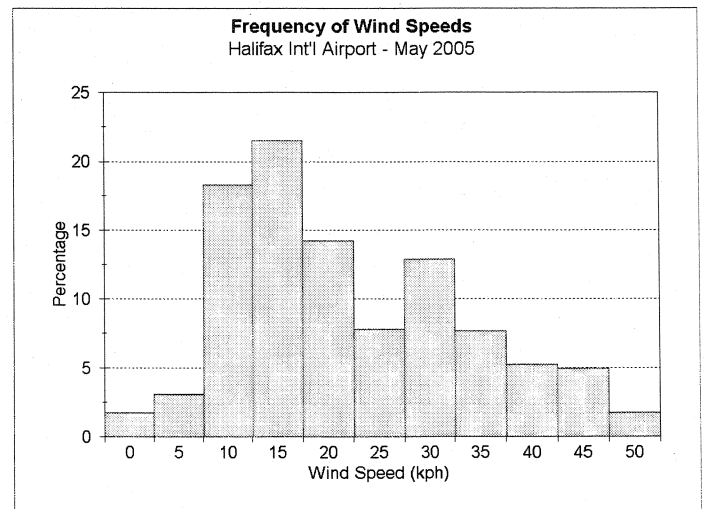
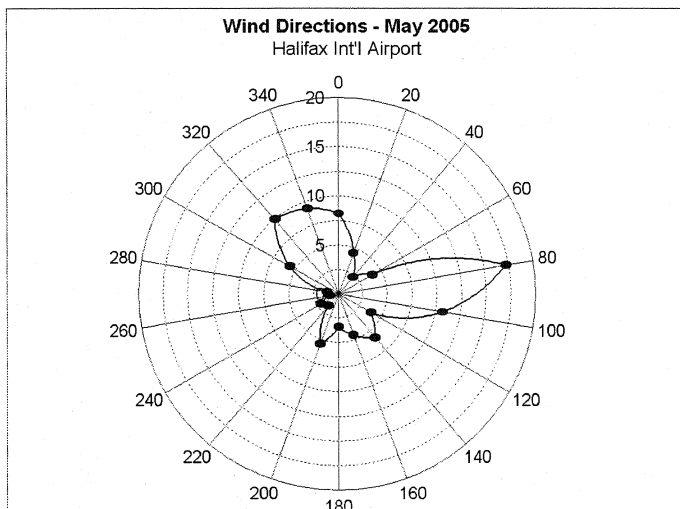
Precipitation

The season was very wet, with only one period as long as five days without precipitation. The rest of the season had typically only two or three days between showers or rain. In Halifax there were nine days with more than 20 mm of rain. The graph of daily precipitation shows how the rains were spread across the season. May was the most extreme month because it had over half of all the rainfall for the season (319 mm of 590 mm). During two wet periods in May, Halifax received nearly 100 mm each time; May 7-8 with 94 mm and May 19-24 with 99 mm. As a consequence, the season finished with 62% more rain than normal. At least we received only half the usual 65 cm of snow for a 'normal' season (The Valley had even less, getting 18 of its usual 60 cm.)

Wind

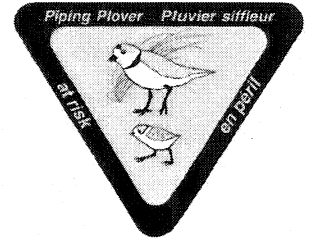
The usual predominant winds during the spring months are 19 kph West, 18.6 kph South and 16.7 kph South for the March, April, and May respectively. In May, during this year's spring migration, we had a lot of easterly winds, as can be seen on the frequency diagram for the hourly winds of May, which plots percentage of wind from the direction indicated (180 degrees is a south wind). The most frequent winds were from the east (80 degrees) with a slightly lower probability of winds from the north-northwest. There were an unusually low number of south and southwest winds this year, which affected distribution of migratory birds this spring.

While I was making the wind chart from hourly data, I observed that of the 744 hours in May, 248 hours or 1/3 of them had fog reported at Halifax Airport. But then I live in the Valley and that seems excessive to me. ☐



News from the Nova Scotia Coastal Guardian Program

By Anna McCarron
Program Co-ordinator



Apparently I haven't disappeared, after all. Thanks to the support of various agencies and new volunteer interests I was able to continue to help recover the Piping Plover population in Nova Scotia this year. With an increase in the Piping Plover nesting population in Cape Breton there is an even greater need to continue to educate the public through the guardian program about how to protect this endangered shorebird because Cape Breton is an area where guardians and knowledge about them are lacking. This is simply because people there aren't used to having Piping Plovers around to share their beaches. So far this year we have counted four, possibly five nesting beaches in Cape Breton – up from 2 in 2003. A guardian gathering and information session was held in Port Hood in June. There was a great turnout despite it being BINGO night! If you know anyone who is interested in being a guardian in the Cape Breton PIPLs since 1996 when there were 33 pairs. With this kind of statistic there is hope, however. From this point, the population began to rise until it hit a peak in 2001 with 111 birds counted. As in most other domains in nature, there are peaks and valleys. Let's hope that the population trend for PIPLs begins to rise again next year and that we hit our peak goal of 165 birds in Nova Scotia, perhaps in 2011! However, despite the comparable low number of nesting pairs last year, the fledging success or recovery rate (fledglings per pair) was perhaps the highest in the past ten years at 1.97 up from 1.39 in 2003. The results for this year are still pending. The following is the tally of plovers at press time. These are preliminary numbers and will change once the final results are in.

2005 Counties (# beaches with territorial PIPLs): West to East	Pairs	Singles	Total Adults	Nests	# Hatched	Nests Pending	# Chicks Fledged
Shelburne (13)	15	1	31	15	18	2	?
Queens (1)	5	0	10	5	10+	1	4+
Lunenburg (1)	3	2	8	2	8	1	?
Halifax (1)	2	2	6	2?	8	0	4+
Pictou (1)	1	1	3	1	4	0	2?
Antigonish (2)	6	3	15	5+	17+	0	8+
Victoria (1)	3	2	8	3+	5+	1	?
Cape Breton (1)	0	1	1	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Inverness (2)	2	0	4	2	6+	0	2+
Totals	37	12	86	40	76	5	16+

Another apparent trend is the high degree of respect for, and knowledge about, protecting PIPLs in areas where the guardian program has been in force for many years. Local people in these areas participate by not leaving litter (even organic litter which will attract predators such as crows and gulls and racoons and foxes to the area), putting pets on a leash, and talking to people who may not know better about how to protect this little bird. Such beaches do best with respect to raising fledglings.

So far the fledging success was best in areas with a strong contingent of guardians who patrolled the beaches and talked to the people about keeping pets on a leash. Courtney Lancaster, the hired guardian for the Antigonish area, where the fledging success was the best, went so far as to provide a slice of the rope she carried around for those who had forgotten to bring their leash for their pet. Reminding people to stay by the water's edge to avoid disturbing nests and chicks and to not linger in areas where plovers are feeding to prepare for their long journey south is key to the success of the nesting season – May through August. In other areas where there is very little signage and or knowledge about PIPLs, and a high degree of pedestrian traffic and recreational activity, like on some beaches in Cape Breton, the fledging success was quite low this year.

ATVs were still a problem on all beaches this year with many vehicle tracks seen on all beaches, even in public parks! With the six new officers assigned in Nova Scotia to deal directly with such activity, lets hope that these instances decrease in the coming years – to help reach our recovery goal!

Speaking of officers, I would like to remind you that these hard working natural resource protectors – conservation officers – work very hard to cover a lot of ground. Did you know that there is only one conservation officer from the federal government who must cover all of Atlantic Canada for all Species at Risk?! In Nova Scotia there are 1.5 conservation officers for as many as two whole counties! These dedicated people not only respond to threats to an endangered species like the Piping Plover, but to forest fires, poachers, errant bears and many other wildlife matters. They could sure use a hand! We can help by reporting violations like ATVs on the beach or loose dogs that are creating a problem in plover areas. Taking a picture of the violation is ideal or taking the license plate numbers of cars parked before you go onto the beach, in case trouble arises while you are there, is a very effective method of reporting violators. Taking pictures helps to identify the perpetrators in court. If you are in a position to report violations please call your local Department of Natural Resources office or the general conservation office hot line number **1-800-565-2224**. These calls are very important. The more calls for a particular area, the more enforcement attention will be placed there.



NSDNR Conservation Officers Stephen Fraser (centre) and Derrick Sandluck (right) pitch in to help local birder and longtime Piping Plover guardian Steve Vines (left) put up a sign at a Pictou County PIPL beach.

I thank this year's funding agencies: The Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, and the Community Action Fund of the Canadian Important Bird Areas Program, a joint initiative of the Nature Canada and Bird Studies Canada. I also thank the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources staff who are always supportive and ready to provide in-kind resources and guidance. The guardian staff would be much less communicative without the generous in-kind use of two cell phones from *Aliant* during the past four field seasons, and to the Nova Scotia Museum for their public information support system!

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 or (902) 426-1900.
- NSDNR Endangered Species Biologist – Mark Elderkin at elderkmf@gov.ns.ca or (902) 679-6091.
- Nova Scotia Coastal Guardian Program - Anna McCarron at plover@istar.ca or (902) 860-1263.

Spring Migration at the Atlantic Bird Observatory

By Trina Fitzgerald

Spring 2005 began, as usual, with poor weather and very few birds, but it turned out to be a season like no other. As expected, the early part of May marked the arrival of many warbler species on Bon Portage Island. Northern Parula arrived 14 May along with Yellow-palm Warbler and Ovenbirds. However, what made this season so exceptional was witnessing the pronounced wave of migrants on 20 May. This movement far surpassed anything that I have ever witnessed since working on the island. Thousands of birds flew over the island throughout the entire day, heading north. Others that landed on the island continued to move north while foraging. In one hour, over 700 passerines were counted passing over the banding cabin.

Our banding efforts also captured the essence of this day – over 160 individuals were captured in our mist-nets, and more than fifty-five species were observed. Interestingly, no vagrants were noted with this movement, and Magnolia Warbler was the most common species observed. At day's end many of the birds had quieted down. By morning, most of the individuals that were left on the island by nightfall, had left - likely taking advantage of the clear skies and light winds. Overall, through a combination of banding, standardized census and casual observations, 95 species (including subspecies) were detected this spring season and 369 individuals were banded (42 species).

There were only three vagrant species detected this spring. Two Indigo Buntings were spotted 6 May and 4 June, a Prothonotary Warbler was observed 3 May, and a Worm-eating Warbler was banded 6 May. In spite of what started off as a slow season, it turned out to be one that will not be forgotten!

The top species banded for the season are listed in Table 1. For comparison, banding totals for the past six years are also presented.

Table 1. List of the top 6 species banded, the number of individuals that were banded for each species, and the corresponding date that their numbers peaked for spring 2005. For comparison, the number of individuals banded for the past six years is also provided.

Bon Portage - Spring 2005			Past Years					
Rank	Species	Banded	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
1	Magnolia Warbler	65	11	16	12	22	44	33
2	Black-and-white Warbler	36	9	9	15	11	14	12
3	Blackpoll Warbler	32	14	17	32	4	25	31
4	Yellow Warbler	26	25	23	23	11	50	41
5	White-throated Sparrow	19	9	12	28	35	52	21
5	Yellow-rumped Warbler	19	11	8	33	82	29	34
6	Northern Parula	17	6	8	6	11	15	13
Seasonal Banding Total		369	205	184	357	311	468	489
Number of Species Banded		42	48	38	49	46	51	58

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

North American Migration Count – May 14, 2005 - N. S. Highlights

By Judy Tufts - Provincial Coordinator

Before I begin listing the highlights of this year's spring bird count in our province, my thanks to all the wonderful people who helped make this count – my last one as provincial coordinator - so very special. To all of you who participated, my heartfelt thanks. I remain particularly grateful to the patience and dedication shown by those unsung heroes for these annual counts: the county coordinators and the area-representatives, who spend precious time with contact phone-calls to birders, trying to ensure their own county receives adequate coverage for each count whether in designated areas miles away, or around bird-feeders at home, and then all the work entailed in gathering final tallies which head my way.

The highlights are impressive for 2005:

Probably the very best and exciting news of the count is that two downy three-week old BOREAL OWL chicks were checked out on that day by Randy Lauff in one of his nesting boxes in Guys. Co. - the first known breeding record of these owls on 'mainland' N.S., the third for the province !! Let us hope this species really takes a hold in this province. Thanks Randy for all your dedication to helping these owls and others of our northern forests.

The best surprise specie of the day goes to Mike and Linda Kennie at Louis Head in Shelburne Co when they found a beautiful male SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER along the beach area. They have a cottage there. Mike was not officially an NAMC participant – it was posted on the 'NS Birds' web-site – but on contact he was happy to contribute the record of this sighting along to our project and relate their happy encounter - a life bird for each of them.

Once again there were egrets/herons scattered around the province. Gt. Egrets ranged from two in Guys. Co. to one each in Hfx., Lun. and Yarm. counties. Single Snowy Egrets appeared in Guys. and Lun. counties, and a third was in Cape Breton Co. The lone Lt. Blue Heron, found by George Digout, called Richmond Co. 'home' for the count, while the rarer member of the heron family, the YELLOW-CROWNED Night Heron (in almost adult plumage) was discovered on C.S.I. by Murray Newell's group. For the second year in a row, a group of Glossy Ibis came back to our shores – five this year – and this time found the Canso area to their liking. Tom Kavanagh feels there may have been at least two more in the area that could not be found on that day. A Sandhill Crane was also tallied in Guys. Co. by Tom's group.

The four lingering Harlequin Ducks were located in Port George by John Belbin. A very impressive number of Ospreys : 53 (a third of the provincial total), were seen in H.R.M. by Bob McDonald's group. A 'possible' Cooper's Hawk flew past Rob Woods in Hants West but was not relocated. Three Gray Partridge, seen by Mary-Lou Blundon's party, turned up with a flock of Ruffed Grouse in Gabarus area (not far from Fortress Louisbourg) . They were feeding in an isolated wooded area away from any habitation on Ocean View Rd., off Hwy 327 - possibly 'escapes' from someone's hunting-dog training sessions ?

Two Am. Oystercatchers were back on their C.S.I. breeding grounds in time for the count. The Wilson's Phalarope was discovered in Upp. Fall Pond, nr. West Berlin, Queens Co., by a birder new to our province, Dorothy Poole, who was delighted to have a reason to explore unknown back roads near her new home for any spring arrivals. It was feeding with a pair of Gtr. Yellowlegs. The Lsr. Black-b. Gull was spotted in the Glace Bay Sanctuary by Allan and Cathy Murrant. A single Caspian Tern was noted in Cumb. Co., but there may have been two more in Yarmouth area, as two 'large' terns were seen in the distance, by Hubert and Helen Hall, before disappearing from view.

There were Snowy Owls at both ends of the province this year. Two were on C.S.I. - always a wonderful location yielding a bonanza of extra-ordinary birds for any count - the third owl was found in the Bay St. Lawrence area by Margrit Gahlinger and Fred Lawrence. Among the number of Barred Owls tallied, 23 of those owls came from Bernard Forsythe in Kings Co., and included his *own backyard* family of adults with three young chicks, and nine other breeding pairs he monitors. In the woodpecker department, two Red-headed were found, one on Brier Is., the other in the Canso area. Most of the many Red-bellied Woodpeckers which began arriving in this province last fall, and remaining throughout the winter, may have dispersed, as only six individuals ended up being counted that day: two each in H.R.M., the Canning area, and Pictou Co.

The date of the count does not always accommodate the arrivals of Chimney Swifts to our province but maybe this year because the date was the latest it could be, it helped, at least at one location. Claire Diggins was thrilled to be at the Middleton High School, Anna. Co. in the evening in time to see an astonishing number of Chimney Swifts -302 - arrive and then swirl down into the school's chimney. The only other reports were of 9 in Wolfville, and a single in Yarmouth. The Gray-cheeked Thrush was another great find for Billy Digout in Richmond Co. that day. Mockingbirds were scarce this year, may be in decline? Only two reports, one from Port Williams, one from Pictou Co. Understandably we have very few records of Northern Shrikes on our count but this year was an exception, one being spotted in Hants West.

There were interesting 'mini' flocks of warblers seen in some areas. 40 Blackpolls were discovered inside Fort Louisbourg by Bill Bussey's group; Mary-Lou Blundon and party stumbled upon 20 Blackburnians when they rounded a bend in a road in Gabarus; 37 Black-and-Whites were tallied on Bon Portage Is. And how about the 498 Yellow-rumps counted in H.R.M., a fifth of the provincial tally for this species?

A rather late Snow Bunting visited Gary Walsh's feeder in Baddeck. Cardinals seemed more abundant and widespread this year. A good sign maybe... 'Pairs' were noted by several observers in various locations: Canning, Liverpool, Meteghan, Deep Brook, Middleton and Caledonia, while 5 individuals were in Lun. Co., and not surprisingly 4 were located in the Yarmouth area along the Hebron -Sandford route. One of Donna Ensor's 'mainland' group in Shelburne Co. found a Blue Grosbeak. A Dickcissel, at Warren Bagnell's feeder in Louisbourg, was checked off by Bill Bussey. Two Orchard Orioles were on C.S.I. along with 9 Baltimore Orioles, while the only other location for orioles were two more Baltimores on Brier I. and one on Long I.

This year we added five NEW species to our provincial NAMC 'species recorded' list, including YELLOW-crowned Night Heron, WILSON's Phalarope, BOREAL OWL, RED-HEADED Woodpecker and the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. A very special count indeed!

As I leave the position of provincial coordinator shortly, after eleven most interesting years, and pass the helm into the capable hands of Hans Toom for 2006, I feel more than rewarded with the results of these Spring counts (don't forget those two Fall counts in the mid-'90's), and blessed with all the generous goodwill and friendship that has evolved over these years from so many of you, even with some gentle arm-twisting to get those results. I shall not completely fade away, but will remain in a minor capacity for a little while, that of county coordinator for Kings Co.

Thank you everyone. ☐

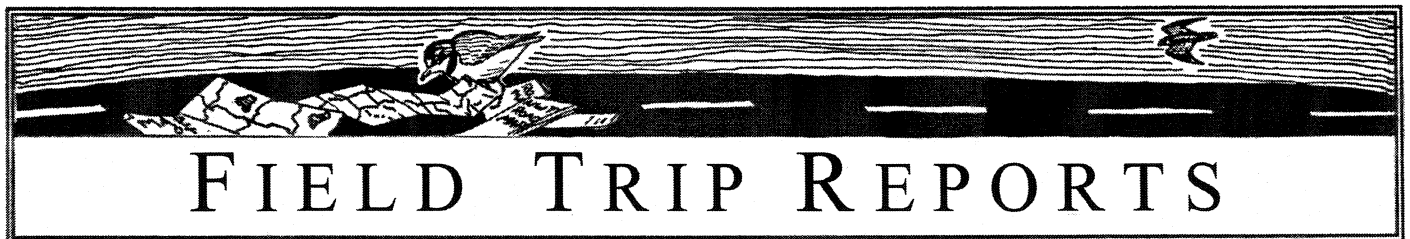
Nova Scotia North American Migration Count - May 14, 2005

Species Provincial Totals

Red-thrtd Loon	8	Cormorant sp. *	23	Snow Goose	2
Common Loon	238	Am.Bittern	25	Canada Goose	448
Pied-bill. Grebe	20	Gt.Blue Heron	423	Brant	272
Horned Grebe	1	Great Egret	5	Wood Duck	66
Red-nk. Grebe	1	Snowy Egret	3	Gadwall	19
Northern Fulmar	12	Little Blue Heron	1	Eurasian Wigeon	1
Leach's Strm-Ptrl	1000	Blk-Crwn Ngt Heron	2	American Wigeon	122
Northern Gannet	1109	Yellow-Crwn Ngt Heron	1	Am. Black Duck	2290
D-cr. Cormorant	4799	Glossy Ibis	5	Mallard	885
Great Cormorant	112	Turkey Vulture	19	MallrdxBlk Duck hybrid	26

Blue-winged Teal	88	Wilson's Snipe	133	Wht-brstd Nuthtch	99
N. Shoveler	29	Am. Woodcock	70	Brown Creeper	20
Northern Pintail	17	Wilson's Phalarope	1	Winter Wren	142
Green-winged Teal	170	Black-head. Gull	4	Gld-crwn Kinglet	204
Ring-necked Duck	584	Bonaparte's Gull	70	Rby-Crwn Kinglet	712
Greater Scaup	26	Ring-billed Gull	465	Veery	13
Lesser Scaup	6	Herring Gull	16013	Gry-cheek Thrush	1
Scaup sp. *	25	Iceland Gull	227	Swainsons Thrush	9
Common Eider	3639	Lsr. Blk.-bk. Gull	1	Hermit Thrush	383
Harlequin Duck	4	Glaucous Gull	16	American Robin	4970
Surf Scoter	486	Grt. Blk.-bk. Gull	6214	Gray Catbird	16
Wht-Wing Scoter	100	Blk.-leg. Kittiwake	3	N. Mockingbird	2
Black Scoter	300	Gull sp. *	1126	Europ. Starling	5658
Scoter sp. *	151	Caspian Tern	1	American Pipit	2
Long-tail. Duck	4	Common Tern	145	Cedar Waxwing	73
Bufflehead	68	Arctic Tern	2	Tennessee Warb.	1
Common Goldeneye	46	Sterna sp. *	57	Orng-crown Warb.	1
Hooded Merganser	84	Razorbill	10	Nashville Warb.	72
Common Merganser	412	Black Guillemot	150	Northern Parula	180
Red-Br Merganser	713	Atlantic Puffin	10	Yellow Warbler	101
Osprey	157	Rock Dove	2198	Chstnt-side Warb.	2
Bald Eagle adult	287	Mourning Dove	1839	Magnolia Warbler	33
Bald Eagle imm *	88	Grt. Horned Owl	21	Cape May Warb.	2
Bald Eagle age? *	26	Snowy Owl	3	Blk.-thtd. Blue Wr. b.	16
Northern Harrier	55	Barred Owl	66	Yellow-rump Wr. b.	2526
Sharp-Shin. Hawk	68	Boreal Owl	2	Blk.-thtd. Grn. Wr. b.	259
Northern Goshawk	12	N. Saw-whet Owl	9	Blackbrnian Warb	33
Broad-wing Hawk	15	Common Nighthawk	1	Palm Warbler	316
Red-tailed Hawk	92	Chimney Swift	312	Bay-brstd. Warb.	1
Rough-Leg Hawk	4	R.-thr. Hummingbird	39	Blackpoll Warb.	74
Buteo sp. *	10	Belted Kingfisher	210	Blk-&-Wht. Warb.	309
American Kestrel	51	Yel-bell. Sapsucker	81	Amer. Redstart	32
Merlin	44	Downy Woodpeckr	475	Ovenbird	85
Peregrine Falcon	2	Hairy Woodpecker	290	North. Watrthrsh	40
Gray Partridge	3	Blk-back. Woodpkr	9	Comm. Yellowthrt	16
Rng-nk Pheasant	364	Northern Flicker	598	Wilson's Warbler	1
Ruffed Grouse	287	Pileated Woodpkr	74	Am. Tree Sparrow	26
Spruce Grouse	13	Red-head. Woodp.	2	Chipping Sparrow	269
Sora	26	Red-bell. Woodp.	6	Savannah Sparrow	569
Sandhill Crane	1	Alder Flyctchr	2	N.'s Sharp-tail Sp.	5
Blk-bellied Plover	77	Least Flyctchr	12	Fox Sparrow	34
Piping Plover	17	Empidonax sp. *	1	Song Sparrow	2328
Killdeer	54	Eastern Phoebe	11	Lincoln's Spar.	8
Am. Oystercatcher	2	Eastern Kingbird	9	Swamp Sparrow	150
Great. Yellowlegs	221	Scissor-tail Flycatcher	1	Wht-throat Spar.	1400
Lessr. Yellowlegs	42	Northern Shrike	1	Wht-crown Spar.	28
Solitary Sand.	1	Blue-head. Vireo	277	Dark-eyed Junco	2722
Willet	452	Red-eyed Vireo	19	Snow Bunting	1
Spotted Sand.	29	Vireo sp. *	11	N. Cardinal	32
Whimbrel	1	Gray Jay	85	Rose-br. Grosbeak	91
Ruddy Turnstone	4	Blue Jay	2258	Blue Grosbeak	1
Red Knot	1	American Crow	7002	Indigo Bunting	14
Sanderling	17	Common Raven	845	Dickcissel	1
Semipalm. Sand.	44	Tree Swallow	4195	Bobolink	51
Least Sandpiper	70	Bank Swallow	175	Red-wing Blkbrd	1894
Wht-rump. Sand.	2	Cliff Swallow	217	Rusty Blackbird	20
Purple Sandpiper	8	Barn Swallow	854	Common Grackle	4504
Dunlin	75	Blk-cap Chickadee	3685	Brn-head Cowbird	348
Peep sp. *	10	Boreal Chickadee	116	Blackbird sp. *	22
S.-bill. Dowitcher	3	Red-brstd Nuthtch	559	Orchard Oriole	2

Baltimore Oriole	13	sparrow sp. *	57	Hours Boat	5.5
Pine Grosbeak	29	warbler sp. *	4	Hours bike	3
Purple Finch	2959	* Indicates unidentified or sub-species		Hours other- ATV	1
House Finch	25			Km Foot	1014.2
Red Crossbill	119	Total species :	209	Km Car	8424.7
Wh-w. Crossbill	82	Total individuals :	123024	Km Boat	19
Common Redpoll	16			Hours bike	13
Pine Siskin	6137	Participants	Total	Km other - ATV	3
Am Goldfinch	7896	Time Start	430	#Parties	288
Eve. Grosbeak	613	Time Stop	2200	#Observers	444
House Sparrow	707	OWLING			
duck sp. *	33	Hours	16.75	FEEDER WATCHER	
hawk sp. *	1	Kms	112	Hours	1150.75
accipiter sp *	1	#Parties	14	# Feeder watcher	446
alcid sp. *	300	#Observers	21	# Feeder stations	405
woodpecker sp. *	6	REGULAR			
swallow sp. *	4	Hours Foot	2581.3		□□□
thrush sp. *	1	Hours Car	587		



Glace Bay and Area "Harbour Hop" **19 March 2005, Leaders: George Crowell & Bev Sarty**

The weather in Glace Bay was beautiful, but still wintry, so the cheerful spring-like singing of a Song Sparrow was especially welcome to the ears of the many participants on this field trip.

The trip began at the Fishermen's Memorial Park and proceeded along a series of stops around the town. As is normal for Glace Bay in the winter a wealth of duck and gull species were present. Black-headed, Iceland, Herring and Black-backed Gulls were seen. Greater and Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted and Common Mergansers, Bufflehead, Long-tailed Duck, Green-winged Teal, Tufted Duck, American and Eurasian Wigeons, Mallards and Black Ducks were also seen on the field trip, and the trip leaders spotted four Northern Pintails in Glace Bay later the same day. Other species seen included a Black Guillemot, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Great Cormorant, European Starling and Rock Pigeon.

Wolfville Area **24 April 2005, Leader: Jim Wolford**

The weather gods smiled on us today, with starting conditions of warmth and sun and light wind. One result was a large turnout of 17 cars and about 35 people. We had a bit of drizzle and wind in late morning, but this was followed by continued warmth, overcast skies, and light wind.

At the Wolfville Wharf someone thought she heard swallows, but we saw very few for the whole day. I saw only two tree swallows.

Three of our first four stops were owl-related. First was the Crow/Barred Owl nest in Andy Nette's yard along Wolfville's Main St. Everyone saw the female Barred Owl incubating (probably 2 or more owl eggs plus 4 crow eggs?), while 2 concerned crows were calling excitedly and landing very near the nest. Andy told us the crows are already building a new nest somewhere nearby and stealing twigs from their old nest!

Next, as has become traditional, Bernard Forsythe showed us his nesting Barred Owls on his property on the Wolfville Ridge. This year Bernard is locally monitoring 10 pairs of Barred Owls in his nest-boxes. This pair of owls usually nests very early, because Bernard gives them food during most of the year.

Once again this year, Bernard in his crash-helmet was not attacked by the owls at all. We all saw the female leave the box as he climbed to it. He reached in and showed us a very tiny whitish owlet, newly hatched, and said there were two other eggs, one of which was pipped; their first egg had been laid March 20th. Then he checked the prey items in the box: a Meadow Vole, an adult Star-nosed Mole, a Starling, a Song Sparrow, a Savannah Sparrow, and a Wood Frog! (Barred owls are very opportunistic and will eat any kind of available animals from earthworms and beetles to fish to herptiles to birds to small mammals.)

Next we caravanned to Starr's Point, where we all viewed a new Bald Eagle nest that is very close to a road. Then we visited the Great Horned Owl nest, where unfortunately the female owl, seen well by all, was covering her quite large chick in the old crow nest. Bernard told us that two days ago there was a freshly killed cock pheasant in the nest, and we saw a few of its wing feathers on the ground.

The very next house was that of Debbie and Jim Daigle, and we spent about a half-hour there, pursuing an uncooperative adult Red-headed Woodpecker that had spent the entire winter there. Eventually everyone saw it, at least in flight. Also seen well there were flickers at a nest-hole, a Chipping Sparrow, White-breasted Nuthatches using crevices as holders for pecking sunflower seeds, Chickadees, Mourning Doves, Blue Jays, and a single Tree Swallow.

Then, still at Starr's Point, we all did an interesting walk at Van Nostrand's Ponds. The newest pond held 2 Canada geese, 2 mallards, 4 Ring-necked Ducks (3m/1f), and a Belted Kingfisher flew over. Also we heard a calling Leopard Frog, and were very surprised to find an adult female Painted Turtle out of the water and up on the dyke around the pond.

The older pond has been recently drained, apparently because of a collapsed bank. Thus it had just a few very shallow puddles and was mostly dark mud. We saw a pair each of Blue-winged and Green-winged Teals, plus a Greater Yellowlegs that was very well camouflaged against the mud, and surprisingly, a Pectoral Sandpiper.

In Canning along the Habitant River, we saw another Greater Yellowlegs, 3 Blue-winged Teal, a Double-crested Cormorant, and 15+ Canada Geese. Later, one of the group saw a few hundred Canada Geese in a field of corn stubble south of Canning.

In Canning, we saw the Raven nest above Main St., and went to Harris' Pond, where we saw 3 male American Wigeons, 4 Black Ducks, 2 Mallards, and several Red-winged Blackbirds, including a darkly coloured female that was very uncooperative.

The Red-tailed Hawk nest at Hillaton, southwest of Canning, had no adult on it.

I was disappointed that we saw no warblers and very few swallows, but otherwise we all had a great day and lots of fun, especially with those owl stops and the long walk at the Daigles' lovely property.

Many thanks to Andy Nette, Bernard Forsythe, the Muttarts, and the Daigles, for helping to make this trip very memorable for a long time.



A sunny day in April drew a large crowd to Ian McLaren's annual Martinique Beach walk, where the highlights included Ipswich Sparrows (expected) and a flock of 15 Great Blue Herons flying in off the ocean (unexpected). [Photo Blake Maybank.]

Cape Sable Island

07 May 2005, Leader: Murray R. Newell

It rained and rained, almost as much as it did the previous Saturday here on CSI. Fifteen of us tried to bird, but after we got the Green Heron in Woods Harbour we gave up. There were 5 birders on this trip - from New Brunswick, Halifax, Liverpool, Lockport, and Ontario. Thanks for coming on the trip. It's now 8.30 p.m., and the rain still has not slacked off.

Belleisle Marsh

15 May 2005, Leader: Richard Stern

A dozen people, from Cape Sable Island to Kentville, including absolute beginners to experienced birders, assembled at 8:30 a.m., and set off for the French Basin Trail at Annapolis Royal. The birding there was excellent, and it took us 2 1/2 hours to do it instead of the anticipated 1 hour that I usually take when I'm on my own. Highlights included 3 male Cardinals singing (2 seen in the scope), and a stunning White-crowned Sparrow, that unfortunately appeared very briefly and was only seen by a lucky few. Yellow Warblers, evidently newly arrived, were everywhere. Chimney Swifts were overhead as we approached, and all 3 common swallows were seen. There were many ducks of several species, but alas, no sign of the Glossy Ibises that had been seen there earlier in the week.

We then had a brief walk in some mature woods on the North Mountain, and found Blue-headed Vireos, and the first Black-throated Green, American Redstart, Northern Parula, for the year for most of the group. Sharon Hawboldt, the traditional leader of this trip, turned up and kindly invited us back to her delightful home at Belleisle, where we had our lunch, and after that we did a 2 1/2 hour stroll around Belleisle Marsh.

Highlights there were 1-2 American Bitterns and many ducks, including Wood Ducks, Common and Hooded Mergansers, N. Shovellers, Gadwall, and Blue-winged Teal. Some of us got a great view of a Sora taking off from one hidden reed bed, and disappearing into another. Several were calling, as were Pied-billed Grebes. The last bird of the day was a rather distant but prolonged look at a male N. Harrier coasting over the fields.

We ended up with 70 species, and the weather was just about perfect.

May L-O-N-G Weekend on Bon Portage Island

By Claire Diggins

Our May weekend began much like other years. Ten members left the Shag Harbour Wharf in mild, sunny conditions. The island was beautiful when we explored until dark. A Great Horned Owl zoomed over our heads at Warbler Alley and later called to his mate, who answered in clear tones. After our evening meal we listened to and watched Leaches Storm-Petrels arriving in their burrows, and we examined one bird closely.

Saturday showed blue skies and mild temperatures. There were warblers about and we circled the island, returning just before the rain began. A special treat was the Snowy Egret on the north end. The closeness of the birds was ideal for beginner bird watchers.

On Sunday the wind had risen and it required grit to dress in multiple layers and rain gear and circle the island, but we were rewarded by finding birds in small protected corners. On Sunday night we were warned that we would not likely get off the island next day and possibly not on Tuesday. Calls were made on the field station cell phone for loved ones not to expect us home on Monday. This is when we began considering our food supply, but we did have ample for Monday.

We circled the entire island on Monday, although it blew a gale and rain fell constantly.

Over the next days we did not even ask Trina, the field station manager, if we would be going off. We could see that the wind had not lessened, and the waves beat upon the shores with great vehemence, sending spray into the air and onto the rocky shoreline. Only the heartiest of souls ventured round the island those days, and most birds were lying low in small pockets. Calls were made at the banders' quarters to cancel work, reassure family members, and pass messages.

Our food supplies began to look pretty meagre but we had a few rolled oats and some bread and cold cuts for one more day. Everything became communal, shared equally.

By Wednesday we had to ask Trina to supplement our resources. She provided flour and baking soda, which was used in several ways. Depending upon the amount of water that was added, this combination could be made into pancakes served with maple syrup for breakfast, pita served for lunch "filled" with fried cold cuts and onion or peanut butter and jam, biscuits when baked in the propane oven for 20 minutes, or an apple grunt dessert when dropped into bubbling chopped apple.

Trina gave us a small bag of potatoes and we boiled them and let them cool before making a hash, accompanied by fried cold cuts and onion with beets and slices of orange and apple for colour.

From the potato water we made a soup for Thursday. It contained 3 potatoes, half a bag of split peas, rice, a can of mixed beans and a can of flakes of ham. In our soup we also had a stick of celery and 2 baby carrots. Everyone was pleased to recognize some carrot floating in each bowl. Hot biscuits stretched this soup to mighty proportions!

Wednesday was filled with reading, exploring in the wild weather, knitting, painting water colours, and meditating by the old stove. Our water supply was supplemented by Trina and our wood supply would see us through Thursday. We needed entertainment. In the evening we opened song books and sang each song from the beginning to the end of the book. It sounded most cheery in the cool, damp cabin.

Thursday was unfit for even the most hearty to walk round the island but large portions of it were travelled on that day. All bird watchers were thankful to sit down to a robust casserole of rice and tuna. (Recipe follows.) The last of our fruit grunt was served topped with muslix with a tidbit of chocolate-covered granola bar for a highlight. This evening we were entertained by Richard from Quebec playing improvised music on a 5-string banjo. It was beautiful and so appreciated! By this time the wind had died to a degree where small sounds could be heard in the cabin. It filled us with great hope.

On Friday we were certain we would be getting off in the little window that was being opened for us before the next heavy winds hit. Trina said we would be going off at 10:00 while the tide was low, before the big swells came again. We put a smorgasboard on the table and enjoyed hot biscuits of cooked dough, jam and peanut butter, cranberry loaf, rice crackers, and tiny tastes of rice pudding. What feelings of elation were witnessed! Final visits were made to the light station, the banding lanes, and the cold, wet outhouses.

This was a special group that held itself together so well during this experience. There could not have been a better sense of community, cooperation, and support. These are people you want to be with in a crisis. Thanks to all, and special thanks to Trina for her attitude of support and strength. She offered everything that was on hand.

On Thursday evening and Friday morning CBC people asked to interview us. I answered questions with honesty and sincerity, and my words were broadcast on Friday morning, briefly. My advice for future incidences such as this would be to have lots of dry wood on hand and to hold some non-perishable food resources in the light station against the emergency needs of some group. This place of refuge and safety has a history which must yet be upheld.

Rice and Tuna Pie from Bon Portage Island

Cook 3 cups rice in about 6 cups water. In large saucepan: melt ~ 4 Tbl. butter. Fry 1 chopped onion, and sprinkle 3-4 Tbl flour and cook a bit. Add 3/4 cup leftover white wine, 1 cup powdered milk (mixed with water), and cook till thick. Add 1 can cream of mushroom soup, 1 can Ruffles onion chip dip, crushed garlic, 3 tsp. curry powder, and freshly ground pepper. Combine sauce and rice.

In a 8" x 13" pan layer 1/2 of rice mixture, spread 3 cans tuna, and the remainder of rice mix. Shred a bit of leftover cheese on top, and spread crushed Ritz crackers. Melt about 2 Tbl. butter and drizzle over crackers. Heat in oven about 20 minutes. Serves 10 with second helpings.

Trip leader: Claire Diggins Bird Watchers: Ken McKenna, Gary Murray, Pat McKay, Alasdair McKay, Sheila McCurdy, Jeff White, Brian Bartlett, Mary Conlin, Akke Leyeraar

The Fred Dobson Warbler Walk 25 May 2005, Leader: Joan Waldron

Sixteen of us turned up for a very cold and windy warbler walk. The birds stayed well back in the woods and the wind made listening difficult, but we heard or saw 12 species of warbler. There was a Lincoln's Sparrow and a Palm Warbler up near the boggy area at the end of the path north of the tea kettle. Even the Winter Wrens were almost silent. Some of us heard a N. Waterthrush at the parking lot at the junction of Prospect Rd. & St. Margarets Bay Rd.

It's still a great place to bird, cold or not. In case you wondered, there were no blackflies!!

Lewis Lake Warbler Walk 29 May 2005, Leader: Hans Toom

In anticipation of rain I shortened the Lewis Lake Warbler Walk to about 3.5 hours in the morning. As it happened the rains did not start in earnest until about noon. Nevertheless 16 Warbler species were counted during the walk, including:

Nashville-20
Northern Parula-30
Yellow-1
Chestnut-sided-50
Magnolia-50
Black-throated Blue-2
Yellow-rumped-100
Black-throated Green-20

Blackburnian-1
Palm-30
Blackpoll-1
Black and White-50
American Redstart-2
Ovenbird-50
Northern Waterthrush-2
Common Yellowthroat-30

No formal count was taken so numbers shown above are orders of magnitude, mostly an indication of species mix. Absent were Canada, Wilson's and Tennessee Warblers, birds often encountered on this loop. Many species were in low numbers such as Black-throated Blue, American Redstart and Yellow Warblers probably a representation of the 2-3 week migration delay due to the unforgiving northeasterlies.

The highlight was a very cooperative and early Olive-sided Flycatcher seen by all of us as it sat motionless waiting for prey to drift by. Alder Flycatchers and Eastern Wood Pewees had not yet returned, nor had the Broad-winged Hawk. A persistent singing Red-eyed Vireo was a first for the year for many of us, and a Pileated Woodpecker flying overhead was another nice surprise.

I am now convinced that on a good and long day of warbler birding here a daily tally of 20 species is attainable, not bad for a walk around a 2 kilometre loop. Perhaps early in June? On the other hand during migration 20 species of warblers have been seen in a single tree, though not by me! ☐



An IPSWICH SPARROW, Nova Scotia's true harbinger of spring, paused Apr.15 at Crystal Crescent Beach PP, on route to Sable Island. [Photo Hans Toom]

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Field trips are open to non-members as well as members. Feel free to phone or E-mail 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 Nova Scotia is 902. NSMNH = The Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street, 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. E-mail: sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca

Sun 28 Aug 2005 - Cherry Hill Beach

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

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Cherry Hill firehall, corner of Hwy #331 and Henry Conrad Road in Cherry Hill, Lunenburg County. Bring a lunch, insect repellent, sunscreen and rubber boots. Walking distance about 4 km, some parts of medium difficulty on sand and cobbles. Cherry Hill Beach area has a combination of salt marsh, salt marsh ponds, muddy intertidal flats (good for waders) and sand beach. The nearby forested areas have a good diversity of land birds. Specialties of the area include migrating waders, Piping Plovers (may be gone by late August) and occasionally vagrant herons and gulls. No rain date.

Fri 02 Sep to Mon 05 Sep 2005 – Bon Portage Island

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

Pre-Registration is necessary!

Meet at Prospect Point Wharf in Shag Harbour (west of Barrington Passage, Shelburne County) by 6 p.m. on Friday, 2nd September. Bring food, drinking water, extra clothing and footwear suitable for rough (sometimes wet) terrain. Bring your sleeping bag and a sheet to cover the bunk mattress. Bring your own flashlight, personal care items and binoculars. Scope and/or camera are optional. Pack only what you really need, and organize gear in waterproof bags. Field guides, pots and pans, dishes, utensils and a stove are available on the island. There is a charge of \$45.00 to Acadia University for use of the accommodations for the three nights. You will also be expected to make a donation for boat transportation. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. You may register on line at: joancz@ns.sympatico.ca, up to Aug.31st, or contact Claire Diggins by phone: 825-6152, or E-mail: Claire_diggins@hotmail.com

Sat 03 Sep 2005 – Yarmouth County

Leaders: Donna Ensor 875-4269 E-mail: smokeytow@yahoo.ca and Clyde B. Stoddart clydebrstod@yahoo.com

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Ford Dealership at the Tusket overpass (Hwy 103, exit 33). We will bird the Wilson Road area looking for fall migrants. Lots of warblers

have been found in this location. Afterwards we'll go to Roberts Island. Carpool as much as possible. Bring fly repellent and a lunch. No rain date.

Sat 10 Sep 2005 – Hartlen Point

Leader: Fulton Lavender 455-4966

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

Rain date: Sunday, 11 September.

Sat 17 Sep 2005 – Eastern Shore

Leader: Peter Richard 463-5612

E-mail: Prichard@ns.sympatico.ca

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

Fri 23 Sep 2005 – Cape Breton Chapter and NSBS 50th Anniversary Meeting - Sydney N.S.

Royal Bank Lecture Theatre, Cape Breton University, 7:30 p.m.

"The Birds of Bird Islands" – Guest Speaker: Dave McCorquodale

Please note: there will be no meeting in Halifax at the Museum of Natural History on Thursday 22 September.

Sat 24 Sep 2005 – Schooner Pond and Morien Bar

Leader: Maureen Cameron-MacMillan 727-2733

E-mail: maureen_cameron@excite.com

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Cape Breton University parking lot in front of the Great Hall.

Fri 30 Sep to Sun 02 Oct 2005 – Brier Island

Leaders: James Hirtle 640-2173 E-mail: jrhbirder@hotmail.com
and Fulton Lavender 455-4966

Join James on Saturday and Fulton on Sunday for a tour of Brier Island's hotspots. Mariner Cruises will be offering a whale & seabird cruise with Carl Haycock on both Saturday and Sunday afternoons. There will be owling on both Friday and Saturday evenings. For info on accommodations contact Suzanne Borkowski at 445-2922 or sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca

Sat 15 Oct 2005 - Chebucto Peninsula Seasonal Rarities Birding

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

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Park Gates, Crystal Crescent Beach Prov. Park. We'll walk to Mackerel Cove and back on the main trail, about 4 km of easy walking, followed by a tour of the southern Chebucto Peninsula hot spots which often yield rarities this time of year; Sambro Harbour, Sandy Cove Road, Ketch Harbour, Duncan's Cove, Chebucto Head and finish at Portuguese Cove. Dress for the season and bring a lunch and hot drinks. No rain date.

Sun 16 Oct 2005 – 50th Anniversary Commemorative Planting in Point Pleasant Park - Lower Parking Lot, end of Point Pleasant Drive; 3:00 p.m.

The Nova Scotia Bird Society will be planting a native tree in Point Pleasant Park to mark its 50th anniversary and its commitment to working with Municipal Government to restore native species to our parks and green spaces. Everyone welcome!

Thu 20 Oct to Sun 22 Oct 2005 - Society of Canadian Ornithologists Conference

Delta Halifax, 1990 Barrington St., Halifax, N.S.

As luck would have it, Nova Scotia hosts ornithologists from across the Nation in the very year we celebrate our 50th anniversary. Saturday morning features a symposium on Citizen Science, hosted by Bird Studies Canada and open to BSC and NSBS members. Stay tuned for announcements and check for details at: <http://www.sco-soc.ca/meetings.html>

Thu 27 Oct 2005 – NSBS Annual General Meeting and Book Launch

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

This year our AGM will be followed by a wine and cheese social combined with a Book Launch, sponsored by Nimbus Publishing and Frog Hollow Books, of Blake Maybank's "Birding Sites of Nova Scotia". We'll meet at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Museum, as usual, where we'll hold our meeting, then we'll go upstairs to the main floor of the Museum for wine and cheese where Blake will be on hand to autograph copies of his book. The front doors of the Museum will be open at 8:00 p.m.

Fri 18 Nov 2005 – NSBS Meeting in New Glasgow

New Glasgow Library, 182 Dalhousie Street, New Glasgow, 7:00 p.m.

"An Historical Look at Common and Rare Birds in Pictou County". Join a group of Pictou County birders and photographers for a chronicle of some of the highlights of bird observations in Pictou County over the past years. Harry Brennan, Richard Murphy, Steve Vines and Ken McKenna may be joined by a few other photographers for a visual presentation of some of the common resident birds as well as some of the more rare avian visitors that have touched down in this area. The program is co-sponsored by the Pictou County Naturalists Club and the Nova Scotia Bird Society and will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the program room of the New Glasgow Library at 182 Dalhousie St., New Glasgow (phone-755-6031). Please note: there will be no meeting of the NSBS on Thursday, Nov. 24th at the Museum in Halifax.

Sat 19 Nov 2005 – Autumn Birding in Pictou County

Leader: Ken McKenna 752-7644 (Home) 752-0044 (Office),
E-mail: kenmcken@pchg.net

Field Trip co-sponsored by the NSBS and the Pictou County Naturalists' Club. Explore the rivers and harbours of Pictou County to observe the abundant gull and waterfowl that make Pictou County their home in the fall and early winter. One can expect hundreds to thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls and Greater Scaup to be present at this time of year and we might be lucky enough to pick out rarities such as Little Gull or Tufted Duck. We will expect to cover Caribou, Pictou, Chance and Merigomish Harbours. This will be a full day event, so bring a lunch, warm clothing and boots. Meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot behind the Heather Motel in Stellarton off exit 24 from the TCH. For further information contact Ken McKenna: 752-7644 or kenmcken@pchg.net.

Sat 26 Nov 2005 – Canso and Area

Leaders: Steve Bushell 366-2527 and Tom Kavanaugh 366-3476 E-mail: terri.crane@ns.sympatico.ca

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Chapel Gully Trail parking lot. Come down Main Street, turn right onto Union, go past the Marina and take the next right onto Wilmot. The parking lot is at the top of the hill. Fall migration is in full swing on Canso at this time of year, so be prepared for almost anything! No rain date. Accommodations will be available just outside Canso and in Antigonish for those wanting to do Randy's trip the following day.

Sun 27 Nov 2005 – Antigonish Coastal Waters

Leader: Randy Lauff 867-2471 E-mail: rlauff@stfx.ca

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

Wed 14 Dec 2005 – Tue 3 Jan 2006 – Christmas Bird Counts

There are 35 different CBC's held annually in Nova Scotia. To obtain more info on a count near you, click on Blake Maybank's winter birding link on our Nova Scotia Bird Society's website (address on inside front cover), or type the following website address into your browser: <http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/maybank/other/ns.cbc.htm>

Sat 07 Jan 2006 – Sewer Stroll 1 - Halifax/Dartmouth Area

Leader: Bob McDonald 443-5051

E-mail: bobathome@hfx.eastlink.ca

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of McCormack's Beach Provincial Park, just past Boondocks Restaurant in Eastern Passage. We'll look for rare birds and regular winter visitors. Dress for cold weather and bring a lunch. Plan to carpool as much as possible. Storm date: Sun 8 Jan. Please note: Bob will be away through Christmas and New Years. For info, please contact Suzanne Borkowski: 445-2922, E-mail: sborkowski@hfx.eastlink.ca

Thu 26 Jan 2006 – Members' Slide Night and Skills Workshop

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

"Recognizing Accipiters" - Fulton Lavender will help us distinguish between large female Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, and small Northern Goshawks. This workshop will be followed by our ever popular Members' Slide Night. Bring along 15 – 20 of your favourite slides related to birds or birding!

Sat 28 Jan 2006 – HFN Sewer Stroll – Halifax/Dartmouth Area

Leader: Peter Payzant 861-1607 E-mail: pce@accesswave.ca

Meet at 9:15 a.m. in the parking lot behind Boondocks Restaurant, Fisherman's Cove, Eastern Passage. Dress warmly and bring a lunch, binoculars, field guides and telescope (if you have one). Storm date: Sun 29 Jan. □



A trio of migrant CHIPPING SPARROWS was a pretty plateful on a makeshift feeder on Brier I., May 23. [Photo Richard Stern]



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NSBS 2005 Big Day Competition



First Place: "Lady and the Tramps" - Back row: Fulton Lavender, Clarence Stevens, Sr. Front row: Cindy Creighton and Clarence Stevens, Jr. Missing: Terry Paquet. Tally: 111 species



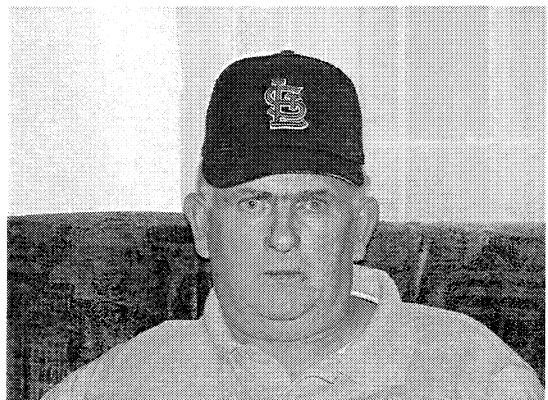
2nd Place - "Team Brier" Anne & Eric Mills - 88 species on Brier Island alone!



Third Place: "The Roadrunners": Don MacNeill, Suzanne Borkowski, Bob McDonald. Total Species tally: 87



Honourable Mention - youngest birders to participate - "The Aved Birders": Patricia Chalmers, Lucas Berrigan, and Kier Gigeroff" Total species tallied: 66



Honourable Mention - 4th place "Crazy Horse" Murray R. Newell- Highest tally by a single birder - 72 species. Also highest tally in the shortest time:



A WHITE-WINGED DOVE spend time at a Halifax feeder and posed for this fine portrait. [Photo Cindy Creighton]

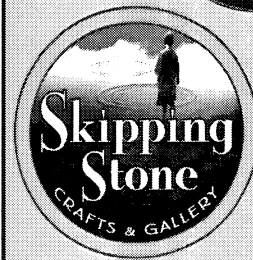


The extraordinary spring displays of male RUFFED GROUSE are meant to attract females of the species, but are also a lure for lucky photographers. [Photo Jeanne Shermerhorn]

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