

Nova Scotia Birds

A Quarterly Publication of the Nova Scotia Bird Society



Summer 2007
(The Birds of Spring)

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Executive 2006-2007



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Formed in 1955, the Nova Scotia Bird Society is a member of Nature Nova Scotia and Nature Canada. 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 2008 issue: Dec. 7, 2007
Spring 2008 issue: Mar. 7, 2008

Summer 2007 issue: June 7, 2008
Fall 2007 issue: Aug. 7, 2007

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- Spring Weather
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Cover Photo: From the beginning of the breeding season (here May 21 near Spectacle Lake, HRM) you have to go into boggy conifer woods to find LINCLON'S SPARROWS. (Photo Rita Viau).

NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS
SUMMER 2007

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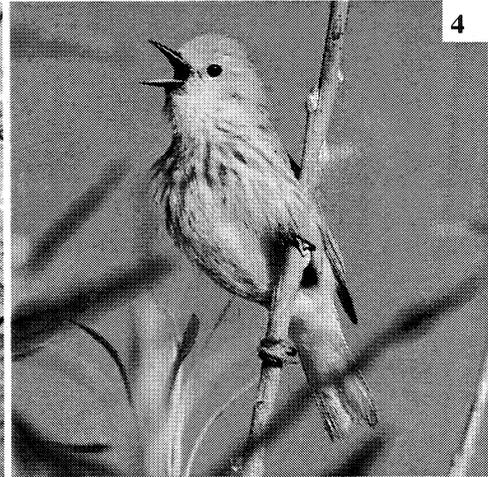
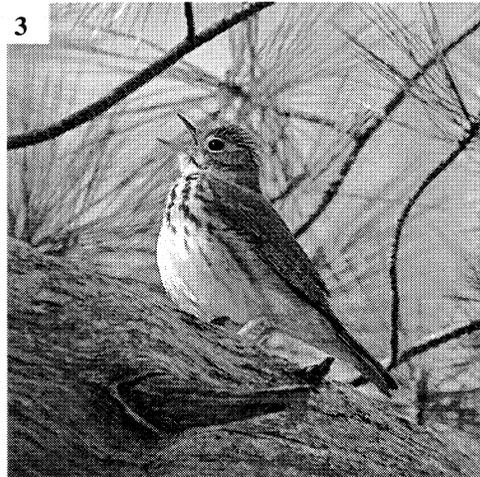
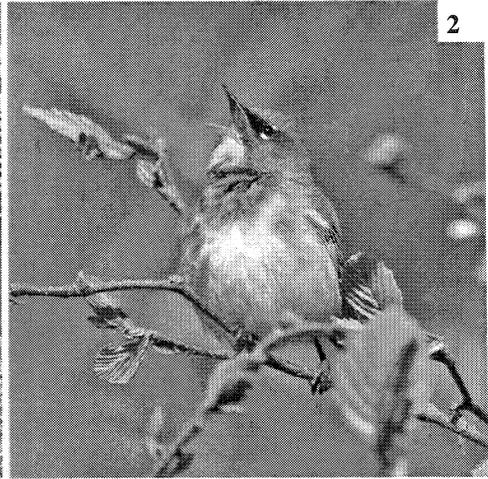
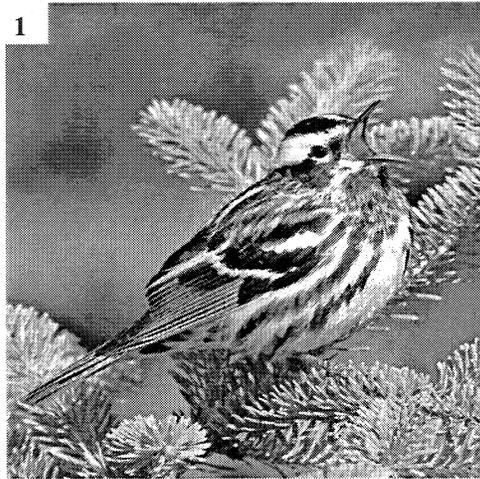
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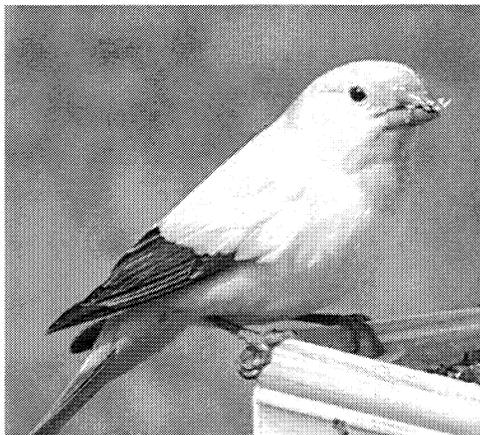
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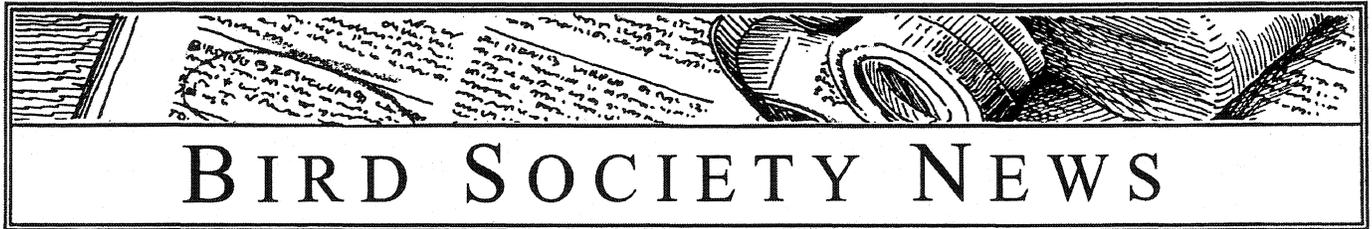


Although the woods in May cannot be said to ring with melodious songs of warblers – they're mostly sibilant or chattery at best – they certainly perform in fine costume. [Photos (1,2) Angus MacLean, (3) Richard Stern, (4) Hans Toom]



Partial albinos are quite often seen among birds, and certainly attract attention. The PURPLE FINCH May 29 at Midville Branch, Lun. [photo Darren Veinot] had normal flight feathers and a lovely pink wash on head and upper breast (which qualifies it as "leucistic" rather than strictly "partial albino"), and the AMERICAN ROBIN Apr. 1 in Shelburne [Photo Phil Callan] retained its typical orange breast.

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



President's Corner

The Agreement with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources to make Hertford Island part of a Wildlife Management Area, while still leaving ownership and control of access in our hands, is in the final stages. We look forward to signing this Agreement within the next few weeks.

In the meantime the members of the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund have stepped down. While this represents a devastating loss to the Society, no one can fault them for wanting to call it a day. Shirley Cohrs has been an active member on this board for more than 25 years, Dave Currie has served as Treasurer of the SSTF's for the last 20 years, and Ken Gregoire is right behind him with 18 years. In addition, Ken has flown his plane over our properties to personally monitor them. Peter Bell, an expert in seabirds, has been on the Board for close to 10 years and has gone out in his boat to check that nothing is disturbing the colonies of nesting birds. This level of care and concern is a rare commodity among volunteers, and a simple thank you doesn't begin to express our gratitude to these four dedicated people.

The process of appointing a new Board of Trustees is now in the works, and a new resolution detailing the purpose and function of the Trust has been drafted. This resolution will be presented at the AGM in October at which time you will be asked to vote for or against adopting it. If you are unable to attend the AGM and would like to cast your vote, you may do so by proxy. The Special Resolution, along with instructions on how to vote by proxy, can be viewed elsewhere in this issue.

Along with new appointees, we will be creating a new, volunteer position: Sanctuary Warden. The wardens will monitor our properties from a safe distance, so as not to disturb the nesting birds, and report back to the Trustees with updates and recommendations for required maintenance. I'm pleased to announce that the first person we asked to be a Sanctuary Warden, Ken Gregoire, has accepted, and will continue to fly his plane over our islands and let us know if anything is amiss. This kind of surveillance is essential to ensure the ongoing survival of Nova Scotia's birds.

If you live close to one of our properties and are interested in becoming a Sanctuary Warden please let me know. A description of our properties, reprinted from the April 1988 issue of *Nova Scotia Birds*, can be viewed in this issue.

Suzanne Borkowski, President
Nova Scotia Bird Society

Report of the Nominating Committee

Andy Horn - Chairman

The following have agreed to serve on the Executive for 2007-2008, if elected at the upcoming NSBS Annual General Meeting:

President	Suzanne Borkowski
Vice-President	David Hughes
Past President	Andy Horn
Treasurer	Janey Hughes
Secretary	Pat McKay
Membership Secretary	Bonnie Carmichael
Director	Mary Alward
Director	Barbara Hinds
Director	Patrick Kelly
Director	Susann Myers

The following have agreed to serve for 2007-2008, if appointed at the NSBS AGM:

Honorary Solicitor	Tony Robinson
Honorary Auditor	Harold Forsyth

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF THE NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

NEW RESOLUTIONS FOR SANCTUARY TRUST - 25 OCTOBER 2007

Be it resolved:

- 1) That the Nova Scotia Sanctuary Trust, created in 1968, be known henceforth as "The Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary Trust". (In this document the word "Trust" will denote the Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary Trust, and the word "Society" will denote the Nova Scotia Bird Society),
- 2) That the Trust will be recognized as a Standing Committee of the Society whose function will be to receive donations, either directly or from the Society, and to allocate these funds at their sole discretion to:
 - a. purchase properties on behalf of the Society
 - b. maintain the Society's properties so as to promote the needs of nesting and migrating birds
 - c. pay taxes and any legal fees as required
 - d. support research projects and other undertakings that fall within the aims of the Society; i.e. the study of bird life, public education, and the protection of habitat,
- 3) That the Trust will consist of a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 6 members: a Chairperson, a Treasurer, a Secretary and one to three directors; appointed by a majority vote of the Executive of the Society from among the membership of the Society,
- 4) That duly appointed members will serve for a period of three (3) years, renewable twice for a total of nine (9) years,
- 5) That the President of the Society be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Trust,
- 6) That the Chairperson of the Trust be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Executive,
- 7) That the Chairperson of the Trust and the President of the Society shall co-sign deeds and legal documents pertaining to the properties owned by the Society,
- 8) That a report of the activities of the Trust be given at the Annual General Meeting of the Society in October of each year, by the Chairperson of the Trust, or their representative; said report to include a list of current members of the Trust,
- 9) That a complete, financial statement be given at the Annual General Meeting of the Society in October of each year, by the Treasurer of the Trust, or their representative.

This resolution, if adopted, will replace the special resolution of March 28th, 1968.

This Special Resolution will be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society on Thursday, October 25th, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Museum of Natural History, 1747 Summer Street in Halifax, N.S.

At that time you will be asked to vote for or against adopting this resolution. If you are unable to attend this meeting, but would like to vote, then according to paragraph 17 of our Constitution: "Each Individual, Family, Institutional or Life Member shall at all meetings of members be entitled to one vote and may vote by proxy." You may register your proxy vote by sending an e-mail, with "Proxy Vote" in the subject line to our Secretary at: nsbs.sec@gmail.com

All proxy votes must be received by our Secretary no later than 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 19th, 2007, in order to be counted.

Suzanne Borkowski
President
Nova Scotia Bird Society

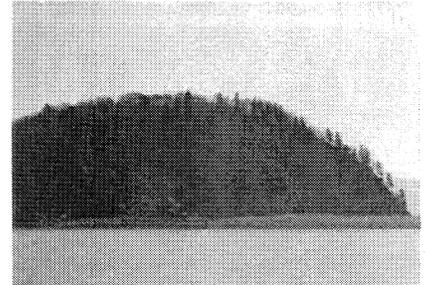
Our Properties

(A survey of NSBS properties reprinted from *Nova Scotia Birds* April 1988)

Spencers Island

Shirley Cohrs

In 1986, this property was leased to the Nova Scotia Bird Society for ten years by the Scott Paper Company for protection of the seabird colony there. The island is twenty acres in size and is located in the Minas Channel near the Village of Spenser's Island, Cumberland County. The Environmental Protection in Cumberland South group, known as "EPCIS", censused the island and found that of the ten islands in the upper Bay of Fundy which had nesting seabirds, Spencer's has the richest diversity. Census data collected over a seven year period, included nesting Great Blue Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, Black Guillemot, Common Eider and Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls. A number of passerines nest there as well.



Spencers Island. [Photo Ward Hemeon]

The Kelsey Property at Port Joli

David Young

The former Charles Kelsey property on the St. Catherine's River Road, Queen's County, is situated quite close, but not contiguous to the new Cadden Beach preserve. This property has been owned by the Nova Scotia Bird Society for several years but has not been actively managed or improved in any way. Acreage is reported to be about 290 and the property is generally rectangular with approximately one km bordering the road and extending one and one half km deep.



Kelsey Property, Port Joli. [Photo David Young]

Upon visiting the property this summer, I discovered it to be covered with an extremely dense vegetative cover, consisting of the typical seaside species of spruce, a few hardwoods and low growing "pucker brush". This cover and the complete lack of woods roads or trails makes the property almost inaccessible. There is a short property border trail along the southern edge which I used to get to the southern part of the property. There seem to be many low, rocky knolls and one large bog with a small Stillwater and a few scattered tamarack trees.

Now to the important part--the birds! This parcel is the ideal home for the typical south shore summer species: Black-throated Green, Magnolia, Parula, Yellow, Yellowthroat, Palm, Yellow-rumped, Redstart, and a few Tennessee and Chestnut-sided Warblers. Also present were many Juncos, Song Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, Robins, Blue Jays, Gray Jays, Crows and both Chickadees. I would expect, but did not see, an occasional Raven, Alder Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruffed Grouse, Great-horned Owl, Tree Swallow and maybe even Rusty Blackbird and Lincoln Sparrow around the rather sizable bog.

A breeding bird survey I did near Jordon Falls, in similar habitat but with some additional water present, turned up about 60 possible breeders, so I would expect 40-50 breeding species on this property. I would suggest that this area would be an interesting demonstration area of a typical south shore habitat with the creation of a nicely laid out trail wandering throughout the property.

Kemptonville Property

John F. Kearney

The North Kemptonville property of the Nova Scotia Bird Society was visited during the afternoon of February 28, 1988. The property is located approximately 8 kilometres from the end of the paved road in North Kemptonville and about 3 kilometres before the entrance to the Nova Nada Monastery. The road to the site is probably impassable to all but four-wheel drive vehicles during the spring breakup. The property is deep in the interior of the province and thus quite isolated. There is only one dwelling between the end of the paved road and the monastery.

The section of the site immediately adjacent to the road is surrounded by a fairly mature stand of spruce and fir (see map). Close to where a brook passes beneath the road, there is a path going in a southerly direction and leading to an open, wet meadow. The path is blocked off by an old and rusted cable. At the edge of the meadow is a dyke with a structure to control the level of water in the meadow. Water falls through the structure to the brook below and behind the dyke. The meadow was probably a bog, but it is now quite flooded, perhaps covered in many places by a couple of feet of water but with much emergent vegetation. It is difficult to determine at this time year the effectiveness of the dyke and water control structure in maintaining water levels and what that level must be.

No wildlife was observed during the visit. However, I was in this area on a regular basis during three months in 1974, and on several occasions since that time. From this experience, I know that the area is exceptional in terms of the number of Pileated Woodpeckers frequenting it. There is a higher abundance than normal of all species of woodpeckers due to the relative isolation and the large quantity of tall, dead trees. The area is also particularly productive for Barred, Great Horned and Saw-whet owls, and for Spruce Grouse. However, despite the isolation, there has been increasing human disturbance of this area over the past 15 years. Residential subdivisions and a country club are now located in nearby Kemptonville, and there is an increasing human presence due to all-terrain vehicles.

It is recommended that another survey of this property be conducted during the summer in order to determine the effectiveness of the water control structure and the potential of the site as a breeding area for forest birds and waterfowl.

The Tusket Group

Ted C. D'Eon

The BALD TUSKET ISLANDS consist of five, relatively small islands, four of which are owned by the Nova Scotia Bird Society, and located at the western edge of Lobster Bay, Yarmouth County, in southwestern Nova Scotia.

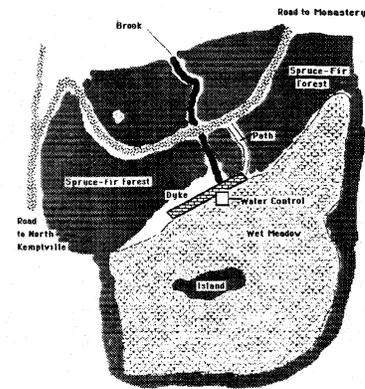
They are the most distant of the near Tusket Islands, a group of 25 to 30 islands and ledges. The well known Seal Island group of five islands, sometimes referred to as the "Mud Islands", are located another 10 to 20 km south and also considered part of the Tusket Island chain, but these are rarely included when the locals refer to the "Tusket Islands".

The BALD TUSKETS, presumably named because they were treeless or half so at the time, are now all "bald". All of the vegetation is low-growing and consists of grasses and wild flowers, raspberry and blackberry bushes, and many other types of non-woody flora.

The tidal currents around these islands are hard to imagine. At 7 to 8 knots, when the tide is running, it can be like a raging river, even out there, 10 km from the mainland. Needless to say, for me in my 19 foot outboard motor boat, I had to choose windless days with calm seas for the 17 km trip from West Pubnico to visit these islands.

My first visit was on May 25, 1987. I anchored my boat, Blue Heron, about 50 m east of the middle of the OUTER BALD, where the current goes into a slow circular pool when the tide is ebbing, and rowed to the steep sandy beach, underlying an even steeper bank of rounded beach rocks. My first urge was to check out the northern bank of this island for a petrel colony. On the way there I found several Great Black-backed Gull nests with eggs, as well as dozens of Savannah Sparrows singing, and a Song Sparrow or two in and about the beached-up and broken lobster traps on the northern beach.

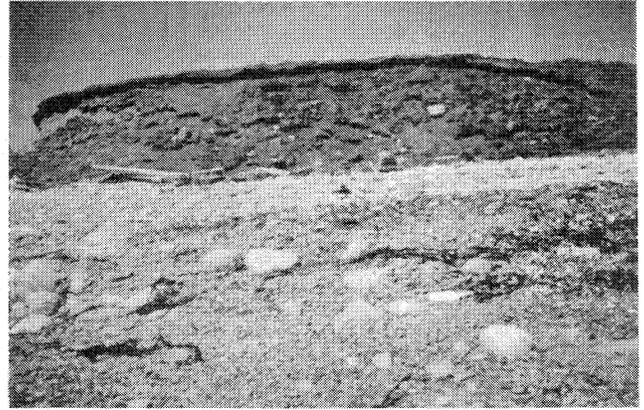
Rough Map of North Kemptonville Property



All along the grassed-over part of the northern bank, which stretches for about 30 m, there were what appeared to me to be petrel burrows; some were shallow holes 10 to 15 cm; some, I could touch the end at arm's length, some, I couldn't, and most were too small for me to get my hand through the entrance. No evidence of bird life could be detected in any of the burrows. I assumed that the ones I had reached into were unfinished, but that the colony was active since some of the burrows showed recently dug out material at their entrances. I would check these out again on a future visit.

Standing above the middle of this northern bank is a sign which reads:

EARLE E. ARUNDEL BREEDING BIRD SANCTUARY
CONVEYED TO THE NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
BY NATURE CONSERVENCY OF CANADA
HUNTING PERMITTED IN SEASON



Mossy Bald Island. [Photo Ted D'Eon]

Then, when I looked back over the bank, a Raven seemed to be flying away from the stone house.

Here, I must mention what I've been told of the stone house on the OUTER BALD. During the 1930's, it seems that this island was owned by an eccentric American, by the name of Arundel, who made it his kingdom and called it the "PRINCIPALITY OF OUTERBALDONIA", and appointed himself prince. He had this house, ARUNDEL CASTLE, built and a constitution drawn up; one of the clauses excluded women from the island. The American government became interested in the island at this time. The whole thing was a farce, but it still made the world news. Anyway, the masonry still looks sound, although a lot of the wood is pretty well rotted away. One of the masons who worked on it was my grandfather.

There were several Magnolia Warblers and one Palm Warbler near the house as I approached it. Inside, in the northeast corner, above the ceiling joists, was a Raven's nest with only one young; lots of clutter from scavenged food, mainly sheep bones and wool, littered the floor underneath. I also found some Bank Swallows nesting along the western edge of this island.

All in all, there must have been 50 Black-backed Gull's nests, one or two Herring Gull's nests, the remains of a Common Eider's nest, some Bank Swallow's and some Savannah Sparrow's nests.

My second visit to OUTER BALD was on June 22, 1987, with Ken and Doris Peters and Delisle d'Entremont. On landing, Delisle spotted a White-winged Crossbill taking off from the beach. We were later able to approach it to within 1 metre. It was an adult male with a substandard crossed bill; it wasn't quite straight, but it didn't actually cross. The bird seemed to be content as it was feeding on the beach vegetation.



Black-backed gull's nest Little Half Bald Island. [Photo Ted D'Eon]

Ken, Doris and I headed for the petrel nesting area, anticipating conclusive nesting evidence. The results were disappointing. The same holes were in the bank; the only change was that the vegetation was taller, with no signs of petrel activity. I returned to this island again on July 20, 1987, with Raymond d'Entremont and my son, Nigel. Again, we found no petrel activity.

The second of the BALD TUSKETS I visited that year was MIDDLE BALD ISLAND. This was on May 25, 1987. This island lies 1 km north of the OUTER BALD and has about half the land mass of the latter. Black Guillemots were flying in the area and probably nest here. One Common Eider's nest with three eggs was located above the northern bank. Other birds which probably nest here include Savannah Sparrows which were quite plentiful, Song Sparrows, and Bank Swallows. Of course Black-backed Gulls nests were plentiful. There is an abandoned sheep coral at the northwestern corner of this island.

On May 27, 1987, I landed on the eastern side of the MOSSY BALD ISLAND. This one is much smaller than the preceding two and lies about another kilometre north of MIDDLE BALD.

My first observation was the number of the Black Guillemots on the island and in the

water adjacent to it; some were on the rocks and some even in the overhanging turf edging the top part of the island. The turf layer almost all around this island is riddled with interconnecting holes and galleries. On my later visit to this island, on June 22, 1987, with Ken and Doris Peters and Delisle d'Entremont, we actually saw a number of adult guillemots flying out of these holes, and bird tracks in the loose earth at their entrances. In one of these burrows, I thought I could hear some sounds; I reached in and got what looked like a fresh squirt of bird excrement on my hand, but could not locate any resident. Part of a guillemot eggshell was also found nearby, and before we left, some adult guillemots with fish in bill were waiting for our departure.

Here, the Black-backed Gull was the primary nester by far. Savannah and Song Sparrows were seen here and probably nesting. Some Bank Swallows flew by and some terns were fishing 1/2 km to the south; there was no sign of these nesting on the island. One Double-crested Cormorant displayed something like a broken wing type of diversion tactic as it flew away from the island when it saw me. Perhaps it had a broken wing. There were no signs of cormorants nesting here and I can't recall ever seeing cormorants acting like this before.

The third island I visited on May 27, 1987 was the HALF BALD ISLAND, a kilometre southwest of the LITTLE HALF BALD. This one is the largest of the group, slightly larger than the OUTER BALD and the one not owned by the Bird Society. Its owner, Mr. LeBlanc, keeps a flock of sheep here all year round and they keep most of the vegetation clipped very short, affording only limited suitable nesting sites. There were few birds of any kind here. Even the Black-backed Gull population was very low. I am convinced that the bird situation on this island was mainly due to the sheep. An Arctic Tern flew overhead but no tern nests were found.

The two larger Bird Society islands had sheep on them up until a few years ago. These islands have not yet recovered from their impact.

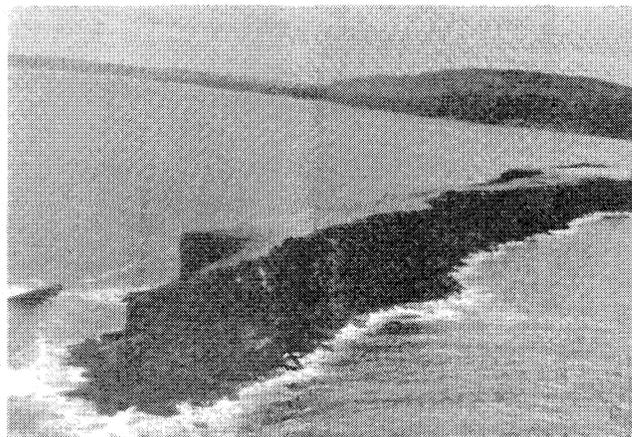
I was disappointed with the petrel colony there once was on OUTER BALD and also the disappearance of the once large tern colony on one of the smaller of these islands. these do not seem to be active anymore.

Hertford Island

Bob Dickie

Between the entrance of Great Bras d'Or and St. Ann's Bay, Cape Breton, stretching to the northeast, about three miles from Cape Dauphin, are two rocky islands known as "The Bird Islands". Their names are Hertford and Ciboux. The innermost of these (Hertford) became the property of the Nova Scotia Bird Society on April 8, 1958 (nine years before the formation of the Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund in March, 1967).

Hertford was originally granted to the General Mining Association in 1833 and sold by them to John MacLean in 1876. It was subsequently sold by Victoria County in 1935 (tax sale?) to Lawrence Wilson. In 1943 it was deeded to Arthur Allen, then to Der Val Goldthwaite in the same year. It was eventually purchased by the Bird Society fifteen years later for the princely sum of \$160.00.



Hertford Island from the air. [Photo Ken Gregoire]

For a modest fee, charter boats will take you for a trip around these islands. They present cliff faces to the observer, against which the ocean pounds incessantly. This seemingly hostile environment is the nesting place of many species of sea birds: Atlantic Puffin, Razorbill, Black Guillemot, Thin and Thick-billed Murres, Black-legged Kittiwake, Great Cormorant, Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull.

With your help it will remain their sanctuary forever.

Peters Island

Richard B. Stern

Peter's island, one of the Properties now owned by the Nova Scotia Bird Society, lies immediately to the southeast of the village of Westport on Brier Island, and is separated from the latter by only a few yards of swirling water where the southbound currents through Grand Passage meet the northbound currents heading into St. Mary's Bay. It is approximately oval in shape, measuring roughly 600 metres by 400 metres and consists of columns of basalt rising from the water to a grassy plateau in the centre and is crowned by a lighthouse which is one of the most audibly (when there is fog) and visibly (when there is not fog) prominent features in the vicinity of Westport. The first lighthouse was built in 1850, and for many years there was a lighthouse keeper but more recently the light has been fully automated. Transport Canada still maintains helicopter landing rights and occasionally visit to maintain the automatic light. The island was inhabited until some twenty years ago and indeed there was a lobster processing plant until about thirty years ago.



Peters Island from the air. [Photo Richard Stern]

The terns, which are of course the main avian feature of the island, first started appearing about fifteen years ago and now appear to be thriving. A detailed study of the foraging and breeding performance of the Arctic and Common Terns of Peter's Island was performed during the summer of 1982 by Ian Kirkham, then of the Department of Biology of Dalhousie University and a summary of his survey was published in the January 1983 edition of Nova Scotia Birds, Volume 25, Number 1. At that time the total population of terns was estimated at about 500 pairs of which about 200 were Arctic and 300 were Common. occasional Roseate Terns were also seen and heard and on July 14, 1982, one adult and chick were found. I was lucky enough to be able to visit the island again in the summer of 1987 and again the tern colony appeared to be thriving. In the middle of the breeding season I estimated approximately 2000 terns of which approximately half were Arctic and half Common but I did not see any Roseate. There were nests, some with eggs, some with chicks and chicks that had wandered away from the nests all over the island but for both lack of time and fear of disturbance, I did not attempt to carry out any kind of population study or formal survey.

Usually the Terns appear on or around May 10, and initially a flock of some 300-400 birds appear and the numbers will then build up over the next week or so. The Arctics usually precede the Common. The arrival of the terns is usually greeted happily by the Westporters who generally regard it as a sign that summer is on the way and who call the birds "Mackerel Gulls".



Arctic Tern colony on Peters Island. [Photo Richard Stern]

In addition to the terns I have been able to observe evidence of breeding Great Cormorants (1 - 2 pairs on some flat rocks at the northern tip of the island) as well as Spotted Sandpipers. There are usually large numbers of Herring Gulls that hang around the rocks at the edge of the island, presumably preying on tern chicks, but I have seen no evidence of breeding of Herring Gulls. There is, of course, an enormous Herring and Black-backed Gull breeding colony on Brier Island only a couple of miles away and it is quite likely that these gulls are a source of predation of the terns. During the summer of 1983, I saw a pair of full breeding plumaged Laughing Gulls sitting together on the rocks in among the terns but I could find no evidence of breeding and unfortunately I have seen none since. During the winter months flocks of Eider, Oldsquaw, Scoter and Black Guillemot, etc., are often to be seen on and around the edge of the island. Overall, therefore, Peter's Island is a small but highly important acquisition of the Bird Society and long may terns continue to nest there!

Indian Island

Shirley Cohrs

On a clear sunny morning in mid July, a small group of birders set off in the *Christabelito*, a thirty foot Cape Islander, captained by Peter Bell of Petite Riviere, Lunenburg County, to investigate Indian Island, a twenty acre, uninhabited, inaccessible and reputedly haunted isle, situated off the entrance to Green Bay, Lunenburg County. Also aboard was Captain Douglas Bell, Peter's father.

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 that it has become a breeding ground of the Double-crested Cormorant. It was to find out what, if any, other species might be established there that this expedition was mounted.

The intention had been merely to circumnavigate the island with binoculars and telescopes at the ready, but we were lucky enough to have optimum landing conditions--and land we did, with Peter ferrying us ashore two by two in his rowboat. It was still tricky--"landing" entailed scrambling from the boat to a seaweed covered rock ledge.

Once ashore, there was no doubt that this was a thriving cormorant colony. The noise was considerable, the footing in the guano slippery and the smell interesting. Most of the young cormorants had fledged and were arranged with the adults in the tops of the moribund spruce trees. A few young remained on the nests which varied considerable in size. Some were apparently fairly new, while others had been added to in layers over the years, but all were built of small twigs with large pale ribbons of kelp well woven in. The Herring and Black-backed Gull nests, mere grassy platforms on the pebbles, were by now deserted, but there were so many young flightless gulls (varying in size from a few inches to a foot or so) lying around in the hummocks, that it was difficult to avoid treading on them. They were easily ('tho somewhat hazardously) picked up and on being released, staggered off, their balance impaired by their huge bills and feet.

At the S.W. end of the island we found a small heronry of Great Blues and several petrel burrows were around. These latter were so deep and dirty that no one offered a long arm, but a freshly dead petrel wing with the characteristic petrel smell was picked up. Several dozen Black Guillemots in breeding plumage fled from the shores, feet gleaming blood red in the sunshine, and families of Common Eider swam among the weedy inshore rocks.

Spotted Sandpipers, Black-capped Chickadee, Song Sparrow and an early-returning Sanderling completed our list as we stepped gingerly about, knee deep in a lush green weed reminiscent of the flora at the Dartmouth Piggery. Peter rowed us all safely back to the boat for a return trip to Bush Island. Enroute, Captain Bell told us stories of the early settlers hereabouts and detours were made to view McLeod's Harbour and Queen's Beach, both on the now uninhabited Cape LaHave Island. As we listened to his accounts, it took little imagination to be back with those brave early souls who lived out their lives on these inhospitable but beautiful shores. It was a trip of ornithological interest and historical reminiscence.

Mid July is not the only time Indian Island has been surveyed. Ken Gregoire often flies over the island in winter and reports on its value as a haven for hundreds of wildfowl. Apparently thirty-five Great Cormorants, twenty Black Guillemots and fifty Oldsquaw are usually present with Common Eider numbers fluctuating from 250 to up to 400. The birds are seen in water adjacent to the island in fine weather and pull out to rest, shelter and oil their feathers during winter storms. So it seems that this small island is particularly valuable, used by the birds both in breeding season and during the cold winter storms. ☐



Swamp and grasses, west shore looking inland, Indian Island, Summer 1987. [Photo Fred Dobson]



North Point, looking east to Cape LaHave, Indian Island, Summer 1987. [Photo Fred Dobson]



SPRING BIRD REPORTS

Loons Through Grebes

By Ian McLaren

Loons and grebes, especially RED-THROATED LOON, were certainly under-reported, given the largely healthy NSMC totals. Notable counts of the two saltwater grebes from mid-April to early May probably represented migratory waves. ☞

Red-throated Loon				Mar. 13	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
May 31	Brier I., <i>en route</i>	2	IAM	Apr. 12, 20	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	1, 14	JOB
Common Loon				Apr. 21	Brier I.	1	ELM
March	Widely at sea	5 repts. of 16 indiv.	var. obs.	Apr. 26	Graves I., <i>Lun.</i>	75	DPO
April	Widely at sea	7 repts. of 11 indiv.	var. obs.	Apr. 27	Port l'Hebert, <i>Shel.</i>	4	DPO
Apr. 23	Lumsden Dam, <i>Kings</i>	1	D. Markle	Apr. 29	Cresecent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	25	ELM
Apr. 29	W. Head, <i>Queens</i>	"steady movement"	ELM	May 24	Glace Bay	1	CSM, TMM
May 5	E. Lake Ainslie, <i>Inv.</i>	pair	KAC	Red-necked Grebe			
May 25, 31	Janvrin Hbr., <i>I. Rich.</i>	pair	KAC	Mar. 7	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	1	JOB
May 23	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW	Mar. 13	Shag End, <i>HRM</i>	5	BLM
May 31	Cape St. Marys, <i>Digby</i>	1	JCZ <i>et al.</i>	Apr. 10	Purcells Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Pied-billed Grebe				Apr. 18	Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	10+	TEC
Apr. 28	Elderbank, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH	Apr. 20	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	3	JOB
Apr. 28-29	Georgefield, <i>Hants</i>	1	ROW	Apr. 29	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	2	ELM
May 2-31	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1-3	KFS	Apr. 29	Eagle Head Wharf, <i>Queens</i>	6	ELM
May 3	Black R., <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF	Apr. 30	Graves I., <i>Lun.</i>	2	CJF
May 24	French Basin Trail, <i>Ann.</i>	2	D. Lowe	May 7-8	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	13	SEM
Horned Grebe				May 31	Cape St. Marys, <i>Digby</i>	1	JCZ <i>et al.</i>
Mar. 7	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	1	JOB				☞☞☞

Tubenoses Through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

Two hundred NORTHERN GANNETS at New Waterford, *CBRM*, March 24 preceded the main northward migration documented from about April 15 through the first 10 days of May.

Local DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS arrived on their colonies during the last days of March, but migration to more northerly points continued into early May. ☞

Northern Fulmar				Double-crested Cormorant			
Apr. 27	Off Brier I.	"Lots"	CAH	Mar. 24	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	5 ads.	SEM
May 12	Off Brier I.	65	CAH, NSMC	Mar. 26	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	2	JOB
May 16	Off CSI	Some	MUN	Mar. 26	Pictou Causeway, <i>Pict.</i>	2	KJM
May 19	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	15	CAM, ALM	Mar. 31	Pictou Causeway, <i>Pict.</i>	12	KJM
Sooty Shearwater				Mar. 31	Yarmouth Hbr., <i>Yar.</i>	35	MUN
May 16	Off CSI	A few	<i>fide</i> MUN	Apr. 6	Bear R., <i>Digby</i>	~6 ads.	MCR
Northern Gannet				Apr. 8	Purcells Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Mar. 24	New Waterford, <i>CBRM</i>	200	CSM, TMM	Apr. 9	Bissett L., <i>Dartmouth</i>	1	DOU
Apr. 7	Off CSI First this spring	TEC		Apr. 12	Shad Bay, <i>HRM</i>	On colony	BLM
Apr. 9	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	2	CAM, ALM	Apr. 14	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	1	BBU, FLL
Apr. 9	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	10+	DOU	Apr. 19	Pomquet Bch., <i>Ant.</i>	3	Bruce Stevens
Apr. 12	Margaretsville, <i>Anna</i> .	2	JOB	Apr. 20	Brier I.	6 flocks in hour	CAH
Apr. 15	W. Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	40	MUN	Apr. 20	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	30+	SEM
Apr. 16	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	Flying NE at 2/min	SEM	Apr. 21	Kejimikujik NP adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	"Flocks"	TEP
Apr. 20	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	Flying NE at 7-8/min	SEM	Apr. 24	Windsor Causeway, <i>Hants</i>	6-8	JCT
Apr. 21	Kejimikujik NP adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	"Good numbers"	TEP	Apr. 27	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	1	JOB
Apr. 27	Port George, <i>Anna</i> .	5	JOB	Apr. 29	St. Anns Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	~130 (unusual)	BSK
Apr. 29	Western Hd., <i>Queens</i>	Steady stream to NE	ELM	May 8	Green I., Louisbourg Hbr., <i>CBRM</i>	60	SEM
May 8	Off Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	Passing at 50/min.	SEM		Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	20	CAM, ALM
May 12	Mainly <i>CBRM, HRM, Digby</i>	1341	NSMC	May 11	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	50	DMW
May 23	near Pennant Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2 pairs	HAT	May 12	Mainly <i>Pict., Shel., HRM, Vict.</i>	3400	NSMC

May 13	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	20	DMW	Apr. 20	Green I., Louisbourg Hbr., <i>CBRM</i>	10	SEM
May 17	Bear R., <i>Digby</i>	~6 ads.	MCR	Apr. 21	East R., <i>Lun.</i>	imm.	JLM
May 26	Dartmouth Cove, <i>HRM</i>	15+	KGI	May 8	Green I., Louisbourg Hbr., <i>CBRM</i>	60 on colony	SEM
May 31	Isle Madame, <i>Rich.</i>	13	KAC	May 8	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	250	CAM, ALM
Great Cormorant				May 8	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	5	SEM
Mar. 18-20	Purcell's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	9	BLM	May 12	Mainly <i>CBRM, HRM</i>	595	NSMC
Mar. 26	Pictou Landing, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	May 31	Kejimikujik NP adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	1	JAH, DPO
Apr. 8	Purcells Cove, <i>HRM</i>	5	DOU	May 31	Cape St. Marys, <i>Digby</i>	2	JCZ <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 12	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM				
Apr. 19-21	Peters I., Brier I. & nesting ledges	20	ELM				

Herons Through Vultures

By Ulli Höger

We received two belated fall-winter reports of **BLACK VULTURE** at Caribou, *Pic.*, on Nov. 8, 2006 and at the Dingwall, *Vic.*, dump in mid February 2007. These were photographically confirmed by Kent Munro and James Vassallo respectively.

TURKEY VULTURE sightings in our province are spreading remarkably. Formerly sightings were predominantly reported from southern parts of the province, i.e. the Bay of Fundy area and the South Shore. Only occasionally were vultures reported from other parts of Nova Scotia, once in a while even from Cape Breton. As spring reports indicate, sightings in northern parts of Nova Scotia seem to become more frequent. Amelia Donovan's well documented sighting of six vultures perched on a roof in Little Pond, Cape Breton, April 28 is a good example of this. How much longer will it be till we can add this species to the list of Nova Scotia's breeding birds? We expected this to happen in the Digby neck area, but it seems that Cape Breton is worth a closer look in this matter. ☐

American Bittern (25)

Apr. 22	Roberts I., <i>Yar.</i>	1	MUN
May 2-31	Apple, R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 11	L'Ardoise, <i>Rich.</i>	1	WMA
May 15	R. John, <i>Pict.</i>	1	Jean Blackwood
May 24	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JAH, DPO, Pat Gladman
May 26	Glace Bay	1	BES, GEC

Great Blue Heron (304)

Mar. 18	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN
Mar. 21	CSI	1	MUN
Mar. 23	CSI	2	MUN
Mar. 31	Yarmouth	5	MUN
Apr. 1	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	2	DJC
Apr. 3	Mt. Pleasant, <i>Inv.</i>	1	JAH
Apr. 3	St. Croix, <i>Hants</i>	1	JSI
Apr. 13	Merigomish, <i>Pict.</i>	1	Karen MacLeod
Apr. 14	Rainbow Haven Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	BBU
Apr. 15	Aspotogan, <i>Lun.</i>	1	Eric Harding
Apr. 19	Pomquet Bch., <i>Ant.</i>	1	Bruce Stevens
Apr. 21	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	3	KFS
Apr. 22-23	Homeville, <i>CBRM</i>	2	BES, GEC

Great Egret (2)

Apr. 25	Catalone Gut, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Ian Harte
May 6	CSI	1	MUN
May 20	Brier I.	1	WAN

Snowy Egret (2)

May 1-2	CSI	1	JON, MUN
May 3	Forchu, <i>Yar.</i>	1	WMA
May 21	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	SEM
May 21-22	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP
May 27	Smith Settlement, <i>HRM</i>	1	LUB

Little Blue Heron (5)

May 7-13	Little Dover, <i>Guys.</i>	1	Terri Crane
May 6-7	CSI	1	MUN
May 9	St. Peter's, <i>Rich.</i>	1	fide SDI
May 12	St. Peter's, <i>Rich.</i>	1	GED <i>et al.</i>

Green Heron (1)

May 12	Sumerset R., <i>Lun.</i>	1	NSN
May 20	CSI	1	MUN
May 22-26	Liverpool, <i>Queens</i>	1	Peter Davies, fide DPO
May 24	Lr. West Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1	fide PRG

Black-crowned Night-Heron (1)

Apr. 21	CSI	1	SAN, JON, TEC, <i>et al.</i>
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May 28	CSI	1	MUN
May 30	CSI	2	HAT
Glossy Ibis			
May 17-19	W. Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1-2	PRG, MUN
May 20	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna.</i>	1	Jon Percy
May 21-22	CSI	1	MUN
Turkey Vulture (26)			
Mar. 10	Halifax	1	CDS
Apr. 3	W. Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Apr. 12	Dartmouth	1	MIK
Apr. 12	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
Apr. 12	Elmsdale, <i>HRM</i>	1	DCH
Apr. 12	Chester, <i>Lun.</i>	1	PMA
Apr. 14	Dartmouth	1	MIK
Apr. 21	Amherst	3	KJM
Apr. 28	Little Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	6	Amelia Donovan
Apr. 28	Cape Forchu, <i>Yar.</i>	1	MUN
Mid-Apr.-May	Canso area, <i>Guys.</i>	flocks of up to 11	TOC
May 5	Dartmouth	1	BBU
May 5	River Tilliard, <i>Rich.</i>	1	GED
May 7	CSI	7	MUN
May 9	Port Morien, <i>CBRM</i>	2	BES, GEC
May 12	Apple R. area, <i>Cum.</i>	4	KFS
May 16	North River Bridge, <i>CBRM</i>	1	Susan Browne
May 24	Advocate, <i>Cum.</i>	6	Jane Mills



Most of us might feel a bit uneasy if five **TURKEY VULTURES** (three shown here) chose our house as a roost. These were at Little Pond, *CBRM*, showing again how widespread they've become. [Photo Amelia Donovan]

Geese, Swans and Ducks

By Ian McLaren

The Bedford Basin swan (an offspring of the formerly resident pair?) was beautiful, but “untickable.” Of the two SNOW GEESE, the Dartmouth bird was identified as the less-expected, more western subspecies. Do paltry counts of BRANT (see also the winter report) and the low NAMC signify trouble, or a flyway shift?

Arrivals of the largely non-wintering dabbling duck species are particularly evident in the tabulated reports from *Kings*. They were generally reported in good numbers, including on the NAMC. A male GADWALL associating with a female MALLARD May 12 at Van Nostrands Pond, *Kings*, was noteworthy. The evidence of more routine dalliance of AMERICAN BACK DUCKS and Mallards was manifest in a count of 26 apparent hybrids and back-crosses at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, in mid April (IAM).

By contrast, only a few large concentrations of bay and sea ducks were reported and most were notably below average on the NAMC. Particular concern has been expressed about population declines of scaups and scoters and, except for BLACK SCOTERS, the NAMC supports this negative impression. Lingering HARLEQUIN DUCKS (all subadult?) off Cape St. Marys and at Seal I. were noteworthy, but the apparent pair Apr. 7 on the Tusket R. headwaters was even more so. The species has nested in northern NB and Gaspé.

The ever-inquisitive BLF found two anomalous merganser clutches in his nest boxes at Black R., *Kings*: the 18 HOODED MERGANSER eggs in one box May 3 were apparently from two females, and 13 eggs in a COMMON MERGANSER'S nest May 9 included two from the smaller species. ♀

Snow Goose

May 2 Belleisle Marsh, *Anna*. imm. SHA
May 6-8 Shannon Park, Dartmouth 1 imm. “Lesser” BBU, *et al.*

Brant

Mar. 18 CSI “present” MUN
Apr. 22 L’Ardoise, *Rich*. 4 WMA
Apr. 27 CSI “few” MUN
May 20 Brier I. 150 NSBS

Canada Goose

March Eastern Shore, *HRM* flocks, up to 800 var. obs.
Mar. 7-10, 11-27 Lockeport 100-200, 1 DJC
March 5-Apr. 12 *Kings* flocks, 400-1150 var. obs.
Mar. 14 Margaretsville, *Anna*. 60 WAN
Mar. 16, 17 Apple R., *Cum*. 11, 16 KFS
Mar. 30 Port Morien bar. *CBRM* 2000+ BES, GEC
Apr. 19 Apple R., *Cum*. nest KFS
May 2 Upper Northfield, *Lun*. Nesting attempt JAH
May 20 French Basin Trail, *Anna*. 6 goslings Jon Percy
May 22 Belleisle Marsh, *Anna*. 6 goslings AAM
May 25 Apple R., *Cum*. 6 ads., 6 goslings KFS

Mute Swan (semi-feral)

Winter Bedford Basin, *HRM* 1 var. obs.
Apr. 27 Tufts Cove, Dartmouth same? BBU
June 1 Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth same? var. obs.

Wood Duck

Apr. 2 Dartmouth 1 male BBU
Apr. 2-May 21 Apple R., *Cum*. 1-4 males KFS
Apr. 20 W. Kentville 2 males, 1 fem. *fide* JWW
May 1 Margaretsville, *Anna*. 2 PBG
May 4 Up. Northfield, *Lun*. 4 males JAH
May 20 French Basin Trail, *Anna*. 8 males, 1 fem. Jon Percy
May 22 Belleisle Marsh, *Anna*. 12 AAM
May 31 Seal I. 1 pair IAM
May 26 Glace Bay 2 BES, GEC

Gadwall

March-April Dartmouth male & fem. var. obs.
Apr. 15 W. Lawrencetown, *HRM* male PLC
Mar. 30 Canard, *Kings* male JCT
Apr. 26 Port Clyde, *Shel*. male SAH
Apr. 27 Sheffield Mills, *Kings* pair JCT
Apr. 29, May 5 Three Fathom Hbr., *HRM* 2, 1 pairs SEM
May 5-6 Pugwash-Tatamagouche “a few” RBS
May 12 Van Nostrands Pond, *Kings* male *fide* JWW
May 21 Antigonish Landing 2 males B. Stevens

May 22 Belleisle Marsh, *Anna*. pair AAM
May 31 Seal I. 4 pairs IAM

Eurasian Wigeon

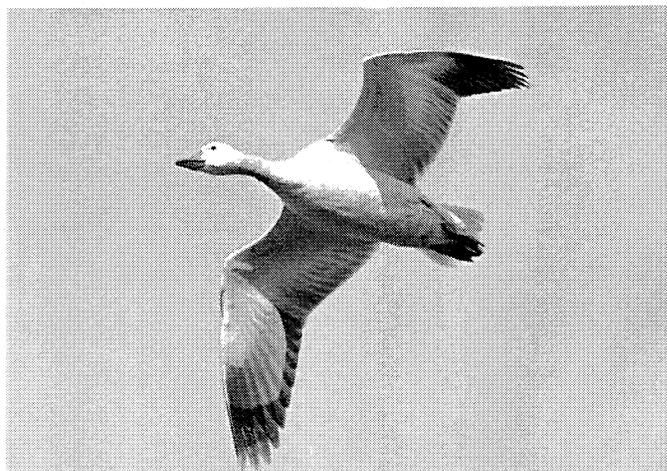
March-Apr. 16 Dartmouth up to 3 males var. obs.
Apr. 6 W. Lawrencetown, *HRM* male PLC

American Wigeon

Mar.-Apr. Dartmouth up to ~25 var. obs.
Apr. 12 Ponds, *Kings* 6 JCT
Apr. 26 Canard, *Kings* pair JCT
Apr. 26 Port Clyde, *Shel*. pair nesting? SAH
Apr. 28 Canard, *Kings* pair JCT
May 22 Belleisle Marsh, *Anna*. 2-3 AAM
May 31 Seal I. 6 pairs IAM

American Black Duck

Mar.-Apr. Halifax-Dartmouth usual flocks var. obs.
March Lawrencetown area, *HRM* up to 50 DMW
Apr. 2 Apple R., *Cum*. 15+ KFS
Apr. 12 New Minas 30 JCT
May 19 Frog Pond, Halifax 2 broods PLC



An imm. SNOW GOOSE May 8 grazing on the playing field in Shannon Park, Dartmouth, was unusual in spring and more so because it was of the more westerly migrating “Lesser” subspecies. [Photo Bernard Burke]

May 22	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	broods of 10, 12	AAM
May 25	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	brood of 10	KFS
May 30	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	brood of 4 DMW	

Mallard

March	<i>HRM</i>	Usual wild & feral flocks	var. obs.
Mar. 23	Ponds, <i>Kings</i>	20	AAM
Apr. 2, 3	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2, 6	KFS
Apr. 12	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	25	JCT
May 11	LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	10 one-day-olds	JAH

Blue-winged Teal

Apr. 22	Van Nostrands Pond, <i>Kings</i>	male	<i>fide</i> JWW
April 22	Homeville, <i>CBRM</i>	2	BES, GEC
Apr. 26	CSI	4	MUN
Apr. 28	Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	2	DOU
May 8	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	pair	JOB
May 22	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	pair	AAM
May 31	Seal I.	pair, nest 4 eggs	IAM

Northern Shoveler

Mar 23	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	pair	AAM
Apr. 9	Centreville, <i>CBRM</i>	pair	CSM, TMM
Apr. 27	Ponds, <i>Kings</i>	male	JCT
May 17	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	fem.	JAH
May 22	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	16	AAM

Northern Pintail

Mar. 30-	Ponds, <i>Kings</i>	3 pairs	JCT
Mar. 30	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	pair	BES, GEC
Apr. 12	Ponds, <i>Kings</i>	8	JCT
Apr. 27	Canard, <i>Kings</i>	5	JCT
May 8	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	pair	JAH

Green-winged Teal

Mar. 16	Mahone Bay	male (migrant?)	PMA
Mar. 27-30	Ponds, <i>Kings</i>	4-6 fems.	JCT
Apr. 1	Antigonish	12	B. Stevens
Apr. 12	Ponds, <i>Kings</i>	49	JCT
Apr. 26	Port Clyde pair nesting?	SAH	
Apr. 27	Ponds, <i>Kings</i>	115+	JCT
Apr. 24	Centreville, <i>CBRM</i>	4	BES, GEC
Apr. 28	Glance Bay	8	BES, GEC
Apr. 29	Three Fathom Hbr. <i>HRM</i>	5	DOU
May 5-6	Pugwash-Tatamagouche	"many"	RBS
May 31	Seal I.	5 pairs	IAM

Redhead

Winter to 27 Mar.	CSI	1 male & 1 fem.	JON, MUN <i>et al.</i>
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Ring-necked Duck

Mar. 4-10	Antigonish	male	JOK, Bruce Stevens
Mar. 30	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	pair	JCT
Apr. 2, 5	Dartmouth	2, 4	BBU
Apr. 5	De Said L., Dartmouth	21 males, 3 fems.	MIK
Apr. 14	De Said L., Dartmouth	36 males, 5 fems.	MIK
Apr. 15-May 31	Widely	10 repts. of 80+ indiv.	var. obs.

Greater Scaup

March	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	up to 80	IAM
Mar. 18-20	Purcell's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	70	BLM
Mar. 24	Lingan, <i>CBRM</i>	420	CSM, TMM
Apr. 8, 16	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	~30, 20	SEM
May 5	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	20	SEM
May 5	Pictou	4	KJM

Lesser Scaup

March	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	up to 15	IAM
Mar. 27	CSI	11	JON
Apr. 8, 16	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	~30, 20	SEM
May 5	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	2	SEM

Scaup sp.

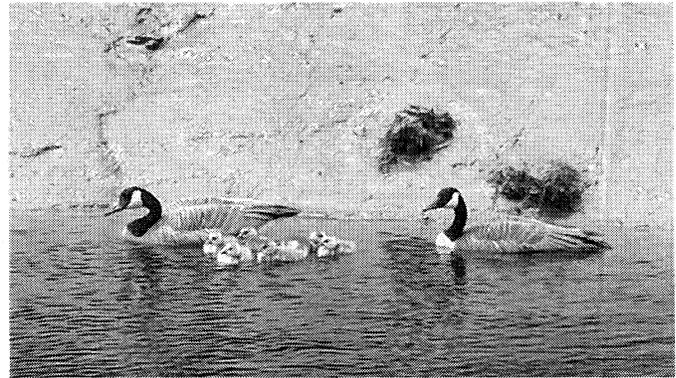
Apr. 9	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	30	DOU
Apr. 15	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	"flock"	PLC

King Eider

Mar. 3	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	fem. (no details)	KGI, LUB
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Common Eider

March	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	up to 150	var. obs.
Mar. 24	Port Morien bar	50+	BES, GEC
Apr. 7	off CSI	1,500	MUN
Apr. 16	E. Shore, <i>HRM</i>	150	SEM
Apr. 17	Neils Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	750	AAM
Apr. 18	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	120	JOB



The burgeoning of our CANADA GOOSE population is driven in part by devoted parental care. This family was at Apple River, *Cum.*, May 25. [Photo Kathleen Spicer]

Apr. 27	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	250	DMW
May 9-30	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	up to 30	DMW
May 19	Doininion, <i>CBRM</i>	70	BES, GEC
May 30	Lockeport	first broods	DJC
May 31	Seal I, circuit	205 males, 148 fems.	IAM

Harlequin Duck

March	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	Up to 14	var. obs.
March	Seal I.	Up to 25	local obs.
Apr. 6	Port l'Hebert, <i>Shel.</i>	18	DPO, JAH
Apr. 7	Tusket R. headwaters, <i>Yar.</i>	pair	D. Sabine
Apr. 12, 23	Port George, <i>Anna</i>	6, 16	JOB, BBT
Apr. 15	Blandford, <i>HRM</i>	4	E. Harding
Apr. 18	Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	8	TEC
Apr. 20	Prospect, <i>HRM</i>	15	BLM
May 31	Seal I.	imm. male	IAM
May 31	Cape St. Marys	4 males, 6 fems.	JCZ, CLD, AIS, L. Perry

Surf Scoter

Mar. 5	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	16	JOB
Mar. 18	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	50-100+	NSBS
Apr. 12, 20	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	8, 21	JOB
Mar. 24	Port Morien	8	CSM, TMM
Apr. 29	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	pair	SEM

White-winged Scoter

Mar. 5	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	22	JOB
Mar. 18	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	50-100+	NSBS
Mar. 26	Atwoods Brk., <i>Shel.</i>	large flock	TEC
Apr. 12, 20	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	6, 10	JOB
Apr. 29	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	~1000	ELM
May 23	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	4	DMW

Black Scoter

Mar. 18	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	Nos.?	NSBS
Mar. 25	Crescent Bch. PP, <i>Lun.</i>	150+	SJF
Mar. 30	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	3	JOB
Apr. 17	Neils Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	70	AAM
Apr. 20	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	4	JOB
Apr. 29	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	3	SEM
Apr. 29	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	~500	ELM
May 13	Cottage Cove PP, <i>Anna.</i>	"large flock"	Lowell Blood
May 22, 23	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	100, 70	DMW

Long-tailed Duck

Mar. 5	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	8 (low)	JOB
Apr. 7	CSI	45	MUN
Apr. 15	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	9	BES, GEC
Apr. 20	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	5	JOB
Apr. 25	Crystal Crescent Bch., <i>HRM</i>	"several"	HAT
Apr. 27	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	16	DMW
Apr. 29	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	ca. 500	ELM

Bufflehead

Mar. 2	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	8	DMW
May 22	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	12 "staying?"	AAM
Mar. 24	Glance Bay	60	CSM, TMM
Apr. 28	Glance Bay	67	BES, GEC

Common Goldeneye

Mar. 1, 8, 9, 10	Antigonish, Sewage Pond	150, 168, 200, 10	RFL, B. Stevens
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Mar. 2-Apr. 11	Conrad Beach, <i>HRM</i>	up to 10	DMW	May 12	Avondale, <i>Pic.</i>	male	DOU
Mar. 24	River Rynn, <i>CBRM</i>	10	CSM, TMM	Common Merganser			
Mar. 27	New Minas sewage pond	6 males, 2 fems.	JCT.	Mar. 1	Pmquet R., <i>Ant.</i>	5+	RFL
Apr. 12	New Minas sewage pond	male	JCT.	Mar. 9, 22	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	5.7	DMW
May 12	Avondale, <i>Pic.</i>	1 male, 2 fems.	DOU	Mar. 24	E. Shore, <i>HRM</i>	21, some arrived	SEM
May 12	L. Ainslie, <i>Inv.</i>	2	KAC	Mar. 26	Atwoods Brook, <i>Shel.</i>	3 fems.	TEC
Barrow's Goldeneye				Mar. 27, 30	Ponds, <i>Kings</i>	3 pairs, 4 fems.	JCT <i>et al.</i>
Mar. 9	Annapolis Royal	male & fem.	WAN	Mar. 28, Apr. 2	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
Mar. 12	E. Passage, <i>HRM</i>	male	Rita Viau	Apr. 7	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	"lots"	DOU
~Mar. 18	Port Williams Sewage Pond	male	<i>fide</i> JCT	Apr. 19	Pomquet Bch. PP, <i>Ant.</i>	100	B. Stevens
Mar. 24	River Rynn	2	CSM, TMM	Apr. 20-May 13	Widely	9 repts of 35+ ind.	var. obs.
Mar. 27-Apr. 12	New Minas sewage pond	male	JCT <i>et al.</i>	May 9	Black R., <i>Kings</i>	13 eggs	BLF
Apr. 29	R. Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	fem.	BBU	Red-breasted Merganser			
Hooded Merganser				Mar.-Apr.	Widely	9 repts. of 40+ indivs.	var. obs.
Mar. 1	Pmquet R., <i>Ant.</i>	fem.	RFL	Apr. 6	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	"courting"	PLC
30 Mar.	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	pair	RBS	Apr. 16	Three Fathom Hbr. <i>HRM</i>	20	SEM
Apr. 1	Antigonish	7	B. Stevens	Mar. 24	River Rynn, <i>CBRM</i>	30	CSM, TMM
Apr. 6	Glassburn, <i>Ant.</i>	male	RFL	May 7	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	14.	SEM
Apr. 25	Crystal Crescent Bch., <i>HRM</i>	2	HAT	May 25	<i>Richmond</i>	15	KAC
May 1	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	6	PBG	Ruddy Duck			
May 3	Black River L., <i>Kings</i>	18 eggs	BLF	Mar. 20	Purcell's Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
May 4-7	Up. Northfield, Lun.	1 nest - 1, 6 eggs	JAH	Apr. 9, 14	Bissett L., <i>HRM</i>	1, 2	DOU, PLC
May 9	Black River L., <i>Kings</i>	8 cold eggs, incomplete?	BLF				
May 10	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	pair	MIK				

Galliformes

By Ulli Höger

RING-NECKED PHEASANTS were frequently reported from many sites, often visiting backyard ground feeders and road sides. The annual Spring Migration Count (NSMC), May 12, showed an increase in Ring-necked Pheasant numbers compared to the previous five years. The decrease started in the early 2000s, hitting a low in 2004 (321). Numbers have increased slowly since then. This year's level was last seen in 1999. The increasing and decreasing numbers observed over the years certainly reflect the prevailing winter conditions, especially the extent of snow cover. The more recent winters have certainly been better ones for the pheasant population.

The total number reported for a species during the NSMC are listed below in brackets. ☒



A SPRUCE GROUSE "struts his stuff" on a mossy stage, May 5 near Halibut Pt., *Cum.* [Photo Kathleen Spicer]

Ring-necked Pheasant (527)	frequently reported	
Ruffed Grouse (190)		
Mar. 4	Clementsvalle, <i>Anna.</i>	1 Marie Wamboldt
Mar. 7	Truro, <i>Col.</i>	4-5 Win Kettleston
Mar. 13-Apr. 20	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	3-5 KFS
Mar. 24	Homeville, <i>CBRM</i>	3 CSM, TMM
Apr. 7	Petpeswick, <i>HRM</i>	1 DOU
Apr. 9	Louisbourg	1 CSM, TMM
Apr. 14	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	1 Ken MacAuley
Apr. 21	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	10 KFS
Apr. 21	Mira, <i>CBRM</i>	1 CSM, TMM
May 2-31	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2 KFS
May 3	Saltmarsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1 MIK
May 4	Pockwock, <i>HRM</i>	1 RMA
May 14	Earltown, <i>Col.</i>	3 SEM
Spruce Grouse (34)		
Mar. 12	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	3 KFS
Mar. 15	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 KFS
Apr. 20	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2 KFS
Apr. 21	Long Lake Stream	1 PMA
Apr. 26	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 KFS
May 5	Edgetts Bch., <i>Cum.</i>	1 KFS

☒☒☒

Diurnal Raptors

By Ulli Höger

The first returning OSPREY of 2007 was reported Mar. 6 from Bear Cove. Additional sightings had to wait until April but our provincial bird was reported back from most parts of Nova Scotia by the end of the month.

Assemblies of BALD EAGLES are not an uncommon observation during the winter season and DJO's count of 34, Mar. 27 in the Port Hawkesbury area, may have included lingering winter guests. However, the unseasonal sighting of 19 standing on a mudflat on the St. Croix R. May 6 made an impression on observer PKE. By mid-March Bald Eagles had started breeding. Checking seven known nest sites Mar. 20-25, JWW found all the nests occupied by what were presumed to be incubating adults. By mid-May he could observe downy chicks in some of them. From JAH came word of two active nests in Lunenburg (Bridgewater and Bayport).

Many birders maintain bird feeders of one kind or another in their backyards. Considering the wide variety of feeder types in use, RFL's "bird feeder" is surely still one of a very special kind. Goodies offered there are carcasses of various mid-size mammals such as bobcat and coyote. The guest list of his backyard diner includes Red-tailed Hawks, Bald Eagles, and numerous ravens.

The annual Spring Migration Count (NSMC) was held May 12 with 651 participants in 18 counties. The total number reported for each species is listed in brackets below. . ♪

Osprey (111)

Mar. 6	Bear Cove, HRM	1	<i>fide</i> HAT
Apr. 6	Stewiacke, Col.	1	HAT
Apr. 11	Halifax	1	CRM
Apr. 14	Burnside, HRM	1	MIK
Apr. 21	Peggys Cove, HRM	1	JAH
Apr. 21	CSI	2	MUN
Apr. 21	Sullivans Pond, HRM	1	BBU
Apr. 22	Keji Seaside Adjunct	1	TEP
Apr. 22	Tantallon, HRM	1	PRG
Apr. 23	Bedford, HRM	1	EGI
Apr. 24	Hammond Plains, HRM	1	JCT
Apr. 24	Milton, Yar.	1	DPO
Apr. 25	Conrad Marsh, HRM	1	DMW
Apr. 25	Halfway R., Cum.	2	KFS

Bald Eagle (362)

Common in all suitable habitat. Breeding activity started mid-March

Northern Harrier (54)

Mar. 4	Conrad Marsh, HRM	1	DMW
Mar. 31	Gaspereau Mt., Kings	1	BLF
Apr. 2	Apple R., Cum.	1	KFS

Apr. 12	W. Lawrencetown, HRM	male	PLC
Apr. 12-season	Apple R., Cum.	pair	KFS
Apr. 20	Pubnico, Yar.	1	RMC
Apr. 22	Keji Seaside Adjunct	1	TEP
Apr. 25	Crystal Crescent Bch., HRM	3	HAT
May 8	Glace Bay, CBC	1	BES, GEC
May 11	Brass Hill, Shel.	male	RMC
May 12	Mt. Thom, Pict.	male	DOU

Sharp-shinned Hawk (35)

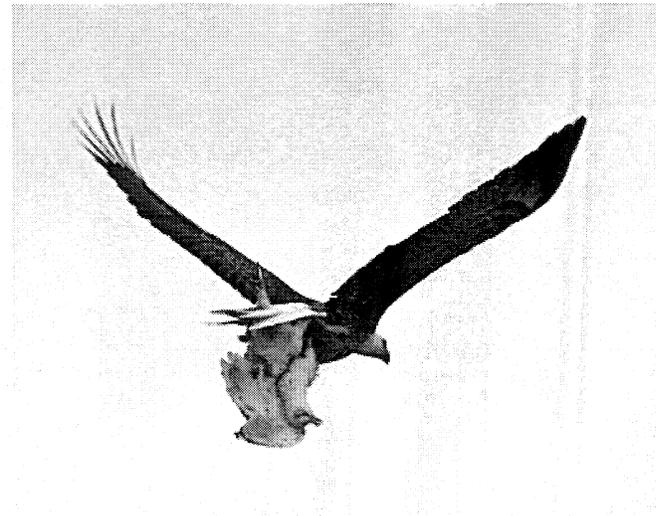
Mar. 30	Lockeport, Shel.	1	DJC
Apr. 5	R. Bourgeois, Rich.	1	GED
Apr. 24	Waverley, HRM	pair	LPP
Apr.-May	Apple R., Cum.	1	KFS

COOPER'S HAWK

May 7 & 22	CSI	1	MUN
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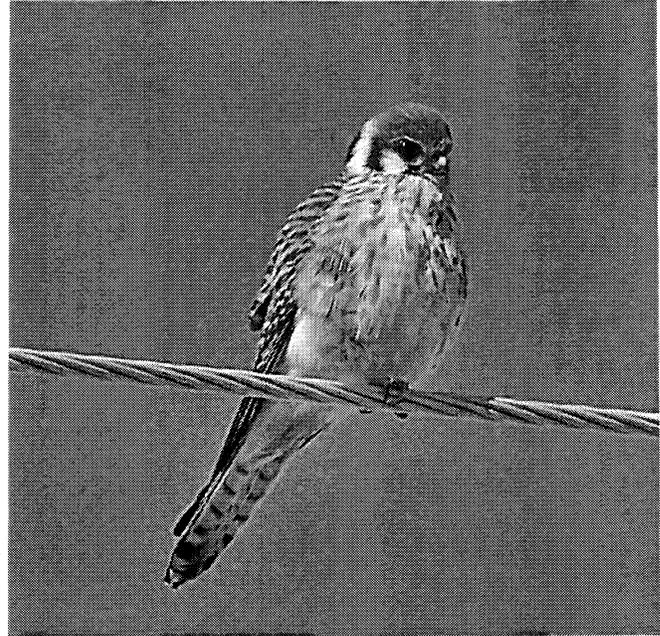
Northern Goshawk (9)

Mar. 11	Torbrook Mines, Anna.	1	WAN
Apr. 10	Waternish, Guys.	1	DCH
Apr. 12	Newtonville, Kings	pair	BLF
Apr. 29	Yarmouth	1	MUN
May 7	CSI	1	MUN



The gulls hanging around Lake Banook and Sullivans Pond in Dartmouth this spring were often flushed, occasionally chased, but only rarely caught by two or three marauding BALD EAGLES. [Photos Bernard Burke]

Broad-winged Hawk (8)			
Mar. 5	Nappan, <i>Cum.</i>	1	DAH
Apr. 27	Sable R., <i>Shel.</i>	1	DPO
Apr. 27	Dartmouth	1	MIK
Apr. 29	Yarmouth	2	MUN
May 4	Dartmouth	1	KGI
May 7	Upper Branch, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH, DAW
May 8	Dartmouth	1	MIK
May 12	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 25	Sand L., <i>CBC</i>	1	BES, GEC
Red-tailed Hawk (92)			
Apr. 19	New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	1	JWW
Apr. 29	Yarmouth	1	MUN
Mar. 13	Antigonish	1	RLF
May 29	Newtonville, <i>Kings</i>	3 (1 + 2 chicks)	BLF
Rough-legged Hawk (1)			
Apr. 21	Amherst	1	KJM
Golden Eagle			
Apr. 15 & 19	Hwy. 101, Windsor/Hantsport	imm.	Mike Dadswell
American Kestrel (70)			
Apr. 6	Afton, <i>Ant.</i>	1	Bruce Stevens, RFL
Apr. 7	Petpeswick, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Apr. 11	Berwick, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
Apr. 20	Dartmouth	1	MIK
Apr. 21	Baleine, <i>CBC</i>	1	CSM, TMM
Apr. 25	R. Hebert, <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
Apr. 25	Crystal Crescent Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
Apr. 25	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC
Apr. 28	Schooner Pond, <i>CBC</i>	5	BES, GEC
May 12	Avonport, <i>Pict.</i>	1	DOU
May 12	Mt. Thom, <i>Pict.</i>	1	DOU
Apr. 26-May 26	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1-2	KFS
Merlin (26)			
Apr. 11	Wolfville	1	LDE
Apr. 21	Wolfville	pair	JWW
Apr. 22	Dartmouth	1	KGI
Apr. 24	Halifax	pair	ANM
May 7	New Waterford, <i>CBC</i>	1	CSM, TMM
May 17	Quinan, <i>Yar.</i>	1 (nesting?)	PRG



A gentle-looking female AMERICAN KESTREL, Apr. 15 at Grand Pré, *Kings*, does not seem capable of dealing with anything more challenging than a large beetle. [Photo John Pouliot]

Peregrine Falcon (4)			
Mar. 18 & 20	E. Advocate, <i>Cum.</i>	2	Jane Mills
Mar. 20	Dartmouth	1	KGI
Mar. 27	Dartmouth	1	BBU
Apr. 26	Crystal Crescent Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT

Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

A few hardy species of overwintering shorebirds were reported lingering into March around the province: Black-bellied Plover, Red Knot, Sanderling, Purple Sandpiper and Dunlin. Migrant shorebirds visited NS in their usual small numbers and appeared on schedule, with no great surprises. Breeding species also arrived generally on schedule, with three exceptions: Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers and Spotted Sandpipers all appeared a few days later than average, perhaps daunted by cold, windy spring weather.

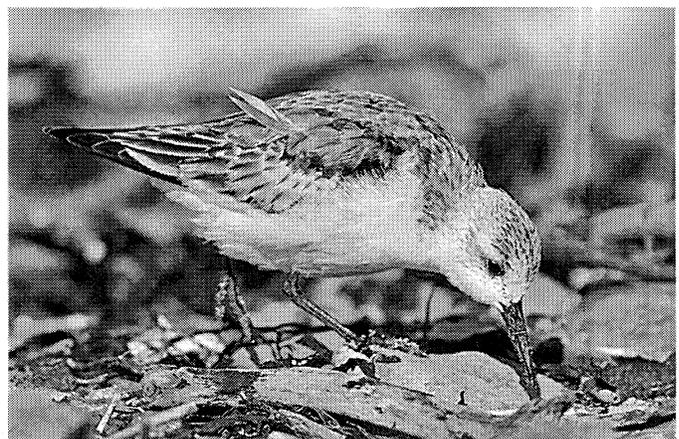
Twenty shorebird species were spotted on the NSMC, an average number for recent years. Eight of those species were found in numbers well below the 8-year average: Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Red Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Wilson's Snipe and American Woodcock. Numbers of Red Knot fell 82% below the average of 39 in 1999-2002 and Sanderling dropped 95% from their average of 166 in the same years, further evidence of a bleak future for these two seriously threatened species. Diminished numbers of Wilson's Snipe and American Woodcock (down 36-39% from the 8-year average), however, may well have been due to strong winds on the evening of the count.

RED PHALAROPES provided a delightful surprise for a few HRM birders May 20, when two in bright alternate plumage were seen over Halifax Hbr. off Alderney Landing and ~150 were spotted off Grove Street and Seaview Park. Normally staying well off-shore on migration, these phalaropes were apparently brought in to the coast by steady SE winds. ☺

shorebird species			
May 24	The Hawk, CSI	500+	MUN
Black-bellied Plover			
Mar. 4	Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, DPO
Apr. 11	The Hawk, CSI	several	JON
Apr. 15	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	2, near-alt.	IAM
Apr. 15 & 25	The Hawk, CSI	7, 17	MUN
May 2	The Hawk, CSI	43	MUN
May 12	Lunenburg, <i>Shelburne</i> (total)	13, 73 (92)	NSMC
May 12 & 21	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	8, 33	SJF
May 20	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	MIK
May 25	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	18	IAM

May 25 Sand Hills Bch. PP, <i>Shel.</i>	4	RMC
May 26 Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	11	JAH
American Golden-Plover		
Apr.15; May 2 & 5 The Hawk, CSI	1	MUN
Piping Plover		
Mar. 30 near Roseway, <i>Shel.</i>	2	N. Poirier, <i>fide</i> S. Abbott
Apr. 3 & 6 Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, SJF
Apr. 12 & 15 Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	pair + 1	HAT, RMA
Apr. 21 Keji Seaside Adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	pair	TEP
May 3 Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	4	HAT
May 3 & 21 Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	8, 5	SJF
May 9 & 27 Crescent Bch., Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1, pair	DJC
May 10-21 Conrad Bch. <i>HRM</i>	pair	S. Abbott
May 12 Antigonish, <i>HRM, Shelburne</i> (total)	8, 2, 3 (15)	NSMC
May 24 Daniels Hd., CSI	3 pairs	CST
May 25 Sand Hills Bch. PP, <i>Shel.</i>	2	RMC
Killdeer		
Mar. 15 Starrs Rd., Yarmouth	1	PRG
Mar. 18 Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF, JSC
Mar. 21 Tufts Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	ELM, IAM
Mar. 23 Dublin Shore, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
Mar. 24 Windsor Sewage Ponds, <i>Hants</i>	1	RBS
Mar. 26 Advocate Hbr., <i>Cum.</i>	2	Jane Mills
Mar. 27 & 30 Saxon St. Pond, <i>Kings</i>	2, 6	JCT
Mar. 28 Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT
Mar. 29 Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	MIK
Apr.-May 13 locations, widespread	27 total	var. obs.
May 5 <i>Pictou</i> nest & 4 eggs	GMU	
May 12 <i>HRM, Hants, Kings</i> (total)	6, 27, 8 (52)	NSMC
American Oystercatcher		
Apr. 11 The Hawk, CSI	1	JON
Apr. 13 The Hawk & Cape Sable, CSI	2 pr.	MUN
May 1, 2 & 12 The Hawk, CSI	4	MUN, NSMC
May 30 Cape Sable, CSI	2	HAT
Spotted Sandpiper		
May 12 <i>Hants, Kings</i> (total)	13, 12 (32)	NSMC
May 15 Saxon St. Pond, <i>Kings</i>	3	JCT
May 20 Tufts Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
May 24 Mickey Hills Pocket Wilderness, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JAH <i>et al.</i>
May 25 Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	3	MCR
May 25 Second L., L. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	3	LOC
May 25 Janvrin Hbr., <i>Rich.</i>	pair	KAC
May 26 Simons Pt., Louisbourg	3	SEM
May 31 Isle Madame, <i>Rich.</i>	4	KAC
Solitary Sandpiper		
May 12 <i>Kings, Pictou</i> (total)	2, 2 (4)	NSMC
May 19 Coxheath, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DBM, NSBS
May 21 Annapolis R., <i>Anna.</i>	1	D. Lowe
yellowlegs species		
Apr. 24 Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1 (calls)	JCT
Apr. 25 near Kingsport, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT, JET
Greater Yellowlegs		
Apr. 15 & 22 Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1, 2	SEM
Apr. 21 & 30 CSI	4, 18	MUN <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 27 3 locations, <i>Lun.</i>	5 total	JAH
Apr. 28 Johnstons Pond Bch., <i>Shel.</i>	1	DPO
Apr. 28; May 1 Saxon St. Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1, 12	JCT
Apr. 28 W. Petpeswick, <i>HRM</i>	3	DOU
Apr. 28 Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	2	BES, GEC
May 1 - 27 14 locations, widespread	54 total	var. obs.
May 7 Battery Ls., <i>Pict.</i>	1, breeding	KJM
May 12 <i>CBRM, HRM, Queens, Rich.</i> (total)	24, 19, 19, 21	NSMC
Willet		
Apr. 15 Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	1	K. MacAulay
Apr. 25-May 31 Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1-3 pairs	DJC
Apr. 25 Daniels Hd., CSI	1	JON, SAN
Apr. 28 Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	SEM
Apr. 28 W. Petpeswick, <i>HRM</i>	4	DOU
Apr. 28 Grand Desert, <i>HRM</i>	a few	DOU
May 1 Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM</i>	3	MIK
May 1 Lower LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	1, new	ELM
May 1 Saxon St. Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
May 5 Caribou R., <i>Pict.</i>	a group	KJM, NSBS
May 6, 12 & 21 Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	11, 19, 17	SJF

May 12 <i>HRM, Lunenburg, Shelburne</i> (total)	85, 86, 98 (417)	NSMC
May 14-275 locations, widespread	21 total	var. obs.
May 25 Janvrin Hbr., <i>Rich.</i>	4 pairs	KAC
Lesser Yellowlegs		
Apr. 21 & 30 CSI	3, 6	MUN <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 28 W. Chezzetcook, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
May 1-24 4 locations, widespread	singles	var. obs.
May 5 Caribou R., <i>Pict.</i>	3	KJM, NSBS
May 12 <i>Colchester, HRM</i> (total)	4, 11 (25)	NSMC
Whimbrel		
May 6 & 12 Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
May 20 & 25 Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	ELM, IAM, MIK
Ruddy Turnstone		
May 12 <i>Pictou</i>	1	NSMC
May 21 CSI	some	MUN
May 22 MacCormacks Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	KGI, LUB
Red Knot		
Mar. 9 & 19 Fishermens Reserve, <i>HRM</i>	3	VJH
Mar. 12; Apr. 7 Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
Apr. 15 The Hawk, CSI	2	MUN
May 2 & 21 The Hawk, CSI	1, some	MUN
May 12 <i>Shelburne</i> 7		NSMC
May 22 MacCormacks Bch., <i>HRM</i>	3+	KGI, LUB
May 26 Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	3, alt.	JAH
Sanderling		
Mar. 9-31 Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC
Mar. 24 Pt. Michaud Bch., <i>Rich.</i>	1	E. Kipp, <i>fide</i> GED
Mar. 26; Apr. 9, 11 Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	11, 17, 11	HAT, VJH, BLM
Apr. 21 Keji Seaside Adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	~15	TEP
Apr. 30 The Hawk, CSI	3	MUN
May 12 <i>HRM, Shelburne</i> (total)	4, 5 (9)	NSMC
May 29 Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH
May 30 Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	4	RHL
peep species		
May 12 <i>Cum., HRM</i> (total)	57, 15 (77)	NSMC
May 22 MacCormacks Bch., <i>HRM</i>	10+	KGI, LUB
Semipalmated Sandpiper		
May 12 <i>HRM</i>	10	NSMC
May 21 Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	3	SJF
Least Sandpiper		
May 6 Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	1	SJF
May 12 <i>Kings, Pictou</i> (total)	24, 15 (47)	NSMC
May 12-23 Port Williams Sewage Ponds, <i>Kings</i>	~24	GFO, <i>fide</i> JWW
Purple Sandpiper		
Mar. 16 & 25 Crescent Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	5	SJF
Mar. 19 Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	~35	WAN
Apr. 17 Neils Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	~21	AAM
Apr. 19-21 N. Point, Brier I.	30	ELM
Apr. 21 Lighthouse Cove, Brier I.	10	ELM
Apr. 27; May 1 Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	40, 12	JOB
May 7-8 Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	28	SEM
May 12 <i>CBRM, Rich.</i> (total)	5, 6 (11)	NSMC



Some SANDERLINGS, like this one Mar. 11 at Glace Bay, clearly wintered on our beaches without difficulty. [Photo Alan Murrant]

Dunlin

Mar. 4	Crescent Bch., Lun.	12	JAH, DPO
Mar. 16 & 25	Crescent Bch., Lun.	11	SJF
Apr. 3	Cherry Hill, Lun.	1	JAH
Apr. 25; May 1-2	The Hawk, CSI	9, 1	MUN
May 12	Shel.	56	NSMC

Stilt Sandpiper

May 31	Daniels Hd., CSI	1	CST
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Short-billed Dowitcher

May 5 & 21	CSI	some, 6	MUN
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Wilson's Snipe

Mar. 31	Indian Fields, Shel.	1	JCZ
Apr. 3	Quinan, Yar.	1	PRG
Apr. 12 & 20	Saxon St. Pond, Kings	5, 1	JCT
Apr. 15	Hillsdale, Inv. (owl survey)	2	P. MacPhee <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 20	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1	ELM
Apr. 27	Rhodes Corner, Lun.	1	JAH
May	9 locations, widespread	11 total	var. obs.
May 12	CBRM, Hants, Pict., Vic. (total)	9, 11, 17, 8 (78)	NSMC
May 25	Sporting Mtn., Rich. (owl survey)	7	WMA
May 30	Beechmont, CBRM (owl survey)	8	DBM

American Woodcock

Mar. 20	Conqueral Bank, Lun.	1	JAH
Mar. 26	Fraserville, Cum.	2	Jane Mills
Mar. 31	Indian Fields, Shel.	1	JCZ <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 6	Fairmont, Ant.	1	RFL
Apr. 10-May 25	12 locations, widespread	singles	var. obs.
Apr. 15; May 31	Hillsdale, Inv. (owl survey)	2	P. MacPhee <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 20	Salmon R., CBRM (owl survey)	3	SEM
Apr. 20	Lighthouse Rd., Brier I.	2	ELM
Apr. 21, May 25	Sporting Mtn., Rich. (owl survey)	6, 5	WMA
May 8	Cape George, Rich.	fem. + 4 young	T. Burke, <i>fide</i> JSH
May 12	CBRM, Hants, Pict. (total)	6, 9, 28 (57)	NSMC
May 13	Fairmont, Ant.	fem. + 2 young	RFL
May 25	Cape George, Rich. (owl survey)	3	BID, A. Digout
May 27	S. Boularderie, Vic. (owl survey)	6	DBM

phalarope species

May 16	off CSI	some	<i>fide</i> MUN
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Red Phalarope

May 20	off Aldemey Landing, Halifax Hbr.	2, alt.	ELM, IAM
May 20	off Grove St., Halifax Hbr.	~150	MIK

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Skuas Through Alcids

By Eric Mills

A lone **LONG-TAILED JAEGER**, the only jaeger reported this season and the rarest at any season, was seen by CAM and ALM off Flint Island, CBRM, May 19.

A little flurry of **LAUGHING GULLS** in the Halifax area beginning May 19 seems to have involved at least four individuals. A single **LITTLE GULL**, unique this spring, was reported in *Pict.* during the NSMC. Unusual numbers of **BLACK-HEADED GULLS** joined the other gulls lounging on the Shannon Park school playing field near Tufts Cove in late March until mid April. A **BONAPARTE'S GULL**, reported by AAM as rare in the Annapolis Valley, was surface-feeding in Canard Pond, Kings, May 2. A large-billed **MEW (COMMON) GULL** similar in some respects to the one seen Feb. 11 at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth (mentioned in the last Nova Scotia Birds as a possible *Larus canus heinei*, occurring normally in Eastern Europe and North Asia) was present Mar. 10, accompanied at times by at least one, probably two, more "normal" Mew Gulls typical of the Western European race *L. c. canus*. However, the March bird appeared somewhat smaller-billed and lighter-mantled and may simply have been a largish *L. c. canus*. Whatever the status of the birds, careful inspection of these small gulls is showing how interesting and varied they are.

Tantalizing but inconclusive (as the observers said) was the report of a possible **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** (*Larus michahellis*, a species of the Azores, the Iberian coast, the Mediterranean, and north-west Africa) on the Shannon Park field beside Tufts Cove, Dartmouth, Mar. 20. BLM wrote as follows. "When we first arrived there were about 100 gulls present, mostly Black-headed and Ring-bills, with one Great Black-backed, and a dozen or so Herring Gulls. They were about 100 meters distant. On our first inspection of the flock ... one gull stood out from the Herring Gulls due to its slightly darker mantle. It was sitting on the ground alongside two Herring Gulls. In addition to its slightly darker mantle, it exhibited an immaculate white unstreaked head, and a prominent red gonys. Then the mystery gull rose and walked closer to the main flock, and when it did its legs became visible and we were surprised to see that they were dull yellow instead of pink. We noted the following features that were consistent with Yellow-legged Gull. - Mantle slightly darker than the neighbouring Herring Gulls. This was noticeable at a distance and didn't change with the angle (it was cloudy), and the bird was always easy to relocate when it moved. - Prominent red gonys, more noticeable than on adjacent Herring Gulls, and the difference was evident even just using binoculars. Through the scope the gonys [spot] appeared to extend to the upper mandible. - Immaculate white head, no streaking at all. - Dull yellow legs. We all agreed that the bird seemed to have a different look about it. It seemed about the same size as the Herring Gulls ... but the mystery gull had a more 'stretched' look about it, and a bit flatter on the head. The bird took flight ... and the darker mantle remained obvious ... the ends of the upper wings were quite black, with more restricted black mirrors. But this was noted for only a few seconds as the bird flew SW over Tufts Cove and was lost to view." Regrettably, it was not seen again, despite concerted searching. Yellow-legged Gull has occurred in small numbers in southeastern Newfoundland for the past several winters and it is among the vagrant species that we can expect to have added to the Nova Scotia list one of these winters.

Significant numbers of **ICELAND GULLS** remained through the middle of May, especially in their stronghold, industrial Cape Breton Island, as revealed during the NSMC.

The surprising number of 49 GLAUCOUS GULLS in *Inverness* during the NSMC May 12 may require re-examination, especially since no Iceland Gulls were reported there during the count.

A classic first winter **THAYER'S GULL** (always a contentious identification) was photographed by BBU at Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, Mar. 4. Another, reported without further details as having an Iceland-sized bill, was on the east coast of CBI Apr. 17.

Perhaps not coincidentally, the only records of CASPIAN TERN this spring, in *Pictou*, *Kings* and *HRM*, were May 12, five of them during the NSMC. Three at Scotts Bay that day were unexpected and rare anywhere in *Kings*, according to JCT. Other terns, especially as recorded by TCD at the Brothers Is., *Yar.* seem to have occurred pretty much as expected, both in terms of arrival and numbers. At least some of the colonies in Mahone Bay appear to have been abandoned, but detailed information is lacking at the time of this summary.

A few THICK-BILLED MURRES lingered to the beginning of May, exceeding Commons in numbers, after a winter in which Common Murre were more abundant than Thick-bills. ☞

LONG-TAILED JAEGER

May 19	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Laughing Gull			
May 12	<i>CBRM</i>	2	NSMC
May 19	Tufts Cove, Dartmouth	2 ads.	IAM
May 20-24	Tufts Cove, Dartmouth	1 ad. remaining	IAM,
ELM, BBU, EGI			
May 21	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
May 22	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM
May 24	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	ad.	CAM, ALM
May 29	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW

LITTLE GULL

May 12	<i>Pictou</i>	1	NSMC
Black-headed Gull			
Mar. 1	Antigonish sewage plant, <i>Ant.</i>	7	RFL
Mar. 11	Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth	120	BLM
Mar. 24	Tufts Cove, Dartmouth	82	IAM
Apr. 5-7	Sullivans Pd., Dartmouth	1 ad, hooded	BBU,
DOU			
Apr. 6-May 1	Lwr. LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	1, 1 st -winter	ELM
Apr. 8	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	15 hooded ad.	CAM, ALM
Apr. 10	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	9	CSM, TMM
Apr. 13	Tufts Cove, Dartmouth	54	BBU
Apr. 15	Cole Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	35+ ads.	IAM
Apr. 15	Homeville, <i>CBRM</i>	8	CAM, ALM
Apr. 16	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	6 ads.	SEM
May 6	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	1	BBU
May 12	<i>Ant.</i> And <i>CBRM</i> only	10	NSMC
May 19	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	1, 1 st -winter	IAM
May 20	Sullivans Pond & Tufts Cove, Dartmouth	2, 1 st -winter	BBU

Bonaparte's Gull

Mar. 11-12	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	ad.	BBU
Mar. 21	Sullivans Pond & Dartmouth Hbr.	1 ad., 1 1 st -winter	BBU
Mar. 27	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	2	BBU
Apr. 7	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	ad.	DOU
Apr. 15	Blue Rocks, <i>Lun.</i>	7	JAH
Apr. 15	Homeville, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM
Apr. 29	Pictou Causeway, <i>Pict.</i>	35	KJM
Apr. 29	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	ad.	ELM
May 2	Canard Pond, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM
May 5	Pictou Causeway, <i>Pict.</i>	60	KJM
May 12	Mainly <i>Pict.</i>	39	NSMC
May 30	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW

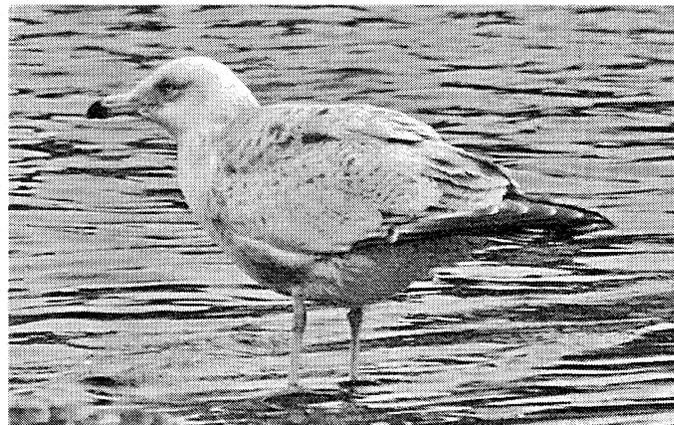
MEW GULL

Jan. 8	Tufts Cove, Dartmouth	1	DOU
Jan. 26	McCormicks Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Feb. 11-Mar. 10	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	ad., perhaps <i>heinei</i>	BBU
Feb. 11-Mar. 10	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	ad., smaller	BBU
Mar. 12	Halifax Hbr.	ad.	TOK

Ring-billed Gull

Mar.-May	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	2-3 ads.	DJC
Mar. 28	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	50+	KFS
Apr. 1	Mavillette, <i>Digby</i>	7	JCZ <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 7	Lwr. LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	3 ads.	ELM

Apr. 8-28	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	12	SEM
Apr. 12	St. Anns, <i>Vic.</i>	1?	BSK
Apr. 19	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	30+	KFS
Apr. 20	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
Apr. 20-21	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1 ad.; 1, 1 st -winter	ELM
May 2	Saxon St., <i>Kings</i>	~ 20, all 2 nd year	AAM
May 12	Widespread, most in <i>Pict.</i> , <i>Kings</i> , <i>Inv.</i>	375	NSMC
May 16	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	10	JAH
Herring Gull			
May 30	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1 leucistic	CAM, ALM
Herring Gull X Glaucous Gull ("Nelson's Gull")			
Feb. 3-Mar. 10	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	1, 1 st Winter	BBU
YELLOW-LEGGED GULL?			
Mar. 20	Tufts Cove, Dartmouth	ad.	BLM, SMB
THAYER'S GULL			
Mar. 4	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	1, 1 st -winter; photo	BBU
Apr. 17	Neils Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	ad., no details	AAM
Iceland Gull			
Mar. 1	Antigonish sewage plant, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL
Mar. 1	Pomquet R., <i>Ant.</i>	3	RFL
Mar. 2	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	3 imm.	DJC
Mar. 23-27	New Minas sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i>	2-3	JCT
Mar. 27	Red Bridge Pond, Dartmouth	5	BBU
Apr. 2	Port Williams sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i>	6, various ages	JWW
Apr. 2	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	ad.	DJC
Apr. 7	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Apr. 8	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	ad.	SEM
Apr. 9	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	35+	DOU
Apr. 17	Neils Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	3	AAM
Apr. 19	New Minas sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i>	3 ads.	JWW

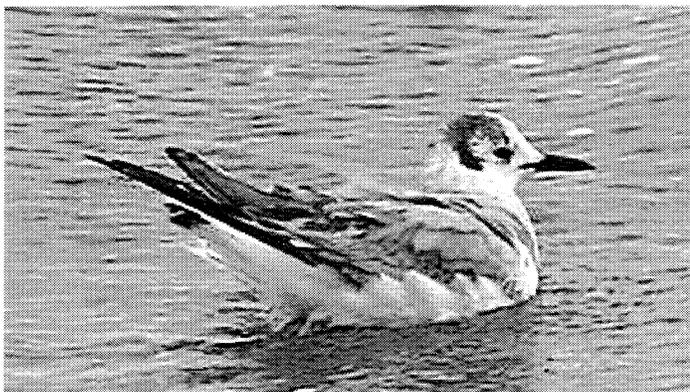


This odd gull in first-winter plumage has a Glaucous Gull bill and dusky, pale-tipped primaries, and is a classic "Nelsons Gull." These hybrids of GLAUCOUS and HERRING GULL are produced quite regularly in Labrador, southeastern Nunavut, and Iceland, but only recently have "lariphiles" been actively seeking them. [Photo Bernard Burke]

Apr. 19	Pea Jack Cove, Brier I.	6	ELM	
Apr. 20	Pond Cove, Brier I.	1, 2 nd -winter	ELM	
May 3	Beach Meadows, <i>Queens</i>	imm.	DPO	
May 5	Caribou River, <i>Pict.</i>	1	KJM	
May 8	Louisbourg	imm.	SEM	
May 12	Mainly in <i>CBRM</i>	51	NSMC	
May 19	Tufts Cove, Dartmouth	1, 1 st -winter	IAM	
May 24	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1, 1 st -winter	BBU	
May 31	Cape Fourchu, <i>Yar.</i>	1	JCZ <i>et al.</i>	
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
Jan. 22	Saxon St., <i>Kings</i>	1	DOU, FLL	
Mar. 20-23	Grand Pré, <i>Kings</i>	ad.	LDE, JCZ	
Mar. 24	Windsor sewage ponds, <i>Hants</i>	ad.	RBS	
Mar. 25-Apr. 1	Dartmouth sewer outfall & area 1,	3 rd -winter	BBU	
Mar. 30	Saxon St., <i>Kings</i>	2+ ads.	JCT	
Apr. 13	Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth	ad.	BBU	
Apr. 16	Seaview Park, Halifax	1, 3 rd -winter	MIK, FLL	
Apr. 28	Saxon St., <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT	
May 2	Saxon St., <i>Kings</i>	2	AAM	
May 19	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM	
May 20	Tufts Cove, Dartmouth	1, 3 rd -w.	BBU	
May 20	Windsor sewage ponds	2	<i>vide</i> SMB	
Glaucous Gull				
Jan. 3-Feb. 22	Pt. Pleasant Park, Halifax	1	DOU	
Mar. 3	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	2	KGI, LUB	
Mar. 13	Sullivans Pd. Dartmouth	1	BBU	
Mar. 26-May 15	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM	
Apr. 1	Dartmouth sewer outfall	ad.	BBU	
Apr. 9	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	4	DOU	
Apr. 15	Blue Rocks, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH	
Apr. 19	New Minas sewage ponds, <i>Kings</i>	1, 1 st -winter	JWW	
May 9	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	imm. last seen	DJC	
May 12	Mainly in <i>Inverness</i>	49	NSMC	
Black-legged Kittiwake				
Apr. 20	Louisbourg	Passing at 50/min.	SEM	
May 8	Louisbourg area	~70 at colonies	SEM	
May 12	All in <i>CBRM</i>	176	NSMC	
Caspian Tern				
May 12	Silver Sands Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	TEP	
May 12	3 in <i>Kings</i> ; others <i>Ann.</i> , <i>Pict.</i>	5	NSMC	
Tern spp.				
May 3	The Brothers Is., <i>Yar.</i>	30-40 arrived	<i>vide</i> TCD	
Roseate Tern				
May 12	All in <i>Shelburne</i>	9	NSMC	
May 22	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	3	<i>vide</i> CST	
Common Tern				
May 5	Pictou Causeway, <i>Pict.</i>	~12	KJM	
May 12	Silver Sands Bch., <i>HRM</i>	2	TEP	
May 12	Most in <i>Pict.</i> , <i>HRM</i>	214	NSMC	
May 13-30	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1-3	DMW	
May 16	Dartmouth Cove, <i>HRM</i>	~15	KGI	
May 19	Pt. Edward, <i>CBRM</i>	6	BES, GEC	
May 22	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	10	<i>vide</i> CST	

May 25	Janvrin Hbr., <i>Rich.</i>	15	KAC
May 27	Dartmouth Cove, <i>HRM</i>	4	KGI
May 31	Kejimikujik NP adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	9	JAH, DPO
May 31	Isle Madame, <i>Rich.</i>	10	KAC
Arctic Tern			
May 22	Cape Sable, <i>Shel.</i>	10	<i>vide</i> CST
May 30	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	3	DMW
June 5	Dartmouth Cove	1+	KGI
Dovekie			
Jan. 10	Pt. Pleasant Park, Halifax	1	DOU
Jan. 21	Sambro Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Apr. 8	Canso Hbr., <i>Guys.</i>	1	TOK
Apr. 12	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JOB
Common Murre			
Mar. 19	Dartmouth Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	KGI
Apr. 15	W. Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	2	MUN
Apr. 15	St. Peters Canal, <i>Rich.</i>	4	GED, SDI
May 12	<i>CBRM</i>	3	NSMC
Thick-billed Murre			
Feb. 11	Purcells Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Apr. 8	W. Pennant, <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Apr. 8	Purcells Cove, <i>HRM</i>	4	DOU
Apr. 8	Northwest Arm, Halifax	1	DOU
Apr. 9	Dartmouth Cove	1	DOU
Apr. 15	W. Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	2	MUN
Apr. 17	Neils Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	1	AAM
Apr. 21	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1	IAM
Apr. 21	Lighthouse Cove, Brier I.	1	ELM
May 1	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JOB
Razorbill			
Jan. 22	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	1	DOU, FLL
Mar. 24	Port George, <i>Anna.</i>	1	AAM
Apr. 15	W. Baccaro, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN
May 12	<i>CBRM</i>	8	NSMC
Black Guillemot			
Apr. 8	Purcells Cove, <i>HRM</i>	6	DOU
Apr. 12	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	2	JOB
Apr. 15	St. Peters Canal, <i>Rich.</i>	1	GED, SDI
Apr. 20	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	6	SEM
Apr. 21	Northern Pt. & Grand Passage, Brier I.	25+	ELM
Apr. 22	Outside Dartmouth Cove	7	KGI
Apr. 27	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	5	JOB
Apr. 27	Port L'Hebert, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DPO
Apr. 27	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	2	N. Jensen <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 28	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	ad.	SEM
May 7	Kennington Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	64, some displaying	SEM
May 12	Scattered; most in <i>CBRM</i>	128	NSMC
May 31	Cape St. Marys, <i>Digby</i>	6	JCZ <i>et al.</i>
Atlantic Puffin			
Mar. 28	St. Anns, <i>Vic.</i>	1?	BSK
Apr. 27	Crescent Bch., Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 dead	DJC
May 12	<i>HRM</i>	5	NSMC

☐☐☐



Although its smaller, blacker bill is often mentioned as a distinction of BONAPARTE'S from BLACK-HEADED GULL (right), bill size is proportional to overall size and hard to assess in some young birds without direct comparisons. In first-summer plumage (here both on Apr. 13), useful distinctions are the grayish nape and more extensive blackish hind margin to the developing hood on the former species. [Photos Bernard Burke]

Pigeon Through Woodpeckers

By Dorothy Poole

Both ROCK PIGEON and MOURNING DOVE numbers were down on the NSMC. The former had the lowest count since 1999 (1003) and the latter (1747) was about 10% below the previous eight year average.

There was only one report of a YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO for this period. That was from Garvin Swim in March. We were all saddened to learn of Garvin's passing. He will be greatly missed.

There were only 15 GREAT HORNED OWLS recorded on the NSMC (third lowest since 1999) and a total of 19 from the reported Owl Surveys. A five-minute visit by a NORTHERN HAWK OWL, a third record for CSI, was not long enough for MUN to get to see it unfortunately. There were 70 BARRED OWLS tallied on the NSMC down from last year's total of 97. Interestingly the total from the Owl surveys reported is 72. BLF found a band from 1998 on one of the birds this year. He believes the bird has probably nested in the same box for several years and he was just lucky to find the band this year. Bernard reported 27 young birds from 10 nests this season. The injured Barred Owl (subsequently treated) found by JON on CSI is only the second one for CSI (MUN). For KJM one owl survey stop produced his first LONG-EARED OWL since starting the surveys. A duetting pair on one of their owl survey stops was a thrill for RMA, SMB, and PLC. April 12 a NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL became a celebrity in Halifax as it sat in the open, much to the delight of many observers. The owl was first spotted by a pre-schooler. For many it was a first "real" look (and worth a cab ride to see it DOU) and for others a "lifer". There were only three Northern Saw-whet Owls reported on the NSMC, the lowest total since 1999, however there was a total of 25 from the reported Owl Surveys.

CHIMNEY SWIFTS appear to be on the rebound from the previous two year sightings. A whopping 760 were counted by KJM in New Glasgow, there were days of 70+ in Wolfville and CLD counted about 300 each of two days in Middleton. This news however was somewhat dampened by JWW reporting that COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) has designated both Chimney Swift and Common Nighthawk as threatened.

The earliest report of RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD was Apr. 21 (Martin Thomas *vide* JWW, north of Port Williams, Kings) and from the online map (www.hummingbirds.net/map.html) there was a sighting Apr. 20. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were plentiful on the NSMC with a record total of 153.

BELTED KINGFISHERS were widely reported but their numbers were down on the NSMC.

Several RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS over wintered, and we might expect breeding once again. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS were scarce on the NSMC. The total of 42 was a tie with the low count in 2003. Both DOWNY and HAIRY WOODPECKER counts on the NSMC were average whereas the total of 605 NORTHERN FLICKERS was about 100 below the previous eight year average. PILEATED WOODPECKER sightings awed many observers. ♪

Rock Pigeon			
May 12 NSMC	1003 (record low)		
Mourning Dove			
May 12 NSMC	1747 (below average)		
Mar.-May Widely	1-15	~24 reports	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
Mar 23 Shelburne	1	Garvin Swim	
Great Horned Owl			
Mar. 21 Greenwich, Kings.	2 pairs	RBS	
Mar. 26 CSI	1	MUN	
Mar. 29 Minudie, Cum.	1	DAH	
Apr. 12 Guysborough (owl survey)	6	TOK, STB	
Apr. 15 Pictou (owl survey)	1	KJM	
Apr. 20 HRM (owl survey)	2	SMB, PLC	
Apr. 20 CBRM (owl survey)	4	SEM	
Apr. 20 Cumberland (owl survey)	1	KFS	
Apr. 20 Brier I.	1 calling	ELM	
May 3 Anigonish (owl survey)	1	RFL,MZG	
May 6 Guysborough-Anigonish.	2	RFL <i>et al.</i>	
May 6 Lunenburg (owl survey)	1	JAH, SJF, DPO	
May 10-11 HRM (owl survey)	2	RMA,SMB, PLC	
May 12 NSMC	15 (below 8 yr. average)		
May 14 Colchester (owl survey)	2	SMB, SEM	
May 24 Belleisle Marsh, Anna.	1 ad. & 1 juv.	JAH <i>et al.</i>	
May 30 Greenwich, Kings	2 juvs. nest	BLF	
Snowy Owl			
Mar. 23 L'Ardoise, Rich.	1	GED	
Apr. 15 CSI, Cape Light	1	MUN	
NORTHERN HAWK OWL			

May 21 Swims Pt., CSI	1	WIA <i>vide</i> MUN
Barred Owl		
Mar.-May Kings	12 nests with 34 eggs	BLF
Mar. 3 CSI	1 injured	JON
Mar. 11 Hwy 101, Anna.	1	FLL
Mar. 16, Apr. 7 Mid Musquodoboit, HRM	1	VJH



PILEATED WOODPECKERS had set up house on May 3 in a telephone pole along the busy Martinique Beach Road, HRM. [Photo Hans Toom]

Mar. 24	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1 heard	SLH	May 19	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	5	PLC
Mar. 30	W. Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	May 20-22	Wolfville*	44, 66, 60	Ted Wolkowski
Apr. 2	Georgefield, <i>Hants</i>	3+ calling	ROW	May 20	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	12	MCR
Apr. 12	<i>Guysborough</i> (owl survey)	14	TOK, STB	May 21-22	Middleton, <i>Anna.*</i>	296, 313	CLD <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 15	<i>Pictou</i> (owl survey)	5	KJM	May 22	Middleton, <i>Anna.*</i>	2	WAN
Apr. 15	<i>Lunenburg</i> (owl survey)	8	JAH	May 23-24	Wolfville*	64+, 87	Ted Wolkowski <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 15	Vincents L., <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL <i>et al.</i>	May 24-25	Lr. Falmouth, <i>Hants</i>	100's	Cheryl Rutledge <i>vide</i> JWW
Apr. 15	Cloverville, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL	May 25-27	Wolfville*	61+, 23, 35+	Ted Wolkowski <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 16	Wolfville	1+ calling	Andy Nette <i>vide</i> JWW	May 25	Middleton, <i>Anna.*</i>	99	JOB
Apr. 20	<i>HRM</i> (owl survey)	4	SMB, PLC	May 25	New Glasgow*	760	KJM
Apr. 20	<i>CBRM</i> (owl survey)	4	SEM	May 26	McGowan L., <i>Queens*</i>	35	PEH
Apr. 20	<i>Cumberland</i> (owl survey)	4	KFS	May 28-29	Wolfville*	75+, 51	JWW, Ted Wolkowski <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 20	Fairmont Ridge, <i>Ant.</i>	1 calling	Bruce Stevens	May 28	Dartmouth	1	KGI
Apr. 29	Fairmont Trail, <i>Ant.</i>	3	Bruce Stevens	May 30-31	Wolfville*	72, 50+	JWW, Ted Wolkowski <i>et al.</i>
May 3	<i>Antigonish</i> (owl survey)	8	RFL, MZG	Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
May 5	<i>Queens</i>	6	JAH, DPO	Apr. 21	Canard Acres, <i>Kings</i>	1	Martin Thomas <i>vide</i> JWW
May 6	<i>Pictou</i>	2 pairs	GMU, KJM	May 2	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	1	Yvonne Martin <i>vide</i> JCT
May 6	<i>Guysborough</i> (owl route)	5	RFL <i>et al.</i>	early May	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	2	RMC
May 6	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1	RFL, MZG	May 3	W. Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 6	<i>Lunenburg</i> (owl survey)	5	JAH, SJF, DPO	May 5-6	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1-2	HAT, MIK
May 10-11	<i>HRM</i> (owl survey)	3	RMA, SMB, PLC	May 8	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	male	KFS
May 12	NSMC 70 (4 th highest since 1999.)			May 8	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
May 14	<i>Colchester</i> (owl survey)	12	SMB, SEM	May 9	Morden, <i>Kings</i>	1	Gary Myers
May 23	<i>Cleveland, Inv.</i>	2 pairs	KAC	May 9	Halifax	male	EGI, SGI
May 30	Rt 103, <i>Queens</i>	1	HAT	May 9	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	male	VJH
late May	<i>Kings</i>	10 nests with 27 young	BLF	May 9	Tatamagouche, <i>Col.</i>	male	Jean Blackwood
Long-eared Owl				May 9	Lr. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	male	LOC
Apr. 15	<i>Pictou</i> (owl survey)	1 ad. first	KJM	May 10	Seabright, <i>HRM</i>	male	Eleanor Lindsay
Apr. 21	Georgefield, <i>Hants</i>	1 heard	ROW	May 10	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
May 6	<i>Guysborough</i> (owl route)	1	RFL <i>et al.</i>	May 10	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	2 males	JCT
May 10-11	<i>HRM</i> (owl survey)	2 calling	RMA, SMB, PLC	May 10	Truro	1	Win Kettleston
Short-eared Owl				May 10	Port Mouton, <i>Queens.</i>	male	Ken MacAulay
Mar 4	Grande Pré, <i>Kings</i>	1	CTO, S. McCurdy <i>vide</i> JET	May 11	Brier I.	few	CAH
Apr. 2	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 picture	BBU	May 12	NSMC	153 (record high)	
Apr. 12	Merigomish, <i>Pict.</i>	1	Karen & Lincoln MacLeod	May 13+	Widely	28+ ind.	18 obs.
May 16	E. Lake Ainslie, <i>Inv.</i>	1	KAC	Belted Kingfisher			
Northern Saw-whet Owl				Mar.-May	St. Anns/So. Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
Mar. 31-Apr. 1	<i>Shelburne-Queens</i> (owl survey)	2	JCZ, CLD, AIS, Lillian Perry	Mar. 2	Lanark, <i>Ant.</i>	2	wintered RFL
Apr. 4-May 30	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	Apr. 1	Antigonish Landing, <i>Ant.</i>	1	Bruce Stevens
Apr. 12	Halifax	1	var. obs.	Apr. 15	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	male	SJF
Apr. 12	<i>Guysborough</i> (owl survey)	2	TOK, STB	Apr. 19	Pembroke Shore, <i>Yar.</i>	1	DMO, Bob Morrison
Apr. 15	<i>Pictou</i> (owl survey)	1	KJM	Apr. 21	Keji Seaside Adj., <i>Queens</i>	1	TEP
Apr. 15	<i>Lunenburg</i> (owl survey)	2	JAH	Apr. 23	Whycocomagh, <i>Inv.</i>	1	JCZ
Apr. 20	<i>HRM</i> (owl survey)	1	SMB, PLC	Apr. 28	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	3	BES, GEC
Apr. 20	<i>CBRM</i> (owl survey)	4	SEM	Apr. 30	Diligent R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	Jane & Maureen Mills
Apr. 24	Port Hawksbury, <i>Inv.</i>	1 heard	DBM, DJO	Apr. 24	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1	DPO
May 2	Welsh town, <i>Shel.</i>	1 heard	JCZ	Apr. 28	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	2	SEM
May 3	<i>Antigonish</i> (owl survey)	4	RFL, MZG	Apr. 28	Glace Bay	1	DBM, DJO
May 4	Salt Marsh Tr., <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK	May 5 & 9	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1, 1	DMW
May 6	<i>Lunenburg</i> (owl survey)	1	JAH, SJF, DPO	May 3	W. end New Minas, <i>Kings</i>	fem.	JCT
May 7-9	Louisbourg	3	SEM	May 6	R. Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	1	GED, SDI
May 10-11	<i>HRM</i> (owl survey)	1	RMA, SMB, PLC	May 8	Margaretsville, <i>Anna.</i>	1	JOB
May 10	Dublin Shore, <i>Lun.</i>	1 heard	JAH	May 9	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	3	BES, GEC
May 12	NSMC 3 (record low)			May 12	NSMC 194 (record low)		
May 14	<i>Colchester</i> (owl survey)	7	SMB, SEM	May 13+	Widely	1-6.	7 obs.
Common Nighthawk				Red-bellied Woodpecker			
May 12	NSMC, <i>Guys.</i>	2	HAT	Mar. 11	Yarmouth	2 pair	FLL
May 22	Kejimikujik NP	1	PMA	Apr. 9	Jimtown, <i>Ant.</i>	1	wintered <i>vide</i> RFL
May 26	Wolfville	1	Ted Wolkowski	May 12	NSMC	2	
May 29	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	2	VJH	May 14	near Sr. Sanford Fleming Park, <i>HRM</i>	3 males & 1 fem.	FCG
Chimney Swift (* = usual chimney roost counts)				May 23	Old Port Mouton Rd., <i>Queens</i>	male <i>vide</i>	Geraldine Williams
Apr. 30	Wolfville*	heard	Ted Wolkowski	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			
May 5	<i>Pictou</i>	1	GMU	Apr. 8	CSI	1	MUN
May 7	New Glasgow*	1	KJM	Apr. 19	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	DOC
May 8	Middleton, <i>Anna.*</i>	6	JOB	Apr. 21	CSI	2	JON, SAN, TEC, MUN
May 8-9	New Glasgow*	24, 24	KJM <i>et al.</i>	Apr. 23	Georgefield, <i>Hants</i>	1	ROW
May 11	Wolfville*	6	JWW	May 7	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	fem.	DPO
May 12	Wolfville*	5	JWW, JCT, JET	May 8	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	male	VJH
May 12	Truro, <i>Col.*</i>	21	LHA, ROH	May 10	Spectacle Lake, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
May 12	New Glasgow*	140+	DOU	May 12	NSMC	42 (ties lowest)	
May 12	NSMC 166			May 23	Whycocomagh, <i>Inv.</i>	male	KAC
May 13	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	3	Cathie McKie <i>vide</i> JWW	May 25	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	1 dead	MCR
May 14	Middleton, <i>Anna.*</i>	59	JOB	Downy Woodpecker			
May 14-15	Wolfville*	2, 38	JWW, Ted Wolkowski <i>et al.</i>	May 12	NSMC 417 (about average)		

Mar.-May Widely	1-4	~16 reports	Apr. 15	Rainbow Haven, <i>HRM.</i>	1	PLC
Hairy Woodpecker			Apr. 16	Wolfville	male	JWW
May 12 NSMC	257 (above average)		Apr. 25	Pennant Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1+	HAT
Mar.-May Widely	1-4	~13 reports	Apr. 26-28	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	fem.	RFL, MZG
Black-backed Woodpecker			Apr. 27	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
Mar. 1 Fraser Mills, <i>Ant.</i>	fem. (photo)	RFL, Barry Taylor	Apr. 27	Crousetown, <i>Lun.</i>	1	NSN
Apr. 15 St. Anns/So. Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK	Apr. 28	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1	SEM
May 12 NSMC	5 (average)		Apr. 28-29	Georgefield, <i>Hants</i>	1+	ROW
May 27 Eastern Shore, <i>HRM</i>	1	LUB	Apr. 29	St. Anns/So. Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
Northern Flicker			Apr. 29-30	Black Rock, <i>Kings</i>	male	Jackie Porter-Haley
Mar. 4 Windsor	3	BBT <i>vide</i> JWW	May Widely		1-3	~13 reports
Mar. 28 Wolfville	male	JWW	May 12 NSMC	605 (3 rd lowest)		
Mar. 28 New Waterford, <i>CBRM</i>	1	TMM	Pileated Woodpecker			
Apr. 7 CSI	1	MUN	May 12 NSMC	64 (slightly below average)		
Apr. 9 Truro	1	B. Jackson <i>vide</i> LHA, ROH	Mar.-May Widely		1-4	~18 reports
Apr. 13-26 Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1-6	KFS				

Flycatchers Through Thrushes

By Hans Toom

In a search for a Mountain Bluebird reported May 24 in Upper East Green Hbr., *Shel.*, DJC discovered a nice consolation prize, a **WHITE-EYED VIREO**. This bird is marked by bright yellow spectacles, white wing bars, very bright piercing white eyes and a very distinctive and powerful song.

Last year on May 28 RBS reported a singing **WARBLING VIREO** in his backyard at Port Williams, *Kings*. Well, lightning does strike twice in the same place as yet another Warbling Vireo was heard singing in his back yard, May 11 of this year. This is a rare bird so the odds of it being a different bird are extremely remote. Since passerines often return to the same area year after year if they have bred successfully then there may be a nest site in this area. This bird is easily recognized by its rapid warble and the sharp snap at the conclusion of its song, much like an exclamation point. If the bird is silent it could easily be confused with Philadelphia Vireo or Tennessee Warbler.

The **PURPLE MARTIN** is close to extirpation in Nova Scotia with no reports at all last year and just one report so far this year. Apr. 29, at Harris Pond, *Canning, Kings*, the NSBS/BNS field trip party spotted one among a flock of Tree and Barn Swallows and it was eventually seen by most of the group. There were no reports of this species from the NSMC May 12. In the last nine years the NSMC has only found 5, all in 2002.

The **RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** continues its decline, according to the NSMC, with the lowest total reported in the last nine years. This species does make irruptions out of its normal range occasionally probably due to lack of an adequate winter or nesting time food supply. Many feeder watchers that have had this species all year or all winter long are not seeing any now.

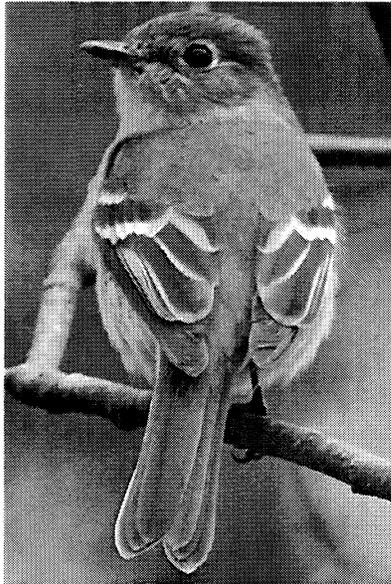
Last fall was a remarkable time in Nova Scotia for **NORTHERN WHEATEAR** sightings with 12 birds reported in 10 locations. This spring a Northern Wheatear was found May 25 on CSI by MUN. It has been commonly believed that this bird migrates from its northern Canada nesting grounds in an arc around the North Atlantic Ocean and down through Europe into central Africa. It returns by the same route in the spring. Other theorists suggest that some of these birds may take a more direct route, entirely over ocean, between northern Canada and central Africa. This may provide a partial explanation on why this thrush shows up occasionally in our spring. If they are blown directly west by powerful ocean winds on their north-western spring migration, they could make landfall anywhere on the eastern seaboard of North America. They would then be compelled to continue north from that point. A more intriguing possibility is that this year's spring bird may actually be one of last fall's southern moving birds that over-wintered on our continent.

Vic Williams recounted an accurate description of a **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** to DJC, reporting it seen May 23 at Upper East Green Hbr., *Shel.* This wandering bluebird of western Canada occasionally shows up on the east coast although it usually over winters in the southern US and Mexico.

A **GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** was spotted by MUN, May 22 at The Hawk, CSI. This bird is a skulker on the forest floor and underbrush so it is often hard to find. It is very similar to Bicknell's Thrush and may not be separable in the field except by song. Although some of the latter have nested in southern Nova Scotia most prefer the cool damp forests of Northern Cape Breton I. and CB Highlands NP."

Eight **WOOD THRUSHES** were reported on the NSMC, May 12, six in *CBRM* and two in *Inverness*. Often regarded as the premier woodland singer it has still not arrived in Nova Scotia in large numbers although it does nest in the province. It is easily distinguishable from the other woodland thrushes by its bold chest spotting and deep reddish brown colouring. The continental population of this thrush has been reduced in recent years because of egg casing failure since the bird cannot find sufficient calcium rich food such as snails. It is theorized that this is due to acid rain leaching of soils.

There was a report from Petite Riviere, *Lun*, Apr. 26, of 500 **AMERICAN ROBINS** in one spot. It would have been a sight to see. Large gatherings like this are more common in the fall migration. ☿



This *Empidonax* can be readily identified as a LEAST FLYCATCHER by its short bill, slightly dusky at the lower tip (other eastern empidonaces rarely show this), and its very short primary extension (longer on all eastern species and on the similarly short-billed Hammond's Flycatcher). Another mark, not mentioned in field guides, is the distinctly notched tail (generally squared off in other eastern empidonaces). More can be gleaned from this crisp close-up. The white-margined wing coverts seem fresh, whereas the primaries are very unkempt and "foxed" by sunlight (rufous in the colour original), and retained from Juvenal plumage. Note also that the second-innermost tertials on each side are somewhat ragged-edged and worn at the tip and are also "foxed." On the tail, only the outer rectrices are rounded and fresh - the others are "foxed" and more pointed (a feature of juvenal plumages of many passerines). This mix of old and new feathers is characteristic in "after-hatching year" (AHY) of eastern species like Least Flycatcher. That is, the bird is nearly one year old. [Photo Bruce Stevens]

Olive-sided Flycatcher

May 31 Keji Seaside Adjunct, *Queens* 1

JAH, DPO

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

May 23 Pennant Pt, *HRM* 1

HAT

May 26 White Rock Trail, *Kings* 2

BLF

Alder Flycatcher

May 24 Bellisle Marsh, *Anna.* 1

AJH, DPO

May 25 Janvrin Hbr., *Rich.* 1

KAC

May 31 Mid-Musquodoboit, *HRM* 1

VJH

May 30 Wolfville Ridge, *Kings* 3

BLF

May 30 Apple R., *Cum.* 1

KFS

Least Flycatcher

May 10 Brier I. 1

ELM, AHM

May 12 Palmeters Woods, *Kings* 1

JCT, Sheila McCurdy

May 12 Brier I. 1

ELM, AHM

May 17 Upper Northfield, *Lun.* 5

JAH, DPO

May 25 Apple R., *Cum.* 1

KFS

May 26 Maccan area, *Cum.* 1

KFS

May 26 Jeddore Ponds, *HRM* male

LUB

Eastern Phoebe

Mar. 25 Pembroke, *Yar* 1

FLL, DOU

Apr. 22-23 Portuguese Cove, *HRM* 1

HAT, LAE

Apr. 26 Sable R., *Shel.* 2

DPO

Apr. 26 Sable R., *Shel.* 1

MIK

Apr. 27 Wolfville, *Kings* 1

AAM

Apr. 27 Sable R., *Shel.* 1

Gloria Gilbert

Apr. 27 Crousetown, *Lun.* 1

NSN

Apr. 28 Sable R., *Shel.* 3

NSBS

May 7 North R., *Lun.* 1

JAH, DAW

May 12 White Rock Bridge, *Kings* 2

JCT, Sheila McCurdy

May 12 Westport, Brier I. 1

ELM, IAM

May 13 Northern Pt., Brier I. 1

ELM, IAM

May 27 CSI 1

MUN

May 27 Prince Arthur Field, *HRM* 1

KGI

May 27 Shearwater, *HRM* 1

DAC

May 27 Cove Rd., *Col.* 1

Valerie Meredith

Eastern Kingbird

May 10 Westport, Brier I. 3

ELM, AHM

May 18 Conrad, Beach, *HRM* 1

DMW

May 20 Hartlen Pt., *HRM* 1

IAM, ELM

May 23 Lockeports Crescent Bch., *Shel.* 1

DJC

May 23-30 Apple R., *Cum.* 1-2

KFS

May 26 Schooner Pond, *CBRM* 2

BES, GEC

Northern Shrike

Apr. 21 Shulie, *Cum.* 1

KFS

Apr. 28 W. Apple R., *Cum.* 1

KFS

Mar. 30-Apr. 13 Apple R., *Cum.* 1

KFS

Apr. 5 Cape George, *Rich.* 1

WMA

Apr. 6 Guysborough Intervale, *Guys.* 1

RFL, Bruce Stevens

May 13 Lockeport, *Shel.* 1

DJC

WHITE-EYED VIREO

May 24 Upper East Green Hbr., *Shel.* 1

DJC

Blue-headed Vireo

Apr. 28 Sable R., *Shel.* 1

NSBS

May 7 Melanson Mt., *Kings* 1

BLF

May 7 White Rock, *Kings* 1

BLF

May 8 Wolfville Ridge, *Kings* 1

JCT

May 8 Spectacle L., *HRM* 1

MIK

May 9 Palmeters Woods, *Kings* 5

JCT

May 9 St. Anns/South Haven, *Vic* 1

BSK

May 9 Port Morien, *CBRM* 1

BES, GEC

May 10 Spectacle L., *HRM* 3

MIK

May 11 Apple R., *Cum.* 1

KFS

May 12 L. Ainslie, *Inv.* 5

KAC

May 12 Palmeters Woods, *Kings* 1

JCT, Sheila McCurdy

May 12 White Rock R. Trail, *Kings* 1

JCT, Sheila McCurdy

May 13 Oathill L., *HRM* 1

MIK

May 19 Fairmont, *Ant.* 3

RFL

May 26 Jeddore Oyster Ponds, *HRM* 2

LUB

May 27 Isle Madame, *Rich.* 2

KAC

May 27 Strathlorne, *Inv.* 2

KAC

WARBLING VIREO

May 11 Middle Dyke Rd., *Kings* 1

RBS

May 24 New Boston, *CBRM* 1

CSM, TMM

Philadelphia Vireo

May 19 Brier I. 1

CLD, WAN

May 27 Hines Rd., *HRM* 1

DAC

May 28 Mid-Musquodoboit, *HRM* 1

VJH

Red-eyed Vireo

May 26 Jeddore Oyster Ponds, *HRM* 1

LUB

May 31 Isle Madame, *Rich.* 1

KAC

Gray Jay

Mar. 23-Apr. 25 Apple R., *Cum.* 1-2

KFS

Mar. 25 Mid-Musquodoboit, *HRM* pair

VJH

Mar. 25 St. Annes, South Haven, *Vic.* 1

VJH

Apr. 6 Lundy, *Guys.* 2 pairs

RFL

Apr. 7 White's Lake, *HRM* 1

BLM

Apr. 23 East Chester, *Lun.* 1

CJF

Apr. 28 Sable R., *Shel.* 1

NSBS

May 11 Brook Village, *Inv.* pair

KAC

May 25 Birch Cove Rd., *HRM* 1

BES, GEC

May 27 Apple R., *Cum.* 3 ads., 4 juvs.

KFS

May 31 Keji Seaside Adjunct, *Queens* 1

JAH, DPO

May 31 Isle Madame, *Rich.* 1

KAC

Blue Jay

Mar.-May Fairmont, *Ant.* up to 21/day

RFL

Mar.-May Portuguese Cove, *HRM* up to 16/day

HAT, LAE

Horned Lark

Apr. 2 Martinique Bch., *HRM* 6

HAT

Purple Martin

Apr. 29 Harris Pond, *Kings* 1 NSBS/BNS

Tree Swallow

Apr. 21 Milton, *Queens* 1-2 JAH, DPO, DAW
 Apr. 21 Broad Cove, *Lun.* 1 JAH, DAW
 Apr. 23-May 10 Apple R., *Cum.* 2-5 KFS
 Apr. 23 Mid-Musquodoboit, *HRM* 8 VJH
 Apr. 23 Lockeport, *Shel.* 2 DJC
 Apr. 25 Wolfville Ridge, *Kings* 2 JCT
 Apr. 25 Wolfville Sewage Ponds, *Kings* 2 JCT, JET
 Apr. 25-May 31 Lawrencetown *HRM* 1-4 most days DMW
 Apr. 26 Advocate Hbr., *Cum.* 5 Jane Mills & Maureen Mills
 Apr. 26 Wolfville Ridge, *Kings* 4 JCT
 Apr. 28 Schooner Pond area, *CBRM* 6 BES, GEC
 Apr. 28 Donkin, *CBRM* 8 BES, GEC
 May 1 APBS 100s var. obs.
 May 2 Hbr. Center, *Ant.* 2 RFL
 May 3 Upper Northfield, *Lun.* 80 JAH, DPO
 May 4 Russel L., *HRM* 60+ KFI
 May 10 Brier I. 10+ ELM
 May 12 L. Aisle, *Inv.* 25 KAC
 May 12 St. Annes, South Haven, *Vic.* 1 BSK
 May 16 Wolfville Ridge, *Kings* 2 males JCT
 May 22-28 Bear R., *Anna.* 2 MCR
 May 25 Janvrin Hbr., *Rich.* 7 KAC
 May 27 Strathlome, *Inv.* 9 KAC
 May 31 Isle Madame, *Rich.* 1 KAC

Bank Swallow

May 15 Canard Pond, *Kings* a few JCT
 May 26 Schooner Pond, *CBRM* 5 BES, GEC
 May 28 Apple R., *Cum.* 2 KFS

Cliff Swallow

May 12 St. Annes, South Haven, *Vic.* 1 BSK
 May 12 Apple R., *Cum.* 1 KFS
 May 24 Fortress of Louisbourg 50+ SEM
 May 26 East Lake Ainslie, *Inv.* 6 nests KAC

Barn Swallow

Apr. 25 Milton, *Queens* 3 DPO
 Apr. 25 Medford, *Kings* 1 JCT, JET
 Apr. 28 Long Beach Rd., *CBRM* 2 BES, GEC
 May 3 Upper Northfield, *Lun.* 3 JAH, DPO
 May 3 Cherry Hill, *Lun.* 1 SJF
 May 8 Apple R., *Cum.* 1 KFS
 May 12 Hayes R., *Inv.* 9 KAC
 May 12 Westport, Brier I. 1 NSMC, ELM, IAM
 May 13 Spencers I., *Cum.* 2 Maureen Mills
 May 22 Bear R., *Anna.* 2 MCR
 May 23 St. Annes, South Haven, *Vic.* 1 BSK

Black-capped Chickadee

Mar.-May Apple R., *Cum.* 20 daily KFS
 Mar.-May Portuguese Cove, *HRM* 20 daily HAT, LAE
 Apr. 21 Brier I. 30+ ELM
 May 12 Brier I. 80+ NSMC, ELM, IAM

Boreal Chickadee

Mar.-May Portuguese Cove, *HRM* 4-8 daily HAT, LAE
 Apr. 15 Vincents L., *Ant.* 2 RFL, Bruce Stevens
 Apr. 23 E. Chester, *Lun.* 2 CJF
 Apr. 27 Sable R. Rd., *Shel.* 2 DPO
 Mar. 25 Greenfield, *Kings* 2 BLF
 May 12 L. Ainslie, *Inv.* 8 KAC
 May 2 Dominion Diving Terminal, *HRM* 1 KGI
 May 25 Javrin Hbr., *Rich.* 1 KAC
 May 27 Strathlome, *Inv.* 1 KAC

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Mar.-May St. Annes, South Haven, *Vic.* 1 daily BSK
 Mar. 12 Apple R., *Cum.* 1 KFS
 Mar. 23 Apple R., *Cum.* 1 KFS
 Apr. 2 Wolfville Ridge, *Kings* 1 JCT
 May 12 Lake Ainslie, *Inv.* 2 KAC
 May 24 Fairmont, *Ant.* 1 RFL, MZG
 May 31 Isle Madame, *Rich.* 1 KAC

White-breasted Nuthatch

Mar.-May Bear R., *Anna.* 2 MCR
 Mar.-May Tremont, *Kings* 1 most days SLH

Mar. 7 Wolfville Ridge, *Kings* 1 JCT
 Mar. 17 Lunenburg 1 JLM
 May 12 L. Ainslie, *Inv.* 1 KAC

Brown Creeper

Mar.-May St. Annes, South Haven, *Vic.* 1 BSK
 Mar. 11 Bear R., *Anna.* 1 MCR
 Mar. 17 Lunenburg 1 JLM
 Mar. 24 Bear R., *Anna.* 1 MCR
 Apr. 1 Brooklyn, *Hants* 1 PKE
 Apr. 2 Newtonville, *Kings* 1 BLF
 Apr. 7 Wolfville Ridge, *Kings* 1 JCT

Winter Wren

Apr. 21 East R., *Lun.* 2 JLM
 Apr. 21 Milton, *Queens* JAH, DPO, DAW
 May 7 Louisbourg, *CBRM* 2 males SEM
 May 27 Uisage Bahn Falls, *Vic.* 1 BES, GEC

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Mar.-May St. Annes, South Haven, *Vic.* 1+ BSK
 Apr. 27 Rhodes Corner, *Lun.* 7 JAH
 May 9 Palmeters Woods, *Kings* 1 JCT
 May 12 Lake Ainslie, *Inv.* 2 KAC

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Apr. 23 Apple R., *Cum.* 1 KFS
 Apr. 25 Milton, *Queens* 1 DPO
 Apr. 27 Rhodes Corner, *Lun.* 3 JAH
 Apr. 27 Port L'Hebert, *Shel.* 2 DPO
 Apr. 27 St. Annes, South Haven, *Vic.* 1 BSK
 Apr. 27 Wolfville Ridge, *Kings* 1 BLF
 Apr. 28 Sable R., *Shel.* 3 NSBS
 Apr. 29 Spencers I., *Cum.* 1 Jane Mills & Maureen Mills
 Apr. 29 Fairmont, *Ant.* 1 RFL
 May 1 Rockingham Ridge, *HRM* 1 EGI
 May 6 Mira, *CBRM* 2 BES, GEC
 May 12 Lake Ainslie, *Inv.* 6 KAC
 May 12 Brier I. 1 NSMC, ELM, IAM
 May 13 Cow Bay, *CBRM* 4 BES, GEC
 May 25 Janvrin Hbr., *Rich.* 4 KAC
 May 27 Strathlome, *Inv.* 2 males KAC
 May 31 Isle Madame, *Rich.* 4 KAC

NORTHERN WHEATEAR

May 25 Daniels Hd., *CSI* 1 MUN, others

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

May 23 Upper East Green Hbr., *Shel.* 1 Vic Williams *fide* DJC



The VEERY is readily identified in the field by its cinnamon plumage tones and virtual lack of markings on the breast and flanks. Also, as shown in this portrait May 12 near Antigonish, it lacks the eye-ring of other *Catharus* thrushes. Note that this individual lacks any hint of paler margins on the wing coverts, indicating that it is more than a year old. [Photo Bruce Stevens]

Veery				Apr. 21	Brier I.	200+	ELM
May 26	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	2	BLF	Apr. 26	Petite Riviere, <i>Lun.</i>	500+	JAH
May 12	R. Ryan, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM				
May 16	Antigonish Landing, <i>Ant.</i>	1	Bruce Stevens				
Gray-cheeked Thrush							
May 22	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	1	MUN				
Swainson's Thrush							
May 8	New Victoria, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM				
May 12	Trafalgar, <i>Guys.</i>	2	HAT				
May 27	Musquodoboit Trailways, <i>HRM</i>	1	LUB				
May 25	Frog Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL				
Hermit Thrush							
Mar. 24	Jeddore Oyster Ponds, <i>HRM</i>	1	LUB				
Mar. 30	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1	Harry & Rose Ann Delorey				
Apr. 27	Sable R. Rd., <i>Shel.</i>	5	DPO				
Apr. 28	Sable R., <i>Shel.</i>	3	NSBS				
Apr. 29	Spencers I., <i>Cum.</i>	1	Jane & Maureen Mills				
May 2	St. Annes, South Haven, <i>Vic</i>	1	BSK				
May 2	Apple R., <i>Cum</i>	1	KFS				
May 4	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	15	JAH, DPO				
May 9	Palmeters Woods, <i>Kings</i>	3	JCT				
May 12	Lake Ainslie, <i>Inv.</i>	2	KAC				
May 13	Camp Rd., Brier I.	1	AHM				
May 27	Strathlome, <i>Inv.</i>	1	KAC				
May 31	Keji Seaside Adjunct, <i>Queens</i>	5	JAH, DPO				
May 31	Isle Madame, <i>Rich.</i>	2	KAC				
WOOD THRUSH							
May 12	<i>CBRM</i>	6	NSMC				
May 12	<i>Inverness</i>	2	NSMC				
American Robin							
Mar. 9	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	25	MCR				
Apr. 1	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	50+	KFS				
Apr. 6	Lunenburg	50+	ELM				



The HERMIT THRUSH is the earliest of our woodland thrushes to return, this one Apr. 25 at Dartmouth Cove. Note that this individual retains the pale edges of its First Basic wing coverts. That is, it is less than a year old. [Photo Bernard Burke]

Mimics Through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

Spring reports of both GRAY CATBIRDS and NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRDS continue to be on a five year decline on the NSMC and this is also reflected in the few reports received for this period. Given that the date for the NSMC was the latest possible, one would have expected more catbirds especially and numbers are only 20% of what was observed in 2000. Mockingbirds are less than 15% of 2002 NSMC totals. Interestingly, April 3 DJO heard his over-wintering mockingbird sing, but in Halifax, the one in the yard of DAM did not. Although no BROWN THRASHERS were noted on the NSMC, the number of general spring reports is up considerably, though still restricted to the mainland counties. A couple successfully over-wintered but there was a noticeable immigration in late April to early May.

EUROPEAN STARLING numbers were the lowest recorded in nine years on the NSMC and continue a seven year decline. There were a few lingering winter BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS and the few April sightings of CEDAR WAXWINGS were likely over-wintering birds. Mid- May seemed to be the start of Cedar Waxwing migration with quite a number reported by the end of the month.

Reports were received on twenty-three species of warbler for this report period. There was a total of 3326 warblers of twenty-one species recorded on the NSMC. Migration did not seem to be in any great waves, but May 7, TOK in Canso noted a large influx of YELLOW-RUMPED and PALM WARBLERS. MUN noted 18 species of warbler at The Hawk, CSI, May 22, a good day for birding!

TENNESSEE WARBLERS arrived too late for the NSMC, but there seemed to be a noticeable increase in late May. Reported numbers of this warbler seemed to have declined the last few springs. A couple of ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS survived the winter by eating seeds at feeders, but there were no reports of spring migrants.

Both NASHVILLE WARBLER and NORTHERN PARULA followed the usual trend by arriving near the beginning of May. A few reports of YELLOW WARBLERS from late April and early May were surprising although Tuft's "Birds of Nova Scotia" documents a couple of mid-April sightings in past years. An April 29 sighting of MAGNOLIA WARBLERS by JCZ in *Shelburne* did not set a new record (Tuft's earliest date is April 26) but these Upper Clyde R. birds were much earlier than the May 10 average.

Although still not a lot of reports, the sightings of CAPE MAY WARBLER are up this year. The first reports of YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS was close to the average arrival date and were widespread By Apr. 22 they were deemed numerous in New Waterford, CBRM. The numbers reported on the NSMC continued a slight, annual decline. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS continue to be the second most common warbler on the migration count taking advantage of the young forest the now dominates a great deal of NS. Several PINE WARBLERS were kept alive over-winter with treats ranging from suet cakes and seeds to bread pieces dipped in vegetable oil for a lucky Point Pleasant Park bird. Very unusual was the number of Pine Warblers noted on the NSMC. Most years there are zero to one, so the 13 reported this year might represent an identification problem. If not, maybe we will see an increase in summer reports of this warbler which still does not have breeding evidence recorded for the current Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas project. For the last few years the early arrival date for PALM WABLER has edged earlier by about a week compared to Tuft's average date of Apr. 20. This year's palms however, return to the usual arrival time en-route to the bogs and forests undergoing renewal from cutovers. There were a few HRM reports of good numbers of BLACKPOLL WARBLERS returning in mid to late May. RBS sent a report of a pair of blackpolls in his back yard and noted the female, a very dull one at that, was singing. LAL notes that while females are not known to sing, the singing habits of the species are not well studied and blackpoll males should be in their alternate/breeding plumage by the date of RBS's sighting.

Once again the Upper Clyde R. was the spot for early warbler sightings, this time an Apr. 29 BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER (JCZ), a tie for early average in Tuft's book, although there are a couple of unusual historical sightings before this date. No OVENBIRDS or NORTHERN WATERTHRUSHES were noted in CB on the NSMC. The number of Ovenbirds reported from the NSMC has remained constant the last three years but is down more than 50% from 2001 totals. The late arriving MOURNING WARBLER did not receive a single report this period but no doubt will be encountered by atlassers this summer in good numbers. Good numbers of both WILSON and CANADA WARBLERS were noted from mid to late May. ♣

Gray Catbird

Apr. 28	The Hawk, CSI	1	MUN
May 10	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1	DPO
May 12	five counties	7	NSMC
May 12	Caledonia, <i>Guys.</i>	2	HAT
May 20	Duncans Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
May 20	Apple River, <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 20	Brier I.	common	PKE <i>et al.</i>
May 22	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM
May 23	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1-2 singing	DJC
May 25	Jeddore Oyster Ponds, <i>HRM</i>	1	LUB
May 30	Cape Light, <i>Shel.</i>	3	HAT <i>et al.</i>

Northern Mockingbird

Mar. 1- May 5	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1, probably victim sml. falcon	DJC
Mar. 11	Halifax	1 keeping grapes from Starlings	DAM
Apr. 3	Port Hawkesbury	1 over-wintered, now sings	DJO
Apr. 7	Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DOU
Apr. 25	The Hawk, CSI	1 reported for about a week	JON
May 9	Westport, Brier I.	1 present for a few days	ELM
May 12	three counties	4	NSMC
May 20	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	1 at empty feeder	Mike Peckford
May 24	Louisbourg	1	SEM
May 27	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 at feeder	KFS

Brown Thrasher

Mar. 4	Lower Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	1 over-wintered, now singing	JAH, DPO
Mar. 13 & 30	Canso	1 over-wintered, H. & R. Delorey	<i>fide</i> TOK
Apr. 26-30	CSI	1 feeder	JON
Apr. 25	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1 seen by Dean Fiske	<i>fide</i> DJC
May 9	Plymouth, <i>Pict.</i>	1 singing in yard	KJM
May 13	Fraserville, <i>Cum.</i>	1 eating seeds and berries	<i>fide</i> Jane Mills
May 18	CSI	2	JON
May 19	West Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	1	MUN
May 19 & 21	Brier I.	1 singing	WAN <i>et al.</i>
May 22	Cape Light, <i>Shel.</i>	1 in "the forest"	CST
May 23	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	1	N. Nickerson
May 23	The Hawk, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN
May 25	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	DOC
May 30	The Hawk, <i>Shel.</i>	2 also June 1	MUN

European Starling

May 12	all eighteen counties	4265	NSMC
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American Pipit

Apr. 21	Pond Cove, Brier I.	8	ELM
May 9	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	6	BES, GEC
May 12	three counties	14	NSMC
May 14	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	BBU
May 24	The Hawk, <i>Shel.</i>	4	MUN
May 26	Louisbourg	1	SEM

Bohemian Waxwing

Mar. 23	Glace Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	60	BES, GEC
Apr. 25	Williams Pt., <i>Ant.</i>	30	Bruce Stevens

Cedar Waxwing

Apr. 16	Middleton, <i>Anna</i>	30	Gary Myers
Apr. 19	Antigonish	6	Bruce Stevens
May 12	three counties	13	NSMC
May 17-25	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1-6	DOC
May 26	The Hawk, <i>Shel.</i>	25	MUN
May 26	Oathill Pond, <i>HRM</i>	15	KGI
May 27	Musquodoboit Trailways, <i>HRM</i>	4	LUB
May 27	Dartmouth	100+	KGI
May 28	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	15+	KFS

Tennessee Warbler

May 16	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	3	MIK
May 25	Birch Grove, <i>CBRM</i>	2	BES, GEC
May 27	Musquodoboit Trailways, <i>HRM</i>	2	LUB
May 27	Lewis L., <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT
May 28	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS

Orange-crowned Warbler

Mar. 4	Dartmouth	1 eating seeds	MIK
Mar. 27	Halifax	1 <i>celata</i> eating seeds	AGH



A GRAY CATBIRD, seeming somewhat bedraggled after a long flight over water, was found in the few square metres of fabled "forest" near the light on Cape Sable. [Photo Hans Toom]

Nashville Warbler			Apr. 27	Crousetown, <i>Lun.</i>	fly-catching over pond	NSN
May 2	St. Anns/ South Haven	1	BSK	Apr. 27	Rhodes Corner, <i>Lun.</i>	30 JAH
May 6	CSI	1	MUN	Apr. 28	East Petpeswick, <i>HRM</i>	15+ DOU
May 9	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	HAT	Apr. 28	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1 feeding on suet RFL
May 10	Frog Pond, <i>HRM</i>	5	FLL	Apr. 29	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	First of spring, early for here FMC
May 12	L. Ainslie, <i>Inv.</i>	2	KAC	May 12	all eighteen counties	1741 NSMC
May 12	ten counties	83	NSMC	Black-throated Green Warbler		
May 12	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	3	KFS	May 7	Bruhms Bridge, <i>Lun.</i>	1 JAH <i>et al.</i>
May 15	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	5	MIK	May 8	Powers Pond, <i>HRM</i>	1 FLL
May 24	Birch Grove, <i>CBRM</i>	2	BES, GEC	May 8	St. Anns/South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1 BSK
Northern Parula			May 9	Palmeto Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT
May 8	Whitehill, <i>Pict.</i>	1	MAB	May 11	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1 KFS
May 8	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1	DPO	May 12	sixteen counties	401 NSMC
May 9	Palmeto Woods, <i>Kings</i>	2	JCT	May 16	L. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 singing LOC
May 10	Frog Pond, <i>HRM</i>	5	FLL	May 17	Upper Northfield, <i>Lun.</i>	13 JAH, DPO
May 12	fourteen counties	197	NSMC	May 18	Palmeto Woods, <i>Kings</i>	6 AAM
May 17	Upper Northfield, <i>Lun.</i>	10	DPO, JAH	May 20	New Waterford, <i>CBRM</i>	1 CSM, TMM
May 24	<i>CBRM</i>	6	CSM, TMM	May 25	Sand L., <i>CBRM</i>	1 BES, GEC
Yellow Warbler			May 26	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	6	BES, GEC
Apr. 22	Dartmouth	1	KGI	Blackburnian Warbler		
Apr. 29	Upper Clyde Rd., <i>Shel.</i>	1	JCZ	May 11	St. Anns/ South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1 BSK
May 1	Southdale, <i>HRM</i>	1 very early!	KGI	May 12	seven counties	12 NSMC
May 12	eleven counties	58	NSMC	May 12	Scotch Hill, <i>Pict.</i>	1 KJM, JMC
May 13	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	lots	DJC	May 13	Oathill L., <i>HRM</i>	1 MIK
May 13-16	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	May 16	Spectacle L.	10 MIK
May 16	L. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1 male	LOC	May 17	Upper Northfield, <i>Lun.</i>	2 JAH, DPO
May 17	Upper Northfield, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH, DPO	May 17	Rushtons Beach PP, <i>Pict.</i>	1 Jean Blackwood
May 22	Canso, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK	May 27	Usage Ban Falls, <i>Vic.</i>	1 BES, GEC
May 20	New Waterford, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM	Pine Warbler		
May 21	St. Croix, <i>Hants</i>	1 nest building	NSBS	Mar. 3	Pt. Pleasant Park, <i>HRM</i>	1, photo Anita Pouliot
Chestnut-sided Warbler			Mar. 25	Pt. Pleasant Park, <i>HRM</i>	1 bright male, photo	Rita Viau
May 12	five counties, mostly Kings	15	NSMC	Mar. 17	Plymouth, <i>Pict.</i>	1 over-wintered KJM
May 15	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	4	MIK	Apr. 9	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1 over-wintered DMW
May 15	Lewis L., Park, <i>HRM</i>	4	AMA, RMA	May 12	three counties	13 NSMC
May 16	Spectacle L. <i>HRM</i>	4	MIK	May 6	Herring Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 FLL
May 20	New Waterford, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM	May 12	Oakfield Park, <i>HRM</i>	1 male, 2 fems. TEP
May 22	Coldbrook, <i>Kings</i>	2	AAM	May 26	St. Anns/South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1 BSK
May 24	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	18	JAH, DPO	Palm Warbler		
May 26	Maccan, <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS	Apr. 21	Port Williams, <i>Kings</i>	1 Nancy Nickerson
Magnolia Warbler			Apr. 22	Keji Seaside Adjunct	3 bright	TEP
Apr. 29	Upper Clyde Rd., <i>Shel.</i>	several, very early!	JCZ	Apr. 23	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2 but 10+ May 1 KFS
May 8	Shubie Park, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK	Apr. 24	Kejimikujik	1 Chris Wagner
May 10	Westport, Brier I.	male	ELM, AHM	Apr. 24	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 VJH
May 12	5 counties mostly <i>Vic.</i> , & <i>Hants</i>	19	NSMC	Apr. 24	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1 DPO
May 13	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	Apr. 25	off Brier I.	2 landed on boat offshore CAH
May 20	<i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM	Apr. 26-27	Spectacle L. <i>HRM</i>	3-6 MIK
May 22	Canso, <i>Guys</i>	1	MIK	Apr. 27	Rhodes Corner	45 JAH
May 16	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK	Apr. 29	St. Anns/South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1 BSK
Cape May Warbler			May 9	Louisbourg	big arrival	SEM
May 12	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS	May 12	fourteen counties	316 NSMC
May 12	one county - <i>Cumberland</i>	3	NSMC	May 13	Birch Grove, <i>CBRM</i>	~13 BES, GEC
May 20	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK	Bay-breasted Warbler		
May 25	The Hawk, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN	May 12	<i>HRM</i>	1 NSMC
May 29	St Anns/ South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK	May 16	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	2 MIK
Black-throated Blue Warbler			May 19	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC, JEH
May 11	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	male	FLL	May 21	Mackerel Cove, <i>HRM</i>	migrating bunch HAT
May 12	five counties	7	NSMC	May 21	The Hawk, <i>Shel.</i>	1 MUN
May 17	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	fem.	FLL	May 22	The Hawk, <i>Shel.</i>	1 CST, JON, SAN
May 12	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	May 22	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	1 FLL
May 20	Brier I.	1	WAN, CLD	May 27	Jeddore Oyster Ponds, <i>HRM.</i>	1 LUB
May 21	Mt. Uniacke, <i>Hants</i>	1	NSBS	Blackpoll Warbler		
May 22	Lewis L. <i>HRM</i>	several	HAT	May 12	three mainland counties	5 NSMC
May 28	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH	May 13	Oathill L., <i>HRM</i>	1 MIK
Yellow-rumped Warbler			May 16	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	3	MIK
Apr. 8	E. Pennant, <i>HRM</i>	1 spring plumage	DOU	May 19	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	25-30 PLC, JEH
Apr. 11	Crystal Crescent Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1 his first of year "drab"	HAT	May 21	The Hawk, <i>Shel.</i>	1 MUN
Apr. 17	Stellarton, <i>Pict.</i>	1, photo	M. Murphy	May 22	Canso, <i>Guys</i>	1 MIK
Apr. 20	St. Anns/South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK	May 22	Antigonish Landing	1 Bruce Stevens
Apr. 22	New Waterford, <i>CBRM</i>	numerous	CSM, TMM	May 23	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	25 FLL
Apr. 23	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS	May 25	Birch Grove, <i>CBRM</i>	2 BES, GEC
Apr. 24	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK	May 25	Janvrin Hbr., <i>Rich.</i>	pair KAC
Apr. 24	Port Hawkesbury	1	DJO	May 26	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	6 BES, GEC
Apr. 25	Crystal Crescent Beach, <i>HRM</i>	several singing	HAT	May 26	Oathill Pond, <i>HRM</i>	50 KGI
Apr. 25	Brier I.	several	CAH			

Black-and-white Warbler

Apr. 29	Upper Clyde Rd., <i>Shel.</i>	1	JCZ
May 7	Palmeter Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	Nancy Nickerson
May 7	Upper Branch, <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH, DAW
May 8	Fairmount Ridge, <i>Ant.</i>	2	Bruce Stevens
May 11	St. Anns/ South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
May 12	Lake Ainslie, <i>Inv.</i>	7	KAC
May 12	seventeen counties	266	NSMC
May 13	Birch Grove, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BES, GEC
May 16	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	6	MIK
May 19	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	8-10	PLC, JEH

American Redstart

May 12	three mainland counties	7	NSMC
May 15	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	2	MIK
May 16	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	5	MIK
May 19	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	2	PLC, JEH
May 25	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2	KFS
May 26	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	2	BES, GEC
May 26	St. Anns/ South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
May 27	Strathlorne, <i>Inv.</i>	1	KAC

Prothonotary Warbler**Ovenbird**

May 8	Palmeter Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1	AAM
May 12	ten mainland counties	111	NSMC
May 17	Upper Northfield, <i>Lun.</i>	3	JAH, DPO
May 18	Palmeter Woods, <i>Kings</i>	12	AAM
May 21	Daniels Hd., <i>Shel.</i>	3	under the "metal forest" MUN
May 25	Sand L., <i>CBRM</i>	2	BES, GEC

Northern Waterthrush

May 7	Palmeter Woods, <i>Kings</i>	1 but 2 next day	AAM
May 7	Wentzells L., <i>Lun.</i>	1 singing	JAH, DAW
May 12	five counties - all mainland	40	NSMC
May 12	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1 back on territory singing	VJH
May 22	Pt. Pleasant Park, <i>HRM</i>	1	PLC

Common Yellowthroat

May 12	six counties	27	NSMC
May 15	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	3	MIK
May 15	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 16	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	6	MIK
May 22	Canso, <i>Guys.</i>	1	MIK
May 24	Belleisle Marsh, <i>Anna</i>	5	JAH, DPO
May 26	St. Anns/South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
May 27	Strathlorne, <i>Inv.</i>	male	KAC

Wilson's Warbler

May 12	three counties- all mainland	3	NSMC
May 15	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	male	KFS
May 18	Westville, <i>Pict.</i>	2	MAB
May 22	Jollimore, <i>HRM</i>	1	FLL
May 22	Canso, <i>Guys</i>	1	MIK
May 23	Annapolis Royal	1	RBS
May 23	Conquerall Mills, <i>Lun.</i>	male	JAH
May 23	L. Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	LOC
May 24	Palmeter Woods, <i>Kings</i>	2	AAM
May 25	Janvrin Hbr., <i>Rich.</i>	male	KAC
May 26	St. Anns/South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
May 26	Glance Bay, <i>CBRM</i>	2	BES, GEC
May 31	Isle Madame, <i>Rich.</i>	1	KAC

Canada Warbler

May 12	Richmond County	1	NSMC
May 22	The Hawk, <i>Shel.</i>	1	CST, JON, SAN
May 22	Lewis L. <i>HRM</i>	2	HAT
May 23	South Kings Co.	1	AAM
May 25	Birch Cove, <i>CBRM</i>	1	BES, GEC
May 25	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 25	The Hawk, <i>Shel.</i>	1	MUN
May 25	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
May 27	Shearwater, <i>HRM</i>	"numbers"	DAC
May 28	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	KAC

□□□

Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By Ian McLaren

Once again, it is clear our scattered on-line and mailed reports give a very partial account of our regular spring migrants, for which the NSMC is more informative.

An outstanding show of tanagers included overshooting SUMMER TANAGERS, outnumbering the rarely nesting SCARLETS, and an unprecedented three WESTERN TANAGERS, even discounting the wintering male at W. Pubnico.

Our regular sparrows, icterids and finches returned in fair numbers after a winter's dearth, but most were decidedly scarcer (or later arriving?) than usual on the NSMC. Some patterns of arrivals and departures, often to and from feeders, can be sensed from the tabulation. There were bursts of arrivals interspersed by lulls (evident, e.g., in Brier I. reports); a piling up of Juncos at feeders during early April snow; a spread of NORTHERN CARDINALS and HOUSE FINCHES beyond their usual strongholds; and the return of our crossbills after a winter ebb, some with young. Where were they?

A few EASTERN TOWHEES and a good number of overshooting cardinalids and orioles attracted much attention at feeders, but our diminishing HOUSE SPARROWS (notably down on the NSMC) largely escaped notice.

A very early NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW was noteworthy, as were two NSMC birds. At this season one might suspect an errant bird of the James Bay or Prairie race. Transient or lingering (from winter) vagrants included CLAY-COLORED LARK (singing in April), and HARRIS'S SPARROWS (suggestively, one of these turned up on P.E.I. in early May), "OREGON" JUNCO, YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD and BULLOCK'S ORIOLE. All in all, it was an exciting spring.

Reported plumage anomalies were a partial albino FOX SPARROW Apr. 14 at Mid. Musquodoboit, *HRM* (VJH), a partly white-headed blackbird sp. May 12 at Stillwater L., *HRM* (L. A. Draper), a leucistic (i.e., pale, not white plumage) PURPLE FINCH May 6 at Doctors Cove, *Ant.* (JOK), and a similar AMERICAN GOLDFINCH late May at Porters Lake, *HRM* (J. Fleming). □



A SCARLET TANAGER was foraging on "kelp flies" May 18 on CSI. Seaweed-covered beaches are good places to find hungry migrants and strays on cold spring days. [Photo Murray Newell]

Summer Tanager

Apr. 19	CSI	ad. male	CST
May 5-6	Dartmouth	ad. male	KGI
May 12-13	Broad Cove, Lun.	1 st spring male	SJF
May 14	Hubley, HRM	male	obs.?
May 15-17	Middle LaHave, Lun.	1 st spring male	DPO, JAH
May 16-17	Prime Brook, CBRM	male	<i>fide</i> DBM
May 17	Mid. LaHave, Lun.	male	JAH, DPO
May 20-26	CSI	male	MUN <i>et al.</i>
May 23	Wolfville	male	<i>fide</i> JWW
May 23-27	Woods Hbr., Shel.	fem.	DOC
May 27	Halifax	1 st spring male	FLL

Scarlet Tanager

Apr. 30-May 5	Osborne Hbr., Shel.	Male	Shirley Lloyd <i>fide</i> DJC
May 12	Wolfville Ridge	male	JCT
May 18-22	CSI	male	MUN <i>et al.</i>
May 25	Woods Hbr., Shel.	2 males, fem.	DOC
May 26	Wolfville Ridge	male, singing	BLF

WESTERN TANAGER

Winter to Apr. 29	W. Pubnico, Yar.	Male	Ethelda Murphy, var. obs.
May 22-23	Canso	fem. at feeder	TOK
May 30	Halifax Public Gardens	ad. male	Tim Venters (photo)

Eastern Towhee

Apr. 30	Shag Hbr., Shel.	male	MUN
May 5	CSI	1	MUN, NSBS
May 16-18	Rose Bay, Lun.	1	<i>fide</i> JAH
May 20	CSI	1	MUN
May 26	Wolfville	male, singing at feeder	BLF

American Tree Sparrow

March	Apple R., Cum.	6+ feeder	KFS
Mar. 3-7 & 21	Mid. Musquodoboit, HRM	1	VJH
Mar. 4-Apr. 13	Fairmont, Ant.	1	RFL, MZG
Mar. 1-Apr. 13	Wolfville Ridge	1-2	JCT
Mar. 28	Sunrise Valley, Vic.	1 "arrived"	FMC
Apr. 1-2	Broad Cove, Lun.	3 migrants	SJF
Apr. 11	Dublin Shore, Lun.	1 "late"	HAT
Apr. 19 & 25	Apple R., Cum.	4, 1	KFS
Apr. 23	Stellerton	2	KJM
May 8	Truro	1	Win Kettleson
May 31	Mavillette Bch. PP, Digby	1	JCZ, CLD, AIS, L. Perry

Chipping Sparrow

Mar. 29	Broad Cove	1	SJF
Apr. 3	St. Anns, Vic.	1	BSK
Apr. 4-19	Lr. Sackville, HRM	1 "winter plumage"	LOC
Apr. 20	New Waterford	1	CSM, TMM
Apr. 26	Wolfville Ridge	1-2	JCT
Apr. 26	E. Advocate, Cum.	1	Jane Mills
Apr. 27	Apple R., Cum.	1, feeder	KFS

Apr. 28	Brier I.	4	CAH
Apr. 29	Lr. Sackville, HRM	1 "fresh plumage"	LOC
Apr. 30	W. Jeddore	1	Jan. Foley
May	Widely	17 repts. of 57+ inds.	var. obs.
Clay-colored Sparrow			
Winter to Mar.	Canso	1 at feeder	TOK
Field Sparrow			
May 5	CSI	1	MUN, NSBS
May 6-10	Portuguese Cove, HRM	1 at feeder	HAT
Lark Sparrow			
Winter to Apr. 23	Stellerton	1	KJM
Apr. 6-8	Clementsvalle, Anna.	1	JET
Apr. 11	Dublin Shore, Lun.	1	JAH
Savannah Sparrow			
Mar 17, Apr. 6 & 7 E. Shore beaches	HRM	6, 4, 5+ wintered	DOU, IAM, SEM
Apr. 15	Barrington, Shel.	1 feeder	RMC
Apr. 20	Louisbourg, CBRM	1	SEM
Apr. 21	Hartlen Pt., HRM	2	IAM
Apr. 21	Dublin Shore, Lun.	1 feeder	JAH
Apr. 21	Crystal Crescent Bch. PP	number?	HAT
Apr. 21	Brier I.	20+ arrived	ELM
Late Apr.-May	Widely	16 repts. of 42+ inds.	var. obs.
Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow			
Mar. 25	Cherry Hill Bch., Lun.	1	SJF
Apr. 3	Cherry Hill Bch., Lun.	7	JAH
Apr. 3-13	Fairmont, Ant.	1-4	RFL, MZG
Apr. 6-9	Lockeport	1-2	DJC
Apr. 7	Three E. HRM beaches	~10	DOU, SEM
Apr. 12	Martinique Bch. PP	"several"	HAT
Apr. 14	Hartlen Pt., HRM	6	BBU, FLL
Apr. 14	Martinique Bch. PP	2	SMB
Apr. 21	Hartlen Pt., HRM	3	IAM
Apr. 29	E. Berlin, Lun.	1	ELM
May 6-19	Hartlen Pt., HRM	1	IAM
May 12	Schooner Pond, CBRM	2	BES, GEC
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow			
May 6	Cherry Hill Bch., Lun.	1 "early"	SJF
Fox Sparrow			
Mar. 21	Brier I.	"several"	CAH
Mar. 26	Kingston	1	JOB
Mar. 26	Kingston	1	JOB
Mar. 26	E. Advocate, Cum.	3	Jane Mills
Mar. 26	Head Jeddore, HRM	7	Jan Foley
Mar. 27	Mid. Musquodoboit, HRM	1	VJH
Mar. 28	Highland Village, Col.	3	V. Meredith
Mar. 29	Tremont, Kings	1	SLH
Mar. 29	R, Bourgeois, Rich.	3	GED
Mar. 30	St. Anns, Vic.	number?	BSK
Apr. 1-May 14	widely, most feeders	24 repts. of 50+ inds.	var. obs.
May 21	Scarlet Bch. PP	3 on territory	HAT
Song Sparrow			
Mar. 1	Apple R., Cum.	1 (wintered?)	KFS
Mar. 13	Greenwich Dyke, Kings	3 singing	BLF
Mar. 14	St. Anns, Vic.	1 (wintered?)	BSK
Mar. 17	Pictou	"arrived"	KJM
Mar. 25 & 28	Conrad Rd., HRM	1	DMW
Mar. 26	Apple R., Cum.	2 feeder	KFS
Mar. 26	Tremont, Kings	1 singing	SLH
Mar. 27	Antigonish	1 new, singing	RFL
Mar. 28	Sunrise Valley, Vic.	"arrived"	FMC
Mar. 29	Head Jeddore, HRM	2	Jan Foley
Mar. 29	Mid. Musquodoboit, HRM	1 "first"	VJH
Apr. 2	Broad Cove, Lun.	35+ "large influx"	SJF
Apr. 20	Brier I.	25+ "major arrival"	ELM
Apr.-May	Widely	26 repts. of 72++ inds.	var. obs.
May 31	Conrad Rd., HRM	half eggshell	DMW
Lincoln's Sparrow			
Apr. 13	Little Hbr., Shel.	1, feeder	DHY
May 8	St. Anns, Vic.	1	BSK
May 22	Jollimore, Halifax	2	FLL
May 23	Spryfield, Halifax	1	FLL
May 24	Dagger Woods, Ant.	1	Bruce Stevens
May 24	CBRM	2	CSM, TMM
May 25	Janvrin Hbr., Rich.	2	KAC

May 31	Isle Madam, <i>Rich.</i>	2	KAC
Swamp Sparrow			
Apr. 15	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	1 "singing"	SJF
Apr. 15-20	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1, feeder	KFS
Apr. 25	Crescent Bch. <i>PP</i>	"singing"	HAT
Apr. 25	Port Hawkesbury	"singing"	DJO
Apr. 27	Spectacle L., <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
May	Widely	13 repts. of 16+ inds.	var. obs.
White-throated Sparrow			
Mar. 7-10	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	1	MCR
Mar. 31	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	"several"	RMC
Apr. 6-8	Clementsvale, <i>Anna.</i>	1 arrived?	JET
Apr. 10	St. Anns, <i>Vic.</i>	no.?	BSK
Apr. 23-24	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2-3, feeder	KFS
Apr. 23	Wolfville Ridge	1 arrived	JCT
Apr. 23	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
Apr. 25	Brier I.	12	CAH
Apr. 25	Rose Bay, <i>Lun.</i>	2"first"	ELM, AHM
Apr. 25	New Waterford, <i>CBRM</i>	5	CSM, TMM
Apr. 26	CSI	25+	MUN
Apr. 26	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	6 "first"	RLF, MZG
Apr. 27	Crousetown, <i>Lun.</i>	"first"	NSN
May	Widely	18 repts. of 42+ inds.	var. obs.

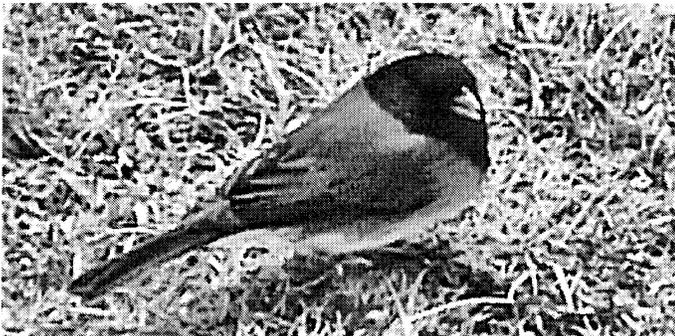
HARRIS'S SPARROW
 Winter to Apr. 17 E. LaHave, *Lun.* male at feeder D. Watson

White-crowned Sparrow			
May 5-6	CSI	1, feeder	MUN, NSBS
May 8-9	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1, feeder	KFS
May 9	R. Bourgeois, <i>Rich.</i>	1 at feeder	GED, SDI
May 9-19	Sunrise, <i>Vic.</i>	2 at feeder	FMC
May 10 & 12	Brier I.	1, 2 at feeders	ELM, DAP
May 12-18	Dunvegan, <i>Inv.</i>	2 at feeder	Alice Podolak
May 16-31	Widely, most at feeders	19 repts. of 36+ inds.	var. obs.
May 24	Canso	1	<i>gambelii</i> TOK

Dark-eyed Junco			
Mar. 4-25	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1-2	RFL, MZG
Mar. 12	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2, feeder	KFS
Mar. 26	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	"flock arrived"	RMC
Mar. 26	Wolfville	5+	JWW
Mar. 26	E. Advocate, <i>Cum.</i>	30+	Jane Mills
Mar. 26	Conrad Rd., <i>HRM</i>	2	DMW
Mar. 29 & 31	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	10, 11 "mostly males"	RFL, MZG
Mar. 30	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	8+, feeder	KFS
Mar. 31	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	3	SLH
Apr. 6-13	widely, most at feeders	10 repts. of 400+ inds.	var. obs.
Apr. 25	Brier I.	150, "big arrival"	ELM
May	Widely	17 repts. of 65+ inds.	var. obs.
May 25	near Kentville	nest	AAM

DARK-EYED ("OREGON") JUNCO
 Apr. 7-13 White Point, *Vic.* ad. male Lisa Dixon, FMC

Lapland Longspur



An "OREGON" SLATE-COLORED JUNCO was an unusual spring visitor (here May 9) to Lisa Dixon's feeder at White Point, *Vic.* Although earlier photos suggested that it might be a rufous-backed Oregon Junco in the narrow sense (i.e., subspecies *oreganus* from the BC coastal ranges), later colour-true photos show it likely more of the brown-backed interior Rocky Mountains subspecies *montanus* with two previous spring photo records in NS. [Photo Fritz McEvoy]



Among an exceptional "show" of INDIGO BUNTINGS this spring, one (here Apr. 13) at Black Rock, *Kings*, was banded. Alas, it was killed by a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and its remains included no leg band to trace its origin. [Photo John Brocke]

Mar. 24	3-Fathom Hbr. <i>HRM</i>	5	SEM
Apr. 9	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	8	CSM, TMM
May 6	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1, wintered locally?	SJF
Snow Bunting			
Mar. 17	West Brook, <i>Cum.</i>	"two flocks"	Jane Mills
Mar. 18	Jimtown, <i>Ant.</i>	25	RFL
Mar. 30	Big Glace Bay Sanct.	12	BES, GEC
Apr. 3 & 6	Cherry Hill, Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	4, 3	SJF
Apr. 9-13	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	9 at feeders	FMC
Northern Cardinal			
Through season	Metro Halifax, Dartmouth	9 repts. of 17+ inds.	var. obs.
Through season	Wolfville.	up to 3 pairs	var. obs.
Through season	Barrington, <i>Shel.</i>	pair	RMC
Through season	<i>Pictou</i>	5-6 at feeders	KJM, JEB
Through season	Brier I.	"at least 2 pairs"	ELM
Mar. 30	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	fem., feeder	KFS
Apr. 1	Chebogue, <i>Yar.</i>	male, singing	JCZ <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 1	Middleton, <i>Anna.</i>	pair	JCZ <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 11	Horton Bluff, <i>W. Hants</i>	fem., new	SAW
Apr. 20	Spencers I., <i>Cum.</i>	male	Maureen Mills
Apr. 22	Wolfville Ridge	2 males, transient?	<i>fide</i> JCT
May 8	Truro	1	Win Kettleston
May 23	Crystal Crescent Bch. <i>PP</i>	male singing	HAT
May 26	Canning, <i>Kings</i>	2 pairs, 1 young	MAG
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			
Apr. 13-21	Port Mouton, <i>Queens</i>	ad. male	Ken MacAuley
Apr. 14	Stonehurst, <i>Lun.</i>	ad. male	E. & V. Meister
Apr. 15	Dublin Shore, <i>Lun.</i>	ad. male	JAH
Apr. 20	E. River, <i>Lun.</i>	ad. male, singing	JLM
Apr. 28	Brier I.	2 ad. male	CAH
Apr 28-30	CSI	up to 5	MUN <i>et al.</i>
Apr. 29	Lunenburg	ad. male	JCZ
Apr. 30	Chester	fem.	CJF
May 1-31	Widely, some on territory	36 repts. of 78+ inds.	var. obs.
Blue Grosbeak			
Apr. 29-30	Shag Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	2 males, feeder	TEC, MUN
Apr. 29-30	W. Pubnico, <i>Yar.</i>	male, feeder	Ethelda Murphy
May 1	Brier I.	male	CAH
May 23	Petit de Grat, <i>Rich.</i>	male, feeder	GED, SDI
Indigo Bunting			
Apr. 12-13	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	male	SJF
Apr. 12-13	Cherry Hill, <i>Lun.</i>	male	SJF
Apr. 13	Little Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	2 males	DHY
Apr. 13-16	Bl. Rock, <i>Kings</i>	male, banded	Anna Gardner
Apr. 14	2 nd Peninsula, <i>Lun.</i>	2 males	G. Rhodenizer
Apr. 15	Halifax	male	ABM
Apr. 29	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	1	DJO
May 1-31	Widely, feeders	16 repts. of 22 birds.	var. obs.
Dickcissel			
Winter to Mar. 23	Glace Bay	male	BES
Winter to Apr. 6	Liverpool	1 sporadic	Candace Malcolm
Apr. 10	S. end Halifax	fem.	Chris Helleiner



A subadult male YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD was an unusual spring visitor May 19 on CSI. [Photo Murray Newall]

Bobolink

May 14	Hamonds Plains, HRM	2	LOC
May 16	Port Hawkesbury	2	DJO
May 16	Highland Village, Cum.	3 males	Valerie Meredith
May 17	E. Advocate, Cum.	1	Jane Mills
May 20	Canard, Kings	~20	fide JCT
May 21	Sherman Brook., Kings	4	PBG
May 23	Mid. Musquodoboit, HRM	male	VJH
May 25	Apple R., Cum.	2+	KFS
May 25	Belleisle Marsh, Anna.	"many"	JAH
May 26	near Smileys PP	"a number"	NSBS
May 26	Conrad Rd., HRM	1	DMW
May 27	W. Lawrencetown, HRM	4	MIK
May 29	Greenwood, Kings	1	SLH

Red-winged Blackbird

Mar. 11	Broad Cove, Lun.	male, singing	SJF
Mar. 14	Apple R., Cum.	2, feeder	KFS
Mar. 17	Kentville	male singing	RBS
Mar. 22	Queens	16	DPO, JAH
Mar. 23	New Glasgow	male arrived	KJM
Mar. 25-31	Widely	5 repts. of 14 inds.	var. obs.
Apr.-May	widely, incl. marshes	many incl. "flocks"	var. obs.
Apr. 24-29	widely	4 repts. of fems.	var. obs.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

May 20	Swims Pt., CSI	imm male	MUN et al.
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Rusty Blackbird

Mar. 29	St. Anns, Vic.	1 no details	BSK
May 8	Powers Pond, HRM	1	FLL
May 12	L. Ainslie, Inv.	12	KAC
May 19	Buckler I., Pict.	pair	KJM

Common Grackle



In the feeder flurry of reds, blues and oranges this spring, a very rare adult male BULLOCK'S ORIOLE was a real prize on May 23 at Argyle, Yar., . [Photo Ted D'Eon]

Winter to mid-Mar. widely
 Mar. 15 Springhill
 Mar. 17-18CSI, Yar.
 Mar. 17 Lunenburg
 Mar. 21 Quinan, Yar.
 Mar. 22 Queens
 Mar. 23 Broad Cove, Lun.
 Mar. 23 New Glasgow
 Mar. 24-May 31 widely
 May 15 Conrad Rd., HRM
 May 22 Conrad Rd., HRM

Brown-headed Cowbird

Apr. 8	Barrington	1	RMC.
Apr. 13-25	Apple R., Cum.	3-5, feeder	KFS
Apr. 16	Halifax	fem. at feeder	ALD
Apr. 20	Port Mouton, Queens	1	Ken MacAulay
Apr. 27	Lunenburg	7	JAH
Apr. 28	Brier I.	12	CAH
Apr. 28-29	Black Rock, Kings	1 st at feeder	J. Porter-Haley
May 1	Fairmont, Ant.	1 st fem.	RFL, MZG
May 1	Lockeport	pair	DJC
May 2	Mid. Musquodoboit, HRM	fem.	VJH

Orchard Oriole

May 6-10	Portuguese Cove, HRM	imm. male	HAT
May 12-13	Brier I.	imm. male	ELM et al.
May 13	Spencers I., Cum.	imm. male	MSM
May 14	Sunrise Valley, Vic.	imm. male	TOK
May 14-17	Broad Cove, Lun.	1	Lela Taylor, fide JAH
May 26-27	Woods Hbr., Shel.	fem.	DOC

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE

May 25	Argyle, Yar.	male	TCD
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Baltimore Oriole

Apr. 27	Bridgeville, Pic.	1 at feeder	KJM
Apr. 27-29	Port Mouton, Queens	imm. male	Ken MacAulay
May 1	Lunenburg	fem.	Brenda Hiltz
May 7	R. Bourgeois, Rich.	1	GED, SDI
May 11-13	Advocate, Cum.	imm. male	Jane Mills
May 12-31	Widely, feeders	14 repts. of 40+ indiv.	var. obs.
May 31	Middleton, Anna.	2 singing males	RBS

Pine Grosbeak

Mar. 31	Fairmont, Ant.	4	RFL, MZG
Apr. 1	Mid. Musquodoboit, HRM	3 fems.	VJH
Apr. 6	Lundy, Guys.	pair	RFL, MZG
Apr. 29	Fairmont Ridge, Ant.	1	B. Stevens
May 12	L. Ainslie, Inv.	2	KAC

Purple Finch

Mar. 12	Apple R., Cum.	2 males, feeder	KFS
Mar. 14, 16	Apple R., Cum.	6 males, 3 fems., feeder	KFS
Mar. 16	Tremont, Kings	male	SLH
Mar. 18	Springhill, Cum.	3 males arrived	CIC
Mar. 18, 25 & 31	Fairmont Ridge, Ant.	1, 6, 2	RFL, MZG
Mar. 21	Roslin, Cum.	arrived	fide B. Stevens
Mar. 24-31	Mid. Musquodoboit, HRM	up to 10	VJH
Mar. 25-31	Widely	7 repts. of 60++ indiv.	var. obs.
Apr.-May	widely	22 repts. of 200+ inds.	var. obs.

House Finch

Mar.-May	S & W. Halifax	5 repts. of 16 indiv.	var. obs.
Apr. 24-May 31	New Waterford	2 males, 3 fems.	CSM, TMM
May 1	Black Rock, Kings	1 pair	J. Porter-Haley
May 7	Westville, Pict.	Male	fide KJM
May 22	Tatamagouche, Col.	"yellow" male	Leigh Porteous
May 31	Apple R., Cum.	male, feeder	KFS

Red Crossbill

Mar. 3	Seabright, HRM	2, feeder	Eleanor Lindsey
Apr. 7	Upper Tusket R., Yar.	"a few"	D. Sabine
Apr. 19	E. LaHave, Lun.	pair, feeder	fide PLC
Apr. 6-7	Mid. LaHave, Lun.	3-5, feeder	ELM
Apr. 21	Apple R., Cum.	6	KFS
Apr. 24-May 31	Rose Bay, Lun.	1-3, feeder	ELM
May 3	Beach Meadows, Lun.	juv.	DPO
May 4	Rose Bay, Lun.	juv., feeder	ELM, AHM
May 22	Dublin Shore, Lun.	pair with young	JAH
May 27	Jeddore, HRM	5	LUB



The spring plumage of an IPSWICH SPARROW (L) is beautifully portrayed against dark beach wrack at Martinique Beach PP, Apr. 13 [Photo Hans Toom]. The SAVANNA SPARROW (here May 9 Kings), even from this different angle, is much more darkly streaked [Photo Richard Stern].

White-winged Crossbill

Mar. 25	Greenfield, <i>Kings</i>	50+ incl. juvs.	BLF
Apr. 7	Upper Tusket R., <i>Yar.</i>	"lots"	D. Sabine
May 31	Isle Madame, <i>Rich.</i>	2	KAC

Common Redpoll

Mar. 28-Apr. 8	Sunrise, <i>Vic.</i>	up to 12, feeder	FMC
Apr. 17	Aspy Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	4	AAM
May 2	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1	KFS
May 5	Sunrise, <i>Vic.</i>	1 latest at feeder	FMC
May 12	Wolfville	1	NSMC, <i>fide</i> JCT

Pine Siskin

Mar. 9	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	2	MCR
Mar. 4	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	2	SLH
Mar. 12	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	1, feeder	KFS
Mar. 16	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1	SLH
Apr. 4-29	St. Anns, <i>Vic.</i>	"irregular"	BSK
Apr. 17	Aspy Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	a few	AAM
Apr. 24	Milton, <i>Lun.</i>	3 at feeder	DPO
Early May	Sunrise, <i>Vic.</i>	numbers left feeder	FMC
May 5-30	Widely at feeders	7 repts. of 16 inds.	var. obs.

American Goldfinch

Mar.-May widely many repts. of 1-60+ inds. var. obs.

Evening Grosbeak

Mar-early Apr.	Springhill, <i>Cum.</i> flock	CIC
Mar. 3-Apr. 17	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	up to 12 VJH
Mar. 3+	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1-2 males SLH
Mar. 16	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2 males, feeder KFS
April	Mooseland, <i>HRM</i>	12+ at feeder Karl Tay
Apr. 3-26	Apple R., <i>Cum.</i>	2-6 males, 1-4 fems., feeder KFS
Apr. 6-8	Clementsvale, <i>Anna.</i>	5, increase JET
Apr. 10	Lunenburg	"increased" JAH
Apr. 13	Fairmont, <i>Ant.</i>	1-2 RFL, MZG
Apr. 21	Wolfville Ridge	male arrived GWT, JCT
Apr. 23	Stellerton, <i>Pict.</i>	1 pair arrived KJM
Apr. 24	Milton, <i>Lun.</i>	2 pairs DPO
May	widely	10 repts. of 46+ ind. var. obs.

House Sparrow

Apr.-May	Brier I.	"still colony of 10"	ELM
Through season	W. End Halifax	2 small flocks	<i>fide</i> IAM
Through period	New Waterford	8	CSM, TMM

List of Contributors

Thanks to all of our contributors including:

Sorted by Initials

MacLean, Angus	AAM	Forsythe, Bernard	BLF	Toplack, Chris	CTO
Moores, Bernice	ABM	Maybank, Blake	BLM	Currie, David	DAC
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Mills, Anne	AHM	Kent, Bethsheila	BSK	Pugh, David	DAP
Smith, Aileen	AIS	Haycock, Carl	CAH	Walmart, David	DAW
Doull, Ann	ALD	Spicer, Cindy D.	CDS	McCorquodale, Dave	DBM
MacDonald, Andrew	AMA	Creighton, Cindy	CIC	Christie, David	DCH
Morrison, Ann	ANM	Field, Chris	CJF	Young, David	DHY
Thexton, Bill & Brenda	BBT	Diggins, Claire	CLD	Crosby, Donna	DJC
Burke, Bernard	BBU	MacNeill, Carol	CRM	Johnston, David	DJO
Sarty, Bev	BES	MacDonald, Clive S.	CSM	Morrison, Donna	DMO
Digout, Billy	BID	Stoddard, Clyde	CST	Welch, Dottie M. K.	DMW

Cameron, Dorothy	DOC	MacDonald, Paul	PMA	Helleiner, Chris
Doull, Elizabeth	DOU	Gould, Paul	PRG	Hiltz, Brenda
Poole, Dorothy	DPO	Stern, Richard	RBS	Jackson, Bernard
Watson, Dave	DWA	Lauff, Randy F.	RFL	Jensen, N.
Gidney, Elizabeth	EGI	MacDonald, Robert	RMA	Kettleson, Win
Mills, Eric L.	ELM	McCormick, Roland	RMC	Kipp, E.
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McEvoy, Fritz	FMC	Hiltz, Sandy	SAH	Lowe, D.
Crowell, George	GEC	Nickerson, Sandra	SAN	MacAuley, Ken
Digout, George	GED	Williams, Sherman	SAW	MacLeod, Karen & Lincoln
Forsythe, George	GFO	Digout, Sharon	SDI	MacPhee, Patrice
Murray, Gary	GMU	Myers, Susann	SEM	Malcolm, Candace
Toom, Hans	HAT	Gidney, Shane	SGI	Markle, D.
McLaren, Ian	IAM	Hawboldt, Steve	SHA	Martin, Yvonne
Hirtle, James	JAH	Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF	McCurdy, Sheila
Tufts, Judy	JCT	Hulford, Sheila	SLH	McKie, Cathie
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Brennan, Jean	JEB	d'Eon, Ted	TCD	Meister, E. & V.
Hartley, Jean	JEH	Crowell, Terry	TEC	Mills, Jane
Timpa, Jean	JET	Paquet, Terry	TEP	Mills, Maureen
McLean, Jesse	JLM	MacDonald, Theresa	TMM	Morrison, Bob
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Belbin, John	JOB	Higgins, Verna J.	VJH	Murphy, M.
Nickerson, Johnnie	JON	Neily, Wayne	WAN	Myers, Gary
Simpson, James	JSI	Atwood, Skipper (Wilfred)	WIA	Nette, Andy
Wolford, Jim	JWV	MacPhail, Weldon	WMA	Nickerson, Nancy
Chiasson, Karen	KAC			Peckford, Mike
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Elliot, Laura	LAE	Browne, Susan		Poirier, Natasha
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Hall, Linda	LHA	Crane, Terri		Porter-Haley, Jackie
Codling, Lois	LOC	Crowell, Edna		Rhodenizer, G.
Berrigan, Lucas	LUB	Dadswell, Mike		Rutledge, Cheryl
Brennan, Mark	MAB	Davies, Peter		Sabine, D.
Gibson, Merritt	MAG	Delorey, Harry & Rose Ann		Stevens, Bruce
Rice, Maggie	MCR	Digout, April		Swim, Garvin
King, Michael	MIK	Dixon, Lisa		Tay, Karl
Mills, Maureen	MSM	Donovan, Amelia		Taylor, Barry
Newell, Murray	MUN	Draper, L. A.		Taylor, Lela
Goring, May	MZG	Fancy, Lilian		Thomas, Martin
NS Bird Society Field Trip	NSBS	Fleming, J.		Venters, Tim
NS Migration Count	NSMC	Foley, Jan		Viau, Rita
Snyder, Nellie	NSN	Gardener, Anna		Wagner, Chris
Giffin, Barbara & Patrick	PBG	Gilbert, Gloria		Wamboldt, Marie
Hope, Peter	PEH	Gladman, Pat		Williams, Geraldine
Kelly, Patrick	PKE	Harding, Eric		Wolkowski, Ted
Chalmers, Patricia L.	PLC	Harte, Ian		

❧❧❧



This spring at high tides during drizzly northeasterlies (here Apr. 13), BLACK-HEADED GULLS roosted in unusually large numbers on the Shannon Park playing field in Dartmouth. [Photo Bernard Burke]

Abbreviations

Place Names		Bird Names		Counties	
APBS	Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary	Am.	American	Anna. Co.	Annapolis
CB	Cape Breton	Com.	Common	Ant. Co.	Antigonish
CBHNP	CB Highlands National Park	E.	Eastern	CB Co.	Cape Breton
CSI	Cape Sable I.	Eur.	European, Eurasian	Col. Co.	Colchester
Hbr.	Harbour	Mt.	Mountain	Cum. Co.	Cumberland
Hd.	Head	N.	Northern	Digby Co.	Digby
HRM	Halifax Regional Municipality	S.	Southern	Guys. Co.	Guysborough
I.	Island, Isle	W.	Western	Hfx. Co.	Halifax
Is.	Islands, Isles		Other	Hants Co.	Hants
L.	Lake	ad.	adult	Inv. Co.	Inverness
Lwr.	Lower	BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	Kings Co.	Kings
Mt.	Mountain, Mount	ca.	circa (about, approximately)	Lun. Co.	Lunenburg
Mts.	Mountains	CBC	Christmas Bird Count	Pict. Co.	Pictou
N.P.	National Park	fem.	female	Queens Co.	Queens
P.P.	Provincial Park	imm.	immature	Rich. Co.	Richmond
Pen.	Peninsula	juv.	juvenile	Shel. Co.	Shelburne
Pt.	Point, not Port	male	(no abbreviation)	Vic. Co.	Victoria
R.	River	MNRS	Maritimes Nest Records Scheme	Yar. Co.	Yarmouth
The Cape	Cape Sable	var. obs.	various observers		



PURPLE FINCHES are fairly regular visitors to our feeders. This male posed nicely for the camera. [Photo Blake Maybank]



The Eastern Annapolis Valley Weather - Spring 2007

By Larry Bogan

2007 Spring Weather Summary Data - Kentville, N.S.*

	Max C	Min C	Mean C	Precip mm	Sunshine hours
March 2007	4.3	-6.9	-1.2	45	118
46 yr avg	(3.3)	(-5.1)	(-0.9)	(105)	(133)
April 2007	8.1	-0.2	4	91	137
46 yr avg	(9.3)	(0.0)	(4.6)	(83)	(153)
May 2007	16	5.2	10.6	87	182
46 yr avg	(16.2)	(5)	(10.6)	(87)	(195)
Season 2007	9.5	-0.6	4.5	223	437
46 yr avg	(9.6)	(-0.0)	(4.8v)	(276)	(481)

If you look at the mean temperatures for the three months of spring in the table above, it would appear that the season was close to average, especially May. However, looking at the mean minimum and maximum temperatures, you will see that March had more extreme swings in temperature by 1 C above and below the average maximums and minimums in the last 46 years. At one point in the month, there was an extreme temperature swings from -21 C to +17 C in only a week. April, by contrast, had more uniform temperatures with a warmer minimum and cooler maximum. The daily-temperature graphs included here show that Change in the scatter of temperatures.

In the temperature graph you also see the steadily increasing average temperature during the season. However, note that in March there were several very cold days in the second week of the month after which it warmed quickly. At that time the heavy snow blanket on the ground melted (see the graph of snow-on-the-ground). After that event, the average temperature remained surprisingly constant for 40 days ending the third week of April when the weather resumed its warming trend. May had its ups and downs, with a frost on the May 22nd and a balmy 29 C on the 26th.

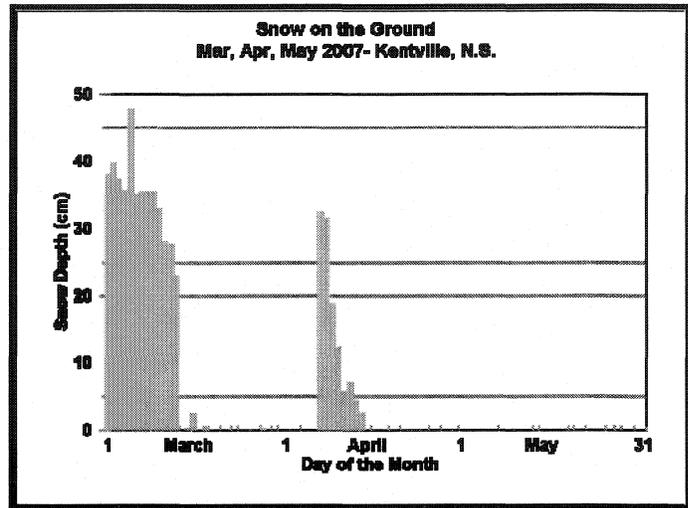
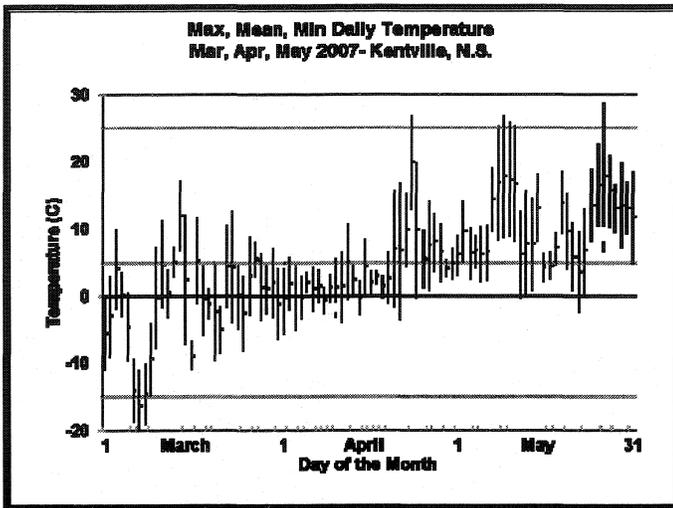
Most readers will remember that a heavy snow on the 7th of April (Easter Sunday) put over 30 cm (1 ft) on the ground. That blanket was gone in a week because of above-freezing temperatures and three days of bright sunshine.

In March and early April, there were no extensive sunny periods and sunshine was usually separated by several cloudy days. Only after the April snow storm did several high pressure systems settle in to give several days of sun before being interrupted by a cloudy period. Note that the overall 'sunniness' was below average in every month this spring.

Total precipitation data shows that we had a slightly drier than average spring. April and May had average precipitation, but March had only 44 mm of the average 104 mm of snow and rain. Almost all of that fell as rain after the March snow cover had melted. Nearly all that snow cover in was deposited in February. Distribution of precipitation was spread uniformly over the season with the most rain (81 mm) during the 15th to 20th of May. The Easter snow storm represented only 12 mm of precipitation while the wet days immediately after that had 54 mm of rain.

*Data from Atlantic Food and Horticultural Research Centre, Kentville

Note: Records did not include snowfall data this season.



Nova Scotia Migration Count May 12, 2007

The Annual Nova Scotia Migration Count was held this year on May 12, as always on the second Saturday of May. The weather was mixed with early morning cloud and showers in many areas followed by gradual clearing, bright sun, and higher winds later in the day. 631 Nova Scotia birders walked the trails, watched feeders, cruised our waters, listened in the early hours and rode bikes, motorcycles and ATVs. One adventurous birder rode a horse. All this effort tallied 208 species and over 93,000 individual birds.

The species count was average but the overall count of individual birds was 18% below the previous eight year average, although up 15% from last year. Continental weather patterns weeks and even months ahead of our count day play a significant role in determining the overall numbers and mix of species we observe. Great Cormorant was up 73%, Black Scoter up 140%, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird up 82%. Pine Siskin is down 93% and Red-breasted Nuthatch down 52%. Both species have likely relocated due to a change in local food supply. The winter finch numbers are down as well with White-winged Crossbills reduced to six birds in the whole province. The good news is that the slide in the Evening Grosbeak population is abating and may even be recovering somewhat. Sadly the House Sparrow continues to decline.

Highlights of this year's count were 65 Northern Fulmar, Brier Island; two Snowy Egret, *Queens* and *Shel*; five Little Blue Heron, *Col*, *Inv(2)*, *Rich* and *Shel*; Green Heron, *Lun*; two Barrows Goldeneye, *CBRM*; 13 Snow Goose, *CBRM*; one Red-shouldered Hawk, *Inv*; four American Oystercatcher, *Shel*; two Laughing Gull, *CBRM*; nine Roseate Tern, *Shel*; Little Gull, *Pictou*; two Common Nighthawk, *Guys*; two Red-bellied Woodpecker, *HRM*, two Northern Rough-winged Swallow, *CBRM*, Eastern Bluebird, *Cum*; eight Wood Thrush, six in *CBRM* and two in *Inv*; Warbling Vireo, *Kings*; Scarlet Tanager, *Kings*; Summer Tanager, *Lun*; two Orchard Oriole, *Cum* and *Digby*;

I congratulate and thank all of this year's participants. Keep up the good work and we'll do this all again on May 10, 2008.

Hans Toom
Provincial Coordinator

Nova Scotia Migration Count - May 12, 2007

Hans Toom Provincial Coordinator

Species	2007	% Change
Red-throated Loon	36	
Common Loon	253	0.3%
Pied-billed Grebe	20	
Red-necked Grebe	12	
Horned Grebe	8	
Northern Fulmar	65	
Northern Gannet	1341	-34.6%
Great Cormorant	595	72.5%
Double-crested Cormorant	3400	-4.7%
American Bittern	26	
Great Blue Heron	304	-26.0%
Great Egret	2	
Snowy Egret	2	
Little Blue Heron	5	
Green Heron	1	
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	
Snow Goose	13	
Brant	91	
Canada Goose	418	-23.6%
Wood Duck	45	
Green-winged Teal	242	-1.5%
American Black Duck	1820	-13.5%
Mallard	805	11.0%
Northern Pintail	8	
Blue-winged Teal	108	26.6%
Northern Shoveler	28	
Gadwall	14	
American Wigeon	139	21.3%
Ring-necked Duck	474	-24.5%
Greater Scaup	56	
Lesser Scaup	2	
Common Eider	2064	-38.3%
Harlequin Duck	52	
Long-tailed Duck	42	
Black Scoter	1085	140.4%

Species	2007	% Change
Surf Scoter	582	-32.9%
White-winged Scoter	285	-44.3%
Scoter species	128	-50.5%
Common Goldeneye	42	
Barrows Goldeneye	2	
Bufflehead	74	
Hooded Merganser	69	
Common Merganser	296	11.7%
Red-breasted Merganser	609	-17.7%
Turkey Vulture	26	
Osprey	114	-22.6%
Bald Eagle adult	283	14.4%
Bald Eagle Immature	69	
Bald Eagle Age?	11	
Northern Harrier	54	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	36	
Northern Goshawk	9	
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	
Broad-winged Hawk	9	
Red-tailed Hawk	92	
Rough-Legged Hawk	1	
American Kestrel	70	
Merlin	26	
Peregrine Falcon	4	
Ring-necked Pheasant	532	23.0%
Spruce Grouse	34	
Ruffed Grouse	190	-5.9%
Sora	21	
Black-bellied Plover	92	
American Golden Plover	2	
Piping Plover	15	
Killdeer	52	
American Oystercatcher	4	
Greater Yellowlegs	164	-43.9%
Lesser Yellowlegs	25	

Species	2007	% Change
Solitary Sandpiper	4	
Willet	417	-15.3%
Spotted Sandpiper	32	
Whimbrel	1	
Ruddy Turnstone	1	
Red Knot	7	
Sanderling	9	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	10	
Least Sandpiper	47	
Purple Sandpiper	11	
Dunlin	56	
Wilson's Snipe	78	
American Woodcock	57	
Little Gull	1	
Laughing Gull	2	
Black-headed Gull	10	
Bonaparte's Gull	39	
Ring-Billed Gull	375	-7.9%
Herring Gull	12208	-18.3%
Iceland Gull	51	
Glaucous Gull	49	
Greater Black-backed Gull	4496	-22.2%
Black-legged Kittiwake	176	-77.8%
Caspian Tern	5	
Roseate Tern	9	
Common Tern	214	-20.1%
Common Murre	3	
Razorbill	8	
Black Guillemot	128	-40.6%
Atlantic Puffin	5	
Rock Pigeon	1003	-41.1%
Mourning Dove	1747	-9.7%
Great Horned Owl	15	
Barred Owl	70	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	3	
Common Nighthwk	2	
Chimney Swift	166	-9.9%

Species	2007	% Change
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	153	81.6%
Belted Kingfisher	194	-19.8%
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	42	
Downy Woodpecker	417	-2.4%
Hairy Woodpecker	257	10.1%
Black-backed Woodpecker	5	
Northern Flicker	605	-16.7%
Pileated Woodpecker	64	
Eastern Wood Pewee	3	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	14	
Alder Flycatcher	8	
Least Flycatcher	44	
Eastern Phoebe	18	
Eastern Kingbird	9	
Tree Swallow	1831	-48.2%
N. Rough-winged Swallow	2	
Bank Swallow	169	54.2%
Cliff Swallow	110	-20.8%
Barn Swallow	406	-39.7%
Gray Jay	51	
Blue Jay	2689	27.4%
American Crow	5385	-12.8%
Common Raven	797	-8.9%
Black-capped Chickadee	3711	10.8%
Boreal Chickadee	139	-16.5%
Red-breasted Nuthatch	177	-52.2%
White-breasted Nuthatch	51	
Brown Creeper	31	
Winter Wren	86	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	158	-50.3%
Ruby-Crowned Kinglet	525	-24.8%
Eastern Bluebird	1	
Veery	8	
Swainsons Thrush	10	
Hermit Thrush	279	-29.7%
Wood Thrush	8	

Species	2007	% Change
American Robin	4142	-24.9%
Gray Catbird	7	
Northern Mockingbird	4	
American Pipit	14	
Cedar Waxwing	13	
Northern Shrike	3	
European Starling	4265	-31.5%
White-eyed Vireo	3	
Blue-headed Vireo	363	22.0%
Warbling Vireo	1	
Red-eyed Vireo	20	
Nashville Warbler	83	
Northern Parula	197	25.5%
Yellow Warbler	58	
Chesnut-sided Warbler	15	
Magnolia Warbler	19	
Cape May Warbler	3	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	7	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1741	-20.5%
Black-throated Green Warbler	401	30.2%
Blackburnian Warbler	12	
Pine Warbler	13	
Palm Warbler	300	25.8%
Eastern Palm Warbler	16	
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	
Blackpoll Warbler	5	
Black and White Warbler	266	4.7%
American Redstart	7	
Ovenbird	111	17.2%
Northern Waterthrush	40	
Common Yellowthroat	27	
Wilson's Warbler	3	
Canada Warbler	1	
Summer Tanager	1	
Scarlet Tanager	1	
Northern Cardinal	42	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	40	

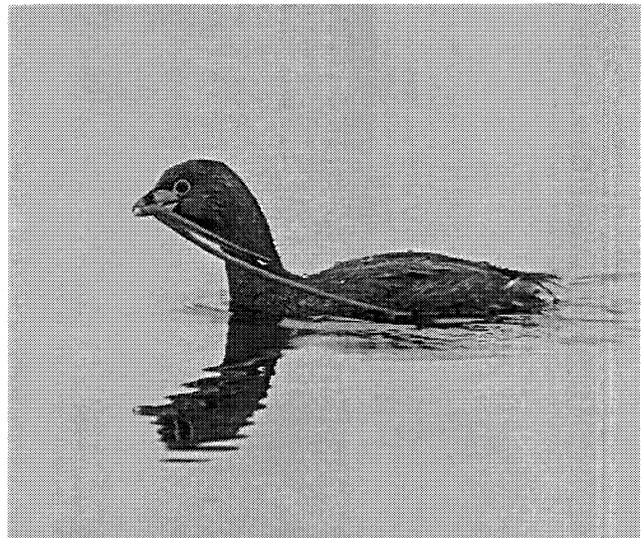
Species	2007	% Change
Indigo Bunting	5	
Dickcissel	1	
American Tree Sparrow	43	
Chipping Sparrow	233	-17.6%
Vesper Sparrow	1	
Savannah Sparrow	462	-23.0%
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	2	
Fox Sparrow	30	
Song Sparrow	2531	-1.8%
Lincoln's Sparrow	5	
Swamp Sparrow	136	-29.2%
White-throated Sparrow	1378	-13.3%
White-crowned Sparrow	42	
Dark-eyed Junco	2682	-10.0%
Bobolink	12	
Red-winged Blackbird	1571	-25.6%
Rusty Blackbird	32	
Common Grackle	3759	-30.1%
Brown-headed Cowbird	81	
Orchard Oriole	2	
Baltimore Oriole	17	
Pine Grosbeak	51	
Purple Finch	2522	4.0%
House Finch	27	
Red Crossbill	32	
White-winged Crossbill	6	
Common Redpoll	23	
Pine Siskin	115	-92.7%
American Goldfinch	5967	26.6%
Evening Grosbeak	538	-38.9%
House Sparrow	526	-49.8%
Cormorant Species	9	
Duck Species	53	
Black Duck/Mallard Hybrid	8	
Raptor Species	7	
Buteo Species	4	
Falcon Species	1	

Species	2007	% Change
Peep Species	77	
Shorebird Species	20	
Gull species	769	
Sterna species	35	
Alcid Species	2	
Owl Species	1	
Woodpecker Species	4	
Empidonax Species	3	
Swallow Species	2	
Vireo Species	4	
Thrush Species	5	

Species	2007	% Change
Warbler Species	8	
Sparrow Species	98	
Blackbird species	9	
Finch Species	1	
Total species on Counts	208	-0.9%
Total birds counted	93771	-17.6%
Counties	18	
Total Observers	631	



A SORA foraging in the open May 3 along the Salt Marsh Trail, Cole Hbr., HRM, was a rare treat. [Photo Mike King]



A PIED-BILLED GREBE, 7 May at the APBS, was caught in the act of gathering nest material. [Photo Cindy Creighton]



BLACK VULTURES have been expanding their breeding range northward in eastern U.S., and it is no surprise that more than 25 have turned up in Nova Scotia, almost all since 1985, and at least eight of them in winter. Nonetheless, it is always good to have photographic confirmation. This one gleaned scraps at the municipal dump near Dingwall, Vic., for about 10 days in mid-February 2007. [Photo Bernie Vassallo]



FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Baccaro and Blanche Peninsula

31 Mar 2007, Leader: Donna Ensor

It was a clear and sunny day but the wind was out of the north, and it sure felt like it. However, by the end of the trip, it had warmed up some.

There were not a great deal of new migrants; grackles and robins about sums it up. However, for lingering winter birds, we scored! Rough-legged Hawk, both Red-necked and Horned Grebes in various plumages; very good looks at Iceland and Glaucous Gulls side by side at Port La Tour Wharf; and at Crows Neck Beach, Sylvia Fullerton spotted Purple Sandpiper on the rocks.

We had 33 species tallied for the day by 17 birders.

Port l'Hebert

28 Apr 2007, Leaders: Dorothy Poole and Clyde Stoddart

Highlights of today's trip were 200+ Black Scoters, 12 Harlequin Ducks, and one White-winged Scoter, all seen at Johnson's Pond Beach. Roadside we had one Ruffed Grouse, one Greater Yellowlegs, two Boreal Chickadees and one Gray Jay. Along a railroad trail that crosses the Sable River we had three Eastern Phoebes; and at the end of the trip, as the sun came out, we had a singing Blue-headed Vireo.

A special thank you goes to Victor Wolfe of Port l'Hebert who helped Clyde and I with this trip by showing us his birding spots.

- Dorothy Poole

Cape Sable Island

05 May 2007, Leader: Murray Newell

Thanks to everyone who came. The weather was great. We had a total of 57 species for the trip.

Some we had were Indigo Bunting and White-crowned Sparrow at the end of the Hawk.

Two Snowy Egrets were side by side at Lower Clarks Harbour. For shorebirds: Dunlin, Red Knot, Willet, Black-bellied Plover, American Golden Plover, Sanderling, and both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. We also had a Field Sparrow at house 38, the Hawk.

After the field trip, we saw Short-billed Dowitchers, and an Eastern Towhee at North East point. Hope all had a safe trip home.

Bon Portage Island Substitute Trip: Brier Island

19-21 May 2007, Leader: Claire Diggins

For the second Victoria Day weekend in a row, heavy seas and high winds made the planned Bird Society visit to Bon Portage too risky, so the five of us instead left a day later for Brier Island. Despite some chilly, damp hours and shifting temperatures, we were also treated to hours of sunlight and blue skies. By the ocean the island's edges were resplendent as usual with the winter-reddened ground-hugging juniper, grey wind-polished tree skeletons, and wind-bent cold-stunted spruce. The withered, blackened remains of last year's rose-hips hung from bushes by the sea, and small black spiders emerged from sun-warmed beach rocks.

Between Saturday morning and the following Monday afternoon, 70 species of birds were observed; some identifications facilitated or speeded up by the expertise of Wayne Neily. Just a minute's walk from our Westport base in the hostel next to Robicheau's general store, up the road from the vestry, a feeder and its yard were hopping with species, most notably 7 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 5 Baltimore Orioles, 5 White-crowned Sparrows, and 2 Bobolinks, along with the more expected Purple Finches, Dark-eyed Juncos, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and a Blue Jay. Finding all those birds within a few minutes after breakfast Sunday morning gave us much hope. At Northern Point we watched two magnificently soaring Turkey Vultures, a long string of Northern Gannets, and a puzzling, distant Loon of indeterminate species. Wayne reports: "Probably a Red-throated, but it steadfastly refused to tilt its bill upward, and had a small area of black around the base of the bill, including the chin, but not extending down the throat. It was one of the smaller loons, with a greyish nape and crown, but mainly white below, and with dark grey and whitish mottling (speckling?) on mantle. Apparently it was in some sort of transition plumage."

Later in the day, a Black-Throated Blue Warbler was found close to the vestry. Besides a number of other spring warbler species, on Saturday a Philadelphia Vireo had been seen by Wayne and Claire in the edge of the alders on Pond Cove. The next day at Pond Cove, all five of us had prolonged views of a Great Egret. Along the Western Light Road on Saturday, Wayne had heard a Brown Thrasher; two days later he saw one -- or the same one -- by the old campground.

Up to three Greater Yellowlegs were hanging around the shore in Westport just across from the General Store. Our nocturnal drives and patiently standing by roads didn't yield any owls, but in fields near the cemetery three or four Woodcock made their buzzy Nighthawk-like calls back and forth from grasses on both sides of the road. On Saturday afternoon, Wayne and Claire had seen 47 Brant, and on Monday, Burkhard and Ingrid Plache and I watched about 150 not far from Western Lighthouse, their greenish turds scattered in the grass at our feet.

While it was disappointing that our Bon Portage plans had been blown down by the weather, it was hard to imagine a finer substitute than Brier Island.

Brian Bartlett (with further details supplied by Claire Diggins and Wayne Neily)

Historic Hants County

21 May 2007, Leader: Suzanne Borkowski

Despite the cold, windy, overcast weather, we had a pretty good day. At least, it didn't rain. After a slow start, since most birds were not active or vocal, we ended up with a tally of 71 species!

Our first stop, Mt. Uniacke, produced a Blackburnian Warbler. Some participants heard a Black-throated Blue Warbler; and most heard a Pileated Woodpecker.

At Pigott Lake, a Pied-billed Grebe was calling from far across the lake, and an Evening Grosbeak (the first of many) perched in plain sight in a tree behind a feeder. A few got to see Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and most got great looks at a Northern Parula and an Ovenbird singing!

On Elliott Road we added Nashville Warbler to the list and at the bottom of the hill there were two Northern Waterthrushes, both singing. On Crossroad #3 we all had great looks at a Blue-headed Vireo.

Smiley's Park usually has lots of birds in late May. This year was no exception: Least Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Chipping Sparrow, Magnolia Warbler, and lots of Evening Grosbeaks called to us and flew by as we enjoyed our lunch. Just before arriving at Smiley's we saw and heard Bobolinks and an Eastern Phoebe.

The afternoon was spent in Windsor and nearby areas. At the Windsor Sewage ponds we got our three most common Gulls: Herring, Black-backed and Ring-billed; but there were also at least two Lesser Black-backed Gulls!

On Pleasant Drive, just before St. Croix (on Highway #1) we all had great looks at a male breeding-plumaged Blackpoll Warbler. We also had Cliff Swallows darting amongst Barn and Tree Swallows. As a final treat, we watched a busy little Yellow Warbler building a nest.

Weekend at Liscombe Lodge (Out of Area Meeting and Atlas Workshop)**26-27 May 2007, Leaders: Becky Stewart, Tom Kavanaugh, Ken McKenna, Suzanne Borkowski**

The Nova Scotia Bird Society Meeting and Atlas Workshop was a huge success! 27 people attended the meeting on Saturday night, during which Tom Kavanaugh gave an excellent picture of Region 22 – Guysborough; and Becky Stewart did a stellar job of reviewing atlassing techniques. After the meeting we took a walk to listen for owls and rails. We didn't hear any rails but some observers were lucky enough to hear a distant Northern Saw-whet Owl.

Saturday morning Becky Stewart led the group around the grounds for a Point Count demonstration. Some birds we heard were: Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Blue-headed Vireos, Winter Wrens, Northern Parulas, lots of Magnolia Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers, Palm Warblers, Yellow Warblers and Black & White Warblers, a Chipping Sparrow and a Broad-winged Hawk!

At breakfast we were treated to an array of birds at the feeders outside the dining room windows, such as Red Crossbills, Hummingbirds, White-throated Sparrows, a Lincoln's Sparrow, a Savannah Sparrow, a Cedar Waxwing and a Red-winged Blackbird! I should get the Lodge to enter my Yard List competition!

The field trips went well. Ken McKenna led a walk outside of Sherbrooke Village - a joint trip with the St. Mary's River Association. Bob McDonald hiked to the fish ladder; and most of the rest of us drove up the logging road that leads to the fish ladder; where we joined up with Bob.

Besides the warblers already mentioned, we added American Redstart, Nashville Warbler, a pair of Wilson's Warblers and a Northern Waterthrush. We also saw and heard Boreal Chickadees, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and a Black-backed Woodpecker!

A couple of people took out a canoe; and others explored some of the other hiking trails. Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time!

Suzanne Borkowski**Beginning Birders' Field Trip****03 Jun 2007, Leader: Suzanne Borkowski**

Seven aspiring birders met me in the parking lot of the Frog Pond on a warm, sunny Sunday morning. Most of the warblers had already gone through this area, but there were other treats in store for us.

A Pileated Woodpecker flew to a nearby tree allowing almost everyone to get a good look. A couple of Chimney Swifts could be detected flying over the lake with a group of Tree Swallows; and a small group of Red Crossbills flew overhead in the direction of some neighbouring houses. They flew low enough that their red (males) and yellowish green (females) colouring could be seen; and their flight calls could be heard.

Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen by all; and a Common Yellowthroat was seen by none, despite the fact that it was calling continually from the cattail marshes.

A group of fuzzy fledglings greeted us noisily on the west side of the Pond. We thought, at first, they were juvenile Juncos since there was an adult near by; but then we saw an adult Yellow-rumped Warbler. The young were brown on their backs, light on their breasts, striped, with no discernible wing bars. I tried to find little, telltale yellow spots on the rumps and shoulders, but they were just too active. Any guesses?

Finally, Bonnie Carmichael discovered some young woodpeckers. By their size, several people assumed they must be Downys; but then, an adult Hairy flew into the group. The newly fledged Hairys looked small because their tails were still very short; as were their primaries.

The group enjoyed the walk and felt they had learned quite a bit. I promised them I'd show them a Common Yellowthroat next time!

Conquerall Mills**09 Jun 2007, Leader: James Hirtle**

The day was overcast and cool, but the company was good. Ten hearty souls met me at the designated location and we waited the allotted 15 minutes for any latecomers. Noticeable was the lack of birds at the meeting location. We did hear a Northern Waterthrush at one spot where one is always vocalizing, but as usual well out of sight. We also saw a few other species nearby. Overall, birds were hard to get out and numbers of warbler species usually seen were far lower than normal along Fitch Road and Dagley Road. We had our work cut out for us to find birds.

Even a trip out to Crescent Beach produced very little. We ended the day with a short jaunt in along two roads that border Brown Branch Brook. It was far quieter than it had been the day before when birds were both vocal and quite plentiful along the brook. We still ended the day with 44 species, which is about 20-30 species below the norm for this route. Eastern Wood Pewees were very co-operative. The following is a list of birds on the field trip this year.

5 Mallards	5 American Robins
10 Ruffed Grouse	4 European Starlings
1 Common Loon	3 Northern Parulas
1 Double-crested Cormorant	2 Yellow Warblers
1 Herring Gull	3 Chestnut-sided Warblers (two males were waging a territorial dispute over a female)
1 Common Tern	3 Yellow-rumped Warblers
1 Mourning Dove	6 Black-throated Green Warblers
1 Common Nighthawk	1 Blackburnian Warbler
1 Belted Kingfisher	2 Palm Warblers
1 Downy Woodpecker	5 Black & White Warblers
1 Hairy Woodpecker	3 American Redstarts
5 Eastern Wood Pewees	8 Ovenbirds
1 Alder Flycatcher	1 Northern Waterthrush
1 Least Flycatcher	1 Common Yellowthroat
1 Blue-headed Vireo	2 Song Sparrows
9 Red-eyed Vireos	1 White-throated Sparrow
4 Blue Jays	1 Dark-eyed Junco
3 American Crows	1 Red-winged Blackbird
1 Common Raven	2 Common Grackles
1 Tree Swallow	4 American Goldfinches
5 Black-capped Chickadees	There were also numerous Willets and Common Eiders.
2 Hermit Thrushes	

Lewis Lake Provincial Park**10 Jun 2007, Leaders: Billy and Shirley Hughes**

On our trip around Lewis Lake, along with 8 other birders, we had good looks at a Black-throated Blue Warbler and several Ovenbirds. Warblers, in general, were not cooperating well. We missed seeing the Canada Warbler.

The best bird of the day, and a very surprising one, was a male Wood Duck in the stream where the picnic table is located. In the woods near there we heard and finally saw an Eastern Wood-Pewee.

The rain held off until we got back to our cars. All in all, it was a good day.

Shirley Hughes**Cape Chignecto Provincial Park****23 Jun 2007, Leader: Joan Czapalay**

The Cape Chignecto Provincial Park field trip was rained out three of the six years I went for the July 1st weekend, so this year I chose an earlier weekend. We drove (but mostly parked by the roadside) during the terrible thunder and hail storm in Shubenacadie on Friday. At Port Greville it was still raining during the night.

Nevertheless I was up at 6:00 a.m. and with grandson, David Erskine, got ready. Rain at 7:00 a.m. made us decide to wait. At 8:00 a.m. two birders, Myrna and Reg Isnor from Shubenacadie arrived at the park for the trip. I had concerns about the wet

trail, so when they said they preferred birding to hiking, I met them in Spencer's Island, (Black Ducks in the marsh and Eiders at sea) and we spent the morning chasing birds in the mist.

At our first stop in Fraserville, we missed seeing any Bluebirds, but there were lots of Tree Swallows, Hummingbirds, Ravens, Crows, Mourning Doves and a Downy Woodpecker. In Brookville, a warbler hot spot, we heard (once only) and got the briefest of glimpses of a Mourning Warbler. Also in the hollow were Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Alder Flycatcher, and Blue-headed Vireo. There were lots of Mourning Doves on the wires all along the way.

We went back to Red River where a Wood Duck took off at the Forks. Swainson's Thrush, Palm Warbler and Red-eyed Vireo were seen or heard at the "Meadows", and we had good looks there at an Olive-sided Flycatcher. There was what I believed to be a Black-throated Blue Warbler singing, but the song seemed a bit "off". I'll check again. At the height of land we had Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Grey Jay (en route), Hermit Thrush, Robins, Boreal and Black-capped Chickadees, Black-throated Green Warblers (at least a dozen), and a Black and White Warbler. The White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow were singing in the rain. There were Yellow Warblers at my place in Port Greville, as well as most of the above. Magnolia Warblers and White-Throated Sparrows, probably nesting (DD). Herring Gulls were seen off the Point. We ate inside, and hoped for a Lincoln and /or a Vesper Sparrow, as I see them there regularly, but not this weekend. We had an Am. Goldfinch on the doorstep (8210 Port Greville) in the a.m. and I had a Canada Warbler and lots of Yellow-rumped Warblers later in the day.

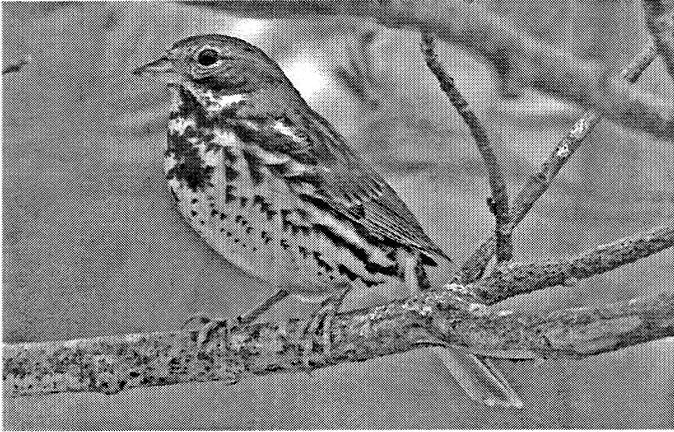
On Saturday afternoon I took David trout fishing back by Seal Brook and was rewarded: a beautiful Bay-breasted Warbler singing "in my face". Also Nashville, Magnolias, Chestnut-sided, Northern Parula, Yellow, Common Yellowthroat and American Redstart Warblers, Cedar Waxwings, and at least eleven nests of Barn Swallows under the Fox River Bridge. I counted only eight Swallows in the air. We also saw Alder Flycatcher, Hairy Woodpecker, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk at various stops. Purple Finch, Dark-eyed Junco and Swamp sparrow were also seen and heard. We had a good time in spite of the damp weather. Thanks, Myrna and Reg for being such good sports. ☺



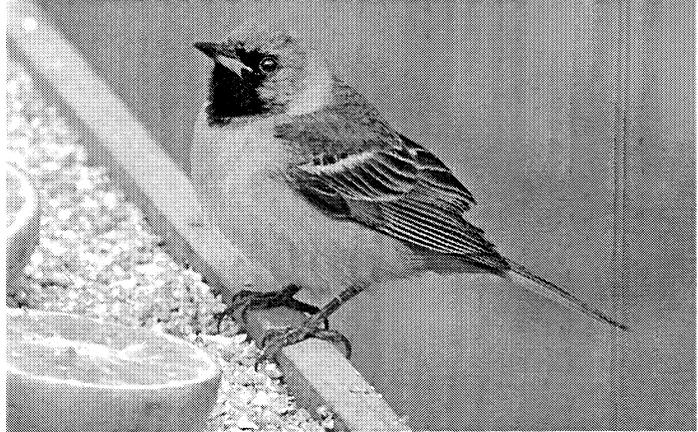
This obliging migrant N. SAW-WHET OWL spent the whole of Apr. 12 in a roadside tree in Halifax, offering a number of birders a life sighting, or at least their best study ever. [Photo Bernard Burke]



By the time many of our birds have not yet begun nest building, GRAY JAY families (here a young one May 27 at Jeddore, HRM), which are nesting in late winter, are roaming the coniferous woodlands. [Photo Lucas Berrigan]



Observers reported larger-than-usual numbers and longer stays at feeders of FOX SPARROWS this spring (this one Apr. 9 at Portuguese Cove, HRM). [Photo Hans Toom]



This spring at least a half-dozen ORCHARD ORIOLES, like this first-spring male May 6 at a feeder in Portuguese Cove, "overshot" the limits of their normal breeding range in New England. [Photo Hans Tooms]



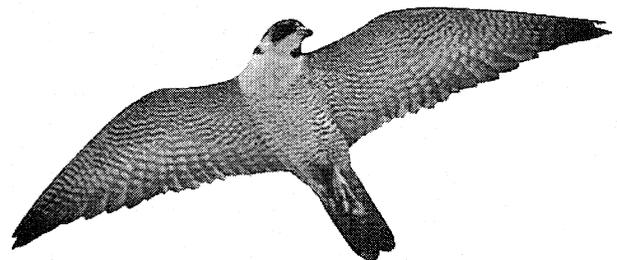
A male SUMMER TANAGER, May 5 at Kier Gigeroff's Dartmouth feeder, was among unusual numbers of this southern species "overshooting" to the province this spring. [Photo Bernard Burke]



While most sparrows were "down" this winter, TREE SPARROWS were in good numbers, and some lingered at feeders well into spring, like this one Apr. 11 at Portuguese Cove, HRM. [Photo Hans Toom]



Every spring for some years AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS (here May 30) have returned to nest on Cape Sable, but have not yet broken out of that provincial bridgehead. [Photo Hans Toom]



A couple of PEREGRINE FALCONS routinely inspected the offerings around Sullivans Pond, Dartmouth, this winter and spring (here Mar. 2). [Photo Bernard Burke]

Migration Monitoring at the Atlantic Bird Observatory: Spring 2007 Highlights

By Trina Fitzgerald

Migration-monitoring activities were conducted on Bon Portage Island from 1-30 May. Unlike previous years, we had a sunny and warm season with very few days of strong winds. We experienced only one short storm period (15-19 May), which consisted of rain, fog and easterly winds. Myrtle and Yellow Palm Warblers were spotted during the first few days of the season. Our first Yellow Warbler was observed on 4 May, a Blue-headed Vireo on 9 May, and our first Blackpoll Warbler on 11 May. Prior to the storm period, during 12-15 May, a few individuals of several species of warblers were seen (e.g., Common Yellowthroat, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, and Magnolia Warbler) marking the first occurrence of a small wave of migrants.

Our first notable movement occurred on 21 May. The morning started out quietly; very few birds were observed. Near 2:00 pm, the island was very active, suggesting that birds arrived throughout the early part of the day. Numerous species of warblers and flycatchers were observed. Magnolia, Yellow, Blackburnian and Bay-breasted Warblers were most numerous. Individuals were still present the following day. However, most individuals departed that evening because very few individuals were observed on 23 May. A second wave of migrants was observed on 25 May, which consisted mostly of Red-eyed Vireos and Common Yellowthroats.

Overall, 197 individuals were banded comprising 38 species. Magnolia and Blackpoll Warblers were banded most frequently (39 and 33 individuals respectively). For all other species, fewer than 13 individuals were banded. More individuals were banded on 22 May (52 individuals comprising 16 species) coinciding with the wave of migrants that arrived on 21 May.

Lastly, a few noteworthy vagrants were detected. Two female Indigo Buntings were banded. The first on 15 May, the second on 25 May. An unbanded female Indigo Bunting was observed on 27 May. Additionally, a Northern Mockingbird was observed on 1 May. ☐



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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: suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca

Sat 25 Aug 2007 – Taylor Head Provincial Park

Leader: Karl Tay 772-2287

Meet at the main entrance to Taylor Head Provincial Park off Hwy #7, Eastern Shore, at 8:45 a.m. Taylor Head has over 17 km of hiking trails of which we will cover approximately 3 or 4. Many birds breed here such as Red Crossbills, Lincoln's Sparrows, Grey Jays and more. It's beach, rocky and wooded terrain so hiking boots and a hearty lunch are recommended. No rain date.

Sat 25 Aug 2007 – Cape Sable Boat Ride

As part of "Island Days" Clarke's Harbour Recreation Dept. will be offering a boat ride to Cape Sable, a tiny Island off Cape Sable Island (the one with the "Forest"). The boat will be leaving the Hawk at 10:00 a.m. and returning at 3:00 p.m. Life jackets are required. Arrangements can be made to borrow one if you don't have one of your own. A donation to the boatman is expected. For more information, contact Anna Kenney at 745-0226 or e-mail Clyde Stoddart clydebrstod@yahoo.com
Rain date: Sun 26 Aug.

Fri 31 Aug to Mon 03 Sep 2007– Bon Portage Island

Leader: Joan Czapalay 405-4157 or 348-2803;

E-mail: joancz@ns.sympatico.ca

Alternate contact: Claire Diggins: claire_diggins@hotmail.com

Pre-Registration is Necessary!

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

Sat 08 Sep 2007 – Port Joli

Leader: Donna Ensor 875-4269 smokeytow@yahoo.ca

Early fall birding with Donna, adjacent to Port Joli Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the day use parking lot of Thomas H. Raddall Provincial Park, Port Joli. We'll explore coastal trails from Sandy Bay to Port Joli Harbour. Expect to see lots of seals as well. Bring a lunch. No rain date.

Sun 09 Sep 2007 - Cape Breton Shorebirds

Leader: Susann Myers 431-9123 E-mail: myerss@eastlink.ca

Meet at the Sydney Airport (at the fence to the right of the terminal building) at 9:00 a.m. Experience a great variety of species, both shorebirds and others, at Sydney Airport and nearby sites. This is our annual opportunity to get out on the airport runways and see good numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, American Golden-Plovers and others in the company of birding friends. Bring a lunch. No rain date.

Sat 15 Sep 2007 – Editor's Field Trip - Peggy's Cove Loop.

Leader: Blake Maybank 852-2077

E-mail maybank@ns.sympatico.ca

Explore some little known trails and birding sites between White's Lake and Indian Harbour. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the White's Lake Legion parking lot (junction of Rte 333 and Prospect Village Rd) – 30 minutes from downtown Halifax. No rain date.

Thu 27 Sep 2007 – Regular Meeting

NSMNH, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 7:30 p.m.
Birding Ethiopia: From Barbets to Whydahs.

Located near "The Horn of Africa", Ethiopia offers an amazing variety of scenery, habitats and birds! Bob and Wendy McDonald spent 15 days there in March 2007 paying particular attention to the flora and fauna in their extensive travels. Join them for a virtual tour of the natural history of Ethiopia with a focus on its birdlife.

Fri 28 Sep to Sun 30 Sep 2007 – Brier Island Weekend

Leaders: Wayne Neily 765-2455 E-mail: neilyornis@hotmail.com
and Fulton Lavender 455-4966

Friday night at sunset meet in the parking lot of the Brier Island Lodge to search for owls with Wayne and Fulton. Saturday morning meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Brier Island Lodge for birding with Wayne. Saturday, 12:30 p.m. Mariner Sea Bird Cruise or continue birding the island on your own. Sunday morning meet at 8:00 a.m. at Brier Island Lodge for birding with Fulton.

Sat 06 Oct 2007 – Cape Sable Island (Fall Migration)

Leader: James Hirtle 693-2104 E-mail: jrhbirder@hotmail.com

Meet at Tim Hortons in Barrington Passage at 8:00 a.m. Bring a lunch and sturdy footwear. Lingering shorebirds and fall migrants are the focus of this ever popular trip introduced by Murray Newell. No rain date.

Sat 13 Oct 2007 - Meeting and field trip in Cheticamp.

Leader: Gordon Delaney 224-2490

E-mail: gordon.delaney@pc.gc.ca

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the C.B. Highlands National Park Headquarters building. A Park interpreter will lead the group on a tour of Cheticamp Island, where we will see migrating seabirds, as well as do some forest birding.

Meeting: 2:00 p.m. at the Theatre Room in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park Headquarters building. Speaker to be announced.

Thu 25 Oct 2007 – NSBS Annual General Meeting

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

As usual, the AGM will be followed by a wine and cheese reception; a great opportunity to meet and mingle. A Special Resolution of the Nova Scotia Bird Society will be presented at this year's meeting.

Sat 03 Nov 2007 - Port Hawkesbury Meeting and Field Trip

Leaders: David Johnston 625-1534 E-mail: dwj.jem@ns.sympatico.ca

and Dave McCorquodale 563-1260

E-mail david_mccorquodale@capebretonu.ca

Meet at 9:00 am at the Tourist Information Building in Port Hastings

At the Canso Causeway there are frequently concentrations of gulls, eagles and gannets that are feeding on migrating skipjacks (aka billfish) in mid-November. In addition we will check out the waterfront for loons, grebes, alcids and waterfowl; feeders for lingering migrants; and a few fields and creek valleys for sparrows and warblers. Lunch will follow at the home of David and Mary Johnston.

Meeting: 3:00 pm at the Port Hawkesbury Community Centre, next to Sobeys in the Port Hawkesbury Shopping Centre. Speaker to be announced.

Thu 22 Nov 2007 – Regular Meeting

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

“California Dreamin’”. “Richard Stern will give a talk and show us his photos from his recent trip to sunny California which he visited with Allan Covert and Ken McKenna.

Sat 24 Nov 2007 – Canso and Area

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

and Steve Bushell 366-2527

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 wishing to do Randy's trip the following day.

Sun 25 Nov 2007 – Antigonish Coastal Waters

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

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Dragon Fly Café on the TCH just east of exit #35 (Lower South River). This trip covers the waters of St. Georges Bay and 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.

Sat 01 Dec 2007 – Metro “Hot Spot” Birding

Leader: Terry Paquet 452-3622 E-mail: terrypaquet@hotmail.com

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Sullivans Pond and dress warmly. We will check local sites for rarities and unusual birds as a prelude to the Christmas Bird Counts. Great way to start your winter list! Storm date: Sun 02 December.

Sat 01 Dec 2007 - Cape Sable Island (Winter)

Leader: James Hirtle 693-2104 E-mail: jrhbirder@hotmail.com

This trip, introduced by Murray Newell, is a great opportunity to get some rare and unusual birds on your winter list, especially lingering shorebirds. Bring proper clothes, sturdy footwear and a lunch. No storm date.

Sun 06 Jan 2008 – Sewer Stroll I – 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. No storm date

Thu 24 Jan 2008 – Members' Photo Night

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

With the increasing popularity of digital photography, Members' Photo Night has become one of our most popular meeting themes. Bring along 15 – 20 of your favourite photos or slides related to birds or birding.☺



This BROWN CREEPER, Mar. 26 in Lr. Sackville, HRM, is in a rare, seemingly pensive mood. [Photo Rita Viau]