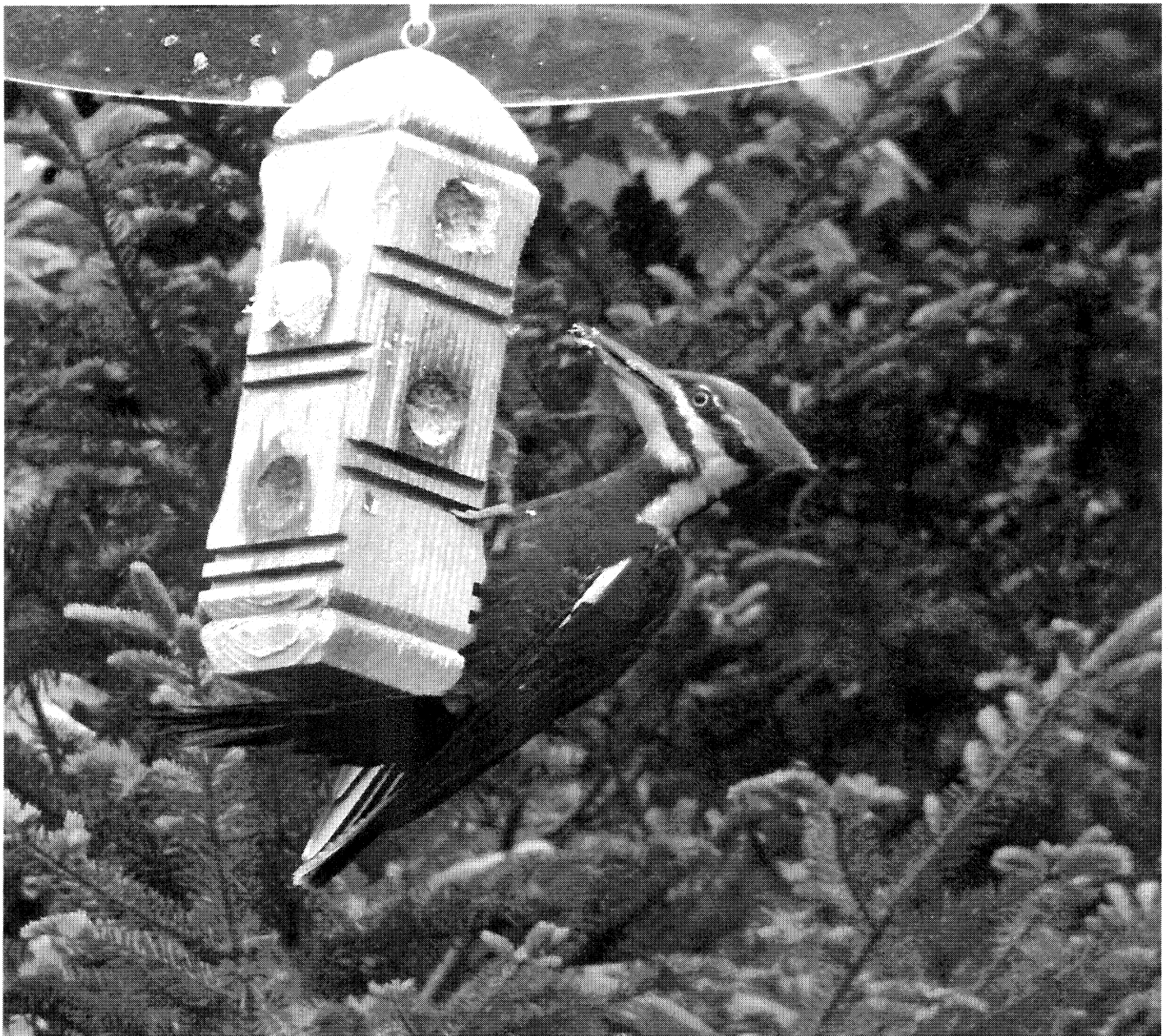


# **Nova Scotia Birds**

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



**Autumn 2007**  
**(The Birds of Summer)**

# 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.

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

**Rare Bird Alert:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NS-RBA/>  
**Email:** [nsbs@chebucto.ns.ca](mailto:nsbs@chebucto.ns.ca)  
**Web:** <http://nsbs.chebucto.org>

## Reporting Deadlines

Winter 2008 issue: Dec. 7, 2007  
Spring 2008 issue: Mar. 7, 2008

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

## Inside This Issue

### Special points of interest:

- President's Corner
- Hertford Island Agreement
- Nellie Snyder
- Summer Bird Reports
- Summer Weather
- Trip Reports

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Cover Photo: A PILEATED WOODPECKER was an unusual, but welcome, guest at a Timberlea, HRM, feeder during June. [Photo Debbie Stoddart-Pageau]

**NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS**  
AUTUMN 2007

**Editor**

Blake Maybank

**Production Assistant**

Sterling Levy

**Records Editor**

Lance Laviolette

**Photo Editor**

Ian McLaren

**Events Editor**

Suzanne Borkowski

**Seasonal Bird Reports**

Ulli Höger

Eric Mills

Ken McKenna

Ian McLaren

Susann Myers

Dorothy Poole

Hans Toom

**Banner Artist**

Trevor Herriot

**Other Help**

Janey Hughes

Peter LeBlanc

**Bird Reports to**

Lance Laviolette

RR #1, Glen Robertson, ON

K0B1H0

lance.laviolette@lmco.com

**Photo Submissions to**

Ian A. McLaren

Photo Editor, NS Birds

Biology Department

Dalhousie University

Halifax, NS, B3H4J1

iamclar@dal.ca

**All Other Items to**

Blake Maybank

Editor, NS Birds

144 Bayview Drive

White's Lake, NS. B3T 1Z1

maybank@ns.sympatico.ca

Use of any material from NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS requires written permission from the Editor.

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## Announcement – The 2007 Douglas H. Pimlott Award

George Archibald, Ph.D., is the recipient of Nature Canada's *Douglas H. Pimlott Award*, for 2007. "The Pimlott" is Nature Canada's most prestigious award.

Dr. Archibald, a native of Nova Scotia, has worked for over 30 years for the preservation of our world's living creatures and their environments. Cranes are his special interest and all 15 of the world's crane species have benefitted from his successes in initiating breeding programs, arranging migration assistance and protecting and conserving habitats. (Though his work requires that he live abroad, Dr. Archibald has proudly retained his Canadian citizenship.)

In 1973 he co-founded **The International Crane Foundation (ICF)** based in Baraboo, Wisconsin. At that time eleven crane species were in trouble, and North America's Whooping Crane numbers had reached only 50 from their low of 14 in 1938. Continuing the work to save cranes worldwide was imperative. Dr. Archibald's passion and tireless energy were already committed to saving them; his vision became action on their behalf.

At ICF George danced with Tex, a human-imprinted Whooping Crane and the last of her blood line, to encourage her mating instincts. Tex was artificially inseminated and produced a male chick, which was named Gee Whiz! The many descendants of Gee Whiz are making an important contribution to the recovery of the species.

Whooping Cranes and Sandhill Cranes nest in Canada; Sandhills in many locations, Whoopers only in a limited remote area in the Northwest Territories and NE Alberta, mostly within Wood Buffalo National Park. Although Whooping Cranes usually lay two eggs each spring, during most of the years of their lowest numbers only one chick survived to migrate southward in the fall. George participated in the collection of the weaker of the two eggs from Wood Buffalo National Park nests, to be incubated and raised in captivity, contributing to an increase in the species' numbers. Because of efforts such as this 237 Whooping Cranes migrated from Wood Buffalo to their wintering grounds in 2006. The CWS annual breeding ground counts taken this summer indicate as many as 250 may complete the 2007 southward migration. Most recently George introduced acoustical marking to the Wood Buffalo flock.

Recognizing the critical importance of crane habitats worldwide, Dr. Archibald works with governments and local representatives for the benefit of cranes and other living creatures, wetlands and human communities. For his exemplary dedication to conservation Dr. George Archibald is a worthy recipient of The Douglas H. Pimlott award. The presentation took place at Nature Canada's conference at Acadia University, Wolfville on August 4, 2007. Nature Nova Scotia hosted the conference.

The original nomination had been submitted by Joan Czapalay and Bernice Moores, both long-time members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society..

For additional information you are invited to view: [naturecanada.ca](http://naturecanada.ca) and [savingcranes.org](http://savingcranes.org)

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



## President's Corner

I am very pleased to announce that the Agreement between the Nova Scotia Bird Society and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources has been completed! Under the terms of this Agreement, Hertford Island, one of the Bird Islands, owned by the Society, will be included in the proposed Bird Islands Wildlife Management Area, granting it extra protection while leaving ownership and rights of access in our hands. The Agreement, in its entirety, is printed elsewhere in this issue.

The NS Department of Natural Resources approached us two years ago to ask if they could include Hertford Island in their proposed WMA. Their main concern was the preservation of colonial seabirds and their habitat. As you may or may not know, Great Cormorants nest in the Bird Islands, and Cape Breton hosts 70% of North America's breeding Great Cormorant population. According to the Bird Islands Wildlife Management Area Regulations (we were also asked to help write these) no one is allowed to alter or cause alteration to the wildlife habitat, disturb any colonial seabirds, or even enter the area without a permit from the Minister. And under the Agreement, in order to get a permit from the Minister, they first need to get written consent from our Sanctuary Trust.

The members of the Executive and of the Sanctuary Trust spent countless hours working with DNR towards achieving mutually satisfactory terms and conditions. Congratulations to all of you on a job well done!

Christmas Bird Counts are just around the corner. This year the Bird Society will pay one \$5.00 Audubon fee per Individual and Student Membership, or \$10.00 (two fees) per Family Membership. The onus will be on the participant to identify themselves to their Count compiler as belonging to the Bird Society. The compiler will forward that list of names to our Treasurer, after checking that none of them are already Bird Studies Canada members (BSC covers all Count fees incurred by their members). The Treasurer will check that all names on the list are of active NSBS members, then issue a cheque to the compiler, in the name of the compiler, since that person is responsible for paying the Audubon fees. This new practice will replace our former practice of granting a complimentary NSBS membership to one person on each Count. So, everyone, get out there and participate!

How is your Yard List coming? We'll be asking you to submit the total number of species seen or heard from your yard between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Please send your tally by regular mail to: Suzanne Borkowski, 18 Parmbelle Lane, Halifax NS, B3M 1N3 or by e-mail to [suzaneborkowski@yahoo.ca](mailto:suzaneborkowski@yahoo.ca) by January 15<sup>th</sup> 2008. Please specify if your yard is small (less than 2,500 square feet); medium (2,500 – 10,000 square feet) or large (10,000+ square feet).

For 2008 we'll be running a habitat creation competition. We'll be asking you to work individually or in teams to create a private sanctuary for local birds. Upon the completion of your project, you will submit a description and/or photos of your sanctuary. Entries will be judged by Sterling Levy, production editor of Nova Scotia Birds, and past president of the Nova Scotia Garden Club. We'll be looking for sources of food, water, cover, nesting and roosting spots, and overall attractiveness!

**Suzanne Borkowski, President – NS Bird Society**

# Complete text of the Hertford Island Agreement

THIS AGREEMENT made \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.

BETWEEN: **HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN** in the right of the Province of Nova Scotia,  
represented by the Minister of Natural Resources  
("the Minister")

## OF THE FIRST PART

- and - the **NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY**, a society incorporated pursuant to the laws  
of the Province of Nova  
Scotia  
("the Society")

## OF THE SECOND PART

**WHEREAS** the Bird Islands, Victoria County are an important wildlife habitat which support unique populations of colonial nesting seabirds;

**AND WHEREAS** the Minister, supported by the Society, wishes to ensure the continued conservation of this irreplaceable resource by recommending its designation as a wildlife management area pursuant to Section 15 of the *Wildlife Act* ("Act");

**AND WHEREAS** the Nova Scotia Bird Society, by virtue of a deed recorded at the Registry of Deeds in the County of Victoria as Document Number 88402517 on July 23, 2007 is the legal owner of Hertford Island, described in Schedule "A" attached hereto, located at Bird Islands, Victoria County and bearing PID 85102085 ("Property");

**AND WHEREAS** the Nova Scotia Bird Society has created the Nova Scotia Sanctuary Trust to maintain its properties;

**AND WHEREAS** the Nova Scotia Sanctuary Trust controls access to the properties on behalf of the Society;

**AND WHEREAS** the *Act* requires the consent of a private landowner to include the landowner's real property in a designated wildlife management area;

**THEREFORE** in consideration of the mutual covenants contained in this Agreement, the Parties agree as follows:

### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Agreement is to set out the conditions under which the Society agrees to have the Property included in the proposed Bird Islands Wildlife Management Area shown outlined in green on Schedule "A".

### 2. AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE PROPERTY

2.1 The Society agrees to have the Property included in the proposed Bird Islands Wildlife Management Area subject to the terms of this Agreement.

### 3. ENTRY TO THE PROPERTY

3.1 Subject to paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3, the parties agree that no permits will be issued to enter the Property without the prior written consent of the Nova Scotia Sanctuary Trust.

- 3.2 The parties recognize that entry without the Nova Scotia Sanctuary Trust's consent may be necessary in the event of situations involving human safety or in the event of a conservation emergency.
- 3.3 Staff of the Department of Natural Resources shall not be required to obtain written consent from the Nova Scotia Sanctuary Trust to enter on the Property; nor shall members of the Trust be required to obtain a permit from the Director of Wildlife to enter on the Property; however, both parties shall be required to provide the other with prior notice of intent to enter.

**4.COMMUNICATION**

- 4.1 The Parties agree to provide each other with timely information on any situations or information pertaining to the management of the Property using available communication networks.
- 4.2 The parties further agree to identify specific individuals who will provide the initial points of contact between the parties.
  - (a) For the Society those individuals will be the President of the Society, the Chair of the Nova Scotia Sanctuary Trust, and the President of the Cape Breton Chapter of the Society, or their designated representatives.
  - (b) For the Minister those individuals will be the Director of Wildlife and the Cape Breton South Regional Biologist or their designated representatives.

**5.TERM AND TERMINATION**

- 5.1 This Agreement shall be effective as of the date of signing and shall automatically be renewed annually while the Nova Scotia Bird Society owns the Property.
- 5.2 Either party may terminate this agreement by providing six months' prior written notice to the other of its intention to terminate.
- 5.3 The Minister will recommend to the Governor in Council that the Property be removed from the Management Area within six months of the Society's written request to do so.
- 5.4 This Agreement may only be altered by means of a written memorandum signed by both parties.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the parties have signed and sealed this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

SIGNED	)	<b>HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN</b>
in the presence of	)	IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF
		NOVA SCOTIA
		)
		)
_____	)	Minister of Natural Resources
Witness	)	)
		<b>NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY</b>
		)
		)
_____	)	PER: _____
Witness	)	)
		PER: _____
		)
		PER: _____

## Nellie Snyder, a Profile of a NSBS founder.

By Barbara Hinds



Shortly before the celebration of her 90th birthday on 30th of October, 2007, Mrs. Nellie Snyder, a founding member in 1955 of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, was interviewed at her home in Crousetown, Lunenburg County.

In an action-packed life of nursing, she has raised a boy and a girl, helped to run the family business, grown organic vegetables, kept livestock, indulged her continuing passion for bird-watching, and she still keeps hens. Nellie also fills out her days writing, painting water colours, wood carving, and being an active member of the bird society.

As a young woman she was a friend of Robie Tufts (author of *Birds of Nova Scotia*), and helped to provide much of the energy needed to spur The Society's establishment with other such birding luminaries as C. R. K. (Charlie) Allen, Tommy Morland, and Willett Mills. Today, she is one of the Society's few living founders, and has been a fully-paid-up member for more than 50 years. She recalls occasional hard times when, as a widow, her funds were scarce and sometimes "had to scratch around for enough money to pay the membership fee."

One of Nellie's early forebears was John Heinrich Fogeler (later Vogler) a Foreign Protestant, who arrived aboard the sailing ship Sally at the stockade of Halifax in 1753. He was settled on granted land in Lunenburg County.

Nellie's great grandfather, William Henry Vogler, later bought land at Crousetown, and built a house and a water-powered mill on the banks of Petite River. Young Nellie Vogler and her husband, George Snyder, were the last owner-operators of the mill, Vogler's Oar and Handle Manufacturers. It was closed in 1973, when it sold its last axe handles and oars. The mill now stands amid tall bushes, its coat of red ochre paint still visible.


Nellie recalls that at the age of seven she was laid on a table in her great grandfather's house to have her appendix removed by a country doctor. On that day she decided to become a nurse when she grew up, and did so. At age 15 she was at a hospital volunteering direct blood transfusions to her dying father. She studied nursing at Montreal Royal Victoria Hospital and later worked in hospitals in Montreal, in Nova Scotia, then at Kings College School, Windsor, and cared for all her old relatives and friends in need in their final days.

Her interest in birds had begun before she was 10, putting out kitchen scraps and crumbs for garden birds. She was already listing them - in simple groups of colour. Field checklists, correct identification, and rarities came later. Each winter, she takes part in several different Christmas Bird Counts, no matter what the winter weather, and regularly does the Migratory Bird Survey each spring.

In 1983, with naturalists Steve Fleming and Roland Chaisson, she took part in the first survey of the endangered Piping Plovers to determine where they bred on the South Shore, and she became one of their diligent guardians on Cherry Hill Beach. Over a period of five years, she faithfully contributed to the first Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas.

By 1991 she was a founding member of South Shore Naturalists, and two years later, she was presented with the Nova Scotia Bird Society's high honour, Puffin of the Year. Her hobby had become a passion, and currently Nellie is on duty again, helping to compile the second edition of The Atlas, another five year project. Although hampered latterly by arthritis, she is regularly in the field - a sharp-eyed birder alert for rarities, and always encouraging young birdwatchers to discover the pleasure of what she hopes will be a lifelong interest for them.

Reviewing the past year, her 90th, Nellie Snyder said with typical enthusiasm for her second stint at atlas compiling: "I had a wonderful summer. It helped me, having something to aim for, something to work at in the future." □



# SUMMER BIRD REPORTS

## Loons Through Grebes

By Ian McLaren

The only unusual diver, a single RED-THROATED LOON in summer adult garb (photo), “may have been . . . ill as it was swimming in an agitated fashion” (per FMC). COMMON LOONS are under-reported, but current results suggest that they have not been found in some surveyed squares they occupied in the first Atlas. ☐

### Red-throated Loon

Late June,  
early July Black Brook Bridge, CBHNP 1 Jodi Pilling

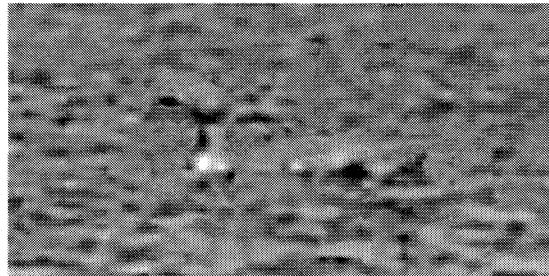
### Common Loon

June 2, 27 Conrad Beach, HRM 1 DMW  
June 8 Sandy Bottom L., Anna. 2 ads. MCR  
July 7 Lake George pair, 2 young RBS

June 27 Liscomb Hbr., Guys. ad. SMB  
Early July Black River L., Kings 1 nest predated BLF  
**Pied-billed Grebe**  
June 1 Rusell L., Dartmouth 1 MIK  
June 4 Annapolis Royal marsh numbers SGI  
June-July Chaswood, HRM nesting pair VJH  
☐☐☐



A PIED-BILLED GREBE was attending its full-grown chick July 4 at the Annapolis Royal waterfowl impoundments. [Photo Richard Stern]



RED-THROATED LOONS are rare here in summer. The overall gray-tones of this bird, July 1 at Black Brook Bridge, CBHNP, make it hard to see details against the dappled water, but its smallish red throat patch suggests that it was a yearling [Photo Jodi Pilling]

## Tube-noses Through Cormorants

By Eric Mills

Early in the season, whales, their food, and the associated pelagic birds, were found far to the north of Brier I., close to the New Brunswick shore. Later, as the records below indicate, the action shifted south and significant numbers of shearwaters, an unusual abundance of NORTHERN FULMARS and ATLANTIC PUFFINS, and an early SOUTH POLAR SKUA (see the Gulls through Alcids section) were reported off Brier I. A SOOTY SHEARWATER (along with several Gannets) was seen far up the Bay of Fundy, off Baxters Hbr., Kings, in July. Much farther north, off eastern CBI, Sooty Shearwaters were noted as unusually abundant and a number of other species were noteworthy (see the Gulls through Alcids section).

A juv. RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD was found in a driveway in Three Fathom Hbr., HRM, July 16. It was taken to a nearby wild animal shelter, identified there and photographed by Dominic Cormier, but despite strenuous efforts to save it, died within a few days. The event got local and national media coverage in newspapers and on the radio (when did you last hear of a rare bird on *Music and Company*?). The specimen is now in the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History. This occurrence follows the finding of two Red-bill carcasses on Sable I. last summer, and the occurrence of an ad. in the Seal I. and Matinicus Rock areas, Maine, for the past two summers. It's hard to account for the presence of this pan-tropical seabird in the Northwest Atlantic. Its nearest range is Puerto Rico and the Virgin Is. but in the case of this year's juvenile, it was likely due to the misorientation shown by many young birds, from which Nova Scotia birders have benefited frequently - although the benefit to the birds involved is problematic. ☐



**Northern Fulmar**

June 28	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM	
July 17	Off Brier I.	30+ (1 dark)	Edward Raynor	
July 30-31	Off Brier I.	50+	Ken Thorpe	

**Greater Shearwater**

June 25	Off SE tip Scatarie I., <i>CBRM</i>	2	DBM	
June 28	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	15	CAM, ALM	
July 30-31	Off Brier I.	1500+	Ken Thorpe	

**Sooty Shearwater**

June 15	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	65	CAM, ALM	
June 25	Off SE tip Scatarie I., <i>CBRM</i>	ca. 200	DBM <i>et al.</i>	
June 28	Off Flint I., <i>CBRM</i>	10	CAM, ALM	
July 8	Baxters Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	1	RBS	
July 30-31	Off Brier I.	25+	Ken Thorpe	

**Manx Shearwater**

July 13	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1 dead	SJF	
July 17	Off Brier I.	1	Edward Raynor	
July 30-31	Off Brier I.	6+	Ken Thorpe	

**Wilson's Storm-petrel**

July 30-31	Off Brier I.	2+	Ken Thorpe	
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**RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD**

July 16	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1 juv. Captured	<i>fide</i> Dominic Cormier	
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**Northern Gannet**

June 9	Aspy Bay, <i>Vic.</i>	100+	AAM	
June 10	Off South Hd., <i>CBRM</i>	1	CAM, ALM	
July 8	Baxters Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	4	RBS	
July 26	Crescent Bch., Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	Several imm.		DJC

**Double-crested Cormorant**

June 10	South Hd., <i>CBRM</i> (2 locations)	4 + 22	CAM, ALM	
June 29	Green I., S of Brier I.	22+ nests	ELM	
June 30	E side of Peters I., Brier I.	ca. 30 nests		ELM
June-July	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	4-15	DMW	
July 15-30	Bear R., <i>Digby</i>	1 in river	MCR	

**Great Cormorant**

June 10	South Hd., <i>CBRM</i> (2 locations)	48 + 84	CAM, ALM	
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This storm-petrel was well out of place off the Saltmarsh Trail in Cole Hbr., HRM. It was diagnosed in the field by its finders as a probable LEACH'S STORM-PETREL, and this can be confirmed by the lack of white showing on the sides of its rump, as well as its bill size, larger than the more modest bill of a Wilson's Storm-Petrel, but smaller than the stouter bill of a (not-impossible) displaced Band-rumped Storm-Petrel. [Photo Don Codling]

# Hérons

By Ulli Höger

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS where once again nesting on CSI, from where MUN reported seeing up to seven individuals at once. A report of an imm. night-heron from Lockeport at the end of July may be related to the breeding population on CSI given the close proximity of both locations. In June a YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON spent two evenings in Annapolis Royal, giving observers a good chance to study this rare visitor. ☺

**American Bittern**

June 2	CSI	1	MUN	
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1	BLM	
June 19	Amherst Pt., <i>Cum.</i>	1	JAH, DPO	
July 27	Milford, <i>Anna.</i>	1	ELM	

**Great Blue Heron**

Frequent reports illustrate the seasonal abundance of this species in our province

**Great Egret**

June 2	Naval Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1	PEL	
June 3	Seal I., <i>Yar.</i>	1	IAM	
June 4-July	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	BBU	
June 5	Churchville, <i>Pict.</i>	1	GMU	
June 14-15	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW	
June 30	Woods Hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	1	DOC	
July 8	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	1	DJC, Bill Crosby	
July 22	Conrads Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	JHU, DHU	

**Snowy Egret**

June 2	Annapolis Royal Marsh, <i>Anna.</i>	1	EGI, SGI
June 5-8	Rainbow Heaven, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK
June 8	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK

**Little Blue Heron**

May 4	Sackville, <i>HRM</i>	1	Phyl Bryson <i>et al.</i>
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**Cattle Egret**

June 1-14	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	pair	Marie & Rick Reid
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**Green Heron**

June 6-8	Cow Bay L., <i>HRM</i>	1	Marie & Rick Reid
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**Black-crowned Night-Heron**

June-July	CSI	>7	MUN
July 22	Lockeport, <i>Shel.</i>	imm.	DJC, R. & T. MacIntosh

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**

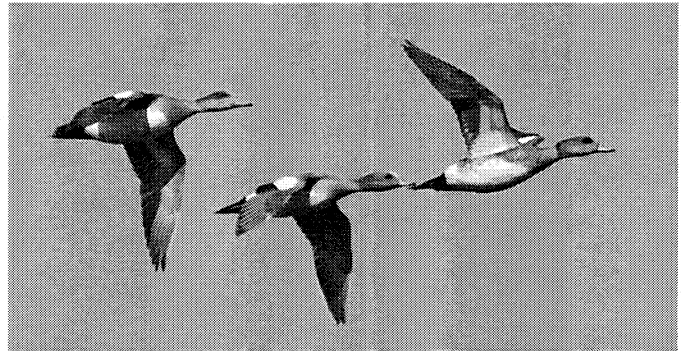
June 12-13	Annapolis Royal, <i>Anna.</i>	1	SHH
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☺☺☺

# Geese, Swans and Ducks

By Ian McLaren

As usual, there were only scattered reports of routine summering waterfowl, and some known to occur were not reported at all. There were no unexpected visitors. Atlas reports for the first two seasons, even with much remaining to be done, are an indication of status of our waterfowl. Most have been confirmed largely within areas where they were found previously, but a few possible changes are evident. Not surprisingly, CANADA GOOSE has already been confirmed in more squares and the MALLARD in almost as many squares as in the earlier Atlas. A discussion on NatureNS pointed out that AMERICAN BLACK DUCK is tolerant of salt and hence breed in saltmarshes. Its young may even forage in ocean water, which the Mallard for one, seems to avoid. This may help save the former from complete genetic "swamping" by the latter. ☐



EURASIAN WIGEON is rare here in summer, when most are off to Iceland. This male was easily distinguished from the accompanying male and female AMERICAN at Antigonish June 17. Keep your eyes open for the occasional hybrid with American Wigeon. [Photo Bruce Stevens]

## Canada Goose

June 9 Aspy Bay, *Vic.* 15 + 1 young AAM  
June 10 Belleisle Marsh, *Anna.* broods MUN

June 15 Conrad Bch., *HRM* 4 DMW

## Wood Duck

June 2 Annapolis sewage plant 25, mostly males D. Lowe

June 10 Belleisle Marsh, *Anna.* 2 MUN

June 27 Marie Joseph, *Guys.* fem. SMB

## Gadwall

June-July Big Pond, Brier I. 2 pairs, non breeding? IAM

## Eurasian Wigeon

June 17 Antigonish 1 male BRS

## American Wigeon

June 17 near North Hbr., *Vic.* fem., brood of 8 FMC

June 17 Antigonish several BRS

## American Black Duck

June-July Widely Ads., few broods noted var. obs.

## Mallard

June-July Widely casual reports var. obs.

## Blue-winged Teal

June 3 Belleisle Marsh numbers SGI

June 14 near Margaree R., *Inv.* 3 fems., 3 males FMC

## Northern Shoveler

June 2 Annapolis Royal marsh nos. SGI

June 3 Belleisle Marsh nos. SGI

## Green-winged Teal

June-July Widely ads., few broods noted var. obs.

## Ring-necked Duck

June 9 Belleisle Marsh, *Anna.* "lots" MUN

## Common Eider

June-July casual reports, var. locations mixed flocks, broods var. obs.

## Harlequin Duck

June 1 Seal I. imm. male IAM

## Surf Scoter

June 9 Aspy Bay, *Vic.* 25 AAM

## White-winged Scoter

June 9 Aspy Bay, *Vic.* 25 ads., 10 imms. AAM

## Common Goldeneye

July 8 Riverport, *Lun.*

## Common Merganser

June 2-July 27 Bear R., *Anna.* 2-3 fems., broods 8, 7 MCR

June 9 Aspy Bay, *Vic.* 1 AAM

## Red-breasted Merganser

June 9 Aspy Bay, *Vic.* 11 AAM

☐☐☐

# Galliformes

By Ulli Höger

In July, JAH almost hit a low flying WILD TURKEY while driving down a road on CSI. Release of this species in NS is illegal. However, word on the streets is that some individuals consider themselves above the law and are releasing birds into the woods in an attempt to establish this non-native species as game birds. I am repeating myself here, but one can only hope that this more than questionable and reckless behavior will have no future ill effects. It is a major concern whenever alien species are purposely or accidentally introduced. ☐

## Ring-necked Pheasant

Frequently reported throughout the season

June 9 Londonderry BBS, *Col.* 28 calling males BLM

## Ruffed Grouse

June 3 Grand L., *CBRM* 1 CSM, TMM

June 9 Londonderry, *Col.* 1 BLM

June 16 Kentville, *Kings* 1 Dave Webster

July 10 Crystal Crescent Bch., *HRM* family HAT

## Spruce Grouse

June 29 Taylor Head PP, *HRM* 1 HAT

July 4 Indian Gardens, *Queens* 1 fem. & 2 imms. DPO

July 17 Lowland Cove, *Inv.* 4 FMC

☐☐☐

# Vultures through Diurnal Raptors

By Ulli Höger

Given the number of observations of TURKEY VULTURES from all over Nova Scotia it should be just a matter of time until someone reports the first native Nova Scotian vulture.

The sightings of SWALLOW-TAILED KITES this summer are interesting. The reports from early June of sightings at Brier I. and Halifax may be connected with earlier reports of an individual from Grand Manan, NB. The other unusual raptor reported this summer was a RED-SHOULDERED HAWK from Cherry Hill Beach, which was submitted with the verbal description of the bird's appearance and behavior. □

## Turkey Vulture

June 3	Watermill Rd., Lun.	1	JAH <i>et al.</i>
June 4	Hwy 101 Exit 18	3	EGI
June 9	Smiths Settlement, HRM	2	LUB
June 9	Mt. William, Pict.	1	Rosemary Bourque
June 23	Blind Bay area, HRM	1	BLM
June 27	Barrington Passage, Shel.	1	DOC
June 30	First L., HRM	1	JHU, DHU
July 2	Three Fathom Hbr., HRM	1	AGH, Duncan Rand
July 18	Lwr. Blomidon, Kings	1	JCT, JET
July 22	Barrington, Shel.	1	MUN
July 22	Clarence, Anna.	5	Dawn Campbell
July 29	Yarmouth, Yar.	1	JAH

## Osprey

Common throughout the province, but missed by DJC in Lockeport, Shel. this summer.

## SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

June 9	Freeport, Digby	1	Jeff Teed
June 10	NW-arm, HRM	1	FCCG
July 30	Petite Rivière, Lun.	1	Don Sedgwick

## Bald Eagle

Common throughout the province

## Northern Harrier

Infrequent reports from marshes in most parts of the province

## Northern Goshawk

June 17	Trafalgar, Guys.	1	BLM
Jun 23	Pipeline Rd., HRM	1	BLM

## Red-shouldered Hawk

June 23	Cherry Hill Bch., Lun.	1	SJF
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## Broad-winged Hawk

June 2	Lewis Lake PP, HRM	1	HAT
June 24	Upper Northfield, Lun.	1	JAH
June 29	Welshtown, Shel.	1	JAH, DPO
July 3	Newburne, Lun.	1	SMB

## Red-tailed Hawk

Frequently reported from the Valley's Wolfville/Kentville area, sporadic elsewhere

## Rough-legged Hawk

June 19	Shubenacadie, Hants	1 dark phase	Louise Cooke
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## American Kestrel

June 9	Londonderry, Col.	1	BLM
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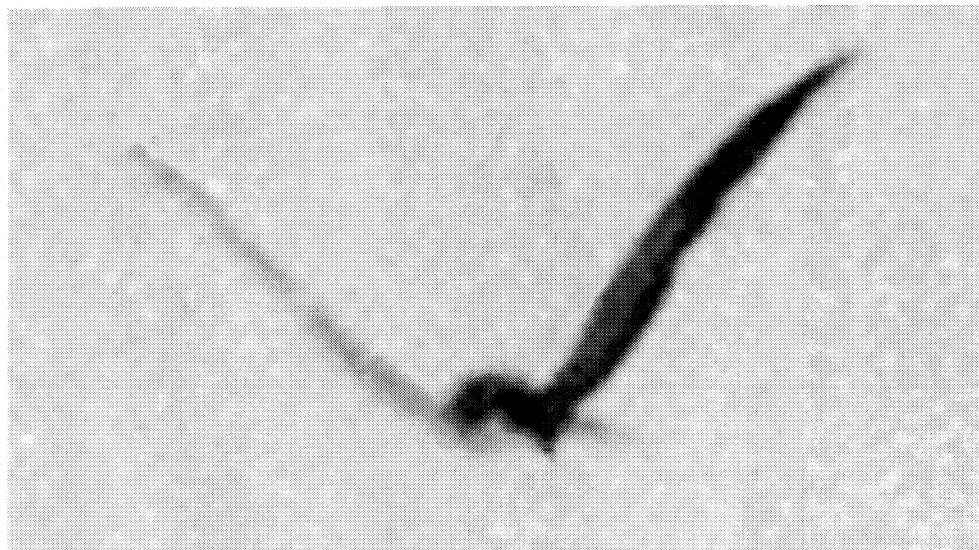
## Merlin

May 31	Keji Seaside Adjunct	1	JAH <i>et al.</i>
June 5	Esson Rd., HRM	1	KGI
June 6	Schooner Pond, CBRM	1	BES, GEC
June 19	Londonderry BBS, Col.	1	BLM
June 17	Lunenburg	1	JAH
June 23	Blind Bay area, HRM	pair	BLM
June 29	Welshtown, Lun.	2	JAH, DPO
July 13	Falmouth, Hants	1	JCT

## Peregrine Falcon

June	Cape Chignecto, Cum.	1	Heather Drope
June 2	Kentville, Kings	1	AAM

□□□



We have been waiting for years for a first photographically confirmed SWALLOW-TAILED KITE, and this may do the trick. It was extracted from a tiny film image hastily obtained June 9 after the bird had passed overhead on the main road at Freeport, Digby. The photographer noted "the split tail and white underneath with black or dark along the outer edges of [the wings]." The image seems to show very long wings and forked tail of the bird, flying away with its white head peering downward and slightly to the left (a characteristic pose in flight of this species). [Photo Jeff Teed]

# Shorebirds

By Susann Myers

The summer season was uneventful, with no interesting vagrants reported in the region. Returning migrants were generally on time, although several species were first seen approximately one week later than average. These were Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Hudsonian Godwit and Red Knot. Reported numbers were also lower than average for most species, although high counts at some locations suggest that this was largely due to reduced reporting. No reports were received from Sable I., where ZOL has often noted early migrants in the past, including the first large flocks of Sanderlings. Reporting from CSI was also reduced, with BJS and SIS having taken a well-earned retirement from their longstanding volunteer efforts for the Maritimes Shorebird Surveys.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS maintained their foothold on CSI, their northernmost breeding location. The two pairs reported in April-May remained for the summer, but only one pair was seen with young.

ALM and CAM's counts of WHIMBREL flying over Schooner Pond headland every evening provided impressive evidence of the numbers passing through this migration hotspot and showed what a rewarding experience regular monitoring at a single location can provide.

RED KNOTS, whose *rufa* subspecies is now listed as endangered in Canada, were even more scarce than usual this summer, with only one returning migrant noted by the end of July. August produced better counts of *rufas*, however. ☐

## shorebird species

July 22	CSI	ca. 10,000	MUN	July 2	The Hawk, CSI	2 prs. + 3 juvs.	MUN
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>				July 22	CSI	3 juvs.	MUN
June 1 & 24	The Hawk, CSI	lots, a few	MUN	<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>			
June 24	Cherry Hill Bch., Lun.	3, basic	SJF	June-July	12 locations, widespread	total 14 ads.	var. obs.
July 2, 7 & 13	The Hawk, CSI	7, 8, 10	MUN; JON, SAN	June 20	Black River L., Kings	nest, 4 eggs	BLF
July 7	Sand Hills Bch. PP, Shel.	1	RMC	June 25 and July 23	Hay I., CBRM	pr.	DBM
July 22	Three Fathom Hbr., HRM	1	SEM	June 27	Tern I., Lun.	2 ads. + 2 juvs.	PMA
July 22 & 29	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, HRM	30+, 2	ULH, SEM	July 11 & 16	Havenside, Louisbourg, CBRM	1 ad. + 1 juv.	SEM
July 24	Morien Bar, CBRM	10	MCM	July 21	Hadleyville, Guys.	1 ad. + 1 juv.	KJM
July 28	Sunday Pt., Yar.	3	EBR	July 25	Rook I., Guys.	2 juvs.	SEM
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>				July 30-31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	3	ELM
July 13 & 17	The Hawk, CSI	135, 2000	JON, SAN; MUN	<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>			
July 18	Morien Bar, CBRM	25	SEM	July 7	Broad Cove, Lun.	2	SJF
July 22 & 27	Cherry Hill Bch., Lun.	18, 163	SJF	July 21	Hadleyville, Guys.	1	KJM
July 22 & 28	Three Fathom Hbr., HRM	54, 300	SEM	July 25	Col.	1	Valerie Meredith
July 22 & 29	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, HRM	5, 87	ULH, SEM	July 30	Dublin Shore, Lun.	1	DPO
July 23	Hay I., CBRM	25	DBM	<b>yellowlegs species</b>			
July 25	Big I., Pict.	ca. 30	DOU	July 18	Morien Bar, CBRM	170	SEM
July 30-31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	10	ELM	July 22	Hartlen Pt., HRM	60 (most Lesser)	IAM
July 31	Hartlen Pt., HRM	300-400	ULH	July 25	Lr. Hortonville, Kings	28	JCT
<b>Piping Plover</b>				<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>			
June-July 3	Conrad Bch., HRM	pr.	DMW	June 2 & 9	Three Fathom Hbr., HRM	3, 2	SEM
June 8, 24	Cherry Hill Bch., Lun.	3	SJF	July 2 & 13	The Hawk, CSI	5	MUN; JON, SAN
June 9	Martinique Bch., HRM	4	EGI, SGI	July 7	Silver Sands Bch., Cow Bay, HRM	4	IAM
June 12	Daniels Head Bch., CSI	2	D. Nickerson	July 9-31	6 locations, widespread	11 total	var. obs.
June 10-14 & 15	Crescent Bch., Lockeport, Shel.	1, 3	DJC	July 15	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, HRM	4	ULH
June 30	Cherry Hill Bch., Lun.	8 ads., 1 juv.	SJF	July 22 & 28	Sunday Pt., Yar.	4, 5	EBR
July	Roseway Bch., Shel.	some	<i>fide</i> S. Abbott	July 22 & 28	Three Fathom Hbr., HRM	22, 20	SEM
July 3 & 7	Sand Hills Bch. PP, Shel.	4, 5 ads.	RMC	July 24	Morien Bar, CBRM	93	MCM
July 8	Stoney I. Bch., CSI	pr.	CST	July 27	Conrad Marsh, HRM	8	DMW
July 9	Martinique Bch., HRM	6 prs. + chicks	<i>fide</i> S. Abbott	July 29	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, HRM	97	SEM
July 22	Cherry Hill Bch., Lun.	4 juvs.	SJF, JAH	<b>Willet</b>			
<b>Killdeer</b>				June 2 & 10	Three Fathom Hbr., HRM	20, 9	SEM
June 2	Three Fathom Hbr., HRM	pr.	SEM	June 3, 18 & 29	Conrad Marsh, HRM	8, 5, 5	DMW
June 11	Wolfville, Kings	2	Martha MacKenzie	June 8, 24 & 30	Cherry Hill Bch., Lun.	9, 9, 16	SJF
June 12	Dingwall, Vic.	pr.	AAM	June 24 and July 1	The Hawk, CSI	32, 45	MUN
June 24	Upper Northfield, Lun.	5 ads.	JAH	June 29	Taylor Hd. PP, HRM	family of young	HAT
July 13 & 25	DU pond, Hortonville, Kings	2, 1	JCT	July 2	Causeway Rd., Seaforth, HRM	21	ULH
July 13 & 25	Windsor sewage ponds, Hants	1, 2	JCT	July 2 & 7	The Hawk, CSI	125, 147	MUN
July 22	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, HRM	1	ULH	July 5, 22 & 27	Cherry Hill Bch., Lun.	43, 9, 8	SJF
July 22 & 28	Sunday Pt., Yar.	3, 1	EBR	July 7	Silver Sands Bch., Cow Bay, HRM	ca. 30 (4 juvs.)	IAM
July 22 & 28	Three Fathom Hbr., HRM	1	SEM	July 9	Taylor Hd. PP, HRM	12-15 ads.	A. Franklin, M. Britton
July 24	Halifax Airport, HRM	7 ads.	DHH	July 13	The Hawk, CSI	56	JON, SAN
<b>American Oystercatcher</b>				July 14	Wolfville Hbr., Kings	6	JCT
June 25	The Hawk, CSI	1 pr. + 3 juvs.	JON	July 15 & 22	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, HRM	35, ca. 400	ULH
				July 15 & 18	Morien Bar, CBRM	137, 128	MCM, SEM

July 21	Conrads I. Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	18	JAH	<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>		
July 22 & 28	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	85, 59	SEM	June 9	Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	8 EGI, SGI
July 22 & 28	Sunday Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	6	EBR	July 13 & 17	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	19, 2000 JON, SAN; MUN
July 29	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	22	SEM	July 15 & 22	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	a few, 500+ ULH
July 30 & 31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	10, 2	ELM	July 22 & 27	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	19, 125 SJF
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>				July 22 & 28	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	168, 210 SEM
July 2 & 13	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	2, 3	MUN; JON, SAN	July 30-31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	100+ ELM
July 7	Silver Sands Bch., Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	11	IAM	July 31	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	300-400 ULH
July 19	Broad Cove, <i>Lun.</i>	17	SJF	<b>Least Sandpiper</b>		
July 21	Conrads I. Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	19	JAH	July 5, 22 & 27	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1, 7, 11 SJF
July 22 & 28	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	134, 63	SEM	July 12 & 18	Sheffield Mills, <i>Kings</i>	4 JCT
July 22 & 29	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	400+, 166	ULH; SEM	July 13	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	8 JON, SAN
July 24	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	70	MCM	July 21	Conrads I. Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	12 JAH
July 25	Big I., <i>Pict.</i>	15	KJM	July 22	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	9 SEM
July 31	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 500	ULH	July 22	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	100+ ULH
<b>Whimbrel</b>				July 22 & 28	Sunday Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	1, 6 EBR
July 5, 13 & 27	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1, 3, 1	SJF; BLF	July 23	Hay I., <i>CBRM</i>	8 DBM
July 6, 7 & 27	Conrad Marsh, <i>HRM</i>	2, 1, 1	DMW	July 30-31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	20+ ELM
July 7-21	3 locations, <i>HRM &amp; Lun.</i>	singles	var. obs.	<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>		
July 8 & 13	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	19, 23	MUN; JON, SAN	June 9, 15 & 20	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	2, 1, 1 1 <sup>st</sup> -yr. SEM, RHL
July 17	Lowland Cove, <i>Vic.</i>	4	FMC	July 22 & 28	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	2, 3 SEM
July 22-28	Schooner Pond, <i>CBRM</i>	total 403	CAM, ALM	<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>		
July 23	Scatarie I., <i>CBRM</i>	25	DBM	July 22	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1 SEM
<b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>				July 28	Sunday Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	1 EBR
July 7 & 8	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	3	DOU, MUN	July 31	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	1 ULH
July 13	Wolfville Hbr., <i>Kings</i>	1	JCT	<b>Stilt Sandpiper</b>		
July 15 & 18	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	3	MCM, SEM	July 17	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	2 MUN
July 22	Lawrencetown L., <i>HRM</i>	5	DHU, JHU	<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>		
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>				July 1, 7 & 13	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	30, 400, 2000 MUN; JON, SAN
June 2 & 6	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1, 1 <sup>st</sup> -yr.	SEM, DMW	July 2	Causeway Rd., Seaforth, <i>HRM</i>	45 ULH
July 21	Conrads I. Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH	July 15 & 18	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	83, 98 MCM, SEM
July 23	Hay I., <i>CBRM</i>	6	DBM	July 17	Lockeport's back hbr., <i>Shel.</i>	75 DEF, <i>fide</i> DJC
July 28	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	10, alt.	SEM	July 21	Conrads I. Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	198 JAH
July 28	Belliveau, <i>Yar.</i>	1	JAH	July 22	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 30, some <i>hendersoni</i> IAM
July 30-31	Pond Cove, Brier I.	6+	ELM	July 22 & 29		
July 31	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	6, alt.	ULH	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>		3500-4000, 2600 ULH, SEM
<b>Red Knot</b>				July 22 & 28	Sunday Pt., <i>Yar.</i>	30, 12 EBR
June 8	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1 (photos)	Elke Love	July 22 & 28	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	1140, 440 SEM
June 9	Martinique Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	EGI, SGI	July 31	Hartlen Pt., <i>HRM</i>	ca. 500 ULH
July 21	Conrads I. Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH	<b>Wilson's Snipe</b>		
<b>Sanderling</b>				June 1	Cookville, <i>Lun.</i>	1 JAH
June 6	Conrad Bch., <i>HRM</i>	1	DMW	June 17 and July 14	Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	1, winnowing SEM
July 15	Cole Hbr. Saltmarsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	ca. 55	ULH	June 24 and July 2	Upper Northfield, <i>Lun.</i>	1, winnowing JAH
July 22	Cherry Hill Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	24	JAH	July 15	Clarks Rd., Louisbourg, <i>CBRM</i>	ad. SEM
July 26	Daniels Hd. Bch., <i>CSI</i>	2, banded	MUN	<b>American Woodcock</b>		
July 28	Three Fathom Hbr., <i>HRM</i>	4	SEM	June 2-15	<i>Rich., Vic.</i> (3 owl surveys)	5 var. obs.
<b>peep species</b>				<b>phalarope species</b>		
July 15	Morien Bar, <i>CBRM</i>	30	MCM, SEM	July 31	off Brier I.	1000 K. Thorpe
July 22	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> large flock	J. & B. Beame, <i>fide</i> JWW	<b>Wilson's Phalarope</b>		
July 23	Minas Basin	750-1,600	RMA	July 31	The Hawk, <i>CSI</i>	1 JON <i>et al.</i>
July 24	Evangeline Bch., <i>Kings</i>	700-1,000	JWW	<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>		
July 25	Windsor Causeway, <i>Hants</i>	10-12,000	JCT	June 10	Mavillette, <i>Dig.</i>	ad. male MUN

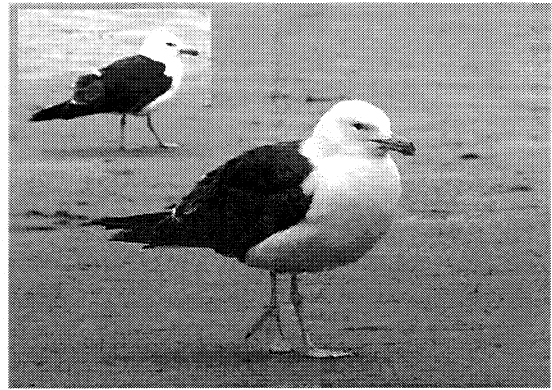
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## Gulls Through Alcids

By Eric Mills

A few BLACK-HEADED and BONAPARTE'S GULLS over-summered, but by the end of July the first southward bound Bonaparte's had begun to appear in the Pictou Co. area. DBM noted that in addition to the RING-BILLED GULLS at a mall in N. Sydney July 8, there were also small groups of imms. at malls in Sydney and Sydney R., as well as along the coast, in early July. The last ICELAND GULLS of the season, described as "rare but regular in early June" by DBM were in industrial CBI during the first week of that month. A very dark LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL that commuted between Eastern Passage and the Shannon Park playing field at Tufts Cove, *HRM*, in early June may have belonged to one of the continental races (full species to some European birders) *Larus fuscus intermedius* or *L. f. fuscus*. It disappeared before it could be scrutinized more closely. CAM and ALM noted that BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE numbers were down on Northern Hd., *CBRM*, but they were "good" on Flint I., and that a colony became established on the south shore of South Hd. (the first and last locations are at the seaward end of Morien Bay). The cold, wet, early summer resulted in a breeding failure of the terns at Morien Bar, *CBRM*, according to CAM and ALM.

Our "routine" LESSER-BLACK-BACKED GULLS are almost always readily assignable to the western European (including U.K., Eire, Iceland] subspecies *graellsii*, but occasionally one turns up that is blacker-backed, with little contrast between mantle and flight feathers. This one was found June 4 at E. Passage, HRM. Opinion only seems to favour the possibility in N. America of the SW Scandinavian subspecies *intermedius* (flight feathers slightly darker than mantle). This one, with no apparent contrast between mantle and flight feathers, may be a candidate for *fuscus*, breeding in the Baltic and also (as not always recognized) N. Scandinavia, and supposed to winter largely in the Middle East. The very long primary extension, with no obvious white tips (a tiny one is visible on one outer primary), also suggest *fuscus*. [Photos Bernard Burke]



A SOUTH POLAR SKUA was reported with due caution by CAM and ALM from off eastern CBI June 28, and another was reported (without details) from off Brier I. July 17. Both were earlier than average, but not unusually so.

Above average numbers of ATLANTIC PUFFINS were seen off Brier I. on whale tours at the end of July and well into August according to birders and the tour operators. These were probably birds leaving the colony on Machias Seal I., New Brunswick, but does this indicate normal post-breeding dispersal or breeding failure? □

#### Laughing Gull

June 7	New Glasgow, Pict.	1, 2 <sup>nd</sup> -summer	KJM
July 1	Westport, Brier I.	1 ad.	ELM
July 8-10	Pictou area	1, 2 <sup>nd</sup> - summer	KJM

#### Black-headed Gull

July 6-12	Conrads Bch., HRM	1	DMW
July 29	Daniels Hd., CSI	1	JAH
July 30	Grand Passage, Digby	ad.	RBS

#### Bonaparte's Gull

June 9	Aspy Bay, Vic.	"A few"	AAM
July 9	Tracadie, Ant.	5	Mark Pulsifer, <i>vide</i> KJM
June 26	Taylor Hd. PP, HRM	2 ads.	James Cameron
July 25	Big I., Pict.	15+	DOU

#### Ring-billed Gull

July 8	N. Sydney, CBRM	2 ads., 18 imms.	DBM
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#### Iceland Gull

June 4	N. Sydney, CBRM	imm.	DBM
June 7	Lingan, CBRM	imm.	DBM

#### Lesser Black-backed Gull

June 4-10	Eastern Passage & Tufts Cove, HRM	1, 3 <sup>rd</sup> -summer	BBU, IAM
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#### Black-legged Kittiwake

June-July	Northern Hd., CBRM	Breeding numbers down	CAM, ALM
June 10	South Hd., CBRM (2 locations)	3 + 34 (latter breeding)	CAM, ALM

#### Caspian Tern

July 11	Inverness Hbr., Inv.	1	KAC
July 25	Big I., Pict.	2	DOU

#### Common Tern

June-July	Morien Bar, CBRM	Breeding failure	CAM, ALM
June 10	Off South Hd., CBRM	1	CAM, ALM
June 11	Dartmouth Cove, HRM	3+	KGI
June 12	Dartmouth Cove, HRM	10	KGI
July 15	Cole Hbr., HRM	ca. 50	ULH
July 25	Big I., Pict.	30+	DOU
July 25	Conrads Bch., HRM	5	DMW

#### Arctic Tern

June 5	Dartmouth Cove, HRM	1+	KGI
June 12	Dartmouth Cove, HRM	1	KGI
July 25	Big I., Pict.	1	DOU

#### Tern sp.

June 5	Dartmouth Cove, HRM	15	KGI
July 2	Three Fathom Hbr., HRM	ca. 10 on colony	ULH

#### SOUTH POLAR SKUA

June 28	Off Flint I., CBRM	1	
July 17	Off Brier I.	1 (no details)	Edward Raynor

#### Pomarine Jaeger

June 12	Canso Causeway, Inv.	1 dark ad.	AAM
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#### Common Murre

June 13	Off Flint I., CBRM	1	CAM, ALM
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#### Razorbill

June-July	Northern Hd., CBRM	12 breeders	CAM, ALM
July 30-31	Off Brier I.	1	Ken Thorpe

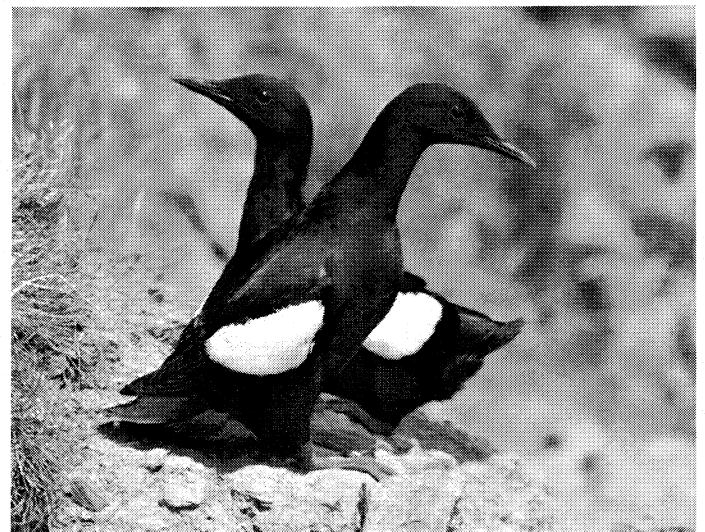
#### Black Guillemot

June 10	South Hd., CBRM (2 locations)	211 + 216	CAM, ALM
June 29	Gull Rock, S of Brier I.	Several, app. nesting	ELM
July 30-31	Off Brier I.	2+	Ken Thorpe

#### Atlantic Puffin

June 13	Off Flint I., CBRM	2	CAM, ALM
July 30-31	Off Brier I.	50+	Ken Thorpe

□□□



This well-matched pair of BLACK GUILLEMOTS was at their colony on N Head, Morien Bay, July 16. [Photo Alan Murrant]

# Pigeon Through Woodpeckers

By Dorothy Poole

ROCK PIGEONS nesting under a bridge were one highlight on the Trafalgar Breeding Bird Survey for BLM as this was a first for the route.

There were three "good" backyard birds for JON on CSI. A **WHITE-WINGED DOVE** in early June, a **BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO** a few days later and then, a **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** in late June. A happy Canada Day for JET and JCT was finding a Black-billed Cuckoo in their atlas square.

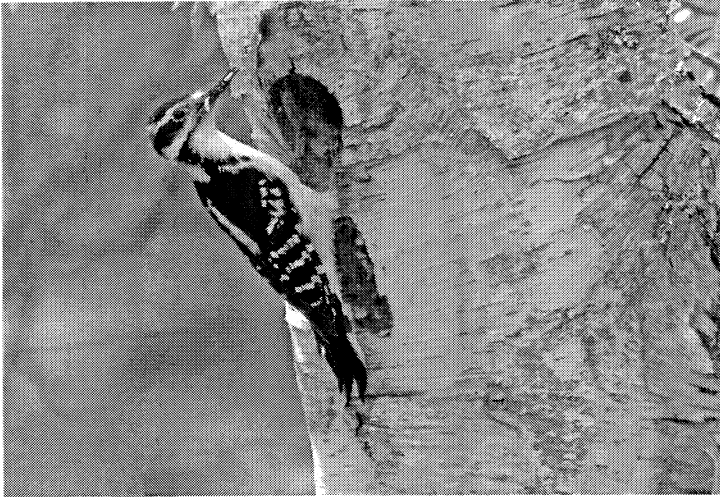
The following is RFL's fascinating owl report verbatim: "Apparently, this was a very low forest rodent year, and not just in NS. Out of the three large projects in eastern Canada (mine, 90 nest boxes; Ontario, 200 nest boxes; Quebec 200 nest boxes) the only successful Saw-whet nest came from my project; one in Ontario and another of mine got depredated. I was also the only one with a **BOREAL OWL** nest (much of the Ontario project is largely south of the known range though). A local rodent trapping project confirmed the low numbers of rodents, as did the excessively high number of shrew bones in this year's **NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL** nest. My results are in direct opposition to Bernard's (BLF) – his **BARRED OWLS** (see 2007 Birds of Spring) had a great year. I wonder if they took to hunting in the meadows where Meadow Voles seemed abundant or if their larger size allowed them to exploit the still-high hare numbers (of which they would only take mid-size (?) or smaller). Interestingly, my student found a jaw fragment from a juvenile rabbit in the Boreal Owl nest - this represents the largest prey item I've ever recorded (though this is known in the literature); previously, N Flying Squirrels were the largest I've recorded. This Boreal Owl nest represents the first confirmed breeding for this Atlas - none was confirmed during the last atlas."

Most of the **COMMON NIGHTHAWK** sightings were of only one or two, similar to last year. This issue's **CHIMNEY SWIFT** written report is given short shrift but below is a lot of data for analysis. The trend of fewer swifts appearing on clear nights continues as does the decrease and then increase in numbers as the season progresses. The data from New Glasgow (KJM) shows a little increase in numbers from last year.

There was an interesting discussion started by a question from Peter Payzant on NatureNS: "Why do male **RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS** wait around here all summer before migrating south since males do not participate in any nesting activities?" One explanation by SEM was "Ruby-throated Hummingbirds do typically raise more than one brood per season across most of their breeding range, so that seems the most obvious reason for males to remain. The Birder's Handbook (Ehrlich, Dobkin and Wheye) (an excellent resource) indicates that this species has two and occasionally three broods. Being at the northern extreme of their range, we seldom see this here. But I helped document a successful 2<sup>nd</sup> brood raised by a female Ruby-throated hummingbird a few years ago." Another discussion dealt with identifying juvenile hummingbirds. One key is the shorter bill (JWW) and another (IAN) is the longitudinal grooves on the bill which can be seen with close focus binoculars. The answer to what to do about aggressive males dominating feeding station was for (ROW) to put up more feeders which then accounted for his ten hummingbirds in June.

There were only two reports of **RED-BELLIED WOODPECKERS** and one of **YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER**. It seems Mt. Uniacke Estate is the home of **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKERS** again this year as HAT found five there and another one on another trail about 10 days later. A female **PILEATED WOODPECKER** came to Debbie Stoddart-Pageau's feeder daily for two weeks. About a month later the female showed up with young . ☺

<b>Rock Pigeon</b>				June 10	Greenwich, Kings	1 young	JWW
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, Guys.	3, A first	BLM	June 15	Mid. Musquodoboit, HRM	1	VJH
<b>WHITE-WINGED DOVE</b>				July 3	McKeen L., HRM	1	VJH
June-5	CSI, Shel.	1	JON, MUN	<b>Barred Owl</b>			
<b>Mourning Dove</b>				July 3	Bear R., Anna.	1 calling	MCR
June-July	Lawrencetown, HRM.	1-2	DMW	<b>BOREAL OWL</b>			
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, Guys.	2	BLM	June-July	near Bay St. Lawrence, Vic.	NEST	RFL
July	Tremont, Kings	3-5	SLH	<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>			
<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>				June-July	near Dingwall, CBHNP	nest	RFL
June 24	CSI, Shel.	1	JON, MUN	<b>Common Nighthawk</b>			
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>				June-July	Bear R., Anna.	several	MCR
June 8	CSI, Shel.	1	JON, MUN	June 2	Wolfville	2	TWO
June 17	New Glasgow	1	KJM, Rick Ferguson	June-9	Conquerall Bank, Lun.	1	JAH
June 24	Shearwater Flyer Trail, HRM	1	SMB et al.	June 9	Londonderry BBS, Col.	1	BLM
June 24, 25	CSI, Shel.	2	MUN	June 11	Bayers Lake Park, HRM.	2	EGI
July 1	Stewart Mt. Rd., Kings	1-2?	JET, JCT	June 16	Mushamush R., Lun.	6	PMA
<b>Great Horned Owl</b>				June 16	Milton, Queens	3	DPO
June 7	Kingston, Kings	4 (family?)	JOB	June 17	Trafalgar BBS, Guys.	1	BLM



A HAIRY WOODPECKER at Lewis Lake PP is holding two paltry grubs for its young, but doubtless had more tucked away within. [Photo Hans Toom]



The woods of Mount Uniacke PP remain a reliable place to find BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER in summer. [Photo Hans Toom]

June 20	Pipeline Rd., HRM	4	BLM
June 23	Tusket R., Yar.	2	PRG
June 25	Quinan, Yar.	1	PRG
July 8	Wolfville	2	TWO
July 10	Upper Clyde, Shel.	1+	JON <i>et al.</i>
July 22	near Butcher's Falls, HRM	1	Heather Drope
July 24	Halifax Airport	8	DHH
July 30, 31	Tremont, Kings	1	SLH
<b>Chimney Swift</b> (*=usual chimney roost counts)			
June 1-4	Wolfville*	46+, 43+, 53+, 44+	TWO, JWW <i>et al.</i>
June 3	Carleton, Yar.	15	MUN
June 4	Middleton, Anna.*	71	CLD
June 5-7	Wolfville*	55+, 26, 28	TWO
June 6	New Glasgow*	249	KJM
June 8-10	Wolfville*	14, 29+, 25+	TWO
June 9	Middleton, Anna.*	52	JOB
June 12-15	Wolfville*	52+, 56+, 34+, 25	TWO, JWW <i>et al.</i>
June 13	New Glasgow*	357	KJM
June 15	New Glasgow*	1	74 KJM
June 15	Middleton, Anna.*	60	CLD, JCZ
June 15	Truro Golf Course, Col.	5	Valerie Meredith
June 16-19	Wolfville*	20+, 17+, 36+, 25+	TWO
June 20,21	Wolfville*	20+, 23+	TWO
June 20	L Sackville, HRM	3	LOC
June 22-25	Wolfville*	19+, 14+, 15+, 11+	TWO
June 25	Liscombe Lodge, Guys.	3	SMB
June 26-29	Wolfville*	17+, 11+, 11+, 13+	TWO
June 29	Shelburne, Shel.	2	JAH, DPO
June 30	Wolfville*	18+	TWO
July 2-5	Wolfville*	20+, 15, 20+, 10+	TWO
July 3	New Glasgow*	70	KJM
July 6-9	Wolfville*	19+, 19+, 22+, 24+	TWO
July 8	Lr. Falmouth, Hants	30's	Cheryl Rutledge <i>fide</i> JWW
July 10	Upper Clyde, Shel.	1+	JON <i>et al.</i>
July 10-11	Wolfville*	20+, 29+	TWO
July 13-16	Wolfville*	21+, 33+, 36+, 28+	TWO <i>et al.</i>
July 17-18	Wolfville*	27+, 40+	TWO, WAN <i>et al.</i>
July 20-23	Wolfville*	34+, 10+, 34+, 49+	TWO
July 22	New Glasgow*	137	KJM
July 24-28	Wolfville*	49+, 38+, 46+, 46+	TWO
July 25	New Glasgow*	106	KJM
July 28-31	Wolfville*	59+, 64+, 68+, 26+	TWO
July 29	New Glasgow*	167	KJM

<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>			
June-July	Bear R., Anna.	several	MCR
June-July	Lawrencetown, HRM.	1-2	DMW
June	Georgefield, Hants.	10	ROW
June 9	Londonderry BBS, Col.	3 stops	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, Guys.	4 stops	BLM
July	Tremont, Kings	1 male, 2 fems.	SLH
July 16	Hubbards, HRM	2-3	PST
July 21	Debert, Col.	male & fem.	Maria Forman
July 28	Barrington, Yar.	2	RMC
<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>			
June 9	Conquerall Bank, Lun.	1	JAH
June 14,30	Lawrencetown, HRM	1	DMW
July 2,6	Lawrencetown, HRM	1	DMW
July 17	Lockeport, Shel.	1	DJC
July 27	Bear R., Anna.	1	MCR
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>			
June 21	Waverley, HRM	1f	LPP
July 2	Sucker L., Lun.	1	JAH
<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>			
June 9	Londonderry BBS, Col.	5	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, Guys.	3	BLM
July 11	Beulach Ban Falls, CBHNP	male & young	FMC
<b>Downy Woodpecker</b>			
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, Guys.	2	BLM
A few nest and feeder reports			
<b>Hairy Woodpecker</b>			
Some nest reports			
<b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b>			
July 9	Mid. Musquodoboit, HRM	fem.	VJH
July 9	Mt. Uniacke Estate, Hants	5	HAT
July 18	Mt. Uniacke Estate, Hants	1	HAT
<b>Northern Flicker</b>			
June 2	Lewis Lake PP, HRM	nest	HAT
June 9	Londonderry BBS, Col.	5	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, Guys.	3	BLM
June 29	McNabs I., HRM	2	KGI
<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>			
June 1-15	Timberlea, HRM	fem.	Debbie Stoddart-Pageau
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, Guys.	3 stops	BLM
June 24	Upper Northfield, Lun.	2 stops	JAH
July 1	Freeport, Digby	pair	ELM
July 14	Timberlea, HRM	1 fem. 1 imm.	Debbie Stoddart-Pageau

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# Flycatchers Through Thrushes

By Hans Toom

The OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER, although in decline, is still a common summer bird in many areas, but often goes underreported. There were several reports this summer of this mid-sized flycatcher, most easily recognized by its open dinner jacket appearance or distinctive three-part song.

There was only one report of GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER, a rare Nova Scotia breeder. It is widely distributed in southern Canada but spends most of its time high in the tree-tops so it can be easily missed, but the sharp “wee-eep”, call note of this bird is distinctive.

Three PURPLE MARTINS were hawking insects in Liscomb, *Guys*. (SMB). This flycatcher is in decline in several continental areas, though nowhere threatened, and is now a rare non-breeder in Nova Scotia. Since it breeds almost exclusively in colonies of clustered bird houses it is up to us to put up these structures if we wish the bird to re-establish a summer home here.

A NORTHERN WHEATEAR was found by Jim Cameron, June 20, at Taylor Head PP. This was an active and flitting bird, peering at observers from high points but always keeping its distance. This behavior is characteristic of this open country bird, always alert to marauding raptors.

The EASTERN BLUEBIRD continues its breeding toehold in Nova Scotia with pairs reported in Yarmouth and Highland Village, *Col*. The Birdhouse Network helped this species recover from lows of seventeen percent of its earlier populations.

June 26 at Cape North Mt. near the north tip CBI, FMC found and photographed a BICKNELL'S THRUSH carrying food. Sadly, recent reports have this species in decline in many of its breeding areas. The highland wintering habitat for this species in the Dominican Republic and Haiti has been reduced by as much as 90% through clearing for agriculture and human settlement. Breeding habitat has been under attack in the north-eastern North American continent, possibly due to acid rain damage to the balsam fir and red spruce forests. □

## Olive-sided Flycatcher

June 1	Milton, <i>Queens</i>	1	DPO
June 4	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
June 5	Rainbow Haven PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK, DOU
June 6	Mid. Musquodoboit, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col</i> .	2	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys</i>	2	BLM
June 23	Pipeline Rd, <i>HRM</i>	2	BLM
June 25	Roman Valley BBS, <i>Guys &amp; Ant</i>	7	James Cameron
July 13	Methals L., <i>Kings</i>	pair with young	BLF
July 30	Sunken L., <i>Kings</i>	pair with young	BLF

## Eastern Wood-Pewee

June 3	Frenchvale, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM
June 3	West Ironbound I., <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH, DPO, DAW, CST
June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col</i> .	1	BLM
June 11	Southdale, <i>HRM</i>	1	KGI
July 11	Beulach Ban Falls Trail, <i>CHHNP</i>	1	FMC

## Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

June 4	St. Anns, <i>Vic</i>	1	BSK
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys</i>	9	BLM
July 1	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	pair breeding	ELM
July 11	Pembroke L., <i>Inv</i>	1	FMC

## Alder Flycatcher

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col</i> .	33	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys</i>	19	BLM
June 27-July 23	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	a few most days	DMW
July 2	Black R., <i>Kings</i>	nest, 3 eggs	BLF
July 28	Wolfville, <i>Kings</i>	late nest, 3 eggs	BLF

## Least Flycatcher

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col</i> .	3	BLM
June 3	Mira, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys</i>	5	BLM

## Eastern Phoebe

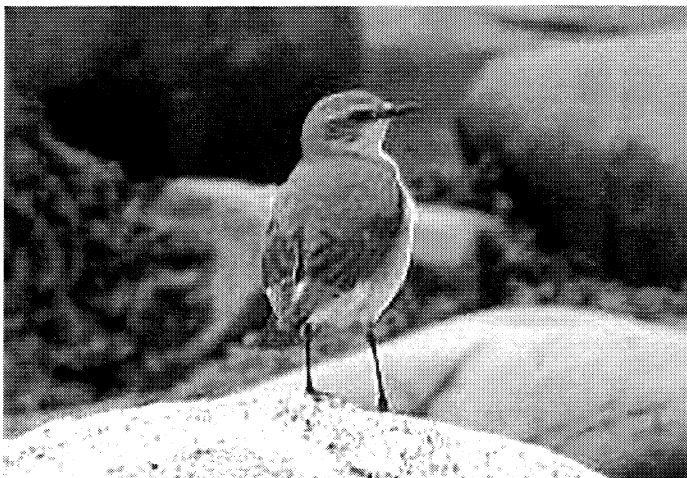
June 11	Upper Woods Hbr., <i>Shel</i> Cameron	1	Arthur & Vandyke
June 24	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	3 fledged young	BLF
June 28	Bear R., <i>Anna</i>	1	MCR

## Great Crested Flycatcher

June 2	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF
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## Eastern Kingbird

June 1	Frenchvale, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM
June 2	French Basin Trail, <i>Anna</i>	1	D. Lowe
June 3	Bellisle Marsh	1	EGI, SGI
June 8	Chaswood, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
June 15	Truro Golf Course, <i>Col</i>	1	Valerie Meredith
June 16	Chaswood, <i>HRM</i>	1	VJH
June 25	Chaswood, <i>HRM</i>	2	VJH
June 29	Methals L., <i>Kings</i>	nest, 3 eggs	BLF
July 1	Hilltop Cemetery, <i>Brier I.</i>	1	ELM



This female NORTHERN WHEATEAR lingering at Taylor Head PP in early summer (here June 20) echoed last autumn's spectacular invasion, and may well have wintered farther south in N. America. [Photo Jim Cameron]

**Blue-headed Vireo**

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	7	BLM	
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys</i>	12	BLM	
July 3	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	nest, 4 eggs		BLF

**Red-eyed Vireo**

June 2	South Haven, <i>Vic</i>	1	BSK	
June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	31	BLM	
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys</i>	24	BLM	
July 9	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	nest, 3 eggs		BLF

**Gray Jay**

June 3	Mira, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM	
June 15	Greenfield, <i>Kings</i>	pair, 3 fledged young		BLF
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys</i>	4	BLM	

**Blue Jay**

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	19	BLM	
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**Horned Lark**

July 2	Steam Mill, <i>Kings</i>	1	BLF	
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**Purple Martin**

July 27	Liscomb, <i>Guys</i>	3	SMB	
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**Tree Swallow**

June 1-July 17	Bear R., <i>Anna</i>	2 ads., 3 juvs.		MCR
June 2-July 26	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	1-9 most days		DMW
June 29	McNabs L., <i>HRM</i>	100+	KGI	
July 4	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	5 fledged young		BLF
July 30	Pond Cove, Brier I.	50	ELM	

**Cliff Swallow**

June 19-July 30	Port Medway, <i>Queens</i>	2 pair	SJF	
June 29	McNabs L., <i>HRM</i>	15	KGI	

**Bank Swallow**

June 1	Highland Village, <i>Col</i>	numerous	Valerie Meredith	
June 9	Martinique Beach PP, <i>HRM</i>	several	EGI, SGI	

**Barn Swallow**

June 15, July 6	Lawrencetown, <i>HRM</i>	3-6	DMW	
June 29	McNabs L., <i>HRM</i>	40+	KGI	

**Boreal Chickadee**

June 29	McNabs L., <i>HRM</i>	5+	KGI	
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**White-breasted Nuthatch**

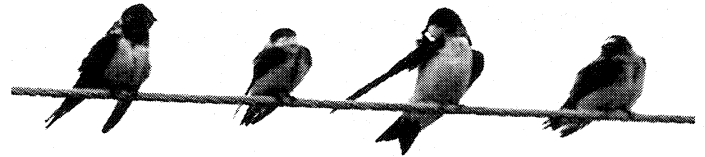
June 20	Black R., <i>Kings</i>	several young in box		BLF
June 1-July 30	Bear R., <i>Anna</i>	1+	MCR	
June 1-July 30	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1 most days		SLH

**Brown Creeper**

June 7	Prospect Penin., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM	
June 14	Nichol's L., <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM	
July 11	Beulach Ban Falls Trail, <i>CBHNP</i>	1	FMC	



A singing EASTERN PHOEBE along the Shearwater Red Trail, HRM, was a suggestive Atlas observation in late May. [Photo Dave Currie]



Four species of swallows were nicely lined up on a wire June 13 at L'Ardoise, *Rich*. They were, however, spread too far apart to supply reasonably decipherable images. So, the Photo Editor confesses to cheating by digitally removing sections of wire between the birds to bring them into closer display. [Photo Bernard Burke]

**Winter Wren**

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	3	BLM	
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys</i>	1	BLM	
June 23	Pipeline Rd, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM	
July 5	Cape North Mt., <i>Inv</i>	1+	FMC	

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys</i>	17	BLM	
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**Golden-crowned Kinglet**

June 24	North R., <i>Lun</i>	1	JAH	
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**NORTHERN WHEATEAR**

June 20-25	Taylor Head PP, <i>HRM</i>	1	James Cameron, HAT	
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**Eastern Bluebird**

June 8	Salt Marsh Trail, <i>HRM</i>	1	MIK	
June 8	Highland Village, <i>Col</i>	2 pair	Valerie Meredith	
June 23	Yarmouth	pair	MUN	

**Veery**

June 16	North Aspy R., <i>Inv</i>	1	FMC	
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys</i>	1	BLM	
July 7	BBS, Doreys L., <i>Lun</i>	1	SMB	
July 7	BBS, Lake William, <i>Lun</i>	1	SMB	
July 7	BBS, Indian Brook, <i>Lun</i>	1	SMB	
July 18	River Rd, <i>Queens</i>	1	DPO	
July 19	Bear R., <i>Anna</i>	1	MCR	

**Gray-cheeked Thrush**

June 3	Seal I.	1	IAM	
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**BICKNELL'S THRUSH**

June 21	Cape North Mt., <i>Inv</i>	1 carrying food	FMC	
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**Swainson's Thrush**

June 1	South Haven, <i>Vic</i>	1	BSK	
June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	4	BLM	
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys</i>	21	BLM	
June 23	Pipeline Rd, <i>HRM</i>	4	BLM	

**Hermit Thrush**

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	11	BLM	
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys</i>	26	BLM	
June 23	Pipeline Rd, <i>HRM</i>	6	BLM	

**American Robin**

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	69	BLM	
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys</i>	48	BLM	

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# Mimics Through Warblers

By Ken McKenna

The NOTHERN MOCKINGBIRD population continues to be low. JAH noted one in Northfield which was singing a nice rendition of both Bobolink and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A BROWN THRASHER was reported to VJH June 10 by C. Fraser and two other home owners in the area of Elmsvale. The thrasher had been present in the area for a week week. Another thrasher was seen in May in Plymouth, *Pict.* and was heard 'singing in the rain' again in June but no further evidence of breeding was observed. A thrasher in Portuguese Cove was, however, seen into late July and was felt by HAT to be the female of a breeding pair since it was silent. We will wait until the next report to see if his suspicions were confirmed.

The only reported AMERICAN PIPIT was of one seen feeding on the ground near FMC's home. FMC also noted that TENNESSEE WARBLERS were seen and heard at a number of high elevation areas in northern CB, especially near Wreck Cove (Gisborne Flowage). This warbler seemed to have a much stronger presence this summer especially in the north-eastern mainland.

ELM reported a NASHVILLE WARBLER singing on territory near the end of June near Seal Cove, Brier I., as the first recorded breeding evidence for the island. A CAPE MAY WARBLER was seen singing in conifer forest near a wetland in Sunrise Valley, *Vic.* in late June by FMC. I received a verbal report from TEP that the PINE WARBLERS he noted in May in *HRM* were still present during the summer providing a strong indication they were holding down a territory. FMC also noted BLACK-POLL WARBLERS singing from a number of locations at high elevation in the Cape North area of CBI. ☐

**Gray Catbird**

June 1	St. Anns/South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
June 1	Upper Northfield, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
June 2	Annapolis Royal Marsh	1	EGI, SGI
June 5	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	pair	EGI
June 20	Granville Ferry, <i>Anna.</i>	1 singing	D. Lowe
June 24	Upper Northfield, <i>HRM</i>	1 singing	JAH

**Northern Mockingbird**

June 1	Northfield, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
June 5	Wolfville	1 but 2 later in month	<i>fide</i> JWW

**Brown Thrasher**

June 3	Elmsvale, <i>HRM</i>	1	<i>fide</i> VJH
June 11	Plymouth, <i>Pict.</i>	1 singing in the rain	KJM
July 1 & 19	Portuguese Cove, <i>HRM</i>	1 took a bath	HAT

**European Starling**

June 21	Wolfville	feeding juveniles	<i>fide</i> JWW
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**American Pipit**

June 1	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1	FMC
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**Bohemian Waxwing**

June 2	St. Anns/South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>	1	BSK
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**Cedar Waxwing**

June 1	New Waterford, <i>CBRM</i>	8	CSM, TMM
June 2	St. Anns/South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>		BSK
June 8	Cow Bay, <i>HRM</i>	24	MIK
June 29	McNabs I., <i>HRM</i>	40+	KGI
July 16	Bear R., <i>Anna.</i>	2 adults & 1+ young	MCR
July 26	Wolfville	nest with 4 eggs	BLF
July 30	White Rock, <i>Kings</i>	nest with 4 eggs	BLF

**Tennessee Warbler**

June 2	LaHave, <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, DAW
June 2	Oxners Bch., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH, DAW
June 8	Jeddore Oyster Ponds, <i>HRM</i>	1	LUB
June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	1	BLM
June 17	Gisborne Flowage, <i>Vic.</i>	4+ singing	FMC
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1	BLM
June 18	River Rd., <i>Queens</i>	3 singing within 1 km.	DPO
June 19	Port Medway, <i>Queens</i>	1 singing	SJF, JSC
June 24	Fraser's Mills square, <i>Ant.</i>	1 singing	KJM
June 27	Liscomb Pt. Rd., <i>Guys.</i>	1 singing	SMB
June 30	Garden of Eden, <i>Pict.</i>	1 singing	KJM
July 1	Giants L., <i>Guys</i>	1 singing	KJM
July 1	West Erinville, <i>Guys.</i>	1 singing	KJM
July 1	Roman Valley, <i>Guys</i>	1 singing	KJM
July 3	Sutherlands Mtn. <i>Pict.</i>	1 singing	KJM
July 7	Kerrowgare, <i>Pict.</i>	1 singing	KJM
July 14	Waternish, <i>Guys</i>	2 singing	KJM

July 14	Aspen, <i>Guys</i>	1 singing	KJM
July 14	East River St. Marys, <i>Guys.</i>	1 singing	KJM
July 21	Hadleyville, <i>Guys.</i>	1 singing	KJM

**Northern Parula**

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	18 singing	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	11 singing	BLM

**Nashville Warbler**

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	3 singing	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	4 singing	BLM
June 29	Seal Cove, Brier I.	1 singing	ELM
July 1	Freeport, <i>Digby</i>	2 singing	ELM

**Yellow Warbler**

June 5	Dartmouth	10+	KGI
June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	8 singing	BLM
June 12	Dartmouth	15	KGI
June 17	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	nest with 5 young	BLF
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1 singing	BLM
June 24	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	nest with 4 young	BLF



The authoritative "Birds of North America" (subscribable on-line) states that the function of this wing-spread display of NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD is "unknown; speculations include startling insects or potential predators (especially nest predators) and as a component of territorial display." On this open grassy area July 8 in *Kings*, the first purpose seems a possibility. [Photo Bernard Burke]

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

June 4	Lawrencetown, <i>Anna</i> .	male	D. Lowe
June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	7 singing	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	3 singing	BLM
June 20	Pipeline Rd., <i>HRM</i>	4 singing	BLM

**Magnolia Warbler**

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	15 singing	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	30 singing	BLM
June 20	Pipeline Rd., <i>HRM</i>	15 singing	BLM

**Cape May Warbler**

June 8	Petite Rivière, <i>Lun.</i>	1 male singing	JAH
June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	1 singing	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1 singing	BLM
June 20	Eastern Passage, <i>HRM</i>	1 singing	M. & R. Reid
June 25	Frankville, <i>Ant.</i>	2 singing within 100m	KJM
June 26	Sunrise Valley, <i>Vic.</i>	1 singing	FMC
July 16	Clydesdale, <i>Ant.</i>	fem.	KJM, Dana Aveline

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	1 singing	BLM
June 20	Lewis L. PP, <i>HRM</i>	3 singing	BLM
June 25	Chaswood, <i>HRM</i>	2 males	VJH
June 29	Welshtown, <i>Shel.</i>	male	JAH, DPO
July 3	Lunenburg Co. BBS	3	SMB
July 24	Glenmore, <i>HRM</i>	male	VJH

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**

June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	6 singing	BLM
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**Black-throated Green Warbler**

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	7 singing	BLM
June 20	Kentville, <i>Kings</i>	nest with eggs	BLF
June 23	Pipeline Rd., <i>HRM</i>	5 singing	BLM
July 17	Wolfville Ridge, <i>Kings</i>	4 fledged young	BLF
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	18 singing	BLM

**Blackburnian Warbler**

June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	3 singing	BLM
June 24	North R., <i>Lun.</i>	2	JAH

**Pine Warbler**

June 3	Grand L., <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM
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**Palm Warbler**

June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	2 singing	BLM
June 20	Pipeline Rd., <i>HRM</i>	6 singing	BLM
June 29	McNabs I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KGI

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1 singing	BLM
June 20	Pipeline Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1 singing	BLM
June 23	Seal Brook, <i>Cum.</i>	1 male singing	JCZ, D. Erskine

**Blackpoll Warbler**

June 3	Bible Hill, <i>Col.</i>	2 male	<i>fide</i> JWW
June 5	St. Anns/South Haven, <i>Vic.</i>		BSK
June 5	Esson Rd., <i>HRM</i>	1 singing	KGI
June 9	Southdale, <i>HRM</i>	2	KGI
June 15	Wagner's Beach, <i>HRM</i>	1	BLM
July 21	Cape North, <i>Vic.</i>	2 males	FMC

**Black-and-white Warbler**

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	5 singing	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	8 singing	BLM
June 20	Pipeline Rd., <i>HRM</i>	3 singing	BLM

**American Redstart**

June 1	New Waterford, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM
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You can diagnose this bird tail photographed July 7 at Second L., *HRM*, as belonging to a NORTHERN PARULA from the tangle of *Usnea* lichen used to construct its hollow nest. [Photo Rita Pouliot]

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	9 singing	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	20 singing	BLM
June 29	McNabs I., <i>HRM</i>	1	KGI

**Ovenbird**

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	11 singing	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	10 singing	BLM
July	Tremont, <i>Kings</i>	1-2 heard	SLH

**Northern Waterthrush**

June 1	Upper Northfield, <i>Lun.</i>	1 (pair there July 2)	JAH
June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	2 singing	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	1 singing	BLM
June 24	North R., <i>Lun.</i>	1	JAH
July 3	Walden, <i>Lun.</i>	1 singing on BBS route	SMB

**Mourning Warbler**

June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	4 singing	BLM
June 13	Roman Valley BBS	3	SJF
June 14	South Hbr., <i>Vic.</i>	several just returning?	AAM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	2 singing	BLM
June 25	Larrys River BBS	3	SJF

**Common Yellowthroat**

June 3	Grand L., <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM
June 9	Londonderry BBS, <i>Col.</i>	19 singing	BLM
June 17	Trafalgar BBS, <i>Guys.</i>	10 singing	BLM

**Wilson's Warbler**

June 1	New Waterford, <i>CBRM</i>	1	CSM, TMM
July 14	Waternish, <i>Guys.</i>	pair	KJM

**Canada Warbler**

June 13	Halifax	1 new for yard list	ALD
June 24	Shearwater Flyer Trail, <i>HRM</i>	3-4	SMB, C. Staicer

□□□

## Tanagers Through House Sparrows

By Ian McLaren

Some information can be squeezed out of the mostly casual summer reports of this group of birds (sometimes merely mentioned in NatureNS on lists of birds seen), but both abundance and breeding status are (or will be) more evident on our BBS and Atlas surveys. For example, despite only single reports (tabulated) of BALTIMORE ORIOLE and PINE SISKIN, nesting of the former has already been mapped as probable in eight Atlas squares, and confirmed in one, and the latter has been confirmed in 21 squares. Some species known to be increasing, such as NORTHERN CARDINAL, have already been found breeding more widely than during the first Atlas period. Others known to be decreasing on the BBS, such as CHIPPING SPARROW, have not been found breeding on many squares where this was previously confirmed.

Populations of Fringillidae fluctuate notably; thus breeding by PINE GROSBK and PINE SISKIN has not been confirmed (or even "probable") in numbers of surveyed squares where they were formerly found breeding. On the other hand, PURPLE FINCH and AMERICAN GOLDFINCH are beginning to match their earlier status. Current Atlas results also confirm what has been evident in long-term BBS records for NS (and more widely) - that grassland species are on the wane. BOBOLINKS have not been found in many squares where they were formerly breeding and EASTERN MEADOWLARKS have apparently disappeared from their last breeding sites in the Annapolis Valley. Even the once abundant SAVANNAH SPARROW has not been found in many Atlas squares where it was formerly confirmed.

I apologize for having lost information on locale and submitter of photos of the seasonally unexpected male BLUE GROSBK that I received in late June; I hope this can be corrected in the next issue. ☐

**Scarlet Tanager**

Late June Cape North area, Vic.  
July 13 Tremont, Kings

male *fide* FMC  
male SLH

**Tanager sp.**

July 10-11 Big I., Pict.

juv.? ALD

**Eastern Towhee**

June 2 Overton, Yar.

male MUN

June 3 Mira, CBRM

1 CSM, TMM

**Chipping Sparrow**

June 9 Londonderry BBS, Col.

6 BLM

June 24 Lr. Sackville, HRM

ad. with fledgling LOC

July 2 Up. Northfield, Lun.

2 with food JAH

**Savannah Sparrow**

June-July Conrad Bch., HRM

up to 4 DMW

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

June 1 Conrad Bch., HRM

1 singing RFL

June 2, 3 Lunenburg

3 JAH

June 9 Aspy Bay, Vic.

1 singing AAM

June 12-July 27 Conrad Bch., HRM

up to 3 DMW

July 21 Cabot Landing, Vic.

1 singing FMC

July 25 Keji NP Adjunct, Queens

5+ DPO

**Fox Sparrow**

June 15 Prospect Penin., HRM

4 singing blm

June 17 Trafalgar BBS, Guys

1 BLM

July 10 Crystal Crescent PP

on territory HAT

July high locales CBHNP

numbers FMC

**Song Sparrow**

June 9 Londonderry BBS, Col.

43 BLM

June-July Widely

5 reports var. obs.

**Lincoln's Sparrow**

June 14, 15, 25 3 BBSs, Guys., Ant.

3/route, usual average 10+ SJF

June 17 Trafalgar BBS, Guys

1 BLM

June 19 Folly Mt., Col.

1 JAH, DPO

July 10 Crystal Crescent PP

on territory HAT

**Swamp Sparrow**

June 20 Brier and W. Long Is.

breeding evidence ELM

**White-throated Sparrow**

June-July three locales

3 casual reports 3 obs.

June 9 Londonderry BBS, Col.

22 BLM

June 17 Trafalgar BBS, Guys

18 BLM

**Dark-eyed Junco**

June-July var. locations

casual reports var. obs.

**Northern Cardinal**

Spring (& summer?) Pictou

5-6 at feeders *fide* KJM

Through season

Metro Halifax, Dartmouth

5 reports, males, pairs, young var. obs.

Through season Brier I.

2 (+?) pairs, young var. obs.

June 10-11 New Glasgow

1 male, feeder *fide* KJM

Early July Newellton, CSI

young MUN

July 29 Central Grove PP, Digby

pair (with young?) ELM

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak**

June-July Tremont, Kings

1 male, 1-2 fems. SLH

Early July Brier I.

1 male, 2 fems., feeders DAP

July 13 Tremont, Kings

juv. male SLH

**Blue Grosbeak**

June 23 locale?

ad. male (photos)

**Indigo Bunting**

June 24 Culloden, Digby

male Teri Weber

**Bobolink**

June 3, 10 Belleisle Marsh, Anna.

several and "plenty" MUN *et al.*

June 9 Londonderry BBS, Col.

3 BLM

June 14 Nr. St. Joseph du Moine, Inv.

male FCM

June 19 APBS.

8 JAH, DPO

June 19 Lawrencetown, Anna.

male, fem. D. Lowe

**Red-winged Blackbird**

June 9 Londonderry BBS, Col.

9 BLM

Jun. 11 Broad Cove, Lun.

male, singing SJF

June 17 Trafalgar BBS, Guys

3 BLM

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**

June 5 W. Pubnico, Yar.

male CST

**Rusty Blackbird**

June 4 Maryville, Ant.

1 heard KJM

June 10 near S. Locaber, Ant.

pair KJM *et al.*

**Common Grackle**

June 9 Londonderry BBS, Col.

29 BLM

June-July var. locales

several, reports young var. obs.

**Baltimore Oriole**

Early June Port Williams, Kings

male Lisa Eye

**Purple Finch**

June-July Var. locales

7 reports, up to 8 at feeders 5 obs.

June 29 Mathais L., Kings

3 fledglings BLF

**House Finch**

June W. Halifax

4 singing IAM

Early-mid-July Lake of the Woods, HRM

male Katrina Walsh

**Red Crossbill**

June 12 Dublin Shore, Lun.

6 ads, 5 juvs. at feeder JAH

June 24 CSI

5 at feeder JON

Early July Brier I.

2 young DAP

**White-winged Crossbill**

July var. locations, Victoria

8+ fems., males FCM

**Pine Siskin**

June 28 Brier I.

6 at feeder ELM

**American Goldfinch**

June-July widely

6 reports, at feeders, etc. var. obs.

"Reporting period" Wolfville Ridge area

nest with eggs, young BLF

**Evening Grosbeak**

Early July Brier I.

2 at feeder daily DAP

June-July Tremont, Kings

5-6 occasionally SLH

**House Sparrow**

June 5 Wesson Rd., HRM

5+ fledglings KGI

June 24 Lr. Sackville, HRM

2 fledglings, and re-nesting LOC

☐☐☐

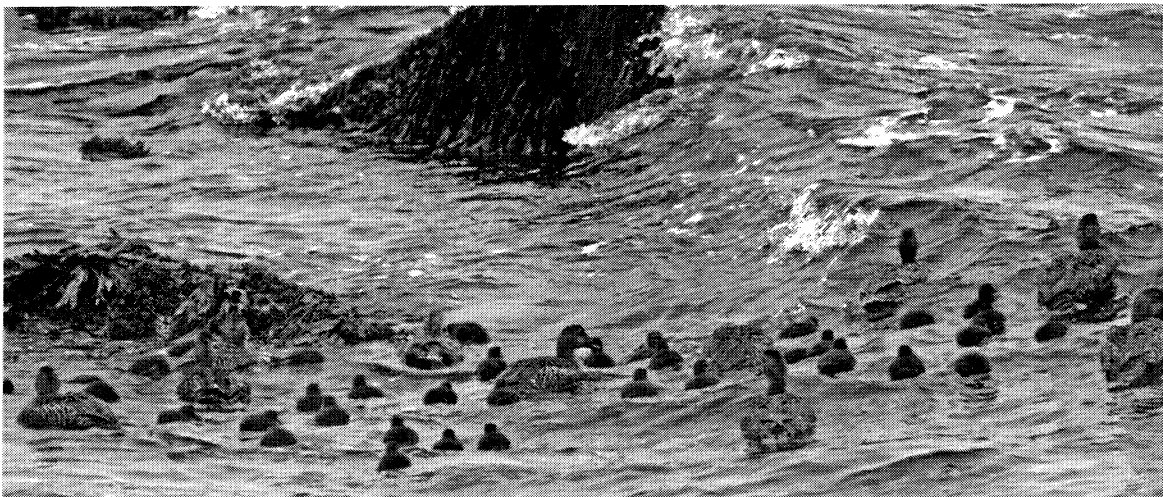
# List of Contributors

Thanks to all of our contributors including:

## Sorted by Initials

MacLean, Angus	AAM	Belbin, John	JOB	Bryson, Phyl
Horn, Andy	AGH	Nickerson, Johnnie	JON	Cameron, Arthur
Doull, Ann	ALD	Wolford, Jim	JWW	Cameron, James
Murrant, Allan	ALM	Chiasson, Karen	KAC	Cameron, Vandyke
Burke, Bernard	BBU	Gigeroff, Kier S.	KGI	Campbell, Dawn
Smith, Betty June	BJS	McKenna, Ken J.	KJM	Cooke, Louise
Forsythe, Bernard	BLF	Thurber, Linden	LIT	Cormier, Dominic
Maybank, Blake	BLM	Codling, Lois	LOC	Courage, Donnie
Stevens, Bruce	BRS	Payzant, Linda & Peter	LPP	Courage, Rose
Kent, Bethsheila	BSK	Berrigan, Lucas	LUB	Crosby, Bill
Murrant, Cathy	CAM	Cameron-MacMillan, Maureen	MCM	Crowell, Edna
Diggins, Claire	CLD	Rice, Maggie	MCR	Drope, Heather
MacDonald, Clive S.	CSM	King, Michael	MIK	Erskine, D.
Stoddard, Clyde	CST	Newell, Murray	MUN	Eye, Lisa
Currie, David	DAC	LeBlanc, Peter	PEL	Ferguson, Rick
Pugh, David	DAP	MacDonald, Paul	PMA	Forman, Maria
Walmark, David	DAW	Gould, Paul	PRG	Franklin, Anne
McCorquodale, Dave	DBM	Stern, Richard	RBS	Giffin, Patrick
Fiske, Dean	DEF	Lauff, Randy F.	RFL	Love, Elke
Hippern, Dennis	DHH	McCormick, Roland	RMC	Lowe, D.
Hughes, David	DHU	Nickerson, Sandra	SAN	MacIntosh, R. & T.
Crosby, Donna	DJC	Myers, Susann	SEM	MacKenzie, Martha
Welch, Dottie M. K.	DMW	Gidney, Shane	SGI	Meredith, Valerie
Cameron, Dorothy	DOC	Hawboldt, Sharon	SHH	Nickerson, Dean
Doull, Elizabeth	DOU	Smith, Sid	SIS	Pilling, Jodi
Poole, Dorothy	DPO	Fullerton, Sylvia	SJF	Pulsifer, Mark
Ruff, Barbara & Eric	EBR	Hulford, Sheila	SLH	Rand, Duncan
Gidney, Elizabeth	EGI	Borkowski, Suzanne	SMB	Raynor, Edward
Mills, Eric L.	ELM	Paquet, Terry	TEP	Reid, Marie & Rick
Greig, Fred C.	FCG	MacDonald, Theresa	TMM	Rutledge, Cheryl
McEvoy, Fritz	FMC	Wolkowski, Ted	TWO	Sedgwick, Don
Murray, Gary	GMU	Hoeger, Ulli	ULH	Staicer, C.
Toom, Hans	HAT	Higgins, Verna J.	VJH	Stoddard-Pageau, Debbie
McLaren, Ian	IAM	Abbott, Sue		Teed, Jeff
Hirtle, James	JAH	Aveline, Dana		Thorpe, Ken
Tufts, Judy	JCT	Bearne, Bob		Walsh, Katrina
Czupalay, Joan	JCZ	Bearne, Joan		Weber, Teri
Timpa, Jean	JET	Bourque, Rosemary		Webster, David
Hughes, Janey	JHU	Britton, Mike		

□□□



This crèche of COMMON EIDERS was subjecting the combined broods to the realities of life in the surf at Crystal Crescent Beach PP, June 9. [Photo Hans Toom]



These beautiful portraits of summering BROAD-WINGED HAWKS WERE OBTAINED near Sand L., *CBRM*, 22 July (left) and Lewis L. *PP, HRM*, June 2 (right). [Photos: left, Alan Murrant; right, Hans Toom]

## Summer Weather 2007

By Larry Bogan

### Monthly Weather Averages Kentville and Kejimkujik, N.S.

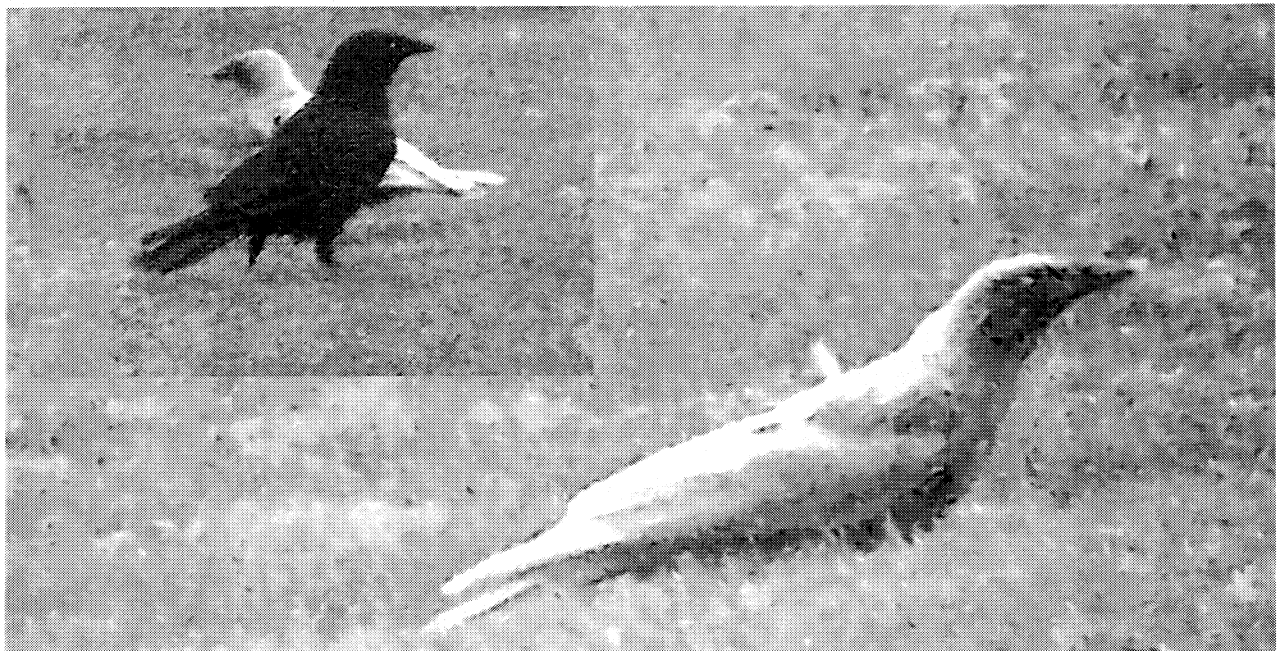
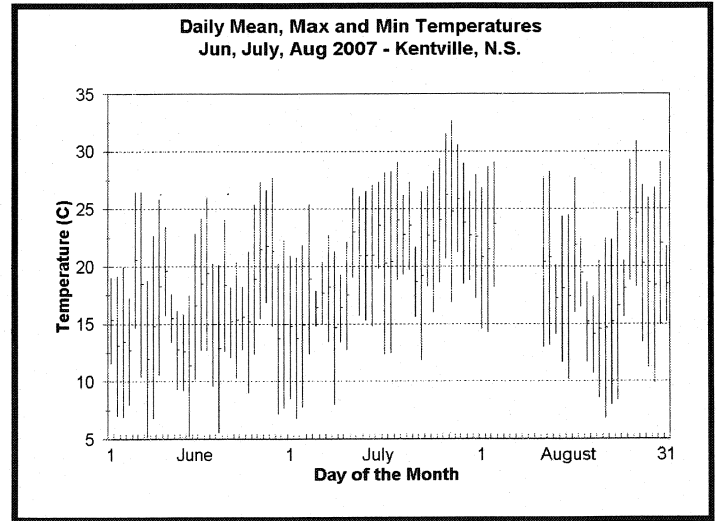
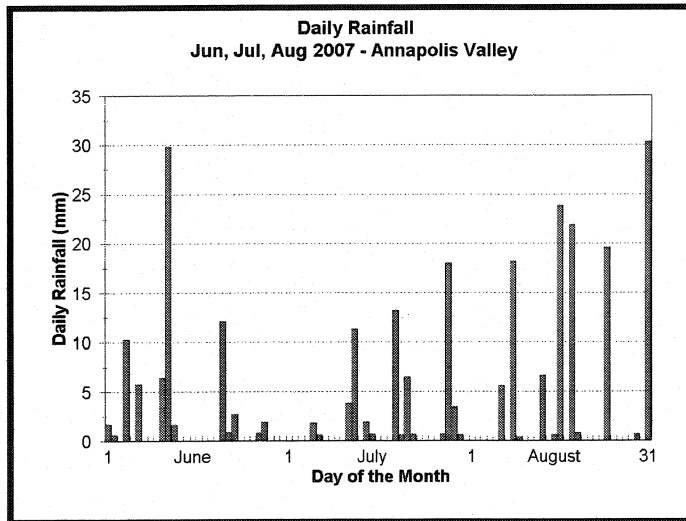
	Temp Max	Min	Mean	total mm Precip	total hours Sun
June (46 yr avg)	21.7 (21.6)	10.5 (10.3)	16.1 (16.1)	75 (70)	188 (210)
July (46 yr avg)	25.7 (25.0)	15.3 (13.6)	20.5 (19.4)	64 (70)	220 (231)
August (46 yr avg)	24.6* (24.3)	12.9* (13.3)	18.8* (18.8)	128* (88)	257 (218)
Season (46 yr avg)	24.0 (23.6)	12.9 (12.4)	18.5 (18.1)	267 (228)	665 (659)

\* All data is from Kentville, Atlantic Food and Horticultural Research Centre except these from Kejimkujik National Park. What a nice summer we have had! There was plenty of rainfall and the temperatures were about what we expect for the Valley. It was slightly cloudier in early summer than a typical Valley summer but not by much.

I have included the graphs for the temperature and rainfall records from Kentville, for the summer. The August data is not complete due to problems with weather instruments at the Research Center as a result of a thunderstorm early in the month. In order to present a complete picture, I have substituted the rainfall data from Kejimikujik for that which is missing.

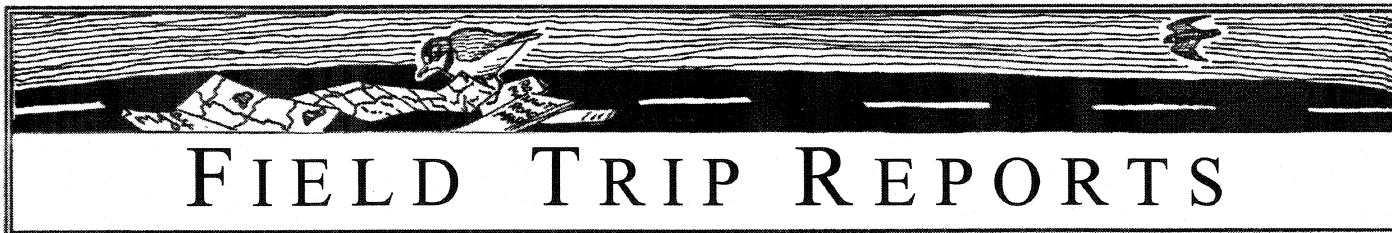
As you can see from the rainfall graph, we had a good distribution of precipitation to keep the lawns green, the gardens growing, the forests lush and the streams flowing. There were no completely dry periods during the summer except late June and early July when we only had a few millimeters of rain over a 2 week period. Our overall rainfall for the season was actually above average by 17% but mainly due to the excess in August.

Our temperatures were quite comfortable most of the summer except for the end of July when we had a few days with high temperatures above 30 C. I am writing this in mid-September and we have had no frost yet but we came very close in Cambridge, Kings County, this month. We saw the minimums 0.1, 0.3 and -0.5 C. By the time you read this the autumnal equinox will be passed and it will be fall. Enjoy what I think is one of the best seasons of the year in our location. ☺



This AMERICAN CROW mid-July at Fall R., HRM, was clearly lacking in feather pigments, but was beige rather than truly "albino." A recent article in *Birding* magazine offers helpful new terminology on particular pigment abnormalities. The crow lacks the black pigments (*eumelanins*), but not the brown ones (*phaeomelanins*) that are also present in most black birds. An entirely white crow with pink eyes and legs, would be *amelanistic* (the prefix "a-" meaning "without"). This crow is *aemelanistic* – lacking in black, but not brown, pigments. A washed-out-gray crow would be *hypomelanistic* – with a low level of both melanins. A patchwork black-and-white crow would result from *partial amelanism*. Got it? [Photo Jason Cheney]





### **Herbert River Trail**

**28 July 2007, Leader: Patrick Kelly**

A total of eight people went on an easy walk along the old railway line that once connected Windsor with Truro via Kennetcook.

Between the heat, the late morning, and late date there were only 22 species were seen/heard. Some of the highlights were Alder Flycatcher, and a small flock of Cedar Waxwings feeding like swallows over the river. We had good looks at a Gray Catbird, an immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a Black-and-white Warbler, a pair of Solitary Sandpipers, an agitated Spotted Sandpiper (and a young one), and a Common Yellowthroat with a newly-fledged young.

Bernard Forsythe, one of the participants, was not expecting many birds for the previously mentioned reasons, so he was also on the prowl for rare plants along the flood plain. He pointed out several of these plants to the group, including Blue Vervain, Pointed-leafed Tick-trefoil, and Feverwort. The highlight plant was a beautiful display of Canada Lily. Birds and botany made a great mix that day.

### **Field Trip - Mahone Bay**

**04 Aug 2007 Leader: James Hirtle**

It was a great day for an outing on August 4, and about sixteen birders showed up for the field trip. We visited the usual locations, starting with the Clearland Trail, and then along the Mush-A-Mush River. This year was the quietest I've ever seen, with few birds at these locations. Some of the group saw a Northern Cardinal. We skipped Long Hill and next went to Station Road in Maitland where the highlight was some Wood Ducks. This location also was quiet compared to previous years.

We arrived at the Fauxburg Trail a little later than I had planned. Clarence Stevens Sr. had arrived prior to our getting there and had seen hundreds of migrant warblers, with many other species, including larger than normal numbers of Mourning Warblers. We only found a quarter of the ones that had been there, but it was still exciting. One Mourning Warbler remained that most saw, but I missed it.

We went to Second Peninsula's provincial park for lunch, and were treated to some breaching porpoises and some Common Terns flying by. The trip ended with a stroll out along the coast and the fields of the Rhodenizer farm. In all I recorded 50 species for the day, an all-time low for this trip, which usually gets between 60-80 species.

### **Pictou Co. Field trip**

**11 Aug. 2007, Leader: Ken McKenna**

Although this year's field trip was a little later than the usual late July date we did not beat the heat, as it was another scorcher for a field trip in Pictou Co. As our group of eight gathered at our meeting place we had observations of a couple of Bald Eagles, and an Alder Flycatcher showed well and sang for us till it was time to leave for our first stop, the dyke over the Middle River of Pictou. We struck several flocks of warblers and vireos on our 2.5 hour walk to the fish ladder, though most birds showed but briefly, though Yellow Warblers and Red-eyed Vireos were still feeding young and provided longer looks. A couple of Blackburnian Warblers were noted along the start of the trail.

Upon reaching the reservoir we found Greater Yellowlegs, Killdeer, and Least and Spotted Sandpipers, even recent rains had covered the usual exposed sand bars. The dock at the pumping station had a nice assortment of Bonaparte's Gulls and Common Terns, with several of the former in full breeding plumage. Eight species of duck were detected on the walk, the most abundant being Greater Scaup, a flock of about 350 birds. A couple of Common Goldeneye flew over the dyke and there were probably about 40 Hooded Mergansers present. A female Ring-necked Duck had a troop of half-grown young in tow. Several Bald Eagles, many Great Blue Herons and Double-crested Cormorants flew over the dyke. A few Barn Swallows overhead made no dent in the mosquito population which were busy trying to draw our blood. Back at the trailhead two young Osprey had returned to the nesting platform and we watched while one of the adults delivered a large fish to one of the young, much to the chagrin of the other. The Ontario couple in our group, en-route to a night sky observing outing to Smiley's Park, photographed the Osprey

with a huge astronomical camera lens. This stop proved to be a good one with a total of 53 bird species observed, along with a number of wildflowers, butterflies, and dragonflies.

After a pit stop we walked to the little pond at Egerton. A female Pied-billed Grebe had her five young nearby, while the male made one or two calls from the opposite side of the marsh. Another Ring-necked Duck with young made a circuit of the pond while we were there. Near the Presbyterian Church, we stopped to look at a family of Eastern Kingbirds on the wire, the same location as a year earlier. A smaller bird on the wire proved to be a Chipping Sparrow with a nice red cap. At Lower Barney's River a young Northern Harrier worked the upper marsh giving us wonderful views of its hunting attempts.

By the time we reached Big Island about 1:00 p.m. the temperature had reached 27°C. We studied the shorebirds present along the causeway. The majority were Lesser Yellowlegs (50) but there was a White-rumped Sandpiper and two dowitcher which seemed Long-billed but they silently flew off before we could confirm this for sure. The outer Northumberland Strait had 12 Common Loons and several flocks of Surf Scoter numbering about 60 birds. There were also four Common Eiders as well. On the island, we had Barn and Bank Swallows on the electric wires likely lingering local nesters. The little pond on the Wharf Rd. had a lone Solitary Sandpiper. There were lots of people using the sandbar at the west end of the island but there were still about 30 Great Blue Heron, scores of Bonaparte's Gulls, and a dozen Common Terns, including one juvenile with stunning plumage. We ended the day about 5:00 p.m. with 75 species observed, which we felt was not bad for a hot summer day.


### Labour Day Weekend - Bon Portage Island

31 Aug. - 4th Sept., 2007: Leader Joan Czupalay

Flocks of shorebirds around the newly built slip and south of the wharf was a sign that this Labour Day weekend would be good for birding. The NSBS field trip group arrived in heavy rain. The group included Claire Diggins, Bernice Moores, Pat McKay, Don and Carol MacNeil, Jeff White, Burkhard and Ingrid Plache, Becky Goreham, Chris Stoddard, as well as a visitor from Massachusetts, Ann Banks, who found out about our trip on the internet. We were joined in the evening by Trina Fitzgerald and five volunteer banders at the Atlantic Bird Observatory.

The Saturday morning walk-about was magical. As we passed the Gunning Rocks and approached the Northern Beach, the shorebirds increased in number. The tide was rising, so the feeding frenzy along the kelp was happening at very close range. We saw Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers in various plumages, several White-rumped Sandpipers and three Baird's Sandpipers. To our delight we found one of the three Buff-breasted Sandpipers that had been seen earlier by Luc Berrigan. The shorebirds increased in number as we rounded the tip and continued down the western side of the island, with Ruddy Turnstones, Short-billed Dowitchers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers and Sanderlings scattered all along the rich kelp beds that line the western shoreline. Willets, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and the resident Spotted Sandpipers were recorded, as were several Whimbrel. Some saw a Solitary Sandpiper near the Lighthouse Pond. It was a great weekend for Raptors also. Northern Harrier, Osprey, Merlin, Peregrine, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Broad-winged Hawk were all seen.

Because of impending high seas half of our group had to leave on Sunday before the winds became too strong. Six of us opted to stay and had an extra day of birding. The total count by Tuesday was 88 species, with the shorebird viewing being the highlight of the trip. □



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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](mailto:suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca)

## **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 Alan Covert and Ken McKenna.

## **Sat 24 Nov 2007 – Canso and Area**

Leaders: Tom Kavanaugh 366-3476 E-mail: [terri.crane@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:terrypaquet@hotmail.com)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Sullivans Pond and dress warmly. We will check local sites for rarities and unusual birds as a prelude to the Christmas Bird 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](mailto: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.

## **Fri 14 Dec 2007 to Thu 03 Jan 2008 – Christmas Bird Counts**

For information on where and when Christmas Bird Counts will be held this year in Nova Scotia, click on Blake Maybank’s Winter Birding link on the “links” page of our website: <http://nsbs.chebucto.org> Blake will update this page as information becomes available. Don’t forget; NSBS members are eligible to have one Audubon Count fee paid per Individual and Student Membership – and two fees paid per Family Membership!

## **Sun 06 Jan 2008 – Sewer Stroll I – Halifax/Dartmouth Area**

Leader: Bob McDonald 443-5051 E-mail: [bobathome@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto: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.

## **Sat 26 Jan 2008 – HFN Sewer Stroll**

Leaders: Bob McDonald 443-5051 E-mail: [bobathome@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:bobathome@hfx.eastlink.ca) & Suzanne Borkowski 445-2922 E-mail: [suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca](mailto:suzanneborkowski@yahoo.ca)

Join co-leaders Bob McDonald and Suzanne Borkowski on this often frosty, but always rewarding, look at the panoply of birds usually present at many of the sewer outfalls in the Halifax/Dartmouth area. Dress warmly, and bring a lunch, field guides, binoculars and telescope (if you have one).

Time/Place: 9:15 a.m. in the Boondocks Restaurant parking lot, Fisherman’s Cove, Eastern Passage. Storm Date: Sunday, Jan. 27, same time and place.

## **Sat 02 Feb 2008 - Glace Bay and Area “Harbour Hop”.**

Leaders: George Crowell and Bev Sarty (849-5317)

Meet at 9:00 am at the Fishermen’s Memorial Park, Glace Bay. We’ll be checking a number of birding sites in and around the community for a chance to see our winter ducks and gulls, and to get out and enjoy a winter day. Storm Date: Sat 09 February.

**Sat 16 Feb 2008 – Sewer Stroll II - Halifax/Dartmouth Area**

Leader: Fulton Lavender 455-4966

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of McCormack's Beach Provincial Park, just past Boondocks Restaurant in Eastern Passage. Dress warmly and bring a lunch. Storm date: Sun 17 February.

**Thu 28 Feb 2008 – Regular Meeting**

NSMNH, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia; 7:30 p.m. "North of Norway, North of 80° - voyages in Svalbard and Greenland". Guest Speaker: Blake Maybank. Join Blake for an illustrated talk on birds, flowers, and gorgeous scenery of the high Arctic region.

**Sat 01 Mar 2008 - North Sydney and Area**

Leaders: Barb Glassey and Maureen Cameron-MacMillan  
727-2733 E-mail: [maureen\\_cameron@excite.com](mailto:maureen_cameron@excite.com)

Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the duck pond across from the Clearwater Fish Plant, 139 Queen Street, North Sydney. At our meeting place we'll look for Mallards, Am. Black Ducks and gulls, and hopefully an "odd duck" or two. We'll then work our way north along the harbour, with stops at the Lobster Pound restaurant parking lot on Queen Street, Archibald Park on Commercial Street, and Indian Head Beach and the Purves Street Look-off to check out the harbour birds. Storm date: 08 March.

**Sat 08 Mar 2008 – Valley Birding**

Leader: Bernard Forsythe 542-2427

Meet at 9:00 am at the town Wharf, east end of Front Street in Wolfville. We'll be looking for raptors, lingering winter visitors, and rarities in and around Canning and Grand Pre. Dress warmly and bring a lunch. No storm date.

**Sat 22 Mar 2008 - Along the Fundy Shore**

Leader: Wayne Neily 765-2455 E-mail: [neilyornis@hotmail.com](mailto:neilyornis@hotmail.com)

Focusing on the winter birds of the Bay of Fundy and the ecozones from it to the Annapolis Valley; this will be a joint trip with the Nova Scotia Bird Society, the Blomidon Naturalists and the Annapolis Field Naturalists. Meet at 9:00 am in Aylesford, just on the south side of Exit 16 on Hwy #101. We'll visit the shore at Morden, Margaretsville, Port George (arriving at Cottage Cove by 11:00 am for those wishing to join at that point), and perhaps Port Lorne and Hampton, before heading back into the Valley to check some sites on the way to Annapolis Royal. Dress warmly with layers; the Fundy shore can be cold and windy at that time of year, and bring a lunch. In the event of a storm, contact Wayne for an alternate date.

**Thu 27 Mar 2008 – Regular Meeting**

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

**Thu 28 Mar to Sun 30 Mar 2008 – Lighthouse Coast Birding Conference**

White Point Beach Resort, Hwy #103, Exit #20

For more information and to register: < <http://www.destinationsouthwestnova.com> >

**Sat 05 Apr 2008 – Baccaro & Blanche Peninsula**

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

Early spring birding with Donna. Rarities have shown up here quite often at this time of year. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot at exit 28 off Hwy #103 (Port Clyde). Dress warmly and bring a lunch. Rain date Sun 06 April.

**Sat 12 April 2008 – Martinique Beach**

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

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

**Thu 24 Apr 2008 – Regular Meeting**

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

"Birding Down Under". Guest Speaker: Ken McKenna.

In 2003, Ken McKenna and Joan Waldron traveled to Australia and birded several different areas both on land and at sea. Join Ken for an illustrated account of their fabulous journey!

**Sun 27 Apr 2008 – Wolfville Area**

Leader: Jim Wolford 542-9204 E-mail: [jimwolford@eastlink.ca](mailto:jimwolford@eastlink.ca)

This will be a joint trip with the Blomidon Naturalists Society, pond hopping for ducks and early migrants. Meet at the town wharf off the east end of Front Street in Wolfville at 10:00 a.m. Dress warmly and bring a lunch. No rain date.

**Sat 03 May 2008 - Cape Sable Island**

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

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

**Sat 24 May 2008 – Port L'Hebert**

Leaders: Dorothy Poole 354-4844 E-mail: [dpoolex@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:dpoolex@ns.sympatico.ca) and Clyde Stoddart 745-2105.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Grub and Grog Restaurant on Hwy #103 at Sable River. We'll explore the areas in and around Port L'Hebert. Wear sturdy footwear and bring a lunch. No rain date. ☺



This "branchling" GREAT HORNED OWL, at R. Bourgeois July 15, is too fuzzy and cuddly to be a complete convincing Top Predator. [Photo Anita Pouliot]